



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Project Title: “Benchmarks for Incorporating Adaptive Management into Water Project Designs, Operational Procedures, and Planning Strategies”

Headline Title (2-5 words): Adaptive Management Benchmarks

Brief Summary (Abstract): A Federal agency technical team was created to develop benchmarks for incorporating adaptive management into water resources management. Report 1, “Federal Agency Inventory of Adaptive Management Practices and Policies,” lists and summarizes the adaptive management policies and practices of agencies such as the Department of the Interior (DOI), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) (http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/Portals/70/docs/iwrreports/2013-R-11_Benchmarks_Adaptive_Mgmt_Report_1.pdf). Report 2, “Recommendations for Federal Agency Implementation of Adaptive Management for Climate Change Adaptation,” presents key benchmarks to incorporate adaptive management into water resource project planning and operations including the following (http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/Portals/70/docs/iwrreports/2013-R-12_Benchmarks_Adaptive_Mgmt_Report_2.pdf):

- Collaborative governance between local, state, tribal, regional, and federal groups.
- Scientific coordination forums to help build a shared understanding of socio-ecological systems.
- Risk and uncertainty management of those socio-ecological systems.
- Incorporating flexibility into water resource project plans, designs and implementation.
- Focusing on cost-effectiveness in adaptive management strategies.

Project Location: N/A

Partners: USACE, DOI U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Forest Service (USFS), EPA, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Background: In October 2011, the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force published a National Action Plan (NAP): Priorities for Managing Freshwater Resources in a Changing Climate (http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ceq/2011_national_action_plan.pdf). The NAP describes actions Federal agencies will take to support water resource managers in understanding and reducing the risks of climate change. Supporting Action 20 was “Develop benchmarks for incorporating adaptive management into water project designs, operational procedures, and planning strategies.”

Project Goals: Develop benchmarks for incorporating adaptive management into water resources management.

Strategy Goals Implemented: Goal 4, Strategy 4.2,

Status of Project Implementation (Timeline, Milestones, Next Steps): Completed reports



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Project Outcomes: See reports

Funding Sources: N/A

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Photos/Attachments: N/A