# ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

## Unit 2: From Planning to Action

VERMONT
AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**TAKING ACTION**

# Taking Action

- **Get organized**

- **Communication and participation**

- **Identify community values**

- **Prioritize and choose solutions**

- **Design a work plan for taking action**

# Prioritize and choose solutions

# Maps and data: a starting place for prioritization



- Which *landscape-scale elements* are essential for ecological function?

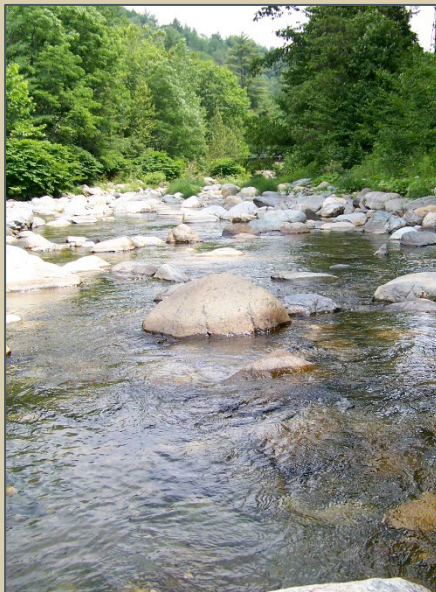- Where are important *community and species scale* resources located?

# Six steps for prioritizing

| DETERMINE ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT | | | IDENTIFY AREAS OF HIGH PUBLIC VALUE | DEVELOPING & CHOOSING OPTIONS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Locate priorities at the landscape scale | Locate priorities at the species and natural communities scales | Identify important components within priority areas | Identify areas of high public value | Establish options | Evaluate and choose options |

PARTICIPATION

# *Step 1*: Locate priorities at the landscape scale

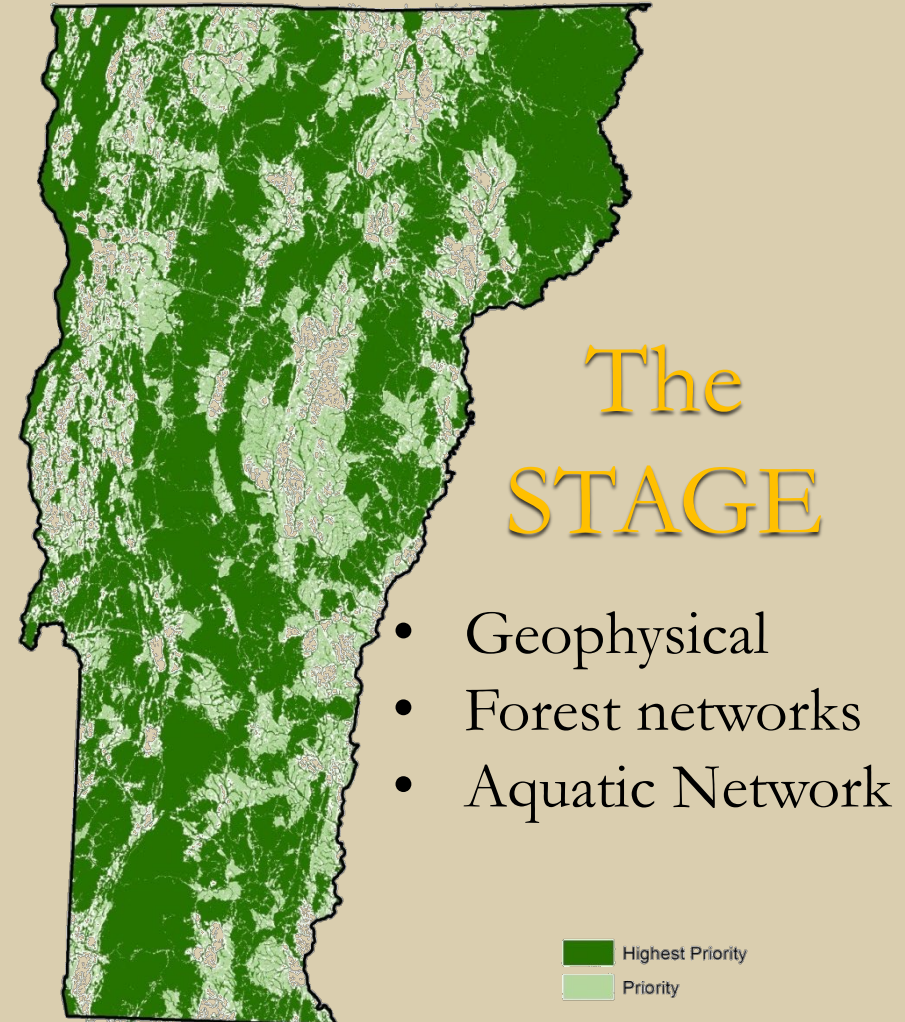- *What?* Physical features that are the foundation of a functional ecosystem.



- *Why?* Foundation must be intact for ecological function to continue.
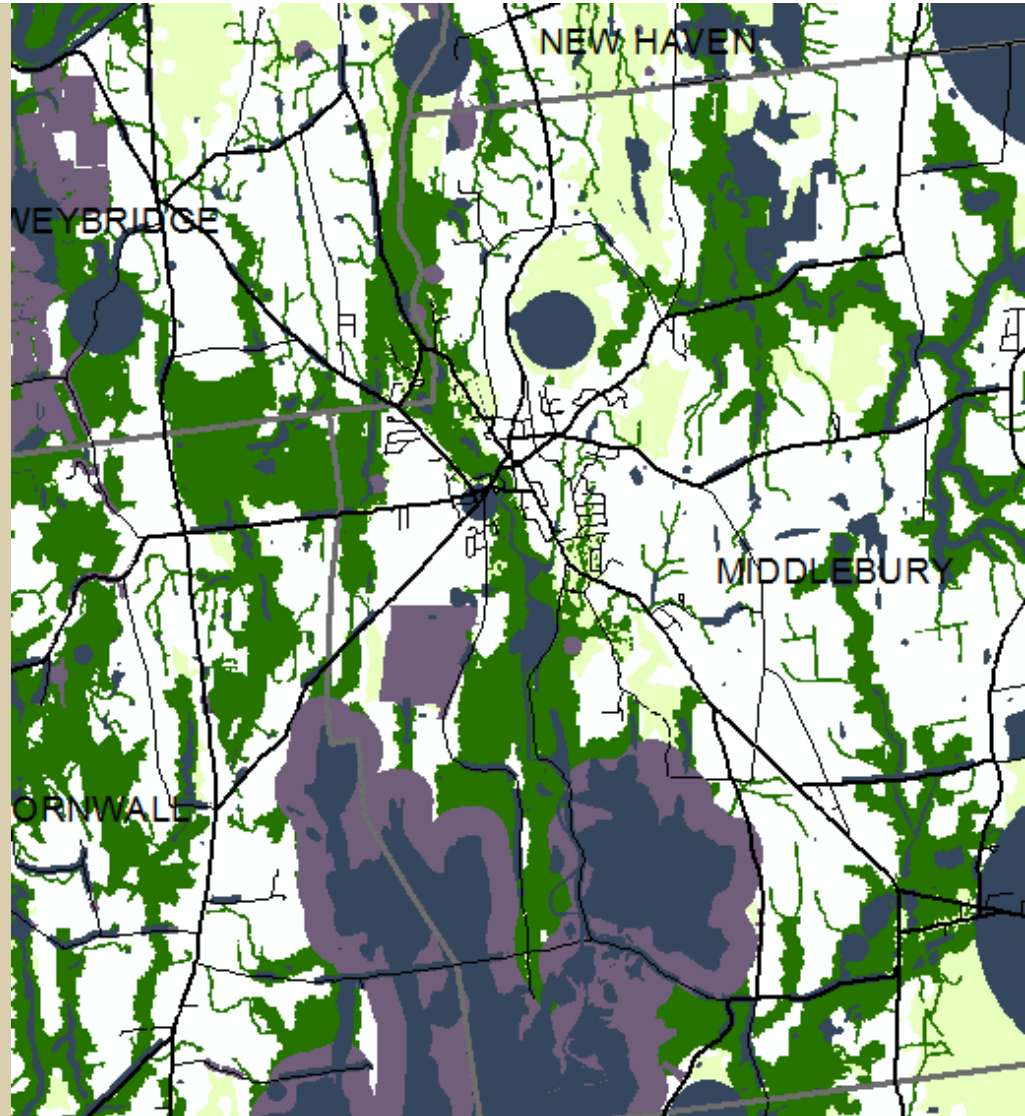
# *Step 1*: Locate priorities at the landscape scale

□ How?

◻ BioFinder

◻ Divides Vermont into "highest priority" and "priority" locations

◻ These will be areas for avoiding fragmentation and protecting water quality.

The STAGE

- Geophysical
- Forest networks
- Aquatic Network

Highest Priority
Priority

- *Why?*
  - Smaller acreage, more vulnerable
- *How?*
  - Look at this layer for your town.
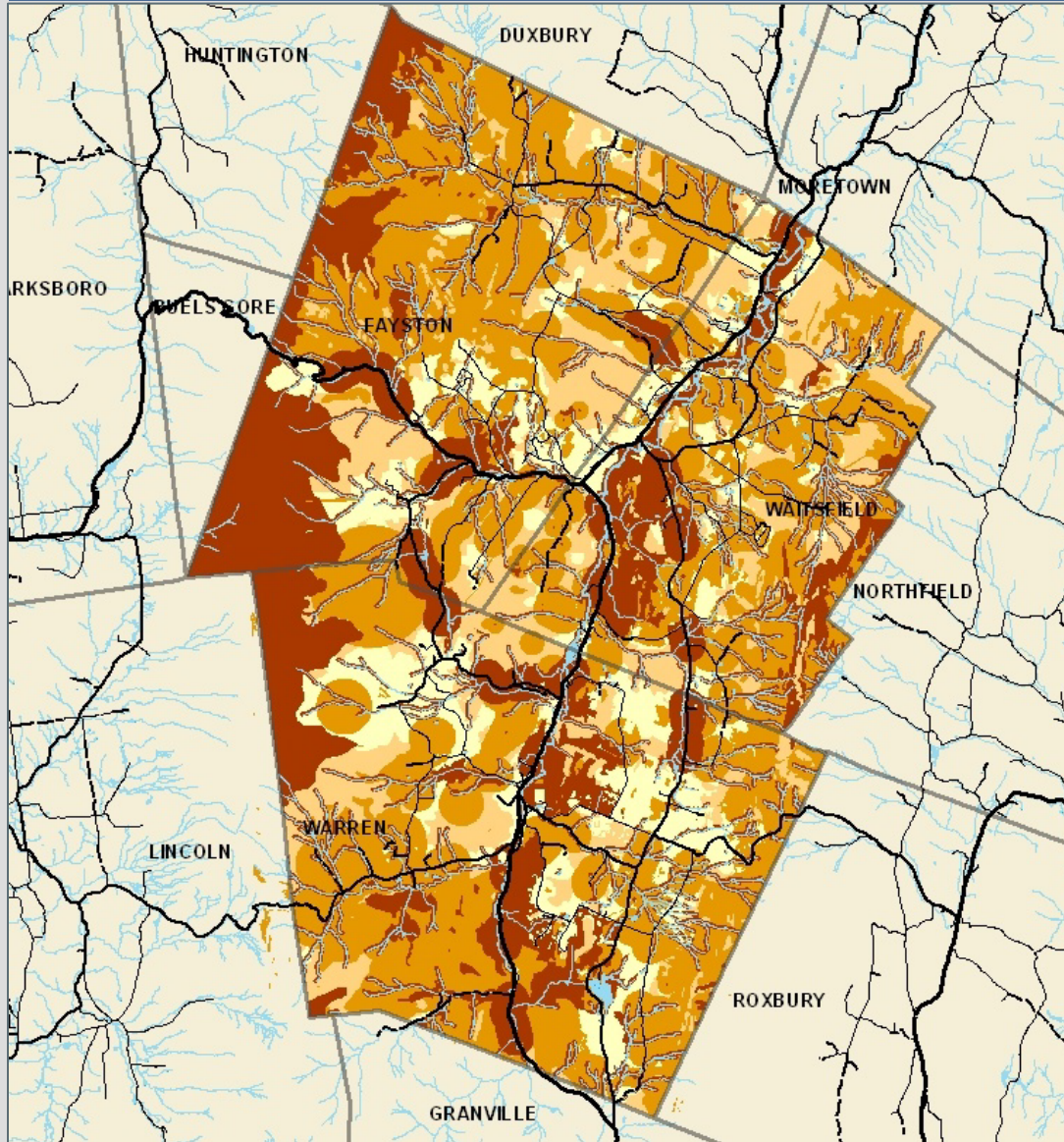  - Focus actions in high priority and priority areas

# *Step 3*: Identify components within priority areas

- *What*: Priority layers are made of "components"
- *Why*: Different components, different strategies.
- *How*: BioFinder Component Map

**Example: prioritizing local resources**
# Mad River Valley, VT

**Tiered Ecological Priorities**
show how vulnerable different parts of the landscape are

# *Step 4:* Identify areas of high public value

**Areas of High Public Value =**

Areas of High Ecological Value

**(OR)**

Areas of High Community Value

# Aligning community values and natural resource needs

- Highlight science up front
- Recognize what's guiding your decisions
- Incorporate and be sensitive to local climate, needs


Lisa Mattei - NE Wild Flower Society

# *Step 5:* Based on priorities, brainstorm a list of possible options



Community Strategies for Vermont's Forests and Wildlife
A Guide for Local Action

Conserving Vermont's Natural Heritage
A Guide to Community-Based Planning for the Conservation of Vermont's Fish, Wildlife, and Biodiversity

Municipal Plan

Things you haven't thought of (yet)

## *Step 6:* Evaluate options & make choices

*For each strategy, consider...*

- Does it help the natural resource?

- Does it align with community values?

- How much effort will it take?

- Do you have capacity?

- Cost?

- Who else can help? Opportunity to build on existing efforts?

| Tools | Does It Help the Resource? | Cost | Internal Capacity | Effort | Align with Comm. Values? | Potential Partners | Build on Existing Efforts? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Walks/Talks Series | Low/Med | Low | Low | Low | Yes | ANR, Master Naturalist | Yes |
| Outreach to Landowners | Low/Med | Low | Med | Med | Yes | Coverts, Audubon | Yes |
| Natural Resources Inventory | Med | High | Med | Med | Yes | FWD, ACCD, Consult. | Yes |
| Establish Town Forest | Low | High | High | High | Yes | TPL, Co. Foresters, ANR | No |
| Zoning | High | Low - High** | High | High | Depends | RPC, ANR | No |
| Subdivision | High | Low - High** | High | High | Depends | RPC, ANR | No |

** Depending on if you hire consultant

# Work with public to develop and evaluate options

**PARTICIPATION**

- ☐ Recap project, share priorities, get ideas
- ☐ Build on *values* – the why
- ☐ Brainstorm for ideas around those values
- ☐ Finalize recommendations
  - ◻ Communicate
  - ◻ Say how suggestions were handled and why – transparency
  - ◻ Be open to ongoing feedback

# Questions?