

# 2020-2022 Public Lands Transportation Fellows Program



Presented by: Laura Whorton and Naomi Fireman, HQ Transportation Branch



# Webinar Logistics

- Duration is 1:00 – 2:00 PM Eastern
- Webinar – recorded and archived. For quality of recording, please stay muted during presentation
- At the end there will be time for Q&A
- Please feel free to use the chat to ask questions or provide comments

# Goal of this Webinar

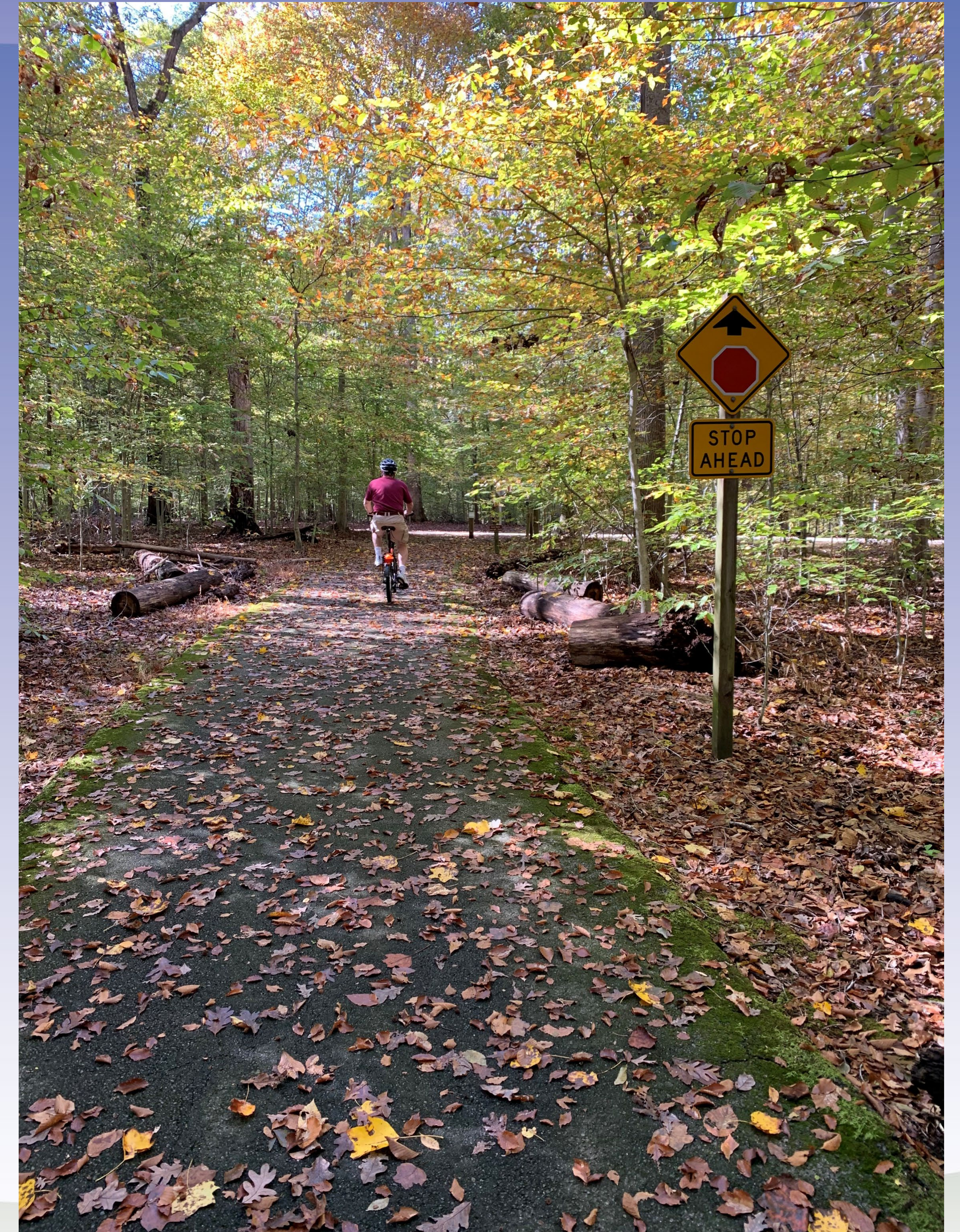
To document and archive the work completed by the PLTF at the HQ Transportation Branch from 2020-2022, including her lessons learned and tips and tricks for applying these to other USFWS units.

Intended as a training for future classes of PLTF.



# Agenda

1. Introduction by Supervisor
2. Presenter Profile
3. Three Great Teams
4. Project List
5. Projects
6. Lessons Learned
7. General Suggestions
8. Acknowledgements
9. Q & A





# PLTF Program Introduction

- Began in 2012
- Modeled after the NPS Transportation Scholars Program
- Currently serves USFWS and NPS
- Full time, paid fellowship with benefits
- 12 to 24-month position with the possibility of extension/promotion
- Locations across the U.S. at select National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges





# Our Fellows...

- Provide transportation and planning support to National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges
- Develop transportation solutions that preserve valuable resources and enhance visitor experience
- Experience work at park/refuge, regional office, and national headquarters levels
- Work, learn and grow through orientation, conferences, guest lectures, and mentorship





# Today's Presenters



Laura Whorton  
Transportation & Data Management Branch Chief  
HQ Infrastructure Management Division

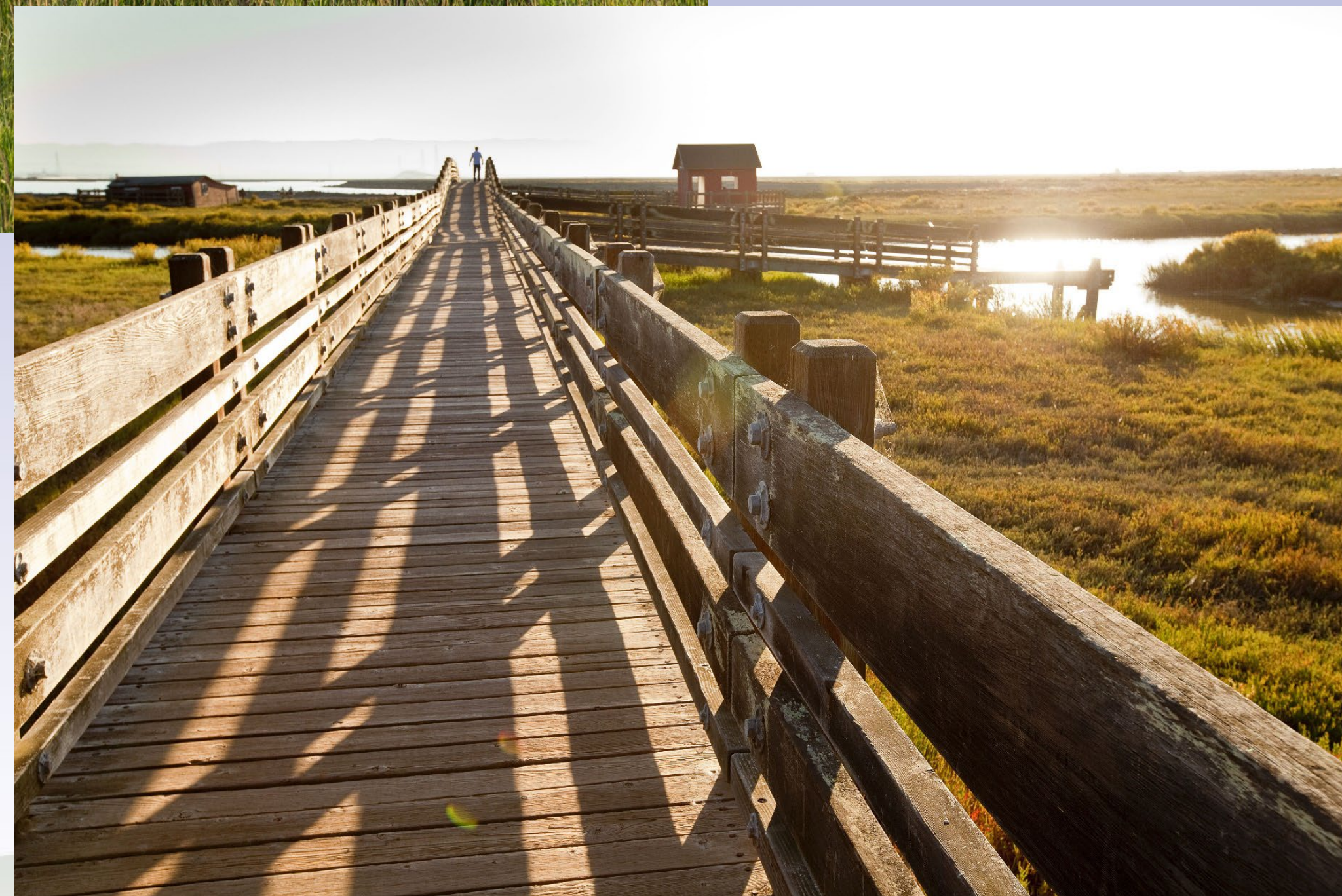


Naomi Fireman  
Advanced Public Lands Transportation Fellow (PLTF)  
HQ Transportation Branch



# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) Transportation Program

The FWS Transportation Program manages an extensive network of land, waters, infrastructure, and facilities to provide public access to wildlife recreation. The FWS transportation system is critical to this mission. Nearly all FWS lands and facilities are open for entry at no cost, and are accessible to the overwhelming majority of Americans.





# FWS Transportation Plan

## Decision-Making Tools

- Long Range Transportation Plan
- Road Inventory
- Trail Inventory
- Bridge Inventory
- Visitor Surveys
- Other

## Long Range Transportation Plan Goals



Coordinated Opportunities



Asset Management



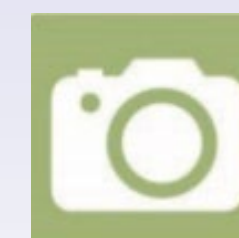
Safety



Access, Mobility & Connectivity



Environment



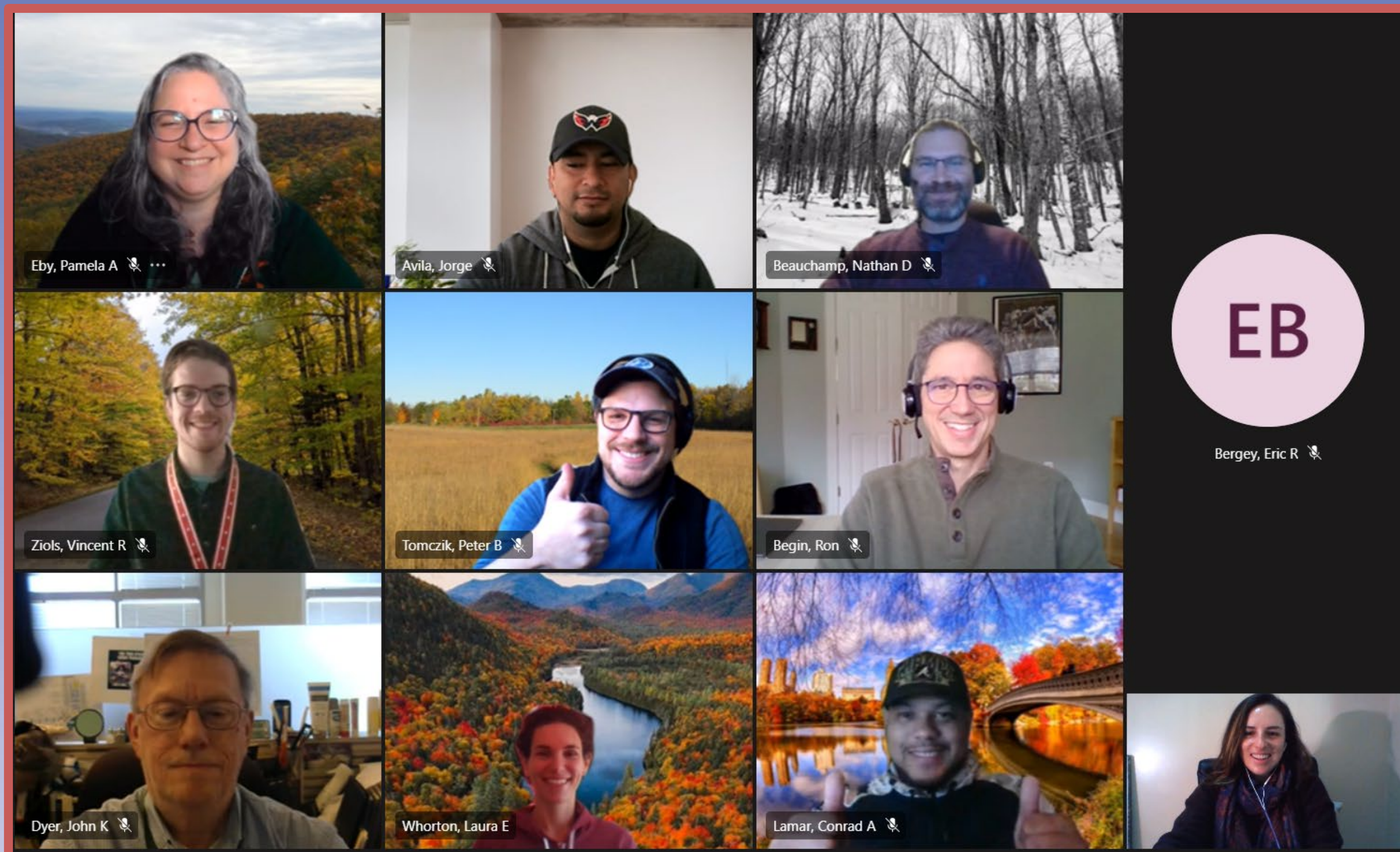
Visitor Experience







# A Tale of Three Levels: One Fellow's Work at the Unit, Regional, and National Offices of FWS



Source: CMR Staff



Presented by: Naomi Fireman,  
2020-2022 PLTF



# Presenter Profile

**Name:** Naomi Fireman

**Start Date:** August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

**Place of Birth:** Chicago, IL

**Educational Background:** B.A. in  
Biology and Environmental Studies with  
concentration in Urban Sustainability

**Academic Focus:** Sustainable urban  
planning, equity, climate change,  
ecology

**Fun Fact:** Studied native wild bees in  
the mountains of the Ecuadorian Cloud  
Forest





# Three Great Teams

## HQ Transportation Branch

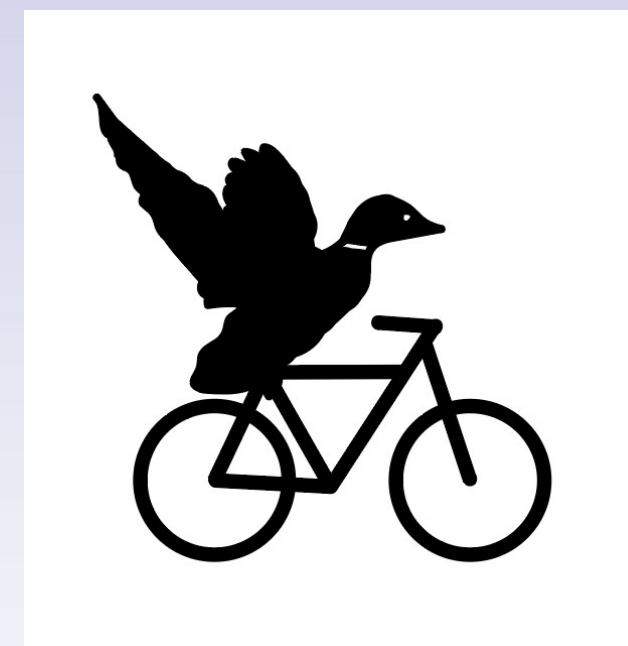
Laura Whorton  
Nathan Beauchamp  
Peter Tomczik  
Conrad Lamar  
Vince Ziols  
Eric Bergey  
Ron Begin  
Pam Eby  
Jorge Avila  
John Dyer

## Region 6 Facilities Team

Melissa Bordewin  
Lorri Harper  
Nathan Hughes  
Brent Waters  
Sandra Uecker  
Wade Briggs  
Stacy Hoehn

## Potomac River NWRs Staff

Amanda Daisey  
Carina Velazquez-Mondragon  
Chris Wicker  
Chuck Henschel  
Stacie Allison  
Grant Miller  
Cloe Traylor  
Delaney Curran





# Fellow's Projects

## National; HQ Transportation Branch:

- Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Inventory
- Cost Estimating: RSMeans Research, Current Replacement Value (CRV) Updates, and Transition to a New System
- Coordinated Technology Implementation Program (CTIP) Reference Document
- Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Research Project
- California FLAP Call for Projects
- Infrastructure Management Division (IMD) SharePoint Site
- IMD Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Program
- Improving Inclusive Recruitment
- Transportation Policy Reauthorization, Investment Strategy, and National Long Range Transportation Plan Update
- National Visitor Survey Alternative Transportation Report
- Policy Guidance Document Development and Review
- Urban Planning Session for the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program (UWCP): Building a Foundation Together Course
- Urban Connections Study (UCS) Online Application
- Electric vehicle (EV) Charging Station Coordination and National Gap Analysis
- Justice40 Data Call
- Rebranding Initiative with Public Lands Alliance
- FWS-FLH Work Groups
- Visitor Estimation Work Group
- Fellow Mentorship



## Regional; Legacy Region 6 RTC:

- Five-Year Transportation Plan Development
- Project Coordination
- Road Inventory Program (RIP) Data Reconciliation
- Trail Inventory Program (TrIP) Roll Out
- Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) and Stimulus Project Ideas
- Sportsmen Access at Charles M. Russell NWR

## Unit-Level; PRNWRC:

- Mason Neck Trail FLAP Application and Follow Up
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) Eco-Counter Installation and Follow Up
- Occoquan Bay Entrance Concept Implementation
- Route 1 Signage Application
- E-Bike Day & E-Bike Photoshoot
- Belmont Bay Development Partnership with Caruthers Properties
- PHNST Partnership Strategy



# Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Inventory

FWS_Greenbook-style FLAP Inventory_Final.xlsx - Excel															
Fireman, Naomi L <span>Share</span>															
D44															
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
	Project ID	Project Description	Refuge	Multiple Partners ?	CFP Year/ Acceptance Letter Received	Delivery Year	Region	State	Award Amount (from FWS data)	Programmed Amount from Master FLAP Inventory	Match	FWS FLTP Match ?	If so, how much?	Total FLAP/FLTP Project Cost	Total Project Cost
77	MI FLAP SGNW AM(1), BP(1)	Roadway reconstruction from gravel to asphalt and widen existing road on Ambrose and Bishop Road.	Shiawassee NWR	No	2017	2020	R3	Michigan	\$480,000	\$489,500	\$120,000	no	\$0	\$489,500	\$609,500
78	MI FLAP SGNW HART(1)	Rehabilitate, widen, resurface, and provide aggregate shoulders along Hart Road.	Shiawassee NWR	No	2015	2016	R3	Michigan	\$0	\$1,056,800	\$399,200	no	\$0	\$1,056,800	\$1,456,000
79	MI FLAP TRNTN TRL(1)	Construction of West Jefferson Greenways Trail, in Wayne County, MI.	Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge	No	2013	2016	R3	Michigan	\$320,000	\$326,000	\$128,416	x	\$123,416	\$449,416	\$454,416
80	MN 50	Grading, and construction paved lanes and gravel shoulders	Rydell National Wildlife Refuge	No	2020	2022	R3	Minnesota	\$0	\$800,000	\$452,700	no	\$0	\$800,000	\$1,252,700
81	MN 60	Construction trail-head, trail connection, parking, and overlook	Mississippi River National Rive and	No	2020	2022	R3	Minnesota	\$0	\$565,000	\$2,056,238	no	\$0	\$565,000	\$2,621,238
82	MN FLAP BLMTN OCA(1)	Construct 0.5 mile paved segment along Old Cedar Avenue Trail & rehabilitate the parking lot.	MN Valley NWR	No	2015	2016	R3	Minnesota	\$0	\$816,000	\$5,054,145	x	\$670,000	\$1,486,000	\$5,870,145
83	MN FLAP BRNVL TRL(1)	Construct the 3.5 mile paved Black Dog Trail in the City of Burnsville, MN	Minnesota Valley NWR	No	2013	2016	R3	Minnesota	\$500,000	\$510,000	\$1,190,000	x	\$250,000	\$760,000	\$1,700,000
84	MN FLAP DAKOTA TRL(1)	Cedar Avenue Trailhead / Dakota Co.	FWS- MN Valley NWR- Black Dog	No	2017	2019	R3	Minnesota	\$0	\$612,000	\$440,000	no	\$0	\$612,000	\$1,052,000
85	MO FLAP BTS STLN(1)	Stabilizing stream bank that threatens SW County Road 1431.	Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge	No	2017	2019	R6	Missouri	\$96,320	\$126,344	\$31,534	no	\$0	\$126,344	\$157,878
86	MO FLAP DOT 118(1)	Resurface and construct 2-ft wide paved shoulders with rumble stripes to 6.54 miles of MO Rte. 118.	Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge	No	2013	2016	R3	Missouri	\$910,000	\$928,000	\$222,081	no	\$0	\$928,000	\$1,150,081
87	MS 69	Bourke Road Bridge Replacement	St. Catherine's Creek NWR	No	2020	2022	R4	Mississippi	\$0	\$753,000	\$188,706	no	\$0	\$753,000	\$941,706
88	MS FLAP PRLRVR BR139(1)	Bridge Replacement of Walkiah Bluff Road over Leslie Slough.	Bongue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge	No	2017	2017	R4	Mississippi	\$0	\$273,200	\$66,800	no	\$0	\$273,200	\$340,000
89	MT DOT 117(1)	Fort Peck-Northeast. MT 117. . Maintained by MDT.	Fort Peck Dam and Lake, Charles M Russell NWR	No	2013	2014	R6	Montana	\$5,000,000	\$5,035,000	\$780,431	no	\$0	\$5,035,000	\$5,815,431
90	MT DOT 86(1)	Bozeman to Bridger Mountains Trail	FWS Bozeman Fish Tech Center, Drinking Horse Mountain Trailhead	Yes	2013	2017	R1	Montana	\$0	\$3,402,594	\$527,406	no	\$0	\$3,402,594	\$3,930,000
	MT MCCONE 2013(1)	Rock Creek Roads Stabilization. North Fork Rock Creek Road, South Fork Rock Creek Road. . Maintained by McCone	Charles M Russell NWR, BLM, USACE	No	2013	2014	R6	Montana	\$433,774	\$1,619,046	\$250,954	x	\$202,971	\$1,822,016	\$1,870,000

- FLAP: Important discretionary funding source for FWS
- FWS can complete high dollar projects by leveraging Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) funds as match

## Why does this matter?

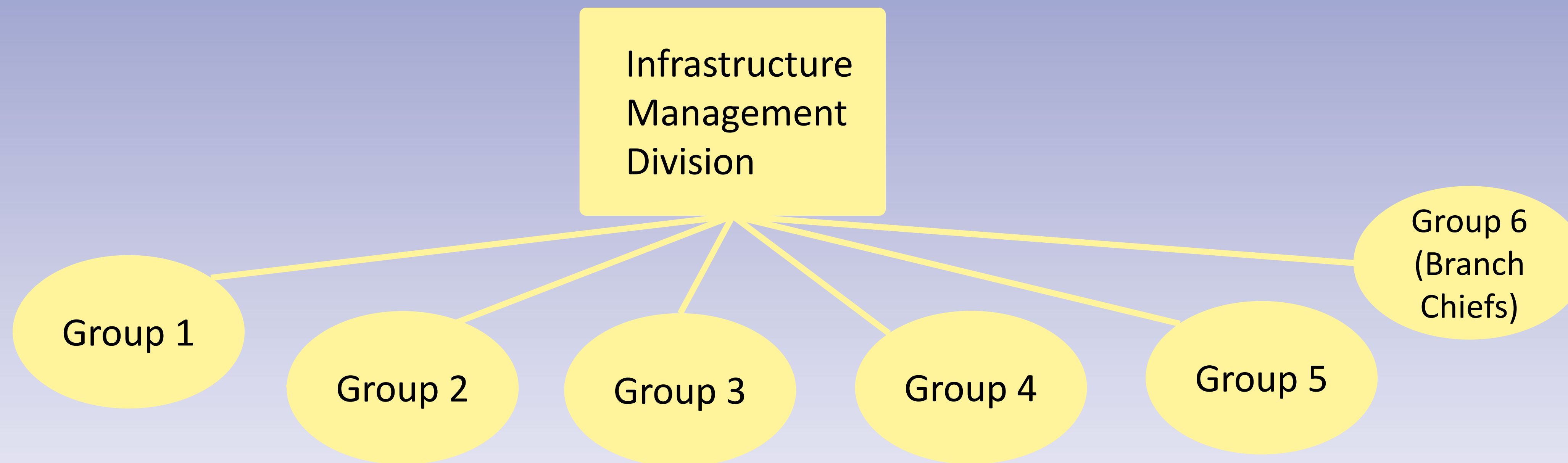
- FWS must have an accurate FLAP project inventory and good tracking methods to enable systematic yearly reporting and benchmarking.
- It is important for FWS to communicate how much FLAP funding they receive each year by leveraging FLTP dollars.



# Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Initiative

## Goals:

- 1** Increase awareness of systemic problems in American society that continue to affect how IMD, the Refuge System, and/or the Service operate both internally and externally with the American people.
- 2** Develop ideas and recommendations for how IMD, the Refuge System, and/or the Service can implement changes to be more inclusive, diverse, and equitable both internally and externally.

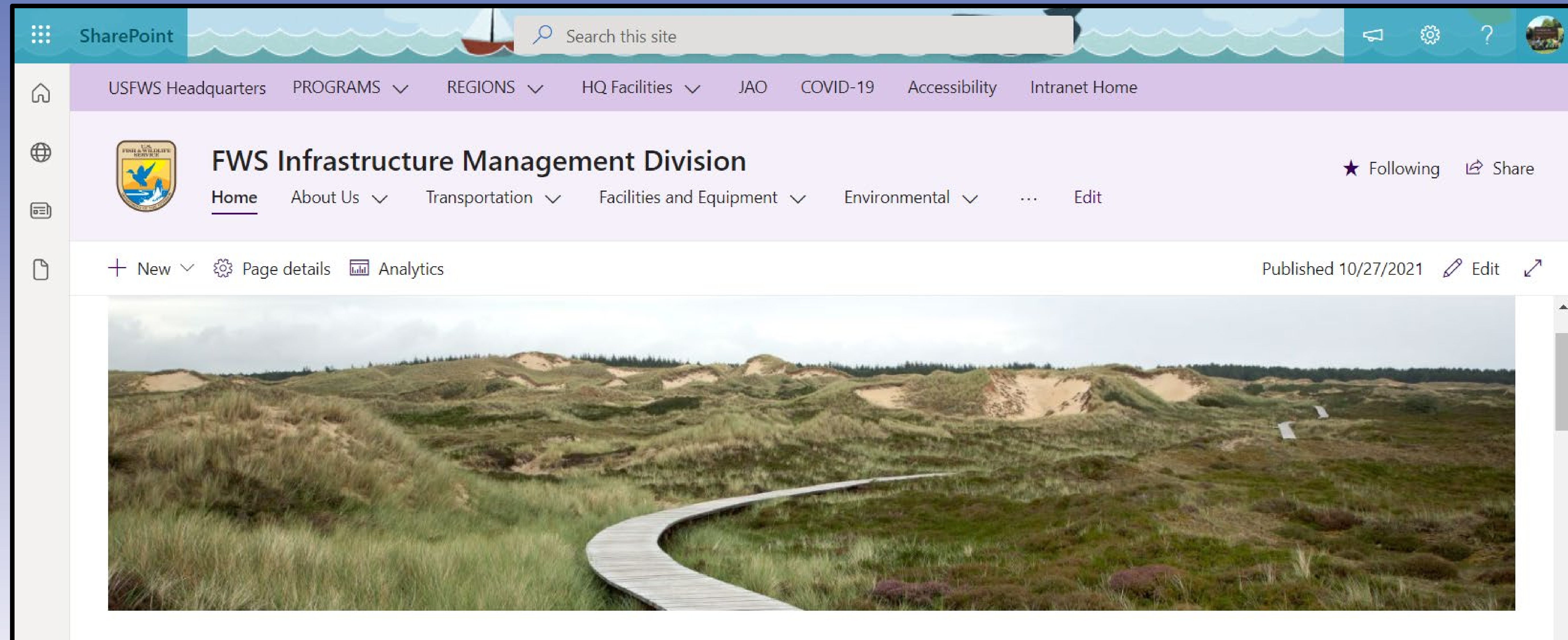


### Why does this matter?

- Systemic racism and other forms of inequity are ingrained into the fabric of our society. Every subject area, policy, and profession is affected.
- IMD needed a space to converse, learn, and take action together.
- This aligns with administration priorities and helps move us, little by little, toward a more just world.



# Infrastructure Management Division SharePoint Site



## Why does this matter?

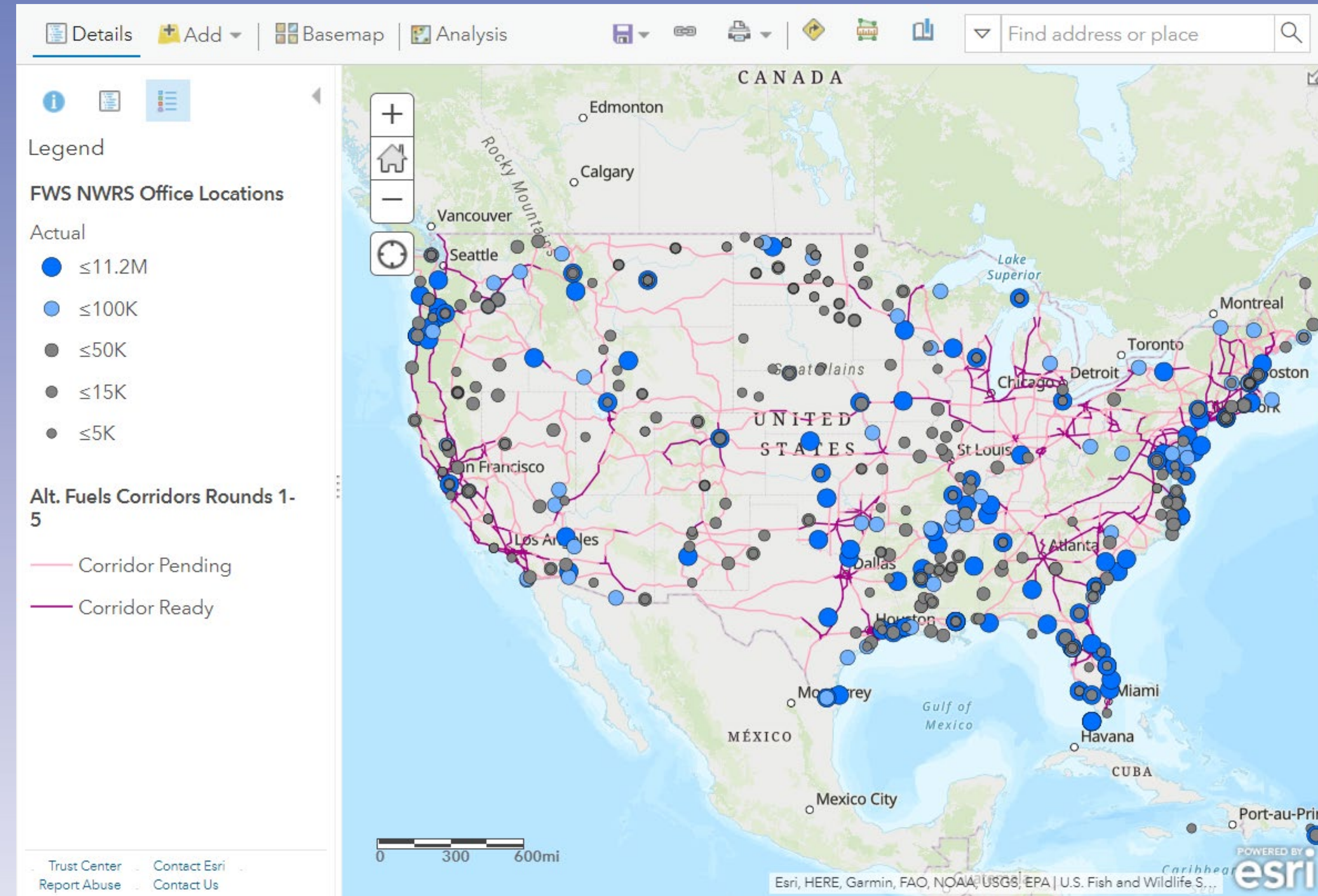
- When FWS migrated to Microsoft Office 365, they began transitioning from old sites like InsideFWS and Fishnet to SharePoint.
- Internal communications have improved greatly and IMD now has a site to share important infrastructure-related information with employees across the Service.



# Electric Vehicles (EVs) and EV Charging Stations



Source: Ella Weber

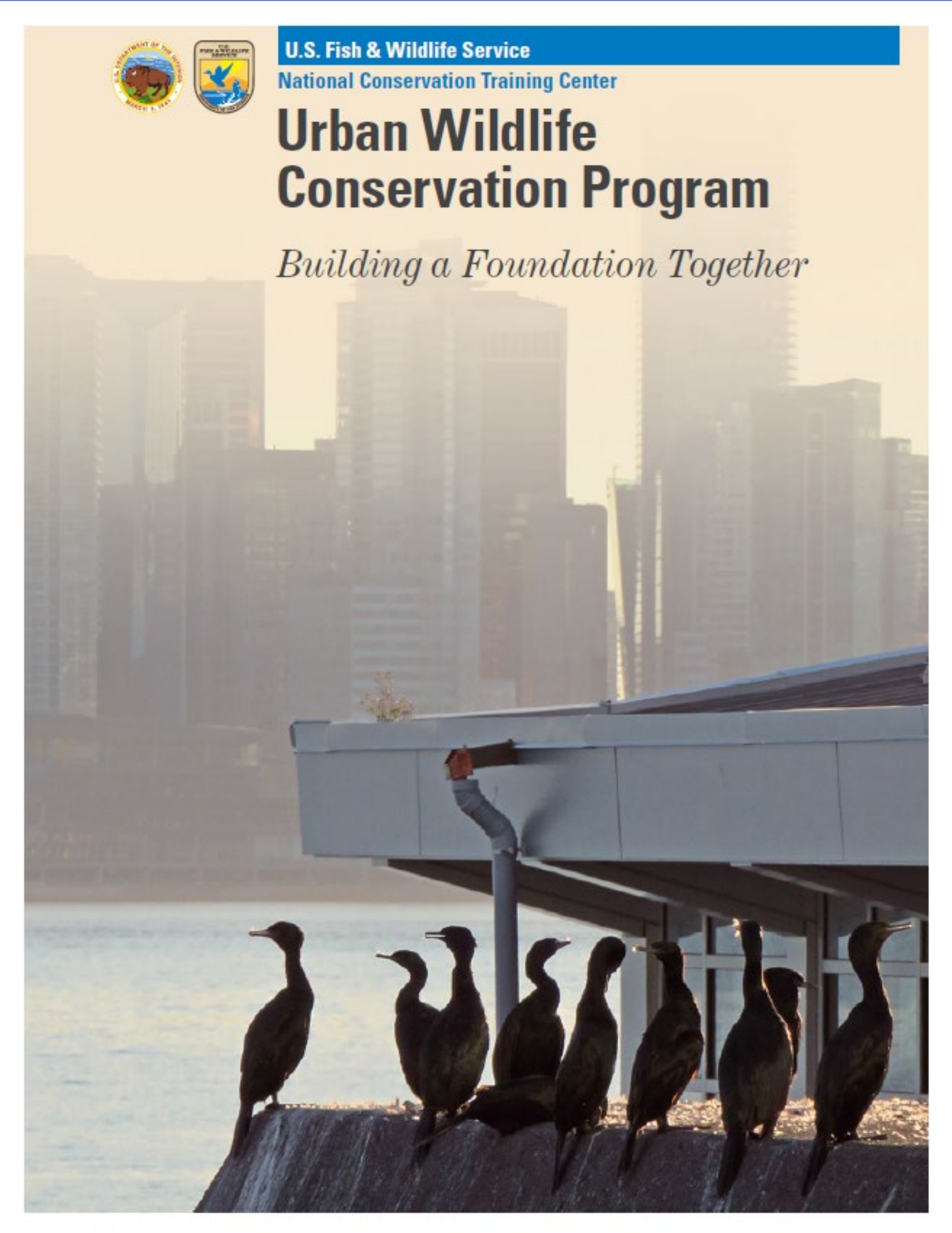


## Why does this matter?

- Executive Order 14008, Section 205 orders a transition to clean and zero-emission vehicles within Federal, state, local, and Tribal government fleets.
- This is one small piece in a broad plan to address the current climate crisis.



# Urban Wildlife Conservation Program (UWCP): Building a Foundation Together



## Agenda: Day 2

Tuesday, November 16th – Why “Urban”?		
TIME (EASTERN)	HOW & WHO	WHAT
1–1:15 PM	<b>Webinar Session</b> ■ Shanice Jones	<b>Opening Address</b> Welcome and today’s agenda.
1:15 – 2:30 PM	<b>Webinar Session</b> Dr. Darceta E. Taylor, Senior Associate Dean, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Yale School of the Environment  Moderator: Nancy Monroe	<b>Keynote</b> Author of The Rise of the American Conservation Movement: Power, Privilege, and Environmental Protection, discusses the influence of race, class, and gender on conservation movements in America.
2:30 – 2:45 PM	<b>Break &amp; personal reflection</b>	<i>Move to the classroom</i>
2:45 – 3:30 PM	<b>Classroom Session</b> ■ Jessica Jia ■ Vince Ziols	<b>Presentation</b> The impacts of planning and policies on land-use and urban communities (past & present) and where the Service and greater conservation community fit in.
3:30 – 3:45	<b>Break</b>	<i>Stay in the classroom</i>
3:45 – 4:00 PM	<b>Classroom Session</b> ■ Angie Horn ■ Naomi Fireman	<b>Presentation</b> Case study introduction and general instructions for the activity that follows.
4:00 PM		<i>Move to your peer-learning break-out room</i>
4:00 – 4:35 PM	<b>Peer Learning Group Session</b>	<b>Activity in break-out groups</b> Discussion/application of learning based on case study
4:35 PM		<i>Move to the classroom</i>
4:35 – 5:00 PM	<b>Classroom Session</b>	<b>Full group discussion</b>

Source: Sandy Spakoff

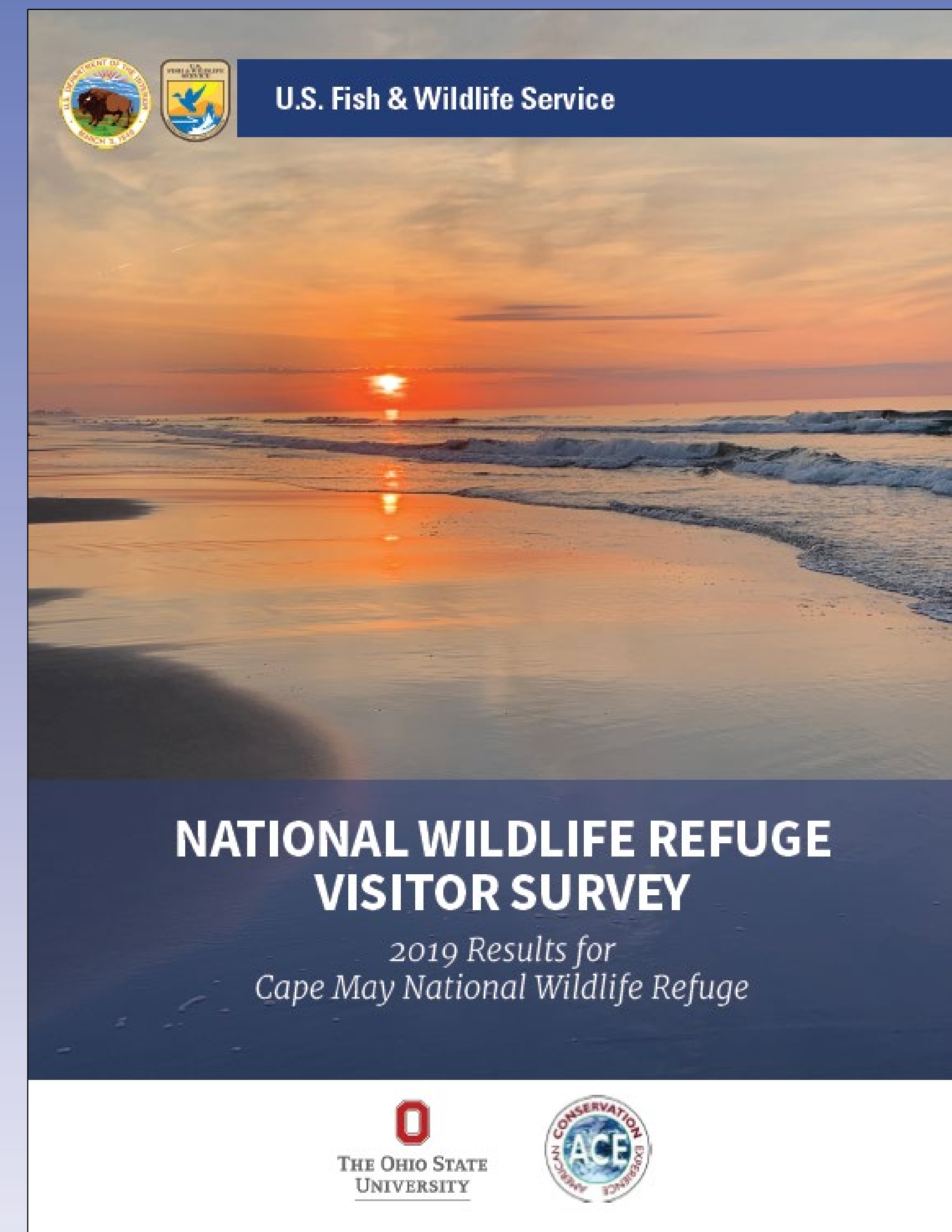


### Why does this matter?

This course was the first step to launching UWCP’s 10-year strategic plan, which presents an intentional, inclusive, collaborative, and community-focused public engagement framework relevant to all Service programs, Friends, volunteers, and partners.



# National Visitor Survey: Alternative Transportation Report



## Why does this matter?

FWS is interested in understanding alternative transportation use on their land and expanding projects outside station boundaries to create lasting transportation solutions for gateway/local communities, especially those that are disadvantaged or underserved.



# National Visitor Survey: Alternative Transportation Report

Q1: What percentage of visitors used a form of alternative transportation as their primary recreation purpose?

Q2: How many visitors are very or extremely satisfied/dissatisfied with trail hiking and bicycling opportunities?

Q3: Which transportation-related features were visitors least satisfied with?

Q4: What percentage of visitors traveled from the local area to the refuge by anything other than private vehicle?

Q5: What percentage of visitors traveled within the boundaries of the refuge by anything other than private vehicle?

Q6: What percentage of visitors were very or extremely likely to use future alternative transportation?

## Why does this matter?

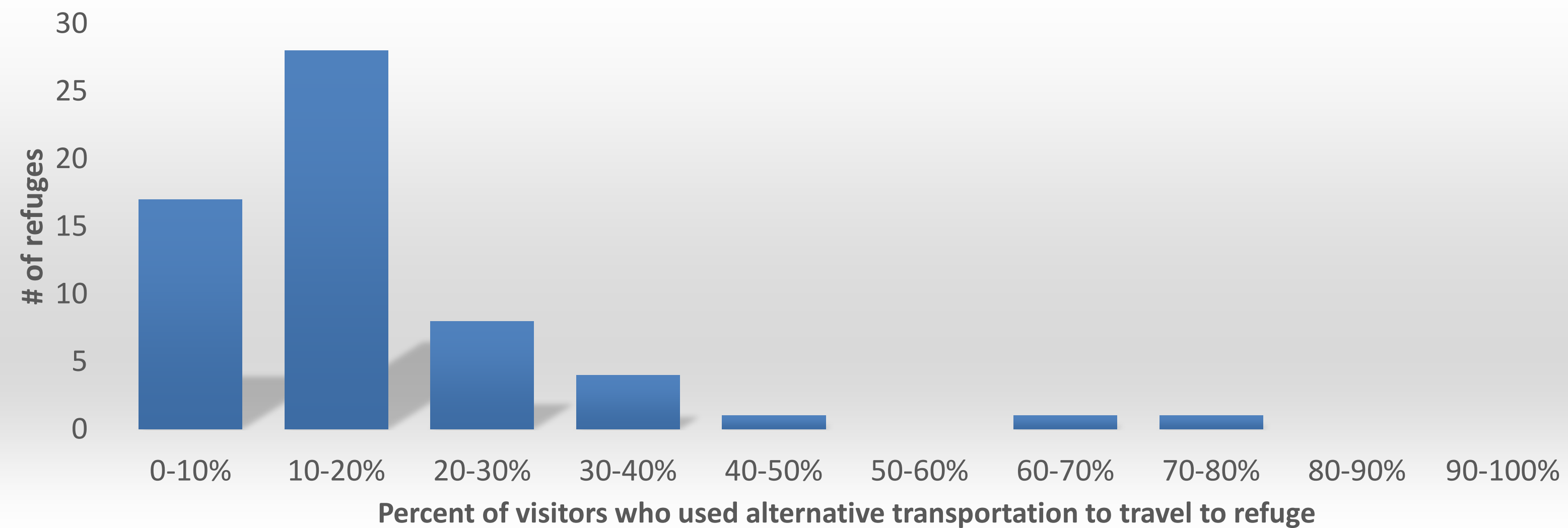
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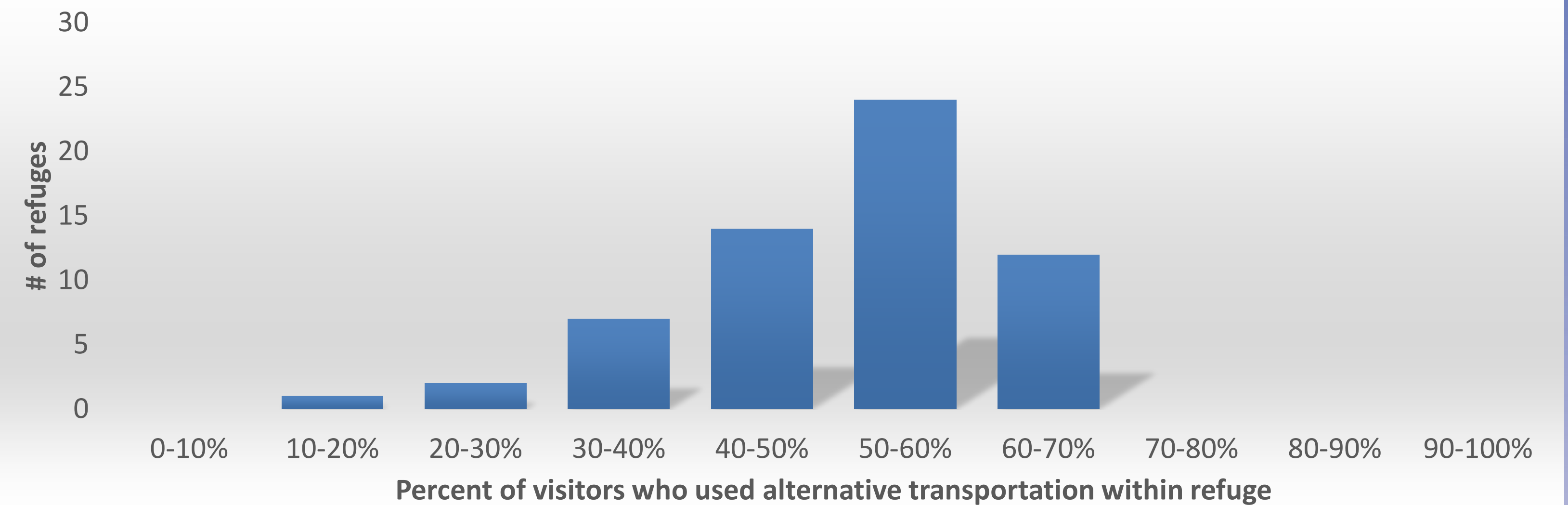
# National Visitor Survey: Alternative Transportation Report

Refuges  
Surveyed = 70

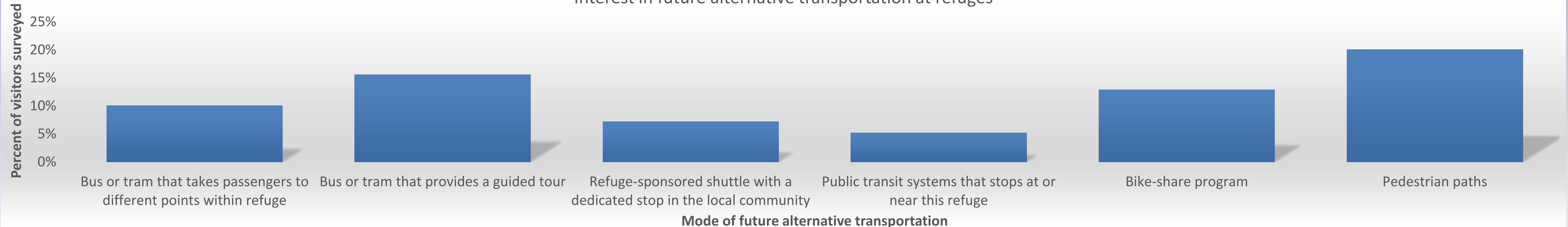
Alternative transportation to refuges from local area



Alternative transportation within refuges



Interest in future alternative transportation at refuges



## Why does this matter?

FWS is interested in understanding alternative transportation use on their land and expanding projects outside station boundaries to create lasting transportation solutions for gateway/local communities, especially those that are disadvantaged or underserved.



# National Visitor Survey: Alternative Transportation Report



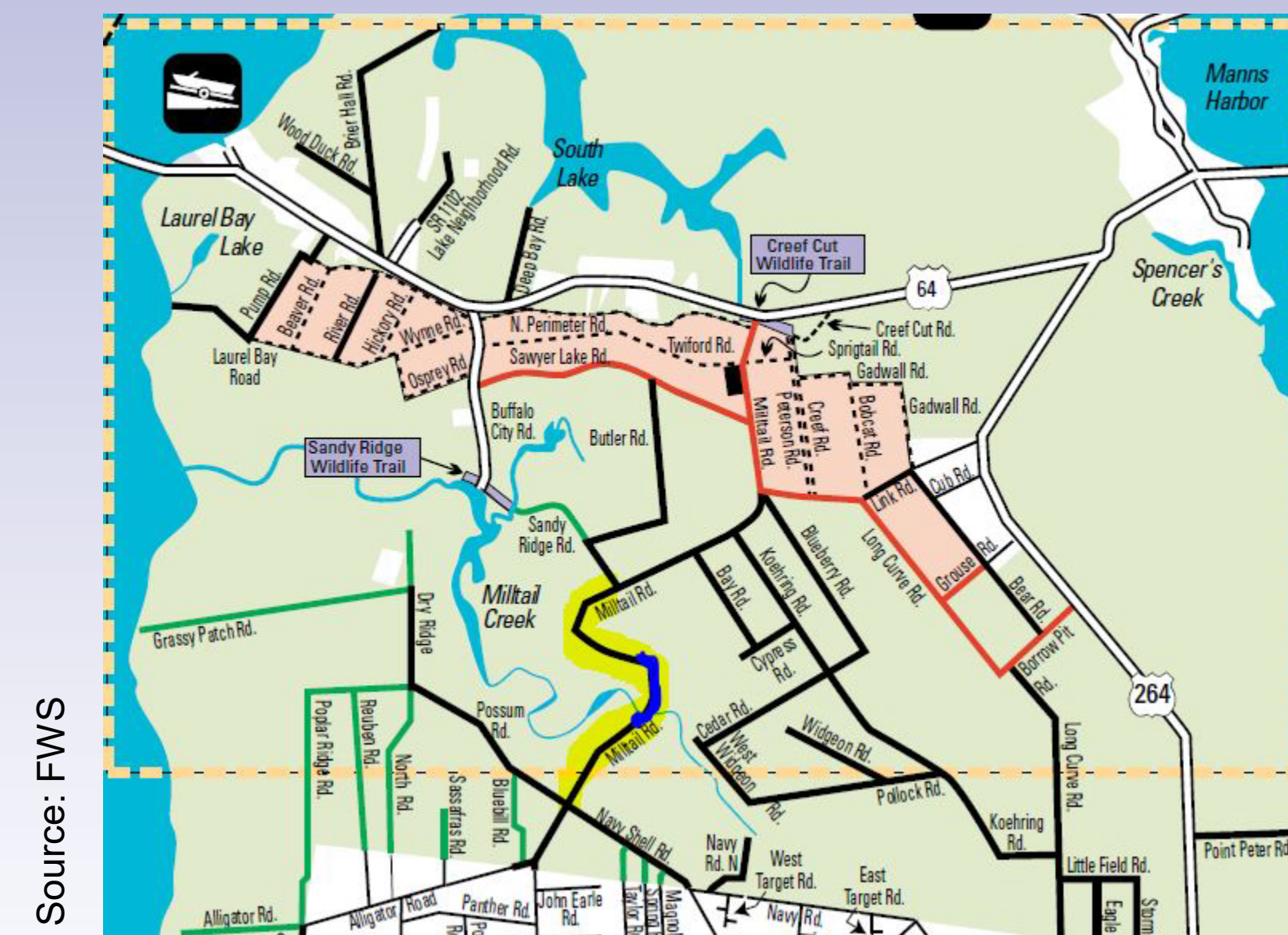
Cape May Refuge



Waccamaw Refuge



National Elk Refuge



Alligator River Refuge



Tualatin River Refuge



# National Visitor Survey: Alternative Transportation Report

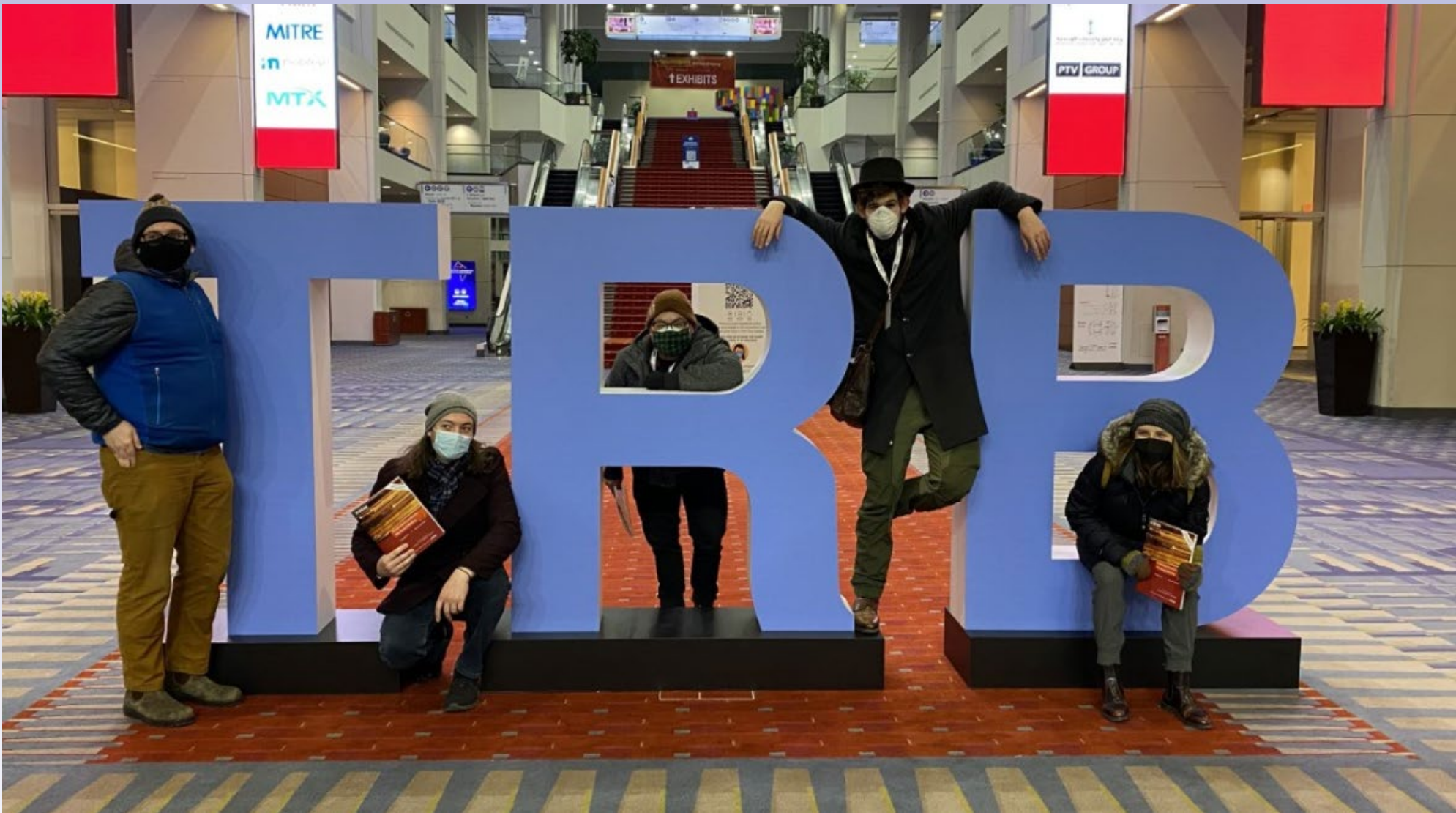
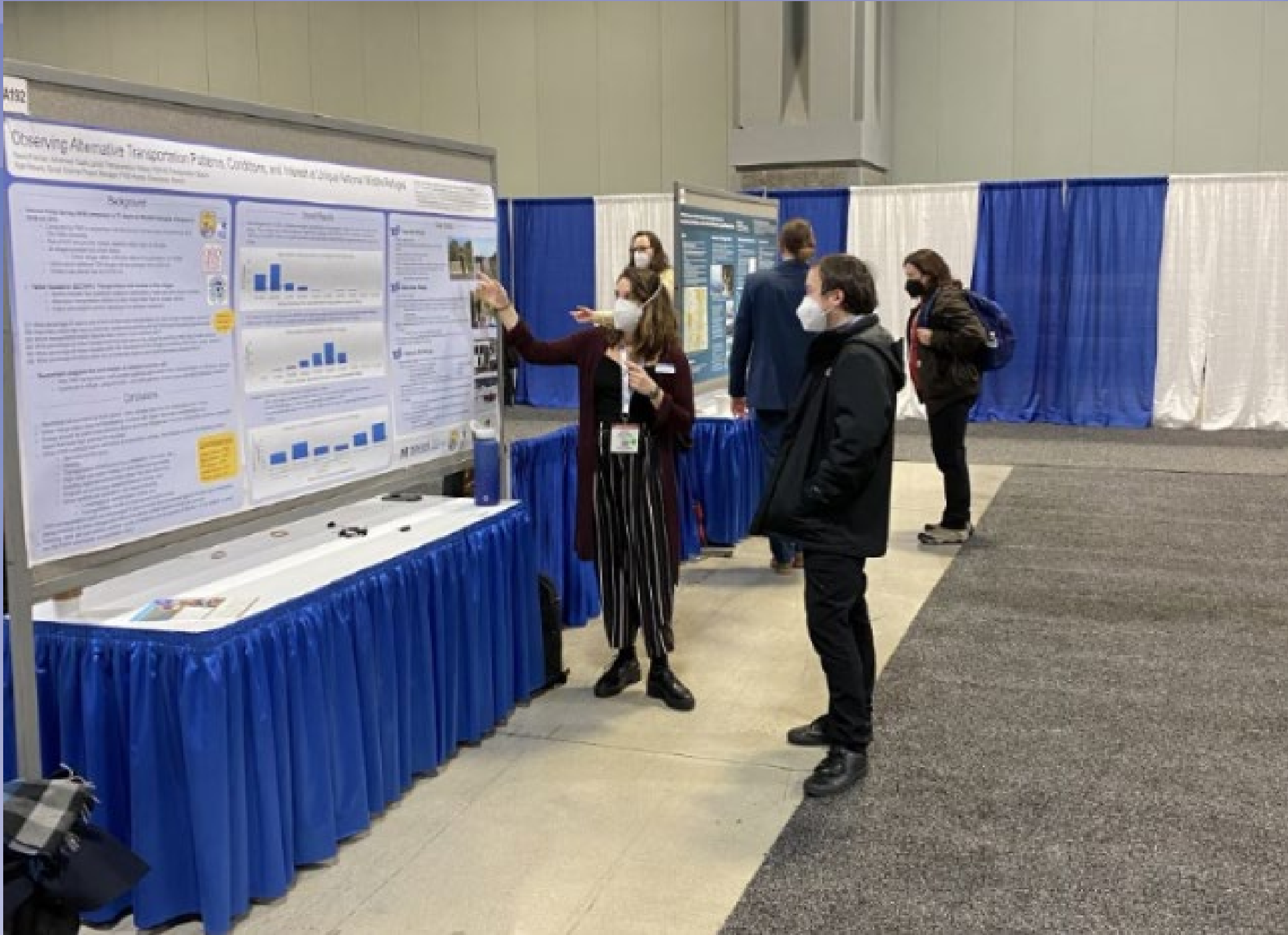
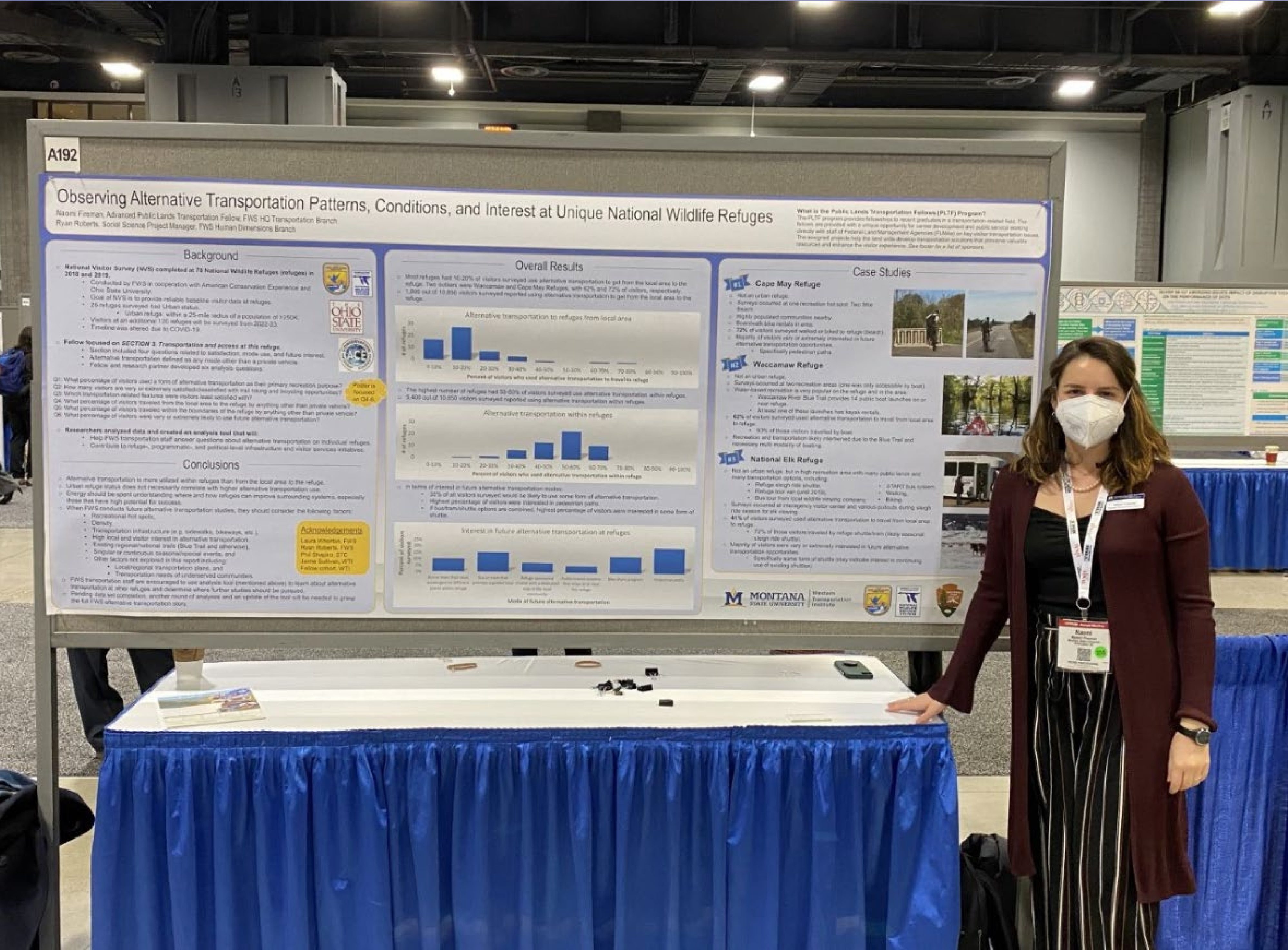
	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2		<b>Q4: What percentage of visitors traveled from the local area to the refuge by anything other than private vehicle?</b>			
3		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OVERALL</u> 2,113 visitors (29% of sample)</p>			
4		<p><u>BY RACE</u></p> <p>White: 9,627 total White, 1,848 w/o private vehicle, or 19%</p> <p>Hispanic: 253 total Hispanic, 48 w/o, or 19%</p> <p>African American: 147 total AA, 38 w/o, or 26%</p> <p>Asian: 186 total Asian, 24 w/o, or 13%</p> <p>American Indian: 174 total AI, 30 w/o, or 17%</p> <p>Middle Eastern: 21 total ME, 3 w/o, or 14%</p> <p>Pacific Islander: 31 total PI, 4 w/o, or 13%</p>	<p><u>BY INCOME</u></p> <p>Less than \$10,000: 122 total, 18 w/o, or 15%</p> <p>\$10,000-\$24,999: 381 total, 80 w/o, or 21%</p> <p>\$25,000-\$34,999: 404 total, 76 w/o, or 19%</p> <p>\$35,000-\$49,999: 948 total, 199 w/o, or 21%</p> <p>\$50,000-\$74,999: 1,742 total, 326 w/o, or 19%</p> <p>\$75,000-\$99,999: 1,546 total, 293 w/o, or 19%</p> <p>\$100,000-\$149,999: 2,135 total, 419 w/o, or 20%</p> <p>\$150,000-\$199,999: 1,012 total, 199 w/o, or 20%</p>	<p><u>BY AGE</u></p> <p>18-34: 1,061 total, 214 w/o, or 20%</p> <p>35-49: 2,004 total, 398 w/o, or 20%</p> <p>50-64: 3,774 total, 769 w/o, or 20%</p> <p>65+: 3,470 total, 594 w/o, or 17%</p>	<p><u>BY POPULATION</u></p> <p>Urban: 4,606 total urban, 799 visitors w/o private vehicle, or 17%</p> <p>Non-urban: 6,130 total nonurban, 1,275 visitors w/o private vehicle, or 21%</p> <p><u>BY LOCALITY</u></p> <p>Local: 6,171 total local, 1,232 visitors w/o private vehicle, or 20%</p> <p>Non-local: 4,593 total non-local, 846 visitors w/o private vehicle, or 18%</p>
5		<p><u>BY REGION</u></p> <p>IR1: 28%</p> <p>IR2: 21%</p> <p>IR3: 14%</p> <p>IR4: 7%</p> <p>IR5: 3%</p> <p>IR6: 3%</p> <p>IR7: 4%</p> <p>IR8: 2%</p> <p>IR9: 10%</p> <p>IR10: 7%</p> <p>IR12: 2%</p>	<p><u>BY REFUGE (OUT OF TOTAL VISITORS TO THAT REFUGE)</u></p> <p>Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge (215): 3%</p> <p>Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (181): 13%</p> <p>Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge (125): 10%</p> <p>Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge (68): 5</p> <p>Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge (84): 11</p> <p>Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge (218): 5%</p> <p>Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (130): 20%</p> <p>Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge (102): 10%</p> <p>Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge (224): 9%</p> <p>Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (238): 9%</p> <p>Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge (134): 6%</p>	<p><u>BY MODE</u></p> <p>Refuge Tram: 4%</p> <p>Public Transportation: 3%</p> <p>Bicycle: 24%</p> <p>Foot: 43%</p> <p>Tour Bus: 2%</p> <p>Boat: 24%</p>	
6					
7					
8					



## Why does this matter?

FWS is interested in understanding alternative transportation use on their land and expanding projects outside station boundaries to create lasting transportation solutions for gateway/local communities, especially those that are disadvantaged or underserved.







# Justice40

Goal: Deliver 40% of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments to disadvantaged communities.

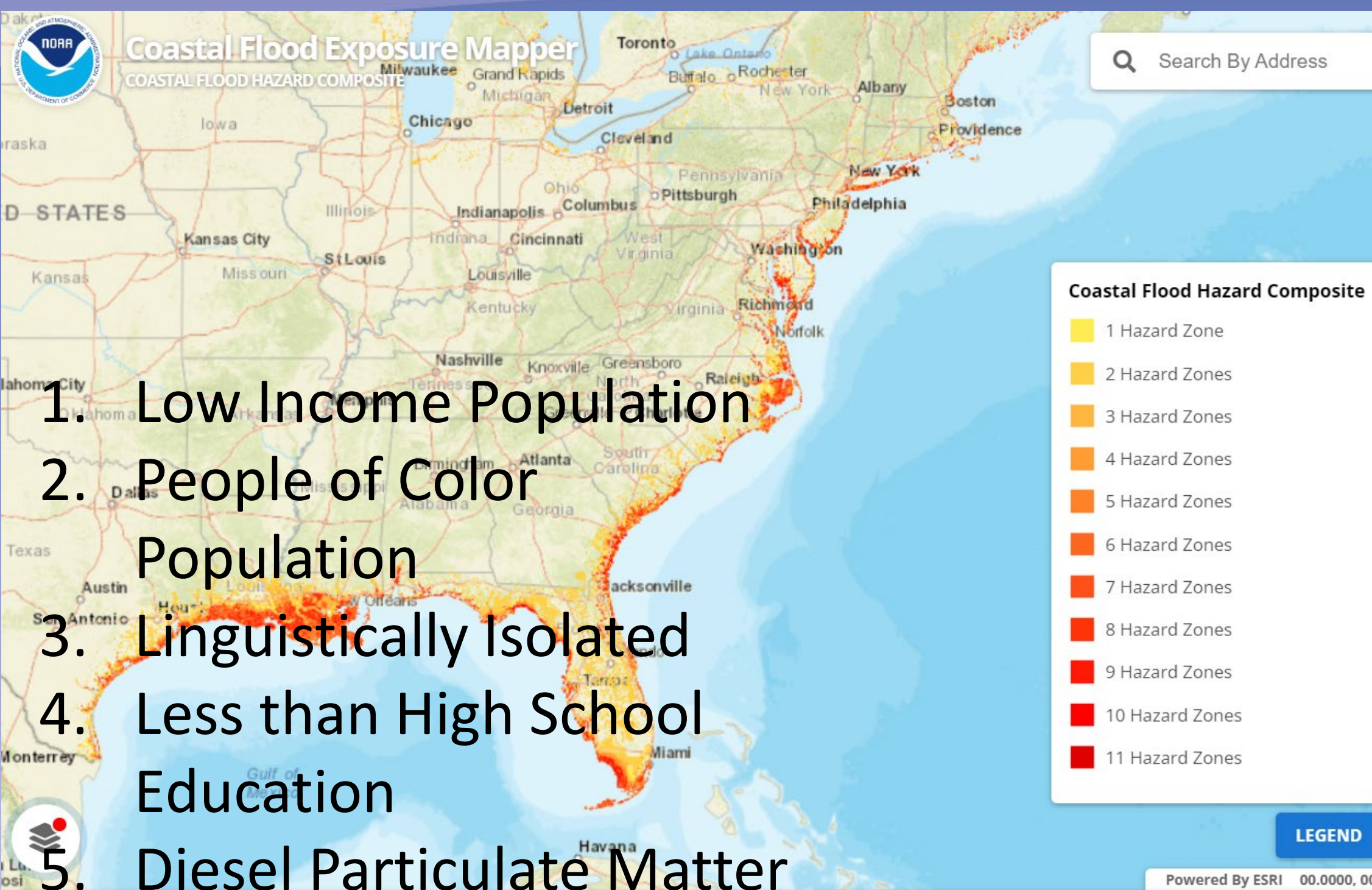
## Why does this matter?

- Allows the federal government to measure and direct 40% of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments to disadvantaged communities.
- This is one piece in the Biden Administration's plan to make environmental justice part of every federal agency's mission.

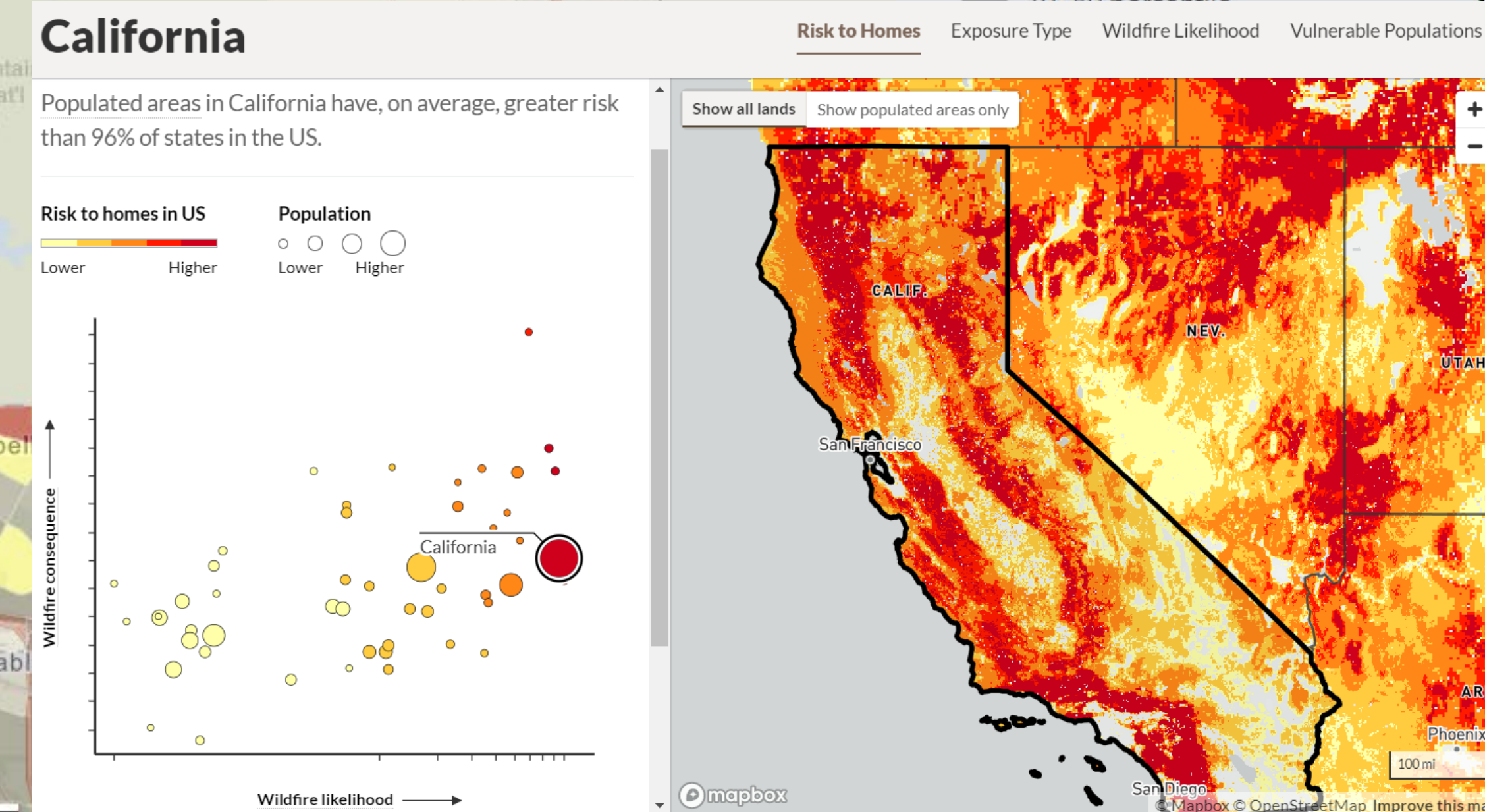
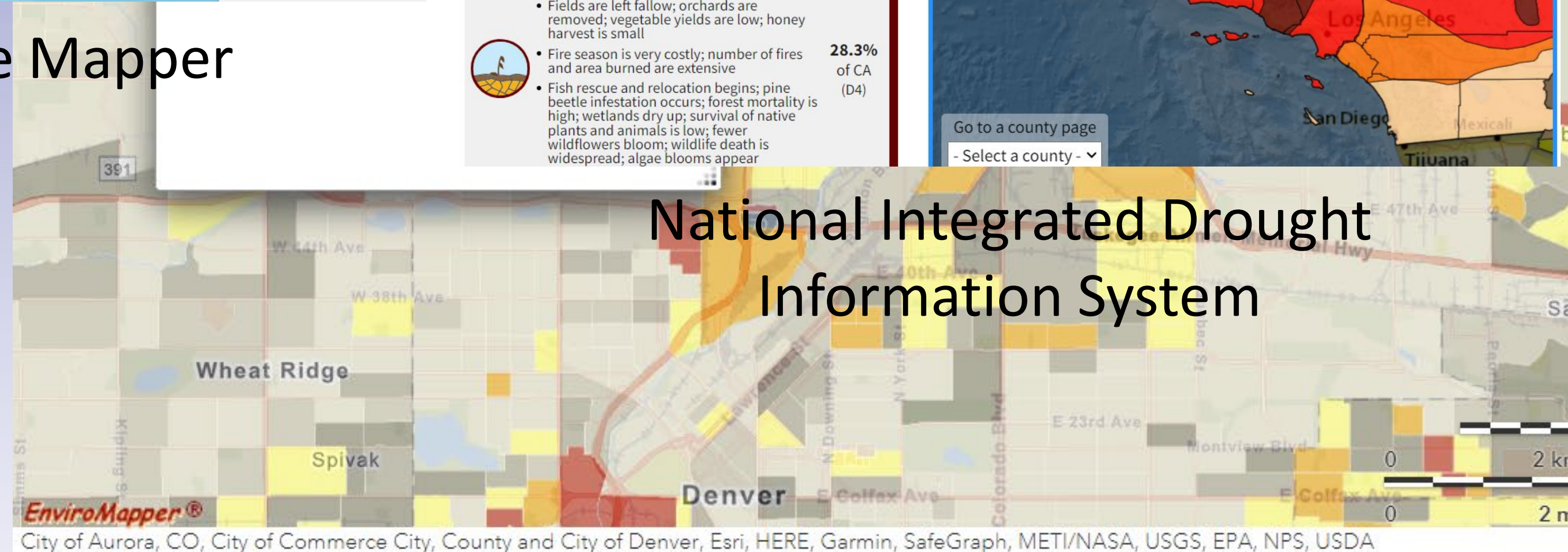
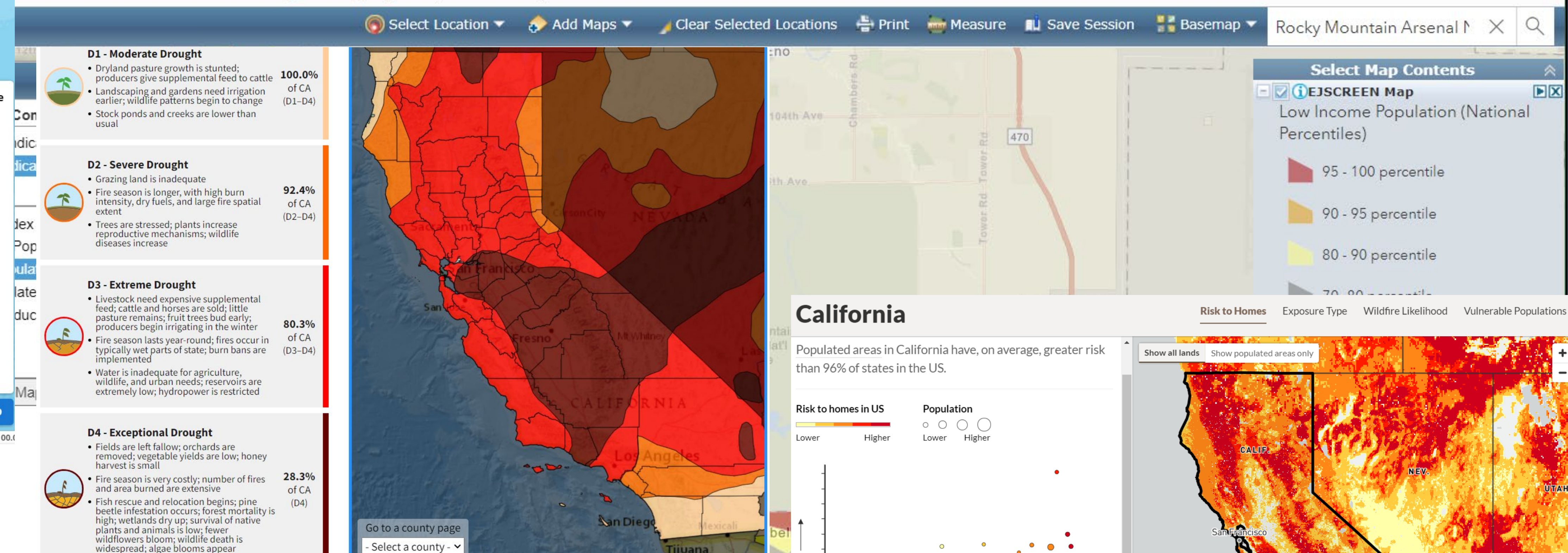


# Justice40

1. Low Income Population
2. People of Color
3. Linguistically Isolated
4. Less than High School Education
5. Diesel Particulate Matter
6. Air Toxics Cancer Risk
7. Proximity to Hazardous Waste Facilities



## A's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (Version 2020)



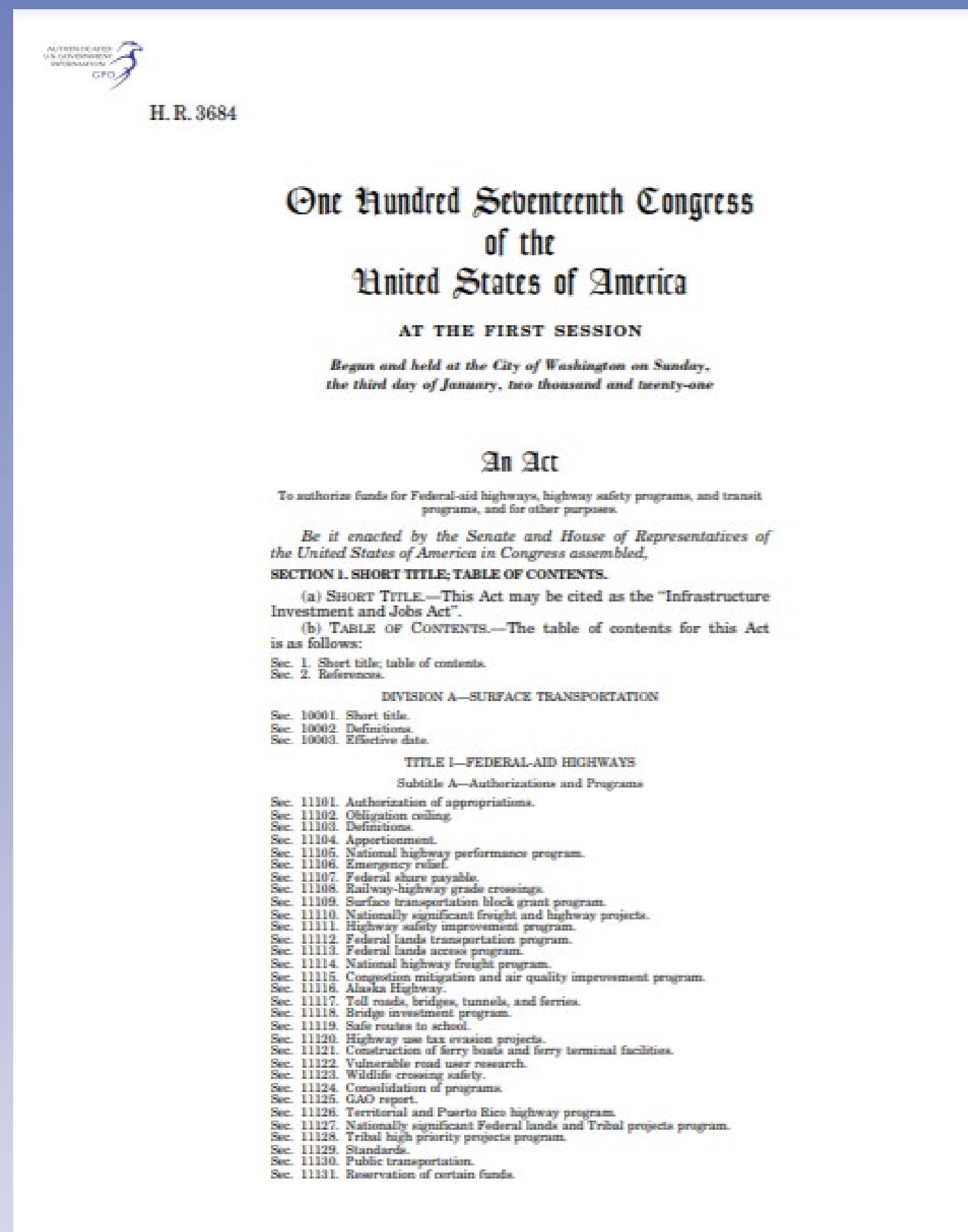
## Wildfire Risk to Communities Mapper

### Why does this matter?

- Allows the federal government to measure and direct 40% of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments to disadvantaged communities.
- This is one piece in the Biden Administration's plan to make environmental justice part of every federal agency's mission.



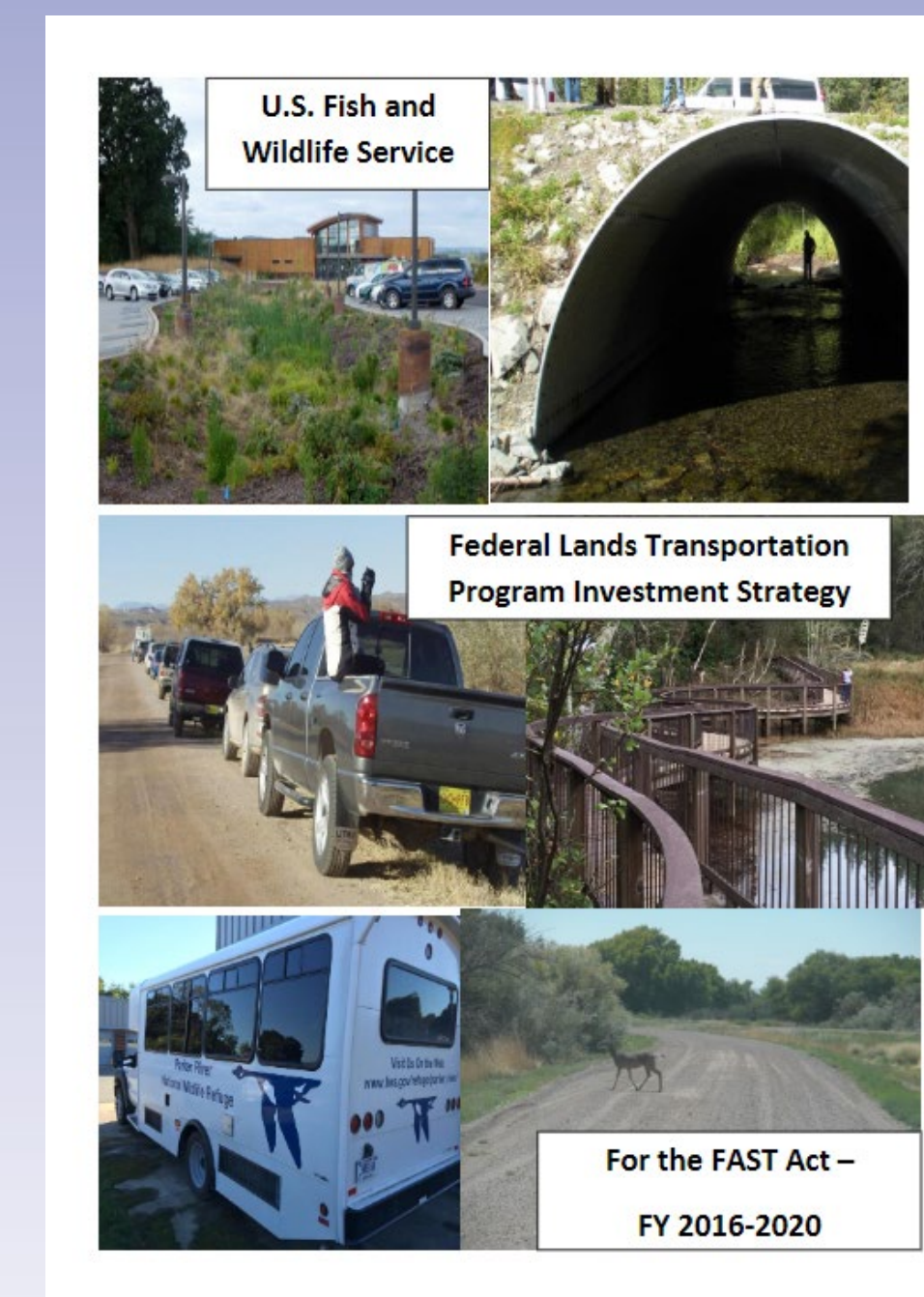
# Surface Transportation Reauthorization



## Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act



## Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update



## Investment Strategy

### Why does this matter?

- New surface transportation policy calls for a rethinking of strategic goals and benchmarks within the LRTP and submission of a new Investment Strategy to FHWA.
- These two documents go hand-in-hand with the LRTP priorities informing the Investment Strategy framework.



# Detailing as an RTC



Source: Melissa Bordewin



## Why does this matter?

Having a detailee meant Legacy Region 6 could keep up with their transportation five-year plan submission and FHWA project coordination, and finish out data collection for the Road Inventory Program.



# Occoquan Bay Entrance Vision Implementation

During



After



Why does this matter?

This welcoming, community-oriented entrance better represents FWS and provides a rest stop for Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail users.



# Lessons Learned

## National Level

- Do not be afraid to share forward-thinking ideas — this is easier when you have a regular check-in scheduled with your supervisor.
- If you have the capacity, offer your help/services to folks outside your branch, division, program, etc.
- Be persistent in moving a project along — keep following up.
- Learn to relinquish control when working on a team.
- Be prepared to pause other work to help with quick-turnaround data calls.
- Follow the organizational structure (HQ → Regions → Stations).
- Communication and information sharing with and between agencies can be complex.
- After a new law passes, every affected agency must figure out how to implement its new policies and initiatives efficiently.



# Lessons Learned

## Regional Level

- 5-year project planning is a balancing act between station needs, regional priorities, national policy, and future vision.
- Teams that participate in fun, group activities together work well together.
- Good tracking methods are key to initiatives with multiple leaders at different times.
- When stepping into a new role, take the time to build your own relationships with important stakeholders.
- Find a mentor willing to invest time and energy into your growth.
- Block off focus time without meetings to get mission critical work done.
- The art of strategic conversation comes with practice.



# Lessons Learned

## Unit Level

- Set projects up so that refuge staff can implement them independently.
- Take advantage of multi-agency partnerships — they often allow you to complete projects you would not be able to do alone.
- Get involved in local and regional planning and development efforts.
- Encourage and aid local government agencies in applying for federal funding.
- Stations are often under-funded and under-staffed which, no matter how much staff want to, hinders their ability to connect with local community groups and stakeholders.
- If possible, show up to support your co-workers and volunteers at gatherings and events.
- Station staff are inventive and resourceful when it comes to getting the most out of what they are given.



# General Suggestions

- Spend some time with your Scope of Work.
- Make lists.
- Trust yourself to learn new skills.
- Say yes (as much as you can).
- Your expertise goes beyond transportation; use all of it.
- Career conversations are a great way to engage with people inside and outside your agency and learn more about where you want to head next on your career journey.
- Take lots of pictures. You will be glad you did once you are writing your final report.
- Build collaborative relationships with your fellows cohort, mentor, and the PLTF team. The fellowship is meant to provide a supportive community.



# Thank you

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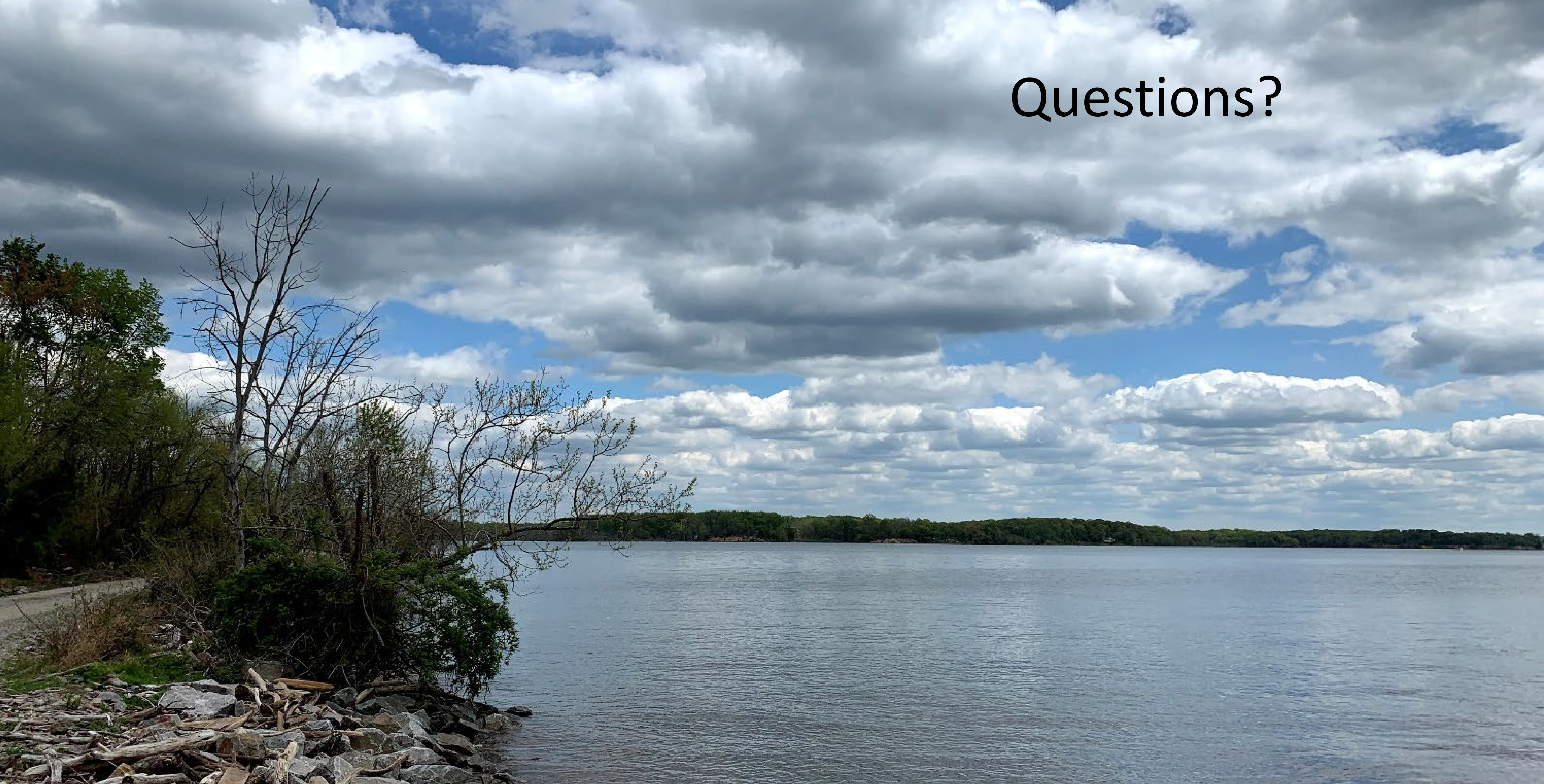


# Resources

- [National Visitor Survey Alternative Transportation Report](#) (only accessible to DOI employees, email for copy)
- [FWS Electric Vehicle Charging Station Gap Analysis](#) (only accessible to FWS employees)
- [Infrastructure Management Division SharePoint site](#) (only accessible to DOI employees)
- [H.R. 3684: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#)
- [EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool](#)
- [National Integrated Drought Information System, by State](#)
- [NOAA's Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper](#)
- [USDA's Wildfire Risk to Communities Tool](#)
- [Career Conversations How-To and Resources](#)



# Questions?





# Contact Information

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***<https://westerntransportationinstitute.org/professional-development/public-lands-transportation-fellows/>***