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# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Conserve Virginia Virginia's Land Conservation Strategy Version 3.0

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
October 2021  
(revised April 2022)



# **ConserveVirginia Virginia's Land Conservation Strategy**

Version 3.0

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## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

### **ConserveVirginia** **2021 Update**

In April 2018, Governor Ralph Northam announced a new approach to land conservation in Virginia:

*"I believe that we need a land conservation strategy that is focused and targeted toward making measurable progress on our natural resource goals...Through this data-driven process, we will prioritize the most important targeted lands and direct limited resources toward those conservation projects that provide the greatest benefit in the most cost-effective manner."*

Virginia's land conservation investments are essential to making the Commonwealth a wonderful place to live and visit. Land and water conservation protects the places we love, supports a high quality of life and fosters economic growth and prosperity. In 2016, the Trust for Public Land reported that every \$1 invested in land conservation returns \$4 in economic value in natural goods and services in the form of improved air and water quality, carbon sequestration, and enhanced fish and wildlife habitat<sup>1</sup>. Governor Northam is dedicated to ensuring the highest conservation outcomes from state funds spent on protecting land. *ConserveVirginia*, which was codified into law in 2021 (§ 10.1-104.6:1), is a key tool in guiding those investments.

*ConserveVirginia* represents a data driven approach to land conservation that builds upon work already underway here and in other states. Virginia's first in the nation strategy takes the next step in identifying how and where to achieve the best conservation outcomes, and meets the Governor's directive to prioritize the most important lands from a statewide perspective, target limited resources toward those areas, and measure the progress we make toward achieving multiple conservation goals. *ConserveVirginia* creates a roadmap for land conservation across Virginia now and for years to come.

*ConserveVirginia*'s central feature is a living "smart map" that identifies approximately 7.8 million acres of priority lands for conservation. The *ConserveVirginia* map is the synthesis of 24 mapped data inputs, which have been divided into seven categories, each representing a different overarching conservation value. The categories are: Agriculture & Forestry; Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity; Floodplains & Flooding Resilience; Cultural & Historic Preservation; Scenic Preservation; Protected Landscapes Resilience; and Water Quality Improvement. The categories contain more than 6.09 million acres of agricultural and forest lands.

Outdoor recreation, including access for underserved communities, is a critical component of the strategy. In 2016, the Trust for Public Land reported that outdoor recreation generates \$13.6 billion in consumer spending and \$923 million in state and local tax revenues in Virginia. Identifying land conservation opportunities to expand upon recreational opportunities, on land and water, is a key consideration for conservation efforts across

all *ConserveVirginia* categories. The Virginia ConservationVision Nature-based Recreation Access Model and the Trust for Public Land's ParkServe Model are used to assess public access values of land conservation projects, to place emphasis on providing outdoor recreation opportunities in areas where there is currently greatest need. As with most land conservation, resource benefits cross multiple categories.

The *ConserveVirginia* map is designed to be regularly updated as new data become available, and additional resources and protection tools emerge. The law that established *ConserveVirginia* mandates an update no less than once every two years.

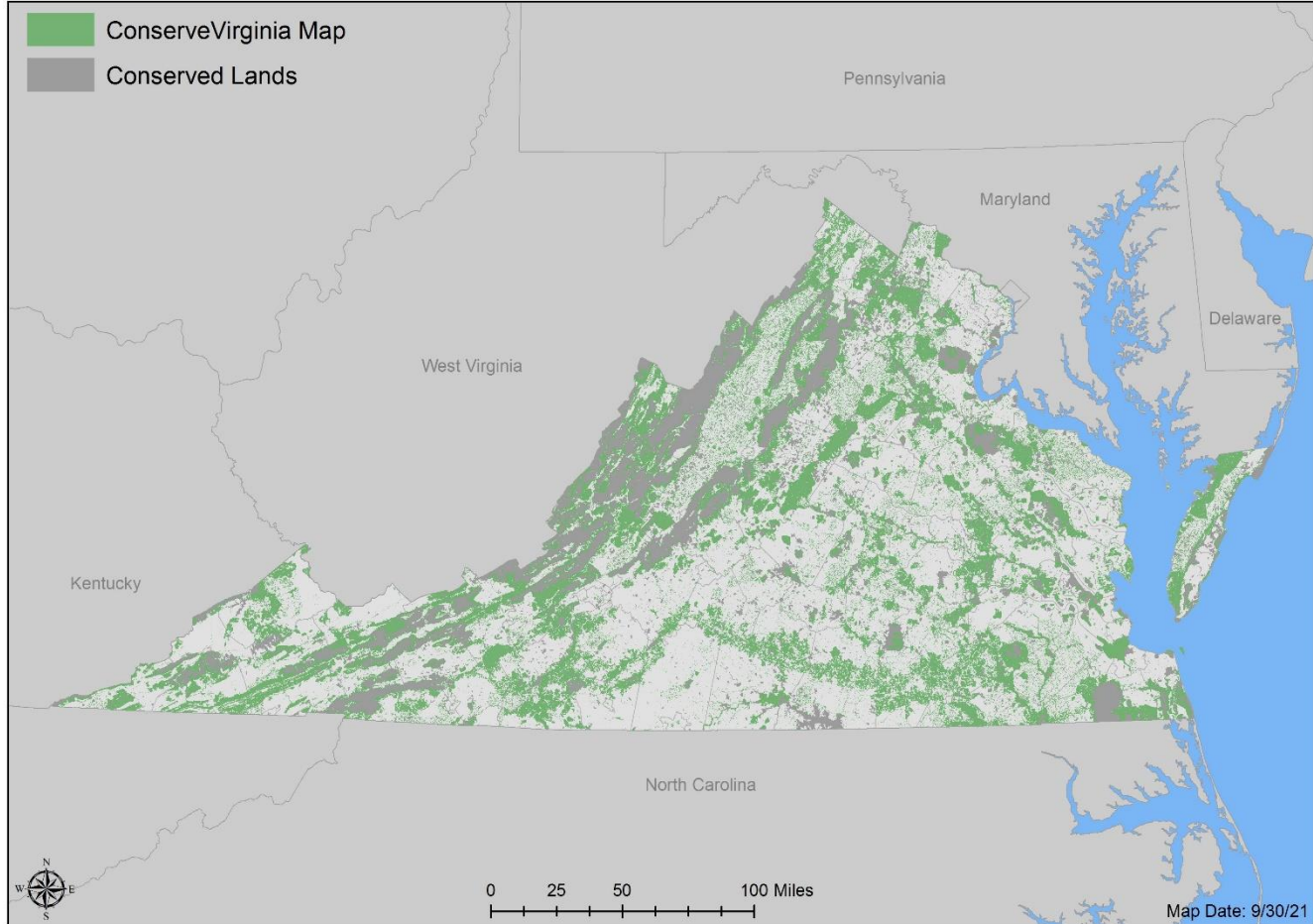
The 7,829,233 acres outlined in this Strategy are envisioned to guide land conservation in Virginia for the next generation. This Strategy charts a new path for data driven prioritized land conservation and a method by which to set both conservation and funding needs and monitor progress.

To help advance *ConserveVirginia*, Governor Northam has outlined three broad approaches;

- Engage the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and other state grant programs to place emphasis on funding projects identified in the strategy.
- State agencies will focus land conservation funds and efforts on these priority lands.
- Expand existing funding sources and create new funding sources and tools to advance protection of these priority lands.

Through the *ConserveVirginia* initiative, Virginia is leading targeted, value-based land conservation to ensure the greatest conservation outcomes and prosperity for future generations across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

# ConserveVirginia Map



## **ConserveVirginia Methodology**

To create *ConserveVirginia*, the Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources led an extensive effort to identify and map the Commonwealth's highest value conservation lands. Knowing that land conservation can address a wide array of interests and needs, the process began by identifying what conservation values were important to Virginians. In total, the Secretary, working closely with the land conservation community and a number of state agencies, identified 24 mapped data models, which have been divided into seven categories, each representing a different overarching conservation value. The categories are: Agriculture & Forestry; Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity; Floodplains & Flooding Resilience; Cultural & Historic Preservation; Scenic Preservation; Protected Landscapes Resilience; and Water Quality Improvement.

To ensure that *ConserveVirginia* identifies high value lands of concern to each community, 25 Land Trusts based or working in Virginia were consulted and their maps cross-referenced against priorities provided by 14 Land Trusts that had priority maps, or descriptions for which maps of Land Trust priorities could be produced. A similar cross-reference exercise was conducted for regional projects such as the Department of

Environmental Quality's Coastal Virginia Ecological Value Assessment and the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership's watershed-wide maps.

Each category is composed of multiple data models, each representing the highest conservation priorities based on the best available information and science. Existing datasets were shared by 15 state and federal agencies and organizations including the Nature Conservancy, VA Department of Wildlife Resources, VA Department of Conservation and Recreation, American Farmland Trust, U.S. Geological Survey, VA Institute of Marine Sciences, VA Department of Emergency Management, VA Department of Historic Resources, U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, VA Department of Transportation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, VA Department of Forestry, and VA Department of Environmental Quality. When a conservation value was requested for which a data model was unavailable, a methodology and a dataset were created, whenever practical. New methodologies and/or data models have been created for the Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, Cultural & Historic Preservation, Scenic Preservation, Protected Landscapes Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement categories.

Outdoor recreation is a significant component of Virginia's economy and tourism industry, and is growing as new generations engage with the outdoors. Recreation needs can often be met by adding trails, trailheads, and/or water access points to existing public lands and waters. The assessment of recreation access priorities differs in approach from the modeling effort used for the seven categories included in the *ConserveVirginia* map. The Virginia Conservation Vision Nature-Based Recreation Access Model (produced by DCR) and the ParkServe Model (produced by the Trust for Public Lands) can be used to identify priority recreation gaps across Virginia and will be used to score funding and protection priorities for grant programs, public land acquisitions and easements as permitted.

Existing datasets were refined by selecting the highest ranked lands within each category using pre-existing prioritizations. Data models created specifically for this exercise only include the highest ranked lands within that category.

All told, the exercise identified 7,829,233 acres of land deemed to be of the highest conservation value across the seven categories detailed above. Just over 732,900 of the 7.82 million acres already have some level of permanent protection, but lack the specific conservation requirements necessary to protect the resource for which the acres were identified. For example, some open space easements that restrict development lack permanent protection for priority forests or riparian buffer protections that will ensure water quality protection.

### ***ConserveVirginia* Categories, Datasets and Methodologies**

**Agriculture & Forestry:** Virginia's agriculture and forestry industries contribute a combined \$91 billion annually to Virginia's economy and generate more than 450,000 jobs throughout the Commonwealth. Whether it is beer, wine, equine, aquaculture, timber or livestock – Virginia's agricultural and forestry products are enjoyed locally, used throughout the country and exported around the world. To support this important industry, it's important that Virginia conserve high value agricultural and forest lands that face potential development. A total of 6.09 million acres of agricultural and forest lands are included across the seven *ConserveVirginia* categories.

The Agriculture & Forestry Category identifies priority agricultural and forest lands across Virginia and was developed under the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry. It is comprised of two datasets one for agriculture

and one for forestry. The Agriculture dataset identifies agricultural lands across Virginia that are threatened by development, as well as provides a spatial dataset that represents the land's agricultural potential. The Agriculture dataset is comprised of data from the American Farmland Trust (AFT) *Farms Under Threat: State of the States* project, version 2.0. The Farms Under Threat State of the States<sup>2</sup> spatial data includes a detailed assessment of the extent, diversity, location, and quality of agricultural land in the United States, as well as the threats to this land from expanding commercial, industrial, and residential development. The results of this effort include: An agricultural land cover dataset with rangeland, pastureland, cropland and woodland land cover classes, an index of agricultural land Productivity, Versatility, and Resiliency (PVR), and a valuation of the impact of low density residential development and urban high density development on agricultural land. The PVR score is biased towards human-edible food crops and does not consider land that may be viable for urban agriculture, proximity to points of infrastructure (processing facilities, ports, roads, etc.), or livestock production. Priority lands were selected based on the following percentages: Coastal 16.9%, Piedmont 44.2% and Mountain 38.9%.

The Department of Forestry's *Forest Conservation Value (FCV) Model* strategically identifies priority forestland in Virginia for conservation by identifying those of the highest quality, most productive, and most vulnerable statewide. The model classifies forestlands based on watershed integrity; size of forested blocks; management potential; connectivity and proximity to other conserved lands; threat of conversion, and diminished tree species and significant forest community attributes. The model assigns a relative FCV rank to all forestland in Virginia from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest); the highest class was used for the Strategy. The *Conserve Virginia* mapped lands include large blocks, and clusters incorporating smaller patches, of high quality forest with overall high FCV. The data resource areas in the Agriculture & Forestry Category represent a total of 1,583,249 acres.

**Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity:** Virginia's natural lands protect water and air quality, support tourism and outdoor recreation, contain a rich biological diversity and array of wildlife corridors, enhance economic development and increase our fiscal and human health. Outdoor recreation generates \$13.6 billion in consumer spending and \$923 million in state and local tax revenues<sup>1</sup>. The 2017 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey found that the most popular activity is visiting natural areas. Large diverse landscapes provide a buffer against climate change and sea-level rise and support exemplary habitats and species.

The Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity category has been developed by working with five key data resource areas. The *Virginia Natural Landscape Assessment* identifies large patches commonly referred to as Cores of forests, marshes, dunes and beaches with at least 100 acres of continuous interior natural habitat. The cores are ranked based upon many variables including environmental diversity, species diversity, water quality benefits and habitats. The Outstanding category (C1) was used in the strategy, excluding the four lower ranked categories. *Landscape Corridors* of natural land cover were included connecting C1 Cores to maintain connectivity to allow species movement between larger natural land patches, elevations, latitudes and from ocean to inland.

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<sup>1</sup> "Virginia's Return on Investment in Land Conservation," The Trust for Public Land. August 2016. Available at: <https://www.tpl.org/virginias-return-investment-land-conservation#sm.000008332nxb7mem0pn44a9f9sm98> [Accessed November 29, 2018].

<sup>2</sup> Freedgood, J., M. Hunter, J. Dempsey, A. Sorensen. 2020. *Farms Under Threat: The State of the States*. Washington, DC: American Farmland Trust

*Resilient and Connected Landscapes* represent a map developed by The Nature Conservancy and its partners highlighting areas that represent climate resilient sites and species movement areas (corridors) across Virginia that include key habitats and the space for nature to adapt and change in the face of a changing climate. *Natural Heritage Conservation Sites* are areas of the landscape that contain Virginia's and the planet's rarest aquatic and terrestrial natural communities and plant and animal species. This set includes cave and karst habitats, terrestrial sites and aquatic systems, and only the top ranked sites have been included. *Brook Trout Streams* identified by the VA Department of Wildlife Resources are streams supporting native brook trout that are in a natural state representing high ecological integrity. The resource areas in the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity Category represent a total of 4,202,294 acres.

**Floodplains & Flooding Resilience:** Flooding represents a major and growing threat to Virginia. It is the most common and costly disaster in the state. The vast majority of disasters in Virginia have been flood-related, and the state has experienced many additional local flood events. From 1996 to 2016, flood insurance claims in Virginia totaled more than \$515 million. Floodplains support local economies and increase the quality of life by providing valuable ecosystem services and recreational opportunities. Natural floodplains and wetlands boost nearby property values and can provide recreational tourism opportunities, increasing personal and shared wealth in the community. These areas also provide a buffer against fast moving flood water, absorb and store excess runoff, and filter pollutants from our water resources. As a result, protected floodplains reduce flood damage and cleanup costs and allow for faster recovery from flood events. Community projects in floodplains can tie together multiple goals including hazard mitigation, open space, historic preservation, recreation, and quality of life, giving these projects the potential to use multiple funding sources. Wetlands protect against flooding with one-acre typically storing one million gallons of water. The Floodplains & Flooding Resilience Category is comprised of four data-models.

*Riverine flooding* is addressed by mapping the undeveloped forest and agricultural lands upstream of the 10 worst flooding disasters across Virginia based upon jurisdictional risk, dollar losses and federal disaster declarations based on data from the Commonwealth of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Statewide flooding is also addressed by wetlands maps. *Wetlands* are included directly via the ConservationVision Virginia Wetlands Catalog map project developed by DCR. Wetlands include mapped and predicted wetlands, streams and floodplains. They are prioritized based on variables including water quality, natural land networks and buffers, ecosystem services and biodiversity. The two highest-class priorities are included.

*Coastal Flooding* is addressed by the wetlands maps and coastal ecological resiliency map models developed by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and by The Nature Conservancy. Coastal wetlands are critical to the productivity and diversity of marine ecosystems and to the human economies they support. Mapped priorities include those wetlands identified as above average and far above average resilience indicating the greatest long-term potential for adaptive response, based on a projected rise in sea level of six feet. Coastal resilience is also addressed via wetlands identified by the VIMS model that represent the highest class in estuarine and freshwater areas that provide the highest ecological services and provide for the highest marsh migration potential to adjacent natural lands. The resource areas in the Floodplains & Flooding Resilience category represent a total of 537,995 acres.

**Cultural & Historic Preservation:** Virginia's rich Cultural and Historical resources represent a significant component of the state's economic well-being. Heritage tourism is an important driver of Virginia's economy, generating almost \$7.7 billion a year, according to a study commissioned by Preservation Virginia and



conducted by the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University<sup>2</sup>. The Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program alone in 2014 resulted in \$467 million in economic output, supported 9,960 jobs and generated \$3.50 for every \$1 invested through the first three years.

The Cultural and Historic Preservation category includes lands designated as National Historic Landmarks, listed in the National Register of Historic Places or the Virginia Landmarks Register, and sites or properties with Federal or DHR Board determinations of Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. These designations indicate properties of high national or state historic significance.

Lands in this category also include battlefield Core and Study areas classified by the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) as Priority 1 or 2 and Class A or B or unprioritized Class A or B, where “Priority” captures integrity and threat and “Class” represents historic significance. Class A and B battlefields represent principal strategic operations, and therefore capture historic significance.

Also included in the Cultural and Historic Preservation category are sites and properties that have been found to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places within the past nine years by the Department of Historic Resources. This allows for places that are historically significant, yet have not undergone the full listing process (which may require time and expense), to be included.

Finally, sites and properties may be individually designated as having High Preservation Potential by the Department of Historic Resources. This allows for properties that may not yet have been thoroughly documented or evaluated to be added as preservation priorities based on historical research, community values, or other factors. The resource areas in the Cultural & Historic Preservation category represent a total of 1,450,960 acres.

Note: Within the Cultural and Historic Preservation category, lands already protected by an historic preservation and open-space easement held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources are considered to be protected and not included.

**Scenic Preservation:** Nearly 90% of Virginians think scenery is important when making travel plans, and 51% feel protecting scenery and scenic views is very important, according to the 2017 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey.

The Scenic Preservation Category identifies lands by mapping national and state designated scenic byways, state designated scenic rivers, All-American roads, national scenic trails, national historic trails, national millennium trails, national recreational trails, national scenic areas, and the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area scenic zone. A statewide map for these resources did not exist. The majority of these resources were mapped and boundaries created using river banks, shorelines and jurisdictional boundaries where necessary and then expanded by 200 feet on either side of the resource to capture adjacent lands. Large patches of forested land in the immediate views from the USFS national scenic areas and the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area scenic zone were also included. The resource areas in the Scenic Preservation category represent a total of 328,402 acres.

**Protected Landscapes Resilience:** Virginia’s publicly owned lands provide a wealth of natural goods and services in the form of clean air and water, carbon sequestration and flood reduction, benefiting local economies and improving physical health by providing safe outdoor recreation. In 2019, visitors to Virginia State Parks alone spent an estimated \$286.2 million in the Commonwealth. Approximately \$130.2 million of this spending

was by out-of-state visitors, and the total economic activity stimulated by Virginia State Parks during 2019 was approximately \$437.7 million<sup>2</sup>.

Protected Landscapes Resilience represents priority areas identified by six public resource agencies as lands and waters around existing protected lands that are important habitats, connections to the landscape, critical to enhance climate resilience, and protect key scenic and recreational values. The Protected Landscapes Resilience category was developed and provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Department of Wildlife Resources, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Department of Forestry, and U.S. Forest Service. The resource areas in the Protected Landscape Resilience category represent a total of 723,017 acres.

**Water Quality Improvement Category:** When rain runs off farmland and suburban lawns, it often carries harmful substances including excess nutrients and sediments into nearby waterways. This type of pollution is called nonpoint source because it does not come from a single source, or point, such as a sewage treatment plant or an industrial discharge pipe. Nutrients are substances that help plants and animals live and grow, but excessive amounts of nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, can result in algal blooms and depleted oxygen levels that can suffocate animals and plants. An estimated 50% of the nitrogen and 29% of the phosphorus entering surface waters come from farmland. Sediments are caused mainly by water running over bare land and carrying soil particles into streams, lakes, rivers, and bays, where they reduce light needed by aquatic plants, cover aquatic habitats, plants, and animals, and obstruct waterways. Comprehensive estimates of the damages from agricultural pollution are lacking, but soil erosion alone is estimated to cost water users \$2 billion to \$8 billion annually. Virginia's nonpoint source pollution prevention efforts focus strongly on managing nutrients and sediments because they pose the most significant threat to the health of our waterways, especially the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Once conserved permanently, water quality benefits of the lands in any of the inputs to this category will be further increased by establishing and maintaining natural vegetation in buffers. Conservation easements including deed requirements for such vegetated buffers will qualify as a *ConserveVirginia* success.

The *Water Quality Improvement Opportunity Areas* input identifies 788,974 acres of the highest priority lands for conservation in the interest of water quality improvement in general. It was developed via collaboration between the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Department of Environmental Quality using estimates of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loadings from agricultural sources from the Chesapeake Bay Program Phase 6 Watershed Model (CAST-2017d) and the Virginia Water Quality Assessment, and with consideration of the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP III). The basic approach was to identify watersheds (12-digit hydrologic units) with the highest (i.e., those in the 90th percentile) loadings of nitrogen, phosphorous, or sediment from any of the assessments used. Riparian areas along streams, creeks, and rivers in those watersheds are the focus of this *ConserveVirginia* input. Buffers were mapped for these waterways, where buffers ranged from 100 to 400 ft., depending on steepness of slope of adjacent lands. Generally, wider buffers were mapped for steeper slopes and for headwater streams. These buffer lands are where land conservation would be most effective to maintain and improve water quality.

The *Aquatic Life Conservation Opportunity Areas* input identifies 340,938 acres of the highest priority lands for conservation in the interest of protecting waters of high integrity. In order to identify waters with outstanding ecological conditions for consideration as high-priority conservation areas, DEQ conducted a thorough review

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<sup>2</sup> Magnini, V.P. 2020. Virginia State Parks 2019 Economic Impact Report. Available at: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/document/virginia-state-parks-2019-economic-impact-study.pdf> [Accessed May 26, 2020]

of its biological monitoring data to identify least disturbed sites throughout the Commonwealth. Associated watersheds and riparian buffers were used to identify land areas where conservation efforts may be most beneficial to protect high quality waters. DEQ identified 173 unique, high quality watersheds with 845 km<sup>2</sup> of riparian area. These land areas and freshwater systems support living aquatic communities that indicate least-disturbed water quality and habitat conditions. The overall water quality ratings based on these communities are among the top 5% expected in Virginia's streams and rivers, as indicated by the biomonitoring indices used by DEQ for conducting water quality assessments.

The *Healthy Waters Conservation Opportunity Areas* input identifies 186,653 acres of the highest priority lands for conservation in the interest of protecting confirmed healthy waters. Healthy waters are streams that are ranked as "outstanding" or "healthy" based on fish and macroinvertebrate communities, and instream and riparian habitat data, through a stream ecological integrity assessment known as Interactive Stream Assessment Resource (INSTAR). This input to *ConserveVirginia* was developed with funding from a Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant in collaboration between the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Center for Environmental Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University using estimates of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loadings from agricultural sources from the 2020 NPS Pollution Assessment and Prioritization (DCR Soil and Water Conservation, 2020). The basic approach was to rank 10-km truncated drainages for each pollutant and retain those which had a relative yield in the top 50<sup>th</sup>-percentile for any of the three pollutants. For those drainages that remained, riparian buffers were delineated using overland flow length while accounting for soil sensitivity.

The *Restoration Candidate Best Management Practices Opportunity Areas* input identifies 156,089 acres of the highest priority lands for targeting agricultural best management practices (BMP) in the interest improving water quality for restoration candidate waters. This input targets waters that don't qualify as healthy based on fish and macroinvertebrate communities, and instream and riparian habitat data, from the stream ecological integrity assessment known as Interactive Stream Assessment Resource (INSTAR), but which may become healthy with restoration. This input to *ConserveVirginia* was developed with funding from a Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant in collaboration between the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Center for Environmental Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University. The first step in this analysis involved removing from consideration those 10-km truncated drainages that had greater than 5% impervious cover because BMP and land conservation would not be effective in improving the quality of waters degraded by residential and industrial development. The basic method was to delineated riparian buffers using overland flow length for the retained drainages and then extract and categorize non-impervious land covers within the riparian buffers. The classification allows for targeting non-agricultural covers for conservation and agricultural land covers for BMP and conservation. The data resource areas in the Water Quality Improvement category represent a total of 1,334,576 acres.

**Outdoor Recreation:** *ConserveVirginia* also addresses recreational values as a significant component of Virginia's tourism and economy and a conservation value that should be factored into land conservation decisions and efforts. Access to hiking trails and water are consistently two of the most sought after outdoor recreation amenities in Virginia. The Nature-Based Recreation Access Model and Trust for Public Lands ParkServe Model can be used to quantify access to outdoor recreation opportunities, and to identify areas where more recreational access is needed at both local and regional scales. Quantifying access to outdoor recreation, identifying what types of recreational access are most needed in different places, and then assessing the compatibility of those recreational opportunities deserves case by case consideration. Therefore, outdoor recreation is not a stand-alone category, as are other priorities. The two datasets described below will be used

to assess and score funding and conservation opportunities for outdoor recreation across all *ConserveVirginia* categories.

The Virginia Conservation Vision Nature-Based Recreation Access Model quantifies the availability of opportunities for nature-based recreation on Virginia's public lands and waters, and identifies areas where more opportunities are needed. Land-based recreation metrics include:

- Travel time to the nearest protected land with public access (PPA) offering at least 5 acres of available greenspace
- The number of PPAs offering at least 100 acres of available greenspace, that can be reached within a 30-minute drive
- The number of PPAs offering at least 600 acres of available greenspace, that can be reached within a 60-minute drive
- Land-based recreation pressure, based on population size and the amount of available greenspace within service catchments and gaps delineated for PPAs with at least 25 acres of available greenspace

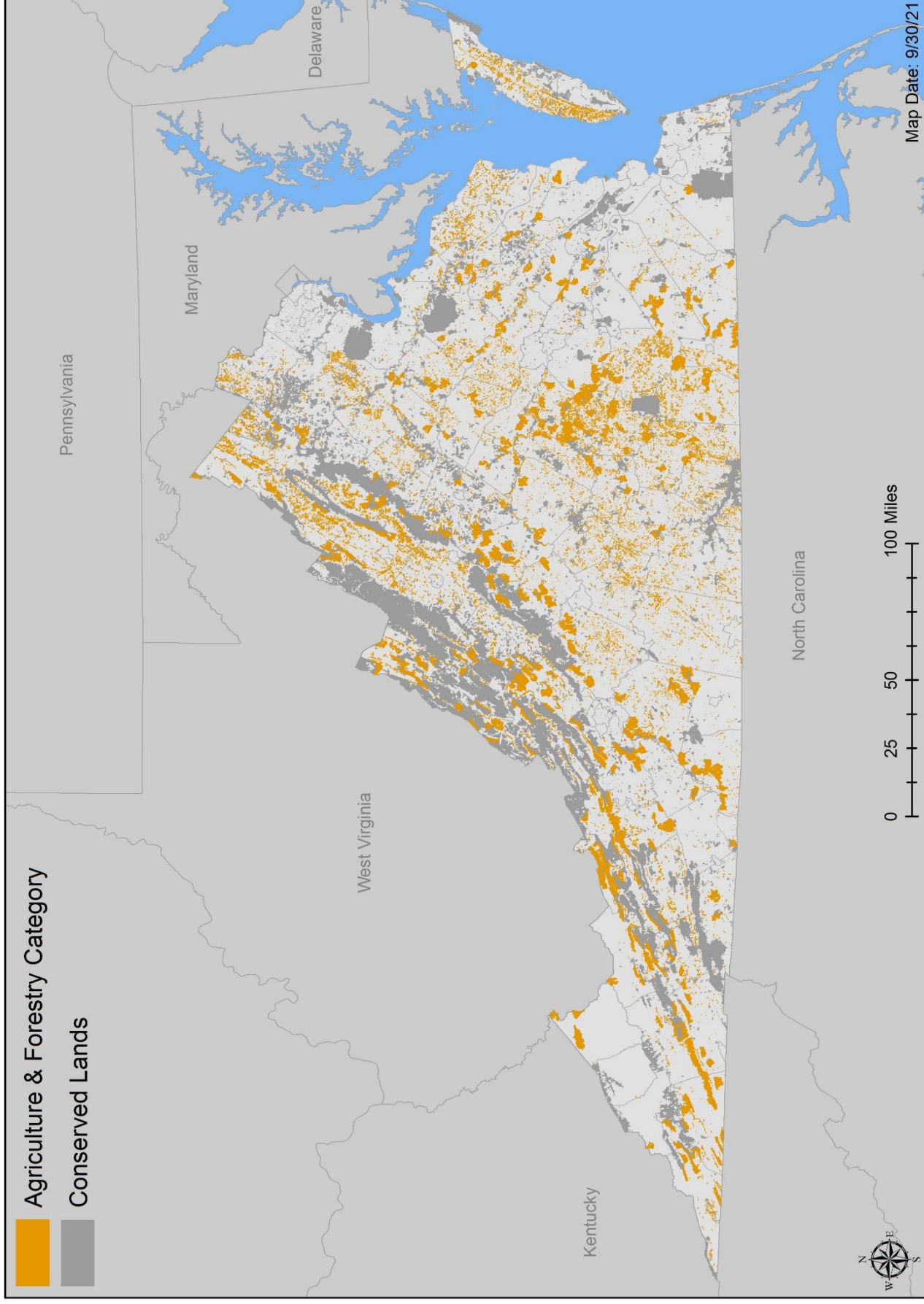
Water-based recreation metrics include:

- Travel time to the nearest water access point
- The number of water access points that can be reached within a 30-minute drive
- The number of water-based activities (fishing, swimming, or boating) that can be reached within a 30-minute drive
- Water-based recreation pressure, based on population size within service catchments and gaps delineated for water access points

Model metrics were scored, weighted, and combined to compute composite measures of land-based and water-based recreation need.

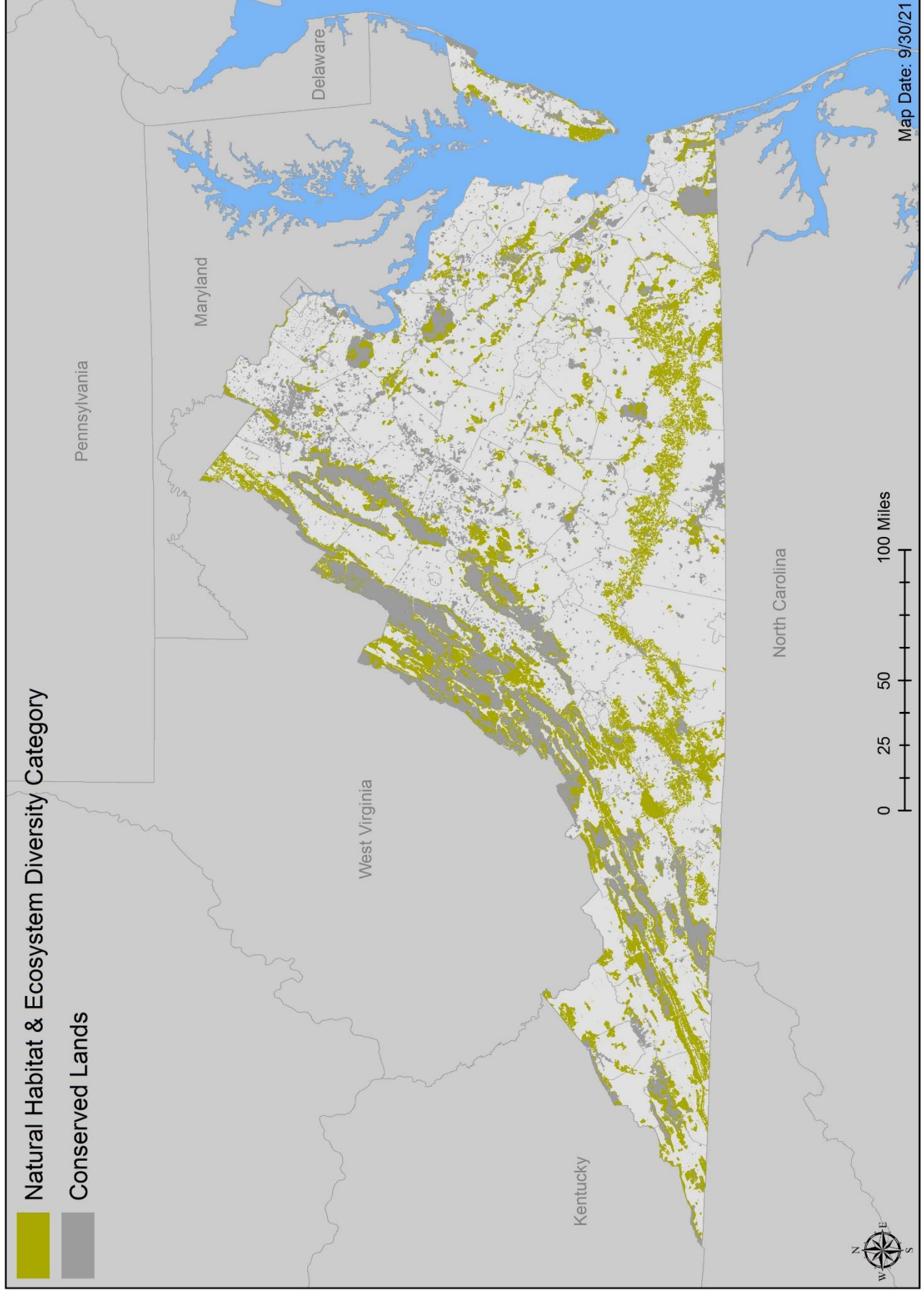
ParkServe is a platform for tracking and mapping urban park access across the United States. The comprehensive database includes 14,000 cities, impacting a population of over 160 million people. The database is to be used by residents and planners alike, by providing information about parks closest to home as well as statistics about the number of people living within a 10-minute walk from a park. This allows for residents to advocate for park creation while helping to keep planners informed about where parks are most needed, and the demographic of the people it will serve to address inequity.

# Agriculture and Forestry Category

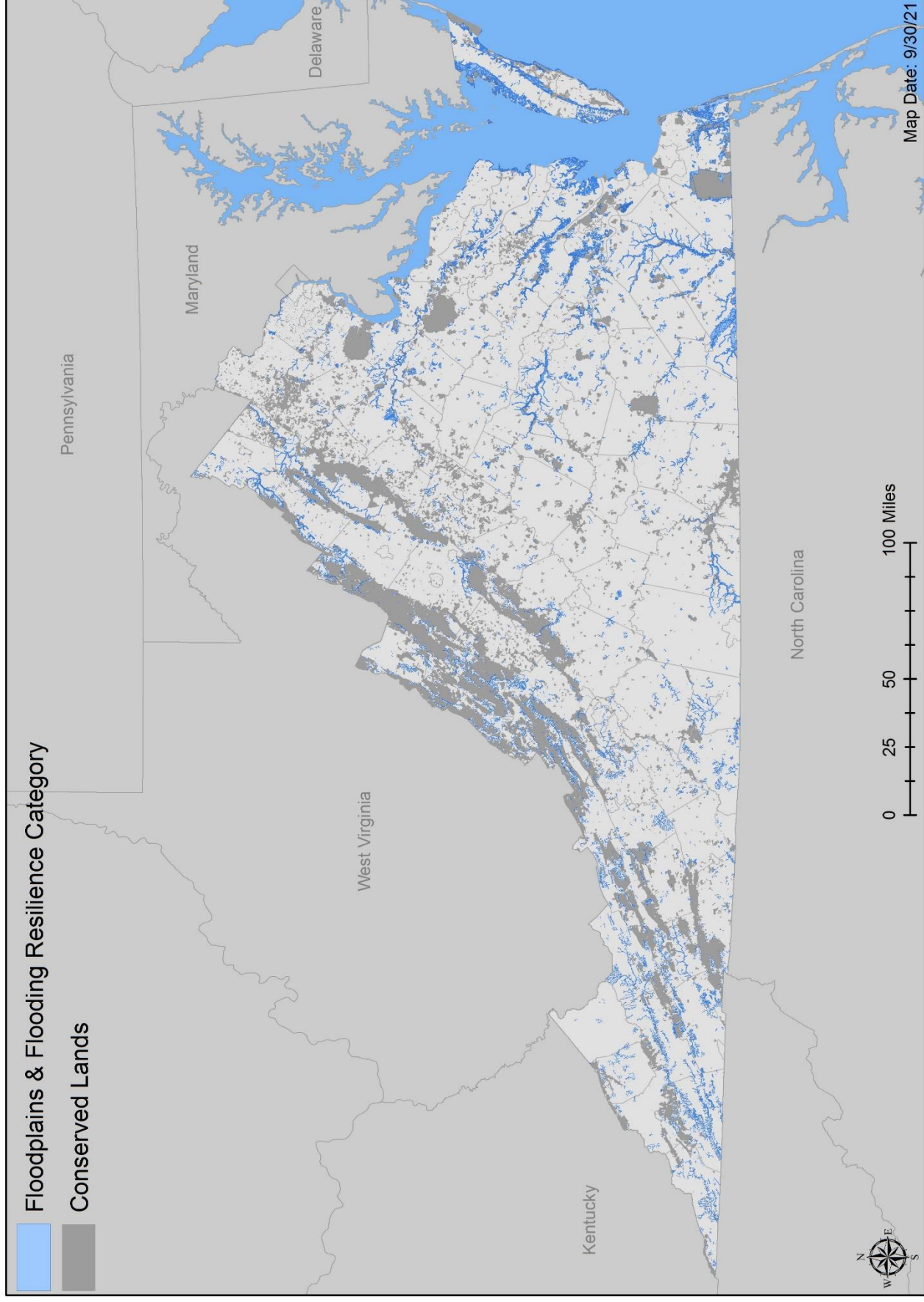




# Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity Category

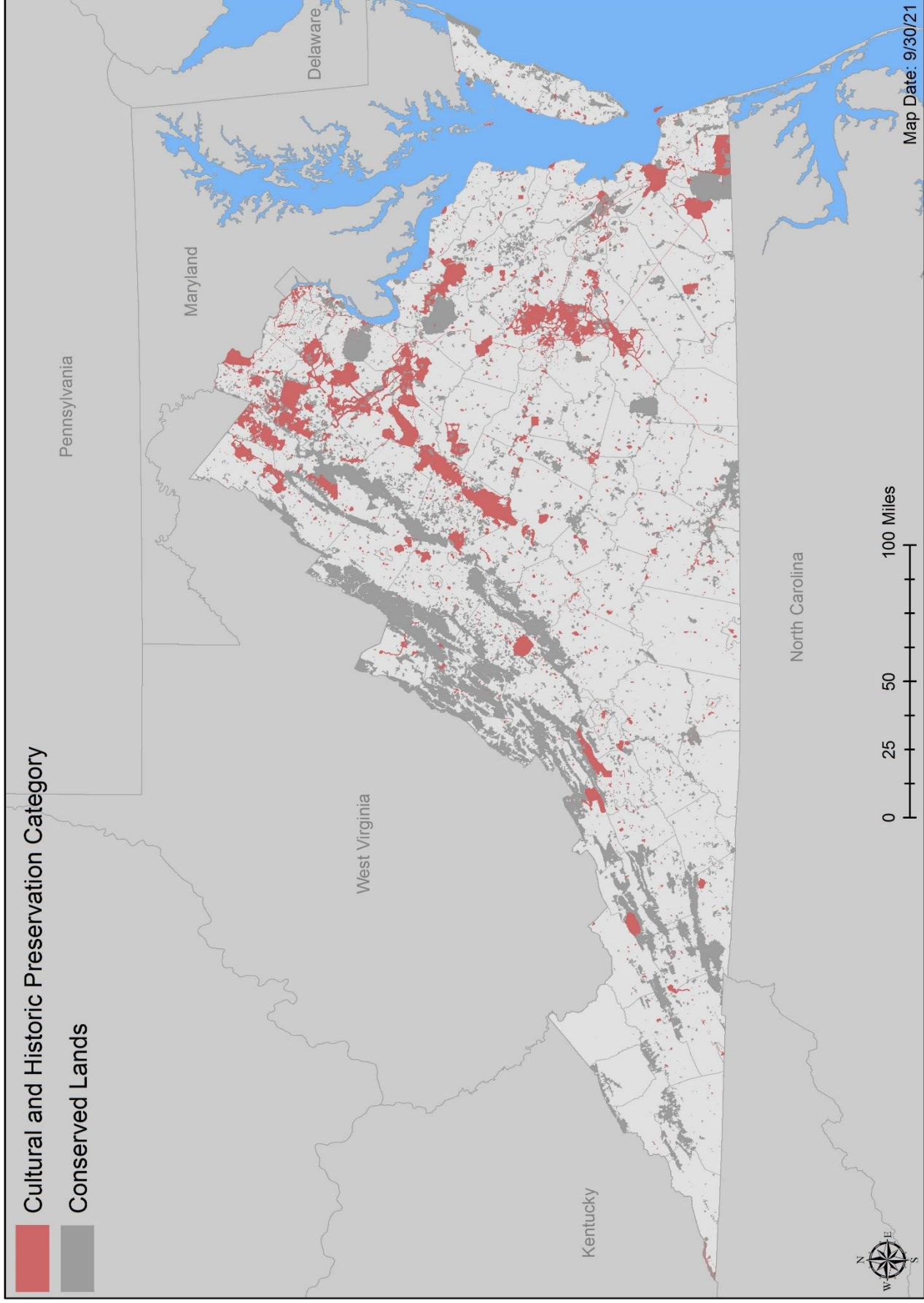


# Floodplains and Flooding Resilience Category



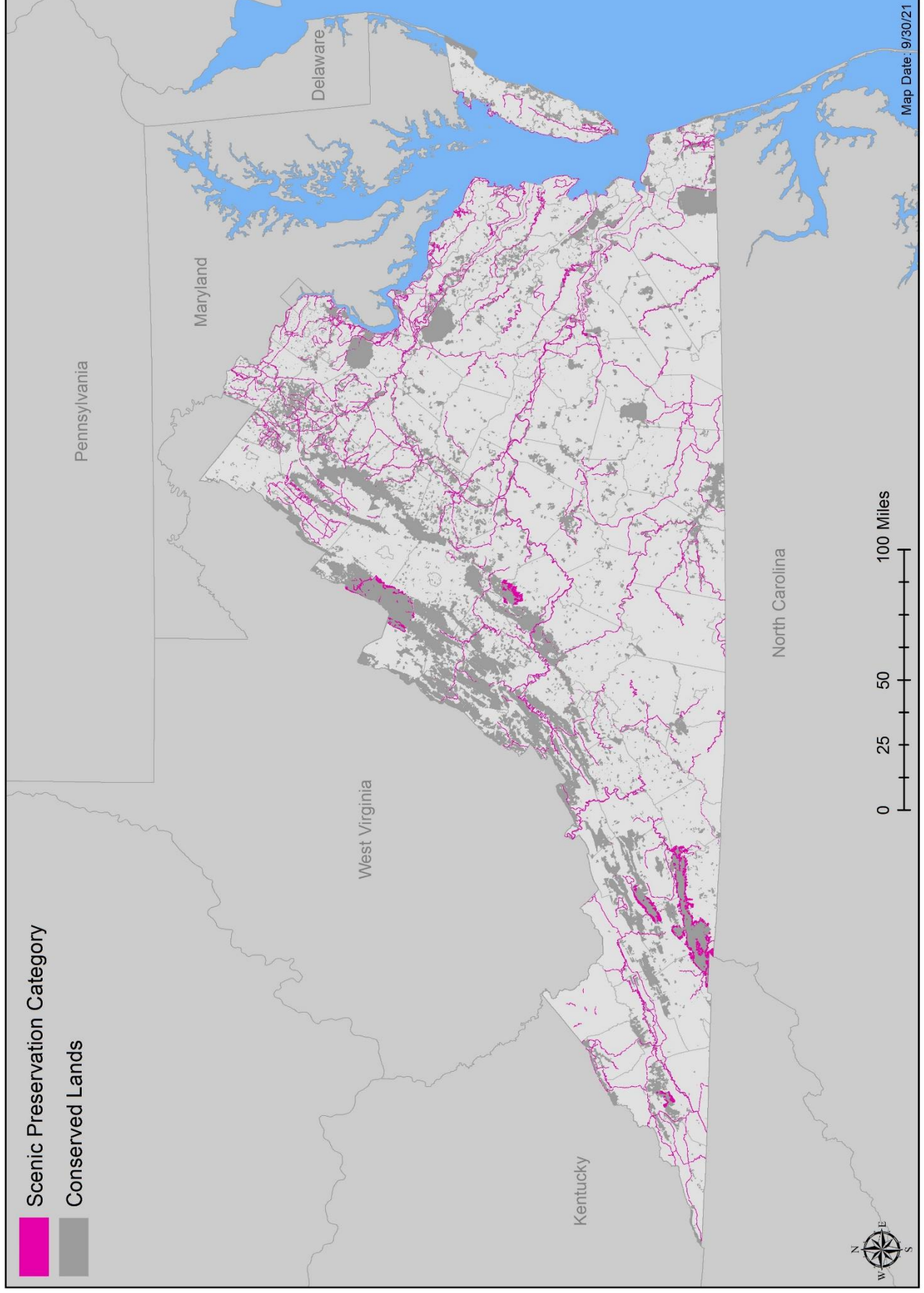


# Cultural and Historic Preservation Category

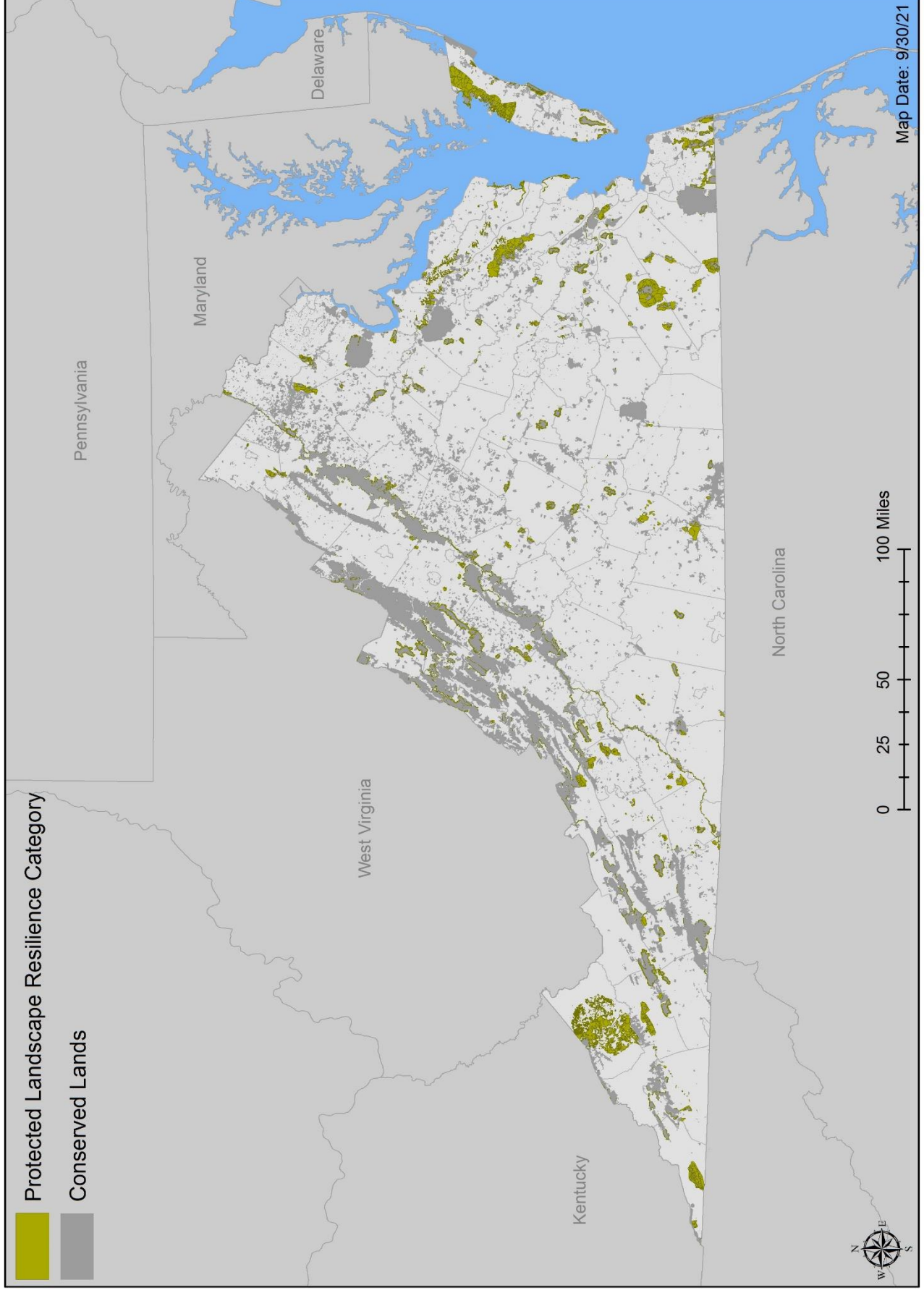




# Scenic Preservation Category

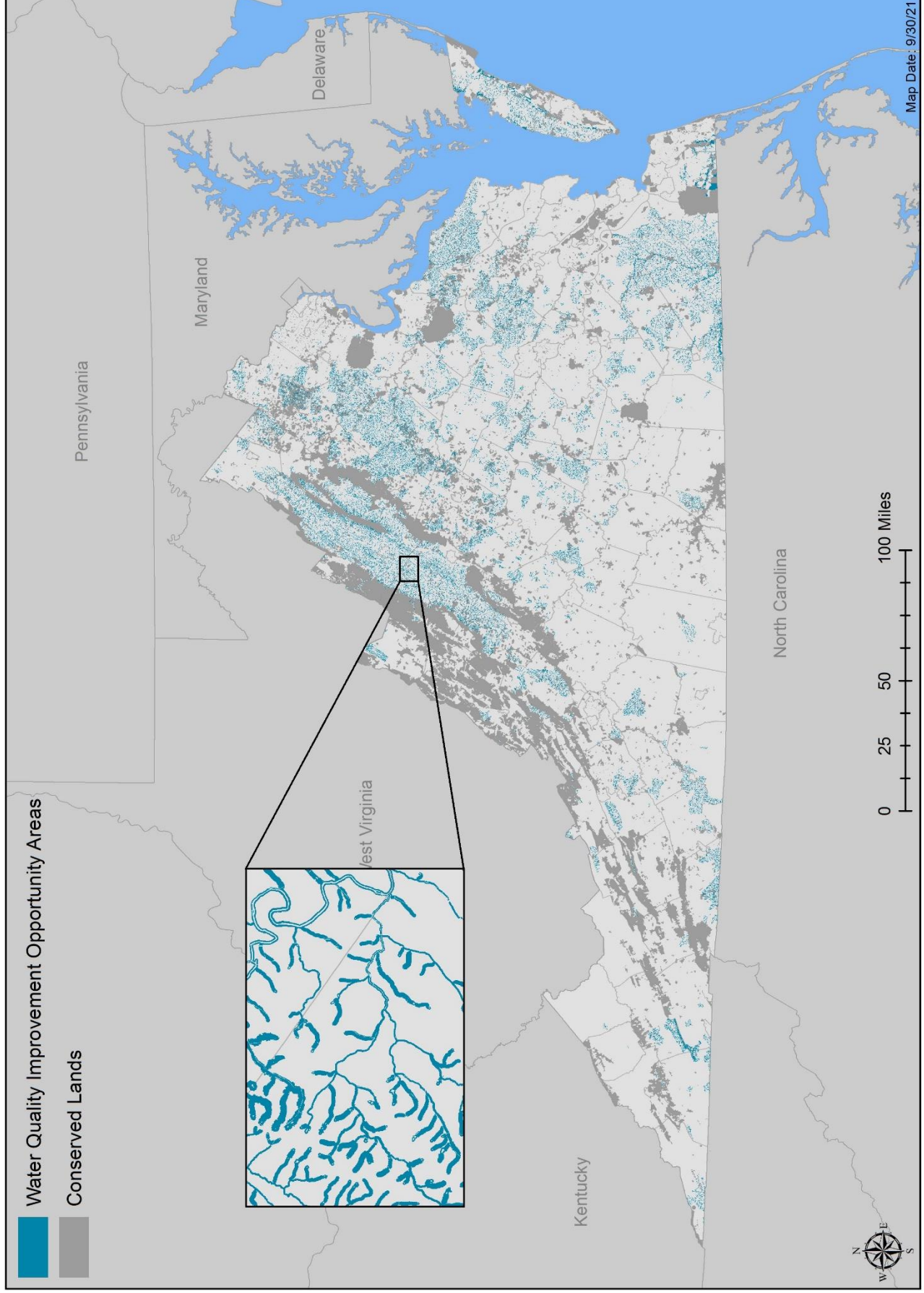


# Protected Landscapes Resilience Category





# Water Quality Improvement



# ConserveVirginia

## Data Providers

