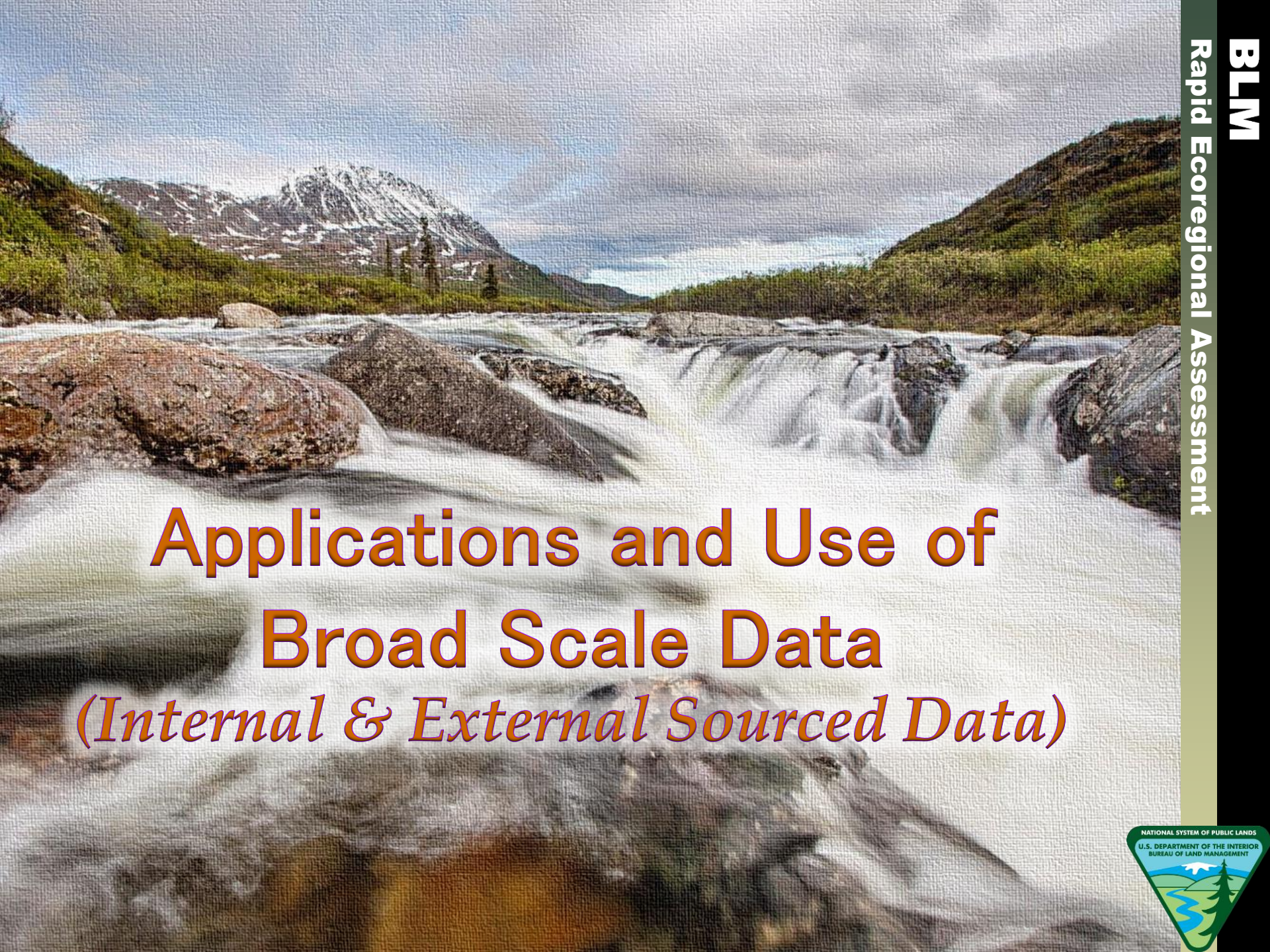




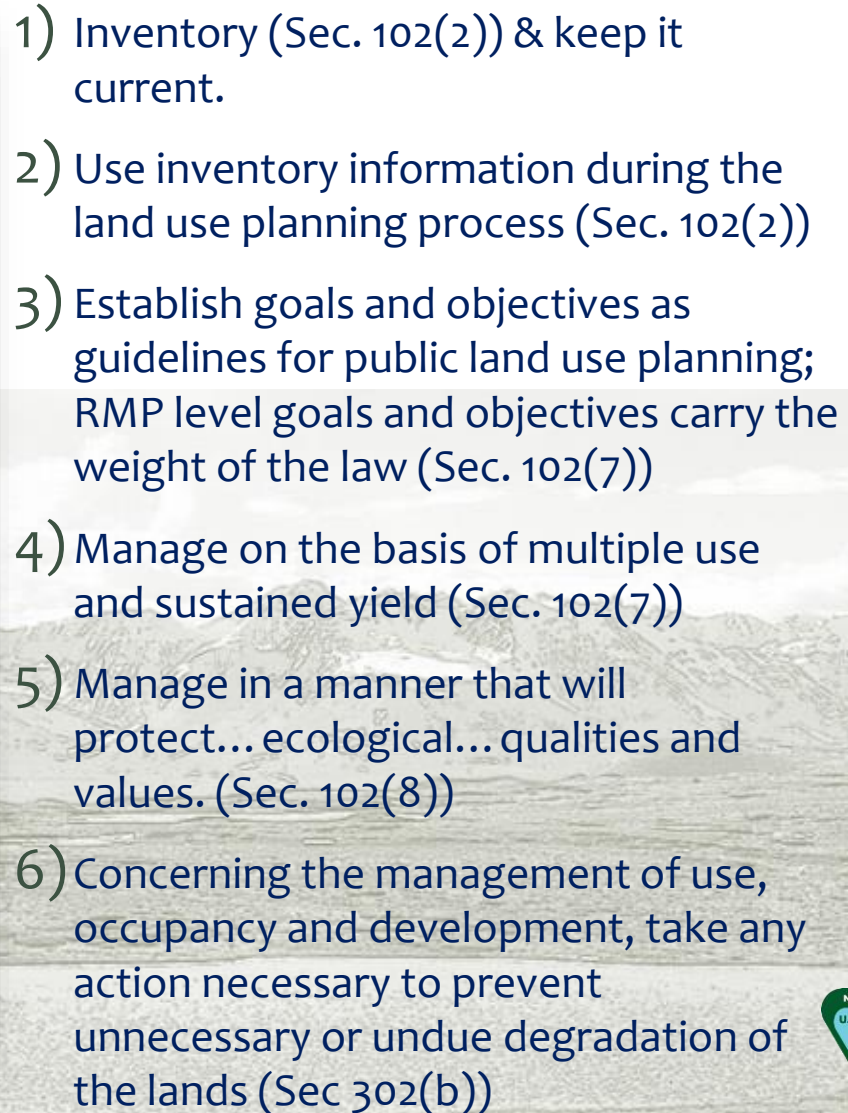
Applications and Use of Broad Scale Data *(Internal & External Sourced Data)*

FLPMA, NEPA and the
Landscape Approach to
Natural Resource Planning

Other landscape level data,
efforts & examples

Discussion

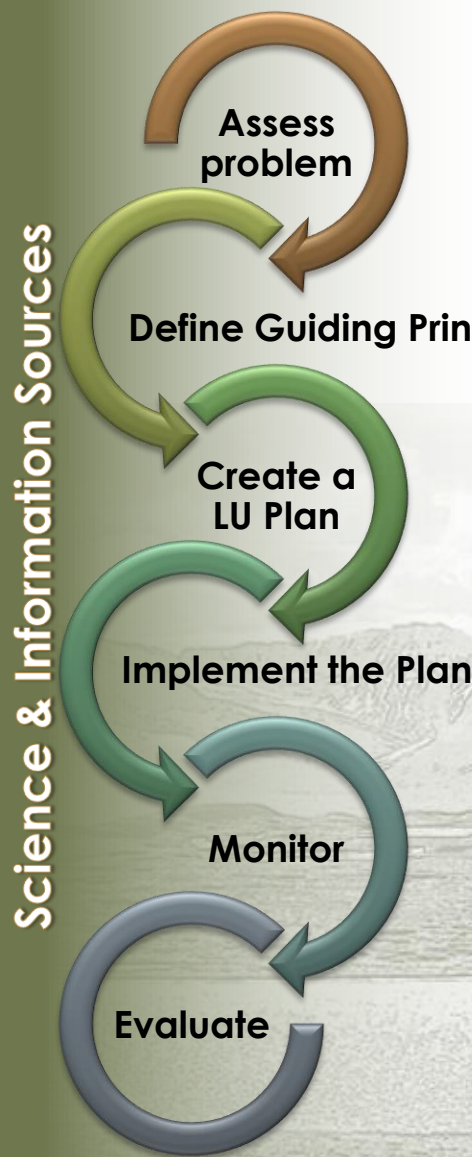
Using Broad Scale Data



Landscape Approach to Natural Resource Planning

Way to think through ecological concerns for setting management priorities

Based on the BLM "Wagon Wheel" & Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources "Taking a Broader Landscape Approach: A Policy Framework for Modernizing Ontario's Approach to Natural Resource Management. 28pp.

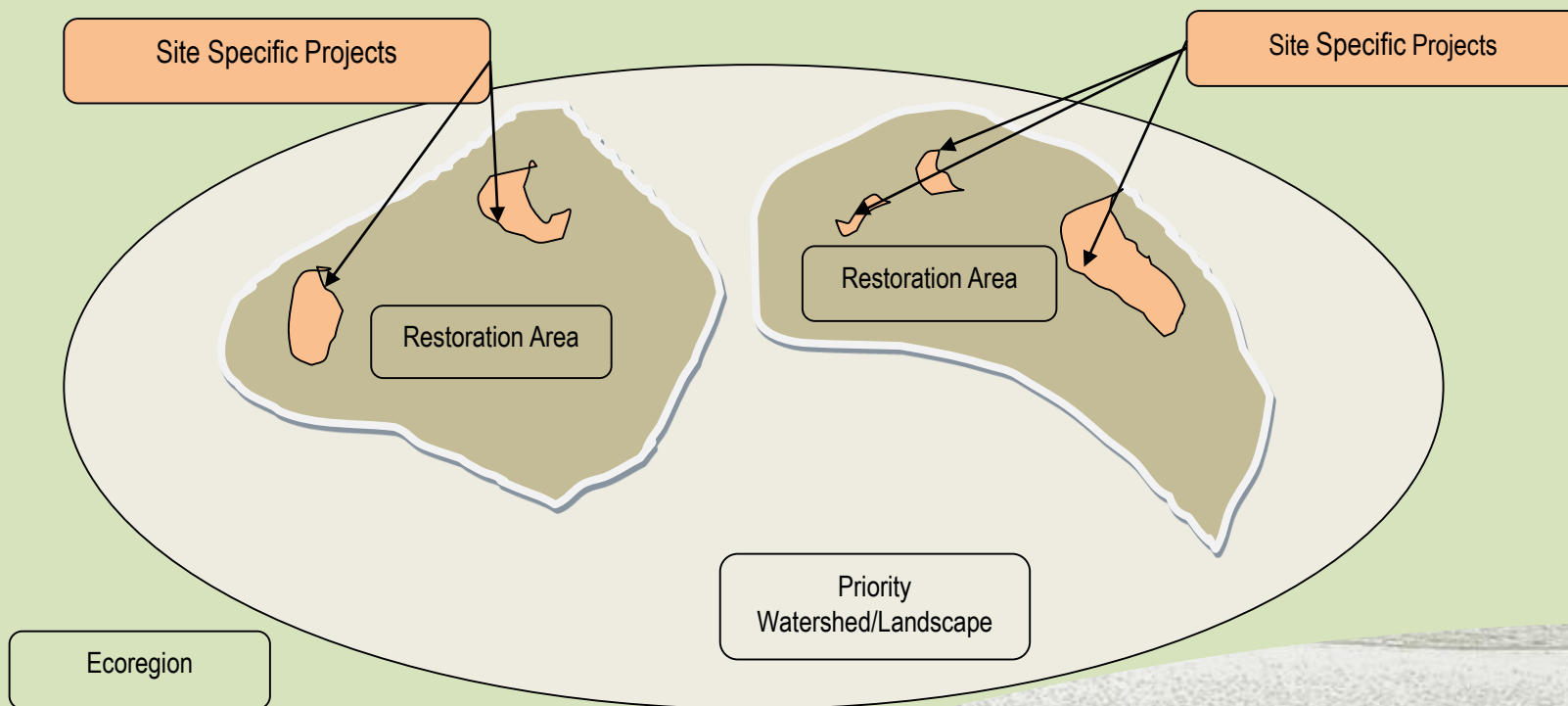


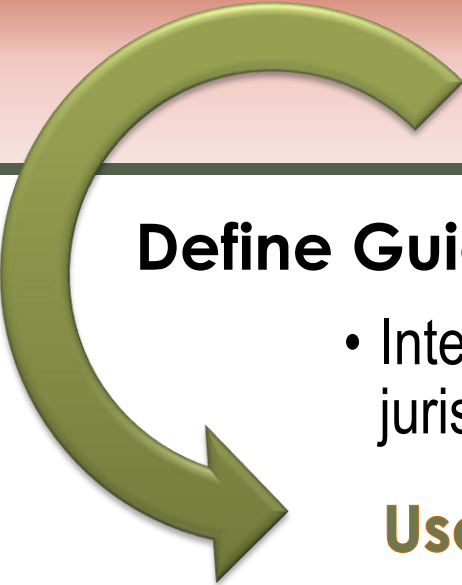
- Use ecological functions and structures to identify ecologically meaningful scales to assess the problem
- Integrate and coordinate across programs, jurisdictions & stakeholders
- Set finer-scale management goals & objectives
- For plan conformance
- To maintain resource records
- For goal achievement?
- Meeting objectives?
- Need to revisit assumptions?
- Adjust, Adapt management?



Assess Problem

- Use ecological functions and structures to identify ecologically meaningful scales to assess the problem





Define Guiding Principles

- Integrate and coordinate across programs, jurisdictions & stakeholders

Use REAs to:

- ✓ Improve public understanding of the resource use and conservation issues
- ✓ Help with public scoping
- ✓ Highlight areas that may require additional management attention,
- ✓ Provide a geospatial aspect to issues that previously could only be generalized over a broad area

Create a LU Plan

- Set finer-scale management goals & objectives

~~REAs support the Planning 2.0 Initiative~~

Planning 2.0 roll-out is targeted for 2016

~~Three related goals of Planning 2.0:~~

- ✓ Create a more dynamic and efficient planning process;
- ✓ Enhance opportunities for **collaborative** planning;
- ✓ **Plan across landscapes and at multiple scales.**

IM 2014-125 is our policy to incorporate landscape assessment into the land use planning and project level decision making process.



Create a LU Plan

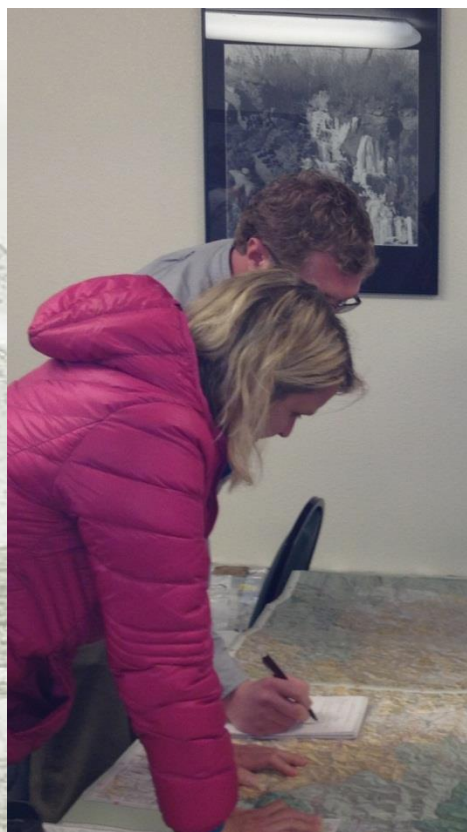
- Set finer-scale management goals & objectives

REAs support Identifying landscape-level priorities

Analysis of the Management Situation

Identify regional public issues and management concerns

Evaluate consistency with other local, state, tribal and federal plans



Create a LU Plan

- Set finer-scale management goals & objectives

REAs support cross-jurisdiction coordination

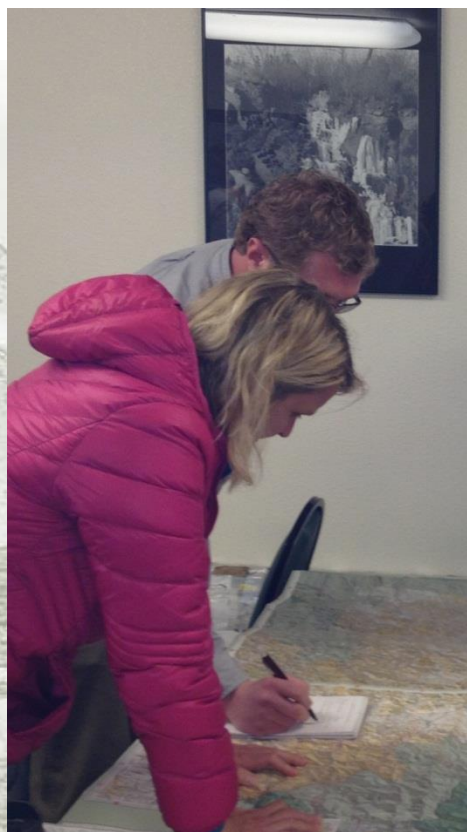
Establish desired outcomes (*goals and objectives*) that have regional ecological meaning

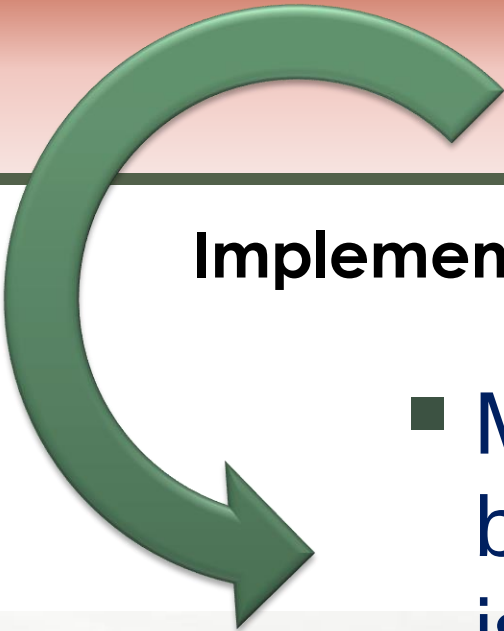
Goals describe conditions that are not necessarily quantifiable

“Maintain ecosystem health”

Objectives are usually quantifiable and measurable and may specify time-frames.

Manage vegetative communities on the upland portion of the Clear Creek Watershed to achieve, by 2020, an average 30 to 40 percent canopy cover of sagebrush to sustain sagebrush-obligate species.”





Implement the Plan

- May wonder “How do we use broad scale info after the ROD is signed?”
 - Design conservation action plans
 - Conduct regional prioritization with partners
 - Internal workload prioritization

Monitor



Planning

- **Implementation**
(do what we say?)
- **Effectiveness**
(plan objectives)

Resource

- **Condition, Status & Trend** *(examples)*

- Landscape Scale
 - REAs
 - AIM and NRI*
 - Sage-grouse Strategy
- Mid-scale
 - Healthy Landscapes
- Fine/Site Scale
 - PFC/MIM
 - Standards for Rangeland Health
 - AML
 - Scenery
 - Recreation

Newest initiatives are filling a gap at this level

- For plan conformance
- To maintain resource records

Use REAs to:

- Reflect changes in conditions
- Identify new/emerging resource and other values.

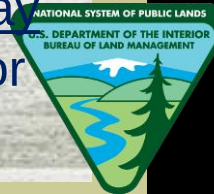


Evaluate

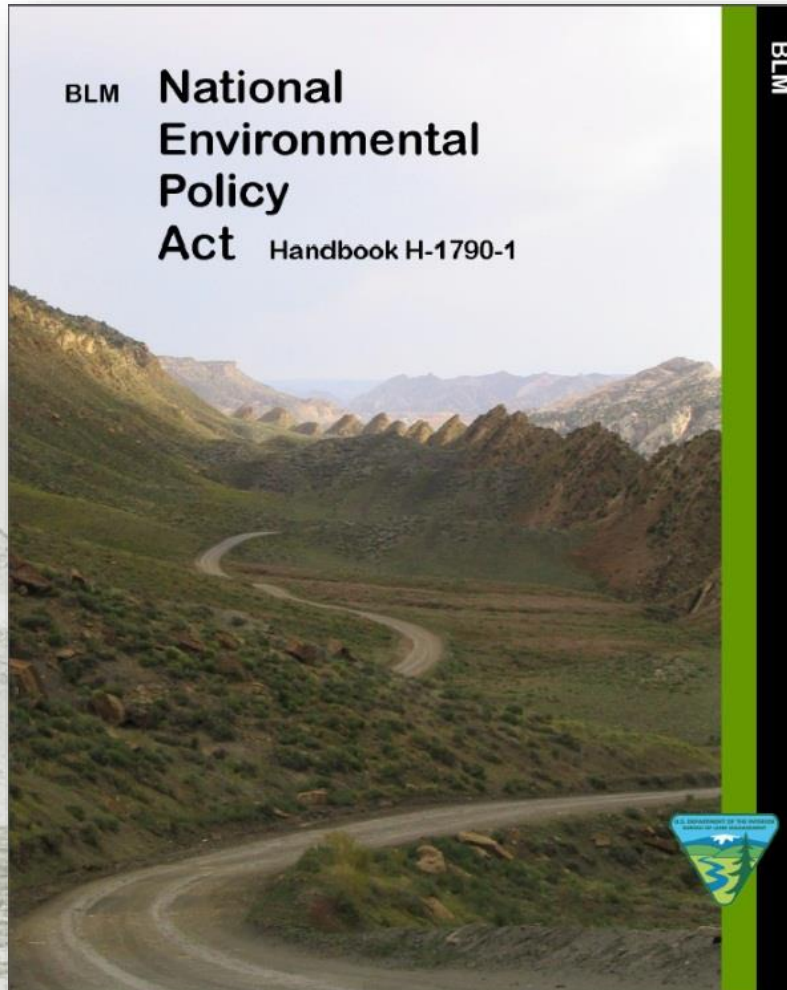
- For goal achievement?
- Meeting objectives?
- Need to revisit assumptions?
- Adjust, Adapt management?

REAs support the HL evaluations (M 4180)

- Evaluations of land health will occur primarily at the watershed level, but can be completed at other spatial scales to properly evaluate the standard and/or the geographic area. For example, regional assessments may be used to identify condition of wildlife habitat with respect to habitat fragmentation.
- Regional assessments may identify specific areas for conservation and/or restoration. These areas would then become a priority for conducting the local land health evaluation.
- To address workload priorities, conducting regional assessments may take precedence over conducting site or local level monitoring and/or evaluations in low priority areas.



NEPA – Better Decision Making



NEPA binds all federal agencies to implement the NEPA process for the protection of the environment. (40 CFR 1500.1(a))

BLM is required by NEPA to assess consequences of federal actions on the quality of the human environment. (40 CFR 1500.2(f))

BLM is required to comply with the NEPA process during the development of an RMP and for all actions that implement the RMP (40 CFR 1500.1 (a) & 1500.2(c))



NEPA- EA/EIS

REAs may support NEPA requirements...

- Environmental Assessments – Regional View
 - ◇ Scoping Issues
 - ◇ Describing The Existing/Affected Environment
 - ◇ Formation Of Alternatives
 - ◇ Evaluation Of Environmental Impacts
 - ◇ Identification Of Mitigation Opportunities At The Regional (Or Landscape) Scale– On Or Off Of BLM



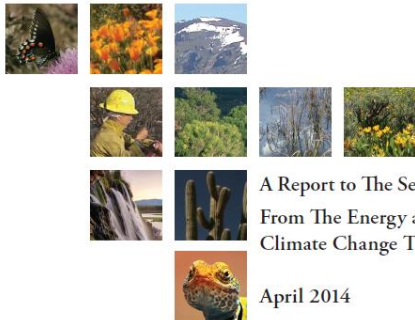
NEPA – Mitigation

■ Impact Analysis

✧ Mitigation with regional consideration

- ~~Interior Secretary Order No. 3330 – Policy to improve mitigation policy and practices.~~
- ~~A Strategy for Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior: A Report to the Secretary of the Interior from the Energy and Climate Change Task Force. April 2014.~~

 A Strategy for Improving
the Mitigation Policies
and Practices of
The Department of the Interior



A Report to The Secretary of the Interior
From The Energy and
Climate Change Task Force

April 2014

Key Points and Ideas for REA Use

- Use the information to supply context
- Understand what goes into a model
 - ◇ Opportunity and priority are driven by “why” not just the end conclusion
- Where are we information/data poor?
- Bring in local data as applicable
- The amount of information is overwhelming, find a starting point or question and build from there
- Use resources available!



Other landscape level efforts

External Efforts



Western Governors Association (WGA)

Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT)

Assists states to identify and conserve crucial wildlife habitat & corridors across the region.

Multiple states contribute data.

Spatial mapping product.

Other landscape level efforts

External Efforts

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

Initiated by
Secretarial Order
3289, through the
USFWS.



A network of public-private partnerships providing shared science to ensure the sustainability of America's land, water, wildlife and cultural resources.

Discussion

- What multi-scale issues or projects do you have where adding information from this class will be of utility?
- What can you bring to the table that will inform decisions across spatial scales?
- What help do you need to meet your multi-scale natural resource challenges?

Review Workshop Objectives

Given an environmental challenge that spatially crosses management boundaries, identify and employ information from the **Rapid Ecoregional Assessment** to understand the ecological context and the extent and pattern of natural and human influences.

Given a public land management question, utilize the **Rapid Ecoregional Assessment** as one broad-landscape decision support tool for planning where to develop, conserve and restore environmental values and qualities or to direct mitigation.



Round Robin



- Comments – are you comfortable with what has been covered?
- Are you satisfied that we met the objectives?

