Ecologic Function

Coarse Scale Habitat – Other Habitat Types
Target –Ecologic Function

The purpose of setting a target related to this value is to ensure that the preferred scenario includes unique habitat types and features identified within the study area. These unique habitats include many vegetation communities which may or may not be abundant within the watershed or represent communities which are naturally rare.

Habitats that occur so infrequently on the landscape that they may be overlooked are important to the overall system since they often support a suite of species that occur nowhere else.

Datasets

1. NPCA NAI ELC Community Series Mapping

Other Habitat Types are determined by combining all of the non wooded, wetland, or successional community types from the ELC mapping. Other Habitat Types are sometimes referred to as unique ecological communities and include Alvars, Open Cliffs, Talus Slopes, Shorelines, Bluffs, Sand Barrens, and Dunes, Tallgrass Prairie, Tallgrass Savannah, Grasslands, Valleylands, Rock Barrens, and Coastal Wetlands.

Discussion
The discussion related to this target focused on the fact that these unique habitats make up a small percentage of the overall land area and therefore they should all be captured within in the preferred scenario.

Data Gap
None noted.

Decision
Date: May 5, 2011

100% of the identified unique habitats within the watershed.

Representation in the Learning Scenarios
It is difficult to comment on differences between scenarios in relation to this category of targets since they represent such a small area. In addition, there is virtually no change in their spatial representation between scenarios since they are found in very specific locations on the landscape and were targeted at 100% under most of the learning scenarios.

**Representation in the Final Scenarios**
Under the Baseline Scenario, Unique Habitat Types achieved 99.1% of the target value.

Figure 19: Other Unique Habitat Types Performance Relative to Science Thresholds
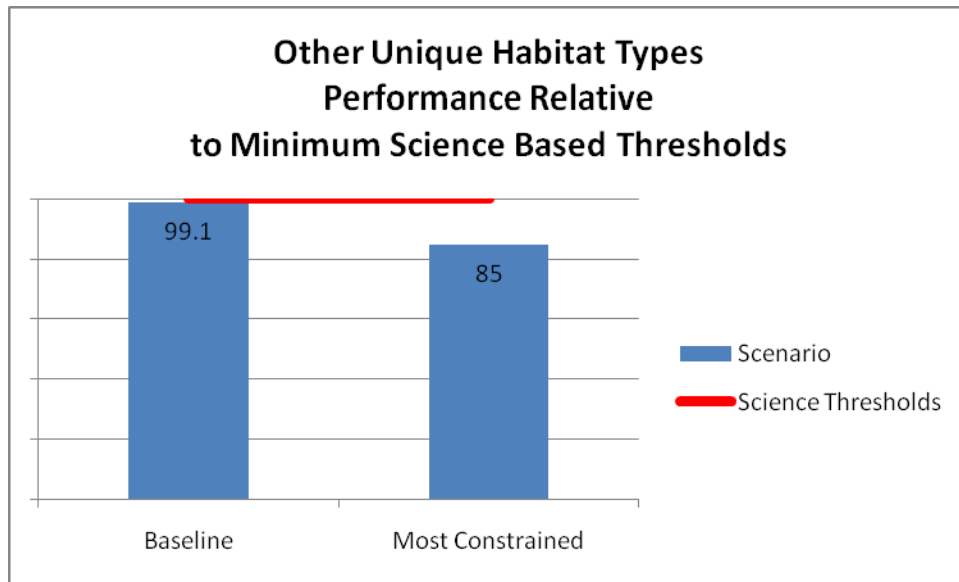
Under the Most Constrained Scenario, Unique Habitat Types achieved 85.0% of the target value, and 85.8% of the value held by the Baseline.

Figure 20: Other Unique Habitat Types Performance Relative to Baseline Comparator
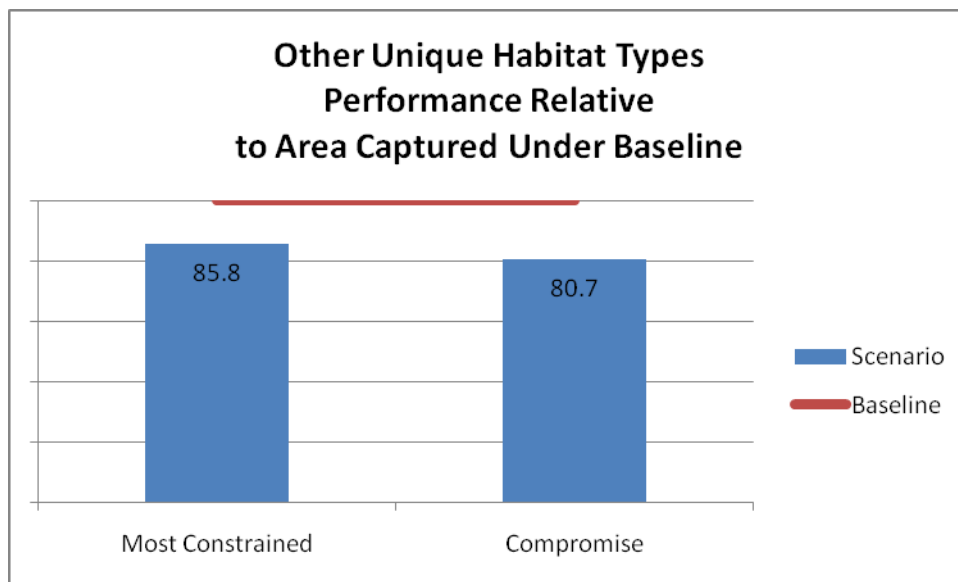
Under the Compromise Scenario, Unique Habitat Types achieved 80.7% of the value in the Baseline.

Recommendations

None noted.