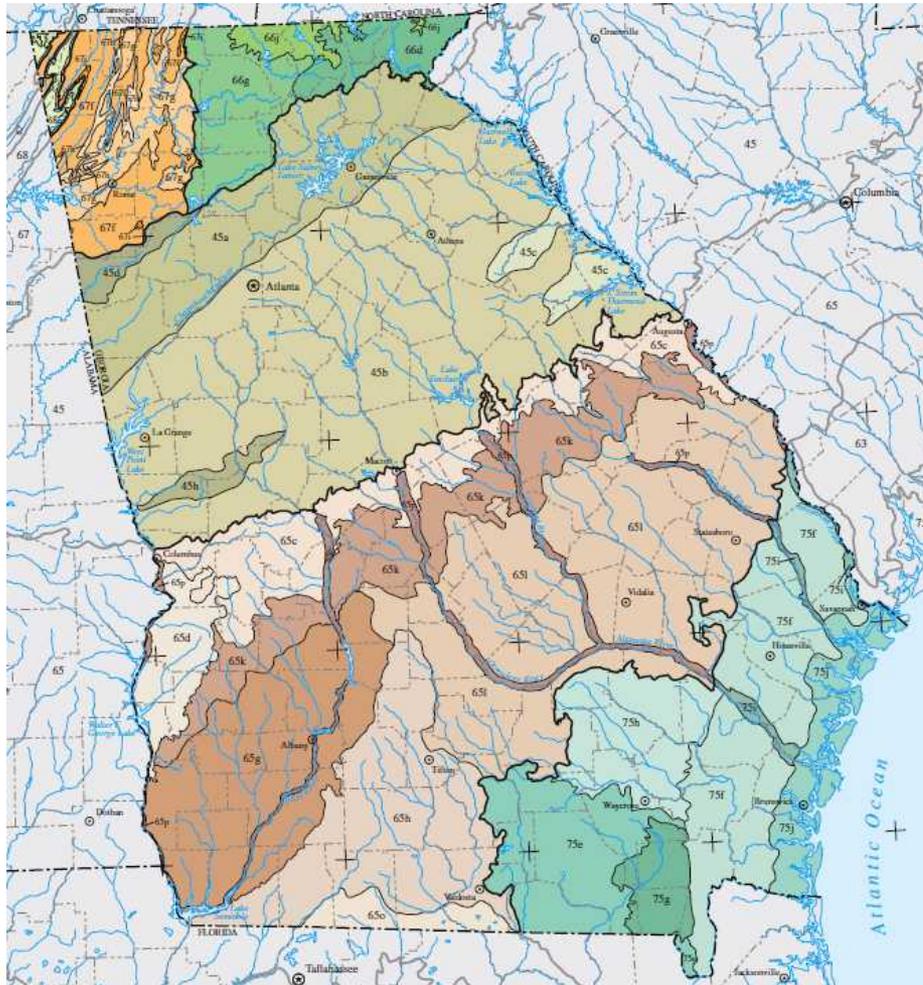




Development of a Wetland Assessment Protocol in GA

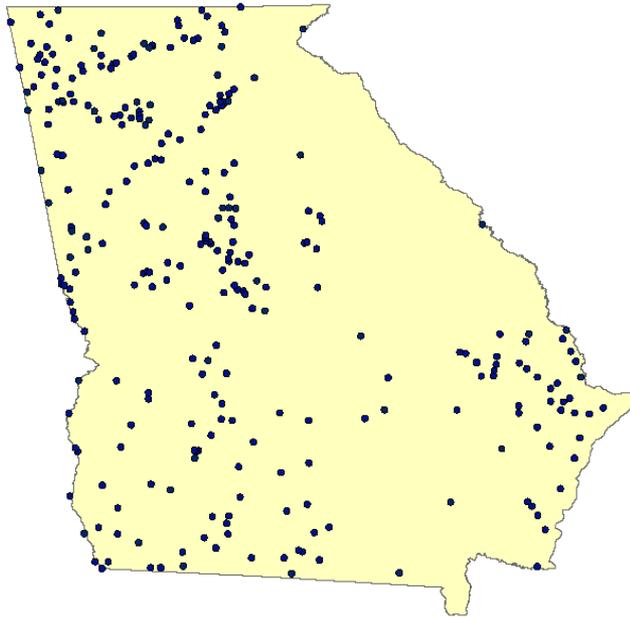
Brandon Moody
EPD Watershed Protection Branch
Watershed Planning & Monitoring Program
Ambient Monitoring Unit

Georgia At-A-Glance



-  Southwestern App. (68)
-  Blue Ridge (66)
-  Ridge and Valley (67)
-  Piedmont (45)
-  Southeastern Plains (65)
-  Southern Coastal Plain (75)

Georgia At-A-Glance, ctd



13 Associates responsible for sampling all surface waters of the state:

- Streams
- Lakes
- Wadeable stream bioassessment (macros and periphyton)
- EPA NARS
- Continuous monitoring localities
- Special modeling projects/ investigations
- ...And now wetlands.

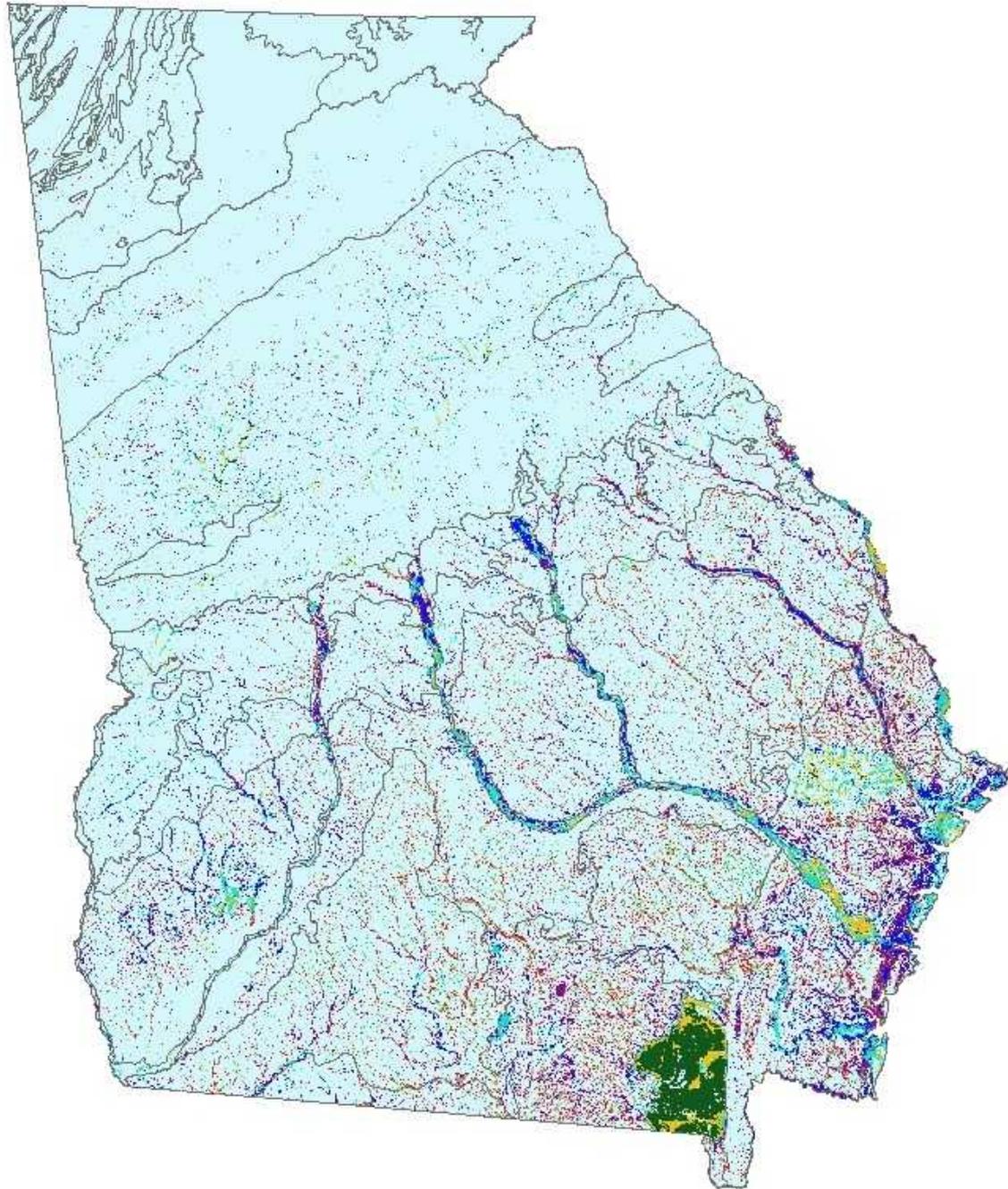
Wetland Assessment Overview

Long-Term Goals:

- Primary: Development of Level I, II, and III Assessment methodologies for non-tidal wetlands in the state of GA that supports both the establishment of WQ standards as well as the efforts of the 401/404 program.
- Secondary: Develop assessment methodology based on results from Level III survey that is appropriate to volunteer monitoring efforts.

Available Resources:

- NWI Coverage
- UGA NARSAL State Wetland Condition Index map
- In-State and Regional Expertise, Partnerships, and pre-existing protocols



Wetland Assessment Method

Initiate ecoregion-level approach assessing 15 sites of each type (NWI):

- 2011- PFO1A in Piedmont
- 2012- PFO1C in Southeastern Plains
- 2013-PFO?? in Ridge and Valley
- 2014- ?????? In Coastal Plains

Sites are selected so as to allow for analysis based on multimetric/multivariate bioassessment models:

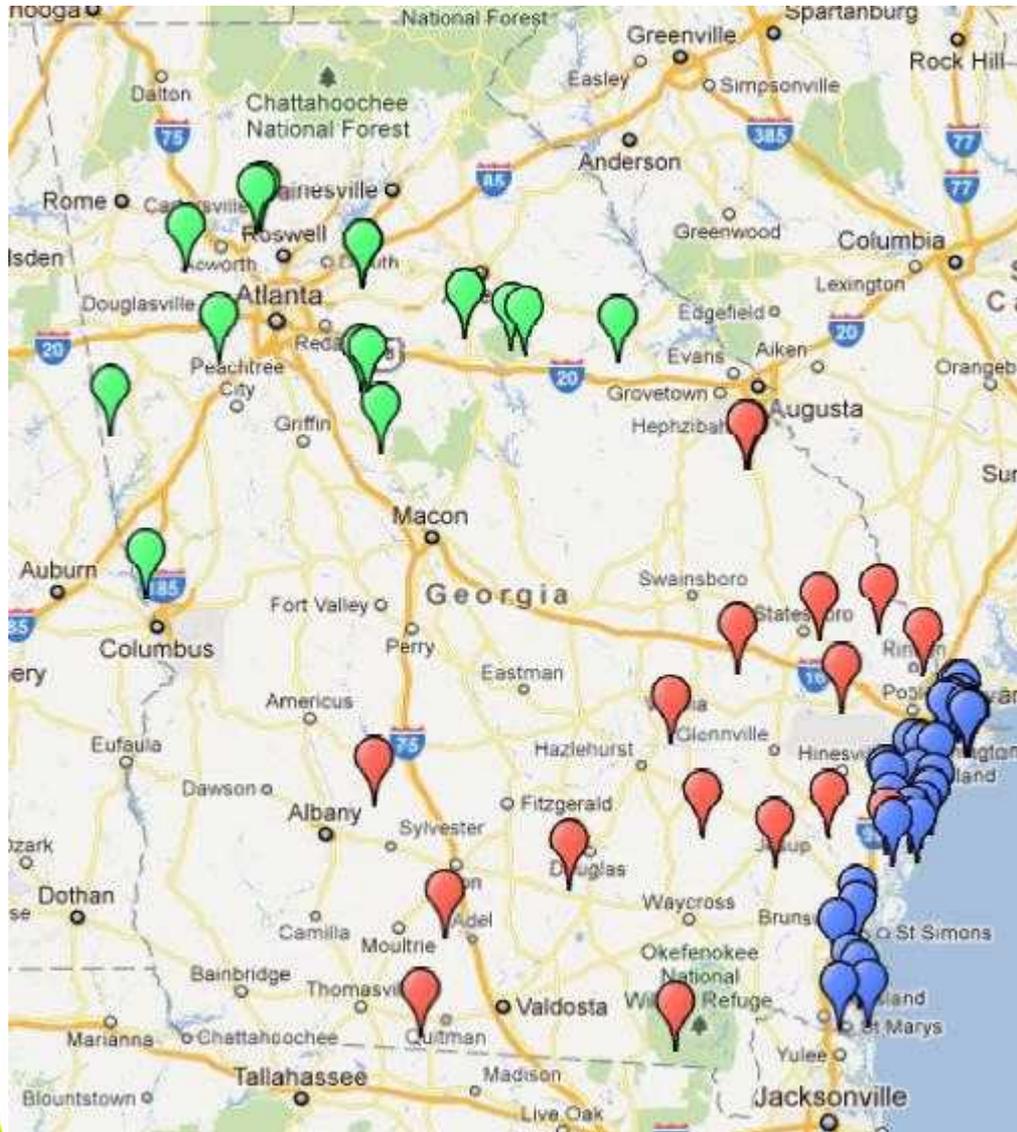
- 5 Targeted Reference
- 5 Targeted Impaired
- 5 Randomly Selected

Ecoregion Monitoring Methods



- NWCA protocols
 - Vegetation
 - Soils
 - Hydrology
 - Buffer assessment
 - WQ where water present in wetland
- Additional protocols
 - NCWAM/USARAM
 - 1 yr hydroperiod monitoring
 - WQ in adjacent streams
 - Upstream/downstream
 - Macroinvertebrates
 - Amphibians

2011 Wetland Sites in Georgia



18 EPD NWCA sites

15 Piedmont sites

32 CRD sites

Building Data Capacity

Partnerships With Other States

- Conducting 2011/2012 assessments in tandem with NC, SC, AL
 - Allows for 60 sites' worth of data instead of 15
- Development of FQAI with Region 4 states

Refinement of Adopt-A-Wetland Program

- Parameters based on results obtained during Level III surveys
- Two tiers of assessment; one for general volunteers, another for groups with higher level of expertise (i.e. gardening club)