UVA | FRANK BATTEN SCHOOL of LEADERSHIP and PUBLIC POLICY

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Individual Assignment 2: Conservation Analysis

Rural Planning and Economic Development | PLAC 5500-001 / LPPP 5559-001 | Fall 2026

Assignment brief and working template

DUE: October 14, 2026, at the start of class **COURSE WEIGHT: 3%**

Purpose

Map natural systems, working lands, recreation, conservation opportunities, or hazards, then connect the evidence to a proportionate planning response. This is a screening-level analysis, not an engineering determination or legal conclusion.

The class will provide

- In-class demonstration.
- Instructor-provided regional data and conservation analysis tool.
- Examples, work time, layer/provenance guide, and rubric.

What to submit

☐ Accessible PDF map or map set with legend, north arrow, actual scale, readable labels, source/date note, and limitations.

☐ Planning question and study extent.

☐ Layer inventory with source, date, units, coverage, resolution or classification, limitations, and intended use.

☐ Required slope classes: 15% to below 20%; 20% to below 25%; 25% or above.

☐ Overlap or relationship analysis tied to mapped locations.

☐ Alternative or response comparison, plain-language recommendation, and field or staff verification need.

☐ Implication for the community's zoning and subdivision code, or an explanation of why the evidence does not justify a change.

☐ Editable map or project file when available and useful for review.

Recommended workflow

1. State the decision, study area, affected resource or development issue, and why mapping will help.
2. Audit source, date, units, coverage, resolution, and limitations before analysis.
3. Prepare nonoverlapping slope classes and preserve missing elevation as missing.
4. Select only layers that answer the question.
5. Identify overlaps, proximity, conflicts, opportunities, and gaps without treating proximity as proof of causation.
6. Compare proportionate responses.
7. Explain the implication and required verification.

Working pages

Planning question: What decision, resource, development issue, and study extent will the analysis address?
Layer selection: List each chosen layer and explain why it belongs. Use the Excel layer inventory for full provenance.
Spatial relationships: Record overlaps, proximity, conflicts, opportunities, missing coverage, and locations that require field or staff verification.
Alternatives: Compare no action, field verification, avoidance, clustering, conservation design, easement, subdivision standard, zoning concept, infrastructure change, or further study as relevant.
Recommendation and code implication: State a proportionate planning response, the related zoning/subdivision issue, what the map cannot establish, and the next verification step.

Submission self-check

☐ Slope classes use 15% to below 20%, 20% to below 25%, and 25% or above.

☐ Missing data is not shown as zero, flat, or no feature.

☐ Map scale is actual, not decorative.

☐ Legend, labels, sources, dates, and limitations are readable.

☐ The recommendation distinguishes mapped evidence, inference, uncertainty, and professional verification.

AI, collaboration, and individual responsibility

You may use the supplied data, model, and tools and discuss methods with classmates. Shared inputs and the same correct calculation are not duplicate completed assignments. Your observations, analytical decisions, interpretation, and presentation must be your own. Disclose material AI assistance, verify the work, and be ready to explain every method and choice. Do not place restricted client or personal data in public AI tools.

Honor pledge and authorship

Write and sign the exact pledge below for individual assignments and papers.

"I pledge that I have neither given nor received help on this examination (quiz, assignment, etc.)."

Student	
Signature	
Date	