

Western Governors Association corridors initiative and context for regional pilot project

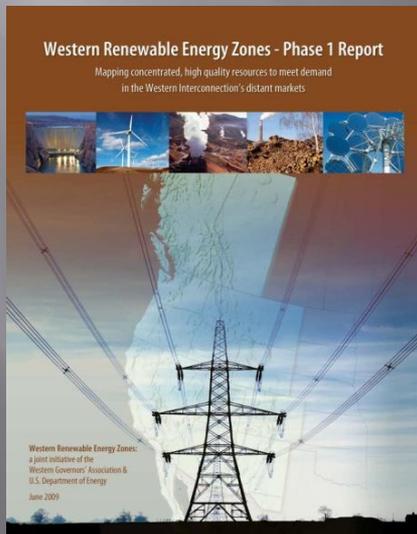
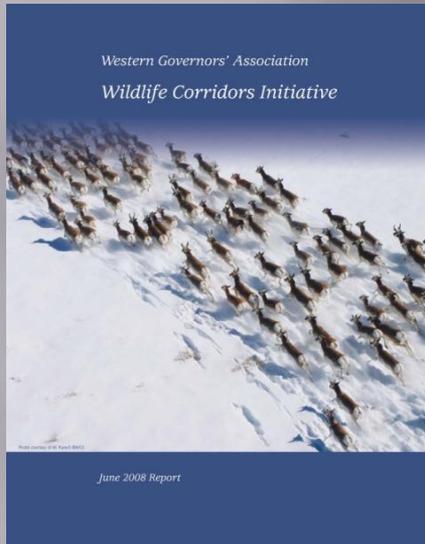
presented by Audrey Hatch, WDFW

Presentation overview

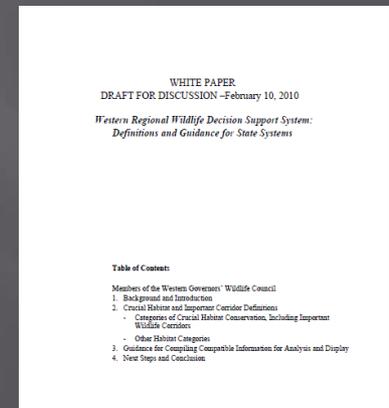
- ▣ Background
- ▣ Online planning tool for fish and wildlife:
 - Pilot projects
 - Objectives for Columbia Plateau pilot
- ▣ Pilot project as case study for regional coordination
 - Habitat connectivity
 - Climate change
 - Statewide partnerships



Background: Western Governors Wildlife Corridors and Crucial Wildlife Habitat initiative



- ▣ Call for Fish and Wildlife Decision-Support Systems
- ▣ Online Planning Tool
- ▣ Broad scale:
 - “Macro-siting”
 - Pre-Planning
 - 30,000’ level
- ▣ Use Wildlife Council guidance document



Example:

Visit fwp.mt.gov; search CAPS

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the CAPS (Crucial Areas Planning System) interface. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://fwp.mt.gov/gis/maps/caps/>. The page header includes the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks logo and the title "CAPS: CRUCIAL AREAS PLANNING SYSTEM".

The interface features a left-hand sidebar with a tree view of data layers, including:

- Crucial Areas Supporting Data
 - Aquatic Layers
 - Terrestrial Layers
 - Habitat Layers
- Development & Infrastructure Layers
 - Energy
 - Housing Densities
 - Transportation
- Boundary and Other Layers
 - Designated Areas
 - Montana Land Cover
 - Public Land Ownership
 - TRCP Hunter and Angler Valued Lands
 - Watershed Boundaries

The main map area displays a map of Montana with various geographical features and boundaries. A legend in the top right corner identifies "Areas Outside of FWP Jurisdiction" as Indian Reservations & National Park Service Lands, shown in yellow. Major cities like Kalispell, Missoula, Helena, Bozeman, Billings, and Mies City are labeled. The map also shows Fort Peck Lake and Wolf Point. A scale bar at the bottom right indicates a scale of 1:5,500,011, equivalent to 87 Miles.

At the bottom of the page, there are logos for StreamNet, Montana State Library Natural Resource Information System, and Montana Natural Heritage Program. Navigation links for CAPS Tutorial, User Guide, Documentation, FAQs, and Suggestions are provided. The browser's status bar at the very bottom shows "Done", "Internet | Protected Mode: On", and "100%".

Showing conservation species:

Crucial Areas Planning System - Windows Internet Explorer
http://fwp.mt.gov/gis/maps/caps/

Crucial Areas Planning System

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
CAPS: CRUCIAL AREAS PLANNING SYSTEM

Tools: Reference (checked), Imagery, Highway/Topo, Relief

Legend

- Areas Outside of FWP Jurisdiction
 - Indian Reservations & National Park Service Lands
- Terrestrial Conservation Species
 - Class 1 (Highest)
 - Class 2
 - Class 3
 - Class 4 (Lowest)
- 100 kV or more
 - 500 kV
 - 230 kV
 - 161 kV
 - 115 kV
 - 100 kV
 - Unknown kV

Adjust transparency value for:
Crucial Areas Layers (selected) Other Layers
Transparent Opaque

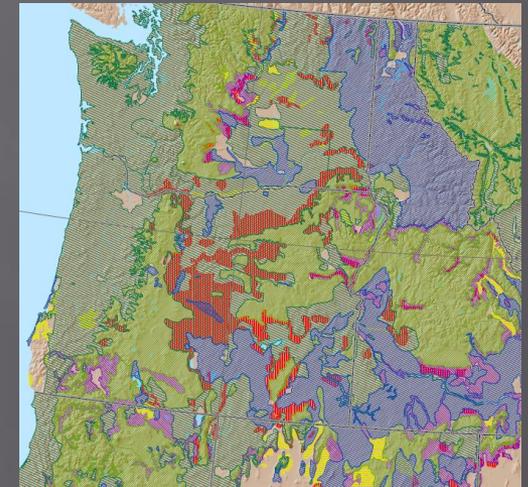
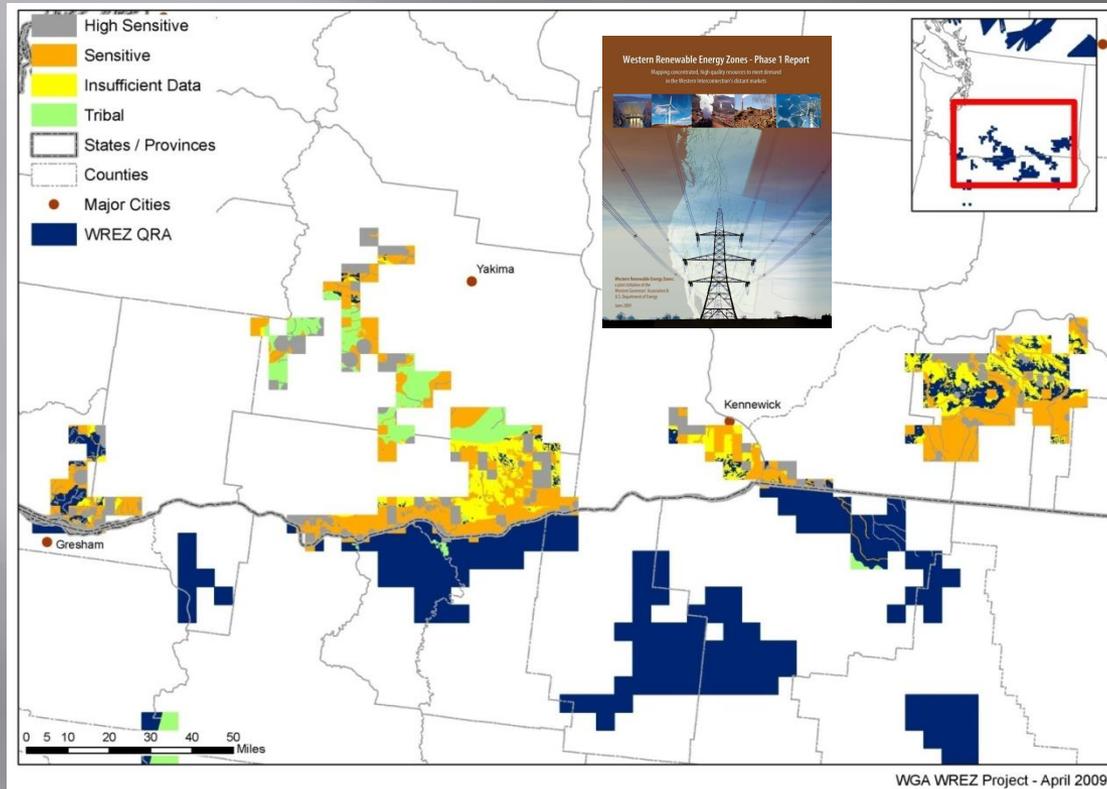
Scale: 1:5,500,011
87 Miles

StreamNet | Montana State Library Natural Resource Information System | MONTANA Natural Heritage Program

CAPS Tutorial | User Guide | Documentation | FAQs | Suggestions

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Some example building blocks:

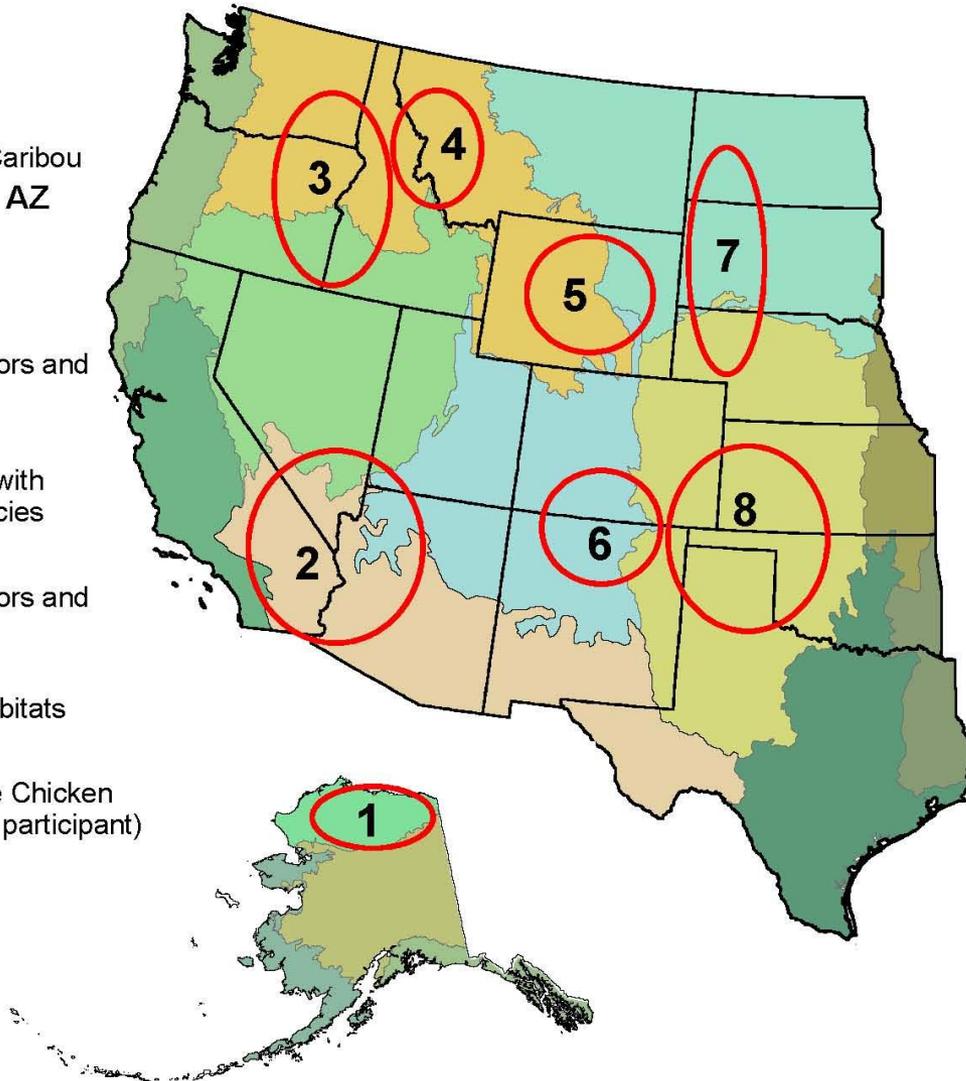


WAFWA Mule deer habitat

... Need for updated Online Planning tools covering more ground...

WGA Wildlife Council Pilot Projects

1. AK
North Slope Caribou
2. CA, NV, UT, AZ
Arid Lands
3. WA, ID, OR
Arid Lands
4. ID, MT
Border Corridors and Connectivity
5. WY
Coordination with Federal Agencies
6. CO, NM
Border Corridors and Connectivity
7. ND, SD, NE
Grassland Habitats
8. KS, OK, TX
Lesser Prairie Chicken
(TX not WGA participant)



FWS LCC Areas

- Arctic*
- California*
- Desert
- Eastern Tallgrass Prairie & Big Rivers
- Great Basin
- Great Northern*
- Great Plains*
- Gulf Coast Plain and Ozarks
- Gulf Coast Prairie
- North Pacific
- Northwestern Interior Forest
- Plains and Prairie Potholes*
- Southern Rockies
- Western Alaska

* LCC funded in FY 2010

Columbia Plateau

Pilot project objectives



- Categorize and map crucial habitat for selected priority species in the Columbia Plateau Ecoregion
 - *Use WGA guidance*
- Map connectivity areas
- Incorporate climate change



Columbia Plateau project timeline

Phase 1:

Data compilation

Begin to outline options
for applying WGA
habitat categories

Phase 2 (funding dependent):

Outline options for
internet-accessible data

Goal: online by 2013

Columbia Plateau Pilot Project Mapping targets (Phase 1):

Species:

- Mule deer
- Sage sparrow
- Ferruginous hawk
- White-tailed jackrabbit
- Greater sage-grouse
- Redband trout

Habitats:

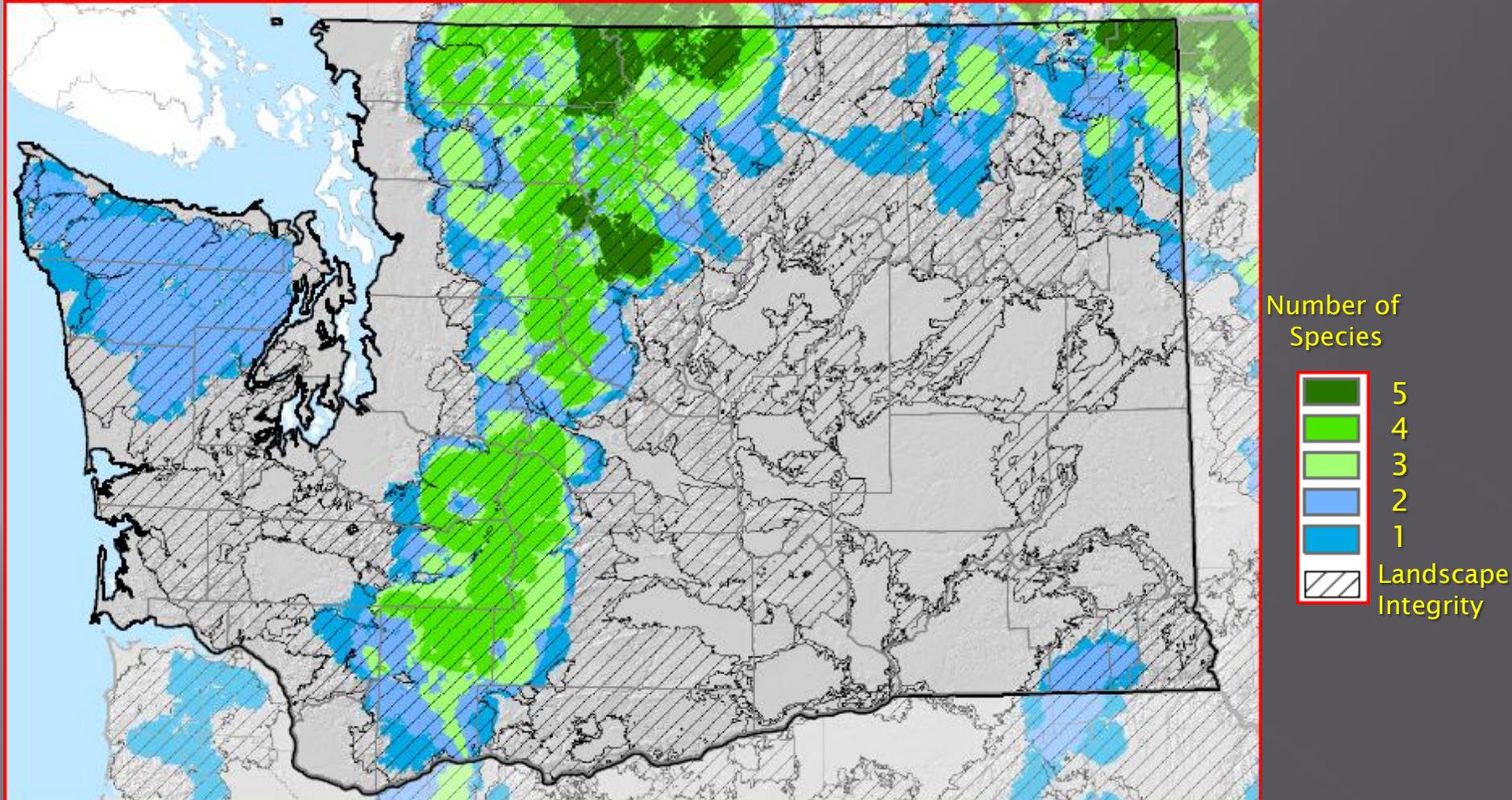
- Big sagebrush steppe
- Dunes
- Plant: *Silene spaldingii*

Species guilds:

- Bats
- Burrowing animals:
 - ground squirrels
 - burrowing owls
 - pygmy rabbits

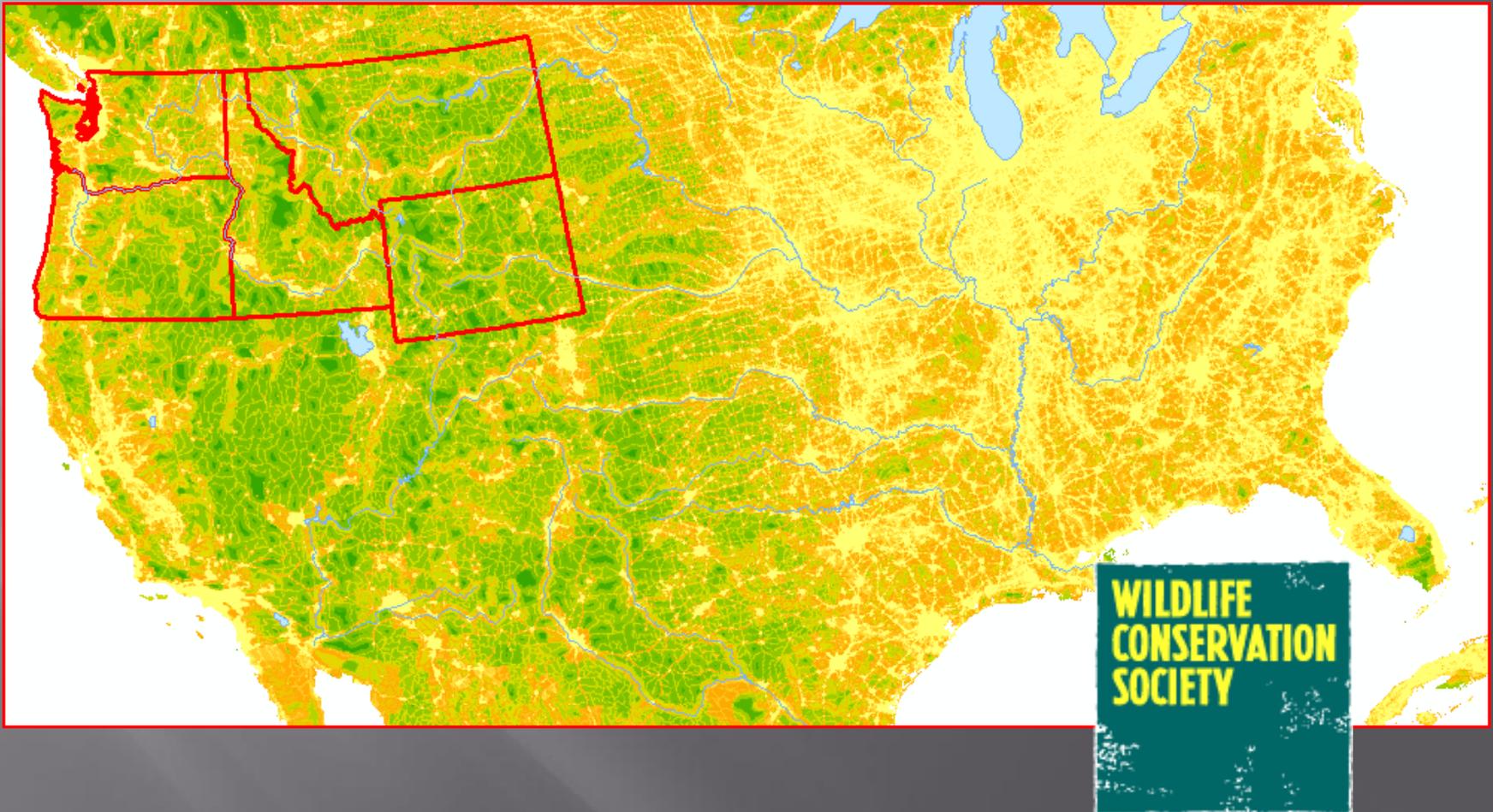
Coarse filter mapping: Landscape Integrity

Build on Washington work (Washington Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Working group: Dec 2010. See waconnected.org)



Coarse filter mapping: Landscape Integrity

Partner with Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming Montana
Phase 2 of pilot projects





Climate change:

- ▣ Phase 1:
Collaborative
conceptual
framework
- ▣ Phase 2: Analyses
- ▣ Integrate with Online
Planning Tool

Collaboration and work flow:



NGOs, UW, others; for example,
Washington Wildlife Habitat
Connectivity Working Group

Priorities

Personnel
resources

Species data

Climate change
expertise

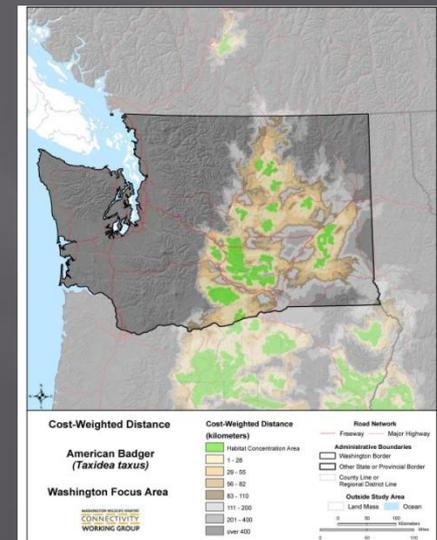
Connectivity
expertise

Expert
review

Species data



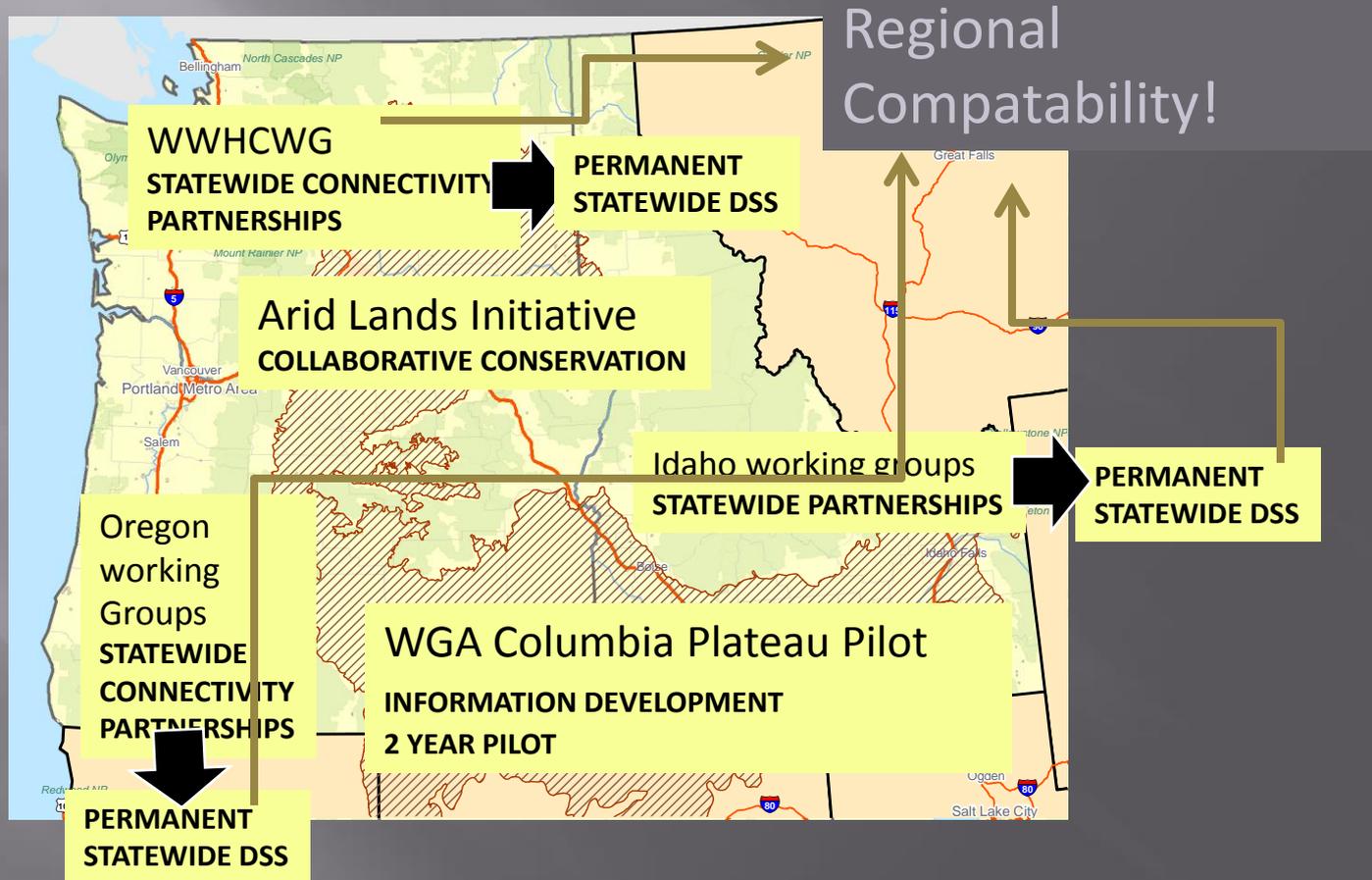
**Decision Support
System**



Communication/Outreach

- Statewide partnerships
- WGA – convened Stakeholder Advisory Group
 - Includes energy industry, conservation community, local government, NGOs, private landowners
- WGA-convened federal coordination group

What are the roles and niches of the Northwest connectivity initiatives?



Coordination of Ecoregional Efforts that Washington is involved with:

Develop, coordinate and implement conservation *strategies*

Identify *opportunities* for conserving and restoring habitat connectivity

ARID LANDS
INITIATIVE

WASHINGTON WILDLIFE HABITAT
CONNECTIVITY
WORKING GROUP



WGA Wildlife Corridors
and Crucial Habitats
Initiative
Columbia Plateau
Pilot Project

Provide easily accessible,
consistent *information* on fish,
wildlife and their habitats

Per discussion with Sonia Hall, TNC; and Joanne Schuett-Hames, WDFW

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