

State Land Mapping Joint Subcommittee

May 4, 2022, via Teams

Attending:

RMAC: Mark Hemmerlein, Michele Tremblay, Larry Spencer, John Magee, Vicky Bunker

LMAC: Shane Bradt, David Packard

NHDES: Nisa Marks, Tracie Sales

Meeting objectives:

1. Reach consensus on our checklist
2. Hone our list of state owned properties with LMAC and RMAC jurisdictions with a spreadsheet and map component to help us with our next steps*
3. Have examples ready of the Livermore Falls and Paugus Bay SLR sites to see how our criteria measure up to these past disposals
4. Begin forming the basis for moving forward with more sites

Checklist draft from April 7

- The group discussed where to put the three items under “other”.
 - o “Improve conditions for above” was deleted, because it relates to evaluating the impacts of a specific SLR, rather than being a condition inherent in the parcel.
 - o “special designations” and “agency ownership” were moved to adjacency, because they are about parcel location. Wild and Scenic Rivers was given as an example of a special designation.

The group discussed the items that potentially applied to multiple categories, like dams, and decided to put them under biological integrity.

Mark recommended keeping each category (e.g. dams) associated with one criteria (e.g. biological integrity) because they will have to be expressed in map form and it will be easier to have a 1:1 ratio. He suggested potentially having a subcategory under biological integrity for “alteration of flow characteristics” that includes floodplains, dams, and channel flow modifications.

List of state owned properties and progress on mapping

Starting from a list of parcels within 250’ of a lake or river, Mark gave an overview of the process of developing ratings for each category. Using access as an example, he developed good/fair/poor categories based on roads + rivers:

Good – can get out of car, walk on parcel, and be in waterbody. So, if parcel was within 100’ of a road centerline and 50’ of a waterbody, it was rated as having good access.

Fair – If parcel is not within 150’ of road centerline

Poor – can’t access via road.

Larry asked if Mark could incorporate topography to tell how steep the banks are. Mark said that might be possible with lidar data, but has not done so yet.

The data also requires additional filtering, such as removing problematic types of data. For instance, interstates would not be used for river access).

Next step will be to do something similar for the other categories. Then categories' ratings will be compiled into overall scoring for the parcel. The group will need to decide how to weight categories and criteria to develop the parcel's composite score.

John suggested a co-occurrence model, where each category equal weight (e.g. one point each for prime wetland, WAP habitat, and rare species occurrence). NHB data is already incorporated into the WAP habitat ranks. In some cases, those can be additive, such as where there is a species focus area *and* an instance of that species' occurrence. Focal areas incorporate habitat considerations, but those don't exist for all species. The map group will need to better understand the data.

Shane pointed out that one of the advantages of creating a dashboard is that the user can choose which categories are of interest to them and in what combination.

Michele reiterated that there should be a process to review when land use changes but parcel stays in state ownership.

Vicki described that cultural resources could be ranked by eligibility status for state or federal listing, or as a yes/no presence/absence criteria. She offered to help develop a ranking. Mark said he thought how cultural resources are presented will depend on DHR comfort with releasing the data.

Livermore Falls and Paugus Bay SLR sites

Shane described that it is premature to demonstrate the criteria in action because each category needs to be evaluated for data availability and split into ranked responses. The way GIS works, once one parcel is done, all the parcels are done, so the group cannot look at a parcel before looking at the whole dataset.

Action items:

Mark will continue to develop a draft ranking system for each category.

Mark and Shane will figure out how to set up a group user account with restricted functionality (e.g. view-only).

Next meeting: June 2, 8:00 - 9:30 AM