



# Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful

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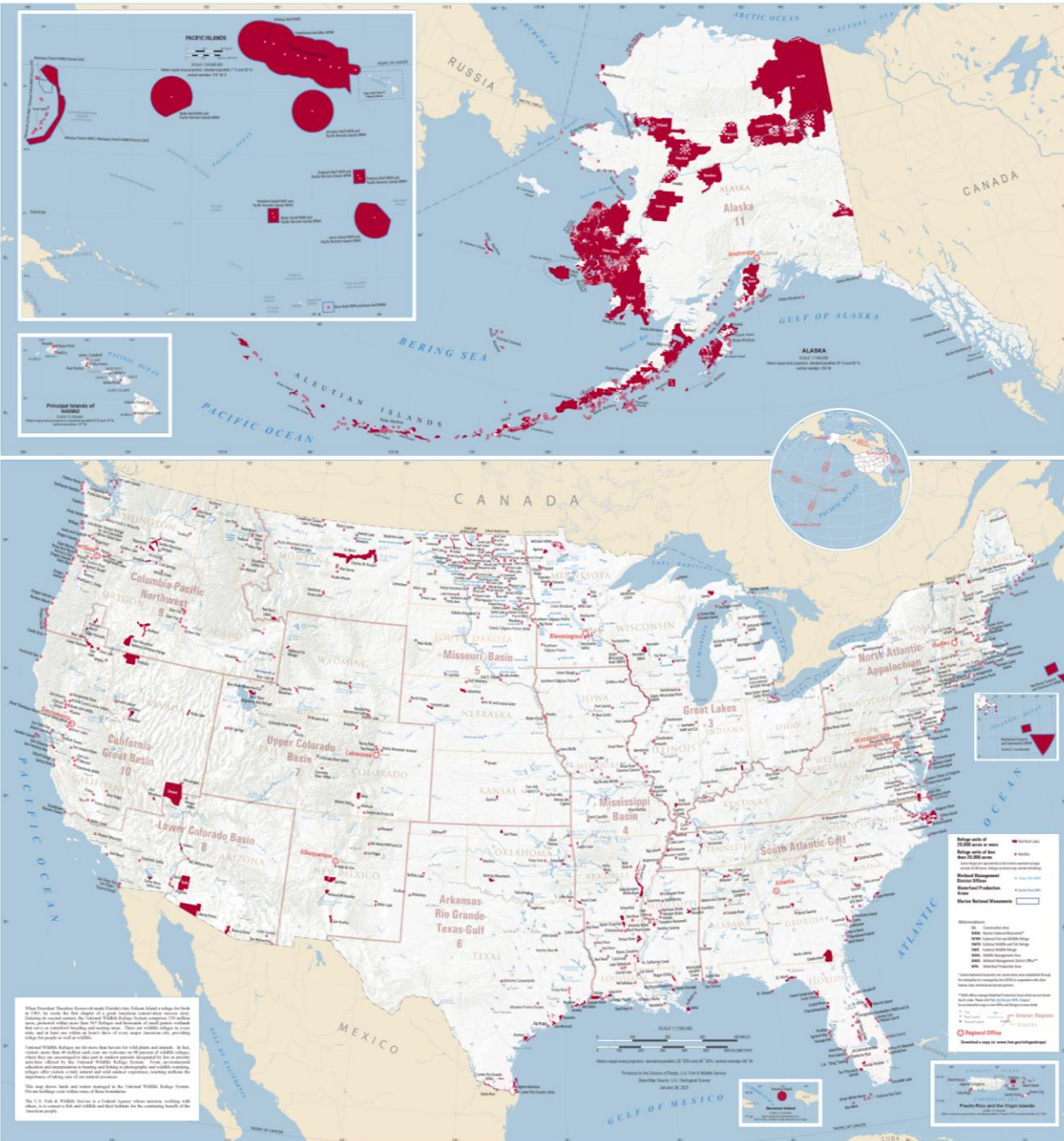
Baltimore County, Maryland





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# National Wildlife Refuge System



# The National Wildlife Refuge System







**Masonville Cove Nature Walk**  
Credit: Chesapeake Bay Program



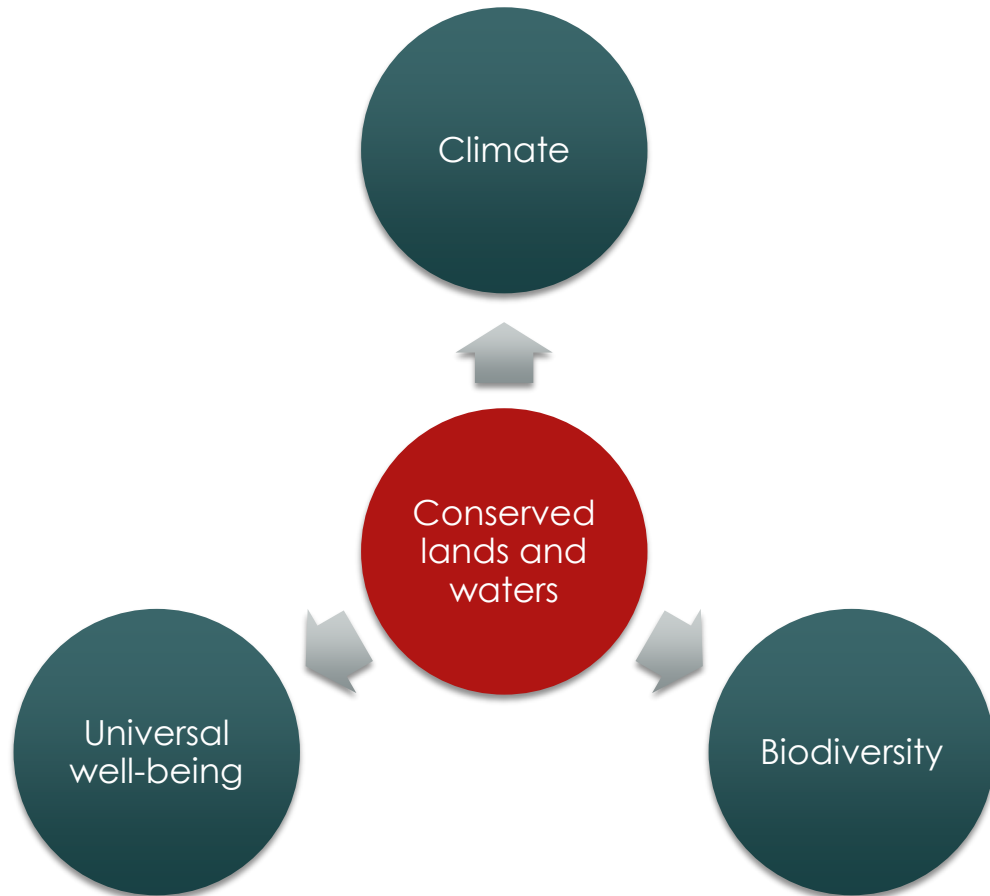


**Holland Island, Maryland**

**Credit: baldeaglebluff CC BY-SA 2.0**



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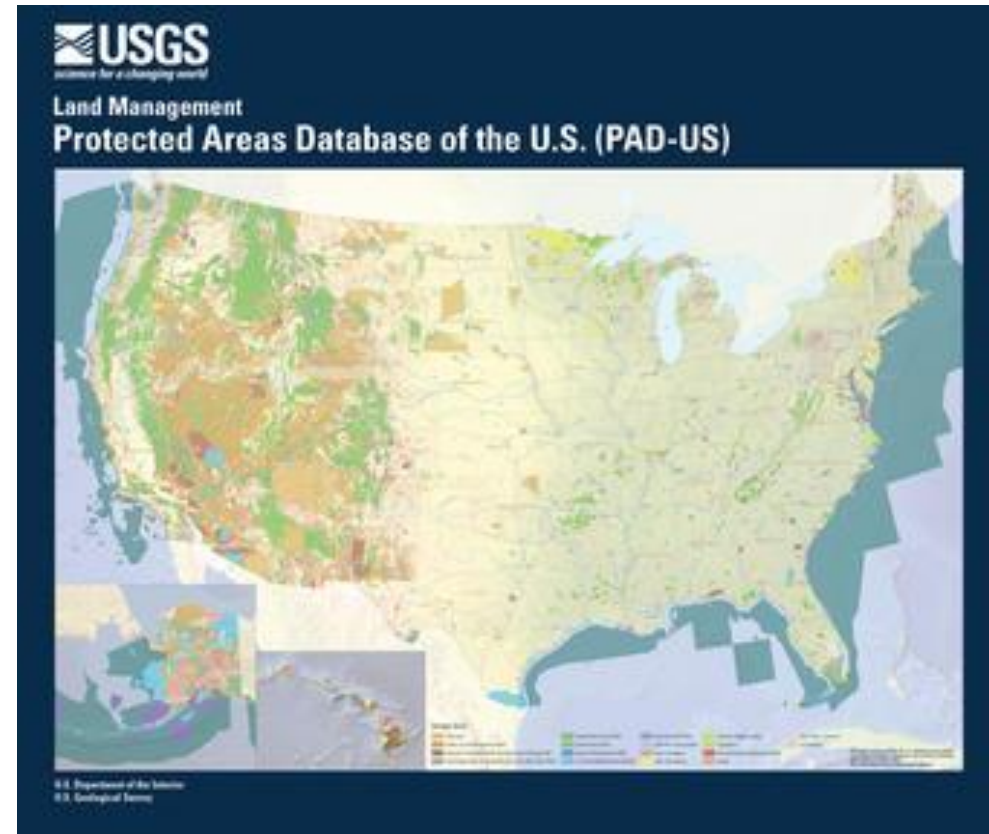
- ▶ Establishes 8 equally important principles critical to success and durability.
- ▶ Climate change, biodiversity, and human well-being (especially inequality).
- ▶ Calls for progress to be measured in terms of nature and people.
- ▶ Provides “recommendations for early focus”

# Principles of America the Beautiful

1. Pursue a collaborative and inclusive approach to conservation
2. Conserve America's lands and waters for the benefit of all people
3. Support locally led and locally designed conservation efforts
4. Honor tribal sovereignty and support the priorities of tribal nations.
5. Pursue conservation and restoration approaches that create jobs and support healthy communities
6. Honor private property rights and support the voluntary stewardship efforts of private landowners and fishers
7. Use science as a guide
8. Build on existing tools and strategies with an emphasis on flexibility and adaptive approaches

# American Conservation Stewardship Atlas

- ▶ Baseline info on lands and waters managed for conservation.
- ▶ Adapted from existing tools.





# FWS Early Focus



## More parks in Nature-Deprived Communities

Work with communities, utilize LWCF, commitment that 40% of benefits from federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities.



## Support tribally led conservation

Technical assistance and capacity-building grants, improve engagement (esp. when sacred sites are on public lands), smooth land-into-trust process.



## Expand collaborative conservation; corridors

Expand S.O. 3362, use incentives and local collaboration, fish passage, SGCN in SWAPs, bird habitats through JVs, expand NWRS where supported



# FWS Early Focus



## Increase equitable access for recreation

Improved and *equitable* access for hunting, fishing, hiking, boating, etc. Prioritize land management planning and identify areas for recreation.



## Create jobs through restoration

Civilian Climate Corps putting people to work restoring our lands and waters. Pathway to jobs for a new, diverse generation.



## Incentivize and reward working lands stewards

Support private landowners through Working lands for Wildlife, Conservation without Conflict, conservation banking, CCAAs, and Partners program





Baltimore County, Maryland





Thank You!

Montana