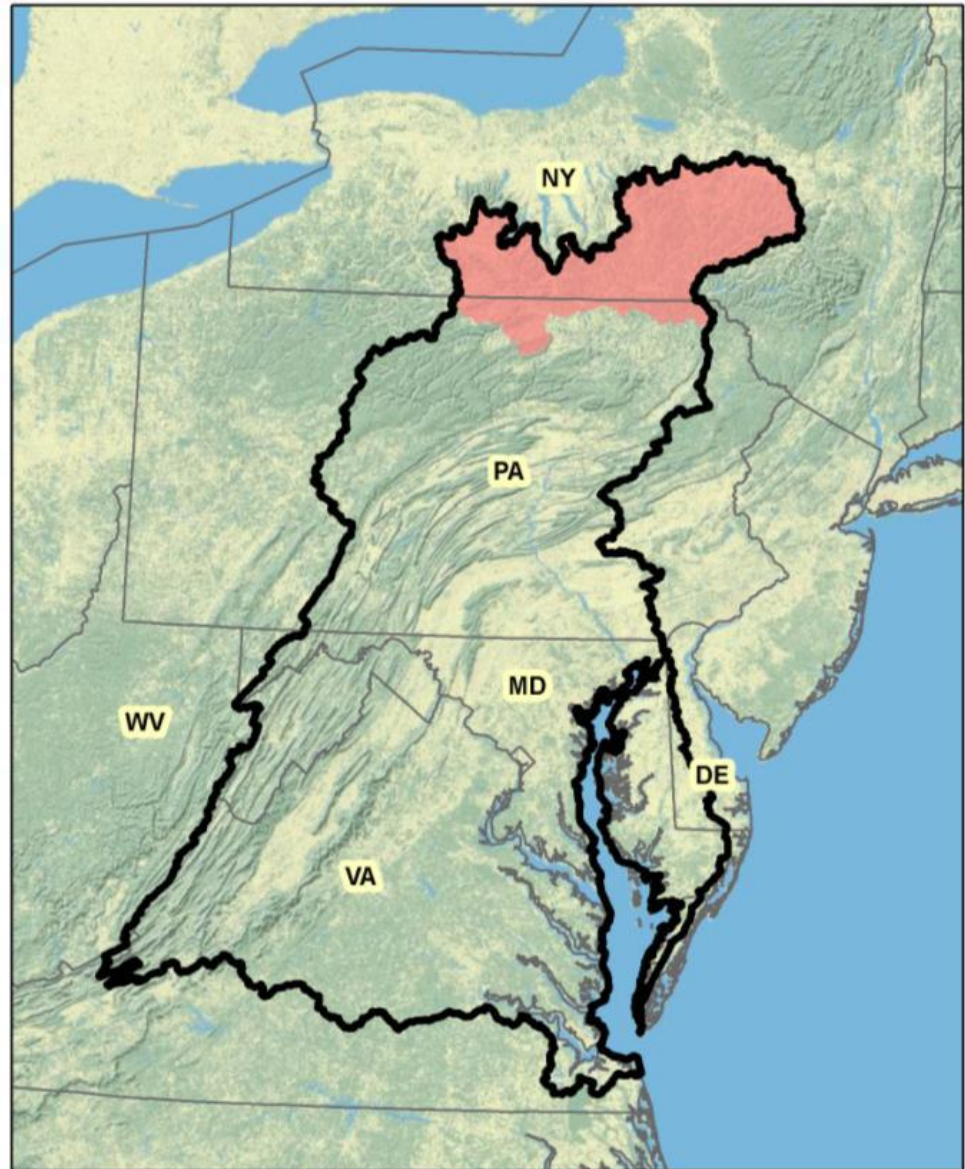


Conserving High Quality Natural Resources in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: A Case Study from New York's Upper Susquehanna Watershed

Kris West
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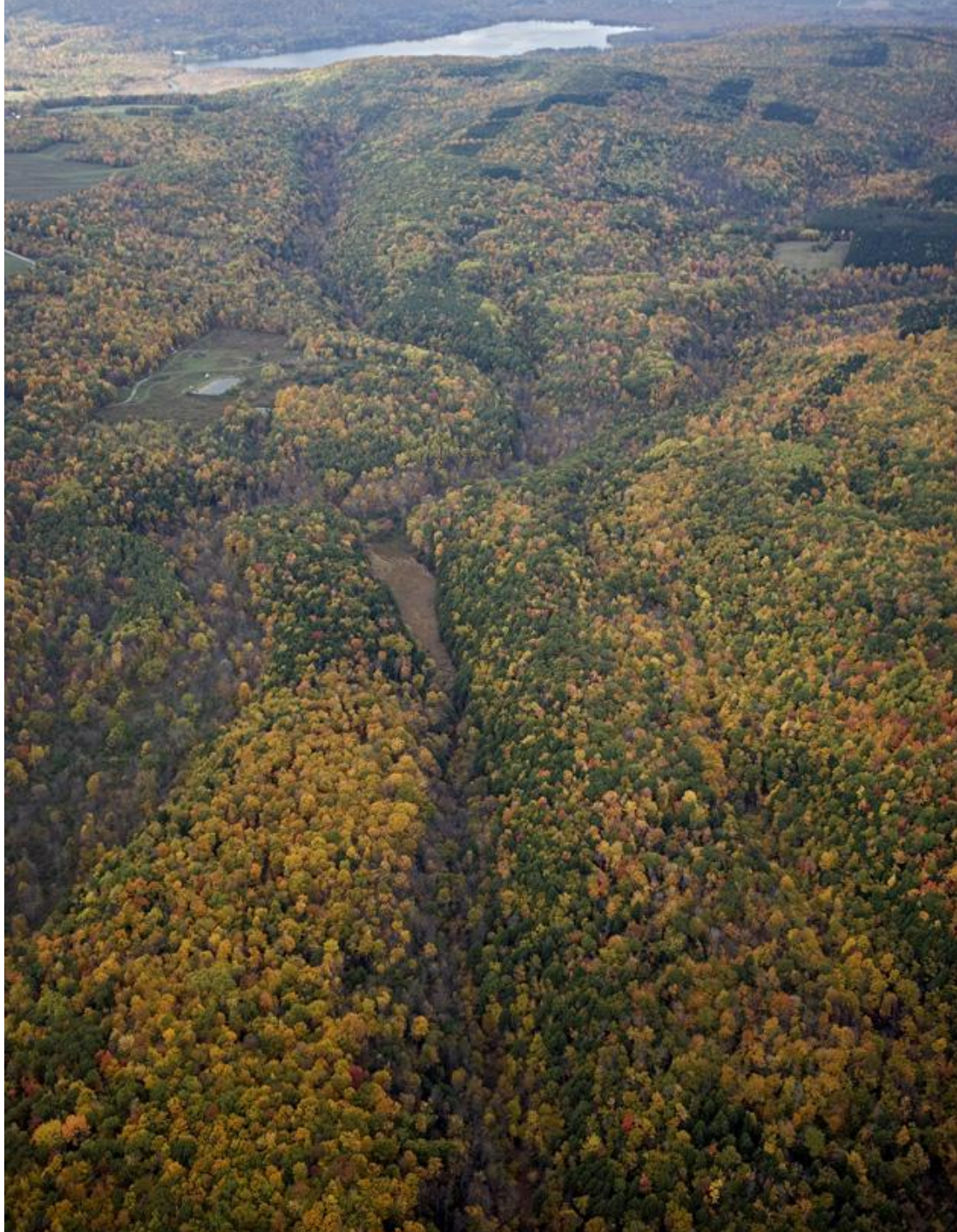


The Finger Lakes Land Trust



- Formed in 1989
- 2,000 members
- 15,000 acres conserved
 - 100+ Conservation Easements
 - 31 Nature Preserves
- Roughly half of our service area overlaps with about half of New York's Susquehanna Watershed

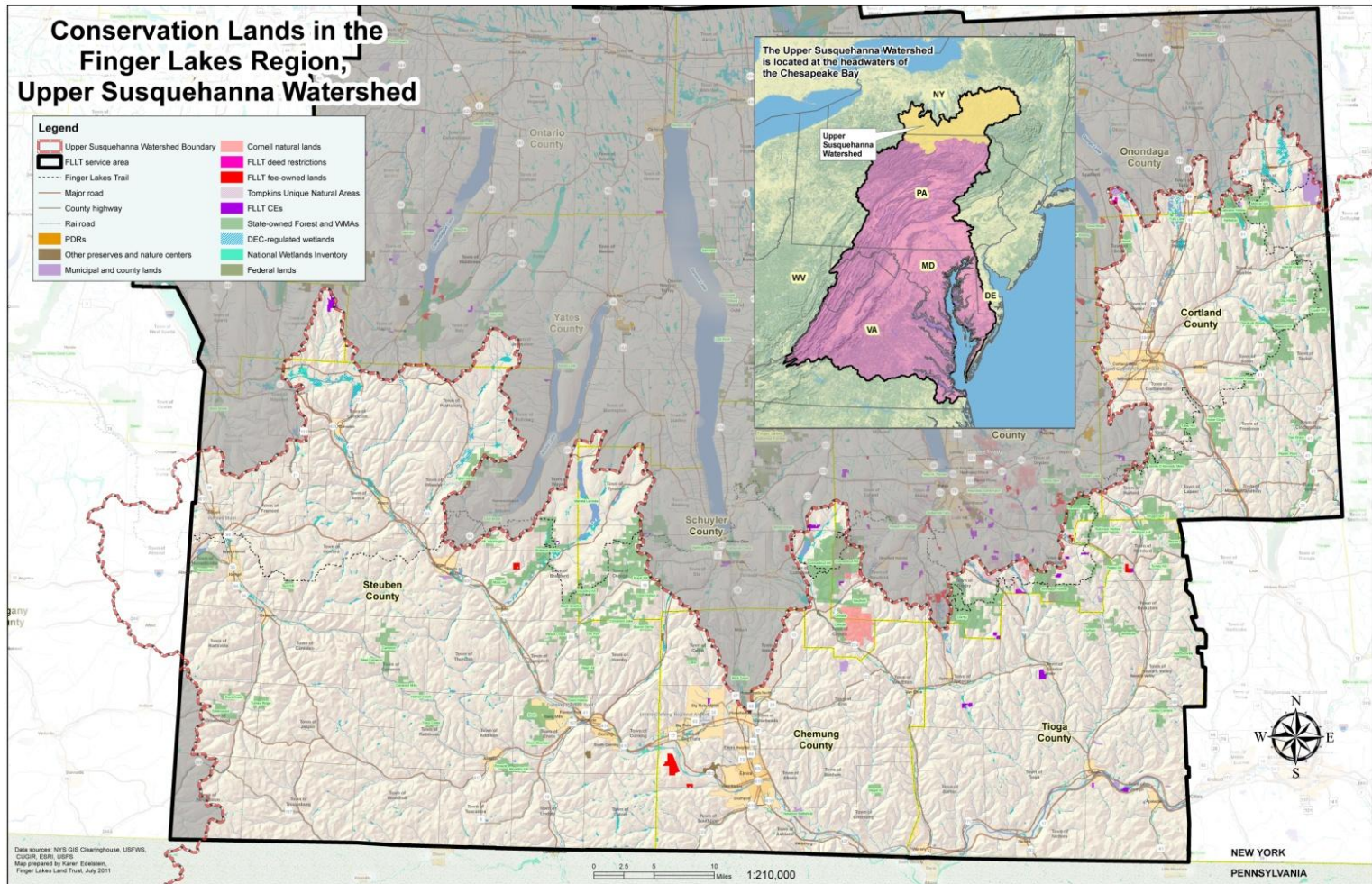








Finger Lakes Land Trust and the Susquehanna Watershed

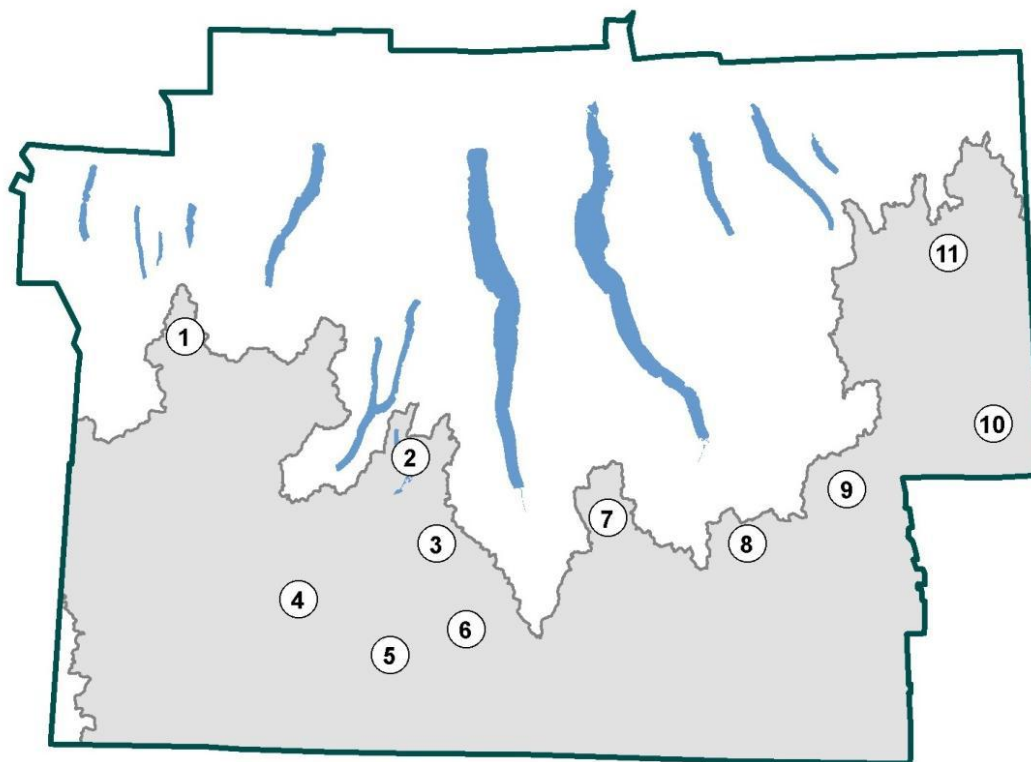


Finger Lakes Land Trust Upper Susquehanna Conservation Focus Areas Assessment

Planning process driven by:

- **Large blocks of intact forest**
 - Important Bird Areas
 - TNC Forest Matrix Blocks
 - GIS analysis of forest cover
 - Proximity to conserved land
- **Wildlife Habitat Corridors**
- **High Quality Wetlands**
- **Priority Species**
 - Eastern Brook Trout
 - Species of Special Concern in NY
- **Expert Interviews**
- **New York State Open Space Priority Project Areas**

Planning Results



- 1: Upper Cohocton River Wetlands
- 2: Mud Creek Watershed
- 3: Six Nations Forest Block
- 4: Canisteo River Valley
- 5: Erwin Forests
- 6: Chemung River Valley
- 7: Upper Cayuta Watershed
- 8: Upper Catatonk Watershed
- 9: Owego Creek
- 10: Otselic River Watershed
- 11: East Branch of the Tioughnioga River Watershed

Finger Lakes Land Trust Upper Susquehanna Conservation Focus Areas Assessment

- **Full report is available at:**
<http://www.flft.org/linkfiles/uppersusqreport.pdf>
- Supported by a grant provided by the US Forest Service through the Chesapeake Bay Program, in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

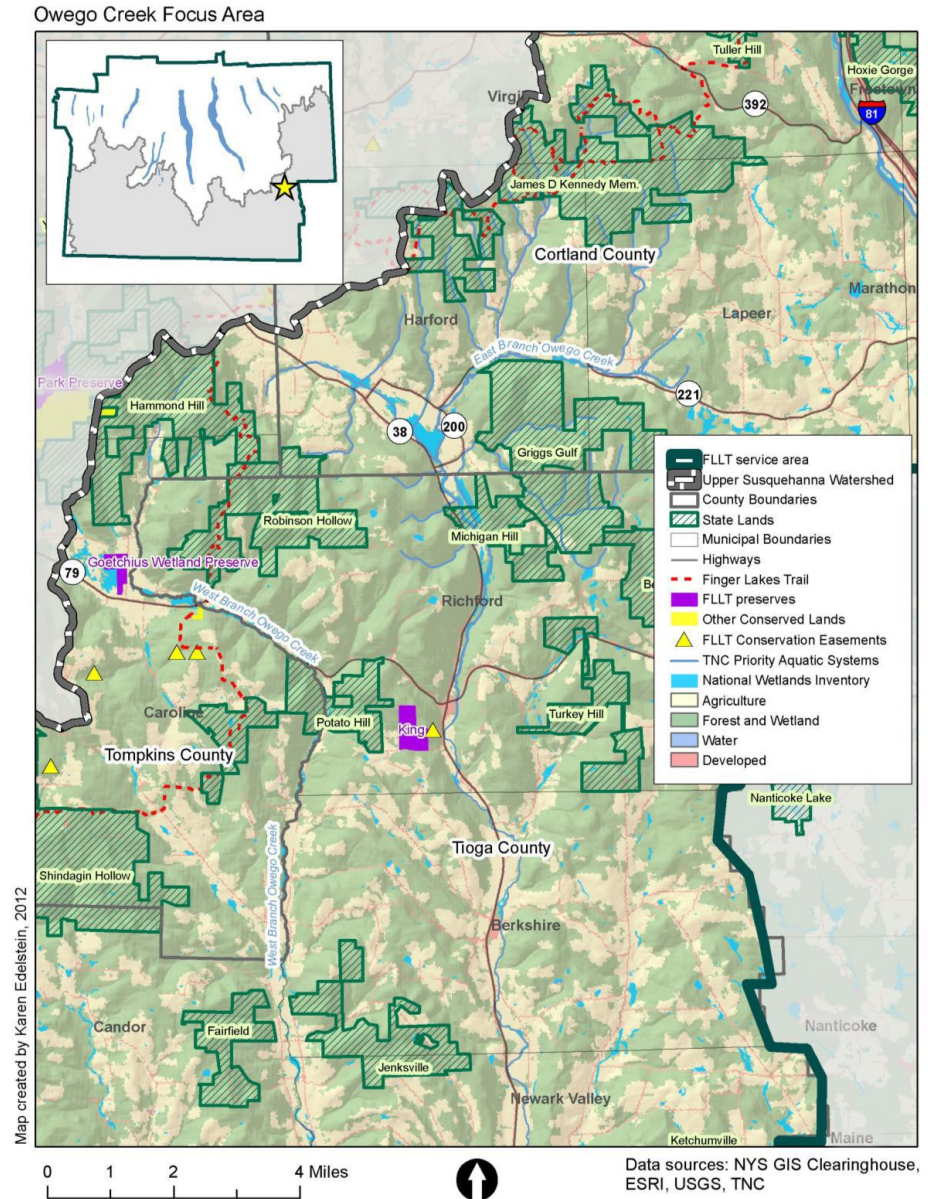
Owego Creek Focus Area

Natural resource highlights:

EBTJV classified this watershed as “Best for Protection”

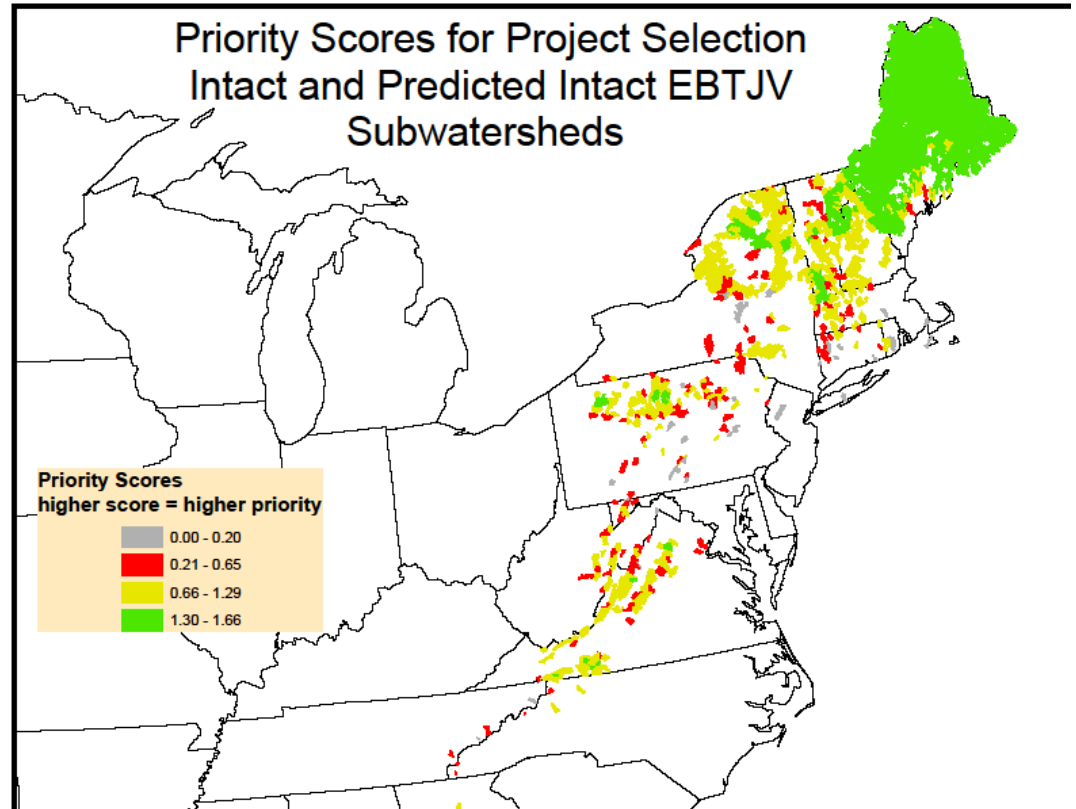
Headwater Streams identified as TNC ecoregional planning priority

Public land holdings approach 25,000 acres but fragmented



Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund

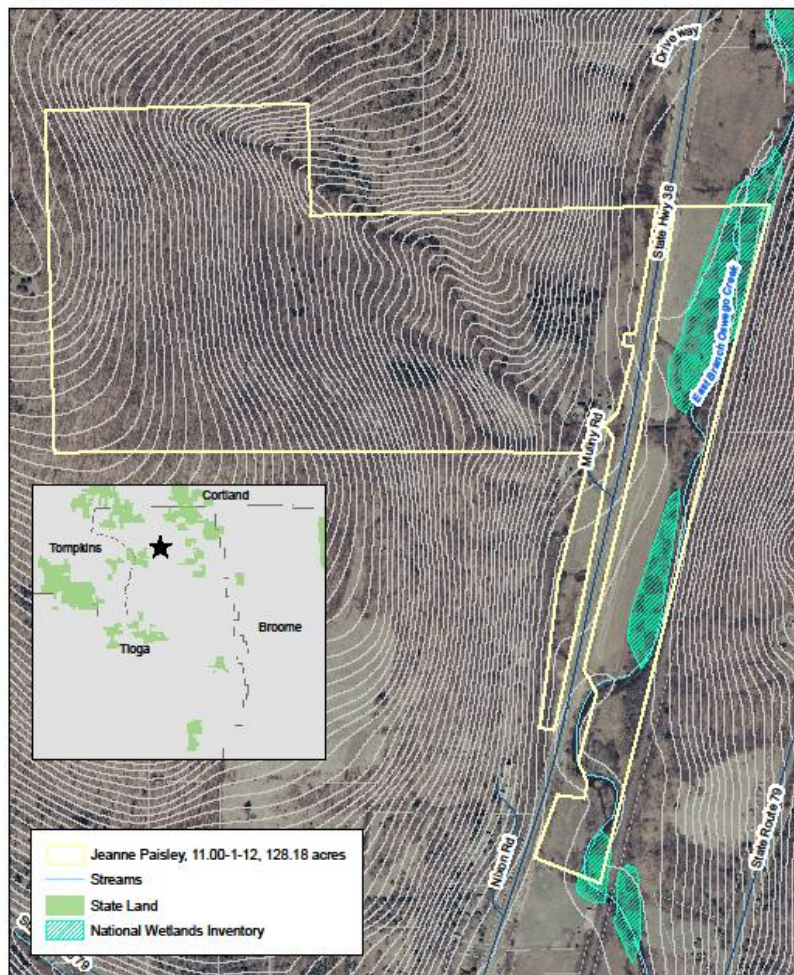
- supports project costs associated with conservation easements
- project selection based, in part, on Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Conservation Success Index Scores
- supported by TU, USFWS and NFWF





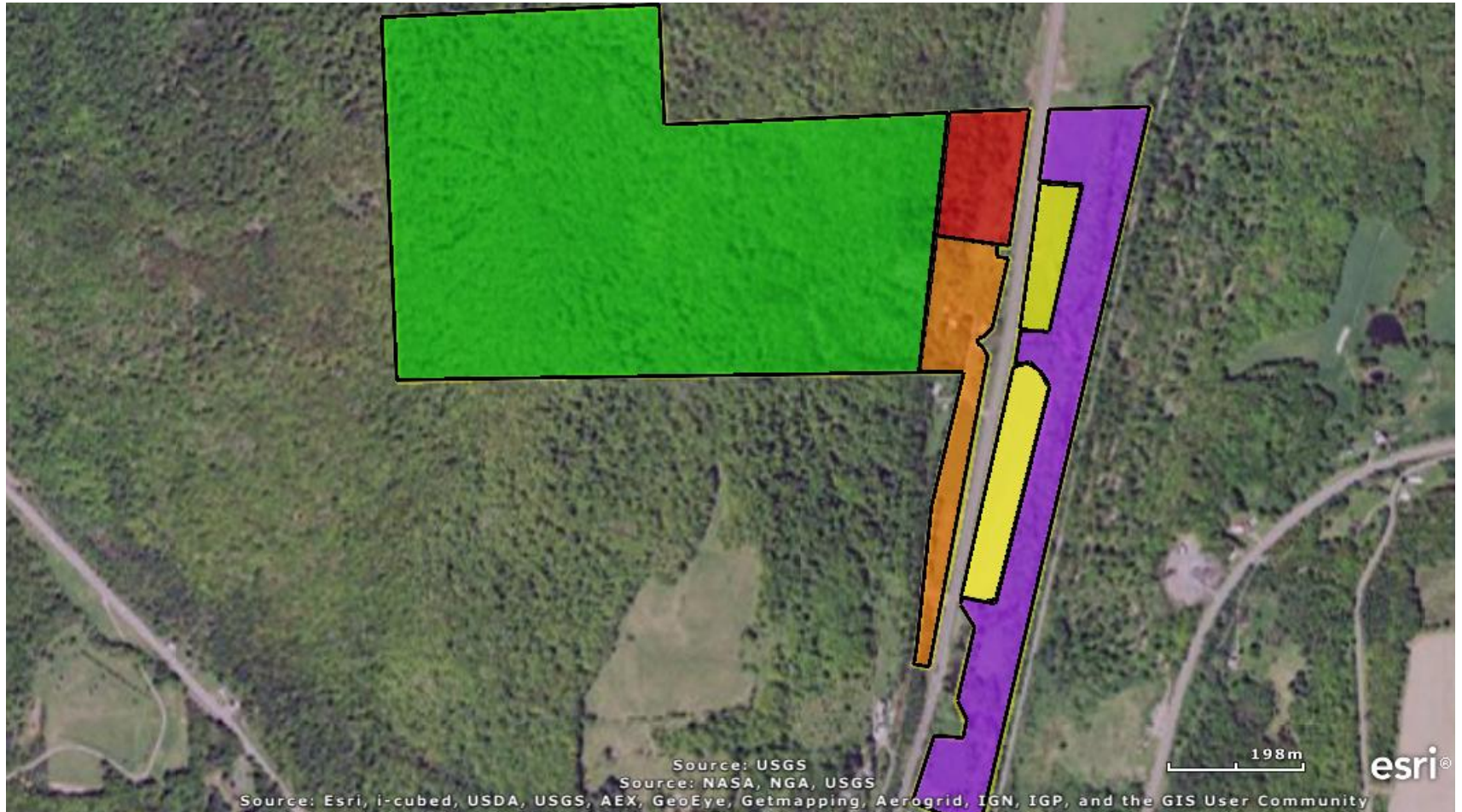
**“I’ve lived here more than 40 years and this land is part of my soul.”
– Jeanne Paisley**

Property of Jeanne Paisley
18 Muliny Rd
Town of Richford, Tioga County, NY
May 2006 natural color aerial imagery



Map prepared by Karen Edelstein,
Finger Lakes Land Trust
30 May 2011

Paisley Conservation Easement Use Areas



Paisley Conservation Easement



Elsewhere on the East Branch of Owego Creek...
Robert and Mary Carver King Nature Preserve



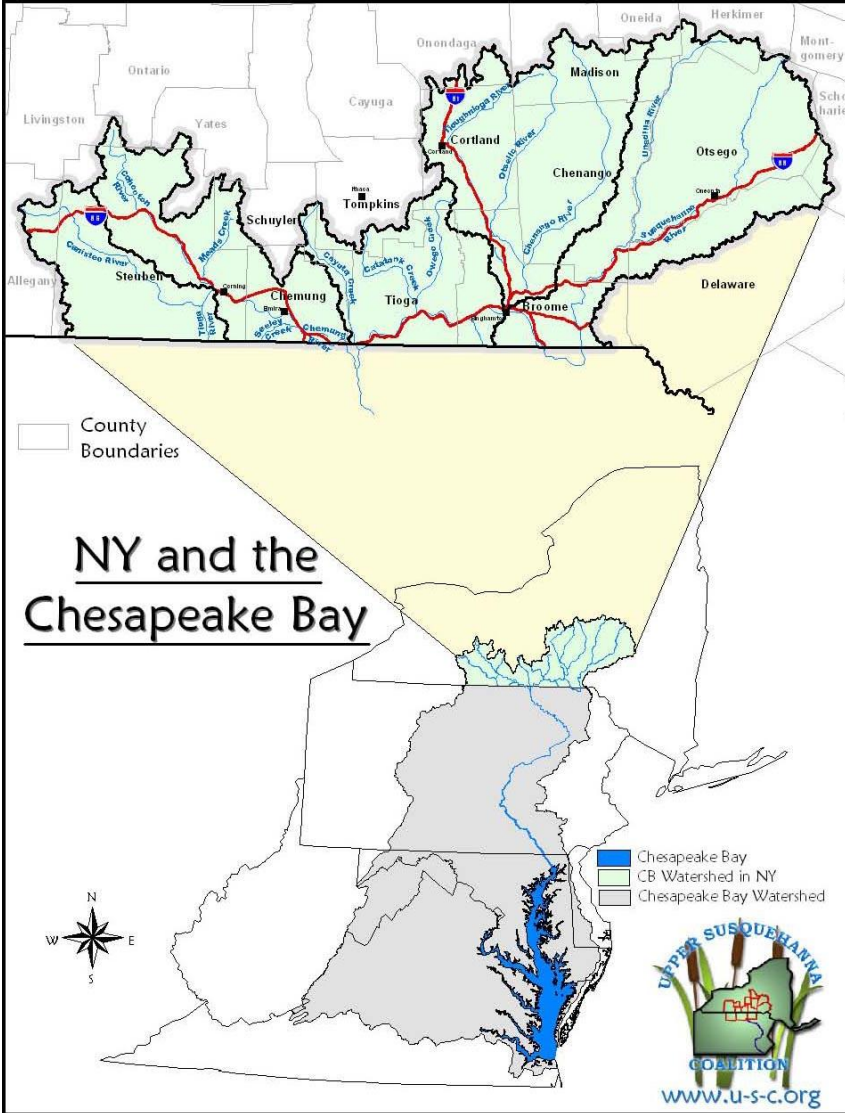
On the West Branch of Owego Creek...
Terreno de la familia Cuervo Gift



On the West Branch of Owego Creek... Goetchius Wetlands Preserve



States Fish and Wildlife Service



Thank you!

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