



# The SECAS Third Thursday Web Forum

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Collaborative complexity in the Southeast - A Blueprint for regional interorganizational capacity



# Agenda

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- Introduction
- Monthly topic
- Q&A and discussion
- Preview of next webinar
- Staff updates



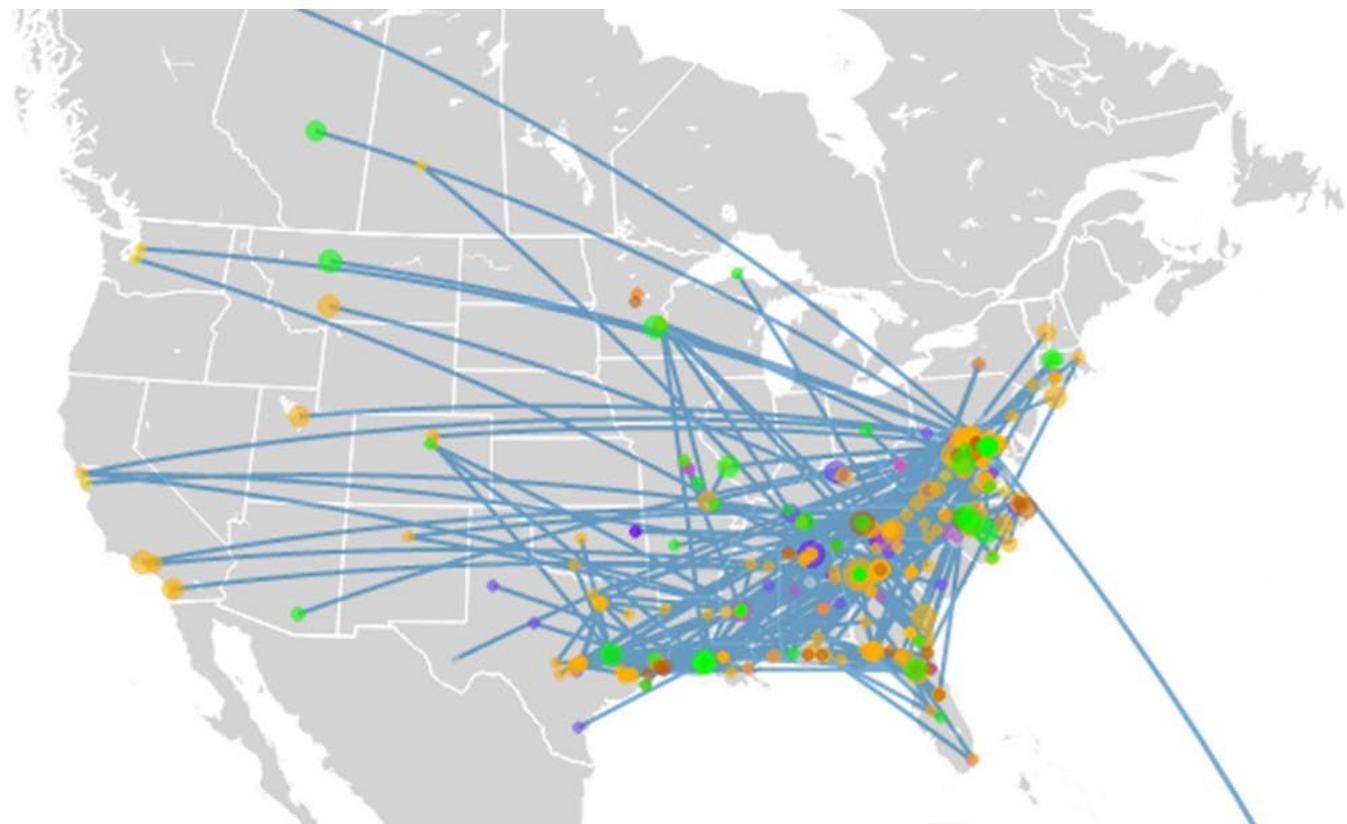
# Collaborative complexity in the Southeast - A Blueprint for regional interorganizational capacity

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Patrick Bixler, University of Texas

Shawn Johnson, University of Montana

4-18-2024



# COLLABORATIVE COMPLEXITY IN THE SOUTHEAST

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## A Blueprint for Regional Interorganizational Capacity

Patrick Bixler<sup>1</sup>, Shawn Johnson<sup>2</sup>, Travis Anklam<sup>2</sup>, Shannon Westlake<sup>3</sup>, Kelly  
Guilbeau<sup>3</sup>, Joshua Toran<sup>4</sup>, Amanda Sesser<sup>3</sup>

1. LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas

2. Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy, University of Montana

3. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

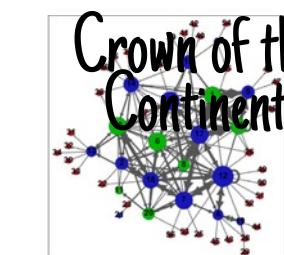
4. University of Georgia

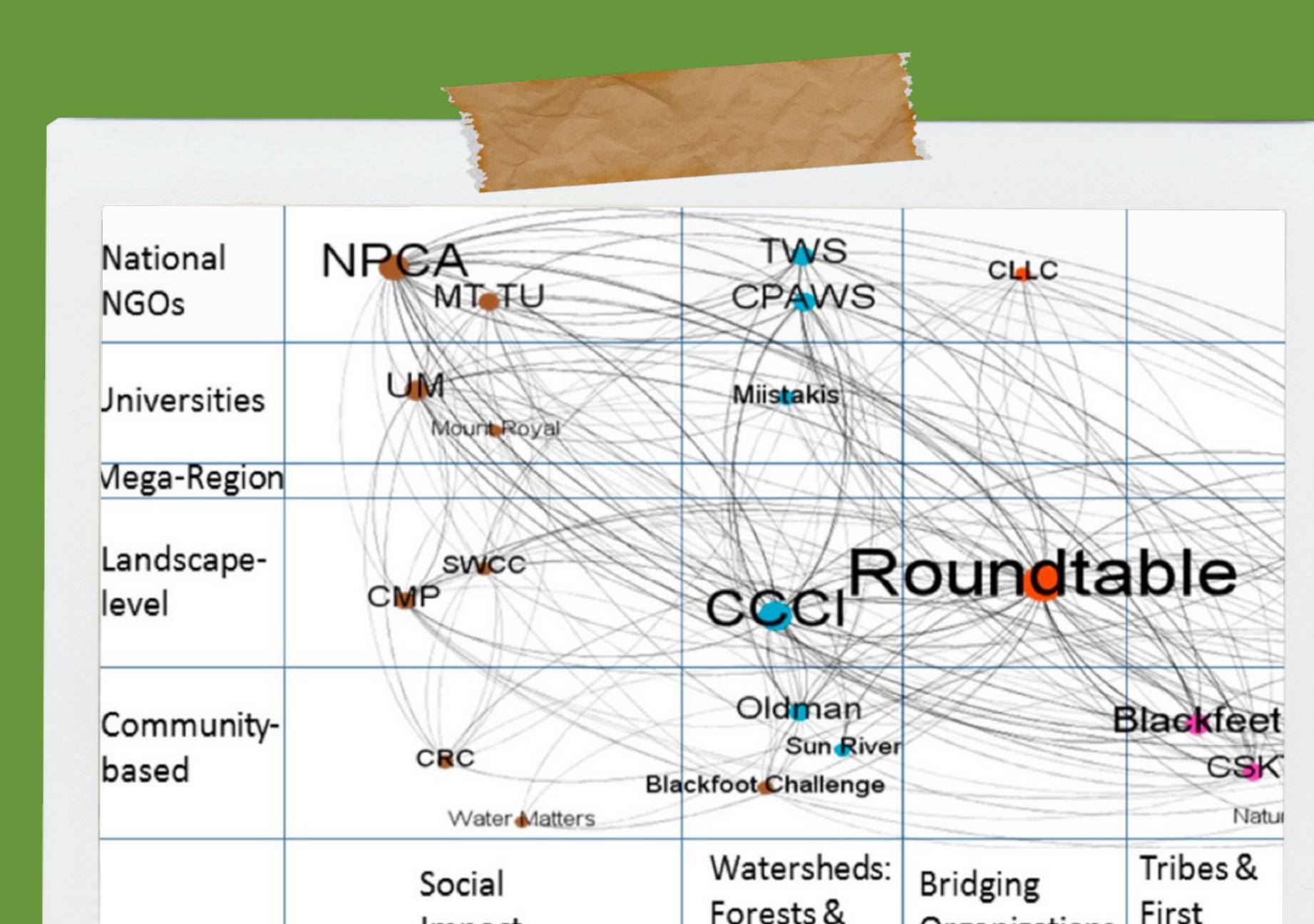
# GOVERNANCE NETWORKS AND LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

Previous studies of  
interorganizational networks  
and resource management

# GOVERNANCE NETWORKS AND LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

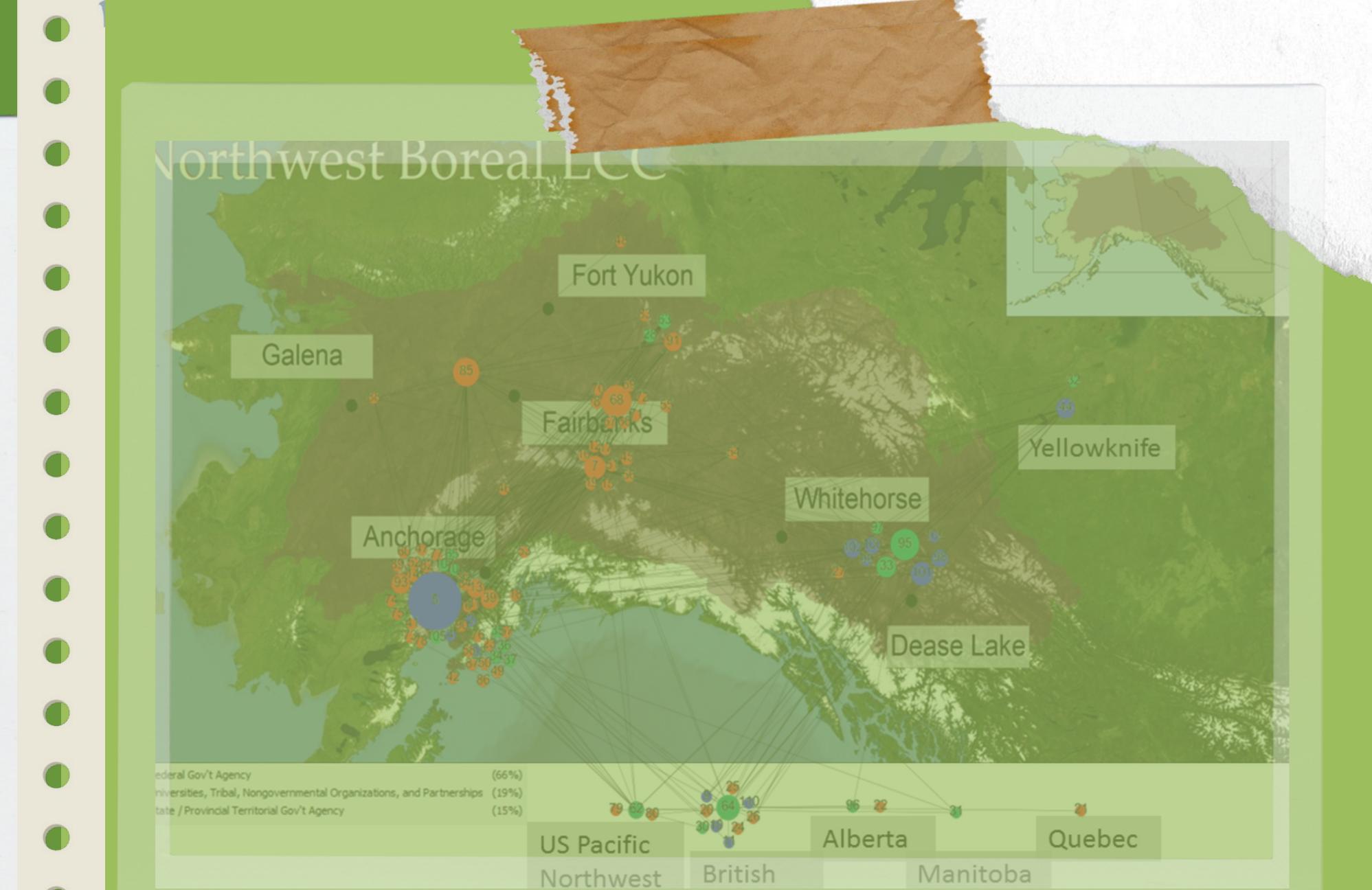
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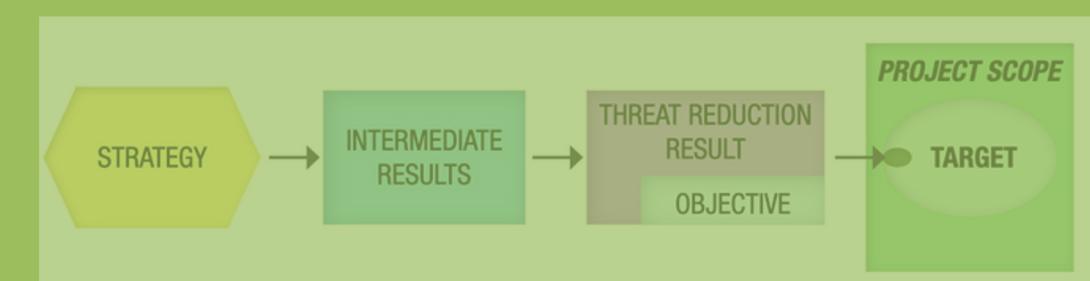
# Crown of the Continent (2015)

In the Crown of the Continent, we used network analysis to demonstrate how forums connect stakeholders across geographical scale, stakeholder type, and conservation focus areas.



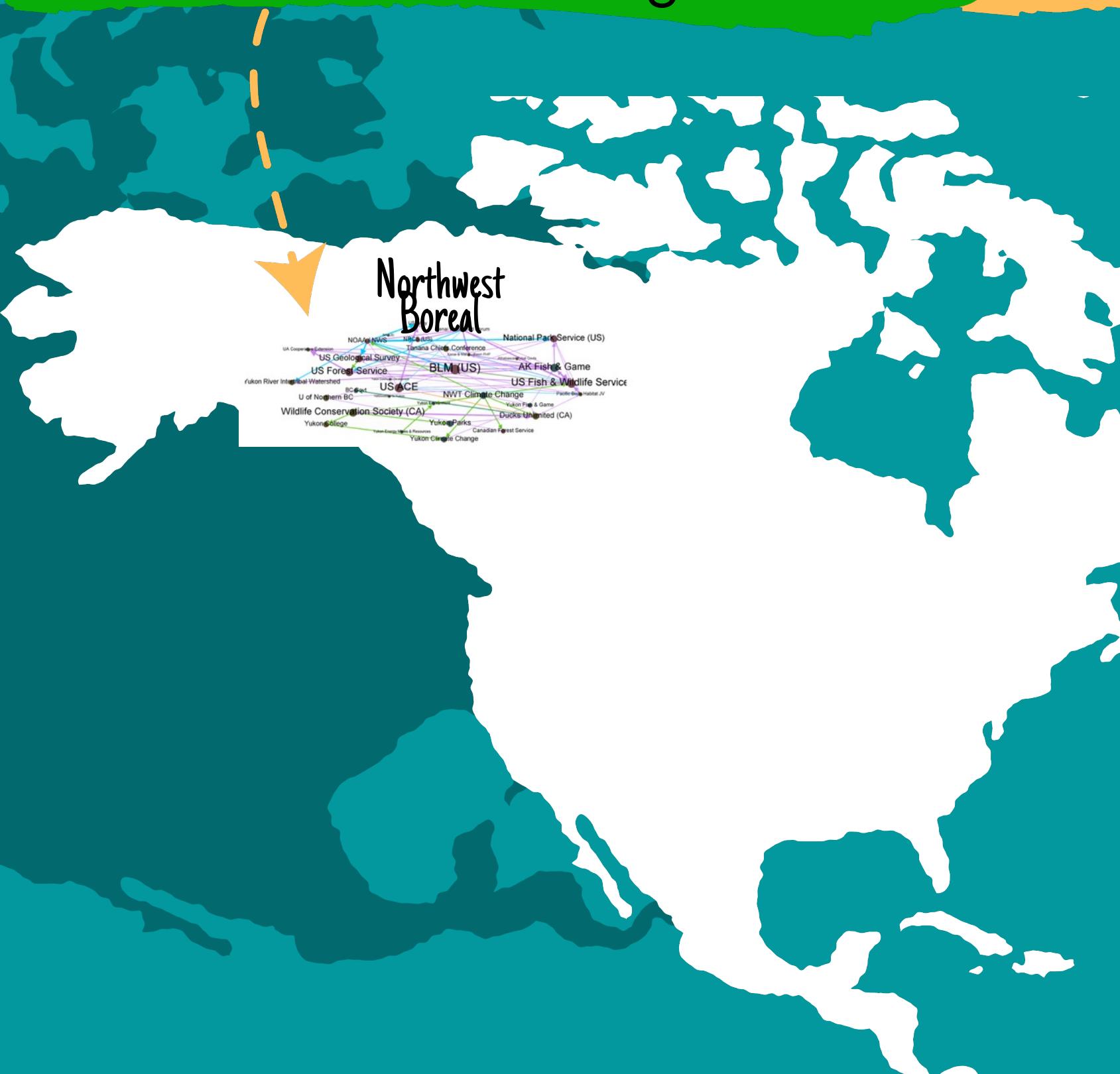
# Northwest Boreal (2017)

In the Northwest Boreal, network(s) were connected to Long-term Landscape Targets by mapping network activity to results chain



# GOVERNANCE NETWORKS AND LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

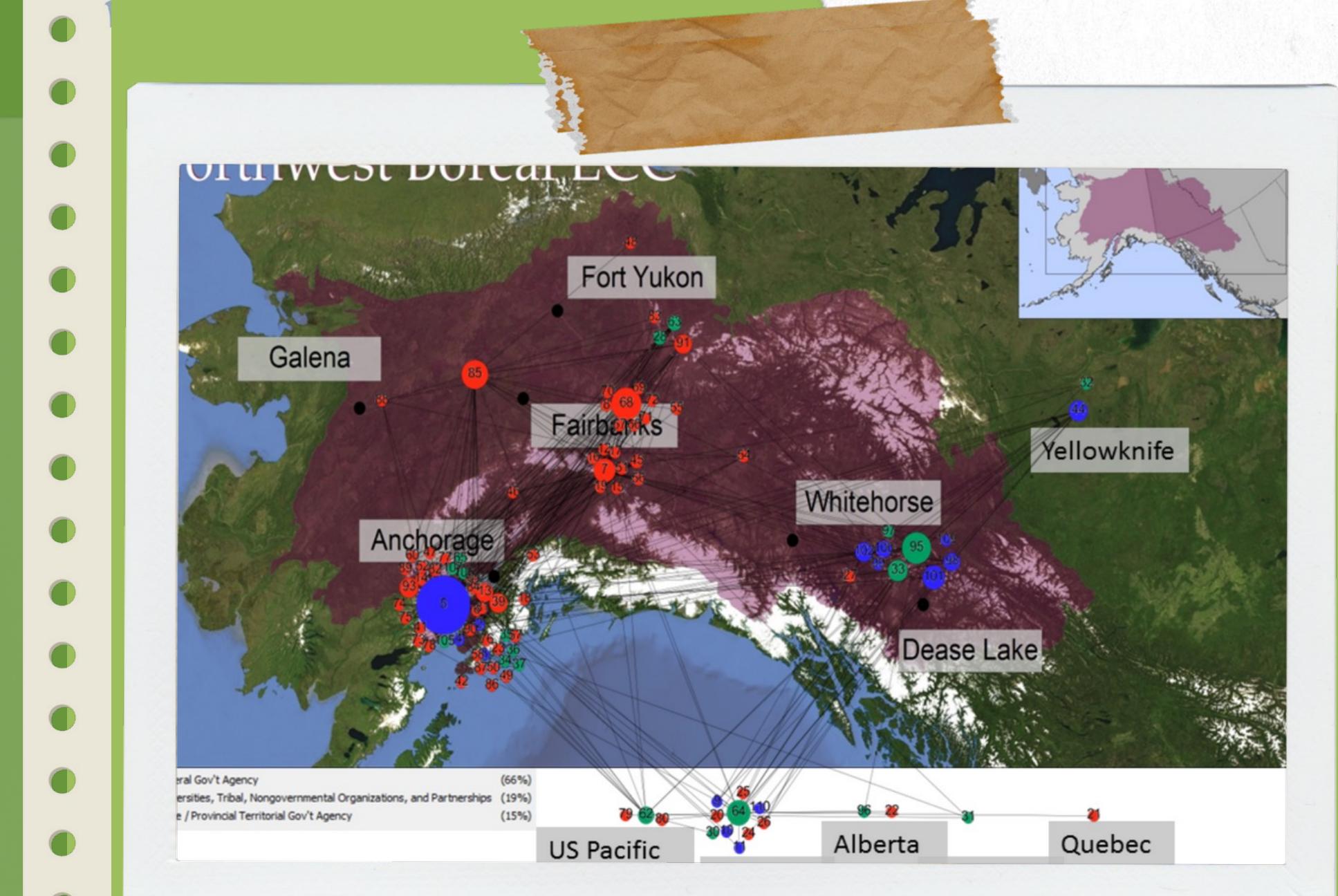
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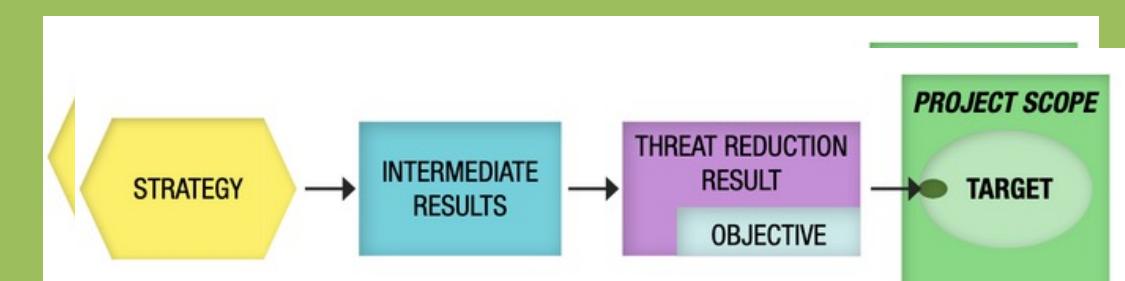
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# Northwest Boreal (2017)

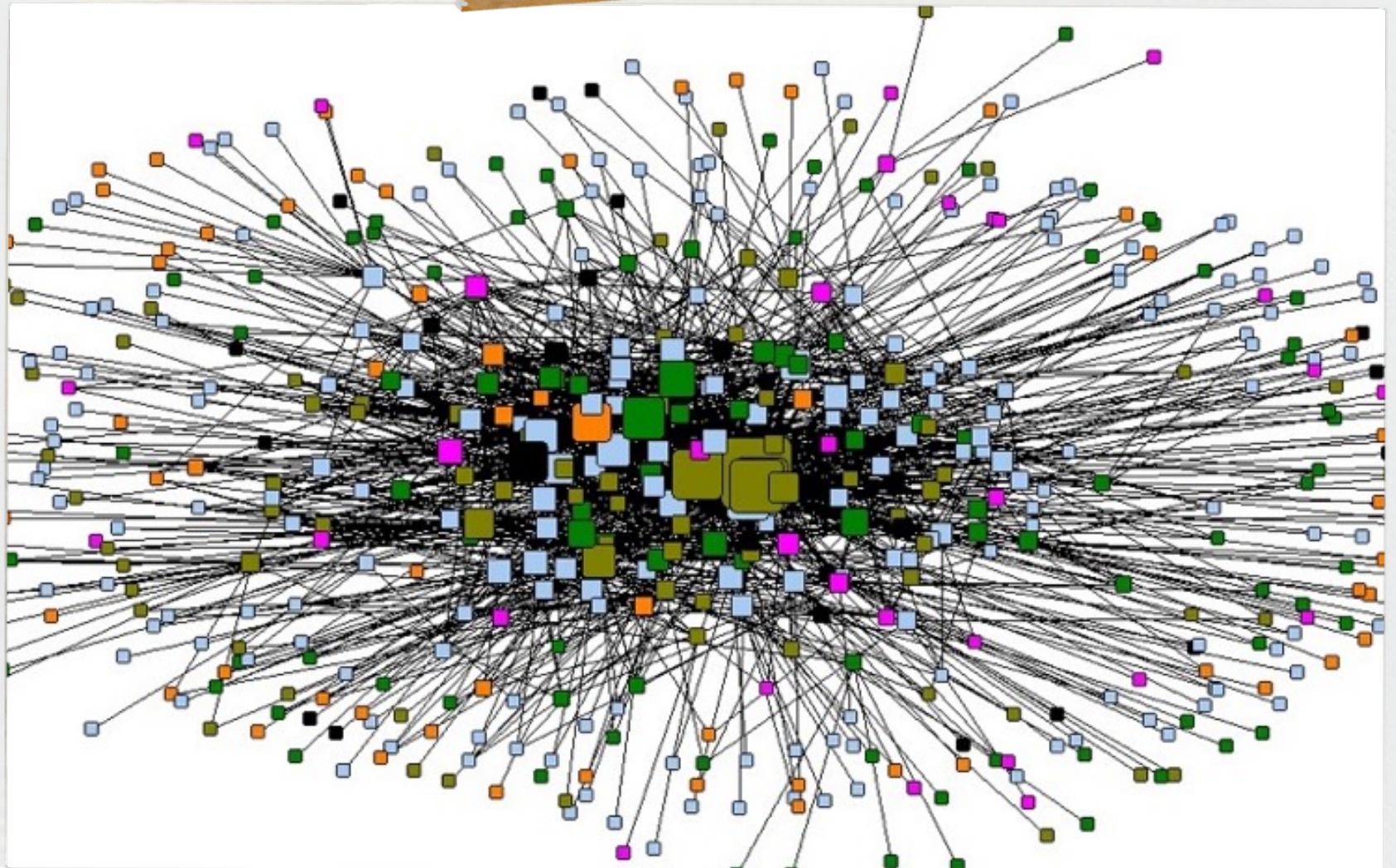
In the Northwest Boreal, we mapped network structure(s) to activities and Long-term Landscape Targets through results chains.



# GOVERNANCE NETWORKS AND LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

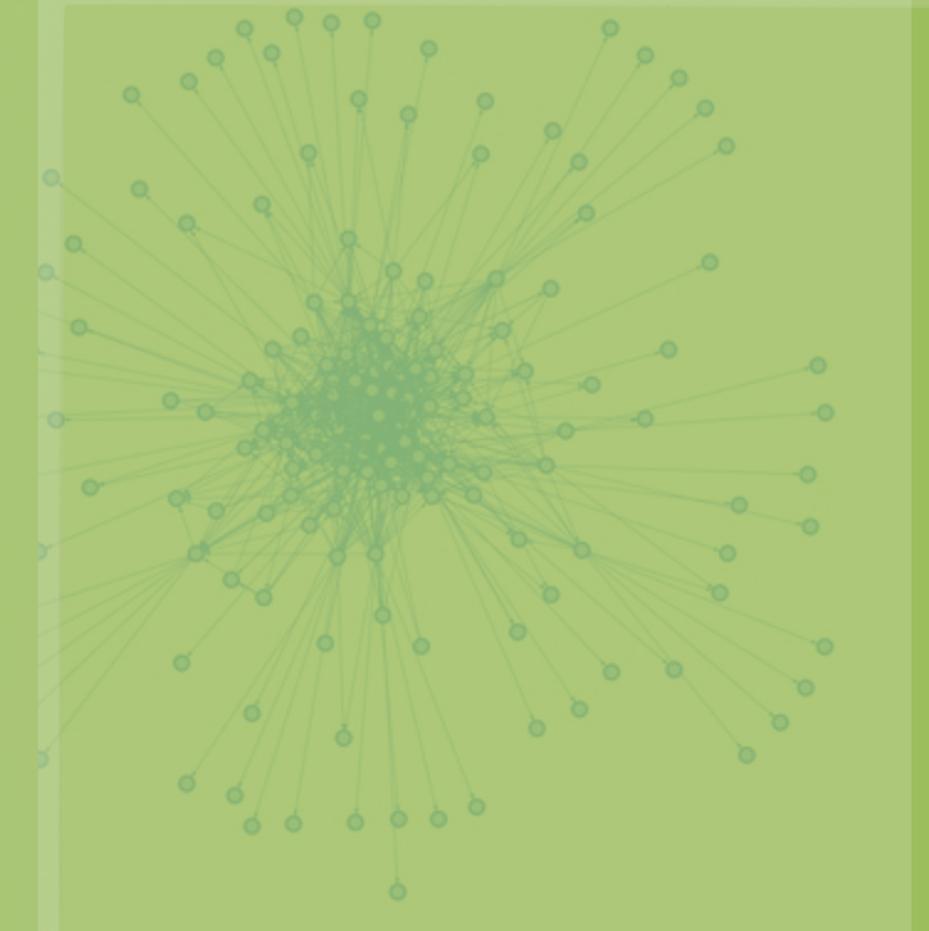
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## Sagebrush Biome (2019)

In the Sagebrush, we modeled network structure and collaborative capacity. Strategic ties, not more ties, were statistically related to collaborative capacity and that partnerships (place-based and issue) frequently occupied positions of “brokerage”.



2016



2023

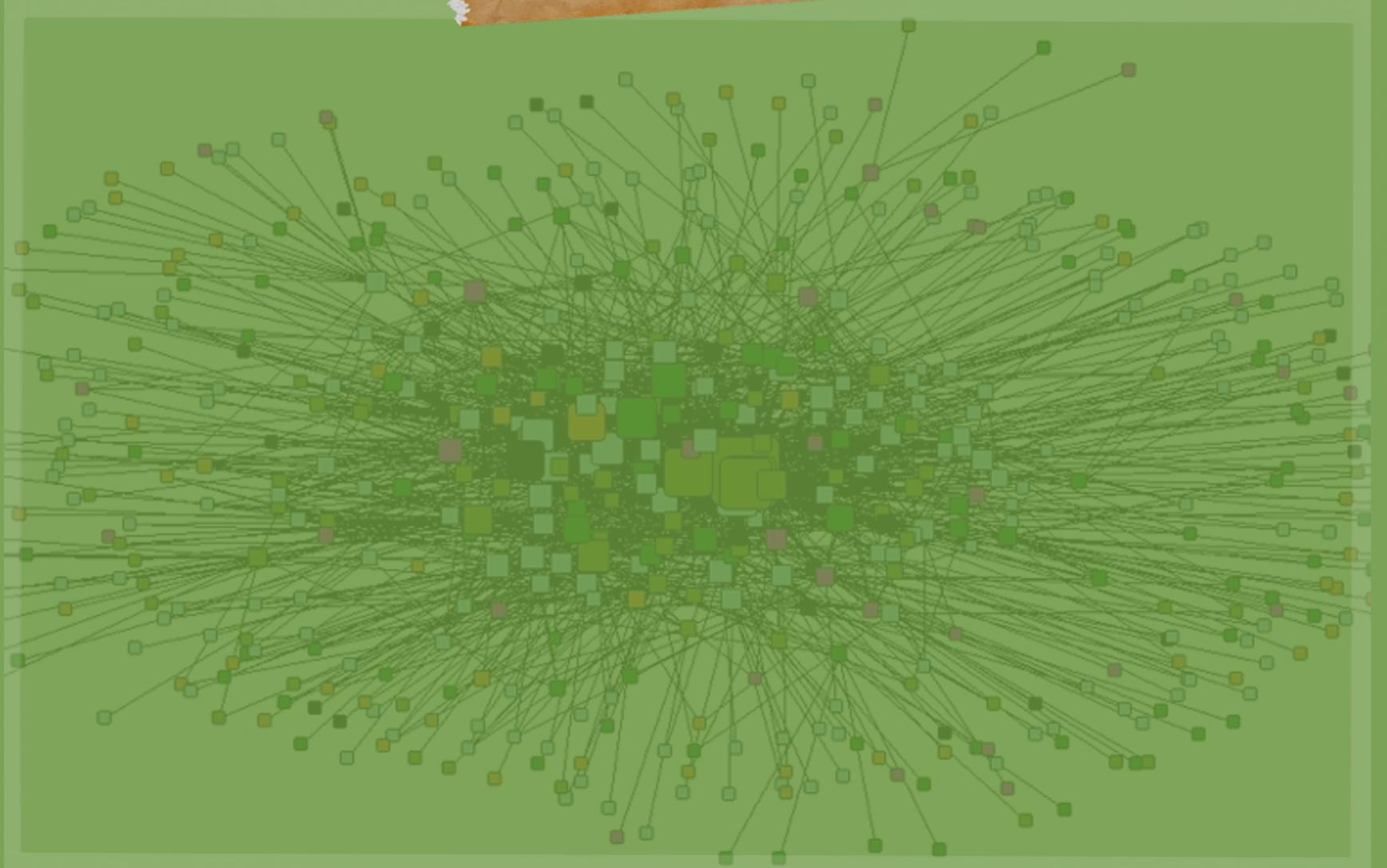
## Texas Hill Country (2016/2023)

In the Texas Hill Country, over time a network of conservation organizations became larger, less centralized, and included more institutional (e.g., national NGOs) and equity-oriented organizations

# GOVERNANCE NETWORKS AND LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

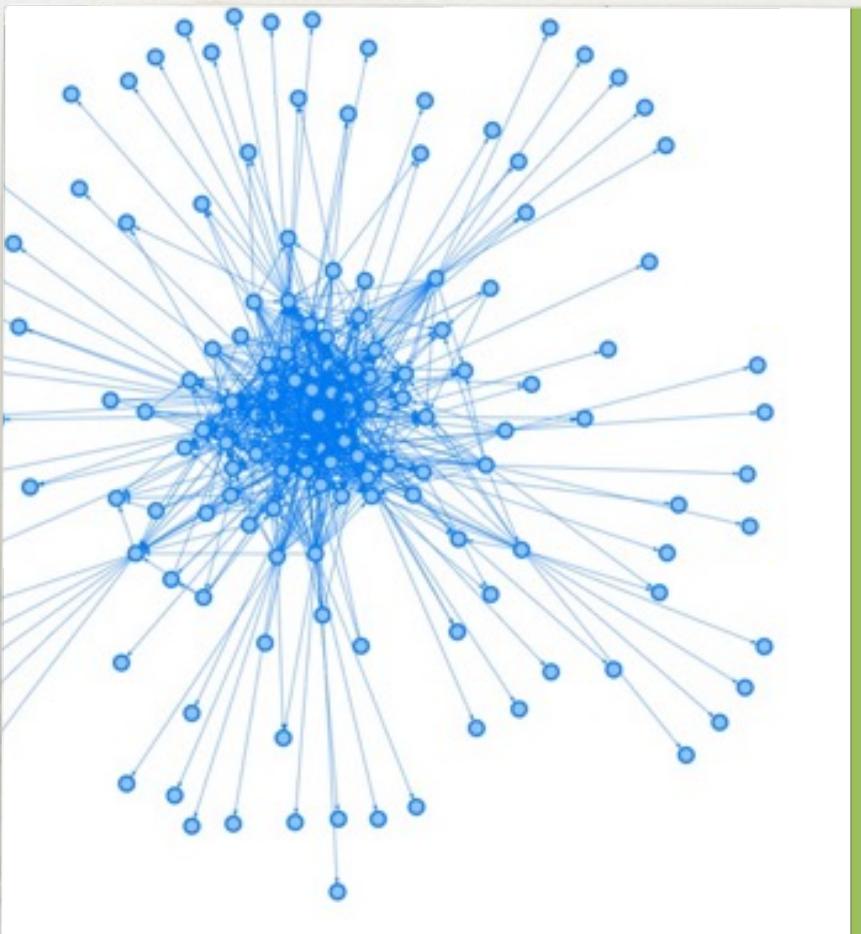
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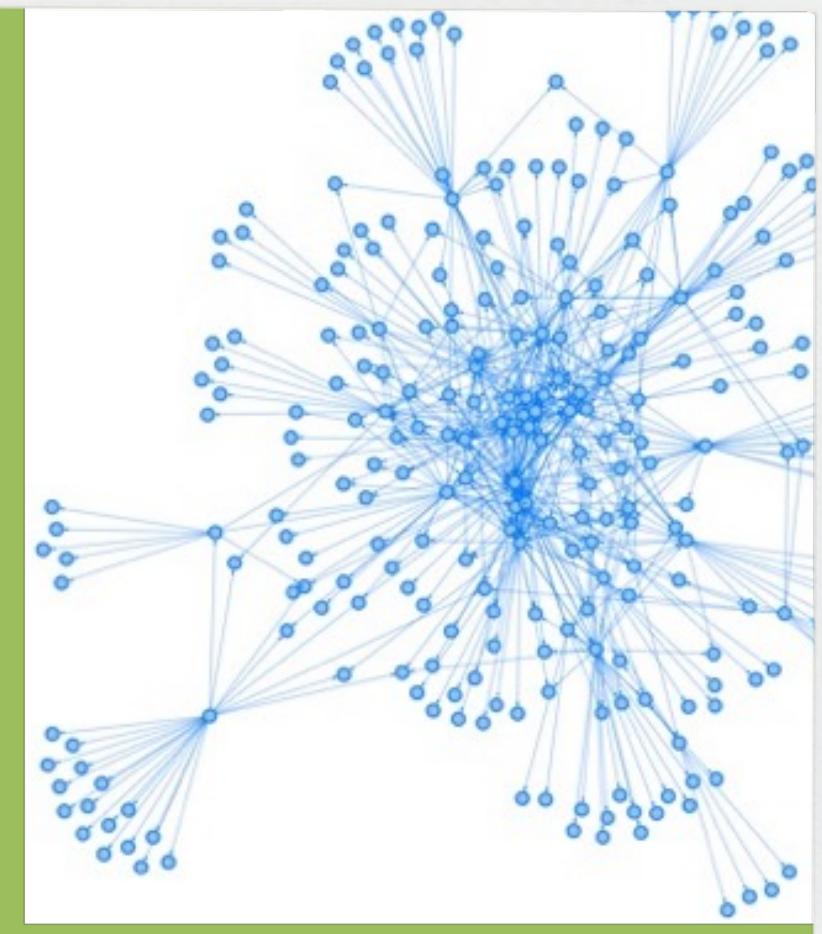


## Sagebrush Biome (2019)

In the Sagebrush, network structure and collaborative capacity was examined finding that not more but more strategic ties are related to collaborative capacity...partnerships (place-based and issue) occupied these positions



2016



2023

## Texas Hill Country (2016/2023)

In the Texas Hill Country, we modeled a network of conservation organizations over time and observed increase in network size, changes in network composition (e.g., national NGOs and equity-oriented) and increasing decentralization.

Aggregating Lessons Learned

# How previous work informed the SECAS study...

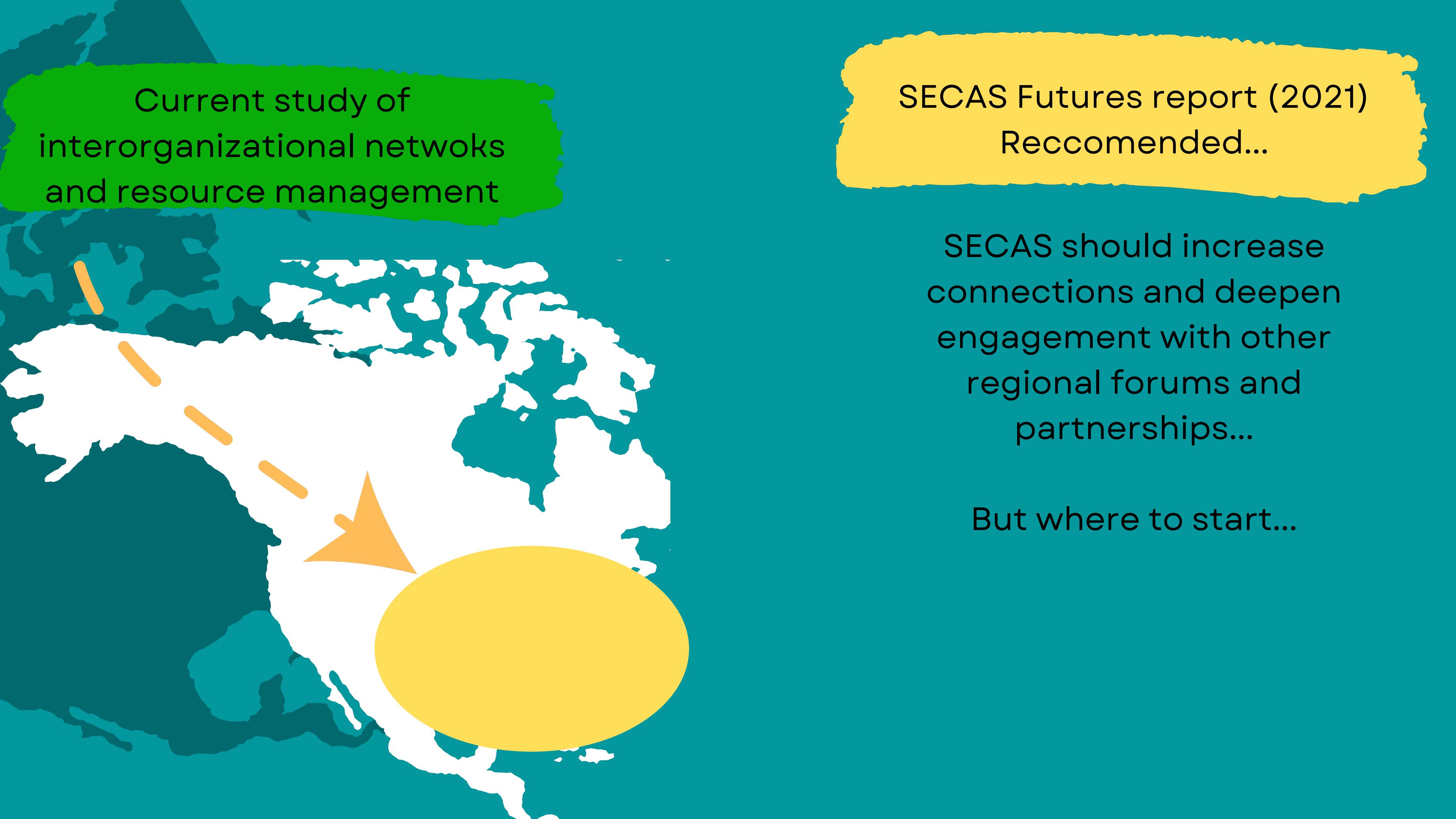


## Aggregating Lessons Learned

# How previous work informed the SECAS study...



- Think of the starting point/target population for our “network” as existing partnerships or “forums”
- Consider how the Blueprint and other SECAS goals shape the network structure
  - (snowball origination was external to SECAS)
- Measure how network structure are related to organizational behaviors
- Establish a framework for understanding change over time



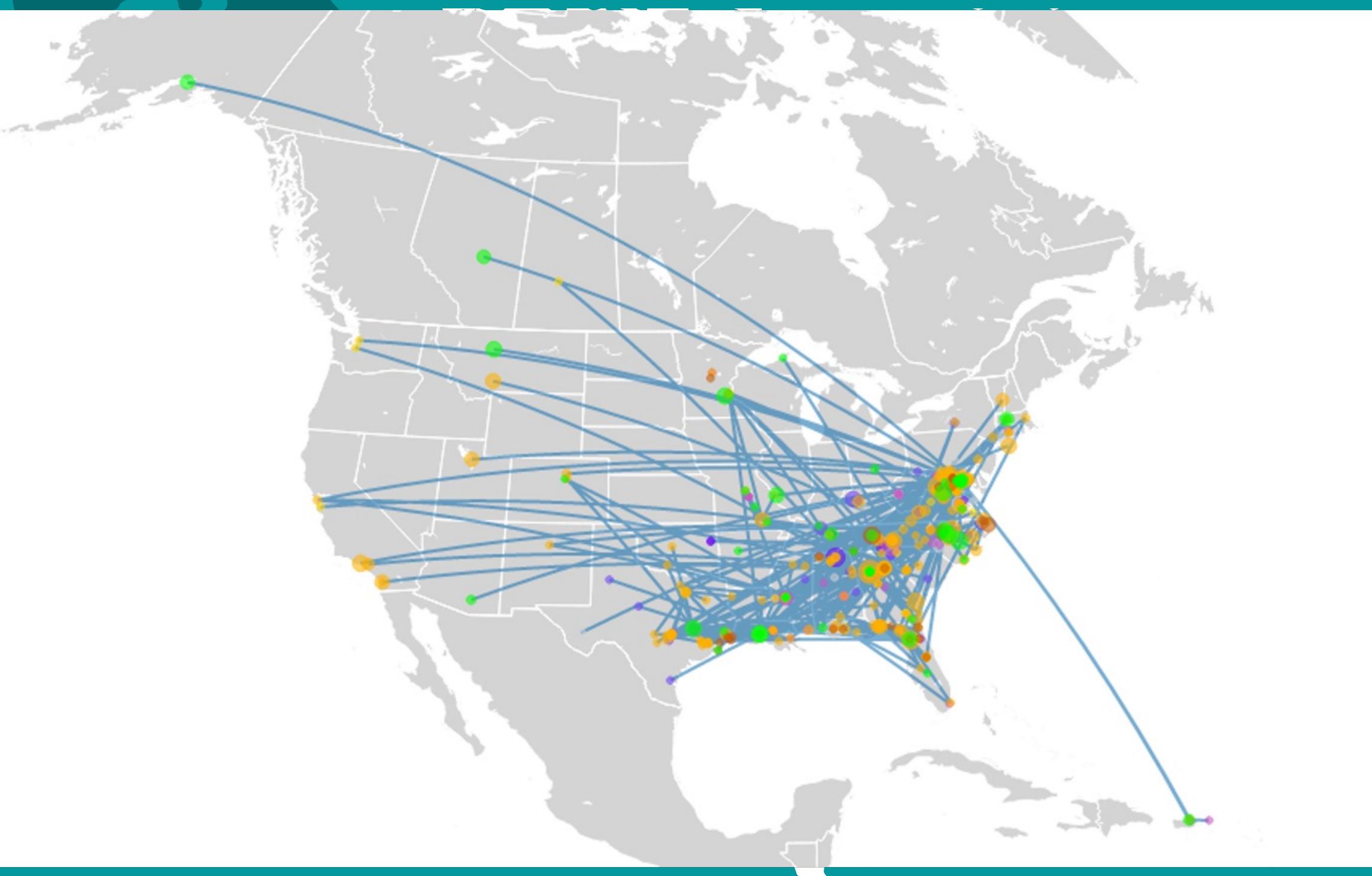
Current study of  
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and resource management

SECAS Futures report (2021)  
Reccomended...

SECAS should increase  
connections and deepen  
engagement with other  
regional forums and  
partnerships...

But where to start...

Current study of  
interorganizational networks  
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SECAS Futures report (2021)  
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But where to start...

Conduct a baseline network  
study

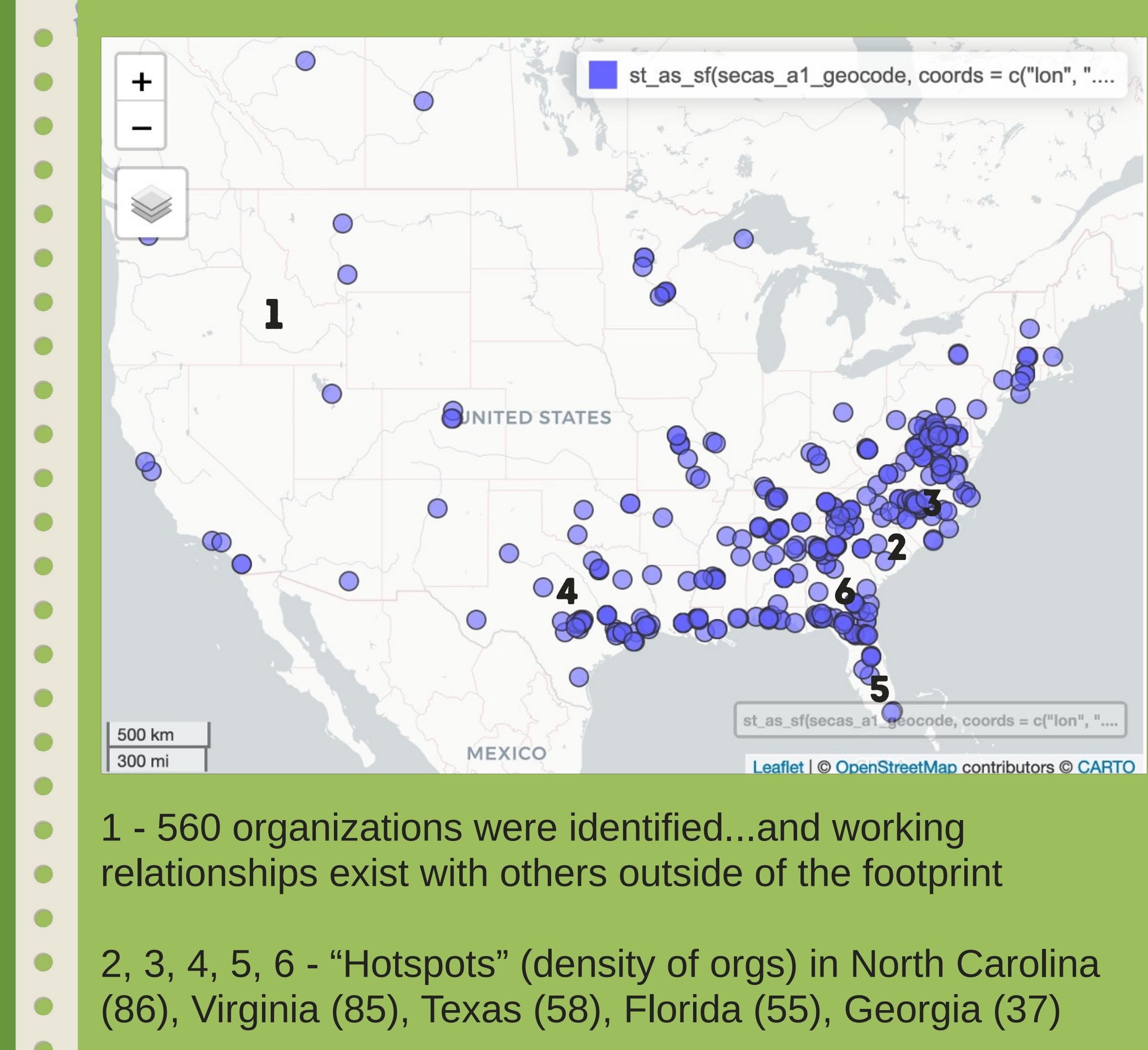
# DATA COLLECTION /NETWORK SURVEY

- Invitation to take an online survey was sent to an original list of partnerships (*external to SECAS*)
- Conducted a “snowball round” after initial invites
- 45% response rate (303 invited, 137 completed surveys)
- Organizations (or programmatic areas) were the unit of analysis, not individuals

# ORGANIZATION

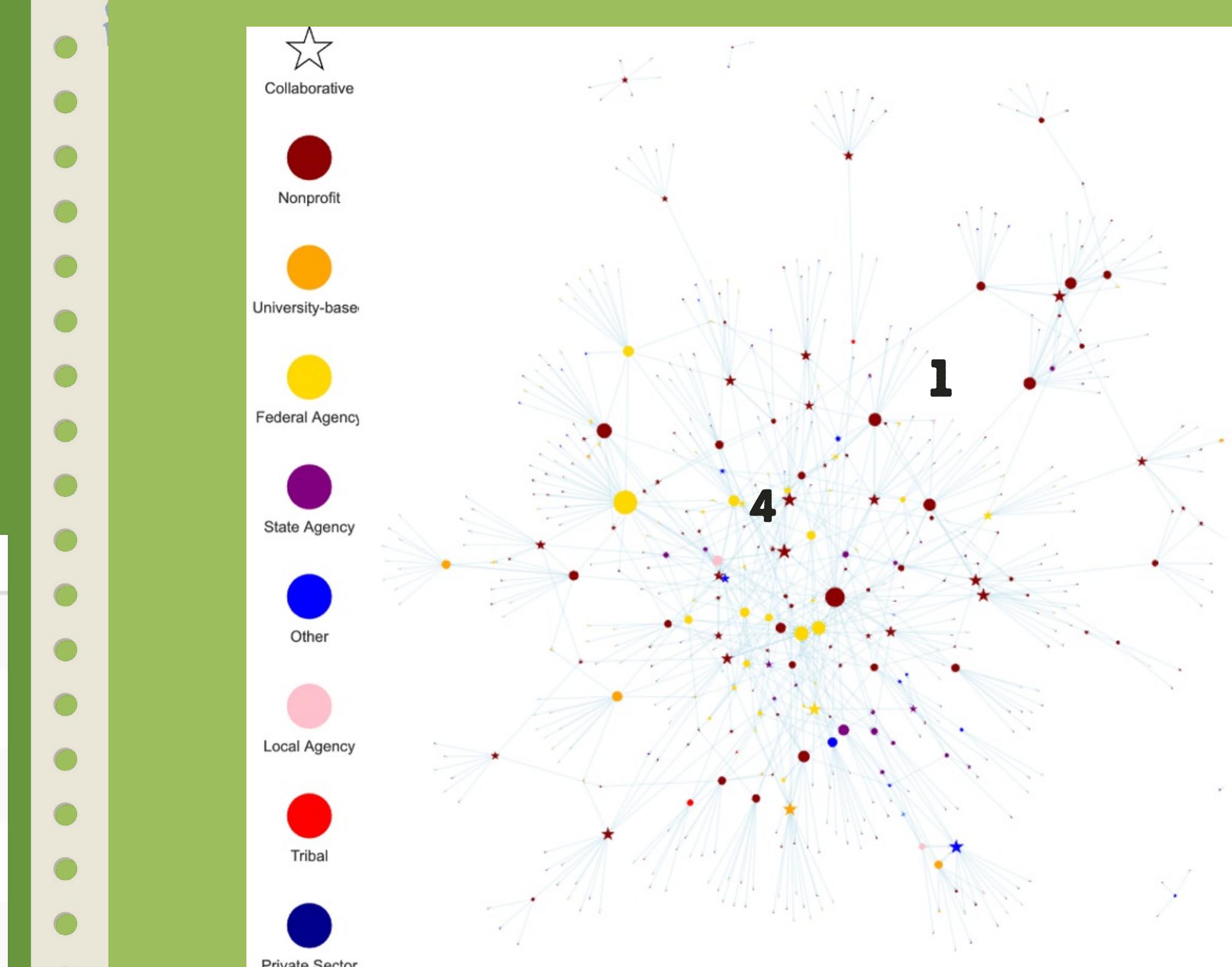
## POPULATION

- Invitation to take an online survey was sent to an original list of partnerships (*external to SECAS*)
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# COMMUNITY (OR NETWORK) STRUCTURE

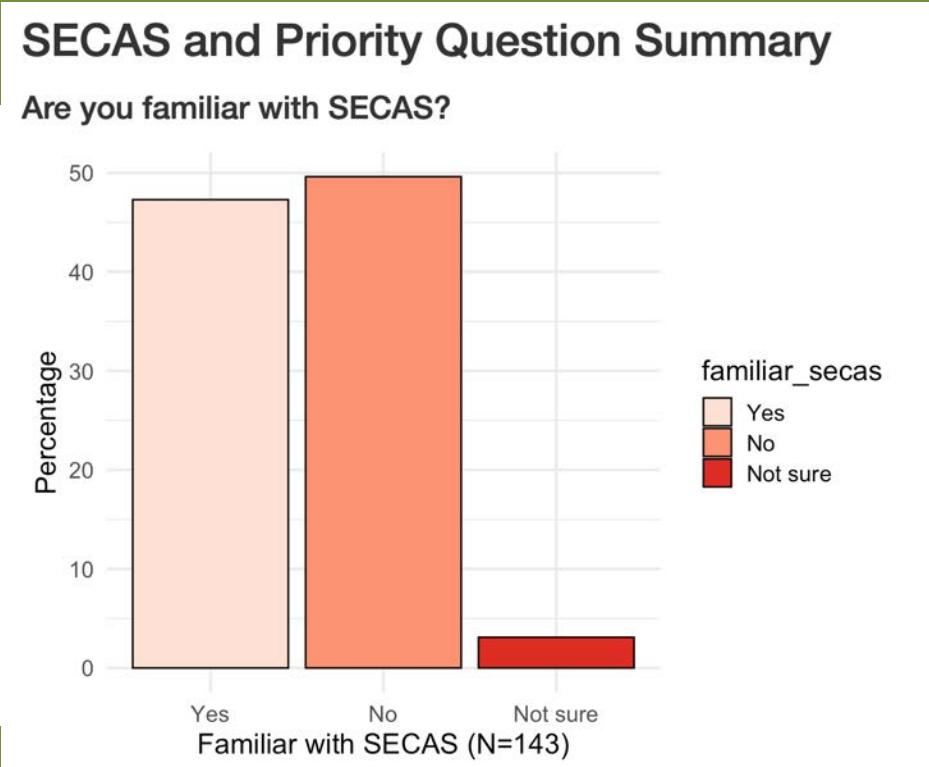
orgtype1	count	composition_pct	DegreeMean
Nonprofit	<b>2</b> 262	46.7857143	3.286259
State Agency	91	16.2500000	2.032967
Federal Agency	77	13.7500000	<b>3</b> 3.974026
University-based	46	8.2142857	2.260870
Other	30	5.3571429	2.8666667
Local Agency	29	5.1785714	1.793103
Private Sector	<b>5</b> 13	2.3214286	1.000000
Tribal	9	1.6071429	2.222222



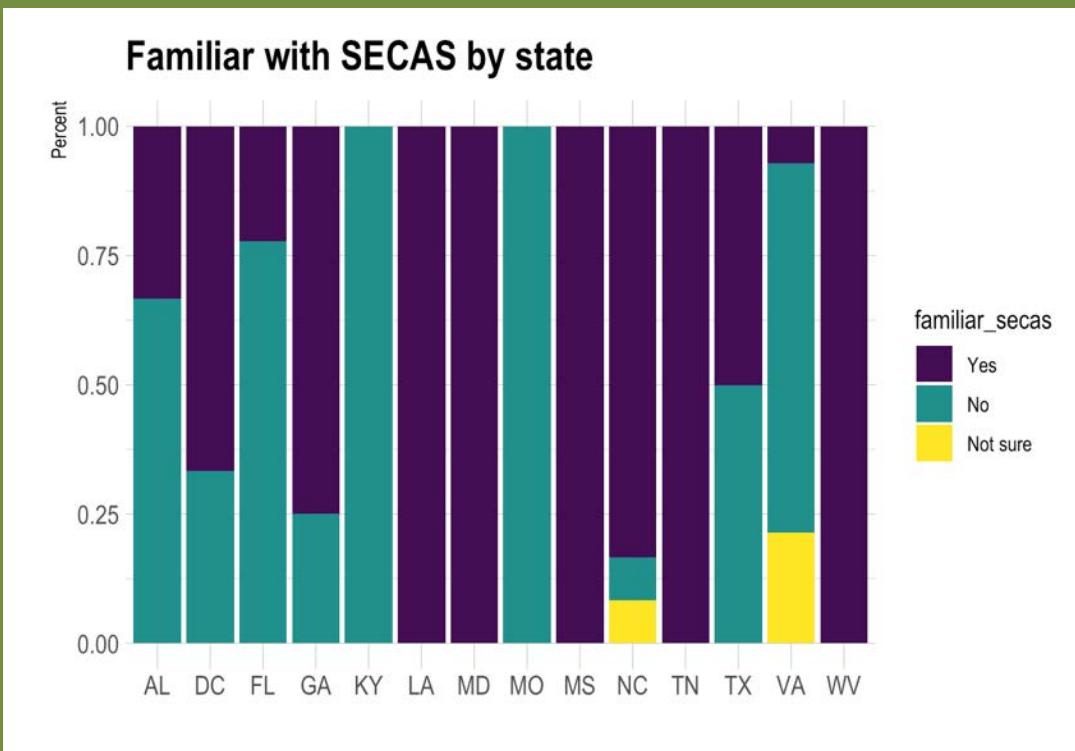
- 1 - 822 total ties; 1.5 per org on average
- 2 - 47% of the organizations identified were nonprofits
- 3 - Federal agencies, on average, had the most network ties (mean = 4 connections to others)
- 4- 25% of orgs were classified as “partnerships/collaboratives”
- 5 - Nine tribal entities, 13 private sector

# Engagement with SECAS

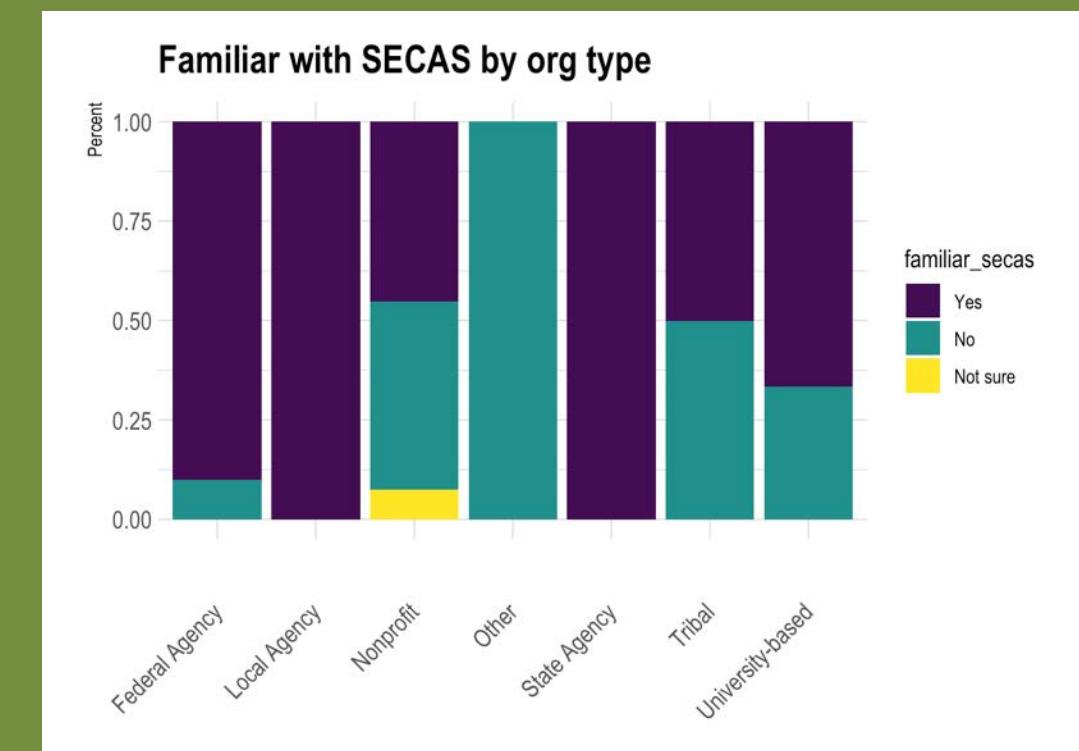
## FAMILIAR WITH SECAS



## BY STATE



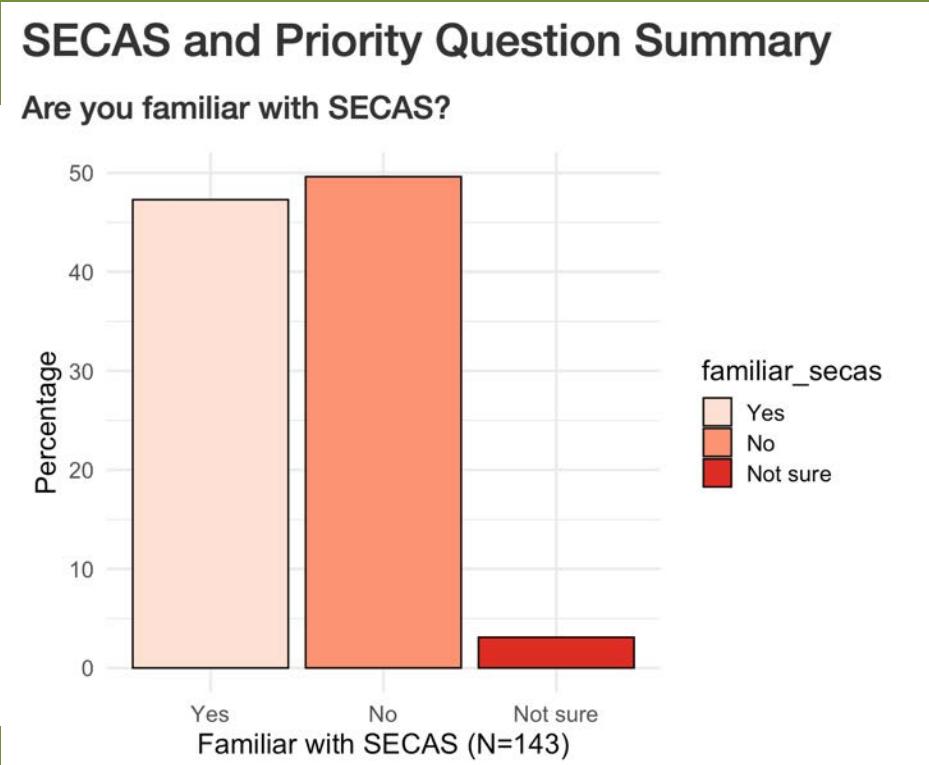
## BY ORG TYPE



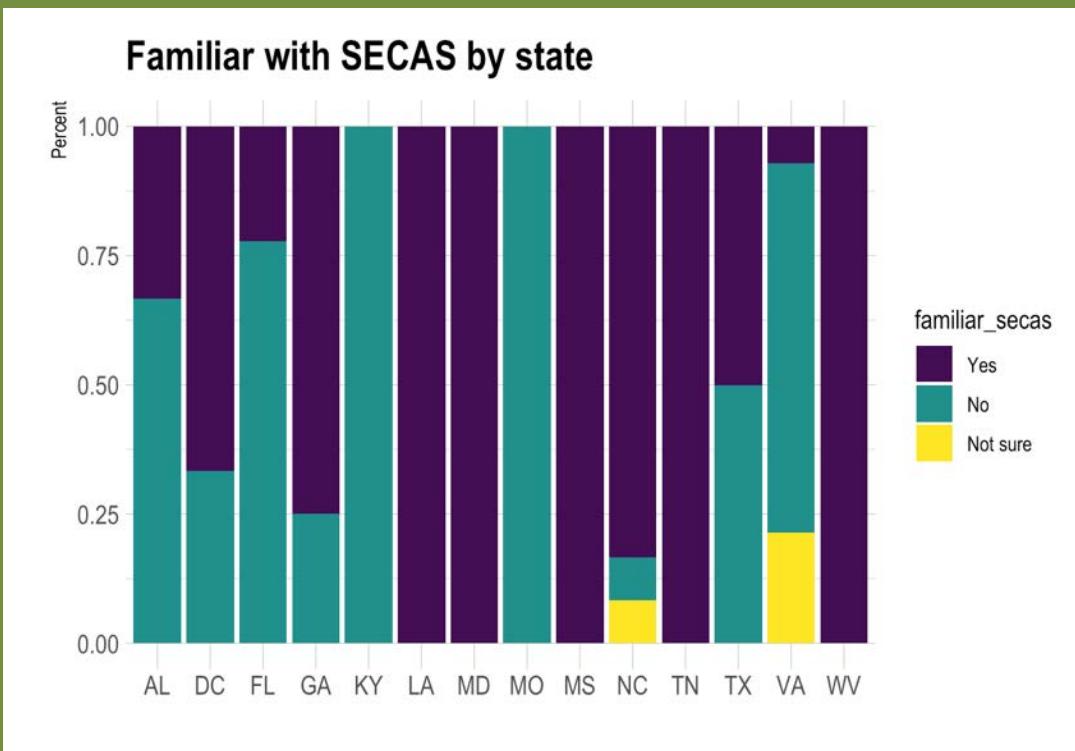
\*sample sizes in some states are limited

# Engagement with SECAS

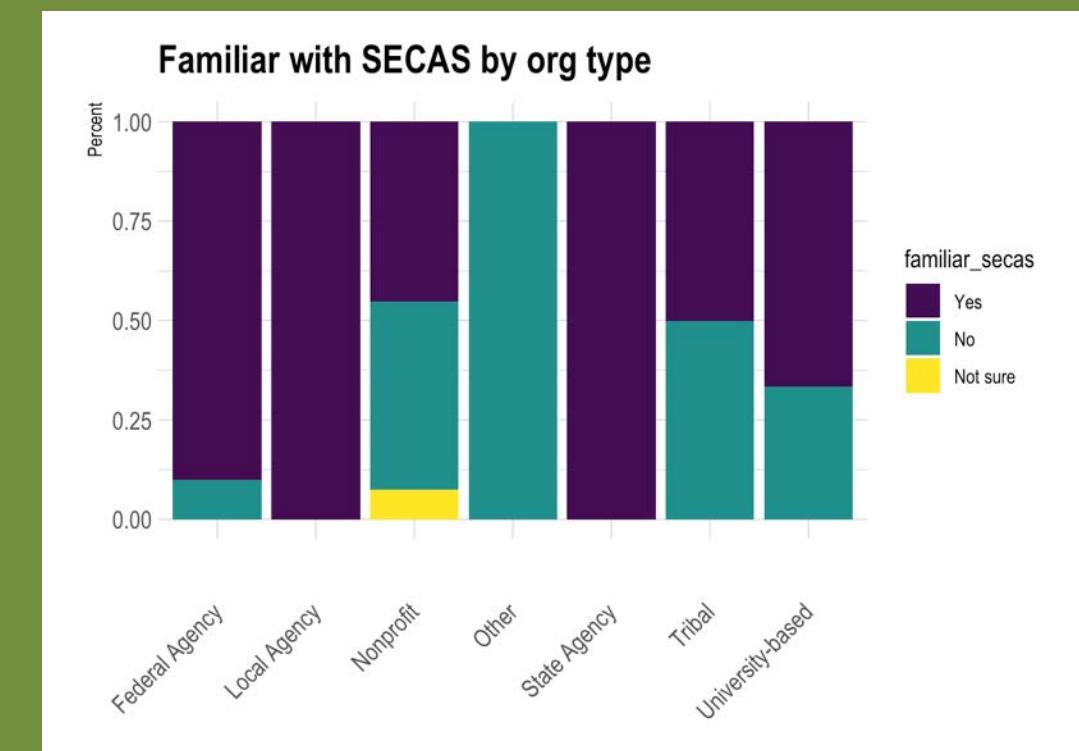
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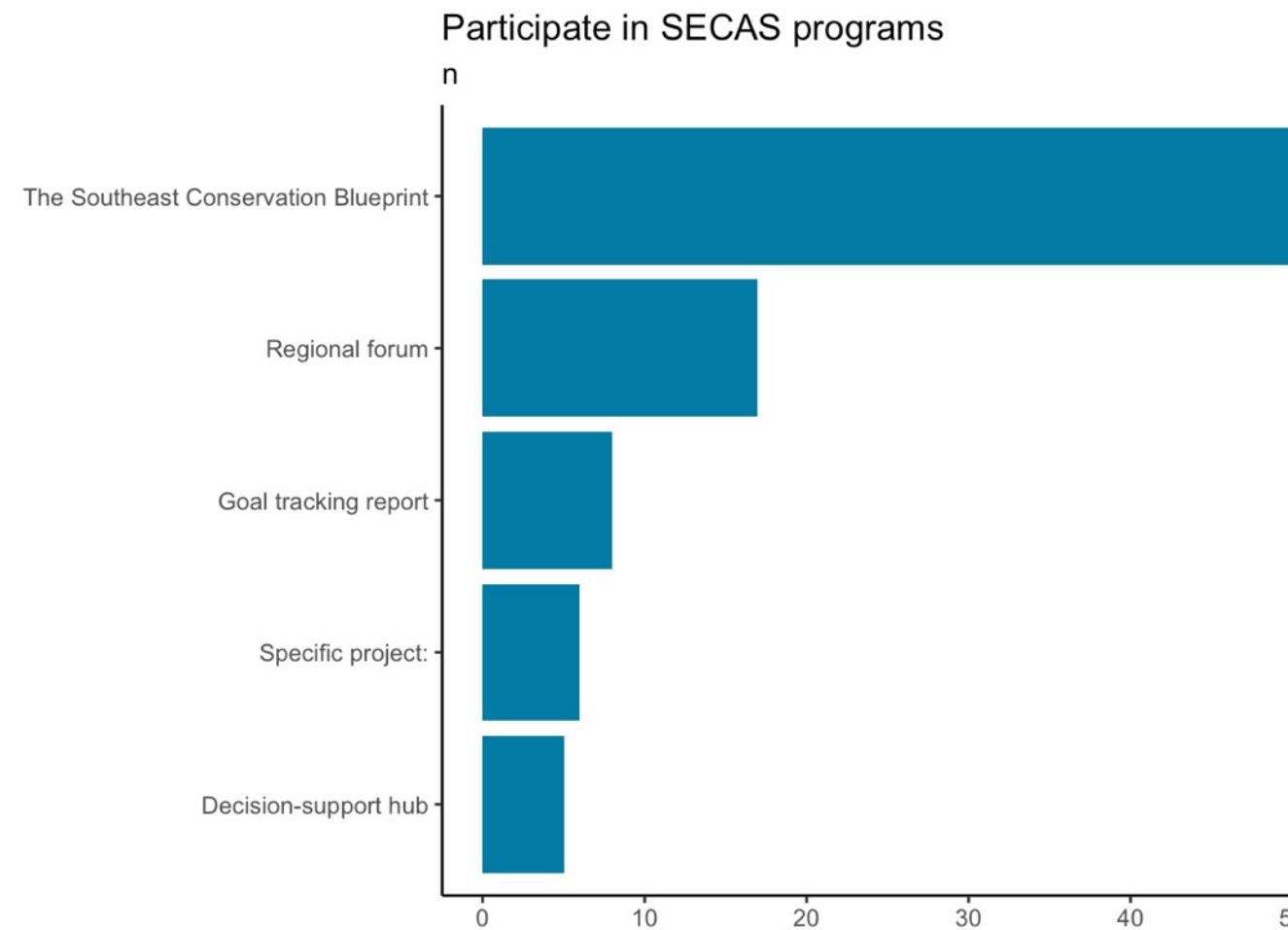


- \*sample sizes in some states are limited
- LA, MD, WV - 100% yes
- KY, VA, FL - less so

- Federal and Local agencies – YES!
- Nonprofit, tribal, “other” – less so

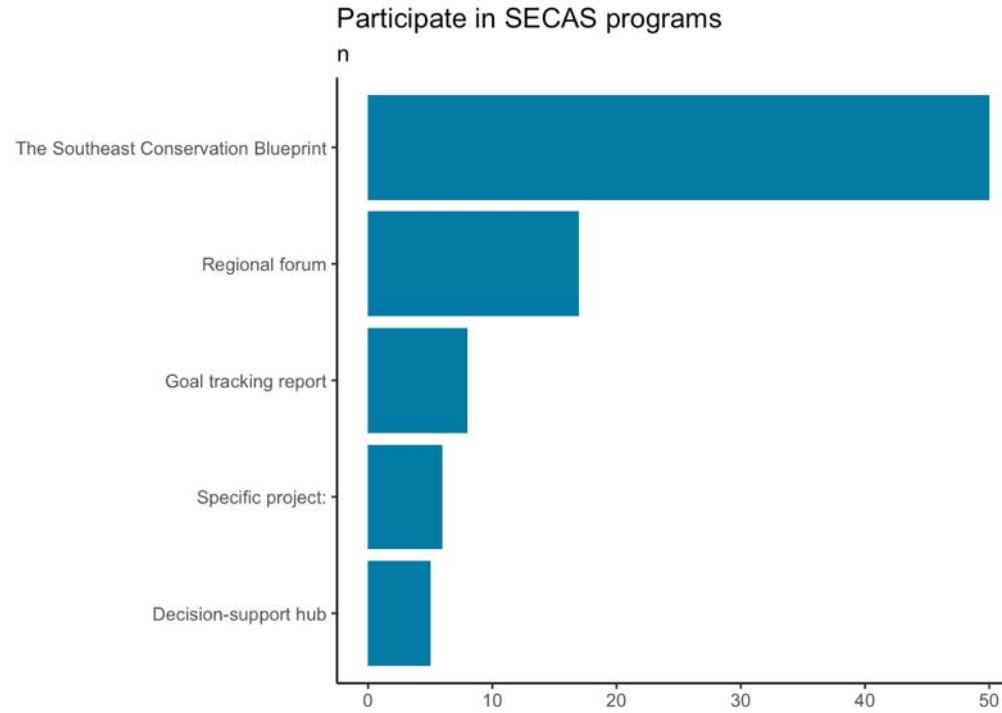
# Engagement with SECAS

## How do you engage with SECAS?

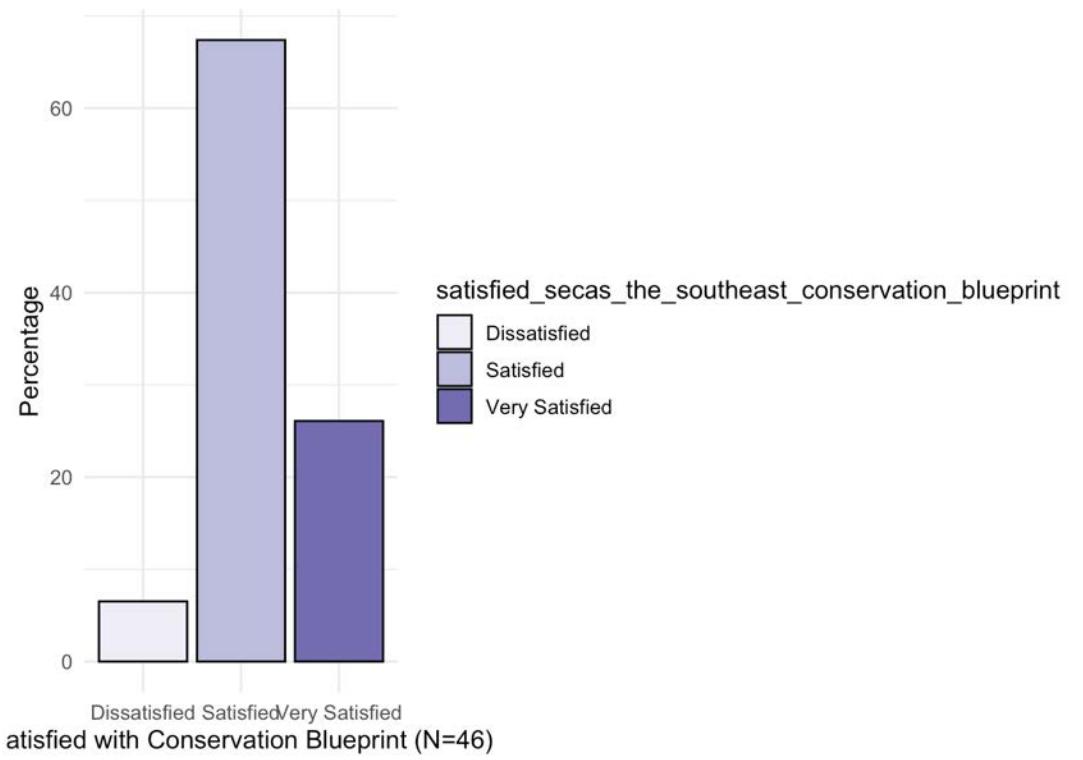


# Engagement with SECAS

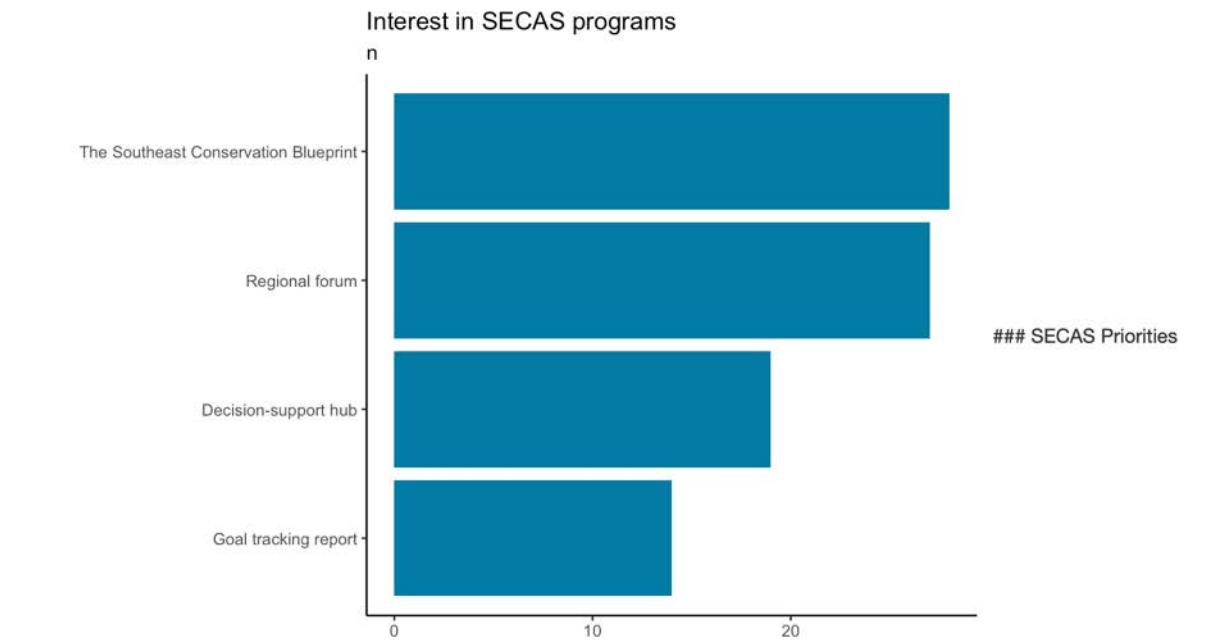
## How do you engage with SECAS?



## Satisfied with Conservation Blueprint



## Interest in engaging with SECAS programs

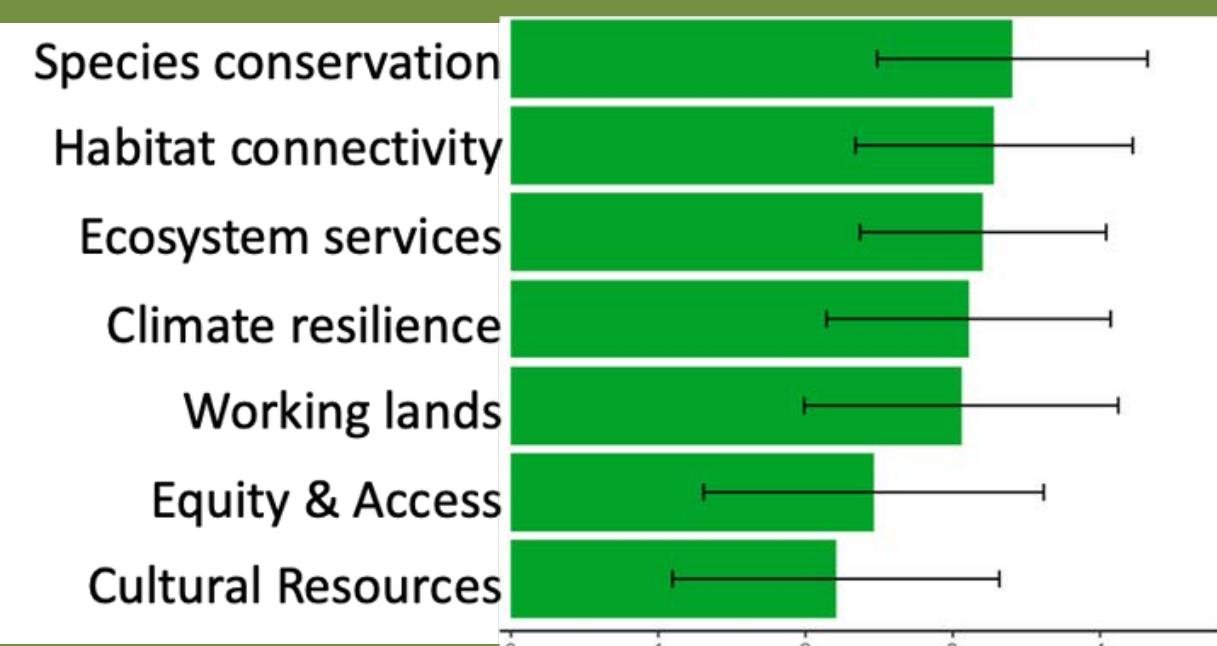


# Issues and Outcomes

ISSUE  
IMPORTANCE

# Issues and Outcomes

## ISSUE IMPORTANCE

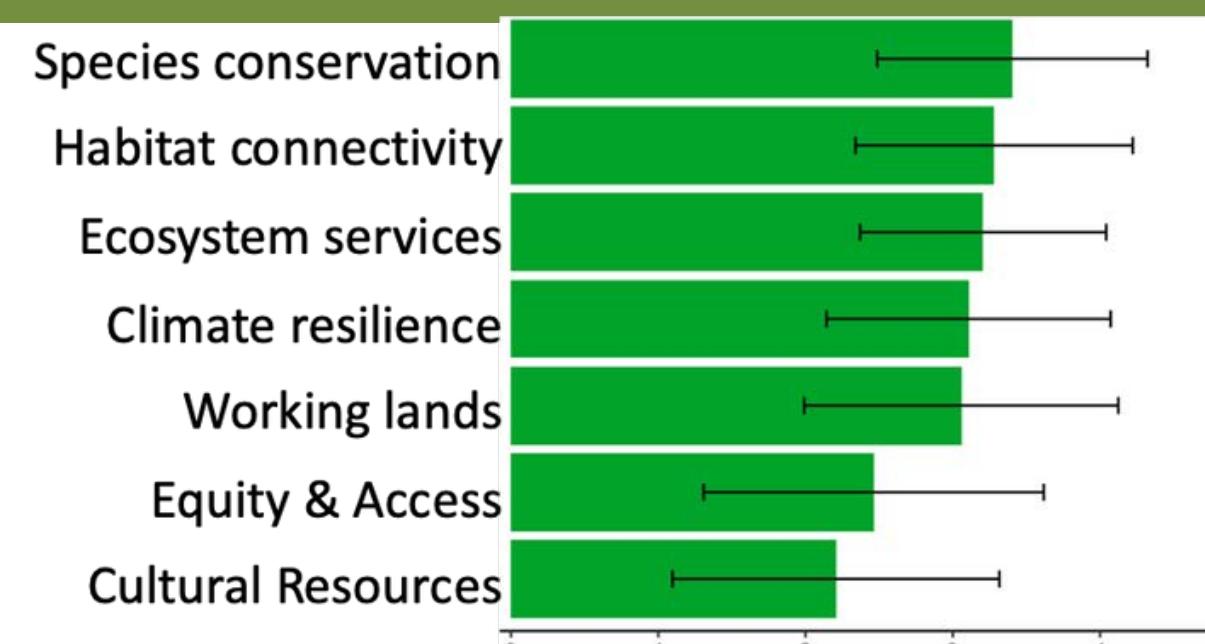


# Issues and Outcomes

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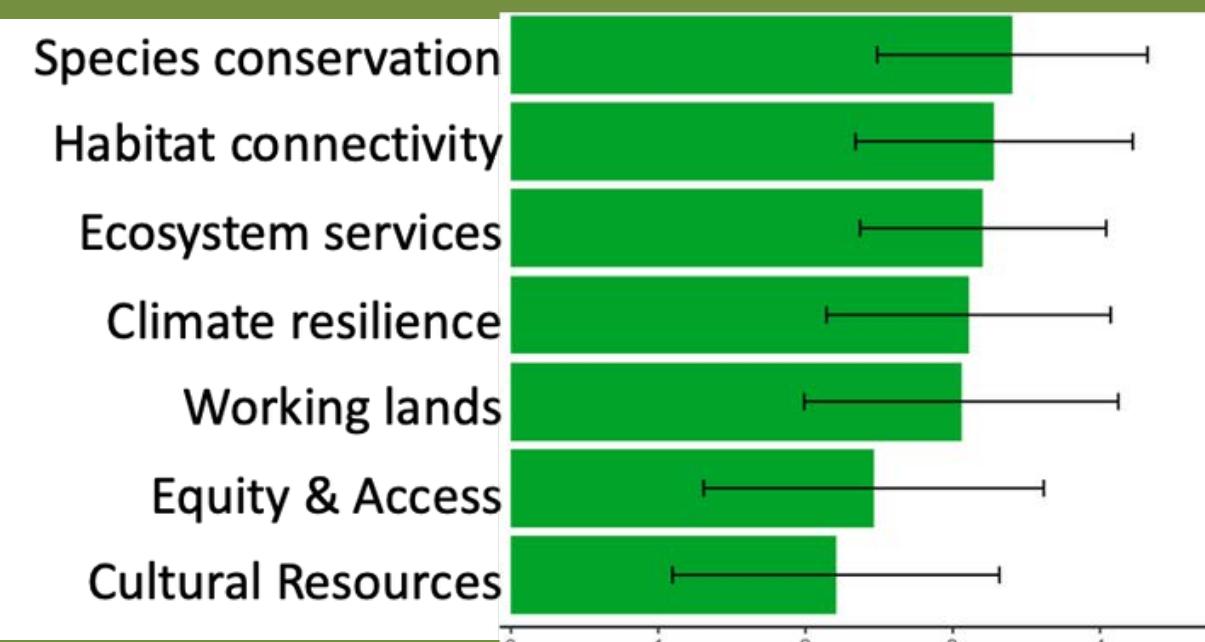
EXISTING RESOURCES  
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RESOURCES COULD  
BE USEFUL

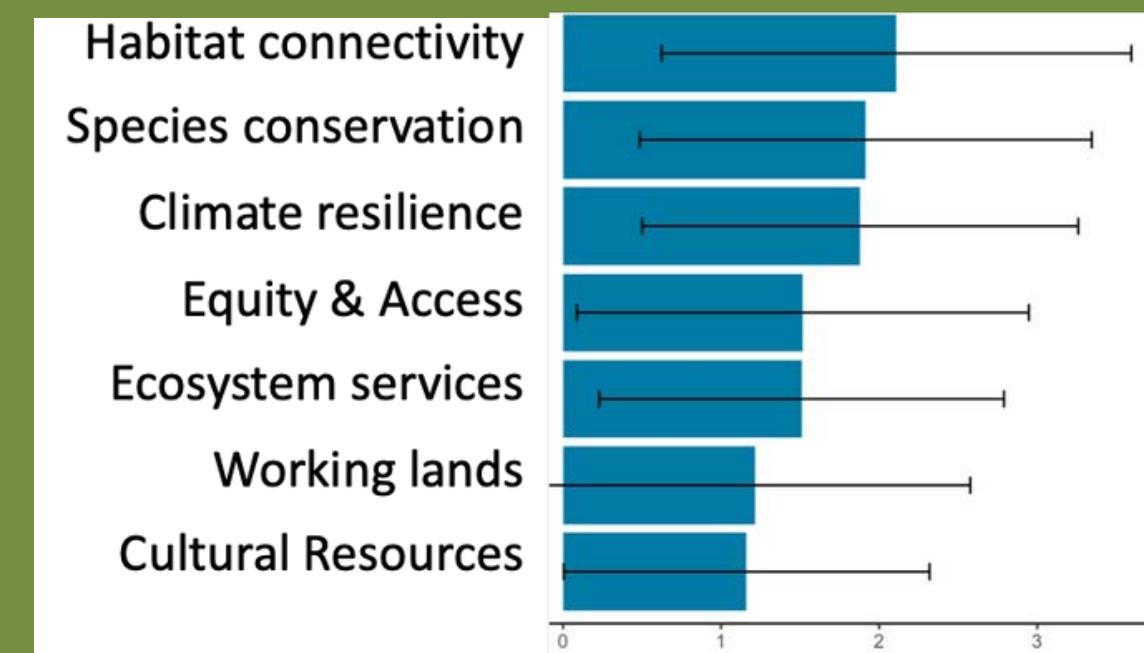


# Issues and Outcomes

## ISSUE IMPORTANCE



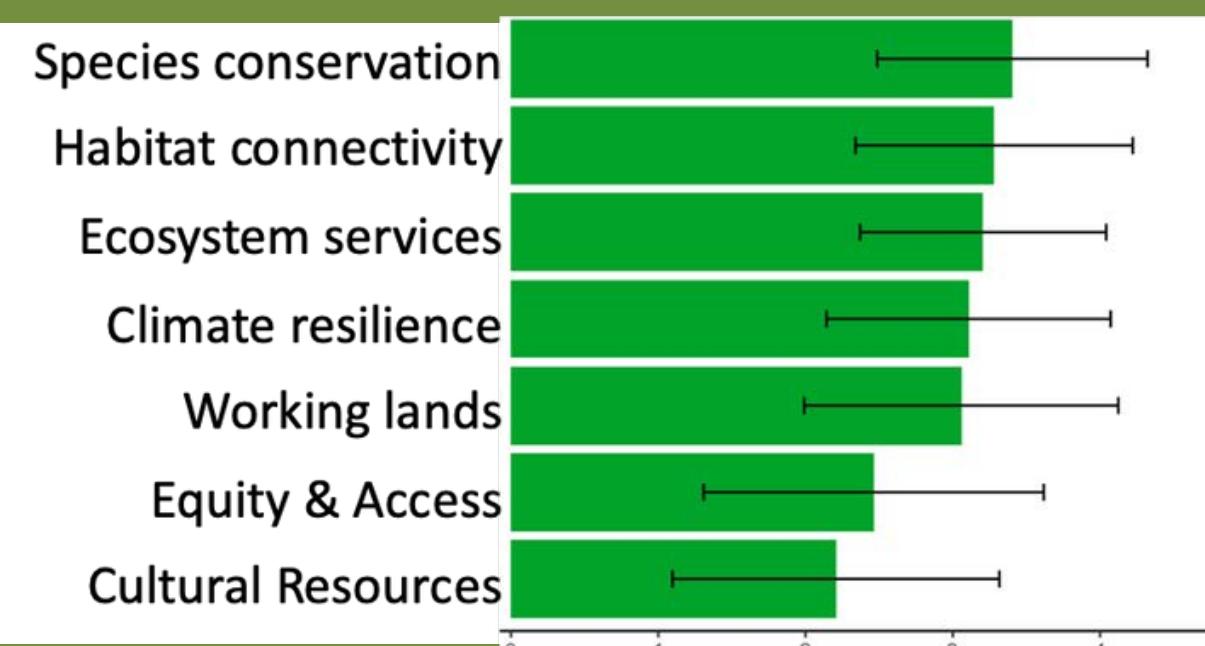
## EXISTING RESOURCES ARE USEFUL



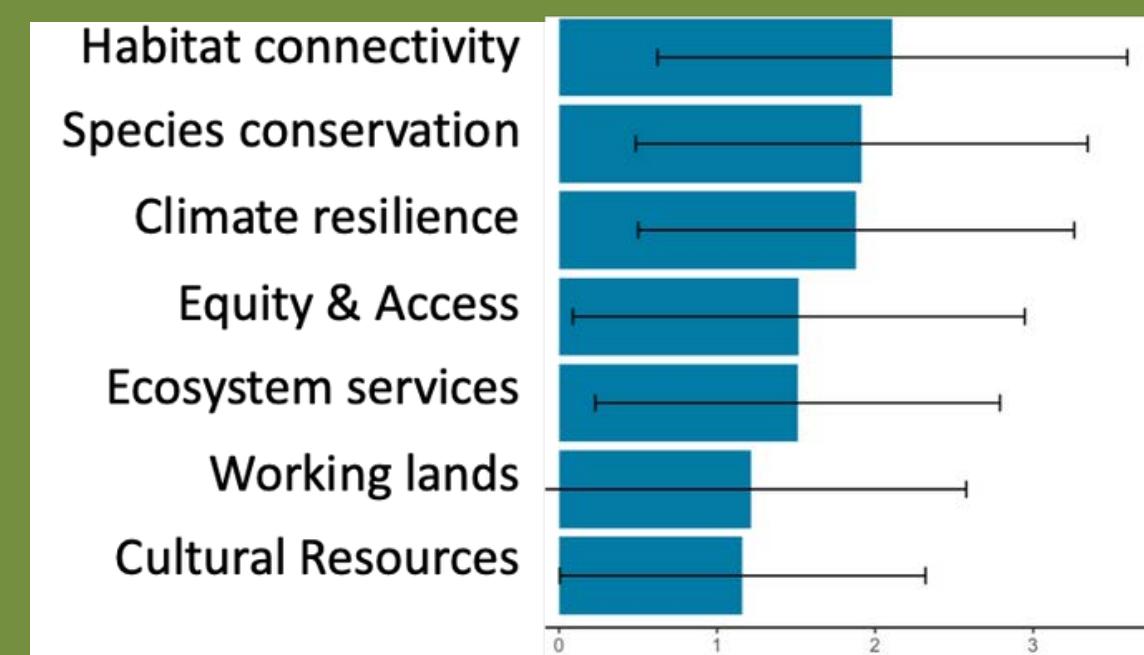
## RESOURCES COULD BE USEFUL

# Issues and Outcomes

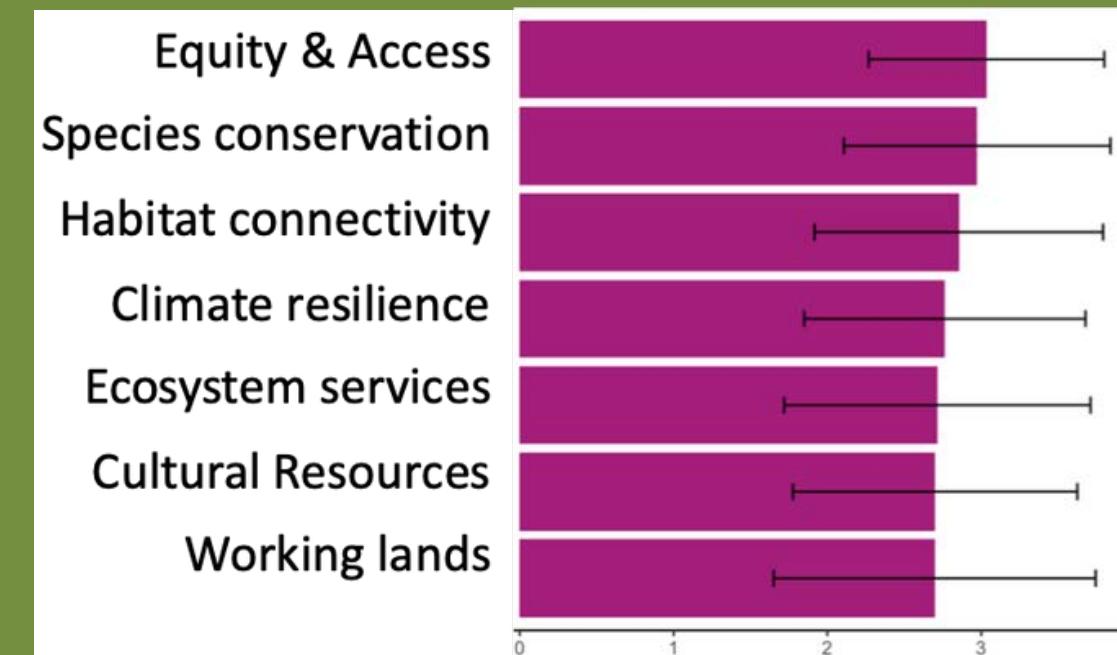
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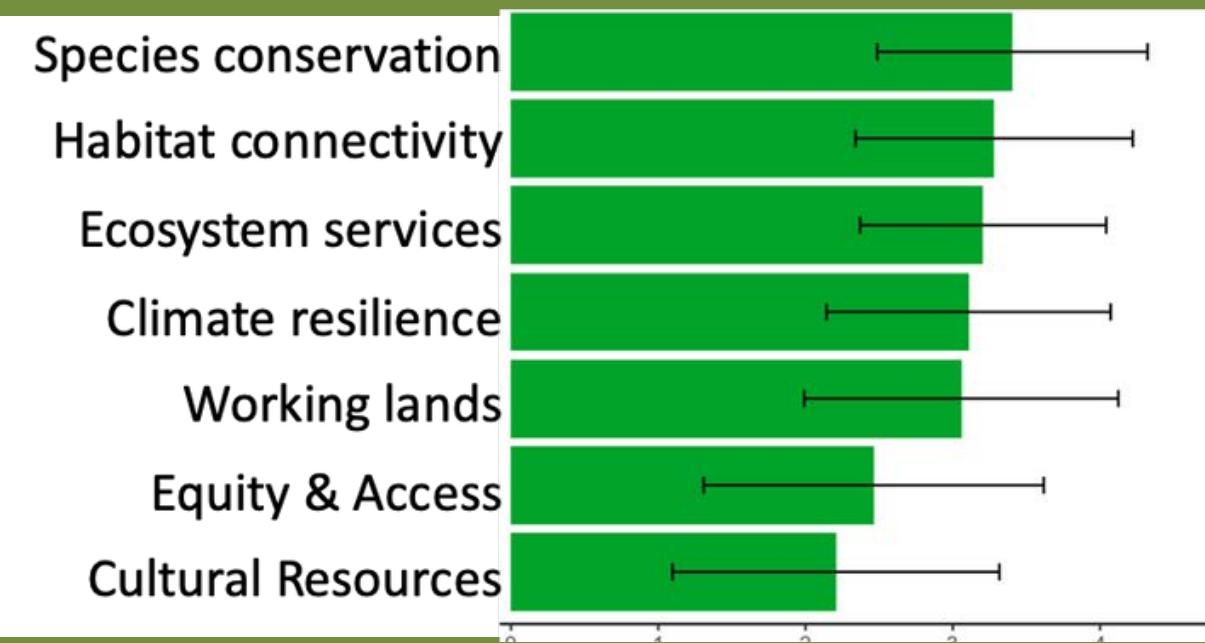


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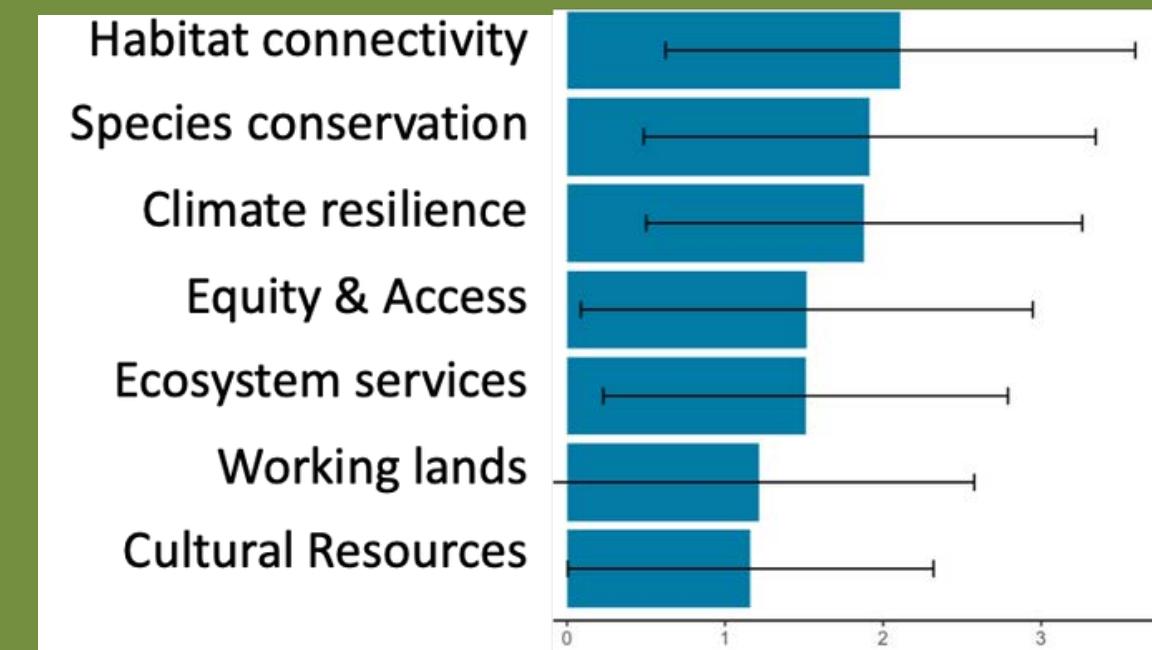


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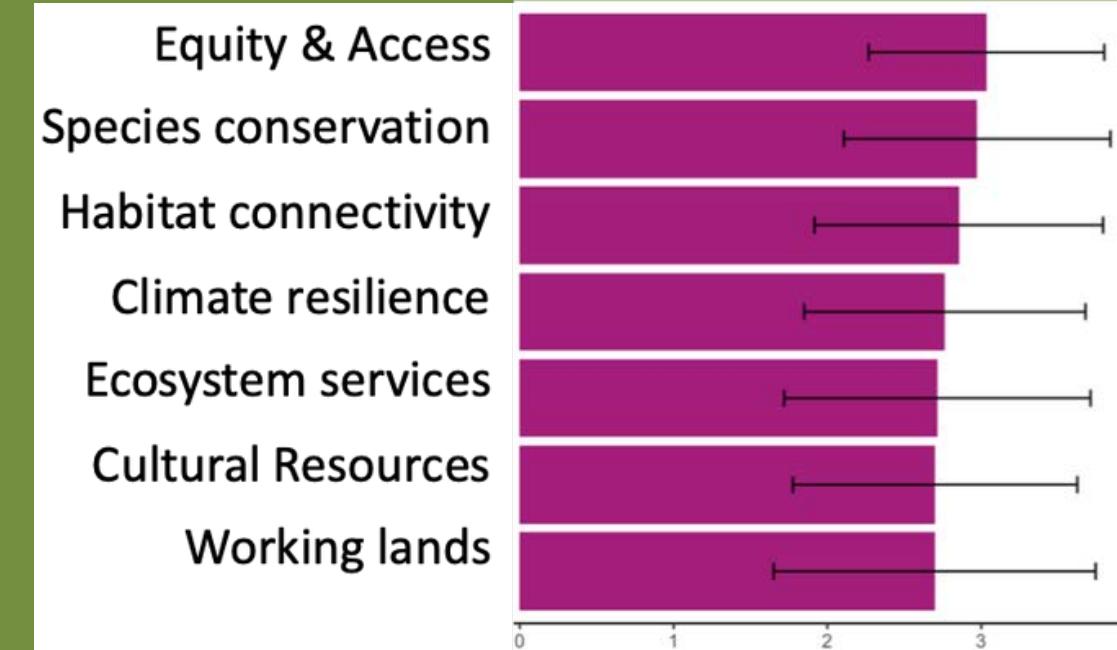
## ISSUE IMPORTANCE



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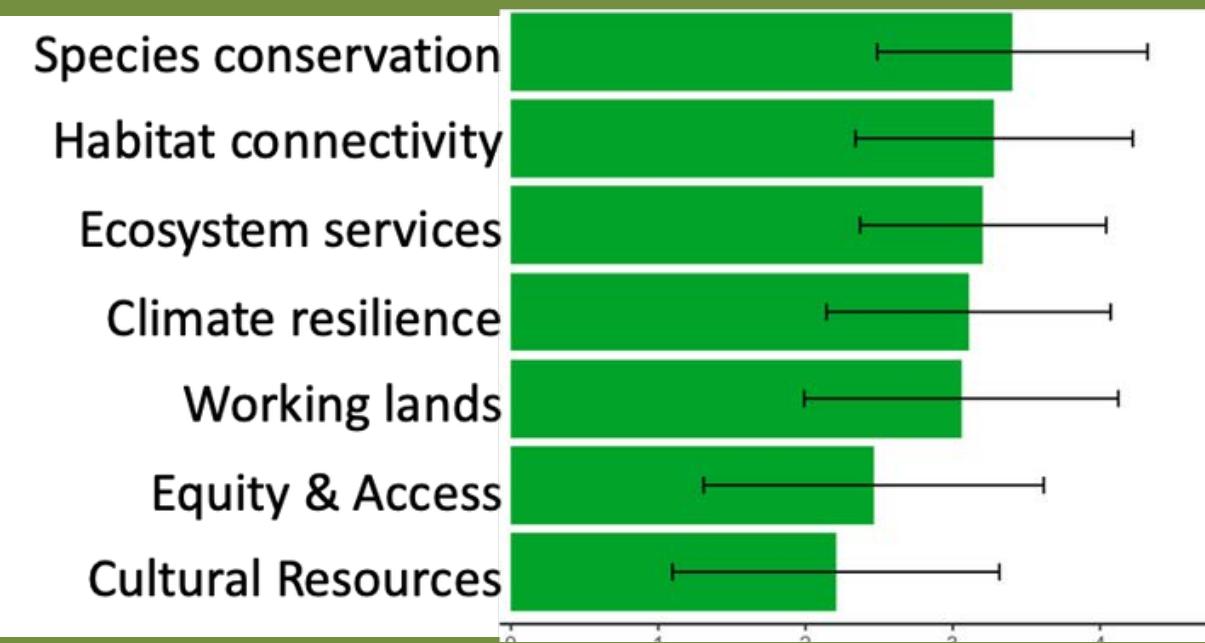
MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES WERE “OTHER” – THE UNIQUE CONSERVATION/STEWARDSHIP OBJECTIVE THAT IS CENTRAL TO THEIR MISSION. SPECIES CONSERVATION WAS SECOND.

EXISTING RESOURCES ARE MOST USEFUL FOR HABITAT CONNECTIVITY AND SPECIES CONSERVATION

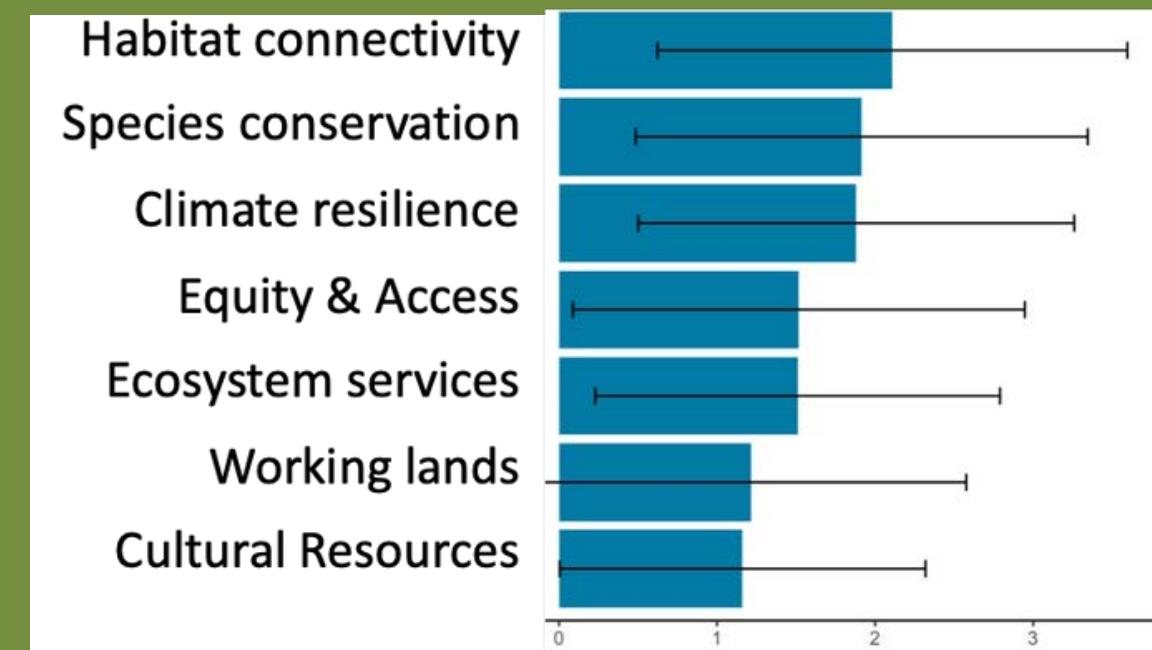
“COULD BE” USEFUL FOR EQUITY AND ACCESS TO NATURE

# Issues and Outcomes

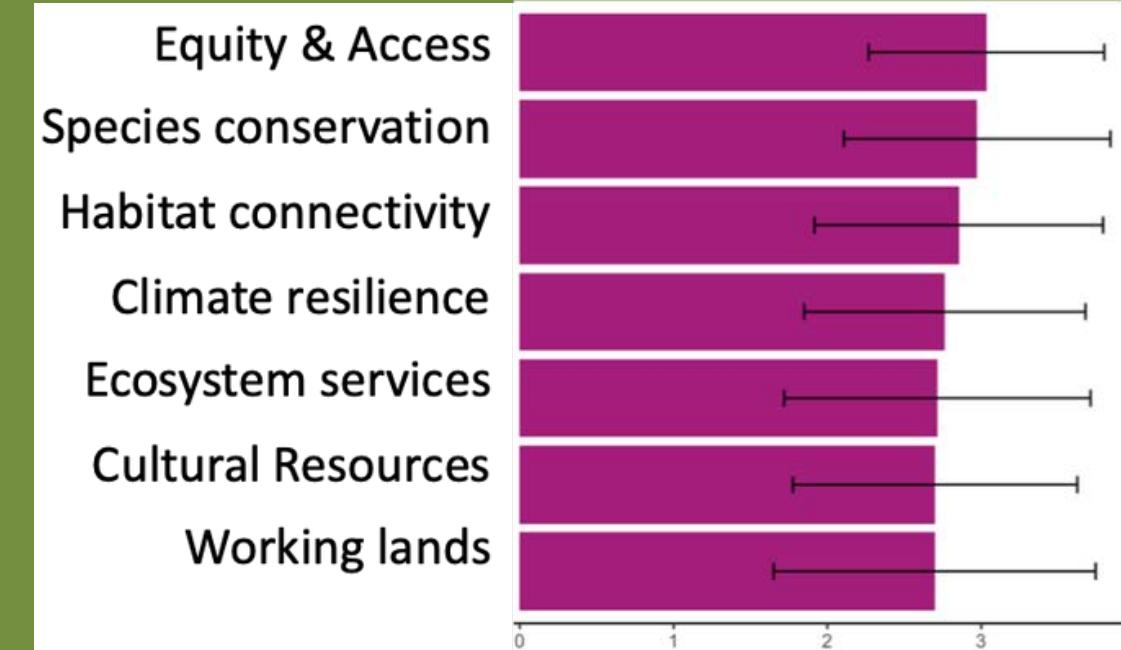
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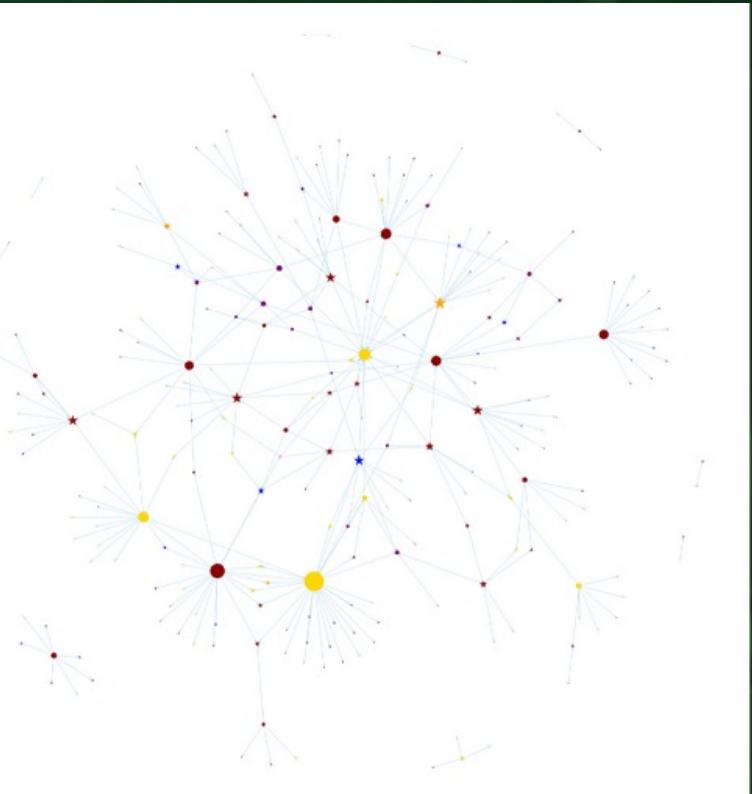


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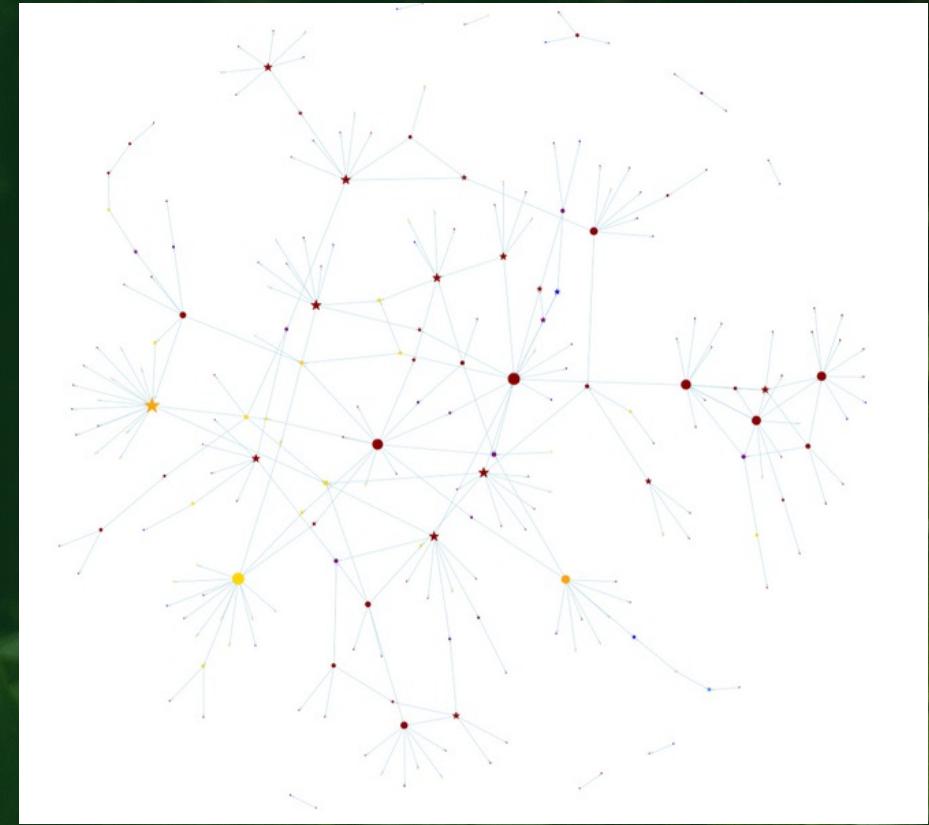
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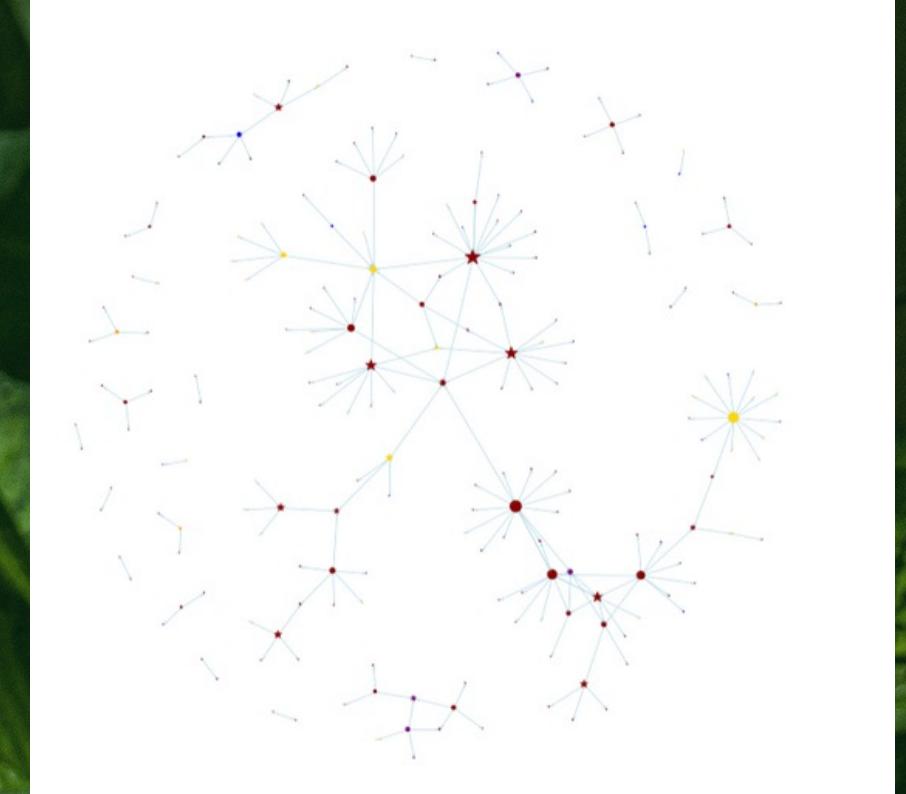
# Issue Networks (across 7 issues)



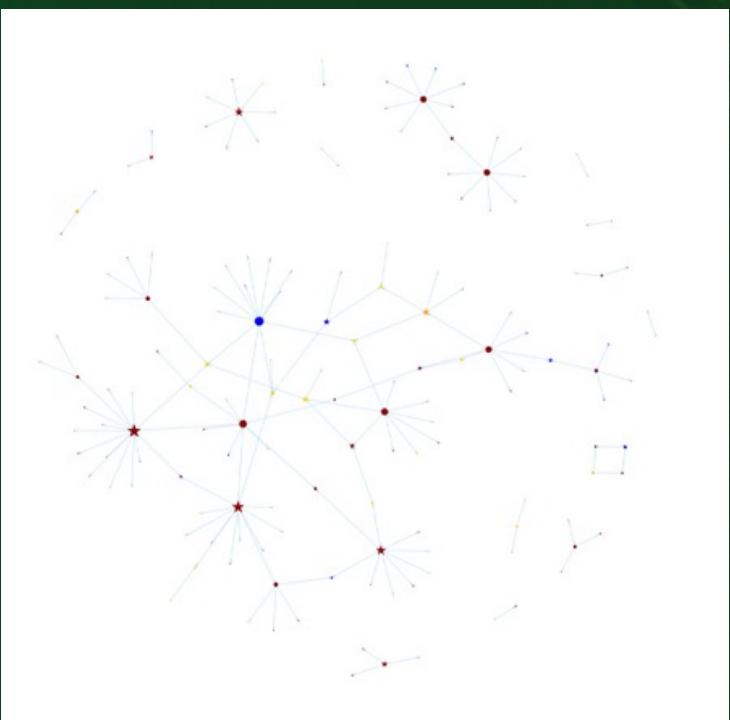
Species Conservation



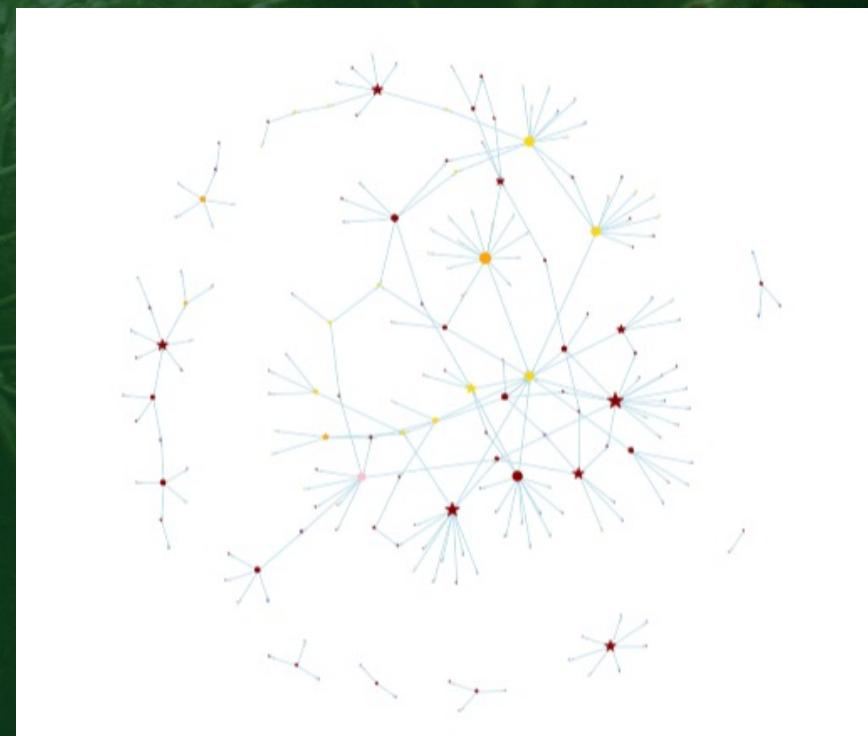
Habitat Connectivity



Ecosystem Services



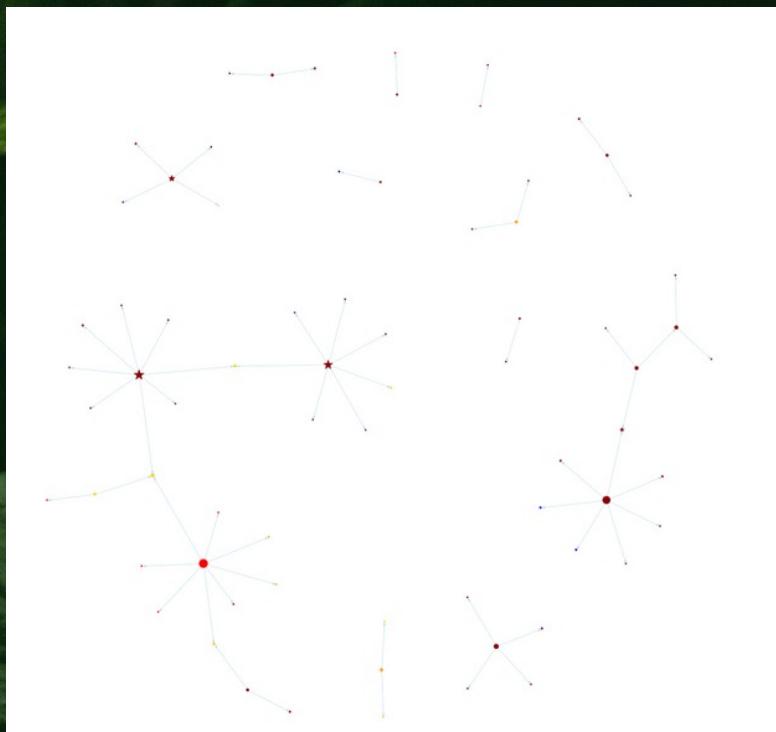
Climate Resilience



Working Lands



Equity and Access



Cultural Resources

# Issue Networks (across 7 issues)

Borcelle Zoo

1 - Species conservation is “most important” issue and most active network

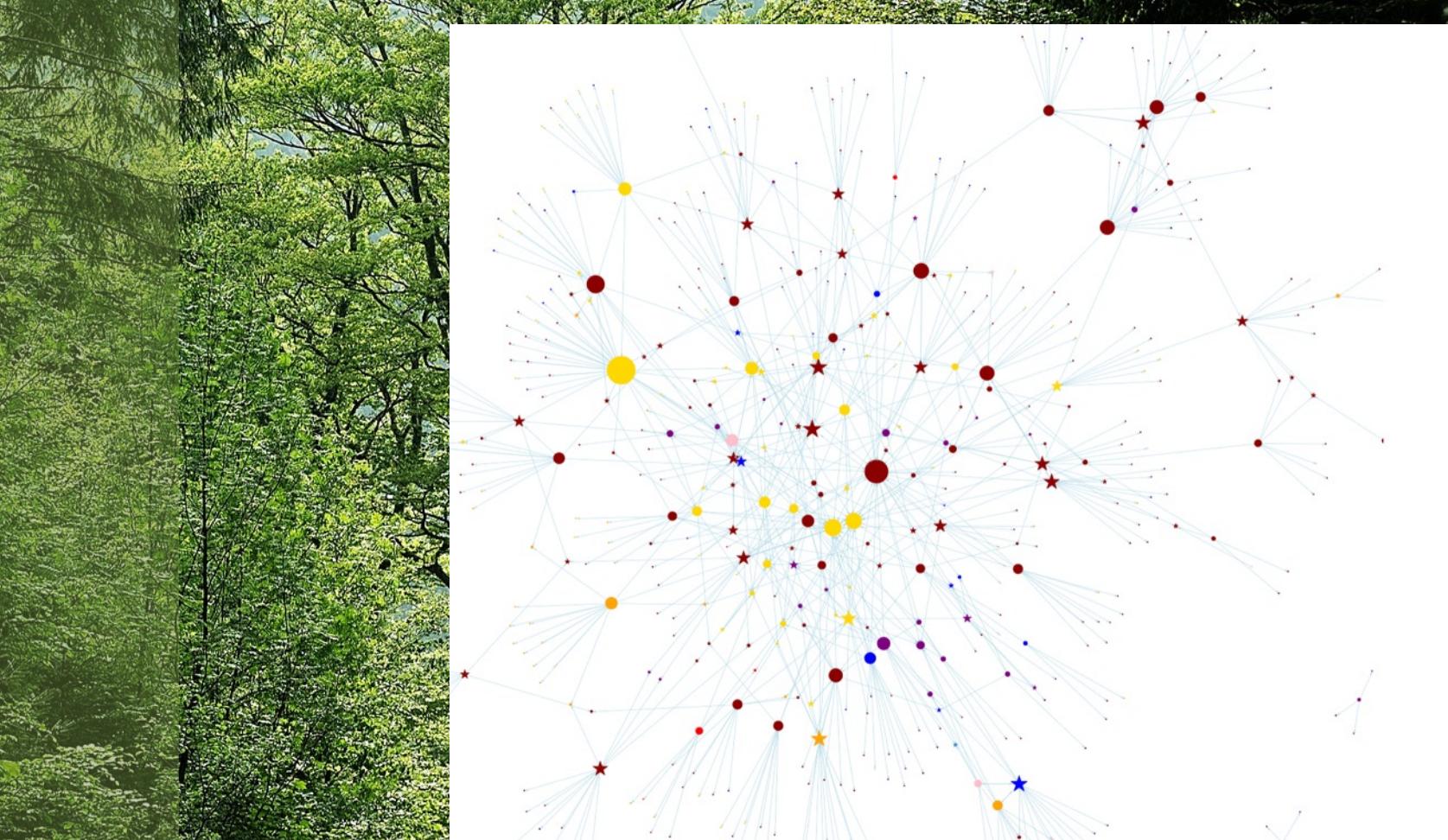
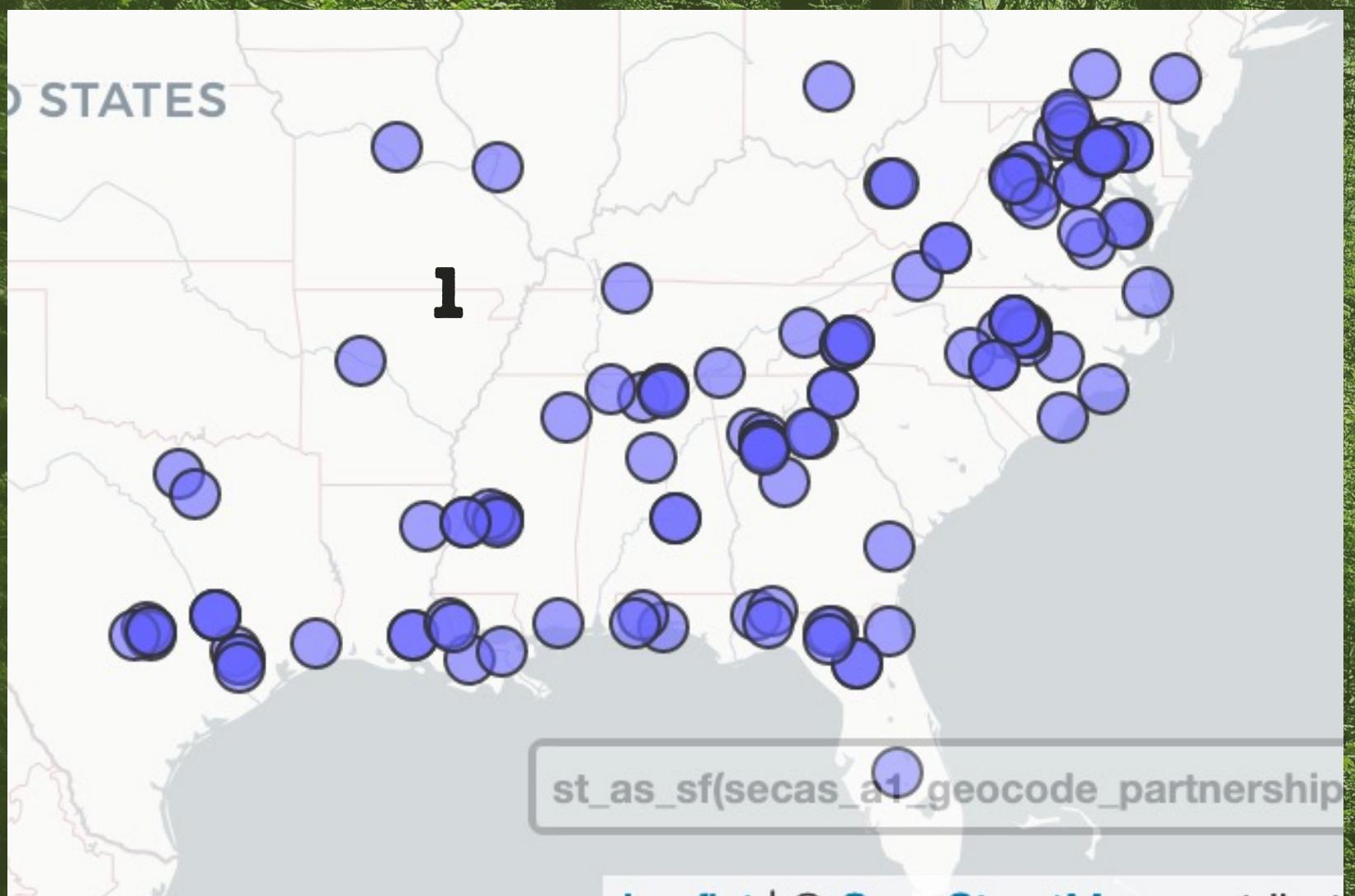
2 - Most active networks are issues associated with the SECAS Conservation Blueprint

3 - For equity and access and cultural resources, tribal organizations have more average connections

4. Opportunity for “partnerships” or other actors to grow issue areas or weave “conflict” issues together....

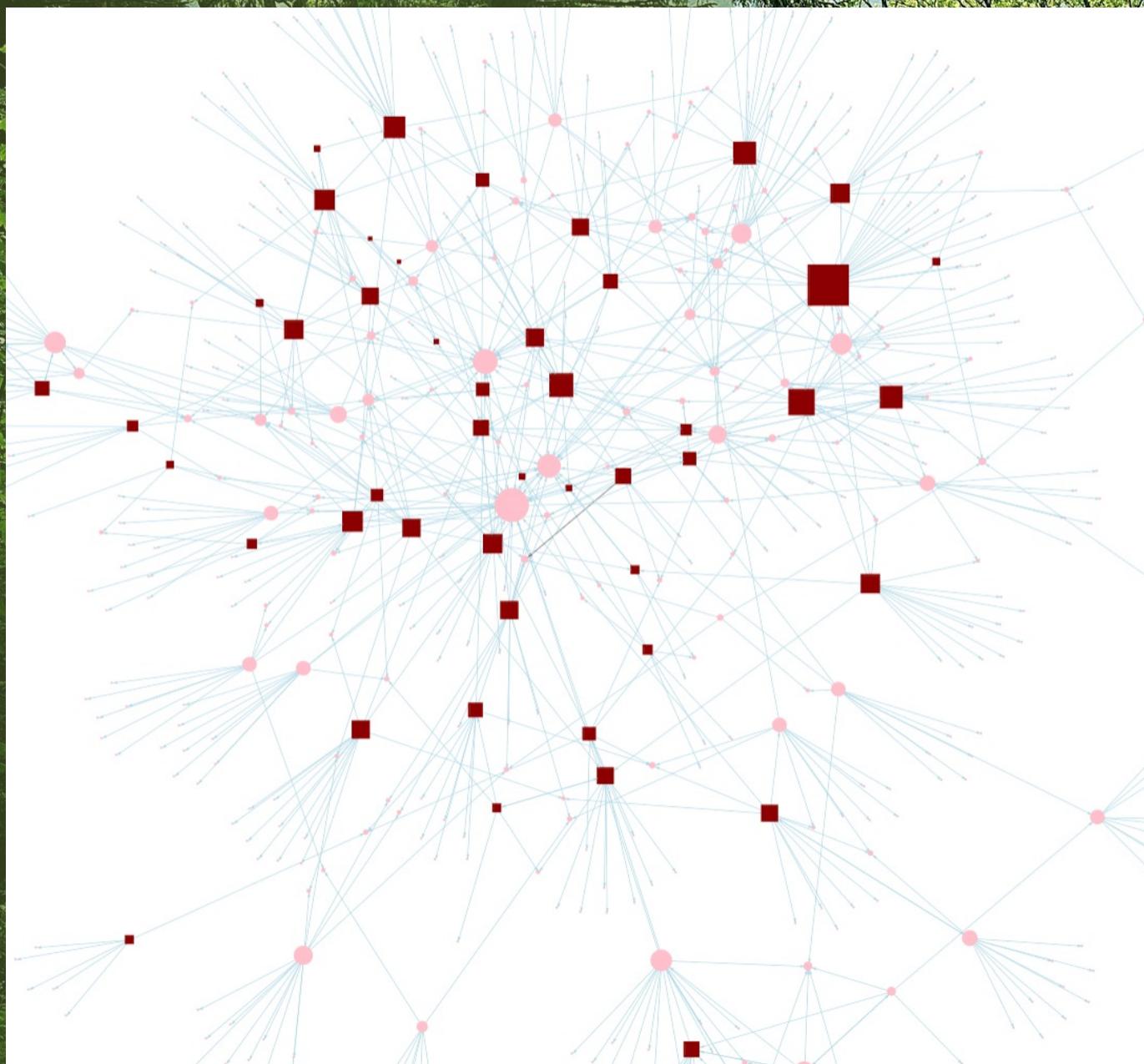
		# of orgs	# of edges	edges / org	density	transitivity	centralization	avg importance	resources useful	resources could be useful
Species Conservation	<b>1</b>	245	298	1.2163265	0.0049849	0.0317628	0.0546644	3.404959	1.915254	2.972973
Habitat Connectivity	<b>2</b>	236	259	1.0974576	0.0046700	0.0287958	0.0316342	3.280992	2.109091	2.853658
Ecosystem Services		207	202	0.9758454	0.0047371	0.0375000	0.0342634	3.206612	1.509434	2.714286
Working Lands	<b>4</b>	197	209	1.0609137	0.0054128	0.0107271	0.0330201	3.057851	1.215686	2.696970
Climate Resilience		157	152	0.9681529	0.0062061	0.0105820	0.0421392	3.107438	1.880000	2.763158
Equity and Access to Nature		107	89	0.8317757	0.0078469	0.0000000	0.0444553	2.462810	1.517241	3.033333
Cultural Resources	<b>3</b>	71	59	0.8309859	0.0118712	0.0000000	0.0459184	2.206612	1.161290	2.700000

# Connecting issues through Partnerships by forums



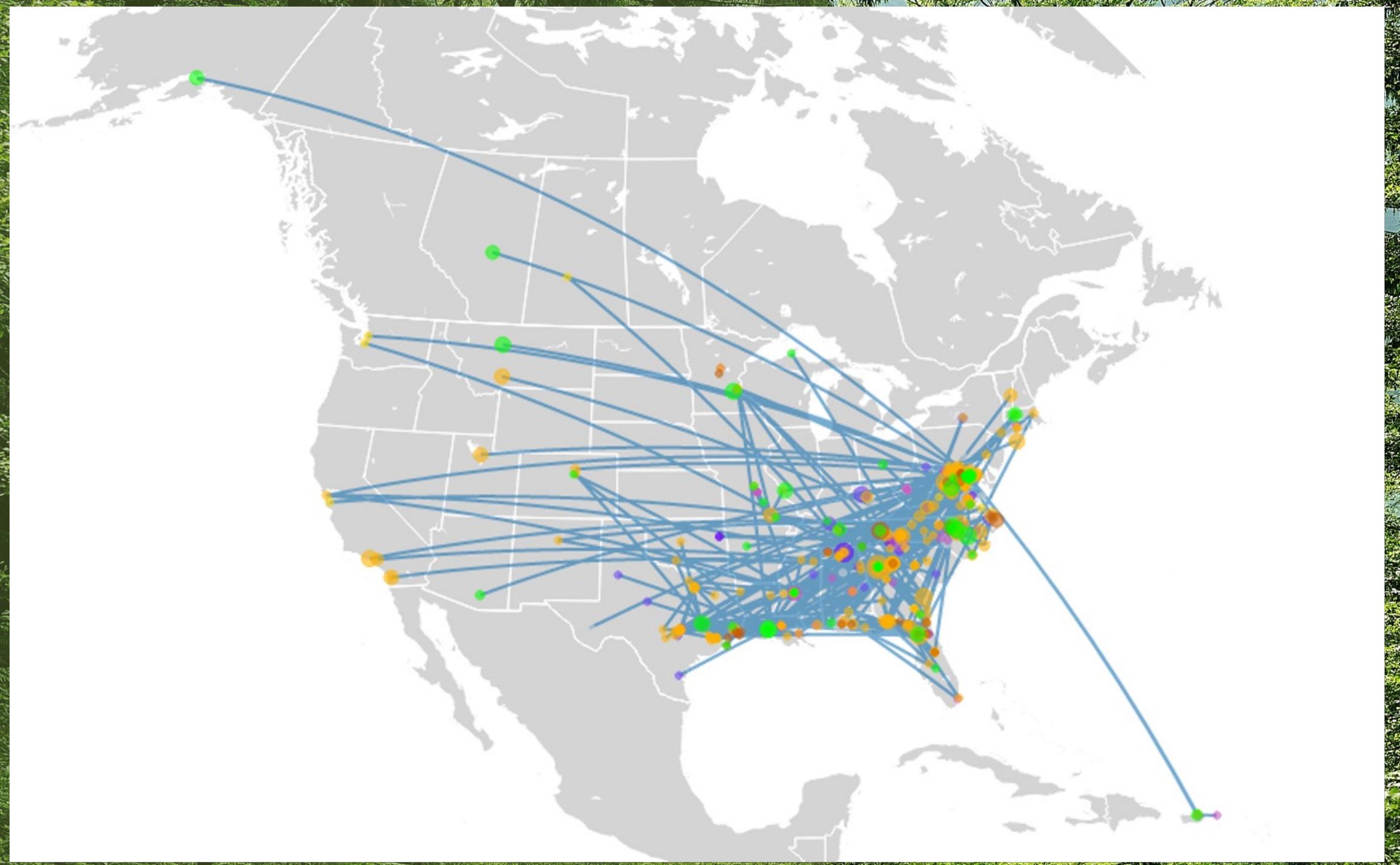
- 1 - Partnerships are distributed across geography and across issue types
- 2 - Not necessarily the “most connected” but many “bridging” connections

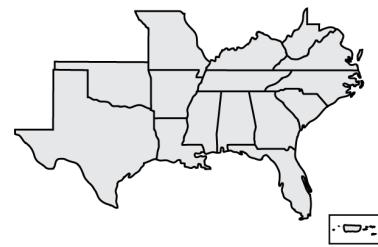
# Connecting issues through SECAS Engagement



“Familiar with SECAS” play many central network roles!

# Questions and Convos





Next Third Thursday  
Web Forum

5-16-2024

10:00 am ET

Michelle Moorman

U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
Service

[secassoutheast.org](http://secassoutheast.org)

A photograph of a coastal wetland. In the foreground, there is tall, dense green grass. Beyond it, a sandy area with low-lying green bushes and trees stretches towards a distant, flat horizon under a clear sky. A dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the upper portion of the image, containing white text.

Understanding coastal wetland change  
from the perspective of refuge managers,  
long-term monitoring, and remote sensing



## Staff updates

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- Updated numbers on Blueprint use and involvement
- Indicator progress for the Blueprint 2024 update

# Updated numbers on Blueprint use and involvement

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- The Southeast Blueprint has helped bring in over \$190 million in conservation funding to help protect and restore over 300,000 acres.
  - \$90 million and 100,000 acres in the last year alone!
- So far, more than 450 people from over 180 different organizations have used, or are in the process of using, the Blueprint.
- The Southeast Blueprint has been used in 253 completed projects so far, with another 64 in progress.
- More than 2,000 people from over 600 different organizations have actively participated in developing the Southeast Blueprint so far.

# Indicator progress for the Blueprint 2024 update

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- Updated a number of indicators to new 2021 landcover
- Likely update to imperiled aquatic species
- Expanded coverage for amphibian and reptile areas
- Significant updates to Gulf coral and hardbottom
- New indicators:
  - Landscape condition
  - Grasslands & savannas

# How to get involved in SECAS

- Sign up for the SECAS newsletter

[secassoutheast.org](http://secassoutheast.org)

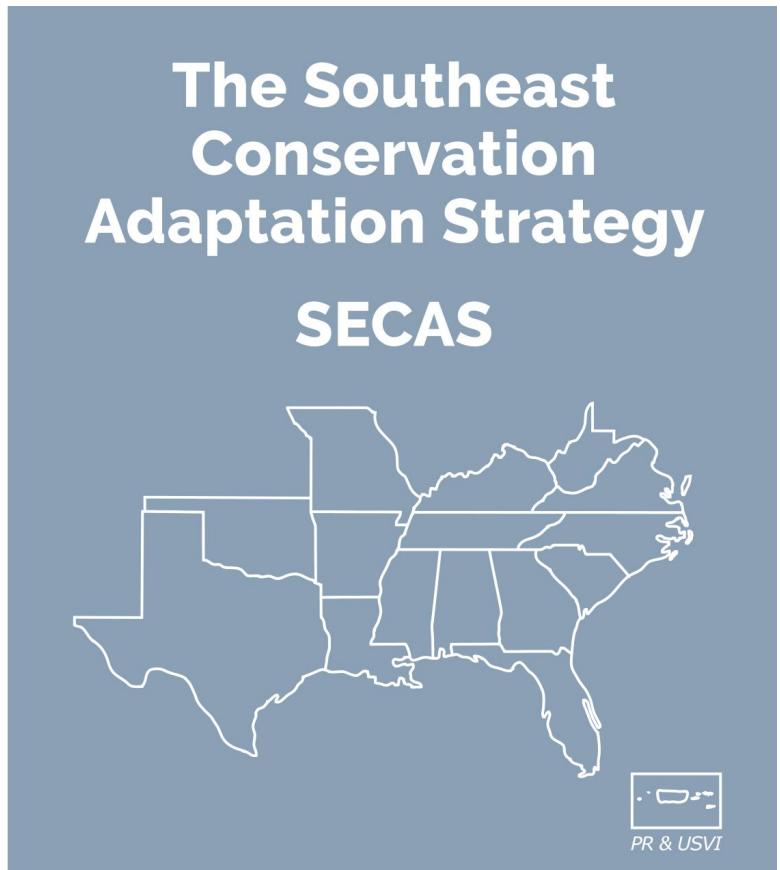
- Connect with SECAS staff or partners

[secassoutheast.org/staff](http://secassoutheast.org/staff)

[secassoutheast.org/partners](http://secassoutheast.org/partners)

- Explore the Southeast Conservation Blueprint

[secassoutheast.org/blueprint](http://secassoutheast.org/blueprint)





# Questions?