

		INTERCOMPATIBILITY OF LAND USES										NATURAL DETERMINANTS					CONSEQUENCE		
		URBANS	SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL	INDUSTRIAL	INSTITUTIONAL	RECREATION	AGRICULTURE	FORESTRY	WATER MANAGEMENT	WATER	CLIMATE	SOILS	VEGETATION	WILDLIFE	POPULATION	LAND USE	CONSEQUENCE	CONSEQUENCE	CONSEQUENCE
URBANS	URBANS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
INDUSTRIAL	INDUSTRIAL	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	INSTITUTIONAL	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
RECREATION	RECREATION	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	AGRICULTURE	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
FORESTRY	FORESTRY	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	WATER MANAGEMENT	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● INCOMPATIBLE

● LOW COMPATIBILITY

● MODERATE COMPATIBILITY

● FULL COMPATIBILITY

● INCOMPATIBLE

● LOW COMPATIBILITY

● MODERATE COMPATIBILITY

● FULL COMPATIBILITY

● BAD

● POOR

● FAIR

● GOOD

6. This matrix, which was employed to produce “suitability” maps, shows compatibility among diverse land uses and various “natural determinants” and records the planners’ assessment of potential conflicts and their consequences. Potomac River Basin Study of 1965–66, reproduced in *Design with Nature*.

The students conducted a comprehensive survey of the river basin, which McHarg termed “the ecological inventory” and his students later came to call “the layer cake” or “the litany.” It was always the same list, in the same order (climate, geology, hydrology, soils, vegetation, and wildlife), sometimes further elaborated by field. In 1967, he described the reasons for this ordering:

Written on the place and upon its inhabitants lies mute all physical, biological and cultural history awaiting to be understood by those who can read it. This is the prerequisite for intelligent intervention and adaptation. So let us begin at the beginning. The place, any place, can only be understood through its physical evolution. Both climate and geology can be invoked to interpret physiography, the current configuration of the place. If one now knows historical geology, climate, and