



Developing and Implementing the SECAS Blueprint

Mallory G. Martin
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Science Applications
mallory_martin@fws.gov

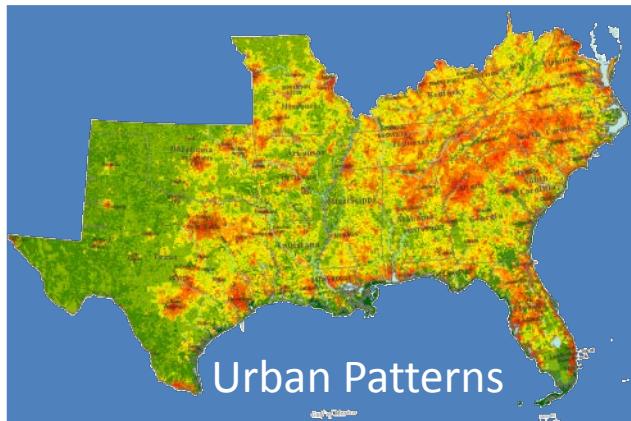
Overview & Purpose

- SECAS background
- Blueprint overview
- Planning to implementation
- Priority improvements
- Making connections

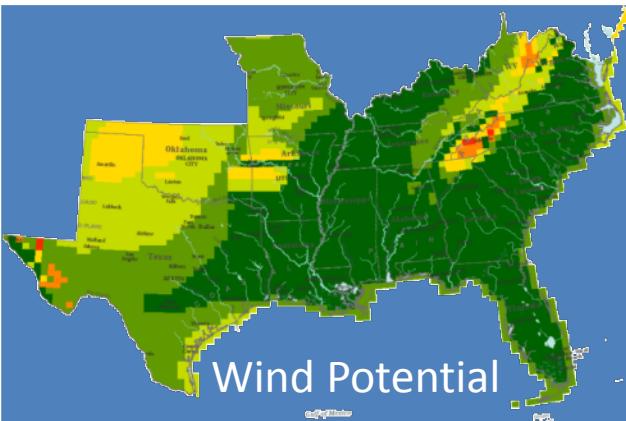


Why Landscape Scale Conservation?

Large Disruptive Changes Impacting Conservation



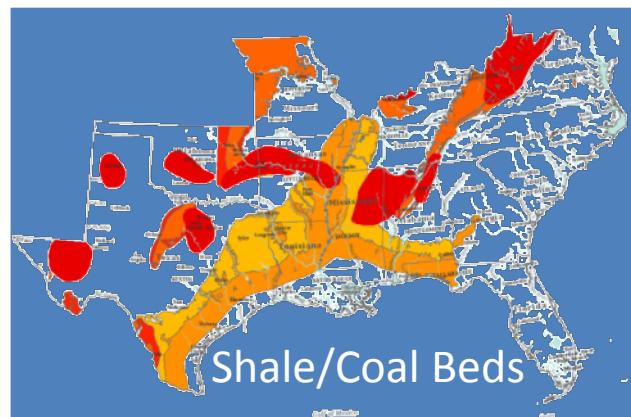
Urban Patterns



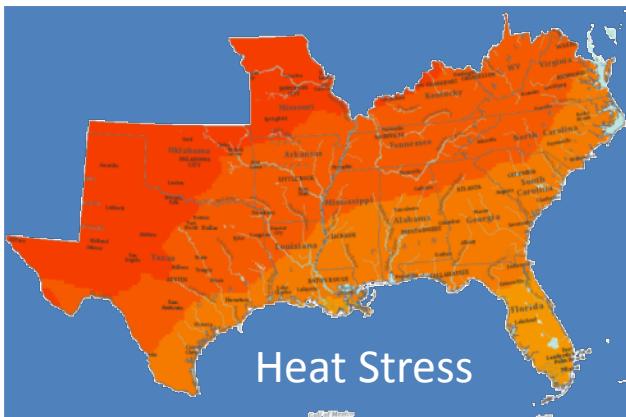
Wind Potential



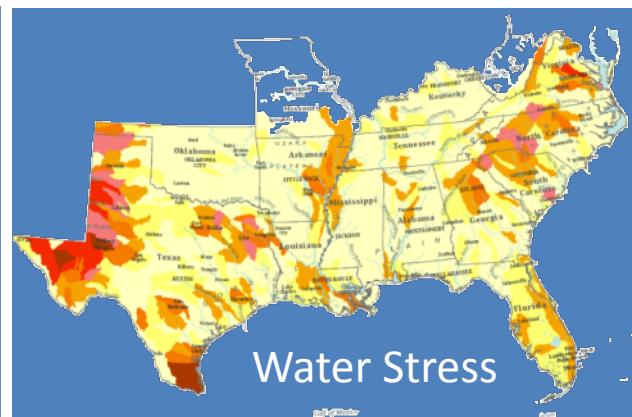
Solar Potential



Shale/Coal Beds



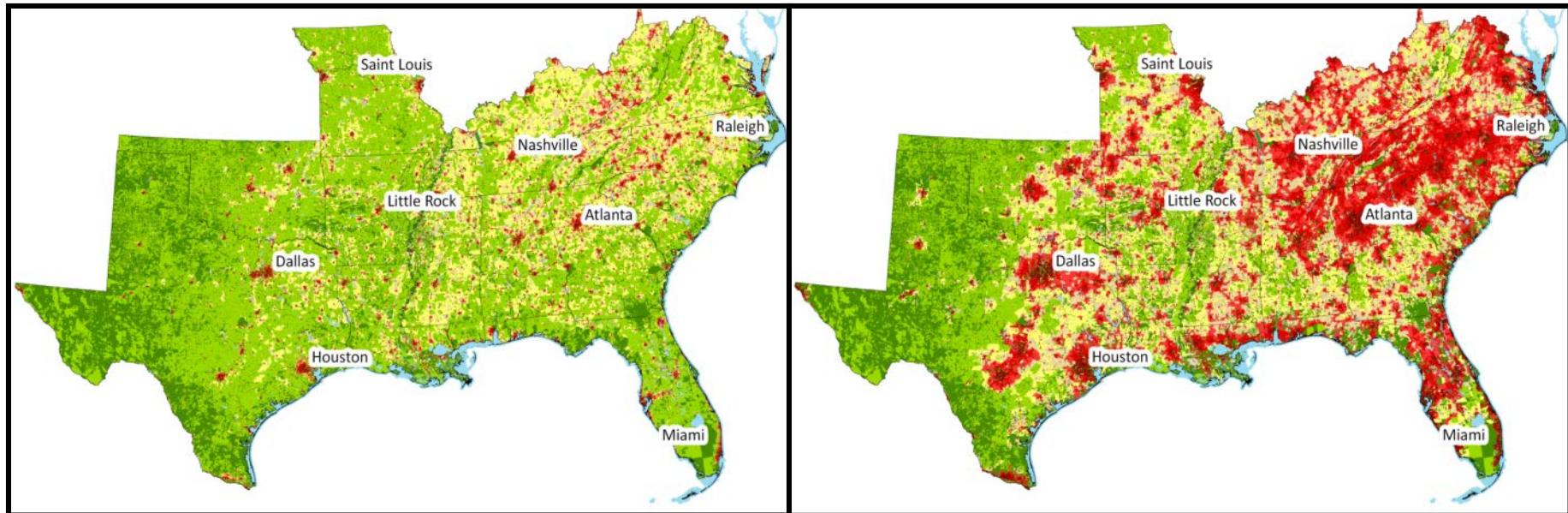
Heat Stress



Water Stress

Landscape Scale Challenges

Urbanization in the Southeast



1940

2030

Defining sustaining landscapes...

Why SECAS?

- Dramatic Changes – Unprecedented Challenges
- Clear Opportunity – Coordinated Action
- Shared, Long-term Vision for the Future
- Diverse Partners – Common Goals

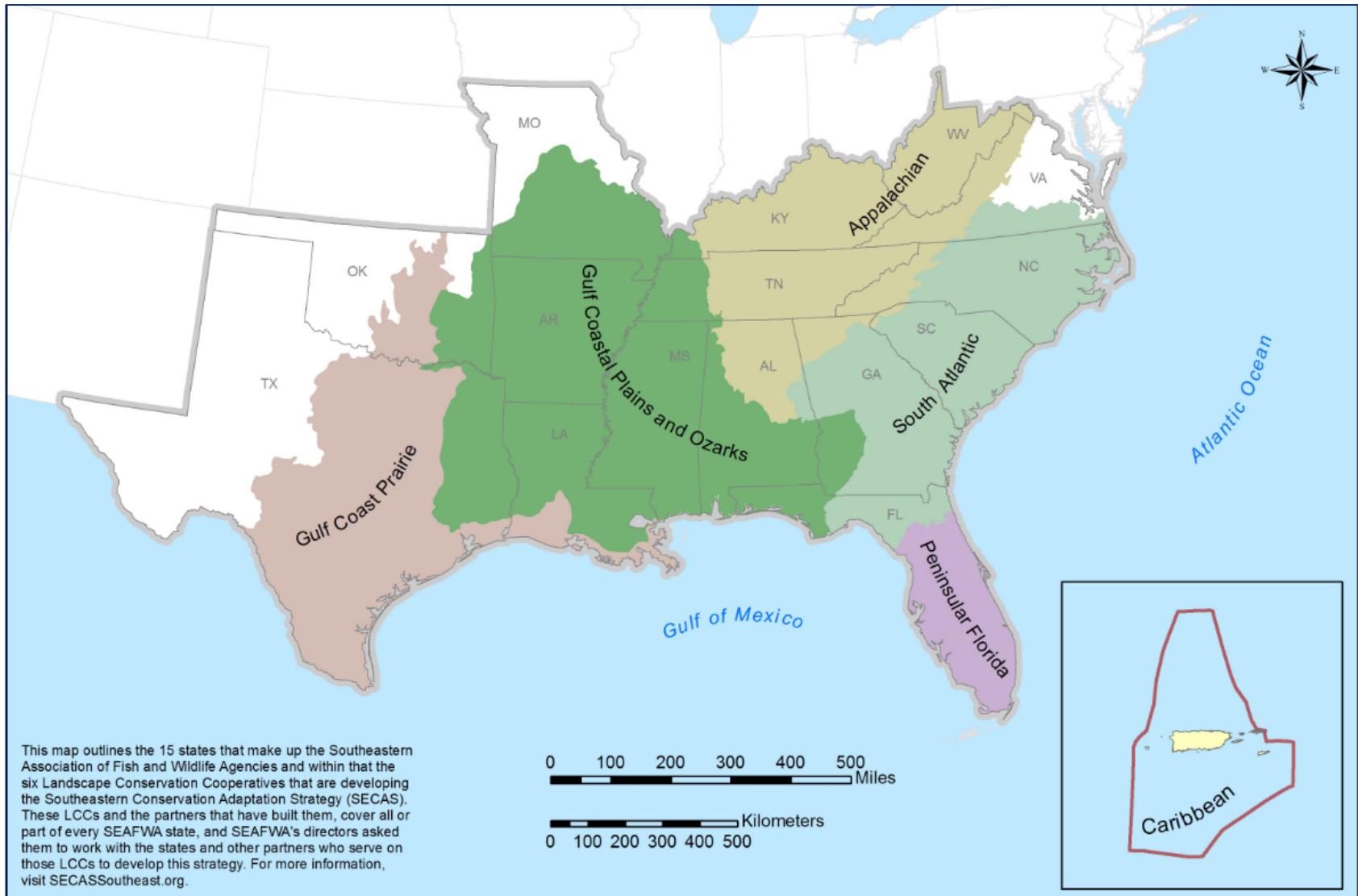
*Define and achieve the conservation
landscape of the future*

Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group



SECAS - LCC Geography



Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy
Progress Summary Report - Fall 2014
Presented to SEAFWA Directors: Tuesday Oct 22, 2014



Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy
Fall 2015 Briefing
Presented to SEAFWA Directors Tuesday Nov 3, 2015



- ***Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy***
- Initiated by states
- Inclusive of federal agencies
- Capacity through LCCs
- Coordination with CSCs, JVs, & FHPs
- Incorporating broad network of partners; sectors

SECAS Vision

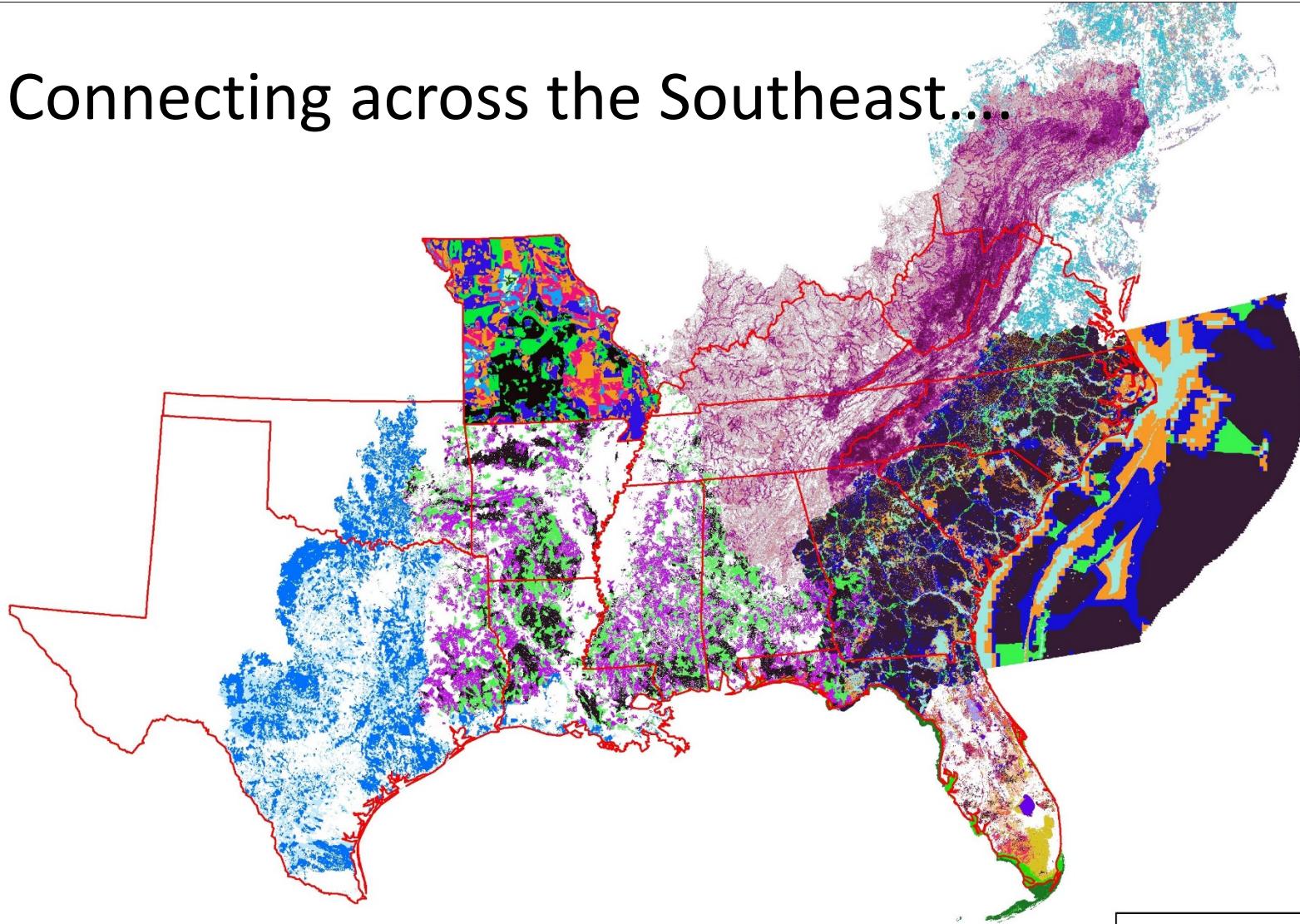
*...Through SECAS, **diverse partners** are working together to design and achieve a **connected network of landscapes and seascapes** that supports thriving fish and wildlife populations and improved quality of life for people across the southeastern United States and the Caribbean. Together, state,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

The journey relies on a Good Map!

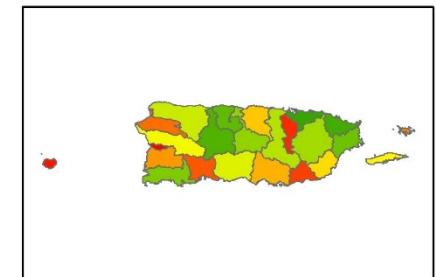
SECAS Blueprint

- Spatial representation of a collective vision
- A living map showing shared priorities for conservation and restoration, not acquisition boundaries
- Integrates Blueprints from LCCs covering the Southeast
- Identifies opportunities for cross-border collaboration
- Regular updates – continuous improvement

Connecting across the Southeast...



a connected network of landscapes and seascapes



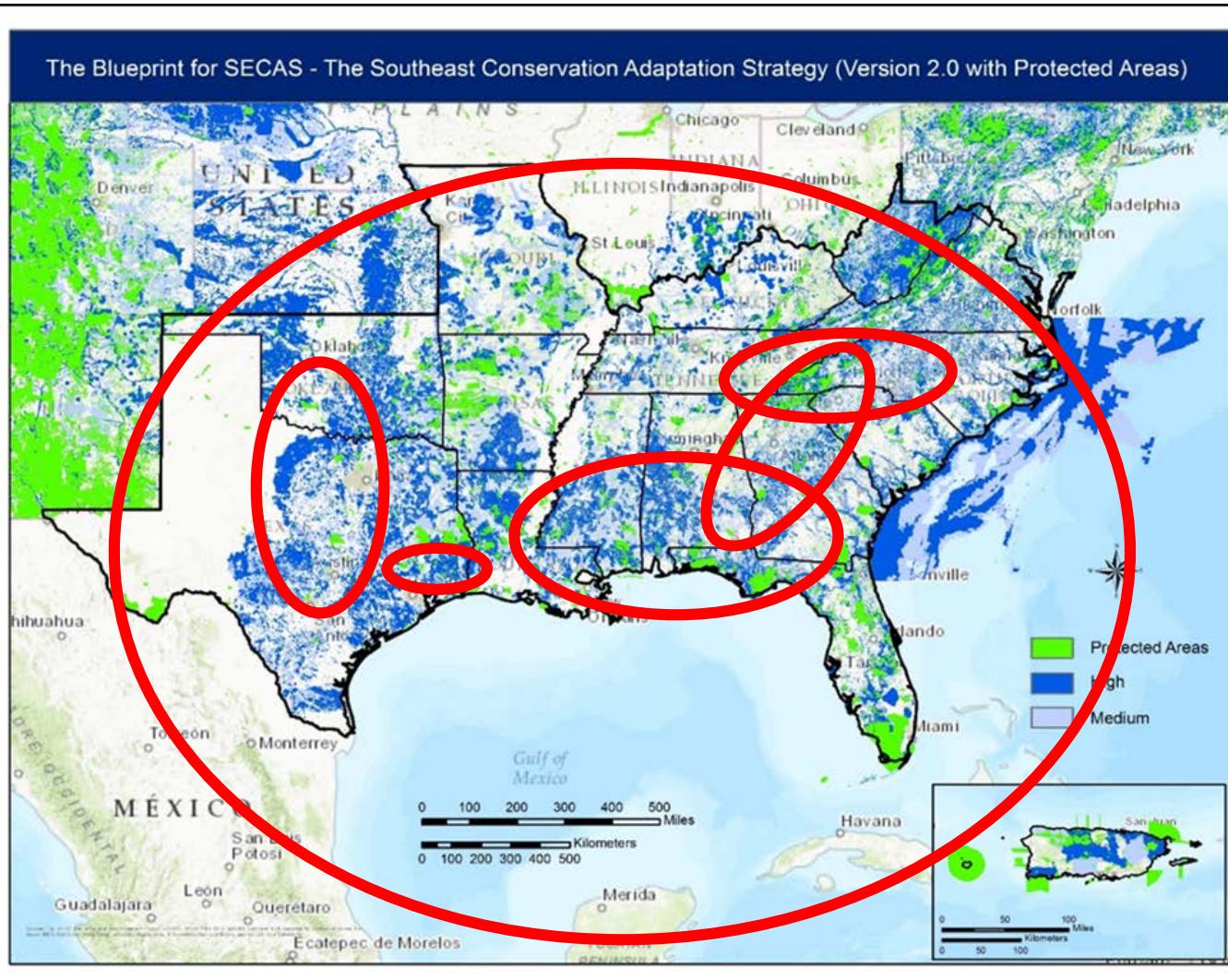
Integration

- LCC staff identified integration options based on multiple discussions and lessons learned from previous integration efforts
- Major remaining questions were:
 - How much to include?
 - What to do about overlap zones?
- SEAFWA and SENRLG points of contact made final consensus decision on the approach

Integration Approach

- Crosswalk each LCC Blueprint to get areas of “high” and “medium” conservation value
 - High = ~30% of the individual Blueprints
 - Medium = additional ~20% of the Blueprints
- For areas of overlap, include if either plan identifies it
- Revisit this approach during each revision/update

From Planning to Implementation



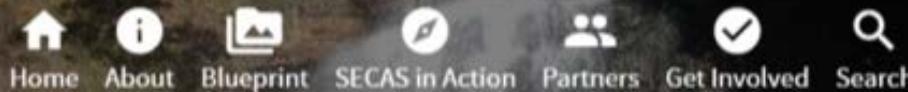
- Connecting Lands
- Connecting Waters
- Engaging Other Sectors
- Incorporating Future Conditions into Decision Making
- Integrating At-Risk Species
- Bringing In New Resources

Blueprint Details

1. The areas “in blue” represent areas of high conservation value at a 15-state regional scale
2. Specific outcomes are not defined for all the individual blue areas (i.e., non-prescriptive)
3. The blueprint is constantly evolving

Blueprint Details

4. Future threats (urbanization, sea level rise) are included in some portions of the blueprint.
5. Blueprint value in providing a region-wide perspective on conservation priorities and actions.
6. Lots of work has occurred – thousands of individuals and hundreds of entities have been involved to date.



[Cascades falls](#), Virginia. Photo: Matthew Cimitiile

Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy

The dramatic changes sweeping the Southeastern United States — such as urbanization, competition for water resources, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and climate change — pose unprecedented challenges for sustaining our natural and cultural resources. However, they also offer a clear opportunity to unite the conservation community around a shared, long-term vision for the future. The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) is that vision. 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

Southeast Conservation Planning Atlas

The Southeast Conservation Planning Atlas (CPA) is a web-based platform designed to facilitate conservation planning across the southeastern United States. It provides users with access to a variety of datasets, maps, and information related to the region's natural resources and ecosystems.

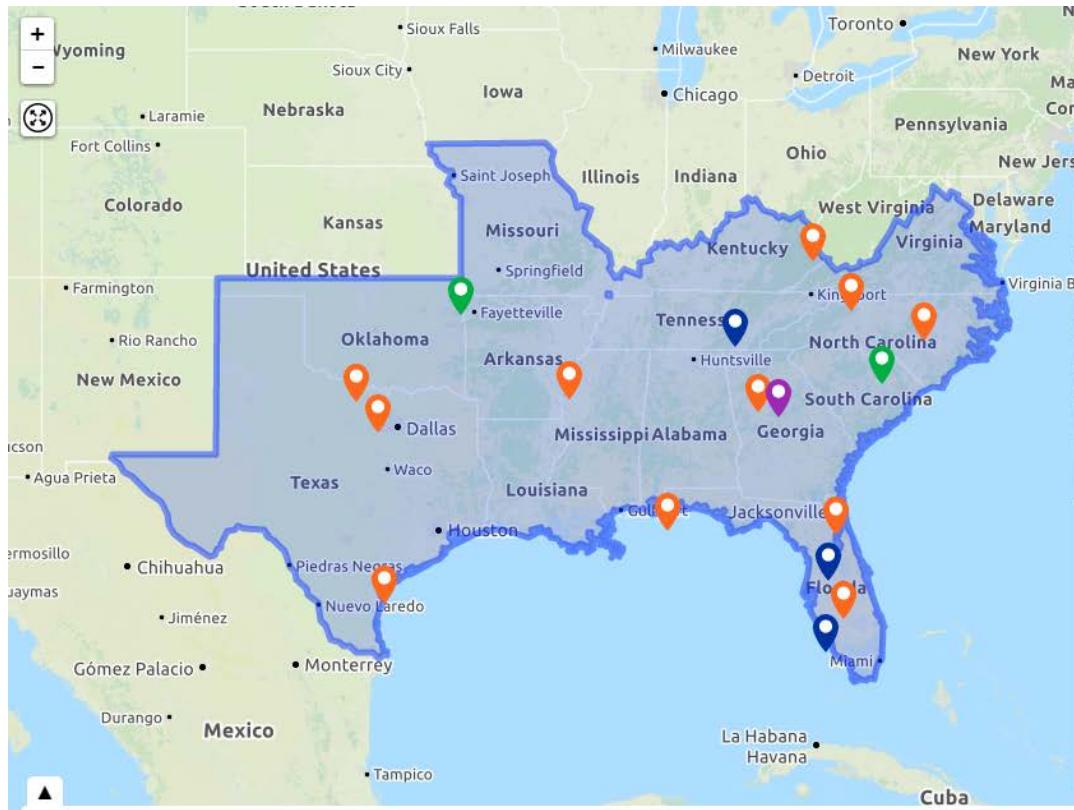
The central screenshot displays the "Southeast Region" CPA homepage, featuring a "Get Started" section with links to "What is the St. Region CPA?", "Why can I use it?", "How do I start exploring?", and "How is the CPA making a difference?". Below this is a "Recent Datasets" section listing "2018 LCC Network Areas", "Oil and Gas Wells on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Lands", "Alabama Strategic Habitat Units (ASHU) and Strategic River Health Units", and "Surfins Elevation Table (SET) Inventory for the National Gull of Mexico". A "Recommended Items" section highlights the "SARP" (Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership) and "Terrestrial Conservation Estate Southeast Region". A "Quick Start Map" shows projected urban growth in the Southeast. The bottom section features links to "Other CPAs" such as the "Gulf Coast Prairie LCC", "Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC", and "South Atlantic LCC".

The surrounding screenshots show other regional CPA pages:

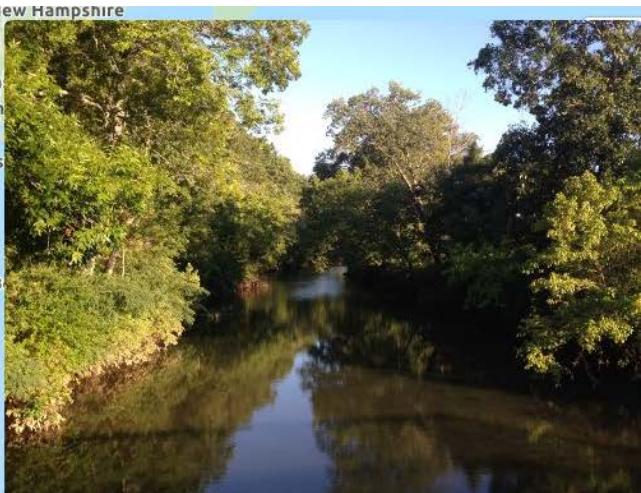
- Gulf Coast Prairie LCC:** Shows a map of the prairie region and various datasets.
- Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC:** Shows a map of the plains and ozarks region and various datasets.
- South Atlantic LCC:** Shows a map of the south atlantic region and various datasets.
- Southeast Region CPA:** The main homepage shown in the center.
- South Atlantic Region CPA:** Another regional CPA page.
- Gulf Coast Region CPA:** Another regional CPA page.

The URL <https://seregion.databasin.org> is displayed at the bottom of the collage.

secassoutheast.org



A map of the southeastern United States and parts of Mexico and Canada. A blue line highlights the Mississippi River basin and its tributaries. Various colored dots (orange, green, blue) are placed along the river network, indicating specific project locations. State and country names are labeled across the map.



Mill Creek, Tennessee. Photo: Lindsay Gardner

Restoring Connectivity of Southern Rivers and Streams

Theme: Smart Planning

The Southeast Aquatic Connectivity Assessment Project uses a database and web-based decision support tool to prioritize dams for removal or passage. [Read the full story](#)

Priorities for next update

- Update to most recent data
- Continue to improve consistency
- Create tools to filter the Blueprint
- Complete coverage for West Texas

Future Refinement

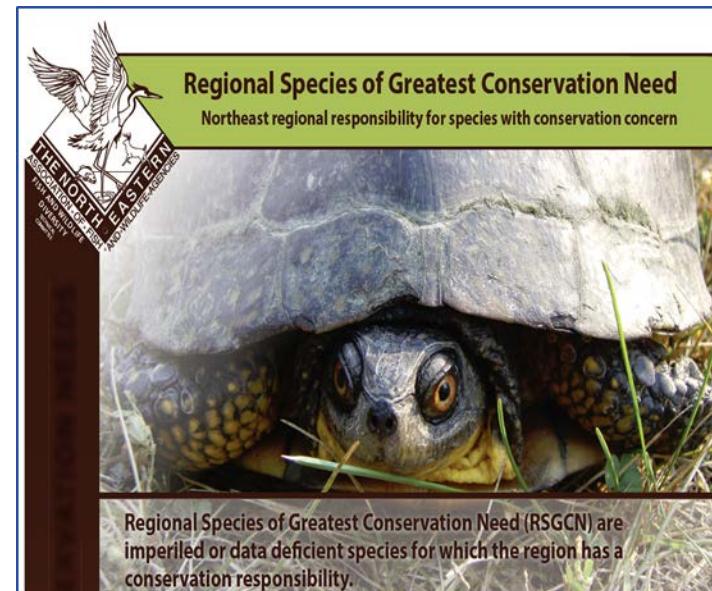
- Improved hubs and corridors layer
- Improved integration of at-risk species
- Integrating SGCNs from SWAPs
 - e.g., Regional SGCN list



SOUTH ATLANTIC
LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint implementation strategy

November 2, 2017



Future Refinement

- “State of the South” and progress toward shared goals
 - Various “report cards” for habitats

State of the South Atlantic



Confidence

South Atlantic ecosystem health scores

Overall, the South Atlantic scored a C. Piedmont areas scored the lowest, likely due to impacts from their major urban megaregions. The Marine region scored the highest; however, it did not include fishing impacts. The Coastal Plain scores were in the middle. These scores show that, while the South Atlantic is not completely healthy, there's hope for making future improvements.



North Piedmont: **D** Home to Charlotte, Raleigh, and large areas of upland hardwood forest. People who live and work in urban areas will help decide the future of this region.

South Piedmont: **D** Home to Atlanta and diverse watersheds draining into the Atlantic and Gulf. Balancing water needs for people and species continues to be a challenge.

North Coastal Plain: **C** Home to the Outer Banks and extensive estuaries. Sea-level rise is predicted to heavily impact this particularly flat region.

Central Coastal Plain: **C** Home to Wilmington, Myrtle Beach, and large protected wetland areas. Sea-level rise, tourism, and changing agricultural practices continue to influence ecosystem health.

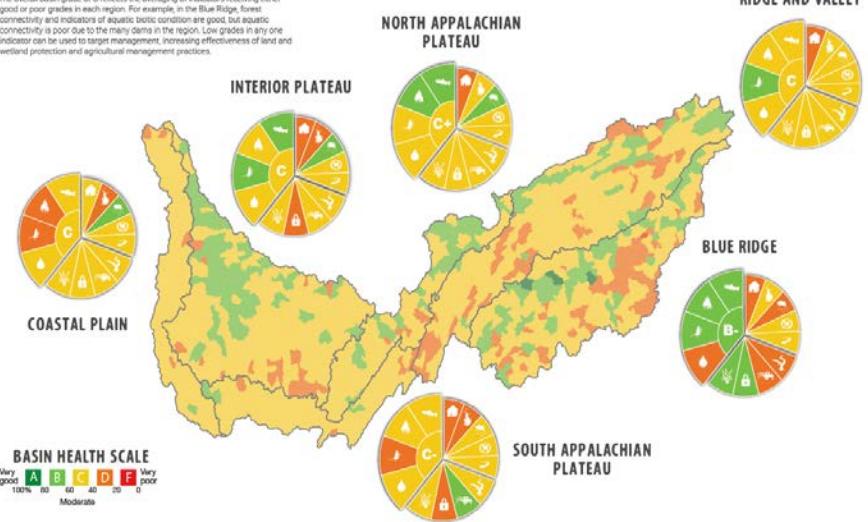
South Coastal Plain: **C** Home to Savannah, Jacksonville, and a network of protected barrier islands. Partnerships are working to conserve this region's largest river floodplains.

Gulf Coastal Plain: **C** Home to rural Southwest Georgia and extensive conservation lands in the Big Bend of Florida. Sea-level rise and upstream agriculture continue to impact coastal protected areas.

Marine: **B+** Home to rich fisheries, deepwater coral, diverse seabirds, and important migratory fish, whales, and turtles. Ocean acidification and increased energy development are major emerging threats.

THE TENNESSEE RIVER BASIN HEALTH BY REGION

The overall basin grade of C reflects the averaging of indicators receiving either good or poor grades in each region. For example, in the Blue Ridge, forest connectivity and indicators of aquatic biodiversity condition are good, but aquatic connectivity is poor due to the many dams in the region. Low grades in any one indicator can be used to target management, increasing effectiveness of land and wetland protection and agricultural management practices.



The Blueprint for SECAS - The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (Version 2.0 with Protected Areas)

