



BLM's Landscape Approach

Conservation Planning in Nevada
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Purpose of Today's Discussion

- Provide an overview of the BLM's Landscape Approach
- Briefly describe components of a Rapid Ecoregional Assessment (REA)
- Identify the next steps following completion of the REAs
- Show example of field implementation
- Show example of monitoring for adaptive management for a landscape-scale restoration project

BLM's Landscape Approach

- Examines landscape-scale resource conditions and trends
- Identifies focal areas for conservation and development
- Focuses resources where they are most needed
- Integrates BLM management activities
- Enables adaptive management
- Provides a foundation for management partnerships
- Nested within and complements the Climate Science Centers (CSCs) and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs)

Vision for BLM's Landscape Approach

Develop business practices to manage resources and uses at multiple scales in the face of compounding stressors. **These practices will help the BLM and partners identify what to sustain, at what scale, and the associated trade-offs.**

Traditional Practice		Landscape Approach
Project and Site Focused		Landscape Focus
Stove piped		Integrated
Tends to authorize uses and mitigate ecological values	New business practices are required to support this transition	Considers ecological values and use authorizations equally
Ecological Component (Individual Species)		Ecological Function and Service

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BLM's Landscape Approach

Rapid Ecoregional
Assessments are
the first step

Rapid Ecoregional
Assessments

Monitoring for
Adaptive Mgmt.

Science
Integration
(CSCs & LCCs)

Ecoregional
Direction

Field Implementation

What is a REA?

- Central Basin and Range REA Completed 2012
- Northern Basin and Range REA underway
- REAs synthesize and assess best current information
- Mapped areas of high ecological value
- Established landscape-scale baseline ecological data
- REAs are limited in scope
 - ❖ Level III ecoregion
 - ❖ Broad veg classifications
 - ❖ Not NEPA or decision document
 - ❖ Baseline data useful for BLM managers and partners in developing LUPs or regional planning/mitigation strategies)
 - ❖ Focused upon conservation elements (CEs) and major types of change agents that can affect those CEs.

Three Components of REAs

Conservation Elements + Change Agents = Management Questions

**EX: Species
Habitat
Soils**

**EX: Invasive Species
Fire
Climate Change
Human Development**

**EX: Where is intact sage-
grouse habitat threatened
by climate change?**

*"what we want
to conserve"*

*"what is threatening our
resources"*

*"what land managers need
to know"*

Development of Ecoregional Direction (ED)

(Immediate Next Step is Challenges and Opportunities Report)

- Report will be developed stemming from the REA and potentially other pertinent landscape assessments
- The Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative will put together a committee to develop report (Contact Todd Hopkins to get involved)
- Will be prepared in coordination with state, Indian, federal and non-governmental partners

Development of Ecoregional Direction (ED)

(Goals of the Challenges and Opportunities Report)

- Facilitate resource management decisions
- Inform resource monitoring efforts in order to allow meaningful evaluation of management actions
- Identify tools that may be needed by resource managers to effectively utilize the REA
- Identify strategic approaches to leveraging individual key assets (land, resources, people, and dollars)
- Will identify additional actions for the short-term

Development of Ecoregional Direction (ED)

(Potential Outcomes of the Challenges and Opportunities Report)

- Recommendations for strategic implementation of conservation actions (what should be done and where) for sustainable landscapes
- Recommendations for finer scale monitoring of the changes to landscapes, species and systems projected in the GBREA
- Identification of potential priority areas for conservation, restoration and development
- Identification of data gaps

Field Implementation

- Puts management strategies identified in the ecoregional direction into practice
- Nevada developing focal areas for multi-year Healthy Landscapes program funding
- Develop 5 year program of work for landscape projects within a focal area
- Objectives of Healthy Landscapes Program
 - ❖ Develop and implement integrated regional strategies
 - ❖ Institutionalize managing resources on a landscape basis
 - ❖ Coordinate and conduct restoration and protection treatments across jurisdictions through partnerships
 - ❖ Address issues at appropriate scale
 - ❖ Coordinate across programs, disciplines, and initiatives

Field Implementation

(Desatoya Mountains Landscape Restoration Project)

- Multiple causes of degradation leading to negative cumulative effects to hydrology and in turn vegetation and wildlife.
- Integrated landscape approach using multiple partners
 - ❖ Enhance sagebrush and degraded meadow habitat for sage-grouse and other sagebrush dependent species
 - ❖ Enhance P/J woodland habitat for declining P/J dependent bird species and mule deer
 - ❖ Protect riparian habitat that supports aspen, cottonwood and diversity of bird and mammal species
 - ❖ Reduce fuel loads and catastrophic fire risk

Monitoring for Adaptive Management

(Utilizing Partners Support for the Desatoya Mountains Landscape Restoration Project)

- USGS (sage-grouse collaring/monitoring)
- NDOW and Nevada Partners for Conservation and Development (sage-grouse and mule deer monitoring, additional funding, sagebrush seedlings, pre-treatment vegetation transects)
- GBBO (multiple bird species monitoring)
- UNR (hydrological response to treatments)
- USDA ((ARS & NRCS) (hydro response/soils verification, sage-grouse habitat restoration funding for permittee through EQIP program))
- Smith Creek Ranch (Trapping horses, project development, stewardship of land)

Questions?

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Nevada's Landscape Approach

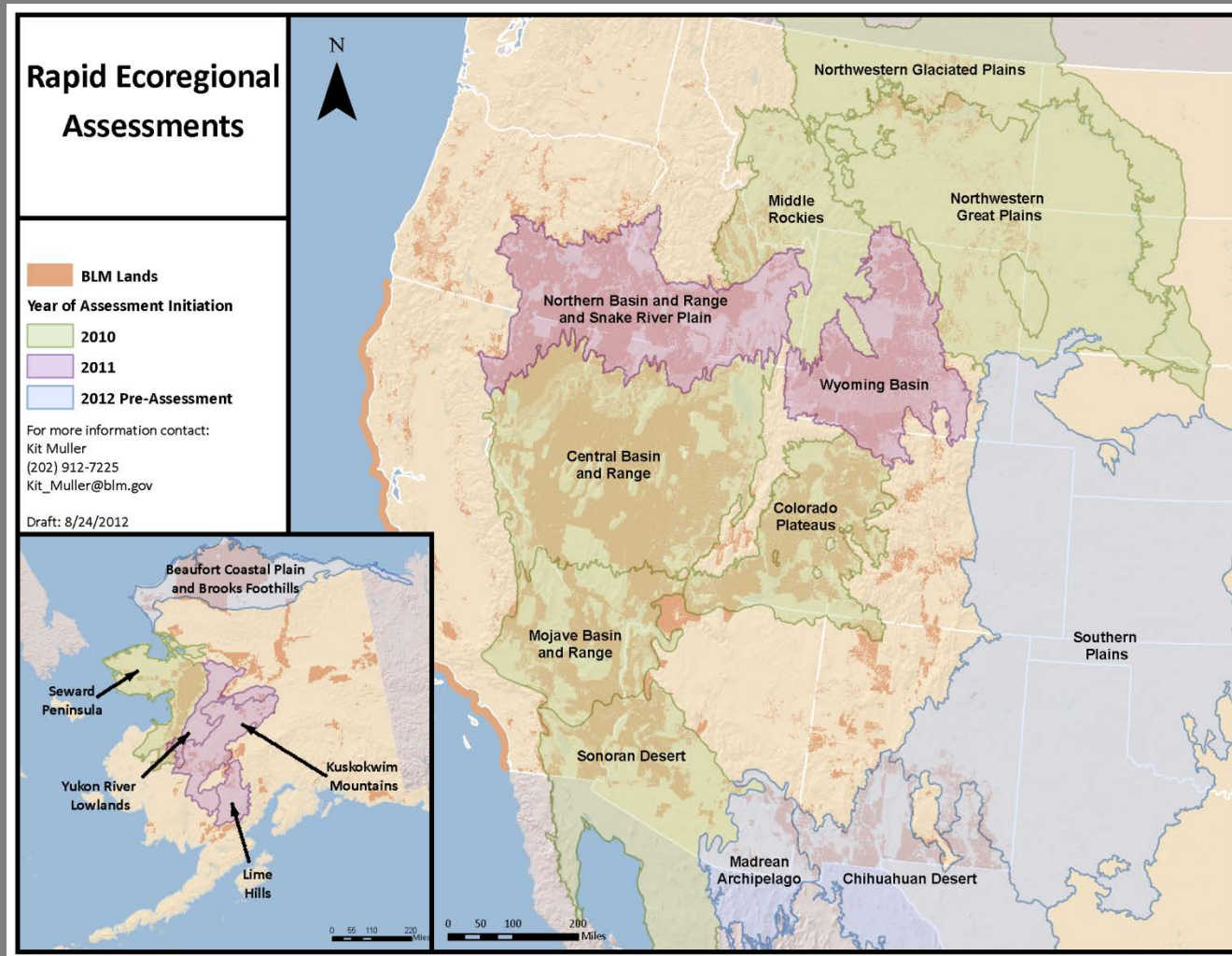


Rapid Ecoregional Assessments

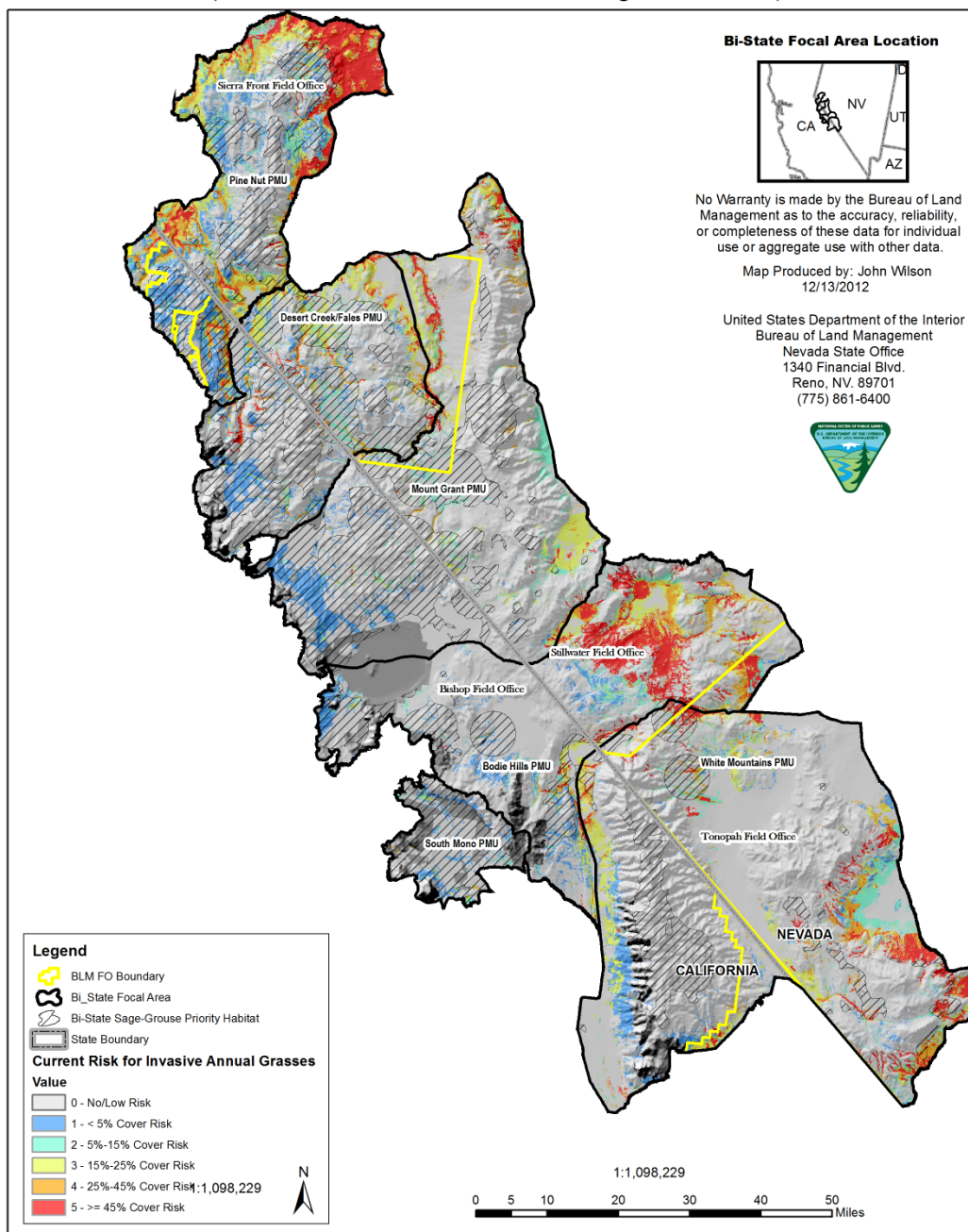
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Central Basin and Range Rapid Ecoregional Assessment

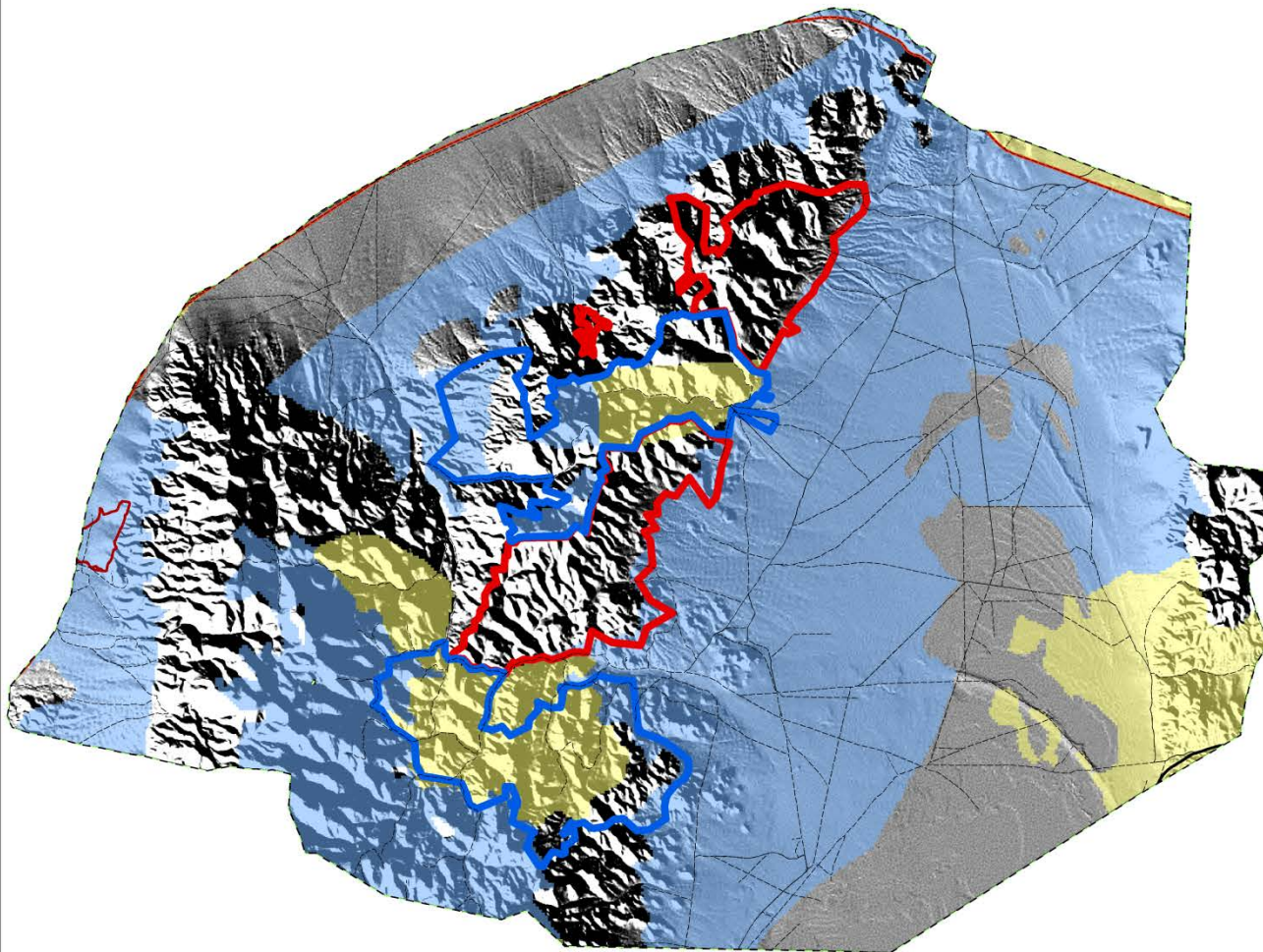
- 10 REAs initiated to date
- Colorado Plateau & Sonoran completed in July 2012
- Central Basin and Range and Mojave Basin Range completed September 2012



Bi-State Focal Area Invasive Annual Grasses Risk Model (Based on Central Basin and Range REA Data)



Map 3: Treatment Areas Within the Project Boundary Overview

Carson City District Office
and County Boundaries**Legend**

- US Highway 50
- State Route 722
- Minor Route
- Sage-Grouse Specific Treatment Area
- Woodland Specific Treatment Area
- NV Sage Grouse Class**
 - PGH
 - PPH
 - Cold Springs Fuel Break
 - Project Boundary

Map Produced by: John Wilson
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