SOUTH CAROLINA
CONSERVATION
BANK

South Carolina Conservation Bank

Conservation Priority Mapping

December 30, 2025

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Introduction

The South Carolina Conservation Bank (SCCB) has been tasked with developing statewide conservation priority maps that will be submitted to the South Carolina General Assembly as identified in South Carolina House Bill 4727 Section 48-59-50, B(5):

> *"(5) develop conservation criteria to be used, in addition to the criteria set forth in Section 48-59-70(D), that advance and support federal, state, and local conservation goals, plans, objectives, and initiatives. In order to assist in the development of conservation criteria, the bank must coordinate with the appropriate groups to integrate the goals, plans, objectives, and initiatives, as well as land use patterns, into a statewide conservation map. The map must be created by July 1, 2019, and the criteria and map must be reviewed no less than every ten years thereafter. The criteria list and map must be submitted to the General Assembly annually."*

In June of 2019, the first statewide conservation priority maps were produced by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources for the South Carolina Conservation Bank. They consisted of five sub-maps (public access, ecological conservation priorities, cultural resources, private working lands, and water resources), and a final conservation priority model. Each of these sub-maps included one or more data layer(s) representative of the conservation category.

The priority maps were updated again in May of 2022 to consist of six sub-maps (conservation corridors, ecological conservation priorities, sustainable forestry and agriculture, water resources, proximity to urban interface, and public benefit), and a final conservation priority model map. From May of 2022, the South Carolina Conservation Bank planned to update the maps annually. Reports documenting the June 2019, May 2022, July 2023, and July 2024 maps are available by request to the South Carolina Conservation Bank.

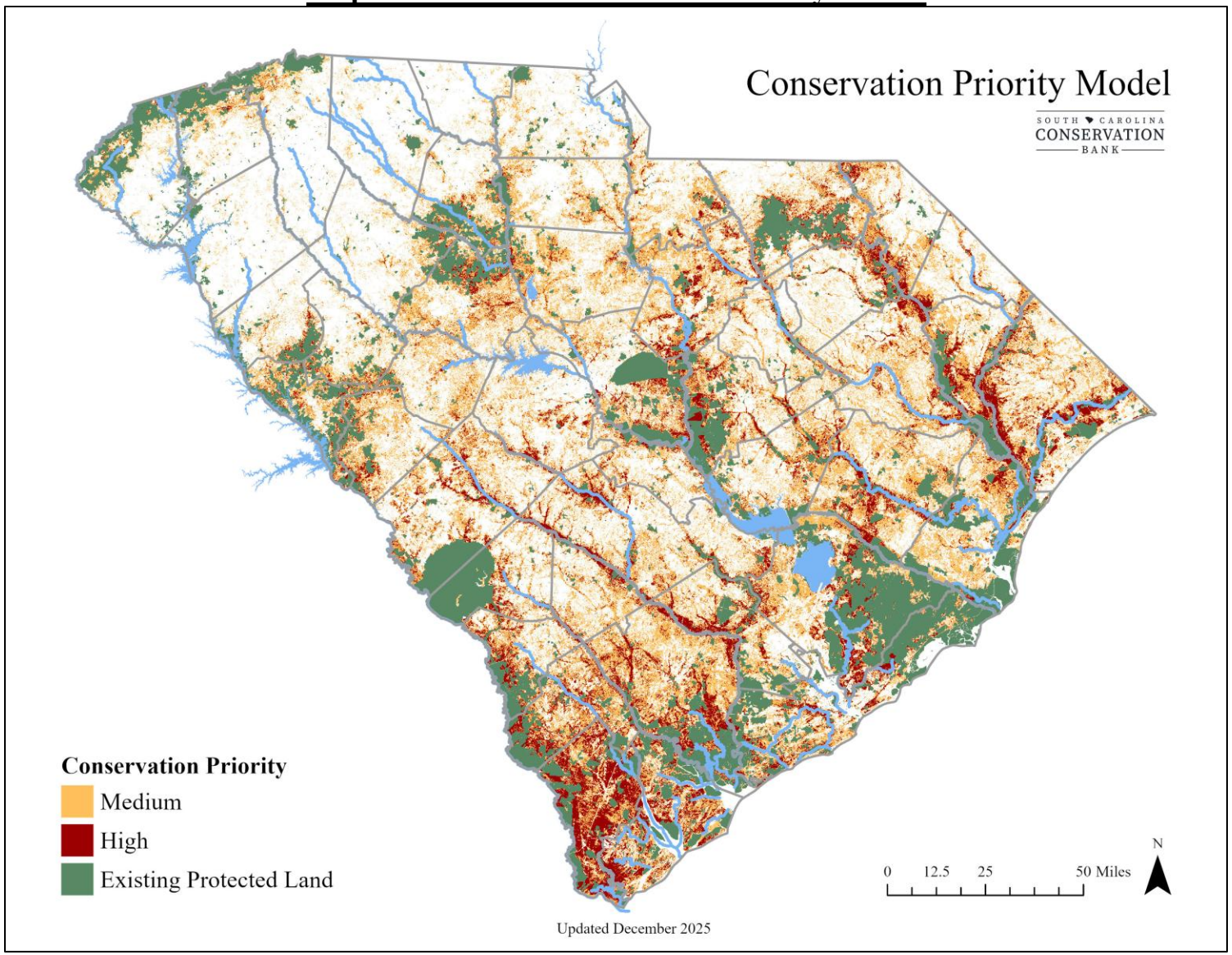
This document outlines the development of the December 2025 statewide conservation priority map. Included in this document are maps and statistics for current conservation conditions in South Carolina, the final statewide conservation priority map, and each of the 6 sub-maps. Finally, each data layer used is documented with how it was ranked for the sub-map.

Statewide Conservation Priority Model

South Carolina's land area is about 20 million acres. Currently, approximately 3.2 million acres of South Carolina's land area is under some form of protection (over 150,000 more acres than recorded in the July 2024 report). Approximately 2.28 million acres are developed. Both of these numbers increase annually.

This project has identified 7.1 million acres of South Carolina's landscape as medium priority (5.2 million acres) and high priority (1.9 million acres) for conservation (Map 1, Statewide Conservation Priority Model), which will help guide the South Carolina Conservation Bank's conservation funding activities. (The 2024 project had previously identified 10.9 million acres as medium and high priority.) A county-by-county breakdown of conservation priority acreage is found in Appendix A.

Map 1. Statewide Conservation Priority Model.



Current Conservation Conditions

The current status of conservation and land protection in the state provides context for conservation priority mapping and a baseline against which future conservation efforts can be measured.

There are approximately 20 million acres of land in South Carolina. Approximately 3.2 million acres are under some form of protection, representing more than 16.2% of the total land area.

Land Protection Over Time

Land protection has increased in the last three decades (Figure 1 and Map 2), with the largest increase in private land protection. Significant increases are also seen in state protected land. The South Carolina Conservation Bank was established in 2002 and began grants for conservation in 2004, bolstering the upward trend of increased conservation acreage.

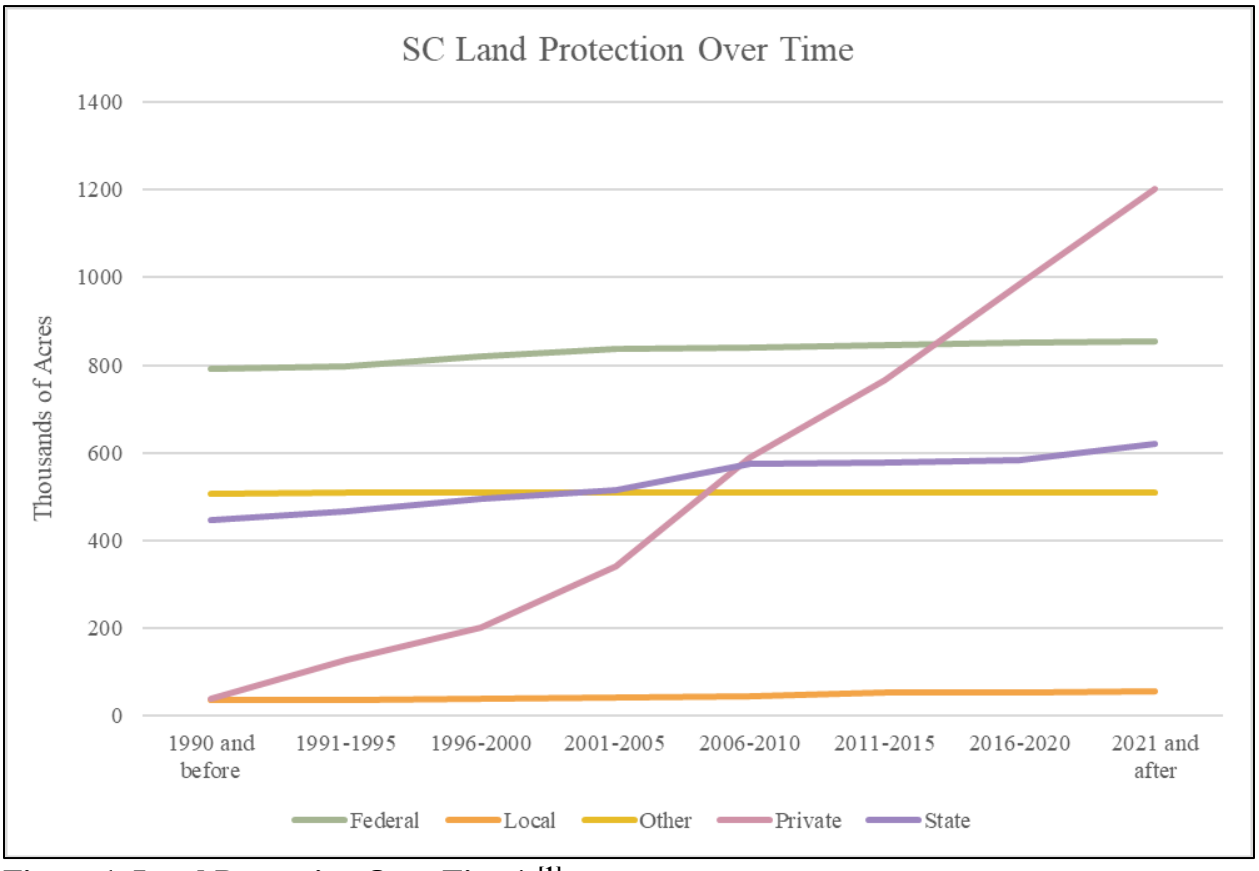
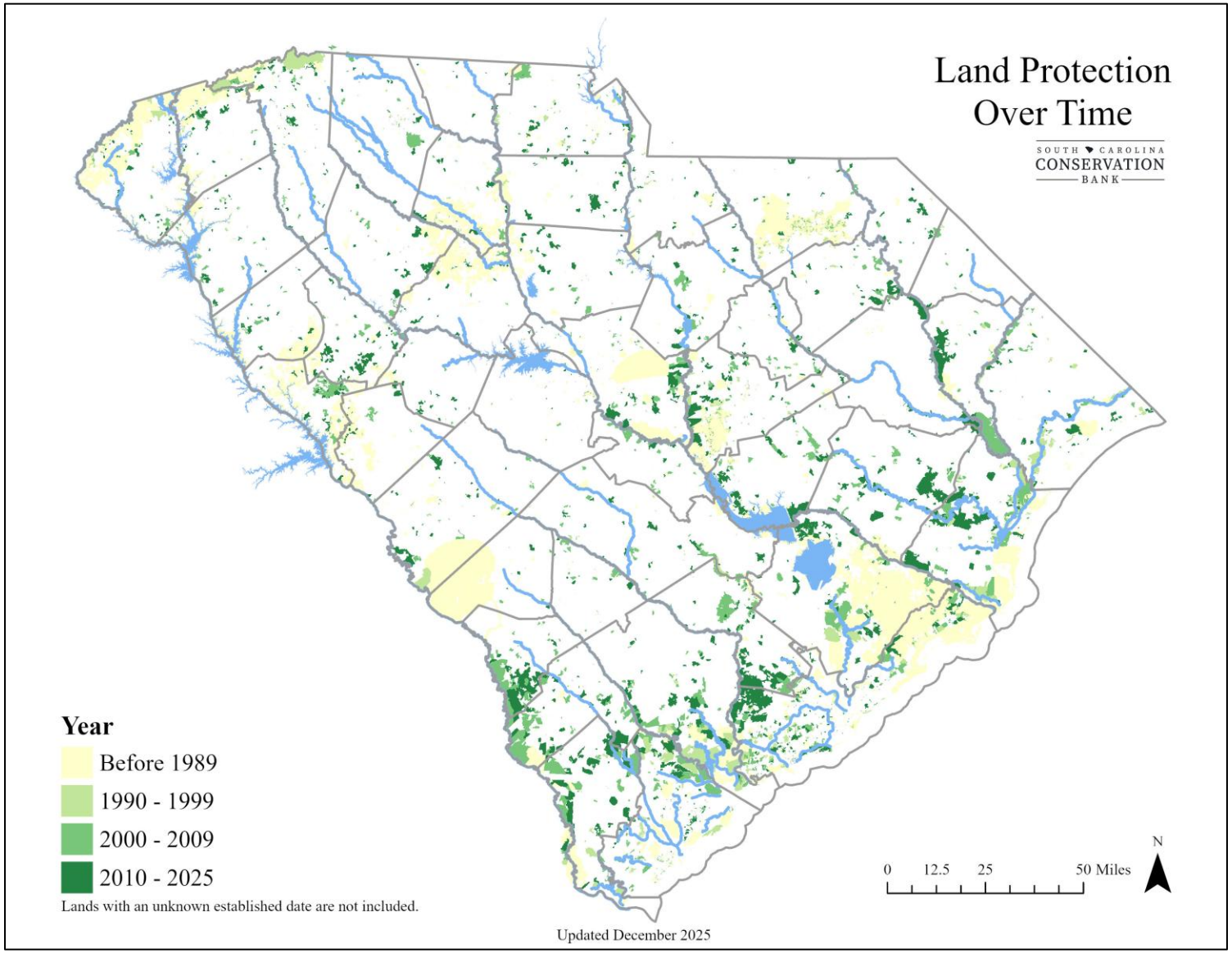


Figure 1. Land Protection Over Time*.[1]

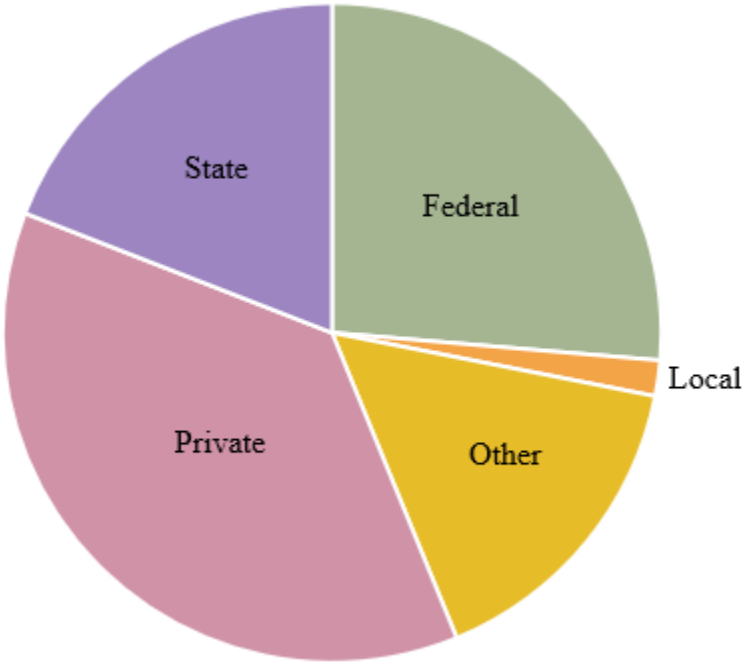
*The data are from the July 2025 release of The Nature Conservancy's Protected Lands dataset (exported December 31, 2025). 'Other' protected lands include those owned by the US Department of Energy and US Department of Defense, as well as some lands owned by Clemson University, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and Santee Cooper.

Map 2. Land Protection Over Time.



Current Land Protection by Entity

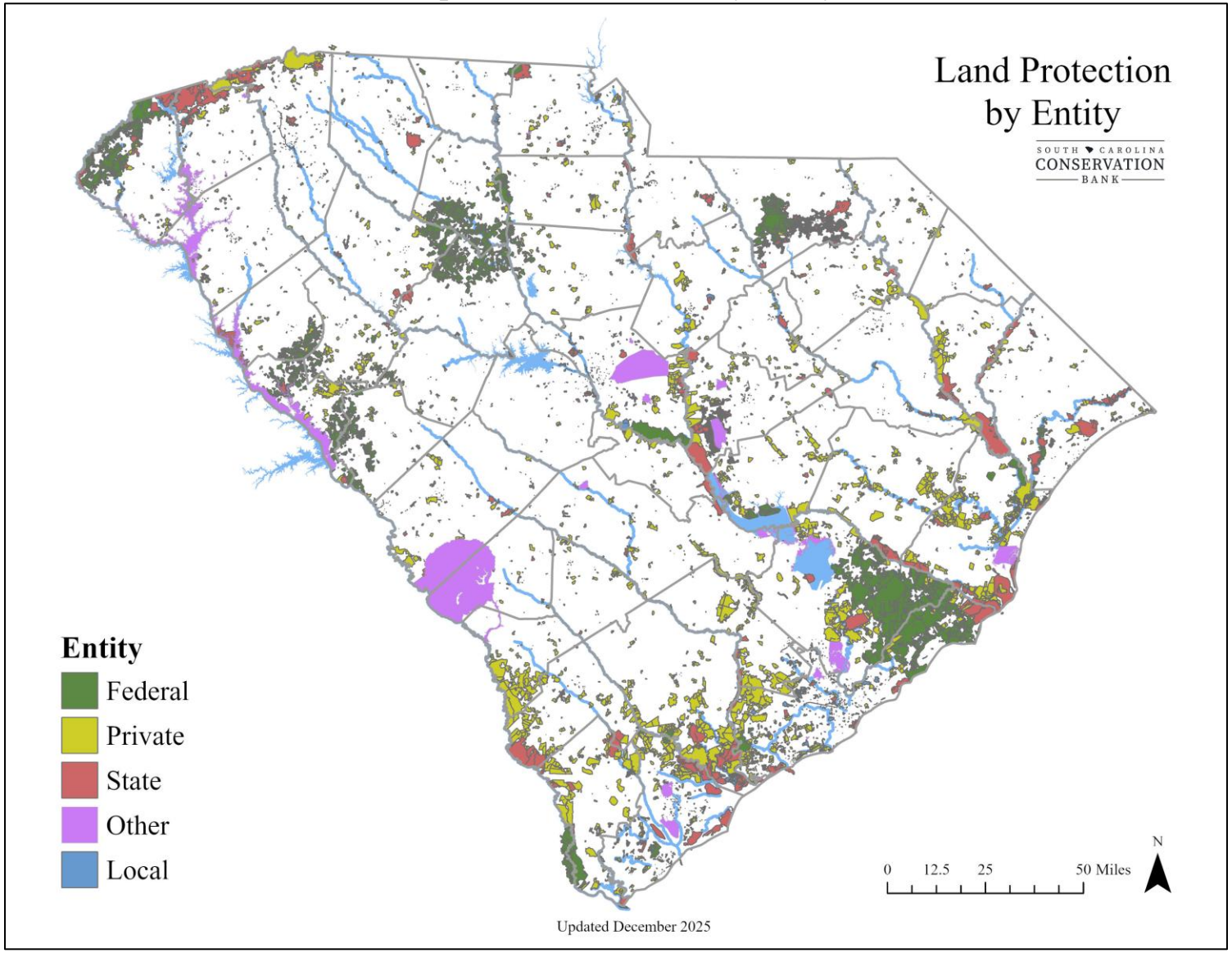
Protected lands in South Carolina are managed by different entities. Private and state protected lands together contribute to more than half of total protection (Figure 2, Table 1, and Map 3).



Entity	Acres	% of Protected Acres	% of State Land Area
Federal	854,460	26.3	4.3
Private	1,203,213	37.1	6.0
State	619,552	19.1	3.1
Other	510,537	15.7	2.5
Local	56,550	1.8	0.3
Total	**3,244,313**	**100.0**	**16.2**
SC Total Area	**19,753,260 acres**		

Table 1. Land Protection by Entity, with percentages of protected acres and total state land area.[1] Total protected acreage increased by 166,876 acres since the July 2024 report, a 0.8% increase of total state land area.

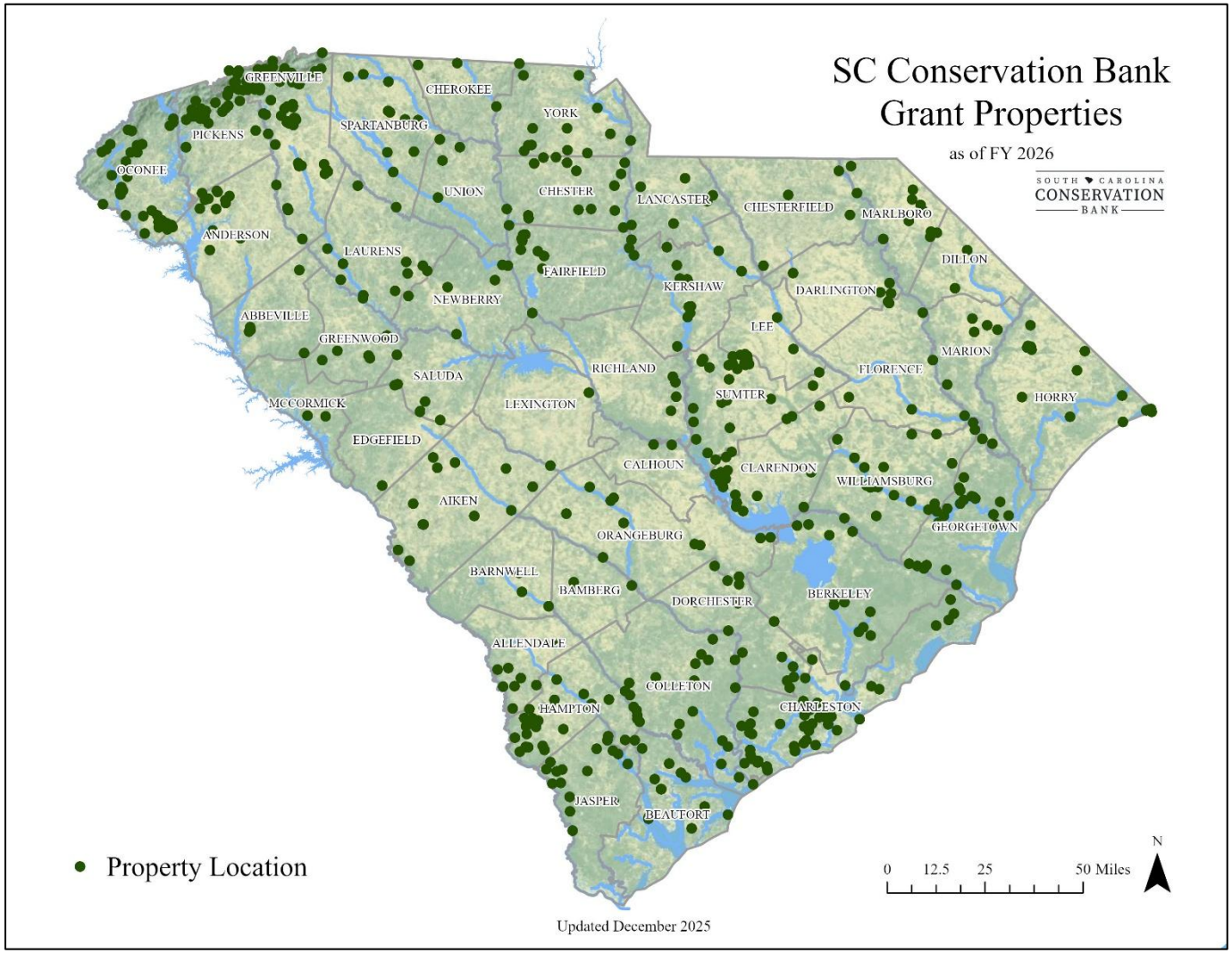
Map 3. Land Protection by Entity



South Carolina Conservation Bank Projects

As of fiscal year 2026, the South Carolina Conservation Bank has helped conserve 433,658 acres in the State (22,144 additional acres since fiscal year 2025).

Map 4. Current South Carolina Conservation Bank Grant Propertie



Land Cover Conditions

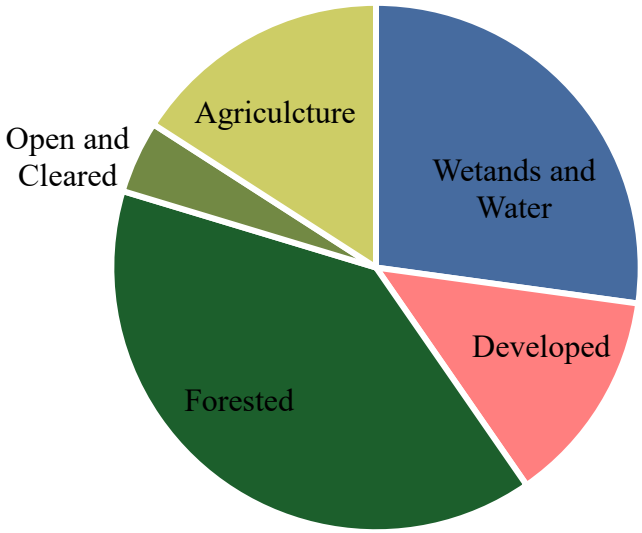


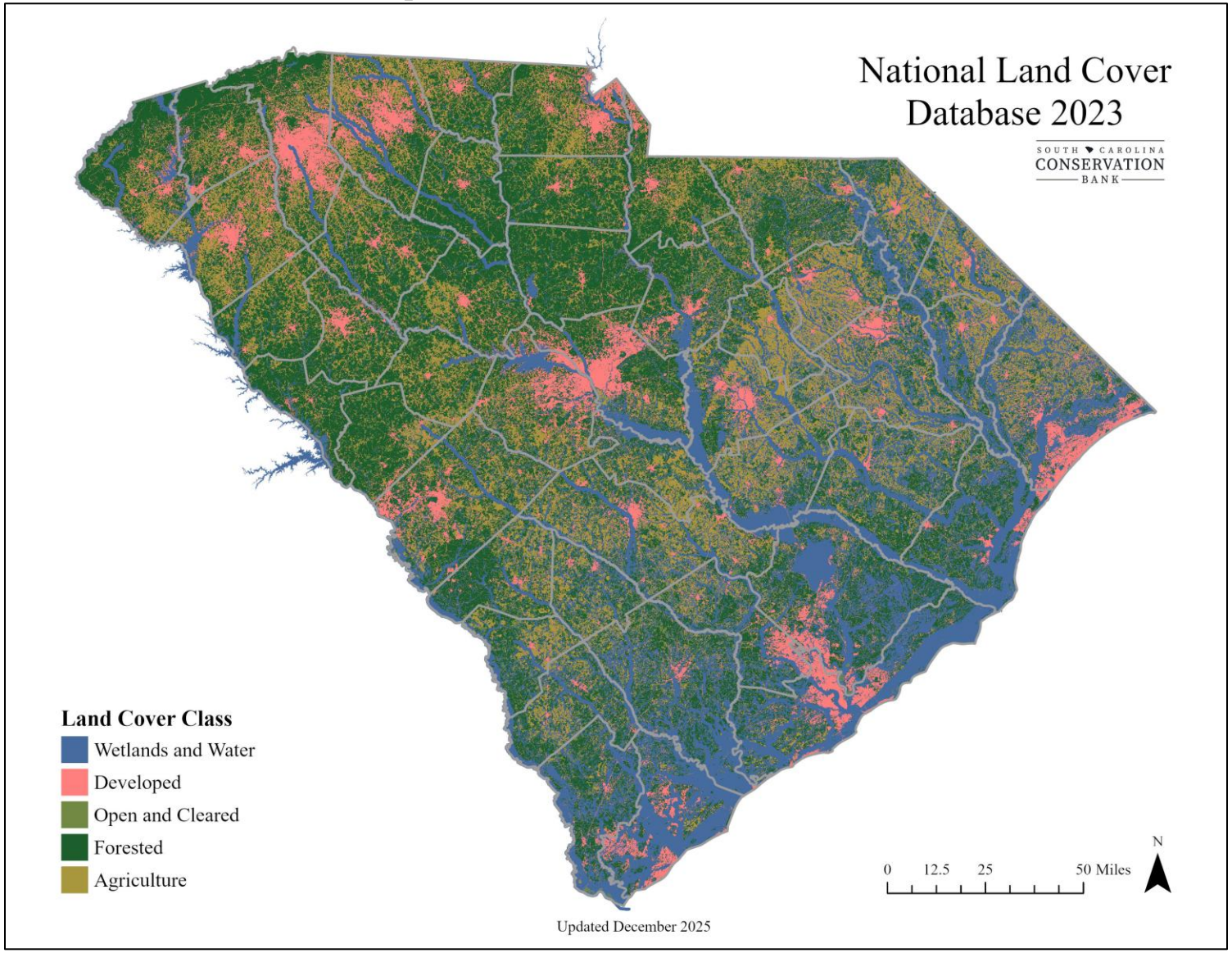
Figure 3: South Carolina Land Cover, grouped into four basic categories*. [2]

In reviewing the land cover changes between 2022 and 2023, there are three key trends:

1) **Low, medium, and high intensity developed land has increased by about 5,000 acres**.
2) **Forested land has increased by about 30,300 acres.** (Shrub/Scrub gained 13,800 acres, Mixed Forest loss 10,700 acres, Evergreen Forest gained 29,000 acres, and Deciduous Forest loss 1,800 acres.)
3) **Protected lands increased by 50,000 acres in the same period**, based on the protected lands dataset.

*The data are from the 2023 iteration of the National Land Cover Database (NLCD), released in 2024. This data release can be compared to the prior release (2022), and a land cover change index dataset can be reviewed to see where land cover change has occurred over multiple NLCD datasets.

Map 5. National Land Cover Database.



Current Conservation Conditions References

1. The Nature Conservancy SC Protected Lands. Accessed November 2025.
2. Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium - National Land Cover Database 2023. Accessed November 2025.

Priority Mapping Data and Methodology

General Methodology

The statewide conservation priority map was developed using an occurrence modeling method. Best-available datasets representing each sub-map's category were obtained. With guidance from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), it was determined how the attributes of each dataset would be ranked. These ranks are outlined in this section of this document. The datasets were processed into raster datasets with values according to their attribute ranking. To generate each sub-map model, the data layers were 'stacked', or summed on a per-pixel basis. The resulting sub-map raster was divided into low, medium, and high priority categories based on Jenks Natural Breaks classification and feedback from the Technical Advisory Committee.

The final summed priority model is a combination of all six sub-maps. Each sub-map model was given a normalized value for their low, medium, and high-ranking pixels. A normalized value was used so that each sub-map model had equal weight in the summed priority model. The normalized sub-map models were summed on a per-pixel basis to produce the summed priority model.

All data were re-projected to NAD83 UTM Zone 17, clipped to the extent of South Carolina, rasterized to 30 meters spatial resolution, snapped to the cell alignment of and masked by the National Land Cover Dataset. The areas that were already under protection were merged with each dataset and assigned a value of 99. Finally, all areas that had no data or were not determined to be priority were assigned a value of 0.

Sub-Map 1: Conservation Corridors

Habitat fragmentation is a major threat to biodiversity. Connectivity facilitates animal movement, seed dispersal, and other ecological processes. Creating corridors of protected land is critical to conservation.

Data Layers

Adjacency to Protected Lands

- High: parcels touching existing protected lands, and parcels adjacent to parcels that touch existing protected land that are equal to or greater than 130 acres
- Medium: parcels adjacent to parcels that touch existing protected land that are less than 130 acres, and parcels within two miles of existing protected land that are equal to or greater than 75 acres
- Low: parcels within two miles of existing protected land that are less than 75 acres

Important Lands for the Military

- High: parcels within South Carolina REPI Partnership Opportunity Areas and/or the South Carolina Lowcountry Sentinel Landscape
- Medium: n/a
- Low: n/a

Approved Federal Acquisition Boundaries

- High: parcels within the federal acquisition boundaries
- Medium: n/a
- Low: n/a

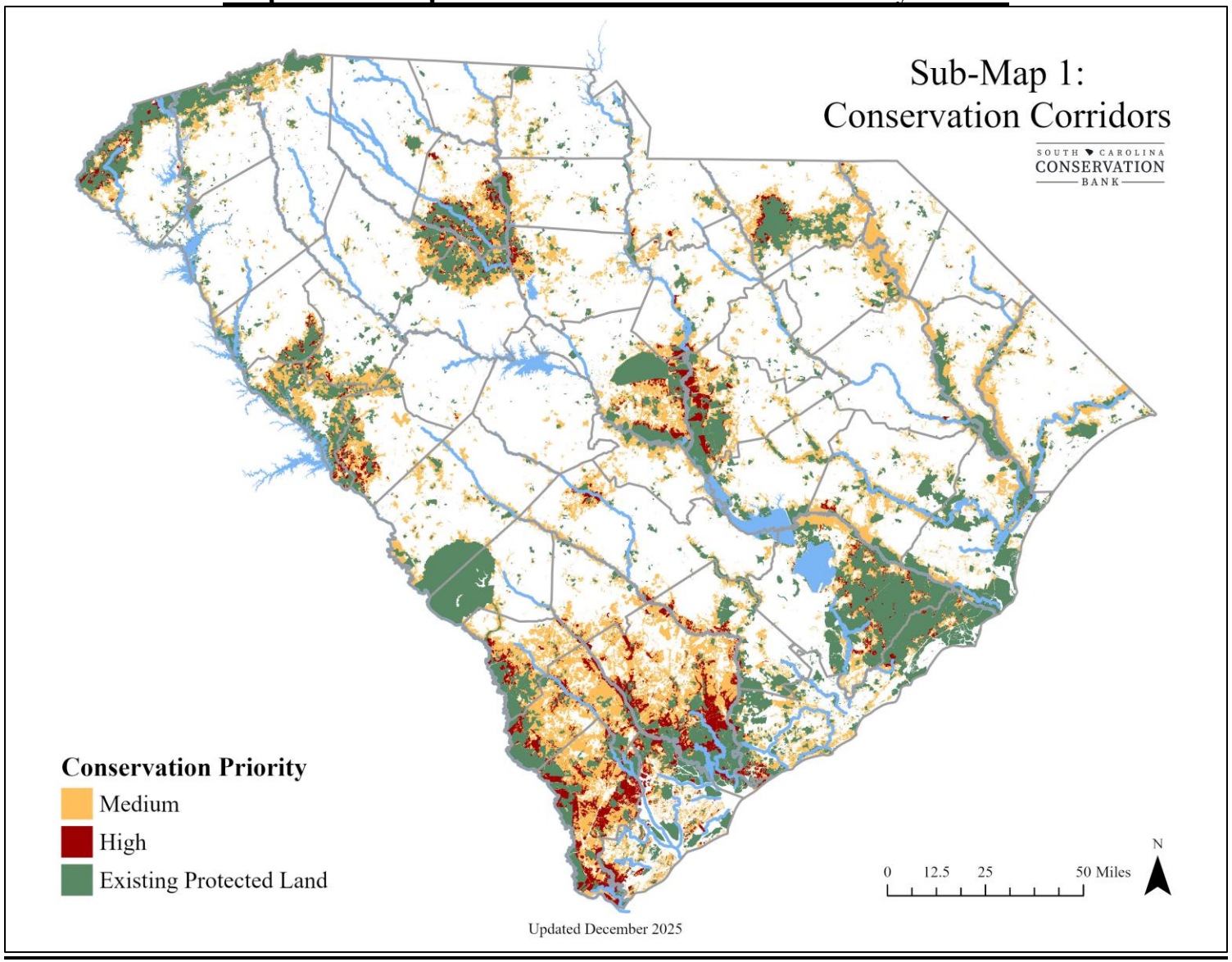
Priority Corridors

- High: areas categorized as sea level rise area, priority coastal marsh migration space, vulnerable tidal complex, resilient tidal complex, resilient diffuse flow (climate informed), resilient recognized biodiversity, resilient concentrated flow (climate informed)/recognized biodiversity, resilient diffuse flow (climate informed)/recognized biodiversity value, resilient concentrated flow (climate informed), resilient diffuse flow/recognized biodiversity, resilient diffuse flow, and most resilient/far above average terrestrial resilience in TNC's Resilient Coastal Sites and Resilient and Connected Landscapes models that overlap with areas categorized as hubs and corridors in the Southeast Conservation Blueprint
- Medium: areas categorized as sea level rise area, priority coastal marsh migration space, vulnerable tidal complex, resilient tidal complex, resilient diffuse flow (climate informed), resilient recognized biodiversity, resilient concentrated flow (climate informed)/recognized biodiversity, resilient diffuse flow (climate informed)/recognized biodiversity value, resilient concentrated flow (climate informed), resilient diffuse flow/recognized biodiversity, resilient diffuse flow, most resilient/far above average

terrestrial resilience, mostly resilient/concentrated flow/recognized biodiversity, mostly resilient/concentrated flow, slightly more resilient/slightly above average terrestrial resilience, and more resilient/above average terrestrial resilience in TNC's Resilient Coastal Sites and Resilient and Connected Landscapes models that overlap with areas categorized as blueprint priority in the Southeast Conservation Blueprint

- Low: n/a

Map 6. Sub-Map 1: Conservation Corridors Priority Model.



Sub-Map 2: Ecological Conservation Priorities

South Carolina faces various ecological challenges. Many species are being driven out from their natural habitat due to invasive species, deforestation, or urbanization. By identifying lands that can support wildlife populations, South Carolina can conserve these lands for natural wildlife. Areas that have existing endangered species also have priority for conservation.

Data Layers

Ecological Resiliency

- High: areas categorized as sea level rise area, priority coastal marsh migration space, vulnerable tidal complex, resilient tidal complex, resilient diffuse flow (climate informed), resilient recognized biodiversity, resilient concentrated flow (climate informed)/recognized biodiversity, resilient diffuse flow (climate informed)/recognized biodiversity value, resilient concentrated flow (climate informed), resilient diffuse flow/recognized biodiversity, resilient diffuse flow, and most resilient/far above average terrestrial resilience in TNC's Resilient Coastal Sites and Resilient and Connected Landscapes models
- Medium: areas categorized as mostly resilient/concentrated flow/recognized biodiversity, mostly resilient/concentrated flow, slightly more resilient/slightly above average terrestrial resilience, and more resilient/above average terrestrial resilience in TNC's Resilient Coastal Sites and Resilient and Connected Landscapes models
- Low: areas categorized as medium, high, and highest in the SECAS Conservation model that do not overlap with TNC's models

State Species of Concern*

- High: areas covered by SCDNR's SWAP Conservation Opportunity Areas with collective value ratings of C1 and C2 or green infrastructure cores that have a core score greater than 2.7 and contain federal at-risk species, federal/state threatened and endangered species, G1-G3 species, and/or S1-S3 species, and green infrastructure cores that have a core score between 1.9 and 2.7 and contain federal/state threatened and endangered species, G1-G2 species, and/or S1-S2 species
- Medium: areas covered by SCDNR's SWAP Conservation Opportunity Areas with collective value ratings of C3 and C4 or green infrastructure cores that have a core score greater than 2.7 and do not contain federal at-risk species, federal/state threatened and endangered species, G1-G3 species, and/or S1-S3 species, green infrastructure cores that have a core score between 1.9 and 2.7 and contain federal at-risk species, G3 species, and/or S3 species, and green infrastructure cores that have a core score less than 1.9 and contain federal/state threatened and endangered species, G1-G2 species and/or S1-S2 species
- Low: areas covered by SCDNR's SWAP Conservation Opportunity Areas with collective value ratings of C5 or green infrastructure cores that have a core score less than 2.8 and do not contain federal at-risk species, federal/state threatened and endangered species,

G1-G3 species, and/or S1-S3 species, and green infrastructure cores that have a core score less than 1.9 and contain federal at-risk species, G3 species, and/or S3 species

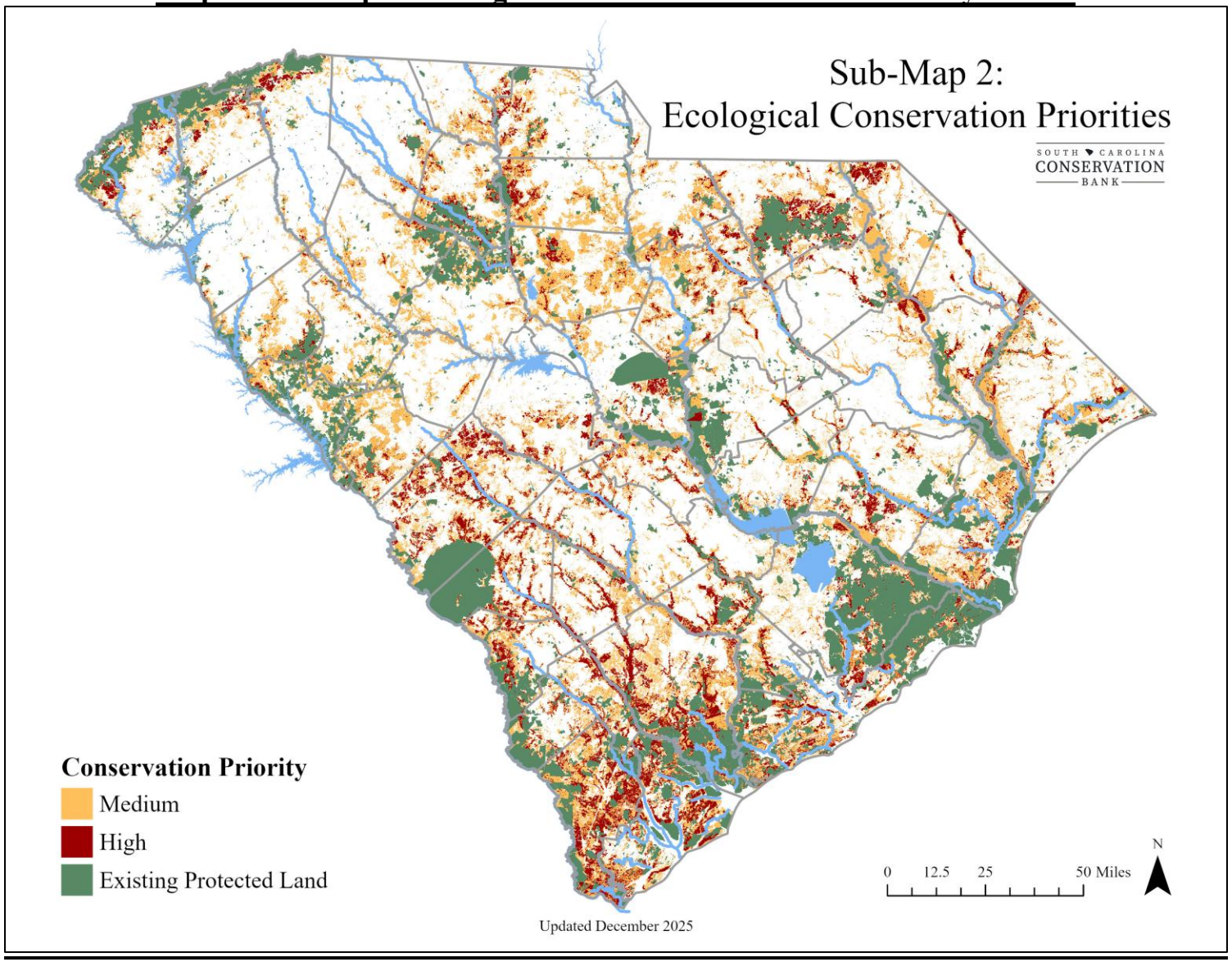
*G1-G3 ranks refer to Global Conservation Status Ranks assigned by NatureServe. S1-S3 ranks refer to State Conservation Status Ranks assigned by state wildlife biologists. Historic and extirpated records were removed from analysis.

Species of Interest Suitable Habitat**

- High: areas where 'seven' priority species share suitable habitat
- Medium: areas where 'three to six' priority species share suitable habitat
- Low: areas where 'one to two' priority species share suitable habitat

**Five summary rasters were created to document species distribution for Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Carolina Gopher Frog, Chuck-will's-widow, Common Ground Dove, Dickcissel, Eastern Diamond-backed Rattlesnake, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Field Sparrow, Golden-winged Warbler, Gopher Tortoise, Grasshopper Sparrow, Gray Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Painted Bunting, Piedmont Prairie Species, Pine Barrens Treefrog, Pinesnake (Northern and Florida), Prairie Warbler, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Southern Hog-nosed Snake, Spotted Turtle, Venus Flytrap, and Webster's Salamander. The five were a random forest classification model, a logistic regression model using the maximum entropy approach, a logistic generalized additive model using seven splines, a gradient boosted classifier model, and a generalized linear model. Black-throated Green Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Golden-winged Warbler, and Pine Barrens Treefrog were ultimately removed from the final combination model because their Cohen's kappa coefficients were below the 0.4 threshold which generally indicates a poor level of agreement. Developed areas (NLCD 2019) were also removed to mitigate sampling bias towards urban areas for some bird species where public observations were used as input data into the models. Suitable habitat is defined as areas where four or five summary rasters agree. For more information on project site-specific priority species, please visit the South Carolina Natural Heritage Program's website.

Map 7. Sub-Map 2: Ecological Conservation Priorities Priority Model.



Sub-Map 3: Sustainable Forestry

With the population of South Carolina growing, the demand for forest products also continues to grow. The conservation of forest resources needs to be identified to meet future demands.

Data Layers

Distance to Mills

- High: areas that have a value 100 score of 68 or greater
- Medium: areas that have a value 100 score between 47 and 67
- Low: areas that have a value 100 score between 25 and 46

Mill Closure Impact

- High: areas that were categorized as high in 2024's Distance to Mills layer that are now categorized as medium or low
- Medium: areas that were categorized as medium in 2024's Distance to Mills layer that are now categorized as low
- Low: n/a

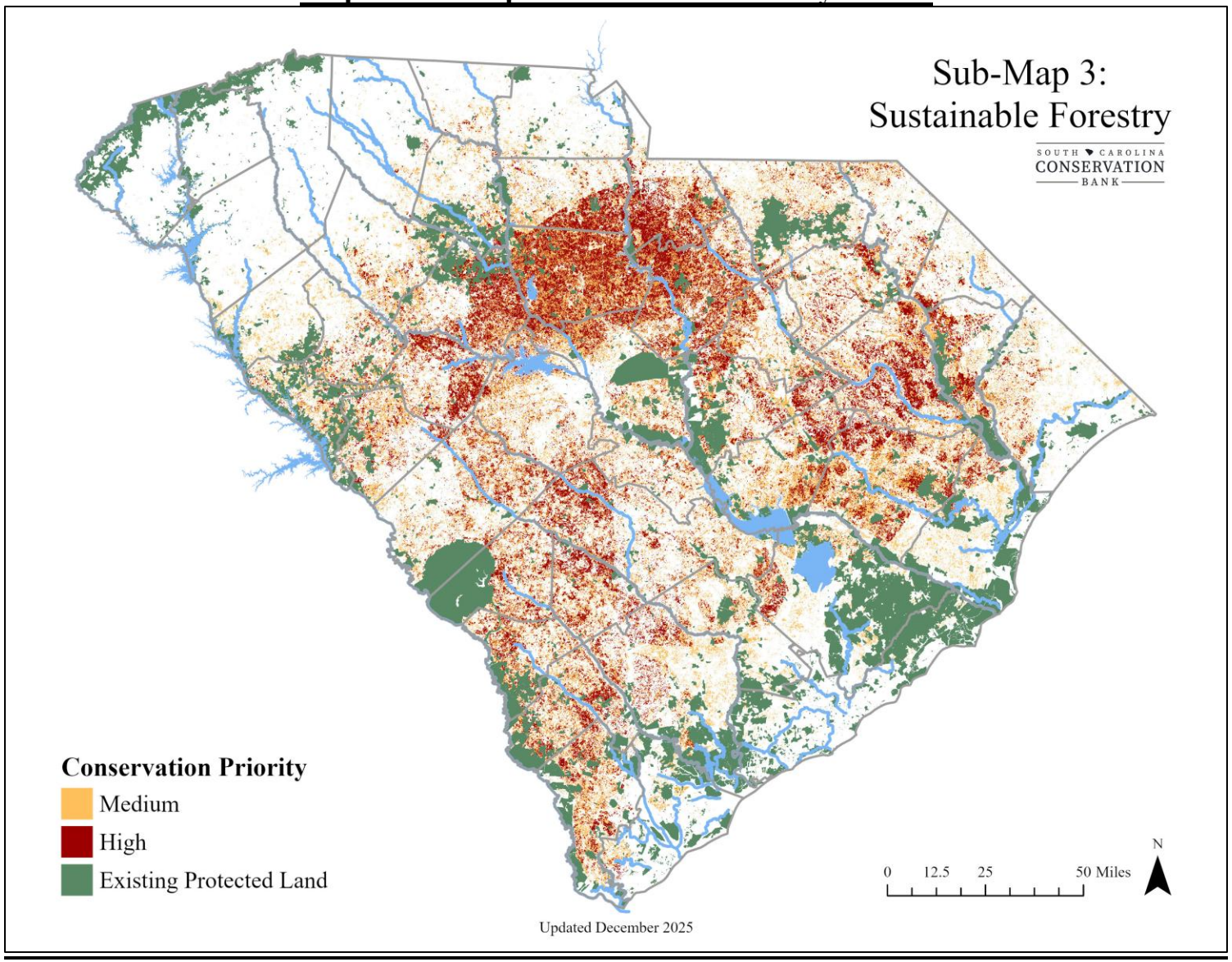
Managed Timber

- High: all areas categorized as managed tree plantations
- Medium: NA
- Low: NA

Carbon Estimates

- High: areas that have greater than 126 metric tons of carbon sequestration predicted for 2050
- Medium: areas that have between 110 and 126 metric tons of carbon sequestration predicted for 2050
- Low: areas that have between 93 and 110 metric tons of carbon sequestration predicted for 2050

Map 8. Sub-Map 3: Sustainable Forestry Model.



Sub-Map 4: Sustainable Agriculture

With the population of South Carolina growing, the demand for food also continues to grow. The conservation of agricultural resources needs to be identified to meet future demands.

Data Layers

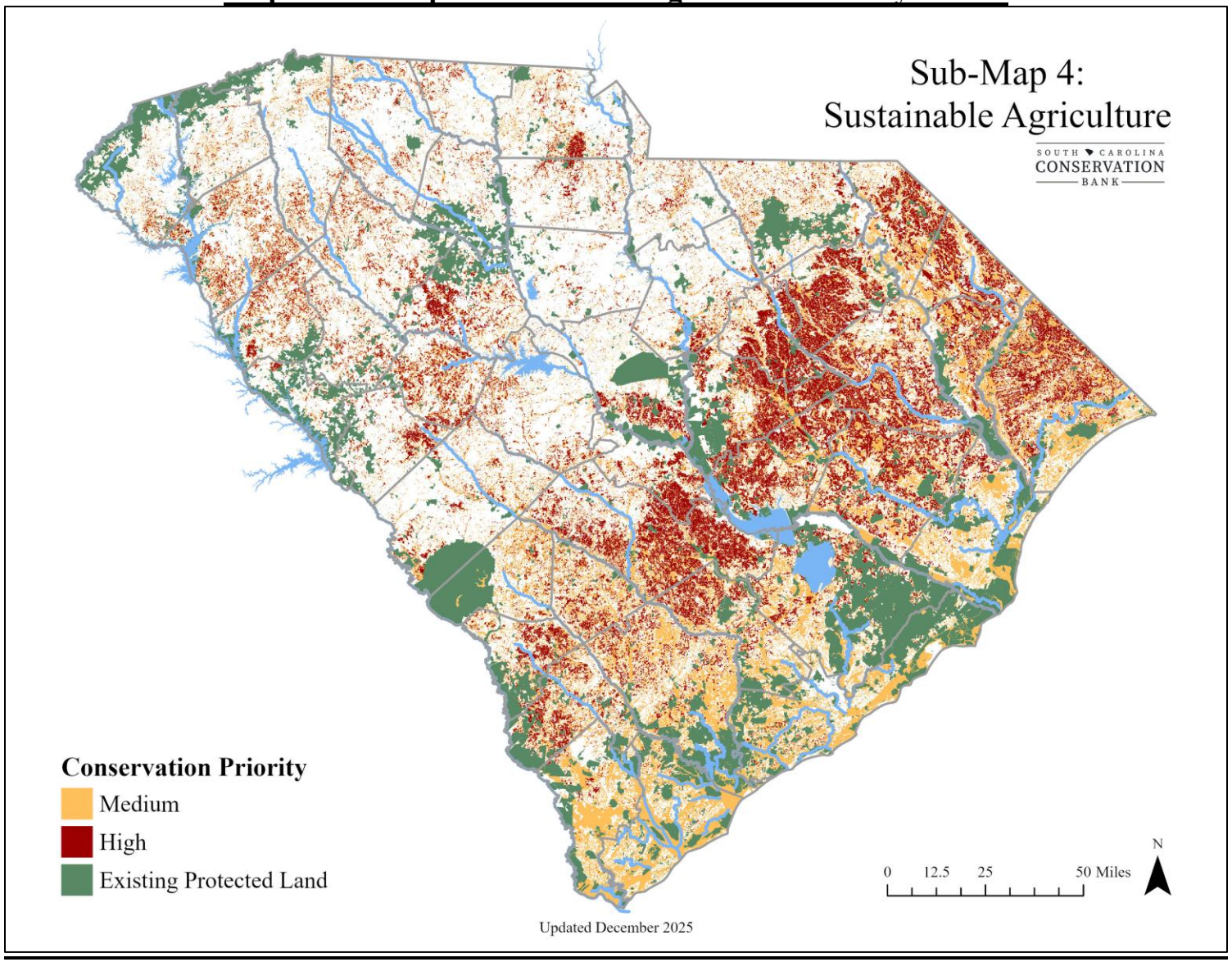
Soil Drainage

- High: areas in the coastal plain that have a DI value between 75 to 99 and areas in the blue ridge that have a DI value between 71 to 99
- Medium: areas in the coastal plain that have a DI value between 52 to 74 and areas in the blue ridge that have a DI value between 50 to 70
- Low: areas in the coastal plain that have a DI value between 30 to 51 and areas in the blue ridge that have a DI value between 22 to 49

Productivity, Versatility, and Resiliency of Agricultural Lands

- High: productivity, versatility, and resiliency of agricultural land areas that overlap with prime farmland soil areas and are categorized as greater than 0.6
- Medium: productivity, versatility, and resiliency of agricultural land areas that overlap with prime farmland soil areas and are categorized as greater than 0.3
- Low: all other productivity, versatility, and resiliency of agricultural land areas and prime farmland soil areas

Map 9. Sub-Map 4: Sustainable Agriculture Priority Model.



Sub-Map 5: Water Resources

As the population of South Carolina continues to grow, the state needs to plan for future water needs. Water is a critical resource, both for the ecosystem and the developed landscape. By identifying areas of the state that have water resources impact, South Carolina conservation efforts can contribute to protection of and smart use of water resources.

Data Layers

Forests to Faucets

- High: areas that have IMP_R values between 83 and 100, and/or APCW_R values between 80 and 100
- Medium: areas that have IMP_R values between 66 and 82, and/or APCW_R values between 58 and 79
- Low: areas that have IMP_R values between 40 and 65, and/or APCW_R values between 48 and 57

Flood-focused Priority Conservation Model

- High: all flood focused priority conservation areas
- Medium: n/a
- Low: n/a

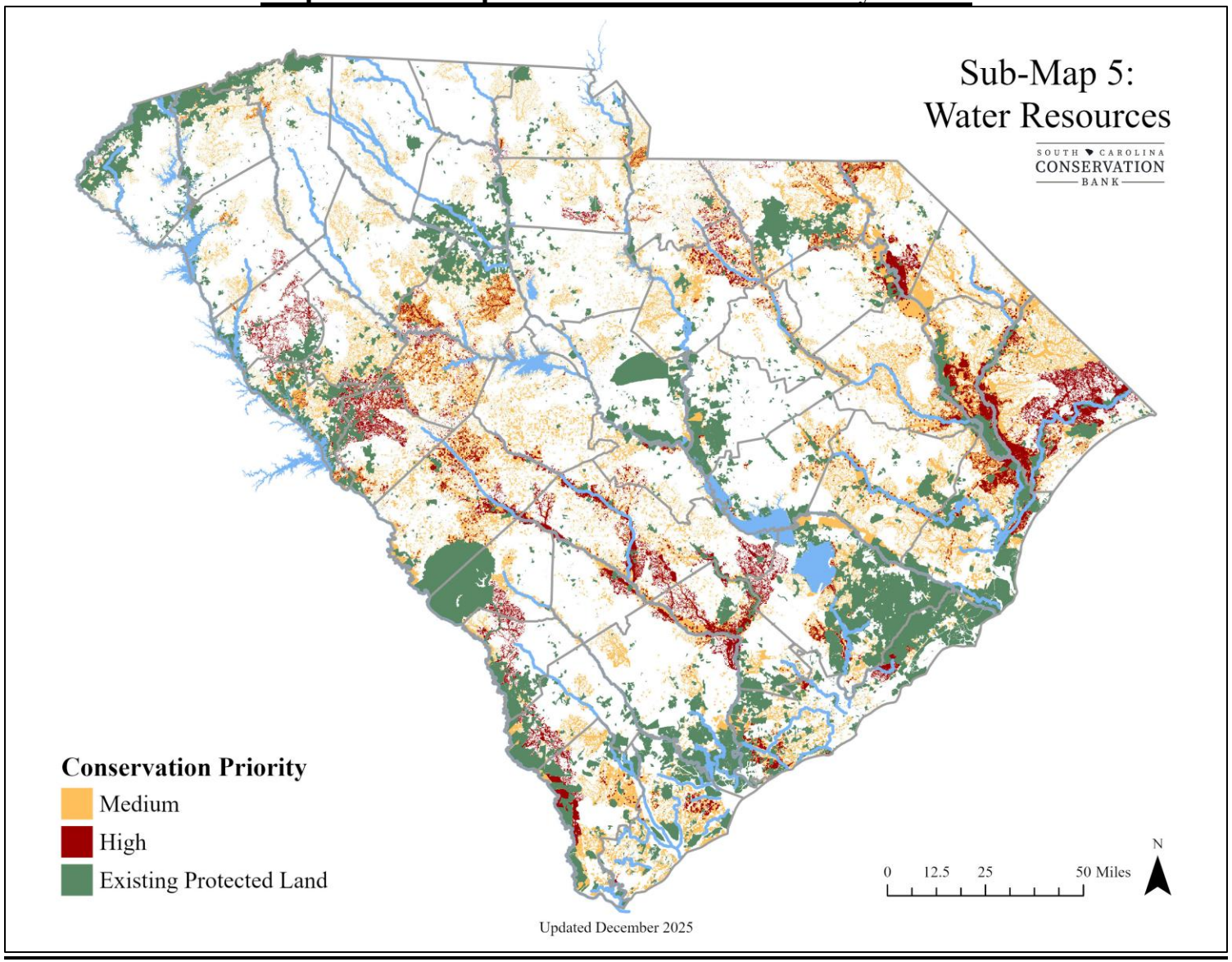
Water Quality Protection

- High: two or three of the following are true for a 30x30 raster cell area- has higher than one standard deviation above the mean recharge (greater than 10.158), is within a parcel that intersects with a source water protection area and/or a groundwater protection zone, and/or is within a parcel that intersects with an outstanding resource water
- Medium: one of the following is true for a 30x30 raster cell area- has higher than one standard deviation above the mean recharge (greater than 10.158), is within a parcel that intersects with a source water protection area and/or a groundwater protection zone, or is within a parcel that intersects with an outstanding resource water

Freshwater Resilience

- High: areas categorized as ‘Protect’
- Medium: areas categorized as ‘Restore and Protect’
- Low: n/a

Map 10. Sub-Map 5: Water Resources Priority Model.



Sub-Map 6: Public Trails and Vistas

The public can benefit from conservation through public access opportunities. Likewise, areas within the viewshed of main roads, waterways, and public trails provide scenic viewing.

Data Layers

Scenic Vistas – Roads and Trails

- High: areas within the viewshed of scenic byways and public trails
- Medium: n/a
- Low: n/a

Scenic Vistas - Waterways

- High: areas within the viewshed of paddle-able rivers, including scenic rivers
- Medium: n/a
- Low: n/a

Proximity to People

- High: block groups that have a population greater than 2,066 people
- Medium: block groups that have a population between 1,597 people and 2,065 people
- Low: block groups that have a population between 1,288 people and 1,596 people

Urbanization Potential

- High: areas with at least a 25% chance of urbanization by 2060 or have a development risk core score of high
- Medium: areas with at least a 25% chance of urbanization by 2080 or have a development risk core score of medium
- Low: areas with at least a 25% chance of urbanization by 2100 or have a development risk core score of low

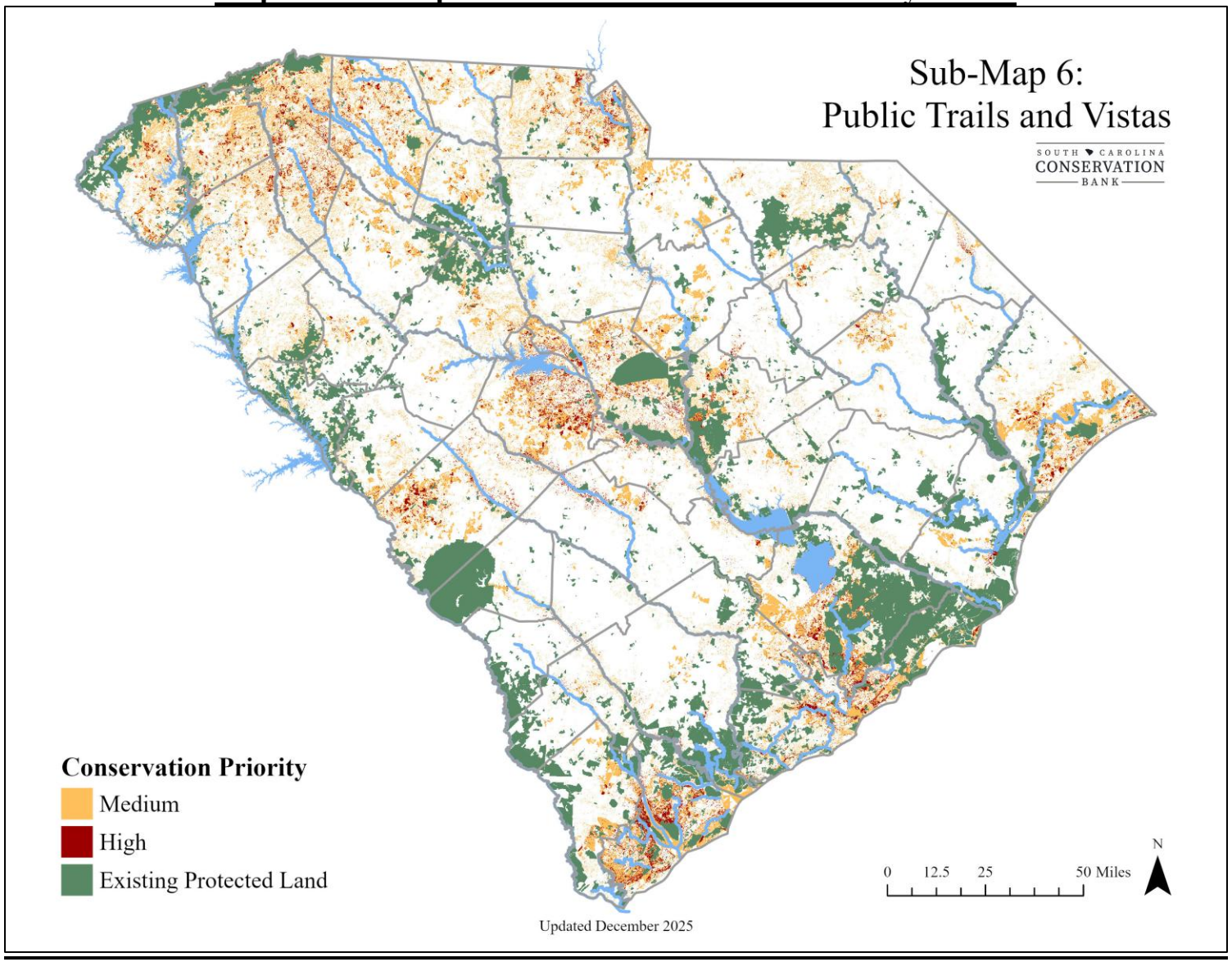
Farms Under Threat

- High: areas marked ‘Overlapping Farmlands with Growth’
- Medium: areas marked ‘Predicted Urban Growth’
- Low: n/a

Equitable Access to Potential Parks

- High: areas categorized as very high priority for a new park that would create nearby equitable access
- Medium: areas categorized as high priority for a new park that would create nearby equitable access
- Low: areas categorized as moderate priority for a new park that would create nearby equitable access

Map 11. Sub-Map 6: Public Trails and Vistas Priority Model.



Priority Mapping Data and Methodology References

Sub-Map 1: Conservation Corridors

Adjacency to Protected Lands

- The Nature Conservancy's SC Protected Lands
- Parcel Data - Accessed via individual county

Important Lands for the Military

- United States Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Partnership Opportunity Areas & Sentinel Landscapes
- Parcel Data - Accessed via individual county

Approved Federal Acquisition Boundaries

- Federal American Indian Reservations and Off-Reservation Trust Lands – Accessed via the National Geospatial Data Asset data from the U.S. Census Bureau
- U.S. National Park Service's Land Resources Division Boundary and Tract Data Service Lands – Accessed via the National Geospatial Data Asset data
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Approved Refuges
- U.S. Forest Service's Proclaimed Forests
- U.S. Military Installations, Ranges, and Training Areas
- Cemeteries from the U.S. Landmarks and Government Buildings layer – Accessed via the National Geospatial Data Asset data

Priority Corridors

- The Nature Conservancy's 'Resilient Coastal Sites' and 'Resilient and Connected Landscapes'
- Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS)'s Southeast Conservation Blueprint – 'Blueprint Priority' and 'Hubs and Corridors'

Sub-Map 2: Ecological Conservation Priorities

Ecological Resiliency

- The Nature Conservancy's 'Resilient Coastal Sites' and 'Resilient and Connected Landscapes'
- Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS)'s Southeast Conservation Blueprint – Blueprint Priority

State Species of Concern

- SCDNR's SWAP Conservation Opportunity Areas (using the Green Infrastructure Center Inc.'s Habitat Cores)
- South Carolina Natural Heritage Program's Element Occurrence Data
- Green Infrastructure Center Inc.'s Habitat Cores

Species of Interest Suitable Habitat

- South Carolina Natural Heritage Program's Species Suitability Models

Sub-Map 3: Sustainable Forestry

Distance to Mills

- South Carolina Forestry Commission's Proximity to Mills (2025 Update)

Mill Closure Impact

- South Carolina Forestry Commission's Proximity to Mills (2024 and 2025 Updates)

Managed Timber

- NatureServe's Ecosystems of the Conterminous US and Adjacent Areas

Carbon Estimates

- National Forest Carbon Monitoring System (NFCMS) Version 3.0 - Carbon Stocks and Potential Sequestration Predicted for 2050 (Hasler, Natalia; Williams, Christopher A. 2025)

Sub-Map 4: Sustainable Agriculture

Soil Drainage

- United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service's Soil Drainage

Productivity, Versatility, and Resiliency of Agricultural Lands

- American Farmland Trust's Productivity, Versatility, and Resiliency of Agricultural Lands
- National Resources Conservation Service's Prime Farmland Soils

Sub-Map 5: Water Resources

Forests to Faucets

- United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service's National Forests to Faucets

Flood-focused Priority Conservation Model

- South Carolina Office of Resilience's Flood-focused Priority Conservation Model

Water Quality Protection

- South Carolina Department of Environmental Services - Hydrography Section's Recharge Estimation using the Soil Water Balance Model
- South Carolina Department of Environmental Services' Source Water Protection Areas
- South Carolina Department of Environmental Services' Groundwater Protection Zones

- South Carolina Department of Environmental Services' Outstanding Resource Waters
- Parcel Data - Accessed via individual county

Freshwater Resilience

- The Nature Conservancy's Freshwater Resilient and Connected Network

Sub-Map 6: Public Trails and Vistas

Scenic Vistas – Roads and Trails

- South Carolina Department of Transportation's Scenic Byways
- East Coast Greenway Alliance's East Coast Greenway
- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Rails to Trails
- Palmetto Conservation Foundation's Palmetto Trail
- South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism's SC Trails
- United States Geological Survey's Elevation Data
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and U.S. Department of the Interior's Landscape Fire and Resource Management Planning Tools Existing Vegetation Height

Scenic Vistas – Waterways

- South Carolina Department of Natural Resource's Scenic Rivers
- Paddle SC's Waterways
- United States Geological Survey's Elevation Data
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and U.S. Department of the Interior's Landscape Fire and Resource Management Planning Tools Existing Vegetation Height

Proximity to People

- United States Census Bureau's 2020 Census Block Boundaries

Urbanization Potential

- North Carolina State University – Center for Geospatial Analysis's FUTure Urban-Regional Environment Simulation (FUTURES) v2 Model
- Green Infrastructure Center Inc.'s Habitat Cores

Farms Under Threat

- American Farmland Trust's Farms Under Threat

Equitable Access to Potential Parks

- Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS)'s Equitable Access to Potential Parks

Appendix A - Table of Conservation Priority Area by County

County	County Total Acres	Medium and High Priority Conservation Acres	% County Area	Current Protected Acres*	% County Area	All Developed Land Cover Acres	% County Area
Abbeville	326,925	53,831	16	57,206	17	22,928	7
Aiken	691,058	262,369	38	106,693	15	82,669	12
Allendale	263,750	116,334	44	61,345	23	12,475	5
Anderson	484,675	22,535	5	48,344	10	97,563	20
Bamberg	252,830	110,367	44	9,216	4	15,593	6
Barnwell	356,493	96,882	27	122,113	34	21,889	6
Beaufort**	368,653	241,540	66	77,684	21	63,045	17
Berkeley	781,292	258,780	33	318,408	41	78,012	10
Calhoun	251,061	91,937	37	22,093	9	17,167	7
Charleston**	587,543	219,275	37	200,870	34	101,971	17
Cherokee	254,054	22,757	9	4,582	2	34,240	13
Chester	374,910	109,153.10	29	29,424	8	24,473	7
Chesterfield	515,403	167,469	32	106,173	21	40,507	8
Clarendon	444,879	157,008	35	56,602	13	27,727	6
Colleton**	676,151	402,545	60	108,744	16	34,361	5
Darlington	362,600	113,252	31	24,103	7	38,313	11
Dillon	260,165	82,642	32	4,576	2	21,080	8
Dorchester	368,247	161,400	44	68,386	19	43,801	12
Edgefield	323,967	139,282	43	40,452	12	22,353	7
Fairfield	454,078	179,542	40	24,461	5	23,158	5
Florence	514,116	246,732	48	24,955	5	61,711	12
Georgetown**	520,704	215,331	41	134,044	26	44,595	9
Greenville	508,435	58,044	11	67,055	13	156,885	31
Greenwood	296,188	75,667	26	33,169	11	36,927	12
Hampton	359,889	208,321	58	81,782	23	18,505	5
Horry**	725,222	351,662	48	68,482	9	128,994	18
Jasper**	419,285	293,607	70	92,929	22	22,270	5
Kershaw	473,358	260,704	55	25,985	5	43,848	9
Lancaster	355,082	133,351	38	15,684	4	39,966	11
Laurens	462,896	69,834	15	38,974	8	46,578	10
Lee	262,942	82,720	31	14,806	6	16,413	6
Lexington	484,384	140,650	29	4,494	1	112,519	23
Marion	316,225	150,929	48	64,805	20	24,173	8
Marlboro	310,426	130,094	42	11,819	4	21,291	7
McCormick	251,944	83,106	33	143,551	57	14,875	6
Newberry	413,998	183,139	44	70,081	17	30,052	7
Oconee	431,172	48,870	11	132,822	31	57,096	13

Orangeburg	721,716	298,851	41	35,420	5	64,483	9
Pickens	327,616	53,009	16	73,068	22	56,241	17
Richland	493,348	182,164	37	128,166	26	113,993	23
Saluda	295,412	116,509	39	9,324	3	19,841	7
Spartanburg	523,986	43,197	8	14,984	3	133,493	25
Sumter	436,208	178,161	41	101,894	23	50,738	12
Union	330,084	86,821	26	74,968	23	20,625	6
Williamsburg	599,436	307,367	51	66,436	11	32,727	5
York	444,921	63,909	14	29,179	7	86,530	19
TOTALS	19,677,726	**7,071,651**		3,050,348		2,278,694	

*The table above reflects the January 2026 release of The Nature Conservancy's Protected Lands dataset, offering a more current view of protected lands than other tables, figures, and maps in this report which were produced in December.

**At the request of specific coastal counties (Beaufort, Charleston, Colleton, Georgetown, Horry, and Jasper), total county acreage is based on U.S. Census Bureau land area figures, and total protected lands acreage excludes protected lands that overlap with TNC's Intertidal Salt Marsh layer. For all other counties, areas were calculated using GIS-derived acreage.

The following table shows acreages for the coastal counties using GIS-derived acreages and adds back in protected marsh acres.

County	County Total Acres	Protected Marsh Acres	Current Protected Acres (with Marsh)	% County Area
Beaufort	396,911	30,390	108,073	27
Charleston	587,507	61,279	262,149	45
Colleton	687,434	27,893	136,637	20
Georgetown	542,296	34,909	168,953	31
Horry	732,257	654	69,136	9
Jasper	426,686	8,983	101,912	24