

PLAN YOUR COUNTY – GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE EXERCISE

Using the maps provided to discuss the following topics and record answers to the questions below on your flip chart for afternoon group report out.

STEP ONE: DATA ASSESSMENT -- WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU HAVE?

Take a moment to familiarize yourself with all the maps. Some are useful for understanding your existing “assets” – the aspects of the locality that are of high value. Some maps are useful to determine potential conflicts or “threats.” Which maps are useful for which purposes?

STEP TWO: WHAT ARE YOUR ASSETS?

Use your trace paper to first roughly outline your locality. Then begin to shade some of these areas.

1. Which land areas have the greatest conservation suitability?
2. Which areas have great forest or agricultural value?
3. Look at the watershed integrity map -- which landscapes have the greatest potential to contribute to water quality (darkest blue)? What areas on your map would you choose to better protect?
4. What areas are assets based on human uses, such as recreation? Are there other human interest uses we could map?

STEP THREE: RISK ASSESSMENT

1. Within the resources, are there areas where uses could be in conflict, such as an area with high economic value AND high conservation need?
2. Are there any waters that are impaired? Are there other waters that may be at risk in the future? (hint: look at the watershed integrity and the vulnerability maps, also forested areas and water.) Looking at the vulnerability map (and future land use map if you have it) do you see areas where streams may be further impacted in the future?
3. Review any future land use maps or zoning maps provided and your vulnerability map – do you see conflicts between identified assets and future land uses?

STEP FOUR: OPPORTUNITIES -- WHAT CAN WE DO?

1. If you are the tourism department head and you want to promote geotourism (place-based) or heritage tourism (place based and linked to history, art, food, landscape etc.) what areas are high value? How are they related to other maps such as growth vulnerability, or your biodiversity map? Do you see areas of potential conflict? Benefit?
2. If you are a land trust, how would you decide what to acquire? Do you need a ranking system? Are you after just farms, increasing biodiversity, improving water quality? Are there

areas where multiple benefits could be met? Where would you target your future private land acquisitions and why?

3. If you were going to initiate a transfer of development rights, where would you seek to acquire rights and where would you send them? Mark a sending and receiving zone on your maps.
4. If you are head of county parks and wanted to better connect habitats, which lands might you acquire? Which areas on the map are most protected? Least? Most at risk? Where would you pick your top three priorities for acquisition?
5. If you are the planning director or board of supervisor, do you see areas where zoning may need to be changed? (don't be scared – it's only an exercise!)