Developing and Implementing the SECAS Blueprint

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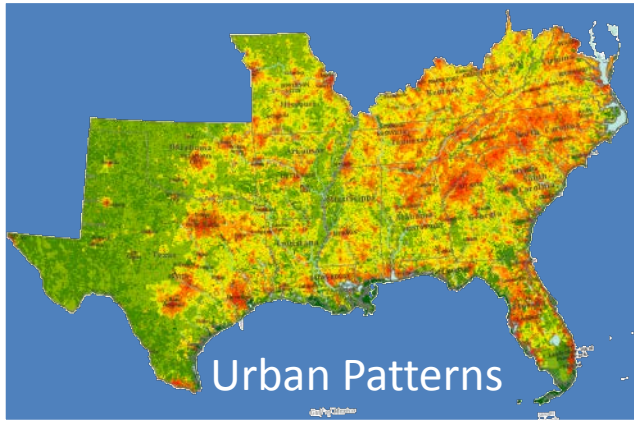
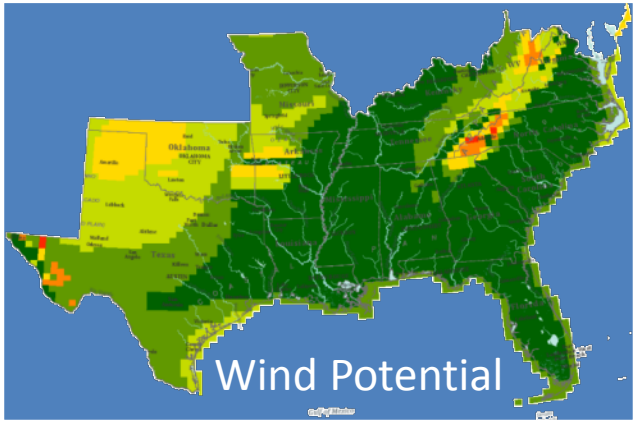
Overview & Purpose

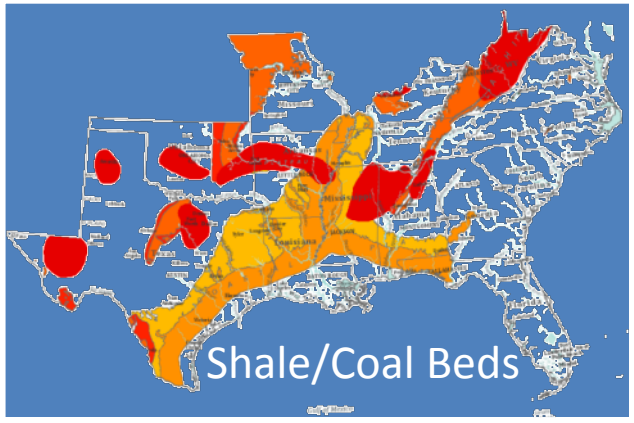
- SECAS background
- Blueprint overview
- Planning to implementation
- Priority improvements
- Making connections

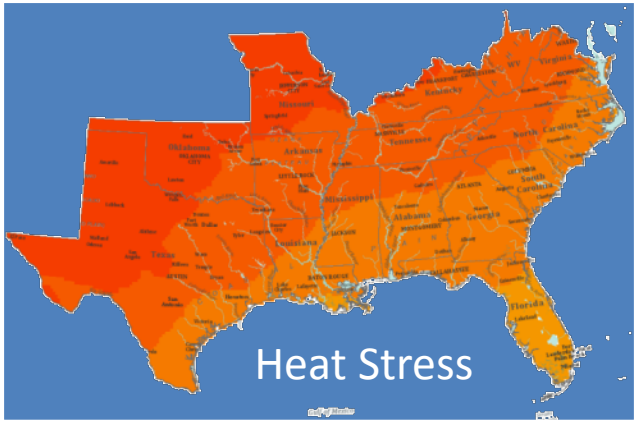
Why Landscape Scale Conservation?

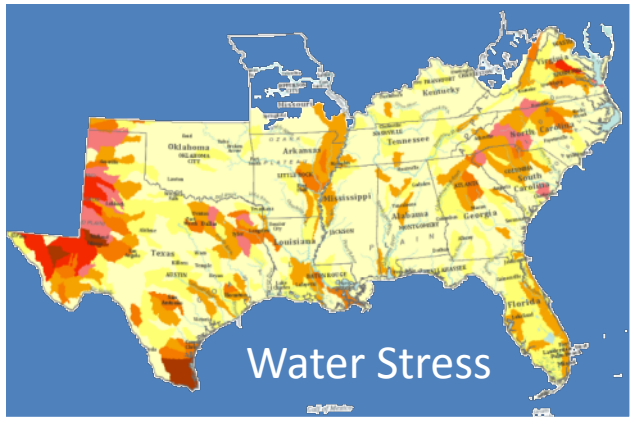
Large Disruptive Changes Impacting Conservation





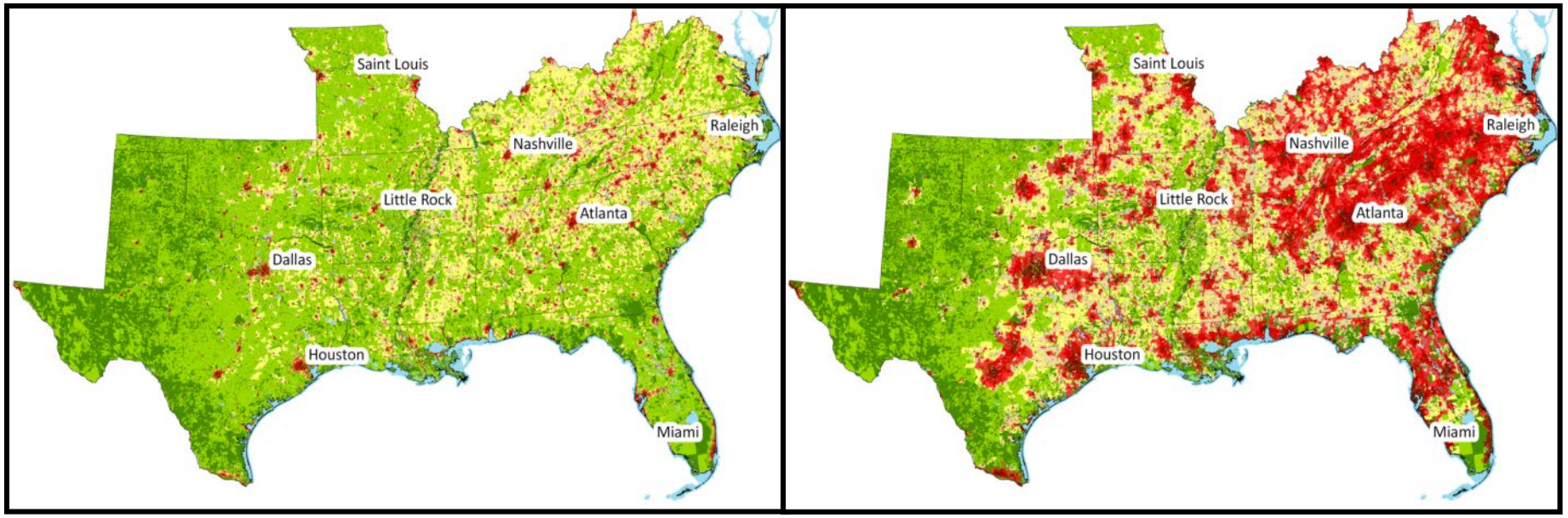






Landscape Scale Challenges

Urbanization in the Southeast



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Defining sustaining landscapes…

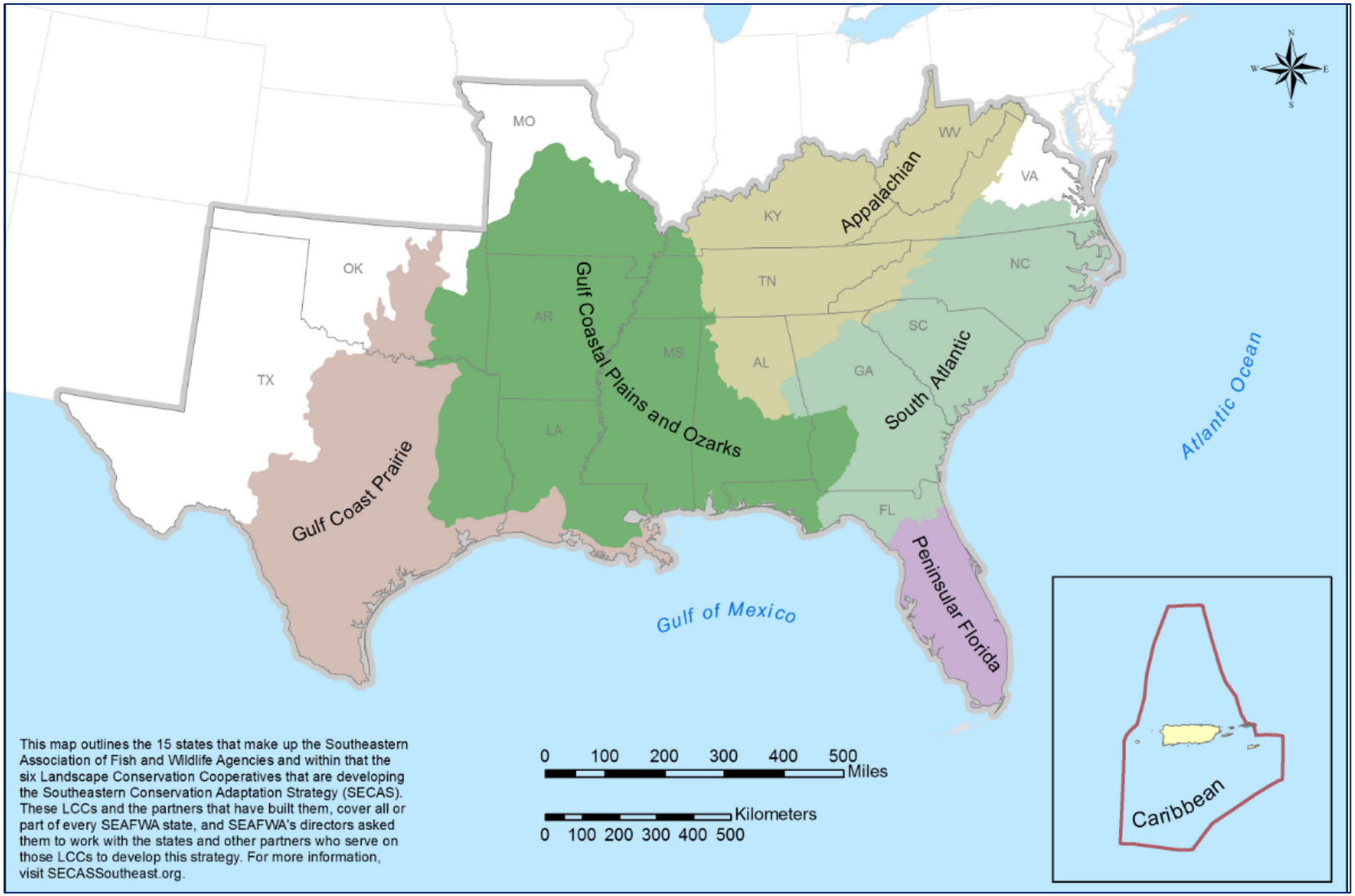
Why SECAS?

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

SECAS Vision

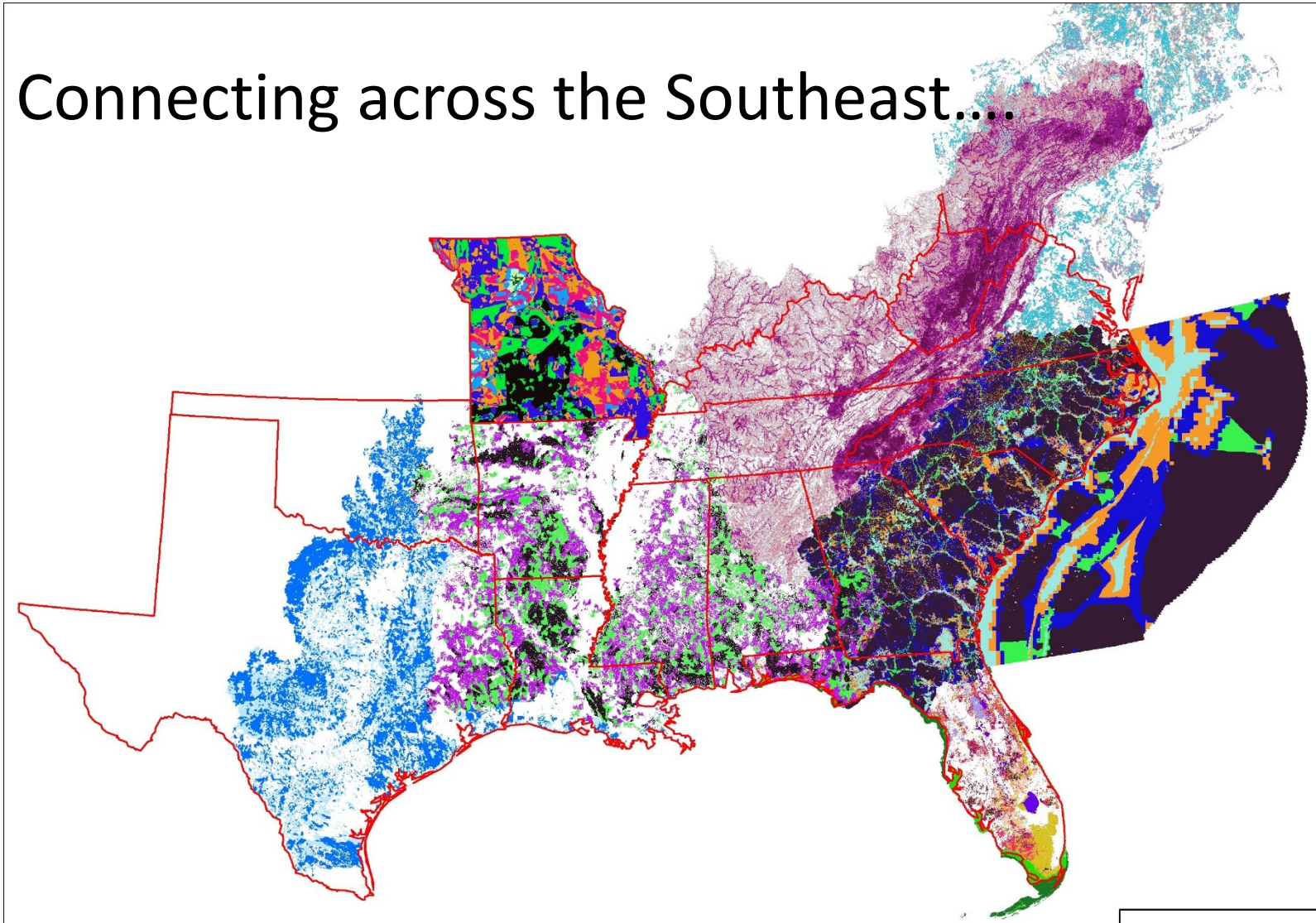
…Through SECAS, ***diverse partners*** *are working together to design and achieve a* ***connected network of landscapes and seascapes*** *that supports thriving fish and wildlife populations and improved quality of life for people across the southeastern United States and the Caribbean. Together, state,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

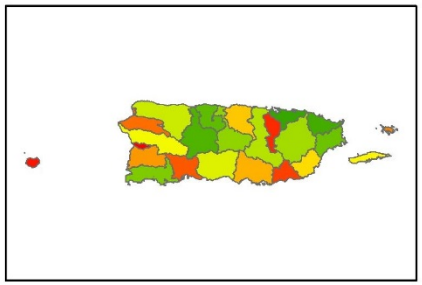
The journey relies on a Good Map!

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

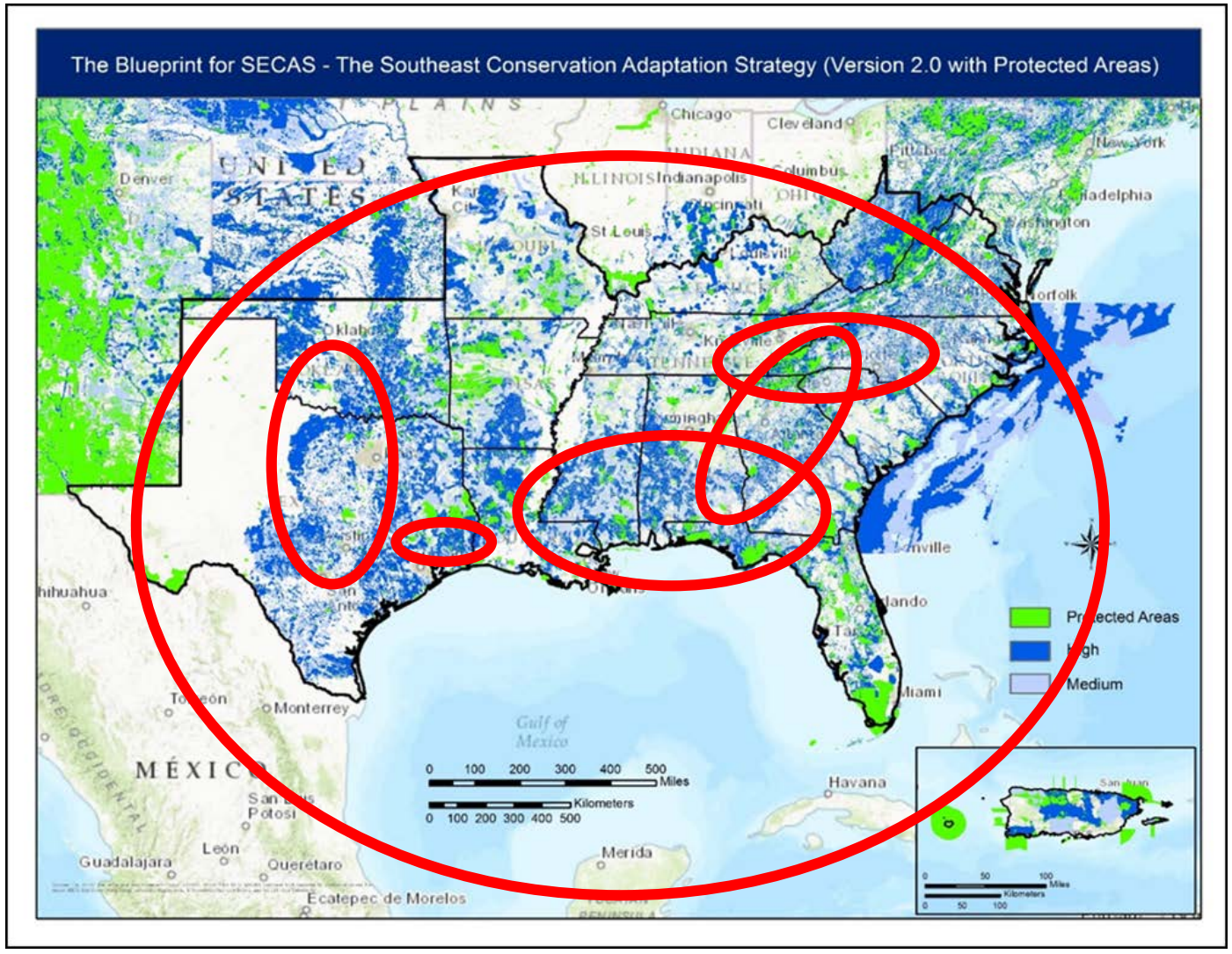
Integration

- 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.

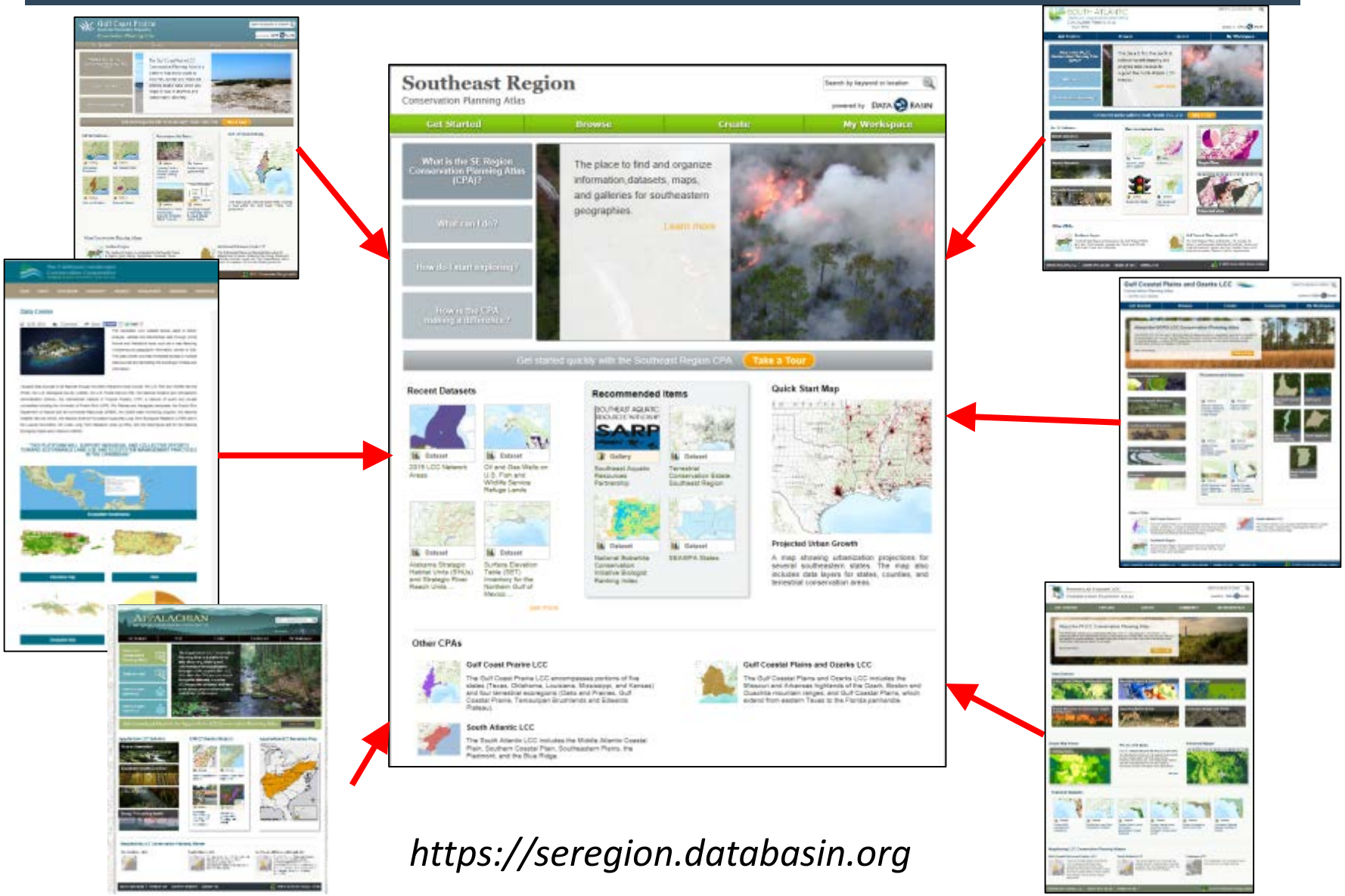
secassoutheast.org

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



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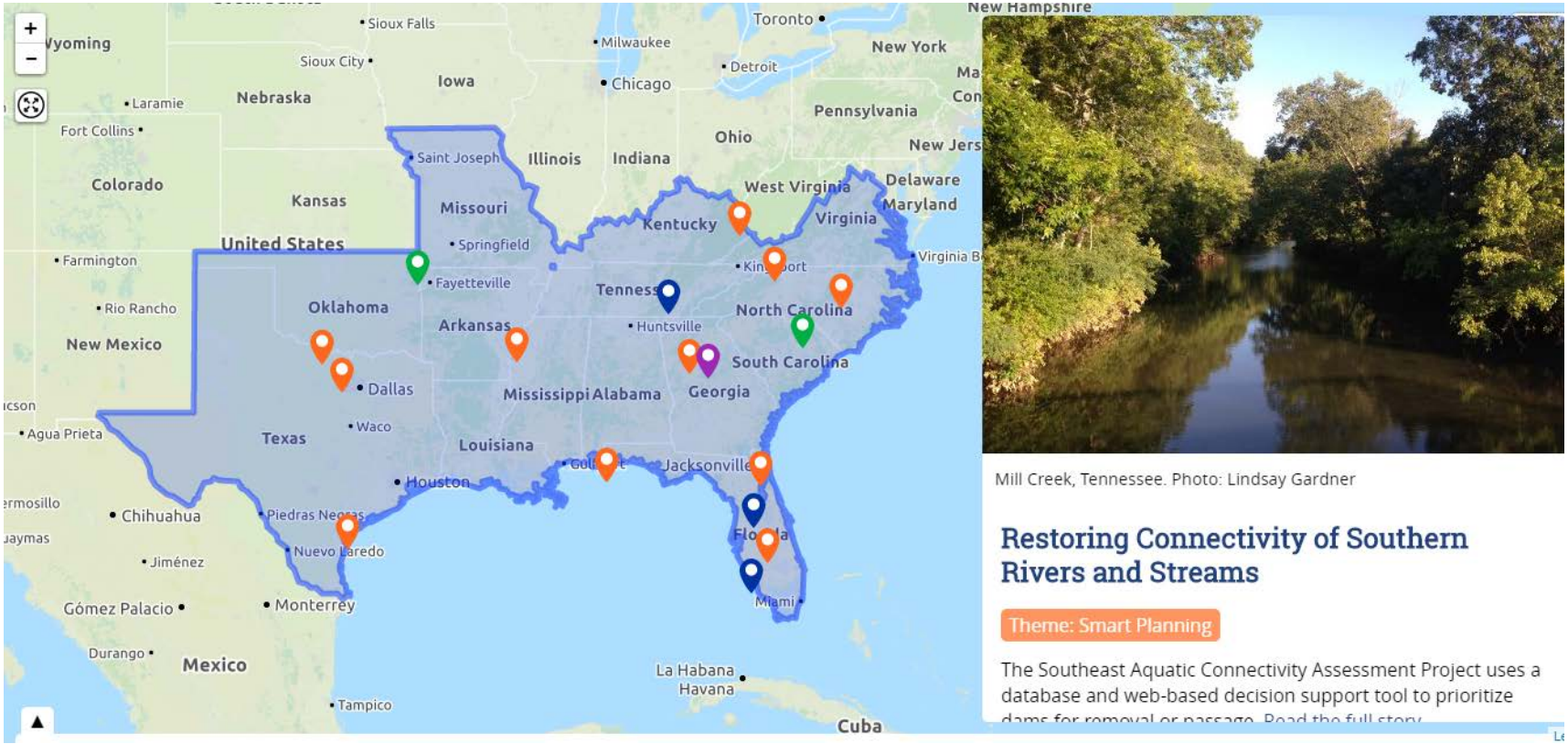


Priorities for next update

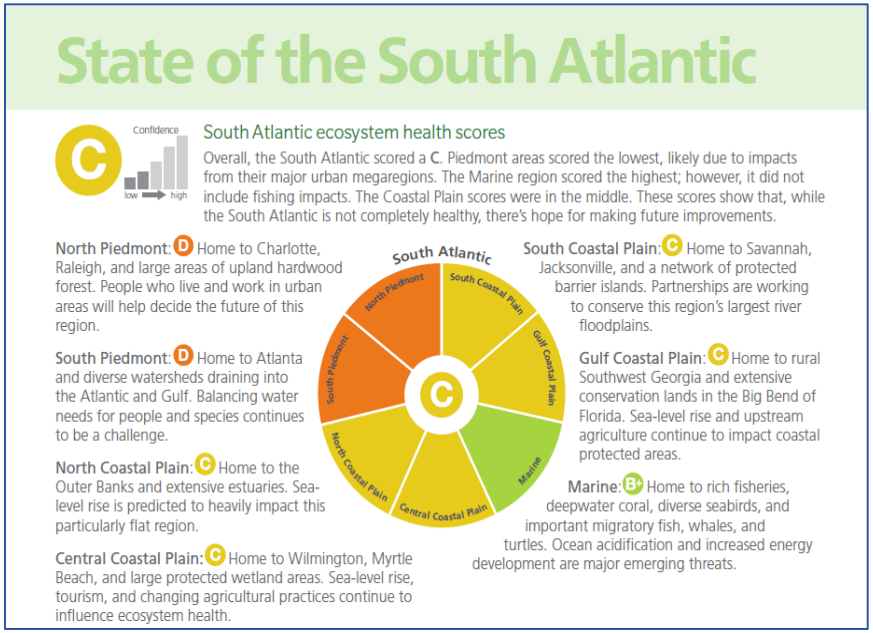
- Update to most recent data
- Continue to improve consistency
- Create tools to filter the Blueprint
- Complete coverage for West Texas

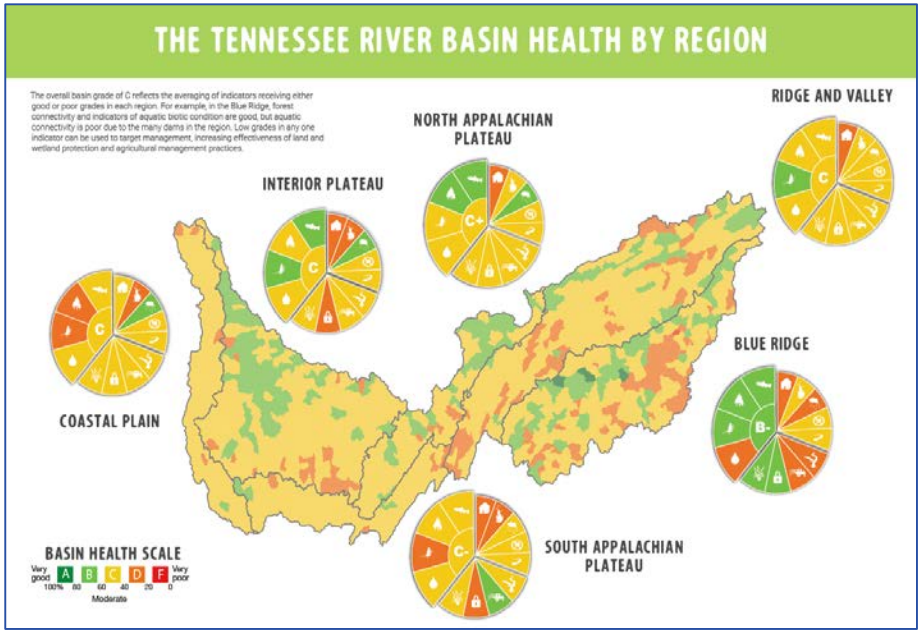
Future Refinement

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

Future Refinement

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





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