

ONLINE TRAINING ADAPTATION PLANNING AND PRACTICES for Wildlife Management

The Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the USDA Climate Hubs are offering a wildlife-focused Adaptation Planning and Practices training.

This unique opportunity provides hands-on training in considering climate change information and identifying adaptation actions relevant to wildlife habitat management and conservation. Participants will receive coaching and feedback on their own real-world climate adaptation project throughout the course.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- Identify local climate change impacts, challenges, and opportunities
- Develop specific actions to help wildlife adapt to changing conditions
- Use the Adaptation Workbook to create their own “climate-informed” projects
- Better communicate with stakeholders about key climate change impacts, challenges, and opportunities
- Access post-training support from NIACS staff during project planning and implementation

www.forestadaptation.org/wildlife-course-2022



NIACS
Northern Institute of
Applied Climate Science

DETAILS

DATES & FORMAT

Weekly February 28 – April 20, 2022

Seven interactive lectures (one hour each), three discussion sessions, and independent work time occurring between sessions.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Applicants from around the country are encouraged to apply. We will give preference to project teams from the Midwest and Northeast US if space is limited.

APPLY ONLINE

forestadaptation.org/wildlife-course-2022

There is no fee thanks to support from the USDA Forest Service and Climate Hubs. Space is limited. Applicants will be selected based on a review of project ideas.

QUESTIONS?

Stephen Handler (stephen.handler@usda.gov)
or Patricia Leopold (pleopold@mtu.edu)

APPLY TODAY

This training is provided by these partners:



United States Department of Agriculture
Climate Hubs



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

This training is designed for land managers and professionals with a focus on wildlife management and conservation. This includes wildlife managers on federal, state, county, municipal, and tribal lands. Individuals as well as small teams can participate in the course.

Participants will be selected who demonstrate an appropriate real-world project that they wish to adapt to climate change.

Example projects could include:

- managing for wildlife on a nature preserve
- a management plan for migratory bird habitat
- managing for viable populations of a specific species
- a comprehensive conservation plan for a wildlife refuge
- forest practices that increase habitat quality for birds



Example Adaptation Demonstration projects that have used the Adaptation Workbook are online at www.forestadaptation.org/demos. Filter by “Wildlife” focus area to find those projects that may be particularly relevant to this training.

HOW DOES THE ONLINE COURSE WORK?

The seven-week online course draws on a combination of regular lectures and discussions with all participants, as well as independent work time to create adaptation projects. Throughout the course, participants will develop (individually or in small groups) their own climate-informed adaptation project.

- **Seven 1-hour virtual lectures** bring together all course participants to present and discuss key concepts. It is required that you view the weekly lectures to understand the concepts of the Adaptation Workbook and related homework. We will host a live lecture each Monday at 2-3pm ET and each lecture will be recorded. Recordings will be available the following day on the course YouTube channel for those that need to miss the live lecture.
- **Three discussion sessions** allow additional time for smaller group sessions to review course content, share insights, and ask questions related to individual projects. The weekly meeting time will be determined based on the availability of participants and instructors.
- **Assignments** will guide participants through the new material, actively engaging them with recorded presentations, the online [Adaptation Workbook](#), and other activities. Participants will be assigned work to complete before each session, which is generally expected to take 2-4 hours to complete.

**Interested? Please apply online by February 11, 2022
forestadaptation.org/wildlife-course-2022**

COURSE OUTLINE

Participants will receive instructions regarding how to prepare for the training in advance of the first meeting session. Prior to the training, participants are asked to identify a project to be used during the training and provide some additional information to course instructors.

Session 1 (week of Feb 28) — Course Introduction; Defining Project Goals and Objectives

- Course objectives, instructors, and agenda
- Introduction to the Adaptation Workbook tool (tutorial)
- Defining project scope and management goals/objectives
- *Assignment 1: Define project goals and objectives*

Session 2 (week of March 7) — Assessing Climate Impacts and Vulnerabilities

- Climate projections and impacts on wildlife, ecosystems, and regions
- Prioritizing vulnerabilities of greatest concern for management goals/objectives
- *Assignment 2: Assess climate impacts and vulnerabilities.*

Session 3 (week of March 14) — Evaluating Management Challenges and Opportunities

- Re-considering and revising management goals/objectives in light of climate challenges
- Practice articulating climate-adaptive management goals/objectives
- *Assignment 3: Evaluate objectives considering climate impacts.*

Break (week of March 21) — No session

- Use extra time to catch up on projects and have office hours with instructors

Session 4 (week of March 28) — Identifying Adaptation Strategies, Approaches and Tactics

- Meeting existing demands while preparing for future conditions
- Adaptation concepts: resisting change, enhancing resilience, and facilitating transitions
- Developing specific actions for climate-change adaptation
- *Assignment 4: Identify adaptation approaches and tactics.*

Session 5 (week of April 4) — Monitoring and Evaluating Effectiveness

- Tools for measuring effectiveness of implemented adaptation actions
- Capitalizing on existing data, inventory or monitoring processes/partnerships
- *Assignment 5: Monitor effectiveness of implemented actions.*

Session 6 (week of April 11) — Telling your Adaptation Story, Part 1

- Tips for talking about climate change with colleagues, stakeholders, and clients.
- *Assignment 6: Complete adaptation project plans.*

Session 7 (week of April 18) — Telling your Adaptation Story, Part 2

- Participant adaptation project presentation.
- Next steps for moving toward implementation.
- Course evaluations.

COURSE CONTACTS

This training will be led by a team of experienced instructors specializing in climate adaptation. If you have questions, please contact our course leaders, Stephen Handler and Patricia Leopold.



Stephen Handler, Climate Change Specialist, USDA Forest Service and Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science

Stephen coordinates the Northwoods Climate Change Response Framework throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. This includes preparing vulnerability assessments, working with partners, and planning real-world adaptation projects to illustrate climate-informed land management. Stephen was a lead author on the menu of climate adaptation actions for terrestrial wildlife management. stephen.handler@usda.gov



Patricia Leopold, Climate Adaptation Specialist, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science and Michigan Technological University

Patricia coordinates the Mid-Atlantic and Central Appalachians Climate Change Response Framework, where she is actively expanding partnerships, creating resources, and promoting implementation of adaptation actions in inland and coastal forest ecosystems, and at scales ranging from adaptation planning for agencies and organizations to on-the-ground projects. pleopold@mtu.edu

Continuing Education

The Wildlife Society will allow **10 Continuing Education Units** (CEUs) in Category 1 of the Certified Wildlife Biologist Renewal and Professional Development Certificate Program for completion of this course.

