



# The Blackbird- Millington Corridor

A Shared Vision  
for Preserving  
It's Heritage

November 2004

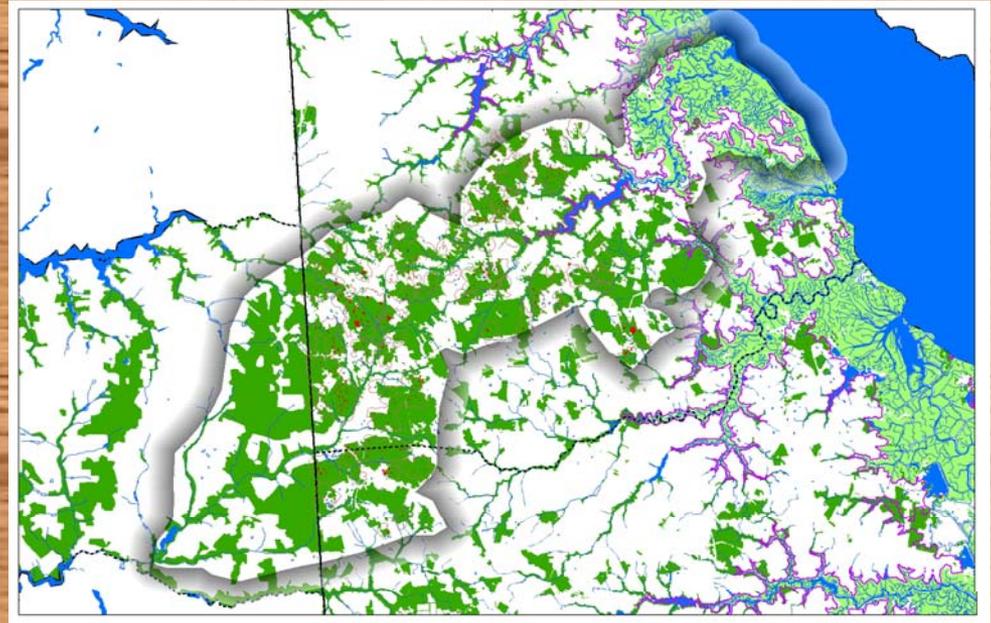
# Why the Corridor?

- Concentration of important natural resources & features.
- History of balanced stewardship.
- Investment in conservation that indicates a likelihood of success



# Why the Corridor: Concentration of Natural Features

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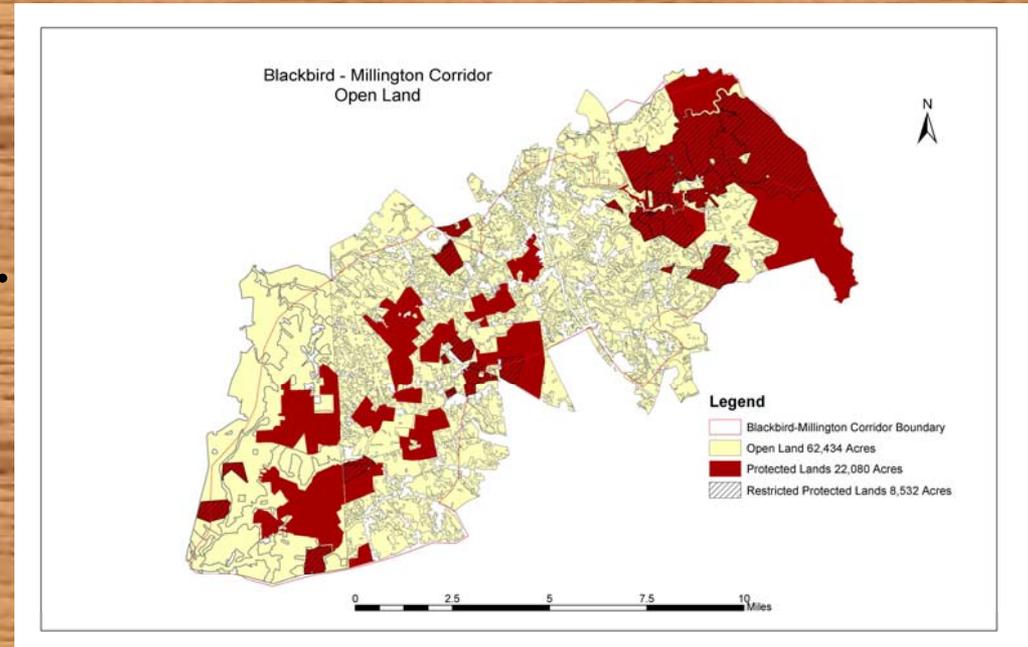
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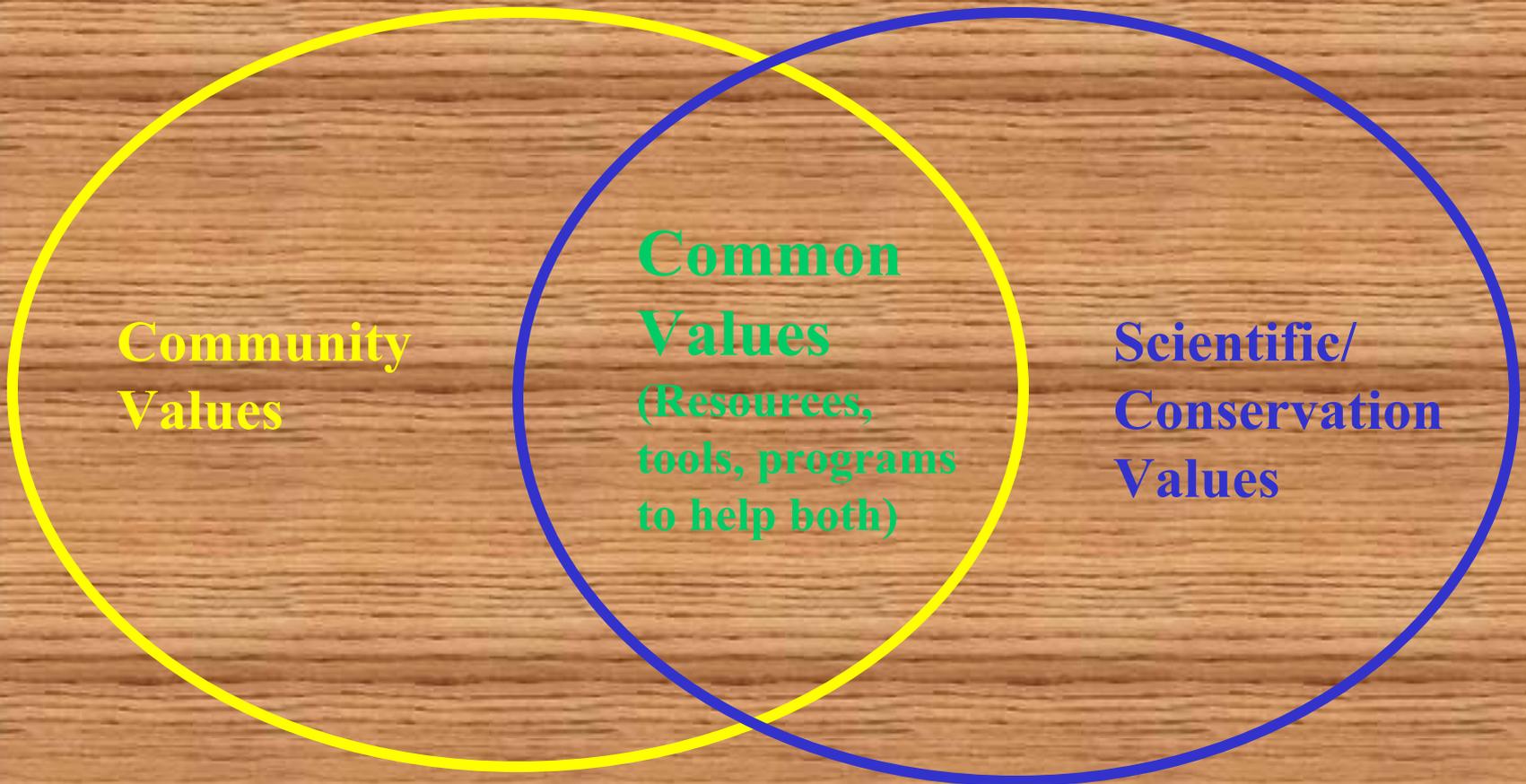


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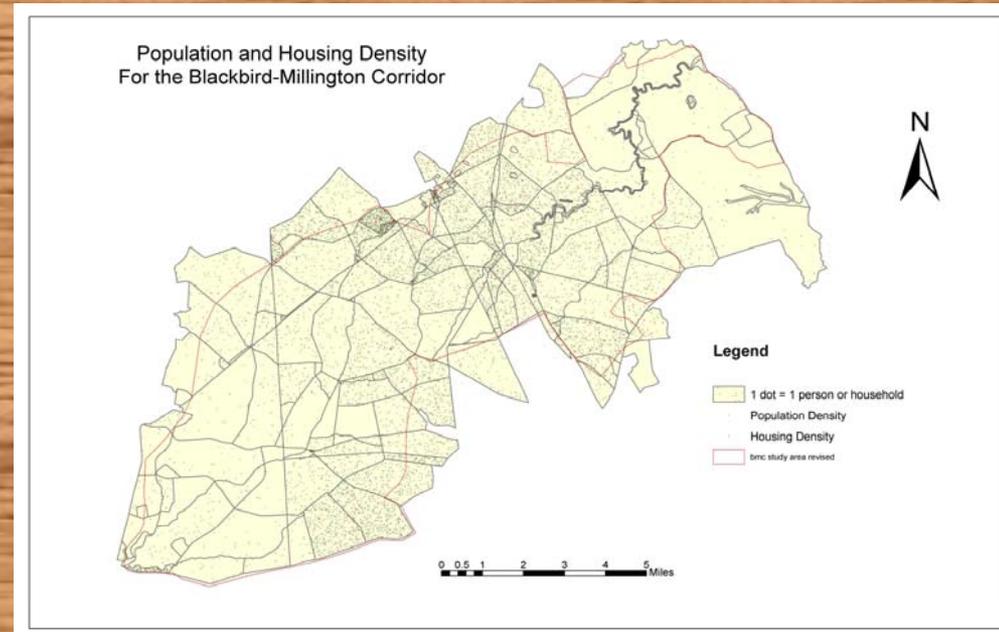


# Why Community-Based Conservation Planning?



# Who is the Community?

- 7,049 residents; 25% children, 10% seniors
- 2,550 households; 90% owner-occupied.
- Own and steward 75% of land in the Corridor.



125+ people participated in workshops, focus groups, and field field trips this year.

# Community Values

- Open space and privacy
- Enjoyment of nature at home and nearby
- Clean air and water
- Support for Agriculture
- Community Connections

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Almost 9 acres of open land per person

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Over 20% of open space open to public

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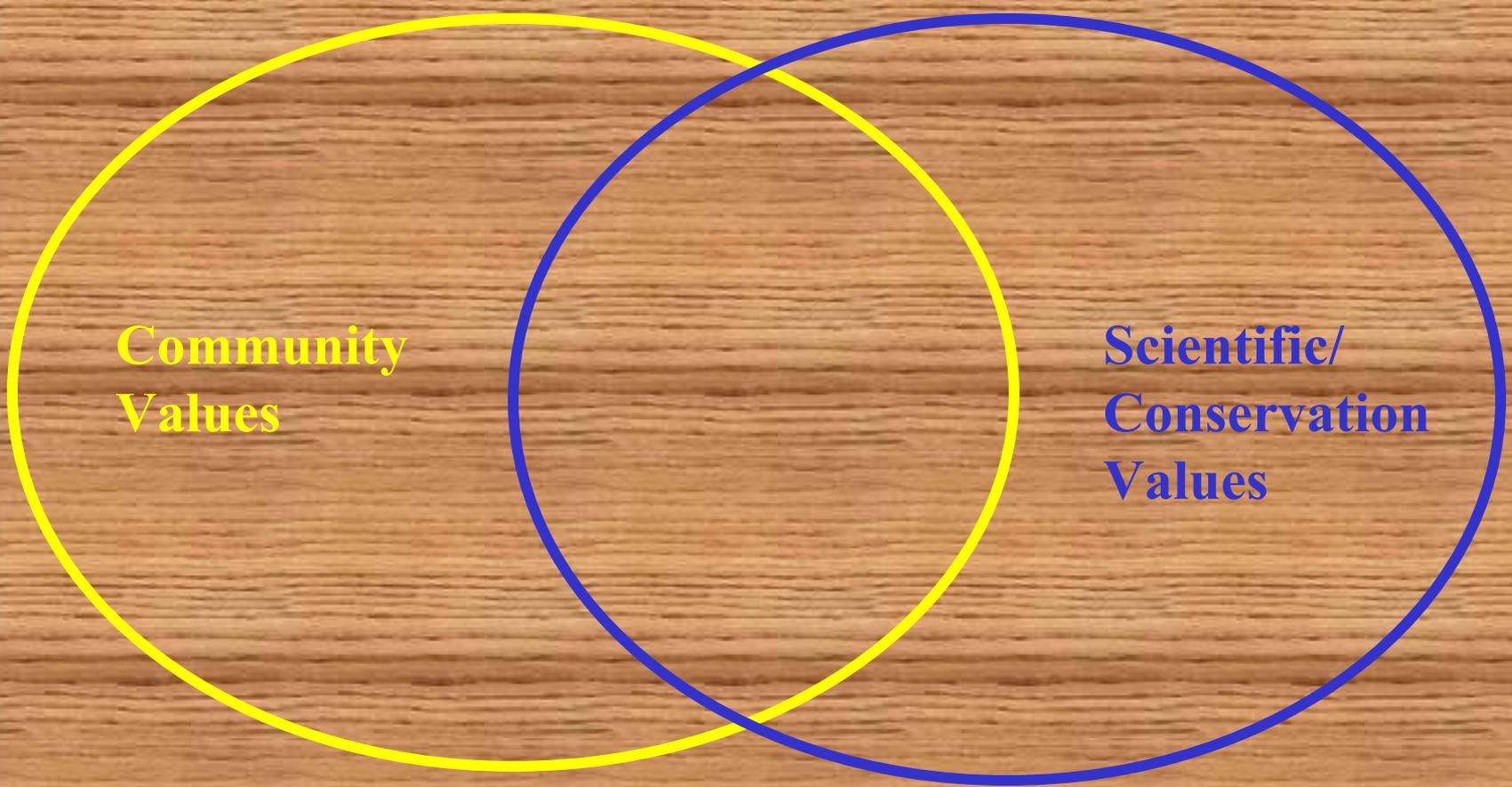


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**Voluntary, non-regulatory programs/actions that acknowledge property rights and values!**

# Why Community-Based Conservation Planning?



**Community  
Values**

**Scientific/  
Conservation  
Values**

# Who are the scientists & conservationists?

- Delaware DNREC, Divisions of Fish & Wildlife, Water Resources, Soil & Water Conservation
  - Delaware Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
  - Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation
  - Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve
  - US Fish & Wildlife Service
  - US Geological Survey
  - University of Delaware
  - Maryland DNR, Wildlife & Heritage Service
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
  - Delaware Nature Society
  - Chester River Association
  - Ducks Unlimited
  - The Conservation Fund
  - Delaware Wildlands
  - St. Andrew's School
  - Chesapeake Fields
  - Kent County (DE) Division of Planning
  - Kent County (MD) Planning & Zoning
  - New Castle County Dept. of Land Use
  - Wilmapco
  - Delaware Department of Transportation
  - Delaware Economic Development Office
  - Delaware Governor's Office
  - Rep. Bethany Hall-Long
  - Congressman Wayne Gilchrest's office
- with input and assistance from...* →

# Science/Conservation Values

- Coastal Matrix  
Mixed Hardwood  
Forests
- Coastal Plain Pond  
Communities
- Riparian Corridors
- Tidal Wetlands

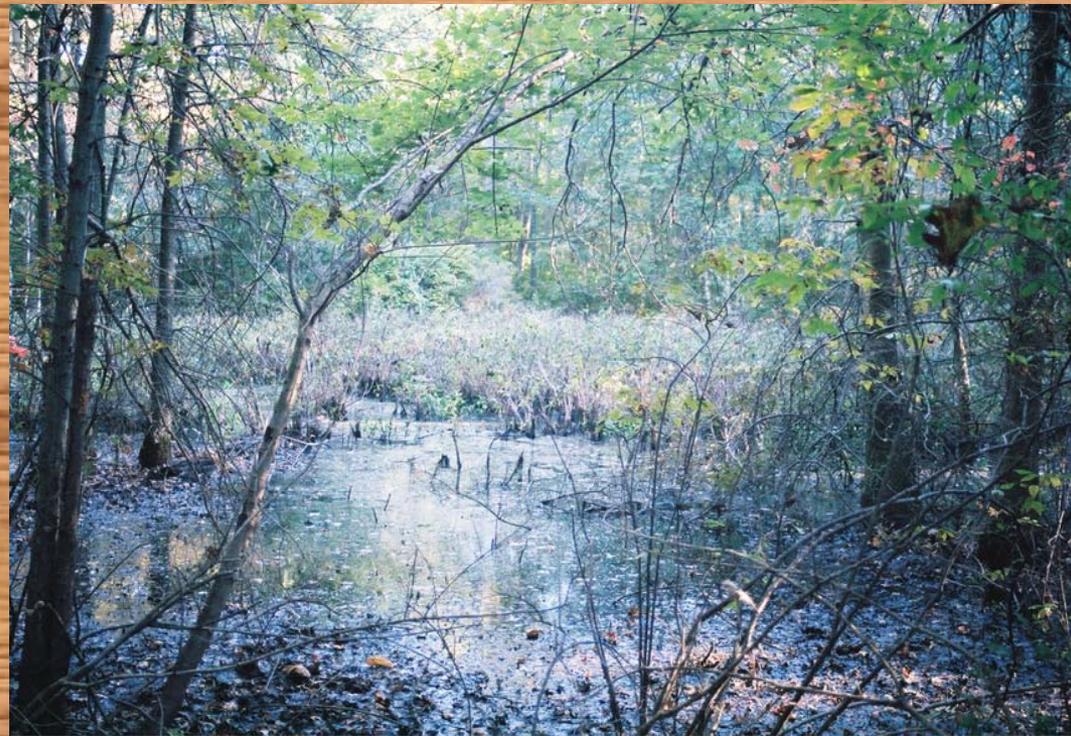
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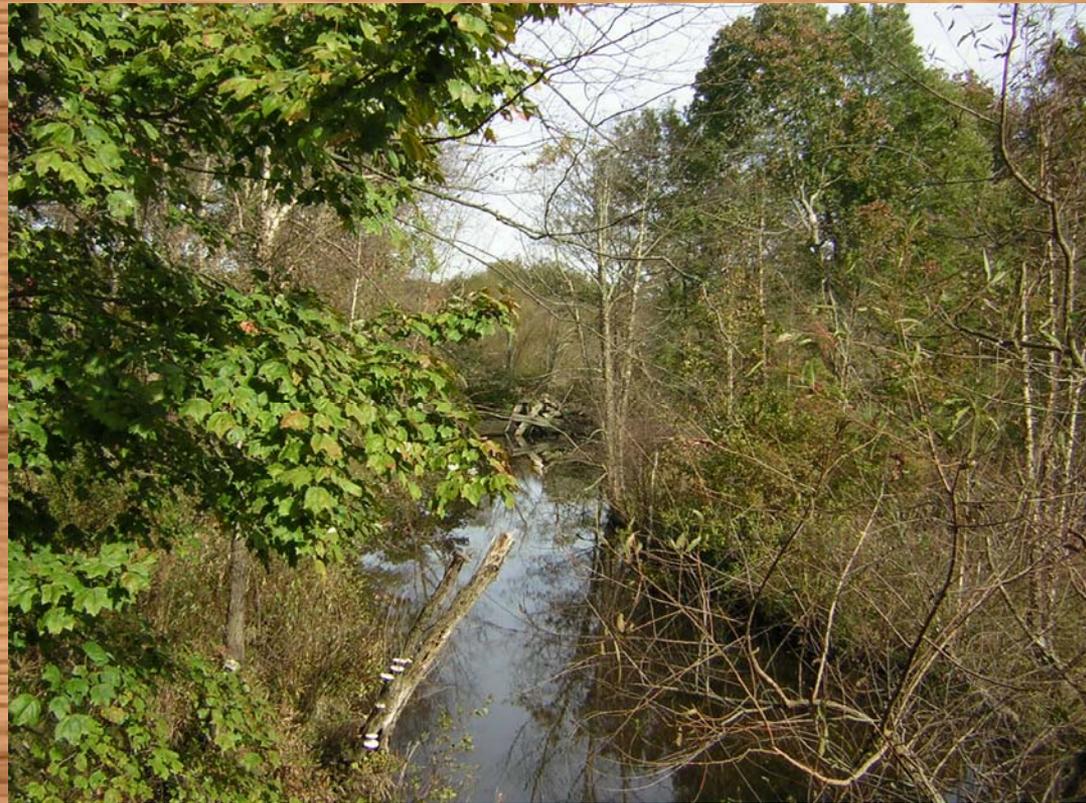
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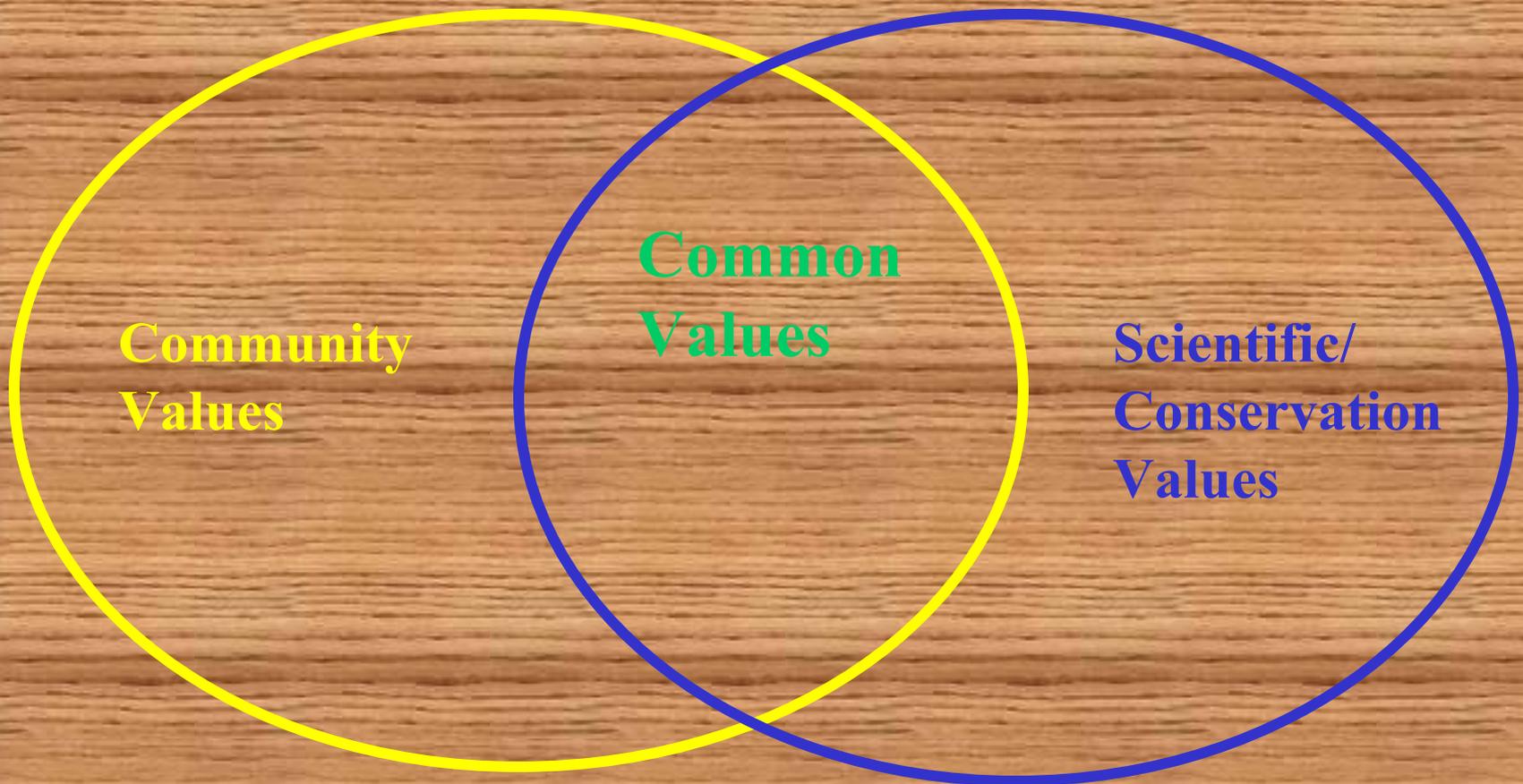


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# Community Based Planning



# FORESTS - A Common Value

## Community

- Privacy, recreation, and hunting opportunities
- Clean air for people by removing carbon
- Clean water by filtering pollutants
- Contribute to the agricultural economy

## Scientific/Conservation

- Clean air for plants & animals
- Clean water for plants and animals
- Mature forests provide critical habitat
- Forested buffers provide critical habitat

**We have only 20% of our native forests left today!**

# CONSERVATION ZONES

Forest Conservation Zone - GREEN - Focus on protecting and linking mature forest communities and the coastal plain ponds and streams they protect

Buffer Conservation Zone - BLUE - Focus on protecting and enhancing forested buffers along streams, wetlands, and coastal plain ponds

Working Lands Conservation Zone - YELLOW - focus on protecting and maintaining working farms and forests

# What puts stress on our forests?

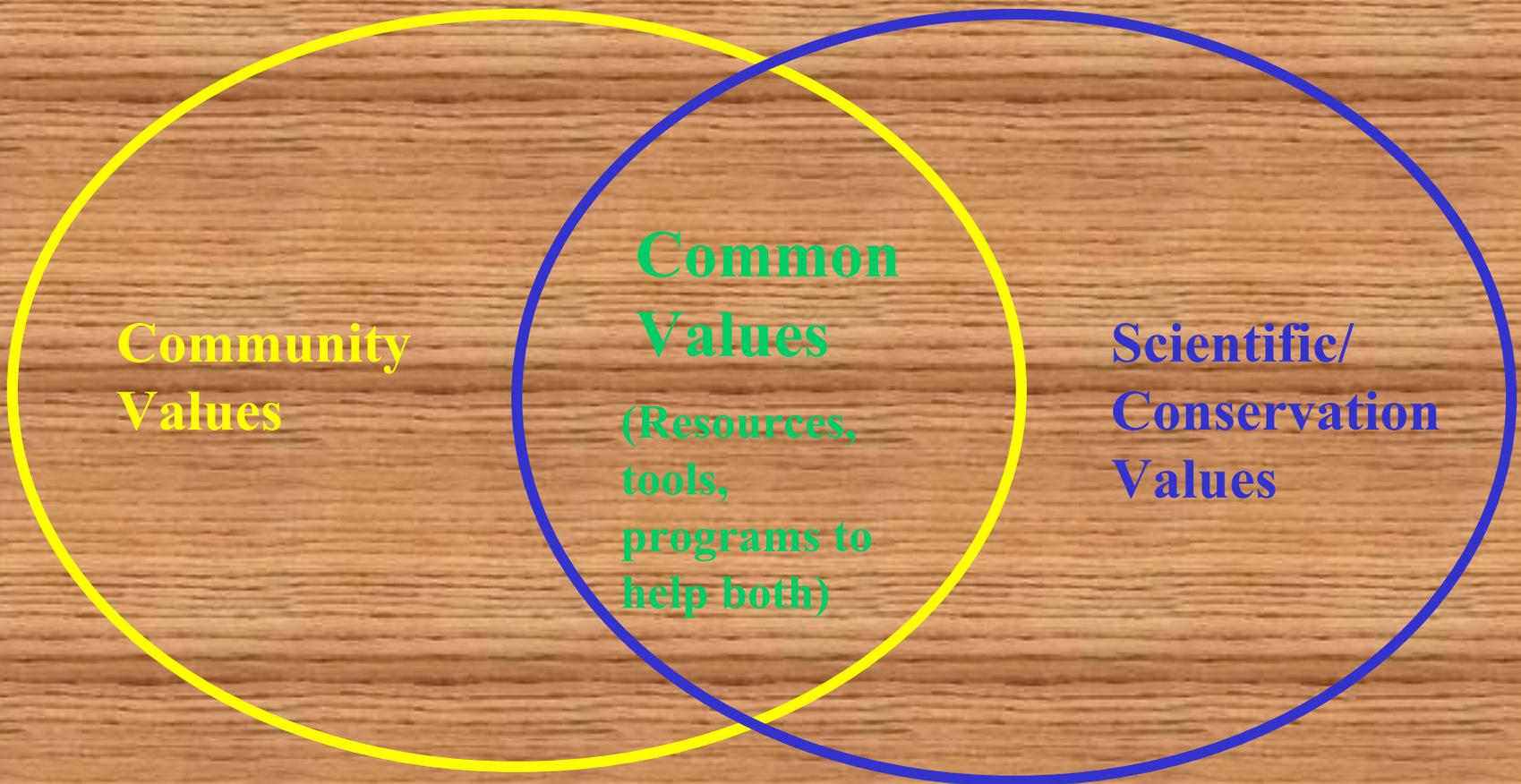
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- Unsustainable management practices (forestry, farming, or homeowners)
- Invasive/alien species
- Road construction/upgrades

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- Foster Alternatives
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# More about the strategies...

- Almost 40 different DRAFT strategies involving variety of people, agencies, organizations.
- Visit “Strategy Stations” hosted by some of those people/agencies/organizations.
- Use feedback forms voice your feedback, questions, or concerns - we want your input.
- Convene back together in 30-45 minutes.

# How can you help keep our forests here and healthy?

- Input & support for management of public lands
- Support for use of public dollars to preserve and manage land.
- Direct impact on how private lands are managed and whether or not they are preserved.
- Impact on communication and education within the community.
- Direct participation in conservation programs/efforts that provide resources and/or assistance.

# How can you help keep our forests here and healthy?

- *Would you be willing to...* Talk to your elected representatives to support legislation and/or local planning efforts to benefit Corridor conservation?
- ...Participate in protection, restoration, and education programs that provide technical/financial support?
- ...Allow researchers to access your property to learn more about wildlife habitat?
- ...Receive mailings, attend future events: what do you want to hear/learn about?

# What's Next?

- Feedback on strategies by the beginning of December.
- Plan complete by end of the year.
- Executive Summary complete and mailed in January.
- Implementation in 2005 and beyond!



# Blackbird-Millington Corridor Conservation Planning

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SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH