

## OFFICE OF THE SCIENCE ADVISOR WEB CONFERENCE SERIES

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Thursday May 17 2:30-4:00 PM Eastern**

Because science is always evolving, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of the Science Advisor (OSA) Web Conference Seminar Series is designed to provide the latest cutting-edge scientific information and research. This series also highlights key OSA priorities, such as science integrity, the FWS Climate Change Strategy, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, and Strategic Habitat Conservation. This program is being facilitated by the USFWS's National Conservation Training Center (NCTC).

### ***“Rapid climate change on the Kenai Peninsula: Now what?!* *Moving towards a strategic approach to on-the-ground adaptation”***

***Thursday, May 17, 2:30-4:00 PM Eastern***

***John Morton, Ph.D.***

***Supervisory Biologist***

***U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Kenai National Wildlife Refuge***

***Description:*** Outside of the high arctic, climate change impacts on the 7 million-acre Kenai Peninsula may be the best documented in Alaska. In response to a warming and drying climate since 1968, the peninsula has experienced rising treeline, drying wetlands, receding glaciers, warming streams, increasing spruce bark beetle outbreaks, and changing fire regime. In addition to empirical data, spatially-explicit climate-envelope models forecast increasingly dramatic changes in vegetation composition including higher potential for invasive plant establishment. The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge is particularly well poised to respond proactively to these changes because it “sees itself” in the larger landscapes of the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska and even the National Wildlife Refuge System through spatial models. At the local scale, a spatially-explicit inventory of >1,000 species of vascular plants, nonvascular plants, birds and arthropods has helped set the stage for monitoring and modeling species assemblages, species occupancy, and species distributions. We are in the early stages of several promising initiatives to promote a strategic approach to reducing the uncertainty that hampers on-the-ground adaptation: development of an interagency climate vulnerability assessment with Chugach National Forest, Kenai Fjords National Park and the University of Alaska; development of an MOU among federal land managers to collaborate on adaptation; development of a regional geospatial data-sharing hub; seeking congruence in competing spatial models and hierarchical models; and validation of model forecasts through existing data. Perhaps the most important message is that different agency missions are not an obstacle, but an opportunity to build resiliency in our collective responses to rapid climate change.

### **YOU MUST REGISTER TO JOIN THIS WEBINAR:**

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Once submitted, your name will be added to the registry for the webinar and you will receive an email with instructions on how to join the webinar via WebEx platform.

**This webinar will be recorded for later viewing.** If you cannot attend the webinar it will be posted approximately 1-2 weeks after the presentation is given and posted on the Office of the Science Advisor Webinar page:

[http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid1012811846001?bckey=AQ~~.AAAAv1RRo7E~.NyPVtykdKxXTH1jgoXjy22F\\_fAthM\\_K8](http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid1012811846001?bckey=AQ~~.AAAAv1RRo7E~.NyPVtykdKxXTH1jgoXjy22F_fAthM_K8)

If you have any questions regarding registration for the OSA webinars, please contact:

**Danielle LaRock:** 304.876.7476 or [Danielle\\_LaRock@fws.gov](mailto:Danielle_LaRock@fws.gov)