

# Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

Working Together to Sustain America's Land, Water,  
Wildlife, and Cultural Resources.

July 2011

National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration

Todd E. Hopkins, US Fish & Wildlife Service



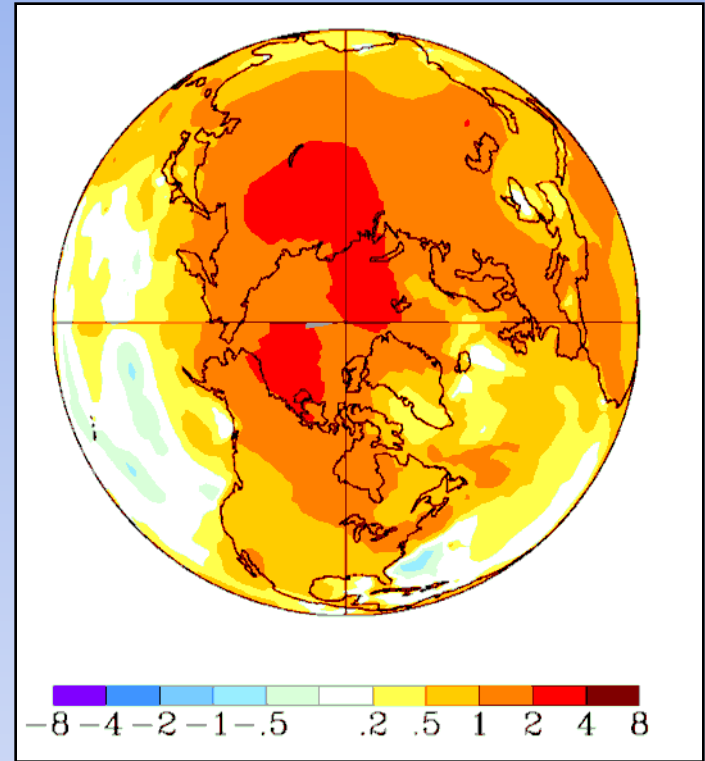
# **An Obligation to Serve.....**

**“For the benefit of the American people”**

# WHY?

- Habitat Fragmentation
- Genetic Isolation
- Invasive Species
- Water Scarcity
- Energy Development
- Decreasing Budgets
- Others...

All compounded by a rapidly changing climate



*Temperature Change, C*  
1958-2008



# Drivers of Change Transcend All Boundaries

**International disasters drive up Florida insurance rates.**

The Tokyo earthquake, three quakes in New Zealand, floods in Australia and tornadoes in the Midwest ....

**Spread of invasive grasses could increase Calif.'s wildfire risk.**

**Flood-prone land likely to increase by 45%**

-- a major challenge for FEMA.

**Citizens' Insurance Board okays  
429% sinkhole rate Increases.**

**World's seaports aren't prepared for  
rising sea levels, study says.**

**Calif. Public Policy Institute Calls for Major Changes  
in Policy, Governance for Water Supply, Water  
Quality & Flood Control.**



# DOI Secretarial Order No. 3289

Sept. 2009

“Establish *Landscape Conservation Cooperatives*.....  
to plan, design, and deliver conservation in ways that  
integrate local, State, Tribal, regional, national and  
international efforts and resources....”

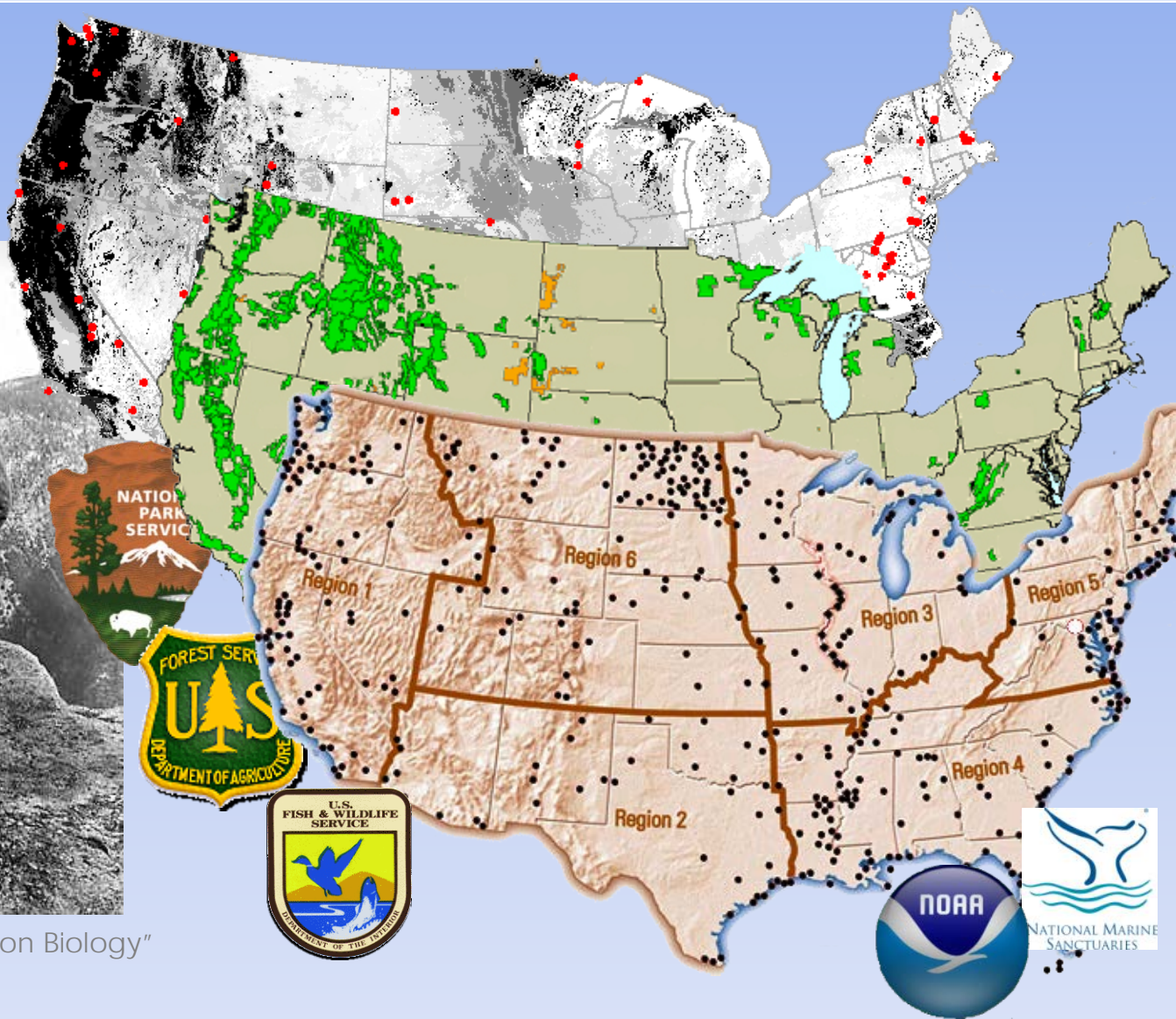
“....must work together, and with other Federal, State,  
Tribal and local governments, and private landowner  
partners, to develop landscape-level strategies.”

# Historic Approach to Conservation

Preservation Era

John Muir ~1820

"Set aside"



Source: "Principles of Conservation Biology"  
Meffe and Carroll 1994

**NEW Era => rely on predictive sciences = Managing for Disruptive Change**



# Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

What are they?

**Applied conservation science partnerships.** Partners include federal and state agencies, Tribes, conservation organizations, and universities within a geographically defined area

**Fundamental units of planning and adaptive science** that inform conservation actions on the ground

**A national and international network** of land, water, wildlife and cultural resource managers and interested public and private organizations

# Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

## What do they do?

- Identify common goals and priorities
- Link science and conservation delivery
- Support biological planning, conservation design and adaptive management
- Evaluate the effectiveness of scientific information and conservation actions





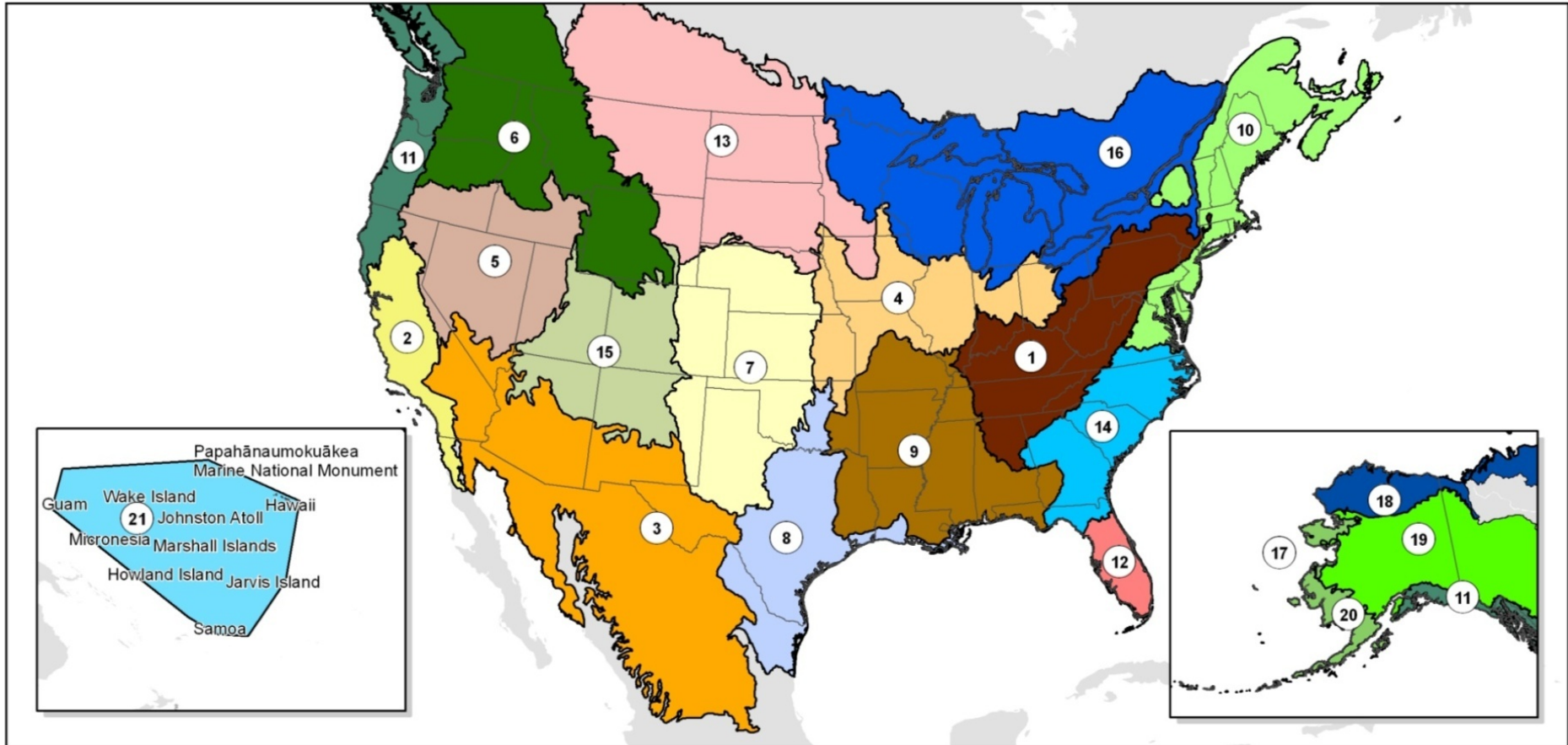
# Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

## Key Components

- A steering committee of partners
- LCC coordinator & Science Coordinator
- Planning and technical staff
- GIS capability and other scientific expertise
- Communications



# The National Geographic Framework for LCCs



## Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

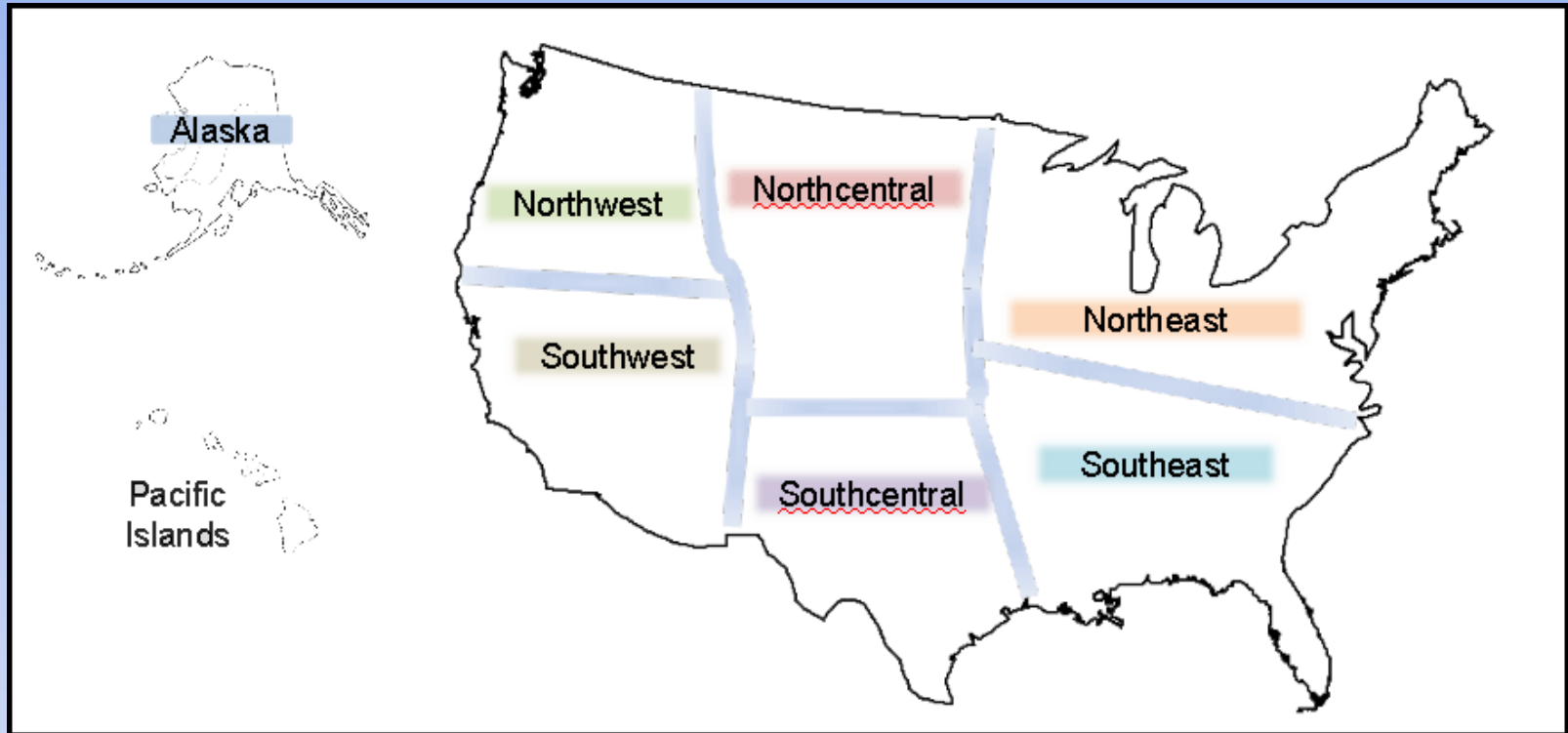
- 1. Appalachian
- 2. California
- 3. Desert
- 4. Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers
- 5. Great Basin

- 6. Great Northern
- 7. Great Plains
- 8. Gulf Coast Prairie
- 9. Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks
- 10. North Atlantic
- 11. North Pacific

- 12. Peninsular Florida
- 13. Plains and Prairie Potholes
- 14. South Atlantic
- 15. Southern Rockies
- 16. Upper Midwest and Great Lakes
- 17. Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands

- 18. Arctic
- 19. Northwestern Interior Forest
- 20. Western Alaska
- 21. Pacific Islands
- Unclassified

# Climate Science Centers



Climate Science Centers will provide climate science information and help LCCs develop modeling tools and conduct site-specific studies of climate impacts on natural resources.



# National Ocean Policy: Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

## CMSP Framework: A Regional Planning Process

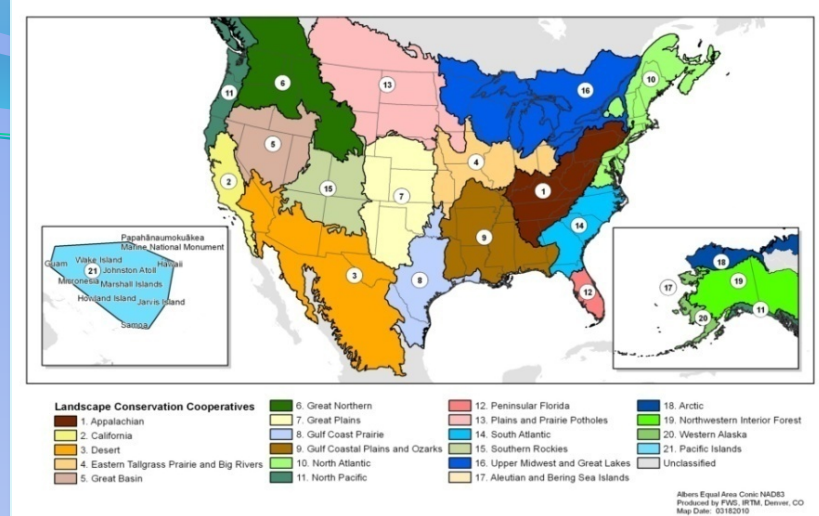
Large Marine Ecosystems and Regional Planning Areas





# **Conservation Planning across all boundaries**

# Network Status



- 9 LCC's w/ both Coordinator and Science Coordinator
- 3 LCC's lead by BLM and BOR, partially staffed
- 5 LCC's w/Coordinator only
- 4 LCC's w/ interim staff from USGS, NPS, BOR, BLM, FWS, BIA, USFS and state contributions/sharing



# Summary

- LCCs are applied conservation science partnerships that build on existing partnerships and leverages new ones.
- LCCs facilitate conservation at the landscape level.
- LCCs leverage information and resources.
- LCCs inform decision makers – they are not decision making units.
- **For more information: [www.doi.gov/lcc](http://www.doi.gov/lcc)**

# Common themes of many LCC Projects

- Address increasing land use pressures and resource threats and uncertainties amplified by a rapidly changing climate
- Result in tools needed to prioritize and guide more effective conservation actions in the face of these threats and uncertainties
- Assess how much of what conservation action is needed where to sustain species, habitats and systems (Doing the Right Things in the Right Places)



# Example of LCC Efforts?

The Florida LCC  
Harborside A&B,  
4<sup>th</sup> floor, at 10am