GIS Tool for Simple Resilience Assessment of Highway Culverts

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Background: DOT Crossing Classifications

- Major Spans: $S \ge 20$ ft 2,900 (some box, mostly bridge)
- Minor Spans: 10 ≤ S < 20 − 1,300 (box & span)
- Large Culverts: $5 \le S \le 10 1,800$ (mostly pipes)
- Cross Culverts: S < 5 38,000 (mostly pipes)
 1.5 < S < 5 37,000
- Most (but not all) are over water
- Difference bet Structure Type & Program Class
 - Structurally: culvert = buried structure
 - Round: 5 < D < 8' for geomorphic design</p>

Box: Typically Span 8 < S < 26'



Some Background

- MaineDOT Climate & Resilience Work
 - Judy Gates (MaineDOT) & Sam Merrill (GEI)
 - Started with a coastal focus
 - Two large coastal bridges
 - Several large coastal culverts
 - Moved inland
 - Pilot corridor assessments
 - Culvert vulnerability ranking
 - TRAPPD program risk



 Transportation Risk Assessment for Project Planning & Delivery



Some Aspects of MaineDOT Climate Work

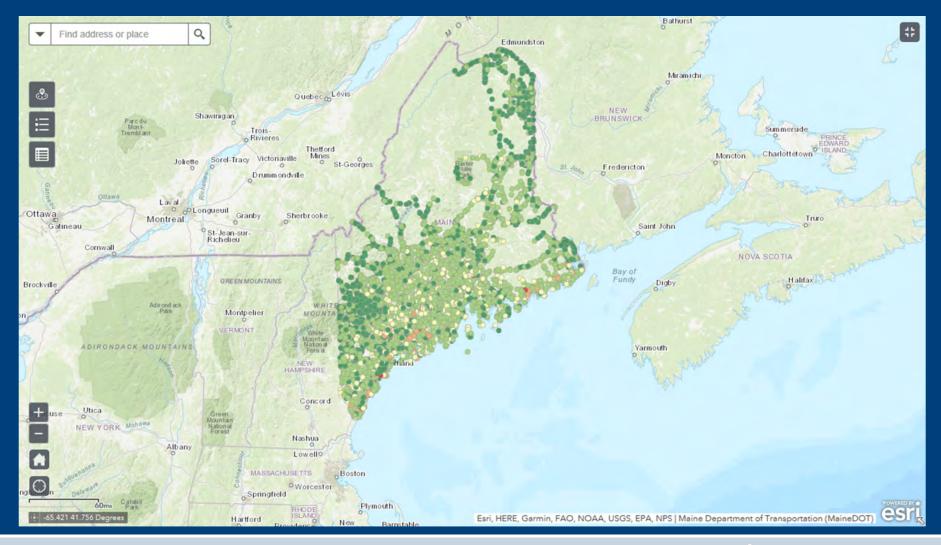
- Pilot / Demonstration
 - Not implemented system-wide
- Limited to Large Culverts & Bridges

 Relatively small subset of all assets
- Assessment / Risk Orientation Project Planning
 NOT engineering or design
- Next Need to Address:
 - Many thousands of cross culverts in the Regions
 - Alexa! How big should the culvert be?





TRAPPD – Program Risk





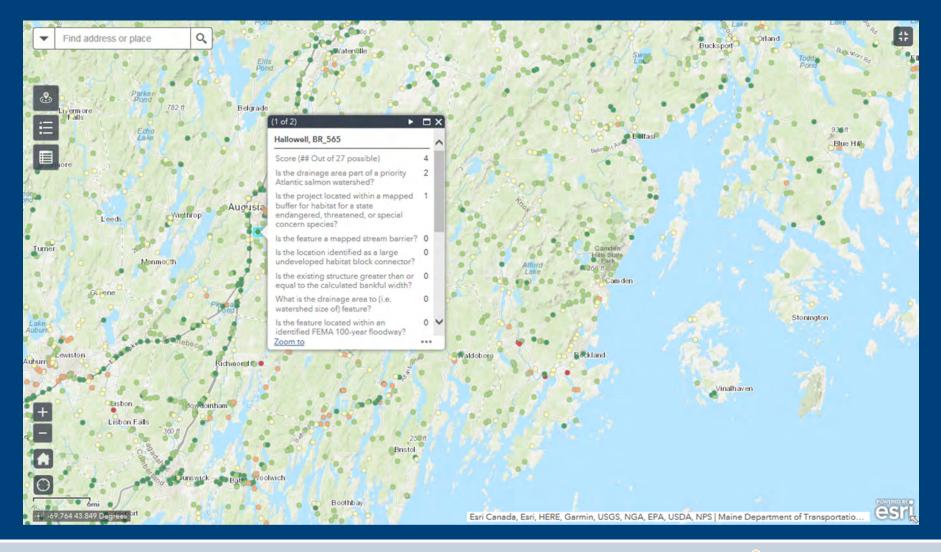
TRAPPD

- Currently limited to bridges & large culverts
- Based on existing or "easily" developed GIS data
 Biggest challenge: hydrology info from StreamStats
- Not intended to be a design tool
 - But contains useful unreported design info
- As *currently* intended, utility relatively limited to

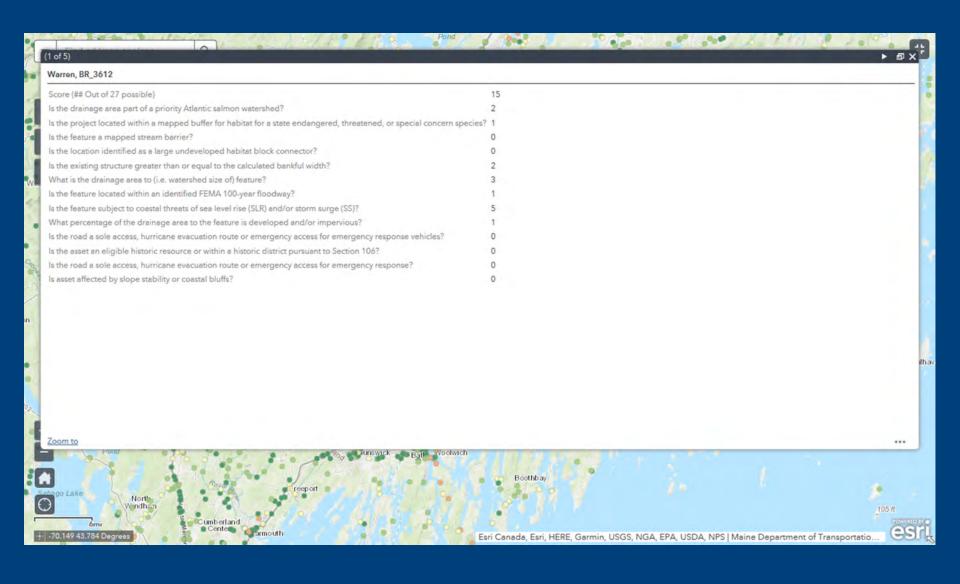
 "small" number of assets at any one time
 small number of DOT staff who might be using
- But potential of the idea is *HUGE*!



TRAPPD – Using & Reporting

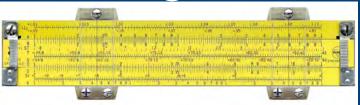








TRAPPD & Culvert Design



- Design info not reported culvert size, BFW, hydrology, etc
 - But it is there (except for size) just not reported
- Many thousands of cross-culverts
- Principle Program Risk Element for Cross-Culverts: Culvert Upsizing
 - Other risk elements less critical in day-to-day work for most cross-culverts



Core Ideas in TRAPPD that Transcend Specific Applications

- GIS basis
- Embedded Algorithms
 - As simple or complicated as you like
- Platform
 - Currently AGOL
 - Could be any "Map Viewer" or GIS platform
- Leverage these strengths for further uses
 Cross Culverts & Hydraulic Design!



What If?



- Instead of limited to 4,000 bridges & large culverts ...
 - Widen the net to capture 37,000 cross culverts?
- Instead of limited to risk scoring ...
 Deliver preliminary culvert design info?
- Instead of limited to use on a handful of projects every year by a few people
 - Apply to many culverts state-wide by Region Engineers, Asset Managers & Project Coordinators?



Motivations for Attacking Cross Culvert Challenge

TRAPPD

- Showed the possibilities
- Inland culvert vulnerability (Merrill / GEI)
 - Inching towards engineering
 - Still limited to Bridges / Large Culverts Data Set
- Mike Hogan at CT DOT
 - Vulnerability Assessment and Adaption Analysis
 - Further culvert work with StreamStats



What Triggers Culvert Upsizing?

- Traditionally, many / most cross culverts were not "designed"
 - "maintenance" culverts
 - Replace-in-Kind (RIK)
 - Upsize if a known capacity problem
 - RIK otherwise
 - Fish Passage bankfull width sizing
 - Modern regulatory requirements & expectations
 - Not based on traditional hydraulic sizing
 - Hydrology
 - Many / most cross-culverts never really "designed" for Hydrology/Hydraulics
 - Climate change?



Culvert Upsizing: Why a Problem?

- From 2'D to 4'D pipe:
 - Not such a big deal
 - "incremental upsizing" often due to H&H capacity
- From 4'D pipe to 8'S x 6'R box with streambed
 - This a BFD!
 - Order-of-Magnitude upsizing usually due to environmental / fish passage requirements
- Can we capture this? YES!
 - Hydrology
 - Hydraulics
 - Habitat



Hydrology/Hydraulics in TRAPPD

- Hydrology Based on
 - USGS StreamStats for GIS analysis
 - Watershed area, NWI wetlands, etc
 - USGS regression equations for flow calcs
 - USGS regression equations for Bankfull Width (BFW)
- But No Hydraulics
 - this is how you get culvert sizing
 - Simple equations, easy to implement



Where Do We Go?

- Conceptually …
 - Just add cross-culverts to TRAPPD
 - ... not so fast
- Practical Implementation ...
 - Baby steps
 - Separate simple platform just for cross-culvert sizing
 - Test-run
 - See how it is received
 - Refine, improve and add to TRAPPD 2.0

FLOODING AHEAD TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN



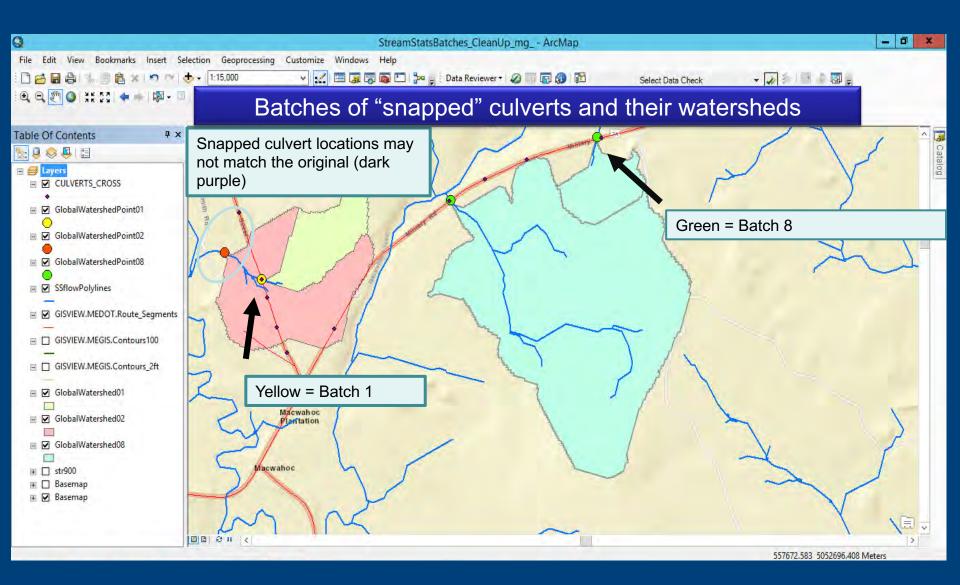
Challenge: Numbers, Location & Stream Network

- 37,000 cross-culverts 1.5'
 D < 5'
- Hydrology
 - Run StreamStats in "batch mode"



- Location "SNAP" DOT culvert locations to USGS "pixelated" stream network
- We lost about 10,000 culverts that did not "snap"
 - Lost in the ozone, still searching
- Run batches of 200 about 120 batches!
- Not all culverts snapped "correctly" clean up
 - Currently in progress

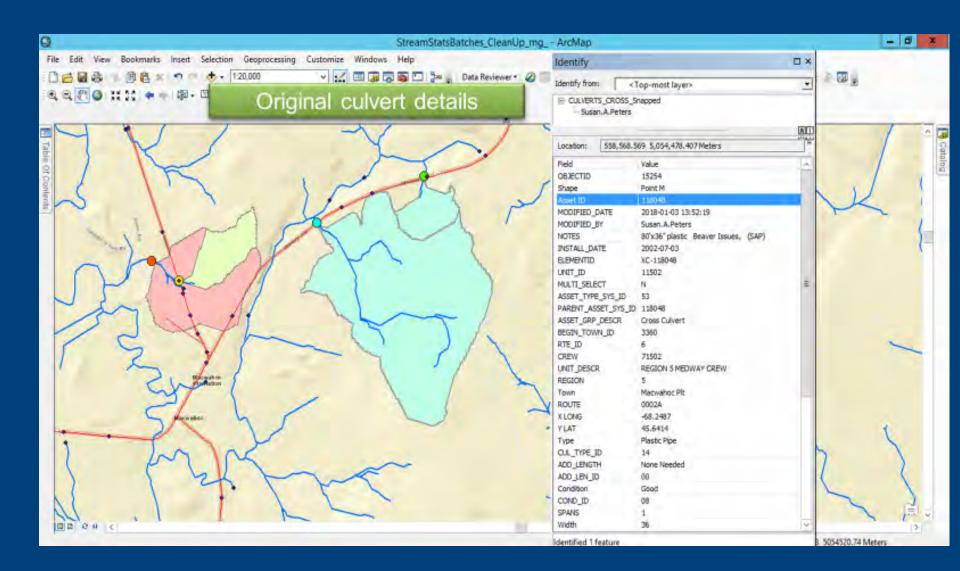




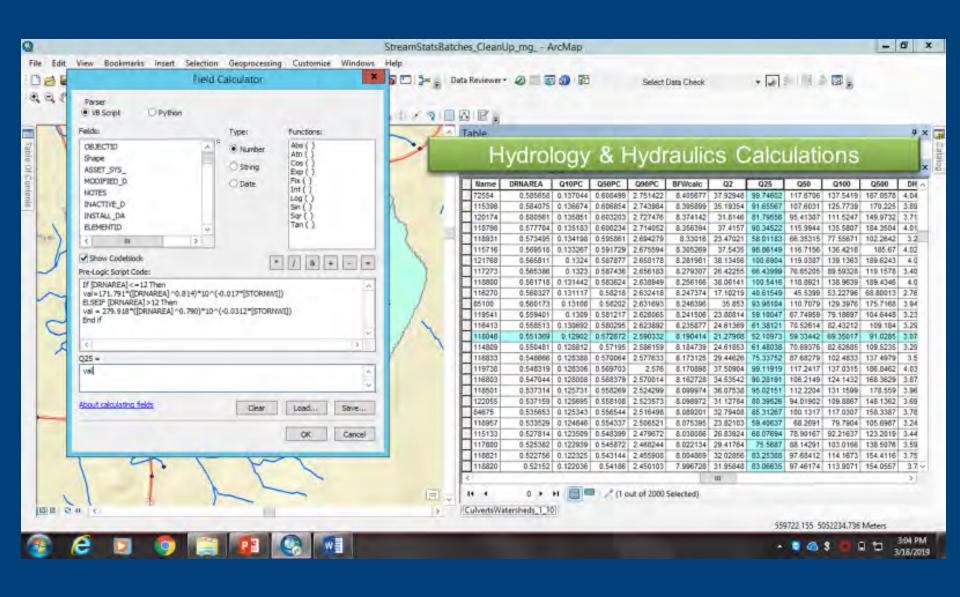


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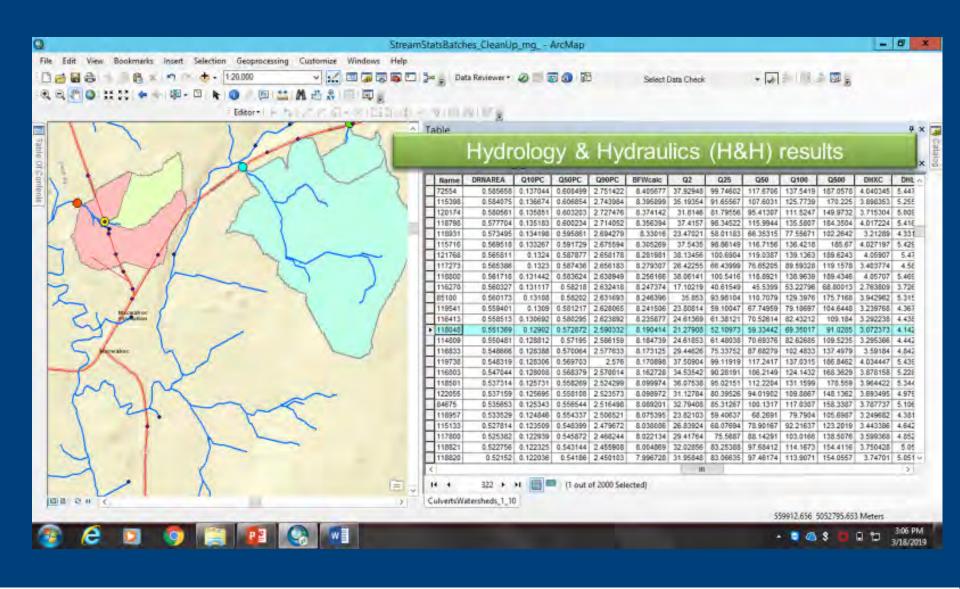




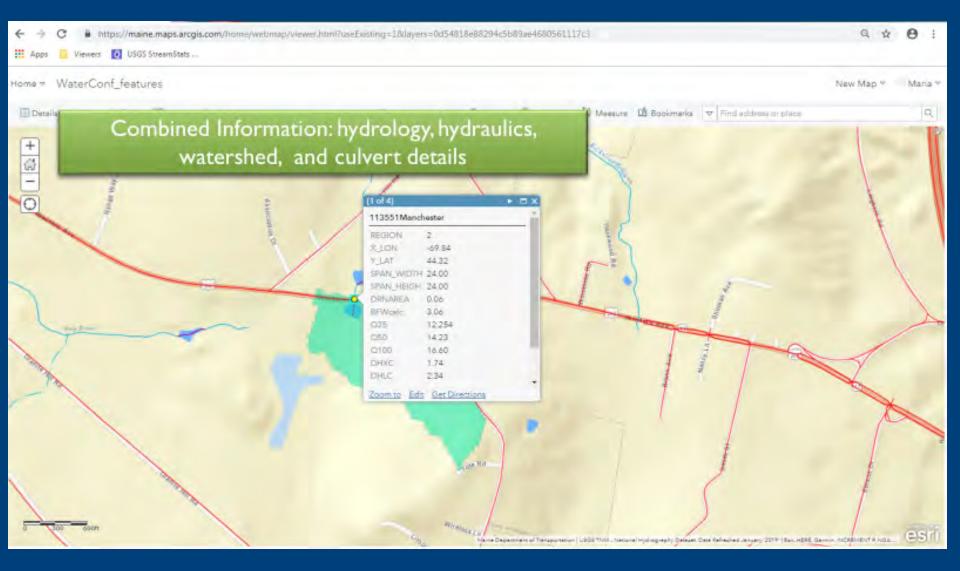




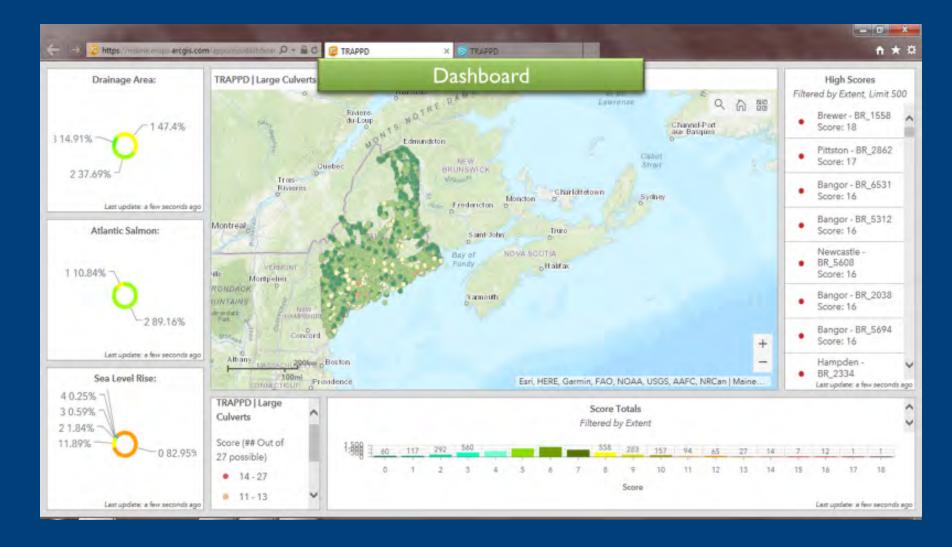














Observations & Conclusions

- Simple concept
- Simple mechanics
 - But tedious!
 - Takes time
- Key element
 - Good asset (culvert) database
 - Impossible otherwise



- Concept applicable to any organization with a collection of culverts
 - Towns see Martha Shiels work at USM Muskie School



Questions?

- Thank you
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