

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

# **Conservation in a Changing Climate**

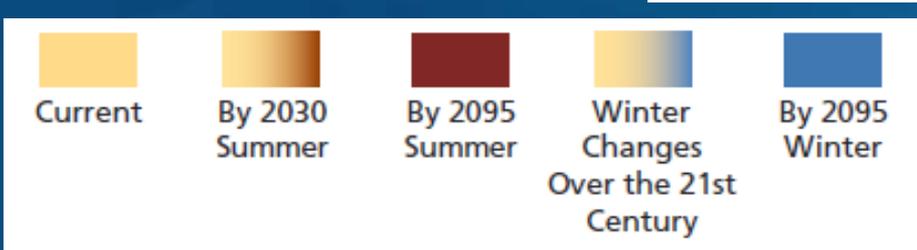
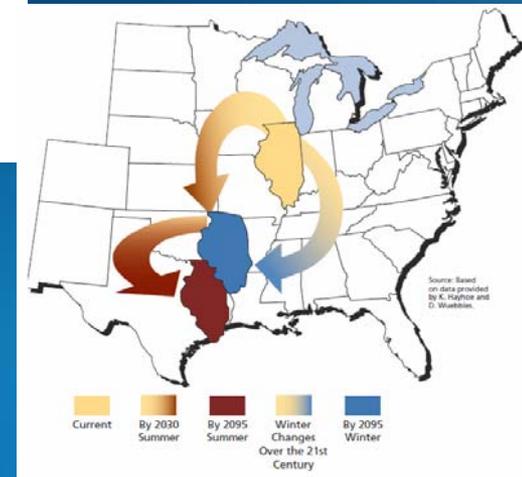
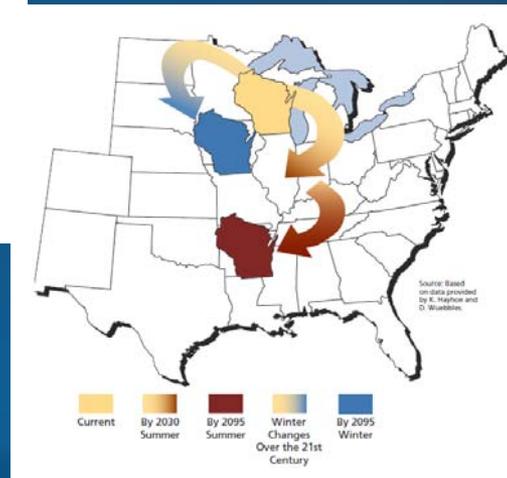
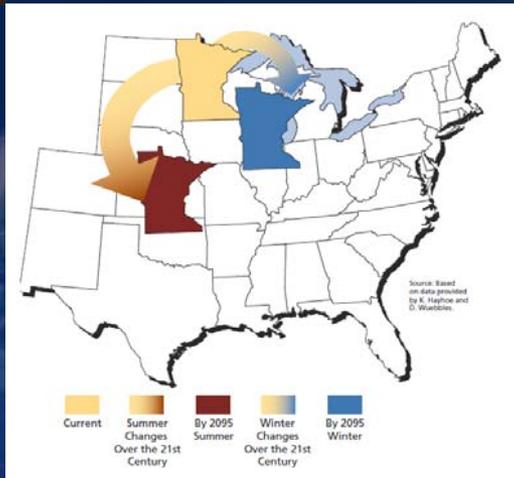
**Tom Melius, Regional Director  
Midwest Region**

**MAFWA Meeting  
June 2009**



# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Pictures Worth 1,000 Words



2003. ESA and Union of Concerned Scientists *Great Lakes Report*



# Agenda

- Key management questions
- FWS Strategic Plan
- Current Action



## Some Key Questions

- How do we allocate scarce resources to between management of existing habitat and probable future habitat?
- What to do without enough water, or too much water?
- If and when should we assist with species migration?
- And the list goes on . . . .



# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## FWS Strategic Plan

Anticipating release for public review in July 2009, and adoption as soon as possible after the comment period closes.

**INTERNAL DISCUSSION DRAFT**

### *Rising to the Urgent Challenges of a Changing Climate*

**Strategic Plan for Responding to Accelerating Climate Change in the 21st Century**



**“The supreme reality of our time is...the vulnerability of our planet.”**  
-- John F. Kennedy, 35<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, 1963 --



**The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

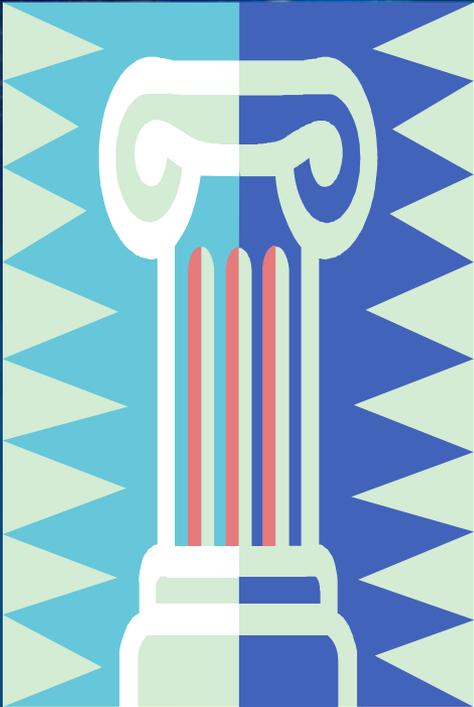
**December 12, 2008**



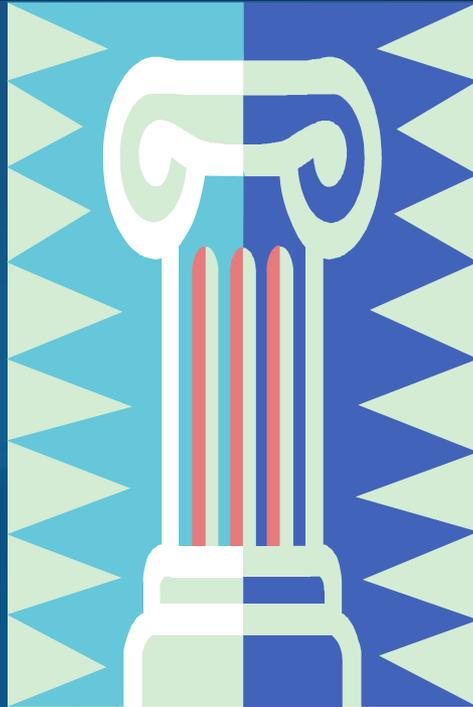
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# Three Pillars

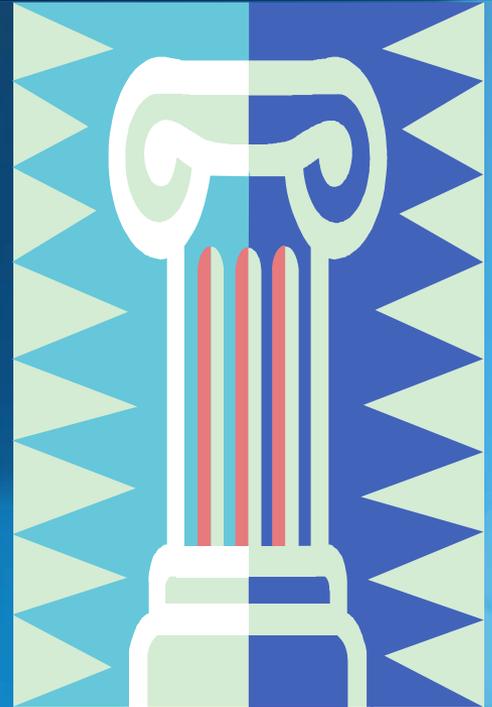
Adaptation



Mitigation



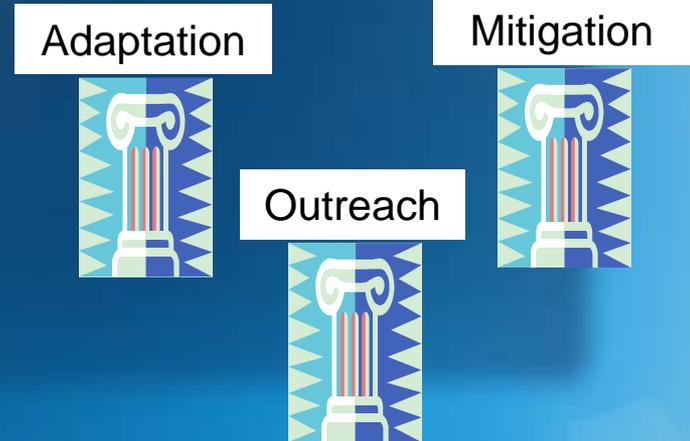
Outreach





## FY 2009 Climate Change Action Priorities

- **Critical Adaptation Issues**
  - Eastern and Western water issues
  - Habitat Connectivity
  - Energy Development
- **Species and habitat vulnerability assessments**
- **Workshops and forums**
- **Energy Conservation**





## The Challenge of Adaptation

- **Habitat Restoration**
  - What baseline?
- **Refugia and Connectivity**
- **Reducing Non-climate Stressors**
- **Maintaining Genetic Diversity**



Adaptation





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# Adaptation: Working With You to Figure It Out

- Conservation Leadership Forum
- Partnership-based adaptation strategy
- Moving forward



Adaptation





# Mitigation



- **Active Engagement in Energy Development and Energy Policy**
- **Carbon Neutral by 2020 all Service Facilities and Activities**
- **Sequestration Science and Policy Development**





# Carbon Sequestration



- Forest sequestration, primarily in the Southeastern US
- Prairie and grassland sequestration in the Midwest and Great Plains





## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Engagement: The Keystone to Success



- Provide information
- Inspire action and policy to address the climate change challenge
- Engage a future generation of conservationists

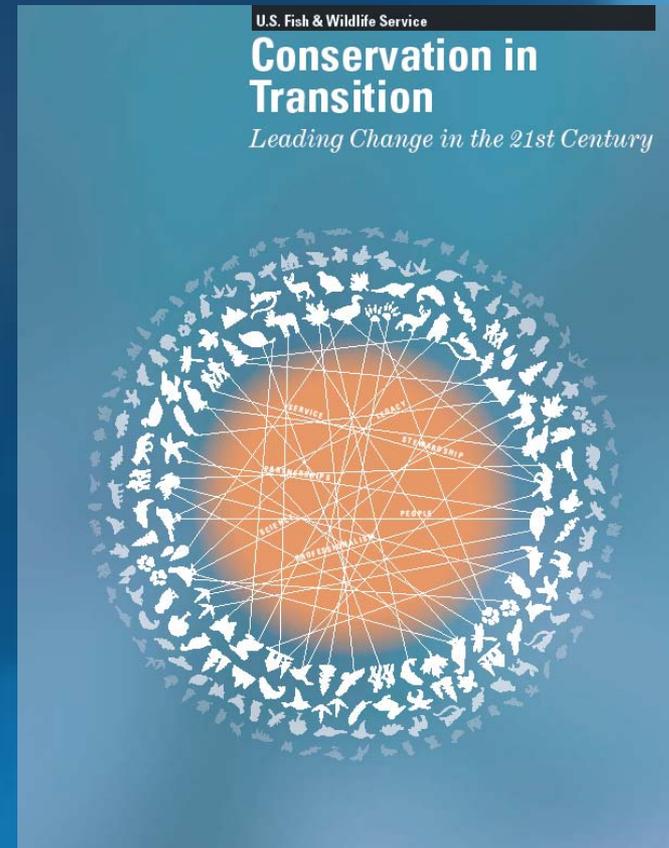
Outreach





## Conservation in Transition

***“We cannot face this challenge by simply repeating the conservation successes of the past.”***





## Conservation in Transition

*“We must rapidly develop the capacity to envision and deliver conservation across connected networks of habitats, based on scientific understanding and predictions of species’ needs.”*

