In-Lieu Fee Program Training

September 13-14, 2011

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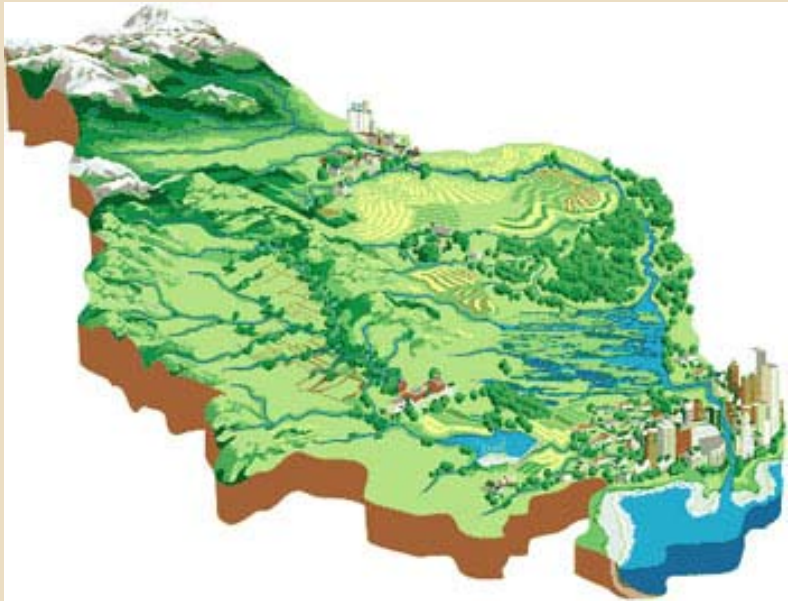
The Compensation Planning Framework

Compensation Planning Framework (CPF)

- Guides ILFs in selecting, securing, and implementing compensatory mitigation projects
- "Essentially a watershed plan"
- "Must support a **watershed approach**"



CPF: Ten elements §332.8(c)

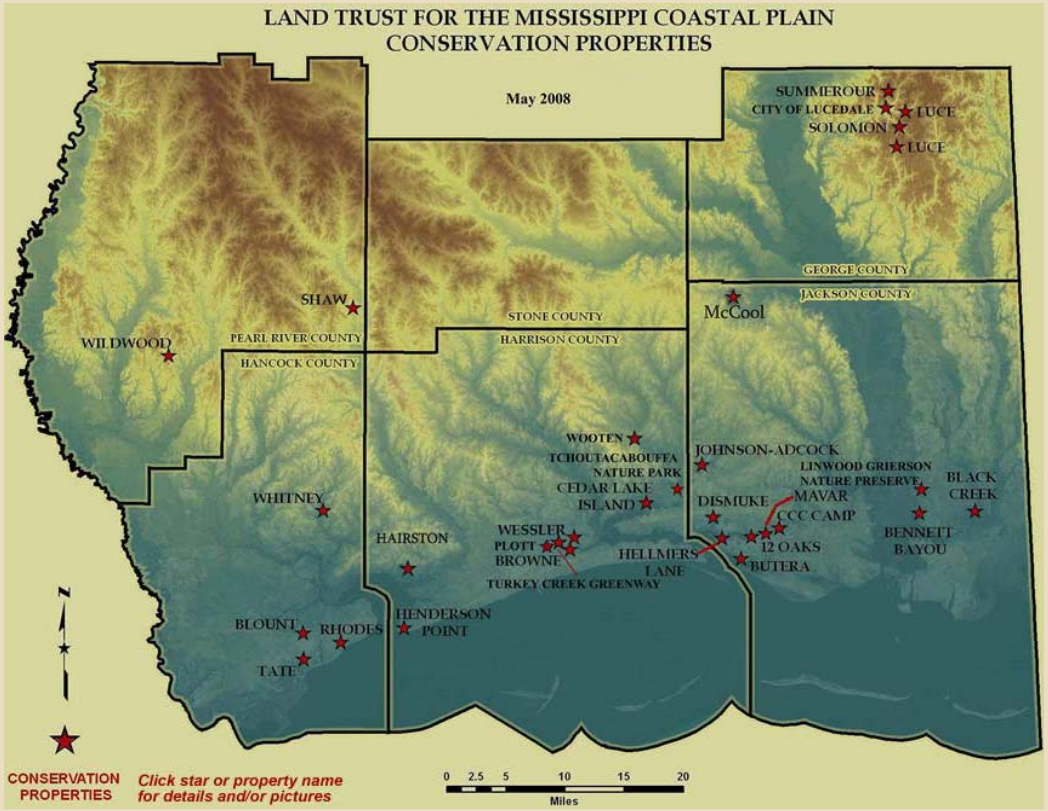
Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, Stream Stewardship Trust Fund

- Geographic service area(s)
- Description of threats
- Analysis of historic resource loss
- Analysis of current resource conditions
- Goals and objectives
- Prioritization strategy
- Preservation justification
- Description of stakeholder involvement
- Long-term management
- Strategy for periodic evaluation and reporting

I. Service Areas: Approved ILFs

Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain

- Five HUC-8s within a six county area

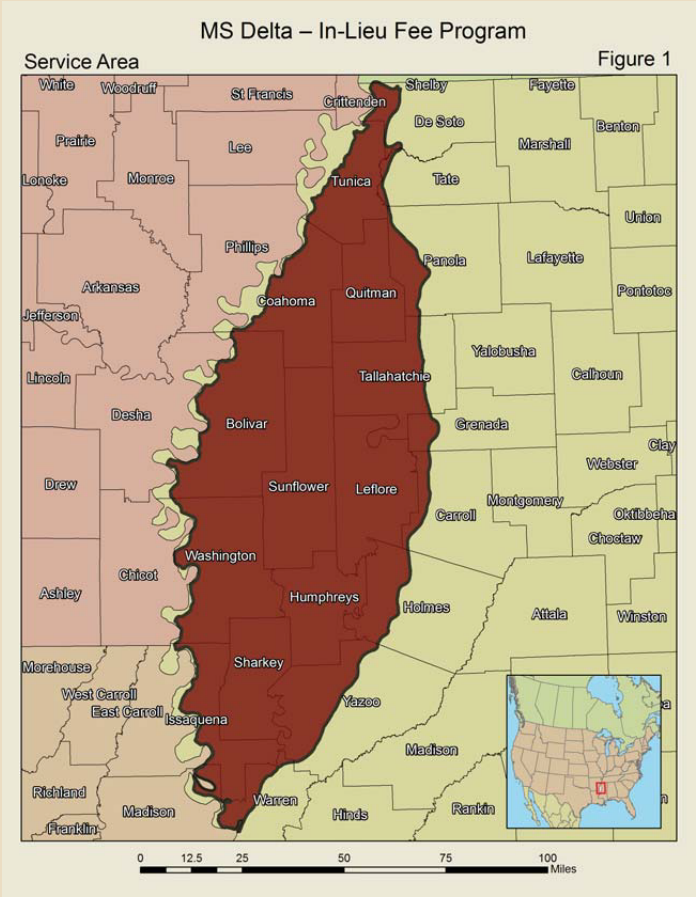


I. Service Areas: Approved ILFs

Ducks Unlimited Mississippi Delta Program

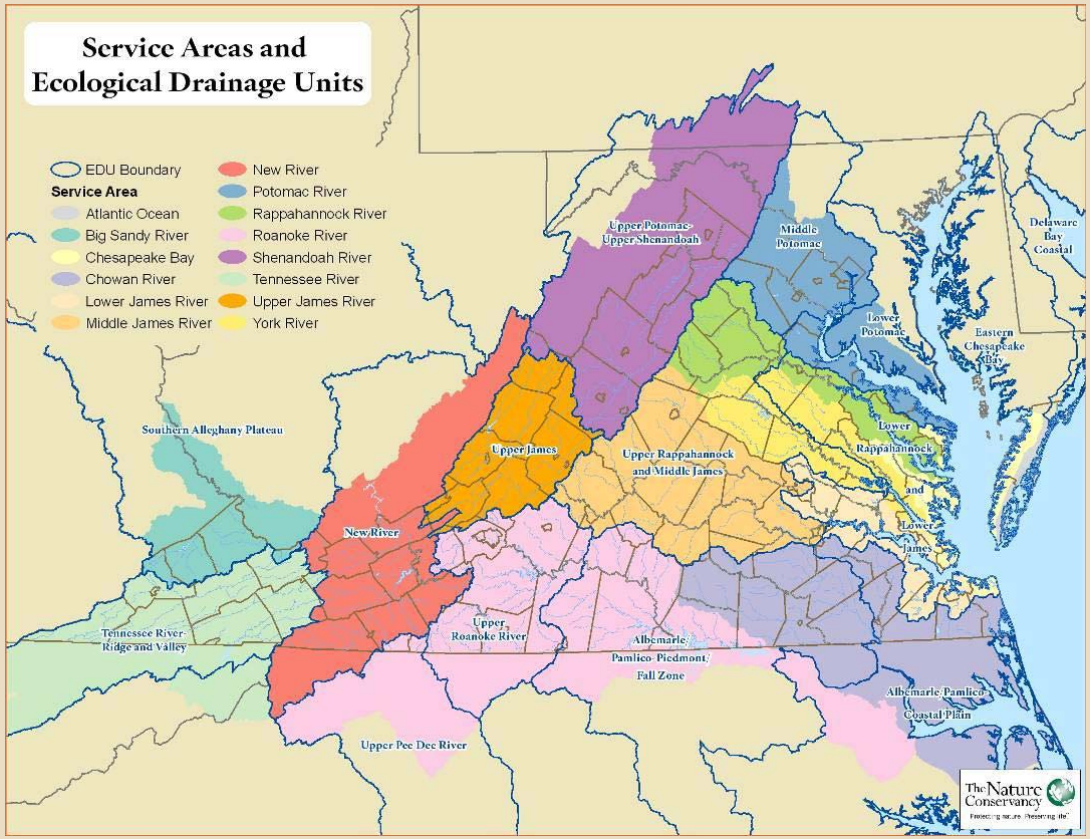
- Delta Region: HUC-6 and Level III Omernik Ecoregion

- Batture Lands: Two HUC-8s



I. Service Areas: Approved ILFs

The Nature Conservancy Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund



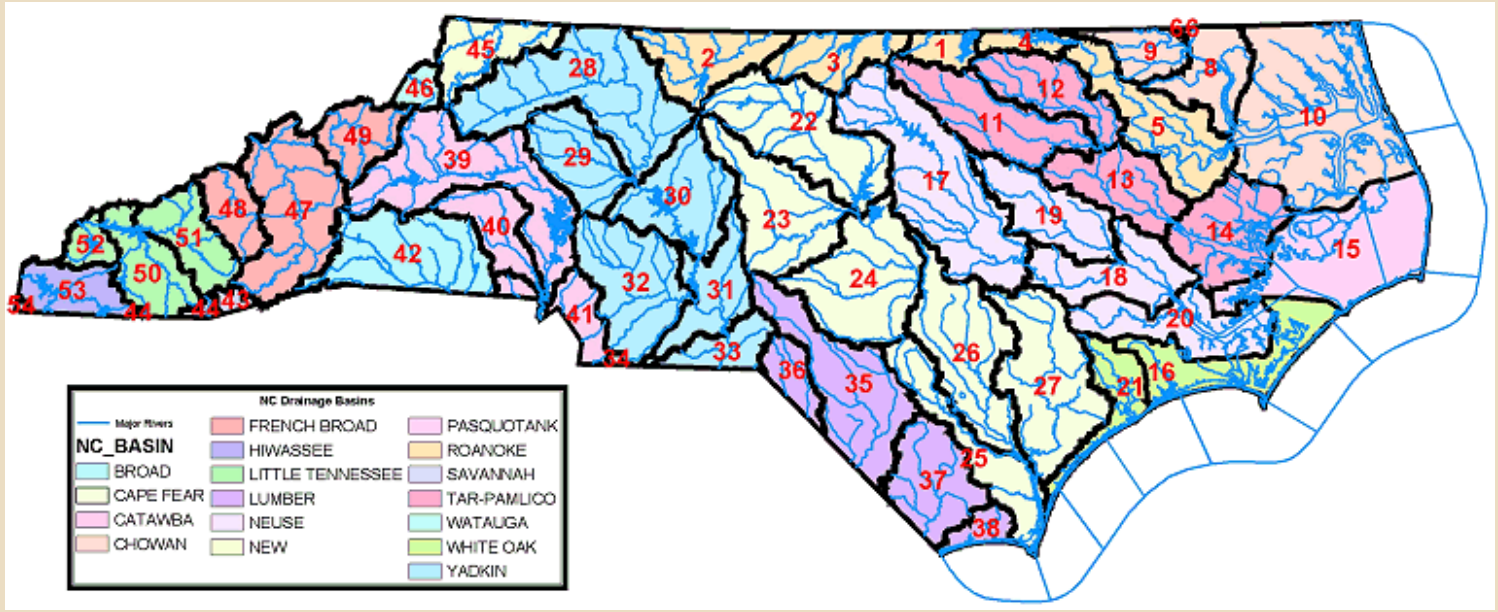
- Statewide program
- 14 service areas aggregating HUC-8s

I. Service Areas: Approved ILFs

North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program

- Statewide program
- 54 HUC-8s

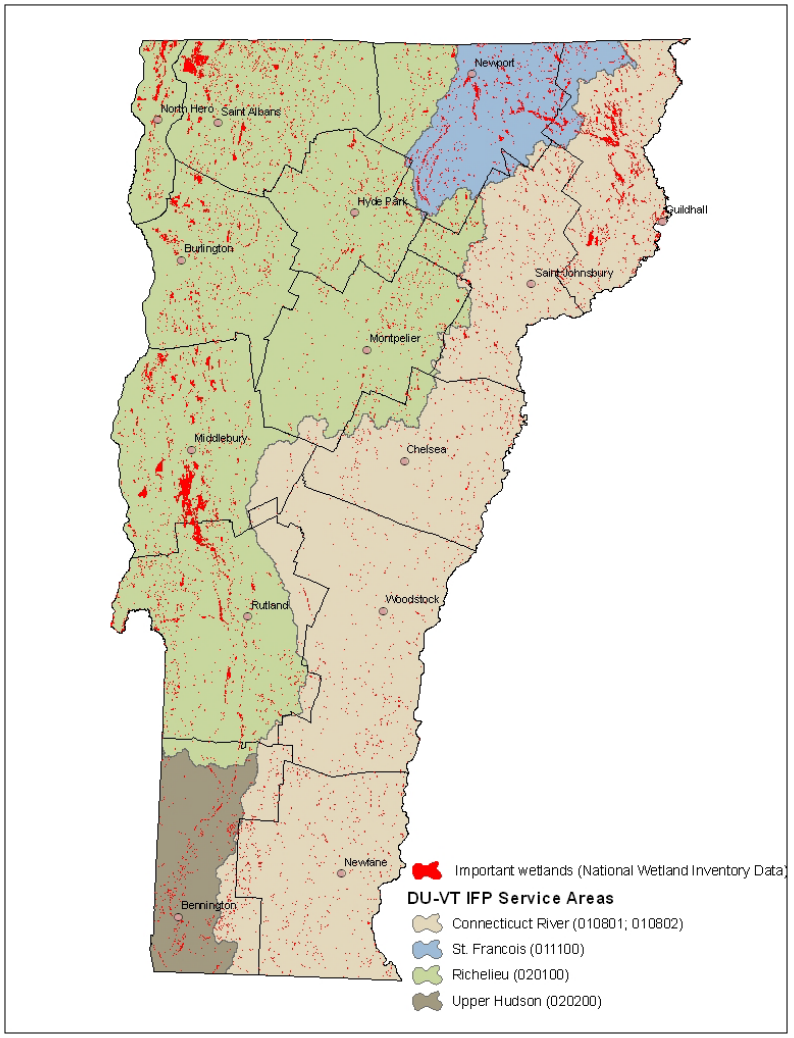
Service Areas, North Carolina EEP



I. Service Areas: Approved ILFs

Ducks Unlimited Vermont

- Statewide program
- Four HUC-6s

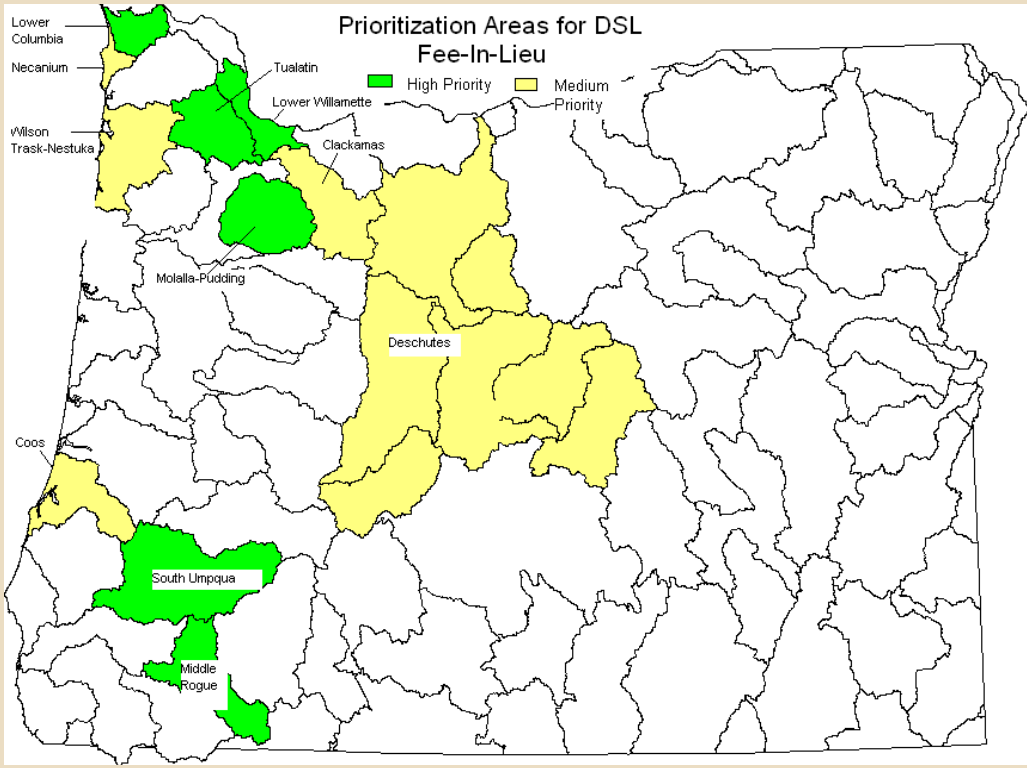


I. Service Areas: Approved ILFs

Oregon Department of State Lands

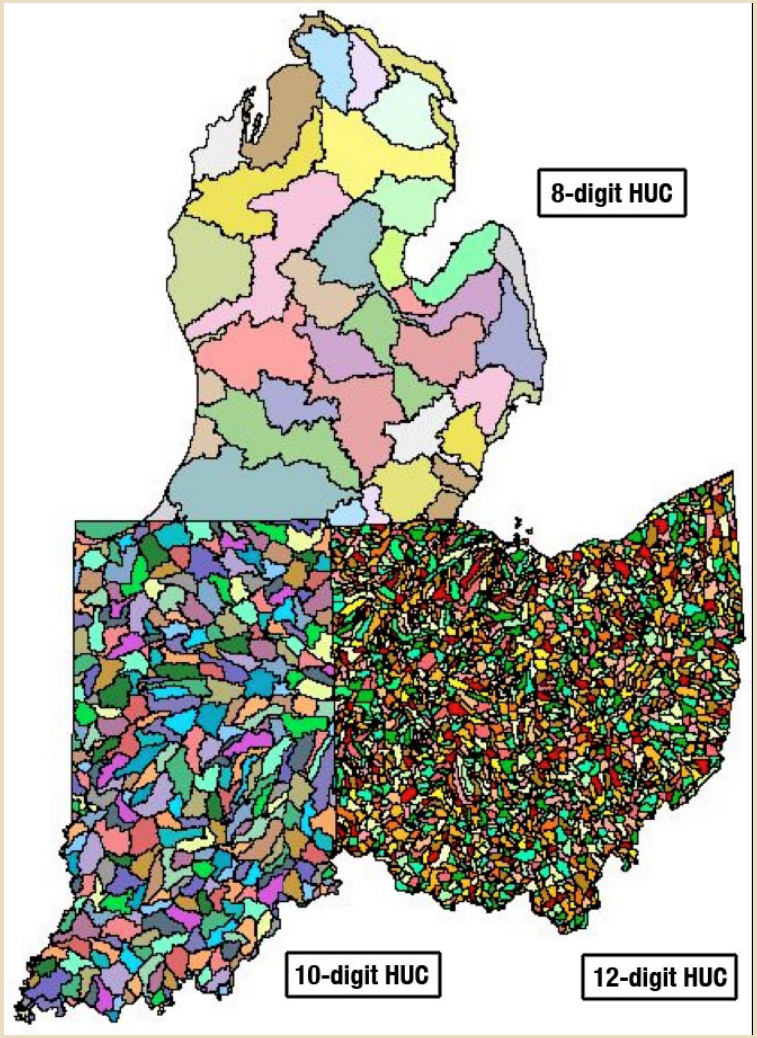
- Statewide program

- Proposes use of HUC-8s and HUC-6s



I. Service Areas: District and State Policy

- 25 of the 38 Corps districts use the HUC-8 in some capacity for primary service areas for mitigation banks

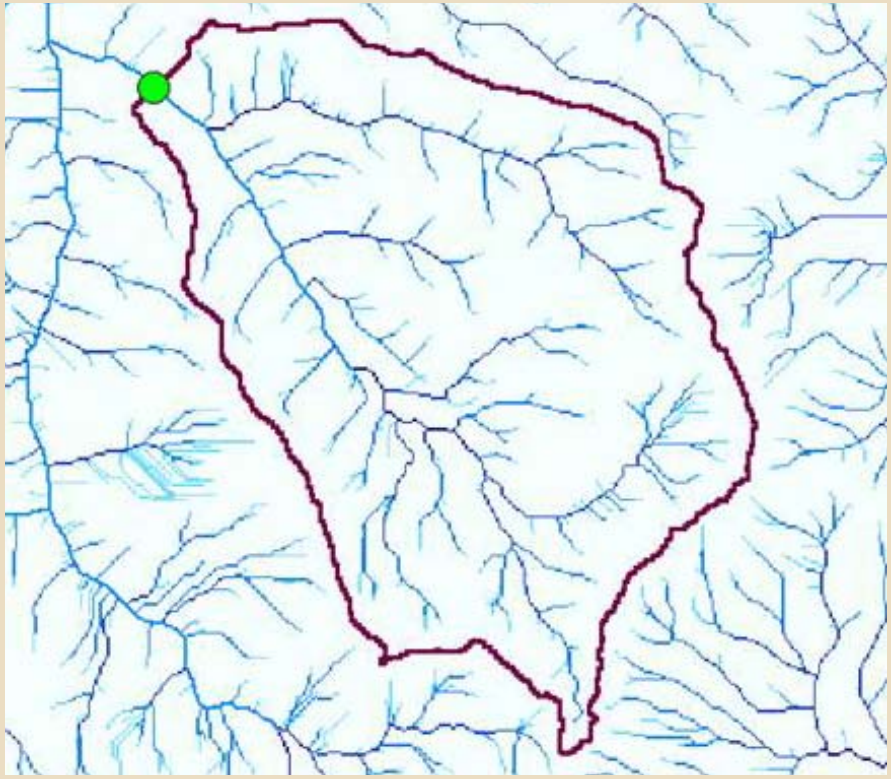


I. Service Areas: Marine ILF Programs

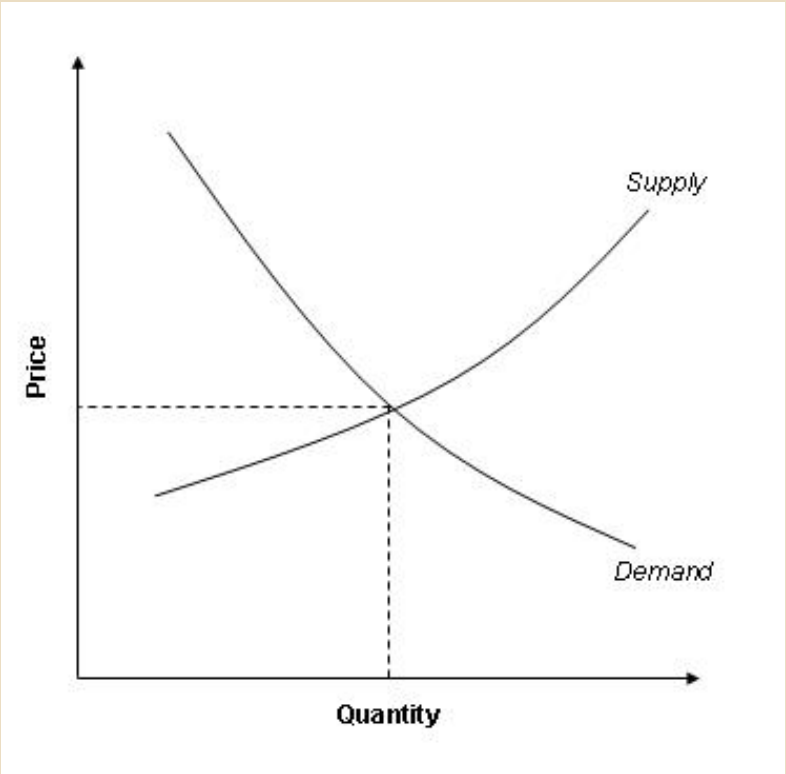
- HI ILF Prospectus: Four marine service areas

I. Service Areas: Two approaches

Watershed-based rationale

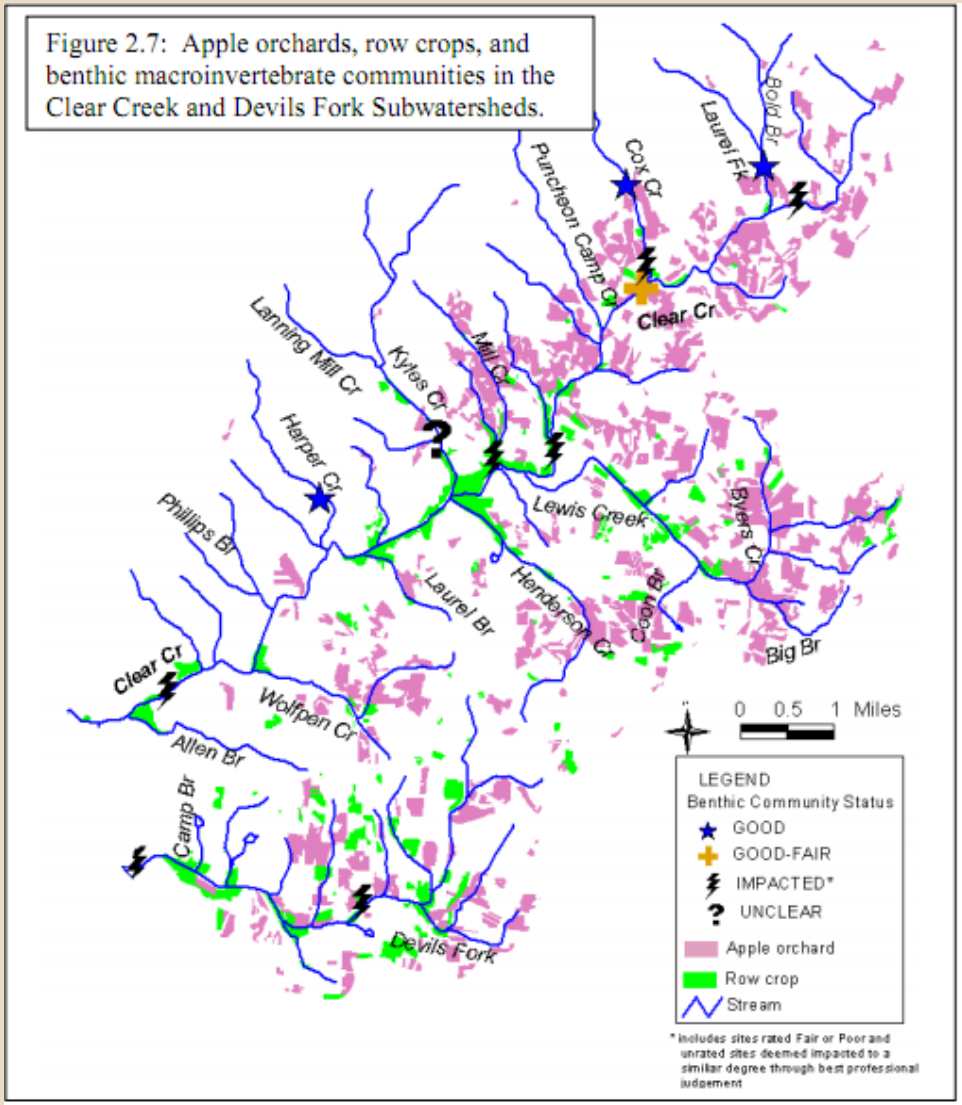


Economic rationale



II. Aquatic Resource Threats

- "A **description of the threats** to aquatic resources in the service area(s), including how the in-lieu fee program will help **offset impacts** resulting from those threats"



II. Aquatic Resource Threats

NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program

- Plans identify stressors to several functions:
  - water quality
  - hydrology
  - habitat

II. Aquatic Resource Threats

VA Aquatic Resources Trust Fund

- Ecoregional assessments: understand threats
- Conservation action planning:

  experts rank threats

- List of general threats and

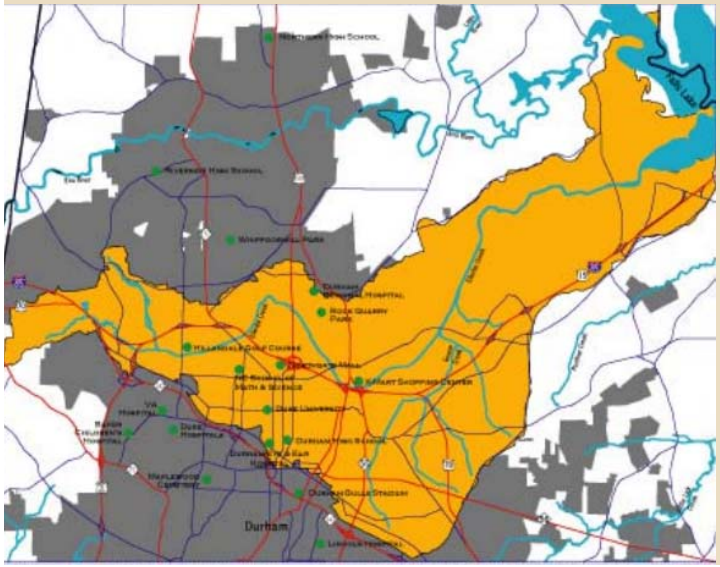
  threats to specific habitats/

  species for each service area

II. Offsetting Aquatic Resource Threats

NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program

- Local Watershed Plans
  - Project atlas
  - Watershed management plan



III. Historic Aquatic Resource Losses

- "An analysis of **historic aquatic resource loss** in the service area(s)"

III. Historic Aquatic Resource Losses

OR Department of State Lands

- Historical resource development in each river basin

- Permitting data by HGM/Cowardin class

IV. Current aquatic resource conditions

- "An analysis of **current aquatic resource conditions** in the service area(s), supported by **field documentation**"

IV. Current aquatic resource conditions

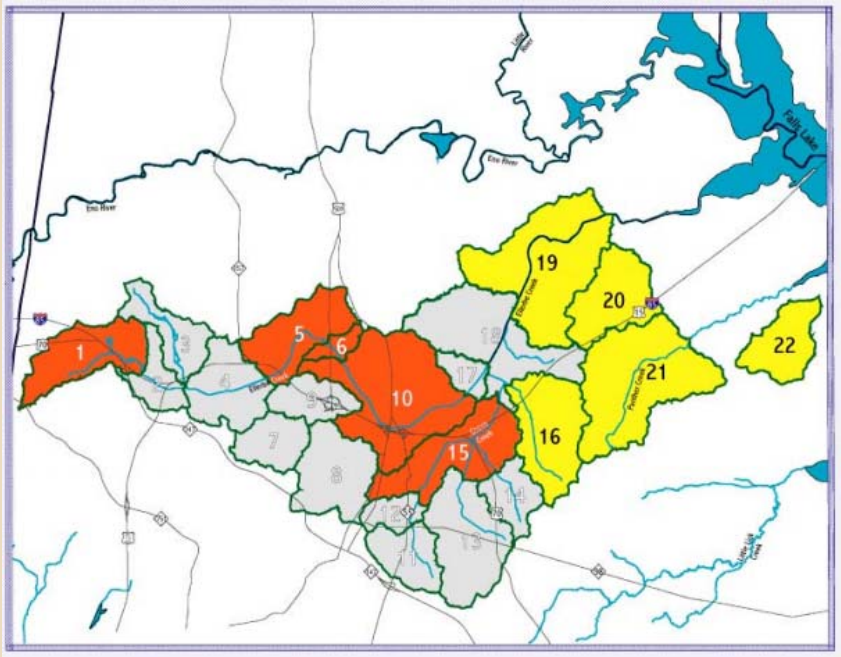
NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program

- River Basin Restoration Priority Reports:
  - Broad assessment of water quality, hydrology, and habitat
- Local Watershed Plans:
  - Phase I: Characterize current watershed conditions
    - Windshield surveys
  - Phase II: Detailed watershed assessment
    - Intensive assessments
  - Monitoring plans, watershed modeling

Ecosystem Enhancement PROGRAM

V. Aquatic resource goals and objectives

- "A statement of aquatic resource **goals** and **objectives** for **each service area,** including a description of the general **amounts, types** and **locations** of aquatic resources the program will seek to provide"



V. Aquatic resource goals and objectives

OR Department of State Lands

- Sets objectives for each priority watershed, some basins and subwatersheds

- Based on existing conservation/watershed plans

V. Aquatic resource goals and objectives

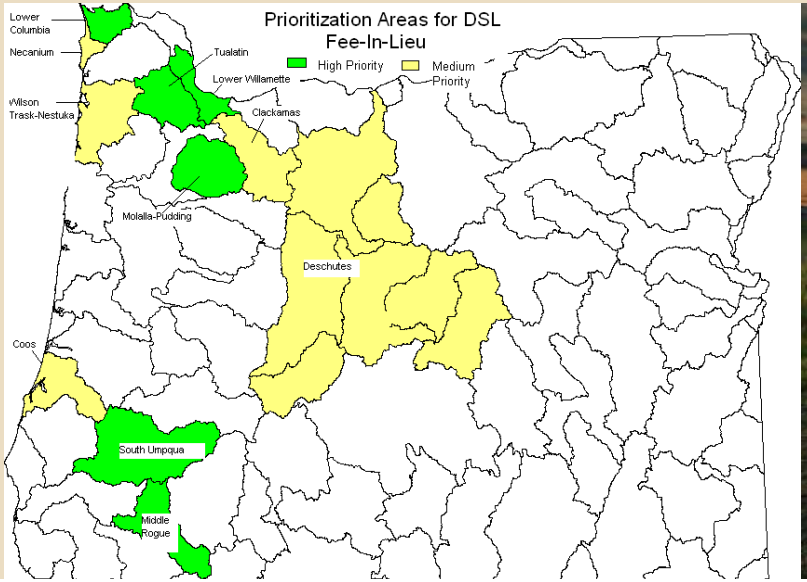
OR Department of State Lands

- Amounts
  - Acreage for some conservation opportunity areas
- Types
  - Lists priority wetland ecological systems for all river basins and one watershed
  - Permitting data: HGM/Cowardin class

V. Aquatic resource goals and objectives

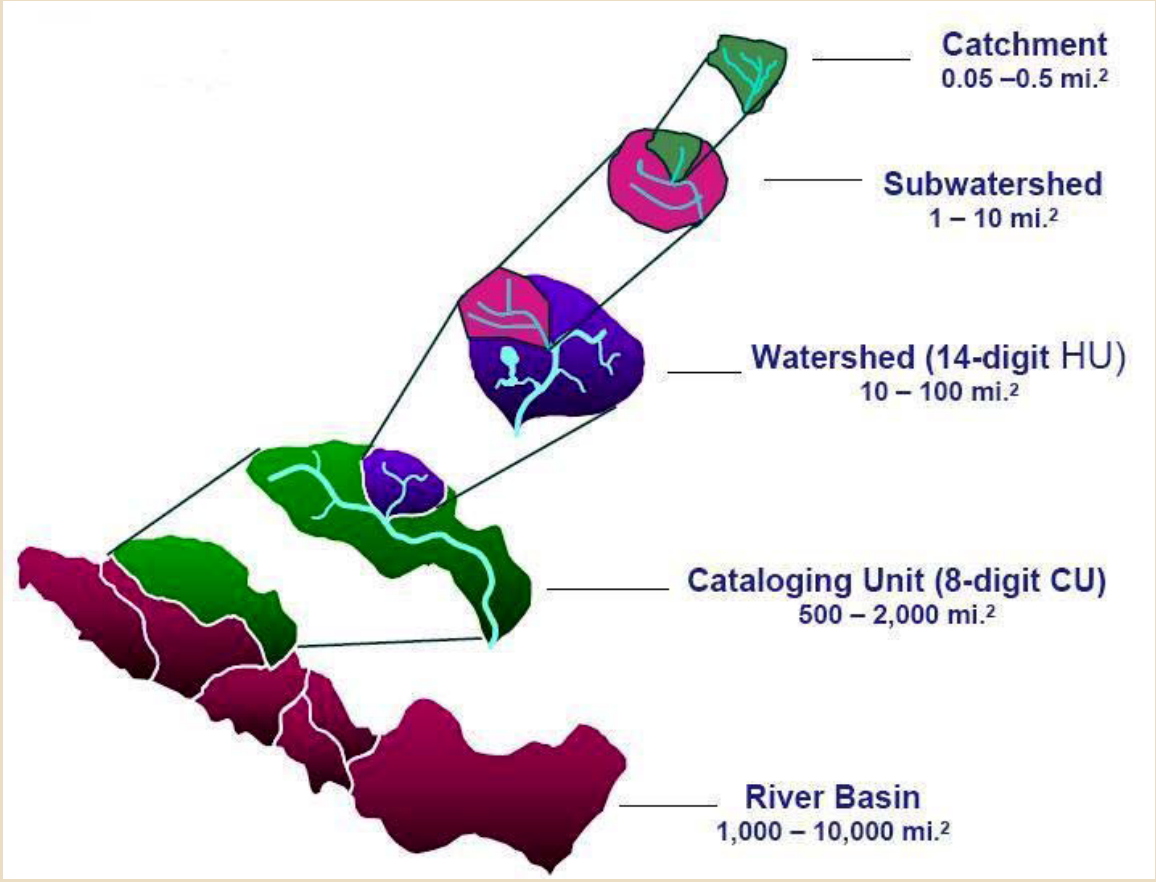
OR Department of State Lands

- Locations
  - Identifies priority watersheds
  - Identifies conservation opportunity areas from Oregon Conservation Strategy



VI. Prioritization strategy

- "A **prioritization strategy** for **selecting** and **implementing** compensatory mitigation activities."



VI. Prioritization strategy

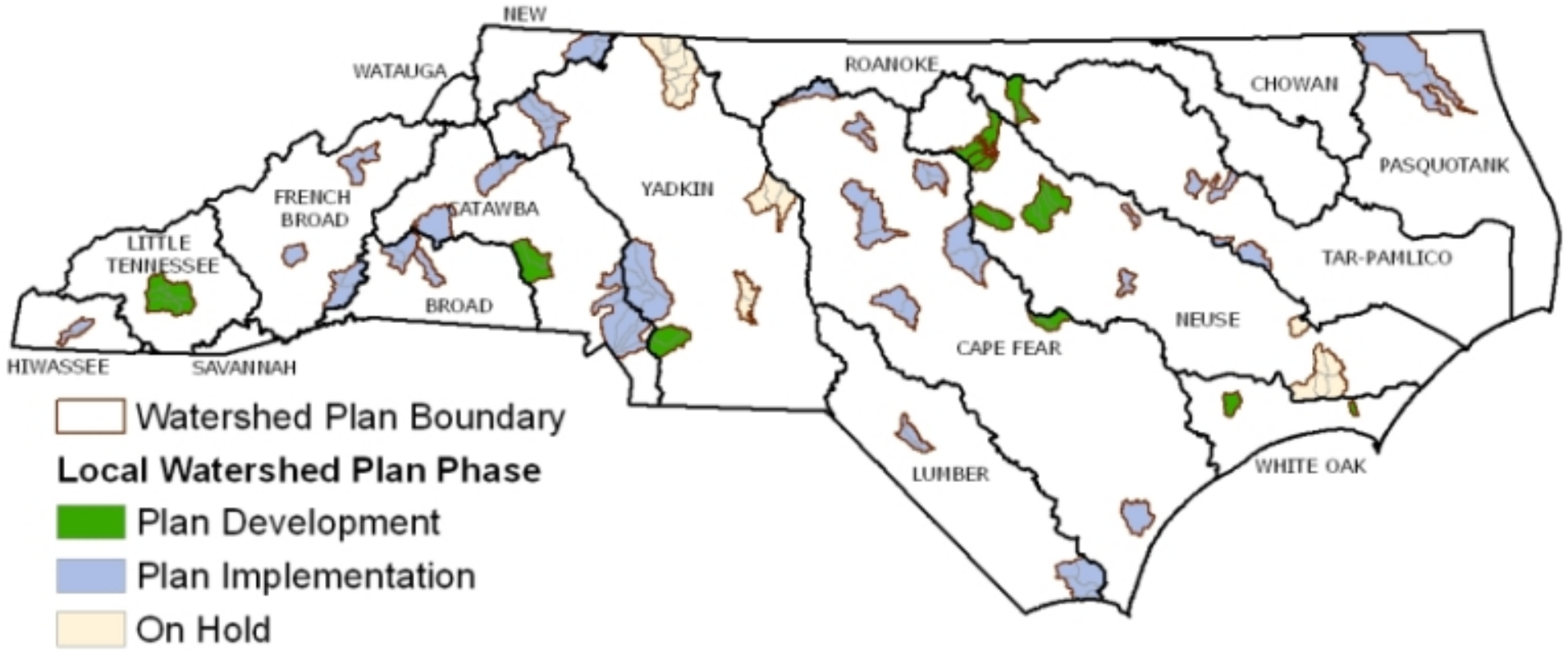
NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program

- Step one: Identify target HUC-14s
- Step two: Identify priority subwatersheds within HUC-14
- Step three: Project Atlas
  - Prioritize mitigation sites based on:
    - Watershed uplift
    - Feasibility
    - Stakeholder input

Ecosystem Enhancement PROGRAM

VI. Prioritization strategy

NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program



VII. Preservation objectives

- "An explanation of how any preservation objectives **identified in paragraph (c)(2)(v)** of this section and **addressed in the prioritization strategy** in paragraph (c)(2)(vi) satisfy the criteria for use of preservation in **section 332.3(h).**"

VII. Preservation objectives

Ducks Unlimited VT ILF Program

- Program will only select preservation projects that satisfy §332.3(h) criteria

VII. Preservation objectives

Ducks Unlimited VT ILF Program

- Preservation projects will:
  - use a watershed approach
  - compliment adjacent land uses
  - meet regional conservation priorities
  - address limiting factors in watersheds
  - increase habitat diversity
  - support state wildlife action plans
  - reduce fragmentation
  - establish corridors
  - enhance the function of existing natural areas

VIII. Stakeholder involvement

- "A description of any public and private **stakeholder involvement** in **plan development** and **implementation,** including, where appropriate, coordination with federal, state, tribal and local aquatic resource management and regulatory authorities"

VIII. Stakeholder involvement

VA Aquatic Resources Trust Fund

- Works with federal, state, and local government agencies, universities, industry, and non-governmental organizations

- Expert input used to determine:
  - Conservation targets
  - Priority conservation areas

IX. Long-term protection and management

- "A description of the **long-term protection and management strategies** for activities conducted by the in-lieu fee program sponsor"

IX. Long-term protection and management

Ducks Unlimited MS Delta

- Discusses elements of long-term management plans:
  - anticipated management needs
  - annual costs
  - funding mechanism
- DU is long-term steward unless transferred
- Lists types of agencies or organizations that can hold permanent conservation easements

X. Periodic evaluation and reporting strategy

- "A strategy for **periodic evaluation and reporting** on the **progress** of the program in achieving the **goals and objectives** in (c)(2)(v) of this section, including a process for **revising** the planning framework as necessary"

X. Periodic evaluation and reporting strategy

VA Aquatic Resources Trust Fund

- Ecoregional assessments: conservation status measures
- Monitoring data to assess priority conservation areas
- Evaluate success of individual site restoration/conservation strategies

X. Periodic evaluation and reporting strategy

LTMCP Mississippi

- "annual report [to IRT] will address the need for Compensation Planning Framework revisions, as necessary"

Watershed Approach: Data Needs

- current trends in habitat loss or conversion
- cumulative impacts of past development activities
- current development trends
- the presence and needs of sensitive species
- site conditions that favor or hinder the success of compensatory mitigation projects
- chronic environmental problems such as flooding or poor water quality

Questions?

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