



## AR MAV CDN Delivery Priority Tool 2017

The Delivery Priority Working Group of the AR MAV CDN is pleased to announce the successful completion of the revision and re-release of its Conservation Delivery Priority Tool. This new version replaces the 2012 version and has been approved by the CDN Steering Committee as a tool appropriate for prioritizing conservation actions and projects within the CDN.

With this revision, the Working Group once again utilized the best available landscape design data that collectively consider multiple priorities for restoration and protection of bottomland hardwood

forests in the AR Delta. The 2017 version of the Tool has been separated into two distinct conservation categories – 1) restoration and 2) protection – represented in *two unique priority maps* (See Figures 1 & 2) – in order to strengthen and balance the data utilized more effectively. The upper half of the models' priorities are presented as CDN priorities, so that only the highest of the high priorities are targeted in the final version of the Tool.

The Tool revision incorporates both updated and newly revised data in this dual model approach. It also utilizes designated 4w+ soils to inform data model inputs.

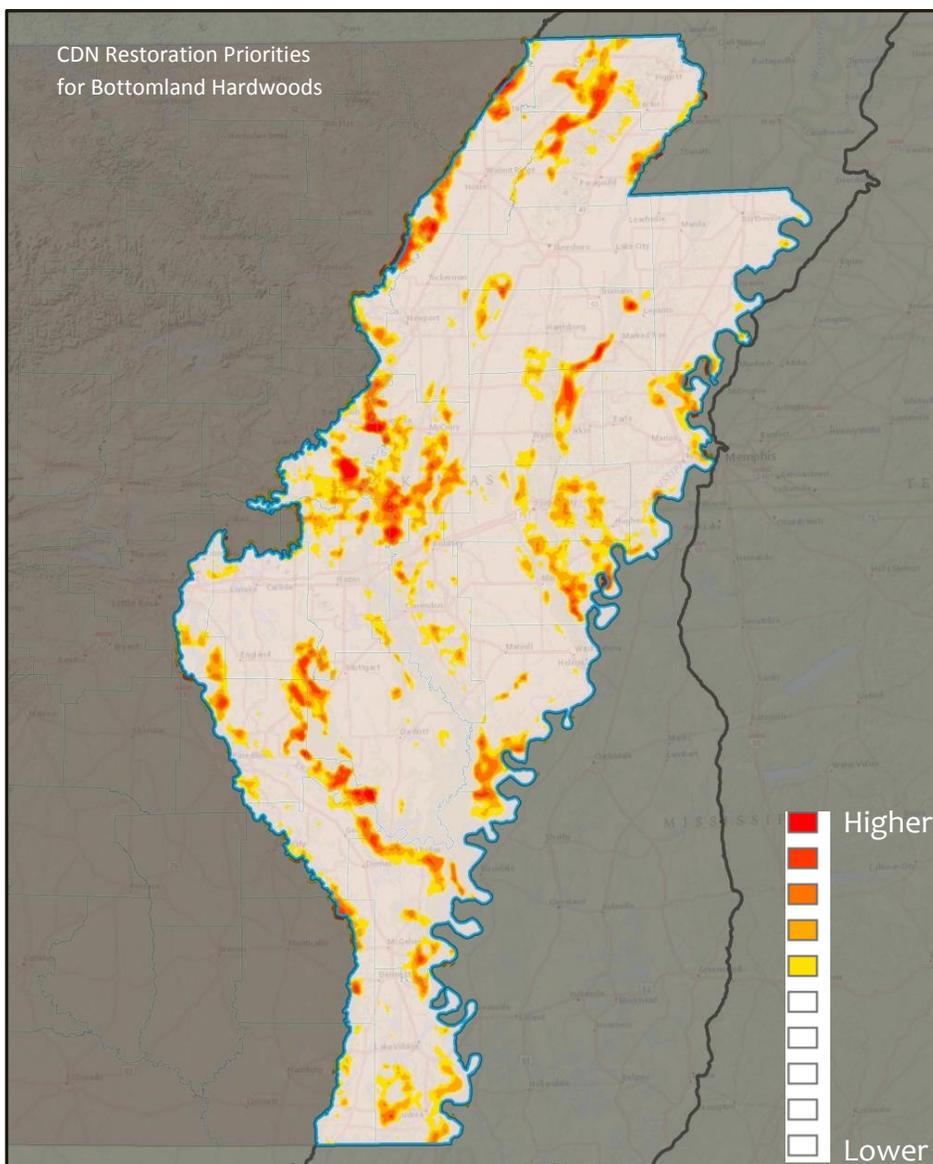


Figure 1. Restoration Priority Map for the AR MAV CDN. June 2017.

Although data inputs utilized to develop the Tool are widely considered the highest resolution data (30m x 30m pixels) of their type available and are fully consistent with landscape level conservation uses, the final output models are presented in the form of priority clusters or neighborhoods, produced through focal neighborhood GIS analysis. Since conservation activities do not typically occur at such small scales as 900 meters<sup>2</sup> (or less than one-quarter acre), utilizing neighborhood analysis is helpful for identifying areas where high priority pixels are more densely associated and better serves to identify priority areas as oppose to individual priority pixels.

In some cases conservation objectives for a given location will include both protection and restoration, but by separating these in the Tool, they can be considered as separate activities as

appropriate. Therefore, the Protection model should be viewed as targeting forested lands not currently protected, whereas the Restoration model is focused on lands that are no longer forested, but are appropriate for restoration.

A detailed description of the model inputs and the methodology used to produce these data will be sent shared with the CDN full membership following the Tool's introduction at the June, 2017 meeting in Stuttgart, AR.

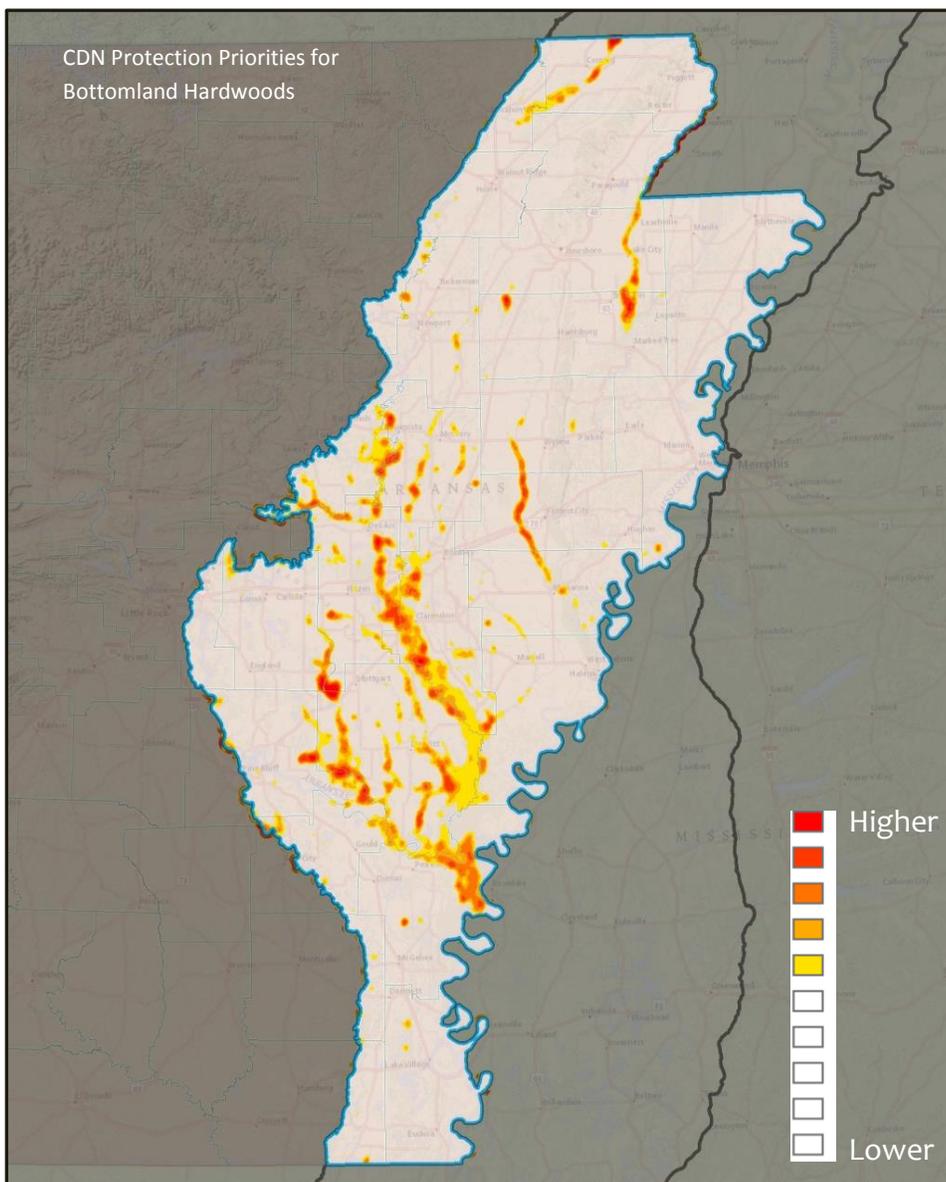


Figure 2. Protection Priority Map for the AR MAV CDN. June 2017.

The AR MAV CDN Delivery Priority Tool  
(Restoration and Protection Priority Maps)

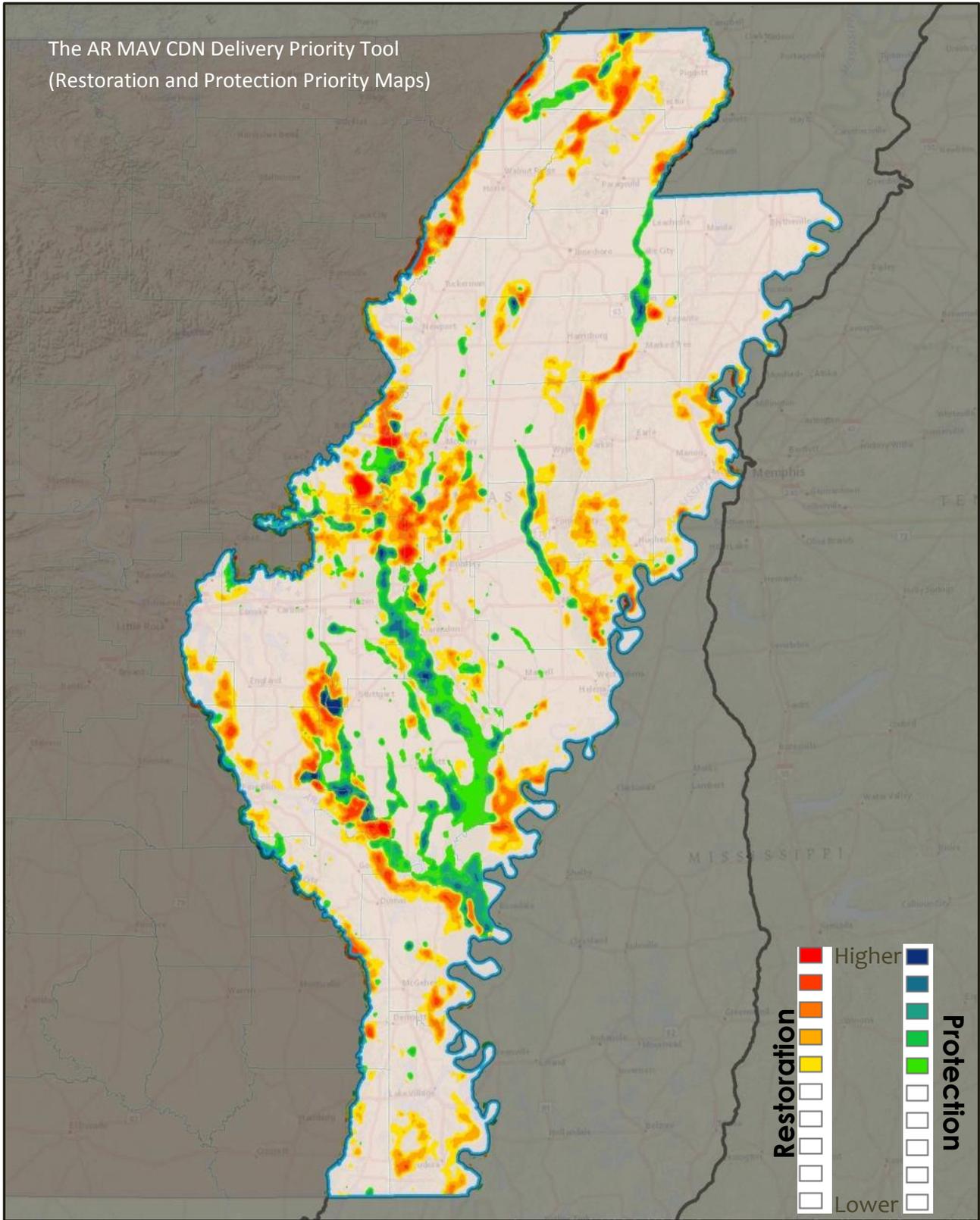


Figure 3. Protection and Restoration Priority Maps of the AR MAV CDN overlaid for perspective. June 2017

The AR MAV CDN Delivery Priority Tool  
(Restoration and Protection Priority Maps)  
plus Public Lands and WRP/E

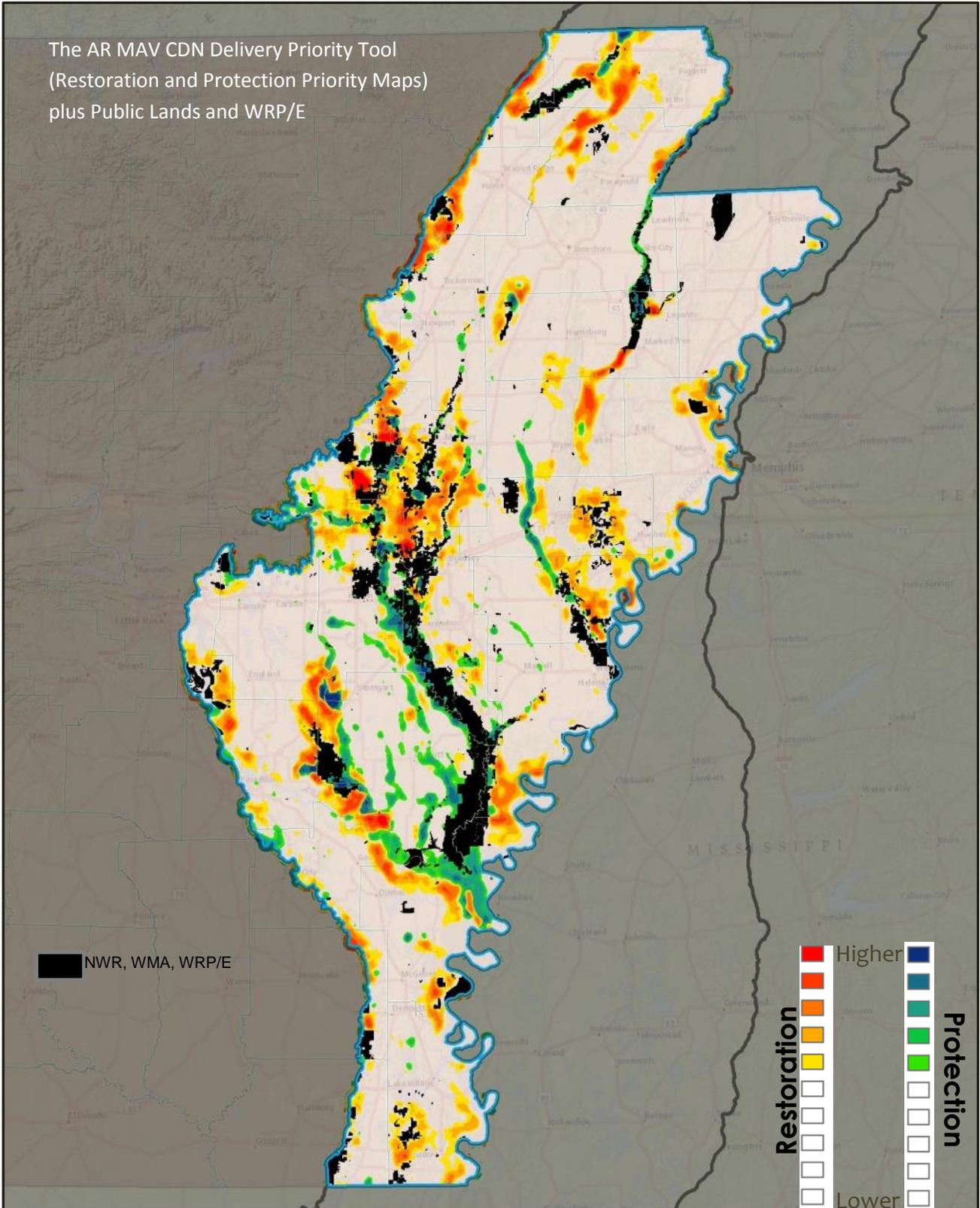


Figure 4. The Protection and Restoration Priority Maps of the AR MAV CDN overlaid with conservation estate lands. June 2017