

The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) was initiated by states of the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) and the federal Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group (SENRLG) with support from Southeast and Caribbean Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) and the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP).

The SECAS Vision: The dramatic changes sweeping the Southeastern United States — such as urbanization, competition for water resources, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and climate change — pose unprecedented challenges for sustaining our natural and cultural resources. However, they also offer a clear opportunity to unite the conservation community around a shared, long-term vision for the future. The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) is that vision. Through SECAS, diverse partners are working together to design and achieve a connected network of landscapes and seascapes that supports thriving fish and wildlife populations and improved quality of life, including water quality, for people across the southeastern United States and the Caribbean. Together, federal, state, non-profit and private organizations are coordinating their conservation actions and investments to focus on common goals.

The SECAS Blueprint: stitches together the work of multiple Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) into a map of shared conservation and restoration priorities across the Southeast and Caribbean. Just as a construction blueprint serves as a plan for achieving an architect's design of a building, our Blueprint serves as a plan for making the SECAS vision a reality. It combines multiple datasets, tools, and resources into one cohesive map that can be shared by regional planners, highway departments, developers, businesses, and conservation professionals. By providing regional context for local decisions, it will help organizations with different goals find common ground — opportunities to align their efforts to protect fish and wildlife habitat, improve quality of life for people, safeguard life and property, and develop strong economies. As the Blueprint informs decisions affecting our communities, our livelihoods, and our natural and cultural heritage, it will shape a more sustainable future for our region.

The draft Blueprint will be presented at the *SECAS Conservation Leadership Summit 2016*. It can be used by local governments, transportation planners, developers, private businesses, federal and state agencies, non-profits, and many other groups to help answer challenging questions, such as:

- What are the most crucial areas to conserve today for species of greatest conservation need, proactively reducing the need for future protection?
- Where are the best places for smart urban growth that minimize negative impacts to fish and wildlife, conserve clean and plentiful drinking water, and provide greater access to open space?
- Where should we focus conservation efforts now to improve the resilience of ecosystems and communities in advance of major disasters like hurricanes and oil spills?
- Where will economic incentives achieve the most conservation benefits on working lands?

SECAS Conservation Leadership Summit 2016: is scheduled for the afternoon of Monday October 17th at the SEAFWA conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Please plan to attend! In preparation for that Summit, we have asked the SEAFWA Directors and SENRLG Principals to help shape the agenda. Input from Steering Committee members is encouraged as well so please be prepared to provide some insight in terms of the following questions:

- What is most important to you, your agency, and your constituency in defining the landscape of the future? What information do you need to enable you to do this?
- Would an example of a case study that highlights the use of blueprint products be something you would be interested in seeing in October at the Summit?
- What else would you like to see at that Summit to keep you supportive of SECAS and moving ahead to achieve the SECAS Vision of coordinated actions and investments to achieve common conservation goals?

For More Information

- The SECAS website includes overviews of SECAS and the Blueprint as well as a Story Map depicting project highlights: www.SECASsoutheast.org. Content also includes the SECAS area map, News & Events, and identifies the partners that have been supportive of and engaged in SECAS efforts to date.
- The Southeast Conservation Planning Atlas is the place to find and organize information, datasets, maps, and galleries for southeastern geographies. Explore data from a wide variety of sources that encompass all or parts of the southeastern 15 states, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.: <https://seregion.databasin.org/>
- Contact: Cynthia Edwards, SECAS Coordinator at: c.kallio.edwards@gmail.com or 337-207-9377.