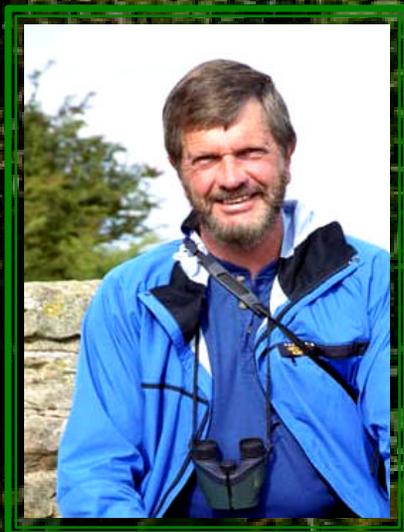


BIRDING AND BIRDERS: KEYS TO THE FUTURE OF NATURAL LANDS IN THE UNITED STATES



**Ken Cordell
Senior Scientist
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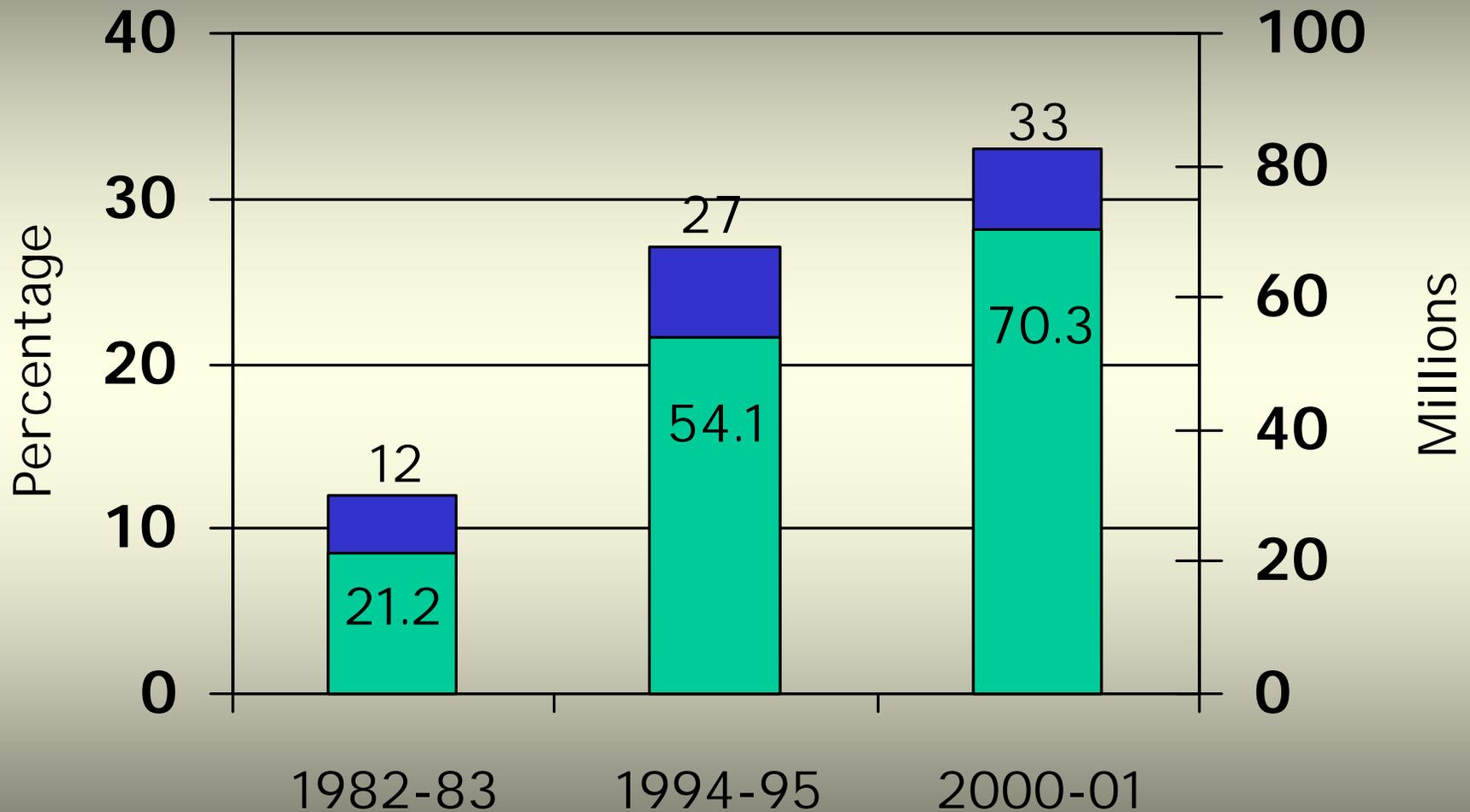
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BIRDING PARTICIPATION TRENDS



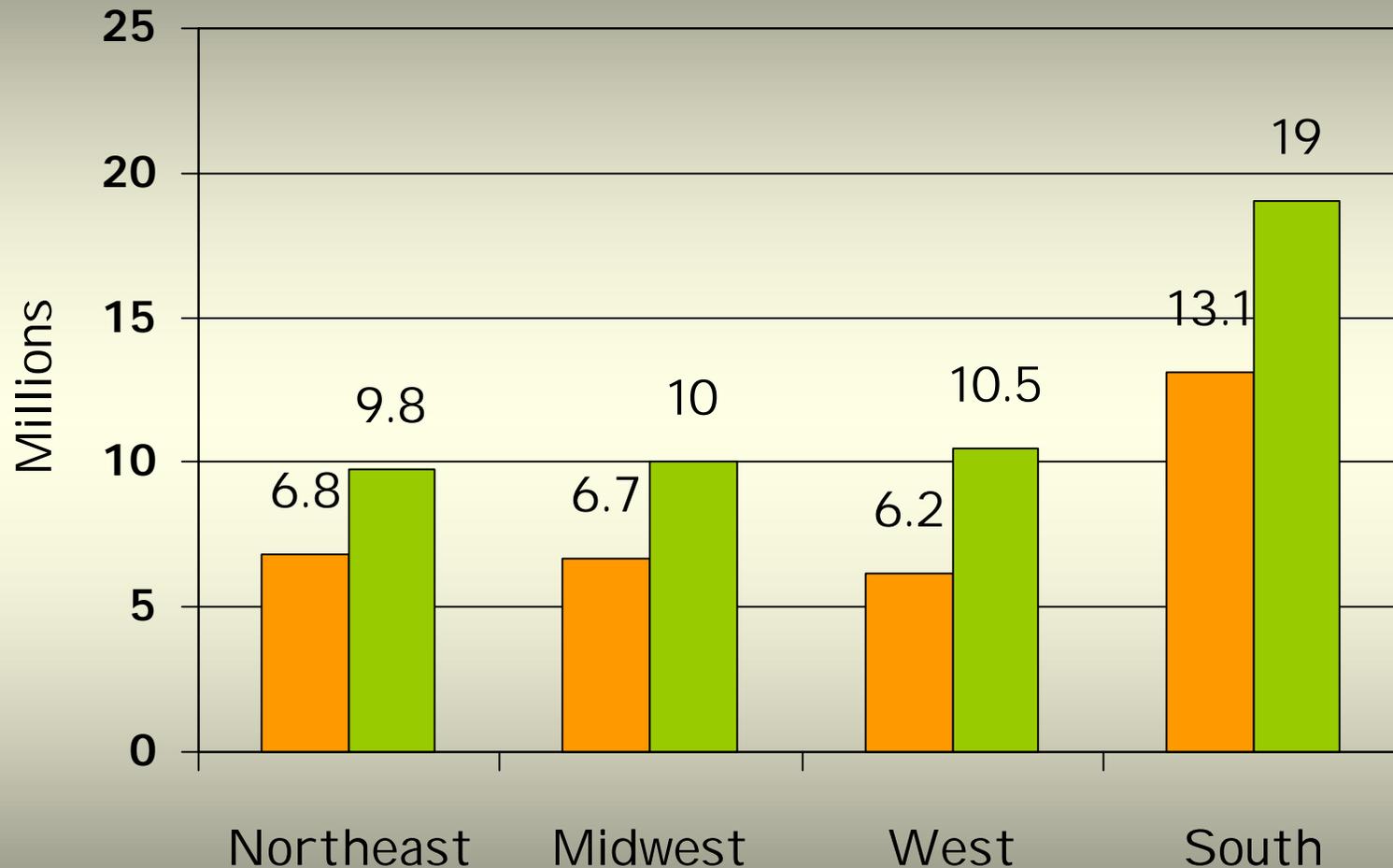
Change in number and percentage of Americans who participate in birding



■ Percentage of Population ■ Millions of People



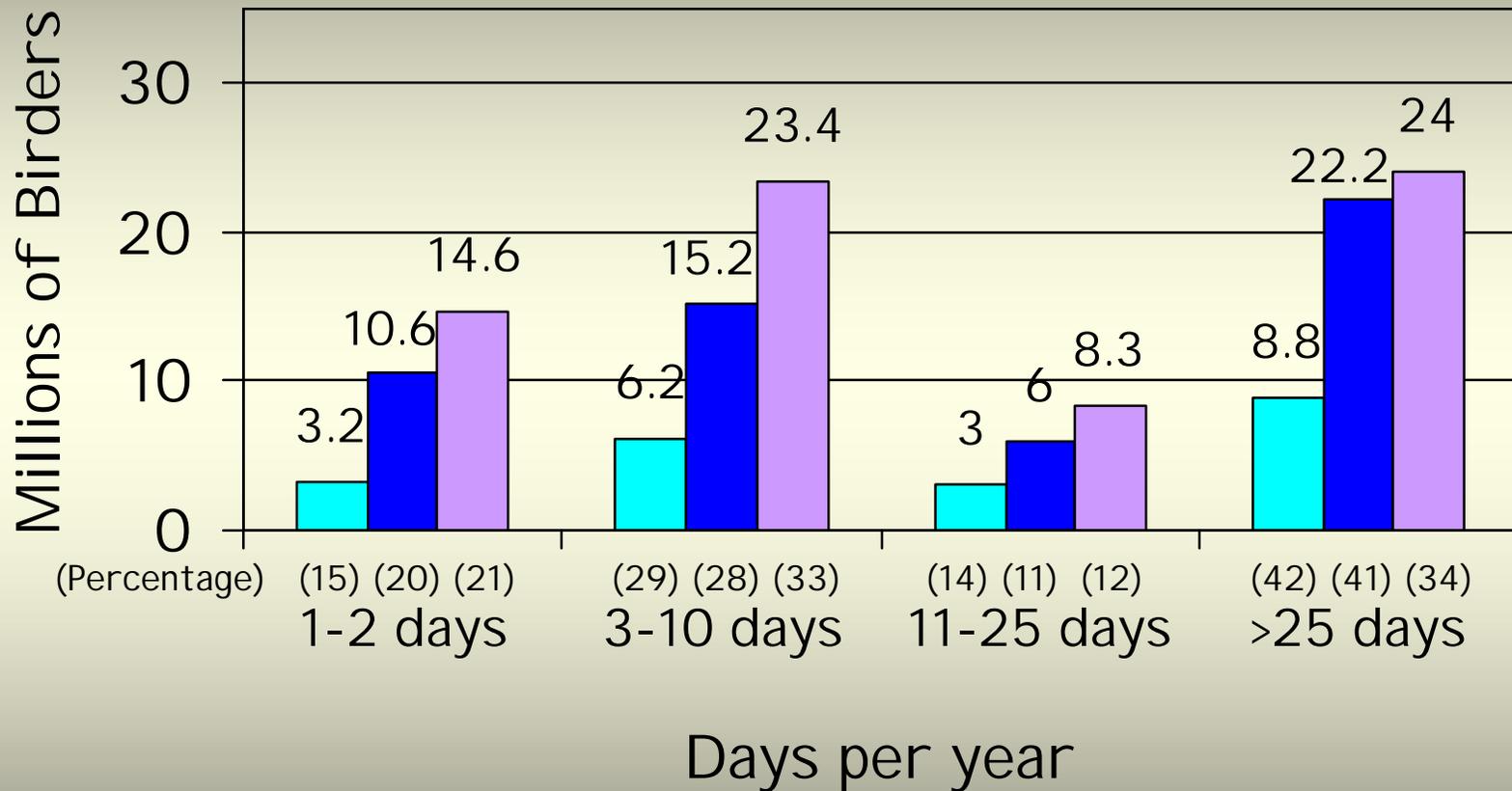
Number of people newly taking up birding since 1983, by region of the country



■ Millions added by 1995 ■ Millions added by 2001



Long-term trends in number of days on which people participate, per person per year



NSRE

***NATIONAL SURVEY ON
RECREATION AND THE
ENVIRONMENT***

SINCE 1960

***THE UNITED STATES' ON-GOING
NATIONAL RECREATION SURVEY***



NATIONAL SURVEY ON RECREATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- The first National Recreation Survey (The NRS Series) was reported in 1960 for the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission
- Subsequent NRSs in 1965, 1972, 1977, 1982, and 1995 and 2000-01
- Current NRS has been renamed the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (**NSRE**), 60,000+
- Nation's on-going, long-term federal outdoor participation and environmental/public lands survey



MODULES OF QUESTIONS

- Participation in Recreational Activities, e.g., Birding
- Frequency of Participation in Days
- Favorite Activities and Constraints
- Nature-based Trip Taking and Tourism
- Opinions about Recreation Area Management
- Environmental Attitudes and Values
- Values and Objectives for Management of Public Lands
- Wilderness Values, Knowledge, Visitation, and Priorities for Management
- Knowledge, Objectives, Satisfaction with Congressionally Designated Areas
- Ownership, Uses, Motivations and Plans for Private Land
- Lifestyles, Demographics and Disabilities



**DESCRIBING THE
CHARACTERISTICS
AND TRENDS OF
BIRDING
PARTICIPANTS**



The demographics of birders and of change, 1995 and 2001

Demographic Group	Percentage		Percentage	
	1994-95	2000-01	U.S. Population	Birding Growth
Male	43.9	44.2	47.4	45.2
Female	56.1	55.8	52.6	54.8
16-24	10.5	15.5	21.1	32.0
25-39	31.8	24.3	25.9	-0.7
40-59	34.4	36.9	31.3	45.2
60+	23.3	23.3	21.7	23.5
<HS	7.6	16.7	24.4	46.4
HS Diploma	57.7	55.1	54.2	46.0
College	34.7	28.3	21.5	7.7



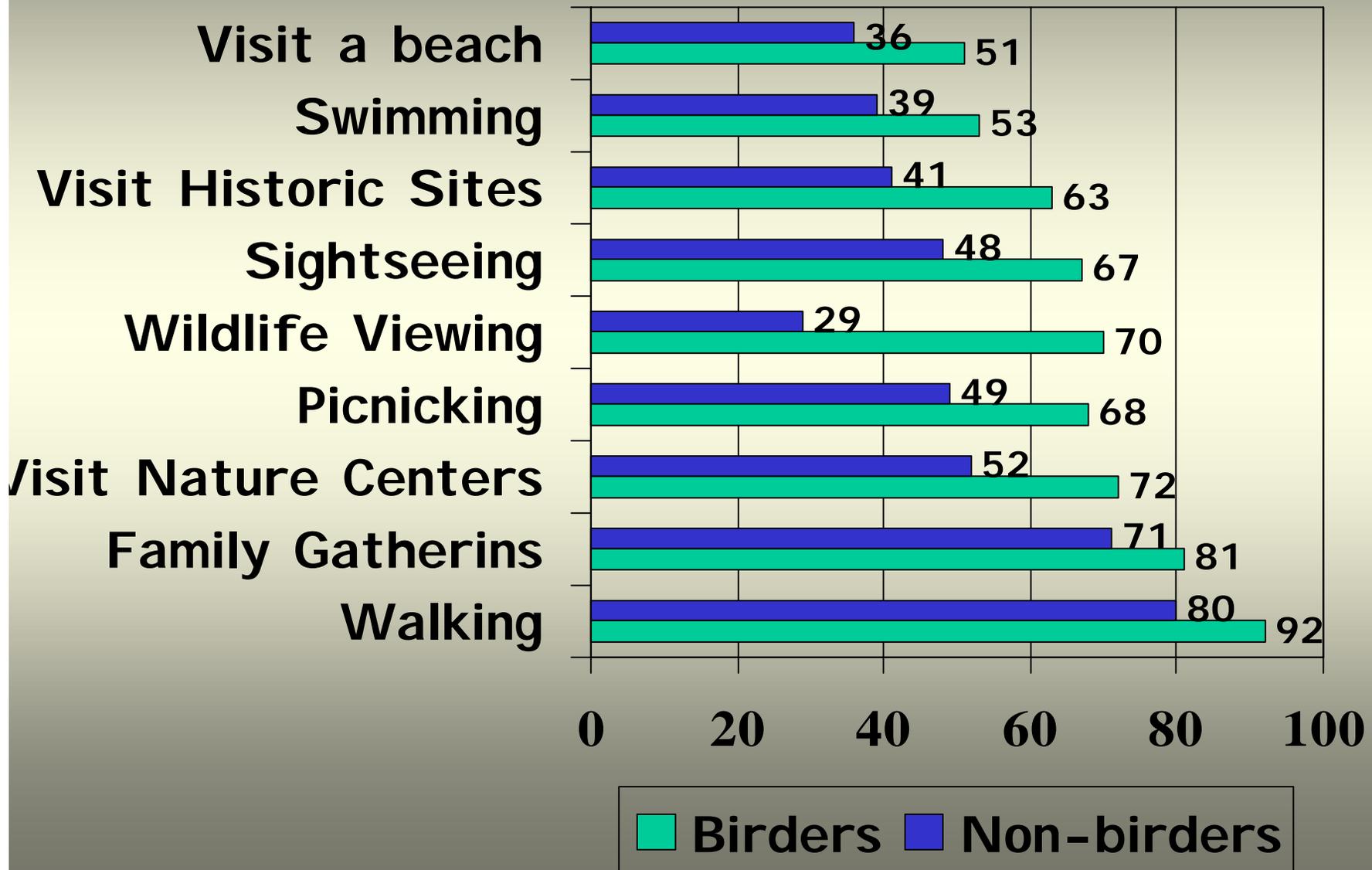
The demographics of birders and of change, 1995 and 2001

(continued)

Demographic Group	Percentage		Percentage	
	1994-95	2000-01	U.S. Population	Birding Growth
White	86.3	77.4	68.6	45.8
Black	8.4	8.2	12.6	8.8
Hispanic	1.9	10.8	14.5	39.6
American Indian	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6
Asian	1.9	2.9	3.6	6.2
<\$15,000	8.9	9.2	11.8	3.1
\$15-50,000	32.5	44.1	47.0	56.6
>\$50,000	58.6	46.7	41.2	40.3



Other activities birders and non-birders pursue



**DIFFERENTIATING
BIRDING
PARTICIPANTS BY
LEVEL OF
PARTICIPATION**



Different Levels of Birding Participation

	Percent of Americans <u>16+</u>	Days Per <u>Year</u>
No Participation	68.2	0
Least Active 1/3 (Occasionals)	9.2	1-4
Middle 1/3 (Actives)	8.5	5-29
Most Active (Enthusiasts)	9.5	30+
Days not reported	4.6	?

Enthusiasts = About 20 million, age 16 or older



Demographics by Level of Participation

Demographic Group	Least Active (Occasionals)	Middle Active (Actives)	Most Active (Enthusiasts)
	--- Percent ---		
Female	55	52	60
White	66	82	86
Age <35	39	29	16
Age 55+	20	27	43
Some College	44	49	48
Urban	84	81	72
From South	33	31	32



Environmental Positions by Level of Participation

Percent Strongly Agreeing

Environmental Position	Non-Participant	Occasionals	Actives	Enthusiasts
Humans Abusing the Earth	55	58	52	57
Humans Meant to Rule	16	19	14	14
Protect Forests for Clean Water	80	85	88	92
Protect Forests for Rare Species	64	74	73	72



Footprints on the Land:

**An Assessment of
Demographic Trends
and the Future of
Natural Resources
in the United States**

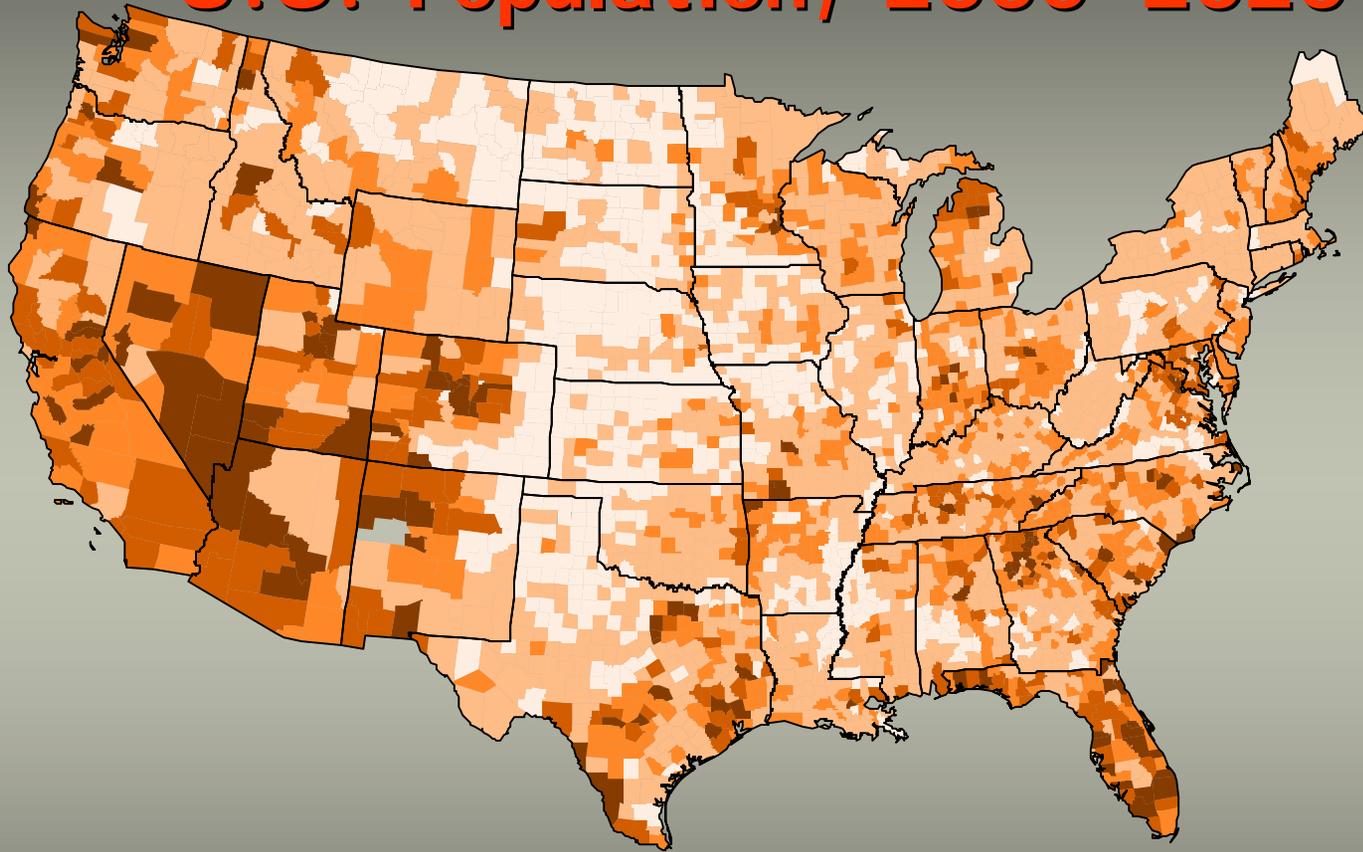
**By
H. Ken Cordell
Christine Overdevest,
Principal Authors**



This book is an examination of the population, demographic, urban, rural, economic, leisure and recreation trends of the United States.



The Geography of Projected Change in U.S. Population, 2000-2020



Percentage Population Change

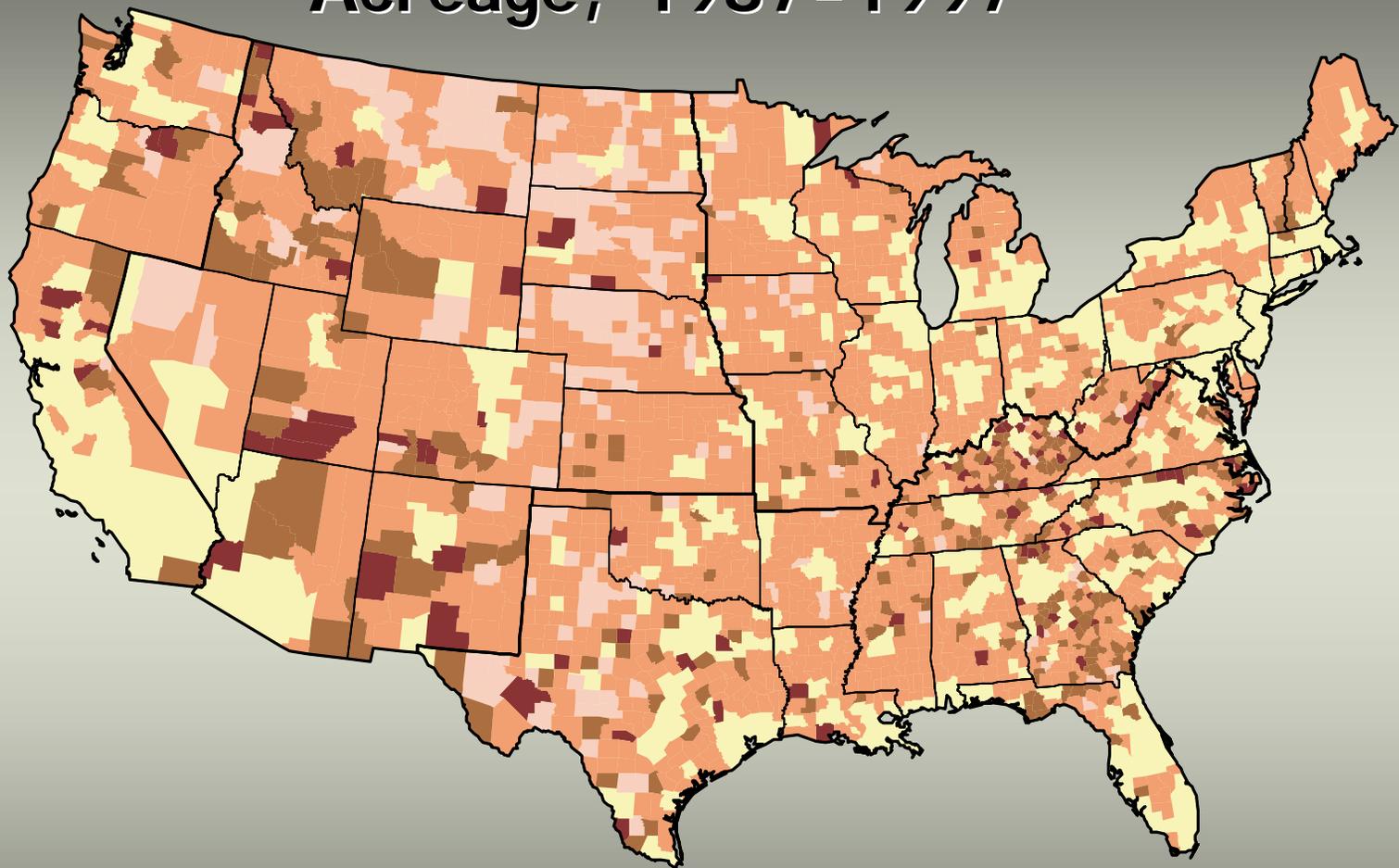


Percentage Population change by Region and Conterminous U.S.

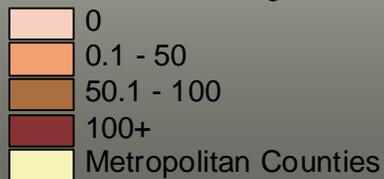
North	8.2
Pacific Coast	23.7
South	23.8
Rocky Mountains	28.5
Conterminous States	17.4



Conversion from Rural to Urban and Built-up Acreage, 1987-1997



Percent Area Change to Urban/Built-up Uses

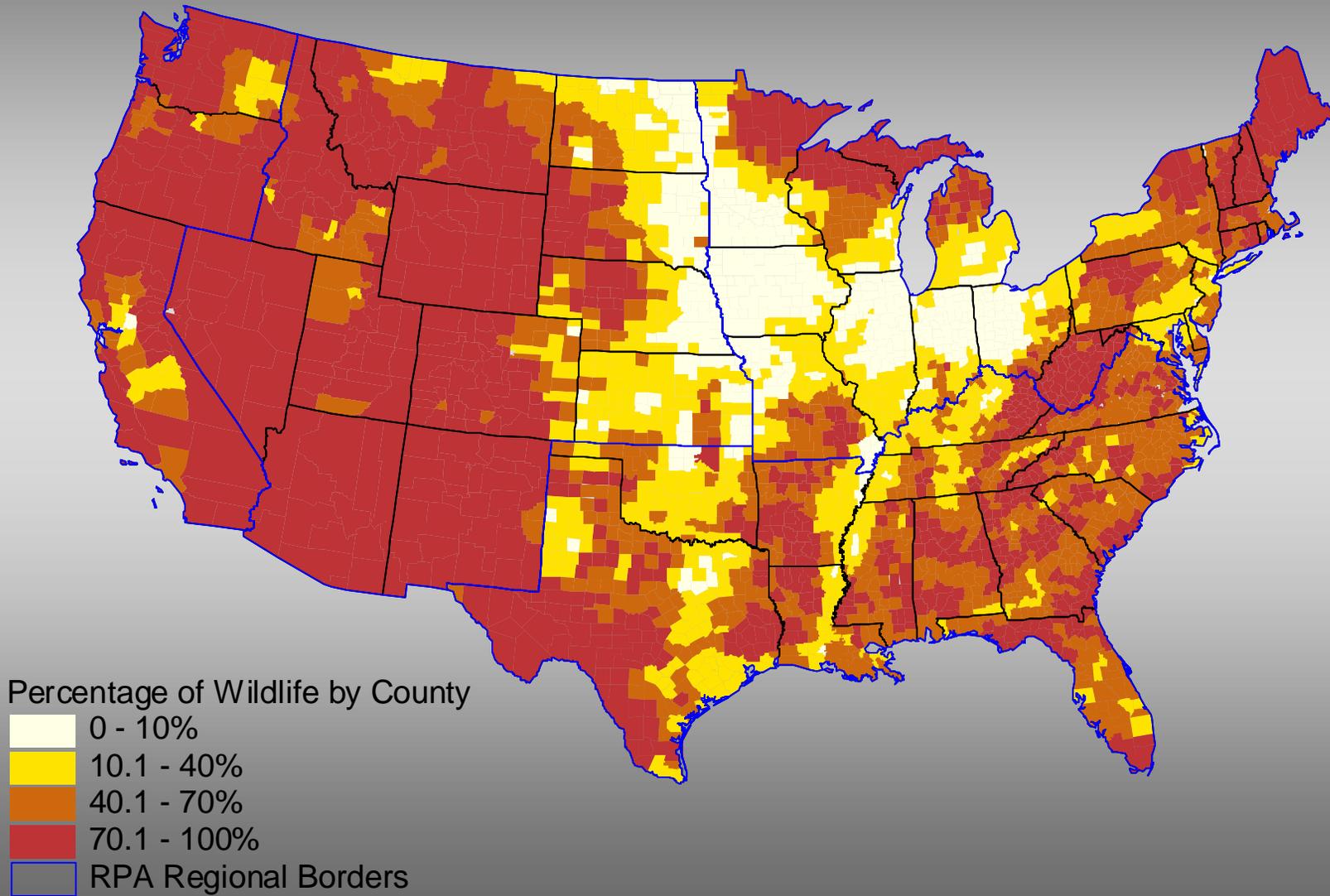


Percentage Change to Urban/Built-up Acres by Region and Conterminous U.S.

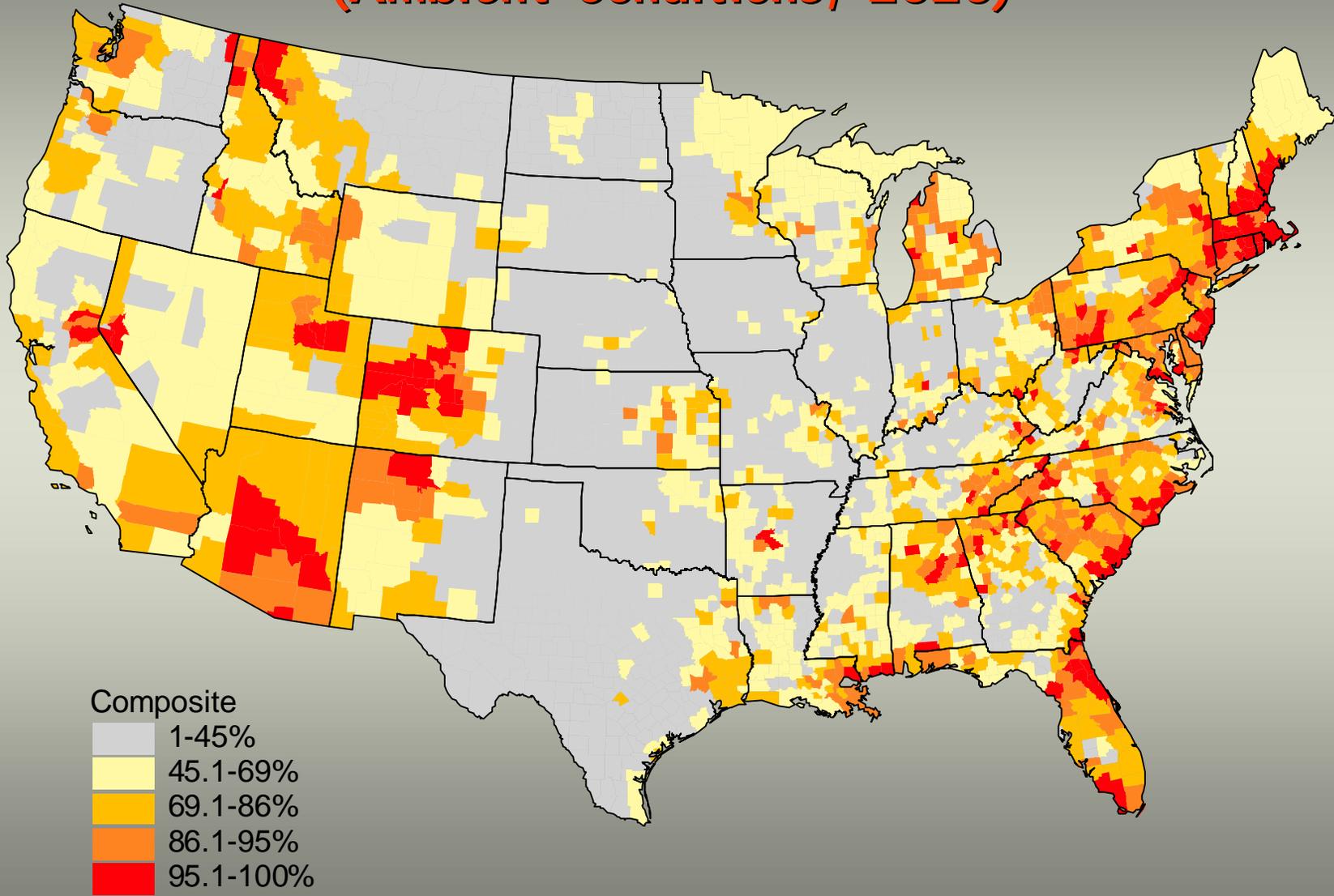
North	8.8
Pacific Coast	19.5
Rocky Mountain	10.4
South	18.8
Conterminous U.S.	13.9



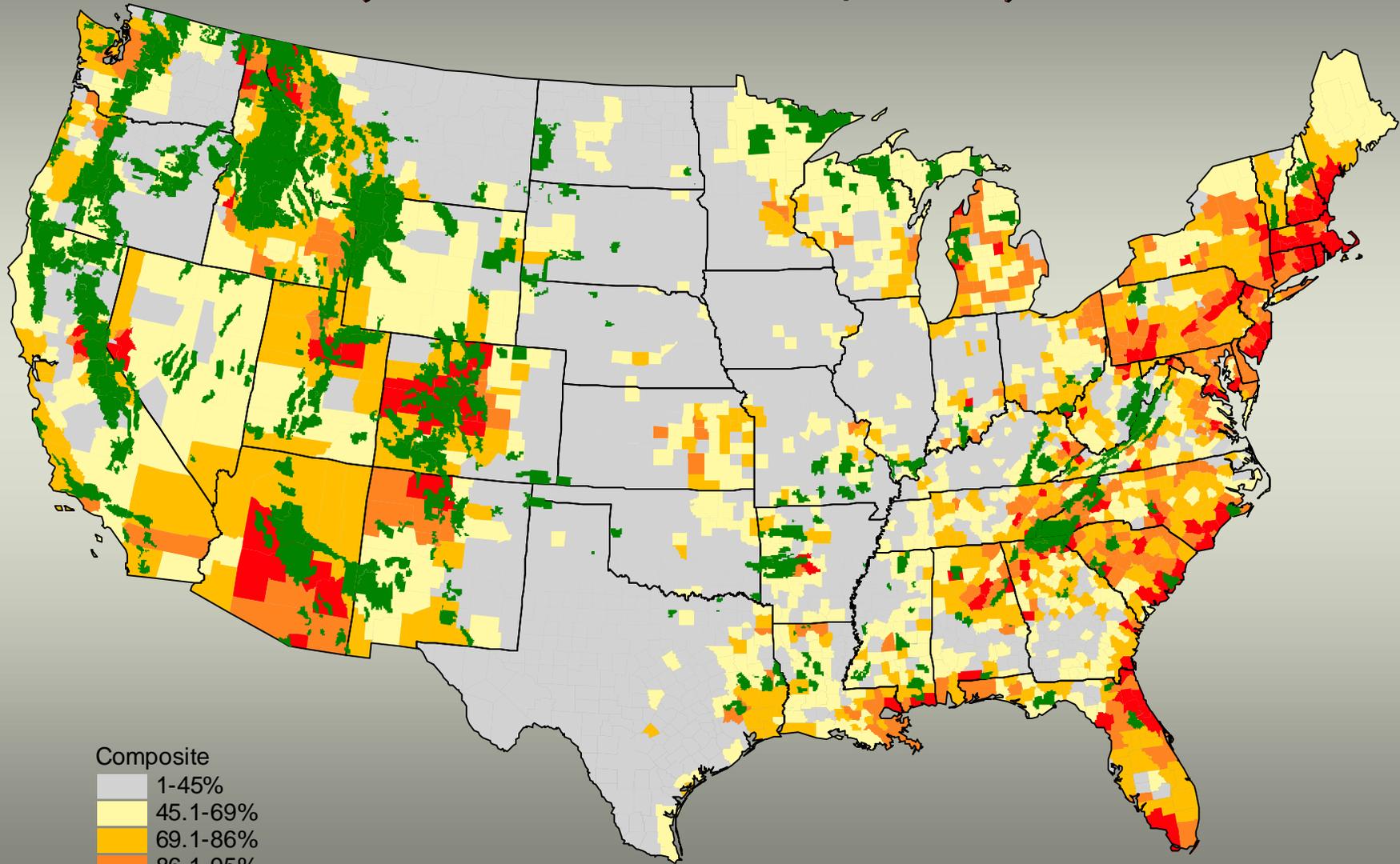
Counties with Wildlife Habitat



Composite Natural Resource Hotspots (Ambient Conditions, 2020)



Composite Natural Resource Hotspots (Ambient Conditions, 2020)



Composite
1-45%
45.1-69%
69.1-86%
86.1-95%
95.1-100%
National Forests



SUMMARY

- The number of people birding is growing, at all levels of participation
- Most growth is female, over 40, White, Hispanic
- Birders are more engaged in the outdoors than others
- Participation levels differ from occasionals to enthusiasts
- Birders more strongly support natural land protection for clean water, habitat, etc.

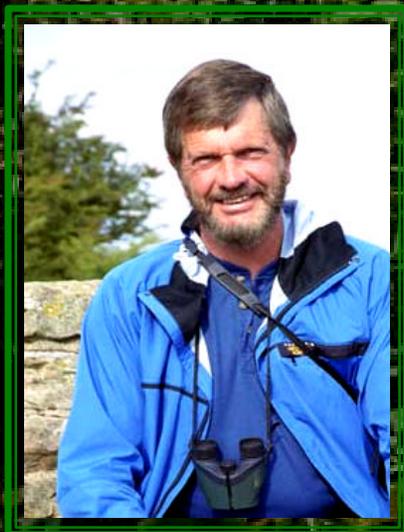


Conclusions

- ❖ Population and other pressures on natural lands and bird habitat are growing
- ❖ Land is being developed and urbanized
- ❖ We still have habitat, but hotspots analysis shows problems
- ❖ Public lands (National Forests, Refuges, etc.) are key to having future habitat
- ❖ Birders can become much more engaged and can make a difference



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