United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240

DEC 19 2013

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/SCI/056254

Memorandum

To: Service Directorate

From: Deputy Director

Subject: High Priority Departmental Request for Reporting 2013 Climate Change Adaptation Activities and Plans for 2014
(response due: January 21, 2014)

On November 1, 2013 the Obama Administration released Executive Order (EO) 13653: *Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change*. Among the requirements of the new EO, the Department of the Interior (Department) will update its Climate Change Adaptation no later than March 3, 2014. A completed inventory and assessment of "proposed and completed changes" to policies, programs, and regulations needed to become more resilient to the anticipated impacts of climate change is due by August 2014. To meet these deadlines, the Department has issued a data call to the bureaus requesting information regarding current and planned climate change adaptation activities.

The Department has provided templates for both the requirements noted above (attached):

Template 1 – Response to new Climate Change Executive Order: This concerns identifying opportunities to support climate adaptation and climate resilient investments. It is an exercise in identifying opportunities, so the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) should not confine its reporting on past activities, but should seek to identify high priority activities for the future. All Assistant Directors and Regional Directors should respond to all sections of Template 1 as appropriate.

Template 2 – Reporting 2013 Climate Change Adaptation Activities and Plans for 2014: This concerns reporting on climate change adaptation activities that the Service has undertaken in 2013 and also what is planned for 2014 in five major areas. All Assistant Directors should respond to sections 1, 2, and 5 of Template 2 as appropriate. It has been suggested that Business Management and Operations (BMO) takes the lead in responding to sections 3 and 4, with support from additional programs as needed.

The Department has advised that this exercise should emphasize quality over quantity, and that on-the-ground, placed-based examples (where appropriate) are the highest priority. Please keep your responses to any particular item to a brief paragraph and indicate the appropriate template and section for each response.

To date, the Service has been considered a leader on responding to climate change. Please give this data call your highest consideration and take advantage of this chance to both identify future opportunities, as well as to provide a good high-level accounting of what the Service has accomplished to date.

In order to compile and synthesize program and regional responses, please load your responses to this request to DTS record 056254 by close of business January 21, 2014. All responses are requested even if you have no substantive input on a particular section.

If you have questions about this assignment, please contact Mr. Mark Shaffer (mark_shaffer@fws.gov, 703-358-2603) or Ms. Kate Freund (kate_freund@fws.gov, 703-358-2601) in the Office of the Science Advisor.

Attachments