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 Web site 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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IAP Vegetation

Increasing air temperatures are expected to reduce available soil moisture and cause gradual changes in the abundance and distribution of tree, shrub, and grass species throughout the Intermountain Region. Conditions are expected to favor more drought tolerant species. The earliest changes will be on the edges of lifeforms, for example, where upper and lower treelines meet. Ecological disturbances, including wildfire and insect outbreaks, will be the primary facilitator of vegetation change, and future forest landscapes may be dominated by younger age classes and smaller trees. High-elevation forests will be especially vulnerable if disturbance frequency increases significantly.

- Most strategies for conserving native tree, shrub, and grassland systems focus on increasing resilience to anticipated persistent low soil moisture. These strategies generally include managing landscapes to reduce the severity and extent of disturbances, encouraging fire to play a more natural role, and protecting refugia where fire-sensitive species can persist.
- Adaptation strategies that increase species, genetic, and landscape diversity (spatial pattern, structure) will reduce the risk of major forest loss.
- Adaptation tactics include using silvicultural treatments that reduce stand density management, fuel treatments that reduce fuel continuity, reducing populations of non-native species, potentially using multiple genotypes in reforestation, and revising grazing policies and practices.

IAP “Geographic Areas” changing to “Subregions”

The IAP will be changing and using the term “subregion” in place of “geographic area” in order to avoid any confusion with the way that the Planning Rule and Planning Handbook use the term.

IAP Draft Chapters—Internal and Technical Peer Review Process

IAP draft chapters will go through a 30-day internal review, followed by a 30-day technical peer review as required by Rocky Mountain Research Center (RMRS). The internal review includes any Intermountain Region Forest Service reviewers plus interested IAP workshop attendees. The draft chapters will be reviewed as they are completed, therefore the dates of the chapter reviews will be staggered. Internal Forest Service reviewers should review with track changes on and return edited document to nlittle@fs.fed.us and jhalo@uw.edu before the end of the 30-day review period.

Reviewers can find an updated review schedule and draft chapters at the following internal “O” drive location as they come available:

O:\NFS\R04\Program\ClimateChange\ClimateChange\IAP\ChapterDrafts-InternalReview

Partner reviewers, outside of the Forest Service, should contact Jessica Halofsky at jhalo@uw.edu to receive the draft chapters of interest. Anticipated schedule follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Draft Chapter</th>
<th>Internal Review</th>
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<tr>
<td>Biogeography, Fisheries/Aquatics, Recreation</td>
<td>10/12 - 11/10/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate, Physical Resources, Vegetation, Terrestrial, Infrastructure, Cultural Heritage, Disturbance, Ecosystem Services, Adaptation</td>
<td>10/24 - 11/22/16</td>
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