

Key Points

Climate Change Strategic Plan

Our Strategic Plan establishes specific goals and objectives to accomplish priority commitments as integral and essential elements of broader strategies designed to address climate change. Our strategies focus on three key elements:

- **Adaptation:** Helping to reduce the impacts of climate change on fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats;
- **Mitigation:** Reducing levels of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere; and,
- **Engagement:** Reaching out to Service employees; local, national and international partners in the public and private sectors; key constituencies and stakeholders; and the broader citizenry of this country to join forces and seek solutions to the challenges to fish and wildlife conservation posed by climate change.

The plan recognizes that no single organization or agency can succeed fully in its mission without the support and involvement of others.

This vision commits us to a new philosophy of conservation, rooted in true interdependence, which calls us to:

- Commit our personnel and assets to shared and explicit objectives, goals, and targets and, whenever possible, to joint undertakings;
- Use the core principles of adaptive management and collectively planning, implementing, evaluating and adjusting management approaches; and,
- Design and apply landscape conservation strategies, principles and tools.

Our Strategic Plan is primarily for our employees and our organization.

It provides direction and focuses our talents, creativity and energy on goals, objectives, strategies and actions we believe will be successful in the challenge to sustain fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats in a changing climate. Our plan also defines our role within the larger conservation community and commits us to specific conservation strategies.



UL Bend NWR by J & K Hollingsworth

Our Strategic Plan is an integral part of the Department of the Interior's strategy for addressing climate change.

- The DOI Energy and Climate Change Task Force, established by Secretary Salazar, is focusing on initiatives designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and apply adaptive management strategies to address landscape-scale climate challenges. Those initiatives include:

Tracking and reducing DOI's carbon footprint and energy usage;

Emphasizing biological carbon sequestration on DOI lands;

Integrating and enhancing science and data collection on climate change impacts, and;

Improving capacity for science-based decision support for adaptive management.

- Our Climate Change Strategic Plan mirrors these priorities, and will enable the Service to play a key role in achieving Departmental objectives related to climate change.

Our Strategic Plan calls for bold, aggressive action. It outlines a number of commitments we believe will help reshape the face of conservation and enable us to play a leading role in addressing the challenges of a changing climate system. These include:

- Facilitate development of a **National Fish and Wildlife Climate Adaptation Strategy** to be the conservation community's shared blueprint to guide wildlife adaptation partnerships over the next 50-100 years.
- Help create a **National Biological Inventory and Monitoring Partnership** that strategically deploys the conservation community's monitoring resources. The Partnership would generate empirical data needed to track climate change effects on the distribution and abundance of fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats; model predicted population and habitat change; and help us determine if we are achieving our goals.
- Build **Landscape Conservation Cooperatives** that develop regional and field technical capacity by working with partners to provide cutting edge science and information. These cooperatives will be the primary vehicle through which the Service and our partners acquire and apply the best climate change science to biological planning and conservation design for fish and wildlife management.
- Deliver conservation to the most vulnerable species through various activities, including but not limited to identifying priority water needs, addressing habitat fragmentation, managing genetic resources, reducing non-climate stressors, and conducting other resource management actions.
- Inform stakeholders on wildlife conservation issues related to energy development and policy and facilitate development of renewable energy sources in a manner that helps conserve species and avoids or minimizes significant impacts to sensitive fish, wildlife, and plant species.
- Reduce the carbon footprint of Service facilities, vehicles, and workforce, becoming carbon neutral by 2020.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

- Develop expertise in biological carbon sequestration—sequestering greenhouse gases in plant biomass while also creating or restoring priority native fish, wildlife and plant habitats.
- Facilitate habitat conservation through carbon sequestration at the international level. By working with international partners and stakeholders to help reduce deforestation rates in key areas, such as tropical forests, we will help preserve areas critical to biodiversity conservation and support greenhouse gas mitigation.

The Service's Climate Change Strategic Plan is a blueprint for action in a time of uncertainty. It calls for the Service and its partners to step up to the challenges before us, lay the foundation for wise decision making in the future and take steps now to ensure that our nation's fish and wildlife resources will thrive in the years to come.

For more information, visit <http://www.fws.gov/home/climatechange/>