Appendix A: Supporting Materials

Below are supporting materials for the National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy (*Strategy*). The supporting materials are made available to increase understanding of the development of the *Strategy* and to provide more detailed information about subjects mentioned in the *Strategy*. Each of these materials is available online on the *Strategy's* web site: www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov, or via the links listed in this appendix.

Ecosystem-Specific Background Papers

These ecosystem-specific background papers were developed by the Technical Teams (see Appendix E for a listing of the Technical Teams and their members) as source material for the *Strategy* detailing the impacts of climate change on specific ecosystems as well as adaptation strategies and actions for those systems. These papers have been edited by the Management Team for length, style, and content, and the Management Team accepts responsibility for any omissions or errors. Please follow the links to access detailed information regarding climate change adaptation for specific ecosystems.

Forest Ecosystems

www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/pdf/Forest_Ecosystems_Paper.pdf

Shrubland Ecosystems

www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/pdf/Shrubland_Ecosystems_Paper.pdf

Grassland Ecosystems

www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/pdf/Grassland Ecosystems Paper.pdf

Desert Ecosystems

www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/pdf/Desert Ecosystems Paper.pdf

Arctic Tundra Ecosystems

www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/pdf/Tundra_Ecosystems_Paper.pdf

Inland Water Ecosystems

www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/pdf/Inland_Water_Ecosystems_Paper.pdf

Coastal Ecosystems

www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/pdf/Coastal Ecosystems Paper.pdf

Marine Water Ecosystems

www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/pdf/Marine_Ecosystems_Paper.pdf

Legislation

www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/pdf/2010_Legislative_Language_for_Adaptation_Strategy.pdf

Related Reports and Materials

Adaptive Management: The U.S. Department of Interior Technical Guide

http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/AdaptiveManagement/documents.html

The Technical Guide presents adaptive management as a tool to help bureaus make better decisions in the context of uncertain or incomplete information.

America's Climate Choices

http://nas-sites.org/americasclimatechoices/

The National Research Council of the National Academies is conducting a series of coordinated activities designed to advance the U.S. response to climate change.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS): National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC)

www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/

The APHIS's NWRC can work with conservation and land and resource management agencies and organizations to address invasive species damage management.

Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE)

www.cakex.org

CAKE is a joint project of Island Press and EcoAdapt. It is aimed at building a shared knowledge base for managing natural systems in the face of rapid climate change, and includes a large database of adaptation case studies, reports, and tools, as well as links to federal, state, and local adaptation plans.

Climate Science Centers (CSCs)

http://nccwsc.usgs.gov/csc.shtml

Regional CSCs will provide scientific information, tools, and techniques that land, water, wildlife, and cultural resource managers can apply to anticipate, monitor, and adapt to climate and ecologically-driven responses at regional-to-local scales.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

www.epa.gov/climatechange/

The EPA provides a good overview of climate adaptation and links to related resources and materials.

Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force (ICCATF)

www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/adaptation

The Council on Environmental Quality is co-chairing the ICCATF which is comprised of over 200 federal agency staff.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

www.ipcc.ch

The IPCC is the definitive scientific intergovernmental body tasked with reviewing and assessing the most recent scientific, technical, and socio-economic information produced worldwide relevant to the understanding of climate change. Work on the Fifth Assessment Report is currently underway.

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs)

www.fws.gov/science/shc/lcc.html

LCCs are self-directed, applied conservation science partnerships that will support conservation at landscape scales.

National Action Plan: Priorities for Managing Freshwater Resources in a Changing Climate

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ceq/2011_national_action_plan.pdf

The Freshwater Action Plan recommends federal agency actions to aid freshwater resource managers in managing and protecting the nation's water resources.

National Ocean Policy

www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/policy

A July 2010 Executive Order established a National Ocean Policy and tasked the interagency National Ocean Council with developing this strategic action plan.

Plant Protection Act (PPA)

www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/pdf/PlantProtAct2000.pdf

The PPA consolidates all or part of 10 existing U.S. Department of Agriculture plant health laws into one comprehensive law, including the authority to regulate plants, plant products, certain biological control organisms, noxious weeds, and plant pests.

U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP)

www.globalchange.gov

The USGCRP coordinates and integrates federal research on changes in the global environment and their implications for society.

Appendix B: Glossary

- **Adaptation (Climate Change)** adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.
- **Adaptation (Biological)** the process or the product of natural selection that changes the behavior, function, or structure of an organism physiological function or an anatomical structure of an organism that better suit it to its environment.
- **Adaptive Capacity** the ability of a species to become adapted (i.e., to be able to live and reproduce) to a certain range of environmental conditions as a result of genetic and phenotypic responses.
- **Anthropogenic** of, relating to, or resulting from the influence of human beings on nature.
- **Biodiversity** the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, among species, and of ecosystems.
- **Carbon Sequestration** describes long-term storage of carbon dioxide or other forms of carbon. It has been proposed as a way to slow the atmospheric and marine accumulation of greenhouse gases, which are released by burning fossil fuels.
- **Clean Water Act** the primary federal law in the United States governing water pollution. The Act established the goals of eliminating releases of high amounts of toxic substances into water, eliminating additional water pollution by 1985, and ensuring that surface waters would meet standards necessary for human sports and recreation by 1983.
- **Climate Change** a significant and lasting change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns over periods ranging from decades to millions of years. It may be a change in average weather conditions or the distribution of events around that average (e.g., more or fewer extreme weather events). Climate change may be limited to a specific region or may occur across the whole Earth.
- **Climate Modeling** quantitative methods to simulate the interactions of the atmosphere, oceans, land surface, and ice. They are used for a variety of purposes from study of the dynamics of the climate system to projections of future climate.
- **Coastal Zone Management Act** an Act of Congress passed in 1972 to encourage coastal states to develop and implement coastal zone management plans. This act was established as national policy to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, restore or enhance, the resources of the Nation's coastal zone for this and succeeding generations.
- **Downscaling** refers to techniques that take output from the model and add information at scales smaller than the grid spacing. Downscaling methods are developed to obtain local-scale surface weather from regional-scale atmospheric variables.

- **Ecosystem** a biological environment consisting of all the organisms living in a particular area, as well as all the nonliving (abiotic), physical components of the environment with which the organisms interact, such as air, soil, water, and sunlight.
- **Ecosystem Services** the benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food, water, timber, and fiber; regulation services such as the regulation of climate, floods, disease, wastes, and water quality; cultural services such as recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, and spiritual fulfillment; and supporting services such as soil formation, photosynthesis, and nutrient cycling.
- **Endangered Species Act (ESA)** environmental law signed on December 28, 1973, and provides for the conservation of species that are endangered or threatened throughout all or a significant portion of their range, and the conservation of the ecosystems on which they depend. The ESA replaced the Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969. It has been amended several times.
- **Eutrophication** the movement of a body of water's trophic status in the direction of increasing biomass, by the addition of artificial or natural substances, such as nitrates and phosphates, through fertilizers or sewage, to an aquatic system.
- **Evapotranspiration** a term used to describe the sum of evaporation and plant transpiration from the Earth's land surface to atmosphere. Evaporation accounts for the movement of water to the air from sources such as the soil, canopy interception, and waterbodies. Transpiration accounts for the movement of water within a plant and the subsequent loss of water as vapor through stomata in its leaves.
- **Exclusive Economic Zone** a zone of an ocean or sea over which a state has special rights over the exploration and use of marine resources, including production of energy from water and wind. It stretches from the seaward edge of the state's territorial sea out to 200 nautical miles from its coast.
- **Extreme Events** includes weather phenomena that are at the extremes of the historical distribution, especially severe or unseasonal weather such as heat waves, drought, floods, storms, and wildfires.
- **Farm Bill** the primary agricultural and food policy tool of the federal government. The comprehensive omnibus bill is passed every five years or so by the United States Congress and deals with both agriculture and all other affairs under the purview of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The current farm bill is known as the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.
- **Geomorphological Change** changes observed in landforms and the processes that shape them. The study of geomorphological change can be used to understand landform history and dynamics, and to predict future changes through a combination of field observations, physical experiments, and numerical modeling.
- Globalization refers to the increasingly global relationships of culture, people, and economic activity.

- **Green House Gas** a gas in an atmosphere that absorbs and emits radiation within the thermal infrared range. This process is the fundamental cause of the greenhouse effect. The primary greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.
- **Habitat** an ecological or environmental area that is inhabited by a particular species of animal, plant, or other type of organism. It is the natural environment in which an organism lives, or the physical environment that surrounds (influences and is utilized by) a species population.
- **Habitat Degradation** the process in which natural habitat is rendered functionally unable to support the species present. In this process, the organisms that previously used the site are displaced or destroyed, reducing biodiversity.
- **Habitat Fragmentation** describes the emergence of discontinuities in an organism's preferred habitat, causing population fragmentation. Habitat fragmentation can be caused by geological processes that slowly alter the layout of the physical environment or by human activity such as land conversion and road building.
- **Harmful Algal Blooms** a rapid increase or accumulation in the population of algae in an aquatic system forming visible patches that may harm the health of the environment, plants, or animals. They can deplete the oxygen and block the sunlight that other organisms need to live, and some algae blooms release toxins that are dangerous to animals and humans.
- **Hydrology** the movement, distribution, and quality of water, including the hydrologic cycle, water resources, and environmental watershed sustainability.
- **Hypoxia** a phenomenon that occurs in aquatic environments as dissolved oxygen becomes reduced in concentration to a point where it becomes detrimental to aquatic organisms living in the system.
- **Invasive Species** non-indigenous species of plants or animals that adversely affect the habitats and bioregions they invade economically, environmentally, and/or ecologically.
- **Keystone Species** a species that has a disproportionately large effect on its environment relative to its abundance. Such species play a critical role in maintaining the structure of an ecological community, affecting many other organisms in an ecosystem and helping to determine the types and numbers of various other species in the community.
- **Maladaptation** an adaptation that, whilst reasonable at the time, becomes less and less suitable and more of a problem or hindrance as time goes on. It is possible for an adaptation to be poorly selected or become less appropriate or even become, on balance, more of a dysfunction than a positive adaptation over time.
- **Mitigation** in the context of climate change, a human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.
- **Natural Disturbance Regimes** the pattern and dynamics of disturbance events (e.g., fires, floods, landslides, etc.) that mold the structure and species composition of an ecosystem.

- **Natural Resources** materials and components that can be found within the environment. A natural resource may exist as a separate entity, such as fresh water and air, as well as a living organism, such as a fish, or it may exist in an alternate form which must be processed to obtain the resource, such as metal ores, oil, and most forms of energy.
- Non-climate Stressors in the context of climate adaptation, non-climate stressors refer to those current or future pressures and impacts threatening species and natural systems that do not stem from climate change, such as habitat fragmentation, pollution and contamination, disease, and over exploitation.
- Nonpoint Source Pollution refers to both water and air pollution from diffuse sources. Nonpoint source water pollution affects a water body from sources such as polluted runoff from agriculture areas draining into a river or wind-borne debris blowing out to sea. Nonpoint source air pollution affects air quality from sources such as smokestacks or car tailpipes. Although these pollutants have originated from a point source, the long-range transport ability and multiple sources of the pollutant make it a nonpoint source of pollution.
- **Ocean Acidification** the ongoing decrease in the pH and increase in acidity of the Earth's oceans, caused by the uptake of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- **Permafrost** soil at or below the freezing point of water (0 °C or 32 °F) for two or more years.
- **Phenology** the study of periodic plant and animal life cycle events and how these are influenced by seasonal and inter-annual variations in climate.
- **Resilience** the capacity of an ecosystem to return to the pre-condition state following a perturbation, including maintaining its essential characteristics taxonomic composition, structures, ecosystem functions, and process rates.
- **Resistance** the capacity of the ecosystem to absorb disturbances and remain largely unchanged.
- **Risk Assessment** the determination of quantitative or qualitative value of risk related to a concrete situation and a recognized threat such as climate change.
- Sea Level Rise As water warms, it expands, and the ocean surface rises. The melting of inland glaciers and continental ice sheets, including those in Greenland and Antarctica, causes additional sea level rise. Sea level change is highly variable regionally. It depends on the relative increase in water levels as well as local land elevation changes caused by subsidence or uplift, and local rates of sediment accumulation. Relative sea level rise refers to a local increase in the level of the ocean due to the interaction of these factors.
- **Sentinel Site** A location that is selected to represent a certain, preferably large, class of ecosystems for intensive monitoring.
- **Socioeconomics** a word used to identify the importance of factors other than biology in natural resource management decisions. For example, if management results in more fishing income, it is important to know how the income is distributed between small and large boats or part-time and full-time fishermen.

- **Stakeholders** a person, group, organization, or system that affects or can be affected by an organization's actions.
- **Stratification** in relation to water, stratification occurs when water masses with different properties (salinity, oxygenation, density, temperature) form layers that act as barriers to water mixing. These layers are normally arranged according to density, with the least dense water masses sitting above the more dense layers.

Vulnerability Assessment – a tool used in adaptation planning and informing the development and implementation of resource management practices.

Appendix C: Acronyms

ACIA Arctic Climate Impact Assessment

AFWA Association of the Fish and Wildlife Agencies

AMSA Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment

ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers

AZ CCAG Arizona Climate Change Advisory Group

C Carbon

CADFG California Department of Fish and Game

CAKE Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange

CEC Commission for Environmental Cooperation

CEICC Committee on Ecological Impacts of Climate Change

CEQ Council on Environmental Quality

CESU Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit

CO₂ Carbon Dioxide

CSCs Climate Science Centers

CCSP U.S. Climate Change Science Program

DOC Department of Commerce

DOI Department of the Interior

ECA Economics of Climate Adaptation Working Group

ESA Endangered Species Act

F Fahrenheit

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FWS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

GAO General Accountability Office

GHG and GHGs Green House Gas/Gasses

HABs Harmful Algal Blooms

IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

ICCATF Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force

JVs Migratory Bird Joint Ventures

LCC Landscape Conservation Cooperative

NC NERR North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve

NCA National Climate Assessment

NERRS National Estuarine Research Reserve System

NFHAP National Fish Habitat Action Plan

NMFS National Marine Fisheries Service

NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOC National Ocean Council

NOP National Ocean Policy

NRC National Research Council

NRCS National Resource Conservation Service

NSF National Science Foundation

PCSGA Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association

REDD Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

RISAs Regional Integrated Science Assessments

RMRS U.S. Forest Service: Rocky Mountain Research Station

SAP Synthesis and Assessment Product

SNAP Scenarios Network for Alaska Planning

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

USGCRP United States Global Change Research Program

USGS United States Geological Survey

WICCI Wisconsin's Changing Climate: Impacts and Adaptation

Appendix D: Scientific Names

alpine chipmunk

American oystercatcher

American robin

Arctic fox

arctic fox

Alopex lagopus

Vulpes lagopus

Asian carp *Bighead carp* (Hypophthalmichthys nobilis)

Black carp (Mylopharyngodon piceus) Grass carp (Ctenopharyngodon idella) Silver carp (Hypophthalmichthys molitrix)

Atlantic croaker Micropogonias undulatus blue crab Callinectes sapidus brook trout Salvelinus fontinalis brown treesnake Boiga irregularis buffelgrass Cenchrus ciliaris California vole Microtus californicus caribou Rangifer tarandus cheatgrass Bromus tectorum checkerspot butterfly Euphydryas editha

Chinook salmon Onchorhynchus tshawytscha

cisco
Coregonus artedi
coho salmon
Oncorhynchus kisutch
Cope's gray treefrog
diamondback terrapin
eastern tiger salamander
eelgrass
Coregonus artedi
Oncorhynchus kisutch
Hyla chrysoscelis
Malaclemys terrapin
Ambystoma tigrinum
Zostera marina

feral hog Sus scrofa

greater sage grouse Centrocercus urophasianus grizzly bear Ursus arctos horribilis

hemlock woolly adelgid Adelges tsugae horseshoe crab Limulus polyphemus

humpback chub

kelp

Laminariales

kudzu

Pueraria montana

Pueraria lobata

Pueraria edulis

Pueraria phaseoloides Pueraria thomsoni Salvelinus namaycush Sterna antillarum

lake trout

least tern

Salvelinus namaycush
Sterna antillarum

lesser prairie-chicken Tympanuchus pallidicinctus

lodgepole pine Pinus contorta

mountain pine beetle Dendroctonus ponderosae

muskoxen Ovibos moschatus northern pike Esox lucius

Pacific oyster Crassostrea gigas paper birch tree Betula papyrifera

Phragmites pinyon mouse Peromyscus truie piping plover Charadrius melodus

Pinus ponderosa

poison ivy Toxicodendron radicans polar bear Ursus maritimus

Ponderosa pine quagga mussel Dreissena rostriformis bugensis

rainbow trout Oncorhynchus mykiss

red fox Vulpes vulpes red knot Calidris canutus ring seal Pusa hispida

Rio Grande cutthroat trout Oncorhynchus clarki virginalis

sagebrush Artemisia tridentata Saguaro Carnegiea gigantea seabeach amaranth Amaranthus pumilus silver hake Merluccius bilinearis smallmouth bass Micropterus dolomieu southwestern willow flycatcher Empidonax traillii extimus

Picea

spruce bark beetle Ips typographus surf clam Spisula solidissima walleye Sander vitreus walrus Odobenus rosmarus water hyacinth Eichhornia crassipes

white spruce Picea glauca

white-tailed deer Odocoileus virginianus Wilson's plover Charadrius wilsonia zebra mussel Dreissena polymorpha

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