

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

Connecting Science and Management



Richard A. Leopold
Assistant Regional Director – Science Applications
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3
Department of the Interior

Why Are We Doing This?

- The future in the modern imagination has always stretched out ahead like a broad highway drawing us onward with the promise of tomorrow. Now rather suddenly, as it becomes impossible to ignore dramatic physical changes taking place across the Earth, the future looms like an urgent question. Whatever the coming century brings, it will not unfold smoothly as some improved but largely familiar versions of life as we know it. This is the only thing that seems certain.

Dianne Dumanoski, *The End of the Long Summer*

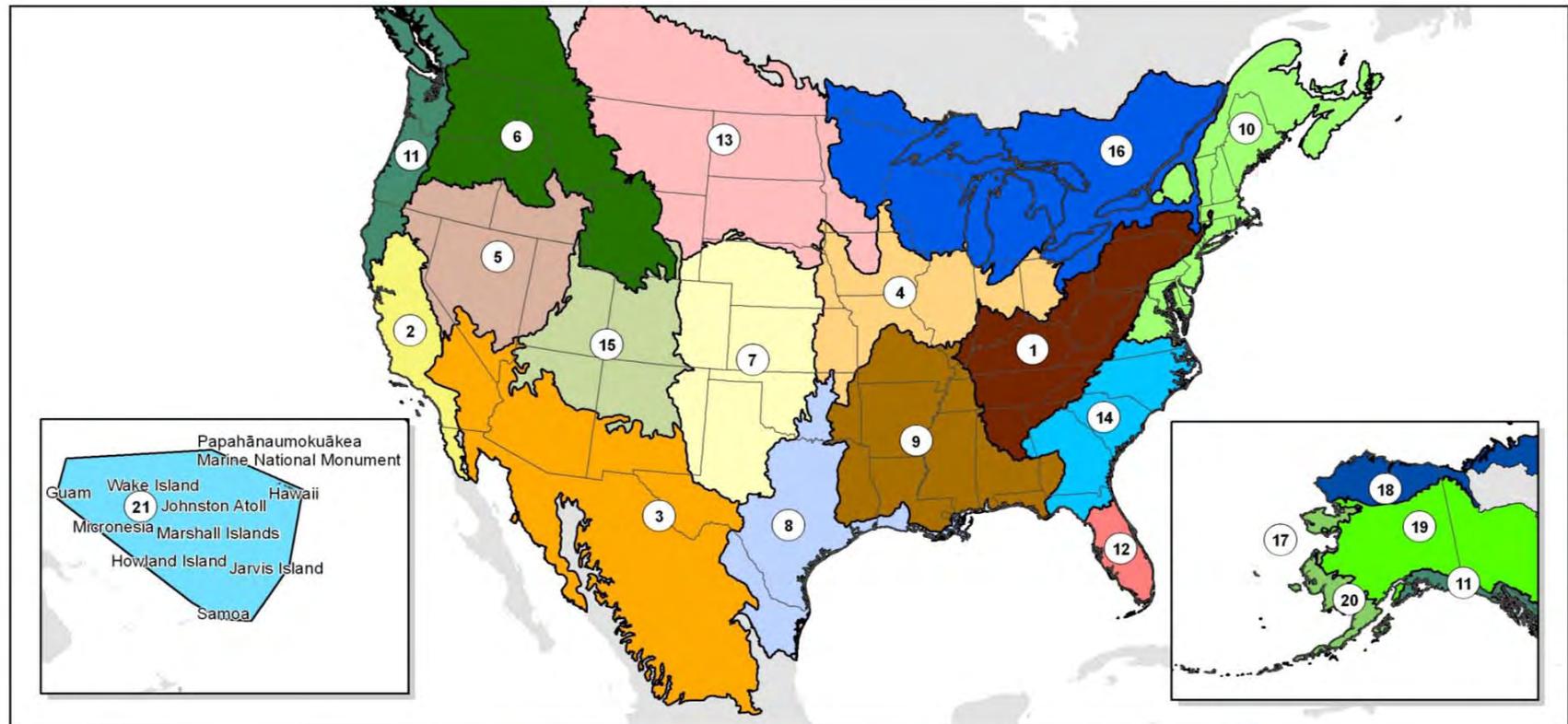


Again, Why Are We Doing This?

The magnitude and sophistication of the issue of climate change, if we are to somehow manage change, demands the sophistication and magnitude of response by the conservation community.

And we are not ready...

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives: Geographic Areas



Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Appalachian | 6. Great Northern | 12. Peninsular Florida | 18. Arctic |
| 2. California | 7. Great Plains | 13. Plains and Prairie Potholes | 19. Northwestern Interior Forest |
| 3. Desert | 8. Gulf Coast Prairie | 14. South Atlantic | 20. Western Alaska |
| 4. Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers | 9. Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks | 16. Upper Midwest and Great Lakes | 21. Pacific Islands |
| 5. Great Basin | 10. North Atlantic | 17. Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands | Unclassified |
| | 11. North Pacific | | |

Albers Equal Area Conic NAD83
 Produced by FWS, IRTM, Denver, CO
 Map Date: 03182010

What are the LCCs doing?

Working together to understand impacts of resource threats.



Interactions of Consolidation Drainage and Climate on Water-Level Dynamics, Wetland Productivity, and Waterbirds (PPP LCC 2011)

What are the LCCs doing?

Working together to determine how to best address these threats.



Manajiwin: Respecting Tribes, First Nations and Cultural Resources in Cooperative Landscape Climate Change Decision Making (UMGL LCC 2011)

What are the LCCs doing?

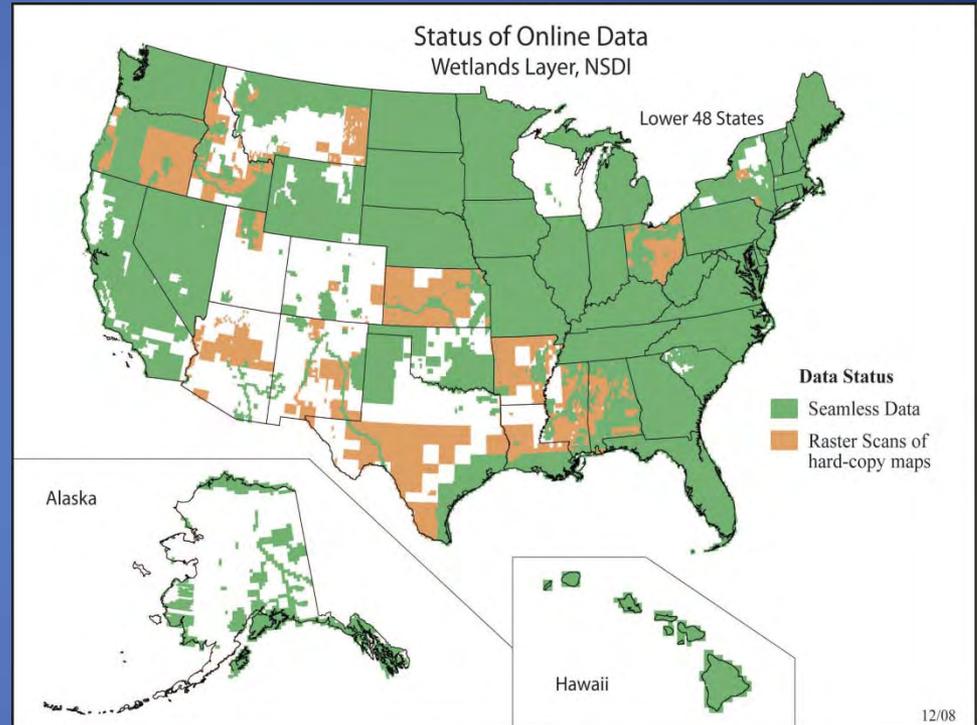
Linking
science
with
conservation
actions.



Greater Sage-grouse Response to Wind
Energy Development (PPP LCC 2010)

What are the LCCs doing?

Compliment
and build upon
existing
science and
conservation
efforts.



Completion of the National Wetlands Inventory Mapping in the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes LCC (UMGL LCC 2010)

What are the LCCs doing?

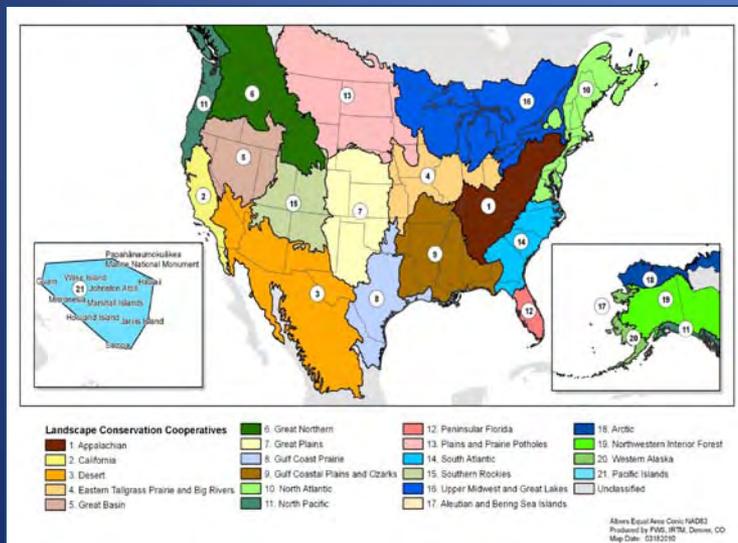
Serving as an applied science and rapid response laboratory.



Plains and Prairie Potholes Missouri River Flood Conference Call, June 7, 2011

Landscape Conservation Cooperative Attributes

At a national level,
addresses conservation on a
landscape level across
geopolitical boundaries



At a local level, will assist in
predicting ecological and
habitat changes and link
science to on-the-ground
conservation actions

OK, show me

“rubber hitting the road!”

Resource Assessments

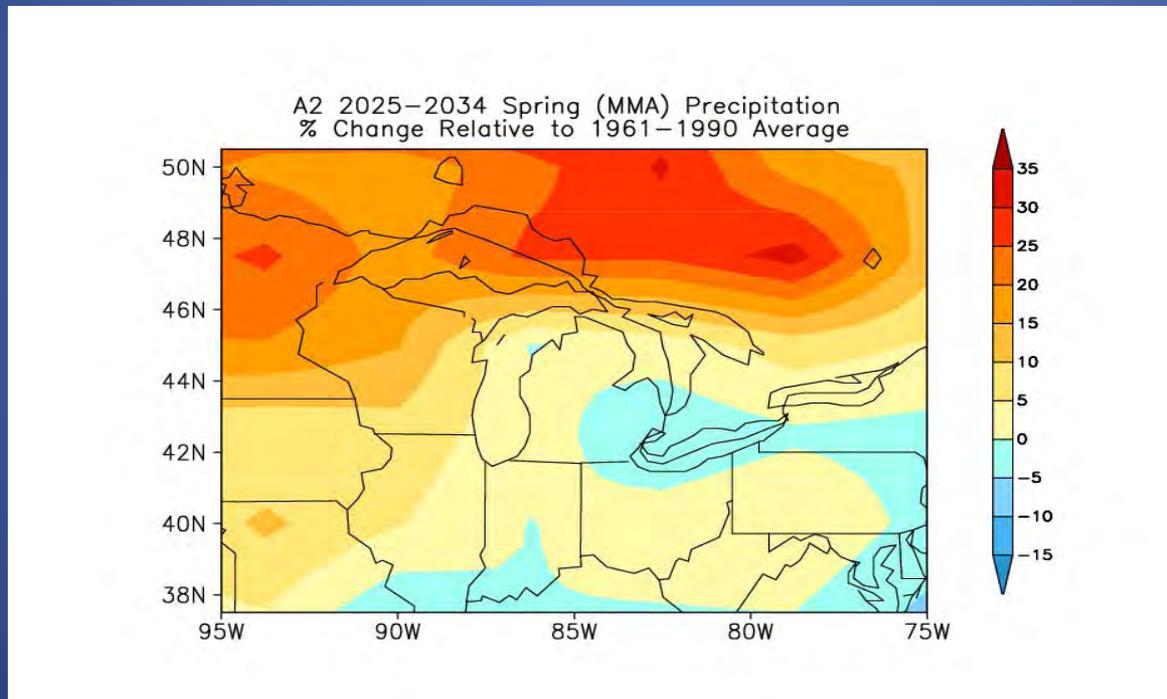


Regional Assessment of Fish Habitat Condition in Northern
Great Plains (PPP LCC 2010)

OK, show me

“rubber hitting the road!”

Climate Models (to appropriate scales)

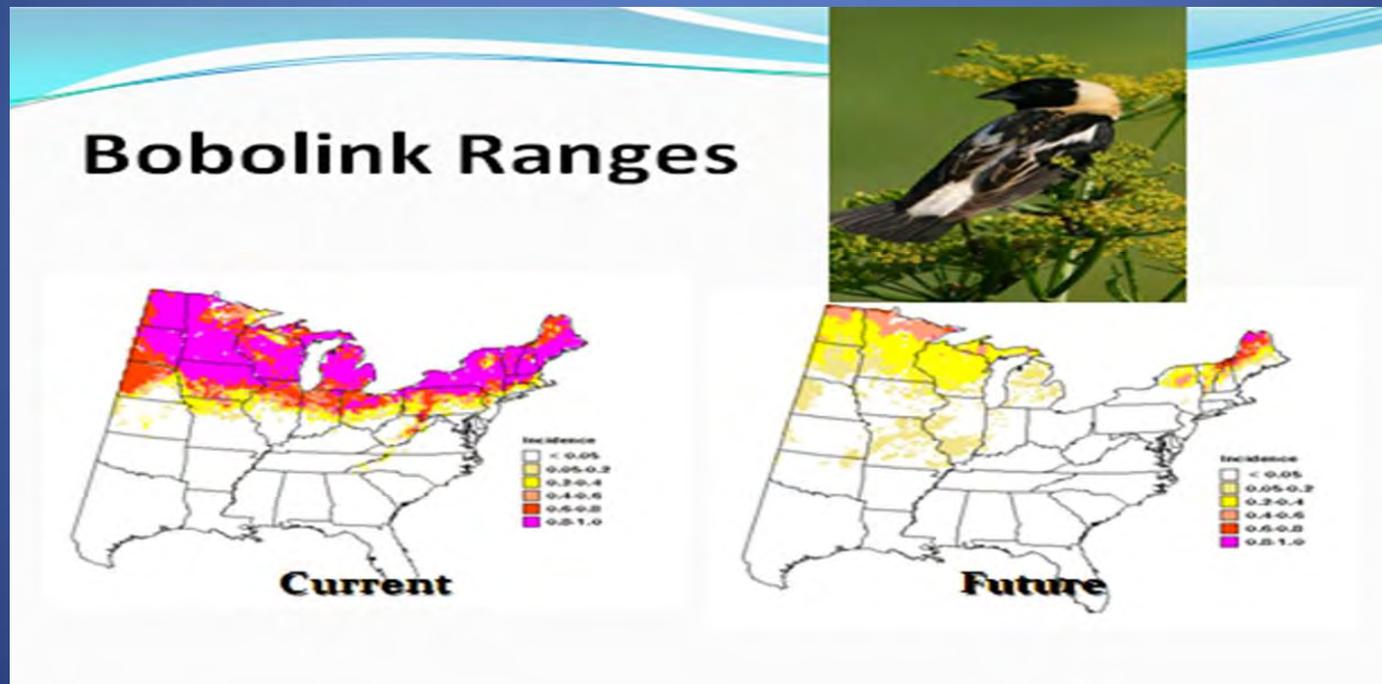


Down-scaled Climate Data for the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes LCC Region (UMGL LCC 2010)

OK, show me

“rubber hitting the road!”

Vulnerability Assessments



Full Life Cycle Vulnerability Assessments for the Birds of the Upper Midwest Great Lakes Region – UMGL LCC 2011

OK, show me
“rubber hitting the road!”

Inventory & Monitoring Protocols



Developing a Standardized, Incremental, and Sustainable Monitoring Strategy for Habitat Restoration Activities in the Upper Mississippi River Basin (PPP LCC 2010)

OK, show me

“rubber hitting the road!”

Conservation Plans and Designs



A Regional Decision Support Tool for Identifying Vulnerabilities of Riverine Habitat and Fishes to Climate Change (UMGL LCC 2011)

What Will LCCs **Not** Do?

- Supersede agency decision making authority
- Interfere with value and roles of existing partnerships and cooperatives (e.g. Joint Ventures, National Fish Habitat Partnership, etc.)



What can LCCs do for you?

- Inform and collaborate on research
- Ensure science is asking the right questions and agencies are working on the right issues
- Increase data sharing and integration
- Strengthen understanding of impacts on a landscape-scale.

What can YOU do for the LCCs?

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives



...to ensure that we accomplish the right things, in the right places, at the right times based on sound science, good planning, monitoring of outcomes, and adaptive management

Questions? Comments?



No sensible decision
can be made any
longer without
taking into account
not only the world
as it is, but the
world as it will be

— Isaac Asimov