

# Managed Relocation: Exploring Federal Agency Perspectives

Nancy Green (USFWS)

Randy Johnson (USFS)

Greg Eckert (NPS)

# Informal Federal Working Group

- Initiated by USDA Forest Service (FS) staff
- **Representatives thus far from:**
  - USDA: Forest Service
  - DOI: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey , Bureau of Land Management

## Concept

- Recognize that federal natural resource agencies have conservation responsibilities, yet also have different missions, policies & legal requirements
- Collaboratively prepare information to help identify whether the agencies need new or revised policies or guidelines on translocation (within or outside historic ranges) as a climate adaptation tool; if so, help inform and promote consistency in such materials

# Approach

Three subgroups to explore information relevant to federal agencies & species translocations in a changing climate:

1. Agency missions, goals, objectives
2. Laws, regulations, and policies
3. Criteria and best practices

# Approach – brief overview

## **1. Agency missions, goals, and objectives –**

What they are; how they may influence agency views & actions regarding translocation in the face of climate change

## **2. Laws, regulations, policies –**

Identify the existing legal and policy framework of each agency; identify needs for clarification or change, if any, regarding translocations.

# Approach – brief overview

## **3. *Criteria and best practices –***

Review summaries of past translocation outcomes and lessons learned; review existing criteria and best practices for translocations and identify any need for clarification or revisions of agency materials to include climate change considerations.

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The group may prepare a synthesis paper of the three parts, with recommended next steps for the agencies to consider.

The overall effort is consistent the *National Fish, Wildlife & Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy* action item on preparing criteria & guidance on translocations.

# The informal federal working group:

- Does not expect to take a position about moving species outside their historic ranges; this is a policy decision for the agencies.
- Recognizes translocations related to climate change may occur for different objectives: (1) helping conserve species of biodiversity concern; and/or (2) helping maintain various ecosystem services (changes in tree species or other species of economic interest, restoration for resilience to wildfires, etc.)

# The informal federal working group:

- Does not have a formal charter/timeline; participants are federal agency staff (primarily from headquarters) whose work is relevant to climate change and species translocations.
- Wants to have representatives on the working group being launched at the National Adaptation Forum; looks forward to collaboration with states, tribes, academics, NGOs, and others via that working group.

# Contacts

**Randy Johnson: [randyjohnson@fs.fed.us](mailto:randyjohnson@fs.fed.us)**

**Nancy Green: [nancy\\_green@fws.gov](mailto:nancy_green@fws.gov)**

**Greg Eckert: [greg\\_eckert@nps.gov](mailto:greg_eckert@nps.gov)**