

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Large Landscape Restoration and the National Park System



April 21, 2016

National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration
Raymond M. Sauvajot, Ph.D.

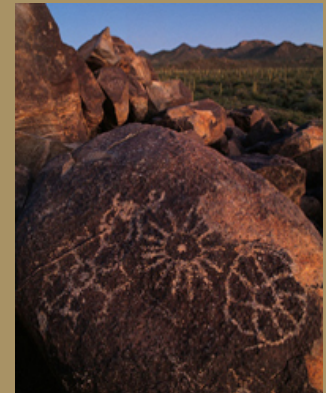
Associate Director, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science



Why large landscape restoration for the National Park System?

“Cooperative conservation beyond park boundaries is necessary as the National Park Service strives to fulfill its mandate to preserve the natural and cultural resources of parks unimpaired for future generations.”

NPS Management Policies, 2006



NPS policies point to cooperative landscape conservation and restoration



The National Park Service will...

- Cooperate with ... governments...individuals and organizations to advance the goal of creating a seamless networks of parks....
- Establish corridors that link together...open spaces ... and compatibly managed private lands....
- Increase protection and enhancement of biodiversity ... to create a greater array of educational and appropriate recreational opportunities.
- Will not relinquish any of its authority to manage areas under its jurisdiction, nor will it expect other partners to relinquish theirs.



NPS Photo 2021



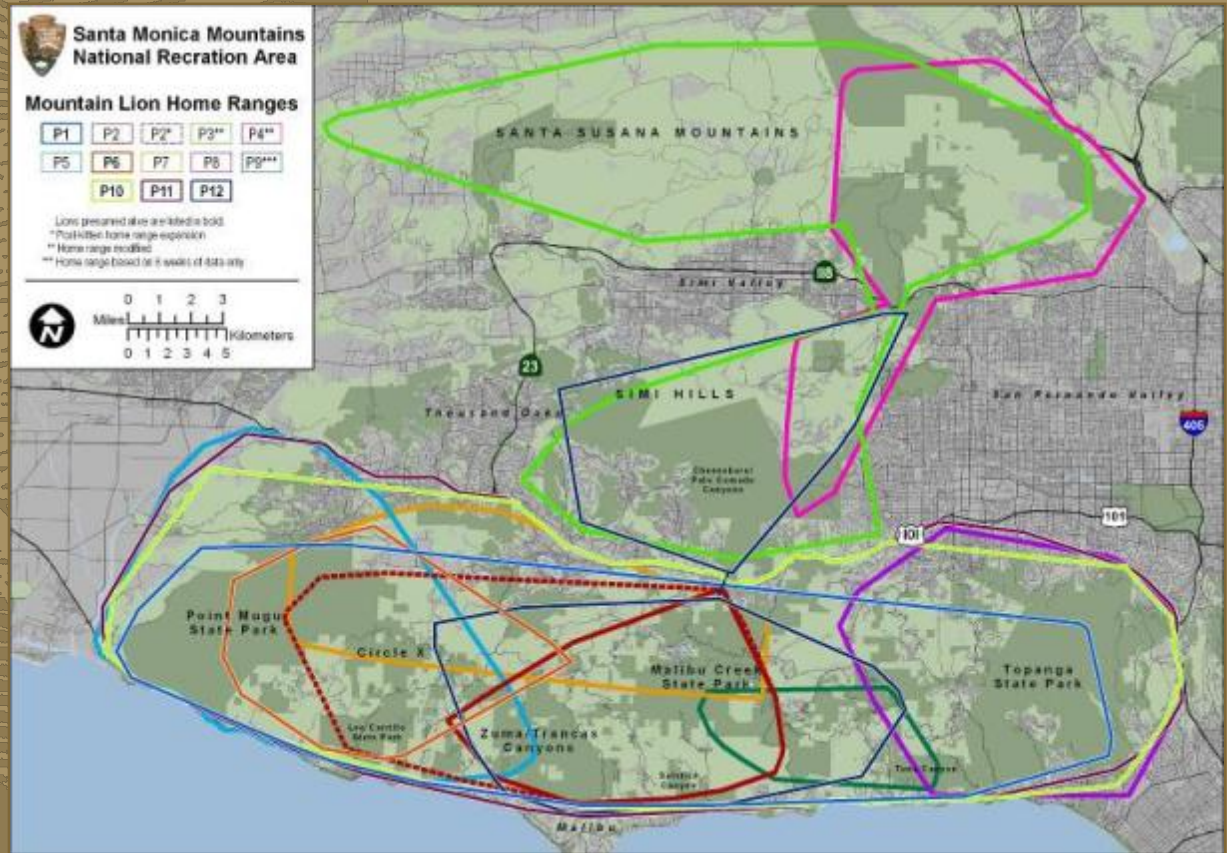
Most importantly, landscape-scale conservation is key to the mission of the National Park Service

- Critical to ensure persistence and viability of natural and cultural resources.
- Key priority for the National Park Service *Call to Action*: Action 22 – “Scaling Up”
- Success depends on collaboration and partnerships at local, regional, national, and international scales.
- Ecosystem restoration at the landscape scale is a key part of NPS landscape conservation and Scaling Up.

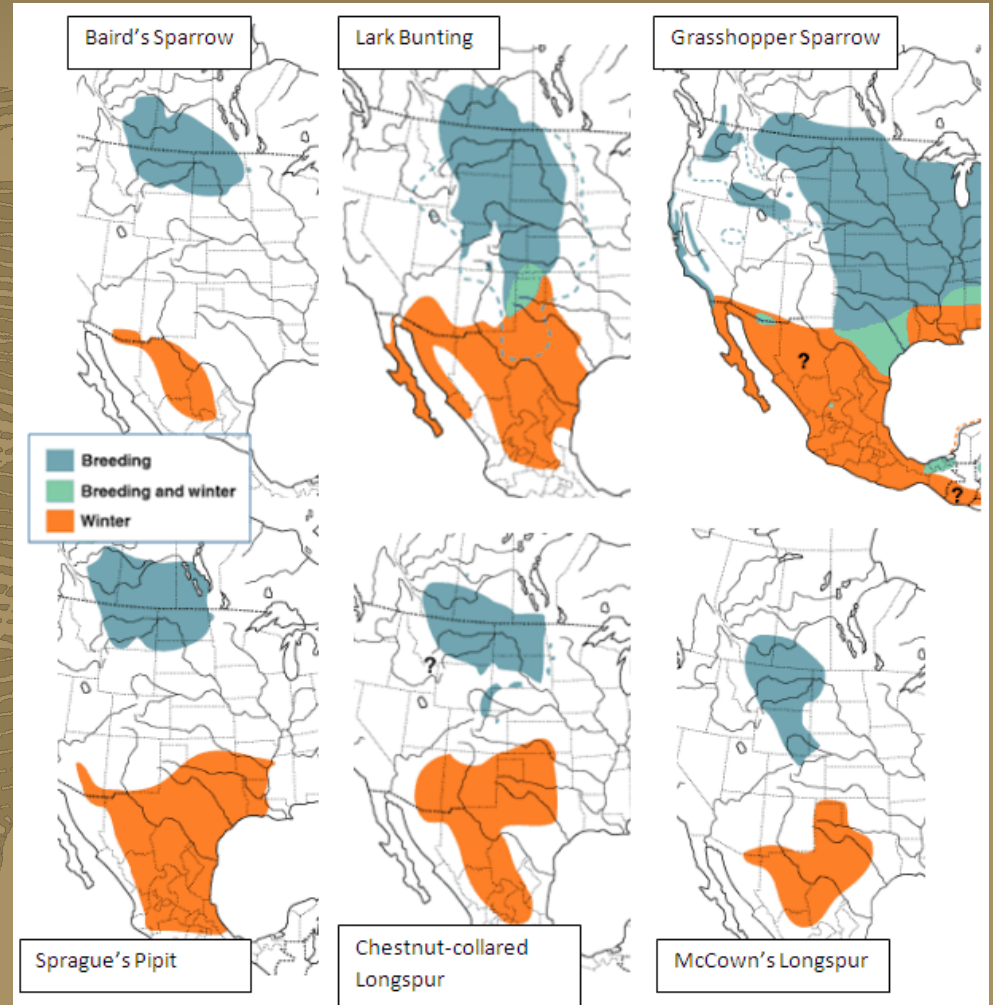
Park resources are critically dependent on surrounding landscapes



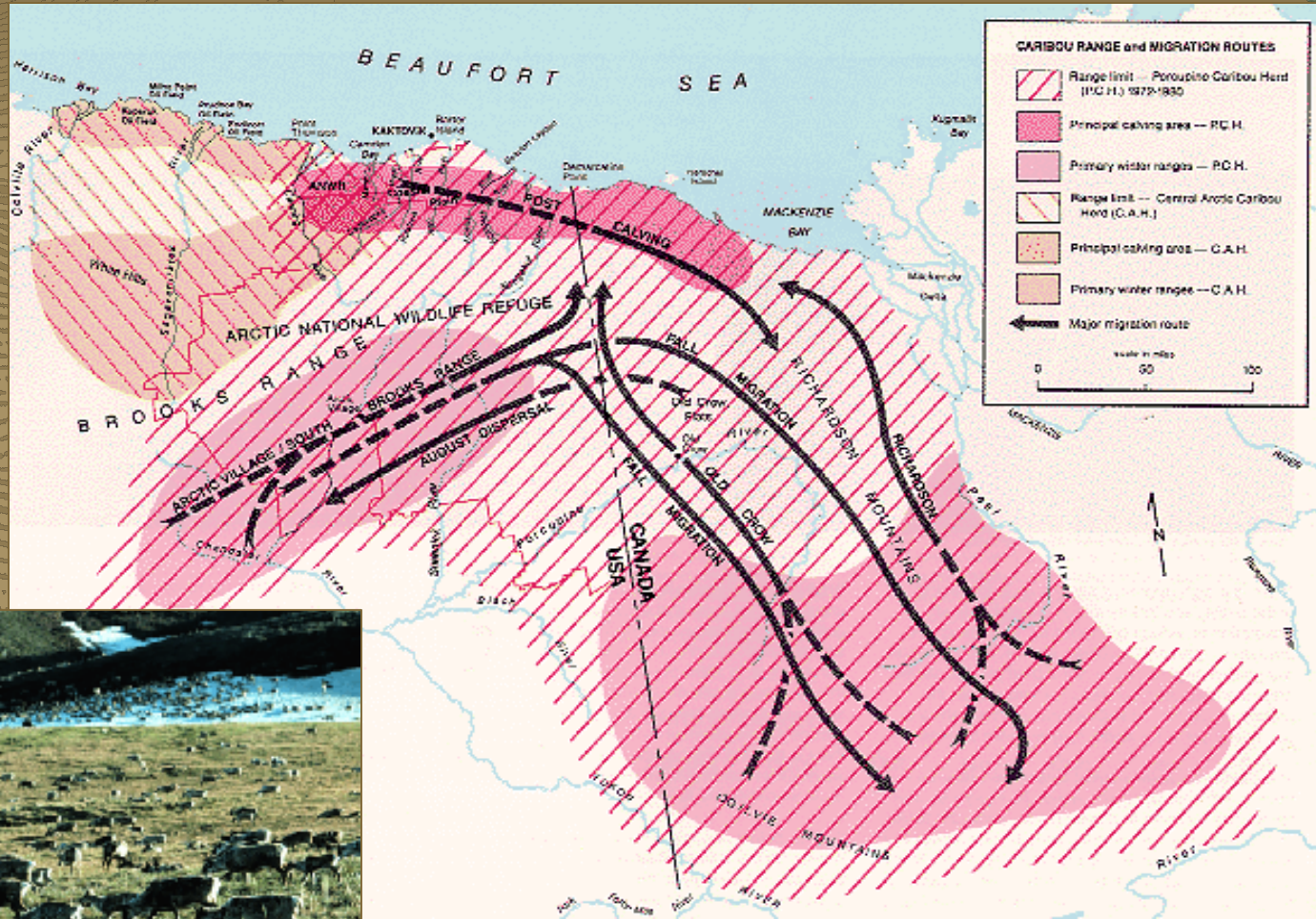
■ Mountain lions in southern California



Grassland songbirds from Mexico to Canada

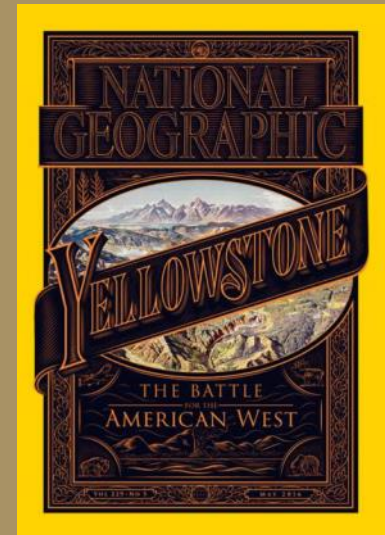
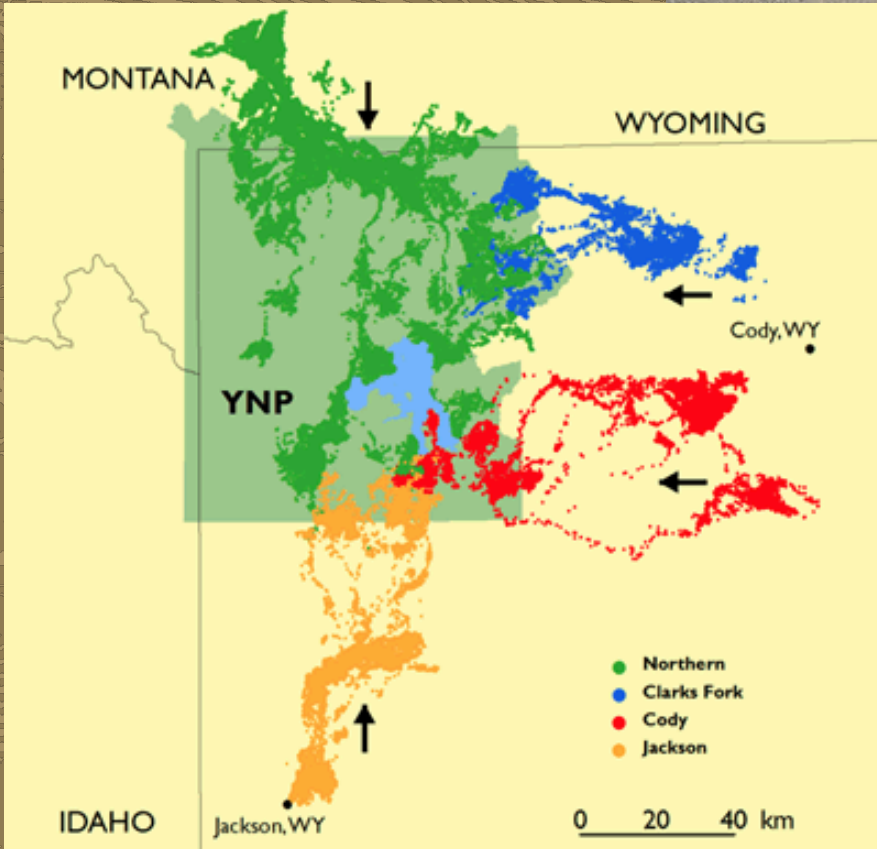


Caribou migrations across the arctic coastal plain



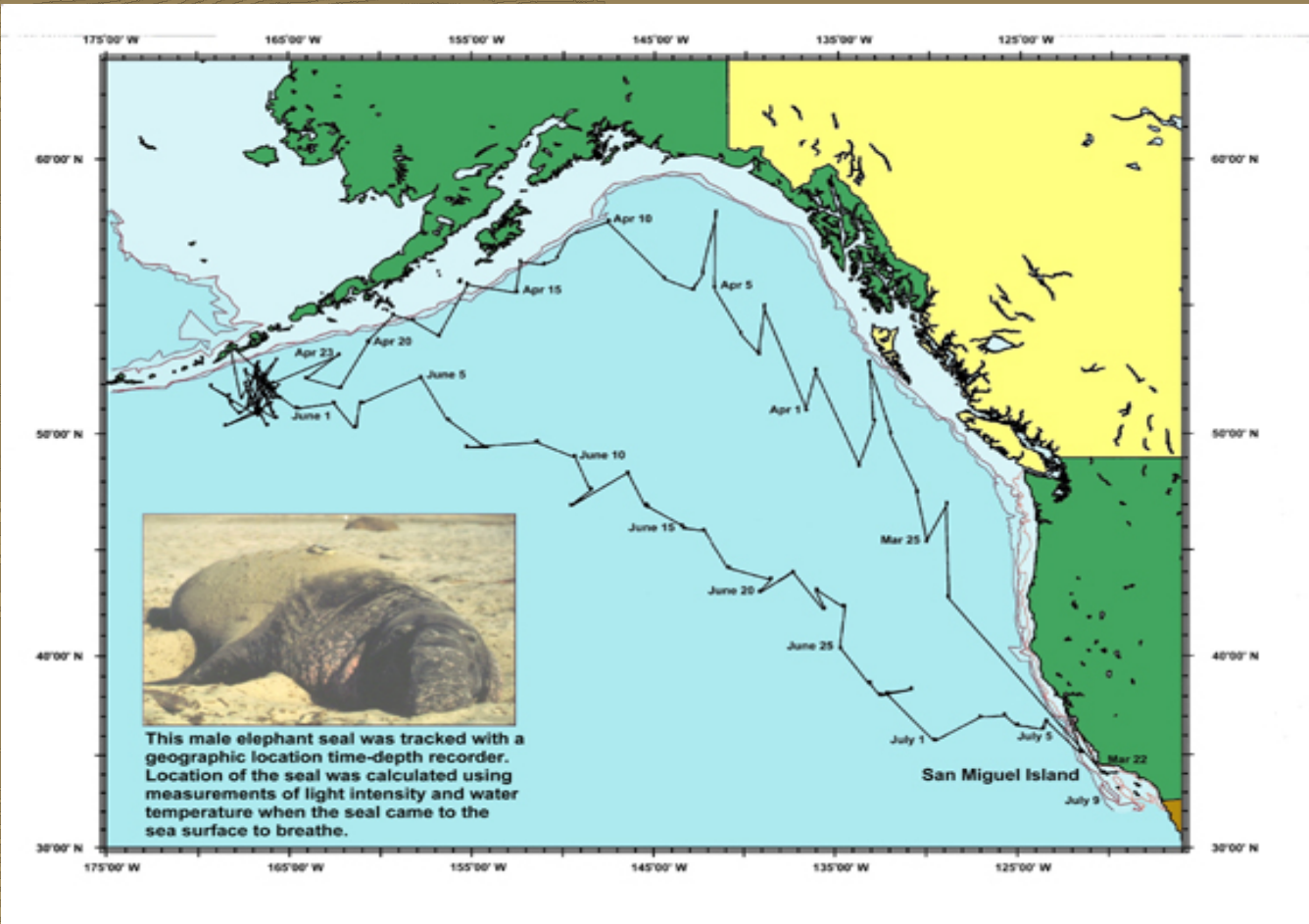


Elk migrations in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem





- Elephant seals and other marine species depend on global scale movements





■ Protecting cultural heritage at landscape scales



The National Park Service *Call to Action:* Action #22 – “Scaling Up”



Promote large landscape conservation to support healthy ecosystems and cultural resources.

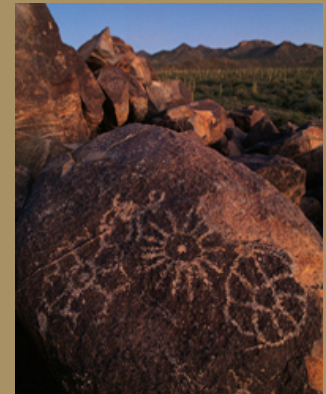


To achieve this goal we will protect continuous corridors
... through voluntary partnerships across public and
private lands and waters....



Scaling Up Goals

- Cultivate and achieve excellence in science, scholarship, and collaborative stewardship of cultural and natural resource corridors as a foundation for landscape-scale park planning, policy, decision making, and education that serves as a model throughout the nation and the world.
- Facilitate awareness and understanding of large landscape conservation and partnership principles and practice necessary for the NPS to lead, collaborate or engage in large landscape efforts systemically.





Scaling Up Strategies

- Within the NPS and with our partners, build the constituency for engagement in large landscape restoration and conservation.
- Highlight large landscape restoration and conservation to demonstrate NPS involvement and inspire further engagement.
- Provide access to information, tools, science, skills and resources that assist in engaging in large landscape restoration and conservation.
- Advance policy and practices that supports NPS involvement in large landscape conservation.




Crown Managers
Partnership





Integrating existing efforts, such as:

- Relevant NPS programs and initiatives
 - National Heritage Areas
 - Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
 - National Natural Landmarks
 - Integration and collaboration across NPS programs
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
- National Parks Conservation Association
- Many Local, State, Federal and NGO Initiatives





Highlight large landscape initiatives

- Chesapeake Bay - restore water quality; provide water access; protect cultural landscape; protect sensitive species (e.g. bald eagles)
- Southwest Deserts - desert connectivity
- Crown of the Continent - collaborative decision making, role of science, & climate change
- Appalachian Trail – natural and cultural resources along 2,200 miles

National Park Service
Scaling up our efforts on large landscape conservation

Scaling Up
As the National Park Service enters on its second century in 2016, its employees have committed to scaling up efforts on large landscape conservation. The call to action is to work beyond NPS boundaries and conserve landscapes that ultimately protect the resources that the agency is mandated to conserve.

Our national parks, trails, heritage areas and landmarks reflect the history of our nation. They sustain and preserve history, lands, waters, and wildlife across diverse landscapes. They attract millions of visitors enchanted by their beauty, the stories these places tell, and the adventures they offer. Increasingly, whether urban or rural and large or small, the preservation of these places depends upon connectivity— linkages with neighboring places and people. Their future depends upon pursuit of shared goals by people working together across large landscapes.

The need for scaling up work in large landscape conservation and for building upon a deep history of National Park Service partnerships, is now greater than ever. These efforts require management tools and skills in collaboration, coordination, mediation, and facilitation of dialogue. They call for knowledge building to include information at varying scales relevant to managing water, adapting to the effects of a changing climate, or protecting wildlife or historic resources. The National Park Service is committed to working with its partners, many communities and landscapes to develop governance structures and processes that strengthen dialogue, support shared actions, and enhance coordination.

Our Vision
To conserve the natural and cultural resources of the National Park System as integral parts of larger landscapes in which they are an inherent anchor.

The NPS is a partner in large landscape conservation in many places across the nation, including (but not limited to):

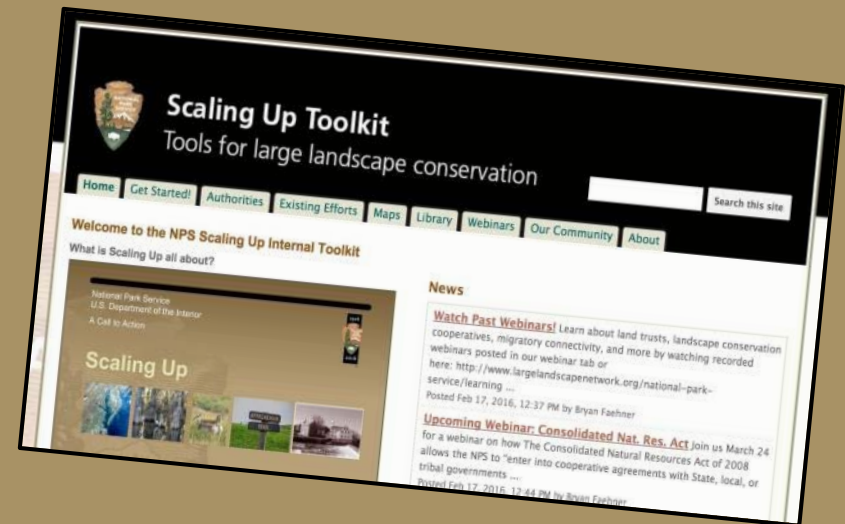
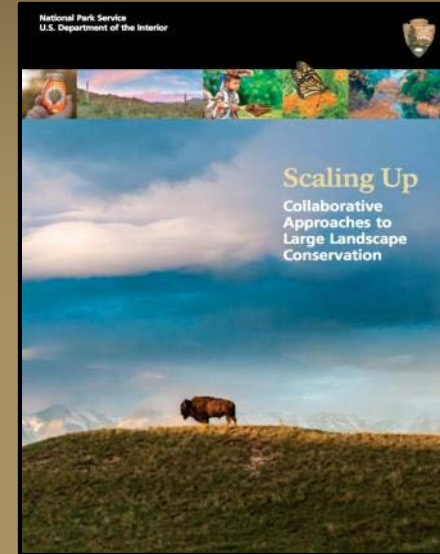
- Crown of the Continent
- Tallegus Plains National Preserve
- Patuxent Heritage Trail
- Path of the Pilgrims
- Southwest Deserts Regional Partnership Area
- Appalachian National Scenic Trail
- Western Waters Agency Partnership

Further Information
R. J. Stedman, Associate Scientific Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, National Leadership Council Scaling Up Conservation
A Scenic Beauty Large Landscape Conservation Initiative, Biological Resource Management, San Juan-Grand Teton

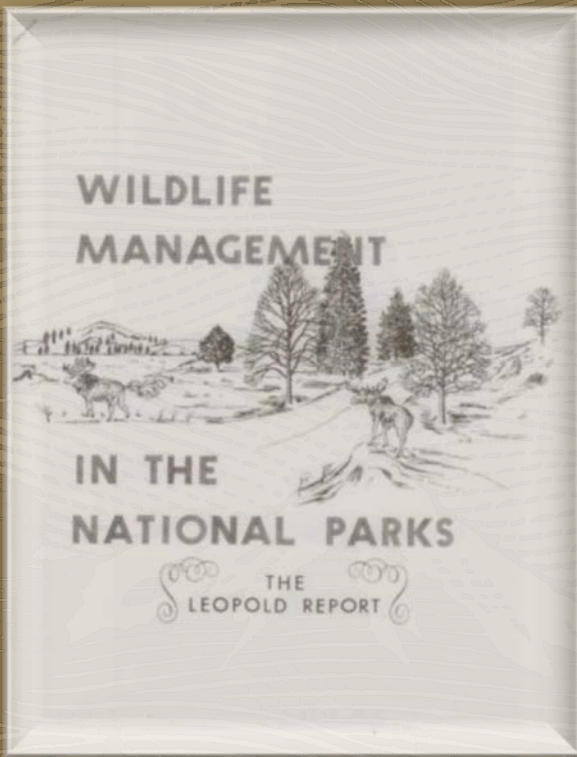
www.nps.gov/collaction

Scaling Up Products

- Published two documents on large landscape conservation: *Collaborative Conservation*, an overview of the NPS' role in large landscape conservation which features 20 case studies and *Expanding Horizons*, a report following the 2014 Large Landscape National Conference.
- Hosted webinars featuring tools that enable the NPS to work beyond boundaries. Webinars featured topics such as: Service First Agreements, Migratory Corridors, The Nature Conservancy, NPScope, Landscape Scale Mitigation, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, and more.
- Internal toolkit and external pages on Practitioners' Network for Large Landscape Conservation.



“Revisiting Leopold” and the Future of the National Park System



*“The overarching goal of NPS resource management should be to steward NPS resources for continuous change ... in order to preserve **ecological integrity** and **cultural and historical authenticity** ... and form the core of a national conservation land– and seascape.”*

“Connectivity across these broader land- and seascapes is essential for system resilience over time to support animal movements, gene flow, and response to cycles of natural disturbance.”

Revisiting Leopold, p. 9



“...21st-century conservation challenges require an expansion in the spatial, temporal, and social scales of resource stewardship.”

Revisiting Leopold, p. 13





Keys to Success: Landscape Restoration and Collaboration

- Altered ecosystems in and around parks will require restoration to meet connectivity, ecological integrity, and authenticity goals.
- Success will require collaboration and partnerships at local, regional, national, and international scales and across agencies, jurisdictions, organizations, and disciplines.

