



Climate Change Update

August 2009

New Guide on Coastal Climate Change Adaptation

A new report, *Adapting to Coastal Climate Change: A Guidebook for Development Planners*, provides a detailed treatment of climate concerns and adaptation options in coastal areas. The guidebook will assist practitioners and development partners to understand the diversity of climate change impacts expected to affect coastal zones in the developing world, and the options that exist for coastal planners and managers to assist coastal communities worldwide to adapt to these impacts. The guidebook is available at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/water/news_announcements/coastal_climate_change_report.html

Webinar Highlights Climate Change Communications

The Service and National Wildlife Federation (NWF) hosted a "Global Warming Communications Overview" Webinar on August 25. Jennifer Jones, Vice President of Strategic Communications for NWF, served as instructor. The Webinar is part of the Safeguarding Wildlife from Climate Change Web Conference Series. To view the archived Webinar and others in this series, visit http://training.fws.gov/CSP/Resources/climate_change_webinars/archives.html

For general information about the Safeguarding Wildlife from Climate Change Web Conference Series, visit <http://training.fws.gov/CSP/Course/descriptions/CSP3902.htm>

IPCC Report Outlines Climate Impacts on Water Resources

An Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report states that observational records and climate projections provide abundant evidence that freshwater resources are vulnerable and have

the potential to be strongly impacted by climate change, with wide-ranging consequences for human societies and ecosystems. Read the report at http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/publications_and_data_technical_papers/climate_change_and_water.htm

Webinar Focuses on 'Preparing for a Century of Change'

The Earth's climate has entered a period of rapid, human-induced change that will last at least the remainder of this century, and most likely much longer. The changes will be significantly larger than the Earth has seen in thousands of years. Dr. Alexander E. (Sandy) MacDonald, Deputy Director, NOAA Research Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes and Director of the Earth System Research Laboratory, discusses what we know about the coming change. To view the archived session, visit http://training.fws.gov/branchsites/CSP/Resources/climate_change_webinars/archives.html

Climate Change Impacts in the Pacific Northwest and the Pacific Islands

The Pacific Region has updated its climate change Web site to provide a summary of regional and local impacts on natural resources. See the Pacific Northwest summary at <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/Climatechange/changepnw.html> and the Pacific Islands summary at: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/Climatechange/changeipi.html>

Workshop Analyzes Climate Impacts in Klamath River Basin

Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services and Refuge offices in the Klamath Basin and Pacific Region hydrologist Tim Mayer are participating in a series of climate change workshops that are part of a basin-wide analysis to identify at-risk species and ecosystems, as well as human community, economic, health, and emergency sectors that could

be adversely affected by climate change. The workshop will result in a document titled "Preparing for Climate Change in the Klamath River Basin, Oregon and California." The effort is being lead by the Climate Leadership Initiative and the National Center for Conservation Science and Policy. Downscaled climate models are used to produce climate projections. Two basin assessments in Oregon have been completed and are posted on the following website <http://climlead.uoregon.edu/> Additional basin plans will be developed during the next several years.

Great Basin / Mojave Desert Climate Change Workshop

The Service and other DOI and federal agencies are partnering with Desert Research Institute, Desert Managers Group, and the Great Basin Research and Management Partnership to sponsor a workshop in January 2010 focusing on natural resource mitigation, adaptation and research needs related to climate change in the Great Basin and Mojave Desert. The workshop, held in Las Vegas, Nevada, will examine how climate change is affecting natural resources in deserts of the western U.S., as well as the land, water, and species management and research needs that are essential to address in the coming decade. For more information, visit <http://greatbasin.nbj.gov> and <http://greatbasin.wr.usgs.gov/GBRMP/index.html> or contact Steve Caicco, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, at 775-861-6341.

Marbled Murrelet Review Examines Climate Change Effects

A 5-year review of the Marbled Murrelet contains a thorough evaluation of climate change affects to the marine environment for California, Oregon, and Washington populations. Climate change may affect the marine environment by increasing ocean temperature, increasing

the vertical stratification of the water column (reducing mixing which is important to the marine food chain), and changing the intensity and timing of coastal upwelling. Wind-driven coastal upwelling and mixing are particularly important to productive marine ecosystems that support diverse marine life, major fisheries and seabirds. Other issues include sea level rise and ocean acidification. Read pages 42-45 of the review at http://www.fws.gov/westwafwo/pdf/Mamu2009_5yr_review%20FINAL%2061209.pdf

IN THE NEWS

Kansas National Wildlife Refuge Earns Carbon Kudos

The Conservation Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Environmental Synergy Inc. (ESI), announced Aug. 3 that a forest-based carbon sequestration project near Kansas City has received Gold validation, the highest level available under Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance standards.

“This outstanding partnership program not only helps restore forest habitat and reduce greenhouse gases, but it also provides an opportunity for the public to get involved in climate change solutions,” said Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes. “The Department of the Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognize we cannot meet the challenge of climate change on our own. We must and will continue to work with partners like the Conservation Fund and ESI to protect our nation’s treasured landscapes and wildlife resources.” http://www.conservationfund.org/news/zero_kansas_carbon_gold_validation

Federal Wetlands Mapping Standard Approved

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced today the adoption of a Wetlands Mapping Standard that provides minimum requirements and guidelines for wetlands mapping efforts. The new standard is designed to guide current and future wetlands digital mapping projects and enhance the overall quality and consistency of wetlands data. Quality data on wetlands are considered critical for planning effective conservation strategies to benefit fish and wildlife resources now and in the future. <http://www.fws.gov/home/feature/2009/FederalWetlandsMappingStandardNewsRelease.pdf>

INSIDE STORY (FWS Employees)

Putting Science in the Right Places

In the face of escalating conservation challenges such as land-use conversion, invasive species, water scarcity, and a range of other complex issues—all of which are amplified by accelerated climate change—the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with support and cooperation from the U.S. Geological Survey, is developing a national geographic framework for “putting science in the right places” to conserve our nation’s fish and wildlife resources. <https://intranet.fws.gov/region9/scienceadvisory/shc/index.html>

NEPA analysis course offered at NCTC November 16-18

This three day course is designed to address some of the most complex and current issues in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis. Instruction will focus on how the requirement to analyze cumulative effects under NEPA may be used to address the impacts of proposed federal actions on climate change, and, conversely, the effects of climate change on proposed federal action. Register online at <https://doilearn.doi.gov/> Non-DOI employees should click on “Public Catalog Login” then type the course code (CSP3180) in the Search box. Then click on the course title. Course registration closes 10 weeks prior to the course date.

For more information contact Laura Eaton-Poole (Laura_Eaton@fws.gov) or Brenda Hooper (Brenda_Hooper@fws.gov), Division of Conservation Science and Policy, at 304/876-7473 or 304/876-7449; or check the NCTC website at <http://training.fws.gov/>

Taking Action Now

During 2009, the Service has established key first steps to prepare us for efforts to adapt to accelerated climate change in 2010 and beyond. These steps build on the Strategic Habitat Conservation framework and support our FY 2010 climate change budget proposal.

For full details of the recommendations, visit https://intranet.fws.gov/climatechange/pdf/strategic_plan_docs/FY09_Priority_actions_directorate_decisions.pdf

To view progress on each action, visit the FY 09 Actions [Sharepoint site](http://sharepoint.fws.net/di/ccfy09ap/default.aspx) at <http://sharepoint.fws.net/di/ccfy09ap/default.aspx>

For more information on how the Service is working with others to conserve the nature of America in a changing climate, visit <http://www.fws.gov/home/climatechange/>

For employee information on Service activities and actions related to climate change, visit <https://intranet.fws.gov/climatechange/>

Send stories and announcements on your office’s climate change activities to David_Eisenhauer@fws.gov