

Forest Management Workshop – Managing Today’s Forests for Tomorrow’s Challenges

March 24th, 2026

Outdoor Campus – Rapid City South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks

4130 Adventure Trail, Rapid City, SD 57702, 605.394.2310

(We will be in the DJ room. When you enter the building, take a left. There will be a sign in the front entryway of the building and in front of the classroom that we’ll be in.)

Forest Management Workshop - March 24th, 2026, 8 AM – 4 PM

Workshop Purpose:

This workshop will utilize the Adaptation Workbook, which provides a structured process for integrating climate change considerations into management planning and activities. Using this approach, participants will:

- Consider climate change impacts and vulnerabilities specific to dry-mixed conifer forests in the Black Hills, and how those might affect the ability to meet project goals and objectives.
- Identify actionable silvicultural strategies that increase resilience to expected future environmental shifts within Black Hills forests while meeting goals and objectives.
- Explore silvicultural tactics across the resistance-resilience-transition adaptation spectrum.
- Discuss how to monitor adaptation actions for success.

Pre-Work

To help make the most of our time together during this workshop, please review the following materials:

- Watch the pre-workshop webinar recording (if you were unable to participate in the webinar)
- Review the project summary information and climate change impacts handouts for your assigned breakout group
 - **Battle Creek** (Stuart Adrian, Scott Adrian, Mike Beck, Lilly DeLange, Sterling Smith, Doak Nickerson)
 - **Friendshuh Game Production** (David Mallett, Kylie Hammett, Karen Meston, Jerry Brammer, Rayma Daigle, Dick Terry)
 - **Greyhound Fire Restoration** (Lee Imrey, Shamla Imrey, Ken Kuhle, Kat Rowe, Harrison Brookes, Ian Lilya)
 - **Rankin Ridge Grassland Restoration** (Ian Torrence, Jessica Sunderland, Nina Steinmetz, Nina Wajrowski, Mike Baldwin, Mary Zimmerman)
 - **Boxelder Creek** (Mike Ray, Jamie Dedic, Scott Guffey, Robert Burns, Laura Bosworth, Gabe Dirksen)
- Skim the reading by Larson and Churchill on *Ecological Silviculture for Interior Ponderosa Pine and Dry Mixed-Conifer Ecosystems*

Workshop Agenda:

8:00 AM Welcome & Introductions

- Name, role, location, one thing you are hoping to get out of this workshop, and your favorite thing about forests

8:30 AM Reference Conditions and Ecological Site Descriptions for Dry-Mixed Conifer Forests in the Black Hills (Laura Bosworth, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service)

9:00 AM Defining Management Goals, Objectives, & Desired Future Conditions

- Tips for creating goals, objectives, and Desired Future Conditions (DFCs)
 - Create SMART objectives – specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound
- Describe the pre-work projects – where are you working and what do you value about this forest?

9:30 AM Break (15 min)

9:45 AM Identify Anticipated Future Stressors and Shifts in Dry-Mixed Conifer Forests

- Recap of climate change impacts presented during the March 12 webinar

10:15 AM Breakout Group Discussion on Climate Stressors

- How might the area be uniquely affected by climatic change and subsequent impacts?
- How might regional impacts be different in the project area?
- What are the climate impacts in the area if no action is taken?
- What climate-related management challenges or opportunities might occur?
- Identify common constraints: bats, goshawks, T&E species, recreation trails, scenic highways, archaeological sites, adjacent ownership, values at risk, etc. How can we still meet our objectives while balancing other resource needs?
- Can ‘no action’ or ‘business as usual’ management meet your goals?
- What is the feasibility of achieving objectives over the next 5-10 years vs 20-50 years? Do goals and objectives need to change?

10:45 AM Full Group Discussion - Evaluate Management Goals & Objectives Given Stressors

11:00 AM Break (10 min)

11:10 AM Identify Adaptation Strategies and Approaches

- *What actions help cope with change and meet management goals and outcomes?*
- *How will future managers know what you were trying to do?*

11:35 AM Black Hills Adaptation Actions (Rayma Daigle, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service)

- Provide examples and ideas we can add to our prescriptions to make Black Hills ponderosa pine ecosystems more adaptable
- Discuss resources we can use to help guide our management

11:55 AM Identifying Metrics for Monitoring and Evaluating Effectiveness

- *How do we know if the selected actions were effective?*
- *What can we learn from these actions to inform future management?*

12:15-1:15 PM Lunch on your own

1:15 PM Breakout Activity: Developing Adaptation Actions for Forests

- Purpose: Groups will develop example adaptation actions (approaches and tactics) that cover Resistance, Resilience, and Transition treatments for an example forest type within the region that they are assigned.

- Process:
 - 1) Participants will work in groups determined by projects submitted to develop an example of adaptation for the Black Hills. Each group given a project with unique details, objectives, and constraints.
 - 2) Groups should consider important climate change impacts that could affect their forest, informed by the earlier presentation, breakout group discussion, and prior understanding.
 - 3) Groups will develop a set of adaptation actions to increase the ability of the forest to adapt to climate change in the future. Try to get specific with tactics and prescriptions. Consider - what would we normally do in this forest type? What traditional silvicultural systems would we use and feel comfortable with? How would we tweak it to make it more adaptable to changing conditions?
 - a. Create three prescriptions: to **resist** change, build **resilience**, and facilitate a **transition** to another forest type.
 - b. Refine your objectives for each adaptation option to be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timebound).
 - c. Describe the future condition of each of these adaptation options.
 - d. Describe how each strategy will address a specific anticipated future stressor.
 - e. Outline the silvicultural actions that you would implement to pursue each option.
 - f. How do we measure success? How do we know that what we've prescribed will meet the objective and address the concern? If we do this, then that.

2:30 PM **Break** (15 min)

2:45 PM **Group Presentations** (30 min)

- Each group has 3-5 minutes to present their RRT prescriptions to the larger group.

3:15 PM **Group Synthesis Discussion** (30 min)

- Which of the treatments that you created feels most like business-as-usual management?
- Which treatment do you think is most likely to succeed over the next 20 years? Over the next century?
- Would you feel comfortable implementing the TRANSITION treatment? Describe any aspects that feel uncertain or concerning to you.
- Were you stumped about how to respond to any particular climate change impacts?
- Did this activity raise any questions for you?

3:45 PM **Wrap-Up/Evaluations** (15 min)

4:00 PM **Adjourn**