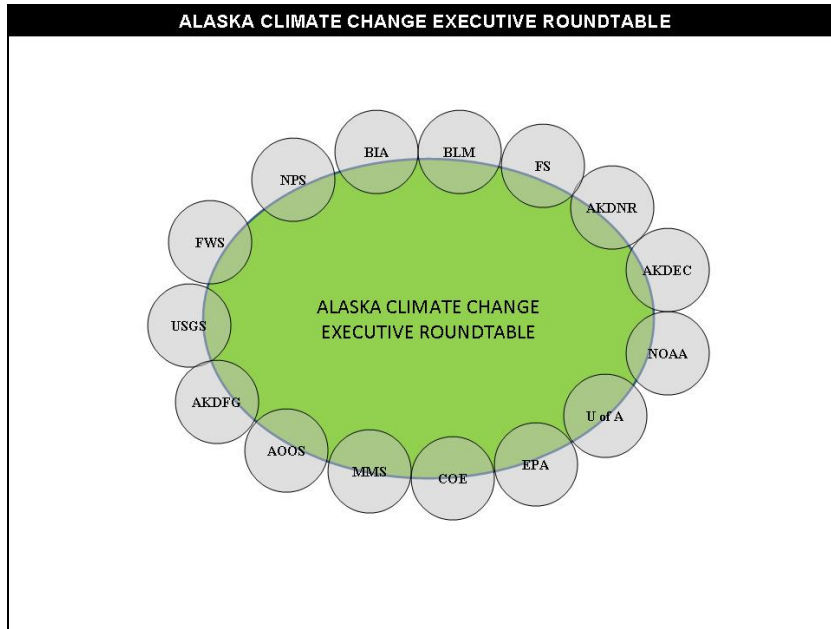


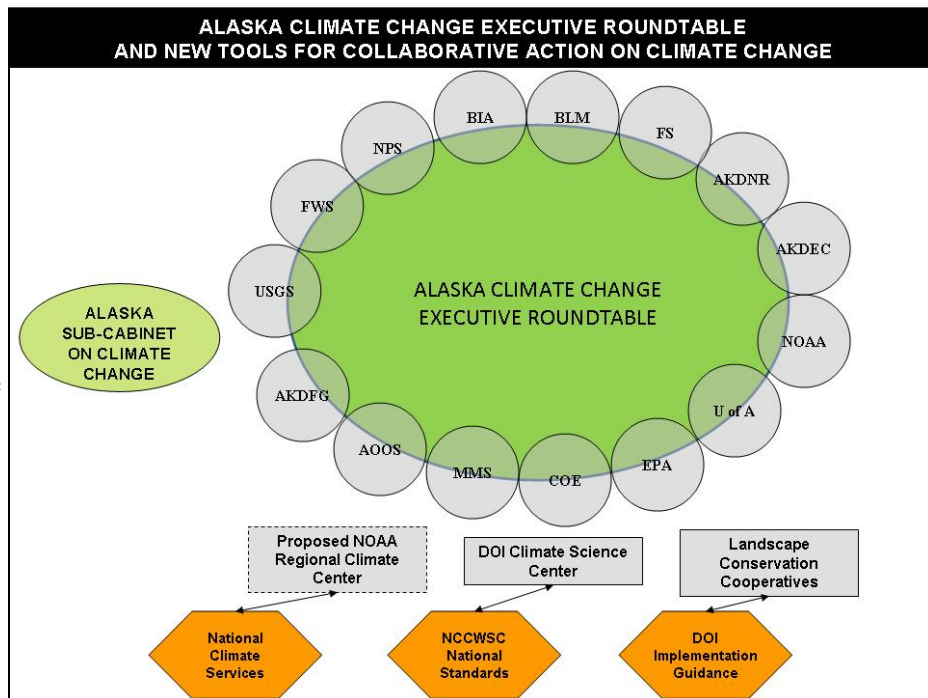
# ALASKA CLIMATE CHANGE EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE FOR MULTI-AGENCY COLLABORATIVE ACTION



The Alaska Climate Change Executive Roundtable, established jointly by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey in 2007, is comprised of both federal and non-federal senior level agency executives from throughout Alaska, who meet regularly to share information and facilitate cooperation among agencies in seeking solutions to the challenges presented by climate change. The diversity of institutions managing lands and resources in Alaska, gives the state a very complicated land management pattern, but also has the potential to bring substantial combined resources to bear on the challenging task of collaborative conservation in Alaska.

In addition to the existing programs and institutions available for addressing climate change, new organizational capacities to increase ability to understand and address the combined effects of climate change and other stressors on natural and cultural resources include:

- **DOI Climate Science Center for Alaska (CSC)** will provide basic climate change impact science to partners, including physical and biological research, social science, ecological forecasting, and multi-scale modeling
- **Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs)** link science and conservation planning and delivery at landscape scales
- **Alaska Sub-Cabinet on Climate Change** is examining current and anticipated impacts of climate change prioritizing the immediate needs of rural

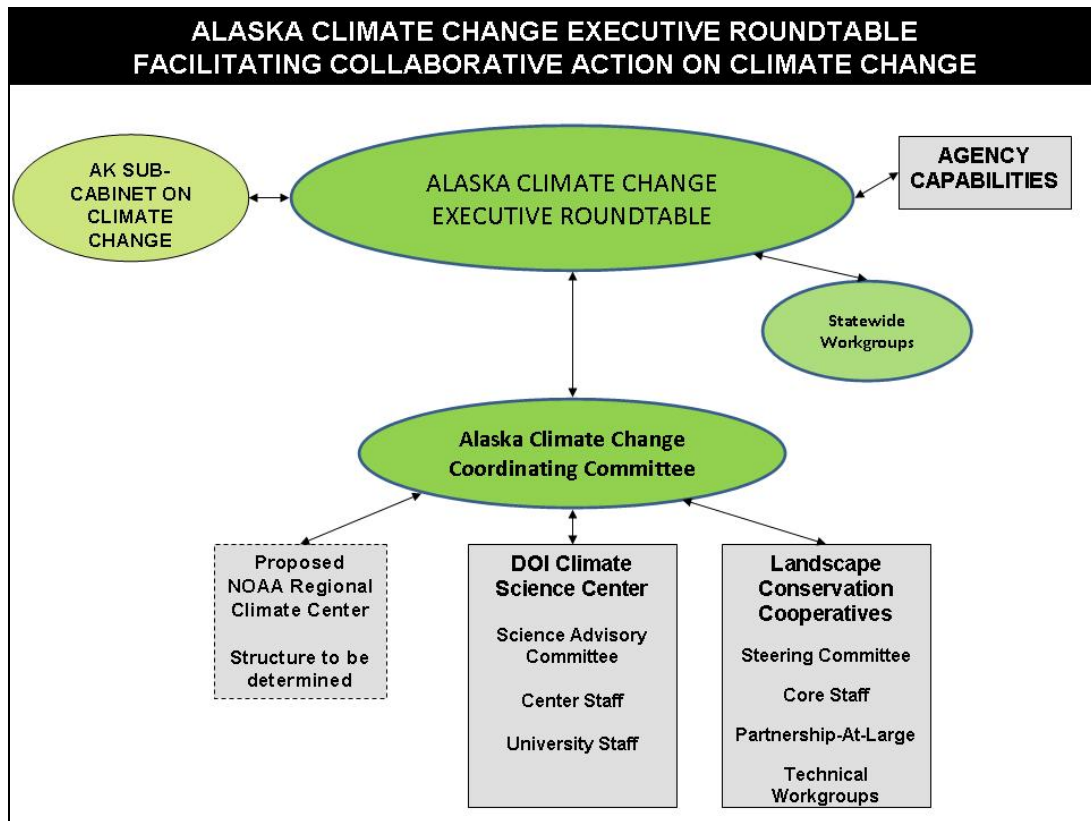


communities most threatened by coastal erosion and flooding or by wild land fires.

•**NOAA Climate Service for Alaska** (NCS, proposed) will provide climate products (both existing and new) and place-based information and assessments in support of decision-making

The challenge is to establish an effective working environment to facilitate identification of shared needs and coordination of efforts among agencies and initiatives that have national rule sets, while remaining responsive to local (Alaska) needs. The Alaska Climate Change Executive Roundtable (ACCER) provides the appropriate authorities, forum, and processes to facilitate integration of new initiatives with existing capacities.

This document will focus on how the ACCER will ensure close coordination and seamless implementation of LCCs, the DOI CSC, and RCC. This document provides interim organizational structure and operating guidance until revisions are deemed necessary or the ACCER charter is finalized and adopted. Pending establishment of a FACA-chartered national organization, all decision-making responsibilities will be reserved for federal and state partners.



## ALASKA CLIMATE CHANGE EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

By virtue of its composition and purpose, The ACCER is an effective vehicle for providing management perspective, ensuring overall coordination, and facilitating consensus among partners for the new capacities that are being developed to address climate change and other stressors in a cooperative manner.

### Membership:

- Senior executives of State and Federal land and resource management agencies.
- Co-chair: ACCER will have federal and state co-chairs rotated among the member agencies.

### *Roles/Responsibilities:*

- Share information, discuss challenges faced and solutions.
- Identify broad areas of interest or concern.
- Identify opportunities to leverage resources to meet highest priority needs based on recommendations by Statewide Workgroups and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives through the Alaska Climate Change Coordinating Committee.
- Ensure efforts of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, DOI Climate Science Center (CSC), NOAA Climate Service (NCS) are complimentary and integrated.
- Provide executive-level guidance to the efforts of the Alaska Climate Change Coordinating Committee
- Resolve any issues elevated from the Alaska Climate Change Coordinating Committee
- Convene statewide workgroups. The following Workgroups were convened in 2009:
  - Down-scaling climate data and physical parameter networks
  - Species and habitat change
  - Sea level rise
  - Data integration and coordination
  - Policy

### *Contact:*

- Co-chairs: Geoffrey Hasket (USFWS Alaska 7 Regional Director), Dr. Leslie Holland-Bartels (USGS Regional Executive), Larry Hartig (Commissioner Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation), or
- Coordinator: Charla Sterne, USFWS Alaska Region Climate Change Coordinator, 786-3471, charla\_sterne@fws.gov

## **DOI CLIMATE SCIENCE CENTER FOR ALASKA**

On September 14th, 2009, through a Department of Interior Secretarial Order Secretary Salazar announced that the Department of the Interior (DOI) was establishing a national network of 8 geographically dispersed DOI Regional Climate Science Centers (CSC). On March 4th, 2010 he announced that the first of these would be established in Anchorage, Alaska by USGS and Hosted by the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. The Alaska CSC will include USGS employees and staff from other organizations, and will work with state, federal, tribal and academic partners in the climate change science and land, water, public health, fish and wildlife, ocean, coastal and cultural heritage resource management communities. The goal of the Alaska CSC is to work with these partners to understand high priority science needs and to develop science information and tools that can help land, water, fish and wildlife, and cultural heritage resource managers, as well as local governments and the public health community, to develop strategies for responding to climate change.



### *Membership:*

- The intent of the DOI Alaska CSC is to service DOI, as well as all members of the Alaska Climate Change Executive Roundtable, their constituents, and the citizens of the State of Alaska.

### *Roles/Responsibilities:*

- Policy recommendations and prioritization of science needs from agencies and LCCs will be provided by the Alaska Climate Change Coordinating Committee.
- Deliver basic climate change impact science to Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and agencies, including physical and biological research, ecological forecasting, and multi-scale modeling.

- Work with downscaled GCMs to create derivative models and tools that link physical forcing factors with biological, physical, ecological and cultural resource response variables.
- Develop regional response models and projections for priority ecosystems, species, habitats, and other natural and cultural resources within the region.
- Work with Advisory Councils to set priorities for development of response models and forecasts, to support adaptation and adaptive management strategies.
- Help partners define natural, physical, and cultural resource outcomes and endpoints for their adaptation activities, in a way that can be measured and used to refine the next iteration of models and outputs.
- Facilitate and fund research that supplies regional-level information on the effects of climate change on land, water, fish and wildlife, and cultural heritage resources, and on related model and tool development.
- Science Advisory Panel
  - Membership will be comprised of a small panel (5-8) of representatives of the ACCER Scientific Community with a relatively broad background in the basic science disciplines relevant to the mission, scope, and capacity of the CSC.
  - Provide scientific guidance to the CSC on scientific methods, study design and review, publications, scientific products, independent scientific advice, refine specific research goals, evaluate RFP process and review submissions.
  - Refine science questions based on input from ACCER and LCCs, and the National Program Office.
  - Assist in the Development of a five year strategic science plan.
- Alaska Climate Change Coordinating Committee
  - Provide management-level guidance to the CSC to ensure it is meeting the needs of the interagency partners
  - Provide overall science priorities for the CSC
  - Ensure work of CSC is integrated with the LCC' s and NOAA Regional Climate Center

*Contact:*

- DOI Climate Science Center for Alaska- Acting Interim Director Mark B. Shasby 907-786-7065  
[mshasby@usgs.gov](mailto:mshasby@usgs.gov)

## LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVES

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives are management-science partnerships that inform integrated resource management actions addressing climate change and other stressors within and across landscapes. They will link science and conservation delivery. Each LCC functions within a specific landscape, but it also will be part of a national, and ultimately, international network. Federal, state, tribal, local government and non-governmental management organizations are all invited as partners in their development. In 2010 the Arctic LCC, which had its origins in the FWS' 2008/2009 Arctic Strategy/WildREACH effort, was the first LCC in Alaska to receive funding. Eventually Alaska will have 4 additional LCCs: Western Alaska, Aleutian/Bering Sea Islands, Northwestern Interior Forest, and North Pacific (being led by FWS North Pacific Region).



All LCCs in Alaska will assume similar, though not necessarily identical structures. At a minimum, each LCC will include the following: a Partnership-At-Large to allow for a broad and diverse representation of interests, the LCC Core Staff, and an LCC Steering Committee with decision-making responsibilities.

### *Membership:*

- Partnership-At-Large:
  - Any agency, Tribal government, or organization with the capacity to further the purpose of the LCC and with the following characteristics:
    - Agencies (local, state, and federal) with natural and cultural resource conservation and management responsibilities in the geographic area
    - Tribal organizations with natural and cultural resource conservation and management responsibilities in the geographic area
    - Non-governmental organizations and industry representatives with science and/or resource management capacity
  - Already existing partnerships
- LCC Core Staff:
  - The Arctic LCC initially will have a dedicated coordinator, science and technology coordinator, spatial ecologist, and database manager, all funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
  - Additional staff capacity will be added over time according to identified needs and partner capacities.
- LCC Steering Committee:
  - Field-level managers responsible for on-the-ground land/resource management, representing State, Federal, Borough, and regional Tribal agencies.
  - The Steering Committee may choose to extend membership to non-governmental entities for the purpose of broadening representation of a diverse group of resource management interests.
  - Participation in LCC Steering Committee is limited governmental members pending resolution of Federal Advisory Committee Act concerns.

### *Roles/Responsibilities:*

- Partnership-At-Large:
  - Participate in Technical Workgroups with experts in specific disciplines convened by the LCC Core Staff as needed to provide recommendations for fulfilling priority science needs and conservation objectives to the Core Staff.
- LCC Core Staff:
  - Convene Partners-At-Large to collaboratively identify conservation goals and identify priority science needs that are essential to fulfilling the conservation goals.
  - Facilitate communication between scientists and resource managers and provide a forum for continuous exchange.
  - Assemble, translate, and deliver scientific data, analyses, and scientific tools required for conservation design and resource management decisions.
  - Establish standing and ad-hoc work groups as necessary, drawn from the Partnership-At-Large.
  - Coordinate and communicate activities to other partnerships (NFHAPs, Joint Ventures, NSSI)
- LCC Steering Committee:
  - Work closely with the cooperative (LCC Core Staff) to establish broad conservation goals, set priorities, facilitate key activities of the LCC, leverage funding across agencies to accomplish priority tasks, and to provide operational oversight of LCC.

### *Contact:*

- USFWS Science Applications ARD, Acting LaVerne Smith
- LCC Coordinators
  - Arctic LCC: Acting - Philip Martin: Philip\_Martin@fws.gov (907) 456-0325
  - Western Alaska LCC: Acting - Karen Murphy: Karen\_A\_Murphy@fws.gov (907) 786-3905
  - North Pacific LCC: Acting - Bill Hanson (Alaska – FWS) Bill\_Hanson@fws.gov & Michael Goldstein mgoldstein@fs.fed.us (Alaska-USFS); Mary Mahaffy (LCC Interim Coordinator)

# ALASKA GOVERNOR'S SUB-CABINET ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Alaska's Sub-cabinet on Climate Change was formed by Administrative Order 238. The purpose of the Climate Change Sub-Cabinet is to advise the Office of the Governor on the preparation and implementation of an Alaska climate change strategy. This strategy will include building the state's knowledge of the actual and foreseeable effects of climate warming in Alaska, developing appropriate measures and policies to prepare communities in Alaska for the anticipated impacts from climate change, and providing guidance regarding Alaska's participation in regional and national efforts addressing the causes and effects of climate change.

## *Membership:*

The Sub-cabinet is composed of the Commissioners (or their designees) of the Alaska Departments of Environmental Conservation (Larry Hartig); Natural Resources (Tom Irwin); Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (Emil Notti); Fish and Game (Denby Lloyd); and Transportation and Public Facilities (Leo von Scheben). Liaisons to the Sub-cabinet include the University of Alaska (Buck Sharpton) and the Governor's Office (John Katz).

## *Roles/Responsibilities:*

In view of its purpose, the Climate Change Sub-Cabinet is developing recommendations on the following: the assembly of scientific research, modeling, and mapping information in ways that will help the public and policymakers understand the actual and projected effects of climate change in Alaska, including the time frames in which those effects are likely to take place;

- the prioritization of climate change research in Alaska to best meet the needs of the public and policymakers;
- the most effective means of informing, and generating a dialogue with the public regarding climate change in Alaska;
- the early assessment and development of an action plan addressing climate change impacts on coastal and other vulnerable communities in Alaska;
- the policies and measures to reduce the likelihood or magnitude of damage to infrastructure in Alaska from the effects of climate change;
- the policies and measures addressing foreseeable changes to the marine environment; the quantity, quality, and location of fish and game in Alaska; and the productivity of forests and agricultural lands in Alaska due to climate change;
- the evaluation and response to the risks of new, or an increase in the frequency or severity of, disease and pests due to climate change in Alaska;
- the identification of federal and state mechanisms for financing climate change activities in Alaska, including research and adaptation projects;
- the potential benefits of Alaska participating in regional, national, and international climate policy agreements and greenhouse gas registries;
- the opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Alaska sources, including the expanded use of alternative fuels, energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, land use management, and transportation planning;
- aggressive efforts toward development of an Alaska natural gas pipeline to commercialize clean burning, low carbon natural gas reserves;
- the opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the operations of Alaska state government;
- the opportunities for Alaska to participate in carbon-trading markets, including the offering of carbon sequestration;

- the identification of economic opportunities for Alaska that might emerge as a result of the growing response to this global challenge;
- other policies and measures that the Climate Change Sub-Cabinet considers would help achieve the purpose of this Order.

*Contact:*

- Larry Hartig, Commissioner Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Chair of the Climate Change Sub-cabinet ([larry.hartig@alaska.gov](mailto:larry.hartig@alaska.gov))

## **NOAA CLIMATE SERVICE FOR ALASKA**

On February 8, 2010, the Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced their intent to establish a new NOAA Climate Service. The proposed reorganization of existing agency assets is intended to help NOAA better work with our partners to respond to the growing demands for climate information from the public, business, industry, and decision makers.

*Membership:*

- The Regional Climate Service Director for Alaska will provide regional leadership for integrating user engagement and on-the-ground service delivery within the Climate Service. Specifically, the director will develop an integrated NOAA program of climate services on a regional scale that responds to the needs of stakeholders and draws upon agency-wide assets and capabilities and develop and execute a Regional Climate Services Strategic Plan.
- Governance/oversight of the regional component of the climate service is still being developed.
- NOAA expects the Climate Service Director will work closely with DOI counterparts, the academic community, and existing climate research and service entities in the region.

*Roles/Responsibilities:*

The NOAA Climate Service will be a comprehensive and integrated office responsible for NOAA's climate science, data, information and services.

It will provide a one stop shop for users across the nation in much the same way NOAA's National Weather Service has been providing weather information and services for 140 years. Individuals, local and national governments and the private sector are increasingly demanding this information to be able to better understand, adapt to, and plan for a changing climate.

The objectives of the Service are to:

- Build a robust, service-centric program that ensures that users are actively engaged in service development through sustained engagement, dialogue and collaboration with users
- Improve the integration of climate science and services across the nation's climate service enterprise by promoting partnerships that leverage the assets of all levels of government, academia, NGOs and the private sector
- Develop, deliver and communicate problem-focused products, information services and decision support tools
- Connect users to existing climate products and services while continuing to develop new, authoritative, reliable services
- Support decision-making by providing place-based information and assessments that advance understanding of regional and sectoral climate impacts and risks in coordination with USGCRP and other national and regional programs
- Promote scientifically-based adaptation and mitigation support by building and integrating NOAA's climate science capabilities

NOAA also unveiled a new Web site – <http://www.climate.gov> – that serves as a single point-of-entry for NOAA’s extensive climate information, data, products and services. Known as the NOAA Climate Portal, the site addresses the needs of five broadly-defined user groups: decision makers and policy leaders, scientists and applications-oriented data users, educators, business users and the public.

*Contact:*

- NOAA Climate Service for Alaska Director tbd. Alternate: Amy Holman, NOAA Regional Coordinator 907-271-5334 [amy.holman@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.holman@noaa.gov) or Gary Hufford [gary.hufford@noaa.gov](mailto:gary.hufford@noaa.gov)

## **ALASKA CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

The Alaska Climate Change Coordinating Committee is an interagency group comprised of ACCER member agency science officers, or their equivalent, with the purpose of providing a point of synthesis for LCC, CSC, RCC and agency priorities.

*Membership:*

- State and Federal senior-level managers with sufficient authority to represent their agency on a policy level on a statewide basis.
- One representative from each agency
- DOI CSC Director, NOAA RCC Director and LCC Coordinators serve as ex-officio members and provide staff support
- State and Federal co-chairs, rotating among member agencies

*Roles/Responsibilities:*

- Address cross-LCC integrating/coordinating considerations and decisions
- Integrate goals being developed by LCCs
- Compile and rank combined science priorities of LCCs and agencies
- Integrate work of LCC’s, NOAA Regional Climate Center and the CSC, identify gaps and eliminate duplication
- Provide interagency, management-level guidance to the CSC to ensure it is meeting the needs of the interagency partners
- Provide overall science priorities for the CSC
- Establish statewide goals and science priorities for CSC, NOAA Regional Climate Center and LCC’s
- Leverage resources at the Statewide level to meet priority science needs (especially state-wide needs) and conservation goals.

*Contact:*

- USFWS Science Applications ARD, Acting LaVerne Smith