

# The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy

## SECAS



Credit: Texas Tongs/Flickr, CC BY-NC 2.0

### A Bold Vision

A connected network of lands and waters that supports thriving fish and wildlife populations and improved quality of life for people

### An Ambitious Goal

A 10% or greater improvement in the health, function, and connectivity of Southeastern ecosystems by 2060



*“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, retired Executive Director, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

### Who We Are

SECAS is a regional conservation initiative that spans the Southeastern United States and Caribbean. SECAS was started in 2011 by the states of the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies and the federal Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group.

SECAS emerged as a response to the unprecedented challenges facing our natural and cultural resources, like urban growth and climate change. We see these challenges as an opportunity to coordinate conservation action and investment around a shared strategy.

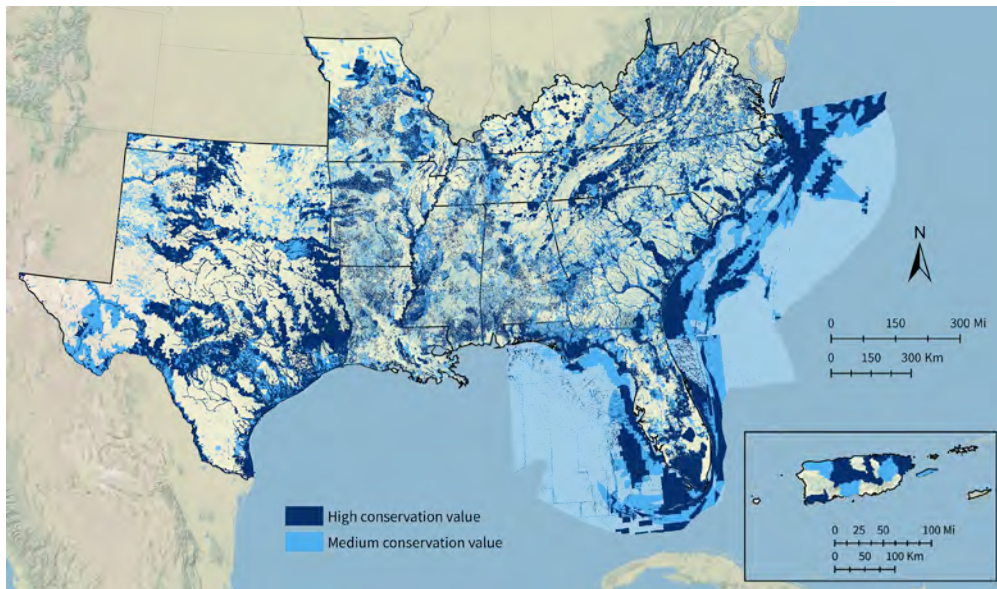
### What We Do

- We bring together state, federal nonprofit, and private organizations around a shared vision for the future.
- We track regional metrics of ecosystem health, function, and connectivity to report annually on progress toward achieving the SECAS 10% goal.
- We develop the Southeast Conservation Blueprint, a spatial plan that identifies the most important areas for conservation and restoration.

### Latest Accomplishments

- Over 225 people from at least 100 organizations have used or are using the Southeast Blueprint to bring in new funding and inform decisions.
- In Fall 2020, SECAS released its second report on progress toward the SECAS goal, *Recent Trends in Southeastern Ecosystems*.
- SECAS added three new Points of Contact representing conservation nonprofit organizations, creating an avenue for formal nonprofit participation.

# The Southeast Conservation Blueprint



*Blueprint Version 2020. 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 is intended to 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.

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.

## Who Uses the Blueprint?



*Credit: Rua Mordecai*

*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

- 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 the almost 100 Blueprint use cases completed so far, with more than 50 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. We also welcome feedback on the Blueprint input data and methods!

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## For More Information

Visit [secassoutheast.org](https://secassoutheast.org)

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