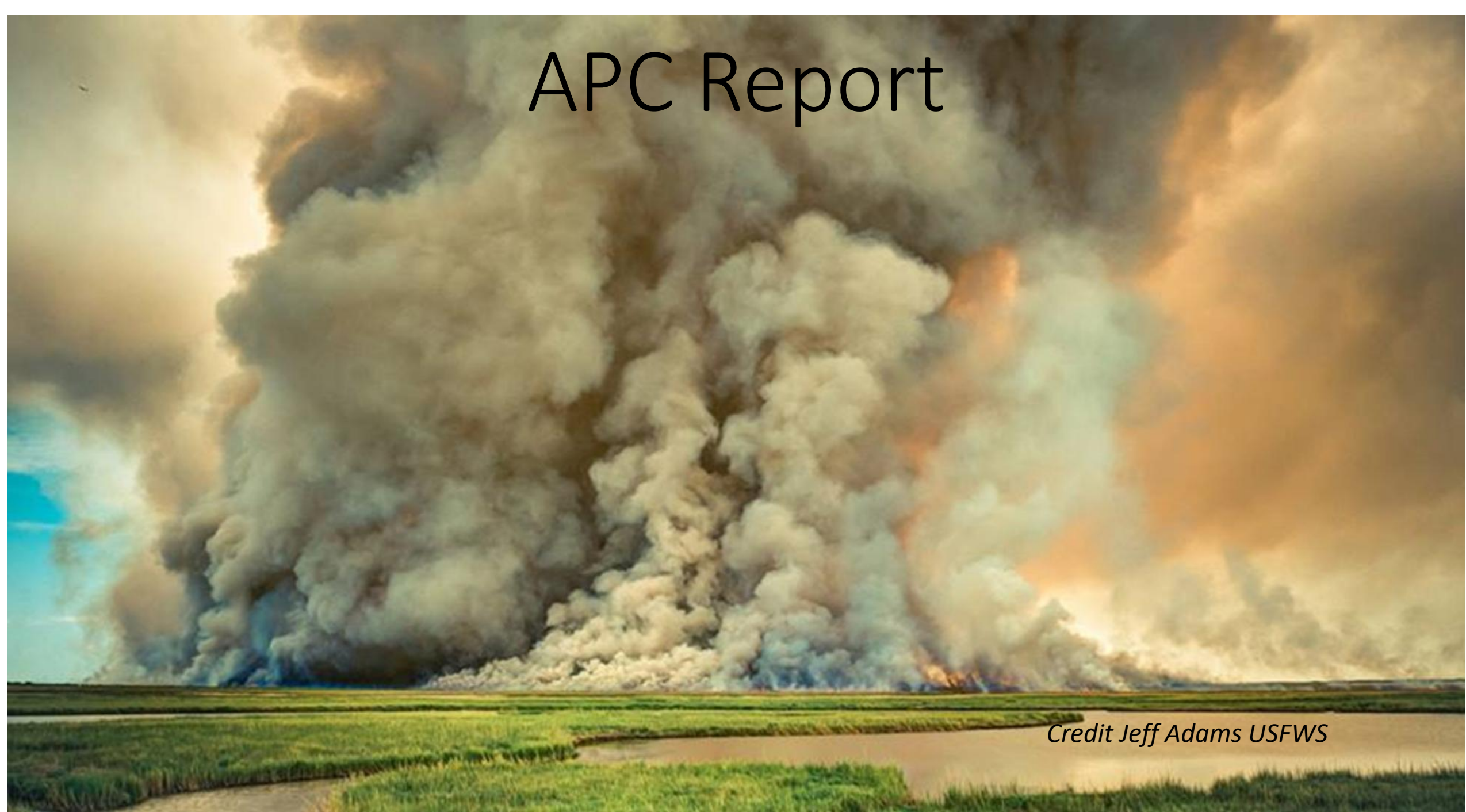


APC Report



Credit Jeff Adams USFWS

What is a Attwater's Prairie chicken

- *Tympanuchus cupido attwateri*
- Subspecies of Greater Prairie chicken
- Closely related to the East Coast Heath Hen
- R selected species
- Ground nesting/ gallinaceous/ grouse.....
- 1-3 years life span
- 50 % chance of survivorship if it makes it to 10 weeks



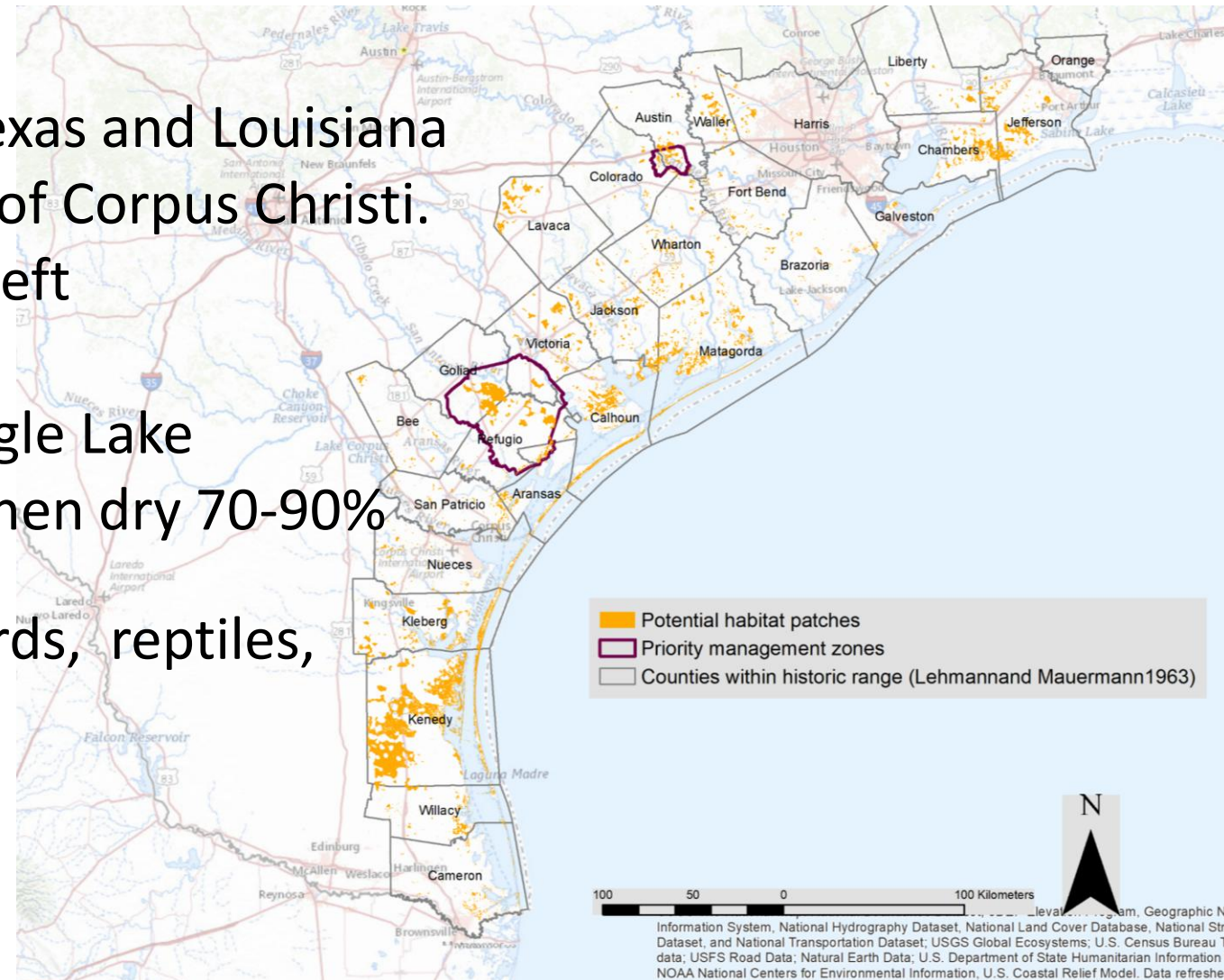
What is the Goal for the Species

- Acreage of habitat - 150k-300k and min 25k patches
- Distribution with connectivity 50-100 miles
- Numbers- 3k-6k adults
- Self sustaining population.
- Recruitment
- TNC CAP
- USFWS APC Recovery Plan



Where does an APC live?

- Coastal Prairies and Marshes of Texas and Louisiana
- In Texas from Beaumont to south of Corpus Christi.
- Only 1% of over 6.5 million acres left
- Refugio Goliad Prairie 600K acres
- Attwater's Prairie chicken near Eagle Lake
- When it is wet 60 % wetlands. When dry 70-90% prairie
- Neighbors are waterfowl, shorebirds, reptiles, amphibians neotropical migrants.
- Grass with no trees.
- New release sites?



What does a Prairie Chicken do

- December to February – Males moving around and and booming
- February to May – Males on the booming(say WHAT?) ground every day. Hens coming every day.
- March hens start laying 1 egg a day for 10-14 days. Incubate for 26 days.
- Late April to early May hatch and raise chicks
- Chicks can fly at about two weeks.
- Chicks eat only insects for first 5- 6 weeks
- Chicks are ½ to 2/3 grown at 10 weeks
- Some do a fall shuffle.
- Avoid predators



How do we know how many there are??

- Census Booming grounds
- Times 2 for 1:1 sex ratio
- 15 booming grounds over 42,000 acres.
- Some limited access.



Captive Rearing facilities

- Fossil Rim – Glen Rose
- Sutton – Oklahoma
- Houston Zoo – Houston and Nasa
- Caldwell Zoo – Tyler



Acclimation Pens

- 4 release pens 3 30x100, 1 30x50 \$10,000 per pen
- Pens built on old oil pad sites
- 88 birds at a time
- 2 weeks in pen
- Feed 4 weeks outside of pen
- Frozen corn and peas \$6,000-\$10,000 a year, why?



Habitat Management and Maintenance

- Brush treatment
- Rotational grazing
- Weed spraying
- Prescribed fire



Birds released

- 2019 - 102
- 2020 - 148
- 2021 - 166
- 2022 - 236
- 2023 – 249
- 2024 - 247
- 2025 -250
- 2026-350?
- Over 2500 birds since 2007



Birds seen on Booming ground

- 2019 - 50
- 2020 - Covid
- 2021 - 45
- 2022 – 42 – 7 unbanded
- 2023 – 67 – 5 unbanded
- 2024-82. 17 to 20% unbanded
- 2025-102. 17 to 20% unbanded
- 2026-138. 17 to 20% unbanded



Acres Treated for fire ants. Why?

- 2019 – 4000 at \$13.04/ acre
- 2020 – 4236 at \$12.92 / acre
- 2021 – 5173 at \$15.30 / acre
- 2022 – 2600 at \$15.10 / acre
- 2023 – 5187 at \$16.58 / acre
- 2024 – 1201 at \$16.90 / acre
- 2025 -4100 at \$17.00 / acre
- 2026 -1900 at \$18.42 / acre



Partners

- Landowners
- USFWS Refuges and Partners
- TPWD
- NRCS
- Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries
- Universities
- GLC
- SWCD



Land Protection

- Restore act Money through TCEQ and private funds to pay for 6200 acre easement in 2024 on TMOC River Ranch
- TALT RCPP funding to pay for 4000 acre easement on Parks Ranch at Fannin
- Restore act Money through TCEQ and private funds to pay for approximately 5500 acre easement in 2026