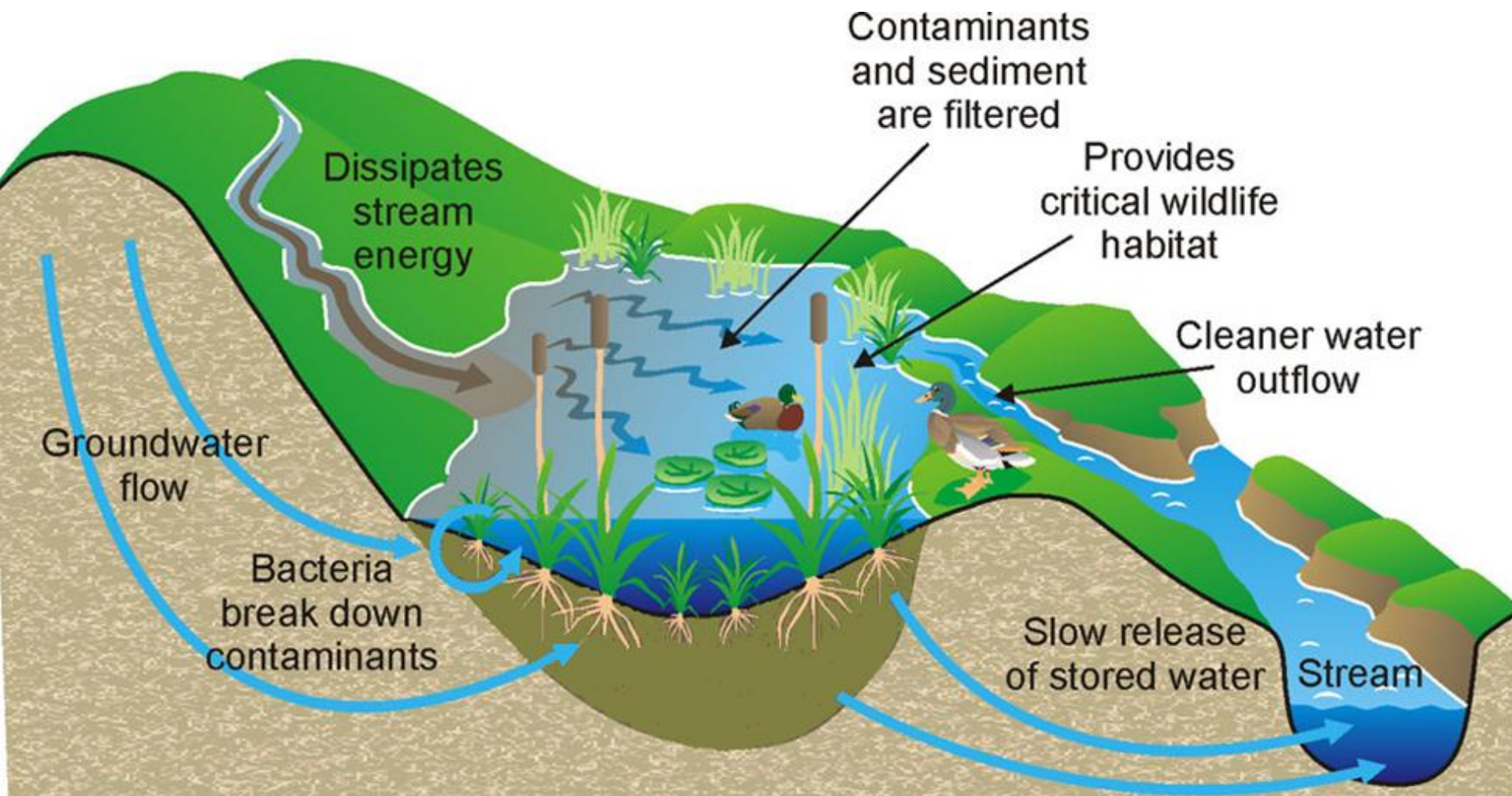


Innovations in Functional Assessment: WV Wetlands

- Automated GIS Tool
- Rapid Field Assessment
- Stakeholder Adoption



Presented by Elizabeth Byers
WVDEP Watershed Assessment Branch




How wetlands work


DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

**Calculating Credits and
Compensatory Mitigation
of Eastern Wash**

Final Report
August 2012



JULY 2010



**Manual for the
Oregon Rapid Wetland
Assessment Protocol
(ORWAP)**

version 2.0.2


Paul Adamus, Ph.D.
Adamus Resource Assessment, Inc.

Janet Morton, PWS
Kathy Verble, CPSS
Oregon Department of State Lands


**California Rapid Assessment Method
for Wetlands**

User's Manual

Version 6.1



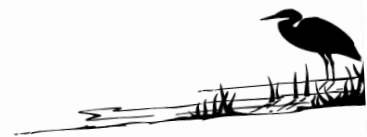
**NatureServe Ecological Integrity Assessment:
Protocols for Rapid Field Assessment
of Wetlands
v2.0**



State of Ohio
Environmental Protection Agency

**Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands
User's Manual and Scoring Form**

February 1, 2001



Robert A. Taft, Governor
State of Ohio

Christoph
Environn

P.O. Box 1040, Lazarus Government Center, 122 S. Front Street, Columbus

**Rapid Floristic Quality Assessment
Manual**



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency


Montana Department of Transportation
Montana Wetland Assessment Method



Prepared for:
Montana Department of Transportation
Environmental Services
2701 Prospect Avenue
P.O. Box 201001
Helena, Montana 59620-1001

Prepared by:
PBSJ
801 N. Last Chance Gulch, Suite 101
Helena, Montana 59601-3360

March 2008



**The Watershed Approach
A Statewide Decision Support Tool
for Restoring and Protecting Wetland Services**



The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

Tom Bernthal, Nick Miller, Matt Matrise,
Joanne Kline, Max Axler, Chris Smith,
John Wagner, Michele Kille

WAWFA GIS-RAM Matrix - FINAL for GIS TEAM Analysis

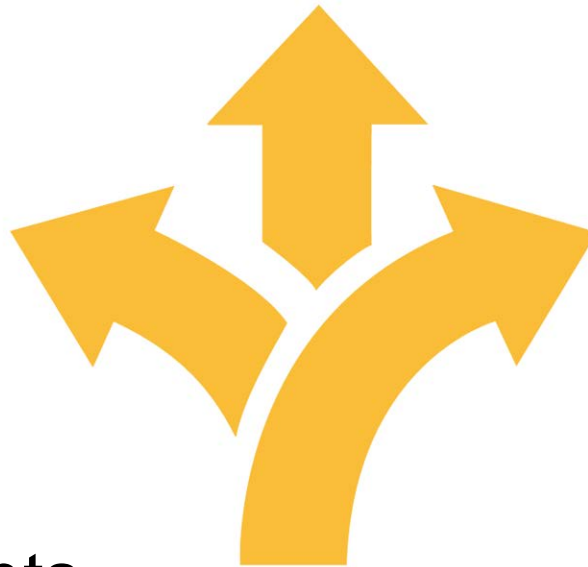
Code	Criterion	Criterion Break Points	Additional notes for GIS team	Methods	Notes	Climate Change Considerations
PL_04	Vegetation types in watershed	Shrub within the watershed CRITERION 04	None in the range watershed, but average across the watershed is 0.5. Shrub vegetation is present in the range 0.5 to 1.0.	Range vegetation types in watershed	Rank Pass	Climate Change Considerations
PL_05	Shrub vegetation in watershed	Shrub vegetation in watershed	None in the range watershed, but average across the watershed is 0.5. Shrub vegetation is present in the range 0.5 to 1.0.	Range vegetation types in watershed	Rank Pass	Climate Change Considerations
PL_06	Rapid assessment of watershed	Land cover and soil type in the watershed	Composite score watershed based on land cover, soil type, and soil type. The score is based on the range 0.5 to 1.0.	Range vegetation types in watershed	Rank Pass	Climate Change Considerations
PL_07	Wetland flow path distance within watershed	The longer the flow path distance, the more the flow path distance within the watershed	Range flow path distance within watershed	Range vegetation types in watershed	Rank Pass	Climate Change Considerations
PL_08	Wetland flow path distance within watershed	The longer the flow path distance, the more the flow path distance within the watershed	Range flow path distance within watershed	Range vegetation types in watershed	Rank Pass	Climate Change Considerations



Ecological
integrity &
wildlife habitat



Water quality:
sediment, nutrients,
pollutants



Flood
attenuation

3 composite functions



Wetland has
intrinsic potential
to provide function



Landscape provides
opportunity to perform function



Society has placed
value on function

3 lenses



75 metrics in 9 categories

	Intrinsic Potential	Landscape Opportunity	Value to Society
Water Quality	vegetation, soil, hydrology	50 m buffer, contributing watershed	public use, planning
Flood Attenuation	vegetation, soil, hydrology	50 m buffer, contributing watershed	economic risk
Habitat/ Ecological Integrity	vegetation, soil, hydrology	perimeter, 300 m / 1 km buffer, contrib. watershed	investment, public use, access



Roll-up of metrics into stakeholder-requested scores:

- Full function (all metrics)
- Regulatory function
- State lands acquisition
- Condition assessment





62 statewide GIS datasets

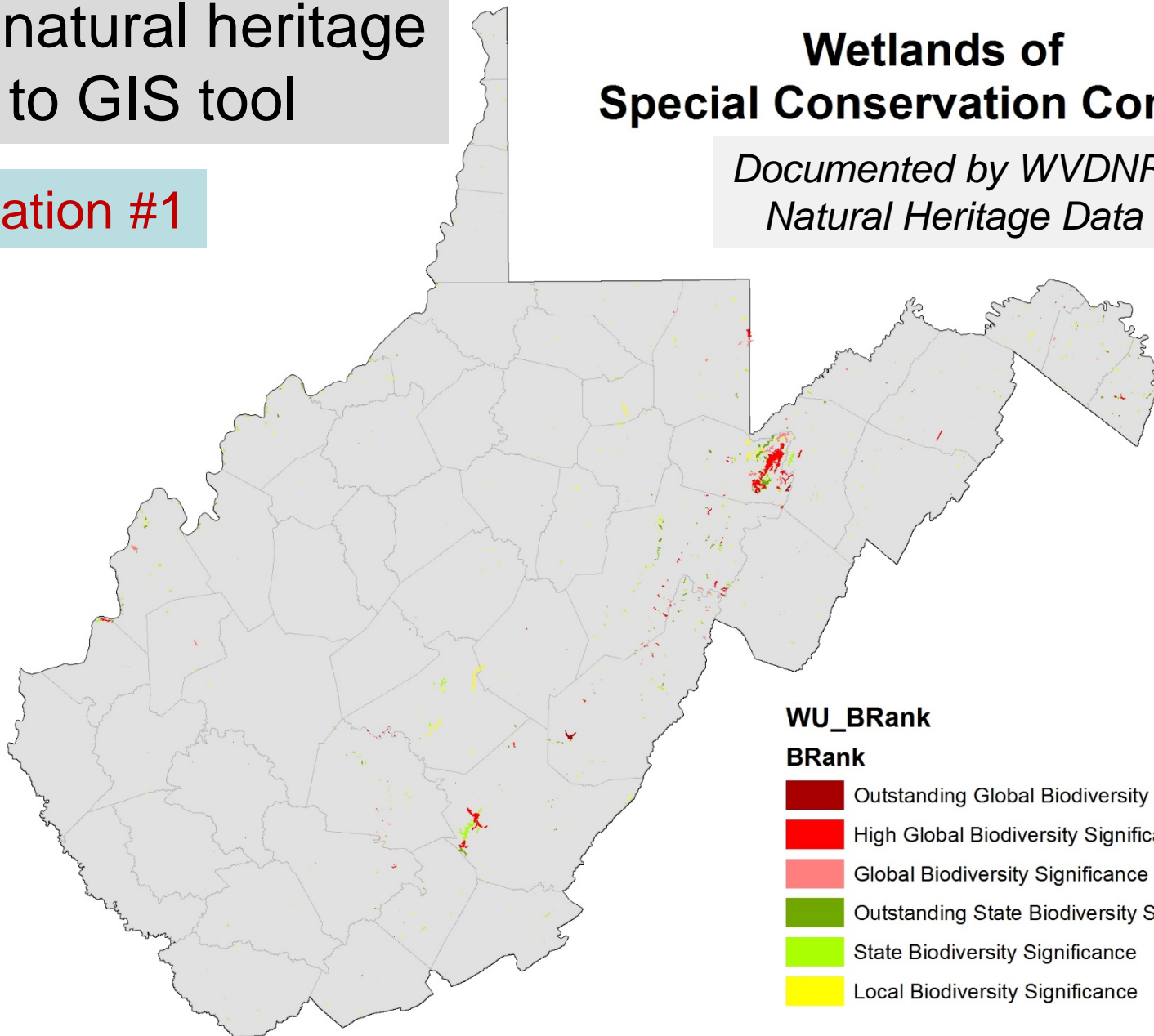
- Biodiversity
- Ecosystems
- Elevation
- Geology
- Hydrology
- Imagery
- Infrastructure
- Jurisdiction
- Landcover
- Landform
- Soils
- Stressors

Link natural heritage
data to GIS tool

Innovation #1

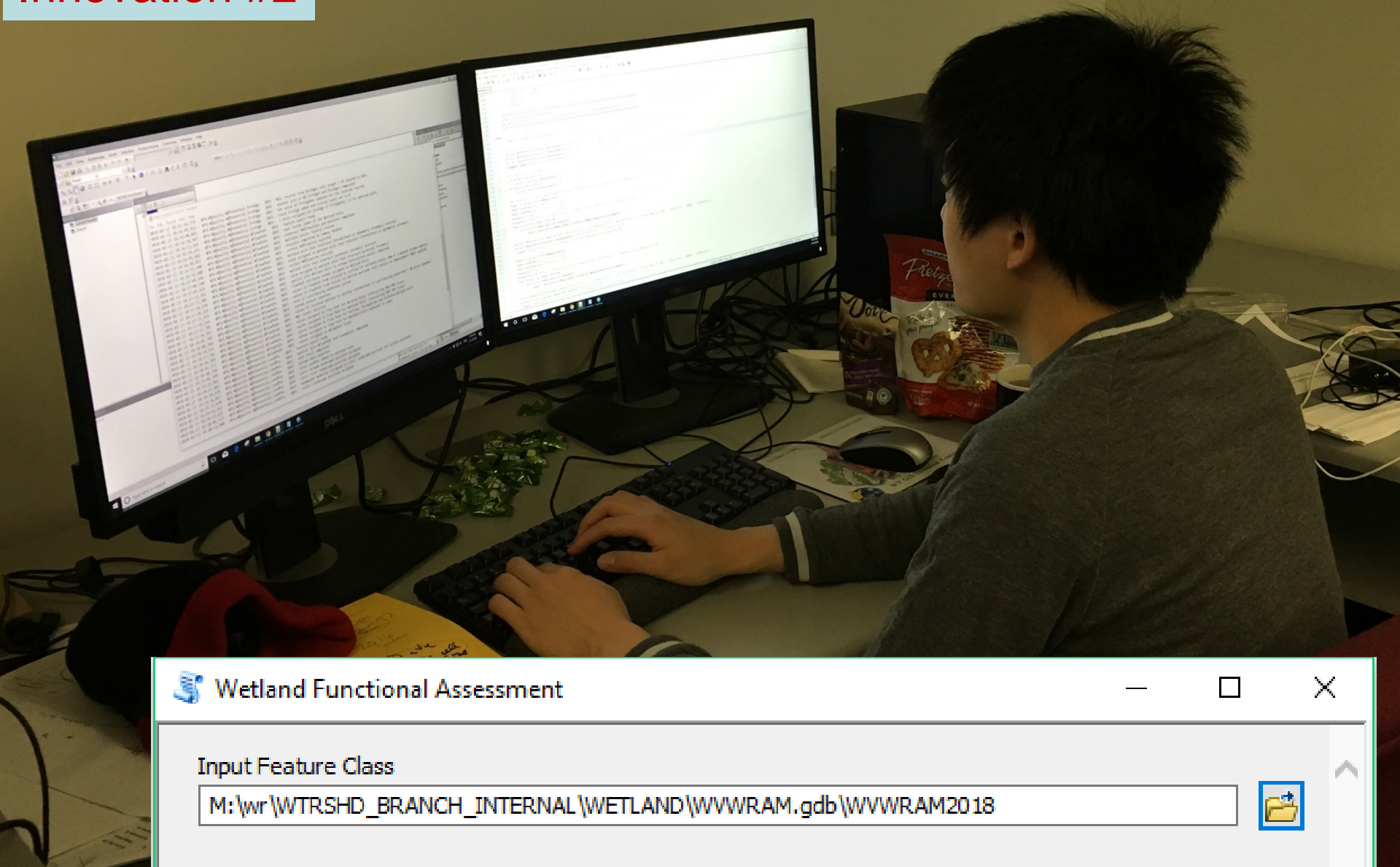
Wetlands of Special Conservation Concern

*Documented by WVDNR
Natural Heritage Data*



Python-based automation

Innovation #2



Wetland Functional Assessment



Input Feature Class

M:\ywr\WTRSHD_BRANCH_INTERNAL\WETLAND\WWWRAM.gdb\WWWRAM2018

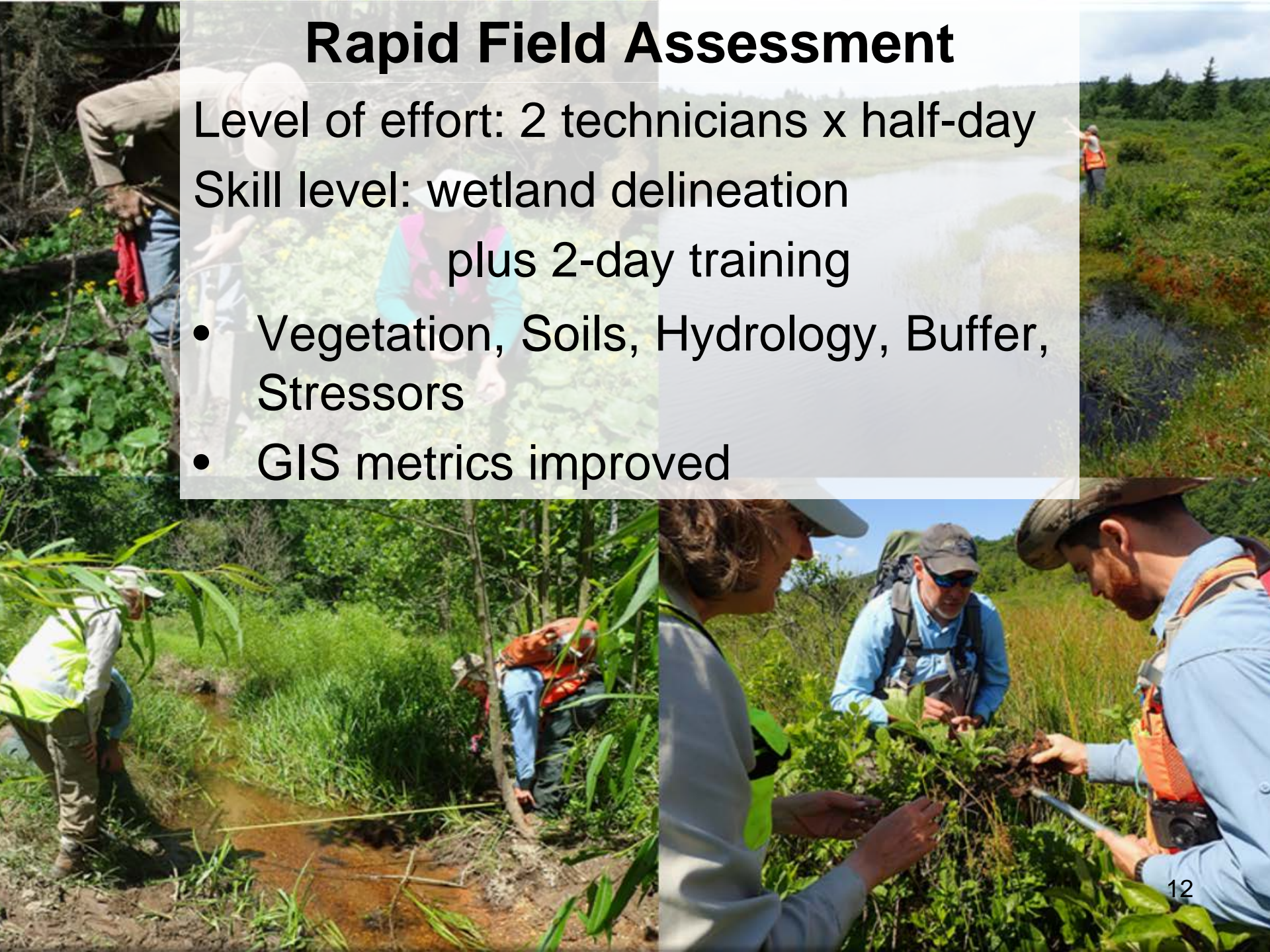


Rapid Field Assessment

Level of effort: 2 technicians x half-day

Skill level: wetland delineation
plus 2-day training

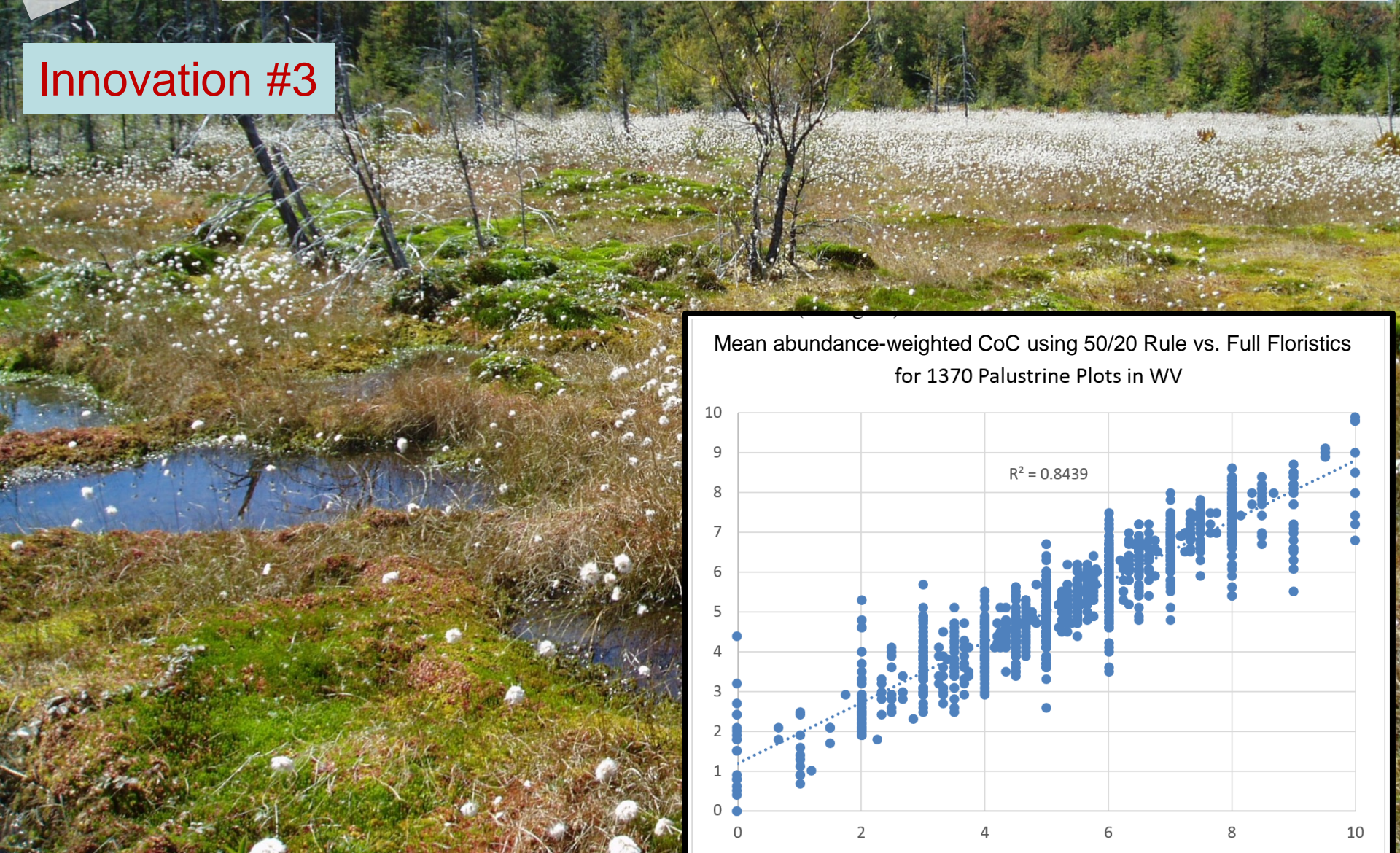
- Vegetation, Soils, Hydrology, Buffer, Stressors
- GIS metrics improved



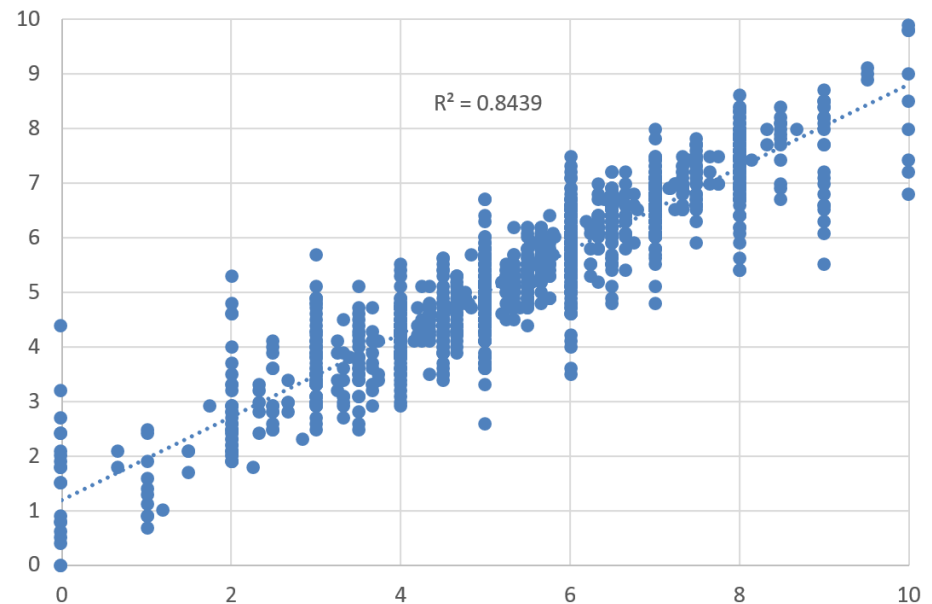
Rapid

Floristic Quality Assessment

Innovation #3



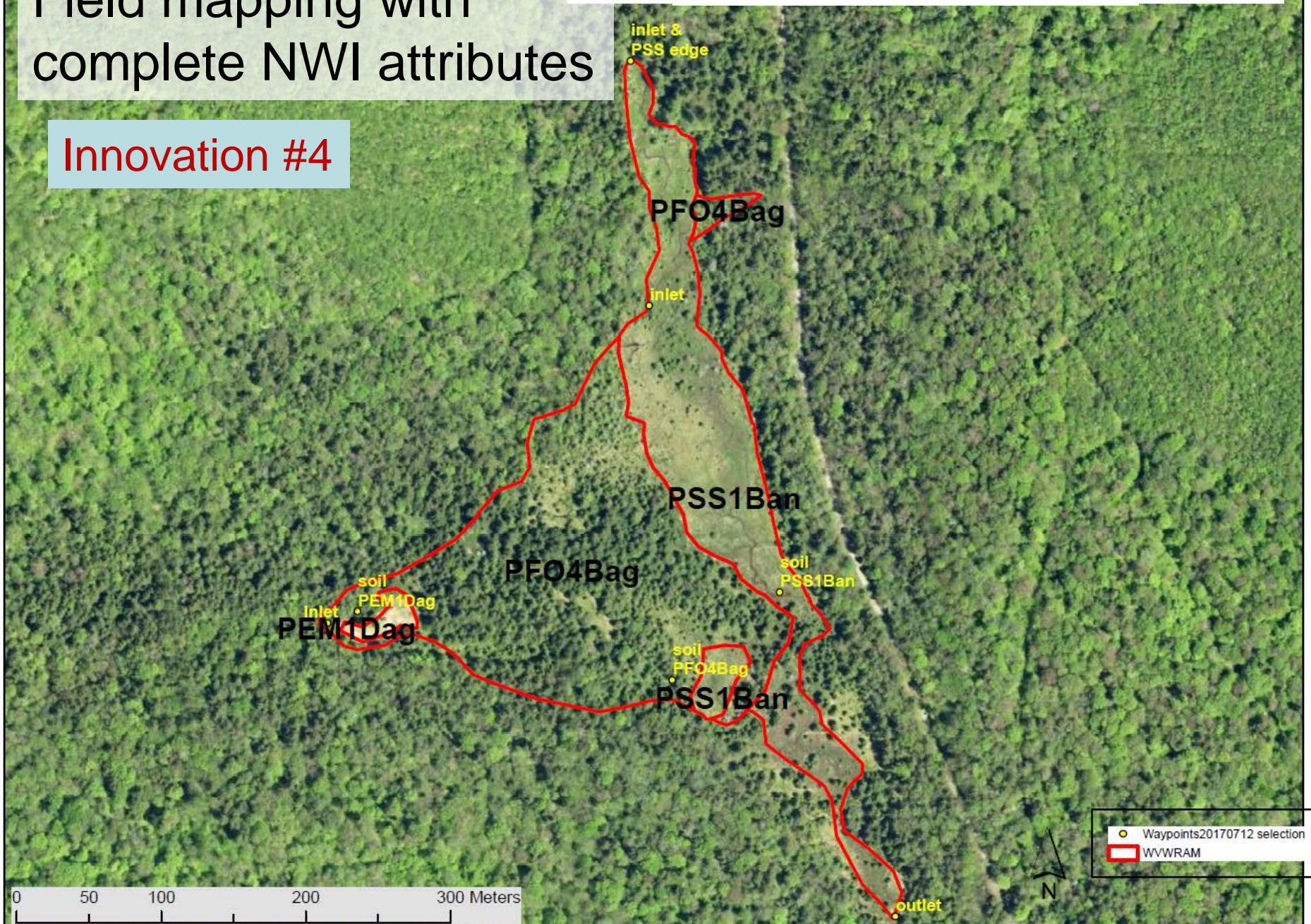
Mean abundance-weighted CoC using 50/20 Rule vs. Full Floristics
for 1370 Palustrine Plots in WV



Field mapping with complete NWI attributes

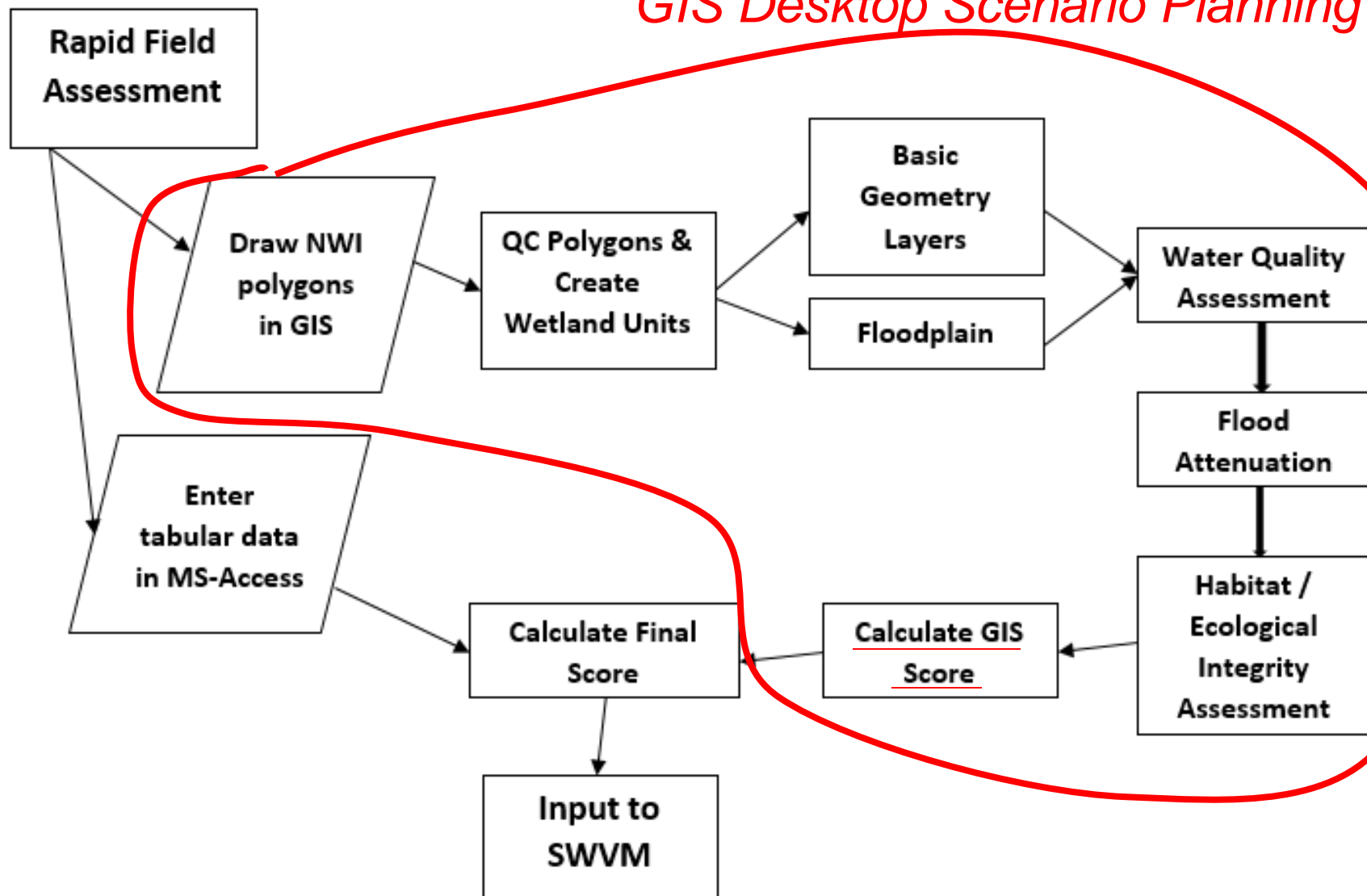
Whitmeadow Run Peatland

Innovation #4





GIS Desktop Scenario Planning





2017 Field-testing: Experts



2018 Field-testing: Stakeholders



2019 Field Season: Training

September 2019 Regulatory Rollout



Thank you!

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