

Statewide Inventory & Monitoring Strategy for Alaska's Refuges



Our goal...



This Forum's goal is to clearly define the problem, objectives, and alternatives for implementing a refuge-based monitoring strategy for ecoregional and state-scale refuge management in Alaska that allows us to integrate our efforts with neighboring land managers. Neither the natural resources, we manage nor global climate change respect political/agency boundaries.



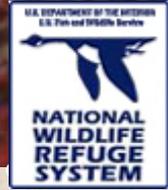
ANILCA Statutory Purposes (1980)...



(i) to conserve the fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity including, but not limited to, ...

(ii) to fulfill international treaty obligations of the United States with respect to fish and wildlife and their habitats;

ANILCA Statutory Purposes (1980)...



(iii) to provide, in a manner consistent with the purposes set forth in subparagraphs (i) and (ii), the opportunity for continued subsistence uses by local residents; and



ANILCA Statutory Purposes (1980)...



(iv) to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable and in a manner consistent with the purposes set forth in paragraph (i) water quality and necessary water quantity within the refuge.



Refuge Improvement Act (1997)...



NWRS Mission and Mandates

"Each refuge shall be managed to fulfill the mission of the System, as well as the specific purposes for which that refuge was established."



Refuge Improvement Act (1997)...



"The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generation of Americans."



Refuge Improvement Act (1997)...



In administering the System, the Secretary shall -

(A) provide for the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants, and their habitats within the System;

Refuge Improvement Act (1997)...



(B) ensure that the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of the System are maintained for the benefit of present and future generation of Americans;

Challenges of a Changing Climate...



Understand the
status and trends
of fish, wildlife,
and plant
populations and
their habitats.



Challenges of a Changing Climate...



Determine large-scale patterns of ecosystem health and monitor continental changes in key populations and biological diversity.



Erosion due to permafrost (Innoko River)

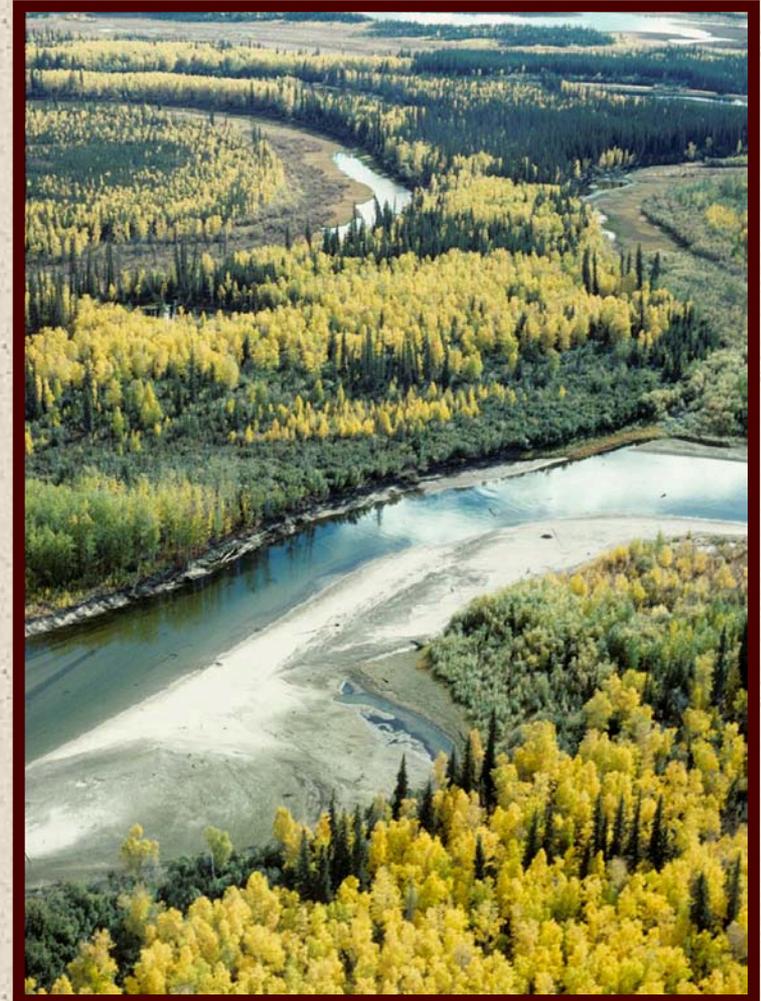
- ❖ *White paper on national I&M needs.*
- ❖ *Pilot I&M Program on refuge lands.*
- ❖ *Expand physical science and remote sensing monitoring programs.*
- ❖ *Collaborate for a remote sensing program for monitoring Service lands and priority landscapes.*

Challenges of a Changing Climate...



Identify and Fill Priority Freshwater Needs

- ❖ *Identify highest priority regional needs for water quantity or quality, and estimate the anticipated biological outcomes.*
- ❖ *Develop strategies to address priority water rights, water quality and water quantity ...on landscape level.*



Challenges of a Changing Climate...



**Conserve
Coastal
and
Marine
Resources**



- ❖ *Evaluate and improve upon regional sea level rise models*
- ❖ *Assess vulnerability of marine refuges and marine resources to GCC*

Challenges of a Changing Climate...



Work with Partners to develop Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) as shared networks of expertise



Challenges of a Changing Climate...



Develop National Biological Inventory and Monitoring
Partnerships and Collaborative Research Partnerships



