Missouri's CCS Revision

Lessons Learned

Engage Internal Partners Early

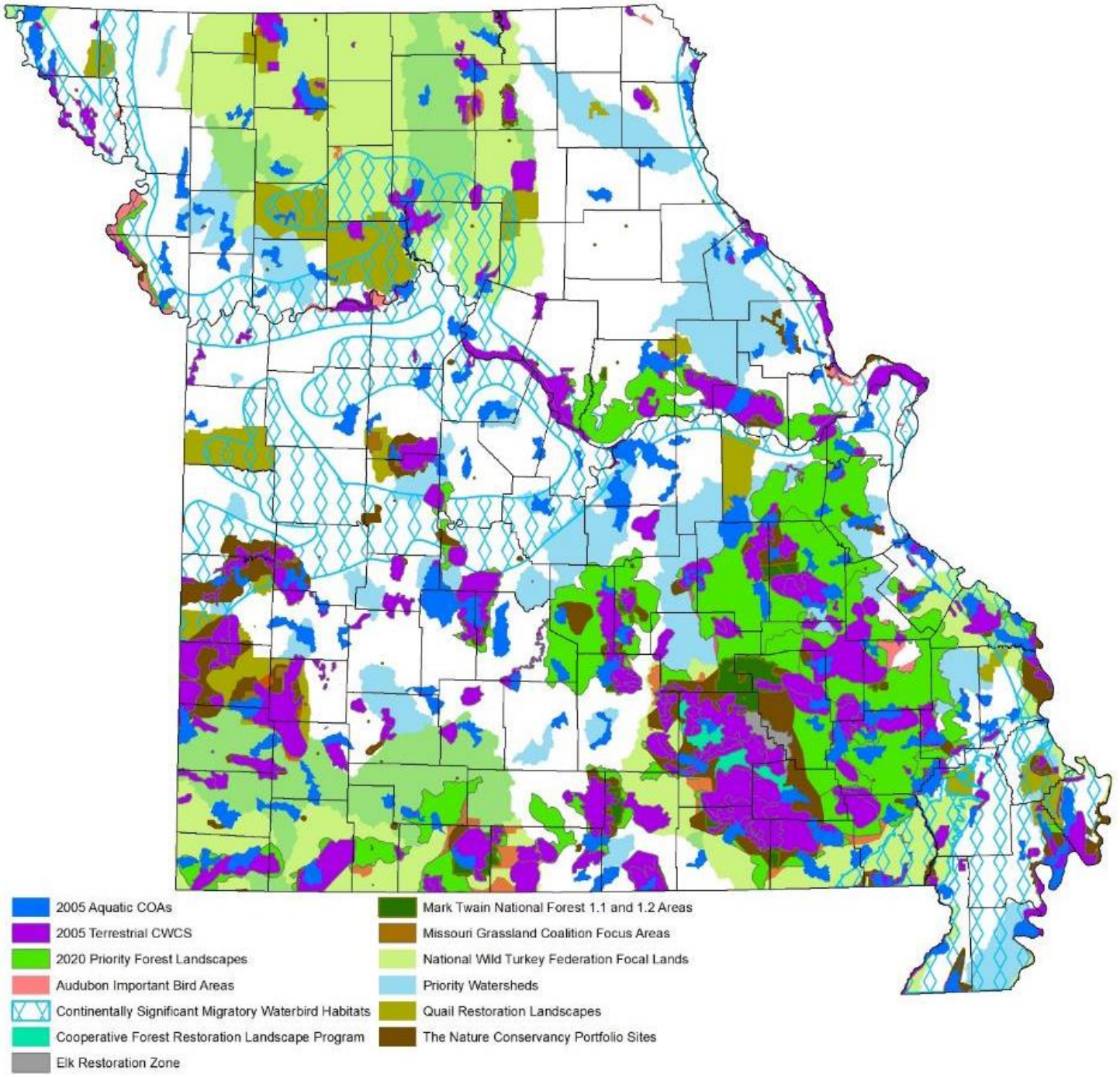
- Cross-disciplinary input led to creative ideas and built support, co-development, and shared ownership from all Branches.
- Potential to combine the SWAP and the State Forest Action Plan (SFAP) into a single, integrated framework emerged from these discussions.
- Combining these plans was challenging, but it's paying off in efficiencies gained through a fully integrated, cross-disciplinary, collaborative approach to fish, forest and wildlife management.

Engage FWS WSFR early and regularly

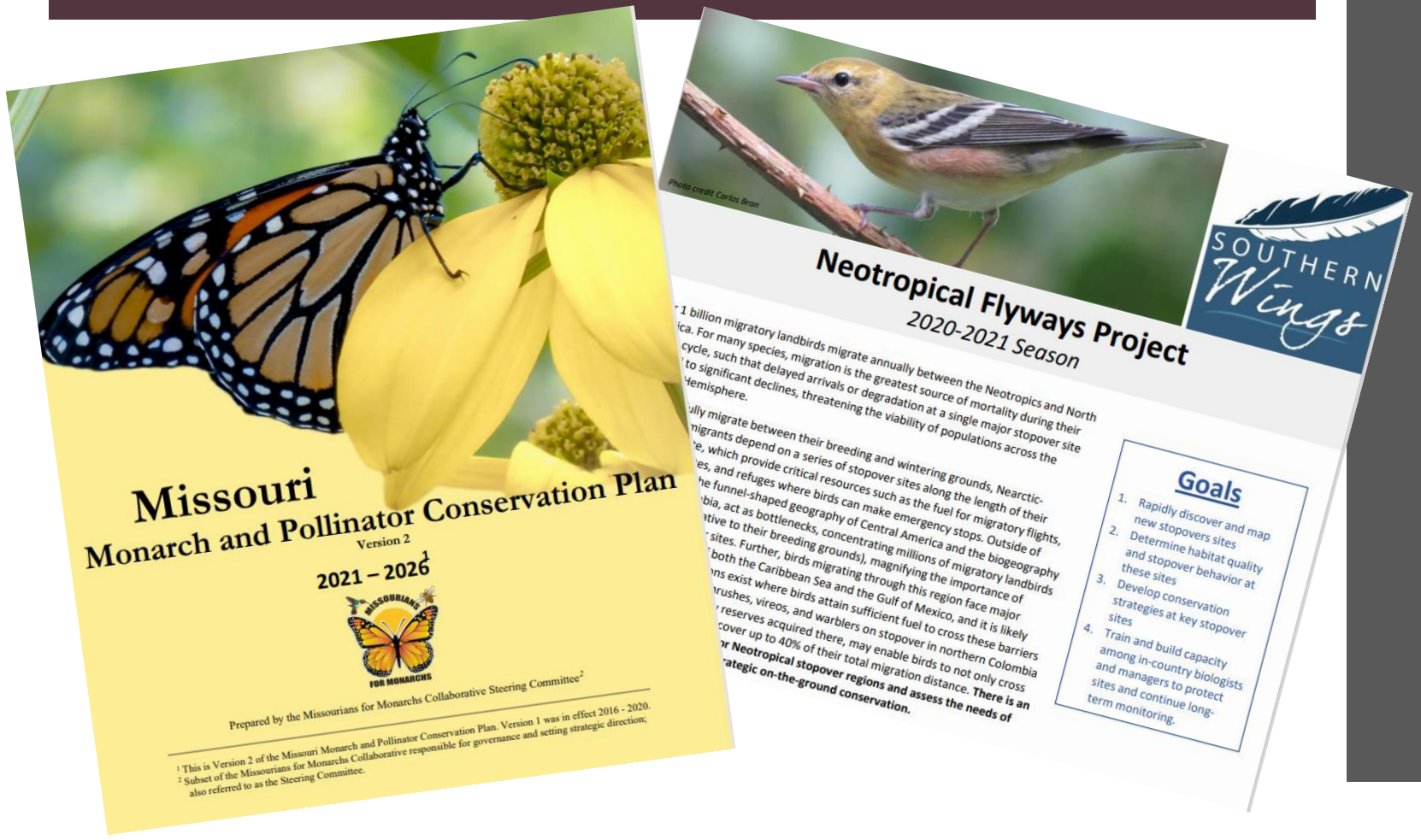
Early and regular communication with WSFR staff and USFS staff ensured they understood our approach to integrating the SWAP and FAS and were comfortable with our process.

Engage external partners early

- Facilitates consideration and incorporation of their expertise and diverse perspectives
- Results in a more comprehensive, collaborative plan, and expanded capacity for plan implementation.
- Including “case studies” that represent not only a diversity of great projects, but also the diversity of partners involved, helps connect partners to the plan.



Incorporate multi-state and international collaboration efforts



- Full life cycle bird conservation
  - Southern Wings projects
- Partnerships conserving critical waterfowl habitat in the Prairie Pothole Region of Manitoba
- Monarch Butterfly Full Life-Cycle Conservation Partnerships

Operationalizing CCS Implementation

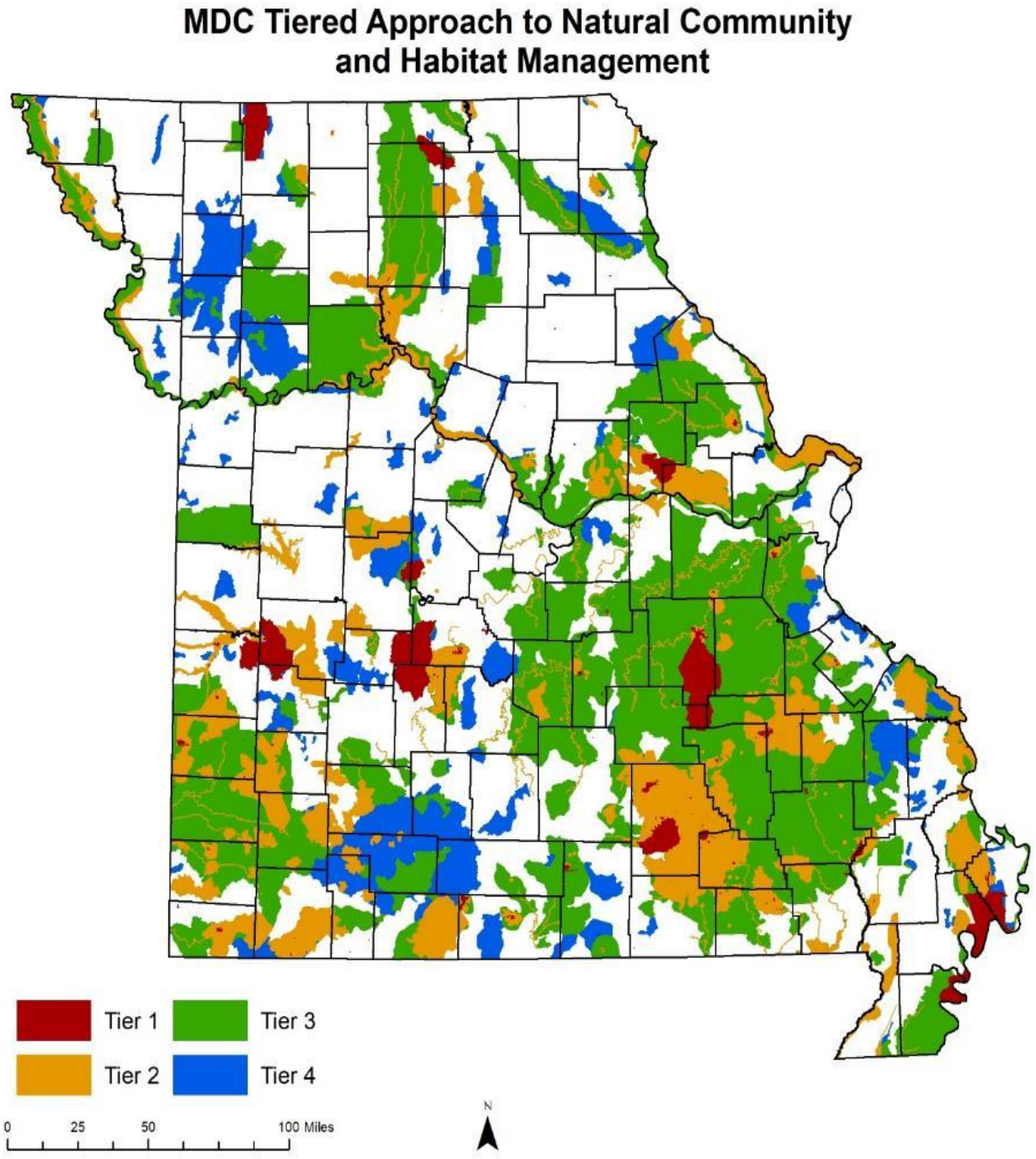
Tiered Approach to Natural Community and Habitat Management

- Identifies management tiers aligned with the goals of the CCS to focus work where it will have the greatest impact.
- MDC budgeting and planning for natural community and habitat work is based on the tiered approach.
- For example: 20% of budget and time is targeted to habitat work in Tier 1, which only makes up 2.3% of total area of MO

- **Tier 1:** Priority Geographies and Natural Areas
- **Tier 2:** Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs) not located in Tier 1
- **Tier 3:** Focal landscapes not located in Tiers 1 or 2 (e.g., remaining Priority Watersheds, Priority Forest Landscapes, Quail Restoration Landscapes)
- **Tier 4:** Remaining Priority Watersheds and other high quality natural communities

MDC Tiered Approach to Natural Community and Habitat Management

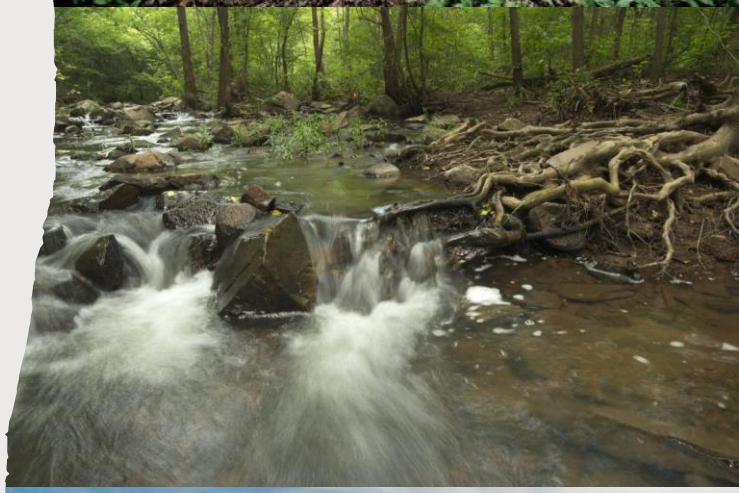
- Tiers 1, 2, 3, & 4 = 22,446,627 acres or 50.3% of the state



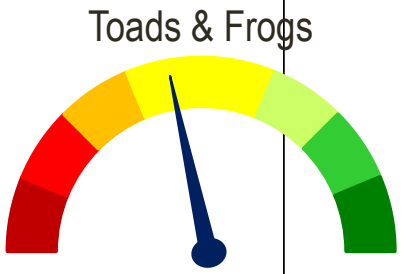
Next Steps

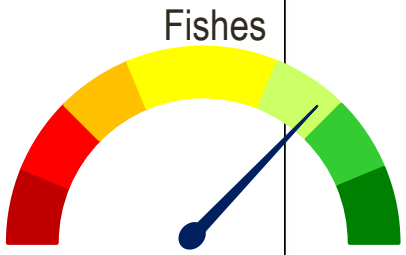
- Expand use of the **Community Health Index** (CHI).
  - CHI is a rapid assessment of the overall health of a specific natural community based on vegetative characteristics, diversity of wildlife associated with the natural community, and presence of threats.
  - Measures system response to management
  - CHI models are completed for native grasslands and glades; woodlands will be completed by this summer.

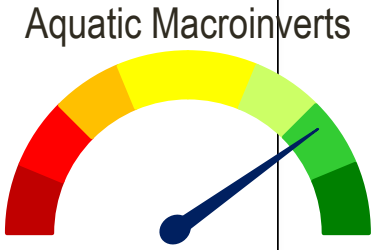
- Implement **Landscape Health Index** (LHI) in all Priority Geographies (PG's)
  - The LHI applies the CHI concept at the landscape scale to measure effectiveness of habitat management actions and determine when goals have been sufficiently achieved such that effort should be redirected to a new PG.
  - Assesses multiple metrics in 3 categories: Biodiversity Condition, Landscape Condition, and Social Condition.
  - Pilot LHI and analyses have been completed within 2 PG's.

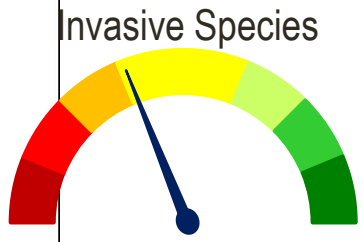


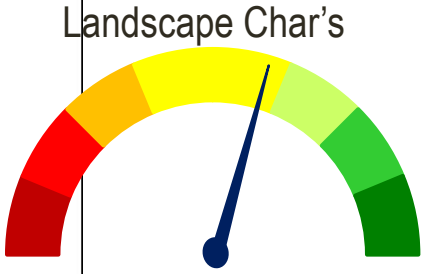
Big Buffalo Creek Priority Geography

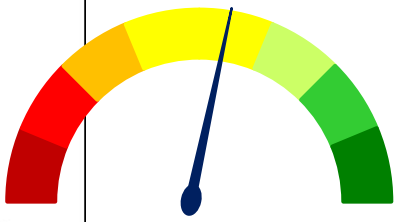


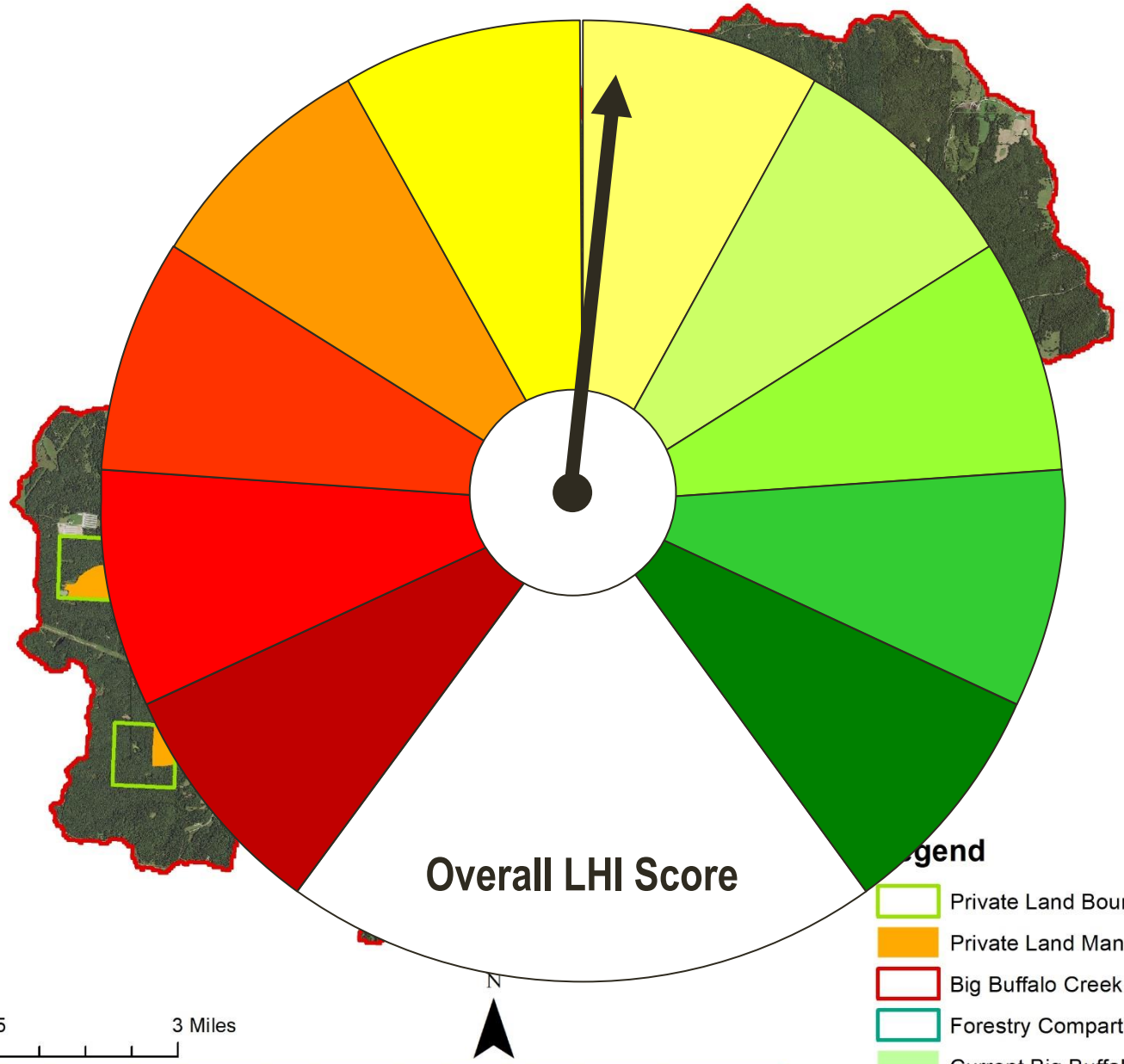








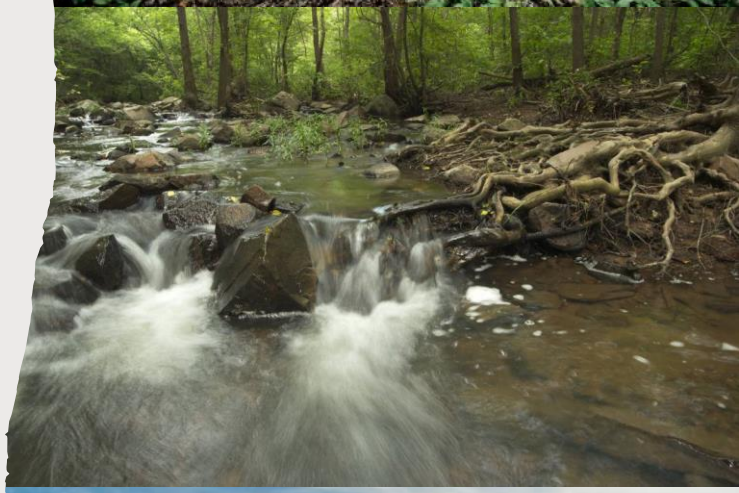




*Land boundaries and management are not actual data - For display purposes only

Next Steps

- Develop **Integrated Landscape Planning Tool**
  - Account for multiple objectives across a diversity of Missouri habitat types to build a management “toolbox”
  - Add decisions-making capacity by incorporating climate change projections, invasive species dynamics, and socio-economic factors into model simulations and integrating model outputs with wildlife habitat suitability models
- Establish **Desired Future Conditions** (DFCs) for all PG’s and COAs
  - Interdisciplinary approach: Natural Systems (e.g., Grasslands Coordinator, Wetlands Coordinator, Streams Unit), Taxa Leads, Regional management staff



2020 COAs – Natural Community Approach

(Separated by System)