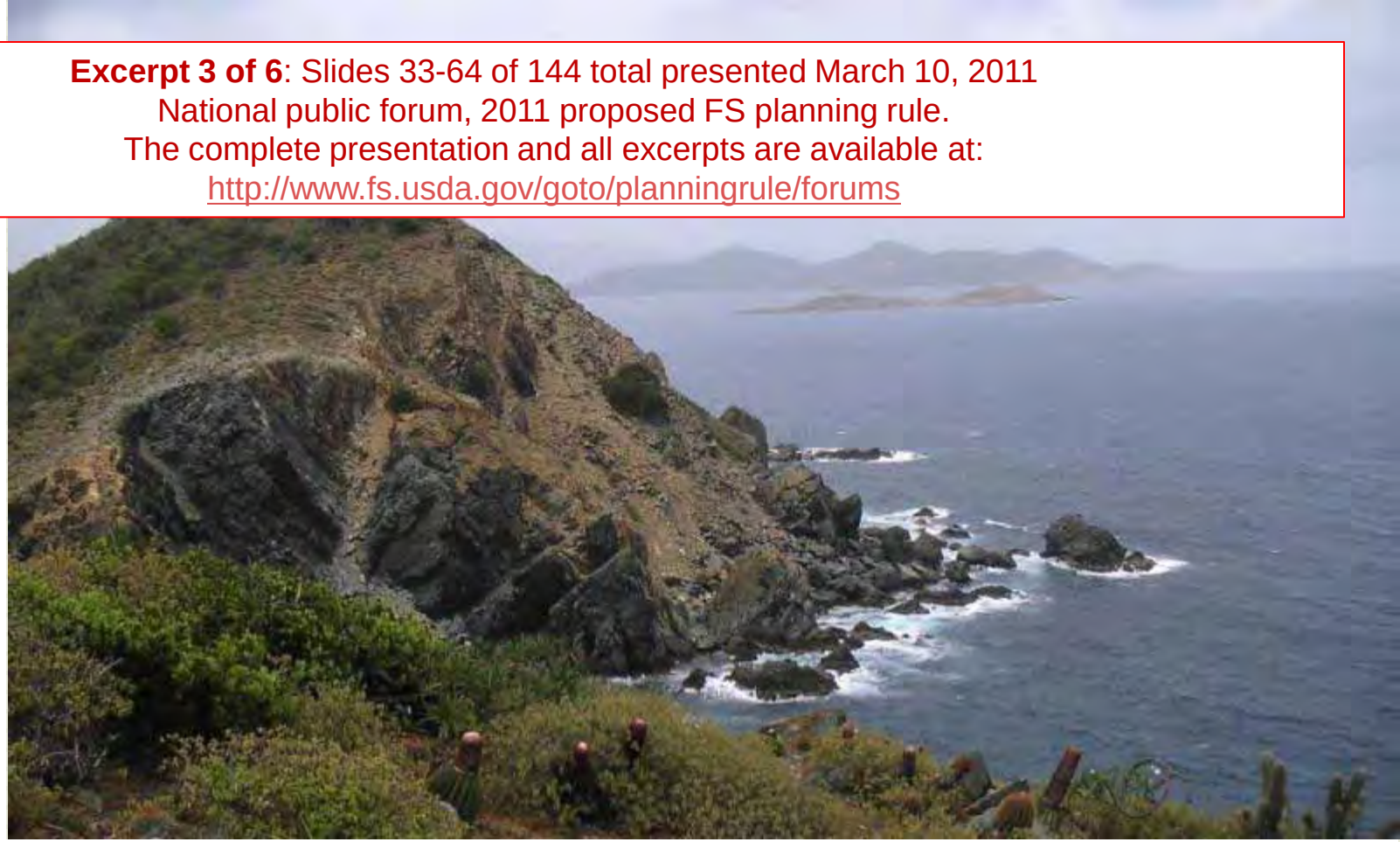
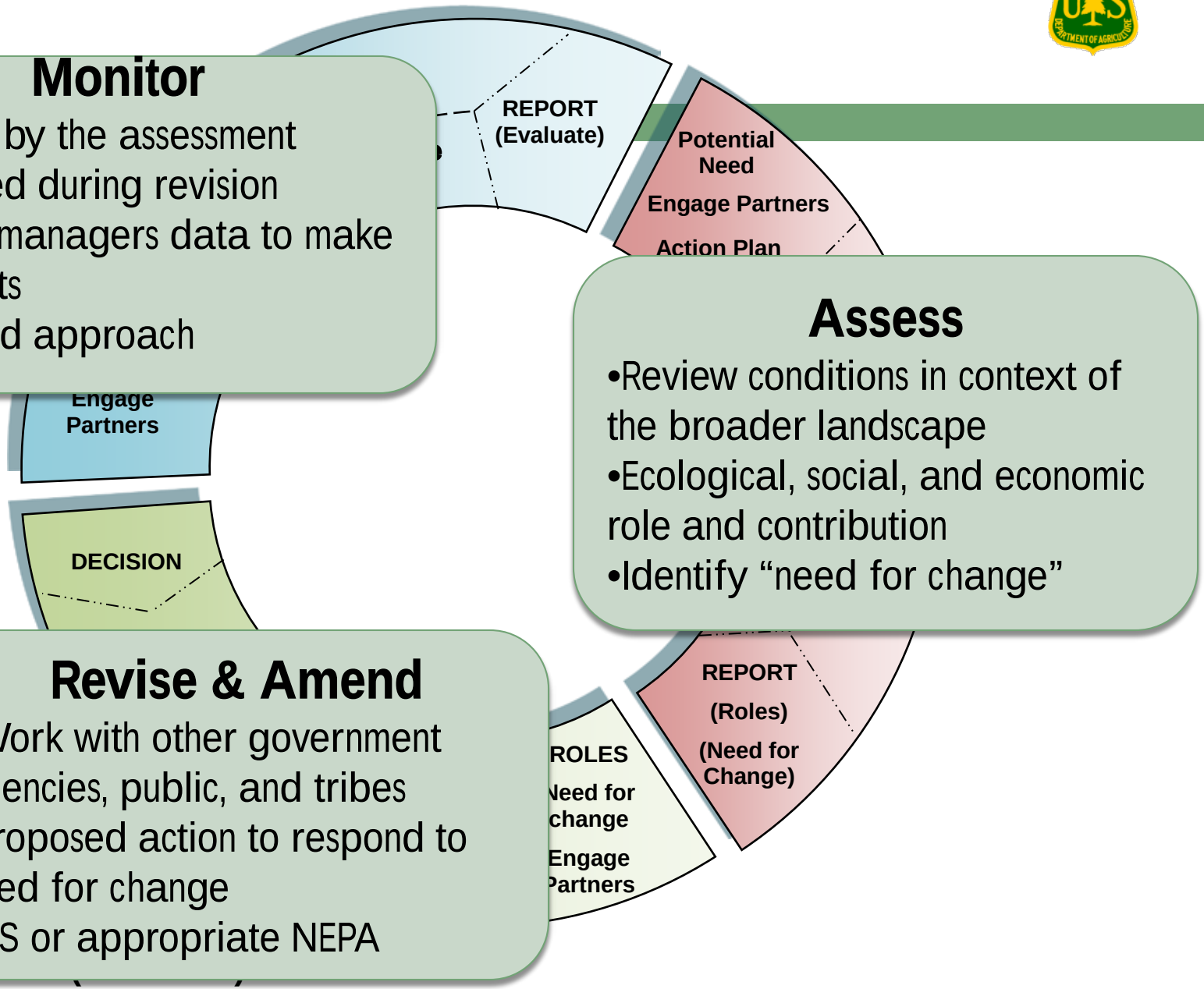
Excerpt 3 of 6: Slides 33-64 of 144 total presented March 10, 2011
National public forum, 2011 proposed FS planning rule.
The complete presentation and all excerpts are available at:
http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/planningrule/forums



§ 219.5 Planning Framework

Materials were condensed for this presentation. For more details, see http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/planningrule/faqs

Framework



Monitor

- Informed by the assessment
- Developed during revision
- Provides managers data to make adjustments
- Two-tiered approach

Assess

- Review conditions in context of the broader landscape
- Ecological, social, and economic role and contribution
- Identify “need for change”

Revise & Amend

- Work with other government agencies, public, and tribes
- Proposed action to respond to need for change
- EIS or appropriate NEPA

§ 219.6 Assessments

Materials were condensed for this presentation. For more details, see http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/planningrule/faqs

Assessments for Plan Development and Revision

- Process requirements
  - Engage diverse interests early
  - Identify questions and issues to consider
  - Consolidate existing information
  - Document in a set of reports
- Content requirements
  - Support development of plan components
  - Use existing information
  - Review ecological, economic, and social conditions and trends

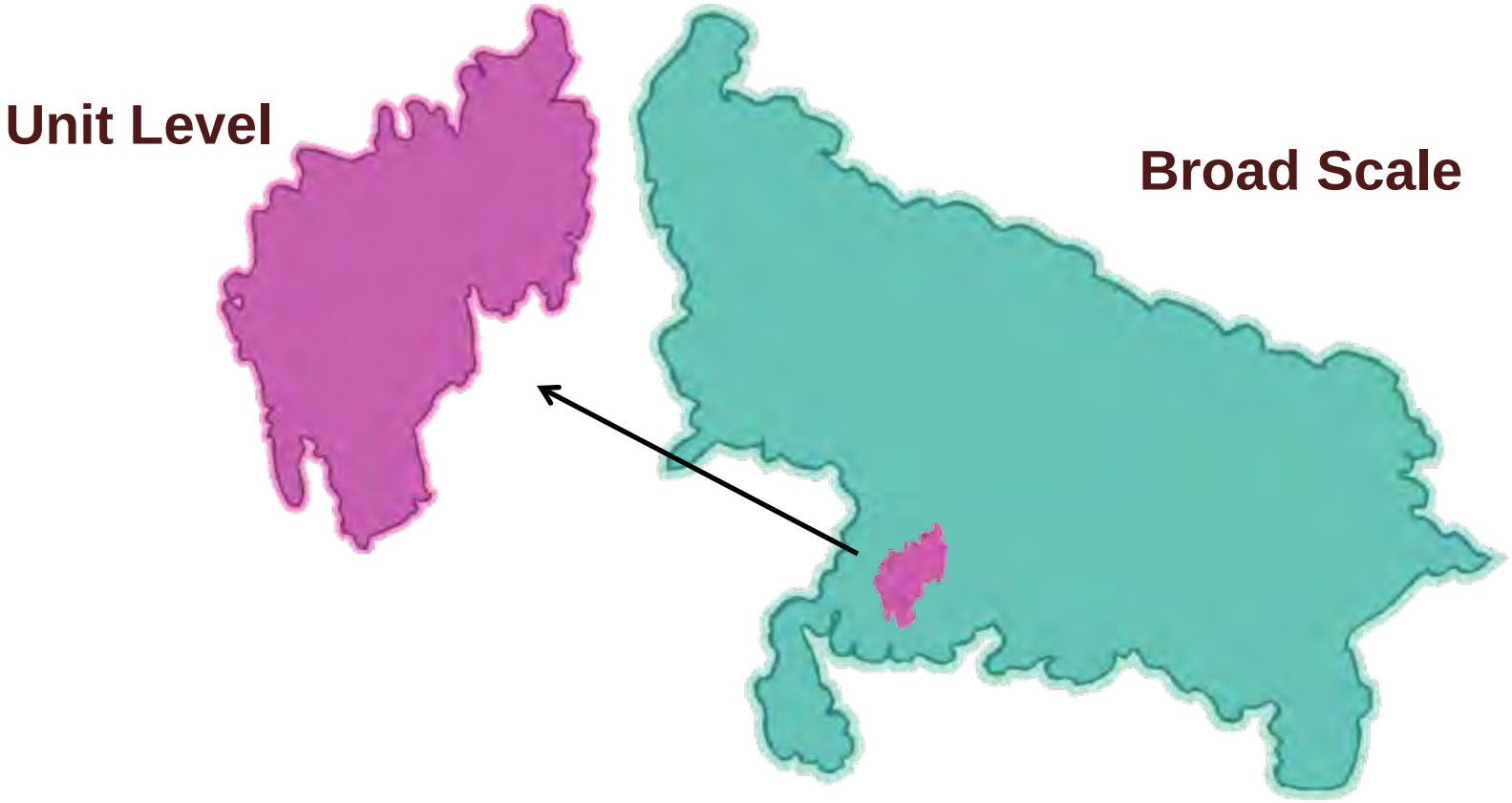
Assessments for Plan Amendments

- Amendments must be based on documented need for change
- Documentation may be:
  - New or existing assessment report
  - Monitoring report
  - Other documentation of new information or changed conditions and circumstances
- Responsible official determines if a new assessment is needed

§ 219.12 Monitoring

Materials were condensed for this presentation. For more details, see http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/planningrule/faqs

Monitoring Program and Strategies



Unit-Level Monitoring

- Developed by Responsible Official
- Requires coordination with RF, S&PF, and R&D
- Includes engagement with the public and partners
- Sets out unit-monitoring questions and associated indicators
- Links back to assessment and substantive content of the plan
- Addresses eight specific requirements

Broader-Scale Monitoring

- Developed by Regional Forester
- Developed to address monitoring questions best answered at a broader scale
- Coordinated with R&D, S&PF, partners, and public

Monitoring Coordination

- Public engagement including scientists
- Coordination with
  - S&PF and R&D
  - Local governments, states, and Federal agencies
  - Non-governmental and multi-party monitoring
- Biennial Evaluation
  - Documented and available to the public
  - Accounts for best available scientific information

Example

- Southern Forest Futures Project
- National Forests in Florida

Southern Forest Futures Project

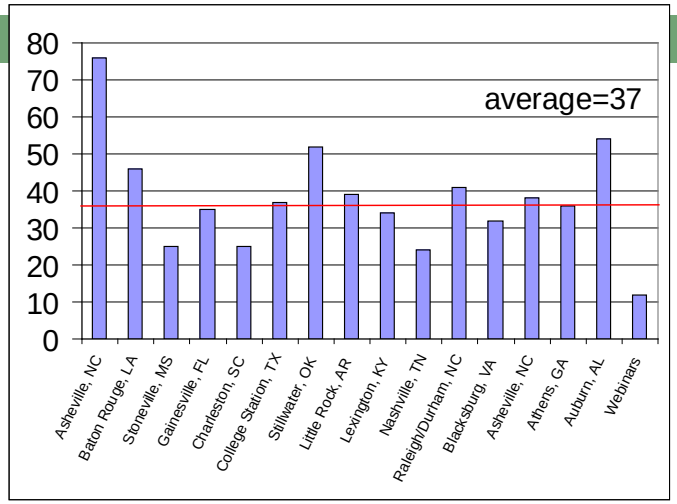
What?

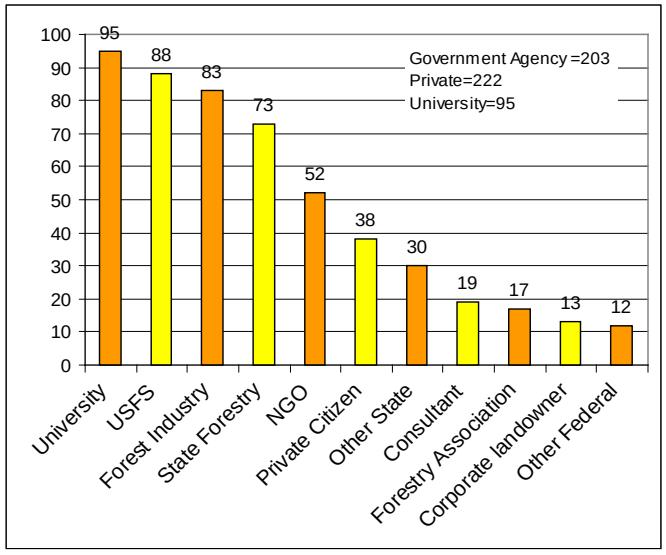
The Southern Forest Futures Project is a state-of-the-science, collaborative effort to explore potential futures for southern forests and challenges to their sustainability.

- Public issue driven
- Peer reviewed
- Comprehensive
- Strategic focus

Engaging the interested public across the South…

Public Meetings





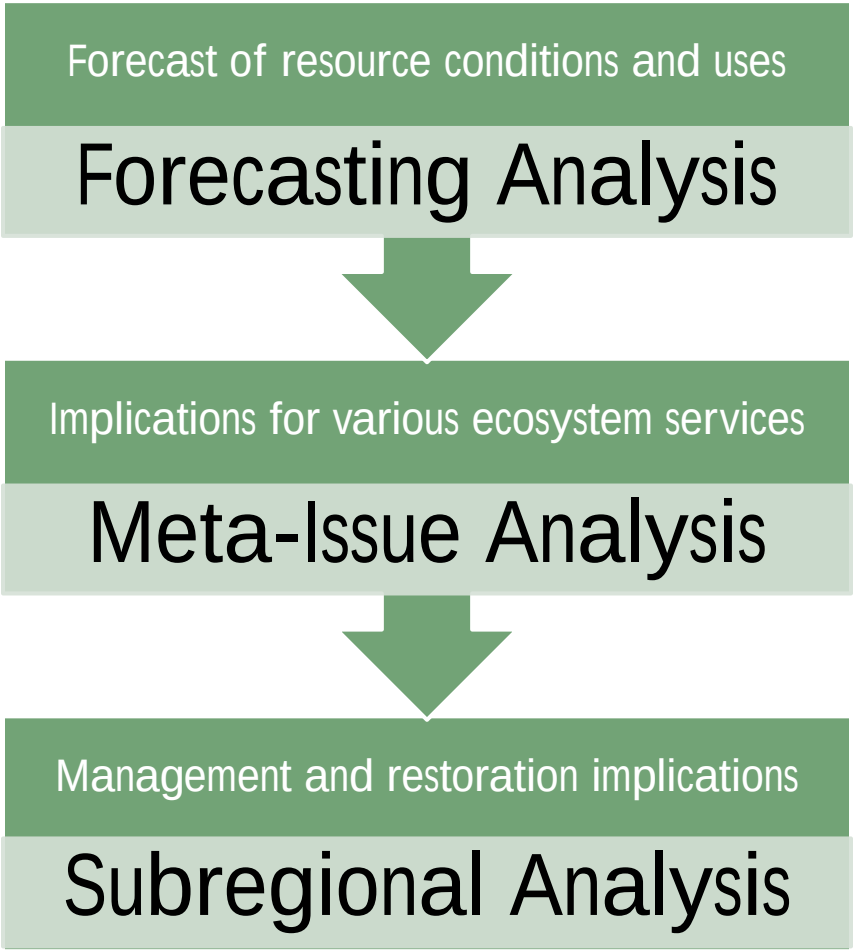
Meeting Location	Sub-Region Represented	Date
Baton Rouge, LA	Coastal Plain/ Mississippi AV	Jan 29
Stoneville, MS	Coastal Plain/ Mississippi AV	Jan 30
Gainesville, FL	Coastal Plain	Feb. 7
Charleston, SC	Coastal Plain	Feb 8
Little Rock, AR	Mid-South/Mississippi AV	Feb 13
College Station, TX	Mid-South	Feb 11
Stillwater, OK	Mid-South	Feb 12
Lexington, KY	Appalachian Cumberland	Feb. 19
Nashville, TN	Appalachian Cumberland	Feb. 21
Raleigh/Durham, NC	Piedmont/Coastal Plain	Feb 25
Blacksburg, VA	Appalachian Cumberland	Feb 26
Asheville, NC	Appalachian Cumberland	Feb 27
Athens, GA	Piedmont/Coastal Plain	Mar 6
Auburn, AL	Piedmont/Coastal Plain	Mar 7
Webinar #1	All sub-regions	Apr 8 evening
Webinar #2	All sub-regions	Apr 16
Webinar #3	All sub-regions	Apr 16

Public Input

- Used for:
  - Defining the meta-issues
  - Defining subregional issues
  - Defining alternative futures
- Publication clearly documents what we heard and how we used it
- Comments available on line

How was the SFFP Conducted?

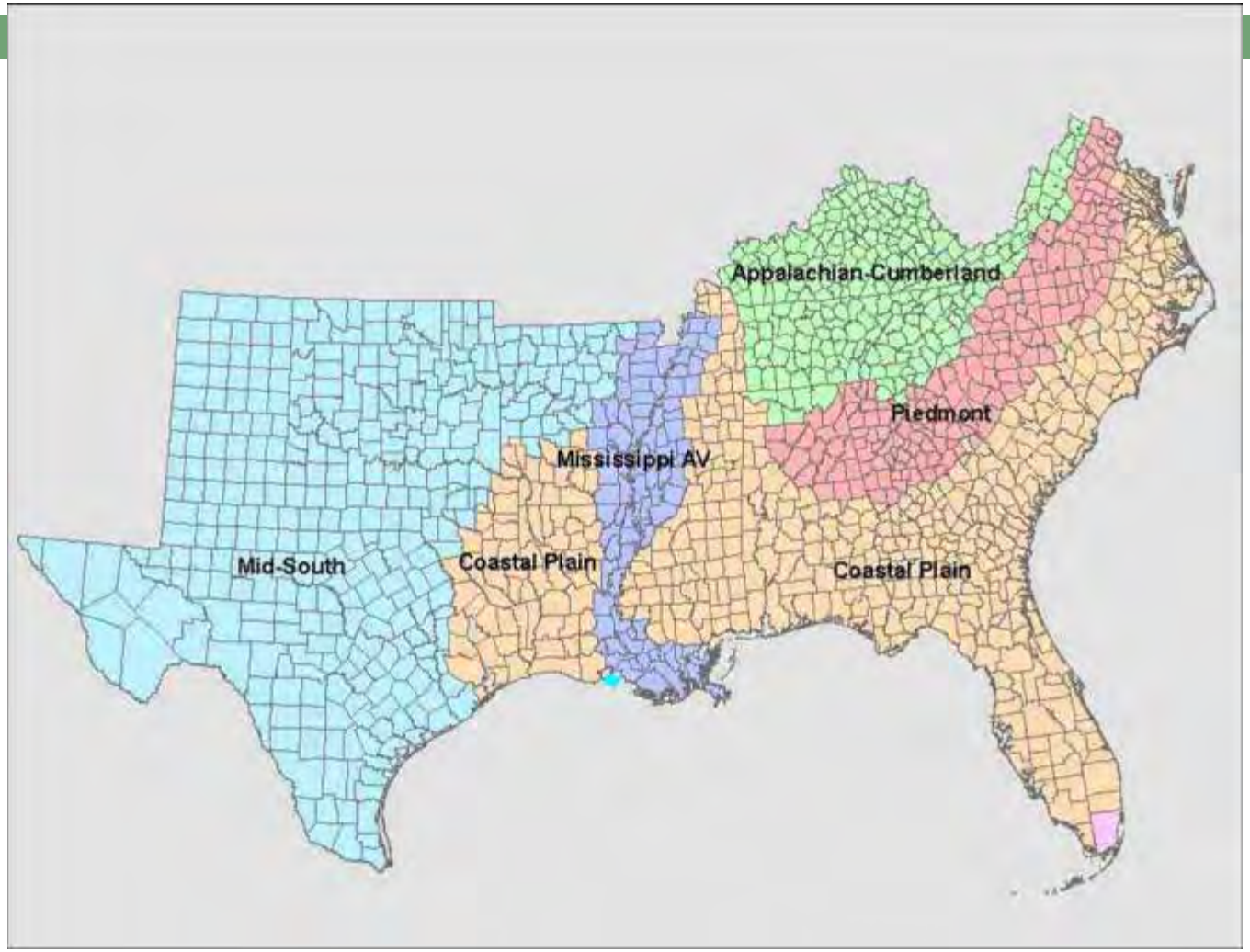
- Chartered
  - USFS (Station and Region) and SGSF
- Public Scoping
  - Definitions of meta-issues and futures
- Forecasting
  - Computer models to predict effects on lands, forest conditions, and services
- Meta Issues
  - Science synthesis to explore detailed effects
- Management Implications
  - Interpretation of findings for management in subregions



Technical Report Chapter Outline

Number	Title	Authors
1	Design of the Southern Forest Futures Project	David Wear and John Greis
2	Forecasts: Constructing alternative futures	David Wear, Robert Huggett, and John Greis
3	Forecasts: Climate change	Steven McNulty and Jennifer Moore Meyers
4	Forecasts: Land uses	David Wear
5	Forecasts: Forest conditions	Robert Huggett, David Wear, Ruhong Li, John Coulston, and Shan Liu
6	Meta-Issue: Forest ownership	Brett Butler and David Wear
7	Meta-Issue: Demographics and recreation	Ken Cordell
8	Forecasts: Recreation	Mike Bowker
9	Forecasts: Timber Products Markets	David N. Wear, Jeffrey Prestemon, Robert Huggett, and Douglas Carter
10	Meta-Issue: Bioenergy	Janaki Alavalapati, Pankaj Lal, Andres Susaeta, Robert C. Abt, David Wear
11	Meta-Issue: Tax influences	John L. Greene, Thomas J. Straka, and Tamara L. Cushing
12	Meta-Issue: Jobs and income	Karen Abt
13	Meta-Issue: Water and forests	Graeme Lockaby, Chelsea Nagy, James M. Vose, Chelcy R. Ford, Ge Sun, Steve McNulty, Pete Caldwell, Erika Cohen, and Jennifer Moore Meyers
14	Meta-Issue: Wildlife, biodiversity, and forest communities	Margaret Griep and Beverly Collins
15	Meta-Issue: Invasive plant species	James H. Miller, Dawn Lemke, and John Coulston
16	Meta-Issue: Forest insects and diseases	Donald A. Duerr and Paul A. Mistretta
17	Meta-Issue: Fire	John A Stanturf and Scott L Goodrick

SFFP Subregions

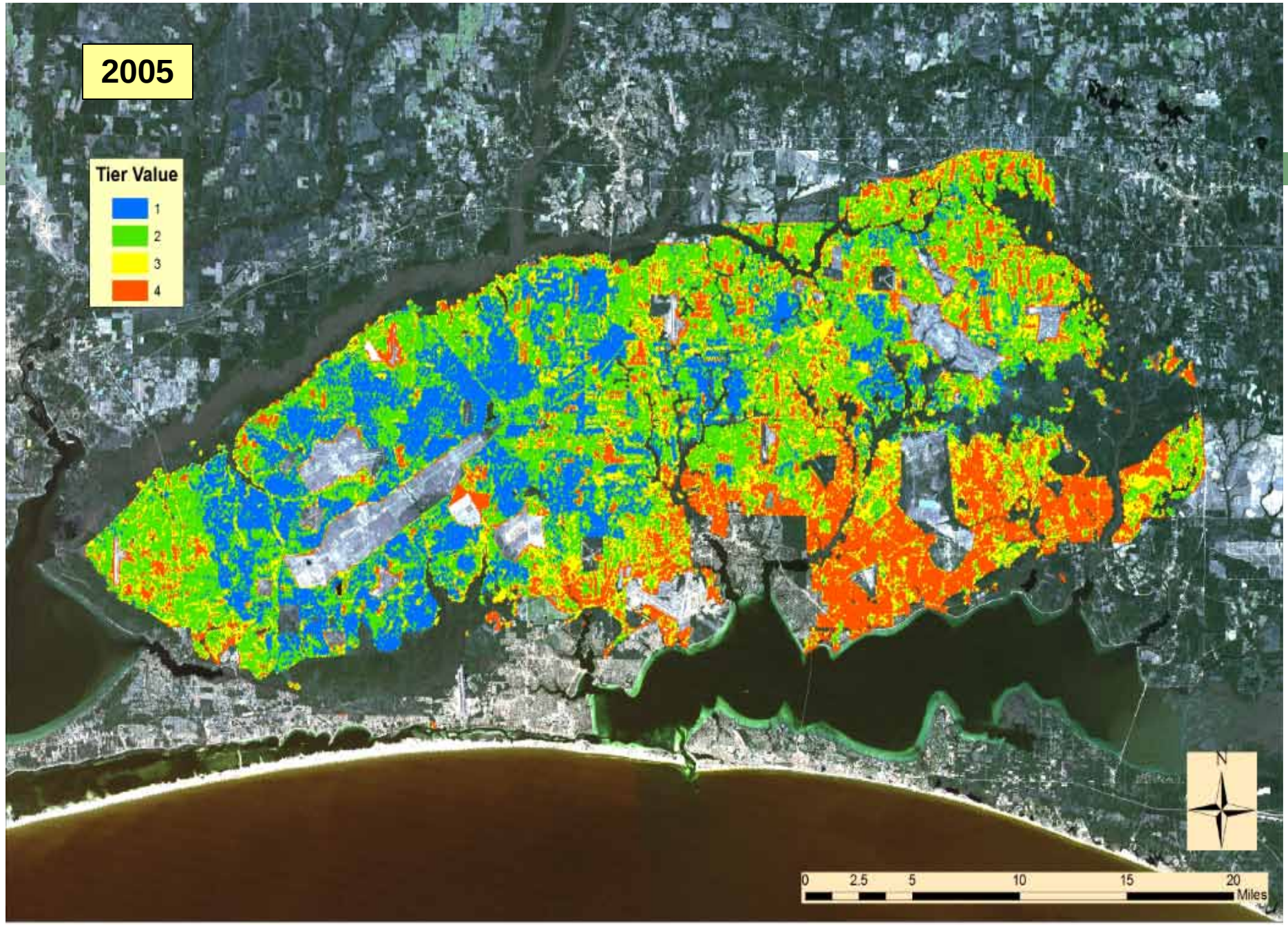


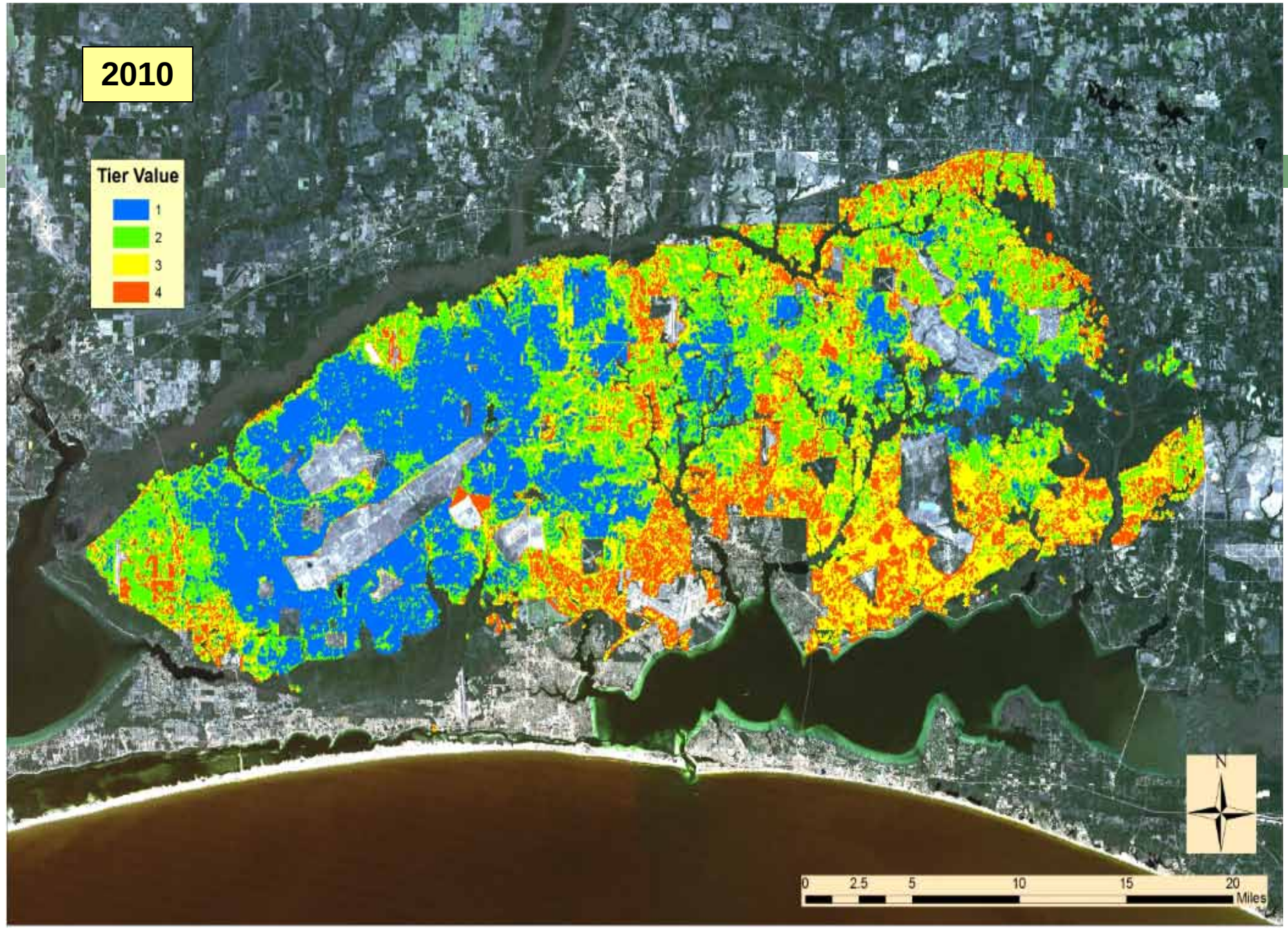
Continuing the public dialogue…

- Started with Southern Forest Resource Assessment in 1999-2002…
- Continued with public meetings at the start of Southern Forest Futures Project…
- Next phase includes release of public review drafts of technical and summary reports…
- “Downscaling” to address management and restoration questions at the appropriate scale
  - Management-Research collaboration

NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA


2001
Tier Value
1
2
3
4
N
0
3.75
7.5
15 Miles


2005
Tier Value
1
2
3
4
N
0
2.5
5
10
15
20
Miles


2010
Tier Value
1
2
3
4
N
0
2.5
5
10
15
20
Miles

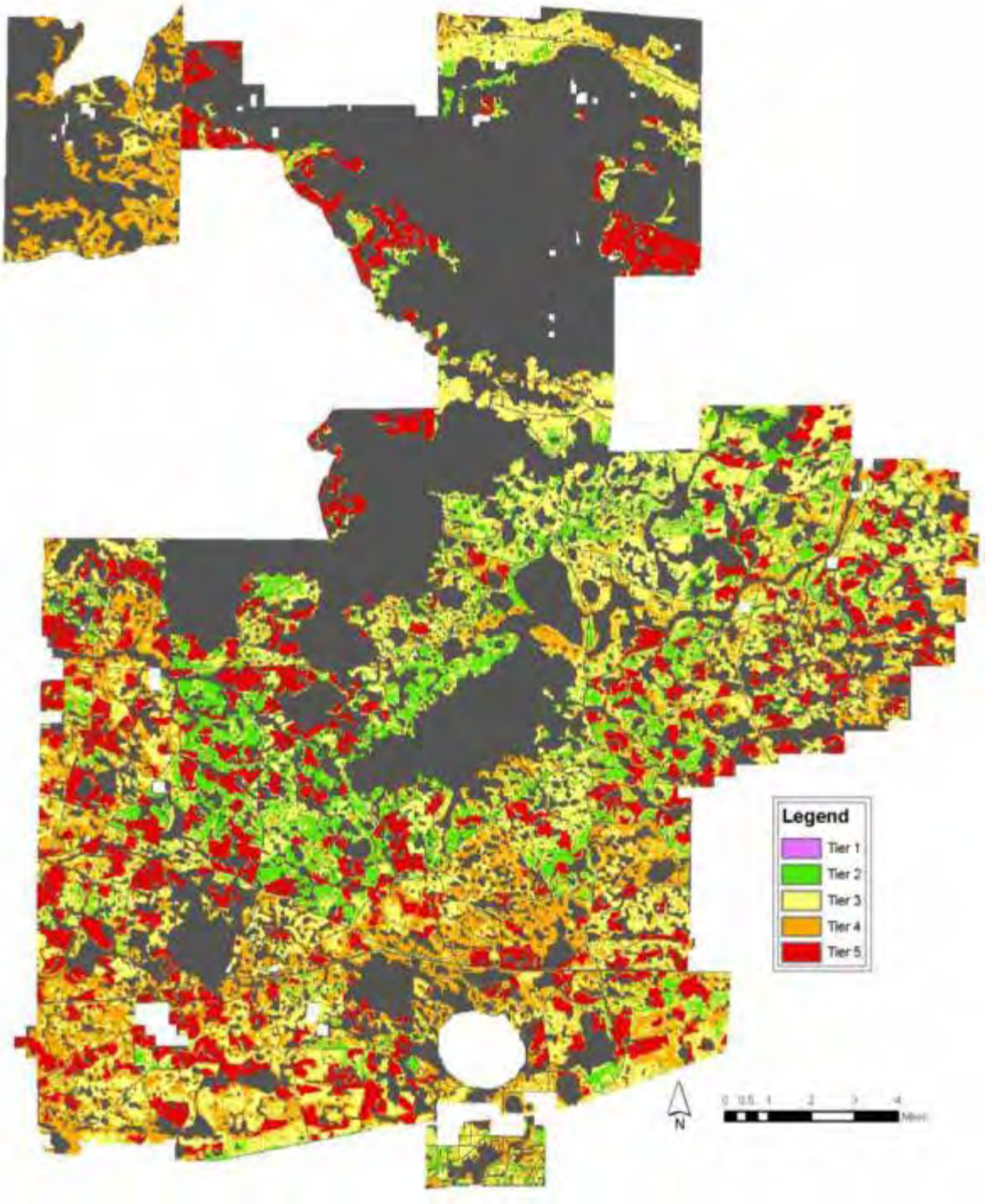
2009 ECM Tier Classes

Flatwoods Condition

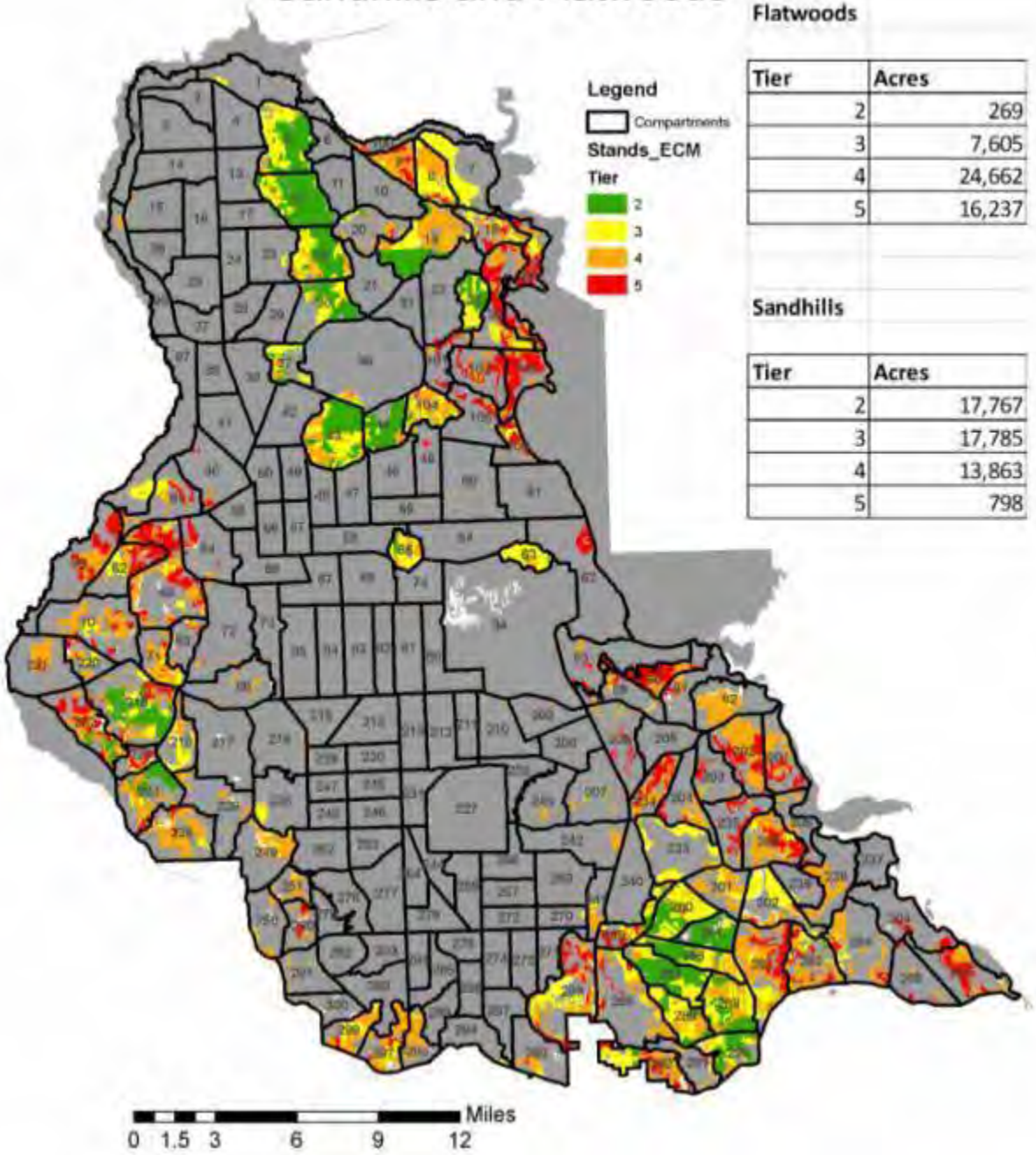
Good-Excellent (Tier 1,2)
13%

Transitional (Tier 3)
40%

Poor-Very Poor (Tier 4,5)
47%



2011 Ocala ECM (Draft)
Sandhills and Flatwoods



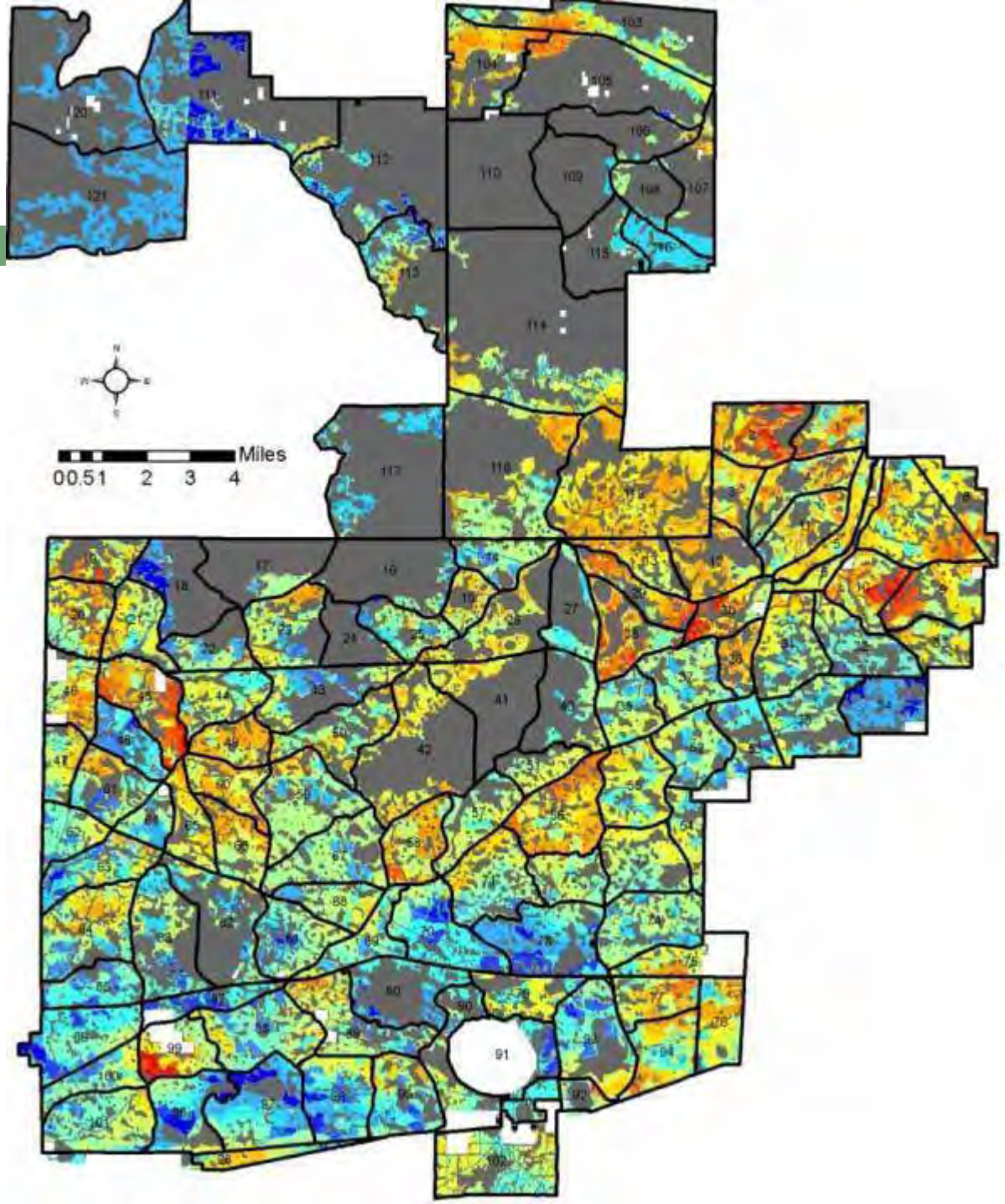
Flatwoods

Tier	Acres
2	269
3	7,605
4	24,662
5	16,237

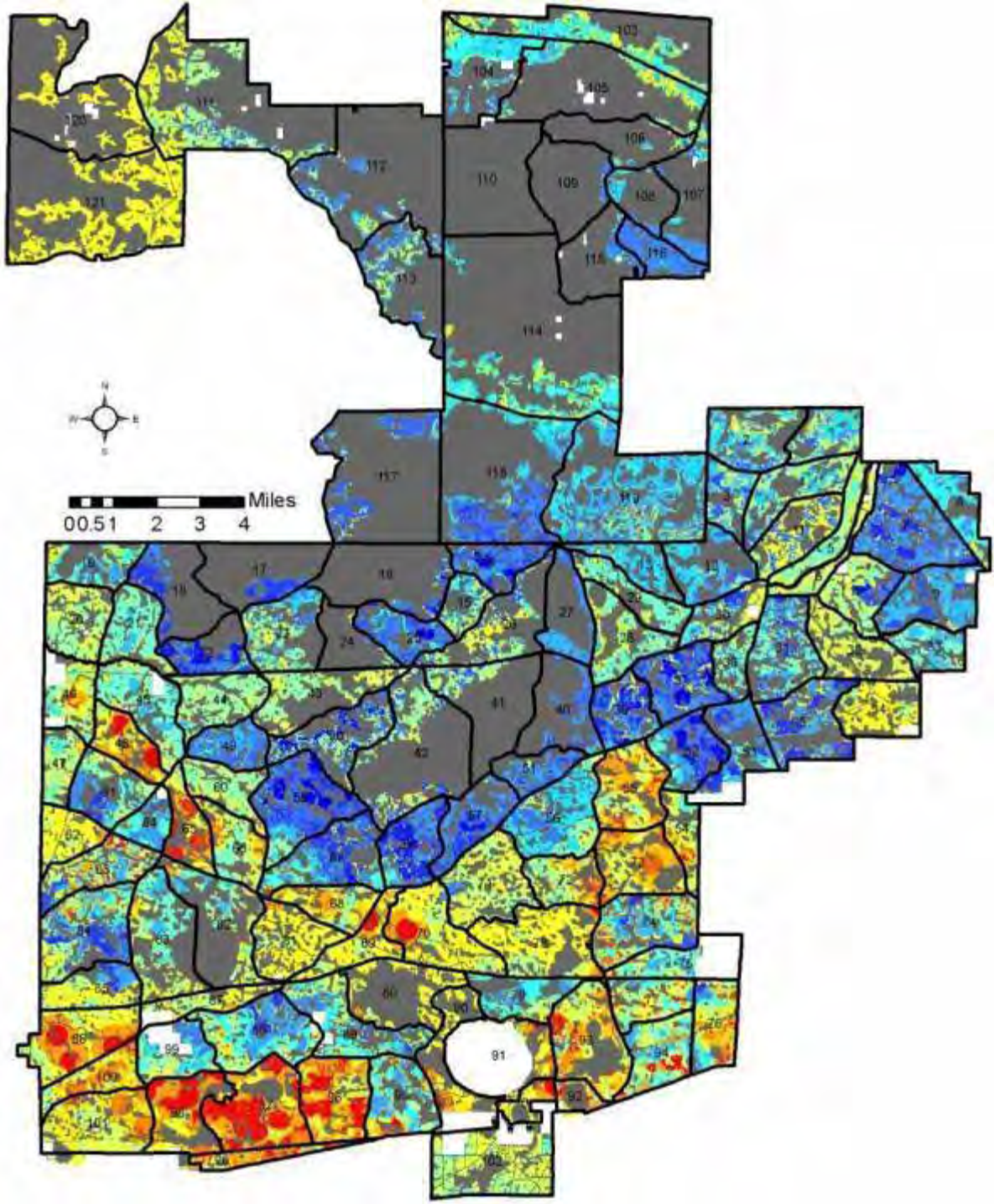
Sandhills

Tier	Acres
2	17,767
3	17,785
4	13,863
5	798

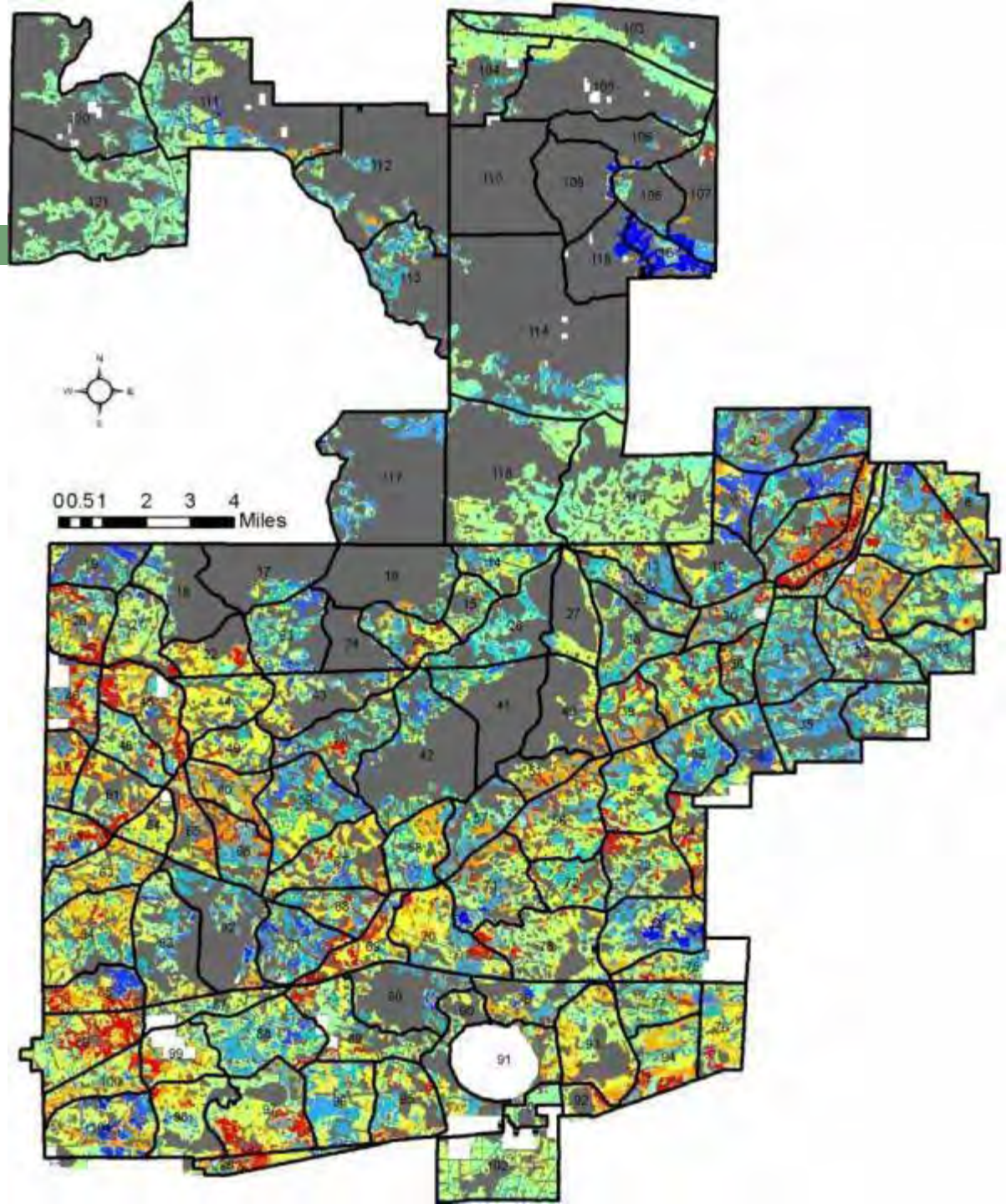
Fire:
Maintenance
Emphasis



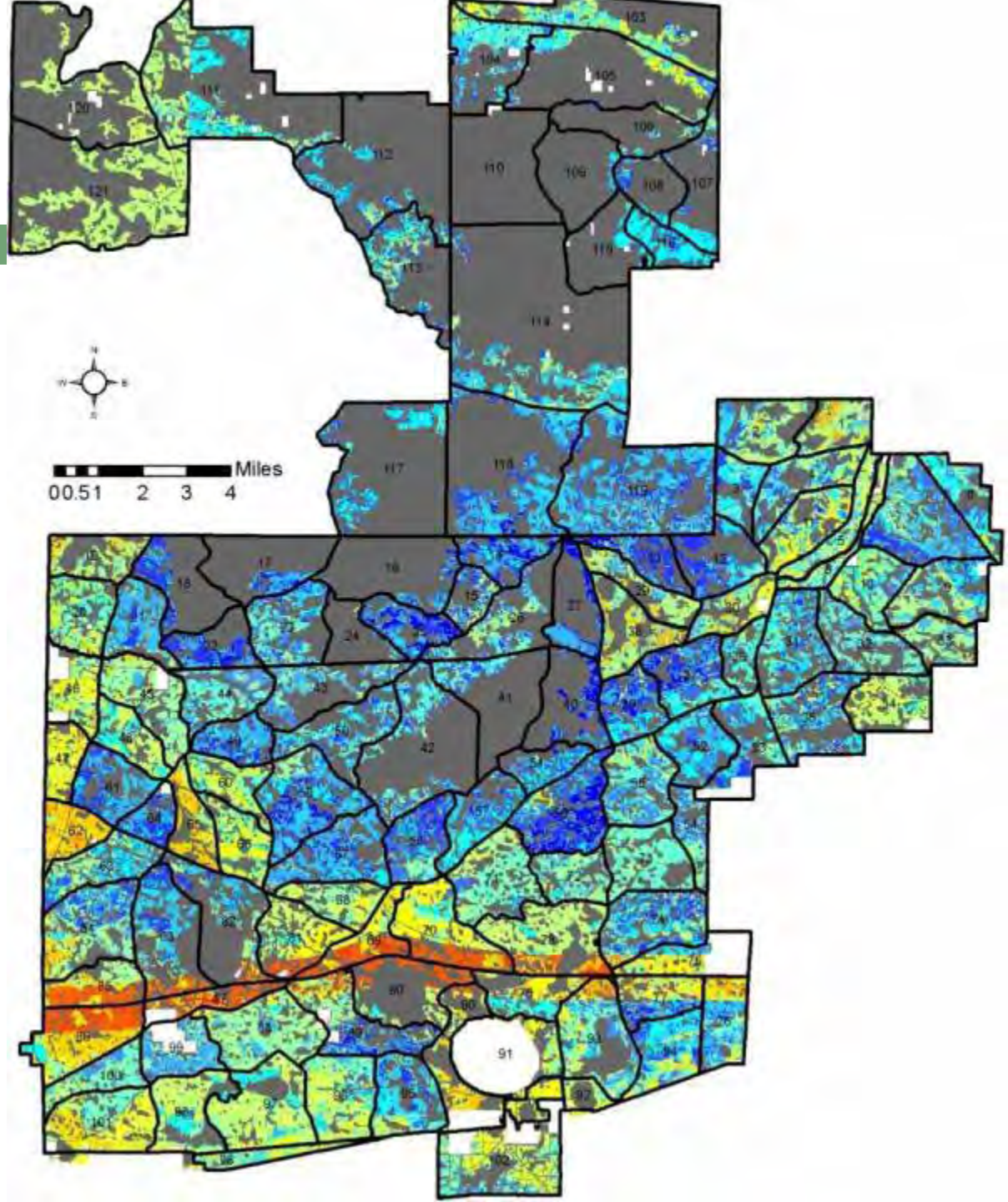
Fire:
Heavy Fuels and T&E
Species Emphasis



Timber Thinning

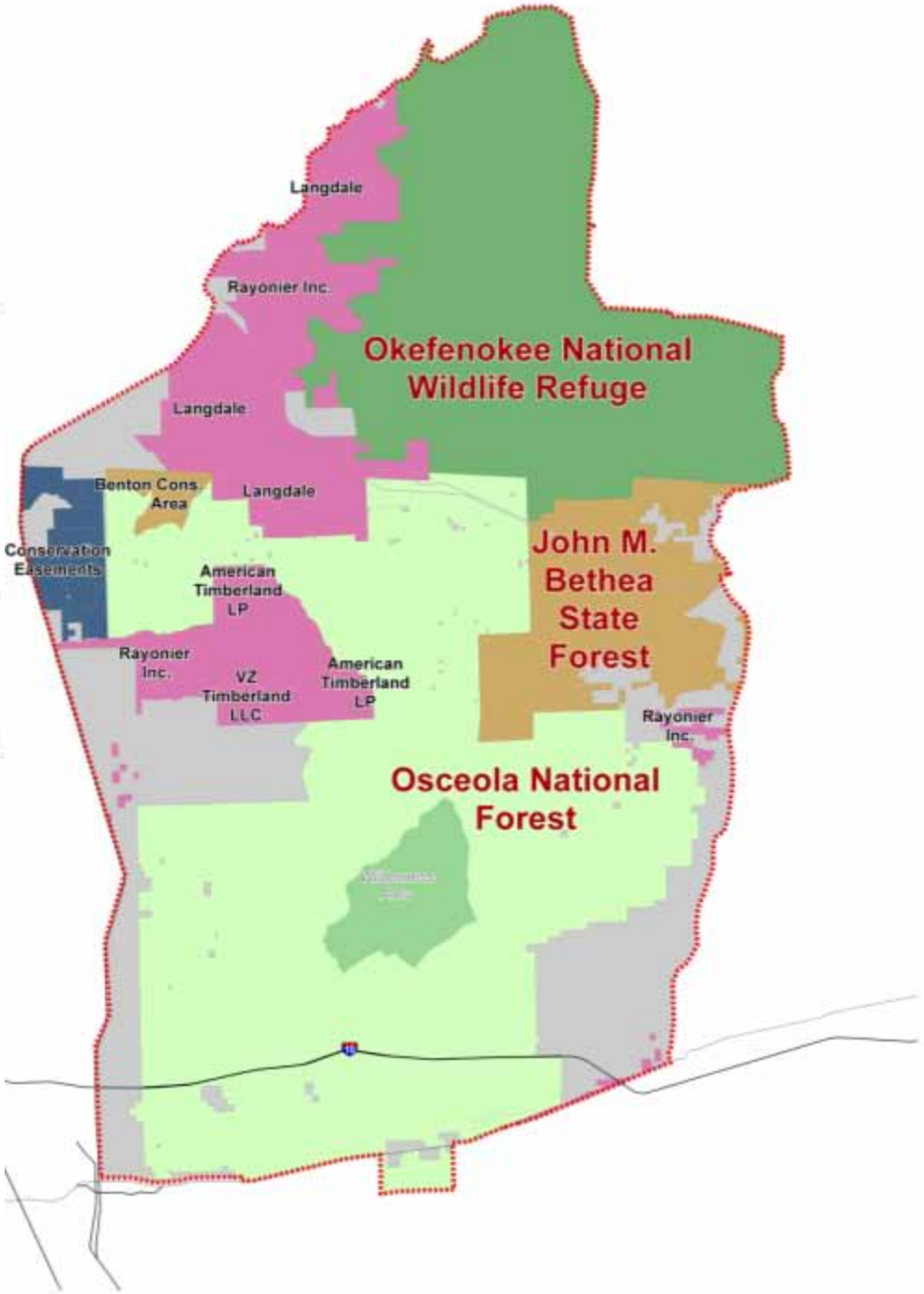


Mechanical Fuels Treatment



CFLR GOAL Area
Land Ownership

Land Owner	Acres	Percent
Federal	355,161	62.6
State	41,632	7.3
Private Cons. Easement	9,362	1.6
Private Ind. Timber	75,098	13.2
Private Nonindustrial	86,489	15.2
Total Acres	**567,742**	



Stakeholder Support

"These models provide a great roadmap for how the Forest Service will accomplish the goals and objectives in the Forest Plan that is otherwise lacking."

"Before using these mid-level planning tools, there appeared to be no rhyme-or-reason for individual site-specific projects – the only common denominator seemed to be the removal of timber. While maybe not so, it caused groups like WildLaw to question almost every proposed action."

"The models allow any issues of public concern to be resolved before time and effort have been put into site-specific projects."

"The models provide scientific support for the Forest Service's intentions, they increase the public's level of trust in the Forest Service as public land stewards, and lay a foundation for cooperative work between the Forest Service and conservation advocacy groups."

Q&A