



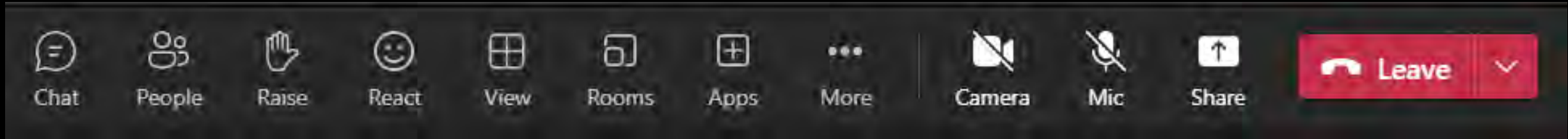
Atlantic Coast Joint Venture All Hands Webinar

January 31, 2024

Send messages to participants

Please raise your hand to speak

Turn on/off your camera here



See a list of participants

Mute / unmute your microphone here

(Please keep on mute when not speaking)

What We'll Cover Today

- Brief ACJV Overview
- 2023 Accomplishments
- What's in store for 2024



What is the ACJV?

- Bird conservation partnership from Maine to Puerto Rico
- Focus: coastal marsh through lens of three flagship species:
 - Saltmarsh Sparrow
 - American Black Duck
 - Black Rail
- 23 JVs across North America



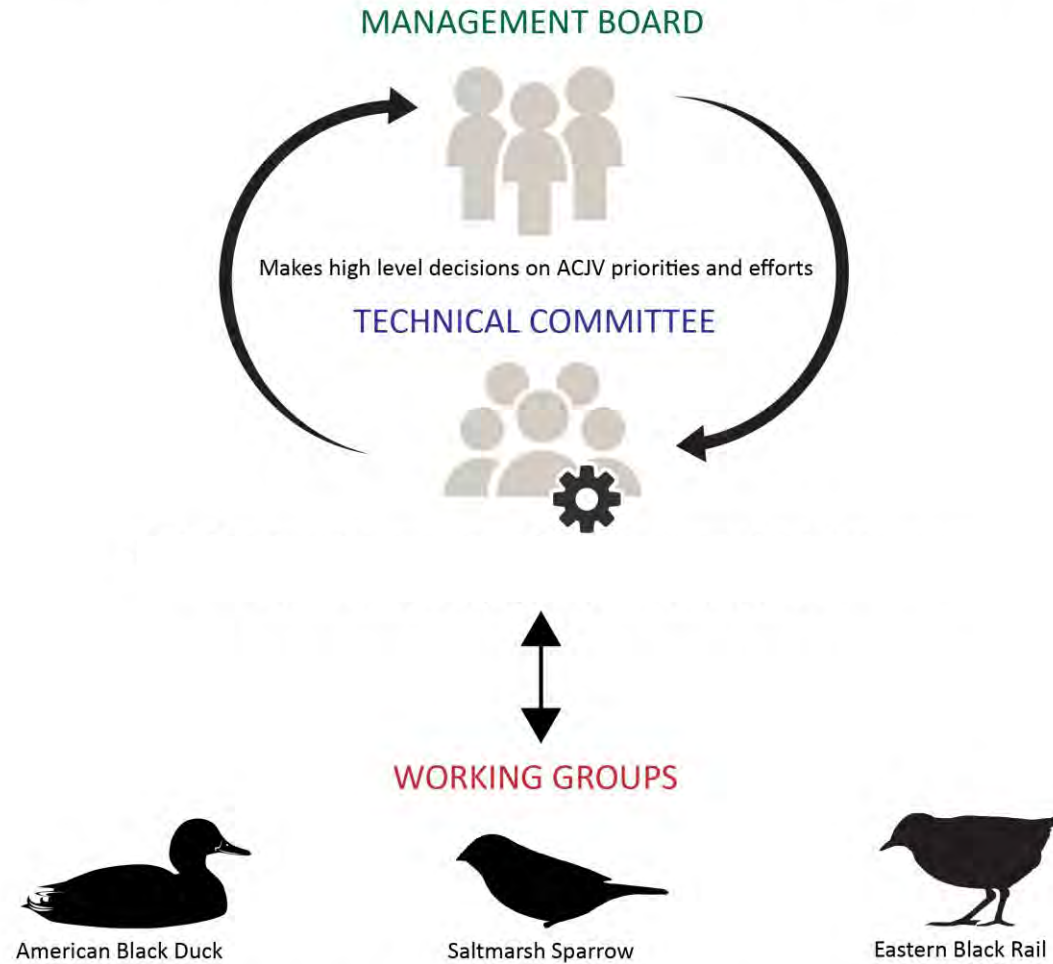
ACIV Staff

6 Staff Members:

- Coordinator – Aimee Weldon
- North Atlantic Coordinator – Mitch Hartley
- South Atlantic Coordinator – Craig Faulhaber
- Science Coordinator – Mo Correll
- Spatial Analyst – Kirsten Luke
- Communications Coordinator – Deb Reynolds



ATLANTIC COAST JOINT VENTURE STRUCTURE



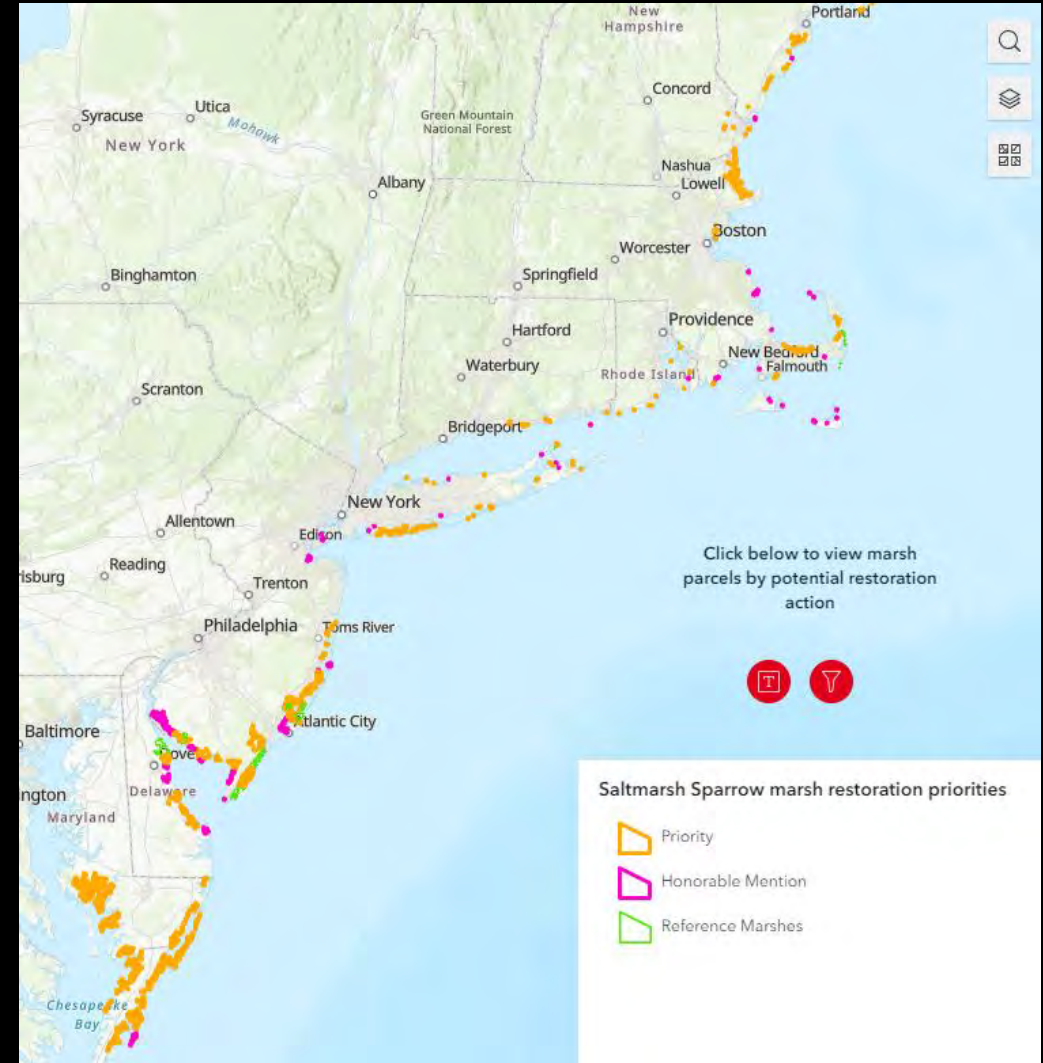
Management Board, Technical Committee & Working Group Representation

- State Agencies (ME-FL)
- Federal agencies
 - FWS
 - USGS
 - NPS
 - NRCS
- NGOs
 - Ducks Unlimited
 - American Bird Conservancy
 - National Audubon Society
 - The Nature Conservancy
- Academic Institutions



Support We Provide

- Ghost-writing & Grant Coordination
- NAWCA/Coastal Grant Support
- Partner Coordination & Support
- Science Support



Ghost Writing & Grant Coordination

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

America the Beautiful (state leads/FWS regionally coordinated w/NEAFWA)

\$3M for 1,000 ac of restoration in NH and RI

Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund (ACJV lead)

\$160k - At-risk species and habitat modelling

National Coastal Resilience Fund (Delmarva RC&D lead)

\$2.3M – for 1000 acres of design and restoration in MD Coastal Bays



Dept of Interior Keystone Initiative

- Atlantic Coast Marshes are one of seven Keystone Initiatives for DOI
- 2023: \$1.4M to restore 142 marsh acres in MD/VA Coastal Bays
- 2024: Applied for \$1.3M to support dredge placement and design projects in NY, MD, and SC



NRCS CEAP

- NRCS Conservation Effects Assessment Program
- Funds evaluation of management practices
- CEAP1 Funded:
 - 4 projects
 - \$885K from 2020-2025
- CEAP2 Proposed:
 - 4 projects
 - \$2.7M for 5 years



NRCS CEAP1: Funded Projects

- Managing Black Rails in S. Florida landscapes - ongoing
- Assessing effectiveness of runnel restoration - ongoing
- Validation of SALS rapid demographic assessment - complete
- Remote sensing: vegetative signatures of successful nest sites- ongoing



NRCS CEAP2: Proposed Projects

- Evaluating microtopography for Black Rails
- Supplemental irrigation for Black Rail habitat
- Effects of fire & herbicides on Black Rails
- Dredged material to restore Black Rail and Saltmarsh Sparrow habitat



USFWS Wetland Grant Program Support

USFWS Wetland Grant Programs

North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA)

- Craig & Mitch talk regularly with partners to support & develop potential proposals for wetland grants
 - We oversee clearance process for NAWCA grants
 - We help with tract substitutions & if other issues arise during grant administration process
-



USFWS Wetland Grant Programs

NAWCA 2023

- Six (of seven) & five (of 10) Std Grants (\$1M-\$3M) awarded in 2023
- \$23M in grants (plus \$42.8M match) will conserve 28,105 acres

Contact mitch_hartley@fws.gov or craig_faulhaber@fws.gov if interested in submitting a Standard or Small Grant proposal in 2024



Coordination & Information Sharing

USFWS Wetland Grant Programs

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program 2023

- All four proposals funded (*program is undersubscribed!*)
 - \$3.4M in grants (plus \$5.4M match) will conserve 1,037 acres in ME, MA, NC, FL
-



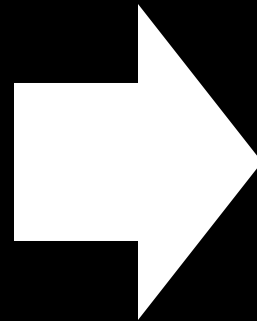
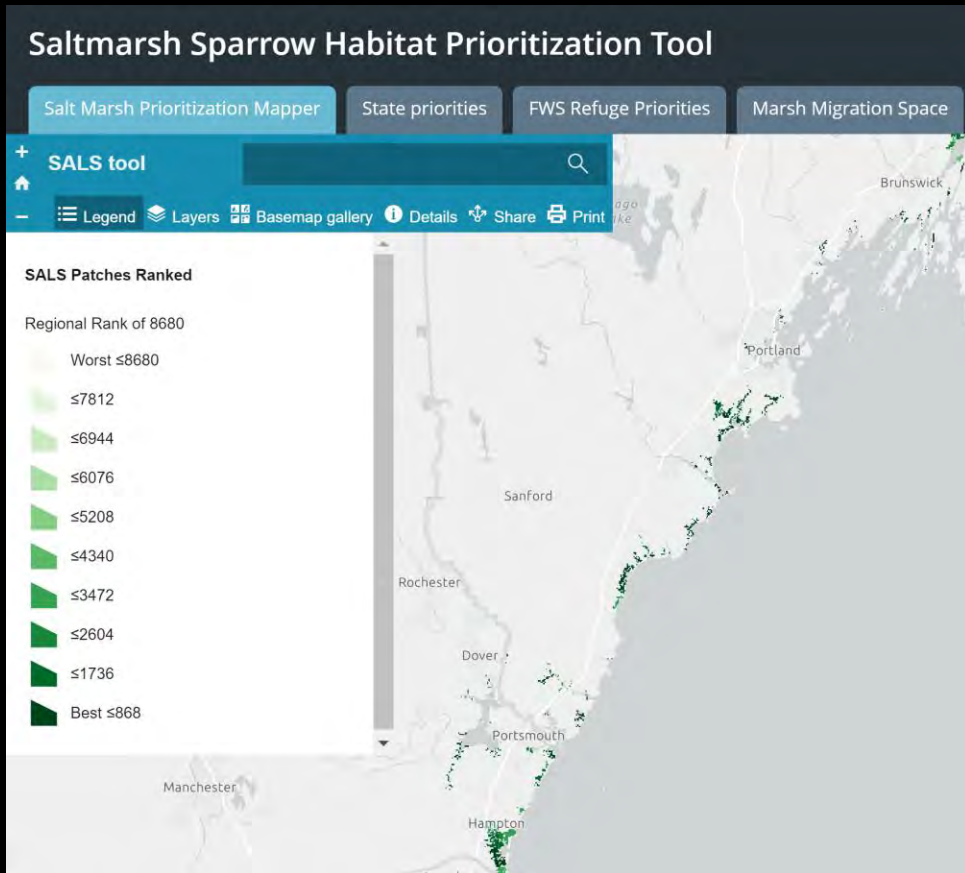
Thank you to Ray Hennessey for the fantastic saltmarsh sparrow photos for our slides.

Management guidance documents 2.0



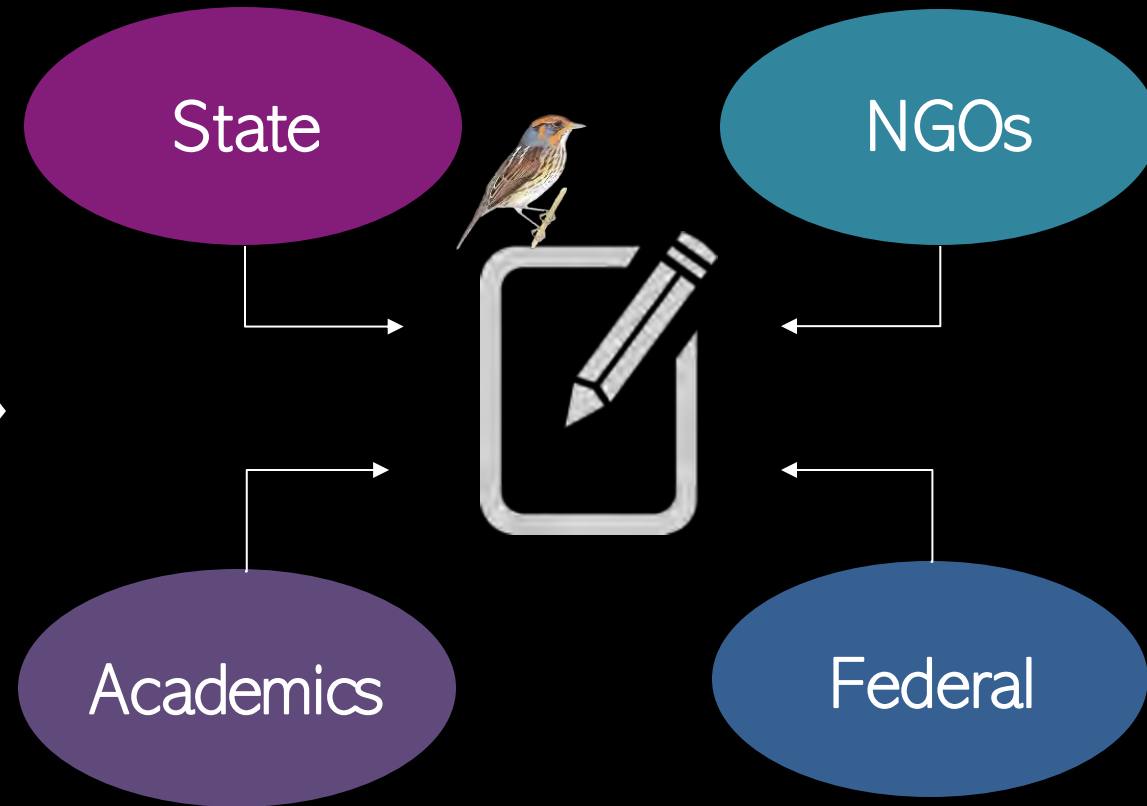
Step 1

top 10% using habitat prioritization tool



Step 2

marsh-by-marsh review by expert panel



A photograph of a Saltmarsh Sparrow perched on a green grass stem. The bird is facing right, showing its brown and white streaked plumage. The background is a soft-focus green field of grass.

Saltmarsh Restoration
Priorities for the
Saltmarsh Sparrow

Virginia

Last Updated August 2023
Saltmarsh Sparrow. Ray Hennessy

Updated mapper - population distribution modelling, Saltmarsh Sparrow detections (2021/2022), and EJ screen

Saltmarsh Sparrow priority mapper: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/0a580f98787f4250bff871892d266d64>



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

ACJV Saltmarsh Priorities for Saltmarsh Sparrow

State Priority Marshes

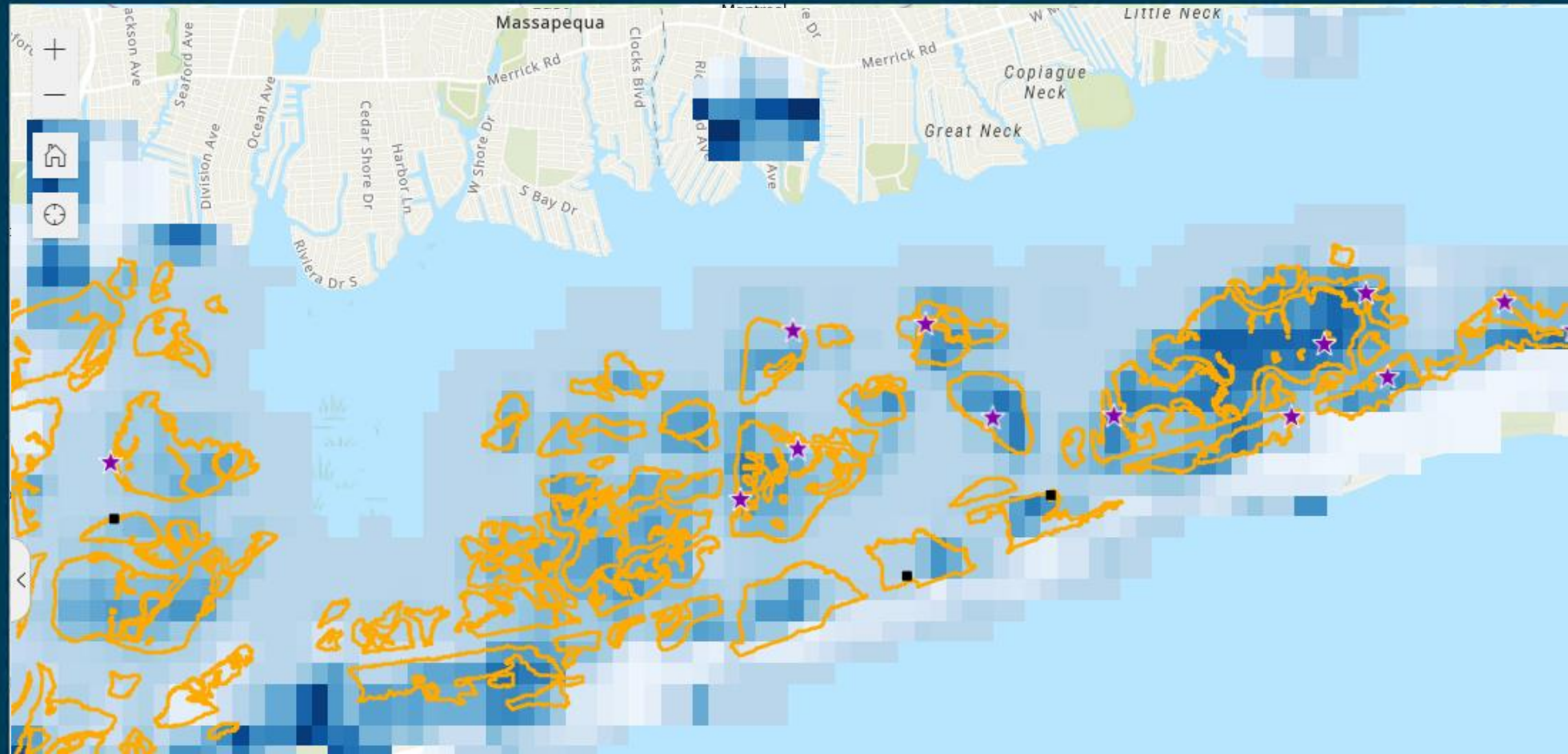
Marsh Migration

State Priority Restoration Marshes for the Saltmarsh Sparrow

This map identifies priority salt marshes within each state that are good candidates for restoration, enhancement, and/or management to provide persistent high-quality Saltmarsh Sparrow nesting habitat. Marsh projects will meet immediate (next 10 years) habitat needs for the Saltmarsh Sparrow in addition to long-term salt marsh resilience. Zoom in to view Saltmarsh Sparrow detections recorded during the SHARP regional survey effort (2011 - 2014; Wiest et al. 2016).

Click [here](#) to download the priority marshes spatial data.

Marshes were identified through a partner-driven process that differed slightly within each state (see documentation for each state [HERE](#) - scroll down). Marshes in all states are characterized as "Priority



Florida Black Rail Working Group

January 2023

- Updates on:
 - Research & monitoring
 - Management projects & resources
- Discussions on:
 - Information gaps
 - Management opportunities

Contact craig_faulhaber@fws.gov for notes



North American Range-wide Black Rail Meeting

October 2023

- Virtual habitat tours
- Prescribed fire
- Habitat creation
- Hydrology & microtopography
- Breeding success & recruitment
- Planning tools



North American Range-wide Black Rail Meeting

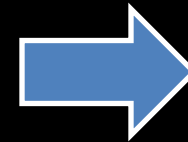
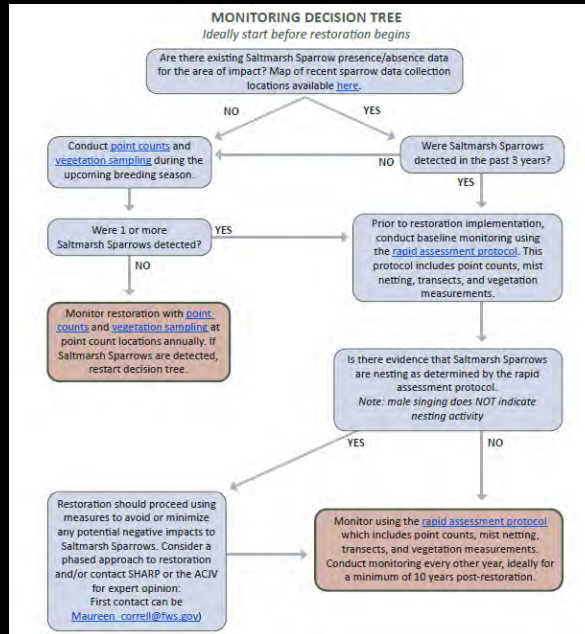
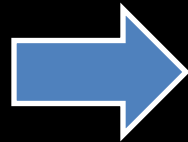
October 2023

- 34 in-person
- 88 virtual attendees
- Contact craig_faulhaber@fws.gov or visit [here](#) for presentations and notes



Science Support

Coordinated guidance for monitoring saltmarsh sparrows at restoration sites



Recommendations for Monitoring Saltmarsh Sparrows on Salt Marsh Restoration Projects
Version 1.0

Collaboratively developed guidance by:
Saltmarsh Habitat and Avian Research Program (SHARP)
Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV)
Ducks Unlimited (DU)
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Last updated Dec 14, 2023

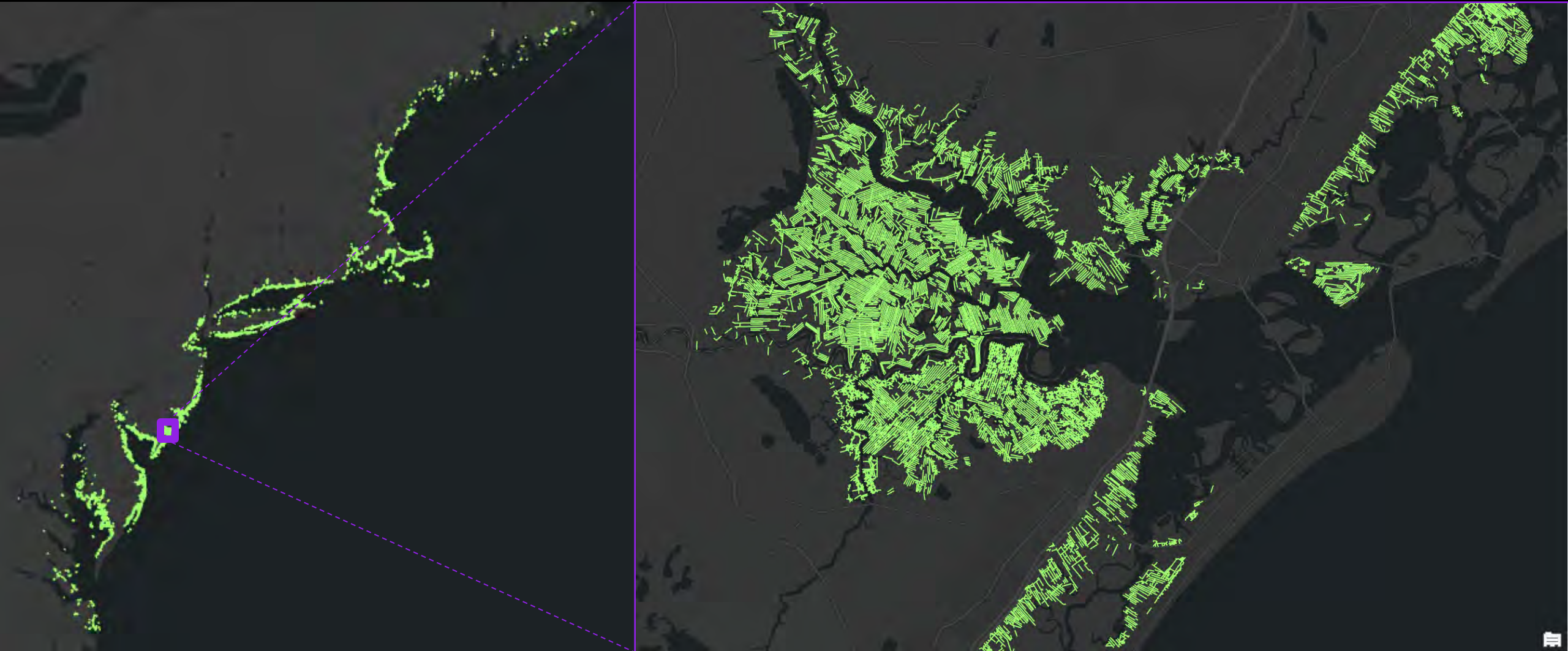
Lots of Zooming

Partner beta testing

NERDS – NorthEast Restoration Decision Support

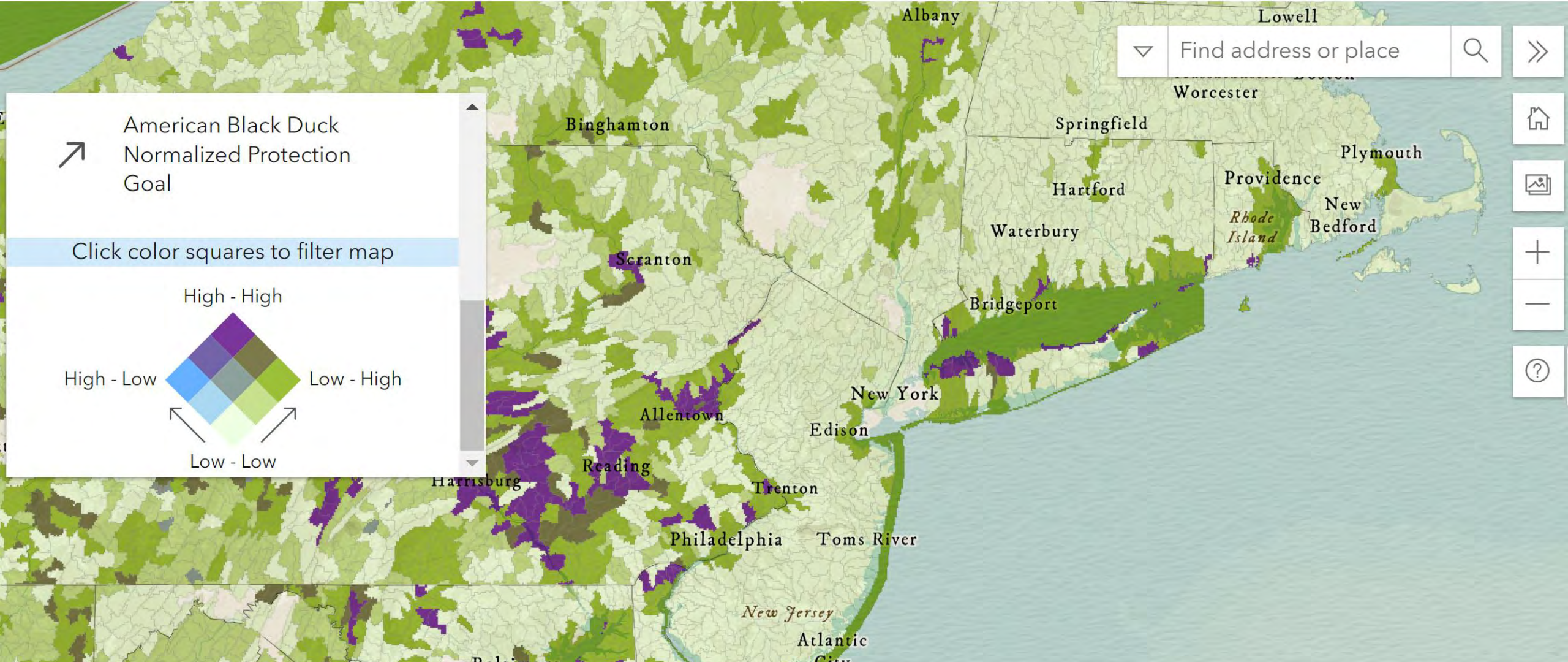
collaboration with University of Massachusetts and the Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center

How does human modification of the marsh platform affect marsh resilience metrics?





American Black Duck Decision Support Tool



American Black Duck Decision Support Tool

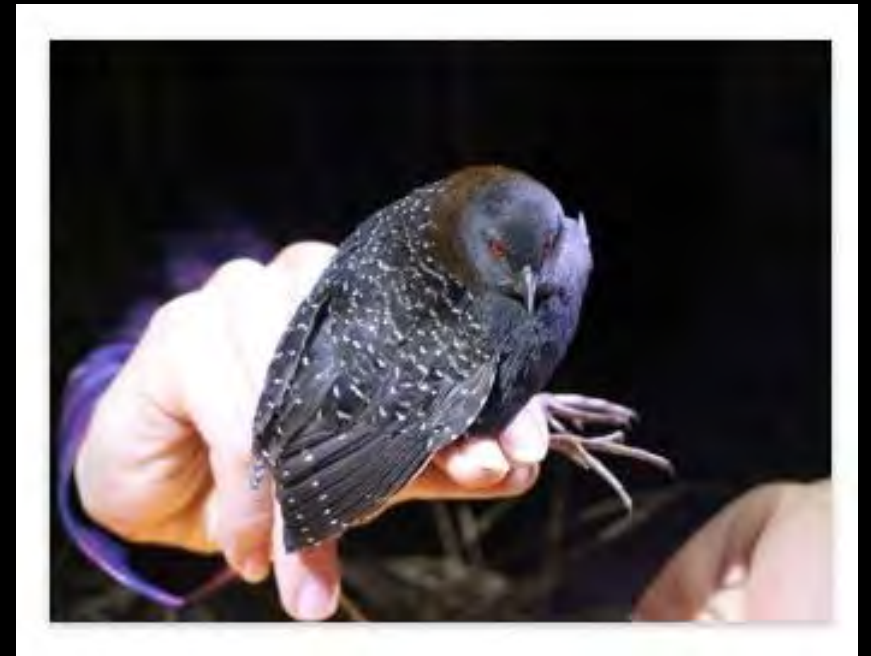
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/8b5888575e1c4f08bbbfa96c15450bb1/page/Maps/>

National protocols for Black Rail

Objective: create a sets of protocols to monitor eastern Black Rail consistently across its range

Result: protocol, broadcast recordings, datasheet, and data entry templates:

<https://www.fws.gov/EasternBlackRailSurveyProtocol>



Next up: Guidance for sampling across space and time (2024)

Adaptive Resource Management

- Objective: support manager decisions for
 - Fire & herbicides
 - Supplemental irrigation



Adaptive Resource Management

- 2023:
 - Initial predictive models complete
 - Protocol development
 - Partner recruitment

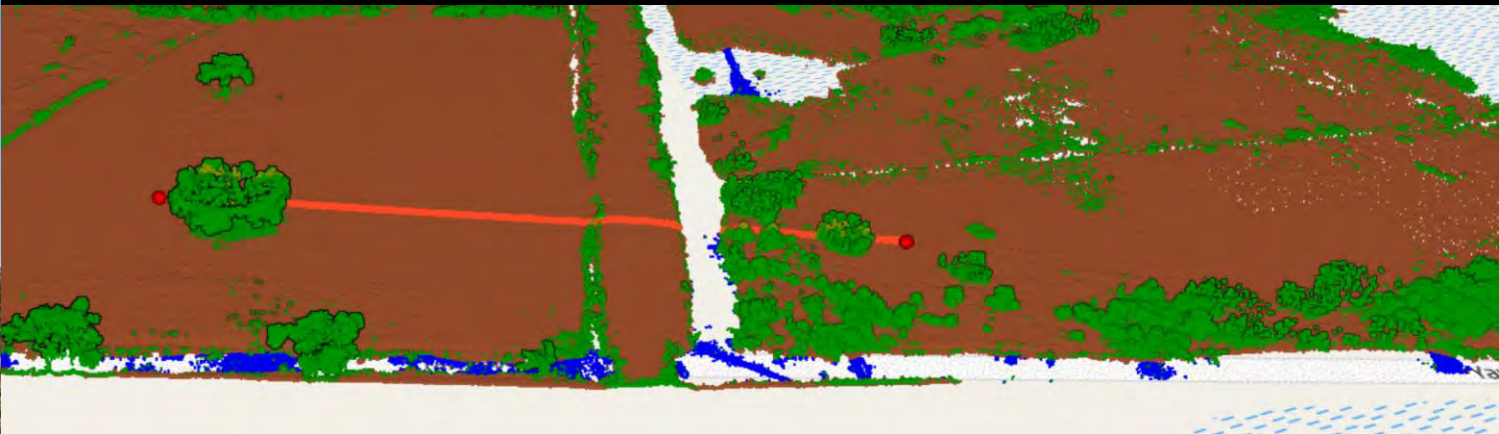




Measuring hydrology and microtopography using Unmanned Aircraft Systems

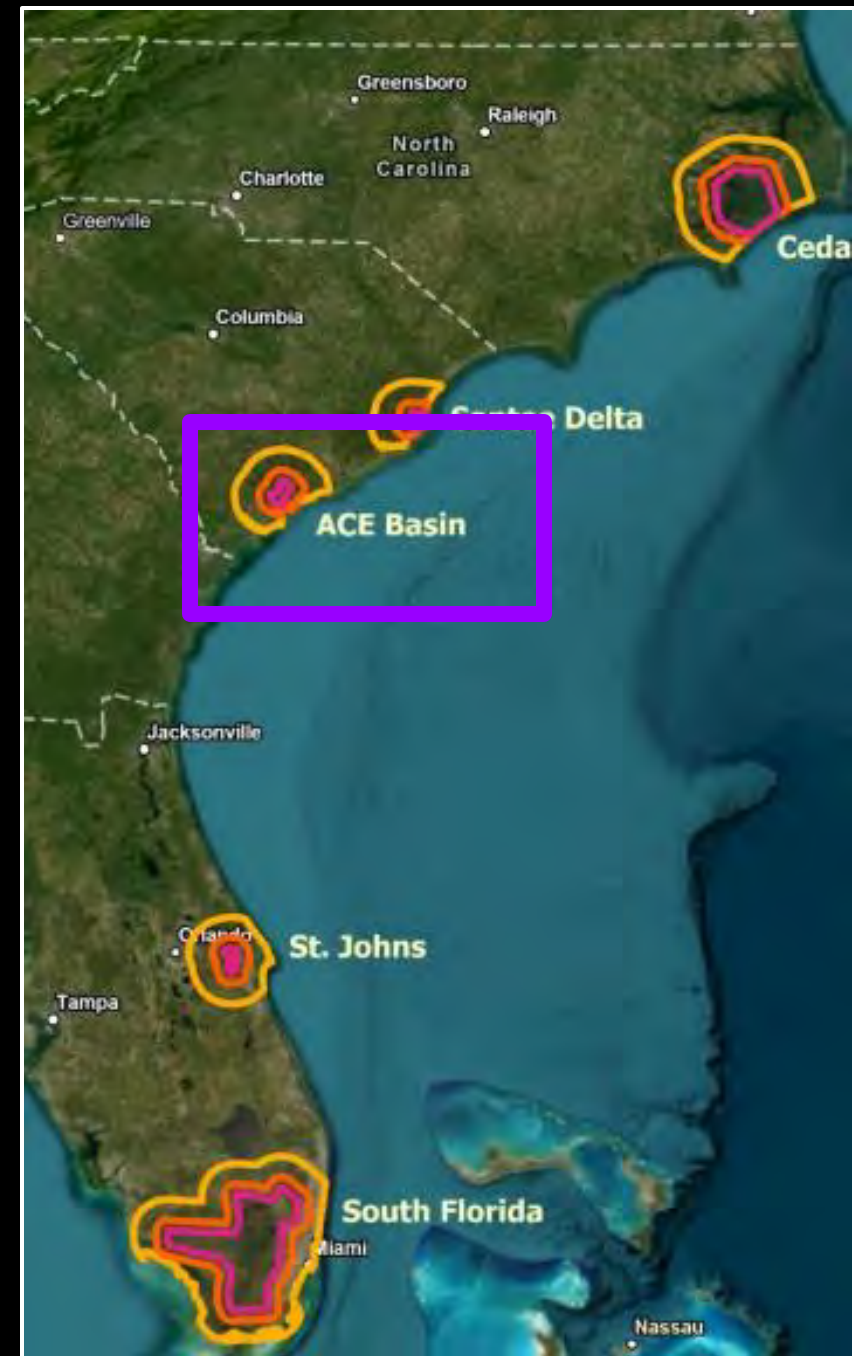


Whiteout Solutions
geospatial technologies




Hydrology & Microtopography

- Overall objectives
 - Characterize microtopography
 - Model hydrology
 - Inform surveys & habitat restoration/creation
- Phase I
 - Pilot project to test methods
 - UAS flights in SC in Oct



What's in Store for
2024?

A photograph of a Saltmarsh Sparrow standing on a dark, sandy beach. The bird is positioned in the lower center of the frame, facing right. It has a brown and white streaked pattern on its body and a distinctive orange-brown patch on its forehead. To the right of the bird lies a single, light-colored clam shell. On the left side of the image, there is a cluster of tall, thin grasses with green blades and brown, dried stems. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gradient of light blue and yellow, suggesting a bright, open environment like a salt marsh. The overall lighting is warm and natural, typical of a bright day.

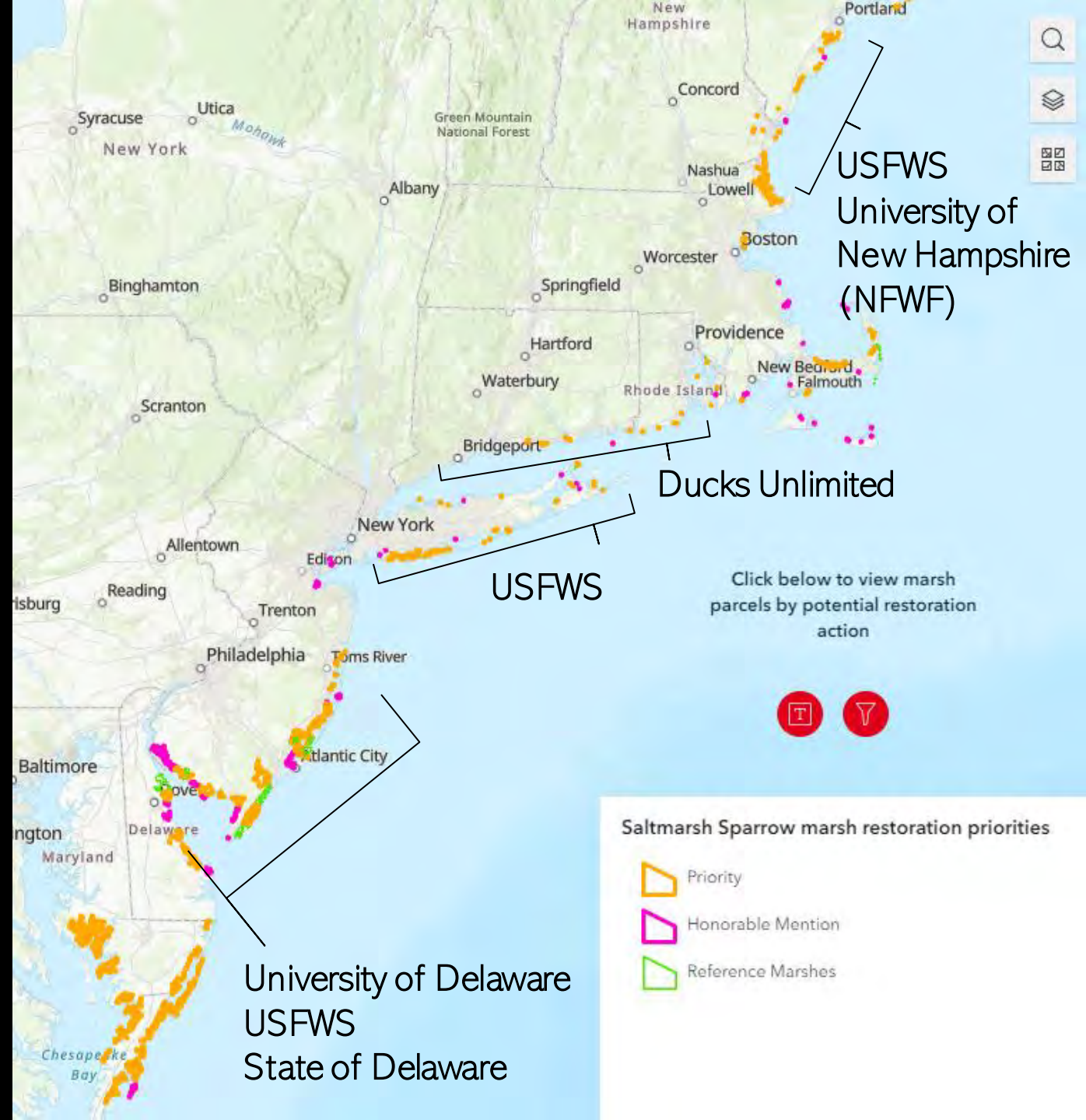
The next step in applied regional science for Saltmarsh Sparrows is understanding how different restoration actions affect this species.

Thank you to Ray Hennessey for the fantastic saltmarsh sparrow photos for our slides.

Coordinated monitoring for saltmarsh sparrows at restoration sites – 2024

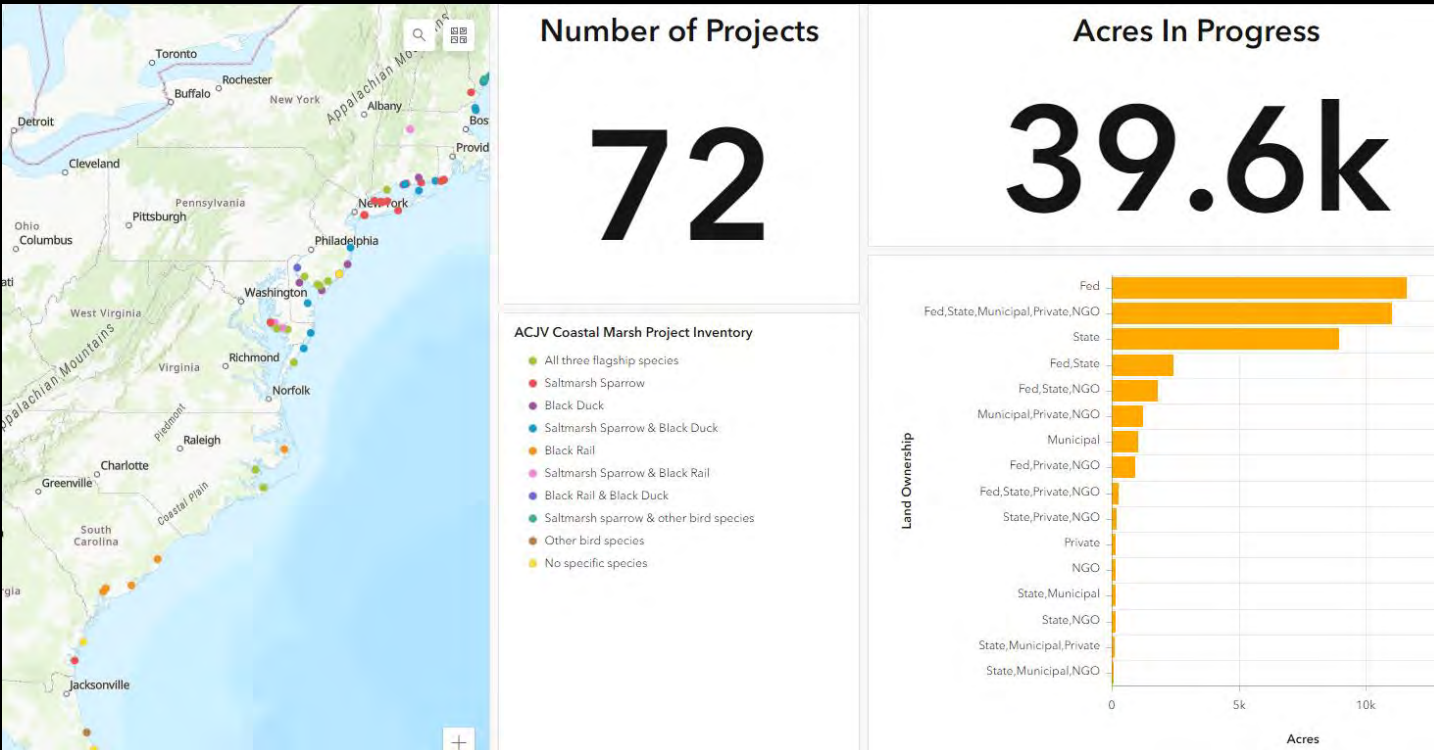
Resources provided from:

- USFWS Coastal Programs
- USFWS Mig Birds
- NFWF (multiple initiatives)
- Ducks Unlimited
- University of Delaware
- University of New Hampshire
- University of Connecticut
- State of Delaware



We're expanding our science team!

Two Pathways students incoming in 2024



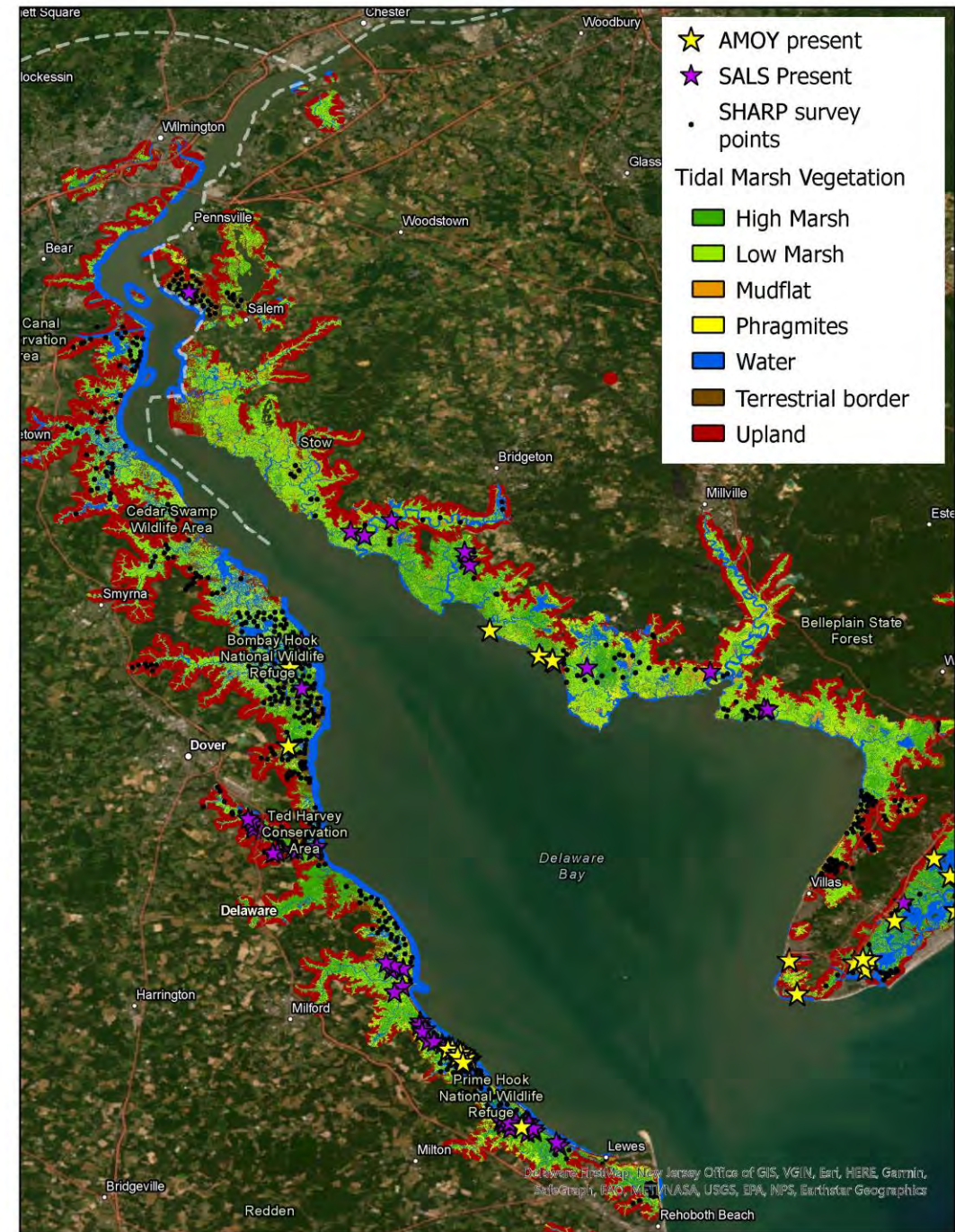
1) Project database management

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e096c82721b3441bbe371b16d21157c3>

2) Automated Recording Unit (ARU) data processing for Black Rails

Development of a coastal change tool for marsh vegetation communities

- updated predictions of marsh cover types
- customizable tool estimating change
- at-risk species predictions using community layer (Saltmarsh Sparrow, American Oystercatcher)
- Supported by a NFWF Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund grant



Black Rail State Prioritization

- Priority sites & actions
- Actions are:
 - Site-specific
 - Near-term
- Updated regularly
- Used to direct funding



State Prioritization

- Starting with Florida
- Partner meetings underway in 4 regions!



Adaptive Resource Management

- We're seeking partners!
 - Fire & herbicide
 - Supplemental irrigation
- We can provide
 - Data collection resources
 - Help finding funding
 - A community of practice



Interested? Contact craig_faulhaber@fws.gov



UAS LiDAR Phase II

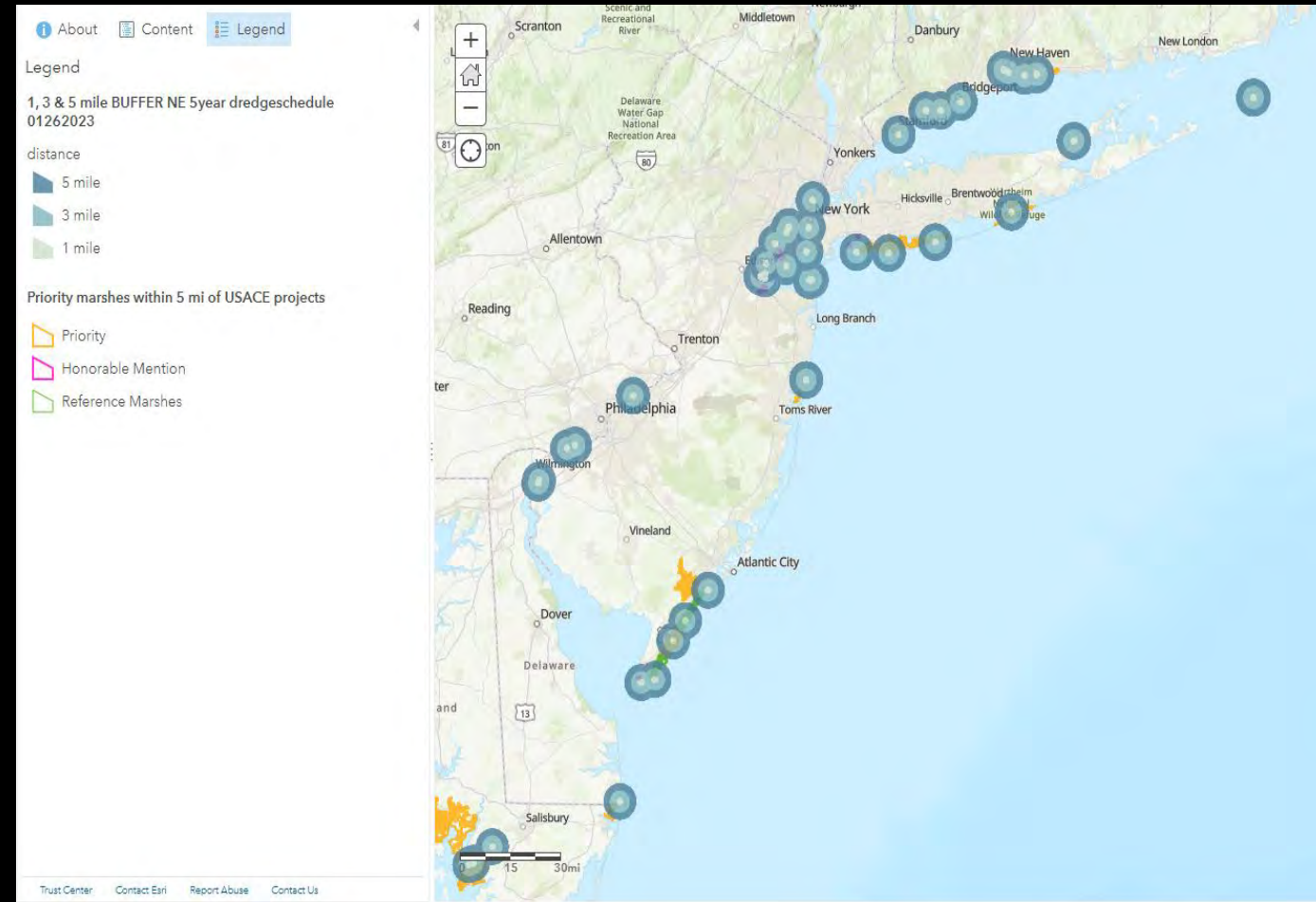
- Included in NRCS CEAP proposal
- UAS flights in NJ, SC, FL
- Microtopography in occupied vs. unoccupied sites
- Develop method to model hydrology



Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

- USACE 70x30 goal: Use 70% of dredge beneficially by 2030
- ACJV/FWS working with USACE to improve collaboration, project selection, and design

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/382d91975b8645ce9bfa1452753144b5>



Questions/Feedback?

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Mitch Hartley:

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Mo Correll:

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Web tour!!!