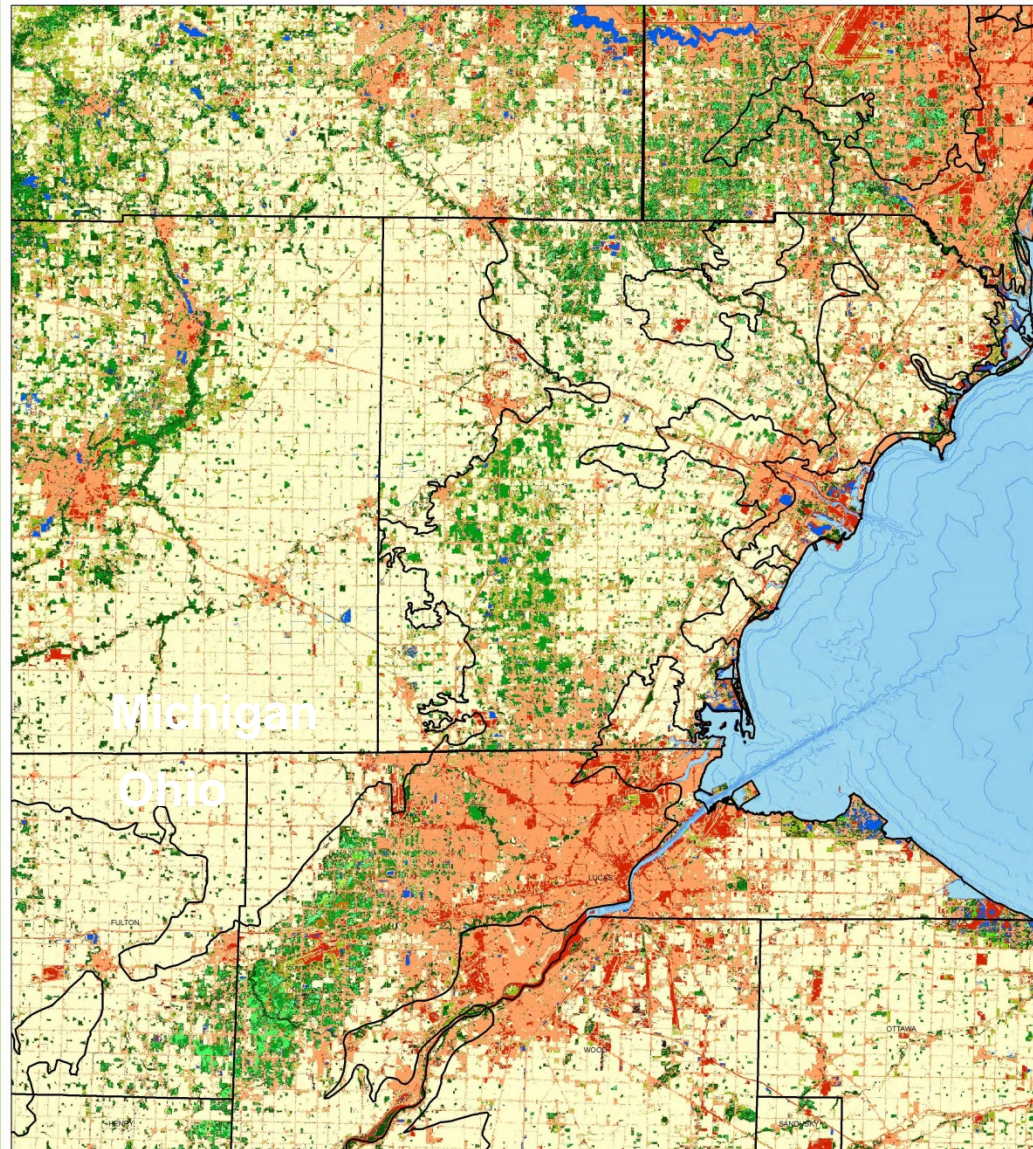


A photograph of a field of purple lupine flowers. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing vibrant purple petals and others as buds. The green leaves are visible at the base of the plants. The text is centered over the image.

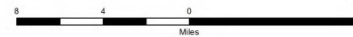
Green Ribbon Initiative: Conservation at the Landscape Scale

Landcover in the Oak Openings of NW Ohio SE Michigan



Legend

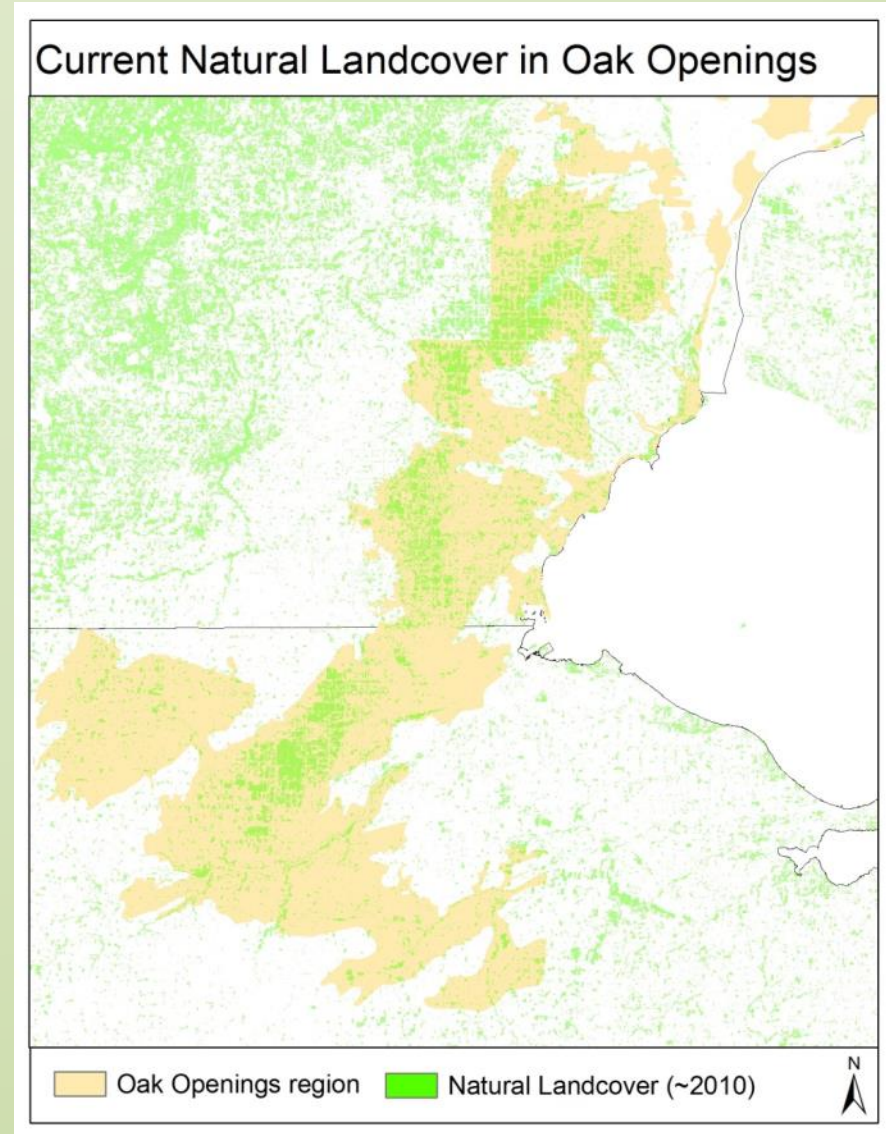
Oak Openings Region	Residential/Mixed	Wet Shrubland	Floodplain Forest
Agriculture (row crops)	Dense Urban	Swamp Forest	Sand Barren
Turf/Pasture	Perennial Ponds	Upland Coniferous Forest	Eurasian Meadow
Wet Prairies	Upland Savannas	Upland Deciduous	Upland Prairie



42

The Oak Openings

- Historic shoreline of Lake Warren
- 1300 square miles in NW Ohio & SW Michigan
- 9% of Western Lake Erie watershed
- 36% of Maumee River watershed
- Globally rare plant communities and species
- Higher concentration of diversity than anywhere else in Ohio



The Green Ribbon Initiative

Who

Steering Committee: TNC, Metroparks of Toledo, Olander Parks, ODNR Wildlife and Forestry, Toledo Naturalists, Black Swamp Conservancy, Oak Openings Region Conservancy, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Toledo Zoo,

Other partners: Wild Ones, BGSU, UT, TSN, MNA, SMLC, HCMA, MDNR, Townships, TMACOG, DU, OPA,

What

- Create and implement the OO region conservation plan
- GRI provides tools, resources, information, support structure, networking

The Green Ribbon Initiative at a glance

Formed in 2000

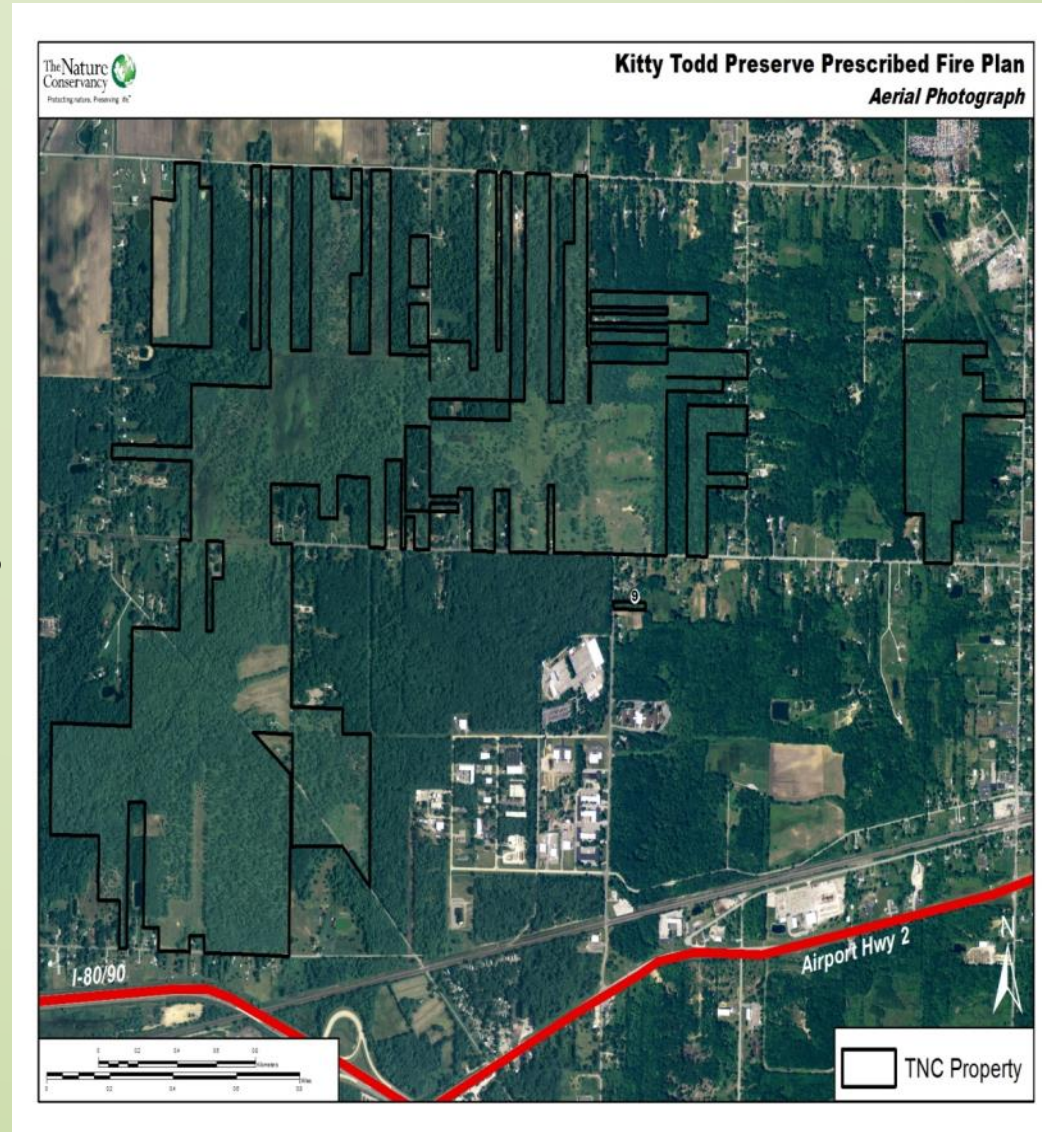
Vision: *We envision a cooperatively managed landscape containing multiple viable examples of each natural community comprising the Lake plain Oak Openings Ecosystem, spread sufficiently across their historic range to capture the full range of variability within these systems and to buffer against the uncertainty associated with climate change.*

Mission:

- Educate community about Oak Openings Region
- Identify the critical natural areas
- Support the preservation of the critical natural areas
- Support the restoration and enhancement of the critical natural areas
- Build partnership coalition
- Support partner organizations in ongoing, sustainable efforts in the Oak Openings region

Threats to Oak Openings

- Fire suppression
- Invasive plants
- Fragmentation/development
- Ditch/drain wet prairies
- Lack of public understanding and appreciation
- Climate Change



Collaboration



- Benefits
 - Avoid duplication of effort
 - Incorporating the best knowledge and information into decision making
 - Greater funding to support conservation
 - A public face to our partnership
 - Using a unified approaches to assessing success
 - Speaking the same language
 - A forum to support one another and sort our differences

1. Provide resources



2. Give lots of compliments.....publicly



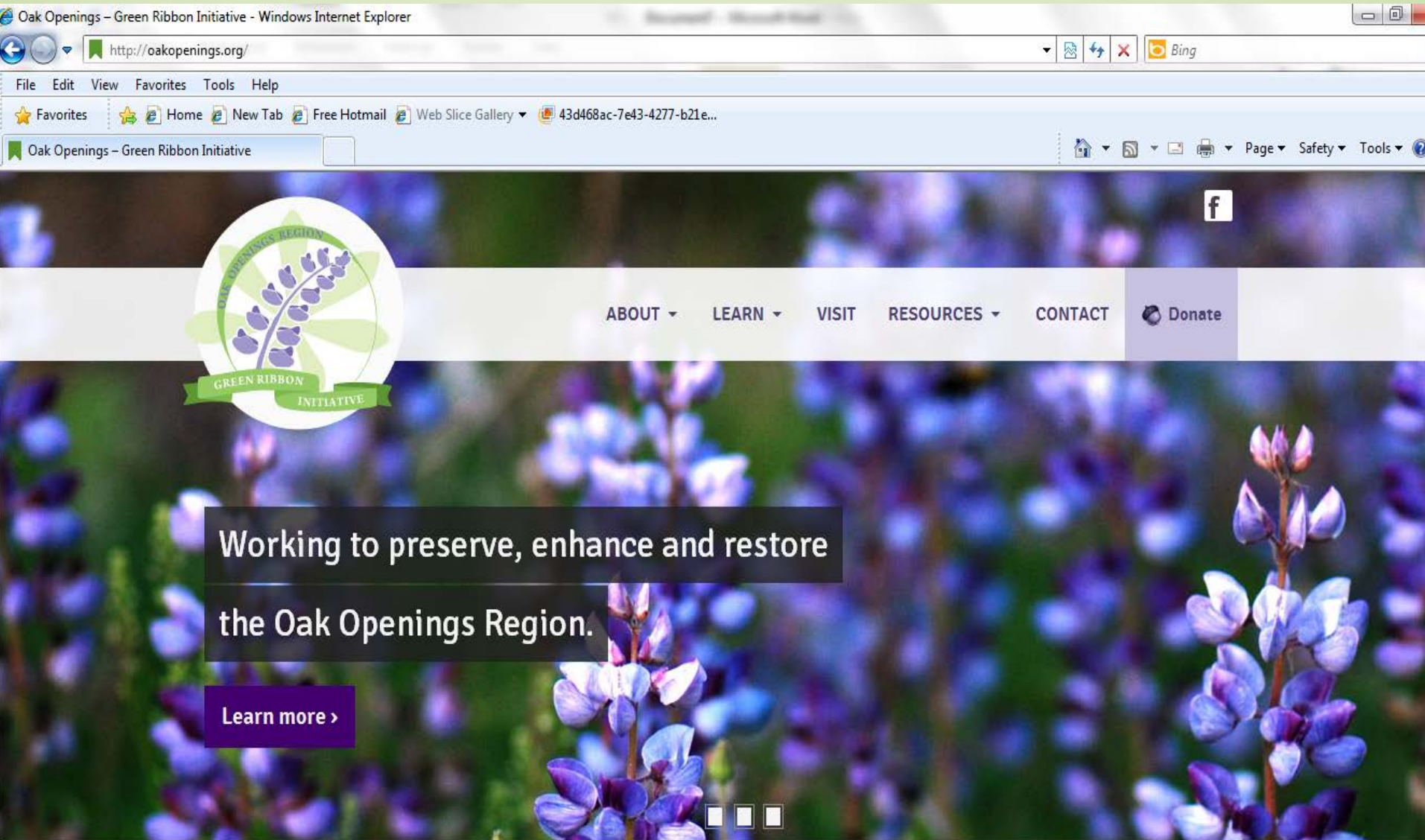
3. Talk lots and share the vision



4. Relinquish control



5. Collect consolidate and share information



6. Avoid pointless meetings at all costs

== Are you lonely? ==

Tired of working on your own?

Do you hate making decisions?

HOLD A MEETING!

You can —

- See people
- Show charts
- Feel important
- Point with a stick
- Eat donuts
- Impress your colleagues

All on company time!

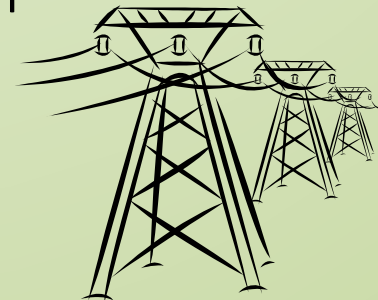


MEETINGS

== THE PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE TO WORK ==

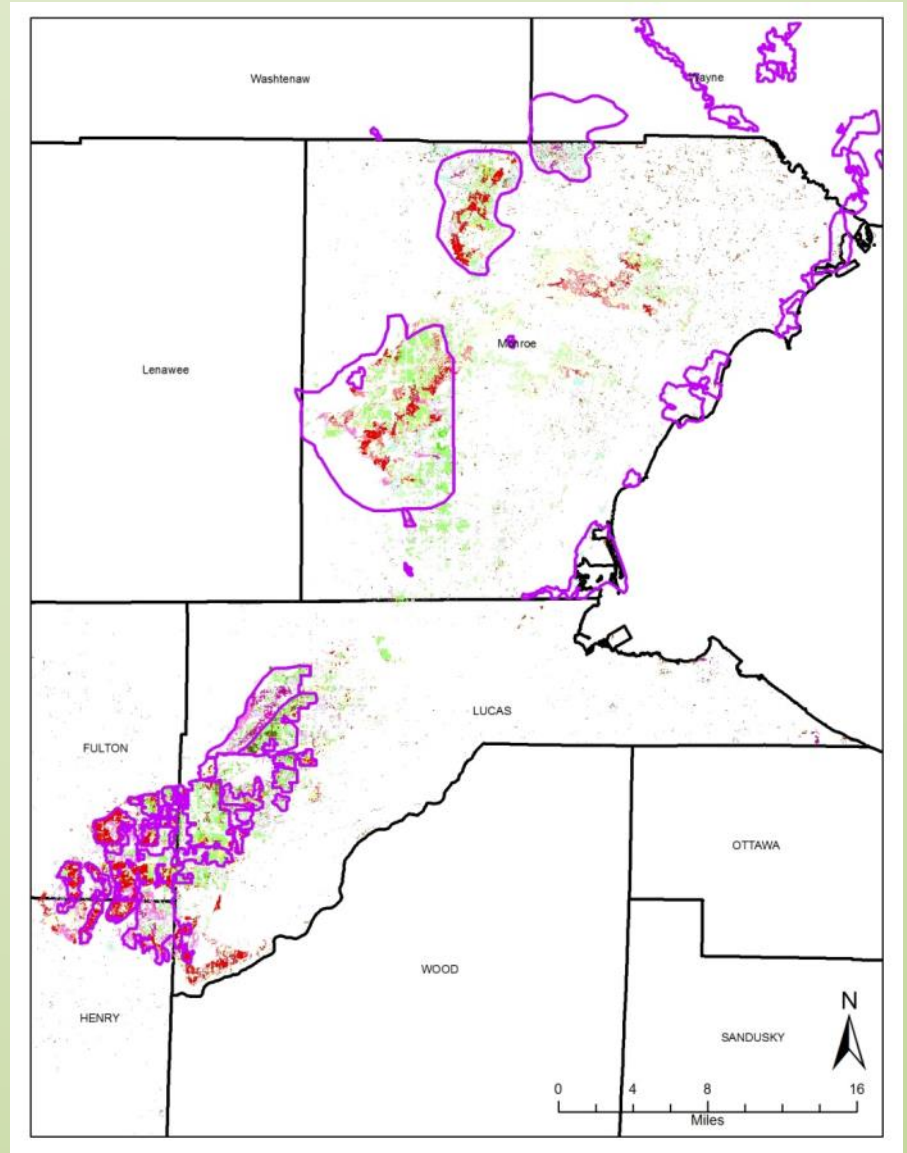
Developing strategies

- Action to address threat/vector
- Plan of attack – where is best intervention point?
- Developed by specific teams/groups
- Key strategies for Oak Openings conservation
 - Invasive species
 - Policy – work w/ townships, education
 - Restore fire regime
 - Hydrologic alterations
 - Offer input on drainage, dumping, mining, etc. laws
 - Reduce evapotranspiration

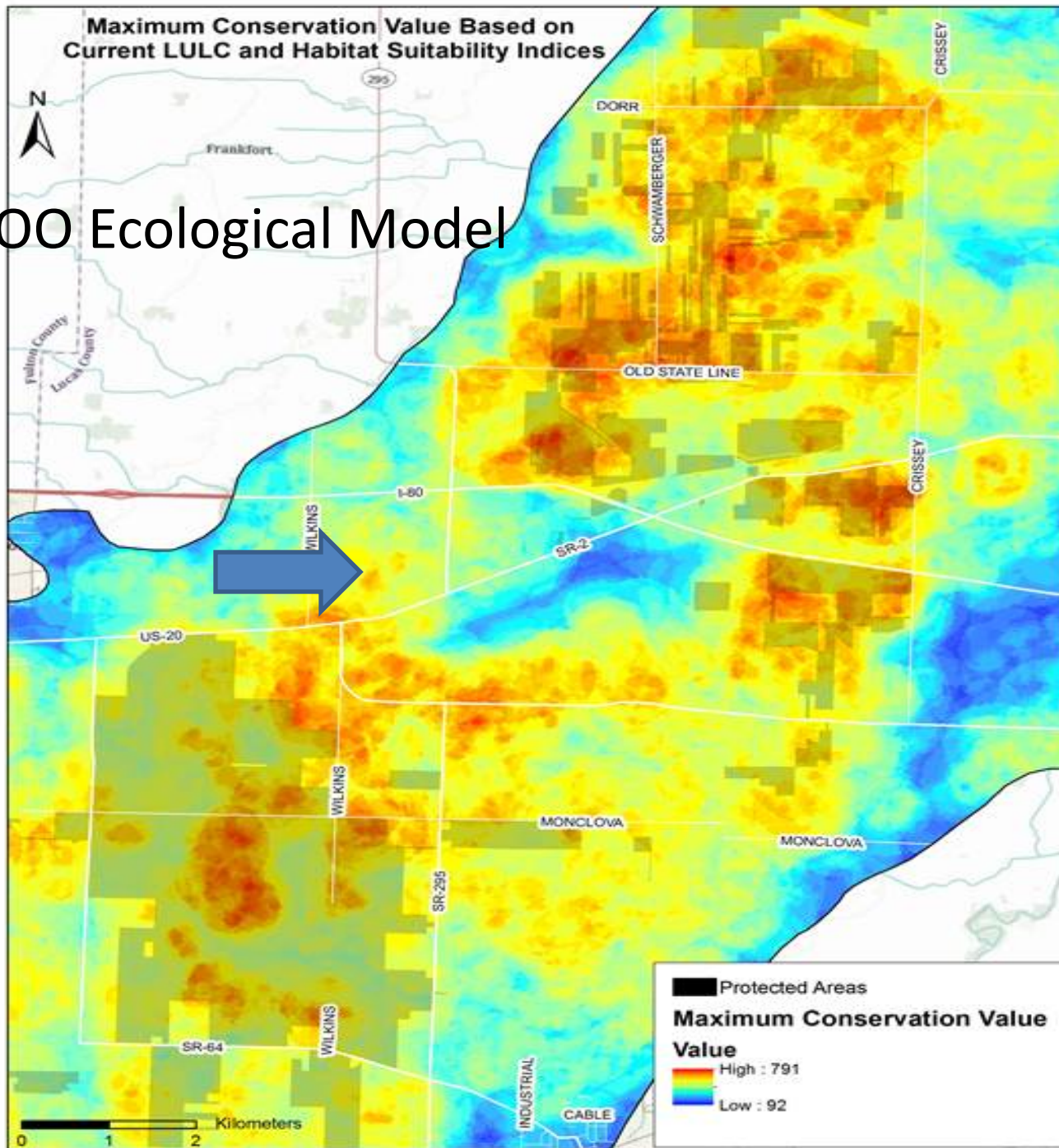


Taking Action

- Prioritizing at landscape scale
 - Ecological model
- PCAs
 - 20 priority areas



OO Ecological Model





Existing Projects

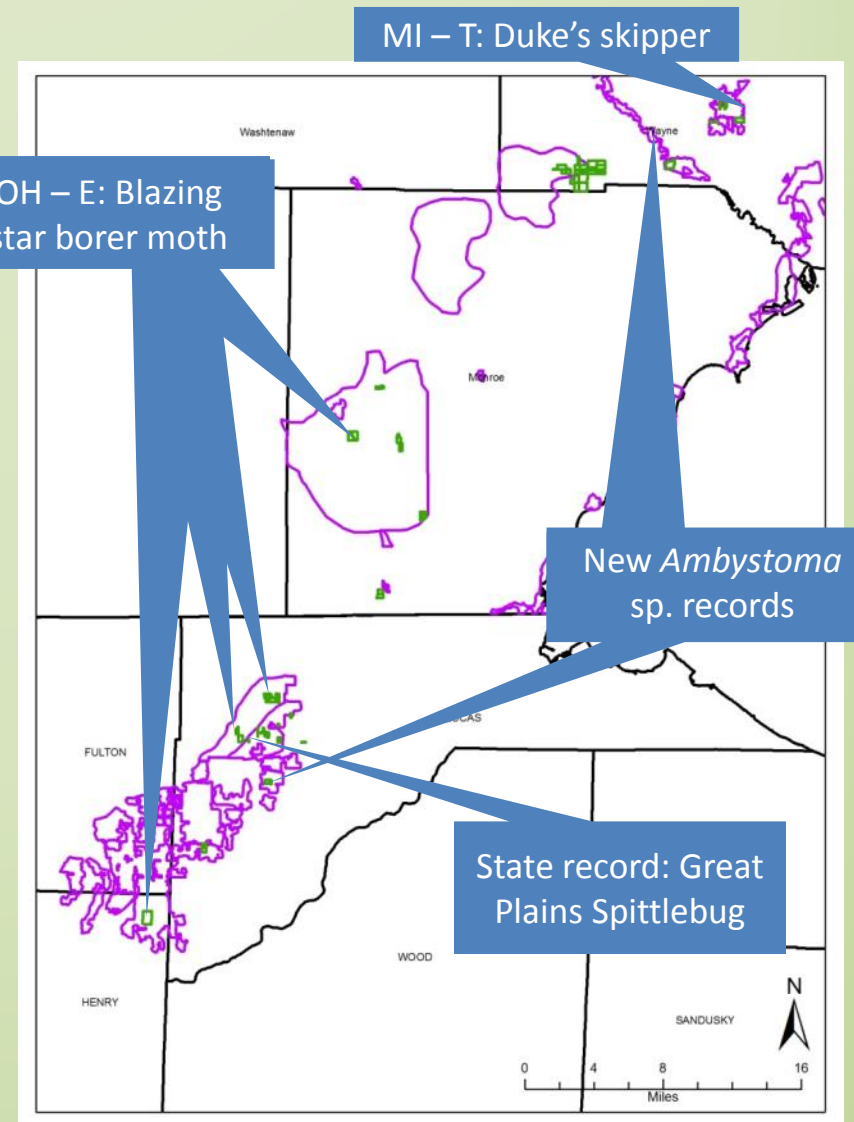
- Wet Prairie Restoration
- OORAM development
- Website/facebook pages
- Private Landowner registry
- Living in the Oak Openings Guide
- Interagency Restoration Team
- Conservation calendar

Emerging Projects

- Talking points about restoration practices
- Savanna restoration and KBB habitat assessment
- Finishing the ecological model
- Ecosystem Services Analysis
- Media campaign
- Land protection

Action → Results

- Interagency Restoration Team
 - >50 private landowners
 - New partnerships with public agencies
 - Townships
 - Power companies/right-of-ways
 - Monitoring private lands
 - Findings...
 - Goal: >4000 acres restored in all ecosystem targets
 - Currently @ ~650 acres with funding for 600 more



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- A photograph of a grassy field with a large tree trunk on the right and a line of trees in the background. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.
- Purpose & benefits
 - Reduce redundancy
 - Combine resources & knowledge
 - Unified approach & public face
 - Strategies
 - Provide support via resources & acknowledgement
 - Create shared vision
 - Share info efficiently
 - Action
 - Prioritize (focal areas, threats, research questions...)
 - Working groups create specific strategies