

Invasive Efforts: North Carolina

Whitney Jenkins

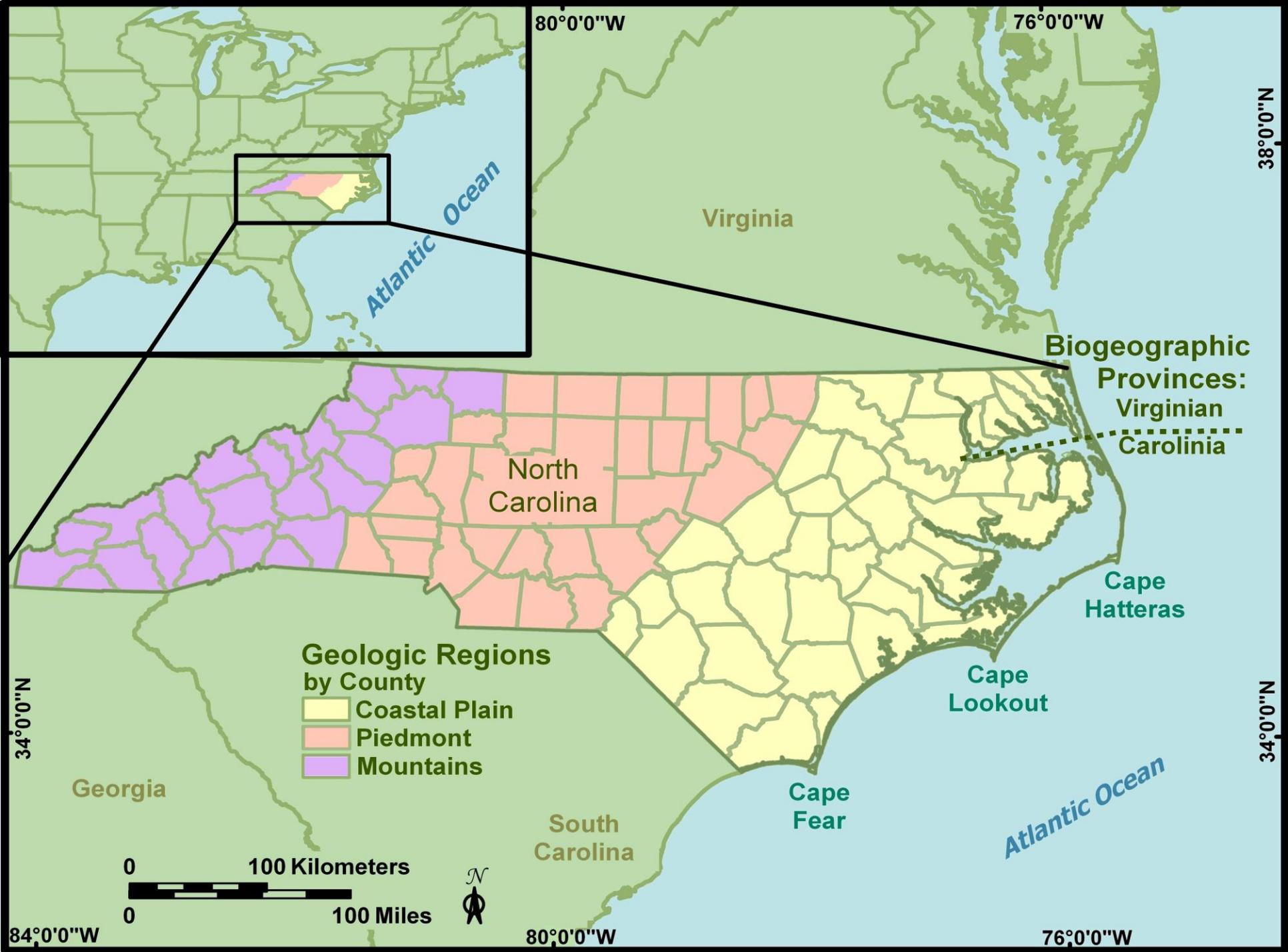
Coastal Training Coordinator

NC National Estuarine Research Reserve

NC Division of Coastal Management

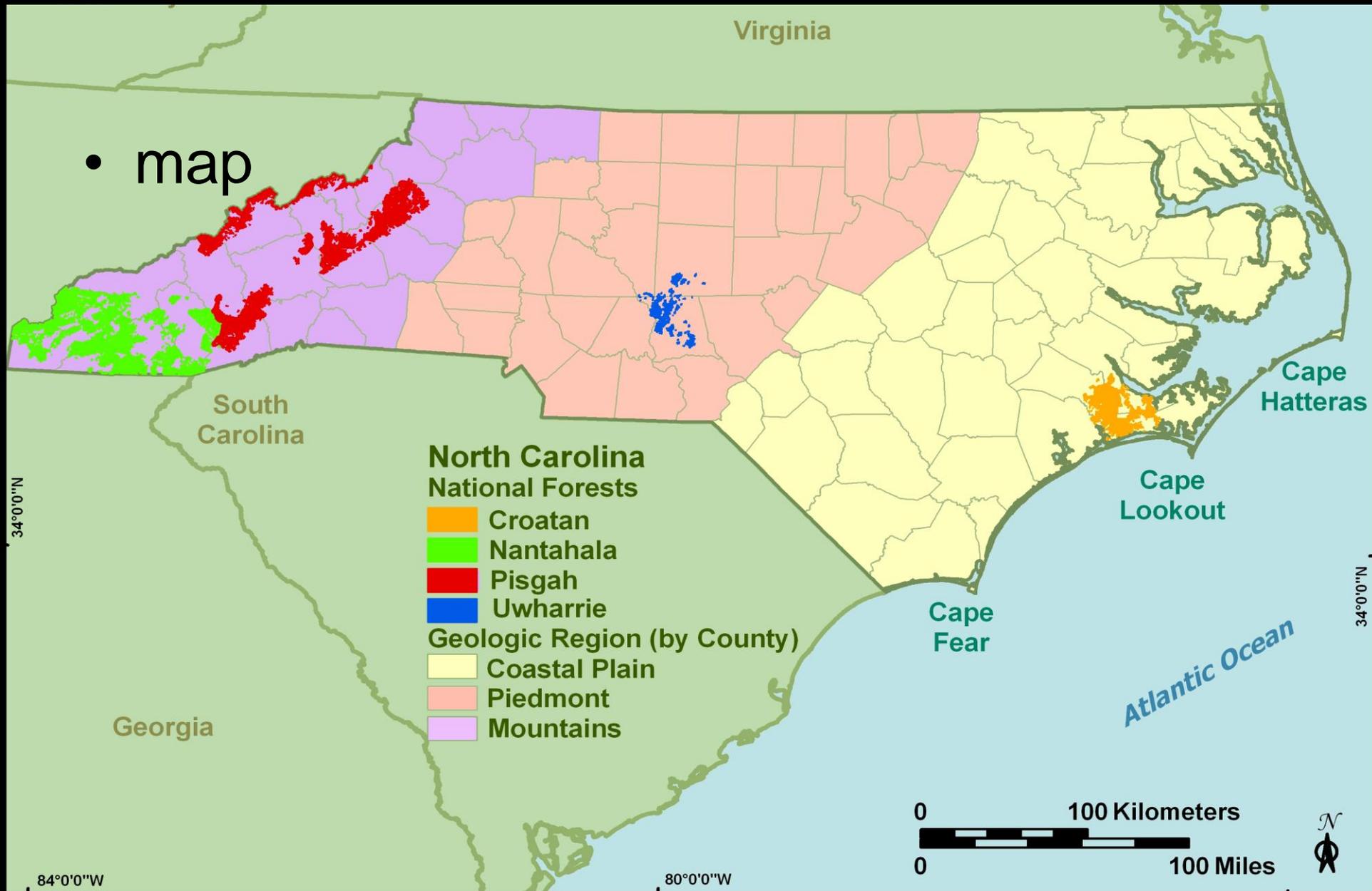
Information Sources

- National Forests
- NC Division of Forest Resources
- NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Plant Industry Division
- NC State Parks
- NC Sandhills Weed Management Area
- Carolinas Beach Vitex Task Force
- National Wildlife Refuges
- NC Cooperative Extension (NC State University)



National Forests in NC

• map



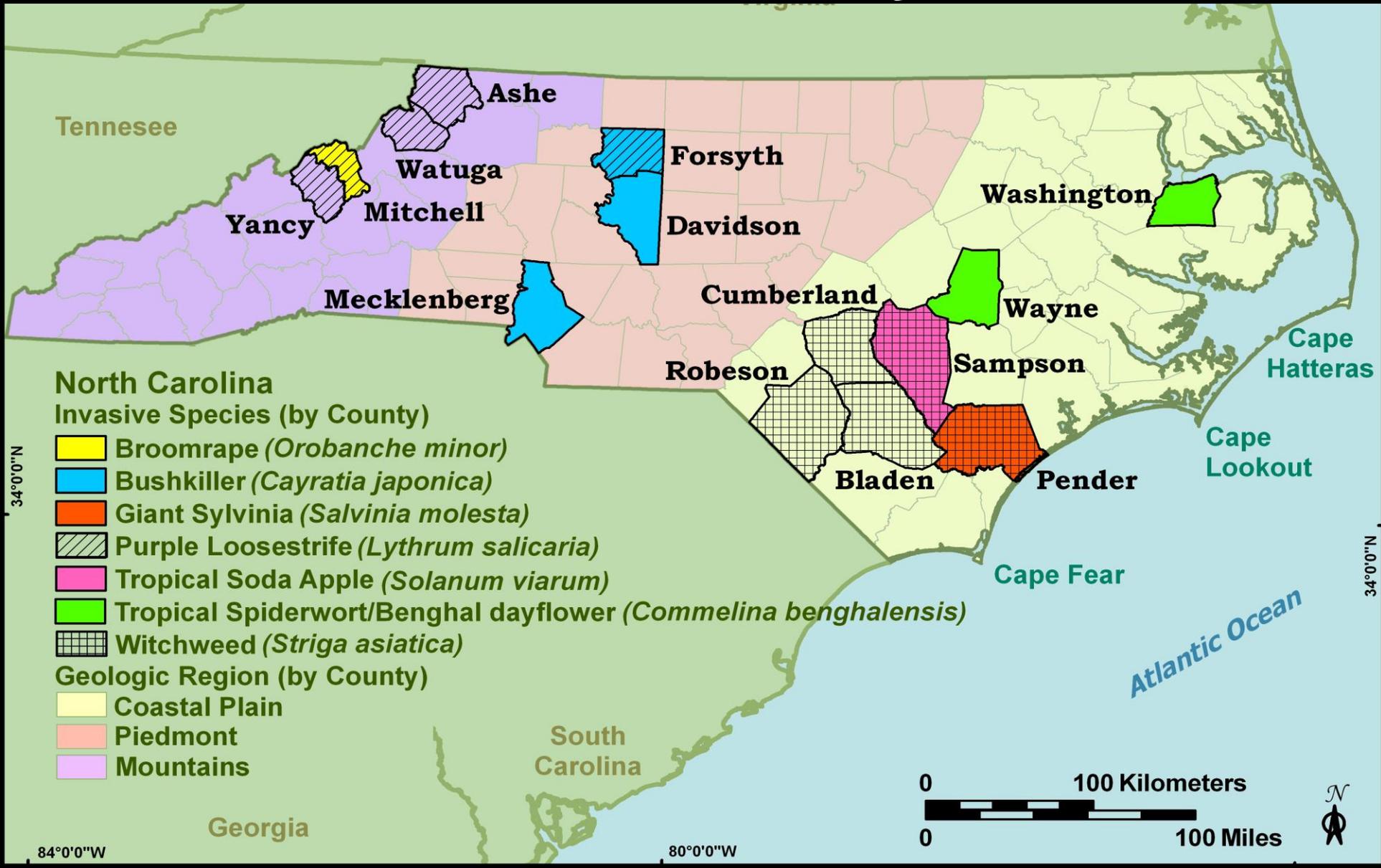
National Forests in NC

- Invasive Plant Coordinator – Gary Kauffman in Asheville
- Prioritized top species for control for all three geologic regions
- Prioritized projects where invasives are affecting rare species or rare/high quality natural communities
- Prioritize projects with cooperators and/or control projects being completed on adjacent lands

NC Division of Forest Resources

- Robert Trickle, Pest Control Branch Head
- Dealing with invasive insects and diseases
- Preparing invasive plant publications and fact sheets targeted at forest landowners, published by summer 2010
- The most common pests affecting NC's forest resources:
 - Privets (*Ligustrum sp.*),
 - Nepalese browntop (*Microstegium vimineum*),
 - Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*),
 - Chinese silvergrass (*Miscanthus sinensis*), and
 - Common reed (*Phragmites australis*)
- “North Carolina Forest Assessment”
- Awareness training has been provided to Division staff pertaining to cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*)

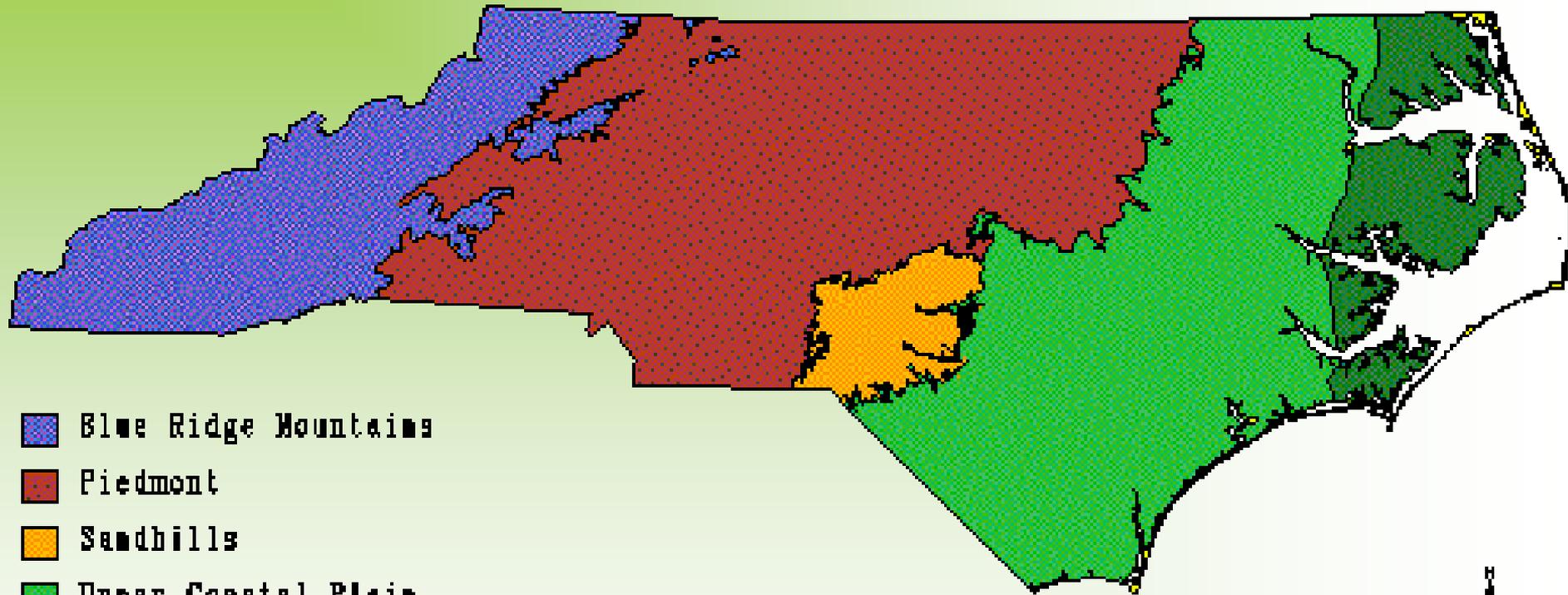
NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Plant Industry Division



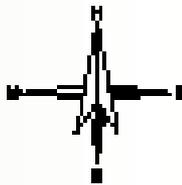
NC State Parks

- Jean Lynch, Coastal Region Biologist in Wilmington
- Mountain Region
 - Privet (*Ligustrum sp.*),
 - Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)
 - Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*),
 - Kudzu (*Pueraria montana var. lobata*), and
 - Princesstree (*Paulownia tomentosa*)
- Piedmont Region
 - See NC Sandhills Weed Management Area
 - Corporate volunteer groups used to fight invasives in four parks
- Coastal Region
 - Worked on about 20 acres of invasive plants
 - Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) & Privet (*Ligustrum sp.*)

NC Sandhills Weed Management Area



- Blue Ridge Mountains
- Piedmont
- Sandhills
- Upper Coastal Plain
- Lower Coastal Plain
- Coastal Islands



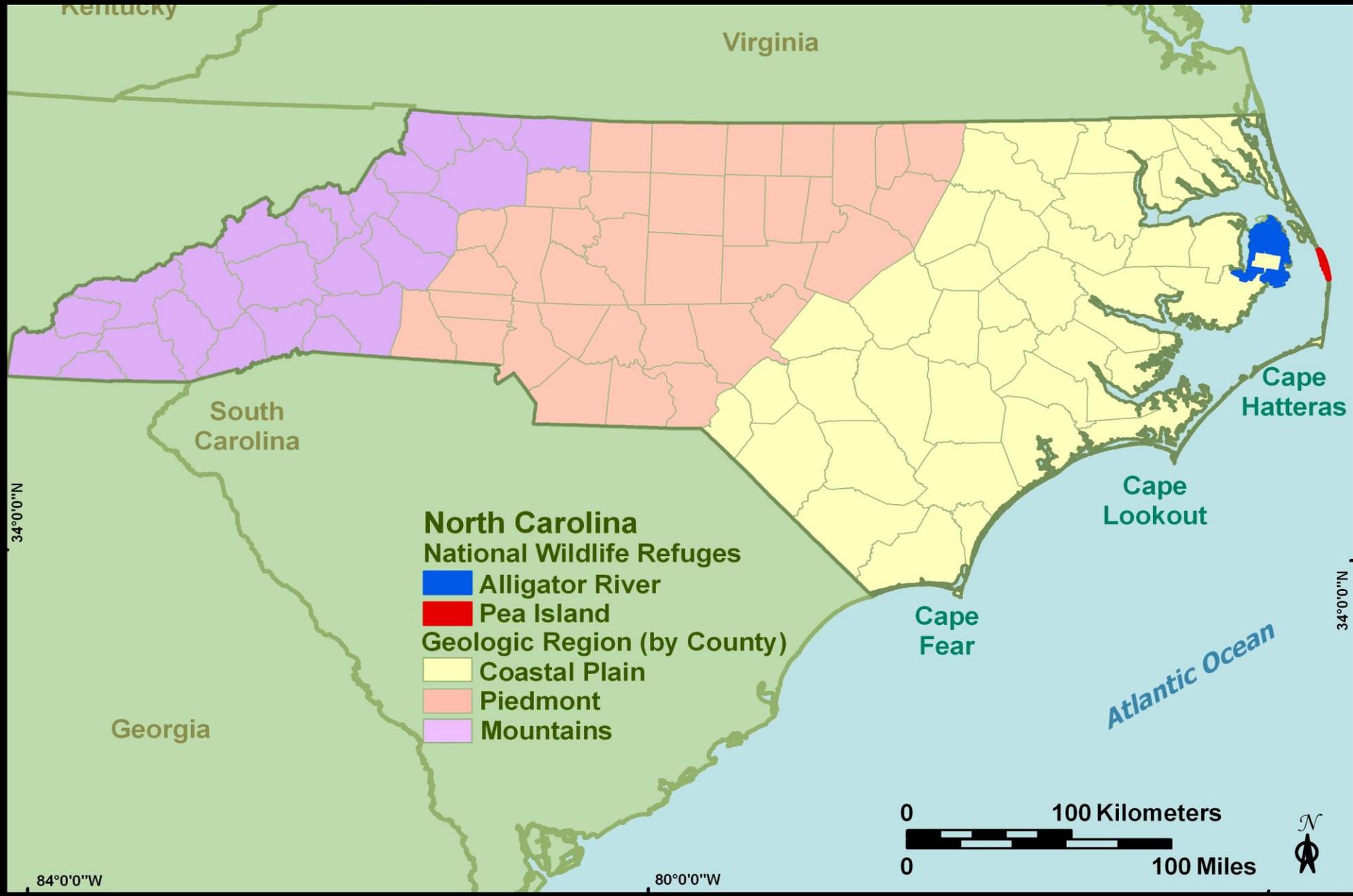
NC Sandhills Weed Management Area

- Tracy Rush, Program Manager
- Surveyed 14,708 acres between April 2009 and December 2009
- Over 1,600 occurrences of 34 different invasive plants were mapped
 - 52% were Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)
 - 20% were “wildlife-related” (planted for food or cover)
 - Weeping Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*)
 - Chinese Lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*)
 - Shrubby Lespedeza (*Lespedeza bicolor*)
 - Multiflora Rose (*Rosa Multiflora*)
 - 28% were considered Early Detection and Rapid Response species
 - Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*)
 - Chinese Wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*)
 - Mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*)

Carolinas Beach Vitex Task Force

- Dale Suiter, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service & Melanie Doyle, NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher
- 16 coastal towns have passed ordinances outlawing beach vitex cultivation within town limits
- U.S. FWS has grant agreements with six coastal towns to treat beach vitex populations
- Beach vitex is a Class B State Noxious Weed
- In 2009 a few new beach Vitex sites were found, but not nearly as many as were discovered between 2006 and 2008
- 595 out of a total of 721 beach vitex sites have been treated to date

National Wildlife Refuges



National Wildlife Refuges

- Brian Van Druten, Fish and Wildlife Biologist in Manteo
- Treating common reed (*Phragmites australis*) at Alligator River and Pea Island NWRs
- Pea Island, found 52 acres in 2005
 - Difficulty in reaching the majority of the infested area – Marsh Master
 - Partnered with the Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative
- Alligator River, began treating in 2006
 - In 2009 treated 117 acres by helicopter
 - In 2008 Tropical Storm Hanna, brought 40-60mph winds that caused rapid senescence of *Phragmites*

NC Cooperative Extension (NC State University)

- Wayne County Center
- Educating the public about the threat of invasive plants and the need for landscaping with natives - “Designing a Garden using NC Natives” workshops
- Classes for students on common invasive plant identification and how they can help prevent the spread of invasives
- More education programs are planned for 2010 including the development of a pocket field guide on NC Native Plants for a Wayne County garden
- Would like to see work done with getting the nursery industry on board to halt the production and sale of invasive plants

Contacted, but no response

- Various NC Cooperative Extension County Centers and headquarters of Extension
- NC National Resources Conservation Service (responded but no data)
- Cape Hatteras National Seashore
- Cape Lookout National Seashore
- The Nature Conservancy

What's the bottom line...

- Invasive plants are in NC
- Resources are strapped
- Controlling invasive plants is very labor intensive
- Improve coordination among agencies and states