

Public Lands Team

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The National Transportation Systems Center

Our team helps federal land management agencies (FLMAs) resolve complex transportation challenges at both the program and project levels.

Every year, over one billion visitors travel to America's national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and other federally-managed public lands.

These extraordinary places, which encompass about one-third of the country, offer natural, scenic, cultural, recreational, and educational opportunities to be found nowhere else — and they face unique transportation challenges, different from the issues typically experienced by cities and states.

We are planners, engineers, and analysts. Our work draws on expertise in a variety of fields, including

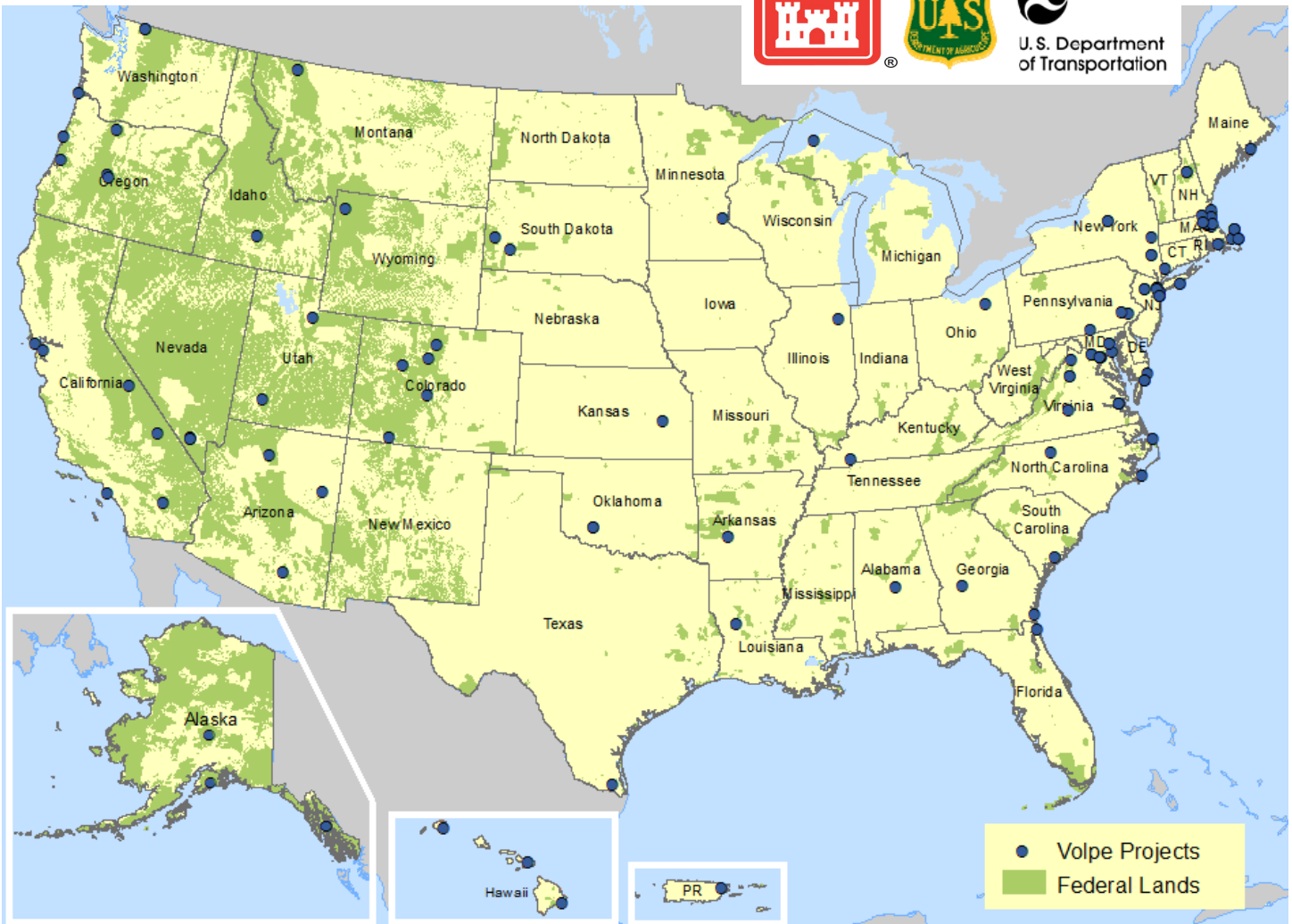
policy and program development, multimodal systems planning, alternative fuels and vehicle selection, environmental compliance, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In addition to our agency-wide program development and evaluation efforts, we have carried out planning and analysis projects at nearly 100 locations nationwide.

The Volpe Center is an agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation — part of the federal family. We have more than a decade of experience working with FLMAs.



U.S. Department of Transportation



Volpe Center Public Lands Team – Capabilities and Project Examples



Program and policy development

We work at the national level with the Federal Highway Administration and with FLMAs to characterize transportation needs and priorities on federal lands, and to develop programs, in

line with DOT goals. Our products include long-range transportation plans, program guidance, and studies on research topics, such as alternative vehicle technologies.

Environmental compliance and modeling

We help resolve environmental assessment, compliance, and remediation problems. For instance, we develop National Environmental Policy Act documentation, collect data, and model and analyze environmental issues. As one example, we work with the National Park Service to protect soundscape resources. We maintain the Federal Aviation Administration's Integrated Noise Model, which helps to predict impacts from commercial air tours on park resources and the visitor experience. We use these analyses in developing Air Tour Management Plans.

Alternative transportation planning

We provide unit-level alternative transportation studies. For instance, our work in Sabino Canyon Recreation Area (in Coronado National Forest)



helped the Forest Service address its aging fleet of diesel shuttles, limited parking, endangered species, and vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian conflicts along a narrow

mountain road. We recommended over 80 solutions and five alternative transportation strategies. Following on those recommendations, Volpe is now helping Sabino Canyon conduct environmental compliance to develop a trail through the canyon.

Long-term comprehensive planning

We coordinate our work with long-term unit management plans, helping balance resource management and visitor services. For example Assateague Island, a popular destination for recreation and wildlife observation, faces challenges in providing sustainable access to their beaches and other facilities. We completed alternative transportation studies that informed the management plans for the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague Island National Seashore.



Stakeholder involvement and partnerships

We have extensive experience engaging the public and partnerships. One example is our long relationship with the Cape Cod National Seashore, the Cape Cod Commission, and the Regional Transit Authority. This partnership began with our *Shuttle Bus System and Electric Tram Study* in 2000 followed by several other efforts, all of which included significant outreach to local stakeholders. More recent projects undertaken with public-sector and private-sector partners include a shared-use maintenance facility feasibility study, an integrated intelligent transportation system plan, and a transit marketing initiative.

Alternative fuel and vehicle analysis

We help agencies evaluate and select alternative-fuel vehicles. For instance, North Cascades National Park purchased and put into operation the shuttle buses we recommended, which are powered by B20 biodiesel fuel. We have also assisted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in introducing non-polluting electric trams at several wildlife refuges across the country.



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