



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Conservation in a Changing Climate

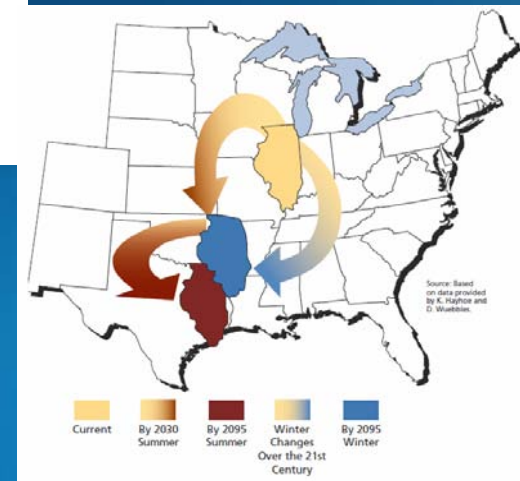
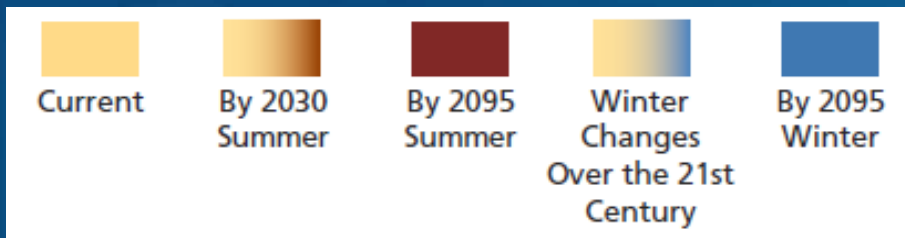
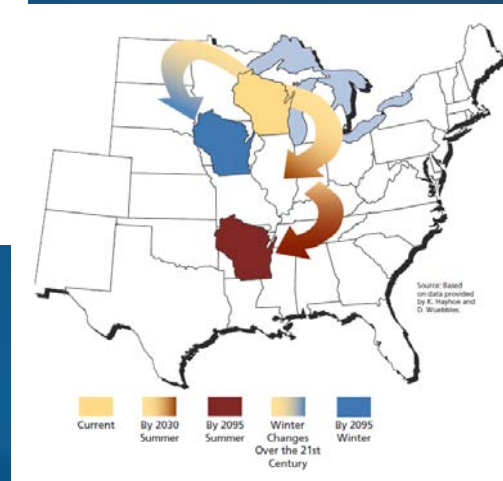
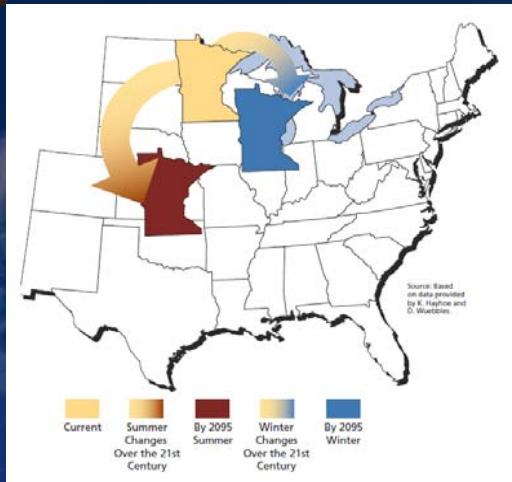
**Tom Melius, Regional Director
Midwest Region**

**MAFWA Meeting
June 2009**



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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



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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, 35th President of the United States, 1963 --



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

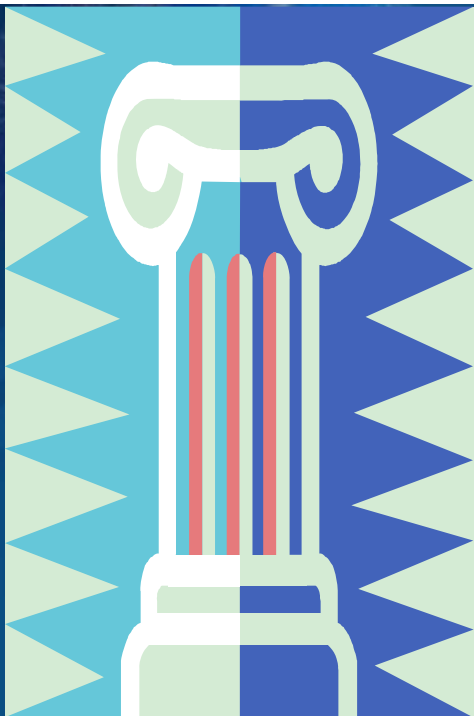
December 12, 2008



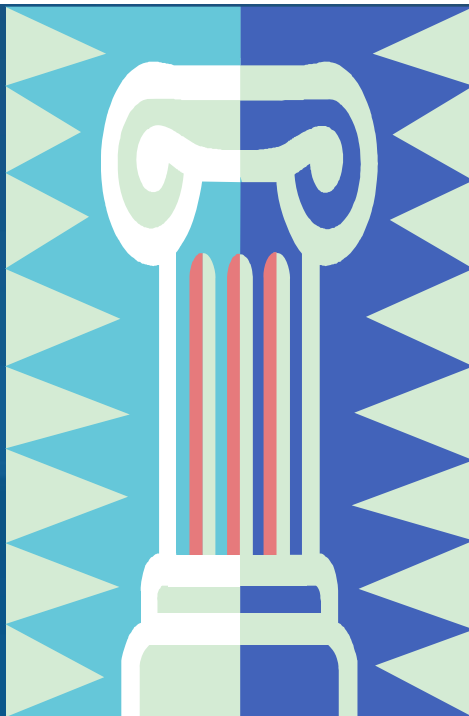
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Three Pillars

Adaptation



Mitigation



Outreach





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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**

Adaptation



Mitigation



Outreach





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





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Engagement: The Keystone to Success



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

Outreach

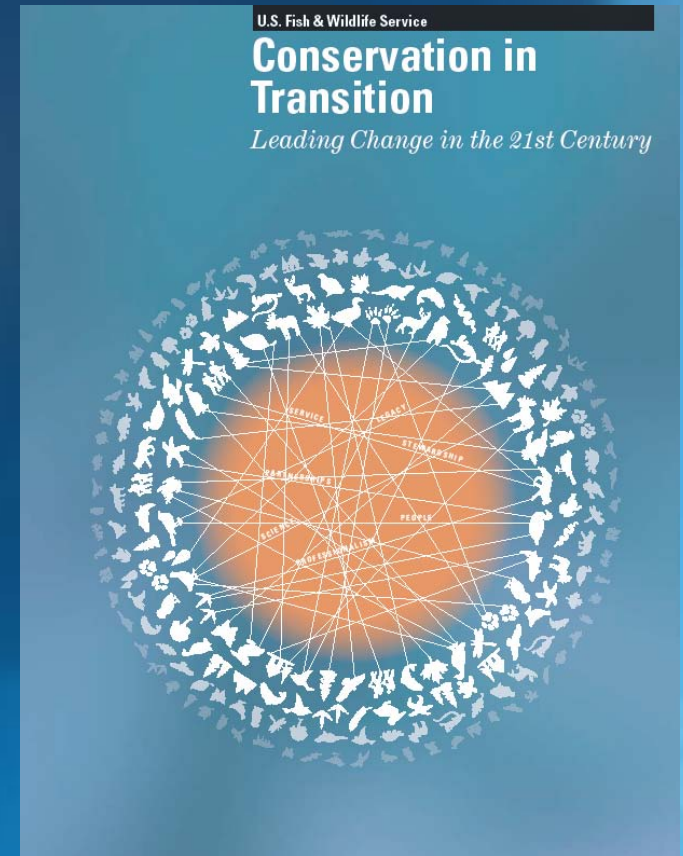




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Conservation in Transition

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





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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.”

