

# Planning for Growth and Open Space Conservation

This webinar series is sponsored by:  
**USDA Forest Service**  
**State and Private Forestry - Cooperative Forestry**

Organized by  
**Rick Pringle, Susan Stein, Sara Comas, Susan Guynn (Clemson University)**  
and the  
**Forest Service National Open Space Conservation Group**



**This webinar is being recorded**



# Session #6: Large Landscape Conservation: Essential partners and the tools they provide



**Shawn Johnson**  
*Practitioners' Network for  
Large Landscape Conservation  
Roundtable for the  
Crown of the Continent  
University of Montana*



**Jim Bonesteel**  
*Rensselaer Plateau Alliance  
New York*



**Rob Pirani**  
*Regional Plan Association  
New York, New Jersey, Connecticut*

# Logistics – Q&A

- **Continuing Education Credits**
  - Attend entire presentation
- **Questions for speakers – chat pod**
- **Technical difficulties – chat pod or email Susan Guynn: [SGUYNN@clemson.edu](mailto:SGUYNN@clemson.edu)**

# Getting to Know You!



## **Shawn Johnson**

*University of Montana*

*Lincoln Institute of Land Policy*

*Practitioners' Network for Large*

*Landscape Conservation*

*Roundtable on the Crown of the*

*Continent*

# Large Landscape Conservation

{ Shawn Johnson  
Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy  
University of Montana

Growing numbers of conservationists, policy makers, and practitioners agree that the most important land and water issues facing North America require new approaches.

- Protecting ecosystem integrity and connectivity
- Restoring and protecting water resources
- Providing access for recreational opportunities
- Sustaining working farms, ranches, and forests
- Providing wildlife habitat
- Protecting and interpreting cultural resources
- Adapting to climate change

# Elements of the Puzzle



## 1. Mismatch

## 2. Interdependent Interests

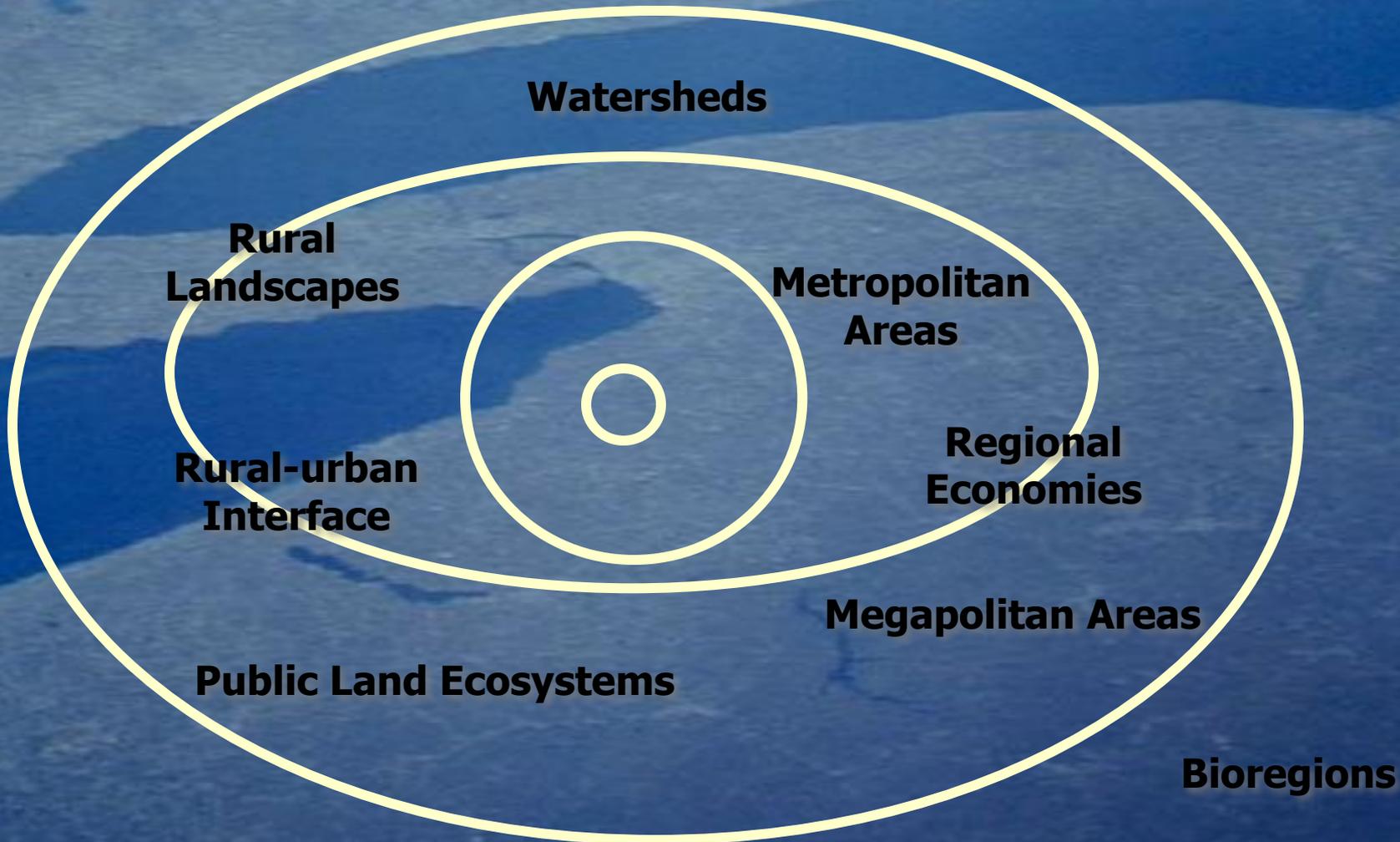
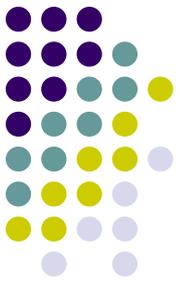
## 3. Gap in Governance

Existing governance structure is inadequate to address the problem

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# Many Scales



# Working Across Boundaries

## A Continuum of Responses

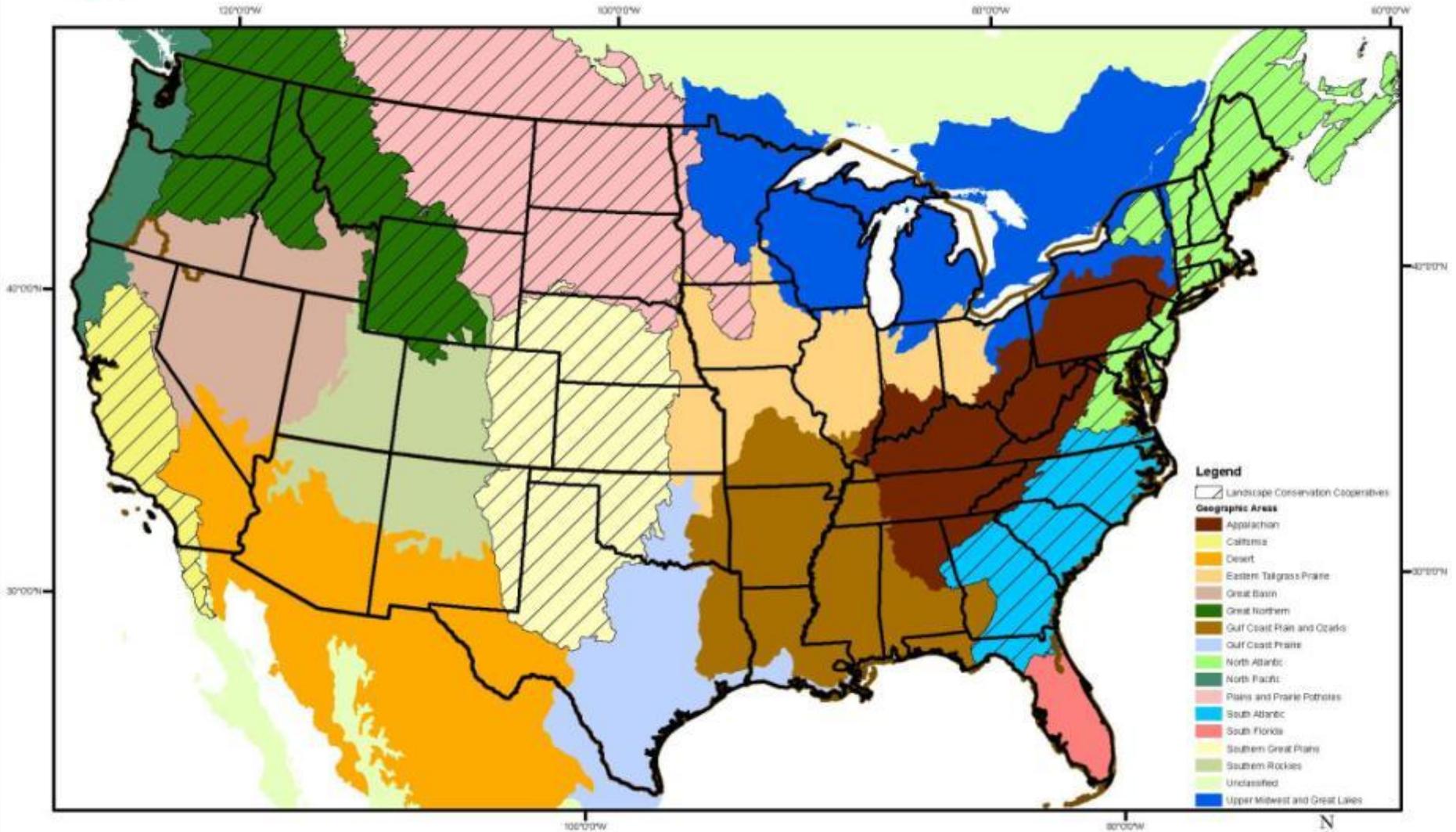


<sup>1</sup>intermediary organization: an agent who acts as a link between parties



Thinking and Acting  
at the Large Landscape Scale





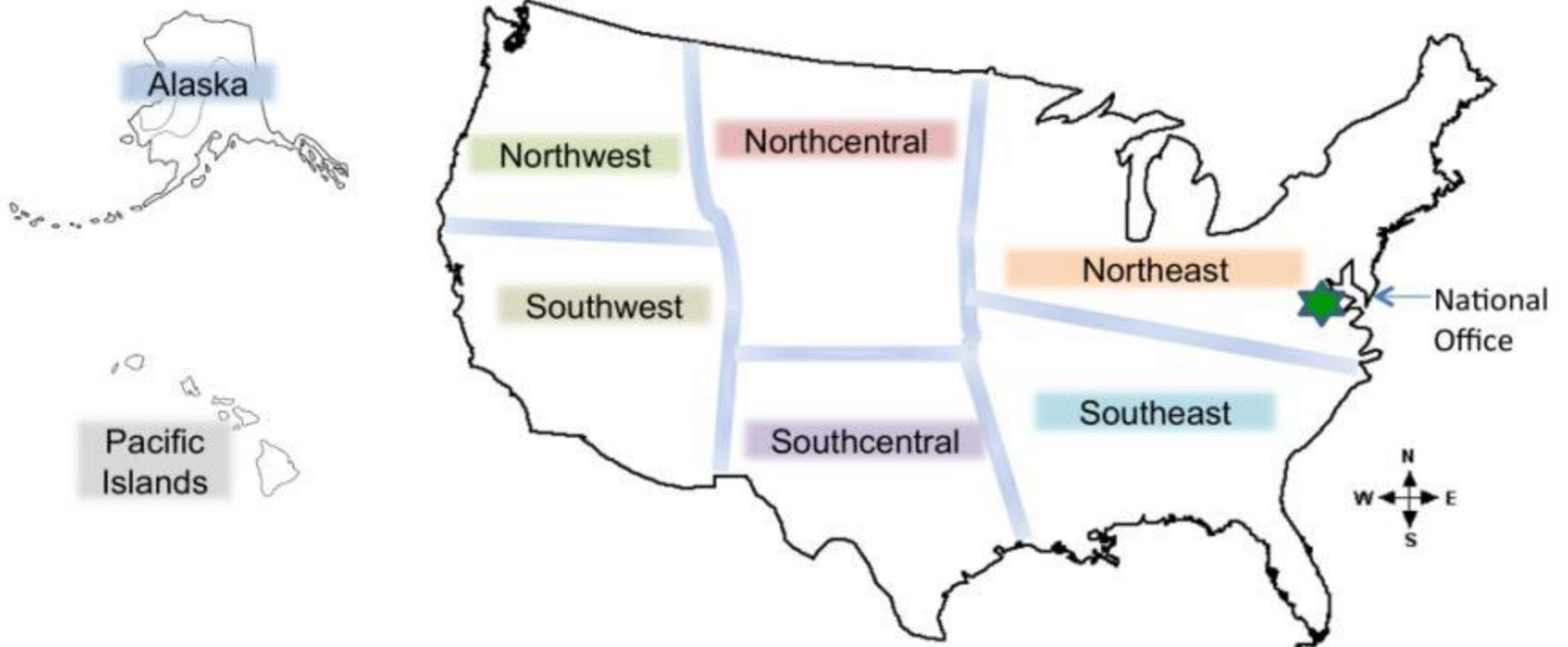
0 150 300 600 900 1,200 Miles

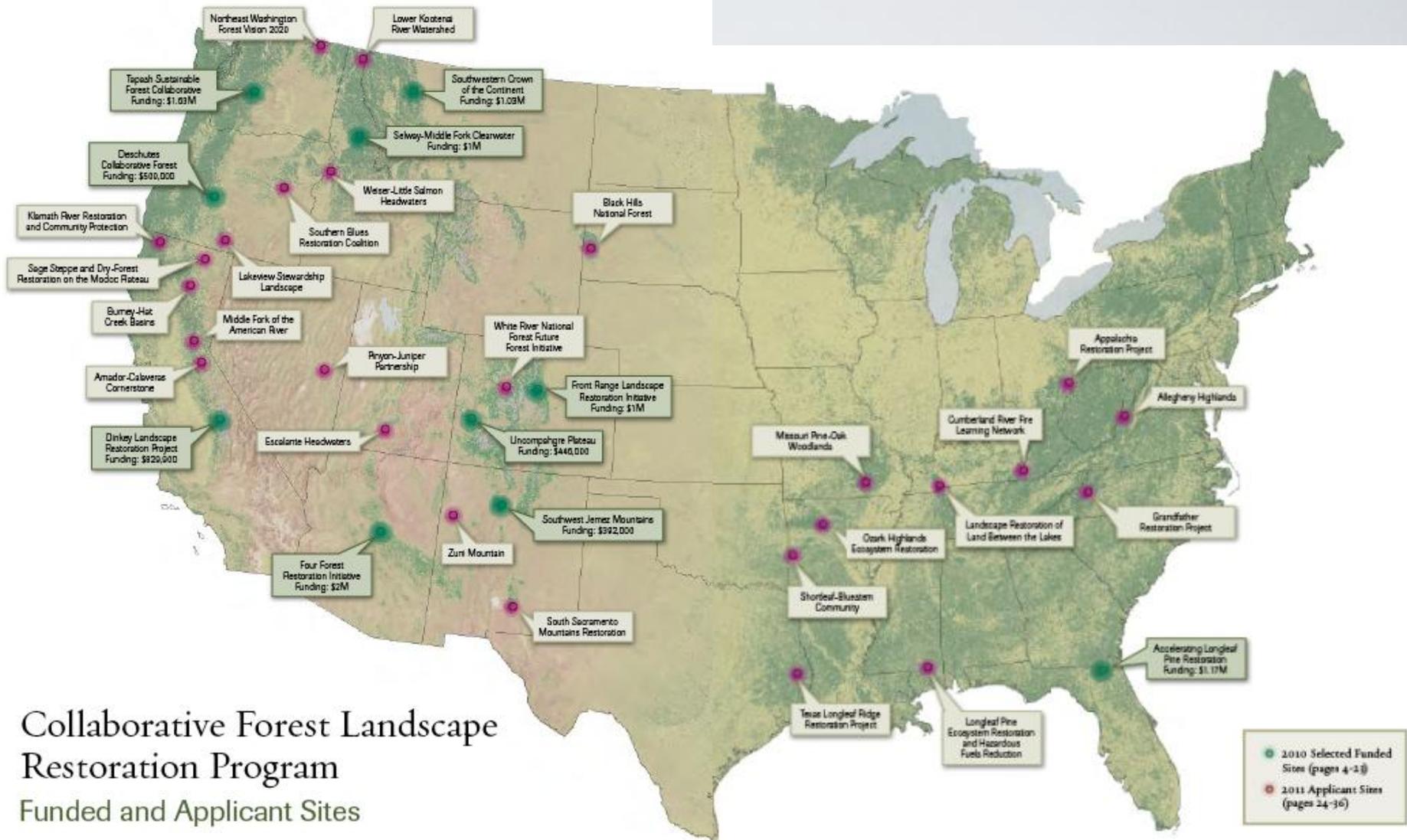
0 370 740 1,480 2,220 2,960 Kilometers



# USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Centers

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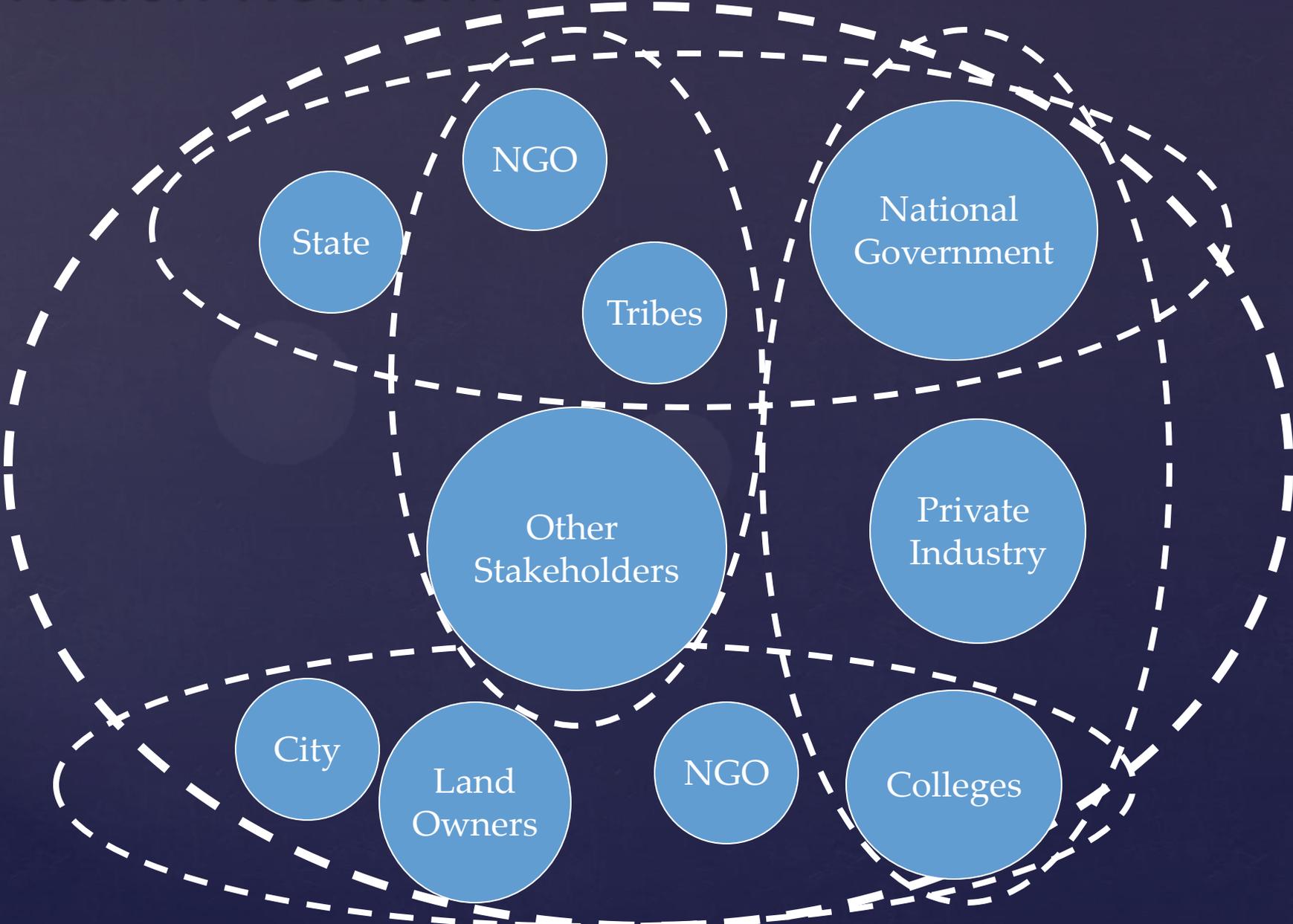






- Greater Yellowstone Coord Comm
- Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative
- Arid Lands Initiative
- Kootenay Conservation Program
- Blackfoot Challenge
- Rocky Mountain Front
- Big Hole Conservation Alliance
- Crown of the Continent
- Interagency Grizzly Bear Comm
- Washington Connected Lands
- Columbia Basin Fed Caucus
- Intermountain West JV
- Yellowstone to Yukon
- Western Governors
- CAN Wildlife Directors Council
- And others....

# Action Network



# WORKING



# A CROSS



# BOUNDARIES



*People, Nature, and Regions*

*Matthew J. McKinney • Shawn Johnson*

Policy Focus Report • Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

## Large Landscape Conservation: A Strategic Framework for Policy and Action



MATTHEW MCKINNEY, LYNN SCARLETT, AND DANIEL KEMMIS

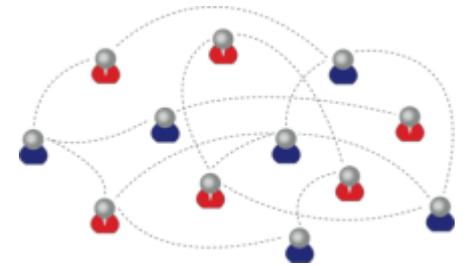
We suggest that the advent of co-management structures and conscious boundary management that includes knowledge co-production, mediation, translation, and negotiation across scale-related boundaries may facilitate solutions to complex problems that decision makers have historically been unable to solve.

-- Cash, Adger, Berkes, Garden, Lebel, Olsson, Pritchard, and Young



## Practitioners' Network for Large Landscape Conservation

1. Promote and support large landscape conservation initiatives.
2. Build capacity for large landscape conservation management at various scales and across sectors.
3. Provide support for policy analysis and reform.
4. Link existing and emerging large landscape conservation initiatives for ongoing learning and exchange.



# Practitioners' Network for Large Landscape Conservation

Leadership

Coordinating  
Committee

Working Groups

Networking and  
Communications

Policy and  
Research

Capacity  
Building

Staffing, Strategic Guidance, and Financial Support:

The University of Montana, The University of Arizona, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Regional Plan Association, Sonoran Institute, Highstead, Center for Large Landscape Conservation, Harvard Forest, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service

# PRACTITIONERS' NETWORK FOR Large Landscape Conservation

About the Network

Working Groups

Resources

Calendar

Members

*The Practitioners' Resource for Thinking and Acting at the Large Landscape Scale*

## Network News

## Join the Network Today

## Search

■ **Fall 2012 Practitioners' Network Meeting at LTA Rally**

■ **Read the Practitioners' Network July 23 Newsletter**

MORE ■

## Register Your Initiative...

Share information about your Large Landscape Conservation Initiative.

## Spread the Word...

Tell your friends and colleagues about the Practitioners' Network and let the Network staff know about upcoming conferences and events that are focused on thinking and acting at the large landscape scale.

# Large Landscape Conservation

{ Shawn Johnson  
Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy  
University of Montana



## **Rob Pirani**

*Vice President for Environmental Programs  
Regional Plan Association*

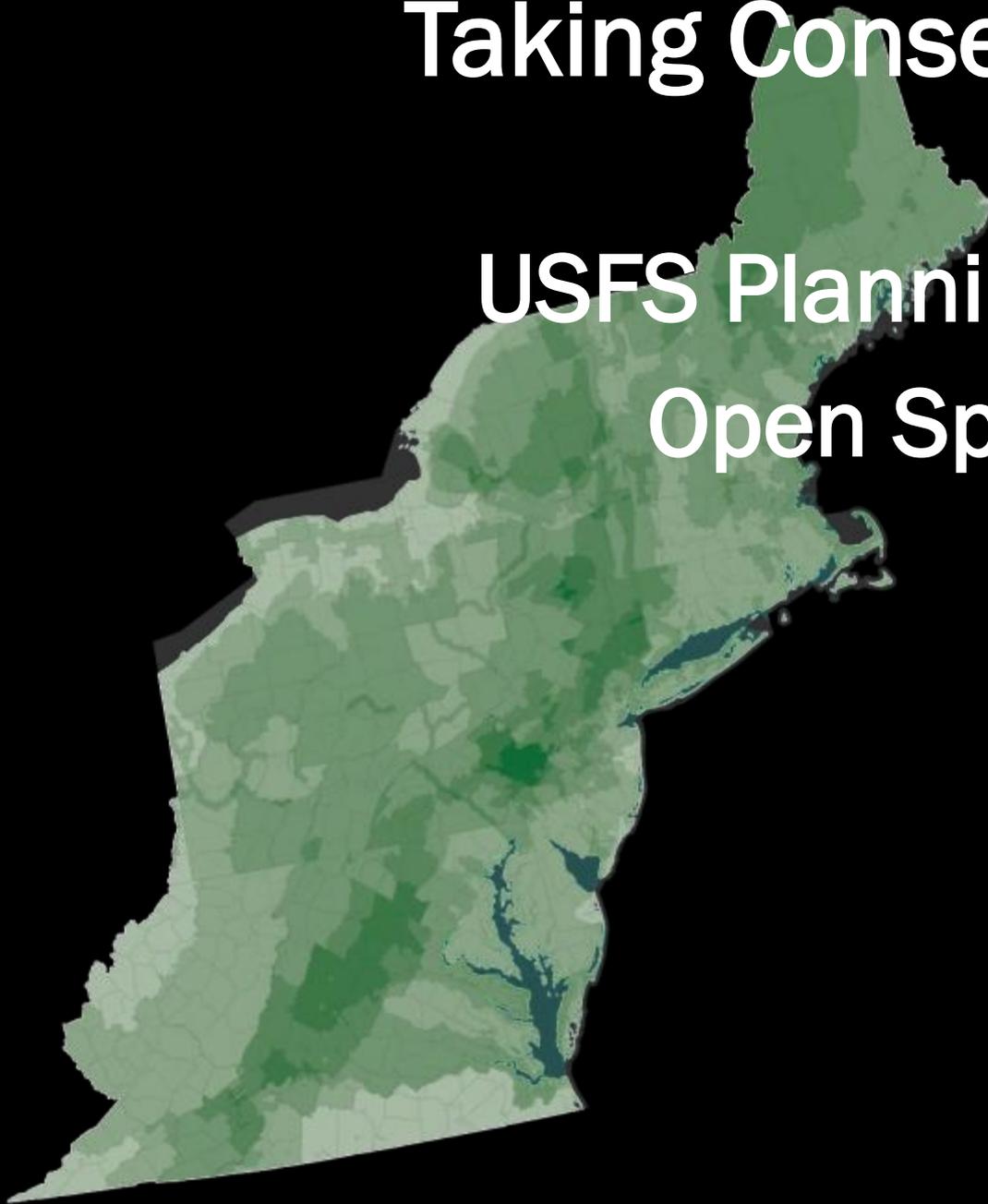
# Taking Conservation to Scale

## USFS Planning for Growth and Open Space Conservation

September 2012

Robert Pirani

[www.rpa.org](http://www.rpa.org)



# Taking Conservation to Scale



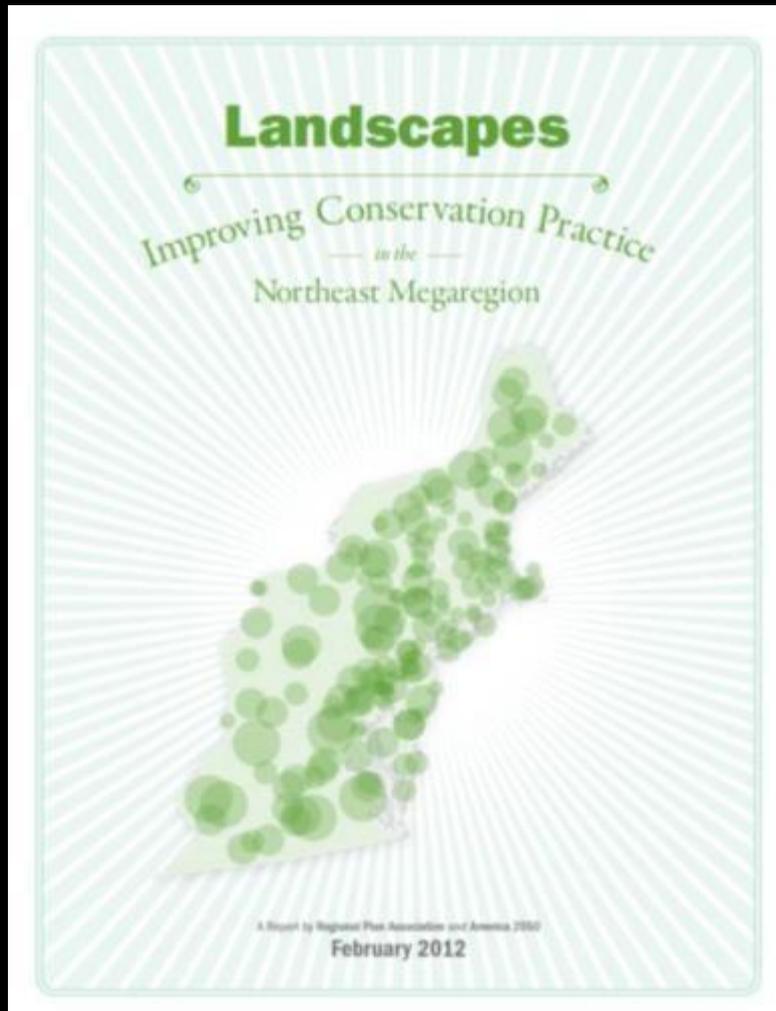
- The Way Nature Works
- The Way People Think
- Its How to Address Today's Challenges

# Landscape Conservation means



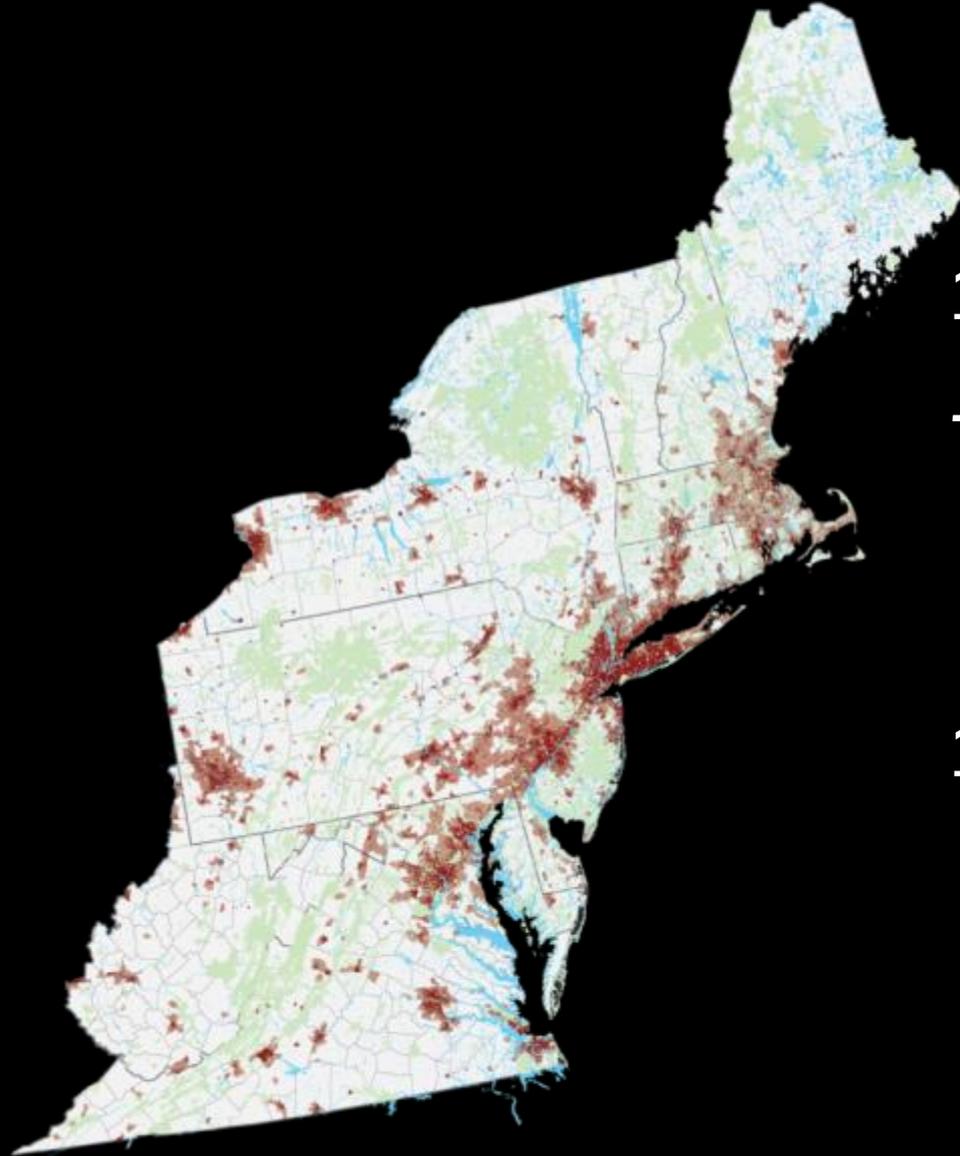
- Systems Orientation
- Effective Partnerships
- Working Across Boundaries
- Shape, not React to Development Decisions

# Improving our Practice



[www.rpa.org/  
library/pdf/  
RPA-Northeast-  
Landscapes.pdf](http://www.rpa.org/library/pdf/RPA-Northeast-Landscapes.pdf)

# Northeast Megaregion



13 States

72 Million People

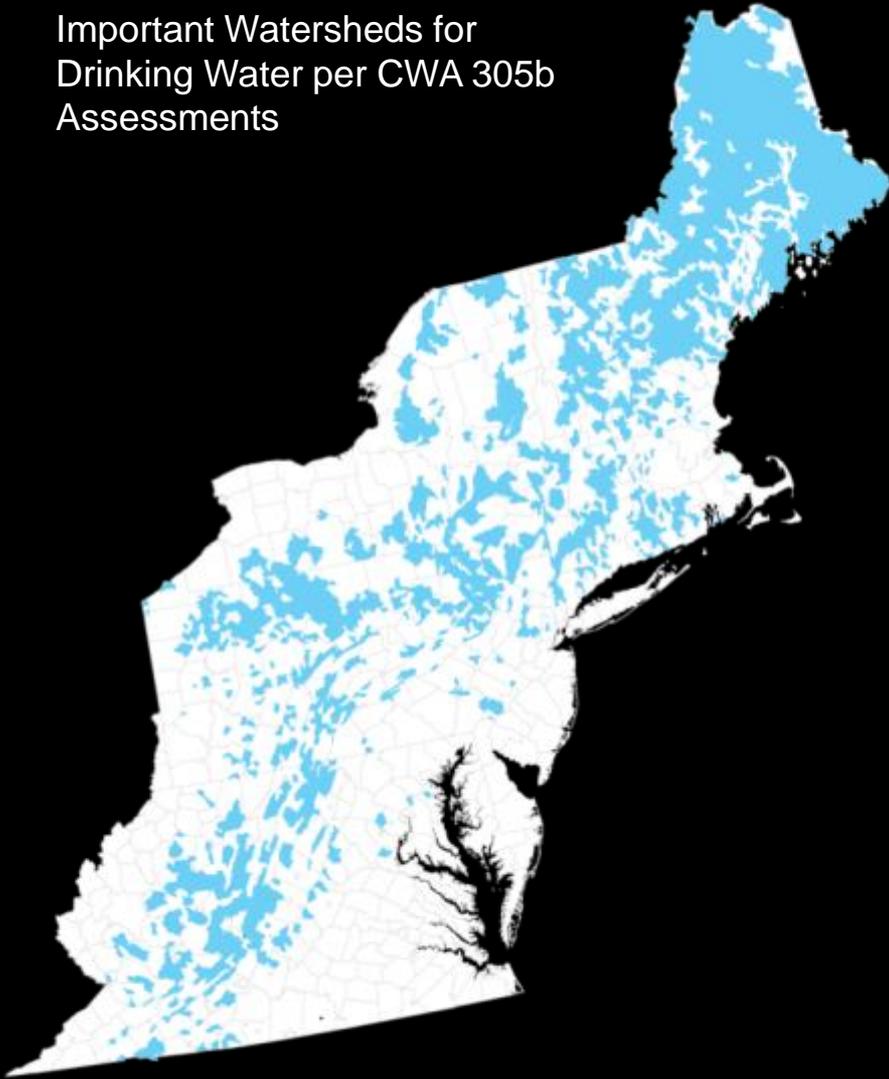
+ 15 Million by 2040

19 Million Urban Acres

+ 3 Million by 2040

# Challenges: Water and Habitat

Important Watersheds for  
Drinking Water per CWA 305b  
Assessments

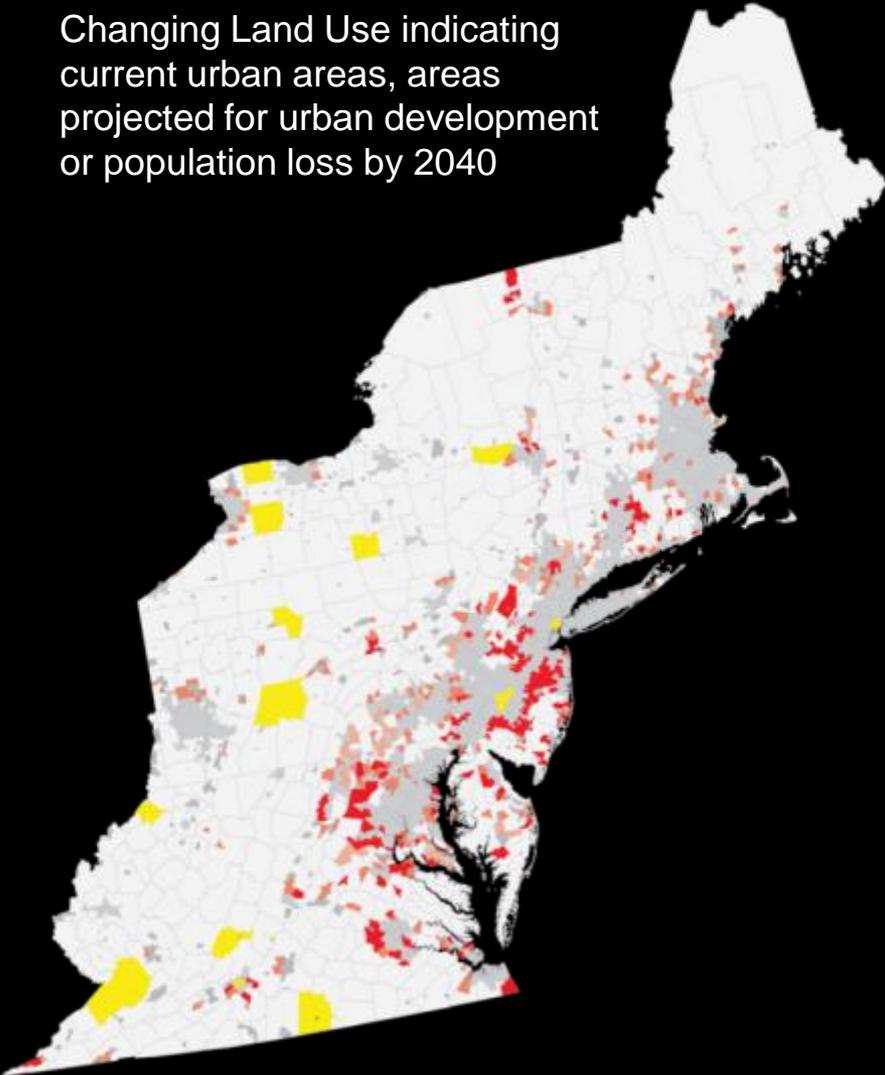


Priority Habitats per SWAPs and  
other state plans and programs

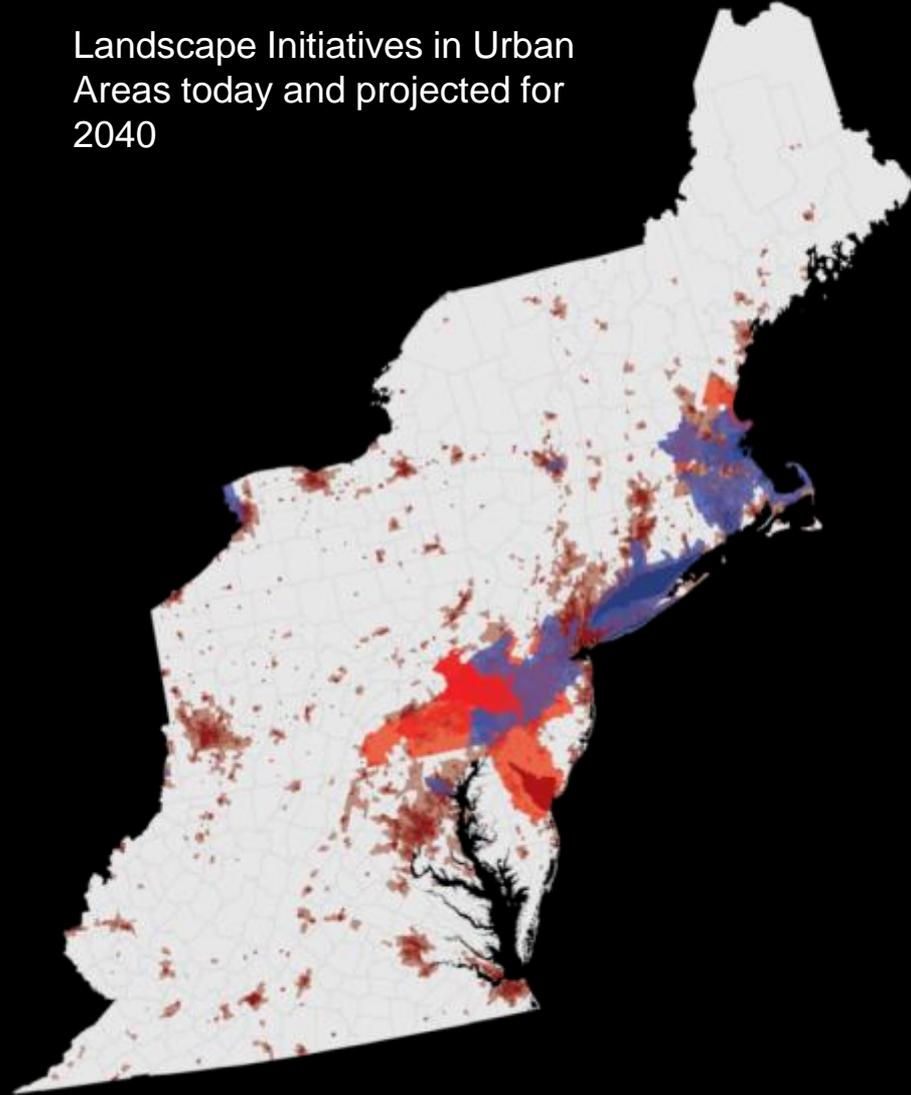


# Challenges: Land Use

Changing Land Use indicating current urban areas, areas projected for urban development or population loss by 2040

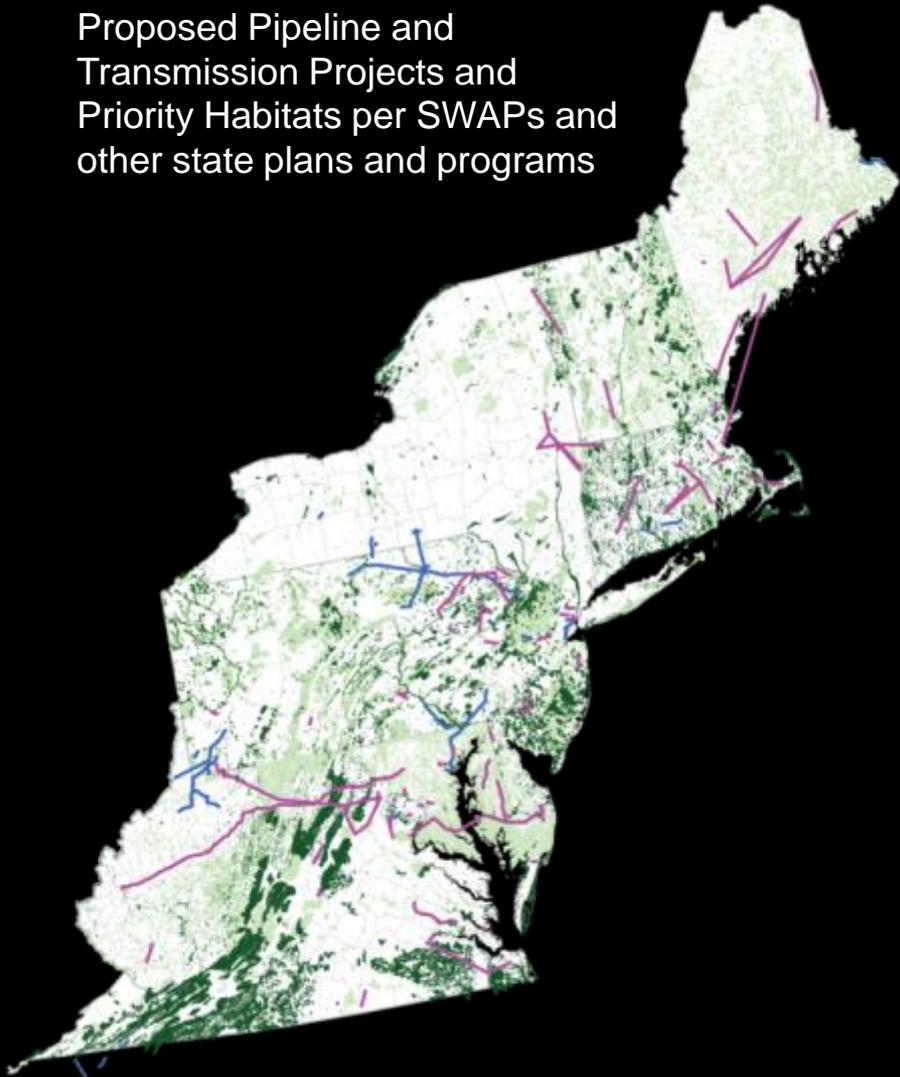


Landscape Initiatives in Urban Areas today and projected for 2040

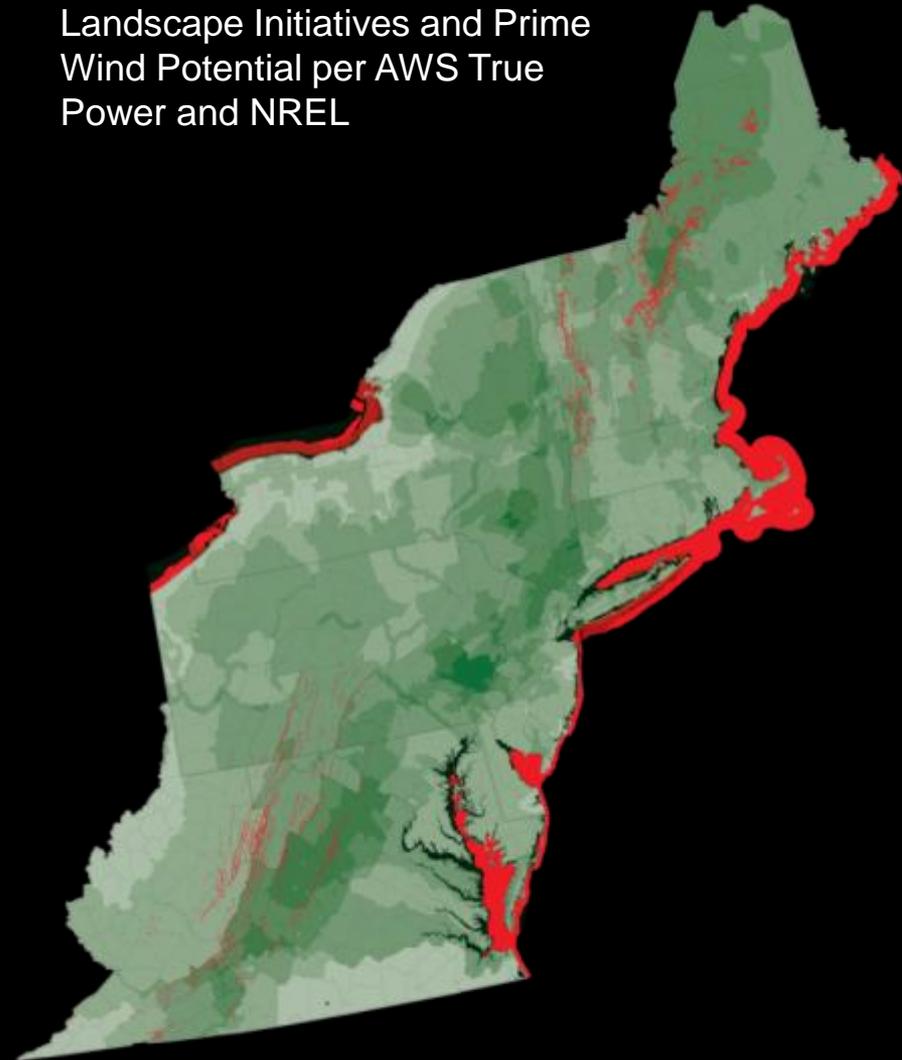


# Challenges: Large Infrastructure

Proposed Pipeline and  
Transmission Projects and  
Priority Habitats per SWAPs and  
other state plans and programs

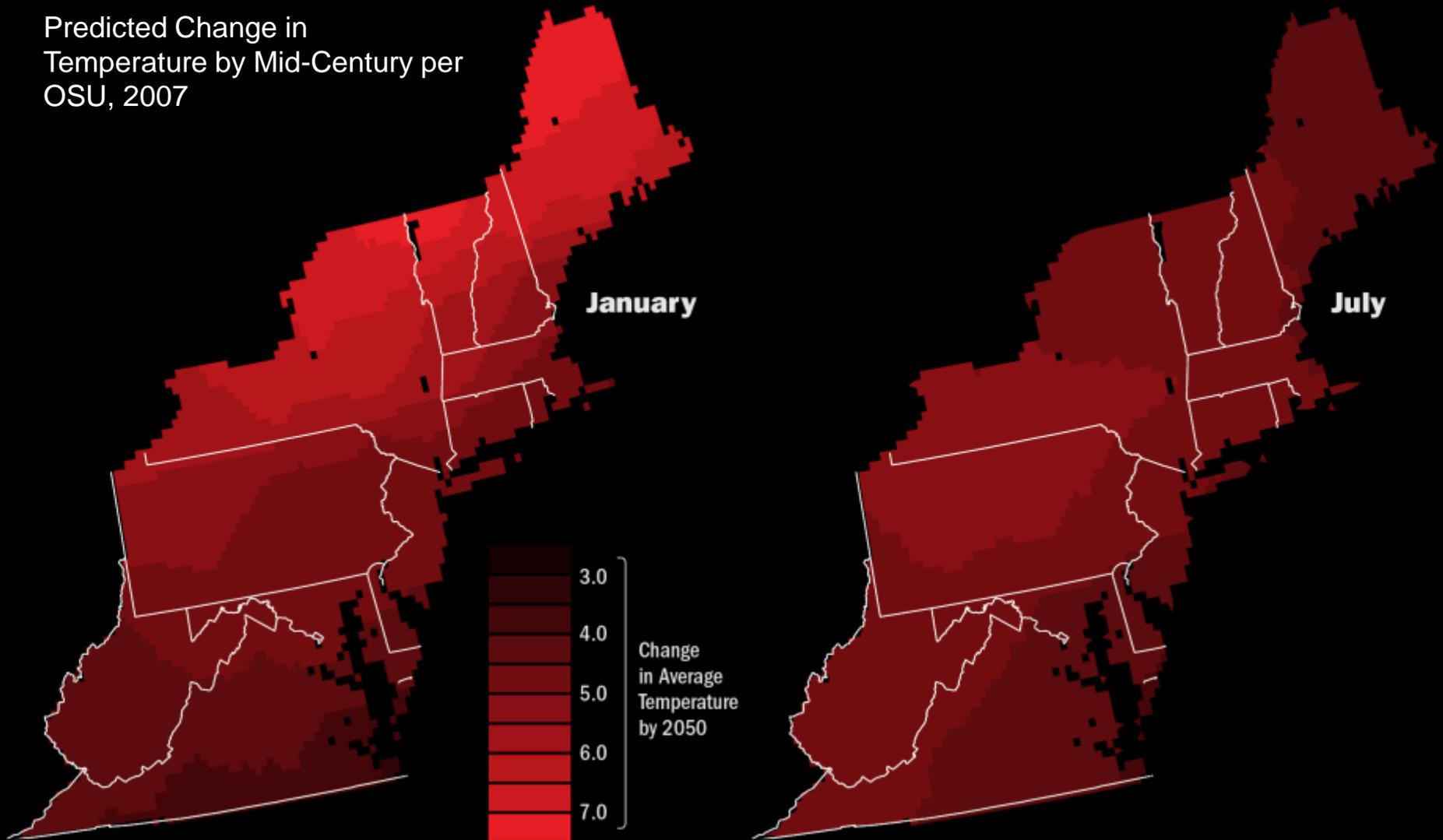


Landscape Initiatives and Prime  
Wind Potential per AWS True  
Power and NREL



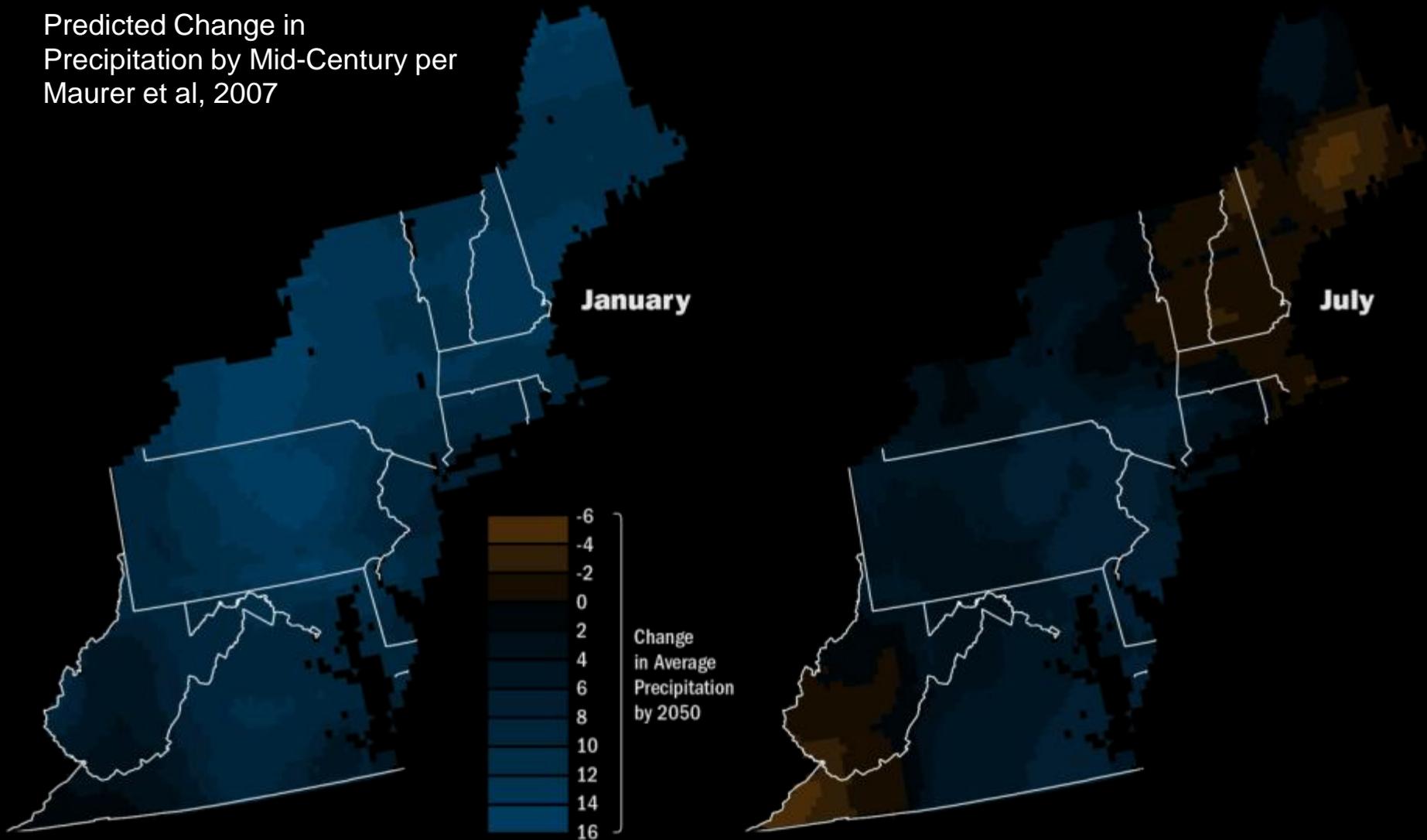
# Challenges: Climate Change

Predicted Change in  
Temperature by Mid-Century per  
OSU, 2007



# Challenges: Climate Change

Predicted Change in  
Precipitation by Mid-Century per  
Maurer et al, 2007



www.rpa.org/northeastlandscapes/

# Northeast Landscapes

Inventory

Atlas

About

Contact

## Inventory

Using the Inventory   List Initiatives   Map Initiatives

138 Items



Find or Submit an Initiative

### Inventory Filters

#### Keyword Search

#### Initiative Attributes

##### Initiative Scale

- Local (22)
- County (44)
- Small Metro (48)
- Large Metro (19)
- Megaregion (5)

##### States

- Connecticut (12)
- Delaware (9)
- Maine (15)
- Maryland (12)
- Massachusetts (22)
- New Hampshire (19)
- New Jersey (17)
- New York (43)
- Pennsylvania (41)
- Rhode Island (8)
- Vermont (13)
- Virginia (21)
- Washington D.C. (1)
- West Virginia (12)

##### Stature

- Institution (53)
- Network (20)
- Partnership (155)

# Northeast Landscapes

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## Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission

The form below reflects our research regarding these initiatives based on published material, project websites, and some direct conversation with project staff. We invite you to provide feedback on the draft by updating or correcting the information below along with any additional comments. Please provide your contact information in case we have questions. Please submit to and the completed form. Thank you.

### Location and Size

12,822   Size in Acres  
#   Municipalities  
#   Counties

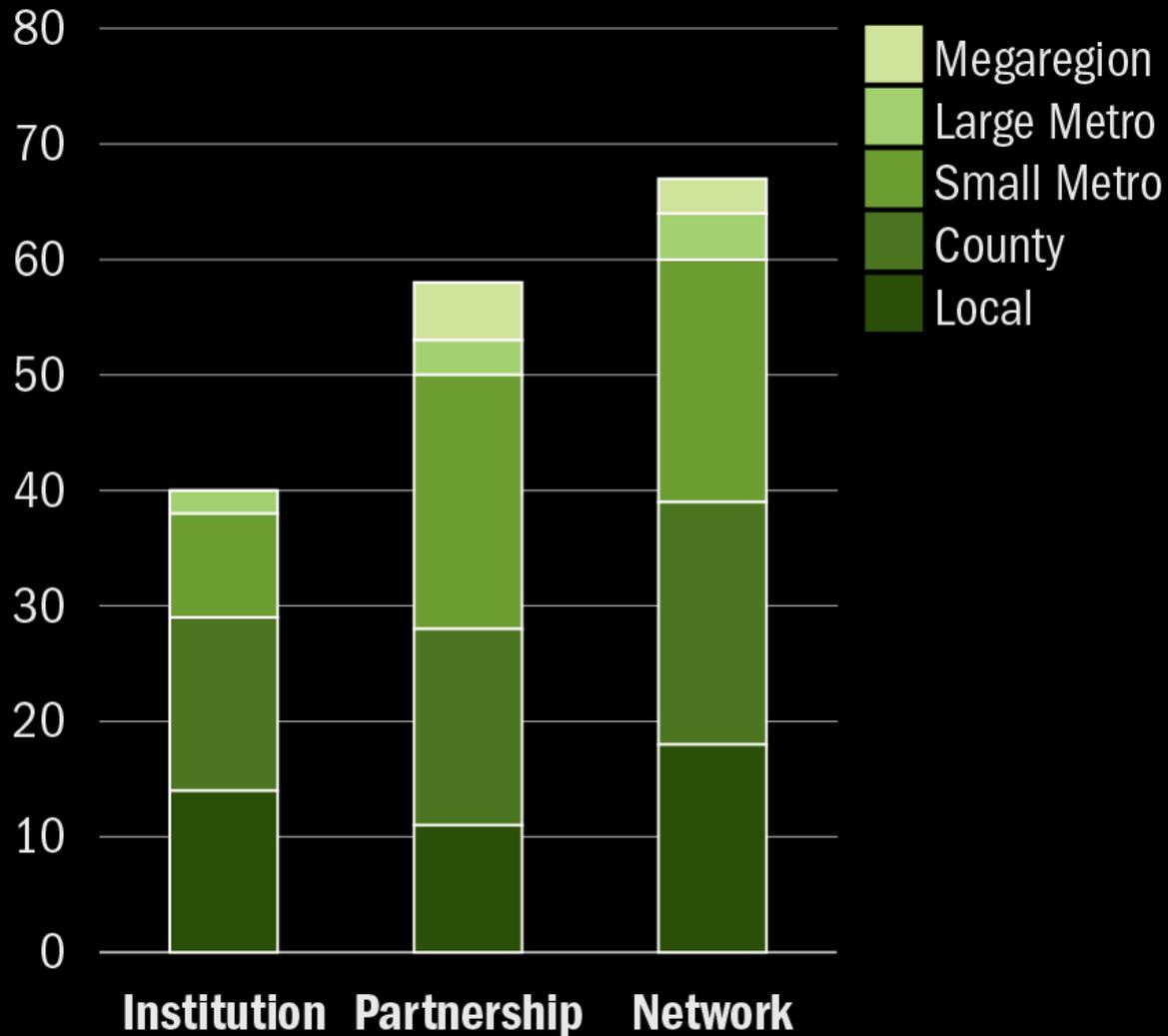
#### State(s)

- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Washington D.C.
- Massachusetts
- Maryland
- Maine
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- Virginia
- Vermont
- West Virginia

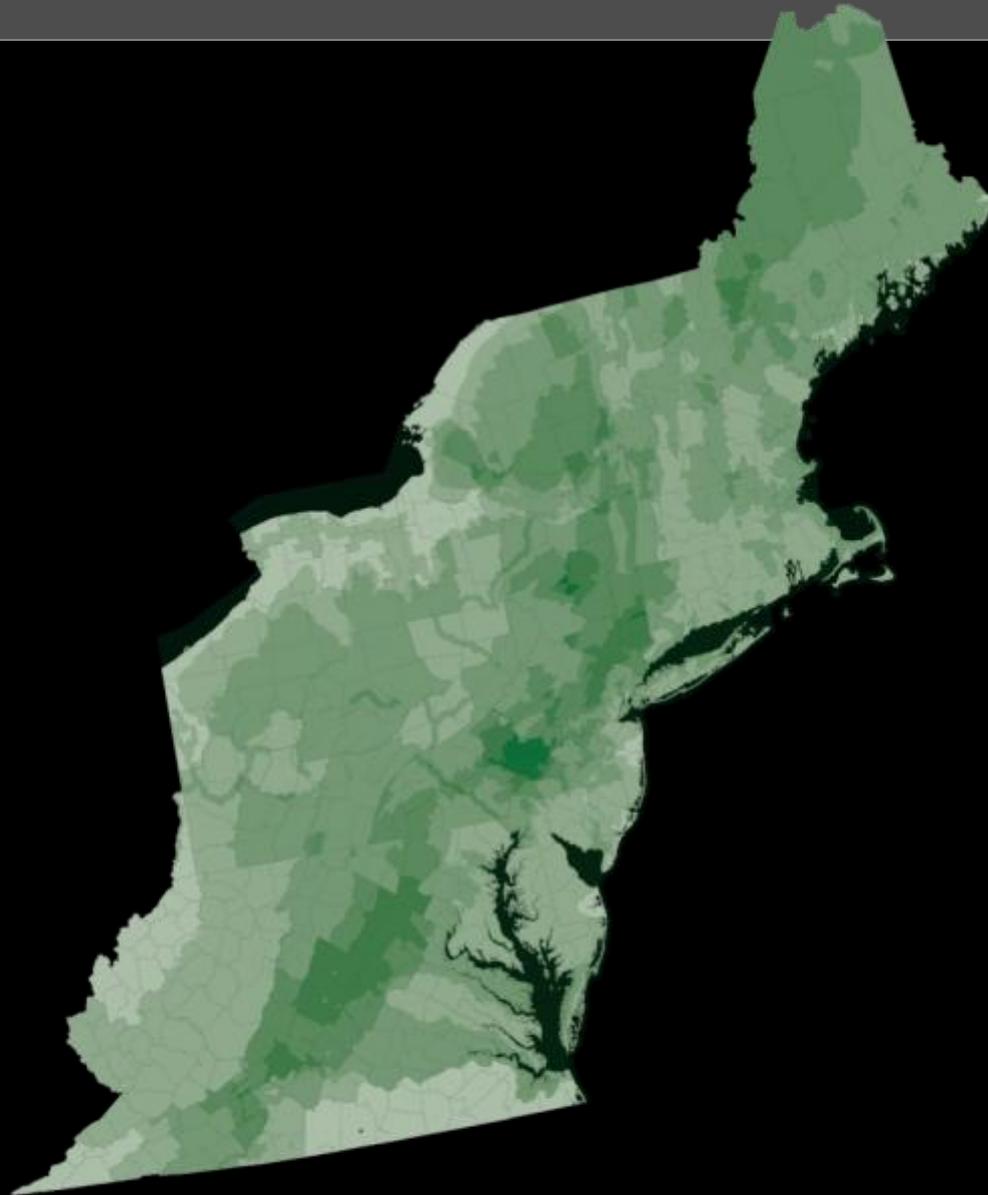


Initiative Website

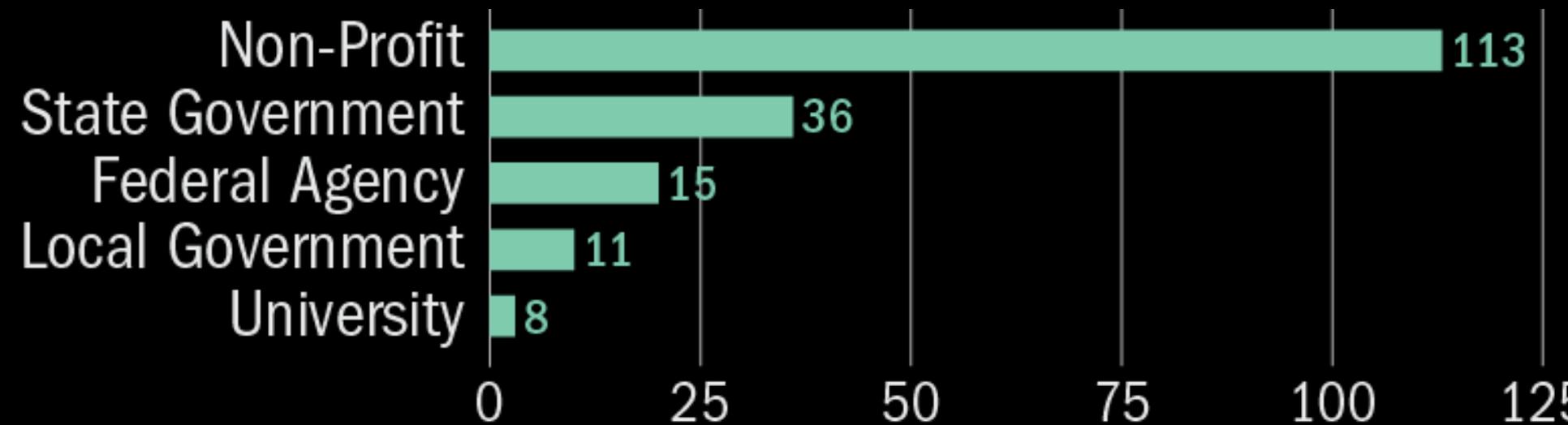
# What are They?



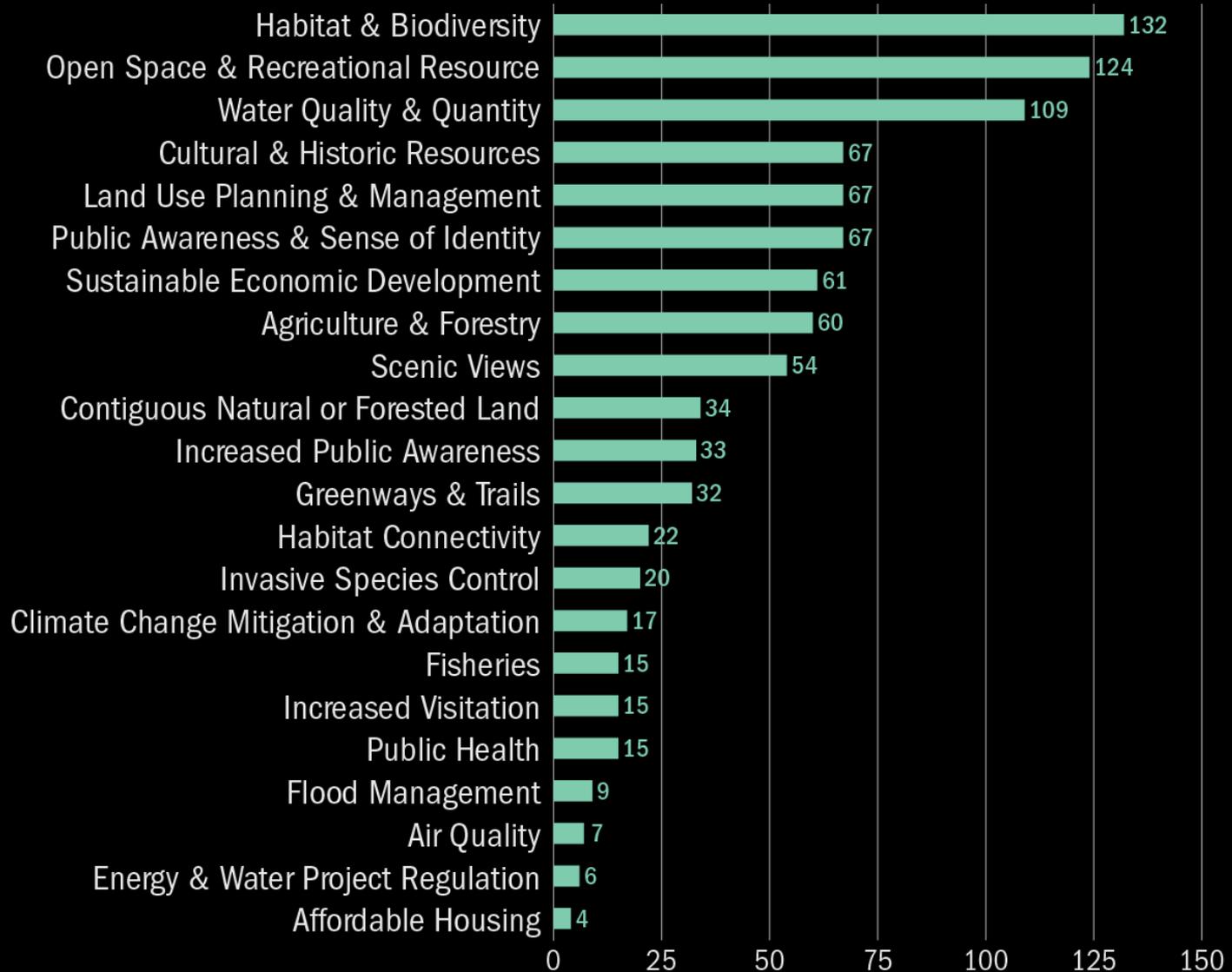
# Where are they located?



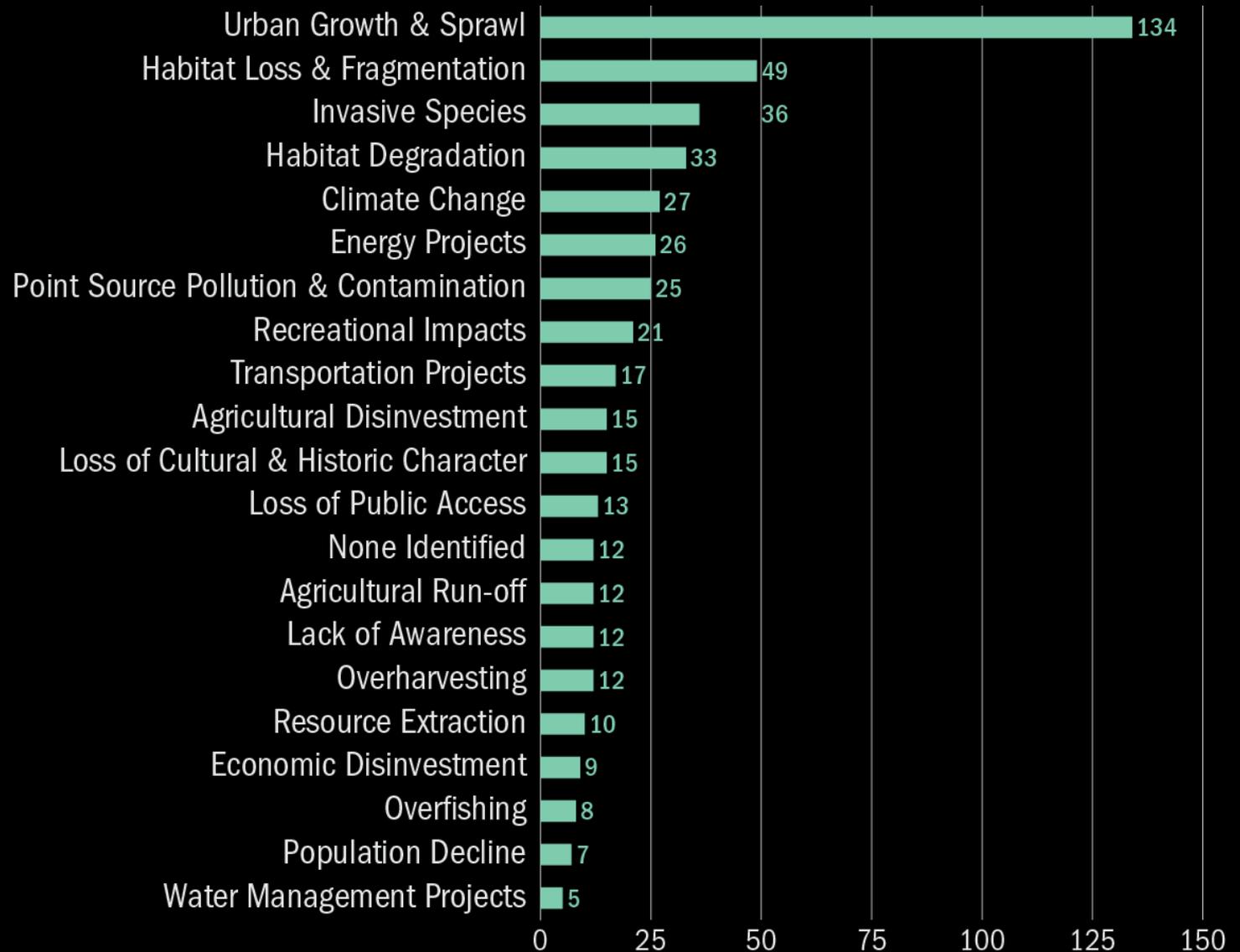
# Who is Leading?



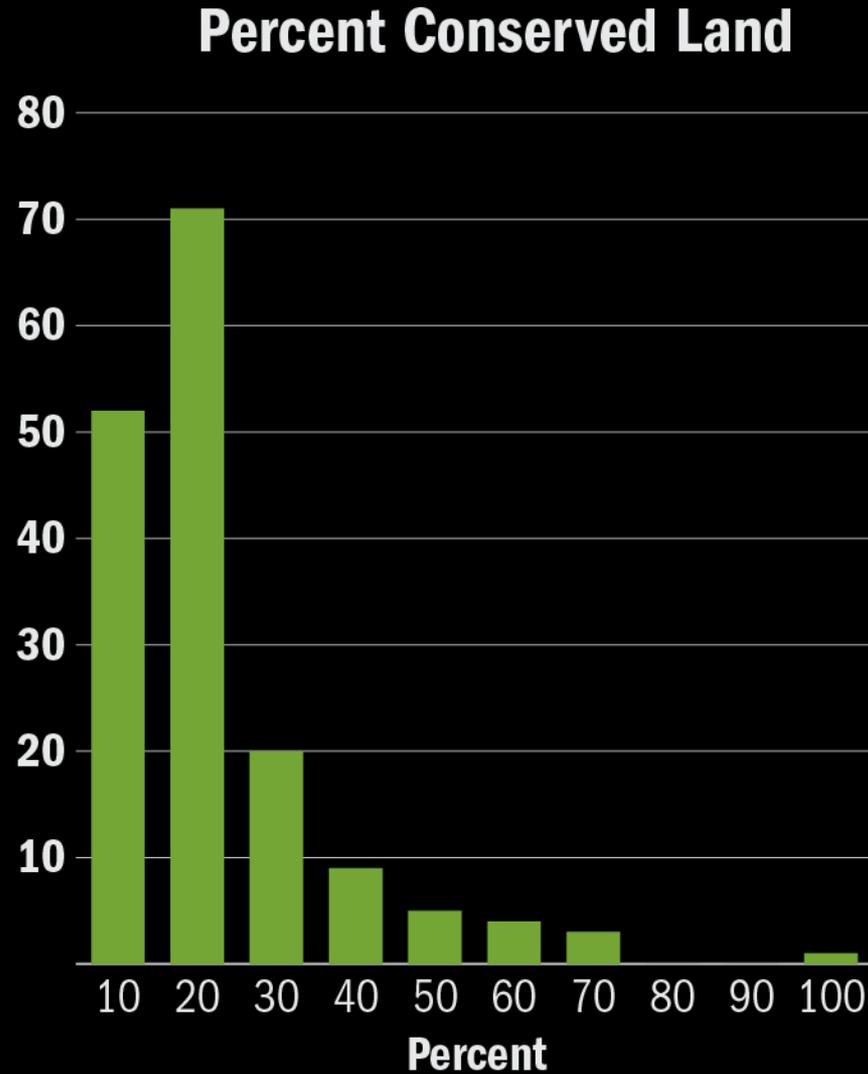
# What are Their Objectives?



# What are they concerned with?

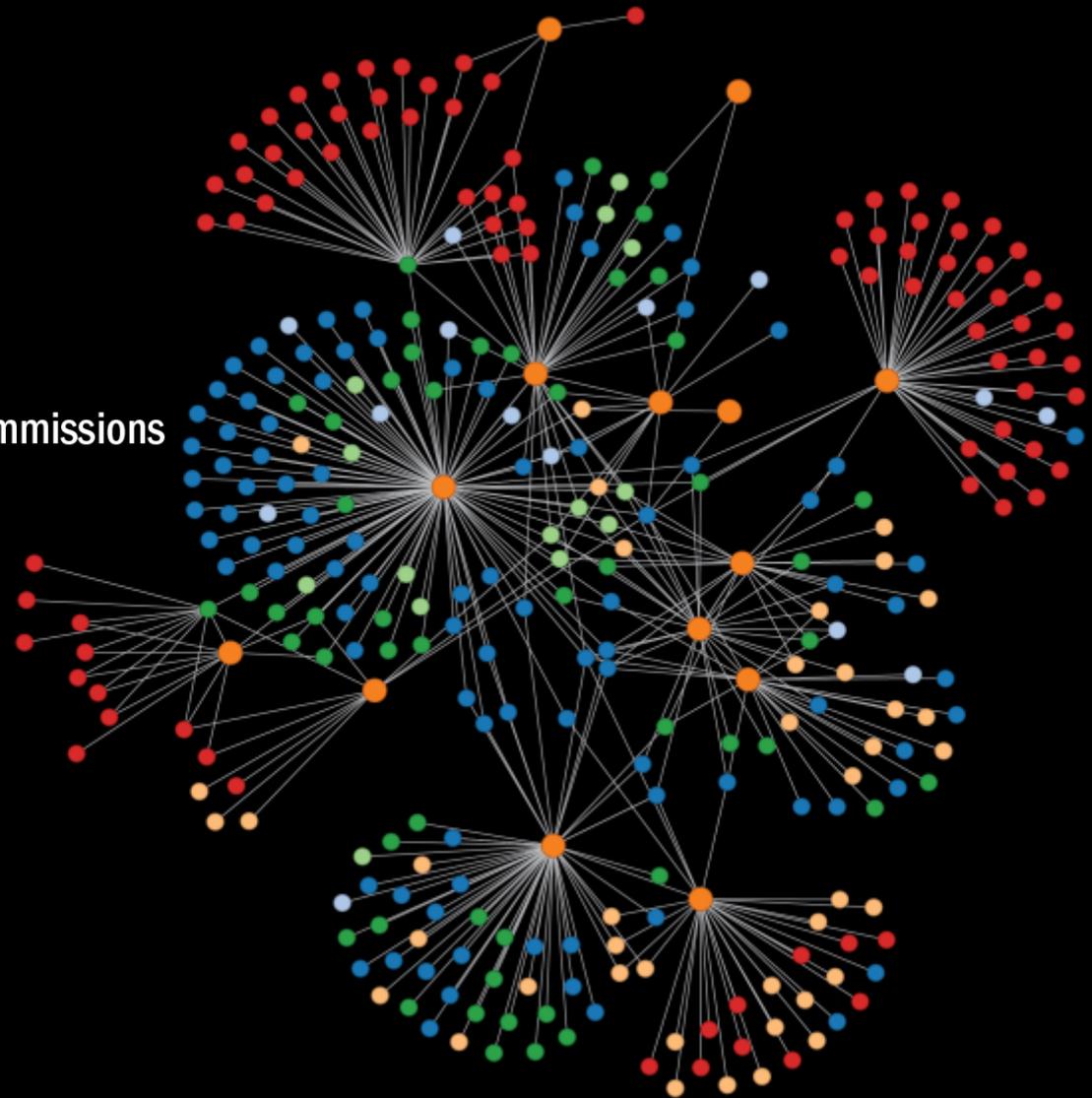


# What is the Land Use Context?



# Who are their Partners?

- Landscape Initiatives
- Towns
- NGOs
- Local/State Government/Regional Commissions
- Federal Government
- Universities
- Land Trusts



# What's Needed for Success



- Effective Governance and Management
- Adequate Funding and Efficient Use of Resources
- Having the Right Tools

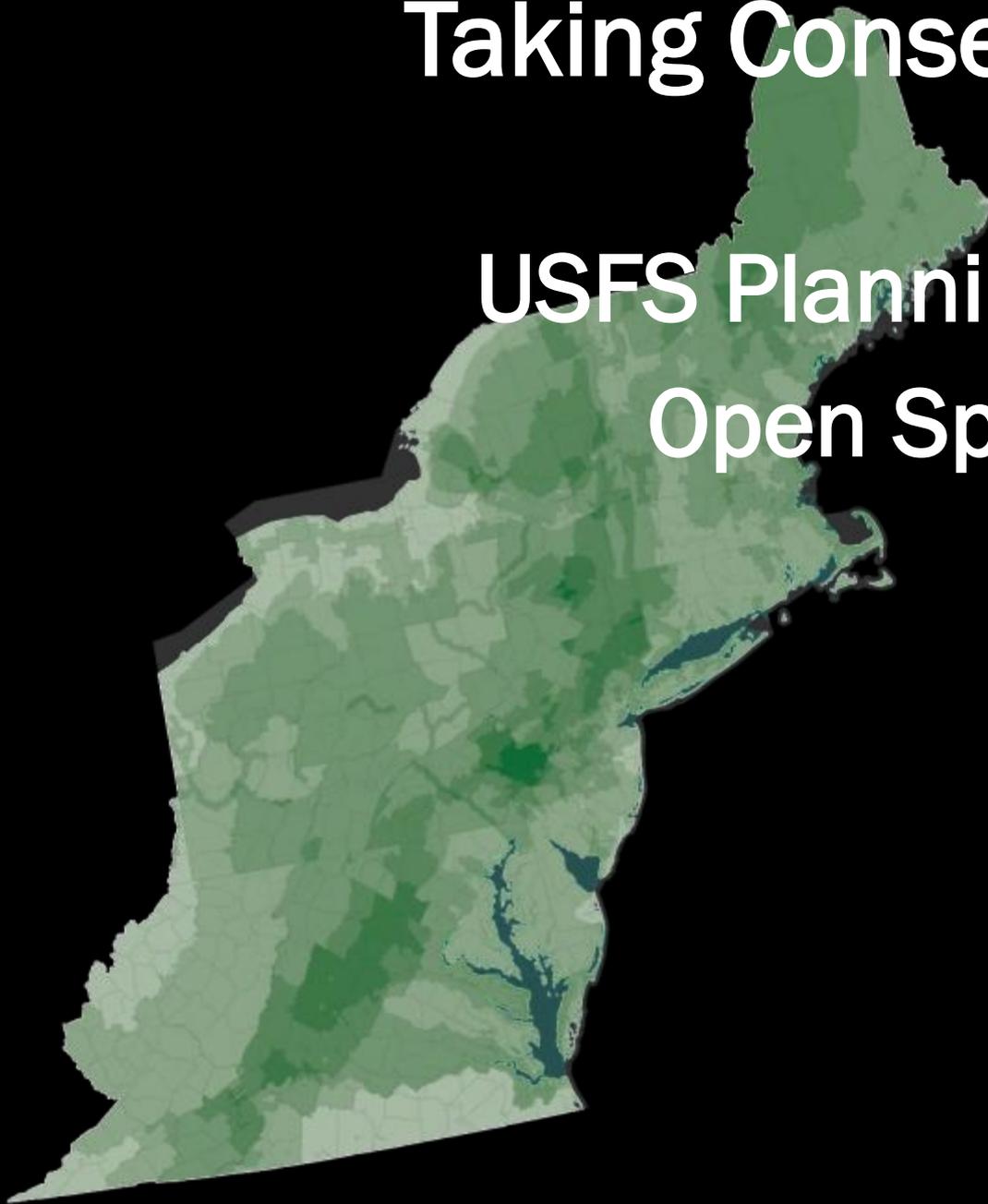
# Taking Conservation to Scale

## USFS Planning for Growth and Open Space Conservation

September 2012

Robert Pirani

[www.rpa.org](http://www.rpa.org)



# Questions and Answers

**Ask questions through the chat pod**

# **Jim Bonesteel**

*President  
Rensselaer Plateau Alliance  
Petersburgh, New York*

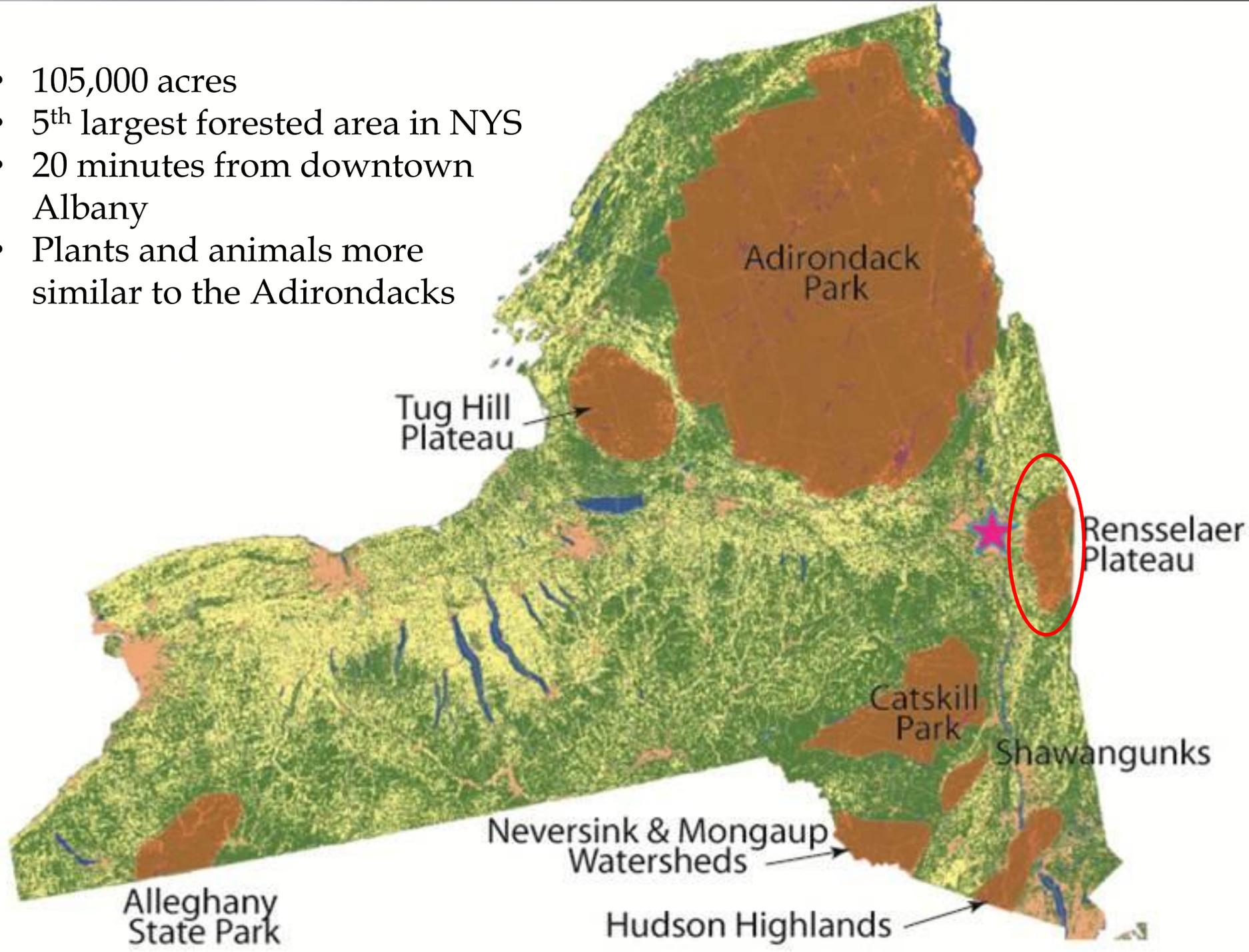




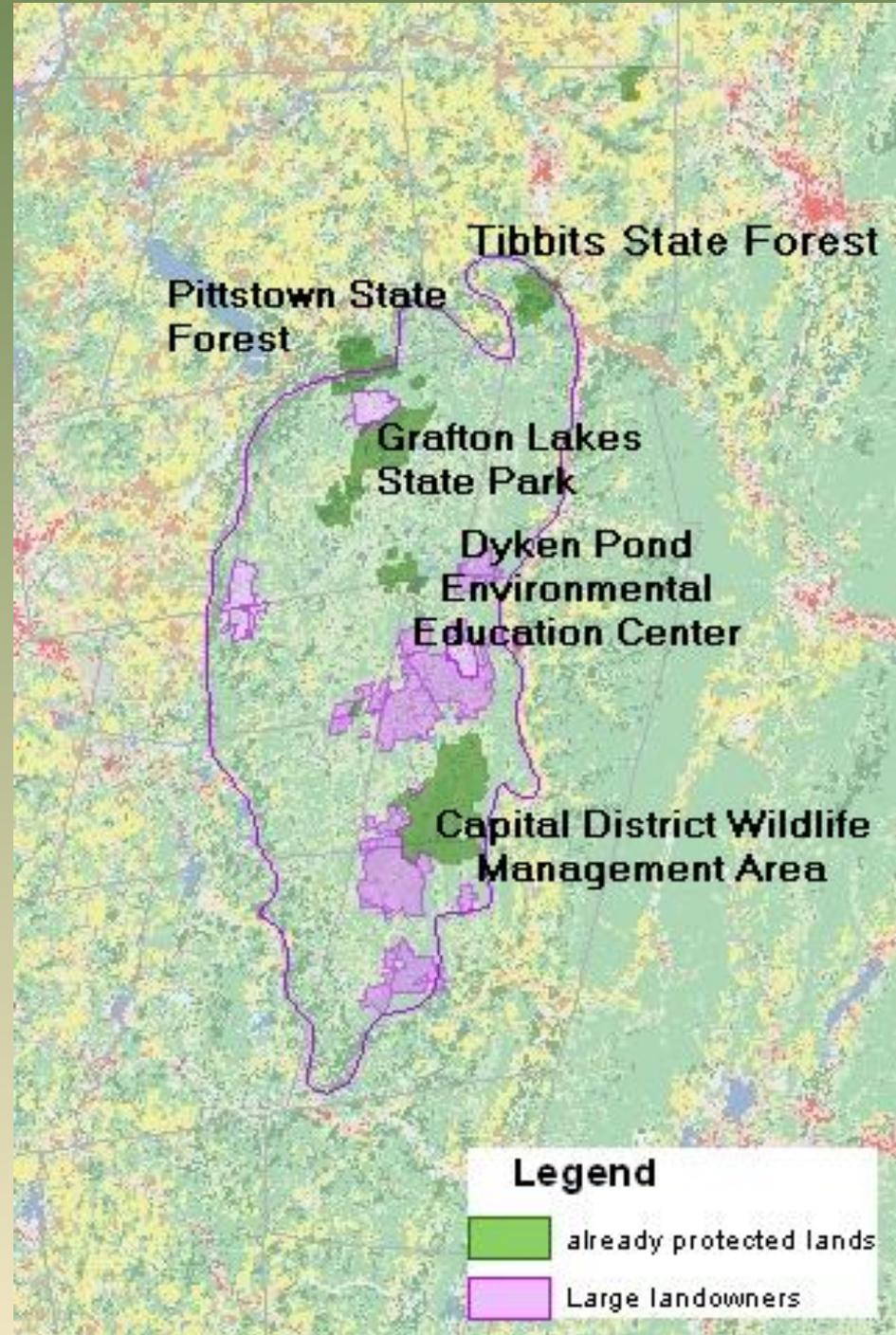
## A Large Landscape Conservation Effort on the Rensselaer Plateau

- About the Rensselaer Plateau
- About the RPA (the other RPA)
- Our Projects and Approach

- 105,000 acres
- 5<sup>th</sup> largest forested area in NYS
- 20 minutes from downtown Albany
- Plants and animals more similar to the Adirondacks



- 11 Municipalities
- Make up:
  - 8 % Conserved Lands
  - 15% Large Landowners
  - 77% Small landowners (< 450 acres )
- One large TIMO owns almost 10,000 acres.
- A high priority in the NYS DEC Open Space Plan
- An Important Bird Area – Audubon NY
- TNC - regional priority in the lower New England Eco-Region



# Rensselaer Plateau Alliance

Conservation Through Community

- Formed in 2006
- Incorporated as a NYS not-for-profit in 2008
- 501 (c) (3) in 2009
- All volunteer board
- Monthly board meetings are open to the public

## Challenges

- Fear of restrictions/interference

## Approach

- Avoid taking positions against things
- Consistent message

## Message

- Respect for Home Rule of Towns
- Respect for Landowner Rights
- Grassroots Effort
- Pro Forestry/Working Forests



# Rensselaer Plateau Alliance

Conservation Through Community

## Alliance Members:

Rensselaer Land Trust  
Friends of the Dyken Pond Center  
Friends of Grafton Lakes State Park  
Grafton Trail Riders  
Mohawk-Hudson Cycling Club  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Conservation Fund  
Babcock Lake Estates  
The Trust for Public Land  
The Village of East Nassau  
Berlin Mountain Fish & Game Club  
New York Forest Owners  
Association (CDC)  
Audubon New York  
Black River Raiders  
Spring Lake Association



Trout Unlimited (Home-Waters  
Chapter)  
Northeastern Cave Conservancy  
New York Flora Association  
Agricultural Stewardship  
Association  
Hoosic River Watershed  
Association  
Taconic Hiking Club  
Friends of Cherry Plain State Park  
Capital Region Nordic Alliance  
Saratoga Mountain Bike  
Association  
Greater Stockport Creek Watershed  
Alliance  
SKYHIGH Adventures  
Sidney Albert Albany JCC  
Regional Plan Association

# Rensselaer Plateau

## Regional Conservation Plan

Draft Plan will be completed  
early fall 2012

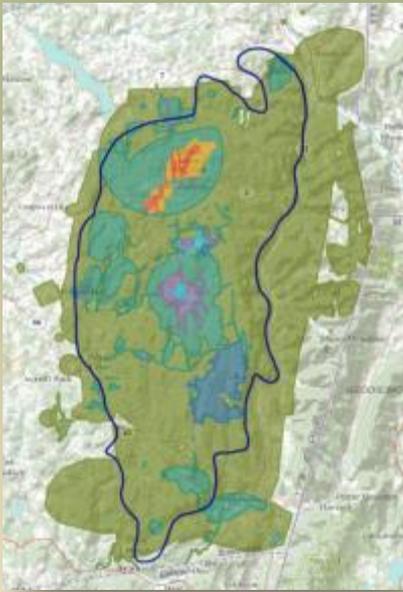
### Content:

- Brief History
- Ecological, Economic and Community Values Data
- Decision Making Guide with common scenarios for:
  - Landowners
  - Municipalities
  - Organizations
- Tool Box



# Rensselaer Plateau Regional Conservation Plan

## Ecological, Community Values and Economic Data



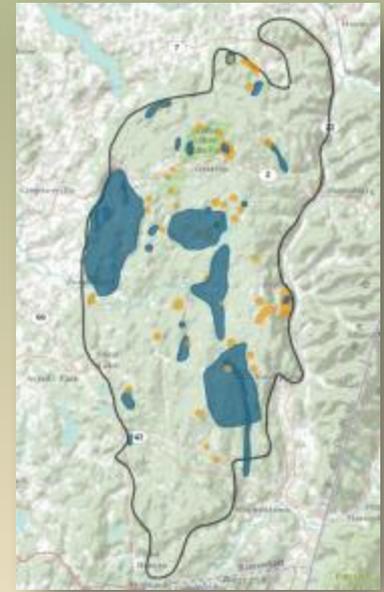
Community  
Values



Biodiversity  
Values



Landscape  
Blocks



Natural  
Communities

# Rensselaer Plateau Regional Conservation Plan

## Economic Study

### RENSELAER PLATEAU: RECREATIONAL AND TOURISM VISITORS

Location	Local/Day	Hotel	Camping	Total Visitors
Grafton Lakes State Park	210,611			210,611
Cherry Plain State Park	21,665		1,224	22,889
Dyken Pond Environmental Center	14,850	150		15,000
Barberville Falls	1,000			1,000
Camp Rotary	7,000			7,000
Pineridge Cross-Country Ski Area	4,400	1,100		5,500
Snowmobilers	18,630			18,630
Equine: Grafton Trail Riders	133		67	200
Hiking: Rensselaer Land Trust/Taconic Hiking Club	150			150
Hunting & Trapping: Deer	2,620			2,620
Hunting & Trapping: Bears	0			0
Hunting & Trapping: Turkeys	1,870			1,870
Kayaking and Conoeing: Graftondack Rentals	500			500
Road Biking: Mohawk-Hudson Cycling Club	400			400
Mountain Biking: Saratoga Mountain Bike Assn	1,000			1,000
Birding: Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club	35			35
Nordic Sports: Rensselaer Plateau Nordic	200			200
Nordic Sports: Capital Region Nordic Alliance	0			0
Running: Albany Running Exchange	200			200
Triathlons: SKYHIGH Adventures	320	75	75	470
Spelunking: Northeast Cave Conservancy	380	20		400
Orienteering: Empire Orienteering Club	75			75
Berkshire Bird Paradise	4,000			4,000
Botany: Capital Region Friday Field Group	50			50
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>290,089</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>292,800</b>

**Annual Value by Ecosystem Service Type**  
(Total Value = \$308.4 million)

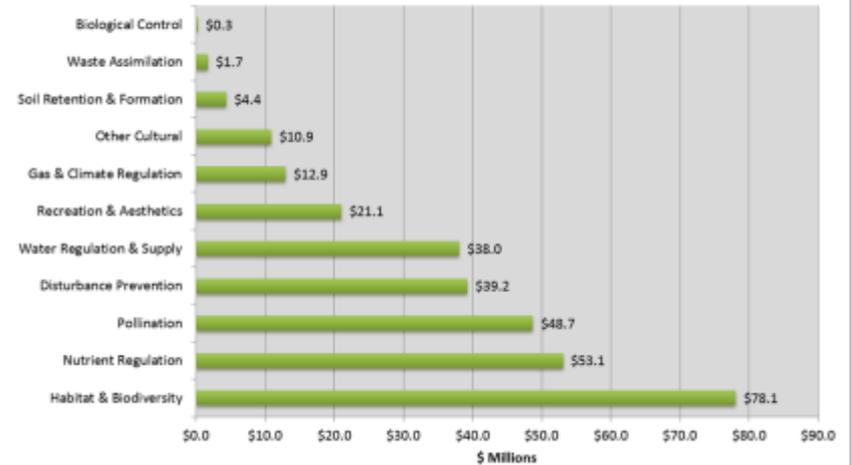


Figure 4. Total Annual Value by Ecosystem Service Type on the Rensselaer Plateau

**Annual Value of Ecosystem Services on the Rensselaer Plateau**  
(Total value = \$308.4 million)

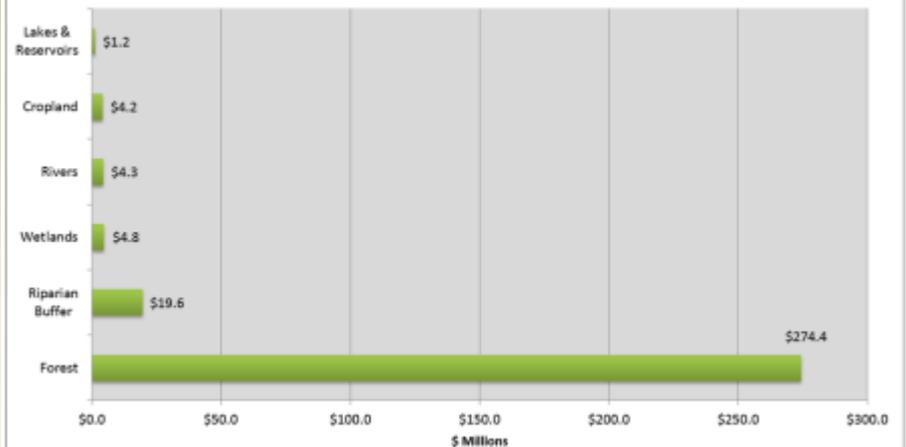


Figure 3. Total Annual Value of Ecosystem Services by Land Cover Type on the Rensselaer Plateau

# Rensselaer Plateau Regional Conservation Plan

## Community and Municipal Engagement

Towns and public invited to participate in the process from the start.

All 11 Municipalities have been engaged to some degree

Process:

- Presentations to town boards and public
- Supervisor Meetings
- Community Values Forums
- Public Workshops
- Stakeholder Meetings



# Rensselaer Plateau Working Forest Initiative

Partnering with:

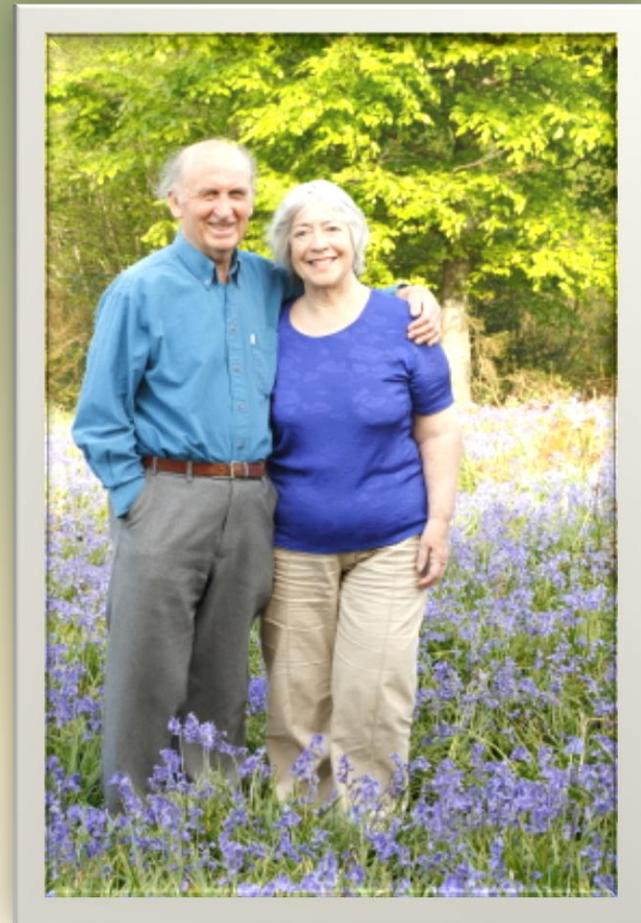
Rensselaer Land Trust

Agricultural Stewardship Assoc.

New York Forest Owners Assoc.

2 Components:

- Land Conservation  
(purchase of development rights  
via Forest Legacy)
- Education
  - Woods Forums
  - Landowner Workshops



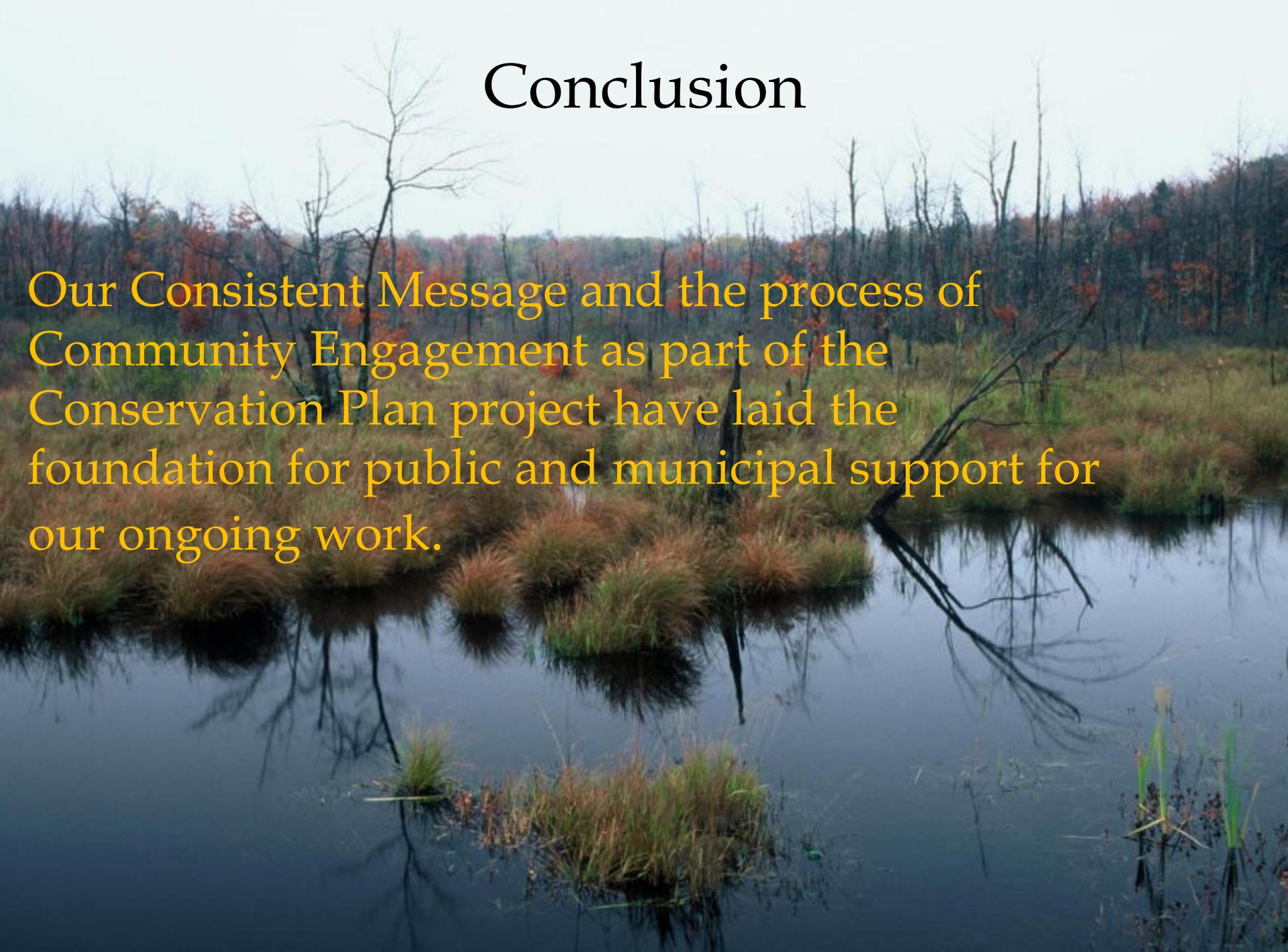
# Community Forest

- **RPA will acquire a parcel(s) of land to own**
- **Will have a strategic location**
- **Public Access including hunting**
- **Demonstration Forest**
- **Educational Programs**
- **Self Sustaining via Forestry Revenue, etc.**
- **RPA will continue to pay property taxes**



# Conclusion

Our Consistent Message and the process of Community Engagement as part of the Conservation Plan project have laid the foundation for public and municipal support for our ongoing work.





## **Shawn Johnson**

*University of Montana*

*Lincoln Institute of Land Policy*

*Practitioners' Network for Large*

*Landscape Conservation*

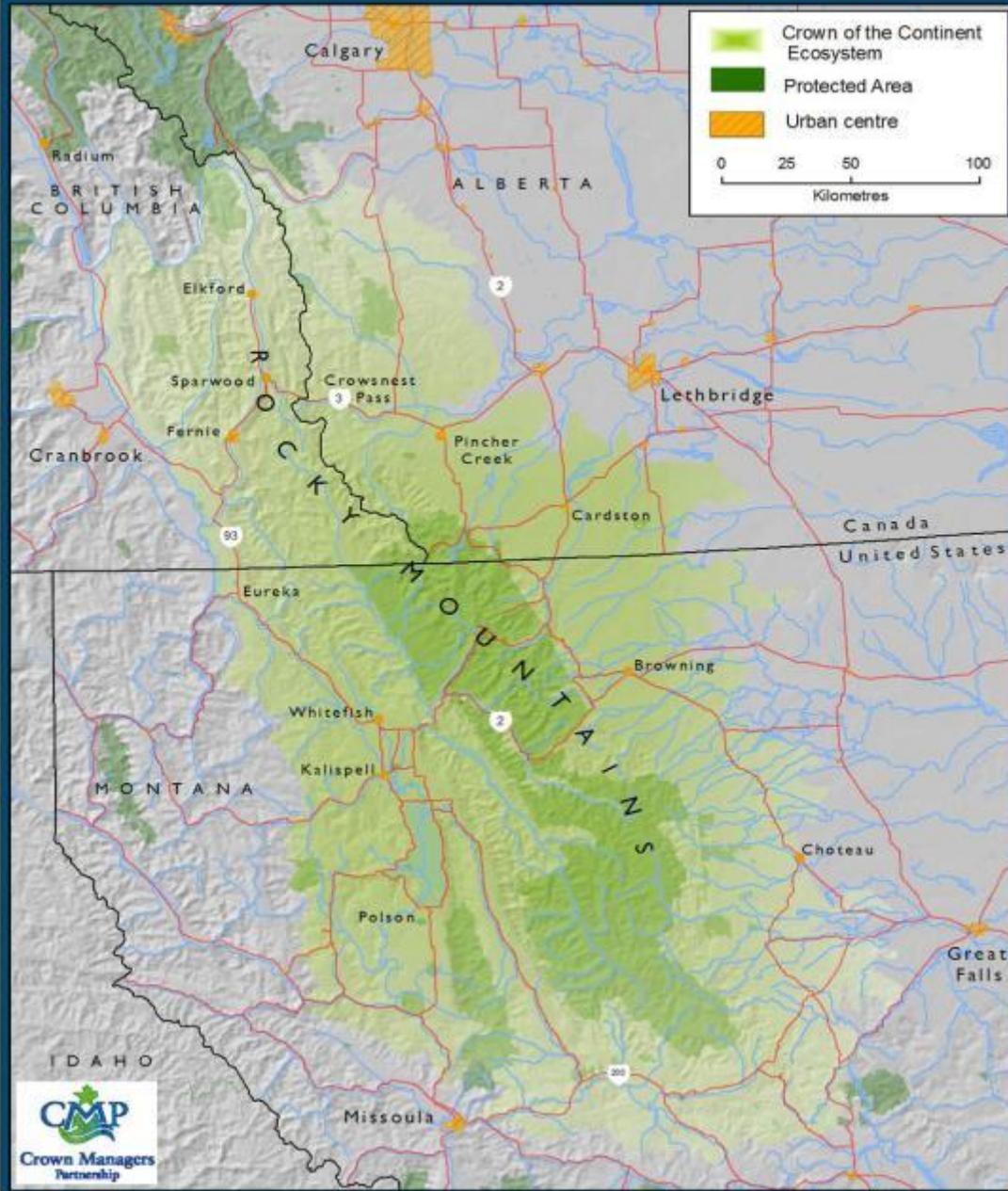
*Roundtable on the Crown of the*

*Continent*



# Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent: Connecting People to Sustain and Enhance Culture, Community, and Conservation

# CROWN OF THE CONTINENT ECOSYSTEM









120° 116° 112°W 108°

Edmonton\* Saskatoon\* 52°

ALBERTA SASKATCHEWAN

Golden Calgary (*Mo kins sti*) [Elbow River] (*Pakinsapetik*) [Elbow]

Red Deer Bow (Mokinsis Sinsin) [Elbow River]

South Saskatchewan Lake Diefenbaker

Upper Arrow Lake Lower Arrow Lake

Kootenay River (*Wic'o Nipimauk* [akimutuk] [River Water People] [Sphatik] [Kitsano] Waters)

Kootenay Lake Cranbrook Crownsnest Mountain

Lethbridge (*Sik-oooh-kotok*) [Black Coal]

Cypress Hills

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Lake Sandpoint L. Pend Oreille Spokane Coeur d'Alene Lake

Chief Mountain 8090 ft. (2467 m) [Chief Mountain]

Browning Kalispell

Lake Hoodruss Flathead Lake (*Chjete*) [Mines Mill A-kupuk] [Broad Water] [Ninastay Lake]

OLD NORTH TRAIL (historic route)

Lake Elwell Milk (Pori Tah Tai) [Little River]

Bears Paw Mountains

Missouri Amishapo Omakatay [South Big River] [Omakatay] [Big River]

Fort Peck Lake

WASHINGTON IDAHO MONTANA

Snake Snake Missoula (*NFajicstn*) [Place of the Small Bull Trout]

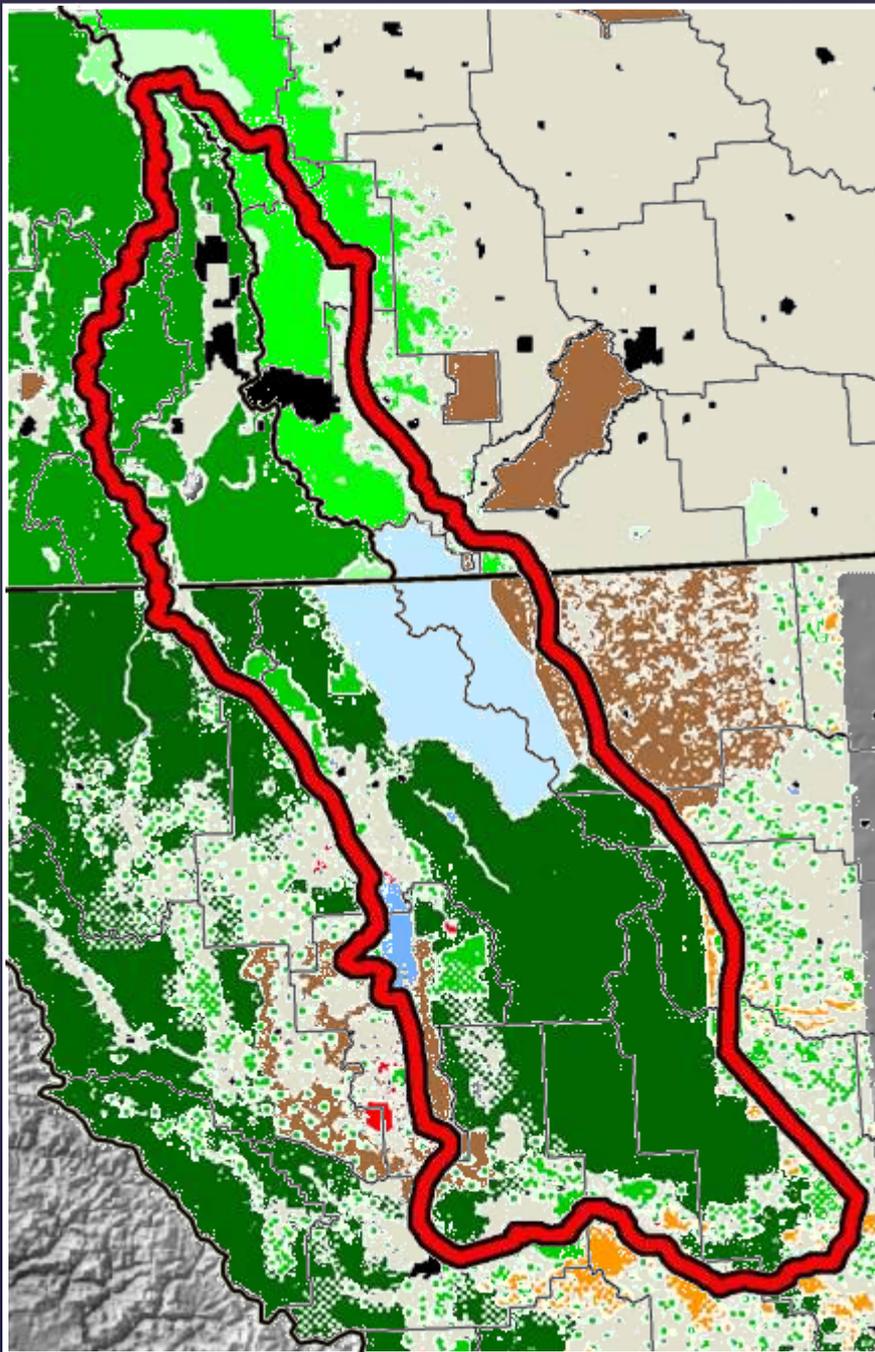
Helena Canyon Ferry Lake

Big Belt Mts. Musselshell Yellowstone

Great Falls Billings

Yellowstone Lake Bighorn Bighorn Mts.

WYOMING 44°



First Nation / Tribal Lands  
Parks Canada / U.S. National Parks Service  
B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection  
Alberta Community Development  
B.C. Ministry of Forests  
United States Forest Service  
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development  
United States Fish and Wildlife  
Montana DNRC (State Forests)  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
Private Land  
Counties / MDs / Regional Districts  
Cities / Towns / Villages

## A FRAGMENTED LANDSCAPE

# Selected Place-based Partnerships & Programs

## Alberta Sub-region

Alberta Land Use Framework  
Castle Special Place Working Group  
Waterton Front Park Project  
Oldman River Watershed Group

## British Columbia Sub-region

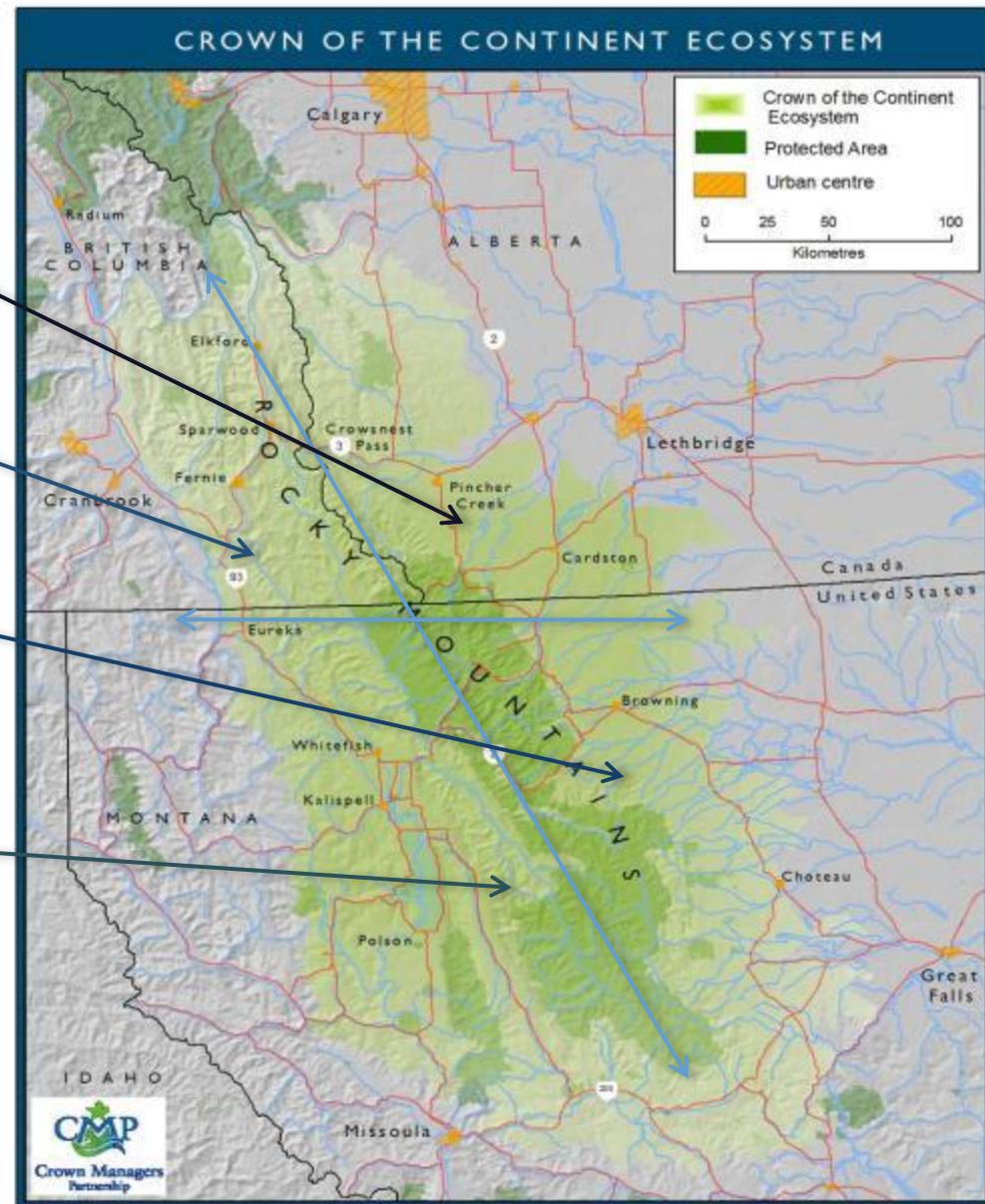
BC-MT MOU  
East Kootenay Conservation Program

## Montana East Side Sub-region

Coalition to Protect the Rocky Mountain Front  
Teton River Watershed Group  
Sun River Watershed Group

## Montana West-side Sub-region

Blackfoot Challenge  
Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project  
Montana Legacy Project  
Swan Ecosystem Center  
Northwest Connections  
Southwest COC Project  
Flathead Basin Commission



# Crown-wide Initiatives

1994

COC Ecosystem Education Consortium

1999

UM/U Calgary Transboundary Program

2001

Crown Managers Partnership

2002

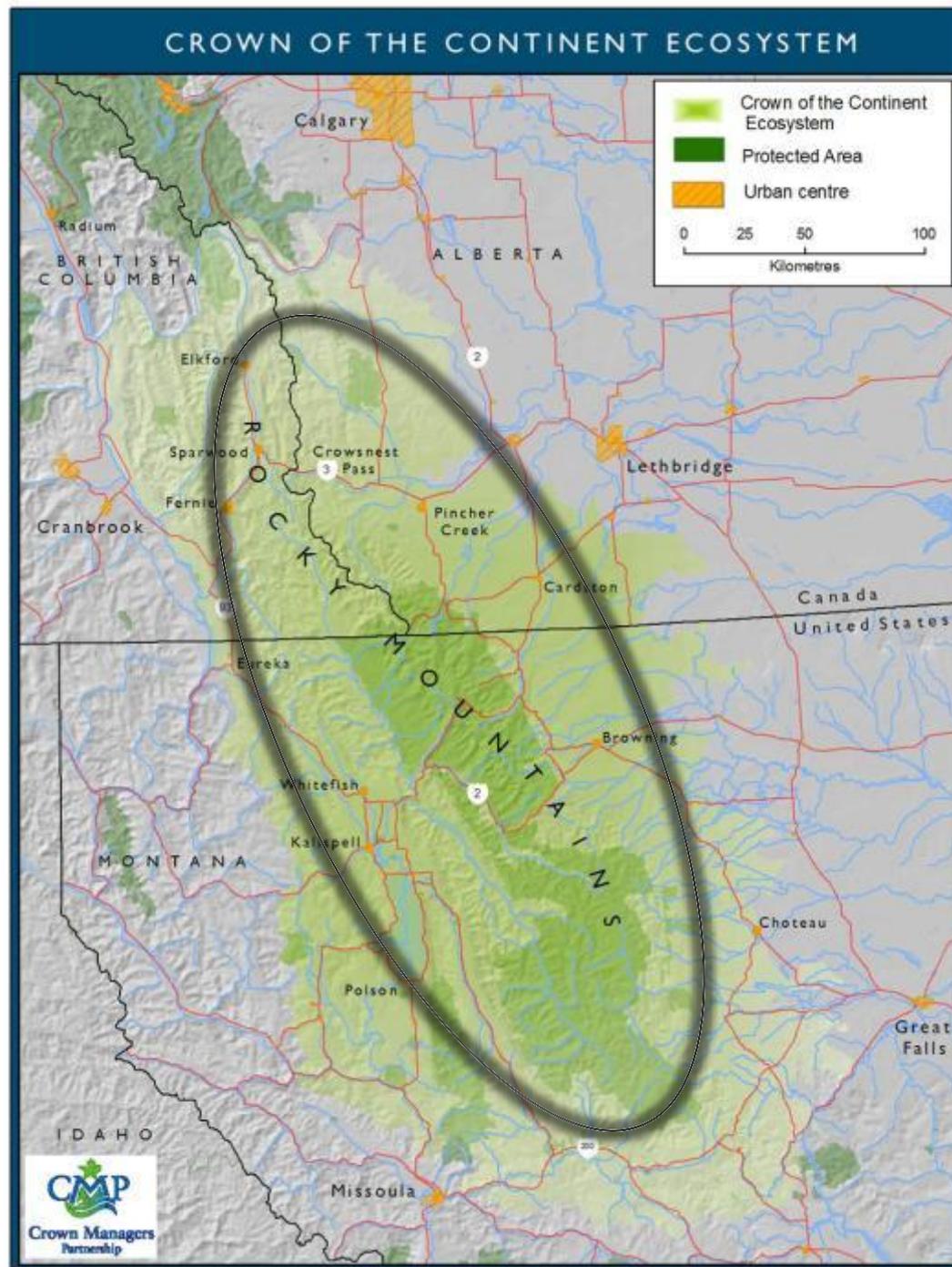
COC Resource Learning Center (GNP)  
Heart of the Rockies

2007

COC Geotourism Council  
Roundtable on the COC

2009

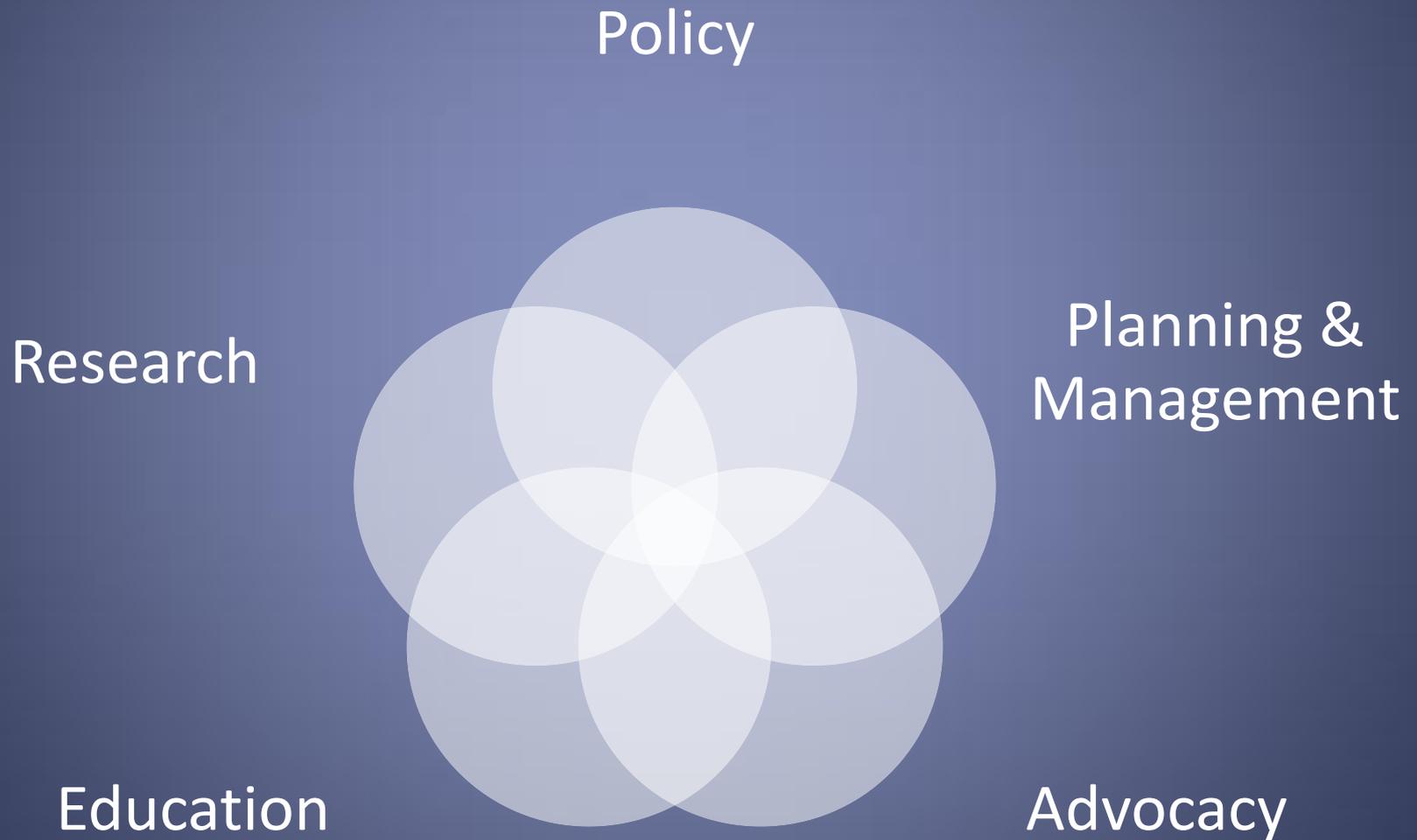
UM COC Initiative  
COC Conservation Initiative



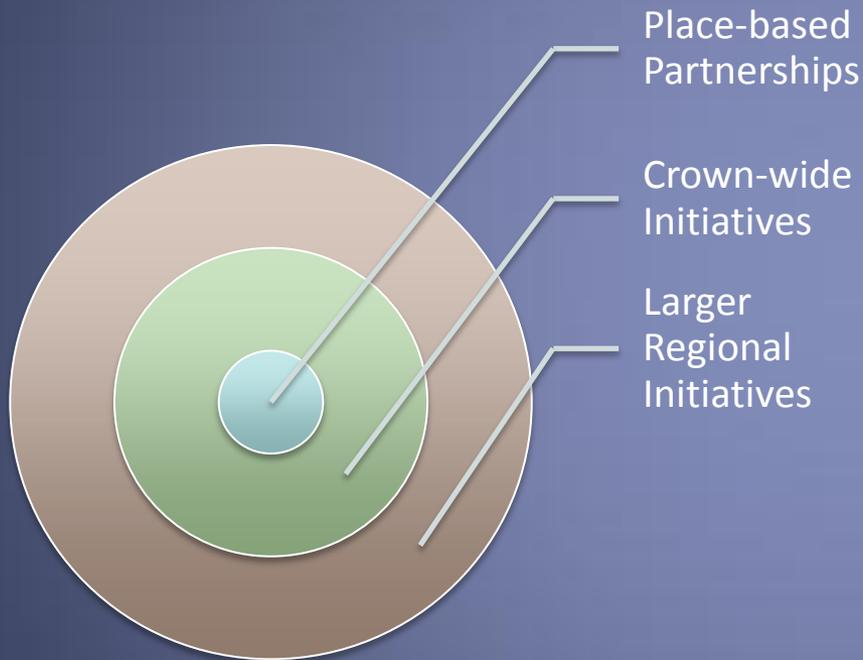
# Larger Regional Efforts: The Crown in Context



# How people are shaping the future



# Problem/Opportunity

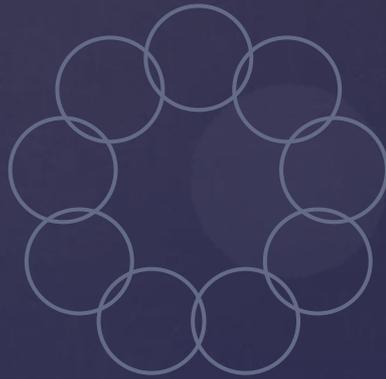


A nested system of activity

Place-based partnerships are the basic building blocks

Growing need and value to work at all spatial scales

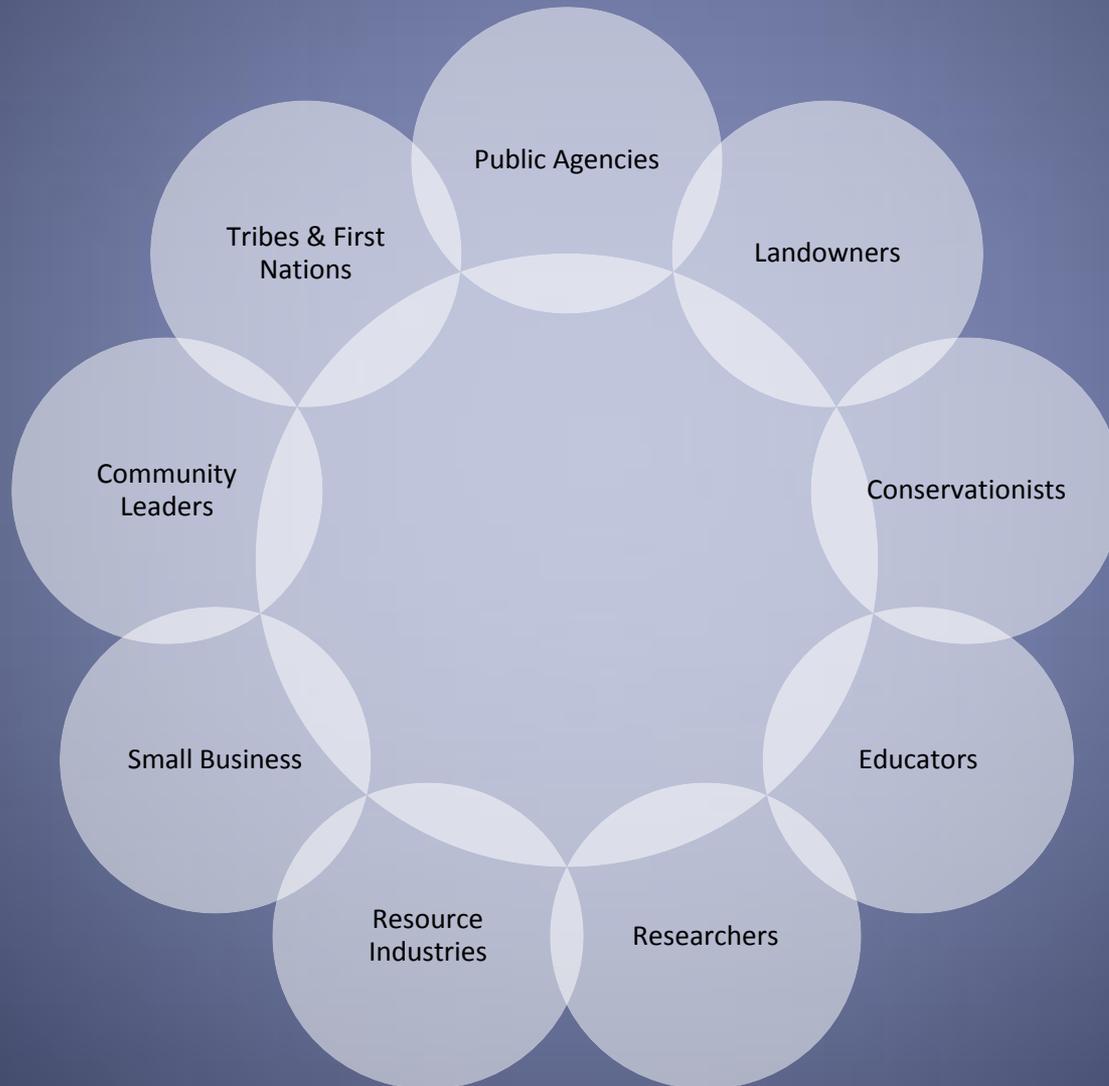
People are connected to the landscape, but not to each other



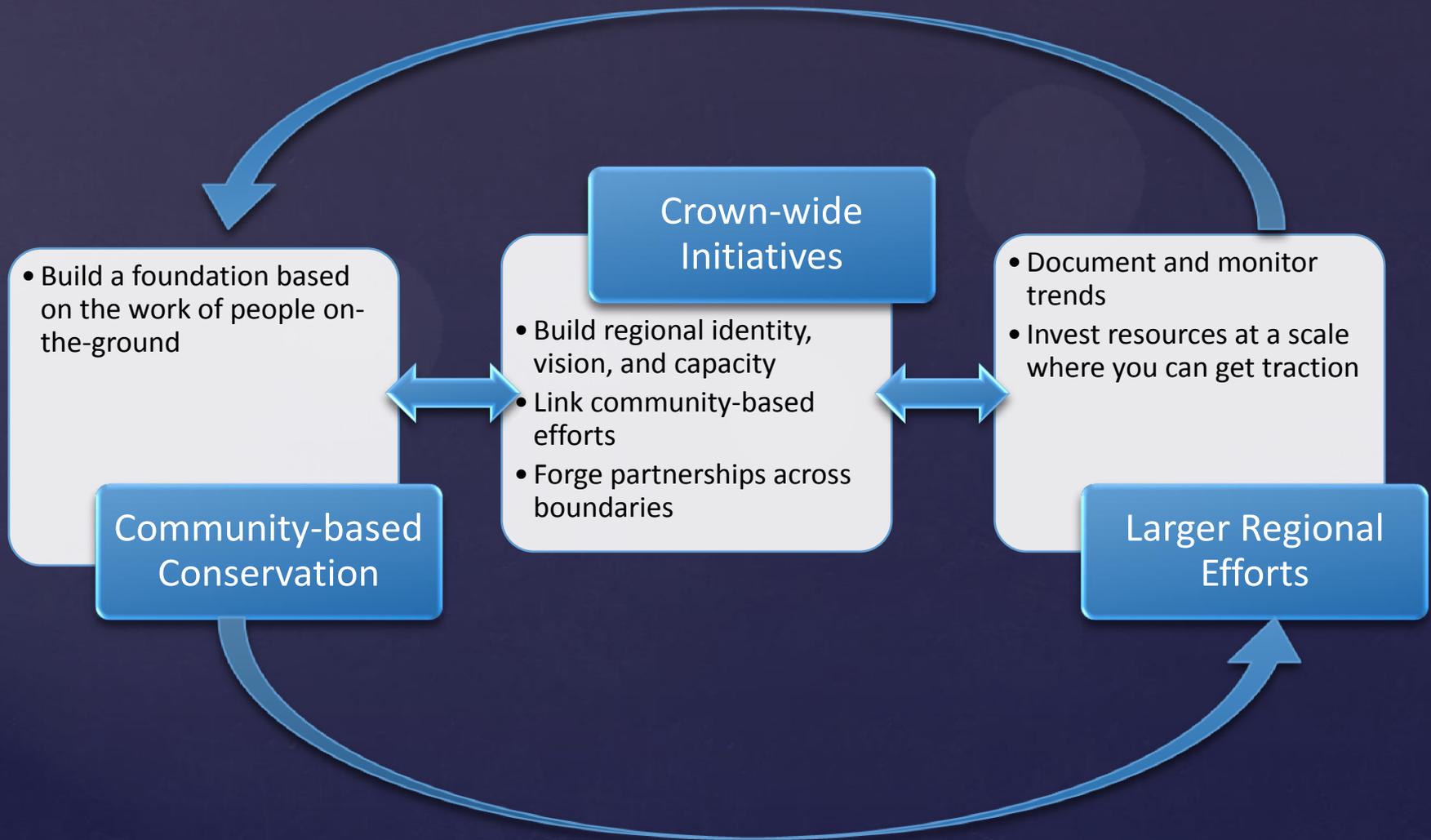
# Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent

Connecting People to Sustain and Enhance  
Culture, Community, and Conservation

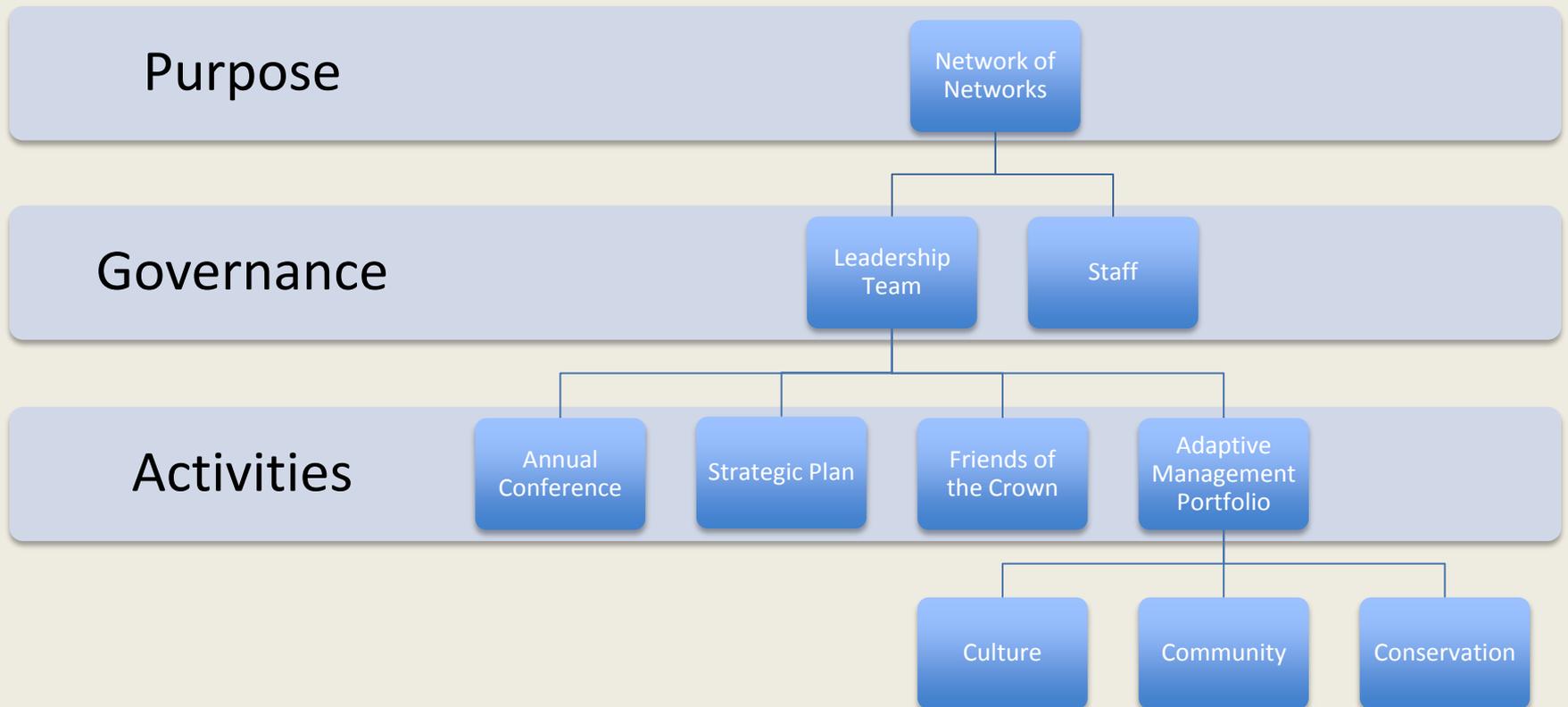
# Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent



# Philosophy of the Roundtable



# Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent A Strategic Framework





## Crown of the Continent: Statement of Values and Principles

### Introduction

This document is a work in progress. It is designed to connect people who care about the Crown of the Continent by articulating a set of common values and shared principles. It is voluntary, nonbinding, and does not duplicate or contradict any existing law, policy, or community-based partnership. (See *Appendix 1* for a list of people consulted in preparing this draft.)

During the 2010 conference *Remarkable Beyond Borders*, please provide input and advice by marking up hard copies and leaving your notes at the registration table. Staff will revise the document and distribute it once again for review and comment. After the next round of revisions, we hope to be in a place where people might “sign” the Statement of Values and Principles (Statement).

While the Statement is by, for, and about the people who care about the Crown, the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has asked us to send them a draft of the Statement in reference to the America’s Great Outdoor Initiative. CEQ and other Obama Administration officials were inspired during their trip to Ovando, Montana, in June 2010 and challenged us to create something that knits together the community-based partnerships with Crown-wide and larger regional initiatives relevant to the Crown.

The Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent serves as the coordinating body for this effort and will provide ongoing support in the distribution, use, and updating of the Statement (see *Appendix 2* for a description of the Roundtable). Once it is complete, the Statement of Values of Principles will be “owned” by all signatories.

### The Landscape

The Crown of the Continent (the “Crown”) is an 18 million acre ecosystem (see *Appendix 3* for a widely accepted map of the region). The U.S. Congress and Canadian Parliament designated Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks, which define the core of the region, in 1932 as the world’s first International Peace Park. The landscape of the Crown contains a diverse, functioning, relatively intact ecosystem; a geographically unique natural area containing the headwaters of three major water systems; habitat for a diverse array and a significant number of native flora and fauna; home for charismatic mega fauna, especially the grizzly bear that is strongly identified with this area; and a natural landscape with breathtaking scenic vistas, wildness, quietude, and dark skies that inspire a connection between people and nature. The Crown is a rare and special place.

## What It Is

- A synthesis of common values and shared principles
- A way to knit people together ... connective tissue
- An opportunity to jointly shape the future
- Voluntary and non-binding
- A living document

## What It Is NOT

- A legally binding statement
- An over-arching plan
- A new super-organization

# Strategic Plan

Mission: Promote and enhance culture, community, and conservation in the Crown of the Continent (COTC) by creating opportunities for leaders and citizens to celebrate and honor place, remember history, and imagine a healthy future for all.

**Engage and inspire leaders and citizens** within the COTC to work together on key issues and opportunities

**Connect people** to foster respectful dialogue, share successes, build community and regional identity throughout the COTC

**Build capacity and leverage human and financial resources** to solve challenges and build resilience against fluctuations in political will and financial resources

**Catalyze** new conversations, partnerships, exchanges, projects, and innovative learning opportunities that address shared interests and help prepare future leaders and citizens of the COTC

# Adaptive Management Portfolio



Cultural  
resources



Community  
vitality



Conservation  
values





# Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent: Connecting People to Sustain and Enhance Culture, Community, and Conservation

# Questions and Answers

**Ask questions through the chat pod**

## Session #7

# *Science to Inform Open Space Conservation: Land Use Change, Forest Fragmentation, and the Wildland-Urban Interface*

*Wednesday, October 24 at 2:00 pm Eastern*

**Dave Theobald** – *Colorado State University*

**Dave Wear** – *USFS, Southern RS*

**Miranda Mockrin** – *USFS, Rocky Mountain RS*

**Kurt Riitters** – *USFS, Southern RS*



# Future Webinar Topics

- Open space conservation efforts by other federal agencies (USDA, DOI, DoD)
- Private land conservation programs from the Farm Bill
- Many new topics being planned for 2013

**Give us your feedback!**

[www.fs.fed.us/openspace/webinars](http://www.fs.fed.us/openspace/webinars)

Or Contact

Susan Stein – [sstein@fs.fed.us](mailto:sstein@fs.fed.us)

Sara Comas - [scomas@fs.fed.us](mailto:scomas@fs.fed.us)

Rick Pringle – [rpringle@fs.fed.us](mailto:rpringle@fs.fed.us)