

ENVIRONMENTAL DECISIONS ARE COUNTY DECISIONS



ENVIRONMENTAL DECISIONS RARELY ARRIVE LABELED AS “ENVIRONMENTAL” ISSUES

Land and growth

Siting, development patterns, nuisance concerns and future demand.

Infrastructure and water

Roads, drainage, drinking water, wastewater and public facilities.

Public health and waste

Collection, disposal, recycling, illegal dumping and disaster debris.

Budgets and contracts

Rates, fees, grants, capital plans, vendors and long-term obligations.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Local Officials Bound by Regulatory Framework

But also set the policy, funding, service level and appetite for risk.

The question is not **whether** the county is involved—it is **how**.

LAW

A service the county must assure

ASSET

Infrastructure the county owns

PROCESS

A permit, plan or public decision

CHOICE

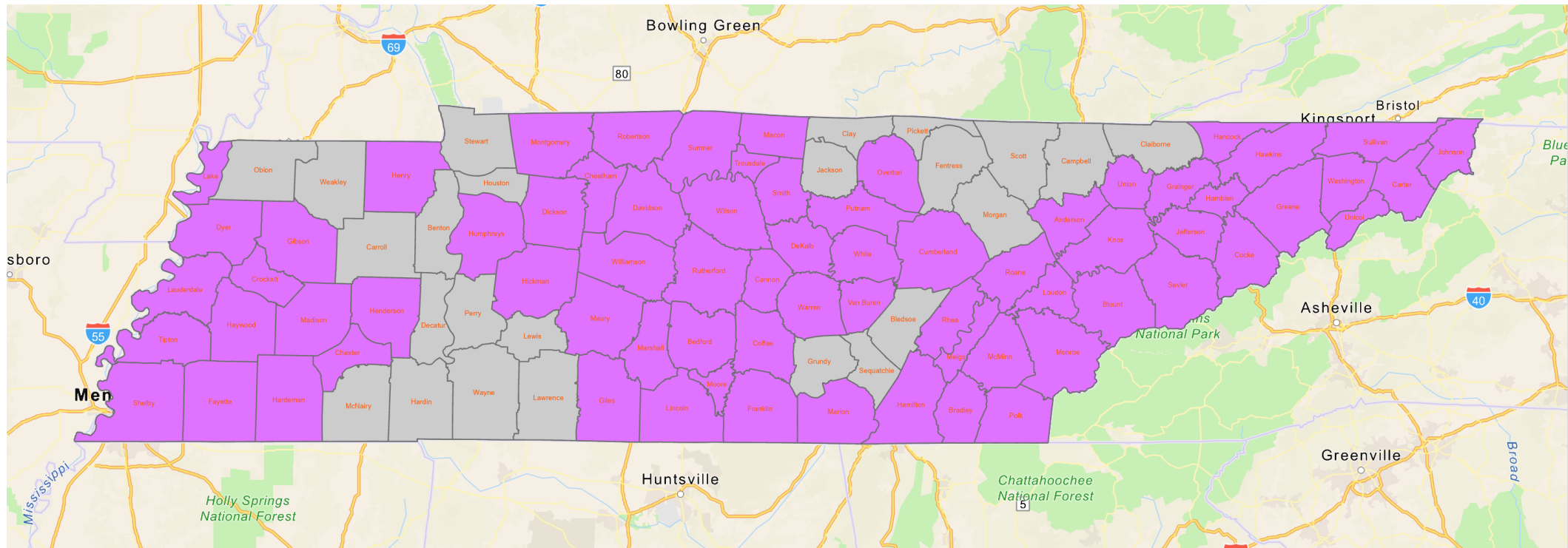
A budget, contract or regional vote

LAND AND GROWTH: TOOLS THE STATE PROVIDES YOU ON THE DEVELOPMENT SIDE



COUNTIES WITH ADOPTED SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

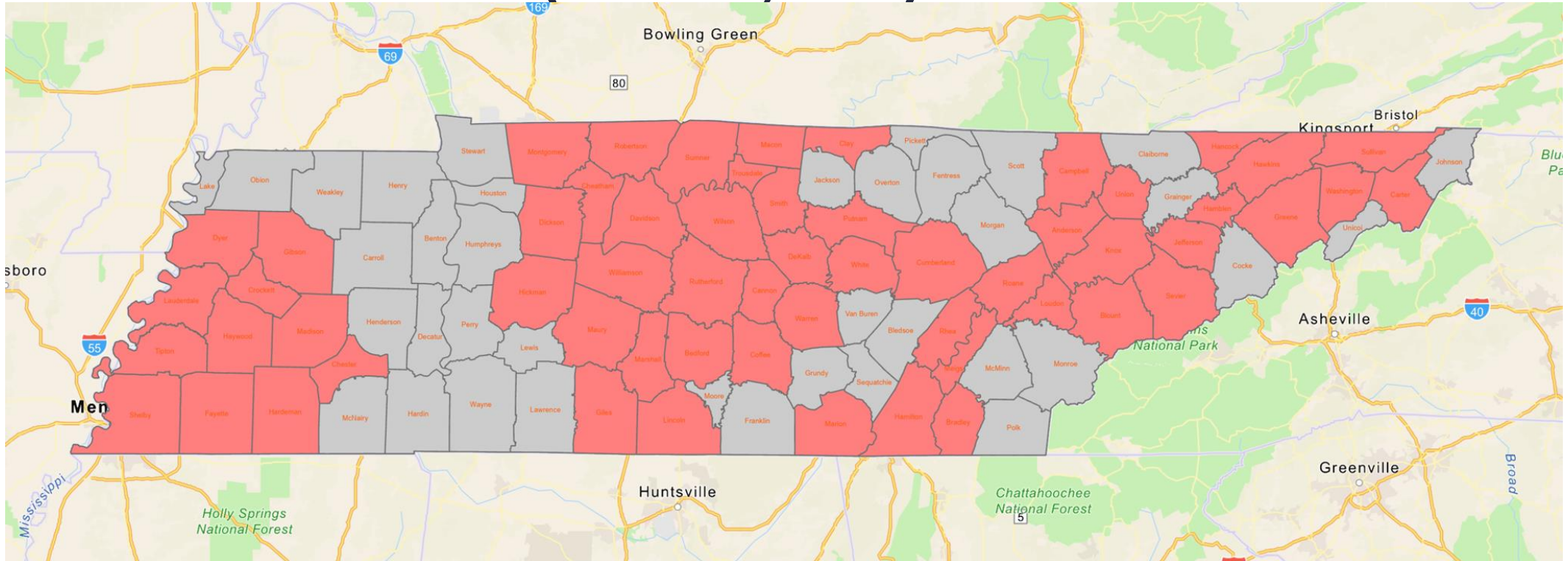
(71 of 95/75%)



Source: University of Tennessee – County Technical Assistance Service

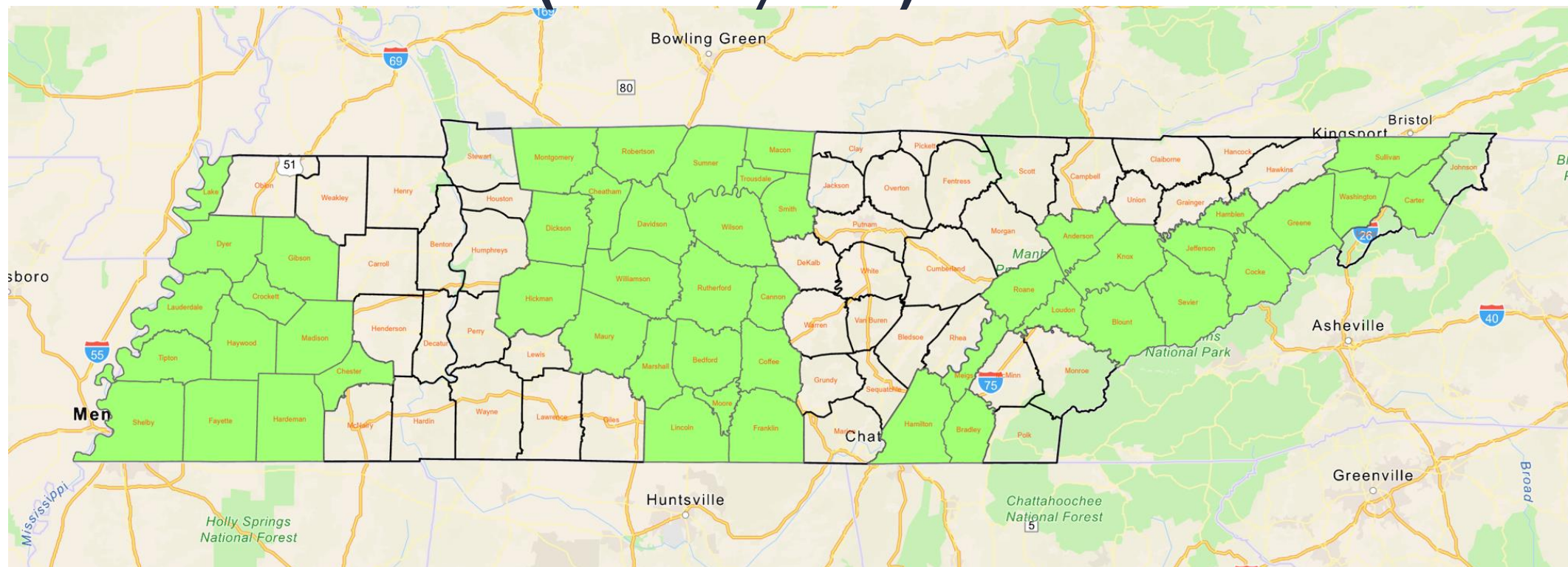
BUILDING

(58 of 95/61%)



COUNTIES WITH ADOPTED ZONING REGULATIONS

(49 of 95/52%)

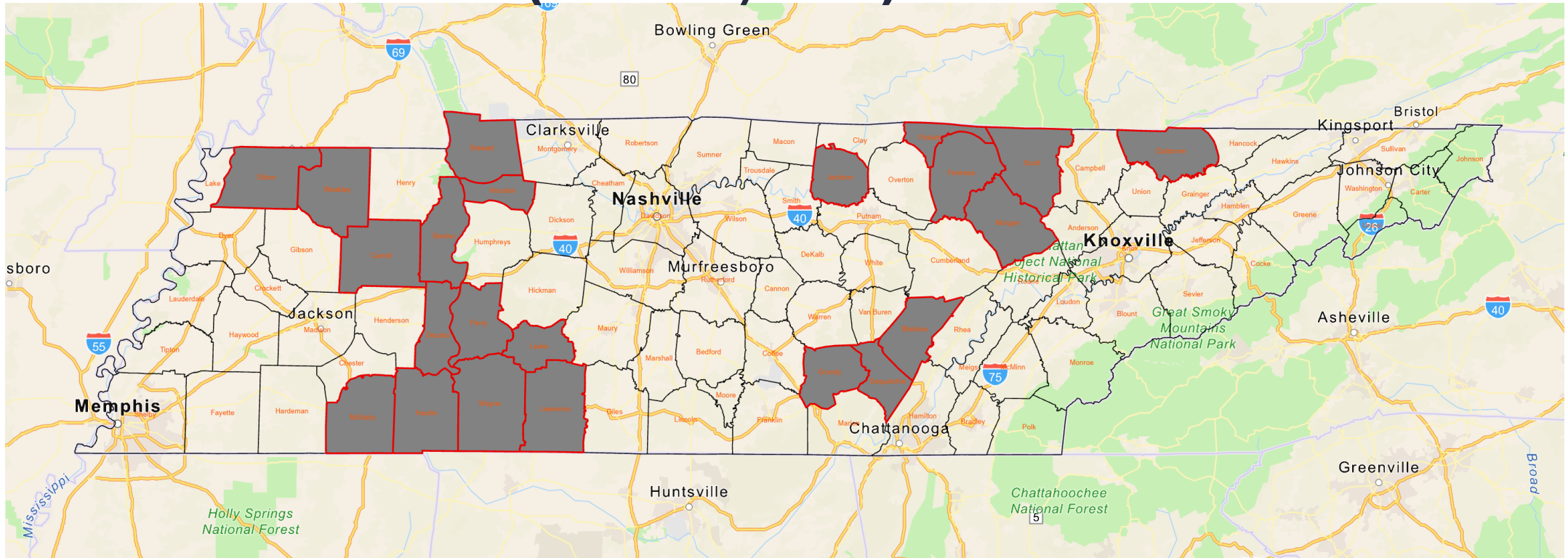


Source: University of Tennessee – County Technical Assistance Service



USE T

(22 of 95/23%)



HOW CTAS CAN HELP...

Technical Assistance Areas

Assistance with developing regulations at the level your county chooses.

Mapping of land use and zoning

Provision of model language on specific land use, drainage, flood plain or other issue.

Assist in determining what is practical and advisable to enforce or undertake.

Training for required continuing education



LAND USE DRAFT BASED OFF ASSESSMENT DATA

Draft Land Use Plan Legend

- ▲ ☒ Incorporated CITY Parcels

- ▲ ☒ AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL LIVING

- ▲ ☒ LOWDENSITYRESIDENTIAL 5 acres or less

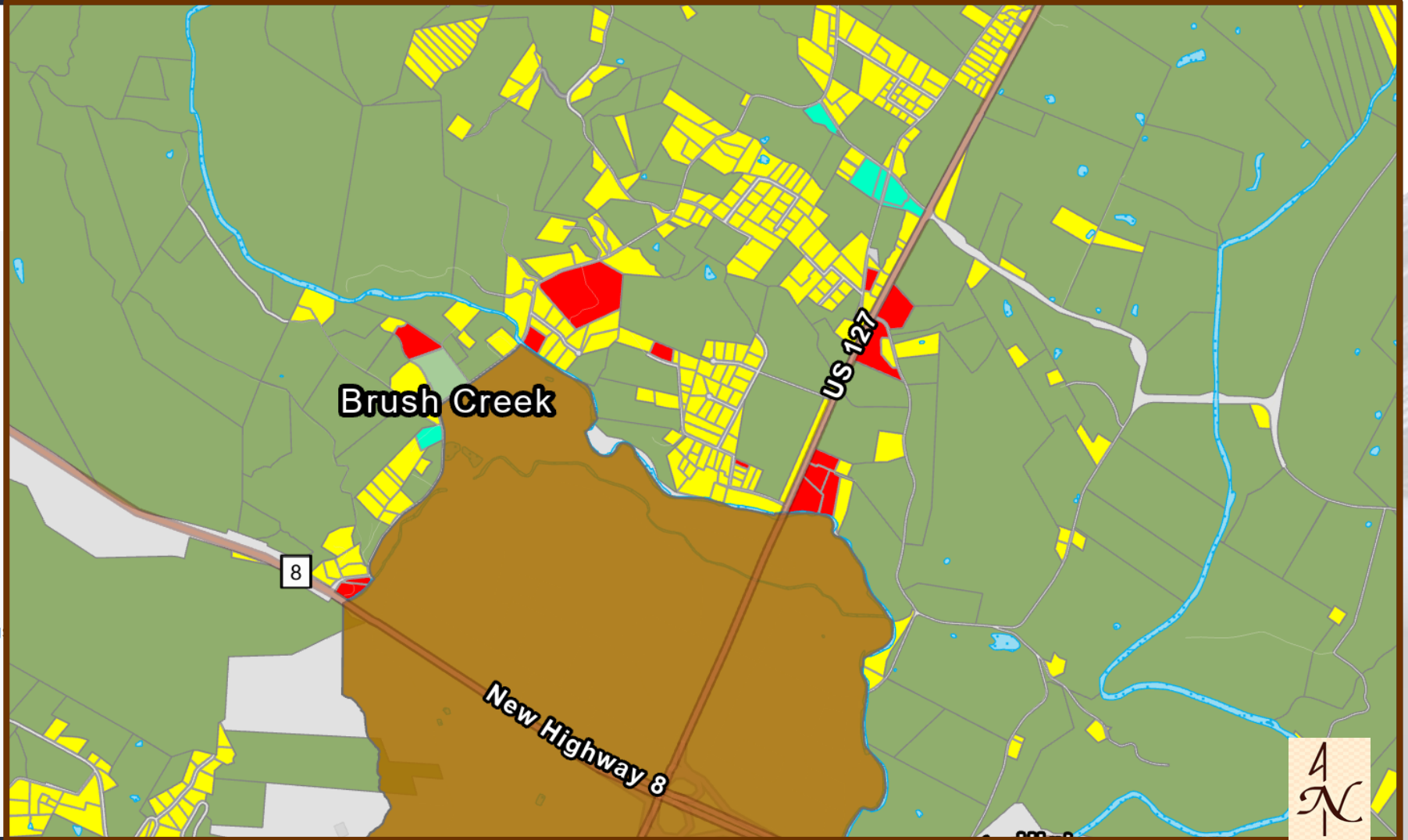
- ▲ ☒ Commercial

- ▲ ☒ Industrial

- ▲ ☒ Local, State, and Federal Government Holding

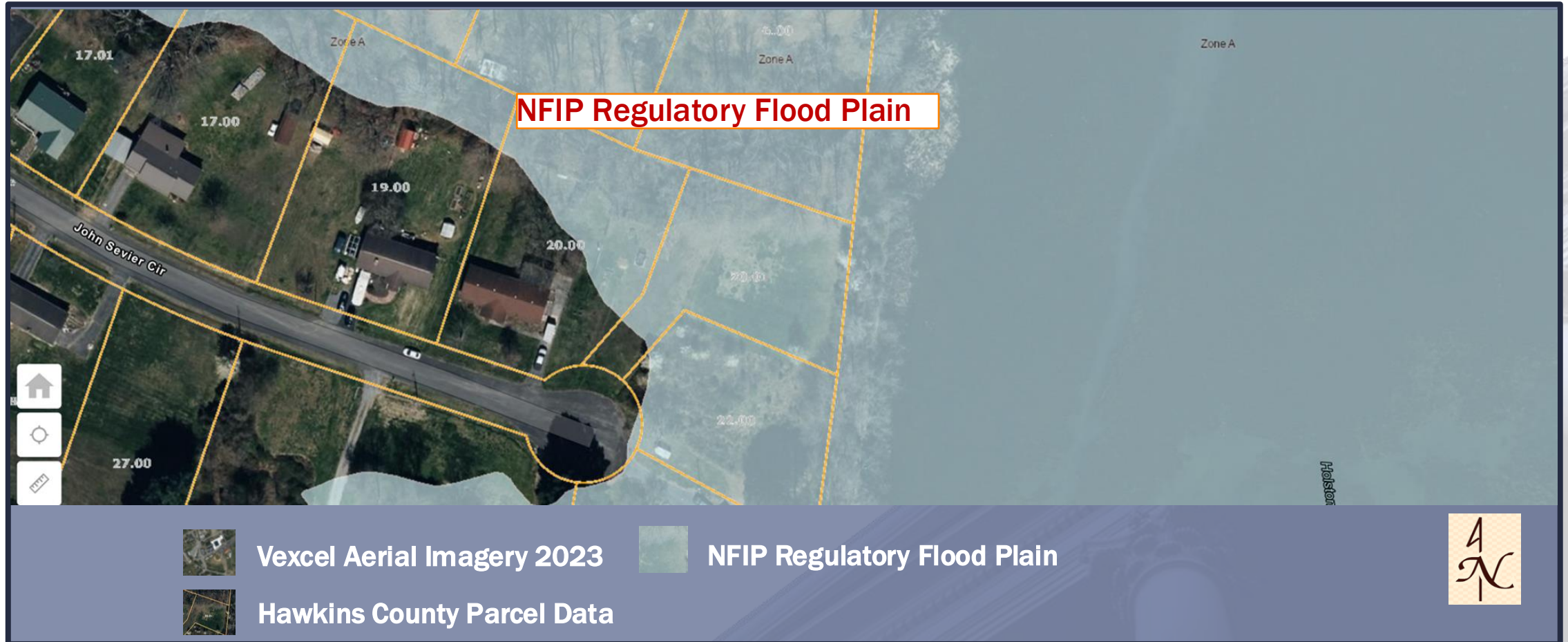
- ▲ ☒ State Assesed Propert (Railroad, etc)

- ▲ ☒ Religious, Charitable, Civic Outreach

Source: University of Tennessee – County Technical Assistance Service

TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE IN FLOOD PLAIN ADMINISTRATION AND STORM WATER PROGRAM MANAGEMENT



Source: University of Tennessee – County Technical Assistance Service

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION: INFRASTRUCTURE, WATER, PUBLIC HEALTH AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Counties must implement and follow federal, state, and local environmental regulations with eye towards efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Environmental regulations implemented through:

- **Solid Waste Departments**
- **Highway Departments**
- **Public Works Departments**
- **Stormwater Departments**
- **Planning Departments**
- **Regional and State Transportation Organizations**

HOW COUNTIES IMPLEMENT WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

- Through **MS4's and Stormwater Ordinances**
- Through Public Works Best Practices: **Erosion Control, Pollution Prevention**
- Through **Development Permitting**: Construction and Post Construction Practices
- Through **Zoning**: limitations in areas with high-quality water bodies, impaired waterways, or wellhead protection areas. Restrictions on steep slopes, Septic, Industrial siting
- Through **Subdivision regulations**: Developers are required to have Stormwater management and Erosion and Sediment Controls

PUBLIC HEALTH/SAFETY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT: SOLID WASTE RESPONSIBILITIES

STATE

Sets the framework

TDEC plans, regulates, permits and reviews.

REGION

Plans the system

The regional board looks ten years ahead and reports annually.

COUNTY

Assures service

The county provides, contracts for or authorizes collection and disposal.

SOLID WASTE DUTIES

County Responsibilities:

- Proper management of solid waste collection, transfer, transport, processing, and disposal
 - (Includes recycling, diversion, waste tire management and problem waste collection)

Solid Waste Region Responsibilities:

- Must have Solid Waste Plan
- Must meet 25% Waste Reduction Goal
- Must provide for Community Education



IN 2026 THE CHALLENGE IS HOW TO IMPROVE THE SYSTEM, BOTH LOCALLY AND STATEWIDE

CAPACITY

Where will the next decade of waste go?

HAUL DISTANCE

Time, fuel, equipment and missed service.

CONTRACTS

Price, escalation clauses and bargaining power.

WORKFORCE

Drivers, attendants, operators and supervisors.

SITING

Need, consent, conflict and public trust.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Aging centers, transfer, compost and fleets.

DIVERSION

Markets, organics, contamination and reporting.

DISASTER

Debris surges can overwhelm an ordinary system.

FORTHCOMING: SOLID WASTE 10-YEAR PLANS

**NOV
2026**

State Plan

TDEC's statewide direction is scheduled for publication.

**JUNE
2027**

New rules

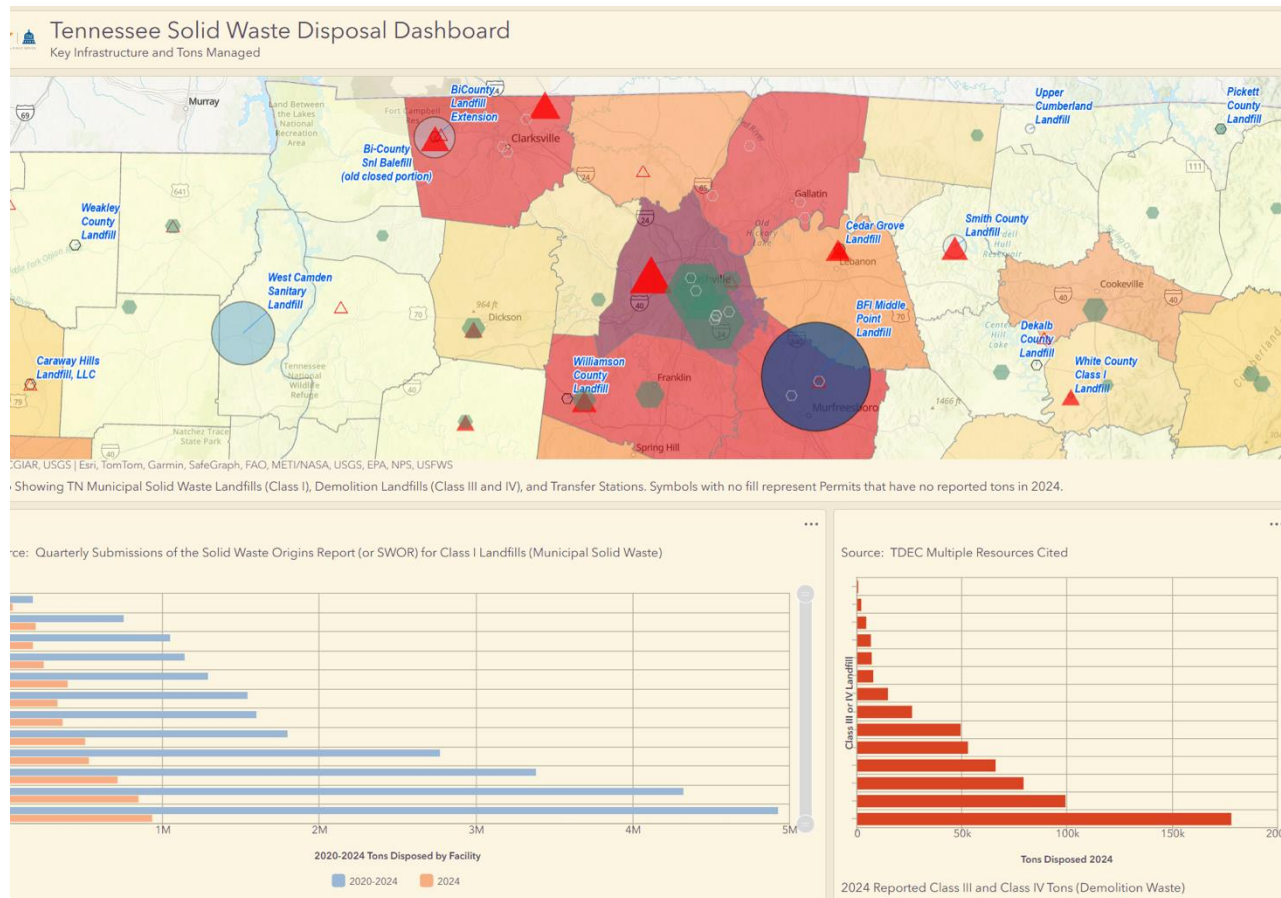
Regional-plan review criteria are scheduled to be published.

**JULY 1,
2028**

Regional Plans

Regions submit plans aligned with statute, rules and the State Plan.

HOW CTAS CAN HELP...



Solid Waste Technical Assistance Areas

Facility Siting, Permitting and Regulatory Compliance

Long-Range Planning

Problem Waste and Waste Reduction

Drone Mapping/GIS

Training

Cost Effectiveness/Benchmarking

RFPs/RFQs

CTAS DRONE PROGRAM: HOW CAN WE HELP?

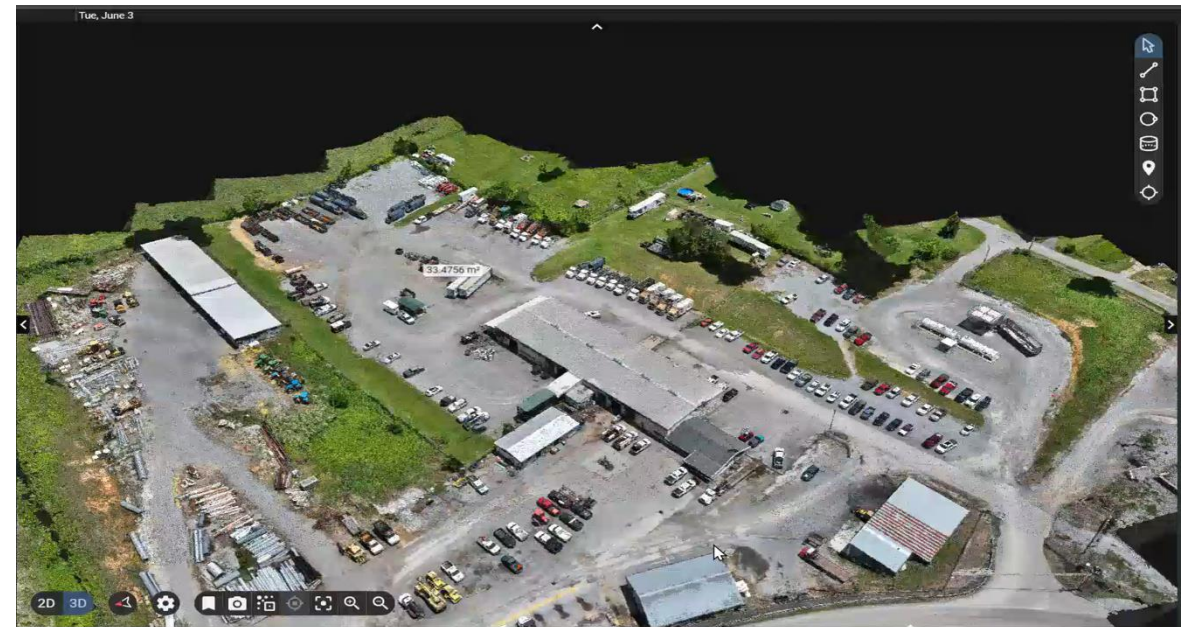
Build the baseline before you need it

BASELINE>Create Asset Inventories for Preparedness, Insurance, and Planning

Map county facilities-schools, courthouses, jails, parks, highway assets and other critical assets.

REPEAT

Re-fly the same sites to document condition, quantities, progress and change.



ASSET INVENTORIES: FOR PREPAREDNESS, INSURANCE, AND PLANNING

BEFORE

- **Record priority assets**

Roads, bridges, culverts, slopes, facilities and staging sites.

PLAN

- **Set the flight plan**

Priorities, access, safety, contacts and the information needed.

AFTER

- **Re-fly the same ground**

Compare damage, access, debris and recovery against the baseline.

THREE WAYS CTAS CAN HELP YOU

1

Request a simple flight

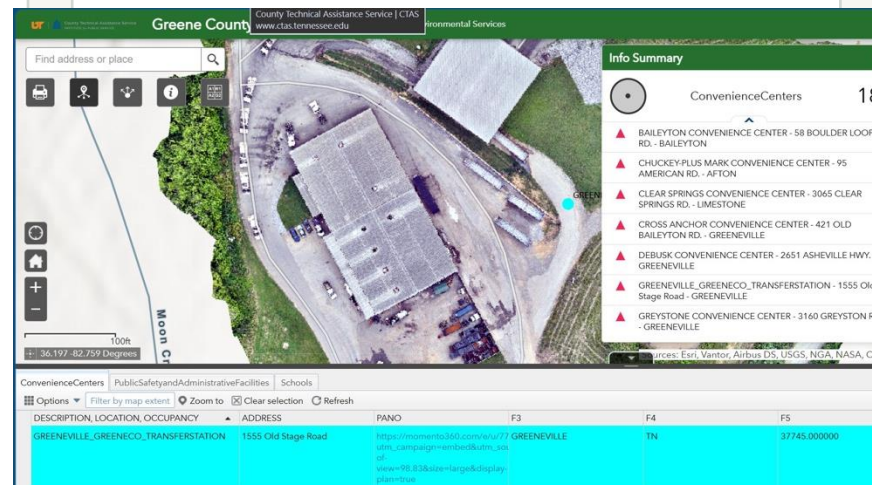
Photos, video, rapid documentation, public communication



2

Request a mapping project

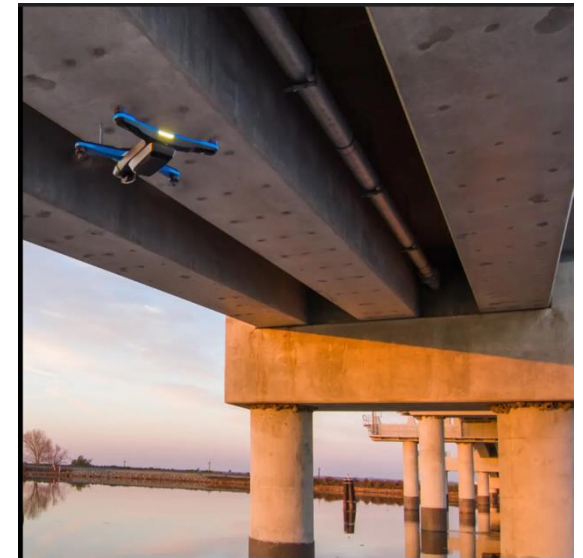
Orthomosaic, terrain, contours, volume, GIS-ready products



3

Build an internal program

Recurring demand, trained staff, equipment, software, data management



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE CONSULTANTS



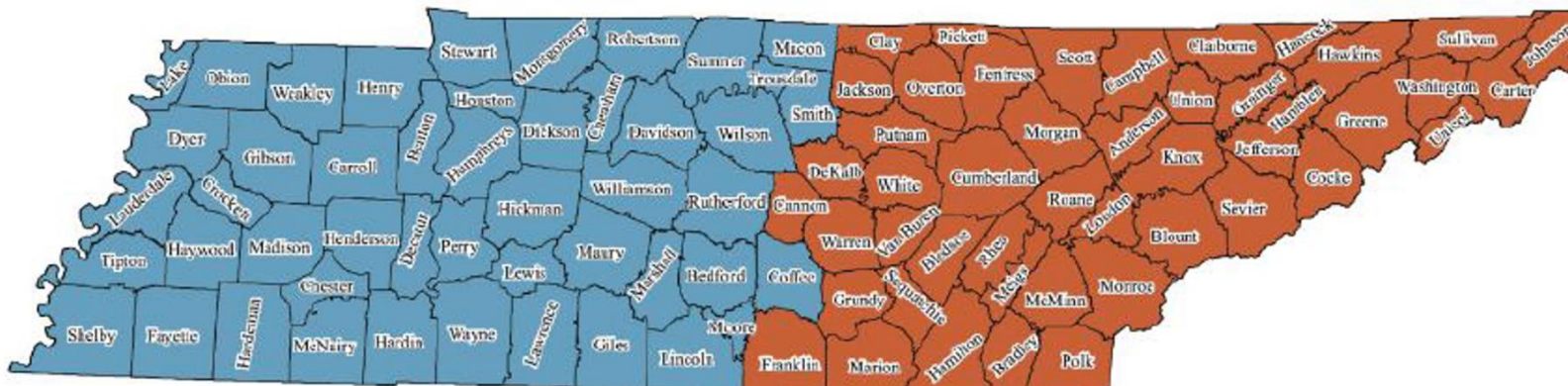
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