

Developing Climate-Smart Strategies to Conserve Species and Habitats Through Vulnerability Assessments

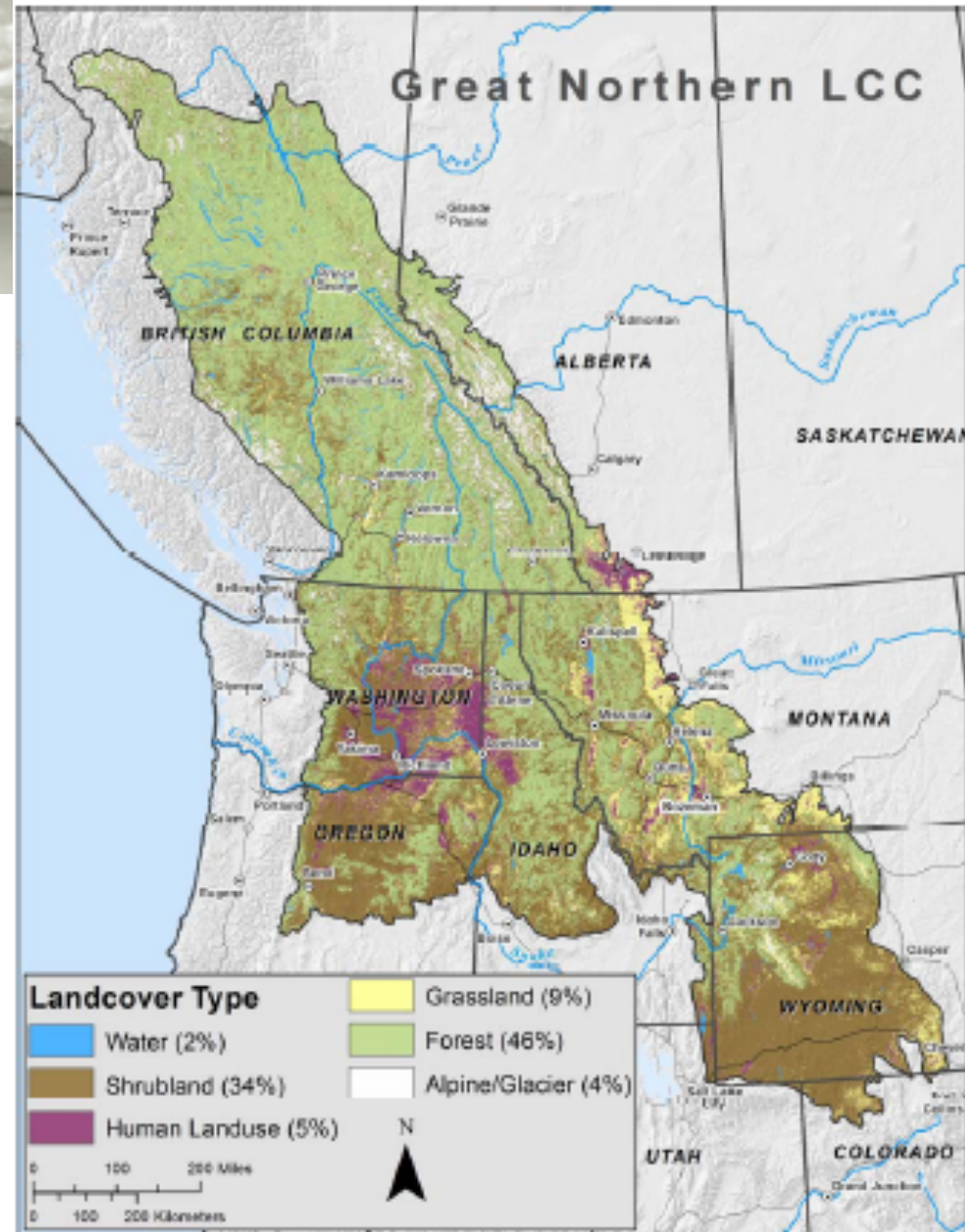
Special Session of the 2017 Northwest Climate Conference

Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative
Columbia Basin Partner Forum
Co-Chairs Steve Waste (USGS) Tom Iverson (Yakama Nation)





Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative



The Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative

A Collective Landscape Vision:

A landscape that sustains its diverse natural systems to support healthy and connected populations of fish, wildlife, and plants; sustains traditional land uses and cultural history; and supports robust communities.



The Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Partner Forums – an engagement of conservation practitioners and partnerships that share conservation challenges in an eco-geographic context to identify specific conservation needs and priorities

- Ecologically relevant geography
- Similar ecological process or systems
- Related landscape issues

Four Partner Forums



Members – Columbia Basin Partner

Forum

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
- National Park Service
- Nez Perce Tribe
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Northwest Power and Conservation Council
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Portland State University
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- US Geological Survey
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State University
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- Yakama Indian Nation



Key Objectives of the CBPF

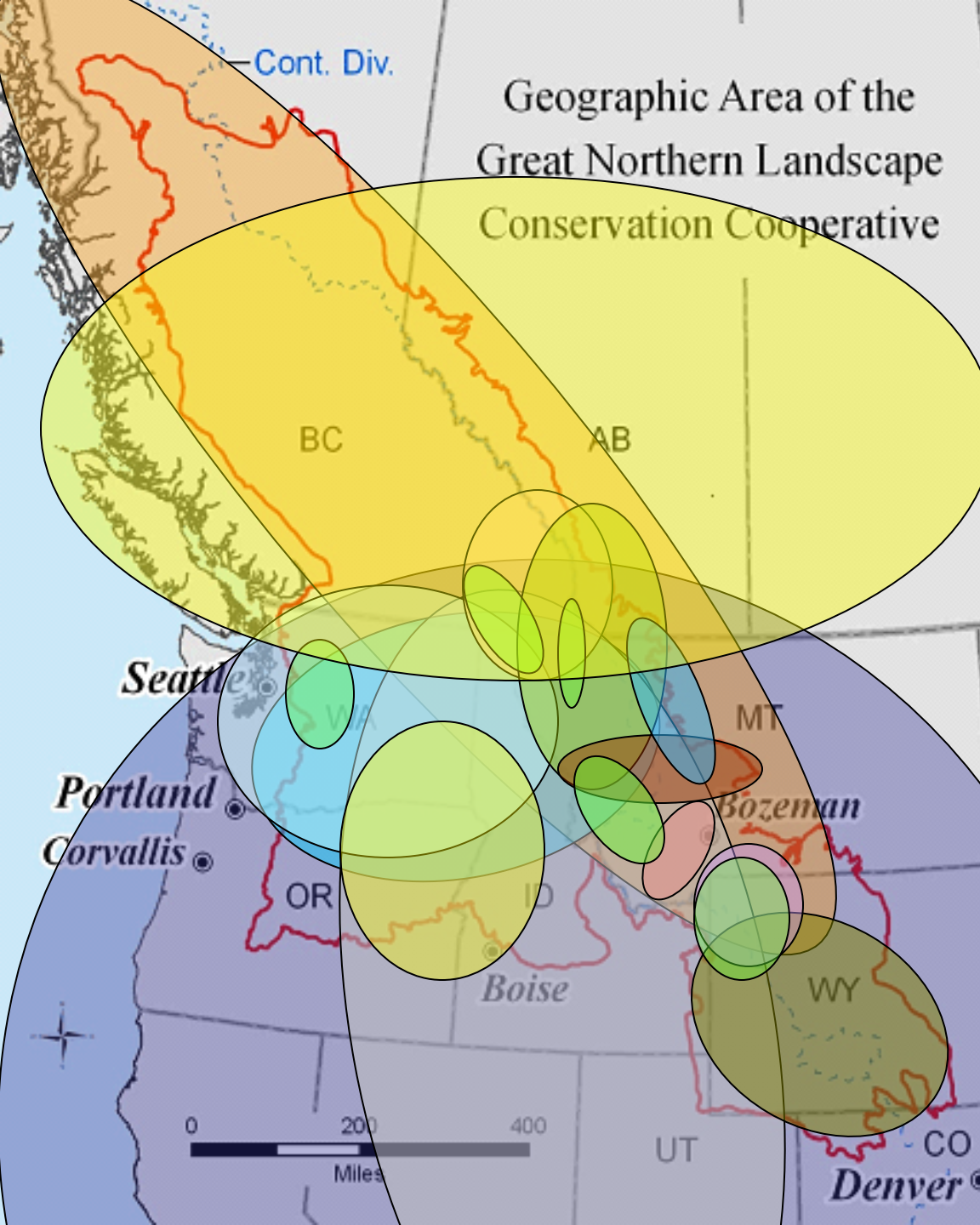
- * Facilitate information sharing and collaboration across partners
- * Map existing regional conservation programs and cross-reference with GNLCC conservation objectives and stressors within the Columbia Basin
- * Develop a list of key indicators for landscape-scale ecological integrity and climate change resiliency within the Columbia River Basin

How does the CBPF operate?

- * Self-organizing – Necessity is the mother of invention
- * Grass roots – This is for our region
- * In-kind contributions of time – world class expertise
- * Modest funding from the GNLCC for facilitation – a little goes a long ways
- * Responsive to partner needs – we strive to provide service to you, so please participate

Traditional Challenges: Stratification and Fragmentation

- * **Stratification of Leadership** = layers of political demarcation
- * Federal = Columbia River Federal Caucus
- * State = Northwest Power and Conservation Council
- * Tribal = Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and other consortia
- * **Fragmentation on the Ground** = Habitat types and species distributions may be shared, but:
 - * State geographic boundaries crisscross the Columbia River Basin
 - * Federal lands managed by different departments do the same
 - * State and Federal agency programs are compartmentalized
 - * States and Feds are on opposing sides of litigation e.g., Federal Columbia River Power System



Cont. Div.

Geographic Area of the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative

- Greater Yellowstone Coord Comm**
- Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative**
- Arid Lands Initiative**
- Kootenay Conservation Program**
- Blackfoot Challenge**

- Rocky Mountain Front**
- Big Hole Conservation Alliance**
- Crown of the Continent**
- Interagency Grizzly Bear Comm**
- Washington Connected Lands**
- Columbia Basin Fed Caucus**
- Intermountain West JV**
- Yellowstone to Yukon**
- Western Governors**
- CAN Wildlife Directors Council**
- And others....**

Rise of the Landscape Scale Stressors: Challenge of Scale

- * Remember single species management, then multi-species management?
- * We designed programs to address the life history needs of species and habitats that were compartmentalized and usually addressed a single stressor affects on a single species e.g. dams and anadromous fish; logging and Spotted owls
- * Increasing complexity of societal needs generates the stressors

Why is the Columbia Basin Partner Forum important?

- * The CBPF provides an administrative structure for:
- * Developing identification of mutually shared objectives
- * Capacity for integration of efforts
- * Interface of programs meld them together
- * Collaboration
- * Data sharing

Where are we headed?

Landscape-scale Conservation Program Matrix

- * Summarize landscape-scale, collaborative programs in the CRB addressing conservation and management issues

Aquatic invasive species initiative

- * *Dreissenid* Mussel Workshop on Research Priorities
- * Guidance to DOI leadership initiative on *dreissenid* mussels

Three-Step Decision Process

- * Climate Vulnerability Assessment