

California Department of Fish and Game
Update: Climate Change Activities
November 2010

CDFG Climate Change Adaptation Strategy:

CDFG's internal climate change adaptation strategy "Confronting Climate Change: Adaptation Actions to Conserve California's Natural Resources" is nearing completion. The strategy contains many of the same elements as the state wide multi sector effort but goes even further to identify the steps necessary for implementing the objectives and the staff and funding required to be successful. The strategy also identifies the existing tools the Department will rely on to deliver actions on the ground and will be an important communication tool as well as a vision for actions needed to help species persist in a changing climate. The document is expected to be released in early 2011 and will be posted at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/climatechange/>.

Climate Change Magazine-Outreach Document:

This outreach document is the result of a collaborative effort among CDFG climate change stakeholders to craft messages that can be used to engage the public, landowners, and organizations on a variety of topics related to climate change adaptation planning that will help the Department communicate with and engage partners in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. This climate change publication is an important outreach document that highlights the actions the Department is taking to address the challenges associated with climate change, makes a statement that the Department is part of the climate change solution, and provides an outreach document that illustrates the importance of biodiversity conservation in the implementation of climate change adaptation actions in other sectors. The magazine will be distributed locally but a PDF version will be available online in early 2011 at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/climatechange/>

Bridging the Gap: Downscaling Climate Models to Inform Management Actions

Workshop sponsored by the CA Department of Fish and Game, the US Geological Survey, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service-CA Landscape Conservation Cooperative

The Department's climate change work group of stakeholders presented a day long workshop on November 3, 2010 at Sacramento State University. The intent of this workshop was to bring together those individuals doing cutting edge research on downscaling in California with key ecologists, land managers and partners. The workshop provided participants with a shared technical understanding of potential downscaling applications to ecological resource management and provided an opportunity for discussion on data needs and the challenges of dealing with uncertainty, scale and resolution. Following each set of presentations a panel discussion was held between the presenters and invited participants to discuss key topics and respond to audience questions regarding how downscaled models can be used to help inform climate change adaptation planning and natural resource management activities. The workshop was well attended with in person participation reaching capacity and web cast participants from all over the country.

More information, PowerPoint presentations, and archived web cast can be found at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/climatechange/downscaling-workshop/>

California Wildlife Action Plan Revision: The State's Wildlife Action Plan is scheduled to be revised by 2015. A primary objective of the revision will be to update the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and re-examine the stressors and actions described. A critical new component of the revision will be a more comprehensive inclusion of climate change throughout the document. Internal discussions are underway to begin planning for the revision and laying out a process for a comprehensive update.

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment: The Department is in the initial stages of conducting a climate change vulnerability assessment. A vulnerability assessment provides the scientific basis for developing or enhancing climate adaptation strategies and uses information about future climate scenarios with ecological information about climate sensitivity and adaptive capacity to help manager anticipate how a species or system is likely to respond under the projected climate change conditions. The relative vulnerability of species or habitats can be used to set goals, determine management priorities and inform decisions about appropriate adaptation strategies. The goals of a vulnerability assessment are to describe the following elements: 1) exposure; 2) sensitivity; and 3) the capacity to adapt to climate change.

CDFG Going Green Activities:

The CDFG has had an ongoing effort to address its carbon footprint and create a more sustainable work environment. For the past 6 months the Director convened a "Going Green Work Group" to provide recommendations for consideration by Department leadership.

Report: DFG Going Green: Next Steps towards Sustainability

The Department is preparing to release a second report from the Going Green work group to report on the Department's efforts to address its carbon footprint and create a more sustainable future for the department's activities and its employees. This report is a collection of actions that the Department and its employees are pursuing as well as recommendations for consideration by executive leadership for future actions. The first report "DFG Going Green: Reducing Our Carbon Footprint" (PDF) and an evaluation of carbon impact of all departmental operations can be found online. The second report will be posted in early 2011. Both reports can be found at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/climatechange/activities.html>

Director's Bulletin-Actions for a More Sustainable Workplace: The Department is planning to release a Director's bulletin to follow up on the going green work group recommendations on actions that can be easily and immediately implemented with little disruption or alteration of daily operations and with no increase in operating expenses. During this period of significant and persistent state-wide budget shortfalls, this bulletin provides guidelines that will help the Department continue to look for ways to reduce or optimize operating expenses, including fuel and energy costs while also resulting in potentially significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. By implementing these

guidelines the Department will better embody its mission and continue to set an example of innovation and sustainability. These guidelines put the Department on a path to becoming a more sustainable organization and minimize the Department's contribution to emissions that contribute to climate change. When available the bulletin will be posted at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/climatechange/bulletins.html>

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Strategy: Chief Deputy Kevin Hunting is a participant with AFWA and the USFWS on discussions about the creation of a national strategy for climate change and will serve on the steering committee to oversee the creation of a national adaptation strategy. Chief Deputy Hunting will represent the CA Department of Fish and Game as well as the WAFWA Climate Change Committee.

WAFWA Climate Change Committee: The Department continues to oversee and serve as the chair for the WAFWA climate change committee. This committee held its second meeting during the WAFWA annual meeting in Anchorage, AK. Several new products related to the committee's activities have been recently released including an annual update and white paper on multi sector climate change adaptation planning efforts. More information on the committee can be found at <http://dfg.ca.gov/climatechange/wafwa/>

WAFWA Multi-Sector Climate Change Adaptation Planning White Paper

At the January 2010 mid-winter meeting, the Directors unanimously approved the creation of a working group within the Climate Change Committee to develop a white paper on multi sector natural resources climate change adaptation planning, as well as a suggestions for how these planning efforts might overlap or interact with State Wildlife Action Plans or other management plans. It is generally agreed that with, or without, federal funding, state agencies need to determine how they will address climate change in order to reduce vulnerability to climatic changes and strengthen their ability to adapt. By creating a multi-sector climate change natural resource adaptation plan that details a comprehensive response, your state will be put on a proactive path to address vulnerabilities and attract resources to implement their response. In keeping with its charge, the Climate Change Committee is pleased to announce the completion of this report and hopes it will provide some food for thought to support conservation planning efforts in your state.

The report is available online at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/climatechange/wafwa/committee.asp>

WAFWA Regional Climate Workshops

AFWA and WAFWA will co-host a climate change forum at the midwinter meeting on January 7th. The forum will provide an opportunity for a policy level discussion among Directors and their key climate change staff followed by an open forum among state fish and wildlife agencies and other conservation partners. A steering committee of WAFWA state representatives is overseeing the content, communication, and logistics for the workshop.

WAFWA Climate Change Annual Update

The WAFWA states and provinces have completed their 2010 climate change annual update. This document contains a thorough overview of climate change activities and planning efforts in all WAFWA states and provinces. This document is incredibly useful as a communication tool among states and partners, saves time in the committee to focus on action items, and provides a resource for those that are not able to attend the meeting. The 2009 and 2010 updates are available online at <http://dfg.ca.gov/climatechange/wafwa/committee.asp>