Climate Change and Our Nation's Fish and Wildlife Resources:

Interior Department Innovations in Conservation Delivery

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Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
Regional Climate Science Centers
National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center

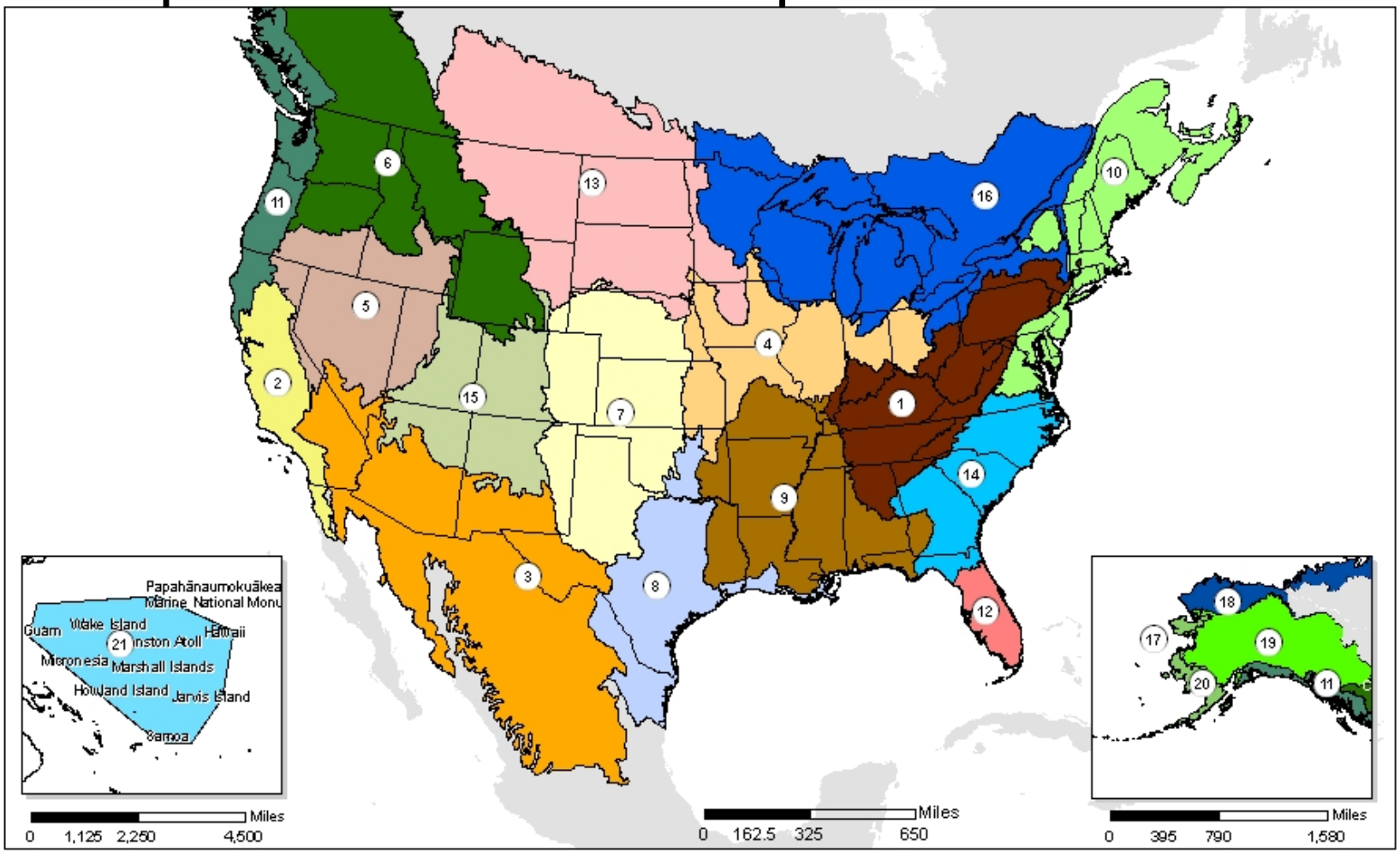
Common Elements:

- Goal: Provision of useful scientific information for conservation and management decision making
- Mode: Partnerships, Partnerships, Partnerships

BUT:

Differentiated scope, scale, focus and expertise

Geographic Framework for Landscape Conservation Cooperatives



1. Appalachian
2. California
3. Desert
4. Eastern Tallgrass Prairie and Big Rivers
5. Great Basin
6. Great Northern
7. Great Plains
8. Gulf Coast Prairie
9. Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks
10. North Atlantic
11. North Pacific
12. Peninsular Florida
13. Plains and Prairie Potholes
14. South Atlantic
15. Southern Rockies
16. Upper Midwest and Great Lakes
17. Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands
18. Arctic
19. Northwestern Interior Forest
20. Western Alaska
21. Pacific Islands
Unclassified

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
What are they?

Applied conservation science partnerships. Partners include federal agencies, state agencies, Tribes, conservation organizations, and universities within a geographically defined area.

Fundamental units of planning and adaptive science to target the right science in the right places.

A national and international network of conservation organizations and agencies supporting natural systems capable of sustaining abundant, diverse and healthy populations of fish, wildlife and plants.

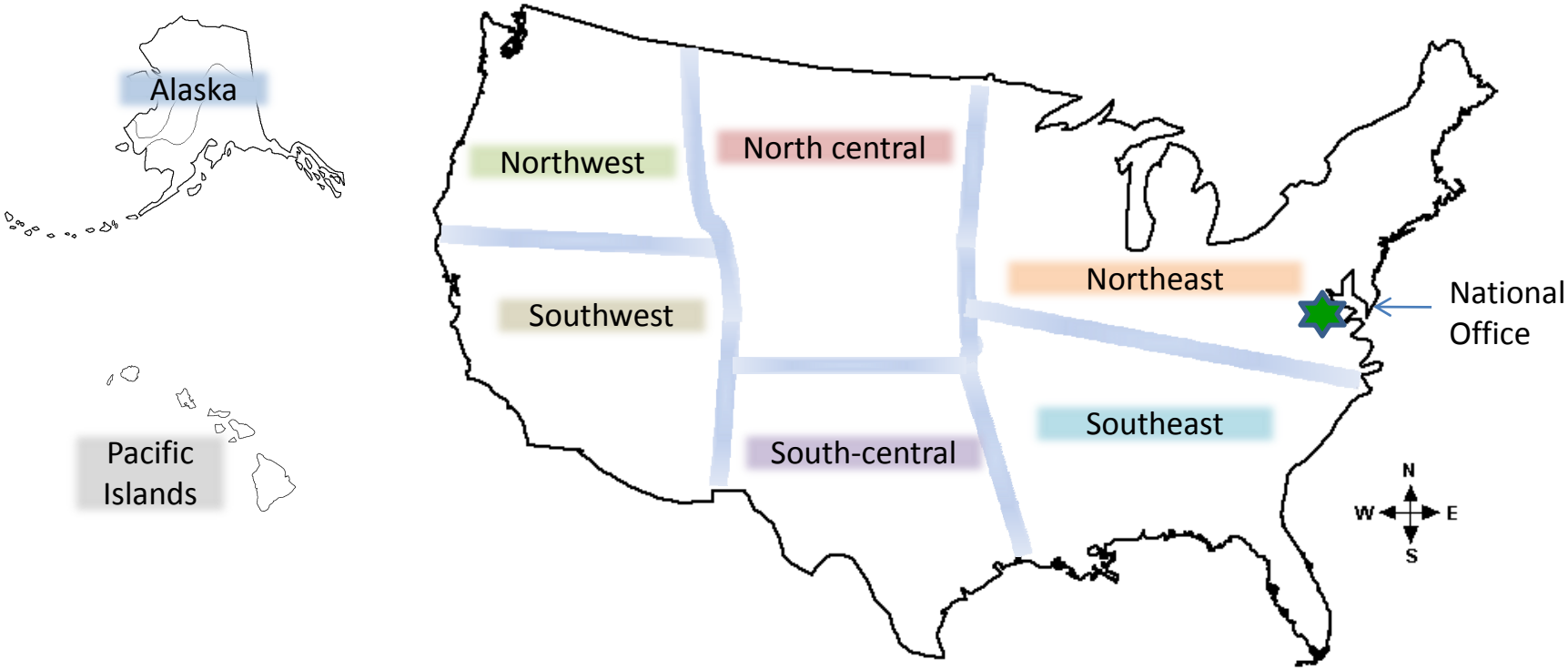
From USFWS

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
What do they do?

- Help partners identify common goals and priorities.
- Support biological planning, conservation design and adaptive management.
- Provide a strong link between science and conservation delivery on the ground.
- Regularly evaluate the effectiveness of scientific information and conservation actions.

From USFWS

DOI Regional Climate Science Centers



"Fuzzy Boundaries"

USGS

DOI Climate Science Centers

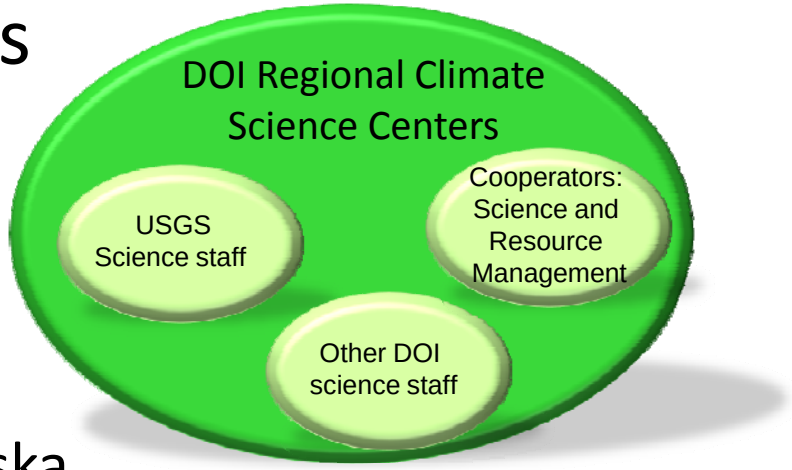
- Regional management-driven science partnerships
  - Regional partners set priorities for USGS science
- Focused on synthesis, modeling, assessment, integration, translation, and delivery
- Expertise networks (affiliated with universities, partnerships with federal, state, etc. science entities)
- Scope: broad range of natural and cultural resources
- $3-4 million / year / center – with most of this as flexible research funds

DOI Climate Science Centers

- CSCs will deliver basic climate change impact science.
- CSCs will prioritize fundamental science, data and decision-support activities.
- CSCs will partner with and help facilitate the coordination of fundamental climate science capabilities across their regions of responsibility.
- CSCs will synthesize, integrate, and communicate existing climate change impact data.
- CSCs will partner with resource managers at pertinent LCCs to assist development of science-based adaptation strategies.

USGS

Establishing DOI Regional CSCs



- Competitive Process
- Probably University Based
- FY 2010 – Northwest, Southeast, Alaska
- FY 2011 – Southwest, North Central
- FY 2012 – Northeast, South Central, Pacific
- Program Announcement ("RFP") issued May 5
- Proposals due June 18

USGS
science for a changing world

National Climate Change & Wildlife Science Center

Function

National coordination and integration for CSC activities related to fish, wildlife, habitats, and ecosystems, national scale contributions to network

Mission

Provide natural resource managers with the tools and information they need to develop and execute management strategies that address the impacts of climate change on fish, wildlife, and their habitats

Goals

- Partnerships with natural resource managers to address their highest priority science needs
- Partnerships with the scientific community to develop needed information and tools
- Delivery of robust tools and information at applicable scales directly to resource managers

Implications for USACOE

- Fundamental partner on both management and science
- Expect to play role at landscape (LCC), regional (CSC), and national levels (NCCWSC)
- Stay tuned

Thank you

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