Louisiana Watershed Initiative

Sustainability and resilience through science, engineering and objective decision making

Objective

Develop a common understanding of known flood risks, vulnerabilities and priorities in Region 7

Building on previous efforts

Region 7 planning and policy professionals worked with LWI to identify these priorities based on their region's flood risk and mitigation needs.

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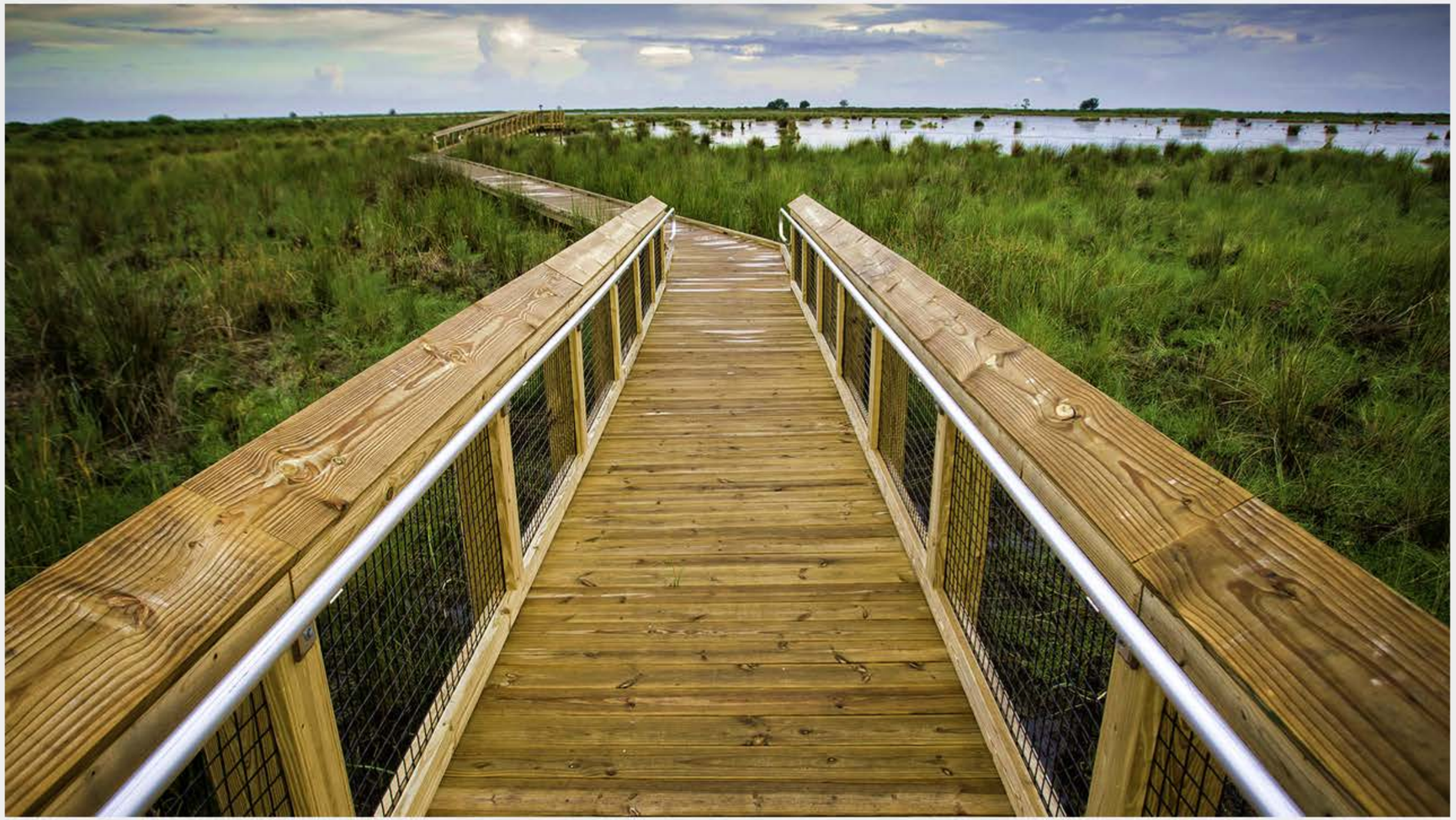
1. Region 7 flood risk assessment
2. Break
3. Group mapping exercise
4. Report out
5. Public comment

Some things to ask yourself as you listen to the presentation:

- Does the data discussed accurately and completely reflect your region's flood risk profile?
- Are there additional datasets you rely on that help communicate regional priorities and perceived vulnerabilities that we might not be showing?
- Are there opportunities to leverage natural resources to address flooding challenges that you can highlight for the group?
- Are there other concerns you are aware of related to improved watershed management? Can you highlight



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Flood risk assessment

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1. Build a common vocabulary
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Parishes in Region 7

Working together to address risk at the watershed scale

- West Feliciana Parish
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- St. Helena Parish
- Tangipahoa Parish
- Washington Parish
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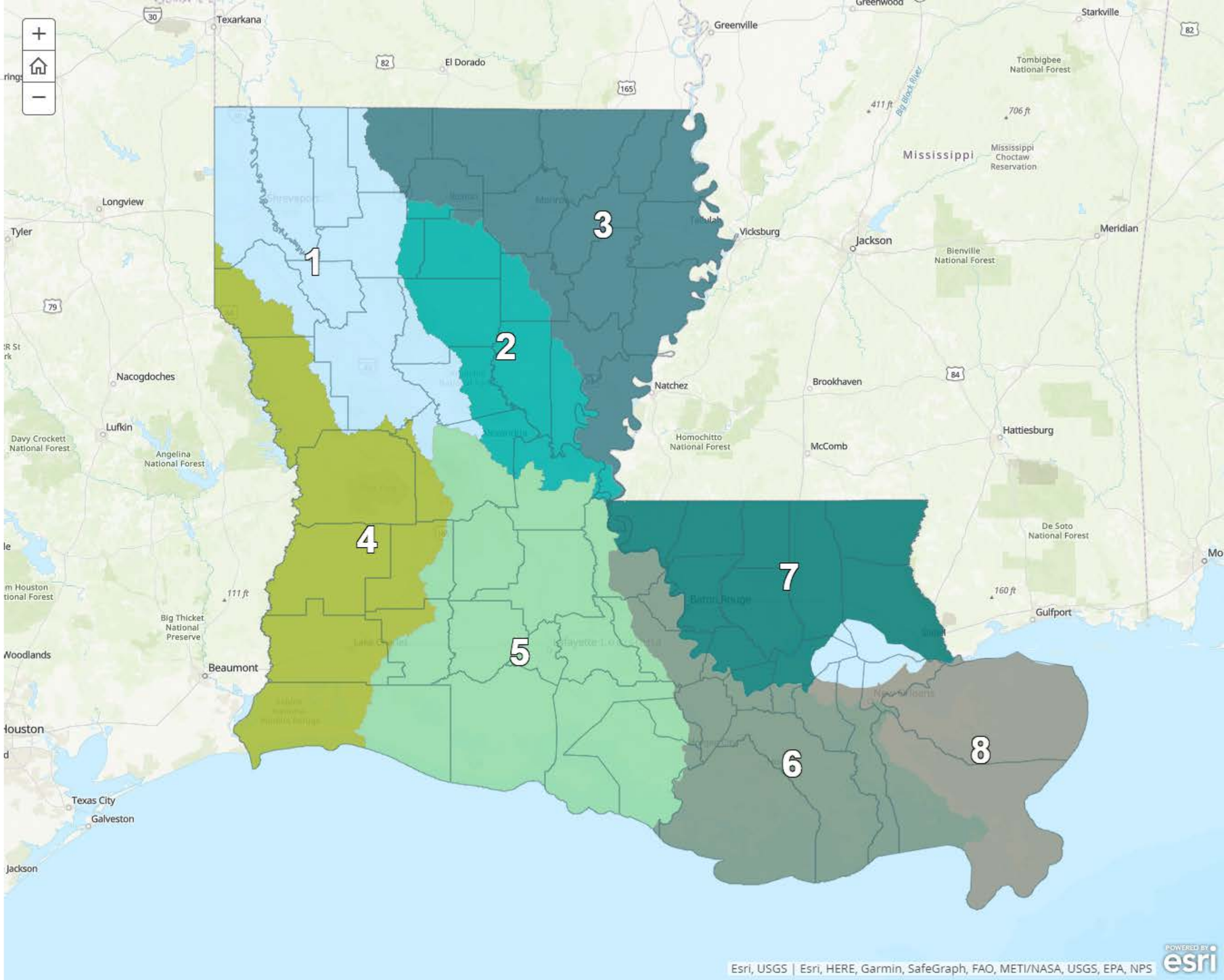

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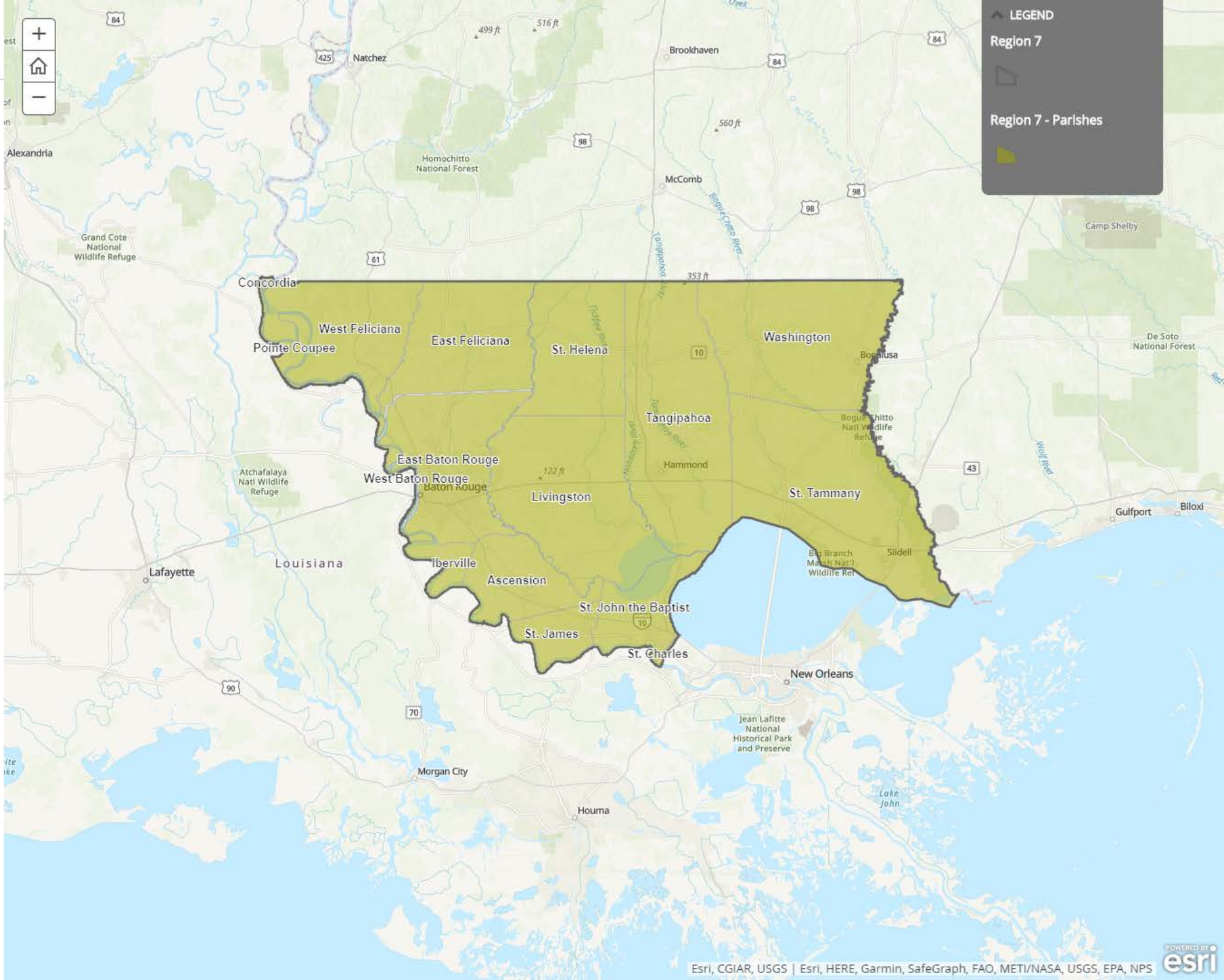
Region 7 watersheds

Hydrology: a science that deals with the properties, distribution and circulation of water on and below Earth's surface and in the atmosphere

Types of flood risk



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We must consider all types of flood risk to effectively manage flood risk within Region 7 watersheds.

Types of flood risk

- Coastal floods: surge and tidal
- Fluvial floods: river floods
- Pluvial floods: rainfall-induced flash floods and urban flooding
- Backwater floods

Coastal floods: surge and tidal

Storm surge from the winds and waves of tropical storms and hurricanes causes coastal floods. The changing tides also have a compounding impact on these types of floods.

Future flood risk: coastal surge floods

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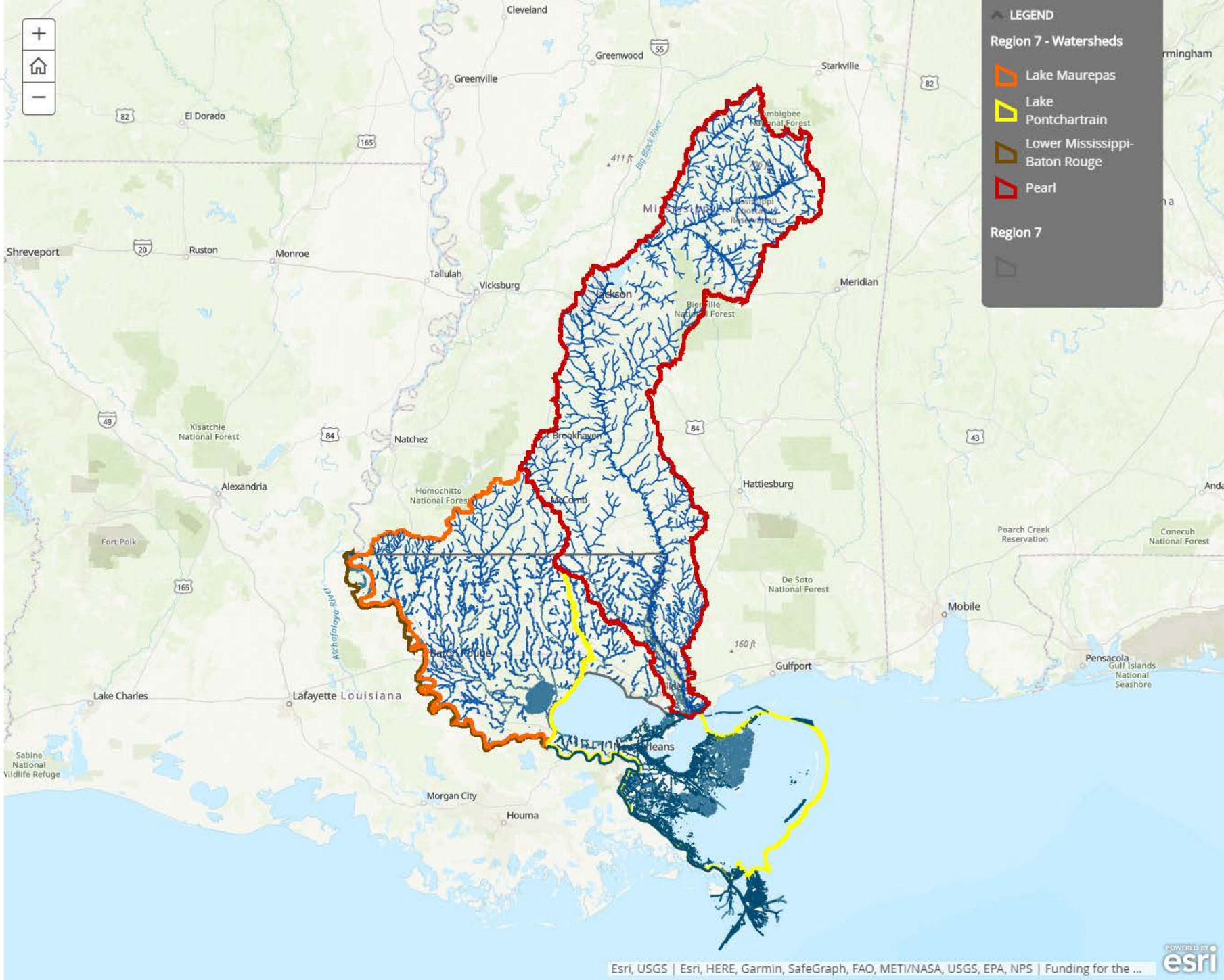

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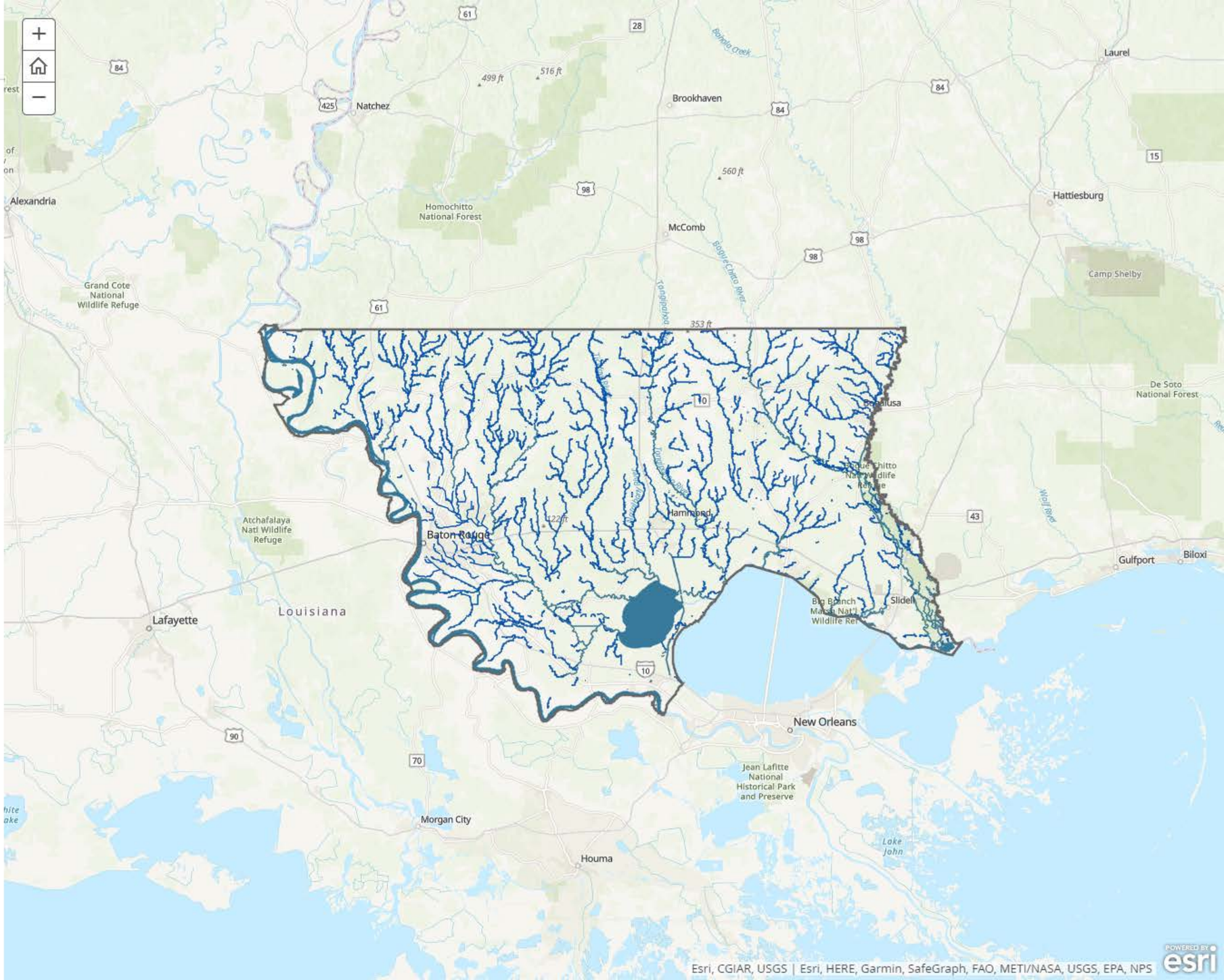

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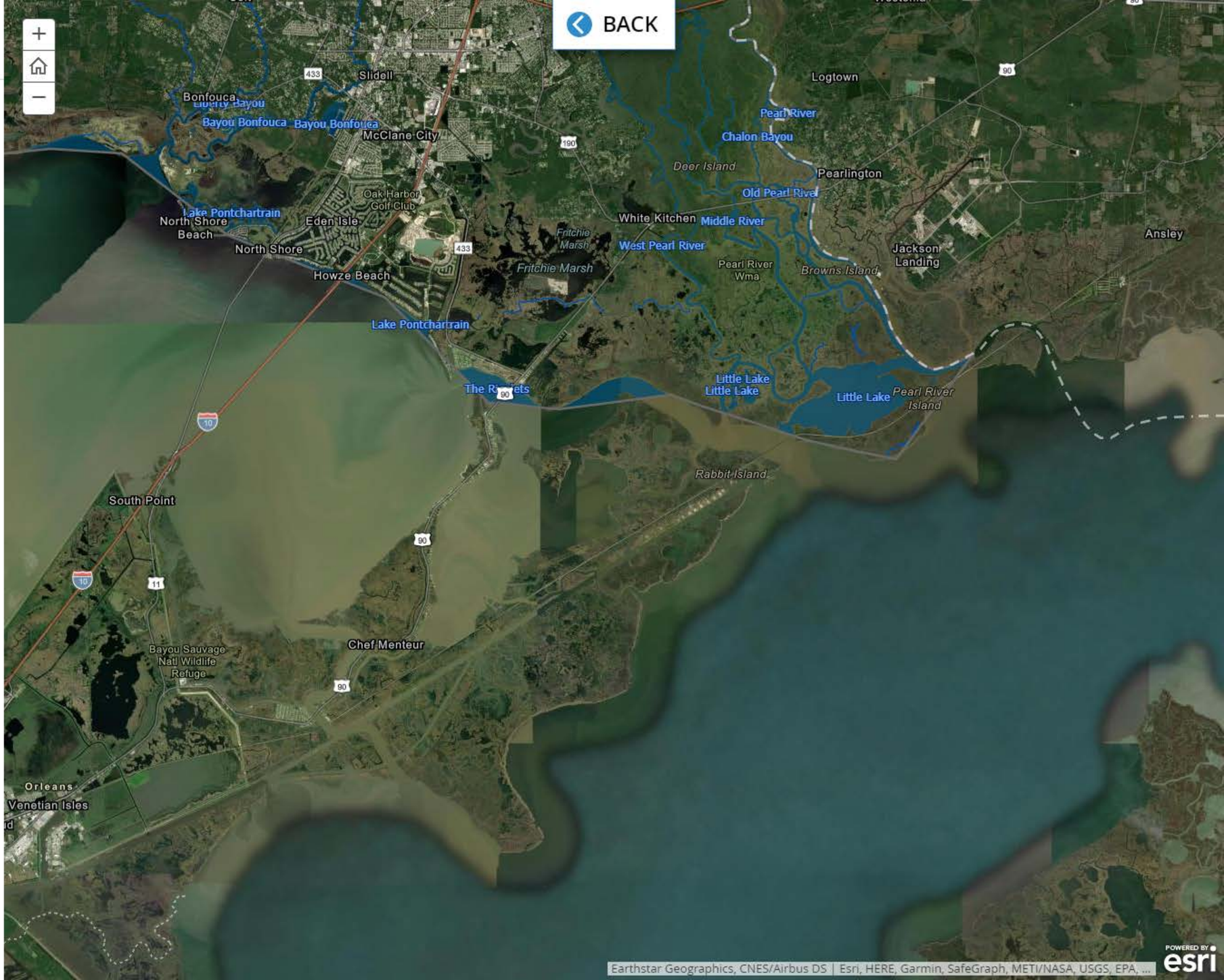

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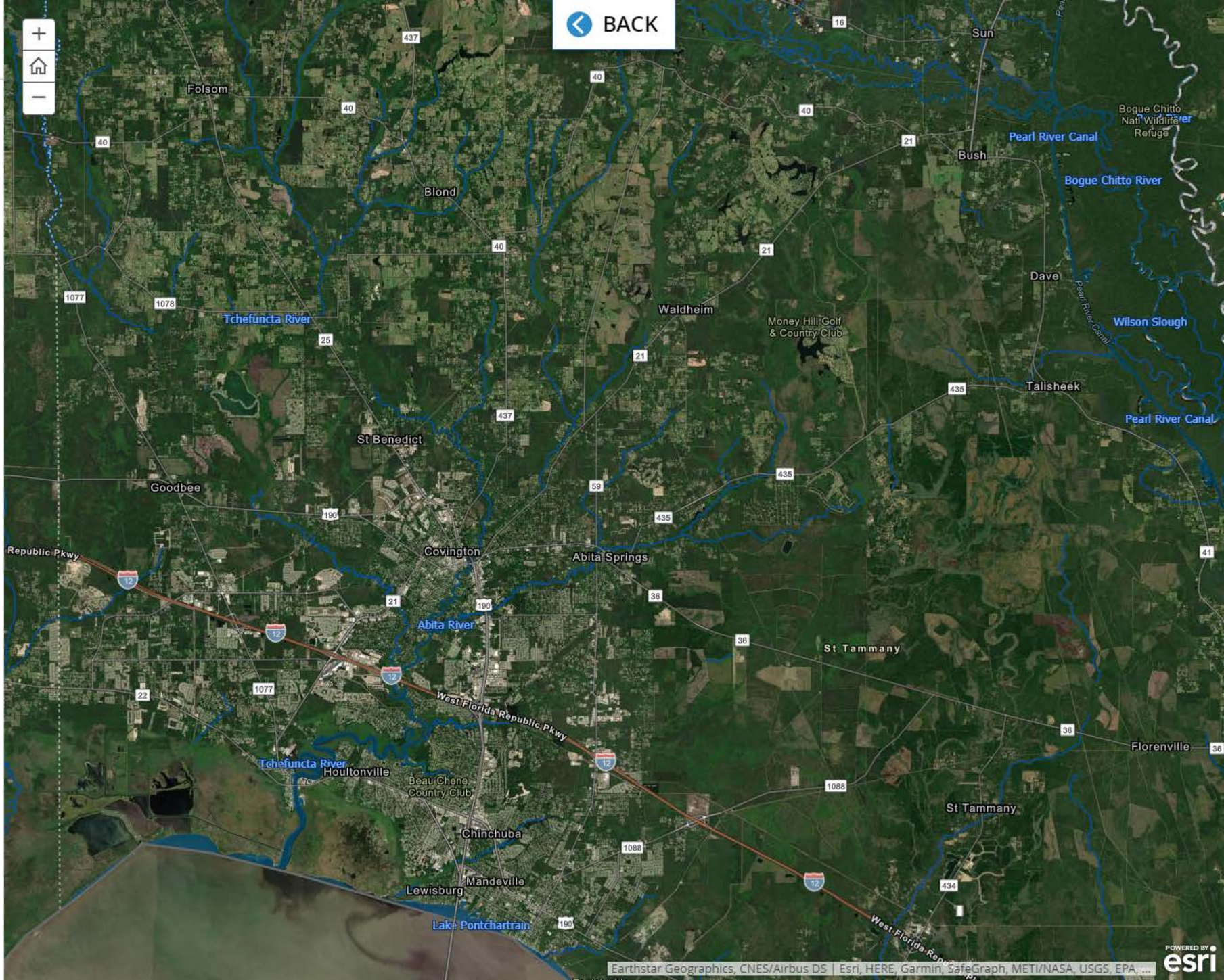

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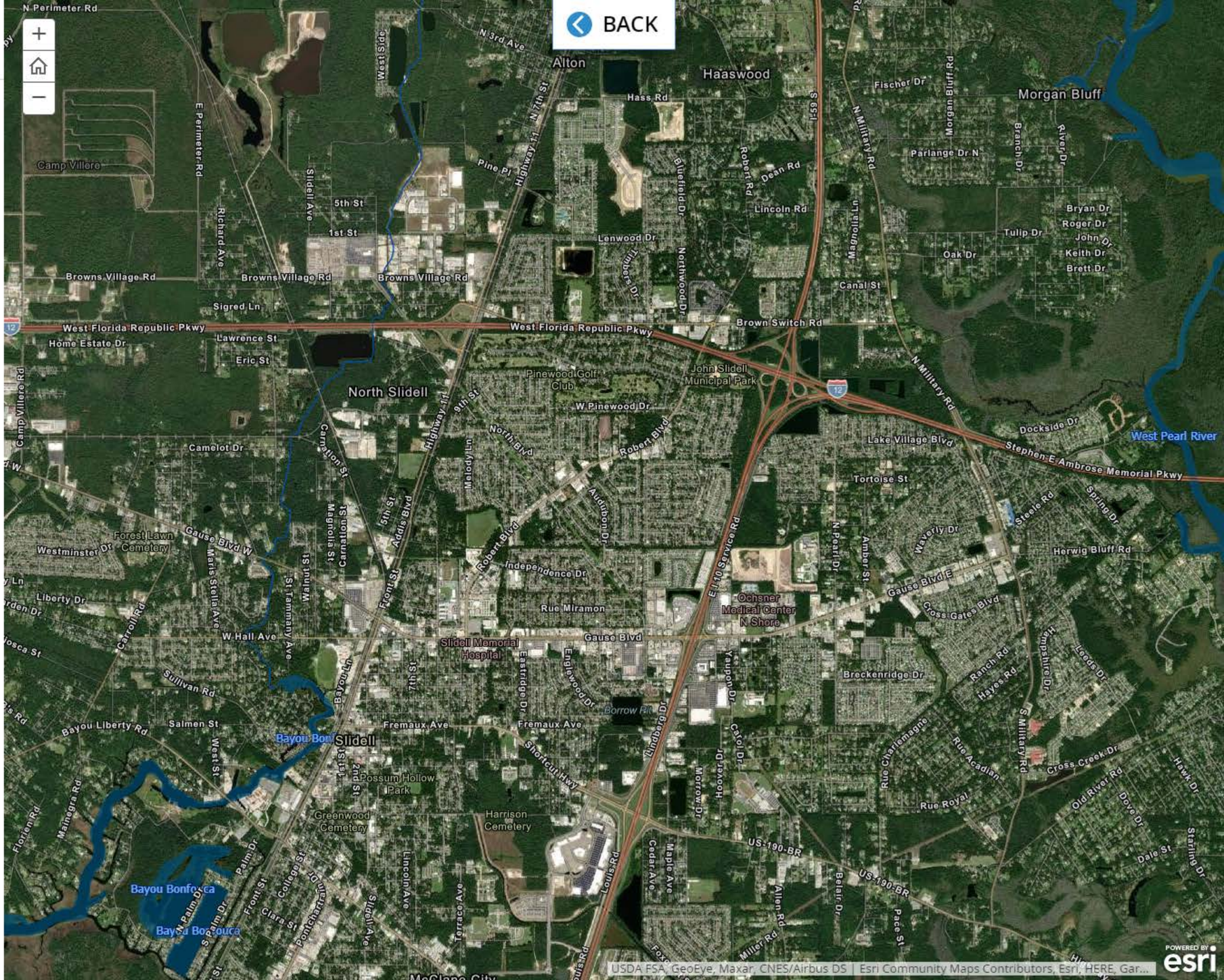

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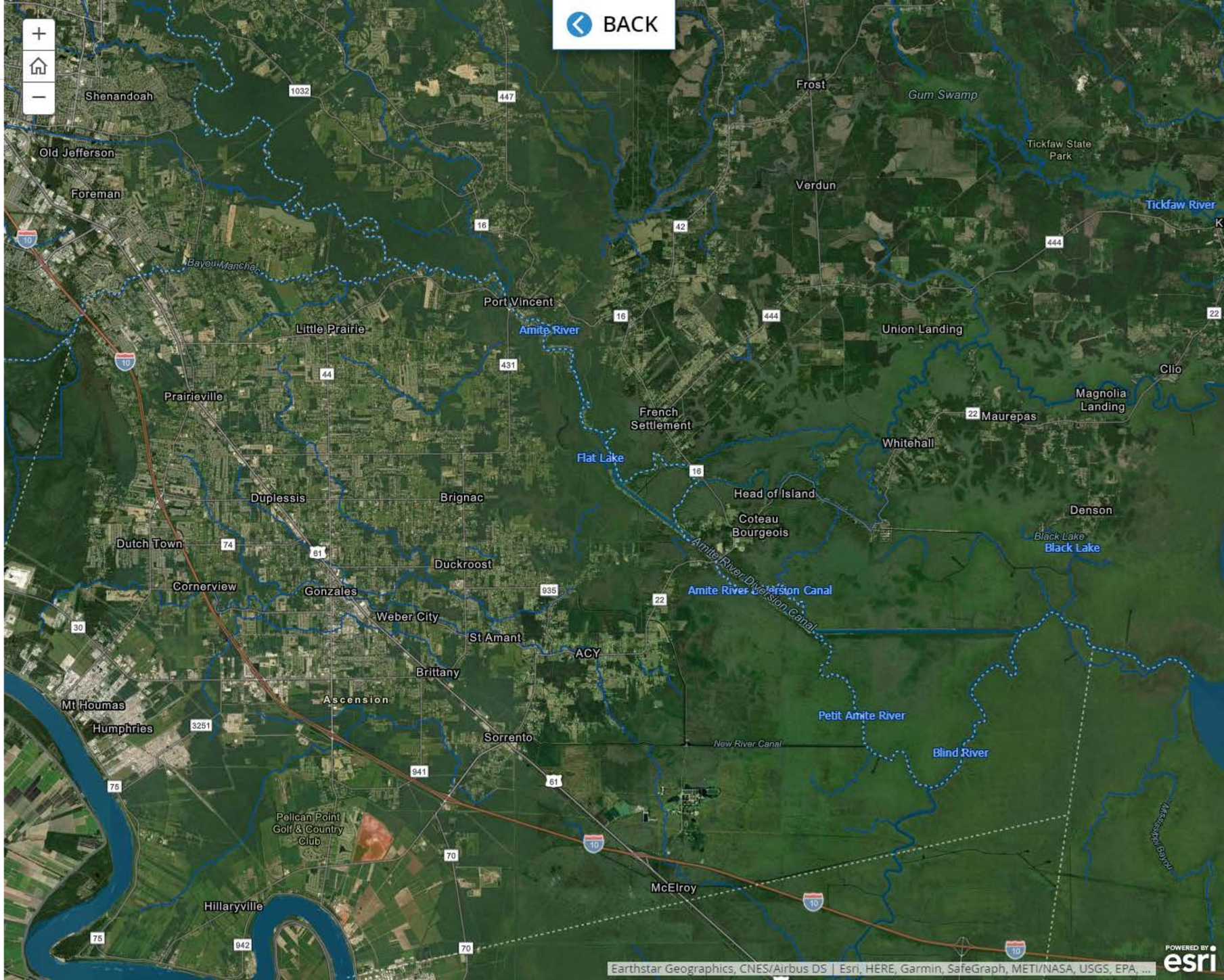

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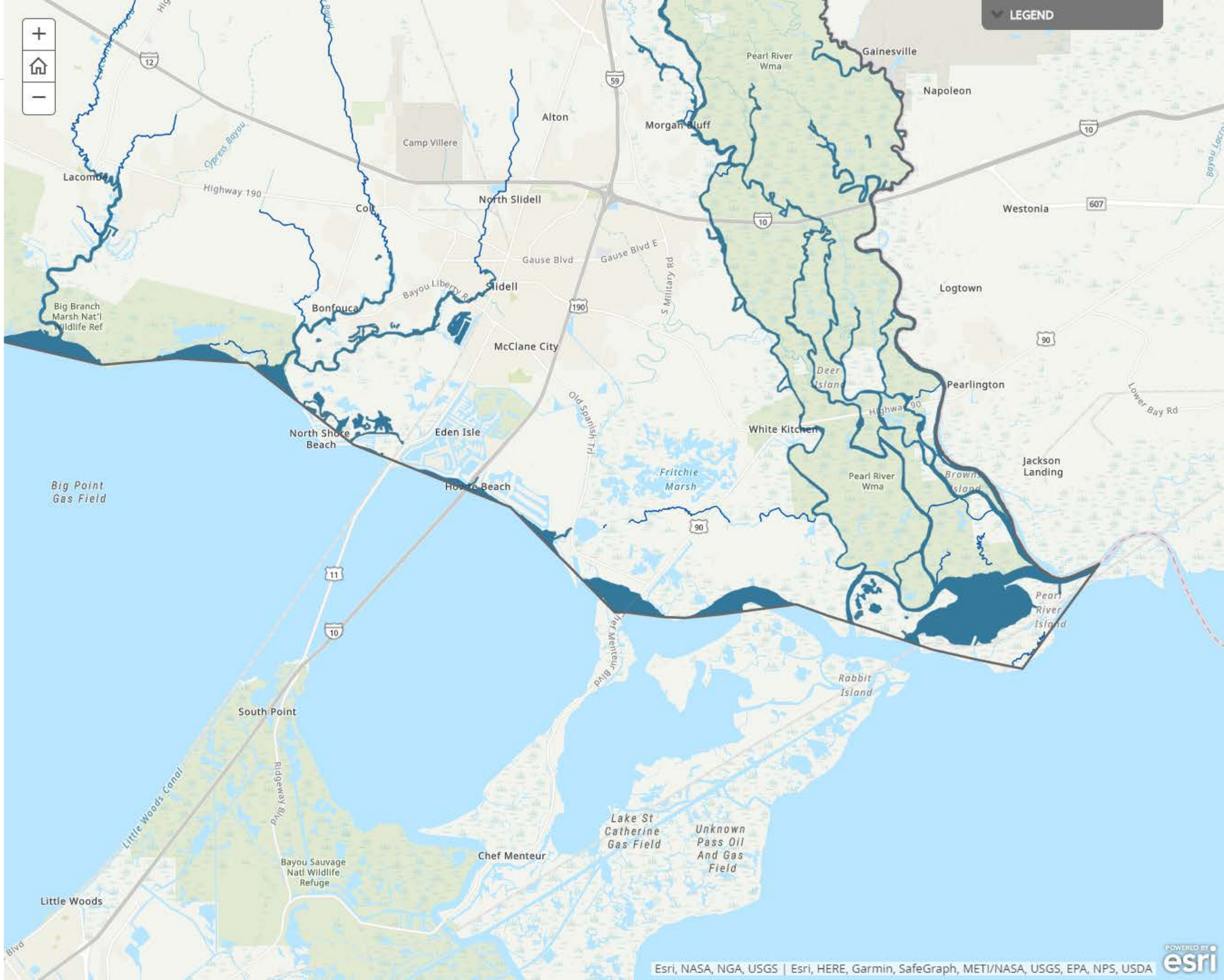

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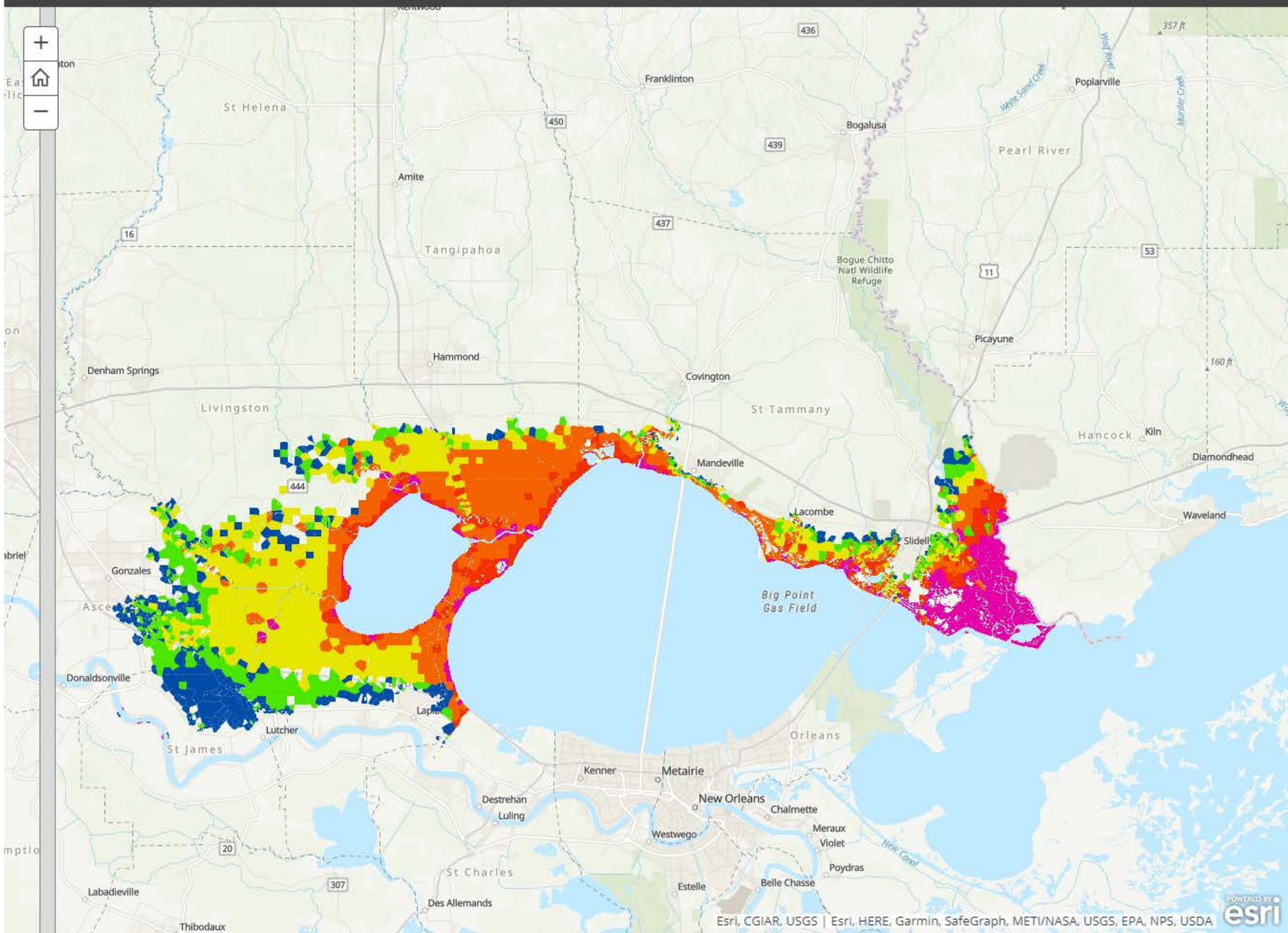

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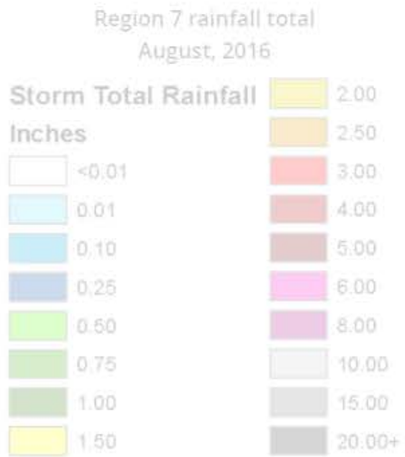

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Region 7 rainfall total
August, 2016

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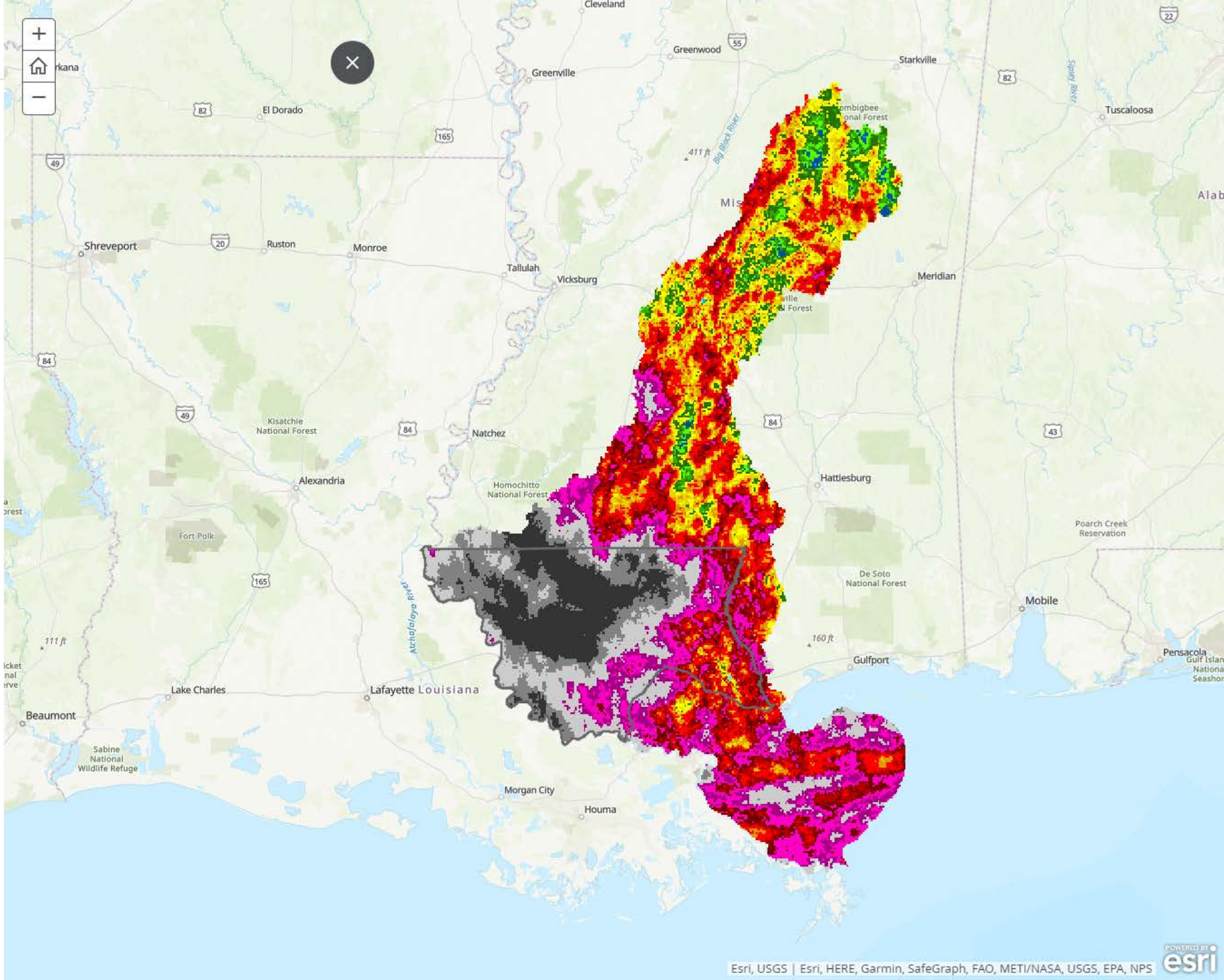

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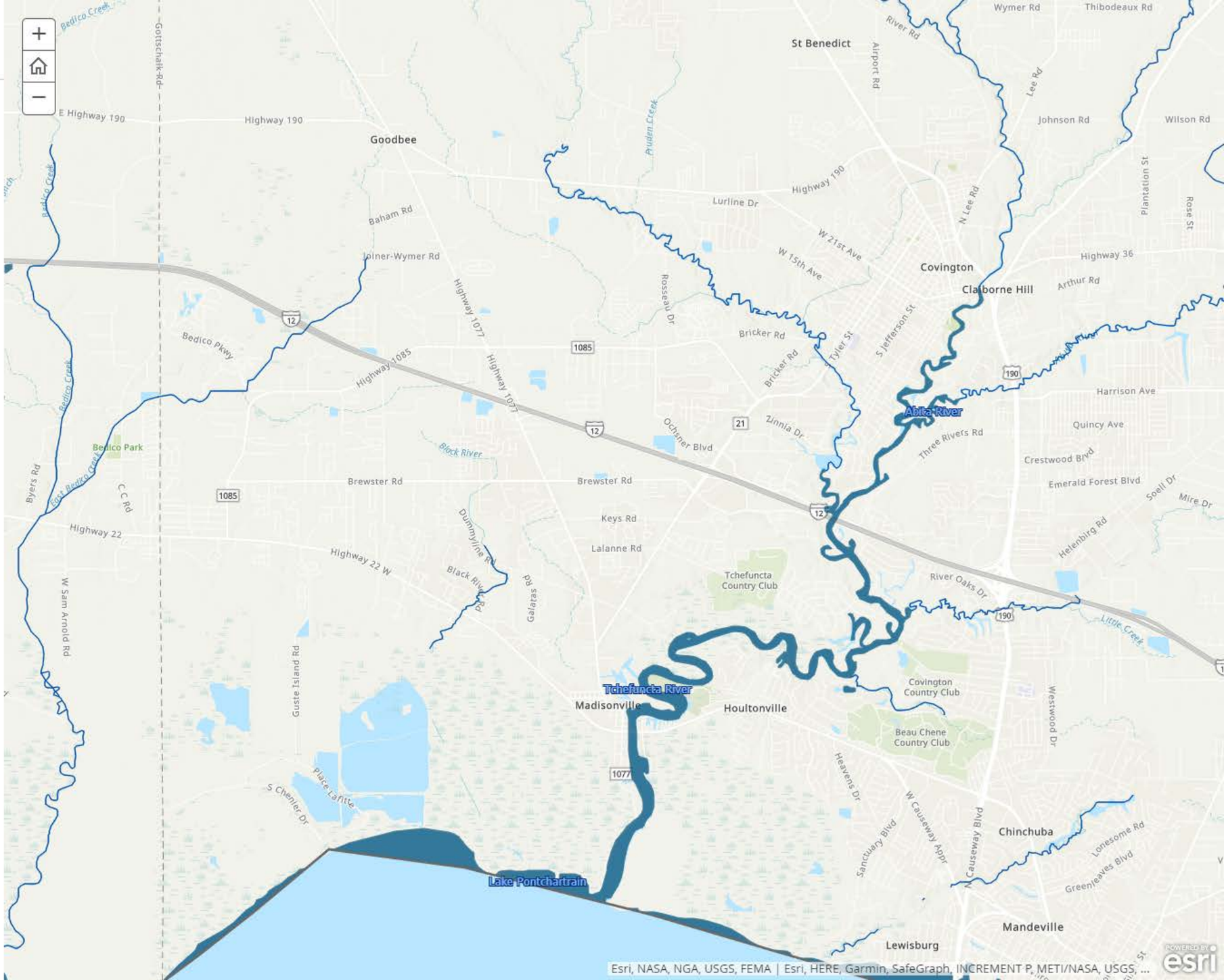
Baker/Zachary

Recent pluvial flood events

Region 7 pluvial flood events occurred in May, June and July 2020.

Backwater floods

Backwater flooding is upstream flooding caused by downstream conditions such as channel restrictions and/or high flow in a downstream confluence stream.



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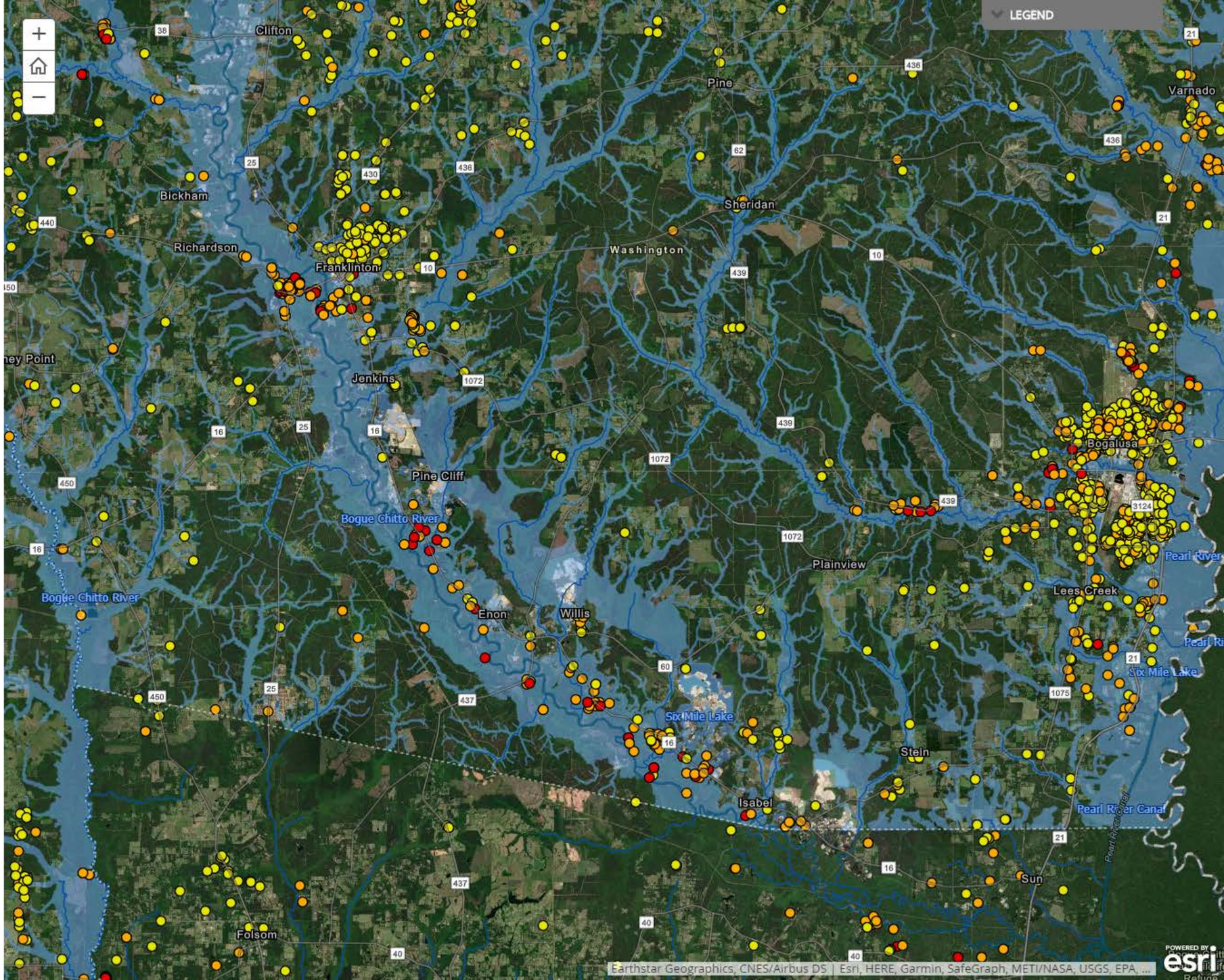

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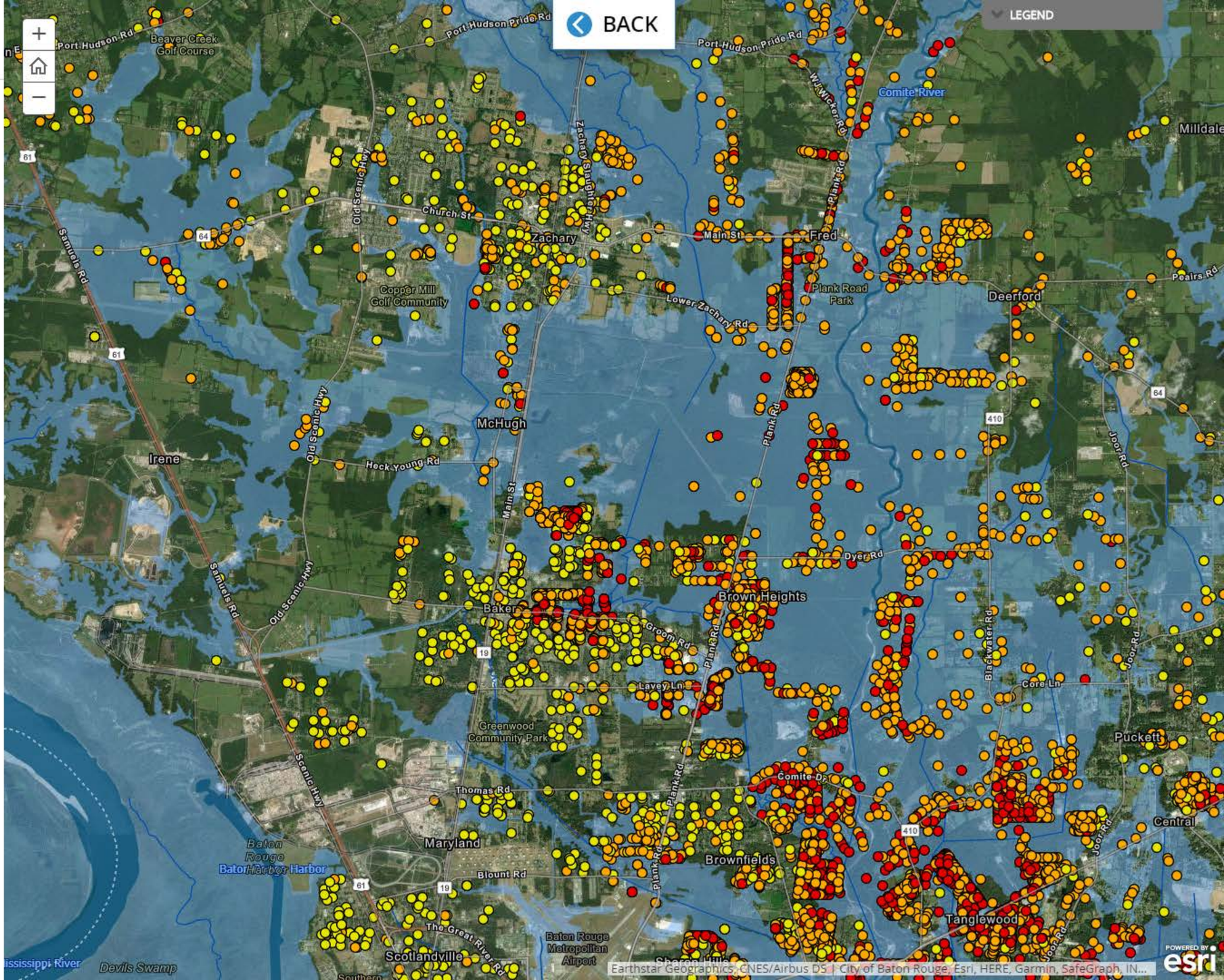

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FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas:

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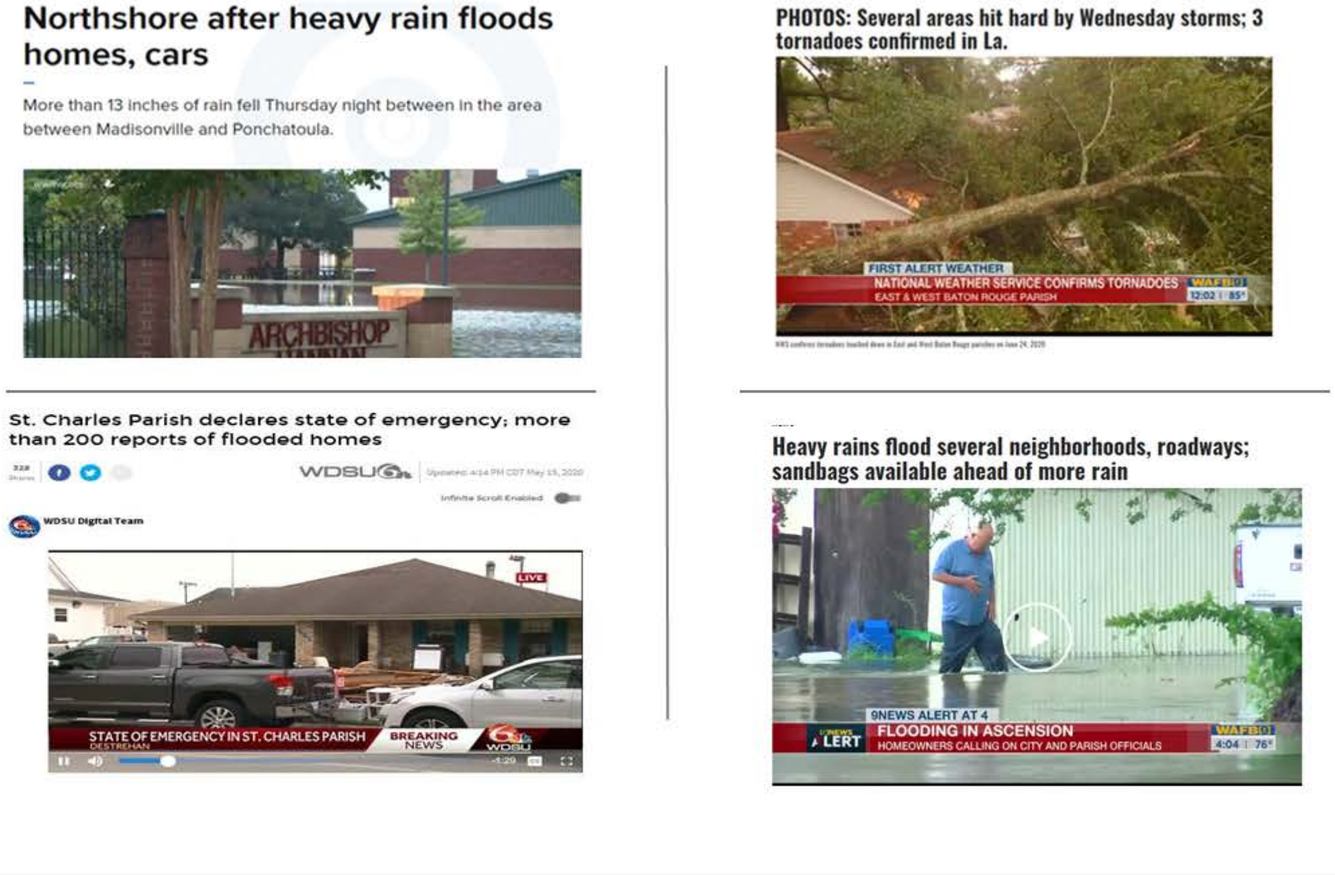
Region 7: 44% is located in a SFHA and is subject to flooding.



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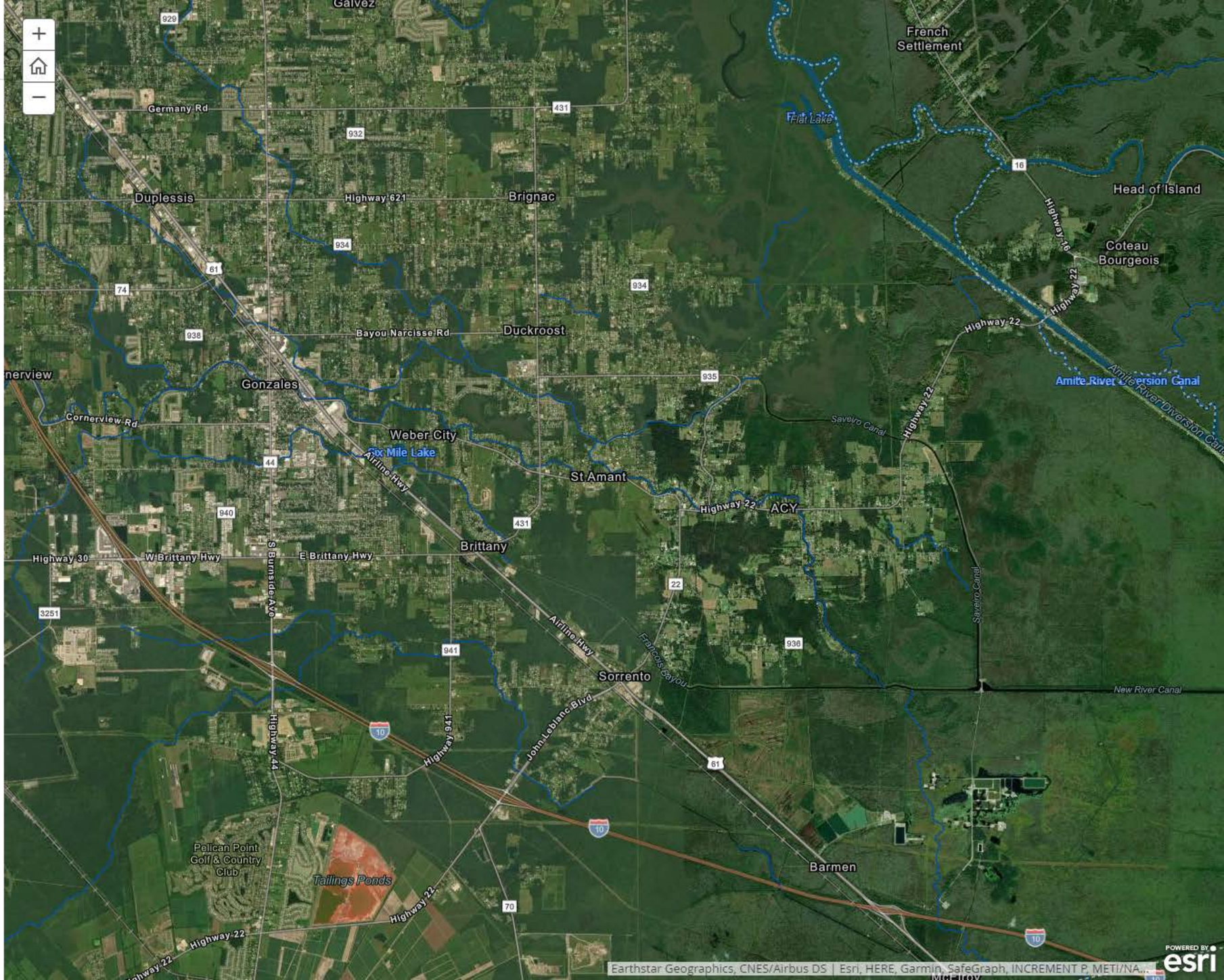

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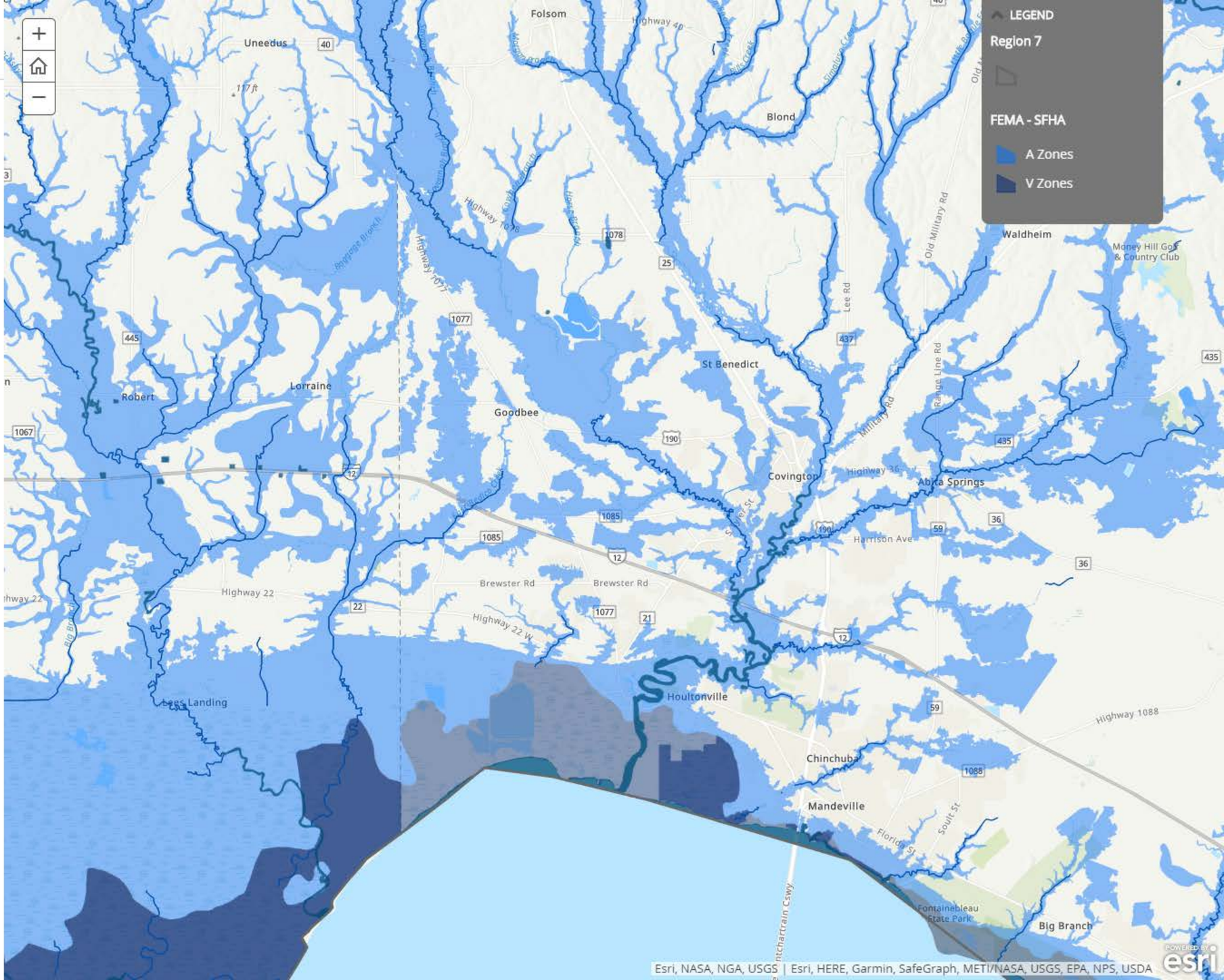

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FEMA Repetitive and Severe Repetitive Loss data

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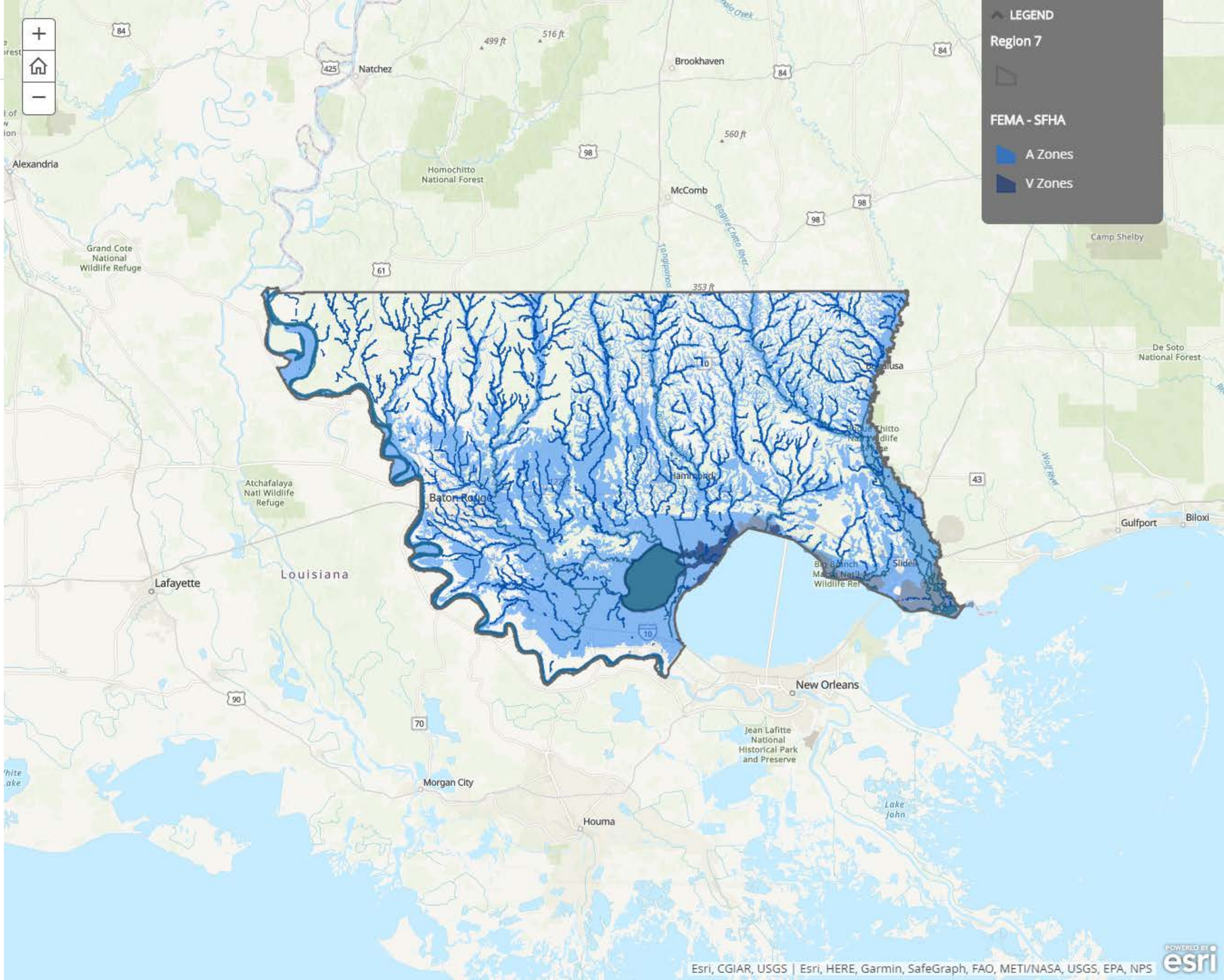

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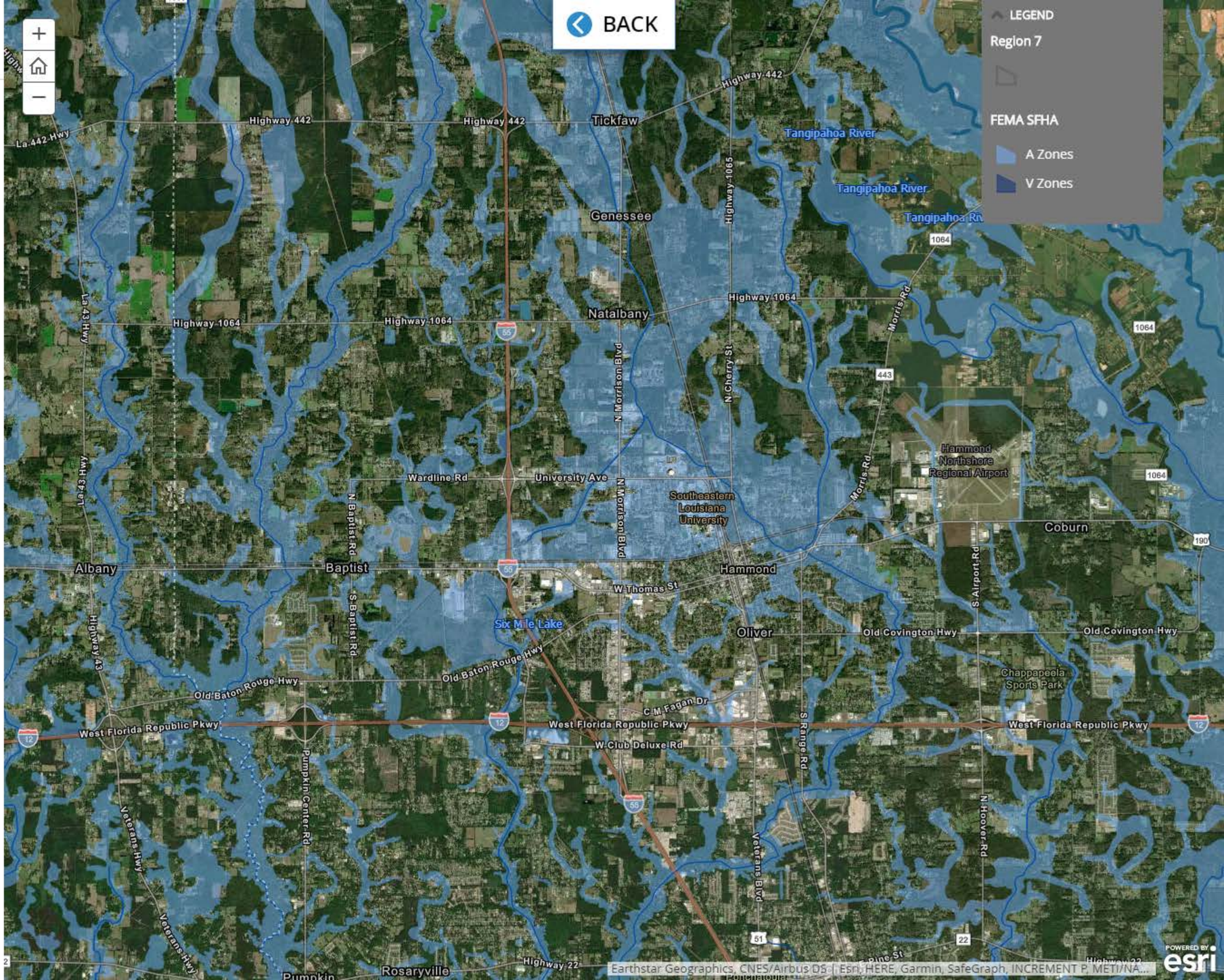

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A Severe Repetitive Loss structure is an NFIP-insured property that meets at least one of the following criteria:

- At least four NFIP claim payments (including building and contents) over $5,000 each with the cumulative amount of such claims exceeding $20,000
- At least two separate claims payments (building payments only) with the cumulative amount of the building portion of such claims exceeding the market value of the building

Case study: March and August 2016 floods

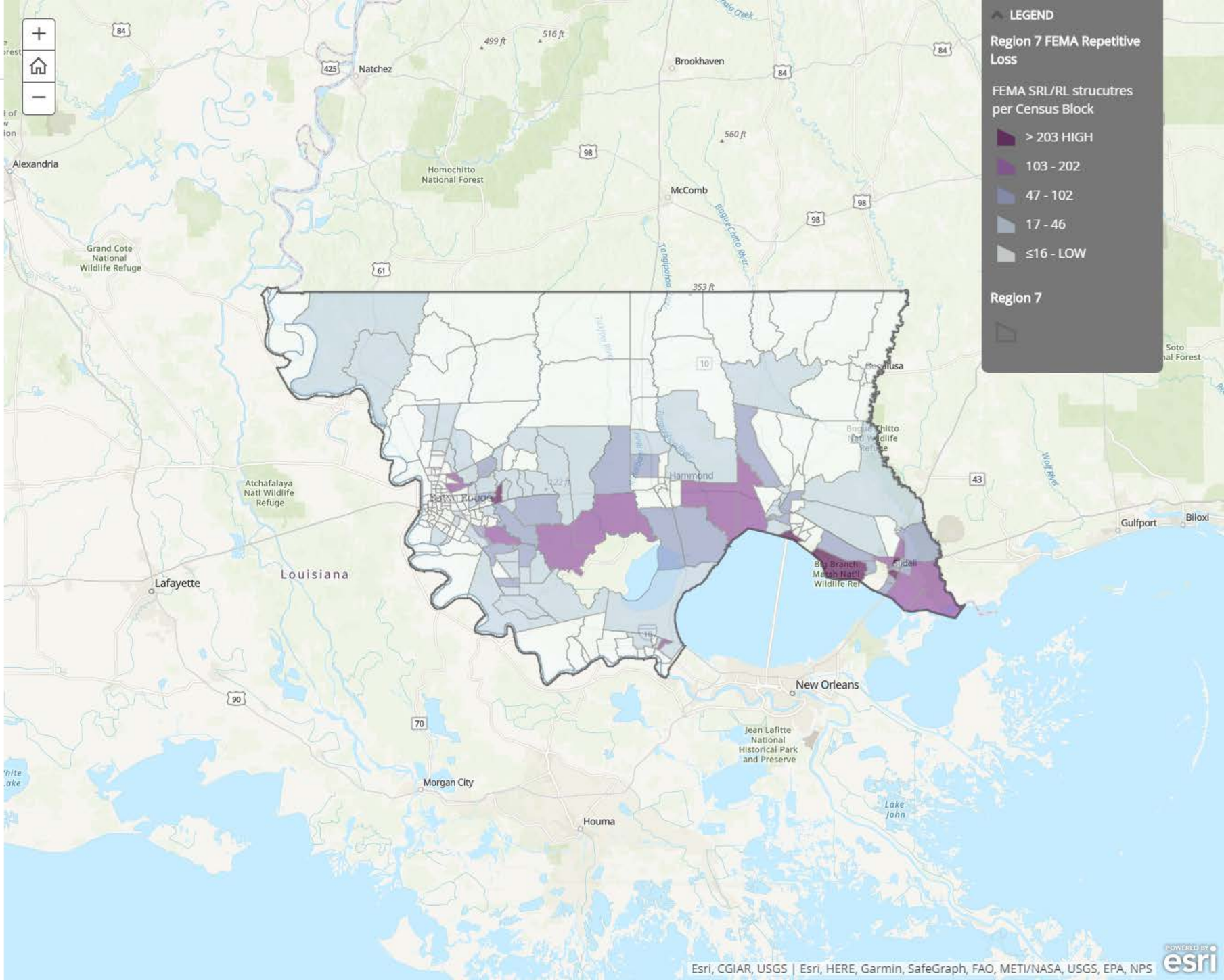
Communities are not required to build structures to withstand the 0.2% chance event, which makes structures inside and outside of SFHA unprepared for these more intense events altogether.

86,304 homes impacted in Region 7

56% of structures impacted located within a SFHA

44% of structures impacted located outside of a SFHA

2016 floods Prairieville



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Communities are not required to build structures to withstand the 0.2% chance event, which makes structures inside and outside of SFHA unprepared for these more intense events altogether.

86,304 homes impacted in Region 7

56% of structures impacted located within a SFHA

44% of structures impacted located outside of a SFHA

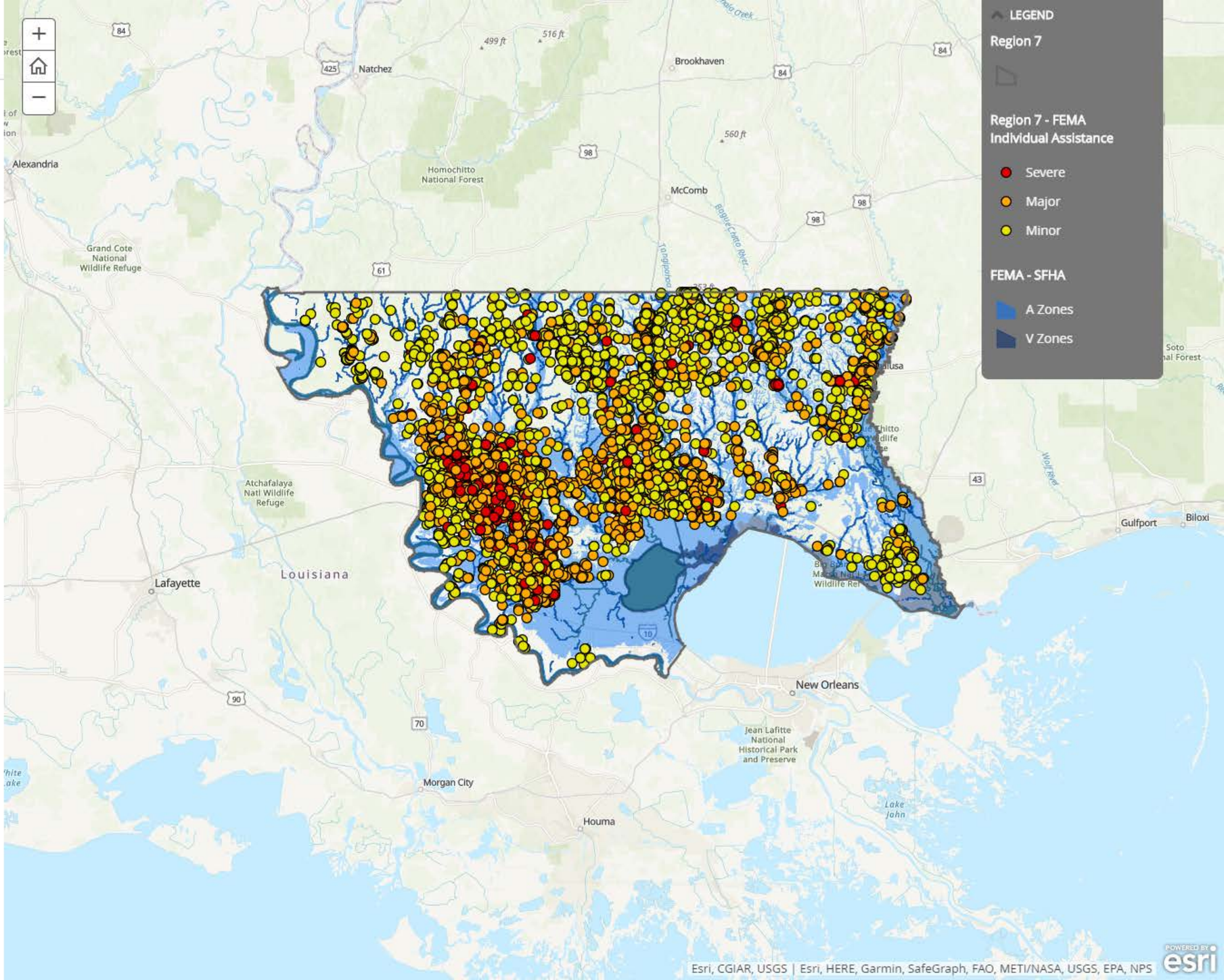
2016 floods Prairieville

2016 floods Central/Denham Springs

Best practice: working with nature

Wetlands function as natural sponges that trap and slowly release surface water, rain, snowmelt, groundwater and floodwaters. Trees, root mats and other wetland vegetation also slow the speed of floodwaters and distribute them more slowly over the floodplain. This combined water storage and braking action lowers flood heights and reduces erosion.

The holding capacity of wetlands helps control floods and prevents waterlogging of crops. Preserving and restoring wetlands together with other water retention efforts can often provide the same level of flood control otherwise provided by expensive dredge operations and levees.



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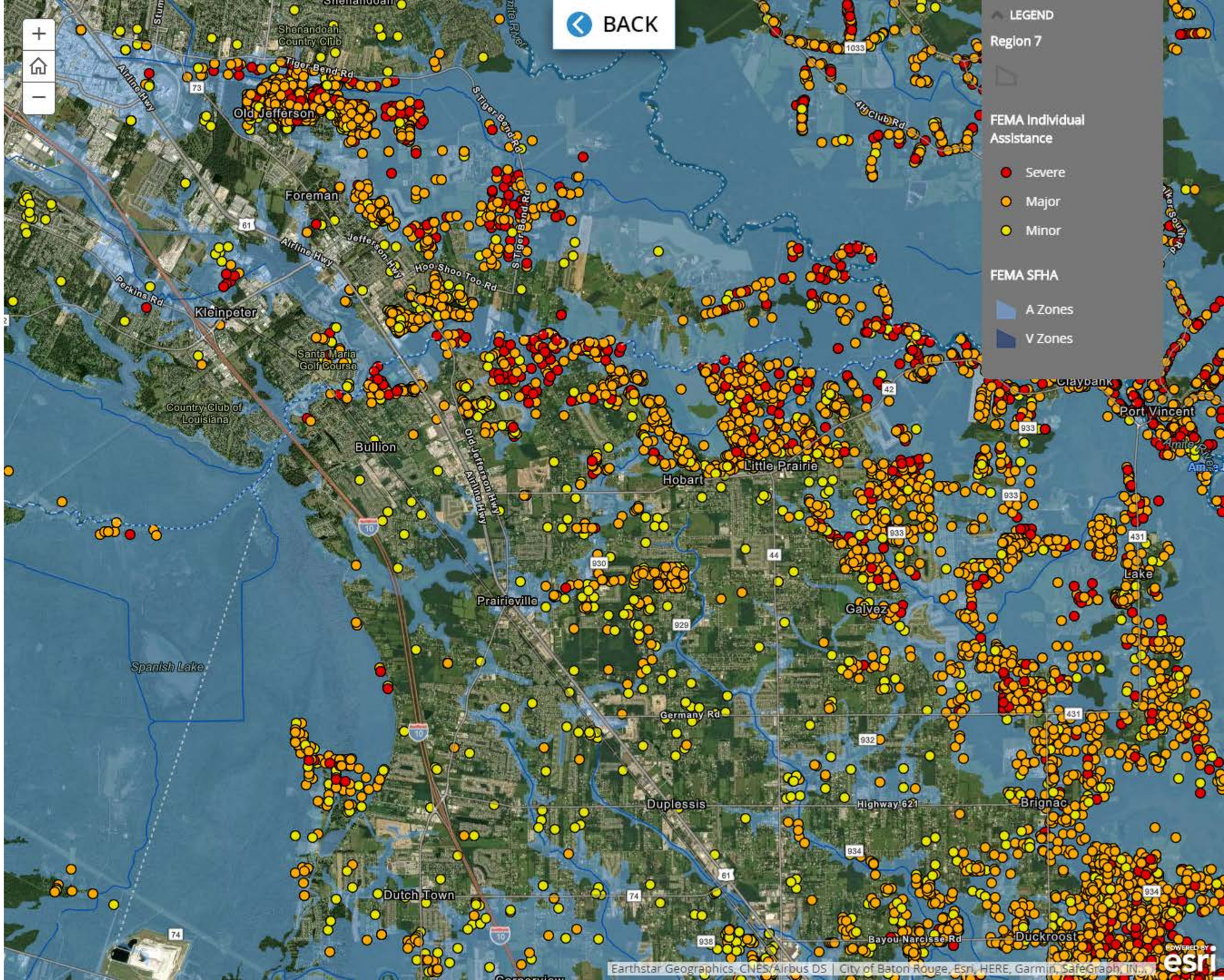

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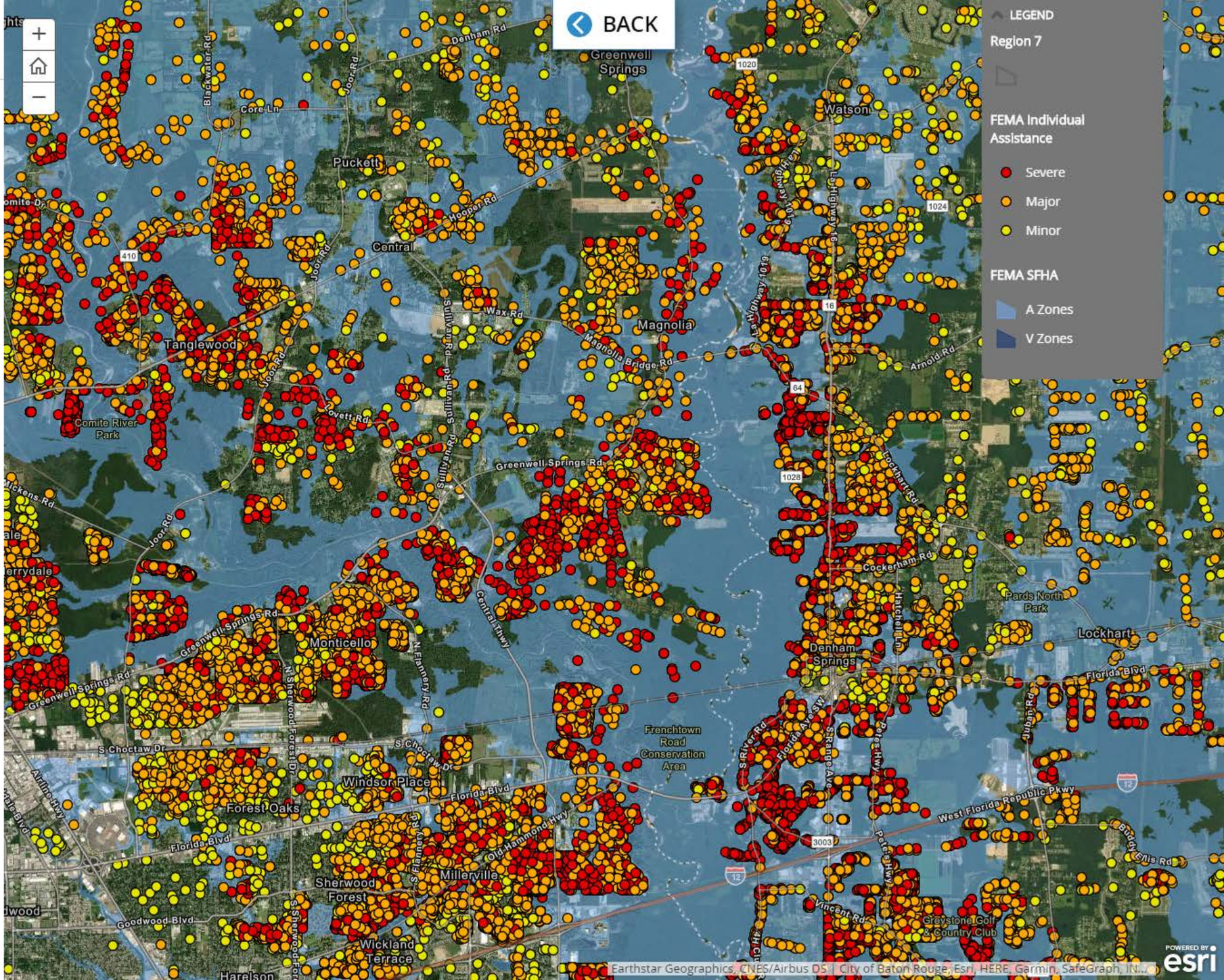

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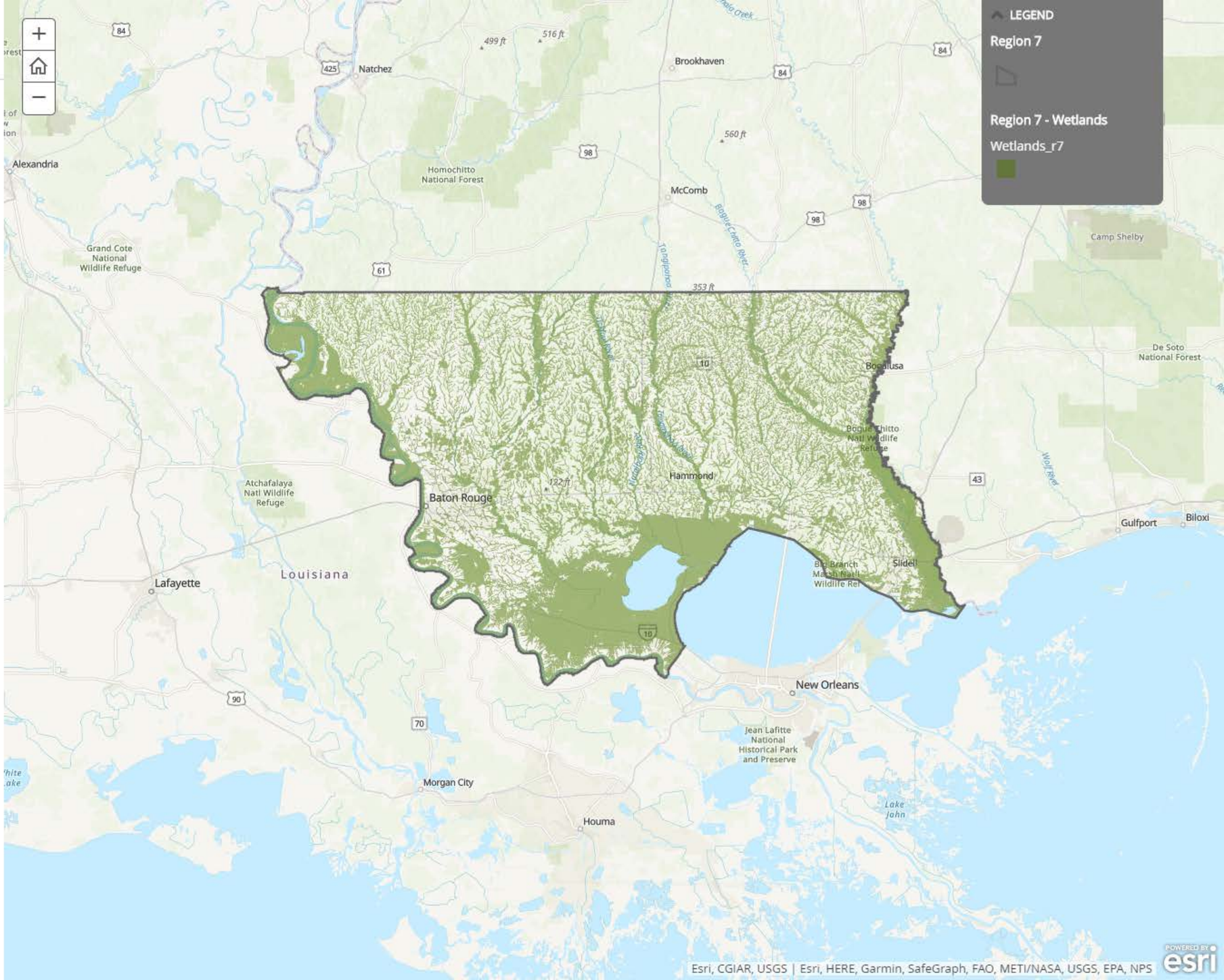
Natural disasters disproportionately impact socially vulnerable populations. Understanding and addressing vulnerability can help mitigate suffering and recovery costs.

Social vulnerability is based on the following factors:

- Socioeconomic status
- Household composition and disability
- Minority status and language
- Housing and transportation

Break



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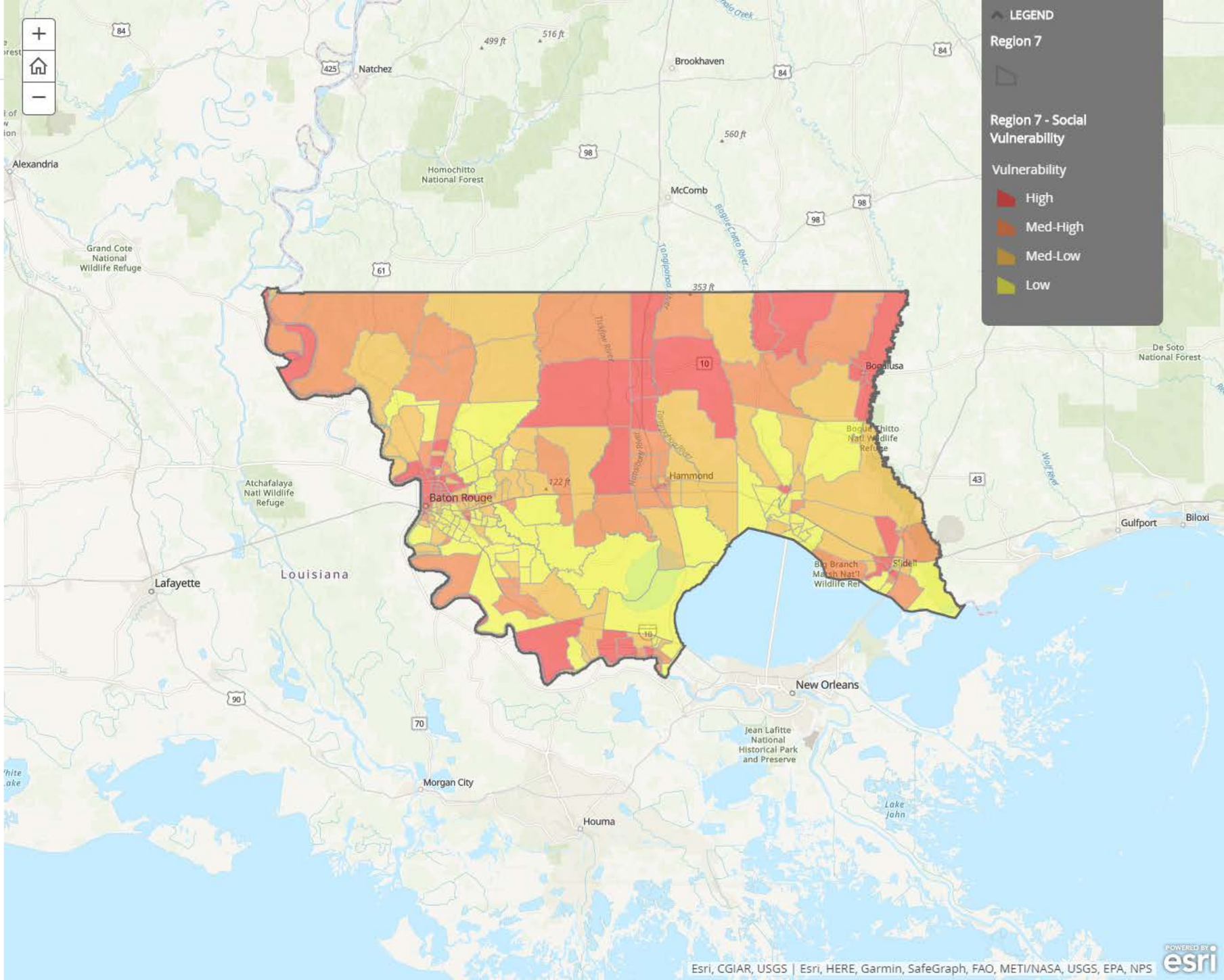
Mapping exercise

Now we will examine risk more closely by combining these datasets and dividing Region 7 into subregions. Please locate your packets.



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Legend

FEMA Individual Assistance - Damage Category

- Severe
- Major
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CDC Social Vulnerability

Vulnerability

- High
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Let's get started!

Recap

LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE

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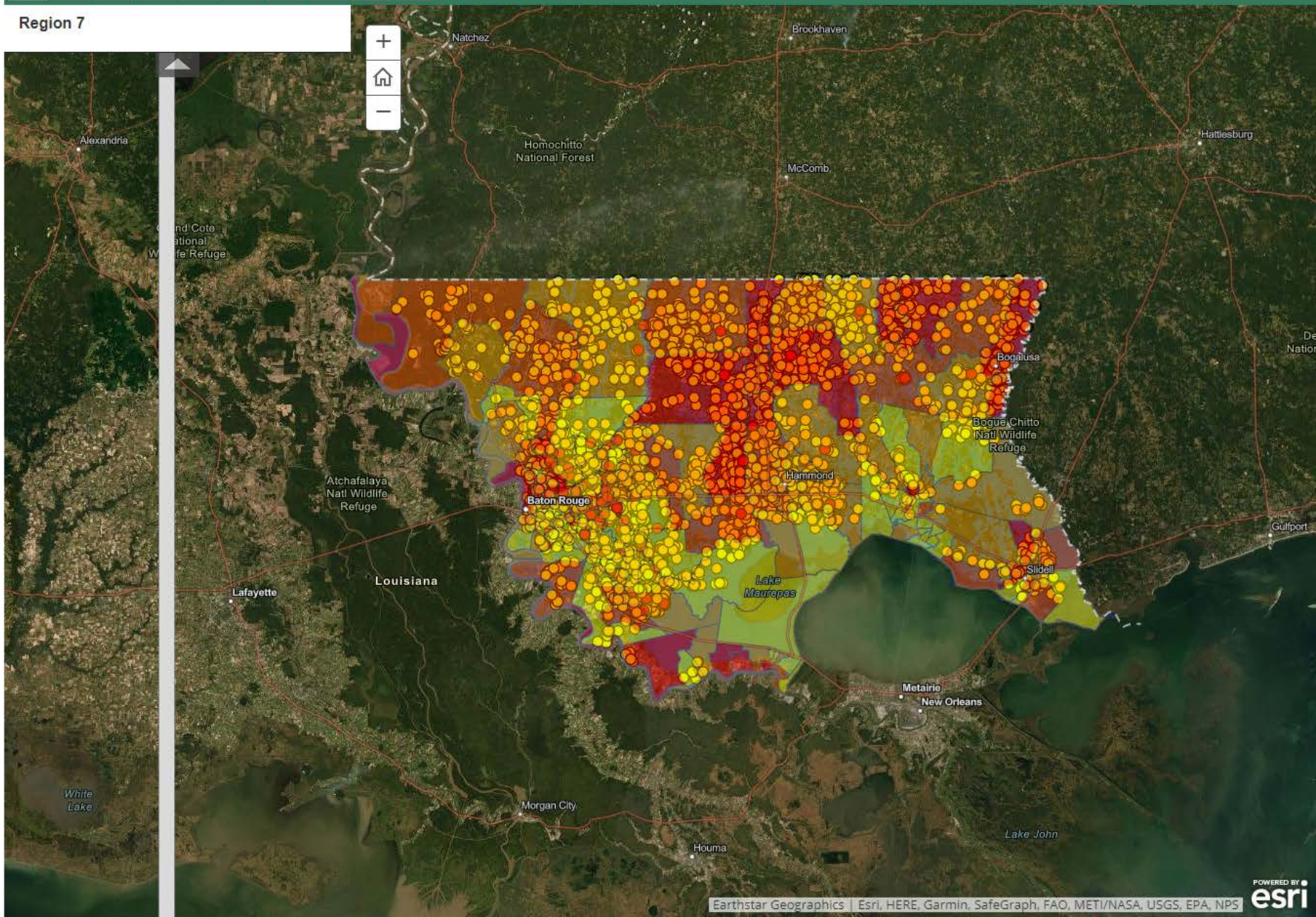
Region 7



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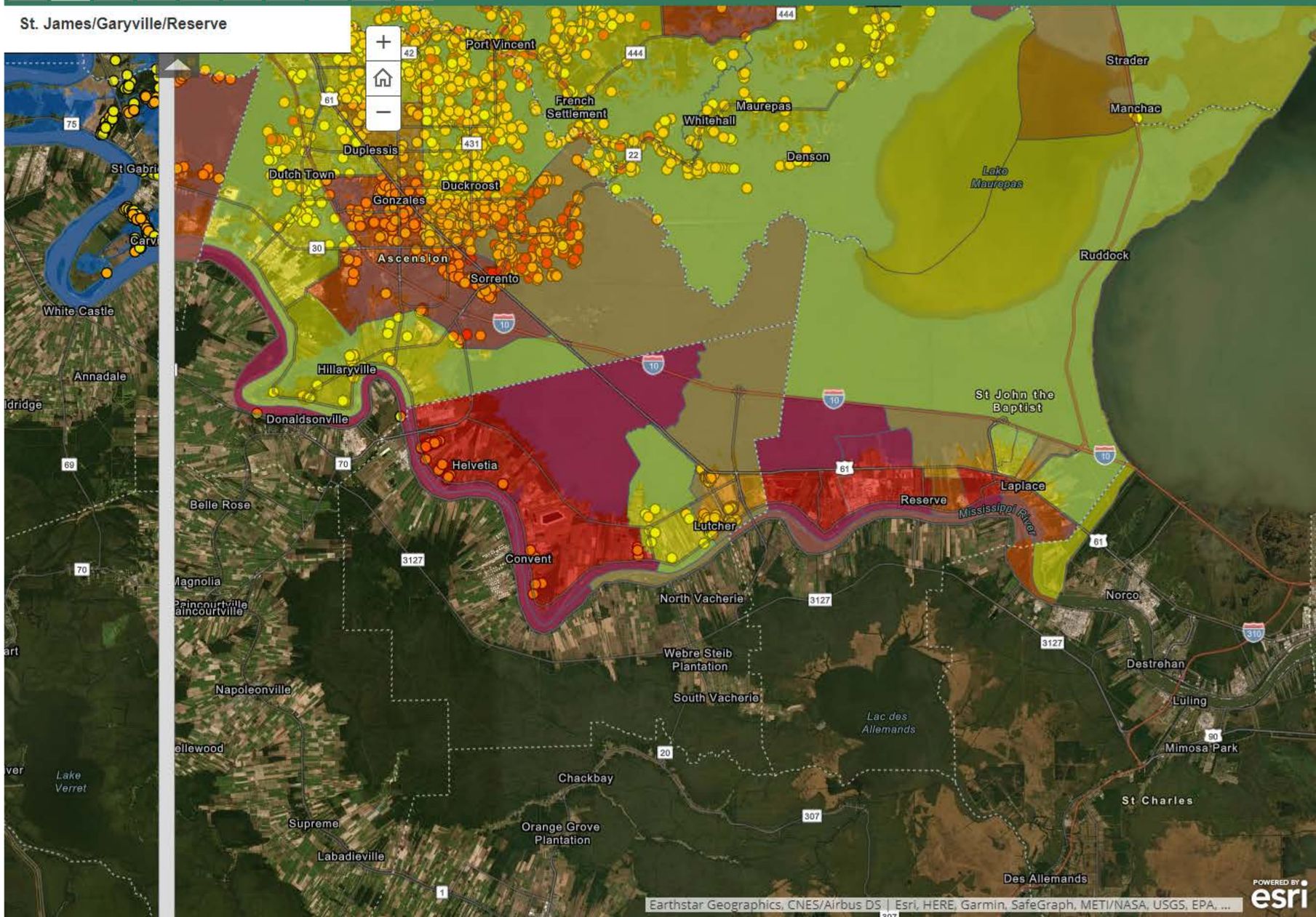

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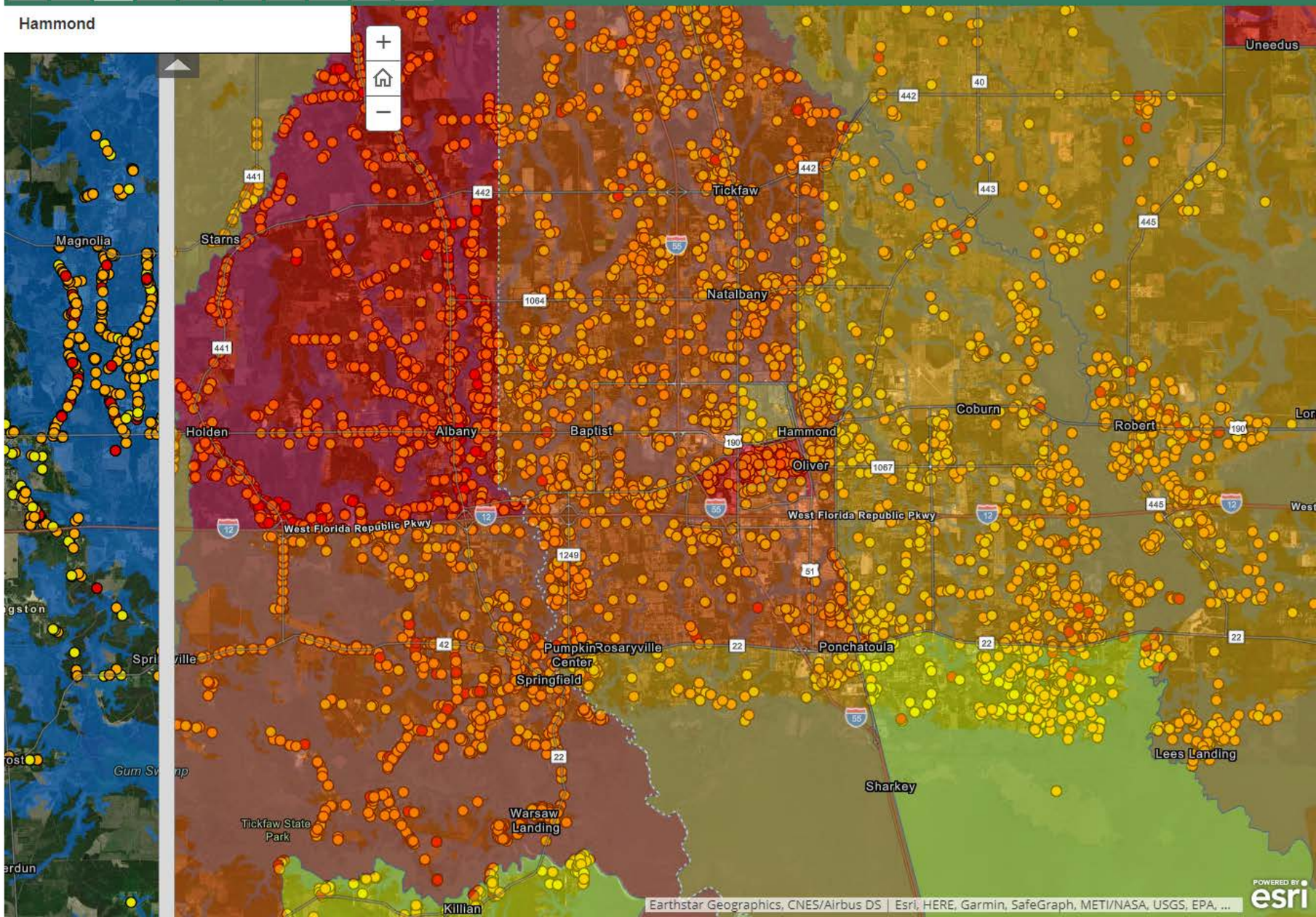

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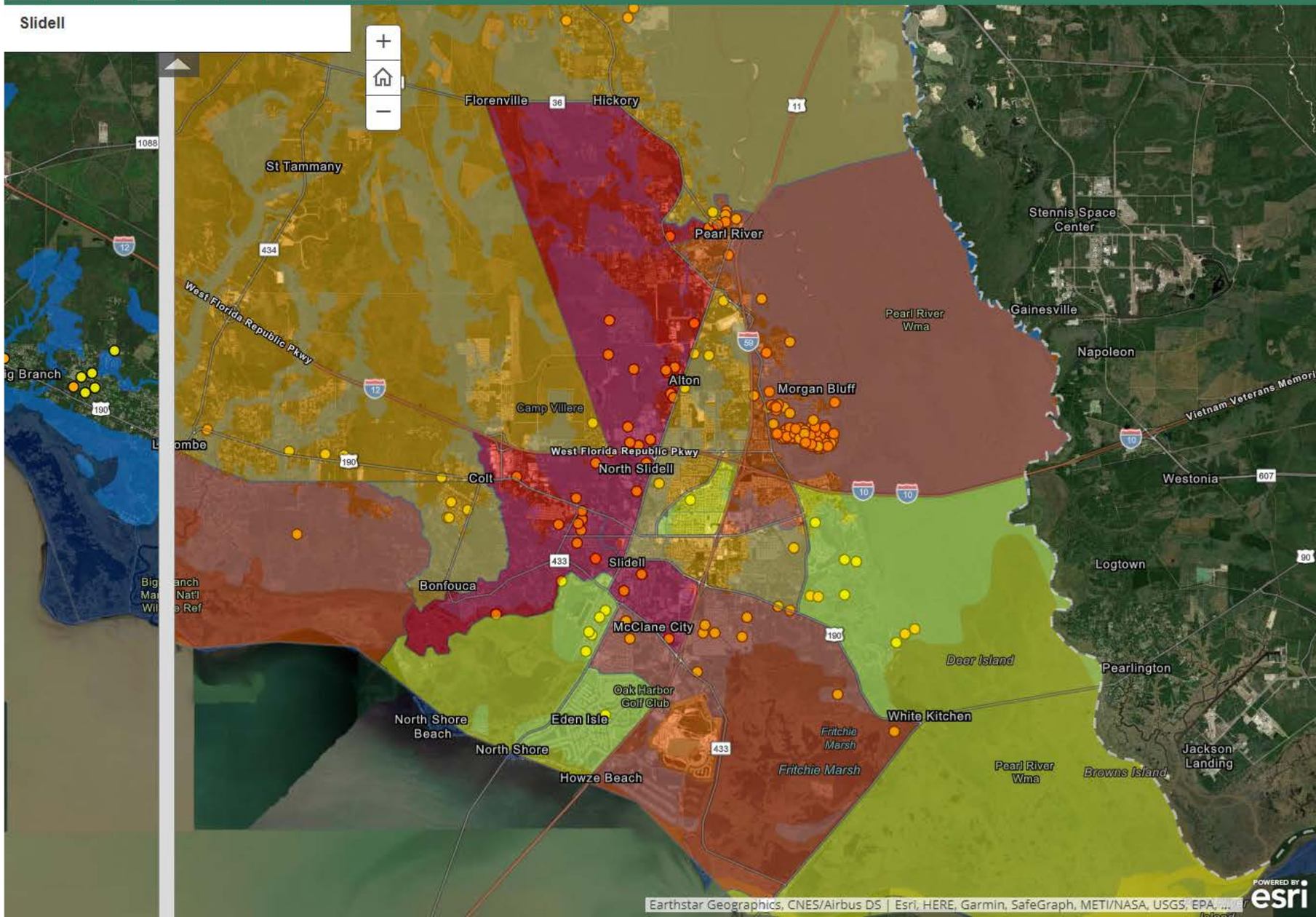

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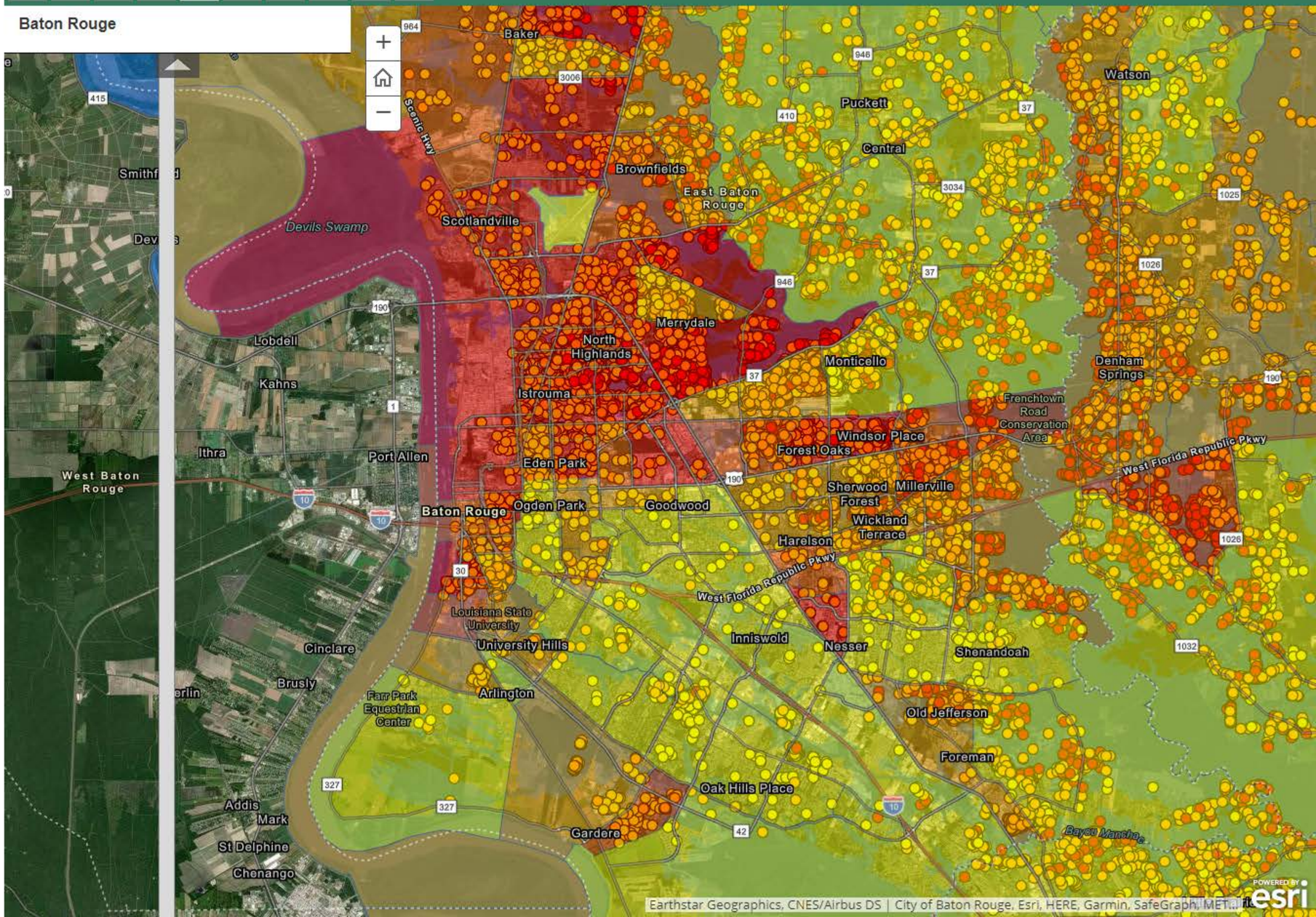

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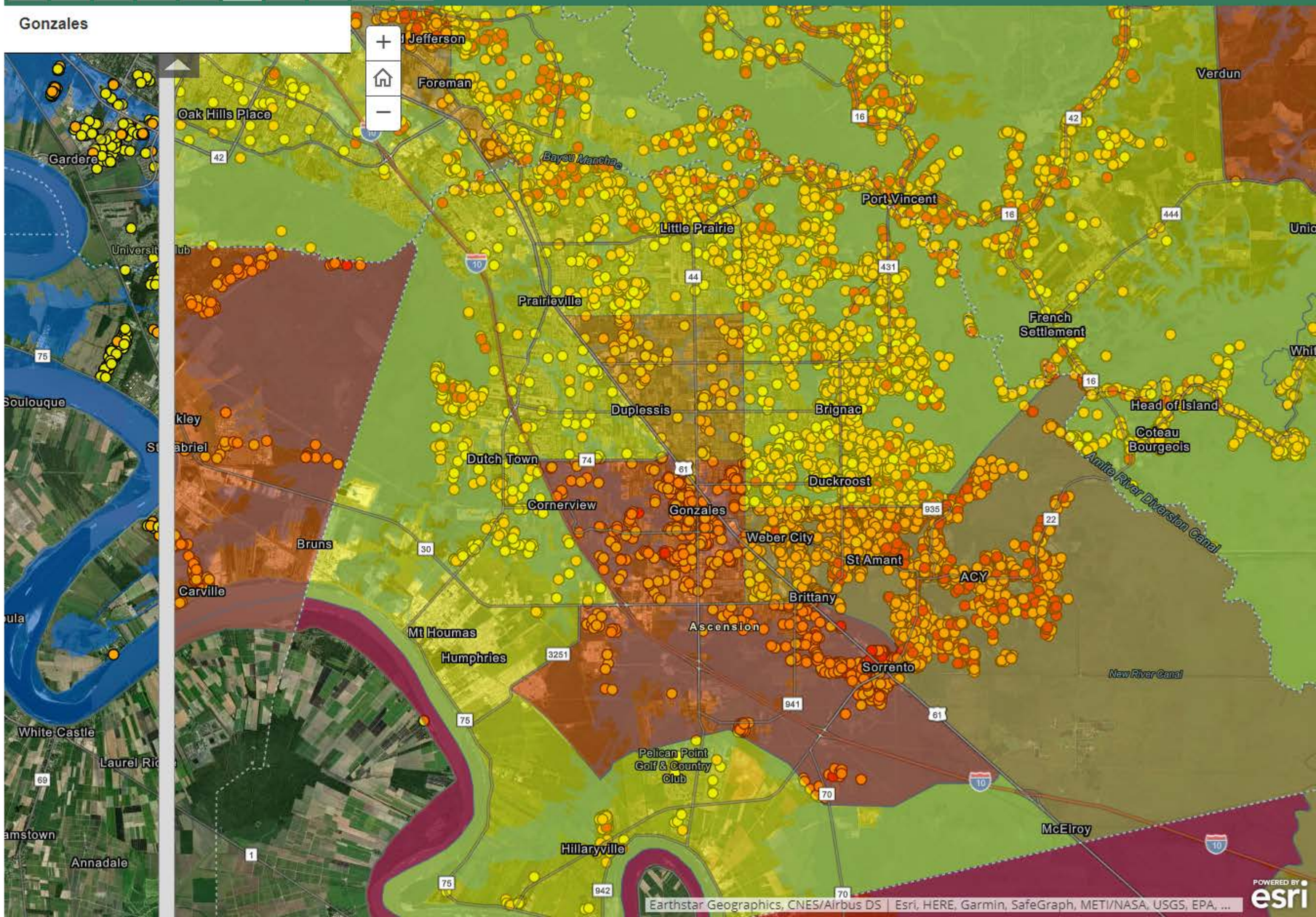

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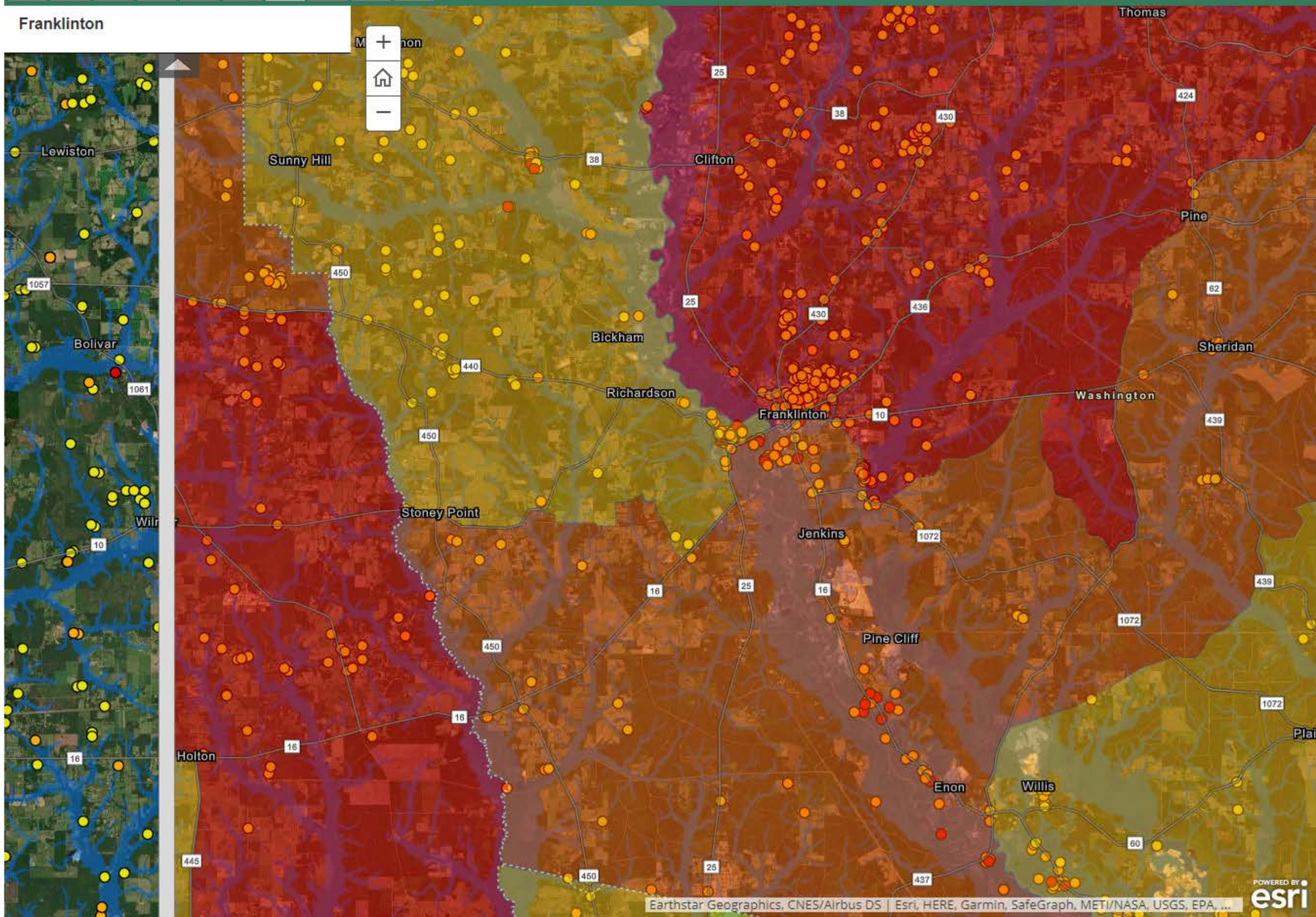

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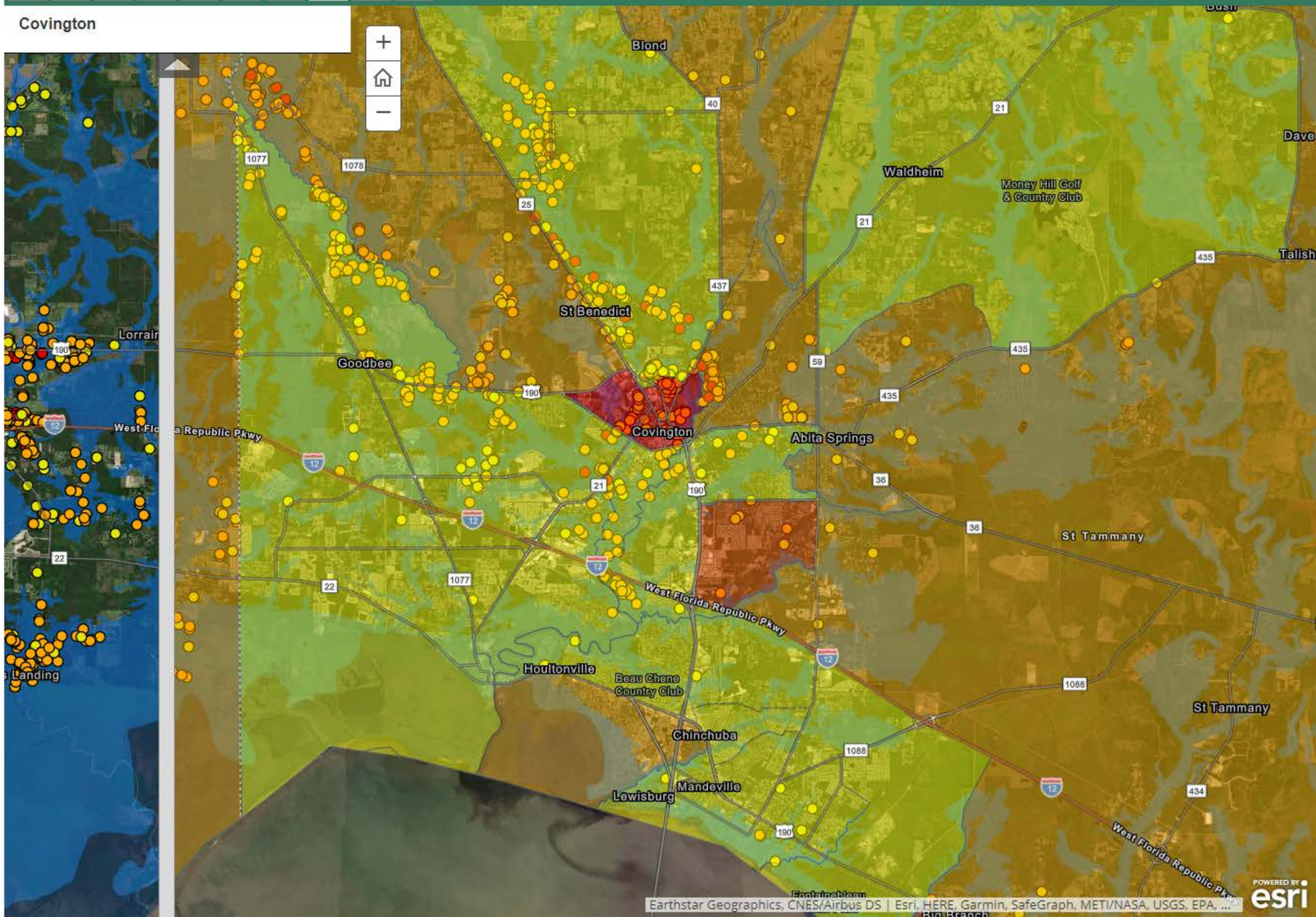

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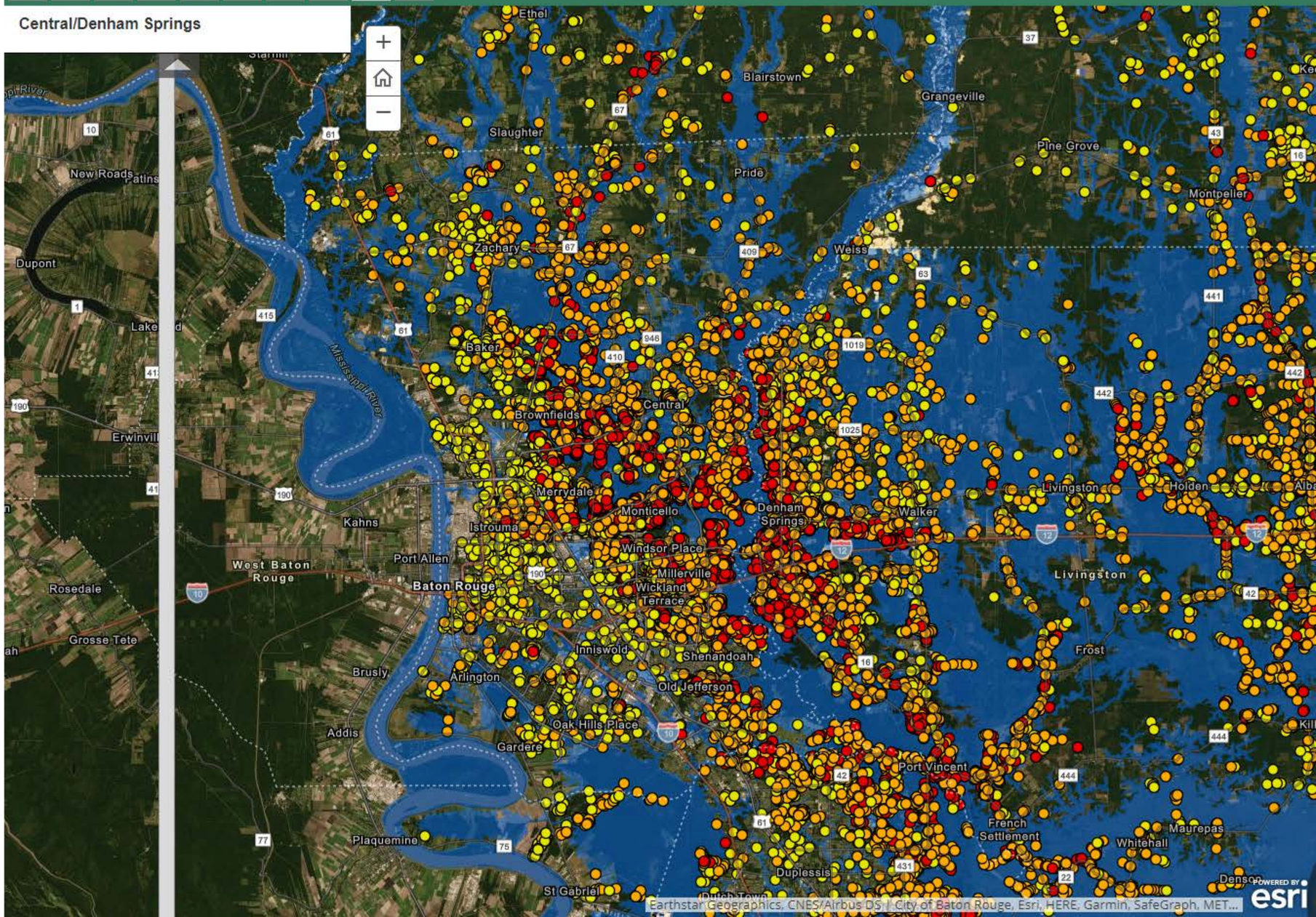

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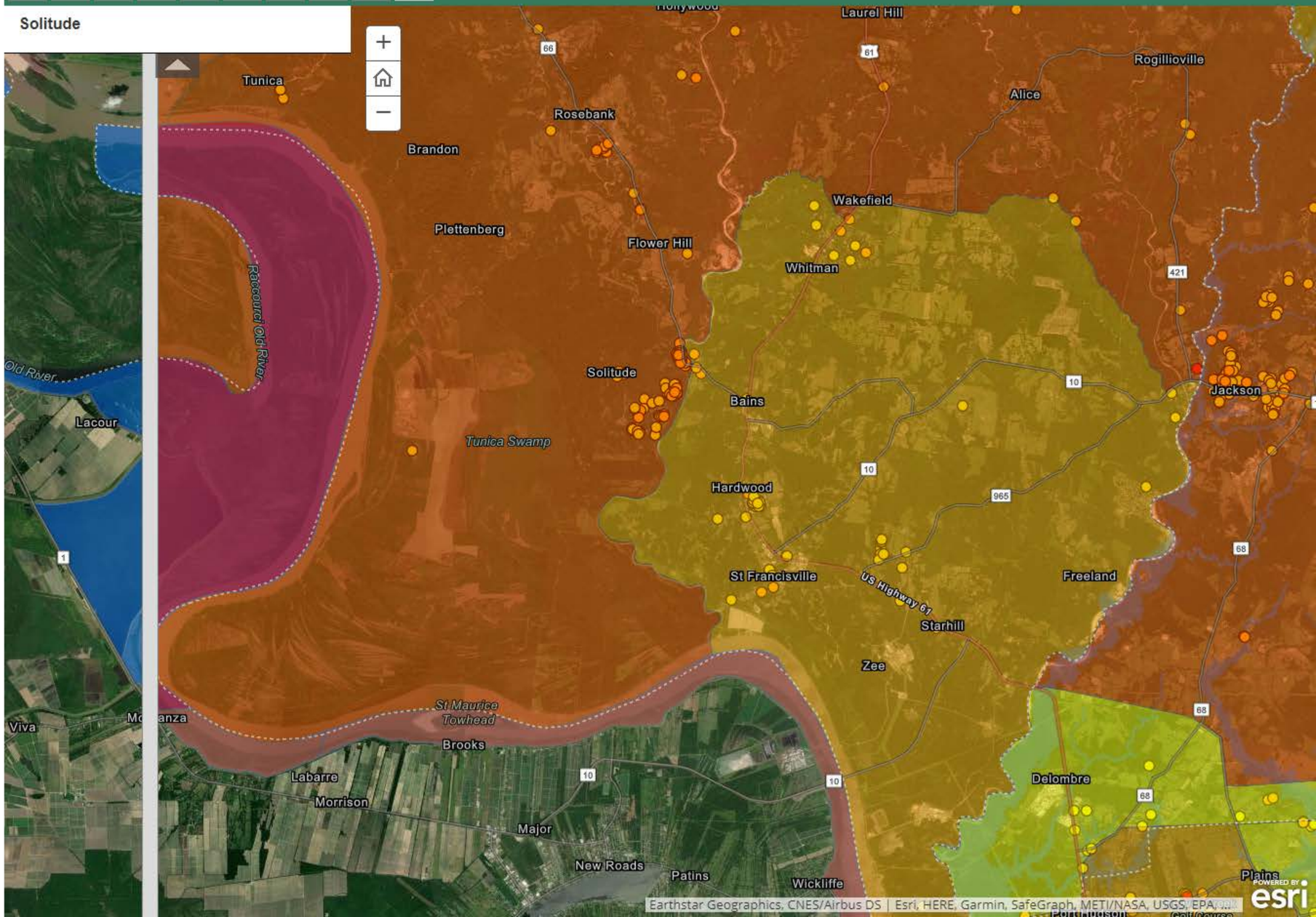

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- Impacts of the 2016 floods
- Wetland areas
- Social Vulnerability Index

Report out and next steps

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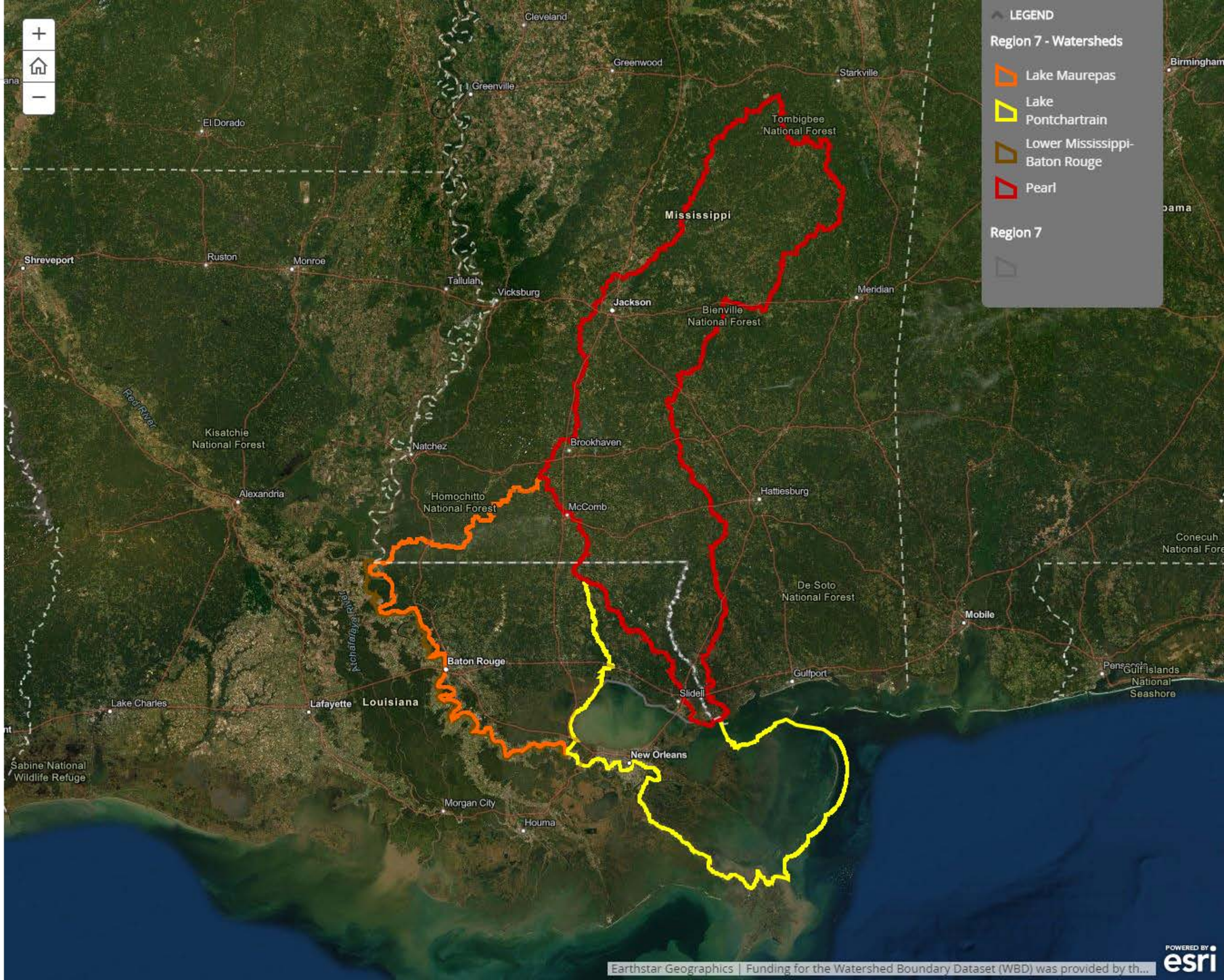

Public comment

For additional comments or questions, you can call 504.556.9733 or email watershed@la.gov.

Please copy Rachelle Sanderson (rsanderson@crpcla.org) on any emailed comments or questions for Region 7.

A recording of this presentation will be available after the meeting on the LWI website.