Biodiversity Conservation Planning

"...it's all about methods, data, and tools"

Pat Comer, Chief Terrestrial Ecologist Land Trust Alliance Rally October 5, 2007



Biodiversity Conservation Planning

Seems like everyone is doing it!

- The Nature Conservancy Ecoregional Conservation Plans
 & Conservation Action Plans
- State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies
- Bird Conservation Region and Joint Venture plans
- GAP Analysis Projects
- Multi-county planning initiatives
- Forest Products Industry
- And many, many others



The process and products need to be...

- Transparent
- Measurable
- Actionable
- 'Bulletproof'
 - Expert Knowledge
 - Partner Consensus

Government Industry Conservation NGOs



Adaptive Conservation Framework

Assessment

Effects

Implementation

Monitor

Capacity-building

Practice-based

Priority-setting

Develop Strategies

Policy-based

Place-based

Implement

Analysis at Multiple Spatial Scales

• Regional-Scale (e.g., habitat conservation throughout the Southern Rocky Mountains and Central Shortgrass Prairie ecoregions)

 Public/Private Land Planning Unit (e.g., management emphasis on contiguous National Forest, county open space, and local trust lands)

• Local Landscape (e.g., multiple habitat patches within a project area)



10 Common Steps in Planning

•WHAT IS THE PLANNING AREA?
•WHAT ECOSYSTEMS AND SPECIES REQUIRE CONSIDERATION?
•WHERE ARE THEY?

- WHAT ARE EXPECTED HEALTHY CONDITIONS?
- WHAT ARE CURRENT CONDITIONS?
- WHAT ARE THE TRENDS AMONG THOSE CONDITIONS?
- WHAT ARE DESIRED CONDITIONS?
- WHAT STRATEGIES WILL MOVE US TOWARD DESIRED CONDITIONS?
- WHAT ARE EXPECTED OUTCOMES FROM THESE STRATEGIES?
- HOW WILL WE MEASURE OUR PROGRESS?



What Should We Aiming For?

Shared Methods

Common Data Libraries

Standard Tools



A Network Connecting Science With Conservation

Tools for Strategic Biodiversity Planning

a case study from Puerto Rico

Pat Comer, Chief Terrestrial Ecologist Land Trust Alliance Rally October 5, 2007



Puerto Rico Biodiversity Conservation Initiative

The Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico





Puerto Rico Biodiversity Conservation Initiative

- Develop integrated conservation strategies across terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems
- Integrate existing data into common format and system
- Prioritize and fill key data gaps
- Build capacity with technical methods, data, and tools



Planning at Multiple Scales

Caribbean-wide habitat priorities

(e.g., marine mammals & reptiles, fish assemblages, migratory birds)

• Island-wide land/water use prioritization (incentives, regulation, and land acquisition)

Watershed land use planning

(integrating freshwater and coastal marine issues with needs of local land-use planning)

 Local 'Site' management planning, and implementation, and monitoring



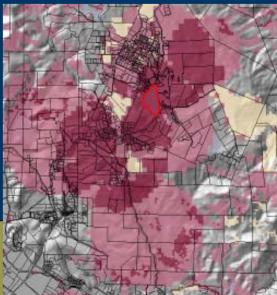


atureServe

NatureServe VISTA

A Conservation Planning Methodology and Decision Support System

Immend Inventiony Protection Viability Response Element Name Protection Viability Response Notthwestern Pond Turtle Incompatible Incompatible Public Martin Compatible Compatible	Scenario Evaluation	Japa County - Baseline	Selecte	ed Site			
Element Name Protection Viability (Response Incompatible Incompatible Compatible Service) Protection Policy ager Land Use Protection Policy Acade	Site CA FG 8983	2 _			iame 🖉	Set U	p
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	Napa Western Ele Purple Martin Scenario Composition	×	-	Putaction Policy	Incom	alible	
	Napa Western Fla				Incom		



What is NatureServe Vista?

- An extension to ESRI's ArcMap 9 (with spatial analyst)
- 1. Integrates conservation information, management practices, and land use plans
- 2. Will help you to create plans specific to your area, resources, and values
- 3. Allows you to dynamically monitor progress toward goals, identify emerging conflicts and opportunities, and create mitigation plans



Coarse Filter/Fine Filter Approach

Ecological Systems

Natural community mosaics defined at scales useful for management and monitoring

Focal Communities

vulnerable species groupings, spawning areas, migratory stopover points, movement corridors, etc.

Focal Species/Subspecies



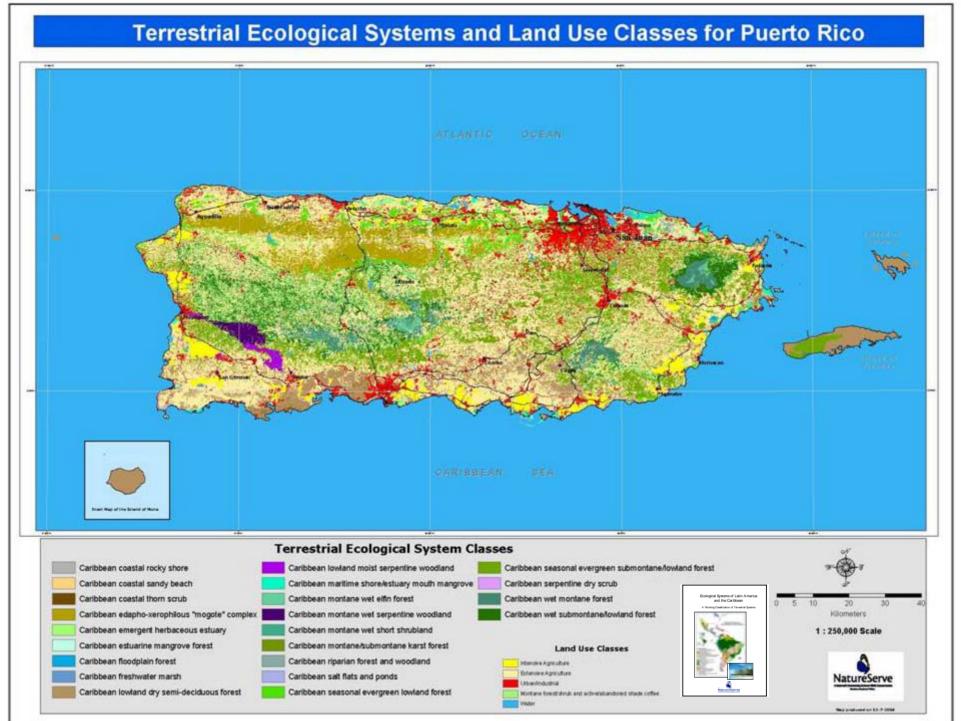




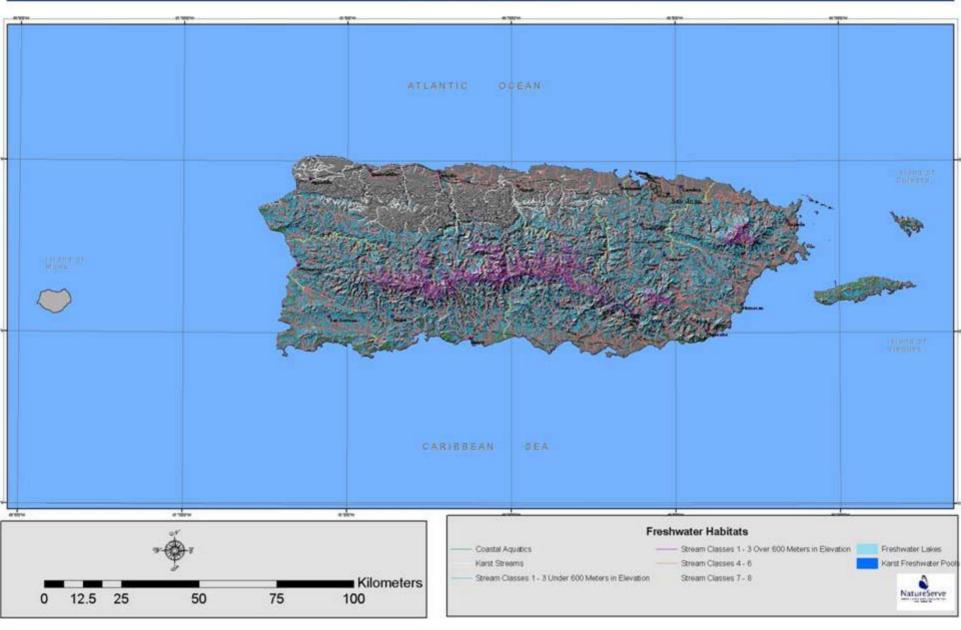




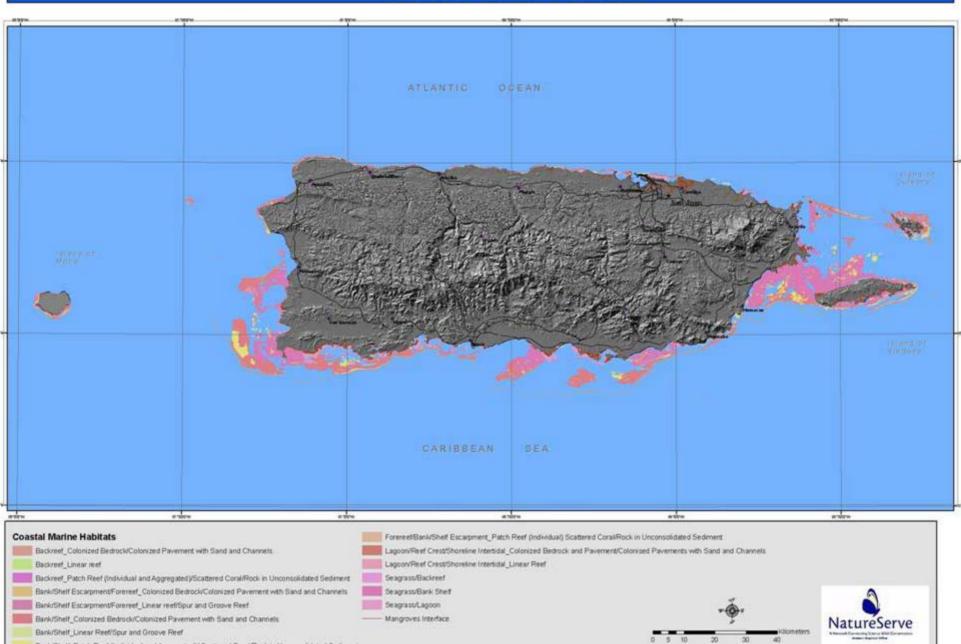




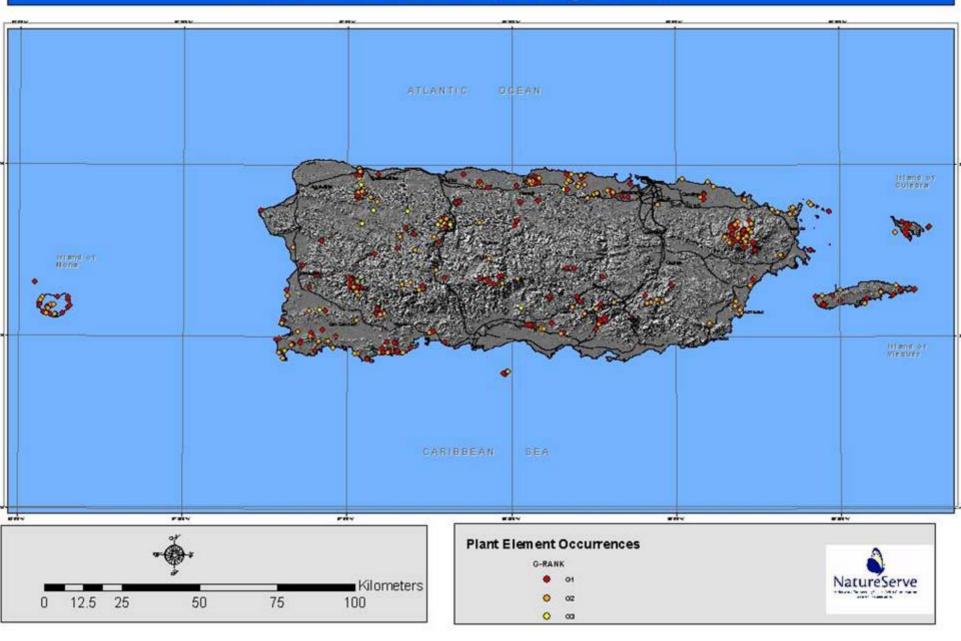
Freshwater Habitats



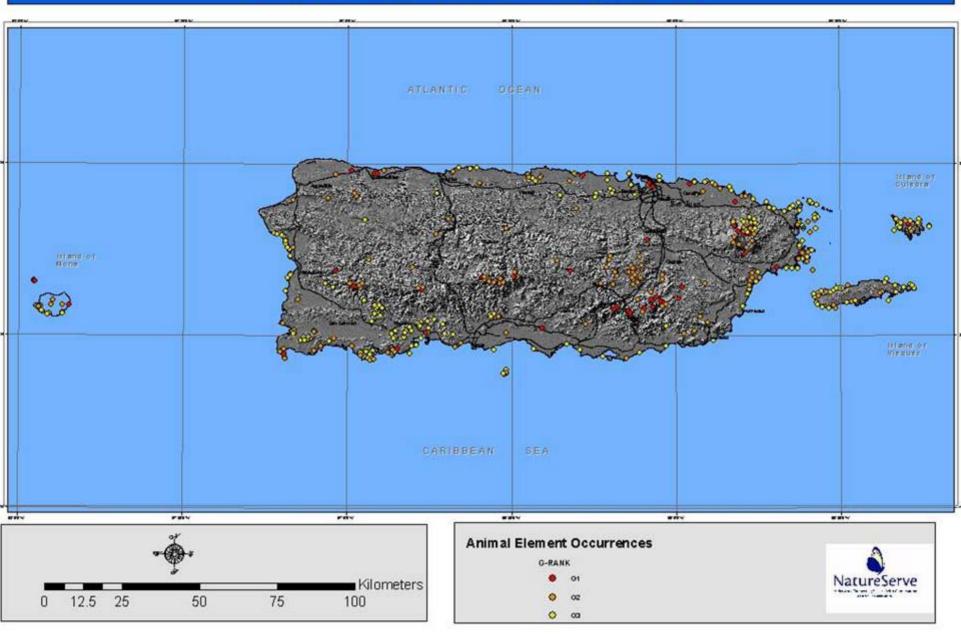
Coastal Marine Habitat



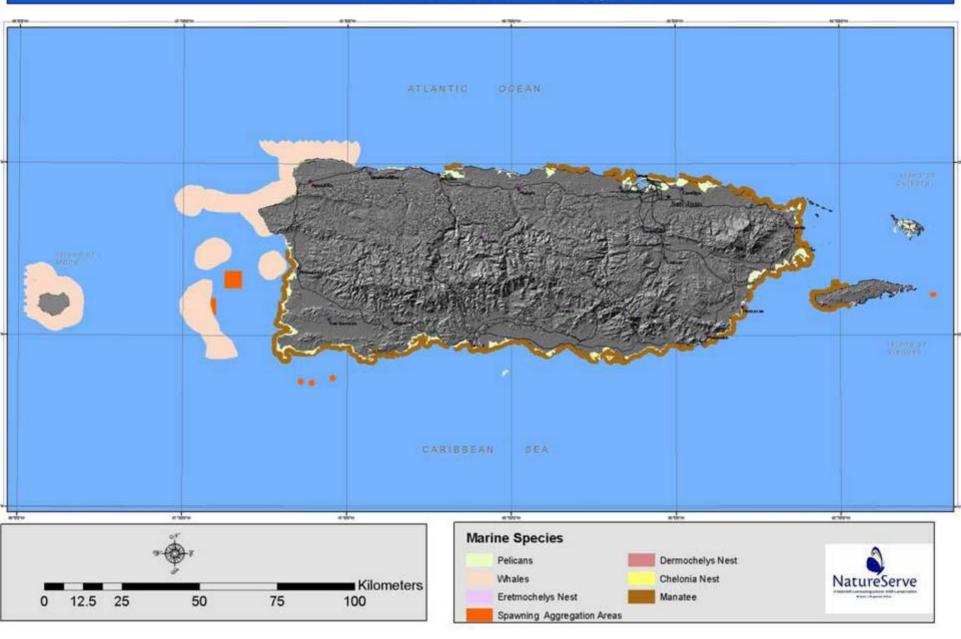
Plant Element Occurrences by G-Rank



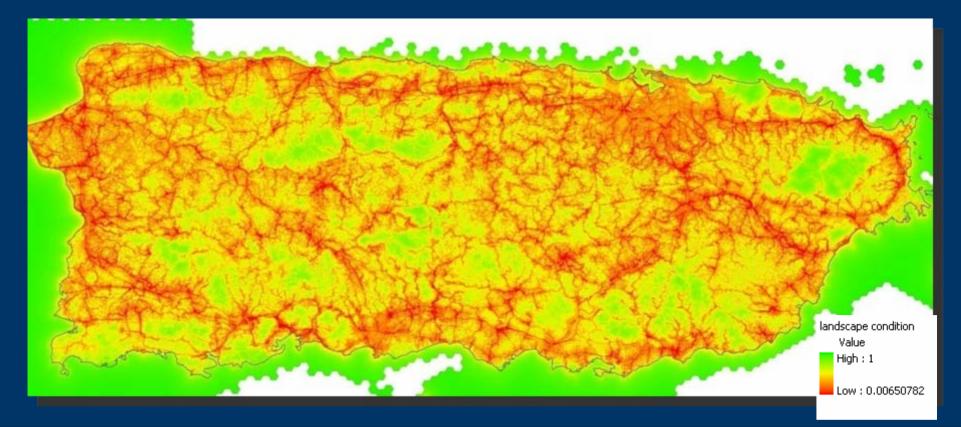
Animal Element Occurrences by G-Rank



Densities of Marine Species



Vista Landscape Condition Model

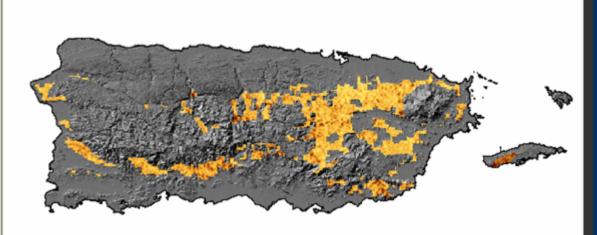




Vista Element Conservation Value Layer

Map and specify conservation requirements for elements including a model of current condition







Stating Goals or Desired Conditions *"Avoid High Value Places"*

"No Net Loss"

"Abate Threat X Y & Z"

Representation Goals as measurable expressions of societal values.

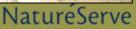










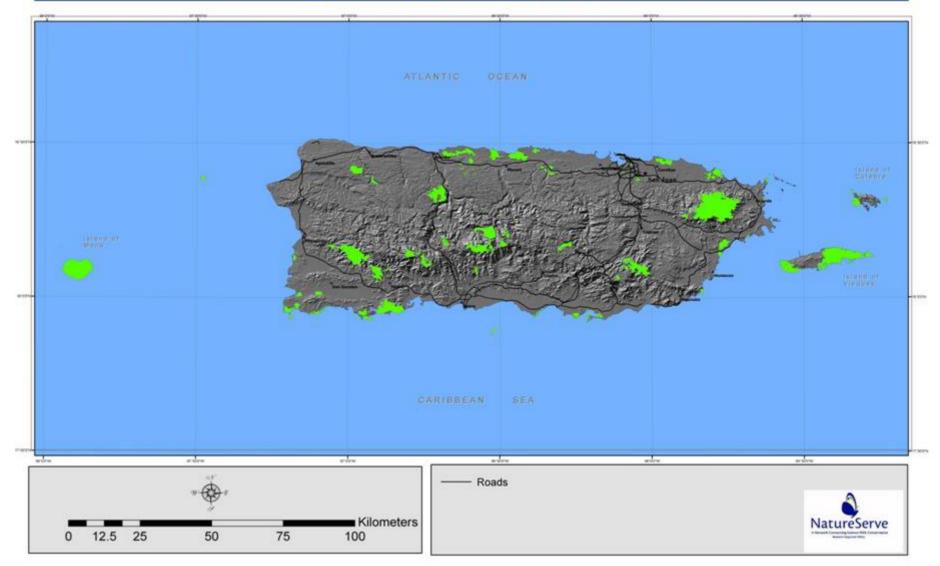


Defining Baseline Scenario

Use Vista to combine:
Land use & conservation use
Management practices
Infrastructure
Policy mechanisms

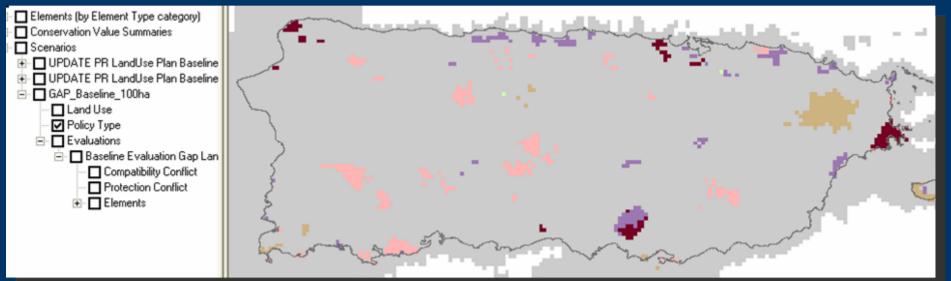


Terrestrial Protected Areas



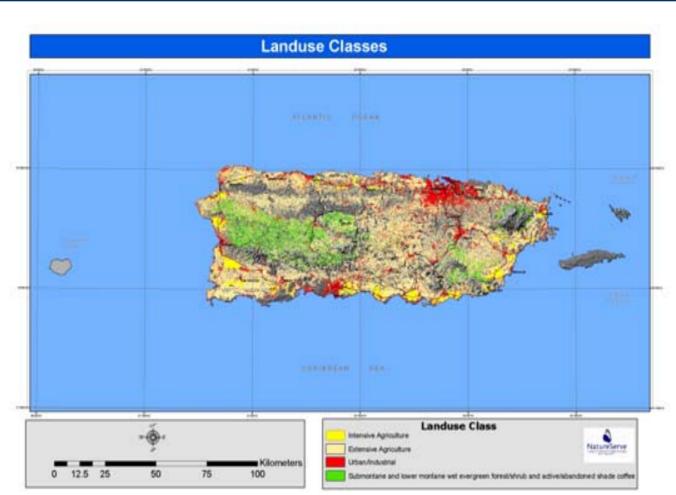
Vista Policy Type Scenario

Policy mechanisms characterized using GAP stewardship, most is currently unknown & assumed at risk





Vista Land Use Type Scenario



Land uses of varying intensity extend over ~ 60% of the land area of Puerto Rico



Baseline Scenario Evaluation



Red = conflict in use and/or underlying policy



Evaluation Reports

Overall Scenario Performance

All Elements (302 Total)

	Goals Met For	% of Goals Met	Goals Unmet For	% of Goals Unmet
Protected and Compatible	96 elements	31.79%	206	68.21%
Compatible	183 elements	60.6%	119	39.4%

Back to top

Goal Performance by Element Type

Summary				
Name	Protected and Compatibl Goal Met For	e Goal Unmet For	Compatible Goal Met For	Goal Unmet For
Terrestrial Ecological System (33 elements)	12 elements (36.36%)	21 elements (63.64%)	25 elements (75.76%)	8 elements (24.24%)
Freshwater Community (23 elements)	2 elements (8.7%)	21 elements (91.3%)	22 elements (95.65%)	1 elements (4.35%)
Mammal (4 elements)	2 elements (50%)	2 elements (50%)	2 elements (50%)	2 elements (50%)
Bird (22 elements)	8 elements (36.36%)	14 elements (63.64%)	11 elements (50%)	11 elements (50%)
Reptile (13 elements)	3 elements (23.08%)	10 elements (76.92%)	4 elements (30.77%)	9 elements (69.23%)
Amphibian (12 elements)	7 elements (58.33%)	5 elements (41.67%)	8 elements (66.67%)	4 elements (33.33%)
Vascular Plant (195 elements)	62 elements (31.79%)	133 elements (68.21%)	111 elements (56.92%)	84 elements (43.08%)
Back to too				



Terrestrial Ecological System (33 elements)

Terrestrial Loological System (00 en	Distribution				ected and Co	mpatibl	e		patible		
Nama	Area	0	Carl	Goa		0		Goa		0	Descent of acri
Name Caribbean wet montane forest- Sierra Palm	(hectares) 11,965.95		2,481 hectares		4.151.52	0ccs	Percent of goal 167.33%	-		0ccs	Percent of goal 386.5%
alliance	11,000.00		2,401110000103		4,101.02		101.00%		5,505.14		000.070
Caribbean wet montane forest - Palo	3,713.49	1	762 hectares	V	3,577.32	1	469.46%	0	3,713.13	1	487.29%
Colorado alliance											
Caribbean seasonal evergreen submontane- lowland forest (young secondary)	97,270.47	1	10,862 hectares	0	1,092.87	1	10.06%	0	88,590.6	1	815.6%
Caribbean wet submontane lowland forest	1,877.22	1	9,482 hectares	0	73.44	1	0.77%	0	1,795.86	1	18.94%
(young secondary)	1,011.22		5,402 neciares	•	13.44		0.7776	•	1,7 55.00		10.5476
Caribbean montane submontane karst forest	15,690.96	1	0 hectares	V	235.26	1	100%	v	7,782.57	1	100%
(young secondary)											
Caribbean montane wet serpentine woodland (young secondary)	1,001.25	1	0 hectares	V	573.3	1	100%	0	937.08	1	100%
Caribbean lowland moist serpentine	1,951.38	1	0 hectares	0	943 56	1	100%	Ø	1,757.7	1	100%
woodland (young secondary)	1,001.00		0 110000100	Ŭ	010.00			•	1,10111		
Caribbean lowland dry semideciduous forest	19,810.44	1	7,283 hectares	0	2,025.63	1	27.81%	0	11,030.67	1	151.46%
(young secondary)											
Caribbean lowland dry riparian woodland and forest	1,231.2	1	1,229 hectares	0	93.6	1	7.62%	0	545.4	1	44.38%
forest Caribbean lowland dry limestone	3,919.32	1	0 hectares	0	142.38	1	100%	0	2,272.59	1	100%
semideciduous forest (young secondary)	0,010.02		o nectores	·	142.00		10070		2,212.00		10070
Caribbean lowland dry limestone	10,679.4	1	8,500 hectares	0	3,058.74	1	35.99%	O	8,894.97	1	104.65%
semideciduous forest											
Caribbean floodplain forest (young secondary		1		-		1		-	4,831.02	1	100%
Caribbean coastal dry evergreen forest	1,002.78	1	196 hectares	_		1		_	841.95	1	429.57%
Caribbean lowland moist serpentine	1,850.76	1	1,044 hectares	0	523.26	1	50.12%	0	1,498.05	1	143.49%
woodland Caribbean coastal rocky shore	389.52	1	89 hectares	0	73 71	1	82 82%	0	120.42	1	135.3%
Caribbean coastal sandy shore	1,229.49	1				1	13.35%			1	37.47%
Caribbean salt flats and ponds	1,495.98	1	432 hectares	_		1		-	741.78	1	171.71%
Caribbean maritime shore - estuary mouth	8,721.27	1		_		1		-	4,755.78	1	73.03%
mangrove	0,121.21		0,012110000100	Ŭ	2,100.01		00.0270	•	4,100.10		10.0070
Caribbean emergent herbaceous estuary	5,741.55	1	3,083 hectares	0	1,206.63	1	39.14%	v	3,430.35	1	111.27%
Caribbean floodplain forest	3,925.17	1	3,151 hectares	0	290.34	1	9.21%	0	2,122.29	1	67.35%
Caribbean riparian forest and woodland	453.24	1	0 hectares	V	8.01	1	100%	v	193.14	1	100%
Caribbean freshwater marsh	19,317.69	1	2,843 hectares	0	910.35	1	32.02%	V	10,338.03	1	363.63%
Caribbean coastal thorn scrub	17,670.87	1	3,600 hectares	V	5,043.69	1	140.1%	V	11,365.74	1	315.72%
Caribbean edapho-xerophilous mogote	10,360.35	1	15,268 hectares	0	352.98	1	2.31%	0	5,538.33	1	36.27%
complex											

Single Element Evaluation

Vista Output for Caribbean Emergent Herbaceous Estuary Type in SE Puerto Rico

Caribbean emergent herbaceous estuary-Baseline Evaluation

Value

- Incompatible with Land Use
- Compatible, not Protected
- Compatible and Protected



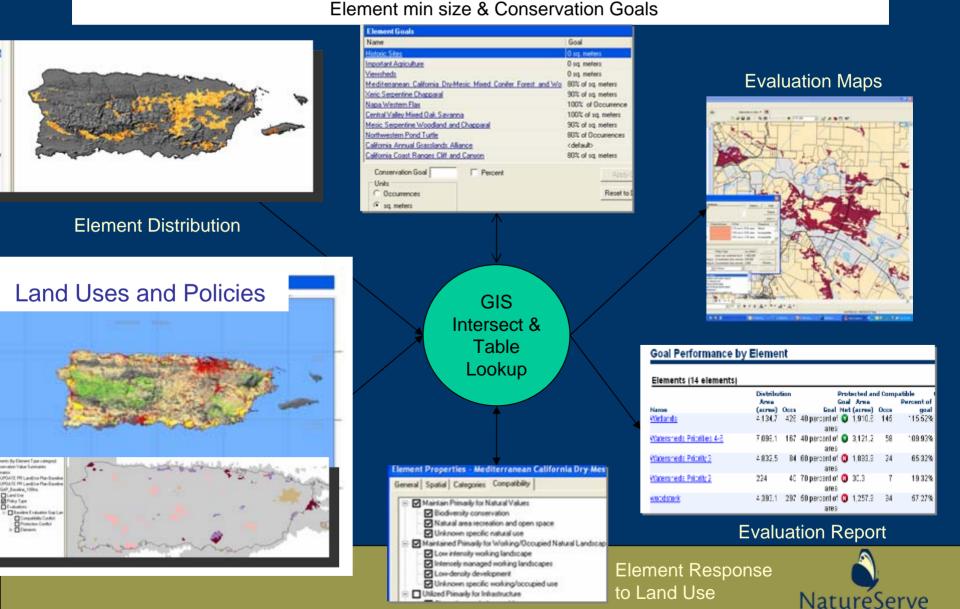
Vista Site Explorer

Example: Good compatibility of current land use but lack of goal contribution from unreliable conservation policy indicating threat/risk for future

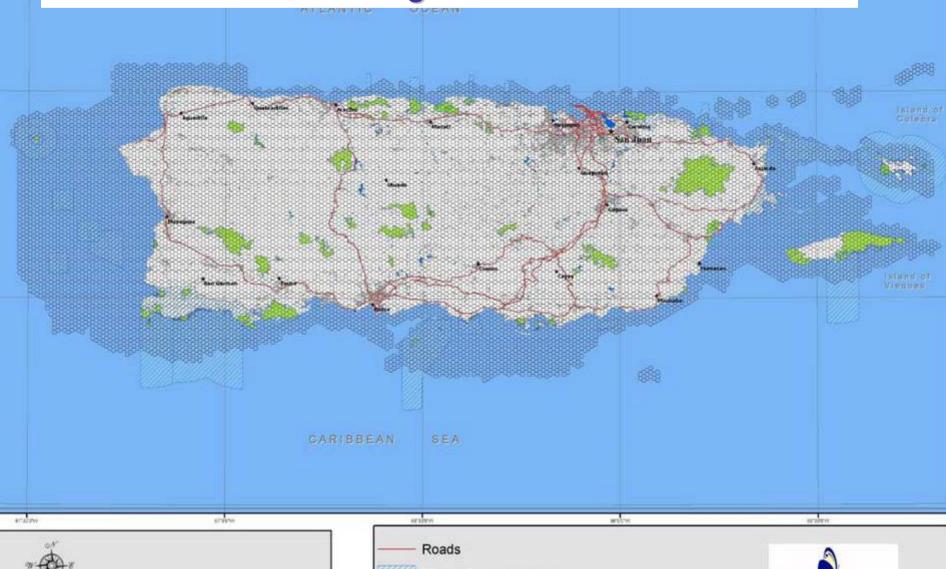
Site Explorer				(X MA	المحمد	
Baseline Evaluation Gap Landcover Scenario Evaluation Site Layer Huc_basins_Dissolve	Selection FID: 11	n Attributes		Options Help Report More >>			
Element Name	Total	Protected Area	% Prot	Compatible Area	· Such	anter Pe	1 million and the
Ottoschulzia rhodoxylon	16 occ's.; 49.68 ha.		25% occ's; 25.5%		A second		The strength
Karstic freshwater Streams	648 occ's.; 878.22		4.5% occ's; 2.7% area			1 4 4	
Caribbean wet montane forest-	1 occ's.; 11,965.95		100% occ's; 34.7%		Contractor (
Large Rivers Stream order eg 7 No	1 occ's.; 187.83 ha.		100% occ's; 3.4%		min ?	1917 - 1917 - 1917 - 1917 - 1917 - 1917 - 1917 - 1917 - 1917 - 1917 - 1917 - 1917 - 1917 - 1917 - 1917 - 1917 -	
Caribbean seasonal evergreen	1 occ's.; 97,270.47	1	100% occ's; 1.1%		3	S. Car	
Tillandsia tenuifolia var tenuifoli	8 occ's.; 25.02 ha.		0% occ's; 0% area		- 18 m 2 2	چ کے	10 S 120 MA
Medium Rivers Stream order 4 5 and	1 occ's.; 2,575.26		100% occ's; 4.7%	-		Server 199	
Medium Rivers Stream order 4 5 and	1 occ's.; 1,378.35		100% occ's; 6.8%		made	्र ः ् 🥵	
Caribbean montane submontane	1 occ's.; 15,690.96		100% occ's; 1.5%			The second second	C. S
Headwaters Stream order 1 2 and 3	1 occ's.; 239.49 ha.		100% occ's; 9.8%			- 10 - 10 May	Sand Contraction of the
Headwaters Stream order 1 2 and 3	1 occ's.; 282.69 ha.		100% occ's; 46.7%			1.1	Carlos Anno 1
Headwaters Stream order 1 2 and 3	1 occ's.; 527.85 ha.		100% occ's; 10.9%		Sector Sector	S	
Eugenia haematocarpa	5 occ's.; 15.75 ha.		20% occ's; 20.6%		- Farmer	- L	5-
Headwaters Stream order 1 2 and 3 lt	1 occ's.; 2,970.99		100% occ's; 4.6%		2.3.3		
Headwaters Stream order 1 2 and 3 lt	1 occ's.; 3,581.64		100% occ's; 4% area		- M. A. R.		
Headwaters Stream order 1 2 and 3 lt	1 occ's.; 1,391.22		100% occ's; 1.4%				5 6 5
Caribbean coastal sandy shore	1 occ's.; 1,229.49		100% occ's; 13.4%		and the second s	100	LA MARKEN
							NatureServe

Vista Scenario Evaluation Process

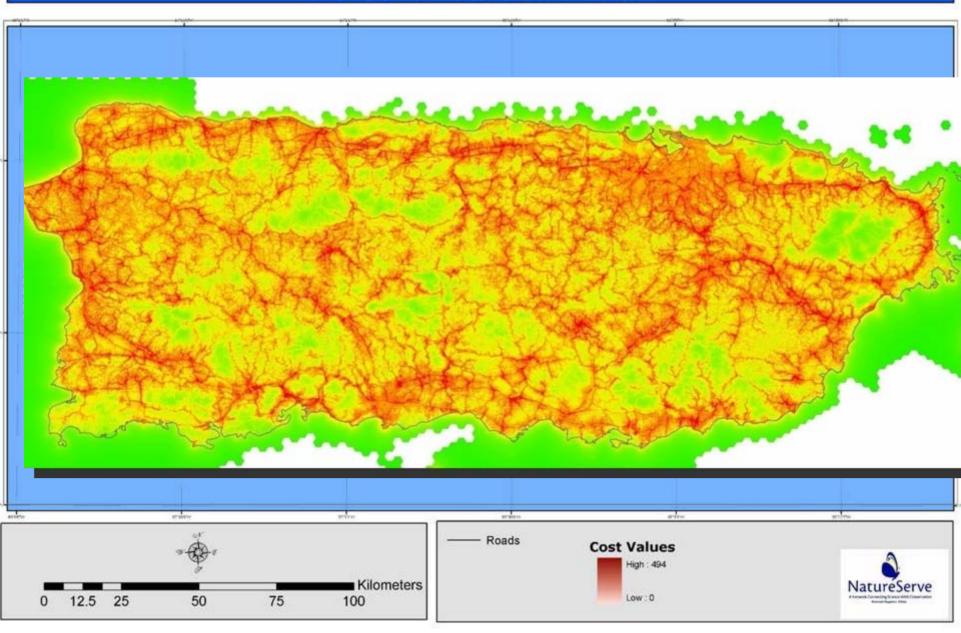




Spatial Analysis for Efficient Scenario Generation using Marxan

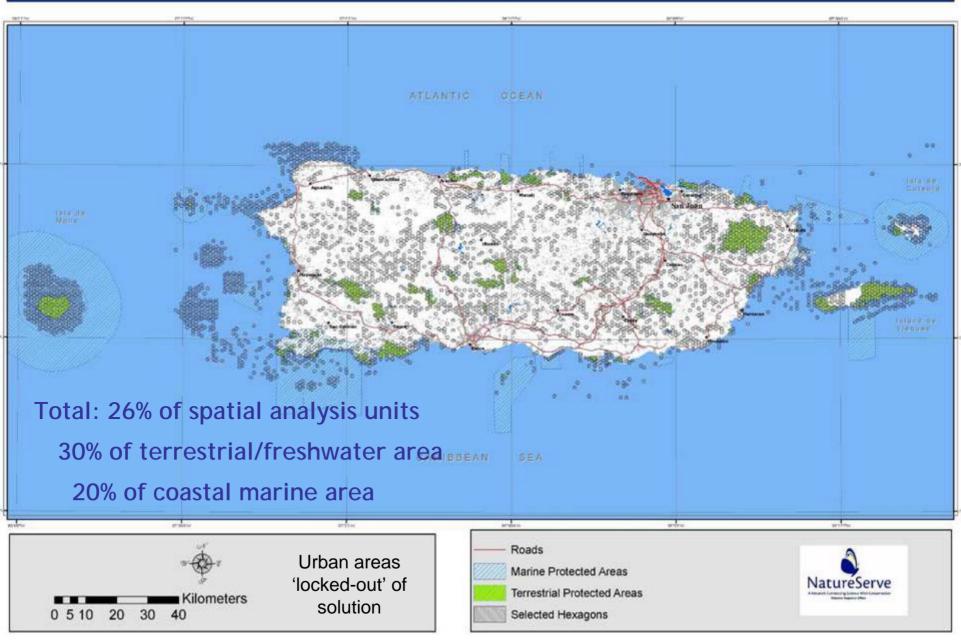


Marine and Terrestrial Cost

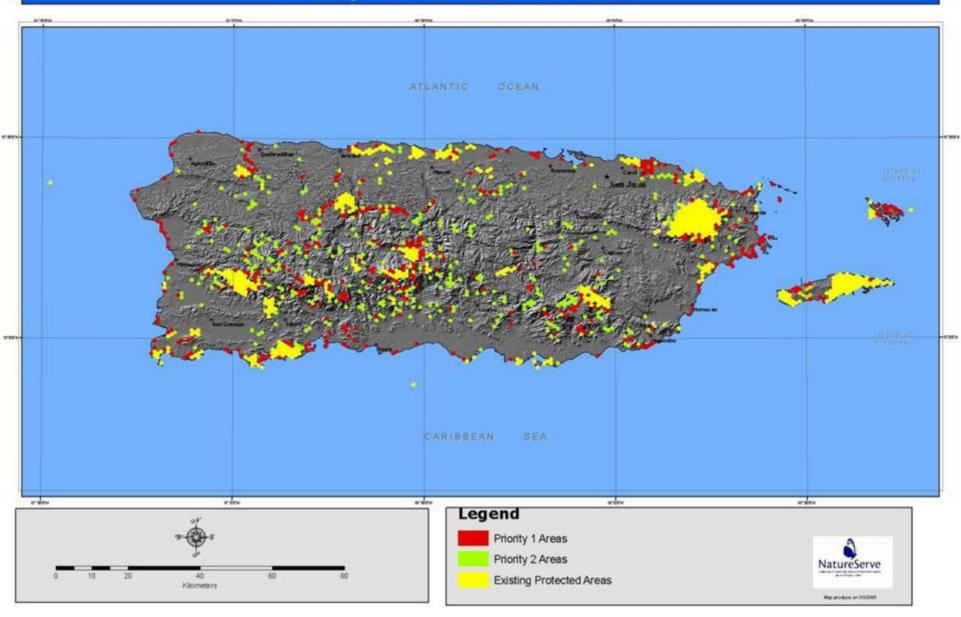


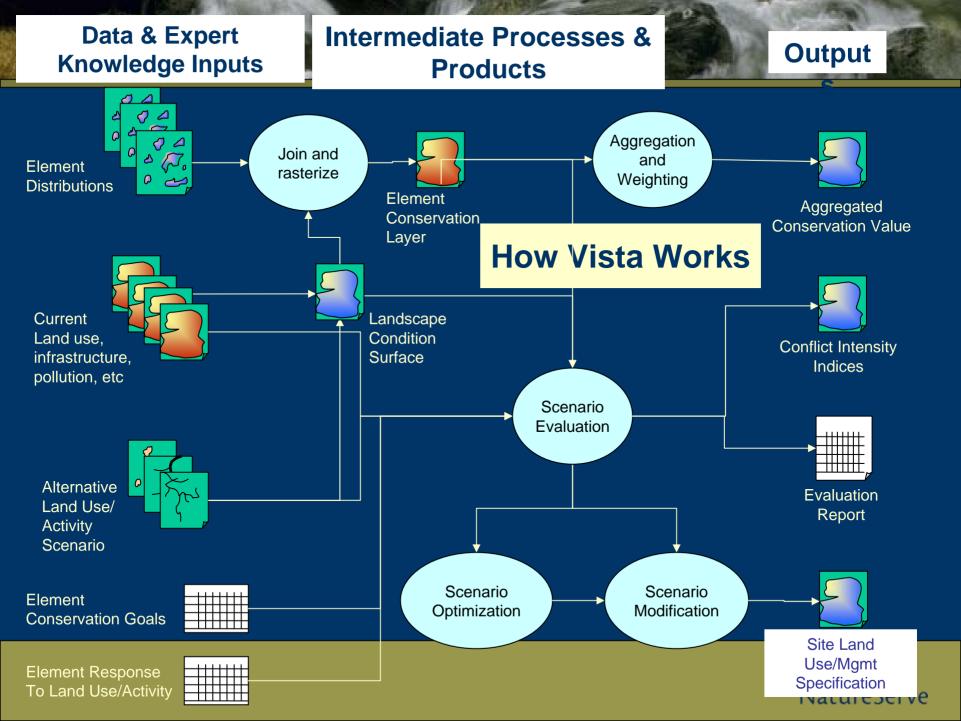
Goal for terrestrial ecosystems: 10% of historical extent, managed areas "locked in"

Scenario 3



Priority Areas for Conservation





Wrap up

- Acknowledgements: IITF Puerto Rico GAP Project & Patrimonio (DRNA) for data; Conservation Trust for funding
- More information:
 - Natureserve.org/vista: read about, download Vista
 - Ebmtools.org: search for dozens of tools for ecosystem-based management
 - patrick_crist@natureserve.org for application information
 - Pat_comer@natureserve.org





¡Gracias!

Thank You!



The Conservation Registry

Integrating on-the-ground conservation

Gina LaRocco Defenders of Wildlife

Registry Overview:

- What is the registry?
- Who is involved?
- Why is it necessary?
- How will it work?
- How can you help?



What is the Registry?

• Online, centralized database

 Records, tracks and maps conservation actions across the landscape

User-friendly format for data entry and retrieval

Conservation Action:

- Enhance Conservation Status
- Habitat Restoration and Management
- Monitoring, Education and Research







Who is involved?

- Users
 - Landowners
 - Land trusts
 - Forest industry
 - Federal, state and local agencies
 - Policy makers
 - Conservation organizations
 - Hunting, fishing and recreation groups
 - Interested public

• Partners

- Benjamin Hammett, Phd
- Bonneville Power Administration
- Bureau of Land Management (Oregon)
- Clean Water Services
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
- Idaho Department of Fish & Game
- Metro Regional Government
- John Miller, Wildwood / Mahonia, Inc.
- Nature Serve
- Northwest Habitat Institute
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
- Oregon Department of Parks and

• Partners (cont.)

- Oregon Forest Resources Institute
- Oregon Institute for Natural Resources
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Samuel S. Johnson Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy (Oregon)
- U.S.D.A. Forest Service
- U.S.D.A. Forest Service Pacific NW Research Station
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- University of Idaho
- Washington Biodiversity Council
- Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Washington Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation/ Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- Washington Interagency Committee—Natural Resource Information Portal
- Wessinger Foundation

Why is it necessary?

- State Wildlife Action Plans
 - Need for a tool to track and monitor conservation actions
 - Stakeholder group working with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



Why is it necessary? (cont.)

- Lack of centralized location for tracking conservation actions
- Impossible to determine

 Where actions are taking place
 If actions match priorities
- Missed opportunities for collaboration among



How will it work?

- Initial pilot in Idaho, Washington and Oregon
- National expansion following initial launch
- State and organization-specific portals for content, data and user administration



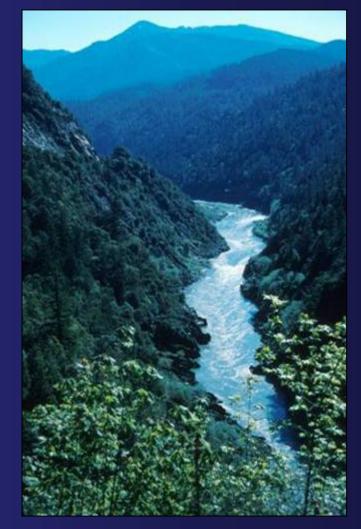
- Balance between simplicity and precision
- User-friendly interface for less technical users, but also a powerful analytic tool for professionals



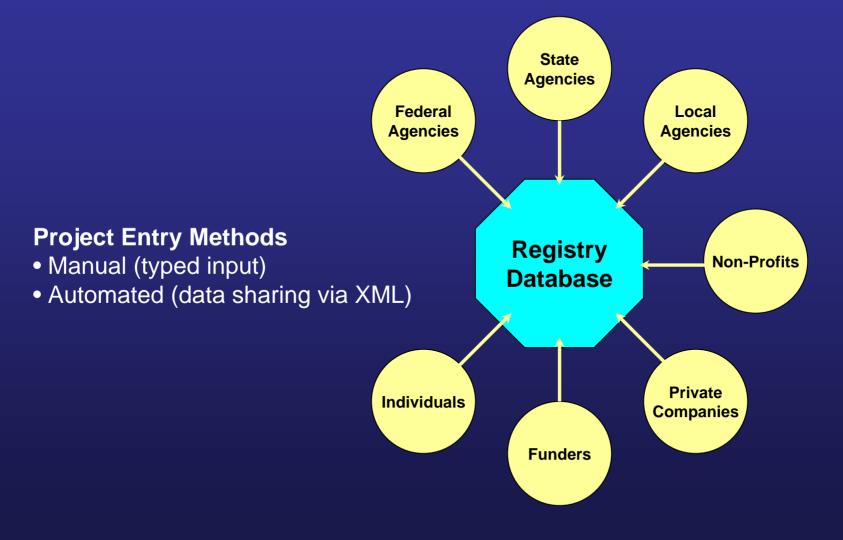
Design: (cont.)

Emphasis on ease of use
 Turbo-tax style data entry
 Google Maps platform

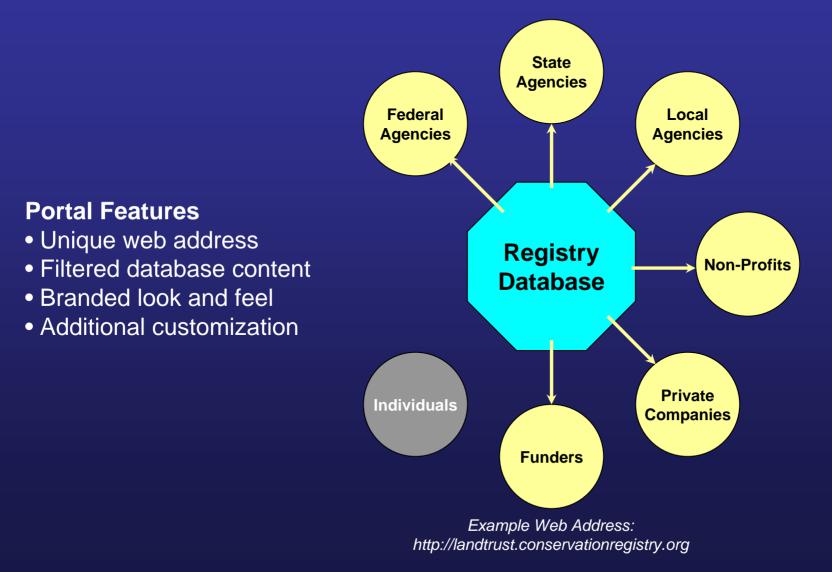
- Integration/linkage with other databases
- Uses NatureServe habitat and species information



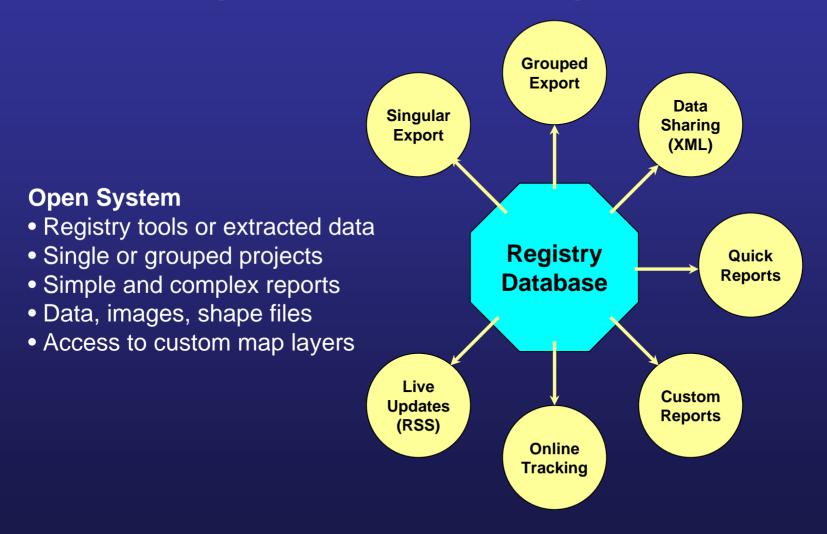
Project Entry



Registry Portals



Sharing and Tracking



How can you help?

- Funding
- Volunteer as beta testers
- Share your data on conservation actions
- Outreach





Registry Development Team:

- Defenders of Wildlife
 Sara Vickerman
 Gina LaRocco
 Kassandra Kelly
- Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Matt Lawhead
- The Nature
 Conservancy
 Michael Schindel

- Institute for Natural Resources
 Jimmy Kagan
 Avi Hihinashvilli
 Moran Rosenthal-Henn
- The Other Firm
 Ty Montgomery
 Ryan Shaw
 Sam Miller

Contact Information:



Sara Vickerman Gina LaRocco

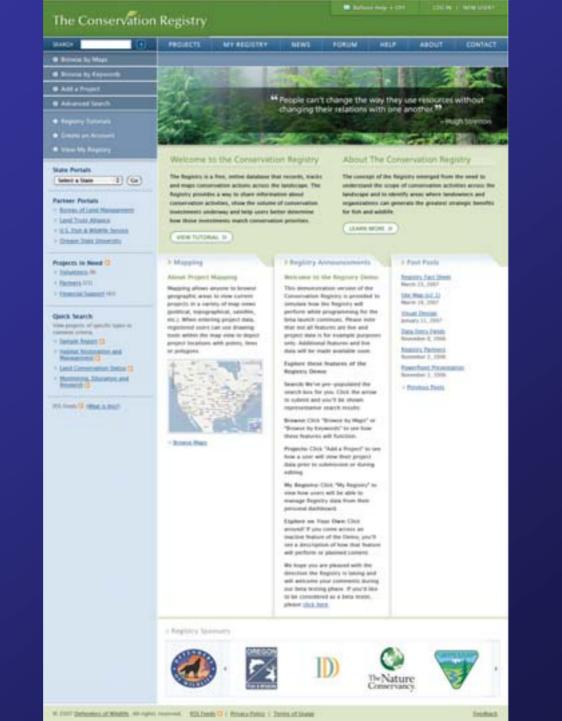
Defenders of Wildlife 1880 Willamette Falls Drive, #200 West Linn, Oregon 97068 503-697-3222 E-mail: SVickerman@defenders.org GLarocco@defenders.org

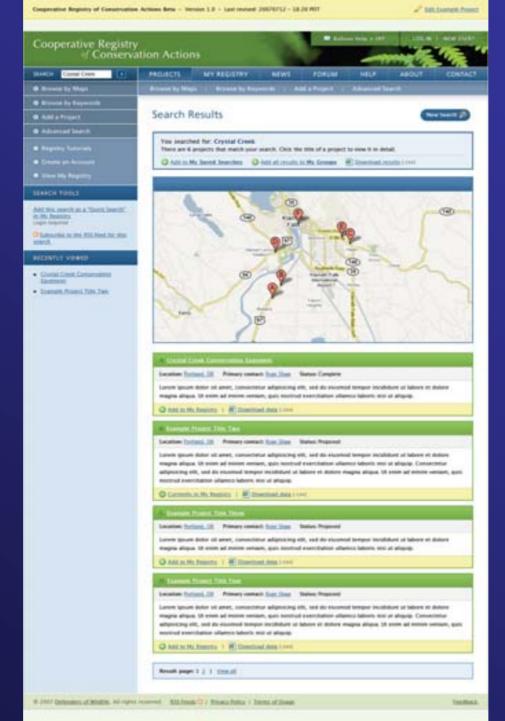
Overview web site:

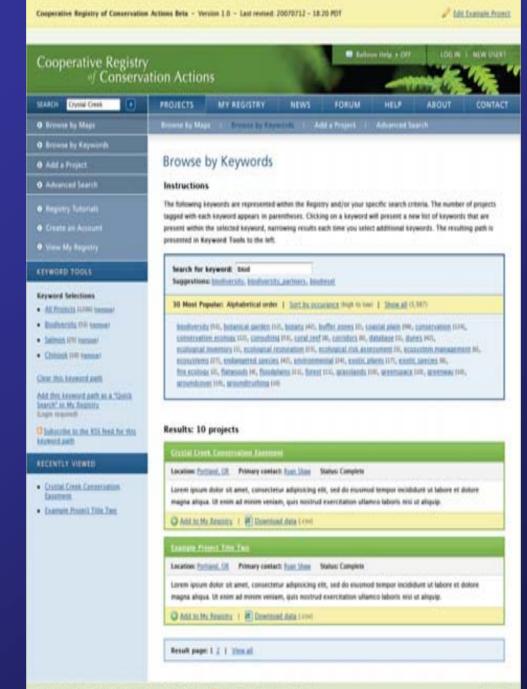
www.conservationregistry.org

Demo Site

- Representative data and functionality
- Available throughout development
- <u>http://demo.conservationregistry.org</u>
- Username: demo@conservationregistry.org
- Password: demo

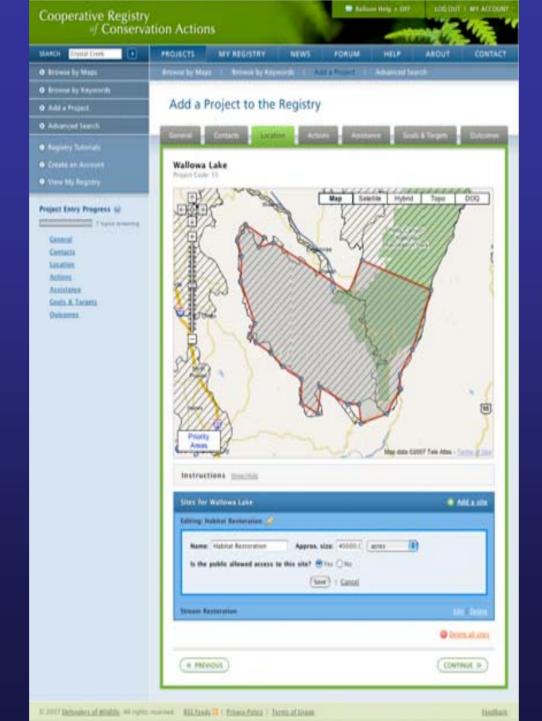




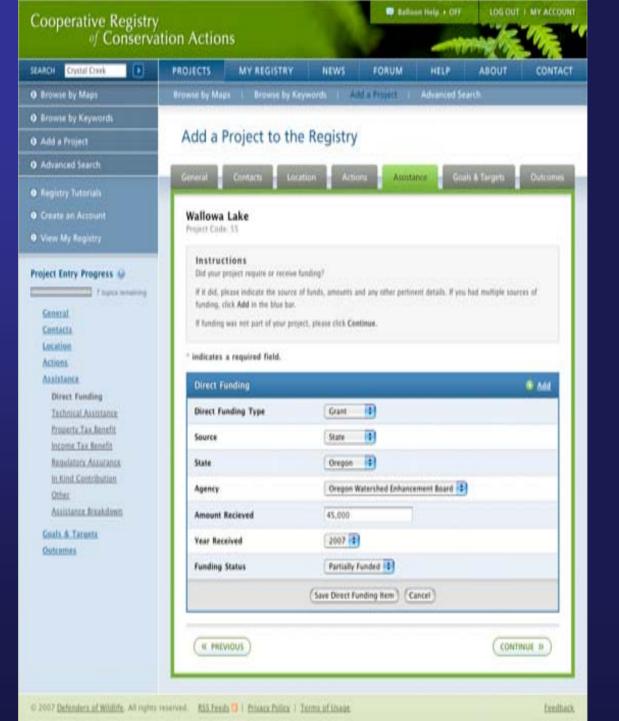


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Feedback.









Cooperative Registry		Ballouin Help + OFF LOG OUT MY ACCOUNT		
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Geels A. Taraeta Edala	Common name	Latin name	Action	
Targeted Habitats Targeted Species	Canadian Lynx	Lynx canadiensis	Restored/Protected	Add, i Deleta
Outcomes	Pygmy Rabbit	Brachylagus	Restored/Protected	Edit. i Deleta
	Fender's Blue Butterfly	kariela icarioides Fendesi	Restored/Protected	Edit. 1 Delete.
	Bald Eagle	Hallaertus Jeucocephalus	Restored/Protected	Edit. 1 Deleta.
	Shartnose Sucker	Chaimbles brevinantis	Restored/Protected	Edit. 1 Delete
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(Be Smart About) Technology for Smart

Conservation Planning

LTA Rally 2007 Larry Orman, Executive Director

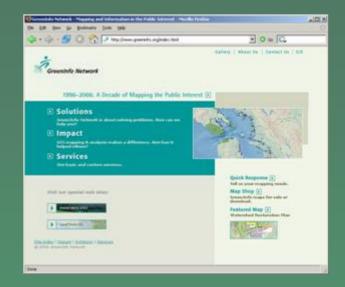
Denver, Colorado October 5, 2007

- Conservation planning tools are part of <u>overall</u> <u>information technology</u> for land trusts
- Success with tools is *f*(capacity + good strategy) -choose tools that match your capacity
- Follow the <u>5 golden rules</u>!
- Last, some <u>cool tools</u>



GreenInfo Network

- Non-profit information and GIS technology support organization
- 10 staff, work with 100 groups per year on a client-consultant basis
- Extensive land trust experience, + created <u>www.landtrustgis.org</u>



www.greeninfo.org



Framing Your Overall Strategy

- Inventory your capacity
 - Human capital
 - Organizational <u>culture</u>
 - Technology in relation to <u>goals</u>, <u>budget and people</u>
- Define your technology <u>level</u>:
 - Basic
 - Advanced
 - Expert
- Adopt <u>best practices</u> from that level, learn from the next up



www.landtrustgis.org

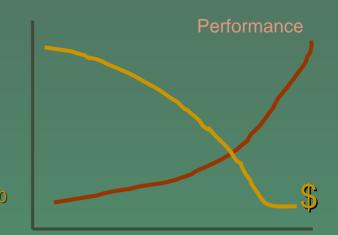


- 1. People matter, stuff doesn't
- 2. Learn to walk before you drive
- 3. Start with simple conservation planning
- 4. Stay away from the bleeding edge
- 5. Design really, really matters



#1: People Matters, Stuff Doesn't

- <u>Cost</u> of computing stuff is small
- GIS software is <u>free</u>
- But <u>people</u>...
 - Skill/education
 - Time using GIS
 - \$20-50,000/yr.
- Always figure out people before stuff



ecpgrant@esri.com

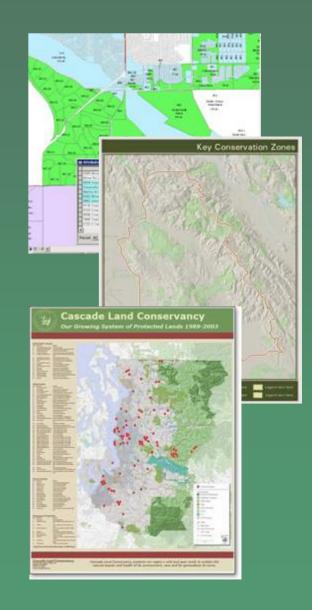




#3: Learn to Walk Before You Drive

- Have these in place before doing a major conservation planning project:
 - GIS <u>data</u> and system for projects
 - Look and feel for mapping
 - "<u>Turf</u>" map of holdings, area of interest
 - <u>Educated</u> board/staff/stakeholders, relative to approach being used and likely results

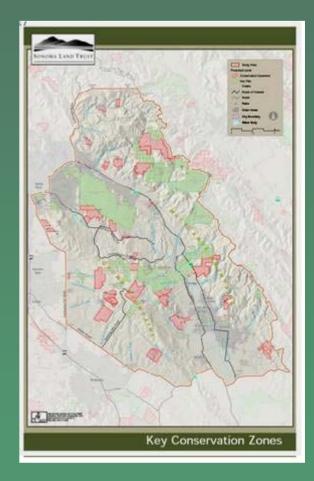
<u>Test</u> the waters before diving in





#3: Start With Simple Planning

- Base maps and core data:
 - Topography, infrastructure, watersheds
 - Tax parcels
 - Vegetation
 - Protected lands
 - Special data: habitat, plans/zoning farmland, etc.
- Use overlays, canvass experts, stakeholders for priorities
- Refine and evaluate, finalize





Windows

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Press any key to terminate the current application.
 Press CTRL+ALT+DEL again to restart your computer. You will

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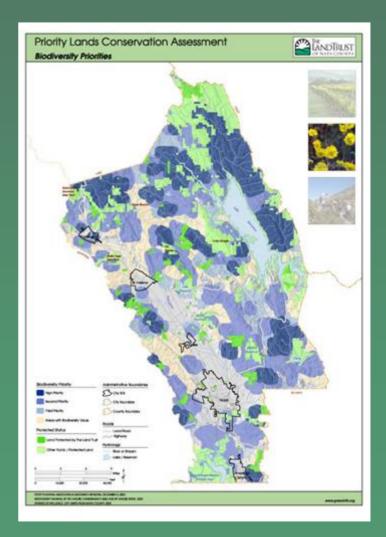
Remember:

Never get newly released software. . .



Conservation planning needs to be visually understandable

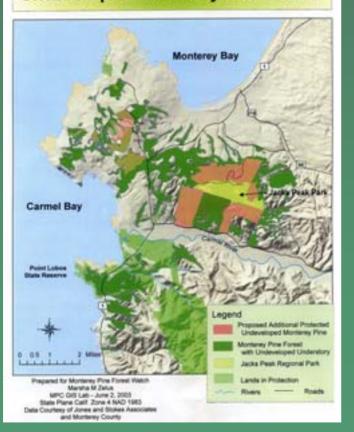


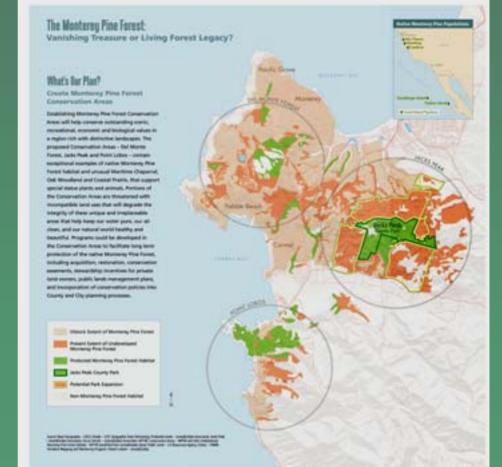




Design is mostly about <u>unfolding a story</u> with a clear <u>message</u>.

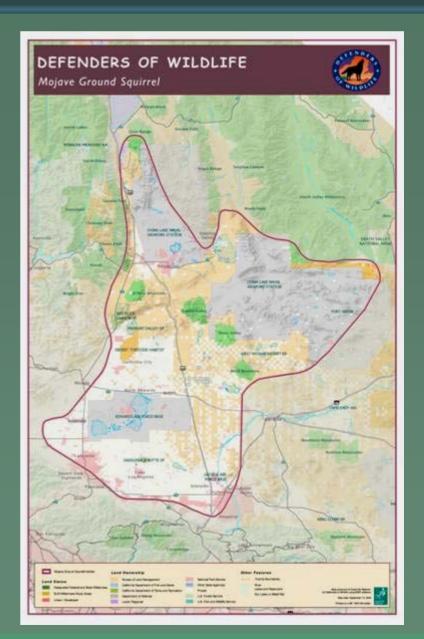
Proposed Additional Protection for Undeveloped Monterey Pine Forest





#5: Design Really, Really Matters

- 1. Have a <u>story</u> for an <u>audience</u>
- 2. Use graphic <u>frames</u> to allocate space
- 3. <u>Direct the eye</u> in the sequence you intend
- 4. <u>Layer</u> image elements so that important information stays prominent





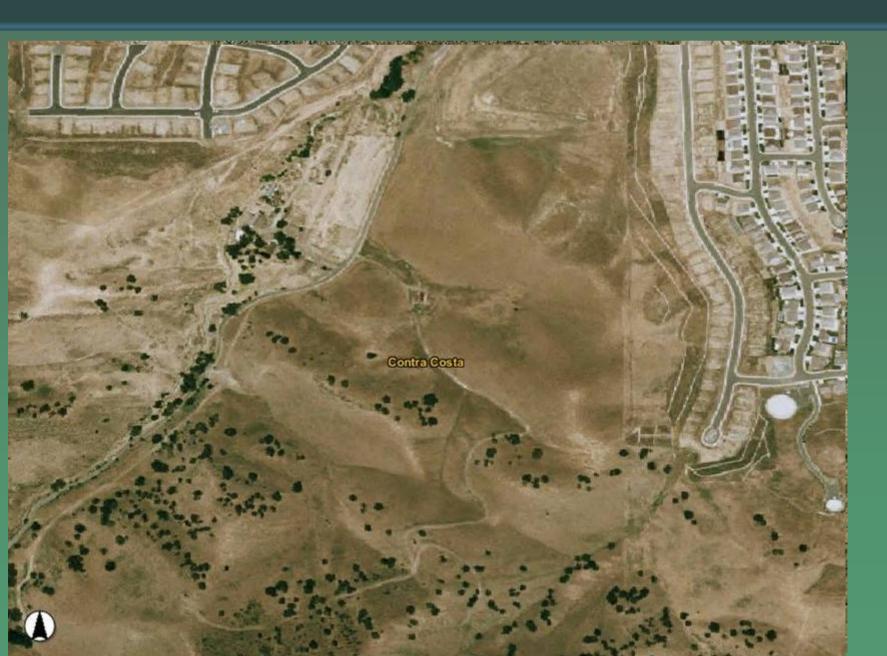
Cool Stuff

- 1. NAIP high resolution air photography (cheap!)
- 2. Google Earth and applications
- 3. GeoPDFs
- 4. Field Atlases

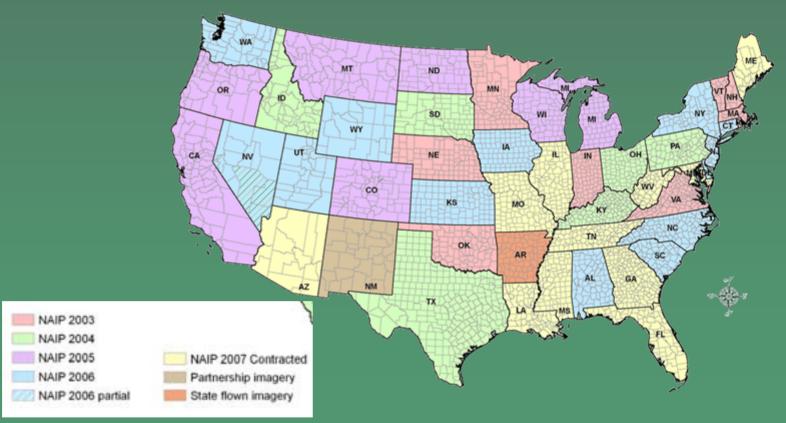






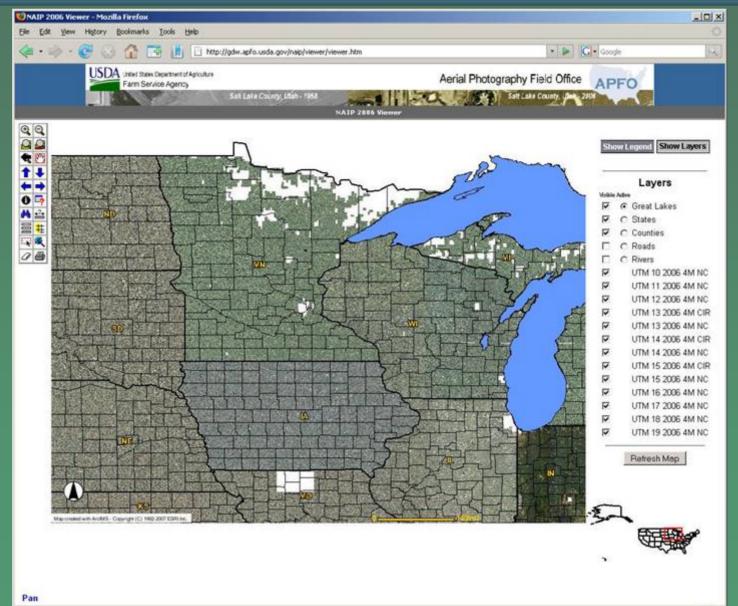


- National Agricultural Imagery Program (USDA Farm Service Agency) <u>http://www.fsa.usda.gov</u>
- 1 meter, current, by county free to very low cost





NAIP





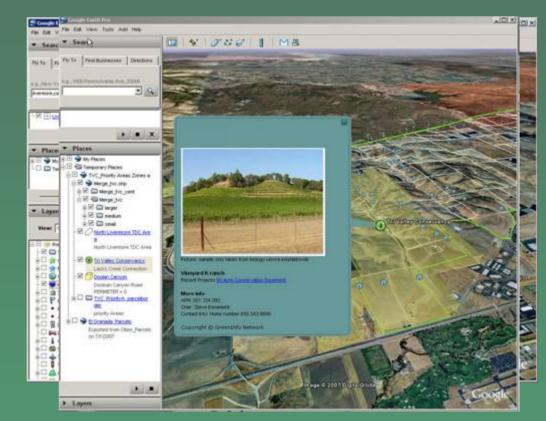
Done

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Google Earth

Get at: earth.google.com

- 1. <u>View</u> the landscape
 - Virtual visit
 - Share remotely
 - Report images
- 2. Build applications
- 3. Build really <u>complex</u> applications





Google Earth





GeoPDFs

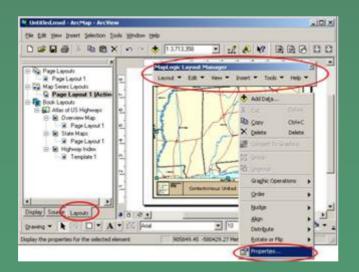
- Acrobat Reader Plug-in
- Layered GIS maps
- Measure, comment
- Interactive links
- Author needs
 \$300 software, "reader" is free
- www.terrago.com





Field Atlases

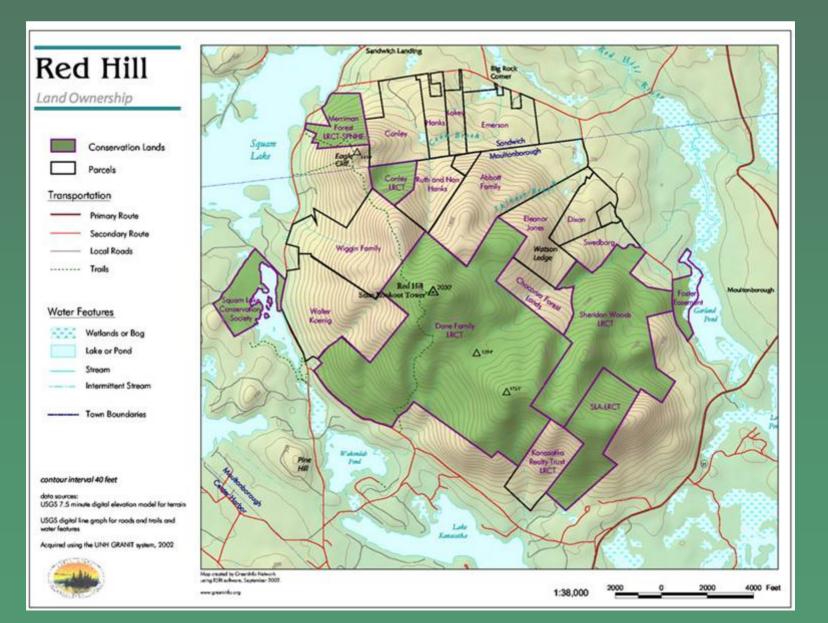
- Atlases field work, reference
- ESRI Map Book
- MapLogic's Map Book software – www.maplogic.com



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Design Really, Really Matters





- If you're not sure, do it <u>simply and</u> <u>quickly</u> – then see if you need to do it better
- Develop a "<u>best practices</u>" checklist for how you use technology generallycheck against your peers (or where you want to go)
- Always invest in building up <u>people</u> and keeping them for a long time

technology changes, humans don't.







For more information

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