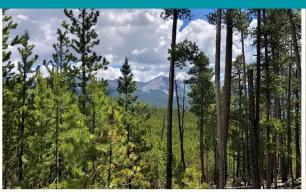
# The Climate Adaptation Workbook + Adaptation Menus

Climate Change and Adaptation for Sagebrush Practitioners











May 22, 2024 Maude Dinan, USDA Southwest Climate Hub

# Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science

Climate

Carbon

The Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS) develops synthesis products, fosters communication, pursues science, and provides technical assistance in climate change adaptation and carbon management.

NIACS is a collaborative partnership of Federal, research, conservation, higher education, and Tribal organizations led and supported in part by the USDA Forest Service.











University of Minnesota





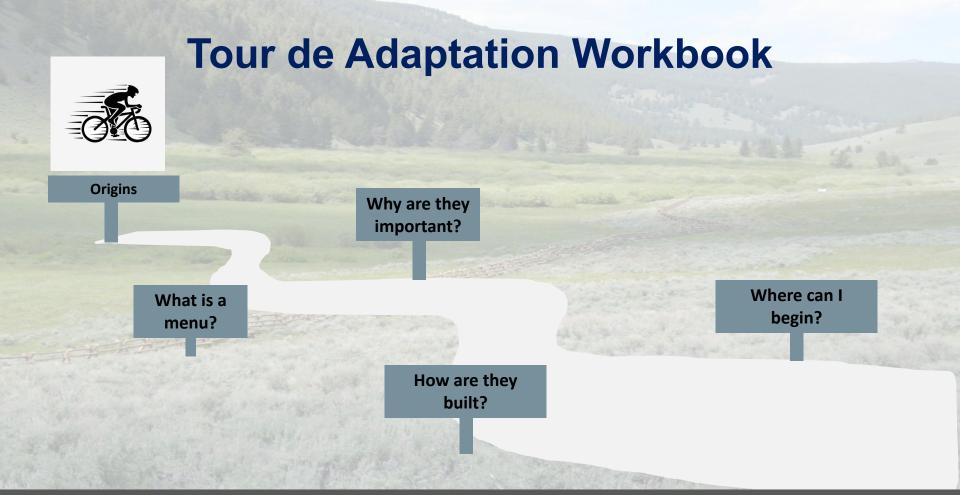
### **USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub**

### Established in 2014 to:

Develop and deliver science-based, region-specific information and technologies to agricultural and natural resource managers that enable climate-informed decision-making, and to

Provide assistance to implement those decisions





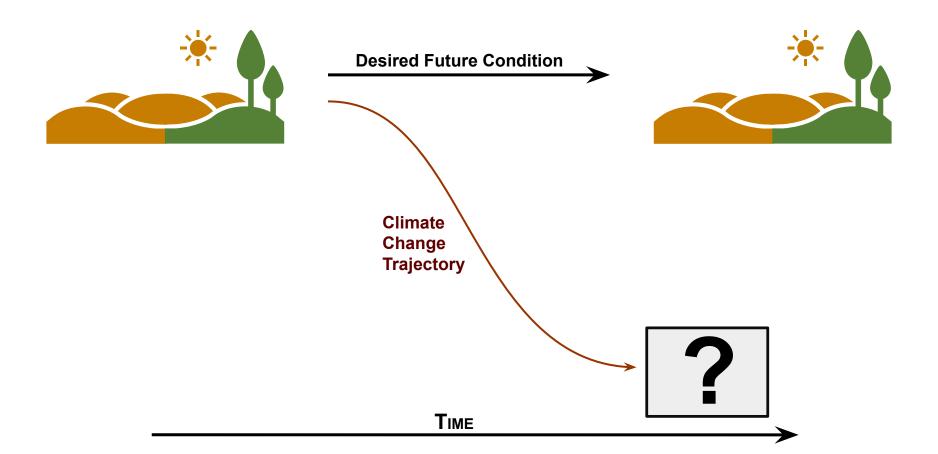
# **Climate-Driven Changes**



**Desired Future Condition** 



# **Climate-Driven Changes**



What actions can be taken to enhance the ability of a system to cope with change and meet goals and objectives?



Photo: https://www.fs.usda.gov/midewin

### **Adaptation Concepts**

### RESISTANCE



- Improve defenses of forest against change and disturbance
- Maintain relatively unchanged conditions

### RESILIENCE



- Accommodate some degree of change
- Return to prior reference condition following disturbance

### **TRANSITION**

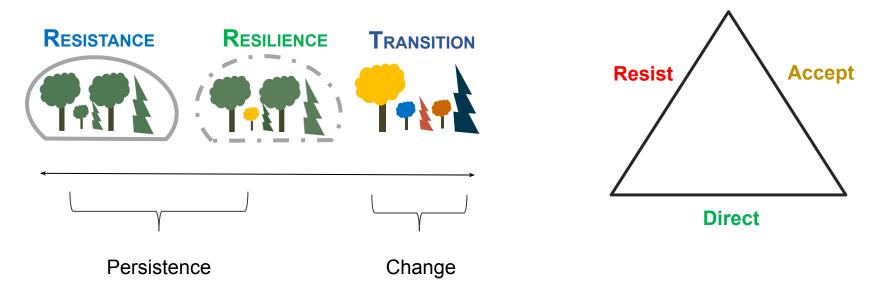


- Intentionally facilitate change
- Enable ecosystem to respond to changing and new conditions

Reduce impacts/maintain current conditions

Forward-looking/promote change

### **Adaptation Concepts**



All of these are meant to help you communicate what you're trying to do and be explicit about intent

# **Intentionality**

Explicitly consider and address climate change

Sure we might get lucky...

Intentionally assessing risk and vulnerabilities makes our plans more robust!



### There are many adaptation planning approaches

Approach	Purpose and key features	Spatial scalea	Starting point	Effort/Cost <sup>b</sup>	Institutional affiliation	References
Adaptation for Conservation Targets (ACT) Framework	Stepwise process for developing actions to achieve climate informed conservation goals for specific species, ecological processes, or ecosystems	Site, Landscape	Management targets, goals, or activities	Time: low/moderate Expertise: moderate Cost: low/moderate	NCEAS Climate Change & Wildlife Conservation working group; Wildlife Conservation Society; Southwest Climate Change Initiative	Cross et al. 2012b, 2013
Awareness to Action (A2A)	Adaptation planning services to develop climate change adaptation plans focused on specific regions, species, or ecosystems	Site, Landscape	Either management concerns, or broad look at potential climate-related changes	Variable	EcoAdapt	Hansen and Hoffman 2011
Climate Change Adaptation Framework for Ecosystems	Stepwise process for integrating climate into natural resource management for many species and ecosystems	Landscape	Management targets, goals or activities	Time: moderate Expertise: moderate/ high Cost: high	Ontario Centre for Climate Change Impacts & Adaptation Resources	Gleeson et al. 2011
Climate Change Response Framework	Stepwise process for integrating climate into forest planning and management for forest species and ecosystems	Site, Landscape	Management targets, goals or activities	Time: low/moderate Expertise: low/ moderate Cost: low/moderate	U.S. Forest Service	Swanston and Janowiak 2012
Climate Project Screening Tool	Questionnaire-based tool to explore options for ameliorating climate effects on forest resource management projects	Site	Management targets, goals or activities	Time: low/moderate Expertise: low/ moderate Cost: low	U.S. Forest Service	Morelli et al. 2012
Climate-Ready Estuaries Expert Elicitation Approach	Expert elicitation approach for assessing vulnerabilities and identifying adaptation options	Site, Landscape	Management targets and goals	Time: moderate Expertise: high Cost: moderate/high	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	U.S. EPA 2012a, 2012b
Climate-Smart Coastal Restoration Planning	Stepwise framework for the design and implementation of climate-smart coastal restoration projects in the Great Lakes	Site	Management targets, goals or activities	Time: low/moderate Expertise: moderate Cost: low/moderate	National Wildlife Federation; EcoAdapt	Glick et al. 2011b
ClimateWise	Stepwise process for developing adaptation strategies and actions coordinated across local ecosystem and human community concerns	Site, Landscape	Broad look at potential climate-related changes	Time: moderate Expertise: moderate Cost: moderate	Geos Institute	Koopman and Journet 2011
Conservation Action Planning for Climate Change	Stepwise process for integrating climate into existing plans developed using the Conservation Action Planning (CAP) process for specific species or ecosystems	Site	Management targets, goals or activities from an existing CAP plan	Time: moderate/high Expertise: moderate Cost: moderate	The Nature Conservancy	Poiani et al. 2011

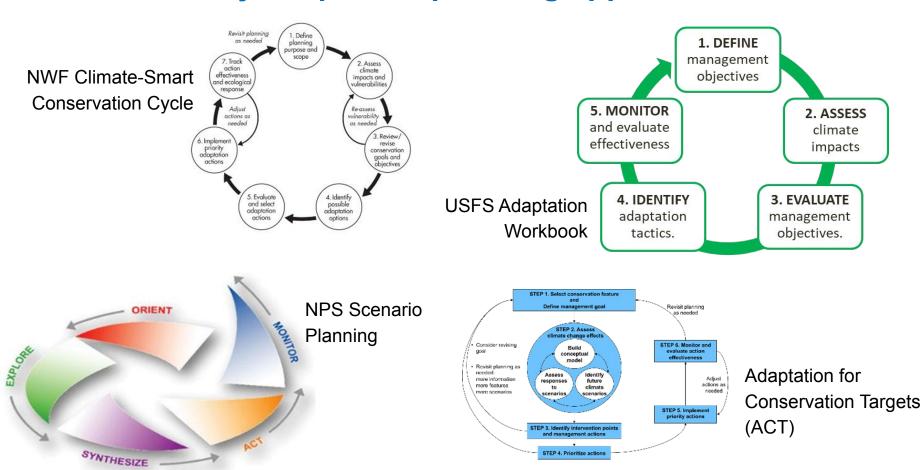
Table 5.1. Example adaptation planning approaches (continued)

Approach	Purpose and key features	Spatial scale <sup>a</sup>	Starting point	Effort/Cost <sup>b</sup>	Institutional affiliation	References
Decision Framework for Climate Change Adaptation	Decision tree that identifies and prioritizes actions to increase the adaptive capacity of species	Site, Landscape	Particular species and species distribution/ bioclimatic envelope model	Time: low/moderate Expertise: moderate Cost: low/moderate	NERC Centre for Ecology & Hydrology; UK Population Biology Network	Oliver et al. 2012
National Park Service Scenario Planning	Scenario planning process to address climate-related uncertainties in managing species, ecosystems, cultural and recreational resources	Site, Landscape	Potential climate-related changes	Time: moderate Expertise: moderate Cost: moderate	National Park Service	Weeks et al. 2011, Rose and Star 2013
North Cascadia and Olympic Peninsula Adaptation Partnership	Science-management partnership for assessing vulnerability and developing adaptation options for species and ecosystems across federal land management units	Landscape	Potential climate-related changes	Time: moderate/high Expertise: moderate Cost: moderate	U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service	Raymond et al. 2013, Littell et al. 2012, Halofsky et al. 2011
Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation	Incorporation of climate into a structured conservation planning process for specific species or ecosystems	Site, Landscape	Management targets, goals or activities	Time: moderate Expertise: moderate Cost: moderate	Conservation Measures Partnership	CMP 2013
Refuge Vulnerability Assessment and Alternatives	Stepwise process for spatially explicit assessment of a refuge's vulnerability to climate change and other stressors, and identification of adaptation options	Site, Landscape	Either management concerns or potential climate-related changes	Time: moderate/high Expertise: high Cost: moderate/high	NatureServe	Crist et al. 2012a, 2012b
Template for Assessing Climate Change mpacts and Management Options TACCIMO	Web-based tool that synthesizes published research on climate impacts and adaptation options relevant to forest planning and management	Site, State, Landscape	Potential climate-related changes	Time: low Expertise: low Cost: low	U.S. Forest Service	Treasure et al. 2014
Yale Framework	Guidance for selecting assessment and modeling strategies relevant to specific conservation and resource management needs	Site; Landscape	Matrix of adaptation options at different ecological levels	Time: low/ moderate/high Expertise: moderate/ high Cost: moderate/high	Yale School of Forestry	Schmitz et al In press

a Site = Single management unit or jurisdiction at relatively small spatial extent. Landscape = More complex jurisdictional landscape at relatively larger spatial extent. State = Targeted at state-level planning in the United States.

b Time: low (<1 year), moderate (up to 1 year), high (>1 year); Expertise: low (no special technical expertise required), moderate (some technical expertise helpful), high (technical expertise required); Cost: low (<\$10,000), moderate (\$10,000-75,000), high (>\$75,000).

### There are many adaptation planning approaches



### **A Few Distinctions**

Dedicated adaptation planning

Integrated adaptation planning

Single species / ecosystem

Many species and ecosystems

Site scale

Landscape scale

Specific management targets, goals, & activities



Broad look at potential impacts

# **Many Similarities**

Participatory and iterative
processes...
...for generating
place-based adaptation actions

### **Bottom Line**

No one 'correct' framework for climate adaptation

Some approaches may be particularly well-suited to your needs

Most important thing = get started!

### Climate Adaptation Workbook and Adaptation Menus

Flexible 5-step workbook designed for a variety of landowners with **diverse goals** 

Works at project-level

Centers the manager's expertise, and judgment

Creates clear rationale for actions by connecting them to broader adaptation ideas

Does not make recommendations



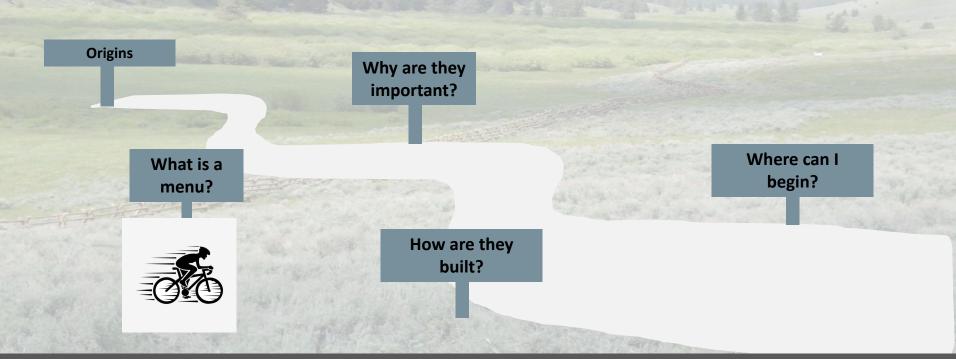
Includes: Adaptation workbook
Adaptation strategies for different resource areas (menus)

### **Adaptation Workbook = Climate Change Filter**

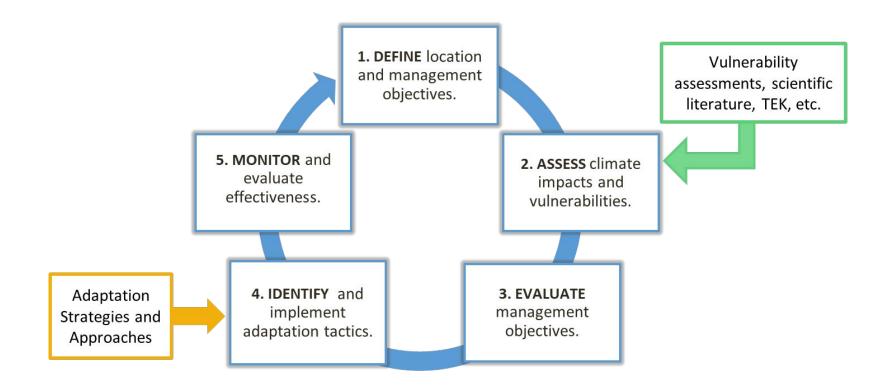


Use the Adaptation Workbook to ensure ALL of your goals and objectives are <u>robust</u> to climate change impacts.

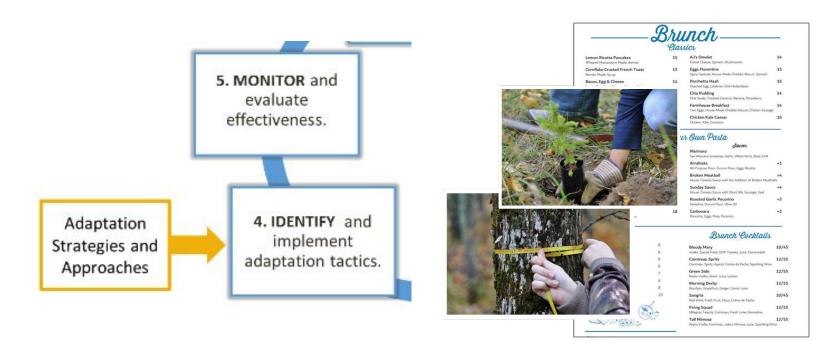
# **Tour de Adaptation Workbook**



# **Adaptation Workbook**



### **Adaptation Menus of Strategies and Approaches**



A "menu" of **possible actions** that allows you to decide what is **most relevant for a**particular location and set of conditions

### **Adaptation Menus of Strategies and Approaches**

In Preparation:

Published:

2012: Forestry Ocean Coastal Ecosystems

2016: Urban Forestry Fresh-Water Coastal Ecosystems

2016: Agriculture Grasslands

2019: Forested Watersheds Southwest Tribal Perspectives

2019: Recreation

2019: Non-Forested Wetlands

2019: Inland Glacial Lake Fisheries

2020: Tribal Perspectives

2020: Forest Carbon Management

2021: Wildlife Management

2022: Fire-Adapted Ecosystems

#### Menu of Adaptation Strategies and Approaches

Developed for fire management

#### Strategy 1: Sustain fire as a fundamental ecological process Approach 1.1: Restore or maintain fire in fire-adapted ecosystems

Approach 1.2: Develop fire use strategies in altered or novel ecosystems where fire can play a beneficial

#### Strategy 2: Reduce the effects of biotic and abiotic stressors affecting fire regimes

Approach 2.1: Remove and prevent establishment of non-native invasive species that alter fuel regimes Approach 2.2: Maintain or improve the ability of forests to resist pests and pathogens that may alter fuel regimes

Approach 2.3: Limit, selectively apply, and monitor land uses that increase fire risk or threaten fire resilience

#### Strategy 3: Reduce the risk of unacceptable fire

Approach 3.1: Protect fire-sensitive and vulnerable ecosystems from fire

Approach 3.2: Alter forest structure and composition to reduce the risk and spread of unacceptable fire

Approach 3.3: Establish or maintain fuel breaks to stop the spread of unacceptable fire

#### Strategy 4: Limit the effects of unacceptable fire and promote post-fire recovery

Approach 4.1: Promote habitat connectivity and increase ecosystem redundancy

Approach 4.2: Maintain or create fire refugia Approach 4.3: Stabilize and enhance the physical fire footprint

Approach 4.4: Promote recovery of native vegetation and habitat

#### Strategy 5: Maintain and enhance structural, community, and species diversity using fire and fuels treatments

Approach 5.1: Maintain or increase structural diversity from stand to landscape scales

Approach 5.2: Promote diversity within and among communities to enhance fire resilience

#### Strategy 6: Identify, promote, and conserve fire- and climate change-adapted species and genotypes

Approach 6.1: Promote native species and genotypes that are better adapted to future climate and fire regimes, disfavor species that are distinctly maladapted

Approach 6.2: Use plant materials from regional areas that have current climate and fire regimes similar to anticipated future conditions

#### Strategy 7: Facilitate ecosystem adaptation to expected future climate and fire regimes

Approach 7.1: Facilitate the movement of species that are expected to be adapted to future climate and fire regimes

Approach 7.2: Use fire as a tool to align existing vegetation communities with changing climate and fire

www.forestadaptation.org/strategies

### **Adaptation Menus of Strategies and Approaches**



The **Adaptation Workbook** contains browseable lists of NIACS adaptation menus, as well as a tool for adaptation planning.

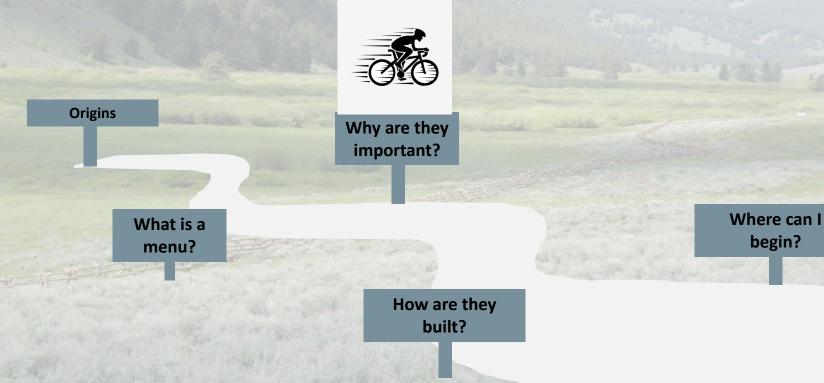
www.adaptationworkbook.org/strategies

The National Compendium for Climate Change Adaptation Actions provides a searchable database of adaptation strategies for different geographic regions and resource areas.

www.fs.usda.gov/ccrc



# **Tour de Adaptation Workbook**





#### Menu of Adaptation Strategies and Approaches

Developed for Outdoor Recreation

Strategy 1: Protect and sustain key infrastructure

Approach 1.1 Stabilize shorelines to reinforce vulnerable infrastructure.

Approach 1.2 Maintain, improve, and construct infrastructure using materials that can withstand a range of climate stressors.

Approach 1.3 Maintain, improve, and construct infrastructure using designs that reduce impacts from variable water levels.

Approach 1.4 Employ technological innovations to maintain the viability of developed winter recreation areas.

Approach 1.5 Employ protective measures to minimize damage from disturbance events.

Strategy 2. Enhance measures to prevent ecological damage from variable precipitation

Approach 2.1 Maintain and increase the capacity of stormwater infrastructure to accommodate variable precipitation.

Approach 2.2 Enhance the capacity of natural systems to accommodate variable precipitation.

Approach 2.3 Minimize impacts of existing roads and trails that are compromised by changing conditions.

Strategy 3. Manage impacts from shifting visitation and use trends

Approach 3.1 Reduce visitor impacts to vulnerable areas.

Approach 3.2 Optimize timing of opportunities to align with changing conditions.

Approach 3.3 Provide alternative means of access.

#### Strategy 4. Account for and communicate risks to human well-being

Approach 4.1 Train employees to be aware of climate-exacerbated risks to public safety.

Approach 4.2 Prevent or minimize hazards from wildland fire.

Approach 4.3 Prevent or minimize hazards from extreme heat events.

Approach 4.4 Improve public awareness regarding climate change and climate-exacerbated risks.

Approach 4.5 Communicate the reality of environmental change.

#### Strategy 5. Manage recreational opportunities to address impacts of expected conditions

Approach 5.1 Recondition recreation-related infrastructure located in vulnerable areas.

Approach 5.2 Use appropriate vegetation to increase resilience of recreation settings to climate-related stressors.

Approach 5.3 Alter infrastructure to better capture and use natural and man-made snow.

Approach 5.4 Employ snow-based options that are functional in low-snow conditions.

#### Strategy 6. Alter recreational opportunities to accommodate expected conditions

Approach 6.1 Increase four-season and non-skiing recreation opportunities at winter sports areas.

Approach 6.2 Relocate existing infrastructure and opportunities to areas with less risk of climate-exacerbated damage.

Approach 6.3 Integrate long-term siting and climate considerations into recreation management.

Approach 6.4 Use materials and designs that are impermanent.

Approach 6.5 Remove or decommission vulnerable infrastructure.

### **Options:**

- Foundational adaptation concepts:
- Resistance, Resilience, Transition

### **Strategies:**

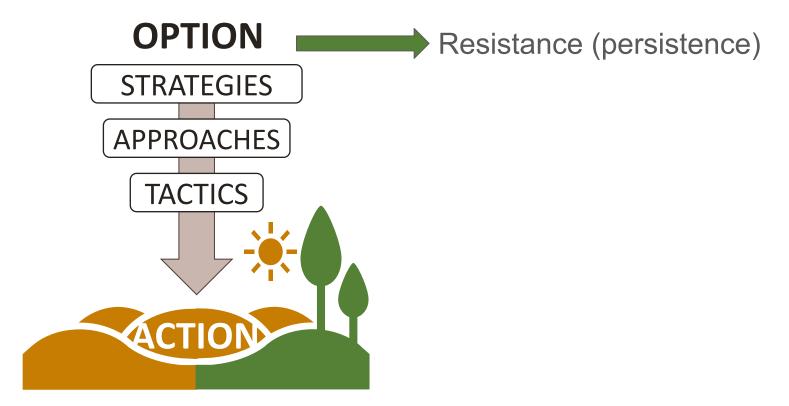
- Broad adaptation responses that consider:
  - · Regional ecological conditions
  - Overarching management goals

### **Approaches:**

- More detailed responses that consider:
  - Site-level conditions
  - Site-level management objectives

### **Tactics:**

- Prescriptive actions designed for:
  - Specific site conditions
  - Specific management objectives





### Adaptation Strategies and Approaches (Recreation)

Adapted from Forest Adaptation Resources: Climate Change Tools and Approaches for Land Managers

Created using the NIACS Adaptation Workbook

- Strategy 1: Strategy 1: Protect and Sustain Key Infrastructure
  - Stabilize Shorelines to Reinforce Vulnerable Infrastructure
  - o Maintain, Improve, and Construct Infrastructure Using Materials that Can Withstand a Range of Climate Stressors
  - o Maintain, Improve, and Construct Infrastructure Using Designs that Reduce Impacts from Variable Water Levels
  - Employ Technological Innovations to Maintain the Viability of Developed Winter Recreation Areas
  - o Employ Protective Measures to Minimize Damage from Disturbance Events

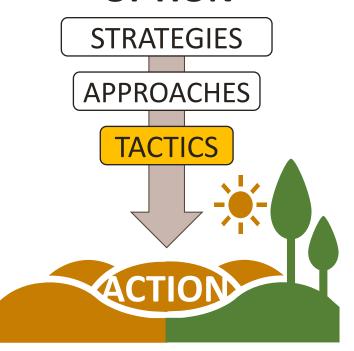


### Adaptation Strategies and Approaches (Recreation)

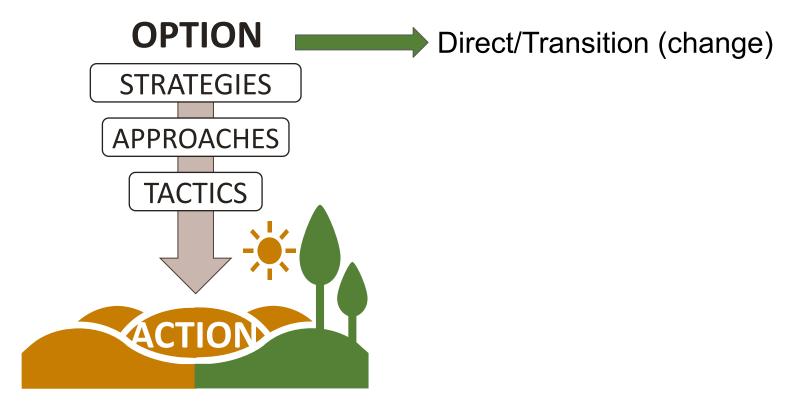
Adapted from Forest Adaptation Resources: Climate Change Tools and Approaches for Land Managers Created using the NIACS Adaptation Workbook

- Strategy 1: Strategy 1: Protect and Sustain Key Infrastructure
  - o Stabilize Shorelines to Reinforce Vulnerable Infrastructure
  - Maintain, Improve, and Construct Infrastructure Using Materials that Can Withstand a Range of Climate Stressors
  - o Maintain, Improve, and Construct Infrastructure Using Designs that Reduce Impacts from Variable Water Levels
  - Employ Technological Innovations to Maintain the Viability of Developed Winter Recreation Areas
  - Employ Protective Measures to Minimize Damage from Disturbance Events

### **OPTION**



- Construct and maintain defensible space in the direct vicinity of at-risk recreational infrastructure, via removal of dead and dying vegetation, removal of ladder fuels, and favoring of less flammable deciduous vegetation.
- Construct fuel breaks around vulnerable recreational areas or infrastructure.

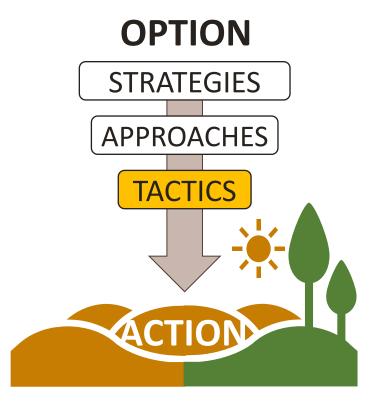




Strategy 6: Strategy 6: Alter Recreational Opportunities to Accommodate Expected Conditions

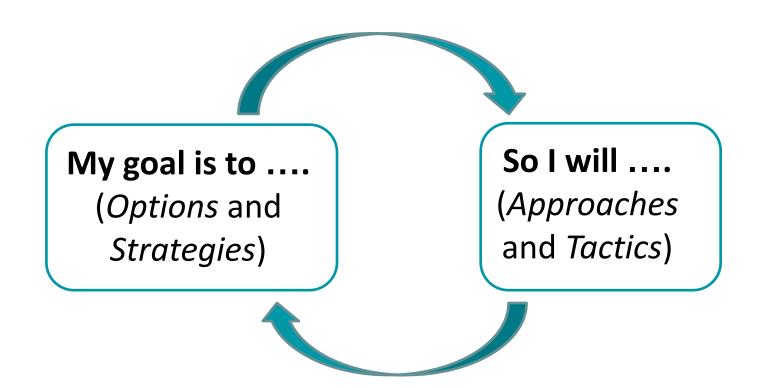
- Increase Four-Season and Non-Skiing Recreation Opportunities at Winter Sports Areas
- o Relocate Existing Infrastructure and Opportunities to Areas with Less Risk of Climate-Exacerbated Damage
- o Integrate Long-Term Siting and Climate Considerations into Recreation Management
- Use Materials and Designs that Are Impermanent
- Remove or Decommission Vulnerable Infrastructure



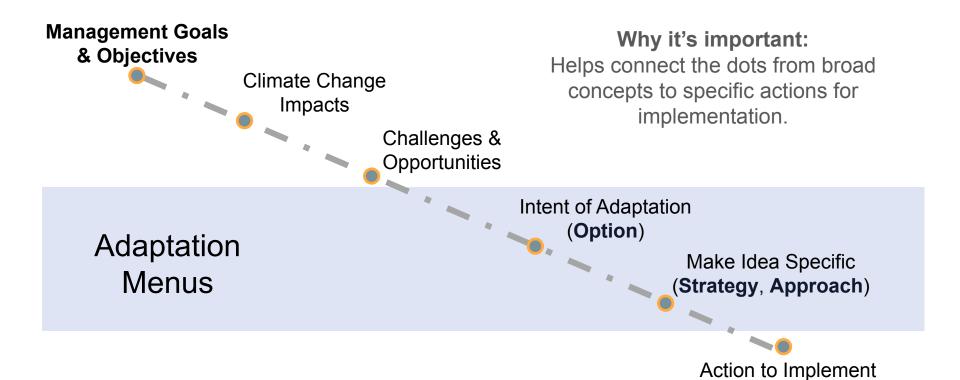


- Decommission facilities that are duplicative in a particular area with other existing facilities in adjacent areas
- Intentionally allow a site or area to undergo deterioration or environmental changes without any human intervention

### 2. Making Actions Intentional



### Workbook + Menu

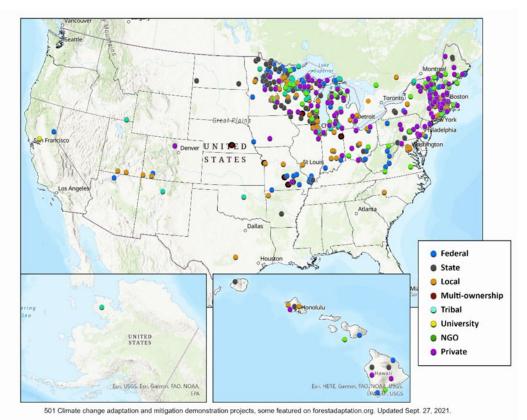


(Tactic)

# 3. Communicating Your Ideas

Real-world examples of climate-informed forest management

Over 500 projects have used the Adaptation Workbook to consider climate change and identify adaptation actions

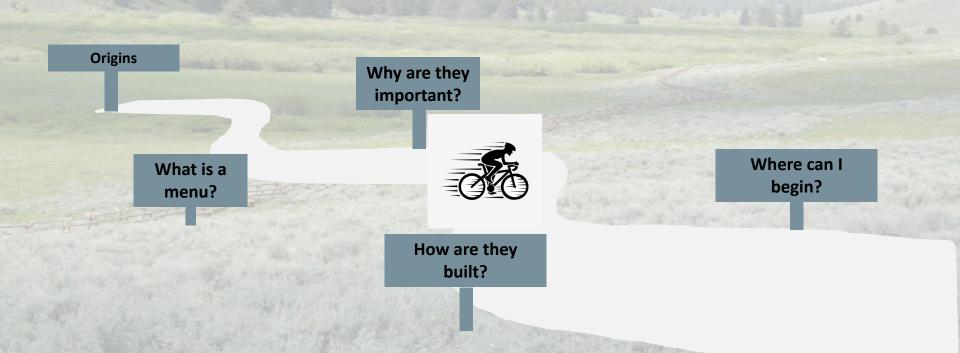


www.ForestAdaptation.org/demos

# 4. Boosting Creativity



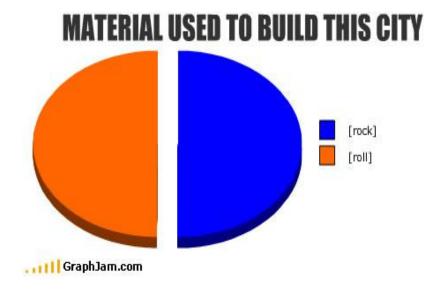
# **Tour de Adaptation Workbook**



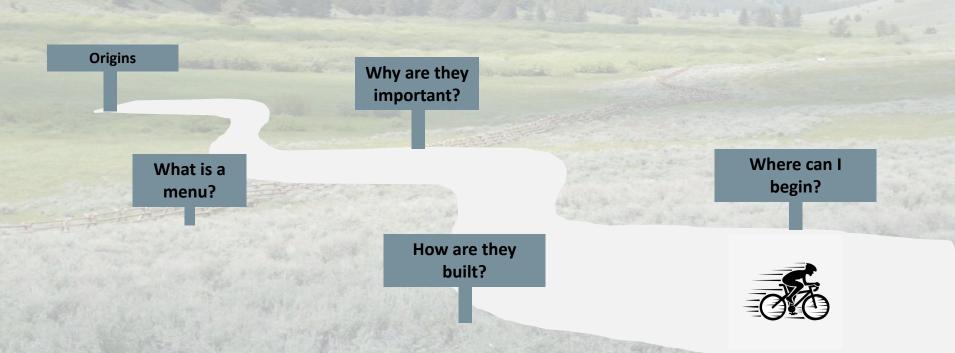
### **How are Menus Created?**

### Recipe:

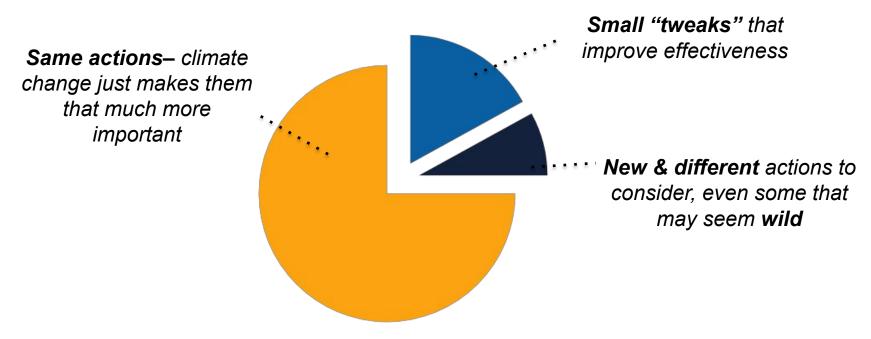
- A need from the community
- Partners
- Literature review
- Vetting in real-world situations
- Peer-review
- Publication



# **Tour de Adaptation Workbook**

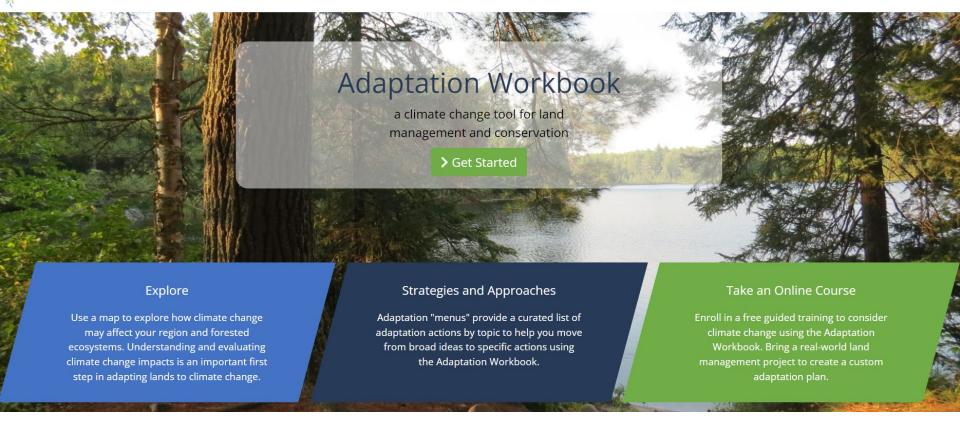


# **Adaptation Actions Can Be...**



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

Log in



https://adaptationworkbook.org/

# **Adaptation Trainings**

Rapid assessment adaptation courses	<ul> <li>Uses Adaptation Quick Guide</li> <li>Introduction to adaptation, develop a short plan</li> <li>4 weeks online, 1-2 days in person</li> </ul>
Robust adaptation planning courses	<ul> <li>Uses Adaptation Workbook</li> <li>Develop a comprehensive plan</li> <li>Topically-focused based on Menus, option for regionally-oriented</li> <li>8 weeks online, 2 days in person</li> </ul>
Customized consultations	<ul> <li>Uses Adaptation Workbook</li> <li>Project-focuses, team-based</li> <li>Virtual or in-person</li> <li>~6-12 hours</li> </ul>

### ... And Training Adaptations!

SWCH developing a team of adaptation specialists to facilitate workshops using the AW process

### Past Workshops:

- Piloted the Adaptation Workbook in Hawai'i and the Upper Rio Grande Basin
- Partnering on Adaptation Workshops with the Forest Service on the Rio Grande, White River, Gunnison, Kaibab and Coconino National Forests

Tailoring the process for NRCS partners following Climate Conversations

Expanding applicability to new audiences

Climate Adaptation for Tropical Island Land Stewardship: Adapting a Workshop Planning Process to Hawai'i

Ryan J. Longman, Courtney L. Peterson, Madeline Baroli, Abby G. Frazier, Zachary Cook, Elliott W. Parsons, Maude Dinan, Katie L. Kamelamela, Caitriana Steele, Reanna Burnett, Chris Swanston, and Christian P. Giardina

Online Publication: 11 Feb 2022
Print Publication: 01 Feb 2022

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-21-0163.1

Page(s): E402-E409







Maude Dinan, USDA SWCH mdinan@nmsu.edu