



## RESILIENT LANDS & WATERS

### WHAT IS THE RESILIENT LANDS AND WATERS INITIATIVE?

The President's [\*Priority Agenda for Enhancing the Climate Resilience of America's Natural Resources\*](#), released in October, 2014, called for the identification of landscape conservation priorities to build resilience. Federal agencies, working together with states, tribes, and other partners, designated seven **Resilient Lands and Waters Partnerships** across the country during the spring and summer of 2015.

These partnerships are focusing efforts with partners to conserve and restore important lands and waters and make them more resilient to a changing climate. They will also showcase the benefits of landscape-scale management approaches and help enhance the carbon storage capacity of these natural areas.

### NATIONAL FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PLANTS CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

The Initiative was specifically designed to help address the first goal of the [\*National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy\*](#) (NFWPCAS) that encourages federal, state, tribal, and local agencies to conserve habitat to support healthy fish, wildlife, and plant populations and ecosystem functions in a changing climate. It was designed to demonstrate multiple approaches to identifying priority areas for conservation, restoration, and other investments across landscapes, for the benefit of most stakeholders.

### WHO OVERSEES THE INITIATIVE?

The Resilient Lands and Waters Initiative was created by the Climate and Natural Resources Working Group, the interagency working group that developed the Priority Agenda, with support from the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Initiative is currently being supported by a DOI-NOAA Steering Committee with support from the Management Team of the NFWPCAS Joint Implementation Working Group (JIWG). Transition to JIWG leadership brings state tribal agencies in to the management process.

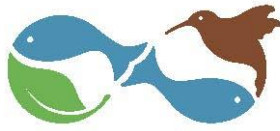
### WHAT IS THE EXPECTED PRODUCT?

The landscapes are producing dynamic mapping tools that will be released in October 2016. The tools will give the partners in a landscape the ability to view priority areas for natural resource conservation in the face of a changing climate.

The final product will be a website and summary that highlights progress of all seven areas to advance place-based, landscape-scale resilience strategies, and "lessons learned" including best practices, policy recommendations, and important considerations to guide future efforts.

### WHAT ARE THE SEVEN LANDSCAPE COLLABORATIONS?

All seven of the landscapes represent existing collaborations among federal, state, tribal, and local partners. The landscapes were chosen for their exemplary collaborations, diverse suite of approaches to planning for climate resilience, and a range of scales, geographies, and ecological stressors.



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### **California Headwaters Partnership**

This partnership is focused on restoring and enhancing function in the primary watersheds for the state of California. The partnership is building upon and unifying existing collaborative efforts to identify and map areas for conservation, restoration, increased carbon storage, and maintenance needs. Another major goal is enhancing forest resilience to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire and allow a more natural fire regime through reduction of uncharacteristic fuel loads.

### **California's North-Central Coast and the Russian River watershed**

Partners on this landscape are working to provide data and tools to enhance resiliency to climate and extreme events. NOAA and the USGS are developing the Coastal Storm Modeling System sea level rise/storm model which will provide sea level rise scenarios to be used by local, state, and federal partners to identify low lying and potentially vulnerable communities and resources within Sonoma County. This data will be used for multiple purposes including development of California's first comprehensive, prioritized adaptation implementation plan for the coast and ocean.

### **Crown of the Continent**

Partners on this landscape develop management actions to achieve commonly desired environmental outcomes for a suite of landscape scale conservation priorities and stressors. Conservation Priorities include native salmonids, grizzly bears, whitebark pine and meso-carnivores. Landscape scale stressors include climate change, invasive species and land use change. Among many products, they are completing vulnerability assessments for native salmonids and mapping priority areas for connectivity.

### **Lakes Huron and Erie Coastal Wetlands – Great Lakes**

A key component of this partnership is the creation of a comprehensive decision support system for Great Lakes coastal wetlands extending from Saginaw Bay to Western Lake Erie, in the United States. This tool will use a suite of factors including current wetland condition, existing major impairments, relative value of ecosystem services in current vs. restored condition, restorability, land ownership, and vulnerability to exogenous drivers such as climate change. It will inform where restoration, enhancement, and protection of coastal wetlands should occur.

### **Watershed and Estuary of the Snohomish River**

Partners are accelerating conservation and resilience of natural resources and communities in Puget Sound coastal communities through a strategy called Coordinated Investment. Their goal is achieving improved water quality and salmon and shellfish restoration while strengthening working farms and forests. Partners are using flooding hazard scenarios and predictions to inform project selection and planning efforts for agriculture and other land uses including identification of priority areas for habitat conservation.

### **Southwest Florida**

The landscape conservation design and mapping of priority resources for Southwest Florida will be the foundation framework to determine where to focus various voluntary and non-regulatory conservation incentives. The strong partnerships involved will provide the needed interagency coordination and landowner and stakeholder involvement to apply incentives to meet the conservation targets for this region and provide resilience from future threats.

### **West Hawaii, West Maui, He'eia Watershed (O'ahu)**

This partnership represents three discrete locations across the Hawaiian Islands. The partners are mapping existing "resilience" activities; developing a database of partnerships, plans, and resilience activities; conducting site-specific reviews of climate change science; and developing actionable lists of modifications to existing or planned actions. The final product will be a map and online story map highlighting case studies and widely applicable principles to promote resilience.