

Gulf Coastal Plain / Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative

*Perspectives from the
Southeast Region Migratory Bird Program*

*Presented By Randy Wilson
Station Leader, Mississippi - Migratory Bird Office*

Organizational Structure of the Migratory Bird Program in the Southeast

- Joint Ventures (within the GCPO LCC)
 - East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture
 - Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture
 - ½ of Central Hardwoods Joint Venture
 - *plus portions of the Atlantic Coast and Gulf Coast JVs*
- Field Stations (within the GCPO LCC)
 - Mississippi Migratory Bird Office (MS, AL, TN, KY)
 - Louisiana Migratory Bird Office (LA, AR)

Roles and Responsibilities of the Southeast Region Migratory Bird Program

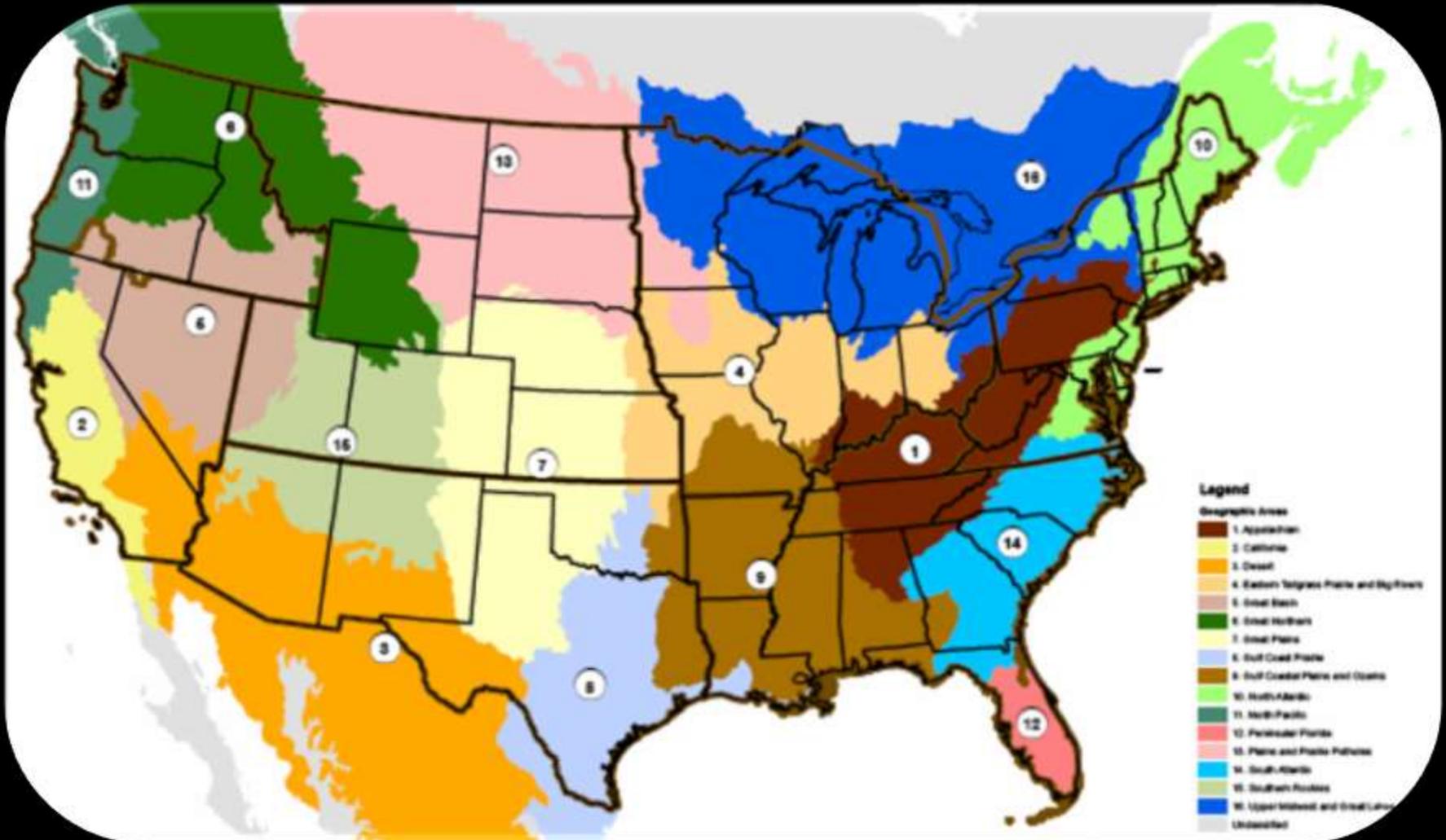
Joint Ventures	Migratory Bird Field Stations
<i>Serve as the forum by which conservation partners develop and share conservation objectives in pursuit of sustainable populations and landscapes</i>	<i>Serve and represent the Service on a variety of fronts from on-the-ground activities to national-level issues.</i>
Coordinate & Facilitate Biological Planning	Scientific Advisor and Technical Assistance to Joint Ventures
Facilitate and Perform Conservation Design Activities	Scientific Advisor and Technical Assistance to NWRS , State WMAs, and National Forests.
Facilitate Conservation Delivery Programs	Technical Assistance and Implementation of FWS-Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects on private lands
Design and Implement Coordinated, Out-come Based Monitoring Programs	Coordinate regional and national bird monitoring programs via Flyway Councils, Bird Initiatives, etc
Facilitate and Coordinate Applied Research Projects	Coordinate and Facilitate bird/habitat research

What is a LCC?

...applied conservation science partnerships (federal, state, non-governmental organizations) focused on a defined geographic area that informs on-the-ground strategic conservation efforts at landscape scales...

...will engage in biological planning, conservation design, inventory and monitoring program design and other conservation-based research, planning, and coordination activities.

LCC Geographic Areas

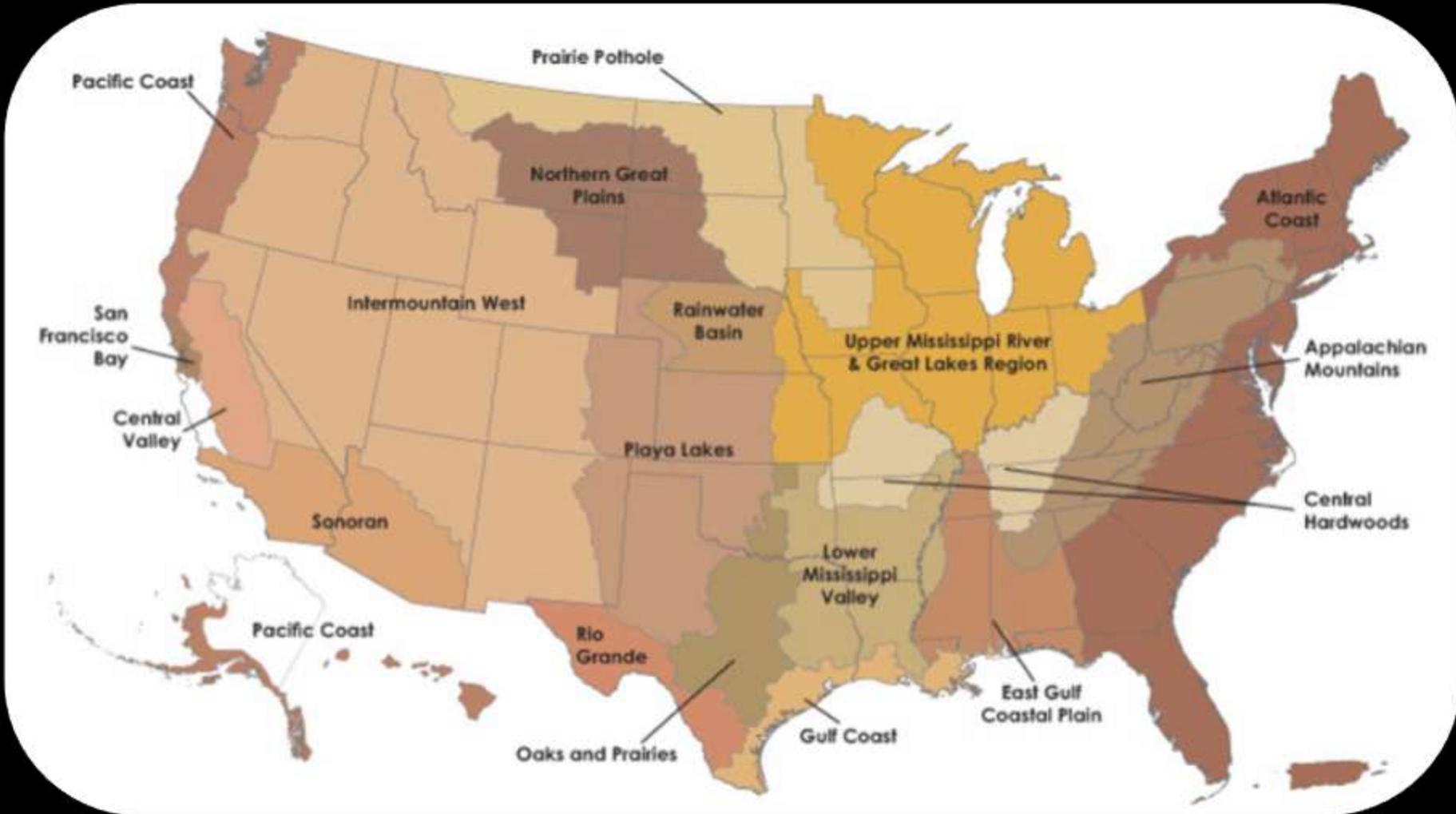


What is a Joint Venture?

...regional-scale, self-directed, non-regulatory partnerships involving federal, state, non-governmental organizations...

...delivering science-based planning, design, delivery, and monitoring and research in support of national and international bird conservation plans.

Joint Venture Administrative Boundaries



Question: Do we (Migratory Bird Program) see the need for and understand concept of LCCs?

Landscape Conservation Cooperative	Joint Venture
Geographically-defined	Geographically-defined
Partnership-based	Partnership-based
Landscape-oriented	Landscape-oriented
Steering Committee	Management Board
Utilize Principles of SHC	Utilize Principles of SHC
All Taxa	Primarily Birds

Answer: Yes, we understand the concept: but from a Migratory Bird organizational and operational perspective, we foresee great potential for redundancy and duplication of conservation actions and partnerships.

Joint Venture Management Board Support



East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Forestry
1505 Eastover Dr.
Jackson, MS 39211-6374

November 30, 2009

Secretary Ken Salazar
Department of Interior
1839 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

As Management Board chairman, I write to you on behalf of the East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture, a conservation partnership consisting of numerous member organizations. Our Joint Venture has experienced the development of partnership-based Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) within a framework of self-directed partnerships that supports landscape-scale conservation projects. We face a multitude of challenges our conservation cooperatives face, including climate change. The Department of Interior



Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
PO Box 40747
Nashville, TN 37204

November 23, 2009

Secretary Ken Salazar
Department of Interior
1839 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

As Chairman of the private, state, and federal Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture conservation partnership, I write to you on behalf of its member organizations and agencies to express our unified support for the Department of Interior's actions in developing partnership-based Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs). We fully share the vision of a national network of LCCs collaboratively developing a comprehensive strategy for sustaining our Nation's fish and wildlife resources. Further, we commend the Department of Interior for demonstrating both bold leadership and a strong commitment to our natural resources at a time when they face unprecedented and unparalleled challenges to their



Given Secretarial Order 3289 to Establish LCCs...

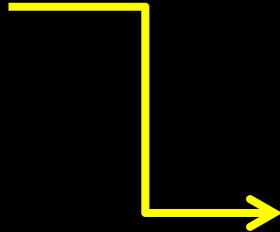
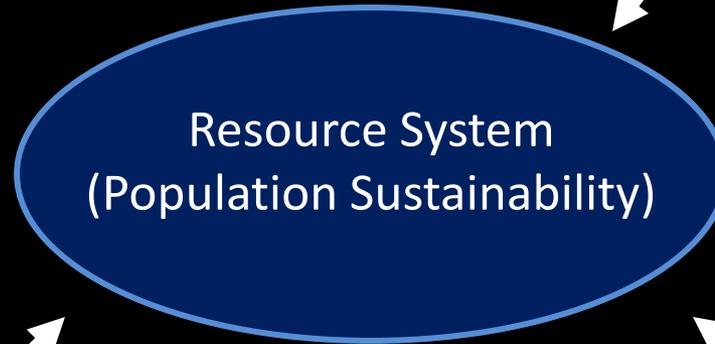
...how and where can the Migratory Bird Program, “plug-in”?



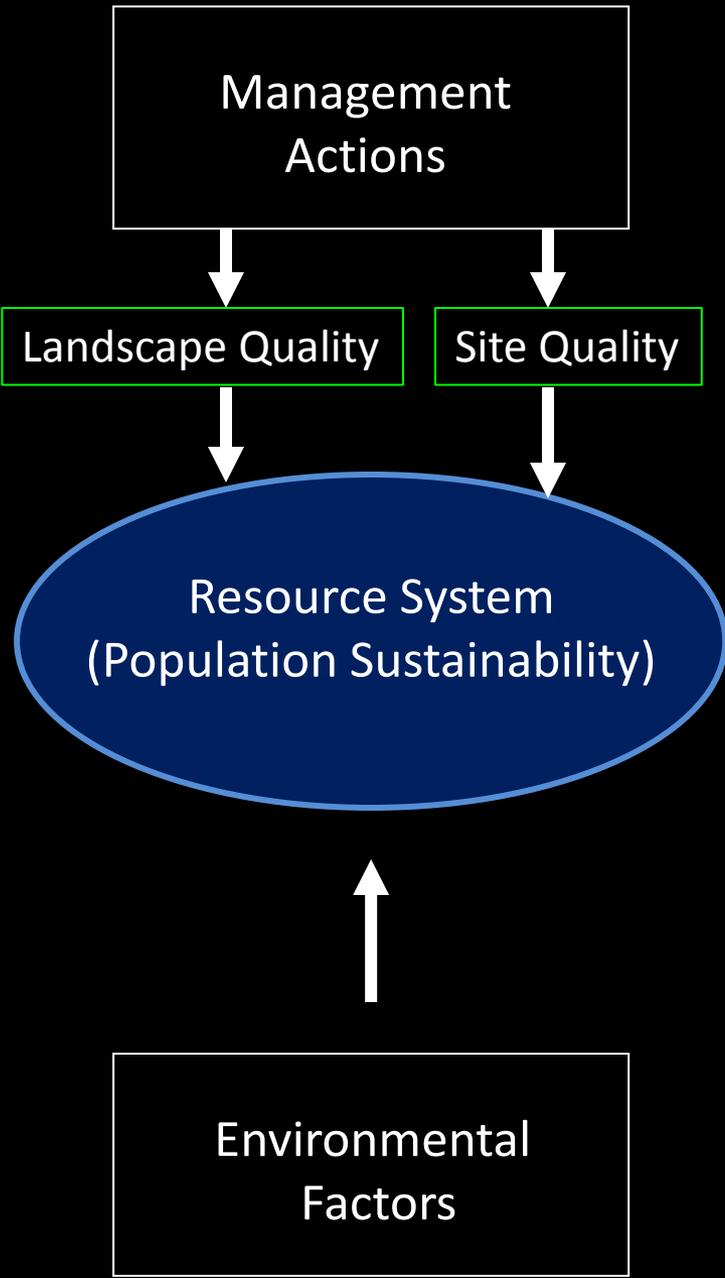
To better elucidate roles and responsibilities, I have made four operational assumptions...

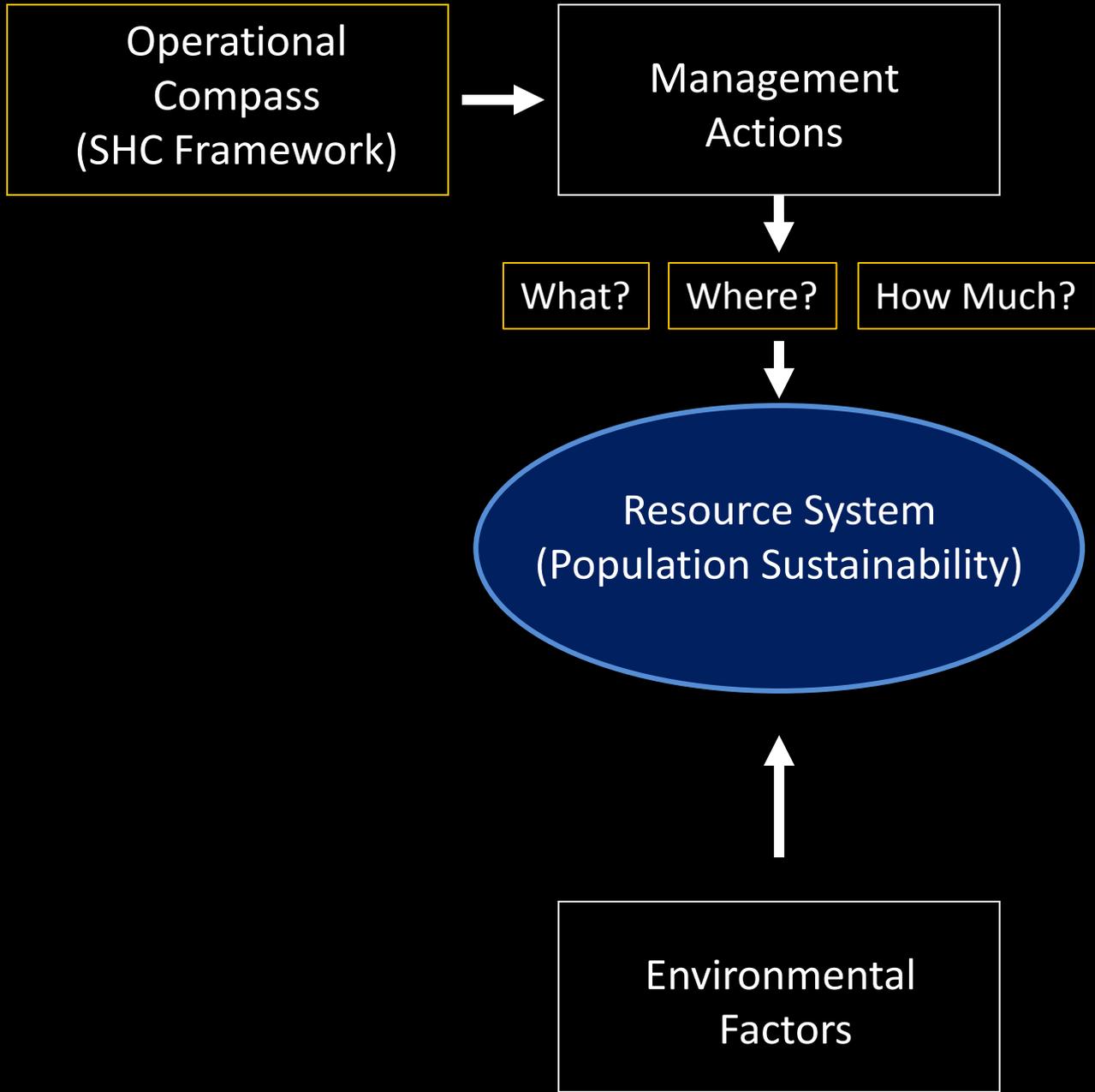
- (1) Joint Ventures retain their identify and are responsible for all bird related planning activities;
- (2) LCCs are staffed with coordinator, science coordinator, hydrologists, remote sensing / spatial modelers, simulation modelers, etc...;
- (3) LCC products are large-scale datasets (down scaled climate models, DEMs, HGMs, soils, land cover, landuse change, urban sprawl, predicted wildfire, etc..);
- (4) Some other entity or partnership (i.e., not the LCC staff) completes the biological planning aspects of the operational compass for non-avian taxa (e.g., ES Program for T&E Species).

*Conservation
Target*



*Conservation
Target*





LCC Operational Compass

		Birds	Fish	Mammals	Herps	Plants
Biological Planning	Priority Species	✓				
	Population Objectives	✓				
	Limiting Factors	✓				
Conservation Implementation	Joint Venture partnerships and Field Stations can contribute to all of these functional elements via defined roles and responsibilities...	✓				
	...with products addressing both landscape and site quality issues in an adaptive manner.	✓				
		✓				
Conservation Design		✓				
		✓				
Outcome Monitoring		✓				
	Population Monitoring Program	✓				
Assumption-driven Research	Species/Habitat Models	✓				
	Management Treatments	✓				

LCC Operational Compass

		Birds	Fish	Mammals	Herps	Plants
Biological Planning	Priority Species	✓				
	Population Objectives	✓				
	Limiting Factors	✓				
	Species - Habitat Models	✓				
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> It is unclear, whom or what partnership will facilitate biological planning for other taxa. </div>		✓				
		✓				
		✓				
	Integrate Multiple Objectives	✓				
Conservation Delivery	Conservation Treatments	✓				
	Program Objectives	✓				
Outcome-based Monitoring	Conservation Tracking Systems	✓				
	Habitat Monitoring Program	✓				
	Population Monitoring Program	✓				
Assumption-driven Research	Species/Habitat Models	✓				
	Management Treatments	✓				

LCC Operational Compass

		Birds	Fish	Mammals	Herps	Plants
Biological Planning	Priority Species	✓				
	Population Objectives	✓				
	Limiting Factors	✓				
	Species - Habitat Models	✓				
C	<p>From my perspective...</p> <p>... there is >95% probability that assuming LCC staff will accomplish this effort will result in a type-1 error (i.e., false-positive).</p>		✓			
			✓			
			✓			
			✓			
C			✓			
			✓			
			✓			
Outcome-based Monitoring	Conservation Tracking Systems	✓				
	Habitat Monitoring Program	✓				
	Population Monitoring Program	✓				
Assumption-driven Research	Species/Habitat Models	✓				
	Management Treatments	✓				

LCC Operational Compass

		Birds	Fish	Mammals	Herps	Plants
Biological Planning	Priority Species	✓				
	Population Objectives	✓				
	Limiting Factors	✓				
<p>In some cases, Joint Venture bird-habitat planning can and does incorporate habitat needs of other taxa.</p>		✓				
		✓				
		✓				
		✓				
		Integrate Multiple Objectives	✓			
Conservation Delivery	Conservation Treatments	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Program Objectives	✓				
Outcome-based Monitoring	Conservation Tracking Systems	✓				
	Habitat Monitoring Program	✓				
	Population Monitoring Program	✓				
Assumption-driven Research	Species/Habitat Models	✓				
	Management Treatments	✓				



RESTORATION, MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING OF FOREST RESOURCES IN THE MISSISSIPPI ALLUVIAL VALLEY: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCING WILDLIFE HABITAT



aka – “Desired Forest Conditions”



LOWER MISSISSIPPI ALLUVIAL VALLEY JOINT VENTURE
FOREST RESOURCE CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

Implementation Facilitated by Joint Venture Partnership

PUBLIC LANDS

National Wildlife Refuges

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency

Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

Mississippi Dept of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks

PRIVATE LANDS

The Nature Conservancy

Ducks Unlimited

USDA Farm Bill Programs

Carbon Sequestration Initiatives

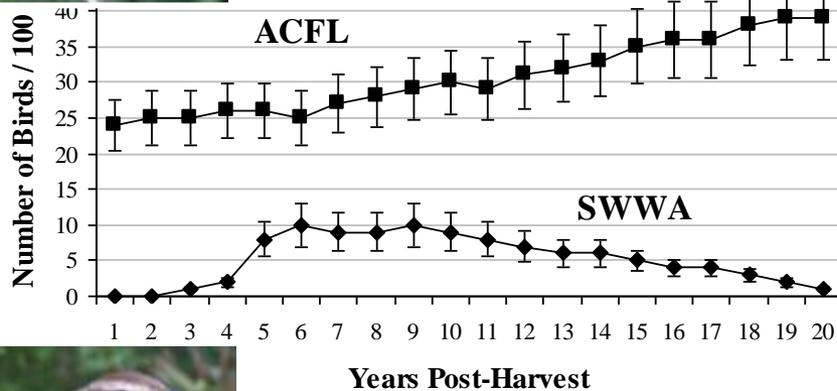
Hunter Owned Hunting Clubs



Forest Breeding Bird Monitoring Program

Quantitative Objective: Generate density estimates corrected for detectability with coefficient of variation (CV) values $\leq 20\%$ within each time period (years post harvest).

Designed and Coordinated by
Migratory Bird Field Station



Implemented by Joint
Venture Partnership

Point Counts - 2007

Arkansas
WMA: 162
NWR: 26

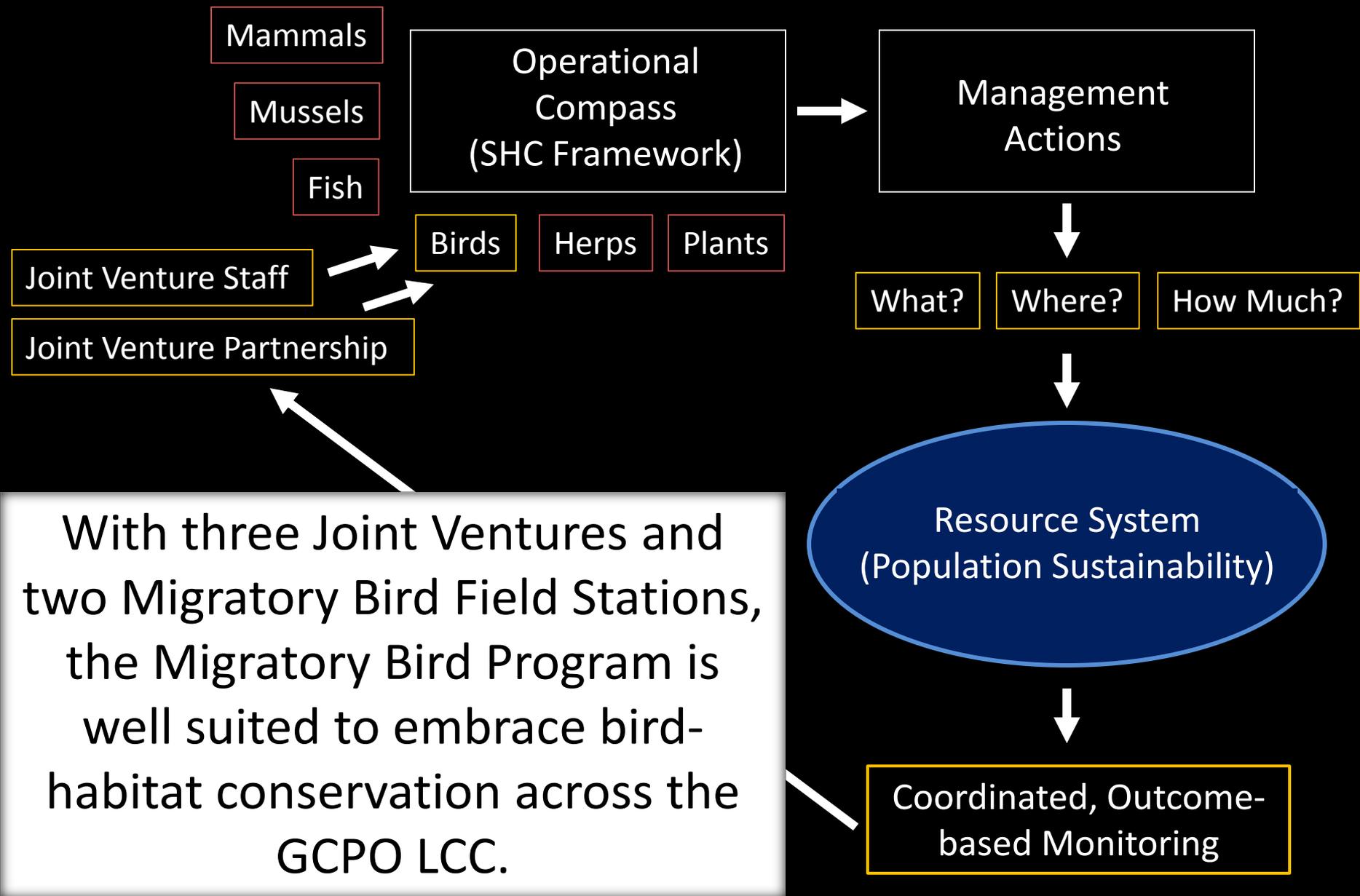
Louisiana
WMA: 90
NWR: 138

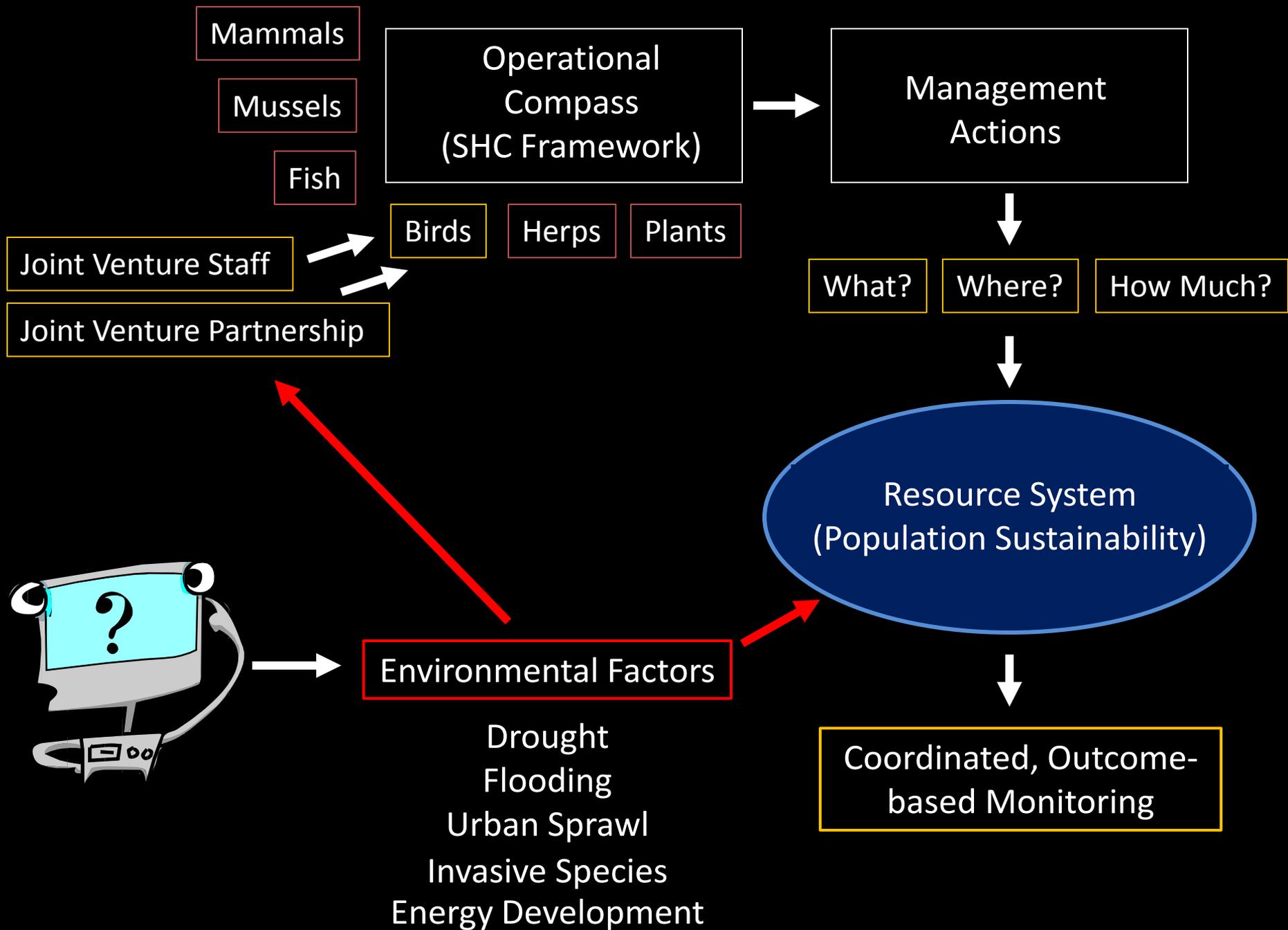
Kentucky
WMA: 20

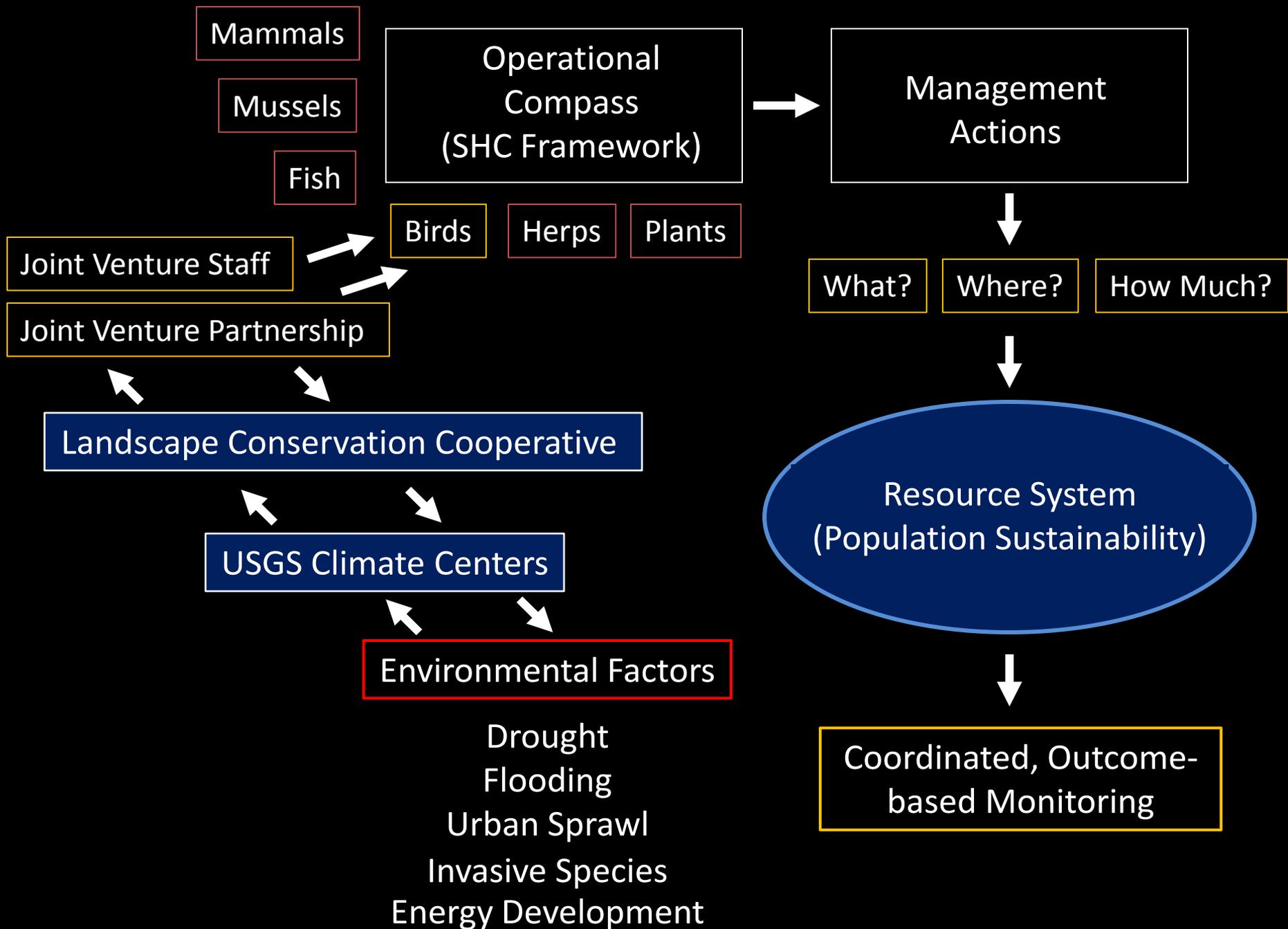
Tennessee
WMA: 32

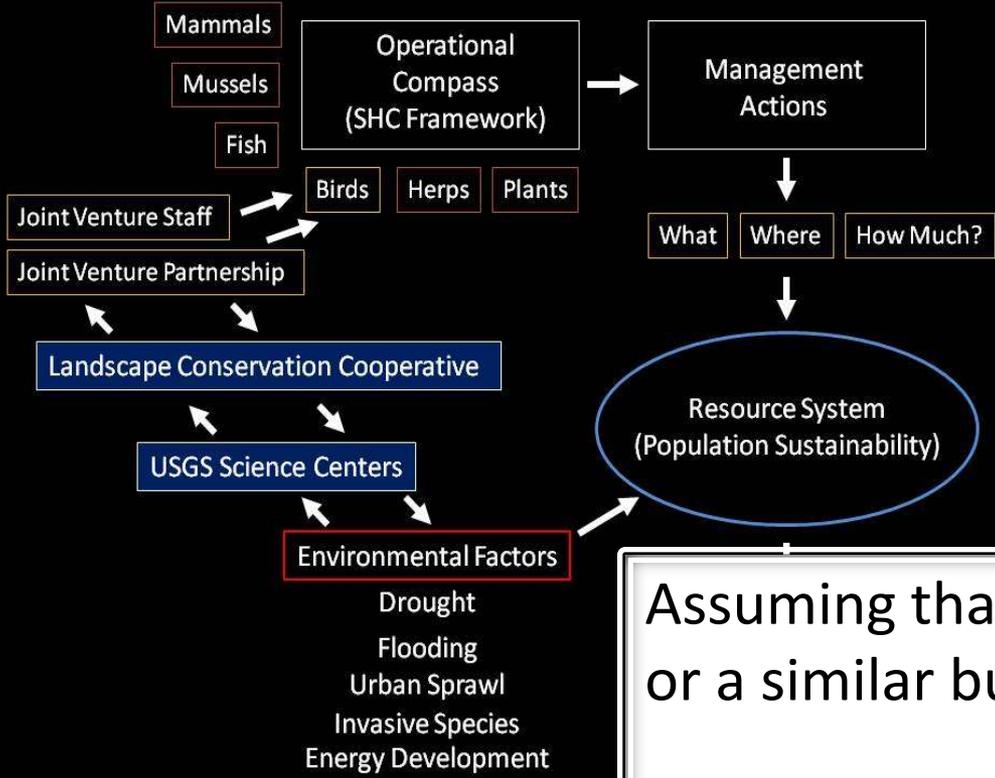
Mississippi
WMA: 24
NWR: 66
NF: 20











Assuming that the LCC operates under this or a similar business plan...

Joint Venture Partnerships would need:

- *Integrated databases and administrator*
- *Simulation modeler*
- *Monitoring coordinator / biometrician*

Migratory Bird Field Stations would need:

- *Additional Field Station w/in the Ozarks*

Challenges to Making this Work....

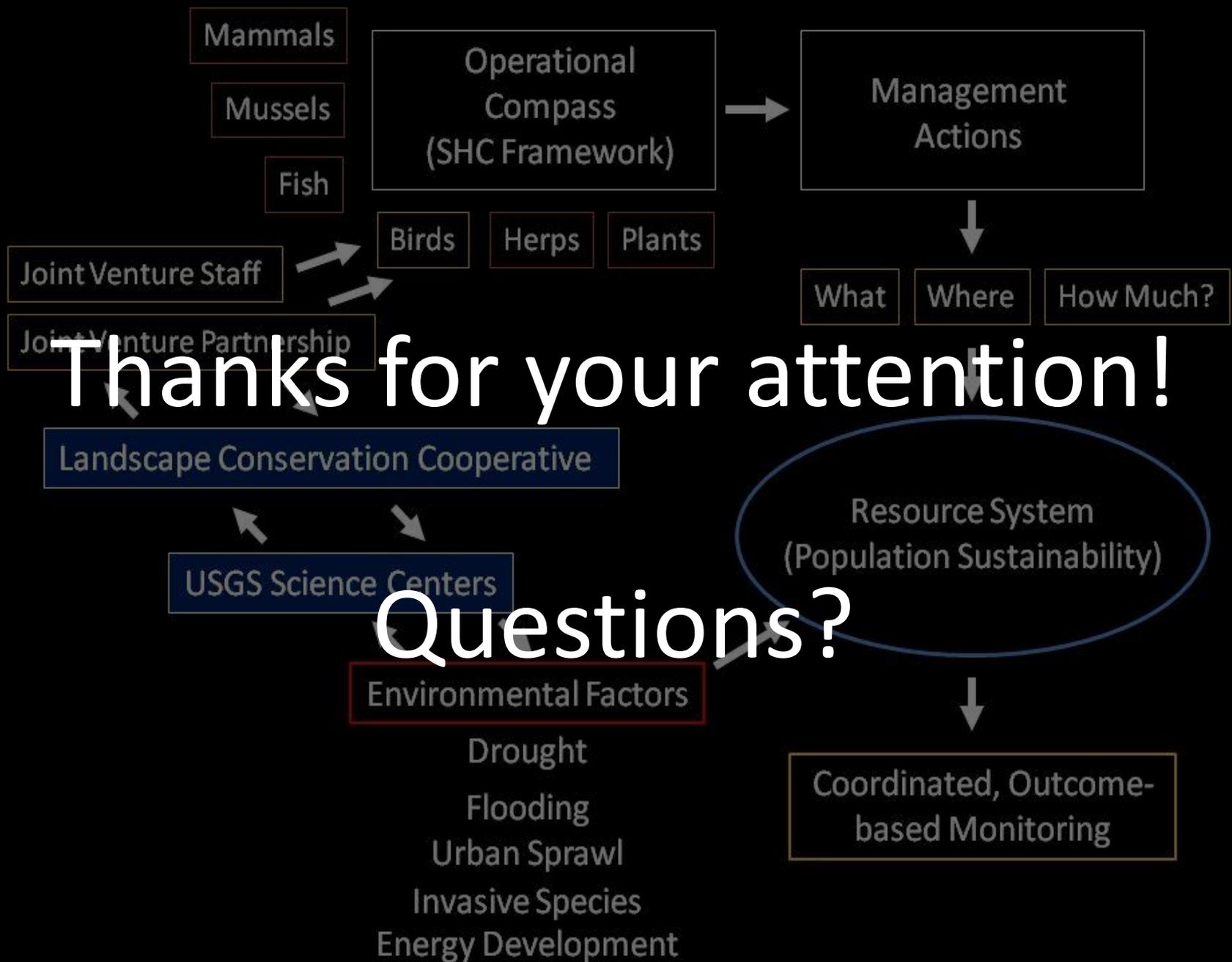
- Working in a large, diverse geography (e.g., multiple habitat complexes)
 - Reconciling differences between LCC boundaries and JV boundaries
 - Reconciling differences between aquatic and terrestrial systems
- Protecting the identity of Joint Ventures
 - Prevent redundancy and/or the consumption of Joint Venture efforts
 - Prevent Joint Ventures from being eroded, by inclusion of all taxa
- Coordination across a vast array of partners
 - Both within the Service and outside the Service
 - Coordination among Joint Ventures
 - Coordination between Joint Ventures and LCC Infrastructure
 - Coordination between consv. partnerships and regulatory authorities
- Building a “Cooperative”
 - Partner “buy-in” and future investments (e.g., staff and funding)
 - Protecting against partnership fatigue
 - Challenges of unmanageable number of partners/participants

Perceived Benefits...

- Increased capacity to facilitate bird conservation.
- Identification of other priority species needs, habitat objectives, and management strategies following a consistent ecological framework that will facilitate a broader implementation partnership.
- Contribution of landscape-scale modeling and remote sensing products that are currently beyond the scope of any one agency, organization or partnership.
- Increased ability to coordinate and implement monitoring programs at multiple spatial scales to facilitate “landscape-scale progress reports” as well as to facilitate adaptive management strategies for on-the-ground activities.

Uncertainties / Concerns

- Out-year funding -- What happens if (DOI) LCC funding goes away?
- Competition for Funding – NAWCA Grants; Refuge (1261); Migratory Birds (1231); Joint Venture (1264); Private Lands (1121); Recovery (1113)
- Distraction / loss of focus for on-the-ground delivery (especially O&M \$\$\$)
- Who is the audience for LCC products? Joint Venture Staff, On-the-ground staff, administrators, academia, USGS Climate Centers, etc. ???
- Service (Program) centric initiative(s) - failure to incorporate partners from the onset and/or failure to recognize cross-program synergies
- Trust Resources vs. Biodiversity (How will priorities be established?)
- Data Calls – How will staff handle the numerous data calls?



Thanks for your attention!

Questions?