Evaluation

This is a semi-quantitative approach integrating bedrock and surficial components as evaluated by water chemistry. The influence of individual parameters (depth, texture, drainage) is not clearly defined; however, inferences can be made. The buffering capacity of unconsolidated materials may be greater than that of underlying bedrock; hence, it should not be ignored with respect to terrestrial sensitivity.

CSI appears to have good correlation with terrain factors; however, accurate field measures of alkalinity and pH are required and may be difficult to obtain consistently. The approach is limited by a lack of good alkalinity data with which to make widespread evaluations (i.e. mapping) or to show relationships within different parts of a watershed.