

# BLM Ecoregional Strategy

Colorado Plateau, Utah



# BLM's Landscape Approach

## Five Interrelated Components:

1. **Rapid Ecoregional Assessment**
2. Ecoregional Direction
3. Field Implementation
4. Monitoring
5. Science Integration

# Rapid Ecoregional Assessment

Step 1 of the BLM's Landscape Approach

# Ecoregional Assessments...

## Looking across land ownership and management boundaries to:

- *Identify and answer landscape scale management questions*
- *Document the current status of Conservation Elements*
- *Describe ongoing and anticipated effects of Change Agents*
- *Identify opportunities for resource conservation and development*
- *Identify Data Gaps and Science Needs for questions we are not yet able to answer*

# Rapid Ecoregional Assessment

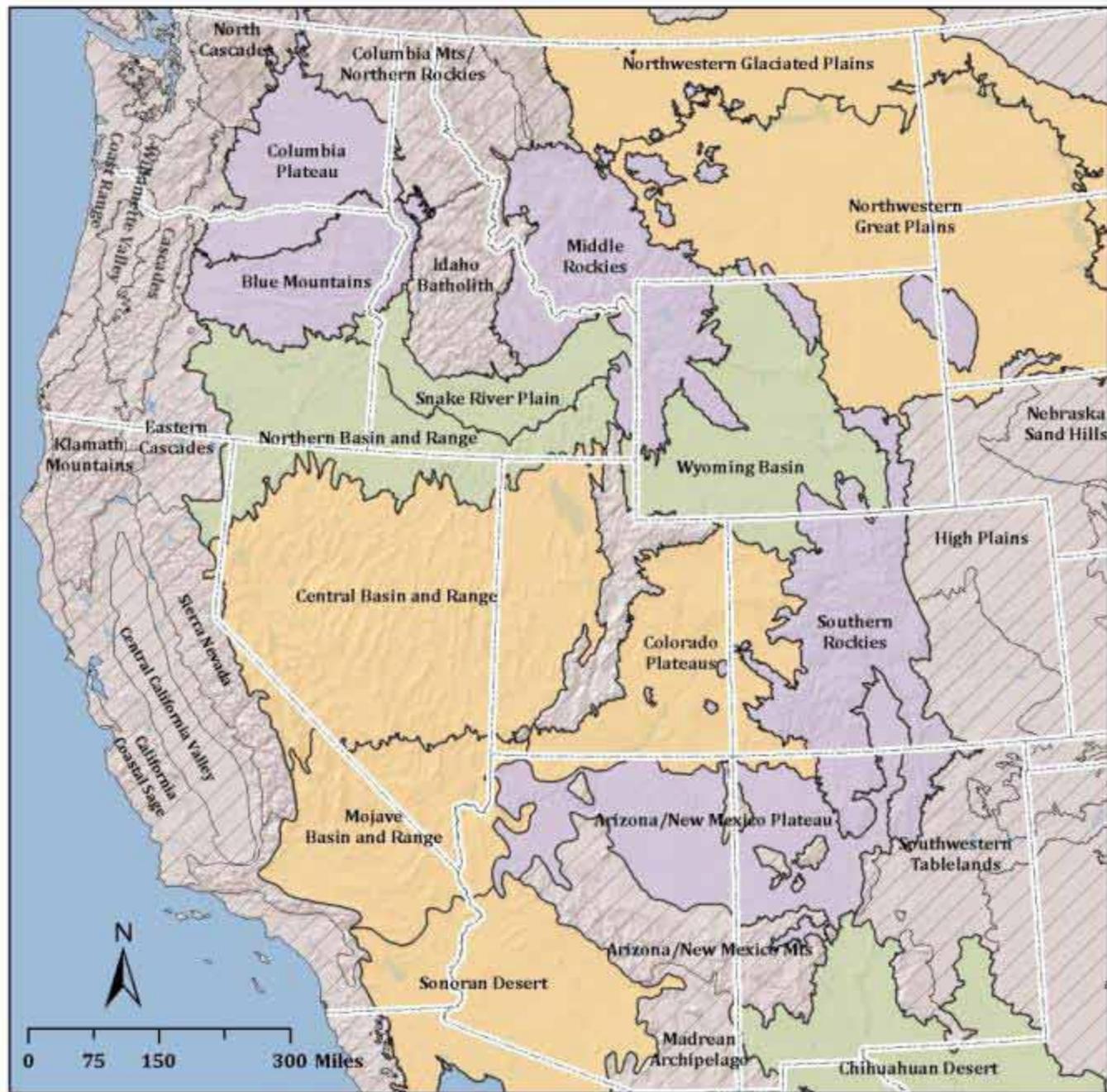
- 18 months or less to complete
- Limited to currently available information and existing data – no new research, inventory, or monitoring
- Targeted toward addressing specific management questions



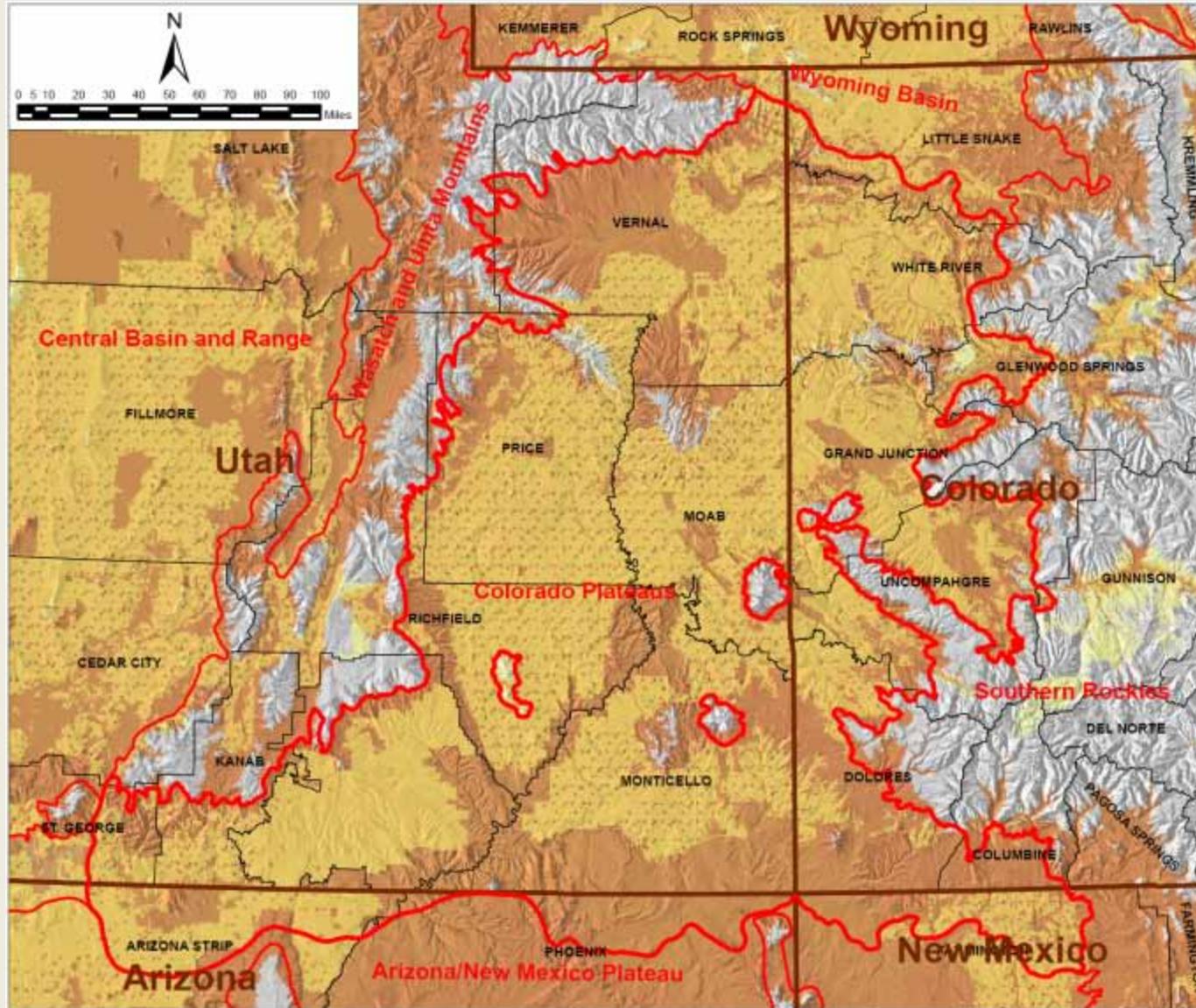
# BLM Ecoregional Assessment Work Plan

## Start Year

## Work Plan



# Colorado Plateau



# Rapid Ecoregional Assessment Components

- Management questions
- Conceptual models
- Conservation elements (CEs)
- Change agents (CAs)
- Ecological Integrity

# Conservation Elements

1. Native Fish, Wildlife, or Plants of Regional Concern
2. Regionally-Important Terrestrial Ecological Features, Functions, or Services
3. Regionally-Important Aquatic Ecological Features, Functions, or Services



# Change Agents

1. Wildland Fire
2. Invasive Species
3. Development (Urbanization, Industrial, & Others)
4. Climate Change



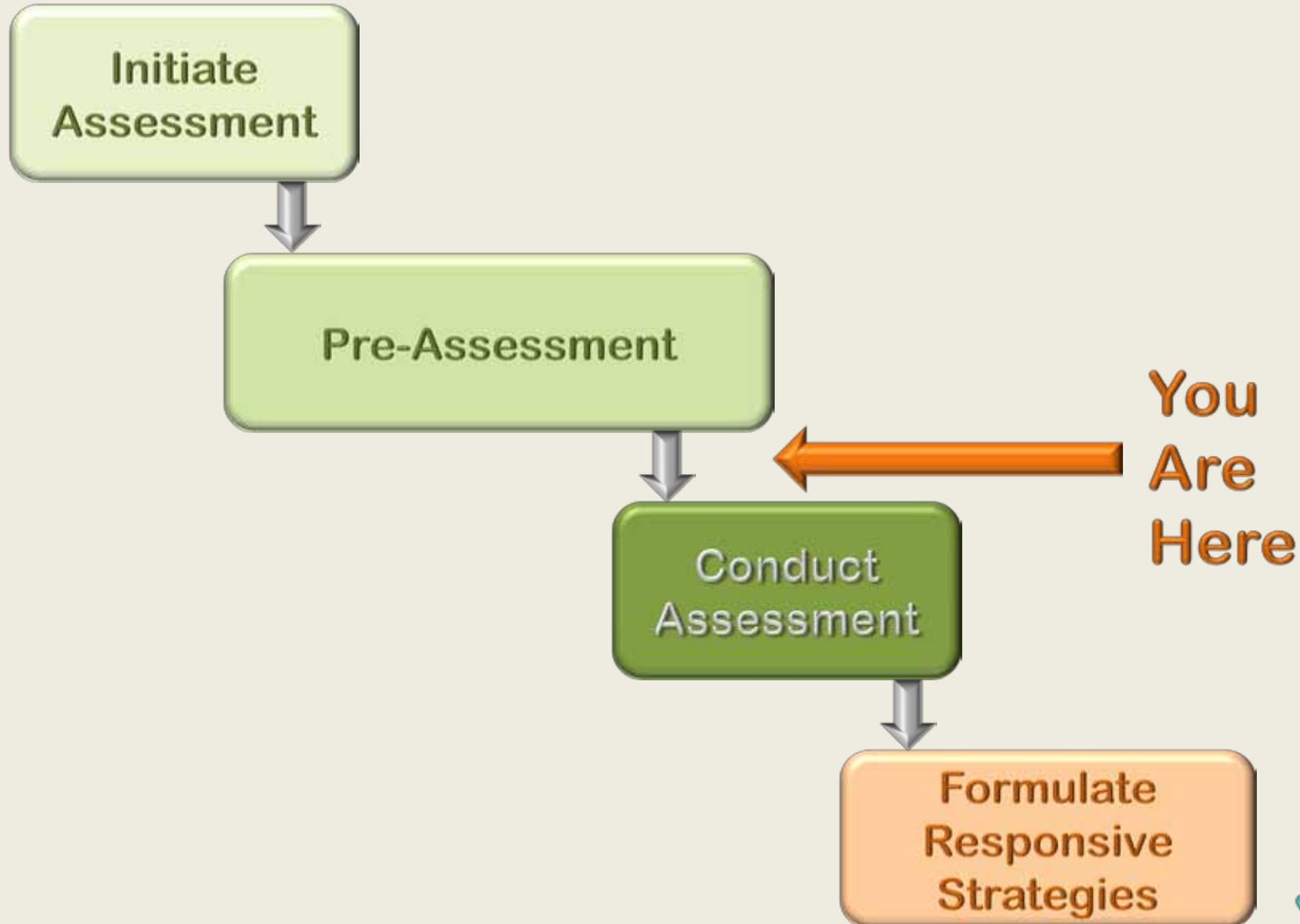
# Ecological Integrity

- Parrish et al. (2003) defined, and the *NPS* adopted, *Ecological Integrity* “...as the ability of an ecological system to support and maintain a community of organisms that has species composition, diversity, and functional organization comparable to those of natural habitats with a region.”
- Integrity also requires that an ecosystem or species’ “...dominant ecological characteristics occur within their natural [or acceptable] ranges of variation and can withstand and recover from most perturbations....”

# Examples Questions

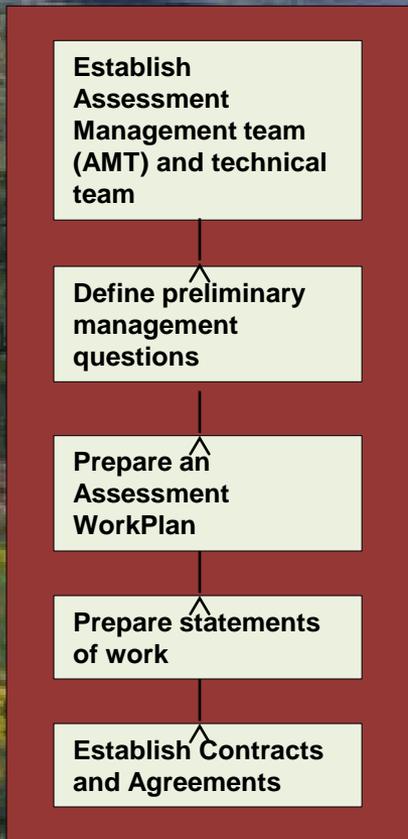
- What is the current distribution of this species?
- Where are the rare vegetative communities of the ecoregion?
- Where are change agents affecting this species
- Where are areas of potential invasive species encroachment by *Cheatgrass*?
- Where will the distribution of native and invasive plant species change with climate change?
- What/where is the potential for future change to this species in the near-term, 2020, and a long-term horizon, 2060?

# Assessment Process

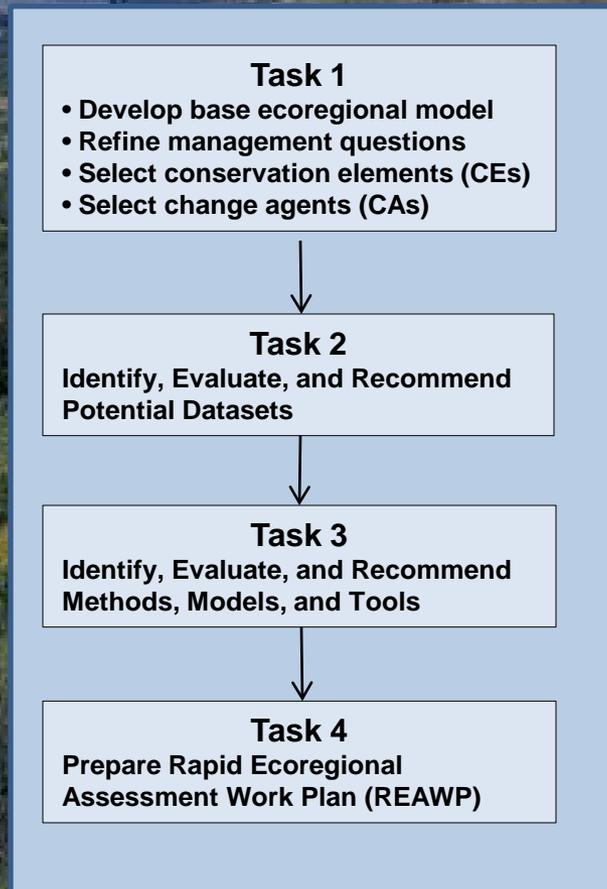


# REA Workflow

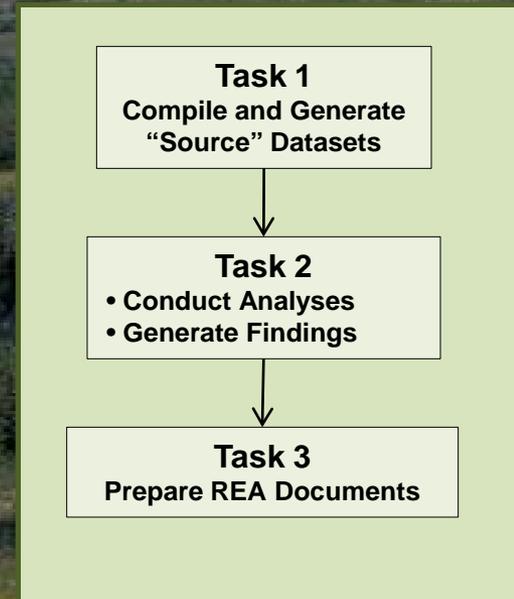
## Initiation



## Phase I



## Phase II



# Questions?

