# Defining a Future Conservation Landscape in the Southeastern United States

LCC National Workshop

Denver, CO March 28-29, 2012

# The Need

- Resource management challenges usually transcend political and jurisdictional boundaries; particularly at a landscape scale
- The goals and objectives for sustainable landscapes exceed the operational reach of individual programs, agencies and organizations

# The Need

- Complex management challenges will require a collaborative approach to develop new techniques, to share resources and expertise, and to leverage capacity
- Success will require transformational change from a model of competition for resources to one of collaboration in developing a desired future condition

# The Geography

# Rationale for the Geography

- The existence of a self-directed and longstanding partnership that was created to work together to solve regional resource problems of common interest

# SEAFWA Membership









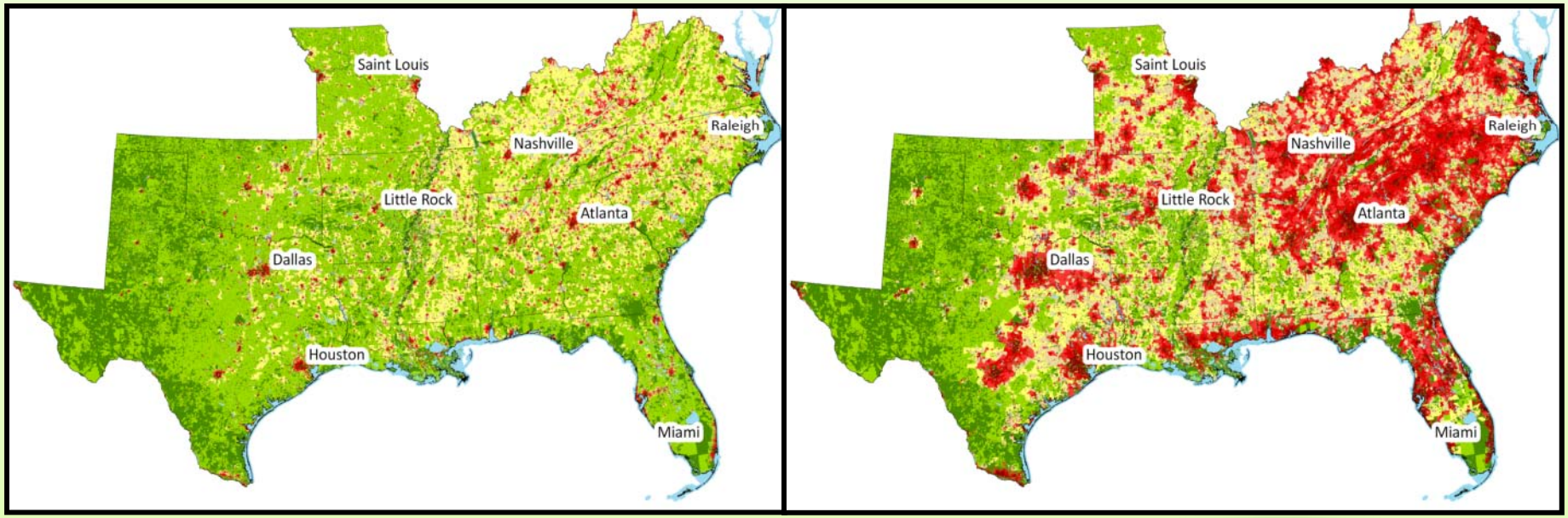








# Stressors Impacting Conservation

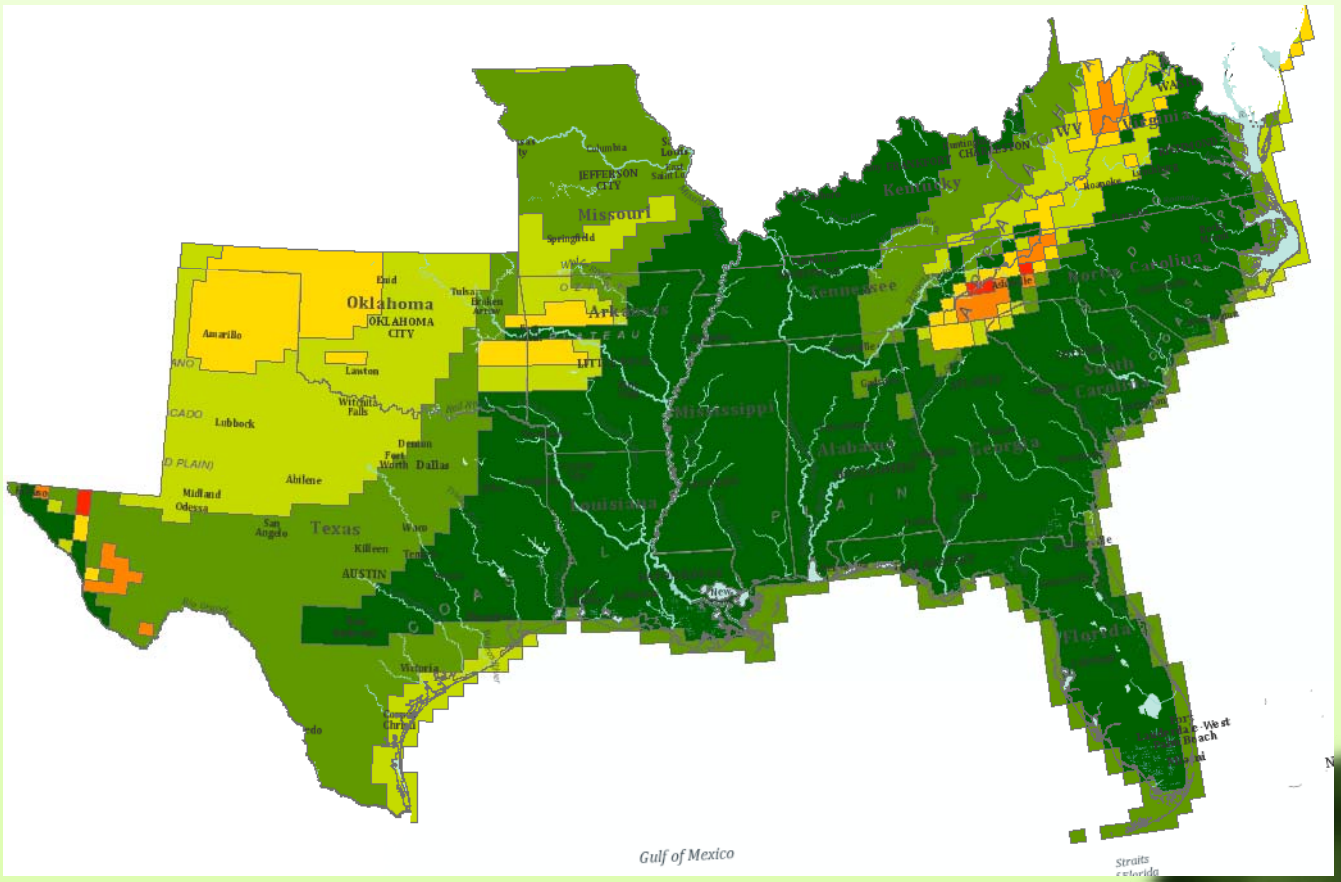



Urban Growth and Projections
1940 and 2030

# Stressors Impacting Conservation

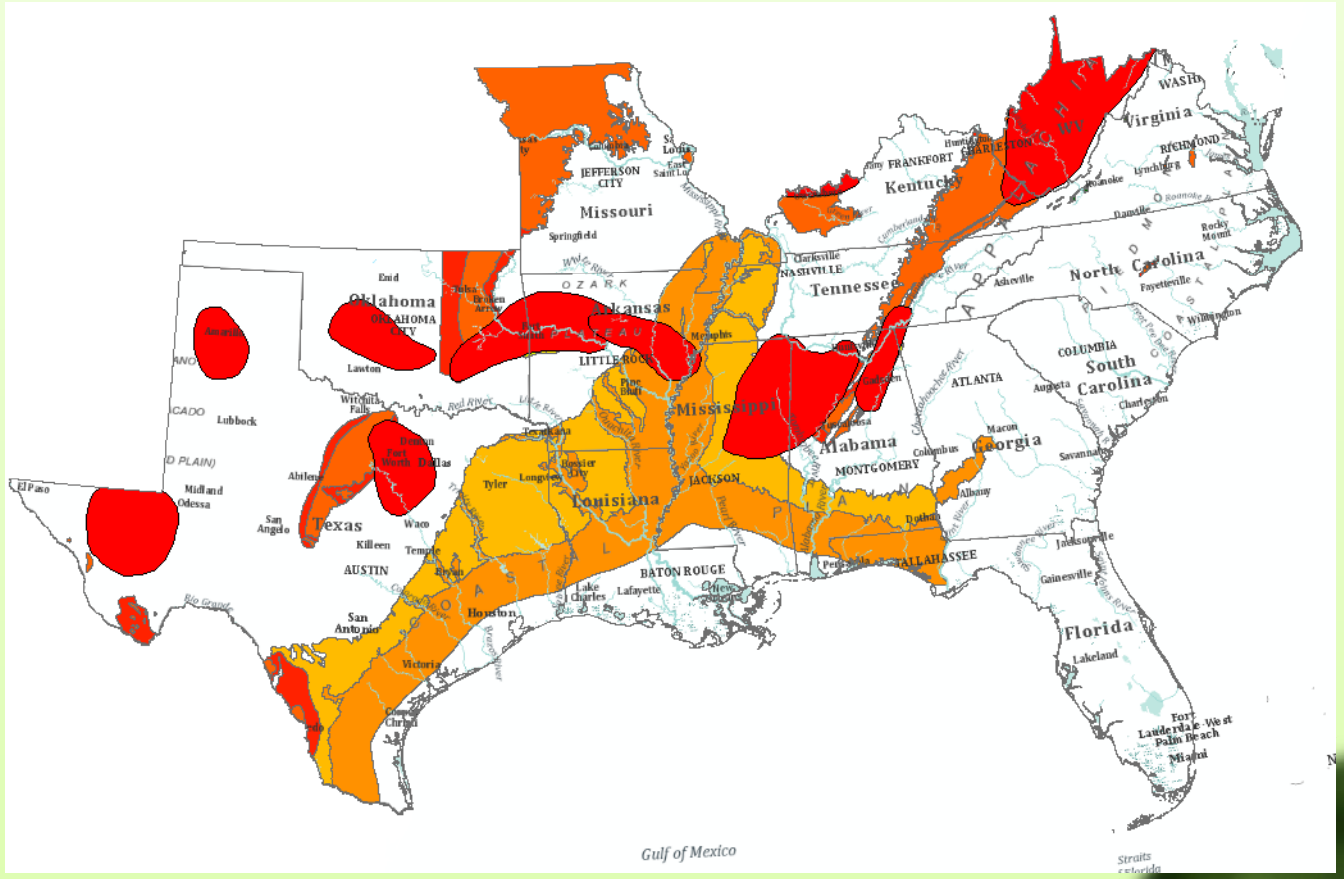

Solar Potential (Annual)

# Stressors Impacting Conservation



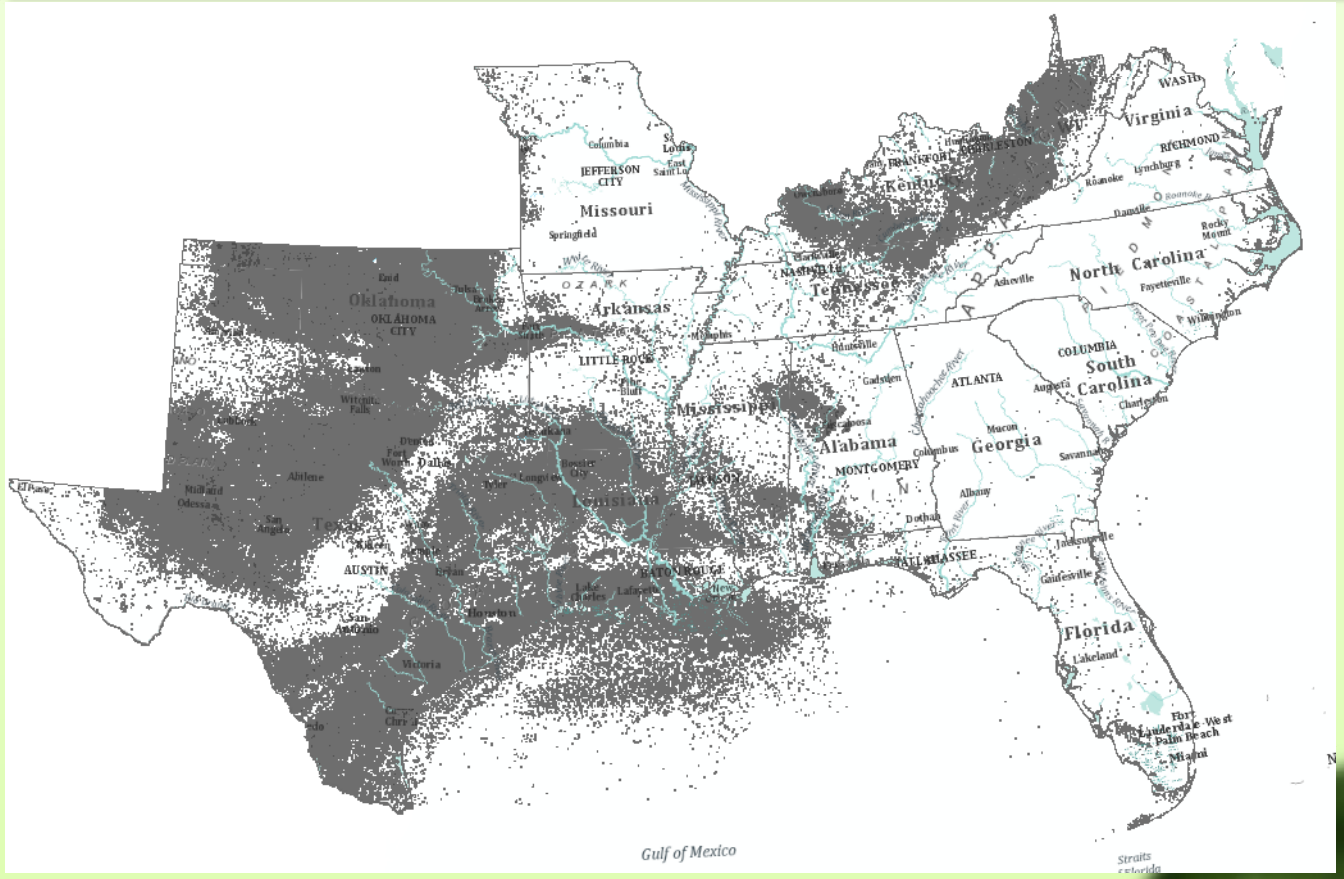

Wind Potential (Annual)

# Stressors Impacting Conservation



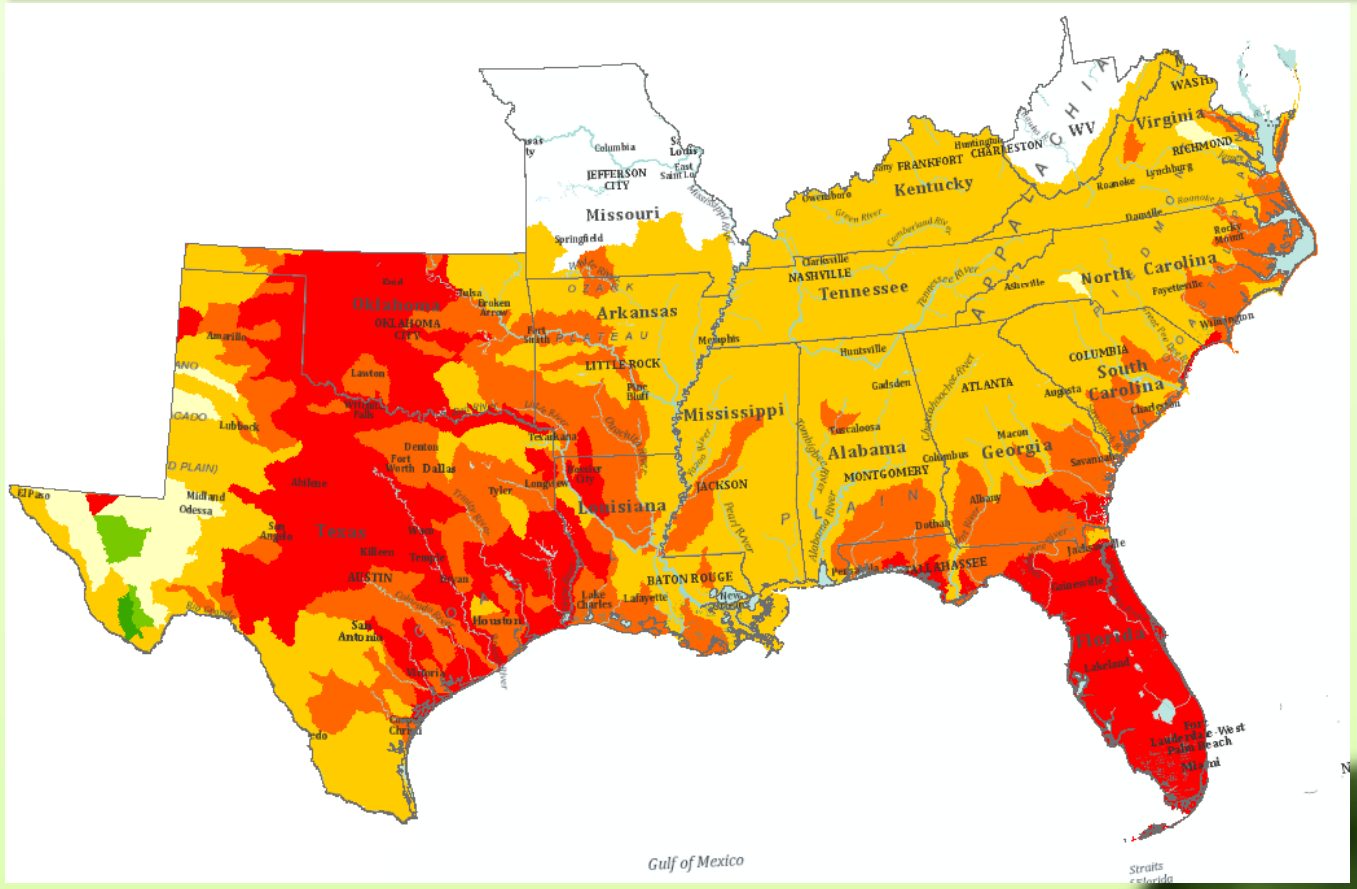

Shale and Coal Deposits

# Stressors Impacting Conservation



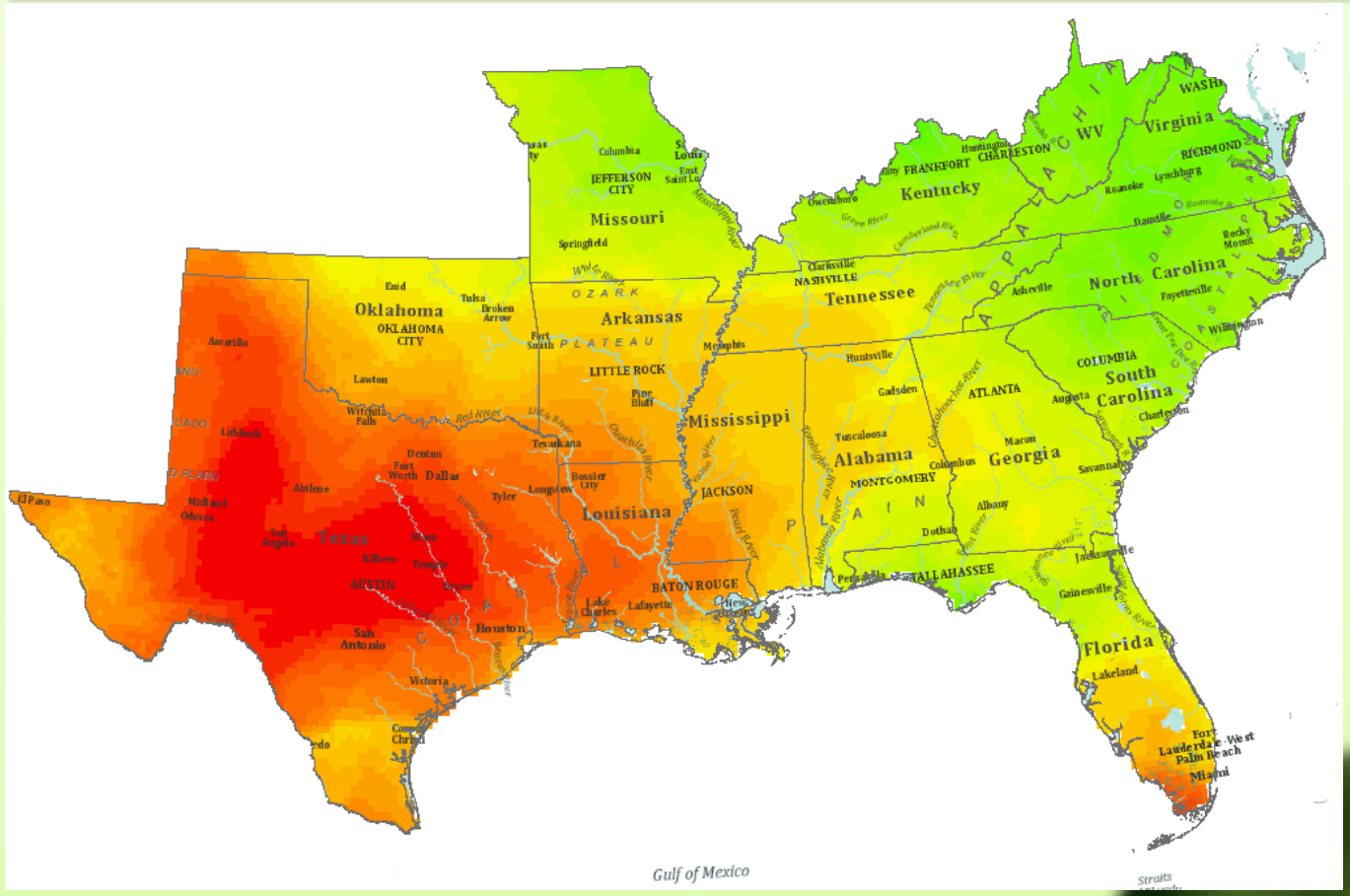

Gas & Oil Exploration 1900 to Present

# Stressors Impacting Conservation




Water Stress %Chg
csiromk35a1b 2050 (Forest Futures)

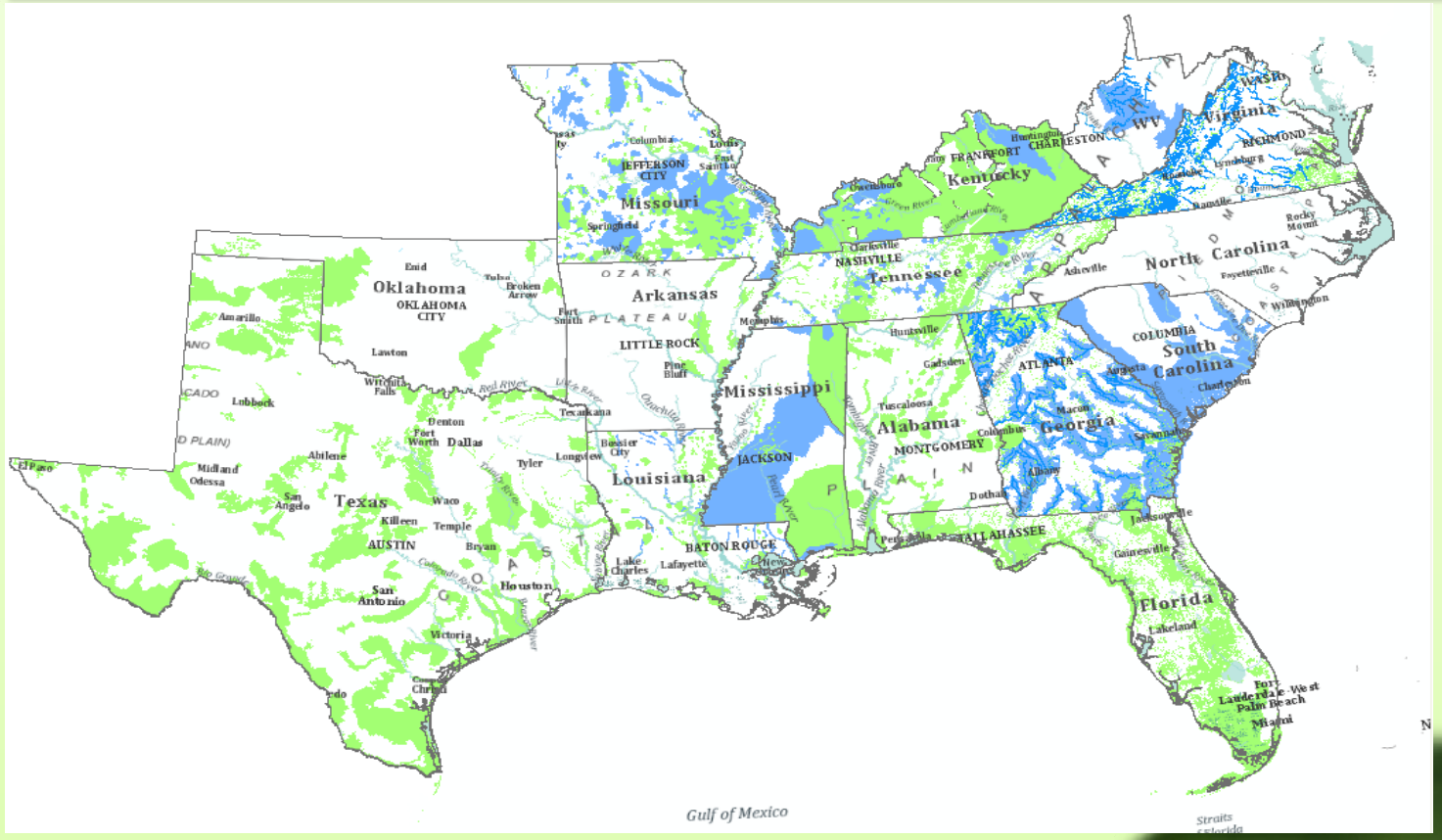
# Stressors Impacting Conservation




Climate Change Forecast

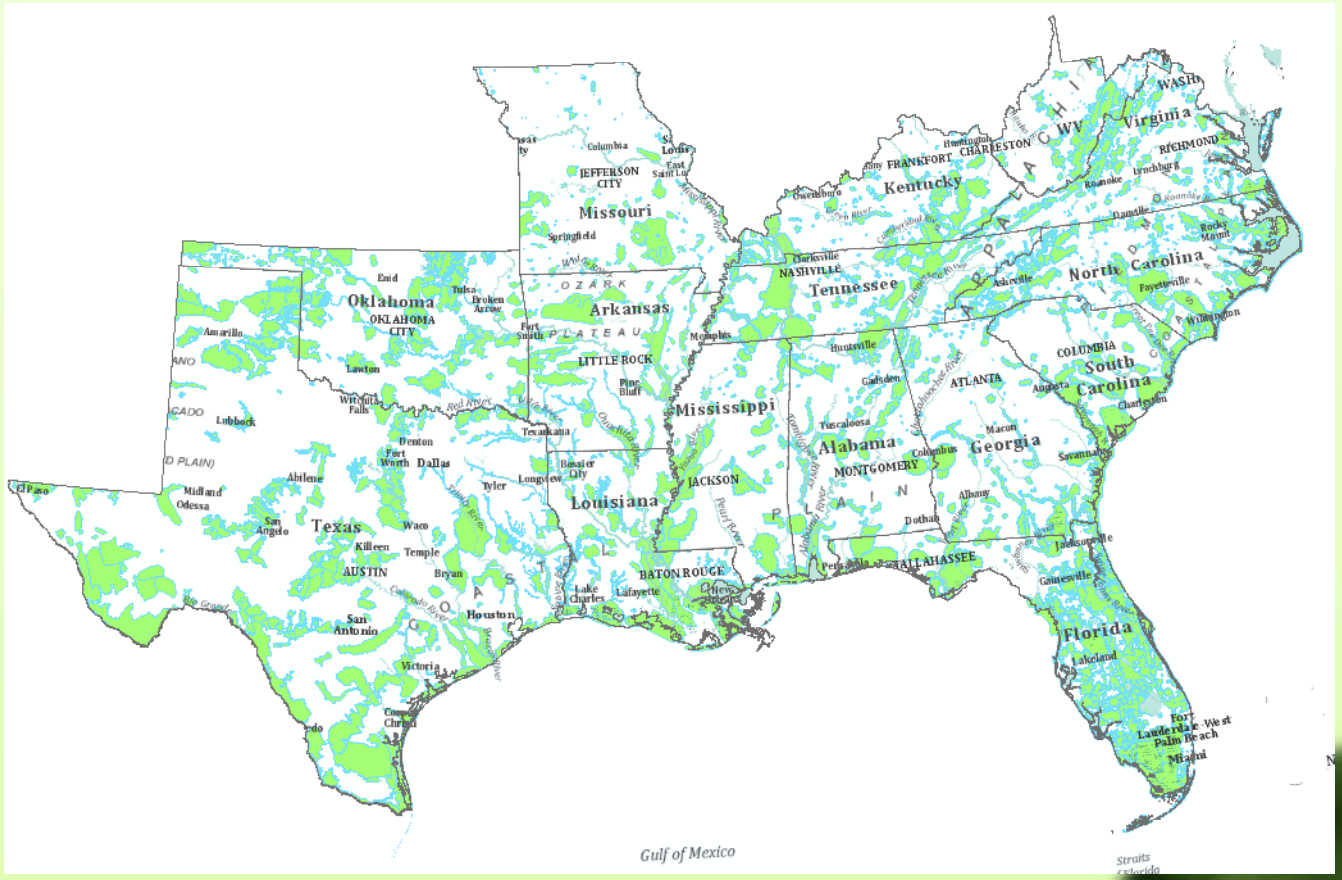
# Current Conservation Estate

# Areas Important for Conservation




Provided By
State Fish and Wildlife Agencies

# Areas Important for Conservation

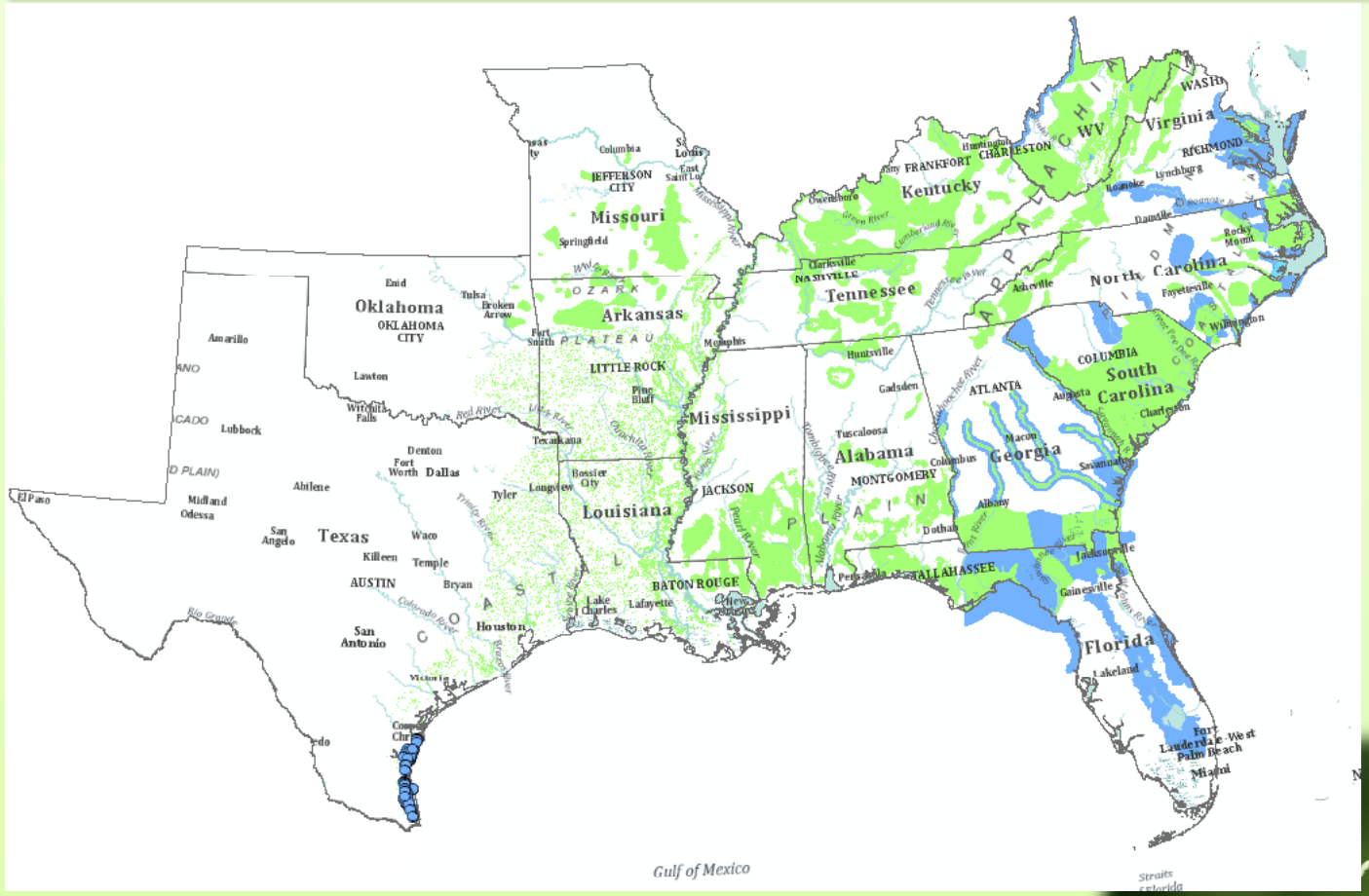



TNC Portfolio

# Areas Important for Conservation


Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership

# Areas Important for Conservation

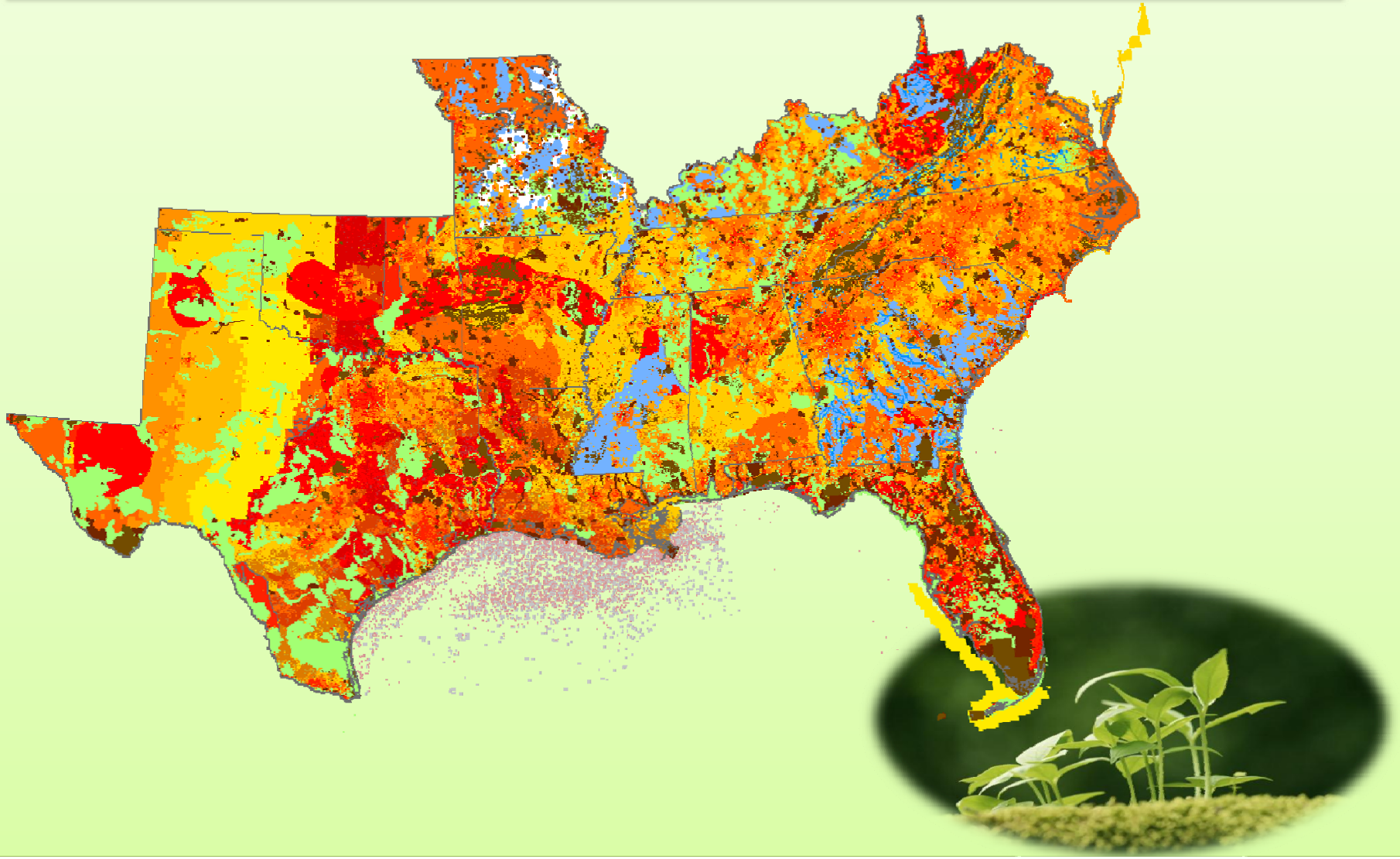



Migratory Bird Joint Ventures

# The Challenge

- Maintaining landscape scale connectivity, ecosystem function and natural resource values in the face of rapidly escalating stressors

# Is This Our Future?



# The Future is Not Always Clear





What is your risk tolerance?

# The Role for LCCs in Developing a Southeast Conservation Strategy

- Engage the conservation and science communities and serve as a catalyst to focus science and technical capacity
- It is not about a plan, but rather a way of working with multiple partners at multiple scales while recognizing differing authorities and responsibilities
- Seek broader engagement

# Critical Elements of an Adaptation Strategy

1. Ability to see the system
    - Current and alternative futures
    - Predicted habitat and species responses
2. Conservation delivery tools
    - Decision support tools
    - Structured decision-making
3. Conservation targets
    - Species, habitats, ecological processes

# Critical Elements of an Adaptation Strategy

4. Science-based adaptive management framework
    - Learning as an explicit outcome of management
5. Conservation assessment science
    - Landscape ecology
    - Geospatial analyses
    - Database programming and management

# Critical Elements of an Adaptation Strategy

6. Risk management tools
    - Assessment, tolerance and trigger points
7. Monitoring systems and capacity
    - Assessing uncertainty
    - Testing assumptions in management decisions
8. Public engagement
    - Quantify conservation values of all societal sectors
    - Changes to policy, rules and regulations
    - Citizen science
    - Grassroots conservation delivery

# Why Do We Need To Get It Right?

***"We only have one earth"***