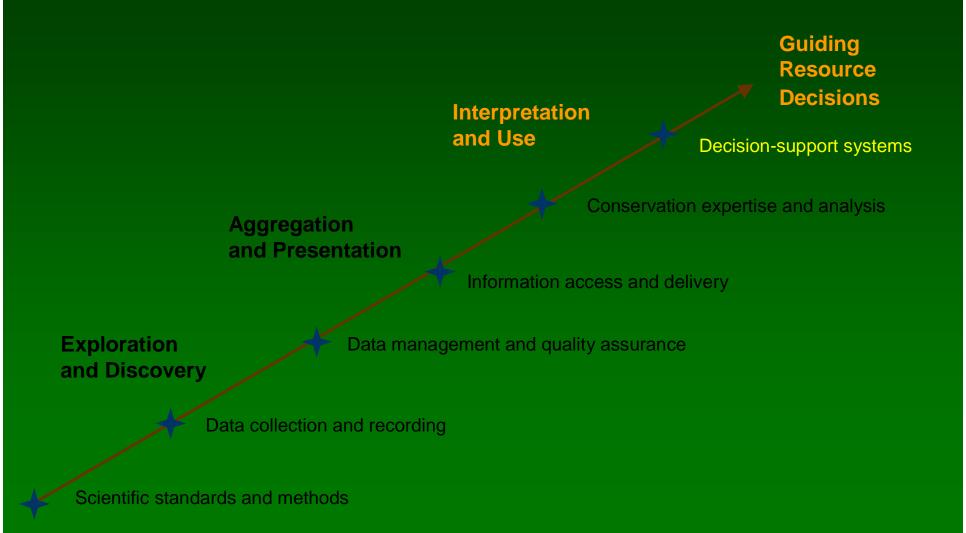
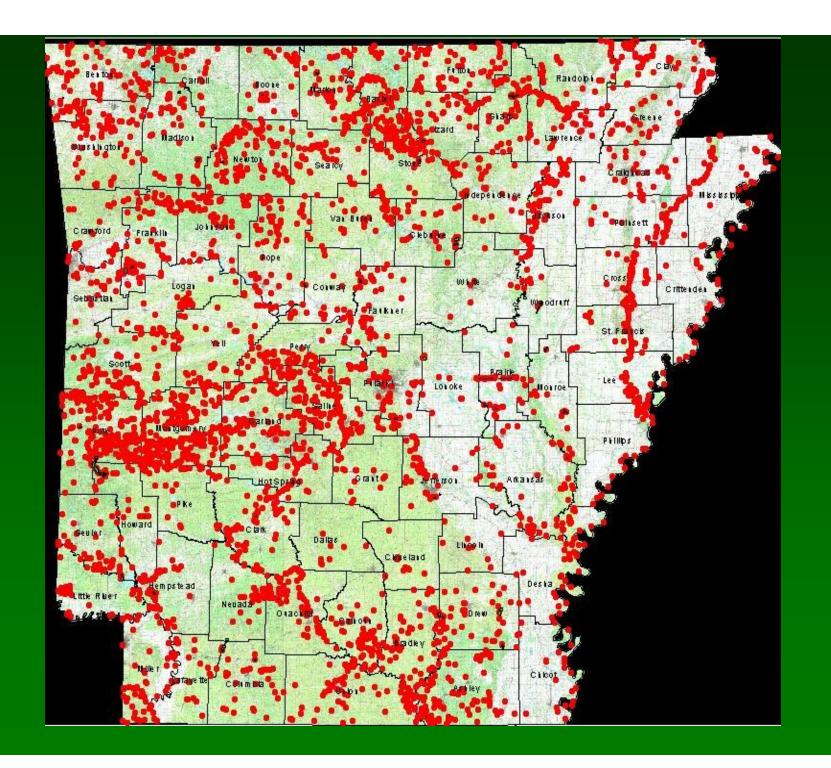
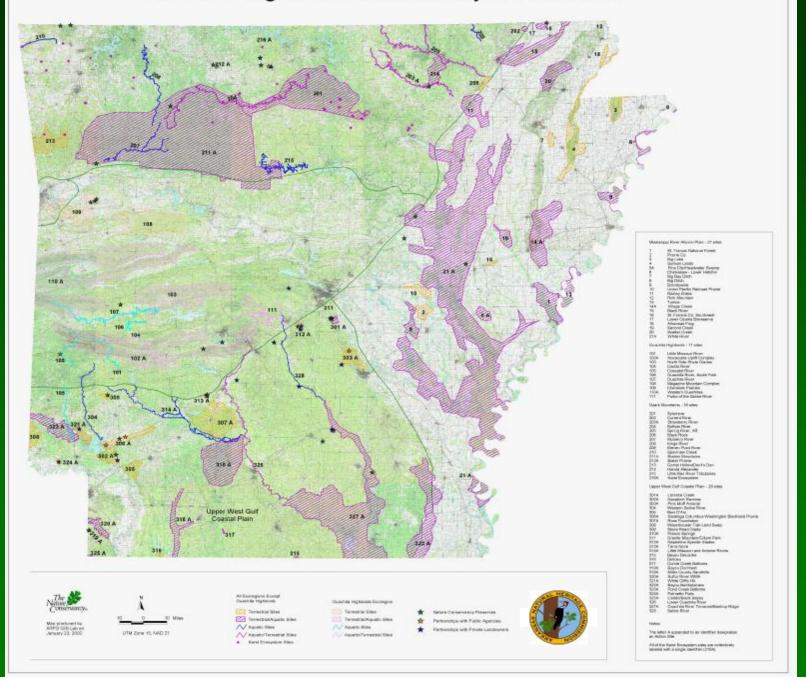
NatureServe Information Value Chain





Areas of Significant Biodiversity in Arkansas



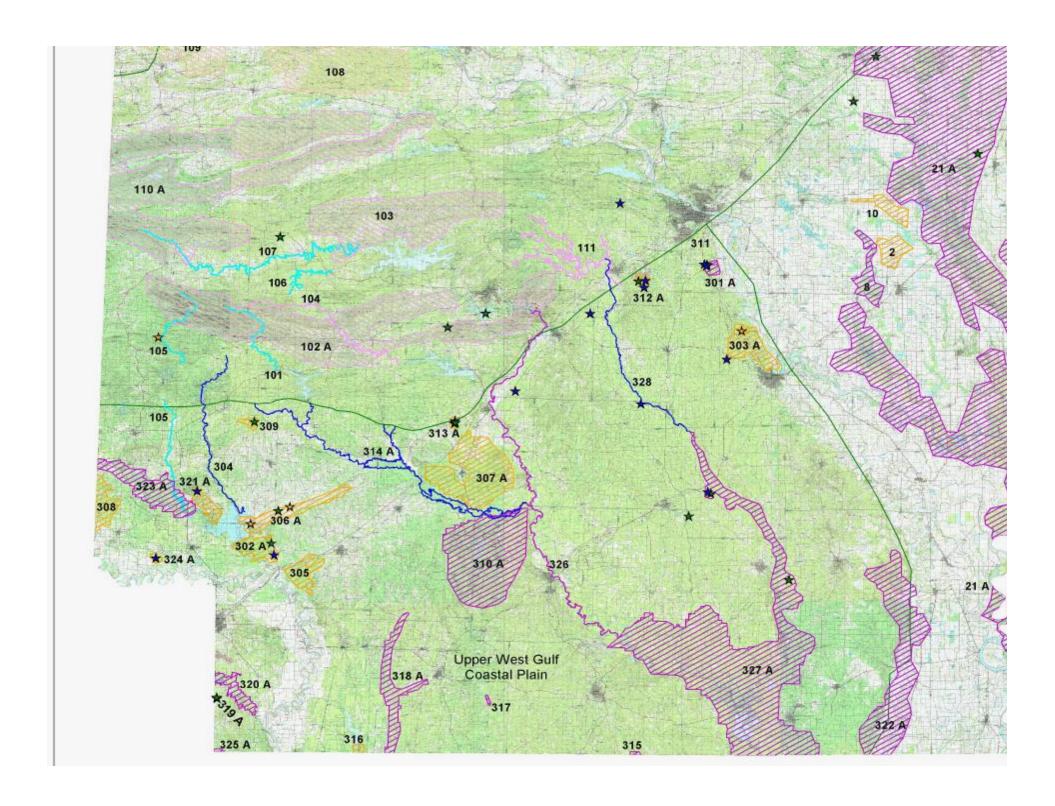
West Gulf Coastal Plain in Arkansas

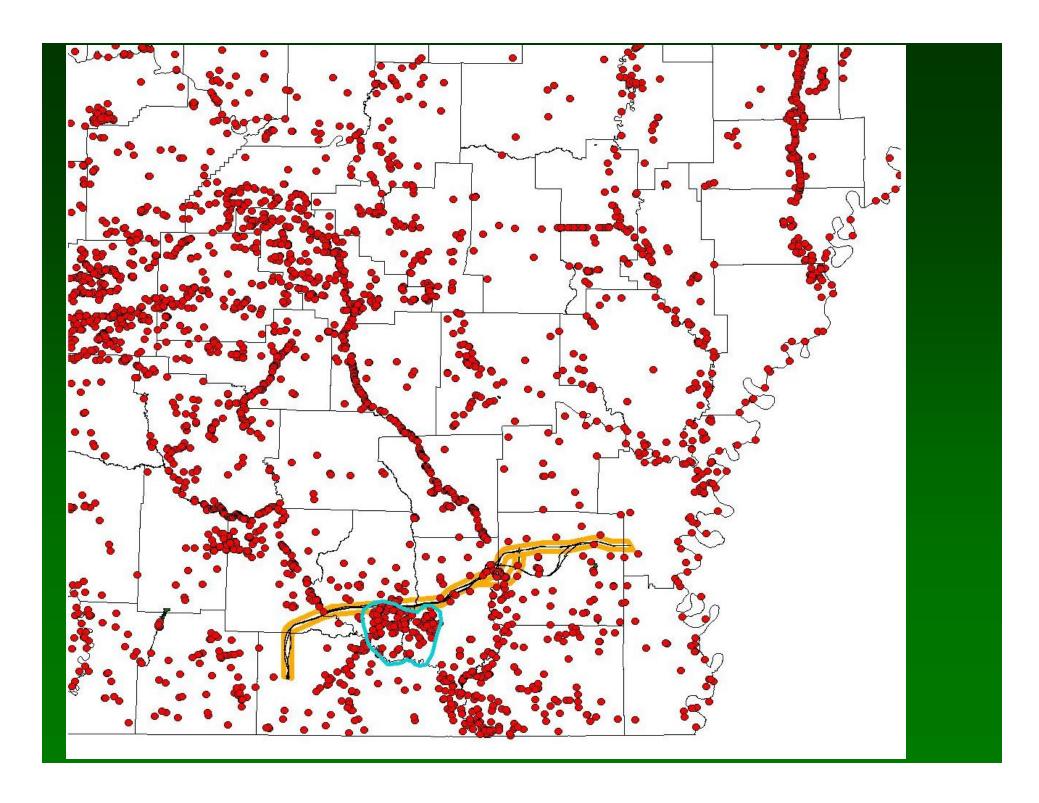


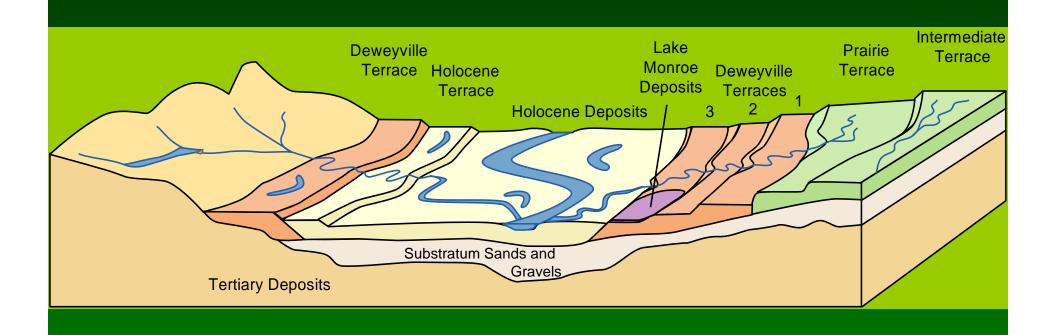
Goal Conservation of a threatened system: Pleistocene Terraces of the

West Gulf Coastal Plain









Pleistocene Terraces Ecosystem Plant Communities

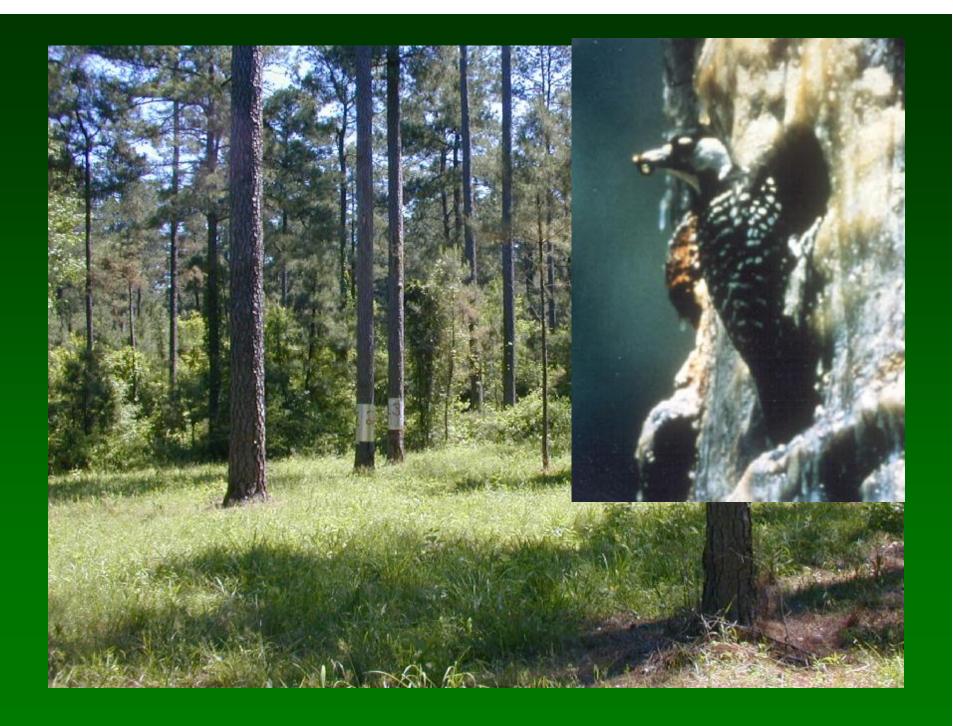
- Pine-hardwood flatwoods
- Wet hardwood flatwoods
- Bottomland hardwood forests
- "Upland" pine-hardwood woodlands
- Seeps
- Saline soil barrens
- Sand prairies not in study area
- Tallgrass Prairies not in study area

Pine-oak flatwoods









Saline soil prairie or barrens











Over 40 plant species of conservation concern occur in the Arkansas Pleistocene Terraces.

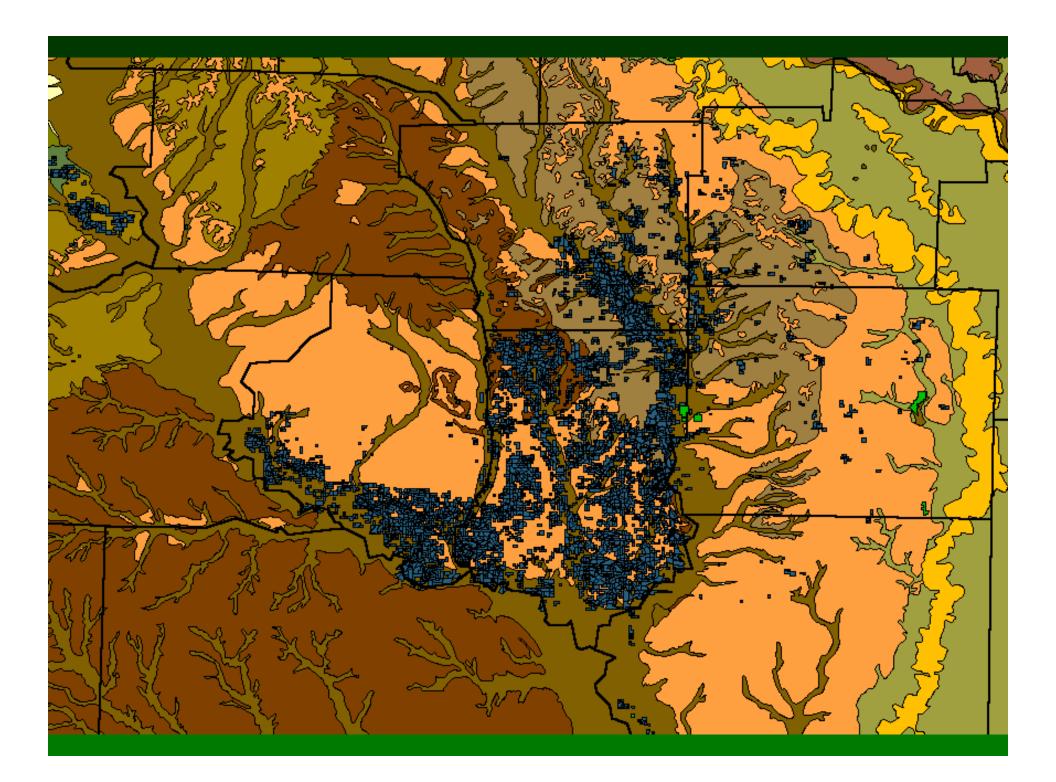
In addition to globally-rare species, many species of outer Coastal Plain flatwoods occur here at the northern limit of their ranges.

Disturbance-adapted system

- Fire
- Tornadoes
- Windthrows
- Insects
- Ice storms



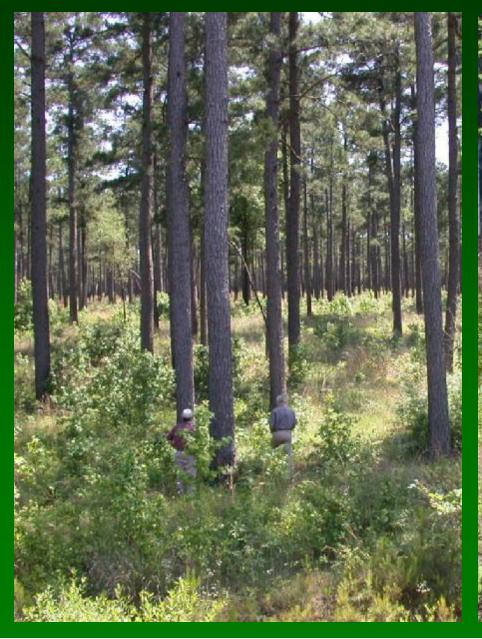
These ecosystems need the open structure historically caused by these disturbances



Opportunities



Desired basal area















Incompatible



Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and The Nature Conservancy are negotiating to buy easements on some Potlatch lands to ensure management that maintains the natural system and species of concern, provides public recreation and continues to provide economic return from timber production.

In addition to placing easements on some lands, Potlatch would like to know the ecological value of each timber stand it manages so management may be modified to increase emphasis on timber production on stands with lower conservation value and decrease it on stands of higher conservation value.

Vista Supports Three Approaches

Increasing data requirements, complexity, integration

Identify High Value Areas

Select important values (elements & characteristics)

Overlay maps of elements

Identify general places to conserve or avoid development

Reduce Conflict

Import baseline and alternative scenarios & evaluate for compatibility w/elements of interest

Modify scenarios to increase compatibility (v1.5)

Reduce conflict/maximize benefit for any land use & mgmt scerlario

Create Solutions

Select elements, set conservation goals and design rules

Integrate data on threats and cost

Generate optimal scenarios (v1.5) that are dynamic to changing conditions and incremental decisions (v 2.0)

Conservation Strategies

The simplest application of Vista provides a rating of ecological importance which can meet the immediate needs of the Arkansas partners. The software can be used also to develop alternative management scenarios.

Results

Conflict/Opportunit y Stand Map

Category (#Stands)

Neutral (1/800)

Low EV Low CV (1)

Forest Opp (5/800)

Med EV Low CV (4)

High EV Low CV (1)

Cons Opp (47/800)

Low EV Med CV (34)

Low EV High CV (13)

Conflict (747/800)

Med EV Med CV (121)

High EV Med CV (52)

Med EV High CV (317)

High EV High CV (257)

