



7 March 2022

Dear Eve Barnett,

The North Carolina Chapter of the Wildlife Society (NCTWS) is the professional society for wildlife biologists and managers in North Carolina, with over 250 members representing dozens of federal, state, and local agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations. As part of our mission, NCTWS “strives to be an acknowledged source of current scientific information and expertise, and acts as a collective voice on matters relating to wildlife biology, management, education, and policy. We commend the Department of Interior for creating the American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas, and more importantly, seeking input from conservation professionals and the public nationwide. Below are our organization’s top three recommendations for the atlas to help meet the core principles:

1. Incentivize states to help municipalities intentionally plan for green space and outdoor recreation opportunities in community plans.
2. Work with state wildlife agencies to monitor newly developed fishing streams and ponds in urban/suburban nature-deprived communities.
3. Use Farm Bill cost share reporting data to determine types of conservation practices implemented on private conservation lands.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our recommendations. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our chapter with questions.

Regards,

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