



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[What is the Climate Adaptation Leadership Award for Natural Resources?](#)

The Climate Adaptation Leadership Award for Natural Resources (Award) was established to recognize exemplary leadership by federal, state, tribal, local, and non-governmental entities to reduce climate-related threats and enhance the resilience of the nation's living natural resources (fish, wildlife, and plants) and the communities that depend on them. The Award recognizes outstanding leadership by organizations and/or individuals to advance the resilience of living natural resources in a changing climate by helping address the goals of the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy.

[Why was this Award created?](#)

The Obama Administration's Priority Agenda for Enhancing the Climate Resilience of America's Natural Resources called for the establishment of an Award to recognize and incentivize exemplary federal, state, tribal, and local leadership to advance the resilience of natural resources and the communities that depend on them. In response to this call the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy's Joint Implementation Working Group, comprised of federal, state, and tribal entities, created the Climate Adaptation Leadership Award for Natural Resources.

[What do we mean by climate resilience?](#)

In the emerging context of climate change, resilience is defined as the ability to recover from or adjust easily to change, such as impacts caused by natural and human-induced climate change.

[What are the award categories?](#)

Federal Government: Recognizes leadership and contributions of an individual, team, program, project or agency from the federal government.

State or Local Government: Recognizes leadership and contributions of an individual, team, program, project, or agency from state or local governments.

Tribal: Recognizes leadership and contributions of an individual, team, program, project, or agency from a Tribe, Tribal Government, Intertribal Agency, and Tribal NGOs.

Non-governmental: Recognizes leadership and contributions of an individual, team, program, or project from a non-governmental entity such as non-profits, academia, business, or industry, etc.

Broad Partnership: Recognizes the leadership and contributions of co-led projects and programs with collaborations between federal, state, local, Tribal governments, and non-governmental partners.

Distinguished Leaders: Recognizes individuals who have made exemplary contributions to climate adaptation for natural resources during their career.

Emerging Leaders: Recognizes the next generation of climate adaptation leaders who are early in their career, those pursuing degrees, and youths advancing resilience for natural resources in their communities.



Who is eligible for this award?

Individuals, government agencies (federal, state, tribal, and local), and non-governmental organizations that are based in the US and are focused primarily on living resources (fish, wildlife, plants, habitats, and ecosystems) in the 50 states or its territories are eligible for the award. Activities must be ongoing or recently completed and have either (1) contributed to an innovative and successful climate adaptation project, program, or initiative or (2) demonstrated their contribution to increasing the resilience of fish, wildlife, plants, habitats, or an ecosystem. Previous award recipients and honorable mentions may be nominated again if their work is significantly different than the work for which they were originally recognized.

What criteria will be used to assess the nominations?

Nominations must address one or more of the goals identified in the Strategy:

- Goal 1: Conserve habitat to support healthy fish, wildlife, and plant populations and ecosystem functions;
- Goal 2: Manage species and habitats to protect ecosystem functions and provide sustainable commercial, subsistence, recreational and cultural use;
- Goal 3: Enhance capacity for effective management;
- Goal 4: Support adaptive management through integrated observation and monitoring and use of decision support tools;
- Goal 5: Increase knowledge and information on impacts and responses of fish, wildlife, and plants;
- Goal 6: Increase awareness and motivation action to safeguard fish, wildlife, and plants; and
- Goal 7: Reduce non-climate stressors to help fish, wildlife, plants, and ecosystems.

Nominations will be reviewed and ranked base on the following criteria:

PROACTIVE: Promotes preparation and response in ways that advance the resilience of natural resources in a changing climate.

INNOVATIVE/TRANSFORMATIVE: Develops and/or applies innovative tools/approaches to advance the resilience of natural resources in a changing climate.

RESULTS/EFFECTIVENESS: Employs highly effective proven strategies and/or obtains results in improving resilience of natural resources and/or resource-dependent communities to a changing climate.

INFLUENCE: Demonstrates leadership in sharing their work, lessons learned, and best management practices with partners and stakeholders to encourage others to take action to adapt and promote replication of climate adaptation activities.

COLLABORATIVE: Demonstrates outstanding collaboration to advance the resilience of natural resources in a changing climate.



Can I nominate an individual?

Yes, the Award can recognize individuals for their outstanding work to incorporate climate adaptation practices into conservation efforts. The nomination may be in recognition of a discreet adaptation project for overall contribution to climate adaptation activities.

Can I nominate a group of individuals or organizations/agencies?

Yes, the Award can be presented to a group of individuals or organizations/agencies that have collaborated on a climate adaptation project.

Can I nominate a project that is not yet complete?

Yes, recognizing that outstanding climate and adaptation and resilience efforts can occur at a variety of stages from planning to implementation to evaluation, nominated projects do not need to be fully complete. Award winning projects can be in various stages of completion, as the Award is not only based on results or achievement the goal is to identify projects that are exception examples of climate adaptation based on the criteria laid out in the Call for Nominations. However, the project should be far enough along in its lifecycle to assess whether it exemplifies outstanding leadership using the Award criteria.

Can I nominate groups, organizations, or individuals who do not work in the natural resource conservation sector?

Yes, we will recognize efforts by other sectors (e.g. agriculture, energy, transportation, housing, and water resources) to advance the resilience and adaptation of the nation's valuable fish, wildlife, and plant resources, as well as habitats and ecosystems. Coordinated actions among these sectors and fish, wildlife, and plant adaptation efforts can yield mutual benefits for healthy ecosystems as called for in the Strategy.

Do international projects or efforts qualify?

Nominated individuals and organizations should be based in the United States and projects should focus primarily on US resources, though collaboration with groups working in other countries and along US borders are welcome.

What does the Award consist of?

Each Award will consist of a personalized plaque. If available, travel support may be provided to attend the Award Presentation at the AFWA Annual Meeting, which takes place each September.

Do you have more questions?

Other inquiries can be emailed to jblandford@fishwildlife.org with the heading "Climate Adaptation Leadership Award Inquiry".