



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*  
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

**Joint Implementation Working Group**

**Notes**

Friday, June 24, 2016

2:00-4:00pm Eastern

1. Purpose of this meeting is to:
  - a. Welcome the Resilient Lands and Waters initiative in to the broader National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy effort and answer any questions the JIWG has on this new effort
  - b. Get updates from our four subgroups who are developing action plans for the four parts of our new 2016-2017 Workplan
  - c. Get input from any partners during public comment period and
  - d. Allow JIWG members to share any issues or highlights during our JIWG Roundtable.
2. Resilient Lands & Waters Initiative
  - a. The White House Council on Environmental Quality approached the JIWG about taking over management of the Climate Resilient Lands & Waters Initiative. Today, we've invited representatives from that ongoing effort to introduce us to what they are doing and what our role will be moving forward.
  - b. We think this is a good opportunity for the JIWG for several reasons. First, the Initiative actually originated with the JIWG Management Team and directly addresses the first goal of the Strategy. Second, we see this as an important opportunity to share the Strategy with a wider audience and connect our working group to this exciting and high profile effort.
  - c. Vanitha Sivarajan – DOI Office of Policy and Analysis
    - i. Since CEQ will lack continuity at the end of the year, transferring management of this initiative to the JIWG is a great opportunity to keep the initiative moving forward.
    - ii. DOI and NOAA are continuing to take the lead and offer coordinating role through the end of the year and for the initial report.
    - iii. The intent will be to allow JIWG to take over moving forward in to 2017. If initiative does exist in 2017, it will be up to the JIWG.
  - d. Davia Palmeri – AFWA
    - i. The 7 landscapes have committed to producing mapping products by October 2016. The synthesis report will look to discern lessons learned and make recommendations for future resilience planning across landscapes. Using the process developed by each landscape as examples and motivation.
    - ii. Discussion:
      1. Put initiative on NFWCPAS website and promote through existing JIWG networks



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2. Invite JIWG members to volunteer to participate in synthesis – Cynthia Wilkerson (WA DFW) volunteers. **Reach out to Davia if you wish to volunteer**
  3. JIWG members will have an opportunity to review the report before publication
  4. These partnerships are strong already. Look forward to other opportunities for JIWG to help do a great job to deliver in the fall.
  5. One threshold question that is important to think about is whether the climate work these folks have done can be sustained on a widespread basis without financial support. Can we ask people to just add climate in or do we need to just add climate in without additional moneys?
  6. Some landscapes are functionally federal landscapes. What do we do to prompt federal lands to always incorporate climate adaptation in to their planning?
  7. No clear goal for 2017 –Can we lay out options for 2017 –continue amplifying partnerships or recruiting new partnerships. Work with broader teams to identify options for where we go from there.  
Timelines associated with options. **Vision for January 1 to be crafted by Management team and RLW team.**
    - a. Role for the JIWG is to help us vision for the future. Ie. NOAA has some landscapes that would logically fit in to this process. If we want to keep this alive we can consider identifying a second round of landscapes
    - b. Might be logical to take another step and look past the spatially explicit piece. We tend to cheer everything in adaptation. We'd like to take a clear eyed view of what is working and what is not working.
    - c. Davia will draft a proposal for what 2017 could look like.
3. JIWG Workplan
- a. Climate Adaptation Leadership Awards
    - i. Announced seven winners for 2016 awards on June 7. Check out the info on <http://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/award.php>
    - ii. Thinking about the 2017 awards already, potential announcement of Call for Nominations in early September
    - iii. Announcing 2017 recipients at National Adaptation Forum. Sponsoring agencies will be able to provide funding for travel to the Forum. We should also invite the 2016 awardees
    - iv. Discussion:
      1. Make sure to use RISAs, HUBs, LCCs to promote award



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2. Ask of JIWG: Sending out call for nominations through all networks in early September.
3. Currently funded through existing support from FWS and NOAA to AFWA.
  - a. Add BLM and USGs as sponsor agencies. Thank you!
- b. Engagement and Outreach Subgroup
  - i. Group has existed for multiple years and was responsible for updating/improving the website and developing the [Outreach & Engagement Plan](#)
  - ii. Need additional support & capacity to help the group define its role
  - iii. National Adaptation Forum and LCCs seem like the most logical places to engage. LCCs all have communication capacity –BRING CSCs in to the conversation.
  - iv. Looking for a leader/chair
  - v. Also looking for people with particular skills in outreach
- c. Conservation Funding Subgroup
  - i. Group has formed and developed a charter
    1. Sean is sharing the charter with other MT liaisons so all groups can develop one.
  - ii. Looking for a chair and more participation.
  - iii. Discussion:
    1. Can this group be thinking about the transition?
      - a. Need to avoid lobbying
    2. We have a tremendous financial need...what are those needs by agency...What do we need to do that better?
    3. Is there consensus on what the challenges are?
    4. Do we have a sense of how much money is spent on adaptation?
    5. What capacity is needed for adaptation...compared to what we have now?
- d. Implementation Subgroup
  - i. Group has formed and begun discussing Strategy actions that need additional attention and implementation focus
  - ii. Developed a chart of JIWG actions that the JIWG identified in the Next Steps report.
  - iii. Looking for JIWG members to submit input on the current spreadsheet. Are we missing anything?
  - iv. Things on the list require cooperative multi-agency effort and the JIWG can serve as a facilitator and motivator.
- e. Best Practices Subgroup



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- i. Want to continue collecting and synthesizing best practices, which dovetails with the Resilient Lands and Waters Initiative.
  - ii. Stand down on the group until the Resilient Lands and Waters Initiative is further along.
4. NCCWSC/CSC Strategic Planning
  - a. Network of NCCWSC/CSCs is beginning a Strategic Planning effort that will likely take approximately one year. They want to describe what they are good at, what hasn't worked, and what are and are not priorities.
  - b. The process will take approximately a year. Focus on the enterprise as a network (NCCWSC and 8 CSCs). CSCs are very independent but are also part of a network. What is the distinct role of the NCCWSC?
  - c. Primary resources for strategic planning will be the 8 CSC directors and 4 or 5 headquarters staff. The process will begin internally.
  - d. They will be completing structured interviews with their network of stakeholders.
  - e. The JIWG encourages the NCCWSC/CSC network to incorporate the Strategy in to their Strategic Plan. Utilize a relationship with the JIWG to align priorities.
5. Public Comment:
  - a. Taylor Pool, American Fisheries Society – AFS has compiled set of recommendations in rough draft form for the Future of our Nation's Fisheries. There are two climate related recommendations. Draft will be revised over the summer and is available for review.
6. JIWG Round Table

NMFS- Developing [regional action plans](#) to implement climate science strategy. Welcome input on how to customize and implement within each region.

FWS –NCTC hosted a Climate Change Practitioners Forum – 80 FWS practitioners from across the country to share challenging issues. Trying to build community of practice within the agency and address questions such as, “What does success look like for climate adaptation?” New effort in the Florida Keys with Florida FWC and TNC recognizing human dimension associated with climate impacts. What is society's willingness to take steps like assisted migration for species such as the Key Island Deer? The Service also has a new internal climate change portal designed for internal networking around climate change. Staff from across the agency

AFWA – AFWA is working on a Science Strategy to lay out how we support critical programs like this one. A draft will be circulated to partners this summer. We also have a Blue Ribbon Panel leading the charge for more funding for wildlife conservation. The proposed funding would be to implement State Wildlife Action Plans, all of which include climate change as a threat. A bill has been introduced: [H.R. 5650](#).

APHIS –Starting to look at climate impacts on honeybees and other vital pollinators. Bees and climate change talk is going around.



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EPA – Critical infrastructure is at risk from sea level rise, especially in light of greater SLR projections. What kind of input can we have to the planning for SLR adaptation? Adaptation often focuses on infrastructure losses, but we need to include concern about natural resources for SLR planning, especially planning for DOTs.

BLM – National Plant Conservation Program feeding in to native plant materials program and national seed strategy. Worked with NatureServe on climate envelope models, looking at how things have shifted in the last 80 years based on NatureServe data. Used the Climate Vulnerability index on native plants across the western states. Spectrum of plants including endangered species. Species that fared worst were not federally protected species. Common species were more vulnerable. Will be published, but unclear timeline at this time.

BIA – No applicants to student intern position in support of the JIWG, but still working on recruitment. \$7 million in funding with \$28 million in requests. Selected 3 tribal liaisons for the CSCs. Resoliciting up to 3 more tribal liaisons.

NOS – First meeting for John Armor, NMS. They currently have a FFO for coastal ecosystem resilience grants with 2 to 1 match.

USGS – Hosting recompetes for three Climate Science Centers. New funding for ecological drought and climate and migratory bird research frameworks at the NCCWSC. The CSCs are considering how to contribute to National Climate Assessment. The IPCC has placed a call for nominations for Oceans and Cryosphere scientists.

WA DFW – Completed 2 year project w/ NP LCC translating changes to future climate in stream depth. Fish passage culvert replacement has incorporated climate change using climate adaptive design.

USFS – Recommend checking out the NIACS website. Only one country around the world has not accessed their website. All forests nationwide will be required to evaluate climate change stressors on natural resources. Forest Service led [report](#) on drought and agroforestry and climate change.

GLIFWC – Intertribal Natural Resource Agency has 2 major parts of program developing – 1 on vulnerability assessment for 40 species and another on Lake Superior fish studies. Looking at how GLIFWC as an agency needs to adapt to climate change. How can they affect the decisions of other agencies or land managers?



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**ATTENDANCE**

**AFWA**

Davia Palmeri  
Jonathan Mawdsley

**APHIS**

Marlene Cole  
Wendy Hall

**BIA**

Sean Hart

**BLM**

Kim Tripp

**BOR**

Art Coykendall

**California DFW**

Whitney Albright

**CEQ**

Tim Male  
Beattra Wilson  
Tabitha Cale

**DOI**

Vanitha Sivarajan  
Sarah Greenberger

**EPA**

Jeff Peterson

**Florida FWC**

Brian Branciforte

**FWS**

Paul Souza  
Elena Babij  
Kate Freund

**GLIFWC**

Kim Stone  
Jim Zorn

**Minnesota DNR**

Olivia LeDee

**NOAA NMFS**

Richard Merrick  
Roger Griffis

**NOAA NOS**

John Armor  
Catherine Marzin

**USACE**

Chris

**USFS**

Sandy Boyce

**USGS**

Robin O'Malley

**Washington DFW**

Cynthia Wilkerson

**American Fisheries  
Society**

Taylor Pool

**Defenders of  
Wildlife**

Aimee Delach