

## Introduction

CIRES' Western Water Assessment [WWA] is one of eleven active NOAA Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments [RISA] teams in the United States.

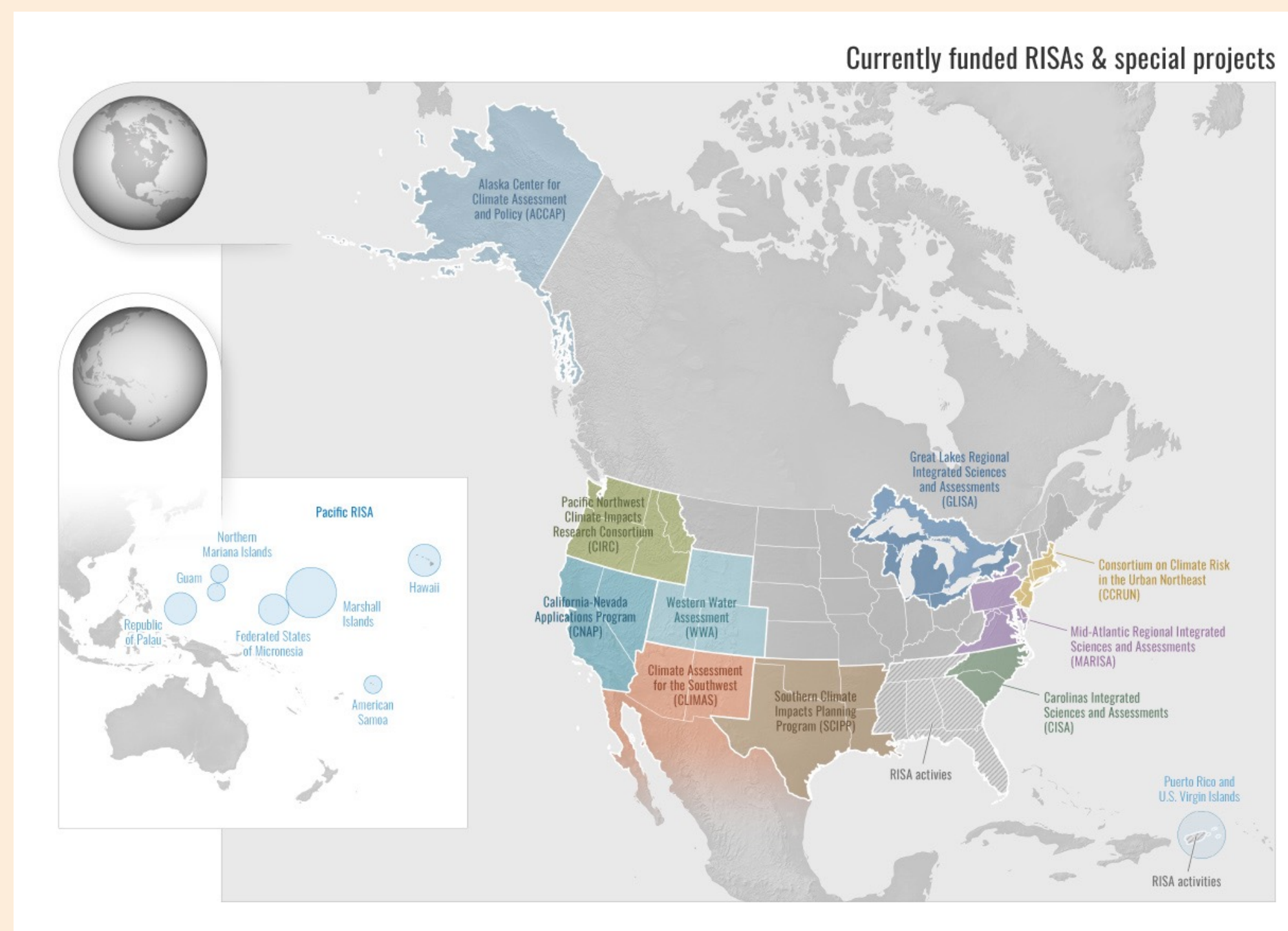


Figure 1: map of RISA project areas across the USA: [cpo.noaa.gov](http://cpo.noaa.gov)

WWA's research mission is to **address societal vulnerabilities to climate variability and climate change** in the Intermountain West, particularly those **related to water resources**.

## Summer 2020 Exploratory Study: WY

### Goals:

1. Gather information on existing Wyoming-based projects, sectors, and communities that are engaged in climate adaptation work
2. Determine how WWA can best support these initiatives

## Methods

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the primary methods were a series of remotely-based Zoom interviews with key personnel in government, federal and state agencies, and natural resource-centered NGOs.

## There are multiple opportunities for collaborative climate adaptation work in Wyoming

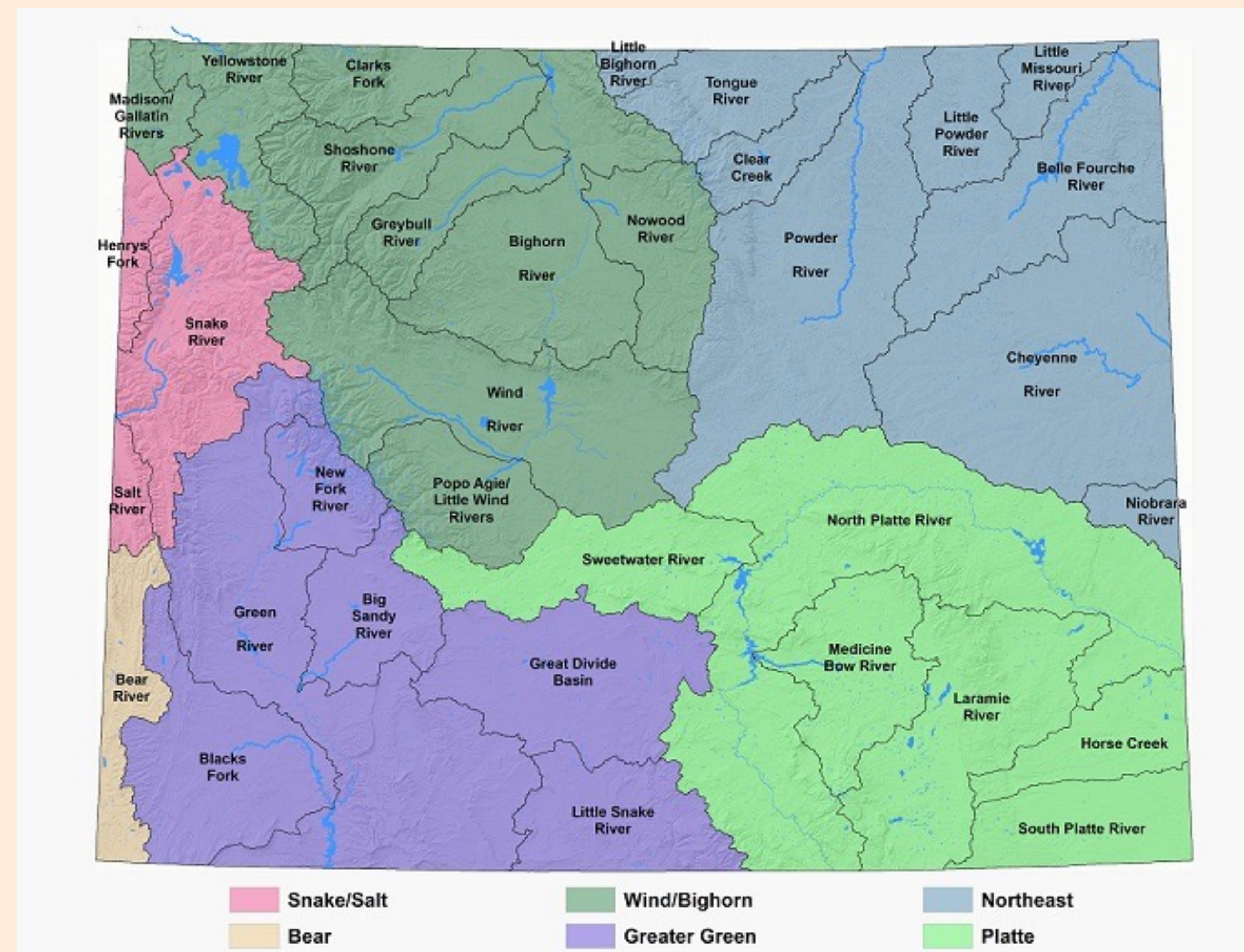


Figure 2: Map of Wyoming river basins from the Wyoming State Geological Survey ([www.wsgs.wyo.gov](http://www.wsgs.wyo.gov))

## Potential collaborations include:

- **Greater Yellowstone Climate Assessment:** collaborative, stakeholder-driven project; WWA's contributions will include lending expertise and assistance to the pending community vulnerability and needs assessment.
- **State River Basin Plan updates:** collaboration with the WY Water Development Office and USDA Climate Hub; WWA's contribution will be our convening expertise and our data.
- **State Wildlife and Habitat Plans:** Wyoming Game and Fish - Aquatic Division and the North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center [NC CASC] are working together to explicitly include climate adaptation initiatives as they update the WY state wildlife and state habitat plans. The project coordinators hope to draw on WWA resources and expertise for these plan redrafts.

## Key Study Contributions:

- **Catalogue** of existing and planned Wyoming-based climate adaptation (and related) projects
- **Contact and connection** with these project coordinators
- **Opportunities identified** for WWA to collaborate and support climate adaptation projects across the state

## Next Steps:

These findings have informed WWA program planning in WY. Some collaborations are underway and there are plans to engage tribal and other rural small communities, including "listening sessions" and collaboratively identifying ways to build resilience in the face of climate and energy transitions.

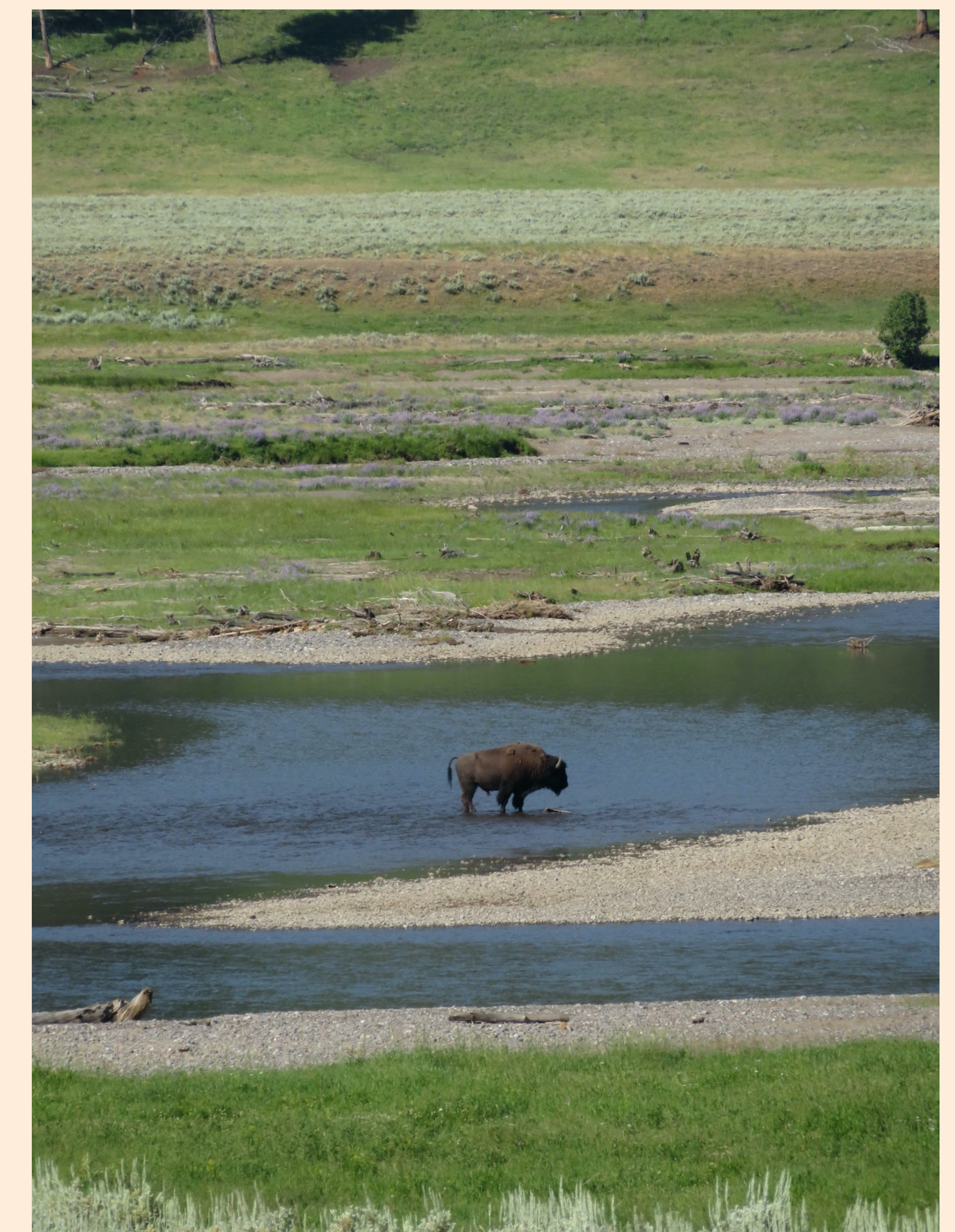


Figure 3: Wyoming landscape. Photographer: Lisa Dilling