

Natural Areas Category

Virginia's rich diversity of life

- 2,546 native plant species place Virginia 13th in the U.S.
- 737 native vertebrate species place Virginia 10th in the U.S.
- One of six biological diversity hotspots in the United States



Piping Plover G3 S2/FT ST



Virginia Natural Heritage Program

- Mission: Identify, protect & conserve Virginia's biological diversity
- Focus on:
 - Rare plants and animals
 - Rare and exemplary natural communities
 - Significant caves and karst features
- 37 Years of methodological development, 25 years of data collection and analysis
- Deliver conservation information to inform land conservation and land use decisions
- Manage 60 Natural Area Preserves



Natural Heritage Information Chain

Conservation sites: 2,216
Biodiversity ranks
Boundaries.....

Mapped location ranks
A, B, C, D, E, F, H, X

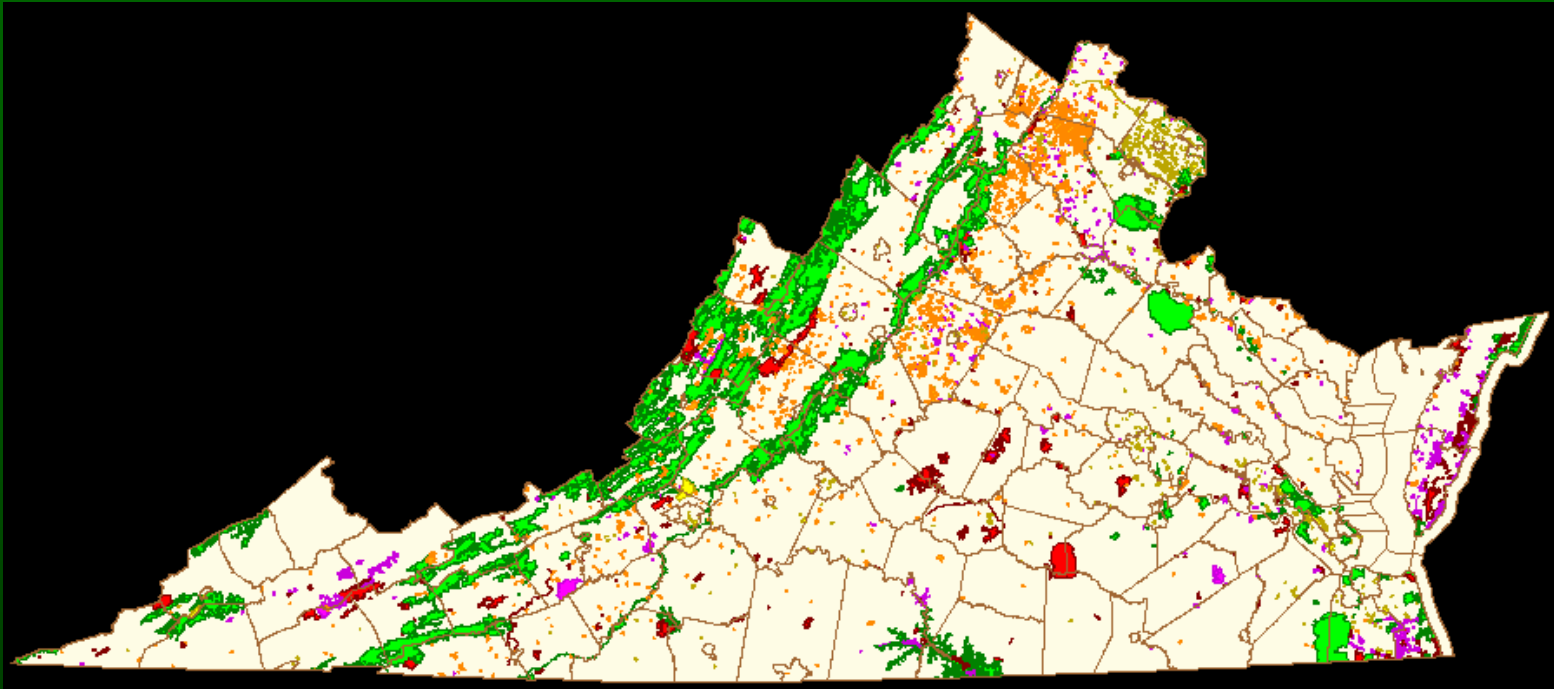
Mapped locations: 8,668

Element ranks:
Global: 1–5
State: 1–5

Elements:
Natural communities: 125
Plant species: 609
Animal species: 827



Virginia Conservation Lands Database



Includes most public lands and certain private lands in Virginia that serve a variety of conservation, recreation, and open-space roles. 7,750 protected lands



Land Conservation Models

Ecological

Agricultural

Cultural Assets

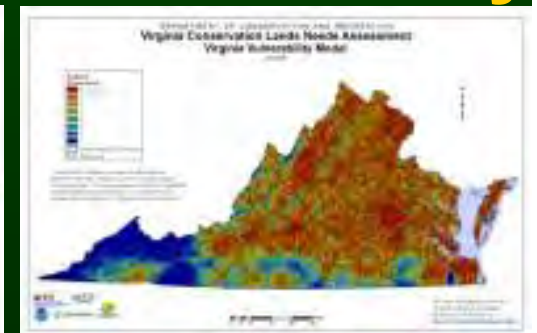
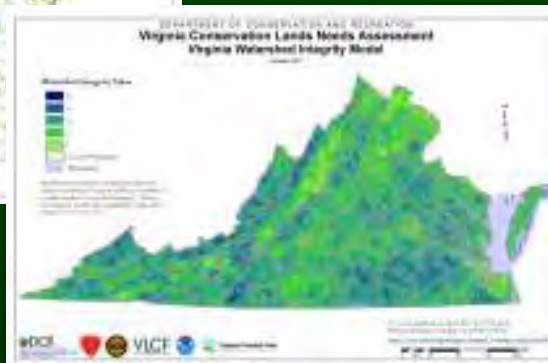


Forest Economics

Recreation

Watershed Integrity

Vulnerability



DCR LAND CONSERVATION DATA EXPLORER

PRINT HELP

Department of Conservation & Recreation
Virginia Natural Heritage Program

Info Layers Legend Find

UPDATE MAP

Reference Layers

- DRG Quad Grid
- USGS Placenames
- VDOT Roads
- Trails
- Scenic Rivers
- NHD Streams
- NWI Wetlands
- Managed Conservation Lands

Boundaries

- Subwatershed Boundaries
- 8 Digit Watershed Boundaries
- Counties
- Physiographic Provinces
- Planning Districts (PDC)

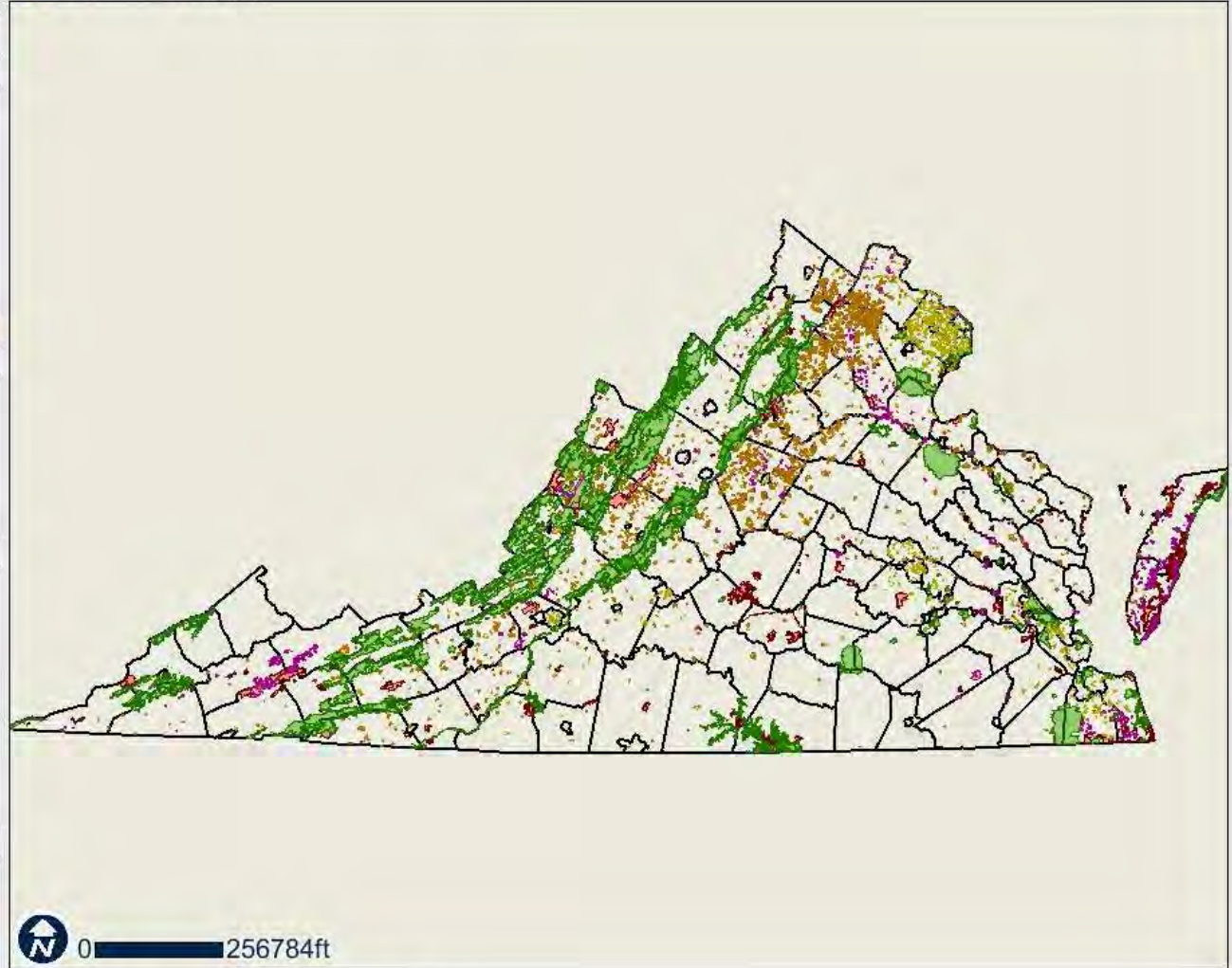
VCLNA

- Landscape Corridors
- Ecological Cores
- Agricultural Model
- Cultural Asset Model
- Forest Economics Model
- Recreation Model
- Water Quality Integrity Model
- Vulnerability Model All Threats

Base Layers

- VBMP Imagery
- Elevation

Map Results



0 256784ft





Layers Legend

- Trails
- VDOT Roads
- NHD Streams
- Managed Conservation Lands
- NWI Wetlands
- Boundaries**
 - Subhydrologic Units
 - 8-Digit USGS Watersheds
 - Physiographic Provinces
 - Planning Districts (PDC)
 - Counties
 - States
- Base Layers**
 - VBMP Imagery
 - 24k TOPO
 - 100k TOPO
 - Elevation



Scoring Criteria: Natural Areas Category

The Natural Heritage Biodiversity Rank of the Natural Heritage conservation site, based upon the global and state rarity of the natural heritage resources present, the number of natural heritage resources present, and their condition.

Maximum score: 20.

BI=20

B2=15

B3 or B4 =10

B5=5

No natural heritage resources = 0



Scoring Sheet Criteria For: Natural Areas Category

2. Size & Natural Condition: Are the size and condition of the tract(s) adequate to protect and allow for management of natural heritage resource targets?

Maximum score: 15

- Size and condition are adequate to fully protect & manage targets = 15
- Size and condition are likely to provide for full protection and management of targets = 10
- Size and condition are unlikely to allow protection & management of the conservation targets = 0-5



Scoring Sheet Criteria For: Natural Areas Category

3. Proximity: Is the tract(s) adjacent to or in close physical or functional proximity (e.g. upstream or upslope) to other conservation lands and would it expand the protection of natural heritage resources? Maximum score: 15

- Adjacent to existing conservation land = 15
- Possesses physical or functional proximity to existing conservation land = 10
- No physical or functional proximity to existing conservation land = 0



Scoring Sheet Criteria For: Natural Areas Category

4. Management: Applicants capability to implement necessary management to protect the site from short-term and long-term stresses. Maximum score: 10

- Applicant has proven experience with natural community/rare species management = 10
- Applicant has land management experience = 5
- Applicant has no proven land management experience = 0



Scoring Sheet Criteria For: Natural Areas Category

5. Community Representation: To what extent does the site support exemplary natural communities that are not well protected in Virginia? Maximum score: 10

- Supports communities not found on other protected lands = 10
- Supports communities found on limited number (1–10) of protected lands = 5
- Supports communities well represented (10+) on other protected lands = 0



Scoring Sheet Criteria For: Natural Areas Category

6) No. & Quality of Element Occurrences (EOs): How many element occurrences are known for the tract(s) and what is the quality of those occurrences? Assign the value below for each occurrence based on it's EO-rank. Sum these values.

Maximum score: 10

A-rank=4

D-rank=1

B-rank=3

E(extant)-rank=2

C-rank=2



Natural Area Preserve Dedication

- 10.1-1022.1 D. All property for which a matching grant is made pursuant to this section shall be dedicated as a natural area preserve as provided in § 10.1-213.
- Dedication instrument is designed to assure conservation of rare plant and animal species and natural communities of the site, and thus can be fairly restrictive.
- Signed by landowner and DCR Director.



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Questions?

