

# Coastal Wildlife Conservation Initiative



# What is the Coastal Wildlife Conservation Initiative?

A partnership strategy to address coastal issues that impact wildlife and their habitats

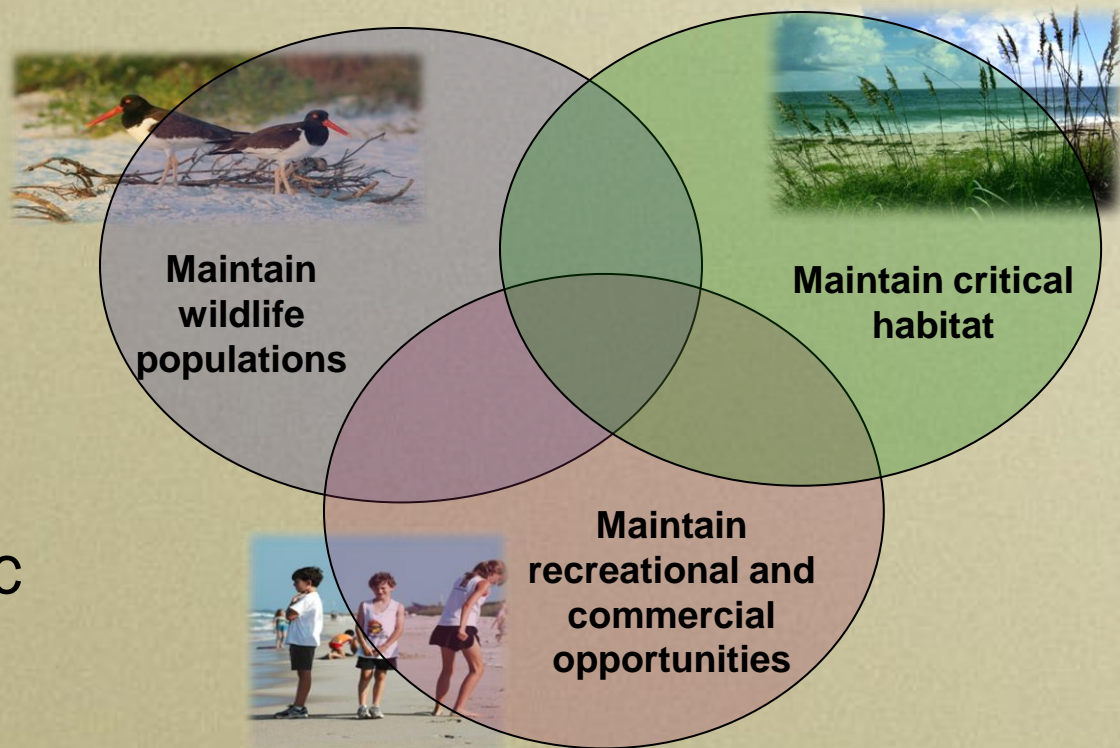


# CWCI Vision

*To ensure the long-term conservation of native wildlife in coastal ecosystems throughout Florida in balance with human activities*

## Goals:

- Wildlife
- Habitat
- Socioeconomic



# Why develop the CWCI?

- Initial Focus: Beaches (not limited to that)
- Most regulated habitat in Florida
- Issues – the same ones over & over
- FWC – statutory authority over wildlife
  - Doesn't manage any beaches!



# Coalition-Based Approach

- Examine nexus among existing programs
- Address gaps in
  - Information
  - Outreach
  - Management
- Coordinate on issues
  - Regional
  - Statewide



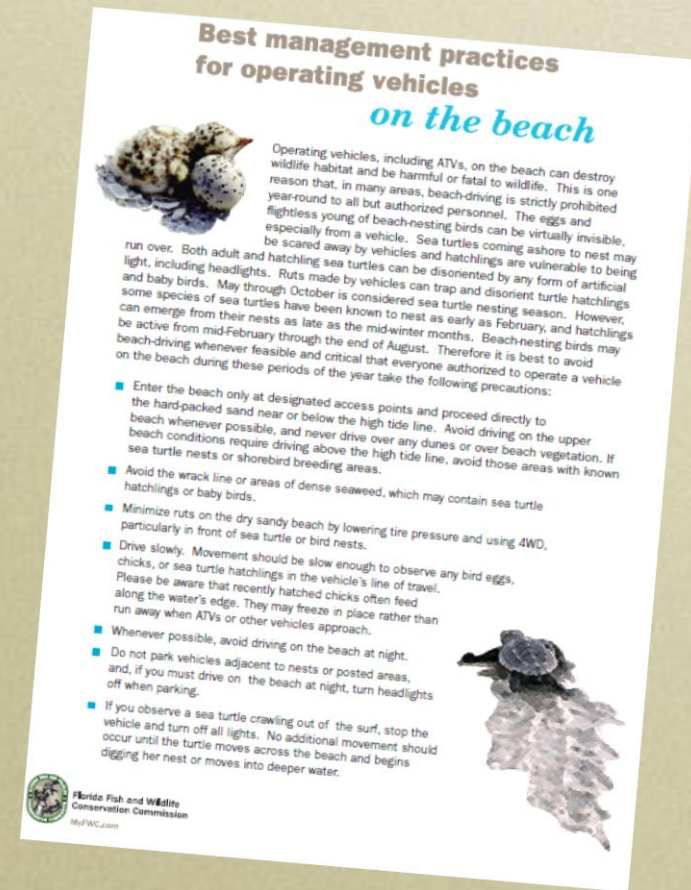
# CWCI Outcome: Resources

- A Partnership Network
  - Searchable database of contacts / agencies & programs
  - Success stories / cases
  - Track research needs / results
- Leverage existing resources and efforts
  - Educational programs
  - Management
  - Research



# CWCI Outcome: Resources

- Best Management Practices
- Guidelines
- Educational Materials



# Who is developing the CWCI?

- FWC –

Expertise & guidance from multiple divisions

- Partnerships are key–

Local Governments, Regional Agencies, State Agencies,  
Federal Agencies

- Stakeholder input is vital –

Community interests, conservation groups,  
researchers, commercial users, private property owners





# Why is a Statewide Initiative needed?

- Many declining species dependent upon coastal areas
  - 17 listed species and subspecies use the coastal zone for all or part of their life cycle
  - Difficulties of individual species management plans:
    - Exceed FWC staff capacity
    - Potential for conflicting recommendations



# Shorebirds



- More than 30 species use Florida's coasts
- 6 listed species, 1 candidate species
- Require foraging, roosting, and nesting sites
- Use sandy beaches, mudflats, and dunes
- Threats:
  - habitat loss
  - habitat degradation
  - disturbance



# Sea Turtles

- 5 species nest on Florida's beaches
- All are listed
- Threats:
  - coastal armoring
  - habitat loss
  - artificial lighting
  - beach nourishment
  - predation
  - disturbance
  - pollution



# Beach Mice

- 6 subspecies in Florida
  - 5 are federally listed
- Inhabit frontal and scrub dunes
- Threats:
  - habitat loss
  - fragmentation



# Salt Marsh & Coastal Scrub



- Florida Mouse
- Seaside Sparrow
- Marsh Wren
- Florida Salt Marsh Vole
- Gulf Salt Marsh Mink
- Black Rail



# Why is a Statewide Initiative needed?

- Many declining species dependent on coastal areas
- Increasing conflict between wildlife needs and human activities



# Conflict: Human v. Human



# Conflict: Human v. Habitat





# Conflict: Human v. Wildlife



# Conflict: Wildlife v. Wildlife



# Why is a Statewide Initiative needed?

- Many declining species dependent on coastal areas
- Increasing conflict between wildlife needs and human activities
- Magnitude of existing threats and emerging issues



# Threats to Wildlife and Habitat

- Habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation



# Threats to Wildlife and Habitat



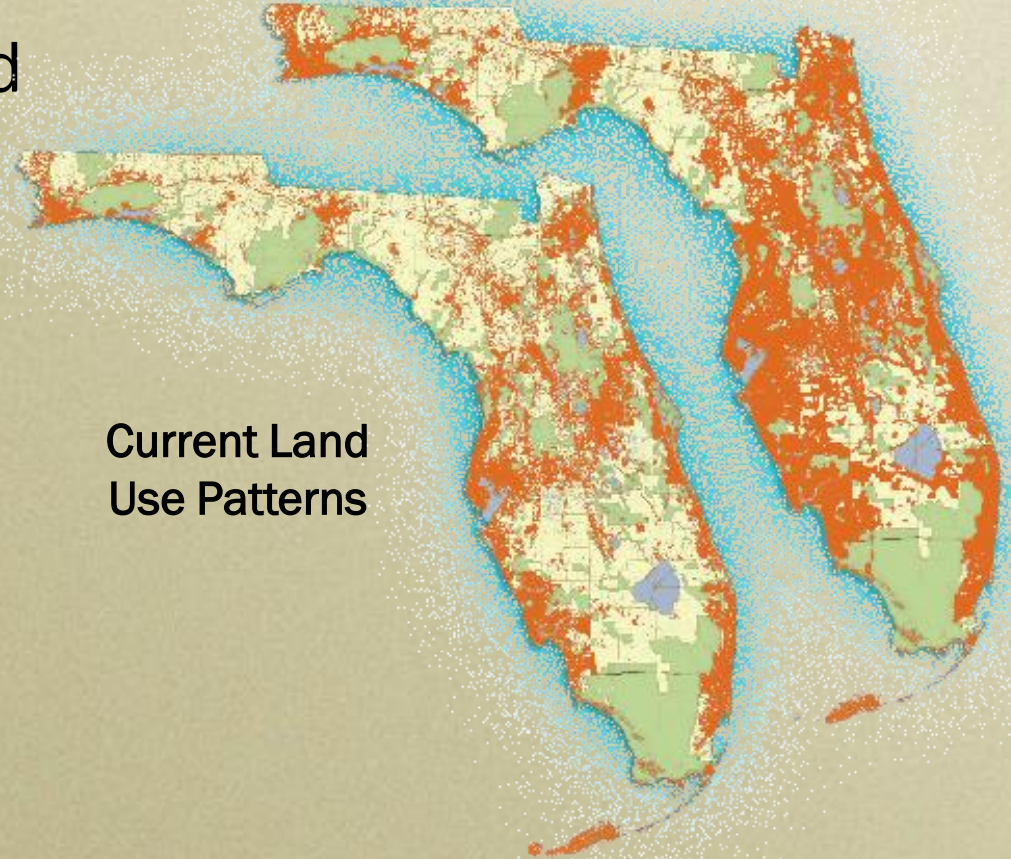
- Disturbance to wildlife



# Emerging Issues

- Sea Level Rise
- Impacts of projected population growth

Projected Land Use in 2060



Current Land Use Patterns

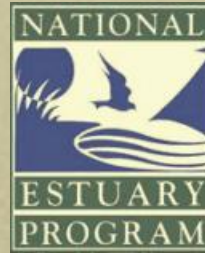


# Why is a Statewide Initiative needed?

- Many declining species dependent on coastal areas
- Increasing conflict between wildlife needs and human activities
- Magnitude of existing threats and emerging issues
- Many agencies and groups have a stake



# Why is a Statewide Initiative needed?





# Coastal Economics

- Beaches & near shore coastal waters –  
33M tourists/yr  
\$56B and 900,000 jobs
- Saltwater anglers –  
2M contribute \$3B in retail sales
- Florida State Parks –  
\$936M direct benefit to local economies
- Coastal real estate –  
367,000 properties  
\$2B in property tax revenues





Where do we go from here?



# CWCI Action Plan

- I. Partners identify conservation actions
  - Where do the actions fit within the CWCI goals and objectives?
  - What strategies are needed?



# Key Strategies

- Education and Outreach
- Research
- Habitat Protection Measures
- Management of Wildlife and Habitat
- Regulatory Processes
- Voluntary Programs
- Incentive-based Programs
- Economic



# CWCI Action Plan

## II. Tool Shed Inventory

### FWC Tools:

Florida Shorebird Alliance

Florida Bird Conservation Initiative

Climate Change Initiative

Wildlife Legacy Initiative

Marine Turtle Program

Florida Beaches Habitat Conservation Plan



# Organize the Tool Shed

- Coastal Programs Database
  - Partners contribute information on their programs
- Web-based Access
  - Share the keys



# CWCI Action Plan

## III. Examine connections between existing coastal management programs

- Include all levels of government & non-governmental programs
- Identify areas of overlap
- Identify gaps
  - Functionally
  - Geographically



# Statewide Gaps: FDEP

- Lack of coordination among & within agencies
- Response to disturbance of wildlife
- Impact of enforcement
- Management / protection of spoil islands & lands below MHWL
- Communication of research results
- Ecological carrying capacity for recreational use
- Public perception of a “healthy beach”



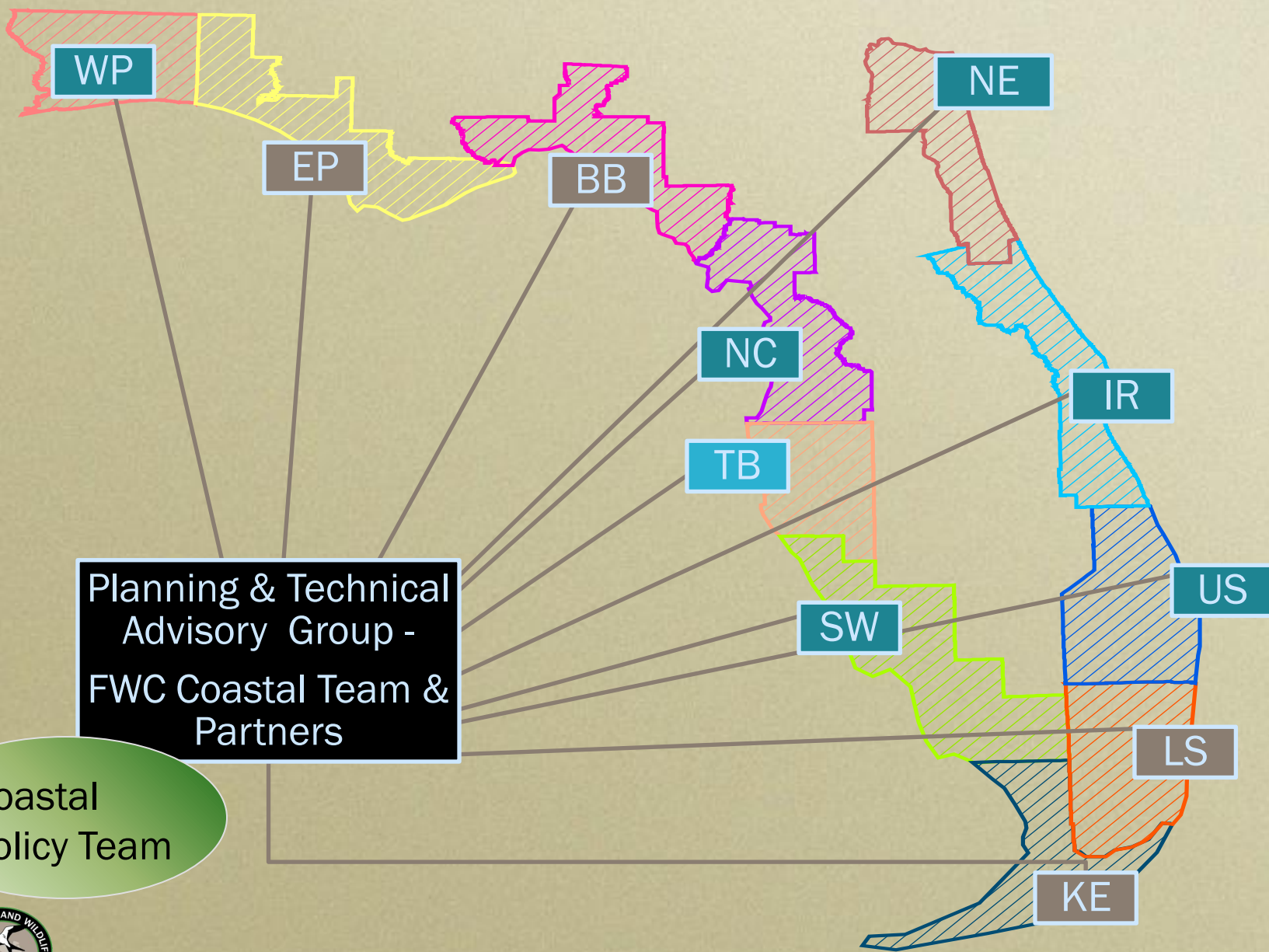


# CWCI Action Plan

## IV. Develop a CWCI Policy Team and Regional Working Groups

- Build upon the CWCI Framework
- Address regional and statewide issues – strategies, opportunities, creative techniques
- Explore funding mechanisms



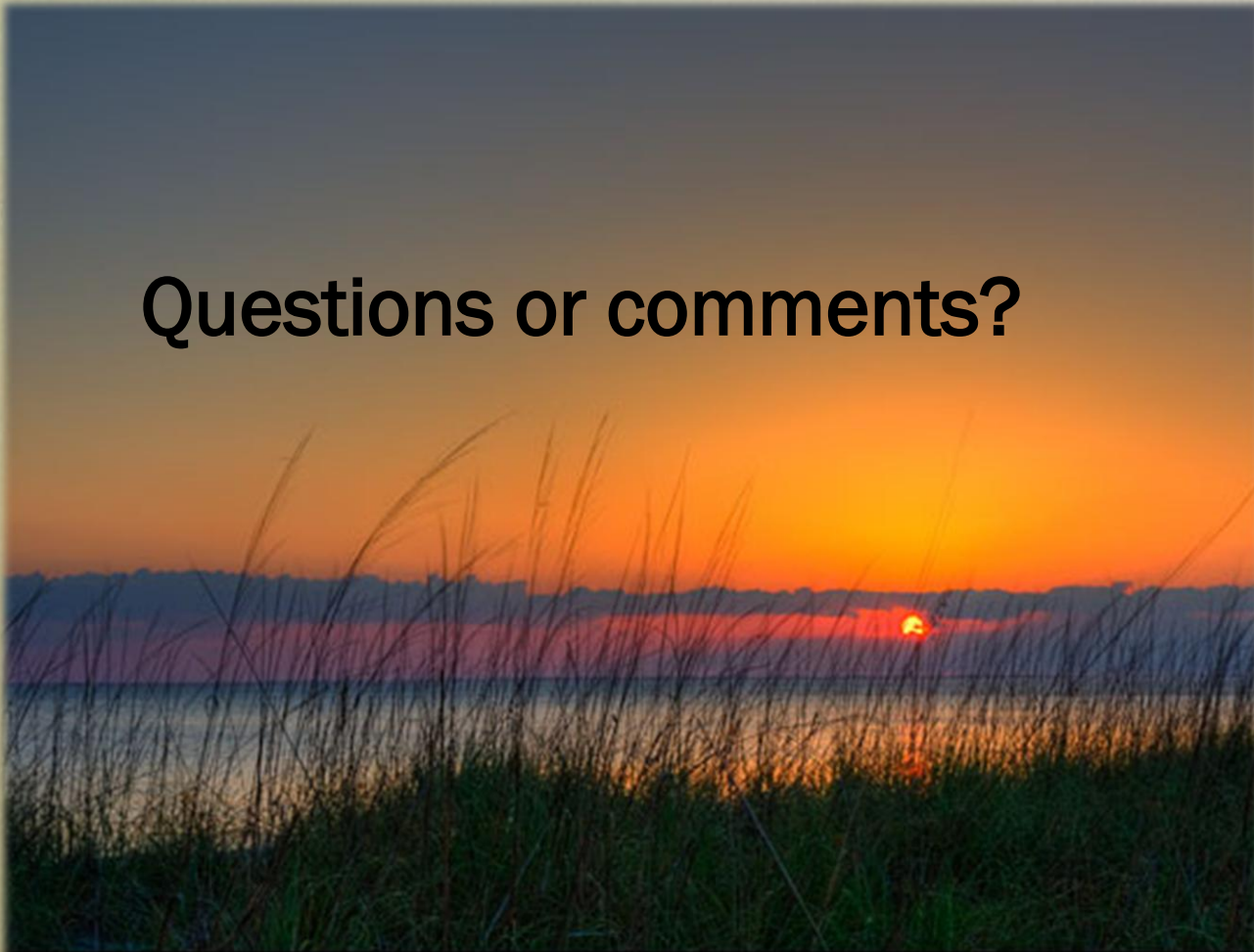


# CWCI = Partnership Network

- Understand existing programs
- Identify common objectives and needs
- Coordinate efforts & combine resources
- Find solutions to our most pressing issues



Questions or comments?



Florida State Parks 2010 Photo Contest  
[www.FloridaStateParks.org](http://www.FloridaStateParks.org)

Photo By Stan Grigski  
Lovers Key State Park





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