

CHAPTER 7. CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

A. Terrestrial Habitats

The development of conservation priorities is driven by a need to focus efforts on wildlife habitats and associated species of conservation concern currently experiencing the greatest population declines and where actions would bring the greatest benefits to the maximum number of species. Terrestrial habitats were prioritized for conservation action within ecoregion, and the process used to create the following habitat priority lists is described in detail in Chapter 3, Section I and in Appendix M. The following table is a listing of terrestrial habitat priorities by ecoregion and tier group.

Table 7.1. Terrestrial habitat priorities by ecoregion and tier group.

ECOREGION	TIER I HABITATS	TIER II HABITATS
EGCP		
	Eastern longleaf pine savannah	Mixed hardwood-loblolly pine/hardwood slope forest
	Eastern upland longleaf pine forest	Shortleaf pine/oak-hickory forest
	Slash pine-pondcypress hardwood forest	Bottomland hardwood forest
	Live oak-pine-magnolia forest	Small stream forest
	Spruce pine-hardwood flatwood	Bayhead swamp/forested seep
	Eastern hillside seepage bog	Cypress-tupelo-blackgum swamp
		Agriculture-crop-grassland
UWGCP		
	Shortleaf pine/oak-hickory forest	
	Mixed hardwood-loblolly pine/hardwood slope forest	
	Hardwood flatwood	
	Western xeric sandhill woodland	
	Small stream forest	
	Bottomland hardwood forest	
	Bayhead swamp/forested seep	
	Cypress-tupelo-blackgum swamp	
	Calcareous prairie	
	Calcareous forest	
	Saline prairie	
	Agriculture-crop-grassland	
LWGCP		
	Western longleaf pine savannah	Shortleaf pine/oak-hickory forest
	Western upland longleaf pine forest	Mixed hardwood-loblolly pine/hardwood slope forest
	Sandstone glade/barren	Small stream forest
	Western hillside seepage bog	Saline prairie

ECOREGION	TIER I HABITATS	TIER II HABITATS
LWGCP cont...		
		Bottomland hardwood forest
		Bayhead swamp/forested seep
		Cypress-tupelo-blackgum swamp
		Calcareous prairie
		Western xeric sandhill woodland
		Calcareous forest
		Agriculture-crop-grassland
MRAP		
	Sandbar	Bottomland hardwood forest
	Batture	Cypress-tupelo-blackgum swamp
		Live oak natural levee forest
		Hardwood flatwood
		Agriculture-crop-grassland
GCPM		
	Intermediate marsh	Live oak natural levee forest
	Salt marsh	Bottomland hardwood forest
	Coastal prairie	Cypress-tupelo-blackgum swamp
	Brackish marsh	Agriculture-crop-grassland
	Freshwater marsh	
	Barrier island live oak forest	
	Barrier islands	
	Coastal live oak-hackberry forest	
	Salt dome hardwood forest	
	Vegetated pioneer emerging delta	
	Coastal dune grassland/shrub thicket	
	Coastal mangrove-marsh shrubland	
UEGCP		
	Southern mesophytic forest	Small stream forest
		Agriculture-crop-grassland

B. Aquatic Habitats

Establishing priorities within aquatic habitats is difficult due to the overall lack of ecological and biological information for the majority of aquatic habitats and their associated species of conservation concern. With this first iteration, development of a priority process was not possible due to these data gaps. Therefore, the first priority for freshwater and marine systems is to initiate and support research on species assemblages and their ecological and biological needs.