



# California Department of Fish and Game Climate Science Program Annual Update 2012

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### **DFG Climate Stakeholder Meetings**

- In February 2012, the DFG Climate Change Stakeholder group met for an update on DFG Climate Activities. Three working groups were formed at the meeting to ensure partner collaboration on important projects and initiatives at DFG –the State Wildlife Action Plan Climate work group, Climate Training and Network work group, and the Climate Outreach-Menu work group. Visit the [‘DFG Stakeholder’ web page](#) for more information.
- In May 2012, DFG Climate Stakeholders met again to discuss the revision of the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy and worked collaboratively over the summer on several drafts for the biodiversity sector chapter. Drafts can be found on the DFG Stakeholder web page.
- To join the Climate Stakeholder listserv, send a request to [climatechange@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:climatechange@dfg.ca.gov).

### **DFG Climate College**

In support of DFG’s Science Institute initiative, the Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision and the strategic vision process, the DFG Climate Science Program created the first of its kind lecture series on climate change as it relates to the mission of DFG. The DFG Climate College is designed to cover the fundamentals of climate science and provide tools and resources necessary to empower participants to better incorporate climate change into their professional responsibilities. In the spirit of increasing climate literacy and partnership the course is open to all partners and the public. On September 18, 2012 the DFG Climate College officially kicked off with presentations by DFG Director Chuck Bonham, Governor’s office representatives Cliff Rechtschaffen and Ken Alex, and DFG Climate Change Advisor Amber Pairis. Over 150 participants tuned in to hear about DFG’s role as part of the climate solution in addition to the Governor’s climate initiatives.



- In early 2012, the DFG Climate Training and Network Work Group was formed to help develop the DFG Climate College course topics and a course schedule. Members of the group also identified resources for an [online network](#) of climate change webinars.
- DFG Climate College Staff and participants are now preparing for Lecture #5 in January 2013. The course will run through June 2013. Contact [Registrar@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Registrar@wildlife.ca.gov) to register and please visit the [DFG Climate College website](#) for more information. Participants are welcome to attend in-person or via WebEx.

### **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).

- DFG's Climate Science Program staff are currently working to ensure that climate change is thoroughly integrated throughout the update process and is working closely with DFG SWAP technical team.
- A SWAP Climate Work group of stakeholders was convened to support the ecoregional teams during the revision process. Work group activities are listed below:
  - [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.
  - [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 assessed 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.

### **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. More information on LCCs can be found [online](#).

- Whitney Albright, DFG's Climate Associate continues to act as a liaison between the DFG and LCCs to support coordination and communication between DFG and our LCC partners. DFG and all four LCC coordinators participate in a monthly conference call to discuss LCC and CDFG updates.
- CDFG staff Armand Gonzales was recently elected Vice Chair of the Desert LCC. He will serve in this position for one year.
- In November, the Climate Science program coordinated with the [California LCC](#) to schedule a DFG Climate College lecture concurrent with a California LCC event. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, guest speaker Tom Suchanek delivered lecture #3 while also kicking off a day of presentations on climate change projects in California supported by the California LCC. This special event was held at Sacramento State University.
- In March, both Chief Deputy Director Kevin Hunting and DFG Climate Associate Whitney Albright had an opportunity to attend and give presentations at the National LCC meeting in Denver, CO.
- Earlier this year, DFG teamed up with California LCC's communication specialist to prepare an outreach piece describing the relationship between the California LCC and the DFG.



- DFG created an online climate change case study highlighting DFG interactions with the LCCs in California – [Partnerships and Collaboration: Landscape Conservation Cooperatives](#).

### **DFG Going Green Activities**

DFG’s Going Green team, initially comprised of a handful of members, has grown to include over 150 staff at different times and in varying capacities since its inception. The Climate Science program is proud to highlight some of the DFG staff who are making a difference towards implementing our sustainability vision through our new web page, “[Sustainability Superstars!](#)”. Visit the [DFG Going Green website](#) to learn more.



- 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.
- The [DFG Bikes! committee](#) is continuing to research ways to incentivize bicycle commuting for DFG staff.
- 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!

### **California Climate Adaptation Strategy (CAS) Update 2013: CA’s Climate Readiness Strategy**

The California Natural Resources Agency is currently developing an update to the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy. DFG is the lead for the biodiversity sector and has been working with input from partners to draft the update for the 2013 CAS. Biodiversity sector chapter drafts are available on the DFG Climate Stakeholders web page. The 2012 update in its entirety is in draft form and currently undergoing internal agency review and a concurrent technical review. An updated draft is expected to go out for public review in early 2013.

### **DFG Climate Outreach**

DFG Climate Science program staff are working with partners 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). A DFG Climate Menu-Outreach Stakeholder Work Group was formed to create this outreach document. The final product is expected to be released in 2013.

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

In 2012, the DFG 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.

### **Inaugural National Adaptation Forum: Action Today for a Better Tomorrow**



DFG's Climate Science program staff have teamed up with several partner organizations to serve on the steering committee of the National Adaptation Forum (NAF). In addition, DFG's Climate Change Advisor Amber Pairis is leading the Program Committee. The NAF will be the first of its kind national convention on climate change adaptation and will take place in Denver, CO from April 2-4, 2013. The forum will combine professional development training, individual presentation, peer networking, and working group innovation opportunities. This is truly a cross sector collaborative endeavor that brings a wide range of practitioners into a forum to support information exchange, professional development, and opportunities to create new and innovative partnerships that are essential to addressing the myriad of challenges associated with climate change adaptation. Registration is open, please visit the [National Adaptation Forum](#) website today!

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

DFG worked 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. The final version of the strategy is expected to be released in spring of 2013. More information can be found on the [National Strategy website](#).



### **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 met in July at the annual meeting in Hawaii and released a positive messaging document about state agency activities that support climate adaptation actions. The annual update of WAFWA state agency activities related to climate change was also released in July. All products and committee activities including white papers and climate change updates from members can be found online at [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Climate\\_and\\_Energy/WAFWA/](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Climate_and_Energy/WAFWA/).

### **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](#).

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

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

