

ESTABLISHING A CLIMATE NETWORK

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Social Scientist
Region 8, Science Applications

BACKGROUND

USFWS- 2021 Climate Change Action Program

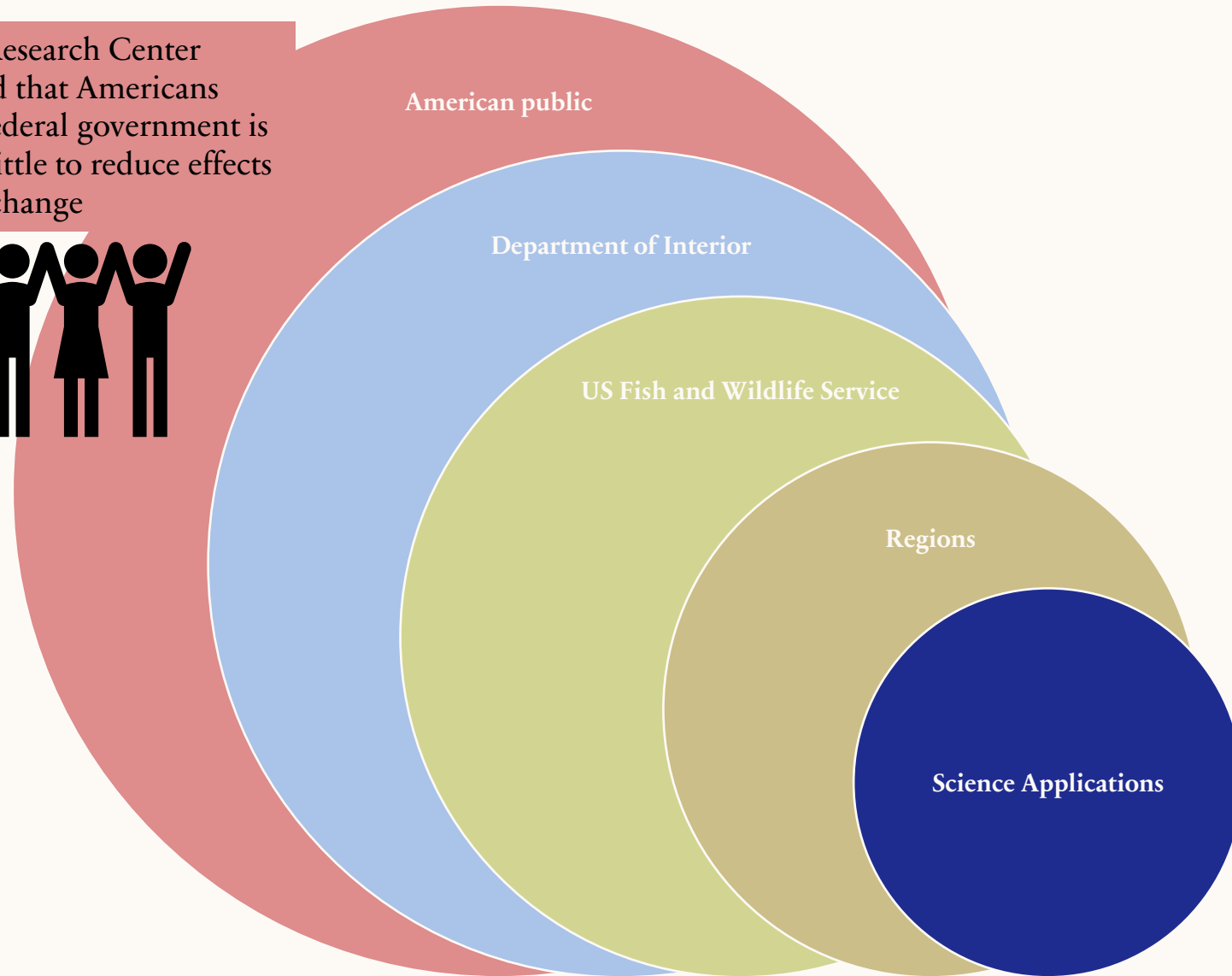
Regional Coordinators & Step-Down Plans

2024 Region 8 Climate Change Coordinator

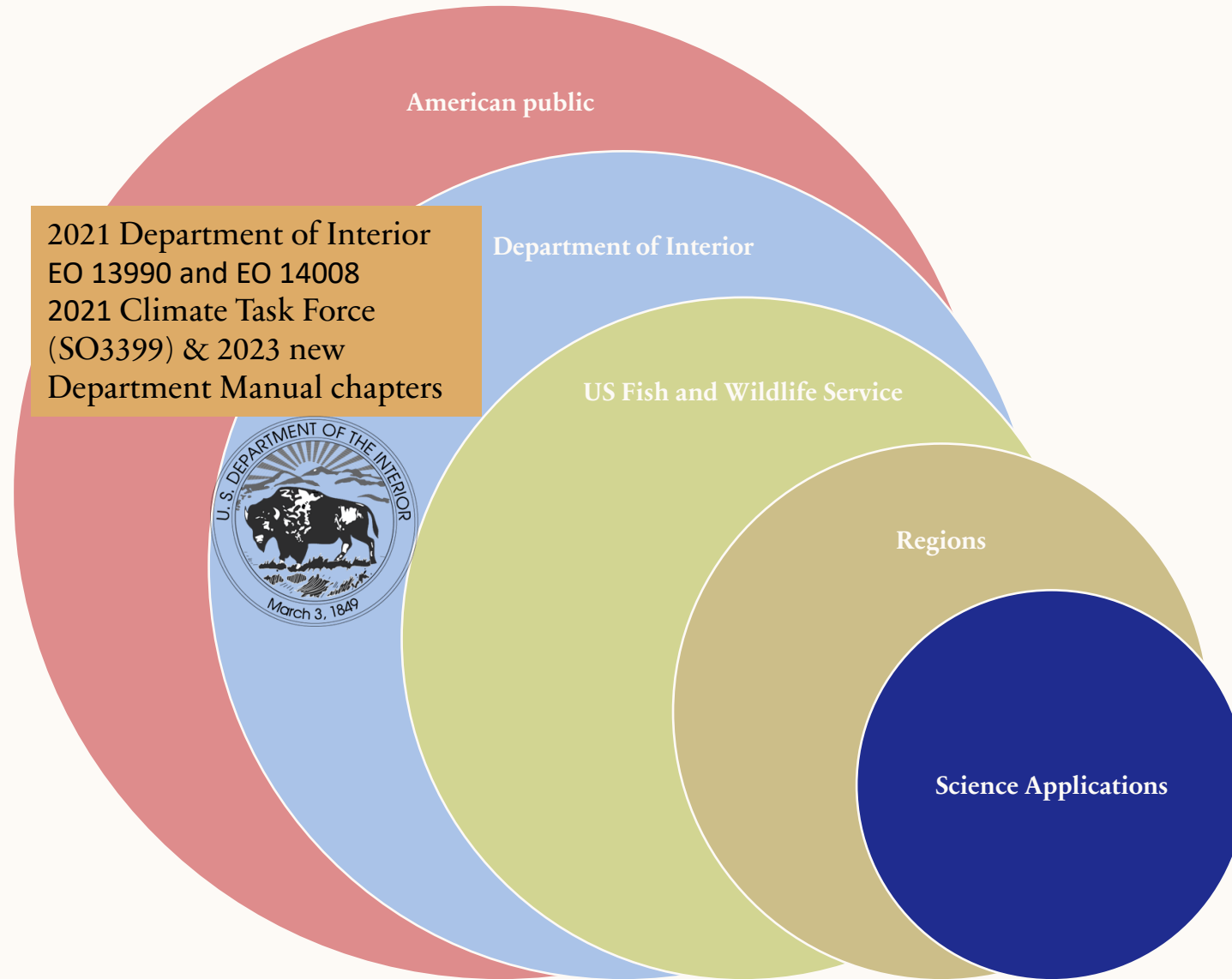
- How to get started? Who to involve? Regional priorities? Regional leadership support? Agency culture? Past and current efforts?

Context

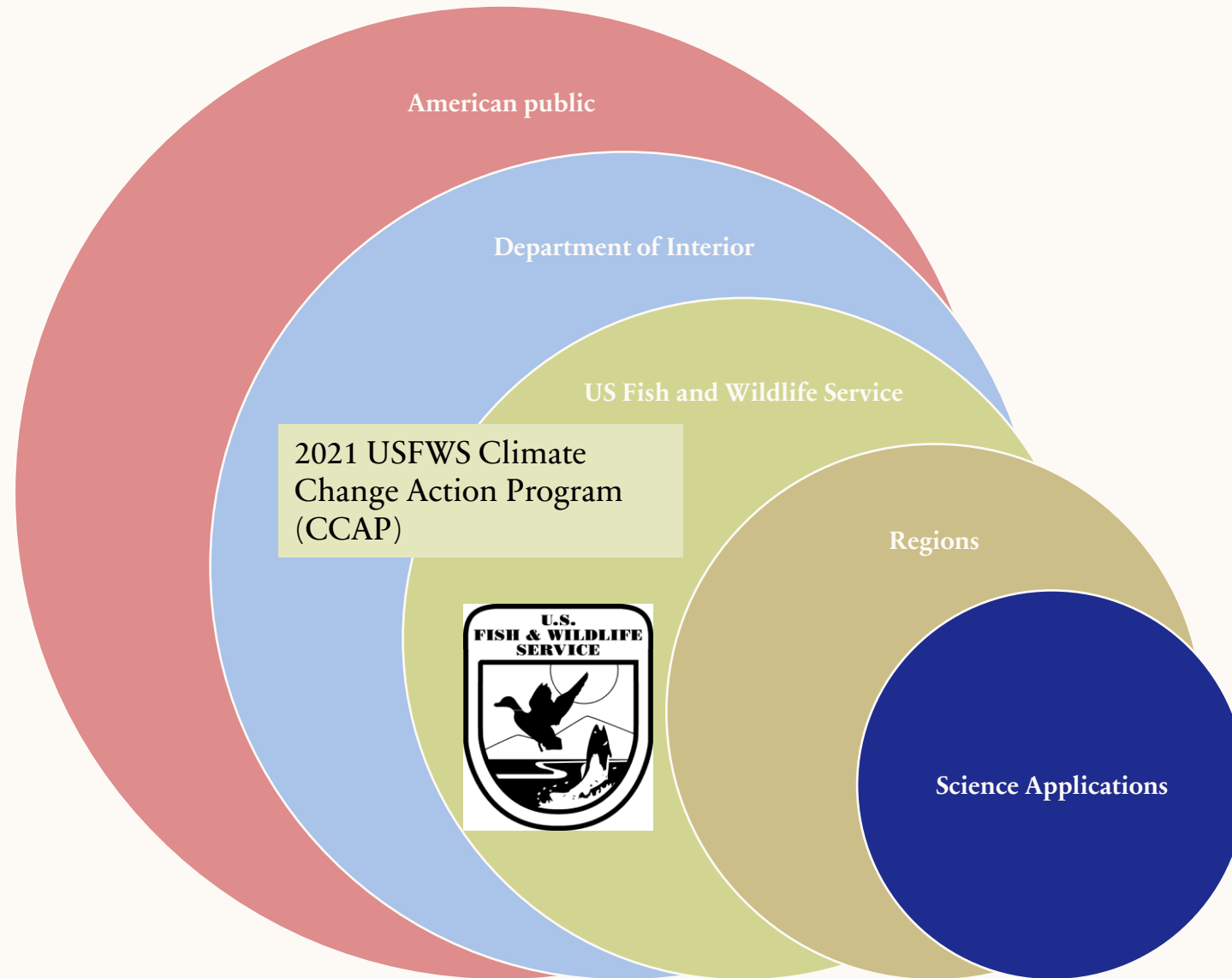
2020 Pew Research Center study found that Americans think the federal government is doing too little to reduce effects of climate change



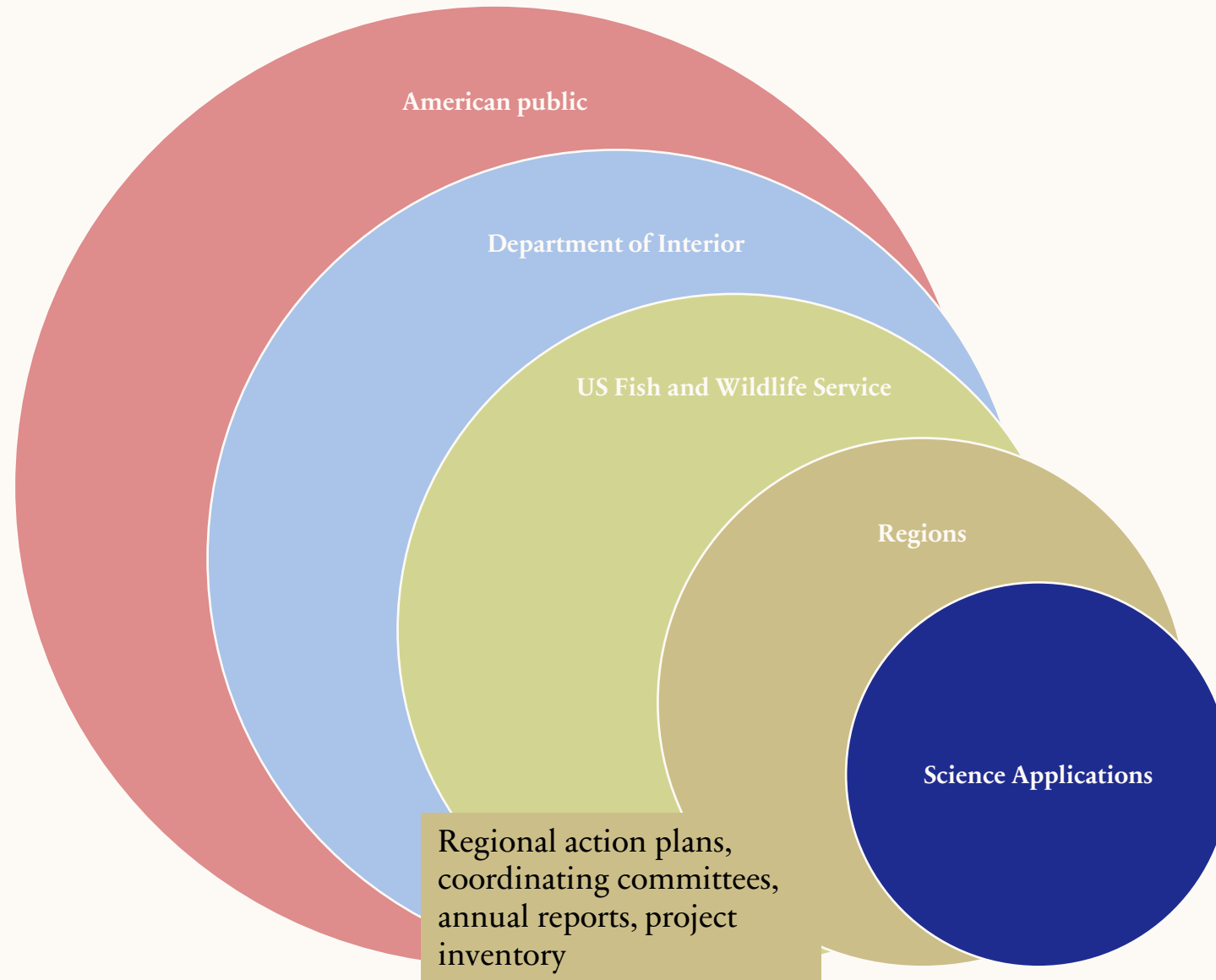
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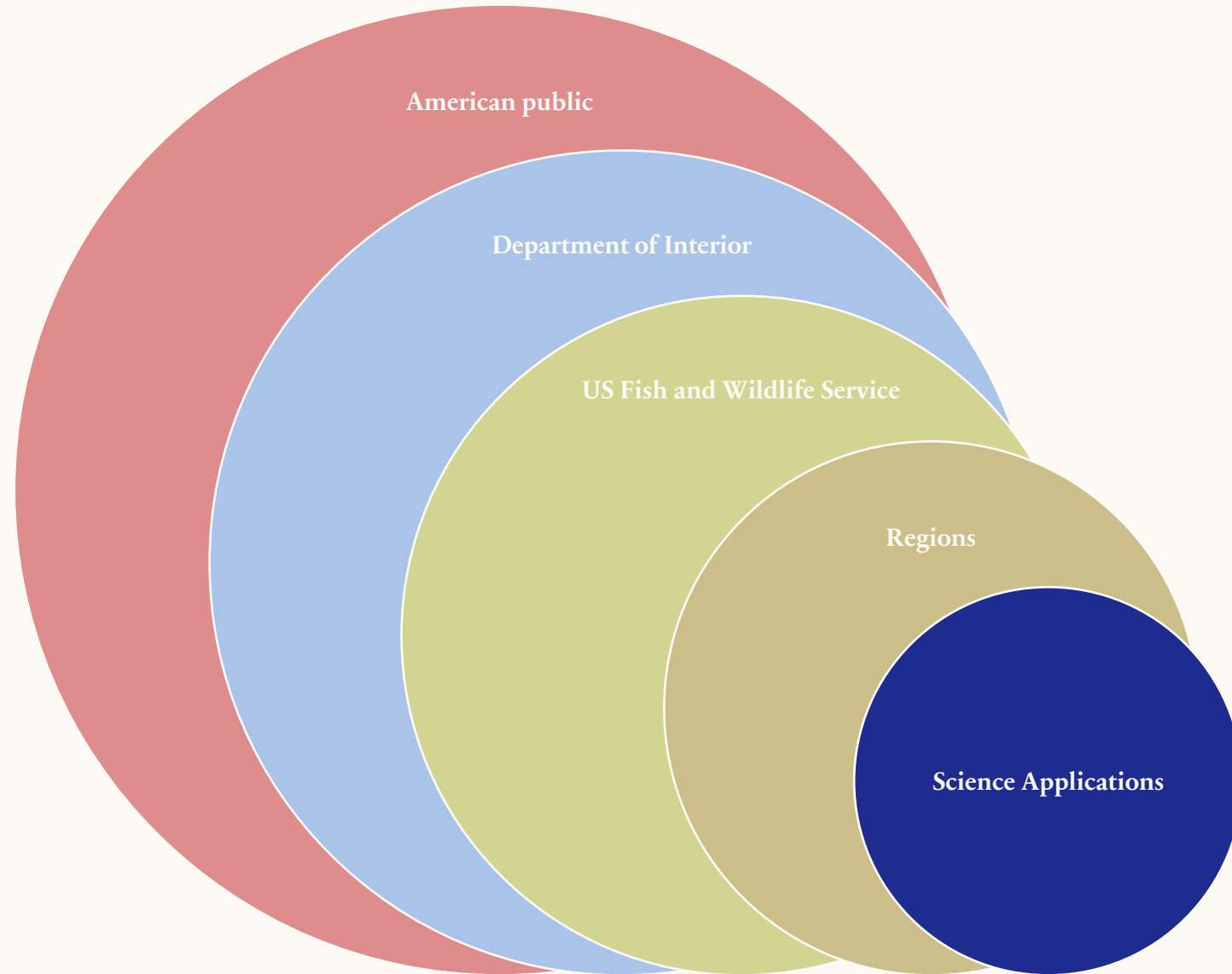
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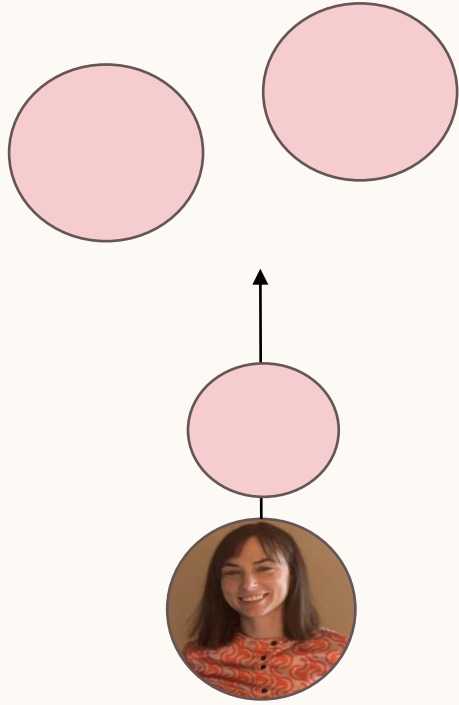
Context



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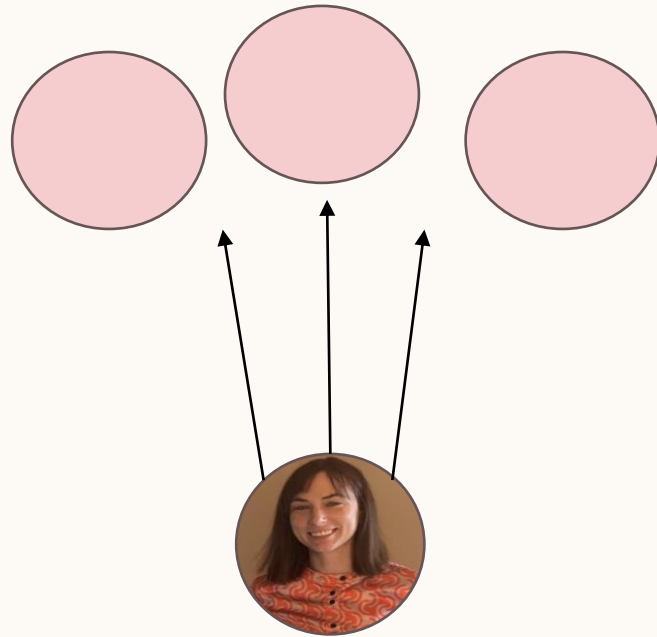
LEARNING

- Met with two members from regional leadership



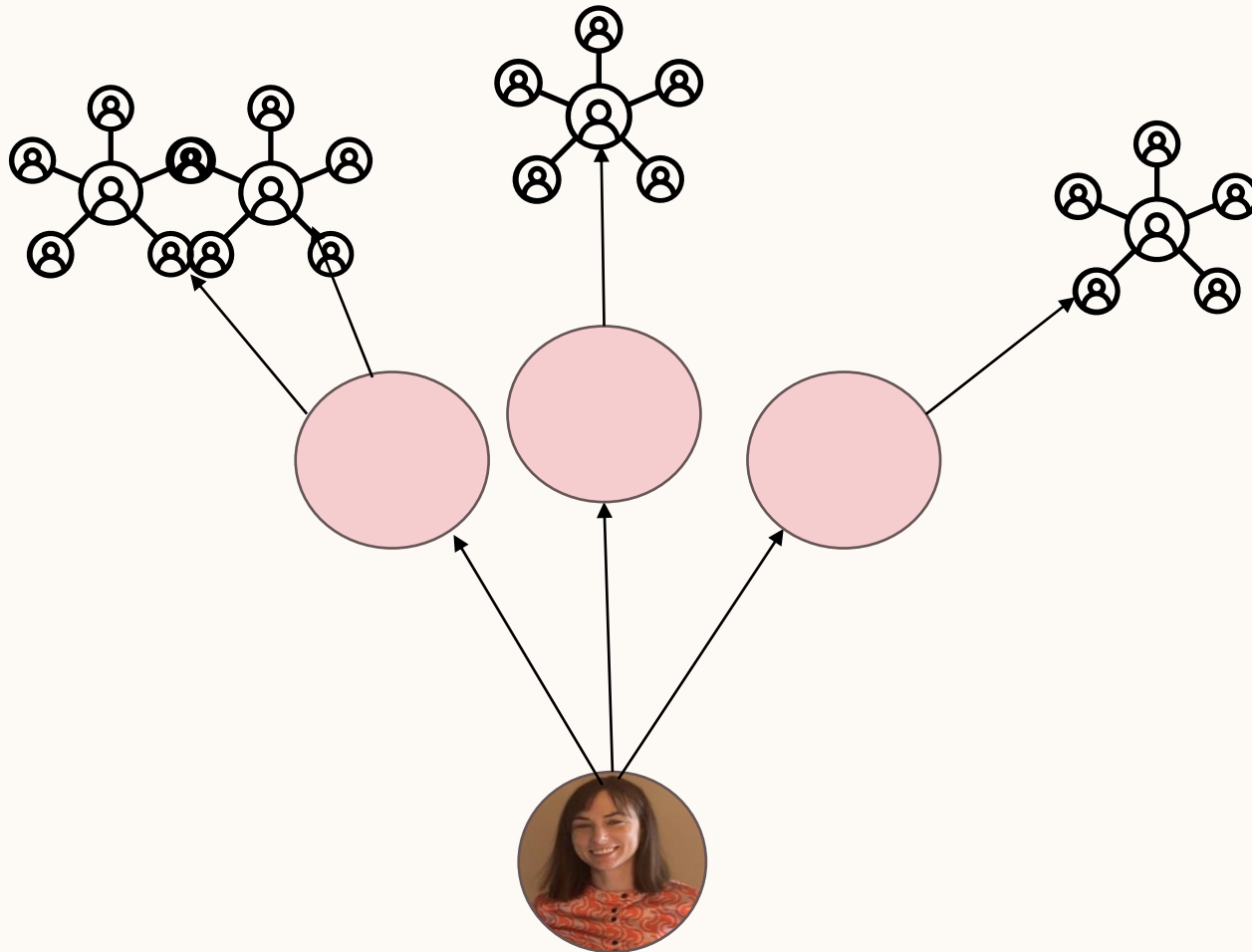
LEARNING

- Met with FWS climate leaders from Washington

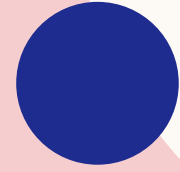


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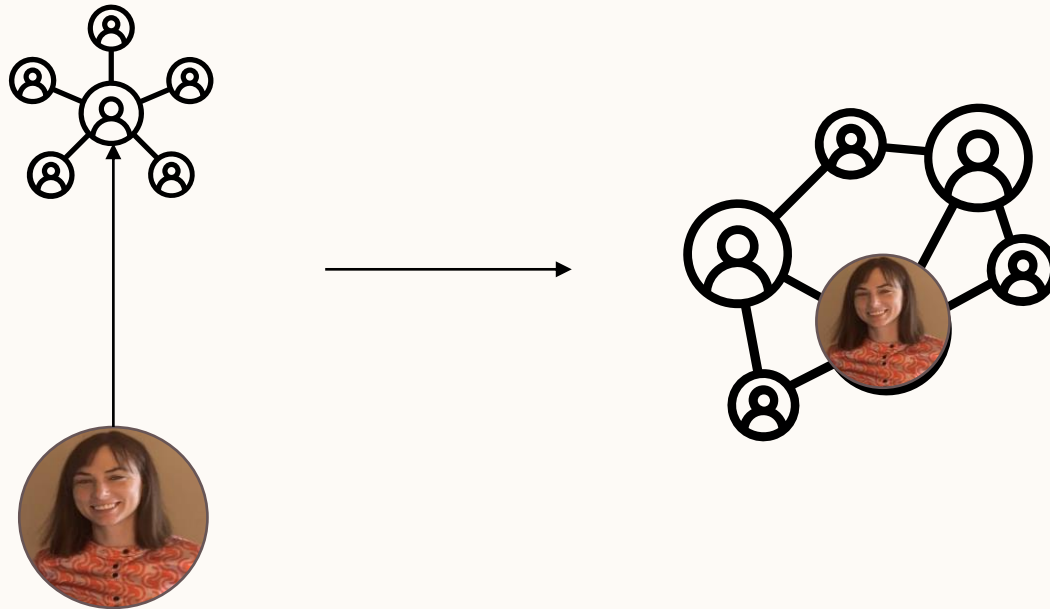
- Joined the Climate Coordinating Committee, Community of Practice, Cross regional Climate Coordinating Committee



LEARNING



- Initial conversations with regional climate coordinators



LEARNING

- Attended climate workshops, presentations, seminars, etc.

LEARNING

- Reassessed and revamped my plan

LEARNING

Context

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the **continuing** benefit of the American people.



Context

Financial Implications

Potential to impact financial allocation considerations in the future

Direction of Leadership

Administration's direction, EO's and SO;
FWS CCAP and updates

Social Pressure

Many regions have stood up climate committees, regional climate action plans

Values

Climate coordination helps to demonstrate the values of FWS

R8 Science App Goals

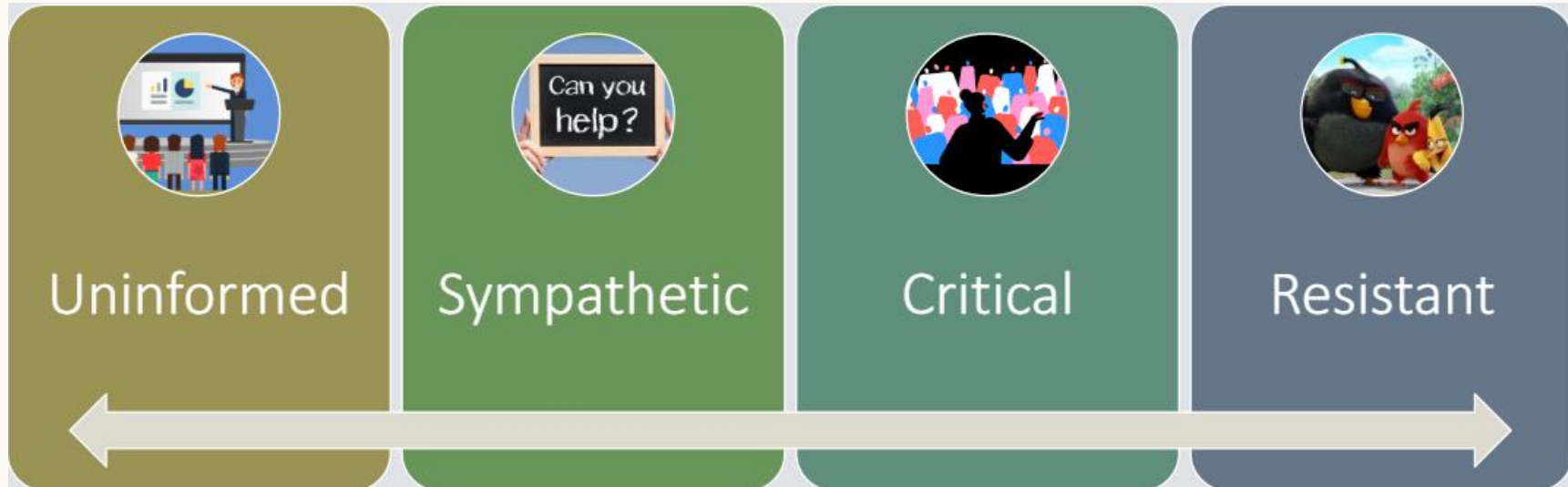
Connection to Region 8 Priorities and/or Science Apps

What will stick?

- Ground in regional priorities/ focus on opportunities
- Climate change is a challenge with intersectionality
- How can our climate actions be integrated with other efforts?
- Climate action is a value-laden decision and every decision we make matters
- Relevance- we need to adapt our agency and our approaches with the ecological changes we are seeing
- Reduce psychological distance
 - Need to start talking, sharing, showcasing our work

AUDIENCES

- Prepare for challenging conversations
- Cater to the audience
- Find innovative ways to connect with leadership



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Indirect

R8 DEIA Action Team

- Meet with leadership
- EJ and connection to climate change

R8 Mentor Program

- RDT supportive and engaged with program

Social Science work

- Participating on NCTC climate course development
- Participation on DOD-FWS climate work

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Direct

SA-refuge work

- Regional priority with links to CCAP and climate coordination

Nature-Based Solutions

- Exposure and facetime with leadership and allies

Climate groups

- FWS: CoP, Coordination group, RAD, Cross-coordination team

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Focus on the low hanging fruit
to build allies

Climate groups

- FWS: CoP, Coordination group, RAD, Cross-coordination team



Developed objectives & interview
questions to engage with
Community of Practice
participates in R8

Objectives

[What are we doing?] Learn about Region 8 work and interactions with climate change

- What climate variables are impacting R8 employee work?
- What climate training have employees utilized?
- How have employees integrated climate considerations into their work?
- How are employees working across programs on climate work?
- Who are the external partners we are working with on climate related projects?

Objectives

[How are we communicating and sharing efforts?] Share Region 8 climate efforts

- Are there successful case studies we can reference and share internally and externally?
- Are there lessons learned we can share across the region? (e.g., needs, gaps, opportunities)
- How can we leverage this opportunity work across programs on climate integration?

Objectives

[How can we meet needs and support employees?] Develop regional recommendations

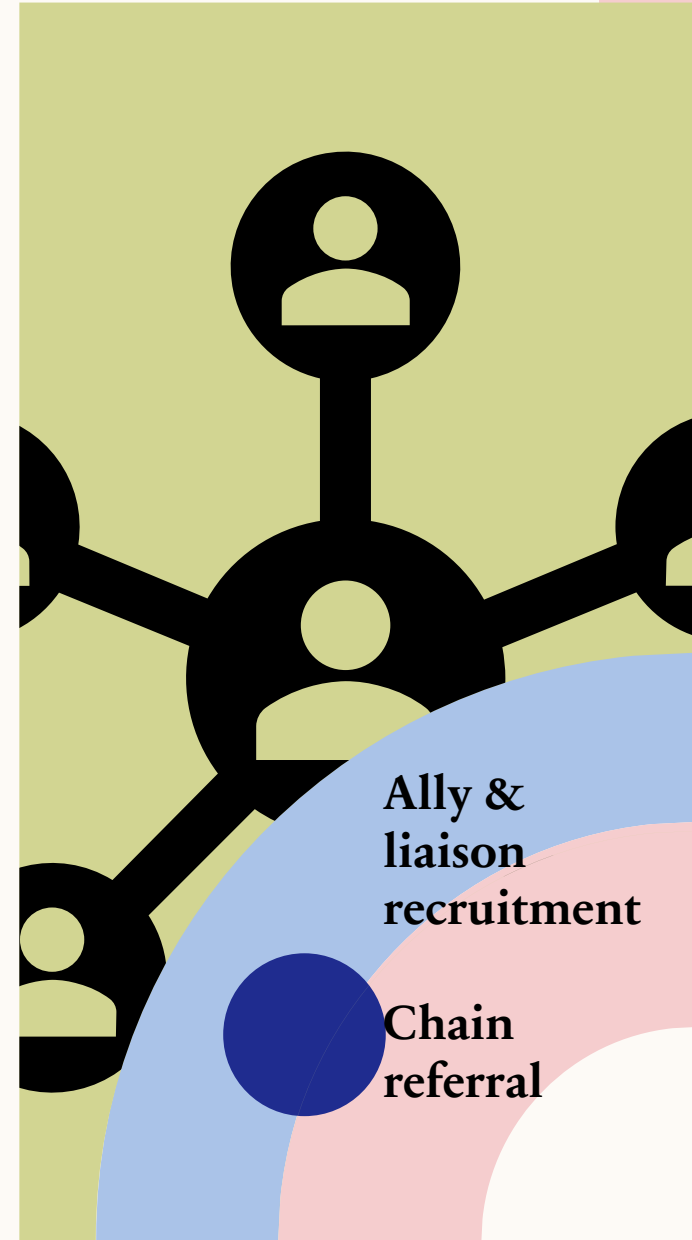
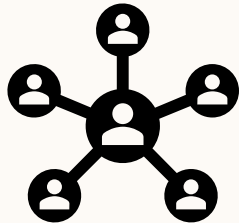
- What are barriers to participating in climate training?
- Where are there opportunities to integrate climate thinking? (Data management tools?)
- How do employees prioritize the CCAP elements for their work?
- What type of climate mitigation initiative do employees support?

Exploratory learning

- What are we doing?
- How are we communicating/sharing those efforts?
- How can we meet needs and support employees?



R8 Employee perspectives



- Ground up approach reaching out to R8 Community of Practice participants
 - Discussions with individuals
 - How climate impacts their work
 - How climate is integrated into their work
 - Barriers, needs, opportunities
 - Effectiveness of current training
 - *Interest in being a liaison to workgroup or office*

BUILDING A NETWORK

- OUTREACH
- BUILDING TRUST & RELATIONSHIPS
- PARTICIPATION
- TAPPING INTO EXISTING NETWORKS & RELATIONSHIPS
- ACTIVELY LISTENING TO NEEDS & ENGAGING
- TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ANY AND ALL OPPORTUNITIES

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- **Attendance at climate related meetings, workshops, workgroups for learning and networking**

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- **Participating in integrating of social science into nature-based solutions, climate change trainings for DOD & NCTC**

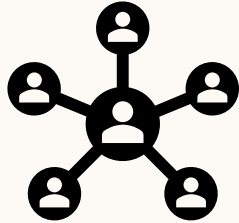
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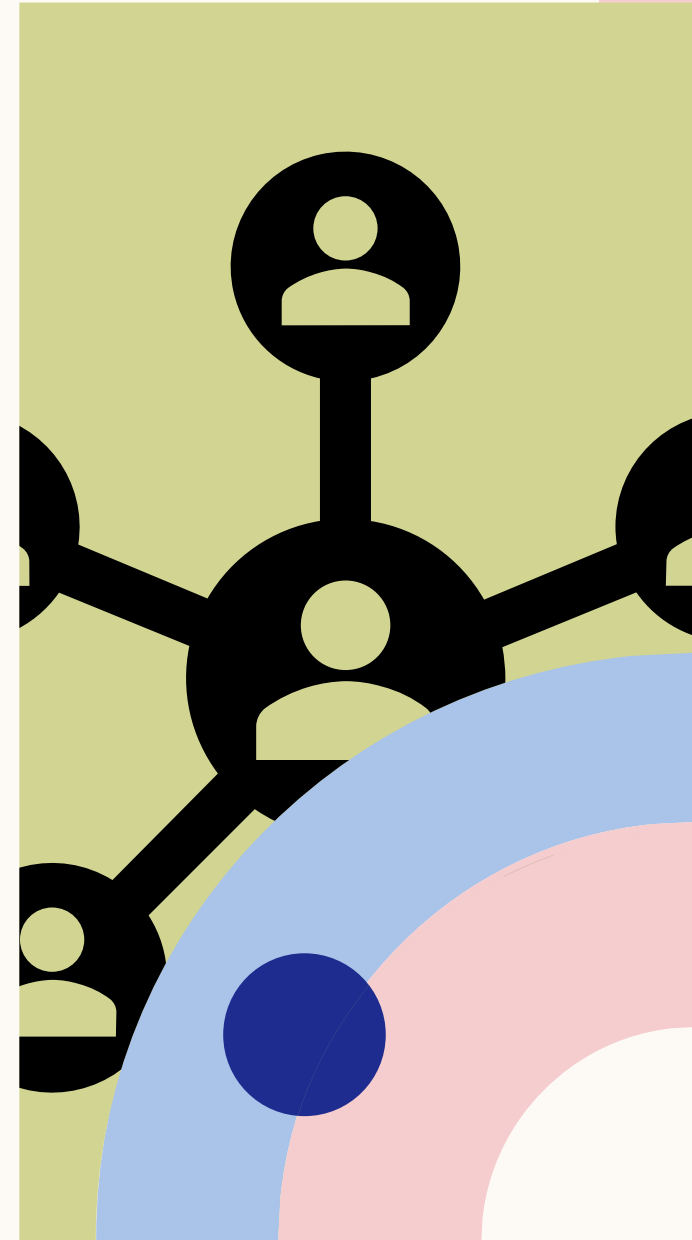
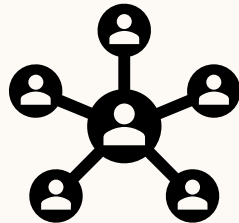
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Employee perspectives



Share out with participants



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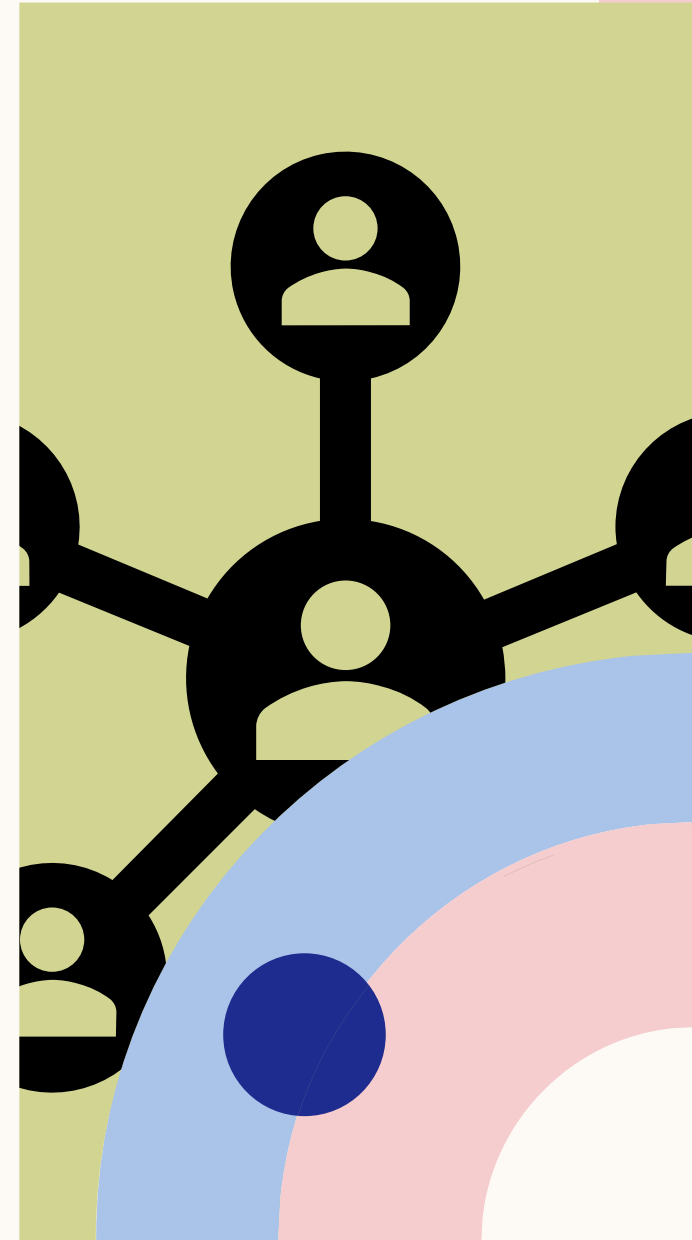
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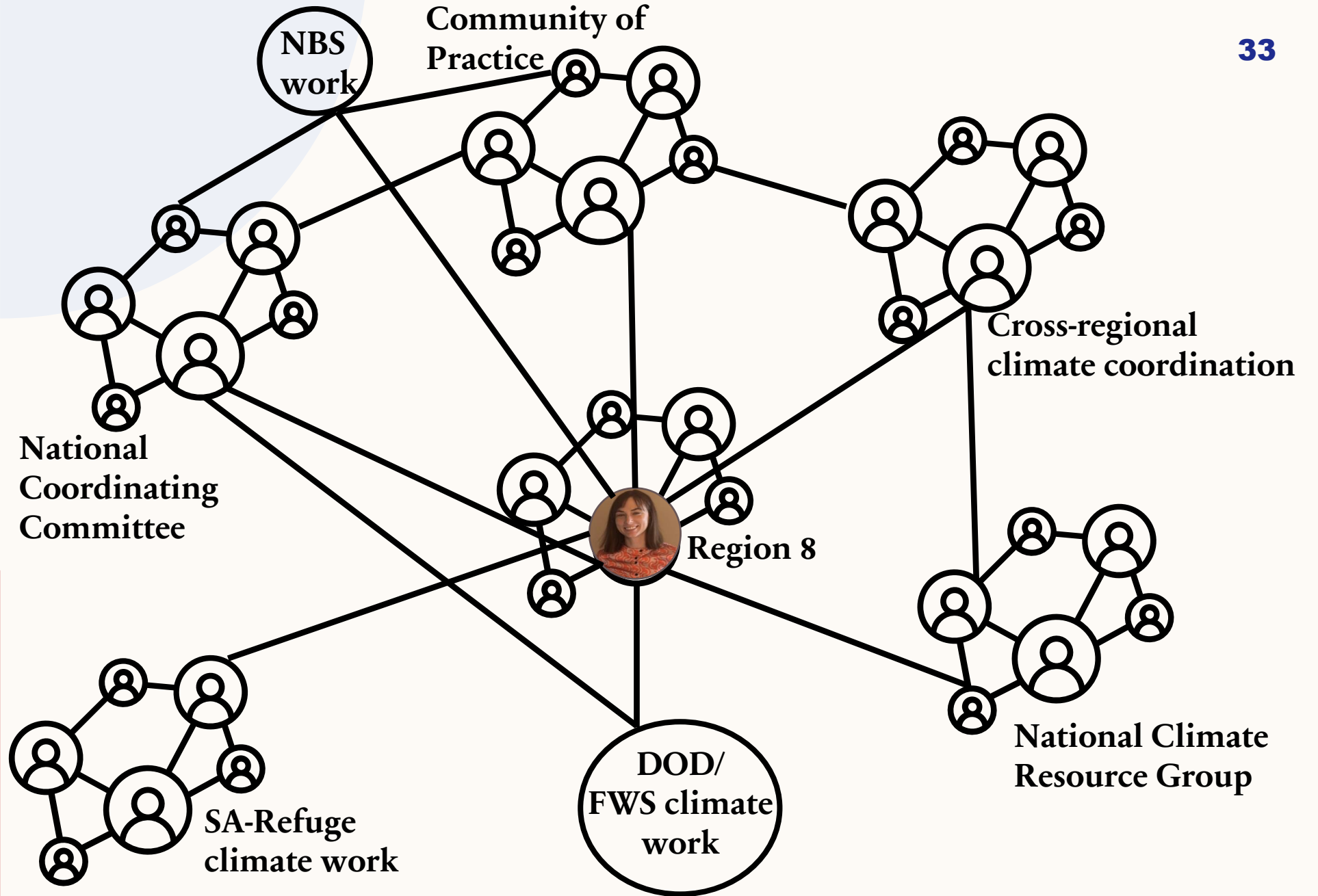


Share out with
participants



Integrate feedback, create a team,
develop objectives and roadmap for
next steps





NEXT STEPS

- Compile notes from conversations
- Share back, get feedback, share with leadership
- Create R8 coordination team
- Determine priorities, objectives, next steps
- **Potential create/disseminate survey informed by initial conversations or focus groups**

DESIRED OUTCOME

- Peer-to-peer climate learning network across region 8
- Increased climate literacy and/or access to climate resources
- R8 Step-down plan approved by leadership
- 5-year Action Plan

**THANK
YOU**

