

Southeast Region (4) Overview

The Service's Southeast Region (Region 4) is home to a rich diversity of natural resources spread across 10 states stretching from the Appalachian Mountains south to the Caribbean islands and west to the Ozarks, including the southern half of the Mississippi River Basin. The Regional Office is located in Atlanta, Georgia.

Resource Facts and Figures

- 128 national wildlife refuges encompassing 4 million acres (including 67 coastal refuges)
- 14 ecological services offices
- 14 national fish hatcheries, 7 conservation offices, 1 regional fisheries center, 1 fish health center, 1 fish technology center
- 11 migratory bird offices, including 6 joint ventures with partners
- 30 law enforcement offices (5 designated ports of entry)
- 17.5 million acres in Southeast under federal ownership
- 322 federally listed species
- 11.9 million refuge visitors (30 percent of national total) in 2007
- The Region has 1,309 FTEs

Regional Demographics

- 96 congressional districts
- 2007 regional population estimate: 70.4 million (53 million urban; 17.4 million rural)
- By 2025, the population is projected to grow by at least 25 percent
- 11.1 million residents fish, hunt and watch wildlife
- Southeast has five of the 10

most populated metropolitan areas. Nine of the region's states are among the top 20 states that lost the most open space and farmland to economic development in the 1990s.

Key Habitats and Ecosystems

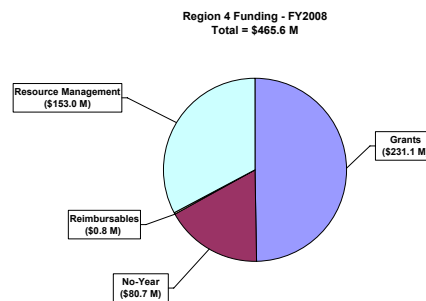
The Southeast has a variety of diverse and unique ecosystems and habitats including coastal marshes, coral reefs, bottomland hardwoods, the Appalachian and Ozark Mountains, caves, and longleaf pine forests.

The Southeast Region is home to 26,000 miles of tidal shoreline and its coastal flats include 86 million acres of coastal habitat and fish and wildlife resources and coral reefs.



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Regional Budget



Conservation Successes and Challenges

Carbon sequestration - Launched a carbon sequestration program working with energy companies. The Service and its partners have added 40,000 acres to the National Wildlife Refuge System, restored a total of 80,000 acres, and planted more than 22 million native hardwood trees.

Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP)

- More than two dozen state and federal fisheries conservation agencies and private conservation organizations are part of the most aggressive regional partnership in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The agency and partners are using landscape conservation tools to conserve and restore valuable populations of aquatic species across the Region.



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Water issues - Parts of the Southeast are facing historic drought conditions. Today, 34 percent of fish species and 90 percent of mussels in peril nationwide are in the Southeast. Water quality and quantity are affecting communities in ways unimaginable just 25 years ago. Longer more intense droughts in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, and across the Carolinas are impacting fish and wildlife, local economies, and citizens; and the Service is playing a key role in conservation solutions.

Marine coastal issues - Accelerated climate change predictions for sea level rise along the tidal shoreline will impact fish, wildlife, and their habitats over the next 50 to 100 years. This will have significant impacts on this region's two most extraordinary ecological restoration efforts – the Everglades and coastal wetlands along the Gulf Coast. More than 1.2 million acres of wetlands and marshes have been lost since 1932 along the Louisiana coast.

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