

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission

**Will Meet at 10:30 AM
On Wed., June 26, 2024
Department of Natural Resources
Google Meet**

Meeting Agenda:

Approval for June 26, 2024, Meeting Agenda

Approval for Minutes from the April 17, 2024, Meeting

Species Proposed for Legal Status Changes – Science Program Manager Gwen Brewer

Maryland Farm Bureau Update (Tyler Hough)

Natural Resources Police Update (Captain Shawn Garren)

Old Business:

- **Use of Drone for Deer Recovery and Hunting (Group Discussion)**
- **License Portal Update (Associate Director Brian Eyler)**
- **Fox Chasing Non-License Requirement (Group Discussion)**
- **Revamping Trapping Course Update (Commissioner Kaitlin Rossignuolo)**

New Business:

- **September 18, 2024, WAC Meeting Discussion (Field Day, or Meeting, or No Meeting)**
- **Chair Wagner's New Topics for Discussion**

Public Comment:

Adjourn

NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.

**The Proposed Schedule for the 2024 meetings
Of the Wildlife Advisory Commission is as follows:**

January 17th	Google Meet
February 21st	Google Meet
March 20th	In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building
April 17th	Google Meet
May 15th	No Meeting
June 26th	Google Meet
July 17th	No Meeting
August 21st	Google Meet
September 18th	TBD - Google Meet or No Meeting or Field Day
October 16th	Google Meet
November 20th	Google Meet
December 18th	No Meeting

***PLEASE NOTE THAT MEETING DATES ARE HELD
ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH***

Note: Unless notified otherwise, all meetings will be held via Google Meet. When meeting in person, they will be held in the C-1 Conference Room of the Department of Natural Resources—Tawes State Office Building beginning at 10:30 a.m. Available parking is located at the Navy Stadium Parking Lot.

NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

JUNE 26, 2024

Chair Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. This meeting was held by teleconference. Chair Wagner asked for a roll call of individuals on the “call.” Unfortunately, because of the anonymity of Google Meet callers, it was impossible to determine the identity of every participant.

Chair Wagner informed the members of the public to hold their comments and questions for the Public Comments Section of the meeting.

Approval for June 26, 2024, Meeting Agenda

- Motion to Approve the Agenda:
 1. Commissioner Keithley moved to accept the Commission Meeting Agenda for June 26, 2024.
 2. Commissioner Kullberg seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from the April 17, 2024, Meeting

- Motion to Approve the April 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes:
 1. Commissioner Cole moved to accept the April 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes.
 2. Commissioner Smith seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Species Proposed for Legal Status Changes – Gwen Brewer, Science Program Manager

- Science Program Manager Gwen Brewer gave introductory remarks to the Commission.
- Science Program Manager Gwen Brewer presented a PowerPoint to familiarize the state, threatening and endangered species and status along with the function of the Natural Heritage Program with the Commission. [ATTACHMENT A]
- Science Program Manager Gwen Brewer mentioned that handouts were sent to the Commission before the meeting.
 1. State Listed Species Definitions – [ATTACHMENT B]
 2. Summary of Listing Process – [ATTACHMENT C]
- The list of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of Maryland and the List of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Animals of Maryland are updated periodically, and both documents are available on the DNR website.
- The Commission previously received a spreadsheet with the June 2024 Proposed Listing Changes. [ATTACHMENT D]
- Proposed Changes to Maryland’s Threatened and Endangered Species List Process Q&A Section:
 1. Commissioner Keithley acknowledged that this is not an arena he is familiar with and appreciated the presentation. Commissioner Keithley asked if this was a whole new process or modifying an existing process.
 - a. The process is staying the same. It was presented so the Commission would better understand what information is used to make these changes and how that information moves through the regular process.
 - b. Staff are proposing some changes to the regulations that list the names of the threatened and endangered species in the State through the regulatory process. Staff must go through this process periodically for various reasons, which was clarified in Chris Frye's next presentation.
 - c. Staff were looking for input and approval from the Commission. The next step is getting things ready for the Maryland Register; through that formal process, we have the State for changing regulations.
 - d. Commissioner Keithley thanked Science Program Manager Gwen Brewer for the clarification.

- Science Program Manager Gwen Brewer pointed out that the Commission has a list of the proposed legal status changes to the State's species list. It has a scientific name, common name, current status, proposed status, region of the State or regions of the State the species occurs in, and a few explanatory notes.
- State Botanist Chris Frye presented the Threatened and Endangered Species Review in a PowerPoint Presentation. The Threatened and Endangered Species Review usually occurs every two or three years. It does not mean that staff complete the process in two or three years; sometimes, it takes a little longer. This began around 2021, and it has continued into 2024. There are about 30 species in the first draft, and over time, 14 of these species were tabled or dropped due to further consideration, or no change was recommended. Therefore, staff were left with the 16 species that are being proposed. There are four species whose status changes based upon taxonomic changes or sometimes mistaken identification that required the species to be subtracted from the list, which are small-fruit beggarticks (*Bidens mitis*), Torrey's Rush (*Juncus torreyi*), whip nutrush (*Scleria nitida*), and Sweetscent Ladies-tresses (*Spiranthes odorata*), which our records were based upon something that was described in 2022. [ATTACHMENT E]
- The dark green color represents the total global distribution of the species.
- The light green color represents counties that occur in a state where the species is not considered rare.
- The yellow color represents counties that occur in the state where it is considered rare.
- The orange color represents counties up to New State. The species occurs as a historical element and is extirpated.
- State Botanist Chris Frye explained the proposed changes in the PowerPoint presentation.
- Commissioner Parks expressed that State Botanist Chris Frye did an exceptional and thorough job in presenting this information to the Commission.
- Decisions to change a species' status are discussed individually and unanimously by the ecologists, regional staff, and management. State Botanist Chris Frye discussed these listings with counterparts in other states, including Delaware, Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and New Jersey.
- Chair Wagner pointed out that he attended a fire management seminar. It was interesting to note that after the fires go through, crews see plants come back. It is crucial to manage the environment so the plants can reestablish themselves, like on the Eastern Shore and the Bay, reinforcing that everything else will be in line if there is habitat.
- Science Program Manager Gwen Brewer outlined one more species for the proposed change: the northern long-eared bat, which will be changed from threatened to endangered status. This change has already happened because it automatically happens in the State if the federal government makes a change. In late November 2022, the federal government changed the northern long-eared bat from threatened to be endangered, and by State law, Maryland must do the same.
- Threatened and Endangered Species Review Q&A Section:
 1. Commissioner Kullberg asked where the northern long-eared bats are located.
 - a. Staff have records of the northern long-eared bat across the state. A juvenile male was recently sighted at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The northern long-eared bat does well in forest habitats, especially mature ones. Western Maryland has more records of the northern long-eared bat, but staff members have records of the bat along the Potomac corridor, Eastern Shore, Northern, and Northeastern Maryland.
 - b. Maryland will have more animals for the Commission to consider. The Natural Heritage Program staff members are updating some of the reptile and amphibian species by using information from the Reptile and Amphibian Atlas Project, which was done a few years ago.
 2. Commissioner Kullberg asked about the number of endangered species on the DNR website. The information outlines 390 plants and 176 animals. Commissioner Kullberg wanted to know if that information was correct.
 - a. The current statistics of all the status changes approved by the Commission are incorporated. The total number of native species of plants in Maryland Flora: 2099, Endangered Species: 241, Threatened Species: 83, and Endangered Extirpated Species: 62.

b. The species on the spreadsheet sent to the Commission displays the shifting of species status with one addition: the Mississippi Buttercup.

- Motion
 1. Commissioner Parks moved to approve the proposed legal status changes and one addition to the threatened and endangered list based on the information presented to the Commission.
 2. Commissioner Keithley seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update (MFB) – Tyler Hough, MFB Director of Government Relations

- MFB Director of Government Relations Tyler Hough reminded the Commission that the MFB is a grassroots, non-profit organization, mostly known for its advocacy work for the farming community with roughly 9,500 members across the State in 23 counties. The counties have their own County Farm Bureau, with the MFB operating at the State level. Also, the American Farm Bureau Federation works at the federal level.
- Mr. Hough pointed out that Maryland farmers have had issues over the years, from deer damage to other wildlife damage. Over the year, over seven million crops and other things were damaged by wildlife.
- Mr. Hough expressed that a top priority for MFB is to continue working with the DNR and other stakeholders on the wildlife damage problems.
- Mr. Hough informed the Commission that county farmers are preparing to allow legislators and other individuals to tour farms to see firsthand the issues that the farmers are facing.
- Mr. Hough announced that MFB policy discussions will start on July 1, 2024. Therefore, the County Farm Bureaus are diving deep into that process. MFB policies are developed at the county level, which is beneficial because they come from the ground floor and from the individuals who are dealing with day-to-day farming issues.
- There have been some staff changes within the MFB; Parker Welch is the new executive director, Jeb Burchick is the director of communications, and there are three new field staff members.
- Mr. Hough invited the Commission to contact him with any questions about agriculture or policy; he can be reached by email or phone.
- Chair Wagner welcomed Mr. Hough again. Chair Wagner highlighted the long history that the Commission and he had with Mr. Colby Ferguson and, on behalf of the Commission, looking forward to working together with the MFB.

Natural Resources Police Update (NRP) – District Supervisor Robert Karge gave a presentation.

- For the 2024 total, the breakdown was 11,583 violations.
- There were 708 wildlife violations, which were 6.1%; 3,426 boating violations, which were 29.6%; 1,329 public lands violations, which were 11.5%; 4,150 fisheries violations, which were 35.8%; and 1,970 traffic violations, which were 17%.
- On April 17, 2024, NRP had the sworn in of Colonel Orlando Lilly.
- NRP is busy with many summer recreational activities like fishing and boating. Unfortunately, there has been an increase in drowning incidents; therefore, NRP is looking into how to address some of that.
- Q&A Section:
 1. Commissioner Keithley asked about the status of NRP recruitment and filling positions.
 - a. District Supervisor Karge mentioned that Captain Garren would be better able to address this question because he would have accurate numbers. However, District Supervisor Karge mentioned that from the last report he received, NRP had around 250 total-strength officers, but the number was between 260 and 270. District Supervisor Karge was unaware of any funding or projected date for another academy class. NRP is actively recruiting.
 2. Commissioner Keithley asked what the target number of officers is.
 - a. District Supervisor Karge will have Captain Garren compile that information for the Commission.

Old Business

- The Use of Drones for Deer Recovery—Associate Director Brian Eyler mentioned that the spreadsheet had been updated with information from some surrounding states. Associate Director Brian Eyler recommended tabling this conversation. Since this is a topic that will be added to the next game regulation cycle for input.
 1. Chair Wagner requested that the use of drones for deer recovery be tabled but kept on the schedule for future meetings.
- License Portal Update—Associate Director Eyler informed the Commission that Brandt is progressing, tentatively targeting October 2024. The staff goal is to roll out the hunting aspect after the hunting season, maybe in early spring. Brandt is making good progress.
 1. Chair Wagner asked for input on when Brandt should roll out the hunting system features. He indicated that he thinks the rollout should occur next year to ensure accuracy.
 2. Commissioner Keithley agreed with Chair Wagner's comments. Commissioner Keithley explained that he is comfortable with the current system, which is adequate for the upcoming hunting season. Commissioner Keithley said he is okay with the new hunting licensing system's rollout in February or spring turkey season.
 3. Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Cole, and Commissioner Parks agreed with Chair Wagner and Commissioner Keithley's recommendations to push it back.
 4. Associate Director Eyler will pass that information along.
- Fox Chasing Non-License Requirement - Group Discussion
 1. Chair Wagner reminded the Commission that this topic was discussed at the April 17, 2024, WAC Meeting.
 2. The Commission received information that ten different fox-chasing clubs have 471 members. Chair Wagner mentioned that Maryland would sell about ten group furbearer permits for \$50 each. **[ATTACHMENT F]**
 3. A public member wanted to know where the information came from that there are quite a few more fox hunters in the State, roughly around 450 to 500 people.
 - a. Assistant Secretary Peditto replied that he saw the numbers presented to the Commission, and this is something that was brought to the Commission. DNR's role is to provide data. From the 2022-2023 or 2021-2022 hunting license year, 80 group furbearer permits were sold that mostly likely hosted more than a handful of people who participated in these events.
 - b. The group furbearer permit was established primarily to capture data on unlicensed users of the resource, mainly fox hunters, including beagles, bassets, and mounted individuals.
 - c. Staff have been working with that data. Staff have had an issue recently before last year; no clubs reported any activity, which is one of the requirements of the furbearer permit.
 - d. The Commission received a list that seemed to be missing some clubs: Green Spring Wicomico, New Market, Middleton, and maybe Andrew's Bridge and Beagle Ambassador Packs. Assistant Secretary Peditto mentioned that Ms. Seigler or Ms. Brummer Pickett could clarify.
 - e. Ms. Seigler mentioned that Ms. Brummer Pickett, who was on travel, could discuss the number of clubs. However, Ms. Seigler pointed out that none of these groups carry firearms but obtain a furbearer permit for the chasing activities.
 - f. Chair Wagner agreed to have conversations with Ms. Seigler and Ms. Brummer Pickett to understand it better and bring it up for future Commission discussion. There appears to be a discrepancy between the number of groups in the system and the number of groups provided to the Commission.
 - g. Ms. Brummer Pickett was able to join the meeting. Ms. Brummer Pickett outlined that the list that the Commission received is accurate. The Green Spring Club was represented on the list as GSVHC. Ms. Brummer Pickett recognized that the Wicomico Club needed to be added to the list, which would include around 50 more members. There are around 500 actual members.

- h. Ms. Brummer Pickett instructed staff and the Commission not to extrapolate numbers from the furbearer permits sold because that would not be accurate. The clubs have a moderate average of members. Ms. Brummer Pickett's assessment is based on 30 years of running these numbers.
- i. Assistant Secretary Peditto asked if the following groups are active:
 - i. Andrew Bridge is not Maryland-based or part of the Maryland Fox Chasing Community, per Ms. Brummer Pickett. Ms. Brummer Pickett added that Andrew Bridge is from Pennsylvania and would hunt at Fair Hill. Assistant Secretary Peditto noted that DNR did not receive any reports from Andrew Bridge from 22-23, which caused difficulty for the species managers due to the lack of reporting.
 - ii. Beagle Packs or Bassett Packs are not included, per Ms. Brummer Pickett.
4. Ms. Seigler mentioned that the agenda item highlighted fox chasers and not Beagle and Bassett packs, which are different but are members of the Maryland Horse Council. Ms. Seigler added that the topic on the agenda would impact the fox chasers rather than these other groups.
5. Ms. Brummer Pickett explained that some states require a hunting license, but other states do not require a hunting license for fox chasing or other furbearer species chasing.
6. Ms. Brummer Pickett brought up issues with the reporting forms.
7. Ms. Seigler asked if there is a way for the MAWC, the Maryland Association for Wildlife Conservation, to assist with improving the reporting process so that the DNR can gather the necessary data.
 - a. Assistant Secretary Peditto reminded the group that this item was a Commission topic and that some lawmakers were looking for sources of revenue to help DNR do other things related to helping the farmers.
 - b. Assistant Secretary Peditto explained the revenue and the federal match formula to help with even limited revenue from a license.
8. Ms. Brummer Pickett asked why a new mechanism should be created when a current mechanism can be improved to gather the data.
9. Ms. Seigler reported that the people she has heard from do not want to be labeled as hunters and want to avoid taking a hunter safety course.
10. Assistant Secretary Peditto voiced that a statement in the bill could exempt fox-chasing groups from going through hunter safety courses. It could read in §10.301, "The unarmed sport of fox chasing does not require hunter education certification."
11. Assistant Secretary Peditto reiterated that some lawmakers are looking for alternatives where WHS could raise additional dollars to improve public land.
12. Chair Wagner stressed that this was a Commission discussion to start exploring possibilities based on feedback from legislators. The Commission is not proposing anything at this point. Chair Wagner reminded the guest attendees that the Commission is still gathering information to provide an informed recommendation to DNR, including public comments from the fox-chasing community and collecting other states' data on this topic.
13. Ms. Brummer Pickett asked what the reason for not making the current furbearer permit option more viable.
 - a. It is not administered like a hunting license. Also, as long as the law exists that the sport of unarmed fox chasing is not hunting, the DNR cannot use it as a hunting license to certify hunters. DNR is unable to collect federal matching funds.
 - b. The goal was to be responsive to lawmakers.
 - c. DNR cannot claim that fox chasing is a well-regulated and enforceable activity because WHS does not have the data.
14. Ms. Brummer Pickett remarked that there is no opposition to more data and increased funding. However, the Fox Chasing Community's rational concern is the unintended consequences. Ms. Brummer Pickett perceived that if DNR decides to go down this rabbit hole, the question would be related to the larger group of equestrians, such as the trail riders.
 - a. The trail riders are not hunting. The trail riders are outside of the scope of the discussion.

15. Assistant Secretary Peditto asserted that DNR is not pushing a fee bill. To be clear, the agenda item was not on Assistant Secretary Peditto's radar. DNR was not trying to discuss without having the appropriate stakeholders at the table for a meaningful dialogue.
16. Ms. Brummer Pickett advised that the concern would be reclassifying fox chasing as hunting.
17. Ms. Davis jumped into the conversation and stated that we don't want it to be considered hunting. The Master of Foxhounds Association has made a great effort to change the terminology. The animals are not killed; they are chased. Ms. Davis informed the Commission and staff that participants complete a reasonably detailed form for the DNR at the end of the year.
18. Assistant Secretary Peditto highlighted that anyone who goes in the forest field or marsh and does so with the act of chasing, pursuing, killing, hunting, and shooting an animal means the mere acts are considered hunting except for the foxhounds' community.
 - a. Ms. Seigler noted if the law had state or shoot and not, and it would have supported the agreement indicated above.
 - b. Assistant Secretary Peditto outlined the language in the law from §10.301. Assistant Secretary Peditto added that the definition there stands for the proposition that any of those things chase, hunt, pursue, kill, shoot, or attempt anything a person is hunting. The law made sense because the NRP would not be able to charge people, for example, sitting in a tree with a piece of archery equipment for illegal hunting, unless the NRP had to wait until the person killed the animal. There is no intent requirement in the hunting definition.
 - c. Ms. Brummer Pickett commented that if this is just a legal change so that DNR can get better data and more financial involvement, then Ms. Brummer Pickett, on behalf of MAWC, which is Maryland Association for Wildlife Conservation under the umbrella of the Organization of the Fox Hunters, is not opposed to the data; MAWC is not opposed to financial increase or contribution support. However, MAWC requested as long, deep discussion before changing its legal status.
19. Chair Wagner summarized that this topic was a Commission agenda item, not DNR's. Assistant Secretary Peditto's role is advisory only. This topic was not on the original agenda; it was added due to feedback from some legislators and hunters.
 - a. There was a discussion at the April 17, 2024, meeting under "Old Business."
 - b. Chair Wagner offered to have additional conversations with the interest groups on this topic to provide recommendations to the Commission. The goal is to work with the different groups to conserve resources and enjoy the outdoors.
- Revamping the Trapping Course—Commissioner Kaitlin Rossignuolo updated the Commission on Hunter Education Program, which is in the beginning stages with the Maryland Fur Trappers, to get more media content out to promote trapping and get more Maryland hunters interested and get the hunters certified as trappers because the trapping numbers are really low. Hunter Education Program is working on a video to help spike some interest in the sport and hopefully raise some numbers.

New Business –

- Chair Wagner discussed with Commissioner Showalter about getting together with the Sportsmen's Caucus and some of the leaders from the House and Senate Environmental Committees about the upcoming Legislative Session to find out what leaders foresee as issues that may arise and what the Commission can do to help the leaders and assist with streamlining the process so the leaders are not introducing many bills that waste their time. In doing so, it would develop a communication and education mechanism that legislators or stakeholders can use to come to the Commission. Last year, the Commission sent letters of support to legislators after the fact. Chair Wagner would like to see the Commission take a proactive approach regarding bills being written. Hopefully, the Commission can facilitate and achieve this, creating a much better environment.
 1. Commissioner Smith agreed that conversations must be had with leaders and the local communities, including outreach programs for diverse groups wanting to get involved. Some young people do not realize the conservation benefits.
 2. Commissioner Kullberg commented that it would be a good idea for the Commission to be

proactive rather than reactive. Additionally, Commissioner Kullberg agreed with the idea of streamlining the legislative process so that lawmakers would know that they can lean on the Commission as experts and that the Commission can create relationships moving forward.

3. Commissioner Keithley concurred with Chair Wagner's remarks and the direction that Chair Wagner would like to take. Commissioner Keithley noted that Hunters of Maryland, LLC, as a lobbying group, would support the Commission in that arena.
4. Commissioner Cole supported the conversation.
5. Commissioner Rossignuolo concurred that the more proactive the Commission can be, the better for everyone in the long run. Commissioner Rossignuolo agreed to help.
6. Chair Wagner asked if gathering groups and lawmakers for a September meeting was possible.
 - a. Associate Director Eyler must discuss this with Director Stonesifer and Assistant Secretary Peditto.
 - b. Chair Wagner suggested that the Commission and staff start by inviting the Sportsmen's Caucus, the two chairs and vices of the environmental committees, and the Commission members to the meeting.
 - c. Chair Wagner mentioned that the meeting could be held virtually and in person in Annapolis.
- Chair Wagner requested Commissioner Kullberg share her good news with the rest of the Commission.
 1. Commissioner Kullberg announced that she has accepted a position as a senior policy advisor at the Wildlife Justice Commission, an international organization that focuses on combating wildlife trafficking. Commissioner Kullberg's role on the Commission will remain the same.
- Associate Director Eyler introduced new Associate Director Kristen Fleming. Associate Director Fleming's role is to manage WHS's Administration Program. Associate Director Fleming mentioned that she was glad to be in attendance and looking forward to working with the Commission.

Public Comment –

- The public may contact the Members of the Commission at wac.dnr@maryland.gov.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

The following virtual meeting will be held using Google Meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 21, 2024.

Attendance

Members:	M. Cole, S. Keithley, K. Kullberg, J. Parks, K. Rossignuolo, M. Smith, and C. Wagner
Absent:	TJ. Jenkins R. Showalter, and J. Schroyer
Guest:	C. Brummer-Picket, A. Davis, T. Hough, and J. Seigler
Staff:	G. Brewer, H. Devine, B. Eyler, K. Fleming, C. Frye, R. Karger, M. Kinlan, C. Markin, J. McKnight, P. Peditto, J. Trudeau, T. Spencer, and H. Spiker

Proposed Changes to Maryland's Threatened and Endangered Species List

Wildlife and Heritage
Service, Natural
Heritage Program

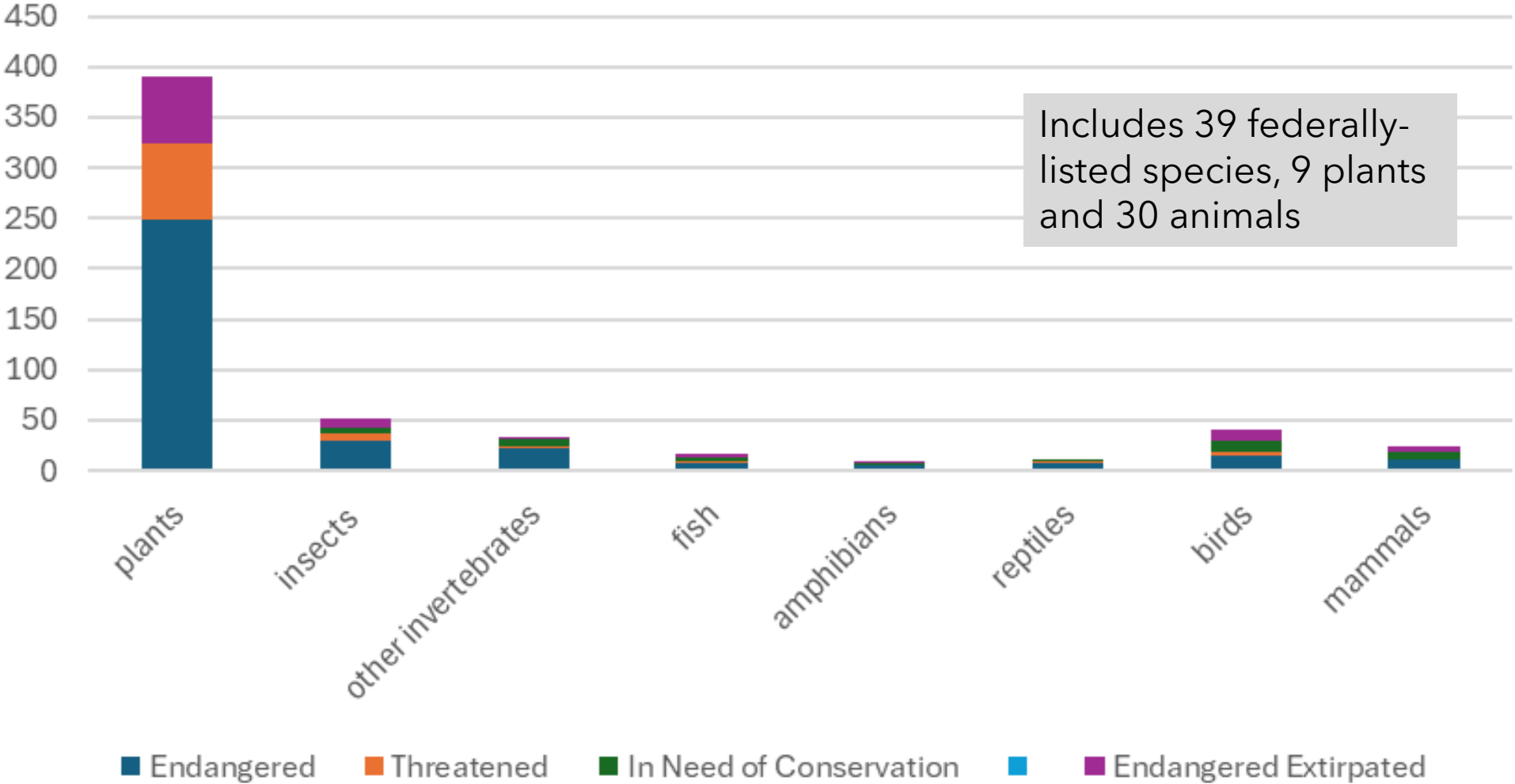


General Information

- Listing criteria, processes, and protections are covered under State Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act and associated regulations
- Listing criteria include rarity, declines, threats such as habitat loss, biology of the species, sensitivity to threats, overutilization, disease, adequacy of current protections
- Four categories:
 - *Endangered*
 - *Threatened*
 - *In Need of Conservation (animals only)*
 - *Endangered Extirpated*

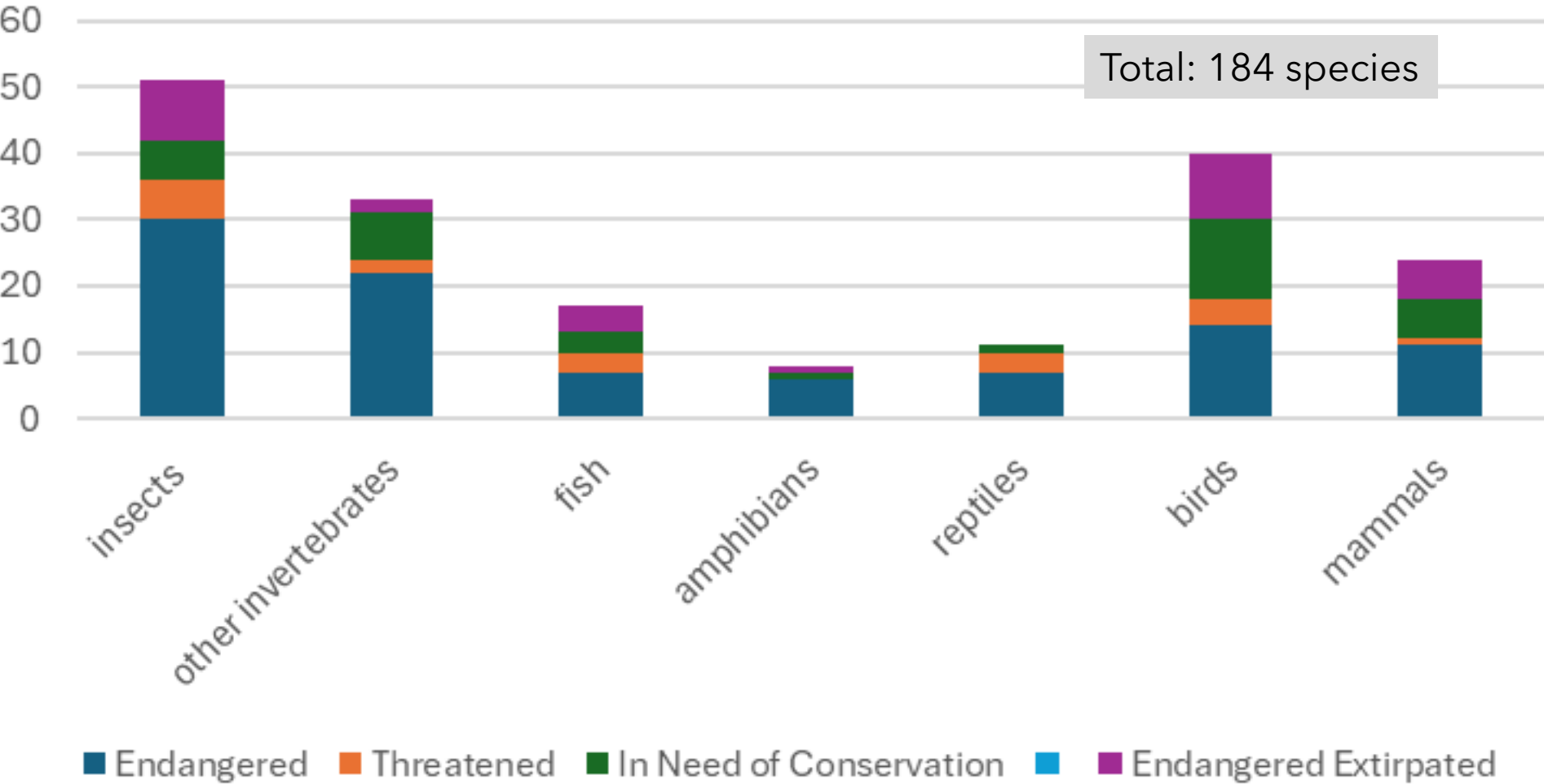
Summary of Current List of All Protected Species

Legal Status by Species Group



Summary of Current List of Animal Species

Legal Status by Species Group



List of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of Maryland

March 2021



Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Service
Natural Heritage Program



List of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Animals of Maryland

November 2023



Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Service
Natural Heritage Program



What is the process for making changes?

- Preliminary Review by DNR Staff
- Professional Consultation
- Information Preparation
- Information Dissemination and Approval
 - *WAC*
 - *Maryland Register*
 - *Letters to surrounding states and others*
- Public Consultation

Criteria for State Listed Species

(from COMAR 08.03.08)

Endangered (E) – a species whose continued existence as a viable component of the State’s flora or fauna is determined to be in jeopardy.

Should meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Whether the species is restricted to a minimal geographic area within Maryland.
2. Whether the species has experienced a rapid, substantial decline in Maryland, and, if the decline continues, the species’ extirpation from Maryland is imminent.
3. Whether the species’ essential habitat has been rapidly lost and that loss is likely to continue.
4. Whether the species’ biology makes it highly susceptible to changes its environment.
5. Whether the species’ essential habitat is easily altered by even relatively minor activities.

Additional factors cited in the State’s endangered species act for consideration include:

6. The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range.
7. Overutilization for commercial, sporting, scientific, educational, or other purposes.
8. Disease or predation.
9. The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms.
10. Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence in the State.

Threatened (T) – a species of flora or fauna which appears likely, within the foreseeable future, to become endangered in the State.

Should meet or more of the following criteria:

1. Whether the species has experienced a steady, substantial decline in Maryland, and, if the declines continue, the species is likely to become Endangered.
2. Whether there has been steady, widespread loss of the species’ essential habitat.
3. Whether protection measures already taken have significantly reduced chances of the species becoming extirpated from Maryland.

In Need of Conservation (I) – an animal species whose population is limited or declining in the State such that it may become threatened in the foreseeable future if current trends or conditions persist.

Should meet one or more of the following:

1. Whether the population is limited or declining within Maryland.
2. Whether the species may become threatened in the foreseeable future, if current trends or conditions persist.

Endangered Extirpated (X) – a species that was once a viable component of the flora or fauna of the State, but for which no naturally occurring populations are known to exist in the State.

Factors for consideration include:

1. The species was once a viable component of the State's flora and fauna and there are no records of it occurring naturally in Maryland after 1950.
2. The species was once a viable component of the State's flora and fauna, and recent scientific investigations have documented the loss of its habitat or disappearance of its population in Maryland.

Summary of Listing Process for Maryland State Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

Preliminary Review:

- State Botanist and State Zoologist review current State list in light of:
 - data collected since last review by staff or others;
 - other new information relevant to listed or newly-discovered species;
 - any requests received for changes in species status;
 - changes in federal listings;
 - recent taxonomic changes.
- State Botanist and State Zoologist put together a preliminary list of proposed changes.

Professional Consultation:

- Species experts, both internal and external to DNR, are contacted for input on preliminary proposed listing changes. Special review panels may be formed to review particular taxa, groups of species, or individual species.
- Proposed listing changes with justifications are presented at a Threatened and Endangered Species Listing Review meeting. This meeting includes Natural Heritage Program staff as well as other invited experts.

Information Preparation:

- State Zoologist and State Botanist prepare element decision forms and element state ranking forms for species that will be proposed for a listing change or new listing. These forms present basic information about the species and the justification for a proposed listing change.
- A summary of listing changes and accompanying species ranking forms are put together into a packet.

Information Dissemination and Approval:

- Proposed species changes are presented to the Wildlife Advisory Commission for formal approval by vote.
- Notice of proposed changes is published in the Maryland Register through the regulation promulgation process.
- When notice of proposed changes appears in the Maryland Register, letters are sent to Governors of surrounding states (via state DNR directors) and a number of interested groups are notified that these changes have been proposed. The summary of listing changes and species ranking forms may be requested by any interested groups or individuals.

Public Consultation:

- Public comment is accepted for at least 30 days after the date of publication of proposed changes in the Maryland Register. A public meeting may be held.

Proposed Legal Status Changes to State Listed Species June 2024

Scientific Name	Common Name	Current Legal Status	Proposed Status	Region	Explanatory Notes
<i>Aristida virgata</i>	Wand-like Three-awn Grass	Endangered	Threatened	E	Recent surveys have discovered additional populations on protected lands.
<i>Asplenium bradleyi</i>	Bradley's Spleenwort	Endangered Extirpated	Threatened	C	Rediscovery and confirmation of occurrence on State lands.
<i>Bidens mitis</i>	Small-fruit Beggarsticks	Endangered	delist	E	Reported falsely and excluded from the flora.
<i>Cyperus plukenetii</i>	Plukenet's Flatsedge	Endangered Extirpated	Endangered	E	Rediscovery and confirmation of occurrence on State lands.
<i>Dichanthelium scabriusculum</i>	Tall Swamp Witchgrass	Endangered	Threatened	E	Recent surveys have discovered additional populations on protected lands.
<i>Elephantopus tomentosus</i>	Tobaccoweed	Endangered	Threatened	E, S	Recent surveys have discovered additional populations on protected lands.
<i>Hottonia inflata</i>	Featherfoil	Endangered	Threatened	E, S, W	Recent surveys have discovered additional populations on protected lands.
<i>Juncus torreyi</i>	Torrey's Rush	Endangered	delist	E, C	Expanding range, and arguable nativity to Maryland.
<i>Lactuca hirsuta</i>	Hairy Lettuce	Endangered Extirpated	delist	C, W	Enough information to rank provisionally as state rare but not enough information (or inventory) to estimate a new State legal status.
<i>Morella caroliniensis</i>	Evergreen Bayberry	Endangered	Threatened	E, C, S	The range and extent of this species may be much greater than previously thought and now includes Wicomico and Worcester Counties.
<i>Pluchea camphorata</i>	Marsh Fleabane	Endangered	Threatened	E, S	Recent surveys have discovered additional populations on protected lands.
<i>Ranunculus laxicaulis</i>	Mississippi Buttercup	none	Endangered	E	Regionally rare. Maryland has the only extant populations in the MidAtlantic states.
<i>Scleria nitida</i>	Whip Nutrush	Endangered	delist	E	After review of the taxon with taxonomic experts, this species is not separable from <i>S. triglomerata</i> .
<i>Spiranthes odorata</i>	Sweetscent Ladies'-tresses	Endangered Extirpated	delist	E	Maryland records are based upon confusion with a newly described species, <i>S. bightensis</i> .

Proposed Legal Status Changes to State Listed Species June 2024

Scientific Name	Common Name	Current Legal Status	Proposed Status	Region	Explanatory Notes
<i>Tephrosia spicata</i>	Spiked Hoary-pea	Endangered	Threatened	E	Species has recovered nicely in managed units and we have two core (A-rank) populations on protected lands managed for rare species and a good portfolio of sites.
<i>Valerianella umblicata</i>	Navel-shaped Cornsalad	Endangered Extirpated	delist	C, W	Uncertain range, and hypothesized to be naturally spreading eastward along major rivers in the Southeastern US.
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Long-eared Bat	Threatened	Endangered	statewide	Listed as Endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in late November 2022. By state law, must have that status in Maryland.



Threatened and Endangered Species Review

June 2024

Definitions of Global (G) and State (S) Conservation Ranks and Rank Qualifiers

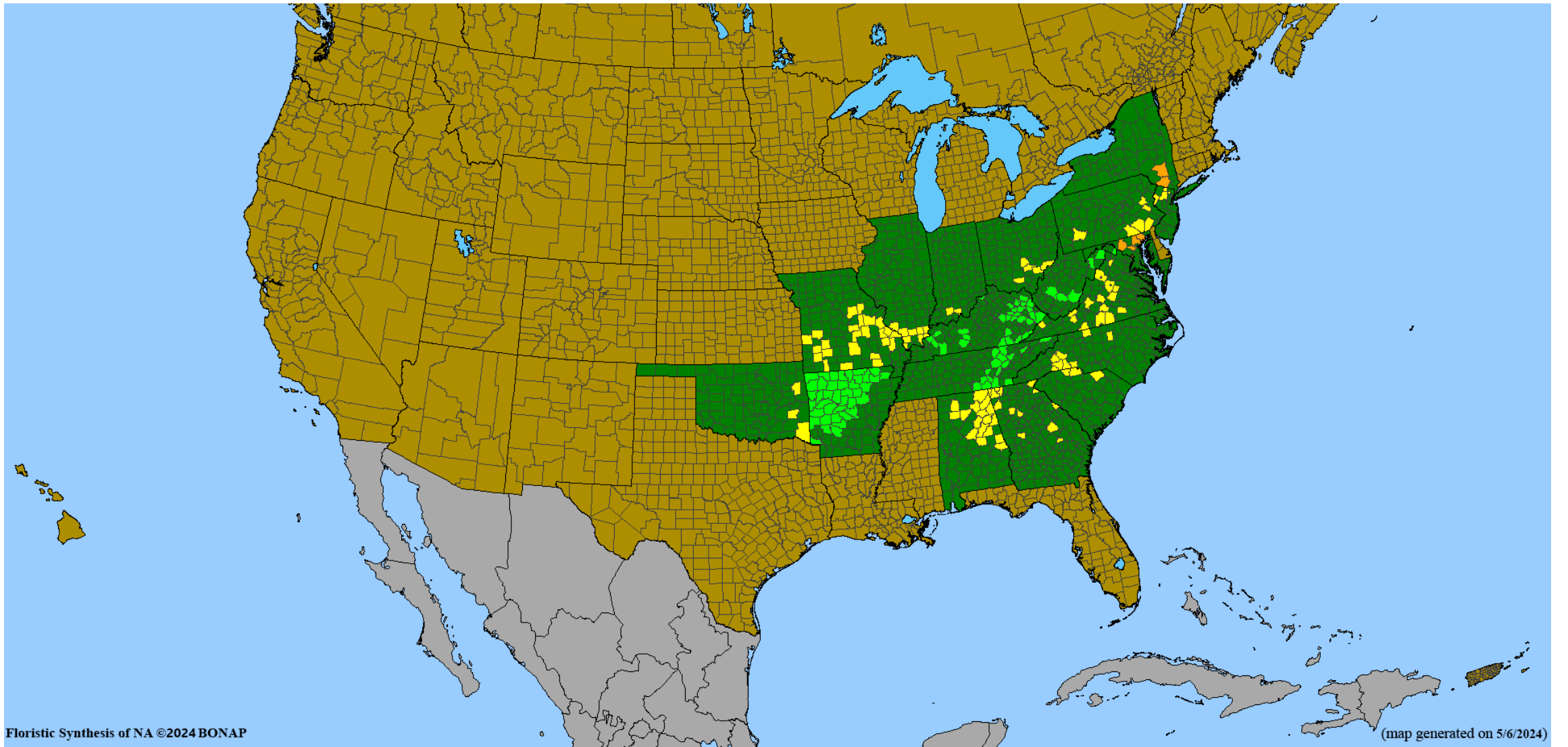
Rank	Definitions global/state
GX or SX	Presumed Extirpated —Species believed to be extirpated from the jurisdiction (i.e. global, or state/province). Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.
GH or SH	Historical (Possibly Extirpated) —Known only from historical records but still some hope of rediscovery. There is evidence that the species may no longer be present in the jurisdiction, (i.e. global, or state/province) but not enough to state this with certainty.
G1 or S1	Critically Imperiled/Highly State Rare —At very high risk of extinction or extirpation due to very restricted range, very few populations or occurrences, very steep declines, very severe threats, or other factors. Typically occurring in five or fewer populations.
G2 or S2	Imperiled/State Rare —At high risk of extinction or extirpation due to restricted range, few populations or occurrences, steep declines, severe threats, or other factors. Typically occurring in 6-20 populations.
G3 or S3	Vulnerable/Watchlist —At moderate risk of extinction or extirpation due to a fairly restricted range, relatively few populations or occurrences, recent and widespread declines, threats, or other factors. Typically occurring in 21-80 populations.
G4 or S4	Apparently Secure —At fairly low risk of extinction or extirpation due to an extensive range and/or many populations or occurrences, but with possible cause for some concern as a result of local recent declines, threats, or other factors.
G5 or S5	Demonstrably Secure —At very low risk of extinction or extirpation due to a very extensive range, abundant populations or occurrences, and little to no concern from declines or threats.
S3.1	Vulnerable and globally rare —A species that is actively tracked by the Service because of the global significance of Maryland occurrences. Although not currently threatened or endangered, Maryland occurrences may be critical to the long-term security of the species.
SE	Exotic —Established but not native to Maryland.
SNA	Not Applicable —A conservation status rank is not applicable because the species is not a suitable target for conservation activities.
SNR	Not ranked.
SR	Reported —Reported from Maryland but without persuasive evidence that would provide a basis for either accepting or rejecting the report. These species are presented in Appendix II.
SRF	Reported falsely —Reported in error from Maryland and the error may persist in the literature. These species are presented in Appendix II.
SU	Status Uncertain —A numerical rank cannot be established with confidence for reasons including lack of historical records, low survey effort, cryptic nature of the species, or concerns that the species may not be native to the state. Uncertainty spans a range of more than three ranks as defined above.
Q	A rank qualifier —Indicates that the taxon has questionable, controversial, or uncertain taxonomic standing, e.g., treated by some authors as a species whereas others treat as a subspecies or variety or not at all.
T	A rank qualifier —Indicates that the infraspecific taxon (subspecies or variety) is ranked differently than the typical species.
?	A rank qualifier —Indicating uncertainty that may span 2-3 ranks as defined above.
!	An indicator that the conservation status of that species is currently under review.

Bradley's Spleenwort

Asplenium bradleyi,
G4, SH, X.

Proposed S1, T

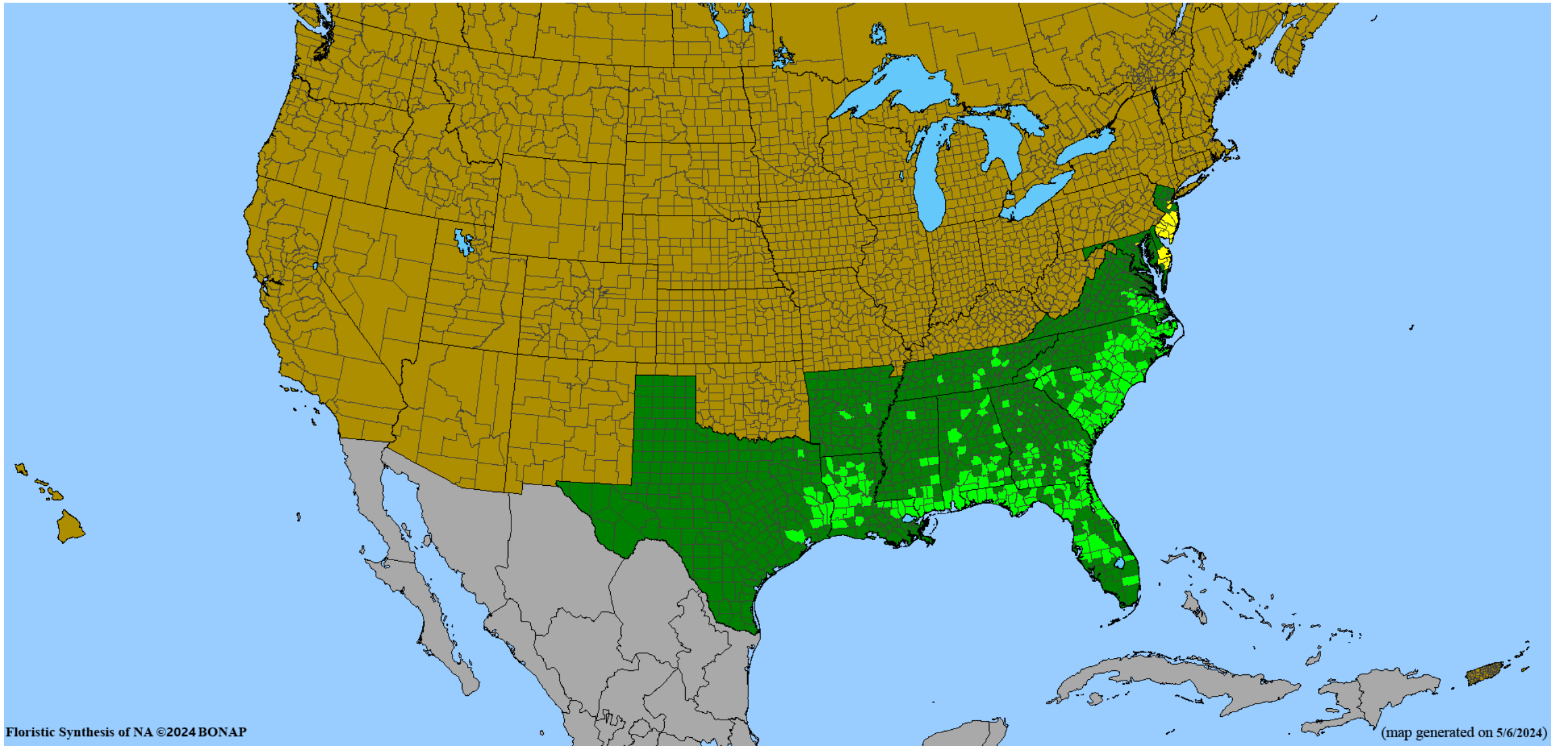




*Wand-like Three-
awn Grass*

Aristida virgata
G4, S1S2, E.
Proposed S2, T



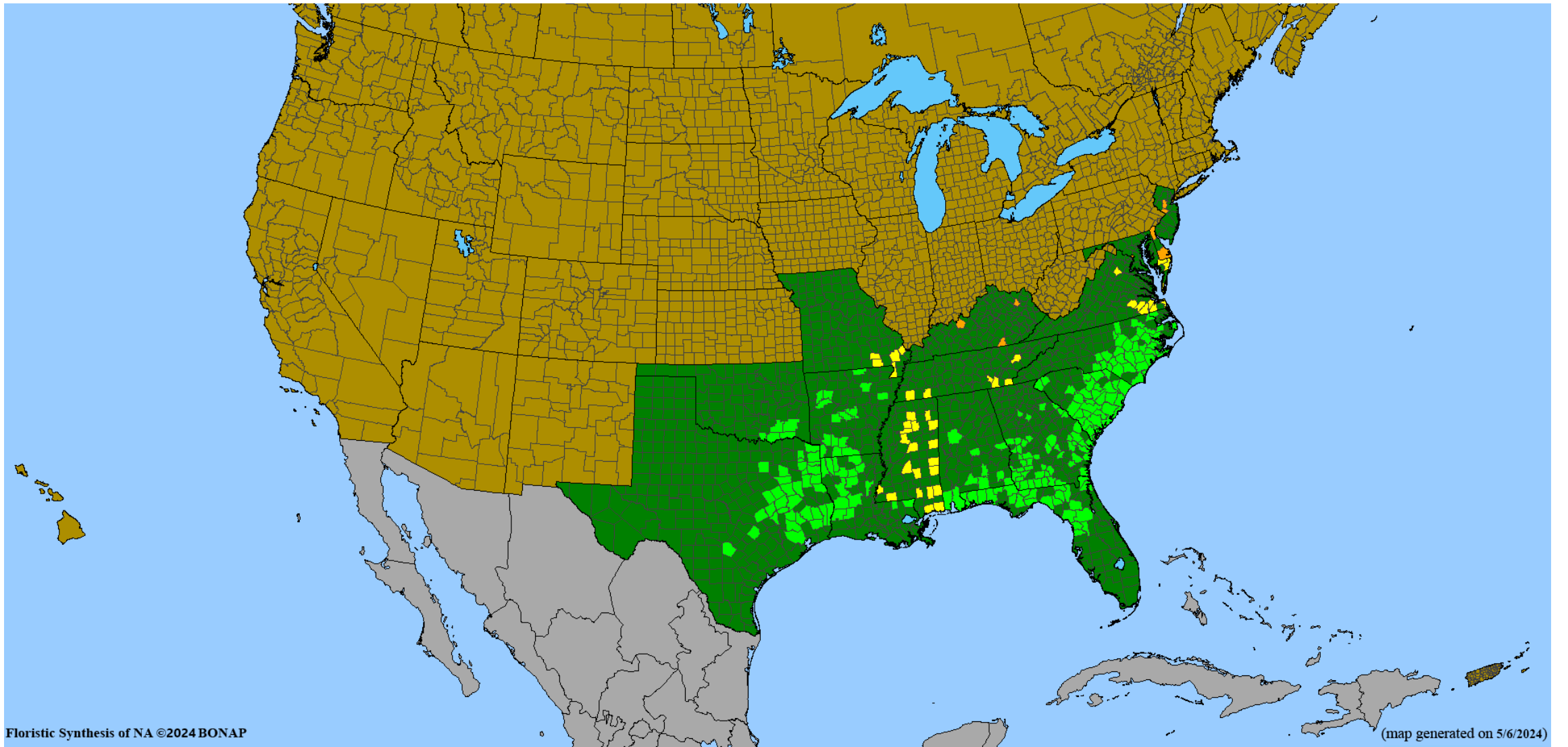


Plukenet's Flatsedge

Cyperus plukenetii
G5, SH, X.

Proposed S1, E

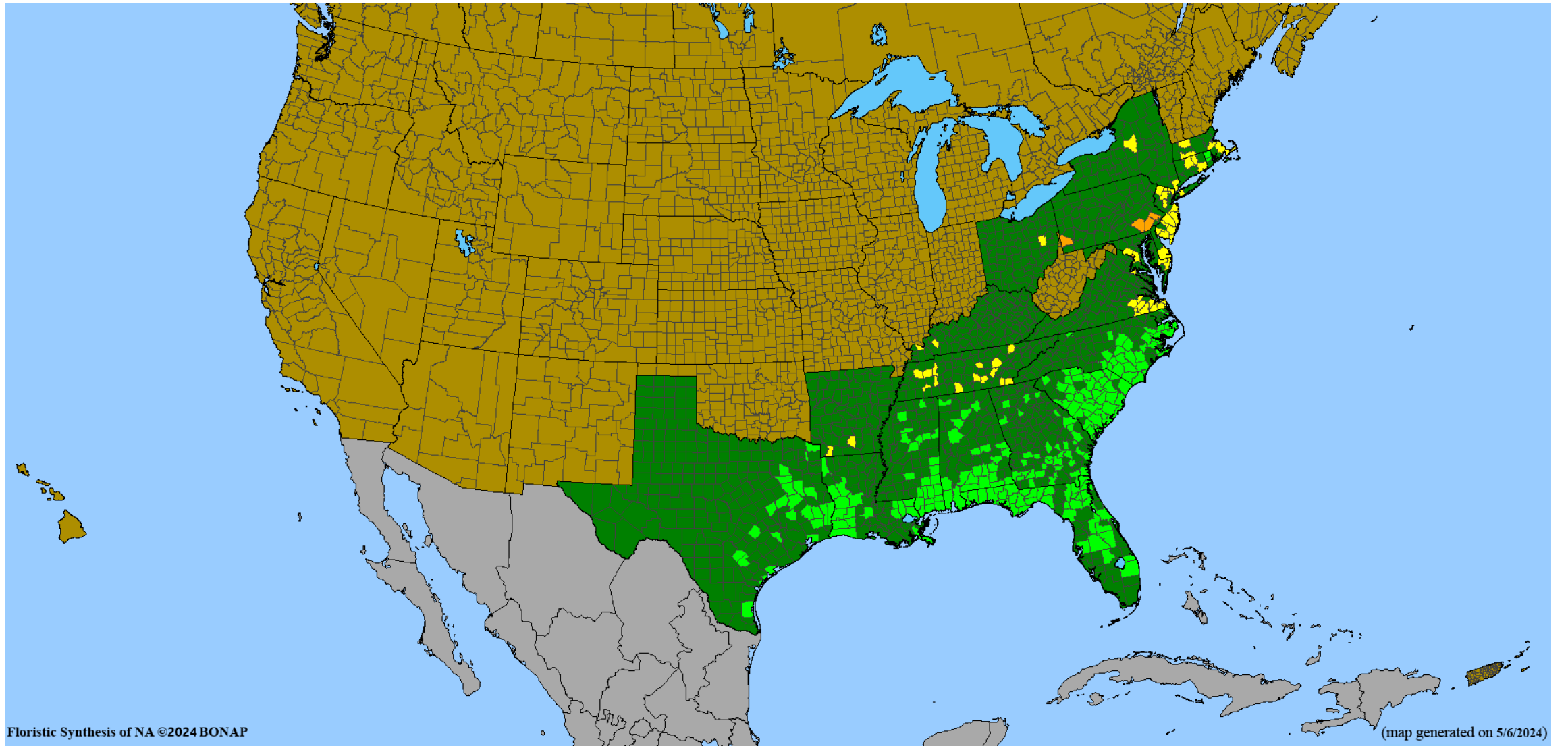




*Tall Swamp
Panicgrass*

*Dichanthelium
scabriusculum*
G4, S1, E.
Proposed S2, T.



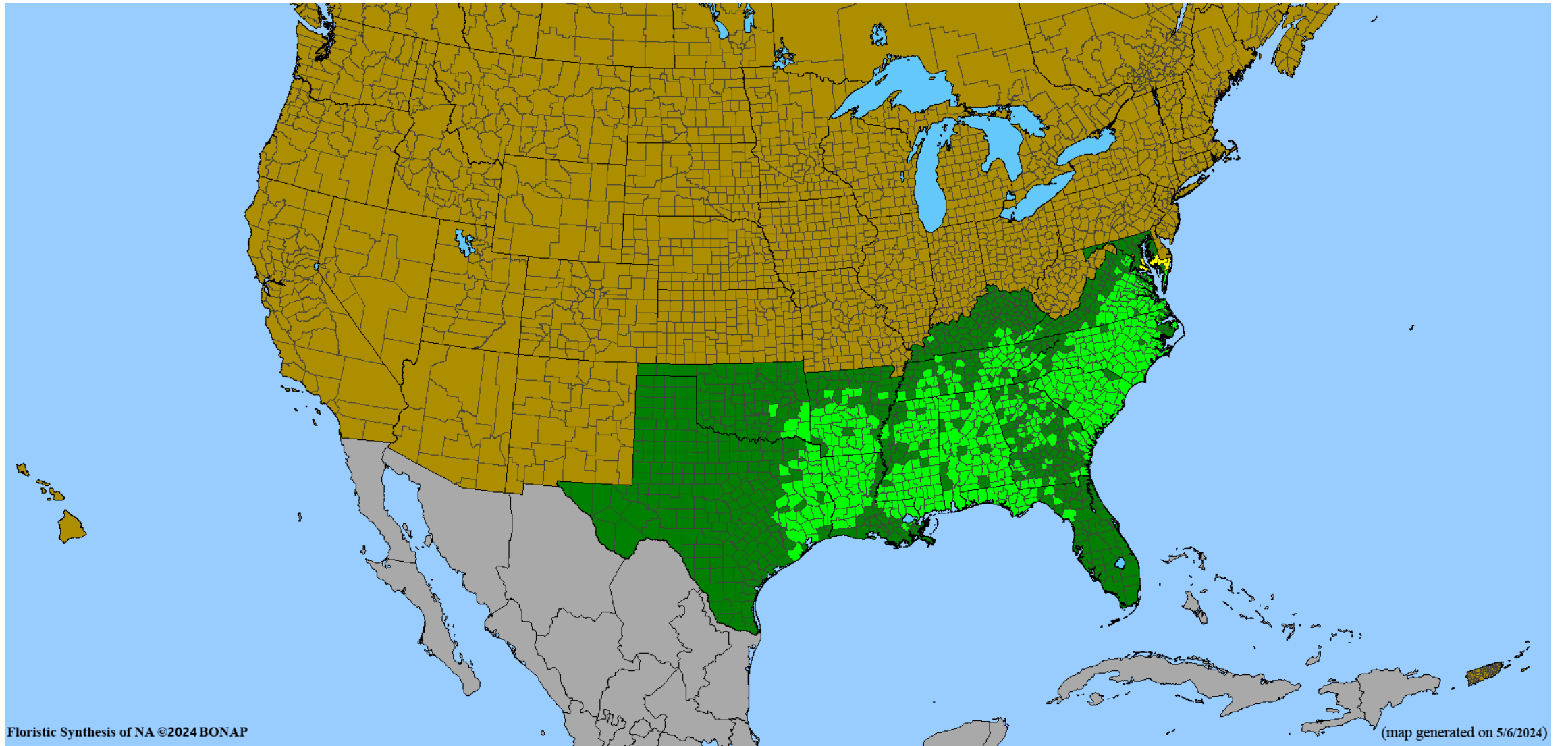


Tobbacoweed

Elephantopus
tomentosus G5,
S1S2, E.

Proposed S2, T.





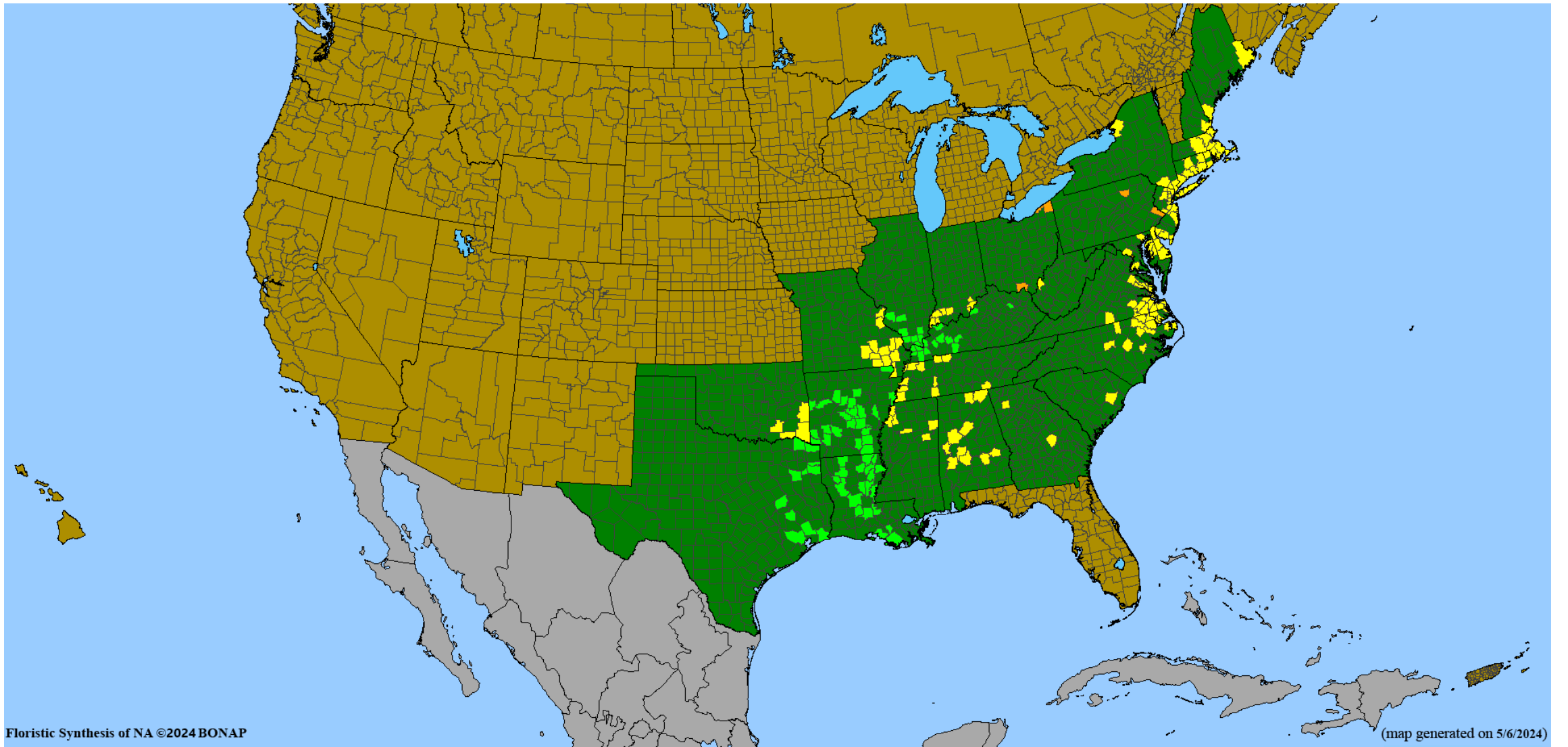
Featherfoil

Hottonia inflata

G4, S1, E.

Proposed S2, T.



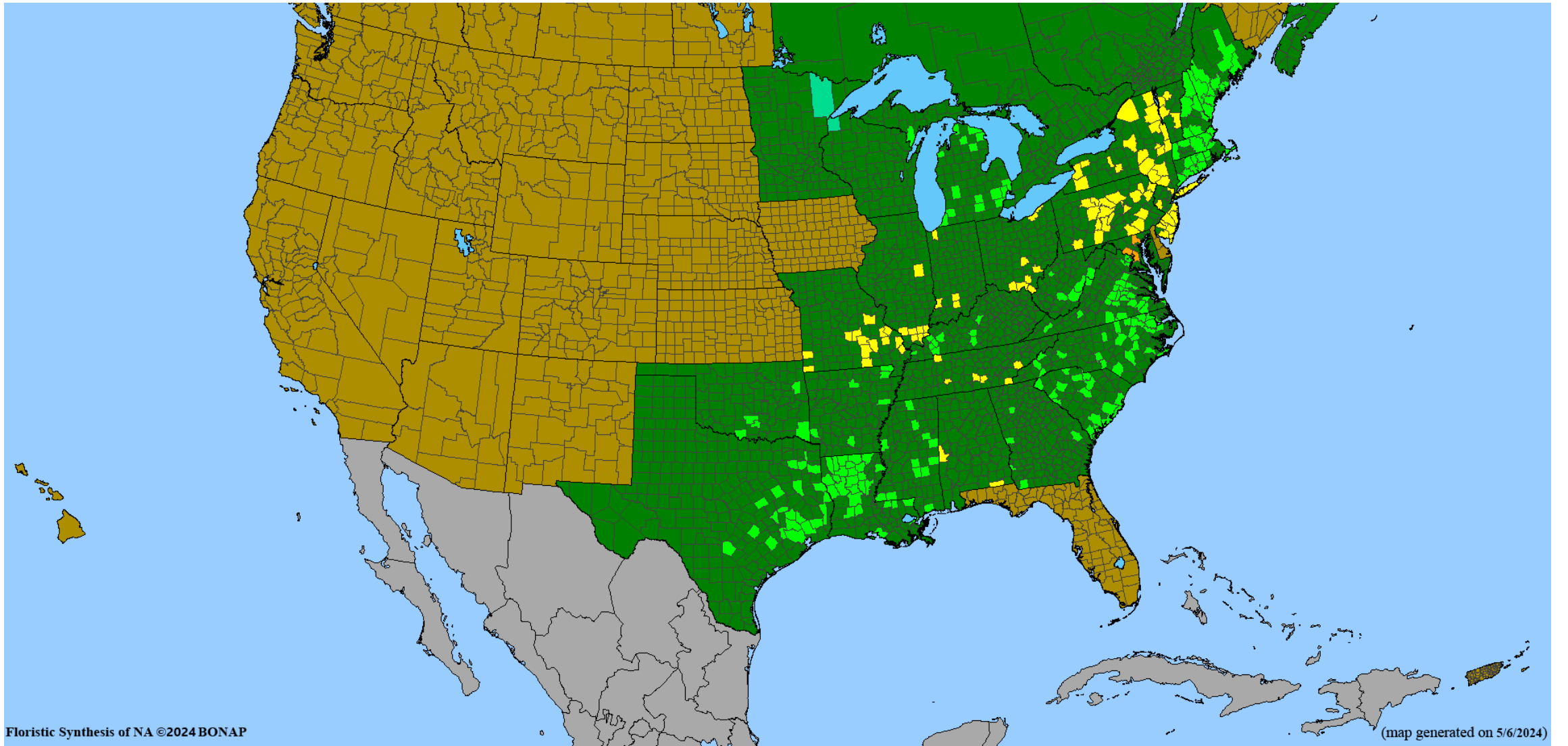


Hairy Lettuce

Lactuca hirsuta
G5, SH, X.

Proposed delist





Southern Bayberry

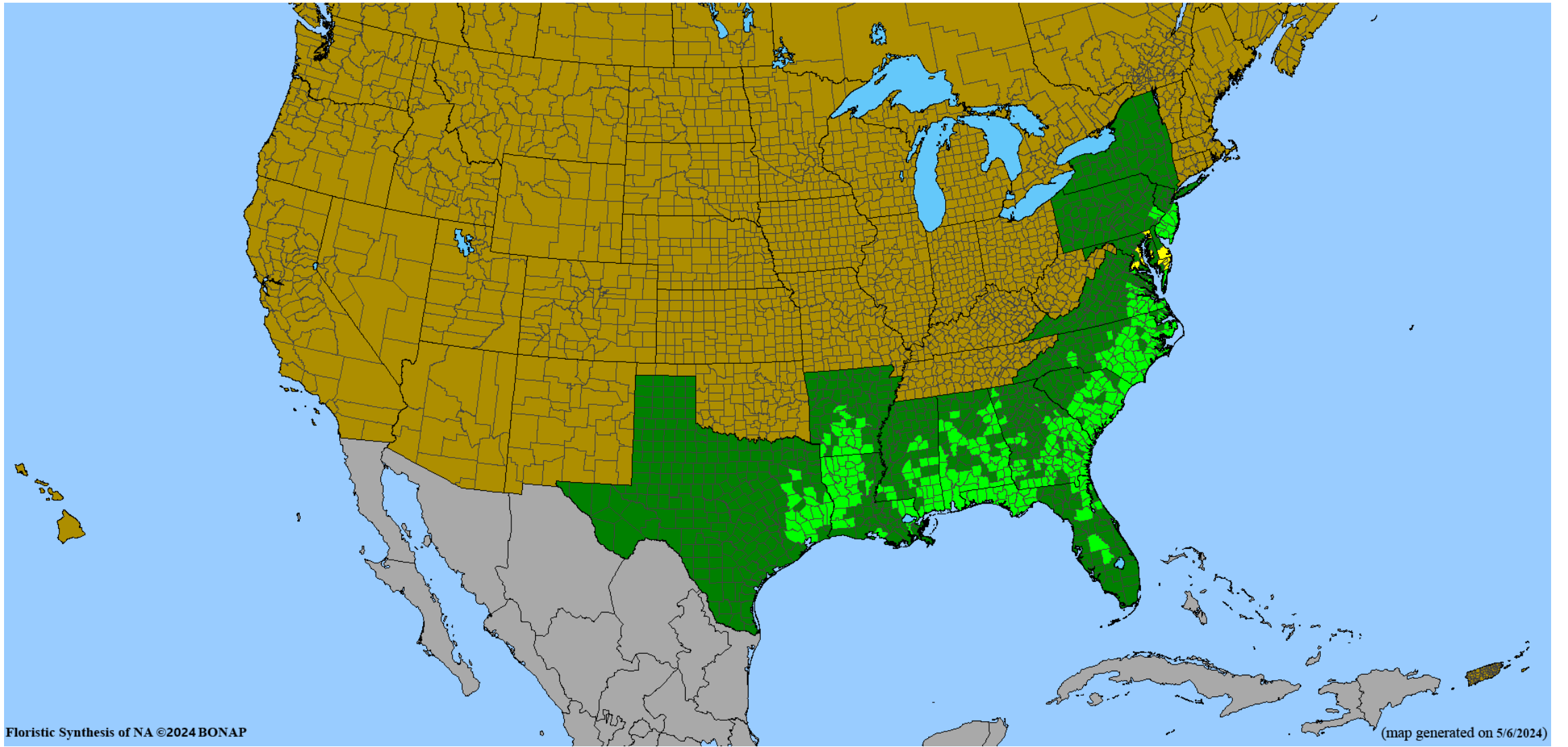
Morella
caroliniensis G5,
S1, E.

Proposed S2, T.



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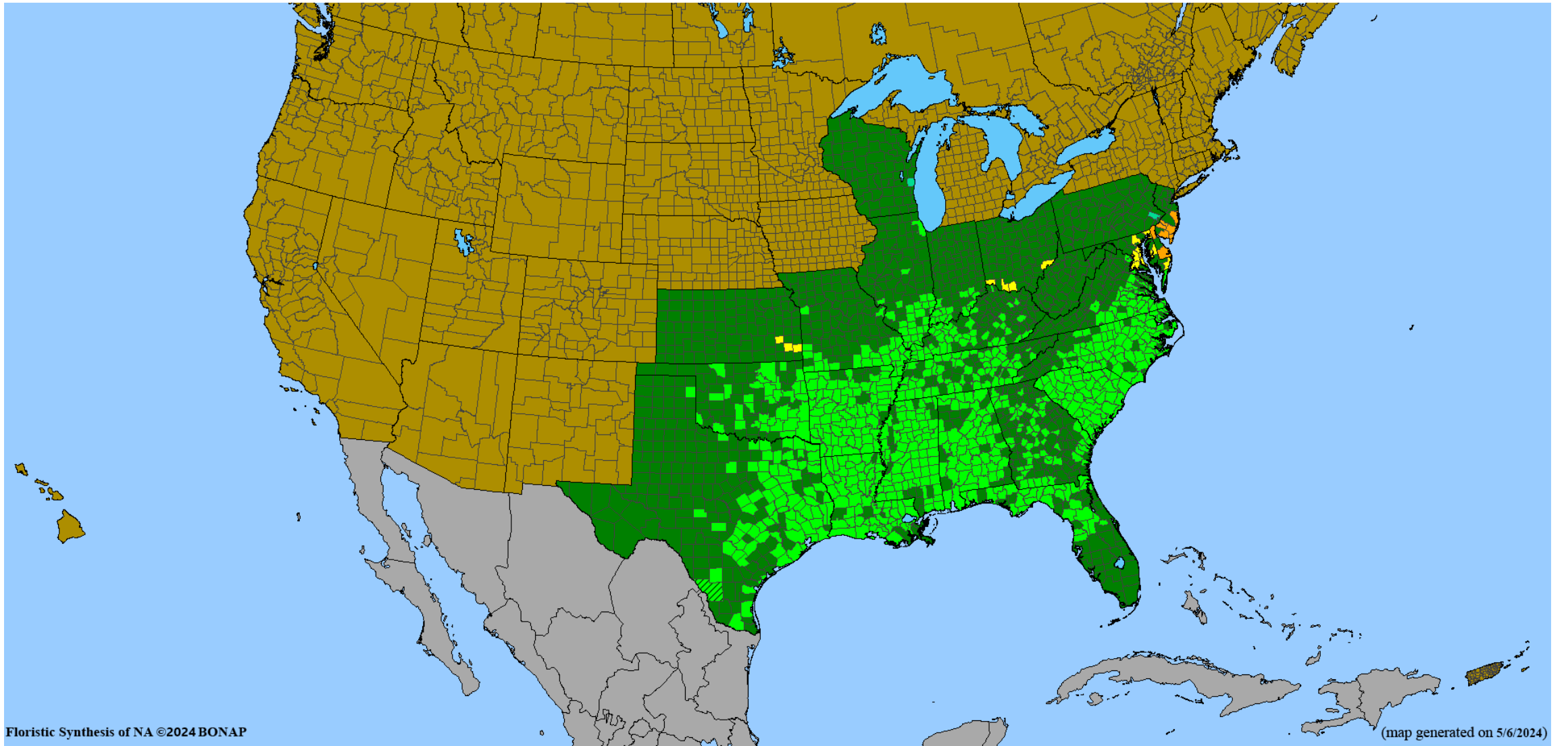


*Camphor
Fleabane*

*Pluchea
camphorata* G5,
S1, E.

Proposed S2, T.



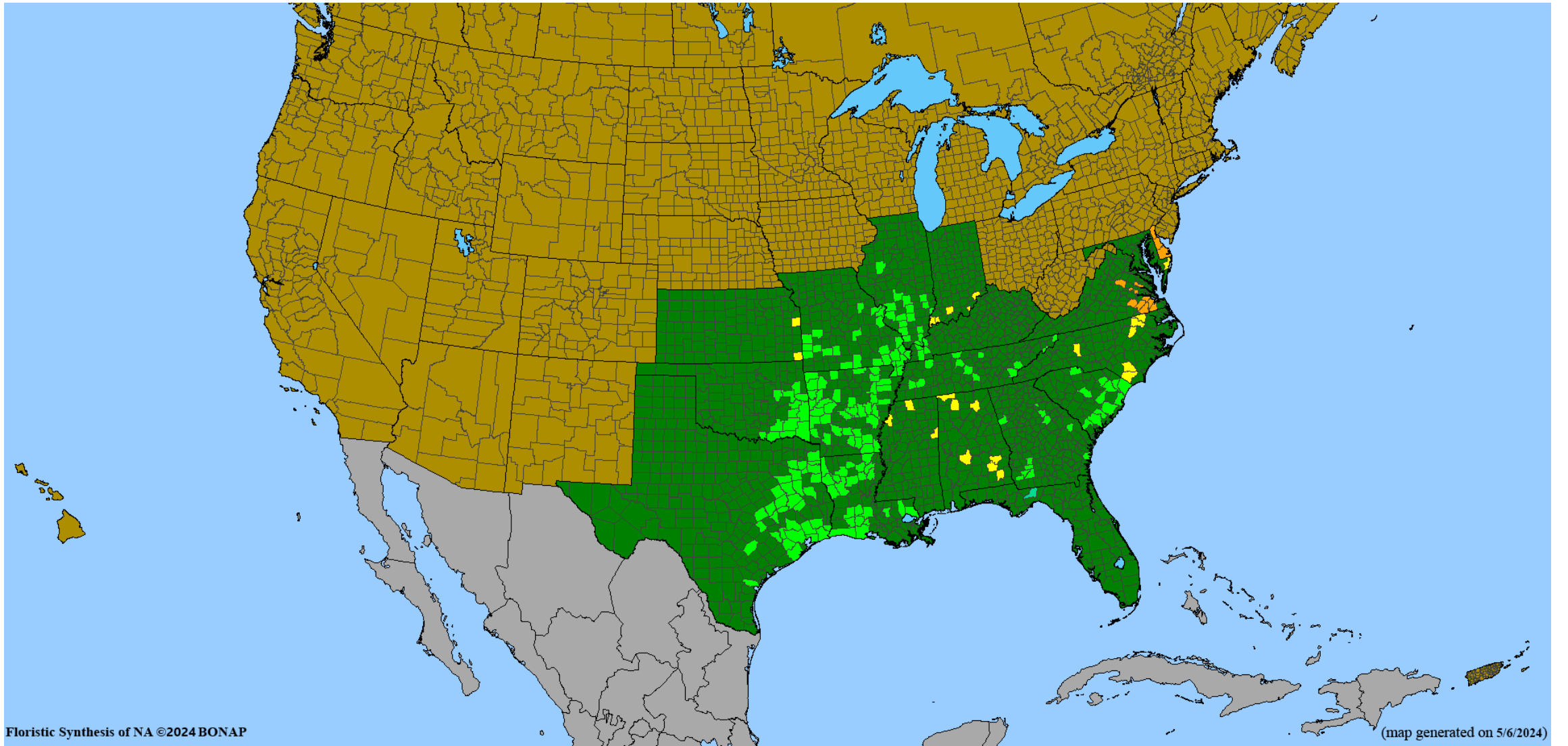


*Mississippi
Buttercup*

*Ranunculus
laxicaulis* G5,
S1.

Proposed S1, E



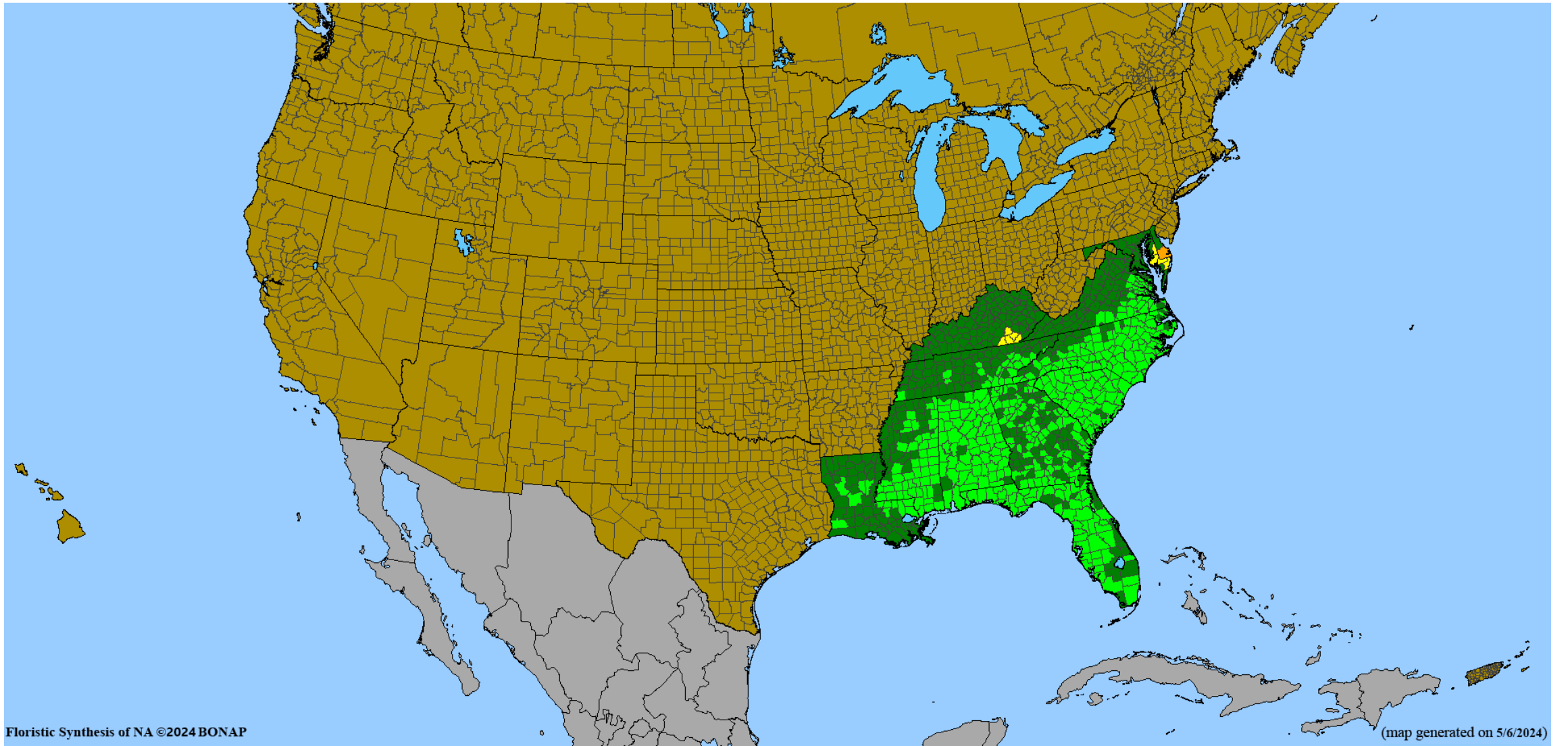


Spiked Hoarypea

Tephrosia spicata
G4, S1S2, E.

Proposed S1S2, T.



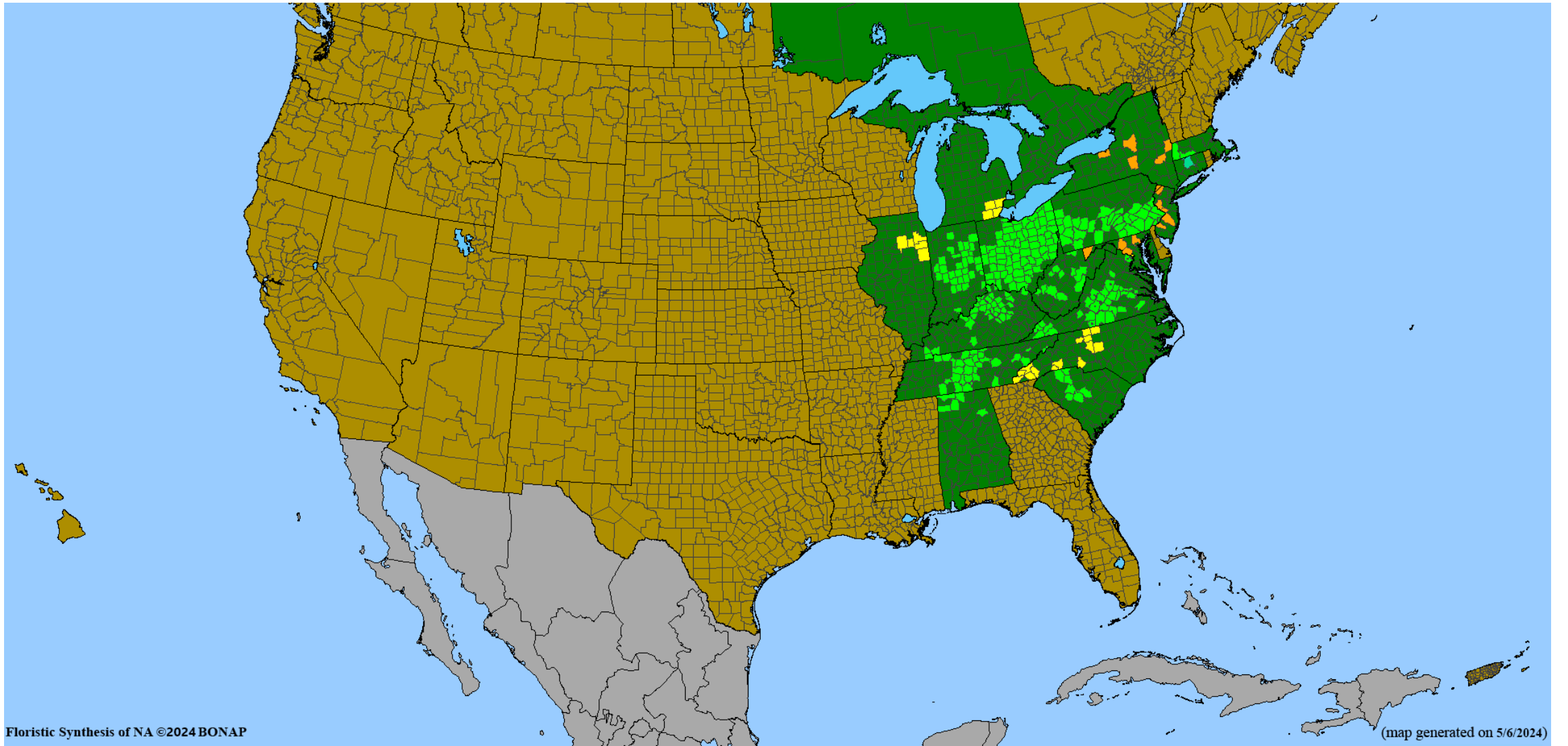


Navel Cornsalad

*Valerianella
umbilicata* G4, SH,
X.

Proposed delist





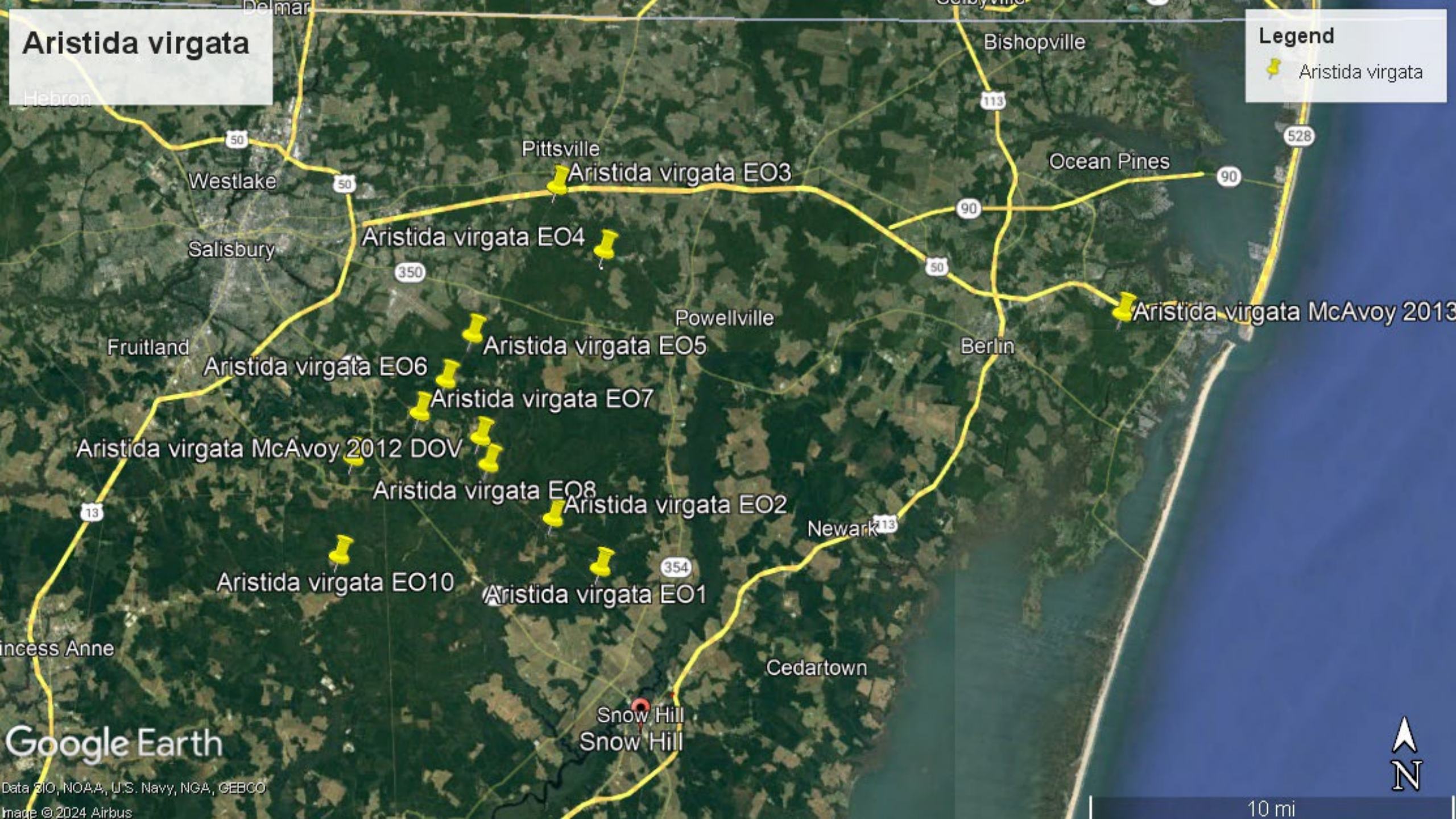
Questions...

- John Kartesz and Misako Nishino of the Biota of North America Program (BONAP) graciously provided the North American county-based plant species distribution maps.



Aristida virgata

Legend
📌 Aristida virgata



Google Earth

Data © 2024 Airbus
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Made © 2024 Airbus

10 mi



Hunt Club members		Juniors
Potomac	51	
GSVHC	75	
De La Brook	45	9
Marlborough	44	5
Goshen	50	14
Howard Co.	25	
Cattail	1	
EHHC	80	
Mt. Carmel	40	
Carrollton	60	
Total	471	28