

Large Landscape Conservation: the Potential for Downeast Maine

James N. Levitt

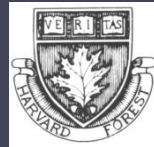
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Convergence 2013

Schoodic Education and Research Center

Winter Harbor, Maine

October 2013



HARVARD FOREST
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

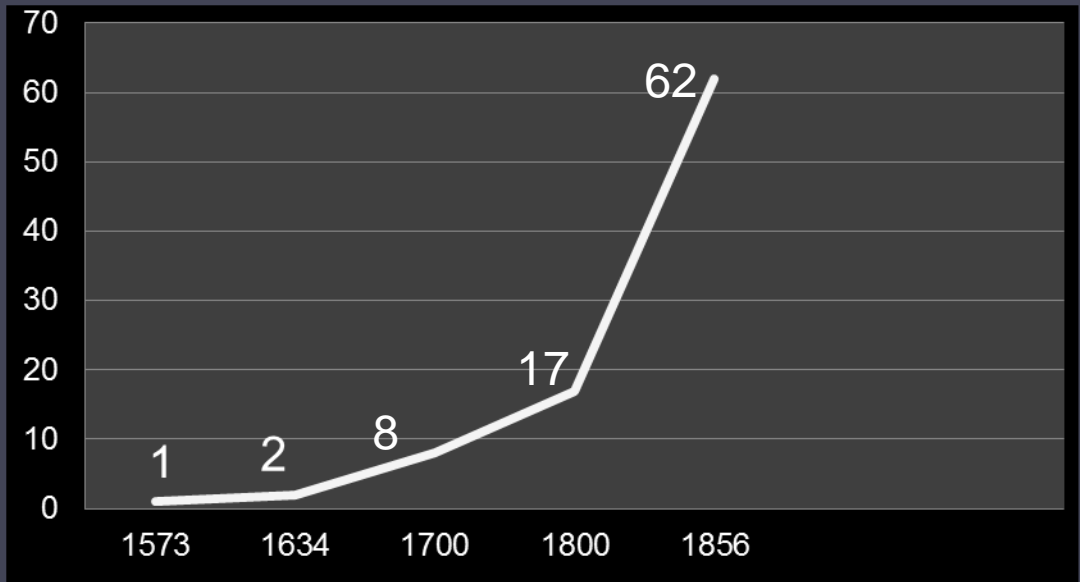
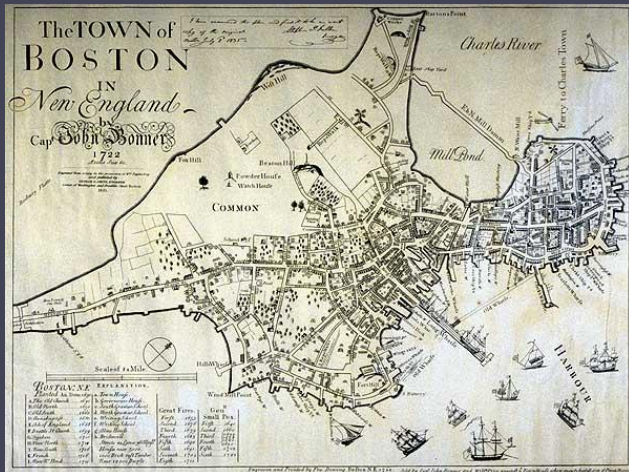


LANDMARK CONSERVATION INNOVATIONS

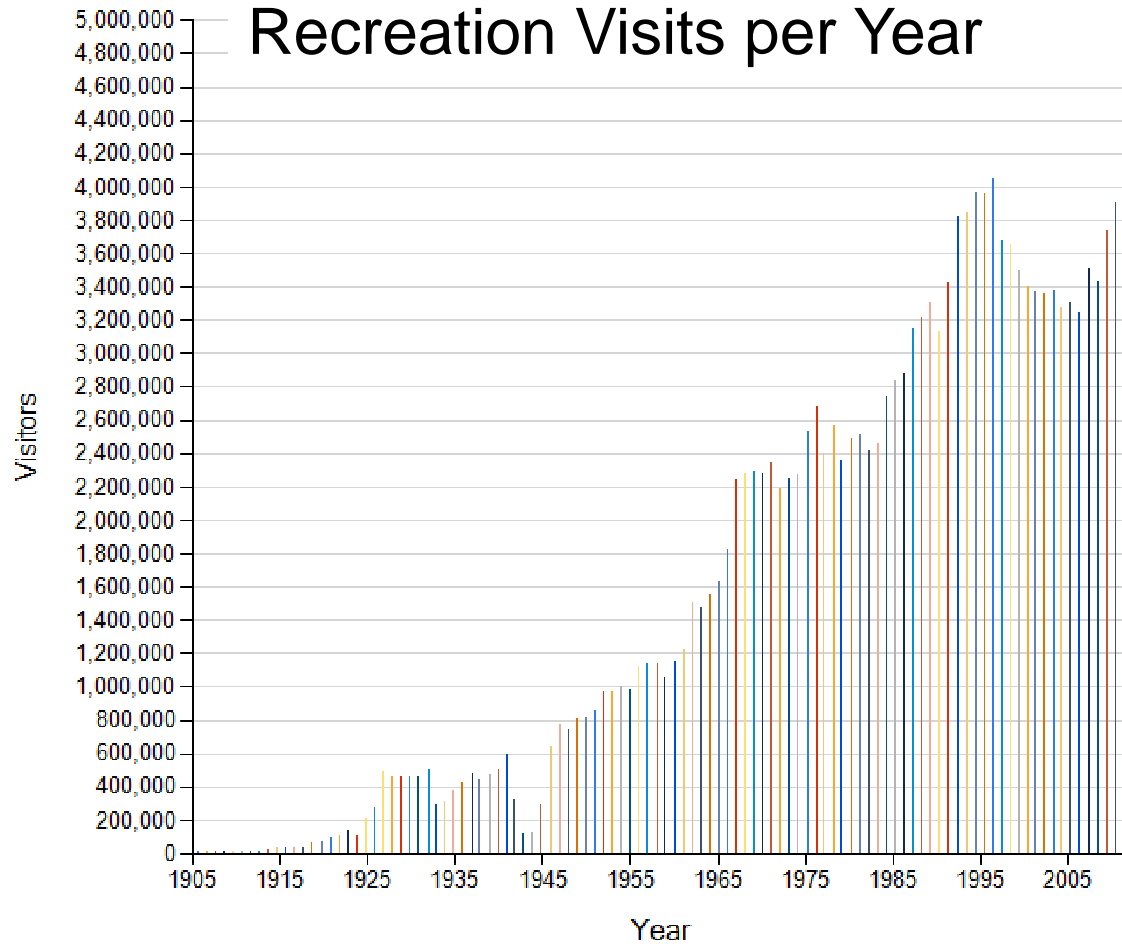
- These innovations literally leave a mark on the map, and on the ground
- Characterized by five attributes:
 - Novelty, or creativity in conception
 - Strategic significance
 - Measurable effectiveness
 - Transferability to other jurisdictions
 - An ability to endure
- Key Factors for Success:
 - Advanced technology
 - Inventive organizational & financial tools
 - Exceptional talent

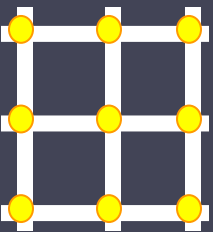
Growth of Public Town Parks: from the Boston Common in 1634 to tens of thousands today

By 2011, the
100 largest
US cities had
22,493 parks

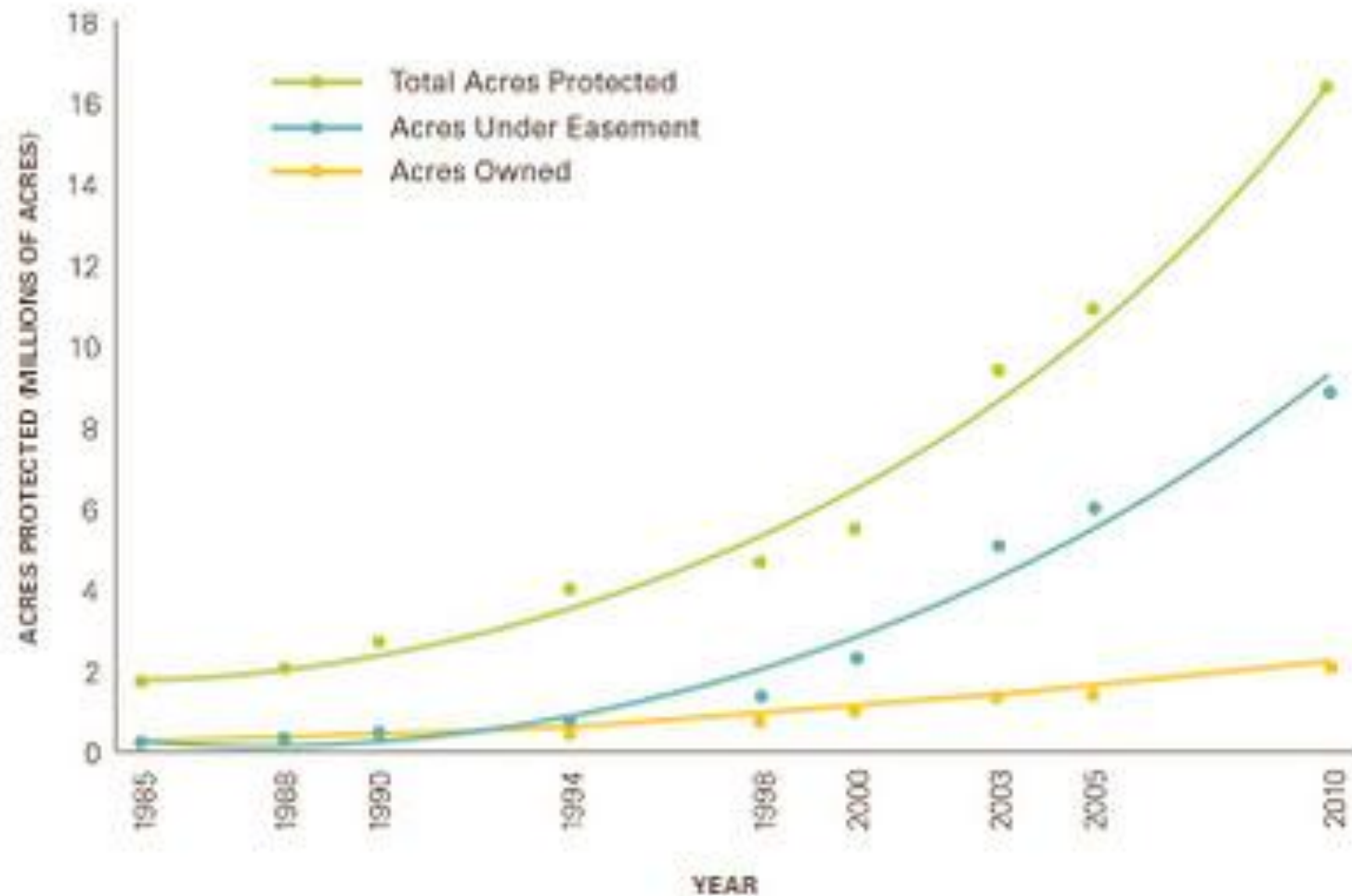


Yosemite National Park Total Recreation Visits per Year

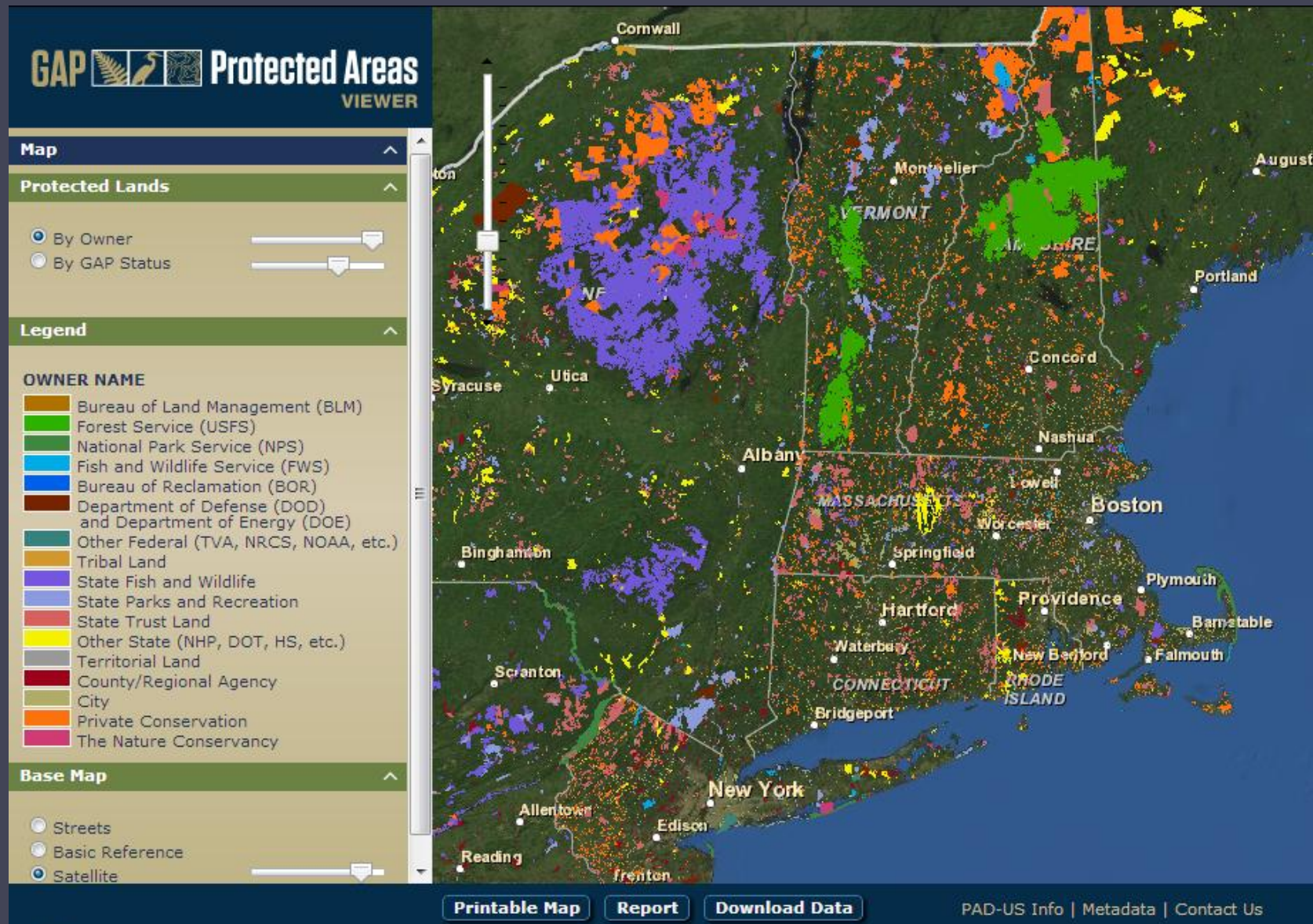




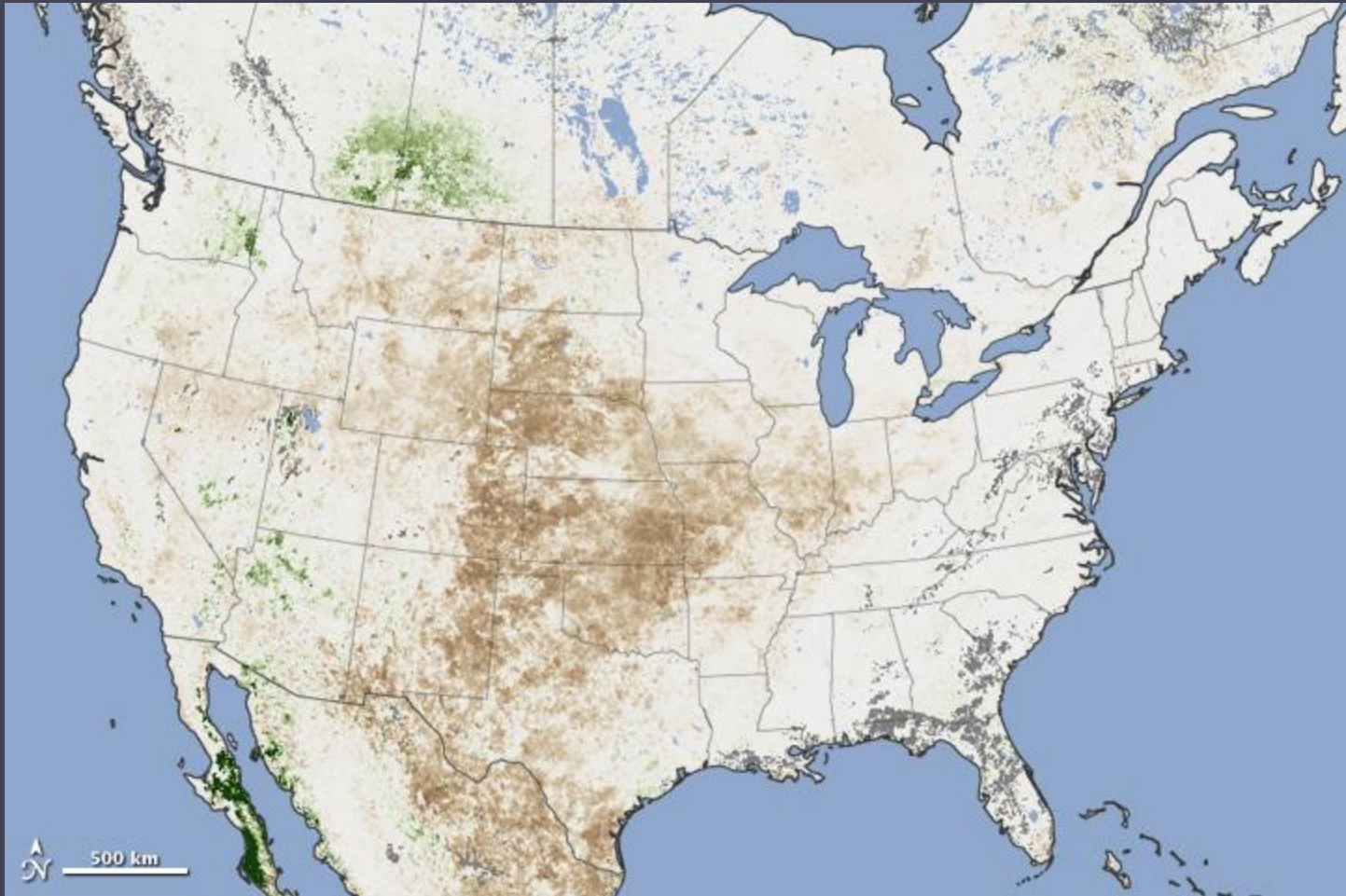
Private Land Conservation by State and Local Land Trusts



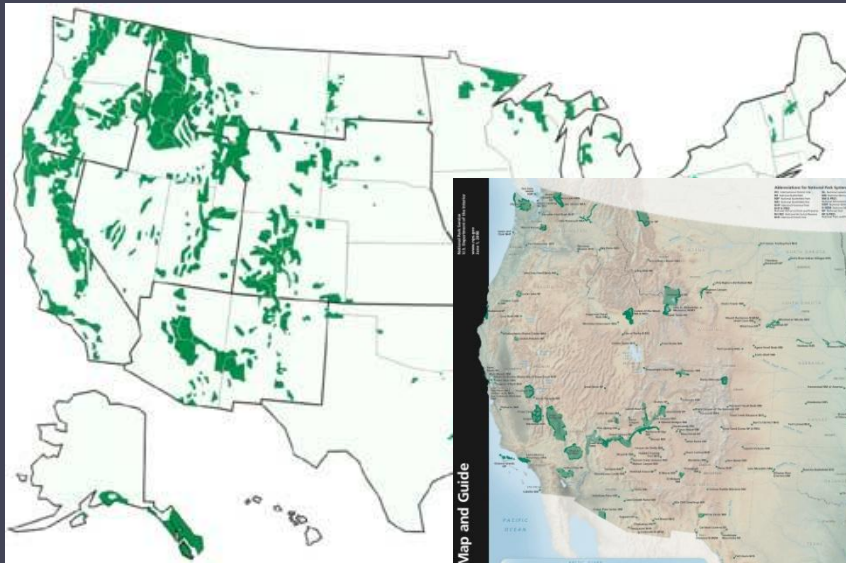
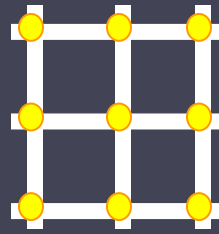
GIS and satellite systems allow us to map conserved lands with amazing specificity.



We can observe the impacts of climate change, such as 2012 drought conditions, in minute detail



We are still learning, however, how to manage ACROSS systems to connect and protect whole landscapes





Early “landscape-scale conservation initiatives” give us hope that integration across boundaries can be achieved

PRACTITIONERS' NETWORK FOR Large Landscape Conservation

About the Network Working Groups Resources Calendar Members


The Practitioners' Resource for Thinking and Acting at the Large Landscape Scale

Network News

Secretary Salazar Signs Order Establishing America's Great Outdoors Program

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Join the Network Today



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Register Your Initiative...

Share information about your Large Landscape Conservation Initiative.

Spread the Word...

Tell your friends and colleagues about the Practitioners' Network and let the Network staff know about upcoming conferences and events that are focused on thinking and acting at the large landscape scale.

The Practitioners' Network for Large Landscape Conservation is an alliance of professionals and citizens engaged in leading, managing, researching, advocating, funding, educating or setting policy to advance large landscape conservation initiatives.

The Practitioners' Network thanks for the following organizations for their support.

LINCOLN INSTITUTE OF LAND POLICY

The University of Montana
Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy

SONDRAN INSTITUTE

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The Practitioners' N...

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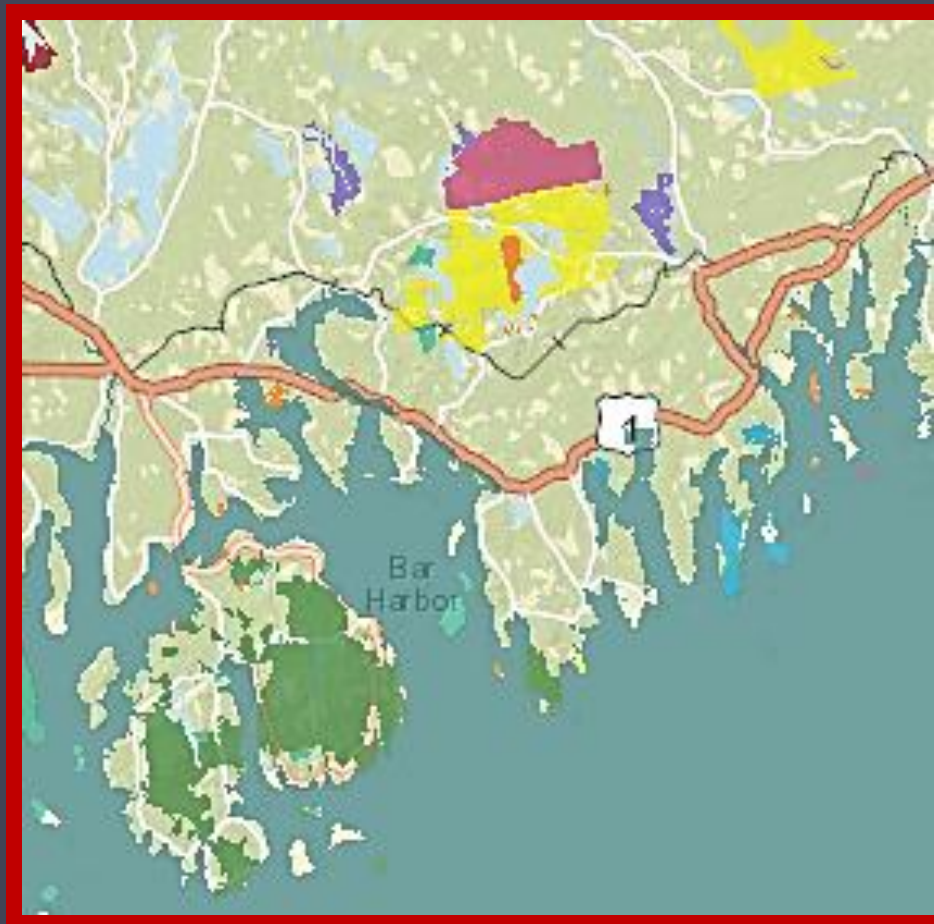


Large landscape conservation is an idea being picked up across the western hemisphere, and around the globe

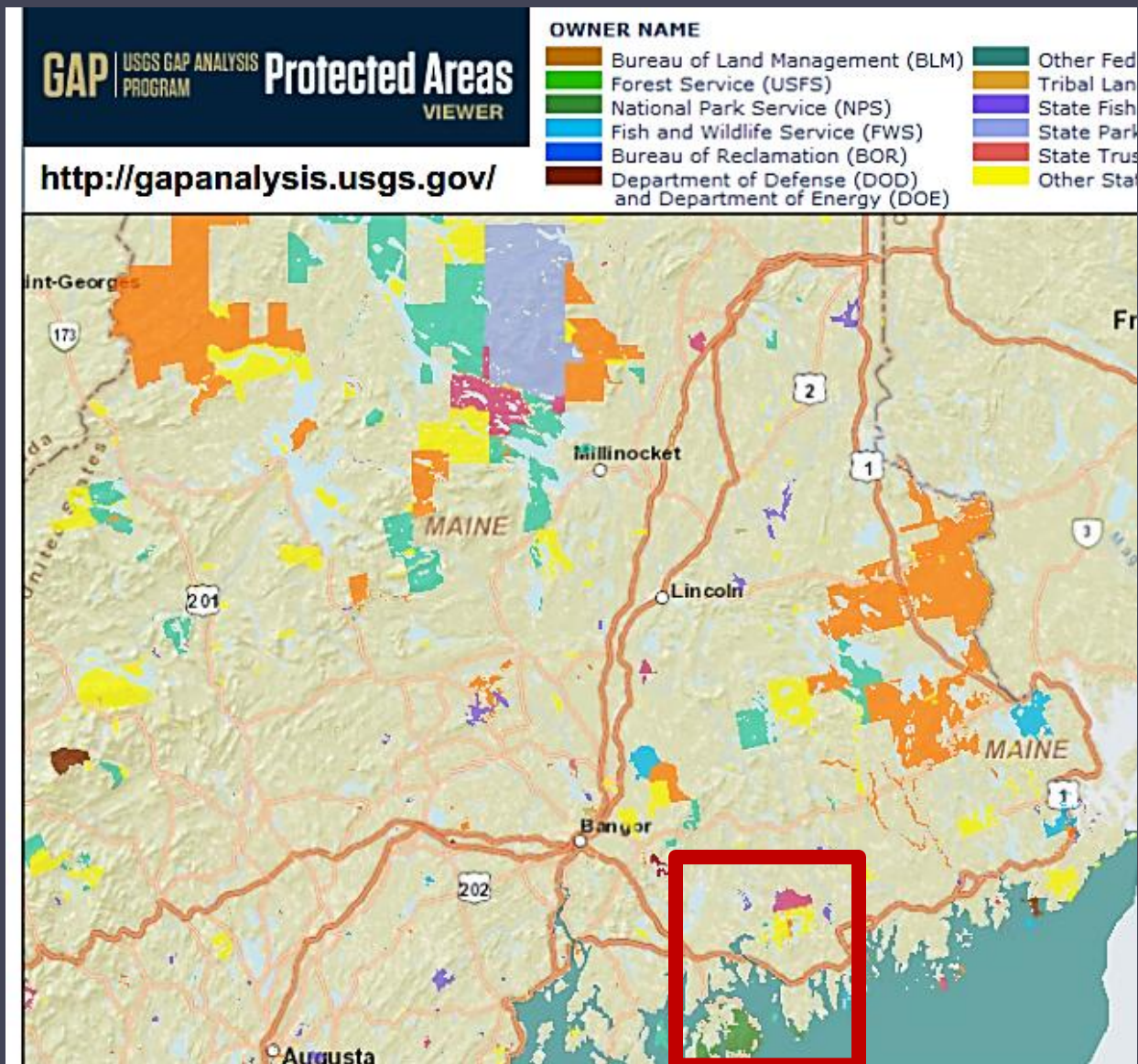




Opportunities to create conservation corridors in Downeast Maine exist “close-in”...



... and at an even larger scale



Large Landscape Conservation success here, and across the globe, will depend on creativity and collaboration across many sectors



- **Public Sector:** National, state and local governments
- **NGO Sector:** MCHT, FBC, TNC, Schoodic Institute
- **Private Sector:** Landowners and managers large and small, from Pingree to the members of SWOAM
- **Academic and Research Sector**
 - Universities, colleges, research stations & students as conservation catalysts

At Harvard Forest, and at the Lincoln Institute, we have several ongoing efforts to advance large landscape conservation



- In addition to the Practitioners Network noted above, we've launched the **Conservation Catalysts Network** to share best practices among universities, colleges and research stations catalyzing such initiatives

Acadian Program in Landscape Conservation & Stewardship

R.J. Lilieholm, J. Levitt, I. Gambill, I. Losonci and Y. Davis

The Acadian Program is an innovative, one week summer short course focused on large landscape-scale conservation, spreading this idea and practice across the Acadian region and participants' home landscapes.



The Program's goals are to provide participants with hands-on group learning in a local conservation challenge and strengthen the understanding and practice of large landscape conservation across the Acadian region that spans the U.S.-Canadian border from the Penobscot River to southwestern New Brunswick. With teams hailing from Maine, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Belize and Chile, the 2013 program also emphasized the importance of place-based conservation efforts while simultaneously training participants to understand and recognize similarities in conservation challenges across national boundaries.



The One Week Program Involves:

(1) Informative lectures from conservation experts on various topics; (2) team-by-team presentations of a “live” conservation challenge or landscape-scale initiative occurring in their home region; and (3) group work to propose ways to address the challenges of a highly significant large landscape initiative in the Acadian region- the ecological, economic, and social restoration of the Penobscot River Watershed following the historic dam removal and modification of several large dams this past summer.

Students have the option of receiving credit for the Program through the University of Maine.

The Program promotes research and conservation in the region. The Acadian Internship couples training, research, and community outreach to build a coherent, broadly supported commitment to landscape-scale conservation across the Downeast region.

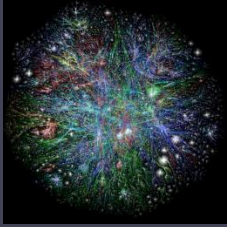
The Program:

- Engages participants by using narratives and case studies originating from conservation that has occurred within the Acadian region and their home regions
- Allows participants to share conservation challenges in which they are engaged, and appeal to their colleagues for innovative solutions
- Involves students in the local conservation challenge of restoring the Penobscot River watershed
- Encourages students to consider asset-based economics, social science, and ecological integrity in their assessments of conservation strategies
- Challenges students to link what they have learned in lectures with their field experiences, providing conservation organizations and local communities with a broad of landscape-scale conservation theory and practice.



We are also inviting students in Downeast Maine, and students all over the globe, to apply for one of five scholarships to present at a November 2014 meeting of the **IUCN** -- the **International Union for the Conservation of Nature**





Student submissions for the competition may include:

- **Natural sciences** (biology, ecology, geology, hydrology...)
- **Social sciences** (economics, anthropology, sociology...)
- **Policy and Professional Studies** (policy analysis, governance, management, forestry, finance, law...)
- **Humanities and Creative Arts** (creative writing, film, photography, theater...)

Send entries to:

James N. Levitt (james_levitt@harvard.edu)



We look forward to working with
many of you in the near future.

Thank you.