

2013-2014 CLIMATE CHANGE WORKPLAN

Final January, 2013

Climate Change Assessments

1. Ecosystem Vulnerability Assessment and Synthesis,

On-forest lead: Linda Parker

Others: Dale Higgins, Matt St. Pierre

NIACS leads: Maria Janowiak, Patricia Butler

- ▶ Work on Ecosystem Vulnerability Assessment (EVAS) version 2 (which includes Northern Wisconsin and Western Upper Peninsula) will pick up again in Spring 2013
- ▶ Key assessment results will be communicated to CNNF staff. See *Communications* section
- ▶ Integrate findings of Watershed Vulnerability Assessment

Scorecard linkages:

Element #6: Vulnerability Assessments

Element #4: Integrate Science and Management

Element #5: External Partnerships

2. Mitigation Assessment,

On-forest lead: Linda Parker

Principle Investigator: Rich Birdsey

- ▶ Review of Draft General Technical Report as requested.
- ▶ Publication of GTR expected in FY 13.

Scorecard linkages:

Element #4: Integrate Science and Management

Element #9: Carbon Assessment

Element #5: External Partnerships

3. Watershed Climate Change Vulnerability

On-forest lead: Dale Higgins

- ▶ Complete draft assessment and final document
- ▶ Incorporate relevant results into second version of the EVAS 2
- ▶ Integrate with a second WICCI water assessment (if undertaken).
- ▶ Make assessment available on the web

Scorecard linkages:

Element #4: Integrate Science and Management

Element #6: Vulnerability Assessment

Element #5: External Partnerships (e.g., USGS)

Science-Management Partnerships

1. Shared Landscape Initiative

Project Coordinator: *Jerry Greenberg (American Forest Foundation)*

On-forest leads: *Paul Strong*

Others: *Linda Parker, Connie Cummins*

NIACS leads: *Maria Janowiak, Chris Swanston*

- ▶ CNNF will maintain membership in steering committee and work groups.
- ▶ Forest will participate in initiatives or meetings as appropriate.

Scorecard linkages:

Element #5: External Partnerships

2. Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI)

On-forest lead: *Paul Strong*

Others: *Linda Parker, Dale Higgins, Matt St.Pierre*

- ▶ Paul Strong will continue to serve on WICCI Science Committee
- ▶ Continue participation in WICCI working groups.
- ▶ Use Adaptive Assessment Report results as new climate change information.
- ▶ Review Adaptive Assessment Report information and use in guidance development, future assessment versions, communication activities, etc (items #1, #2, #3 and more).
- ▶ Incorporate selected information into second version of the EVAS (next 1-1.5 years).
- ▶ Possibly: Meet with WICCI Science Council or Steering Committee about future collaborative efforts (moving beyond assessment phase).

Scorecard linkages:

Element #4: Integrate Science and Management

Element #5: External Partnerships (e.g., WDNR, UW)

Element #6: Vulnerability Assessment

3. Climate Change Science Roundtable (ongoing)

On-forest lead: *Linda Parker*

Others: *Matt St. Pierre*

NIACS leads: *Chris Swanston, Maria Janowiak*

- ▶ The CNNF will maintain engagement with the Climate Change Science Roundtable.
- ▶ The authors of *Ecological Vulnerability Assessment V.2 and Mitigation Assessment (section 1)* will obtain feedback from the Roundtable, forest type “experts”, and others as appropriate.

Scorecard linkages:

Element #4: Integrate Science and Management

Element #5: External Partnerships

4. Research Coordination

On-forest lead: Linda Parker

Others: District specialists

- ▶ Bi-monthly “brown-bag” lunchtime lectures are held with the employees at the [Institute for Ecosystem Studies](#) (Rhineland). Climate change-related topics are focus of many of these lectures. These lectures are held at the Rhineland Supervisor’s office, but can also be connected to other units via video conference technology.
- ▶ Continue coordination of research activities on the CNNF, many of which are climate change-related. Assist researchers as needed (study site selections, maps, data queries, manuscript reviews). Research tracking forms for projects that have been conducted on the CNNF, or are currently underway, are filed at this location O:\NFS\ChequamegonNicolet\Program\4000Research\Research_Projects

5. CHEQUAMEGON ECOSYSTEM ATMOSPHERE STUDY (Cheasii

On-forest lead: Linda Parker

Others: Andy Meyers

- ▶ Vegetation management within footprint of Willow Creek ChEAS Tower planned as part of Park Falls Hardwoods proposed Action. Harvest planned for winter of 2012/2013.
- ▶ Coordinate with various researchers involved in this effort
- ▶ Attend annual meeting at Kemp Station
- ▶ Participate in bi-weekly conference calls with research leads
- ▶ Numerous scholarly articles are in preparation, and will likely be published in 2013 to 2014.

Communication and Education

On-forest leads: Linda Parker

Others: Suzanne Flory, Dave Melancon, Matt St. Pierre, District CC coordinators

NIACS leads: Maria Janowiak, Patricia Butler

1. Internal education

- ▶ The Washington Office is preparing materials for all-employee training. Once completed these materials will be distributed to all CNNF staff to allow them to complete “self-training” via videos and reading materials on basic climate change science concepts. The climate change core team will follow-up with more CNNF specific information and a question and answer session via webinar/VTC.
- ▶ Additional employee training occurs during the demonstration activities on each district.
- ▶ After EVAS 2 is completed, provide presentations across the CNNF to update employees on new findings.
- ▶ Climate Change Display Panels will be recirculated across the Forest Service during summer months
- ▶ “Brown-bag” lunchtime lectures described under the Partnership section above also provides educational opportunities for CNNF and NRS employees.
- ▶ Announcements about webinars, training opportunities, scientific findings, reports, etc will continue to be shared.

Scorecard linkages:

Element #1: Employee Education

2. External education

- ▶ The Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (NGLVC) hosts an exhibit called “[Changing Climate, Changing Culture](#)”. NGLVC staff are developing a curriculum to go along with this exhibit.
- ▶ Continue to update the [CNNF external website](#) with information about climate change actions underway on the Forest
- ▶ Press Releases and news stories will be developed as new climate change products are completed or published.
- ▶ Continue to make presentations, as opportunities arise, at a variety of venues (scientific conferences, professional society meetings, local events).

3. Outreach

- ▶ Continue to share information about [CNNF climate change projects](#) and projects on [climateframework.org](#) website
- ▶ Update [CNNF case study](#) on the [climate change resource center website](#)

Adaptation

1. Forest Adaptation Resources

On-forest lead: Linda Parker

Others: Matt St. Pierre, other staff

NIACS leads: Chris Swanston, Maria Janowiak

- ▶ Forest Adaptation Resources V.2 Preliminary discussion is occurring about the need for updating this to include other areas of CCRF. Continue to provide input on strategies and approaches, improving the workbook process.
- ▶ Survey users of FAR
- ▶ Adaptation Training - work with NIACS and SLI to develop a training for FAR workbook in Wisconsin. This would be developed to be a template to be used in other areas.

Scorecard linkages:

Element #4: Integrate Science and Management

Element #7: Adaptation Activities

2. Demonstration and Implementation Activities

On-forest lead: Matt St. Pierre and Linda Parker

Others: District Rangers, District climate change contacts

NIACS leads: Maria Janowiak, Chris Swanston

- ▶ Demonstration activities for climate change response will help to develop internal capacity for evaluating and implementing adaptation tactics, while also working towards a longer-term approach for climate change response on the CNNF (**item g**). Implementation in the near-term will provide a “proof of concept” and important lessons for future activities.

- ▶ The Black Torch Demo Project is underway, and will be completed concurrent with the analysis for the Black Torch Vegetation Management Project. Maria Janowiak serves as facilitator and Matt St. Pierre is a team member.
- ▶ Park Falls, Great Divide, and Eagle River-Florence District have completed the FAR workbook for their demonstration projects and identified adaptation tactics. They will continue to implement the identified tactics.
- ▶ Washburn and Lakewood-Laona Districts will initiate demonstration projects
- ▶ Facilitators (Maria or Linda) will work closely with districts to help them develop their activity, apply CCRFP products, and implement activities.
- ▶ A summary of each Demonstration Project will be posted on the [SLI website](#) as they are completed.

Scorecard linkages:

Element #2: Guidance, Training, Plans of Work
 Element #4: Integrate Science and Management

Element #7: Adaptation Activities
 Element #8: Monitoring

MONITORING

On-forest lead: Matt St. Pierre and Linda Parker

- ▶ Climate Change Scorecard Reporting (Parker): Scorecard linkages: All Elements
- ▶ Complete LRMP monitoring report
- ▶ Evaluate “top 5” most critical climate change vulnerabilities in terms of current and needed monitoring
- ▶ Complete Bird Monitoring General Technical Report (include large section on climate change impacts)
- ▶ In cooperation with partners, continue work on and synthesize results from long-term trend detection monitoring programs

Scorecard linkages:

Element #4: Integrate Science and Management
 Element #8: Monitoring

SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

1. GREEN TEAM

On-forest lead: Spring Rosales

Others: Green Team members

- ▶ Green Team annually completes Sustainable Operations Checklist (Appendix F in Scorecard Guidance document) as part of Scorecard Evaluation.
- ▶ Other as needed.

Scorecard linkages:

Element 10: Sustainable Operations