

Wyoming Game and Fish Update
November 30, 2009

I have listed the work the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) has done in the climate change arena since the last update:

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department assisted in producing the document titled, "Voluntary Guidance for States to Incorporate Change into State Wildlife Action Plans & Other Management Plans". This document was produced by the Climate Change Wildlife Action Plan Work Group which was created as a joint work group by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Climate Change and Teaming with Wildlife Committees in September 2008. Mike Stone, Fish Division Chief for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, is the sub-committee co-chair of the Climate Change Wildlife Action Plan Work Group. This document provides voluntary guidance that can be used by state fish and wildlife agencies to better incorporate current and expected impacts of climate change on wildlife and their habitats into Wildlife Action Plans.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has scheduled a climate change workshop for January 12th-13th, 2010 in Casper, Wyoming. The workshop will help facilitate dialogue and contribute to developing WGFD strategies to address climate change. Stephen Gray, the Wyoming State Climatologist, developed projected climate data that will be used in a scenario-based discussion. Speakers/facilitators will include Dr. Gray and other experts from a variety of agencies, including the United States Geological Survey, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, the University of Wyoming, the Wildlife Conservation Society and our own personnel. Direction received at this meeting will form the basis for the WGFD approach to addressing climate change within its 2010 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). Due to the relatively short July 2010 deadline for Wyoming's SWAP revision, much climate change work will likely be addressed during the interim period leading up to the 2015 revision of Wyoming's SWAP.