

**Climate Change Activities within the Department of Fish and Game  
Update for March 1- April 1, 2008**

- **In response to April 8, 2008 letter from California Legislature re: climate change and California's wildlife:** The statement in the letter referring to facilitating adaptation to climate change as not being in the purview of the Commission or the DFG is in error and has been taken out of context. This statement is not reflective of the Department's efforts on climate change and was intended to narrowly refer to our understanding of the existing regulations of the Commission/Department for which there is no mention of enforcement/regulation on climate change in either Title 14 or the Fish and Game Code. The Department submitted a response/rebuttal to this statement that was not printed but will be available to the public via the web shortly.

In keeping with its mission, the Department is aggressively implementing a strategy to manage the impacts of global climate change on wildlife and habitat including the activities listed below.

- **Director's Climate Change Task Force:**
  - The Task Force is scheduled to meet on April 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - The agenda will focus on finalizing a climate change position/statement for the Department, achievements and activities to date, setting priorities for the coming months, and beginning to craft an adaptation strategy for fish and wildlife based on the Wildlife Action Plan.
  - Task force members will review input from stakeholder meetings held April 2<sup>nd</sup> and finalize an approach to integrating climate change into policy level discussions.
    - Note: The Task Force was created to provide the leadership to reduce or mitigate the production of greenhouse gases by the Department, and to prepare for the current and future impacts of climate change on California's natural resources through policy and meaningful action. This group will also tie into and support the Resource Agency's efforts to develop a climate adaptation strategy.
- **Convening Stakeholders:** Partners from the NGO community, academia, state and federal agencies met on April 2<sup>nd</sup> as part of our outreach on the climate change front. The objective of the meeting was to gather input from partners on their views of the types of issues we should be addressing while constructing an overall climate change strategy for the Department. The meeting was well attended with more than 30 participants from 26 different agencies and organizations. Stakeholder input will be presented to the task force at their meeting April 25.
- **Western Governors Association (WGA):** Staff serve on the WGA Wildlife Corridors Initiative Climate Change Working Group and has been involved in the creation of a report focused on climate change and connectivity in the west. The

WGA has recently released this draft report to the public with policy recommendations to address connectivity issues for fish and wildlife in a changing climate. The final report and recommendations will be delivered to Western Governors at the end of June 2008.

- **Climate Change subcommittee for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.** The climate change advisor gave several presentations on behalf of the Department at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resource Conference in Phoenix, AZ. She is also participating on the Association's climate change think tank on behalf of the Department and is working with 12 other states fish and game agencies to create a functional model and conceptual paper for how state fish and game agencies are addressing climate change.
- **Website:** Final edits are being incorporated into the web site and will be available soon. This web site will serve as both a resource to Department employees as well as a message to the public and partners about the Department's commitment to addressing the challenges of a changing climate in all of its endeavors.
- **Resources Agency's Climate Action Team (CAT) sub groups:** Staff actively participate in these meetings and advises the state on factors relating to adaptation and mitigation for climate change effects on wildlife and natural resources.