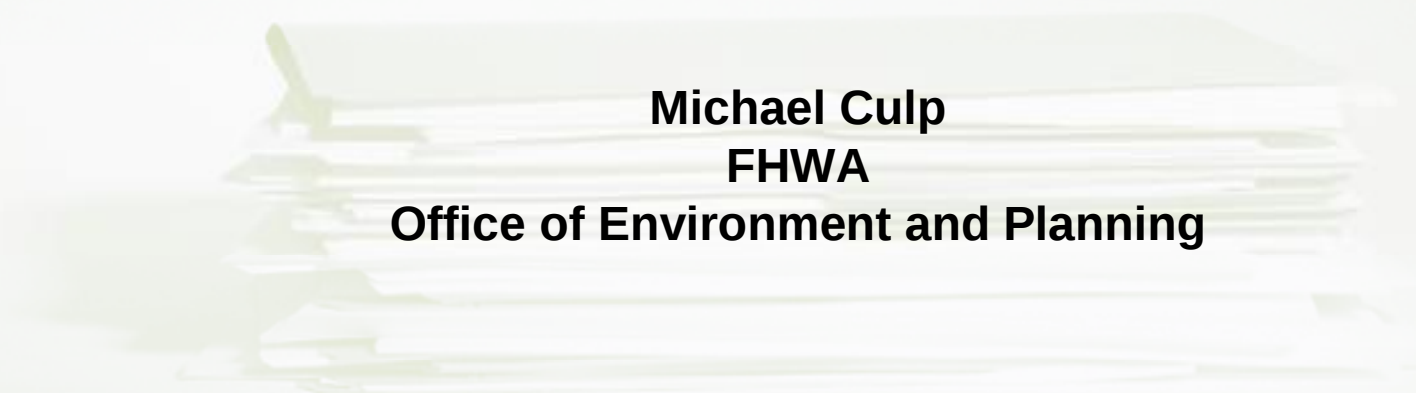


SAFETEA-LU 6001 and Other Drivers

Arizona Conservation and
Transportation Planning Workshop
November 8, 2006



Michael Culp
FHWA
Office of Environment and Planning

Relevant 6001 Provisions

- Environment planning factors
- Consideration of environmental mitigation
- Consultation with resource agencies, including consideration of resource maps and inventories
- Participation Plans for input, including visualization techniques

Applies to all plans and programs adopted after June 30, 2007

Environment Planning Factors

- Applies to statewide and metropolitan planning
- Plans are to:
 - “protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, and improve quality of life”
 - “promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns”

Environmental Mitigation

- Applies to metropolitan and statewide long-range plans
- Requires discussion of
 - Types of potential environmental mitigation activities and potential areas to carry out activities
 - “...including activities that may have the greatest potential to restore and maintain the environmental functions affected by the plan”
- To be developed in consultation with Federal, State, and tribal wildlife, land management, and regulatory agencies

Consultation

- Applies to metropolitan, statewide planning
- Directs agencies to “consult, as appropriate, with State and local agencies* responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation, and historic preservation”
- Requires consultations to, as appropriate:
 - Compare transportation plans with State conservation plans or maps
 - Compare transportation plans to inventories of natural or historic resources

*for statewide planning, add “tribal agencies”

Inter-Agency Consultation and Coordination

- Environmental resource agencies currently set up for project reviews
- Agencies often lack resources, capacity to be meaningfully involved in planning
- Solutions needed to overcome barriers for involvement
- Potential solutions
 - Staff funding
 - Standing inter-agency meetings
 - Formal agreements to specify consultation, coordination procedures and responsibilities (MOA, MOU)

- A little more on these provisions and how they might be implemented (non-statutory)



Data and Analysis Tools

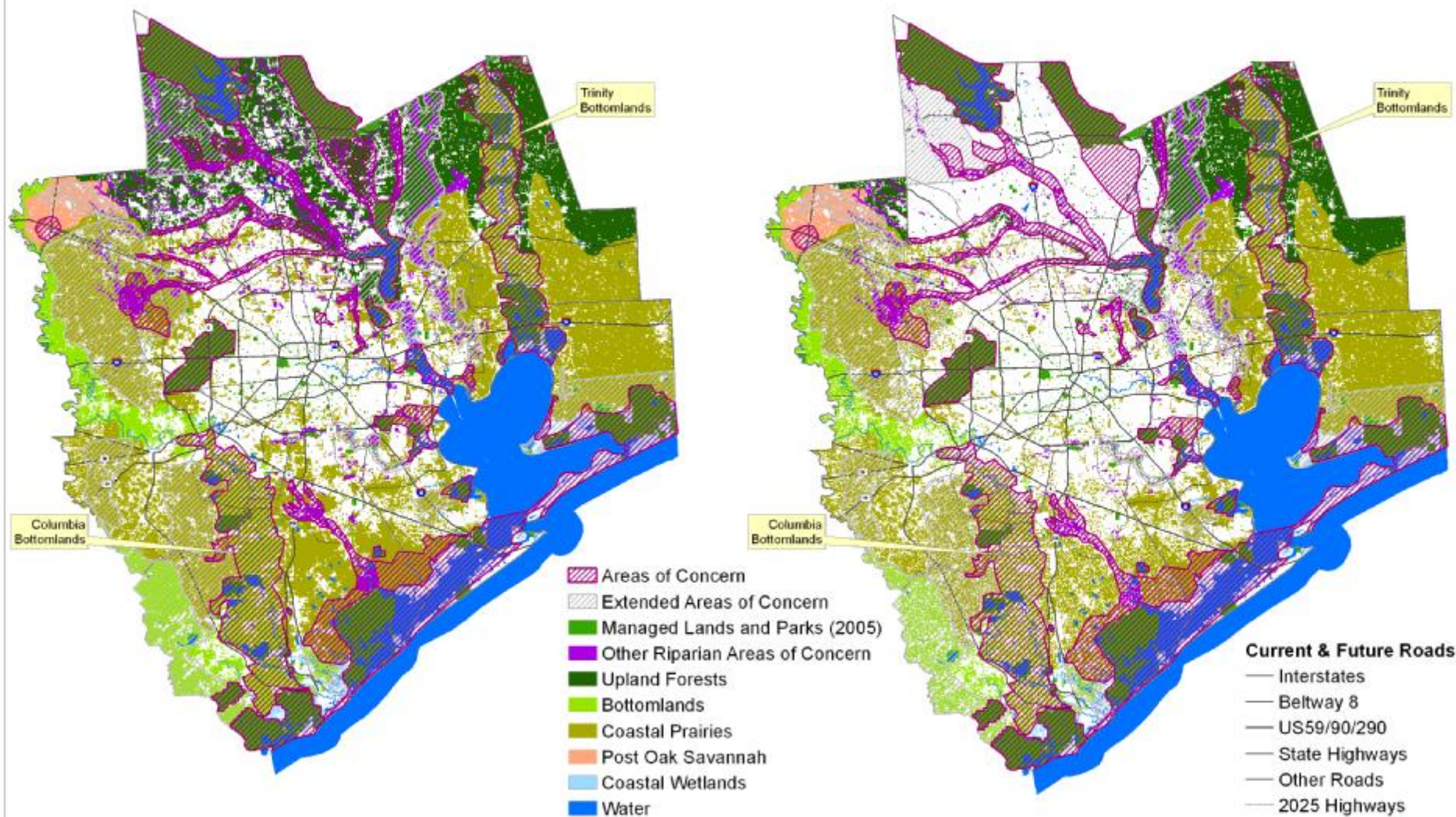
- Create data sharing agreements
 - State and Federal resource agencies
 - Land use and land management agencies
- What is to be done with the data?
 - Comparing, sharing, analysis, mapping
- Issues:
 - Don't necessarily need GIS to compare inventories, although helpful
 - Some information cannot be shared with the public
 - Continual updating of data by 'experts' or 'owners'

Undeveloped Environmental Resources

DRAFT

2005

2035



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How does 6001 fit?

- Bring 6001 environmental provisions into the context of planning activities, NEPA, and environmental review



System-level
Planning

Transportation

Resource Agency

System-level
Planning

Integrated
Planning,
Consultation

6001

Linking
Planning and
NEPA

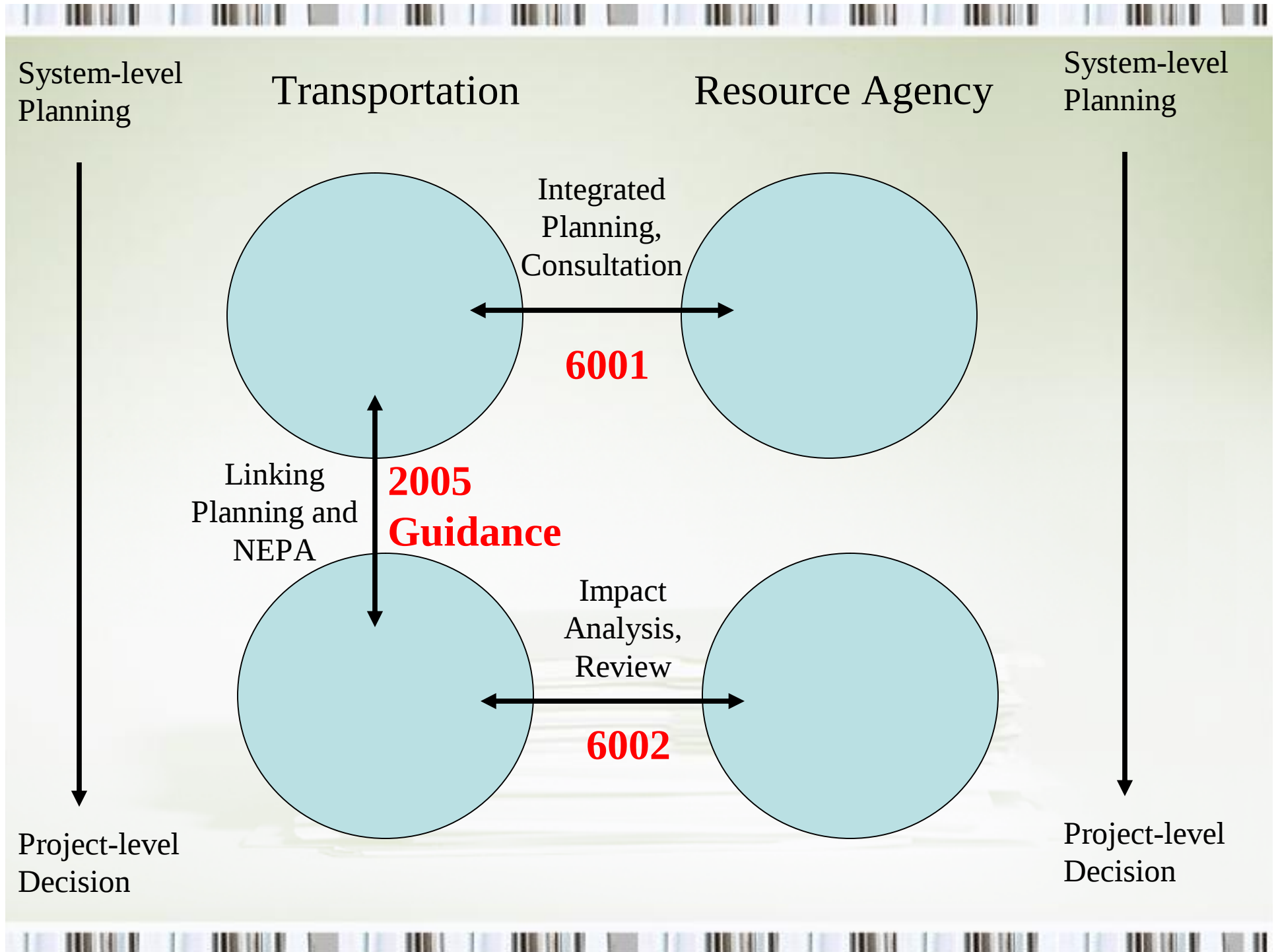
**2005
Guidance**

Impact
Analysis,
Review

6002

Project-level
Decision

Project-level
Decision



SAFETEA-LU 6002

- Defines an “Environmental Review Process”
- Lead agencies must invite all agencies with interest in project to be “participating agencies”
- Establishes timeframes for reviews
- Participating agencies and the public be involved early in the process
- Makes funding available for resource agencies to contribute to process improvements (includes planning)
- Establishes statute of limitations (180 days)

Goal: Better decision-making, process predictability

6002 Guidance

- FHWA/FTA proposed guidance in FR in June
- Final is now being drafted
- Should be released soon



Linking Planning and NEPA: Connecting SAFETEA-LU Sections

Section 6001

- Coordination with land and resource agencies, others
- Consideration of land use, resource concerns in the planning process

Linking Planning and NEPA

- Mechanisms and tools for coordination
- Planning products for use in NEPA

Section 6002

Early coordination with resource agencies, other stakeholders for process improvement and higher predictability

2005 Linking Planning and NEPA Guidance

- Supports Congressional Intent
 - Elimination of MIS
 - Planning should be foundation for project development
- Voluntary
- Planning varies across the country
- Does not NEPA-ize Planning
- Extensive coordination with national stakeholder groups and agencies
- Based on legal opinion

SAFETEA-LU, Planning NPRM and LP&N

- Transportation Planning NPRM closed September 7, 2006 for comment
- Contained statutory language for S-LU 6001 regarding consultation and mitigation
- Included permissive language regarding LP&N
- Modified 2005 LP&N Guidance included as an appendix to proposed rule
- Currently, final rule being drafted

Related Efforts: Executive Order 13274

- Established Work Groups to focus on:
 - Purpose and Need
 - Indirect and Cumulative
 - Integrated Planning
- All baseline reports and findings reference planning level consideration/links as good/best practice

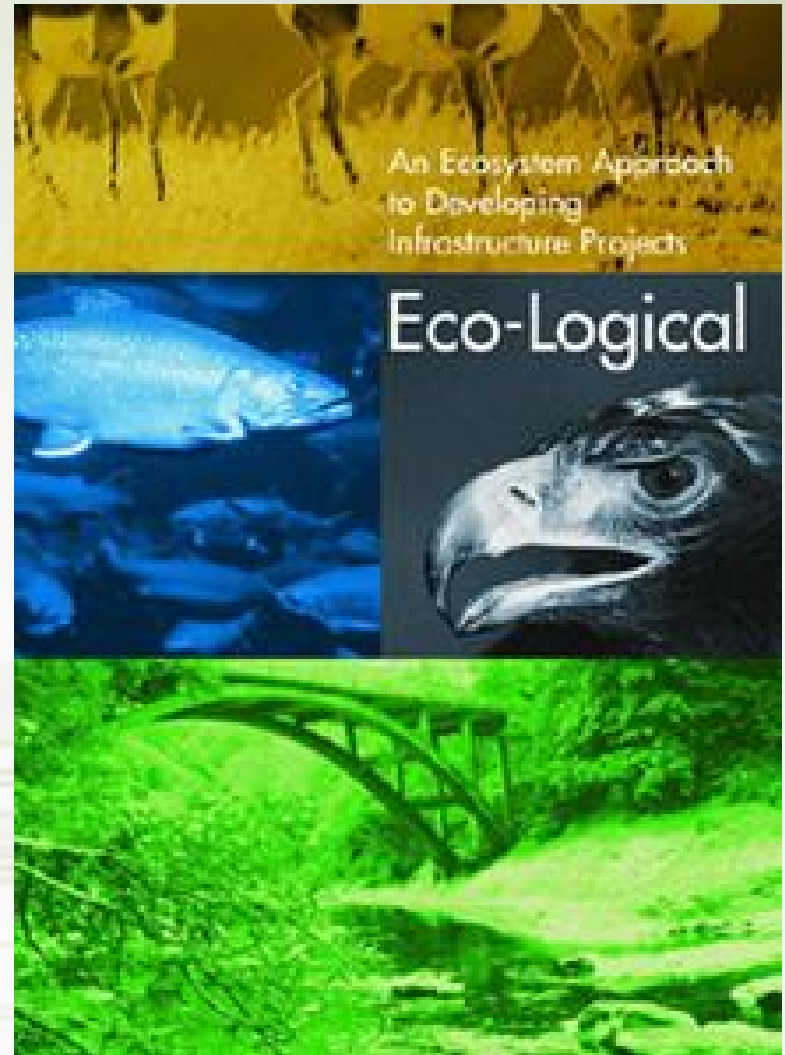
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/stewardshipeo/workgroups.htm>

Related Efforts: Eco-Logical

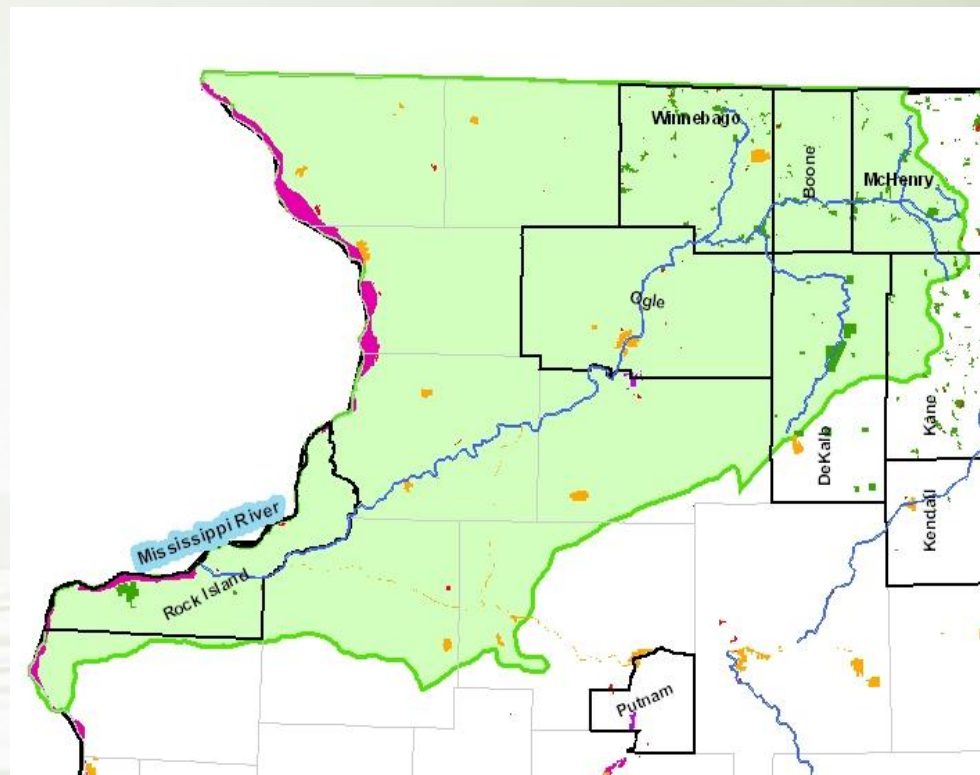
- Eco-Logical encourages flexibility in regulatory processes
- Lays conceptual groundwork for integrating plans across agency boundaries
- Endorses ecosystem-based planning and mitigation

Signatory Agencies:

- BLM, EPA, FHWA, NOAA Fisheries Service, NPS, USACE, USFS, USFWS



Eco-Logical: Meaningful Mitigation



Some FHWA Activities

- Linking Planning and NEPA workshops
 - Becoming more customized tech assist
- Linking Conservation and Transportation Planning
 - Focuses on data tools, sharing, building relationships
- Possible research funding for demonstration projects for implementing
 - Eco-logical, 6001, Integrated Planning
 - Cost-share, partnering

More resources...

- Planning and Environment Linkages Website
 - One-stop shop for LP&N, int. planning, etc...

<http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/integ/index.asp>

- Contains links and references to guidance, key reports, related efforts

Highlights of the Linking Planning and NEPA Workshop

- Revised existing Action Plan from 2004
- Included 3 main areas
 - Process improvement, organizational and staffing strategies (mostly focused on ADOT)
 - Intergovernmental and interagency strategies
 - Data strategies



Highlights (cont)

Intergovernmental and interagency strategies

- Ensure environmental and resource agency coordination in State and MPO planning processes

Data Strategies

- Deploy public access data warehouse
- Share and disseminate geo-spatial info
- Create overview on environmental data sets

So, why are we here?

- Given all of these drivers, there is a strong push for better linkages between conservation planning and transportation planning
- Not only transportation agencies; environmental agencies see that a broader, systems-level approach makes sense
- This workshop enables
 - the building of relationships
 - the building of awareness of data and tools
 - Development of joint activities to foster collaboration

Thank You

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