

Goal One: Conserve Habitat

The single most important factor leading to the endangerment of species is habitat destruction.

Introduction

Generally, biologists agree that the major cause of declines of biotic populations is habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation (Ehrlich and Ehrlich 1981). The importance of habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation in the declines of species is well established. For example, Schemske et al. (1994) revealed that habitat destruction was the primary cause of endangerment of 83 percent of the listed plant species. Also, habitat degradation has been a significant factor in the extinction of at least 73 percent of the freshwater fishes in North America (Miller et al. 1989); the decline of migratory birds (Hunter 1990, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2006); and many other species of conservation concern that are noted in State Wildlife Action Plans (Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 2006). The goal of conserving habitat is at the heart of this Strategic Plan. The Partners Program is not authorized to expend funds on land acquisition, and at least 70 percent of funding must be applied to the on-the-ground delivery of projects on private lands.

The primary objectives for this Goal are to work with our partners to identify geographic focus areas (priority habitats and associated target species) within the Southeast Region where most of our partnership efforts will be focused over the next five years (FY 2007-2011), to establish five-year performance output targets for each focus area based on the FY 2006 funding level, and to identify strategic implementation actions.

Our Approach

The Partners Program has a 20-year history of working with private landowners and other partners in focusing our efforts on priority habitat types and implementing voluntary habitat improvement projects on private lands. Further, the Service has been one of many partners in developing other important strategic plans that provide comprehensive information about regional habitat priorities and the species that use these habitats.

Such plans include the State Wildlife Action Plans (completed in 2006) that provide comprehensive information about each State's priority habitats, associated species and proposed strategic actions. All State Wildlife Action Plans can be viewed and downloaded from the Internet at: http://teaming.com/state_wildlife_strategies.htm.

Other important Service strategic plans that identify and discuss priority habitat types and species include the North American Waterfowl Plan, Migratory Bird Program Strategic Plan, Fisheries Program Strategic Plan, Comprehensive Conservation Plans prepared by the National Wildlife Refuges, and individual recovery plans for threatened and endangered species.

The information provided in existing strategic plans reveals that there are many more priority habitat types and potential focus areas within the Southeast Region than can be addressed by the Partners Program under the FY 2006 base funding and the five year time frame for this Strategic Plan. This Partners Strategic Plan will address only those geographic focus areas where we expect to carry out project activities and can reasonably provide five-year accomplishment estimates.

In determining geographic focus areas and the priority habitats that will be addressed in this Plan, we obtained input from our many partners and stakeholders. During the initial phase of planning for this Strategic Plan (January 2004), the Partners Program staff met with stakeholders from other agencies and organizations and captured their recommendations. Subsequently, the Partners field staff has continued collaborations with partners at the State and local level relative to the selection of focus areas within their State. A listing of all partners and stakeholders within each State is presented in Appendix A.

For the Southeast Region, priority habitats are defined as those that typically exhibit a historic decline of more than 70 percent (terrestrial habitats only), are addressed in one or more other strategic plans (e.g., State Wildlife Action Plans), and are known to have one or more federally protected species or species of conservation concern as identified in various strategic plans.

Geographic focus areas may include one or more priority habitat types. For this Strategic Plan, geographic focus areas have been determined based on the following criteria (not in order of importance):

- the percent of private lands within the focus area (a Partners Program focus area must have some private lands);
- the number of threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species;
- the number of other Federal Trust Species (e.g., migratory bird species that are known to be declining) or species of concern as identified in other strategic plans;
- the estimated significance of the proposed focus area relative to preventing the listing of a candidate species, or the recovery of a protected species (linked to other strategic plans and Service recovery plans for protected species); and,
- the perceived importance of the focus area from a landscape perspective (e.g., does the focus area link or connect important habitat types and reduce fragmentation of habitat).
- the final focus area decisions were made state-by-state, rather than at the regional level. This was done purposefully, in order to involve all the key partners and stakeholders within each state and to take into consideration the land ownership patterns and opportunities.

For the Southeast Region, our geographic focus area information is summarized in Objective 1.1. Over the next five years, most of the technical and financial assistance provided through the Partners Program will be directed to these focus areas, although the Program retains flexibility to pursue activities within other priority habitat areas when new opportunities and partnerships arise.

Appendix A provides a more comprehensive description of our geographic focus areas by State and for the Caribbean. Because our national requirements for reporting accomplishment outputs are categorized generally as Wetlands (acres), Uplands (acres), and Riparian/Stream/Shoreline (miles), our estimated five-year performance targets for all identified focus areas are tabulated accordingly.

Southeast Region Overview of Priority Habitat Categories

This overview does not include all of the priority habitat types that have been identified in State Wildlife Action Plans and other strategic plans. The priority habitat types summarized below represent most of the terrestrial ecosystem types within the Southeast Region that have declined by at least 70 percent since European settlement (Noss et al. 1995); or, for aquatic (riverine) ecosystems, those that have been noted in the literature to be imperiled due to human activities and/or provide habitat for one or more protected, candidate, or species of concern.

Wetlands (Region Wide)

Although the Southeast Region comprises only 16 percent of the land surface of the conterminous States, nearly 50 percent of the Nation's wetlands occur here. The diversity of wetland types found among the approximately 47 million acres of wetlands within the Southeast is great. Extensive salt marshes dominated by smooth cordgrass and black needlerush occur on both the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. Mangrove swamps, unique to tropical and subtropical shores, fringe the coastlines of peninsular Florida, the Caribbean, and

to a lesser extent Louisiana (Mitsch and Gosselink. 1993).

Palustrine (freshwater) wetlands are by far the most abundant within the Region. Fresh water marshes are most common in Florida and coastal Louisiana. The Everglades of south Florida is the largest freshwater marsh in the United States. Unique to the Southeast Region are the evergreen shrub bogs, known locally as pocosins. Pocosins are prevalent in eastern North Carolina, comprising about 50 percent of the State's freshwater wetlands.

Palustrine forested wetlands are greatest in extent of all regional freshwater wetland types and include bottomland forests, cypress and tupelo swamps, ponds, and bay swamps. Most of the remaining forested wetlands occur on broad floodplains along major rivers. Other less common Palustrine wetlands include hillside seeps, wet prairies and wet flatwoods (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1992, Cowardin et al. 1979).

The average loss of wetlands throughout the Southeast Region from pre-settlement times is about 50 percent. However, the extent of wetland loss varies greatly, ranging from about 23 percent in Georgia to more than 80 percent in Kentucky. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1992, Dahl 1990).

The remaining wetlands of the Southeast Region provide essential habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species, many of which are imperiled and have exhibited declines that parallel the historic loss of wetlands (NatureServe 2006, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1992; also see State Wildlife Action Plans).

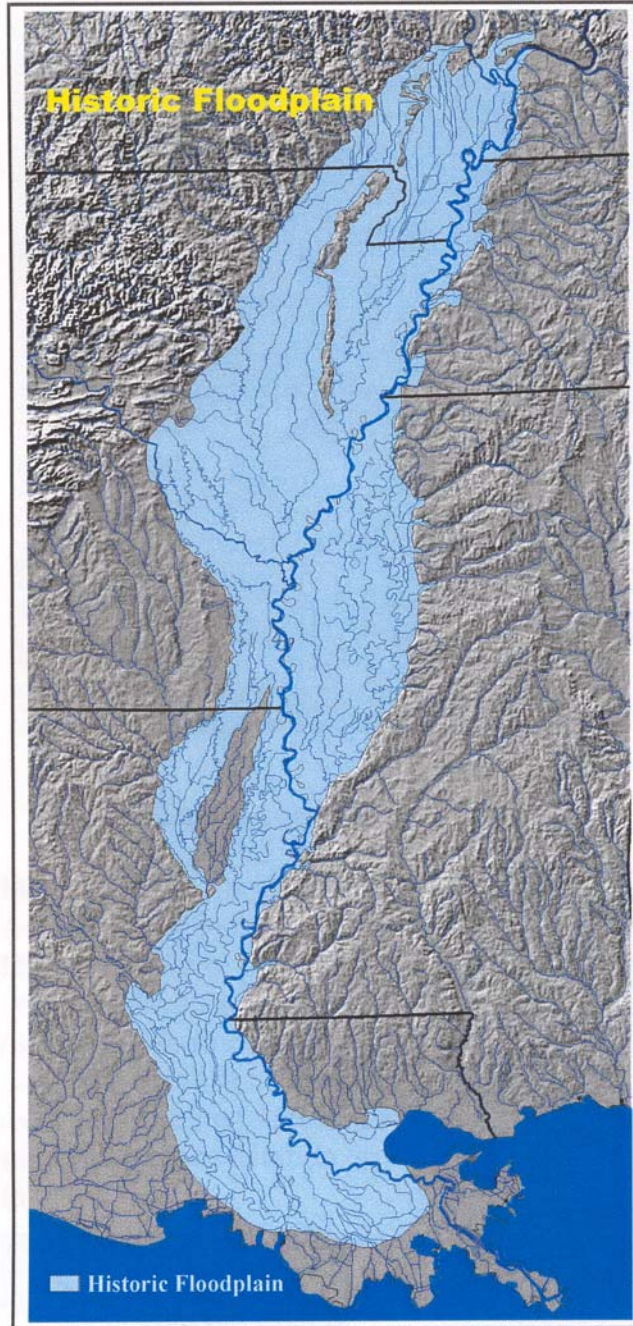
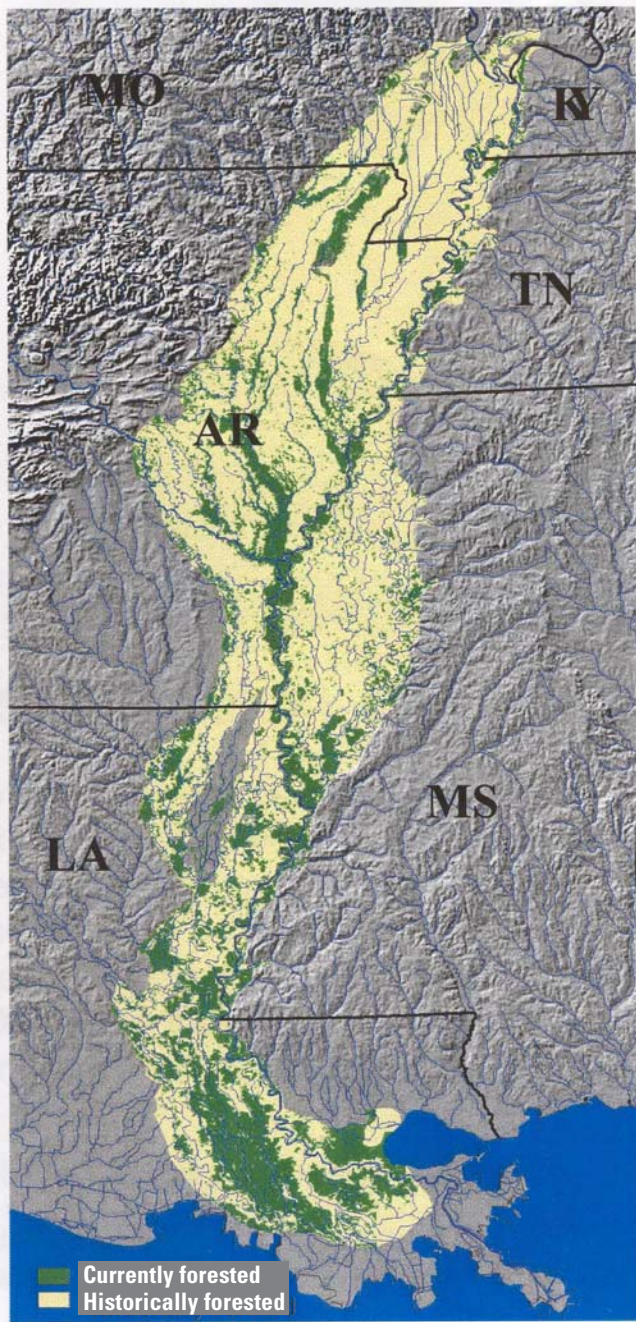
Over the next five years, the Partners Program will focus most of its partnership efforts towards the freshwater wetland types, especially the palustrine forested wetlands, whereas the Service's Coastal Program will focus primarily on the coastal and marsh wetland types.



A cypress/tupelo swamp in Arkansas

Palustrine Forested Wetlands (Bottomland Forest Types)

The bottomland forest ecosystem along the major rivers and streams of the Southeast is an imperiled ecosystem that is critical to the survival of many species of fish and wildlife. Several focal species associated with this ecosystem include the black bear (e.g., federally threatened Louisiana black bear), and many migratory birds (e.g., rusty blackbird, Cerulean warbler; prothonotary warbler; Swainson's warbler; American woodcock, and waterfowl such as the pintail and mallard duck). For comprehensive information about bottomland forest community types and the species of concern that reside in them, see each State Wildlife Action Plan; NatureServe 2006; Clark and Benforado 1981, Wharton et. al. 1982.

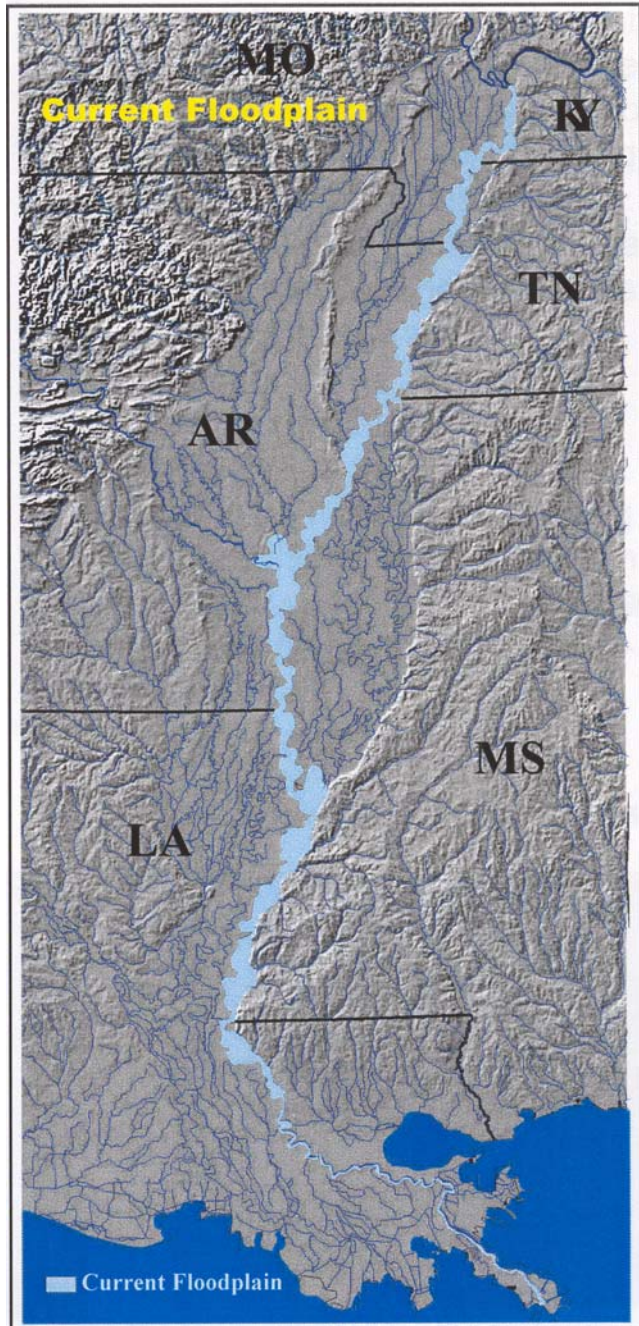


Since pre-settlement times, the bottomland forest types within the Southeast Region have been significantly reduced, with over 92 percent of the national loss occurring here (Hefner and Brown 1985). Of particular concern are losses within the Lower Mississippi River Alluvial Valley (LMRAV), which once supported the largest expanse of forested wetlands in the United States, estimated to be from 21 to 25 million acres. Now, somewhere between 5 million and 6.5 million acres remain, mostly on the wettest sites (Harris and Gosselink 1990, Creasman et al. 1992).

The majority of the losses have resulted from the conversion of forested wetlands to agricultural crop lands. Although much of the forested wetlands have been cleared, drained and converted into prime agricultural lands, about 7.5 million acres have been termed “marginal” farm lands (Amacher et al. 1997, Haynes 2004).

Marginal farm lands retain some of their wetland functions and values in that they still exhibit some or much of their hydrology, still retain hydric soils, and may only be farmed

profitably when hydrologic conditions are favorable. Many marginal farm lands have been defined by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (1996) as “farmed wetlands” if by definition they were cleared or otherwise manipulated prior to December 23, 1985, and are flooded or ponded with water for 15 or more consecutive days during the growing season. Due to a variety of human activities over the last 100 years, the floodplain available for natural flood storage has been reduced by about 90 percent.



Bogs

Bogs are wetlands that most people would call “swampy” spots or depressions that are saturated with water for most of the year and are typically soft and spongy. Bogs occur in various geographic areas throughout the Region (e.g., mountain bogs, Gulf coast bogs, pocosins or shrub bogs, and Carolina bays).

Throughout the Region, bog habitat has been significantly lost and converted to other uses such as agriculture, urban and industrial development. For example, an estimated 5,000 acres of mountain

been extensive. Gulf Coast pitcher plant bogs once occurred on approximately 1.2 million acres in the lower coastal plain, but are now estimated to occur on less than 5,000 acres in natural or near natural condition (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 2006, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2006, Sharitz and Gibbons 1982; Ash et al. 1983).

Bogs provide important habitat for many species. For example, in North Carolina, mountain bogs provide habitat for over 90 species of plants and animals that are considered rare,

bogs and fens once occurred in North Carolina, and today only about 750 acres remain (Weakley and Schafale 1994).

Pocosins (“swamp on a hill”) once occurred on approximately three million acres of the southeastern coastal plain, but by 1979 only 31 percent of this ecosystem remained. Carolina bays are restricted to the southeastern Coastal Plain and lower Piedmont, and occur primarily in the coastal areas of South Carolina and in southeastern North Carolina.

Although it is difficult to accurately determine the current and historical distribution of Carolina bays because they are non-contiguous in their distribution and many have boundaries that are difficult to recognize due to human disturbance, losses of this habitat type have



A pitcher plant bog in North Carolina managed with prescribed fire.

threatened or endangered. In South Carolina, at least 36 plant species considered rare occur in Carolina bays, including the federally endangered Canby’s dropwort and Harperella.

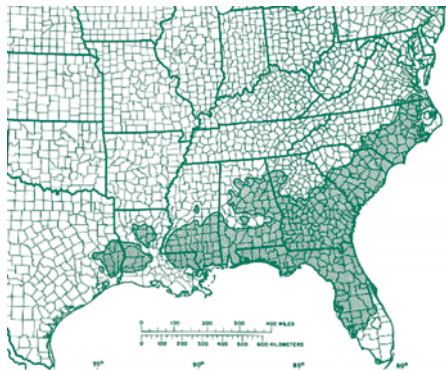
Also, most populations of the Venus flytrap in South Carolina occur in Carolina bays. Other species of concern include unique plants such as the orchids and lilies and insect eating plants (e.g., pitcher plants), the bog turtle and bog lemming, a variety of amphibians and reptiles, and the black bear and red wolf (NatureServe 2006, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2006, Sharitz and Gibbons 1982).

Uplands

Over the next five years, the Partners Program will actively pursue partnerships that involve several important upland ecosystem types, including longleaf pine, native prairie and grasslands, upland hardwoods, caves, xeric scrub (Florida), and karst and tropical dry forests (Caribbean).

Longleaf Pine (Region Wide)

The longleaf pine ecosystem within the Southeast Region once covered as much as 92 million acres. Now, less than three million acres remain in a fragmented distribution across the Carolinas, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, southern Mississippi and Louisiana, making this an endangered ecosystem (>85 percent decline in historic habitat type; Noss et al. 1995).



Natural range of longleaf pine

Much of this ecosystem has been converted to other types of pine plantations, pasture, agriculture uses and urban and industrial development. A ground cover of native species is essential to maintaining the longleaf pine ecosystem, and the use of periodic fire is also essential in promoting the survival of native ground cover and preventing the invasion of undesirable plant species.

Within the various longleaf pine communities (e.g., sandhills, flatwoods and savanna, rolling hills, and mountain) 27 federally listed species and over 100 candidate species occur. About 40 percent of the 1,600+ plant species in the Atlantic and Gulf coastal plains are restricted to longleaf landscapes.

Focal wildlife species include the red-cockaded woodpecker, indigo snake, gopher tortoise, pine snake, dusky gopher frog, Bachman's sparrow, Henslow's sparrow, and the bobwhite



The use of prescribed fire is essential to maintaining the longleaf pine ecosystem.

quail (NatureServe 2006, Shibu et al. 2006, Van Lear et al. 2005, Earley 2004, Moore 2001, Franklin 1997).

Native Prairie and Grasslands (Region Wide)

Native prairies (dominated by native grasses and other herbaceous plants) were once widespread across the Southeast Region, but most have been destroyed by a variety of human activities. For example, the Cajun prairie area of southwestern Louisiana and Southeast Texas once occupied approximately 2.5 million acres, but now less than 1,000 acres remain.

Within the historic Grand Prairie area of Arkansas only a few hundred acres of a tall grass prairie that once covered 320,000 acres remain. In the historic Piedmont prairie areas of North and South Carolina, European explorers reported many prairies ranging in size up to 25 miles across, but only scattered remnants remain today. Also, much of the historic native grassland in Tennessee and Kentucky and the blackbelt prairie area of Mississippi have been lost or converted to non-native species. Frequent fire set by Native Americans or from lightning, as well as grazing by bison and elk, were important ecological factors in maintaining native prairies.

The remaining prairies within the Southeast Region provide important habitat for numerous wildlife species, including many rare and protected

plants (e.g., federally listed Schweinitz's sunflower and smooth coneflower, Georgia aster), butterflies, migratory birds (e.g., Henslow's sparrow, savannah sparrow, loggerhead shrike, prairie warbler), and game species such as the severely declining

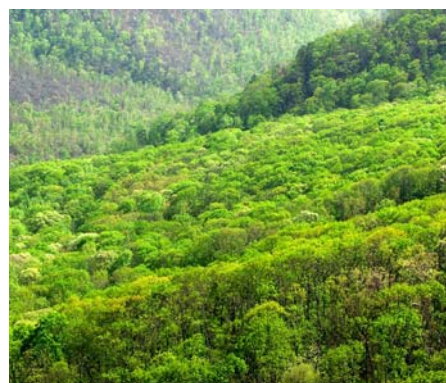


Kentucky prairie pipevine and swallowtail butterfly

bobwhite quail. Prairie habitat also once supported large herds of bison and groups of prairie chickens, which are no longer found on the remaining prairies of the Southeast Region (NatureServe 2006, Noss et al. 1995, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2004).

Upland Hardwoods

Noss et al. (1995) lists the upland hardwoods in the Coastal Plain, Cumberland Plateau, and Highland Rim of Tennessee as endangered (>85 percent decline in habitat type). Upland hardwood community types occur throughout the remainder of the Region, but the extent of historic decline or degradation of these communities is uncertain. Much of the original forest has disappeared as



Upland hardwood forest
a result of timber harvesting and conversion to pine, and remaining upland forests are often poorly managed and fragmented.



Installing a cave gate



A completed cave gate structure

Previously, the Partners Program has not implemented many voluntary upland hardwood habitat improvement projects. However, many of our partners have noted their increasing concern for the continuing loss and degradation of this habitat category, and the importance of this habitat type to numerous fish and wildlife species, including threatened and endangered species (e.g., Indiana bat) and many species of neotropical migratory birds (e.g., Cerulean warbler, Bewick's wren, Loggerhead shrike, Wood thrush) and other species of concern (black bear, southeastern pocket gopher, gopher frog, eastern kingsnake) (See State Wildlife Action Plans, NatureServe 2006, Wear and Greis 2002).

Caves (Region Wide)

Caves located on private lands occur in Alabama, Arkansas, Caribbean, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North



Florida scrub jay

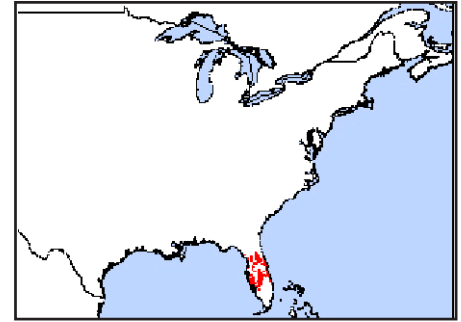
Carolina and Tennessee. Because of the fragile nature of cave ecosystems and the fact that caves tend to be isolated from one another, there are a number of federally protected species (e.g., Gray bat, Arkansas cave crawfish, Alabama cave shrimp Kentucky and Tennessee cave fish) and other rare and imperiled species (e.g., salamanders, beetles and various species of bats) that reside in or use caves during their life cycle. Some of these species are endemics that have unique adaptations such as loss of pigment, eyes, elongation of appendages, and enhancement of other senses in the absence of light (Culver et al. 2000, NatureServe 2006, Niluis and Graening 2000, Elliott 1998).

Because of the large number of species of concern associated with cave ecosystems, the Partners Program provides assistance to voluntary private landowners that desire to protect their caves and conserve the species that use them.

Scrub Habitat (Florida)

The dry, scrub habitat of Florida is found on ancient dune ridges left thousands of years ago by retreating seas. Due to urbanization and other human development activities, this habitat type has been reduced by more than 85 percent since pre-settlement times (Noss et al. 1995).

Today, less than 600 square miles of scrub habitat remain. Much of the remaining parcels of scrub habitat are fragmented and in various states



Distribution of Florida scrub jay

of degradation, due primarily to the suppression of fire. Most of the remaining scrub habitat on private lands occurs on an ancient sand dune that runs down the middle of the State known as Lake Wales Ridge.

The Partners Program has targeted this imperiled habitat primarily because it is home to a variety of imperiled species, including the federally threatened Florida scrub jay (a unique jay found nowhere else), and the gopher tortoise, a species of concern (BirdLife International 2006, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1990).

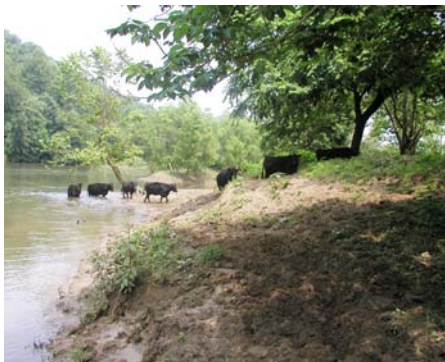
Karst and Tropical Dry Forest (Caribbean)

In the Caribbean, karst and tropical dry forests are threatened by intensive pressure from agriculture and urban development. In Puerto Rico, more than one third of the island is covered by limestone (karst). This area harbors more than 1,300 species, including 30 threatened and endangered species. The northern karst belt has been identified as a viable release site for the endangered Puerto Rican parrot. The karst region also contains the most important aquifer on Puerto Rico.

Within the Caribbean, tropical dry forests are scattered and fragmented. However, the remaining forests are essential to the survival of many rare, threatened and



Caribbean upland forest



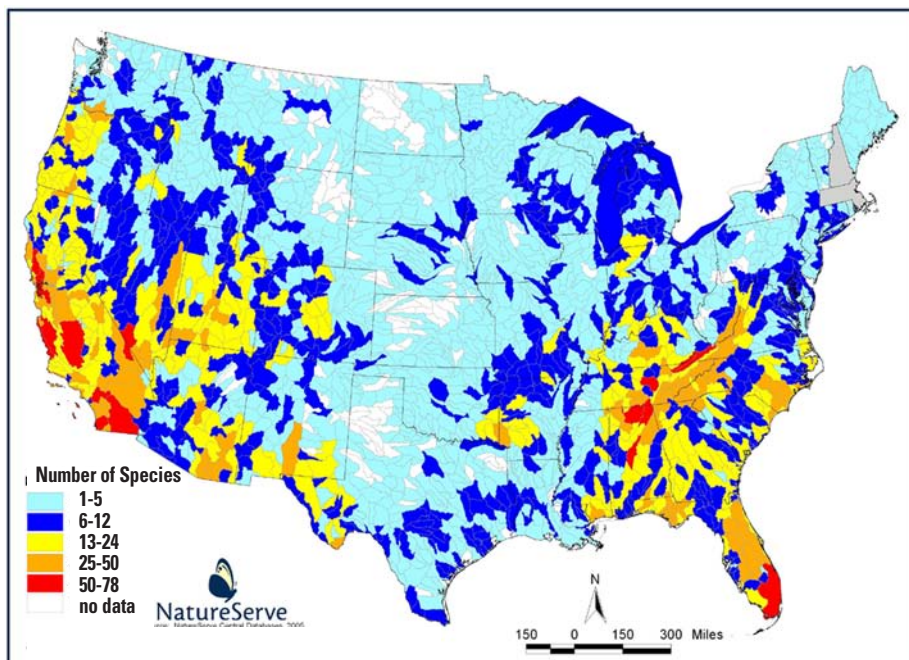
Unrestricted access to stream riparian zones by livestock can severely degrade riparian habitat and water quality.

endangered species (e.g., yellow-shouldered blackbird, Puerto Rican plain pigeon, Puerto Rican broad-winged hawk, Puerto Rican boa) as well as an array of neotropical migratory birds (e.g., Puerto Rican vireo) (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2006).

Riparian/Stream/Shoreline (Region Wide)

Riparian or streamside habitats occur in both wetlands and uplands. Many landowners have carried out farming practices and other activities up to the banks of streams, leaving streambank segments with an inadequate riparian protection zone, or none at all. Because of the importance of riparian areas for the protection and improvement of water quality and the related benefits to many protected and imperiled aquatic species, as well as the habitat benefits (e.g., movement corridors and cover) to many other wildlife species (Brinson et al., 1981), the Partners Program actively seeks out voluntary habitat improvement projects on private lands involving riparian zones, shorelines and in-stream habitats throughout the Region.

The aquatic, riverine habitats in the Southeast exhibit a diversity of freshwater species that is unsurpassed in North America, encompassing approximately 62 percent (505 of 815 species) of the freshwater fishes and 75 percent (222 of 297) of the freshwater mussels found on the continent. The Region has more than 70 major river basins and over 26,000 miles of coastal shoreline (Master et. al. 1998,



Number of U.S. ESA listed, proposed, candidate and G1-G2 species by 8-digit watershed

Olsenius 2004, Smith et. al. 2002, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1997).

Many of the perennial streams in the Southeast have been altered (e.g., channelized, dams) or degraded (e.g., erosion and sedimentation from agriculture or urban runoff, other pollution). At least 144 major dams and reservoirs, and an unknown number of other fish passage barriers, have been constructed on streams and rivers in the Southeast, altering water flows and habitat, disruption fish migration, and impacting water quality.

Many of the remaining species are imperiled. For example, 34 percent of North American fish species and 90 percent of native mussel species that are designated as endangered, threatened or of special concern are found in the Southeast.

Only about 25 percent of the native mussel species are presumed to be stable. Master et al. (1998) identified 10 critical watersheds as “freshwater hot spots,” and of these, five are located in the Southeast (i.e., Green River in Kentucky, Clinch river in Tennessee, Cahaba River in Alabama, Conasauga River in Georgia and Tennessee, and the Altamaha River in Georgia). (National Research Council 1992, NatureServe 2006, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership 2006, Smith

et. al. 2002, Benz et al. 1997, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1997).

Invasive Species

The control or elimination of invasive species (see Glossary, Appendix D for definitions) within the Region is a priority initiative within the Partners Program. Executive Order 13112 on invasive species, signed by President Clinton in 1999, requires all Federal agencies whose actions may involve invasive species to join in the war to control their spread. Invasive species can be found in all habitat types across the region. An estimated 50,000 nonnative species of plants and animals have been introduced into the United States.



An agricultural field taken over by invasive cogongrass

The spread of nonnative (alien or exotic) species is estimated to cost Americans as much as \$138 billion annually in lost crops, timber,

commercial and recreational fishing, and other damages. Approximately 35-46 percent of the species on the endangered species list are there partly or entirely because of the effects of invasive species (Jewell 2000, U.S. Department of Agriculture 2005).

Over the next five years, the Partners Program expects to focus primarily on the control and elimination of numerous invasive species in terrestrial habitats (e.g., Tallow or popcorn tree, privet, tall fescue grass, Cogongrass, Old World climbing fern, oriental bittersweet, Australian pine, melaleuca, Brazilian pepper, Gambian rat, Nutria, to name a few), whereas the Service's Fisheries Program will target invasive aquatic species.

Objectives, Targets and Implementation Strategies for Goal One:

■ **Objective 1.1:** Working with our partners, identify those geographic focus areas within the Southeast Region where most of the Partners Program support will be directed over the next five years (FY 2007-20011), develop accomplishment output targets for each geographic focus area selected, and identify implementation strategies.

■ **Five-Year Performance Targets:** Table 1.1 identifies 50 focus areas within the Southeast Region where most of our assistance efforts through the Partners Program will be directed over the next five years, together with our estimated accomplishment output targets for the habitat categories being tracked (i.e., wetland, upland, riparian, in-stream, and structures).

Within these 50 focus areas, we expect to carry out habitat improvement projects on approximately 7,040 acres of wetland, 16,608 acres of upland, 114.7 miles of riparian, 6 miles of in-stream and 40 structures (e.g., cave gates or fish barriers), based on our fiscal year 2006 funding level. All of these habitat improvement projects will improve

the habitat for at risk species, including federally threatened, endangered and candidates, as well as species of concern as identified in other Service Program strategic plans (e.g., Migratory Birds and Fisheries) and State Wildlife Action Plans.

For each State and the Caribbean, a more comprehensive description of these focus areas, links to focal species, threats, and action strategies is found in Appendix A.

■ **Implementation Strategy:** Our implementation strategy is simple. We will work with private landowners and other partners to provide technical and funding assistance in identifying, developing and implementing voluntary habitat improvement practices on private lands within the designated focus areas that address the known limiting habitat factors for federal trust species and other species of concern. Although most of our efforts will be directed to the focus areas designated in the Plan, we retain flexibility to address other important habitat areas as new partnership opportunities arise. In striving to carry out this objective, our staff, to the extent possible, will utilize all available funding sources, including the various farm bill conservation programs, to leverage Partners Program funding.

■ **Objective 1.2:** Promote and implement habitat improvement projects that are expected to benefit Federal trust species.

■ **Five-Year Performance Target:** Within a five year period, all Partners Program habitat improvement projects will be directed to habitats and practices that are expected to benefit threatened, endangered or candidate species; or species of concern as identified in other Service Program strategic planning documents or in State Wildlife Action Plans.

■ **Implementation Strategy:** The Partners Program will work with other programs and stakeholders at the state level to prioritize habitat and implement voluntary improvement projects on private lands that are expected to have beneficial impacts to Federal trust and focus species.

To the extent consistent with our Program Policy, the Partners Program will support the objectives of other Service Programs and strategic plans, including, but not limited to, the National Wildlife Refuge System; The North American Bird Conservation Initiative; the National Invasive Species Management Plan; threatened and endangered species recovery plans; State Wildlife Action Plans; Coastal Program management plans; Partners in Flight plans; fisheries management and restoration plans; ecosystem management plans; and other habitat plans.

Over the next five years, most of the Partners Program projects and technical assistance activities will be directed to the geographic focus areas identified in this strategic plan for each state (Table 1.1 and Appendix A). The Partners Program will seek innovative approaches to the restoration, enhancement, or protection of priority habitat. When interacting with private landowners and other partners, the development and use of Safe Harbor Agreements and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances will be encouraged and used where appropriate.

Partnering opportunities that combine the Partners Program with other programs, specifically, United States Department of Agricultural (USDA) Farm Bill conservation programs, will also be actively pursued. Partner's biologists will attend USDA State Technical Committee Meetings and serve on committees to help ensure fish and wildlife issues are addressed. Landscape based approaches that are expected to increase habitat for Federal trust species, will be pursued.

**Table 1.1
Geographic focus areas and five-year
performance targets (FY 2007 - 2011)
for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife
Program: States/Caribbean:
Southeast Region***

State	Name of focus area	Five-year habitat target				
		Wetland (acres)	Upland (acres)	Riparian (miles)	Instream (miles)	Structures (No.)
Alabama	Cahaba River			1.00		
	Tennessee River			.08		
	Coosa River			1.00		
	Longleaf Pine/ Gopher Tortoise		2,250			
	Totals:		2,250	2.08		
Arkansas	Red River Basin	500		2.50		
	Blackland Prairie		750			
	Ozark Highlands/Karst		3	5.00		10
	Quachita/Sline Rivers	750		3.75		
	Mississippi Alluvial Plain	3,500		17.50		
	Totals:	4,750	753	30.83		10
Caribbean	North Central Basin	30	400	4.00		
Florida	Xeric/Sandhill Scrub		2,500			
	Xeric/Mesic/Hydric/ Pine Flatwoods		2,000			
	Exotic Invasive Plant Species		1,250			
	Florida Panhandle Stream Riparian			6.00		
	Totals:		5,750	6.00		
Georgia	Coosa			2.50	1.00	2
	Coastal	100	750	2.50		
	Southwest		250	1.50	.50	
	Fall Line		750	2.50		
	Totals:	100	1,750	9.00	1.50	2
Kentucky	Upper Cumberland River			5.00	.25	1.00
	Upper Green River	15		3.00	.25	1.00
	Bayou du Chien			3.50	.25	1.00
	Clark's River	20	40	4.00	.25	1.00
	Lower Cumberland River			4.00	.25	1.00
	Buck Creek			3.50	.25	1.00
	Rockcastle River			2.00	.25	
	Licking River		20	3.50	.25	
	Totals:	35	60	28.50	2.00	6.00

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

State	Name of focus area	Five-year habitat target				
		Wetland (acres)	Upland (acres)	Riparian (miles)	Instream (miles)	Structures (No.)
Louisiana	Louisiana Black Bear Corridor	500	50	2.00		
	West Central Louisiana Longleaf Pine/Prairie	100	400	2.00		
	Totals:	600	450	4.00		
Mississippi	Delta Wetlands	1,000		10.00		
	Native Prairie		750			
	Longleaf Pine Uplands		1,000			
	Aquatic systems					5
Totals:	1,000	2,750	10.00		5	
North Carolina	Upper Little Tennessee/Tuckasegee Rivers	1		2.00	1.00	
	Upper French Broad River	2		2.00	.50	
	Upper Nolichucky River	2		2.00	.50	
	Greater Uwharrie	20	100	.25		
	Sandhills		400			
	Cape Fear Arch	10	200			
	Onslow Bight	150	100			
	Tar River	20		.50		
	Albermarle/Pamlico	60				
	Roanoke River Corridor	20				
Totals:	285	800	6.75	2.00		
South Carolina	Lower Catawba			.25		
	Great Pee Dee-Lynches	140	1,000	.50		
	Stevens Creek			.25		
	Lower Coastal	100	1,000			2
Totals:	240	2,000	1.00		2	
Tennessee	Clinch River/Powell River		18	5.00		5
	The Barrens		18	5.00		5
	Cypress Creek/Shoal Creek		9	2.50	.5	5
Totals:		45	12.50	.5	15	
Regional Totals:		7,040	16,608	114.66	6.0	40

* See Appendix A for detailed information about these focus areas within State of interest.