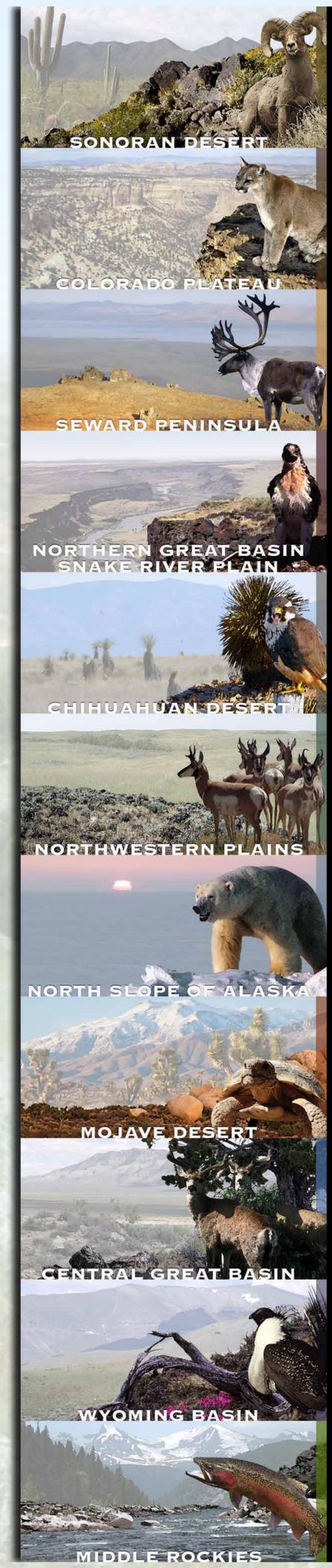


BLM ECOREGIONAL STRATEGY

Focus on Climate as a Change Agent

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WHO NEEDS ECOREGIONAL ASSESSMENT?

- BLM Resource managers increasingly face issues that extend across administrative boundaries and multiple spatial scales such as climate change
- They can benefit from access to science-based landscape-scale information, and a big-picture perspective when addressing them
- One solution is Rapid Ecoregional Assessments (REA)

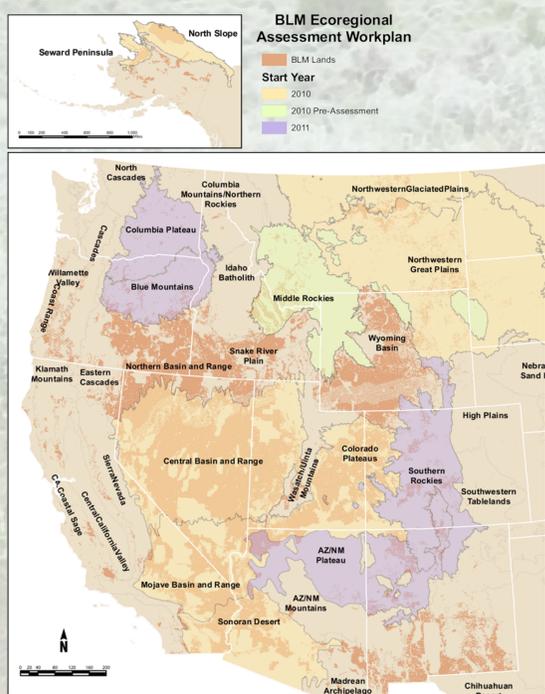
WHY NOW?

- Prior BLM Director initiated - Sage grouse listing issue
- New administration emphasis on:
 - Renewable energy
 - Climate change
 - Secretarial Order 3289
 - Briefing to ASLM Sylvia Baca



WHERE?

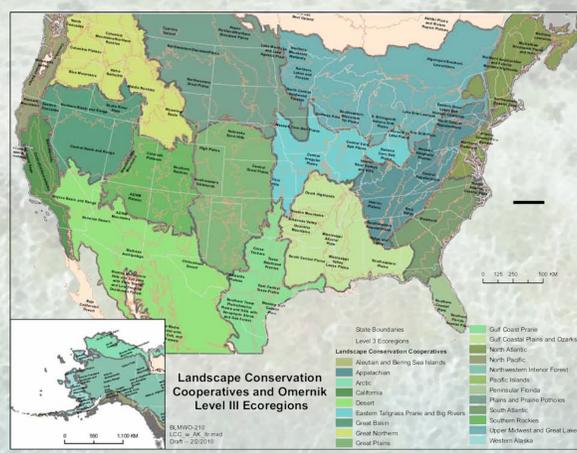
- Assessments for 2010: Colorado Plateau, Sonoran Desert, Mojave Desert, Central Great Basin, Northwestern Great/Glaciated Plains, Seward Peninsula



Note: Draft work plan is subject to Congressional and Department direction and discussions with potential partners. February 5, 2010.

WHAT IS RAPID ECOREGIONAL ASSESSMENT?

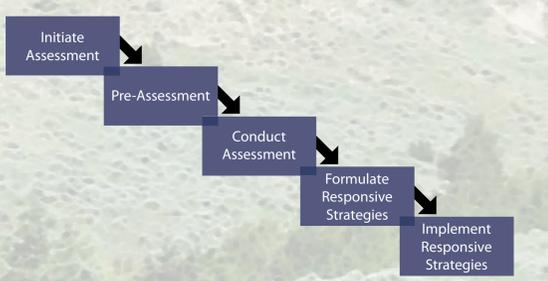
- Not a decision document
- 18 months or less to complete
- Limited to currently available information and existing data – no new research, inventory, or monitoring
- Targeted toward addressing specific management questions
- Regions of similar biotic, abiotic, terrestrial, and aquatic characteristics; includes human aspects as change agents
- Useful for organizing, identifying, and reporting information on resource conditions and resource use
- Conservation elements and change agents are geographically located (i.e., mapped)
- Status (condition, extent, etc.) and trends are identified
- Likelihood and magnitude of potential resource changes estimated based on exposure to change agents
- CEC Level III Ecoregions nest within Landscape Conservation Cooperatives



WHAT ARE THE CORE ELEMENTS?

- Conservation Elements:**
- Native fish, wildlife, and plants of conservation concern
 - Aquatic resource values
 - Terrestrial resource values
 - Ecological Integrity
- Change Agents:**
- Wildland fire
 - Development (e.g., urban, energy)
 - Invasive, non-native species
 - Climate change

ASSESSMENT PROCESS



HOW IS THE ASSESSMENT INITIATED?

- Establish regional Assessment Management teams (AMT) and technical teams
- Identify partners and stakeholders
- Define preliminary management questions, resource values, change agents
- Prepare statements of work for acquiring and evaluating available information

HOW IS PRE-ASSESSMENT PERFORMED?

- Refine significant ecological values to be assessed across the ecoregion and attributes of status with stakeholders and partners
- Define significant change agents affecting the conservation elements
- Review existing assessments, data, and models
- Establish decision rules to assign areas for conservation and restoration
- Identify information gaps
- Develop data standards and a data management plan

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

- Use USGS downscaled regional climate data to map climate parameters over ecoregion
- Use NatureServe Climate Change Vulnerability Index to identify vulnerable species
- Map vulnerable species' habitat
- Overlay vulnerable species' habitat over climate change maps to determine areas of vulnerability

HOW IS THE ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED?

- Assess the status, risk (change agents), and opportunity of the conservation elements
- Prepare products showing areas of
 - ecological integrity
 - intact, native vegetation
 - potential renewable energy development

HOW WILL REAs BE IMPLEMENTED?

