



# NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants* CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Shared solutions to protect shared values

## Fact Sheet



### 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 purpose of the National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy (Strategy) is to inspire natural resource professionals and other decision makers to take action to safeguard fish, wildlife and plant resources and the human uses, values and benefits they provide in a changing climate.



**GOAL** We will provide a nationwide unified approach— reflecting shared principles and science-based practices— to safeguard the nation's biodiversity, ecosystem functions and sustainable human uses of fish, wildlife and plants in a changing climate.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**1 | Build** a national, not federal framework for cooperative climate response.

**2 | Respect** jurisdictional authorities and foster communication and collaboration rather than prescription.

**3 | Provide** a blueprint for collective action that promotes collaboration and communication across government and non-government entities.

**4 | Focus** actions and investments on the natural resources of the U.S. and its territories while encouraging international collaboration.

**5 | Adopt** a landscape/ seascape-based approach that integrates science and adaptive management.

**6 | Ensure** that the Strategy is integrated with and useful to the goals and adaptation plans of other sectors.

**7 | Engage** the public.

**8 | Identify** critical scientific and management needs.

**9 | Ensure** that climate adaptation and mitigation efforts are not carried out in isolation.

**10 | Understand** that time is of the essence.



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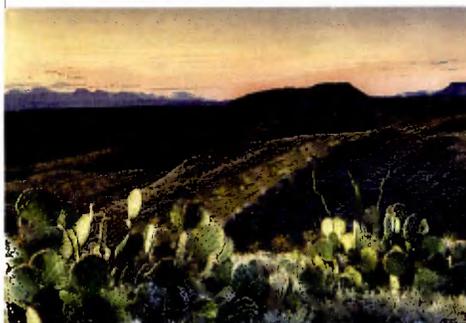
## WHAT IS IT?

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. The Strategy will provide natural resource professionals and other decision makers with a basis for sensible actions that can and must be taken now, in spite of the uncertainty that exists regarding about precise impacts of climate change on natural resources.

The Strategy will provide guidance about what actions are most likely to successfully promote natural resource adaptation to climate change, and will describe mechanisms that will foster collaboration among all levels of government, non-governmental conservation organizations and private landowners in our collective efforts to sustain our nation's valuable living resources in the face of climate change. **In short, it is a blueprint for common action.**

## How the Strategy Is Structured

The Strategy will be structured around five ecosystem sections (inland waters, coasts, the marine environment, forests, and grasslands/shrublands/deserts/tundra). Each section will identify climate impacts and key goals, strategies, and actions for managing species and natural resources in a changing climate, along with case studies and indicators of success to help track progress. In addition, the Strategy will include national-level strategies and a discussion of cross-cutting issues such as the role of agriculture, transportation, and invasive species on the resiliency of fish, wildlife and plants. 



## WHO IS INVOLVED?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the New York Division of Fish, Wildlife, & Marine Resources (representing state fish and wildlife agencies more broadly) are co-leading development of the Strategy. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is also providing support. The Strategy is being developed with input from an intergovernmental Steering Committee with representatives from federal, state, and tribal governments, along with active engagement and input from non-government organizations, industry groups, and private landowners.

### Steering Committee

The intergovernmental Steering Committee provides input and oversight for development of the Strategy. Co-chaired by USFWS, NOAA, and the State of New York, the Steering Committee consists 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. 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 (organized around five ecosystems) who are primarily responsible for drafting the Strategy. 



## 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. The Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force reiterated the need for the Strategy in its October 2010 report to the President.

## KEY MILESTONES

**Begin Outreach & Engagement:** 2009/2010

**1st Steering Committee meeting:** Jan. 2011

**Establish Technical Teams:** Feb. 2011

**Technical Teams working:** March–July 2011

**Agency Review Draft:** Sept. 2011

**Public Review Draft:** Dec. 2011

**Public Comment Sessions (TBA):** Jan. 2012

**Final Strategy:** May/June 2012

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