National Initiatives

What are they?

Why do they matter?

How does USACE Help ?

Jeff Krause, IWR, ENS HQ Business Line Manager
Ben Silvernail, IWR

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NATIONAL INITIATIVES

- **Pollinator Initiatives**
- ESA listed, candidate, concern.
- **State wildlife Action plans**
- **Landscape Conservation Cooperatives**
- **Joint Ventures – NAWMP**
- Invasive Species
- Climate Change
- **National Fisheries Habitat Action Plan**

Common Benefits

- Most species needs range beyond any single agency or entity and require larger landscape management and protection
- Collaboration among agencies/tribes/NGO at multiple levels to achieve the same goals
- Fiscal efficiencies
- Use of multiple authorities to meet goals and shared visions.
- Reduce regulatory costs of other mission operations
- Increase trust among agencies/stakeholders

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PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators dated June 20, 2014 directs agencies to develop plans to enhance pollinator habitat.

- *As per Section 3. Increasing and Improving Pollinator Habitat, subsection k, the Army Corps of Engineers shall incorporate conservation practices for pollinator habitat improvement on the 12 million acres of lands and waters at resource development projects across the country, as appropriate.*

- USACE included in National Task Force

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COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY

- ❑ Goals for Honey Bees; Habitat; Monarchs
- ❑ Pollinator Research Action Plan
- ❑ Public Education Plan
- ❑ Best Management Practices for Federal Lands
- ❑ National Seed Strategy
- ❑ Agency Chapters

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POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR FEDERAL LANDS

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USACE POLLINATOR IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Corps will work with others to promote education, awareness and management practices that provide for improved bee and pollinator populations and habitat through the following PM Implementation Actions:

- Identify existing policy and/or guidance, and modify for pollinator health.
- Incorporate pollinator work within budget guidance and budget tools to identify pollinator specific packages.
- Increase awareness and education through information distribution, interpretive programs and web-based resources.
- Implement conservation and best management practices for pollinator health.

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EDITORS COMMENTS ON CORPS PLAN SUMMARY IN THE STRATEGY

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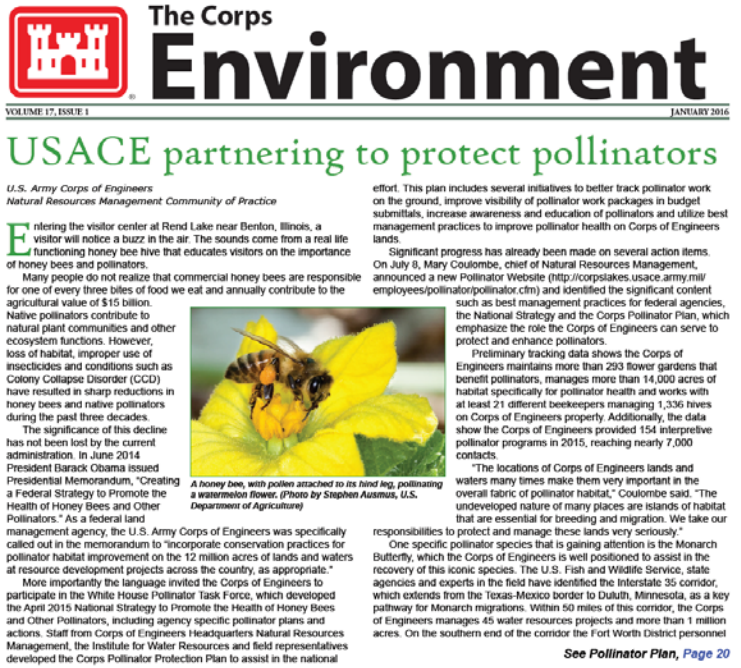
- Issued policy or similar guidance memo on Corps Pollinator Health in June 2014.
- Include internal pollinator web-based resources on the Corps Natural Resources Management Gateway.
- Incorporate pollinator management protocols into the draft ER 1130-2-540 by June 2015 for inclusion into final publication. .
- FY17 Budget identifiers established in ENS Business Line Budget Tool (ESBEST). Completed.
- Initial identification of partners through the Corps Partnership Advisory Committee by May 2015.
- Document by December 15, 2015 the number of pollinator gardens with displays to promote healthy pollinator habitat for visitor education at Corps facilities.
- Document by December 15, 2015, the pollinator managed acreage in Corps managed lands in priority regions.
- Inclusion of specific indicators to track work activities and accomplishments that target pollinator protections for the FY 17 budget development.



The Corps Environment

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2016

USACE partnering to protect pollinators

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Natural Resources Management Community of Practice

Entering the visitor center at Rend Lake near Benton, Illinois, a visitor will notice a buzz in the air. The sounds come from a real life functioning honey bee hive that educates visitors on the importance of honey bees and pollinators.

Many people do not realize that commercial honey bees are responsible for one of every three bites of food we eat and annually contribute to the agricultural value of $15 billion.

Native pollinators contribute to natural plant communities and other ecosystem functions. However, loss of habitat, improper use of insecticides and conditions such as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) have resulted in sharp reductions in honey bees and native pollinators during the past three decades.

The significance of this decline has not been lost by the current administration. In June 2014 President Barack Obama issued Presidential Memorandum, "Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators." As a federal land management agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was specifically called out in the memorandum to "incorporate conservation practices for pollinator habitat improvement on the 12 million acres of lands and waters at resource development projects across the country, as appropriate."

More importantly the language invited the Corps of Engineers to participate in the White House Pollinator Task Force, which developed the April 2015 National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators, including agency specific pollinator plans and actions. Staff from Corps of Engineers Headquarters Natural Resources Management, the Institute for Water Resources and field representatives developed the Corps Pollinator Protection Plan to assist in the national effort. This plan includes several initiatives to better track pollinator work on the ground, improve visibility of pollinator work packages in budget submittals, increase awareness and education of pollinators and utilize best management practices to improve pollinator health on Corps of Engineers lands.

Significant progress has already been made on several action items. On July 8, Mary Coulombe, chief of Natural Resources Management, announced a new Pollinator Website (http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/pollinator/pollinator.cfm) and identified the significant content such as best management practices for federal agencies, the National Strategy and the Corps Pollinator Plan, which emphasize the role the Corps of Engineers can serve to protect and enhance pollinators.

Preliminary tracking data shows the Corps of Engineers maintains more than 293 flower gardens that benefit pollinators, manages more than 14,000 acres of habitat specifically for pollinator health and works with at least 21 different beekeepers managing 1,336 hives on Corps of Engineers property. Additionally, the data show the Corps of Engineers provided 154 interpretive pollinator programs in 2015, reaching nearly 7,000 contacts.

"The locations of Corps of Engineers lands and waters many times make them very important in the overall fabric of pollinator habitat," Coulombe said. "The undeveloped nature of many places are islands of habitat that are essential for breeding and migration. We take our responsibilities to protect and manage these lands very seriously."

One specific pollinator species that is gaining attention is the Monarch Butterfly, which the Corps of Engineers is well positioned to assist in the recovery of this iconic species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state agencies and experts in the field have identified the Interstate 35 corridor, which extends from the Texas-Mexico border to Duluth, Minnesota, as a key pathway for Monarch migrations. Within 50 miles of this corridor, the Corps of Engineers manages 45 water resources projects and more than 1 million acres. On the southern end of the corridor the Fort Worth District personnel

See Pollinator Plan, Page 20

A honey bee, with pollen attached to its hind leg, pollinating a watermelon flower. (Photo by Stephen Ausmus, U.S. Department of Agriculture)

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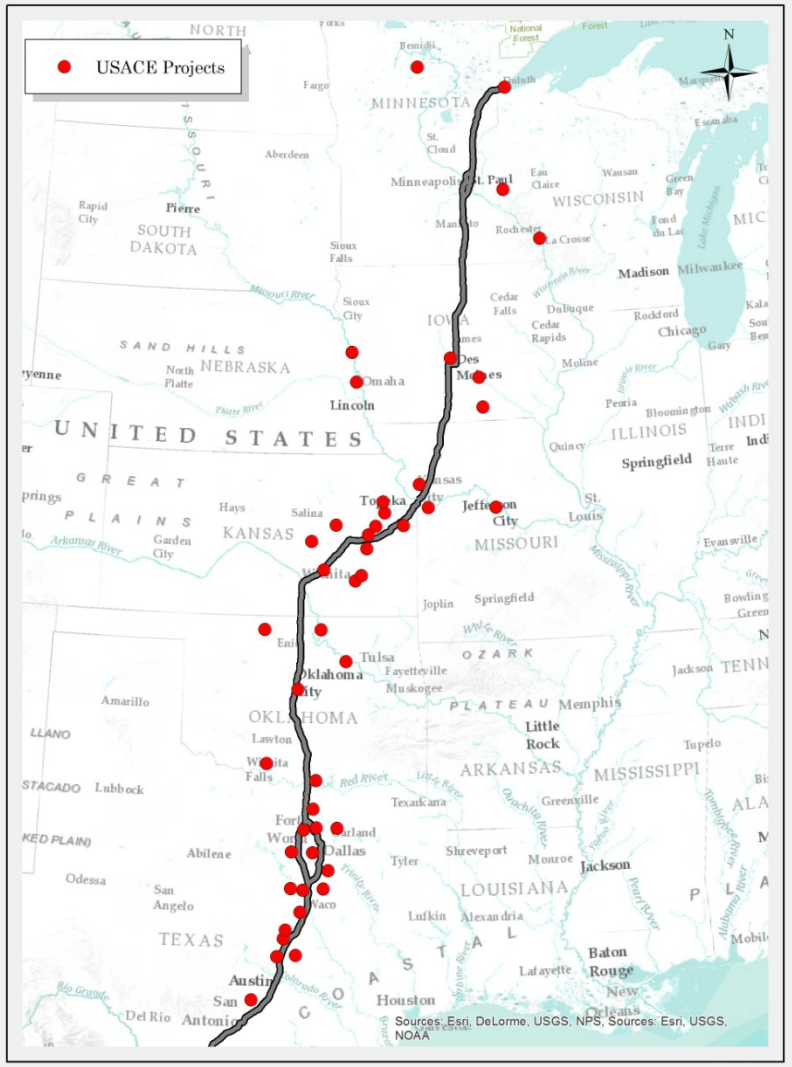
SPECIFIC EFFORTS AND OTHER IDEAS

- I-35 Corridor Monarch Focus
  - 45 projects
  - 1.1 M total acres
  - Initial discussion with FWS/States



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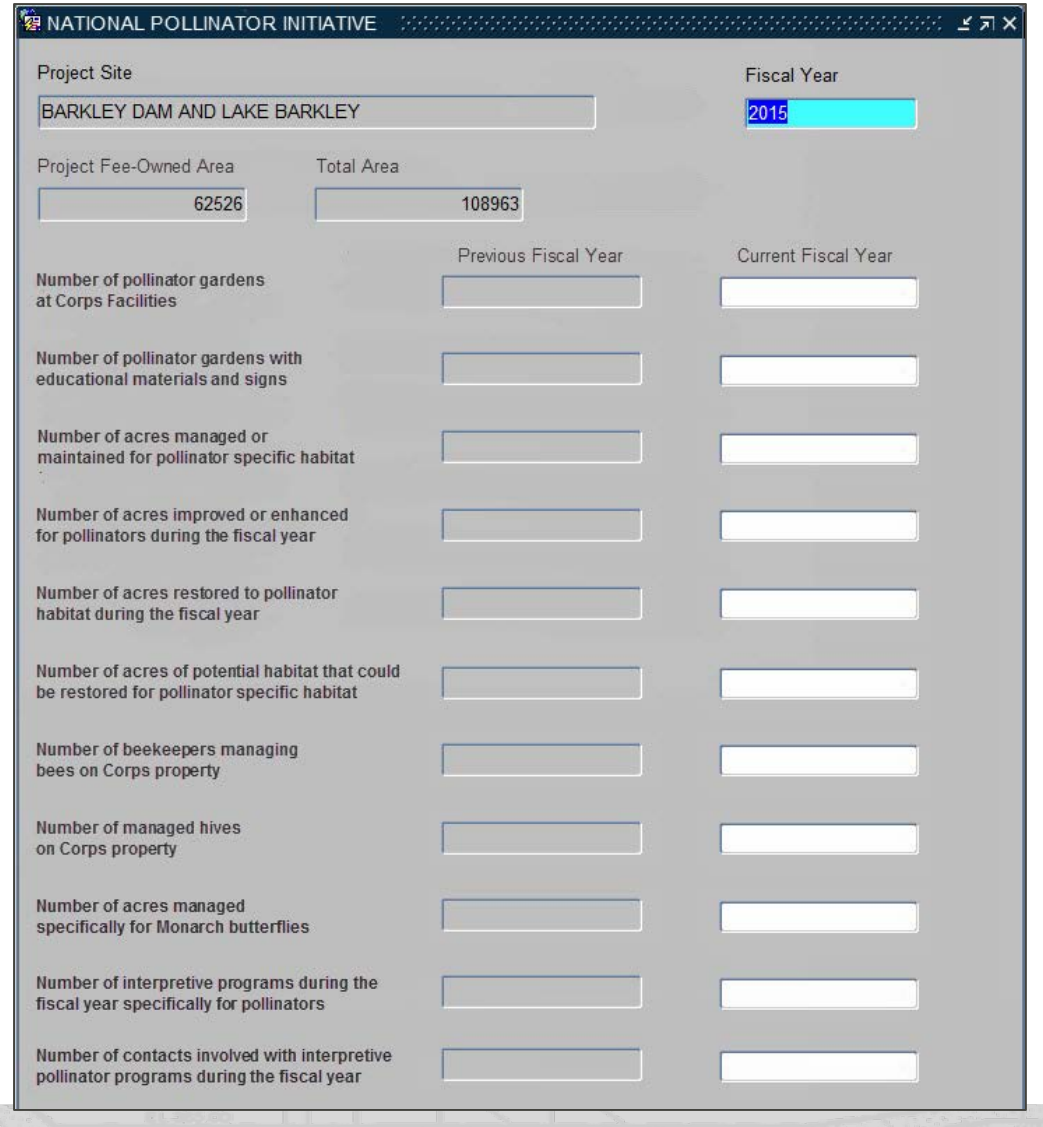
2015 ES OMBIL ANNUAL UPDATE

POLLINATORS



Users have delete capabilities only during the current annual update period.

Users should enter whole number values for all fields. No decimals should be allowed.

The ‘Previous Fiscal Year’ fields are displayed but vacant as the FY2015 annual update period will be the first fiscal year using the form.

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2015 ES OMBIL ANNUAL UPDATE

POLLINATORS- RESULTS

Number of pollinator gardens at Corps Facilities 317
Number of pollinator gardens with educational materials and signs 51
Number of acres managed or maintained for pollinator specific habitat 16,301
Number of acres improved or enhanced for pollinators during the fiscal year 4,234

Number of acres restored to pollinator habitat during the fiscal year896
Number of acres of potential habitat that could be restored for pollinator specific habitat 99,678

Number of beekeepers managing bees on Corps property 22
Number of managed hives on Corps property 1,364
Number of managed bees3 6,571,200
Number of acres managed specifically for Monarch Butterflies 292
Number of interpretive programs during the fiscal year specifically for pollinators 174
Number of contacts involved with interpretive pollinator programs during the fiscal year 9,818

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THE BENEFITS OF USACE CIVIL WORKS PARTICIPATION IN THE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVES (LCCS)

March 9, 2016
IWR Briefing for
Major General D. E. Jackson, Jr.

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVES

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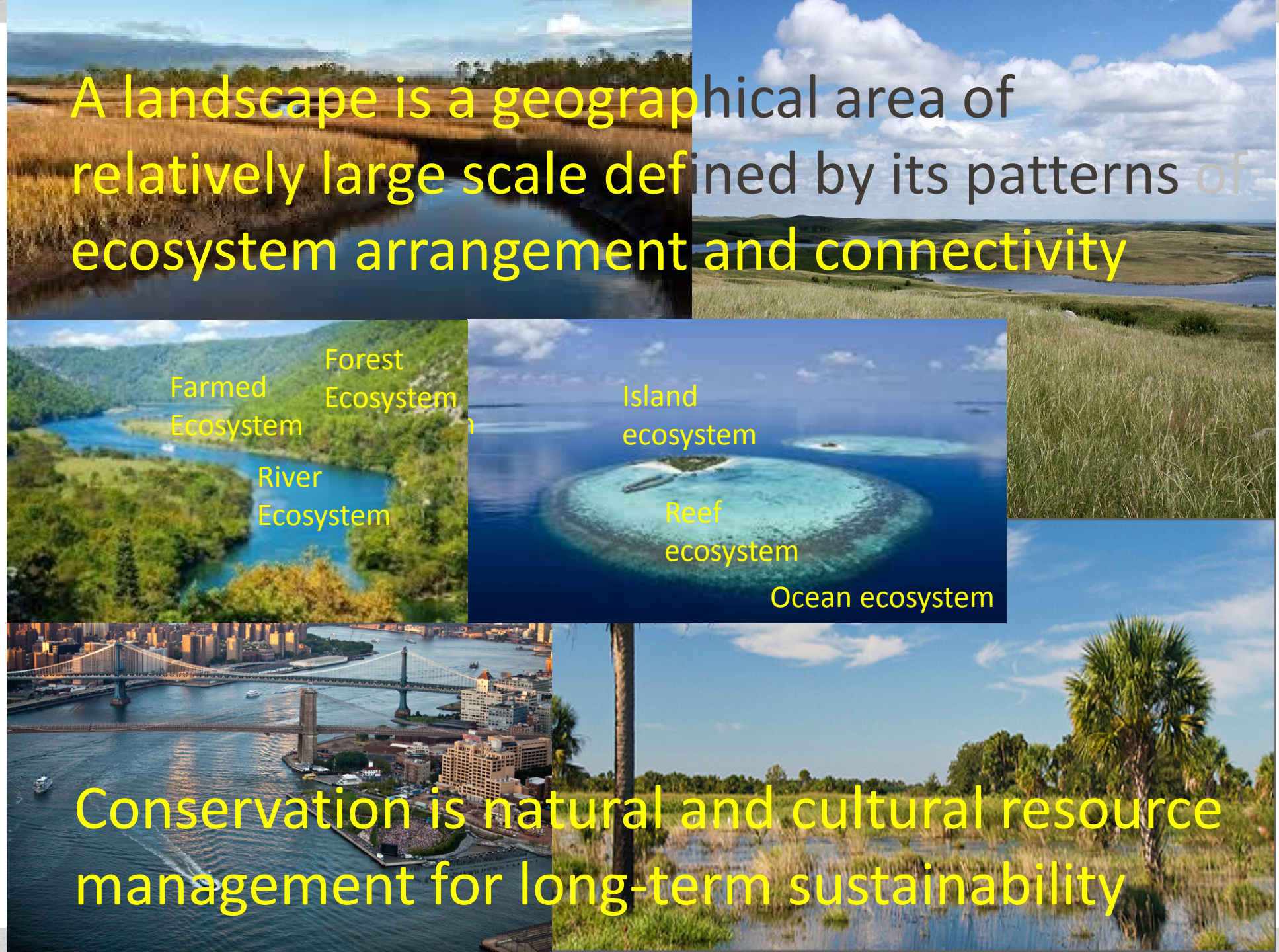
A landscape is a geographical area of relatively large scale defined by its patterns of ecosystem arrangement and connectivity



Conservation is natural and cultural resource management for long-term sustainability

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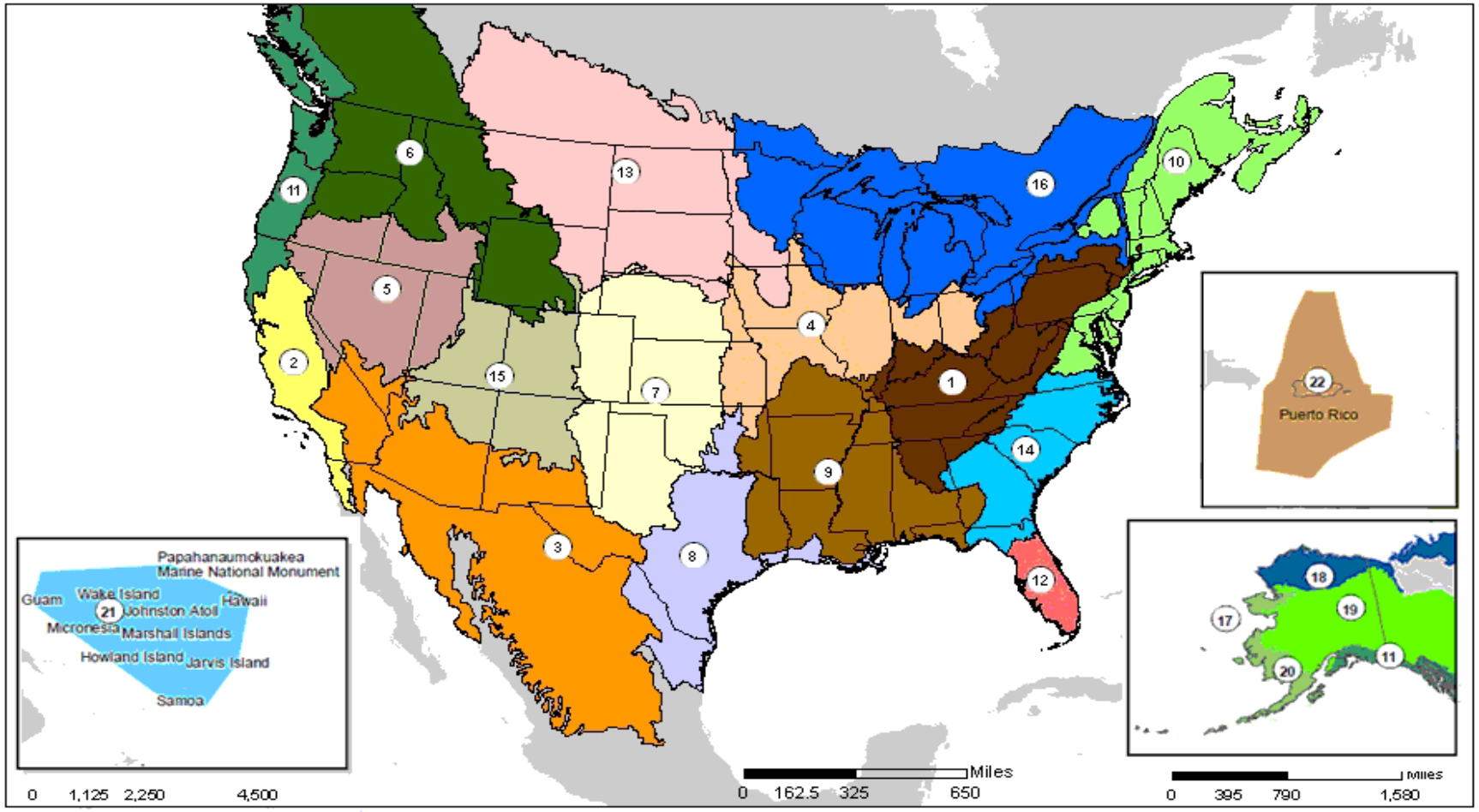
Boundaries determined by physiography & vegetation



1. Appalachian
2. California
3. Desert
4. Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers
5. Great Basin
6. Great Northern
7. Great Plains
8. Gulf Coast Prairie
9. Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks
10. North Atlantic
11. North Pacific
12. Peninsular Florida
13. Plains and Prairie Potholes
14. South Atlantic
15. Southern Rockies
16. Upper Midwest and Great Lakes
17. Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands
18. Arctic
19. Northwestern Interior Forest
20. Western Alaska
21. Pacific Islands
22. Caribbean
Unclassified

Albers Equal Area Conic NAD83
Produced by FWS, IRTM, Denver, CO
Map Date: 12142011

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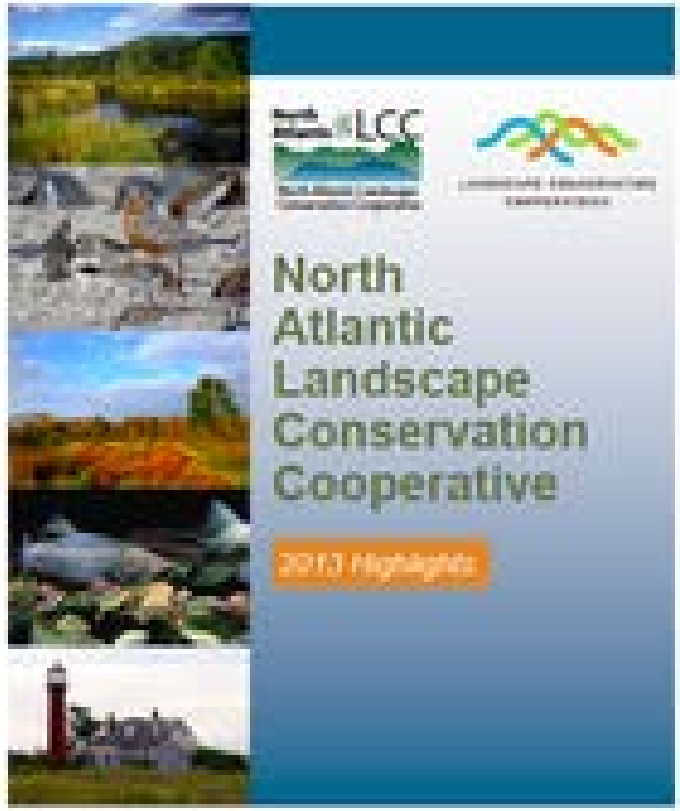
PRESENT CORPS PARTICIPATION

The Corps is represented on six steering committees

- Two are new with help of IWR
- Two are temporarily represented by IWR
- Only one is explicitly assigned at the command level

Other participation has occurred at 12 LCCs

- Technical/research
- Monitoring LCC steering committees
- Intermittent activity



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STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS

In 2001, the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Act was passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law, initiating the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program. The primary goal of the federal SWG program is to prevent additional species from being federally listed as threatened or endangered by implementing conservation actions before the species becomes critically imperiled.

Delaware Wildlife Action Plan

"Keeping Today's Wildlife from Becoming Tomorrow's Memory"

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STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS

- Identify declining species and their habitat needs
- Identify and prioritize actions and research needs
- Allow us to work together to take action

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STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS

- Become a driving force for preventing wildlife from becoming endangered, thereby saving both wildlife and taxpayer money.
- Create new conservation partnerships.
- Benefit the health of wildlife and people by conserving natural areas.
- Create new and greater funding for wildlife conservation.

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www.wildlifeactionplans.org

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NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN

- ❑ Agreement signed by United States and Canada in 1986
  - Signed by Mexico in 1994
- ❑ Waterfowl populations were at historic lows
- ❑ Plan outlined strategy to restore populations
  - Focus on habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement
- ❑ International scope, but regional implementation
  - Created 25 migratory bird joint ventures
    - 22 habitat based
    - 3 species based

North American Waterfowl Management Plan

- Shift in paradigm of conservation
- Collaborative, holistic approach
- Government, public, private, and tribal groups working together

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JOINT VENTURES

- ❑ Delineated by geographical boundaries
- ❑ State-of-the-art science to ensure diverse habitat
- ❑ Joint venture actions include:
  - Biological planning
  - Conservation design
  - Implementing monitoring
  - Research communications
  - Outreach/public education
- ❑ Have leveraged appropriated funds 33:1
- ❑ Conserved 24 million acres of critical habitat to date

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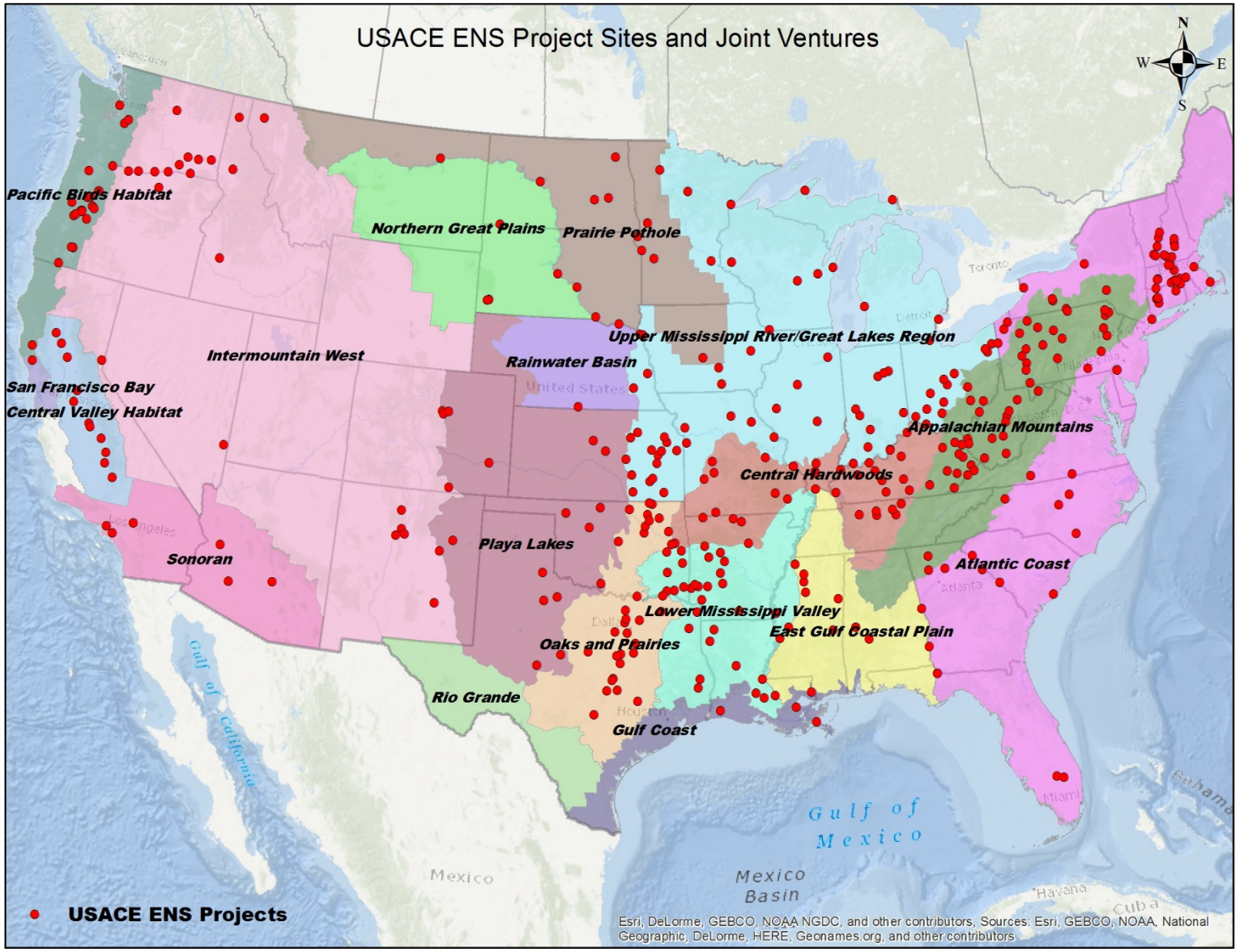

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PARTNERS IN FLIGHT

- Landbird conservation
- Keep common birds common
  - –Proactive
- Focus on birds as environmental indicators
- First North American Landbird Conservation Plan (NALCP) completed in 2004
  - –Revised in 2016

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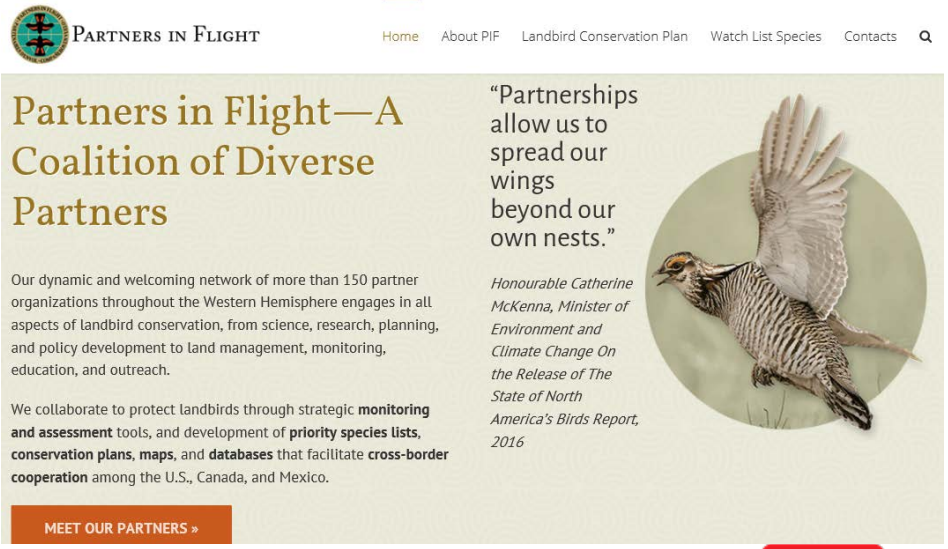
SPECIES OF CONTINENTAL CONCERN

Table 1. PIF WATCH LIST FOR CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Species	Vulnerability Factors						Loss	Urgency/ Half-Life (years)	Continental Threat	Regions of Highest Importance		Primary Breeding Habitat
	PS	Distribution		Threats		PT				Breeding	Wintering	
		BD	ND	TB	TN							
RECOVER: Red Watch List - Species with extremely high vulnerability due to small population and range, high threats, and rangewide declines (19 species)												
Gunnison Sage-Grouse							> 50%		R, E, CI, U, D	16	16	Sagebrush
Lesser Prairie-Chicken							> 50%		A, R, E, CI	18, 19	18, 19	Grassland
California Condor							> 50%		Co, D, E	32, 16	32, 16	Chaparral
Red-cockaded Woodpecker							79%	38*	F	27, 25	27, 25	Eastern Forest
Ivory-billed Woodpecker							uncertain		F, U	27, 25, 26, 31	27, 25, 26, 31	Eastern Forest
Red-crowned Parrot							> 50%		H, T	36	36	Tropical Dry Forest
Black-capped Vireo							15-50%		R, U	35, 20	MX-P	Desert Scrub
Florida Scrub-Jay							> 50%		U, A, D	31	31	Eastern Forest
Bicknell's Thrush							15-50%		T, F, CI	14	Hisp	Boreal Forest
Bendire's Thrasher							86%	18	R, A, U, E, CI	33, 16	33	Desert Scrub
Le Conte's Thrasher							67%	27	R, A, U, E, CI	33	33	Desert Scrub
Bachman's Warbler							uncertain		F	27, 25, 26	CU	Eastern Forest
Golden-winged Warbler							60%	34*	F, T, U	12, 23, 28	CR, PA, HN, NI	Eastern Forest
Golden-cheeked Warbler							> 50%		T, F, U	20	NI, HN, MX-H	Western Forest
Bachman's Sparrow							72%	24	F	27, 31	27, 31	Eastern Forest
Saltmarsh Sparrow							94%		CI, U	30	27, 30	Coastal Saltmarsh



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NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

- Started in 2001 by an ad hoc group
  - Support from Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council
- Protect, restore, and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities
- 20 regional partnerships
- 599 projects across all 50 states since 2006

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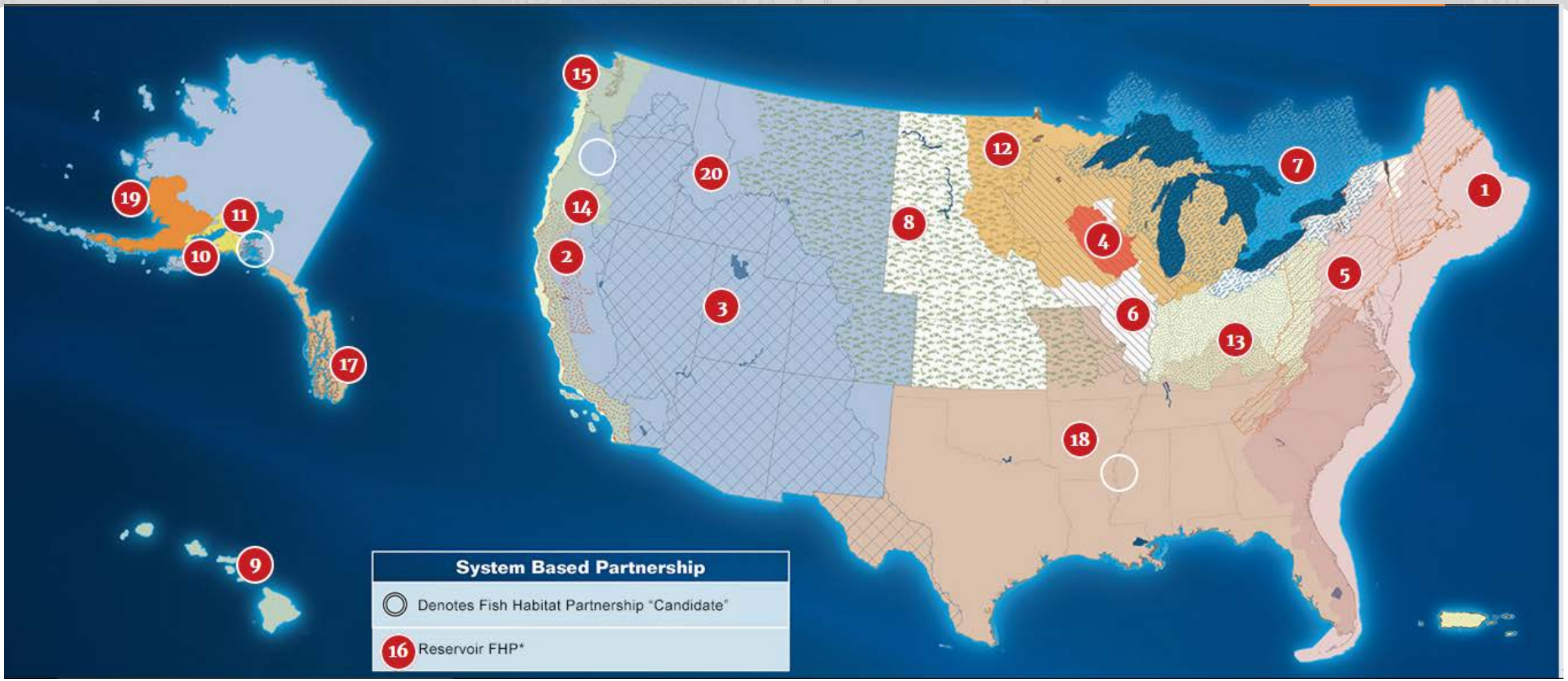

Currently, there are 20 approved fish habitat regional partnerships and 3 candidates for becoming a regional partnership

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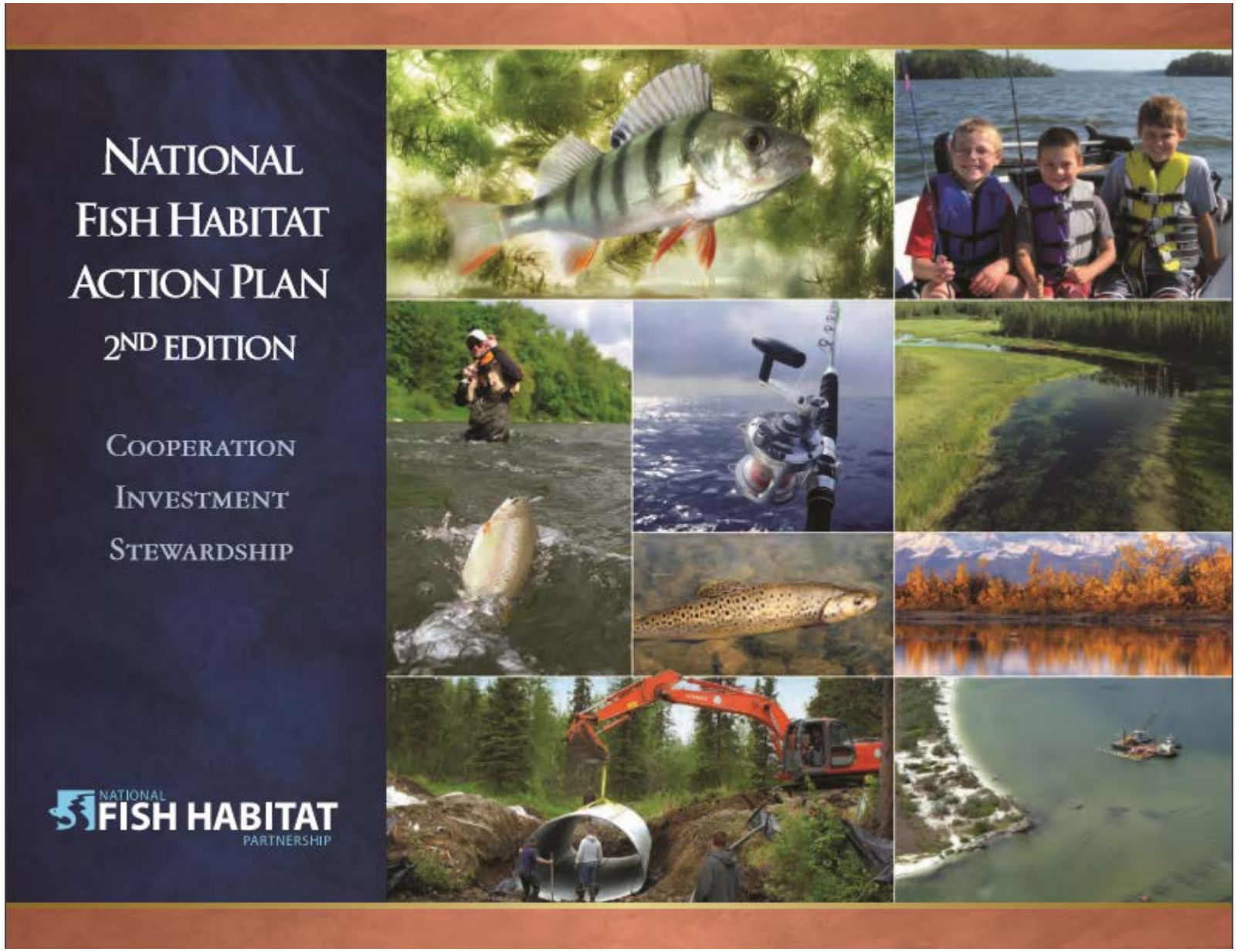

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HOW CAN USACE HELP?

- ❑ Getting information to the field
- ❑ Increased knowledge management
  - Specific gateway pages for each initiative
  - Web-cast on each initiatives including representatives from lead agencies
  - Multi-purpose GIS tool linking projects to the most important information needed to manage within these programs.
    - o Reduces time digesting large volumes of information
    - o Visually see other project with similar priority species and habitats
    - o Specific management practices for priority species and habitats identified to incorporate into wildlife management plans, grant opportunities, partnering, operation management plans and education of staff and public.

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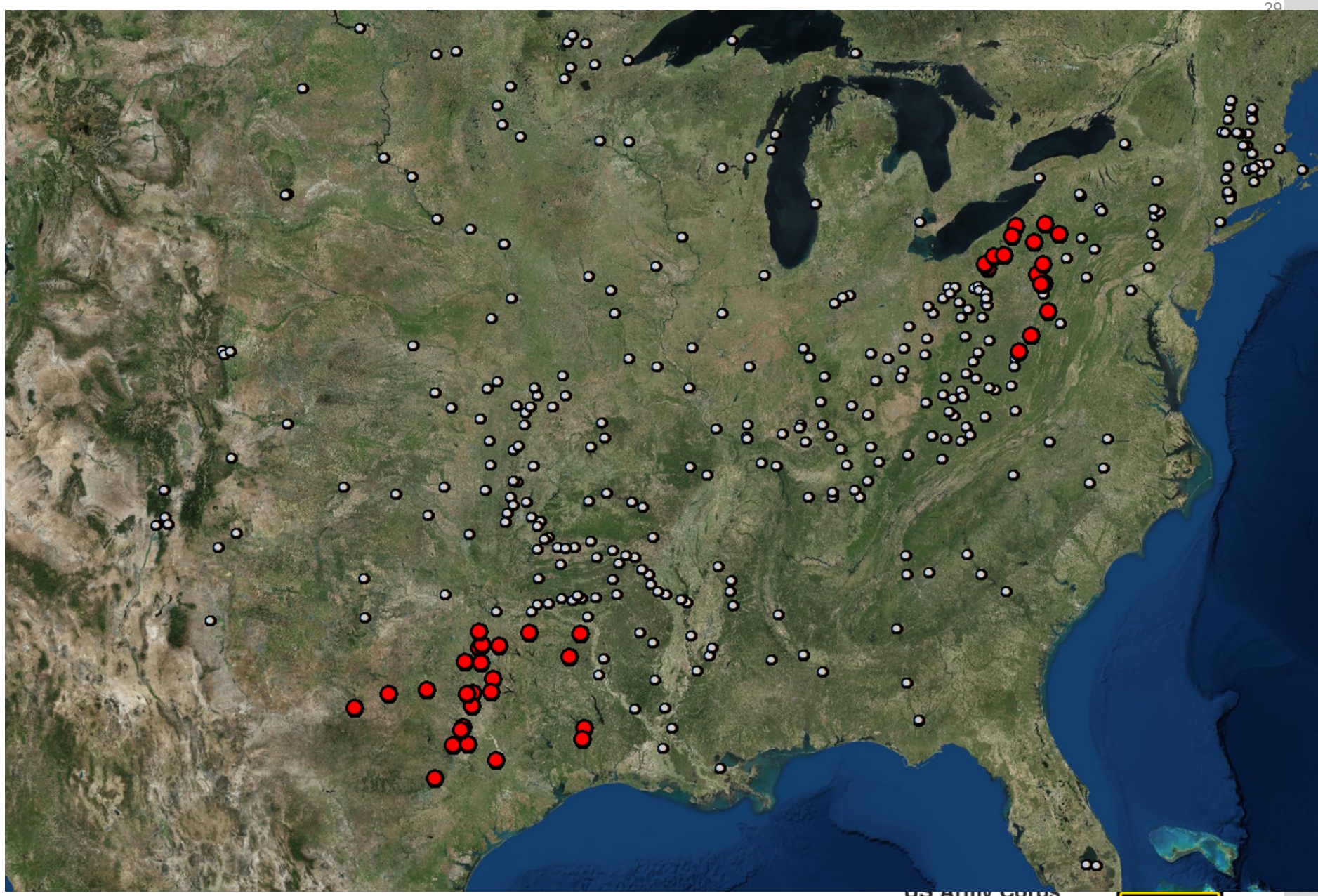
State Wildlife Action Plans

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

Joint Ventures

Pollinator Conservation

National Fish Habitat Plan



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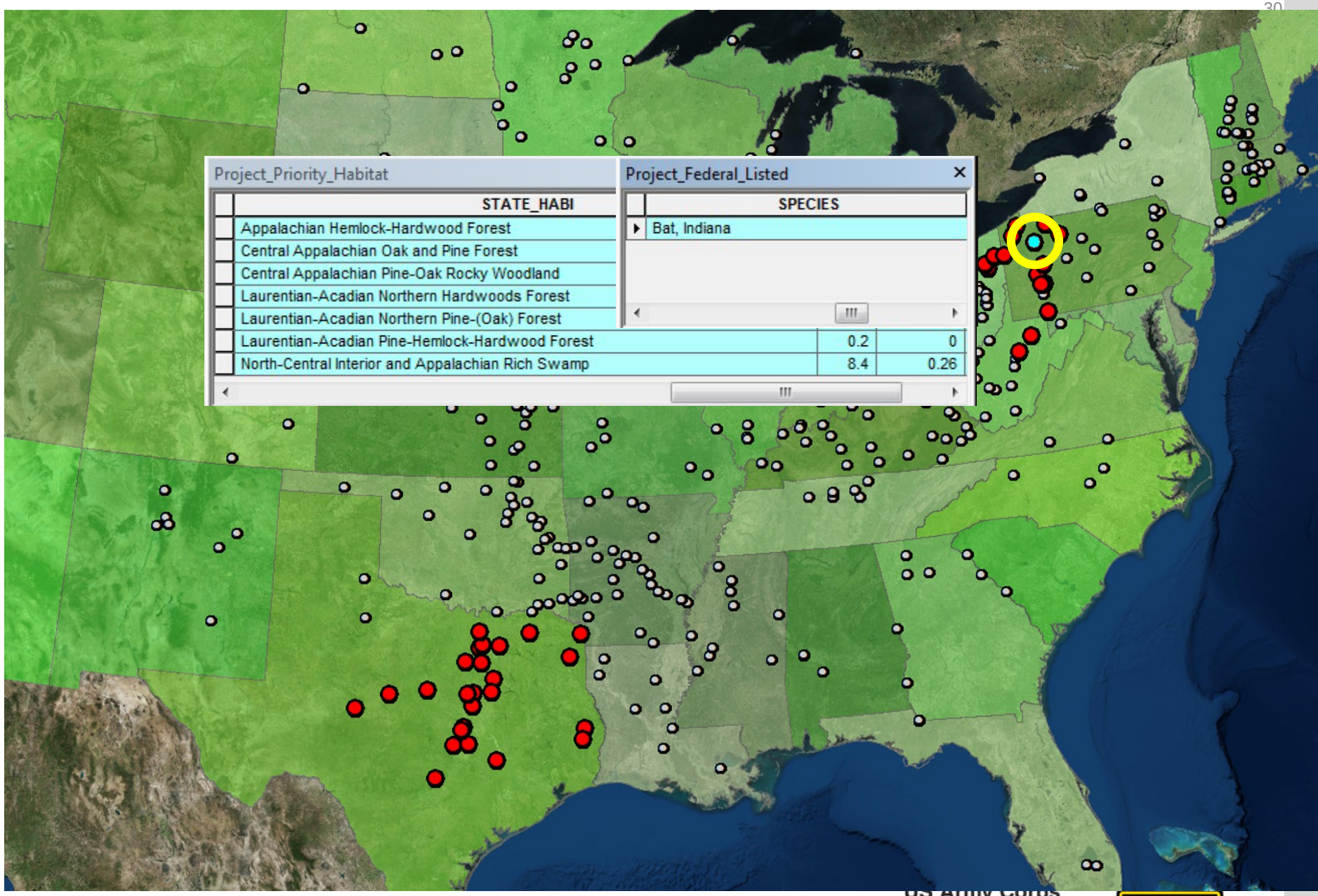

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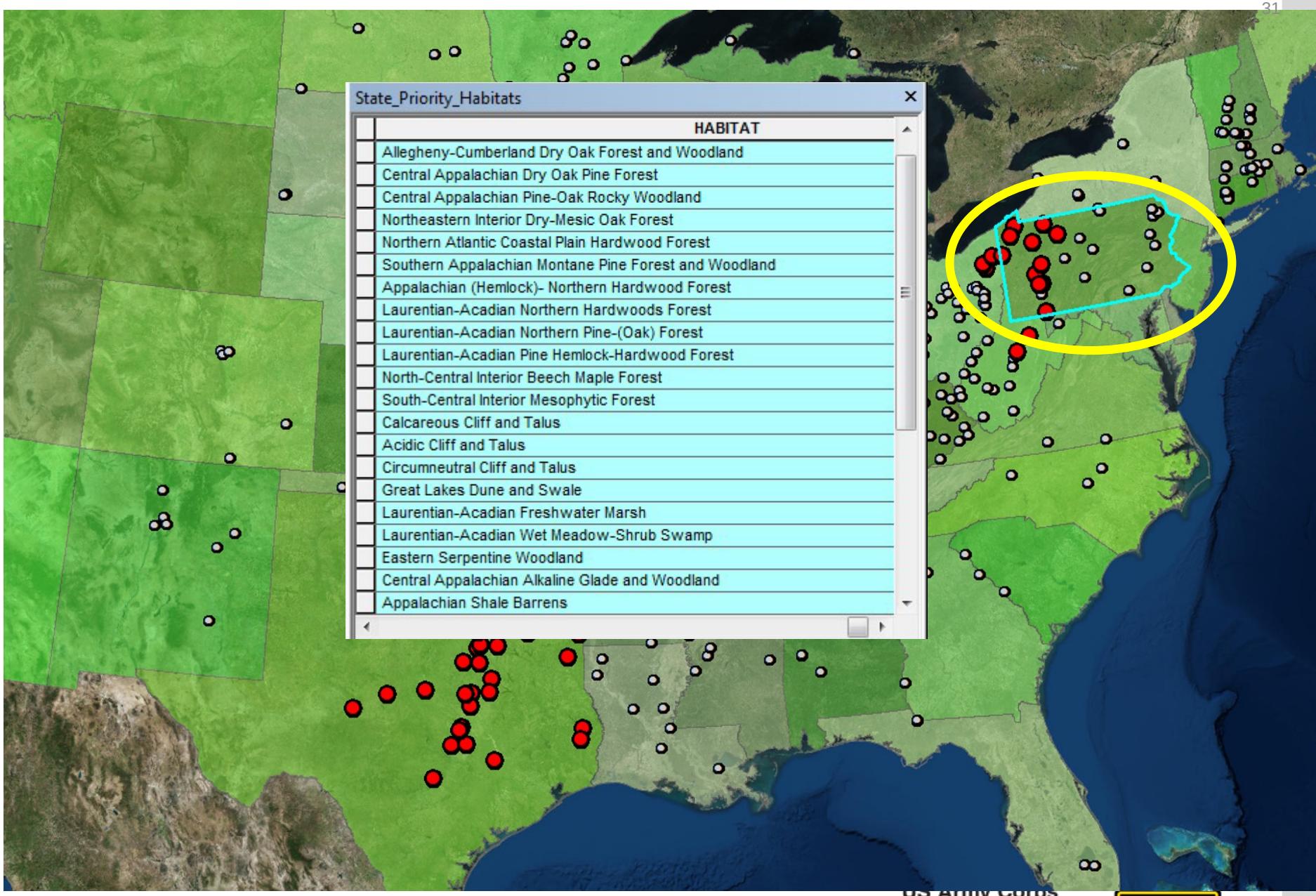

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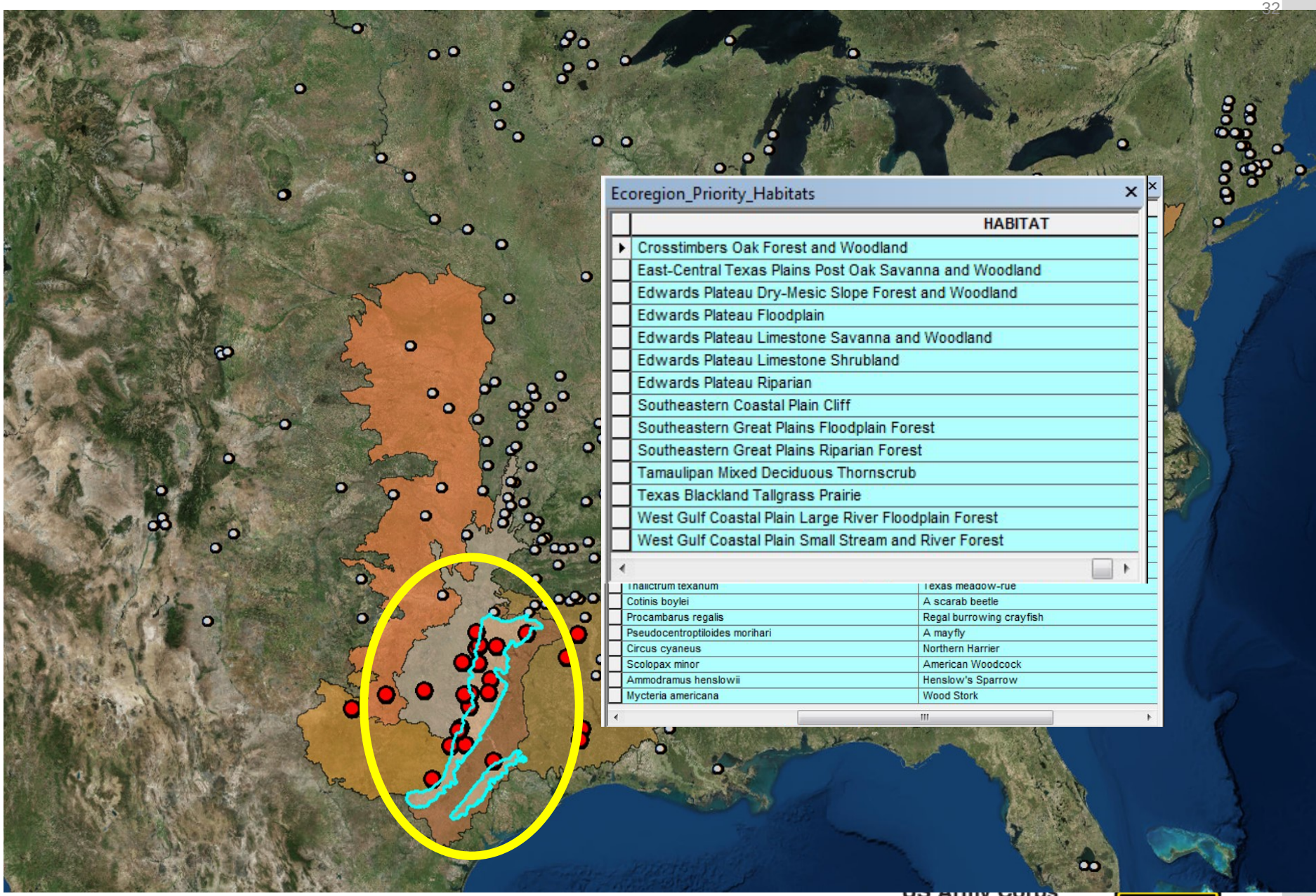

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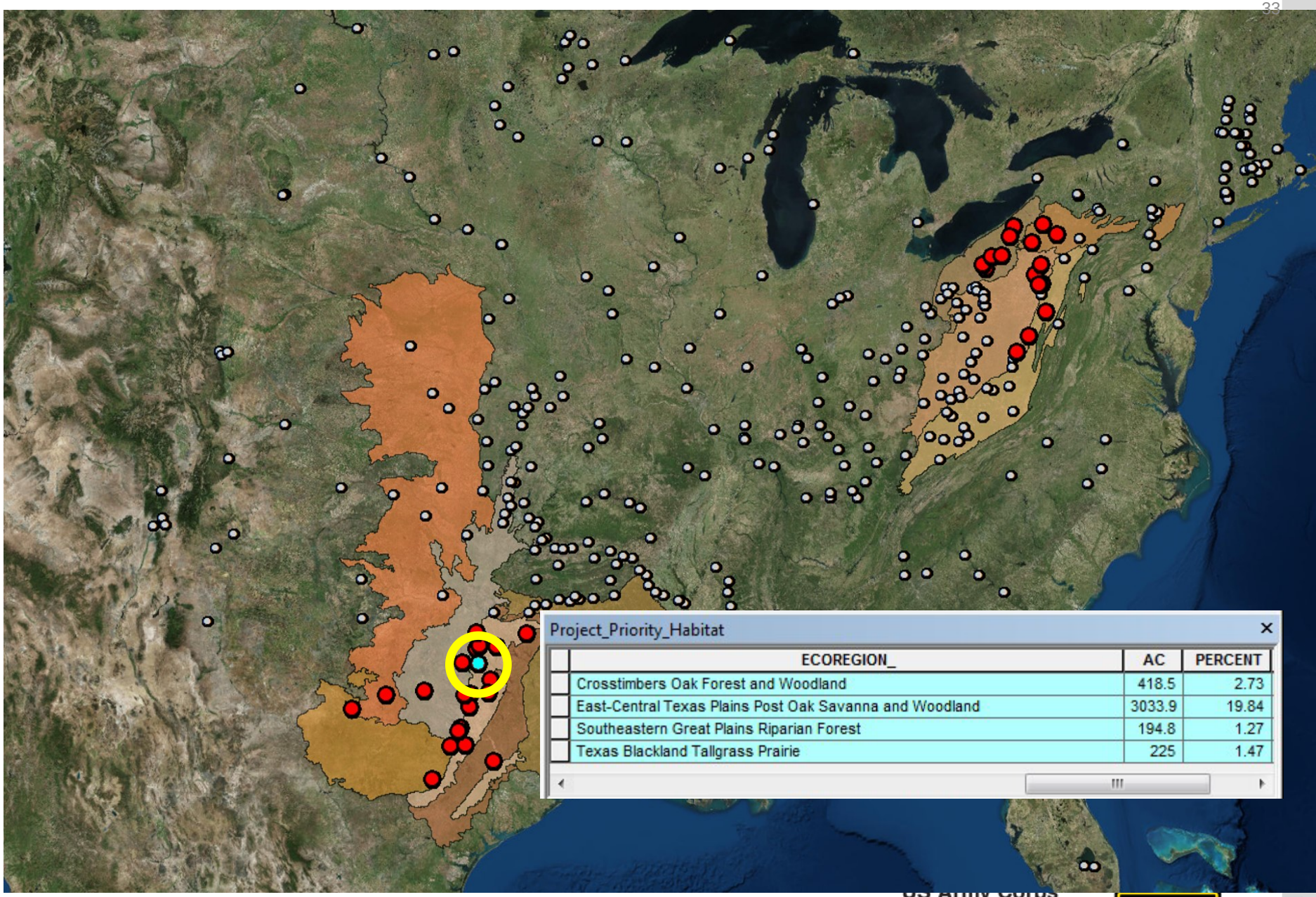

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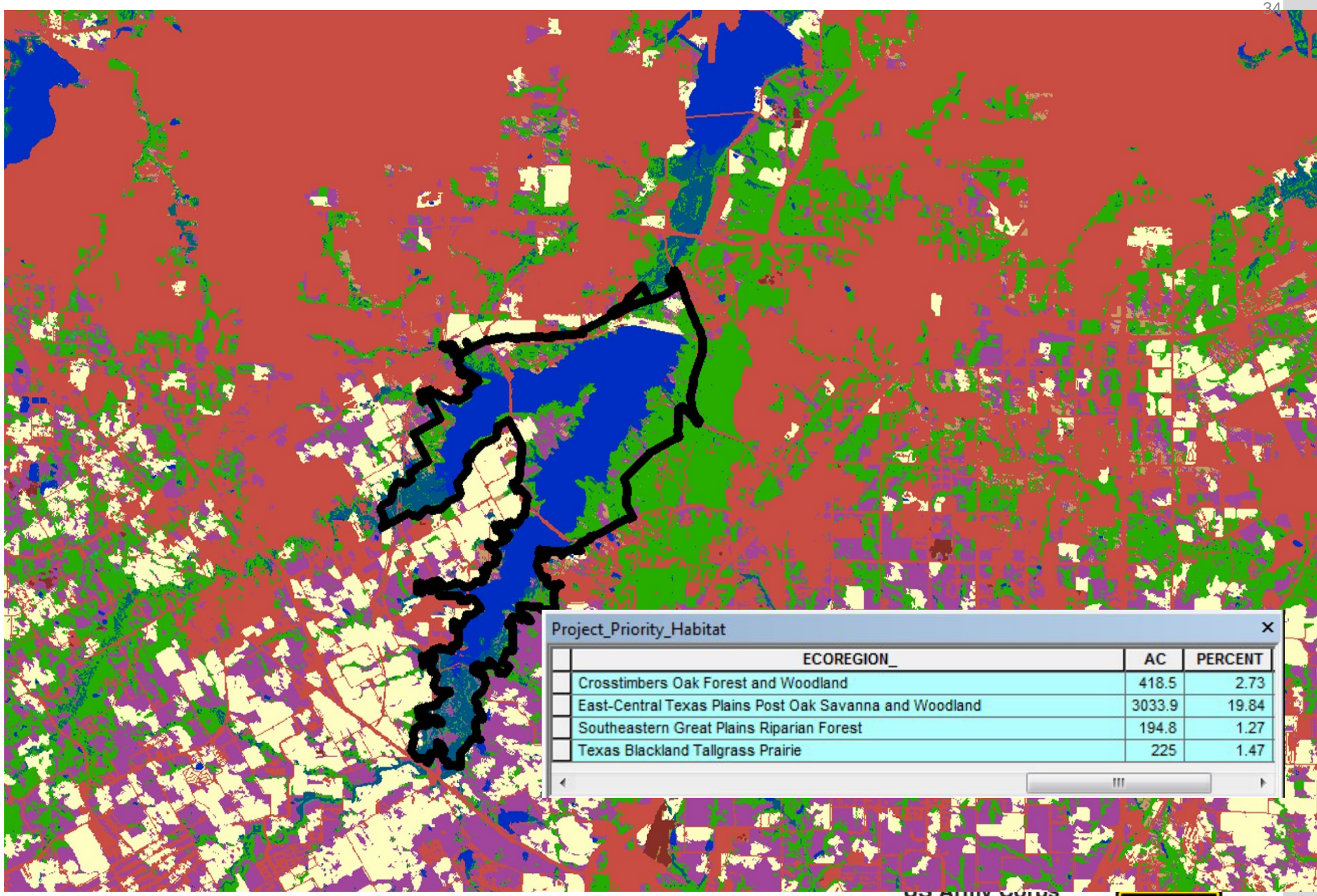

Project_Priority_Habitat

ECOREGION_	AC	PERCENT
Crosstimbers Oak Forest and Woodland	418.5	2.73
East-Central Texas Plains Post Oak Savanna and Woodland	3033.9	19.84
Southeastern Great Plains Riparian Forest	194.8	1.27
Texas Blackland Tallgrass Prairie	225	1.47

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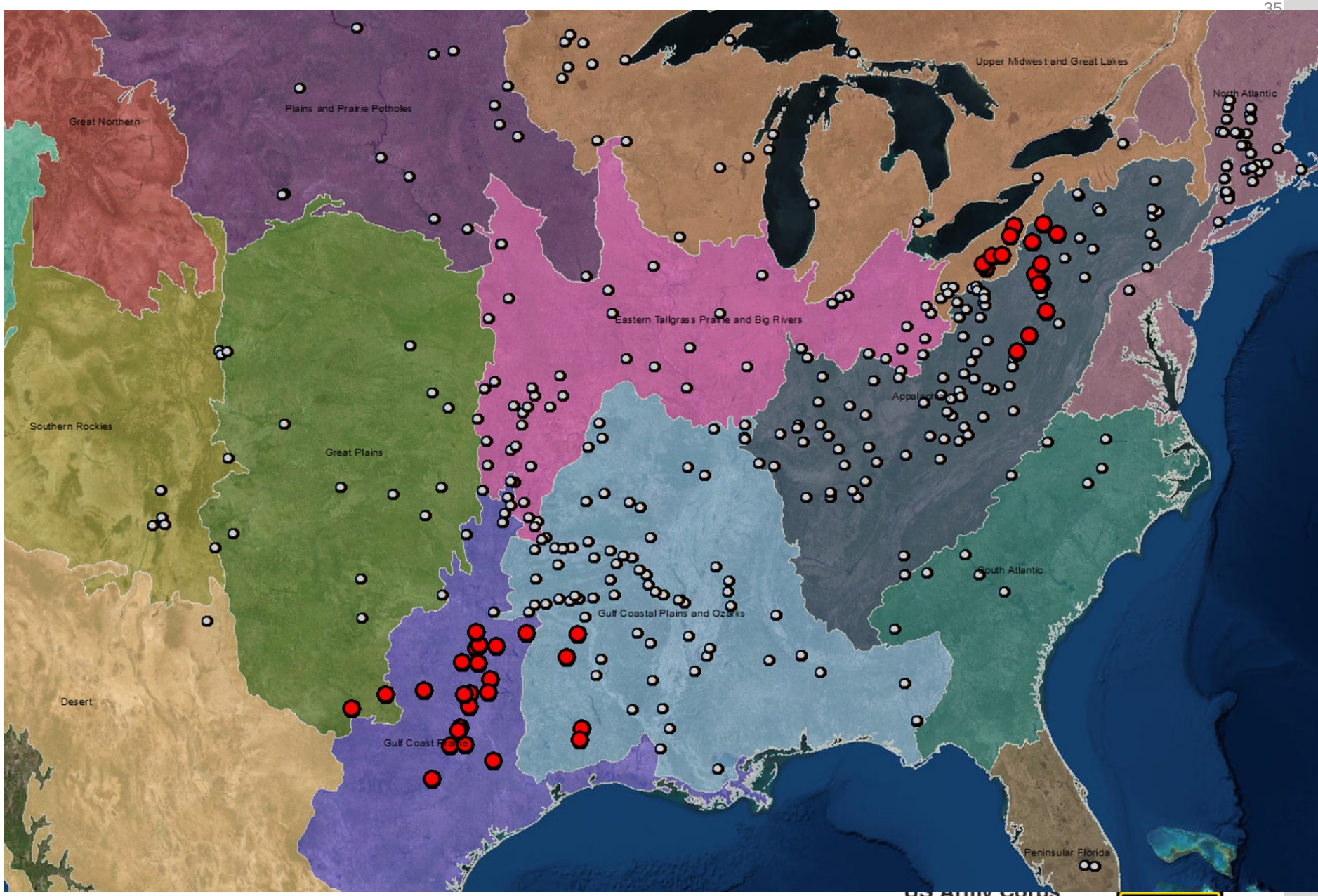

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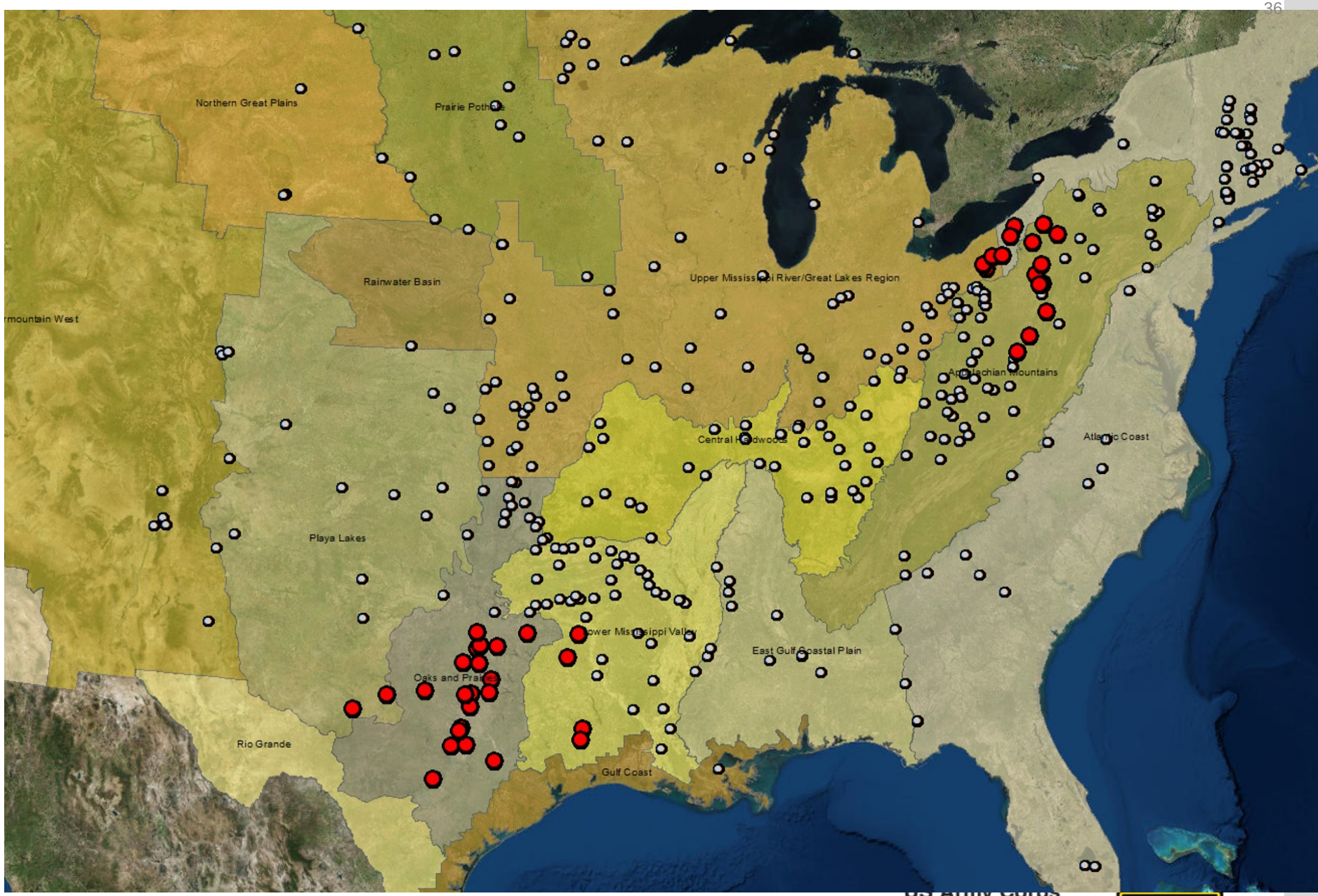

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