

The pages in this document were taken from the "Corsica River Watershed Characterization" published in October 2003. The entire document can be found at [http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/download/bays/cr\\_char.pdf](http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/download/bays/cr_char.pdf).

# Corsica River Watershed Characterization

**Excerpt Showing an Example of Material that  
Can be Included in the Appendix**

**October 2003**

## REFERENCES

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## GLOSSARY

303(d)	A section of the federal Clean Water Act requiring the states to report which waters of the state are considered impaired for the uses for which they have been designated, and the reasons for the impairment. Waters included in the “303(d) list” are candidates for having TMDLs developed for them.
319	A section of the federal Clean Water Act dealing with non-point sources of pollution. The number is often used alone as either a noun or an adjective to refer to some aspect of that section of the law, such as grants.
8-digit watershed	Maryland has divided the state into 138 watersheds, each comprising an average of about 75 square miles, that are known as 8-digit watersheds because there are 8 numbers in the identification number each has been given. These nest into the 21 larger 6-digit watersheds in Maryland which are also called Tributary Basins or River Basins. Within the Chesapeake Bay drainage, 8-digit watersheds also nest into 10 Tributary Team Basins.
Anadromous fish	Fish that live most of their lives in salt water but migrate upstream into fresh water to spawn.
Benthic	Living on the bottom of a body of water.
CBIG	Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant Program, a DNR-administered program that awards grants from the Chesapeake Bay Program to reduce and prevent pollution and to improve the living resources in the Chesapeake Bay.
CBNERR	The Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in a federal, state and local partnership to protect valuable estuarine habitats for research, monitoring and education. The Maryland Reserve has three components: Jug Bay on the Patuxent River in Anne Arundel and Prince Georges' Counties, Otter Point Creek in Harford County and Monie Bay in Somerset County.
COMAR	Code Of Maryland Regulations (Maryland State regulations)
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, a program of MDA. CREP is a federal/state and private partnership which reimburses farmers at above normal rental rates for establishing riparian forest or grass buffers, planting permanent cover on sensitive agricultural lands and restoring wetlands for the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

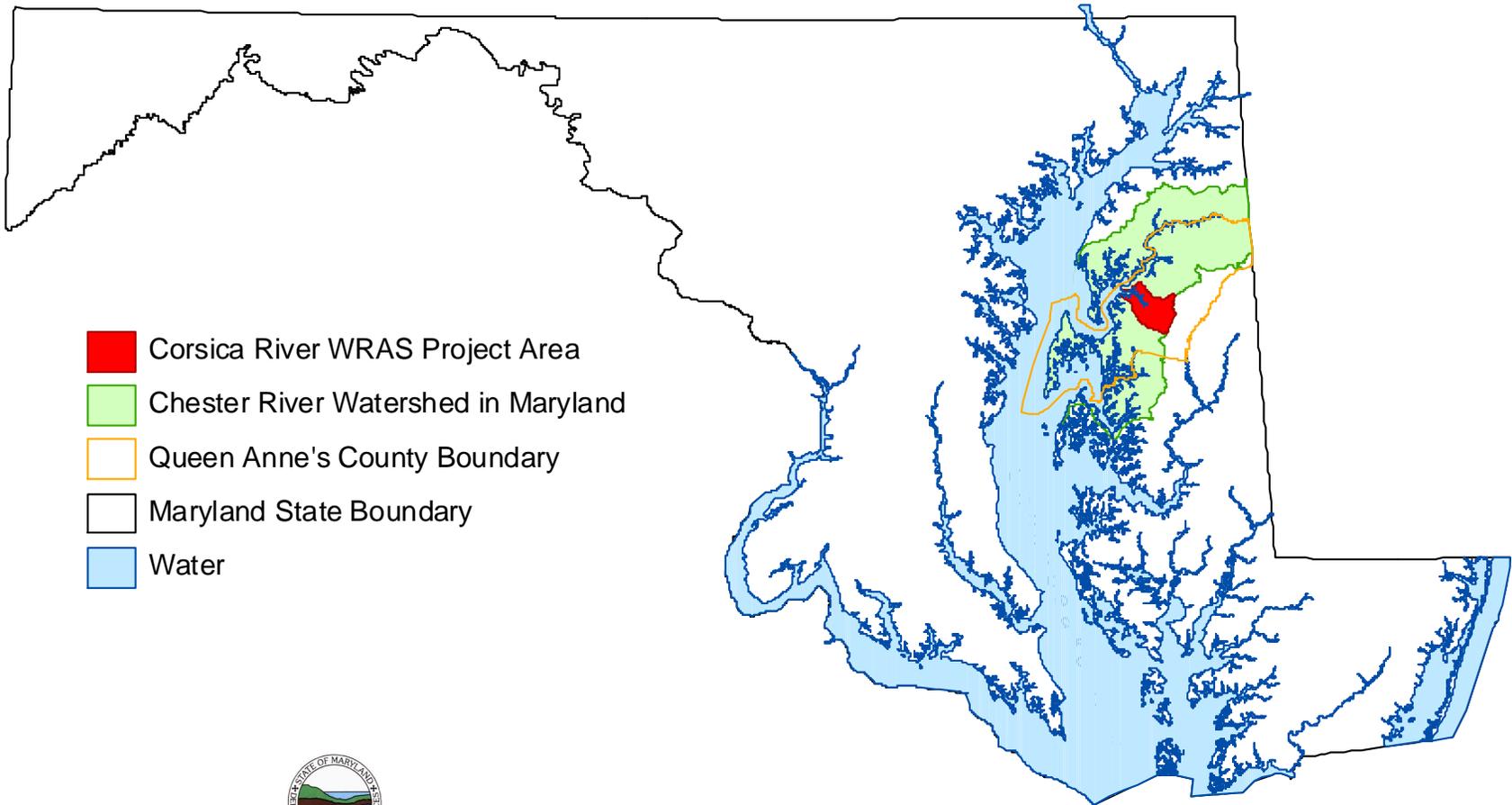
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program, a program of Farm Service Agency in cooperation with local Soil Conservation Districts. CRP encourages farmers to take highly erodible and other environmentally-sensitive farm land out of production for ten to fifteen years.
CWAP	Clean Water Action Plan, promulgated by EPA in 1998. It mandates a statewide assessment of watershed conditions and provides for development of Watershed Restoration Action Strategies (WRASs) for priority watersheds deemed in need of restoration
CWiC	Chesapeake 2000 Agreement watershed commitments. CWiC is a shorthand phrase used in the Chesapeake Bay Program.
CZARA	The Coastal Zone Reauthorization Amendments of 1990, intended to address coastal non-point source pollution. Section 6217 of CZARA established that each state with an approved Coastal Zone Management program must develop and submit a Coastal Non-Point Source program for joint EPA/NOAA approval in order to “develop and implement management measures for NPS pollution to restore and protect coastal waters”.
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, establishing a program for states and territories to voluntarily develop comprehensive programs to protect and manage coastal resources (including the Great Lakes). Federal funding is available to states with approved programs.
Conservation Easement	A legal document recorded in the local land records office that specifies conditions and/or restrictions on the use of and title to a parcel of land. Conservation easements run with the title of the land and typically restrict development and protect natural attributes of the parcel. Easements may stay in effect for a specified period of time, or they may run into perpetuity.
DNR	Department of Natural Resources (Maryland State)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (United States)
ESA	Ecologically Significant Area, an imprecisely defined area in which DNR has identified the occurrence of rare, threatened and/or endangered species of plants or animals, or of other important natural resources such as rookeries and waterfowl staging areas.
Fish blockage	An impediment, usually man-made, to the migration of fish in a stream, such as a dam or weir, or a culvert or other structure in the stream

GIS	Geographic Information System, a computerized method of capturing, storing, analyzing, manipulating and presenting geographical data.
MBSS	Maryland Biological Stream Survey, a program in DNR that samples small streams throughout the state to assess the condition of their living resources.
MDA	Maryland Department of Agriculture
MDE	Maryland Department of the Environment
MDP	Maryland Department of Planning
MET	Maryland Environmental Trust, an organization that holds conservation easements on private lands and assists local land trusts to do similar land protection work.
MGS	Maryland Geological Survey, a division in DNR.
NHA	Natural Heritage Area, a particular type of DNR land holding, designated in COMAR.
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the US Department of Commerce that, among other things, supports the Coastal Zone Management program, a source of funding for some local environmental activities, including restoration work.
NPS	Non-Point Source, pollution that originates in the landscape that is not collected and discharged through an identifiable outlet.
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service, formerly the Soil Conservation Service, an agency of the US Department of Agriculture that, through local Soil Conservation Districts, provides technical assistance to help farmers develop conservation systems suited to their land. NRCS participates as a partner in other community-based resource protection and restoration efforts.
PDA	Public Drainage Association
Palustrine Wetlands	Fresh water wetlands, including bogs, marshes and shallow ponds.
RAS	Resource Assessment Service, a unit of DNR that carries out a range of monitoring and assessment activities affecting the aquatic environment.

Riparian Area	1. Land adjacent to a stream. 2. Riparian areas are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and are distinguished by gradients in biophysical conditions, ecological processes, and biota. They are areas through which surface and subsurface hydrology connect waterbodies with their adjacent uplands. They include those portions of terrestrial ecosystems that significantly influence exchanges of energy and matter with aquatic ecosystems (i.e. a zone of influence). Riparian areas are adjacent to perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams, lakes, and estuarine-marine shorelines. (National Research Council, <i>Riparian Areas: Functions and Strategies for Management</i> . Executive Summary page 3. 2002)
SAV	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, important shallow-water sea grasses that serve as a source of food and shelter for many species of fin- and shell-fish.
SCA[M]	Stream Corridor Assessment is an activity carried out by DNR Watershed Services in support of WRAS development and other management needs, in which trained personnel walk up stream channels noting important physical features and possible sources of problems.
SCD	Soil Conservation District is a county-based, self-governing body whose purpose is to provide technical assistance and advice to farmers and landowners on the installation of soil conservation practices and the management of farmland to prevent erosion.
Synoptic survey	A short term sampling of water quality and analysis of those samples to measure selected water quality parameters. A synoptic survey as performed by DNR in support of watershed planning may be expanded to include additional types of assessment like benthic macroinvertebrate sampling or physical habitat assessment.
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load, a determination by MDE of the upper limit of one or more pollutants that can be added to a particular body of water beyond which water quality would be deemed impaired.
Tributary Teams	Geographically-focused groups, appointed by the Governor, oriented to each of the 10 major Chesapeake Bay tributary basins found in Maryland. The teams focus on policy, legislation, hands-on implementation of projects, and public education. Each basin has a plan, or Tributary Strategy.
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in the Department of Interior.
USGS	United States Geological Survey

Water Quality Standard	Surface water quality standards consist of two parts: (a) designated uses of each water body; and (b) water quality criteria necessary to support the designated uses. Designated uses of for all surface waters in Maryland (like shell fish harvesting or public water supply) are defined in regulation. Water quality criteria may be qualitative (like “no objectionable odors”) or quantitative (toxic limitations or dissolved oxygen requirements).
Watershed	All the land that drains to an identified body of water or point on a stream.
WRAS	Watershed Restoration Action Strategy, a document outlining the condition of a designated watershed, identifying problems and committing to solutions of prioritized problems.
WSSC	Wetland of Special State Concern, a designation by MDE in COMAR.

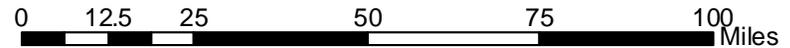
# Map 1 Location Corsica River WRAS Project Area



-  Corsica River WRAS Project Area
-  Chester River Watershed in Maryland
-  Queen Anne's County Boundary
-  Maryland State Boundary
-  Water

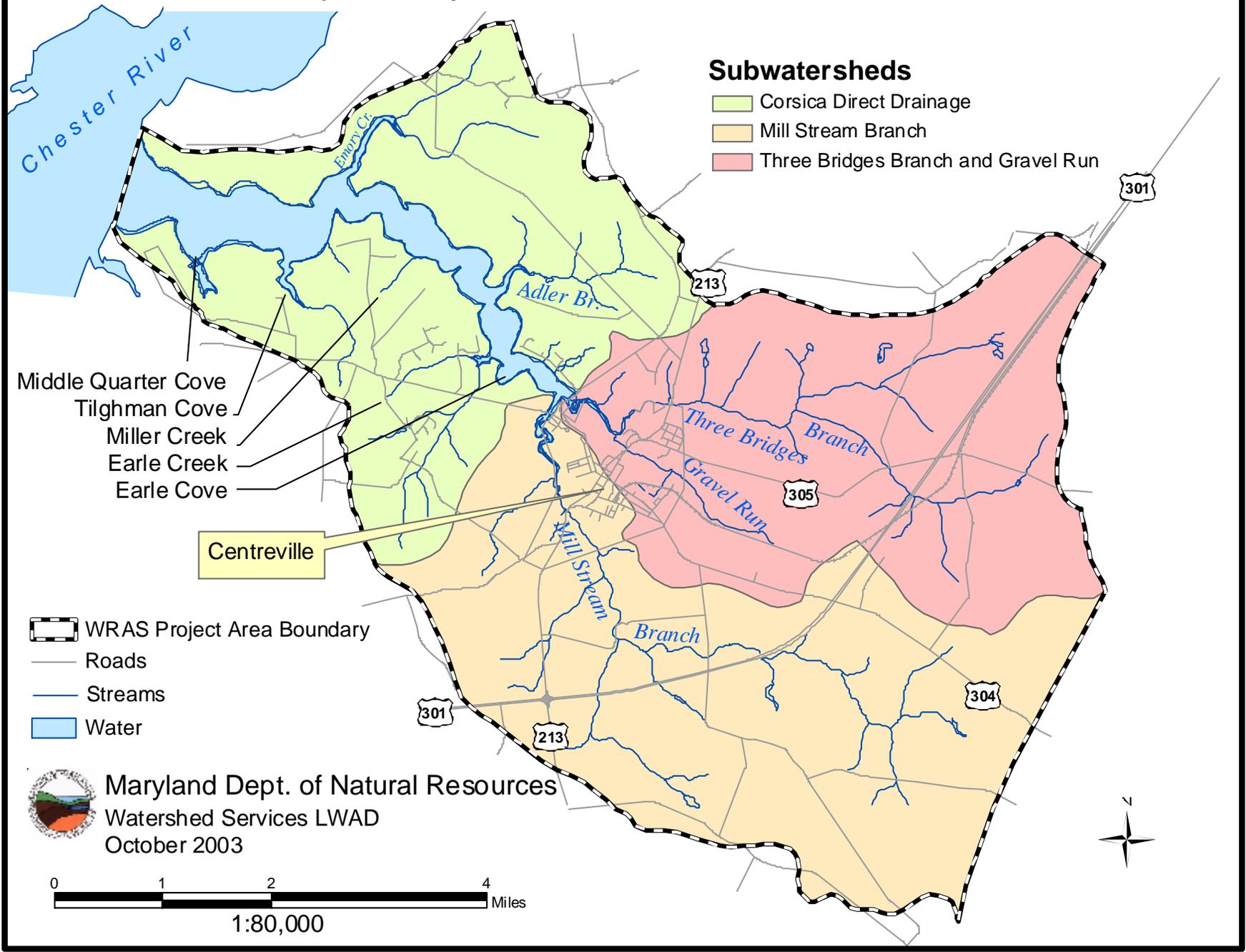


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Watershed Services  
Landscape and Watershed Analysis Division  
October 2003



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# Map 2 Project Area Corsica River WRAS



## Subwatersheds

- Corsica Direct Drainage
- Mill Stream Branch
- Three Bridges Branch and Gravel Run

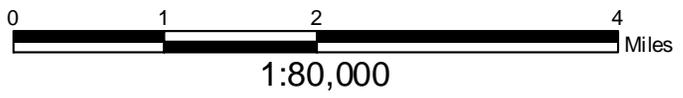
- Middle Quarter Cove
- Tilghman Cove
- Miller Creek
- Earle Creek
- Earle Cove

Centreville

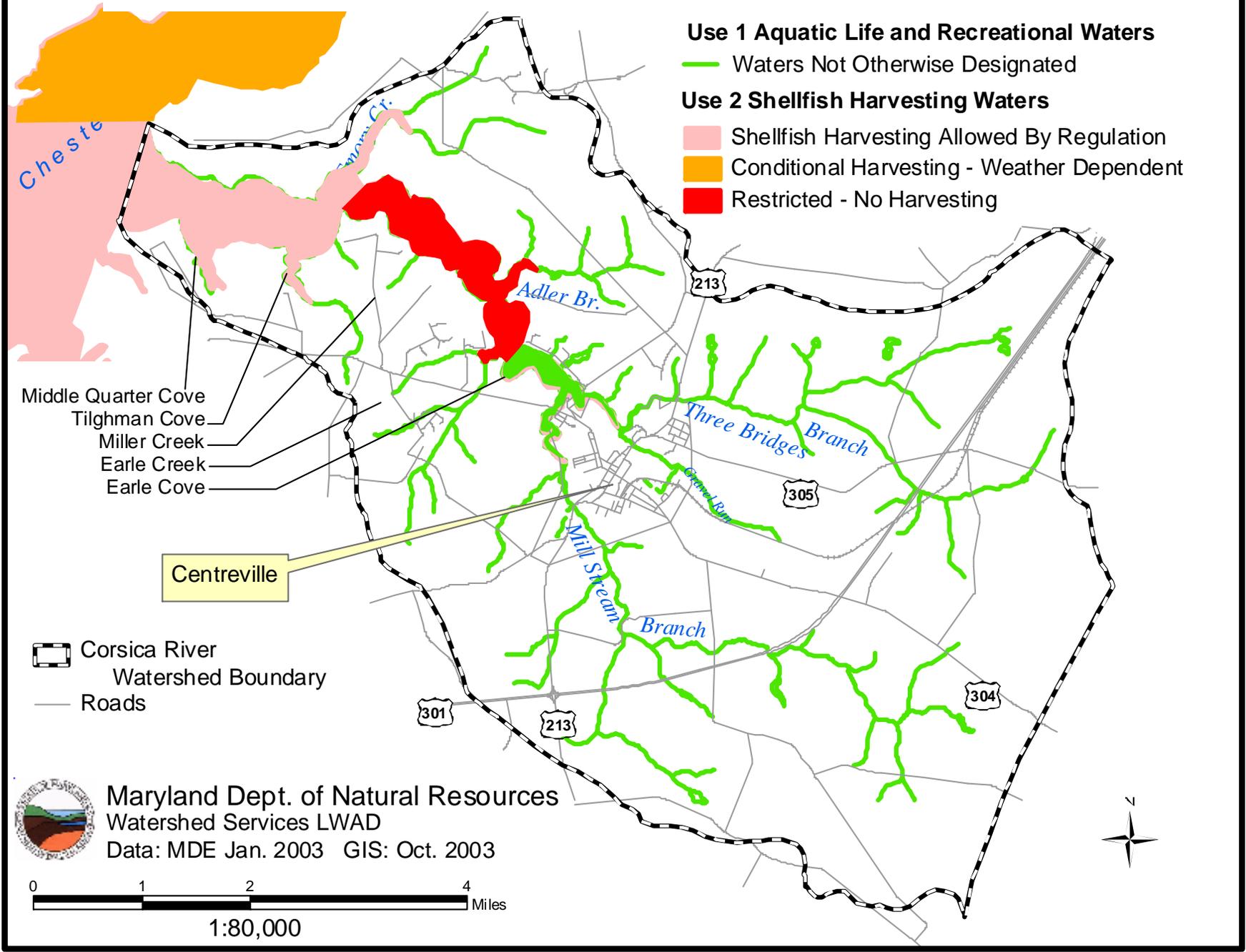
- WRAS Project Area Boundary
- Roads
- Streams
- Water



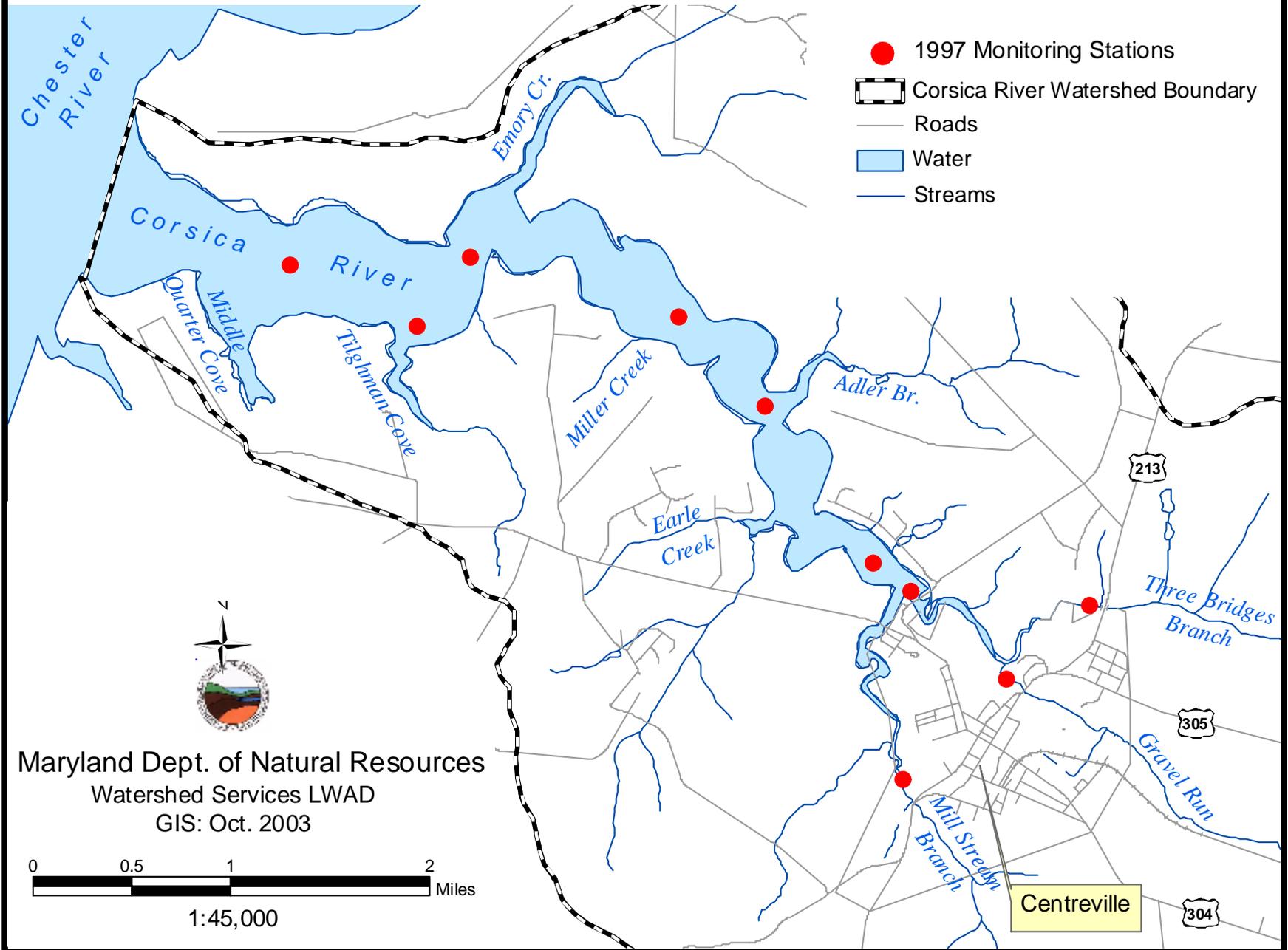
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October 2003



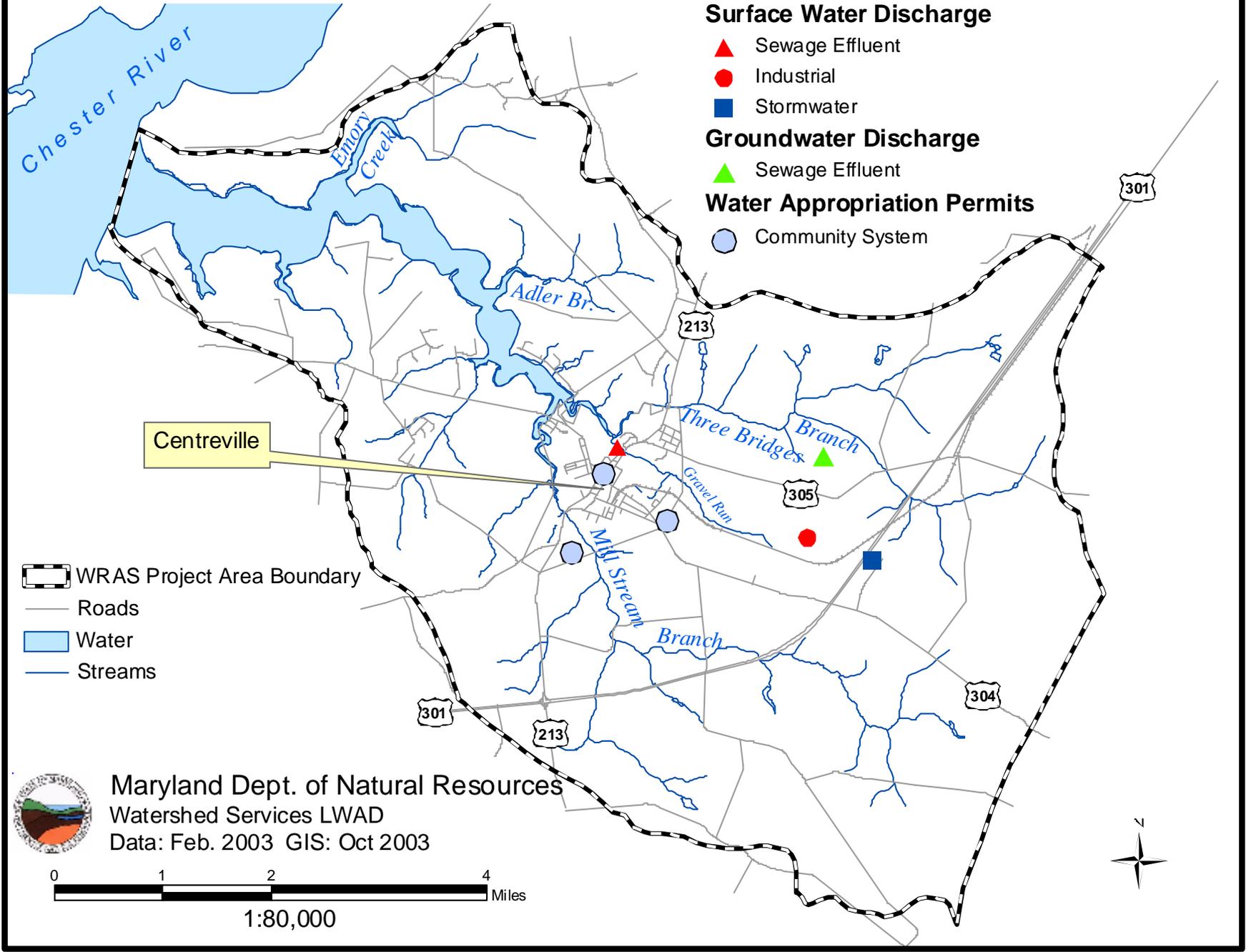
# Map 3 Designated Use and Use Restrictions Corsica River WRAS



# Map 4 Monitoring Water Quality in the Corsica River



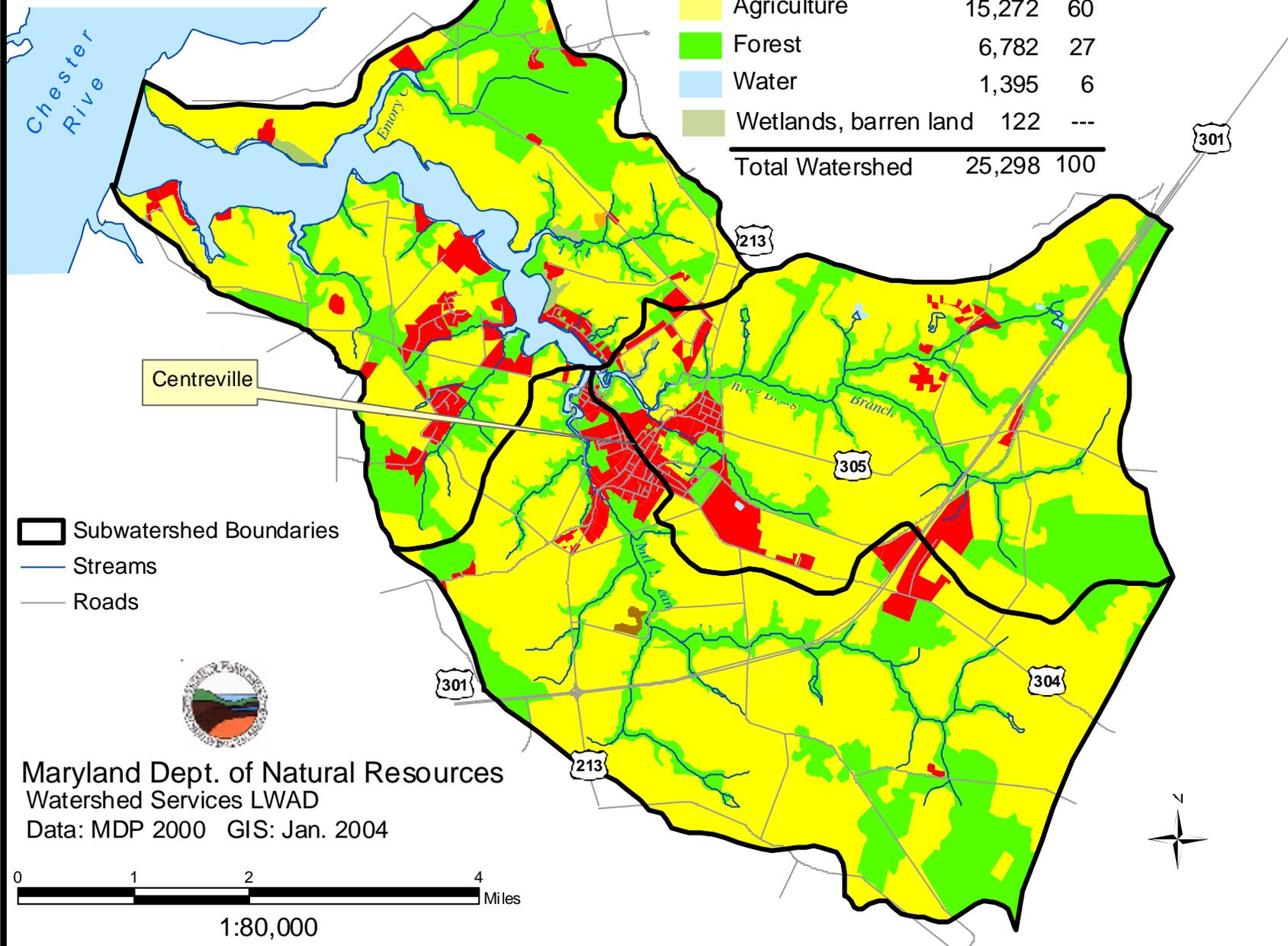
# Map 5 MDE Permits in the Corsica Watershed



# Map 6 Land Use / Land Cover Corsica River Watershed

Land Use / Cover    Acres    Percent

	Developed Land	1,727	7
	Agriculture	15,272	60
	Forest	6,782	27
	Water	1,395	6
	Wetlands, barren land	122	---
<b>Total Watershed</b>		<b>25,298</b>	<b>100</b>



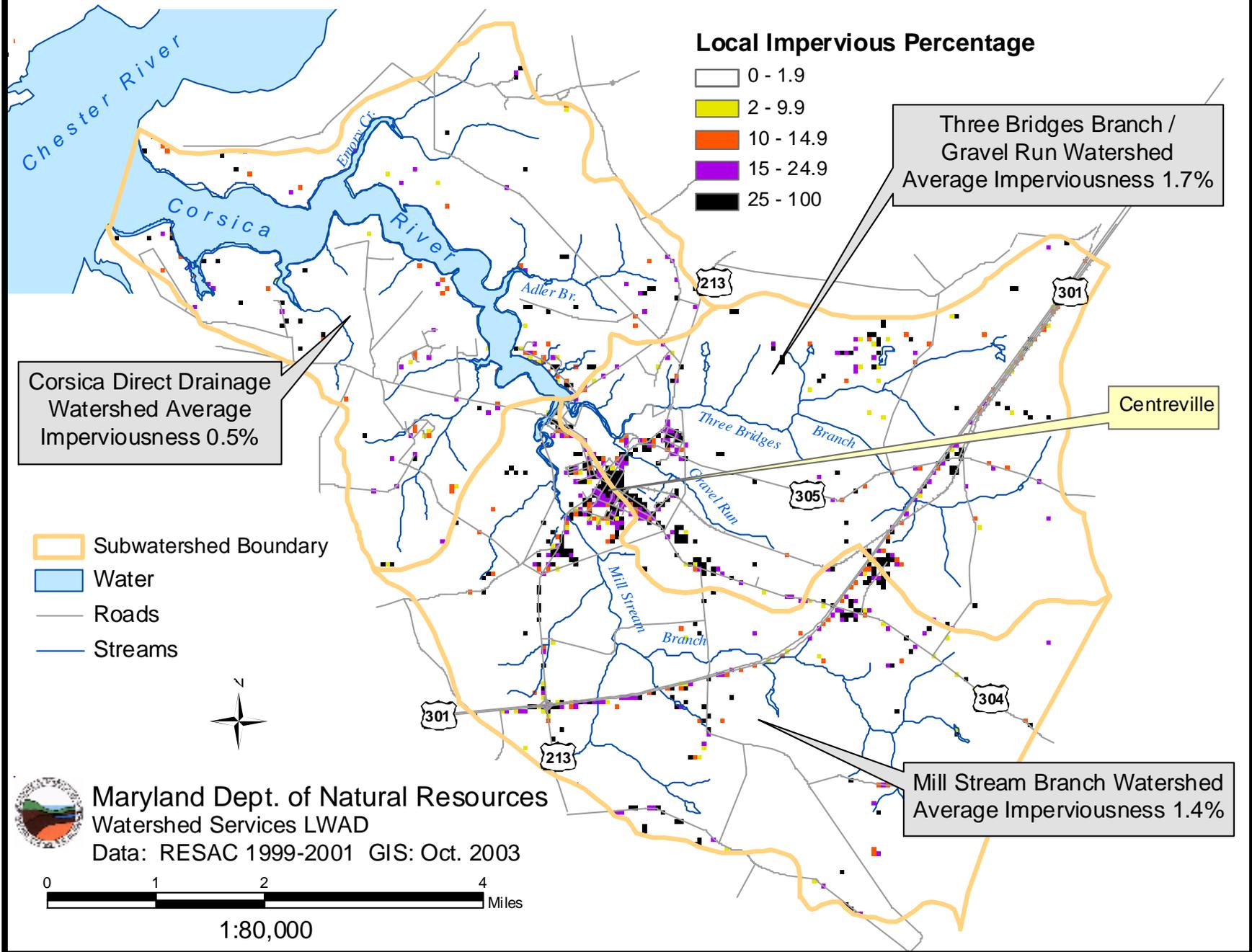
-  Subwatershed Boundaries
-  Streams
-  Roads



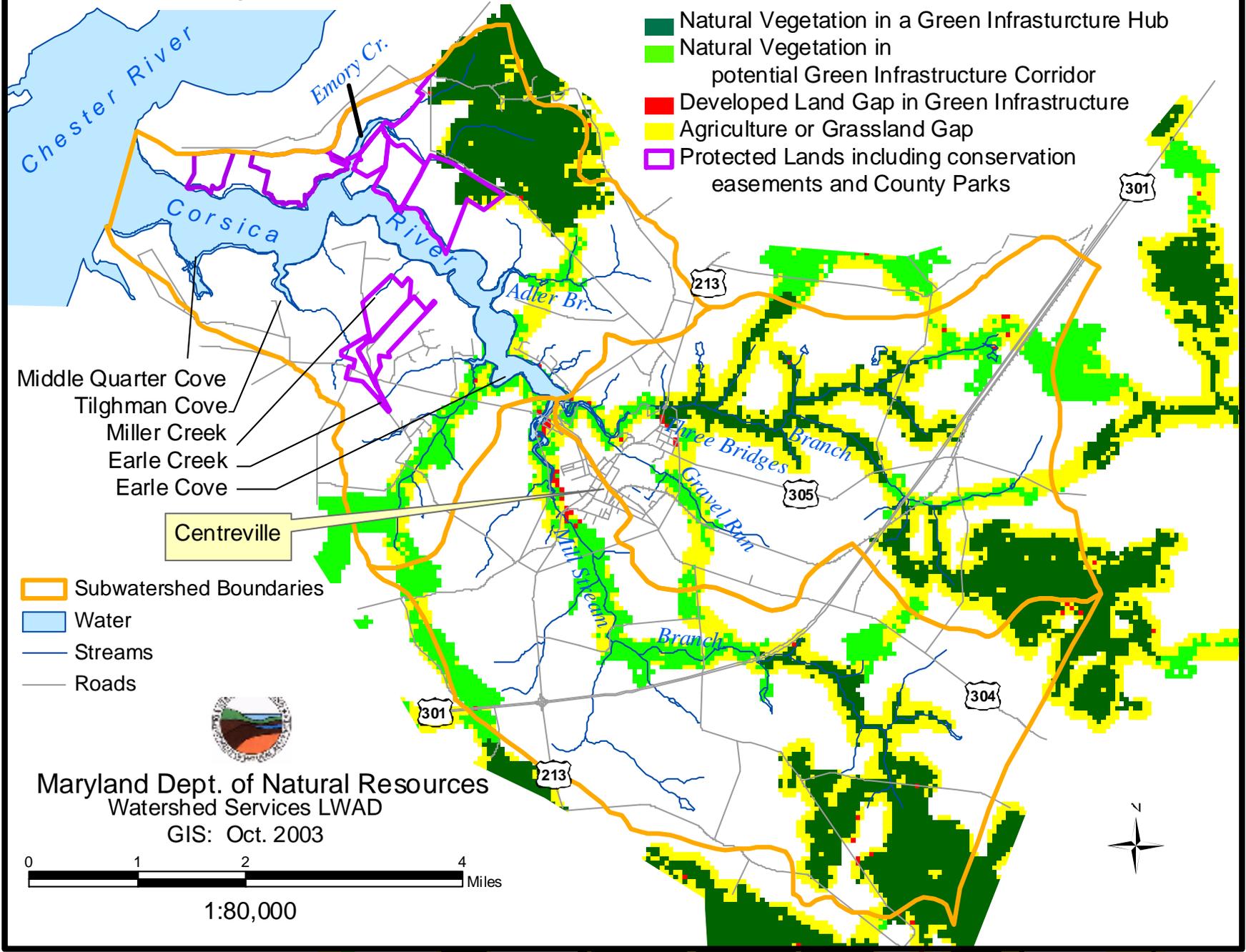
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources  
Watershed Services LWAD  
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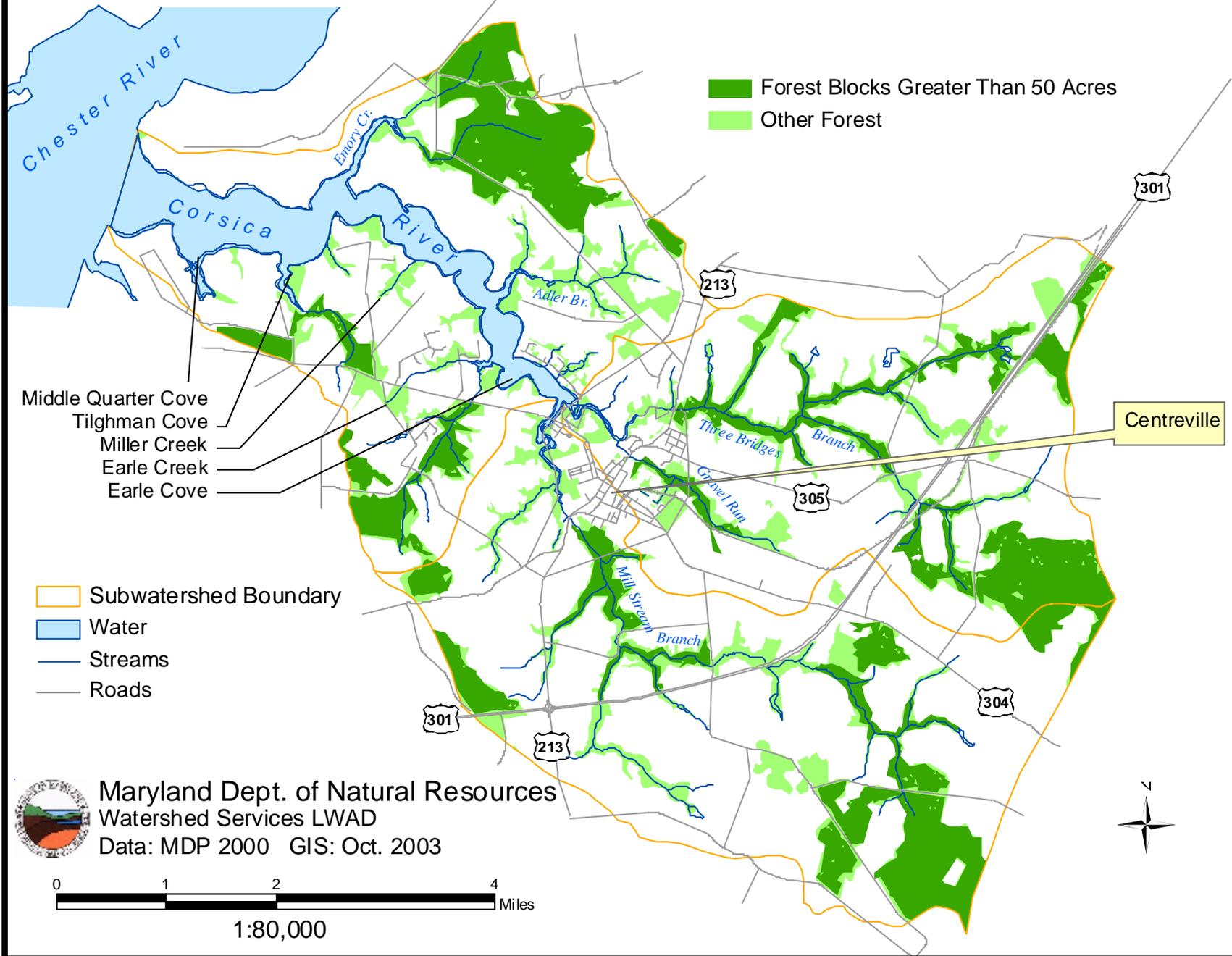
# Map 7 Impervious Surface Corsica River Watershed



# Map 8 Green Infrastructure Corsica River Watershed



# Map 9 Forest Interior Corsica River Watershed



# Map 10 Protected Land Corsica River WRAS

- MET/ESLC Easement
- County Park
- Agricultural Easement
- Rural Legacy Area
- Priority Funding Area

Chester

Adler Br.

213

301

- Middle Quarter Cove
- Tilghman Cove
- Miller Creek
- Earle Creek
- Earle Cove

Centreville

Three Bridges Branch

305

Grove Run

- Subwatershed Boundary
- Water
- Streams
- Roads

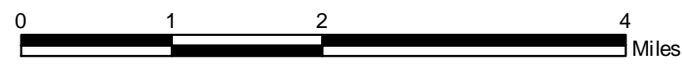
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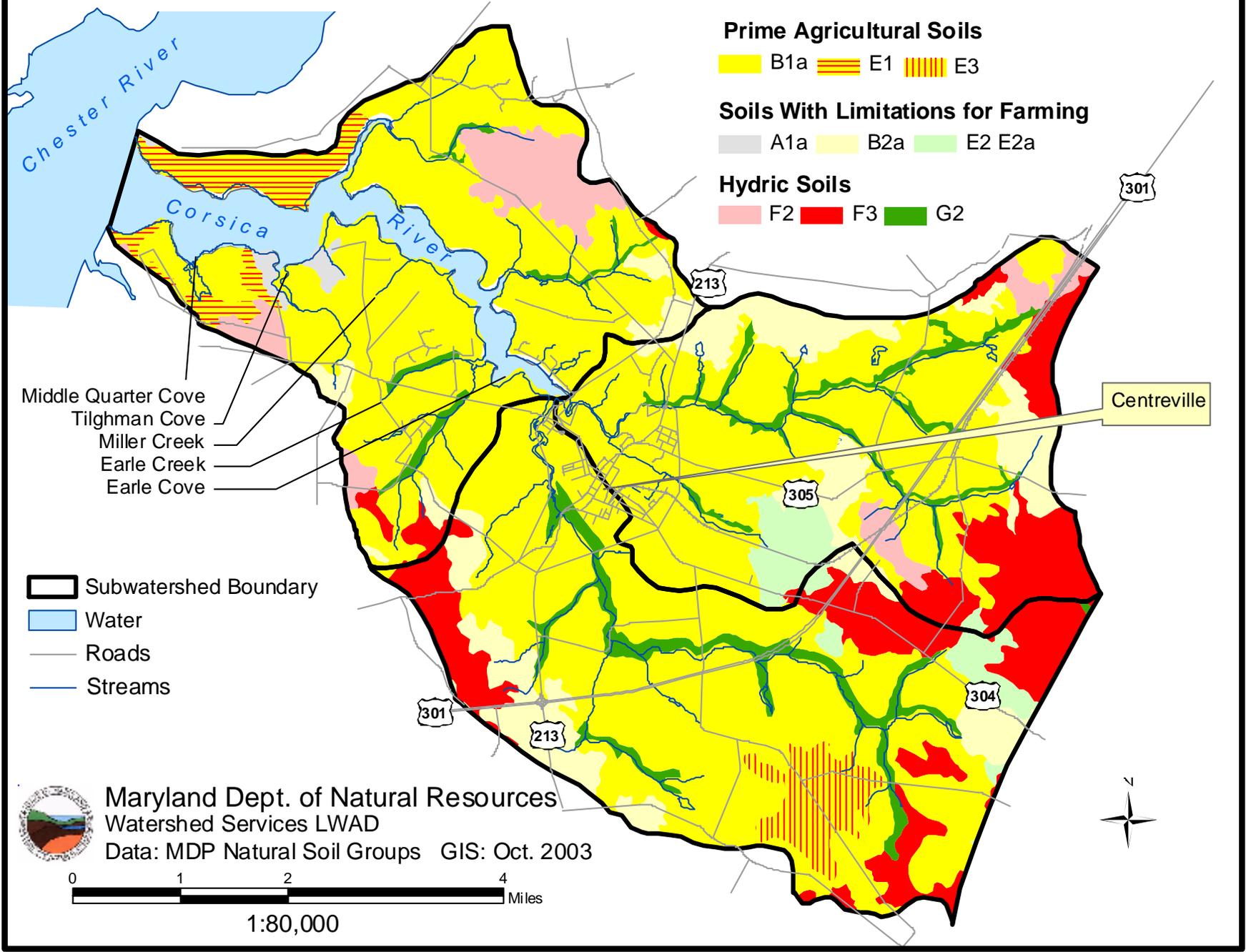


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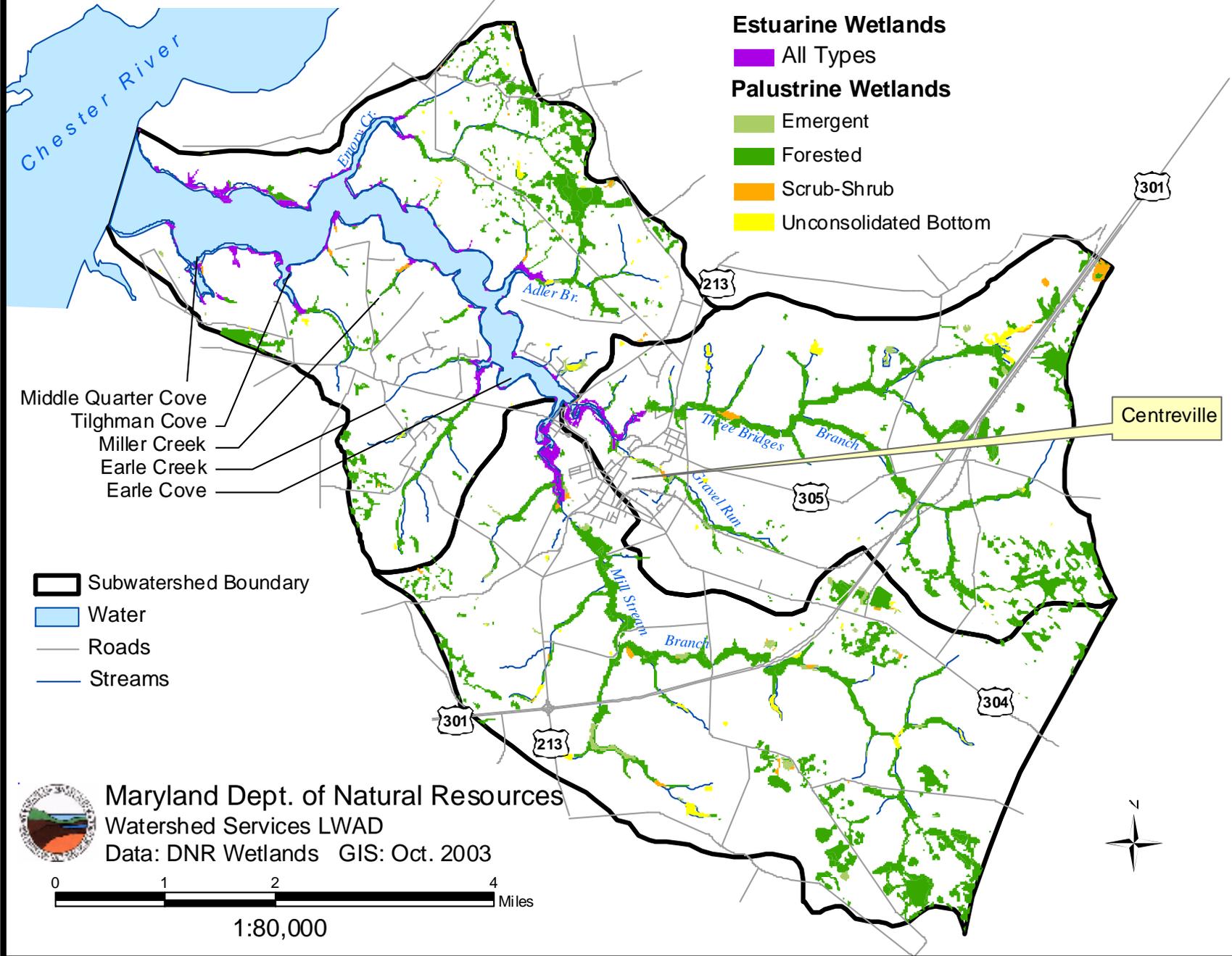


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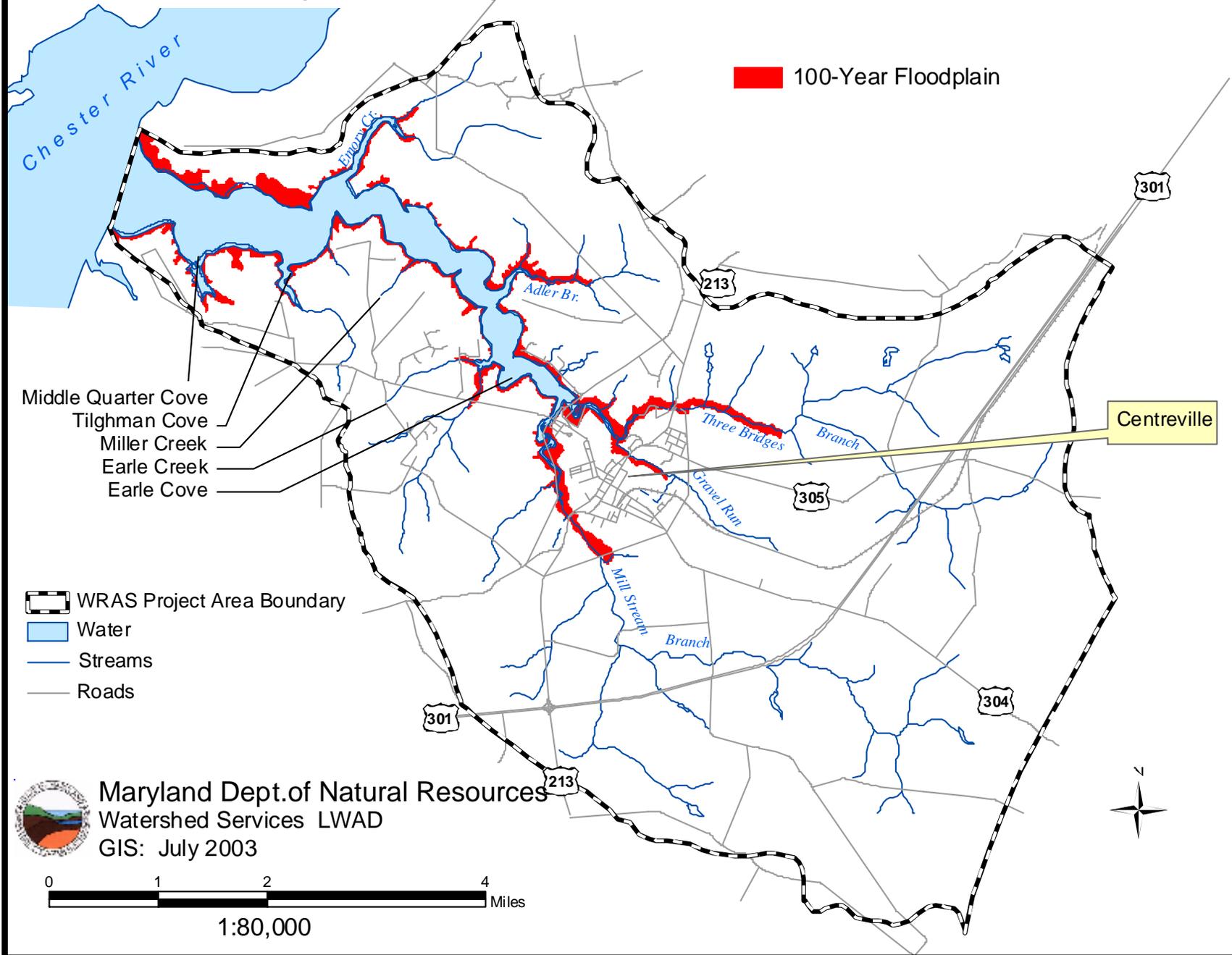
# Map 11 Soils Corsica River Watershed



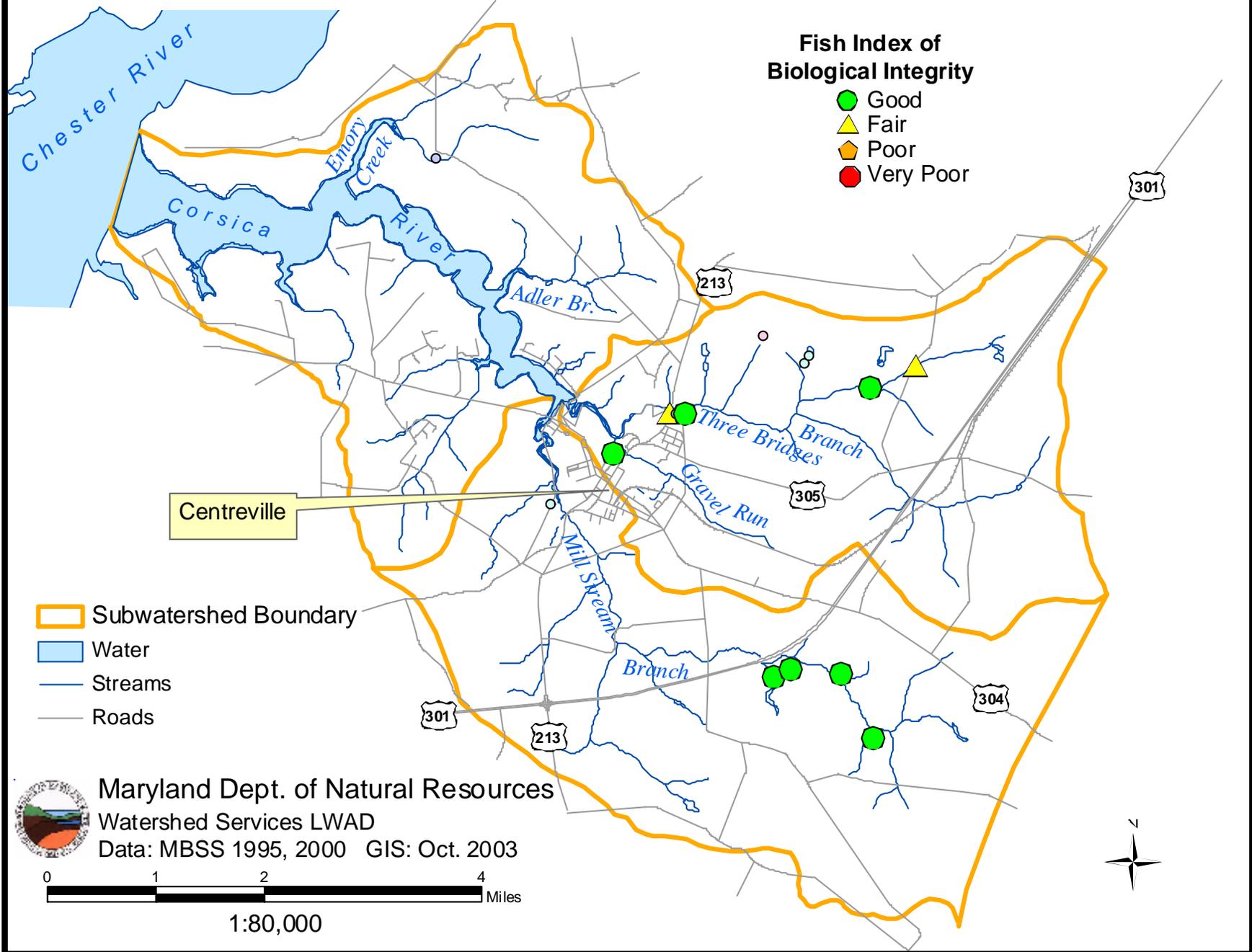
# Map 12 Wetlands in the Corsica River Watershed



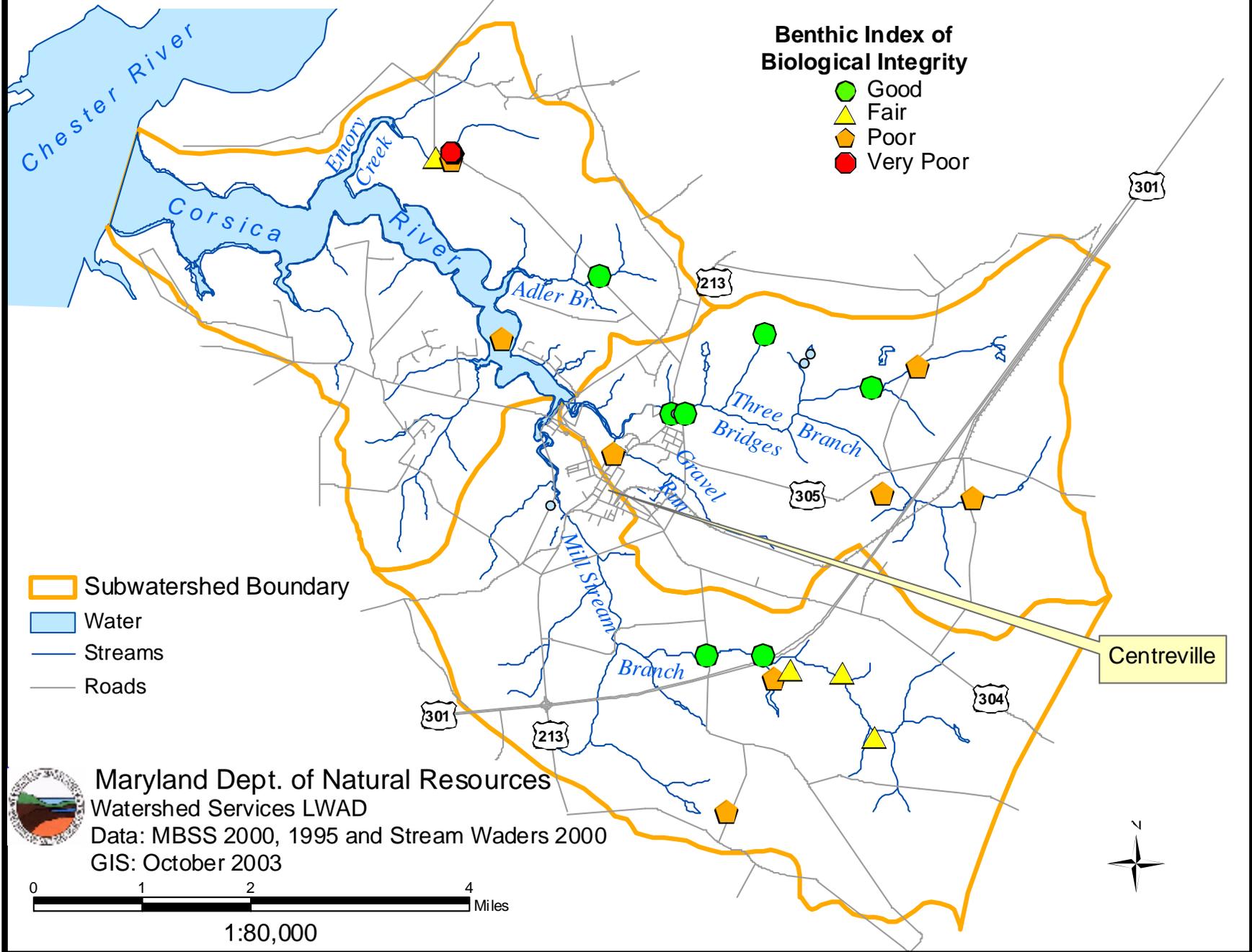
# Map 13 Floodplains in the Corsica River Watershed



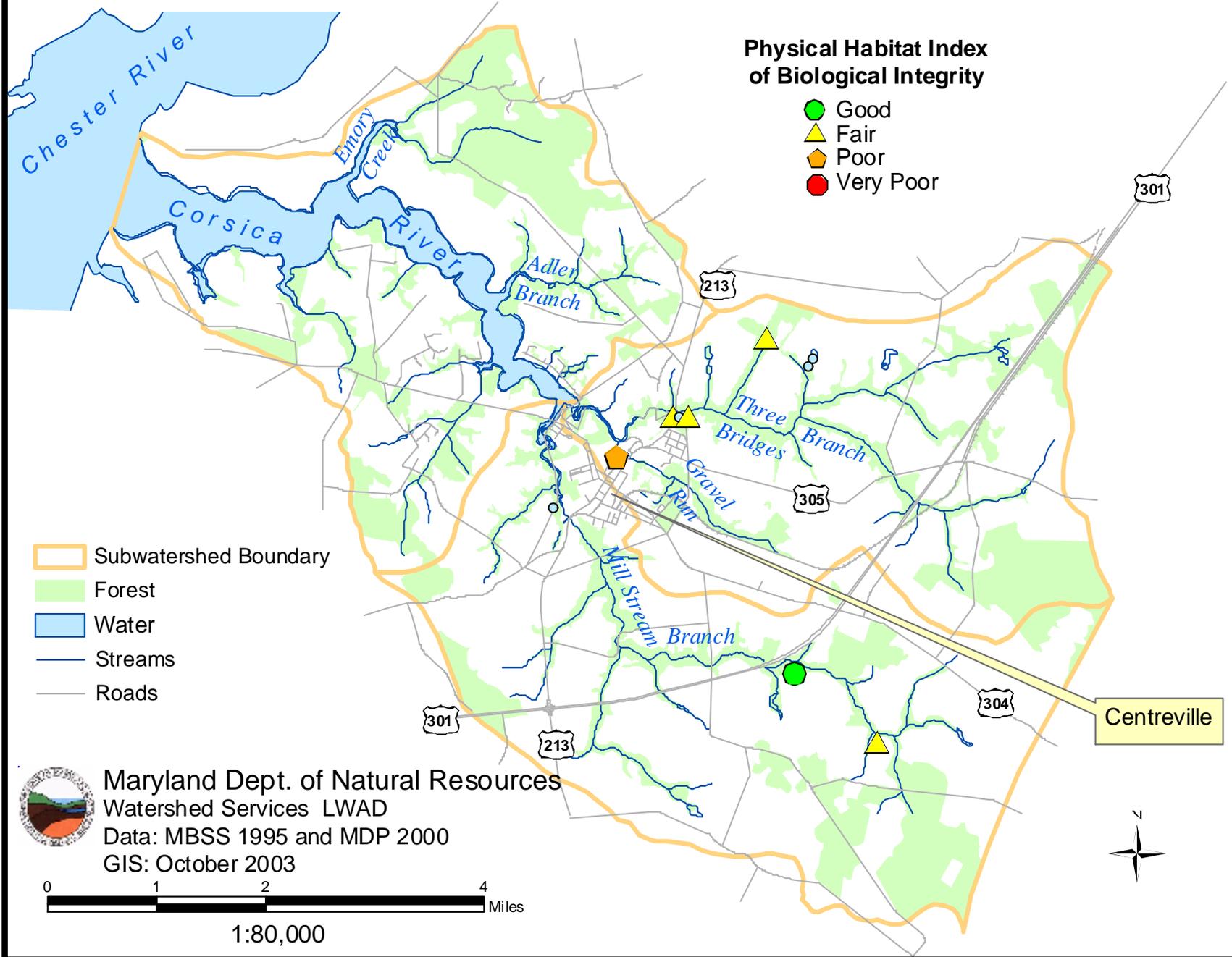
# Map 14 MBSS Fish Index Corsica River Watershed



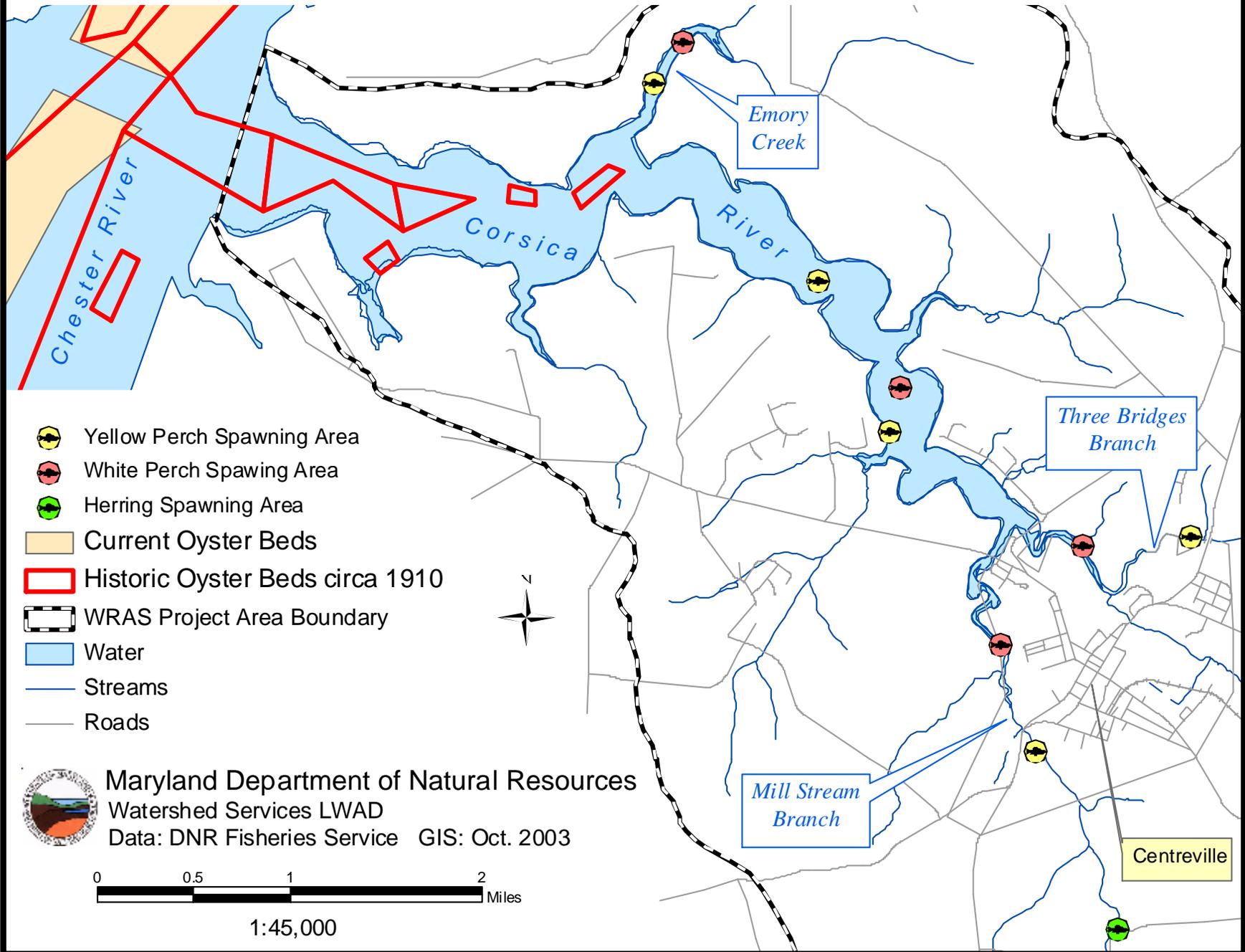
# Map 15 MBSS Benthic Index Corsica River Watershed



# Map 16 MBSS Physical Habitat Index Corsica River Watershed



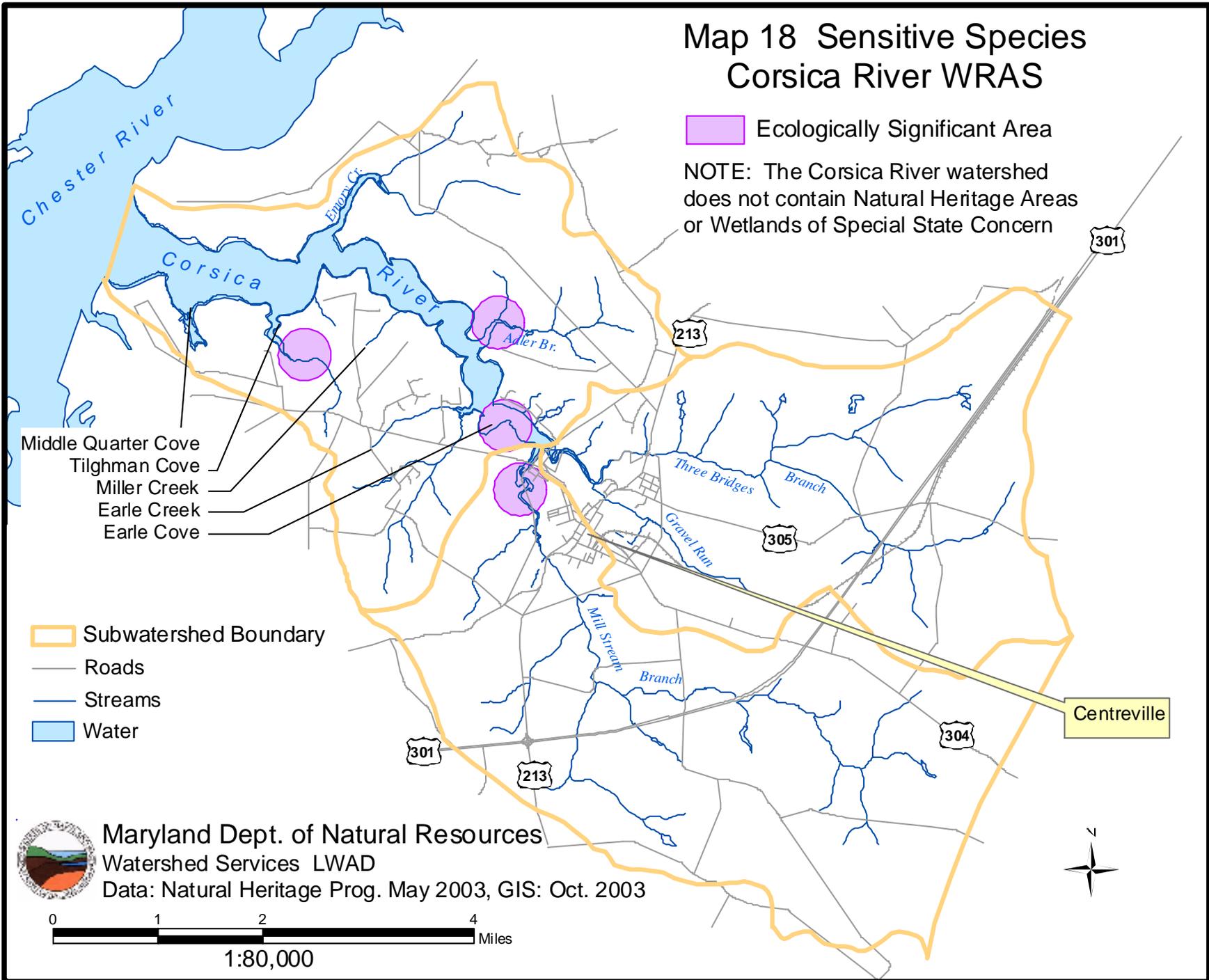
# Map 17 Fish Spawning and Oysters - Corsica River Area



# Map 18 Sensitive Species Corsica River WRAS

 Ecologically Significant Area

NOTE: The Corsica River watershed does not contain Natural Heritage Areas or Wetlands of Special State Concern

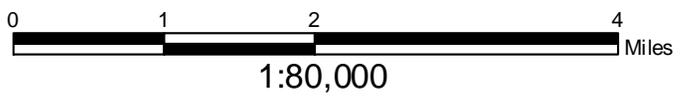


- Middle Quarter Cove
- Tilghman Cove
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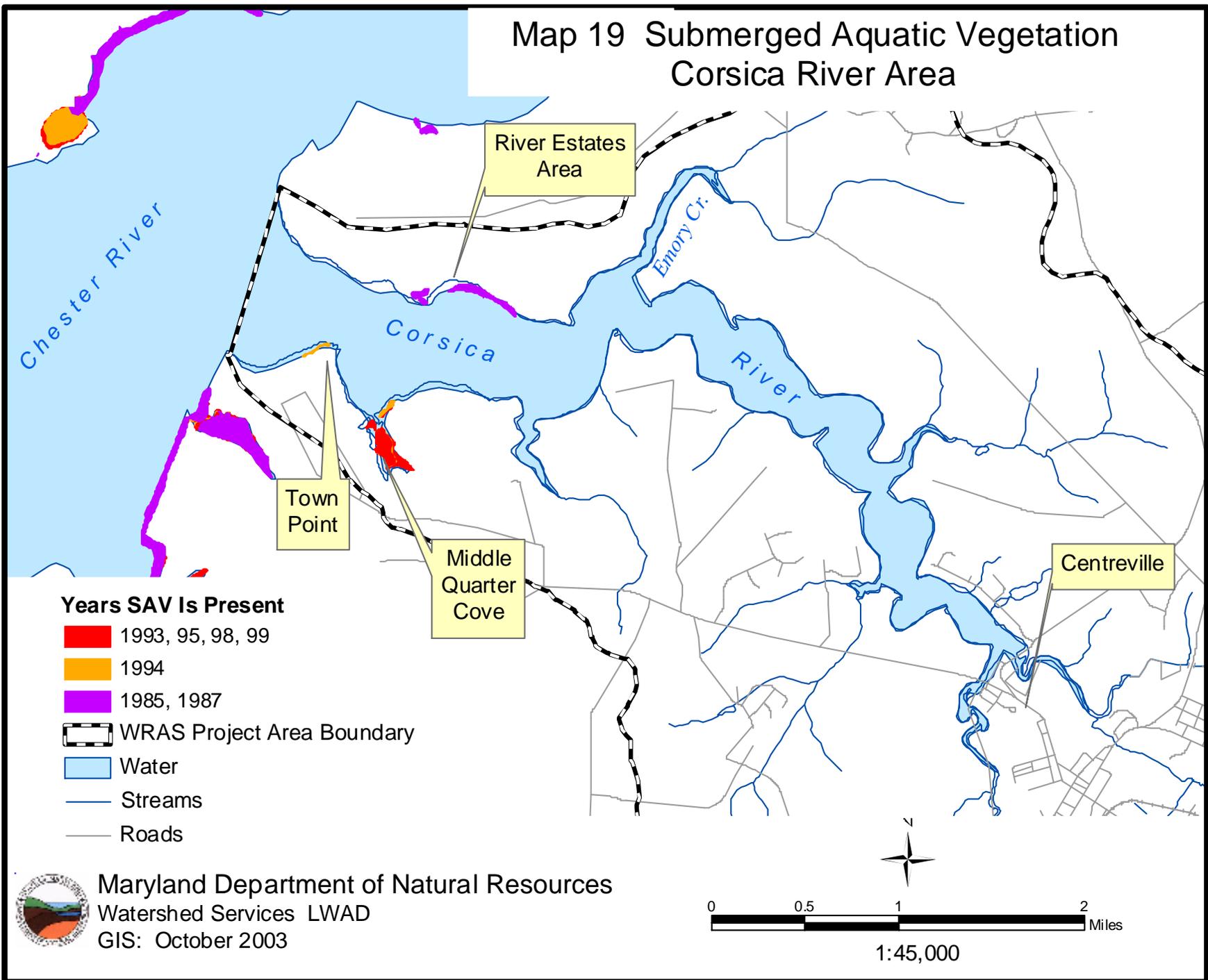
-  Subwatershed Boundary
-  Roads
-  Streams
-  Water



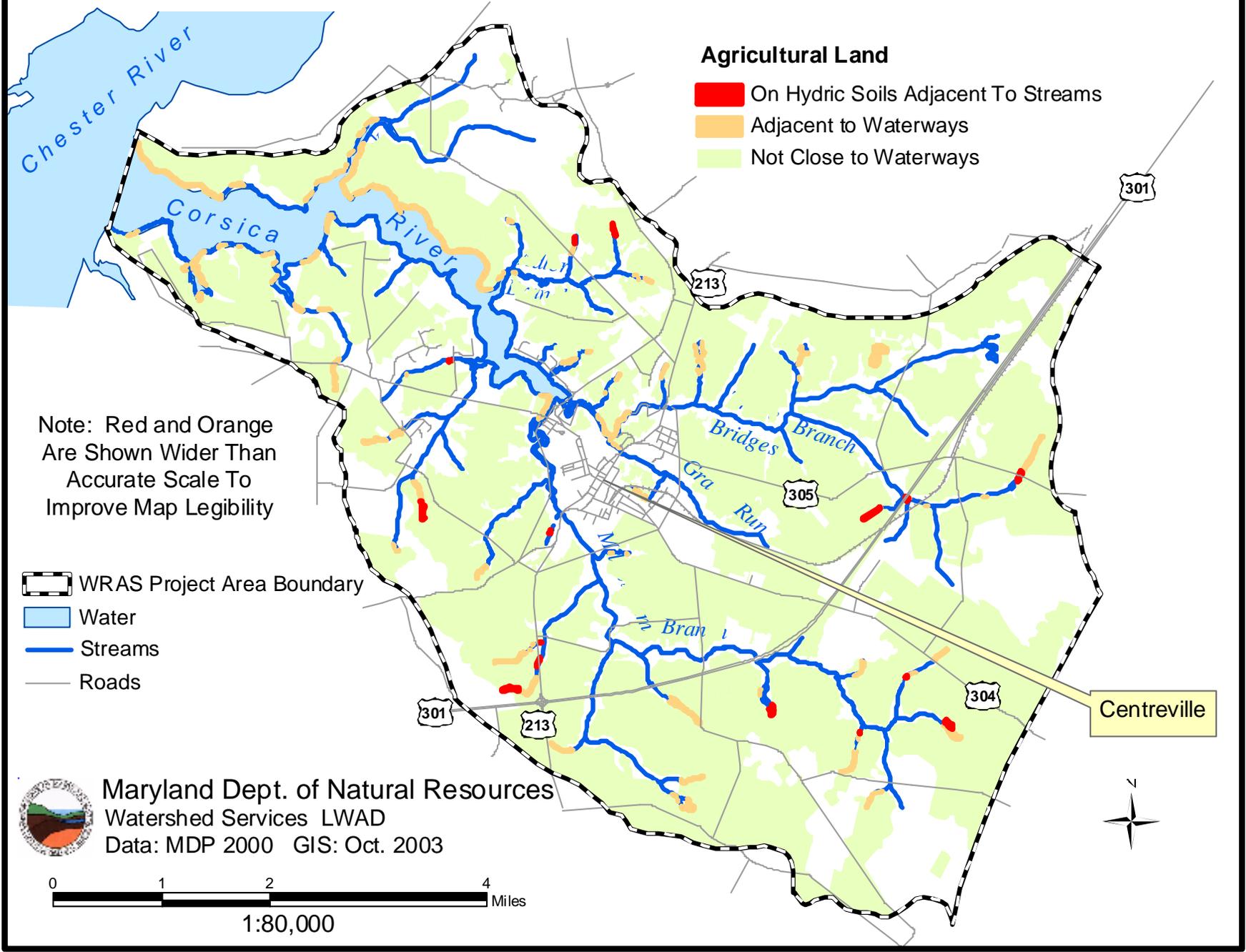
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources  
Watershed Services LWAD  
Data: Natural Heritage Prog. May 2003, GIS: Oct. 2003



# Map 19 Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Corsica River Area



# Map 20 Stream Buffer Scenario Corsica River Watershed



# Map 21 Wetland Restoration Scenario Corsica River Watershed

