

Washington Climate Change Initiative
Forestry Preparation/Adaptation Work Group

PRELIMINARY DRAFT
Preparation/Adaptation Strategies
September, 2007

Process Strategies

Science and Research

Strengthen programs of applied research
(more?)

Expand research on existing species' genetic variability
(more?)

Ensure competitive process for research project selection
(more?)

Initiate long-term on-the-ground research programs/projects
(more?)

Develop new (including finer scale) models
(more?)

Develop better risk assessment and risk management methods
(more?)

(more science and research?)

Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Expand baseline monitoring
(more?)

Establish key indicators and trigger values for action
(more?)

Establish effectiveness monitoring for adaptation strategies
(more?)

Strengthen adaptive management commitments and process
(more?)

Improve integration of science and scientists with land management and managers
(more?)

Strengthen programs of on-the-ground technical assistance
(more?)

(more monitoring and adaptive management?)

Planning

Look to other jurisdictions (including within Washington State) for applicable strategies and plans
(more?)

Plan early for appropriate responses to large disturbance events (such as what ecological conditions to attempt to create)
(more?)

Develop a specific strategy for each issue or issue category
(more?)

Plan within well-defined geographic management units at multiple scales
(more?)

Adjust current management objectives, standards, policies, tools, guidelines, etc. to reflect new/future conditions
(more?)

Develop and implement pilot programs
(more?)

Internalize future avoidable costs and losses to devote to increased current funding of adaptive activities
(more?)

(more planning?)

Institutions (other than science-related)

Increase short-term funding for already-adaptive programs and activities
(more?)

Change laws, for example to increase regulatory flexibility or add enforcement tools
(more?)

Build institutional capacity to adapt/encourage more adaptive institutions (“learning organizations”?)
(more?)

(more institutions?)

Inter-organizational

Improve and increase partnerships, coordination, and consistency
(more?)

Develop needed infrastructure
(more?)

(more inter-organizational?)

Outreach

Develop public education programs
(more?)

Help the public anticipate coming climate change effects
(more?)

(more outreach?)

Substantive Strategies

Fire

Identify key stressors and risk factors for uncharacteristic fire

Employ active silvicultural management of forest landscapes, including thinning, to reduce fuel loads

Review and revise as needed current policies, standards, and guidelines relating to wildfire response

(more fire?)

Forest Health

Identify key stressors and risk factors for forest health

Employ active silvicultural management of forest landscapes, including thinning, to create more resistance to pest/disease vectors

Maintain and restore healthy stand conditions as the foundation for other strategies

(more forest health?)

Species' Physiology, Ecology, and Distribution

Identify key stressors and risk factors for species impacts

Distinguish and focus adaptation strategies on the species and their support systems that are most vulnerable to climate change and/or most critical to biodiversity

Develop and implement a genetic conservation strategy adapted to climate change at the scale of species' ranges

Review and revise as needed current policies, standards, and guidelines relating to seed transfer between seed zones

Develop greater seed resources to respond to major disturbance events

Explore "assisted migration" of key species with fragmented habitats

Prepare for early detection and rapid response to invasive species

Plan to maintain vulnerable species especially on federal lands

(more species' physiology, ecology, and distribution?)

Timber Management and Economics

Employ active silvicultural management, including thinning, to improve timber stand productivity

Develop and implement a genetic conservation strategy for timber species, adapted to climate change

Be ready to shift species composition in managed stands to improve resilience

(more timber management and economics?)

Habitat

Identify the key stressors and risk factors for habitat changes

Distinguish and focus adaptation strategies on the habitats that are most vulnerable to climate change and/or most critical to biodiversity.

Maintain habitat connectivity across landscapes using large blocks with habitat heterogeneity

Plan to maintain vulnerable habitats especially on federal lands

(more habitat?)

Protected Areas

Distinguish and focus adaptation strategies on the protected areas that are most vulnerable to climate change and/or most critical to biodiversity

(more protected areas?)

Hydrologic Effects

Review current policies, standards, and guidelines relating to road system management