

## Climate Change Adaptation Planning TNC Florida





Session 1 Nov 2022

# WELCOME!

#### **Please:**

- Turn on your webcams for discussion if you can.
- 'Rename' yourself if needed (right click and type your full name).
- Questions: chat box and/or unmute.



## Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science



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.

Multi-institutional collaborative chartered by USDA Forest Service, universities, and non-profit and tribal conservation organizations



### **USDA Climate Hubs**



Northern Forests Climate Hub Southeast Climate Hub

www.climatehubs.usda.gov/

#### **Climate Services**

- Science-based
- Region-specific
- Practical assistance

## Introductions

## Who's in the room?

Introduce yourself

- Name
- Role/area of expertise

## **Overall Goals for Workshop**

 How might climate change affect the areas and resources that I manage?

2. What management actions could help prepare for those effects?



## Agenda

- **1:00** Welcome/ Introductions
- **1:25** Define management goals and objectives for each preserve
- **1:50** Presentation: climate change impacts and vulnerabilities
- 2:40 Break (10 min)
- **2:50** Assess climate change impacts and vulnerabilities for each preserve
- **3:50** Next steps & prep for tomorrow
- 4:00 Adjourn

### **Process: Forest Adaptation Resources**

#### A flexible workbook and menu:

- Process to intentionally consider climate & customize adaptation actions
- Designed for a variety of landowners with diverse goals
- Does not make recommendations
- Online version!



#### www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/40543 and www.AdaptationWorkbook.org

### **Forest Adaptation Resources**



## Adaptation Workbook



### This Process = Climate Change Filter



Put goals and objectives through a climate change filter to make sure these are all climate-informed.

### Adaptation Actions Can Be...





*Small "tweaks"* that improve effectiveness

*New & different* actions to consider, even some that may seem **wild & crazy** 

*\*individual results will vary* 

## Intentional

- Explicitly consider and address climate change
- Outcomes: a plan that is more robust



## **Questions**?

# Project Goals and Objectives



### Adaptation Workbook



**STEP 1**: DEFINE location, project and time frames

### Key Questions:

- Where are you working?
- What are your management goals and objectives for this project?



## **STEP 1**: Pre-Work

#### Management Goal

Broad statements: desired state or process.

- Why are you doing this project?
- Be explicit about what you want to see on the landscape

#### Management Objective

Concise, measurable statements.

• What are you planning to do to achieve your goal?



## **Goals**: Disney Wilderness

Mgmt topics	Goals	Objectives
Fire management/ Natural communities	<ul> <li>Maintain/improve herbaceous groundcover diversity – including rare spp and longleaf and slash pine overstory: 8000 acres pine flatwoods</li> <li>Maintain/improve herbaceous diversity of marsh systems</li> <li>Maintain structure and compositions suitable for Florida Scrub Jays</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>What action/ where/ how much?</li> </ul>
Invasive spp.	<ul> <li>Reduce or maintain invasive spp cover in priority habitats</li> <li>Eradicate non-native Crotalaria spp. in priority areas</li> <li>Limit feral hog damage across 12,000 acres of habitat</li> <li>Identify emerging invasive spp threats in upland and wetland habitats</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>What action/ where/ how much?</li> </ul>
Restoration	Continue overstory pine restoration (Tower, Spur, Graves units)	
Rare spp.	<ul> <li>Maintain a minimum of 10 red-cockaded woodpecker breeding pairs annually</li> <li>Maintain a minimum of 5 Florida scrub-jay families annually</li> <li>Prevent human disturbance to American Bald Eagle nesting</li> </ul>	

## **Goals**: Tiger Creek Preserve

Mgmt topics	Goals	Objectives
Fire management/ Natural communities	<ul> <li>Maintain/improve herbaceous groundcover diversity – including rare spp and longleaf and slash pine overstory: 1000 acres pine flatwoods</li> <li>Maintain/improve herbaceous groundcover diversity – including rare spp and longleaf overstory: 700 acres sandhill habitat</li> <li>Maintain/improve approriate vegetative structure and composition: 67 acres of yellow sand scrub habitat</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>What action/ where/ how much?</li> </ul>
Invasive spp.	<ul> <li>Reduce or maintain invasive spp cover in priority habitats</li> <li>Identify emerging invasive spp threats in upland and wetland habitats</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>What action/ where/ how much?</li> </ul>
Restoration	Restore areas of low longleaf pine density	
Rare spp.	<ul> <li>Prevent human disturbance to American Bald Eagle nesting</li> <li>Maintain a stable to increasing population of Warea cateri</li> </ul>	

## **Goals**: Blowing Rocks Preserve

Mgmt topics	Goals	Objectives
Infrastructure/ Access	<ul> <li>Provide continued road access to BRP</li> <li>Provide continued access to recreational facilities like the Hawley Nature Center</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>What action/ where/ how much?</li> </ul>
Wetlands	<ul> <li>Maintain connectivity between intertidal wetlands and the Indian River Lagoon</li> <li>Analyze hydrology and the culvert system on the preserve's NW shoreline to assess impacts to carbon sequestration and biodiversity</li> <li>Facilitate transition of coastal uplands to coastal wetlands to ensure biodiversity and ecosystem services</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>What action/ where/ how much?</li> </ul>
Coastal strand/ Wildlife habitat	<ul> <li>Increase habitat viability and biodiversity in coastal strand that is transitioning to seagrape hammock</li> <li>Maintain nesting habitat for sea turtles and shorebirds</li> <li>Maintain or enhance habitat for migratory bird species</li> </ul>	

## **Goals**: Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve

Mgmt topics	Goals	Objectives
Restoration	<ul> <li>Restore 225 acres of Sandhill Community on Bluff's tract</li> <li>Restore 300 acres of upland pine community on Sweetwater tract</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>What action/ where/ how much?</li> </ul>
Invasive spp.	Treat invasive species across 6500 acres	
Restoration/ Maintenance	<ul> <li>Maintain herbaceous groundcover diversity and longleaf pine populations throughout 3500 acres of longleaf pine sandhills.</li> <li>Maintain herbaceous groundcover diversity and longleaf pine populations throughout 200 acres of longleaf pine uplands.</li> </ul>	
Rare spp.	<ul> <li>Promote Easten Indigo populations</li> <li>Promote Gopher Tortoise populations across ABRP.</li> </ul>	

## **Questions**?

# Climate Change Impacts



### Adaptation Workbook



### **STEP 2**: ASSESS climate change impacts and vulnerabilities

To understand the Regional picture:

- 1. Recap: Climate Trends and Projections
- 2. Regional Climate Vulnerabilities
- 3. Focus on fire and invasives

## Break!



**STEP 2**: ASSESS climate change impacts and vulnerabilities

Key Questions:

- How might your preserve be uniquely affected by climate change?
- What characteristics of your preserve might amplify or reduce climate impacts?



## **Discussion: Breakout Rooms**

- 1. Join the breakout room for your preserve
- 2. Download the STEP 2 worksheet from the website & assign one person to take notes
  - <u>https://forestadaptation.org/climate-tnc-florida</u>
- 3. Review a map of your preserve. Discuss:
  - Focus on those regional impacts that are most important for your preserve -
  - What are the specific features on your preserve that might increase/decrease risk?
  - Are there areas on your preserve that are more/less susceptible to change?



## Breakout Rooms

\*Science experts can go where they feel most knowledgeable/helpful

Breakout rooms	Facilitator
Blowing Rocks	Kristen Schmitt
Disney Wilderness/ Tiger Creek	Stephen Handler
Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines	Brooke Hagarty

## Discussion

- What are the specific features on your preserve that might increase/decrease climate risk?
- Are there areas on your preserve that are more/less susceptible to change?
- Rate the overall climate vulnerability of your preserve:
  - <u>www.menti.com</u> 22 24 38 58
  - https://www.menti.com/alues3rvwpsq

## **Next Steps**

- Next Session: Tuesday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> (tomorrow): 9am 12pm ET
- Homework: Briefly review the NIACS Adaptation Menu(s) relevant to your preserve/ecosystem type; <u>https://forestadaptation.org/adaptation-strategies</u> (or through workshop website)
  - E.g. forests, fire-adapted ecosystems, coastal

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## **Questions**?



## Climate Change Adaptation Planning TNC Florida





Session 2 Nov 2022

# Welcome!

#### **Please:**

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## **Goals: Today**

- Understand how climate will affect our ability to meet preserve goals and objectives
- Start to develop adaptation actions to respond to climate challenges while meeting management goals


# Agenda

- 9:00 Welcome/ Plan for the Day
- **9:15** Climate challenges and opportunities for meeting preserve goals
- **10:00** Group discussion: climate challenges and opportunities
- 10:30 Break (15 min)
- **10:45** Presentation: climate adaptation concepts and climate menus
- **11:00** Identify and evaluate adaptation actions (pt. 1)
- **11:50** Next steps
- 12:00 Adjourn

### Adaptation Workbook



### **<u>STEP 2</u>**: ASSESS climate change impacts and vulnerabilities

- What are the specific features on your preserve that might increase/decrease climate risk?
- Are there areas on your preserve that are more/less susceptible to change?

#### **Blowing Rocks:**

Rocks on the southern portion of the beach help mitigate shoreline erosion.

#### **Tiger Creek:**

Already limitations in finding suitable Rx burn windows on this property – could become harder with climate change.

#### **Apalachicola Bluffs:**

Ravines on property may provide opportunities for refuges from some climate change.

# **STEP 2**: ASSESS climate change impacts and vulnerabilities

Direct and indirect effects of climate change:

- Temperature
- Precipitation
- Flooding
- Wildfire
- Slope failure/erosion
- Tree mortality



Ability of the system to cope with change:

- High local diversity
- Species tolerance or plasticity
- Room to respond to disturbance (e.g. upslope movement)
- Ability of floodwaters to disperse

# How vulnerable is your preserve to climate change?

- Find your way to <u>menti.com</u>
- Access on your computer, or use your phone!
- Use number: 22 24 38 58



https://www.menti.com/alues3rvwpsq

### Adaptation Workbook



# Evaluate Goals & Objectives

Given climate change

**STEP 3:** Evaluate management objectives given climate change

- How might climate change challenge our ability to meet goals and objectives for each preserve?
- Are there climate-related opportunities?
- Do our objectives need to change?



## Climate vulnerability vs. Challenges to objectives

### **Step 2** is about the place:

 Detailing site characteristics that may present climate-related vulnerabilities

### **Step 3** is about your goals

 Describe how climate change may affect your ability to achieve the project goals and objectives

### Similar but different!







### In Breakout Groups: Consider climate challenges

### **Brainstorm:**

What are the climaterelated challenges to achieving your objectives?

\* Focus on climate-related challenges (not global markets, policies, etc.)



### In Breakout Groups: Consider climate challenges

### **Brainstorm:**

What are the climaterelated challenges to achieving your objectives?

\* Focus on climate-related challenges (not global markets, policies, etc.)

### Example:

Maintain a 2-4 year FRI for all longleaf pine sandhills.

### Challenge:

Increasingly hot/dry summer conditions may reduce the # of days that meet Rx burn criteria.

# In Breakout Groups: Consider management opportunities

### **Brainstorm:**

What are the climate-related opportunities to achieving your objectives?

\* Focus on climate-related opportunities (not opportunities for new/different actions)



# In Breakout Groups: Consider management opportunities

### **Brainstorm:**

What are the climaterelated opportunities to achieving your objectives?

\* Focus on climate-related opportunities (not opportunities for new/different actions)

### **Example:**

Plant native warm season grasses and longleaf pine over 300 acres of upland pine.

<u>Opportunity</u>: Native warm season grasses may be favored under future climate conditions

# **STEP 3:** Evaluate desired management objectives given climate change

**Feasibility** – Can you meet your management objectives using <u>current</u> (business-as-usual) management actions?

**High:** We can do it! *Opportunities > Challenges* 

Moderate: Somewhere in the middle

Low: We'll need more resources or effort. Challenges > Opportunities



# **STEP 3:** Evaluate desired management objectives given climate change

Preserve: Team Members (if working as a group):				
Management Objectives (from Step 1)	Challenges to Meeting Management Objective with Climate Change	Opportunities for Meeting Management Objective with Climate Change	Feasibility of Meeting Objectives under Current Management (H/M/L)	Other Considerations

### Discussion: Breakout Rooms

- 1. Join the breakout room for your preserve
- 2. Download the STEP 3 worksheet from the website & assign one person to take notes
  - <u>https://forestadaptation.org/climate-tnc-florida</u>
- 3. Discuss climate challenges and opportunities
- 4. [As time allows] Discuss feasibility of meeting objectives under 'business as usual' management.
- 5. Select a spokesperson to talk about 1-2 key challenges and opportunities you discussed.
- 6. 10:00 am Reconvene for discussion

# **STEP 3:** Evaluate desired management objectives given climate change

**Feasibility** – Can you meet your management objectives using <u>current</u> (business-as-usual) management actions?

**High:** We can do it! *Opportunities > Challenges* 

Moderate: Somewhere in the middle

Low: We'll need more resources or effort. Challenges > Opportunities



### Activity: Feasibility of Management Objectives

- Find your way to menti.com
- Access on your computer, or use your phone!
- Use number: 22 24 38 58



https://www.menti.com/alues3rvwpsq

# Break!



# Climate Adaptation and Adaptation Menus



## Adaptation Workbook



**STEP 4:** Identify and select adaptation approaches and tactics for implementation

What actions can help cope with change and help meet the project goals and objectives? **STEP 4:** Identify and select adaptation approaches and tactics for implementation

- What actions can help cope with change and help meet the project goals and objectives?
- How will future managers know what you were trying to do?

# Adaptation is the adjustment of systems in preparation or in response to climate change.



Adaptation actions are designed to **intentionally** address climate change impacts and vulnerabilities in order to meet goals and objectives

## **Adaptation Actions**

### **Climate-informed decisions are** *intentional...*

...but not always different

They will reflect

- Restrictive mandates, plans, and laws
- Public perception
- Costs
- Values
- Other barriers to change



## We Don't Need Certainty

### Instead: think about risk management!





### **Adaptation Concepts**

### RESISTANCE



RESILIENCE



### **TRANSITION**



 Improve defenses of ecosystem against change and disturbance

 Return to prior reference condition following disturbance  Intentionally facilitate change

#### **Reduce impacts/maintain current conditions**

Forward-looking/promote change

## **Resistance (persistence)**

Improve the defenses of the system against anticipated changes or directly defending against disturbance in order to maintain relatively unchanged conditions.



Controlling water levels in a forested wetland (USFS, Shawnee National Forest)



Threatened Dwarf lake iris (FWS)

### Short-term, High-value



Invasive species management (USFS)

## Resilience (persistence)

Accommodate some degree of change or disruption, but be able to return to a similar condition after disturbance.

- Improve overall health & vigor
- Restore disturbance-adapted ecosystems
- Increase species and genetic diversity



Prescribed burning to regenerate fireadapted species



Increasing species and genetic diversity



*Increasing setbacks to allow for fluctuating water levels.* 

## Transition (change)

Intentionally encourage change, help ecosystems respond in a targeted fashion.

- Grow and plant future-adapted seedlings
- Relocate visitor infrastructure
- Accommodate new & altered hydrologic processes



Growing species that are expected to be adapted to future conditions.



Relocate existing infrastructure to areas with less risk (P: Tom Hilton)



Encourage new species composition following fire (P: Luis Vidal)

### Adaptation: there is no single answer

### **Every situation is different**



Each decision is unique and will vary based upon:

**People:** Values, Culture, & Resources

**Place:** Location & Site Conditions

Purpose: Goals & Objectives

**Practices:** Equipment, Procedures, & Methods

### Manage Risk



# Identify and implement actions that are robust across a range of potential future conditions

Millar et al. 2007, Swanston et al. 2016, Nagel et al. 2017

## Adaptation Menus of Strategies and Approaches

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

### Examples:

- Forest Menu
- Fire-Adapted Ecosystems Menu
- Wildlife



### www.AdaptationWorkbook.org/strategies

# Adaptation Menus

## **OPTION**



Translating broad concepts to specific actions

### **Options (concepts):**

• Resistance, Resilience, Transition

#### **Strategies:**

• Regionally specific conditions

#### **Approaches:**

• Actions for a specific ecosystem

#### **Tactics:**

 Prescriptions for local conditions and management objectives

www.adaptationworkbook.org/niacs-strategies

### **Example: Fire Adaptation Menu**



### **Example: Fire Adaptation Menu**


#### **OPTION**



Approach 1.1. Restore or maintain fire in fire-

#### **OPTION**

**STRATEGIES** 

**APPROACHES** 

**TACTICS** 





### **OPTION**



Approach 7.3. Consider using fire as a tool to align existing vegetation communities with changing climate regimes

### **OPTION**



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



### Menu + Workbook



# **Adaptation Menus**

- Forests, Urban Forests
- Agriculture
- Forested Watersheds
- Tribal Perspectives
- Carbon Management
- Recreation
- Wetlands (non-forested)
- California forests
- Wildlife
- Fire-adapted ecosystems

forestadaptation.org/adaptation-strategies

- Great Lakes Coastal
  - Ecosystems
- Grasslands\*
- \* Resources in development

#### Open Access Editor's Choice Review

#### Adaptation Strategies and Approaches for Managing Fire in a Changing Climate

by & Martha Sample <sup>1,\*</sup>  $\boxtimes$  , Andrea E. Thode <sup>2</sup> , Courtney Peterson <sup>3,4</sup>  $\boxtimes$  , Michael R. Gallagher <sup>5</sup>  $\boxtimes$  , William Flatley <sup>6</sup>  $\boxtimes$  , Megan Friggens <sup>7</sup>  $\boxtimes$ , Alexander Evans <sup>8</sup>  $\boxtimes$  , Rachel Loehman <sup>9</sup>  $\boxtimes$  , Shaula Hedwall <sup>10</sup>  $\boxtimes$ , Leslie Brandt <sup>3,11</sup>  $\boxtimes$ , Maria Janowiak <sup>3,11</sup>  $\boxtimes$  and Christopher Swanston <sup>3,11</sup>  $\boxtimes$ 

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- <sup>3</sup> Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub, Houghton, MI 49931, USA
- <sup>4</sup> Forest and Rangeland Stewardship Department, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523, USA
- 5 USDA Forest Service. Northern Research Station, New Lisbon, NJ 08064, USA



Strategies for Adapting Great Lakes Coastal Ecosystems to Climate Change

**USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub** 

White Paper—July 2022

kansas, Conway, AR 72035, USA Station, Albuquerque, NM 87102, USA

horage, AK 99508, USA USA



# **Questions**?

# Identify and Evaluate Adaptation Actions



# Work Time!

- Download a Step 4 worksheet (on workshop website)
- Work in breakout rooms by Preserve (45 mins)
- Regroup in main room at 11:50am

Adaptation Menu (e.g. forest, wildlife, fire)	Adaptation Approach	Adaptation Tactic	Benefits/Drawbacks, etc.
Forestry	4.1. Prioritize and maintain unique sites	WHAT? HOW? WHERE?	
Recreation	5.1. Recondition Recreation-Related Infrastructure Located in Vulnerable Areas	WHAT? HOW? WHERE?	

# **Next Steps**

- Next Session: Wednesday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> (tomorrow): 12pm 3pm ET
  - Feel free to bring your lunch!
- No homework

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# Climate Change Adaptation Planning TNC Florida





Session 3 Nov 2022



# Goals: Today

- Further develop climate change adaptation tactics & share with the broader group
- Discuss how to measure and monitor success



# Agenda

- **12:00** Welcome/ plan for the day
- **12:15** Identify and evaluate adaptation actions (pt. 2)
- **1:00** Group discussion adaptation tactics
- 1:45 Break (15 min)
- **2:00** Monitor the effectiveness of implemented actions
- 2:45 Next steps & wrap-up
- 4:00 Adjourn

# Adaptation Workbook



# Check Your Work...

Do your adaptation ideas address:

- Your Management Objectives?
- Important climate change impacts?
- Special features of the project area?
- A range of adaptation options? (RRT)
- Stuff you're already doing as well as new ideas?

# Work Time (continued)!

- Use your STEP 4 worksheet from yesterday
- Work in breakout rooms by Preserve (~45 mins)
- Select a spokesperson: 2-3 adaptation tactics that you're excited or concerned about
- Meet back in full room at 1:00 pm

Adaptation Menu (e.g. forest, wildlife, fire)	Adaptation Approach	Adaptation Tactic	Benefits/Drawbacks, etc.
Forestry	4.1. Prioritize and maintain unique sites	WHAT? HOW? WHERE?	
Recreation	5.1. Recondition Recreation-Related Infrastructure Located in Vulnerable Areas	WHAT? HOW? WHERE?	

# Discussion

Report on:

• 2-3 adaptation tactics your group discussed



# Break!



# Monitoring



# Adaptation Workbook



# STEP 5: Monitor and evaluate effectiveness of implemented actions.

How do we know if our selected actions were effective?

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



# <u>STEP 5</u>: Monitor and evaluate effectiveness of implemented actions.

What question are you are asking? This will guide your monitoring approach:

- Impact/ response monitoring = What changes are occurring?
- Implementation monitoring = Did we do the action?
- <u>Effectiveness monitoring</u> = Did our actions actually have the desired effect?
- Scientific research = Is this outcome statistically significant compared to a control?

# <u>STEP 5</u>: Monitor and evaluate effectiveness of implemented actions.

Management Topic – General category of your mgmt. action	e.g. Restoration
Adaptation Monitoring Variable – What you will measure	e.g. herbaceous groundcover diversity
<b>Criteria for Evaluation</b> – A value or threshold that is meaningful for assessing effectiveness or informing future decisions	e.g. a floristic quality index (FQI) > 45
Monitoring Implementation – How you will gather the information	e.g. Pre- Rx burn survey and post Rx burn surveys at 1,2 and 5 years.

<u>STEP 5</u>: Monitor and evaluate effectiveness of implemented actions.

- Keep it simple! Something you actually can and will do.
- Prioritize!

# Work Time!

- Download a STEP 5 worksheet
- Work in breakout rooms by Preserve (25 mins)
- Select a spokesperson

<b>‡</b> ∙			
Ecosystem Type or Management Topic (from Step 1)	Adaptation Monitoring Variable	Criteria for Evaluation	Monitoring Implementation

# Wrap-Up



# What we've achieved



# What we've achieved





# What's Next?

- B Pace-Aldana (TNC Florida)
- Other ideas or needs (e.g. information)?

# Thank you!