This newsletter is issued periodically as part of the Intermountain Adaptation Partnership (IAP).

For current and past issues visit the “News” tab at the IAP website http://adaptationpartners.org/iap

Please feel free to forward the newsletter to others and encourage them to sign up for the listserv to receive monthly updates.

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Introduction

The U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Region is beginning a region-wide climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation action partnership. The IAP will synthesize the best available scientific information to assess the sensitivity of natural resources to a changing climate and develop adaption options that will reduce potentially adverse effects. This project will provide the scientific foundation for operationalizing climate change in planning, ecological restoration, and project management, with applications across a broad range of resources.

Over the next two years, the collaborative will conduct a vulnerability assessment of identified resource areas and develop associated adaptation strategies to enhance resilience and facilitate ecological transitions for the Intermountain Region. Nine focus areas have been outlined for the assessment: Physical Resources, Vegetation Resources, Terrestrial Species, Aquatic Species, Infrastructure, Recreational Uses, Cultural Heritage, Ecosystem Services, and Disturbance. Each focus area has a team of dedicated people working toward completing an assessment for their focus area. The assessment and adaptation strategy will be peer reviewed and published in a General Technical Report (GTR).

IAP Kickoff Meeting and Partner Informational Webinar

The IAP held its kickoff meeting on April 21st in Ogden, Utah bringing together scientists and resource managers for the first in-person meeting. The partnership is collaboratively led by Natalie Little, R4 Sustainable Operations and Climate Change Coordinator, who will be the primary lead for USFS National Forest System, and Dave Peterson, Research Biologist at the Pacific Northwest Research Station, who will be the primary lead for USFS Research.

As part of its collaborative effort, the IAP has extended an invitation to partners to participate in the assessment. On June 11th, a Partner and Informational Webinar was held outlining the scope of the project to potential partners. The webinar and Power Point can be easily accessed on the IAP website at http://adaptationpartners.org/iap/webinars.php.

Timeline

April 21st, 2015: IAP kickoff meeting
June 11th, 2015: Partner and informational webinar
May 2015-April 2016: Synthesize information for vulnerability assessment
March 2016: Focus area webinars are planned from 9-11 am Mountain Standard time on March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st
May 2016: Two-day workshops in each geographical location to review the draft vulnerability assessment and develop adaptation plans
June 2016-June 2017: Complete final report, review, and submit for publication

News

The work being done by the IAP has already gained the attention of local press. Articles have been published in the Standard Examiner, Idaho Mountain Express, and in the Deseret News. Articles are posted under the “News” tab on the IAP website at http://adaptationpartners.org/iap/news.php.