



Washington  
Department of  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**



**WASHINGTON**  
**BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL**  
CONSERVATION | EDUCATION | STEWARDSHIP

## **Assessing Climate Impacts on Washington's Fish and Wildlife**

February 13, 2009  
Longhouse, Evergreen State College

### **Workshop Objectives**

- Identify climate change impacts on Washington's species, habitats, and natural systems.
- Identify priority management and policy changes needed to safeguard fish, wildlife and natural systems under future climate conditions and begin estimating the scale of needed adaptation funding.
- Contribute information and insights to a 3-state vulnerability assessment and to an update of the state's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.
- Identify gaps in knowledge and develop a process for gathering needed information.
- Connect leading scientists and policy experts working at the nexus of climate change and natural resource conservation.

### **Agenda**

8:30 Continental Breakfast

8:45 Welcome

**Doug Howell**, Regional Executive Director, National Wildlife Federation  
**Phil Anderson**, Interim Director, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife  
**Hon. Peter Goldmark**, Commissioner of Public Lands, Washington State  
Department of Natural Resources

9:30 Washington's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy and  
Teaming with Wildlife

**Rocky Beach**, Wildlife Diversity Division Manager, Washington Department  
of Fish & Wildlife

9:45 Presentations on climate change, vulnerability and adaptation

Introduced by **Lynn Helbrecht**, Executive Coordinator, Washington  
Biodiversity Council

**Josh Lawler:** College of Forest Resources, University of Washington  
Overview of climate change projections, vulnerability and adaptation

**Nate Mantua:** Climate Impacts Group, University of Washington  
Salmon, coastal and freshwater aquatics vulnerability

**Jessica Halofsky:** Research Ecologist, Pacific Wildland Fire Sciences Lab  
Projected responses of forests, shrublands, and grasslands

11:15 Breakout group discussions, **Part I**

Participants will be grouped around habitat types:

- **Freshwater aquatic and riparian habitats** (lakes, rivers, wetlands, floodplains)
- **Marine and coastal habitats** (bays, estuaries, nearshore, beaches)
- **Forest and woodland habitats**
- **Grassland and Shrubland habitats**

Discussion during Part I will focus on:

1. What impacts have already occurred or are anticipated to occur as a direct or indirect consequence of climate change?
2. What are the most significant impacts to species, habitats and ecosystems expected to occur during the periods 2040-2069 and 2070-2099?  
(Consider type of impact, geographic location, and key species affected.)

12:30 Lunch (provided)

**Senator Phil Rockefeller**, Keynote Speaker

1:00 Breakout group discussions, **Part II**

Participants will remain in same groups to continue discussion, focusing on:

3. What are possible “no-regrets” management or policy actions that could be taken to address the significant impacts identified in #2 above?
4. What are the most significant information gaps and how can they be filled?
5. What mechanisms could be developed to share information among participants and others interested in biodiversity adaptation?

Groups will list their top five items from topics 2, 3, 4, and 5 to report back to the larger group.

2:20 Break

2:30 Large Group: Reports from breakout groups on top 5 items from topics 2, 3, & 4.

3:30 Synthesis of breakout group results and next steps

**Josh Lawler:** Science and vulnerability assessment

**Rocky Beach:** Policy and WDFW response

4:00 Adjourn