The Upper Mississippi River Forestry Partnership

Northeastern Forest Resource Planners Association and Geo-Spatial Workgroup Conference

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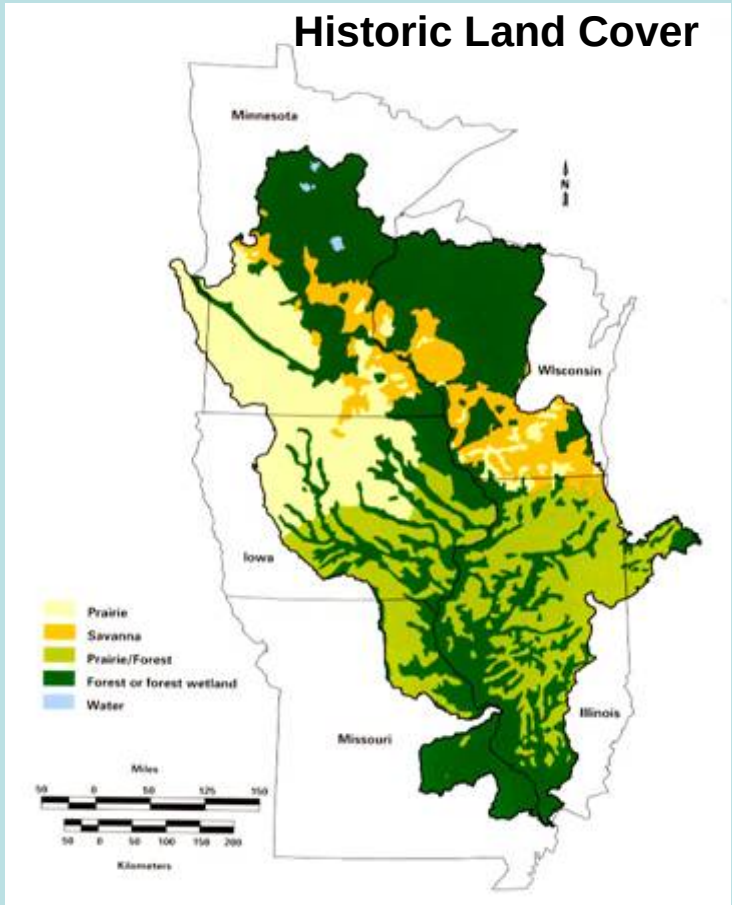
Northeastern Area, SPFO

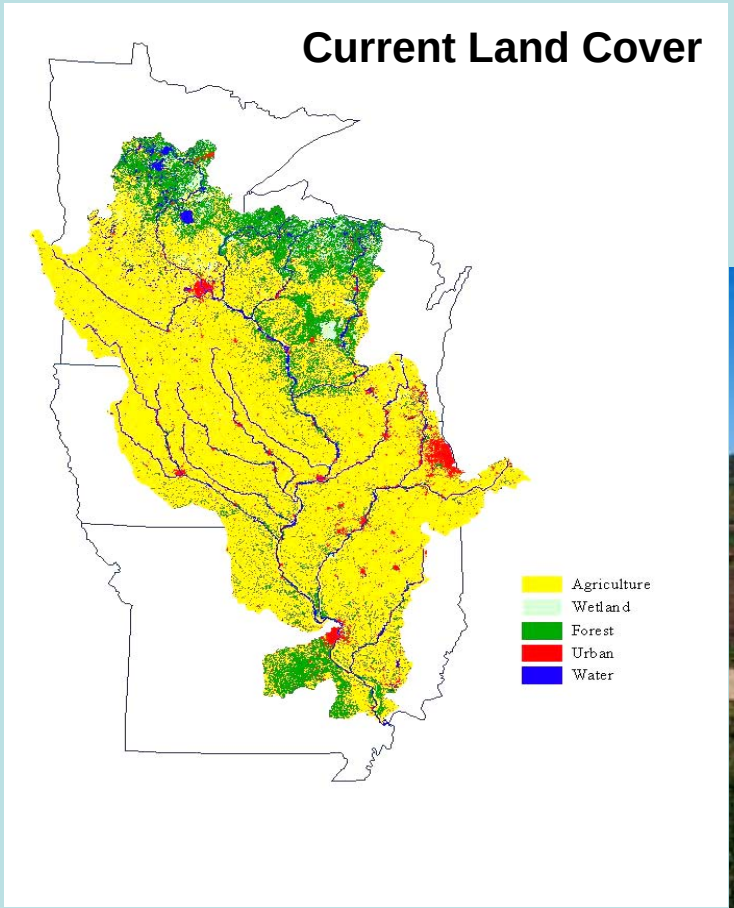
NAASF
Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters

Upper Mississippi River Basin

NAASF
Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters

Defining the problem--





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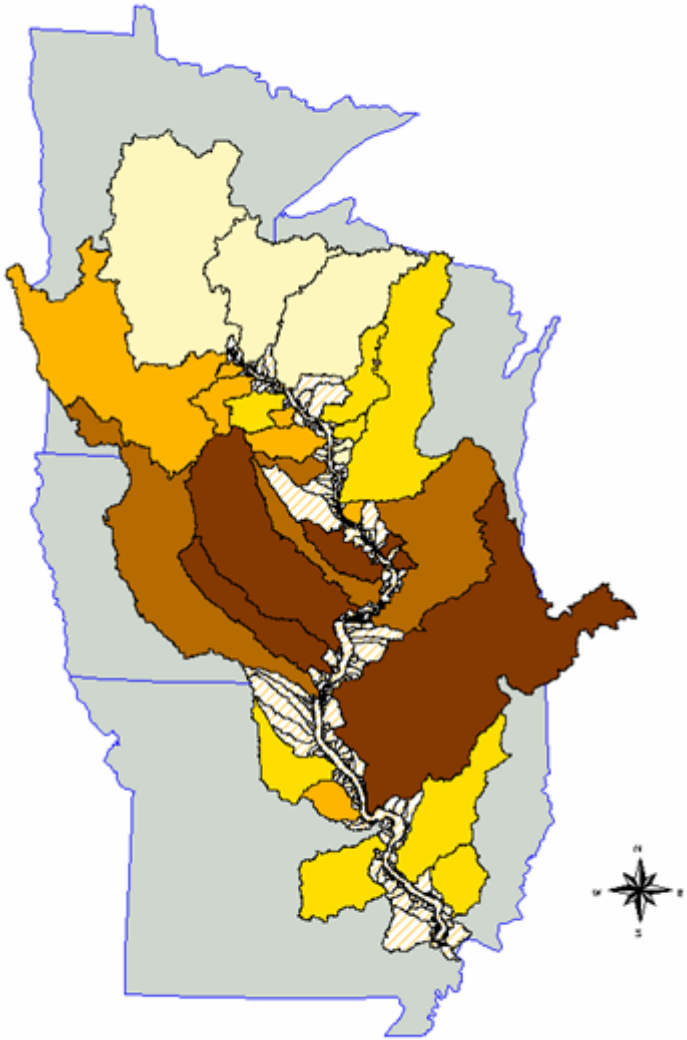
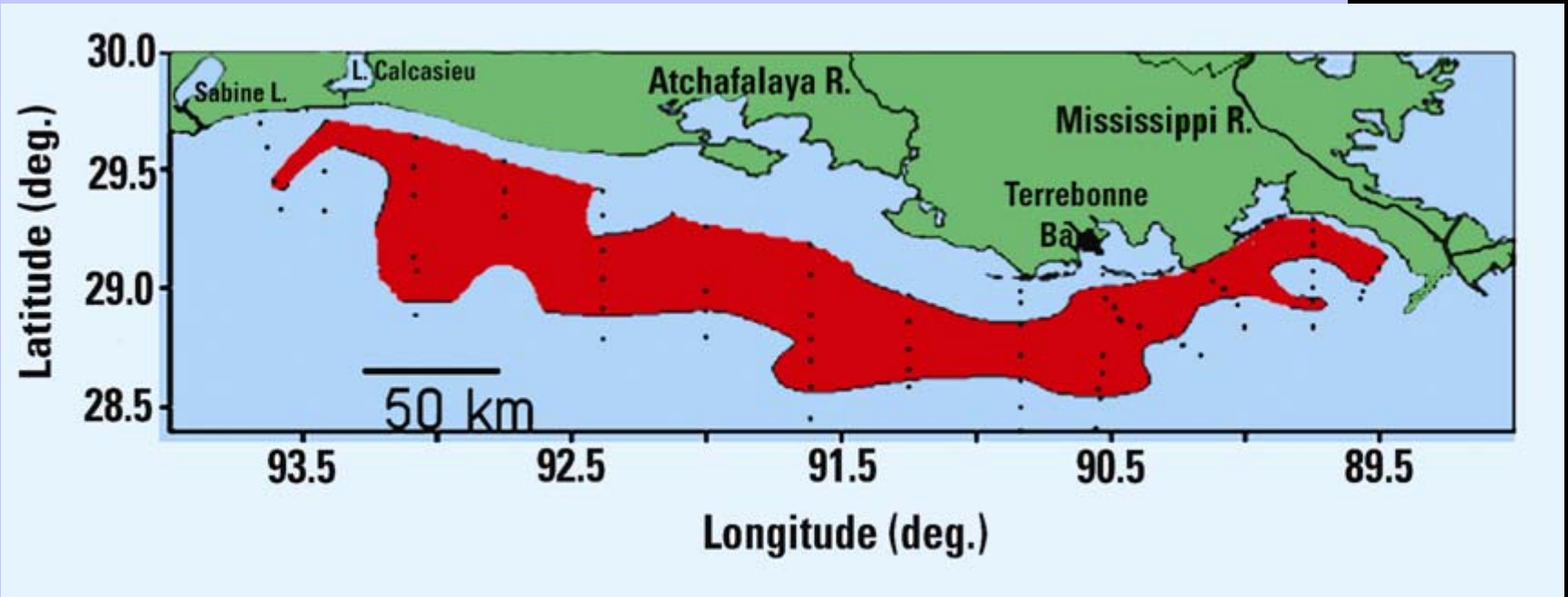
Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters

Defining the problem …



Hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico



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Upper Miss – Critical Bird Habita

Minnesota—

48 Species of Concern

--Upper Mississippi provides either migratory or nesting habitat for most

--14 of 23 Important Bird Areas in the Upper Mississippi River Basin

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Upper Mississippi River Basin

working river --- working landscape

NAASF
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The Goal of the UMFP is to …

- improve water quality and migratory bird habitat in the Upper Mississippi River watershed by restoring riparian forests and improving the condition of existing forests throughout the watershed

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Forestry DNR INDIANA

IOWA DNR Natural Resources

Minnesota DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Wisconsin DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Key Issues for the UMFP

Conservation of Priority Forest Areas

Establishing Riparian Forest Buffers

Provide Migratory Bird Habitat

Restoration of Bottomland Forests

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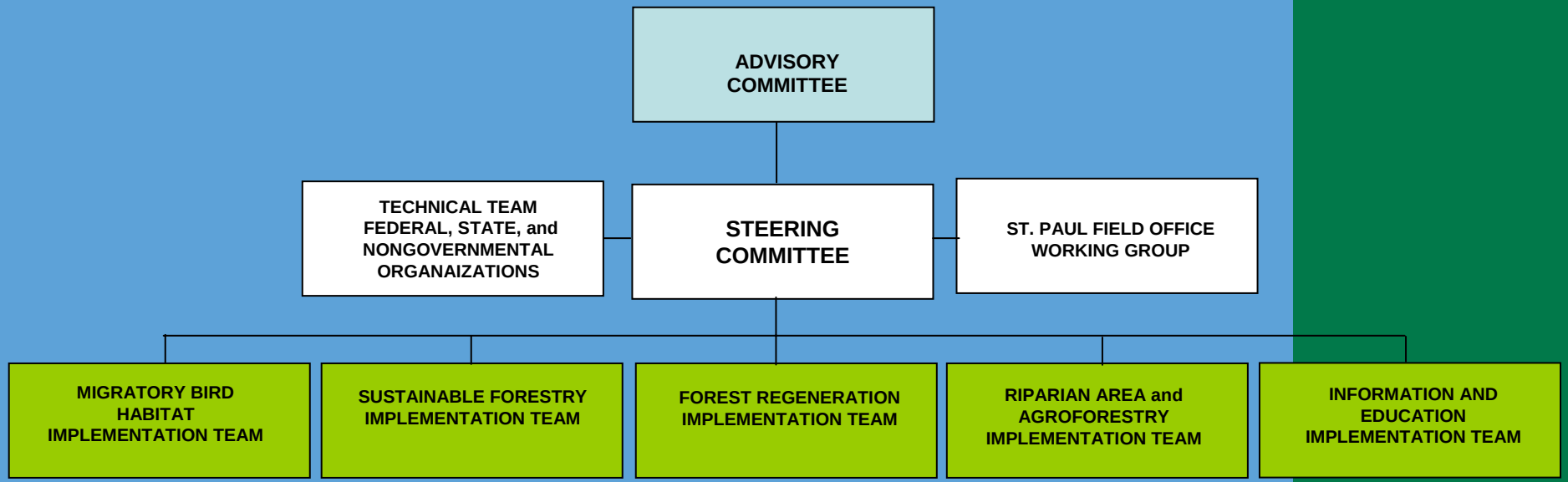
Upper Mississippi River Forestry Partnership Organization Chart



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Partnerships are essential

Current MOU signatories --

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NA

Forestry DNR INDIANA

IOWA DNR Natural Resources

Minnesota DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Wisconsin DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

National Association of Conservation Districts

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2006 Stakeholders Meeting Results:

Regeneration of Bottomland Forests:

- Develop a list of “reference” sites
- Develop plant material specifications
- Guidelines for managers
- Demonstration sites
- Communication a various levels
- Support NESP

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Regeneration of Bottomland Forests

Where are bottomland forests located today?

Where should bottomland forests be reestablished?

Maximum benefits to wildlife, less so to water quality.

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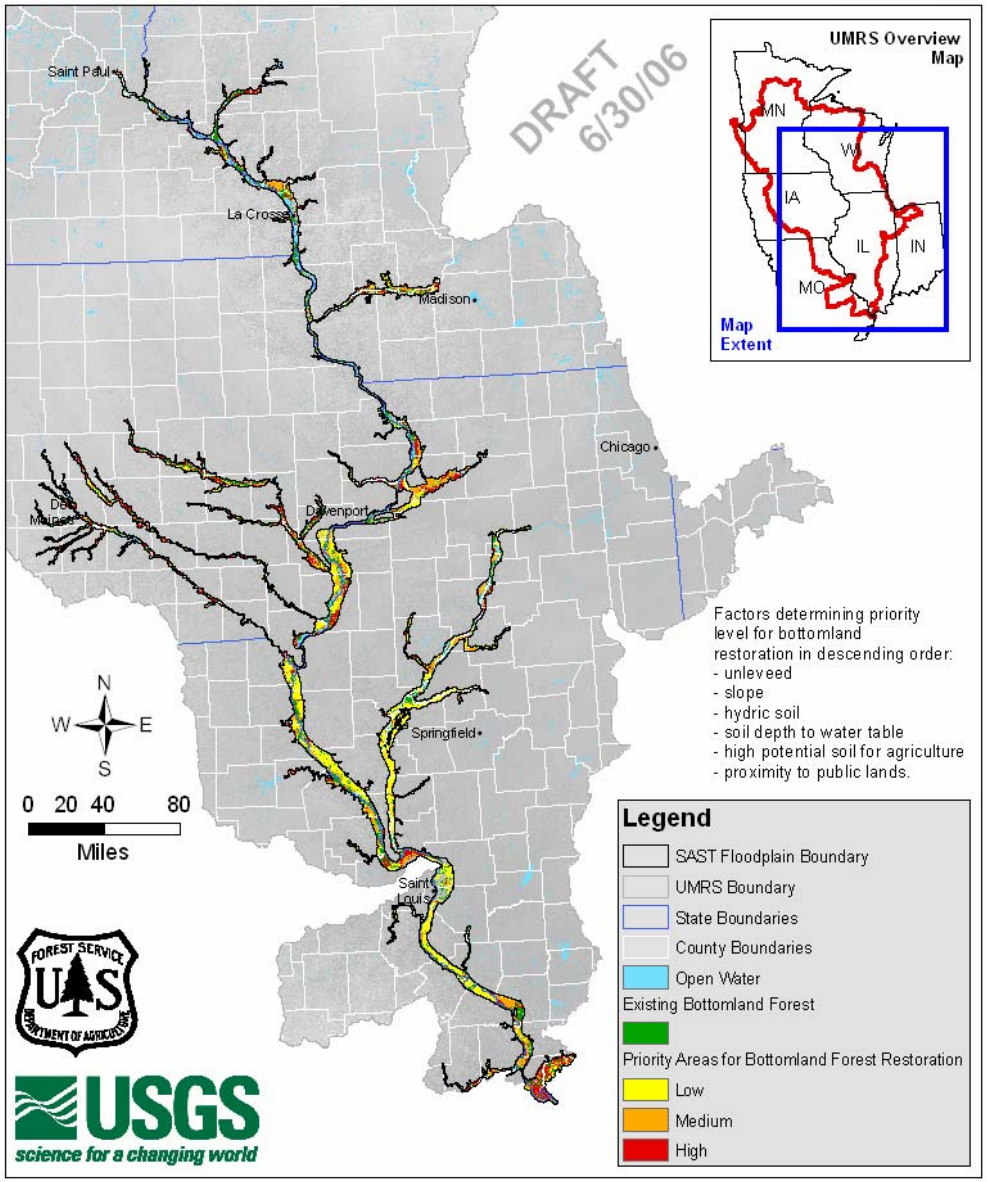
Priority Bottomland Forests for Restoration



Bottomland Restoration Summary

Total Floodplain:
21% existing bottomland
53% potential restoration
26% other

Bottomland restoration:
About 2.3M acres
24% high priority
35% medium
41$ low

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2006 Stakeholders Meeting Results:

Establishing Riparian Forest Buffers:

- Analyze existing gov. efforts
- Map out priority areas
- Collaborate with key partners
- Be aware of emerging markets
- Tools and education

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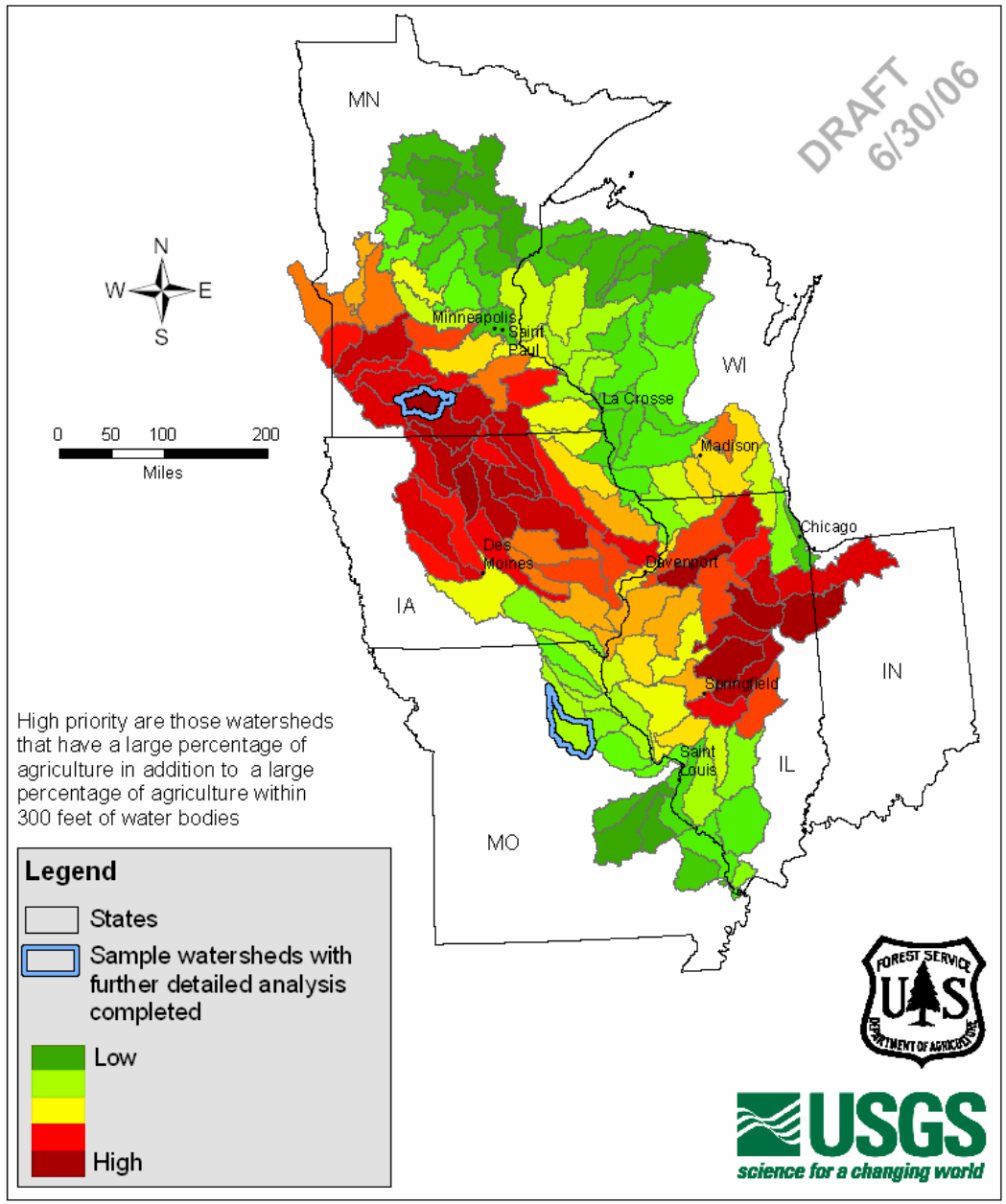
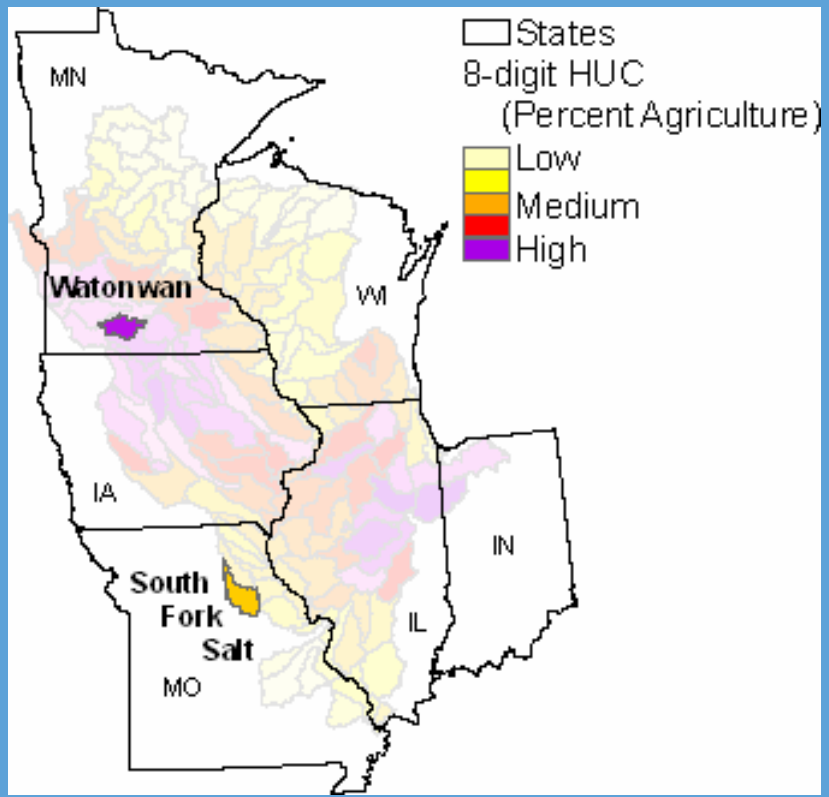
Where are riparian buffers needed?



Subwatershed analysis—pinpointing where buffers exist and need to be.



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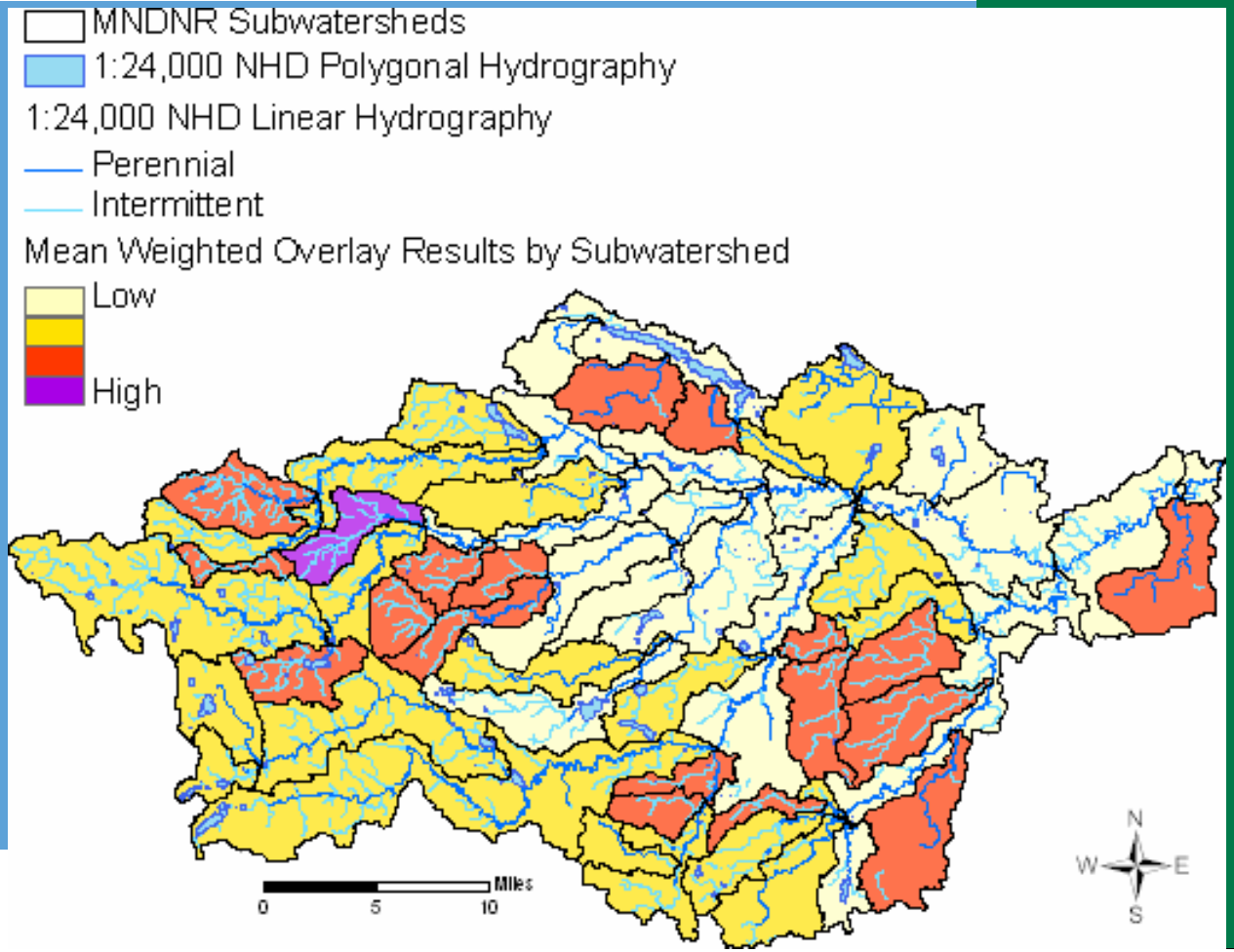
Where are buffers needed by subwatershed?



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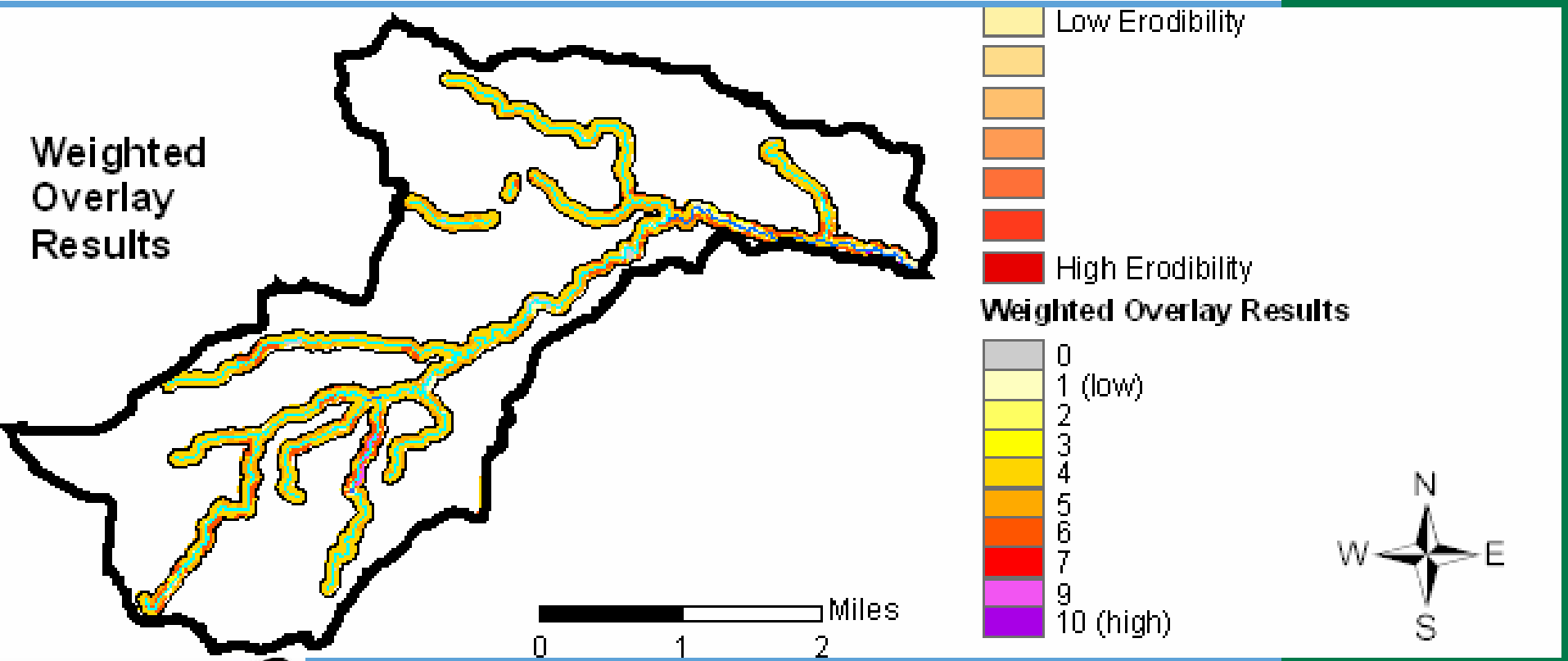

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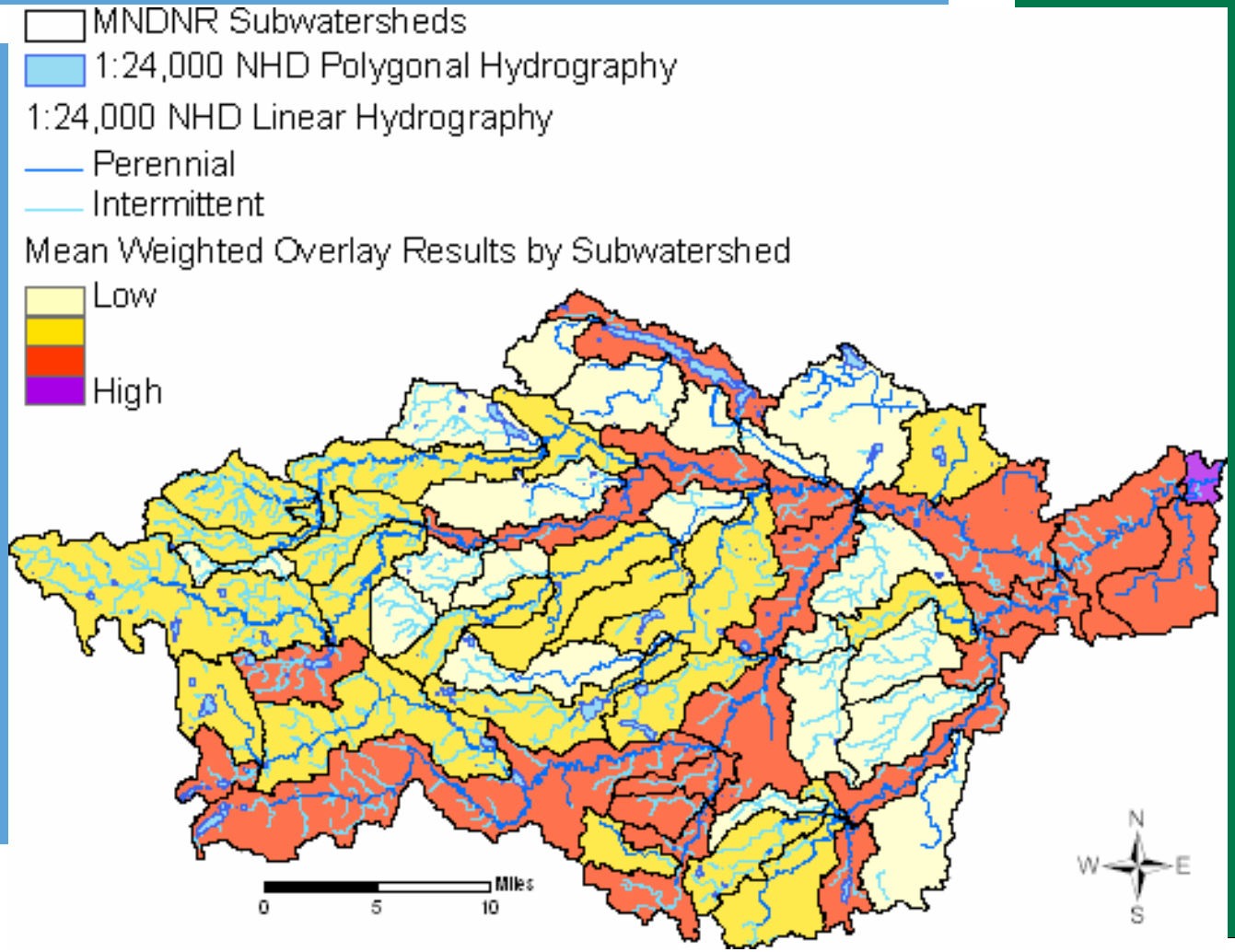
Where do buffers exist by subwatershed?



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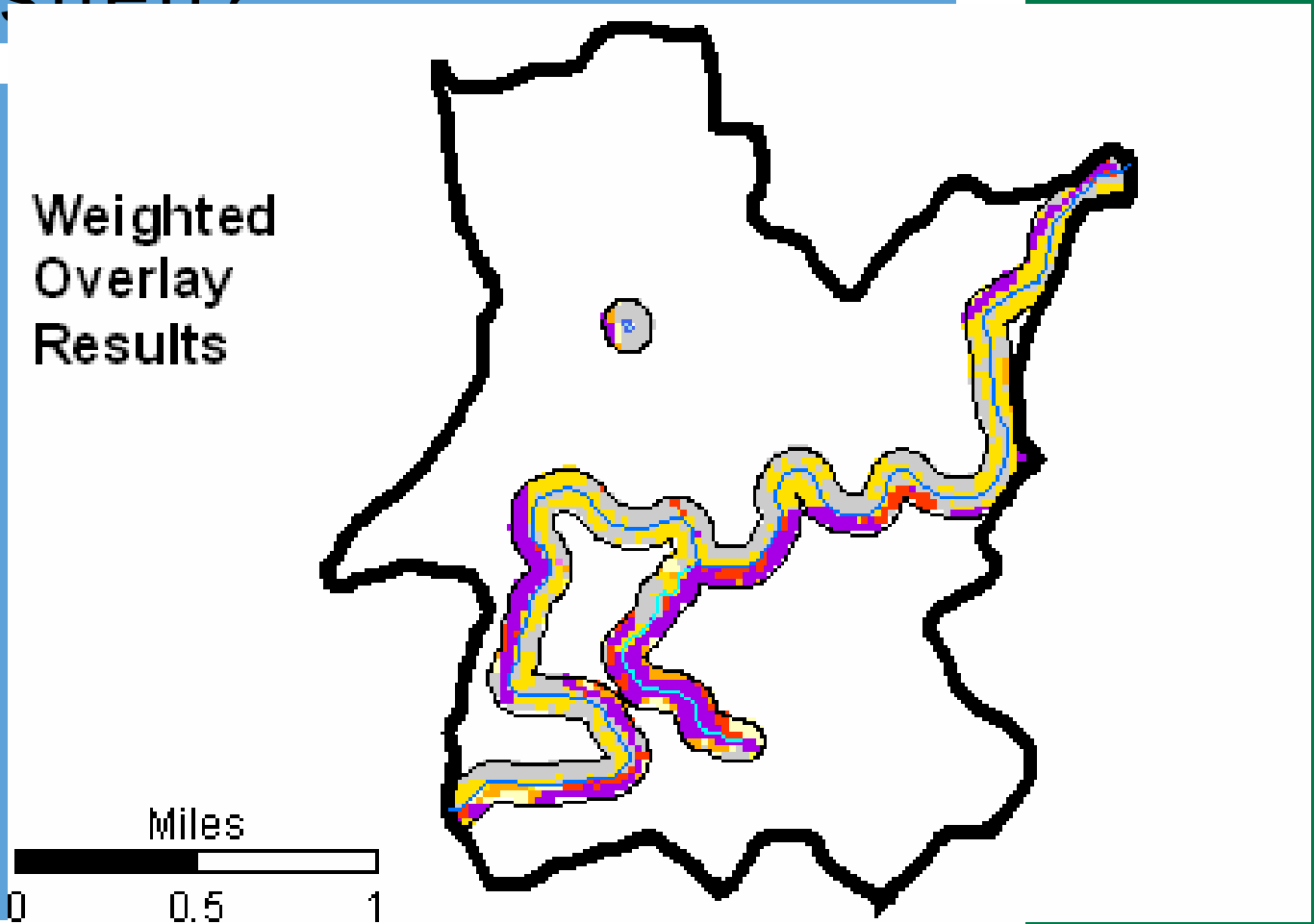

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Providing Migratory Bird Habitat:

- Focus on connectivity of projects
- Promote financial incentives
- Concentrate of private landowners
- Communication-many levels
- Promote forest certification with bird habitat an major priority

Migratory Bird Habitat Analysis

LINK data layers:

1. **Habitat suitability-**
   Species Habitat Matrix
2. **Species Range Maps**
3. **Zonal layer-watersheds, counties, management units.**

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Bottomland Birds Species Habitat Matrix

	Open Water	Low Intensity Residential	High Intensity Residential	Commercial/Industrial/Transportation	Bare Rock/Sand/Clay	Quarries/Strip Mines/Gravel Pits	Transitional	Deciduous Forest	Evergreen Forest	Mixed Forest	Shrubland	Orchards/Vineyards/Other	Grasslands/Herbaceous	Pasture/Hay	Row Crops	Small Grains	Urban/Recreational Grasses	Woody Wetlands	Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands
Bottomland Forest Birds																			
American Woodcock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	80	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	0
Canada Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	20	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	0
Connecticut Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0
Louisiana Waterthrush	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0
Prothonotary Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	0	40	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	20

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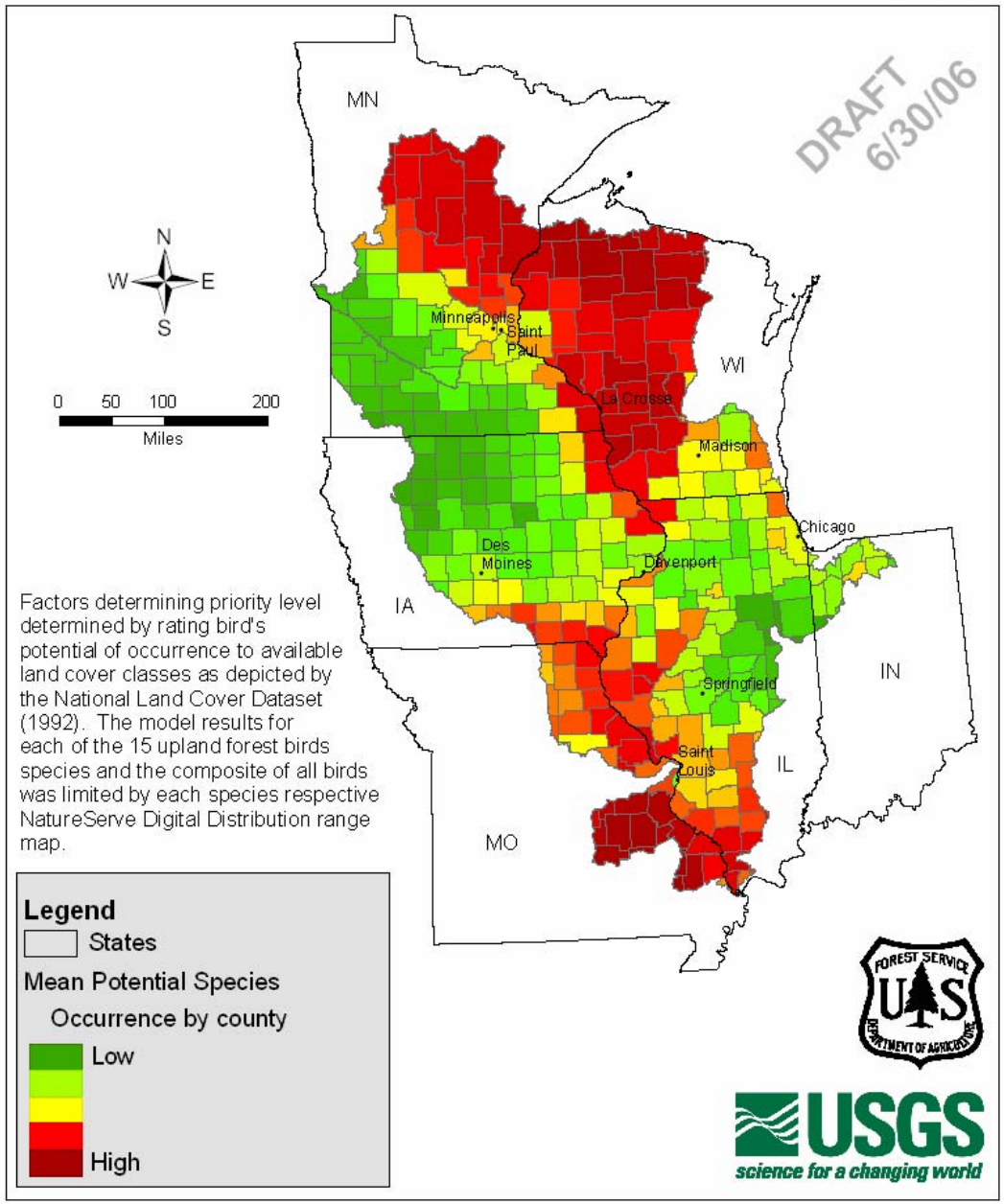
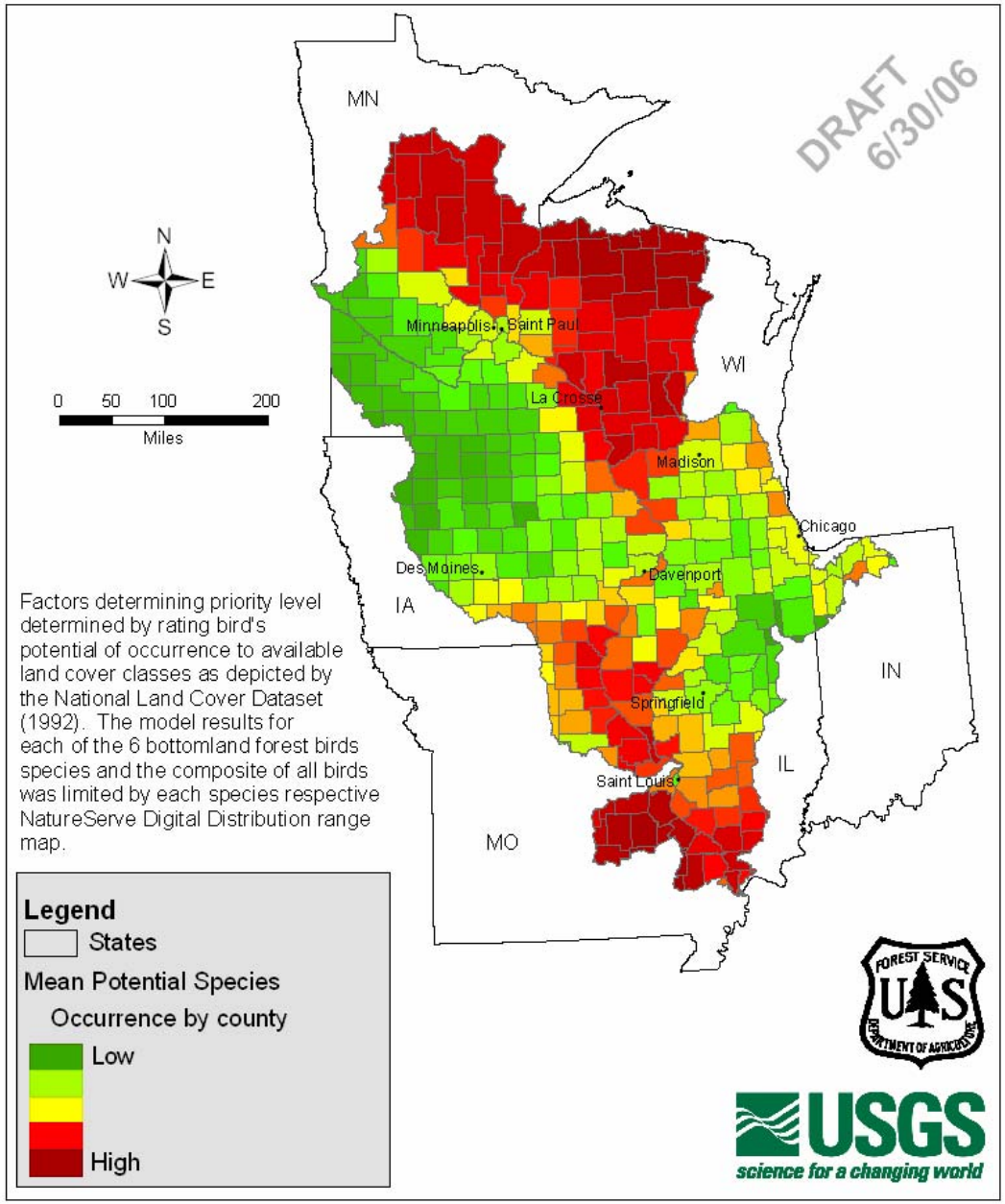
Important Migratory Bird Habitat - Upland Forest Birds LINK Results



Upper Mississippi Forest Partnership

Important Migratory Bird Habitat - Bottomland Forest Birds LINK Results



2006 Stakeholders Meeting Results:

Conservation of Priority Forests:

- Develop GIS criteria for PFA's
- Utilize GIS to select PFA's
- Conservation "toolbox"
- Water Quality measurements
- Model "ecosystems services" project
- Focus areas: sustainability & oak regeneration

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Conservation of Priority Forest Areas

Analysis similar to what has been done with the Stewardship Spatial Analysis project.

Defining the resource:

- **forest or forested wetland**
- **8 digit HUC's with LOW nitrogen yield**
- **high value for upland/bottomland birds**
- **close proximity to water**
- **close to public lands**
- **close to an area important to T/E species**

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Conservation of Priority Forest Areas

Defining the threats to the forest resource:

- **relatively high volume of water consumers**
- **high percent slope**
- **erodible soils**
- **pressure from housing development**

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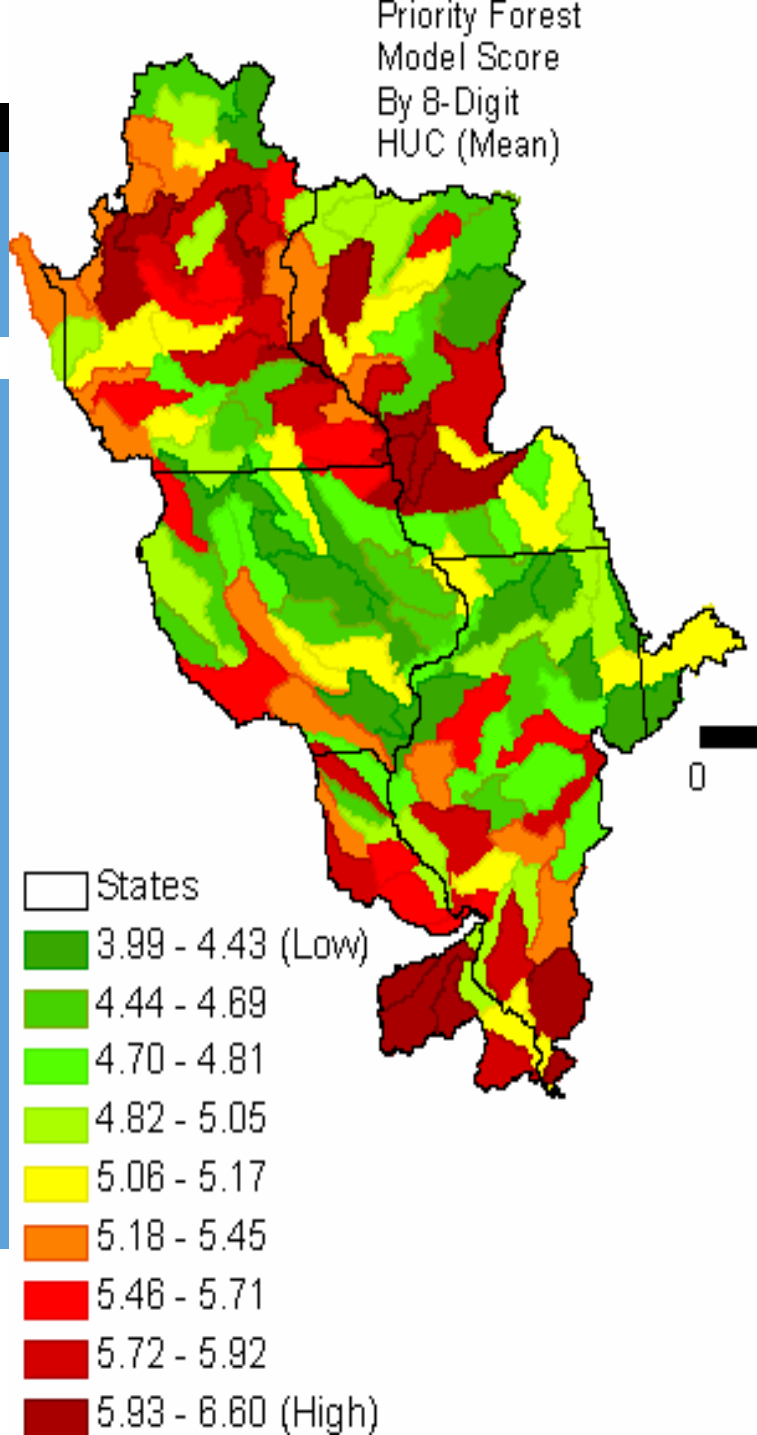

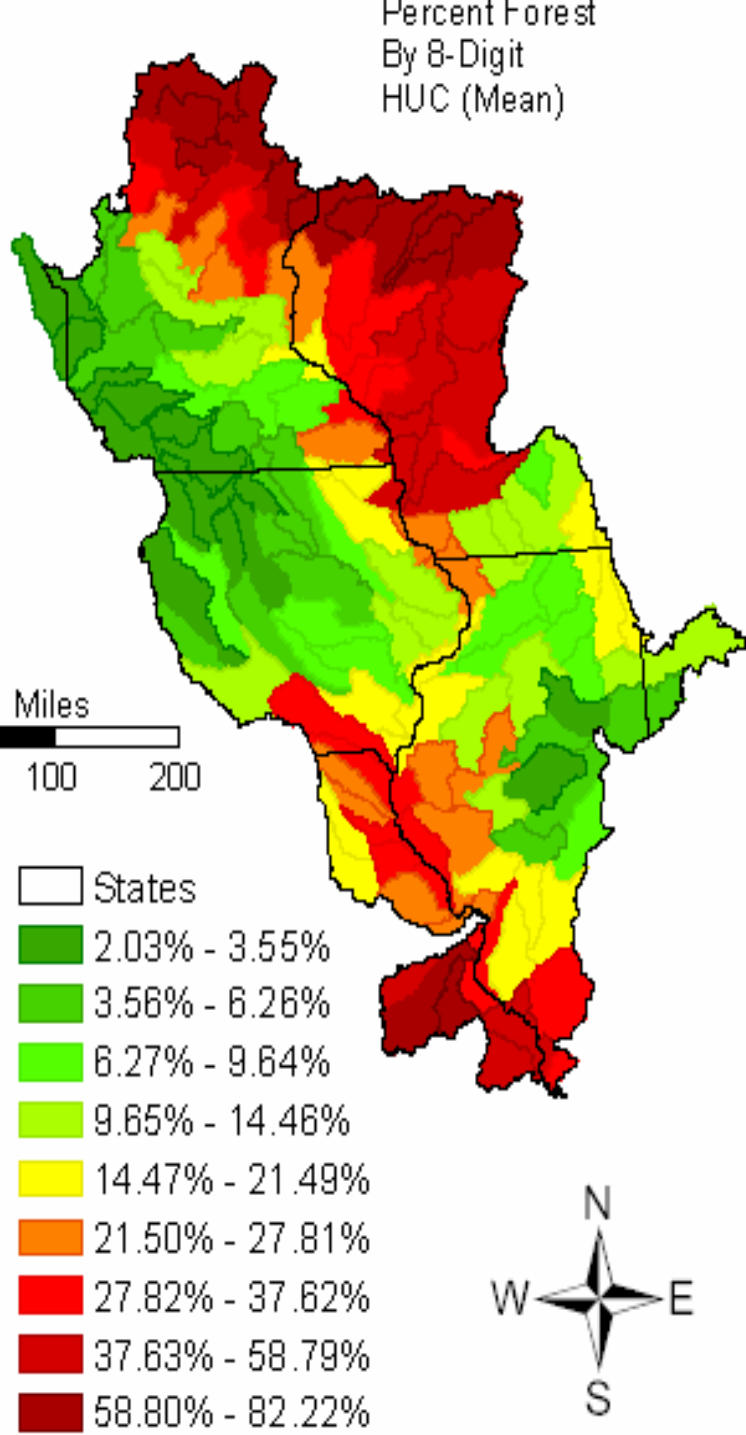

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UMFP – GIS Analysis

Next steps …..

- Final documentation done by USGS describing the data, analysis process, and results.
- Final maps and documentation will be on the UMFP website.
- Raw data will be on FS server for additional analysis.
- Results shared with key partners trying to influence their decision making.

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Upper Mississippi Watershed Fund

- $200,000 in grant funds
- Supports the four issues
- 12 projects submitted for round 1, 7 project recommended for funding
- Next round preproposals due September 1, 2006 and April 1, 2007
- www.nfwf.org

Next steps .....

- Working groups-push priorities from Stakeholders meeting
- GIS products-working groups and other partners
- Have GIS data available at UMFP website:
- www.na.fs.fed.us/watershed programs
- Share results of migratory bird grants
- Continue to seek partners for NFWF-Upper Mississippi Watershed grants

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Other Mississippi River efforts …

- **Middle Mississippi River Partnership**

- **Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley**

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