

The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy

SECAS



PR & USVI



September 2019 Newsletter

Priorities for conservation in Southeastern states - Newly created list of “Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need”

by John Kanter and Bruce Stein, National Wildlife Federation

To provide greater clarity and focus for regional conservation and multi-state collaborations, a new “Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need (RSGCN)” list is now available. The National Wildlife Federation (NWF), as part of the Vital Futures project funded by the U.S. Geological Survey, initiated a process for identifying a set of regional priority species from the very large number of species collectively identified as priorities in the 15 Southeastern State Wildlife Action Plans. To see the list of RSGCNs and learn about how SECAS is already using them, [>>read this guest blog post by John Kanter and Bruce Stein with NWF...](#)

Recent trends for forested wetland birds

by Rua Mordecai, Coordinator for the Southeast and South Atlantic Blueprints

Rua has been working on synthesizing recent trends in Southeastern ecosystem indicators as part of this year’s report on progress toward the SECAS 10% goal. Forested wetland birds is one of the 12 indicators covered in the report. To check out how forested wetland birds are doing overall and in each state of the Southeast, [>>visit Rua's blog...](#)

New partnership focused on Piedmont prairies

by Rua Mordecai, Coordinator for the Southeast and South Atlantic Blueprints

More and more people seem to be talking about Piedmont prairies lately. It's another ecosystem that has gone through huge declines, but is starting to come back—thanks to the work of many dedicated people throughout the Piedmont. With all the interest in pollinators, history, and greenspace, it's also a great way to connect with the growing urban communities of the Piedmont. To learn about a new partnership working on Piedmont prairie conservation and restoration, [>>check out Rua's blog...](#)

Strategic forest and wildland fire management is necessary to safeguard urban water supplies

by Dennis Hallema, Hydrologist at the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station

Forest landscapes are key resource areas for urban water supplies. Recent research suggests longleaf pine restoration, maintained with prescribed burning, has the potential to substantially increase surface water availability. Compared to dense loblolly forests, longleaf pine savanna has lower evapotranspiration, lower water demand, and greater drought tolerance. To learn more about the link between forestry, fire, and water in the Southeast, [>>read this guest blog post by Dennis Hallema...](#)

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