

Welcome to the **AUGUST 2011** edition of the WDFW Climate News Digest. Here you will find highlights of climate change news, events and resources for WDFW staff. Feedback or suggestions for items to include in future editions are much appreciated – please send them along!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WDFW?

Selected projects, agency resources and initiatives

Climate Change Website

If you haven't had a chance to check out the [new climate page on our agency website](#), please take a look and let us know what you think!

Habitat Program initiates project to study climate change and Kokanee at Lake Sammamish

The Lake Washington-Sammamish Watershed is one of only five watersheds in Washington with extant populations of native kokanee (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), but their abundance has declined dramatically since at least the 1970's resulting in a petition for protection under the US Endangered Species Act in 2007. The WDFW Habitat Program is working with the USFWS and the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks to estimate the change in the amount of suitable habitat for Kokanee in Lake Sammamish expected in this century due to climate change. Results of this mechanistic modeling work should provide a sound, quantitative basis for making future conservation and management decisions and the resulting model and methods can also be applied to other lakes and species in the region. For more information contact Kirk Krueger in the Habitat Program.

Innovative research project to determine climate-resilient corridors for wildlife

The Washington Habitat Connectivity Working Group (a partnership of diverse organizations co-lead by Joanne Schuett-Hames in the Wildlife Program) recently produced a report describing a methodology for linking core habitats along "climate-gradient" corridors. These corridors are designed to minimize changes in climate encountered between core areas and facilitate movement for species in response to climate change. For more visit the [WHCWG website](#) .

Climate vulnerability ranking for Chinook salmon

The Fish Program will be initiating a project to compile and summarize existing information on climate sensitivity of Chinook salmon, with the ultimate goal of ranking populations according to their presumed vulnerability. The Program then plans to place that information within a management context, in order to guide decisions on production and harvest as appropriate. For more information contact Ken Warheit, Chief Scientist, Fish Program.

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

Save the Date: 2nd Annual Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference

WDFW is co-sponsoring the Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference scheduled for September 13-14, 2011 in Seattle on the University of Washington campus. The conference aims to stimulate a place-based exchange of information about emerging climate, climate impacts, and climate adaptation science in the PNW. The conference will also include time for presentation of emerging policy and management goals, objectives, and information needs related to climate impacts and adaptation. **Registration for the 2nd Annual PNW Climate Science Conference is now open.** To register, please go to: <http://cses.washington.edu/cig/outreach/pnwscienceconf2011/index.php>

New York Times Publishes Article: *Seeing Trends, Coalition Works to Help a River Adapt*

Based on current warming trends, climate scientists anticipate that in the next hundred years the Nisqually River in Washington state will become shallower and much warmer. Annual snowpack will decline on average by half and the glacier that feeds the river, already shrunken considerably, will continue to recede. To prepare for these and other potentially devastating changes, an unusual coalition of tribal government leaders, private partners and federal and local agencies is working to help the watershed and its inhabitants adapt. The Washington State Legislature, in the face of local protests and a court battle over Indian fishing rights, created the Nisqually River Council, the first watershed-wide protection council west of the Mississippi. To view the full article, please visit:

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/21/science/earth/21river.html?_r=3&hp=&pagewanted=all.

Soil and Water Conservation Society Releases Position Statement Announcement on Climate Change

As part of the opening session at the 66th Annual International Conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society in early July, the Soil and Water Conservation Society released a position statement on climate change and soil and water conservation. The statement is the result of a year-long process that resulted in several products published in the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation this month: a feature article on the science of conservation practices related to climate change, a research editorial that presents a review of related scientific literature, and a viewpoint article on how, through good conservation and agricultural practice, farmers can mitigate and adapt to climate change. The position statement is available online at: <http://www.swcs.org/policy>.

RESOURCES

USFS Climate Change Resource Center

This site is one of the best overall climate change resources I have found. In particular, there is a series of recorded video presentations on a number of topics; from very basic climate change presentations, to detailed presentations on impacts to specific habitats or species or tools and applications for decision supports systems and more.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/ccrc/video/>

Safeguarding Wildlife from Climate Change Web Conference Series

Visit this website for a series of recorded webinars on a variety of topics related to climate change adaptation for species and habitats.

http://training.fws.gov/EC/Resources/climate_change/safeguarding_bc.html

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