

Help Fish and Wildlife Survive Those Climate Changes that Are Inevitable

Even as global warming pollution is cut, California's wildlife will experience some impacts due to climate changes already put into motion by past greenhouse gas emissions, and many species are already in trouble due to existing land and water use practices. Now is the time to start taking projected climate changes into account in managing our wildlife refuges, rivers, wetlands, and coasts. Wildlife agencies especially need to consider global warming in their efforts to monitor habitats, restore degraded ecosystems, educate the public, and issue and enforce permits to protect endangered species and threatened habitats.

- **California officials should design global warming pollution reduction programs so that major polluters pay and some of the revenue generated is allocated for fish and wildlife conservation.** The revenue should supplement, not supplant, existing budgets for natural resource management, recognizing the new threat to fish and wildlife posed by global warming.
- **The California Department of Fish and Game, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should revise their permitting processes and their land and wildlife management plans** to ensure that California's wildlife and habitats can survive as climate changes become more pronounced.
- **California's wildlife agencies should partner with universities, research institutions, and nongovernmental organizations to develop a state strategy to address the most critical science gaps** to best manage California's wildlife and natural resources under new climate regimes. This information should build on the strong foundation of the

California Environmental Protection Agency's biennial science report *Our Changing Climate* and be used to refine the proposals in the state's Wildlife Action Plan.

- **State and federal land management agencies should reduce other stresses on fish and wildlife** to help improve the habitats that will be increasingly important as the climate changes. For instance, many wildlife management areas and refuges do not currently have sufficient water supplies; these areas should receive the resources they need to provide real refuge from global warming and other environmental pressures.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **HELP A HUNTING, FISHING, OR BIRDPWATCHING ORGANIZATION** with a habitat conservation project or join them in advocating for improved wildlife habitat and management. Your actions can make a real difference in increasing the resilience of habitats in the face of global warming.



Vince King

It is time to tap the pioneering spirit that built California and forge ahead to protect wildlife and stop global warming. Hunters, anglers, and other outdoor enthusiasts have been the foundation for conservation in California. We must continue that tradition as the challenges grow significantly greater.