



D O R I S D U K E  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

# Accelerating the Protection of Essential Habitats: Completing the Wildlife Conservation System

A Presentation by  
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# Wildlife Conservation System: Presentation Overview

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- What?
- Where?
- Why?
- A New Vision
- Status
- Future

# Wildlife Conservation System: What?

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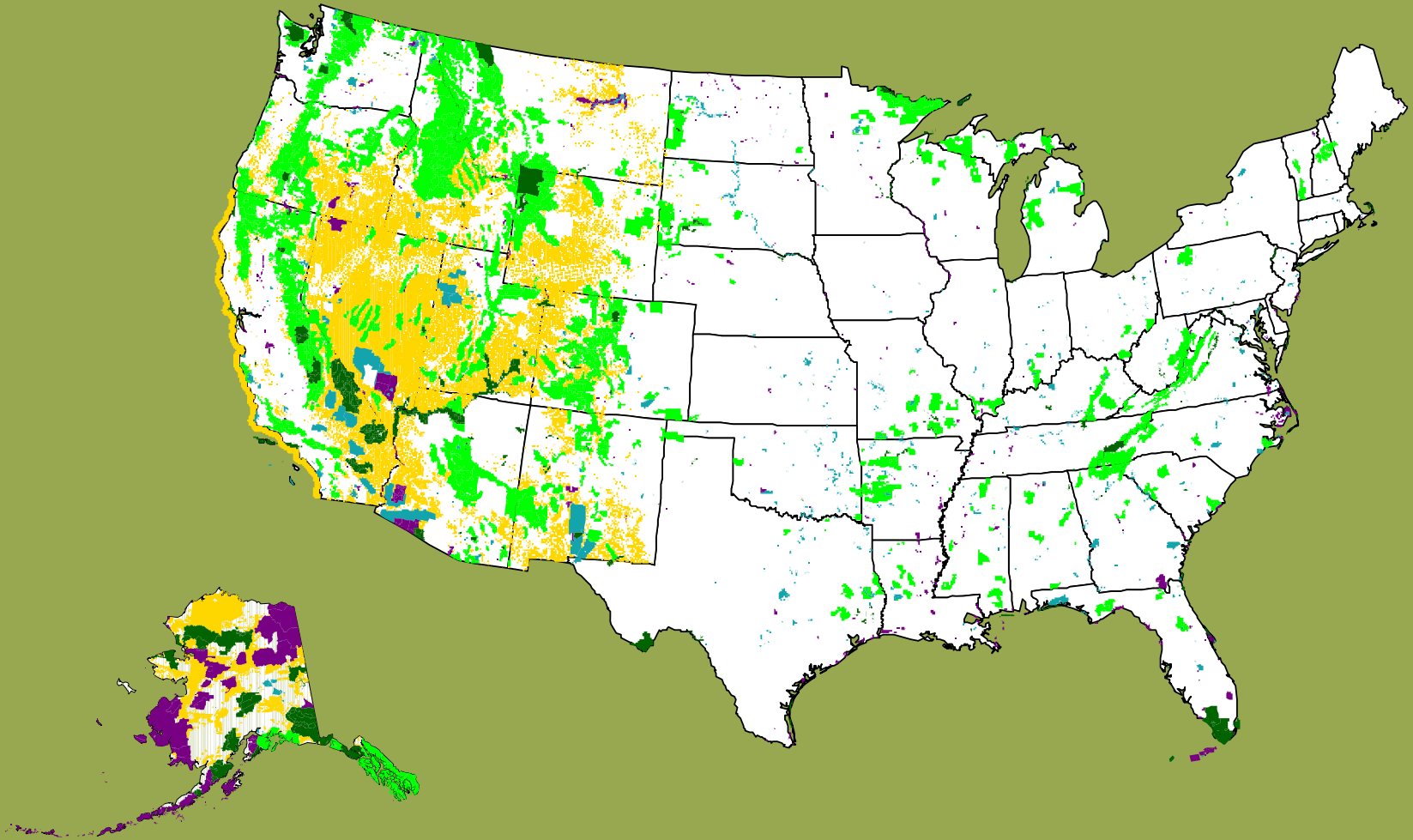


Lands and waters where there is a formal commitment to the conservation of species/habitats.

Spans all designations and ownerships, from federally designated wilderness areas to conservation easements held by local land trusts.

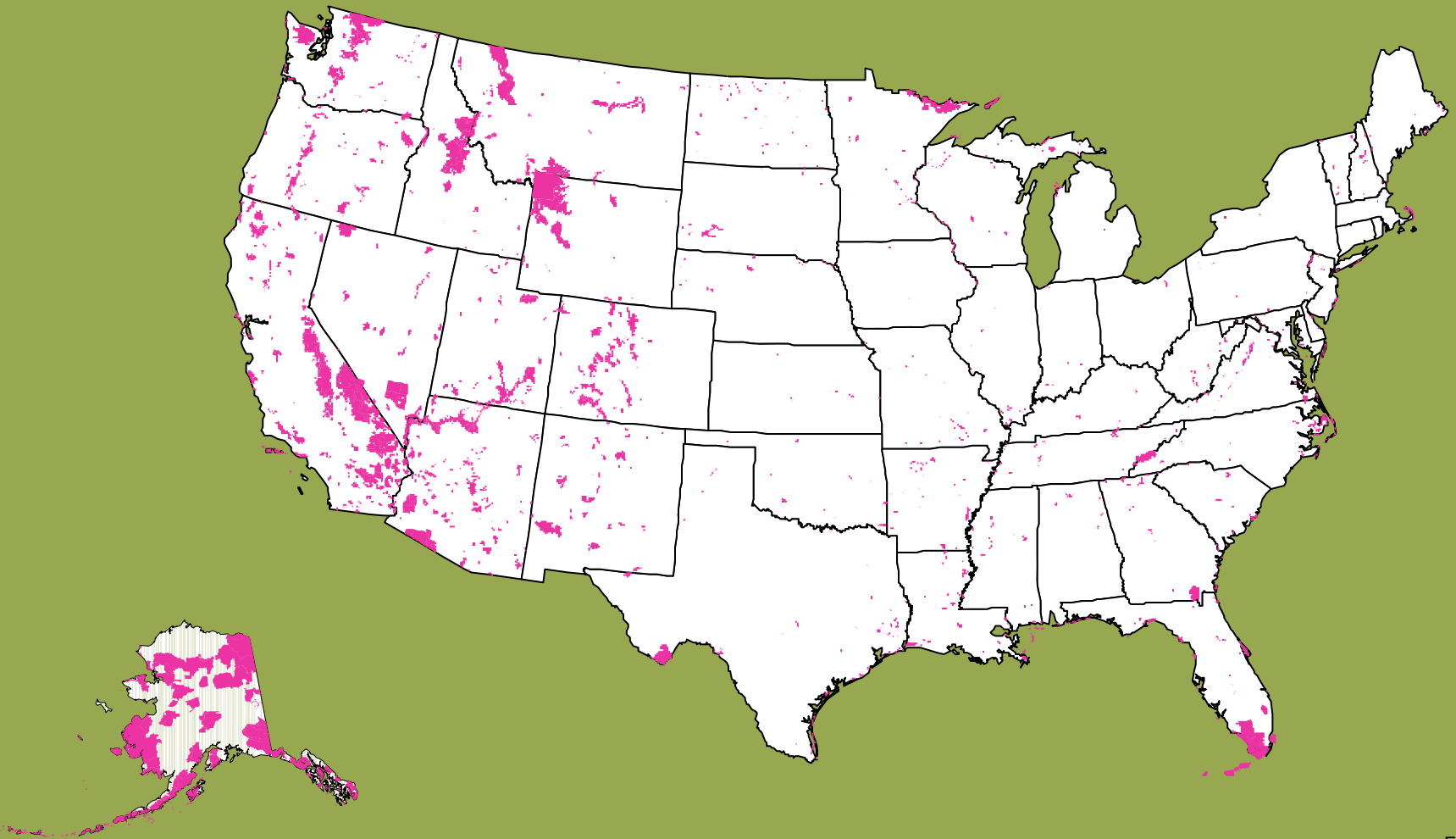
# Wildlife Conservation System: What? Current/Federal Lands

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# Wildlife Conservation System: What? Current/Federal/Core

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# Wildlife Conservation System: What? Current/Northern Forest



# Wildlife Conservation System: Where?

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*Where did it come from?* Major components of the system (e.g., national parks, state wildlife management areas, private land trusts) have arisen from different sources at different times, but all have been directed, at least in part, at maintaining native wildlife diversity.

# Wildlife Conservation System: Where?

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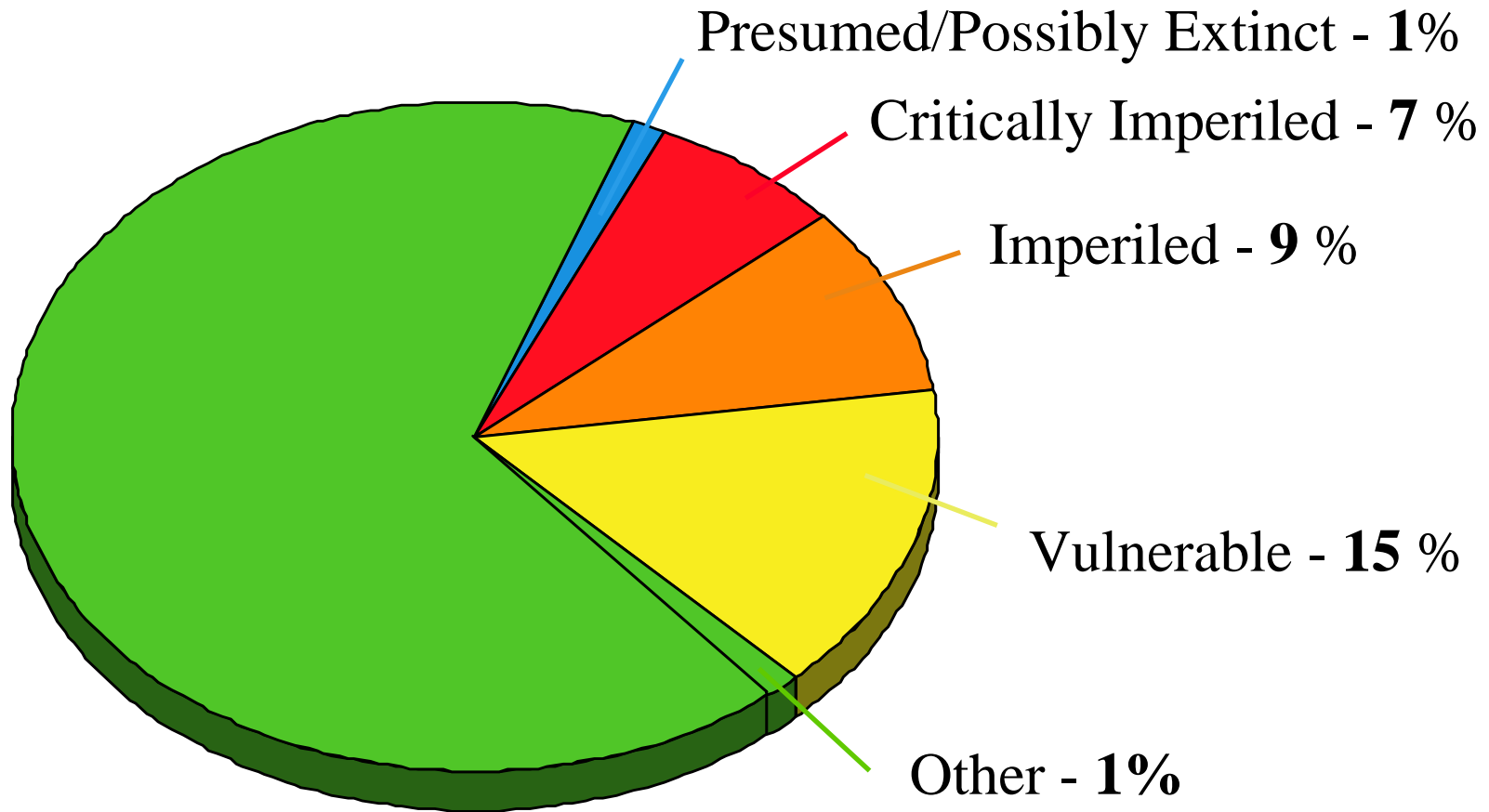
*Where did it come from?* Major components of the system (e.g., national parks, state wildlife management areas, private land trusts) have arisen from different sources at different times, but all have been directed, at least in part, at maintaining native wildlife diversity.

# Wildlife Conservation System: Why?

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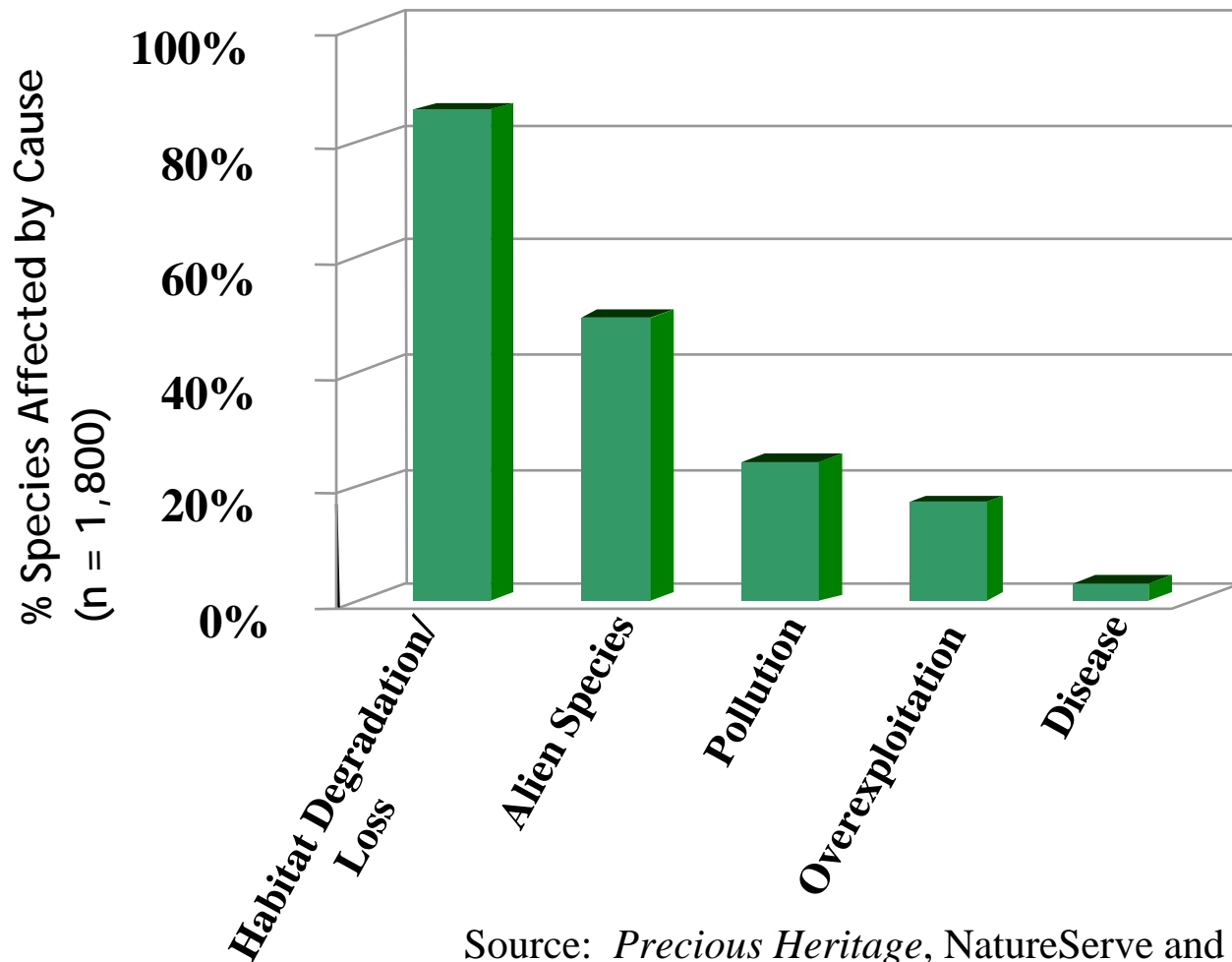


# Wildlife Conservation System: Why? One Third of Species at Risk



Number of Species Assessed: 20,439

# Wildlife Conservation System: Why? Major Threats to Species at Risk



Source: *Precious Heritage*, NatureServe and TNC, 2000

# Wildlife Conservation System: A New Vision

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Thirty years of implementing the ESA has shown that wildlife conservation efforts must be more:

- ❖ pro-active
- ❖ state-based
- ❖ incentive-driven

State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies are the key to this approach

# Wildlife Conservation System: A New Vision

## Florida Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas

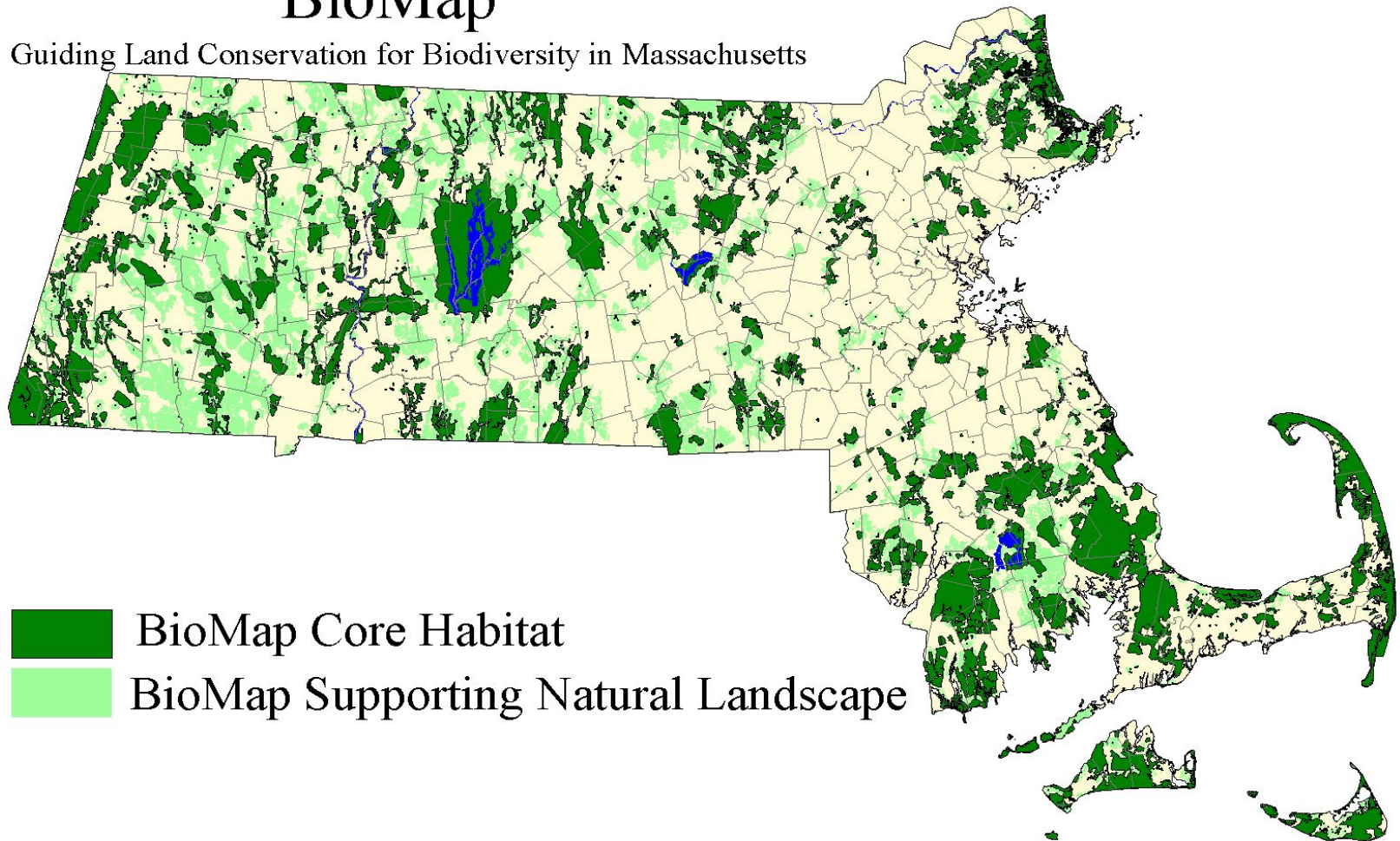
-  Strategic habitat
-  Public land (April 2001)

Source: Cox, J. R. Kautz, M. MacLaughlin, and T. Gilbert. 1994.  
Closing the gaps in Florida's wildlife habitat conservation system.  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee.

# Wildlife Conservation System: A New Vision

## BioMap

Guiding Land Conservation for Biodiversity in Massachusetts



# Wildlife Conservation System: Status - Wildlife Action Plans



- Key to preventing problems.
- Key to effective, efficient allocation of conservation resources
- Key to coordinating policy and programs across
  - ❖ Jurisdictions (federal/state/local)
  - ❖ Agencies (USDOI, USDA, USDOT)
  - ❖ Sectors (public/private)

# Wildlife Conservation System: Future

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- Implementing Wildlife Action Plans
- Costs
- Financing

# Wildlife Conservation System: Future-Implementing Wildlife Action Plans

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## Tools for Land Conservation

### ➤ Acquisition

- ❖ Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- ❖ Mitigation
- ❖ Private NGOs
- ❖ State Wildlife Grants Program (goal)

### ➤ Incentives

- ❖ Farm Bill/Conservation Title
- ❖ DOI Land Owner Incentives Programs
- ❖ State and federal tax codes

### ➤ Coordination

- ❖ Transportation Equity Act – 3 (TEA-3)
- ❖ Long-range planning
- ❖ Expand policy of avoid, minimize, mitigate

# Wildlife Conservation System: Future-Implementing Wildlife Action Plans

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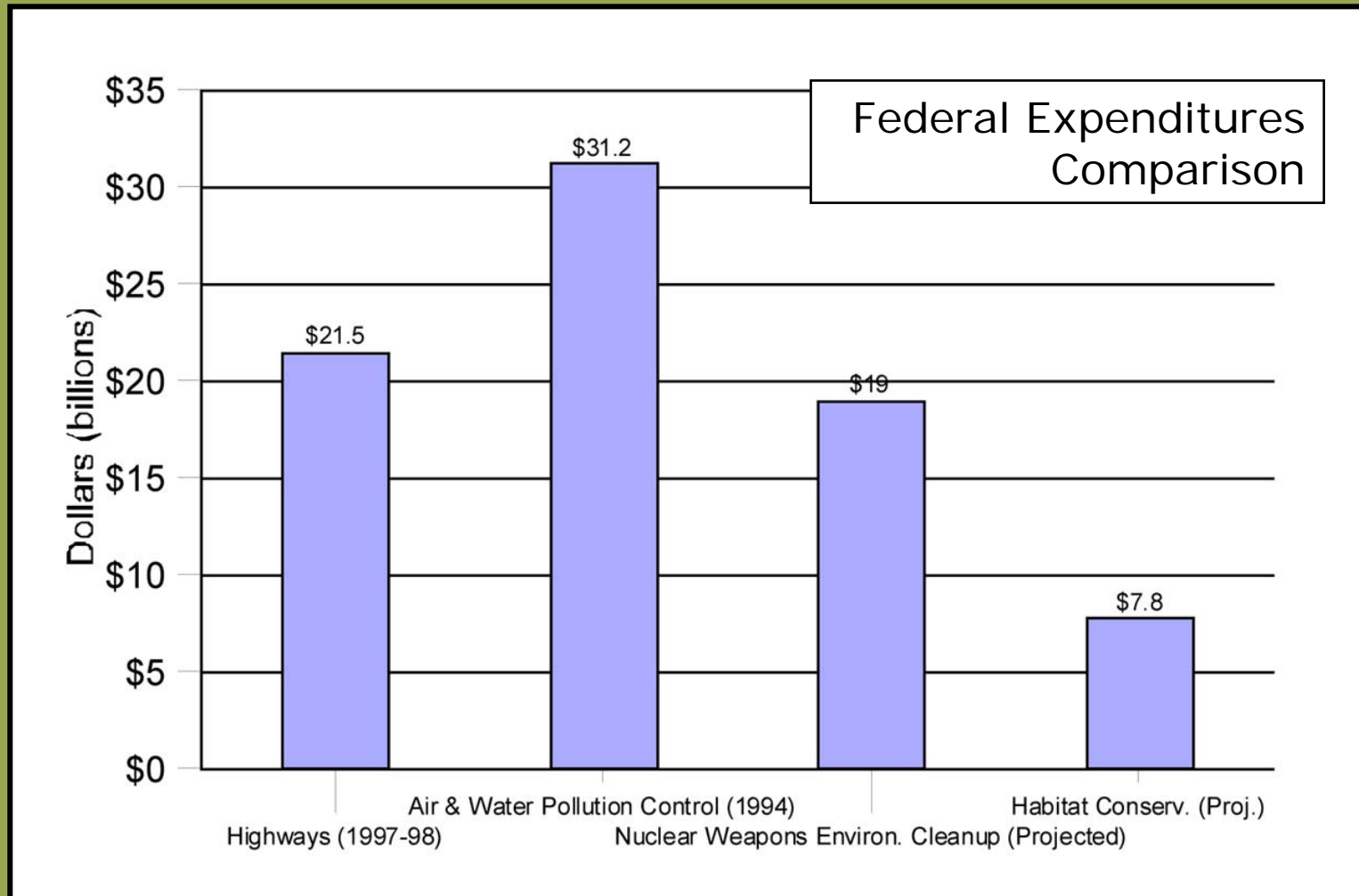
## Costs of Land Conservation\*

- 25% of land needs to be in “conservation status”
- Half public, half private
- \$5-8 billion/yr (deeds, easements, or rentals) for private land portion
- Total cost of \$250-450 billion over 30 years

*\*Based on three plans (FL, OR, TNC – Central Shortgrass Prairie)*

Source: Shaffer et al, 2002, Noah's Options. *BioScience* 52: 434-443

# Wildlife Conservation System: Future - Costs



# Wildlife Conservation System: Future - Costs

## Current Habitat Conservation Expenditures (2001)

➤ Federal / Fee Simple	\$ 428,000,000
➤ Federal / Easement	\$ 165,000,000
➤ Federal / Rentals	\$1,475,000,000
➤ Federal / Cost-Share	\$ 342,500,000
➤ States / Fee Simple & Easement	\$1,718,700,000
➤ Mitigation	\$ ???
➤ NGOs	\$ ???
	<i>Subtotal</i> \$4,129,200,000
	<i>Total</i> \$ ???

# Wildlife Conservation System: Future - Financing

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## Keys for the Future

- Better targeting of existing programs through state strategies.
- Expand state, local and private funding linked to strategies.
- Provide Federal matching grants linked to strategies.

# Wildlife Conservation System: Summary

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The U.S. can complete a national wildlife conservation system in about the time it took to build the Interstate Highway System and for about one-third of the price of the Federal Highway System on an annual basis