

The Nature Conservancy & EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program: A Developing Partnership

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Presentation Overview

- The Conservancy & how it plans to achieve mission success
- *Gulf Wings*: protecting stopover habitat
- TNC and EPA's GOMP: a congruence of interests
- Migratory birds as a connecting theme
- TNC's EPA "task lists" for FY03 & 04
- Connecting with large scale programs
- TNC & GOMP: a high yield partnership



The Nature Conservancy's Mission

To preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

The Nature Conservancy

- Founded 1951
- > 1 million members
- 600 offices
 - in US, Canada + 28 other countries of Asia-Pacific, Latin America, & the Caribbean. Newest = Australia
- 93 million acres protected globally; 1400 preserves in U.S.



The Nature Conservancy

- Total support & revenue \$546M (FY01)
- 88% efficiency rating (programs and land acquisitions)
- 61% of support from individuals, 8% government awards, 29% corporations & foundations
- 10th largest US non-profit in 2001

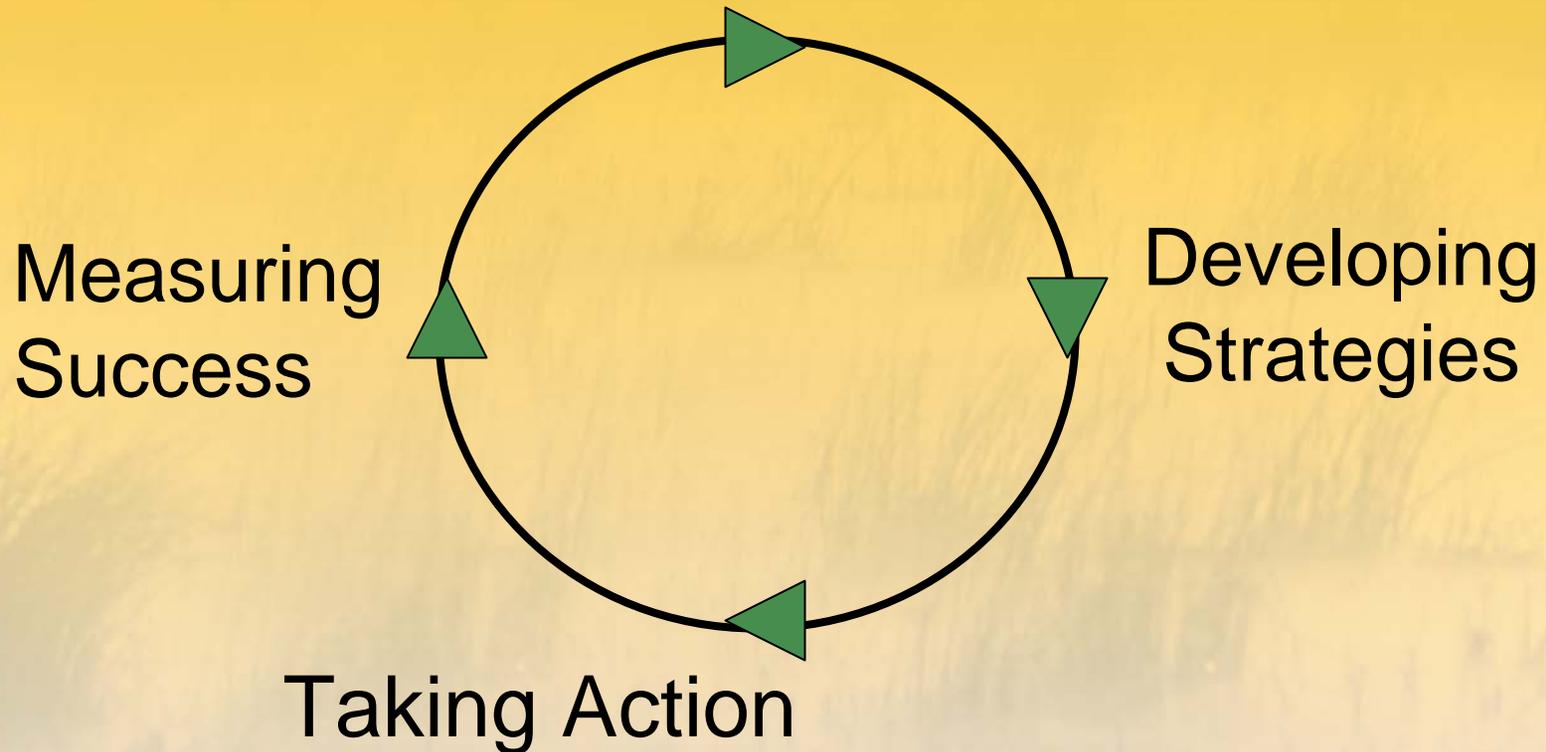
The Nature Conservancy: Global Organization

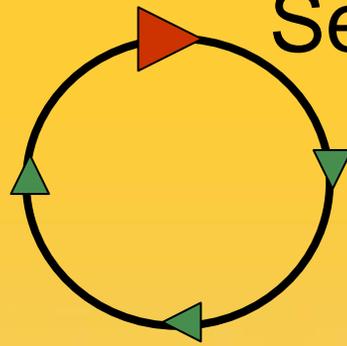
- Board of Governors (Anthony Grassi, chair)
- CEO-- Steve McCormick
- Geographic Operating Units
 - State Chapters; Country Programs
- Cross-cutting Initiatives
 - Fire
 - Freshwater
 - Climate Change
 - Marine
 - Invasive Species
- Migratory Bird Program



Conservation by Design

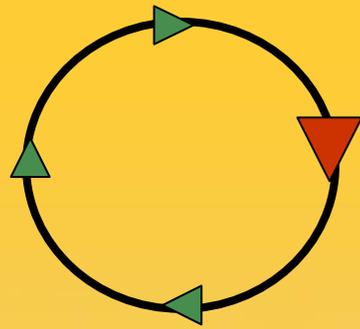
Setting Priorities





Ecoregional Planning

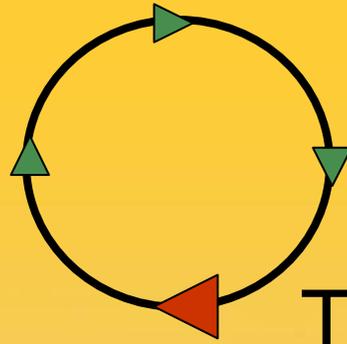
- Identify species, communities & systems
- Set goals for these targets
- Design a network of areas (portfolio)
- Select highest priority areas for Conservancy action



Developing
Strategies

Conservation Area Planning

- 5-S Framework
 - Systems
 - Stresses (threats)
 - Sources (of threats)
 - Strategies
 - Success Measures
- Multi-area, multi-scale strategies

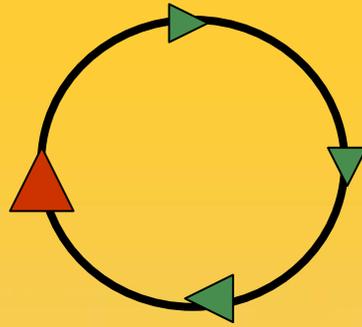


Taking Action

“Conservationist’s Toolkit”

- Buy and manage
- Develop voluntary agreements
- Train partners & build capacity
- Outreach
- Work with agencies for effective use of public funds

Measuring
Success



Holding Ourselves Accountable

- Ecological Factors
 - Size, condition, landscape context
- Level of Threat (low, med, high)
- Organizational Measures
 - No. of landscapes & other areas
 - Membership
 - Private & public dollars secured
 - New Partnerships

Gulf Wings

Protecting Stopover Habitat around the Gulf



Gulf of MX migratory routes

- 600-mile crossing:
 - do-or-die
- spectacular “fall-outs” at coastal sites
- huge coastal development pressure
- 250+ species; breed across e. NA

85% of adult mortality of Black-throated Blue Warbler occurs on migration.

T. S. Sillett & R. T. Holmes 2002

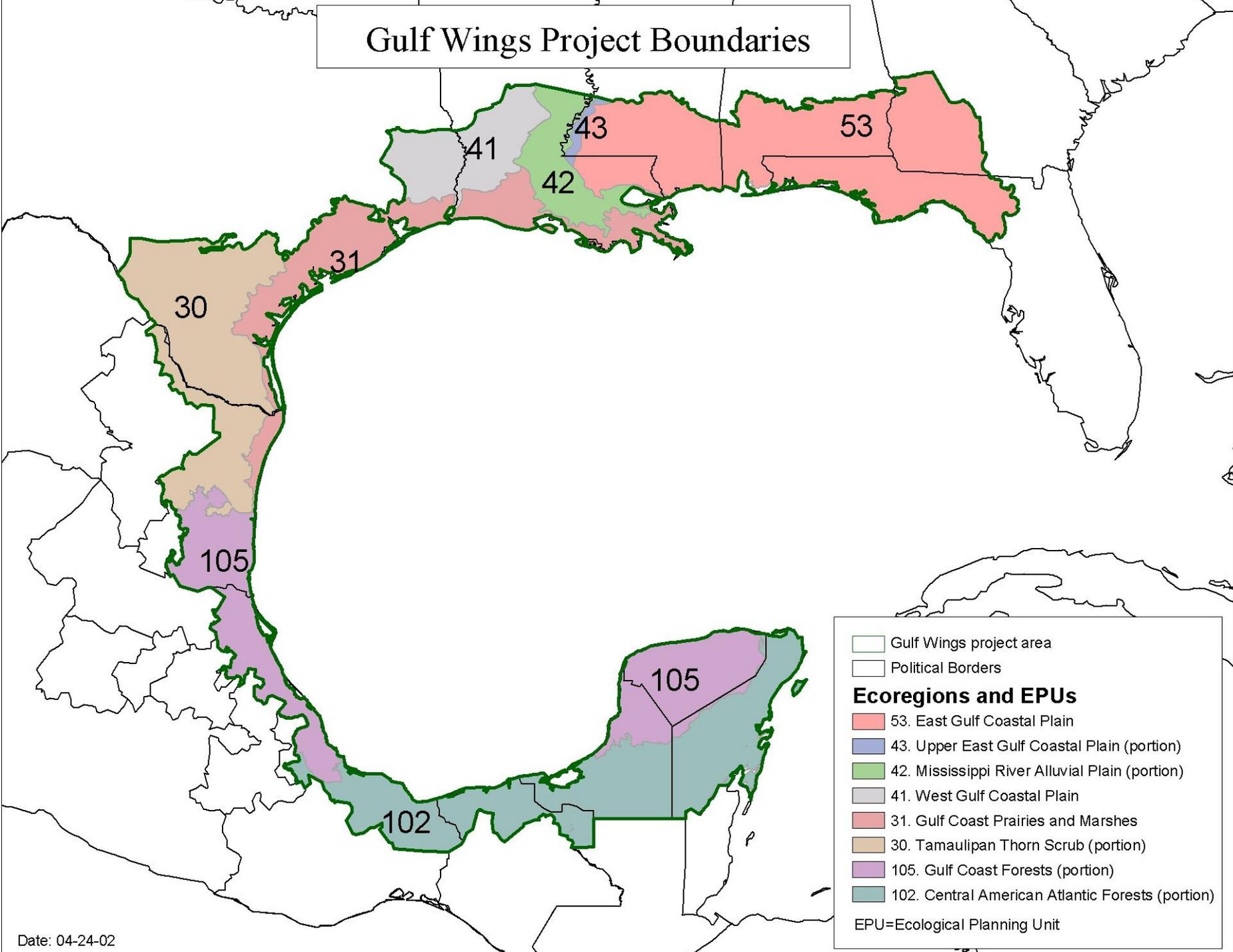


Gulf Wings Mission

To conserve the critically threatened stopover habitat around the Gulf of Mexico crucial to the survival of the many North American bird species whose migratory routes converge on this area.



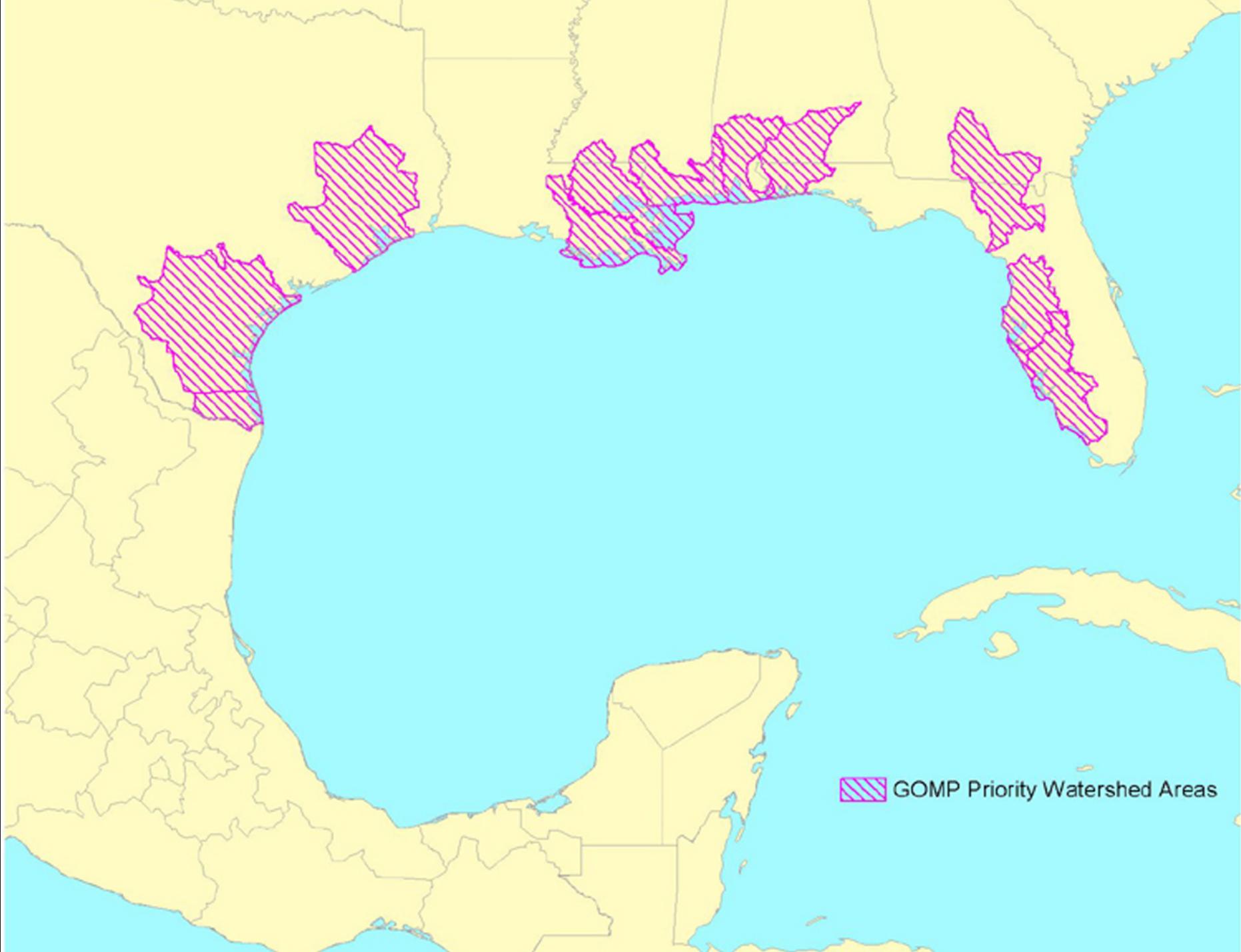
Gulf Wings Project Boundaries



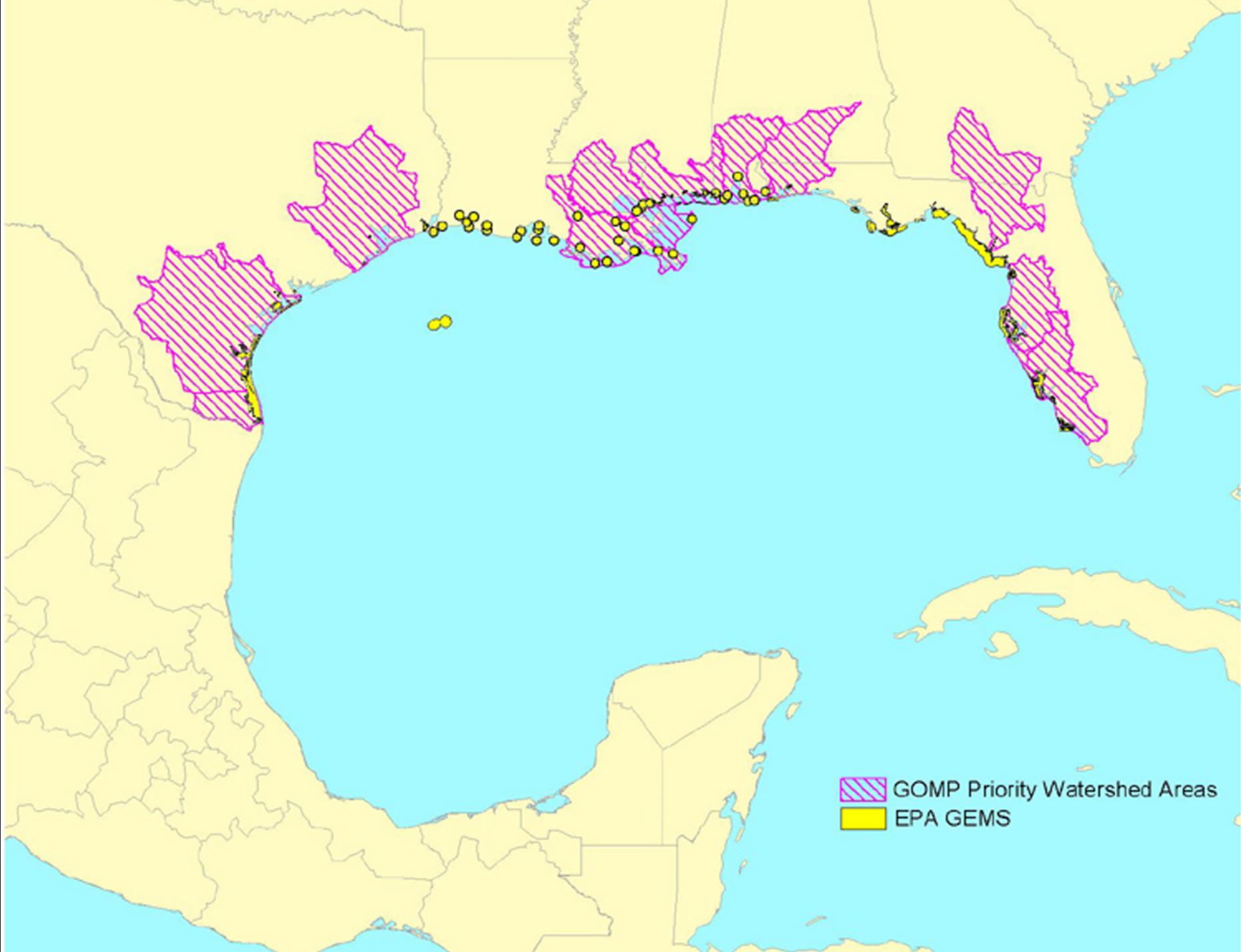
EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program Objectives

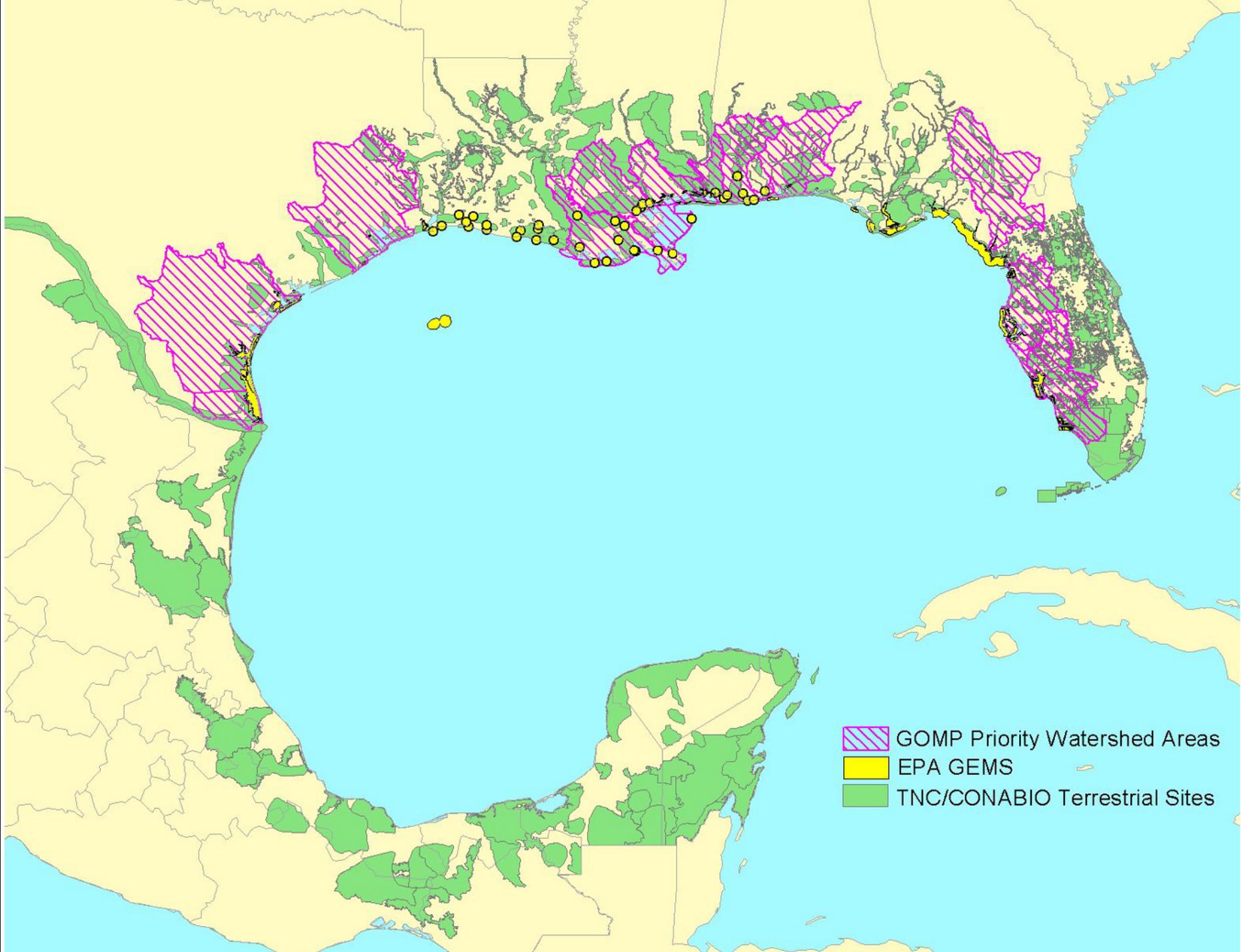
- Restore water quality in 12 priority watersheds
- Protect public health
- Restore, enhance, and protect habitat:
 - 2,400 acres/yr; 20,000 acres by 2009
 - Includes support of Gulf Ecological Management Sites (GEMS)
- Reduce area extent of Gulf hypoxia
- Foster stewardship & community among residents and tourists



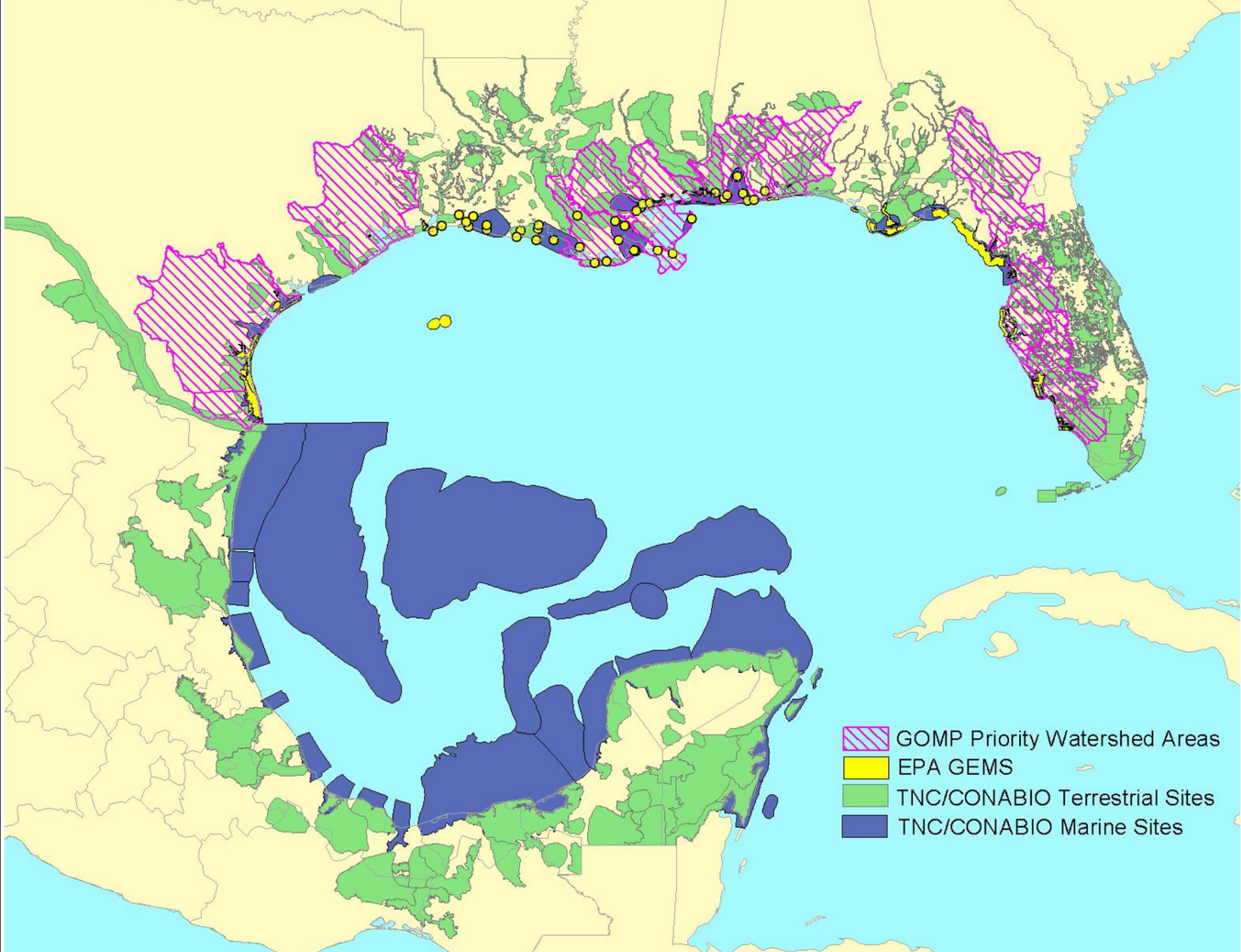


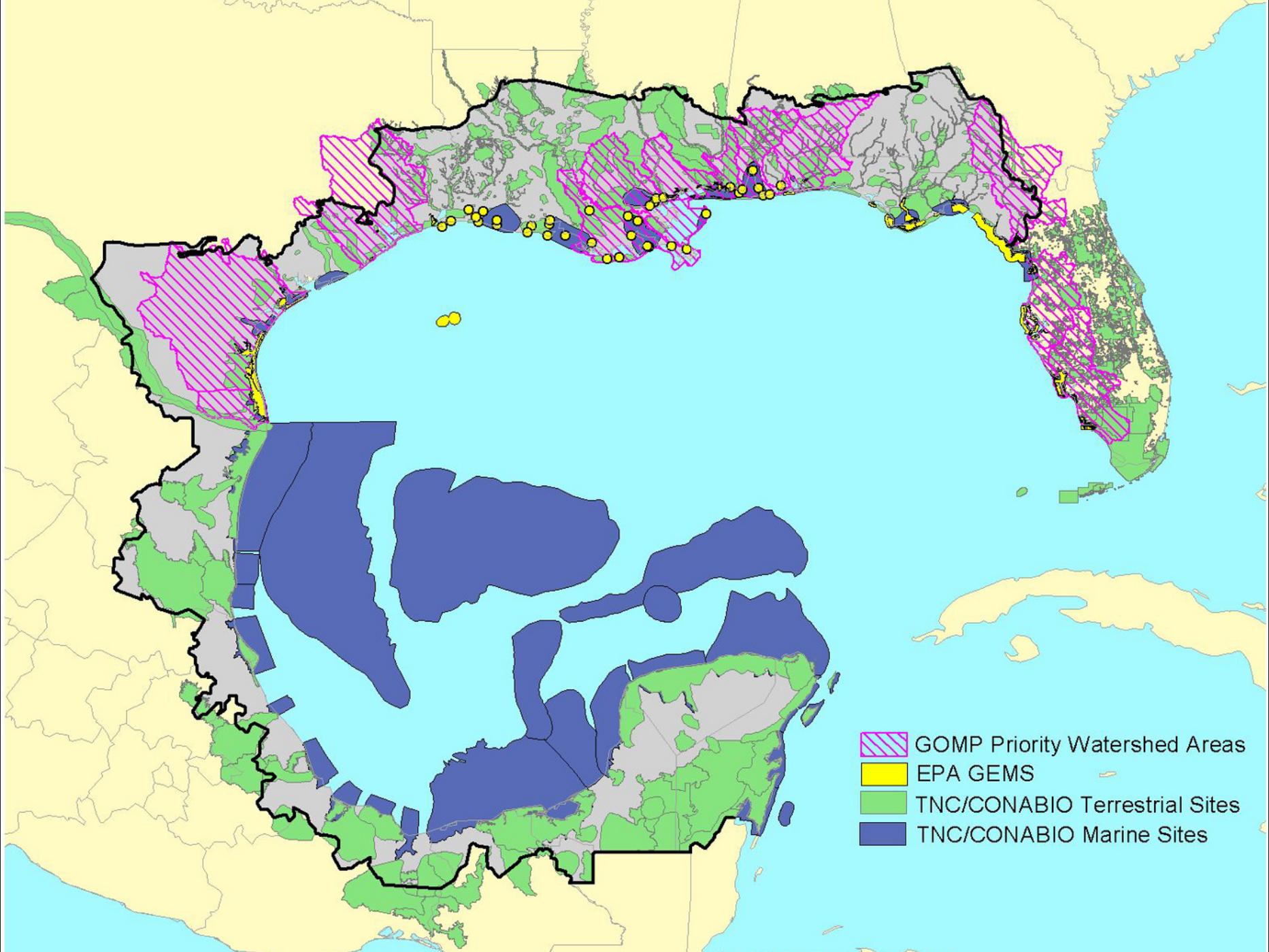
 GOMP Priority Watershed Areas



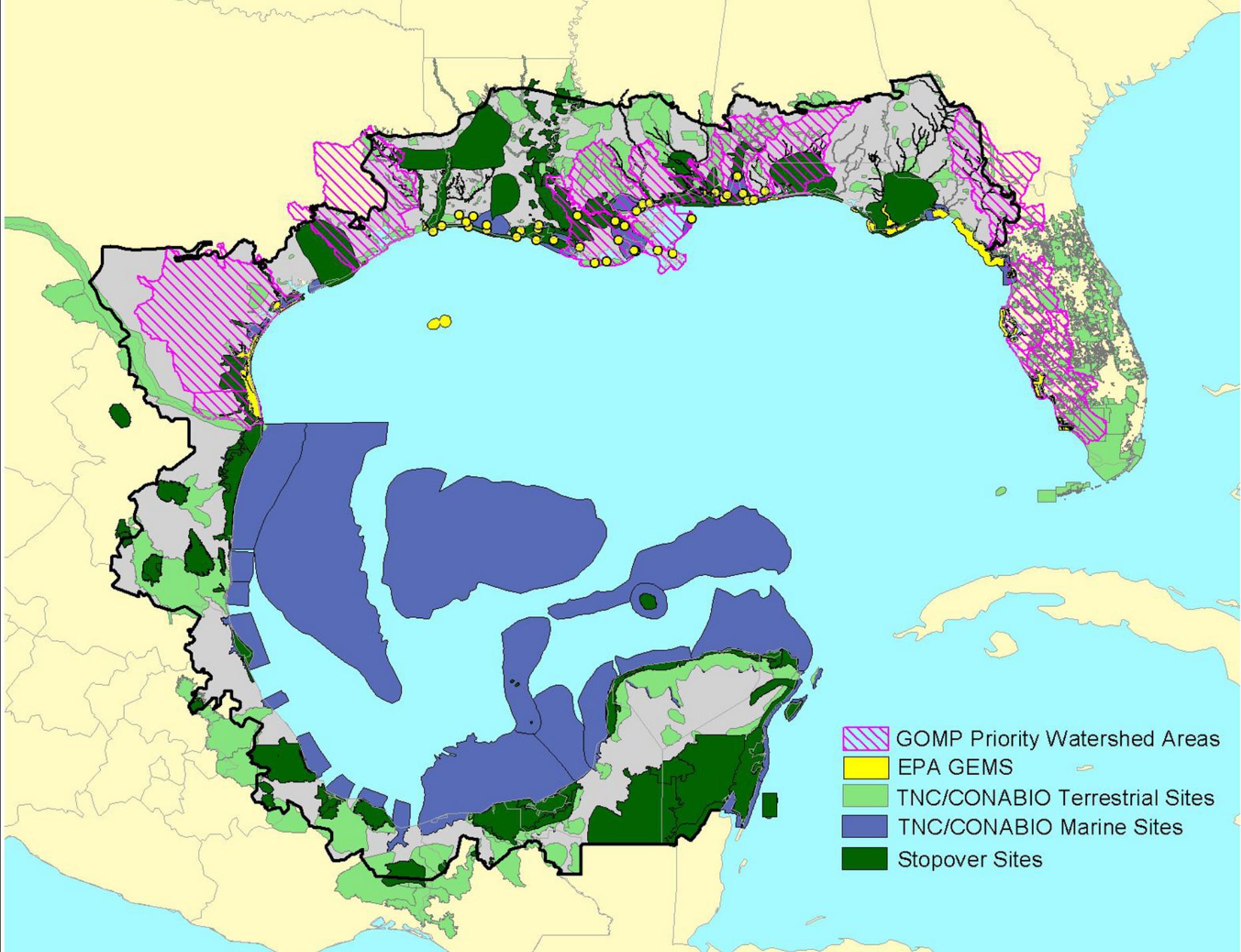


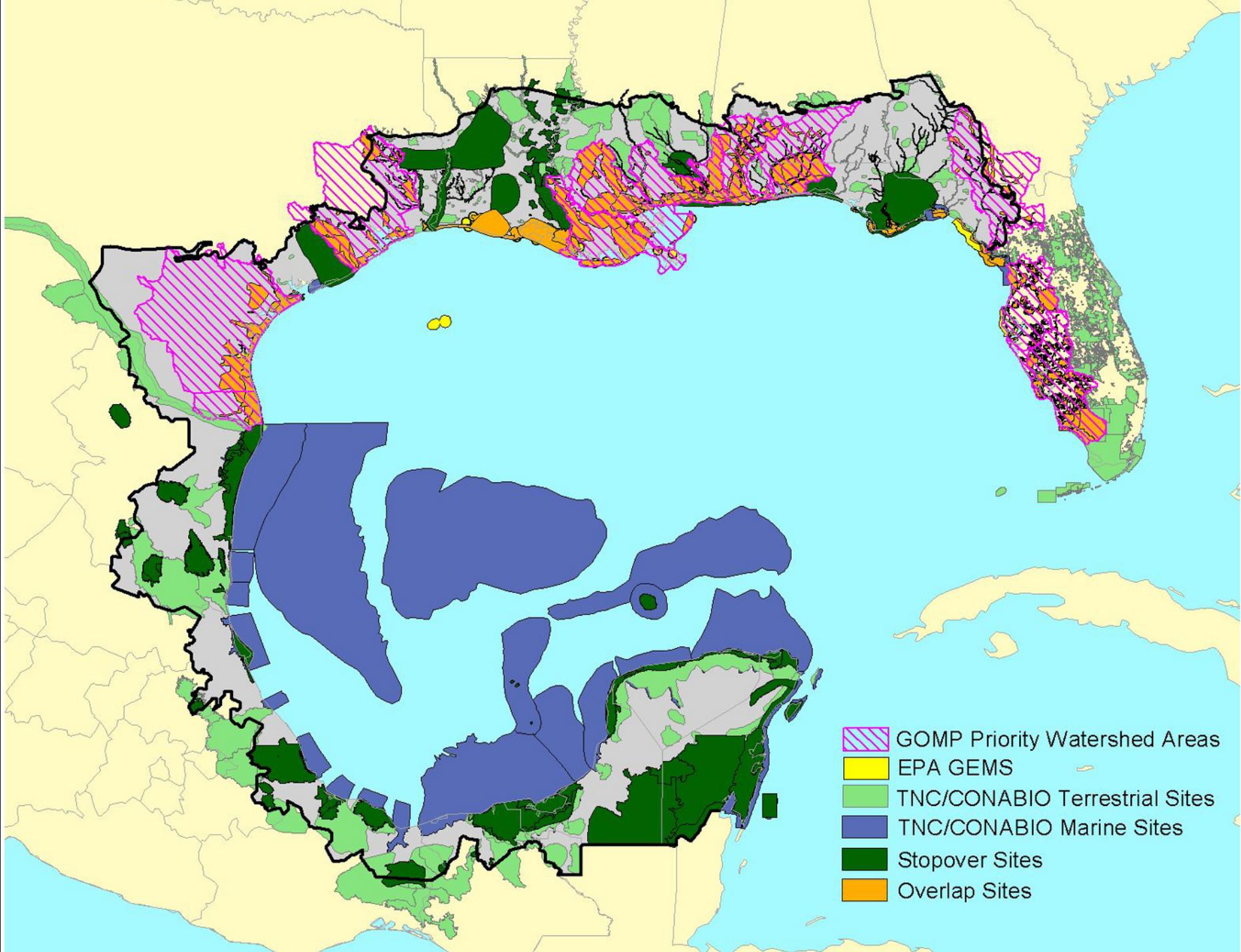
-  GOMP Priority Watershed Areas
-  EPA GEMS
-  TNC/CONABIO Terrestrial Sites

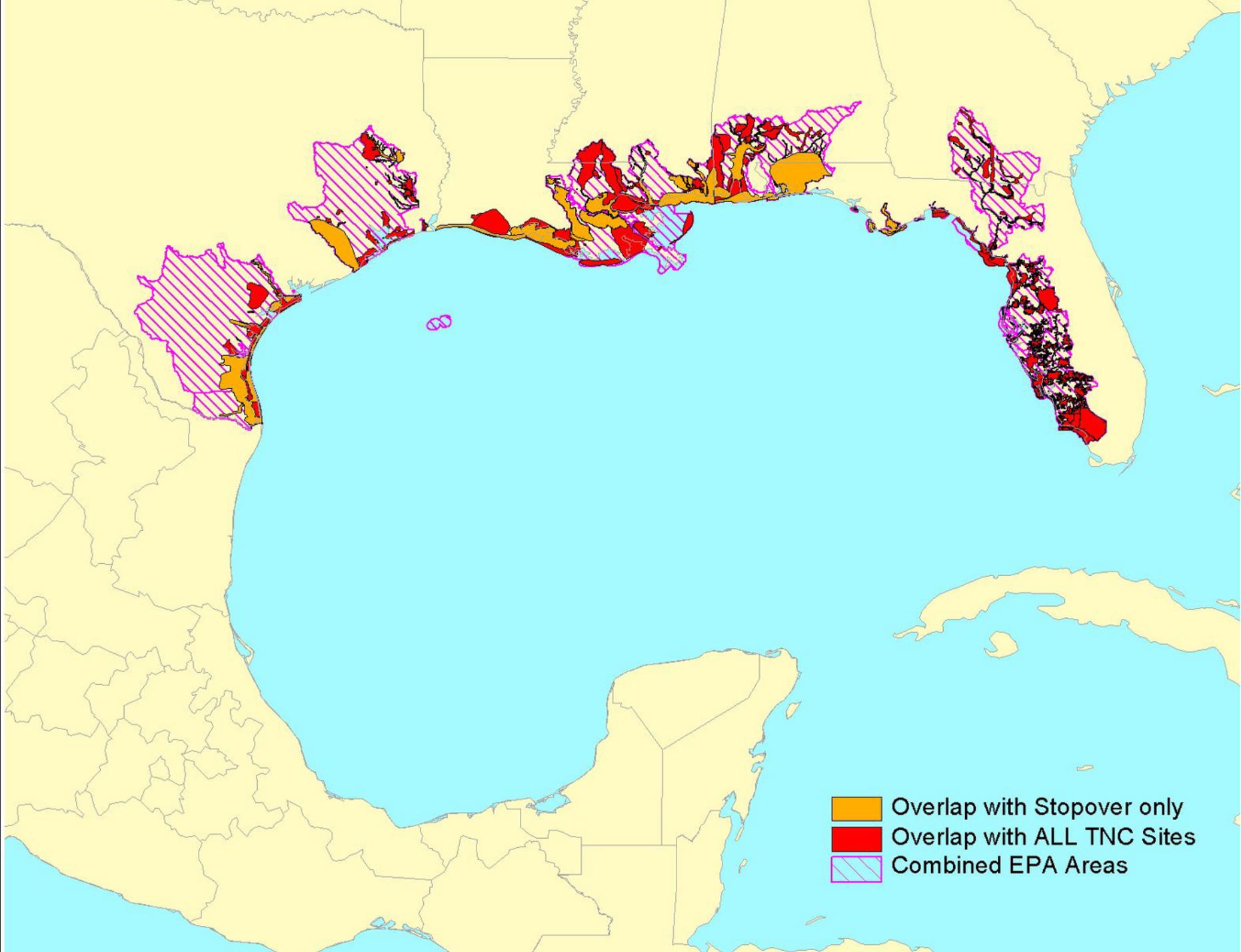




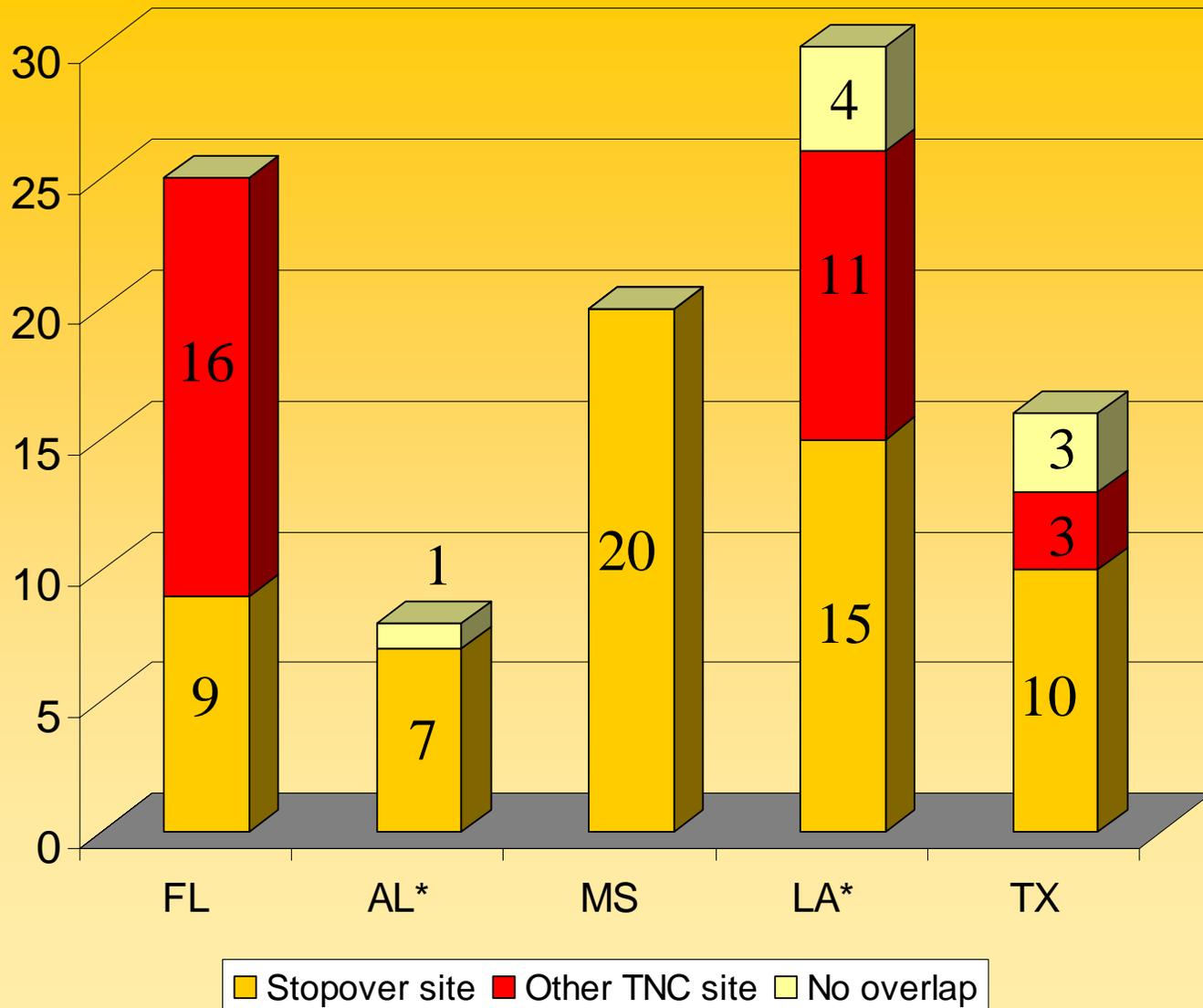
-  GOMP Priority Watershed Areas
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-  TNC/CONABIO Terrestrial Sites
-  TNC/CONABIO Marine Sites







91% of GEMS are TNC sites 62% are Gulf Wings Stopover sites

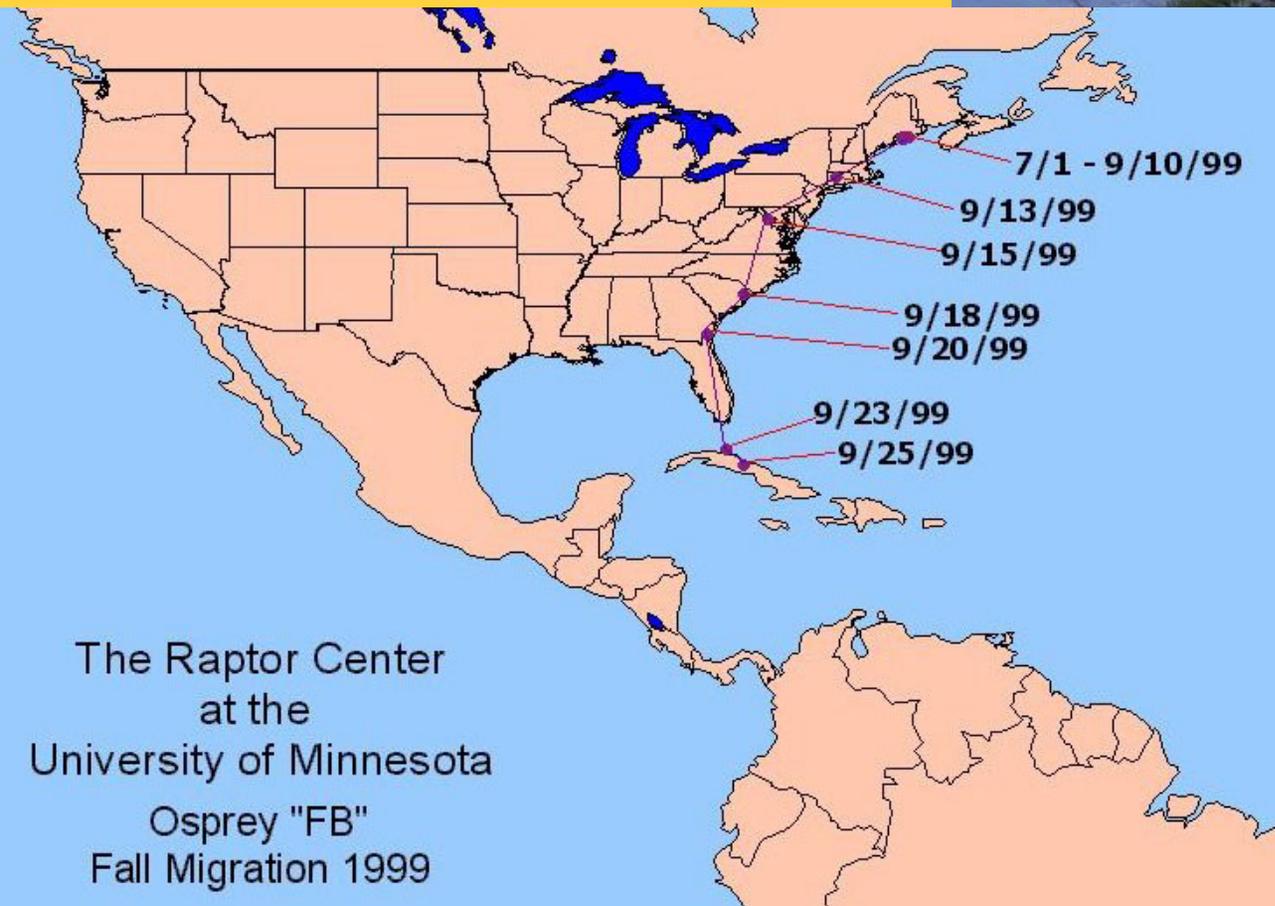


*Only point coordinates were available for GEMS in AL & LA, not true coverages

Migratory Birds Connect Places & People



D. Pierce releases Osprey,
Sutton I., Maine



The Raptor Center
at the
University of Minnesota
Osprey "FB"
Fall Migration 1999

Migratory Birds Connect Places & People

- 63 million Americans (31%) spend \$\$ watching wildlife (birds, primarily)
- 24 million Americans travel to watch wildlife
- \$38B spent in 2001 watching wildlife
 - Fishing \$35B,
 - Hunting: \$20.3B
 - *cf.* Walt Disney: \$25B

2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting
& Wildlife-Associated Recreation

Migratory Birds Connect Places & People



If wildlife-watching were a corporation, it would be # 37 on the Fortune 500 list.

- behind Merrill Lynch, and ahead of AOL TimeWarner

TNC & GOMP FY 03 Proposal

TNC will

1. hire a director to coordinate Gulf of MX conservation,
2. sponsor 6-mo staff exchange (US-MX),
3. conduct an expert workshop each year to focus on a multi-site threat & strategies to abate it.

TNC & GOMP

FY 04 Proposal (*Gulf Wings*)

“Stopover & beyond”

1. Weather surveillance radar & GIS layers
2. A Gulf-wide conservation vision
3. Conservation blueprint for Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership
4. Integrate with JVs, PIF, NABCI
5. Build partner capacity in Mexico
6. Identify cross-cutting threats & strategies
7. Demonstrate why Gulf conservation is of national & international importance

North American Bird Conservation Initiative & Joint Ventures

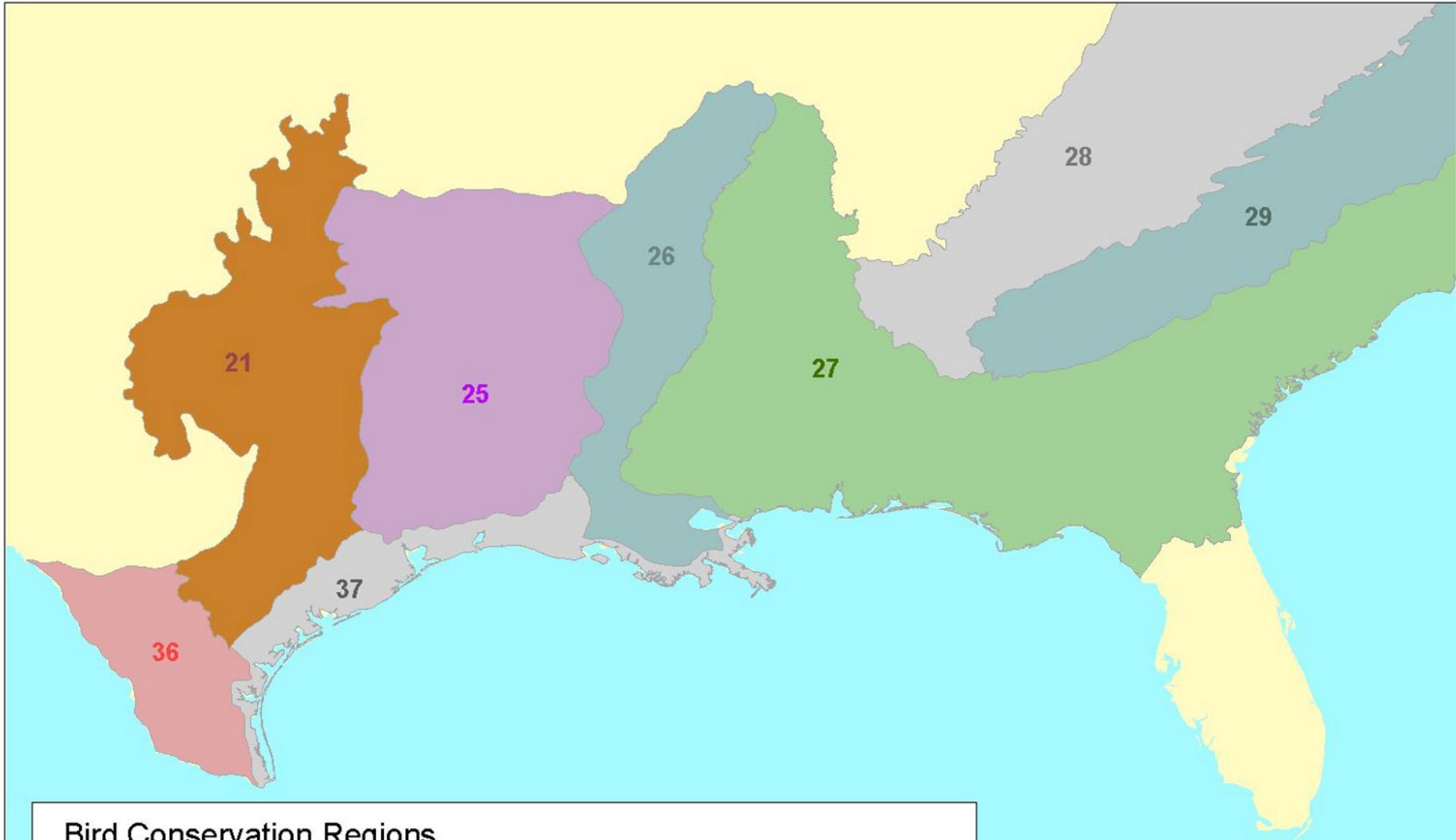
- NABCI
 - Canada, U.S. and Mexico
 - A vision & a forum
 - *not* a decision-making authority
- Joint Ventures
 - created by N. A. Waterfowl Mgmt Plan
 - delivery vehicle for conservation action:
 - * State Wildlife Program Grants,
 - * NAWCA,
 - * Neotropical Migratory Bird Conserv'n Act



Bird Conservation Regions

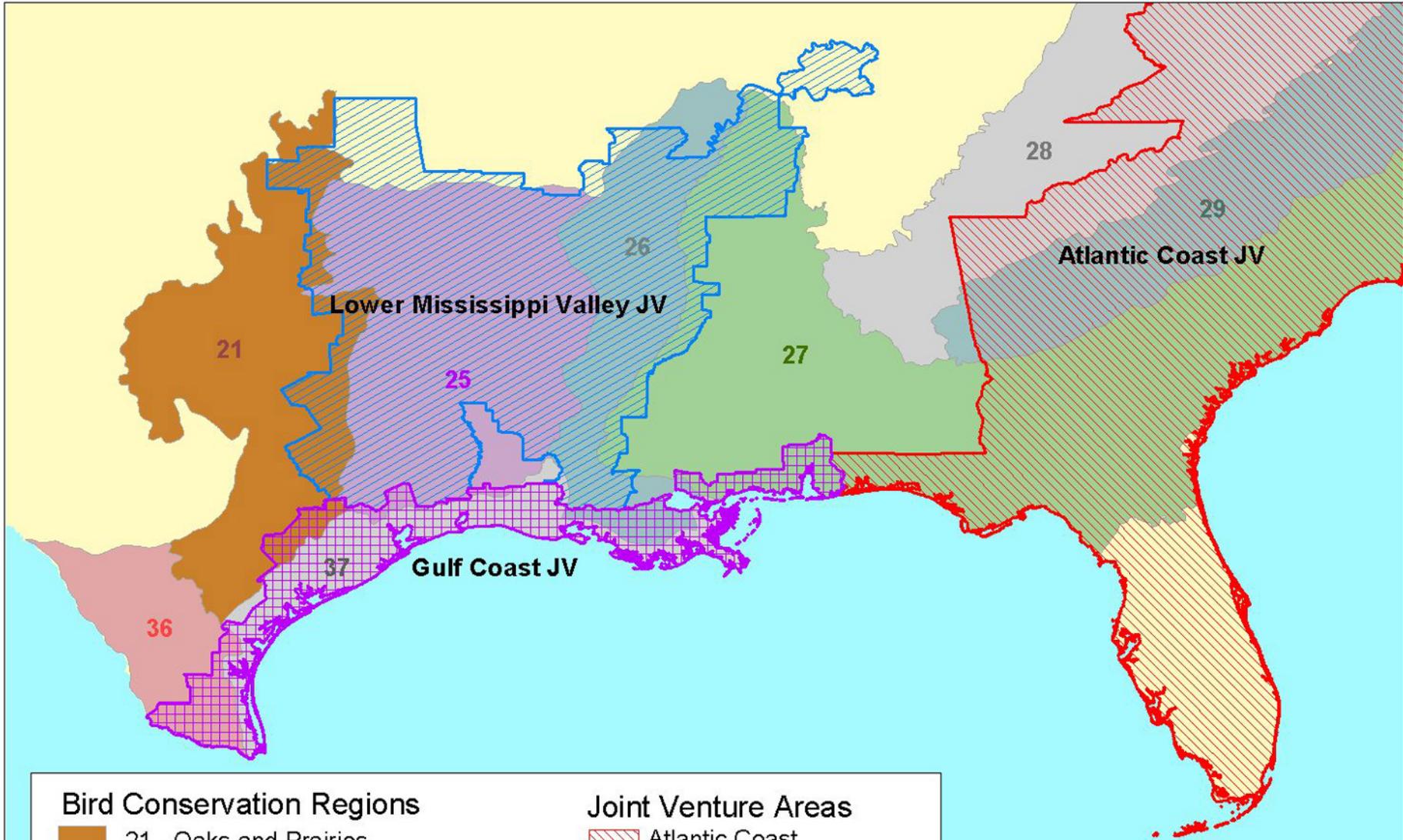
- Ecologically distinct regions with similar bird communities, habitats and resource management issues
- Developed in 1988 to
 - facilitate communication
 - systematically & ecologically apportion N. America into conservation units
 - facilitate a regional approach to conservation
 - promote partnerships
 - identify overlapping or conflicting priorities





Bird Conservation Regions

- 21 - Oaks and Prairies
- 25 - West Gulf Coastal Plain/Ouachitas
- 26 - Mississippi Alluvial Valley
- 27 - Southeastern Coastal Plain
- 28 - Appalachian Mountains
- 29 - Piedmont
- 36 - Tamaulipan Brushlands
- 37 - Gulf Coastal Prairie

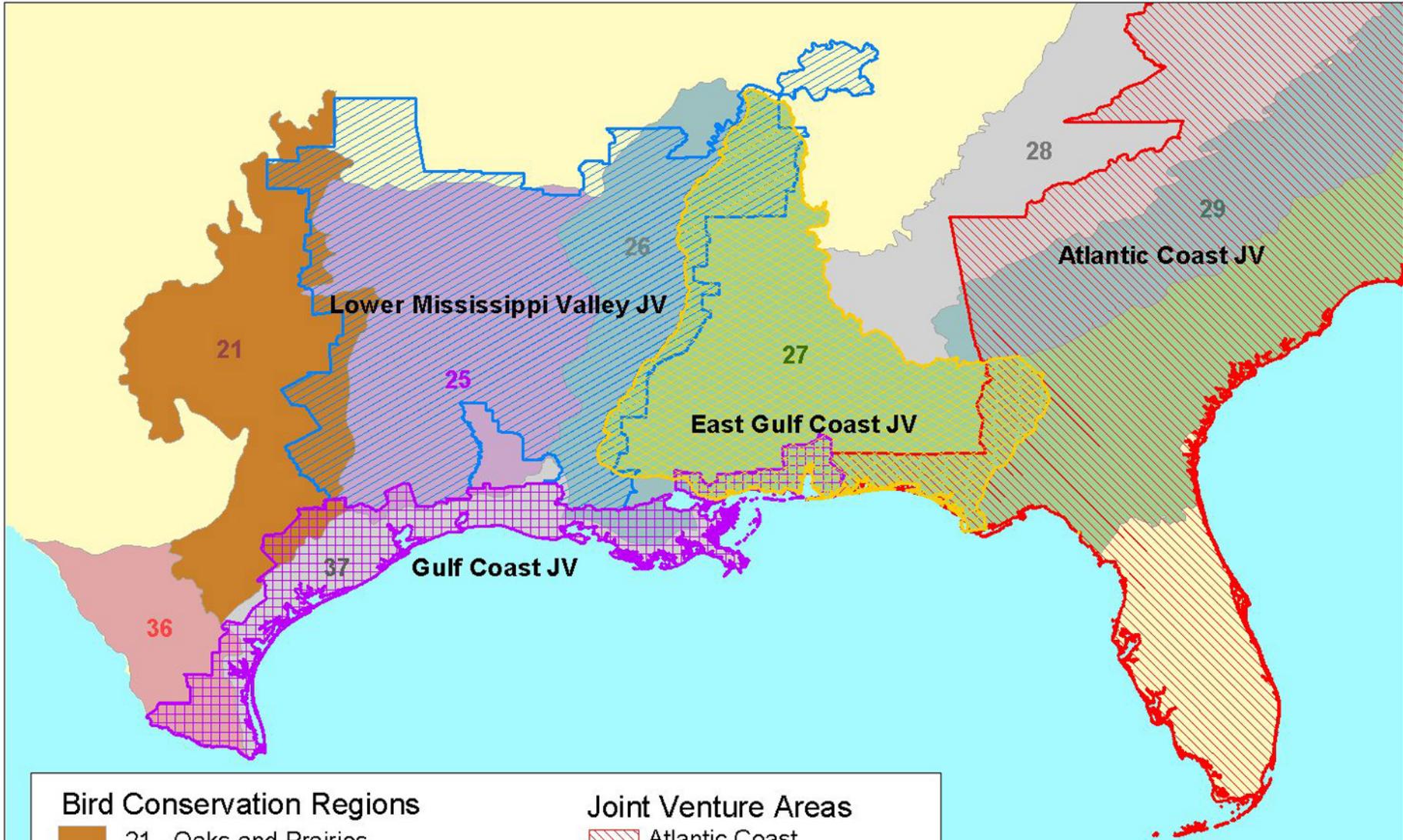


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Joint Venture Areas

- Atlantic Coast
- Gulf Coast
- Lower Mississippi Valley



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Joint Venture Areas

- Atlantic Coast
- Gulf Coast
- Lower Mississippi Valley
- East Gulf Coast

TNC & GOMP

share a focus in the region

- TNC can help GOMP achieve habitat restoration goals
 - Planning and action
 - Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership
- Investment in TNC will be highly leveraged and strategically focused
 - project coordinator
 - habitat protection and restoration work
- TNC well-established around the Gulf, incl. in Mexico
- Migratory birds tell a powerful story
- Bird conserv'n brings new resources & partners



*The Nature
Conservancy*®



SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH