



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**



Anticipating Climate Change: A FWP workshop focused on the Sagebrush Steppe and Yellowstone River systems

Tuesday, December 9 (1:00 - 5:00 PM) through
Wednesday, December 10 (8:00 AM - 3:00 PM)

Holiday Inn, Bozeman, Montana (5 Baxter Lane, just off 7th).
(Reserve rooms by Nov. 24 by logging on to www.hibozeman.com
and referencing group number MDP.)

Desired Outcomes

- Increased awareness of the relevance of climate change as a challenge facing fish and wildlife managers in Montana.
- Identification of potential impacts and opportunities related to climate change on Yellowstone River fisheries and sage-steppe wildlife communities.
- Identification of available and useful management responses to changes anticipated under different scenarios or observed by monitoring efforts.
- Identification of important ecosystem attributes that should be monitored to assess direction and pace of climate-induced changes in the selected ecosystems.
- Recommendations for further exploration of the impacts of climate change on fish and wildlife conservation in these and other ecosystems in Montana.
- Identification of areas where existing fish and wildlife management plans for these two systems are inadequate to address potential challenges posed by a climate change and development of a process for making needed changes.

Agenda

Tuesday, December 9

12:45-1:00 Participants arrive and mingle.

1:00-1:05 Moderator's opening comments. (*Cindy Deacon Williams, National Center Conservation Science and Policy, Ashland, OR*)

- 1:05-1:30 Welcome and Introduction. Reason, background, objectives, and format for the workshop. What other states and fish and game agency associations are doing. Introduction of co-sponsors & facilitators. (*Chris Smith, and/or others from FWP.*)
- 1:30-1:45 Paying for state climate change planning and mitigation: Wildlife funding in national legislation. (*Tom France, Regional Executive Director, National Wildlife Federation, Missoula, MT. Time includes 5 minutes for Q&A.*)
- 1:45-2:30 Evidence for a changing climate. (*Steve Gray, Wyoming Climatologist, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY. Time includes 15 minutes for Q&A.*)
- 2:30-2:55 Broad scale (continental) overview of impacts on terrestrial ecosystems. (*Bill Lauenroth, Botany Department, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY. Time includes 10 minutes for Q&A.*)
- 2:55-3:20 Broad scale (continental) overview of impacts on aquatic systems. (*Bob Gresswell, USGS, Bozeman, MT. Time includes 10 minutes for Q&A.*)
- 3:20-3:40 Planning wildlife management responses to climate change using a scenario-based approach. (*Molly Cross, Wildlife Conservation Society, Bozeman, MT. Time includes 5 minutes for Q&A.*)
- 3:40-4:00 Coffee break.
- 4:00-5:00 Separate out into Yellowstone River and Sagebrush Steppe break-out groups.
- 4:00-4:20 Introduction to break-out sessions and participant introductions.
- Yellowstone River Session Facilitator: *Cindy Deacon Williams, National Center Conservation Science and Policy, Ashland, OR*
 - Sagebrush Steppe Session Facilitator: *Gary Tabor, Center for Large Landscape Conservation, Bozeman, MT*
- 4:20-4:40 Presentation of scenarios.
- Yellowstone River: *Steve Gray, Wyoming State Climatologist, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY*
 - Sagebrush Steppe: *Anne Schrag, World Wildlife Fund, Bozeman, MT*
- 4:40-5:00 Questions and initial discussion.
- 5:00-6:30 No-host mixer – Snacks provided by National Wildlife Federation.

Wednesday, December 10

Return to Yellowstone River and Sagebrush Steppe breakout groups.

- 8:00-8:15 Re-cap of breakout session goals and climate change scenarios.
- 8:15-12:00 Facilitated discussions of:

- Potential stressors, risks and opportunities related to identified management concerns for Yellowstone River fisheries or sagebrush steppe wildlife communities for each climate change scenario.
- Management implications of climate change scenarios.
- Management responses, monitoring and research priorities for each climate change scenario.
- Shortcomings in existing fish and wildlife management plans in light of challenges due to anticipated climate change.

12:00-1:00 Lunch – Provided by World Wildlife Fund.

Return to breakout groups

1:00-2:00 Facilitated discussion to compare management responses, monitoring and research priorities, and shortcomings in existing management plans across future scenarios and summarize key actions.

2:00 Reconvene for joint concluding session.

2:00-2:40 Reports from the Yellowstone River Session (15 minutes for Chris Hunter or designee) and the Sagebrush Steppe Session (15 minutes for Ken McDonald or designee). 10 minutes for comments and additions.

2:40-3:00 Closing comments (Facilitators and Chris Smith). Suggestions and recommendations for future workshops and their formats.

3:00 Adjourn meeting.