

Watershed, Soil & Water

Watershed Findings

In general across the analysis area, physical attributes occur that put watersheds at risk of functioning at a potential natural condition. Trends are likely improving in most watersheds, but the risk is high that a catalyst of change, such as a large storm event, could result in impaired conditions.

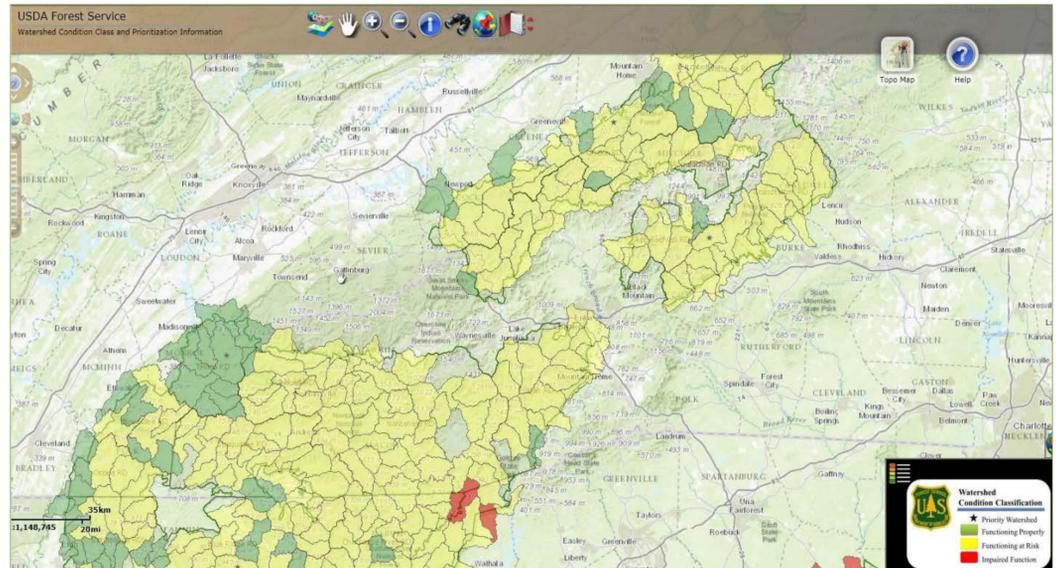


Figure 1. Photo capture of the WCF analysis output for the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests and surrounding Forests. (<http://apps.fs.usda.gov/WCFmapviewer/>)



Soil Findings

- ❖ A review of the soil data and interpretations from the NRCS Web Soil Survey Site shows that a majority of the planning area has soils sensitive to erosion should the surface organic layer be removed.
- ❖ Monitoring indicates very little long-term soil disturbance from activities, other than roads and trails, over the past planning period.
- ❖ If soil disturbance is minimized, timber harvesting and other vegetative management practices seem to have little effect on slope stability.



Water Findings

- Demands on ground water are likely to increase as a result of increasing populations in both rural areas and cities.
 - From the information collected and analyzed over the last five years it is evident that the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests are implementing BMPs during timber sales that are effective in protecting riparian areas, streams and water quality, and the trend is improving.



