

**Conservation Leadership Forum: Climate Change Adaptation**  
**June 1-3, 2009**

**Speaker Biographies**

**Dan Ashe** is Science Advisor to the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Prior to his appointment as Science Advisor, Ashe served as Assistant Director of the National Wildlife Refuge System and External Affairs. In 1997, he was the Service's lead negotiator with Congress and conservation interests in developing comprehensive legislation governing management of the Refuge System. This effort led to enactment of the landmark National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997.

Prior to coming to the Service, Ashe served 13 years on the staff of the former Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Committee dealt with a range of environmental policy issues, including endangered species and biodiversity conservation, ocean and coastal resources protection, the National Wildlife Refuge System, the National Marine Sanctuaries Program, the Clean Water Act, wetlands conservation, fisheries management, and offshore oil and gas development.

**Mike Bryant** is Project Leader of the North Carolina Coastal Plain Refuge Complex which consists of six national wildlife refuges: Alligator River NWR, Pea Island NWR, Pocosin Lakes NWR, Mackay Island NWR, Currituck NWR and Roanoke River NWR – total of 300,000 acres. Bryant also serves as Red Wolf Recovery Coordinator. He has been responsible for and/or helped operate and maintain 16 refuges and numerous conservation easement lands in four states and three regions. Bryant's work involves a range of wildlife, habitat and public issues including: endangered species, waterfowl, shorebird, colonial-nesting waterbirds, and neotropical migrant bird management; cooperative farming, forest management, moist soil, impoundment, and marsh management, and fire management; intensive public use programs and visitor center operations, volunteer and friends group programs; law enforcement; oil and gas operations management; water rights management; and rights-of-way management.

**David J. Hayes** is Deputy Secretary of the Interior. Hayes was confirmed as Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior on May 20, 2009. He was nominated for the position on February 27, 2009, after serving as a leader in President Obama's Transition Team, heading the agency review process for the Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior and Environmental Protection Agency. Deputy Secretary Hayes is the second highest ranking official at the Department of the Interior and has authority over all of the Department's bureaus and offices. He works directly with Secretary Salazar on key issues associated with Western water rights, federal land management, implementation of the Endangered Species Act, and issues involving the national parks and Indian tribes.

Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Hayes was the Global Chairman of Latham & Watkins' Environment, Land and Resources Department, where he earned distinction as one of the nation's top environmental and natural resource lawyers. He also has served as a Senior Fellow for the World Wildlife Fund, focusing on forestry and biodiversity issues. In 2007 and 2008, he was a consulting professor at Stanford University's Woods Institute for the Environment, where he led a project to find achievable and practical climate change policy solutions.

Hayes has previously worked at the Interior Department, serving as Deputy Secretary from 1999-2001 and Counselor to the Secretary of the Interior from 1997 to 1999. During that time he played a lead role in helping introduce modern water management approaches in the West, settling long-standing Indian water and land disputes, and establishing new national parks, including Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado. Throughout his career, Deputy Secretary Hayes has been actively involved in developing progressive solutions to environmental and natural resources challenges. He is a former chairman of the Board of the Environmental Law Institute, a nonprofit research and publication center for environmental law and management professionals; he was the vice-chair of American Rivers, a national conservation organization; and he has written and lectured widely in the field. He was a member of the Clinton/Gore Transition Team for the Environmental Protection Agency in 1992-1993.

**Tom Franklin** is Senior Vice-President for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP). Franklin joined the TRCP in March 2007. He earned a B.A. in natural resource conservation and wildlife management from the University of Maryland in 1972 and an M.S. administrative science from The Johns Hopkins University in 1988. Franklin was a wildlife biologist with the Urban Wildlife Research Center from 1973 to 1978 and was promoted to Executive Director in 1978. The UWRC investigated ways to protect and conserve wildlife in urban and suburban areas. In 1983 Franklin joined The Wildlife Society (TWS) as Field Director, in charge of membership activities and conservation affairs. In 1991, he was selected as Wildlife Policy Director, where he led the TWS' government relations program. In 1994, Franklin established a wild bird and nature retail store, The Wildlife Authority, Inc., located in Ellicott City, Maryland. From 2004-05, he served as acting Executive Director of TWS. In June 2005, he was named Izaak Walton League's Conservation Director leading the government affairs and education programs.

**Dr. Hector Galbraith** is Director of the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences Climate Change Initiative Team. He is one of the leading scientists in the field of evaluating the current and future impacts of climate change on ecological resources and of developing science-based adaptation strategies. The results of his research have been published in over 60 papers and chapters in books and peer-reviewed journals. He has carried out research projects for U.S. federal and state agencies into the likely impacts of global climate change on ecosystems, including evaluating the potential impacts of sea level rise on coastal ecosystems; how climate change might affect

services provided by ecosystems in California and Arizona; developing an analytical framework for assessing species' vulnerabilities to climate change; and predicting the potential impacts of climate change on alpine tundra habitats and animals in the U.S. He has written a major report for the PEW Charitable Trust on the observed effects of climate change in Rocky Mountain National Park, edited and contributed to a major report from the American Bird Conservancy on ecosystem vulnerability in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area in southern Arizona.

**Dr. Josh Lawler** is an Assistant Professor in the College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in ecology from Utah State University and has served as a postdoctoral fellow with the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy at the University of Maine; a research associate of the National Research Council at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and a Nature Conservancy David H. Smith postdoctoral fellow at Oregon State University.

Dr. Lawler's research focuses on landscape ecology and conservation biology. He is most interested in how anthropogenic factors affect species distributions, population dynamics, and community composition at regional and continental scales. His current research involves investigating the effects of climate change on species distributions and populations, exploring the influence of landscape pattern on animal populations and communities, and addressing the issue of climate change for conservation planning and natural resource management.

**Dr. Alexander E. (Sandy) MacDonald** is Deputy Assistant Administrator for NOAA Research Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes and Director of the Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL). Dr. MacDonald served as Acting Director for the Earth System Research Laboratory and Director of the ESRL Global Systems Division during the consolidation of the Boulder Laboratories into the Earth System Research Laboratory in 2006. Prior to the consolidation, Dr. MacDonald led the Forecast Systems Laboratory.

Dr. MacDonald was the Director of the Program for Regional Observing and Forecasting Services (PROFS) from 1983 to 1988. From 1980-82, he was Chief of PROFS' Exploratory Development Group and from 1975-80 he was a Techniques Improvement Meteorologist in the Scientific Services Division, Western Region, National Weather Service in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was an Air Force Officer while a member of the U.S. Air Force from 1967-71.

**Gary Myers** has served as Executive Director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency for the past 30 years. He played a leadership role in the development and passage of a \$125 million annual expansion of the Dingle-Johnson fund and was president of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 1986. He has been actively involved in implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, both nationally and internationally. He also has served on the North

American Wetlands Conservation Council and is presently involved in the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. He currently serves on the U.S. Trilateral Committee dealing with bird issues with Canada, Mexico and the U.S. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency secured funds used to establish the first waterfowl Joint Venture, hosted the original meeting of what became the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture and has remained actively involved in North American Waterfowl Management Plan implementation activities. He also served on the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council Fisheries Program Strategic Plan Steering Committee (SFBPC) and the SFBPC National Fish Hatchery Project Steering Committee and currently serves on the National Fish Habitat Board.

**Dave Schad** is the Fish and Wildlife Director for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), a position he has held since 2006. He has a degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Minnesota, and has worked for Minnesota DNR since 1981. In that time, he has worked as both an area and regional wildlife manager, and oversaw big game, forest wildlife, and wetland and waterfowl programs for the agency. Prior to being appointed Director, he served as the DNR's Wildlife Chief. He currently chairs the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Climate Change Committee, and serves on the USGS National Climate Change Wildlife Science Center Steering Committee and the National Fish and Wildlife Health Steering Committee.

**Thomas Strickland** serves as the chief of staff to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and as the Assistant Secretary of Fish and Wildlife and Parks with the Department of the Interior. Before joining Interior, Strickland was executive vice president and chief legal officer of UnitedHealth Group from May 2007. Prior to joining UnitedHealth Group, he was a partner of the Hogan & Hartson law firm, serving as Managing Partner for the firm's Colorado offices. He was also a member of Hogan & Hartson's executive committee. At Hogan & Hartson, Strickland represented clients on a wide range of litigation, business and regulatory matters.

Before joining Hogan & Hartson, Strickland served as United States Attorney for the District of Colorado from 1999 through 2001. Prior to his appointment as the top Justice Department official for Colorado, he spent 15 years with a prominent Denver law firm where he was a senior partner in charge of the regulatory, administrative, and public law practice. In 1996 and 2002, he was the Democratic nominee for the United States Senate in Colorado. From 1982 to 1984 he served as the chief policy advisor for Colorado Governor Richard D. Lamm, advising the governor on all policy and intergovernmental issues, and from 1985 to 1989, he served on, and chaired, the Colorado Transportation Commission. Strickland also served as legal counsel to the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and was a founder and board member of Great Outdoors Colorado, the lottery-funded program which has invested over \$600 million into parks, wildlife and open space programs in Colorado.

Strickland received his bachelor's in English literature, with honors, from Louisiana State University, where he was an All-SEC Academic Football Selection. He received his J.D., with honors, from the University of Texas School of Law. He is a member of the Colorado, Minnesota and Texas Bars.