

HCP project overview:

There is increasing interest in climate change adaptation, particularly since the release of the President's Executive Order on Climate Preparedness in November, 2013, yet many field staff remain uncertain how to put adaptation into practice. Our goal with this project is to bridge the gap between the wealth of high-level climate adaptation guidance and the field staff who carry out specific regulatory processes, specifically Habitat Conservation Plans. Following best practices from the literature on linking science and management, we will begin with a focus on what people *do*, then bring climate considerations into that practice. If successful, this could serve as a model for national-level guidance and practice for making HCPs climate smart. It is also a test case for a practice-driven approach to adaptation guidance that could be applied to other regulatory decision processes.

We will map the HCP process as it happens in practice, and annotate it to indicate

- When various types of input (e.g. data, expert opinion, risk models) are used, who provides that input, and what information sources are used.
- How one could bring climate change considerations into various stages of the process, including not just quantitative data or models, but changes in risk assessment or tradeoffs.

After testing and refining this annotated process map against completed HCPs and with individuals experienced with HCP creation, we will create the specific guidance needed to support the inclusion of climate considerations in future HCPs. Potential next steps include on-line workflow diagrams where practitioners can link to tools, data, and resources relevant to each step of the HCP process

This project builds on the FWS-sponsored guidance and training on Vulnerability Assessment, Climate Smart Conservation, and Climate-Related Uncertainty in Natural Resource Decision Making. In particular, this project was inspired by the California LCC-sponsored Climate Smart training in March 2014, where Dan Cox, Region 8 HCP coordinator, expressed a strong interest in useable guidance for bringing climate change into HCPs regionally. The core project team includes Todd Hopkins, Great Basin LCC; Mary Mahaffey, North Pacific LCC; Rebecca Fris, California LCC; Aimee Roberson, Desert Southwest LCC; Dan Cox, US FWS; and Jennie Hoffman, Adaptation/Insight.