
# Western Regional Partnership

*Reliable Outcomes for America's Defense, Energy, Environment and Infrastructure in the West*

June 2015

# WRP Vision & Mission




**WRP Vision**

WRP will be a significant resource to proactively identify and address common goals and emerging issues and to develop solutions that support WRP Partners.

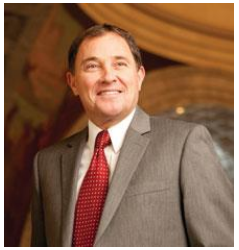
**WRP Mission**

WRP provides a **proactive and collaborative framework for senior-policy level Federal, State and Tribal leadership** to identify **common goals and emerging issues** in the states of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah and to **develop solutions** that **support WRP Partners and protect natural resources, while promoting sustainability, homeland security and military readiness.**

# WRP Structure



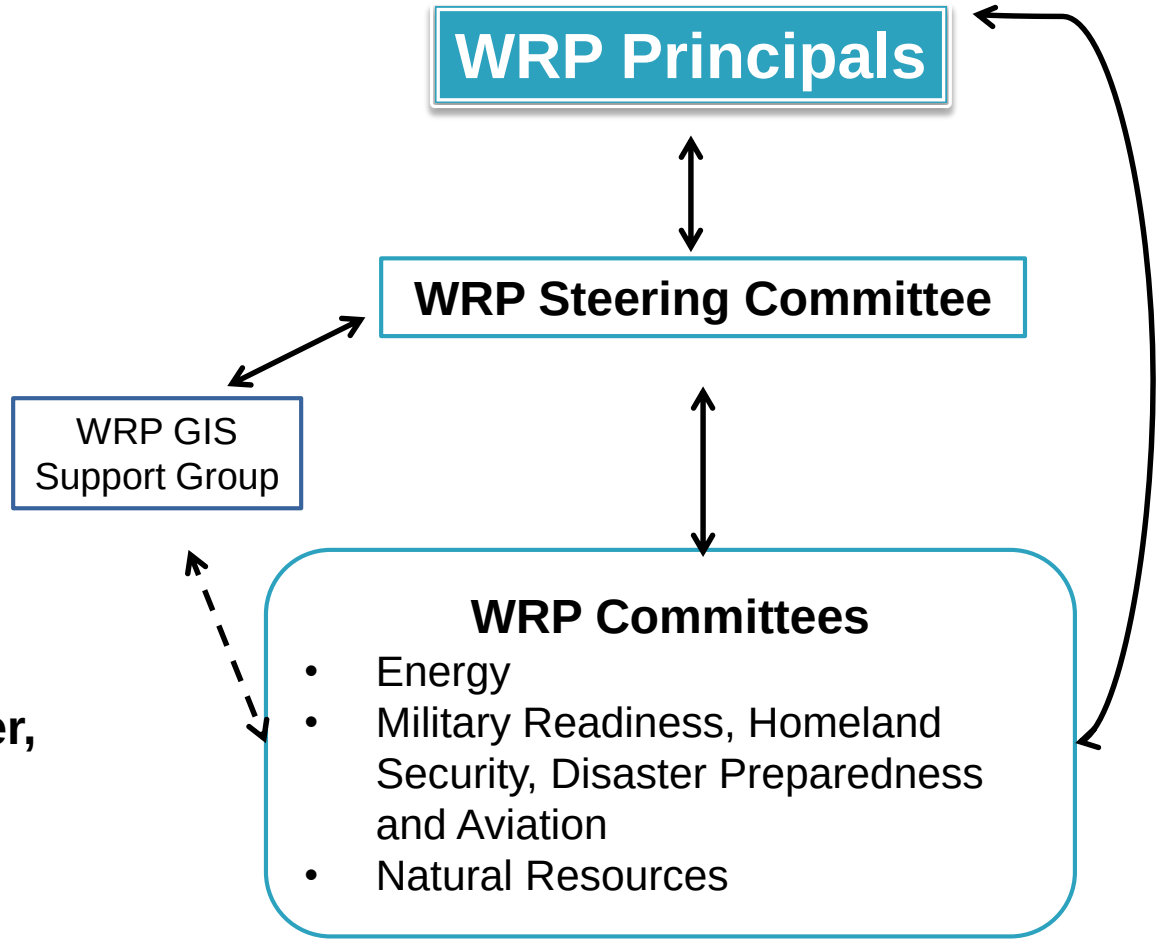
## WRP Co-Chairs:



**Honorable Gary Herbert**, Governor of Utah

**Mr. John Conger**, Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Energy, Installations and Environment

**Ms. Janice Schneider,** Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, DOI



# WRP Steering Committee



- Representatives of each of the five WRP States:
  - Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Federal Highway Administration
- National Park Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Office of Secretary of Defense
- U.S. Air Force Headquarters
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U. S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Marine Corps Installations West
- U.S. Navy
- Native American Leadership:
  - Navajo Nation, Inter-Tribal Council of CA, Inc.
- Western Governors Association Liaison

# WRP Charter Goals

- Serve as a catalyst for improved regional coordination among State, Federal and Tribal agencies
- Address common goals, identify and solve potential conflicts and develop solutions that protect our natural resources, while promoting sustainability and mission effectiveness
- Provide a forum for information exchange, issue identification, problem solving and recommendations across the WRP region
- At annual Principals' meeting, adopt strategic priorities to complete in the subsequent year
- Leverage existing resources and linking of efforts to better support key projects
- Provide a GIS Sustainability Decision Support Tool that integrates appropriate Federal, Tribal, State, and other available data sources for use in regional planning by  WRP Partners

# WRP Natural Resources Committee Co-Chairs



- **John Bullington** , Assistant Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department
- **Thomas M. Finnegan**, Colonel (Retired), Arizona Military Affairs Commission
- **Col John J Gamelin,** USMC, Governmental and External Affairs, MCIWEST-MCB Camp Pendleton
- **Shelley Smith**, Deputy State Director, Resources, Bureau of Land Management, Utah
- **Clayton Honyumptewa**, Director, Department of Natural Resources, The Hopi Tribe

# 2014-2015 WRP Natural Resources Committee's Priorities

- **Provide information** on new endangered species listings, areas of critical importance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife proposed rules, etc., **develop recommendations** on how WRP Partners might assist with the efforts **to preclude listing of additional species** that may impact Partners' missions and identify pilot projects to foster sustainability of necessary habitat
- Highlight new or expanded transportation corridors and **develop recommendations** on how WRP Partners might assist with the **facilitation of infrastructure while preserving natural resources**
- Work with Partners to **identify implementation methods** for recommendations developed for the **WRP Southeastern Arizona/New Mexico and WRP Mojave projects**
- **Engage** with the **Federal Sentinel Landscapes Coordinating Committee** to assist its designation of Sentinel Landscapes in the WRP region
- **Partner** with WGA, WSWC and other WRP Partners **to provide input on water sustainability** as part of an ongoing Western dialogue

# Next WRP Natural Resources Committee Webinar

- June 5th at 1 pm Pacific
- WRP Natural Resources Committee Webinar featuring Ann Mills, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, on drought

If you do not have a WRP account, please go to www.wrpinfo.org and sign up under “mailing list”

# Today's Presenter: Genevieve Johnson

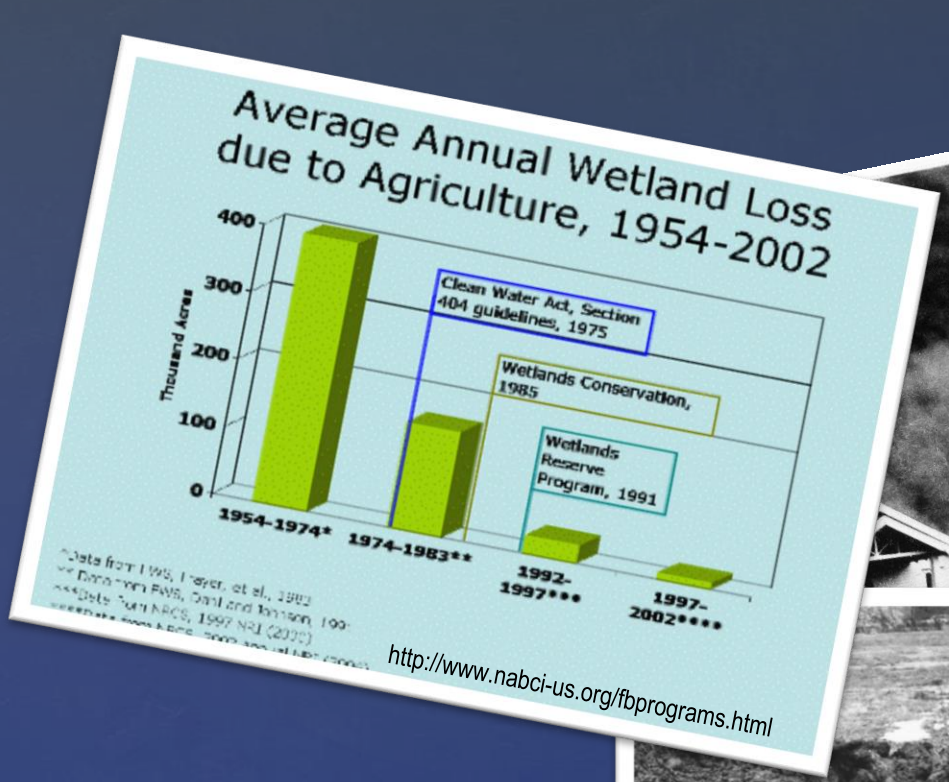


- Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) Coordinator
  - Since May 2012
  - Provides ongoing facilitation and operational leadership to the Desert LCC
- Forest Planner, USDA Forest Service
  - June 2009- May 2012
- Open Space Planner, Arizona State Parks
  - September 2007 – June 2009
- Planner, Bureau of Land Management
  - January 2003 – August 2007
- Bachelor of Science in Conservation Biology and Master of Science in Urban and Environmental Planning, both from Arizona State University

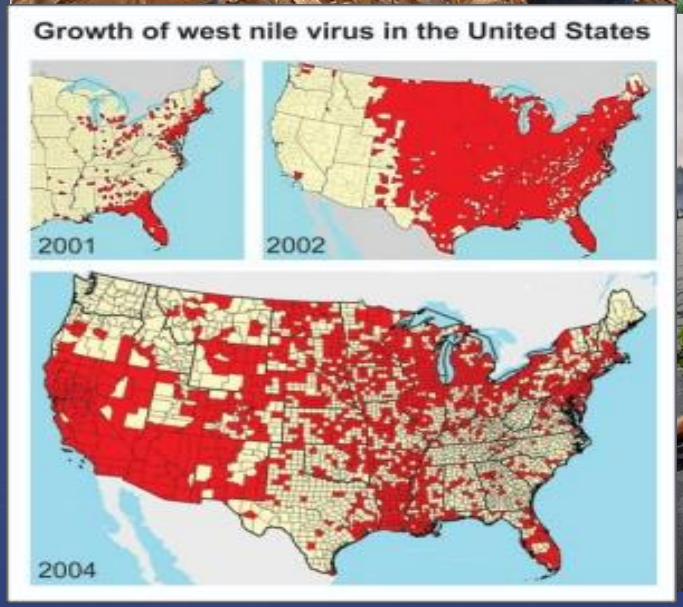

# Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative

**Western Regional Partnership**
**May 29, 2015**

Resource managers at many levels have successfully responded to major challenges in the past.

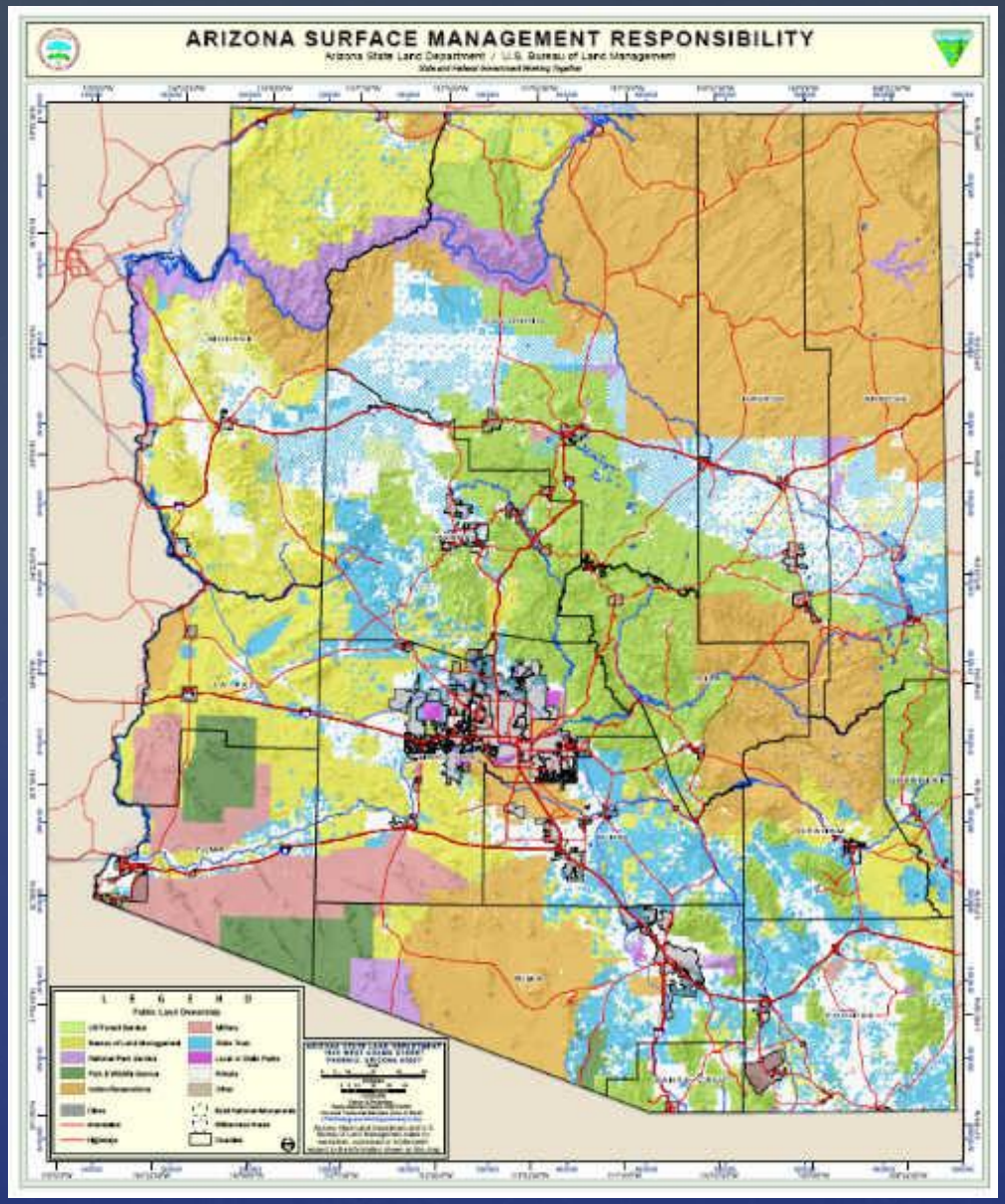


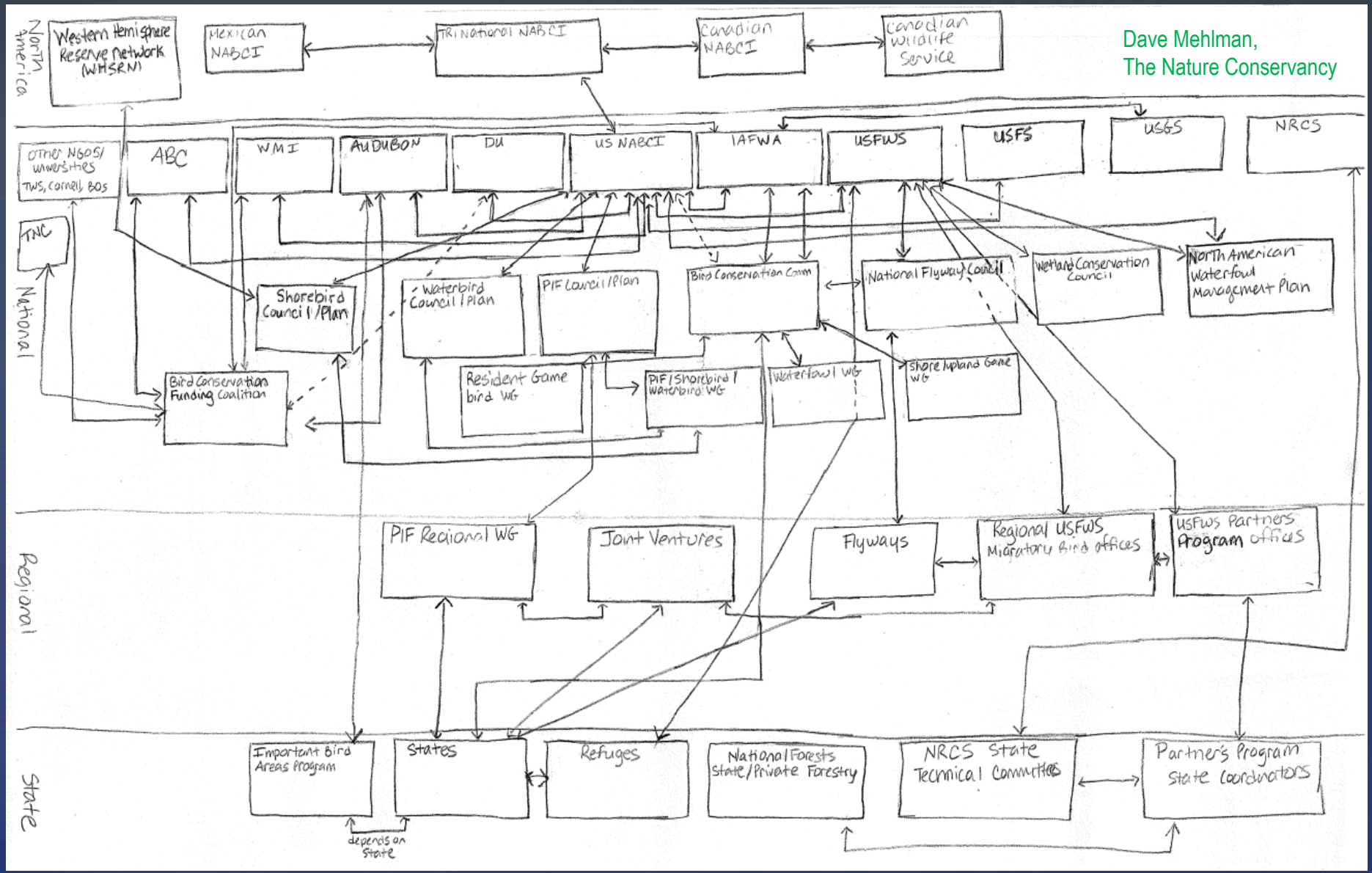





But there's increasing complexity in interactions between resources, uses and climate….

# …and increasing jurisdictional complexity






. . . and increasing “expert” complexity

# The Result?


Silos of experts, agencies, managers, scientists, etc.

- Internal Stove Piping : budgets, status quo, "mine vs. yours"
- External Stove Piping: science (social, physical, and ecological) is not integrated and connected to management needs
- Too much to do when you work on your own, reactive management
- Information not communicated to efficiently target conservation resources
- Lost opportunities to leverage work and $$

*Fundamentally, this affects the environmental systems that people depend on.*

# 2009: Secretarial Order 3289

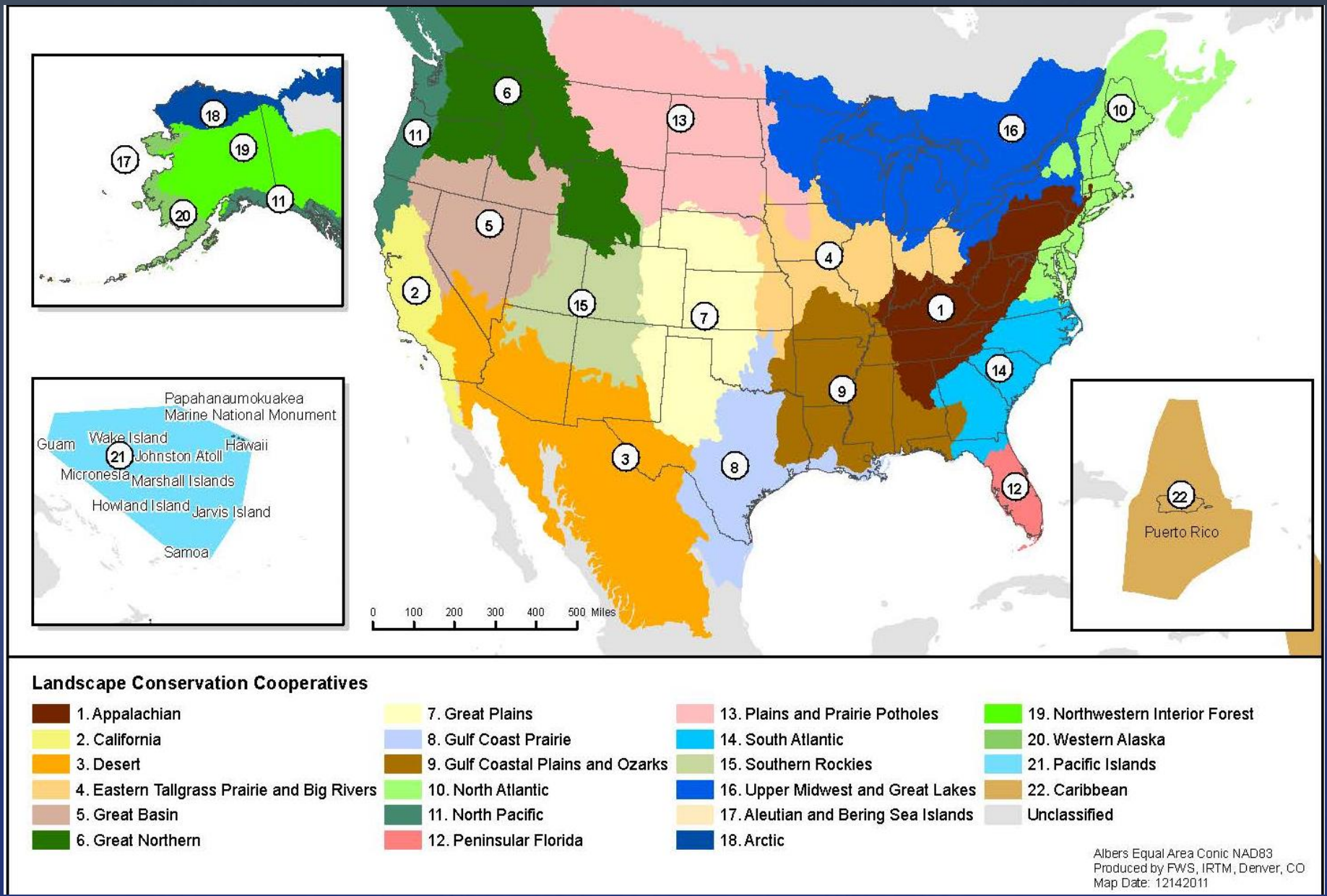
**Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources *(9/14/09)***

- **DOI Climate Science Centers**
- **Landscape Conservation Cooperatives**

"…Interior bureaus and agencies must work together, and with other federal, state, tribal and local governments, and private landowner partners, to develop landscape-level strategies for understanding and responding to climate change impacts."

**some problems are too big to solve alone**

# LCC Geographies – A Seamless Network



# What do Landscape Conservation Cooperatives DO?

**Link science and conservation delivery (inform management)**

- Integrate priority needs & goals across species groups & large landscapes
- Identify most effective conservation approaches to achieve common goals
- Identify gaps in science

**Augment and draw upon existing capacities of partners**

- Avoid duplication through improved conservation planning and design
- Connect efforts

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVES

Working across jurisdictional boundaries on a large geographic scale

Non-regulatory, partner driven

# Operations Timeline

**2010**

Outreach

**2011**

Begin partnership

Idenitify broad science needs

1st funding cycle

**2012**

Narrow focus on specific science identification

Engage at Network level

**2013 & 2014**

Identify focal resources to target specific needs

Conservation Planning Atlas

Focus on science synthesis

**2015 & 2016**

Establish conservation goals and objectives

Support specific needs, including capacity

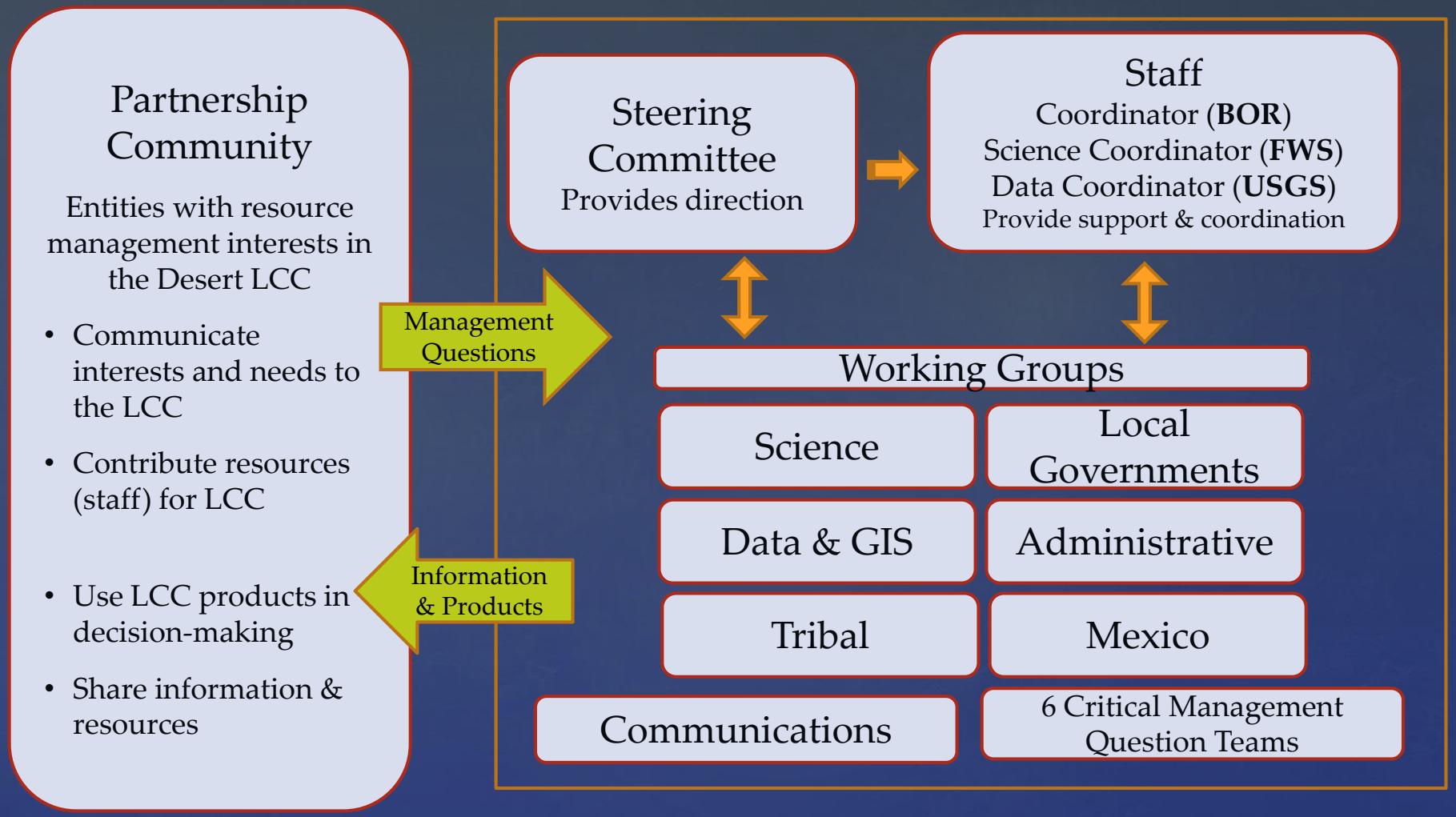
Landscape conservation planning & design

Focus on science delivery

DESERT LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

# Create new opportunities for interaction among diverse groups


**Rio Grande silvery minnow re-introduction to the Big Bend reach of the Rio Grande**

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Interdisciplinary Partnership - different expertise, backgrounds, agencies, organizations, interests

# Steering Committee Representation providing high-level commitment


# Set mutual goals for a shared vision

# Goals for a Shared Vision

*Resilient landscapes capable of responding to environmental challenges and supporting natural and cultural values for current and future generations.*


## *Science Development and Delivery*

Identify science needs and facilitate the development, integration and application of information to inform resource management decisions

## *Collaboration and Communication*

Promote and facilitate collaboration and communication among conservation entities to add value to their efforts

## *Monitoring and Evaluation*

Provide expertise and opportunities to add value to monitoring programs

## *Outreach and Education*

Provide information and application tools that educate and apprise resource managers and the public about the effects of climate change and ecosystem stressors

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Applied Science Think Tanks Working Together to Address

## CRITICAL MANAGEMENT QUESTIONS

**CMQ 1:** What are successful strategies for evaluating and implementing environmental flows?

**CMQ 2:** What species/processes can be monitored relative to climate change and related threats and stressors?

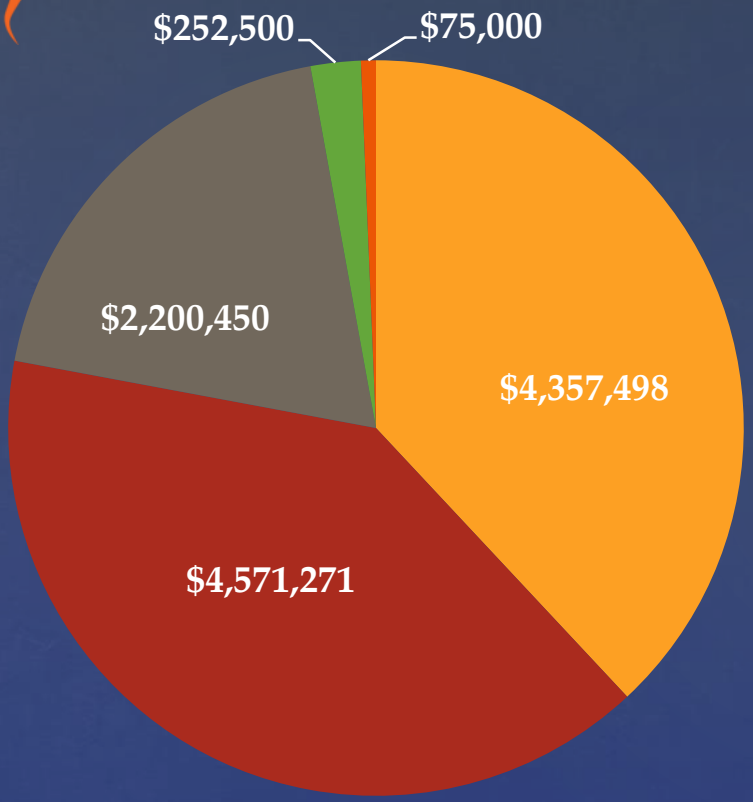
**CMQ 3:** What are the most appropriate management and restoration techniques for desert grasslands and shrublands?

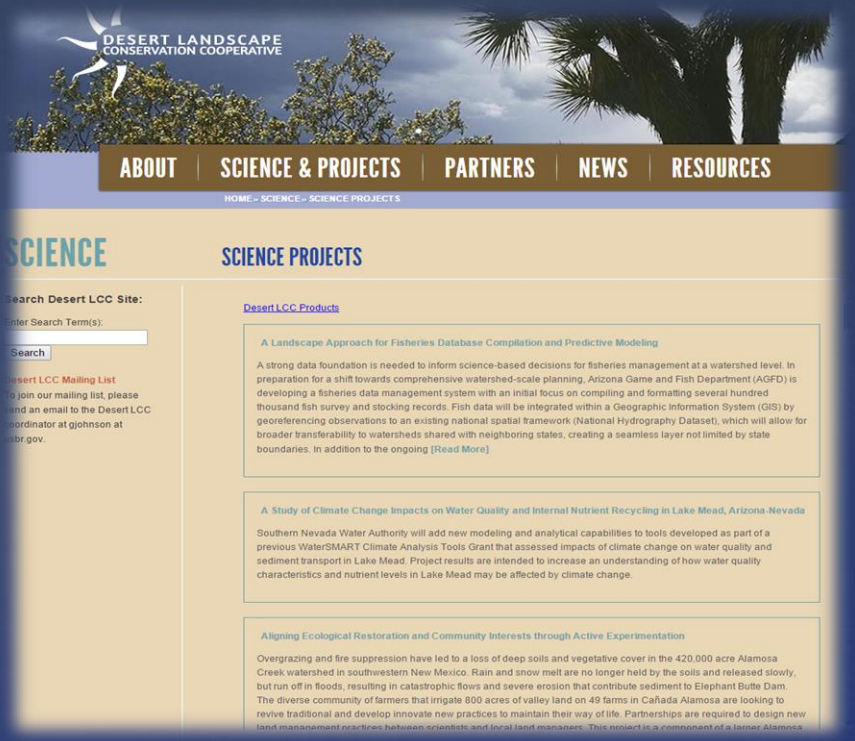
**CMQ 4:** What species experience physiological stress from climate change?

**CMQ 5:** How to changing wildfire regimes affect riparian ecosystem management?

**CMQ 6:** What amphibians & reptiles are sensitive to climate change?

# Funding Sources, 2011-2014




**TOTAL Funds = $11,456,719**

Science Projects:
http://www.usbr.gov/dlcc/science/projects.cfm

# *Water delivery data and model integration for the Colorado River Delta*

Links multiple models from Minute 319 pulse flow to provide faster, unified outputs for hydrologic and ecological responses under varying climate conditions; will assist decision makers in future binational negotiations

Reclamation Funds = $100,000; Partner Funds = $159,600

Partners: Environmental Defense Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Minute 319 Environmental Flows Team, Minute 319 Monitoring Program for the Colorado Delta

Employ meaningful, effective, and enduring

# collaborative processes

# The Who: People make it happen

# The What: Focal Resources

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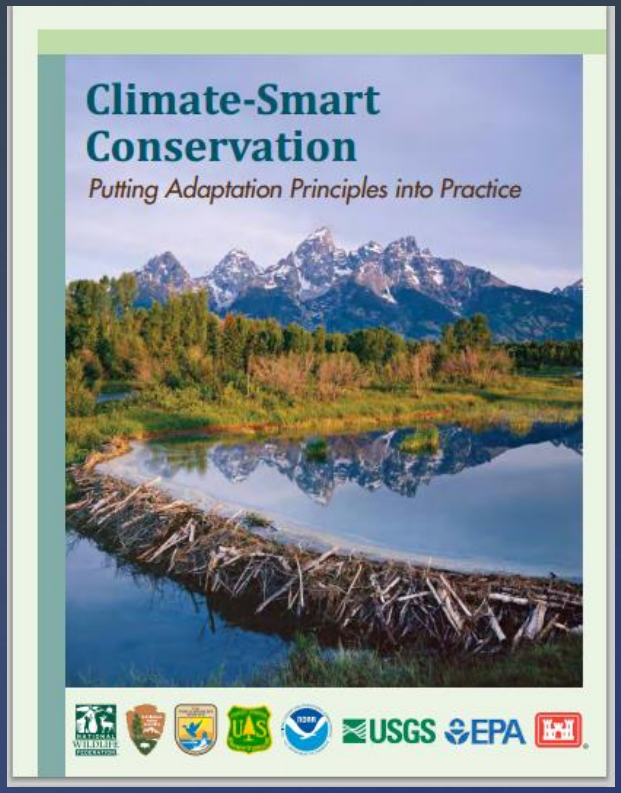
- Focal Ecosystems:
  - Rivers/Streams + riparian resources
  - Seeps & Springs
  - Grasslands & Shrublands
- Species vulnerable to climate change

**Common Goals**
**Common Objectives**
**Common Measures of Success**

# The How: Climate-Smart Landscape Conservation




- Help **collectively** identify possible adaptation actions and prepare for changes on the landscape
- Clearly define common goals and objectives
- Identify partner activities to ensure integrated effort
- Create a clear framework to communicate how Desert LCC activities fit into climate-smart landscape conservation
- Measure success using common language & methods!

http://www.nwf.org/pdf/Climate-Smart-Conservation

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# Climate-Smart Conservation

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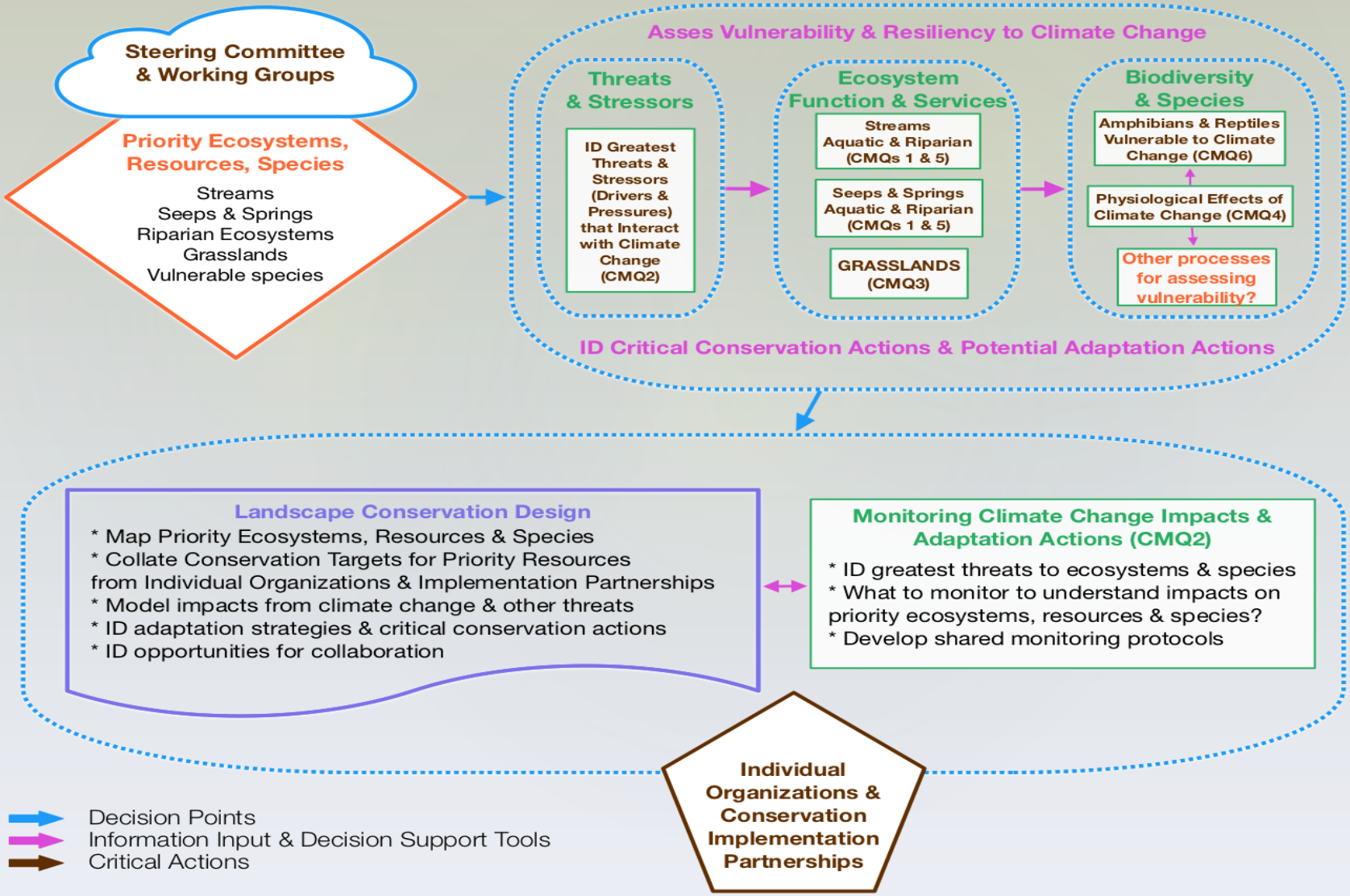
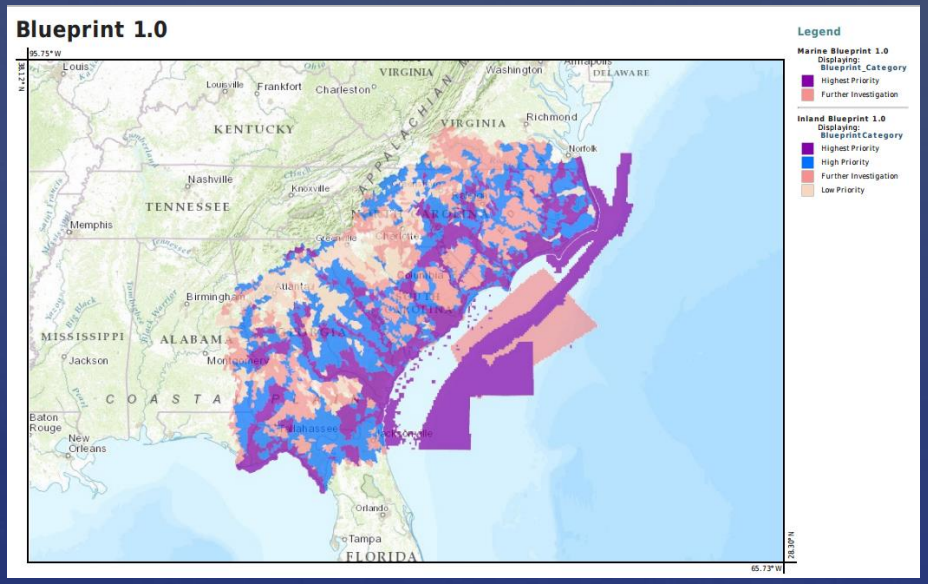
# Planning & Design for Climate-Smart Landscape Conservation



# Landscape Conservation Planning & Design

- Integrated & collaborative process to identify common goals and objectives for managing resources across jurisdictional boundaries
- Results in a science-based, spatially-explicit products
- Assesses current and projected landscape patterns and processes
- Identifies a desired future condition, conservation/development trade-offs, and implementation strategies




SOUTH ATLANTIC
LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

# Timeline

2015 Pre-Assessment Phase

- Assemble multidisciplinary technical team
- Select pilot geographies
- Identify conservation goals, objectives and targets for priority resources
- Identify ecosystem stressors and vulnerabilities
- Determine data and science needs for future funding

2016 Assessment Phase

- Model and analyze current state of ecosystems in pilot geographies
- Develop scenarios to delineate, analyze, and assess vulnerabilities (including climate change) that may limit ability to achieve conservation goals and objectives
- Determine data and science needs for future funding

2017-2018 Design Phase

- Develop common future desired conditions
- Collectively develop implementation actions that respond to stressors, help achieve future conditions, can be easily monitored, and are useful to partners
- Share lessons learned

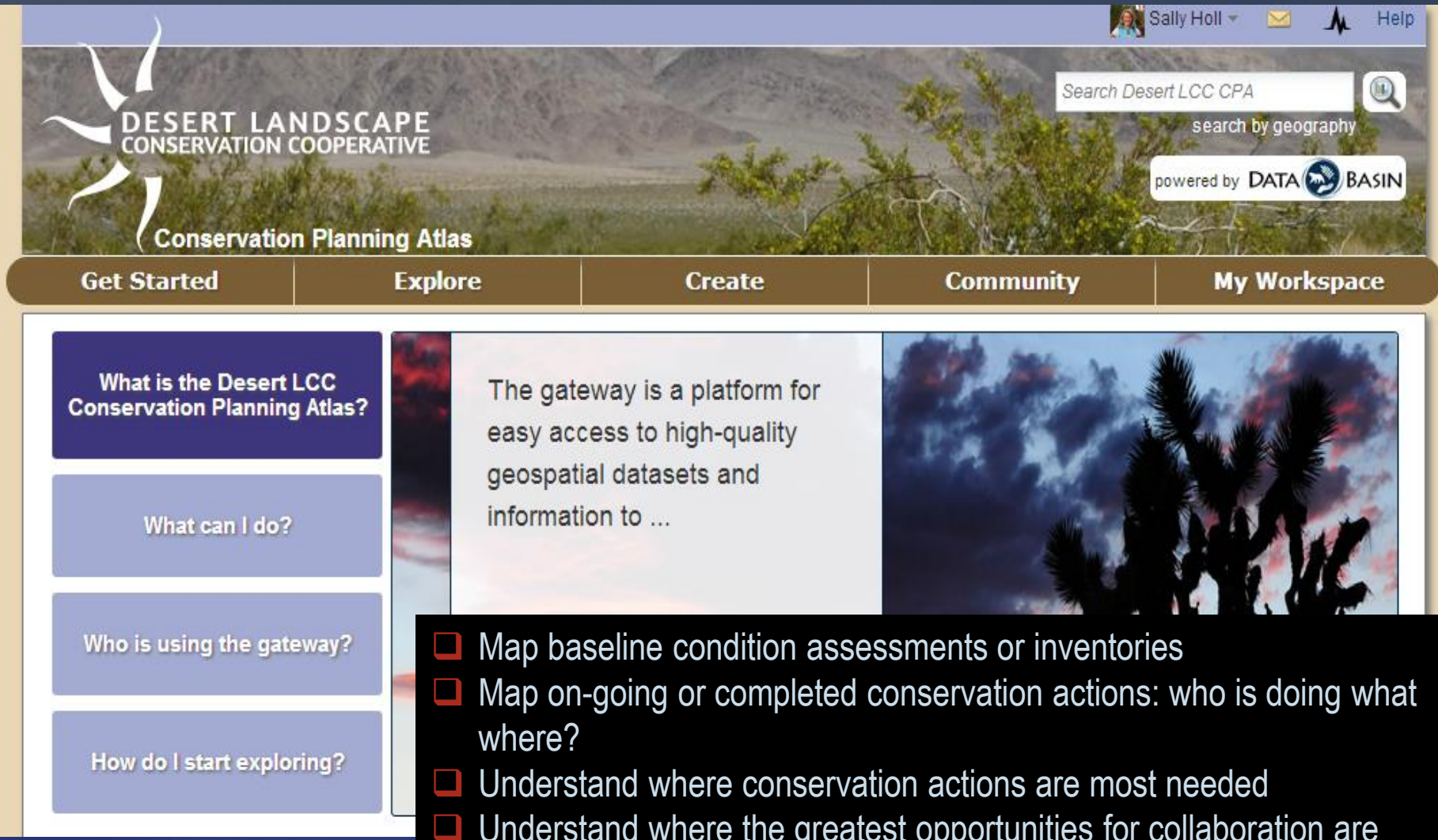
# The where: Conservation planning & design

Partnership effort to select pilot geographies

- address priority resources
- potential for effective implementation
- data to support process (relevant to targets)
- include portions of Mexico and the U.S.
- level of species diversity present (high)or  other species of management interest
- results could be applied across larger geography and process is scalable

# Delivery

http://dlcc.databasin.org




- Map baseline condition assessments or inventories
- Map on-going or completed conservation actions: who is doing what where?
- Understand where conservation actions are most needed
- Understand where the greatest opportunities for collaboration are

# Opportunities to participate

- Upcoming 2015 workshops
- Join mailing list
- Join a working group

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# Thank you!

**www.usbr.gov/dlcc**