

At-Risk Species Conservation Opportunities in the Southeast: SECAS Case Study

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The Challenge

60%

of national listing workload under MDL is in (SE and NE Regions)

353

species require 90-day or 12-month petition findings

And workload is expected to increase in the future.



National 7-Year Workplan 2017-23

- Announced September 1, 2016
- Sets long-term schedule for listing actions
- Includes remaining candidates and 320 species
- Prioritizes species for decisions
- Coordinated with States
- Implementation began in FY2017

https://www.fws.gov/endangered/improving_esa/pdf/Listing%207-Year%20Workplan%20Sept%202016.pdf

SECAS Collaboration

- Science products to inform species status assessments
- Conservation planning to support implementation of conservation actions for at-risk species.



Species Status Assessments

The SSA Framework is an analytical approach for assessing biological status

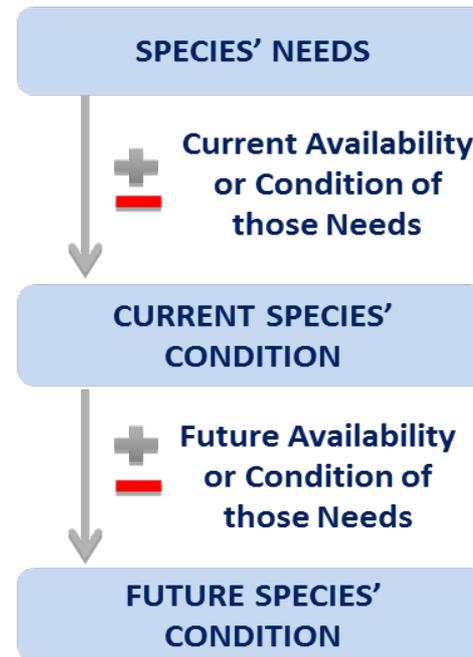
USFWS
Species Status
Assessment
Framework

October

2015

Version 3.3

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is using an integrated and conservation-focused analytical approach, the Species Status Assessment Framework, to assess the species biological status for the purpose of informing decisions and activities under the Endangered Species Act.



Species Status Assessments

PURPOSE: To describe viability of a species using the conservation principles of resiliency, redundancy, and representation



Resiliency

...describes the ability of populations to persist in the face of stochastic events (i.e., pop. fitness). Resiliency is measured using population-level demographic and habitat factors.



Redundancy

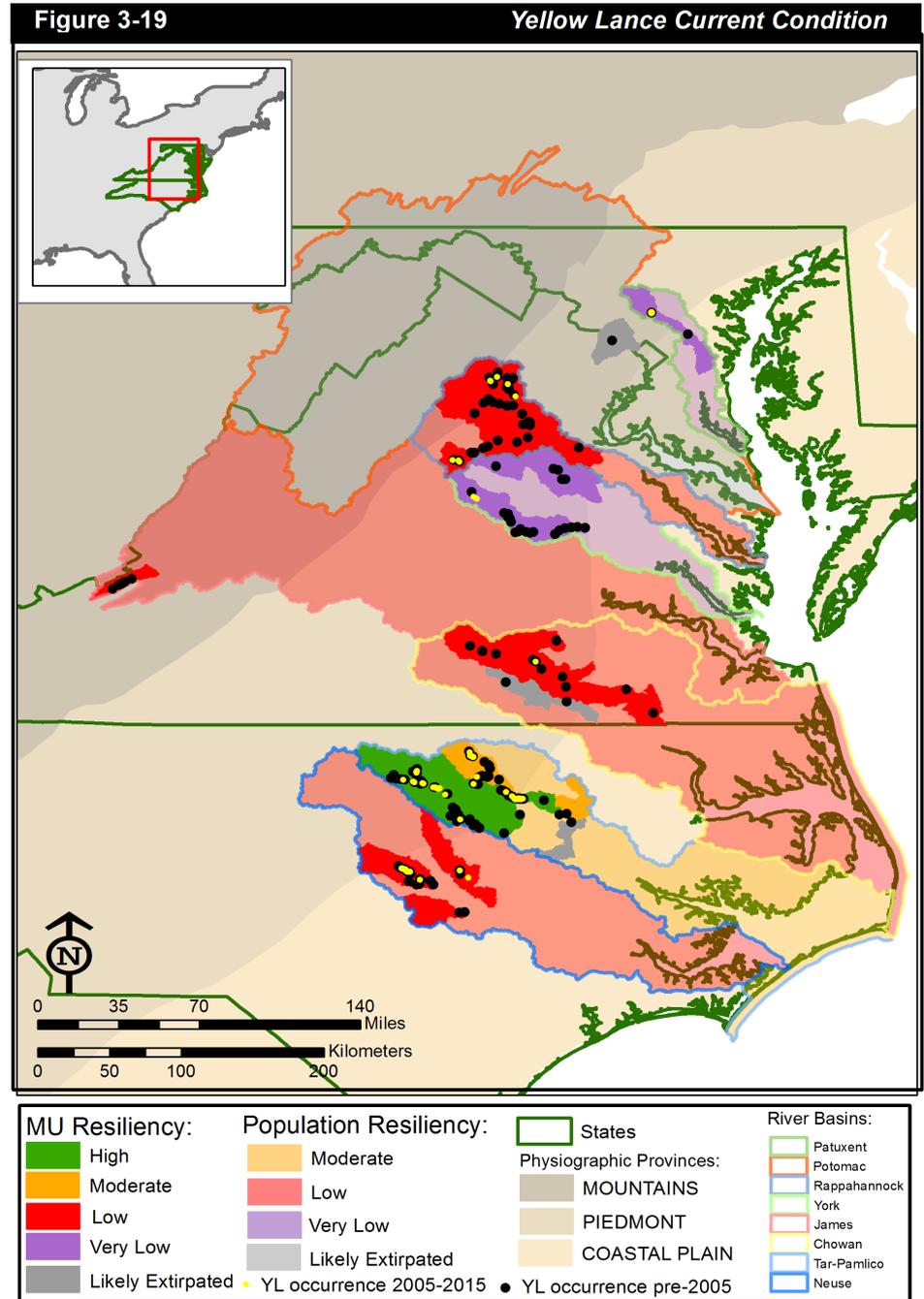
...describes the ability of species to withstand catastrophic events. Redundancy is measured by the number and distribution of resilient populations.



Representation

...describes the ability of a species to adapt to changing environmental conditions. Measured by genetic and/or environmental diversity (within and among populations) representation reflects a species adaptive capacity.

Species Status Assessment



Voluntary Conservation Tools

June 2013

Range-Wide Conservation Strategy for the Gopher Tortoise



Chris DeWitt/Mississippi Army National Guard

Common Name: Gopher Tortoise

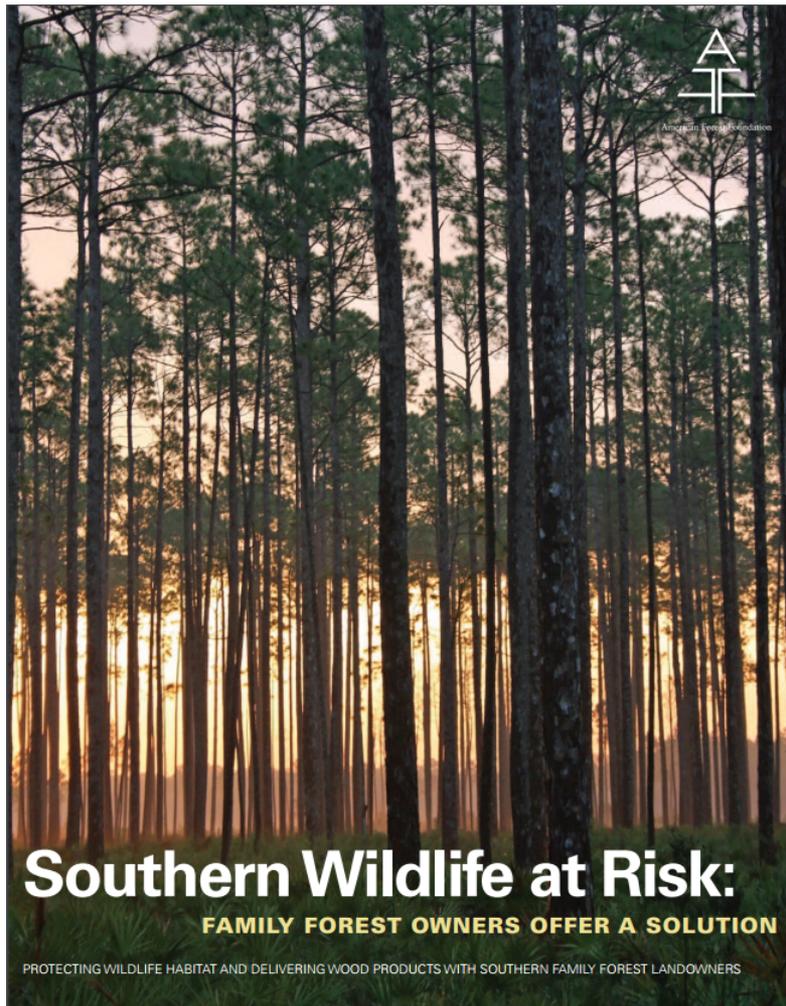
Scientific Name: *Gopherus polyphemus*

Listing Status and Date:

Threatened: (populations west of the
Mobile and Tombigbee Rivers in AL, MS,

- Working Lands for Wildlife
- Partners for Fish & Wildlife
- State Wildlife Agencies
- CCAs and CCAAs

Collaboration with Partner Initiatives



A poster for a meeting, featuring a background image of a forest. The text is centered and reads:

**GOPHER TORTOISE INITIATIVE
PARTNERSHIP MEETING**

Tuesday, August 16 10 am – 2 pm

The Nature Conservancy
100 Peachtree Street NW
18th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303

-Lunch Provided-

PURPOSE

To develop a coordinated approach for the landscape scale protection and management of key sites across south Georgia.

At the bottom of the poster, there are three small images: a black snake, a gopher tortoise, and a frog.

Successes- 108 Species

34 Species Not-
Warranted 12-month
findings



45 Species Withdrawn
from Petition



29 Species not-
substantial 90-day
findings