



## THE INAUGURAL NATIONAL ADAPTATION FORUM

The National Adaptation Forum was created by a diverse group of professionals from the private and public sectors concerned about the need to anticipate and prepare for the potential impacts of climate change on the United States. It represents a collective effort to enhance the resilience of the Nation's communities and economy in the face of a changing climate, through open participation from actors across the country. The 2013 Forum is the initial event in an ongoing series intended to bring together individuals from the wide spectrum of sectors and regions across the country integrating climate adaptation planning into their day-to-day activities. Participants at the Forum will build upon the foundation of knowledge shared at previous events like Adaptation 2009, the 2010 National Climate Adaptation Summit, Adaptation 2011, the 2012 GreenGov Symposium, and Adaptation Futures: 2012 International Conference on Climate Adaptation. The Forum provides a great opportunity for attendees to learn more about how to make their work climate smart, share what they have learned with others, and explore new and innovative approaches for adapting to climate change. It is a professional development event that aims to expand the network of all attendees striving to be climate savvy in all that they do.

The National Adaptation Forum includes opportunities for professional development through formal trainings, facilitated practitioner presentations, and informal exchange of information all at a single venue. This event affords attendees the opportunity to learn more about how to make their work climate smart, share what they have learned with others, and develop a stronger network to be climate savvy in all that they do.

We are at a pivotal moment where we see risk and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change entering into the discourse of decision makers at all levels of policy and natural resource management. Managers working at a local, state, regional, and federal level are beginning to respond to climate impacts. However, the field of climate change adaptation is still in its infancy and too many are reinventing instead of innovating. With climate change jeopardizing our past, present, and future management and conservation efforts; the need for a conversation around practical climate adaptation has never been greater.

The Goals of the National Adaptation Forum are to:

- Provide a professional development opportunity for the adaptation inclined,
- Contribute to the development of a community of practice around climate change adaptation,
- Create a venue for practitioners to share information, progress and strategy together, building capacity of the community as a whole and the individual, and
- Support on the ground implementation by providing managers and regional experts with a venue to exchange knowledge of and tools for incorporating climate change into their work.

## EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE BIOS



**Lara J. Hansen, Ph.D.,** Chief Scientist and Executive Director, EcoAdapt

Lara thinks climate change is everybody's problem and she wishes someone would bother to do something about it. Her desire for action led her to co-create EcoAdapt with a team of similarly inclined folks in 2008. She serves this fine organization as Executive Director and Chief Scientist. She is co-author and editor of one of the earliest texts on the issue of natural system adaptation to climate change, *Buying Time: A User's Manual for Building Resistance and Resilience to Climate Change in Natural Systems*, as well as co-author of one of the newest books on adaptation, *Climate Savvy: Adapting Conservation and Resource Management to a Changing World*. The team that created these books created an engaged stakeholder process (first known as Climate Camp; now known as Awareness to Action Workshops) to help resource managers create adaptation strategies applicable to their work. Lara serves on the unfairly maligned, vitally important Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is a Switzer Environmental Fellow and a United States Environmental Protection Agency Bronze Medalist. Prior to creating EcoAdapt, she was the chief climate change scientist for the World Wildlife Fund, creating their international Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program, from 2001-2008, and a Research Ecologist with the Environmental Protection Agency from 1998-2001. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of California, Davis in Ecology and her B.A. in Biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Because she's an optimist she assumes we'll get our acts together on climate change--who would want the alternative



**Margaret Davidson,** Acting Director, National Ocean Service (NOS) Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

Margaret Davidson has been an active participant in coastal resource management issues since 1978, when she earned her juris doctorate in natural resources law from Louisiana State University. She later earned a master's degree in marine policy and resource economics from the University of Rhode Island.

Davidson served as special counsel and assistant attorney general for the Louisiana Department of Justice and was the executive director of the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium. She joined NOAA as the director of the NOAA Coastal Services Center in 1995. Davidson also served as the acting assistant administrator for NOAA's National Ocean Service from 2000 to 2002. She holds a faculty appointment at the University of Charleston and serves on the adjunct faculties of Clemson University and the University of South Carolina. Davidson has served on numerous local, state, and federal committees and has provided leadership for national professional societies. She has focused her professional work on environmentally sustainable aquaculture, mitigation of coastal hazards, and impacts of climate variability on coastal resources. In April 2012, Davidson was appointed acting director of the NOS Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM). In this position, Davidson will play a leading role as OCRM and the

Coastal Services Center plan to join forces and bring a greater and better-coordinated level of products and services to their constituents.



**Naomi Edelson**, Director, State and Federal Partnerships, National Wildlife Federation

Naomi is a wildlife biologist with an M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Florida where she studied wading birds and the wetlands they use, and a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Naomi Edelson is Director, State and Federal Wildlife Partnerships for the National Wildlife Federation under the Safeguarding Wildlife from Climate Change program. She leads NWF's efforts to assist state and federal wildlife agencies with incorporating climate change into their management plans. She currently co-chairs NWF's "climate smart conservation expert working group" to develop criteria and guidance for on-the-ground adaptation efforts and recently chaired a similar expert work group on climate change vulnerability assessment that led to the guidance document "Scanning the Conservation Horizon" ([www.nwf.org/vulnerabilityguide](http://www.nwf.org/vulnerabilityguide)) and associated training workshops. Naomi developed and leads a climate change adaptation webinar series for natural resource managers with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She also is working on a series of "lessons learned" around state-level wildlife related adaptation efforts.



**Mike Goldstein**, Ph.D., Special Projects Coordinator, U.S. Forest Service

Mike Goldstein serves the Forest Service Alaska Region out of Juneau, AK, working on long-term landscape level planning and monitoring. Mike formerly led the formation of the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center at the University of Alaska, and served as the Center's first director. He aims to assist partners working with the Forest Service to develop climate adaptation strategies.



**Noah Matson**, Vice President for Climate Change and Natural Resource Adaptation Defenders of Wildlife

Noah Matson directs Defenders' effort to create and implement policies and strategies to safeguard wildlife and habitat from the impacts of global warming. Working with a team of scientists, policy experts, attorneys, and communications specialists, Noah is developing climate change adaptation strategies for land and wildlife managers, and is working to influence climate change adaptation policies in federal agencies. Noah led Defenders' successful effort advocating for

the development of the National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy and the creation of the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center within the USGS.



**Amber Pairis, Ph.D.,** Climate Change Advisor, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Amber currently serves as the Climate Change Advisor for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and is responsible for coordinating the Department's activities related to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Amber is responsible for developing and managing the Climate Science Program, department wide climate activities, and initiatives, and works closely with stakeholders and technical specialists to develop and disseminate climate change information. Amber serves as the Department's representative on national, regional, state-wide, and local initiatives and collaborative projects and regularly convenes a working stakeholder group to promote collaboration and support information exchange with partners. Key initiatives include national, regional, and statewide climate adaptation planning and policy, Unity-Integration-Action: DFW's approach to confronting climate change, DFW Going Green, DFW Climate College, DFW Climate Stakeholders, Climate Change Committee for Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Prior to this position, Amber worked for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Washington D.C. where she was the Science and Research liaison coordinating research and policy between the state fish and wildlife agencies and federal natural resource agencies on energy and climate change issues. Amber completed her Ph.D. in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in Conservation Biology from Antioch New England Graduate School.



**Joel Scheraga, Ph.D.,** Senior Advisor for Climate Adaptation, Office of Policy, Office of the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Dr. Joel Scheraga is the Senior Advisor for Climate Adaptation at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He is leading EPA's efforts to develop and implement a Climate Change Adaptation Plan to ensure its programs, policies, rules, and operations are effective even as the climate changes. He also represents EPA on the federal Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force ("Task Force"), established by Executive Order in October 2009 to develop recommendations for President Obama on how the nation might adapt to climate change impacts. Dr. Scheraga chairs the Task Force's Agency Adaptation Work Group that supports the development and implementation of climate change adaptation plans by all federal departments and agencies. Dr. Scheraga participated in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.