California Rapid Assessment Method Results from the 2011 National Wetland Condition Assessment

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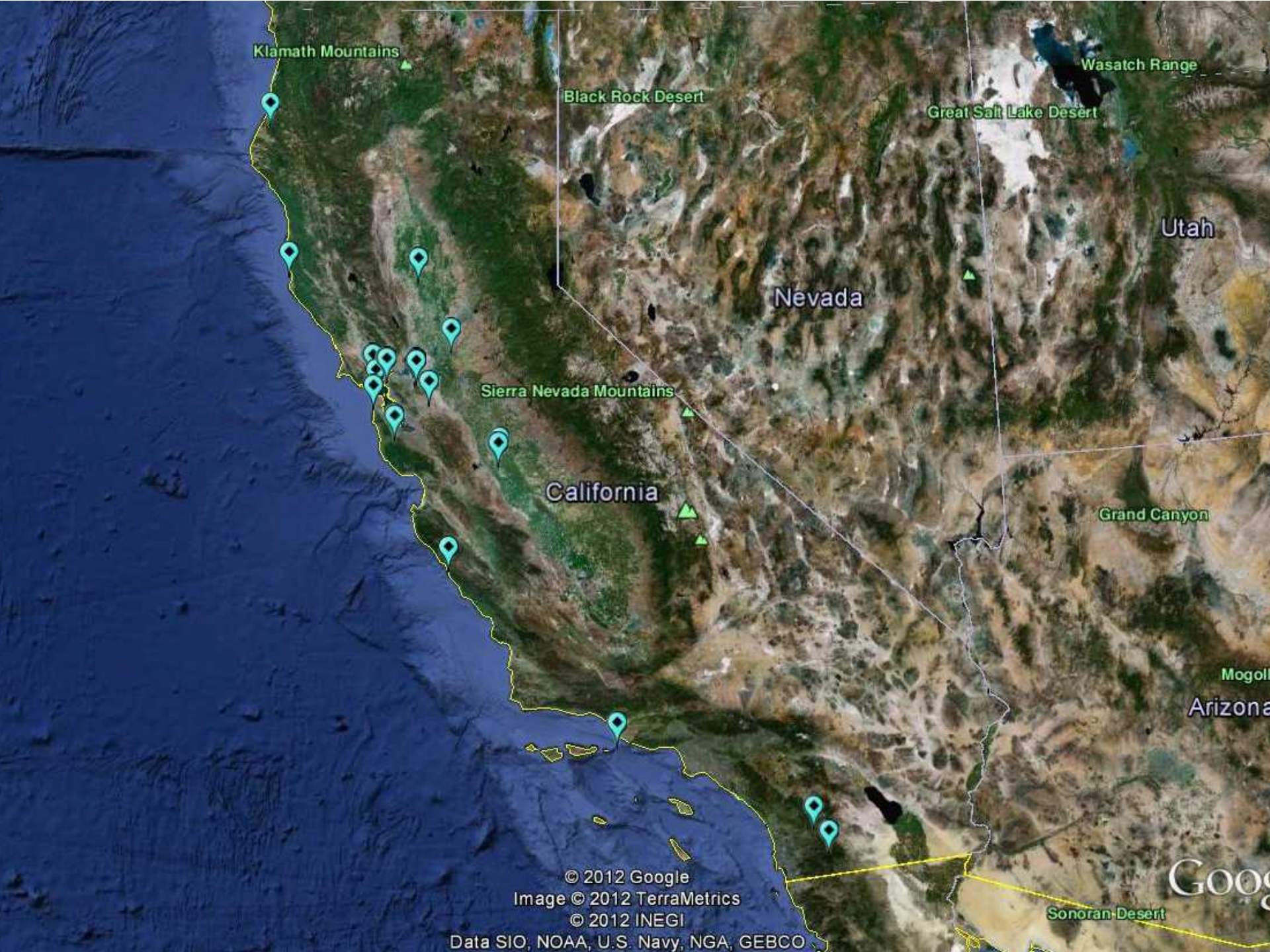
National Water Quality
Monitoring Council Conference

The Course Ahead

- California's NWCA sites
- CRAM Structure
- Preliminary Results
- Highlights of the Survey
- Issues and Next Steps


Klamath Mountains
Black Rock Desert
Wasatch Range
Great Salt Lake Desert
Utah
Nevada
Sierra Nevada Mountains
California
Grand Canyon
Arizona
Sonoran Desert
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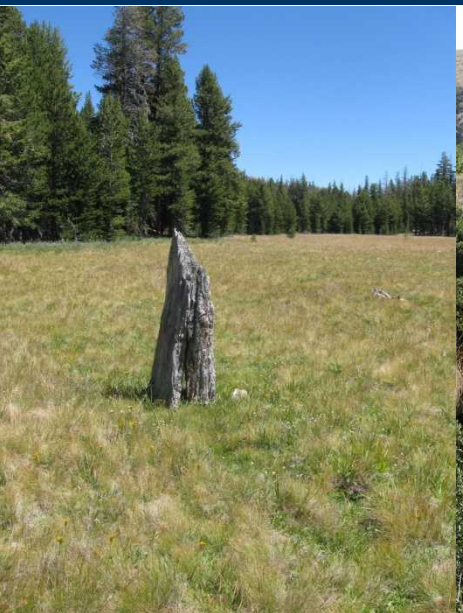
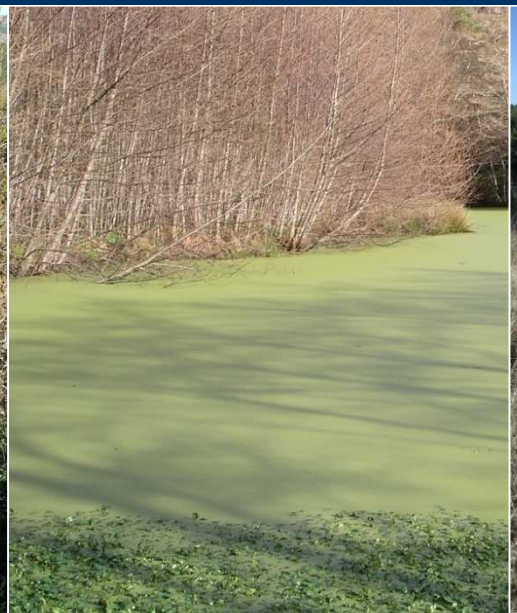
California Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands and Riparian Areas (CRAM)

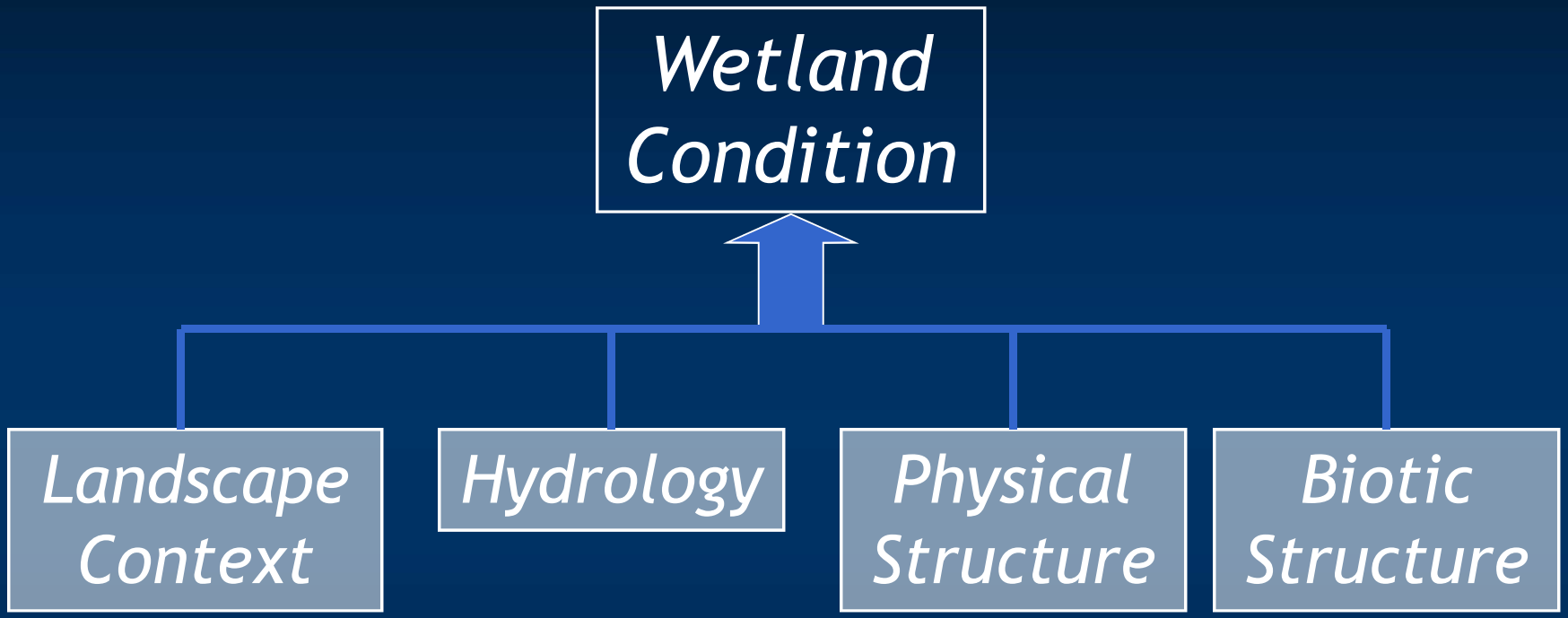




What is CRAM?

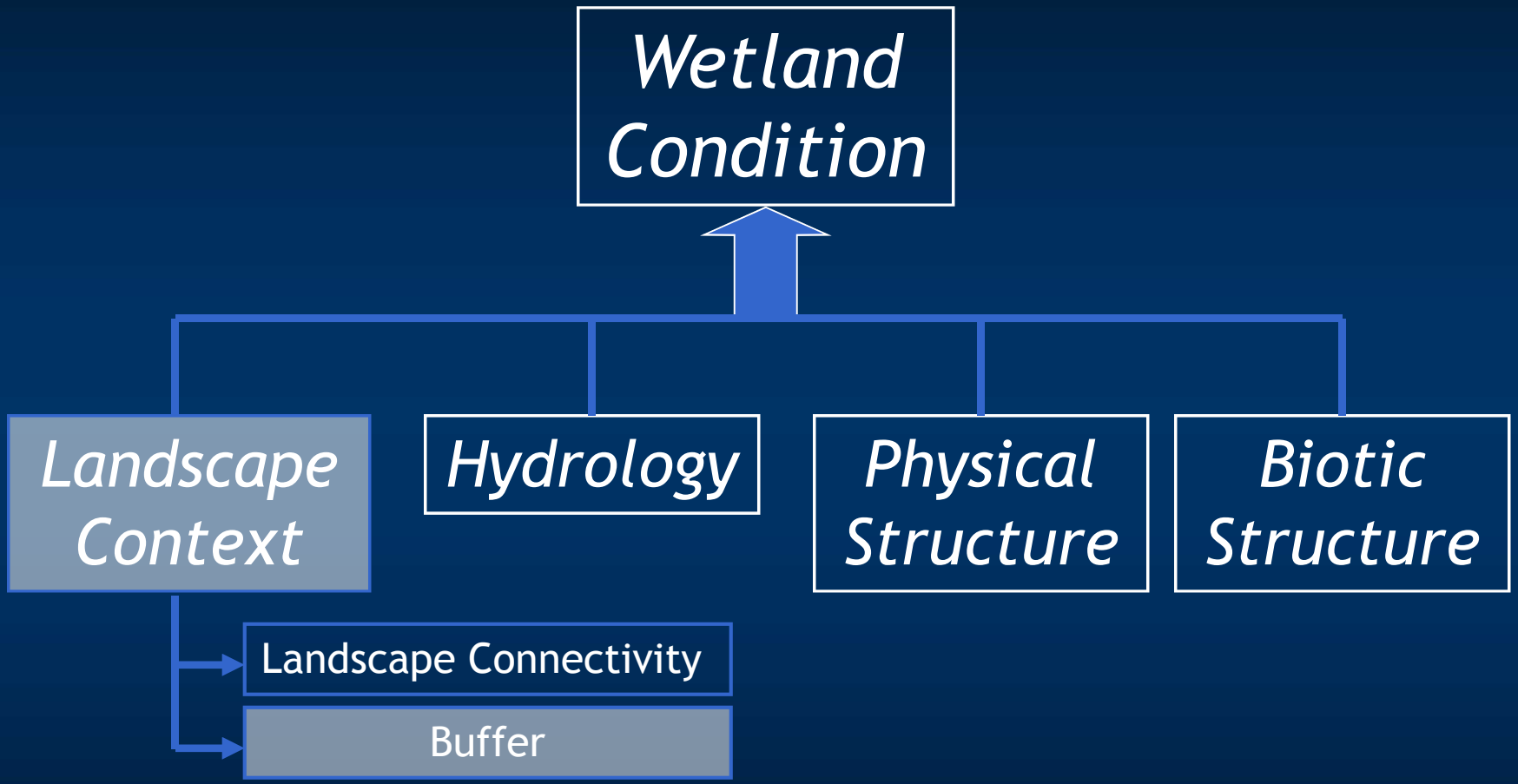
- Expert “walk and talk” diagnostic tool for all wetlands in California
- Less than 3 hrs field time, team of 2-3
- Required expertise comparable to jurisdictional delineation
- It’s simple, but not easy

CRAM Design: Attributes

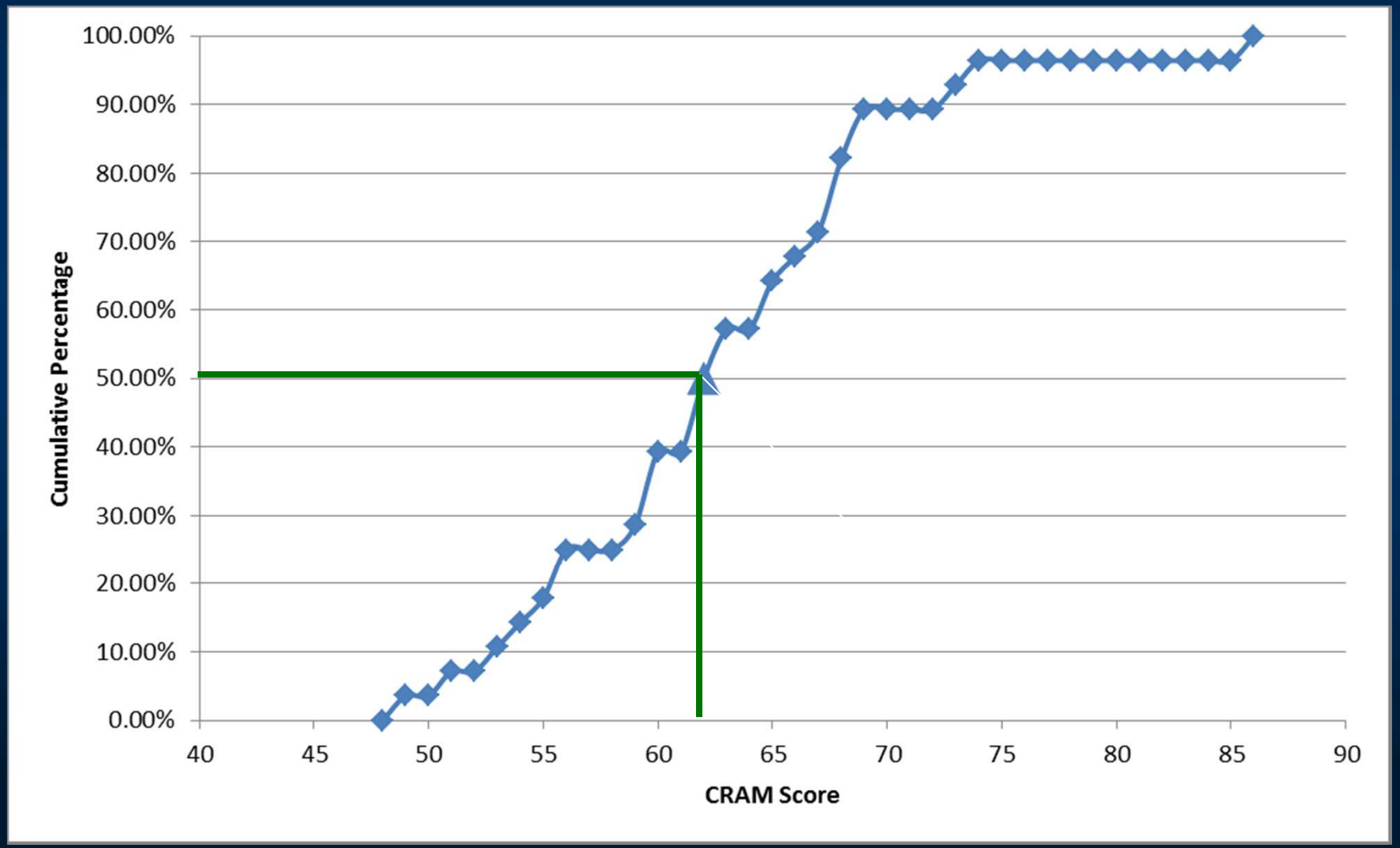


- CRAM recognizes four attributes of wetland condition
- Each attribute is represented by 2-3 metrics, some of which have sub-metrics.

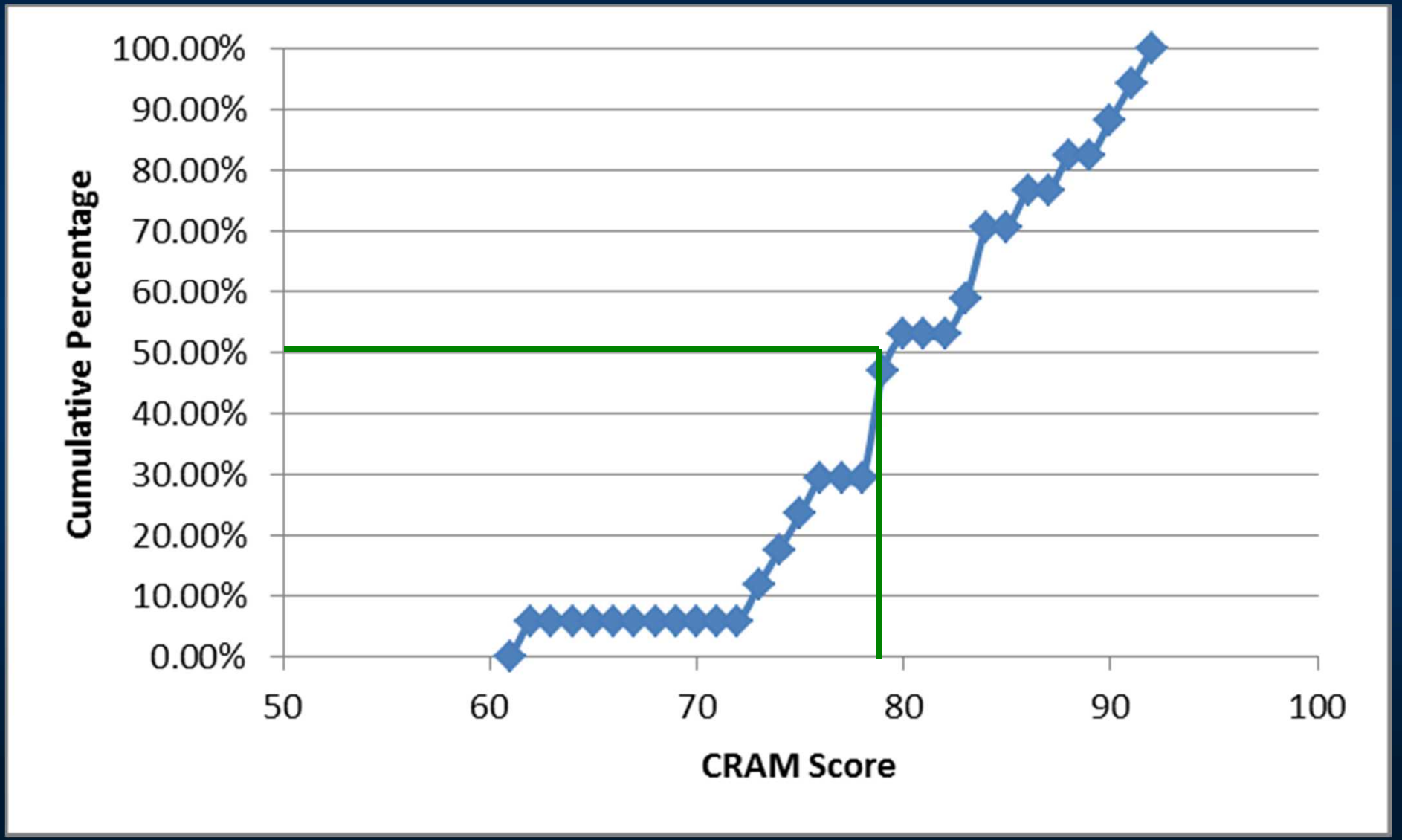
CRAM Design: Metrics



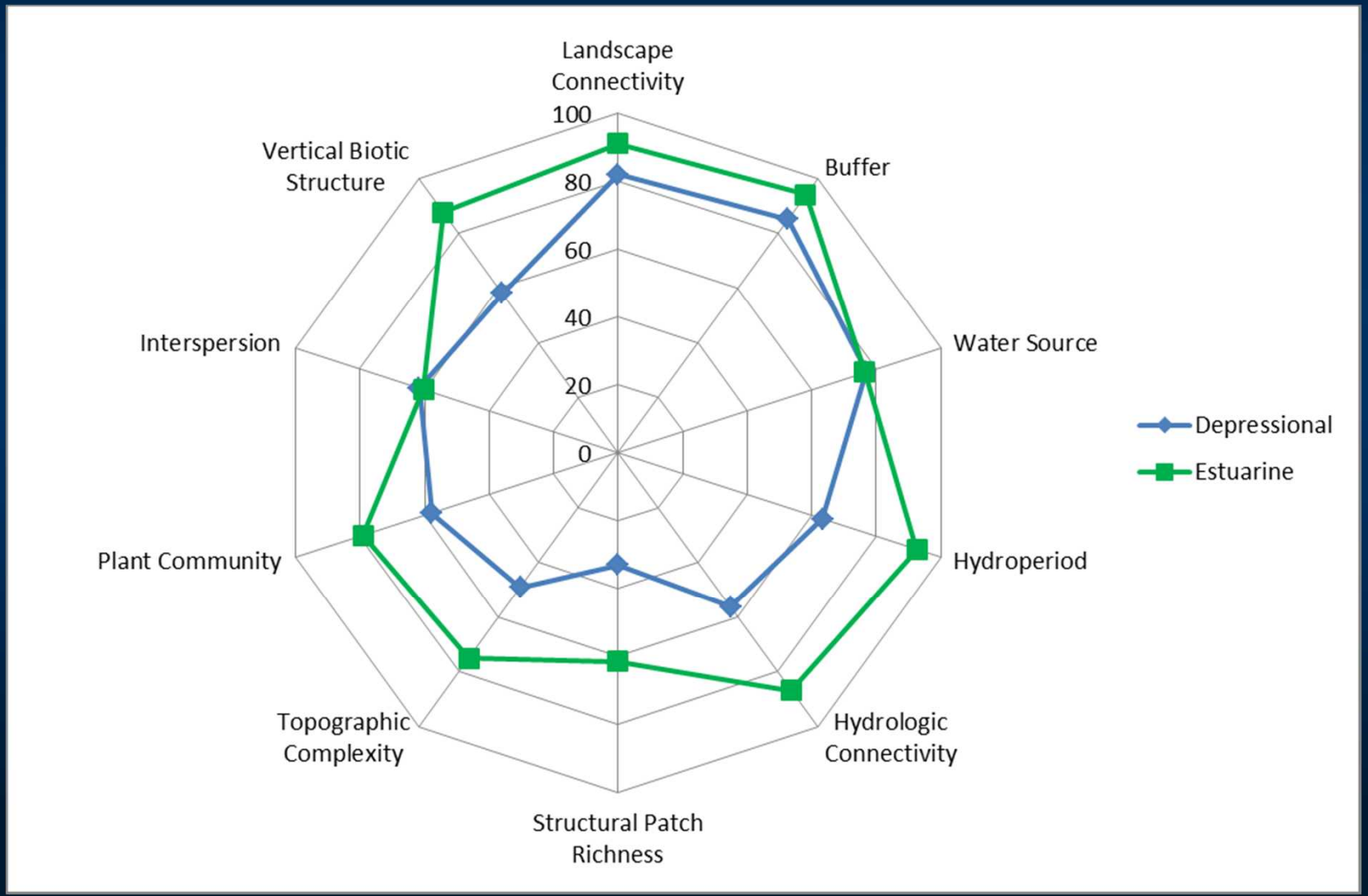
Depressional Wetland Cumulative Frequency Distribution (CFD)



Estuarine CFD



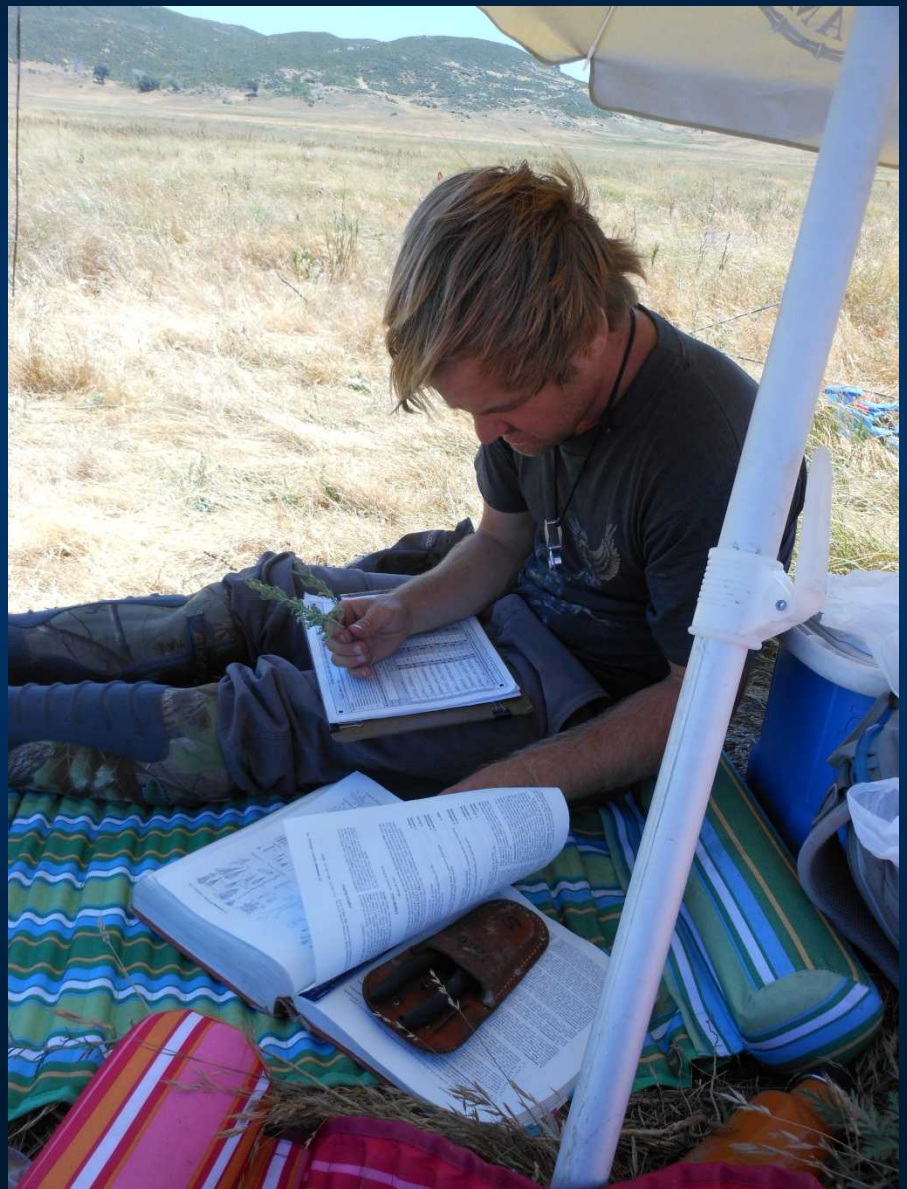
Metric Scores for Depressional and Estuarine Wetlands



Field Highlights

Thunder and Lighting

Extreme Heat



Puzzles

Successes

Fun Times

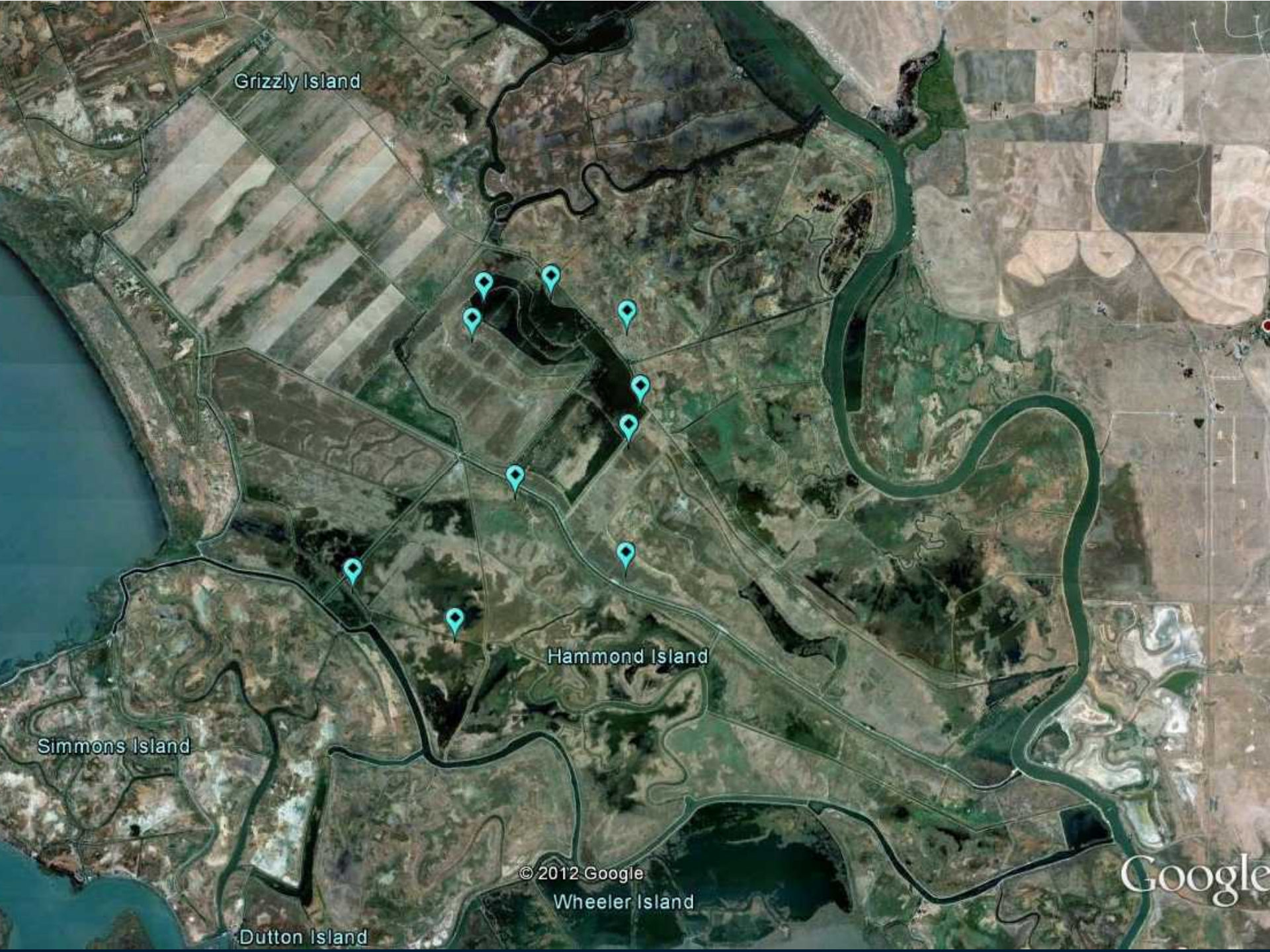
Not so Fun Times

Challenging Conditions

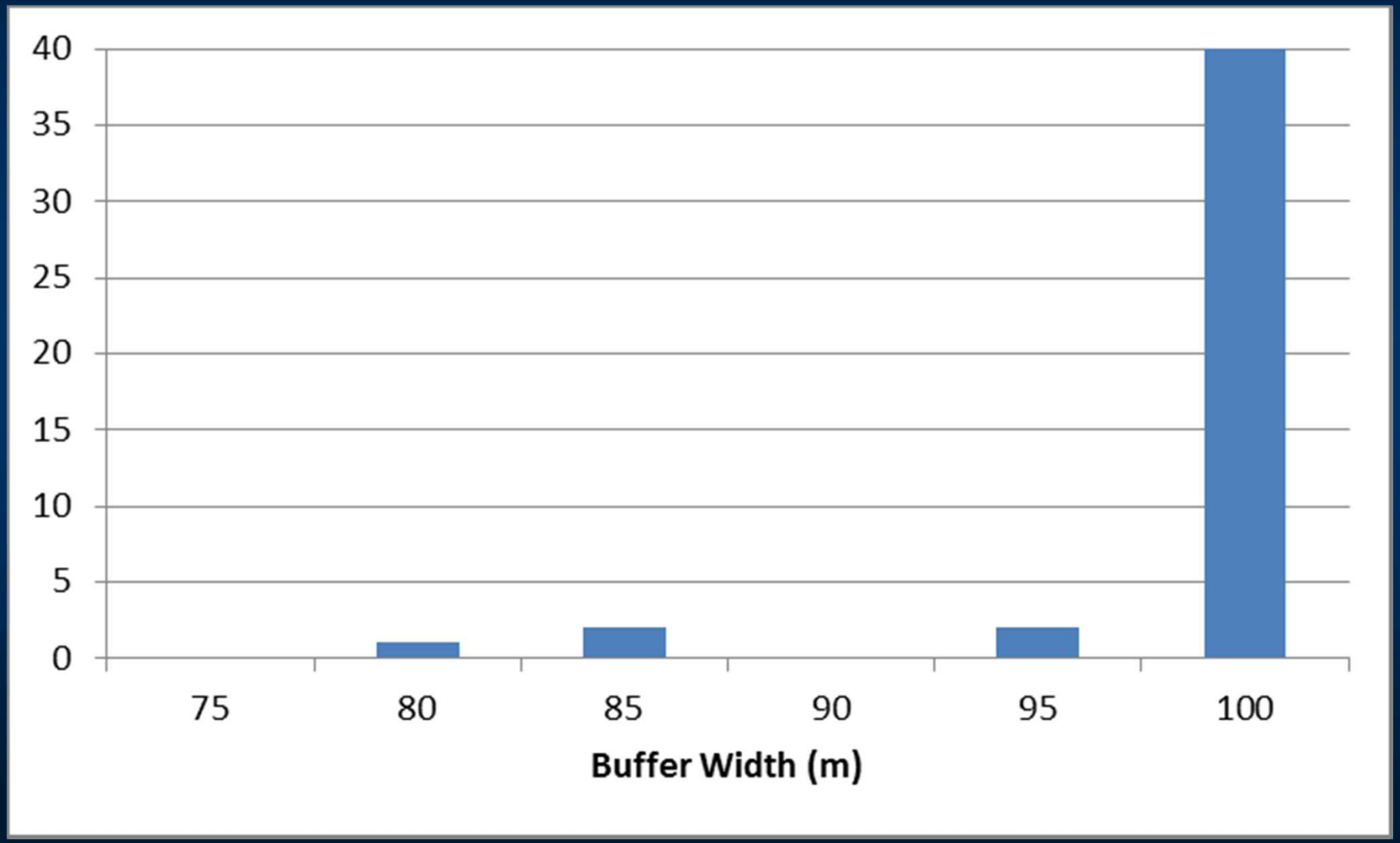
Beautiful Wetlands

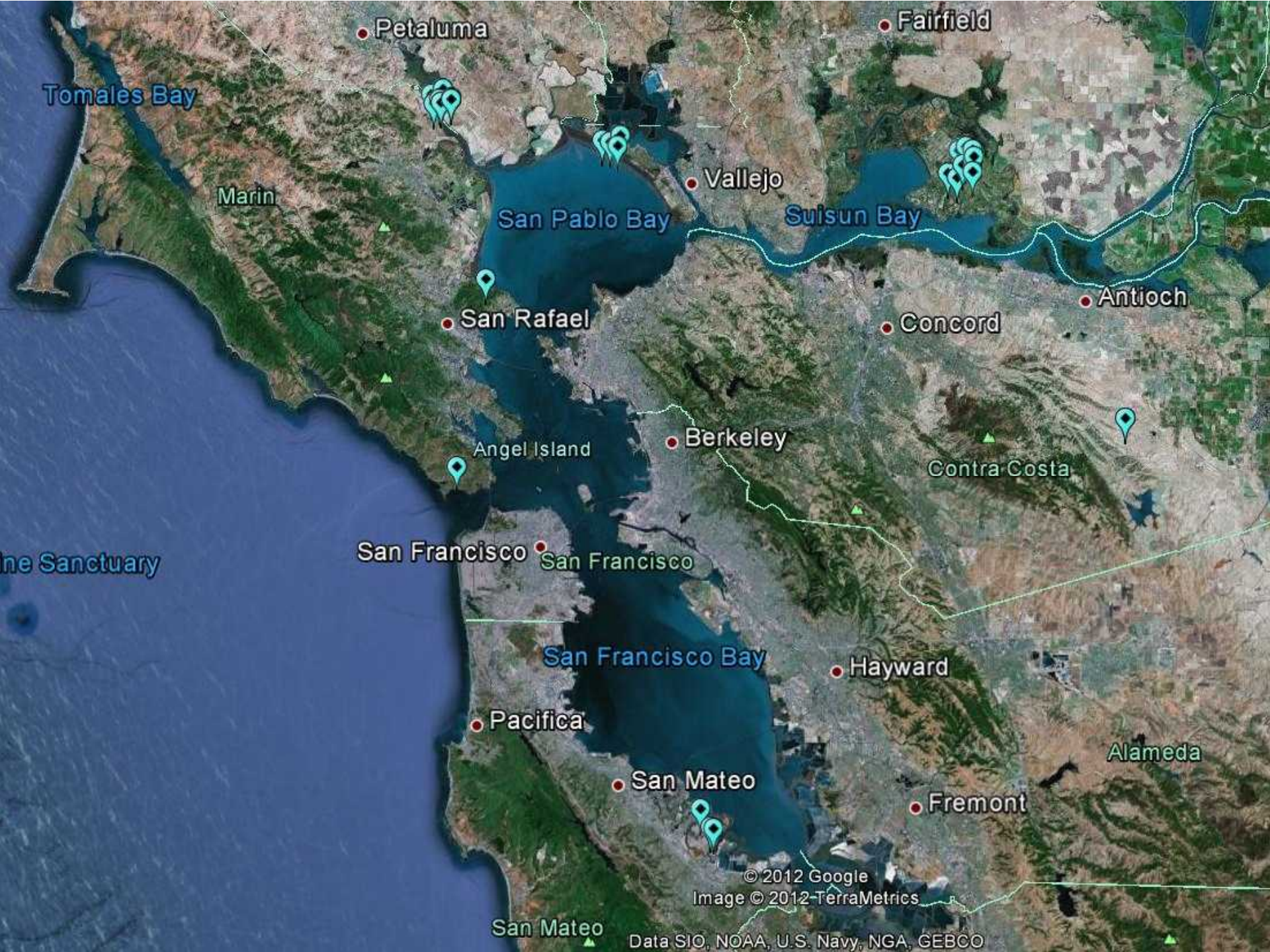
USA RAM: Percent with Buffer

- Every single site had 100% buffer
- Most sites in large wetland complexes
- Very little variability for analysis


Grizzly Island
Hammond Island
Simmons Island
© 2012 Google
Wheeler Island
Dutton Island
Google

USA RAM: Buffer Width




Petaluma
Fairfield
Tomales Bay
Marin
Vallejo
San Pablo Bay
Suisun Bay
Antioch
San Rafael
Concord
Angel Island
Berkeley
Contra Costa
San Francisco
San Francisco
San Francisco Bay
Hayward
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Issues and Next Steps

- Lack of access to detailed wetland maps resulted in clustered site selection
- CA is developing a Status and Trends program that will include intensive mapping
- Integrate new maps into sample frame for 2016 NWCA

Thank you
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Questions?