



Landscape Conservation Design

Connect the Connecticut

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North Atlantic  Landscape Conservation Cooperative



The Big Picture – LCC Network



LCC-Supported Landscape Conservation Designs

The Vision of the LCC Network is "Landscapes capable of sustaining natural and cultural resources for current and future generations." To proactively pursue this Vision, the LCCs develop landscape conservation designs as mechanisms for identifying, designing, and delivering (through partners) an ecologically connected network of landscapes and seascapes adaptable to global change.

This mapper provides unified information about the suite of LCC-supported landscape conservation designs.

Please note that boundaries are subject to change as projects are further developed.



[View other LCC-Supported Landscape Conservation Designs](#)

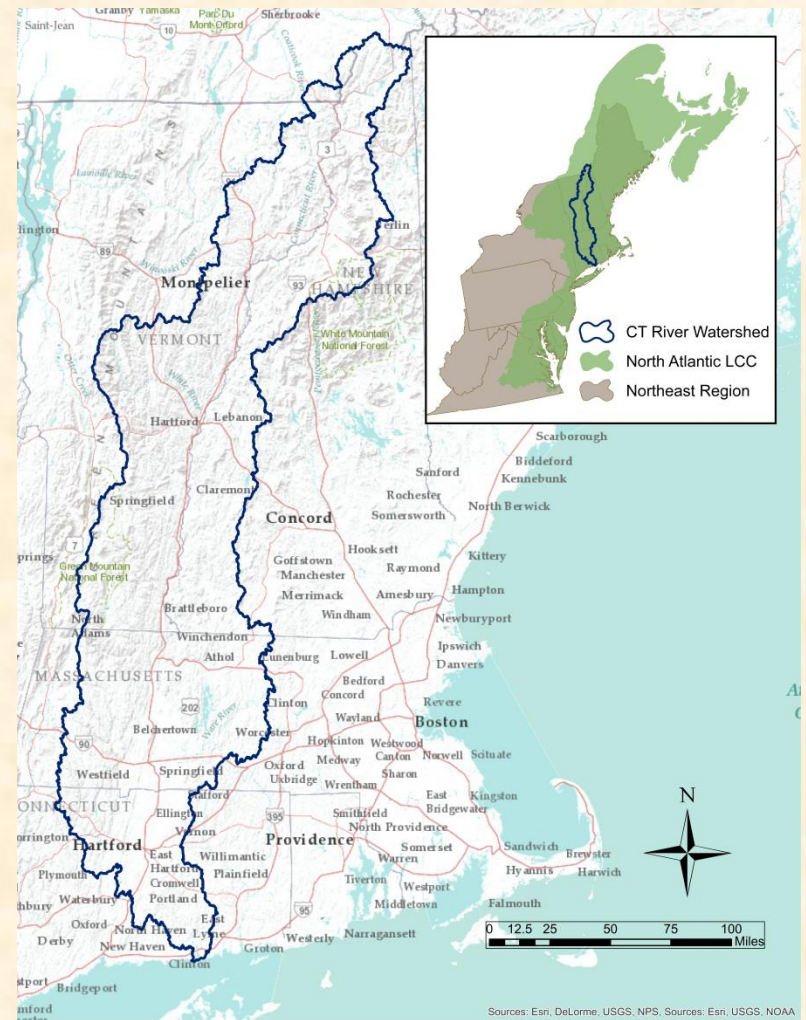
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Connect the Connecticut

A collaborative effort to identify the best places to start.

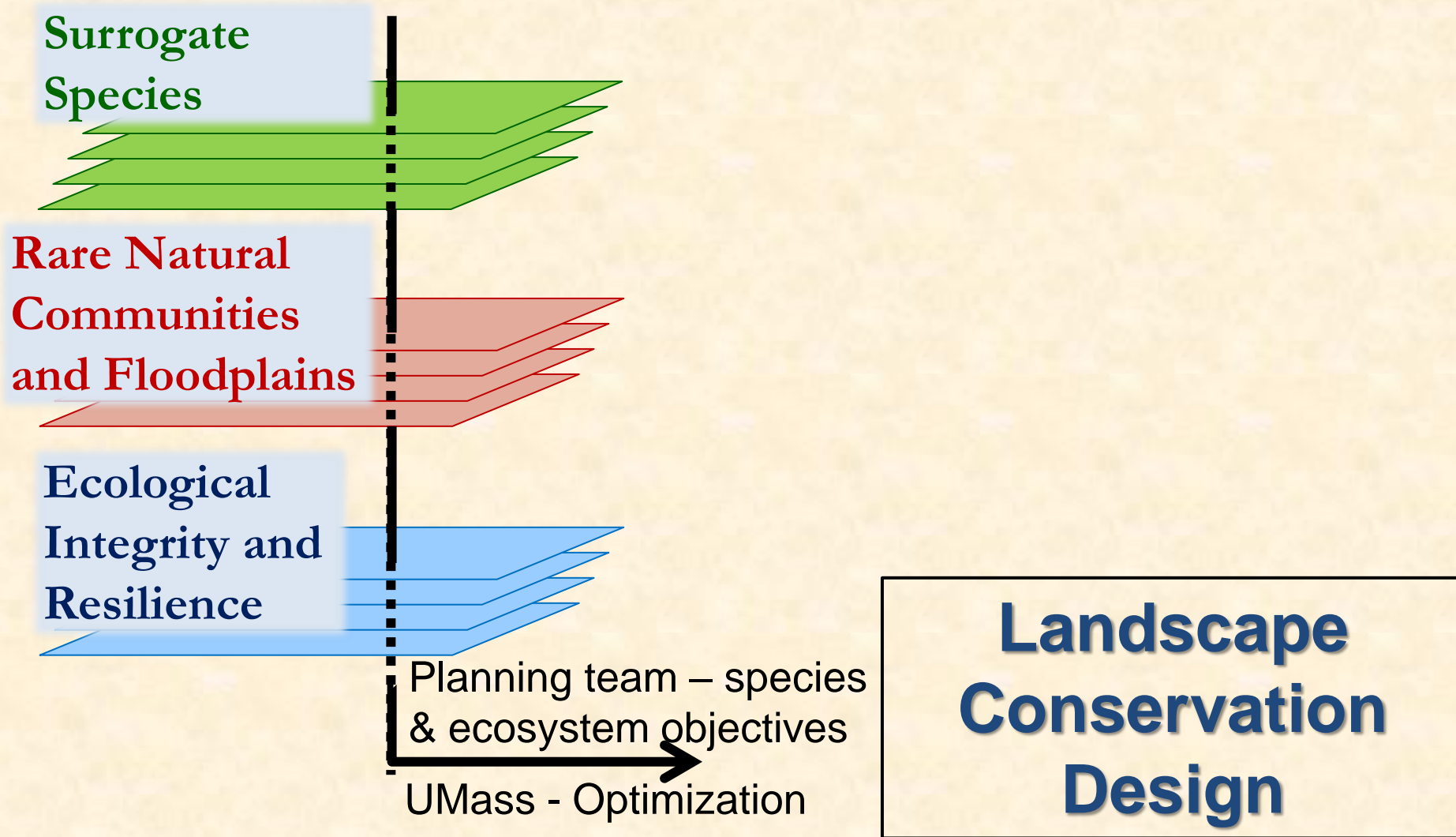
- Areas that partners agree are priorities
- Considers value of important species, habitats, and natural processes
- Prioritize conservation actions in a future that includes climate and land use change



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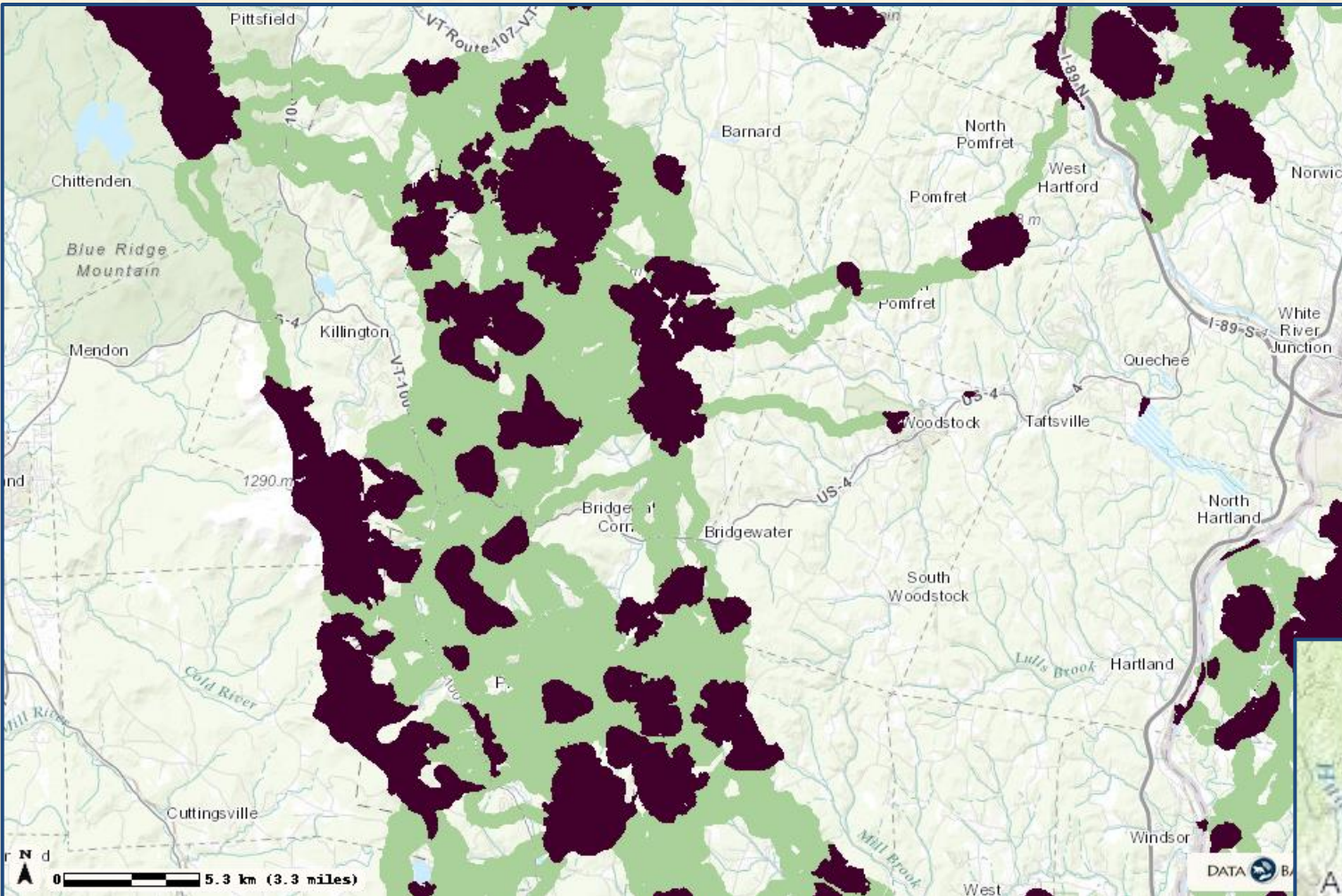
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Core Area Network - Terrestrial

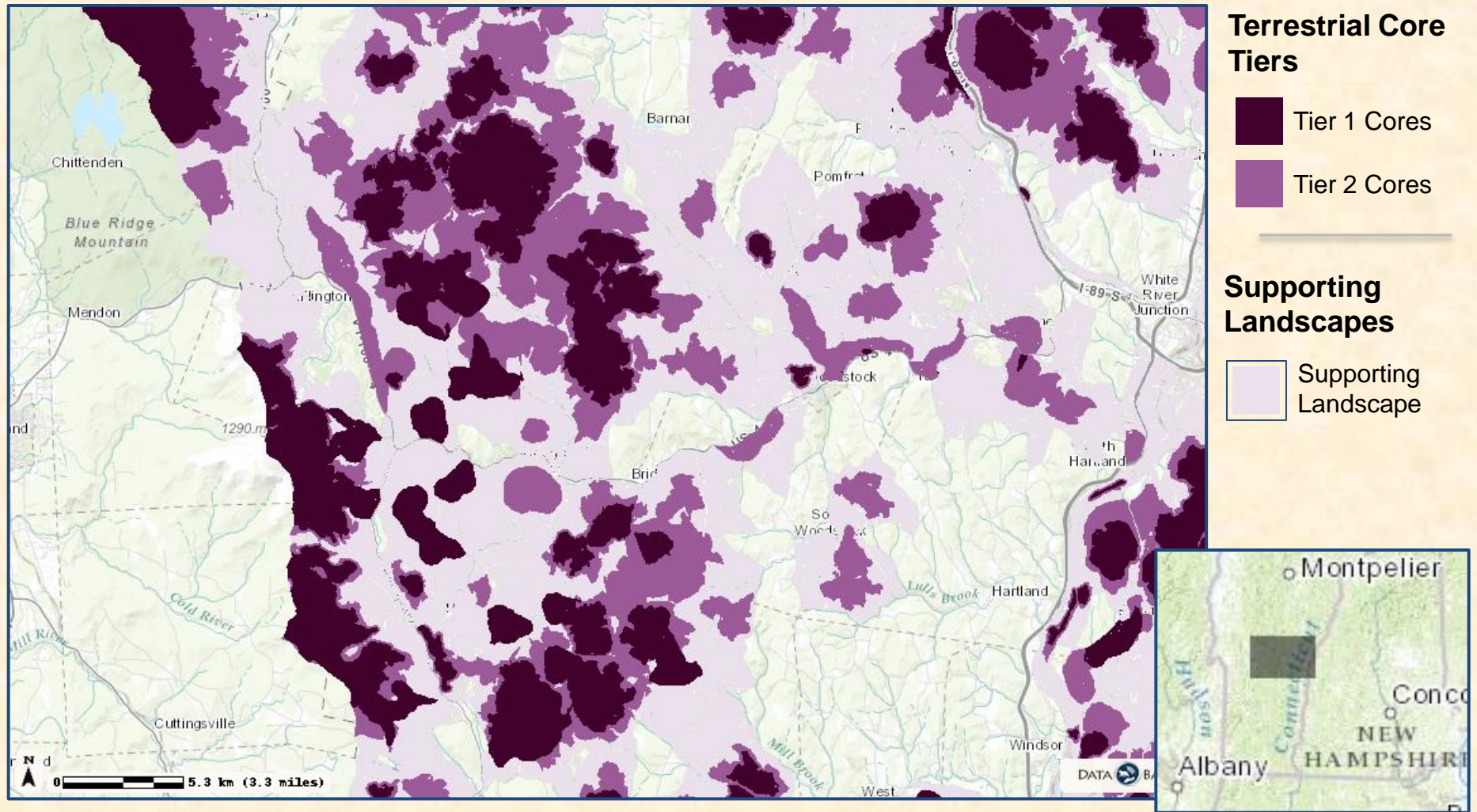
Terrestrial Core and Connector Network, CT River Watershed

- Connector
- Core



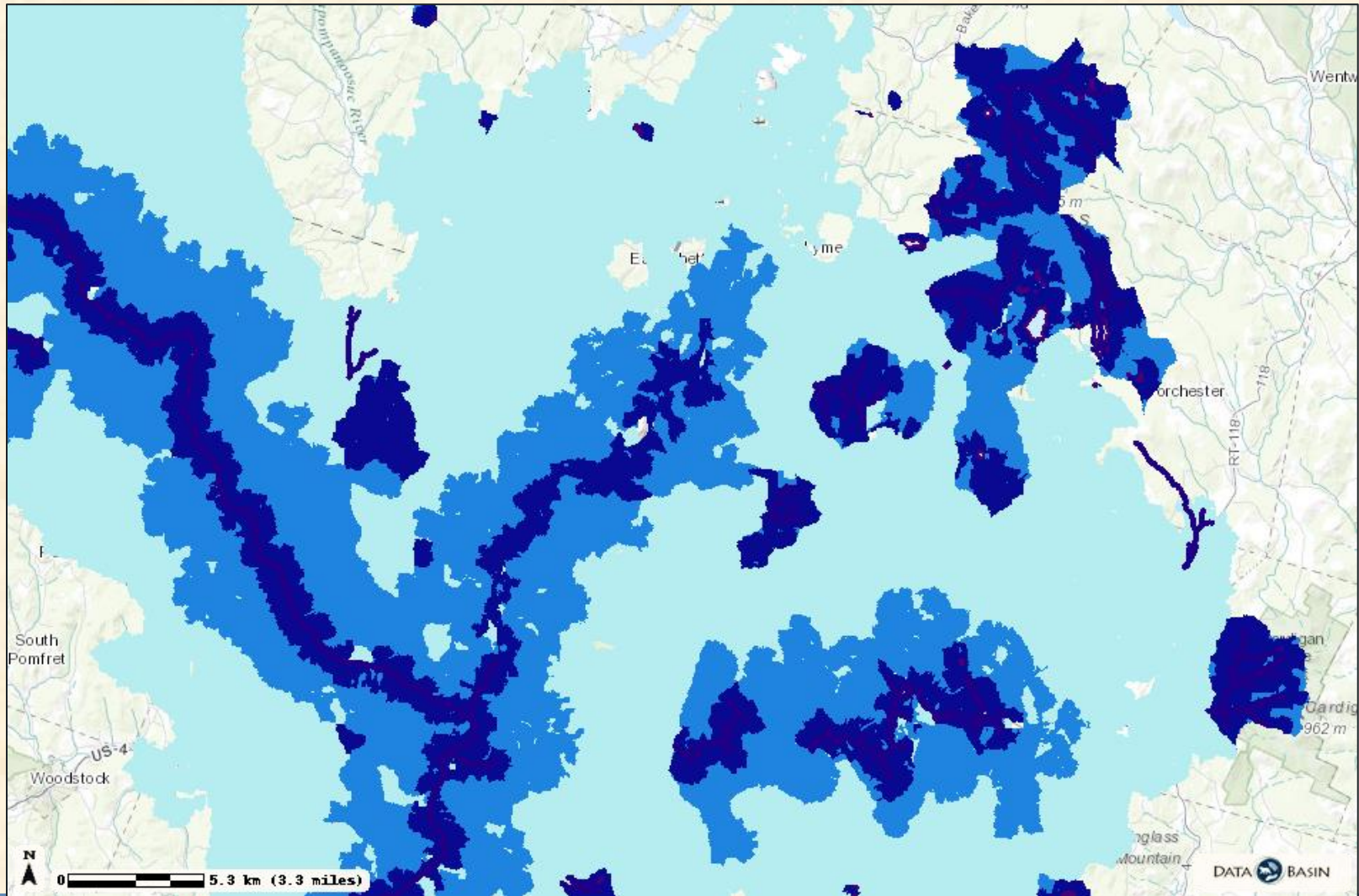
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Core Area Network - Terrestrial



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Core Area Network - Aquatic



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Restoration Tools

Dam removal impacts,

-  High impact
-  Medium impact
-  Low impact
-  Very low impact



Culvert upgrade impacts

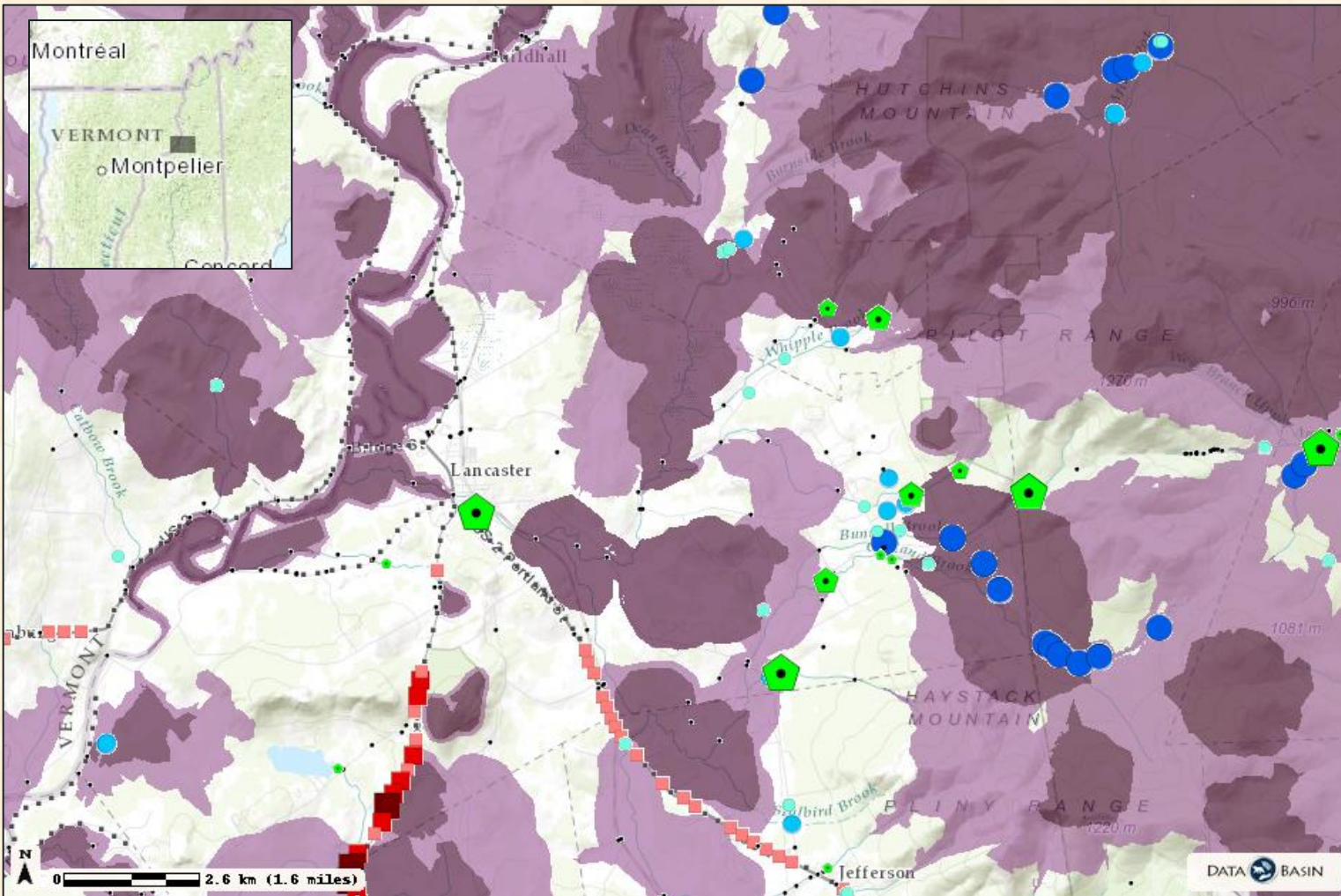
-  High impact
-  Medium impact
-  Low impact
-  Very low impact

Terrestrial road passage structure impacts

-  High impact
-  Medium impact
-  Low impact
-  Very low impact

Terrestrial Core and Connector Network

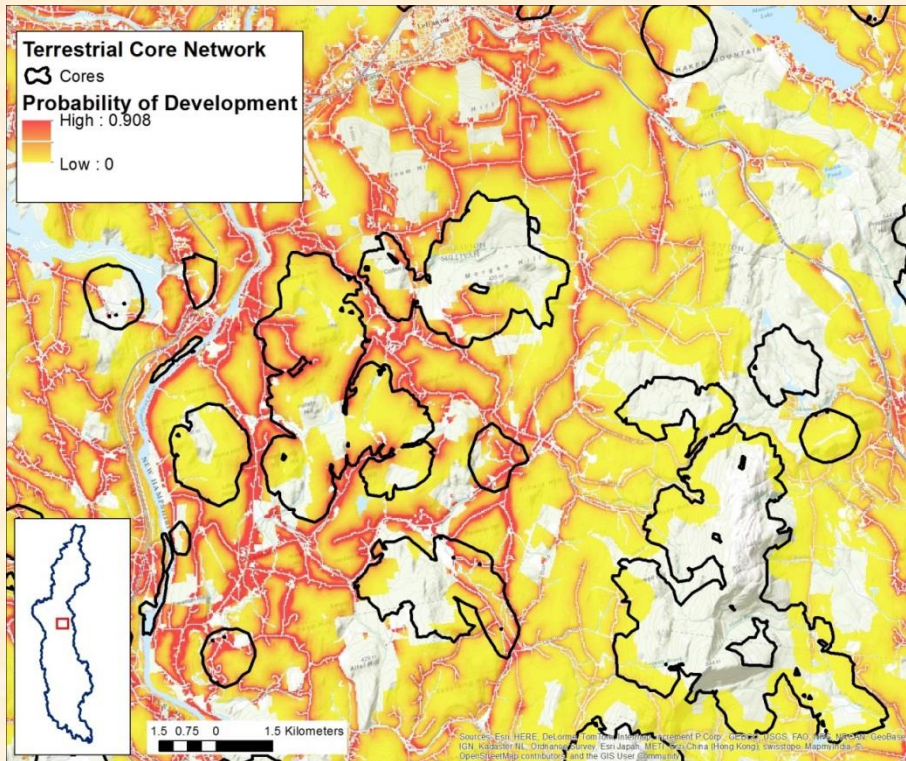
-  tier 1 core
-  tier 2 core



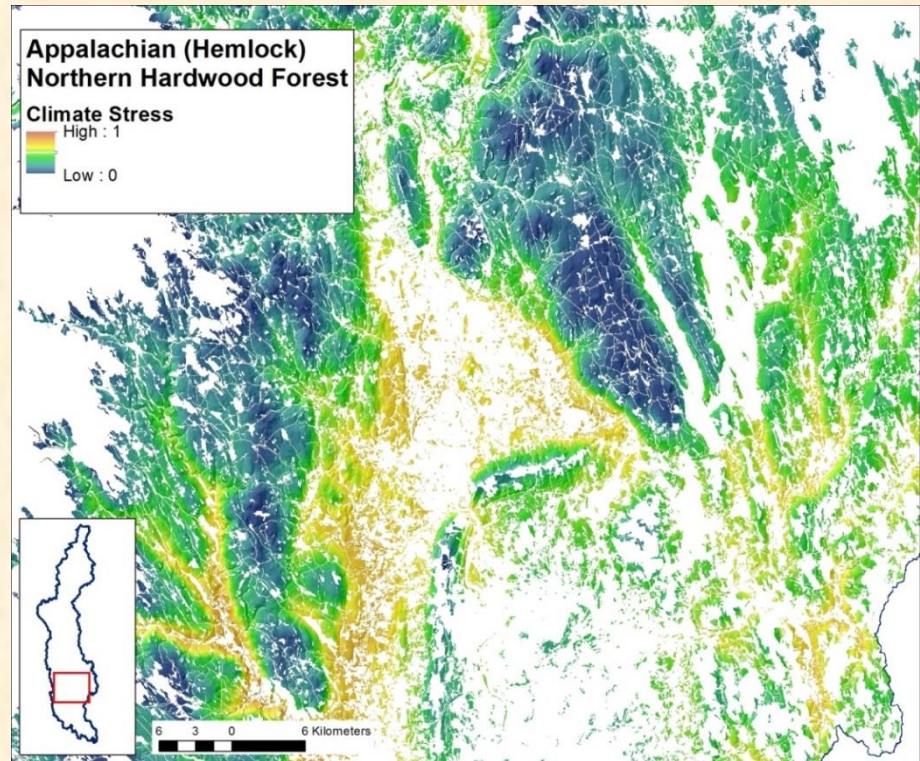
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Supplementary Data

Development probability



Climate stress



A New Phase: Roll-out and Testing



- **Local:** Land trusts and private landowners
- **State:** Wildlife agencies and heritage programs
- **Federal:** Silvio O. Conte refuge and the Long Island Sound Estuary program



Communications

Conservation Science in Action

Connect the Connecticut

A shared vision for conserving the Connecticut River watershed for future generations

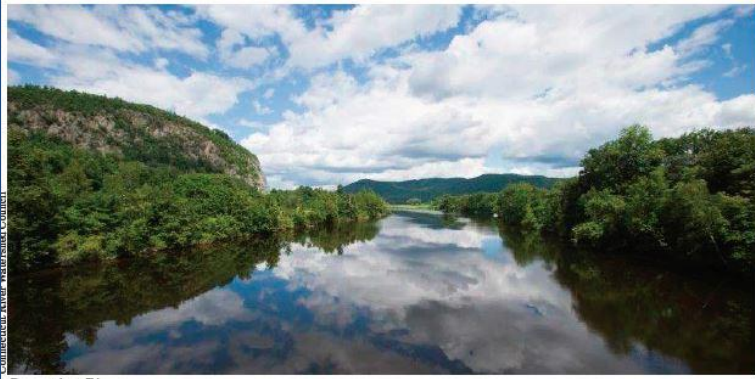
Common resources, shared vision
Encompassing New England's largest river system, the Connecticut River watershed provides important habitat for a diversity of fish, wildlife and plants—from iconic species like bald eagle and black bear to threatened and endangered species like the shortnose sturgeon, piping plover, and dwarf wedgemussel. The watershed is also a source of clean water, recreation, food, jobs, and more, for the millions of people living in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

The best places to start
The most effective long-term strategy for sustaining natural resources across a large landscape like the Connecticut River watershed is to keep important parts of it intact and connected. *Connect the Connecticut* is a collaborative effort to identify the best places to start: the areas within the watershed that partners agree are priorities for conservation to ensure that important species, habitats, and

natural processes will be sustained into the future—even in the face of climate and land use change.

Tools for diverse partners
Using the best available science and information from the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative, including an innovative modeling approach developed by the Designing Sustainable Landscapes Project at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, a team of more than 30 partners from state and federal agencies and private organizations spent more than a year creating a conservation "design" for the watershed. Outlining a network of core areas, or intact, connected, and resilient places within the watershed, the design serves as a roadmap for conservation. It includes a variety of datasets and tools people from all sectors can use voluntarily to make more informed decisions about managing lands and waters. These natural areas provide habitat for wildlife and support local economies and the overall health and well-being of communities.

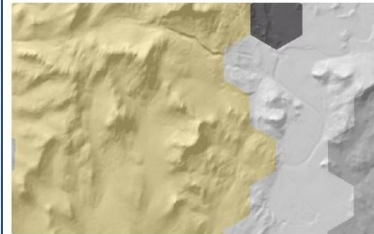
Protecting fish, wildlife, and natural systems
Connect the Connecticut is a unified vision that considers the value of fish and wildlife species and the natural systems they inhabit. High quality habitat for a set of 16 fish and wildlife species—including American woodcock, black bear, and Eastern brook trout—is a key component of the network of core areas. The partnership identified these species to represent others that rely on similar habitats within the major types of natural systems in the watershed—from spruce-fir forests to small streams to freshwater marshes. By ensuring that high quality habitat for these representative species is included, the design addresses the needs of a range of fish and wildlife. Other key components of the core areas include high quality, resilient locations of both rare and common ecosystem types throughout the watershed, from Long Island Sound to the peaks of the White Mountains.



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Connect the
CONNECTICUT
A shared vision for conserving the Connecticut River watershed for future generations

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TNC geophysical setting

Category: Base Data

A geophysical settings (abiotic aspects of the environment, such as topography) Conservancy. Full details on the TNC Northeast Resilience Project are available is used to create the TNC terrestrial resiliency index (TResiliency.tif), described by

View this product as a web map on Data Basin.

Access this data as a GIS download from the North Atlantic LCC website (coming soon)

Read the Technical Abstract for this data layer.

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David Paulson

Endangered Species Review Biologist
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program

Conservation goals:

Massachusetts has a rich biological legacy and is home to a wide array of plants and animals. It is the Division's mandate to conserve and manage these natural resources. The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program is responsible for the conservation and protection of hundreds of non-game species in the state. The Program's highest priority is protecting the Commonwealth's rare vertebrate and invertebrate animals and native plants.

How Connect the Connecticut connects:

Understanding all of the conservation partners in the region and how they operate helps us all leverage scarce resources. When you bring together a whole range of people who are thinking about regional conservation, you start to develop valuable networks and relationships. But if you want to actually get people working together, thinking across state lines, and leveraging resources, you need to have the best possible data available. This project does both.

How it will inform work on the ground:

With limited resources and staff, you have to maximize every opportunity and utilize available conservation tools. So this is another tool in our toolkit. It can help us tell a compelling story to justify why we are focusing on certain area. The more reasons you can give to say a particular area is important, the stronger the case you can make to funders and to staff during internal



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