

Meeting Summary

Bernalillo County Greenprint

Steering Committee Meeting #1

Thursday, April 14, 4:00 to 5:30 PM

Risk Conference Room, 111 Union Square Street SE

Albuquerque, NM 87102

Meeting Goals

1. Provide background for Greenprint (including Mill Levy and PROS plan)
2. Introduce Steering Committee to Greenprint process
3. Begin discussions of guiding principles and conservation priorities
4. Gather additional names for potential steering committee members, determine preliminary technical advisory team

Meeting Participants

Beth Dillingham, Rio Grande State Parks	John Barney, Bernalillo County Parks and Rec
Bruce Milne, UNM Institute of Sustainability	Kathy Ferris
Cecilia Rosacker, Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust	Lisa Powell, Bernalillo County
Clay Campbell, Bernalillo County	Mari Simbana, Bernalillo County
Colleen McRoberts, Bernalillo County Open Space	Michael Jensen
Dan McGregor, Bernalillo County	Ric Watson, Friends of Valle de Oro
Debbie Jo Almager, Bernalillo County Parks and Rec	Sarah Wentzel-Fisher, Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust
Diane Reese, Hubbell House Alliance	Stephen Daw, Bernalillo County GIS
Diane Souder, National Park Service	Steve Glass, Ciudad SWCD
Elaine Hebard	Amy Morris, The Trust for Public Land
Hanh Nguyen	Greg Hiner, The Trust for Public Land
Jeff Willis, AMAFCA	Kate Lenzer, The Trust for Public Land/Unique Places
Joe Garcia	

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome

John Barney from the Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department welcomed participants, provided some context for the Greenprint, introduced the conveners, and led participant introductions.

2. Overview of Meeting Goals

Amy Morris from The Trust for Public Land reviewed the meeting goals. She reiterated that The Trust for Public Land is working with Bernalillo County's Parks and Recreation Department to develop a Greenprint that highlights priority areas for voluntary conservation of private land.

3. Mill Levy and PROS Plan

Amy provided an overview of mill levy funding and the County's Parks Recreation and Open Space (PROS) plan as background for the Greenprint. The mill levy was passed with 73% support in 2014 and will provide about \$22 million for conservation acquisitions over the next 15 years. The PROS plan was developed with community input between 2013 and 2015. One of the goals that came out of the PROS

plan was to “Identify acquisition criteria for parks and open space.” The Greenprint is intended to do this, but only for open space as that is what the mill levy funds are designated for. Amy noted that the Greenprint will build on the results of the polling done for the mill levy and community input for the PROS plan and is intended to help prioritize spending for mill levy funds. For more details on the mill levy and PROS plan see the attached meeting slides.

4. Introduction to Greenprinting

Amy introduced the group to Greenprinting. Greenprinting is a set of tools (including interactive maps) that can guide community-based voluntary land conservation. The objectives of the Bernalillo County Greenprint are to: (1) Identify and prioritize private open-space lands for potential conservation opportunities based on community input; (2) Develop logic for spending open space acquisition dollars; and (3) Raise community awareness of and support for the value of open spaces.

The steps involved in the Greenprint will be:

1. Gather community input through steering committee meetings and a county-wide telephone poll (400 residents)
2. Analyze community input and work with steering committee to determine conservation goals
3. Collect data related to conservation goals and translate it into a GIS model
4. Weight criteria based on community input
5. Create maps that reflect community priorities
6. Field verify potential top priority properties
7. Develop an implementation plan

Particular conservation goals will be determined through the telephone poll and through the input of the steering committee. On other projects, goals have included: Preserve Natural Habitat, Protect Water Quality; Maintain Rural Character; and Create More Public Access for Nature-based Recreation among many others. Greenprint mapping translates regional values into objective metrics – offering a blend of science and community preference. Greenprint goals represent overall community values (for example: Protect Traditional Agricultural Lands), while Greenprint criteria are measurable and mappable characteristics that are location specific (for example: irrigated parcels between 0.5 and 20 acres). Each goal is made up of about five criteria. The final overall Greenprint map will overlay all the goal maps based on the weighting preference of the steering committee.

Steering committee members will be asked to attend another three to four meetings over the next year. Each meeting will last 1.5 to 2 hours. Some steering committee members (or other staff people at their organizations) will also be asked to participate in a technical advisory team (TAT) to provide expertise for resource mapping efforts. The TAT will meet via conference call between steering committee meetings. If you are interested in serving on the TAT or in recommending a member of your staff to participate, please contact Amy (amy.morris@tpl.org).

5. Guiding Principles

Participants were divided into two groups to discuss guiding principles and conservation priorities for the Greenprint. Groups were facilitated by Amy and by Greg Hiner from The Trust for Public Land. Flip chart notes from the small group discussions were posted on the meeting room walls. At the end of the meeting, participants were asked to use three dot stickers to vote for their top three most important elements to include in a guiding principles and another three to vote for their top three most important conservation values.

Guiding principles are intended to be a cohesive set of beliefs around which there is consensus that can guide the group in determining how to develop the Greenprint. After filling out the worksheets, the small groups discussed their answers. The highest priority components for the guiding principles based on small group discussions are shown below with number of priority votes in parentheses:

- **Whose values should be reflected?** Land stewards (3); youth (2); local farmers/community (2); future generations (2); wildlife (1); recreationists (1); historic communities and neighborhoods (1); and county staff (1).
- **What resources are especially important to protect?** Connectivity (3); stormwater management, arroyos, riparian (3); historical and cultural landscapes that are important to stories [for example, need to be able to see volcanoes] (3); wildlife corridors (2); agriculture with water rights (2); agriculture/farming/silviculture (2); water (2); biodiversity (1); river (1); areas where more than one resource would be protected (1).
- **Who needs to have input in order to make the Greenprint effective?** Agricultural community (2); neighborhood associations and community groups (1); and environmental advocates (1).
- **What potential environmental, cultural, or economic benefits are the highest priorities?** Healthier soil (1); cultural sites and tourism (1); foodshed benefits – decrease hunger (1); integration of systems (1); riparian and wildlife resiliency (1); and physical and mental health (1).
- **Are there political or cultural sensitivities that we need to reflect to make the guiding principles inclusive and effective?** South Valley and International District – Atrisco land grant (7); Pueblos (1); traditional land-based communities (1); and sacred sites (1).

6. Discussion of Priority Conservation Values

After discussing potential guiding principles, the group addressed potential Greenprint goals/conservation values and how they could be mapped. The conservation values included in the mill levy language include: natural areas and open spaces; cultural/historic/nature education sites; protection of drinking water, wildlife habitat, agricultural land (including along the Rio Grande); and allowing children and families to get outdoors in nature. Participants were asked: (1) What conservation values/types of land are most important to protect? (2) What criteria can we map? Priority targets based on steering committee input are shown in Table 1. Steering committee members also mentioned natural areas, water quality and quantity, urban tree canopy, acequias, trails and pathways for connectivity, and viewsheds.

Table 1. Priority Conservation Targets

Conservation Value/Goal/Criteria	Data to be Used in Mapping	Priority Votes
Areas subject to development pressure	COG, BBER/Census	4
Areas of cultural importance	SHPO, UNM, State Archaeologist	4
Vital ecology – whole systems	NRCS, USFWS, USGS, Pathways – Wildlife Corridors	4
Irrigable farmlands	Santiago – historical data; CD, Interstate Stream Commission	3
Accessibility	Census, NM Community Data Collaborative	3
Critical watersheds	AMAFCA, SSCAFCA	3
Impaired waterways and wells	County GIS	2
Older cultural communities	UNM Land Grant Program	1

Table 1. Priority Conservation Targets

Conservation Value/Goal/Criteria	Data to be Used in Mapping	Priority Votes
Maintain viable agricultural sector and acequia use		

7. Closing

Amy thanked everyone for coming and contributing their valuable input.

8. Next Steps

- Telephone polling will be conducted in May, and Greenprint goals will be determined by the core team after polling results are analyzed.
- Technical advisory team meetings will begin in May or June.
- Please let Amy (amy.morris@tpl.org) know if you (or someone from your staff) would be willing to serve on the technical advisory team to help with gathering and assessing mapping data.
- Next steering committee meeting will be in late August – tentatively on August 31.
- Amy to develop draft guiding principles based on steering committee input before the next meeting.

9. Attachments

- Meeting slides

Bernalillo County Greenprint

April 2016



About the Conveners

Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department manages and provides programming for the County's parks, recreation, and open space resources.

The Trust for Public Land conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come.



Agenda



- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of Meeting Agenda and Goals
- Background: Mill Levy Funding and PROS Plan
- Introduction to Greenprinting
- Guiding Principles
- Discussion of Priority Conservation Values
- Next Steps and Closing



Mill Levy Basics

- Studied feasibility in 2013-2014 – in part through a telephone poll
- Passed in 2014 with 73% approval
- Adds about \$13 annually to tax bill for \$200,000 home
- Approximately 50% of money raised to go to acquisition of open space – \$22 million over 15 years - doubled the County's acquisition budget

Mill Levy Ballot Language

Shall the County of Bernalillo, New Mexico establish a 0.20 mill levy for 15 years for the purposes of acquiring, improving, operating, and maintaining natural areas, open spaces, and cultural, historic and nature education sites within the county to protect drinking water sources, wildlife habitat, and agricultural land, including along the Rio Grande, and to allow children and families to get outdoors in nature, with all expenditures subject to independent annual audit and citizen review?

PROS Plan

- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Facilities Master Plan
- Developed with community input between 2013 and 2015 (over 40 public meetings)

PROS Plan (continued)

- Findings
 - Doing well: developing and programming open space properties and developing and maintaining neighborhood parks and green spaces
 - Need to improve: modernize and increase capacity of community centers; further develop aquatics; increase multigenerational programming
- Goals and policies
 - Increase access to community health resources
 - Increase development of open space properties
 - Develop public-private partnerships
 - Increase opportunities for cultural heritage preservation
 - Increase marketing of tourism opportunities
 - **Identify acquisition criteria for parks and open space**

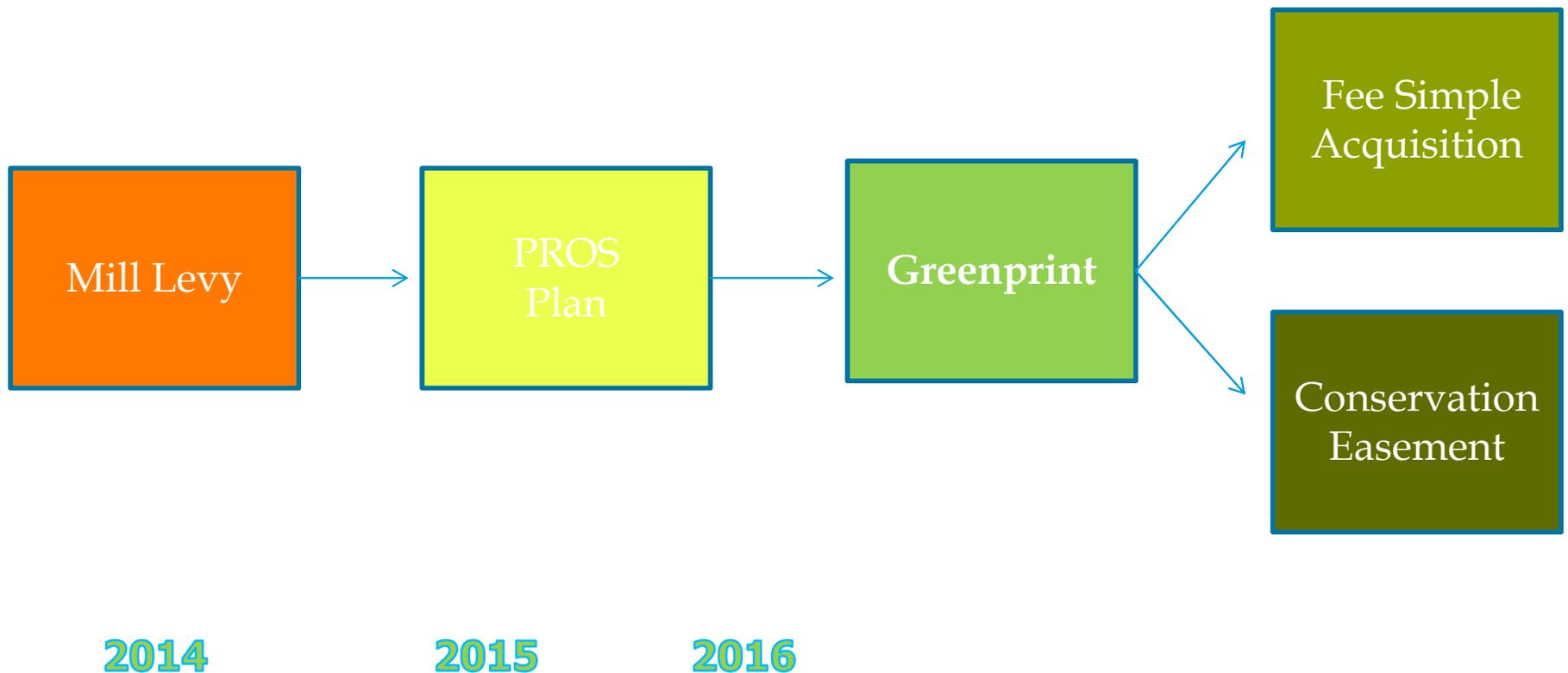
PROS Plan and Greenprint

- Greenprint focused on open space
- Greenprint intended to help identify acquisition criteria

Mill Levy, PROS Plan, and Greenprint

- Greenprint will build on the results of polling for the mill levy and community input from the PROS plan
- Greenprint is a tool to help prioritize spending mill levy funds
- Greenprint prioritization is a key implementation step from the PROS plan

Building an Open Space Acquisition Framework



Greenprint Overview



What is a Greenprint?

It is:

- A set of tools (including interactive maps) to guide land conservation and stewardship
- Based on community goals
- Process to identify opportunities to meet multiple goals
- A way to prioritize areas for voluntary, market-based conservation

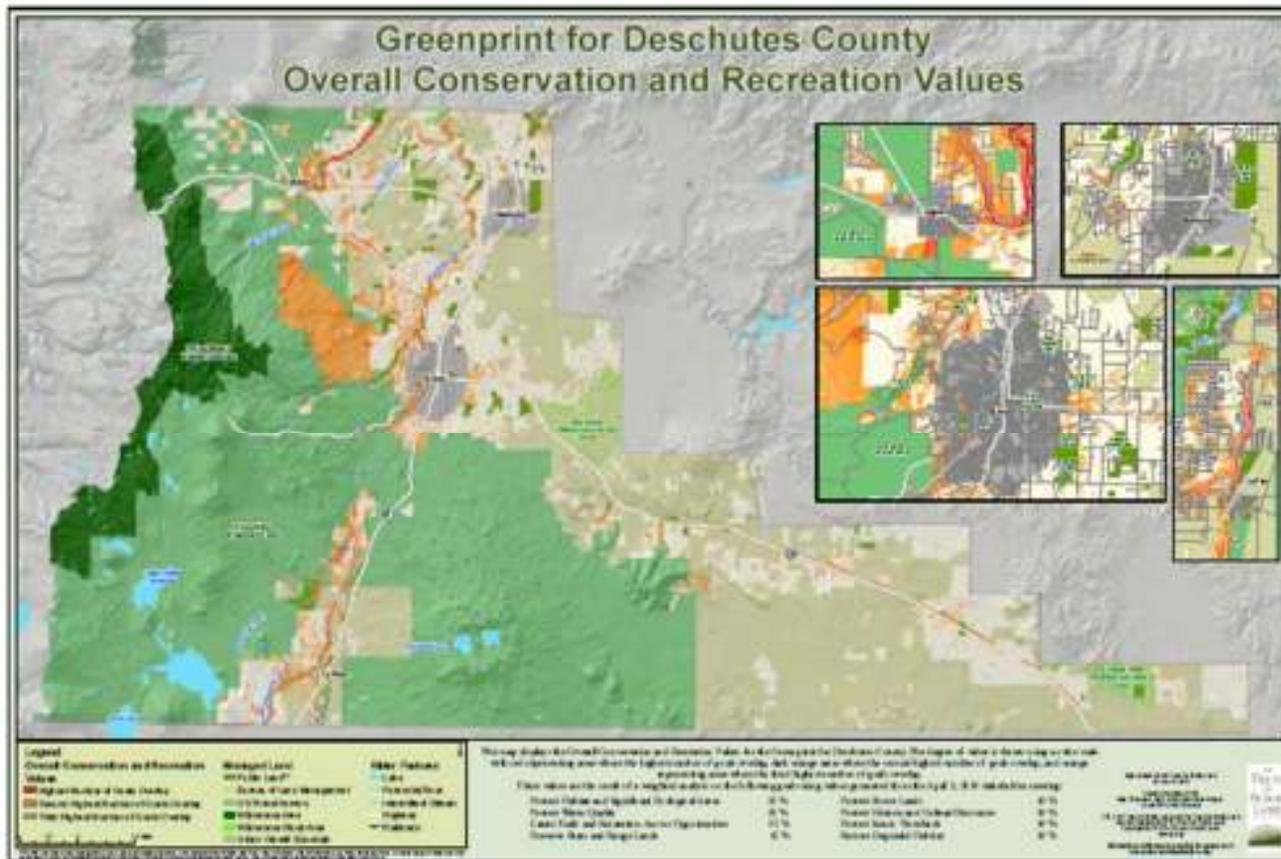
It is NOT:

- A map of land use prohibitions
- Determined by one (or just a few) perspectives
- Limited to protecting wildlife
- Related to condemning or taking land/private property

Greenprint Objectives

- Identify and prioritize private open-space lands for potential conservation opportunities.
- Develop logic for spending open space acquisition dollars.
- In coordination with County staff, raise community awareness and support around the value of open spaces.

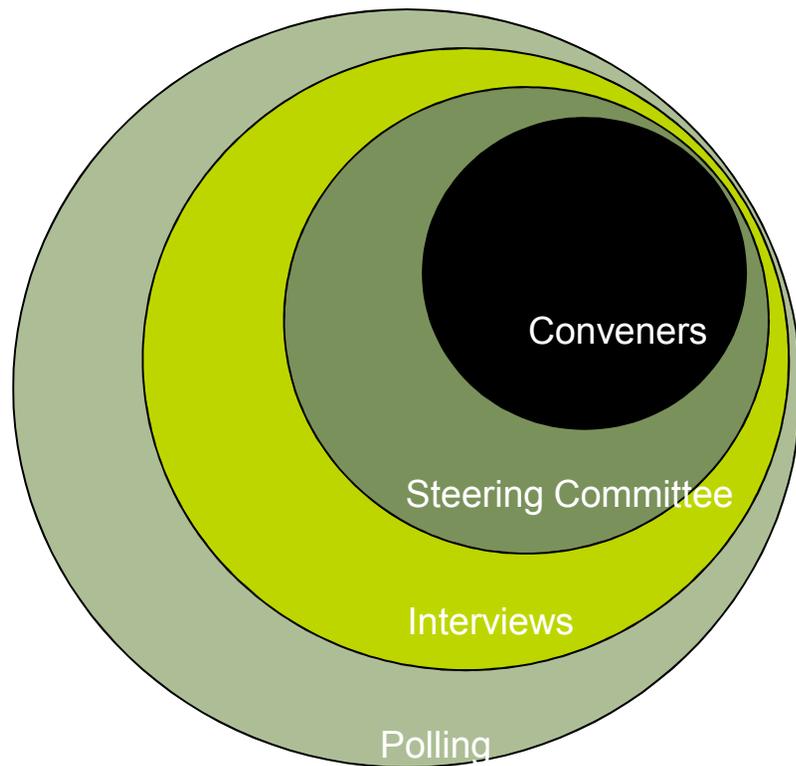
How do you create a Greenprint?



Greenprint Steps

1. Get community input: steering committee meetings, polling
2. Analyze community input and work with steering committee conservation goals
3. Collect data related to conservation goals and translate it into a GIS model
4. Weight criteria based on community input
5. Create maps that reflect community priorities
6. Field verification of potential top priority properties
7. Develop an implementation plan

Community Involvement



Examples of Conservation Goals



Preserve Natural Habitat



Target Restorable Habitats



Protect Water Quality



Protect and Restore Natural Drainage



Maintain Rural Character



Create More Public Access for Nature-Based
Recreation

Greenprint Analysis and Mapping

- Translates regional values into objective metrics.
- Reflects community's vision and unique open space resources.
- Offers a unique blend of science and preference.

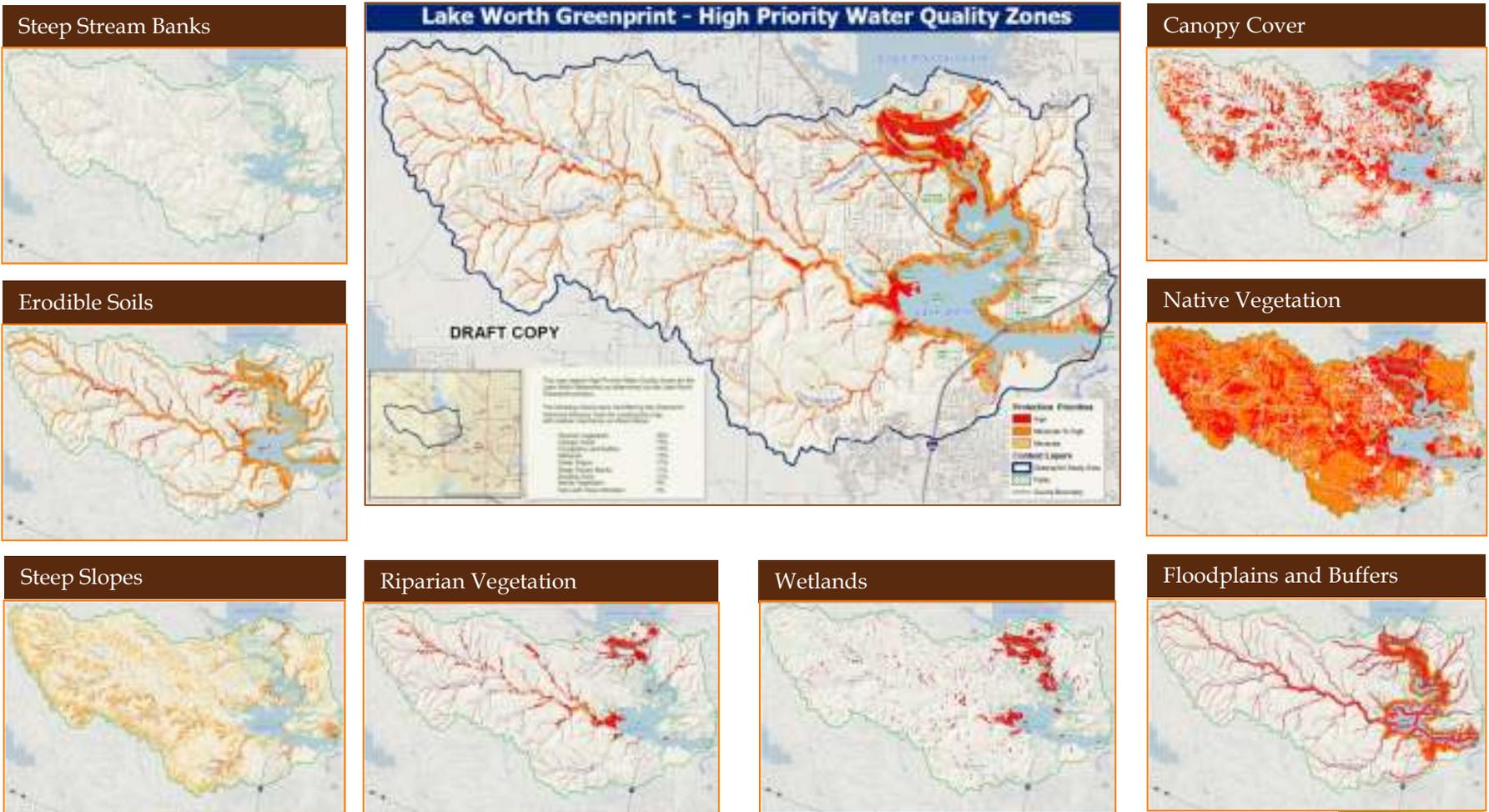


Analysis and Mapping Approach

Develop information that can be acted: rank areas/parcels by how well they meet Greenprint goals

- Goal: Overall community value related to open space
 - For example: Protect traditional agricultural lands
- Criteria: Location-specific characteristic that is measurable and mappable
 - For example: Irrigated parcels between 0.5 and 20 acres in size

Example Goal and Criteria



Parcel Prioritization

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NCTCOG Water Quality Protection Greenprint Parcel Report

Tax ID: 17060-6-9C

Parcel Acres: 6.9

Land Use: UNDEVELOPED

Conservation Indicators

Aquifer Recharge Zone: No

Adjacent to a Stream: No

Adjacent to the Reservoir: Yes

Adjacent to Protected Lands: No

Protected: Yes



Goal: Protect Water Quality

PARCEL HAS PRIORITY ACRES: Yes

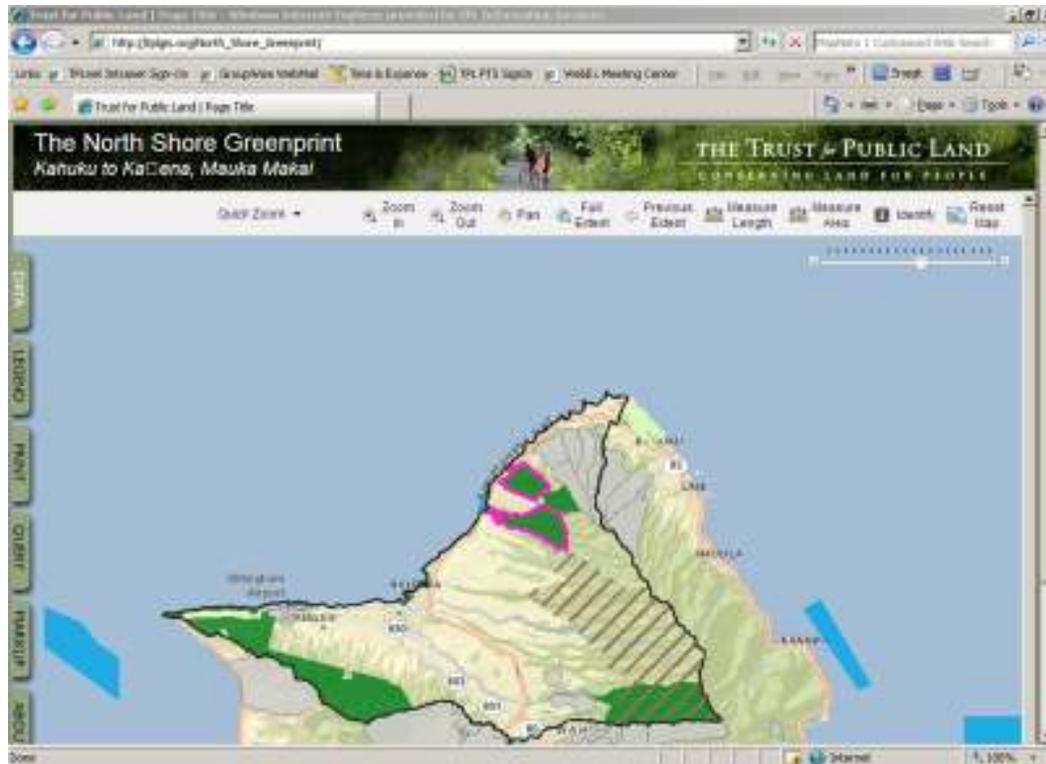
PRIORITY ACRES: 3.0

PERCENT OF PARCEL: 43%

	PARCEL HAS PRIORITY ACRES	PRIORITY ACRES	PERCENT OF PARCEL
Landuse	Yes	0.6	9%
Proximity to Streams	Yes	2.4	34%
Proximity to Ponds and Wetlands	Yes	0.9	14%
Water Erosion Potential	Yes	6.7	97%
Floodplains	Yes	6.9	100%
Proximity to the Reservoir	Yes	6.9	100%



Web-based Greenprint Delivery



Role of Steering Committee

- Help us gather best possible community input
- Help with outreach
- Identify and review draft conservation goals
- Provide guidance to a Technical Advisory Team on the Greenprint maps
- Vote on final map weighting
- Contribute to the development of an action plan
- Time commitment: 3-4 more meetings over the next 9 months

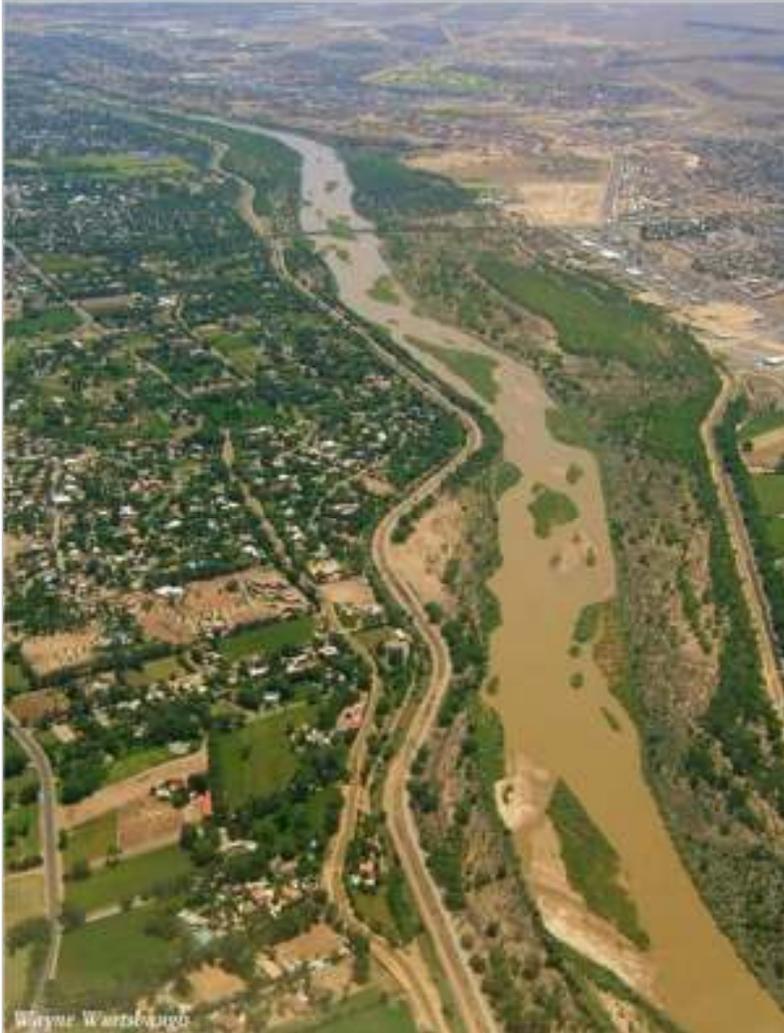
Role of the Technical Advisory Team (TAT)

Provide expert review and advice regarding design, data input, rationale, outcomes, and mapping.

Responsibilities:

- Participate in TAT meetings (by phone/computer)
- Verify the completeness and appropriateness of analysis methodology
- Recommend best available data sources
- Help ensure that defensible science is used for all models and assumptions
- Review input data and model results for accuracy and currency
- Determine relative importance of each criteria

Guiding Principles



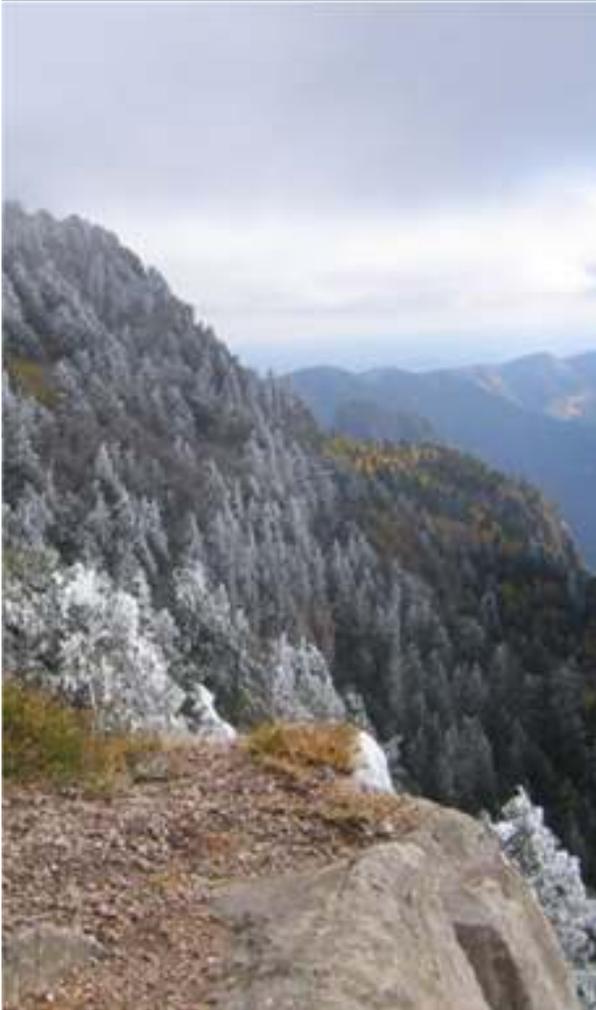
- Beliefs and philosophy
- Guide you toward mission and vision
- Why and how we create the Greenprint
- Cohesive set of beliefs – around which there is consensus
- Keep it simple



Guiding Principles Questions

- Whose values should the Greenprint reflect?
- What resources are especially important to protect?
- Who needs to have input in order to make the Greenprint effective?
- What potential environmental, cultural, or economic benefits are the highest priorities?
- Are there political or cultural sensitivities that we need to reflect to make the guiding principles inclusive and effective?

Discussion of Priority Conservation Values



Mill levy conservation targets:

“natural areas, open spaces, and cultural, historic and nature education sites within the county to protect drinking water sources, wildlife habitat, and agricultural land, including along the Rio Grande, and to allow children and families to get outdoors in nature”

Small Group Questions:

1. What conservation values/types of land are most important to protect?
2. What criteria can we map?



Next Steps

- Finish developing guiding principles
- Telephone poll
- Determine Greenprint goals – based on interview and steering committee input and telephone poll results
- Designate technical advisory team
- Begin collecting data for Greenprint maps
- Next meeting: August 2016

Thank you!



Amy Wilson Morris
Conservation Vision, Project Manager
The Trust for Public Land
amy.morris@tpl.org

