

**Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA)
Climate Change Working Committee
Information for MO Basin Regional Climate Collaboration Meeting**

MAFWA represents 13 state fish and wildlife agencies across the Midwest, including North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri from the Missouri River Basin. In 2009, MAFWA formed a working committee to address climate change.

The committee provides updates on climate change issues to state directors, other committees, and attempts identify barriers among states. Although this committee is still gaining experience, essential activities include: capacity-building, informing adaptation responses for natural resources, and information dissemination among states. The committee has limited capacity to conduct activities as it is comprised of one volunteer agency staff person per member state.

The committee eventually wants to be the point of contact among Midwest fish and wildlife agencies and federal entities to work collaboratively on climate change research and management responsibilities. As primary conservation delivery organizations, state fish and wildlife agencies are eager to build partnerships with all interested climate change stakeholders. Given the lack of a common and broad strategic vision among stakeholders, considerable uncertainty exists among and within individual states concerning the importance and relevance of climate change. **Research and information needs, along with targeted management activities, will become relevant once an explicit and understandable vision is articulated; it has been difficult for states to identify relevant information and appropriate management actions within the context of climate change, especially within a politically charged context.**

A near-term priority for the MAFWA CCWC is to determine the most effective way to get climate information to the biologists, planners, and decision makers at state agencies who can use that information to inform conservation planning and habitat management decisions. A priority in the long-term is to create eco-regional plans across state boundaries that will facilitate fish and wildlife adaptation to changing conditions. The challenge will be to garner enough support for these plans that they can be effectively implemented. Currently, our sources of information include scientific literature, guidance documents prepared by AFWA, National Wildlife Federation, etc., local contacts at universities, and federal partners such as the USGS, USFWS, and USFS.

Given the shifting political nature of climate change issues at different levels of government, states agencies have taken a variety of approaches to development of fish and wildlife adaptation strategies; e.g., a wait and see attitude, stringing some work along on a tight budget, making large contracts with NGOs or universities to provide needed information, or establishing multi-agency coordination efforts within a state. Although sporadic discussions have occurred and some inter and intra-state collaborate exists, little meaningful progress has been made.

MO Basin/MAFWA State	Updating Management Plans to incorporate Climate Change	Vulnerability Assessment Underway	Comprehensive Statewide Adaptation Plan	Science Needs
Iowa	Developing climate pullout for State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) in 1-2 years	Yes, for Species of Greatest Conservation Need and their habitats	No	Baseline data on distribution of F&W, predictive models of species responses to CC
Kansas	Revision began summer 2010	Training staff on modelling approach, some species assessed	No	Not identified yet
Minnesota	Have begun updating SWAP, some other plans	Yes	No	Compiling needs
Missouri	Will revise SWAP by 2015	No	No	Compiling needs
Nebraska	Currently updating SWAP only	Yes, for Tier One Species of Greatest Conservation Need	No	Locations of potential F&W movement corridors, effective strategies for making ag lands permeable to movement, better regional climate models
North Dakota	Will revise SWAP by 2015	Not yet	No	Not identified yet
South Dakota	Will revise SWAP by 2012	Exploring options	No	Defensible stepped-down models