Kaibab Fire & Climate Change Adaptation Workshop



February 11 – 13, 2020 Elks Lodge, 2101 N San Francisco St, Flagstaff, AZ 86001













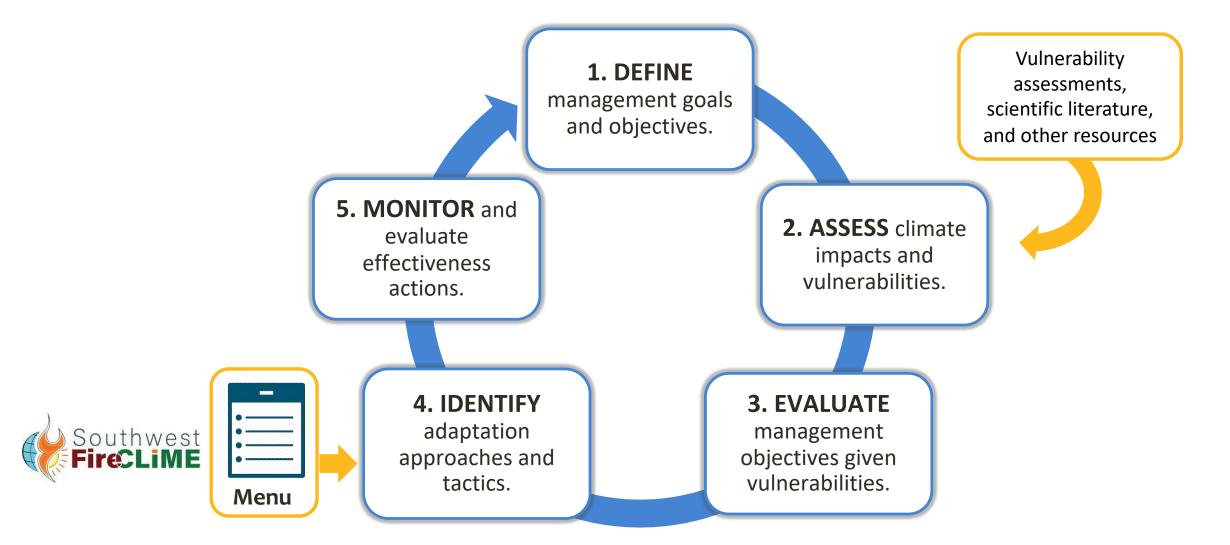


Workshop Goals

- Review regional and local effects of climate change on fire in forest ecosystems
- Explore resources and tools that can be used to integrate climate change into management
- Understand adaptation concepts and principles in the context of sustainable forest and fire management
- Identify challenges and opportunities for fire managers
- Develop actionable steps to adapt forests to changing fire regimes



Agenda Overview



Swanston et al. 2016; www.adaptationworkbook.org; Janowiak et al. 2014

Adaptation Workbook

Structured process to identify adaptation actions

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Worksheets!

Worksheets!

Intentionality

- Explicitly consider and address climate change
- Sure we might get lucky...
- Intentionally assessing risk and vulnerabilities makes our plans more robust!



Introductions!

- Name
- Organization
- What is one thing you are hoping to get out of the workshop?



Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (aka NIACS)

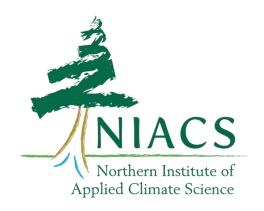
Chartered by USDA Forest Service, universities, non-profit and tribal conservation organizations

Climate and carbon services

- Climate impacts modeling
- Vulnerability assessment
- Climate adaptation
- Carbon biogeochemistry
- Carbon management

20 staff members (Forest Service/universities)

- 9 climate outreach specialists
- 6 research scientists
- 2 web specialists
- 3 GIS/lab specialists













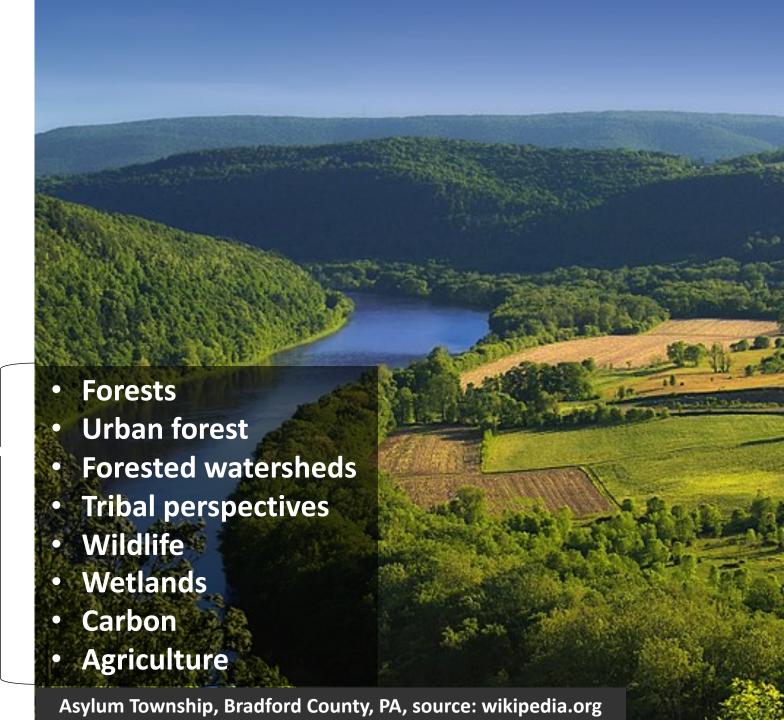




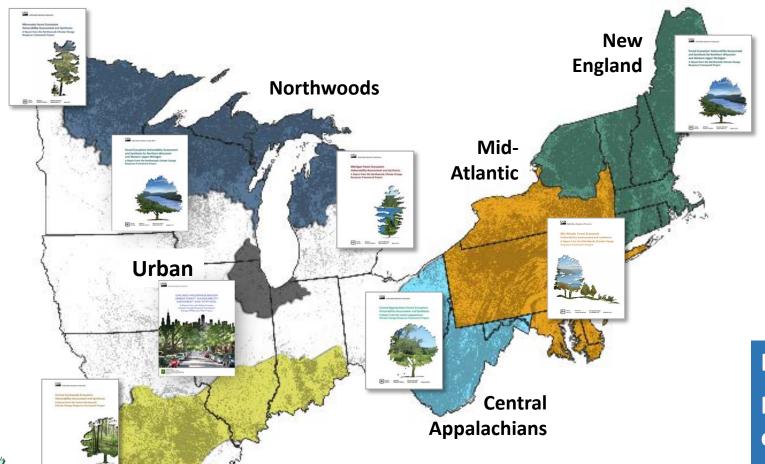
Climate Change Response Framework

- Work with land managers
- Apply climate-lens to management planning
- Customize approaches for adaptation





Impacts: Forest Ecosystem Vulnerability Assessments



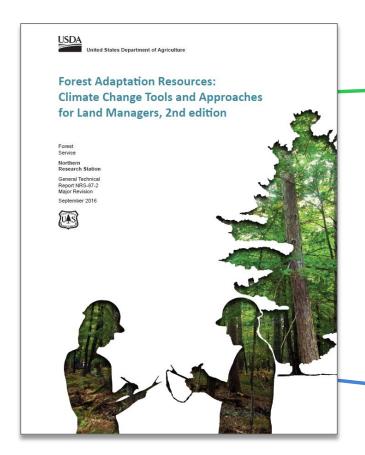
Central Hardwoods

- Written for land managers
- Focus on forest ecosystems
- Assess vulnerability of
- Tree species
- Forest/natural communities
- Examine a range of future climates

Does not make recommendations

Place based, model-informed,
expert-driven, transparent

Adaptation Planning Framework



Swanston et al. 2016 (2nd edition) www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/52760 (First edition, 2012)

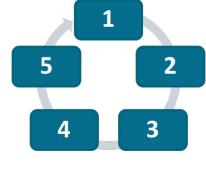
Strategies & Approaches Menus

Menu of adaptation actions



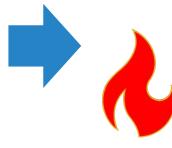
Adaptation Workbook

Structured process to integrate climate change considerations into management.



Also online: AdaptationWorkbook.org







Tools for Climate Adaptation: Helping Managers Connect the dots

Management Goals & Objectives

Climate Change Impacts

Challenges & Opportunities

Forest Adaptation Resources & Workbook https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/52760

Intent of Adaptation (Option)

Make Idea Specific (Strategy, Approach)

Why it's important:
Helps connect the dots

from **broad concepts** to **specific actions** for

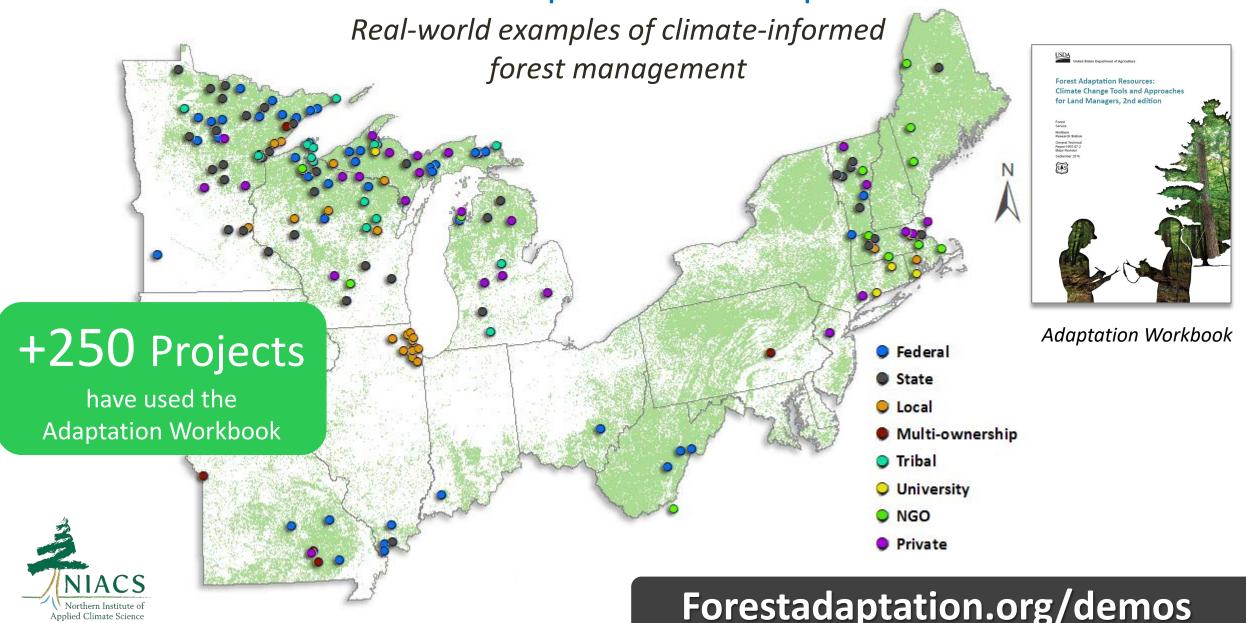
implementation.

Action to Implement (Tactic)

Monitor Effectiveness

Climate Change Tools and Approaches
for Land Managers, 2nd edition

Local examples of adaptation



Applied Climate Science

Adaptation Resources: Not just forests...

Expanding to more resource areas



Currently available:

- Forests
- Urban forests
- Agriculture
- Forested watersheds
- Tribes & cultural perspectives
- Forest Carbon management (in review)

In development:

- Wildlife Management
- Coastal habitats
- Grasslands



Step 1: DEFINE area of interest, management goals and objectives, and time frames.

Step 1: DEFINE location, project, and time frames.

Key Question:

- Where are you working?
- What are your desired future conditions, management goals, and objectives for this area?
- What is the timeframe?

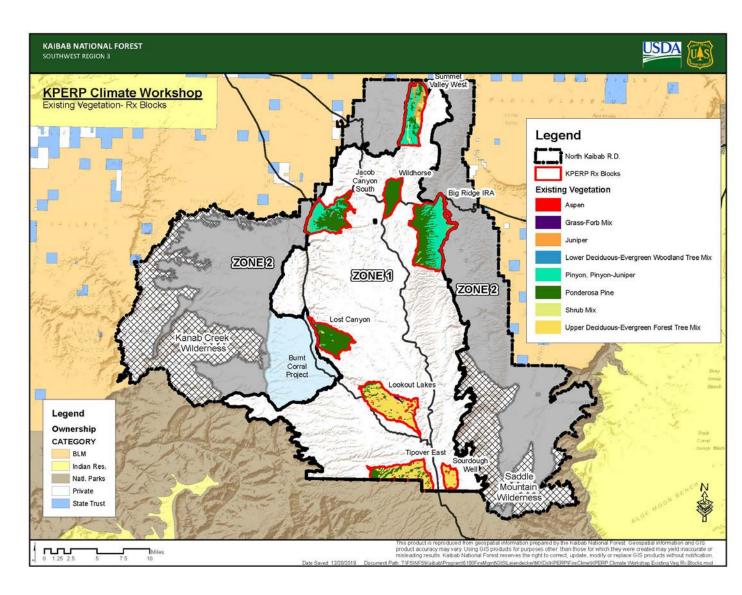
KEY DEFINITIONS (SAF DICTIONARY OF FORESTRY, 2018)

- Management Goal = a broad, general statement, usually not quantifiable, that expresses a desired state or process to be achieved
 - *note normally, a management *goal* is stated in terms of purpose, often not attainable in the short term, and provides the context for more specific *objectives*
- Management Objectives: a concise, time-specific statement of measurable planned results that correspond to pre-established goals in achieving a desired outcome
 - *note an objective commonly includes information on resources to be used, forms
 the basis for further planning to define the precise steps to be taken and the
 resources to be used and assigned responsibly in achieving the identified goals

Step 1: Define Area of Interest

Implementation Units:

- Big Ridge IRA
- Wildhorse
- Lost Canyon
- Lookout Lakes
- Tipover East
- Sourdough Well
- Optional: Summit Valley West



Step 1: DEFINE location, project, and time frames.

Example:

Property or Project Area:	Jerktail Mountain glade and woodland				
	Jerktail Mountain management unit, Pioneer Forest and Ozark National Scenic				
Location:	Riverway, 9 miles northeast of Eminence, Shannon County, Missouri				
Forest Type	Management Goals	Management Objectives	Timeframes		
Woodland	 Restore woodland to 	 Reduce eastern redcedar 	Prescribed burns 3-		
	more natural	encroachment.	4 years initially		
	conditions.	Increase component of fire-	Harvest every 20-30		
		tolerant species	years		
		Use variable intensity			
		prescribed fire			
		 Reduce stand density 			



Step 2: ASSESS site-specific climate change impacts & vulnerabilities

Purpose:

 Consider how climate change may specifically affect the project area

Key Questions:

- How might the area be uniquely affected by climatic change and subsequent impacts?
- How might regional impacts be different in the project area?

Workbook Cycle: Step 2

1. DEFINE location, management goals, objectives, and timeframe

Resources:

Climate Change Assessments

2. ASSESS climate change impacts & vulnerabilities.

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5. MONITOR and evaluate effectiveness of implemented actions.

4. IDENTIFY

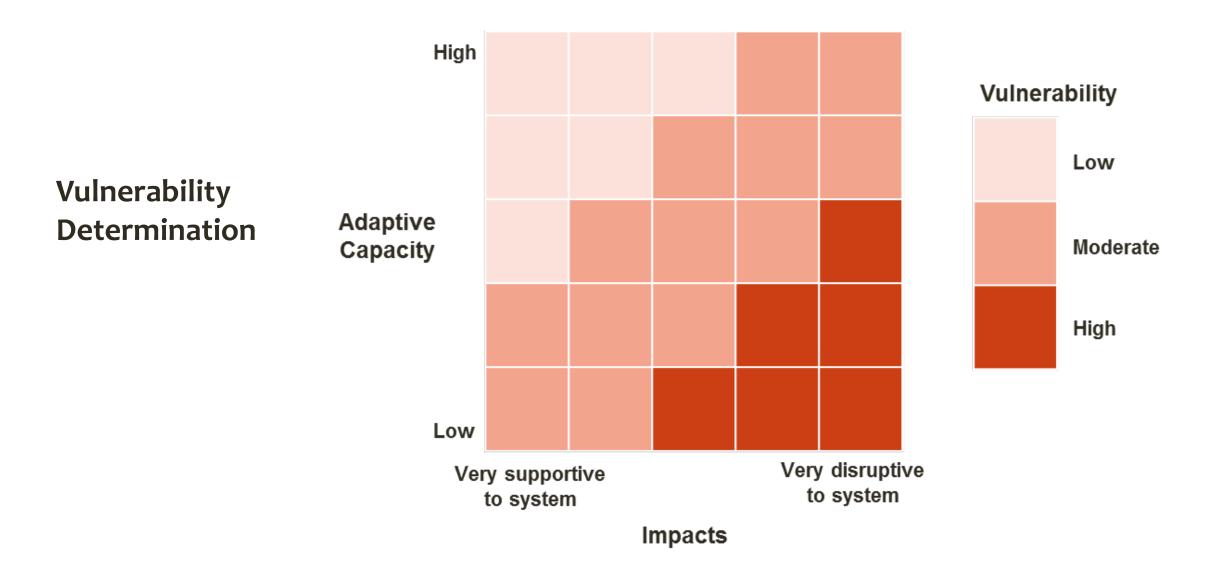
adaptation strategies and approaches for implementation. 3. EVALUATE

management objectives given projected climate impacts.

Regional Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerabilities

• From regional vulnerability assessments

Mgmt. Unit	Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerabilities		
or Topic	Regional	For the Property or Project Area	
	From vulnerability assessments	Based on your knowledge of the site	
Southwest	Increases in insect pests and forest pathogens	Ips bark beetle outbreaks in ponderosa pine could increase with warmer temperatures and longer growing seasons	
	Changing fire regimes and fuel conditions	Longer than historical fire return intervals in both ponderosa pine and mixed-conifer forests on the Kaibab Plateau	



Example – Jerktail Mountain

	Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerabilities				
Mgmt. Unit or Topic	Regional	For the Property or Project Area			
Woodland	Mean annual temperature increases from 2°F to 7°F. Increased precipitation in winter and spring and potential declines in summer.	Common species, such as black, red, and scarlet oak are expected to be affected by drier summers. Some tree species are better adapted to warm and dry conditions, such as shortleaf pine and post oak.			
	Increased frequency and severity of wildfire.	Woodlands adapted to frequent, low-intensity fire, but not severe fire.			

Step 2: Individual Work Time

- Read through impacts individually (add more if you have them)
- Write down local considerations that may make your area more less/vulnerable for each selected impact
- You have 20 points. Assign based on which would have the greatest impact to your project area.

Step #2 (Activity): Assess climate change impacts and vulnerabilities for the Kaibab Plateau.

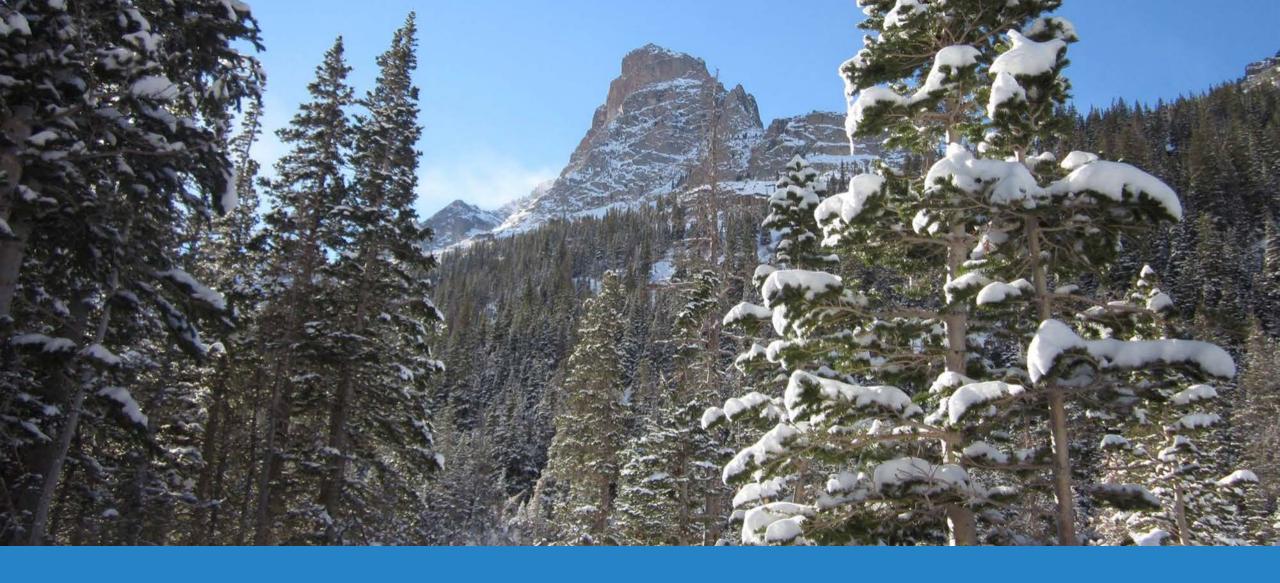
General Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerabilities	Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerabilities on the Kaibab Plateau	Points (20 Total)
General climate change impacts across the Southwest:	How might broad-scale impacts and vulnerabilities be affected by conditions in the project area ?	
Warmer temperatures (annual and seasonal)		
Increase in nighttime winter temperatures		
More days with extreme heat		
Fewer days with extreme cold		
Variable to decreased annual average precipitation		

Step 2: Small Group Discussion

- Work in your small groups to discuss which factors would have the greatest impact your project area based on point allocation
- Discuss local factors that led to your conclusion
- We will pass out 20 dots to represent your points
- All impacts are written on post-its.
- Decide on how as a group to assign your 20 points and place dots on the corresponding impact

Discussion

- •What were some local considerations you discussed?
- •How much did your group agree/disagree on what were the greatest impacts?
- •Why did you think those were the most important impacts?
- •How might these impacts differ between the short and long term?



Step 3: EVALUATE management objectives given projected impacts and vulnerabilities.

Purpose:

 Realistically assess the ability to meet goals and objectives under current management.

Key Question:

- What management challenges or opportunities might occur?
- Can current management meet management goals?
- Do goals need to change?

Challenges to Meeting Management Objective with Climate Change: Things that will make it harder to achieve the management objective due to climate change.

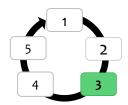
Opportunities to Meeting Management Objective with Climate Change: Things that will make it easier to achieve the management objective due to climate change.

**Focus on challenges within control of your management (not global markets, policies, etc.)

Feasibility – Can you meet your management objectives using current (business-as-usual) management actions?

- High: We can do it!Opportunities > Challenges
- Low: We'll need more resources or effort.
 Challenges > Opportunities

Other Considerations – Social, financial, or other factors that also affect your ability to meet objectives.



Evaluate the **feasibility** of meeting your goals and objectives using current management.

Determine feasibility

- Short term (10 yrs)
- Long term (50-100yrs)

High feasibility = Existing management options <u>can</u> overcome the challenges presented by climate change.

Opportunities likely outweigh challenges.

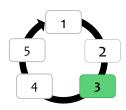
Moderate feasibility = Some challenges have been identified, but challenges can likely be overcome using existing management options. Additional resources or enhanced efforts may be necessary to counteract key challenges or promote new opportunities.

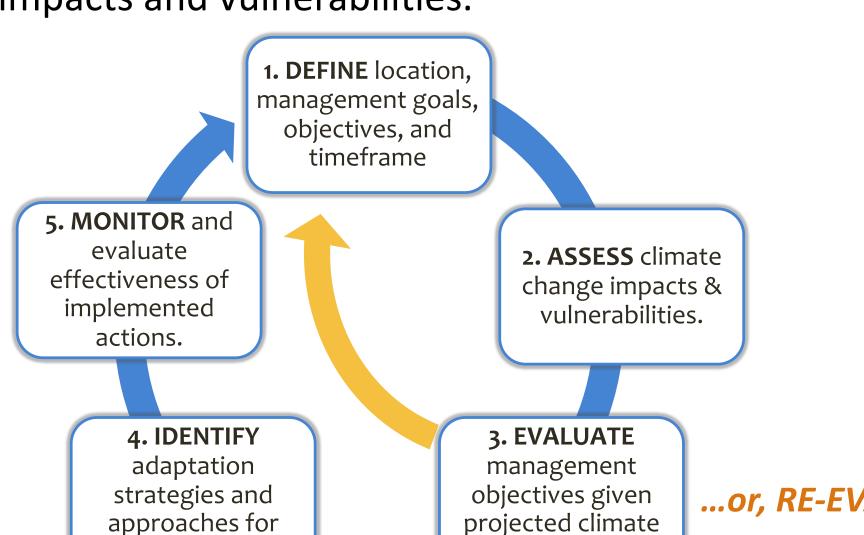
Low feasibility = Existing management may not be sufficient to overcome challenges presented by climate change. Additional resources or enhanced efforts will be necessary to counteract key challenges or promote new opportunities.



Slow down!

Are you going to continue with the management goals and objectives that you have identified?

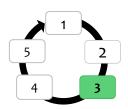




impacts.

implementation.

...or, RE-EVALUATE



1. DEFINE location, management goals, objectives, and timeframe

Update Management Goals/Objectives in Step 3 if necessary

5. MONITOR and evaluate effectiveness of implemented actions.

2. ASSESS climate change impacts & vulnerabilities.

4. IDENTIFYadaptation
strategies and

strategies and approaches for implementation.

3. EVALUATE management objectives given projected climate impacts.

...or, RE-EVALUATE

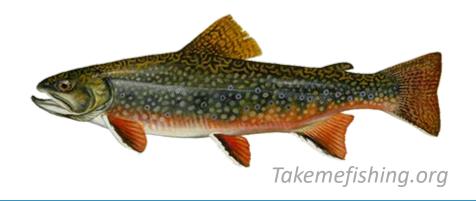
ADAPTATION EXAMPLE: TROUT UNLIMITED

North River Watershed

- 93 sq miles
 - 83% forest, 13% agricultural lands, and 4% urban
- Land owners:
 - State, land trusts, and private
- Current management issue:
 - Priority habitat and fisheries site that is vulnerable to destabilization and erosion.



Trout Unlimited & partners are working to help riparian forests and coldwater streams adapt to climate change.



Step 3: EVALUATE management objectives given projected impacts and vulnerabilities.



Goals

- Maintaining healthy and productive forests
- Maintaining and improving the integrity of the waters in the North River Watershed
- Improving stream connectivity and habitat quality for trout and other aquatic organisms
- Increasing the ability of streams and infrastructure to accommodate extreme precipitation events

Step 3: EVALUATE management objectives given projected impacts and vulnerabilities.

Mgmt. Obj.

- Enhance riparian areas
- Improve instream fish habitat
- Improve connectivity

Challenges

- Riparian forest tree mortality due to pests (hemlock wooly adelgid)
- Stream warming (thermal refugia)
- Severe erosion, sedimentation
- Loss of road-stream infrastructure (undersized)

Opportunities

 Tree mortality could increase dead wood in streams

Feasibility of Meeting Obj. (Current Mgmt)

- Short term: Mod
- Long term: Mod

Activity

- What are the 3 biggest challenges that you see for meeting your management objectives? (red stickies)
- What are the 3 biggest opportunities? (green stickies)



Photo Credit: Josh Kragthorpe, USFS



Photo Credit: Wilfred Previant, CSFS

Feasibility Activity



Low feasibility

High feasibility



Step 4: Identify adaptation approaches and tactics for implementation

Adaptation Workbook Process

1. **DEFINE** location, management goals, objectives, and timeframe

Vulnerability Assessments

5. MONITOR and evaluate effectiveness of implemented actions.

2. ASSESS climate change impacts & vulnerabilities.

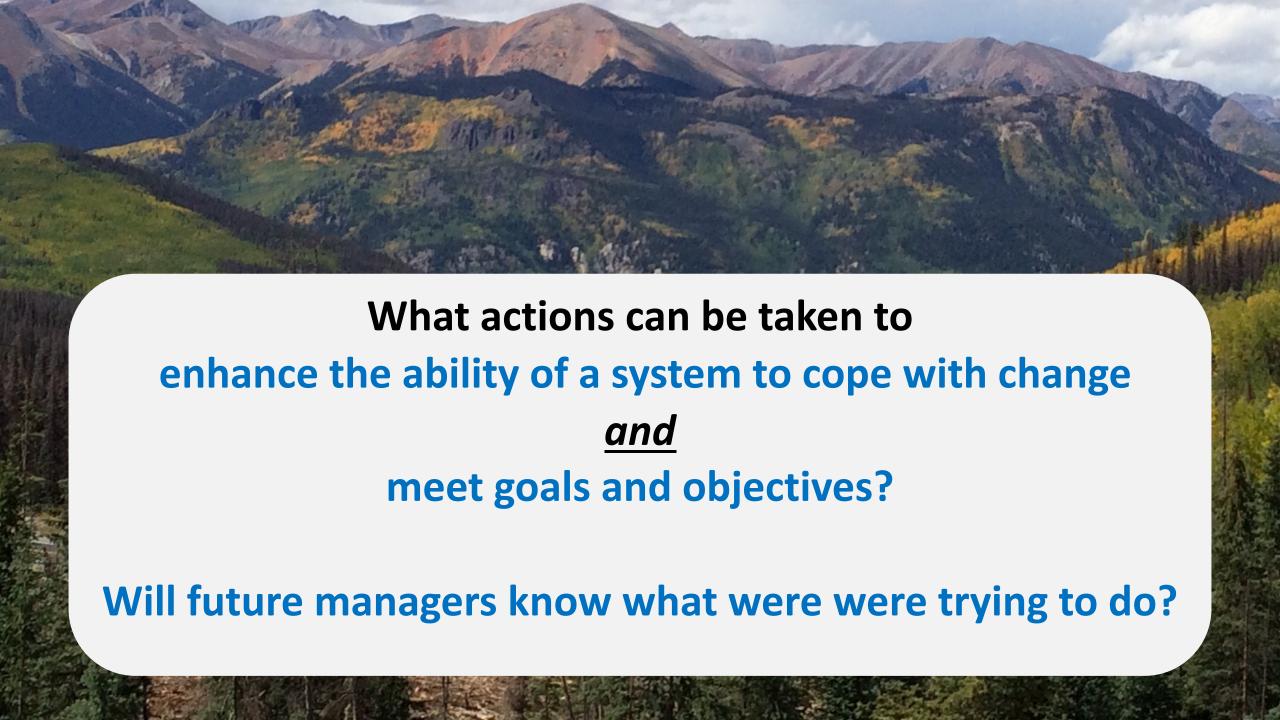


Resource: Adaptation Strategies & Approaches

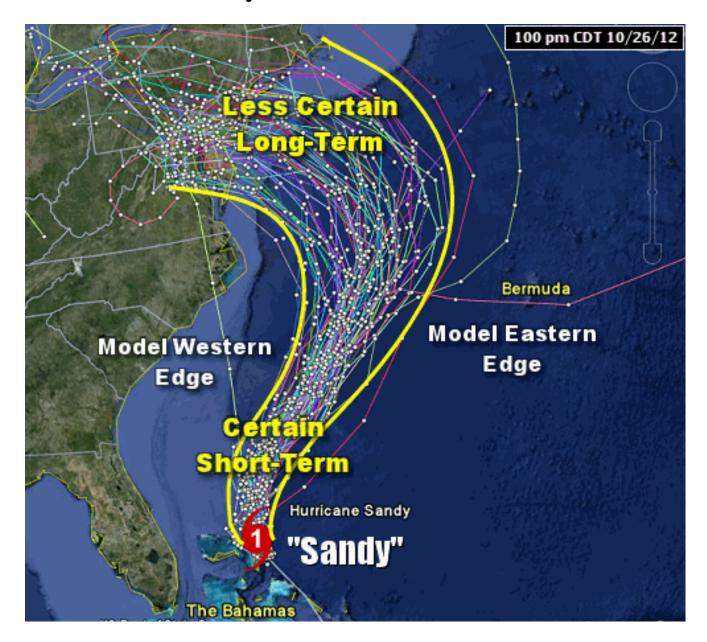
4. IDENTIFY

adaptation strategies and approaches for implementation. 3. EVALUATE

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We already deal with uncertainty!

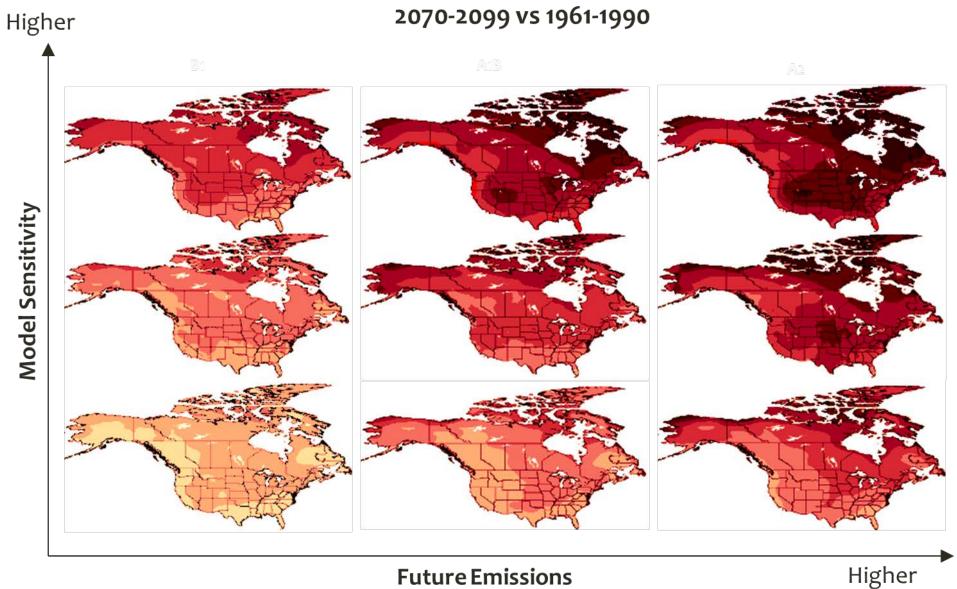


What is your risk tolerance?



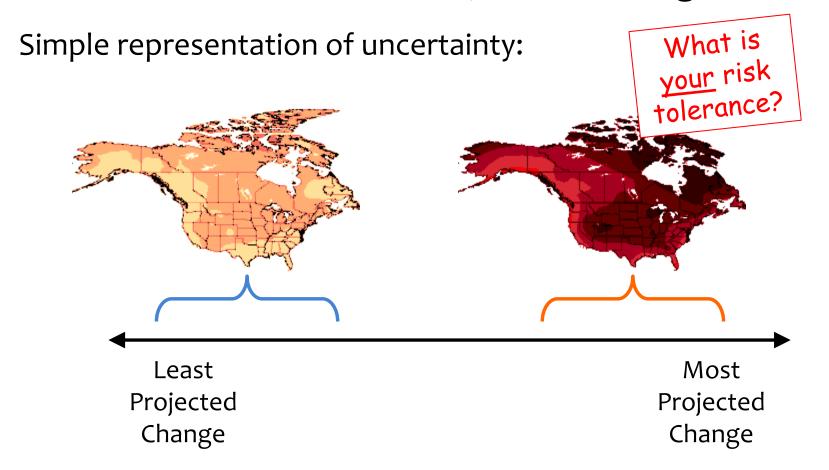
"Plausible climate futures"

Change in Mean Monthly Temperature (° C)



Uncertainty & Climate Scenarios

Certainty is a myth. Embrace uncertainty and manage risk.



Adaptation - the adjustment of systems in response to climate change.





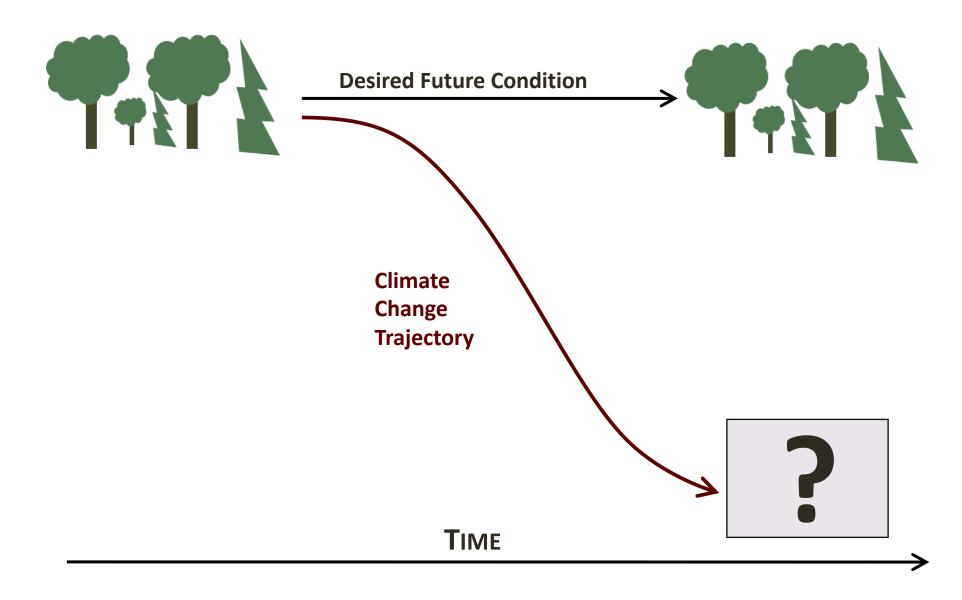




Ecosystem-based adaptation activities build on sustainable management, conservation, and restoration.

- What do you value?
- How much risk are you willing to tolerate?

Climate-Driven Changes



Adaptation Options

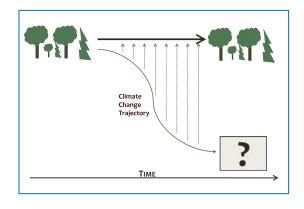
Manage for Persistence:

Ecosystems are still recognizable as being the same system (character)

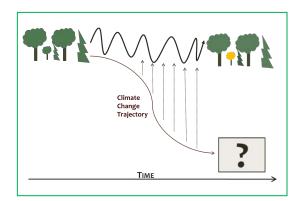
Manage for Change:

Ecosystems have fundamentally changed to something different

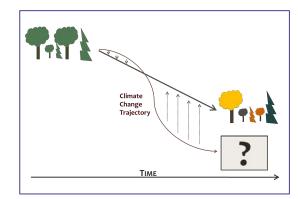
RESISTANCE



RESILIENCE



TRANSITION



Reduce impacts/ Maintain current conditions

Forward-looking/ Promote change

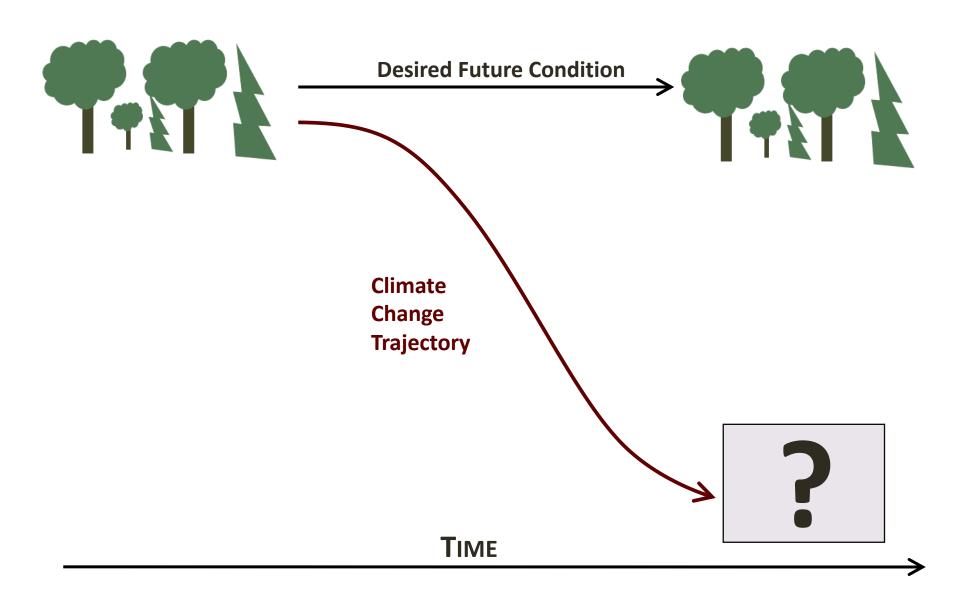


Option #1: Resistance

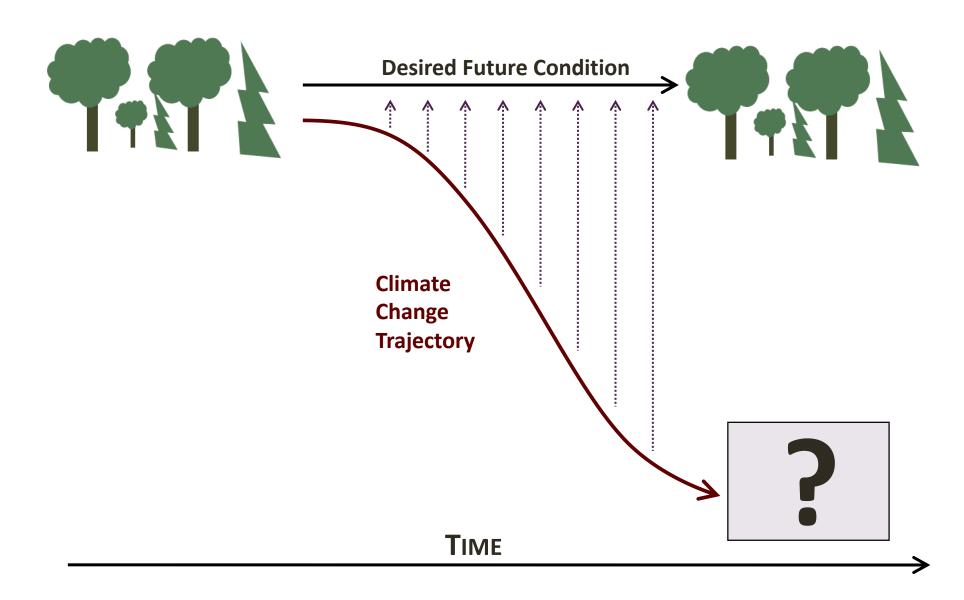
Improve the defenses of the forest against anticipated changes or directly defend the forest against disturbance in order to maintain relatively unchanged conditions

- Short-term
- High-value

Option #1: Resistance



Option #1: Resistance

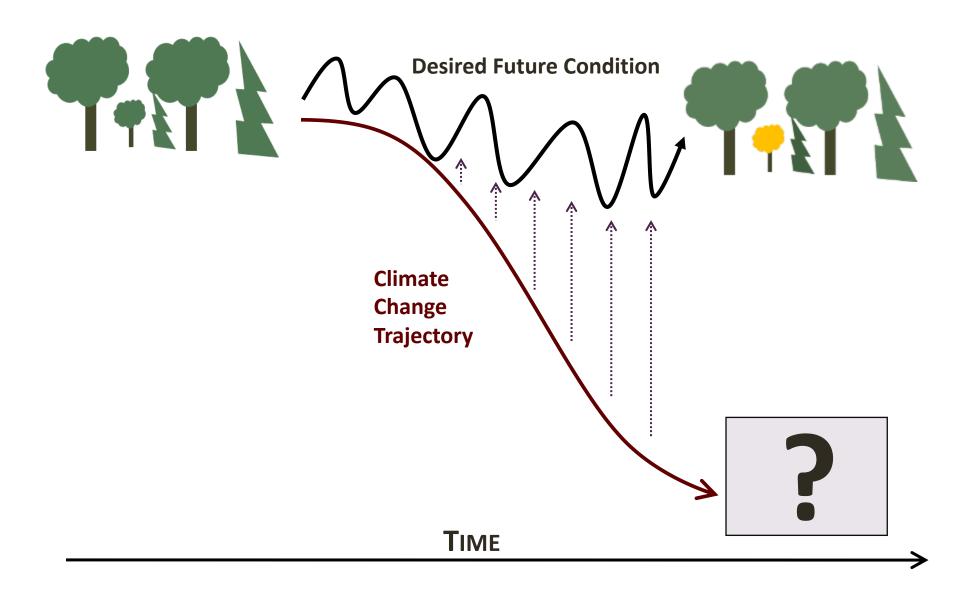




Option #2: Resilience

Accommodate some degree of change, but encourage a return to a prior condition after disturbance

Option #2: Resilience

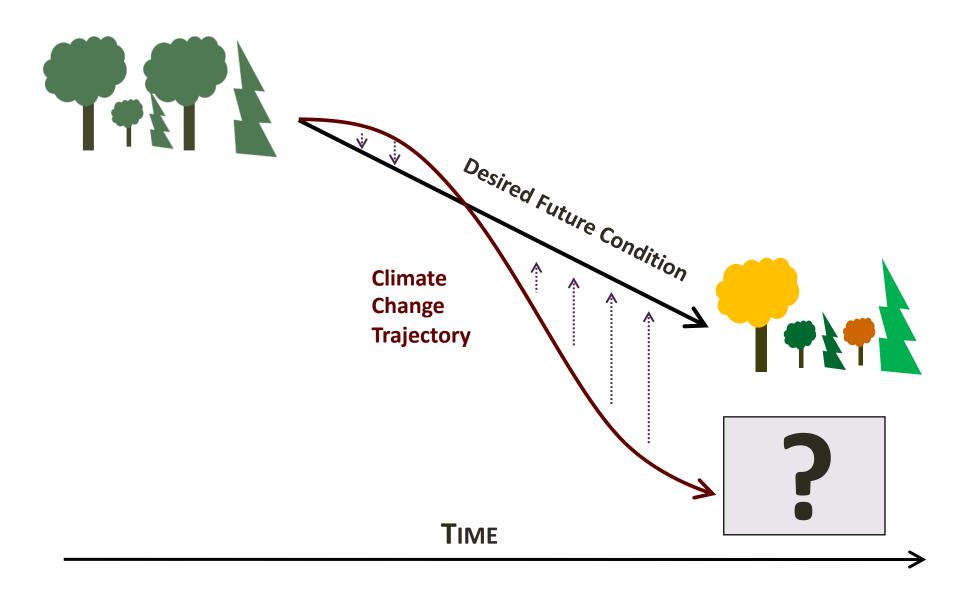


Option #3: Transition (Response)

Intentionally accommodate change and enable ecosystems to adaptively respond to changing/new conditions

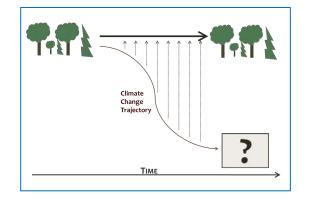


Option #3: Transition (Response)

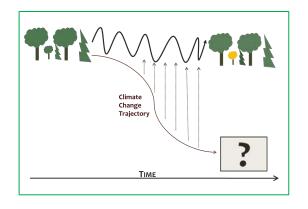


Manage Risk

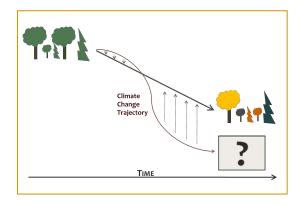
RESISTANCE



RESILIENCE



TRANSITION



Design actions that are <u>robust across a range of</u> <u>potential future conditions</u>

Intentionality

- Explicitly consider and address climate change
- Sure we might get lucky...
- Intentionally assessing risk and vulnerabilities makes our plans more robust!



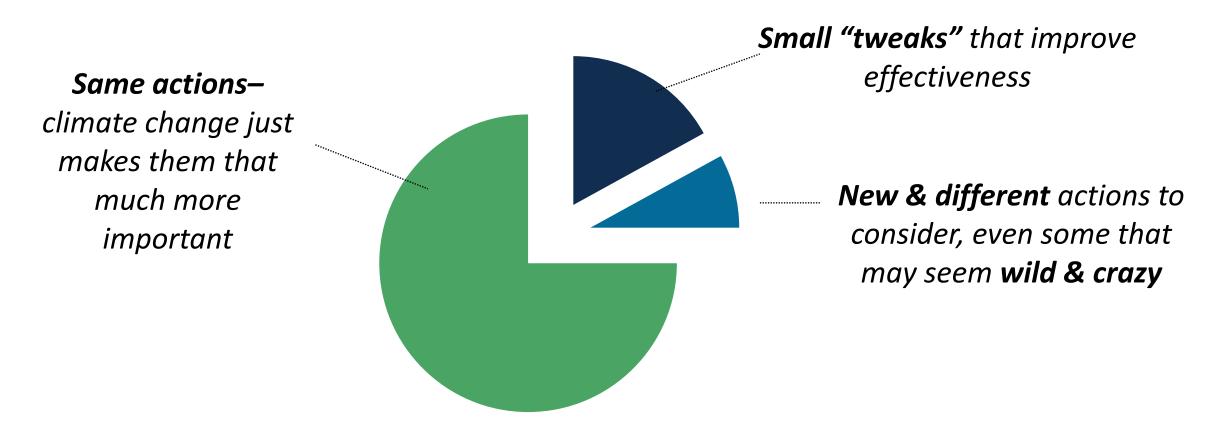
Adaptation Strategies & Approaches

Management Goals & Objectives Climate Change Impacts Challenges & Opportunities Intent of Adaptation (Option) Make Idea Specific (Strategy, Approach) Action to Implement (Tactic)

Why it's important: Helps connect the dots from broad concepts to specific actions for implementation.

One last thought....

Adaptation actions may not look that different from current management actions, especially in the near term.



^{*}individual results will vary



Culturally relevant tribal adaptation menu: Strategies 1-3

Strategy 1: Consider cultural practices and seek spiritual guidance

Strategy 2: Learn through careful and respectful observation (gikinawaabi)

Strategy 3: Support tribal engagement in the environment

The first several strategies and approaches in the Tribal Adaptation Menu describe how cultural & spiritual knowledge and tribal engagement can help support climate adaptation.

Courtney can share a copy (not for distribution)

Indicate how you are (or would like to) incorporate these ideas into your management plan.

Adaptation Strategies & Approaches



Translating broad concepts to actions

Options (concepts):

Resistance, Resilience, Transition

Strategies:

Regionally specific conditions

Approaches:

Actions for a specific ecosystem

Tactics:

 Prescriptions for local conditions and mgmt. objectives

Example: Fire Menu

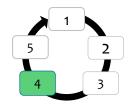
Strategy 5: Maintain and enhance structural, species, and community diversity.



Approach 5.2: Maintain or increase structural diversity at the landscape scale.



Tactics 5.2.2: Employ techniques such as variable-density treatments or irregular fire return intervals in order to encourage the development of multiple age cohorts.

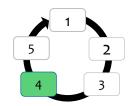


Approach – think about specific tactics/actions for on-the-ground management pertaining to your FAP Theme that relate to the list of strategies and approaches.

Tactic – Describe a specific action you can take. Identify management actions that can help prepare Colorado's forests for changing conditions given risk ratings discussed yesterday.

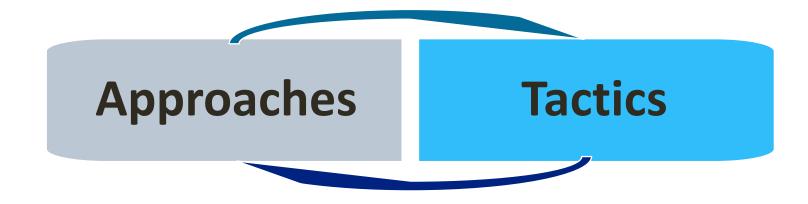
These details should ideally answer **what, where, and how** you will implement the actions.

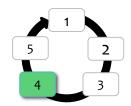




Use this step to rigorously define tactics you think are suitable given the vulnerabilities to climate change, and choose to "not recommend." This can help provide context for the future and document your thought process and actions.

Don't forget to denote the approach number you use.





Timeframe – Specify when you will implement the tactic.

For example:

- Summer 2016
- Winter 2016-7
- Within 3 years of...
- After...

Benefits – Describe why the tactic is good.

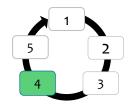
For example:

- addresses biggest or multiple challenges
- is cheap and easy
- has co-benefits
- is likely to succeed

Drawbacks and Barriers – Describe why it's not so good.

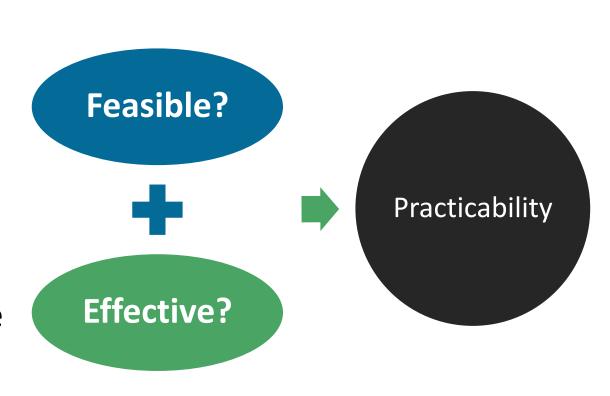
For example:

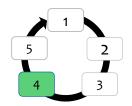
- it may have negative side effects,
- Requires high cost or effort
- may not be successful
- has social, financial, or other barriers



Practicability – Is it both <u>effective</u> (will meet desired intent) and <u>feasible</u> (capable of being implemented)?

- High: Yes to both!
- Moderate: Yeah, but it will take some additional effort or planning...
- Low: No, the barriers/drawbacks seem too big or the benefits too small.





Recommend Tactic— Given all this, is this tactic likely to be helpful?

Also consider: trade-offs, urgency, likelihood of success, cost, and effort...

Yes: look to integrate into plan, prescription, or other activities

No: not useful at this time

Key Questions:

- What actions can enhance the ability of the ecosystem to adapt to anticipated changes and meet management goals?
- Will future managers know what we were trying to do?

Step 4: Trout Unlimited example Area/Topic: Riparian forests

Adaptation Approach

Forest menu:

- **1.3.** Maintain or restore riparian areas.
- **2.1.** Maintain or improve the ability of forests to resist pests and pathogens.
- **9.2.** Establish or encourage new mixes of native species.

Tactic

- Thin riparian forests to promote growth of white pine and other species that will ensure long-term stream shading
- Reduce impacts of hemlock woolly adelgid

Consider:

- Benefits
- Drawbacks
- Barriers
- Practicability

Recommend **Tactics?**

Yes

More information: <u>forestadaptation.org/tu-ne</u>



BREAK!



Step 5: MONITOR and evaluate effectiveness of implemented actions.

Workbook Cycle: Step 5

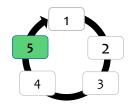
1. DEFINE location, management goals, objectives, and timeframe

5. MONITOR and evaluate effectiveness of implemented actions.

2. ASSESS climate change impacts & vulnerabilities.

4. IDENTIFYadaptation
strategies and
approaches for
implementation.

3. EVALUATE management objectives given projected climate impacts.



Purpose:

Practice adaptive management

How do we know if the selected actions were effective?

What can we learn from these actions to inform future management?

A Few Thoughts About Monitoring...

- Learning about our actions is useful
- Our track record is not very good



A Few Thoughts About Monitoring...

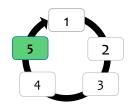
- Be VERY CLEAR about your information needs and the kind of monitoring that might help you get that information:
 - Implementation monitoring = Did we do the action?
 - Surveillance/impact monitoring = What change is occurring over time?
 - Effectiveness/adaptation monitoring = Did our action actually have the desired effect?

A Few Thoughts About Monitoring...

- Be VERY CLEAR about your information needs and the kind of monitoring that might help you get that information:
 - Implementation monitoring = Did we do the action?
 - Surveillance/impact monitoring = What change is occurring over time?
 - Effectiveness/adaptation monitoring = Did our action actually have the desired effect?
 - Scientific research = Is this outcome statistically significant compared to a control? Could we expect similar results elsewhere?

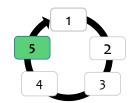
"Climate change monitoring"

- Are you going to monitor climate change?
 - Nope.
- Are you going to monitor climate change impacts?
 - Not necessarily.
- Are you going to monitor the success of your management?
 - That's the ticket!
 - You're already doing that (or trying).
- "Climate change monitoring" is not climate science

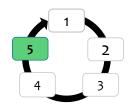


OUTCOME:

Realistic and feasible monitoring scheme that can be used to help determine whether management should be altered in the future to account for new information and observations.



- Adaptation Monitoring Variable What you will measure?
 - Items that can tell you whether you have achieved your management goals & objectives.
- Criteria for Evaluation a value or threshold that is meaningful for assessing effectiveness or informing future decisions
 - What is success?
 - What you're monitoring or measuring: What are the units on your data?
- Monitoring Implementation— How you will gather the information
 - How, and when the monitoring will actually get done.
 - Take advantage of existing monitoring when possible!



Adaptation Monitoring Variable – What you will measure?

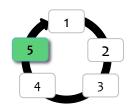
Planted seedling survival at 1, 2, 5, and 10 years after planting

Criteria for Evaluation – a value or threshold that is meaningful for assessing effectiveness or informing future decisions

- 60% survival of non-local genotypes
- Eradication of invasive species

Monitoring Implementation— How you will gather the information

- Regular post-planting stocking surveys.
- Supplemental surveys at 10 years.

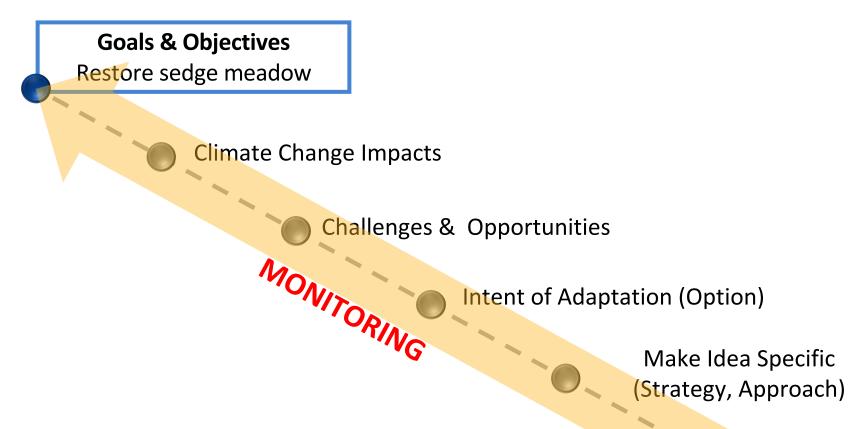


Example – Jerktail Mountain Woodland

Adaptation		
Monitoring Variable	Criteria for Evaluation	Monitoring Implementation
Fuel loads	reduce fuel loads; reduce leaf	Use the National Park Service Fire
	litter depth by 50% by first year	Monitoring Handbook (FMH) plot design: 2
	after second burn	plots. Baseline monitoring and return first
		and second growing season after burn.
Tree basal area, growth,	Increase in shortleaf pine, white	Permanent inventory plots to be established
and composition	oak, and chinkapin oak, and	
	achievement of woodland	
	structure.	
Shortleaf pine	Presence of shortleaf pine	Qualitative observation
regeneration	seedlings and saplings	

Connecting the Dots

A clear train of thought shows *intentionality*



Swanston and Janowiak 2016; www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/52760

Action to Implement
Plug drainage ditches
Seed with native spp.

Monitoring Brainstorm

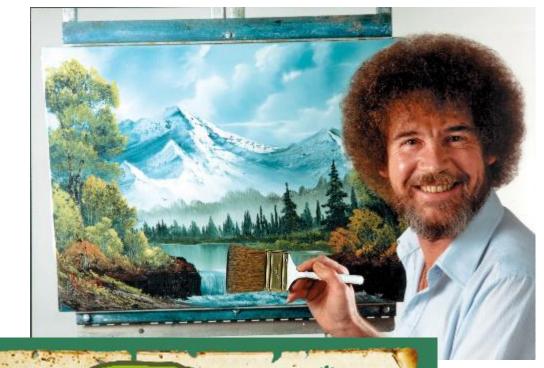
• What are some things you could monitor from your projects to assess the effectiveness of your adaptation actions?

Adaptation		
Monitoring Variable	Criteria for Evaluation	Monitoring Implementation



Telling Your Adaptation Story

- Describe your project area
- Who is your audience?
- Goals/objectives
- Key climate change impacts
- Key adaptation strategies/approaches to meet your goals/objectives
- One idea on measuring effectiveness/monitoring







To-do list:

<u>Y'all:</u>

Evaluations (please!)

Can we have a copy of your Workbook?

Keep moving these ideas forward!

Follow up with questions or ideas

Can we share your idea on www.ForestAdaptation.org?

NIACS:

- Share contact list & presentations from today
- -Check in soon!
- -Other ideas?

Thanks everyone!

