

California Department of Fish and Game
Update: Climate Change Activities
September 2011

****Coming Soon****

New DFG Climate Change Stakeholders listserv: We are transitioning our stakeholder email list to a new listserv to better streamline communication and ensure that all partners are receiving updates. This new listserv will serve as the primary means of communication and offer the opportunity for partners to post a response or share information among each other. Keep an eye out for an invitation to join **CDFG_ClimateStakeholders google listserv soon!**

New Director Joins the DFG

Welcome to our new Director Chuck Bonham! DFG's climate team has already had the opportunity to meet with Director Bonham to discuss exciting upcoming initiatives within the Climate Science Program as well as the importance and success of our stakeholder group. The Director showed great enthusiasm and support for the Climate Science program and we are very happy to have him aboard.

Strategic Vision

In 2010, the 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 DFG is fully engaged and supporting this process. Given that the Climate Science program is and always intends to be fully integrated into DFG programs, we decided to postpone the climate stakeholder meeting that was planned for September 16, 2011. The DFG remains committed to our climate change stakeholders and over the last three years we have had many successful meetings, workshops, and products that reflect our collaborative approach. It is our intent that we will reconvene this group in early 2012 to begin planning working groups and collaborative activities that fully reflect the strategic vision process.

Climate Science Training Course

The DFG climate team is currently planning a climate science training course to be made available to all DFG staff. 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. Stay tuned for more information as this training course is further developed.

DFG Climate Website Update

The climate team is pleased to announce an update to the DFG's climate change website. The new site contains updated information on DFG's climate change projects and products and also provides new resources for DFG staff and the public. Explore the website at its new location: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Climate_and_Energy/.

Recent DFG Climate Change Reports/Products

The DFG has recently completed several climate change documents that are now available online.

- **Unity, Integration, and Action: DFG’s Vision for Confronting Climate Change in California:** The DFG’s climate vision outlines the objectives that the Department is striving to meet in order to effectively confront the challenges associated with climate change. In this document we also acknowledge the DFG’s accomplishments to date and the existing programs and projects that can be utilized and built upon as we work towards meeting these goals.
http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Climate_and_Energy/Climate_Change/Activities/.
- **Unity, Integration, and Action: Climate Change Adaptation Case Studies:** This document lists a sampling of climate change related projects and programs within the Department that provide examples of actions being taken on the ground to minimize the negative impacts of climate change. The case studies also highlight existing programs and projects that are helping the DFG to plan for or minimize the impacts associated with climate change now and in the future. This document as well as a series of web pages is now online http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Climate_and_Energy/Climate_Change/Case_Studies/.
- **California Department of Fish and Game Climate Change Research Considerations:** This report provides an overview of the DFG’s collaborative approach to climate change research and to integrating this research into DFG activities. Also provided in this report is a list of current climate change related research activities taking place within the Department. This report can be found online at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Climate_and_Energy/Climate_Change/Activities/.

DFG Going Green Activities

DFG has had an ongoing effort to address its carbon footprint and create a more sustainable work environment. The “Going Green Work Group” was convened in 2010 to provide guidance and recommendations for consideration by Department leadership. Activities listed below.

- **DFG Going Green: Next Steps towards Sustainability** DFG is happy to announce the release of a second report from the Going Green work group on DFG’s efforts to address its carbon footprint and create a more sustainable future within the DFG. This report is a collection of actions that DFG and its employees are currently pursuing as well as recommendations for future actions to be considered by executive leadership. This report is available online at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Climate_and_Energy/Going_Green/
- **Director’s Bulletin-Actions for a More Sustainable Workplace:** Director Bonham has released a Director's bulletin to follow up on the Going Green work group’s 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 statewide budget shortfalls, this bulletin provides guidelines that will help DFG 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 DFG will better embody its mission and continue on a path to becoming a more sustainable organization. The bulletin is now available at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Climate_and_Energy/Director_Bulletins.aspx.

- **California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Sustainability Initiative:** The going green team is working with Mary Simmerer, DWR's Sustainability Coordinator, to discuss opportunities for DWR-DFG to partner on sustainability activities between our organizations.
- ***New* DFG Going Green web page:** New web page dedicated to the activities of the Going Green work group and resources for staff and partners.
http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Climate_and_Energy/Going_Green/

National, Regional, and State-wide Activities

- **National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy:** The DFG is working with Department of Interior, NOAA, 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 nation-wide 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. Chief Deputy Director Kevin Hunting serves on the steering committee representing the DFG as well as the WAFWA Climate Change Committee. In addition, DFG staff co-chairs one of seven system technical sub-teams.
- **Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Climate Change Committee:** DFG's Chief Deputy Director Kevin Hunting was recently named as the co-chair of the AFWA Climate Change Committee. The committee serves as the principle forum for climate change adaptation planning and collaborative efforts among natural resource agencies at the national level. DFG staff are involved in several national projects to support and represent the DFG and WAFWA.
- **Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Climate Change Committee:** Under the direction of Director Bonham the DFG will continue to oversee and lead the WAFWA climate change committee. In January 2011 the committee co-sponsored with AFWA a WAFWA Directors' climate change forum that resulted in a prioritized list of needs for the committee to consider. The forum served as an important way to formalize committee actions and focus activities on issues that are relevant to the Directors' most pressing current needs. Products related to the committee's activities including white papers and climate change updates from members can be found online at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Climate_and_Energy/WAFWA/.
- **Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs):** LCCs are public-private partnerships that seek to foster communication at the science-management interface and promote the dissemination of climate change research and tools across agencies at all levels. DFG currently has representation on the steering committees of all four LCCs within the boundaries of California, and staff will be attending several steering committee meetings in the upcoming months. Whitney Albright, DFG's Climate Associate is acting as a liaison between the DFG and LCCs to support coordination and communication between DFG and our LCC partners. LCCs within California include the California LCC, the Desert LCC, the Great Basin LCC, and the North Pacific LCC.
- **Bay Area Ecosystems Climate Change Consortium (BAECCC):** DFG is currently involved in the BAECCC, a group of federal, state, and NGO partners. Whitney Albright,

DFG's Climate Associate will serve as the primary contact for this group and represent the DFG in this consortium.

- **California Department of Water Resources (DWR):** DFG's climate team is coordinating with DWR to pursue a collaborative effort to provide climate change science training to staff.
- **California Climate Action Team Research Working Group:** DFG is represented on the CAT Research Working Group, which is a forum for communication and collaboration on climate change research among agencies and the public. Recent activities have included an update of the state's online climate change research catalog: <http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/research/search.php>.
- **California Wildlife Action Plan Revision:** The state's Wildlife Action Plan is scheduled to be revised 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 that will build resiliency for species adaptation. Teams have been formed that will guide the development of the two phase update. The update will draw from new tools such as the Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE) mapping model, and the California Essential Habitat Connectivity project both recently completed by the DFG.