

WDFW and Climate Change

**How can we better engage hunters and anglers
in combatting climate change?**

Jeff Davis, Director of Conservation Policy
Lynn Helbrecht, Climate Change Coordinator



For today

1. Provide Context

- What have we done to date regarding climate change?
- What new activities are we considering?

2. Responding to the Governor's Request

- How can we encourage hunters and anglers to take action on climate change?



But first, a special announcement



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Department of Fish and Wildlife



What we've done – building our capacity to respond

Knowledge, tools, resources

- Hired a climate change coordinator
- Educational programs for staff
- Making tools and resources available -
 - NW Climate Toolbox
 - Climate vulnerability assessments for species and habitats

Science

- Vulnerability assessment
- Climate Refugia Maps
- Habitat Connectivity – climate adapted corridors
- Stream temperature database
- Low flow projections

Partnership

- Interagency Climate Adaptation Network
- AFWA's Climate Change Committee
- Cascadia Climate Adaptation Strategy
- UW Climate Impacts Group

Policy

- In 2017 WDFW Adopted Policy #5408- Addressing the risks of climate change

POLICY #5408: Provide guidance for managing risks to agency investments due to current and future impacts of climate change.”

“It is the policy of WDFW to manage its operations and assets so as to better understand, mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change”.

- A. Strategic Planning
- B. Resource Planning
- C. Agency Facilities and Infrastructure
- D. Land Acquisition
- E. Land Management
- F. Technical Assistance
- G. Grants
- H. Outreach and Advocacy
- I. Regulatory Processes
- J. Reducing WDFW’s Carbon Footprint

A “Climate Action Team” will be established to guide implementation of this policy.



What we are doing now

The Climate Action team is leading an agency-wide risk assessment, program by program.

- Our intent is be able to prioritize where action is most needed
- We are assessing how climate change will affect what we do. How will affect our ability to achieve desired outcomes? Meet obligations? Deliver services?

Likelihood	5	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Red
	4	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red
	3	Green	Yellow	Orange	Orange
	2	Green	Green	Yellow	Orange
	1	Green	Green	Green	Yellow
		1	2	3	4
Consequence					



What's next?

From our draft 25-year Strategic Plan:

Develop and implement a WDFW Climate Resilience Plan.

1. Identify species and habitats at risk to climate disruption.
2. Address actions for WDFW to make its work and investments more resilient to climate change.
3. Identify nature-based climate resilience solutions that can be used statewide to strengthen ecosystem resilience.
4. Align state de-carbonization advances with efforts to protect species biodiversity.



What's next?

Also from our draft 25-year Strategic Plan:

Develop and implement a WDFW sustainability plan which includes actions to minimize our carbon footprint, maximize carbon sequestration, and to achieve more net ecological gain.



Responding to the Governor's Ask

What can WDFW do to get hunters and anglers more engaged on combating climate change?



Options

1. Add a bullet to the near term action in the strategic plan that directs WDFW to communicate to our customers about the risks of climate change to our fish, wildlife, recreation opportunities.
2. Develop partnerships with organizations working in this space (TRCP, NWF, Conservation Hawks).





 CONSERVATION

Game Changers: Climate Impacts to America's Hunting and Fishing Heritage

JENNY ROWLAND | NOVEMBER 19, 2015

Hunters and anglers are on the front lines of climate change, seeing its devastating effects on wildlife and traditional recreation first-hand. Climate change poses an immediate and specific threat to hunting and fishing in America, challenging the traditions and values of outdoor recreationalists, their respect for the land and wildlife, and the legacy they leave to future generations. This is the topic of the National Wildlife Federation's newest report, *[Game Changers: Climate Impacts to America's Hunting, Fishing, and Wildlife Heritage](#)*.



Angler. Photo donated by [National Wildlife Photo Contest](#) entrant Sue Cullumber

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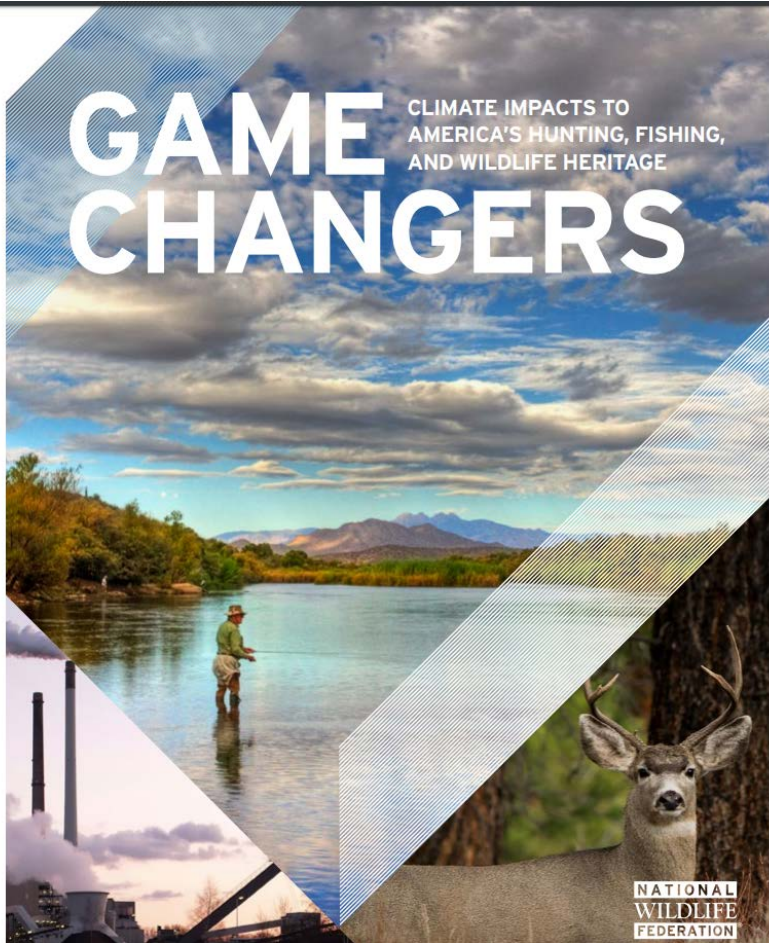


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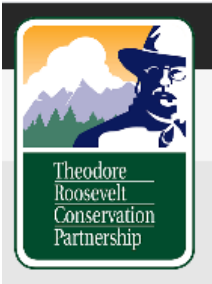
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by: [TRCP Staff](#)

May 24, 2019

Weekend Download: The Climate Change Impacts We Should Be Facing

The Hunting Collective's Ben O'Brien visits Whit Fosburgh at his home on the Potomac River to talk about the direct effects of climate change on hunting and fishing.

[READ MORE](#)



by: [Peter Hamma](#)

April 19, 2013

Video: Sportsmen and Climate Change

In the next century, nearly 40 percent of the natural ecosystems where sportsmen hunt and fish will change due to a number of reasons, including climate change. Higher water temperatures in waterways such as...

[READ MORE](#)



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VIDEOS

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TAKE ACTION

WE ARE HUNTERS & ANGLERS DEFENDING OUR FUTURE

Conservation Hawks is unique. It's our job to look at all the problems facing America's hunting & fishing, identify the single largest, and then defend our future against that one looming threat.

We've examined every major issue that could impact our sporting heritage. **Climate change** is the single largest threat to our fish and game, our landscapes, and our kids and grandkids. We have to address it now, while we can still make a difference.

OUR MISSION

As hunters & anglers, our mission is to defend our sporting heritage and pass on a healthy natural world to future generations of Americans.



“

“WHY DO WE NEED A GROUP LIKE CONSERVATION HAWKS?
BECAUSE THERE’S NO CHANCE—NONE—THAT OUR
POLITICIANS IN DC WILL STEP BACK FROM THE CLIMATE
CLIFF OF THEIR OWN ACCORD. SOMEBODY HAS TO TAKE
THEIR HAND AND LEAD THEM BACK TOWARD SANITY. AND
WHO BETTER THAN SPORTSMEN? WHO BETTER THAN
FOLKS WHO HIKE THROUGH THE EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE
EVERY TIME THEY STEP OUTDOORS?”

— TODD TANNER, CH PRESIDENT -- FORBES



About

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COLD WATERS: A CONSERVATION HAWKS FILM

At the end of the 2014 fishing season, five respected fly fishermen – Craig Mathews of Blue Ribbon Flies, Yvon Chouinard of Patagonia, Steve Hemkens of Orvis, Tim Romano of Angling Trade and Todd Tanner of Conservation Hawks – came together to fish for wild trout and share their thoughts on angling and climate change.

COLD WATERS was shot in Montana in October, 2014. It celebrates the joy and passion of fly fishing, and educates anglers on the threat we face from global warming. The film, which is a collaboration between Conservation Hawks and the cinematic team at [Conservation Media](#), focuses on our responsibility to protect cold, clean waters and



Options

1. Add a bullet to the near term action in the strategic plan that directs WDFW to communicate to our customers about the risks of climate change to our fish, wildlife, recreation opportunities.

2. Develop partnerships with organizations working in this space (TRCP, NWF, Conservation Hawks).
 - A. Fund these organizations to do outreach in Washington
 - B. Use existing messaging and WDFW delivers it
 - C. Form a coalition in Washington with sportsmen groups to lead this effort
 - D. Task our Public Affairs office with integrating climate change messages in our communications



Discussion and Comment

- Thoughts on our existing program to respond to climate change?
- Thoughts on how to reach out to hunters and anglers?
- Should we also target climate communication to the general public?





Thank you!

<http://www.conservationhawks.org/cold-waters-film>

