



SUPPORTING STATE-LED FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

USFWS Science Applications Program

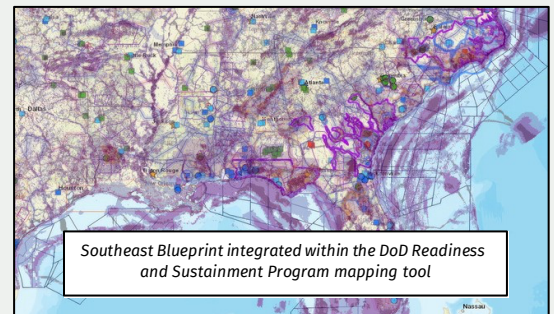
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service **Science Applications Program** is a vital **non-regulatory program** that is uniquely positioned to serve state interests by strengthening partnerships and fostering collaboration across jurisdictions and partners.

Through **innovative collaboration** in technical assistance, mapping, data management, and coordination, Science Applications helps states be strategic with their limited resources to align priorities across jurisdictions, and tackle shared challenges to proactively conserve fish, wildlife, working lands, clean air and water.

A relatively small federal investment leverages state resources to deliver big results on the ground. Through its voluntary, collaborative approach, **Science Applications works with states to conserve species of greatest conservation need, be strategic with targeting conservation, and achieve broad-scale conservation goals more efficiently**; reducing regulatory conflicts and delivering lasting benefits for both people and ecosystems.

ENHANCING MILITARY READINESS IN NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA, FLORIDA, ALABAMA, AND MISSISSIPPI:

*The military and conservation communities have increasingly found common ground in the Southeast. Many threats to fish, wildlife, and working lands also hinder military testing and training activities by encroaching on buffers, obstructing key air space, and isolating rare species on bases—**Science Applications supports partners to achieve mutual and multiple objectives between natural resources and national defense.***



HOW SCIENCE APPLICATIONS BENEFITS STATES

- **Strengthens Local Economies** by being strategic in the delivery of conservation, supporting industries like energy, farming, ranching, forestry, and outdoor recreation.
- **Eliminates Redundancies** by providing co-developed tools, data, and expertise that streamlines efforts across states and partners, saving time and resources.
- **Supports proactive conservation** efforts that reduce the need for federal regulation—providing greater regulatory certainty and lessening burdens on states, businesses, and landowners.
- **Empowers State Leadership** by ensuring federal resources align with state priorities, enabling states to lead conservation efforts.

THE OUTDOOR ECONOMY ALONE GENERATES \$862 BILLION ANNUALLY, SUPPORTING 4.5 MILLION JOBS NATIONWIDE.

STATE-LED TALLGRASS PRAIRIE CONSERVATION IN THE MIDWEST

*State-led tallgrass prairie conservation in the Midwest **strengthens ecosystems, supports grazing economies, safeguards soil and water, enhances hunting and other recreation opportunities, and preserves habitat—reducing the risk of future species listings.** With MLI's facilitation and Midwest Conservation Blueprint mapping, **Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri** secured funding to conserve, restore, and connect 28,000 acres, benefiting both wildlife and communities.*



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SPECIFIC WAYS SCIENCE APPLICATIONS SUPPORTS STATES

- **Big Game Corridors:** Provides science and coordination in support of state efforts to manage migration routes for elk, mule deer, and pronghorn.
- **Strategic Development:** Helps satisfy mutual and multiple objectives by identifying areas where projects such as energy development can coexist with conservation, avoiding conflicts and delays.
- **Military Readiness:** Partners with the Department of Defense and states to conserve working lands and wildlife habitats near military installations, benefiting local economies and national security.
- **Grassland and Wetland Restoration:** Recovers pollinators which are essential for agriculture as well as waterfowl and prairie species.
- **Working Lands:** Aligns farming and ranching practices with voluntary conservation goals, increasing productivity while protecting habitats.
- **Working Forests and Clean Water:** Provides tools and information for private and public forest management and safeguarding water supplies for millions of Americans.
- **Wildfire Prevention:** Helps western states restore rangelands and control invasive plants to reduce wildfire risks.

MAPPING AND CONSERVING BIG-GAME CORRIDORS

In collaboration with state, federal, and tribal partners, Science Applications supports state-led efforts to map and conserve big-game migration corridors across the American West. By advancing standardized mapping techniques, GPS tracking, and habitat restoration, these partnerships help sustain herd abundance and enhance habitat connectivity. Guided by state-identified priorities, coordination with state wildlife agencies, USGS, NRCS, NFWF, and private landowners these initiatives sustain herd abundance, enhance habitat connectivity, and provide ecological, cultural, and economic benefits to communities that depend on these landscapes.



WITHOUT SCIENCE APPLICATIONS, STATES WOULD FACE:

- **Inefficiencies and Redundancies:** States would need to expend scarce resources to duplicate tools and staffing across multiple agencies and organizations, leading to wasted time and resources.
- **Increased Federal Regulation:** A loss of proactive planning could result in increased regulatory burdens for businesses, private landowners, states and local governments.
- **Economic Strain and Uncertainty:** Key industries—energy, farming, ranching, forestry, and outdoor recreation—could face challenges as ecosystem health declines and regulatory complexities increase.
- **Challenges to State-Led Conservation:** Reduced Science Applications capacity could weaken state-federal collaboration, making it harder for states to lead large-scale conservation efforts and increasing the likelihood of a top-down federal approach to cross-jurisdictional issues.

STATE-LED CONSERVATION, SCIENCE-SUPPORTED

Science Applications is partnering with New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York to restore cold-water habitat, reconnect streams, and remove barriers threatening brook trout. This state-led, science-supported effort enhances water quality, strengthens habitat resilience, and improves fishing opportunities, benefiting both wildlife and local economies. By supporting outdoor recreation and reducing the risk of future ESA listings, this initiative demonstrates how strategic conservation investments drive long-term ecological, economic, and regulatory benefits.

