



Land Conservation Public Access

Goal: Conserve Land and Increase Public Access

Conserve landscapes treasured by citizens to maintain water quality and habitat; sustain working forests, farms and maritime communities; and conserve lands of cultural, indigenous and community value. Expand public access to the Bay and its tributaries through existing and new local, state and federal parks, refuges, reserves, trails and partner sites.



Updates on Selected Actions

1. Develop watershed-wide, publicly accessible land conservation priority system to support sound conservation planning and decision making.
2. Develop watershed-wide public access plan to inform and guide expansion of public access.
3. Identify cultural significant landscapes.
4. Coordinate and collaborate on landscape conservation.

Develop Land Conservation Priority System



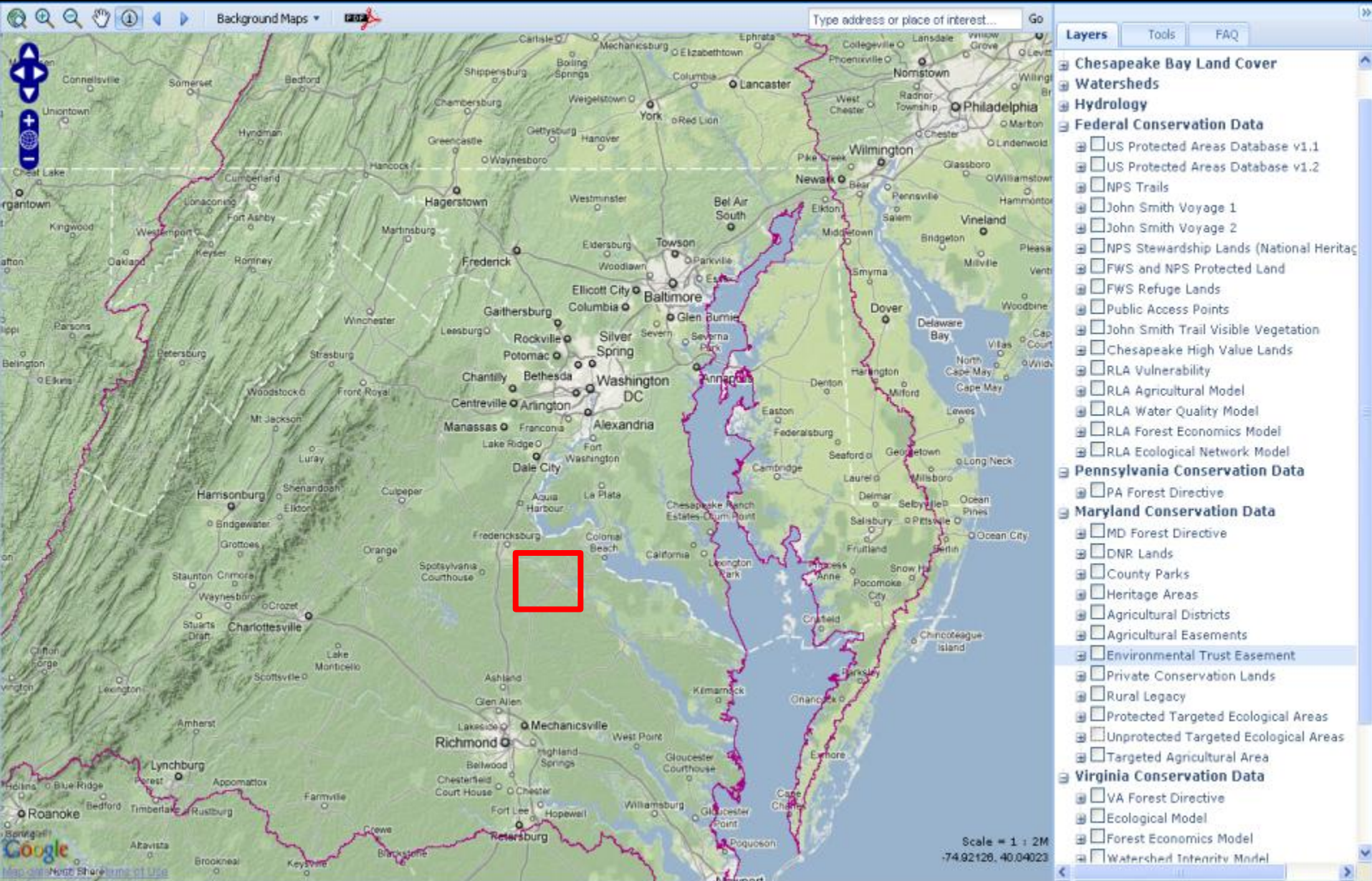
Action Team:

Representatives from jurisdictions, NGOs, USGS, FWS, NPS

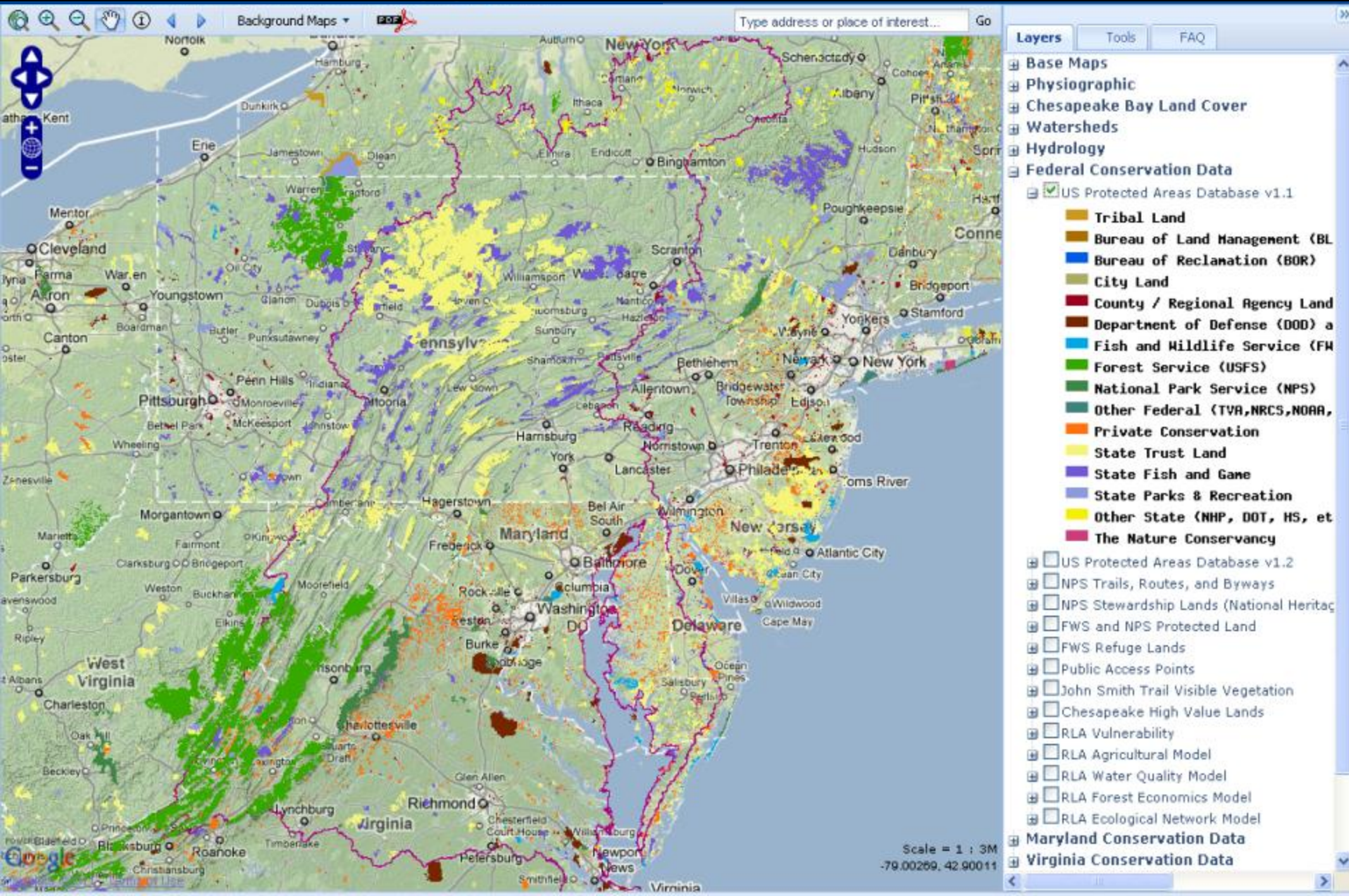
Project:

Develop watershed-wide strategic, publicly accessible land conservation GIS targeting system to support sound conservation planning and decision making.

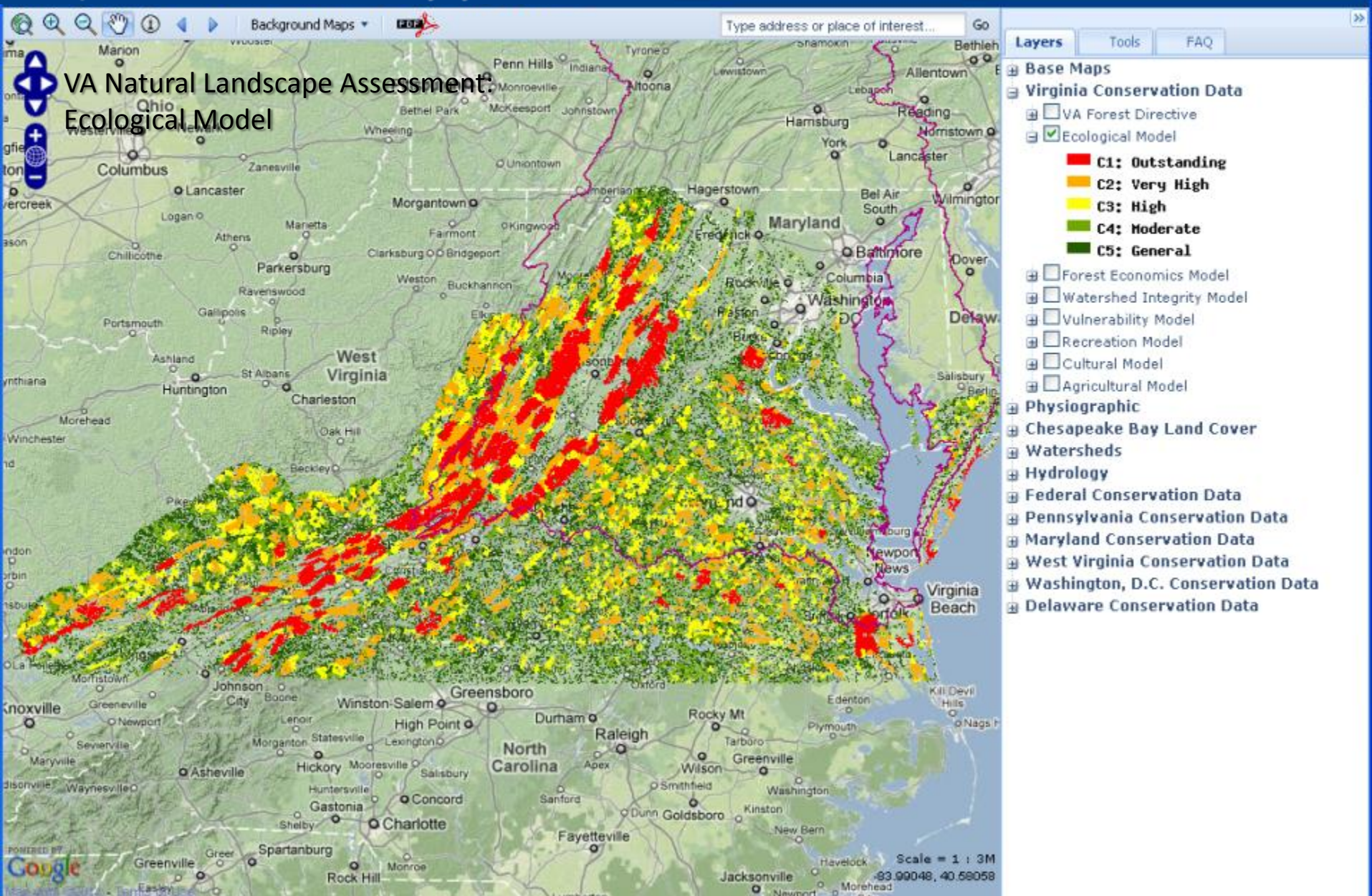
Develop Land Conservation Priority System



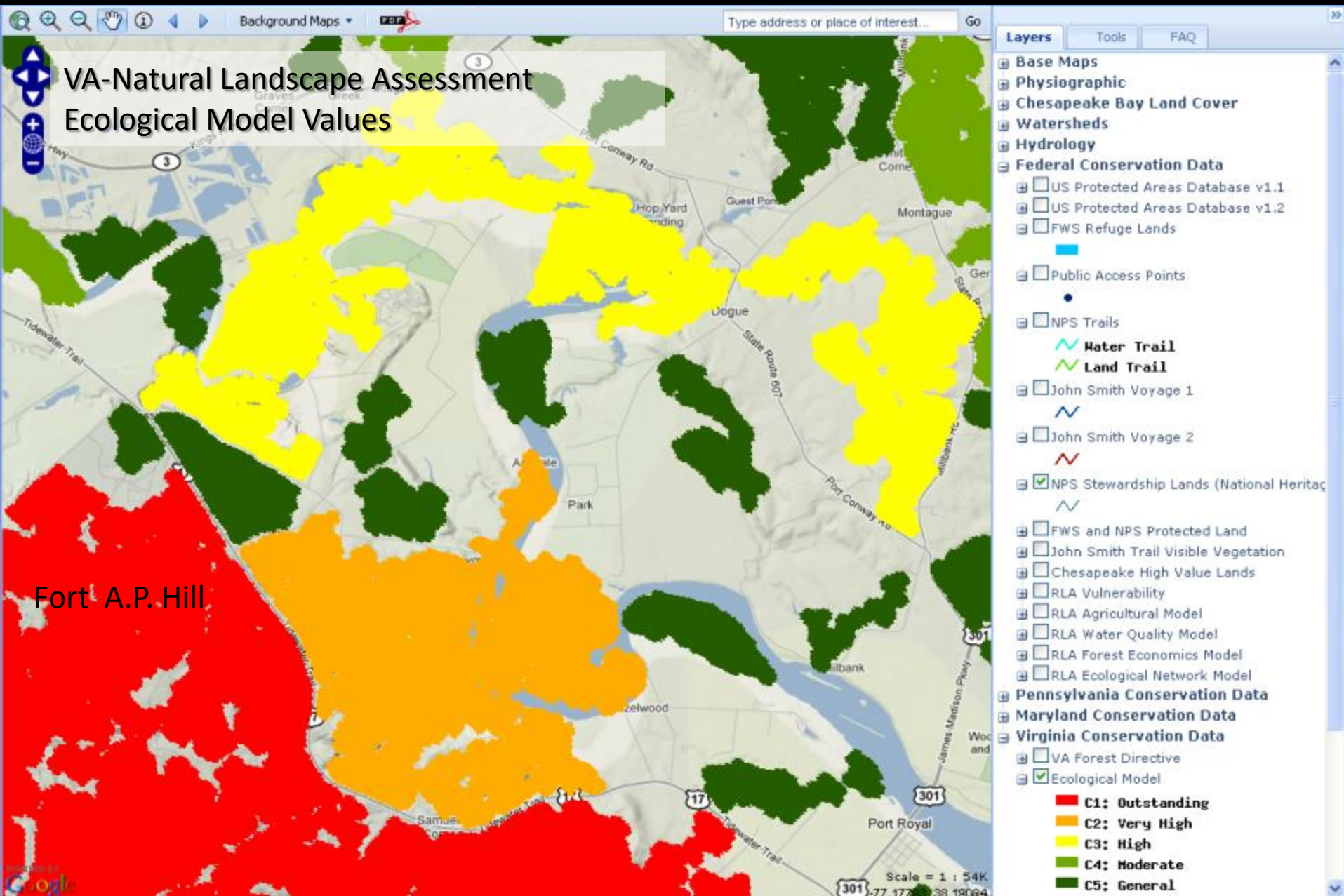
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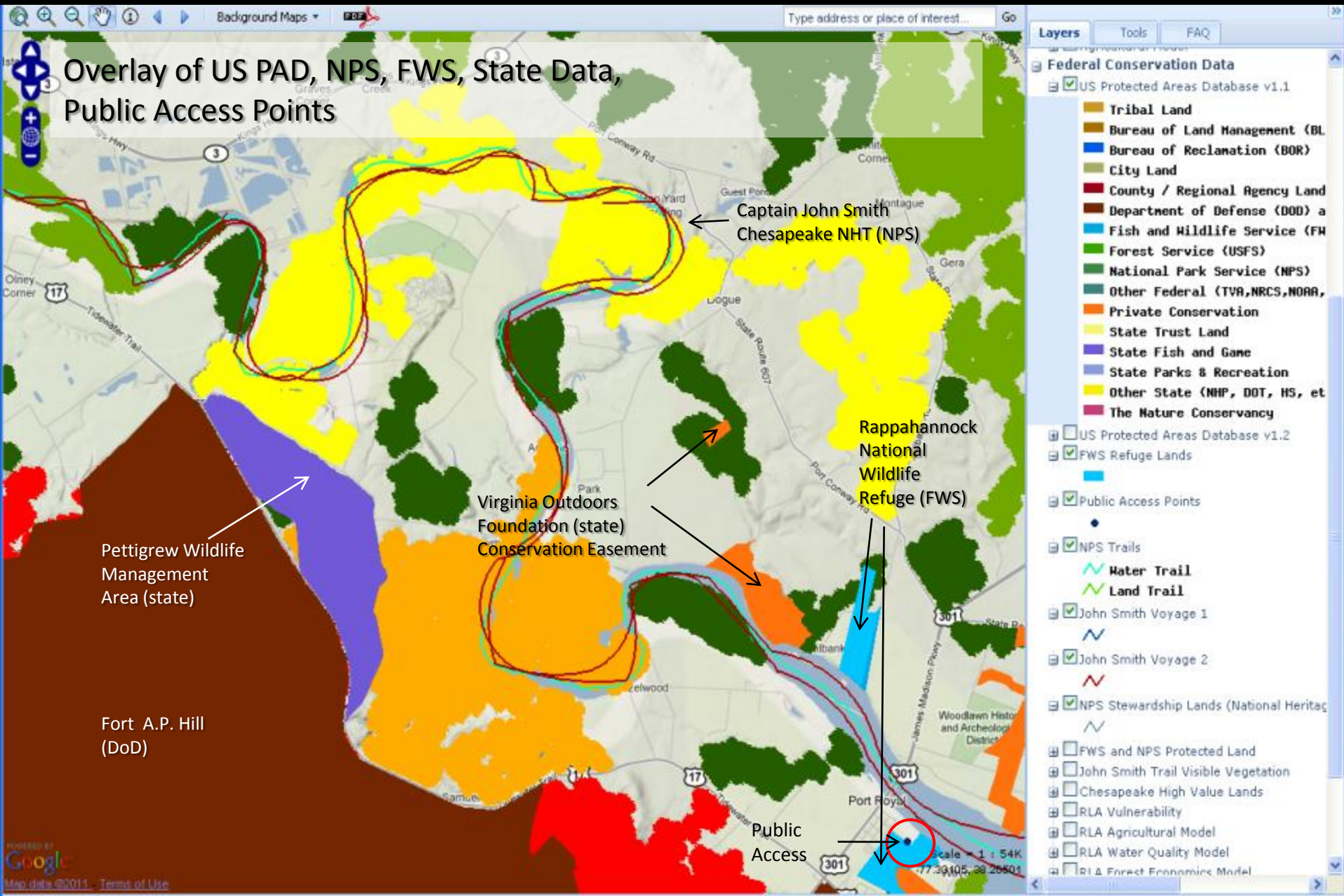
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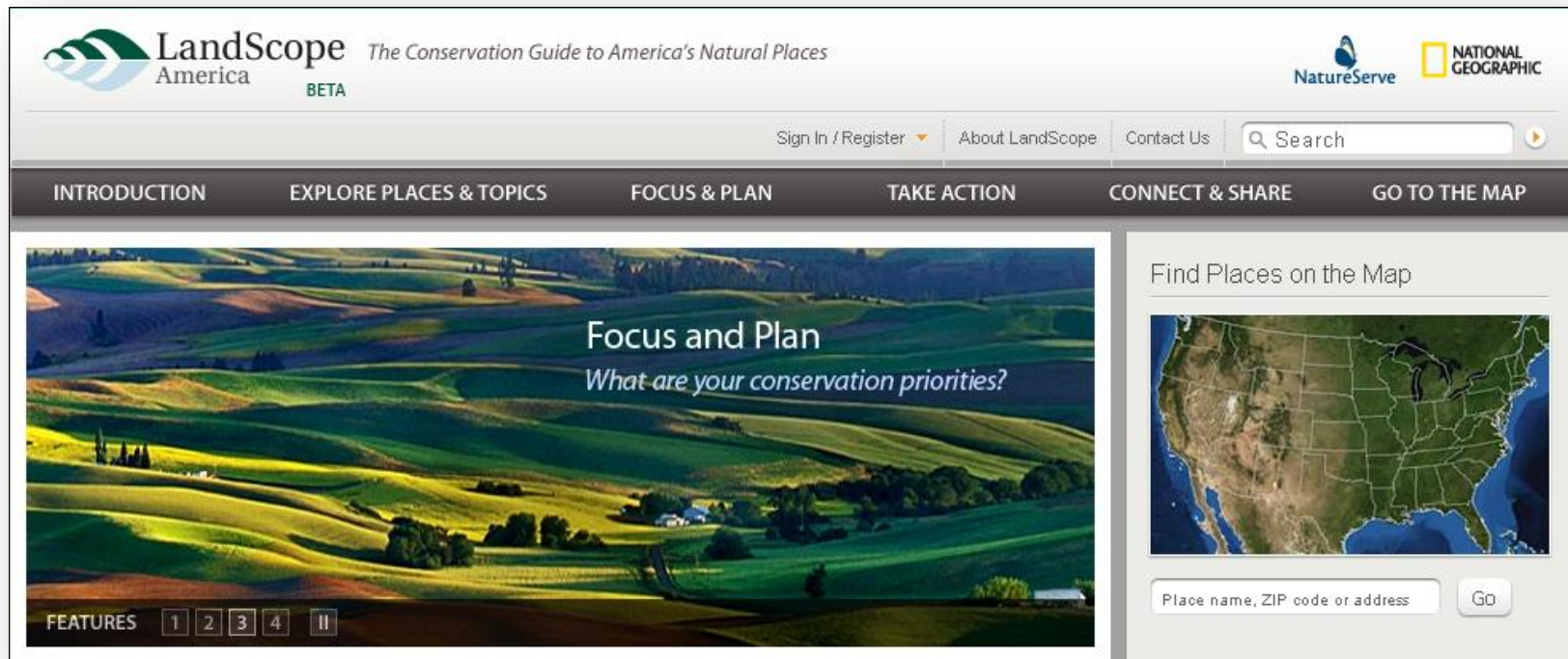
Develop Land Conservation Priority System



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NatureServe, US Geological Survey and National Park Service

In collaboration with: Chesapeake watershed states, non-governmental organizations and other federal agencies.

Develop Land Conservation Priority System



INTRODUCTION

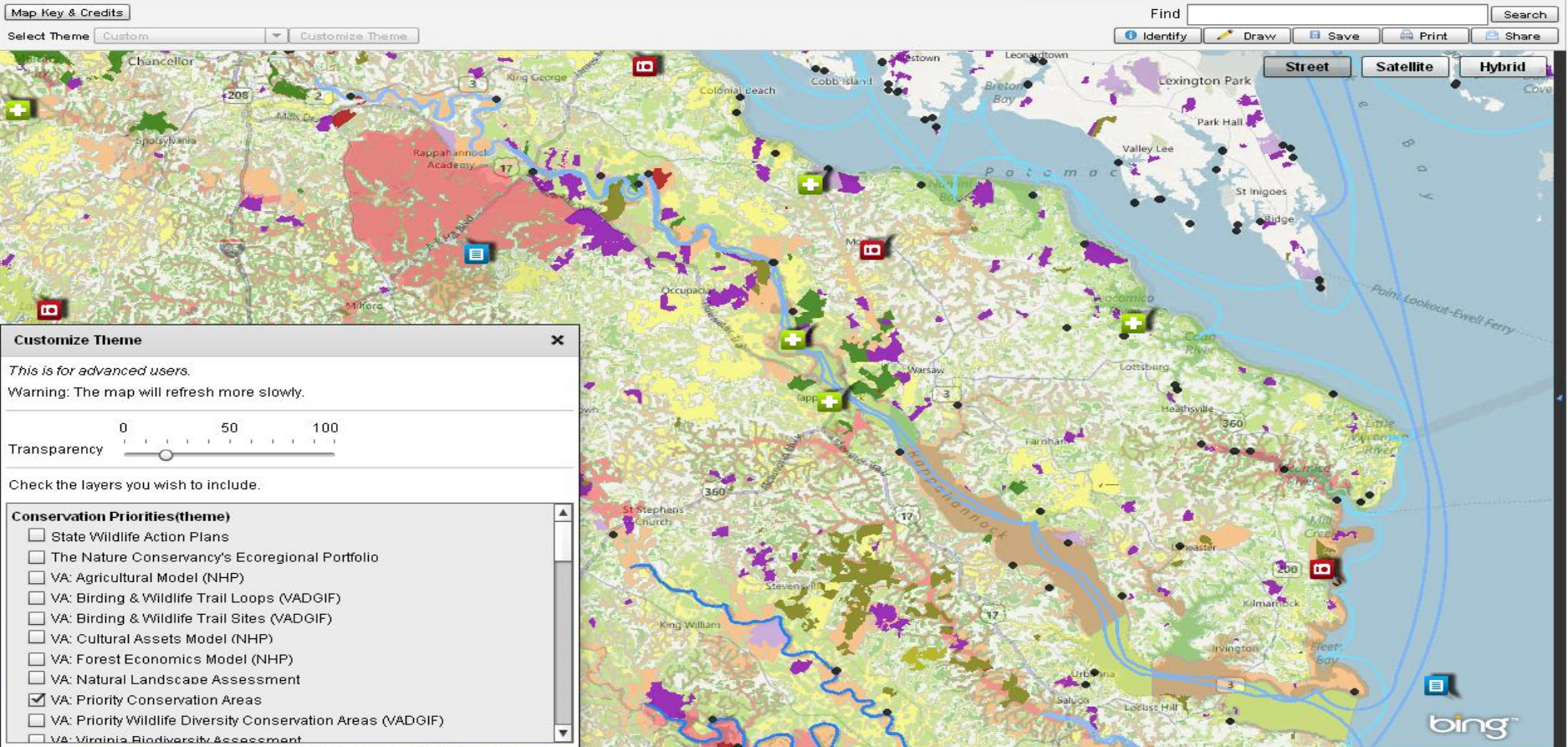
EXPLORE PLACES & TOPICS

FOCUS & PLAN

TAKE ACTION

CONNECT & SHARE

GO TO THE MAP



Develop Land Conservation Priority System

On-going Steps:

- Formalize state/NatureServe partnerships
- Inventory existing and desired Chesapeake Bay Watershed land conservation priorities data layers
- Build Chesapeake Bay Watershed content into LandScope
- Launch LandScope Chesapeake (target August 2012)
- Develop added functionalities, such as reporting on acres conserved (fall 2012)

Develop Regional Public Access Strategy

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Develop Regional Public Access Strategy

Action Team

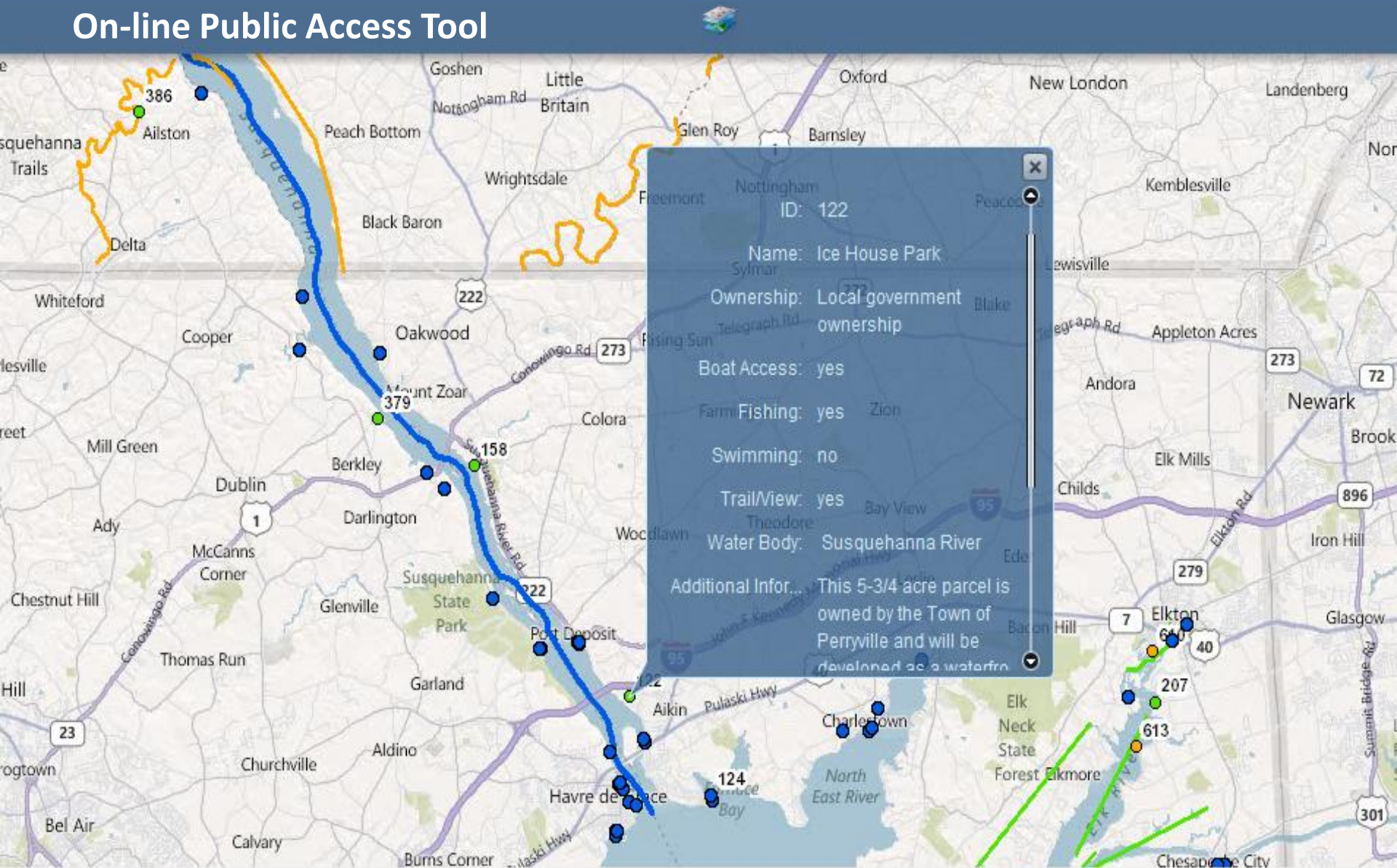
Representatives from jurisdictions, NGOs, USGS, FWS, NPS

Project:

Develop a Public Access Plan that will guide expansion, assess demand, determine gaps, and identify opportunities for public access sites in the Bay Watershed.

Develop Regional Public Access Strategy

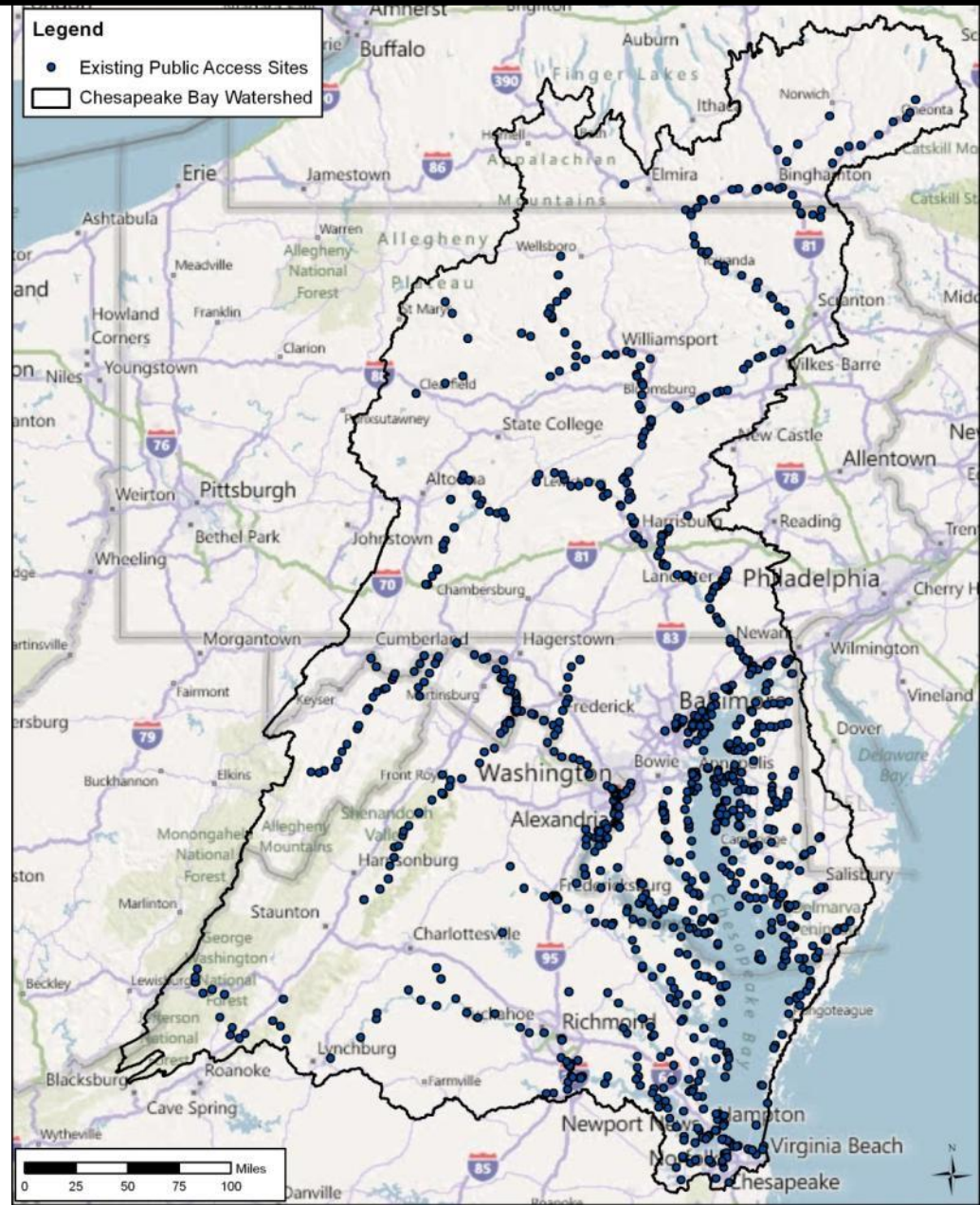
On-line Public Access Tool



Develop Regional Public Access Strategy

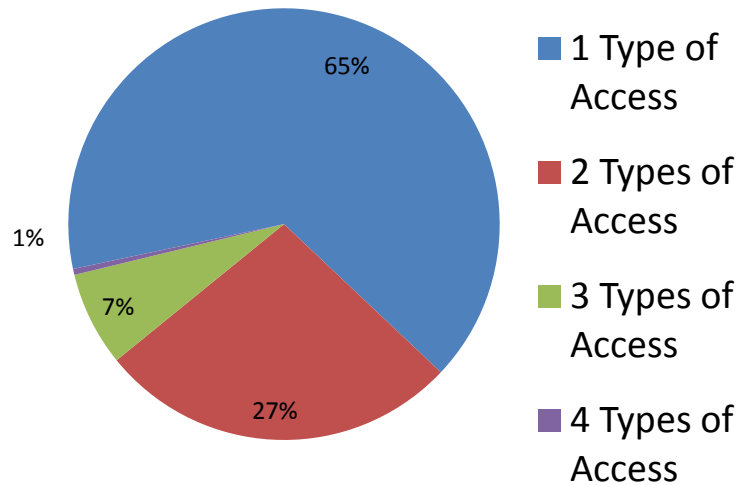
Existing Access Sites

Plan establishes new 2011 inventory of 1,144 public access sites along the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

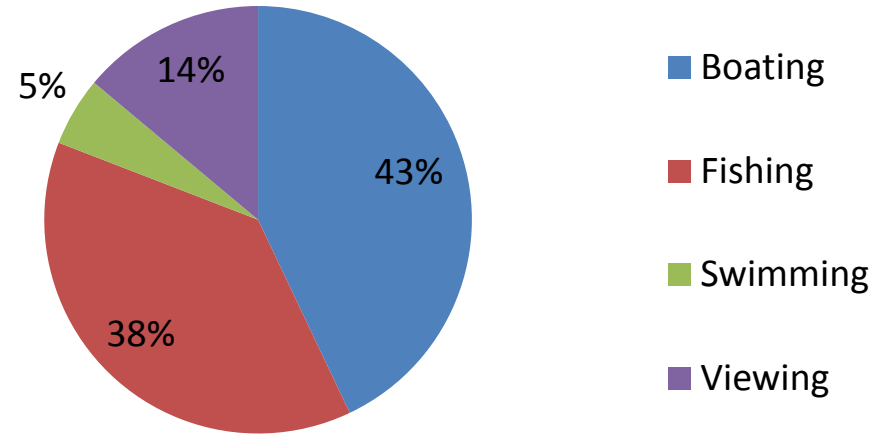


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Existing Public Access Sites that Provide Multiple Types of Recreation



Types of Recreation at Existing Public Access Sites

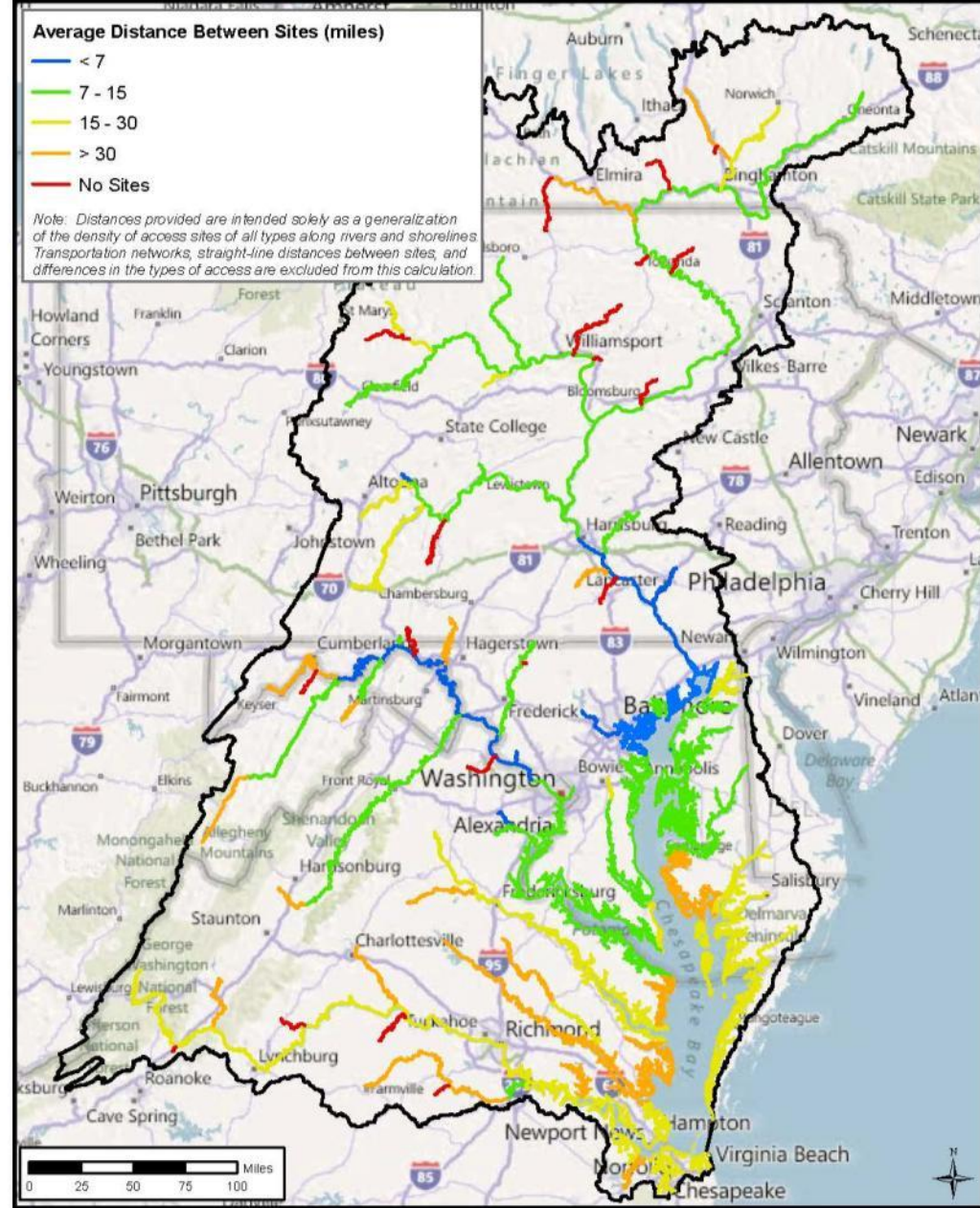


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Average Distance Between Access Sites

Number of is low in
comparison to length of
shoreline and riverbank.
Distance between sites
varies:

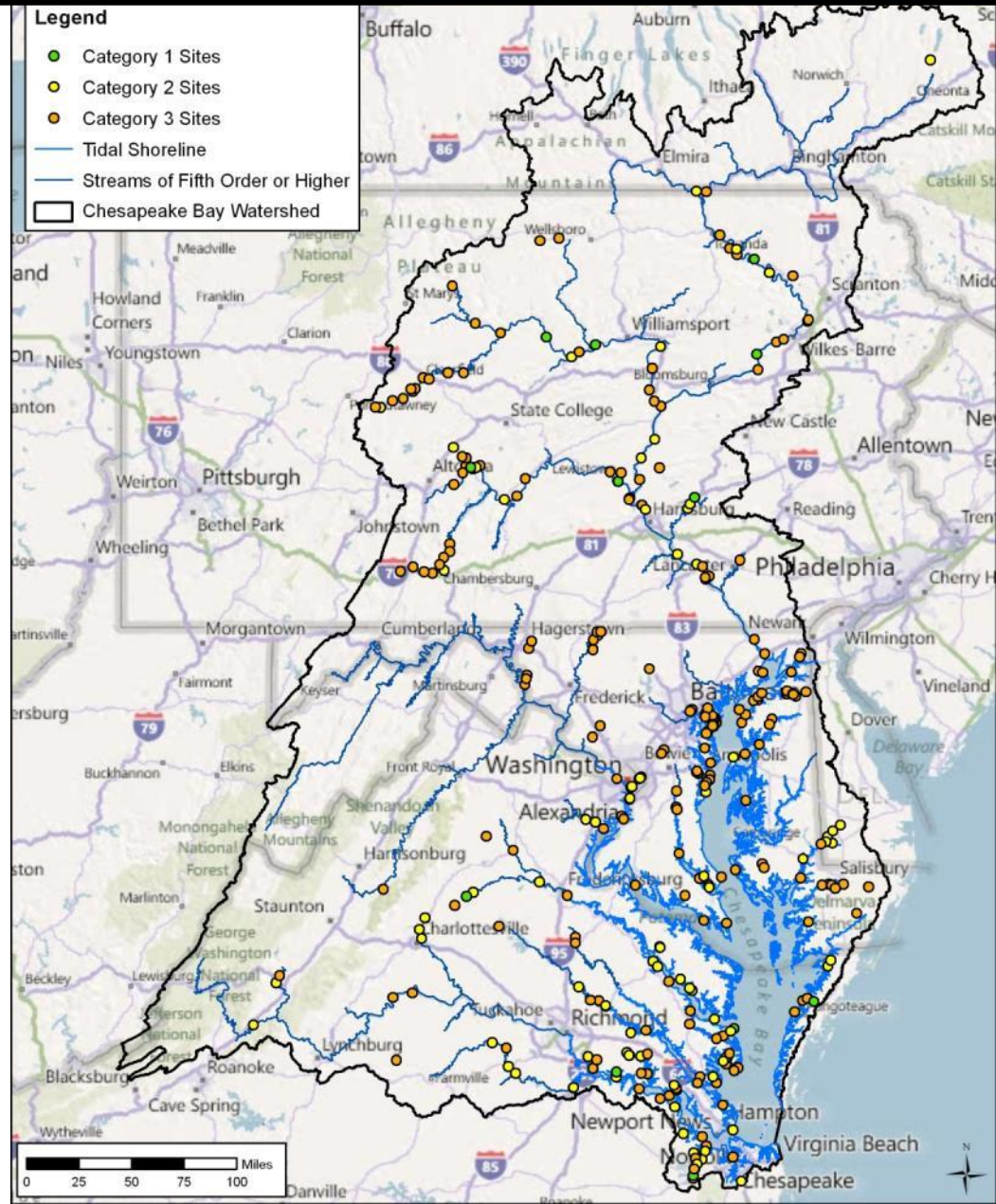
- One every 0.4 mile on
Spa Creek in Annapolis
- 64 mile gap between
sites along south bank of
James River



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Potential Access Sites

Plan documents 316 potential public access sites identified by the public and through state access plans. Half are on public lands; many along existing water trails and national trails. Only 5 percent of the 316 potential public access sites are ready for construction.

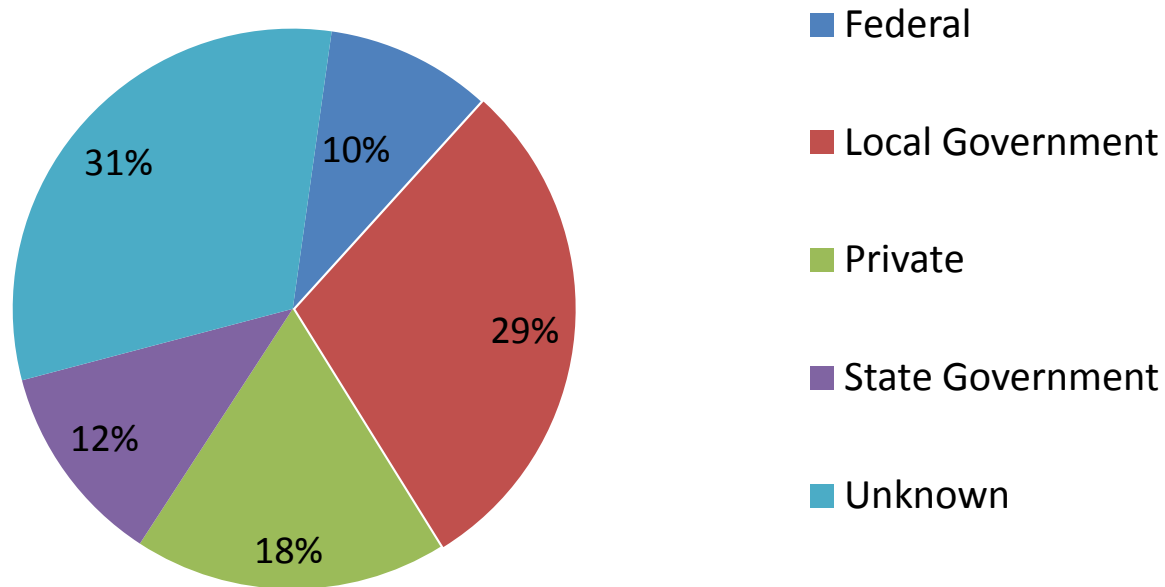


Develop Regional Public Access Strategy

Table 3: Existing & Potential Public Access Sites		
Jurisdiction	Existing	Potential
District of Columbia	23	5
Delaware	6	6
Maryland	578	106
New York	26	1
Pennsylvania	180	87
Virginia	287	111
West Virginia	44	0
Total	1,144	316

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Current Ownership of Potential New Public Access Sites



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Range of Recommended Next Steps:

- Make funding for public access a priority.
- Carry out and support more detailed assessments and project design for potential sites.
- Fill strategic gaps in access along water trails.
- Incorporate identified public access sites and actions in key plans.
- Further examine urban and community public access issues and needs.
- Work with private sector funders to develop access.

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Range of Recommended Next Steps:

- Engage in hydropower re-licensing processes to expand public access.
- Explore options for resolving railroad crossing liability.
- Establish memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with transportation departments.
- Explore potential for additional access on public lands.
- Clarify approaches to addressing accessibility.
- Build opportunities for citizen stewardship.

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Plan available for public review by July



Indigenous Cultural Landscapes



Identify Culturally Significant Landscapes



Identify Culturally Significant Landscapes

ICLs represent large landscapes from the perspective of American Indian nations at the time of their first contact with Europeans.

These landscapes comprise the cultural and natural resources that would have supported the historic lifestyles and settlement patterns of an Indian group in their totality.

Identify Culturally Significant Landscapes

ICL Criteria (Chesapeake)

Central indigenous community support criteria (landscape should include several of these):

- Good agricultural soil
- Fresh water source
- Adjacent transportation tributary
- Landing place
- Marshes nearby
- Brushy areas
- Primary or mixed deciduous forest
- Uplands that could support hunting

Additional desirable attributes:

- Proximity to known American Indian community
- Wind protection
- High terrace landform

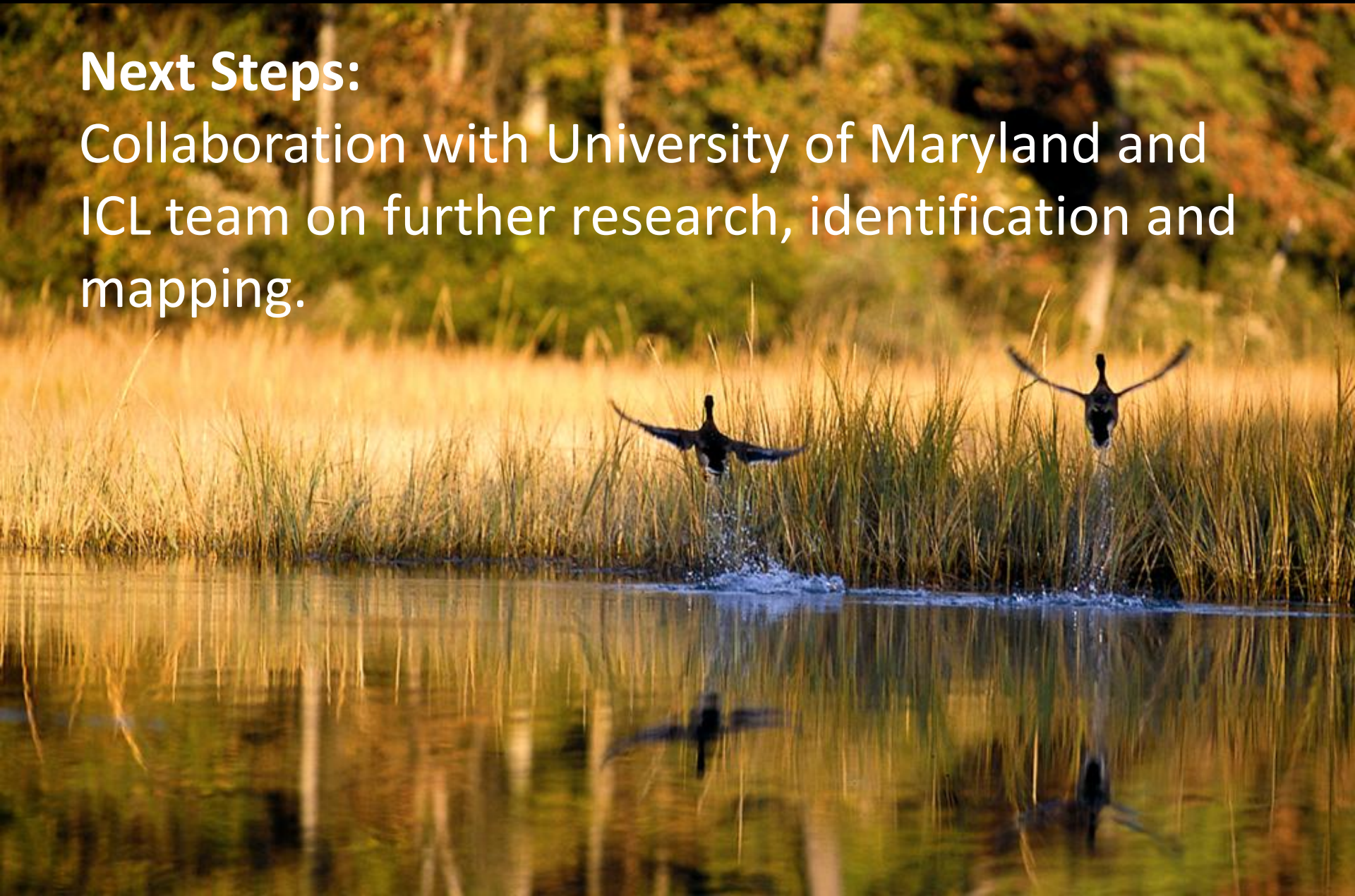
Criteria for smaller or connective parcels:

- Areas of recurrent use for food or medicine acquisition
- Areas of recurrent use for tool acquisition
- Places with high probability for ceremonial or spiritual use
- Trails used as footpaths
- Parcels that can be interpreted as supporting activities of Indian community sustainability, such as trading places or meeting places
- Places associated with ancestors, or part of a descendent community's past

Identify Culturally Significant Landscapes

Next Steps:

Collaboration with University of Maryland and ICL team on further research, identification and mapping.



Collaborative Landscape Conservation

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Collaborative Landscape Conservation

Landscape Conservation Workshop

- Discuss current developments in tools, strategies, and achievements in land conservation
- Reflect on the value of collaboration to achieve mutual conservation goals as resources and funding become more limited;
- Consider current high-level focus areas (fairly large geographies) for conservation in the Chesapeake watershed;
- Develop the basis for a focused rationale for large landscape conservation based on those focus areas;
- Identify initial next steps for further development of a large landscape conservation initiative in the Chesapeake.

Collaborative Landscape Conservation

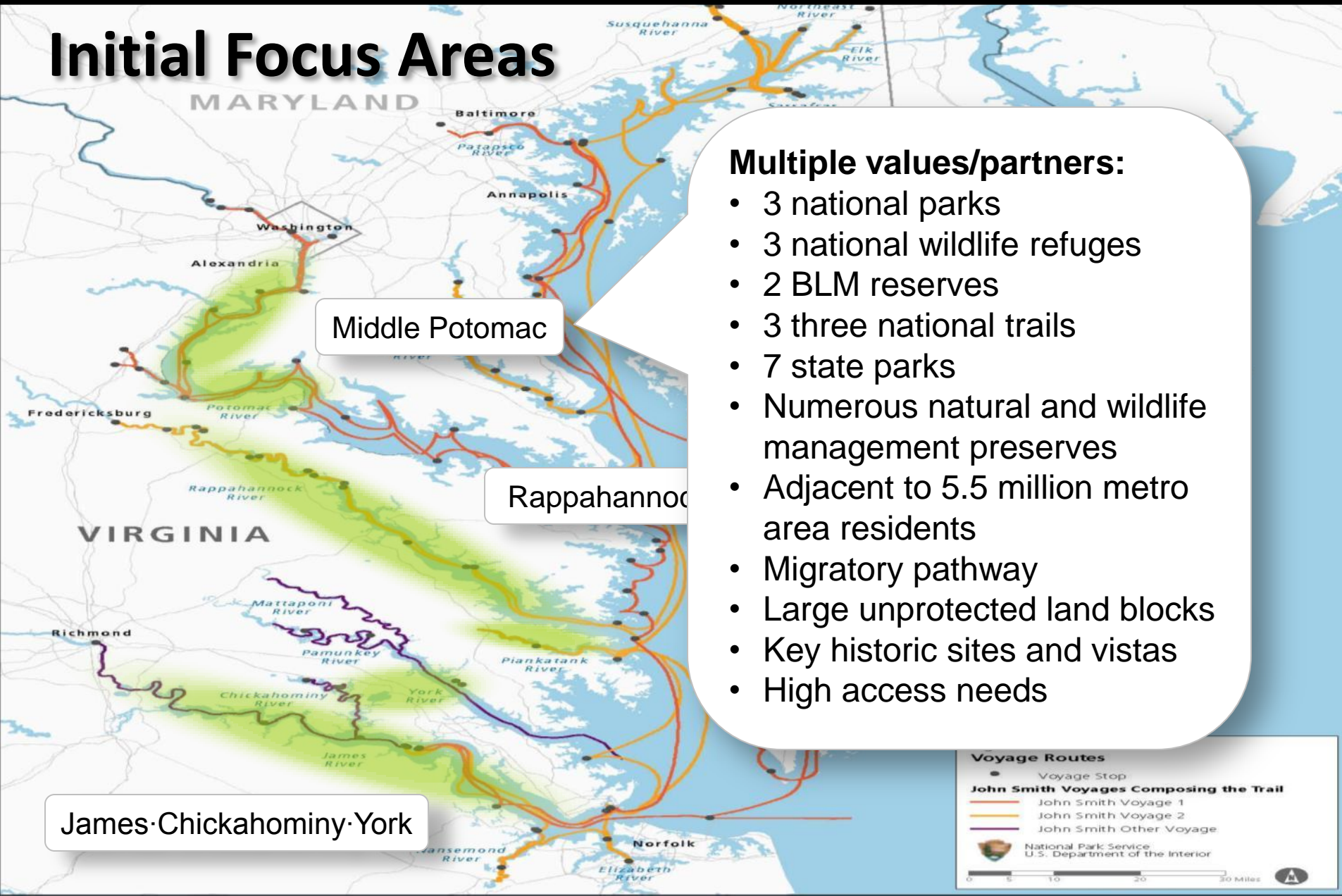
Chesapeake LWCF Collaborative



More than 150 regional
& local land trusts

Collaborative Landscape Conservation

Initial Focus Areas



Questions?

