



Developing and Implementing the SECAS Blueprint

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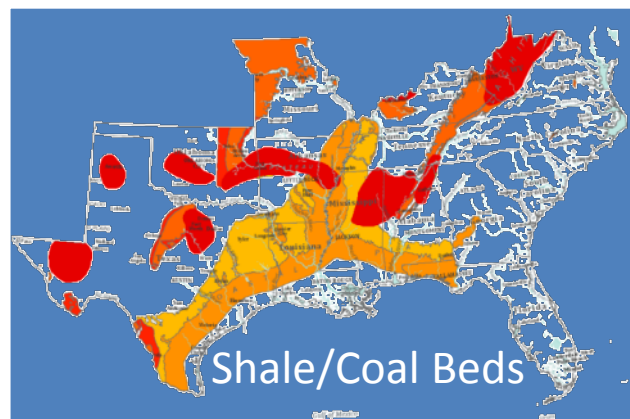
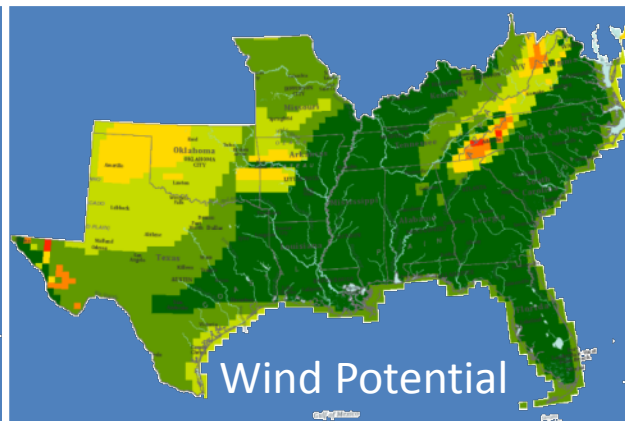
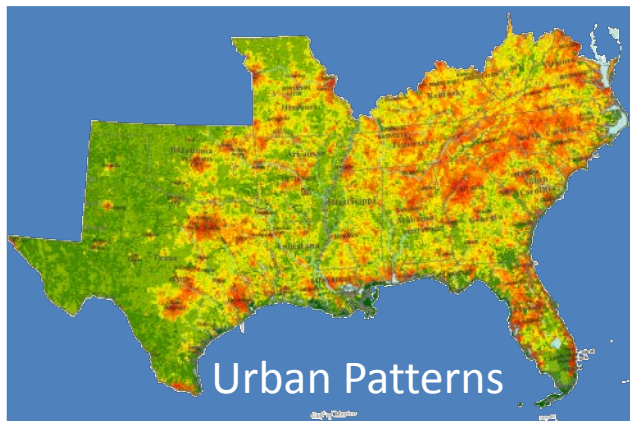
Overview & Purpose

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



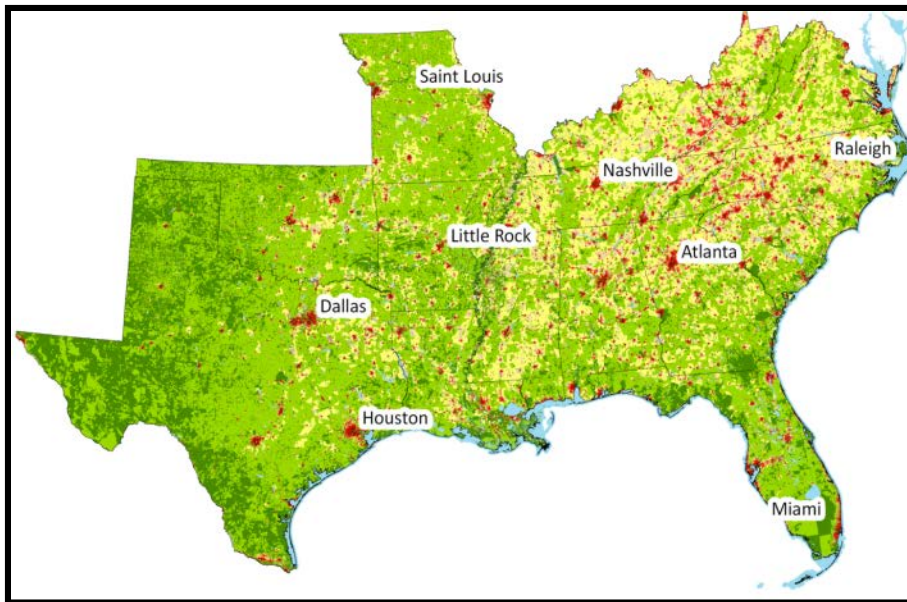
Why Landscape Scale Conservation?

Large Disruptive Changes Impacting Conservation

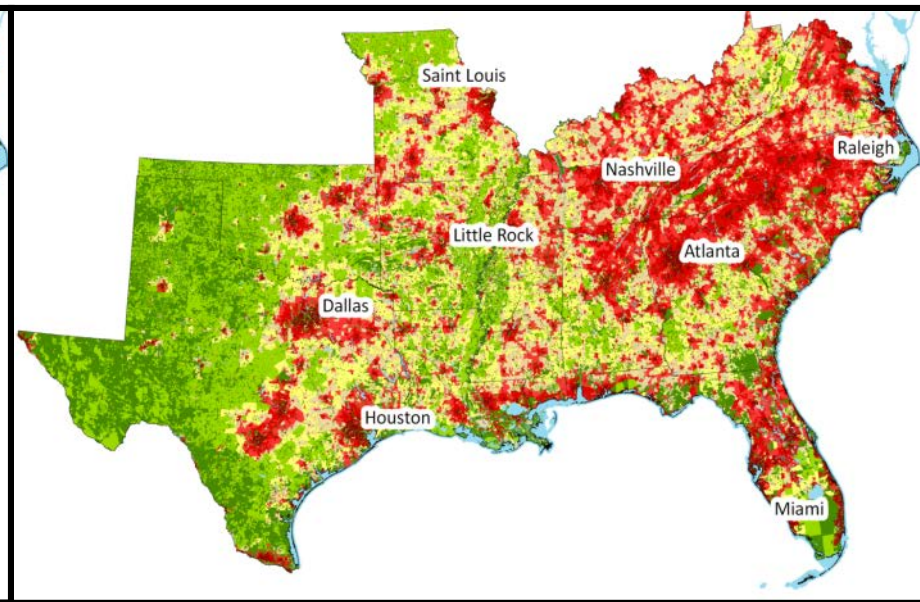


Landscape Scale Challenges

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

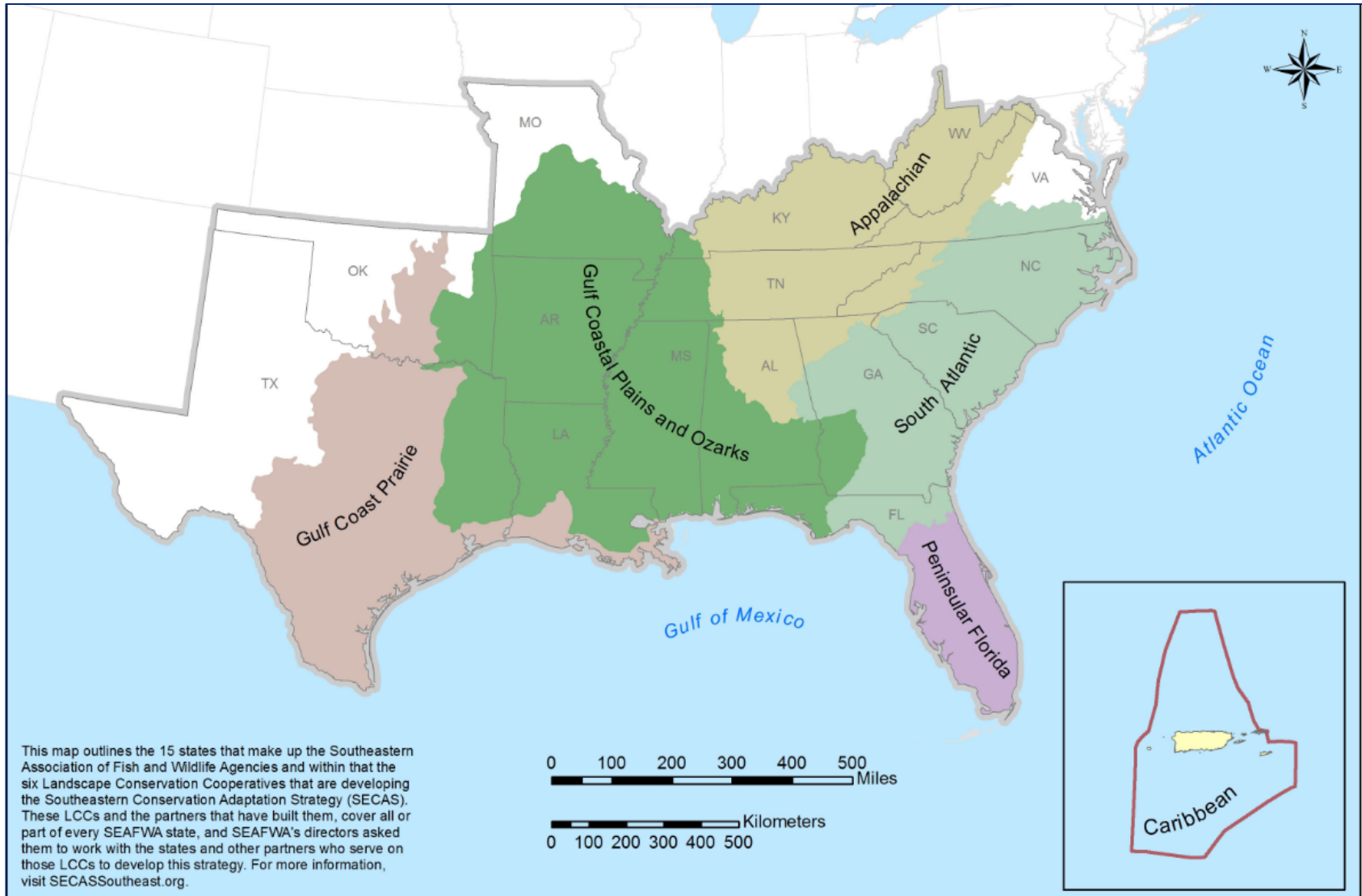
*Define and achieve the conservation
landscape of the future*

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

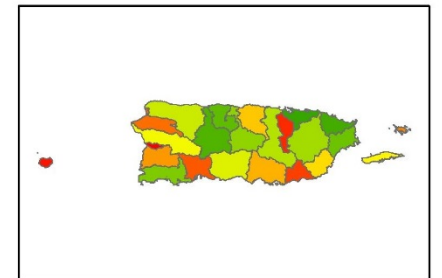
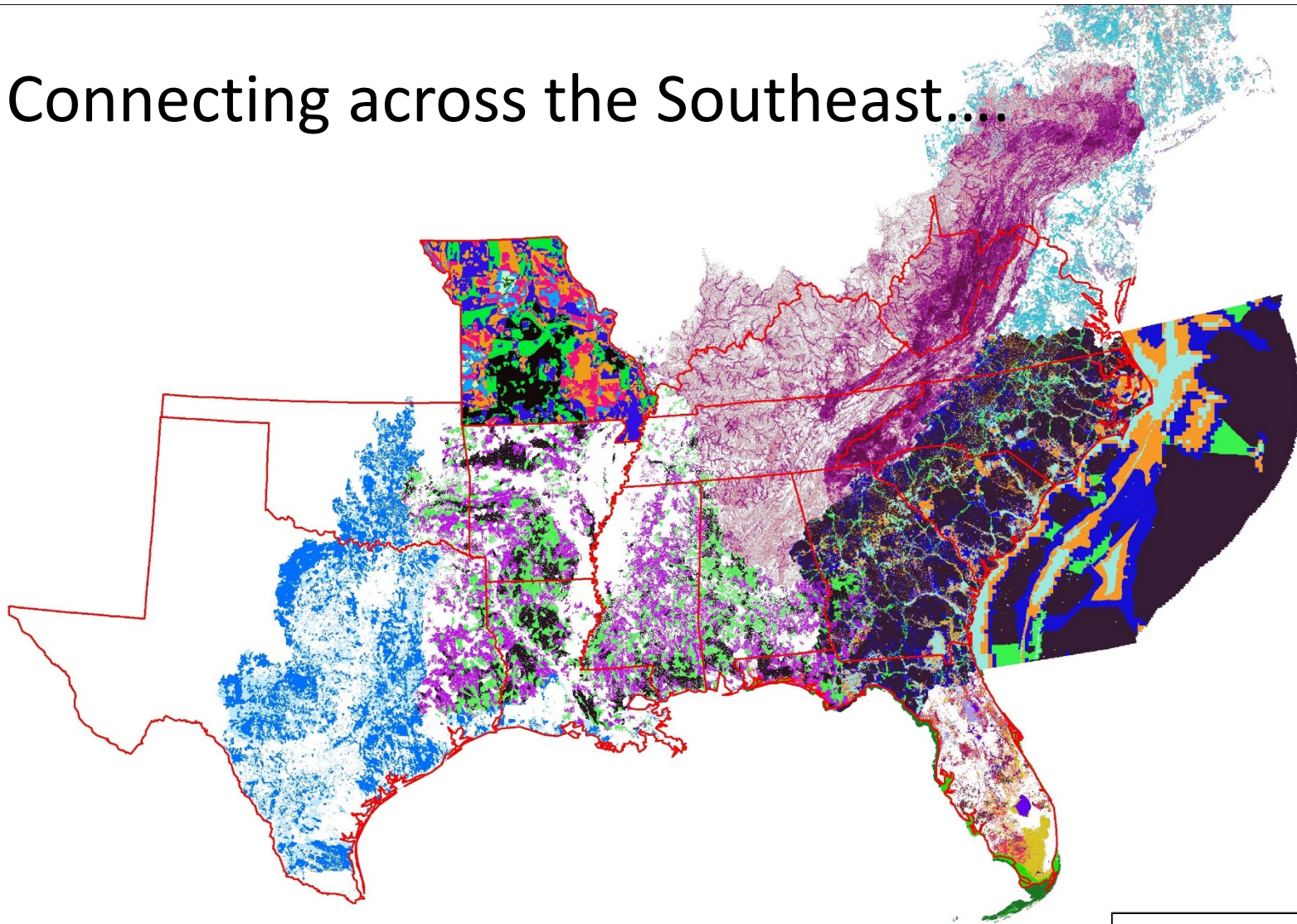
*...Through SECAS, **diverse partners** are working together to design and achieve a **connected network of landscapes and seascapes** that supports thriving fish and wildlife populations and improved quality of life for people across the southeastern United States and the Caribbean. Together, state, 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

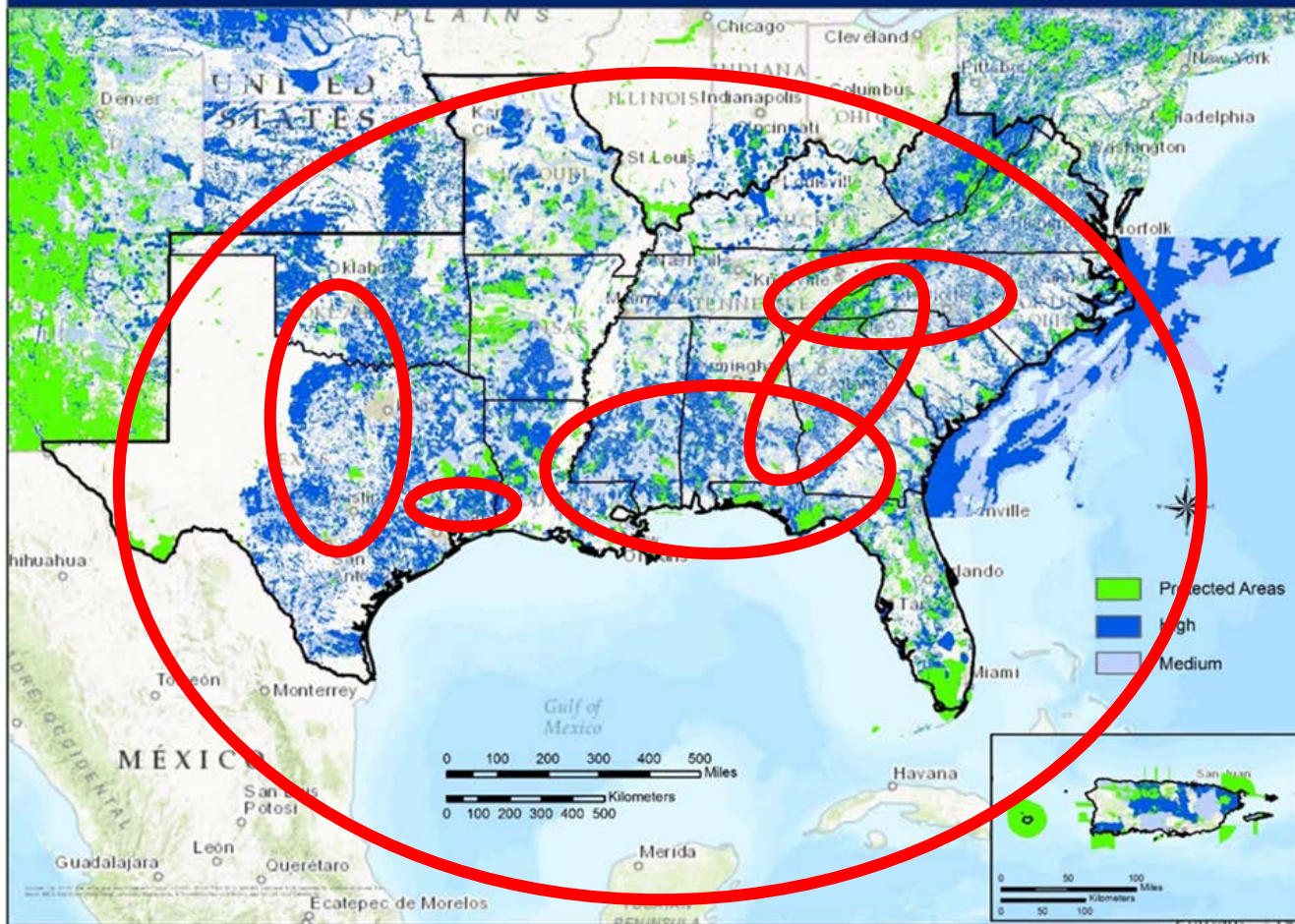
- LCC staff identified integration options based on multiple discussions and lessons learned from previous integration efforts
- Major remaining questions were:
 - How much to include?
 - What to do about overlap zones?
- SEAFWA and SENRLG points of contact made final consensus decision on the approach

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

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



- 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.

secassoutheast.org



Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy

[Home](#) [About](#) [Blueprint](#) [SECAS in Action](#) [Partners](#) [Get Involved](#) [Search](#)

Cascades falls, Virginia. Photo: Matthew Cimitile

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 central screenshot displays the main interface of the Southeast Region Conservation Planning Atlas. It features a navigation bar with tabs for 'Get Started', 'Browse', 'Create', and 'My Workspace'. The main content area includes a 'What is the SE Region Conservation Planning Atlas (CPA)?' section, a 'Recent Datasets' section with links to '2018 LCC Network Areas', 'Oil and Gas Wells on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Lands', 'Alabama Strategic Habitat Units (SHUs) and Strategic Plans Reach Units', and 'Surface Elevation Data (SED) Inventory for the Northern Gulf of Mexico'. It also has a 'Recommended Items' section with links to 'SARF', 'Southwest Aquatic Resources Partnership', 'Terrestrial Conservation State Southeast Region', 'National Wildlife Conservation Initiative Biologist Ranking Index', and 'SEARPA States'. A 'Quick Start Map' section shows a map of the Southeastern United States with a 'Projected Urban Growth' overlay. At the bottom, there are sections for 'Other CPAs' including 'Gulf Coast Plains LCC', 'Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC', and 'South Atlantic LCC'. Red arrows point from the central page to eight surrounding screenshots: top-left (Data Center), top-right (Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC), middle-right (Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC), bottom-right (Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC), bottom (South Atlantic LCC), bottom-left (Alabama Strategic Habitat Units), middle-left (2018 LCC Network Areas), and top-left (Alabama Strategic Habitat Units).

<https://seregion.databasin.org>



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 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



South Atlantic ecosystem health scores

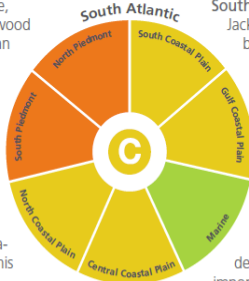
Overall, the South Atlantic scored a C. Piedmont areas scored the lowest, likely due to impacts from their major urban megaregions. The Marine region scored the highest; however, it did not include fishing impacts. The Coastal Plain scores were in the middle. These scores show that, while the South Atlantic 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.



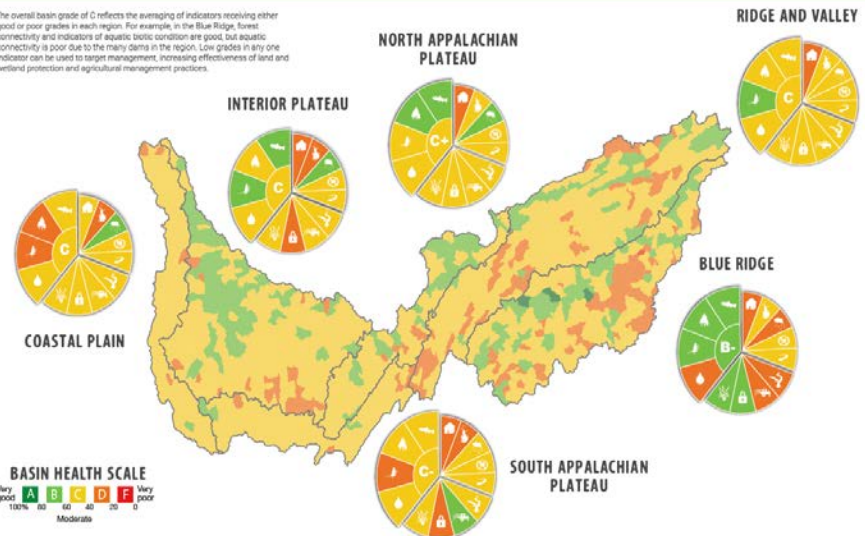
South Coastal Plain: **C** Home to Savannah, Jacksonville, and a network of protected barrier islands. Partnerships are working to conserve this region's largest river floodplains.

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 biotic 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)

