

CENTER FOR LARGE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

# FEDERAL NATURAL RESOURCE AGENCIES RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

## Organizational Efforts with the Potential to Incorporate Natural Resource Adaptation Science, Strategies and Actions

By:

Robert Ament  
Senior Conservationist

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## **1. US Geologic Service (USGS) National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center (NCCWSC)**

Designed with input from federal, state, and tribal science and management agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and others having an interest in conserving America's fish and wildlife resources.

- Mobilization of existing assessment and monitoring capabilities and efforts from across all agencies and organizations is needed for timely forecasting of responses at appropriate spatial and temporal scales for national, regional and local management for adaptation to climate change.

## **2. Department of Interior (DOI) Climate Change Response Council (CCRC)**

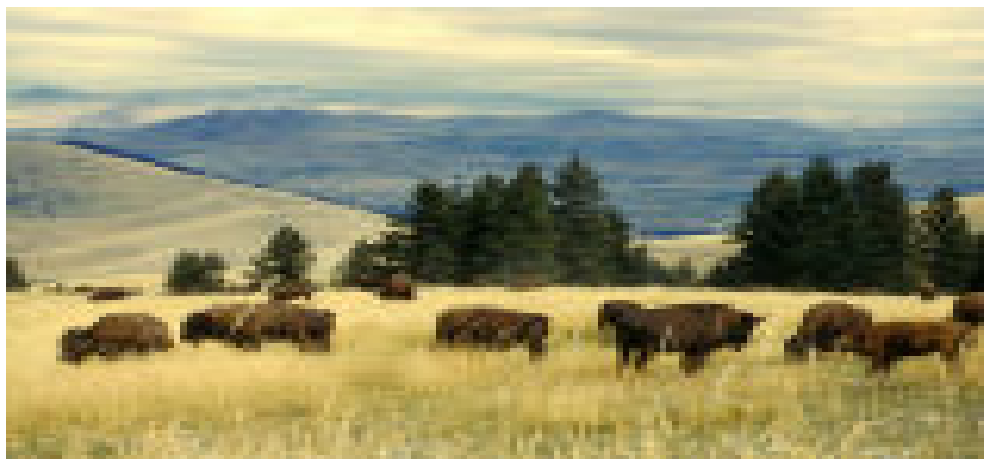
As directed in DOI Secretarial Order 3289

- Coordinate action among the department's eight bureaus and offices, based in Secretary's office
- Execute coordinated department-wide management tools to address impacts of climate change on natural and cultural resources.

## **3. DOI Regional Climate Change Response Centers (RCCRCs)**

As directed in DOI Secretarial Order 3289

- Synthesize and integrate climate change related impacts on Departmental resources.

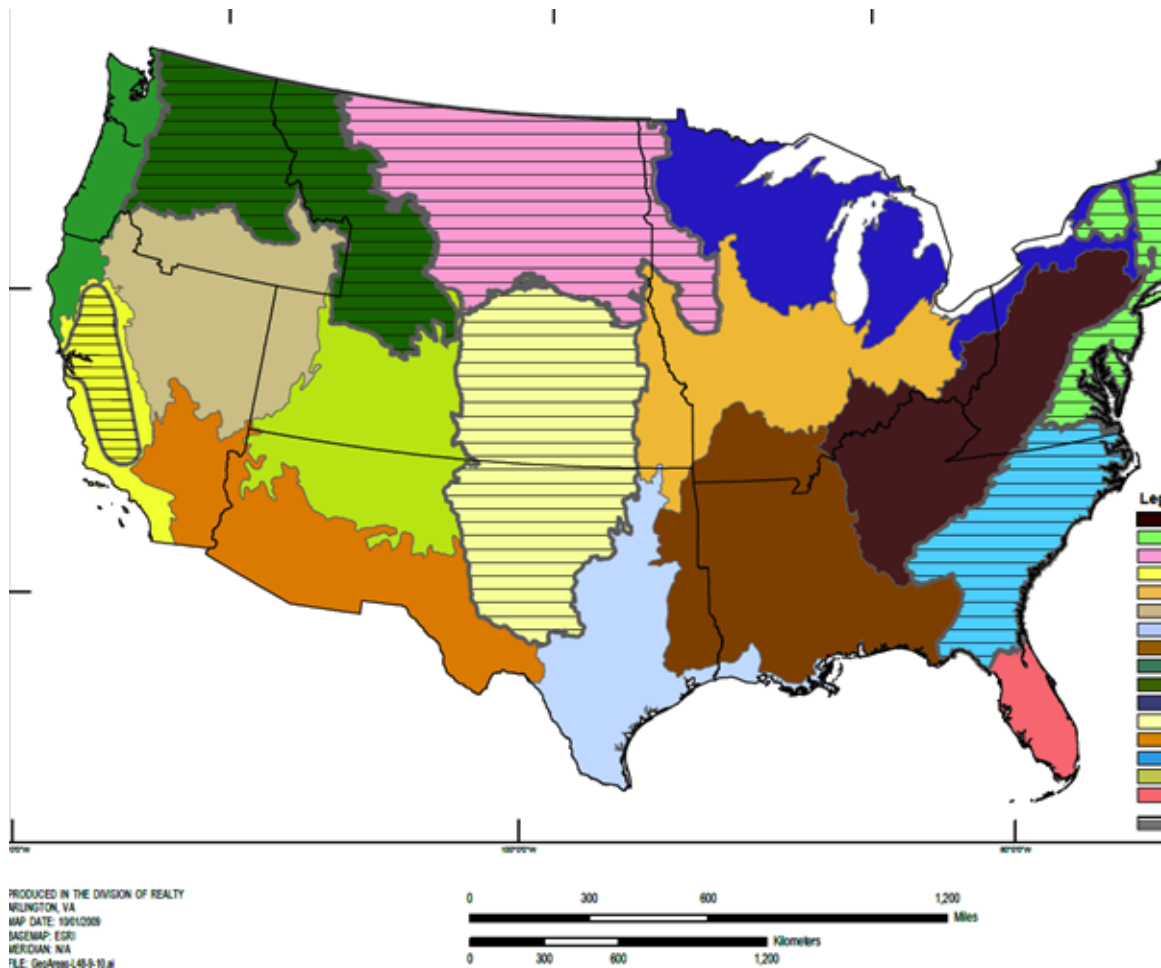


**Figure 1:** National Bison Range, Montana. Source: USFWS

#### 4. DOI Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC)

As directed in DOI Secretarial Order 3289

- Already formed in some regions, will start with six LCCs.
- Work with RCCRCs to help coordinate adaptation efforts in the region.
- Being led by US Fish and Wildlife Service.



**Figure 2:** DOI Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), cross hatched LCCs are ones DOI will begin to develop. Source: <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/lcc/gn.pdf>

## **5. US Fish and Wildlife Service: Rising to the Challenge, Draft Strategic Plan for Responding to Accelerating Climate Change and Draft 5 Year Action Plan**

- Lays out FWS vision and provides direction for agency to sustain fish, wildlife and habitats nationally.
- Includes development of fish and wildlife adaptation strategy, development of LCCs, development of monitoring and research partnerships and other actions.
- Seeks to create a carbon neutral agency by 2020.

## **6. US Forest Service, Responding to Climate Change: Developing Integrated Plans for Landscape Conservation**

As directed by Chief Tidwell's Memo (File 1300) on 20 November 2009 .

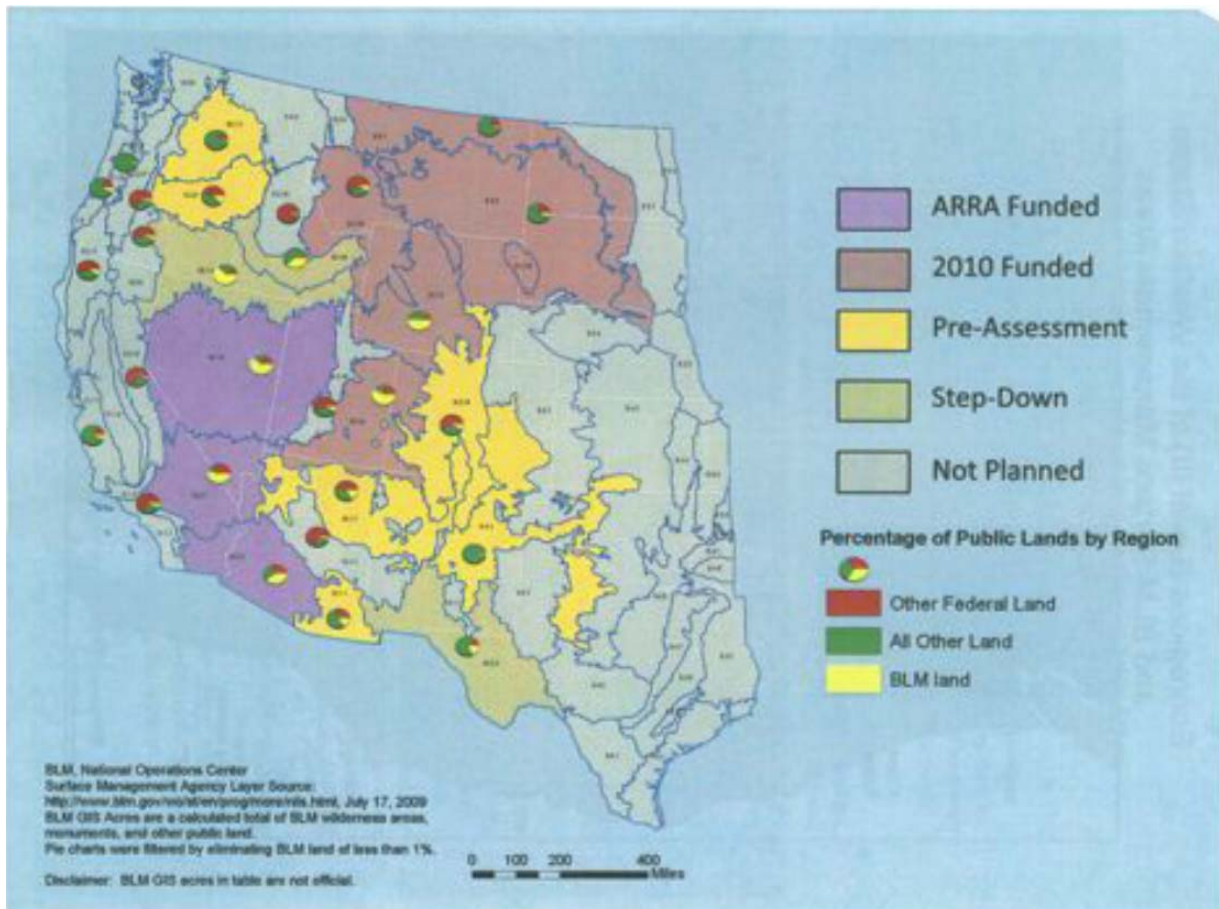
- Based on goals and actions in the Forest Service's Strategic Framework for Responding to Climate Change (version 1.0), <http://www.fs.fed.us/climatechange/>
- To pursue aggressive and well-coordinated landscape conservation action plans for specific geographic areas and major landscapes.
- Highlights water and water-related services as a fundamental outcome.
- Five USFS partnership regions: Eastern, Southern, Interior West, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest/Pacific Islands.
- Chief will name a Climate Change Executive to work with the Executive Leadership Team and the National Leadership Council to lead the development of the climate change action plans.



**Figure 3:** Moose, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska. Source: USFWS

## 7. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ecoregional Assessments for Biological and Social Resources

- Help identify potential areas for conservation and development.
- Similar to energy related BLM needs assessments for oil and gas leasing, wind energy and west-wide energy corridors.
- Build on the work of the USFWS, USGS and others on strategic habitat conservation, develop an eco-regional assessment proposal and build it into budget submissions and renewable energy discussions.
- Establish management and technical teams in each region.
- Explore options to facilitate development of subsequent management strategies.
- Use information to feed into RCCRCs and LLCs.



**Figure 4:** Map of BLM Ecoregional Assessments. Source: BLM National Operations Center

## **PENDING IN CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION (HR 2454 and S1733)**

### **A. Natural Resources Adaptation Science Advisory Board**

- The Secretaries of Interior, Commerce and Agriculture will appoint members to the Board and coordinate its activities.
- Board is a balanced membership among federal, state, tribal, and local representatives, and diverse interests, including institutions of higher education and relevant nongovernmental organizations and conservation organizations.
- Advise all relevant federal agencies on the state of the science regarding:
  - the ongoing and expected impacts of climate change.
  - scientific strategies and mechanisms for natural resources adaptation.
  - identify and recommending priorities for ongoing research needs.

### **B. Natural Resources Climate Change Adaptation Panel**

- CEQ Chair is chair of this panel, members are federal department or agency leaders.
- Develop the Natural Resources Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.
- Serve as a forum for interagency consultation on the implementation of the strategy.

### **C. National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center**

- Establish at USGS.
- Already moving forward, see # 1 above.