



Inspiring Americans to Protect Wildlife for our Children's Future



2009 Climate Change Safeguarding Workshops

NWF Northeast Regional Center

Montpelier, Vermont

Everyone talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it -Mark Twain

Climate Change: the National Wildlife Federation and regional partners are going to do something about it. NWF, affiliates, and other stakeholders recognize that climate change and wildlife habitat do not respect jurisdictional boundaries. We are eagerly conducting workshops in order to develop and implement strategies and solutions in order to safeguard our natural treasures against the impacts of climate change. Climate change and related stressors pose significant challenges for fish, wildlife and natural systems in the Northeast and nationwide. The National Wildlife Federation, in association with our partners and planning committees, believe that workshops play an essential role in our collective efforts to address climate change on behalf of present and future generations in the Northeast and beyond. Thus far, most attention in response to climate change has understandably focused on actions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions (often referred to as climate change "mitigation"). Yet, evidence is growing that climatic changes are already occurring and are likely to intensify in the come years, with resulting impacts on the natural systems, which human communities and the diversity of life on earth depend. It is therefore critical that greater attention be given to climate change *adaptation*; that is, strategies and actions to help natural systems and human communities adapt to the changes that are already underway and are likely to occur.

Safeguarding New Jersey's Wildlife and Natural Systems in a Changing Climate

Rutgers Eco Complex, Environmental Research and Extension Center

Bordentown, New Jersey – October 2, 2009

Hosted By: National Wildlife Federation; Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey; and Conserve Resources Inc.

By all accounts the New Jersey workshop was a tremendous success! It was attended by a number of influential local and regional conservation and natural resources groups, state wildlife agencies, outdoors groups and members of the government. We were thrilled to have Senator Frank Lautenberg and Congressman Rush Holt join and provide us with keynote speeches in regards to legislative climate change action. Thanks to everyone's commitment and extensive interest, this workshop has successfully raised awareness, fostered collaboration, established a political process, explored a structure and process for



moving forward, and updated attendees on available funding opportunities. A central focus of the workshop was coastline preservation and conservation in the face of rising waters due to warming temperatures and elevated seas levels.

Workshop speakers: Congressman Rush Holt of New Jersey; Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey; Dave Chanda, New Jersey Fish and Wildlife; Hector Galbraith, Manomet Center for Conservation Science; Dave Robinson, New Jersey State Climatologist; Richard Lathrop, Walton Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis, Rutgers University; Tim Dillingham, American Littoral Society; Robert E. Loveland, Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University; Larry Herrighty, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife; John Kostyack, National Wildlife Federation; Sherry Morgan, United States Fish and Wildlife Service; Jeanne Herb, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Michael Catania, Conservation Resources, Inc.

The workshop allotted time for “break-out” groups in order to brainstorm and explore a structure and process for adaption, as well as, identifying topics of concern to anticipate for the future within a smaller, multi-jurisdictional group. Attendees to the conference felt very strongly about collaboration and communication between all stakeholders and political power, and how this alliance will be able to form a strong regional viewpoint. New Jersey stakeholders during the process of the workshop chose to begin developing a coalition using the Massachusetts Alliance as a model (that Hector Galbraith introduced in his lecture). There was a general interest in the importance of trans-boundary, multi-organizational communication and coordination to increase species resistance to climate change stressors. As well as, a ‘clearinghouse’ or centralized data base that will ensure unified ongoing restoration acquisition and incorporate safeguarding provisions.

Vulnerability assessments based on existing State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAP), will be hugely important in order to alleviate the stressors climate change will have on wildlife and habitat. Additionally, there was an interest in creating an inclusive plan that incorporated both what we’re doing on the ground today and a vulnerability assessment that is required for future management. Attendees of the conference felt that if we strived for quick point driven results to make decisions, it would eliminate some of the excessive planning. Regional perspectives must be addressed and trans-boundary relationships are necessary to map corridors/habitat connectivity and secure those corridors to ensure their future. The New Jersey workshop participants, in general, felt strongly about planning for the future while continuing to manage for current stressors.

