



June 6, 2013

Ken Elowe
Ass't Reg Director, Science Applications
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035

Dear Ken Elowe:

The recently released *National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy* (Strategy) is the first nation-wide effort to help public and private decision makers prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change on species, ecosystems, and the people and economies that depend on them. It does not prescribe any mandatory or regulatory actions, but identifies seven key steps needed to safeguard the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and the vital services they provide. It recommends common-sense actions that agencies and conservation partners can take to help achieve these seven goals and increase the resilience and adaptation of natural systems to a changing climate.

The Strategy was developed through a partnership involving more than 90 scientists, and managers from state, tribal, and federal agencies led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (representing state wildlife agencies more broadly). Many LCC partners and staff were closely involved in the development and review of the Strategy throughout the process at the national and/or regional level, as members of the Technical (drafting) Teams, reviewers, or workshop participants. The document went through extensive internal and public review, and received comments from over 55,000 people.

The Strategy specifically recognizes that the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) and other regional, inter-jurisdictional collaboratives (e.g., Joint Ventures, National Fish Habitat Partnerships, etc.) have key roles and great potential to help advance climate change adaptation efforts. In particular, the Strategy identifies these groups as being well positioned to help many organizations consider and apply the Strategy at the regional scale. For example, the LCCs may be especially well-positioned to step-down the Strategy into spatially explicit integrated landscape conservation plans, a key Strategy recommendation.

On behalf of the Strategy Management Team, we are writing to all LCC Steering Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Coordinators to encourage the LCCs to consider how the Strategy can help advance adaptation efforts in each LCC, to identify activities called for in the Strategy that support local needs and priorities, and to begin translating Strategy recommendations into regional to local plans and actions. We would like to work with you and the LCC community to continue to explore the role of the LCCs in implementing the Strategy, and welcome further discussions and your suggestions on steps to advance these ideas.



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

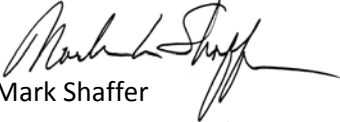
We ask you to help support this effort by taking the following steps:

1. Distributing the Strategy and supporting documents to your Steering Committee members/partners, and initiating a discussion about this opportunity (for additional hard copies, contact wildlifeadaptationstrategy@fws.gov);
2. Working with your LCC Coordinators and Steering Committee to gather feedback about how your LCC can tier their specific strategies to this national Strategy, how the LCC can help implement the Strategy through specific actions and plans, and how the Strategy implementation process can help highlight the activities and achievements of your LCC;
3. Providing any comments and suggestions on how best to coordinate with and support LCC use and implementation of the Strategy, including feedback on the short attached document that outlines some potential LCC roles in Strategy implementation. We would greatly appreciate your feedback by July 1 (please send responses to kate_freund@fws.gov).

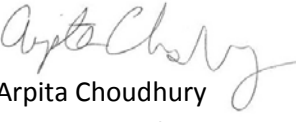
Ultimately, the Management Team hopes the LCCs will

- See the Strategy as a resource for informing and supporting activities of the LCCs, their members and partners;
- Decide to take a leadership role in helping to translate this Strategy into collaborative actions; and
- Use the Strategy implementation process to highlight LCC actions and achievements.

Thank you for your help and support of this important effort,


Mark Shaffer
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service


Roger Griffis
NOAA


Arpita Choudhury
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies