Landscape Conservation Design for the Crown of the Continent

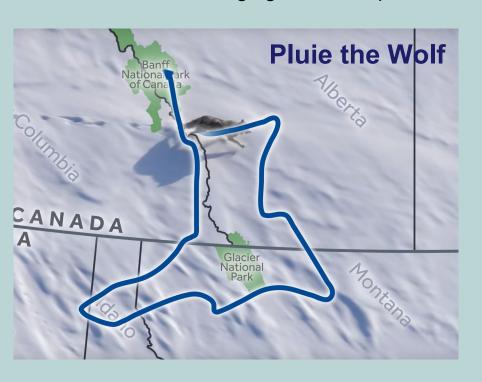
Crown LCD Kick Off 21 January 2020

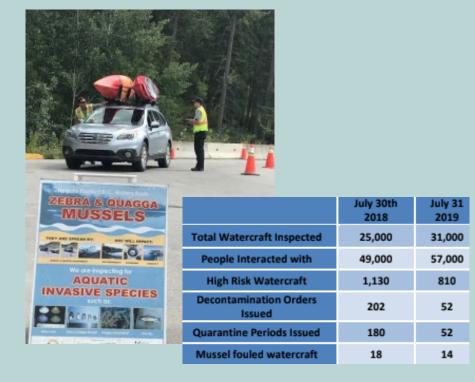


"The conservation challenges of the 21st Century represent a force of change more farreaching and consequential than any previously encountered."

The Land is Telling Us ...

Whether we always knew it or are just now recognizing, modern challenges are emerging at broad spatial and temporal scales





No shortage of planning



FINAL MEMORANDUM II-3-C MIDDLE ROCKIES RAPID ECOREGIONAL ASSESSMENT



Lake County Zoning Districts



Forest Legacy Project
Lost Trail Conservation Project
Marion, Flathead County, Montana



2010

Climate Change Strategic Plan

September 2013

Draft Comprehensive Conservation
Plan and Environmental Impact

Statement

National Rison Re

MONTANA'S

STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
2015

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

2014 - 2024

Amended May 2018

South Saskatchewan
Regional Plan

Parks Parcs Canada Canada

General Management Plan

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

A Portion of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Flathead and Glacier Counties, Montana

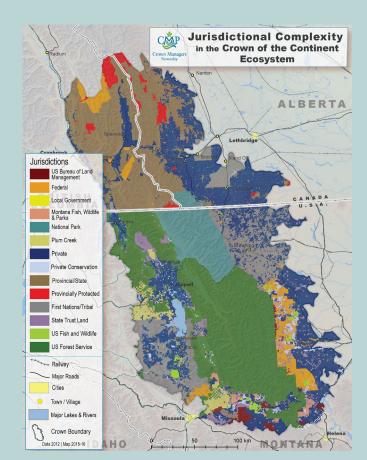
2019/20 – 2021/22 SERVICE PLAN

February 2019

Challenges of the Social Variety

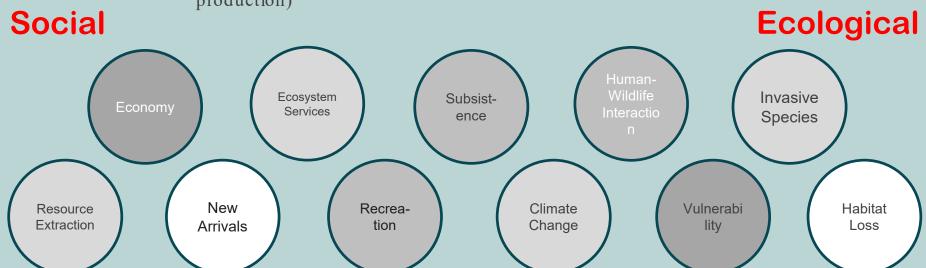
- Jurisdictional Complexity
- Poor access to data
 /information/knowledge -science -
- Exclusionary Decision Making
- Inequity
- NIMBY
- Reliance on / appeal to litigation
- Politics
- Conflict over access to resources





... Can we stitch it all together?

- Conservation challenges extend beyond traditional land management units
- Successfully addressing challenges will require large landscape, synthetic approaches that:
 - o Are respectful and inclusive of landowner and agency visions, goals and mandates
 - Effectively address ecological and social priorities including ecological features (e.g., at-risk species), system functions (e.g., connectivity) and human uses (e.g., food production)

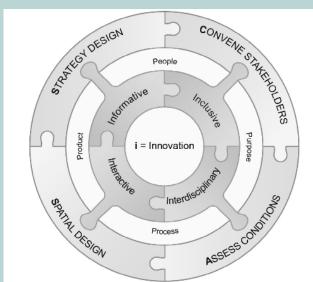


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production)

Socio-Ecological Solutions



Landscape Conservation Design Defined:

a partner -driven approach to achieve a sustainable, resilient socio - ecological landscape. It is an *iterative*, collaborative, and holistic process resulting in strategic and spatial products that provide information, analytical tools, maps, and strategies to achieve landscape goals collectively held among partners.

State

Action Plan

County-

level Planning Provincial

ramework

LCD provides a landscape context to support agencies and jurisdictions to successfully address mandates by proactively identifying and addressing:

- threats that may impede successful plan implementation and
- opportunities that may not be recognized by singular approaches

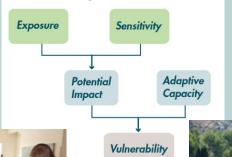
Non Regulatory ... Bottom Up ... Voluntary

People and Science...

Scenario Planning

Social Networks

Vulnerability Assessment





Optimization Models

Wildlife



Costs

Desired Condition

Theory of Change

Input The resources

The resources The activities necessary to carry out an activity to be analyzed and

Activity

The activities
whose effects are

measured

The results of the activity in the question

Output

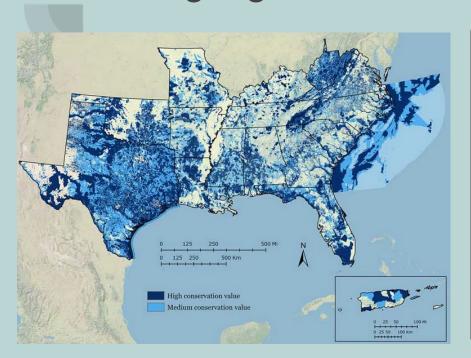
Outcome

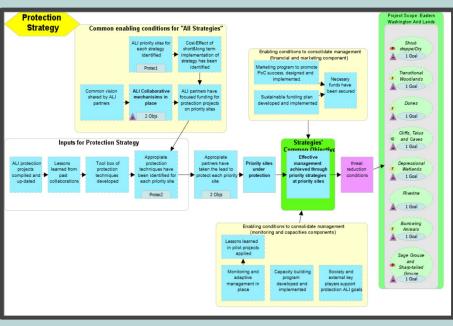
Changes in the lives of the target population

Goal-level changes in the lives of the target population

Impact

... Working together to design the future





Spatial Design



Strategic Design



Landscape Conservation Design

LCD: A Concept Proven

NW Landscape Conservation Forum June 23-24, 2020 – Portland, OR



Completed, in Implementation

- North Atlantic: Nature's Network
- 2. South Atlantic Conservation Adaptation Strategy
- 3. Appalachian NatureScape
- 4. Columbia Plateau LCD / Arid Land Initiative
- 5. Green River Basin LCD

In Progress:

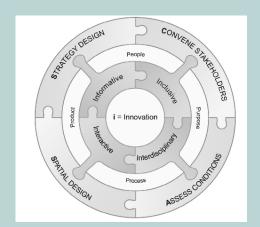
- 6. Cascade to Coast Blueprint
- Cascadia Climate Adaptation Strategy

Getting Started:

- 8. Crown of the Continent
- High Divide Collaborative (coming in 2020)

LCD: An Adaptive Framework

- 1. Convene Stakeholders and Frame the Design
- 2. Assess Current and Desired Future Conditions
- 3. Spatial Design
- 4. Strategy Design



Nine Principles of Landscape Conservation Design

Recommended Practices for Landscape Conservation Design

Contents lists available at ScienceDirec

Landscape and Urban Planning

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/landurbplan



The iCASS Platform: Nine principles for landscape conservation design

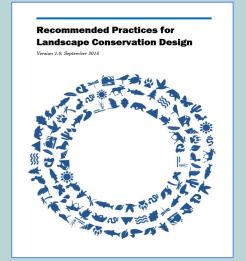


^a National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mail-Stop: NWRS, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, USA

Migratory Bird Program/National Wildlife Refuse System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson, TN 38305, USA

ntal Quality and Protection, Bureau of Land Management, Washington, DC 20036, USA

cific Landscape Conservation Cooperative/National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, OR 97232, USA





Convene Stakeholders and Frame Design

Convene Stakeholders

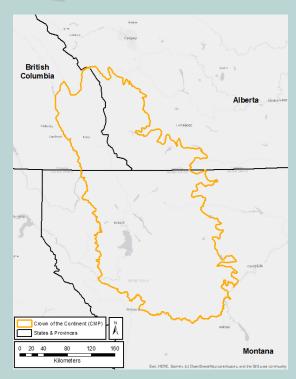
- Crown Managers Partnership
 - Convening Body

Frame the Design

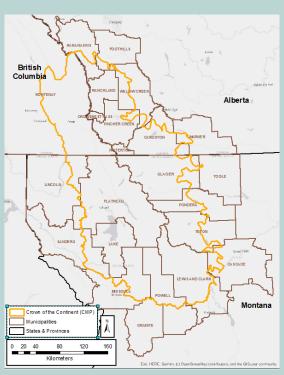
- Where to Design?
 - Geography relevant to Stakeholders
- What to focus on?
 - Shared Vision
 - Landscape Features of shared importance
 - Species, Ecosystem components,
 Resources, Economies, Processes



Challenge 1: Where?







Crown Managers Partnership AOI

Watersheds

Municipalities

Challenge 2: What to Focus On?



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MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS 2015

February 2019

Challenge 2: What to Focus Of

Select Landscape Features:

- Ecology
 - Species
 - Habitat Types
 - Processes (i.e., connectivity)
- Social
 - Economies
 - Recreation
- Cultural
 - Traditional Uses
 - Historic Value

Criteria to Consider:

- Representative
- Comprehensive
- Extent / Range

- Impact, Importance
- Context (do we know enough?)
- Contentiousness (low)
- Data Available

Proposed Features:

Coarse Filter	Meso Filter	Fine Filter
Conifer Forest ¹	Mesic-Wet ¹	
	Xeric-Mesic ¹	
	Five Needle Pines ²	Whiteback Pine ^{2,8}
		Limber Pine ²
Alpine	Grass & Shrub ¹	
n')	Sparse or Barren ¹	
bee ducus Shrubland ¹		
Montane Grassland ¹		Spalding's Catchfly ¹
Floodplain / Riparian ¹		Yellow-billed Cuckoo ³
		Lewis' Woodpecker ¹
Wetlands ¹	Bog/Fen ¹	Water Howellia ³
	Depressional Wetlands ¹	Waterfowl Production Areas
Lotic Waters ¹	Intermountain Valley Rivers ¹	
	Intermountain Valley Streams ¹	Cutthroat Trout ¹
	Mountain Streams (Headwaters) ¹	Bull Trout ^{1,2,3}
	()	Redband Trout ¹
		Meltwater Lednian Stonefly
Lakes and Reservoirs ¹		Lake Trout ¹
	Grizzly Bear ^{1,2,3}	
Meso-Carnivores ²		Wolverine ^{1,2,1}
		Canada Lynx ^{1,2,3}
		Fisher ²
Refuge and breeding ground for	Migratory Birds (FWS - LT) ³	Waterfowl ³
native birds ¹	,,	
Sensitive Plants ⁴		Water Howellia ³
		Spalding's Catchfly ¹
Ecological Connectivity	Big Game Corridors	Mule Deer
		Rocky Mountain Elk
		Pronghorn
Ecological Processes	Productivity	Net Primary Productivity
_		
	Physical/Nutrient Cycles	Water Cycle
		Carbon Cycle
	. / /	
	Phenology	
	5.	
	Disturbance Regimes	Wildfire
	Ĭ	
Ecosystem Services		
Working Landscape ⁴	Timber Economy ⁶	Fiber supply ¹
•	·	Quarry Rock ^a
Fish and Wildlife-based	Hunting Access ³	Disabled person access ³
Recreation ³	_	
	Fishing Access ¹	

DRAFT Proposed Landscape Features

Coarse Filter	Meso Filter	Fine Filter
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Alpine ¹	Grass & Shrub ¹	
	Sparse or Barren ¹	
Deciduous Shrubland ¹		
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Big Game Corridors ⁴	Mule Deer
	Rocky Mountain Elk
	Pronghorn
Productivity	Net Primary Productivity
Physical/Nutrient Cycles	Water Cycle
	Carbon Cycle
Phenology	
Disturbance Regimes	Fire on the Landscape
	Invasive Species
	Insects and Disease
Watershed Integrity and Resilience	
Timber Economy ⁴	Fiber supply ⁴
	Quarry Rock ⁴
Hunting Access ³	Disabled person access ³
Fishing Access ³	
Resilient Ecofacets	
	Productivity Physical/Nutrient Cycles Phenology Disturbance Regimes Watershed Integrity and Resilience Timber Economy ⁴ Hunting Access ³ Fishing Access ³

¹ Montana State Wildlife Action Plan ³ US Fish and Wildlife Service

² Crown Managers Partnership

⁴ Proposed at Helena meeting

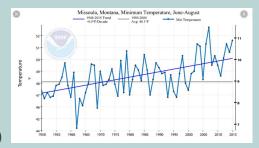
Assess Current Condition & Desired Future Condition

Built Around Shared Vision and Focal Landscape Features

- What do we know about current state of selected features in terms of:
 - Human populations, land uses, biological communities, ecosystem processes, threats to sustainability?
 - Data compilation & evaluation ... what do we have and what's reliable? What is missing – and critical
 - What is the status and trend of focal landscape features? What are we worried about right now?
 - Key Ecological and Socio Economic Attributes and measurable indicators
- What are our <u>projections of these features</u> in the short and long term?
 - Based on current status, what trends would we like to see?
 - SMART goal setting (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time bound)



Orange Hawkweed



Current Condition & Desired Future:

[Columbia Plateau]

- Coordinated input of ~150 NR professionals representing 45 local, state, fed, Tribal and NGO organizations
- Assembled priorities; synthesized by habitat associations (coarse filter)
 - Shrub-steppe and dry grassland
 - Depressional wetlands
 - Riverine Systems
 - Transitional woodlands
 - o Cliffs, Talus and Caves
- Identified taxa of concern not adequately represented by above (fine filter)
 - Grouse
 - Burrowing animals

- Mapped features using best available data
- Evaluated relative viability using Open Standards process



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Viability and Integrity Summary

Focal System or Species	' Landscape Context		Size	Viability/Integrity	
Shrub Steppe and Dry Grasslands	Fair	Fair	Poor	Fair	
Riverine Systems	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	
Depressional Wetlands	Fair		Fair	Fair	
Dunes	Poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	
Transitional Woodlands	Fair	Fair	Poor	Fair	
Cliffs, Talus and Caves	Good	Unknown	Good	Good ¹	
Grouse	Poor	Poor ²	Poor	Poor	
Burrowing Animals	Poor	Poor	Fair	Poor	
Overall Viability/Integrity			vstems is no worse than other for	Fair ³	

¹ This overall rank assumes that the condition of the vegetation in and around cliffs, talus and cave systems is no worse than other focal systems' condition —i.e. fair.

Population growth rates for Sharp-tailed Grouse are high, due in part to translocation of birds from other states. However, natural growth rates for Sage-grouse are low, particularly in the Joint Base Lewis-McChord Yakima Training Center population.

³ The overall viability/integrity of the system would be considered "fair" under all possible scenarios of integrity of the riverine systems (i.e. if the riverine systems' integrity were found to be poor, fair, good or even very good).

Current Condition & Desired Future:

[Columbia Plateau]

- Key Ecological Attributes (e.g., patch size)
 used to hypothesize a range of possible
 futures Poor-Very Good
- "Good" or better established as a desired future condition
- Spatial data describing KEA then stacked –
 the outcome identifying locations that
 retain desired conditions for focal
 conservation feature



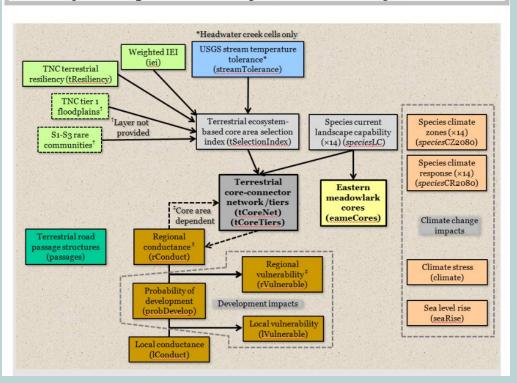
Shrub-Steppe

Key Ecological Attribute	Indicator	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Information Source
Absolute Size	Patch size (acreage of shrub steppe)	Small (<40 ac; 16 ha)	(40-500 ac; 16-202 ha).	Large (500-1,000 ac; 202- 405 ha)	Very Large (>1,000 ac; 405 ha)	Expert opinion (ALI 2014)
Landscape Pattern and Structure	Acreage of land surrounding large patches that is in semi- natural condition	Relictual: Natural or semi-natural habitat makes up <20% of land in a 500 m buffer around the patch	Fragmented: Natural or semi-natural habitat makes up 20-60% of land in a 500 m buffer around the patch	Variegated: Natural or semi-natural habitat makes up 60-90% of land in a 500 m buffer around the patch	Intact: Natural or semi- natural habitat makes up 90- 100% of land in a 500 m buffer around the patch	Faber-Langendoen et al. 2008; Comer and Hak 2009
Connectivity	Acreage of land in large patches connected to other large patches	Isolated: No patches within 20 km cost weighted distance (100% dispersal capacity of grouse - larger movement species target)	Partially connected: One or more patches are within 20 km cost weighted distance (100% dispersal capacity of grouse - larger movement species target)	Connected: Two or more patches are within 1 km cost weighted distance (~100% dispersal capacity of burrowing animals - smaller movement species target). ⁵		Follows rationale developed for WWHCWG's Statewide Analysis (WHCWG 2010)
Fire Regime	Departure from historical fire regime	>50% of total acreage of patches is in LANDFIRE Vegetation Condition Class (VCC) 3	Most (>60%) of total acreage of patches is in LANDFIRE VCC 2; <30% of total acreage of patches is in VCC 3	Most (≥60%) of total acreage of patches is in VCC 1; <10% of total acreage in VCC 3 ⁴	>80% of total acreage of patches is in VCC 1	Based on ALI calculations; see ALI 2014 for details.
Relative Size	Acreage in shrub steppe ecological systems	Shrub steppe (target) is severely reduced from its original natural extent (<50% remains)	Shrub steppe (target) is substantially reduced from its original natural extent (50-80% remains)	Shrub steppe (target) is only modestly reduced from its original natural extent (80-95% remains)	Shrub steppe (target) is not reduced or is minimally reduced from natural extent (>95% remains)	Faber-Langendoen et al. 2008

Best available data ...

[Connect the Connecticut – Nature's Network]

DSL Project Component: Landscape Conservation Design



Examples from the Crown:

Crown Managers Partnership Data array LANDFIRE & other landcover data ALCES Online **GAP** stewardship Housing Density (Headwaters Econ.) NorWeST Stream Temps Climate projection & derivations Topo-climate models Climate Velocity Fire occurrence and vulnerability Connectivity models Natural Heritage wildlife observation Sensitivity & Adaptive Capacity Habitat Suitability models

etc ...

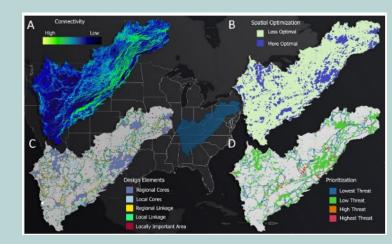
Spatial Design

[Appalachia]

Primary Tool to Address the "Where?"

- Typically, for this exercise we take the ownership and jurisdictional lines off the map
 - Not to say sovereignty, land ownership, organizational mandates, authorities and local needs and expectations are not considered!!
 - Rather, we use the data to tell us about opportunity and costs across the landscape
 - Call this "optimization" modeling in that we seek to project a landscape of the future that optimizes our shared vision and the goals we collectively estimated for the focal landscape feature

where might we achieve shared goals for the least possible cost?



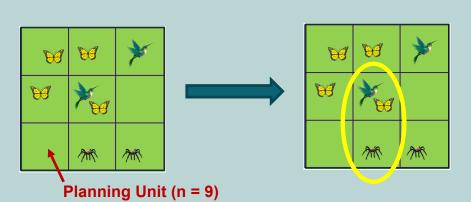
Spatial Design

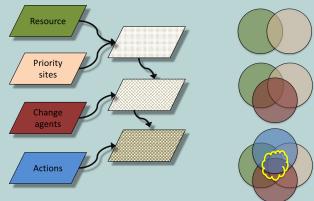
Optimization Models

Concept used in a range of sectors including business investment, biotechnology, metallurgy, agriculture, medicine, sociology and a variety of natural resource decisions

Marxan with Zones

The minimum set problem = capture some minimum representation of features for the least cost





optimization problem: the problem of finding the best solution from among the set of all feasible solutions.

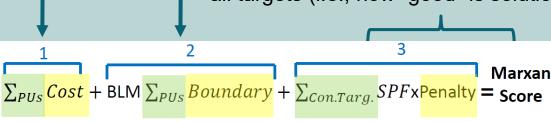
Modeling an Optimized Landscape

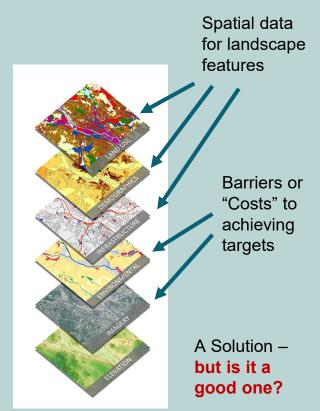
Software Options include Marxan, Zonation

Sum of selected Planning Unit Costs...

Total perimeter of selected Planning Units

Total penalty' you'll 'pay' for not meeting all targets (i.e., how "good" is solution?)





Iterations of iterations

Spatial Design to Strategy

A good design is one partners and stakeholders:

- See their vision realized
- Recognize their Mission and Management Plans in landscapescale design
- Envision their roles and strengths
- Recognize potential contributions to a future sustainable landscape



Strategy Design

Bring in the "Who" and focus on the "How"

- As we begin to see our vision of the future depicted on maps of the landscape we – again ... collectively– start to see emergent aspects of the landscape features
 - Opportunities and costs we may not have envisioned when looking
 - Jurisdiction by jurisdiction
 - Species by species
 - Threat by threat
 - Opportunity by opportunity
- Elements of the developing Spatial Design are evaluated in the context of jurisdictional plans (SWAP, Forest Plans, County Zoning, Infrastructure, etc)
- We may also see on draft Spatial Designs clear "NO GO" aspects
 - o That's OK ... we adjust and iterate

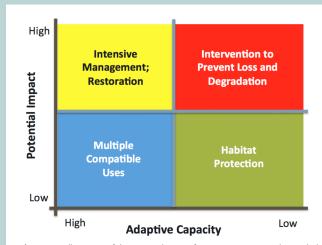
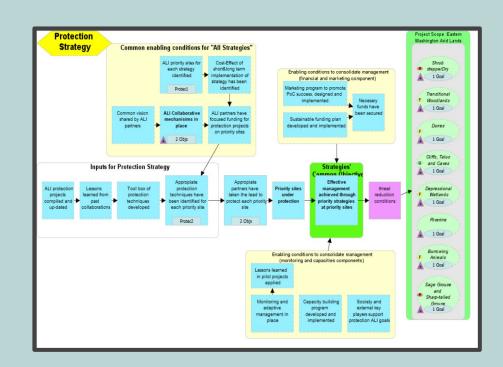


Figure 8. An illustration of the potential range of management actions that might be chosen for a location (e.g., HUC12) depending on its potential impact and adaptive capacity.

Strategy Design

[Columbia Plateau]

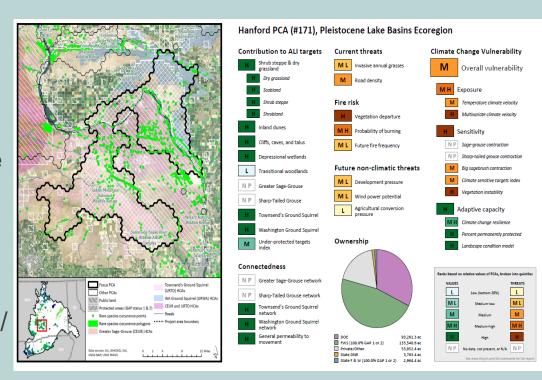
- "Results Chains" articulate different sets of strategies.
 - Restoration, Protection, Grazing,
 Agriculture, Alternative Energy, etc.
- Mapped segments of landscape where strategy meets opportunity.
 - Where do protection, restoration, fire and climate adaptation strategies make the most sense?
- Important to maintain facilitation/ coordination that is focused on developing "on the ground" strategies.



Strategy Design

[Columbia Plateau]

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Implementing a Design

[Columbia Plateau]

Federal Coordination on Post-Fire Response

The Bureau of Land Management and the US Fish and Wildlife Service have been coordinating on post-fire response. The 2016 Range 12 fire in south-central Washington burned 175,000 acres, including both BLM and USFWS-managed lands. Though each agency has its own mandate and requirements, ser coordinated and discussed their Emplay State on and Rehal sation plan (Rehal State of Park 1997).

BLM & USFWS



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) - State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) program

Not proscriptive but cognizant and coordinated

Result is collective impact leading to resilient, sustainable socio-ecological futures

SAFE is a USDA initiative focused on developing quality wildlife

nabitat through the Conservation Reserve Program
rm Bill conservation program. W
ovide chnical assistance to proc
400 acres of shrub-steppe a

State
Wildlife
Wildlife

was a conservation need eton. Given the overlap be able to achieving the ALI's priorities, the to achieving the ALI's andscap

Foster Creek Conservation District



County
Cons.
District

permits that would a specie and their had selfit those species and

Foster Creek Conservation District (FCCD) has a number of programs in Douglas County, Washington that help farmers and ranchers preserve their resources, including shrub steppe, which in turn contributes to ALI's shared goals. These programs include the

Multiple Species Ger Ducks Unlimited - Overlapping Priorities

Using ALI science-based tools adds value to projects that not only achieve Ducks Unlimited's goals for waterfowl, but also provide benefits to other species, such as sage grouse or ground squirrels. The ALI priority areas man helps to identify areas where waterfow **Post-fire recovery across ownership boundaries**

it helps to identify areas where waterfor habitats overlap with the ALI's shared | opportunities to consider other specie working with part. One example is restoral the Tollord area

NGO more m evond wate



Sutherland Fire (2017). Photo: Richard Parrish/BLM. https://inciweb.nwcg.gov /incident/photograph/5282/4/64375/ A challenge faced by land managers in the sagebrush steppe is to ensure areas that have burned are on the path to swift recovery, which may require post-fire restoration, and does not respond to ownership boundaries. In the wake of the 2017 Sut and Fire in the Beezley Hills—which brenthy and in a path of the recovery efforts—Bit and The Nature Consultation and Received the consultation of the consultati

Isolated Impact Collective Impact

Can We Do It?



Yes We Can!

Convening Body:



Lead Analysts:





What's Next?

Roles

Tasks

Timelines

Crown LCD: Roles

Leadership Team

- Monthly conference calls
- Liaise with your organizational leadership
- Represent your org landscape vision, priority features

- Timely evaluation/response (we will keep it easy)
- Identify your experts & make available
- Seek support (in kind, funds)

Technical Team

- Monthly conference calls
- Find & share data
- Co-Design analyses

- Review Input-output streams
- Critique analyses
- Identify experts; recruit knowledge

Subject Experts (ad hoc)

- Deliver expertise as needed
- Knowledge of species needs, landcover condition, known and emerging threats

- Targeted engagement
- Review subject-relevant strategies

Crown LCD: Timeline (estimated)

2020

January - March

Confirm Leadership and Technical Teams Review Management Plans Data Synthesis

April - June

Crown LCD Workshop #1
Finalize Landscape Feature Selection
Complete Vulnerability Assessment
Develop Targets and Cost Layers

July - September

Initial Marxan Runs Model Calibration Additional Data Discovery

October - December

Optimization Modeling (Marxan) Review Management Plans Data Synthesis

2021

January

Spatial Design First Draft available for review

February - March

Technical Team Workshop Evaluate First Draft, Adjust, Iterate Optimization Models: Second Runs Initiate Strategy Design

April - August

Complete Optimization Models Crown LCD Workshop #2 First Draft Strategy Design

September - November

Review Spatial and Strategy Designs Prepare Publications Draft Metadata

December 2021

Design Released

Crown LCD: Tasks

Confirm Leadership Team

Identify Technical Team Personnel

Identify LCD Geography

Select Priority Landscape Features

Schedule a Workshop (April 2020?)