



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*  
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Meeting Notes

*Joint Implementation Working Group (JIWG)*

**National Fish Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy**

November 13, 2014

1. Welcome and Introductions – Mark Shaffer
2. Comments from Jay Jensen, CEQ
  - a. Impressed by the Report you produced this summer on the accomplishments against the *National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy*.
  - b. Struck by the prominence of partnerships – at the core of everything we do – and our path to success in the future: robust public – private partnerships that engage people across multiple jurisdictions to tackle our natural resources challenges at the Landscape Scale. Where we see sustained collaboration, we’re seeing solutions and social acceptance for land management that will make our communities safer and our forests, farms, parks, and wild lands more productive and sustainable.
  - c. We are not without challenges. Yesterday, the Gunnison Sage Grouse was listed as threatened, despite unprecedented efforts to put together voluntary actions to protect this iconic bird. We can’t control the science or the courts - but what we can control is how we stay at the table to partner, and our persistence in finding solutions that keep us finding common ground to protect species and keep the best of nature to benefit future generations. We’ll keep at it – and I want to thank so many of you here today who are involved in protecting imperiled species and their habitats, as well as thinking about how we can best deliver our work as land managers in a changing climate.
  - d. Today, I’d like to talk about what’s going on at the White House – and in particular, the Climate and Natural Resources Priority Agenda which the Administration released last month:
    - i. Reporting implementation through the JIWG. I understand there’s a data call out right now and would really encourage you to get your reporting in – White House really relies on this information.
    - ii. Coordinating and “connecting the dots” between CNRWG, the Local Leaders Task Force recommendations, your agency adaptation plans, the data and tools initiative ... all of these are actions that deliver on the President’s Climate Resilience E.O., and build upon and relate to each other. I understand FWS has already started cross-walking CNRWG against FWS plans and encourage you, now is the time to strike.
    - iii. Integrating CNRWG priorities into your FY 16 and FY 17 work plans and budget requests. CNRWG reflects Administration priority and we’ll be in continued dialogue with your Agency, Department, and OMB Leadership about delivering on this agenda.



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*  
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

- iv. “Feeding the Machine” – White House has high expectations to keep the pace on delivering on our natural resources agenda in the next 2 years. We want to celebrate your accomplishments, publicize them, and help the Agencies build the institutional toe-holds you need to sustain these climate adaptation efforts into the next Administration.
  - e. Thank you for the great work of this group and the great leadership and organization we’ve seen from all of you in sustaining the interagency effort, and delivering on the NFWPCAS Strategy in meaningful ways on the ground, where it matters.
  - f. We look forward to continuing to work through the JIWG in delivering on the Administration’s agenda, and utilizing your expertise and infrastructure to accomplish our shared goals efficiently and effectively.
3. Update on State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force – Jim Zorn
- a. The Task Force is offering an internal deliberative draft recommendation –Making formal recommendations to the President on Monday.
  - b. The focus is on human health, resilience of people, with the recognition to restore and conserve ecosystems with natural and working lands .
  - c. Some examples – building capacity for resilience – providing data, tools, and guidance for managers—increasing climate literacy and public awareness (ie. Weather is not climate—snow does not mean climate is not warming)-combatting invasive species and diseases – resilience planning – water quality and quantity.
  - d. Can CEQ bring the multiple Strategies together, for example identifying similarities between the Freshwater Action Plan and NFWPCAS.
4. Update on the Implementation Survey
- a. We are looking to collect everything people are doing there may be good opportunities for collaboration. It could turn up opportunities for future planning together.
  - b. Think about the pro-active, integrated, coordinated planning—we sent a prospectus and a template—heard from CA, NPS, EPA, FWS.
  - c. Most agencies at the table indicated a willingness to carry on and submit information.
  - d. We hope to issue a Report after the beginning of the calendar year.
  - e. Conservation Reserve (and NRCS) – new farm bill requires NEPA reg. review – developing that NEPA analysis – it may be premature for a response to this survey.
  - f. We should name this something other than “SURVEY” - people dislike this term.
  - g. Some subset of these would be great for a press release from the White House – indicate that for CEQ – A column called “Projected Announcement” with a date when it might be worthy of publicity.
  - h. Relax the “3” request—tell us what you are doing that you want to (0-11) by Friday, December 5.

**Comment [DP1]:** “NFWPCAS: Next Steps” was agreed upon after the meeting.



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*  
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

- i. We should use the spreadsheet from CEQ and pull out just the actions that are related to NFWPCAS and organize by the 7 goals.
  - j. Alice can send us a copy of the CEQ spreadsheets to create a crosswalk.
  - k. Lack of response from states and tribes is reflective of limited capacity to keep up with everything.
5. Beaver management Update
- a. For state fish and wildlife agencies the JIWG taking an interest in identification of a broader suite of ecosystem engineers that might also have climate adaptation benefits to include in the Wildlife Action Plans might be more useful.
  - b. Temper the benefits that beavers provide –there are situations where beavers create a lot of issues for BOR facilities.
  - c. More credible to have a broader context that measures costs and benefits (the piece in this report has very narrow specific context.
  - d. We should also consider Giardia and other zoonotic diseases.
  - e. Is this something we want this group to be doing: making recommendations?
    - i. Is this the focus of what this group wants to do? Issues of management?
    - ii. Beavers are largely managed by states as nuisance wildlife, furbearers, and wildlife –do we want the JIWG to get involved in management.
    - iii. As issues arise, the JIWG should be able to work collectively to respond to a recognized issue for multiple agencies.
  - f. Perhaps the JIWG could serve as an incubator for topics and then find the right home for them.
    - i. Incubator idea- A subgroup forms around an issue that can then provide some information to the larger group (pros and cons, options for JIWG members to consider) without “findings or recommendations.”
6. NGO Comments
- a. Get subgroup information on the website.
  - b. Keep NGOs abreast of the results of Implementation Survey – complementary report or include NGO work in the same report?
7. Other Business
- a. National Adaptation Forum – May 13-15, 2015 – We have proposed a session on the Strategy, let Davia know if you would like to participate.
  - b. Priority Agenda focuses on carbon management through natural resource management that is not obvious in the NFWPCAS.
    - i. Think about timeline for revision and if next revision should include mitigation.
    - ii. Possible idea for upcoming incubator group: adaptation vs mitigation in the Strategy.



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*  
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

- iii. Being ready to take advantage of opportunities for carbon sequestration could advance immediate conservation goals.
- c. Can we get an update on what is happening with the adaptation federal advisory committee (ACCCNRS)?
- d. We should keep abreast of developments with the President's Climate Action Plan.
- e. Next Meeting – January/February – when we have some sort of document on the Implementation Survey.