

## EXHIBIT N

### Conservation in a Changing Climate

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We have all seen the figures indicating increases in temperature between 2 and 6 degrees Celsius, and projections for increases in extreme weather events and increased or decreased precipitation—depending on where you look on the map.

This presentation

- identifies some key management issues that all natural resource agencies face
- Describes the FWS Strategic Plan, which is in the final stages on completion
- And talks about some of the actions take by the Service in FY2009

The Conservation Challenge of our Time:

The effects of a changing climate are changing the context for our work, as professionals and as organizations. We can no longer base our management in the observation and analysis of past trends. We must forecast the future and apply risk-based approaches to design habitat for tomorrow's populations of fish, wildlife and plants.

These are but a very few of the questions that we will have to face, more and more each passing day.

FWS started planning for climate change a little more than a year ago, and we are nearing the point at which we will release our strategy for public review. State Directors in the Midwest all received copies of this draft for advance review. The comments you submitted were used by the National Committee to refine of this document.

A Key Aspect of this Document is defining the FWS's Leadership role within the Department of the Interior:

The Service expects to be a visible and effective partner and leader in addressing the national and international effects of changing climate.

Our approach is built on a belief that dealing with changing climate requires capacity to understand and approach conservation at larger scales -- landscape-scales -- and on the belief that we cannot solve the climate challenge from within our organizational footprint. We must embrace interdependency as an operating paradigm.

We hope to help catalyze a nationwide network of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, using the highly successful migratory bird joint venture model of building shared partner-based capacities.

We divide our climate change vision into three segments: Adaptation; Mitigation; and Engagement, which are described more fully in the next slide.

Three Pillars of the FWS's Strategic Plan

Definitions from Draft Strategic Plan

Adaptation defined as adjustments to moderate harm or exploit opportunity

Mitigation defined as human intervention to reduce sources and increase sinks of greenhouse gases

Outreach is helping people learn and discover about climate change with the ultimate objective of changing behaviors

Here is a sample of the FY09 Actions

- We are working in the west and east to develop a strategy for dealing cooperatively and collaboratively with conservation issues related to too much or not enough water
- We are doing landscape analysis to investigate the suitability of FWS lands for habitat connectivity as climate shifts occur
- We have teams working with partners to pull together the latest scientific information on the effects of energy development on fish and wildlife, and looking for the lowest risk ways to increase domestic energy production
- Our scientists are assessing different methods for assessing species' vulnerability and they will be engage scientists from other agencies and academia as these tools emerge
- NCTC, as you have already heard, is hosting numerous conferences on climate change
- And finally the agency is setting into motion what needs to happen to make the FWS carbon neutral by 2020.
- In the next few slides we look into these priorities in a little more detail.

Adaptation refers to the management actions we take to reduce the impacts of climate change on fish, wildlife, and their habitats. Our emerging strategy envisions adaptation as the core of the Service's climate change response.

Adaptive responses can be reactive in that they are undertaken to maintain current or historic conditions in the face of ongoing changes to the landscape resulting from climate change. Or they can be anticipatory in that they specifically anticipate future changes that will result from climate change and seek to manage resources through the transition to those conditions.

FWS hosted a conference at NCTC in earlier this month to discuss interest in forming a conservation coalition to prepare a National Integrated Adaptation Strategy. This conference generated considerable support and enthusiasm for the concept, and we are moving forward with plans for launching this effort.

Realizing that our jobs of managing fish and wildlife adaptation to climate change will be made easier if we can curb future releases of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere, we are stepping up to the policy development table to engage in discussions about advancing this nation's independence from foreign oil and seeking clean energy options.

Sequestration Science and Policy Development – we are developing expertise in reducing greenhouse gas sources and enhancing sinks; sequester greenhouse gases while creating or restoring priority habitats

Active Engagement in Energy Development and Energy Policy includes educating and informing energy legislation, regulations, policies, and management; facilitating development of renewable and nonrenewable energy that are sensitive to fish and wildlife.

The Service recognizes that transforming the Nation's energy economy is in the national interest and that replacing fossil fuel sources with renewable energy is essential for mitigating the effects of climate change on fish and wildlife.

We have already had enormous success with reforestation in the Southeastern US:  
40,000 acres added to NWRS

- 22 million trees planted, capturing more than 33 million tons of carbon over 90 years

And we are now working with our partners to ensure that the sequestration potential of native grasslands, prairies, and wetlands are not overlooked in the carbon sequestration formulas that will implement cap and trade legislation and existing carbon offset markets

Examples include the national carbon sequestration team and efforts in the Midwest to work with States such as MN, who are working on this same issue

Engagement: The Keystone to Success in Adaptation and Mitigation – Jay will speak more about this

FWS must address Climate Change at multiple scales from local to landscape level, so the ability to collaborate with diverse stakeholder groups will be critical to the success of our conservation actions.

Region 3 collaborated to host an innovative graduate level web-cast seminar on climate change in the Midwest, where over 100 FWS, representatives from 4 states, and about 60 graduate students from 2 major universities (IU and U of WI-Madison) engaged with experts from around the globe on climate change and fish and wildlife scientists.

The Service is also hosting key national level workshops this year that will bring together key decision and policy makers from within the FWS and DOI as well as a diverse groups of stakeholders from the private sector, states, NGO's and others. These workshops will help define and build national consensus.

Convene action-oriented groups

As an organization, we cannot simply try to repeat and amplify our past success.

We have to build capacity to model and predict species needs across broad landscapes, and to target and evaluate conservation efforts to meet those needs.

