Landscape Conservation Design in the St. Louis River Estuary
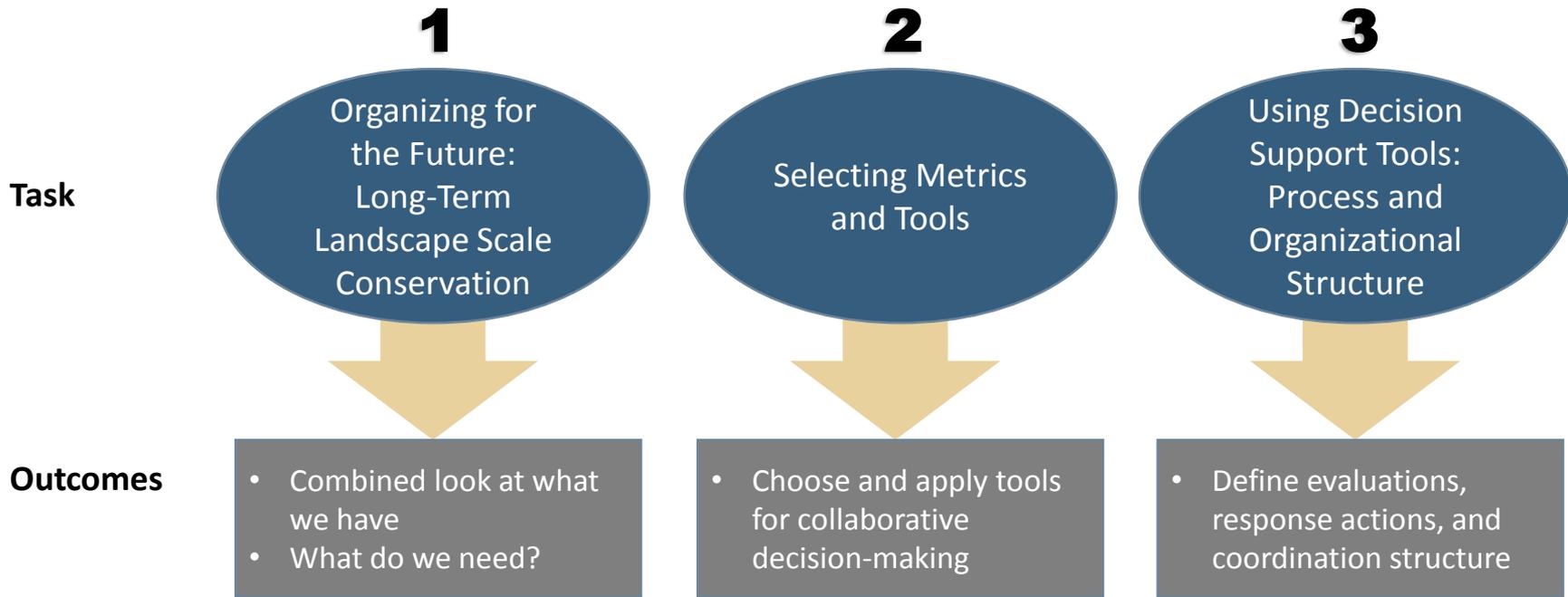
March 7, 2018

MINNESOTA
LAND TRUST

What is Landscape Conservation Design

- LCD is an iterative, collaborative, and holistic process resulting in products that provide information, analytical tools, maps, and strategies to achieve landscape goals collectively held among partners.

Characteristics of LCC Landscape Conservation Designs

- Collaborative / Multi-sector / Partner-Driven
- Shared Goals
- Holistic / System Level
- Conservation Features
- Desired Future Conditions
- Assessment / Situation Analysis
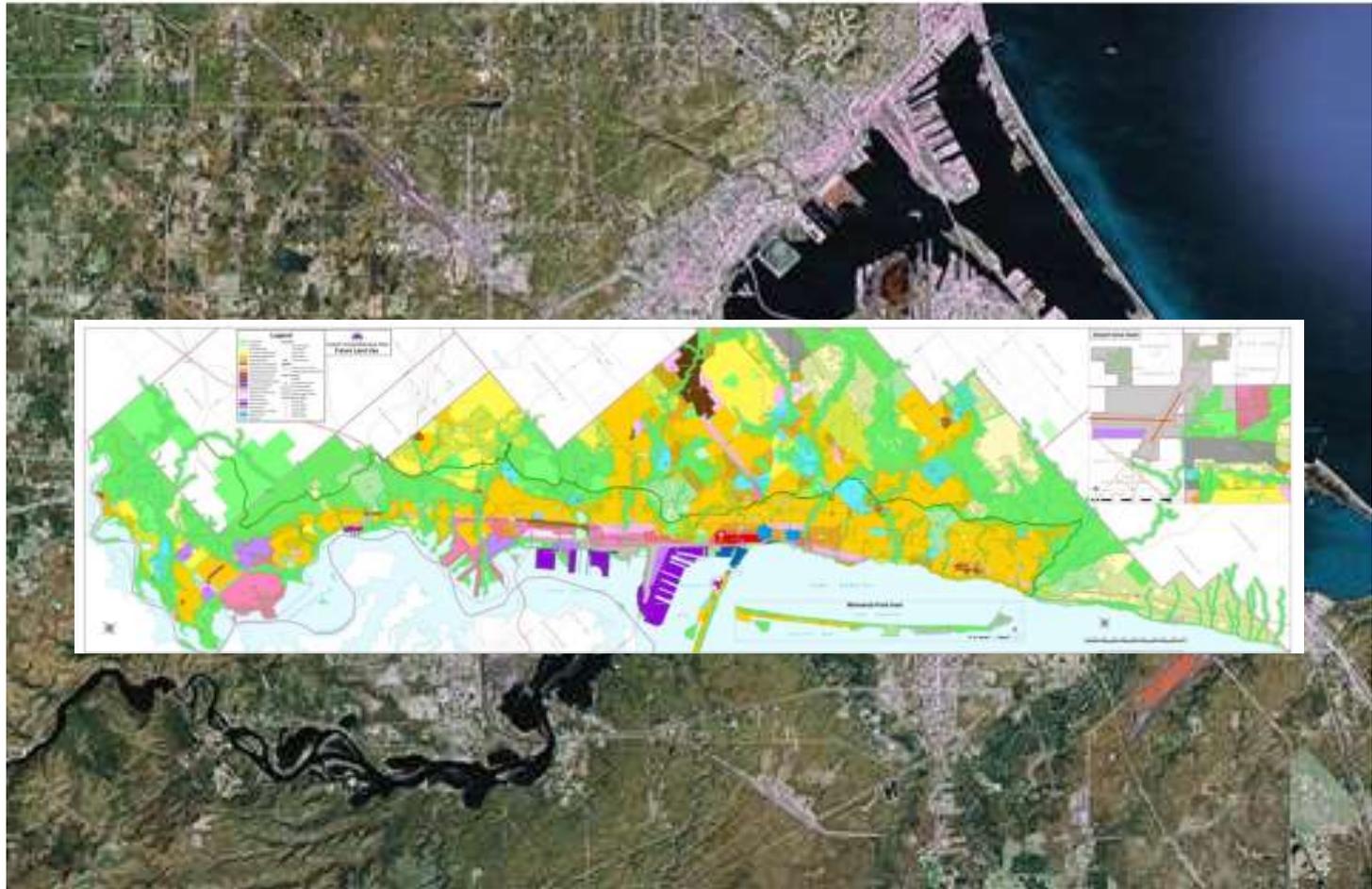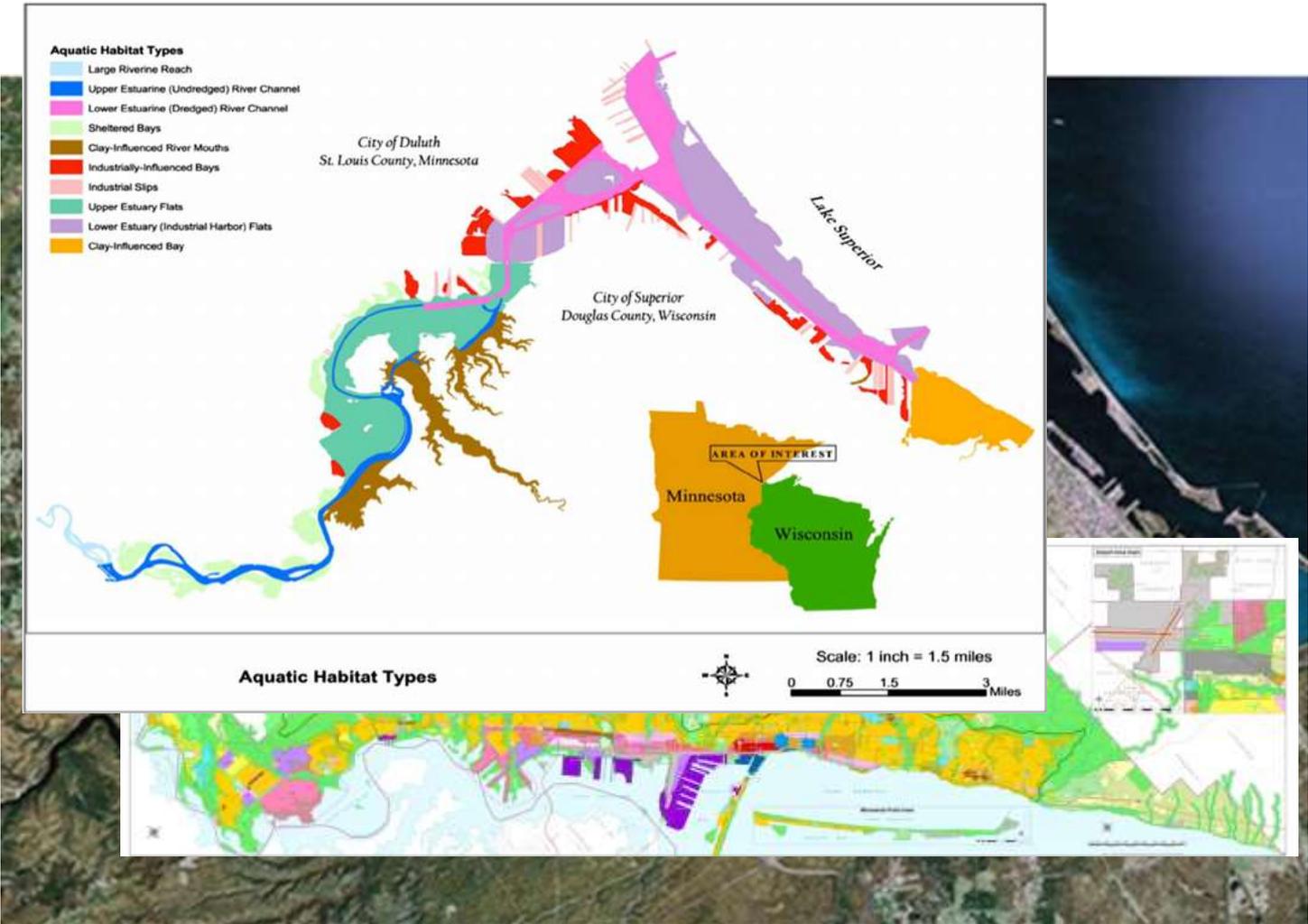- Strategies
- Iterative / Adaptive

Overview of approach

Task

1	**2**	**3**
Organizing for the Future: Long-Term Landscape Scale Conservation	Selecting Metrics and Tools	Using Decision Support Tools: Process and Organizational Structure

Outcomes

• Combined look at what we have • What do we need?	• Choose and apply tools for collaborative decision-making	• Define evaluations, response actions, and coordination structure

Structure in Place for Long-Term Coordination and Collaboration
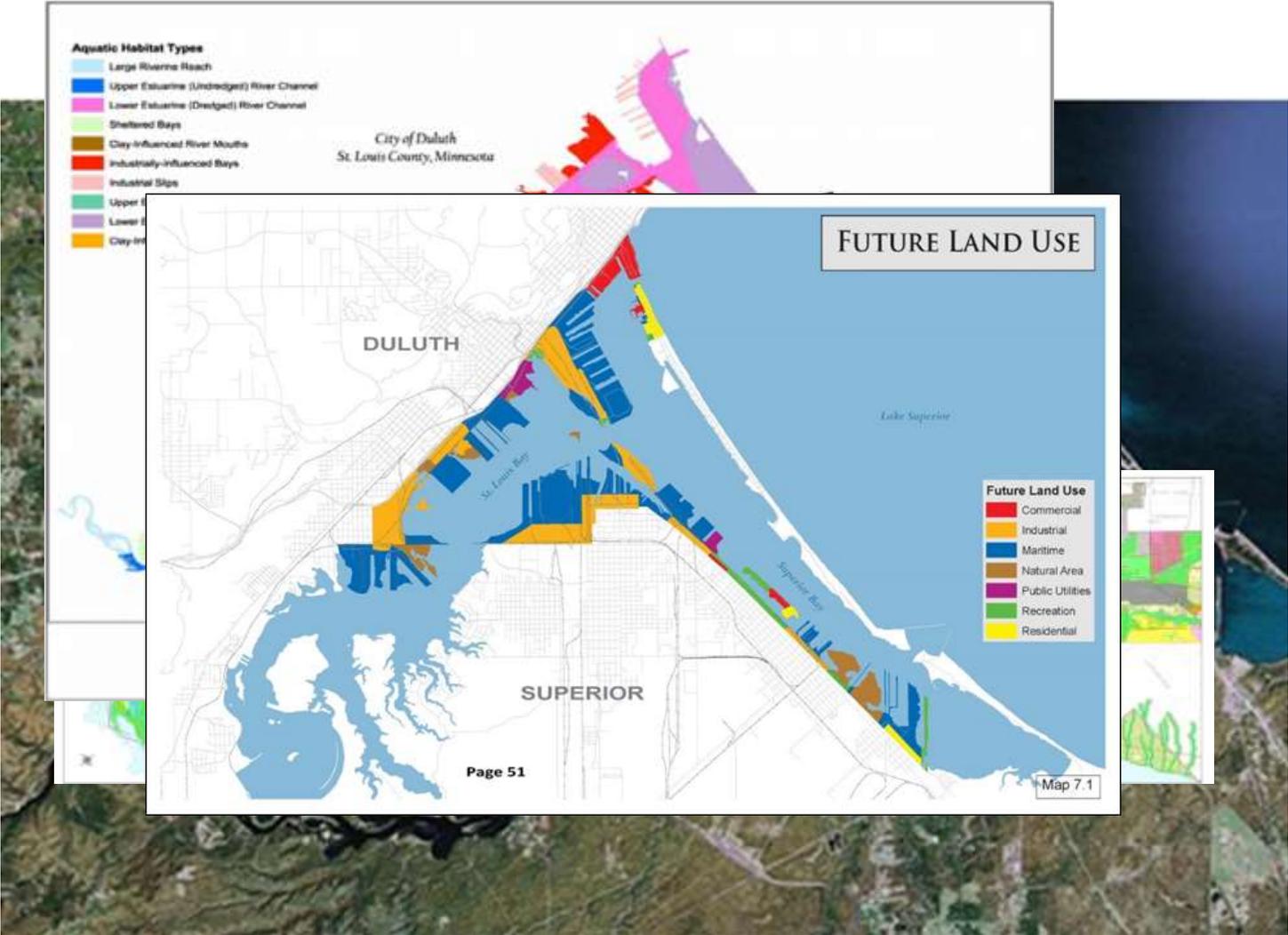
We already have long range plans

Example: Duluth Comprehensive Plan

Example: Area of Concern Blueprint

Example: Duluth-Superior Port Plan

Why do we need this?

- Everyone has a strategic plan. How do we understand the overall outcomes?

- Many new tools and metrics have been developed recently and more are in the works. How do we put these tools to use?

- Use the momentum gained addressing legacy impacts to the community to develop ways of balancing natural resource management, economic development and community health outcomes over the long-term.

- Develop ways to constructively engage a wide range of management needs.

What are Decision Support Tools?
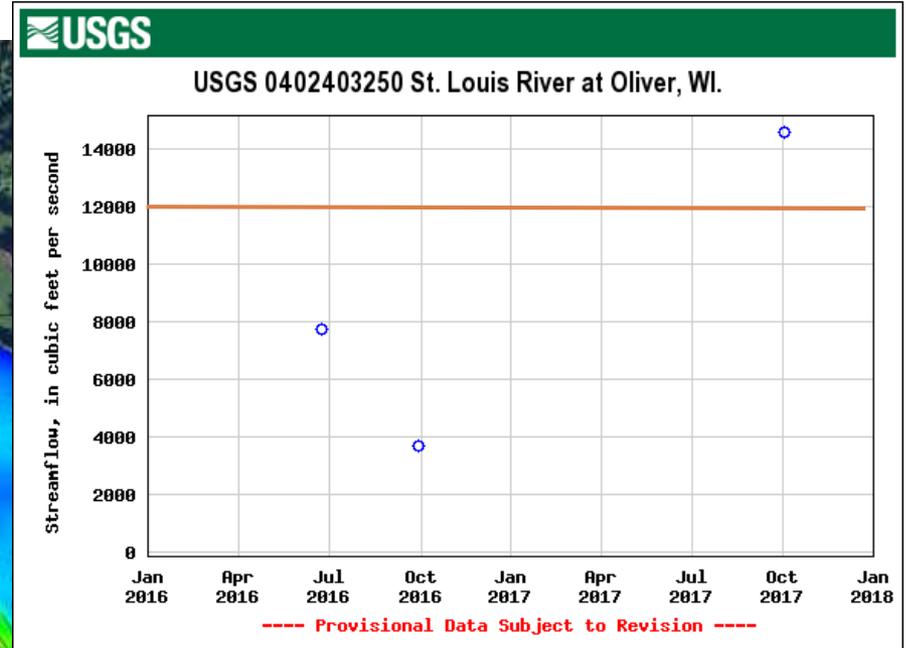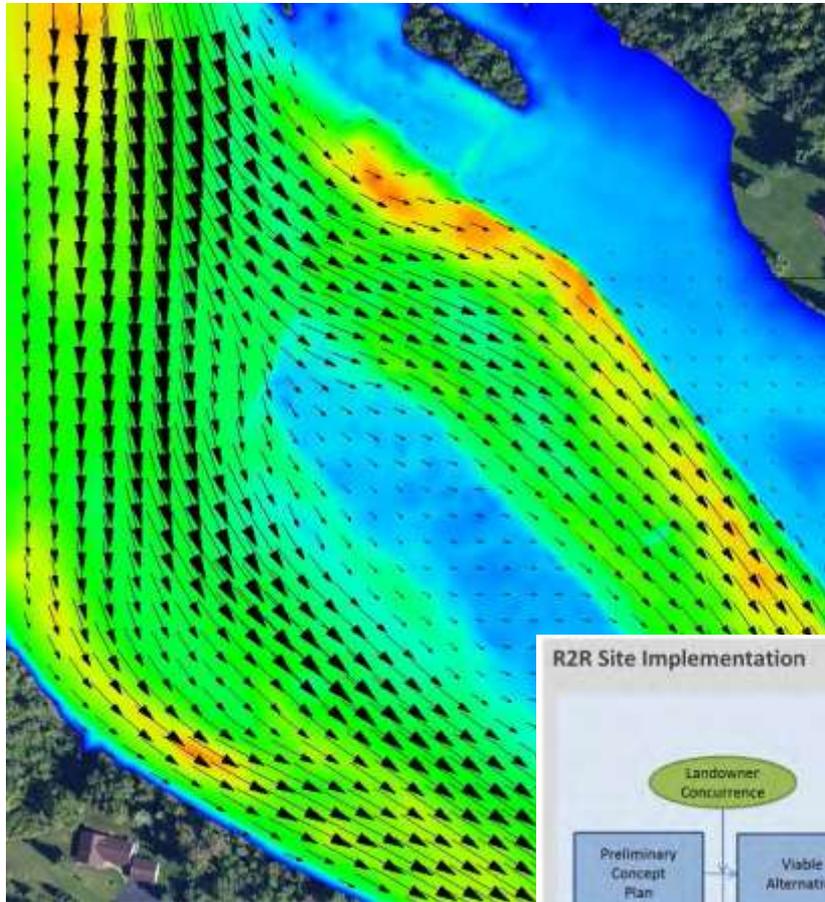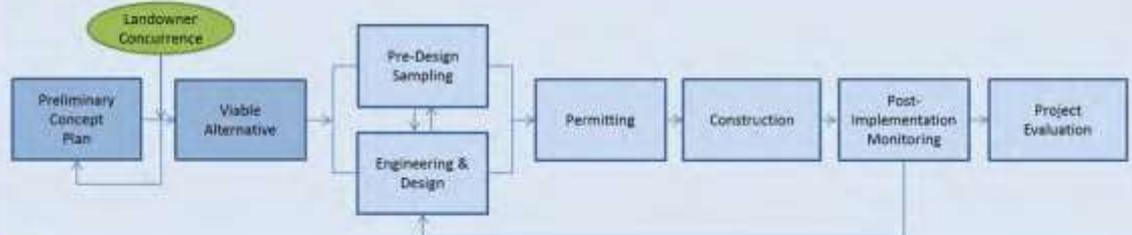
What does the Minnesota Land Trust propose?

- Meet with individuals and groups over the next 6-12 months to identify common vision and goals for the estuary

- Identify shared information and coordination needs

- Coordinate expert presentations, guests from other LCDs – learn from others

-----If there is interest established-----

- Identify a small set of initial metrics or tools

- Draft a decision-making framework (vision & goals, forum, metrics, tools, process)

- Prototype a decision support tool

What is new here?

- Prototyping a deliberate, multi-sector decision-support process

- Decision support tools designed to include economic, community health and natural resource outputs

- Provide a common set of information to inform balancing trade-offs.

- Provide a larger landscape context

Thank You

Task 1. Organizing for the Future: Long-Term Landscape Scale Conservation

- Form steering group
- Compile and review existing plans
  - Where do we have synergies?
  - Where to do we potential issues?
- Articulate collective vision and shared goals → map-based design
- Evaluate and define long-term management needs
- Review options for system assessment
  - Preview of available tools, data, and assessments

Task 2. Selecting Metrics and Tools

- Select metrics and thresholds
  - Natural resources condition
  - Community health
  - Economic indicators
- Select and set-up models/tools
- Develop future condition scenarios with steering group
  - Support collaborative decision-making
- Apply models and evaluate
  - Modify future strategies as appropriate
  - Revise map-based design as appropriate

Task 3. Using Decision Support Tools: Process and Organizational Structure

- Define evaluation and coordination needs for long-term management using tools and metrics from Task 2
  - Objectives
  - Evaluations and frequency
  - Thresholds and response actions
- Recommend organizational structure for long-term management needs
  - Define future management and coordination needs with steering group
  - Evaluate capacity within existing entities to meet needs