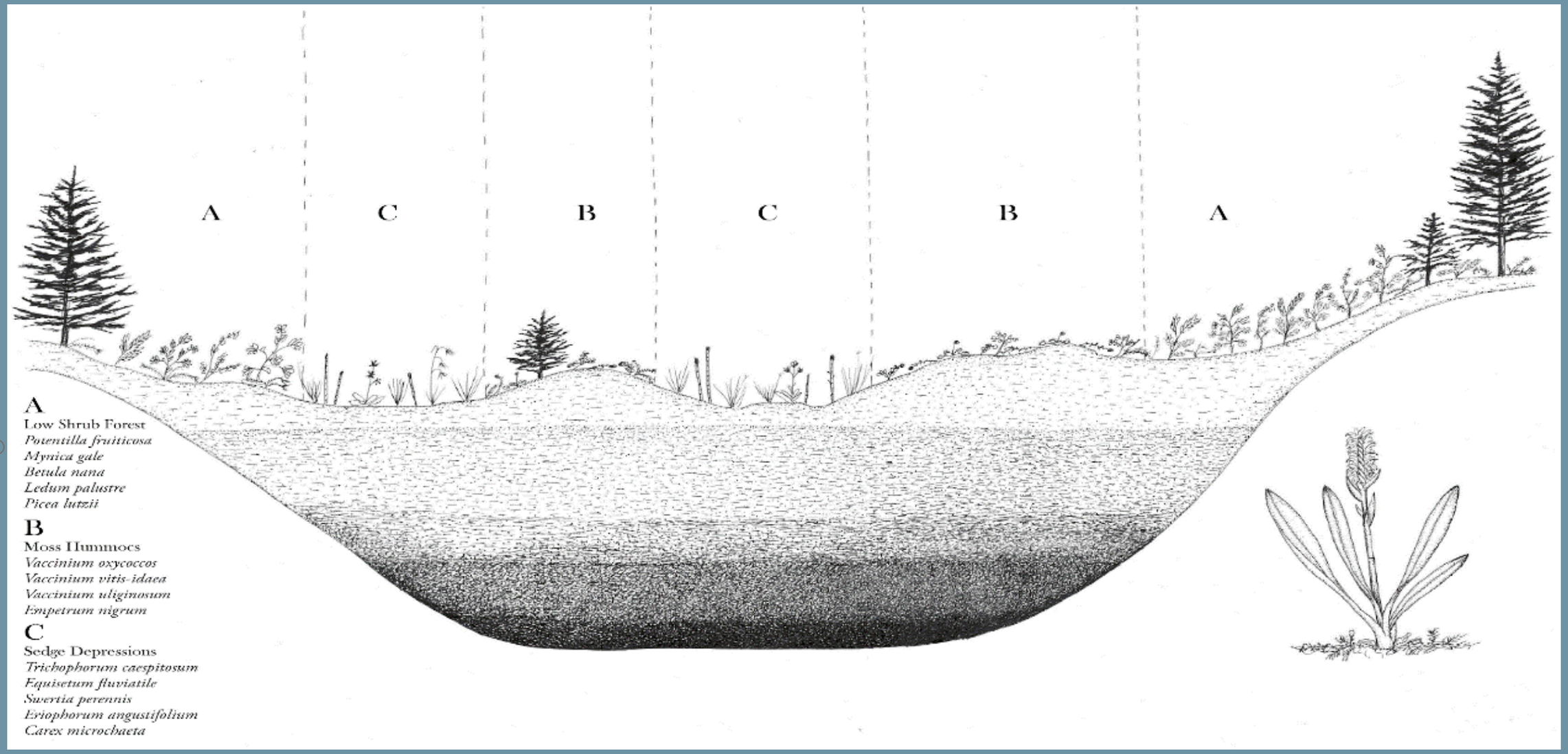
Peatland Carbon in the Kenai Lowlands, AK
Kachemak Bay
National Estuarine Research Reserve

Outline

1. What are peatlands
1. Where are peatlands
1. Peatland salmon benefits
1. Developing a peatland carbon project
1. Citizen Science, education, trainings
1. Next steps

In many parts of the world, people are paying big money to restore peatlands. We have an opportunity to conserve our peatlands and put them into carbon markets where they will earn money.

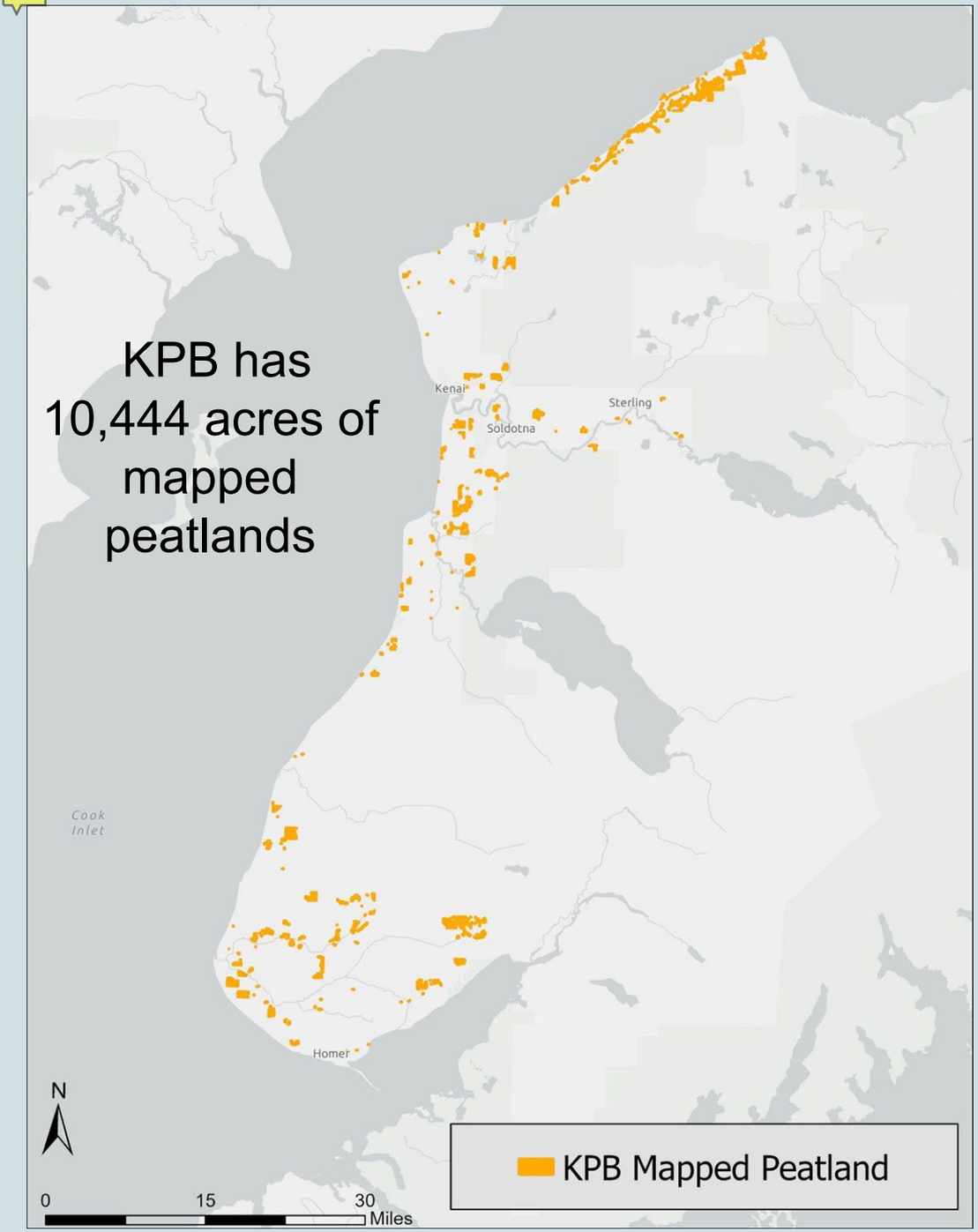
What is peat?


A
C
B
C
B
A
A
Low Shrub Forest
Potentilla fruiticosa
Myrica gale
Betula nana
Ledum palustre
Picea lutzii
B
Moss Hummocs
Vaccinium oxycoccos
Vaccinium vitis-idaea
Vaccinium uliginosum
Empetrum nigrum
C
Sedge Depressions
Trichophorum caespitosum
Equisetum fluviatile
Swertia perennis
Eriophorum angustifolium
Carex microchaeta

Kenai Lowland salmon depend on peatlands

“Gov. Mike Dunleavy plans to introduce a bill this upcoming legislative session aimed at turning the state’s capacity to absorb and store carbon into a source of revenue. And he said it could bring in several hundred million to a billion dollars in revenue a year…….Dunleavy said the bill he plans to introduce this coming session will be a starting point to figure out what carbon sequestration would look like in the state and explore things like how the state can contract with companies and other entities, what’s in the contract, and what lands, basins and coastlines could be involved.”

-AK Public Media, Dec 16, 2022



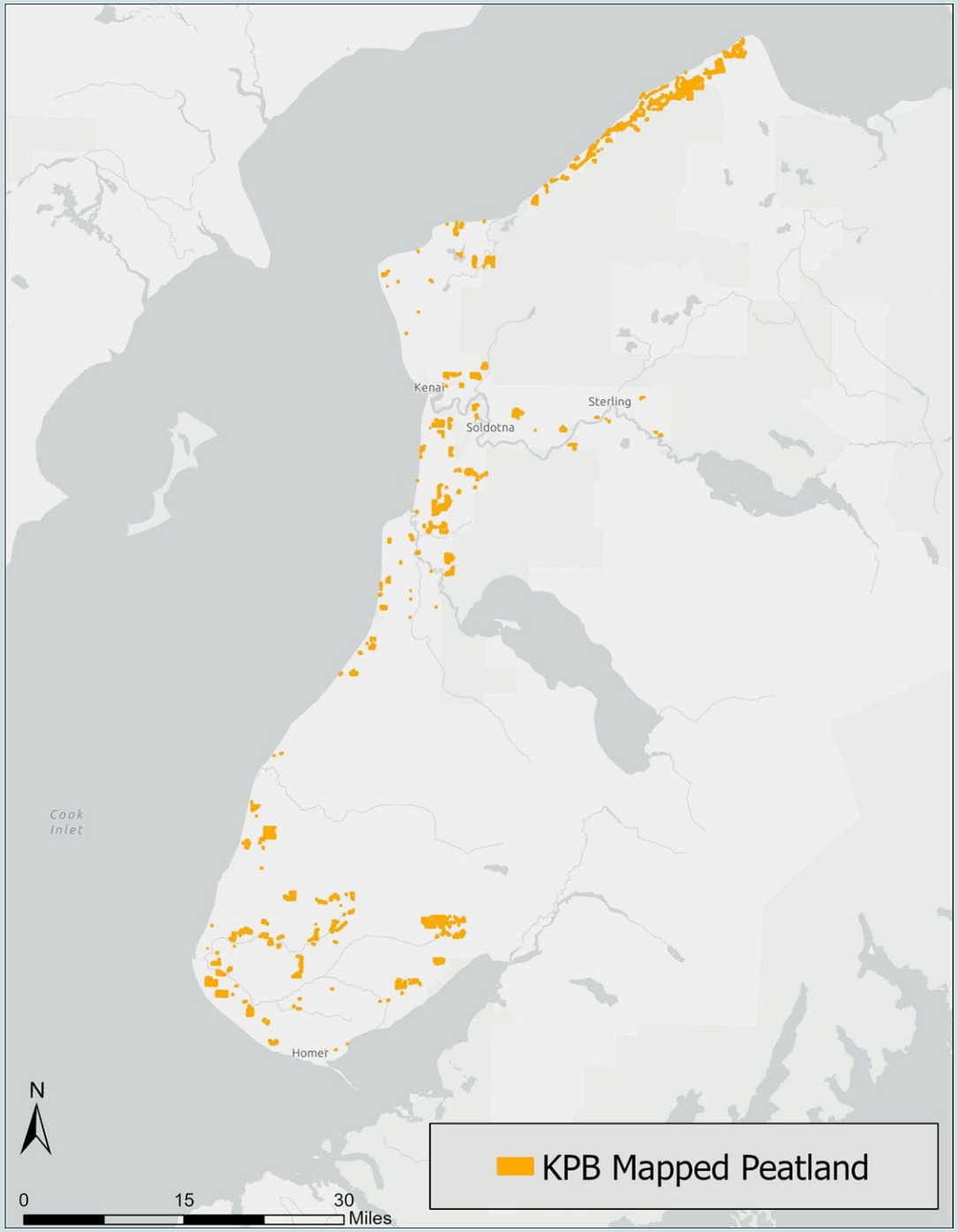
10,444 Acres x 150 tons/acre* = 1,566,600 acres

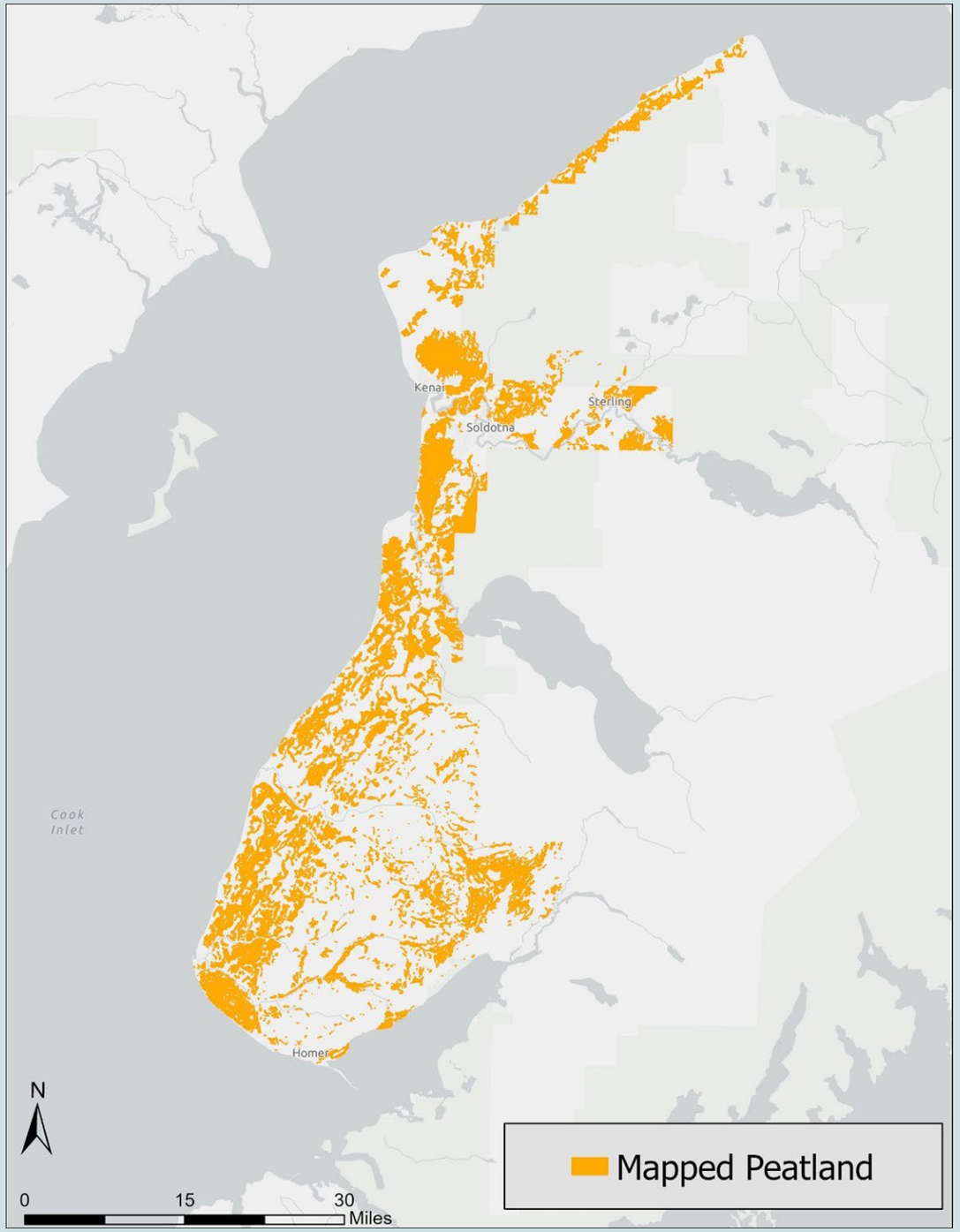
(*peatland depth is variable-from 144-154 tons/acre)

1,566,600 x $40/ton**= $62,664,000

(**$40-$80 per metric ton on the global carbon market)

Carbon TradeXchange


Kenai
Sterling
Soldotna
Cook Inlet
Homer
N
0
15
30
Miles
KPB Mapped Peatland


Kenai
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Homer Drawdown-Citizen Science

Communicating about peatland carbon in schools

Communicating peatland carbon with commercial fishermen

Planning for the future of people and salmon through peatland conservation