

**American Rivers • Colorado Mountain Club • Craighead Institute •
Defenders of Wildlife • Earthjustice • Endangered Species Coalition • Center for Large
Landscape Conservation • Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Greater Yellowstone
Coalition • Information Network for Responsible Mining • National Parks Conservation
Association • Natural Resources Defense Council • Outdoor Alliance • Protect Our
Winters • Rocky Mountain Wild • Sheep Mountain Alliance • Sierra Club • The Trust for
Public Land • The Wilderness Society • The Wildlife Society • Trout Unlimited • Western
Wildlife Conservancy • Wild Connections • Wilderness Workshop • Wildlands Network •
Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative**

March 5, 2012

Office of the Science Advisor
Attn: National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 222
Arlington, VA 22203

<<comments delivered via web form>>

Dear Members of the Steering Committee,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters nationwide, the undersigned groups wish to express our strong support for the National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy. This non-regulatory strategy, which follows from 2009 Congressional direction to the Department of the Interior and CEQ to develop a national strategy to "...assist fish, wildlife, plants, and related ecological processes in becoming more resilient, adapting to, and surviving the impacts of climate change," is a critical step in safeguarding our nation's natural resources from the impacts of a warming climate. Many of these impacts are already being felt across the country. The strategy is important because it involves resource managers from all levels of government; it utilizes sound science to make the urgent case for action; it lays out comprehensive, and achievable goals and actions; and it provides a path for implementation by a wide array of partners.

The strategy represents the first national-level effort across all levels of government to identify the major strategies and actions needed to safeguard our valuable wildlife and ecosystems and the benefits they provide from the impacts of climate change. Importantly, it is not just a federal strategy, but involved 23 federal, state and tribal entities, reflecting the wide array of trust responsibilities for wildlife, public lands, waters, and other natural resources. This level of cooperation and buy-in from this many agencies is almost unprecedented, and is critical to the future success of the strategy in addressing the wide-ranging and multifaceted challenges of climate change.

We believe that achieving the set of goals outlined in the strategy will greatly benefit fish, wildlife, plants, and ecosystems, allowing them to continue to provide sustainable benefits and services to human communities.

In short, the strategy is a call to action to protect and restore resilient habitat and habitat corridors, integrate climate change into existing conservation programs, build the conservation community's capacity to address climate change, invest in coordinated research and monitoring, and provide natural resources managers the tools they need to adapt to a changing environment.

We look forward to helping you and your partners move forward with implementing it.*

* Correspondence to the signatory groups can be made to Noah Matson, Defenders of Wildlife, nmatson@defenders.org.