

Chicago Wilderness

we are
a regional alliance
leading strategy to
preserve, improve,
and expand nature
and quality of life.

ONE REGION. ONE VISION. ONE VOICE.

The Vision:

A Regional Focus

We drive a collective conservation strategy to significantly contribute to our region's health and progress.

we're about

nature + people

aligning across sectors for regional benefit

driving regional solutions [relevant, viable & scalable]

what we do

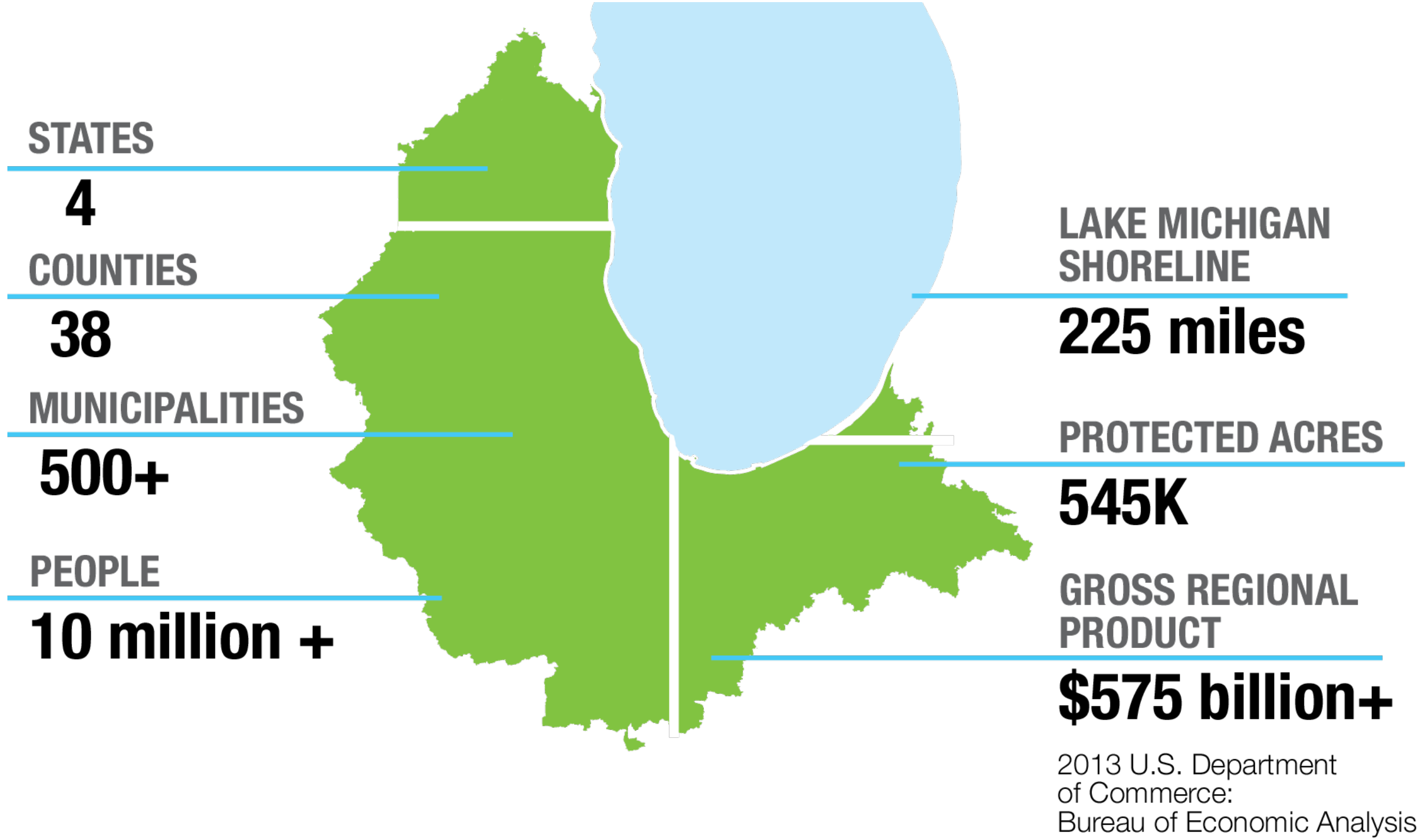
facilitate conservation efforts

land & water preservation and management, outreach, research

measure, track & synthesize regional action

connect diverse stakeholders to leverage resources for innovation

the chicago wilderness region



6 Focus Areas

For regional impact

oak
ecosystems



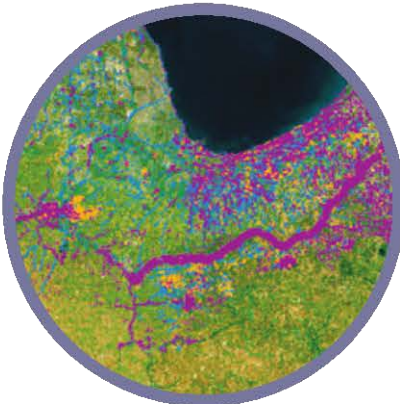
landowners

priority
species



public
engagement

water as
a resource



data &
member tools



Focus Areas

Benefits to the Alliance

Through these Focus Areas we will:

Increase collaboration and coordinate actions

Maximize results from existing resources while attracting new investments

Coordinate monitoring efforts and standardize data across the Chicago Wilderness Region

Track regional trends and measure success and challenges

Build public support for nature conservation in the region

Tell our region's conservation success stories



PRIORITY SPECIES

Priority Species

Focus Area

Our goal is to foster **measurable improvements** for these species.

Improvements may include:

- increased number of breeding populations**
- expanded and improved habitat**
- enhanced adaptive capacity**
- other outcomes**

These efforts are expected to **further benefit a larger suite of flora and fauna** that share similar habitat requirements and management needs.

Target: EIGHT species total.

SPECIES SELECTION TIMELINE

PROJECT	ACTIVITY	STATUS	START DATE	DUE DATE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
Select Priority Species	A. Assemble advisors & scope out work	Complete	4/1/15	7/31/15				█	█	█	█						
	B. Secure a facilitator for workshop	Complete	7/1/15	8/31/15							█	█					
	C. Develop criteria for species selection	Complete	7/1/15	10/29/15							█	█	█	█			
	D. Select candidate species	In Progress	11/2/15	12/8/15												█	
	E. Hold workshop to run species through criteria & determine final list	In Progress	12/9/15	12/11/15												█	
	G. Develop work plans for selected species	Not Started	12/14/15	12/31/15													█



Timeline Details

March 25: Initial meeting for Focus Area

June - August: Advisors develop draft criteria

Mid-September: Draft criteria circulated to CW membership for input

September - October: Advisors refine criteria & develop scoring system

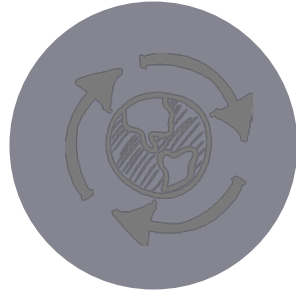
October 29: Criteria are sent out to CW membership for application

November 19: Deadline for application of criteria (species nominations)

Week of December 7: Species workshop

Priority species criteria

Three Categories



Geographic/Biological Significance

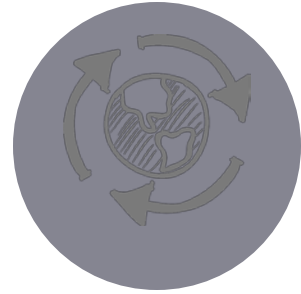


Feasibility: management, landownership actions, relationship to other efforts



Monitoring/Measurability

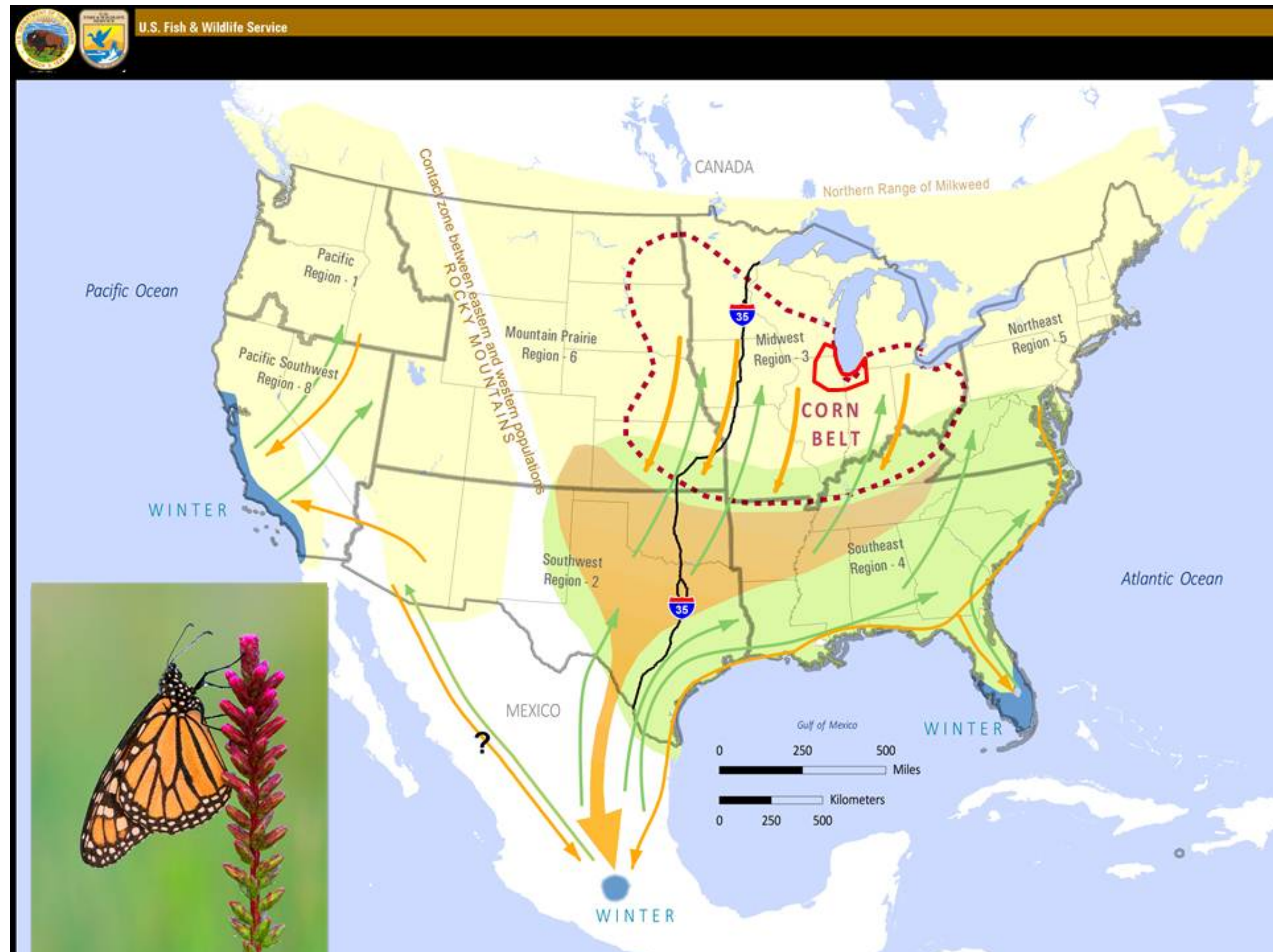
Category selection examples



Geographic/Biological Significance

Are the species range/populations in Chicago Wilderness globally or regionally significant?

Can concerted local efforts contribute to a better overall condition for the species?



Category selection examples



Feasibility: management

Is the species already part of ongoing conservation efforts by numerous Chicago Wilderness members?

Could even more member organizations be involved?

Could the species benefit from concerted/coordinated efforts in Chicago Wilderness?

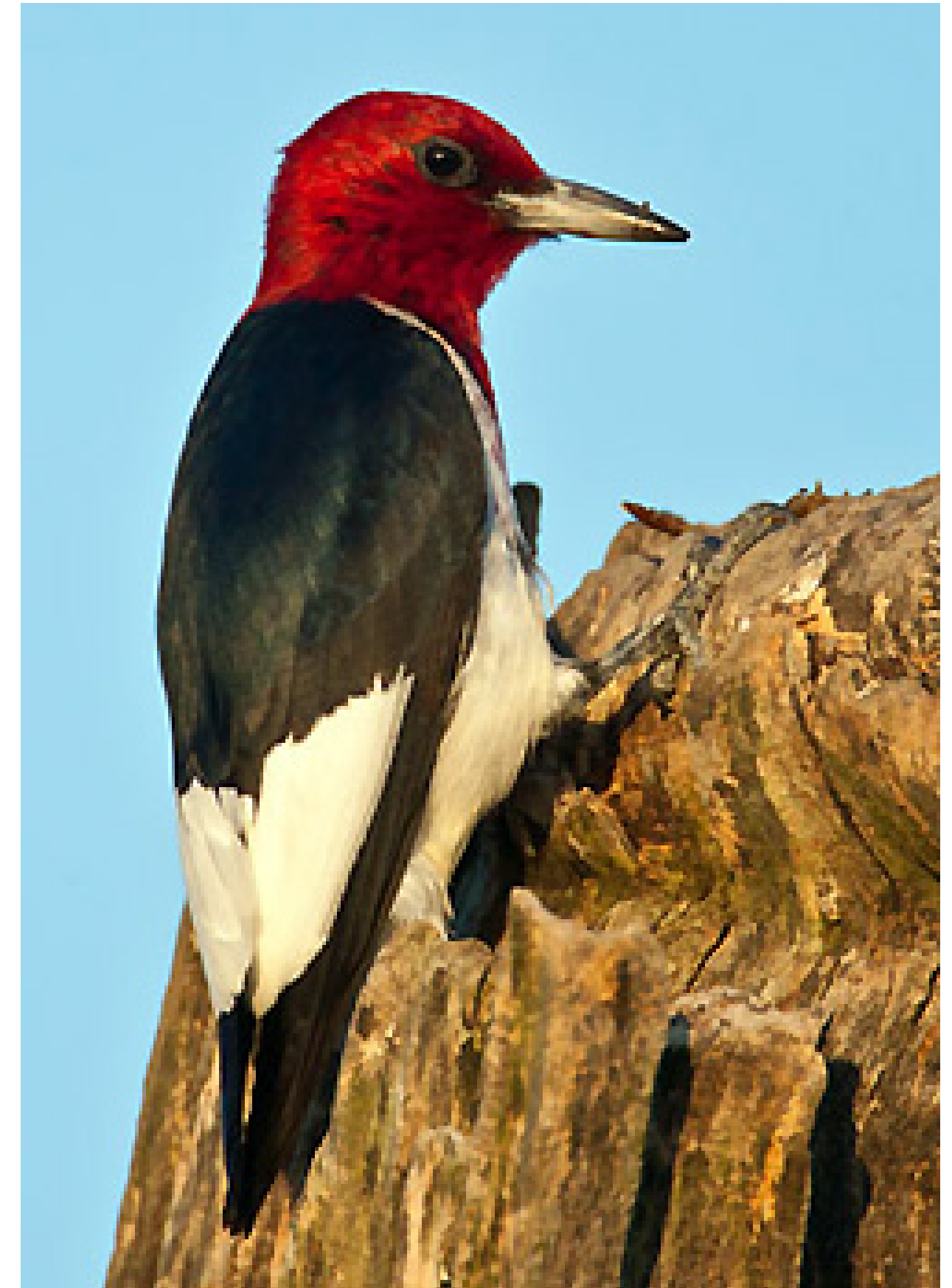


Category selection examples



Feasibility: landownership actions;
relationships to other actions/focus areas

Is widespread habitat management that could benefit species happening or planned in Chicago Wilderness?

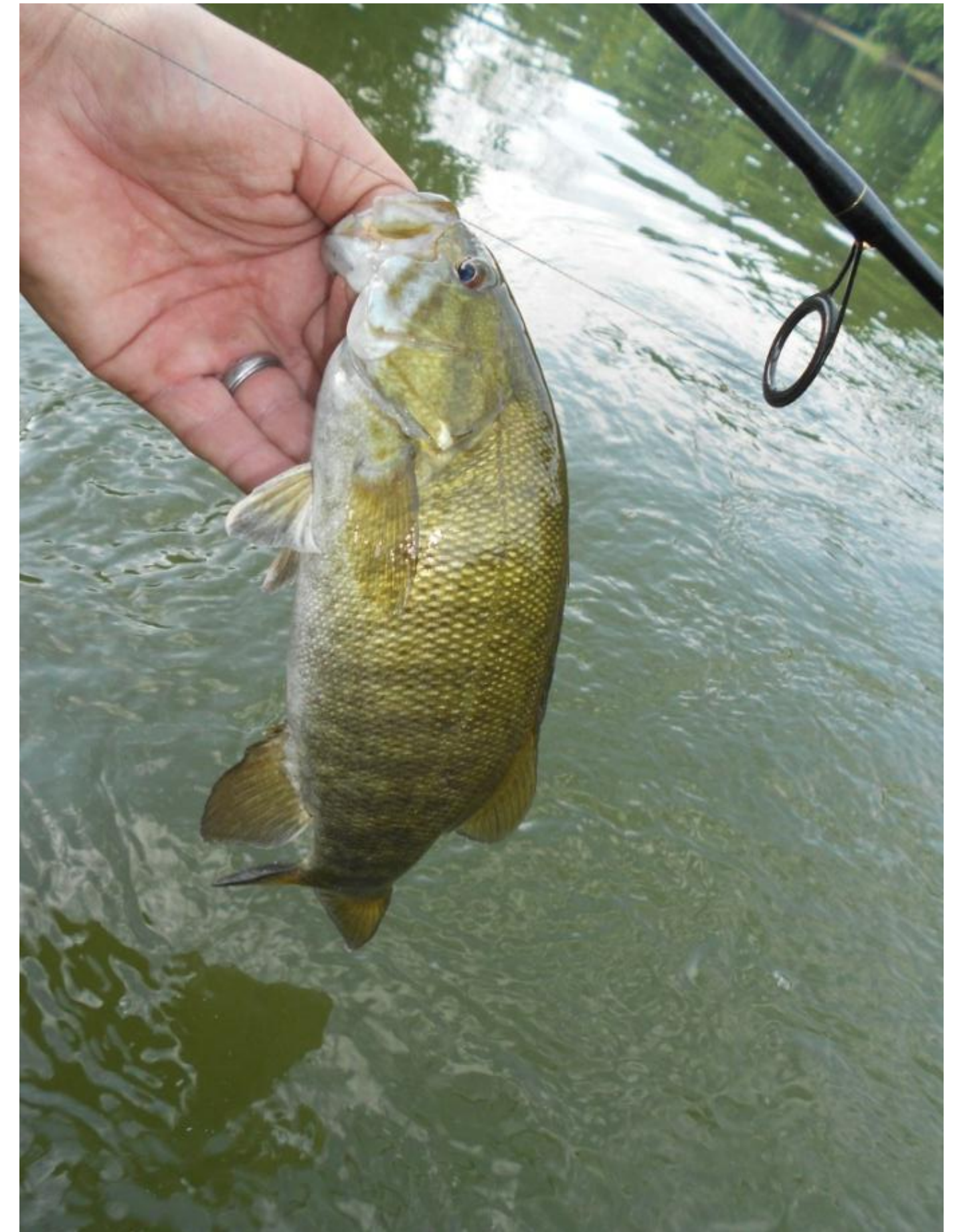


Category selection examples



Feasibility: landownership (and watershed) actions; relationships to other actions/focus areas

Is widespread habitat management that could benefit species happening or planned in Chicago Wilderness?



Category selection examples



Monitoring/Measurability

Do good baseline data for the species already exist in the Chicago Wilderness area?

Can good baseline data for the species be established relatively quickly?

Is the species simple enough to track in a rigorous and defensible manner?

Will we detect trends in five years?



Chicago Wilderness

A wide-angle photograph of a lush field of wildflowers. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by numerous purple aster-like flowers. Interspersed among them are several bright yellow Black-eyed Susans. The background shows a soft, hazy sunset with the sun low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The sky is a mix of light purple and pink. The overall mood is serene and natural.

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