Forest Service Hosting Workshops to Assess the Effects of a Changing Climate


The Intermountain Adaptation Partnership (IAP, http://adaptationpartners.org/iap), which has been working on a vulnerability assessment for the past year, will host five workshops in May through June in Idaho, Nevada, and Utah. Discussions will focus on a broad range of resources including water, fisheries, vegetation, wildlife, recreation, infrastructure, cultural resources, and ecosystem services.

These workshops will (1) bring together leadership, resource managers, research scientists, and stakeholders from a variety of organizations; (2) discuss the potential effects of a changing climate on land management systems; and (3) develop adaptation responses to those effects that can be implemented in resource management and planning. Although these workshops are not open to the public, they will include many local stakeholders and collaborating organizations.

Intermountain Regional Forester Nora Rasure says, “This is a great example of working together with partners and other agencies towards a common goal to better understand our changing climate. These workshops move us closer to being able to develop science-based adaptation strategies that can help the national forests and grasslands mitigate the effects of climate change.”

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The partnership is focused on collaboration among Intermountain resource managers, research scientists, and local organizations in identifying near-term and long term effects of a changing climate. The assessment and adaptation strategy will be peer reviewed and published, providing a scientific foundation for planning, ecological restoration, and project management.

The agency will be hosting five two-day workshops throughout the region to share vulnerability assessment information collected to date, followed by workgroups of resource specialists focused on the development of adaptation options. For the assessment, the Intermountain Region has been divided into five main geographic areas which can be viewed at: http://www.adaptationpartners.org/iap/geographic.php. Workshop dates and locations are as follows:

- May 4-5, 2016 – Ogden, Utah – Uintas and Wasatch Front
- May 11-12, 2016 – Boise, Idaho – Middle Rockies
- May 18-19, 2016 – Salt Lake City, Utah – Plateaus
- June 1-2, 2016 – Idaho Falls, Idaho – Southern Greater Yellowstone

Organizations, resource specialists, and researchers who would like to attend a workshop may email Natalie Little (nlittle@fs.fed.us) for more information. The IAP website is regularly updated to communicate assessment progress with workshop participants and others.

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