

VA's Wetland Condition Assessment Tool (WETCAT)



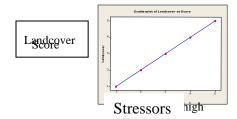
Dave Davis
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Manager, Office of Wetlands & Stream Protection
August 2024

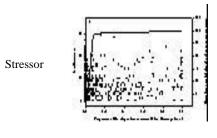


What is WetCAT?

- WetCAT is an online tool:
 - Geospatial layers used to investigate how land use changes affect wetlands and critical services they provide.
- Scores NWI wetlands based on adjacent landuse stressors for two ecosystem services: ability to provide habitat and improve WQ.
- Geoprocessing tools visualize impacts (downstream paths, watershed tool, Resource summary tool)





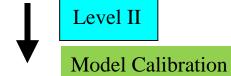


Service Endpoint

All Levels





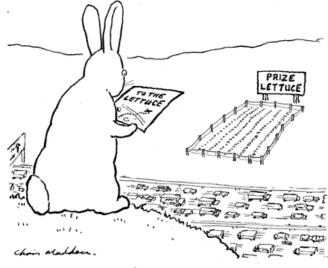


Level I



Level III

Model Validation



PETER RABBIT'S LAST ADVENTURE



Efforts to Automate FQA into WetCAT

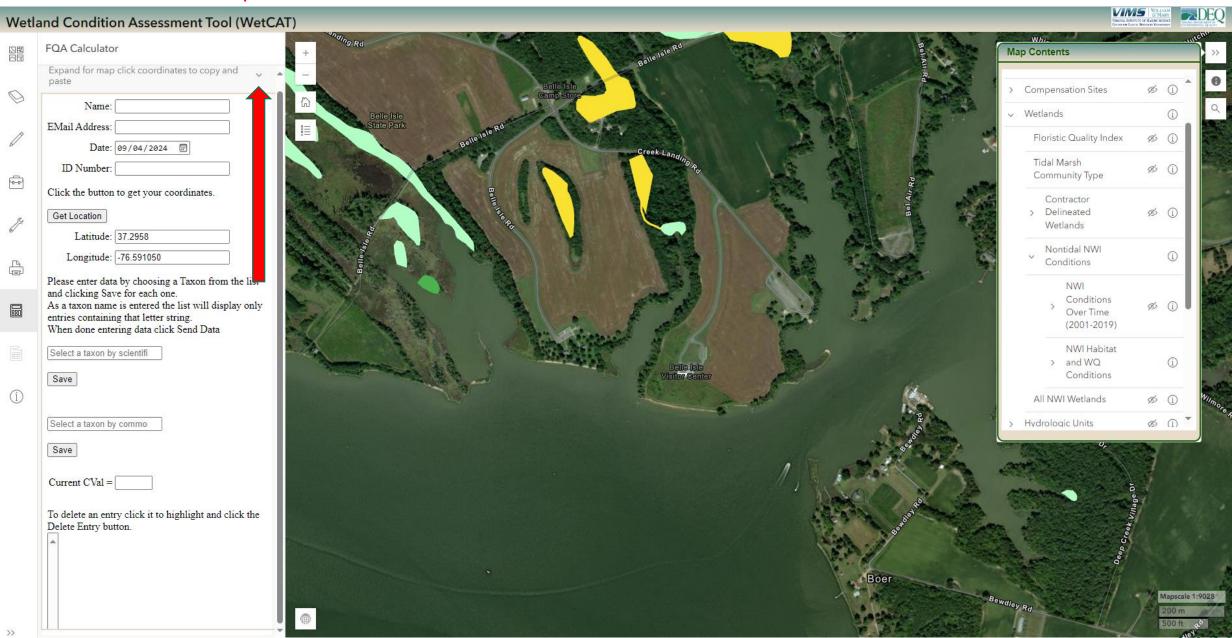
- Floristic quality assessment (FQA) is an assessment tool that can be used for natural areas, such as longterm ecological monitoring and wetland floristic quality.
- FQA Quantitative measure
- FQA allows for comparison of the floristic quality among many sites, and for assessing long-term plant community succession over time.
- DEQ convened botanical experts and wetland scientist from various regions of VA to develop C -values.
- Developed a protocol for incorporating the individual wetland species list and C-values into WetCAT as part of the wetlands spatial polygon layer.
- FQIA calculator is accessed user will be asked to enter the coordinates of the site being evaluated and the species entered into the calculator will be attributed to the appropriate wetlands polygon.

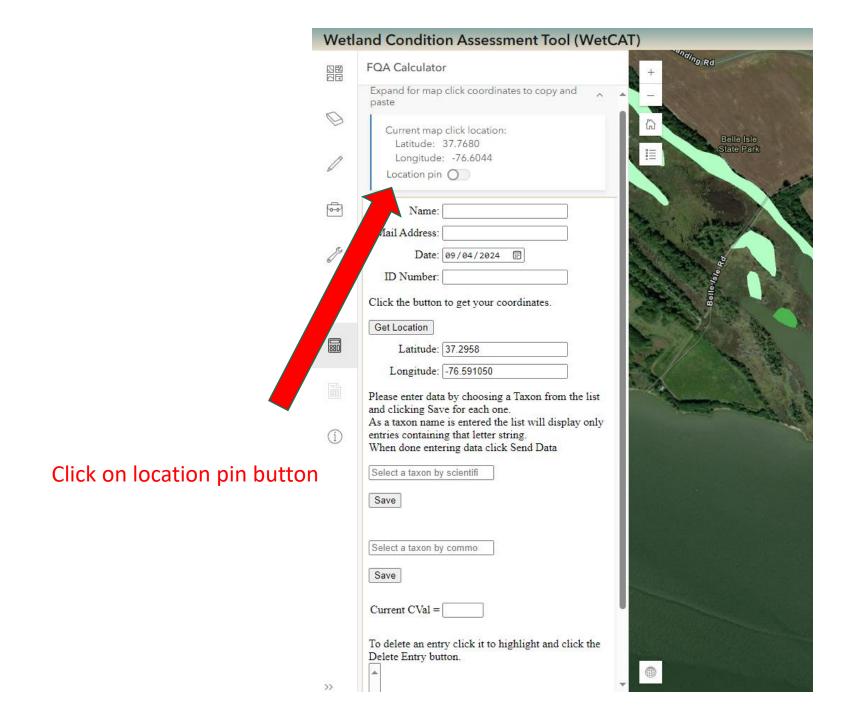
How to use the FQA Calculator



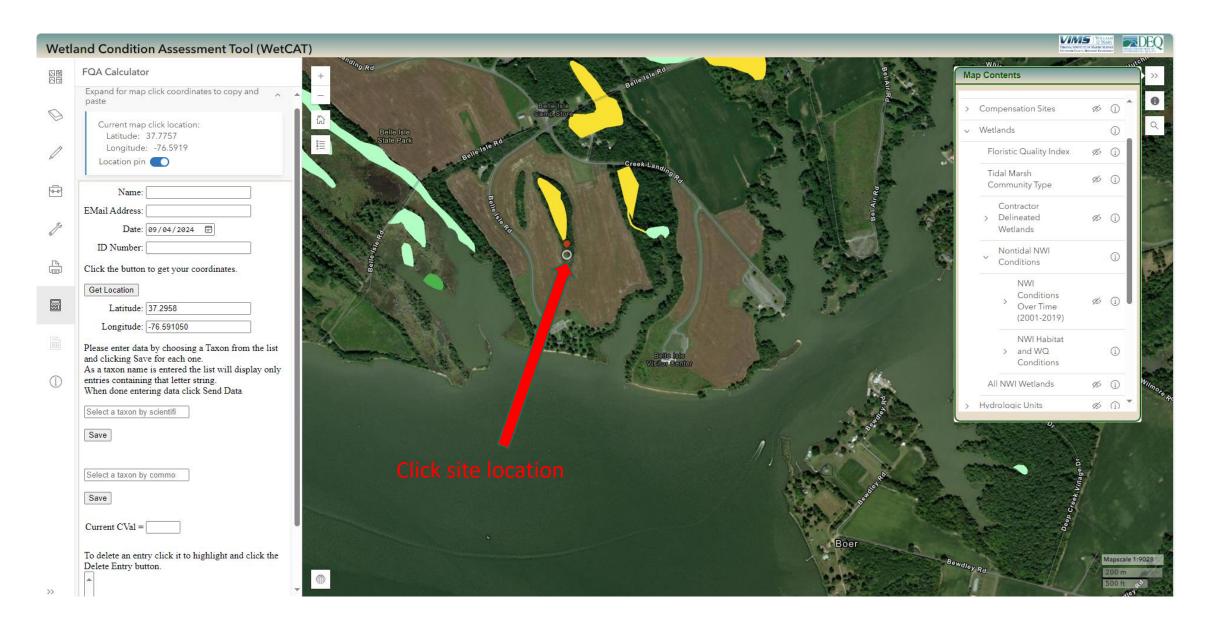


Click on drop down arrow

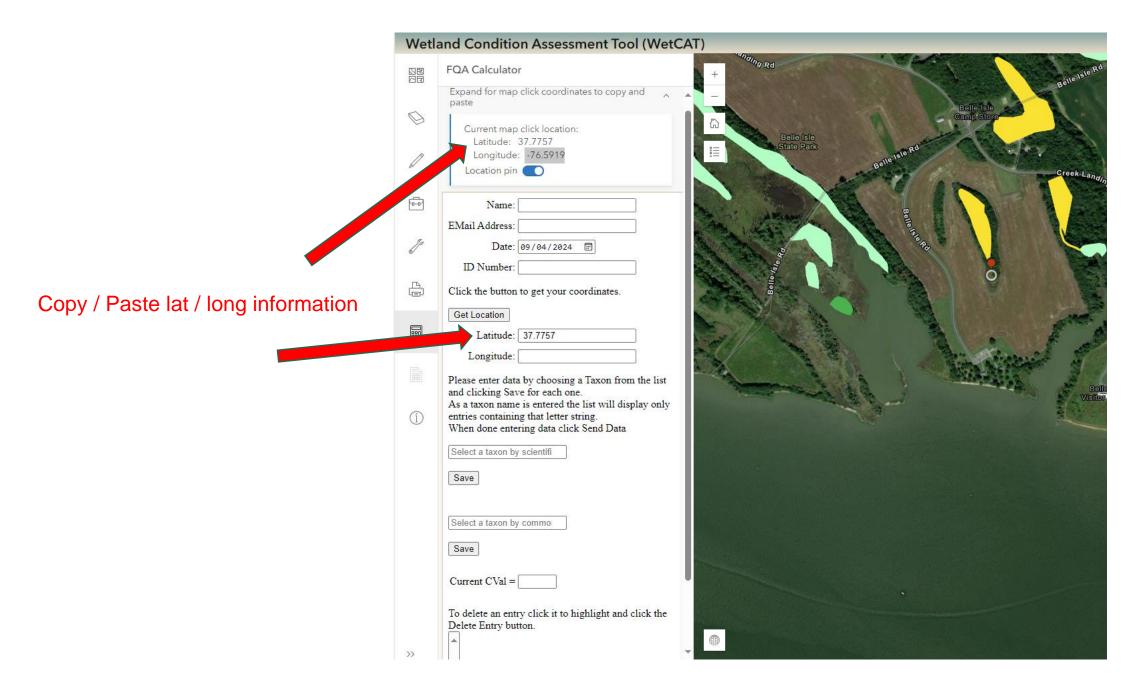








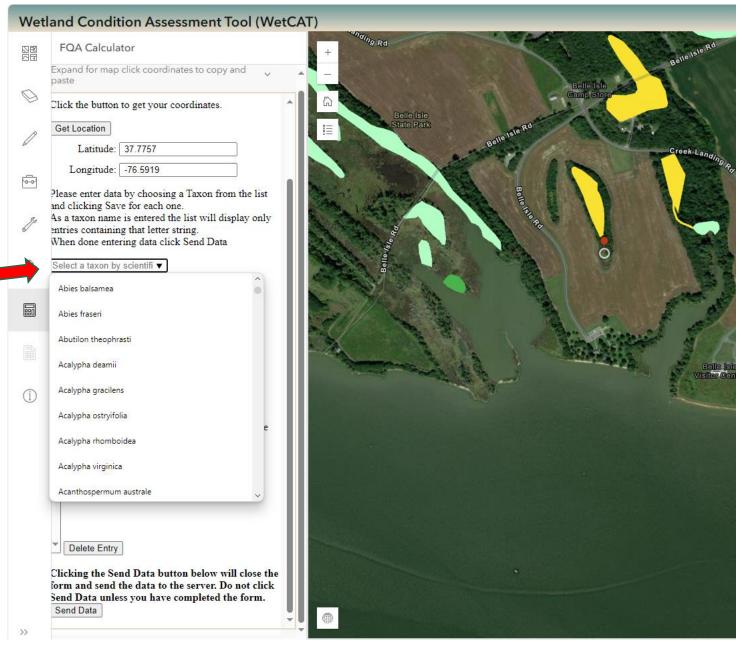






Choose your species

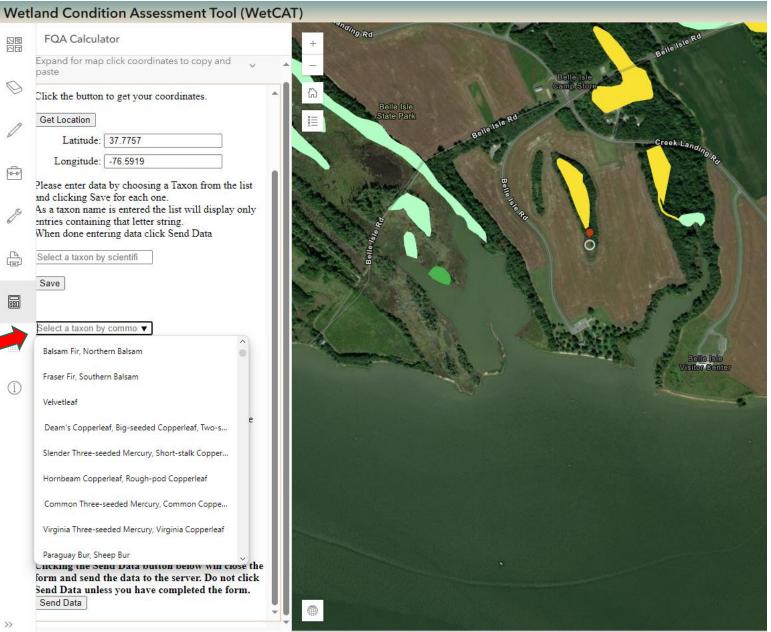
Click on drop down arrow for species list





Common Names Provided

Expand for map click coordinates to copy and Click the button to get your coordinates. Get Location and clicking Save for each one. entries containing that letter string. When done entering data click Send Data Select a taxon by scientifi Save elect a taxon by commo ▼ Balsam Fir, Northern Balsam Fraser Fir, Southern Balsam Velvetleaf You can also Click on the drop Deam's Copperleaf, Big-seeded Copperleaf, Two-s... down arrow for common names Slender Three-seeded Mercury, Short-stalk Copper... Hornbeam Copperleaf, Rough-pod Copperleaf Common Three-seeded Mercury, Common Coppe... Virginia Three-seeded Mercury, Virginia Copperleaf Paraguay Bur, Sheep Bur Send Data unless you have completed the form. Send Data





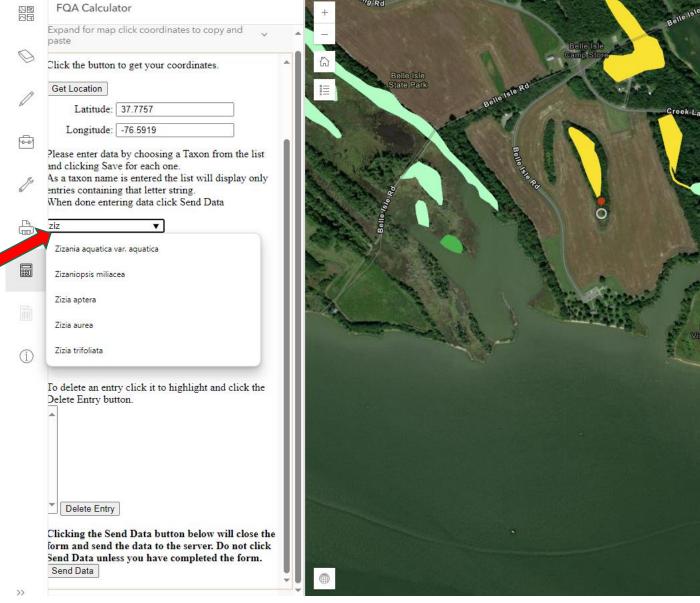
FQA Calculator

Latitude: 37.7757 Longitude: -76.5919

Provide Your Own

Or just start typing a species

name to self-populate the box

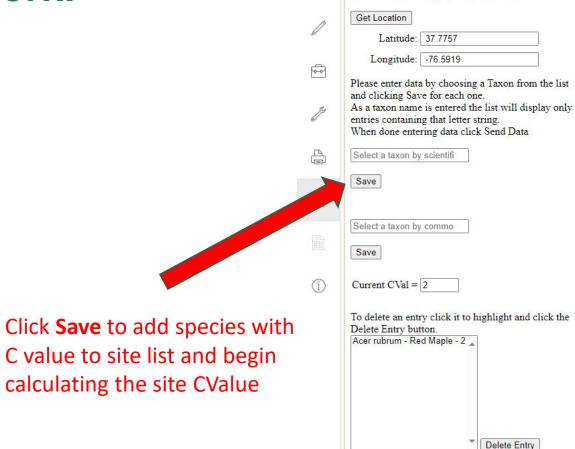


Wetland Condition Assessment Tool (WetCAT)





Save Your Work!



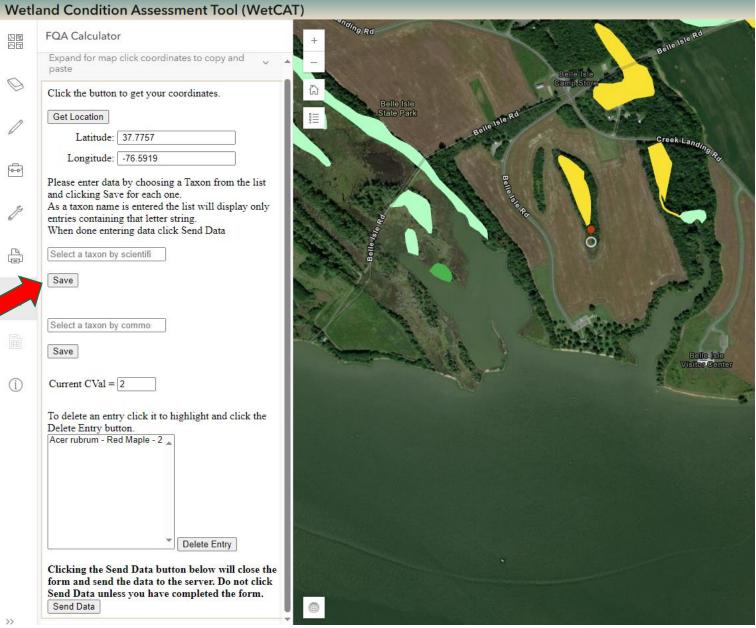
FQA Calculator

Expand for map click coordinates to copy and

Send Data unless you have completed the form.

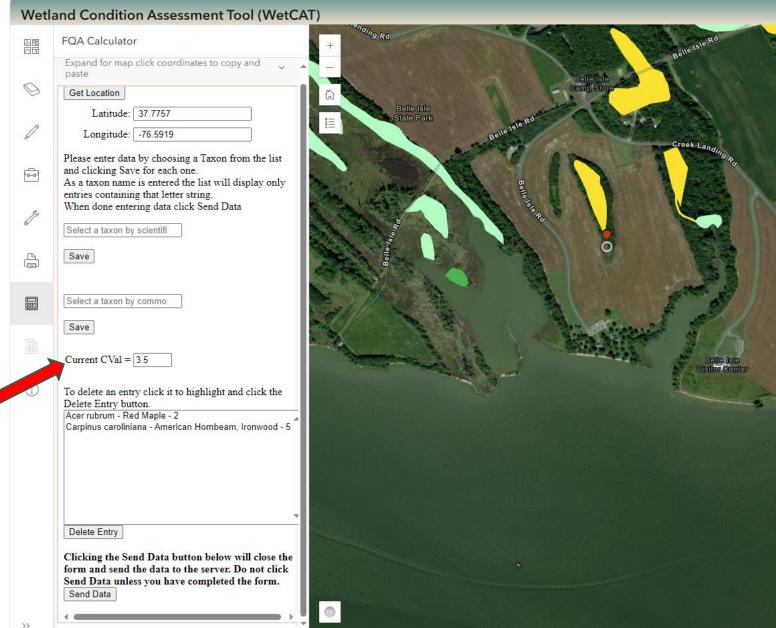
Click the button to get your coordinates.

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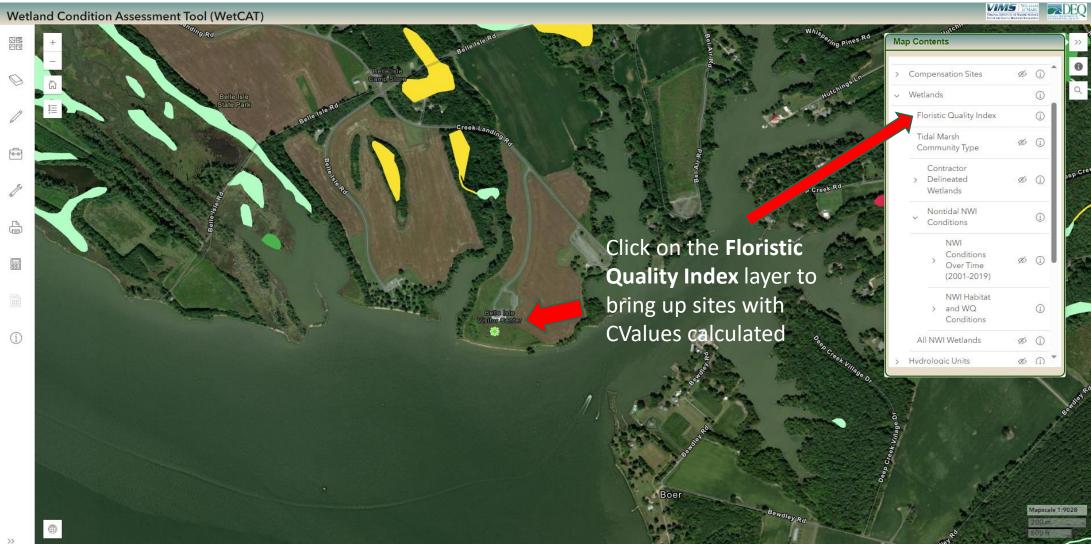
Send Data



As species are added, a running average CValue is calculated for the site

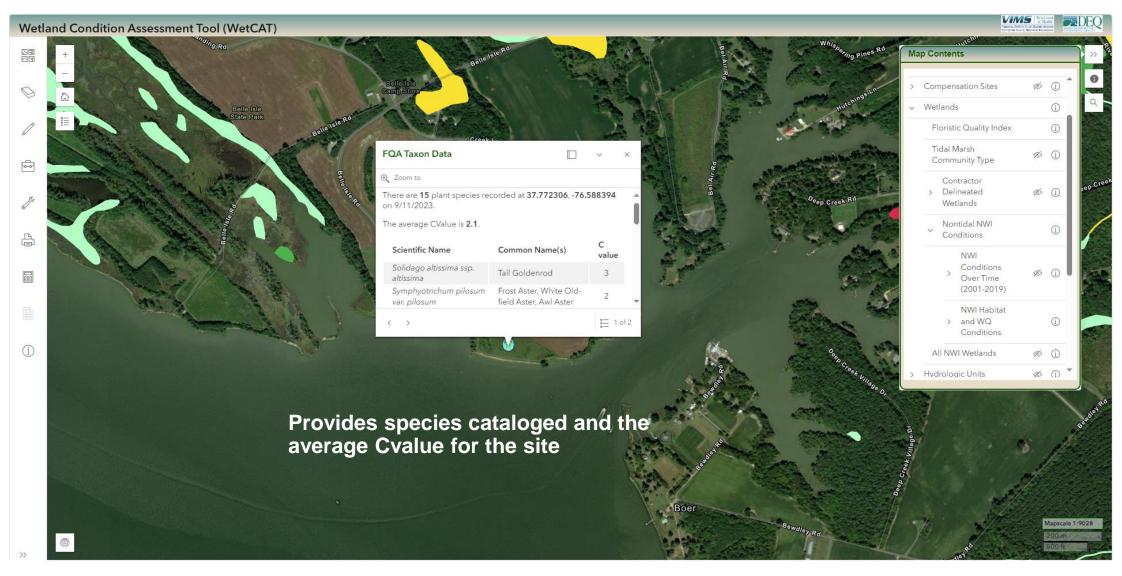


FQA Index Layer





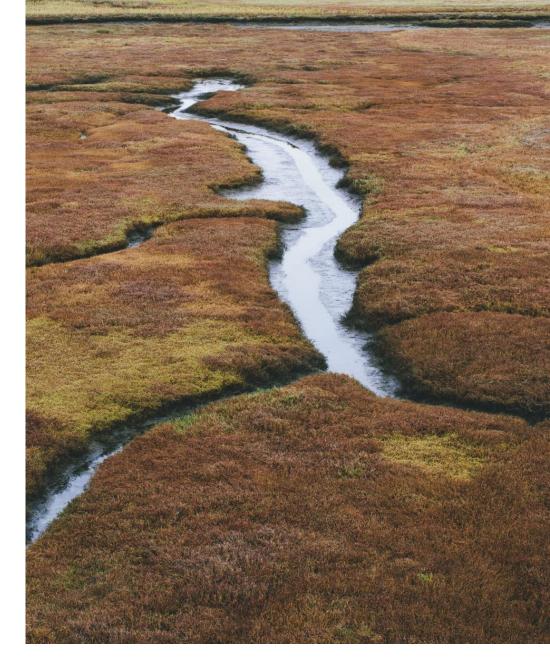
FQA Index Point Data





Grant Updates

- Completion of wetland condition analysis in the APNEP region.
- Re-calibration of wetland stressors and landcover surrounding wetland polygons in the Piedmont and Ridge & Valley physiographic region (30 randomly field assessed in Piedmont and 15 sites in Ridge & Valley).
- Inclusion of environmental justice demographics layers in WetCAT. Included as part of the Interagency Review Team (IRT) Mitigation Banking Siting Criteria.
- Enhanced metrics for tracking WetCAT utilization through web and social media tracking (story boards)
- FQA incorporated into WetCAT.
- Project add-on: Discussion of the inclusion of atrisk wetlands in WetCAT due to the recent Supreme Court Sackett decision.



Any Questions?



