

**National Fish and Wildlife Adaptation Strategy:**  
**Purpose, Vision and Guiding Principles**

**Purpose:** The National Fish and Wildlife Climate Adaptation Strategy will provide unifying vision and reflect shared principles and science-based practices for reducing the impacts of climate change to fish, wildlife, and plants, their habitat, and associated ecological processes across geographic scales.

**Vision:** Ecological systems continue providing life sustaining functions for healthy, diverse and abundant populations of fish, wildlife and plants, as well as human communities that are adapted to survive, thrive and prosper in a world impacted by unprecedented and accelerating global climate change.

**Guiding Principles:**

In building and implementing the National Fish and Wildlife Climate Adaptation Strategy, we will –

1. Endorse a national, not federal, framework for cooperative climate response;
2. Focus actions and investments within our national boundaries, but extend collaboration and information-sharing from local to global communities;
3. Embrace a philosophy of collaboration and interdependence among federal, state, tribal and local governments, and between government and non-governmental organizations;
4. Emphasize landscape-scale science and management approaches, with particular focus on ecological systems and function; strengthened observational systems; model-based projection; species-habitat linkages; risk assessment; and adaptive management;
5. Support communication, education and training as cornerstones;
6. Plan and act within a time scale of 50-100 years;
7. Integrate adaptation and mitigation efforts; and
8. Adopt the pragmatic perspective that ecological disruptions associated with the changing climate system will be extreme, surprises frequent, and that we cannot prevent all losses in biodiversity; but also optimism that we can and will manage the impacts of climate change on our wildlife and natural systems and help sustain biodiversity and functioning ecosystems.