

# Polar Bear Conservation/Recovery Planning



James Wilder, USFWS

Workshop: “What would recovery look like?”

August 25-26, 2011

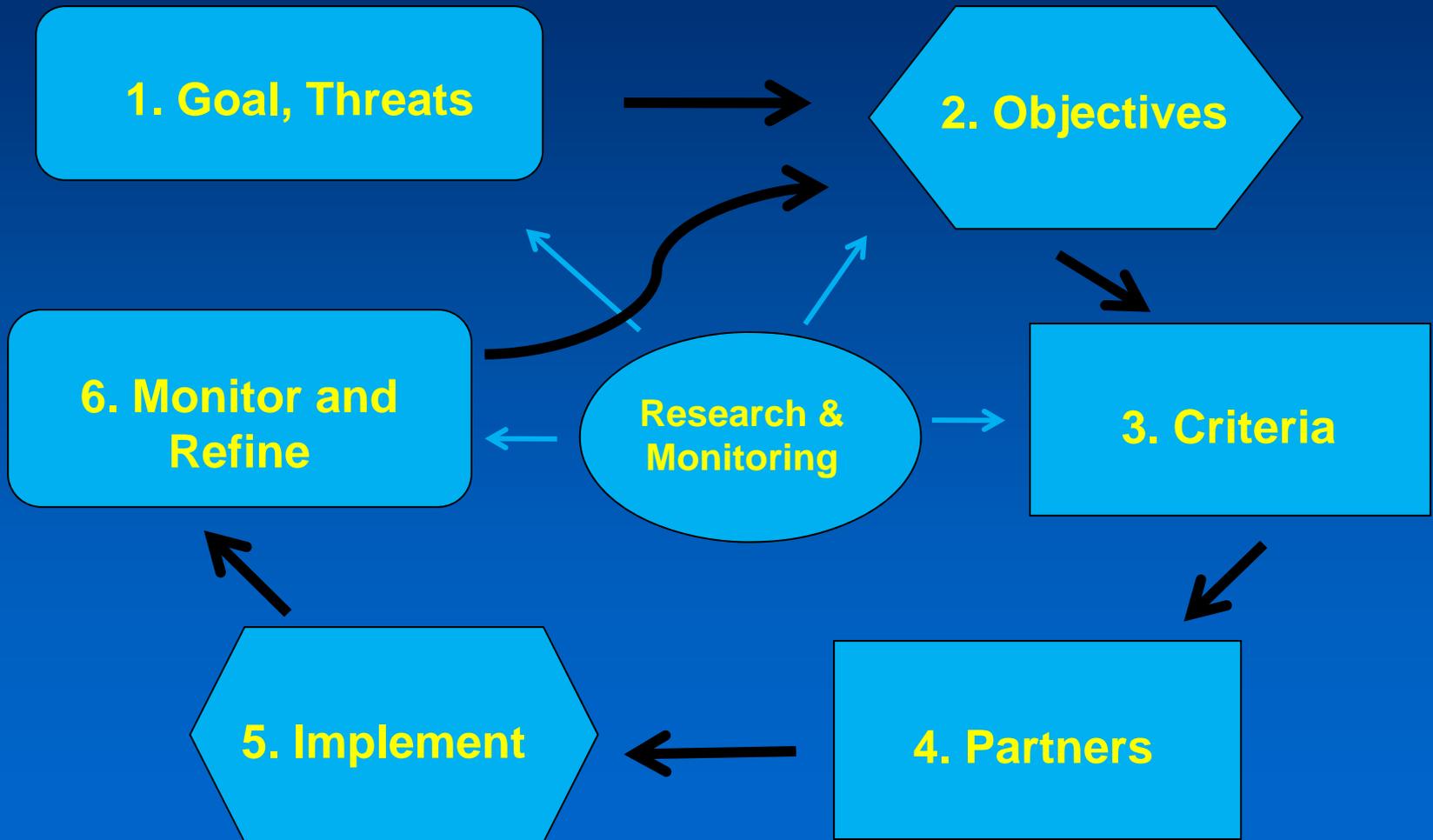
Anchorage, Alaska, USA



# Polar Bear Planning Process

## *Biological Planning*

*Outcome-based Monitoring*



*Conservation Design*

*Conservation Delivery*

# Progress to Date

- Have worked with Conservation Partners to collect:
  - input on threats
  - actions to address threats
  - one round of comment on draft Plan
    - still in process of incorporating comments



# Today's Goal

- Build on our previous workshops
- Receive input from you on developing criteria for the Plan
  - When to remove polar bears from ESA, and
  - When to uplist to Endangered
- Not seeking consensus



# What are Criteria?

- **Goals**
- **Objectives**
- **Criteria-**
- **On the ground actions**



# Demography and Habitat

- Under what conditions would you confidently argue the species could be removed from ESA?
  - Observed and predicted:
    - population status, trends, distribution
    - extent, duration, and quality of sea ice



# Why is This Species Different?

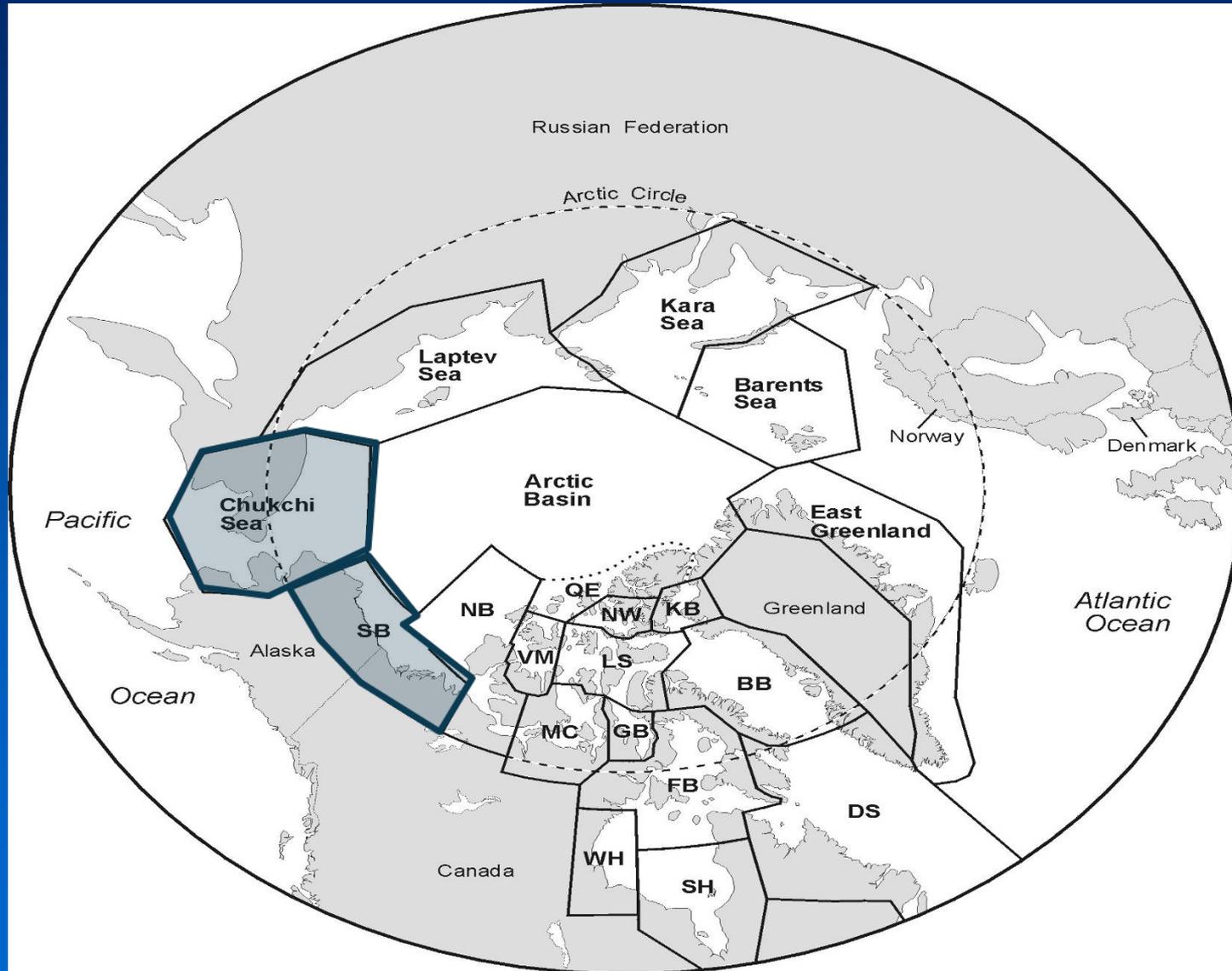


# Challenges



- **Accurately predicting and measuring population level impacts of climate change is a challenge.**
- **We have no historical analog for range-wide polar bear population declines resulting from climate change and habitat loss.**

# Range States' Planning



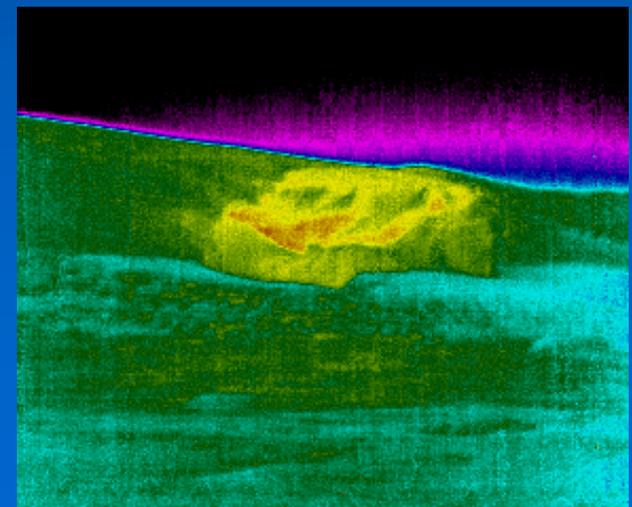
# Conservation Design and Delivery

- Landscape approach
- Strategic
- Partnerships



# Conservation Design and Delivery

- Develop actions
- Relate to threats
- Site-specific, fundable
- Includes monitoring



# Implementation Schedule

Plan actions in a succinct table:

- Estimates costs
- Prioritizes recovery actions
- Identifies *potential* responsible parties
- Establishes timeframes

# Next Steps

- **September, 2011**  
Complete writing 2<sup>nd</sup> draft
- **September 19-30, 2011**  
Partner review of draft Plan
- **October 3-7, 2011**  
Discuss with partners' their comments and concerns to date on draft Plan.

# Next Steps

- **October 24-26, 2011**

Present draft Plan at Range States' meeting.

- **December 2011- February 2012**

Technical work group meets to develop draft criteria

- **April 14-28, 2012**

Partner review, comment, and discussion of draft criteria

# Questions?

