

# Education, Outreach, and Training Efforts to Address Invasive Species in National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRs) and their Watersheds



NATIONAL  
ESTUARINE  
RESEARCH  
RESERVE  
SYSTEM



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North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve



# North Inlet-Winyah Bay NERR



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# Federal-State Partnerships



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- Universities
- Dept of Natural Resources
- Dept of Marine Resources
- Dept of Environmental Protection
- Dept of Fish and Game
- Dept of Conservation and Recreation

... and partners

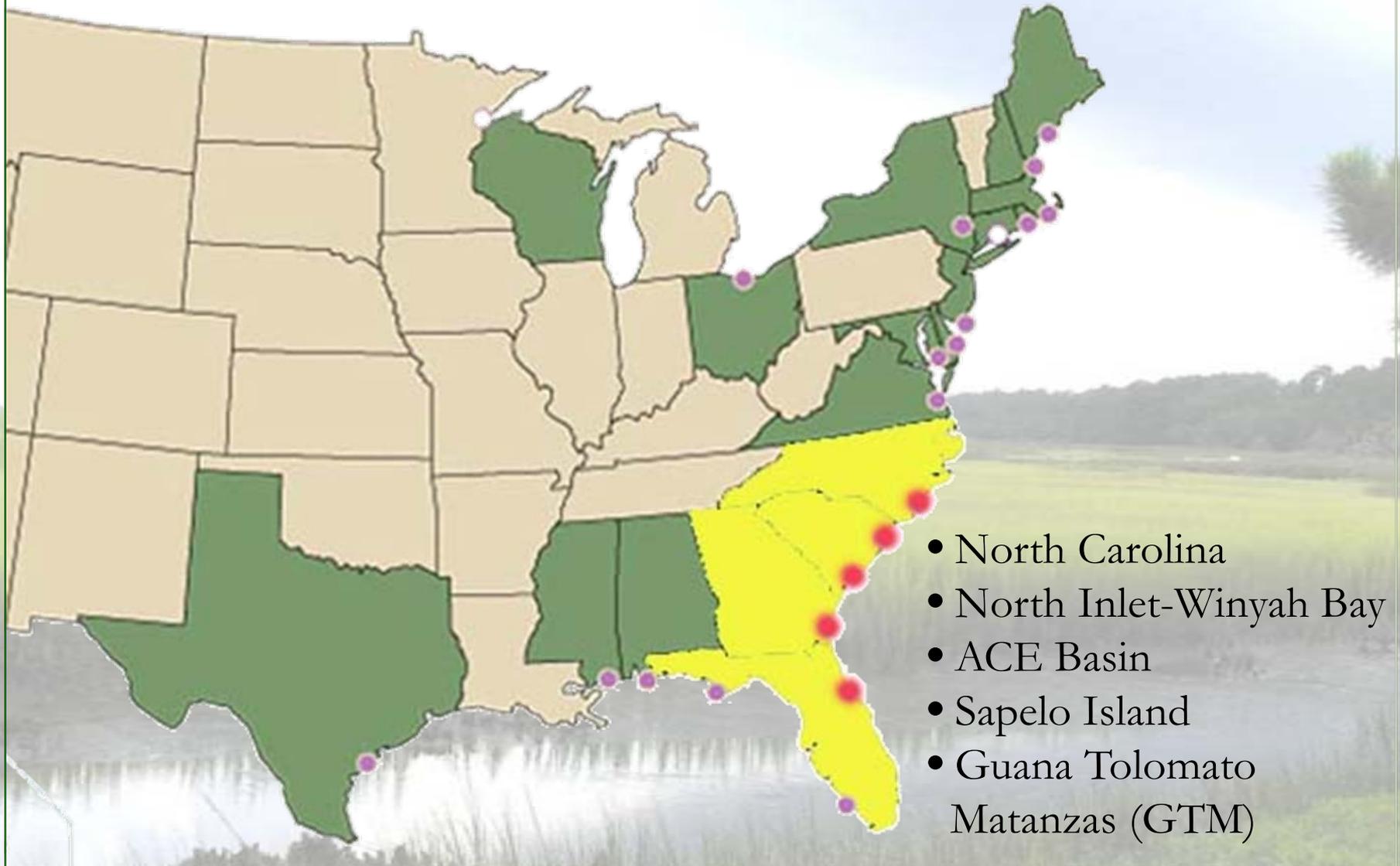
- Protected for
  - Long term research
  - Water quality monitoring
  - Education
  - Coastal stewardship
- Reserves as Sentinel Sites
  - Climate change
  - Sea level rise
  - Species distribution
  - Habitat change



# National Invasion Monitoring Workshop

- Baseline biological monitoring
- Include both native and non-native species
- Sample physical variables in conjunction with biological parameters
- Reserve system as a platform for biological monitoring at unprecedented spatial and temporal scales
- Central database
- Estuarine reference collection
- Taxonomic expertise:
- Question-driven monitoring

# The Southeastern NERRs



# Research, Monitoring, Management

- Eradication (physical removal, chemical treatment)
- Chemical treatment research testing
- Database records
- Distribution mapping
- Passive monitoring (presence/absence, volunteer groups)
- Active monitoring (research plots, volunteer groups)
- Native species restoration

# Education, Training, Outreach

- Publications
- Meetings/Workshops
- Public Involvement
- Brochures/Educational Materials
- Collaboration w/ Partners

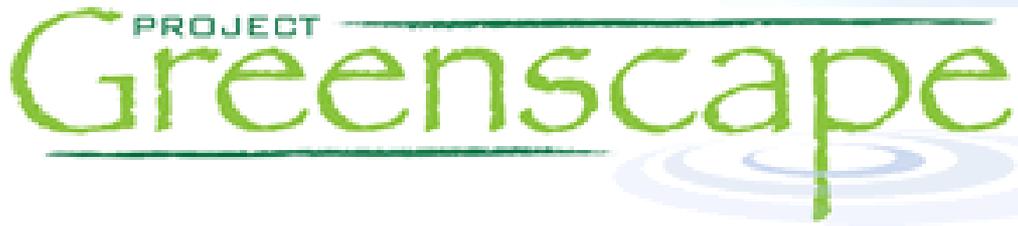


# Beach Vitex Task Force

- Active Monitoring
- Passive Monitoring (e.g. by SCUTE and other volunteer groups, on-line report forms)
- Database/Website Management
- Annual Conference
- [www.beachvitex.org](http://www.beachvitex.org)

# Sapelo Island NERR/CTP & GA EPPC Exotic Pest Plant Identification & Control Workshop

- Invasive Plants in GA Coastal Plain
- I.D. & Control Methods— classroom and field exercises
- Mapping programs/other management techniques
- Credits offered for pest control applicators
- ~40 participants, great feedback, planned for repeat with TNC and GA EPPC



# PROJECT Greenscape

- Florida Coastal Training Programs
- Landscaper BMP Training Program
- Certification required by municipalities
- Landscaping Ordinances
- >1000 landscapers trained
- Moving towards state legislature requirements

# Southeast Native Landscape Project

- Expansion of Project Greenscape concept to regional training for landscapers, nurseries, etc on invasives and native landscaping
- Administered through partnership between NERRs and partners (e.g. stewardship, education and coastal training programs, university extension, TNC, EPPC, others)
- Could include demonstrations, workshops, distribution of materials, possible legislation(?)

# Resources and Publications

- Assisted with variety of
  - Manuals
  - Articles
  - Brochures
  - Posters
  - Other educational materials
- Capacity for distribution via
  - Education
  - Stewardship
  - Training

# Next Steps...

- Future Regional Workshop
- Landscaper/Nursery Training
- Material Development/Distribution
- Building Additional Partnerships