

**WAFWA Climate Change Committee
Highlights and Action Items
July 2009**

Donald Koch (CDFG) and Ken Mayer (NDOW)

Highlights

- This was the first meeting of the WAFWA climate change committee. WAFWA is the first regional association with a climate committee and other regional associations are following suite.
- Very productive meeting with 35 + participants and more than 20 state representatives.
- Dave Schad Director MN DNR and vice chair of the AFWA climate change committee came out to help kick off the first meeting and extend an invitation of support and connection to the AFWA committee.
- Updates from AFWA on federal legislation and FWS on climate change activities.
- Members are committed to making this an action oriented committee and recognize that because climate change is such a big issue the committee will find a niche that best serves the WAFWA members.
- Lot of work went into pre-meeting planning to make sure that this was a productive use of members' time. Recognize the need for information sharing but also want to use the limited time together to discuss key issues and actions.
 - To that end created a list of WAFWA climate change contacts.
 - Created an update document of climate change activities for all WAFWA members. Document covered several topics including but not limited to, climate change related activities in each state/province, highlights, challenges, opportunities for cross border collaboration and discussion items for the committee.
 - 20 of the 26 WAFWA member states/provinces and conservation partners responded to this inquiry.

Action Items

All requested items below should be sent to Amber Pairis at apairis@dfg.ca.gov by **August 31, 2009.**

- **Action:** Members and participants were asked to review the committee statement of purpose (see end of document) and submit any recommendations electronically for consideration.

- **Action:** WAFWA climate change contact list is missing a state/provincial contact for Idaho, Oklahoma, and Saskatchewan. Please send suggestions.
- **Action:** Participants and members made a commitment to making the update document an annual report and refining the questions to make it as useful a document as possible.
 - Please review the attached file and send suggestions for how to revise the questions for next year. Possible questions for the 2010 update include:
 - Please describe any on the ground adaptation examples that your state/province/organization is pursuing and/or planning to pursue.
 - Do you have a position(s) in your state/province/organization that is solely dedicated to climate change?
 - Is there a cabinet level position for climate change in your state/province?
 - Is your agency (Wildlife Agency) the lead on adaptation planning for your state/province?
 - Others??
 - At the time of the July 2009 meeting several states/provinces had not completed the update. If you have not done so already please complete the attached form (*Template WAFWA update.doc*) and submit for inclusion in the 2009 update.
 - *Currently missing AZ, HI, OK, Saskatchewan, UT, WA, and WY.*
 - *Conservation partners are also invited to submit an update on behalf of their agency/organization.*
 - The final report will be distributed to all committee members, WAFWA leadership and all WAFWA directors, appropriate AFWA leadership, and posted online in the fall of 2009.
- **Action:** Potential partnership between WAFWA climate change committee and Western Governor's Association's (WGA) adaptation committee. Committee leadership will work with Bob Broscheid from AZ GFD to facilitate a conversation and possible collaboration with appropriate contacts working on the WGA adaptation committee.
- **Action:** Discussion on climate change adaptation: What do the states envision as being critical elements of adaptation strategies? What are those basic tenets and how does that interface with the Wildlife Action Plans? Doug Vincent-Lang (AK) will be working with Amber Pairis (CA) to initiate this effort and will solicit committee input when appropriate.
- **Action:** The committee reviewed and discussed a proposal that WAFWA consider the use of teleconference-web conference options at future meetings.

Director Koch will pass this request on to the WAFWA directors for further discussion and consideration.

- **Action:** Federal budget priorities—committee leadership will work with Gary Taylor (AFWA) and Larry Kruckenburg (WY) to finalize FY 2011 budget priorities.
- **Action:** AFWA T/E paper on ESA and climate change. As appropriate the committee members are willing to review or provide input to the AFWA committee if desired.

WAFWA Climate Change Committee Purpose: The WAFWA Climate Change Committee will function as WAFWA’s principal forum for discussion, gathering information and/or identifying actions relative to all aspects of climate change as it relates to fish and wildlife.

The WAFWA Climate Change Committee will be responsible for:

- Increasing coordination and communication among western states/provinces/partners on key climate change related issues.
- Providing a venue to share information with state, federal, and provincial partners, as well as other conservation partners to improve development, integration, and implementation of fish and wildlife conservation plans and habitat objectives into state and federal agency planning.
- Identifying regional approaches for fish and wildlife monitoring, evaluation, and management responses.
- Creating a network of climate change contacts in Western North America that will work together to share information.
- Supporting regional efforts to develop strategies to manage the effects of climate related changes to fish and wildlife habitats.
- Identifying cross cutting issues that require multi-state coordination and collaboration,
- Advancing priorities or actions for discussion and consideration by the designated committee(s) within AFWA.
- Monitoring and informing western states about the potential for climate change related funding and legislation.