

BLM Landscape Approach and Rapid Ecoregional Assessments

BLM
Rapid Ecoregional Assessment

Colorado Application Workshop

- BLM Royal Gorge Field Office, Cañon City, CO
23 January, 2017

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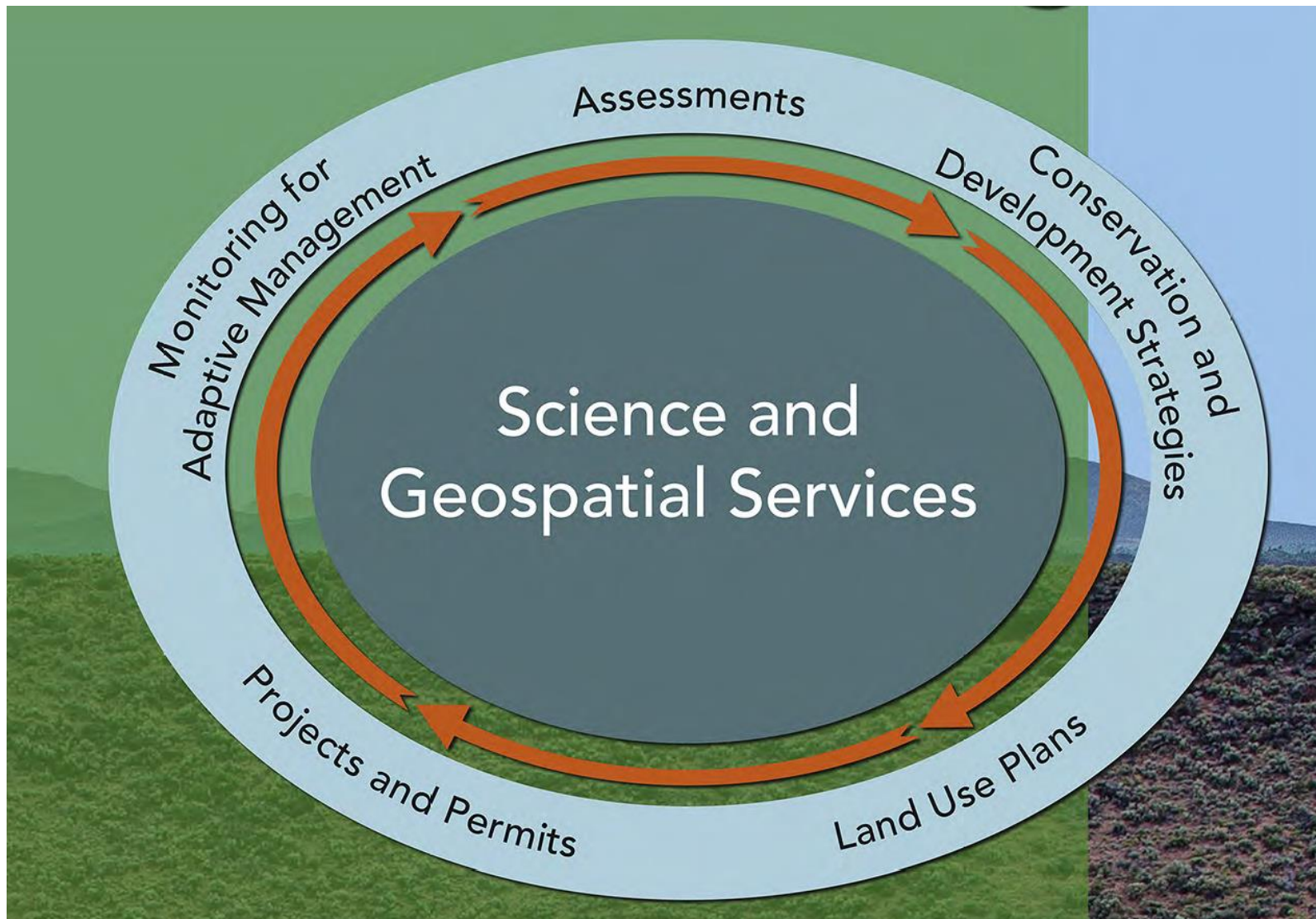
Assessment and Monitoring Branch
National Operations Center



Outline

1. The BLM Landscape Approach
2. Policy and guidance
3. What are REAs? How are they related to the Landscape Approach?
4. REA components
5. Examples of REA products

BLM's Landscape Approach



Not This!



Looks like
a good
place for
my
project...

You sank
my Sage
Grouse!!

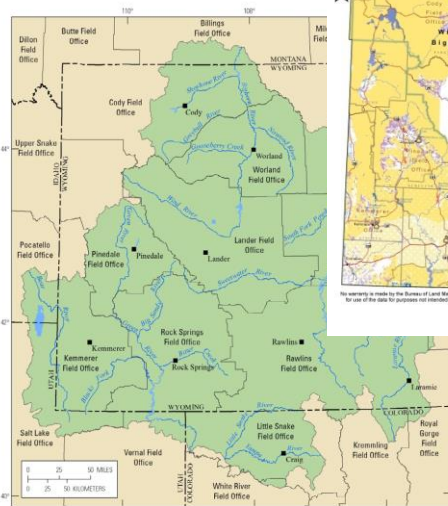
"A guessing game for two players..." (or more)



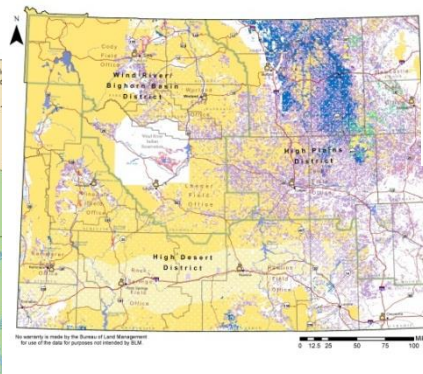
Multi-Scale

For example...

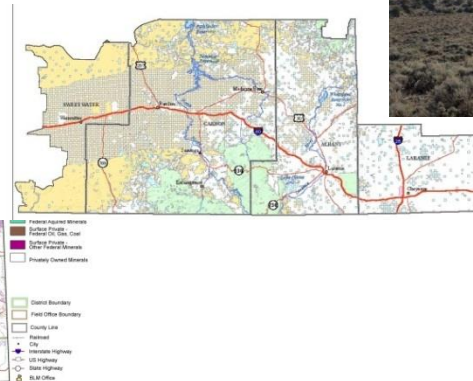
Ecoregion



State



Field Office



Watershed



Site



Work at the scale(s)
most appropriate to
the issue

Cross-Boundary

- **Internally:** across the geographic and programmatic divisions within BLM
- **Externally:** across Federal, State, and local governments and willing private stakeholders.
 - With awareness and respect for each other's mission, goals, objectives, authority, responsibility, legal and procedural requirements, politics, and culture



Landscape = Context

- Be more efficient and effective by placing resources in the highest priority areas
- Understanding how to be competitive for internal and external funding sources
- Not missing the forest because of the trees

BLM Policy and Guidance

Landscape Approach

- IB 2012-058

Use of Regional Assessments

- IM 2013-082

Climate Change

- Adapting to Climate Change draft IM

Regional Mitigation

- IM 2013-142
- DOI Departmental Manual
- Draft MS-1794 – Regional Mitigation Manual Section

Land Health Assessment

- ❑ 4180 Manual and Handbook

Integrated Vegetation Management

- Manual handbook



BLM Policy and Guidance

Planning and NEPA

- Planning handbook
- Planning 2.0
- Incorporating REAs into planning and NEPA processes
 - Draft Instruction Memorandum

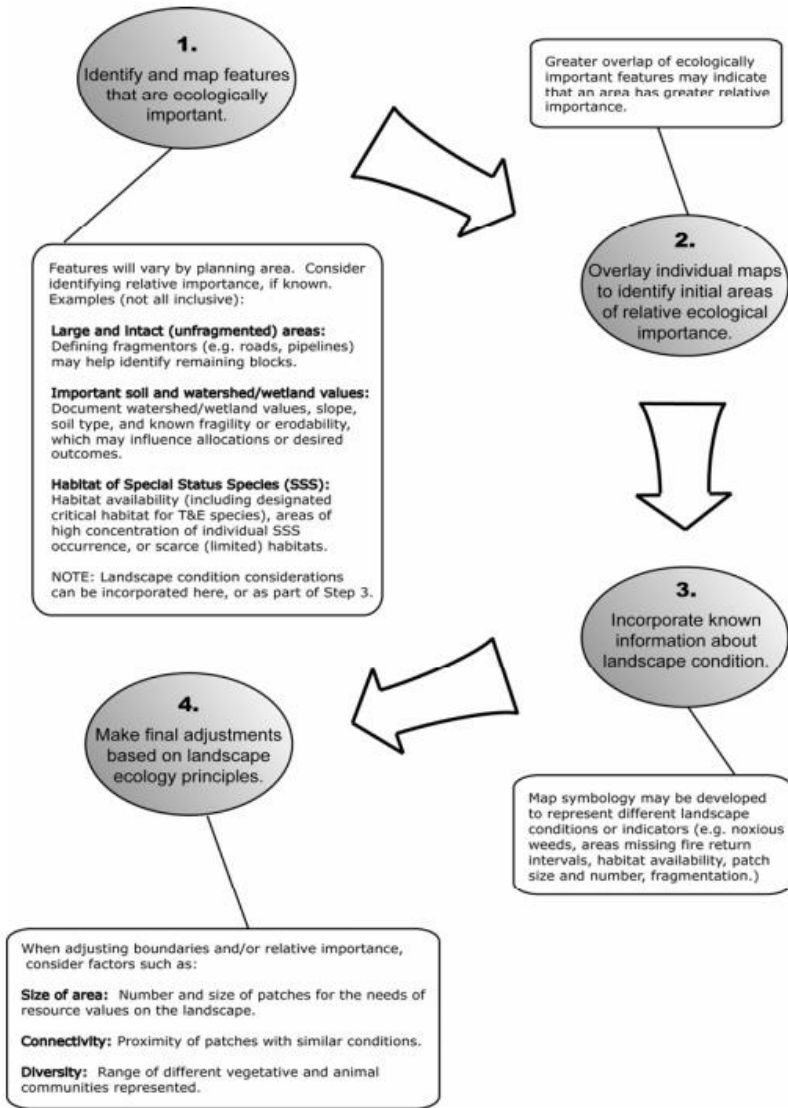


Planning

RMP/EIS Scoping and AMS

BLM Land Use Planning Handbook, Appendix F, p13

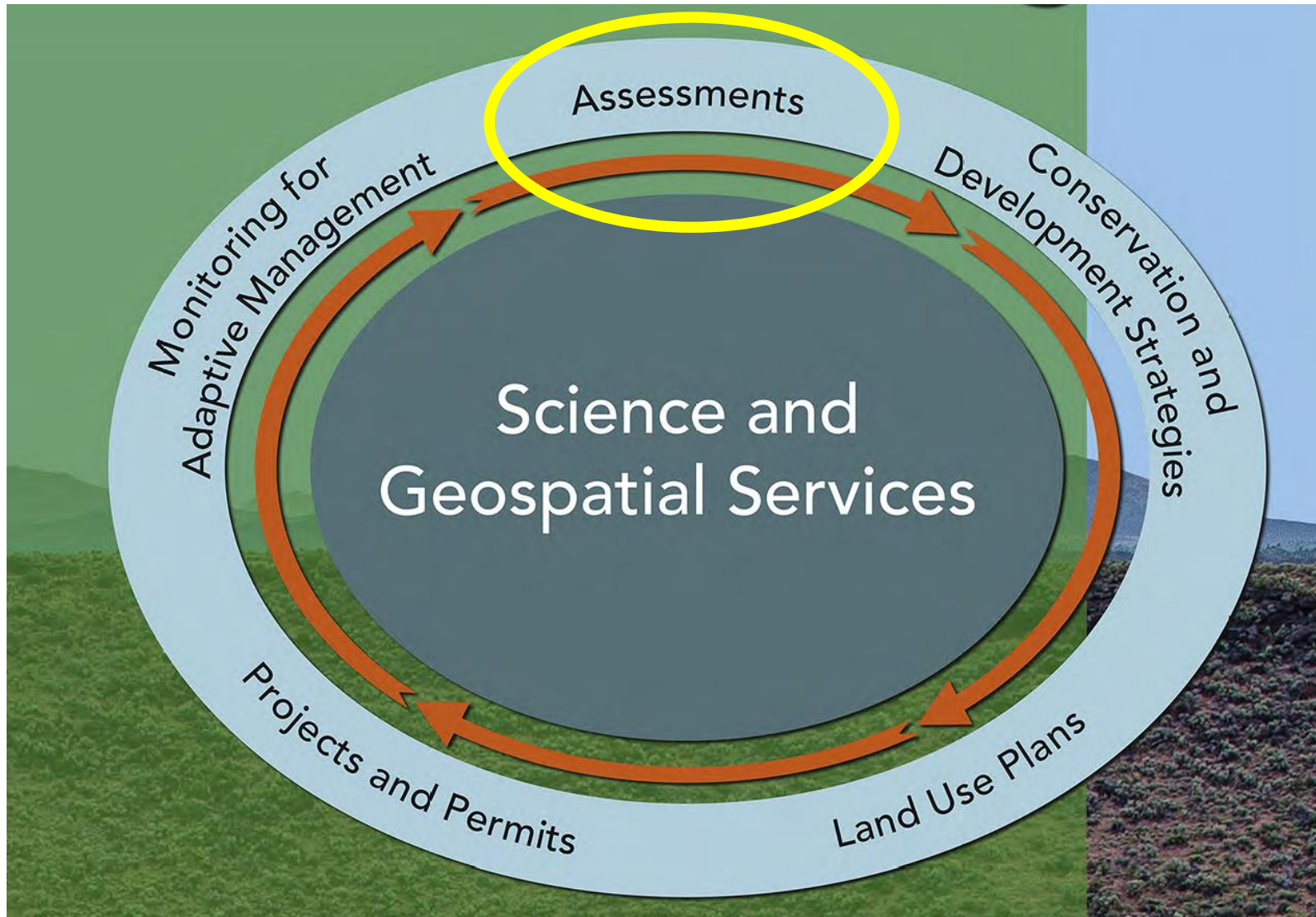
- Look at planning area in context:
 - What % of Ecoregion?
 - What % of at risk (various CA's) within Ecoregion?
 - What % of good quality?
 - Use broad scale data to identify areas of relative ecological importance



What is an REA and how do they contribute?



BLM's Landscape Approach



Initial Landscape Approach Efforts

- The “information” gap was identified at the broad scale
- REAs are an initial tool to help fill in this gap for the broad scale, across ownership, allowing us to:
 - Examine landscape-scale resource conditions and trends
 - Identify focal areas for conservation and development
 - Focus resources where they are most needed
 - Integrate BLM management activities
 - Enable adaptive management
 - Provide a foundation for management partnerships
- Other efforts include: AIM, SG Planning (+ external tools)
- Broad scale tools are used in combination with other information to make multi-scale decisions



What is an REA?

- R = Rapid - Use existing information and data (18-24 months)
- E = Ecoregional – based on large areas where ecosystems are similar (1+ level 3 ecoregions)
- A = Assessment – understand existing & possible future conditions, risks



REAs – Information Gathering

- Assessments of natural resources that characterize:
 - How ecological resources function
 - The status of ecological resources
 - Their potential to change at a landscape scale
- Baseline information to prioritize allocation decisions
 - Information across political boundaries
 - Risk and opportunity for two future times
- Understanding of how we can build resilience into a system



REA Lingo

✓ *Management Questions*

✓ *Conservation Elements*

✓ *Change Agents*



MANAGEMENT QUESTIONS





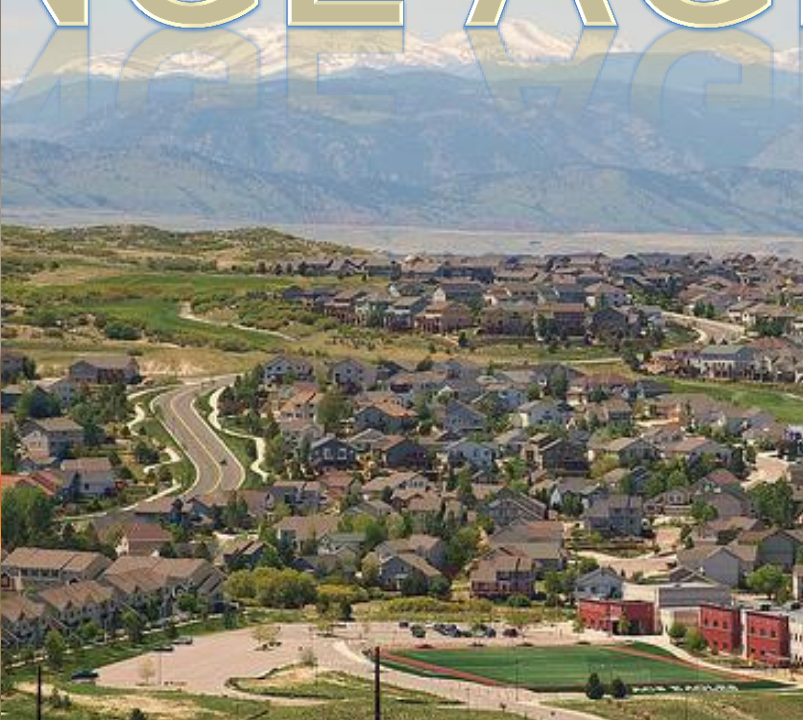
CONSERVATION ELEMENTS

Fine Filter

Coarse Filter



CHANGE AGENTS



Conservation Elements



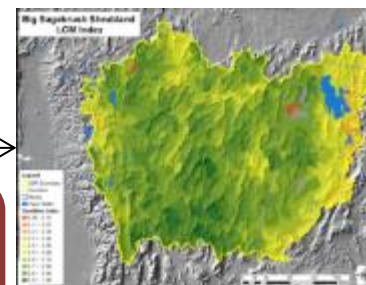
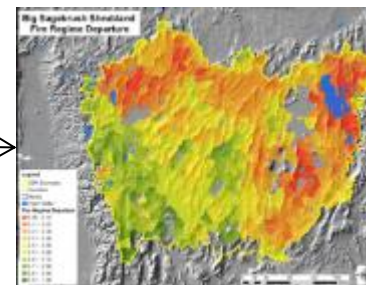
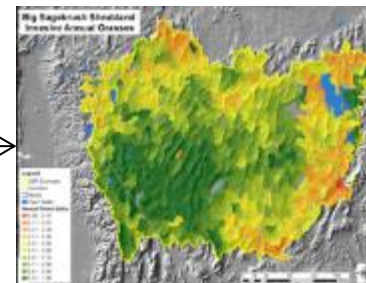
Change Agents



Habitat
Disturbance
Fragmentation
Removal

Existing data
Models
Tools

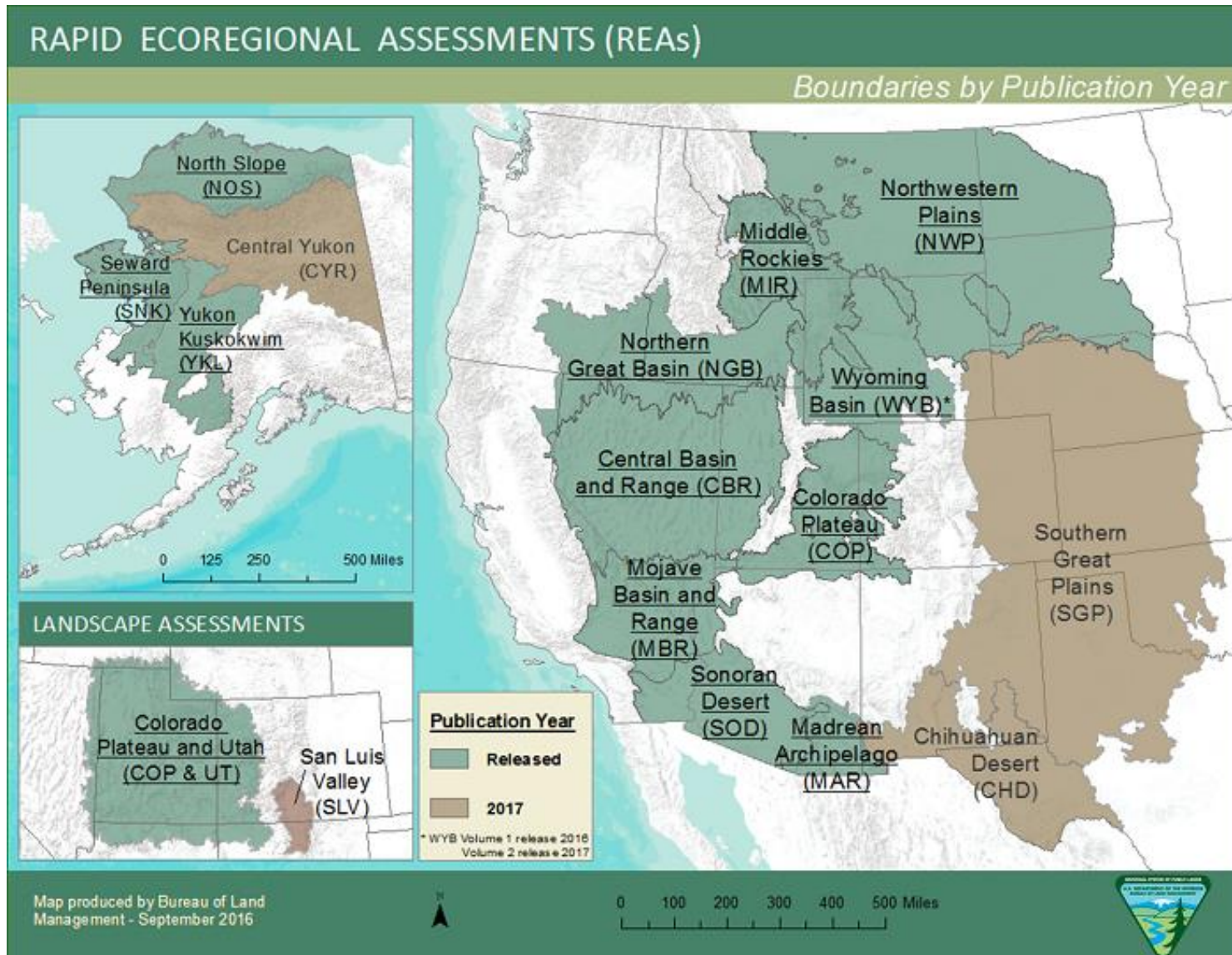
Ecological Status Scores



Conceptual Models
link CAs, ecological
stressors and their
effects on a CE

Spatial Models
use geoprocessing
steps to link data to
results

Ongoing and Completed REAs



Examples of REA Products

BLM
Rapid Ecoregional Assessment

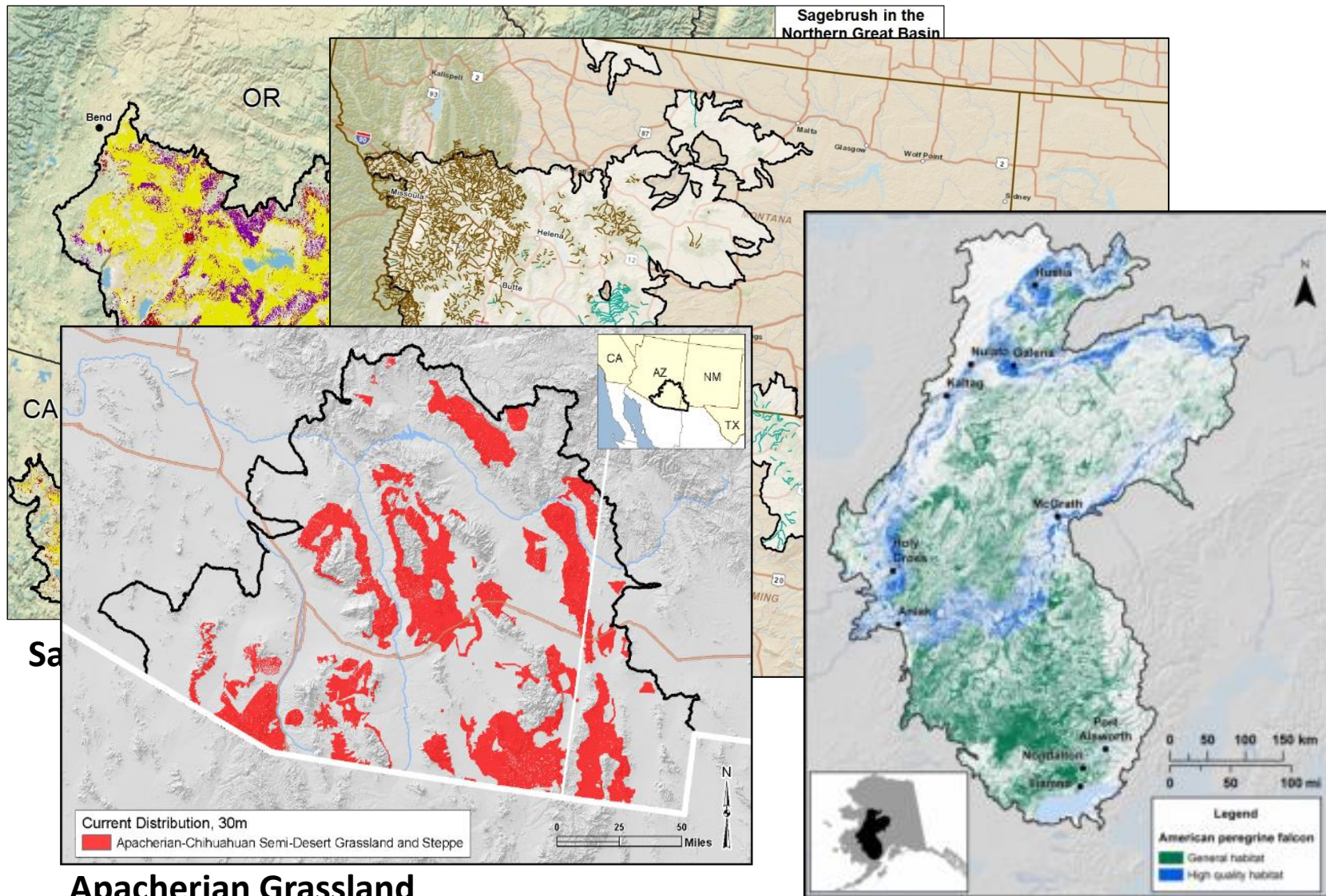


A word of caution...

- The amount of information is overwhelming, find a starting point or question and build from there
- Use the information to supply context
- Understand what goes into a model
 - Opportunity and priority are driven by “why” not just the end conclusion
- Bring in other data as applicable and needed



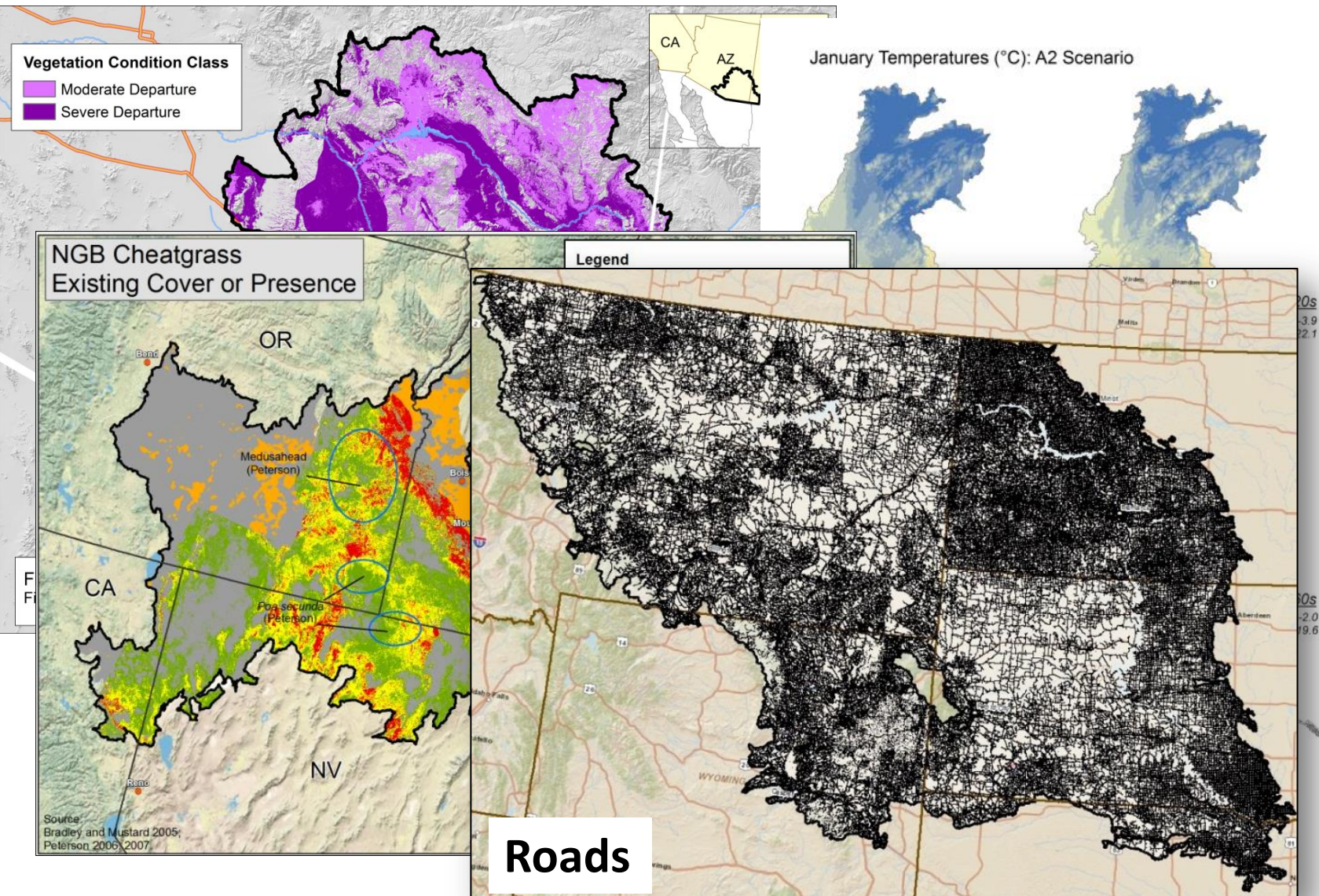
Distribution Maps - CEs



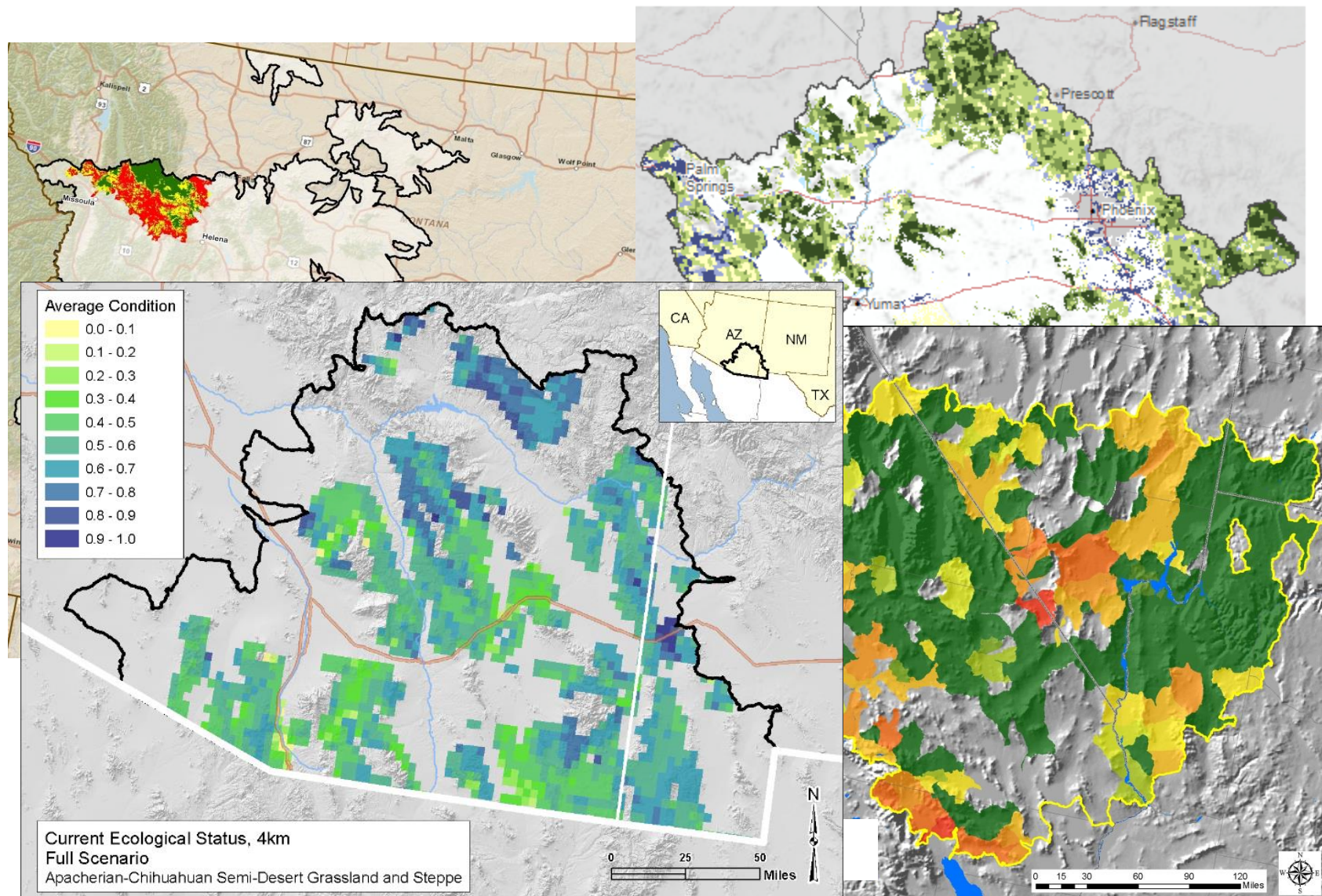
Apacherian Grassland

Peregrine Falcon

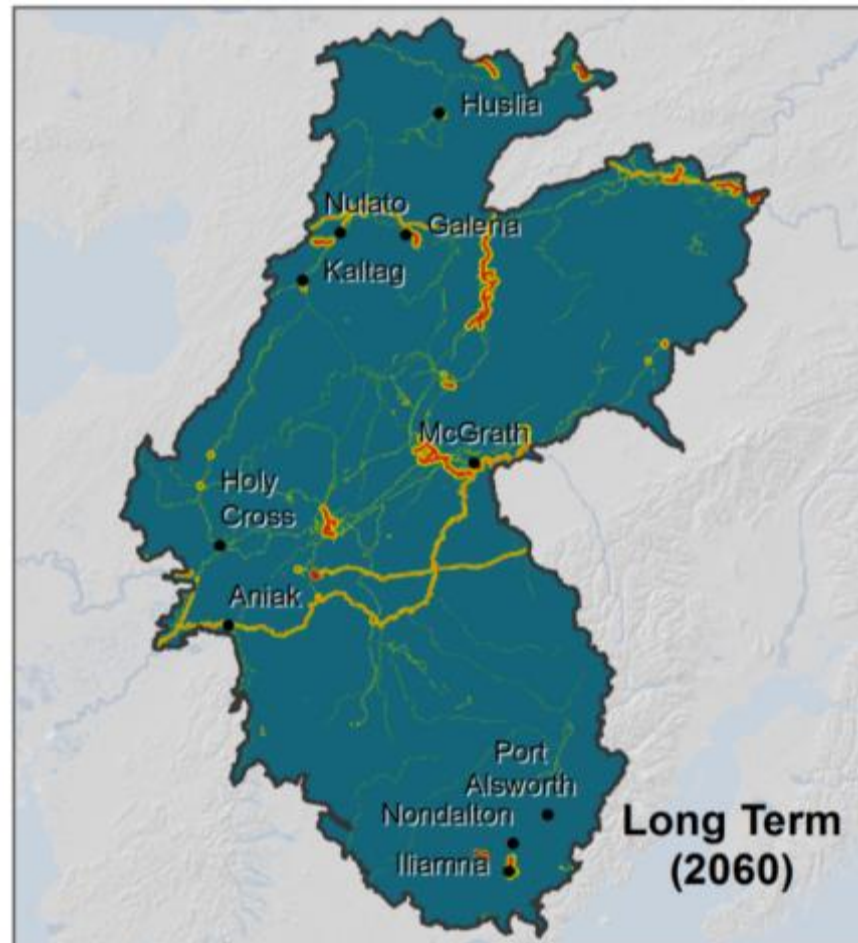
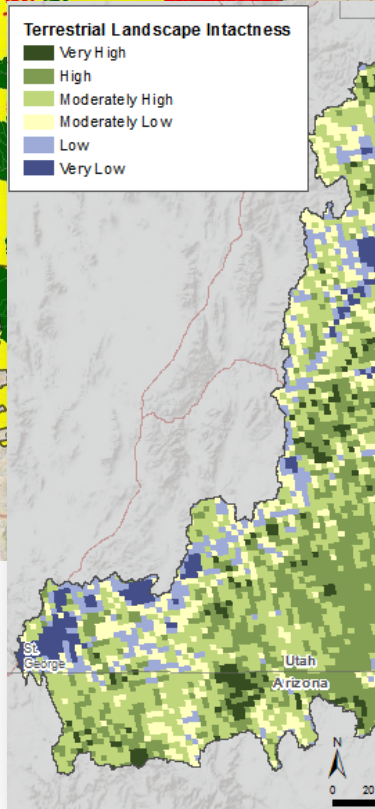
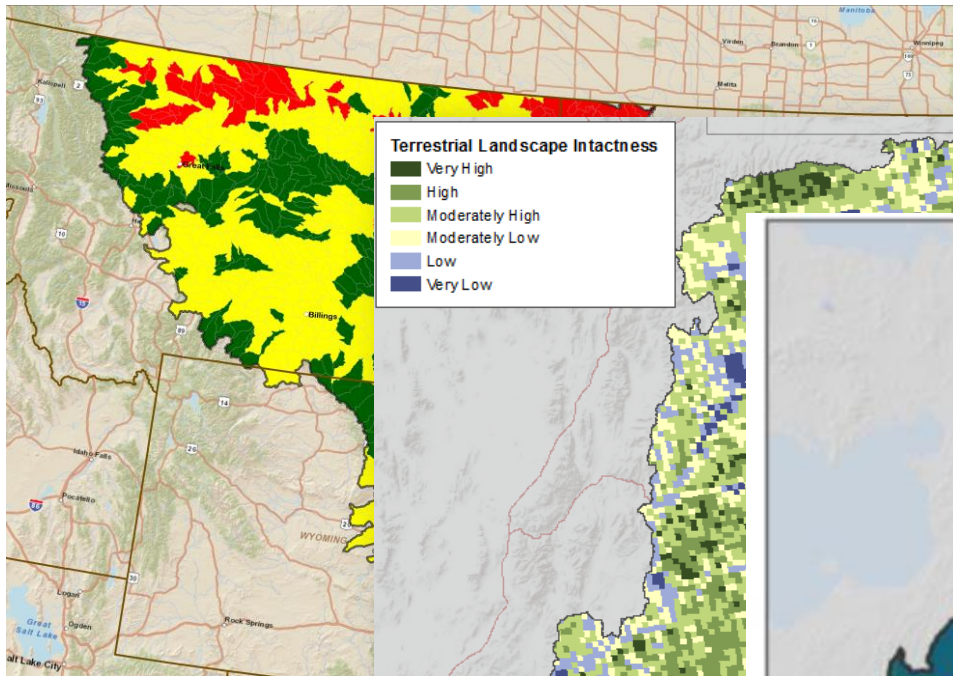
Distribution Maps - CAs



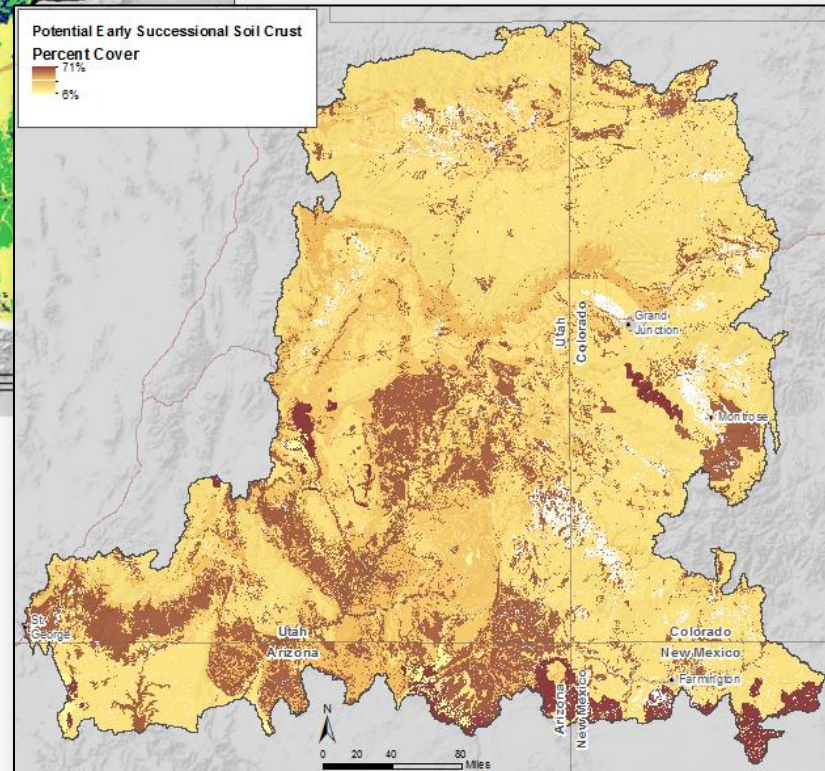
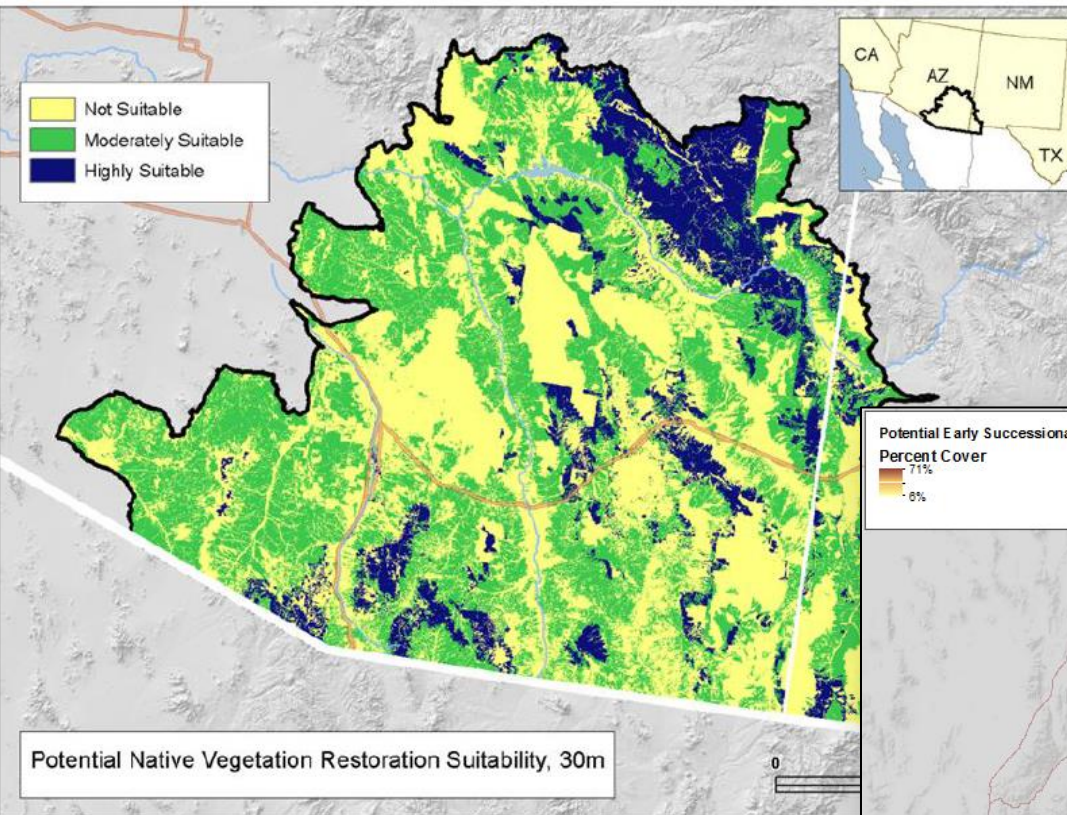
Conservation Element Analyses



Ecoregional Intactness Analyses



Other “Special Assessments”



Questions?

