Role of regional studies, environmental assessments, and cumulative effects

An NGO perspective

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# My background

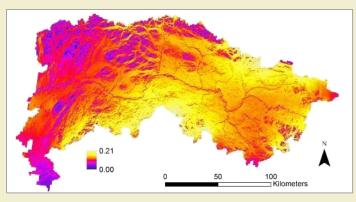
#### Wildlife ecologist



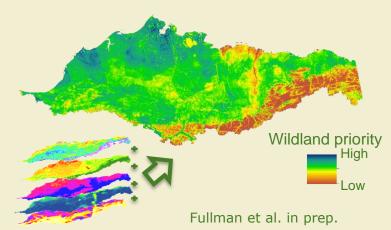








Fullman et al. 2017 Movement Ecology



#### **Regional studies**



 Sparse and varying resources require many species to travel long distances to meet their needs

#### WILDERNESS S O C I E T Y

## Crossing jurisdictions

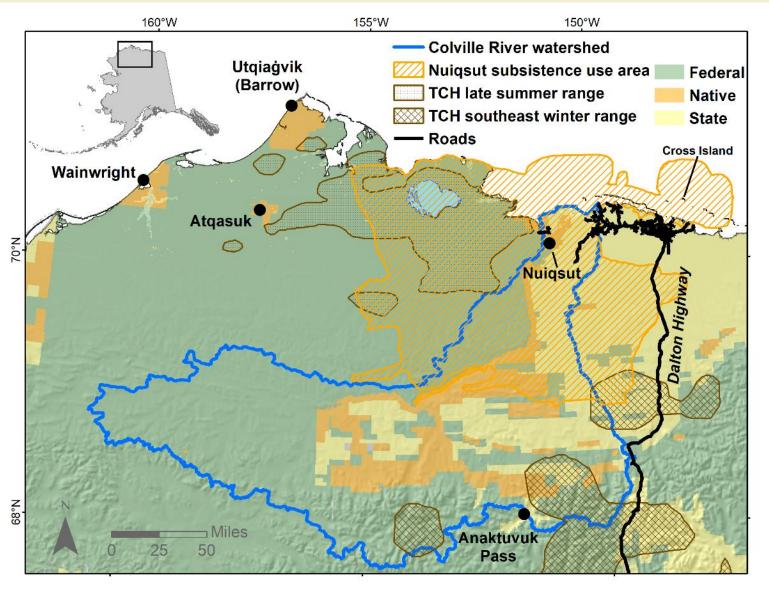


lim M. Goldstein









Peter Mather

## Challenges: data availability



- Data often are not as consistent or fine scale as at lower latitudes
- Still is much basic information we do not know
- Environmental studies are needed to provide this information and inform decisions

#### Broad whitefish (Coregonus nasus)



Research conducted in collaboration between The Wilderness Society, University of Alaska Fairbanks, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and the Native Village of Nuiqsut Tribal Council

#### Challenges: data access



- Local-scale studies cannot be combined to provide a regional perspective if data are not made available
  - Leads to redundancies and survey fatigue
- National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)
  - Giving a voice to a broad array of stakeholders
  - Data used to inform public decisions should be made available to a broad range of stakeholders



## Cumulative effects

 Projects with a relatively small footprint can have larger cumulative effects





Consider facilitative effects of projects



 Greater respect and conversation needed between various stakeholders



## Thank you!