The Southeast Blueprint Indicators

Across 15 states of the Southeast, the Southeast Conservation Blueprint is based on 37 natural and cultural resource indicators that represent terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal/marine ecosystems. This portion of the Southeast Blueprint is referred to as the “Base Blueprint”. The indicators on this page cover the relevant portions of the full Base Blueprint area; the indicators on the next page apply only to specific subregions.

Regionwide Indicators

Terrestrial

- **Equitable access to potential parks**: Prioritizes places to create new parks to fill gaps in access to green space within socially vulnerable communities.
- **Fire frequency**: Estimates the number of times an area has been burned from 2013-2021.
- **Greenways & trails**: Index of natural condition and connected length of recreational paths.
- **Intact habitat cores**: Size of large, unfragmented patches of natural habitat.
- **Resilient terrestrial sites**: Index depicting the ability of terrestrial sites to continue supporting biodiversity and ecosystem function in the face of climate change.
- **Urban park size**: Measures the size of parks larger than 5 acres in the urban environment.

Coastal & Marine

- **Coastal shoreline condition**: Index based on presence of hardened structures and ease of development in coastal areas.
- **Estuarine coastal condition**: Index of estuarine water quality, sediment quality, contaminants in fish tissue, and benthic community condition.
- **Islands**: Index of important habitat for island-dependent species.
- **Resilient coastal sites**: Index depicting the ability of coastal sites to sustain biodiversity and natural services under increasing inundation from sea-level rise.
- **Seagrasses**: Represents the presence of seagrass in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico.
- **Stable coastal wetlands**: Index of marsh stability based on the ratio of plants to non-plants (e.g., open water or sediment).

Freshwater

- **Imperiled aquatic species**: Number of aquatic Species of Greatest Conservation Need by watershed.
- **Natural landcover in floodplains**: Percent natural landcover in the estimated floodplain, by catchment.
- **Network complexity**: Index depicting the number of stream size classes in a river network not separated by dams or waterfalls.
- **Permeable surface**: Percent non-impervious cover by catchment.
Subregional Indicators

**Terrestrial**

- **East Coastal Plain open pine birds**: Index of areas within the longleaf pine range east of the Mississippi River where open pine habitat management would most benefit six focal bird species.

- **Great Plains perennial grasslands**: Represents grassland condition in the Great Plains using the percent of perennial forbs and perennial grass.

- **Interior Southeast grasslands**: Index of known grasslands, areas with potentially compatible management, and grassland geology in the Interior Southeast.

- **Mississippi Alluvial Valley forest birds - protection**: Prioritizes new areas for protection within the MAV to benefit forest breeding birds that need large interior cores of bottomland hardwood habitat.

- **Mississippi Alluvial Valley forest birds - reforestation**: Prioritizes areas for reforestation within the MAV to benefit forest breeding birds that need large interior cores of bottomland hardwood habitat.

- **Playas**: Identifies healthy playas and clusters of nearby playas in the western Great Plains.

- **South Atlantic amphibian & reptile areas**: Priority Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Areas in the South Atlantic.

- **South Atlantic forest birds**: Index of habitat suitability for twelve upland hardwood and forested wetland bird species in the South Atlantic.

- **South Atlantic low-urban historic landscapes**: Index of sites on the National Register of Historic Places surrounded by limited urban development within the South Atlantic.

- **West Coastal Plain & Ouachitas forested wetland birds**: Index of habitat suitability for five forested wetland bird species in the West Gulf Coastal Plain/Ouachitas Bird Conservation Region.

- **West Coastal Plain & Ouachitas open pine birds**: Index of areas with existing pine trees that, if managed for open condition, could support a population of three umbrella bird species in the West Gulf Coastal Plain/Ouachitas Bird Conservation Region.

- **West Gulf Coast mottled duck nesting**: Depicts marshes and grasslands along the Western Gulf Coast that are important for mottled duck nesting.

**Freshwater**

- **Atlantic migratory fish habitat**: Index of Atlantic migratory fish habitat condition based on water quality, connectivity, flow alteration, and more.

- **Gulf migratory fish connectivity**: Index capturing how far upstream migratory fish species in the Gulf of Mexico have been observed.

- **West Virginia imperiled aquatic species**: Number of globally imperiled, threatened, or endangered aquatic species by watershed in the state of West Virginia.

**Coastal & Marine**

- **Atlantic estuarine fish habitat**: Index of Atlantic estuarine fish habitat condition based on water quality, marsh edges, seagrass and oyster reefs, and more.

- **South Atlantic beach birds**: Index of habitat suitability for four shorebird species in the South Atlantic.

- **South Atlantic hardbottom & deep-sea coral**: Represents known and predicted suitable locations of hardbottom habitat and deep-sea corals within the South Atlantic.

- **South Atlantic marine birds**: Index of predicted seasonal relative abundance for birds that feed exclusively or mainly at sea within the South Atlantic.

- **South Atlantic marine mammals**: Index of predicted monthly dolphin and whale density within the South Atlantic.

- **South Atlantic maritime forest extent**: Current maritime forest in the South Atlantic.