



Climate Hubs
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Rio Grande National Forest Adaptation Workshop Agenda

October 25-27, 2022

Rio Grande Water Conservation District, 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101

Workshop Goals

There is an increasing need to consider the anticipated effects of climate change on ecosystems and identify management actions that respond to these changes. This workshop will support participants from the Rio Grande National Forest in determining which climate impacts are of greatest concern to them, and management opportunities for adapting to change. The [Adaptation Workbook](#) provides a structured process for integrating climate change considerations into management planning and activities. Using this process, workshop participants will:

- Consider climate change impacts and vulnerabilities of South-Central Colorado, and how those might affect the ability to meet project goals and objectives.
- Identify adaptation actions that help address climate vulnerabilities while meeting goals and objectives.
- Discuss how to monitor adaptation actions for success.

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

10:00 Welcome & Introductions (Andy Kelher & Judi Perez, Rio Grande National Forest)

10:45 Overview of USDA Climate Hubs, NIACS, Adaptation Workbook (Courtney Peterson, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science & Lauren Kramer, USDA Southwest Climate Hub)

11:00 Rio Grande National Forest – Forest Plan Overview (Judi Perez, Rio Grande National Forest)

11:40 Stretch Break

11:45 Big Picture: Administration Priorities, Agency Policies, and Regional Plans (Donna Shorrock & Brian Ratcliffe, USFS Rocky Mountain Regional Office)

12:15 Adaptation Workbook Step 1: Where are you working and what do you care about?

12:45 Lunch on your own

1:45 Climate Change Trends & Climate Change Vulnerabilities – Presentation Recap (Lauren Kramer, USDA Southwest Climate Hub)

2:15 Adaptation Workbook Step 2: Assess Climate Change Impacts

Consider how climate change might affect your district. How might climate change play out differently in your district than elsewhere in the region?

3:15 Break

3:30 Adaptation Workbook Step 3: Challenges & Opportunities for Meeting Management Objectives

Describe how the climate impacts above may create challenges or opportunities for project objectives. Does climate change significantly reduce the feasibility of any objectives? Do some objectives need to change?

4:30 Adjourn for the day



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Wednesday, October 26, 2022

8:00 Welcome Back, Reflections from Day 1

8:15 Presentation on Adaptation Concepts & Introduce Adaptation Menus (Courtney Peterson, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science & Lauren Kramer, USDA Southwest Climate Hub)

9:00 Adaptation Workbook Step 4: Identify Adaptation Approaches and Tactics

What actions can help address climate change impacts and challenges, while also achieving your project goals and objectives? Consider a variety of actions, including:

- **Things you already do** that are even more important because of climate change.
- **Small tweaks or enhancements** that improve upon what you are already doing.
- **Major changes**, or wild and crazy ideas, from the current way of doing things.

10:00 Break

10:15 Adaptation Workbook Step 4 - Adaptation Approaches and Tactics Large Group Discussion

11:15 Existing Monitoring Networks and Efforts on the Rio Grande National Forest (Judi Perez, Rio Grande National Forest)

11:30 Adaptation Workbook Step 5: Identifying Metrics for Monitoring and Evaluating Effectiveness

How will you know if your adaptation actions are effective? What monitoring will be necessary to guide future decisions?

12:15 Lunch on your own

1:15 Large Group Monitoring Discussion

2:00 Telling Your Adaptation Story – Group Work Time

3:00 Presentation Time – Each group shares climate impacts and adaptation strategies in 5 minutes or less.

4:30 Adjourn for the day

Thursday, October 27, 2022

TBD pending weather – Field tour from spruce-fir to pinyon-juniper/grasslands at Bishop Rock

- Discuss climate impacts and adaptation options across elevations and ecotypes
- Next Steps/Putting it All Together