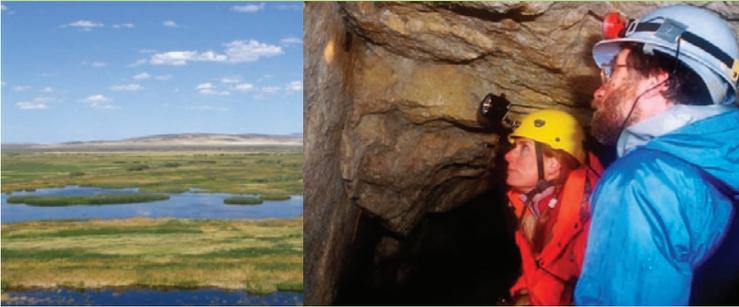




Shared solutions to protect shared values



VISION Ecological systems will sustain healthy, diverse, and abundant populations of fish, wildlife, and plants that continue to provide valuable cultural, economic and environmental benefits in a world impacted by global climate change.

PURPOSE The National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy (Strategy) will provide a unified approach—reflecting shared principles and science-based practices—for reducing the negative impacts of climate change on fish, wildlife, plants, habitats, and our natural resource heritage.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES Build a national—not federal—framework for cooperative climate response. No single sector can effectively respond to climate impacts alone. An unprecedented commitment to collaboration and communication is required among federal, state, and tribal governments and active engagement with non-government organizations, industry groups, and private landowners. The strategy will be a blueprint for collective effort rather than a prescription for specific action by any single entity.

1 | Focus actions and investments on the natural resources of the U.S. and its territories. At the same time, a high priority on international collaboration and information-sharing, particularly across our borders with Canada and Mexico will ensure the conservation of resources over broad geographic ranges.

2 | Adopt a landscape/seascape-based approach that integrates science and management. The Strategy will emphasize: 1) ecological systems and function, 2) strengthened observational systems, 3) model-based projections, 4) species-habitat linkages, 5) risk assessment, and 6) active and passive adaptive management.

3 | Ensure that the Strategy is integrated with and useful to the goals and adaptation plans of other sectors. These include energy, forestry, water management, transportation, agriculture, and health.

4 | Engage the public. To ensure success and gain support for the Strategy, we must place a high priority on public communication and education.

5 | Identify critical scientific and management needs. These may include new information technology, training to expand technical skills, or new policies, programs, and regulations.

6 | Ensure that climate adaptation and mitigation efforts are not carried out in isolation. Rather, the two should be integrated within the context of current conservation efforts and short- and long-term adaptation goals.

7 | Understand that time is of the essence. Immediate planning and action are needed to understand and address the impacts of climate change throughout this century and beyond. 





WHAT IS IT?

The National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy is a comprehensive, multi-partner response to the threat of climate change in the United States. It will outline a unified approach to maintaining the key terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems needed to sustain fish, wildlife and plant resources and the services they provide now and into the future.

A Blueprint for Common Action

The Strategy will identify strategic goals, the key barriers to implementing these strategies, and specific solutions to overcome these barriers. It will serve as a valuable tool for federal and state agencies, wildlife managers, tribes, and private landowners as they continue to manage their lands and natural resources in a changing environment.

How the Strategy Is Structured

The Strategy will outline needed scientific support, policy and legal frameworks, management practices, processes for integration and communication, and a framework for stepping down and implementing these approaches both nationally and within each ecosystem section. It will enable national and international conservation communities to harness collective expertise, authority, and skills to define and prioritize a shared set of conservation goals and objectives. 



WHO'S INVOLVED?

The Strategy is being led by a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the New York Division of Fish, Wildlife, & Marine Resources (representing state fish and wildlife agencies more broadly). The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is providing support for developing the Strategy.

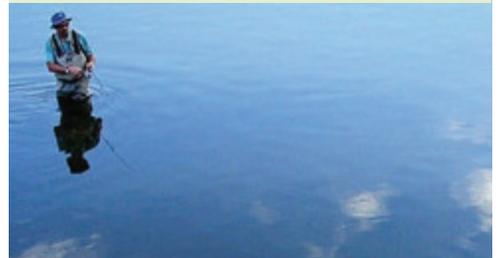
The Strategy is also being developed with input from a broad range of federal, state, and tribal partners, with active engagement with non-government organizations, industry groups, and private landowners.

Steering Committee

A Steering Committee consisting of representatives from 16 federal agencies with management authorities for fish, wildlife, plants, or habitat, as well as representatives from five state fish and wildlife agencies and two tribal commissions has been formed to direct and oversee the development process.

The Steering Committee is supported by a Management Team composed of staff from the co-chairing organizations, as well as five Technical Teams of experts who are primarily responsible for drafting the Strategy. The five Technical Teams each focus on an ecosystem-based section of the Strategy: freshwaters, coasts, the marine environment, forests, and grasslands/shrublands. 

BACKGROUND In 2009, Congress urged the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Department of the Interior to develop a national, government-wide climate adaptation strategy to assist fish, wildlife, plants, and related ecological processes in becoming more resilient, adapting to, and surviving the impacts of climate change as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act Conference Report.



KEY MILESTONES

- Begin Outreach and Engagement Sessions: 2009/2010
- Steering Committee Formed: December 2010
- First Steering Committee meeting: January 2011
- Establish Technical Teams: February 2011
- First Technical Team meeting: March 2011
- Agency Review Draft: September 2011
- Public Review Draft: October 2011
- Final Strategy: May 2012

