



**California Department of Fish and Game**  
**Update: Climate Change Activities**  
 May 2012

<i>*Save the Date*: DFG Climate Stakeholder meeting, May 31, 2012!</i> .....	2
<i>California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision</i> .....	2
<i>California Climate Adaptation Strategy Update 2012</i> .....	2
<i>DFG Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for Rare Plants</i> .....	2
<i>California Wildlife Action Plan Revision</i> .....	2
<i>DFG Climate Change Training Course</i> .....	3
<i>DFG Climate Stakeholder Working Groups</i> .....	3
• State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) Climate Work Group .....	3
• DFG Climate Training and Network Work Group .....	3
• DFG Climate Menu-Outreach Work Group .....	3
<i>DFG Going Green Activities</i> .....	4
• Sustainability Guidelines .....	4
• DFG Bikes! .....	4
• DFG Employee Excellence Award.....	4
<i>National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy</i> .....	4
<i>Landscape Conservation Cooperatives in California</i> .....	4
<i>Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Climate Change Committee</i> .....	5
<i>DOI Southwest Climate Science Center</i> .....	5

***\*Save the Date\*: DFG Climate Stakeholder meeting, May 31, 2012!***

This meeting will focus on the 2012 update of the California Adaptation Strategy and will be broadcast via Webex and held in-person in Sacramento. For more information please contact [climatechange@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:climatechange@dfg.ca.gov)

**\*Updates\***

***California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision***

In 2010, AB 2376 (Huffman) bill was signed into law, requiring the California Natural Resources Agency to convene an executive committee to develop a new strategic vision for the DFG. The final draft of California's Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision was released in April 2012, and can be found online at [http://www.vision.ca.gov/strategic\\_vision.html](http://www.vision.ca.gov/strategic_vision.html).

***California Climate Adaptation Strategy Update 2012***

The California Natural Resources Agency is currently gearing up for a revision of the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy. DFG will be responsible for the Biodiversity Sector chapter and is working with partners to develop objectives and actions related to biodiversity in California. DFG is convening stakeholders on May 31, 2012 to discuss the update and a timeline for completion.

***DFG Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for Rare Plants***

The DFG recently completed a climate change vulnerability assessment for approximately 150 rare plant species across California. This work, supported by the California LCC, will help to inform the revision of the state's Wildlife Action Plan. A report will be released soon. Stay tuned!

***California Wildlife Action Plan Revision***

The state's Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) revision is scheduled to be completed by 2015. Primary objectives of the revision are to incorporate new information developed through updates to Species of Special Concern documents for birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish; update the stressors and actions affecting fish and wildlife on an ecoregional scale; expand the analysis of threats posed by climate change and down-scale the state's adaptation strategy to on-the-ground, implemental actions. This revision is being led by Armand Gonzales. For more information please email [agonzales@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:agonzales@dfg.ca.gov).

- On March 7-9, 2012 Defenders of Wildlife staff helped facilitate a training for DFG staff on using the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation to guide development of the SWAP update. The workshop was held at Sacramento State University and was attended by over 70 DFG staff and partners.
- DFG's Climate Science Program staff are currently working to ensure that climate change is thoroughly integrated throughout the update process and have convened a SWAP Climate Work group of stakeholders (*for additional information, see 'SWAP Climate Work Group' activities below*).

### ***DFG Climate Change Training Course***

The DFG climate team is currently planning a climate science training course to be made available to all DFG staff and partners. The training course will cover the fundamentals of climate science and will provide the tools and resources necessary to empower staff to better incorporate climate change into their responsibilities. The course will include monthly guest speakers, required readings, discussion forums, and an end-of-course project. DFG is convening a working group of stakeholders to develop the course. All course materials, including webinars, required reading materials, and optional reading materials will be archived as a permanent resource for staff and partners. The climate training course is tentatively slated to begin in the fall of 2012 (*for additional information on the 'DFG Climate Training Work Group' see below*).

### ***DFG Climate Stakeholder Working Groups***

Visit the **new 'DFG Stakeholder' web page** to see updates on work group activities ([http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Climate\\_and\\_Energy/Climate\\_Change/Activities/Stakeholders/index.aspx](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Climate_and_Energy/Climate_Change/Activities/Stakeholders/index.aspx)).

At the DFG Climate stakeholder meeting in February, three working groups were formed and have been meeting monthly.

- *State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) Climate Work Group*
  - Climate Change and SWAP website: The SWAP Climate Work Group (WG) created a new website around climate change and state's Wildlife Action Plan to support DFG staff as they work to address climate change issues during the revision process  
[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Climate\\_and\\_Energy/Climate\\_Change/Activities/SWAP.aspx](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Climate_and_Energy/Climate_Change/Activities/SWAP.aspx))
  - SWAP Climate Change references: The SWAP WG compiled a list of climate change references specific to ecoregions or California as well as a list of partners with climate expertise to support the SWAP revision working groups. (available online)
  - Climate Exposure: The SWAP WG is currently working on assessing exposure of different parts of the state to climate change. This information will be used by ecoregional teams led by DFG to integrate climate change into the Open Standards process.
  
- *DFG Climate Training and Network Work Group*
  - The Climate Training WG has successfully identified tentative course topics and a course schedule.
  - Members of the Climate Training and Network WG are currently identifying resources for an online network of climate change webinars. More information coming soon!
  
- *DFG Climate Menu-Outreach Work Group*
  - DFG's Climate Menu-Outreach WG is working collaboratively to create an outreach document centered on climate change impacts to a sample of California's locally grown/harvested food items. The idea is to educate the

public on how climate change will effect the foods they eat and on DFG's role in safeguarding some of those resources (i.e. fisheries management).

### ***DFG Going Green Activities***



- *Sustainability Guidelines*
  - DFG's Going Green team is working to update DFG's existing sustainability guidelines to help reduce our carbon footprint in the workplace. This work will complement Executive Order B-18-12 that requires increased efforts by state agencies to perform sustainable operations.
- *DFG Bikes!*
  - The DFG Bikes! committee is currently researching ways to incentivize bicycle commuting for DFG staff.
- *DFG Employee Excellence Award*
  - This year, the core DFG Going Green committee was the recipient of a DFG Employee Excellence Award for their 'Vision' for the Department. They received one of only two Vision awards given this year at an awards ceremony at the Natural Resources Building in Sacramento in February. Way to go Going Green Team!

### ***National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy***

DFG has been working with the Department of Interior, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other states to develop a national strategy that will provide decision makers and resource professionals with adaptation actions to promote species and habitat resiliency in the face of climate change. The intent is to promote a nationwide unified approach to climate driven adaptation strategies, reflecting shared principles and science-based practices to safeguard the nation's biodiversity, ecosystem function and sustainable human uses of fish, wildlife and plants.

- A draft Strategy was made available for public comment in early 2012. On January 31<sup>st</sup>, the DFG co-hosted a public meeting with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to discuss the draft strategy. The meeting was held at Modoc Hall on the Sacramento State University campus.
- The final version of the strategy is expected to be released in June 2012. More information at <http://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/>

### ***Landscape Conservation Cooperatives in California***

California is home to four Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs). LCCs were created to help translate science into on-the-ground management at landscape scale while accounting for challenges and stressors such as climate change. DFG currently sits on all four steering committees of the LCCs that fall within California's borders – the California LCC, Desert LCC,

North Pacific LCC, and Great Basin LCC. DFG staff also participate on a number of LCC science subcommittees. More information on LCCs can be found online at <http://www.fws.gov/science/shc/lcc.html>.

- National LCC Workshop: In March, DFG Chief Deputy Director Kevin Hunting spoke at National LCC workshop in Denver on the beneficial relationship between CDFG and LCCs in California.

#### ***Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Climate Change Committee***

DFG continues to oversee and serve as the chair for the WAFWA climate change committee. The committee will be meeting in July at the annual meeting in Hawaii and will be releasing a positive messaging document about state agency activities that support climate adaptation actions and the annual update of WAFWA state agency activities related to climate change. All products and committee activities including white papers and climate change updates from members can be found at [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Climate\\_and\\_Energy/WAFWA](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Climate_and_Energy/WAFWA)

#### ***DOI Southwest Climate Science Center***

The DFG is a member of the stakeholder advisory committee for the Southwest Climate Science Center.