

West Virginia Watershed Assessment Pilot Project
Elk End User/Stakeholder Workshop
April 5, 2012

Participants:

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Larry Orr, WV Trout Unlimited
Julie Stutler, NRCS
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Kara Greathouse, Region III Planning and Development
Karri Rogers, Potesta
John King, DEP
Teresa Koon, DEP (NPS Program)
Dennis Stottlemeyer, DEP
Beth Wheatley, TNC
Keith Fisher, TNC
Ruth Thornton, TNC
Diane Packett, TNC
Misty Downing, TNC

Q: Question

C: Comment

A: Answer

Part I: Ruth Thornton

Project introduction

Q: (DW) Do the colors on the landscape correspond to riparian/wetland, etc? A: No, represents the active river area, material contribution zone.

Description of indices & metrics

Q: (BC) What year are the landcover and impervious surface coverages? A: NLCD 2006, Strager 2009

Q/C: (LO) Have you been in contact with Elk Headwaters Association? (Mentioned downstream strategies assessment) A: Yes, we've invited them and seen the report.

Consolidated analysis

Q: (TK) Did DNR not have any priorities? A: Not defined spatially, just habitats. State Wildlife Action Plan identifies strategies, species, but nothing spatial.

Presentation of results

Q: (DW) Mechanism to use field collected data as feedback to get data updated? A: (DS) Not currently, drawing on various datasets so feedback should go to the owner of the dataset.

Part II: Diane Packett

C: (LO) Good photo of the river.

Intro

Q: (LO) Why no ownership data, too time-consuming? A: Not currently available as a public, statewide GIS layer. C: (BC) Some work on this has been done, state GIS council has goal to cover the state. C: (KF) TNC has this info, but its proprietary.

Potential use scenarios:

Streams/Riparian Protection

Q: (LO) Dry Fork area is dry for several miles, assume that this means when there is water it has good hydrologic connectivity? A: Don't have good data, some things aren't mappable or there is a lack of data, why site visits are so important. Hard when there's no spatial data. C: (LO) Wouldn't fish there, wouldn't call it a trout stream ("There ain't no fish in it"). George Phillips 8 Rivers (Save the Rivers?) have karst data. C: (DS) Proposed sewage treatment plant discharge is supposed to be in this area, is a karst area.

C: (RT) Information about attributes will be available in the tool.

Wetland Restoration

Q: (LO) When you say potential septic system, what does that mean? A: We mean structure there that is outside the served sewage area, so possibly installed septic system. C: (DS) You hope it's not a straight pipe.

Q: (DW) Can you identify what NWI wetland type? A: Yes (attribute information is available).

Uplands Protection

Q: (BC) On the coordinate systems, is it web Mercator? A: Yes, DEP protocol.

Web mapping tool examples

Q: (SV) Does the icon have the word when you scroll over it? A: Yes.

C: (DW) I will use it to find gaps in what we know, because the data has gaps and this help us pinpoint where we need ground-truthing.

C: (T M) I think Excel files would be useful.

C: (BC) More attributes the better, both shapefiles and Excel useful as long as you can get all the data.

C: (SV) As long as you can navigate through it easily.

C: (KR) GIS users would prefer table of contents, but multiple users might like icons.

C: (T M) Icons must have words next to them, people always asking what they're for, (SV) or rollover would be fine.

C: (T M) Search engine optimization, make sure that Google can find the map once it's done.

C: (BC) I'm interested in all of them. Aerial photography, have multiple years, successive years to see changes. Infrared is useful.

C: (KF) Link in historical aerials (like 1940s).

Overlay datasets?

Q: (DW) Very early aerial imagery, would be useful? A: Not in digital format yet. C: (DW) Soils. C: (BC) Have soil drainage data available.

Q: (T M) could you build something in to grab your coordinates and drop it into another mapper? Take where you are into another web tool.

C: (BC) Have links available to other data sources, other information.

C: (KR) Export the catchments as a shapefile to take into other map viewers.

Q: (DW) Is there a feature where you can know if there are endangered species in this area? A: We could show that information. C: (BC) Caution that DNR/FW say they don't want that information given out, due to harvesters. C: (JK) Can set it up to display at different scales. C: (DS)/(BC) Could say contact DNR for more information, but there may be species there. Use caution with mussels data as well.

Q: (DW) Do you explain the weighting? A: Higher the number, higher the weight.

What questions would you use the tool to help answer?

C: (BC) Will site study, and will have write up about it in the DEP state Water Management Plan, as an additional tool.

C: (JK) Good to have permit information available, maybe someday link to copy of actual permit.

C: (BC) Some other tools (like Marcellus Shale) available online, link set up to direct users for more information.

Q: (BC) Have you thought about tracking the site to see who is using it? Helpful to see usage, how long they are there.

C: (RT) May include feedback form for responses from users.

C: (DS) Predicts we'll see consultants, watershed groups, a lot of resource agency groups, everyone with different purposes and feedback.

Q: (DW) Did the old breeding bird survey get digitized? Could you use it? A: Not appropriate at this scale. (DW) The old WV breeding bird atlas...?

C: (JK) Can you build your own map and save it as a jpg? Useful to watershed groups for grant writing. A: Yes.

Q: (DW) If a watershed group was making a map and they wondered what species were there, would there be a way to pop up contacts/links to other data/information? A: Hopefully, if we can find that information ourselves. We'll look into it. (USDA plants database, by county, NatureServe, etc)

C: (T M) Helpful to have some way to confirm that "they've hit a dead end". Send people to a page that lists everything we've got, in terms of data, so they know what they've gone through.

Q: (BC) Looking into any kind of compacts/political agreements? A: No, we view it as an informative tool.

(MD) Would be good to show data about existing groups working in each watershed (the watershed associations, etc), may have to compile this ourselves (never mind, DEP has it, according to JK, is public information, who knows how current it is).