

Strawman Outline

National Fish and Wildlife Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

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Challenge Statement: A concerted national effort—a national fish and wildlife adaptation strategy—is essential to maintaining fish, wildlife, plants and functioning ecosystems in this time of significant global climate change. The adverse effects of climate change upon natural resources will be pervasive, and will be manifest across landscapes, irrespective of ownership and administrative boundaries. By working together in an effective, efficient and interdependent way, private conservation interests, States, Tribes, private landowners, the federal government, academia, and the public can help these species and ecosystems adapt by increasing their resilience and decreasing their vulnerability to climate change. No longer can we assume that ecological goods and services will continue to be produced for the benefit of humankind with traditional *coordination* between organizations. We must embrace a new concept and goal of interdependency, which we believe can be the product of a national fish and wildlife adaptation strategy. The effort will be difficult and costly but is essential to our success as conservation organizations, and it will be a crucial element of broader adaptation strategies benefiting human society globally.

Purpose: The National Fish and Wildlife Climate Adaptation Strategy will provide unifying vision and reflect shared principles and science-based practices for reducing the impacts of climate change to fish, wildlife, and plants, their habitat, and associated ecological processes across geographic scales.

Vision: Ecological systems continue providing life sustaining functions for healthy, diverse and abundant populations of fish, wildlife and plants, as well as human communities that are adapted to survive, thrive and prosper in a world impacted by unprecedented and accelerating global climate change.

Goals:

- Conserve biological diversity –conserve species and genetic diversity
- Maintain ecological services, including populations of priority species and the habitats necessary to sustain them
- Minimize impacts of key invasive species
- Maintain wildlife health
- Maintain water quantity and quality

Conservation Approaches:

- Landscape conservation through adaptive management (Strategic Habitat Conservation)
- Ongoing and expected impacts of climate change on natural resources (Climate Science Centers)
 - High resolution climate projections
 - Coupling climate projections with ecological response models

Biological planning and conservation design (Landscape Conservation Cooperatives)

Adaptation Planning

Population-habitat assessment

Vulnerability assessment

Scenario planning

Integration of planning at multiple geographic scales

International (multiple LCCs and international LCC)

National (multiple LCCs)

Ecoregional (LCC)

State (SWAPs – usually address multiple LCCs)

Local (regional and local planning efforts)

Conservation delivery

Approaches

Federal agency integrated response

Recommendations for States, Tribes, local governments, NGOs,

etc.

Integration of delivery at multiple geographic scales

Research and monitoring

I&M

Existing efforts

Needs assessment

Integration of I&M across multiple scales & organizations

Research

Existing efforts

Needs assessment

Integration of research across multiple scales & organizations

Direct species management

In-situ conservation approaches

Managed relocation

Reduce stressors

Ex-situ management

Captive breeding

Germplasm banks

Communication, education, and training

Integration across multiple scales & organizations

Developing Interdependence:

Collaborative approach to developing a national plan

Coordinating Federal agency adaptation plans

Obtaining full buy-in from States, Tribes, local governments and NGOs

Integrating all efforts

Mechanism for joint decision-making and implementation (LCC model?)

Funding Mechanisms:

Budget process
Grants
Cap-and-trade