

## Department of the Interior Departmental Manual

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**Series:** Organization

**Part 142:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Chapter 11:** Assistant Director for Science Applications

**Originating Office:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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### 142 DM 11

**11.1 The Assistant Director for Science Applications** oversees the Science Applications Program and provides national-level support to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) conservation planning efforts and scientific information and analysis to the Director. The goal of the Science Applications Program is to uphold and strengthen the Service's commitment to scientific excellence in the conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitat in partnership with others.

A. To accomplish the program goal, the Assistant Director oversees staff responsible for:

(1) Expanding Service capacities to acquire, apply, and communicate scientific information.

(2) Convening, coordinating, and strengthening collaborative partnerships between the Service and State fish and wildlife agencies through the States' national and regional associations and through landscape-scale conservation initiatives with States, private industry, landowner groups, and other non-governmental organizations to address shared conservation priorities and science needs.

(3) Enhancing partnerships between the Service and other scientific programs within organizations, particularly the U.S. Geological Survey and the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units network.

(4) Enabling a systematic and science-based approach to strategic resource management planning, implementation, and evaluation, particularly to support Service programs' conservation of at-risk species.

(5) Ensuring staff Service-wide abide by the agency's Code of Scientific and Scholarly Conduct (212 FW 7.7) for scientific integrity and transparency of science processes and results.

(6) Supporting the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy implemented by State fish and wildlife agencies and other partner natural resource management agencies. For example, with Science Applications' support, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is leading the development of a climate-habitat connectivity toolkit, running a climate adaptation committee for the States, conducting a State survey to identify and address priority needs, and preparing news and research updates.

(7) Promoting the active involvement of the Service and its employees in the larger scientific community.

(8) Creating a diverse and inclusive culture for the conservation community.

B. Science Applications staff members are also responsible for:

(1) Providing administrative and technical support to the Service Science Committee.

(2) Supporting the cross-programmatic data management initiatives of the Service's Data Governance Board to develop and maintain data management policies, standards, and tools to ensure the quality and compatibility of data within the Service.

(3) Managing two scientific publications—the *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management* and *North American Fauna*.

(4) Managing a formal peer review process for influential scientific documents that employees develop.

(5) Coordinating the Service's annual Science Awards program.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Assistant Director – Science Applications

Assistant Director  
Science  
Applications  
(no divisions in program)