National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy:

Project Plan and Timeline

Mark Shaffer (FWS), Roger Griffis (NOAA), Gerry Barnhart (AFWA)

Why Do We Need a National Strategy?

Adverse impacts of climate change will not respect administrative boundaries

No single entity or level of government can help wildlife adapt to the climate change challenge, but collectively, as a conservation community, we can.

University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

What is a National Fish and Wildlife Climate Adaptation Strategy?

An agreement among major conservation interests that identifies and defines principles and methods to maintain key terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems and functions needed to sustain fish, wildlife and plant resources in the face of accelerating climate change.

In short—a blueprint for common action.

FY2010 Appropriations Act Conference Report

Urges the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the Department of the Interior (with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as lead agency) to develop a national, government-wide strategy to address climate impacts on fish, wildlife, plants and associated ecological processes.

Intergovernmental Support

- FWS, NOAA and NY/DEC to co-lead
- All bureaus within the Interior Department
- USDA's Forest Service, Farm Services Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Army Corps of Engineers and DOD Installations
- EPA
- State natural resource agencies
- Tribes

Proposed Structure

Steering Committee
FWS, NMFS, CEQ,
NOS, BLM, NPS, BOR, BIA, USGS, MMS
FS, NRCS, DOD, COE, EPA, APHIS, FSA
STATE REPS (WI, NY, FL, WA, CA)
TRIBAL REPS (REP1, REP2)

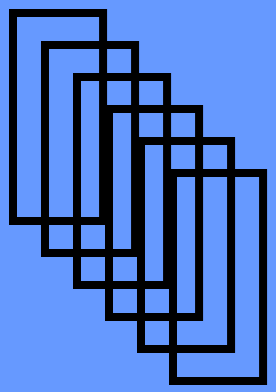
- Senior reps
- Leadership
- Responsible for producing Strategy

Management Team
FWS, NOAA, AFWA

- Project management
- Engagement Strategy

Working Group

- Senior staff to Scomm members
- Support Strategy development



Technical Teams

- Assemble and synthesize info
- Draft sections of Strategy

Ongoing Engagement

Continued collaboration with nongovernmental organizations, national associations and local governments

Guiding Principles

- A national framework for cooperative climate response
- A focus on national boundaries but with the recognition of the international nature of fish and wildlife resources
- A philosophy of collaboration and interdependence
- Landscape-scale science and management approaches
- Integration of adaptation and mitigation efforts
- A pragmatic approach with respect to ecological disruptions and the sustainability of biodiversity and functioning ecosystems

Conservation Leadership Forums

More than 40 representatives from federal and state natural resource agencies, as well as nongovernmental conservation and environmental organizations

Have helped shape thinking on best approach to strategy

Key Products and Next Steps

Products and Actions

- Vision, Purpose and Guiding Principles (2010)
- Key Components of a Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy (2010)
- Initial listening session held at major meetings and conferences from March to November (2010)

Next Steps

- Formation of Interagency/Intergovernmental Steering Committee
- Additional engagement sessions
- An initial draft of the strategy will be completed in 2011 and a final plan completed during 2012

Timeline

Steering Committee Formed—December 2010

Technical Teams Identified--January 2011

Engagement Sessions— Beginning January 2011

Agency Review Draft—September 2011

Public Review Draft—January 2012

Final Strategy—July 2012

Facing Change Together

U.S. Global Change Research Program

Vision

Ecological systems will continue to sustain healthy, diverse, well-distributed, and abundant populations of fish, wildlife, plants, and human communities that are adapted to survive and thrive in a world impacted by unprecedented and accelerating global climate change.

Purpose

The National Fish and Wildlife Climate Adaptation Strategy will provide a unified approach—reflecting shared principles and science-based practices—for reducing the impacts of climate change on fish, wildlife, plants, habitats, and associated ecological processes across geographic scales.