

Forestland Preservation Category



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Grants Workshop
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Forestland Preservation Criteria

Criteria	Possible Points
1. Property acreage	10
2. Acres of forest	20
3. Acres that are <u>very high</u> Forest Conservation Value (FCV)	15
4. Contribution to water quality (length of watercourses)	15
5. Adjacency to conserved lands	5
6. Forest management plan	5
7. Preservation of forested acreage	10
8. Percent within ConserveVA's Ag & Forestry Category	20
Total	100

Example Application

- 500-acre property
 - 450 acres forested, 400 acres of high Forest Conservation Value (FCV)
 - 63% of acreage in ConserveVirginia
- 6250' of watercourses
- 0.5 miles to a Wildlife Management Area
- Forest Stewardship Management Plan & demonstrated implementation
- Applicant willing to permanently retain 375 acres of forest land base

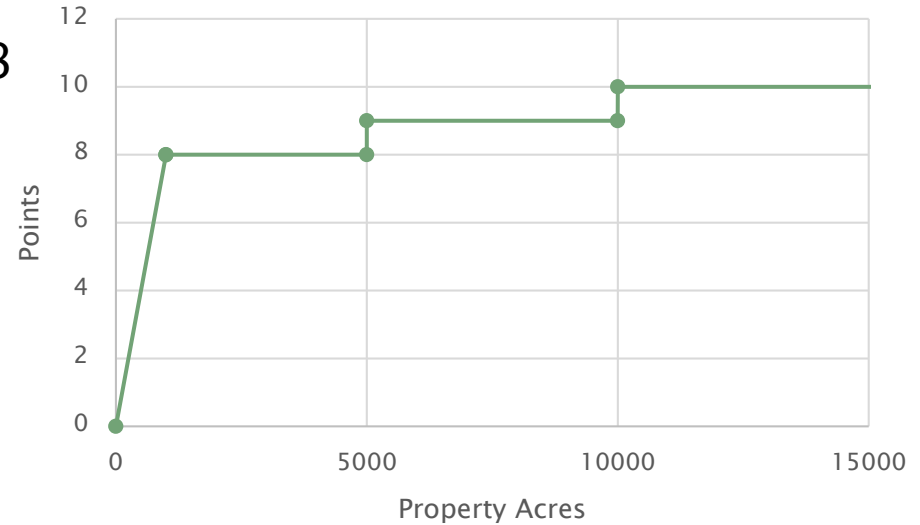
1. Property Acreage

a. 0-999 acres = Property Acres /1000 * 8

b. 1,000 – 4,999 acres = 8 pts

c. 5000-9999 acres = 9 pts

d. $\geq 10,000$ acres = 10 pts



- ▶ Example property score:
 - **500** / 1000 * 8 = 4.0 points

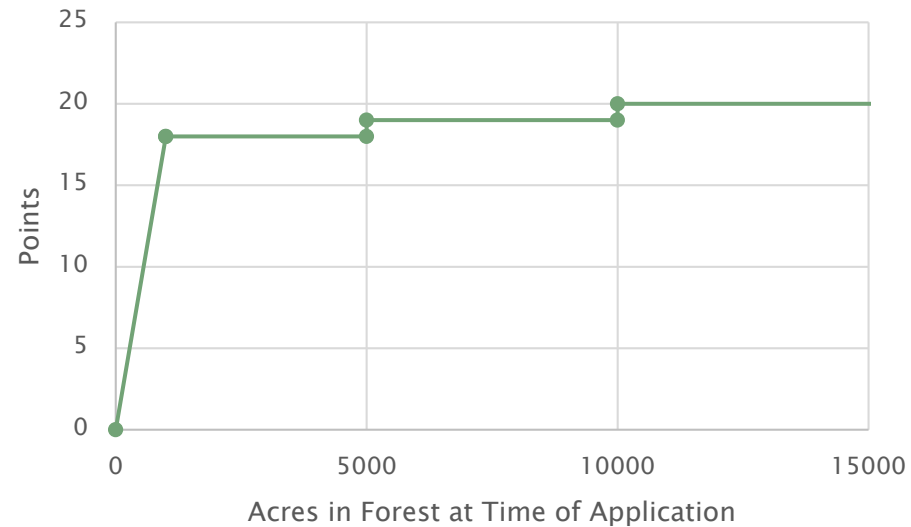
2. Acres of Forest

a. 0-999 acres = Forest Acres / 1000 * 18

b. 1,000 – 4,999 acres = 18 pts

c. 5000-9999 acres = 19 pts

d. $\geq 10,000$ acres = 20 pts



► Example property score:

◦ $450 / 1000 * 18 = 8.1$ points

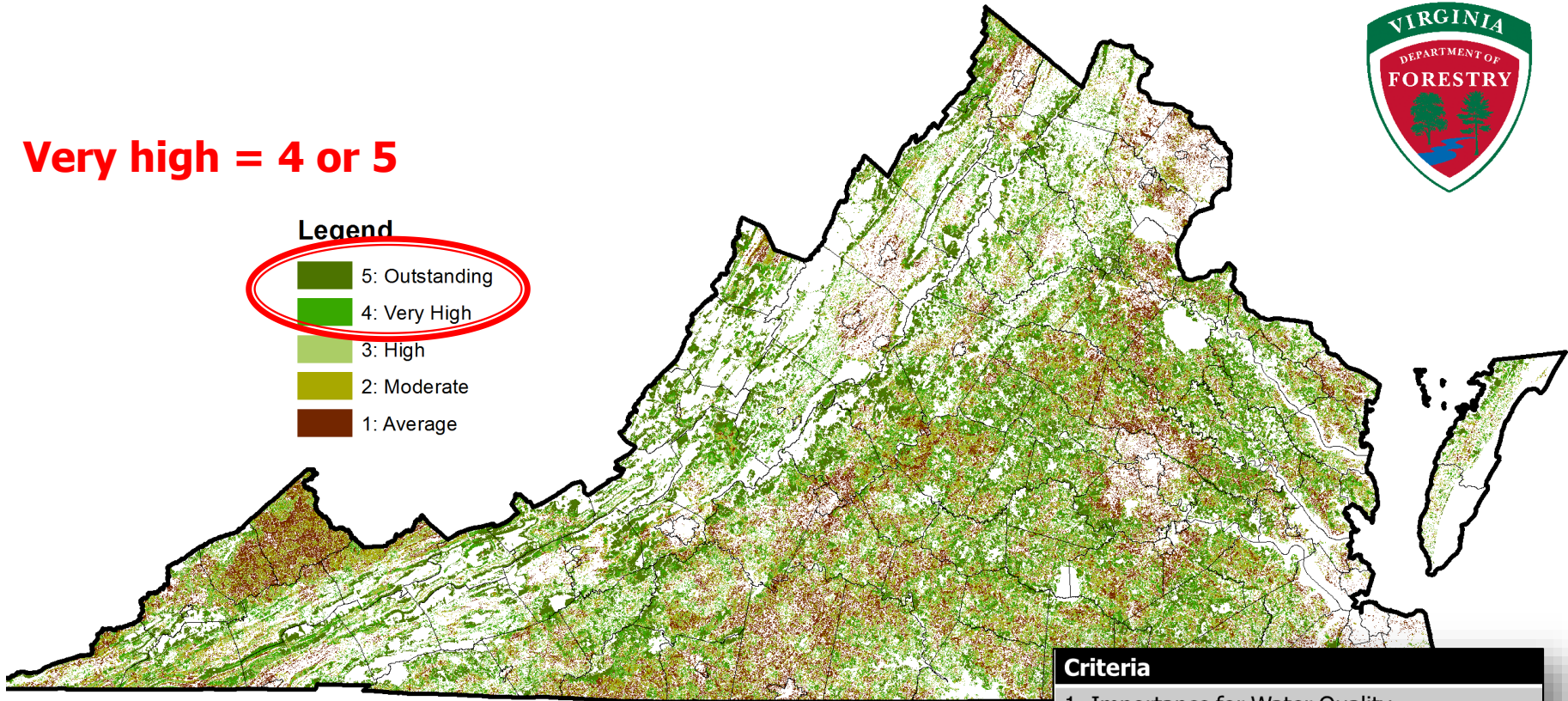
3. Acres that are very high Forest Conservation Value (FCV)



Very high = 4 or 5

Legend

- 5: Outstanding
- 4: Very High
- 3: High
- 2: Moderate
- 1: Average



Criteria

1. Importance for Water Quality
2. Size of Ecological Core
3. Potential for Timber Products Production
4. Connectivity to Existing Cons. Areas
5. Risk of Development
6. Importance for Diminished Tree & Comms

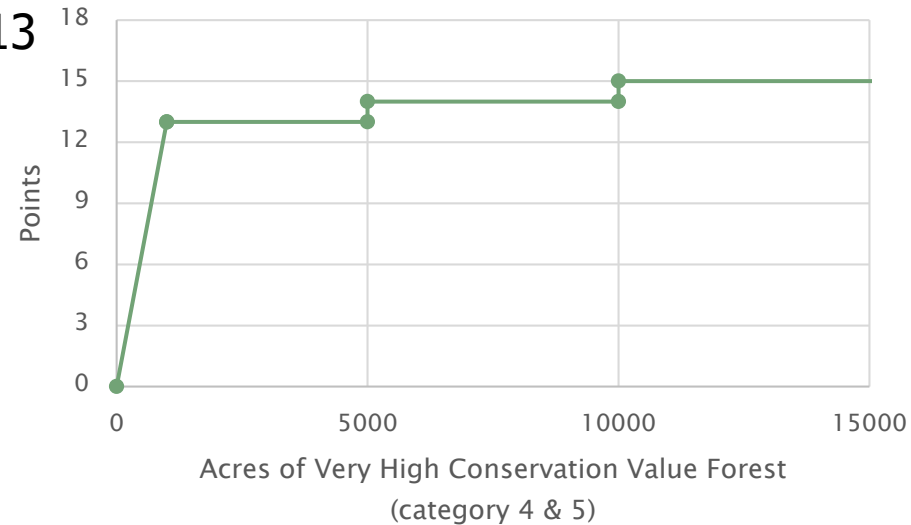
3. Acres that are very high Forest Conservation Value (FCV)

a. 0-999 acres = Very High Acres /1000 * 13

b. 1,000 – 4,999 acres = 13 pts

c. 5000-9999 acres = 14 pts

d. $\geq 10,000$ acres = 15 pts



► Example property score:

◦ $400 / 1000 * 13 = 5.2$ points

FCV on the NHDE Explorer

DCR | Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

<https://vanhde.org/content/map>

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Layers Make a Map Feature Search

- Managed Conservation Lands
 - Managed Conservation Lands
- ConserveVirginia v3.0
 - Conservation Planning
 - Ecological Cores
 - Forest Conservation Values
 - 4: Very High
 - 3: High
 - 2: Moderate
 - 1: Average
- Watershed Impact Model
- Nature-based Recreation Access Model
- Cultural Resource Preservation Index
- Agricultural Model
- Development Vulnerability Model

Reference Layers

- 24K Grid
- National Wetlands Inventory
- Scenic Rivers
- VDE Sinkholes
- Streams (NHD)
- Trails
- USGS Placenames
- VDOT Roads

Boundaries

- Counties

Conservation Planning Group

Check & Unfold FCV layer

Visually estimate % / acres in categories 4 & 5

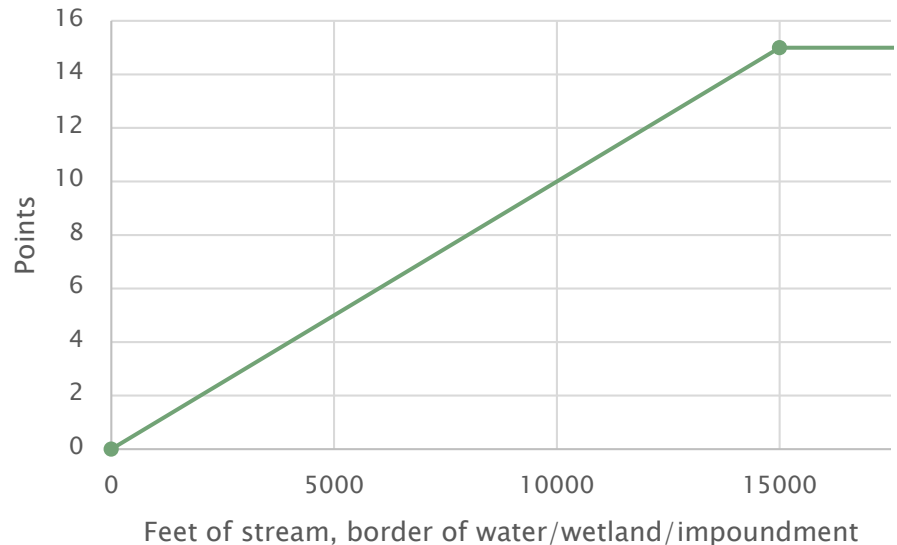
4. Contribution to Water Quality

(Length of Watercourses)

- Length of intermittent & perennial watercourses as identified by the USGS National Hydrography Dataset, as well as wetlands & water impoundments, present on or bordering the property
- <https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/advanced-viewer/>

a. $0-15,000 \text{ feet} = \text{feet} / 15,000 * 15$

b. $\geq 15,000 \text{ feet} = 15$



► Example property score:

◦ $6,250 / 15,000 * 15 = 6.3 \text{ points}$

Streams, Rivers, & Wetlands on NHDE Explorer

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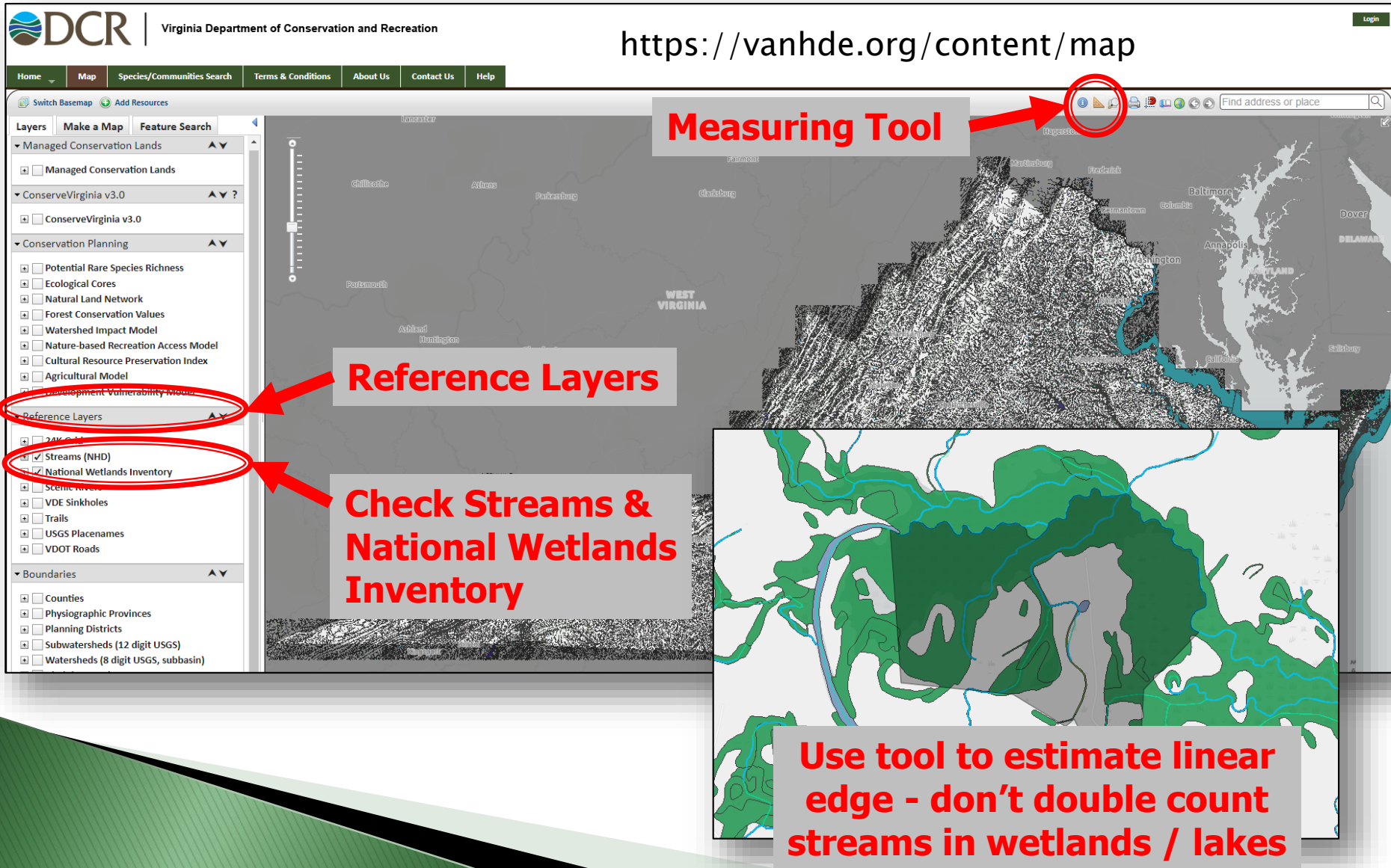
- Managed Conservation Lands
 - ☐ Managed Conservation Lands
- ConserveVirginia v3.0
 - ☐ ConserveVirginia v3.0
- Conservation Planning
 - ☐ Potential Rare Species Richness
 - ☐ Ecological Cores
 - ☐ Natural Land Network
 - ☐ Forest Conservation Values
 - ☐ Watershed Impact Model
 - ☐ Nature-based Recreation Access Model
 - ☐ Cultural Resource Preservation Index
 - ☐ Agricultural Model
- Reference Layers
 - ☐ 24K GTOPO30
 - ☒ Streams (NHD)
 - ☒ National Wetlands Inventory
 - ☐ Scenic Rivers
 - ☐ VDE Sinkholes
 - ☐ Trails
 - ☐ USGS Placenames
 - ☐ VDOT Roads
- Boundaries
 - ☐ Counties
 - ☐ Physiographic Provinces
 - ☐ Planning Districts
 - ☐ Subwatersheds (12 digit USGS)
 - ☐ Watersheds (8 digit USGS, subbasin)

Measuring Tool

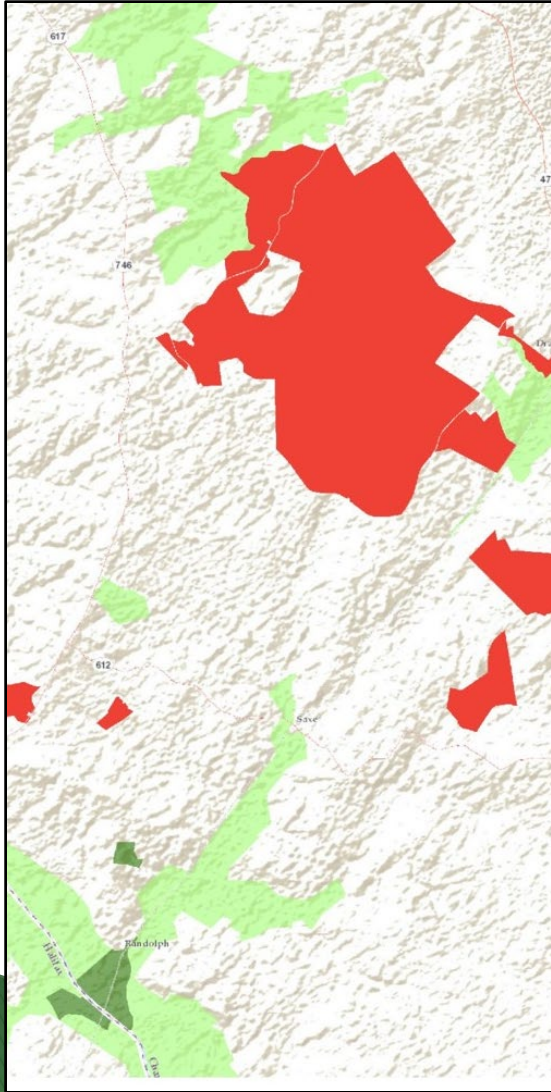
Reference Layers

Check Streams & National Wetlands Inventory

Use tool to estimate linear edge - don't double count streams in wetlands / lakes

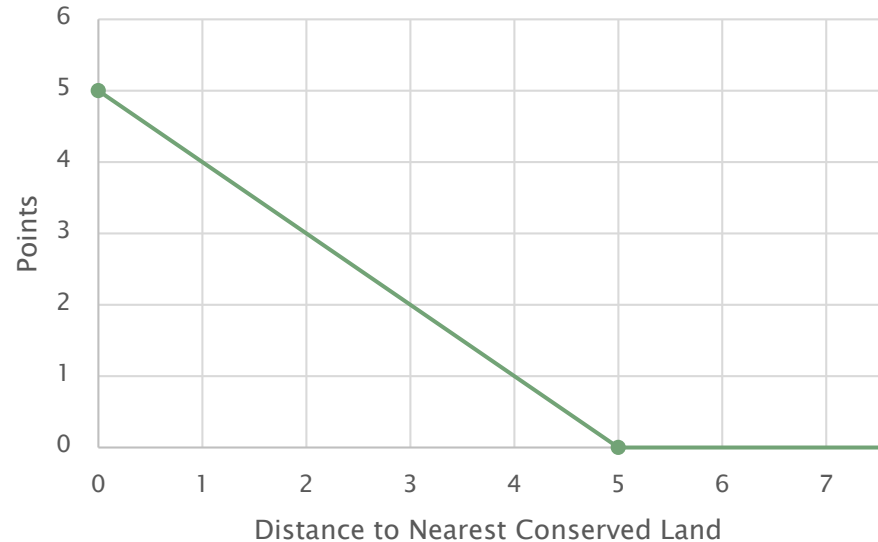
The image is a screenshot of the NHDE Explorer web application. The interface includes a top navigation bar with the DCR logo and a search bar. Below this is a 'Layers' panel on the left with a tree view of various data layers. The main map area shows a topographic map of Virginia with a red circle highlighting a specific area. A red arrow points from the 'Measuring Tool' label to a toolbar icon. Another red arrow points from the 'Reference Layers' label to the 'Reference Layers' section in the layers panel. A third red arrow points from the 'Check Streams & National Wetlands Inventory' label to the 'Streams (NHD)' and 'National Wetlands Inventory' layers. A fourth red arrow points from the 'Use tool to estimate linear edge...' label to a zoomed-in inset map showing a detailed view of a wetland area with a stream. The inset map shows green areas representing wetlands and blue lines representing streams.

5. Adjacency to Conserved Lands



a. If ≥ 5 miles = 0 points

b. If < 5 miles, points = $5 - \text{miles away}$



► Example property score:

◦ $5 - 0.5 \text{ miles} = 4.5 \text{ points}$

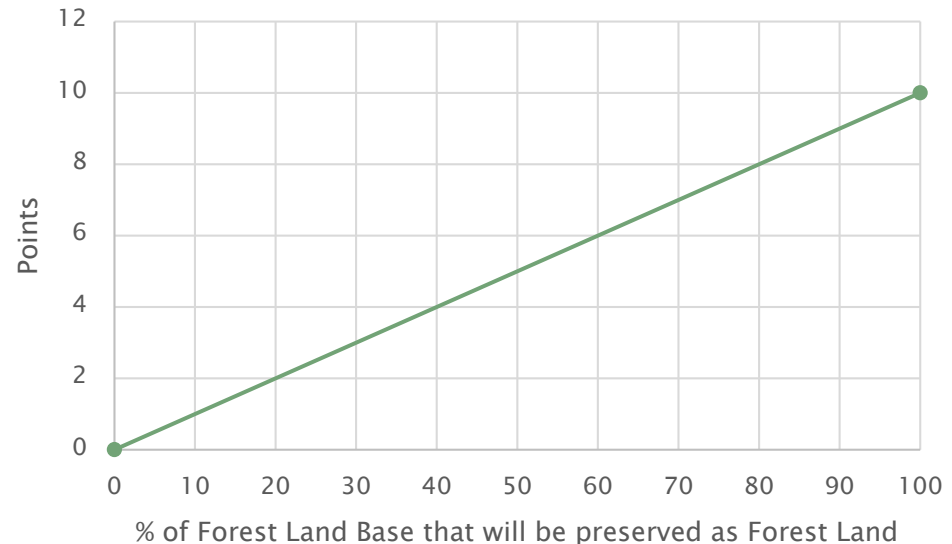
6. Forest Management Plan

- ▶ Status of the FMP, prepared by a professional forester
 - a. Existing plan, being implemented = 5 points
 - b. Plan exists, no implementation = 3 points
 - c. No plan = 0 points
- ▶ Example property score
 - **5 points**



7. Forest Land Base Preservation

- How much forest land does the landowner commit to conserving?
- Proportion of Forest Land base that will be preserved * 10
- Forest Land that does not *currently* have trees on it (e.g., harvested) but will be replanted/regenerated counts as preserved Forest Land

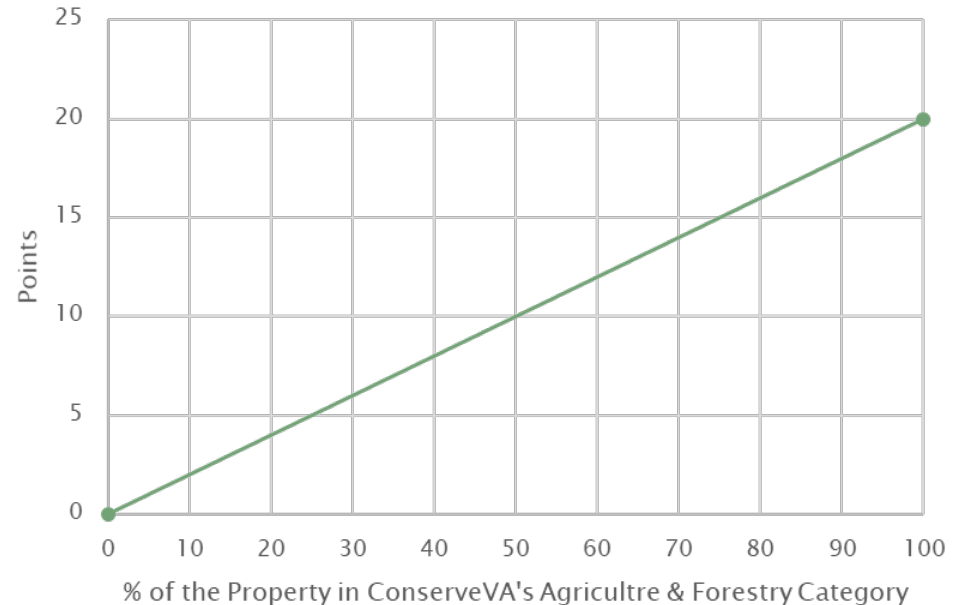
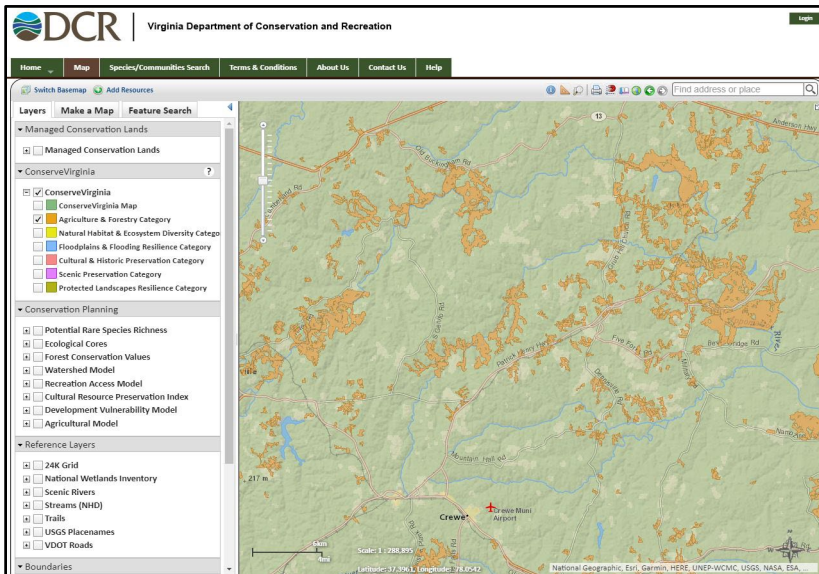


▶ Example property score

◦ $(375 \div 450) \times 10 = 8.3 \text{ points}$

8. ConserveVirginia

- Proportion of the property that is in ConserveVA's Agriculture & Forestry Category * 20



► Example property score

$$0.63 * 20 = 12.6$$

Example Results Summary

Criteria	Score	Possible Points
1. Property acreage	4.0	10
2. Acres of forest	8.1	20
3. Acres that are <u>very high</u> Forest Conservation Value (FCV)	5.2	15
4. Contribution to water quality (length of watercourses)	6.3	15
5. Adjacency to conserved lands	4.5	5
6. Forest management plan	5.0	5
7. Preservation of forested acreage	8.3	10
8. Percent within ConserveVA's Ag & Forestry Category	12.6	20
Total	54.0	100

Suggestions

- ▶ Highly competitive category
- ▶ Run the scoring sheet yourself, provide evidence in your application for why it should score high
- ▶ If something on the layers looks wrong, tell us and demonstrate it (e.g., provide a map of GPS'ed streams)
- ▶ Secondary category designations
- ▶ Complete application – respond to all criteria & questions



Questions:

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