Shared Ecological Priorities:

Northeast Regional Conservation Opportunity Areas
Version 1.0

Update for Regional Conservation Partnerships

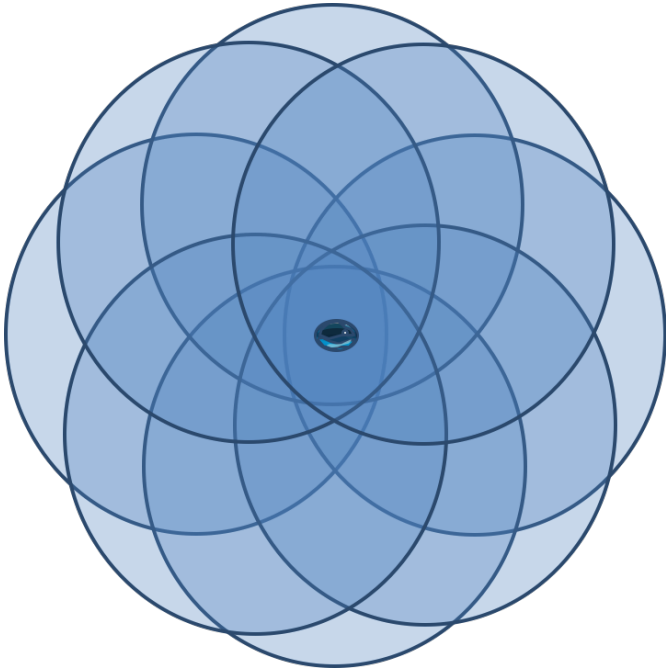
November 2016, 2016

Steve Fuller, USFWS-North Atlantic LCC

Vision

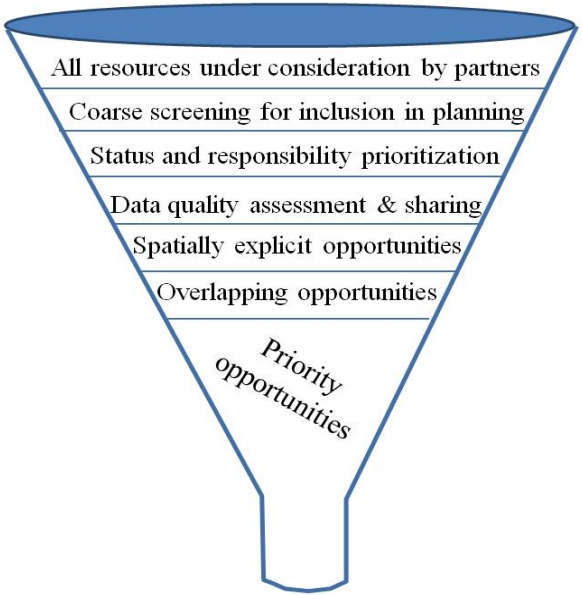
A **connected** network of **resilient** and **ecologically intact** habitats that will support **biodiversity** under changing conditions...

We need aligned priorities

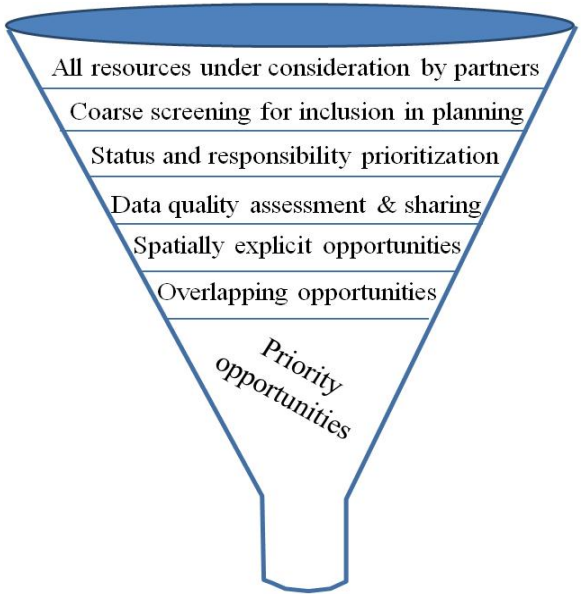


The intersection of places and missions of partners.

We need aligned priorities



We need aligned priorities



Right Now

We need aligned priorities

We have them!

What we did

A team of partners from **13 states, the NALCC, USFWS, NGOs,** and universities worked together to **align priorities** and map opportunities for unified conservation action across the Northeast region.

What it means

The project mapped a landscape pattern and created a **suite of resources** that partners can **use voluntarily** to help **identify opportunities for conserving key habitats** and the species that depend on them.

What it means

New tools for aligning priorities can help partners to:

- **“all pull in the same direction”**
- **base actions on science**
- **implement efficiently and with precision**

Summary of Review Process

Snapshot of participants in August webinar series

TOPIC	ATTENDEES	AGENCIES/ ORGS	STATES
Overview of Data Use & Application (Repeated 4 times)	60	25	MA, MD, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA
Terrestrial Core Networks	19	10	MA, ME, NH, NJ, PA, VA
Connectivity	19	8	ME, NH, NJ, VA
Restoration	17	8	MA, ME, NH, NJ, VA
Aquatic Core Networks	11	8	ME, NJ, VA
Important Habitats	19	8	NH, NJ, PA, RI, VA

Introduction

Objectives

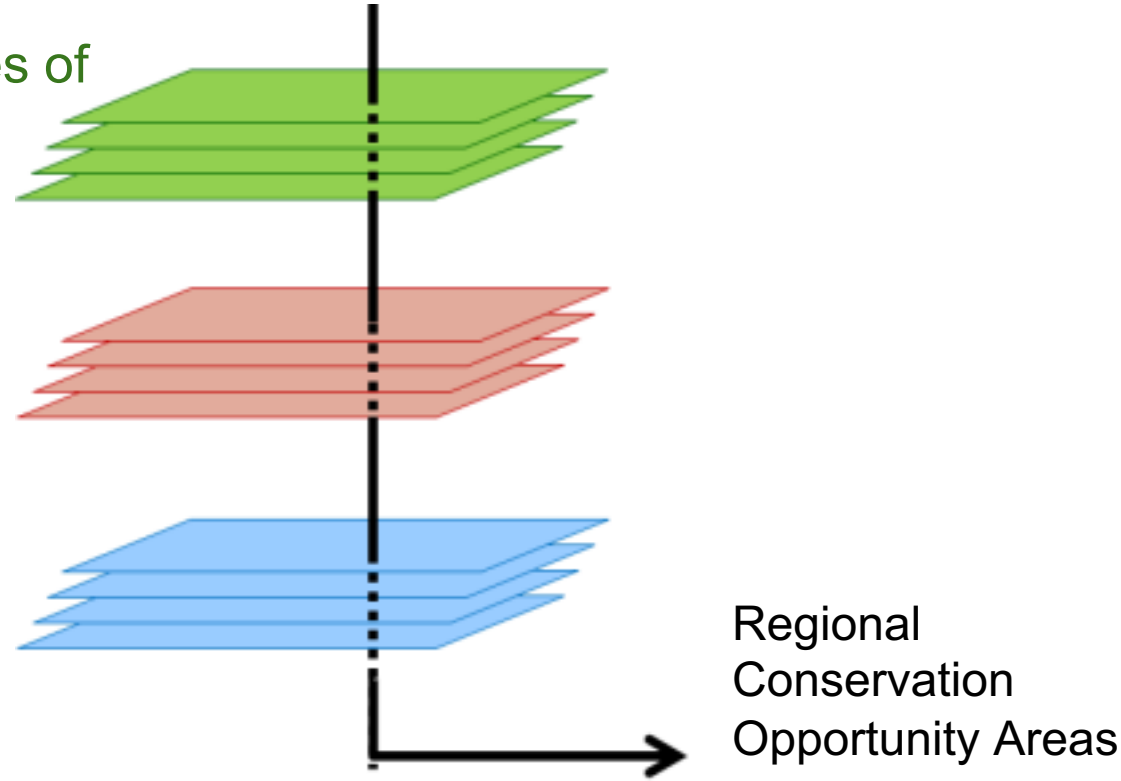
CORE AREAS	Identify intact landscapes that, if protected or maintained in their current condition, may support the greatest diversity of species and their habitats in the Northeast.
IMPERILED & SGCN HABITATS	Identify areas important to imperiled species and SGCN, occurring outside of core areas identified above, that if protected, would help secure their habitat in the Northeast.
RESTORATION	Identify areas of degraded habitat having high restoration potential, that if restored would contribute to the conservation opportunity areas identified above.
CONNECTIVITY	Identify areas that enhance the connectivity and ecological function of landscapes that are important to support biodiversity, imperiled species, and SGCN as identified above.

Design Builds Upon a Host of Datasets and Assessments

Habitat for dozens of species of fish and wildlife

Integrity and resilience of ecosystems

Locations of rare natural communities

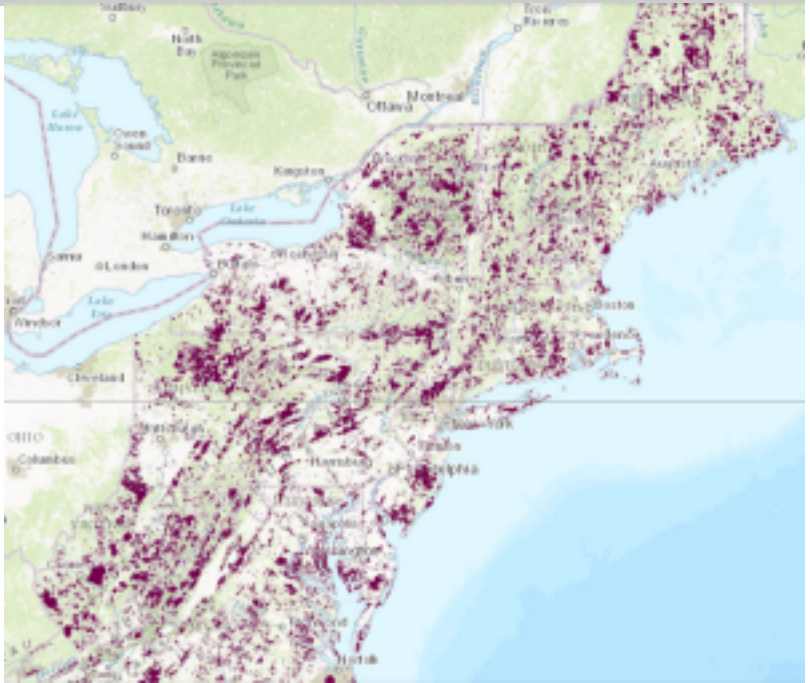


Core habitat network

Based on terrestrial and aquatic habitats (Northeast Habitat Classification)

Mapped core areas show alignment of:

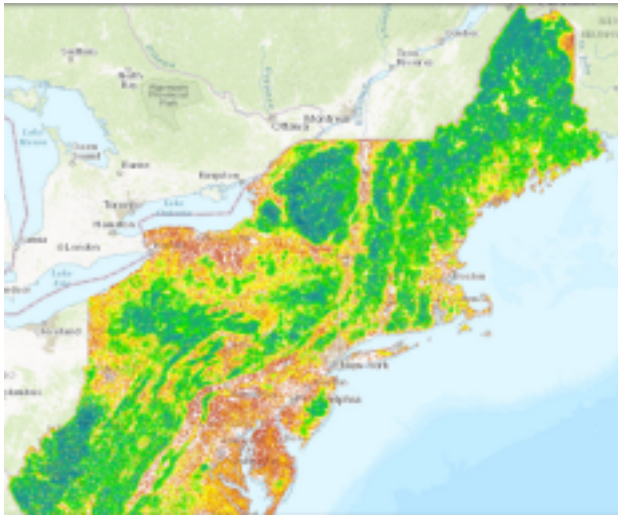
- **UMASS** Index of Ecological Integrity
- **TNC** Resiliency
- Representative species
- State Natural Communities



Habitat for Representative Species

UMass Designing Sustainable Landscapes project + others

30 representative species of terrestrial and wetland wildlife

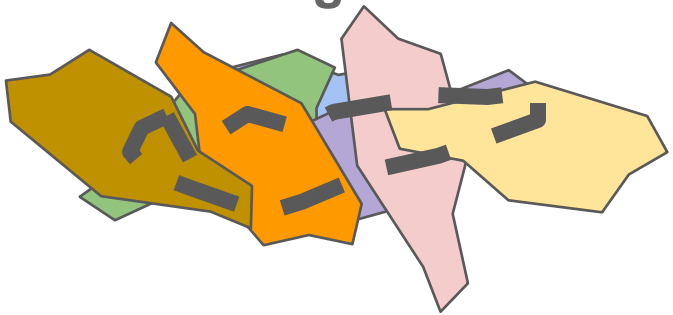


Brook trout and anadromous fish

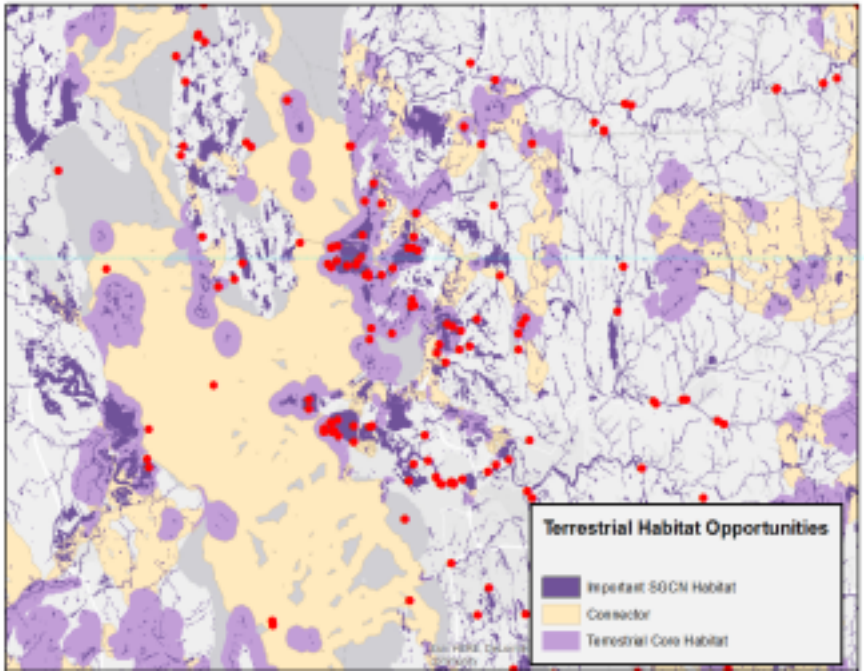
Important habitats for SGCN

A clear pattern for biodiversity based on thousands of species

- It is most efficient to find maximum **alignment** of habitats



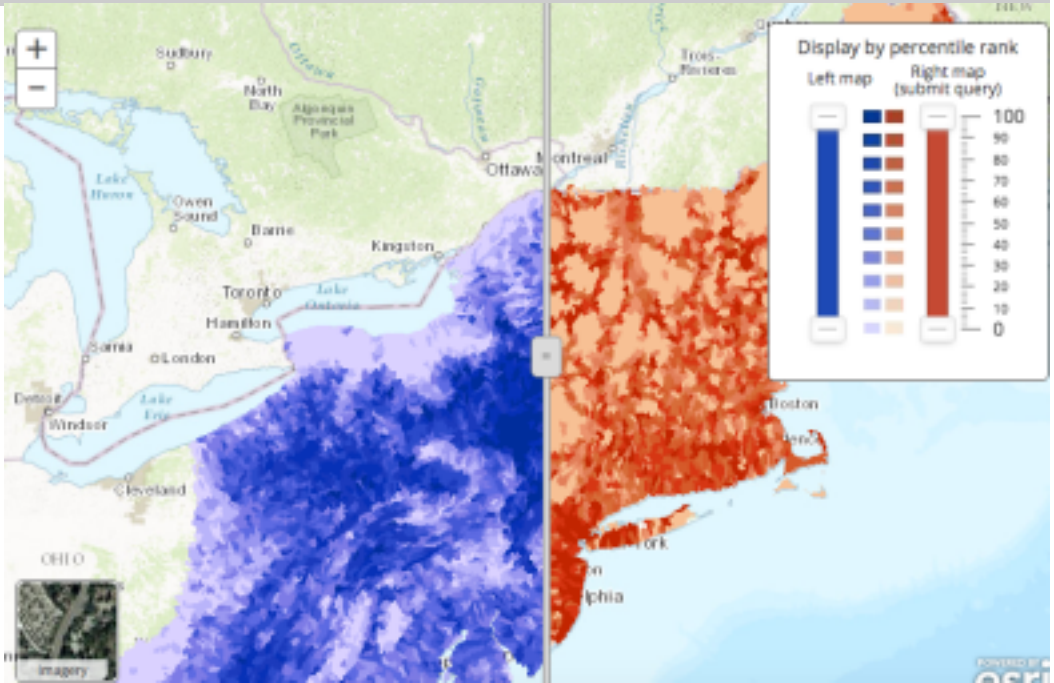
- **Riparian habitats are critical for all plants and animals**



Interactive Restoration Tool

Tool for interactive conservation planning

- Allows managers to develop custom prioritization scenarios and download their own results



Regional Conservation Opportunity Areas Version 1.0

One region, 13 states, thousands of opportunities to move conservation forward together

LEARN MORE | EXPLORE THE MAPS

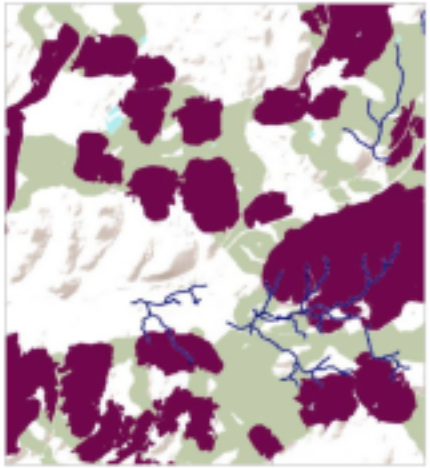



Data & Tools

Regional Conservation Opportunity Areas Version 1.0 offers a suite of decision-support tools that are intended to complement information and expertise developed by state agencies, federal programs, and partner organizations. These resources provide regional context to help people working at any scale identify best opportunities for conserving intact terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, supporting habitat for species, restoring habitats, and connecting natural areas across the Northeast.

Regional Conservation Opportunity Areas Version 1.0 is a dynamic tool that will evolve over time based on updated information. Feedback on this product will be used to improve the next iteration, Version 2.0.

To review the maps, click the button below to visit the Regional Conservation Opportunity Areas Version 1.0 gallery on the North Atlantic LCC's Conservation Planning Atlas (Data Basin), a free mapping platform where you can access all the spatial data.



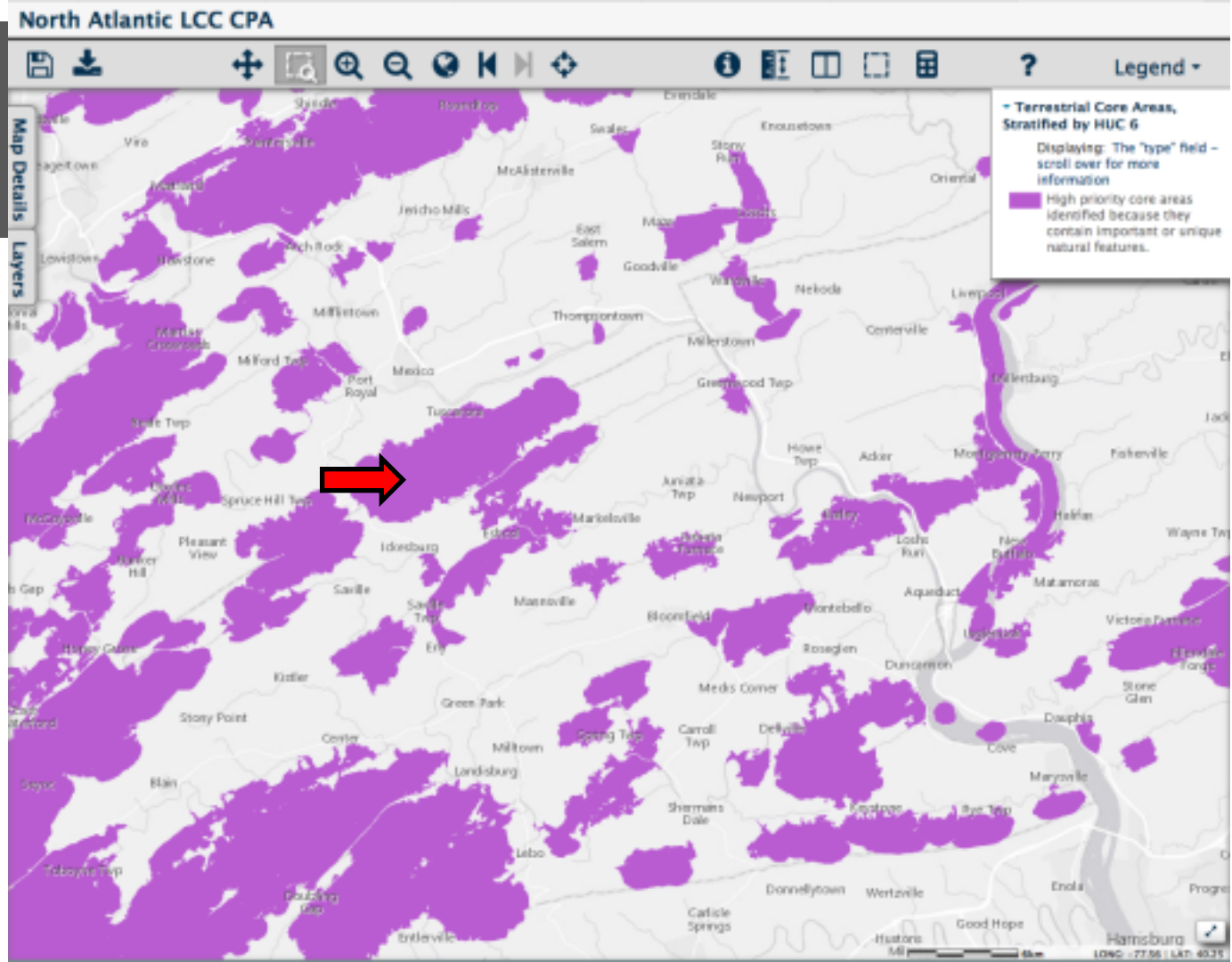
Review the maps here

Access restoration tool

What maps are available?

Core Areas

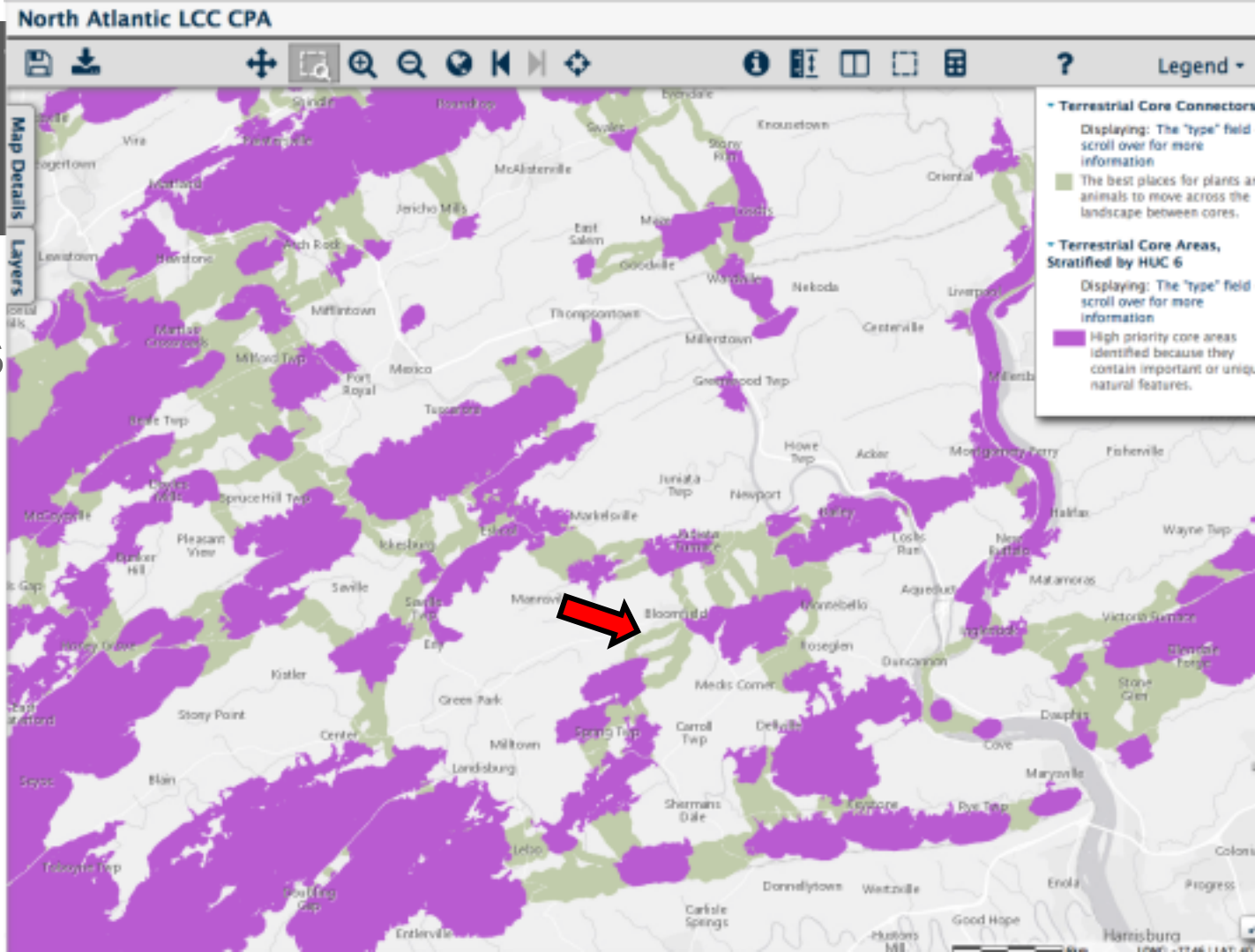
- ➔ bear
- ➔ moose
- ➔ grouse
- ➔ woodcock



What maps are available?

Connectors

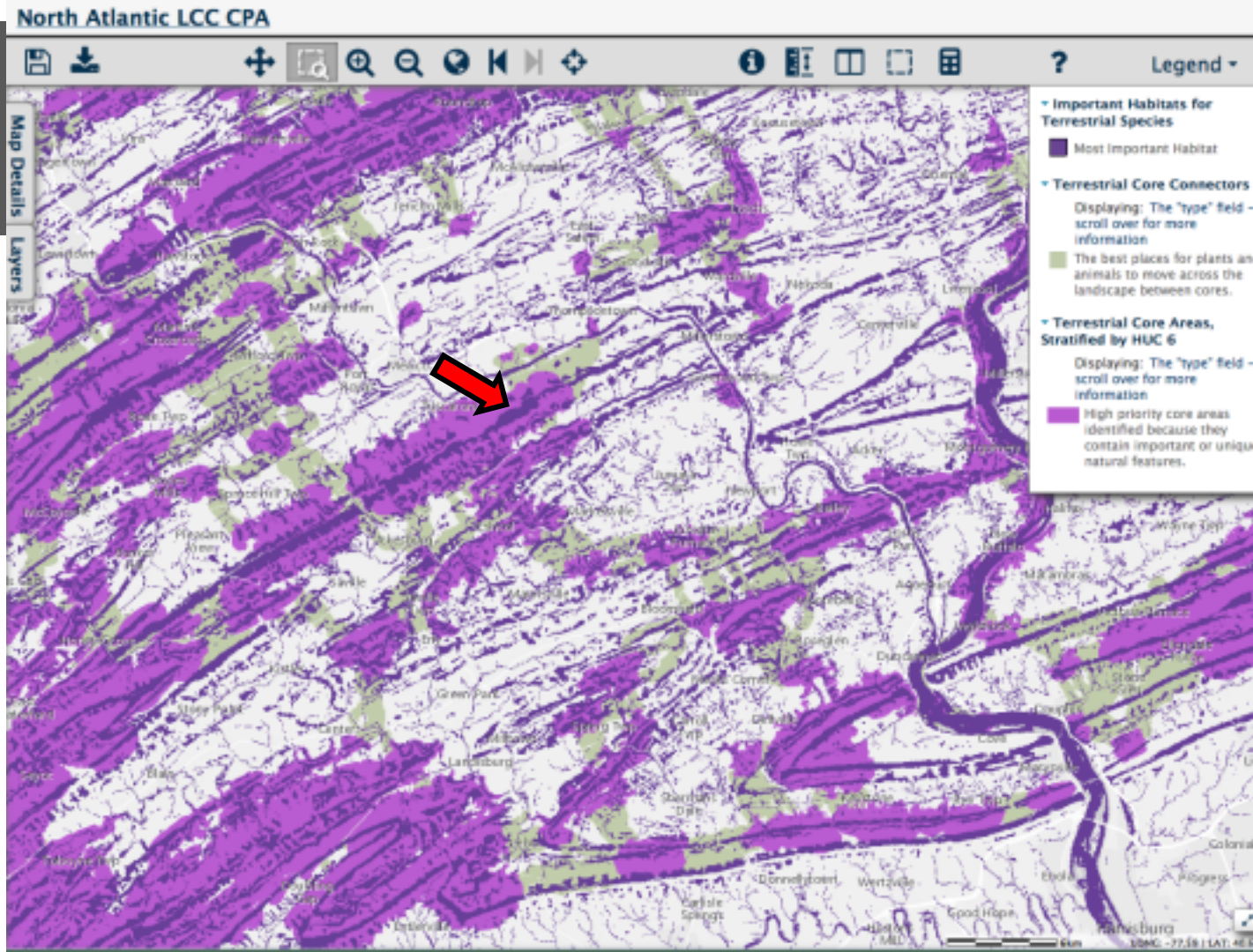
➔ All species



What maps are available?

Important Habitats

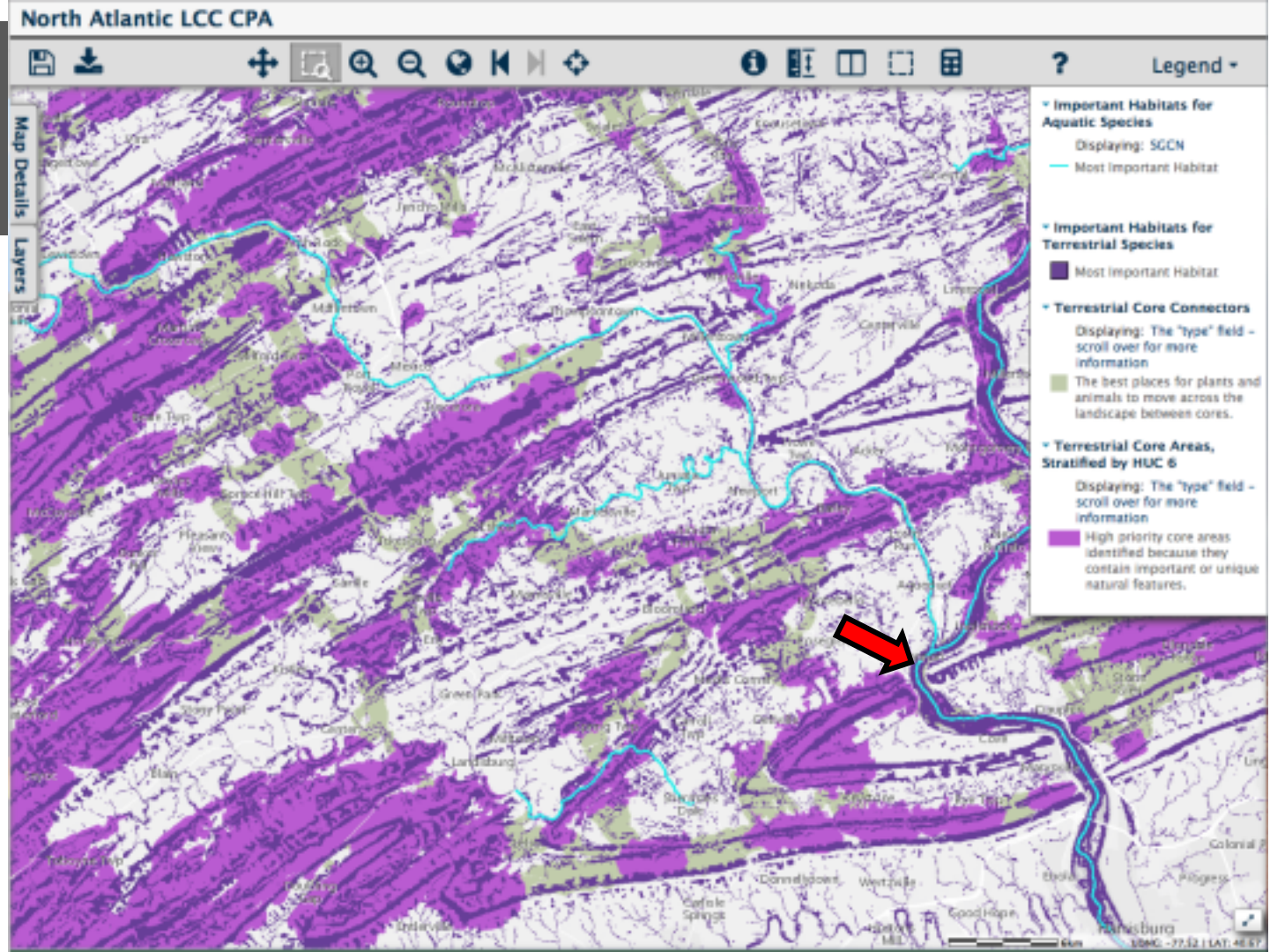
➔ All species
- riparian
- SGCN



What maps are available?

Important Aquatic Features

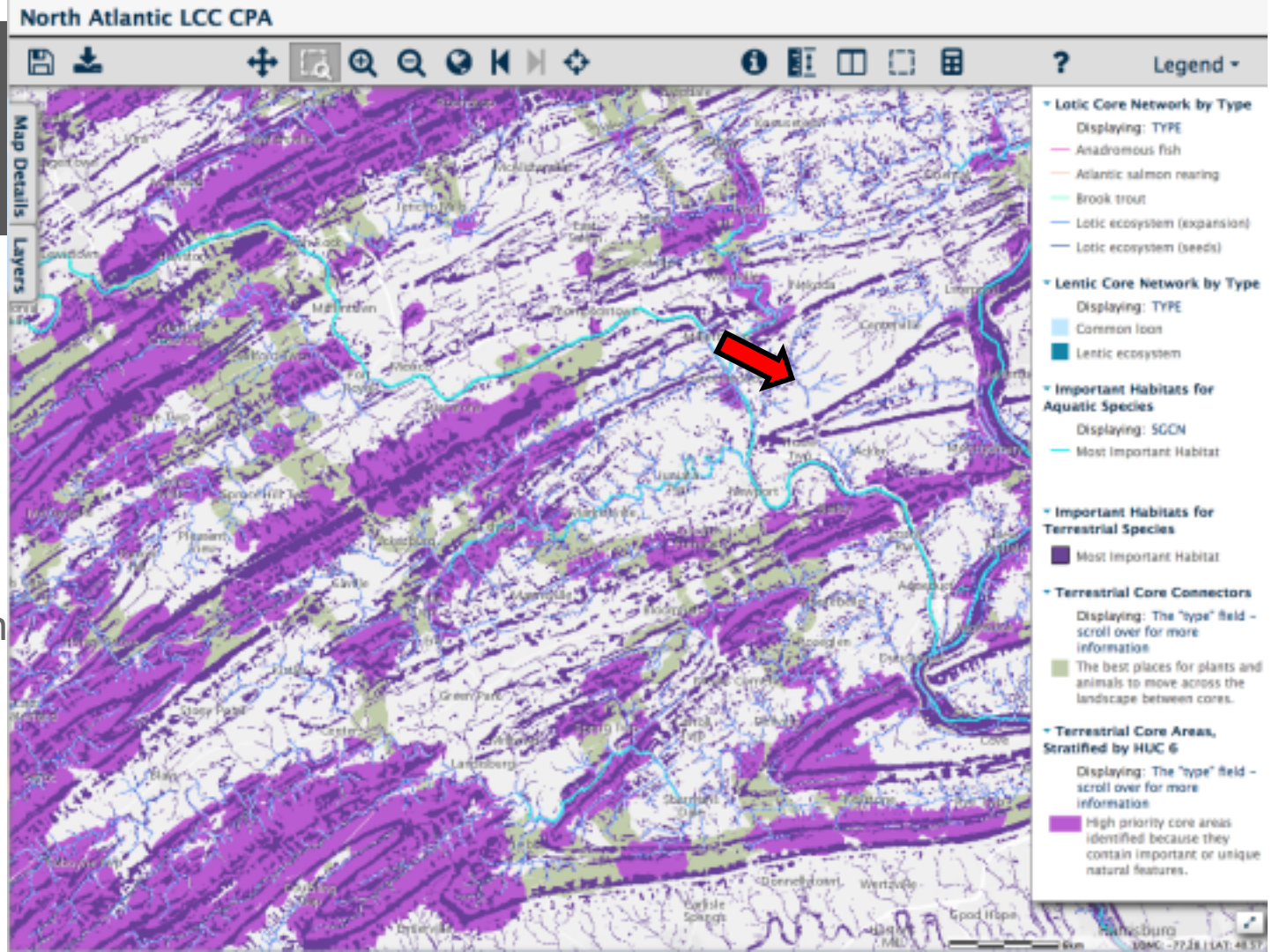
→ SGCN



What maps are available?

Aquatic Networks

- ➔ anadromous fish
- ➔ Atlantic salmon
- ➔ brook trout



Demonstration

Data & Tools

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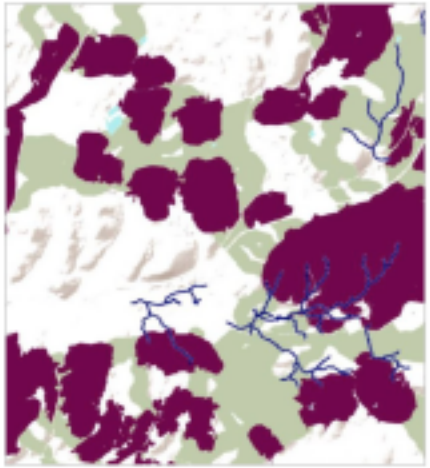

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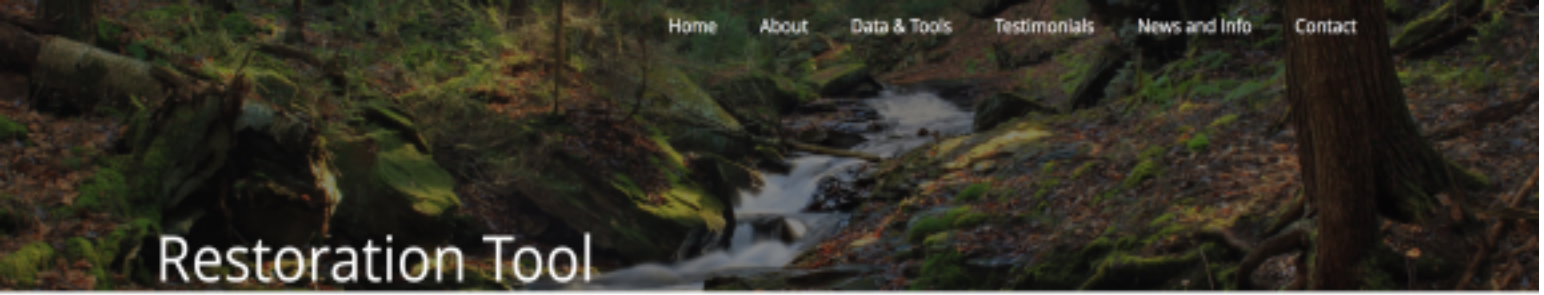


Sandbox

Access all available datasets and design your own restoration scenario

Get started

Early Successional Habitat

Access restoration scenarios developed by experts

American woodcock: forest management

American woodcock: riparian restoration

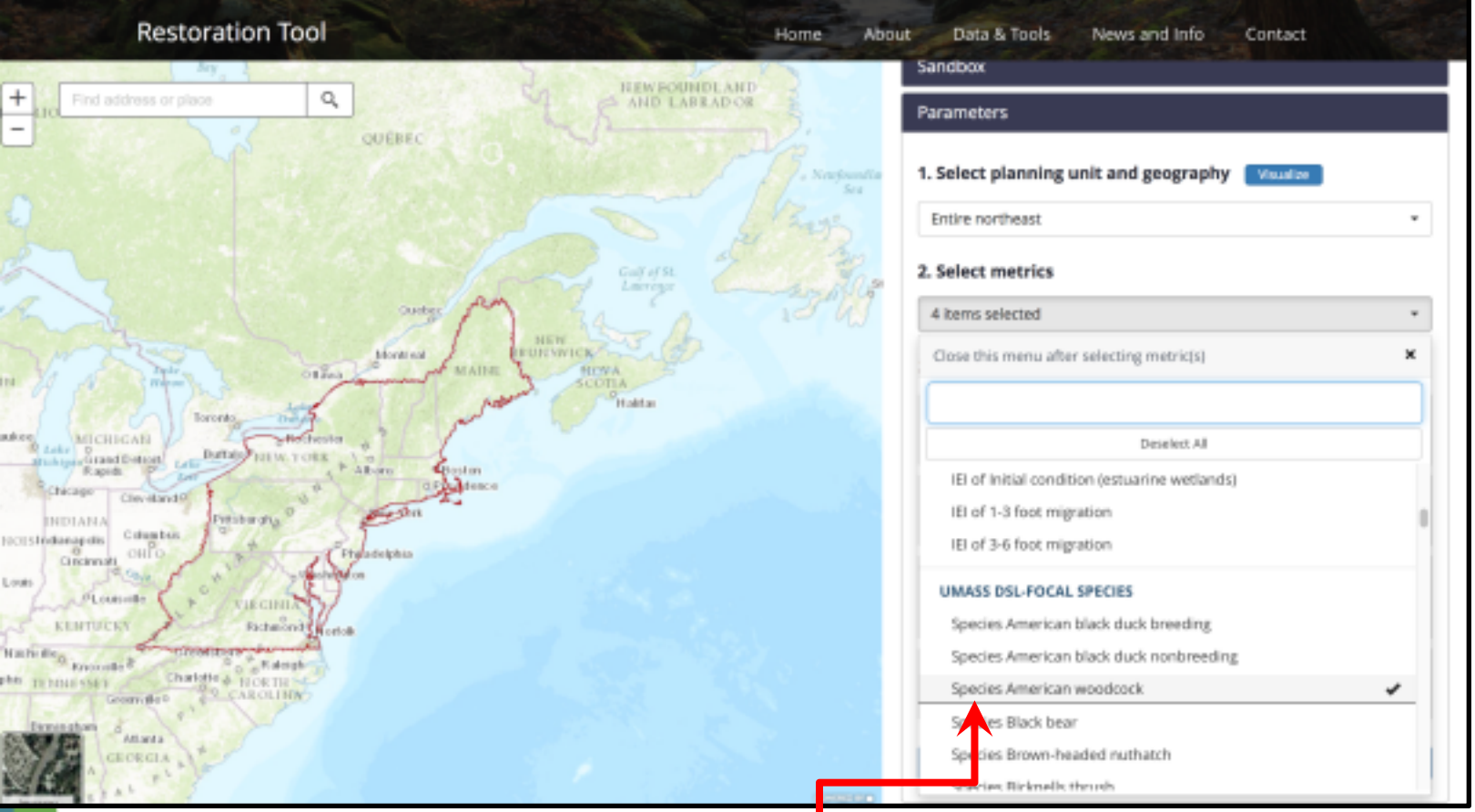
American black duck: demo

Aquatic Habitat

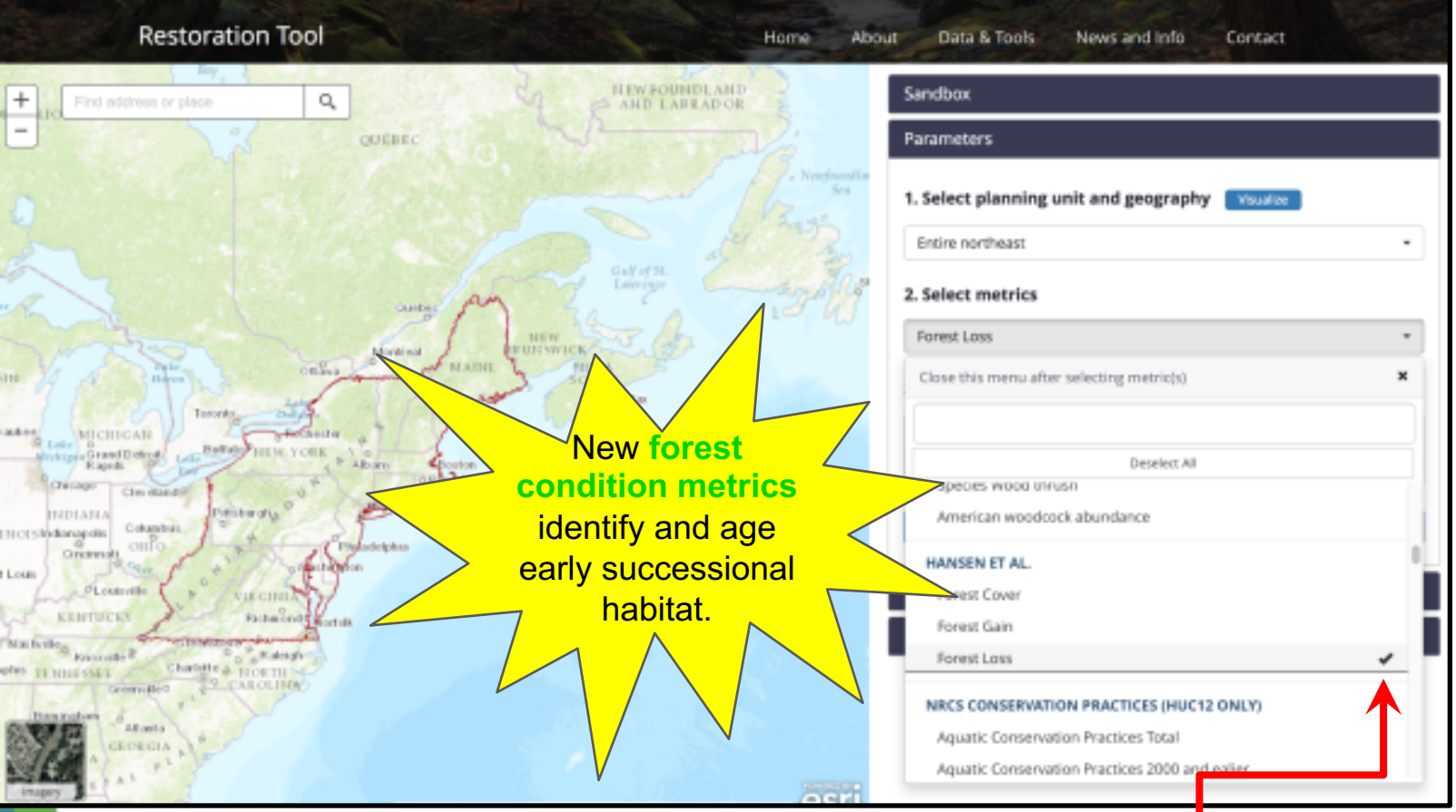
Access restoration scenarios developed by experts

Road-stream crossings

Expert scenarios can be uploaded.



1. Select a target species or habitat.



2. Select important forest metrics for prioritizing work.