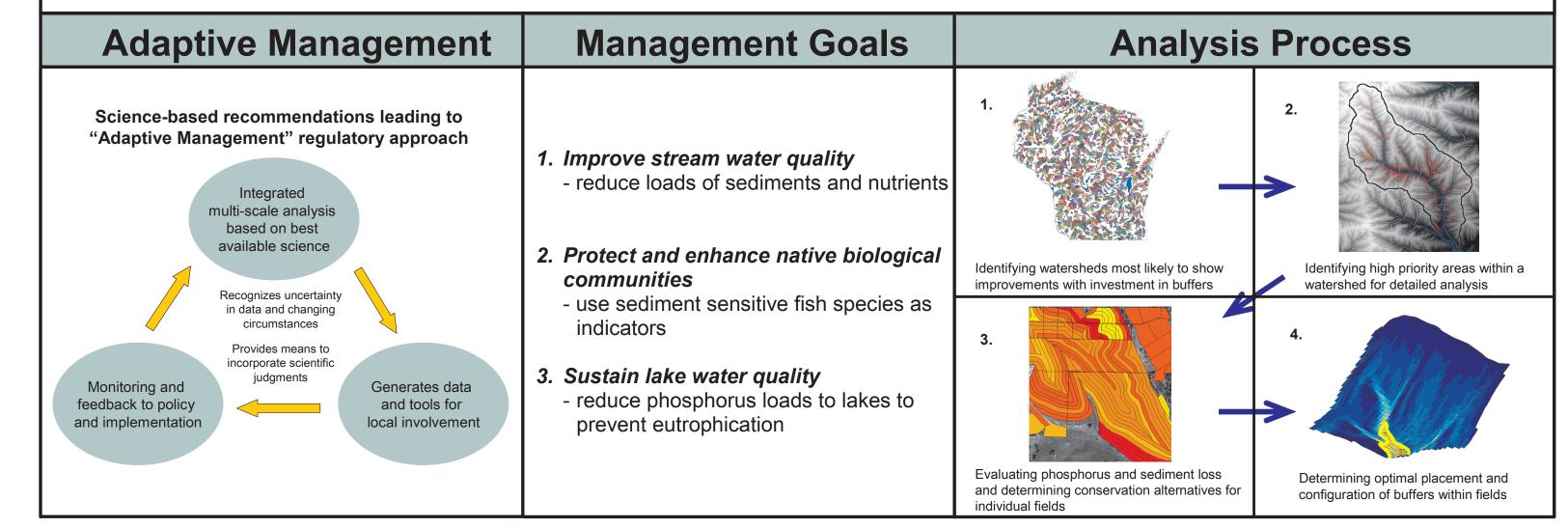
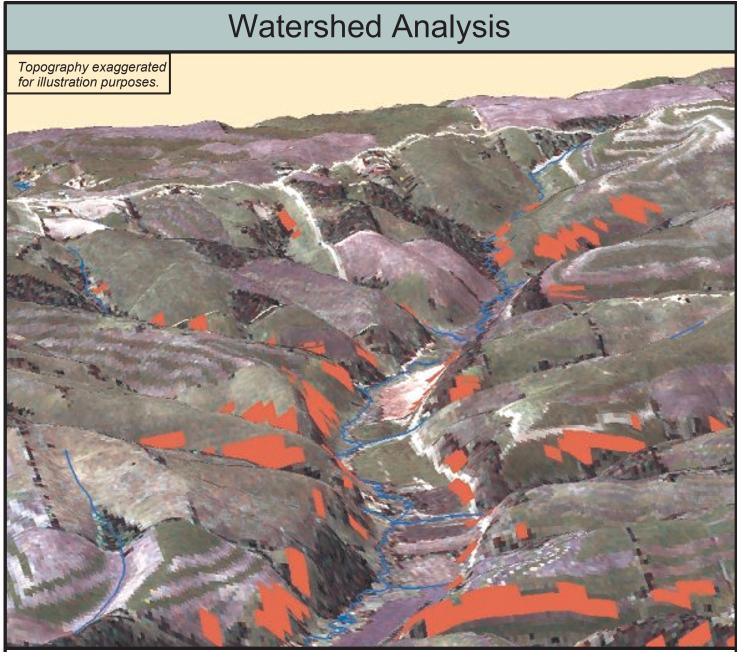
## Wisconsin Buffer Initiative

## WBI Statewide Watershed Ranking Map Legend WBI Watershed Ranking Process Wisconsin watersheds between 8 and 40 square miles are separately evaluated on their potential to accomplish the three WBI management goals. A ranked list of watershed is created. Top-ranked groups of watersheds have the greatest likelihood of responding to buffers and related conservation practices.

## Wisconsin Buffer Initiative Project Description

The Wisconsin Buffer Initiative (WBI) is an effort to make science-based recommendations to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the development of state rules governing agricultural pollution. Under the guidance of a broadly representative advisory committee, researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison provide ideas and approaches at four scales. The overall goal is to identify areas where buffers, in conjunction with other conservation practices, have the greatest likelihood of reducing water quality degradation.





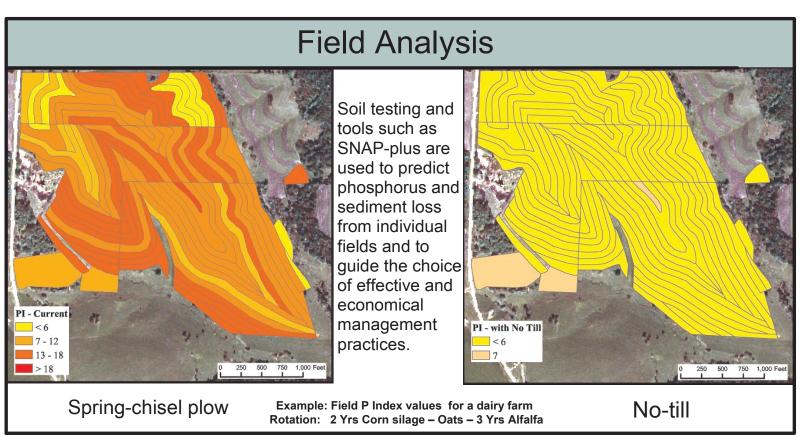
Soil and phosphorus delivery are calculated for all fields in a selected watershed, beginning with the areas that are most vulnerable to erosion (shown above in red) according to a GIS-based USLE analysis.

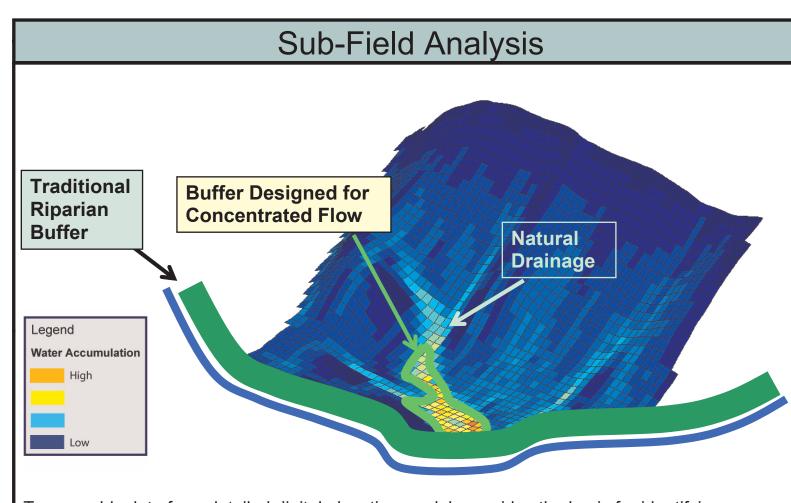
## **Credits and Contacts**

- **University of Wisconsin-Madison**
- WBI Principal Investigator: Pete Nowak
- WBI Researchers: John Norman, Larry Bundy, Laura Ward Good, K.G. Karthikeyan Jake Vander Zanden, Jeff Maxted, Matt Diebel, Christine Molling, Steve Ventura
- Map Design and Development: Steve Ventura and Ben Webb

WBI website: http://www.drs.wisc.edu/wbi/

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Topographic data from detailed digital elevation models provides the basis for identifying areas of convergent flow and locating buffers for greatest affect. Grass waterways and buffers in these areas are more effective and may be more economical than simple "ribbons" of grass between fields and streams (riparian buffers).