



The Intertwine Alliance's
**Regional Conservation Strategy
for the greater Portland-Vancouver
metropolitan area**

**A framework and some tools to
improve conservation practices**

Jonathan Soll

Metro Natural Areas Program

Representing the Intertwine Alliance

4 County CWMA Pulling Together Day 2013

The Regional Conservation Strategy: a product of The Intertwine Alliance

PRODUCTION COORDINATED BY: The Columbia Land Trust

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM:

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Clean Water Services

East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

Metro

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Vancouver Audubon Society

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Clark County

Clean Water Services

Institute for Natural Resources

Metro

National Park Service

The Nature Conservancy

Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Oregon Dental Services (ODS)

City of Portland Parks & Recreation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Urban Greenspaces Institute

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Patricia Farrell

Patrick Lee

Patty Boyden

Peter Hayes

Rachel Wray

Ray Hennings

Rich Hatfield

Rich Hunter

Rick Till

Rita Baker

Roberta Swift

Rod Gilbert

Ron Rhew

Rusty Whitney

Scott McEwen

Shannah Anderson

Shawneen Finnegan

Shelly Miller

Stacey Triplett

Stacy Vynne

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Steve Fedje

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BOLD indicates Steering Committee member

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City of Gresham
City of Hillsboro Parks and
Recreation
City of Portland; Water
Bureau
City of Portland; Bureau of
Environmental Services
City of Portland; Parks and
Recreation
City of Portland, Bureau of
Environmental Services
Clackamas County Water
and Environmental Services
Clackamas River Basin
Watershed Council
Clackamas Stewardship
Partners
Clark County Environmental
Services
Columbia Land Trust
Columbia Slough Watershed
Council
Economics for Equity and
the Environment Network
Ecotrust

Forest Park Conservancy
Friends of the Columbia
Gorge
Greater Oregon City
Watershed Council
Institute For Natural
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Intertwine Alliance
Johnson Creek Watershed
Council
Kingfisher Ecological
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Lower Columbia Fish
Recovery Board
Mason Bruce & Girard
Metro
Molalla River Alliance
Nature Conservancy
North Clackamas Park and
Recreation District
Northwest Ecological
Research Institute
NW Regional Biocarbon
Initiative
Oregon Department of Fish
and Wildlife, Corvallis
Research Lab
Oregon Department of
Agriculture
Oregon Department of Fish
and Wildlife
Oregon Department of
Forestry
Oregon Department of

Environmental Quality
Oregon Invasive Species
Council
Oregon State University;
Department of Fisheries and
Wildlife
Pacifcorp
Port of Portland
Port of Vancouver
Portland State University
Pudding River Watershed
Council
Sandy River Basin
Watershed Council
Scappoose Bay Watershed
Council
The Resource Innovation
Group, Climate Leadership
Initiative
Trout Mountain Forestry
Tualatin Hills Parks and
Recreation District
Tualatin Riverkeepers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service; Columbia River
Fisheries Office
U.S. Department of
Agriculture, Natural
Resources Conservation
Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service, Columbia River
Fisheries Program Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service, Oregon Fish and
Wildlife Office
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Geological Survey
University of Washington
Urban Greenspaces Institute
Vancouver Audubon Society
Vancouver Watersheds
Council
Vancouver-Clark Parks &
Recreation Department
Washington Department of
Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of
Natural Resources; Natural
Heritage Program
Washington Department of
Natural Resources; Natural
Areas Program
West Multnomah Soil and
Water Conservation District
Western Purple Martin
Working Group
Wetlands Conservancy
Willamette Partnership
Willamette Riverkeeper
Xerces Society
Yamhill Watershed
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Key Points Today

- The Intertwine, The Intertwine Alliance and how it relates to the RCS (and your work)
- Invasive species are a constant theme in both documents
- Contents and purpose of the RCS, especially data and prioritization tools
- How the data might improve regional conservation efforts
- Accessing the data and next steps to make it more usable

The Intertwine Alliance

Non-profit organization bringing the collective energy of our region together on parks, trails and natural areas.

www.TheIntertwine.org

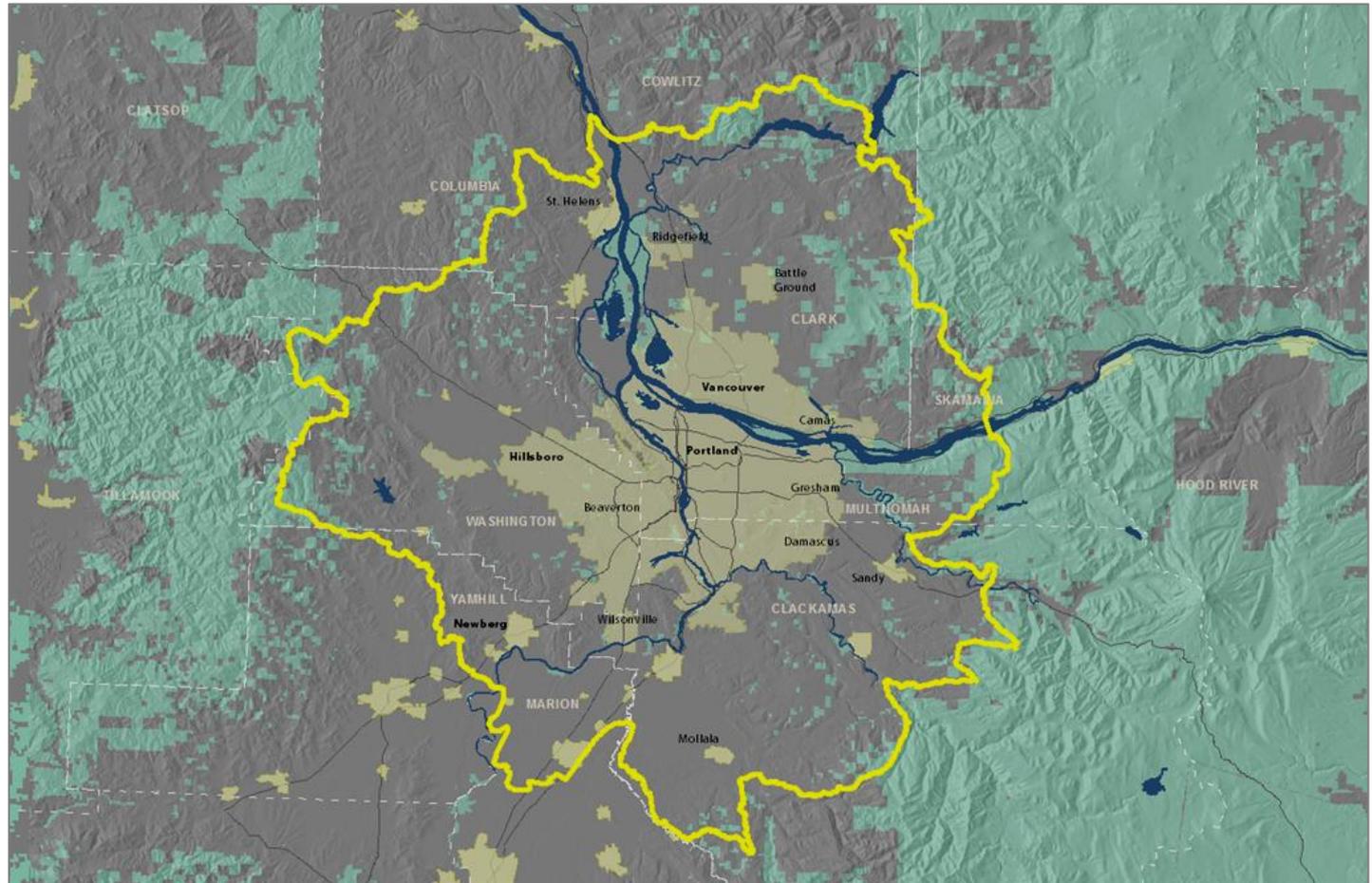


Regional Conservation Strategy

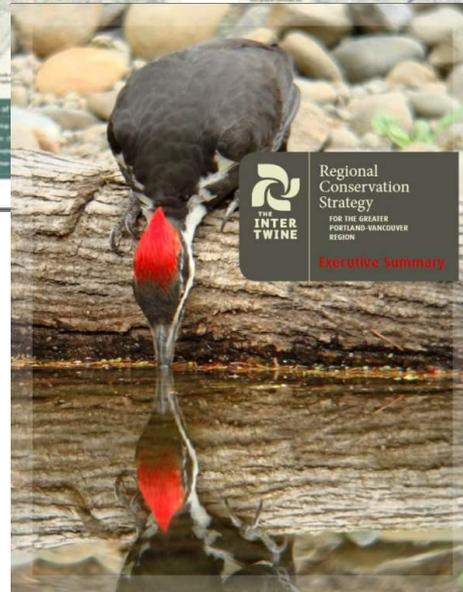
For the greater Portland-Vancouver region

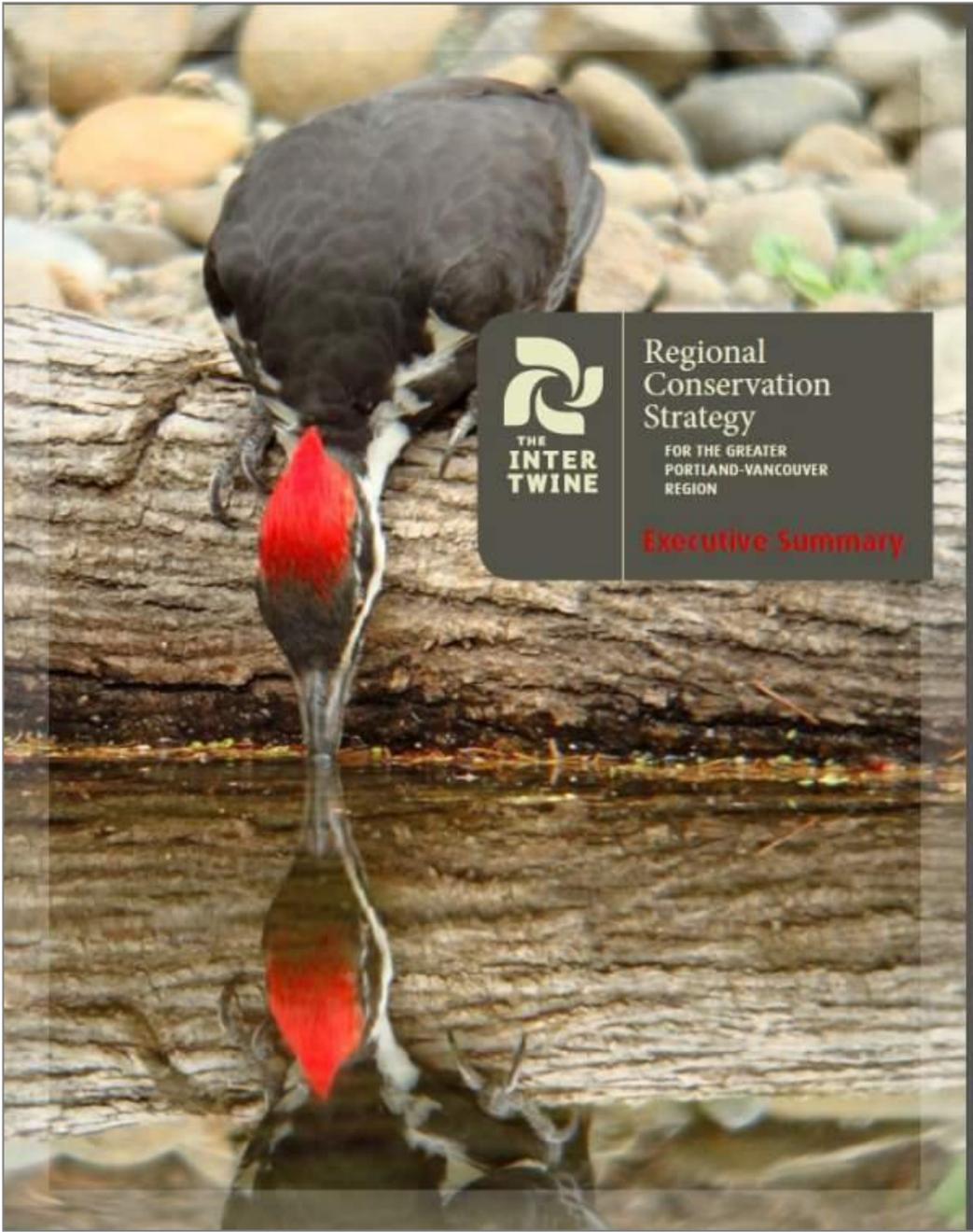
- Fills a gap between local and state level planning.
- Provides consistent data across the region.
- Acknowledges legitimate role of urban areas.
- IS A FRAMEWORK for collaboration on biodiversity conservation, NOT A PROSCRIPTIVE PLAN.
- Explains and helps market our collective efforts.

Regional Conservation Strategy geography



The RCS pyramid of power





I have found that people who feel very strongly about their own landscape are more often than not the same people who are pushing for better comprehensive planning. But it is the landscape that commands their emotions. The landscape element of any long-range regional plan will only be a small part of the total effort, but more than any other element it can elicit a personal involvement. People are stirred by what they can see.

— WILLIAM H. WHYTE
The Last Landscape, 1968



Imagine

Flocks of tundra swans in the farm fields of rural Washington County. Western bluebirds koraging

for insects on Chelawale Ridge. An elk herd traversing the Tualatin Mountains. Skein after skein of snow geese over Ridgetfield National Wildlife Refuge, with snow-clad Mount St. Helens as a backdrop. Peregrine falcons stooping on prey in downtown Portland. An Anna's hummingbird nesting in the backyard. All of these encounters with nature are possible where we live, work, and play—at the confluence of two great rivers in the greater Portland-Vancouver region. > More than 2 million of us have the great fortune of living in a species-rich area made up of multiple landscapes—natural and built, urban and rural, working and wild. Coho salmon still spawn here, as they have for thousands of years. Bald eagles and osprey offer spectacular aerial displays from the heart of downtown Vancouver to the Tualatin Valley's rich farmland. Our backyards and neighborhoods host songbirds as they travel migratory routes dating back to time immemorial. > How will we ensure that this unique natural legacy remains for future generations? That is the promise of the *Regional Conservation Strategy*.



The *Regional Conservation Strategy's* primary purpose is to describe how we can protect our region's biodiversity for the long term. What is biodiversity? Simply put, it is the vast array of plants and animals that make up our landscape, from the tiniest soil microbes to gigantic Douglas firs—and everything in between. Biodiversity is critical to the health of our region's ecosystems and to our own physical and economic health. Ecosystems that have diverse plant and animal life contribute

Imagine a region rich with life and access to nature

to our clean air and water, fertile soil, and effective crop pollination. They help reduce industrial waste and put food on the table. Biologically diverse ecosystems are more resilient than simpler, species-poor ecosystems, which means that they are better able to withstand disturbances, including climate change. Biodiversity supports economic competitiveness by contributing to quality of life and attracting business and tourism.

In addition, the region's residents take pride in knowing that nature—in all its forms—is nearby. They treasure nature for its inherent value and want to protect fish and wildlife habitat to ensure access to nature where they live, work, and play.

A unique focus on biodiversity



Regional Conservation Strategy

FOR THE GREATER
PORTLAND-VANCOUVER
REGION

A framework for biodiversity conservation

- Provides accessible and usable information on regional conservation issues and approaches for practitioners, policy makers, funders and the public.
- Synthesizes and provides context for local efforts.
- Reflects upon regional issues.
- Serves as a framework for collaboration and strategic decision-making into the future.

Regional Conservation Strategy contents

INTRODUCTION

A Unique Place, a Unique Approach

CHAPTER

1



BACKGROUND

Fulfilling a Vision

CHAPTER

2



Integration with Other Efforts

CHAPTER

3



Current Conditions and Challenges

CHAPTER

4



Climate Change

CHAPTER

5



Conservation in Natural Areas,
Working Lands, and Developed Areas

CHAPTER

6



Regional Conservation Strategy contents

Biodiversity Corridors

CHAPTER 7



Ecosystem Services and Green Infrastructure

CHAPTER 8



Equity, Education, and Research

CHAPTER 9



Species-Specific Initiatives

CHAPTER 10



Funding Options

CHAPTER 11





THE
INTER
TWINE

Biodiversity Guide

FOR THE GREATER
PORTLAND-VANCOUVER
REGION

A companion to the
Regional Conservation
Strategy

Why was the RBG developed?

- Fills the data gap between local and larger regional scale analyses.
- Science support for RCS.
- A reference for assist practitioners and policy makers.
- Provides a data-driven approach to regional priority setting.

Biodiversity Guide contents

Current Conditions

CHAPTER 1



Biogeography of the
Greater Portland-Vancouver Region

CHAPTER 2



Major Habitat Types of the Region

CHAPTER 3



Weeds

Flora of the Region

CHAPTER 4



Weeds

Biodiversity Guide contents

Fish and Wildlife of the Region

CHAPTER 5



Important Issues and Concepts

CHAPTER 6



Threats and Challenges

CHAPTER 7

Weeds Here



Major Categories of Strategies

CHAPTER 8

Weeds Here



E. Vertebrate Species in the Region

About This Appendix

This appendix lists:

- All known native vertebrate species that currently exist in at least one location within the greater Portland-Vancouver region for at least a portion of the year and could be found in the region through diligent search by a knowledgeable person. Vagrant species (those that do not typically occur every year) are not included in this appendix.
- Some extirpated (i.e., locally extinct) native vertebrate species known to have inhabited the region in the past.
- Nonnative vertebrate species with established breeding populations in the region.

This appendix is based on the opinion of numerous local wildlife experts, augmented by information from Johnson and O'Neill's 2001 Wildlife-habitat Relationships in Oregon and Washington, state natural heritage programs, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Taxonomic standards for bird common and scientific names are from the American Ornithological Union's Check-list of North American Birds, 7th edition.

Key to Special-status Species

FEDERAL STATUS (see <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>)

- LE = Listed as an endangered species.
- LT = Listed as a threatened species.
- PE = Proposed as an endangered species.
- PT = Proposed as a threatened species.
- PS = Partial status. Taxa for which some, but not all, intraspecific taxa have status.
- C = Candidate for listing as threatened or endangered.
- SoC = Species of concern. Taxa for which additional information is needed to support a proposal to list under the Endangered Species Act.
- FD = Delisted.

STATE STATUS—OREGON (see <http://orbic.pdx.edu/documents/2010-rite-book.pdf>)

- LE = Listed as an endangered species
- LT = Listed as a threatened species
- PE = Proposed as an endangered species
- PT = Proposed as a threatened species

- SC = Sensitive – Critical
- SV = Sensitive – Vulnerable
- State Status—Washington Priority Habitats and Species List (www.wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/endangered/lists/search.php?searchby=All&orderby=AnimalType)
- SC = State candidate for listing
- SS = State sensitive
- ST = State threatened
- SE = State endangered

STATE STRATEGY SPECIES REFERS TO OREGON AND WASHINGTON'S STATEWIDE CONSERVATION STRATEGIES.
Oregon: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/read_the_strategy.asp
Washington: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/00165/wdfw00165.pdf>

NATURAL HERITAGE NETWORK RANKS (see state status websites)
Global rank begins with a "G." If the taxon has a trinomial (a subspecies, variety, or recognized race), this is followed by a "T" rank indicator. State rank begins with an "S."

- G1 = Critically imperiled throughout its range
- G2 = Imperiled throughout its range
- G3 = Rare, threatened, or uncommon throughout its range
- S1 = Critically imperiled in Oregon
- S2 = Imperiled in Oregon
- S3 = Rare, threatened, or uncommon in Oregon
- T = Rank for a subspecies, variety, or race
- Q = Taxonomic questions
- H = Historic, formerly part of the native biota with the implied expectation that it may be rediscovered.
- X = Presumed extirpated or extinct
- U = Unknown rank
- ? = Not yet ranked
- B = Rank of the breeding population
- N = Rank of the wintering population

ORBIC LISTS

- 1 = Threatened or endangered throughout range
- 2 = Threatened, endangered, or extirpated from Oregon, but secure or abundant elsewhere

Table 1: Oregon Fish Species (continued)

Species	Conservation Status	Global Rank	State Rank	ORBC Rank
... (previous entries) ...				
... (next entries) ...				

Table 1. Oregon Fish Species (continued)

Table 2: Oregon Mammal Species (continued)

Species	Conservation Status	Global Rank	State Rank	ORBC Rank
... (previous entries) ...				
... (next entries) ...				

Table 2. Oregon Mammal Species (continued)

Table 3: Oregon Amphibian and Reptile Species (continued)

Species	Conservation Status	Global Rank	State Rank	ORBC Rank
... (previous entries) ...				
... (next entries) ...				

Table 3. Oregon Amphibian and Reptile Species (continued)

Table 4: Oregon Bird Species (continued)

Species	Conservation Status	Global Rank	State Rank	ORBC Rank
... (previous entries) ...				
... (next entries) ...				

Table 4. Oregon Bird Species (continued)

Table 5: Oregon Invertebrate Species (continued)

Species	Conservation Status	Global Rank	State Rank	ORBC Rank
... (previous entries) ...				
... (next entries) ...				

Table 5. Oregon Invertebrate Species (continued)

Table 6: Oregon Plant Species (continued)

Species	Conservation Status	Global Rank	State Rank	ORBC Rank
... (previous entries) ...				
... (next entries) ...				

Table 6. Oregon Plant Species (continued)

Watersheds



The extent of the Intertwine region was defined to encompass the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area and its surrounding landscapes and watersheds. It connects with, but largely excludes, the main Cascade and Coastal Ranges and the heart of the Willamette Valley; these areas are well represented by previous prioritization efforts. This map depicts the watersheds reported on in the RCS report, which include HUC sub-basins, partial sub-basins, and watersheds. The region includes eight HUC-4 sub-basins; in the case of two—the Lower Willamette and the Middle Willamette—we chose to report on the watershed (HUC-5) level.

RCS Defined Watersheds

HUC 5 watersheds are lightly outlined * Represents a partial sub basin

A - Abernethy Creek-Willamette River Watershed (87,000 ac)	G - Lower Columbia-Sandy Sub Basin* (217,500ac)
B - Chehalis Creek-Willamette River Watershed (70,000 ac)	H - Lower Columbia-Slatskanie Sub Basin* (22,000ac)
C - Clackamas Sub Basin* (158,500 ac)	I - Molalla-Pudding Sub Basin* (181,000ac)
D - Hayden Island-Columbia River Watershed (18,500 ac)	J - Salmon Creek-Frontal Columbia River Watershed (131,500ac)
E - Johnson Creek Watershed (60,000 ac)	K - Scappoose Creek-Frontal Columbia River Watershed (181,000ac)
F - Lewis Sub Basin* (221,000ac)	L - Tualatin Sub Basin (453,300ac)
	M - Willamette River-Frontal Columbia River Watershed (78,000ac)

I. Watersheds



Conservation biology is scale dependent. As one zooms in from the scale of the entire Earth down to continents, countries, and states and further down to neighborhoods and even backyards, the ecological role, function, and importance of the geography being viewed keep changing. What is critically important at one scale may not be at larger or smaller scales. Providing an understanding of the importance, ecology, and connection to watershed and landscape health at multiple scales was an important motivation in developing the *Regional Conservation Strategy and Biodiversity Guide*. This chapter presents the view at the scale of the individual watershed (USGS HUC 4 and HUC 5; see Chapter 1). Some issues are common among many or all watersheds; however, given the geographic and socio-economic diversity within the region, each watershed also has unique elements and challenges.

The short descriptions of watersheds in this chapter are introductions that lead to other resources that have been developed by local, state, and federal organizations and agencies (especially watershed councils in Oregon). Where a watershed crosses the boundary of the greater

Portland-Vancouver region (as *Biogeography Guide* and the *Regional Conservation Strategy*) we try to distinguish issues relevant in the entire watershed and those relevant to the area within the Portland-Vancouver region. Table I-1 lists watersheds in the region.

1. Clackamas River Subbasin

Cheryl McGinnis, Clackamas River Watershed Council and Carol Murdock, Clackamas River Watershed Council Environment Services

Includes these named USGS HUC watersheds:
Eagle Creek
Lower Clackamas River

Lower Clackamas River

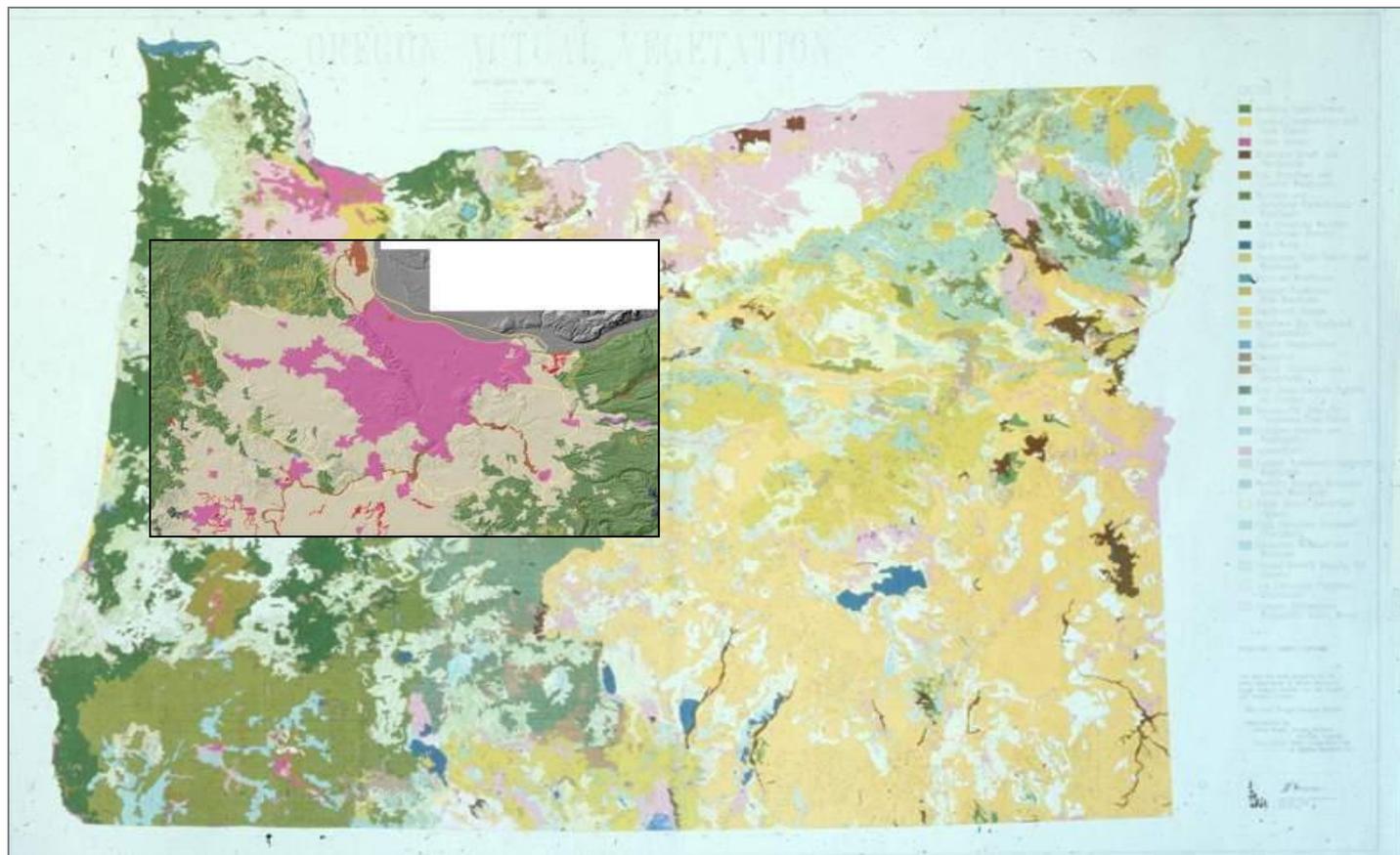
The Clackamas River subbasin extends through Clackamas and Marion counties and south of the Portland metropolitan area. The Clackamas River is a tributary of the Willamette River that enters the Willamette River Mile (RM) 25, the last major stream downstream of Willamette Falls. Watershed boundaries in the watershed range from

4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area

The Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah, and Washington County Cooperative Weed Management Area is a partnership of about 25 organizations in the four counties dedicated to combating invasive weeds for the benefit of native habitat and people. The 4-County CWMA is part of the Northwest Weed Management Partnership. Because weed issues typically extend across multiple ownerships, the CWMA emphasizes and supports collaborative weed management among land managers. The partnership actively engages in weed education and outreach and serves as a coordinating body for weed inventory and prevention and on-the-ground weed control activities, with a focus on members' early detection and rapid response lists. The CWMA meets monthly and maintains a master weed list as well as information on the status of invasive species in the region. For more information, go to www.4countycwma.org and <http://www.westerninvasivesnetwork.org/pages/nwmp.html>

Found in both RCS and RBG

Oregon Natural Heritage database



Pink = "urban"



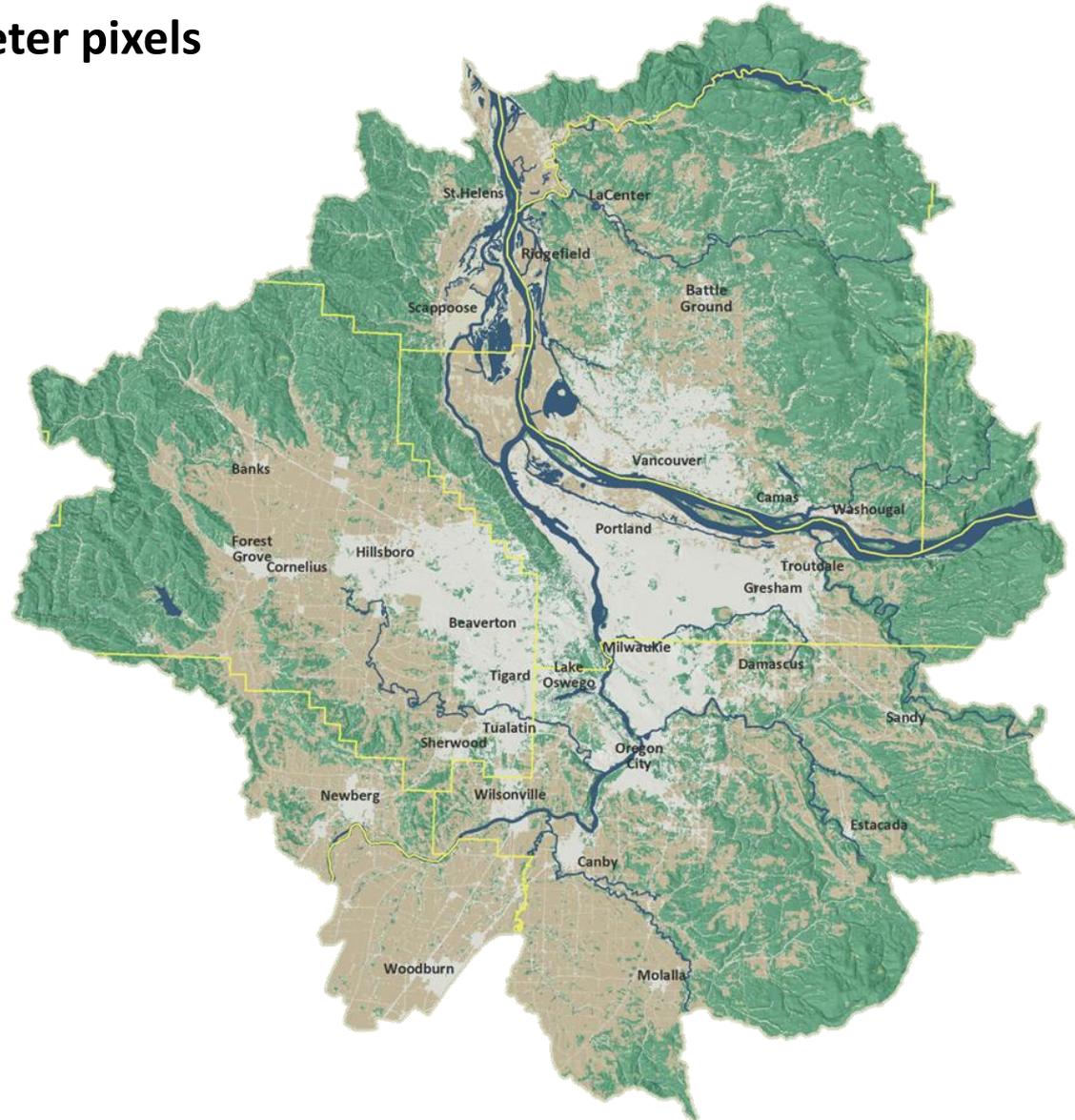
*Urban biodiversity
is not an oxymoron.

Scale matters.*



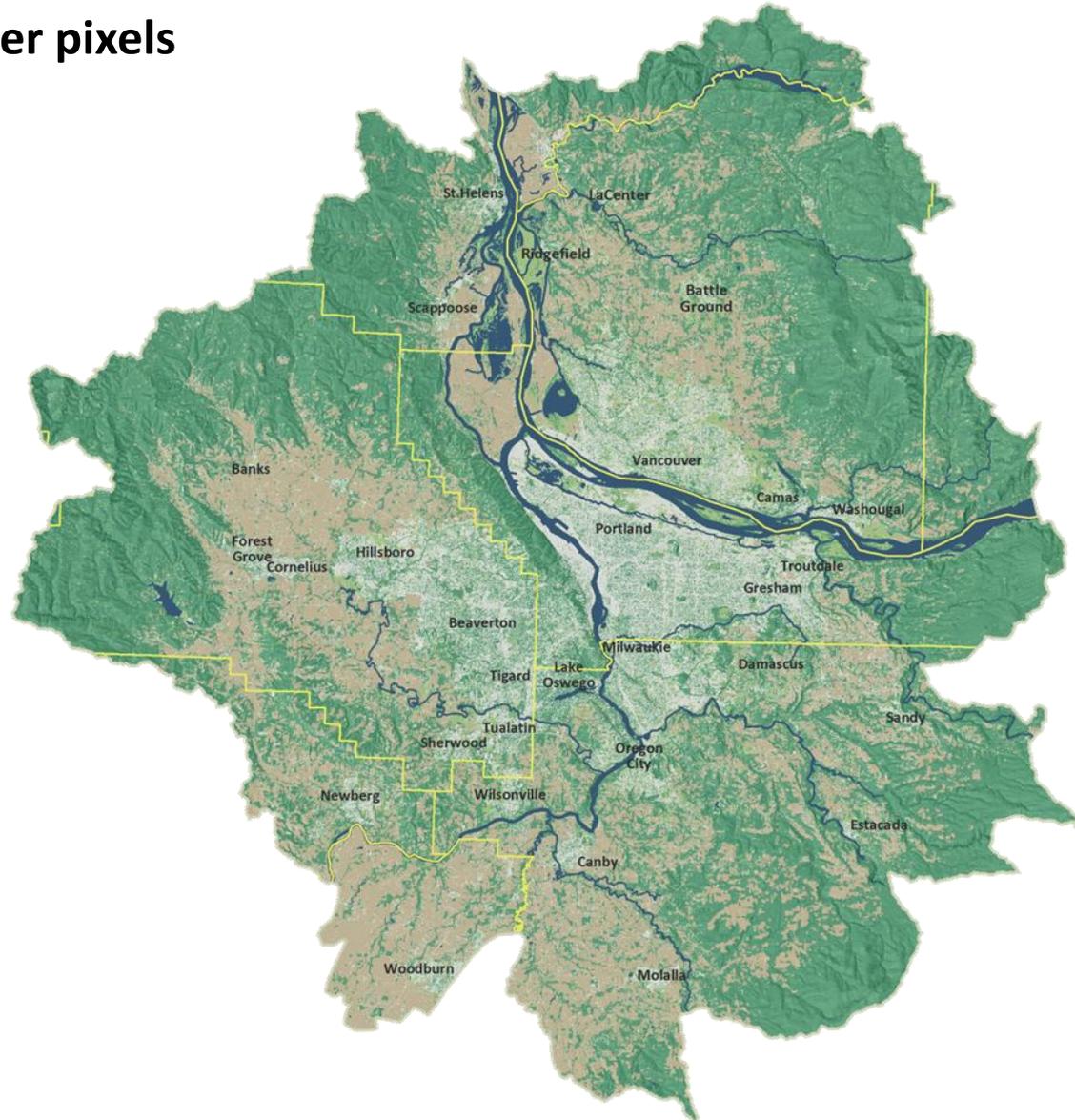
You can't prioritize what isn't mapped

30 meter pixels

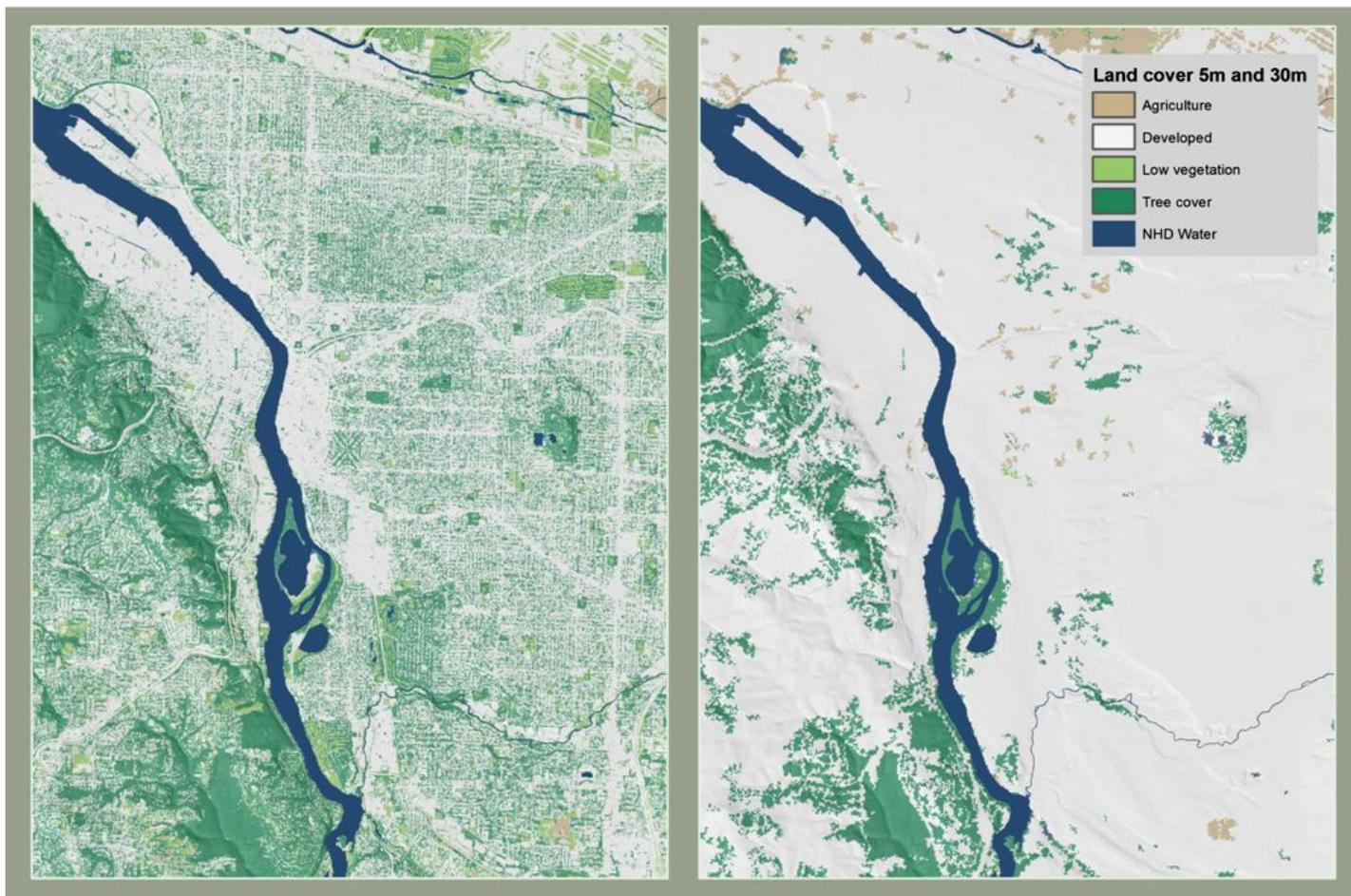


You can't prioritize what isn't mapped

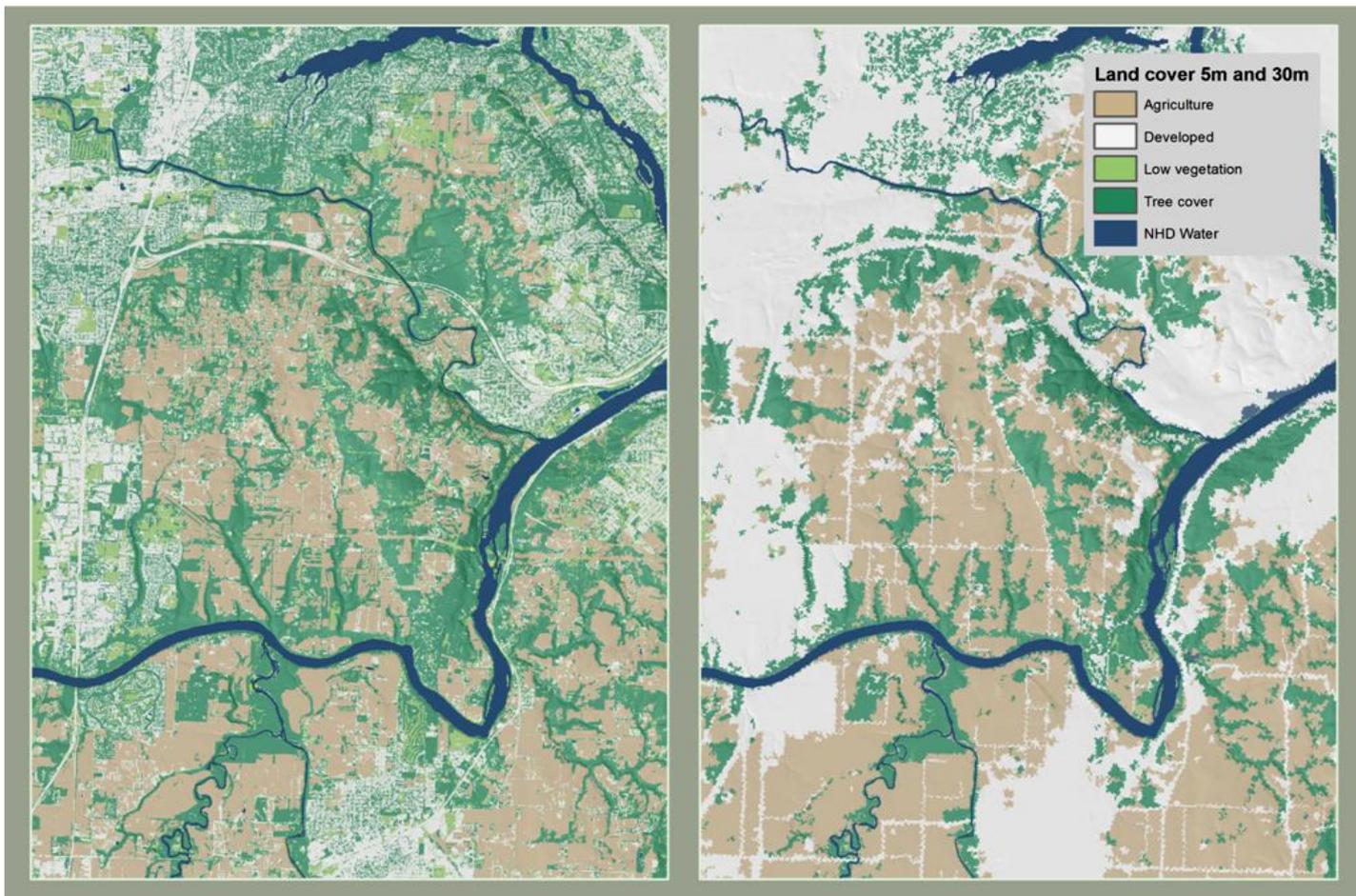
5 meter pixels



Comparing land covers: 5m vs. 30m



Comparing land covers: 5m vs. 30m



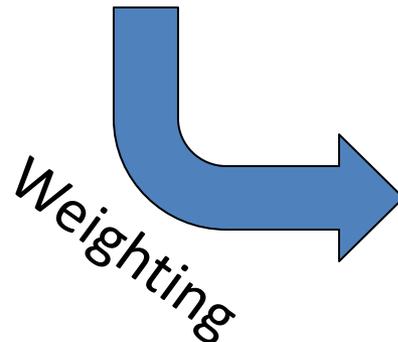
Intertwine land cover issues

- No oak or grassland layer
- Deciduous vs. coniferous iffy
- Incomplete (but better) agriculture layer
- Source data came from a range of years

Not a baseline for change detection!

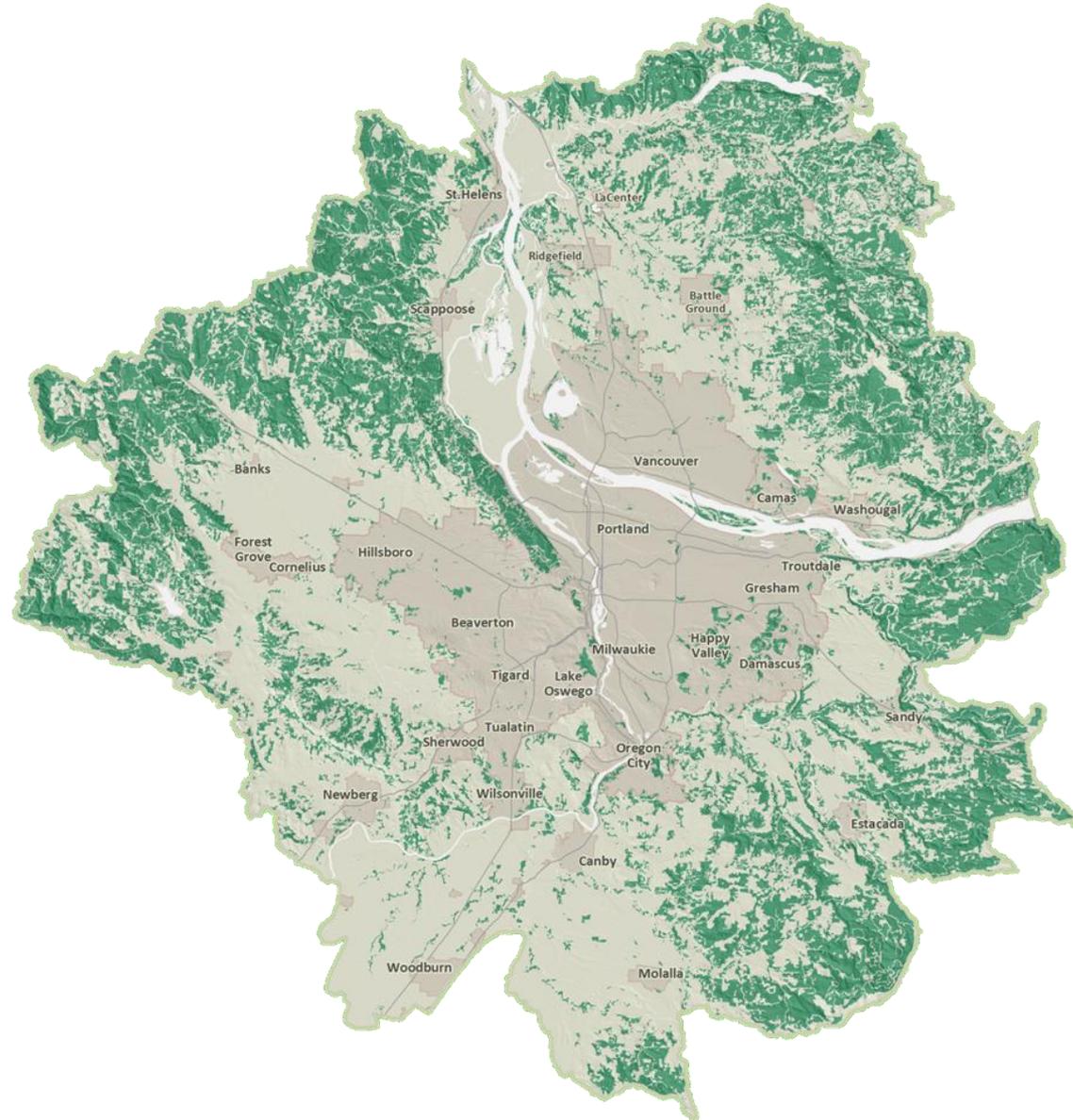
High-value habitat model inputs

- Patch size of all “natural” types
- Patch size vs. patch density
- Distance from edge (interior habitat)
- Distance from roads
- Landscape permeability (cover type)
- Buffered wetlands
- Hydric soils

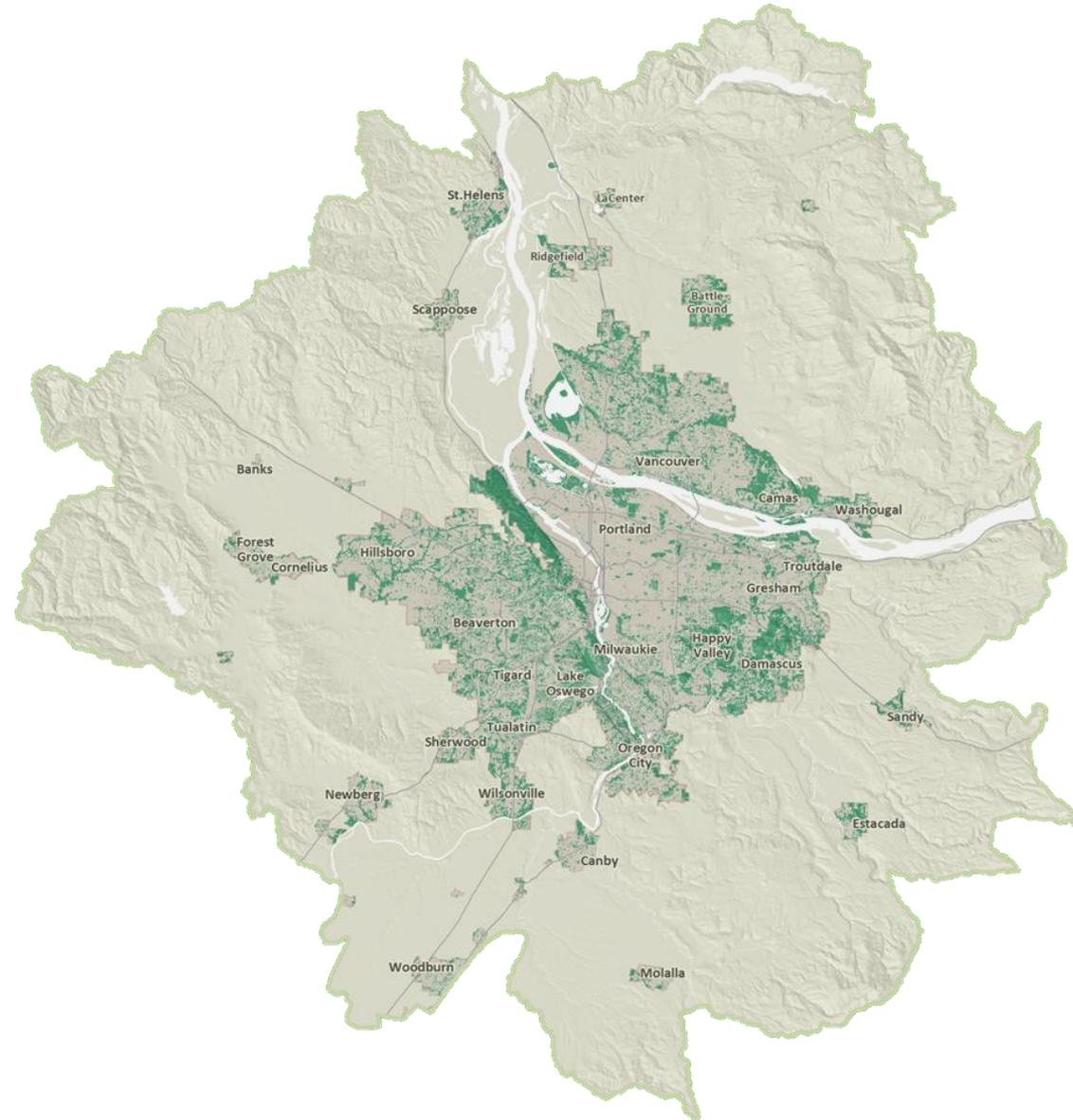


**Habitat score
for each pixel**

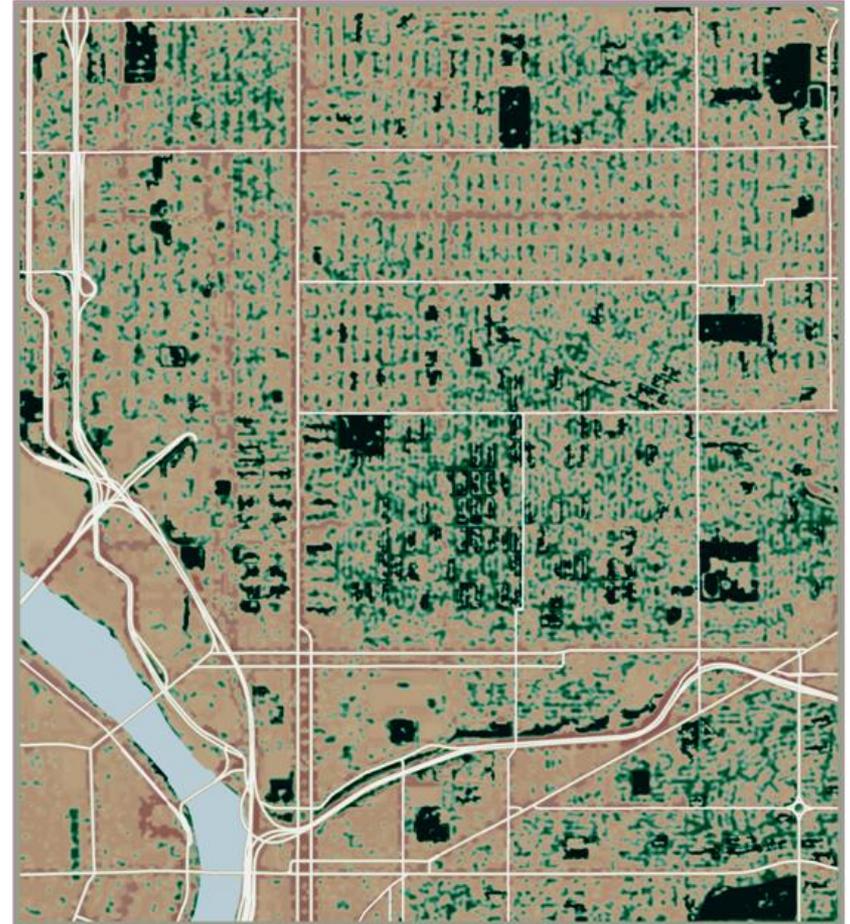
Top 30% high-value habitat: Intertwine region



Top 30% high-value habitat: Urban areas only

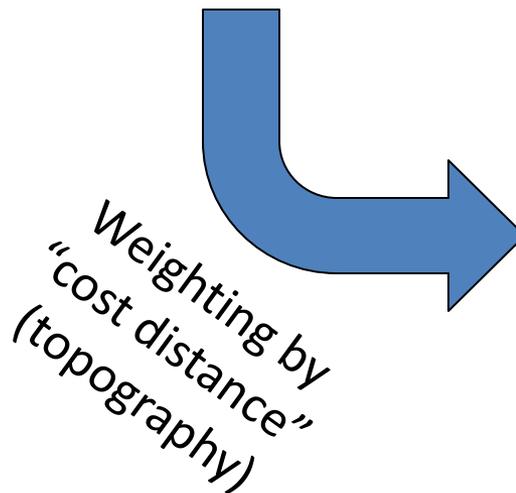


Northeast Portland



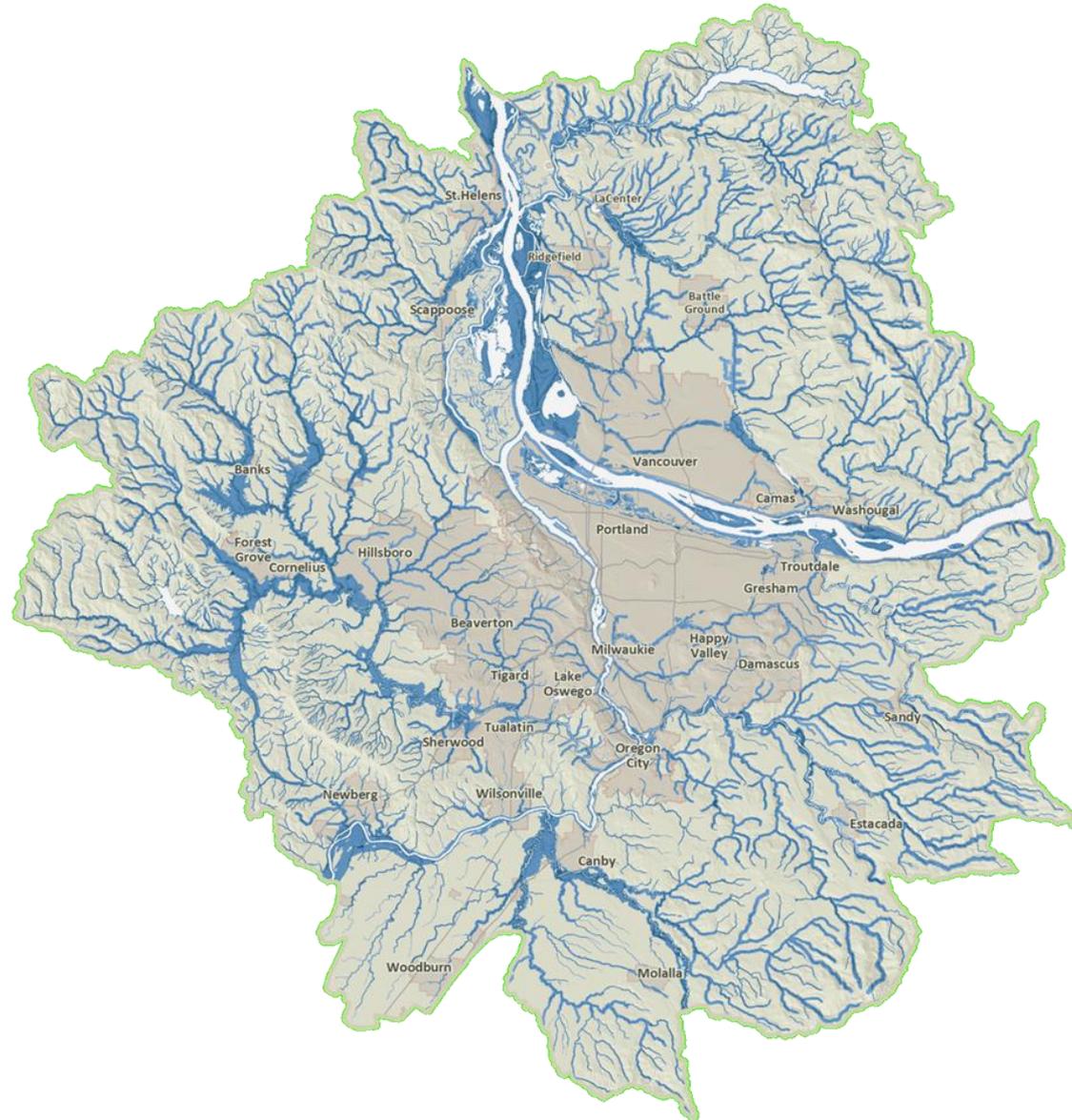
Riparian habitat model inputs

- Stream buffers
- FEMA 100-year floodplain
- Buffered wetlands
- Flow volume and velocity
- Land cover

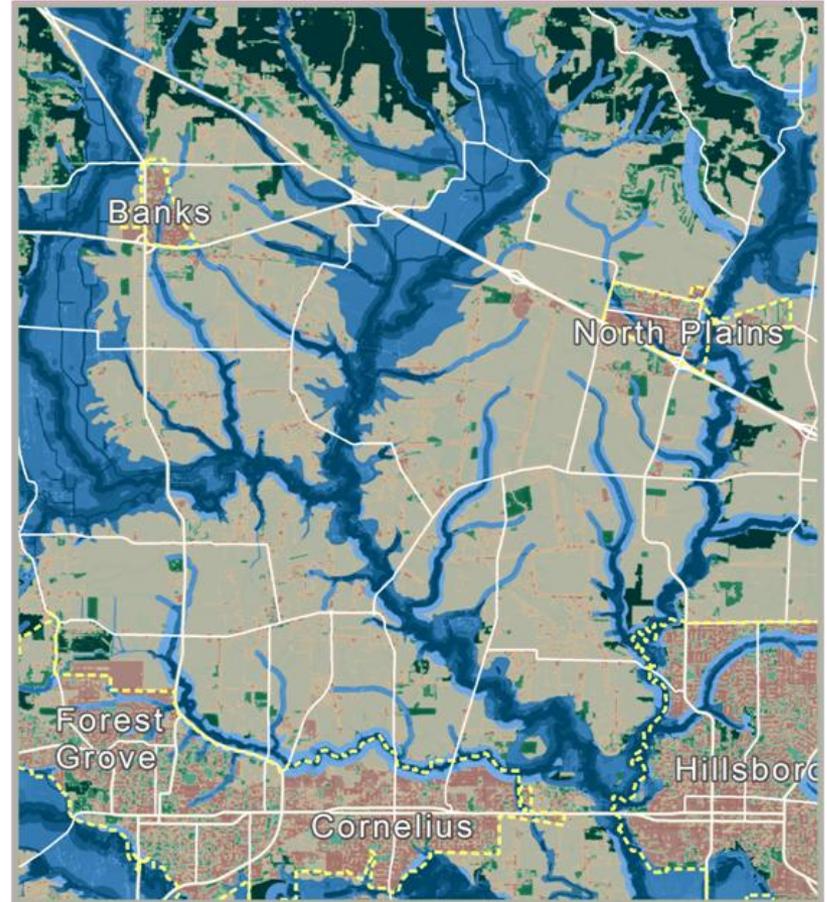
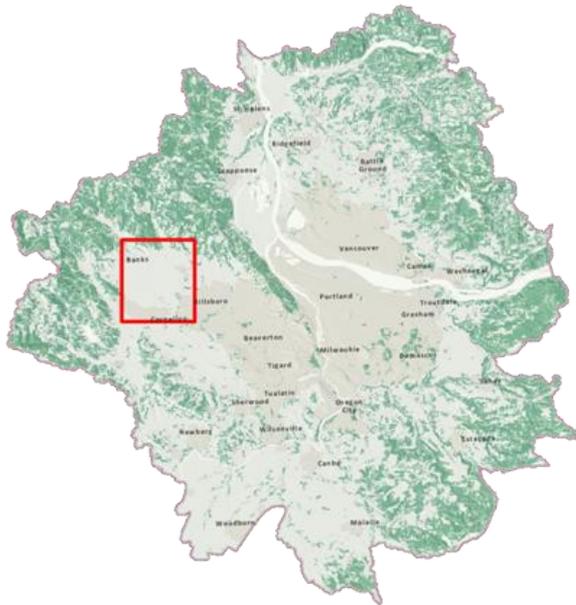


**Habitat score for
each pixel in the
riparian buffer area**

Riparian habitats assessed: 400,000 acres



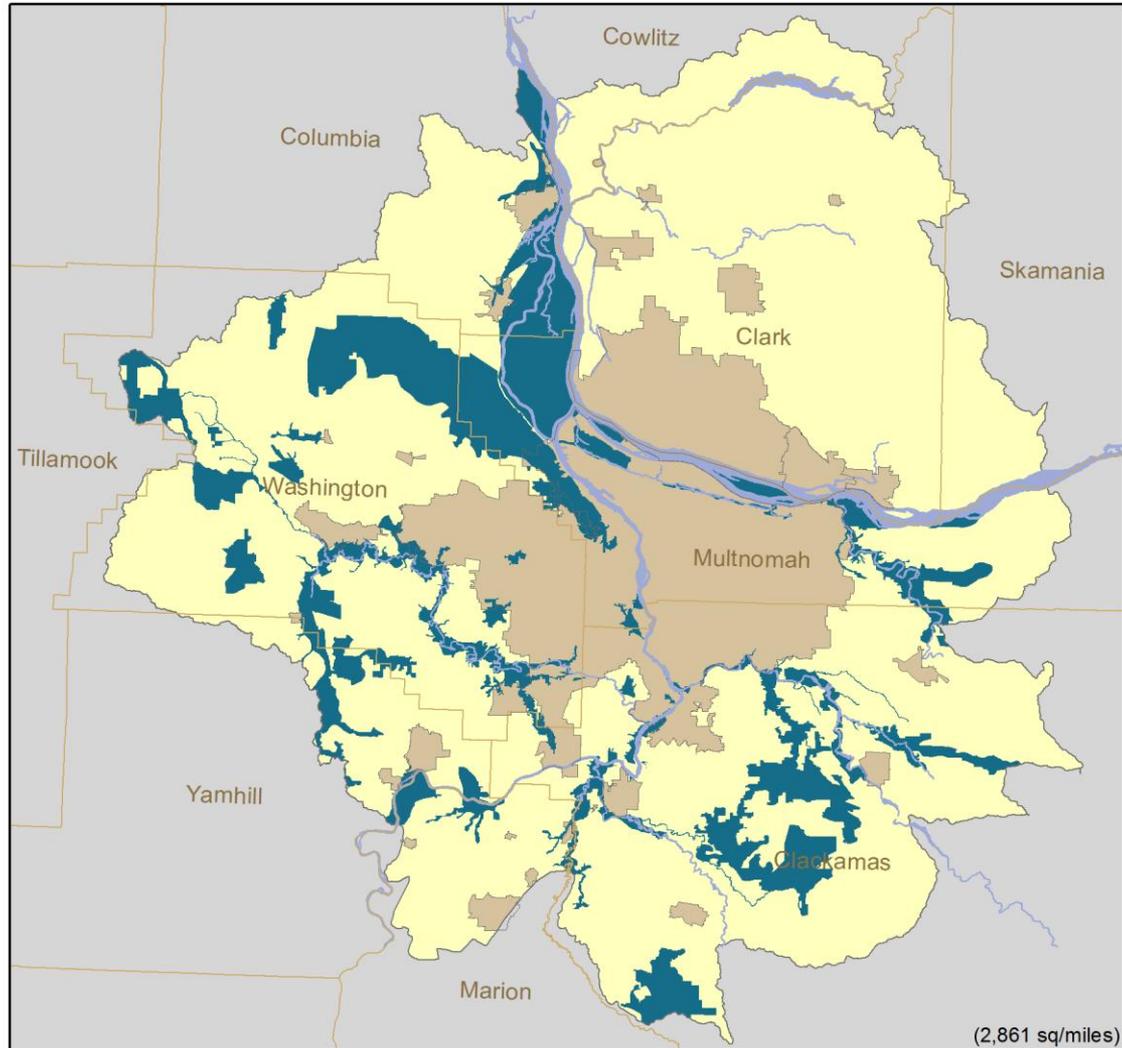
Agricultural area: riparian



4 potential uses for data and models

- Build from regional analysis
- Translate regional priorities to a project level
- Help create or verify priorities at any scale
- Assist in acquisition, connectivity, trail or transportation projects

Willamette synthesis extent

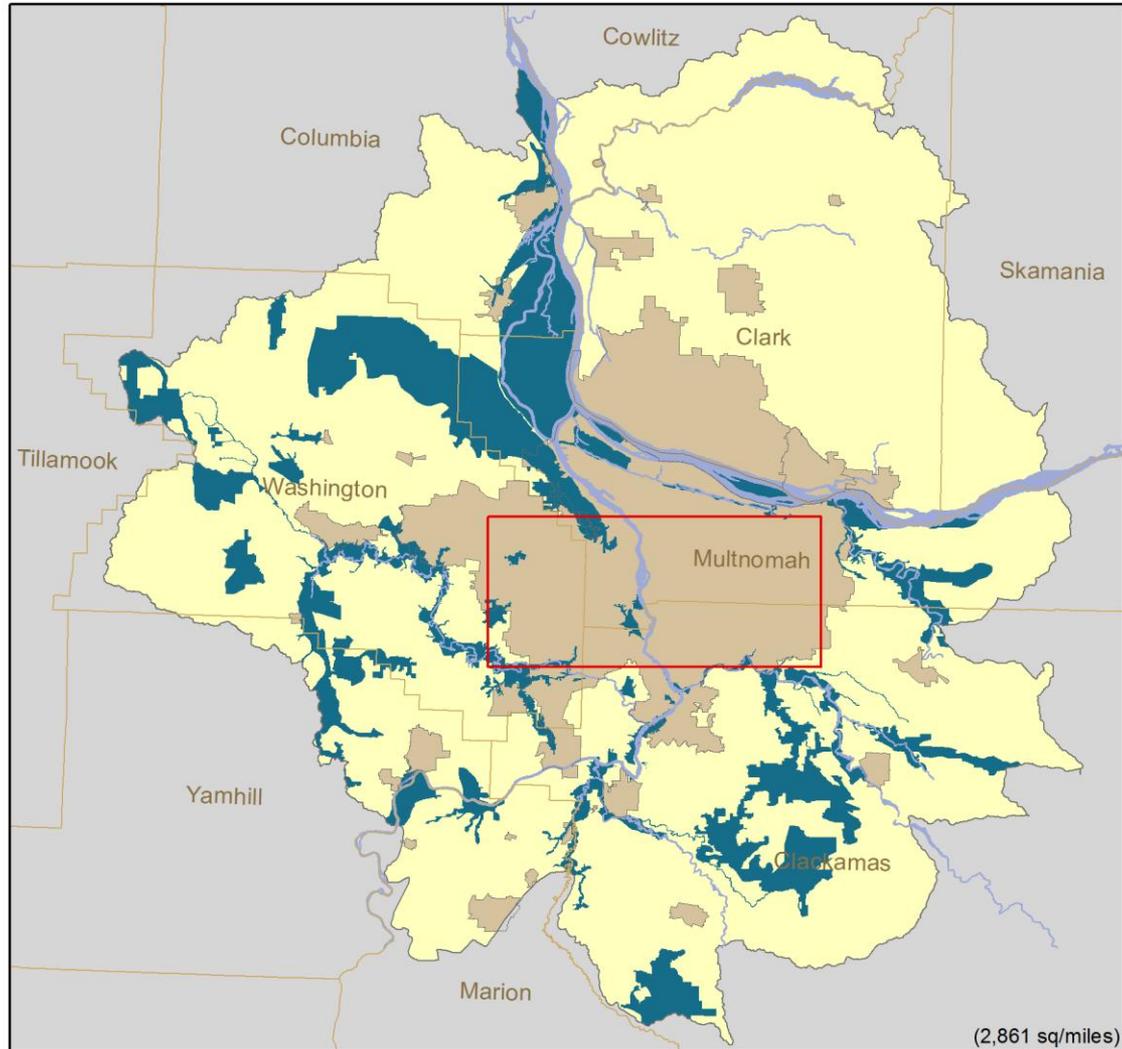


UGB's and UGA's

Willamette Synthesis COAs

0 5 10 20 Miles

Willamette synthesis extent



UGB's and UGA's

Willamette Synthesis COAs

0 5 10 20 Miles

Willamette synthesis extent

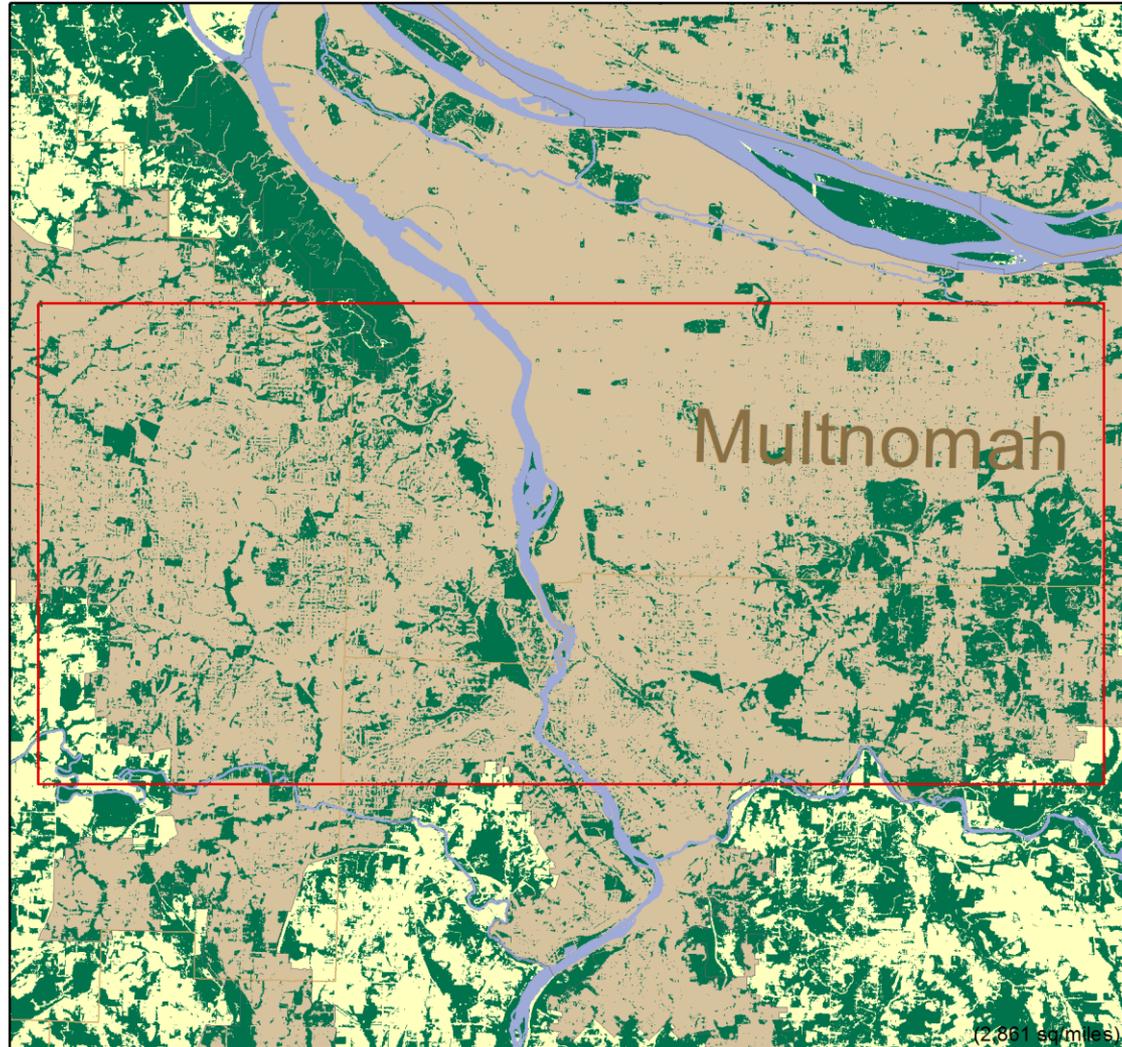


UGB's and UGA's

Willamette Synthesis COAs

0 1.5 3 6 Miles

Willamette synthesis extent

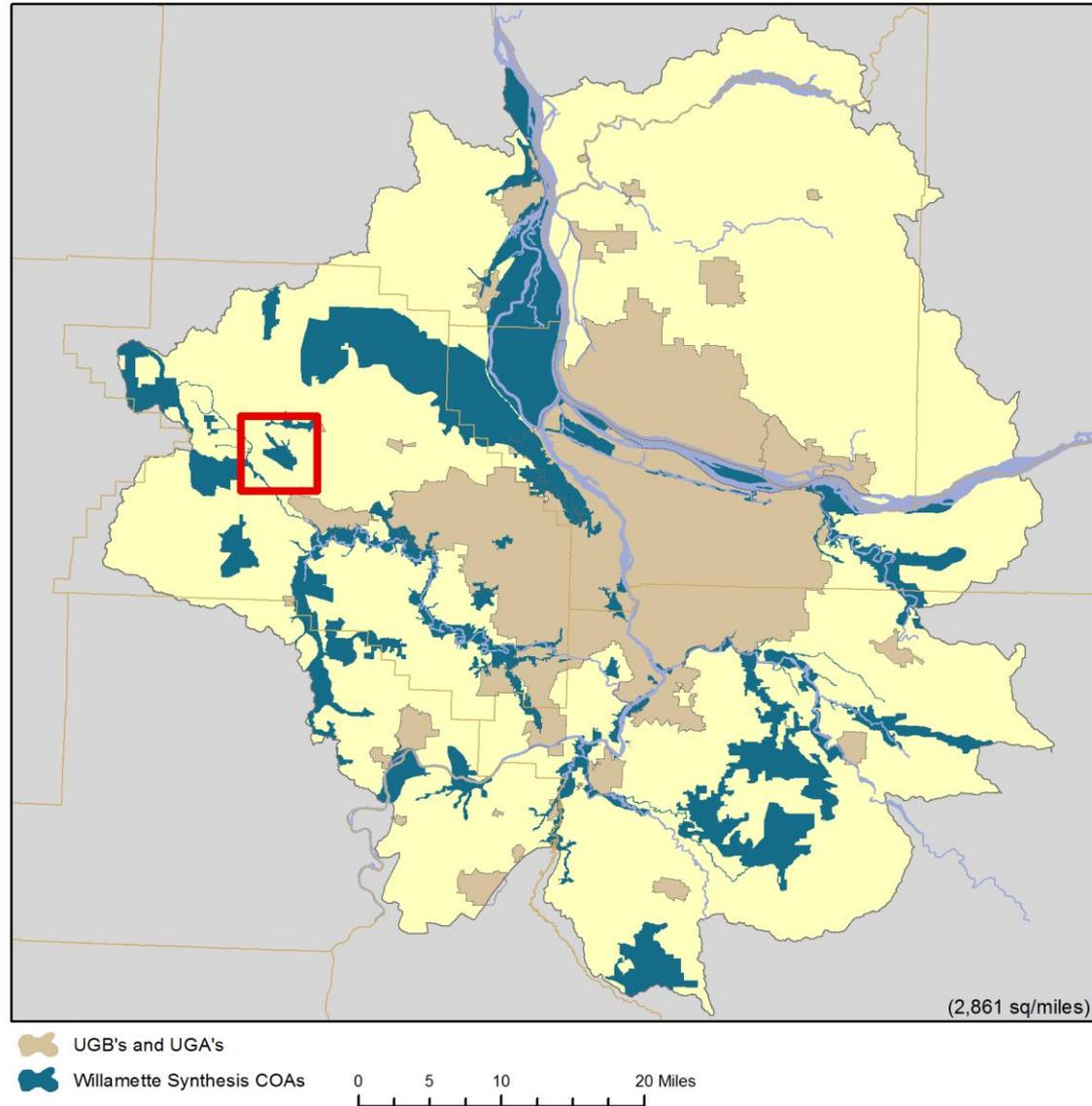


 UGB's and UGA's

0 1.5 3 6 Miles

 RCS High Priority Habitat (top 40%)

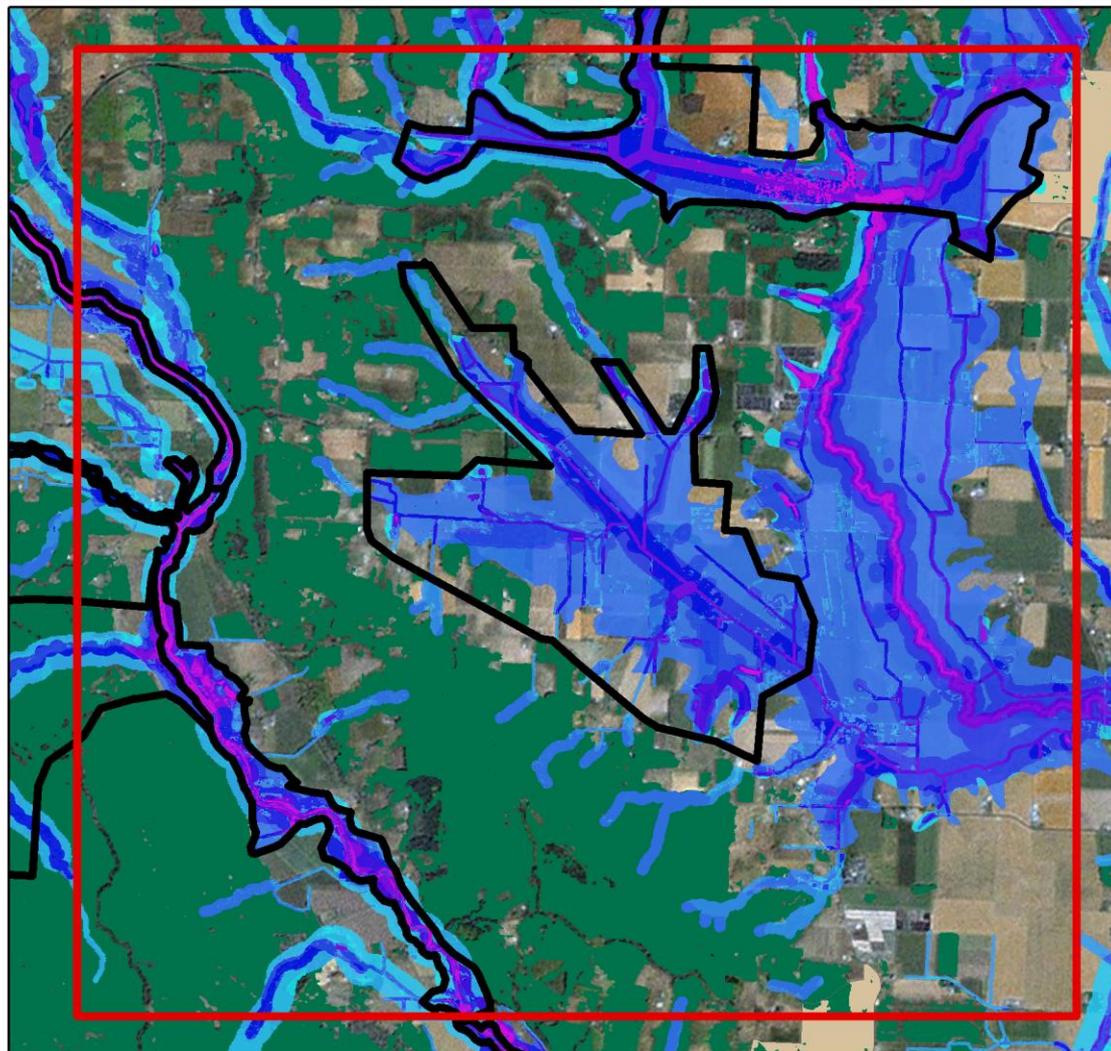
Willamette synthesis extent



Willamette synthesis extent



Willamette synthesis extent



 UGB's and UGA's

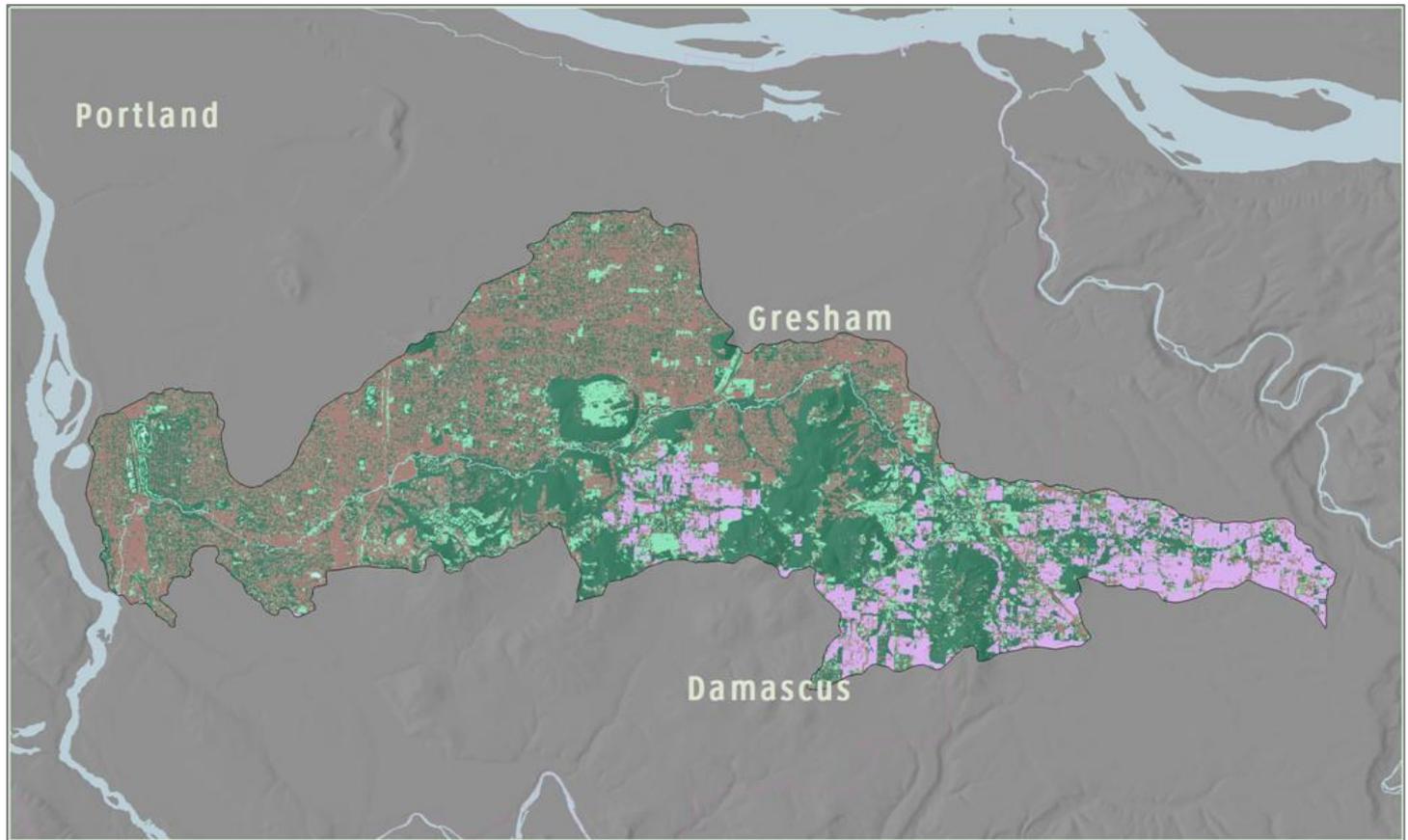
 Willamette Synthesis COAs

 RCS High Priority Habitat (top 40%)

0 0.4 0.8 1.6 Miles



Johnson Creek Watershed base map



Johnson Creek aerial and priority polygons

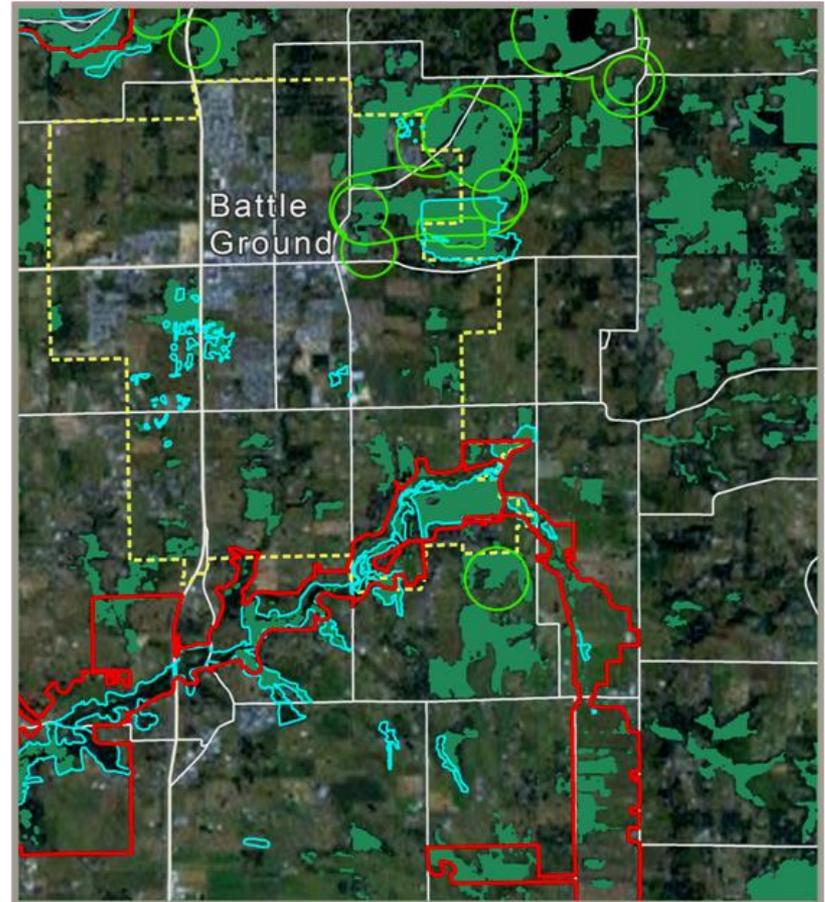


Johnson Creek priorities over RCS data

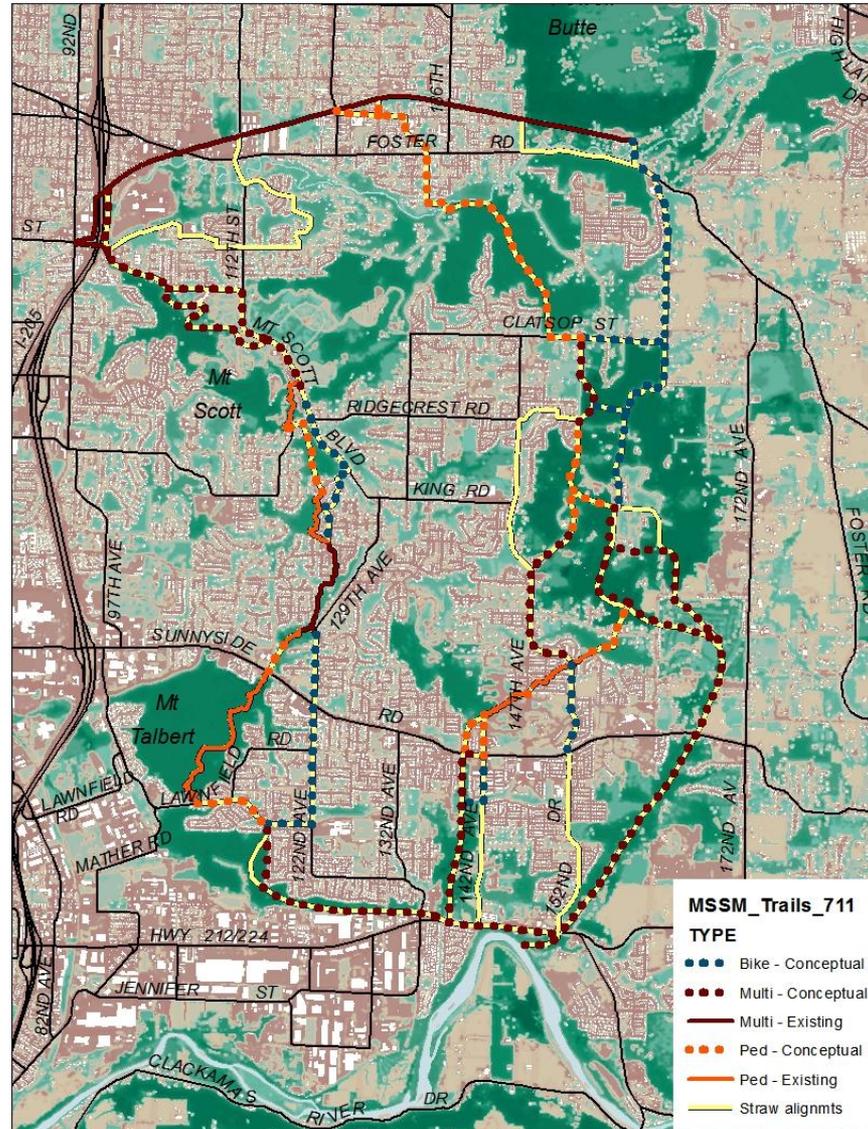


Battle Ground, WA – top 30% only

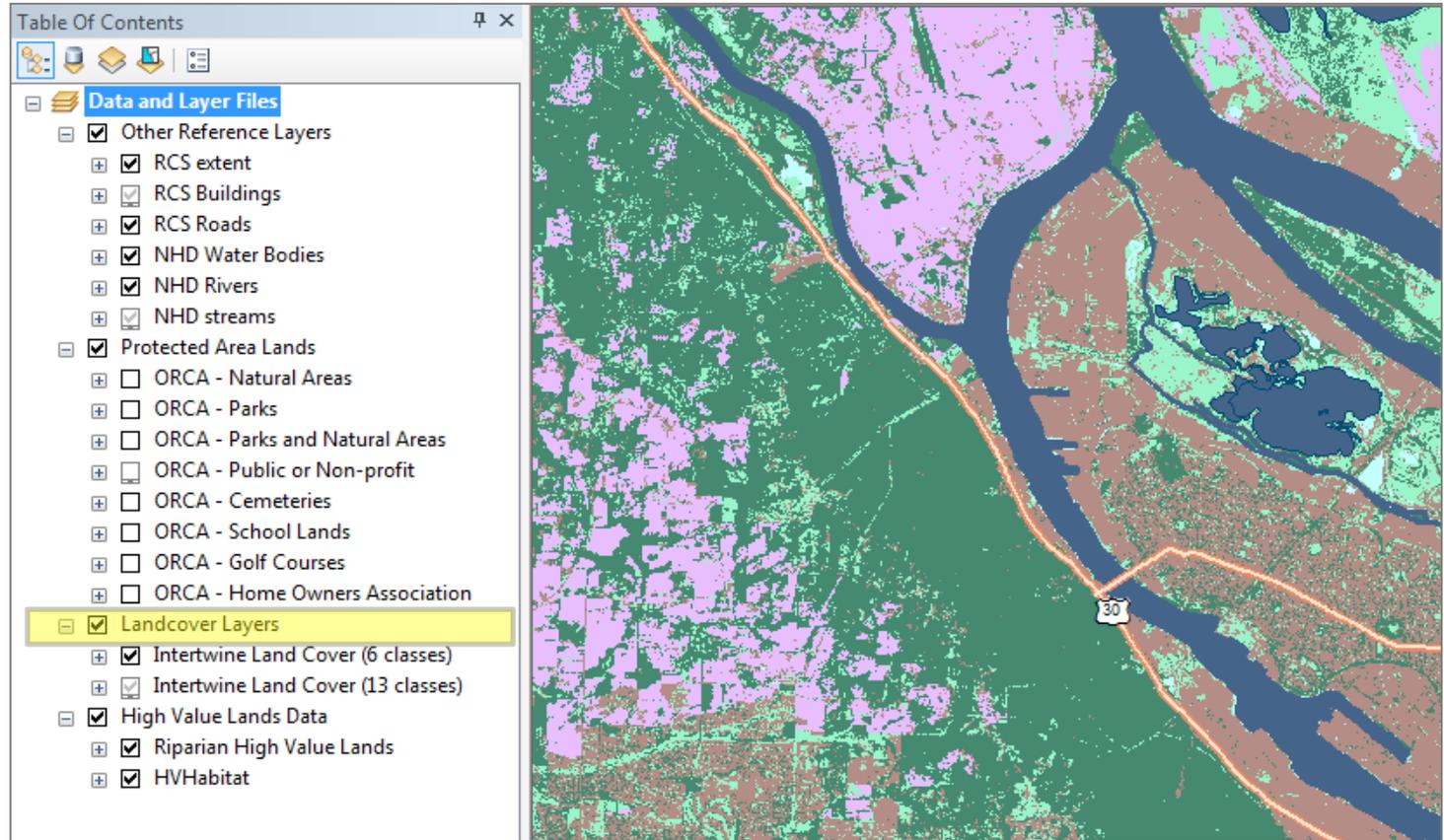
-  Clark County - conserved lands (2004)
-  Priority Habitat Species - WFW
-  WA Heritage Program - element occurrences



Mt. Scott/Scouter Mountain trails



Getting and using the data: ARC/GIS users

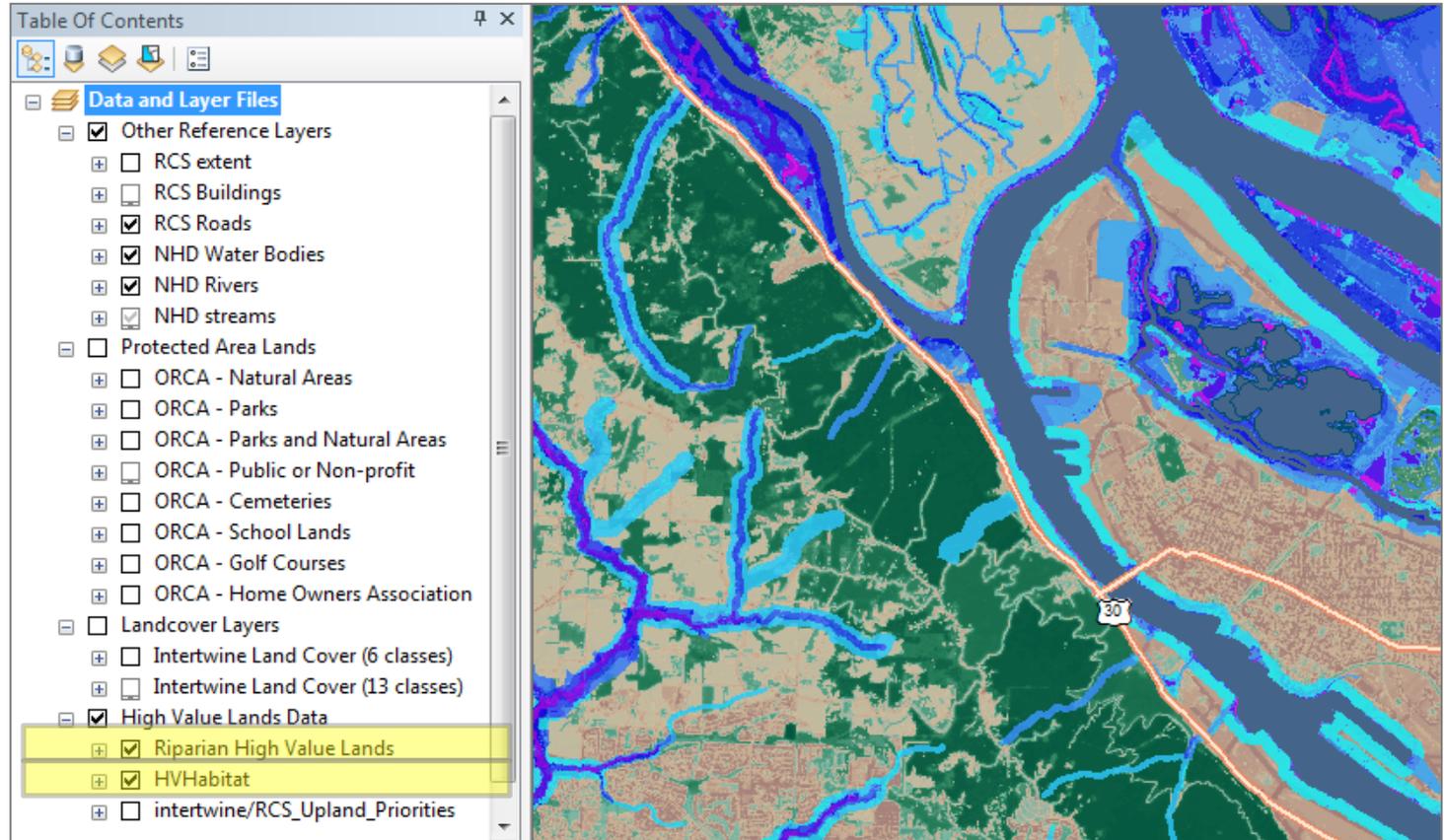


The screenshot displays the 'Table of Contents' window in an ArcGIS application. The window title is 'Table of Contents' and it includes standard window controls (minimize, maximize, close). Below the title bar are several icons representing different data types: a folder, a globe, a map, a data source, and a legend. The main content area is a tree view of layers, organized into several categories:

- Data and Layer Files** (expanded)
 - Other Reference Layers
 - RCS extent
 - RCS Buildings
 - RCS Roads
 - NHD Water Bodies
 - NHD Rivers
 - NHD streams
 - Protected Area Lands
 - ORCA - Natural Areas
 - ORCA - Parks
 - ORCA - Parks and Natural Areas
 - ORCA - Public or Non-profit
 - ORCA - Cemeteries
 - ORCA - School Lands
 - ORCA - Golf Courses
 - ORCA - Home Owners Association
 - Landcover Layers** (highlighted)
 - Intertwine Land Cover (6 classes)
 - Intertwine Land Cover (13 classes)
 - High Value Lands Data
 - Riparian High Value Lands
 - HVHabitat

The right side of the window shows a map view of the same geographic area. The map is a composite of the layers listed in the Table of Contents. It features a river system (dark blue), roads (orange lines), and various land cover types represented by different colors (green, purple, brown, red). A road sign for '30' is visible on the map.

Getting and using the data: ARC/GIS users

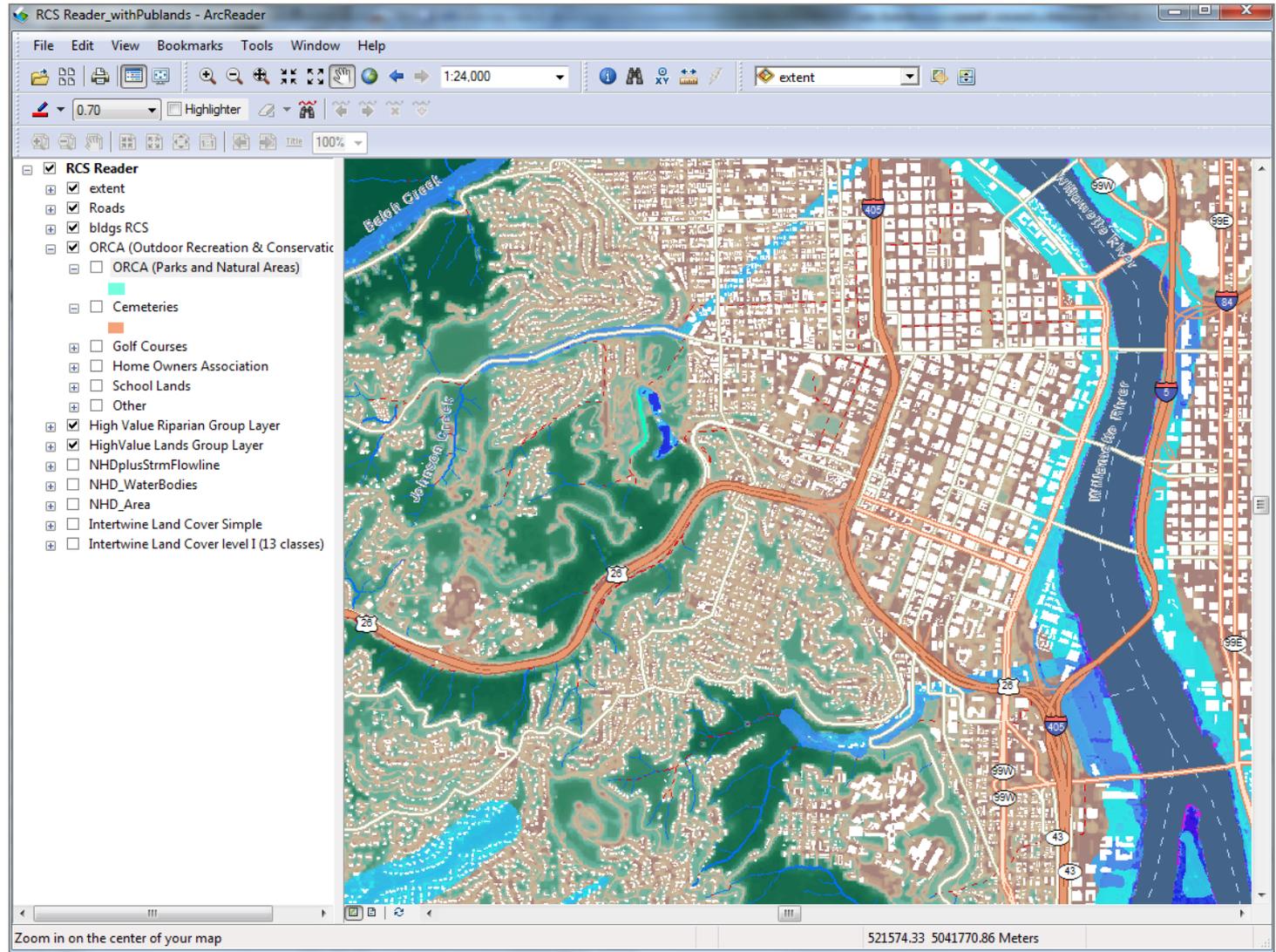


The image shows a screenshot of an ArcGIS software interface. On the left is the 'Table of Contents' window, and on the right is a map view. The 'Table of Contents' window has a title bar with the text 'Table of Contents' and a close button. Below the title bar are several icons. The main content area of the window is titled 'Data and Layer Files' and contains a list of layers with checkboxes and expand/collapse symbols. The 'High Value Lands Data' section is highlighted in yellow, and its sub-items 'Riparian High Value Lands' and 'HVHabitat' are also highlighted. The map view on the right shows a satellite-style map with various colored overlays representing different data layers. A road with a '30' shield is visible in the lower right quadrant of the map.

Table of Contents

- Data and Layer Files
 - Other Reference Layers
 - RCS extent
 - RCS Buildings
 - RCS Roads
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 - Intertwine Land Cover (13 classes)
 - High Value Lands Data
 - Riparian High Value Lands
 - HVHabitat
 - intertwine/RCS_Upland_Priorities

Getting and using the data: non-GIS users



What's next?

- Improving regional data sets: oak mapping
- Technical subcommittee researching how to make the data more useful and developing additional tools and trainings.
- **Willing to help?**
To (mis)quote Pogo, *The Intertwine is us*. We need folks to help develop approaches and tools that we can all benefit from.

Where to get the data and how to get involved

- Get the documents on CD here today!
- Contact greg.chase@oregonmetro.gov to engage deeper.
- Go to www.TheIntertwine.org/conservation to get documents or request the data and viewing tools.

Thank you!

The Intertwine Alliance's

**Regional Conservation Strategy
for the greater Portland-Vancouver
metropolitan area**

**A framework and some tools to
improve conservation practices**

Jonathan Soll

Metro Natural Areas Program

Representing the Intertwine Alliance

UERC Conference 2013