

The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy SECAS

Our vision: a connected network of landscapes and seascapes that supports thriving fish and wildlife populations and improved quality of life for people across the Southeastern United States and the Caribbean



Credit: Texas Tongs, CC BY-NC 2.0



“The time is upon us all to be more collaborative and strategic in targeting our collective conservation

activities to achieve broader landscape level conservation goals within the context of our individual conservation missions.”

—Ed Carter, Executive Director,
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency



Credit: Brian Smith

SECAS helps coordinate conservation planning and action across the region.

About SECAS

Through SECAS, diverse partners are working together to design and achieve a connected network of landscapes and seascapes that supports thriving fish and wildlife populations and improved quality of life for people across the Southeastern United States and the Caribbean. Together, federal, state, nonprofit and private organizations are coordinating their conservation actions and investments to focus on common goals.

SECAS was initiated by the states of the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies and the federal Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group.



SECAS Accomplishments

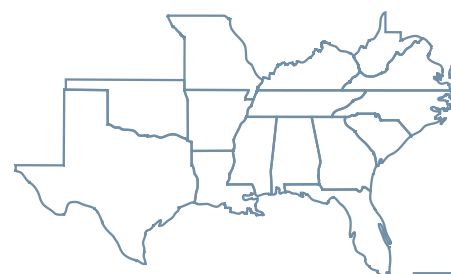
SECAS has developed a shared, regional conservation plan, the Southeast Conservation Blueprint. More than 1400 people from 430 organizations have helped create and improve the Blueprint. The Blueprint has been updated annually since its initial release in 2016.

More than 150 people from over 50 organizations have used or are using the Blueprint to secure new conservation funding and inform their decisions. Staff can help you use the Blueprint in any Southeastern state!

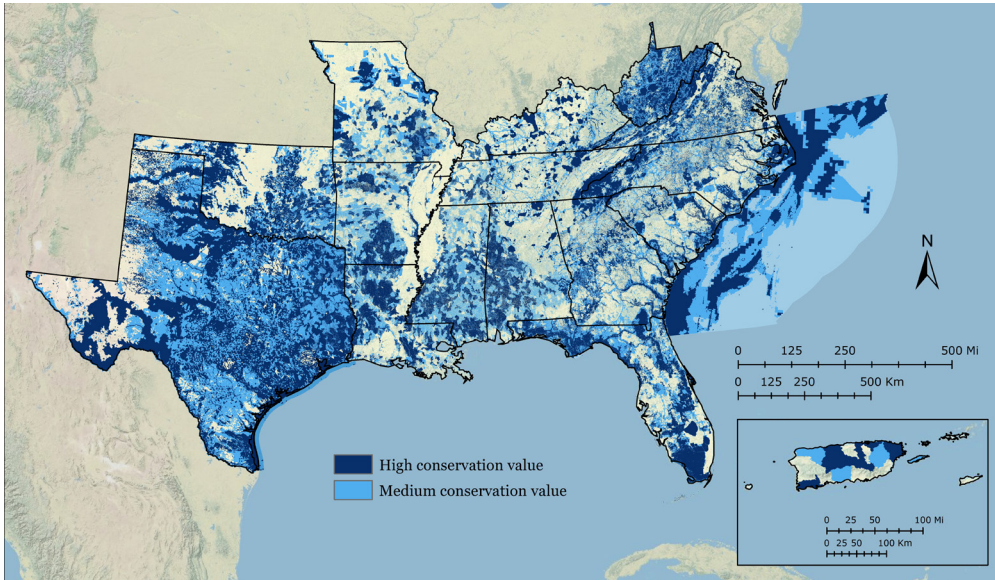
SECAS is setting an overarching goal for ecosystem health, function, and connectivity. An explicit goal will help us track progress over time and measure the impact of our work.

The Need for SECAS

The dramatic changes sweeping the Southeast—urban growth, hotter temperatures, competition for water, extreme weather, rising seas—pose unprecedented challenges for sustaining our natural and cultural resources. Yet they also offer a clear opportunity to unite the conservation community around a shared, long-term vision for the future. SECAS is that vision.



The Southeast Conservation Blueprint



Blueprint Version 3.0. High value areas are the most important for ecosystem health and function. Medium areas may require more restoration, but are important for buffering high value areas and maintaining connectivity.

- The Blueprint identifies potential areas for a range of conservation actions, like landowner incentives, management, education, or protection.
- It's a work in progress that regularly incorporates new data, partner input, and information about on-the-ground conditions.
- The Blueprint provides a regional perspective and can be used in combination with local data and knowledge.

The Southeast Conservation Blueprint is the primary product of SECAS. The Blueprint is more than just a map. It's a living, spatial plan that identifies important areas for conservation and restoration across the Southeast and Caribbean.

Who Uses the Blueprint?



The Blueprint helps identify potential longleaf corridors.

- A state wildlife agency seeking funds to protect coastal wetlands and improve public access
- A Council of Government helping a town refine its comprehensive plan

The Blueprint stitches together smaller subregional plans into one consistent map, incorporating the best available information about key species and habitats, as well as future threats. You can use these underlying layers to find your part of the Blueprint.

- A National Wildlife Refuge applying for funding to boost endangered salamander recovery
- Longleaf pine conservation partnerships prioritizing restoration and management projects
- A nonprofit supporting the reauthorization of a critical conservation funding source at its state legislature

These are just a few of nearly 50 Blueprint use cases completed so far, with 60 more still in progress!

Get Help Using the Blueprint

Staff are available to answer questions and help you use the Blueprint to support your proposals or inform your decisions. Your experience will guide future Blueprint improvements and ensure the plan reflects on-the-ground conditions.

If you'd like to help improve the Blueprint inputs and methods, we welcome your feedback! We're always looking for ways to make the next version better.

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