



**Shawnee**

Resource, Conservation  
& Development

**LET THE SUN SHINE IN**



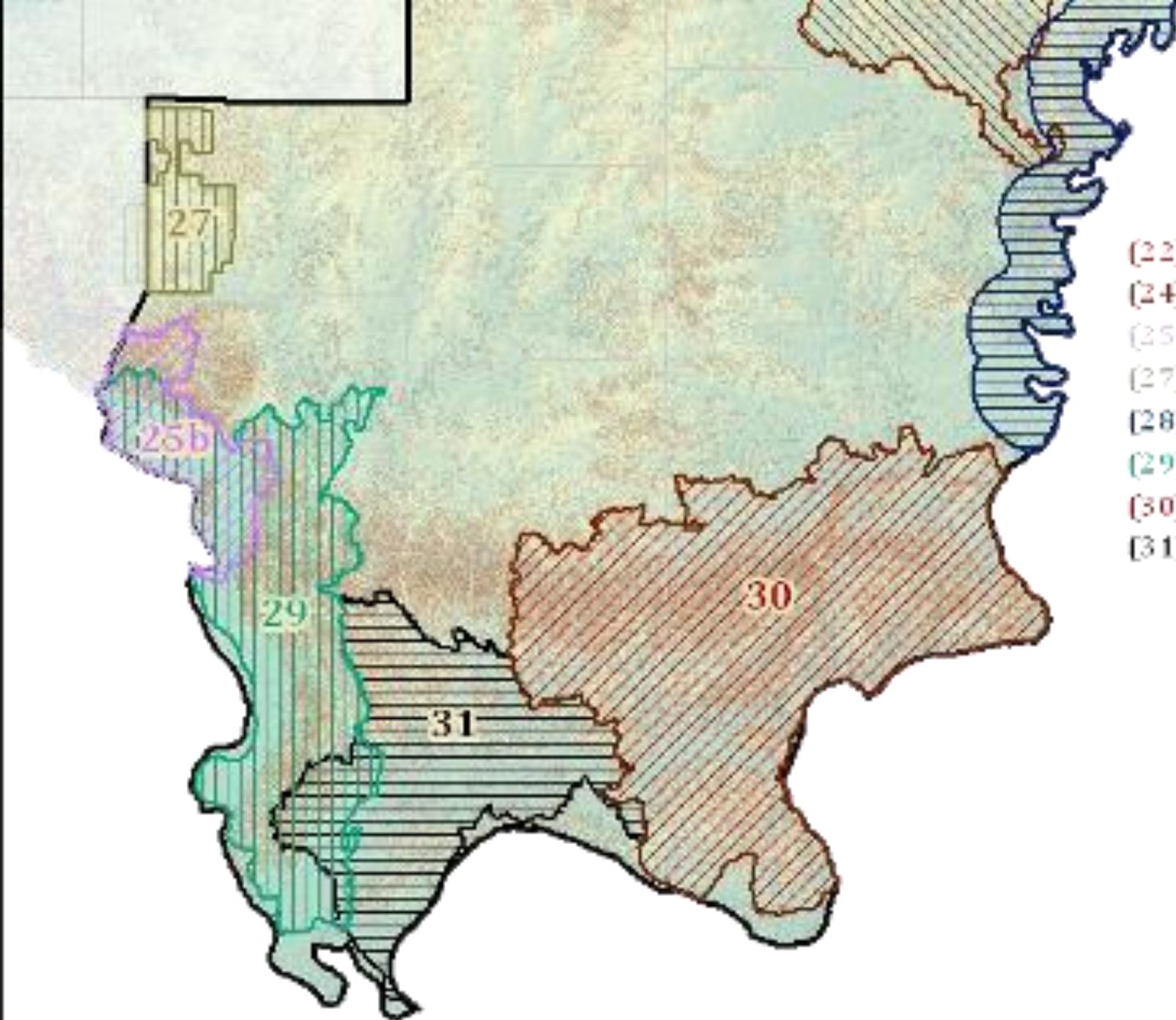
# Background

- LSSI is a regional landscape scale conservation effort to restore and maintain southern Illinois' oak ecosystems
- Regional land managers collaborate across ownership boundaries to address the threats to our forest communities
  - Decline of oak regeneration
  - Biodiversity loss
  - Invasive species
  - Impacts of climate change
- Aims to raise awareness of declining oak ecosystems and provide resources to empower landowners to engage in restoration
  - Publishes outreach materials
  - Hosts workshops
  - Aid in the development of forest management demonstration areas
  - Develops/maintains forest management monitoring plots

- Started as a project of the Shawnee RC&D
- Development of Forest Stewardship Clusters
- Maintain a collaborative conservation alliance
  - USFS
  - USFWS
  - NRCS
  - IDNR-Division of Forestry
  - TNC
  - NWTF
  - U of I
  - SIUC
  - American Bird Conservancy
- Development of forest management demonstration areas
- Public outreach
- Threatened & endangered species monitoring
- Implementation of oak restoration within Forest Stewardship Clusters



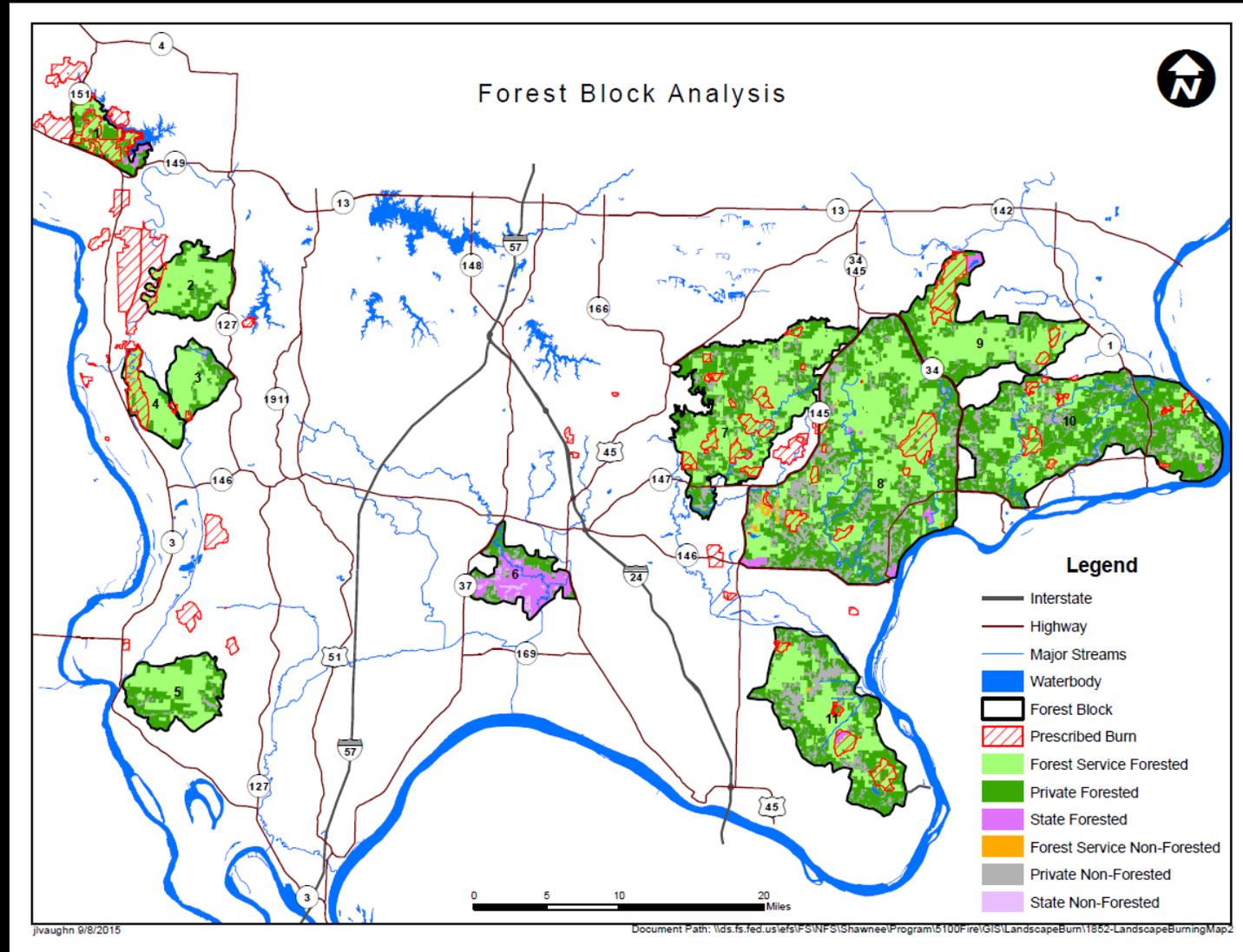
**Shawnee**  
Resource, Conservation  
& Development

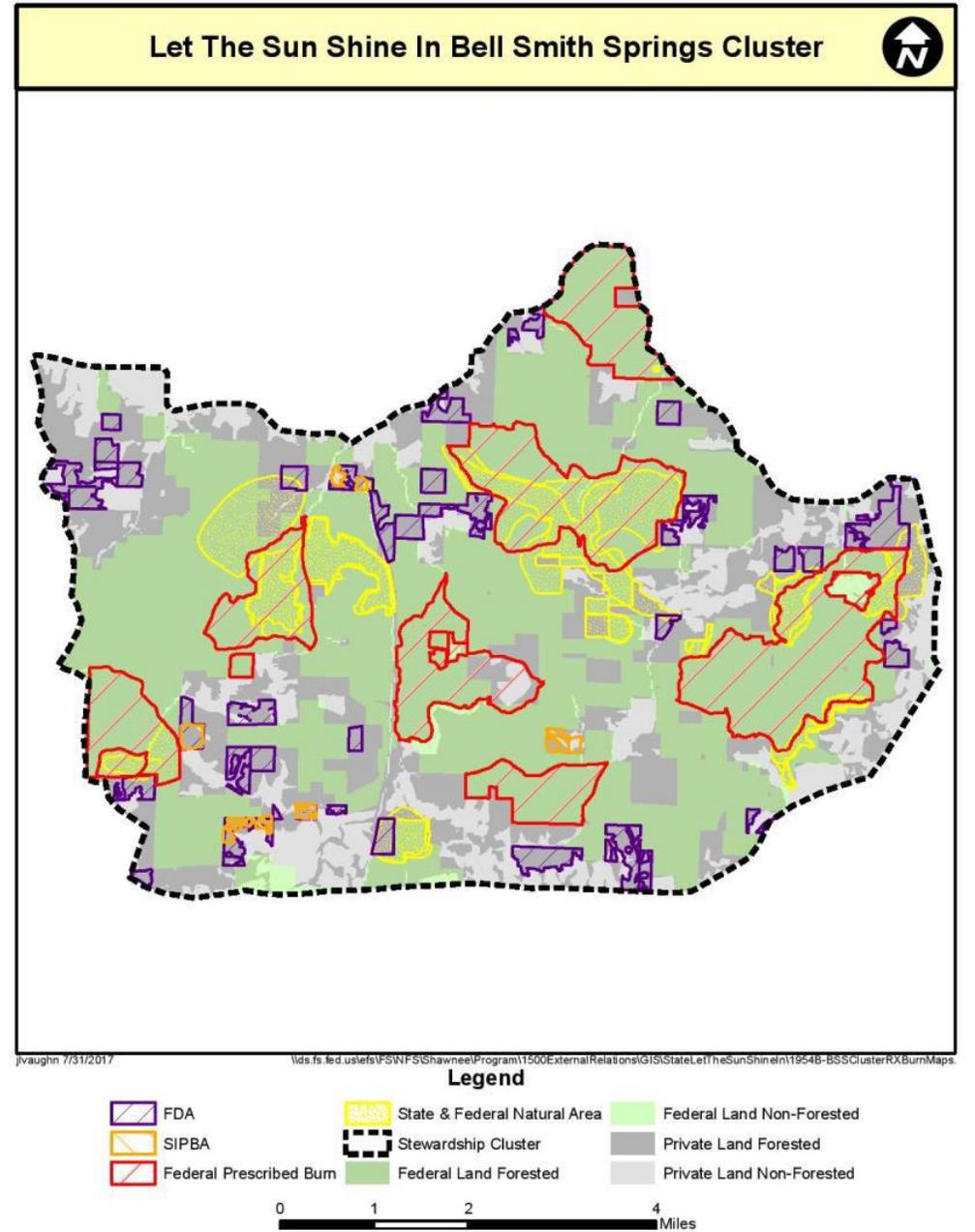
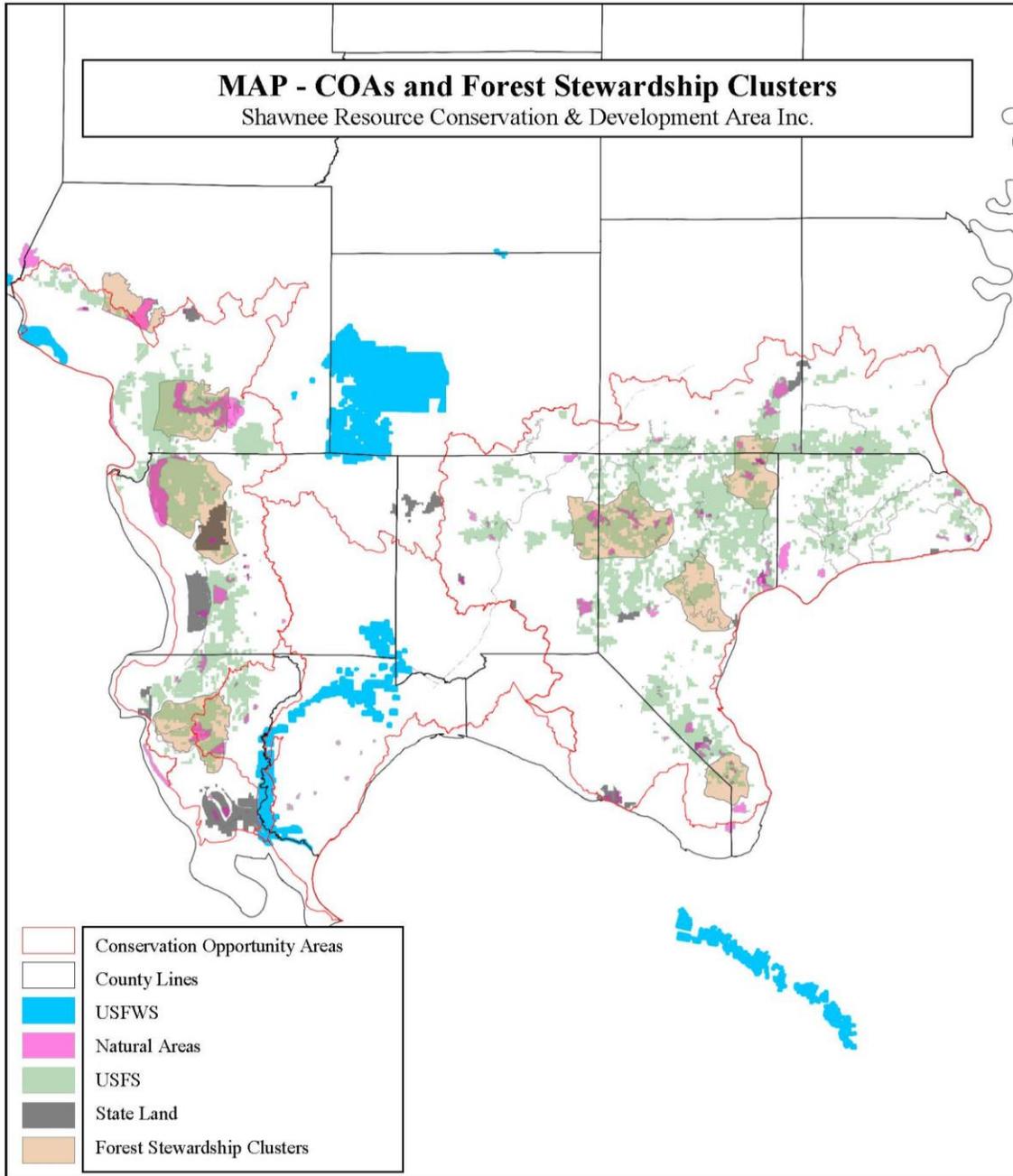


- (22) **Prairie Ridge Landscape**
- (24) **Middle Little Wabash**
- (25b) **Hill Prairie Corridor - South Section**
- (27) **Pyramid - Arkland Landscape**
- (28) **Wabash River**
- (29) **LaRue - Pine Hills**
- (30) **Eastern Shawnee**
- (31) **Cache River - Cypress Creek**

# FSC Development

- At least 7,000 acres of contiguous forest
- Interface of private and public land
- Consist of high-quality biological resources
  - Rare/T&E plant/animal species
  - Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites
  - Biologically significant streams





# Current Projects

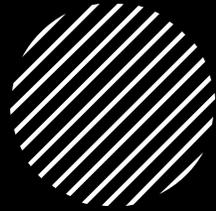
- Cross Boundary Oak Ecosystem Restoration in Southern Illinois
  - 450 acres of forest stand improvement
  - 310 acres of NNIS management
  - Trail of Tears and Kinkaid FSCs
- Southern Illinois Oak Ecosystem Restoration RCPP
  - \$770,000 for forest stand improvement, brush management (NNIS), & prescribed fire
  - Targets 5 FSCs
- Illinois Forestry for the Birds Pocket Guide
  - 2,000 copies of Pocket Guide printed and disbursed to private landowners, conservation agencies/organizations, and educational institutions
  - The Nature Conservancy Indiana & Illinois
  - Central Hardwoods Joint Venture
  - The Sam Shine Foundation
  - Illinois Forestry Development Council
  - National Wild Turkey Federation

# Forestry for the Birds

Pocket Guide for Landowners in Illinois and the Central Hardwoods Region



- 12 bird species
- Nest in Central Hardwoods
- Relatively easy to identify by sight/sound
- Species most in need of conservation action



## Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)



Red-headed woodpecker is a colorful species with eye-catching plumage and was a favorite of early ornithologists, including John James Audubon. Red-headed Woodpeckers commonly cache food in tree cavities and under bark and will often fly out from a perch to catch insects.

**Migratory Status:** Present year-round. Local breeding birds may be replaced by more northern breeding birds in winter.

**Population Trend:** Species of continental concern in the Central Hardwoods. Populations have declined an estimated 67% between 1970 and 2014.

**Conservation Concerns:** Habitat loss and degradation. Specifically, loss of open woodland and removal of dead trees (snags) and branches.

28



**Shawnee**  
Resource, Conservation  
& Development

### Authors/Editors

- Dr. Michael Baltz
- Dr. Kyle Brazil
- Allen Pursell
- Dr. Jessica Outcalt

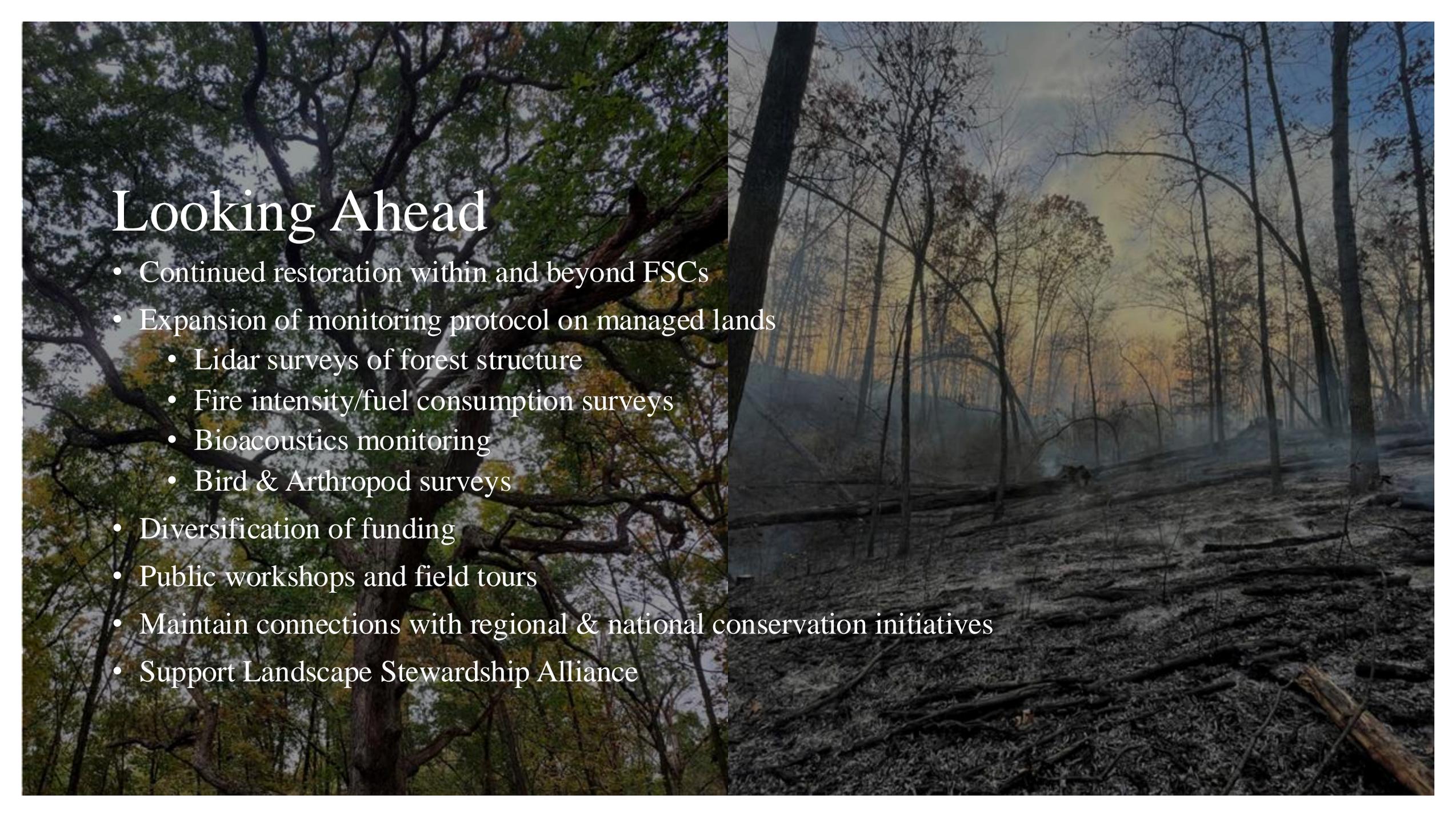
# Oak Regeneration & Ecosystem Monitoring

---

- Permanent photo points
  - Understory herbaceous vegetation inventory
  - Forest inventory plots
    - Basal area
    - Regeneration of oak/hickory species
    - Regeneration of mesophytic species
    - Coverage of NNIS
- 



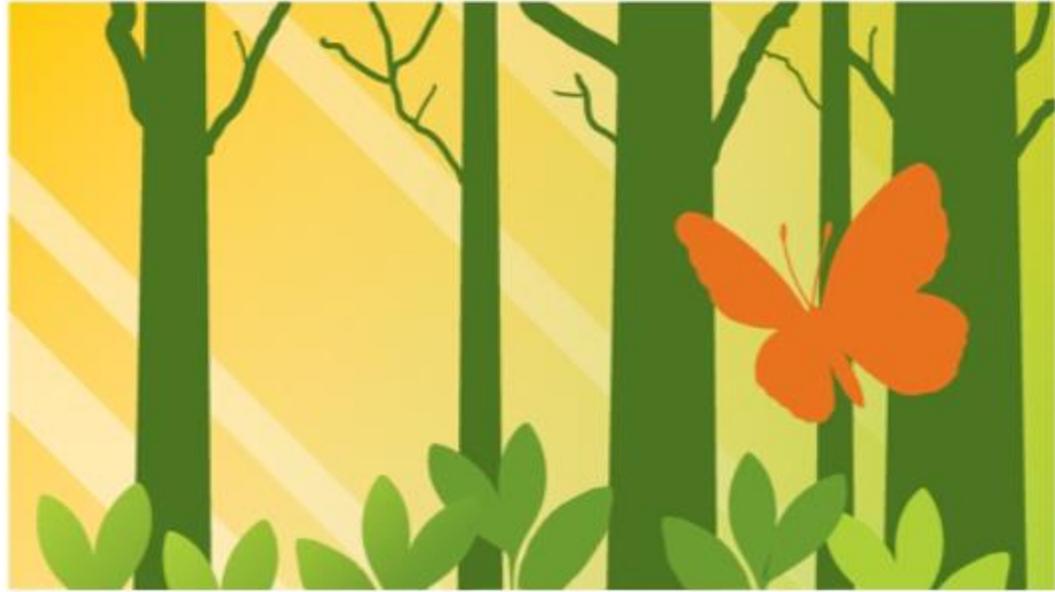




# Looking Ahead

- Continued restoration within and beyond FSCs
- Expansion of monitoring protocol on managed lands
  - Lidar surveys of forest structure
  - Fire intensity/fuel consumption surveys
  - Bioacoustics monitoring
  - Bird & Arthropod surveys
- Diversification of funding
- Public workshops and field tours
- Maintain connections with regional & national conservation initiatives
- Support Landscape Stewardship Alliance

LET THE SUN SHINE IN



**Shawnee**

Resource, Conservation  
& Development

Thank You!

- Email: [director@shawneercd.org](mailto:director@shawneercd.org)
- Phone: 618-944-1736
- <https://shawneercd.org/>