

Wildlife Pilot Study

WELCOME TO THE WILDLIFE

PILOT STUDY OPEN HOUSE

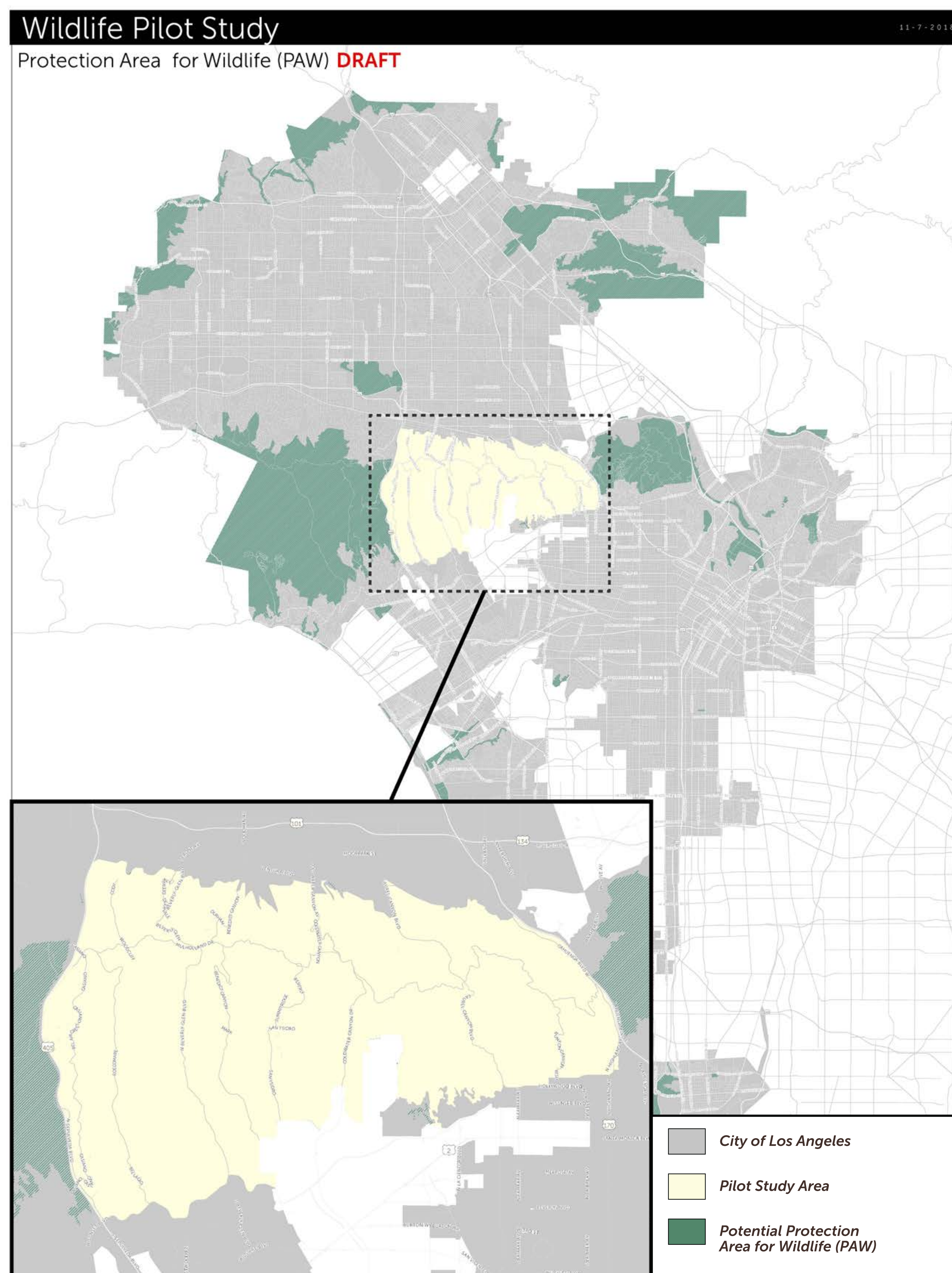
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2018

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Introduction: Potential Protection Areas for Wildlife (PAWs)



Goals

- Conserve and protect existing natural areas and wildlife habitats in the City
- Support other related City, County, State and Federal government ecological efforts



Study Goals

- Evaluate the existing biotic conditions within the City
- Identify areas important for supporting habitat and movement for wildlife
- Provide development standards for managing and conserving biological resources by potentially regulating development and wildlife habitats within these areas

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Introduction: Wildlife Pilot Study Area

Study Area

- Located in the Santa Monica Mountains between the 405 and 101 freeways
- Pilot area will serve to test potential regulations that could be adapted for future Protection Areas for Wildlife (PAWS)



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Existing Conditions: Citywide Environmental Efforts

Council Motion Objectives

- Protect remaining open spaces and wildlife habitat
- Increase wildlife movement mobility
- Prevent further injuries and deaths of wildlife
- Designate an area as sensitive habitat
- Incorporate conservation, equity, and biodiversity

Pilot Study Area

- Potential protections and regulations to achieve improved biodiversity, resiliency, and sustainability.

Biodiversity Efforts

- Biodiversity Index being designed for LA
- Biodiversity refers to: Natural Areas, Connectivity Measures, Protected Natural Areas, Pervious Surfaces, Access to Natural Areas, and Public Consultation Process (Project Review)
- Dense development, imperviousness, and intense uses are key pressures on biodiversity

Resiliency + Public Safety

- Fire, erosion, flooding, safety evacuations

OneWater

- Increase climate resilience
- Balance environmental, economic, and societal goals
- Improve health of local watersheds

The Sustainability pLAn

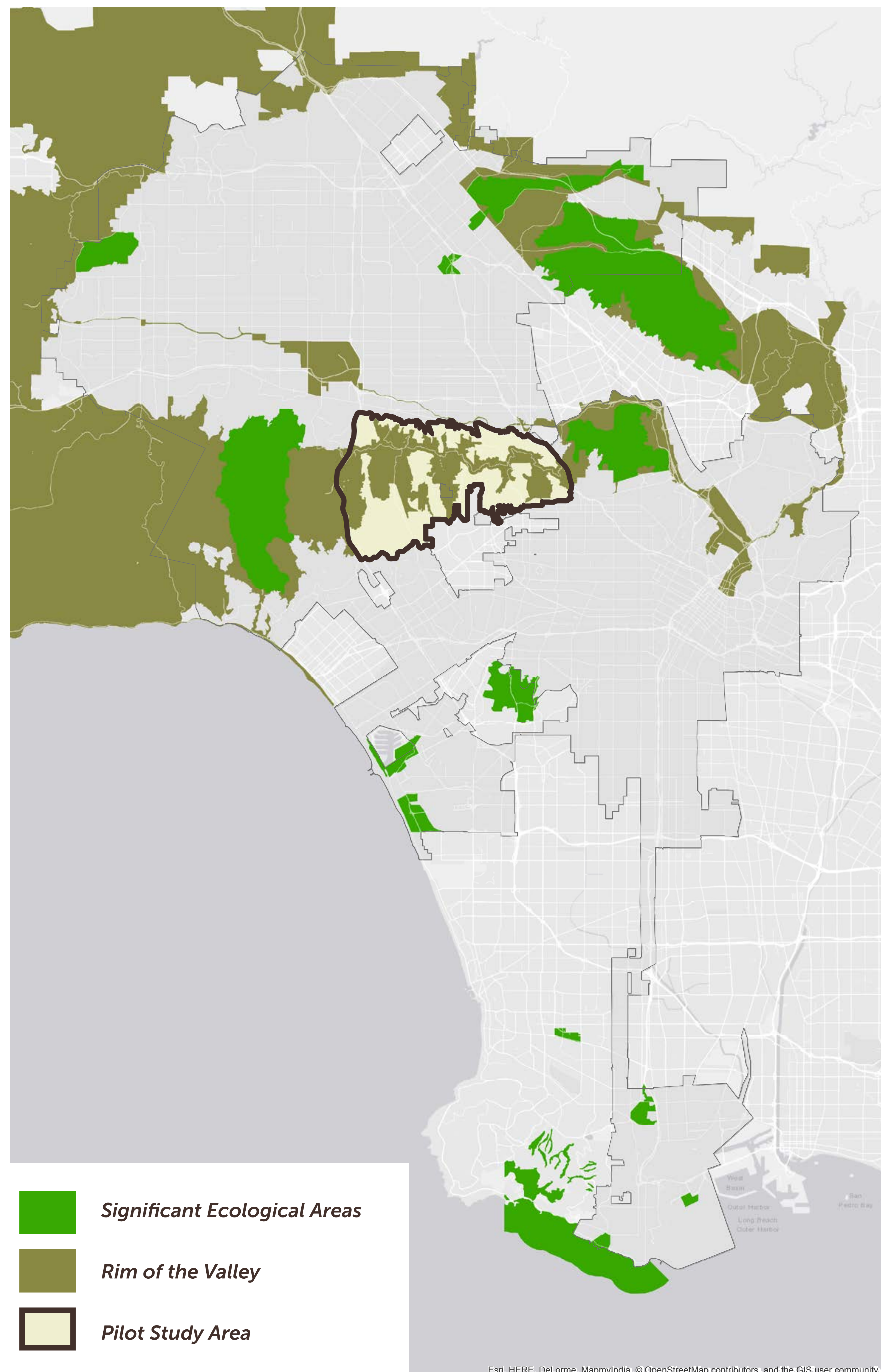
- Protect LA's natural resources and thriving wildlife
- Healthy urban ecosystems
- Preparedness and resiliency
- Protect and support biodiversity

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Existing Conditions: County Policies (SEAs & RIVA)



Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs)

Los Angeles County began a network of Significant Ecological Areas in 1978 to conserve areas with rare or unique biological resources that are critical to the welfare of wildlife, are relatively undisturbed, or serve as natural linkages. The SEA Program was originally established as a part of the 1980 County General Plan to help conserve the genetic and physical diversity within Los Angeles County through designating biological resource areas capable of sustaining themselves into the future.

SEAs are areas where it is important to facilitate a balance between development and biological resource conservation. Where development activities occurs within SEAs, biological review with a key focus on site design is utilized as a means for conserving fragile resources such as streams, woodlands, and threatened or endangered species and their habitats.

Rim of the Valley Alignment Study (RIVA)

In 2008, Congress passed the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act, which directed the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of the Rim of the Valley Corridor. The study determined how suitable and feasible it is to designate a portion of the Rim of the Valley Corridor as part of the existing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), and how these areas could be protected and utilized by local communities.

The National Park Service's final study recommendation proposed a 170,000 acre boundary adjustment to SMMNRA to include portions of the Los Angeles River and Arroyo Seco corridors, the Verdugo Mountains-San Rafael Hills, the San Gabriel Mountains foothills, the Simi Hills, the Santa Susana Mountains, and the Conejo Mountain area. Existing parks such as Griffith Park, Hansen Dam Recreation Area, Sepulveda Basin (recreation areas and wildlife reserve), Los Encinos State Historic Park, Debs Park, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, and Los Angeles State Historic Park would serve as major portals into the Rim of the Valley Corridor area.

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Existing Conditions: Existing Policies & Regulations

What is guiding this effort?

- General Plan and Community Planning Policies offer guidance
- Emerging priorities and technologies
- Resiliency, climate adaptation, and biodiversity

What's allowed to be developed?

- Low density single family residences, public facilities, and open space

Zoning

- Allows for range of primarily single family housing

Current General Plan Conservation Policies

- **Conservation Element, Ch. 2.6**
 - Protect and promote the restoration, to the greatest extent practical, of sensitive plant and animal species and their habitats.
- **Conservation Element, Ch. 2.12**
 - Preserve, protect, restore and enhance natural plant and wildlife diversity, habitats, corridors and linkages so as to enable the healthy propagation and survival of native species, especially those species that are endangered, sensitive, threatened or species of special concern.

Current regulations include Mullholland Specific Plan, Very High Fire Severity Zone, Brush Clearance, Proposed Ridgeline Ordinance, Slope Density, and Hillside Grading / Construction Ordinance and Baseline Hillside/ Mansionization Ordinances

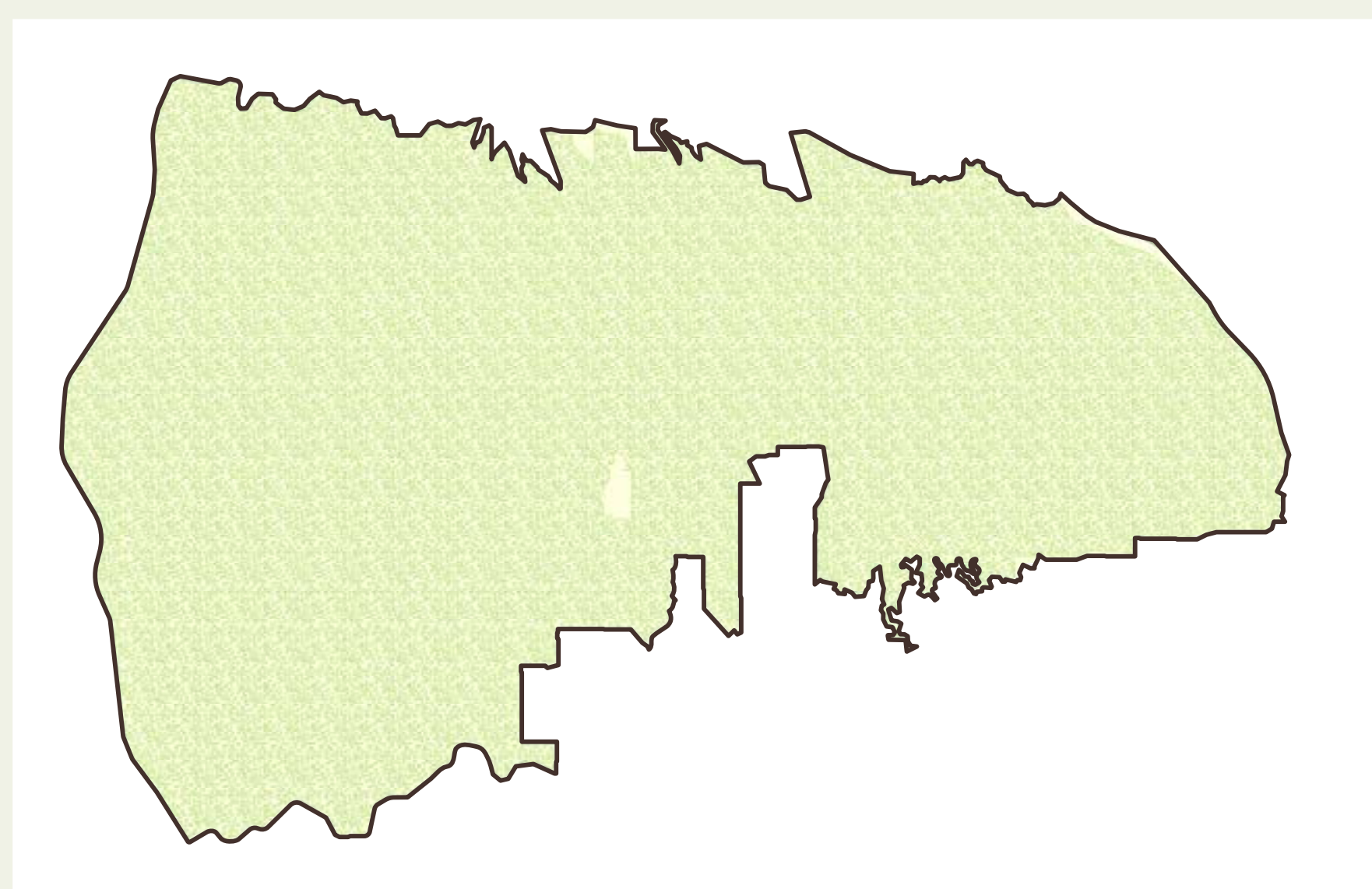
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Existing Conditions: Overlays + Current Regulations

Hillside Regulations



Baseline Hillside Ordinance/Baseline Mansionization Ordinance:

Addresses out-of scale development in single-family zones throughout the City and related construction impacts in Hillside Areas. Additionally, BHO regulates the amount of grading for projects in the Hillside Area.

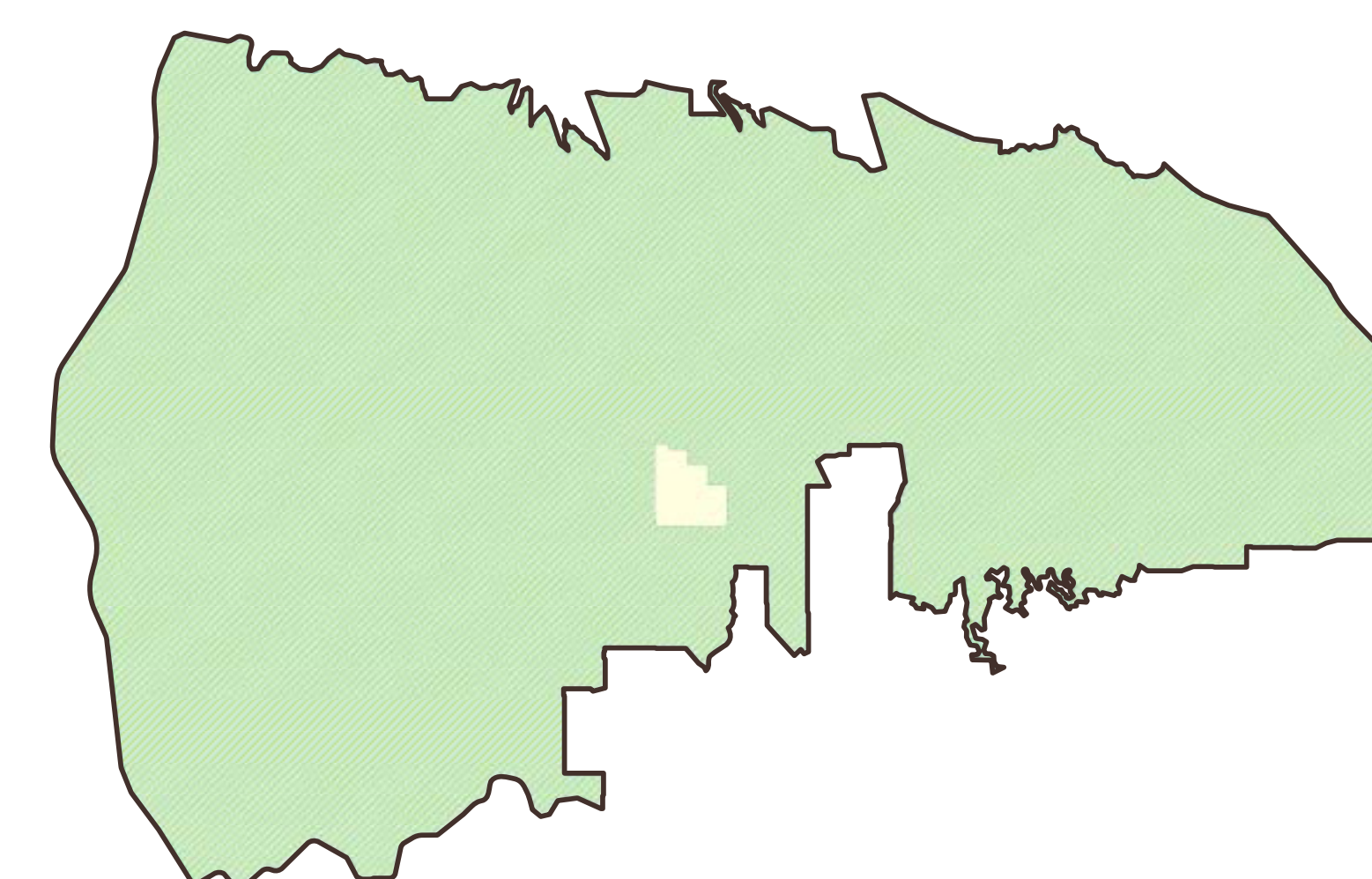
Hillside Construction Regulation (HCR):

HCR District provides extra protections for related impacts of multiple single family home developments in hillside areas. For example, all single-family residential lots which abut a substandard street are limited to Import/Export no more than 75% of the "by-right" grading quantity (combined Cut and Fill) quantity maximums set out in the Zoning Code, and further limited to not exceed 6,000 cubic yards.

Hillside Grading Area:

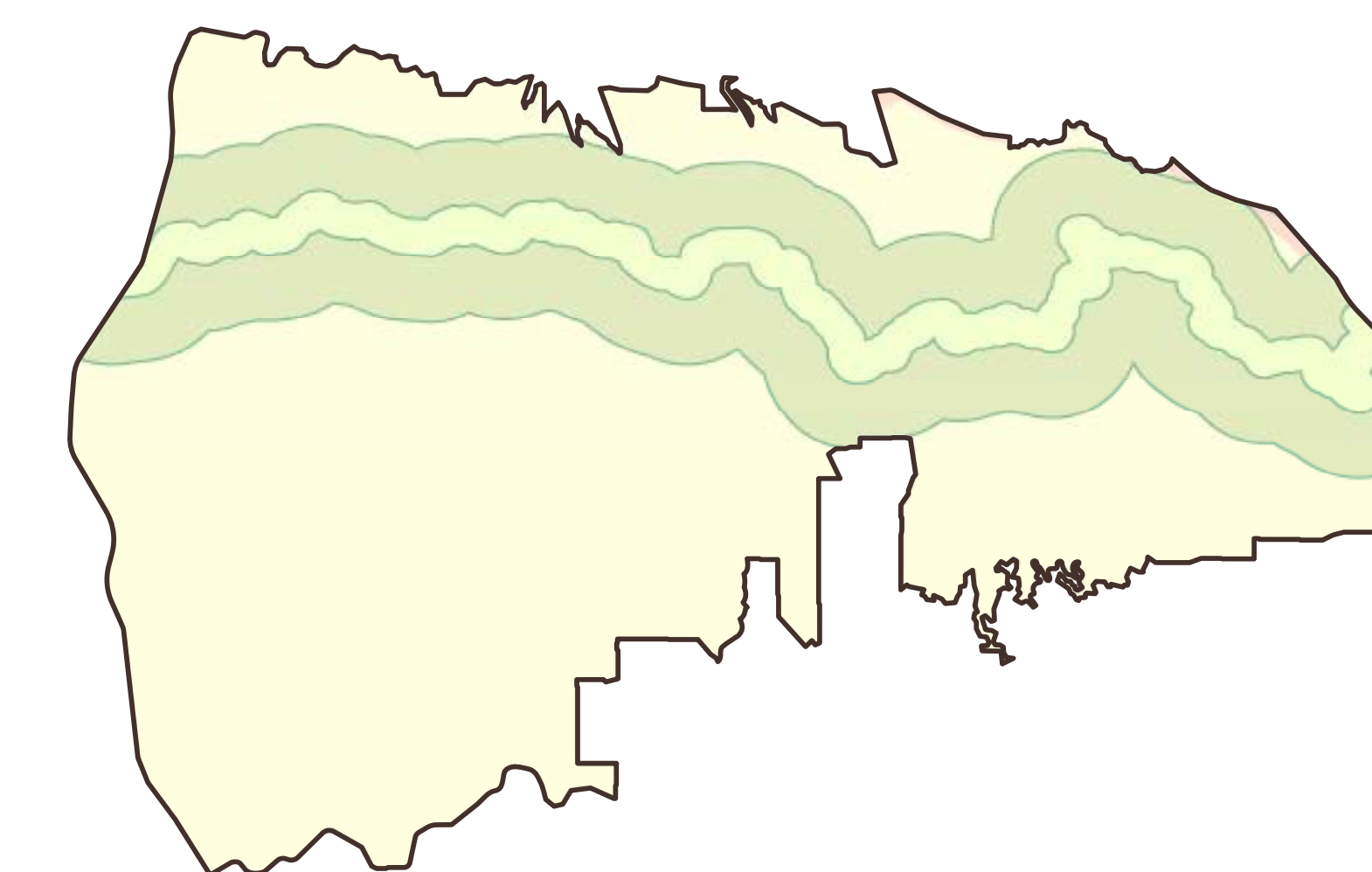
Within the Hillside Grading Area, projects involving import/export of 1,000 cubic yards or more are required to submit a soils and/or geotechnical report reviewed and approved by LADBS to include measures to mitigate impacts related to grading.

Very High Fire Severity Zones



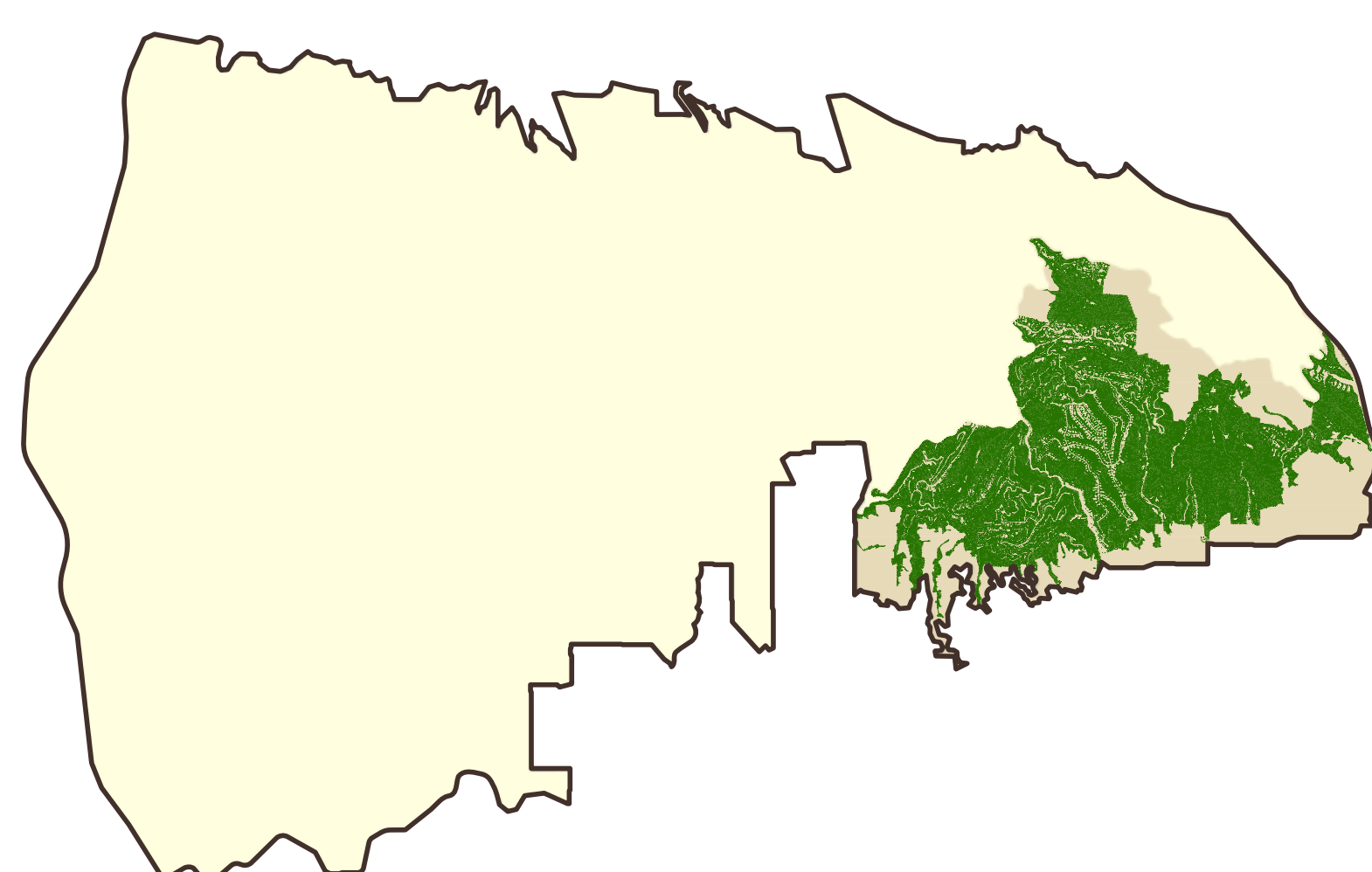
Specifies locations for buildings/structures within high fire areas. For example, regulations maintain defensible space of 100 feet from each side of construction, accounts for fuel modification, and encourages vegetative maintenance.

Mulholland Specific Plan



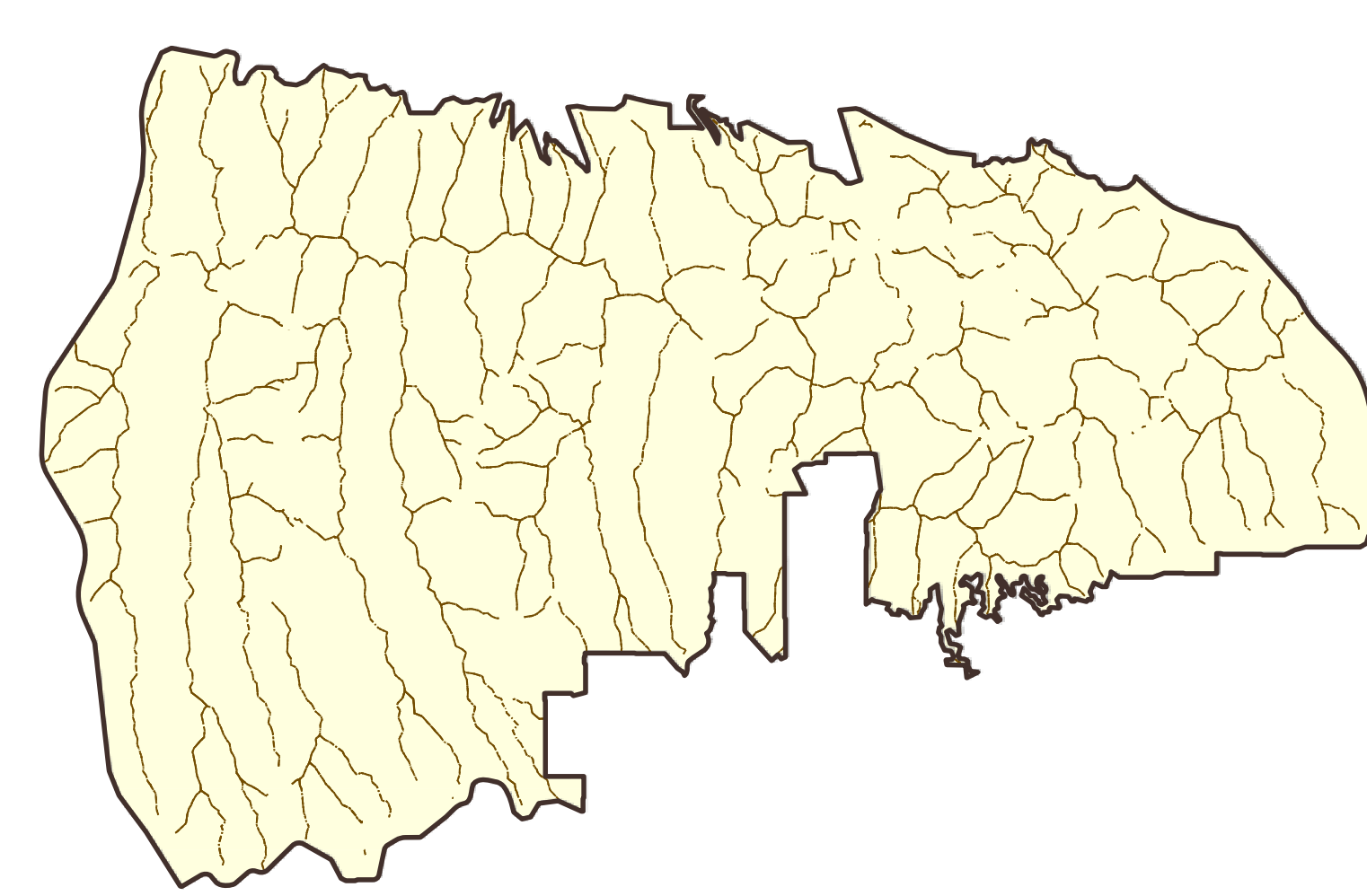
- Specific Plan sets standards for projects proposed within the Scenic parkway.
- Standards include environmental protection measures, grading limits, and building standards. Regulations also affect landscaping, Mulholland Drive and its right-of-way, the Core Trail, major vista points, and utility construction.

Hollywood Community Plan: Slope Density



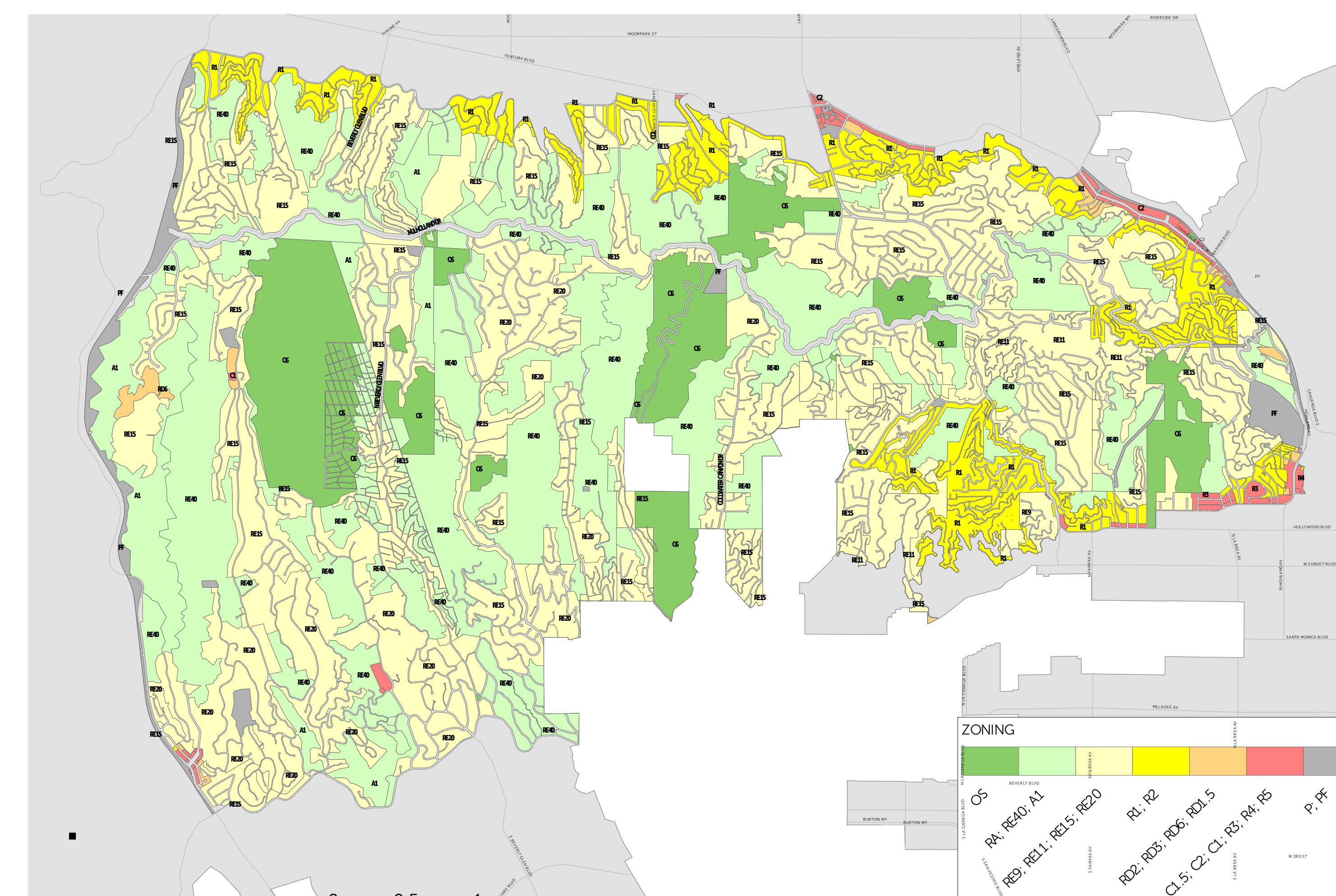
Limits density in areas with an average slope of 15 percent or more to that of a minimum density land use regulation (equivalent to RE 40 zone).

Ridgeline Ordinance (Proposed)



Study evaluates potential ridgeline protection measures based on height and location of structures in proximity to identified ridgelines.

Existing Zoning

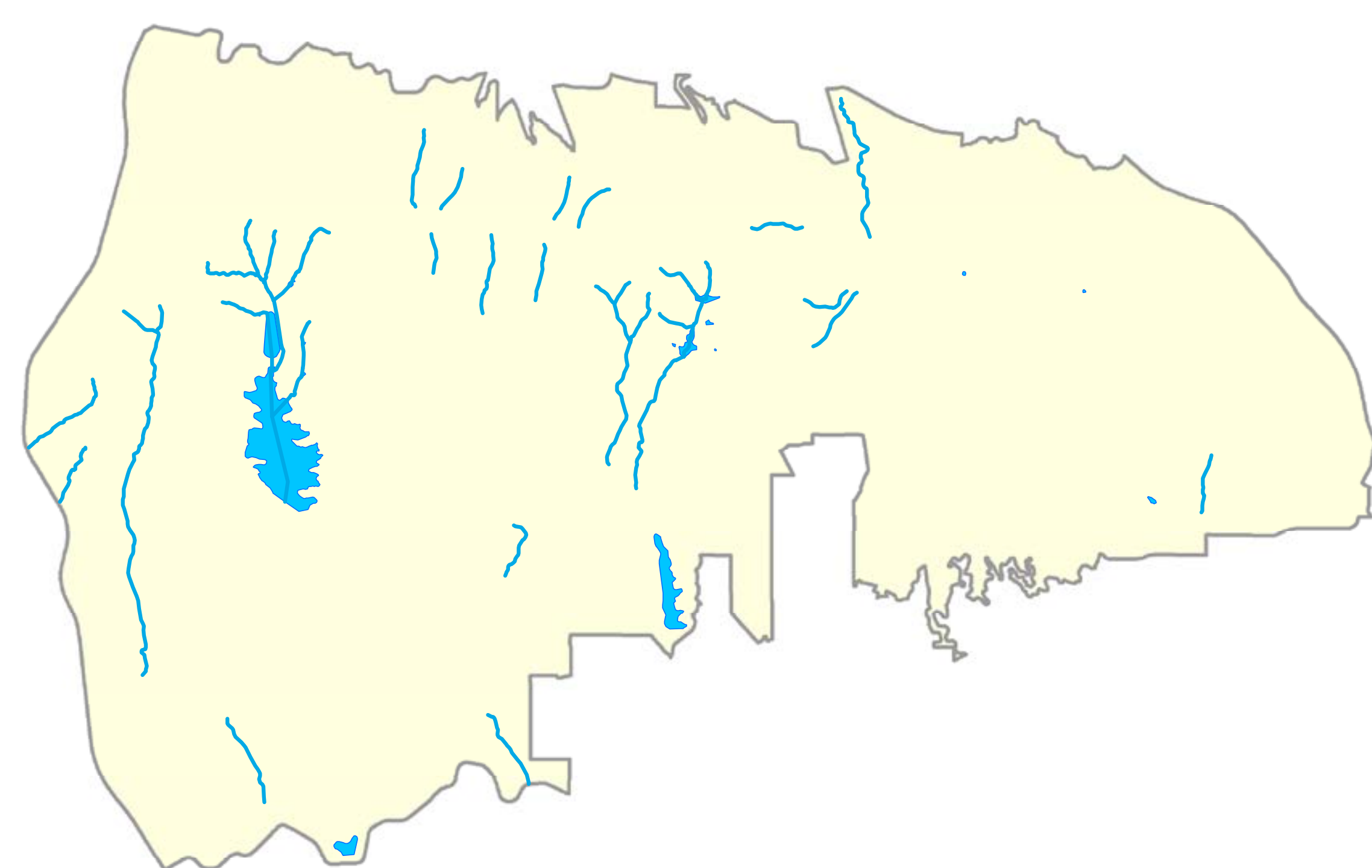


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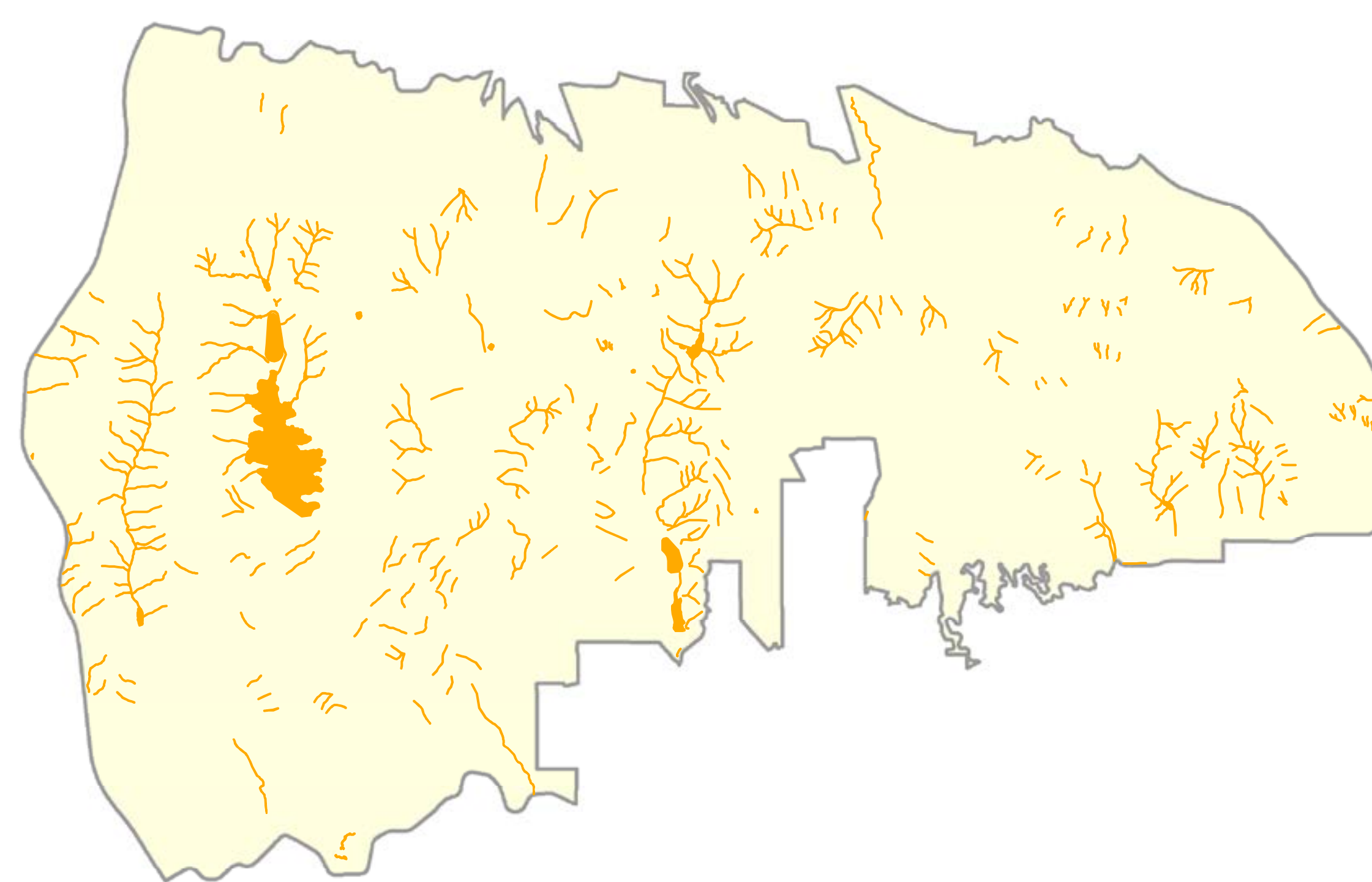
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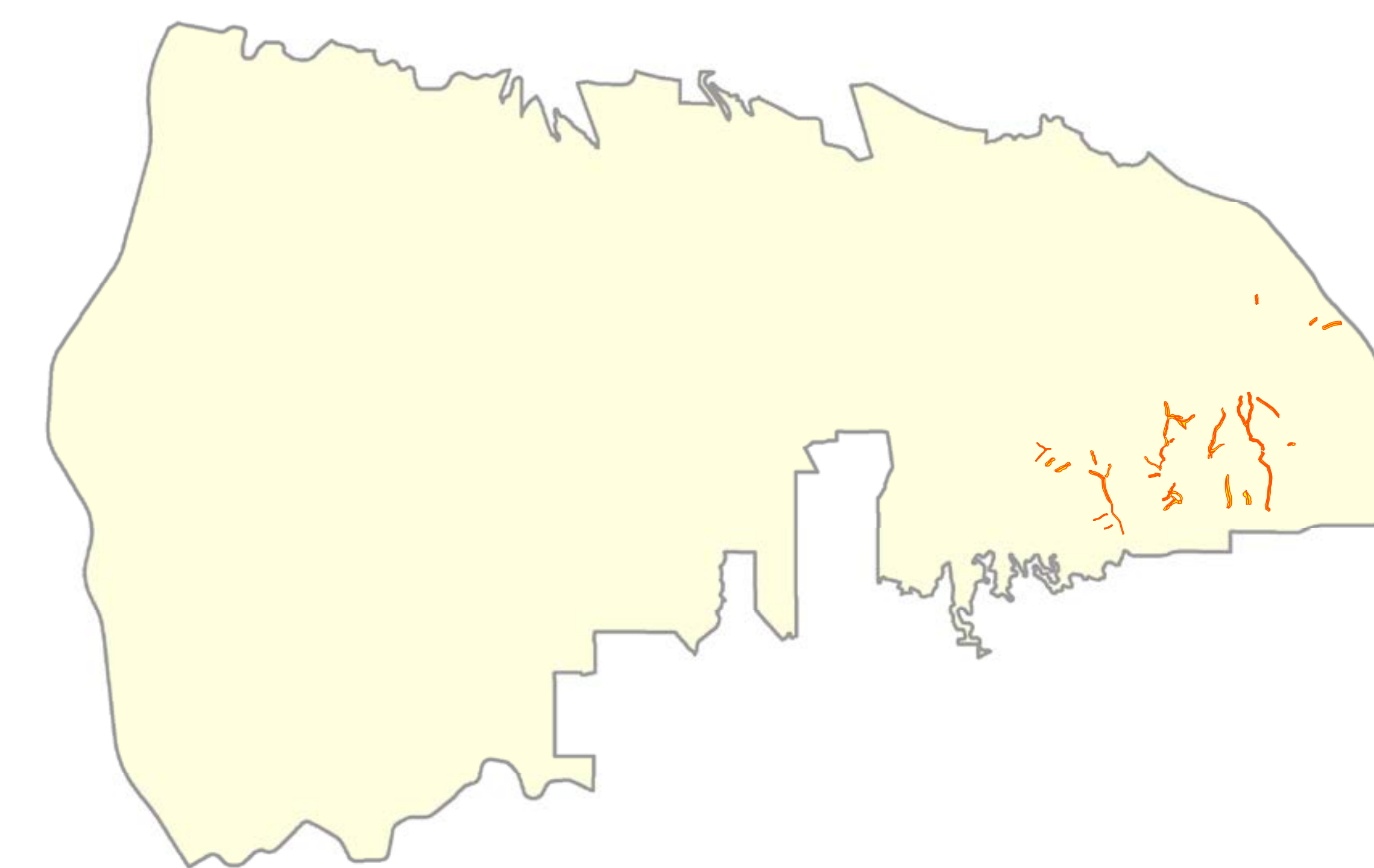
Potential Biological Resources to Consider



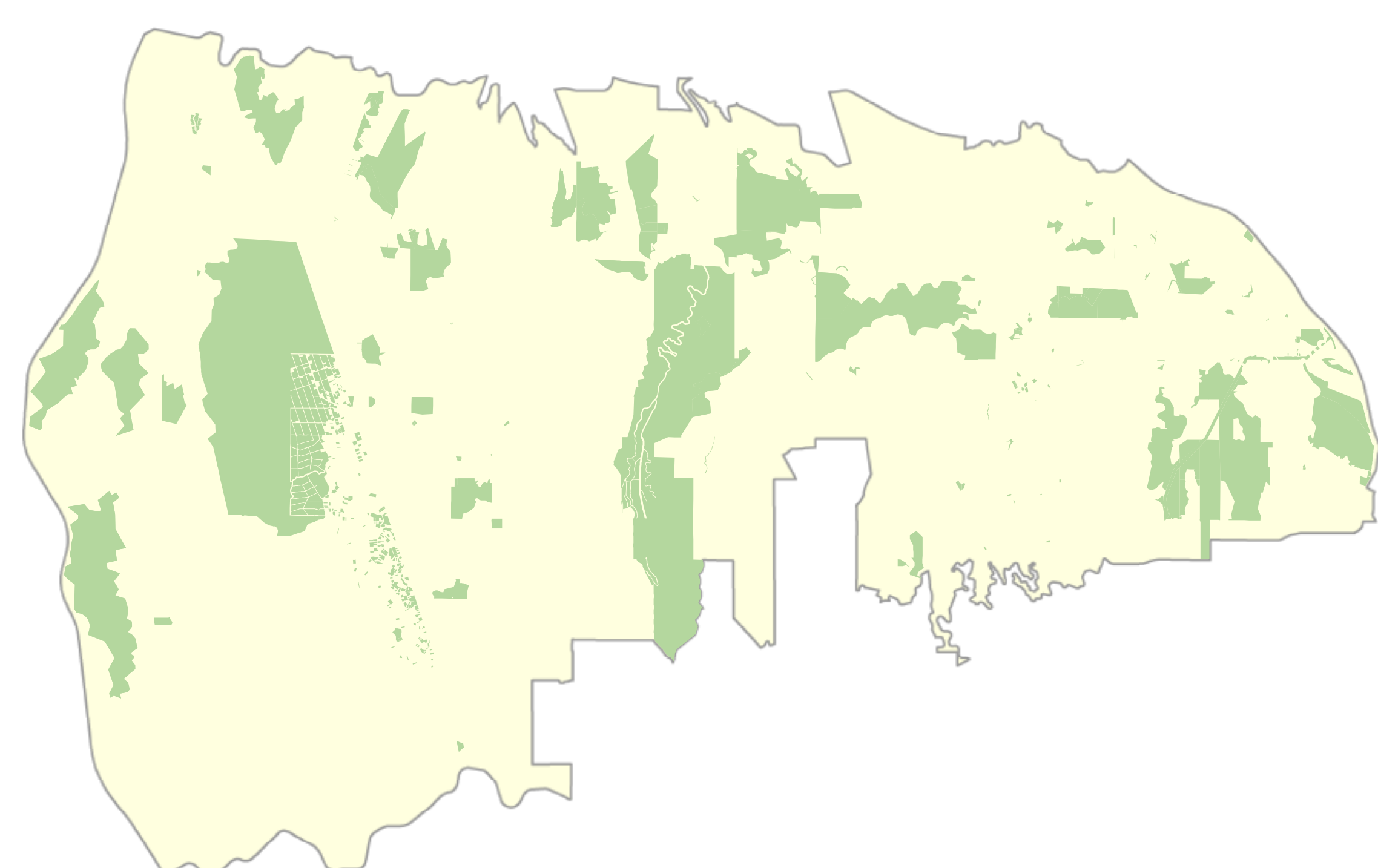
Water remains a significant resource for wildlife and vegetation. The National Hydrology Dataset is the most comprehensive survey of water sources, maintained and managed by the US Geological Survey to provide high quality, nationwide dataset for GIS mapping and analysis of water features and conveyance.



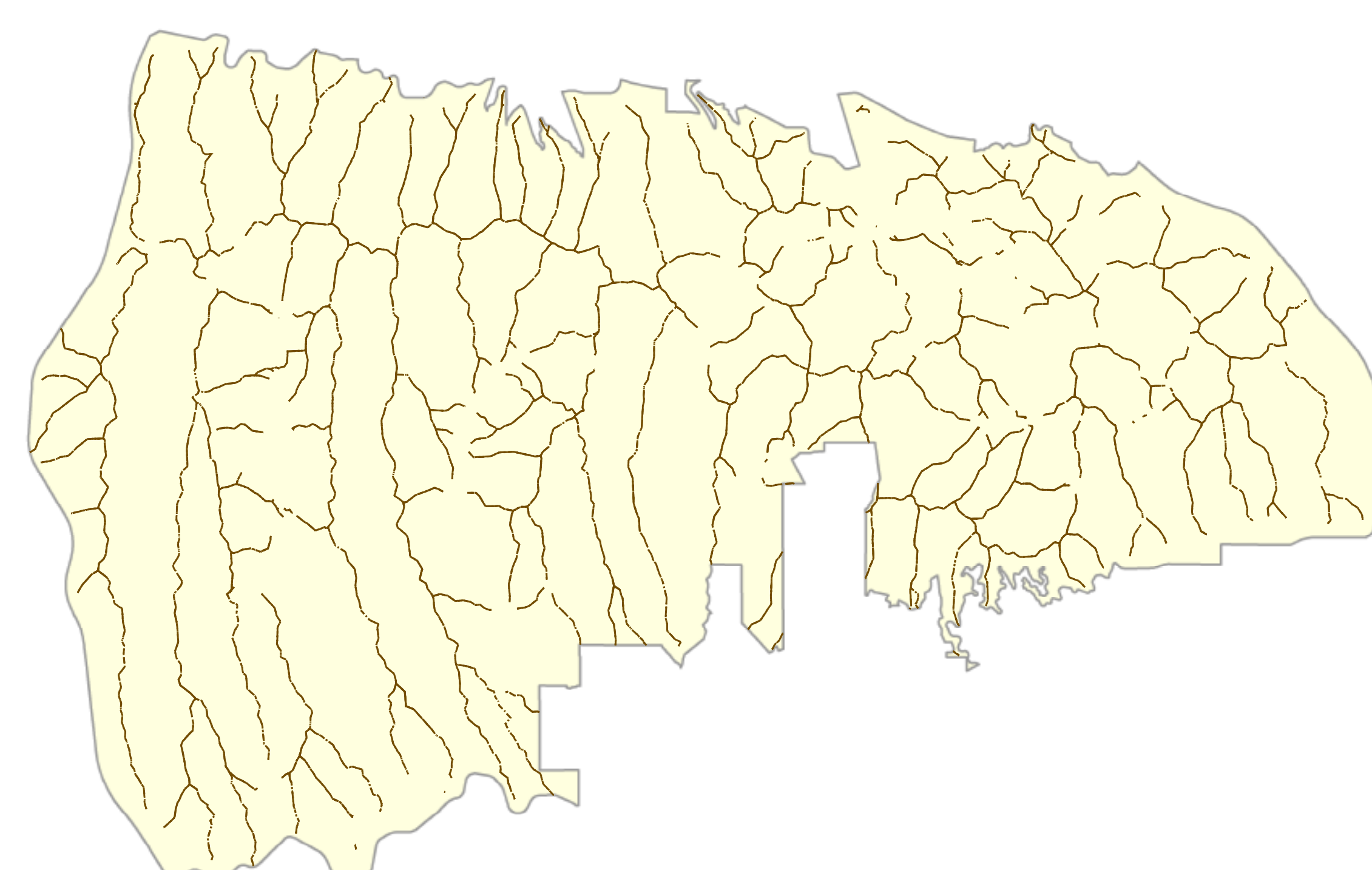
Wetlands are important features of the landscape that are beneficial for habitats and humans. In general terms, wetlands are identified by the presence of water saturating soil which determines the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the soil and its surface. The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) established by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) provides information on location of wetlands as well as the type of wetlands to aid in conservation efforts.



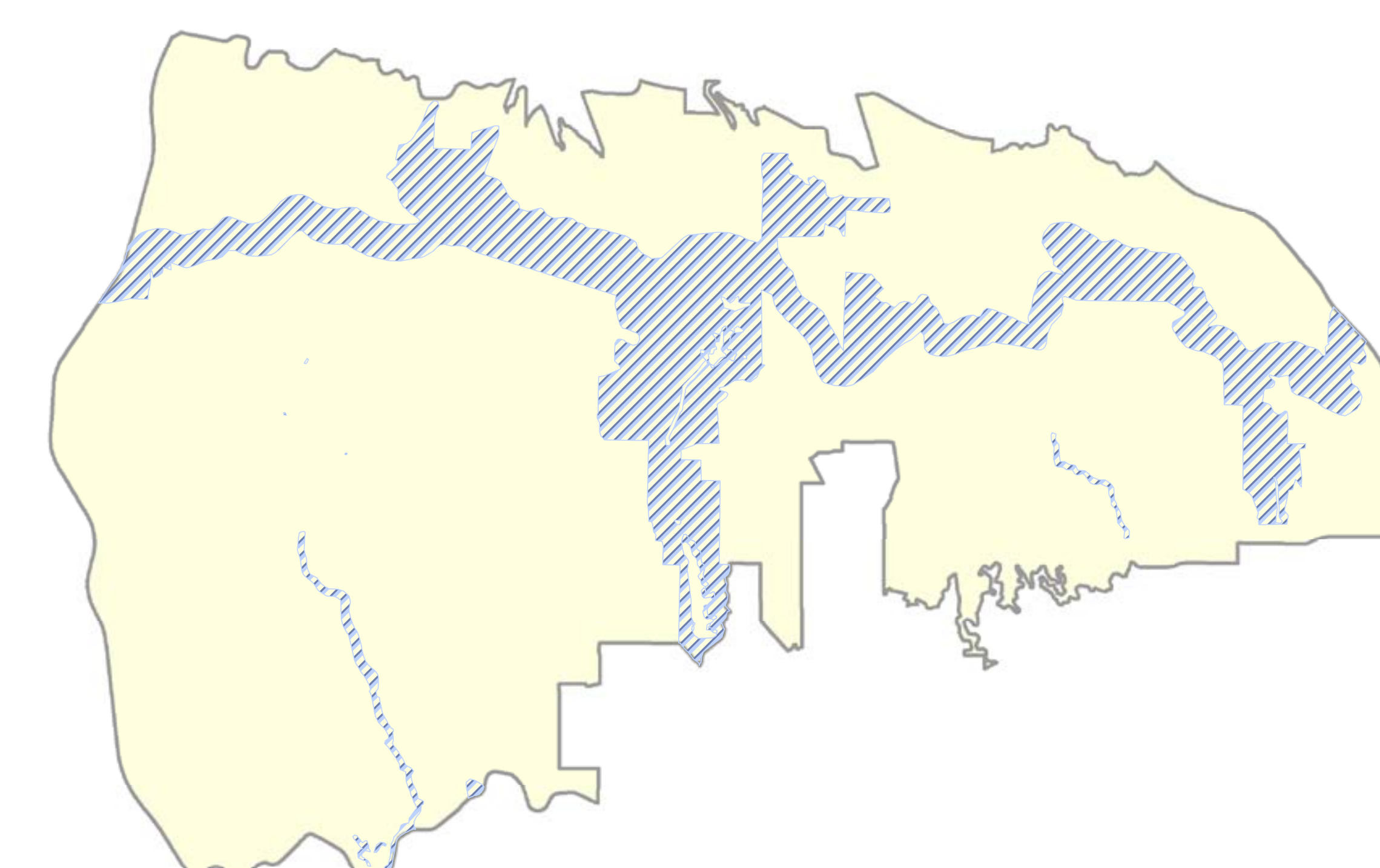
Riparian areas are plant communities contiguous to and affected by surface and subsurface hydrologic features of perennial or intermittent water bodies (rivers, streams, lakes, or drainage ways). They serve as important areas for wildlife habitats.



Parks and Open Space can serve as natural areas for wildlife habitats while providing recreational opportunities to people. This map shows all public parks and open spaces -City, County, State- as well as privately-owned properties belonging to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.



Ridgelines represents the topmost geologic feature of a chain of mountains or hills that form a continuous elevation. They are largely undeveloped and serve as natural pathways for wildlife. The City's proposed Ridgeline Ordinance identifies ridgelines 600ft+ elevation.



Flood Advisory Zones (2015) developed by FEMA : This map displays zones A & D as areas of highest risk of flooding or considered as hazard areas associated with precipitation, which includes high risk for mudflow and debris flow. These events can occur in post-wildfire areas as well as non-fire impacted watersheds.

*These maps display preliminary information based on limited available data and will be updated.

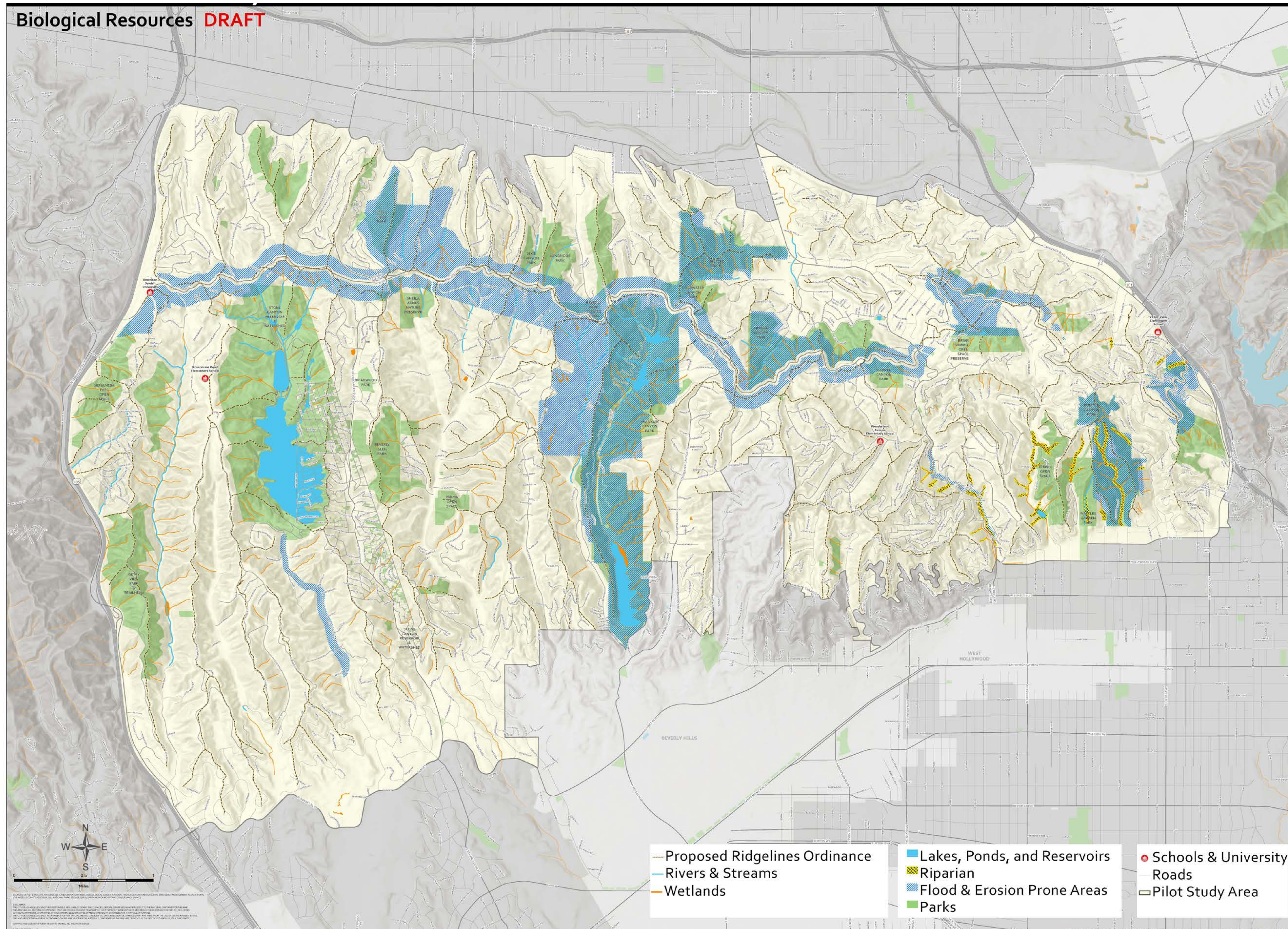


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Existing Conditions: Potential Biological Resources to Consider



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Urbanized Area:

This unique area has an abundance of open space and balances natural areas with urbanized development.

Why is it different?

- Topography and water resources
- Publicly accessible natural open space
- Biology/Biodiversity - part of California Floristic Province (only biodiversity hotspot in Continental US)
- Natural state with natural hazards - unique requirement for public safety
- Ecological function

Connecting all the high habitat value resources provides opportunities for wildlife mobility.

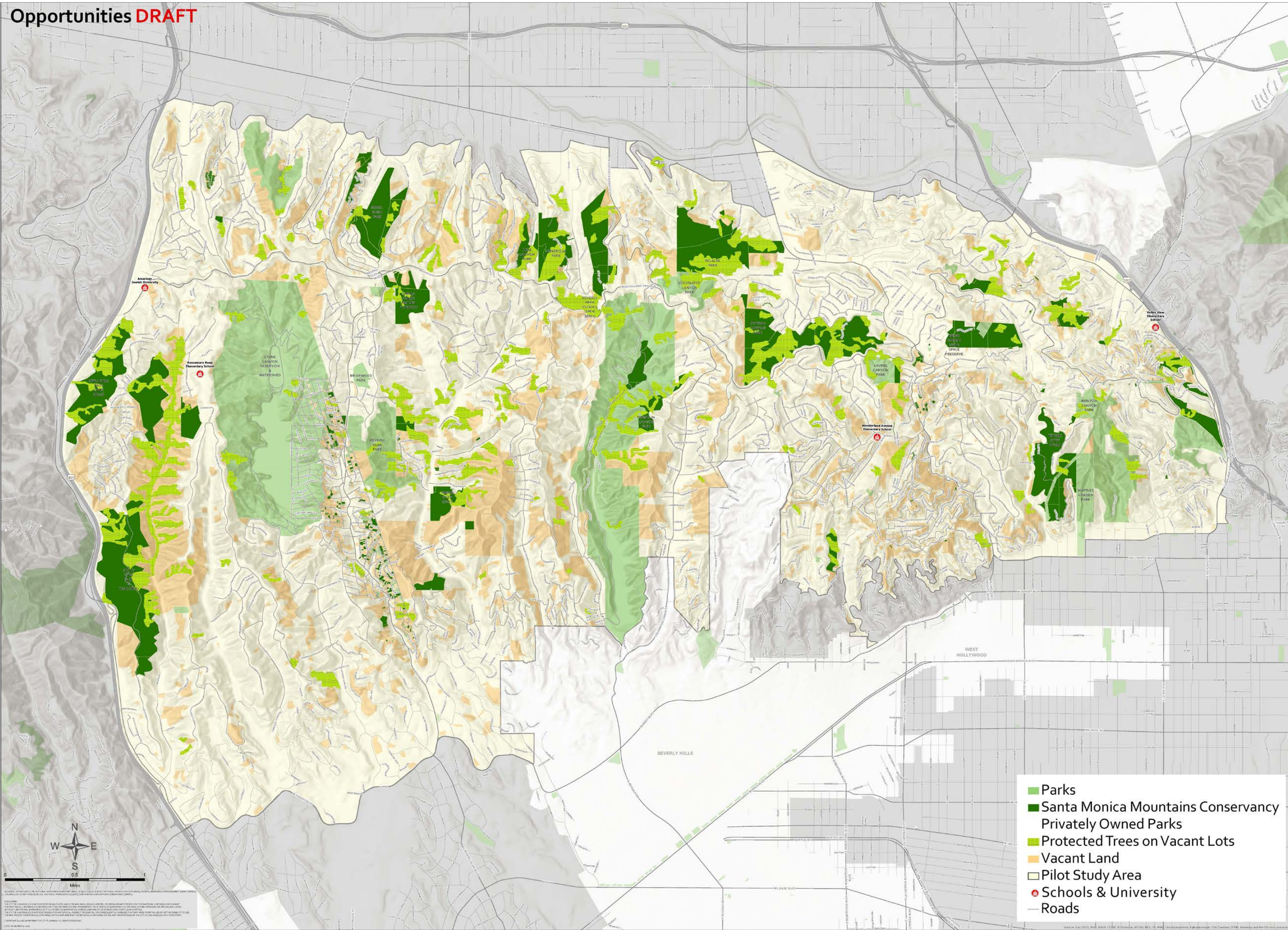
What other biological resources should be considered?

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Potential Opportunities for Wildlife Habitat Protection



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Identified High Habitat Value Opportunities

- Vacant Land and Protected Trees
- Open Space and Parks
 - City owned
 - Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy owned
 - Privately held lands (easements)
- Connecting all the high habitat value resources provides opportunities for wildlife mobility.

The following displays describe the types of regulations to achieve the goals of the wildlife study. What other opportunities should be identified?



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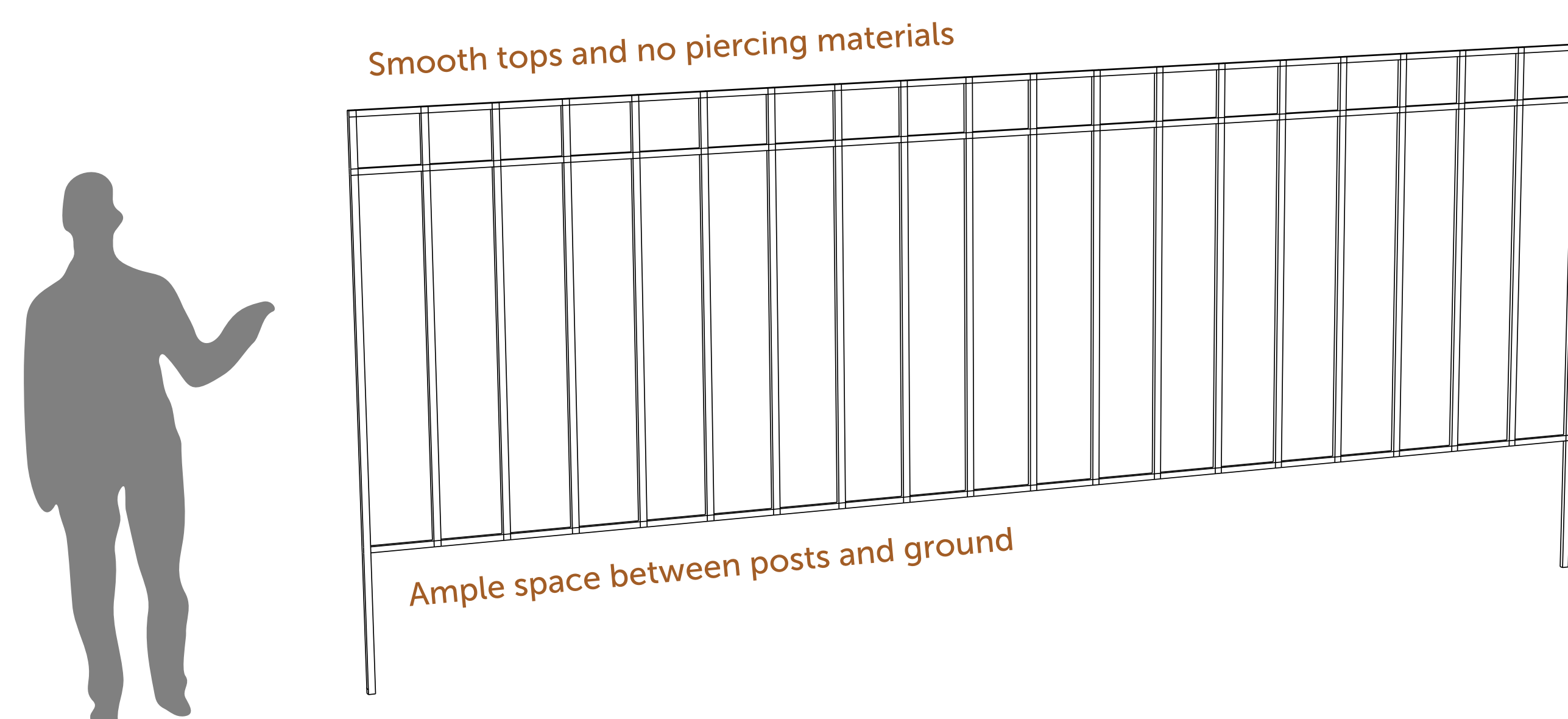
Concept Regulations: Fencing

Fencing and Permeable Paths/Buffers

Wildlife-friendly fences enable most wildlife to move through an area without harm and with minimal stress. Improperly designed or located fences can reduce the carrying capacity of a given area and species. Impermeable fences can fragment habitat into small islands of resources, and prevent access to resources or overextend the energy required for wildlife to take advantage of resources.

Permeable Perimeter

To achieve this permeability, the fence must have the following characteristics: nominal height, smooth tops, ample space between posts and ground, no piercing materials, and prominent and visible to wildlife.



Permeable Path

Adjusting the location of fencing away from the property line can allow for pathways that support wildlife mobility and foraging.



<http://canativegarden.blogspot.com/2015/09/parking-strip-makeovers.html>

Security or Special Purpose Fence

Allows for fencing immediately surrounding dwelling units, kennels and pools and small yard enclosures.



<http://poolsafe.com/wp-content/uploads/photo-4.jpg>

Should these concepts be pursued further?
Place a dot to indicate your preference.

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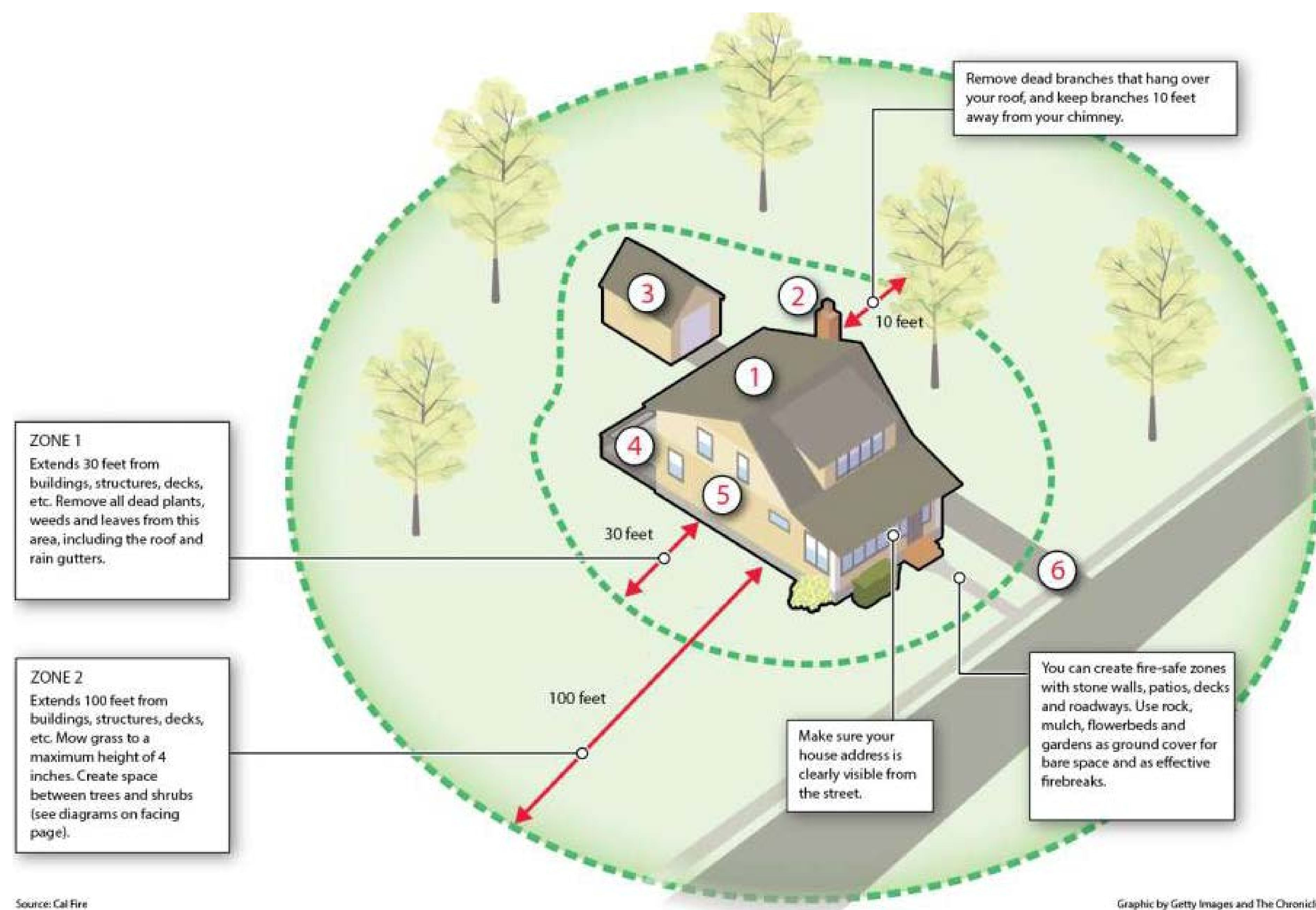
Concept Regulations: Landscaping

Landscaping

Native and drought tolerant plants are important for this region, not just because they are water efficient, but because they are the cornerstone of biological diversity and the foundations of the native ecosystems. Native plant species provide the opportunity to support local plant and animal habitat, biodiversity, and combat climate change. Some plant species offer assistance in anti-erosion and runoff in hillside communities. Additionally, the location of landscaping can provide better safety outcomes in regards to fire and brush clearance.



<https://caplants.files.wordpress.com/2016/09/dscn9379.jpg>



<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Protect-your-home-from-wildfire-12364180.php>



<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/42/88/29/4288294c60fee7ca5a9e98a43be38ce8.jpg>



http://www.gardensbygabriel.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Templeton_mediterranean_stonework.jpg

Should these concepts be pursued further?
Place a dot to indicate your preference.

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Concept Regulations: Trash Enclosures

Trash Enclosures

When wildlife investigate food trash, they can become entangled in litter or ingest plastic and paper. This often leads to injury or death of wild animals. Poor trash management is a hazard to wildlife animals scavenging closer to residences, making human-wildlife conflicts more frequent. Secured trash enclosures allows for peaceful coexistence with wildlife.



<http://www.givui.com/wp-content/uploads/w/w-redwood-fence-sealant-redwood-fence-designs-redwood-fence-repair-redwood-fence-repair-morgan-hill-redwood-fence-sealant-redwood-fence-boards-redwood-fence-stain-redwood-fence-prices-redwood.jpg>



<https://witzkeberry.com/wp-content/uploads/marvelous-outdoor-trash-can-enclosures-ideas.jpg>



<https://www.internetgardener.co.uk/shop/garden-buildings/bin-stores/rowlinson-heritage-apex-double-wooden/p/154092>



<http://www.vivelamadera.es/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/1800x/040ec09b1e35df139433887a97daa66f/6/0/600002516-3.jpg>

Should these concepts be pursued further?
Place a dot to indicate your preference.

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Concept Regulations: Buffers

Buffers

Establishing a distance and separation from biological resources can reduce the effects and minimize the habitat disturbing impacts from new developments. Buffering can provide needed space for linkages that allow for wildlife mobility, encourage healthier eco-systems, and increase biodiversity.

The Wider the Buffer the Greater the Benefits

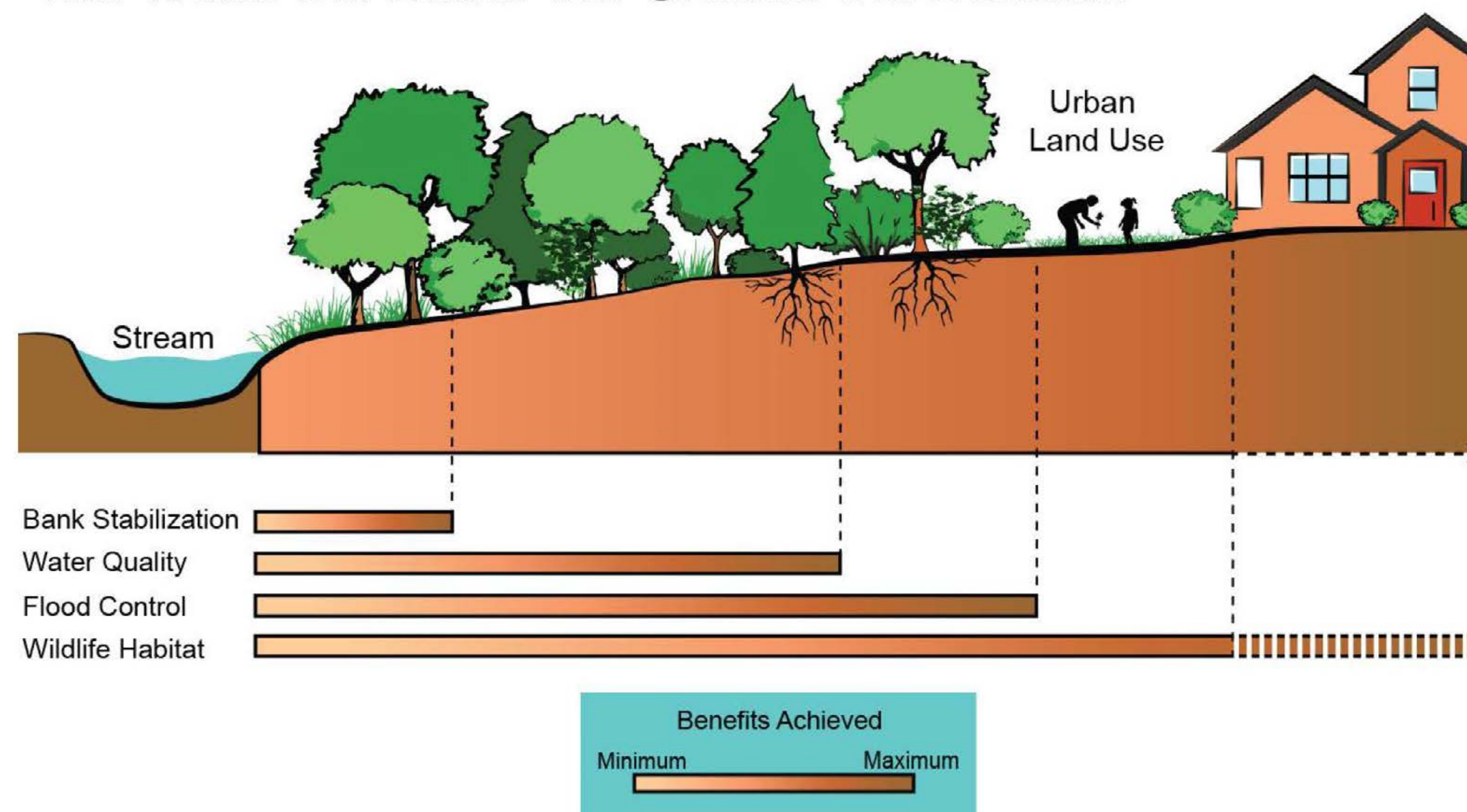
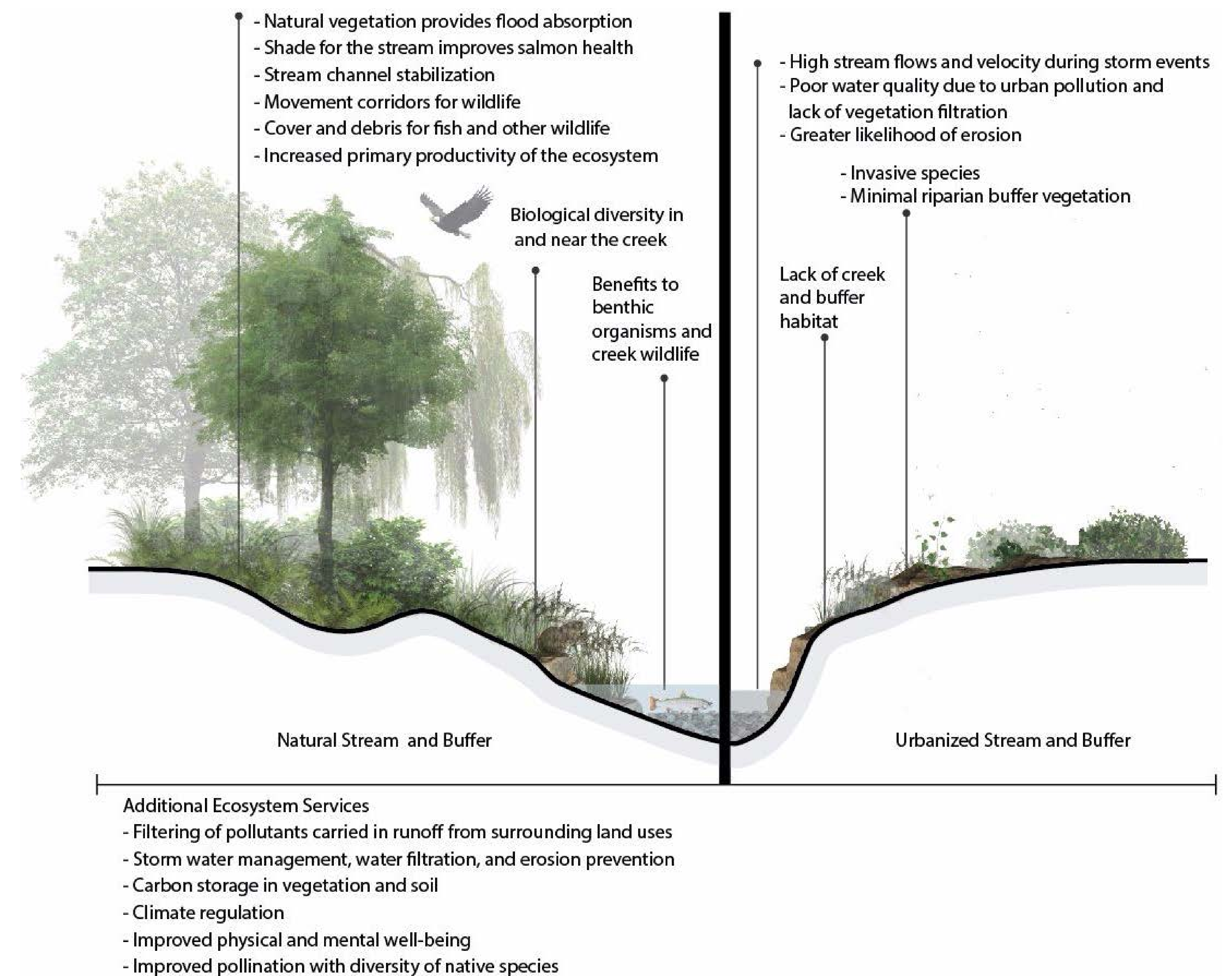


Figure 2. Relationship between riparian buffer width and its functions (adapted from Hawes and Smith, 2005). Distance of benefits varies due to site conditions such as slope.

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/agriculture/documents/forestry/UrbanRiparianBufferHandbook.pdf>



<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=81e488a76d704a79997c306a92d49deb>

Should these concepts be pursued further?
Place a dot to indicate your preference.

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Concept Regulations: Lighting

Lighting

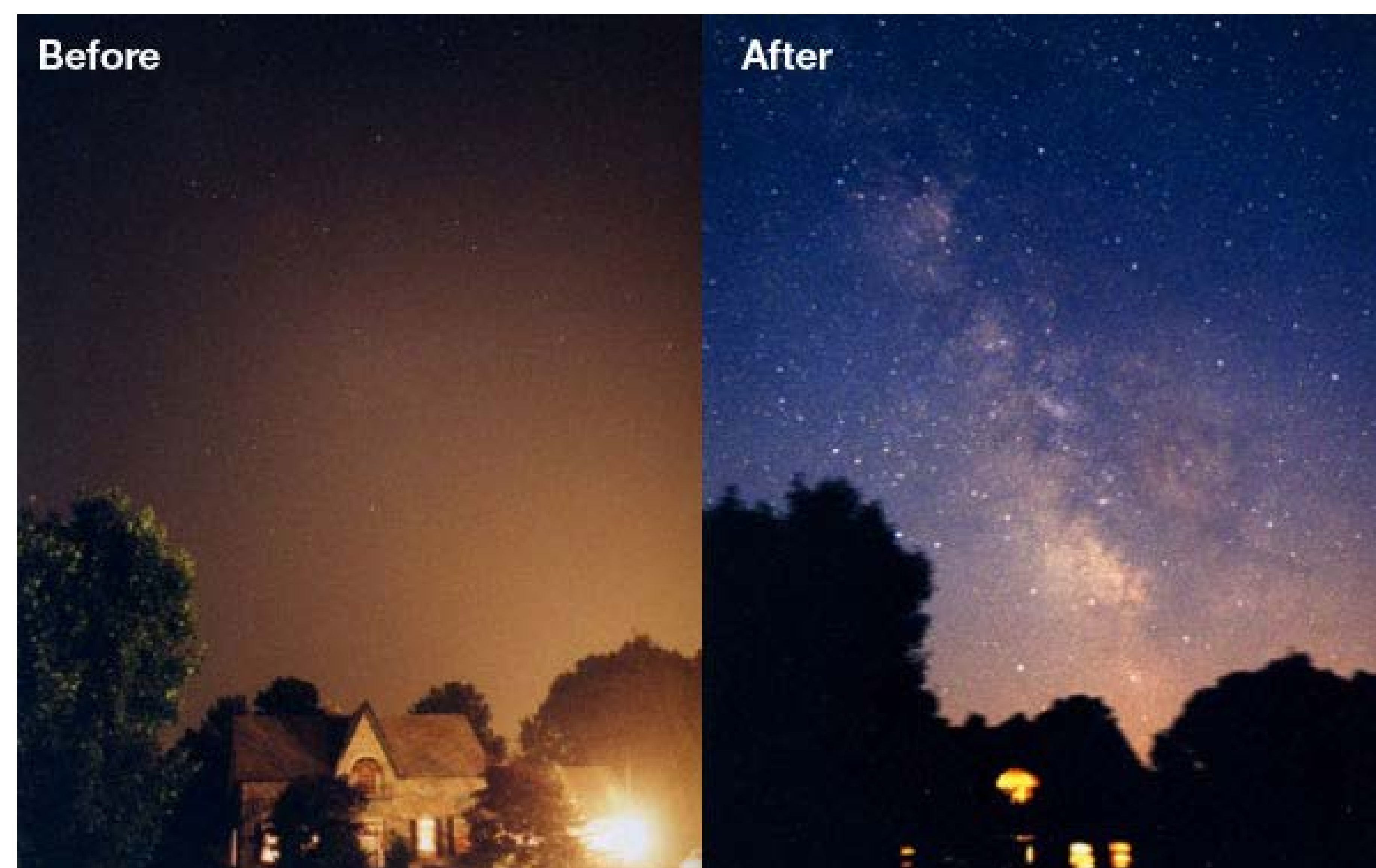
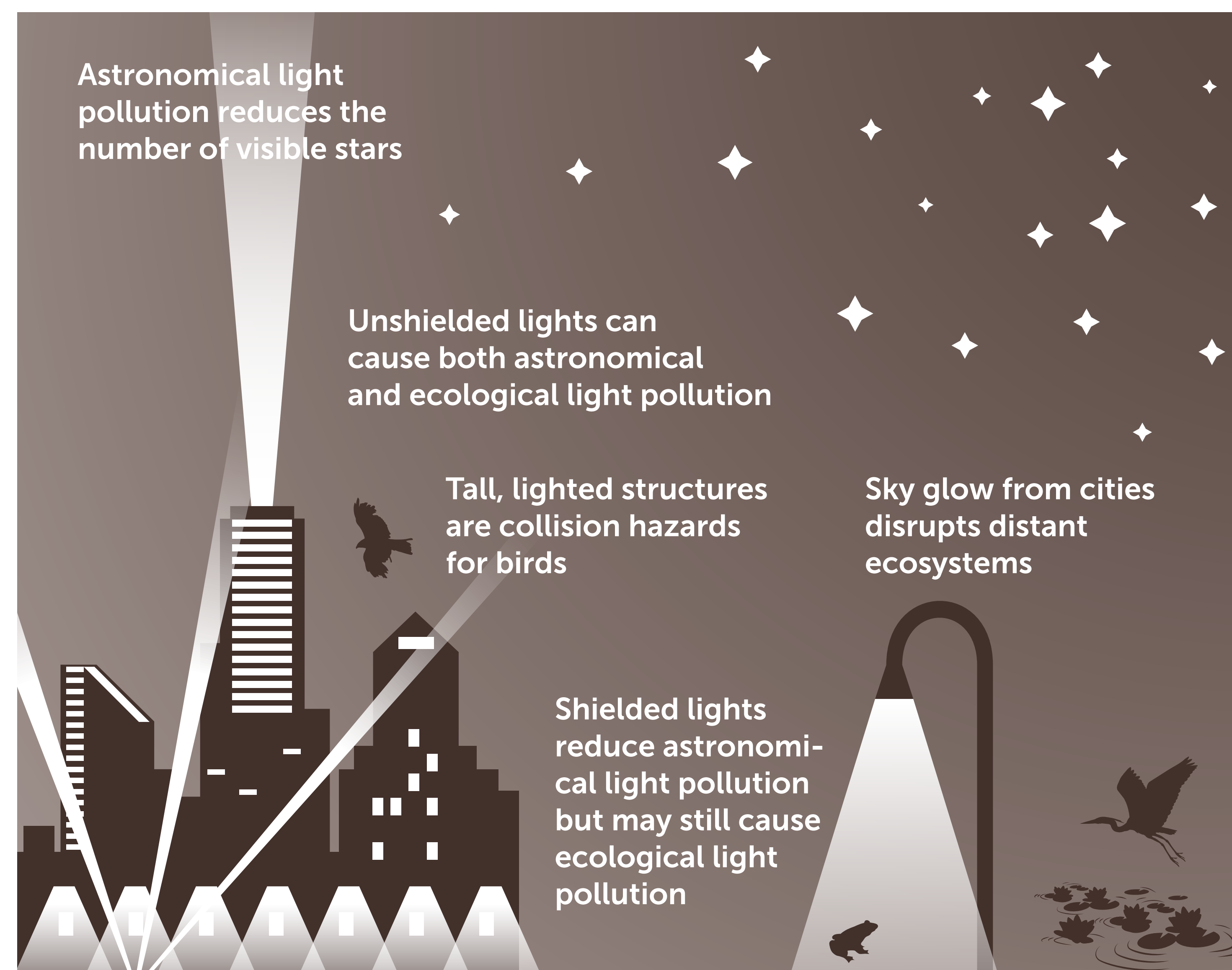
Outdoor lighting can be disruptive to wildlife communities. Lighting that is directed toward natural habitat or into the sky can interrupt wildlife patterns. Lighting the night sky can disrupt bird migration and nocturnal foraging, while lighting terrestrial habitat areas can disturb foraging patterns of other nocturnal animals. Appropriate night lighting and less illumination can promote and maintain dark skies for the health and enjoyment of individuals and animals.



<http://darksky.org/our-work/lighting/public-policy/model-lighting-laws-policy/>



https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/planning/conservation/Stakeholder_Meeting_PPoint_for_Web_081418.pdf



http://darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Blackout_Todd_CarlsonTowards_Toronto_Goodwood_Ontario.jpg

Should these concepts be pursued further? Place a dot to indicate your preference.

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Concept Regulations: Windows

Not Recommended - Reflective Windows



<https://birdscalgary.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/deadly-window.jpg>

Recommended - Screen Added



http://pa.audubon.org/sites/g/files/amh821/f/styles/wysiwyg_slide/public/birdsavers_from_outside.jpg?itok=Wofdl64

*Recommended
- Window Adhesive Added*



<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58f238dbff7c50d19782ef6b/t/59a15b327131a5a6237d0582/1503746882107/Outside+looking+in>

Windows

Windows can be a problem for wildlife. The combination of reflective windows with artificial outdoor lighting is the major cause of avian collisions and disruption of wildlife patterns and behavior.

Should these concepts be pursued further?
Place a dot to indicate your preference.

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Next Steps

- Review feedback and priorities
- Further develop regulation options from priorities

- Obtain additional feedback - future workshops
- Pilot Study regulations - formal adoption process

Timeline

Fall/Winter: Outreach



CONTACT US TO GET INVOLVED!

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Thank you for participating!