ASCC
Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change

Designing Forest Adaptation Treatments Across the Ohio Hills Through Manager-Scientist Partnerships

Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change (ASCC)
Ohio Hills Workshop

May 24, 25, & 26, 2022

Forest and Rangeland Stewardship, Colorado State University
NIACS Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science
ASCC Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change
Forest Service U.S. Department of Agriculture
Division of Forestry, Ohio Department of Natural Resources
The Ohio State University

Land Acknowledgement

Photo: Bryce Adams, USFS

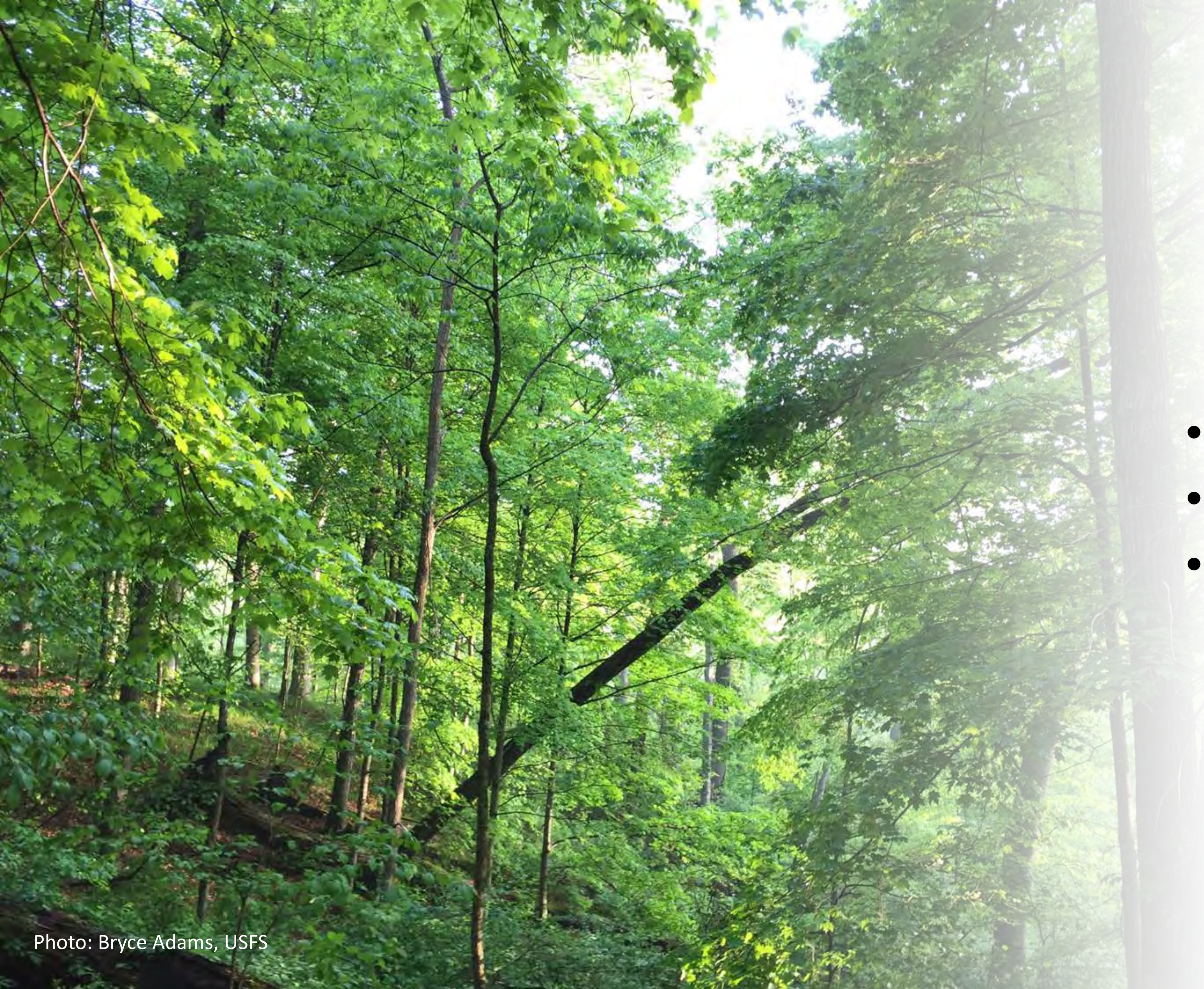
Photo: Bryce Adams, USFS

Introductions

- Name
- Organization
- One thing you are looking forward to in this workshop

Workshop Goals

- Engage managers and scientists in the Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change (ASCC) co-development framework to create a suite of adaptive experimental silvicultural treatments in oak-hickory sites in Ohio that will be part of the ASCC Network;
- Develop specific management, research, and monitoring questions that can be addressed through the ASCC project.

Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change (ASCC) Network

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Project Goals:

1) Introduce managers to tools and approaches to integrate climate change into silvicultural decision making that meets management goals and objectives

2) Co-develop robust, operational examples of how to integrate climate change adaptation into silvicultural planning and on-the-ground actions to foster resilience to the impacts of climate change and enable adaptation to uncertain futures

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Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change

Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change Network

- ASCC Network PIs
- Science Collaborators
- Network Study Sites
- Urban Affiliate Sites
- Prospective Sites

Linda Nagel, Lead PI
Professor and Department Head
Colorado State University

Courtney Peterson, ASCC Coordinator
Colorado State University
NIACS

Chris Swanston, Co-PI
USFS, Director
Office of Sustainability and Climate

Maria Janowiak, Co-PI
USFS, Northern Research Station
Director, NIACS, NRS

ASCC Network Website: www.adaptivesilviculture.org

ASCC Collaborative Workshop

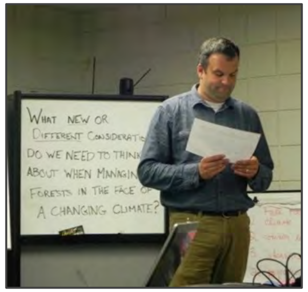
Developing the Experimental Treatments

For <u>each</u> experimental treatment (Resistance, Resilience, Transition):

DFC → **What is the desired structure and function (*desired future condition*)?**

Management objectives → **<u>Keep in mind key variables/outcomes</u>:**
- **Species composition**
- **Forest health**
- **Forest productivity**
- **Response to disturbance**

Silvicultural practices (tactics) → **<u>For each silvicultural practice (tactic)</u>:**
- **Timeframes**
- **Benefits**
- **Drawbacks and Barriers**
- **Practicality**



First workshop: MN, June 2013

Most recent workshop: Driftless Area, Dec. 2021

Workshop Agenda – Day 1, Tuesday, May 24

- **8:00 Welcome & Introductions** – Jarel Bartig (NRS) & Dan Balser (ODNR)
- **8:20 ASCC Overview & Workshop Agenda –** Linda Nagel & Courtney Peterson (CSU)
- **8:45 Silvics, Forest Ecology, & Disturbance of Oak-Hickory Forests** – Todd Hutchinson, Alejandro Royo, & Melissa Thomas-Van Gundy (NRS)
- **10:00 Break (15 min)**
- **10:15 Ecosystem Vulnerabilities of Oak-Hickory Forests to Climate Change –** Steve Matthews (OSU/NIACS)
- **10:45 Climate Change Considerations for Managing Ohio Oak-Hickory Forests –** Linda Nagel & Courtney Peterson (CSU)
- **11:20 Wildlife Response to Oak Forest Management** – Bryce Adams (NRS) & Laura Kearns (ODNR)
- **11:40 Management of Oak-Hickory Forests & Overview of the Vinton Furnace/Zaleski State Forests** – Greg Guess & Courtney Cawood (ODNR)

12:00 Lunch

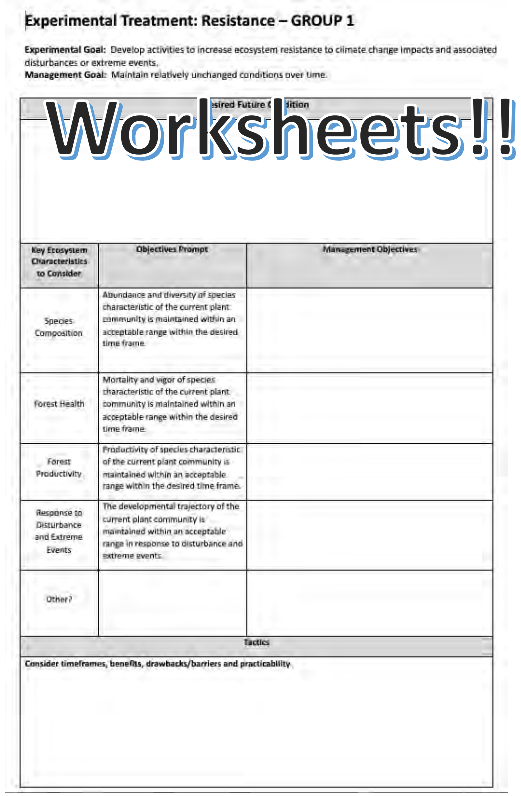
1:00 ASCC Site Field Visit – Zaleski State Forest (4 hours)

5:00 Wrap-up in the field; everyone head back to Athens for dinner

Workshop Agenda – Day 2, Wednesday, May 25

- **8:00 Recap of Day 1/Impacts of Climate Change on Management Goals for the Ohio ASCC Site**
- **8:45 Adaptation Concepts & Developing an ASCC Study Site Presentation**
- **9:15 Break (15 min)**
- **9:30 Identify Overarching Management Objectives and DFCs for the Ohio ASCC Site and Each Experimental Treatment: Overview of Process and Definitions**
- **9:40 Develop *Resistance* Treatment for Ohio ASCC Site (In Breakout Groups)**
- **10:40 Report Out on *Resistance* & Group Discussion**
- **11:15 Additional Field Time/Lunch** - Visit Fire and Fire Surrogate, White Oak study
- **1:00 Back at Conference Center: Develop *Resilience* Treatment for Ohio ASCC Site (In Breakout Groups)**
- **2:00 Report Out on *Resilience* & Group Discussion**
- **2:45 Break (15 min)**
- **3:00 Develop *Transition* Treatment for Ohio ASCC Site (In Breakout Groups)**
- **4:00 Report Out on *Transition* & Group Discussion**
- **4:45 Finalize any lingering parking lot items**
- **5:00 Adjourn for the Day**

Worksheets!!!



Experimental Treatment: Resistance – GROUP 1

Experimental Goal: Develop activities to increase ecosystem resistance to climate change impacts and associated disturbances or extreme events.
Management Goal: Maintain relatively unchanged conditions over time.

[illegible]sired Future C[illegible]dition		
Key Ecosystem Characteristics to Consider	**Objectives Prompt**	**Management Objectives**
Species Composition	Abundance and diversity of species characteristic of the current plant community is maintained within an acceptable range within the desired time frame.	
Forest Health	Mortality and vigor of species characteristic of the current plant community is maintained within an acceptable range within the desired time frame.	
Forest Productivity	Productivity of species characteristic of the current plant community is maintained within an acceptable range within the desired time frame.	
Response to Disturbance and Extreme Events	The developmental trajectory of the current plant community is maintained within an acceptable range in response to disturbance and extreme events.	
Other?		
Tactics		
Consider timeframes, benefits, drawbacks/barriers and practicability		

Workshop Agenda – Day 3, Thursday, May 26

- **8:30** Recap of Previous Two Days
- **8:45** Review Draft Silvicultural Treatments
- **10:15** Break
- **10:30** Next Steps, Evaluations, & Close-Out
  - What research or management questions are you excited about based on the ASCC treatments?
- **11:30** Large Group Adjourn
- **11:30** (*ASCC Site Leads*) Identify key implementation and monitoring next steps

Workshop Guidelines

- Focus on what matters
- Contribute your thinking and experience
- Listen to understand
- Connect ideas
- Listen together for patterns, insights and deeper questions
- Honor everyone’s time
- Equal airtime - all participate, no one dominate
- Be present - mentally and physically

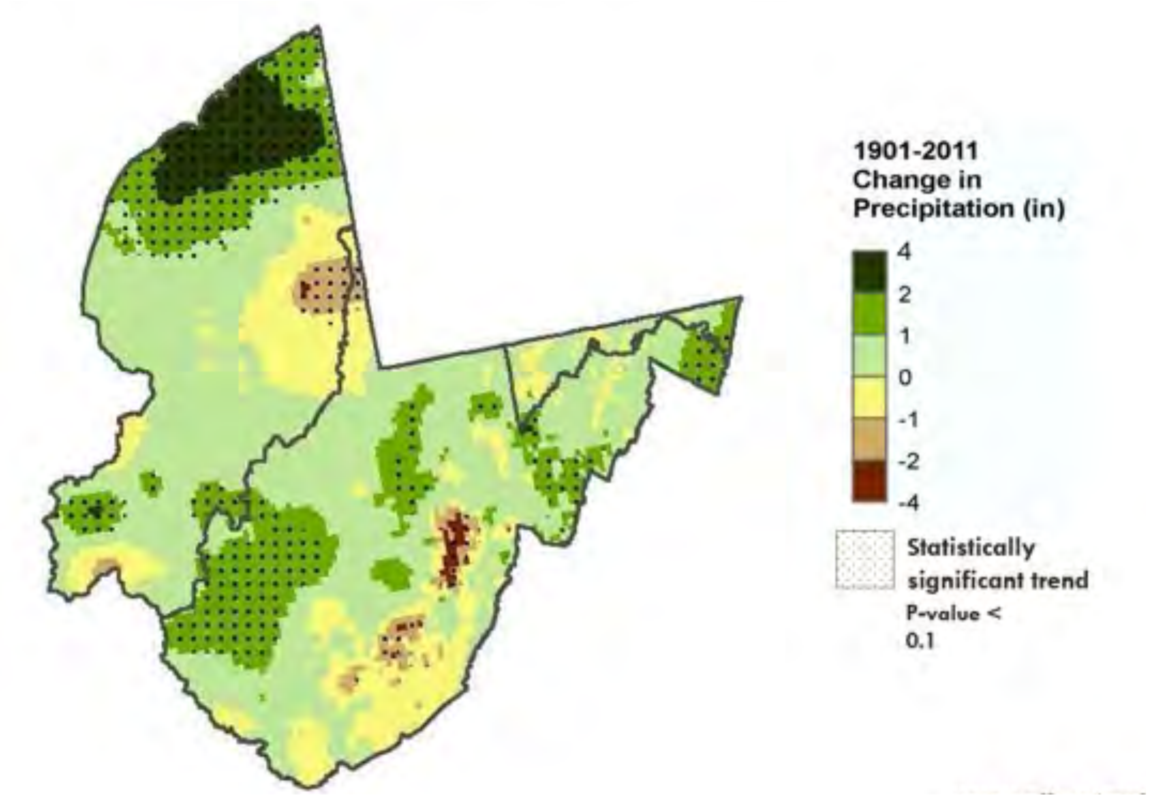
 

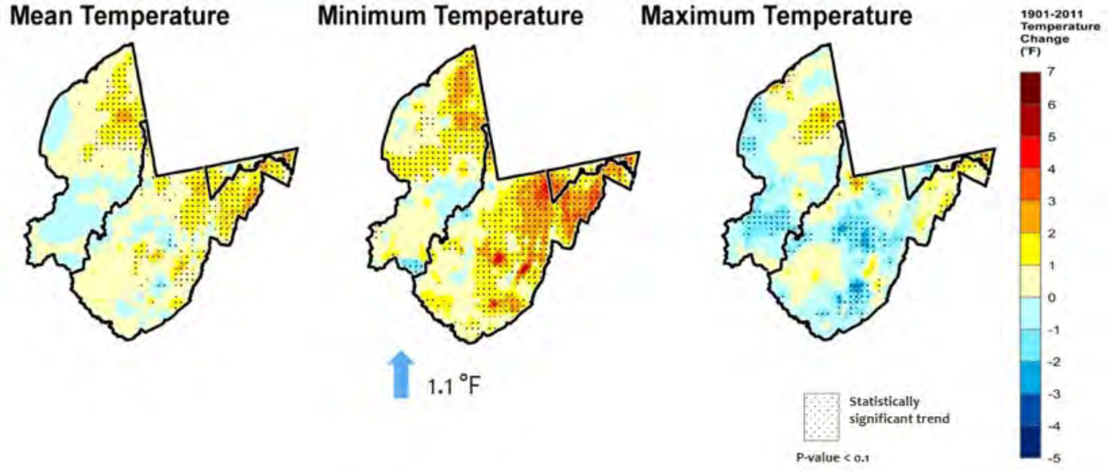
Silvics, Forest Ecology & Disturbance of Oak-Hickory Forests

Todd Hutchinson, USDA NRS
Melissa Thomas-Van Gundy, USDA NRS
Tara Keyser, USDA SRS

Ecosystem Vulnerabilities of Oak-Hickory Forests to Climate Change

Steve Matthews, OSU, NIACS





Activity: Climate Change Considerations for Managing Oak-Hickory Forests

What new or different considerations do we need to think about when managing forests in the face of climate change?

Wildlife Response to Oak Forest Management

Bryce Adams, USDA NRS

Photos: https://ohiodnr.gov

https://ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/zaleski-state-forest

Management of Oak-Hickory Forests: Overview of the Vinton Furnace & Zaleski State Forests

Greg Guess & Courtney Cawood, Ohio DoF


In the Field:
Think about the climate change impacts that are likely to affect dry/mesic oak forests, and what management challenges and opportunities this creates.

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- **8:45** **Adaptation Concepts & Developing an ASCC Study Site Presentation**
- **9:15** **Break (15 min)**
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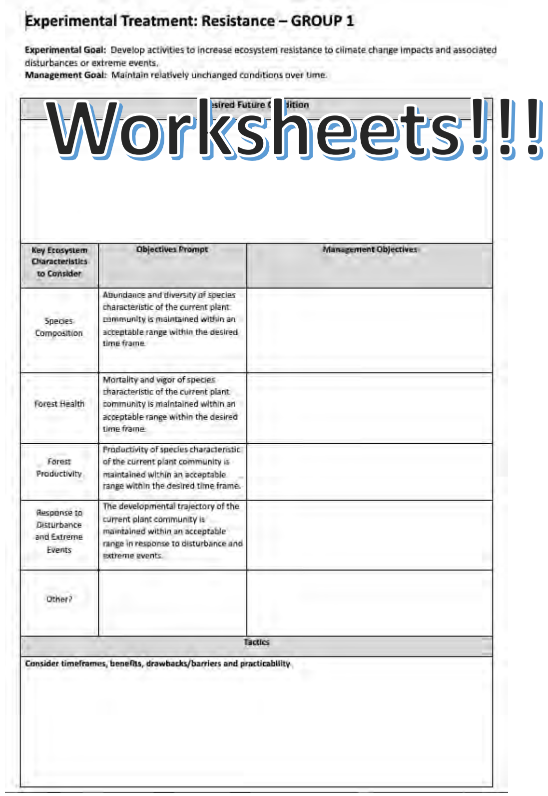
- **4:00** **Report Out on *Transition* & Group Discussion**
- **4:45** **Finalize any lingering parking lot items**
- **5:00** **Adjourn for the Day**



Experimental Treatment: Resistance – GROUP 1

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Desired Future Condition		
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Other?		
Tactics		
Consider timeframes, benefits, drawbacks/barriers and practicability		

Photo: https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/cerulean-warbler

Zaleski & Vinton Furnace Goals for ASCC Workshop

1. Manage for a compositionally and structurally diverse sustainable oak ecosystem.
2. Consider visual aesthetics where timber harvesting is recommended.
3. Support Ohio's timber industry by promoting important commercial species such as white oak.
4. Mitigate risks of invasive species establishment or spread.
5. Sustain and promote organismal and functional diversity.
6. Protect known or discovered archaeological resources.
7. Employ all applicable water quality best management practices during timber harvest.
8. Support and provide recreational opportunities, hunting and wildlife watching, through diversifying forest age and structure (e.g., early-successional habitat for hunting).
9. Support demonstration and science delivery.

Activity: Impacts of Climate Change on Management Goals for the Ohio ASCC Site

Challenges to Meeting Management Objectives with Climate Change: Things that will make it harder to achieve the management objectives due to climate change.

Opportunities to Meeting Management Objectives with Climate Change: Things that will make it easier to achieve the management objectives due to climate change.

***Focus on challenges that can be addressed through forest management (not global markets, policies, etc.)*

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Maria Janowiak, Co-PI
USFS, Northern Research Station
Director, NIACS, NRS

ASCC Network Website: www.adaptivesilviculture.org

Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change Network

Chippewa National Forest/Cutfoot Experimental Forest, MN
- Brian Palik, USFS Northern Research Station
- Tony D'Amato, University of Vermont

San Juan National Forest, CO
- Mike Battaglia, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station
- Matt Tuten, San Juan National Forest

Second College Grant, NH
- Tony D'Amato, University of Vermont
- Chris Woodall, USFS Northern Research Station
- Kevin Evans, Dartmouth University

The Jones Center at Ichauway , GA
- Steven Brantley, The Jones Center at Ichauway
- Jeff Cannon, The Jones Center at Ichauway
- Andy Whelan, The Jones Center at Ichauway

Flathead National Forest/Coram Experimental Forest, MT
- Justin Crotteau, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station
- Terrie Jain, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station
- Amanda Rollwage, Flathead National Forest

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, Saint Paul, MN
- Mary Hammes, Mississippi Park Connection
- Marcella Windmuller-Campione, University of Minnesota
- Leslie Brandt, USFS Northern Research Station

Petawawa Research Forest, ON, Canada
- Michael Hoepting, Natural Resources Canada
- Jeff Fera, Natural Resources Canada
- Trevor Jones, Natural Resources Canada

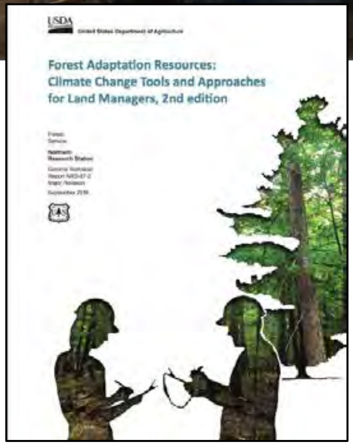
Southern New England Exurban Affiliate, CT
- Tom Worthley, University of Connecticut
- Bob Fahey, University of Connecticut
- Will Hochholzer, Mohegan State Forest
- Daniel Evans, Mohegan State Forest

Colorado State Forest, CO
- Mike Battaglia, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station
- Blair Rynearson, Colorado State Forest Service
- Ethan Bucholz, Colorado State Forest Service

John Prince Research Forest, BC, Canada
- Che Elkin, University of Northern British Columbia
- Kristen Waring, University of Northern Arizona
- Sue Grainger, John Prince Research Forest

Driftless Area, IA, MN, WI
- Miranda Curzon, Iowa State University
- Bruce Blair, IA DNR
- Mike Reinikainen & Paul Dubuque, MN DNR
- Greg Edge & Brad Hutnik, WI DNR

ASCC Study Design and Collaborative Workshop



- **Common Design** *Across All Forests*
  - **Treatment Themes:** ***Adaptation Options***
    - Resistance
    - Resilience
    - Transition
    - No Action
  - **Minimum Study Design Elements**
    - Replication
    - Stand/EU Size
    - Monitoring Guidelines
    - Evaluation Window
- **Site Specifics** *Unique to Individual Forests*
  - Forest Type or Ecosystem
  - Study Sites/Layout
  - Management Objectives
  - Adaptation Approaches & Tactics
  - Final Monitoring Plan

Collaborative Workshop

Developing the Experimental Treatments

For <u>each</u> experimental treatment (Resistance, Resilience, Transition):

DFC

↓

Management objectives

↓

Silvicultural practices (tactics)

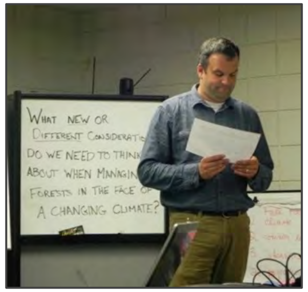
What is the desired structure and function (*desired future condition*)?

<u>Keep in mind key variables/outcomes</u>:

- **Species composition**
- **Forest health**
- **Forest productivity**
- **Response to disturbance**

<u>For each silvicultural practice (tactic)</u>:

- **Timeframes**
- **Benefits**
- **Drawbacks and Barriers**
- **Practicality**

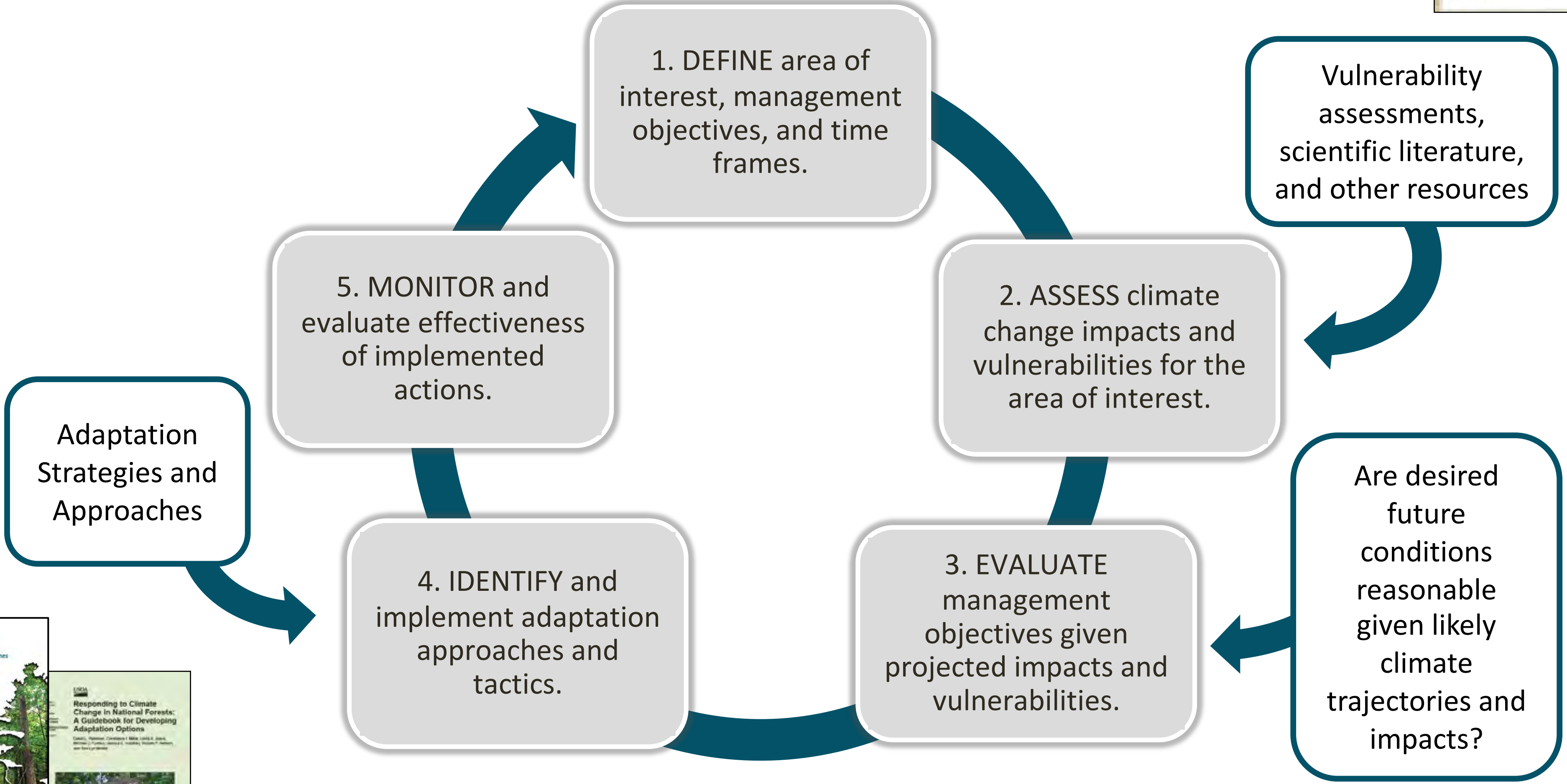


First workshop: MN, June 2013

Most recent workshop: Driftless Area, Dec. 2021

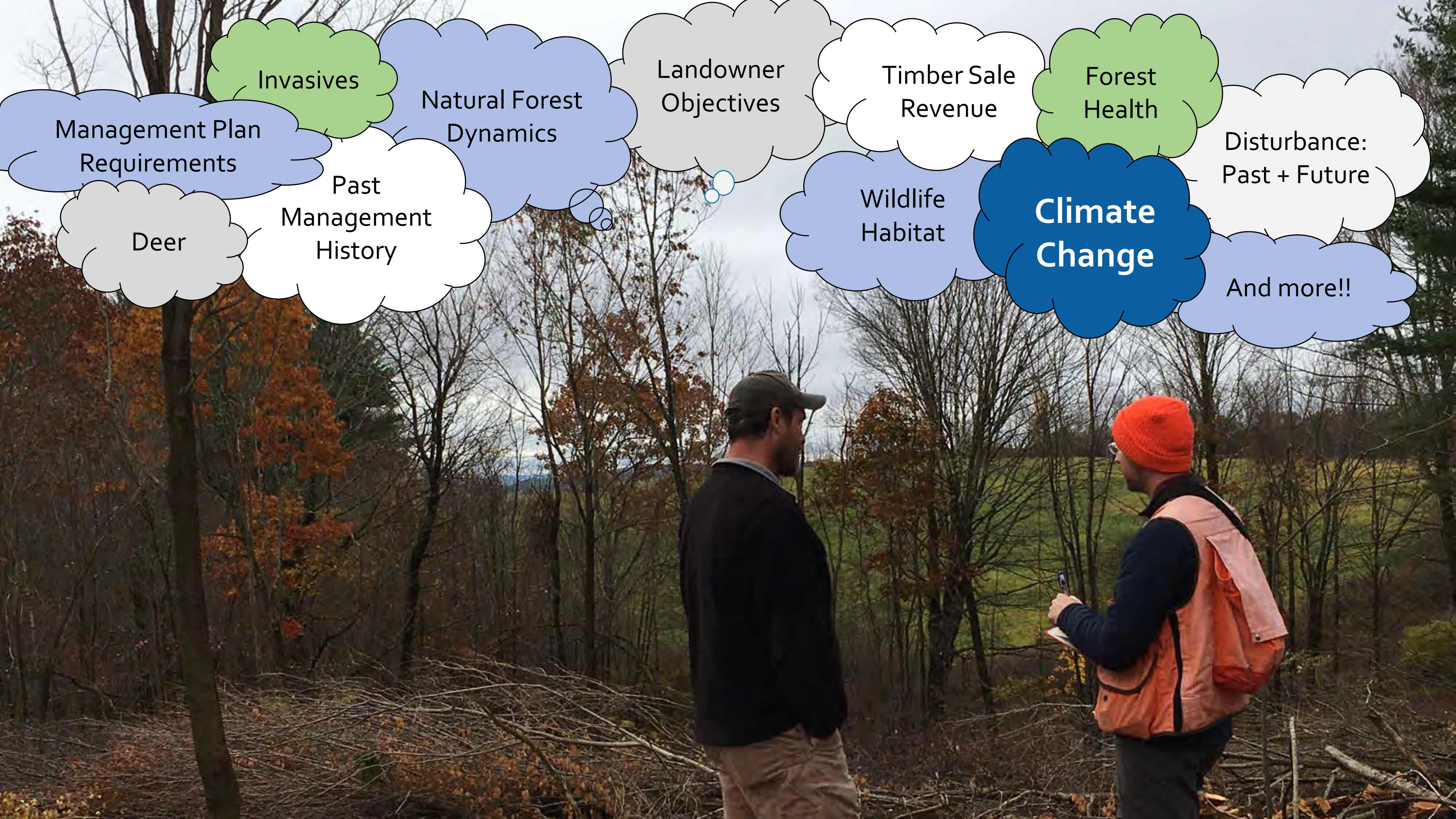
Identifying Adaptation Tactics

Forest Adaptation Resources: Climate Change Tools & Approaches for Land Managers



Swanston et al. 2016 https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/52760; Janowiak et al. 2014

Adapting to Climate Change



Invasives
Natural Forest Dynamics
Landowner Objectives
Timber Sale Revenue
Forest Health
Management Plan Requirements
Disturbance: Past + Future
Past Management History
Deer
Wildlife Habitat
Climate Change
And more!!

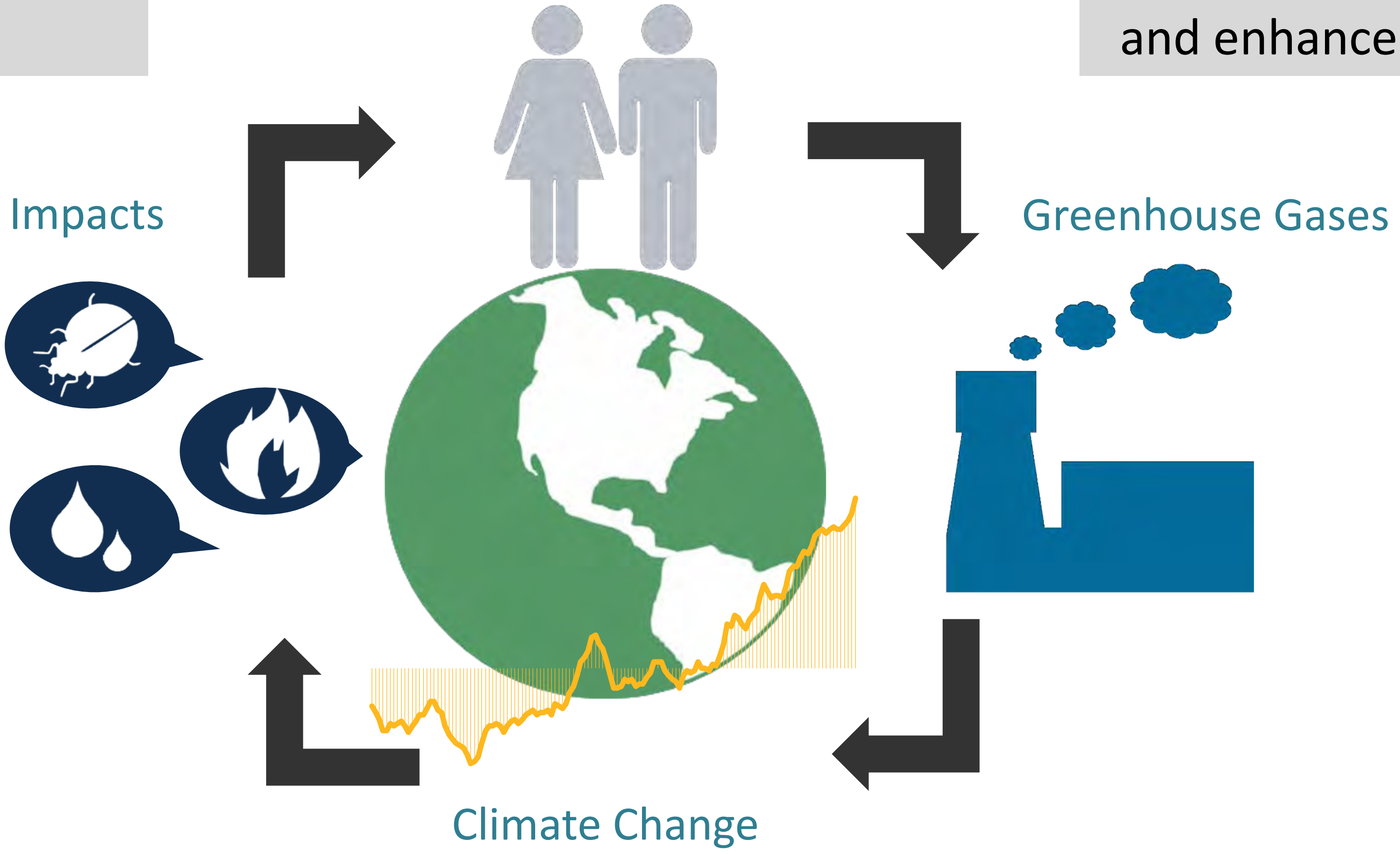
How can we respond to climate change?

Adaptation

Actions to reduce the vulnerability of systems to climate change effects.

Mitigation

Actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance carbon sinks.



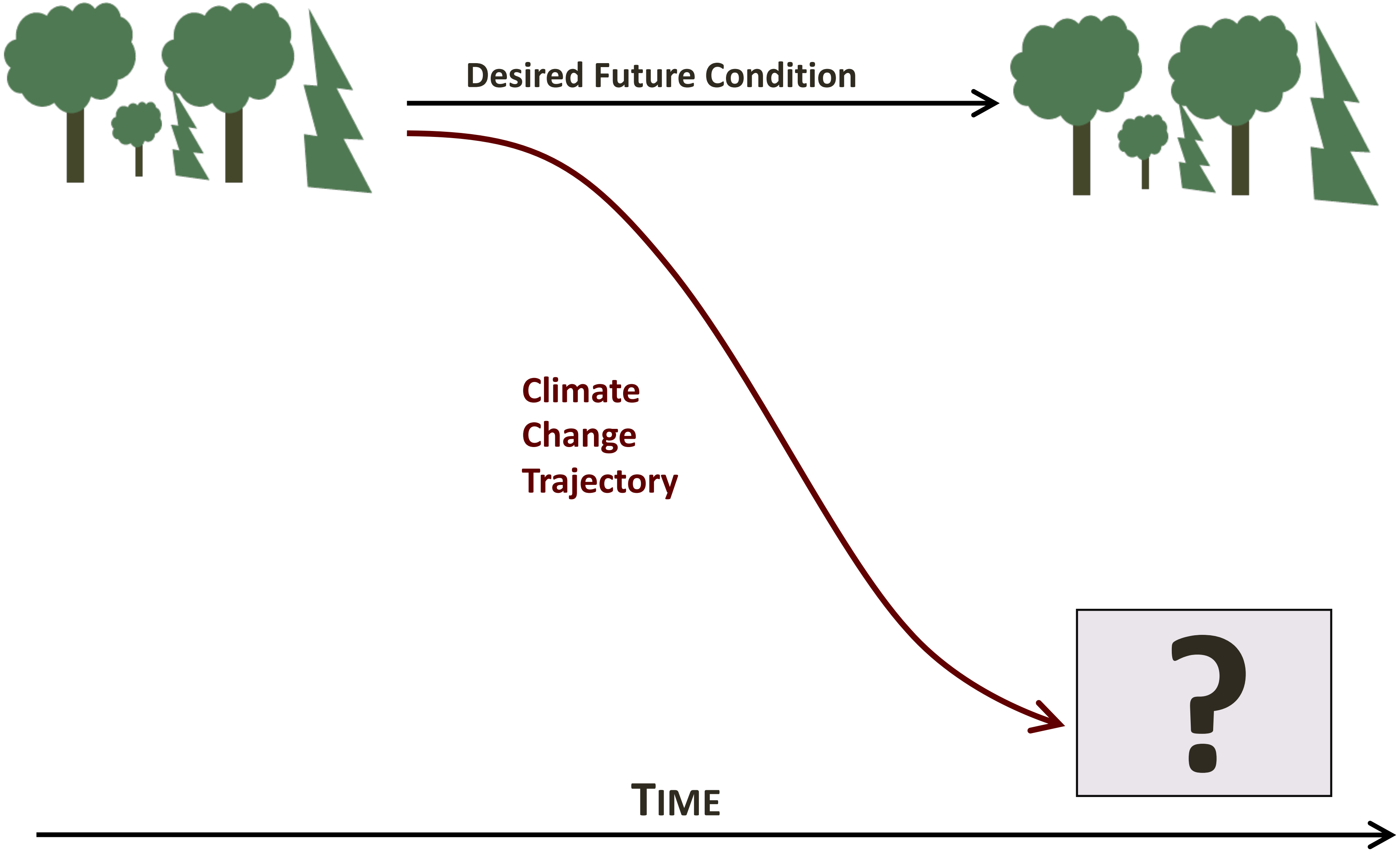
Adaptation - the adjustment of systems in response to climate change.




Ecosystem-based adaptation activities build on sustainable management, conservation, and restoration.

- What do you value?
- How much risk are you willing to tolerate?

Climate-Driven Changes



What actions can be taken to

enhance the ability of a system to cope with change

<u>and</u>

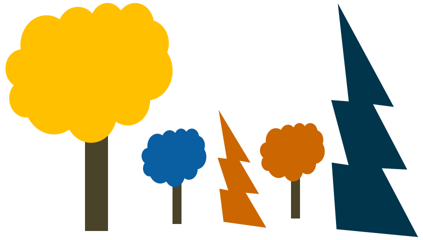
meet goals and objectives?

Adaptation Options

RESISTANCE

RESILIENCE

TRANSITION



Identify and implement actions that are
robust across a range of potential future conditions

Millar et al. 2007, Swanston et al. 2016, Nagel et al. 2017

Resistance

Improve the defenses of the system against anticipated changes or directly defending against disturbance in order to maintain relatively unchanged conditions.

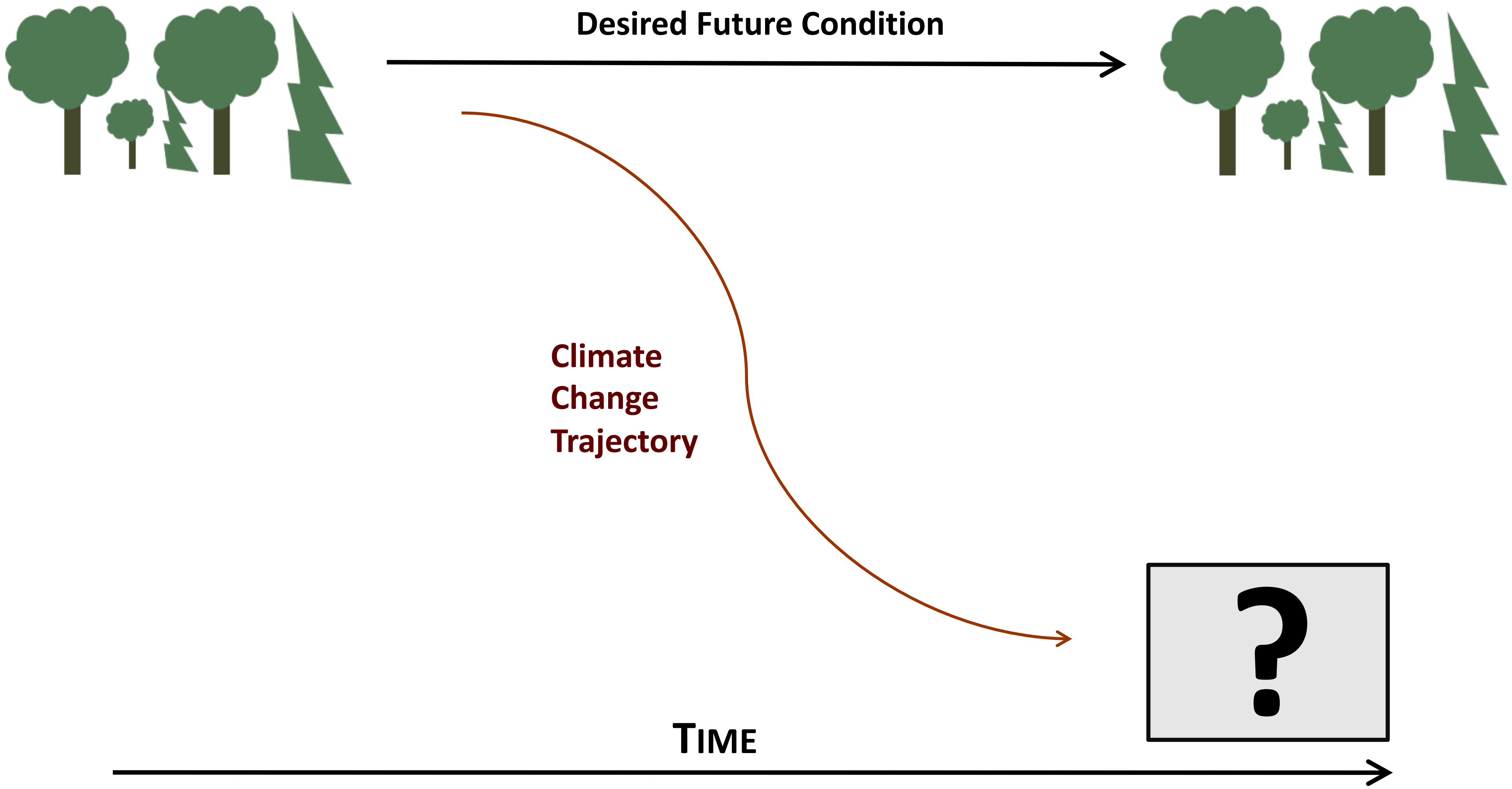
Road crossings that can withstand flood events (USFS, Monongahela NF)

Threatened Dwarf lake iris (FWS)

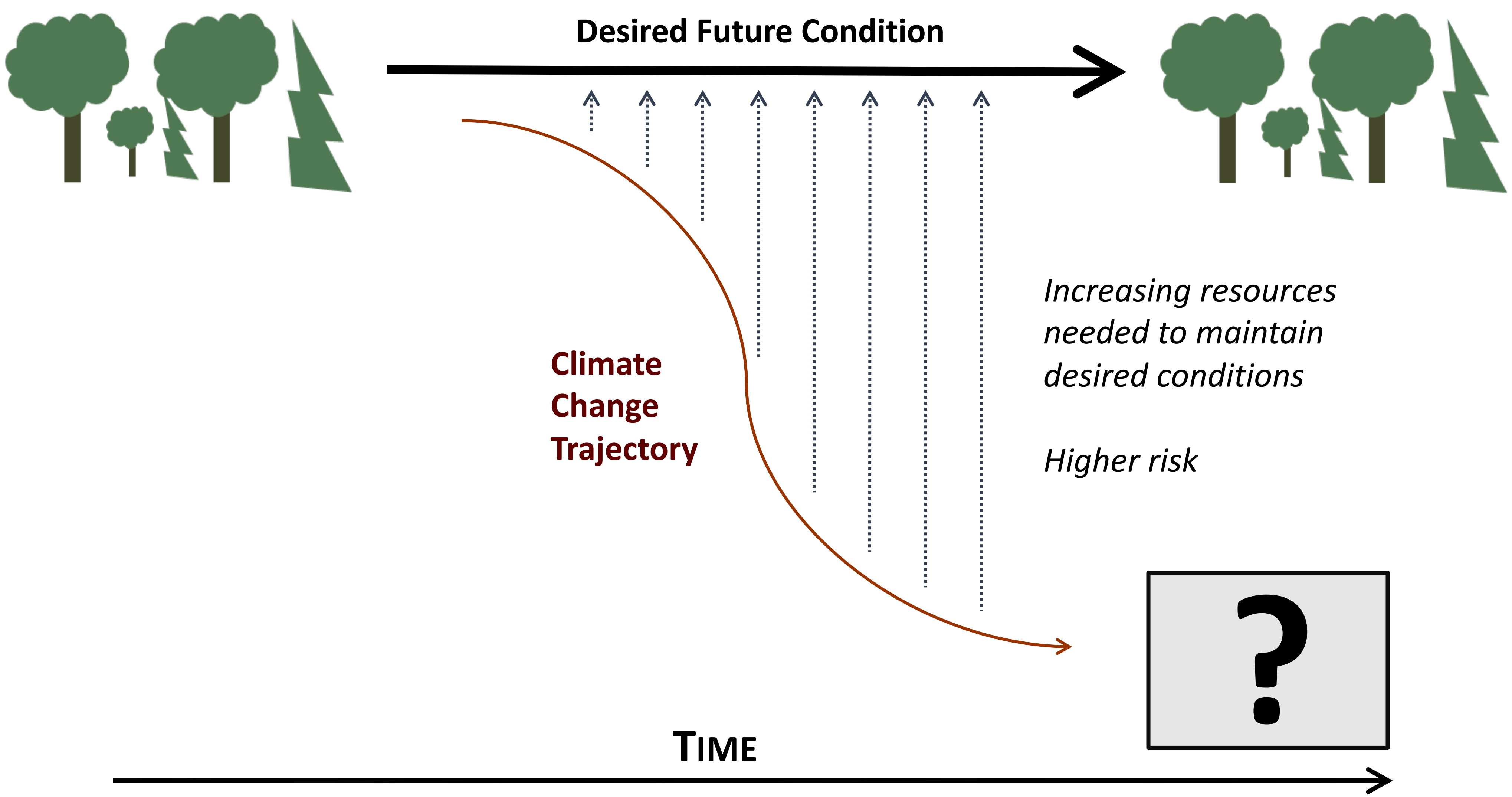
Invasive species management (USFS)

Millar et al. 2007, Swanston et al. 2016, Nagel et al. 2017

Resistance



Resistance


Desired Future Condition
Climate
Change
Trajectory
Increasing resources
needed to maintain
desired conditions
Higher risk
?
TIME

Resilience

Accommodate some degree of change or disruption, but be able to return to a similar condition after disturbance.

- Improve overall health & vigor
- Management of vegetation following disturbance

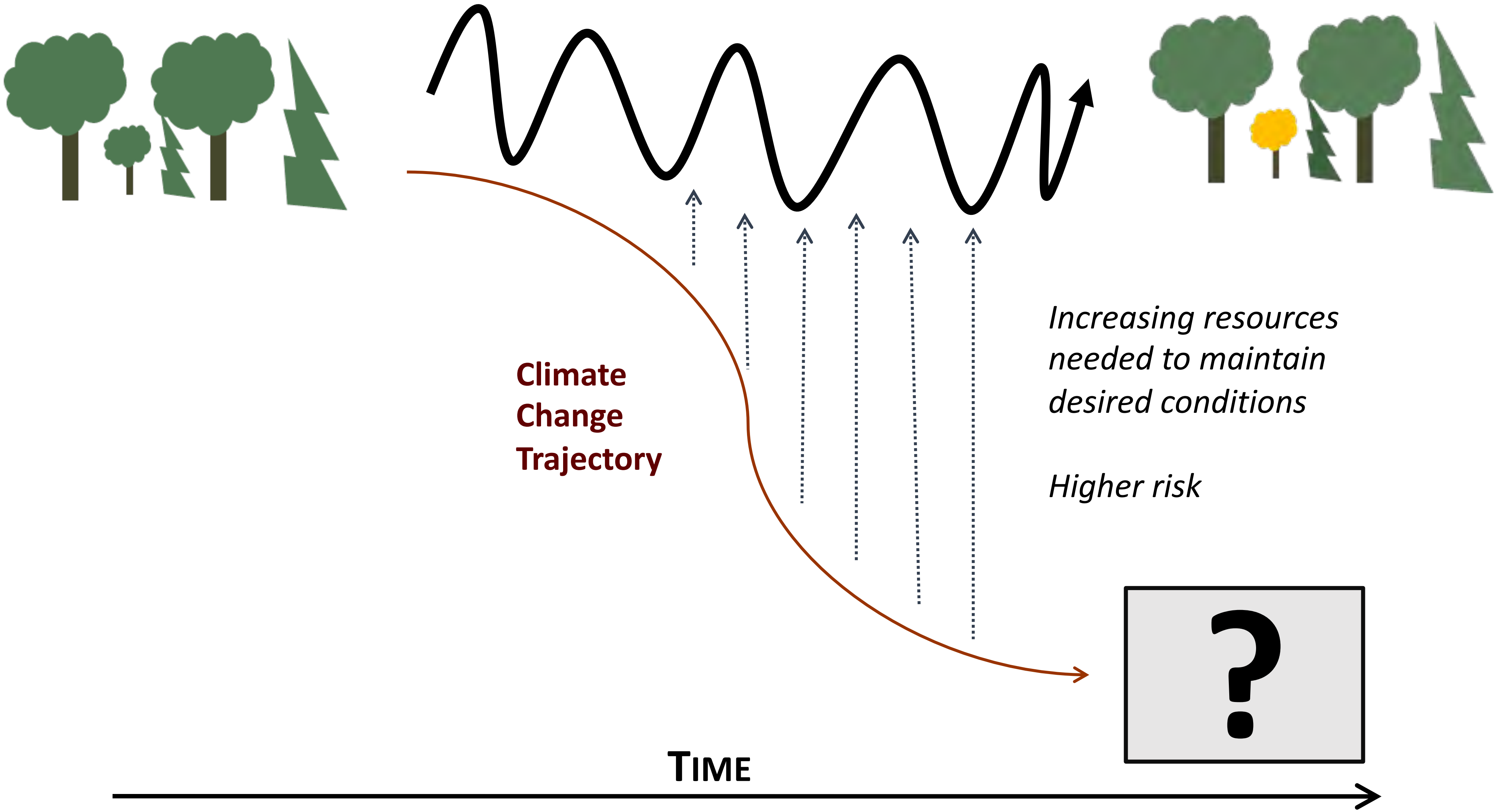
Prescribed burning to regenerate fire-adapted species

Reducing overstocked stands (Tahoe NF)

Increasing setbacks to allow for fluctuating water levels.

Holling 1973, Millar et al. 2007, Swanston et al. 2016
See also – Moser et al. 2019

Resilience

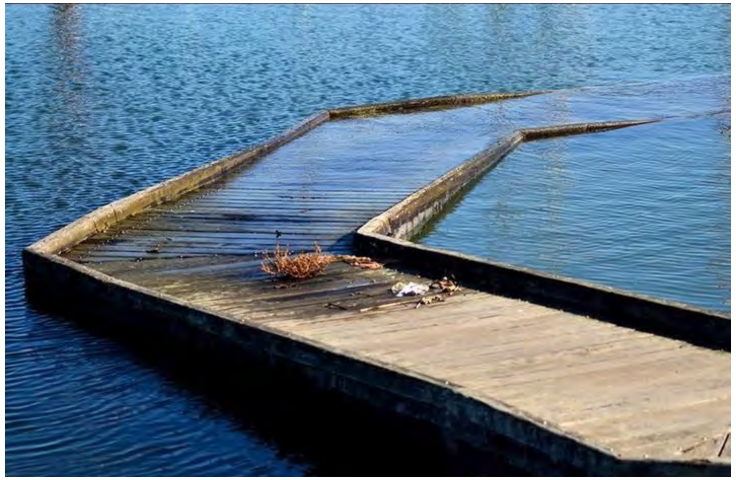

Climate
Change
Trajectory
Increasing resources
needed to maintain
desired conditions
Higher risk
?
TIME

Transition

Intentionally accommodate change and enable ecosystems to adaptively respond to changing and new conditions

- Foster well-adapted native species
- Relocate visitor and recreation infrastructure
- Accommodate new & altered hydrologic processes

Favoring native species that are expected to be adapted to future conditions.

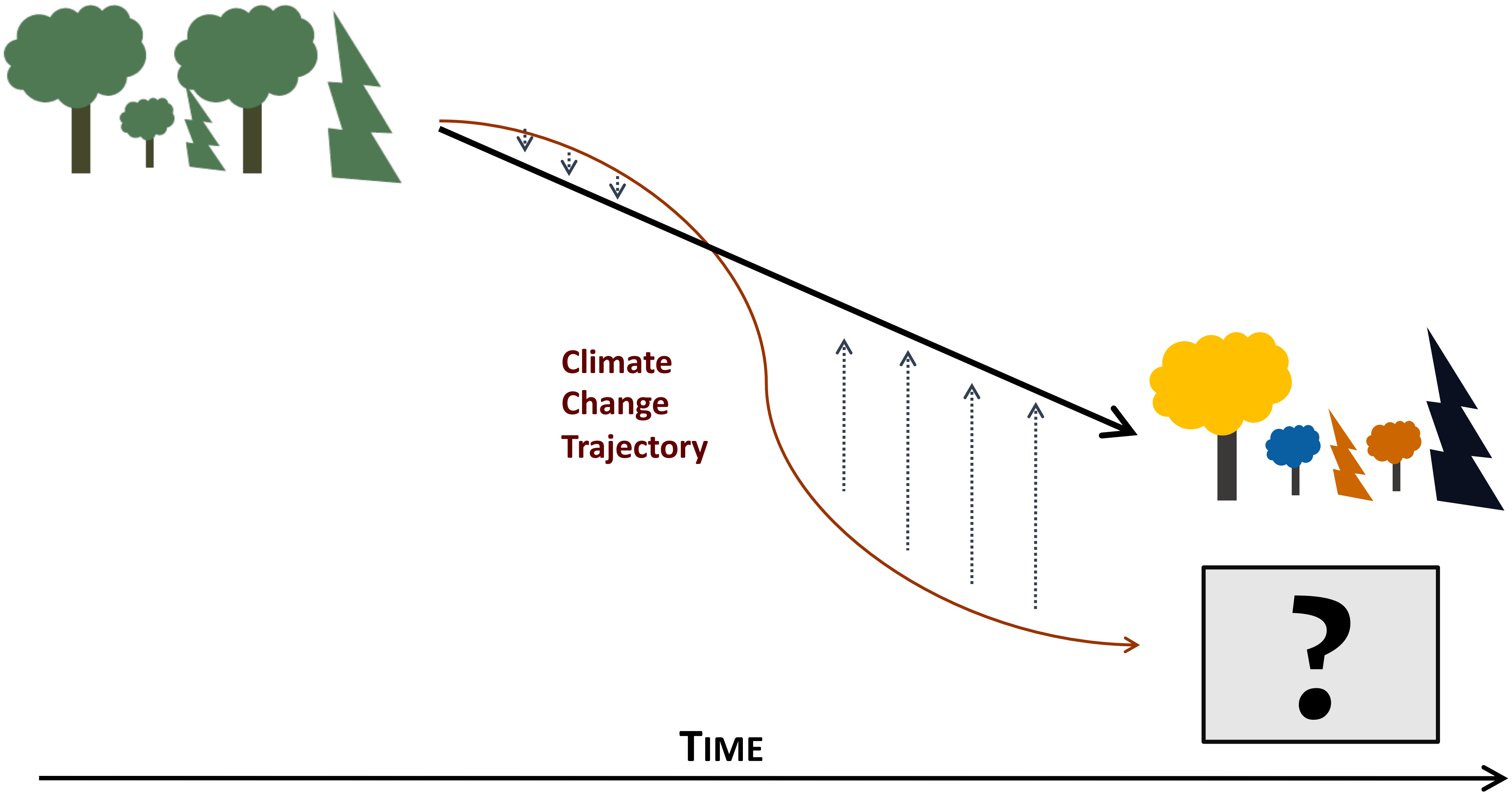


Relocate existing infrastructure to areas with less risk (P:Tom Hilton)

River & riparian area restoration in agricultural fields (P:Joann Kline)

Millar et al. 2007, Swanston et al. 2016, Nagel et al. 2017

Transition



ASCC is testing a spectrum of adaptation options

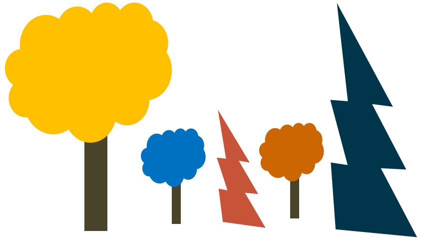
RESISTANCE

- Improve defenses of forest against change and disturbance
- Maintain relatively unchanged conditions

RESILIENCE

- Accommodate some degree of change
- Return to prior reference condition following disturbance

TRANSITION



- Intentionally facilitate change
- Enable ecosystem to respond to changing and new conditions

Reduce impacts/maintain current conditions

Forward-looking/promote change

Millar et al. 2007, Swanston et al. 2016, Nagel et al. 2017

Intentionality

- Explicitly consider and address climate change
- Sure we might get lucky…
- Intentionally assessing risk and vulnerabilities **makes our plans more robust!**

Experimental Treatment Definitions

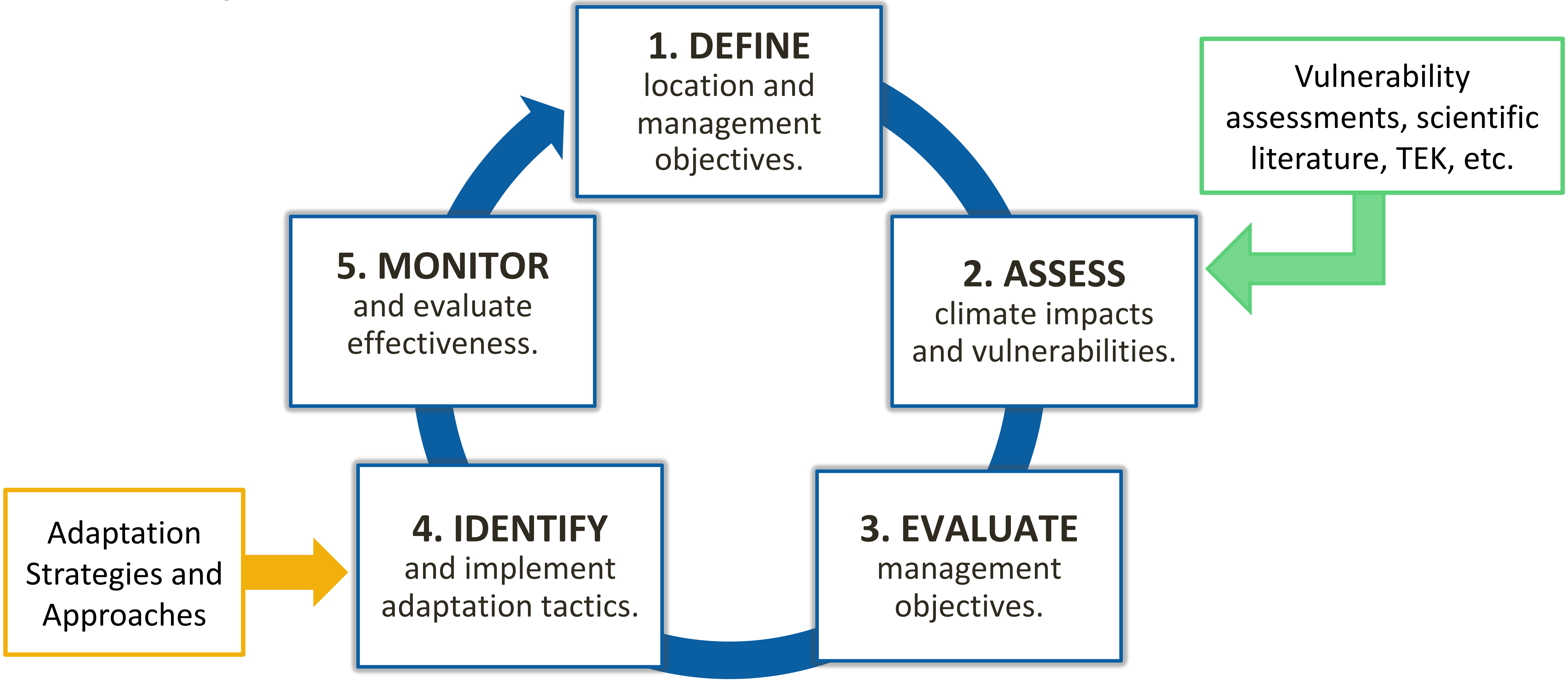
Treatment Name	Experimental Treatment Definition
RESISTANCE	Actions that improve the defenses of the forest against anticipated change or directly defend the forest against disturbance in order to maintain relatively unchanged conditions.
RESILIENCE	Actions that accommodate some degree of change, but encourage a return to a prior condition or desired reference conditions following disturbance.
TRANSITION	Actions that intentionally accommodate change and enable ecosystems to adaptively respond to changing and new conditions.
NO ACTION	Since climate change impacts all forests globally, we cannot maintain a true "control". With this in mind, we consider an approach in which forests are allowed to respond to climate change in the absence of direct silvicultural intervention as an appropriate baseline for many questions.

Experimental Treatment Goals

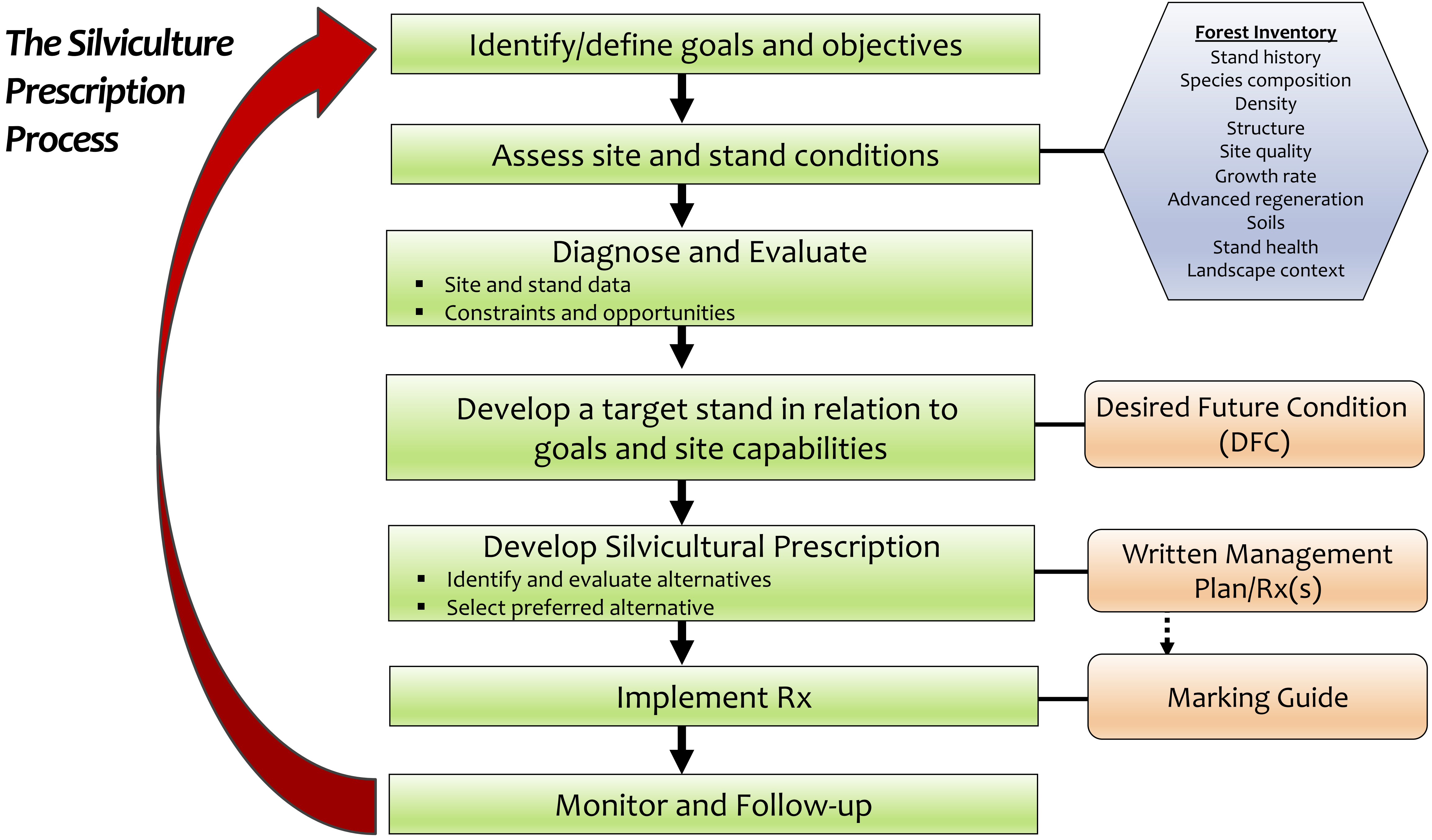
Treatment Name	Experimental Treatment Goals
RESISTANCE	Maintain relatively unchanged conditions over time
RESILIENCE	Allow some change in current conditions, but encourage an eventual return to reference conditions
TRANSITION	Actively facilitate change to encourage adaptive responses
NO ACTION	Allow forests to respond to climate change without direct management intervention

Identifying Adaptation Tactics

Forest Adaptation Resources: Climate Change Tools & Approaches for Land Managers



Swanston et al. 2016 https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/52760; Janowiak et al. 2014


The Silviculture Prescription Process
Identify/define goals and objectives
Assess site and stand conditions
Forest Inventory
Stand history
Species composition
Density
Structure
Site quality
Growth rate
Advanced regeneration
Soils
Stand health
Landscape context
Diagnose and Evaluate
Site and stand data
Constraints and opportunities
Develop a target stand in relation to goals and site capabilities
Desired Future Condition (DFC)
Develop Silvicultural Prescription
Identify and evaluate alternatives
Select preferred alternative
Written Management Plan/Rx(s)
Implement Rx
Marking Guide
Monitor and Follow-up

Key Definitions (SAF Dictionary of Forestry, 2018)

- **Goal** = A broad, general statement, usually not quantifiable, that describes the desired outcomes of each adaptation treatment (*resistance, resilience, transition, no action*).
  - *note* – normally, a management ***goal*** is stated in terms of purpose, often not attainable in the short term, and provides the context for more specific ***objectives***
- **Objective** = A concise, time-specific statement of measurable planned results that correspond to pre-established ***goals*** in achieving a desired outcome
  - *note* – an ***objective*** commonly includes information on resources to be used, forms the basis for further planning to define the precise steps to be taken and the resources to be used and assigned responsibly in achieving the identified ***goals***

Key Definitions (SAF Dictionary of Forestry, 2018)

- **Desired Future Condition (DFC)** = a description of the land or resource conditions that are believed necessary to fully meet the ***goals*** and ***objectives*** of each adaptation treatment
- **Prescription** = a set of management ***practices*** and intensities scheduled for application on a specific area to satisfy ***multiple uses*** or other ***goals*** and ***objectives***
- **Practice** = a specific activity, measure, course of action, or treatment undertaken on a forest ownership
- **Practice** = **Tactic**

Goals vs. Objectives

Goals

- The “what”
- General
- Intangible
- Broad
- Abstract
- Strategic

- Example:

Objectives

- The “how”
- Specific
- Measurable
- Narrow
- Concrete
- Tactical

- Example:

Goals vs. Objectives

Goals

- The “what”
- General
- Intangible
- Broad
- Abstract
- Strategic

- Example: Manage for resilient forests

Objectives

- The “how”
- Specific
- Measurable
- Narrow
- Concrete
- Tactical

- Example:

Goals vs. Objectives

Goals

- The "what"
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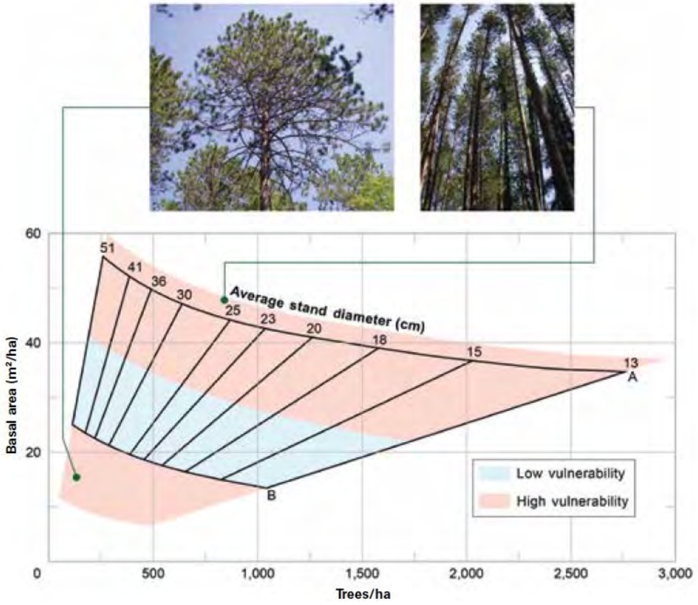
- Example: Manage for resilient forests

Objectives

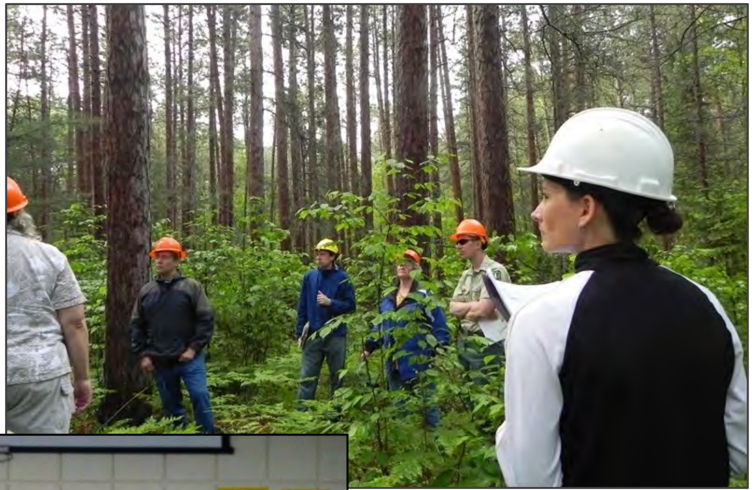


- The "how"
- Specific
- Measurable
- Narrow
- Concrete
- Tactical

- Example: Reduce stand density to reduce competition and drought stress

Developing the Experimental Treatments

For each experimental treatment (Resistance, Resilience, Transition):



DFC

↓

Management objectives

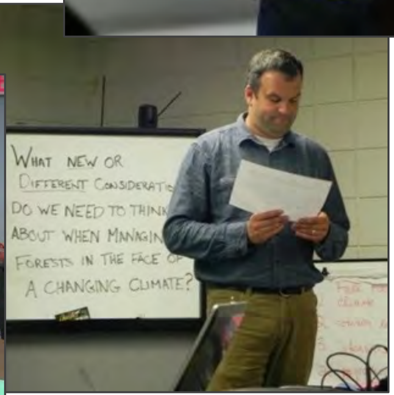
↓

Silvicultural practices (tactics)

What do you want the stand to be and look like?

Keep in mind key variables/outcomes:
- **Species composition**
- **Forest health**
- **Forest productivity**
- **Response to disturbance**

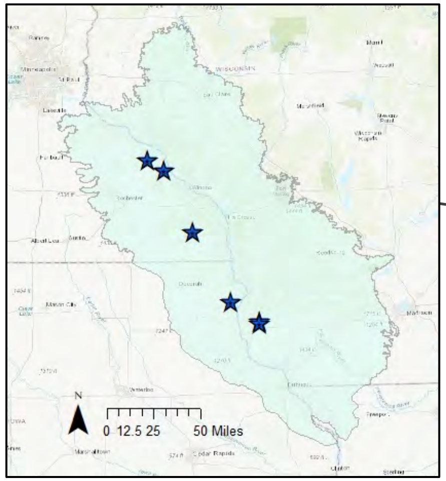
For each silvicultural practice (tactic):
- **Timeframes**
- **Benefits**
- **Drawbacks and Barriers**
- **Practicality**
- **Recommend tactic?**

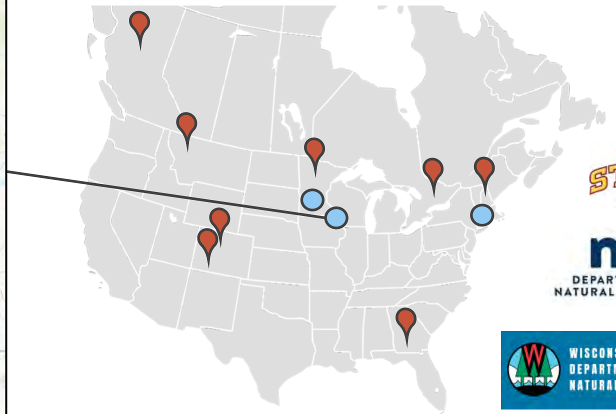


Driftless Area, IA, MN, & WI, USA

ASCC Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change

- Southern dry-mesic upland oak-hickory forests in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin
- ~110 yr even-aged stand, >85% stocked
- Dominated by northern red and white oak
- Silt loam soils
- Garlic mustard, emerald ash borer, bush honeysuckle, multi-flora rose, buckthorn, and oak wilt occur with varying density across the whole study area





<u>Site Leads:</u> Miranda Curzon (Iowa State University);
Iowa DNR: Bruce Blair, Jeff Goerndt
Wisconsin DNR: Brad Hutnik and Greg Edge
Minnesota DNR: Mike Reinikainen and Paul Dubuque

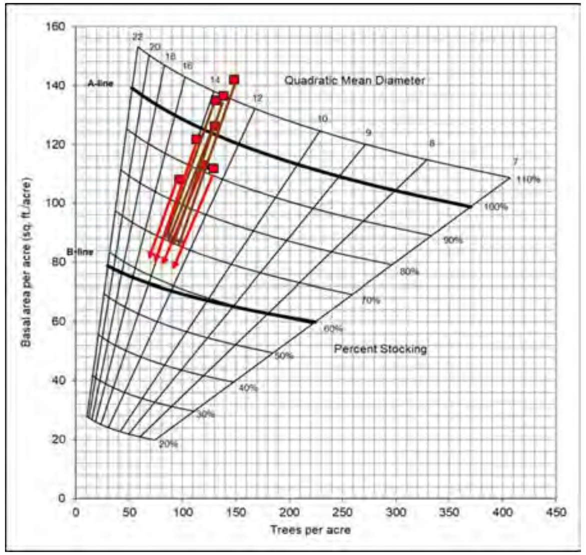
Climate Concerns:

- warming temperatures, particularly in the winter
- more frequent heavy precipitation events
- increased drought stress

ASCC Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change

Driftless Area, IA, MN, & WI, USA

RESISTANCE Maintain relatively unchanged conditions over time

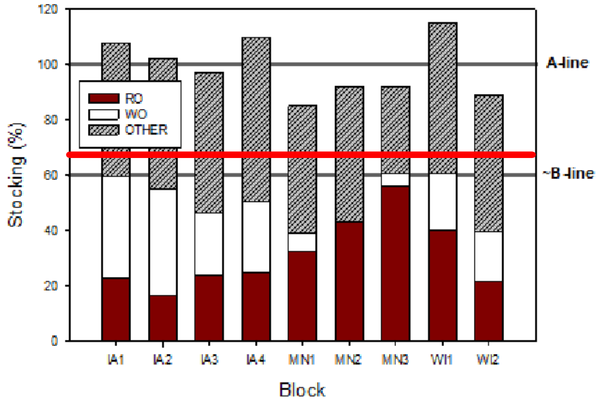


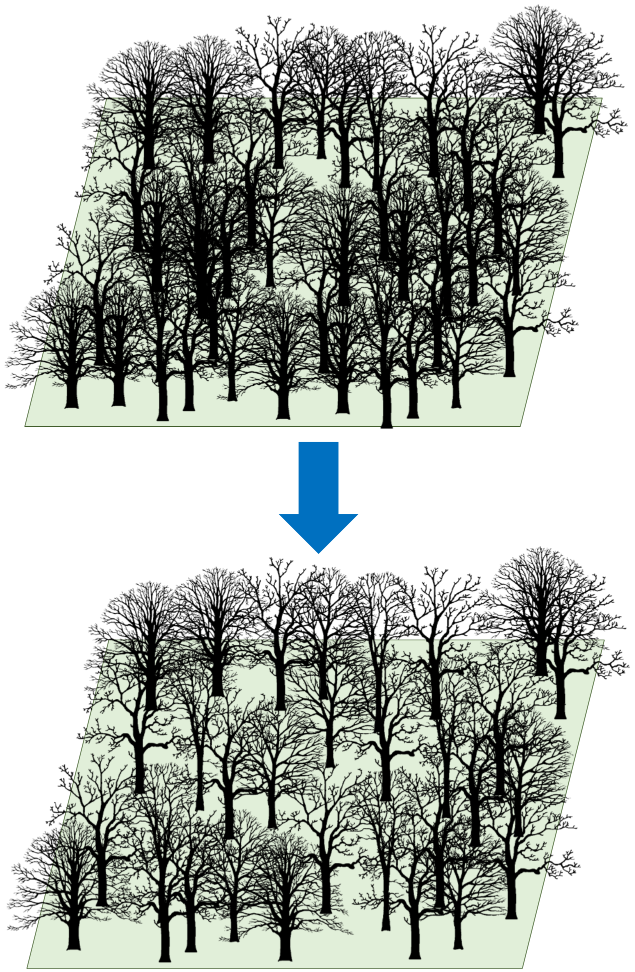
DFC/Goal (near-term)

- Northern red oak and white oak > 50% BA
- Stocking maintained around 70%
- Native and sparse midstory (sugar maple, basswood), potential for future natural regeneration

Tactics

- Invasive shrub treatment and midstory removal.
- Free thinning to just above B-line (70% stocking)
    - Prioritize species as follows:
      1) white oak
      2) other oak species (mostly northern red)
      3) black walnut
- Repeat thinning in future years to maintain full stocking around 65-70%





Driftless Area, IA, MN, & WI, USA

ASCC
Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change

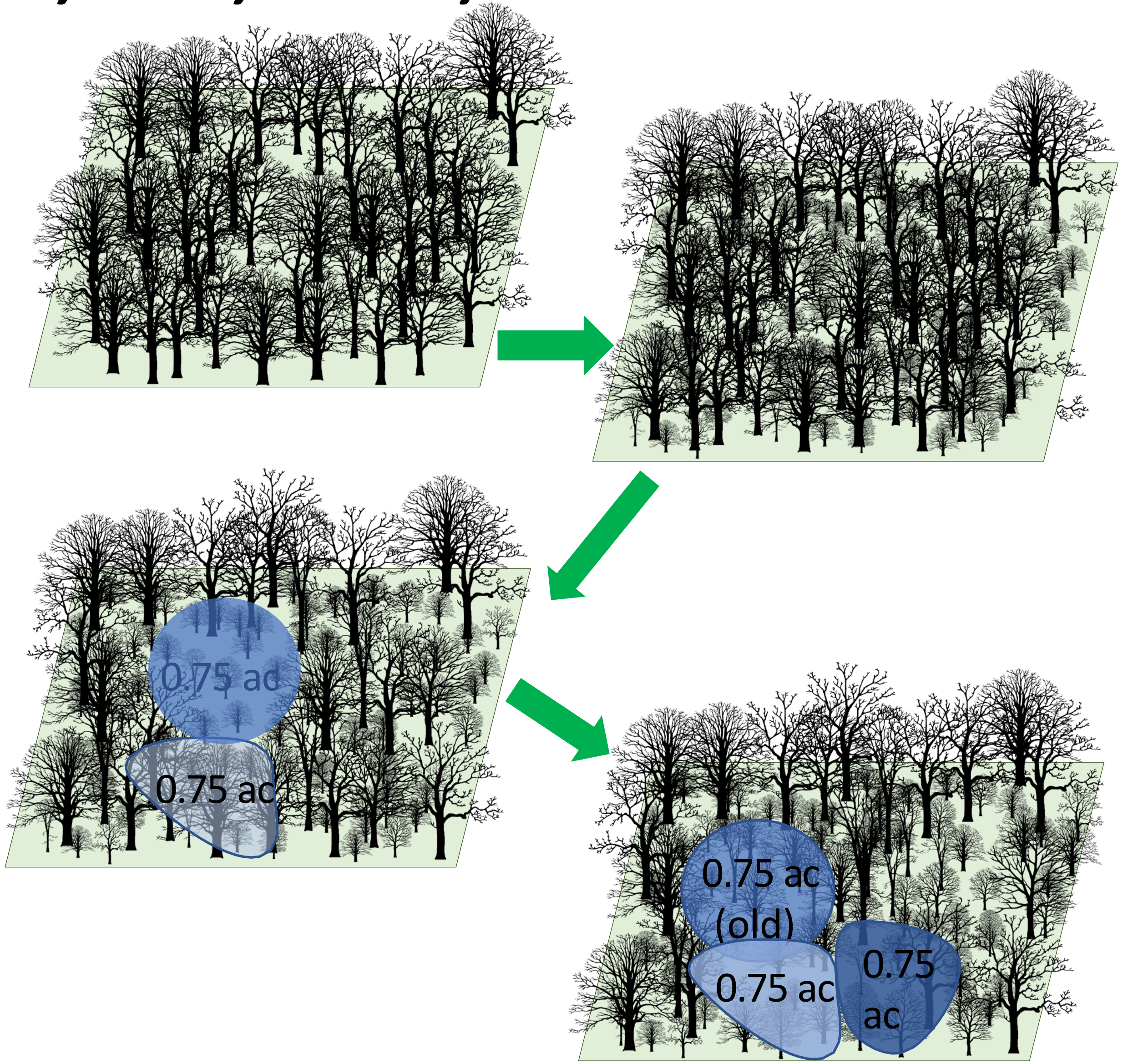
Resilience Allow some change in current conditions, but encourage an eventual return to reference conditions

<u>DFC/Goal</u>

- Two-cohort (ultimately multi-cohort) stand with greater stand-scale species, genetic, and structural diversity than current (2021) conditions
- Composition should include mast-producers that are drought, fire, frost, disease, and wind tolerant

<u>Tactics:</u> VDT/continuous cover irregular shelterwood

- Invasive shrub treatment and midstory removal
- Prescribed fire or other site prep
- Underplant intermediate, fire-adapted species (ideally 2+ year stock)
- Establishment cutting: Create four 0.75-acre openings
- Plant additional seedlings, including shade intolerants
- Remove overstory (with retention) in patches where overstory cover was reduced to 40- 50% in initial harvest entry. Create new gaps to release advance regeneration.



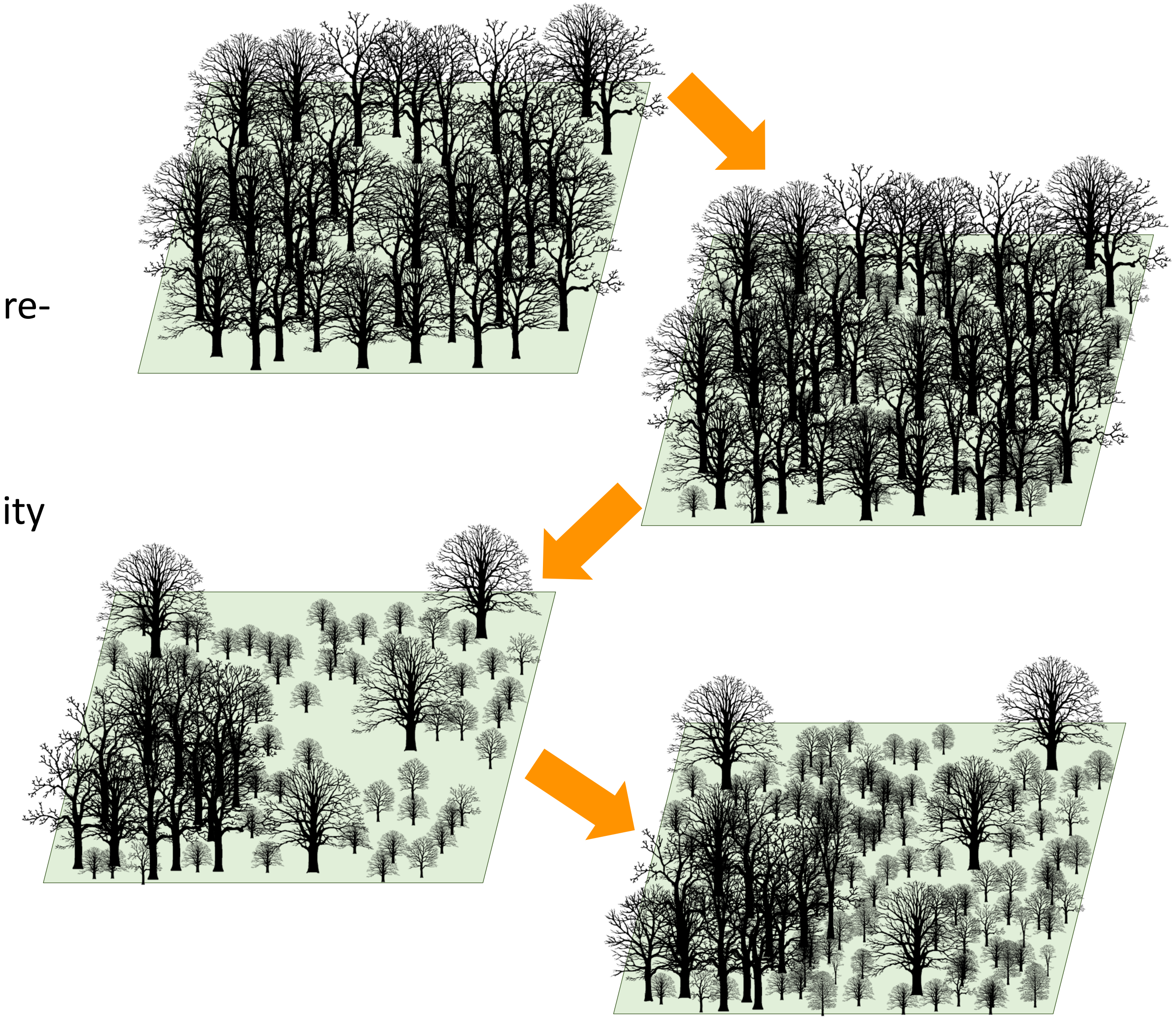
ASCC
Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change

Driftless Area, IA, MN, & WI, USA

Transition Actively facilitate change to encourage adaptive responses

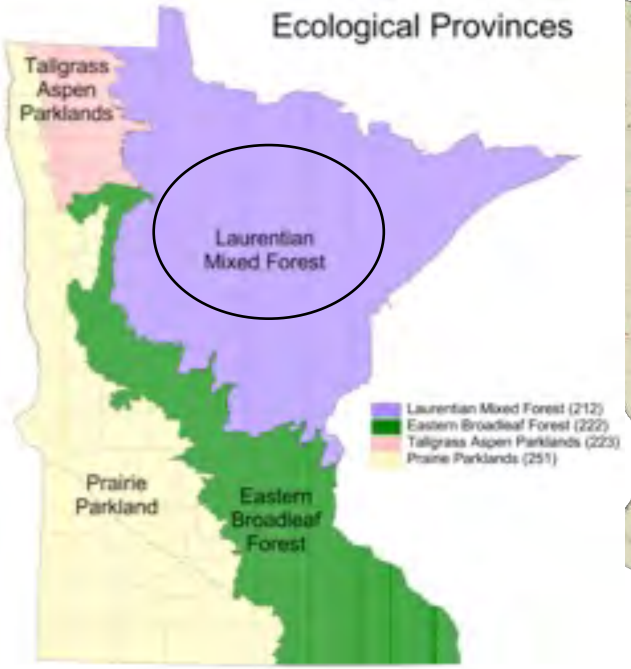
DFC/Goal
- Two-cohort (ultimately multi-cohort) stand with future-adapted species that are projected to have future habitat suitability in the Driftless Area
- Tree species should have greater drought tolerance, heat tolerance, disease resistance, and fire adaptability than other treatments
- Invasive species absent or minimal

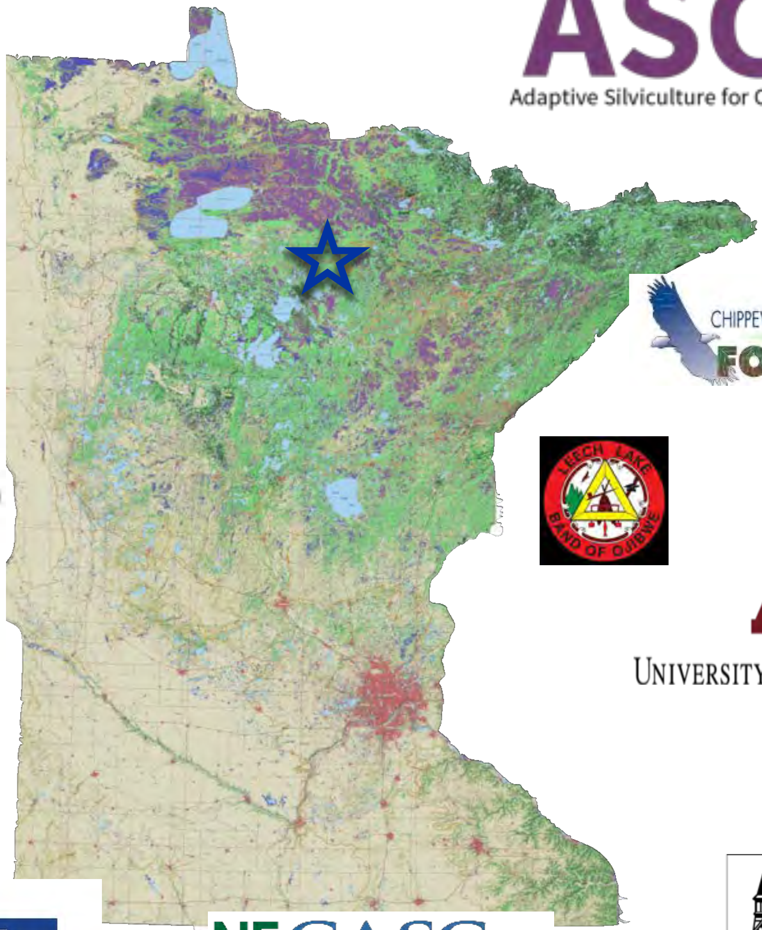
Tactics
- Invasive shrub treatment and midstory removal
- Site prep
- Underplant with future-adapted species
- Clearcut with reserves (VRH)
    - Retain 20% overstory (2 acres in each 10 acre stand) in clumps (0.25-0.5 acre)
- Plant future-adapted species



Red Pine ASCC

- Chippewa National Forest, MN
- Cutfoot Experimental Forest
- Workshop: June 25-27, 2013
- Follow-up@Climate Change Summit
- First ASCC site implemented (2014)





ASCC
Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change

CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST

USDA Forest Service
Northern Research Station

University of Minnesota

The University of Vermont

NE CASC Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center

FOREST AND RANGELAND STEWARDSHIP
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

USGS
science for a changing world

NIACS
Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Forestry and Natural Resources

Laurentian-Acadian Northern Pine/Oak Woodlands

-1.4 million ha pre-European settlement

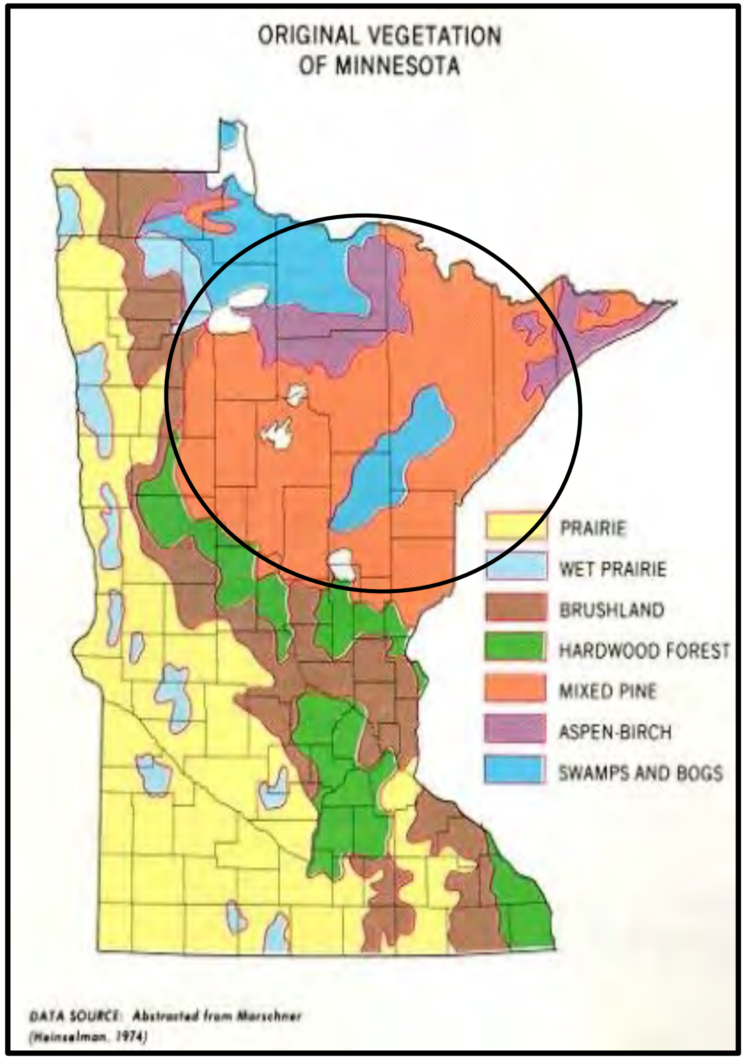
-**Mixed-species:** *red pine, eastern white pine, balsam fir, white spruce, jack pine, trembling and bigtooth aspens, red maple, northern red oak, bur oak, paper birch*

-Northern Dry-Mesic Mixed Woodland (FDn33a)

-Fire dependent (mixed-severity fire regime)

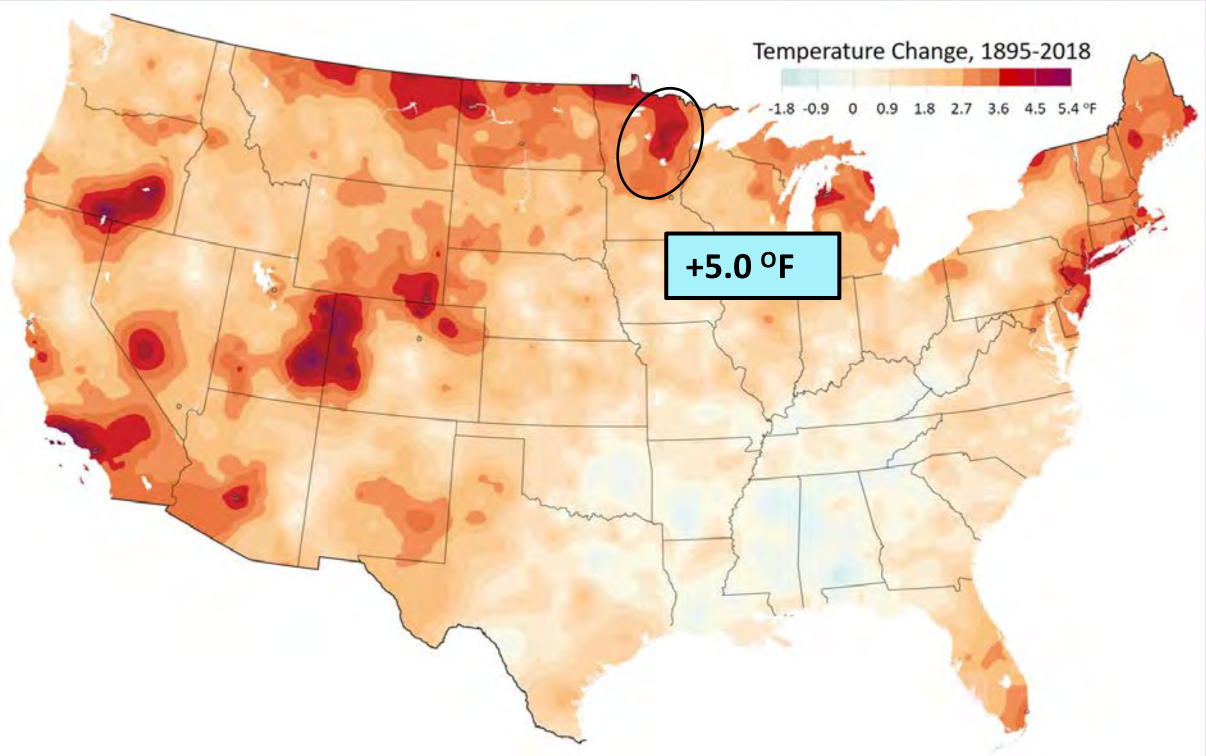
-Variably open tree canopy

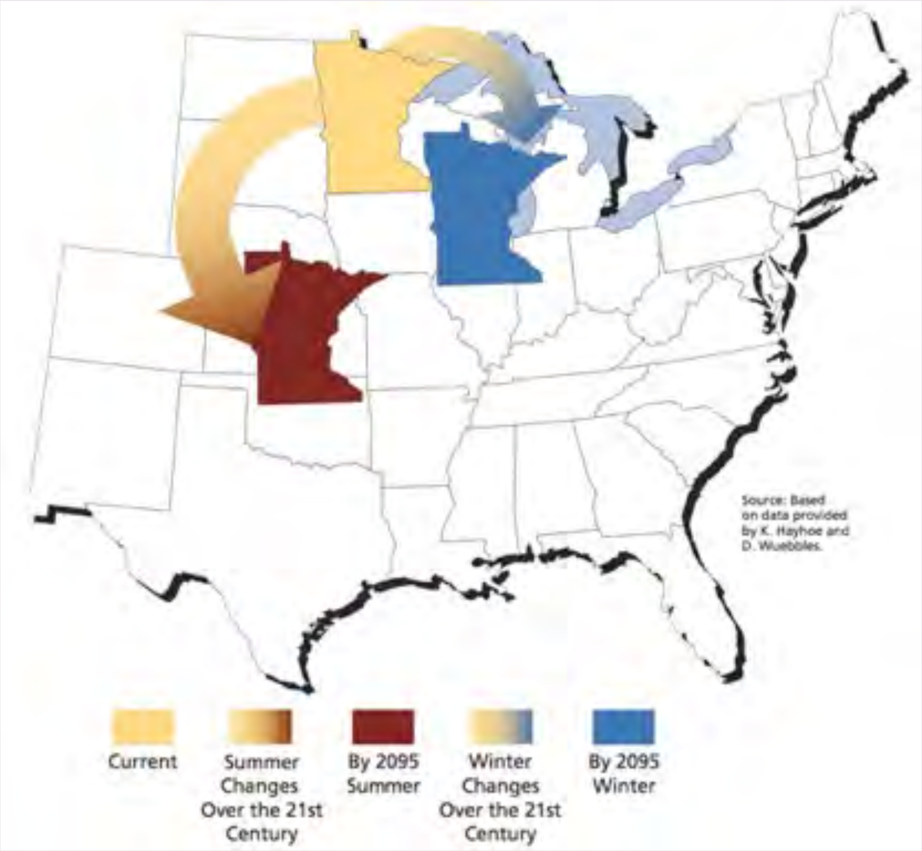
-Occupy sandy, drought prone soils



Climate Change

- Increased growing season drought
- Warmer, wetter winters
- Increased threat from new pests (e.g., mountain pine beetle)

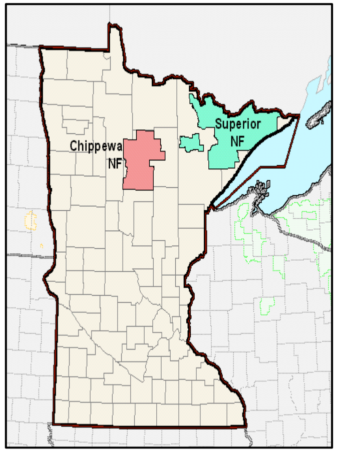


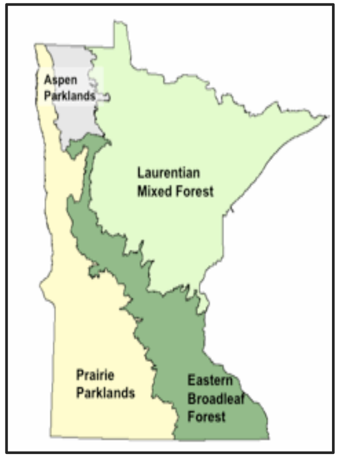


http://www.ucsusa.org/greatlakes/glchallengereport.html

Changes in habitat suitability for most northern tree species

Chippewa NF – Tree Atlas Version 4





Change in Habitat Suitability

Species	RCP45	RCP85
Quaking aspen	Sm Dec	Sm Dec
Balsam fir	Sm Dec	NC
Black spruce	Sm Dec	Sm Dec
Paper birch	NC	NC
Jack pine	Sm Dec	NC
Bigtooth aspen	Sm Inc	NC
White spruce	NC	Sm Inc
Red pine*	**Sm Dec**	**Sm Dec**
Northern red oak	Lg Inc	Lg Inc

Potential for increasing issues from insects and diseases; Red pine growth is very sensitive to drought

Change in Habitat Suitability

Species	RCP45	RCP85
Bur oak	**Lg Inc**	**Lg Inc**
Red maple	**Lg Inc**	**Lg Inc**
Eastern white pine	**Lg Inc**	**Lg Inc**
White oak	**Lg Inc**	**Lg Inc**
Black cherry	**Lg Inc**	**Lg Inc**
Bitternut hickory	**New**	**New**

Red Pine-ASCC

Red Pine-ASCC

- **Strongly red pine dominated**
- **Dense understory of *Corylus* (hazel)**
- **Average basal area 41 m^2/ha (180 ft^2/ac) (*over-stocked*)**
- **Fire-origin 1918; fire exclusion since**
- **Largely single cohort (historically multi-cohort)**
- **Vulnerable to environmental and climatic changes and associated forest health issues**

Red Pine-ASCC

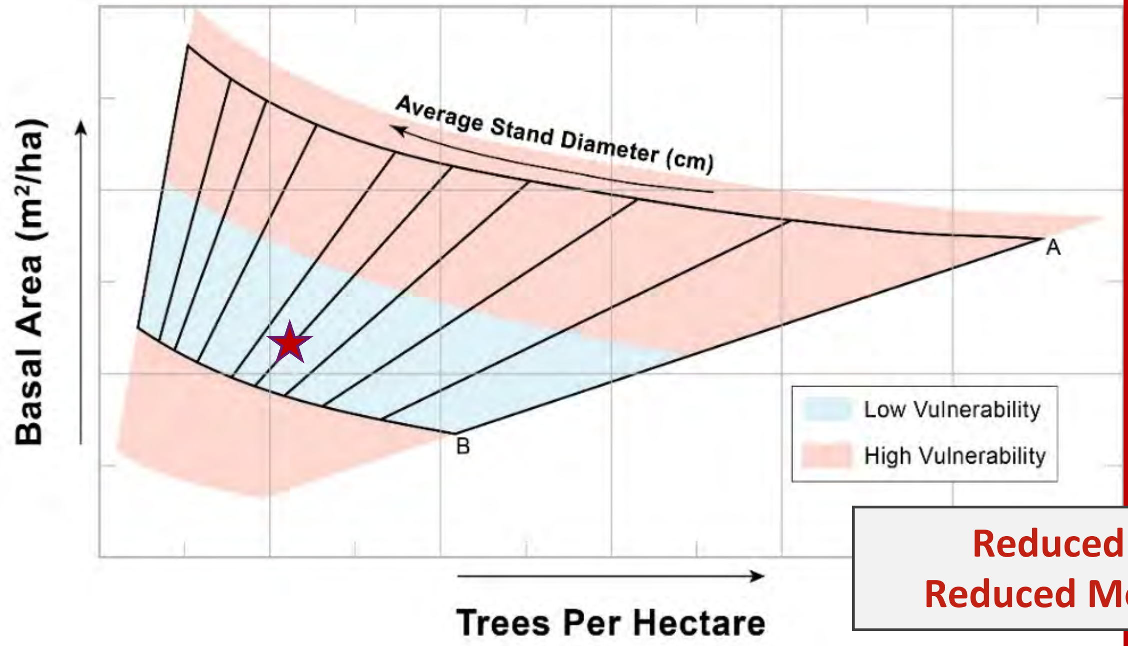
RESISTANCE maintain relatively unchanged composition

DFC/Goal (near-term)

- Maintain RP dominance (90% BA)
- Reduced stocking closer to historical condition

Tactics

- Free thin to 100-120 ft²/ac (closer to B-line)
- Harvest RP largely
- Reserve large-diameter trees



**Reduced Stocking =
Reduced Moisture Stress**

Red Pine-ASCC

RESILIENCE allow some change within range of natural variability

DFC/Goal (mid-term)

- RP dominated (50-75% BA)
- Increase heterogeneity and complexity of structure
- Increase future-adapted ***native*** species

Tactics

- Variable density thinning (skips & gaps)
  - 20% unthinned in ½ ac skips
  - 20% in ½ ac gaps, retain large diameter
  - Disperse thin matrix to 100-120 ft^2/ac
- Plant future-adapted ***native*** species in gaps

Change in Habitat Suitability

Species	RCP45	RCP85
Bur oak	Lg Inc	Lg Inc
Red maple	Lg Inc	Lg Inc
Northern red oak	Lg Inc	Lg Inc
Eastern white pine	Lg Inc	Lg Inc
Jack pine	Sm Dec	NC

Seed from next southern climate zone, except local jack pine

Eastern white pine is tolerant of a range of canopy conditions and shrub competition, is native, versatile, and future adapted

Red Pine-ASCC

TRANSITION enable ecosystems to respond to changing conditions

DFC/Goal (longer-term)

- Reduce red pine to 20-50%, multi-cohort structure
- Increase future-adapted species

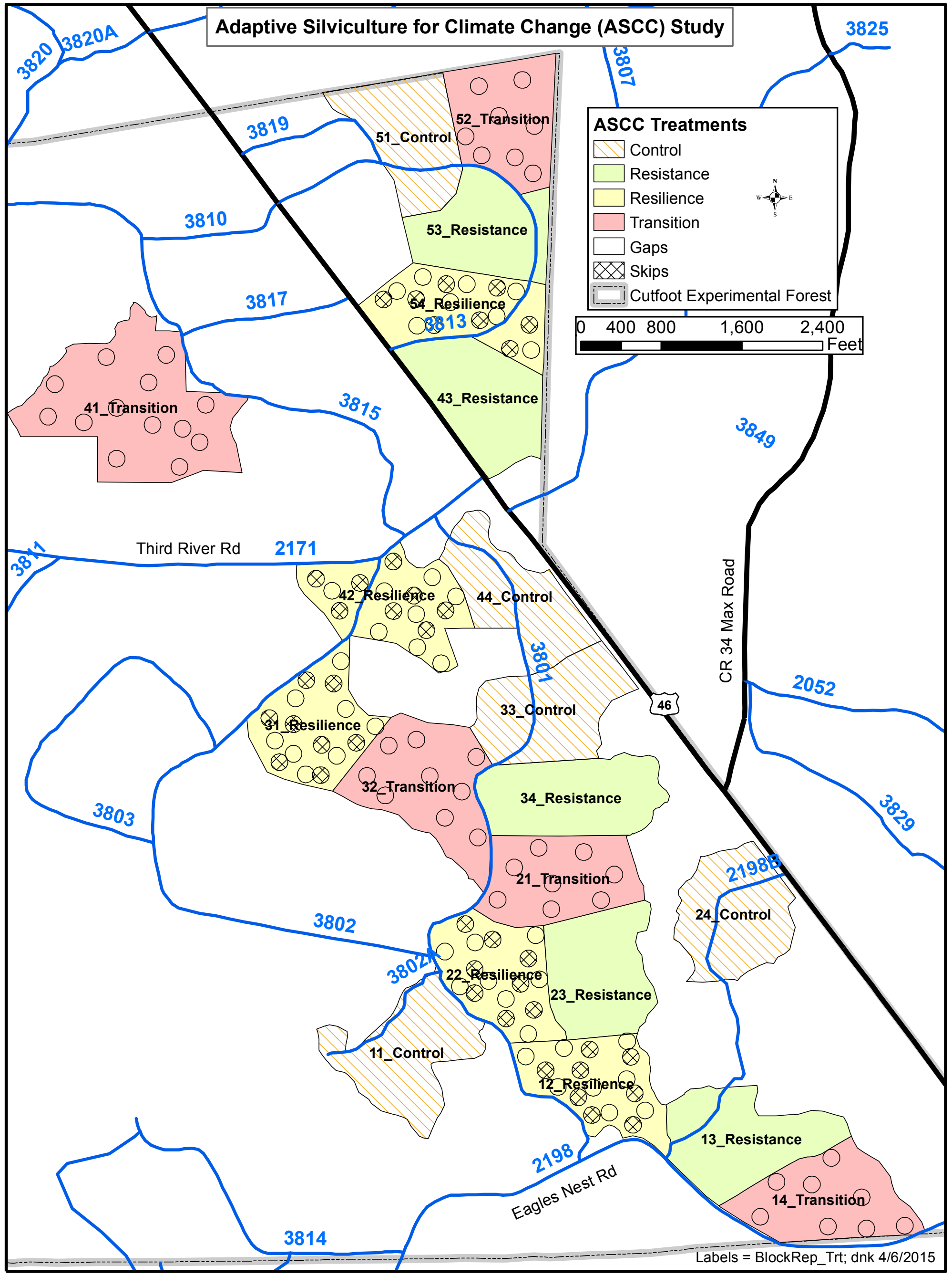
Tactics

- Expanding gap irregular shelterwood
  - 20% in ½ ac gaps, retain large diameter
  - Thin matrix to 60-80 ft^2/ac
- Regenerate/plant future-adapted species in gaps *and* matrix (***native*** and ***novel*** species)

Species	RCP45	RCP85
Bur oak	Lg Inc	Lg Inc
Red maple	Lg Inc	Lg Inc
Eastern white pine	Lg Inc	Lg Inc
Northern red oak	Lg Inc	Lg Inc
White oak	Lg Inc	Lg Inc
Black cherry	Lg Inc	Lg Inc
Bitternut hickory	New	New
Ponderosa pine	?	?

Species choices based on Tree Atlas modeling and expert experience

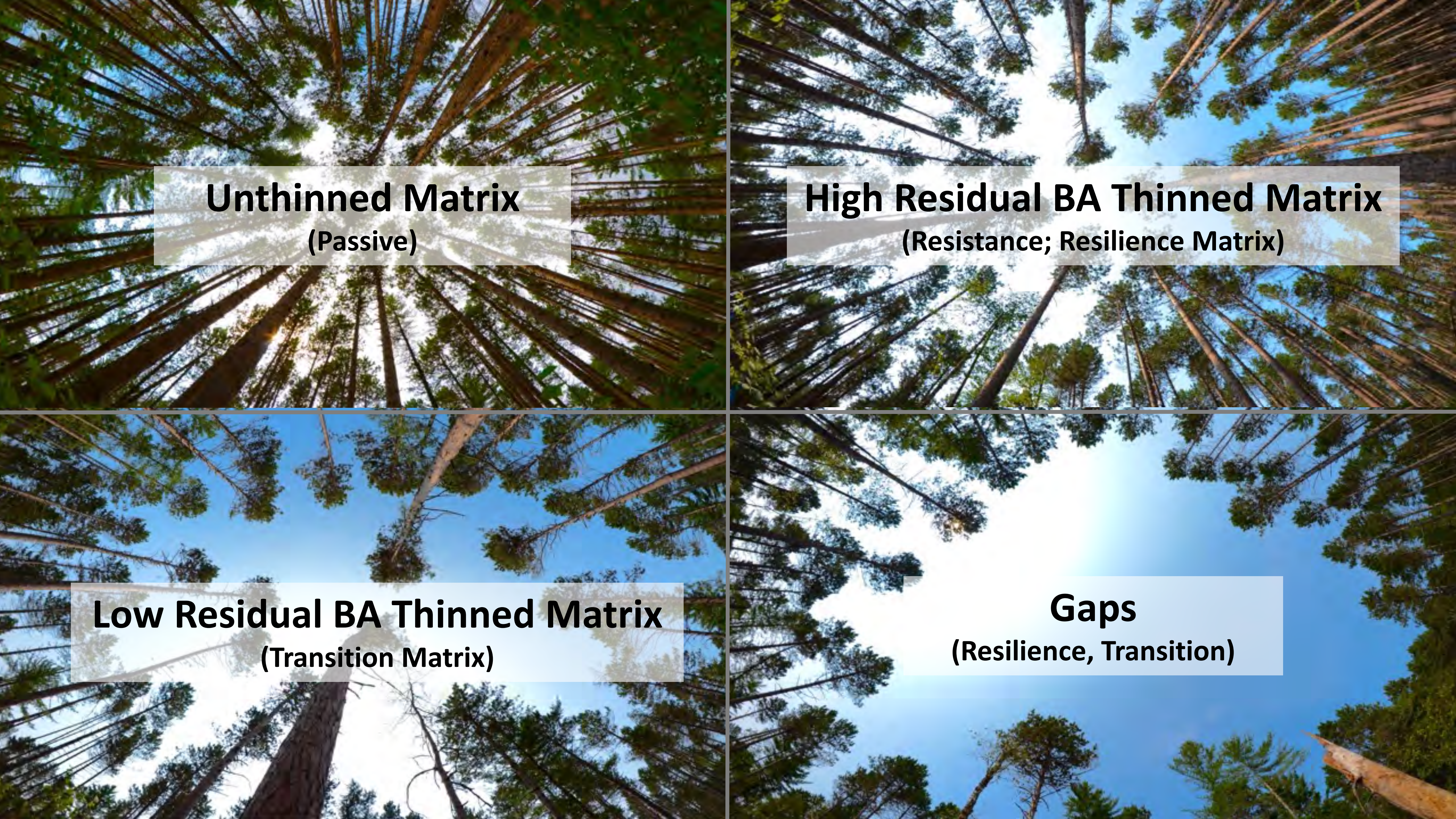
Red Pine-ASCC



Red Pine ASCC Layout

- -4 Treatments (~10 ha each): R,R,T, Passive
- -5 blocks
- -170 vegetation plots
  - Passive / Resistance 7 plots (per rep)
  - Resilience (per rep)
    - 3 in gaps
    - 3 in skips
    - 5 in matrix
  - Transition (per rep)
    - 3 in gaps
    - 6 in matrix

- -Site preparation in resilience gaps and entire transition treatment
- -Artificial regeneration (275,000 seedlings in resilience and transition)
- -Herbivore protection on pines
- -Mechanical competition control

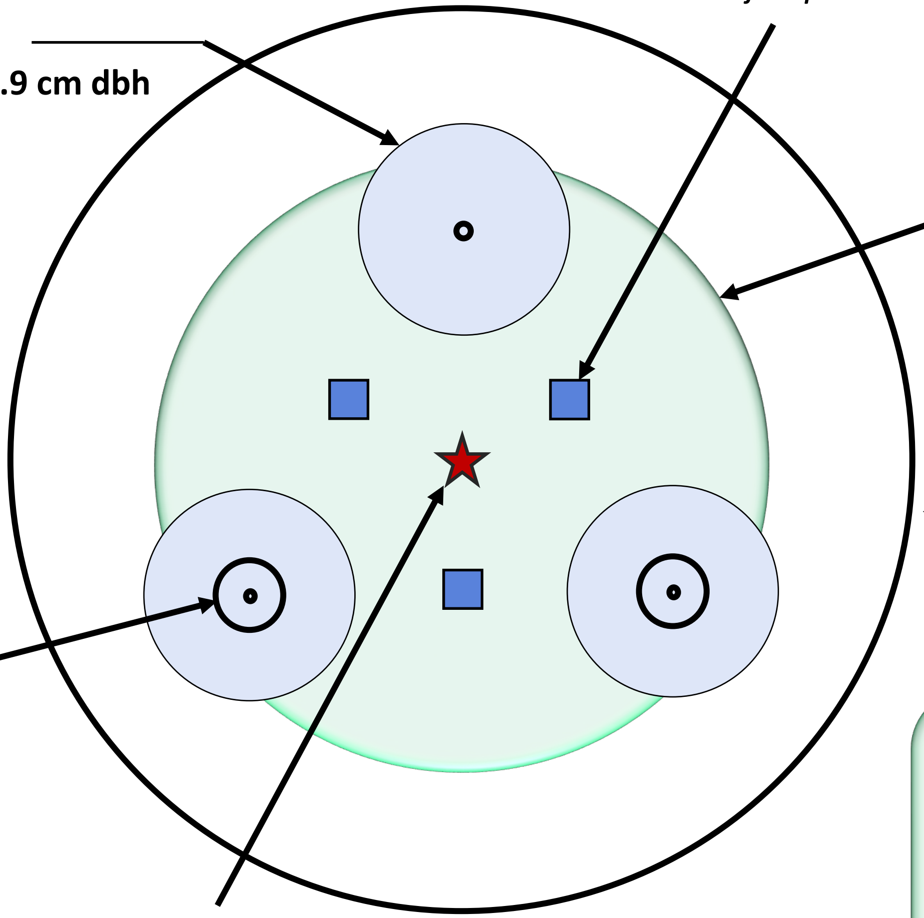

Unthinned Matrix
(Passive)
High Residual BA Thinned Matrix
(Resistance; Resilience Matrix)
Low Residual BA Thinned Matrix
(Transition Matrix)
Gaps
(Resilience, Transition)

ASCC Plot Design

Small Tree Plot (Adv Regen) (3)
0.004 ha (1/100th ac)
Radius 3.59 m (11.8 ft)
Measuring ≥ 30cm tall to ≤ 8.9 cm dbh
(≥ 1 ft tall to ≤ 3.5 in dbh)
***8m from plot center at 0, 120 and 240°**

Ground Layer Plot (3)
1 m^2
Measuring herbaceous and woody spp
< 30 cm (1 ft) tall
***4m from plot center at 60, 180, and 300°**

Sapling Sub-Plot
0.04 ha (1/10th ac)
Radius 11.34 m / 37.2 ft
Measuring 8.9 to 12.6 cm dbh
(3.5 to 7.4 in dbh)



Annular Plot
0.08 ha (1/5th ac)
Radius 16.1 m / 52.7 ft
Measuring ≥ 12.7 cm / 7.5 in dbh
***Species, Ht, DBH, snags + decay class, forest health metrics**

Shrub Plot (2)
5 m^2
Radius 1.26 m (4.13 ft)
Tally by species

LAI and Photos
Microclimate stations on sub-set of plots

Key Response Variables Monitored Across All Sites (Overstory and Understory):

- Species composition, density, diversity, etc.
- Forest health (mortality, local indices)
- Productivity (increment, biomass)

What Are We Studying?

Planted tree regeneration

University of Minnesota, Colorado State University

Jacob Muller, Linda Nagel, Lucia Fitz Vargas

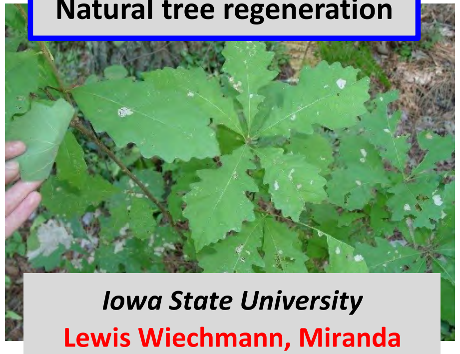
Small mammals

USGS NECSAC

Toni Lyn Morelli, Alexej Siren

Jamie Mosel

Natural tree regeneration



Iowa State University

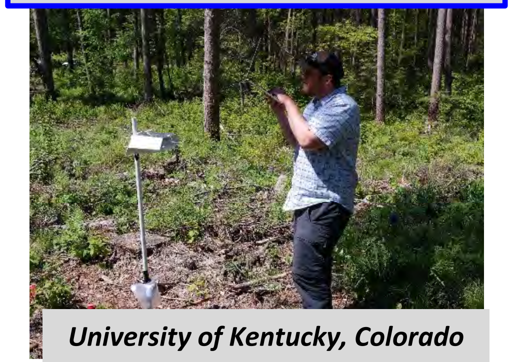
Lewis Wiechmann, Miranda Curzon

Blueberry response

University of Minnesota

Sara de Sobrino, Jamie Mosel, Rebecca Montgomery

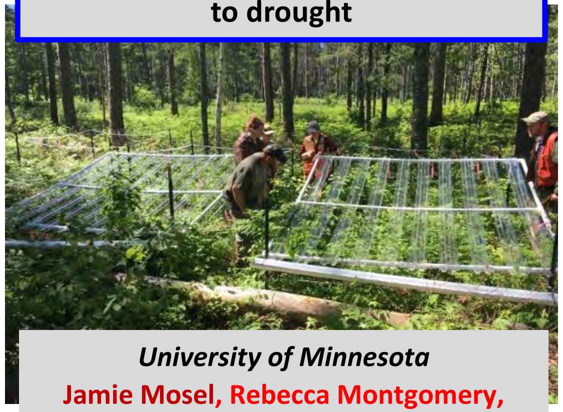
Microclimate



University of Kentucky, Colorado State University

Jacob Muller, Linda Nagel

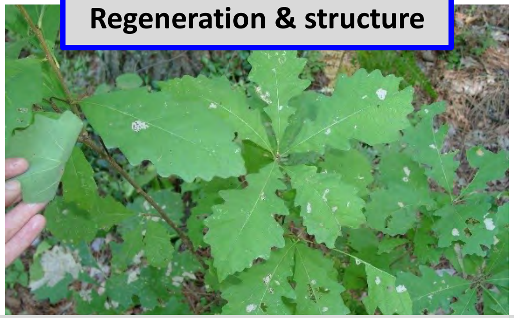
Physiological responses of seedlings to drought



University of Minnesota

Jamie Mosel, Rebecca Montgomery, Matt Russel

Regeneration & structure

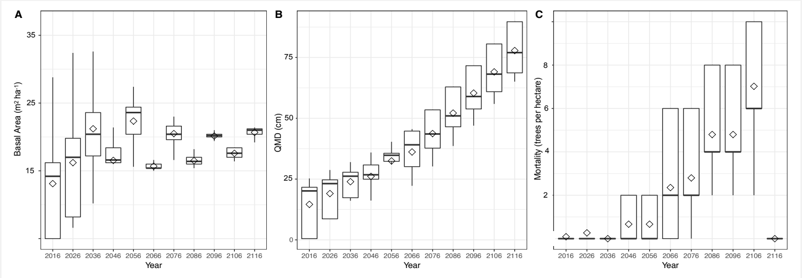


University of Vermont

Tony D'Amato

Bird responses to forest structure

FVS modeling



University of Kentucky, Colorado State University

Jacob Muller, Linda Nagel

Ojibwe Interpretation

University of Minnesota, Leech Lake Tribal College

Jamie Mosel, Rebecca Montgomery

Also:

Ground layer plant communities, Forest productivity

Developing the Experimental Treatments

For each experimental treatment (Resistance, Resilience, Transition):

DFC

↓

Management objectives

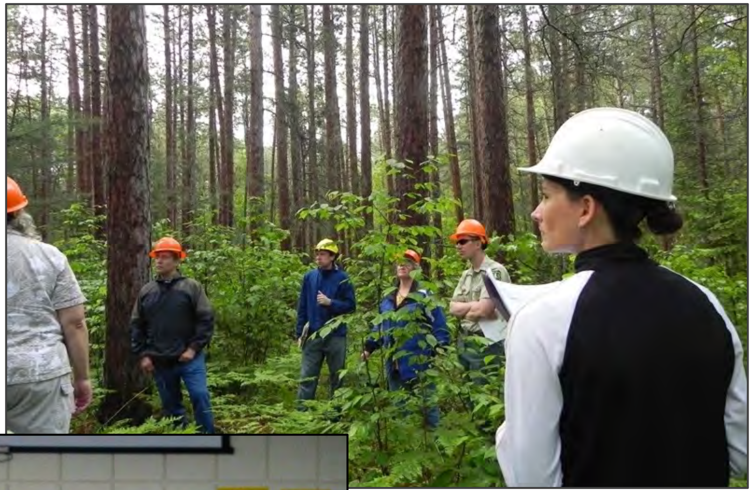
↓

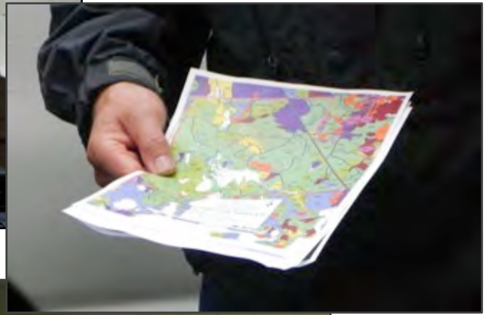
Silvicultural practices (tactics)

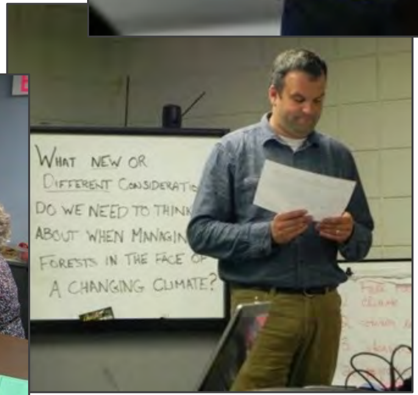
What do you want the stand to be and look like?

Keep in mind key variables/outcomes:
- **Species composition**
- **Forest health**
- **Forest productivity**
- **Response to disturbance**

For each silvicultural practice (tactic):
- **Timeframes**
- **Benefits**
- **Drawbacks and Barriers**
- **Practicality**
- **Recommend tactic?**







Workshop Guidelines

- Focus on what matters
- Contribute your thinking and experience
- Listen to understand
- Connect ideas
- Listen together for patterns, insights and deeper questions
- Honor everyone’s time
- Equal airtime - all participate, no one dominate
- Be present - mentally and physically

Breakout Groups

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Steve Matthews - Facilitator	Jacob Muller - Facilitator	Courtney Peterson - Facilitator
Bryce Adams	Todd Hutchinson	Alejandro Royo
Gregory Guess	Courtney Cawood/Stephen Rist	Jared Craig
Dave Apsley	Leslie Horner	Tara Keyser
Lisa Kluesner	Bill Borovicka	Chad Fitton
Rebecca Snell	Melissa Thomas-Van Gundy	Timothy Nuttle
George		Laura Kearns

Designing Forest Adaptation Treatments Across the Ohio Hills Through Manager-Scientist Partnerships

ASCC
Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change

Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change (ASCC)
Ohio Hills Workshop

May 24, 25, & 26, 2022

FOREST AND RANGELAND STEWARDSHIP
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

NIACS
Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science

ASCC
Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change

FOREST SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Division of Forestry
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

The Ohio State University

Workshop Agenda – Day 3, Thursday, May 26

- **8:30** Recap of Previous Two Days
- **8:45** Review Draft Silvicultural Treatments
- **10:15** Break
- **10:30** Next Steps, Evaluations, & Close-Out
  - What research or management questions are you excited about based on the ASCC treatments?
- **11:30** Large Group Adjourn
- **11:30** (*ASCC Site Leads*) Identify key implementation and monitoring next steps

https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/cerulean-warbler

What research or management questions are you excited to ask based on the ASCC treatments?

Thank you for your participation! We appreciate your feedback!

ASCC Data Collection and Implementation Timeline

Photo Credit: Tony D’Amato

Guiding Principles

- ASCC is a multi-site project
- ASCC's primary experimental objectives and core study questions apply to every site
  - Some level of standardization is required for basic sampling
- Additional, system-specific or regionally-specific experimental objectives and questions are encouraged at individual sites
  - Some relevant data may be collected to address primary experimental objectives
  - Additional data may be needed to answer secondary questions
- The core study design has some flexibility, but general principles should be maintained across all sites

Core Management Questions

Concept-Driven

- Will adaptation approaches and treatments work in a real-world context to **meet local management goals** and objectives?
- How **feasible** are the treatments silviculturally, as well as in terms of financial, social, or other management constraints?
- How does our **idea of desired future conditions** (DFCs) **change with each treatment type**?
- What does it mean to deliberately create a future-adapted ecosystem, and **why would a manager choose to do this**?
- **What tradeoffs exist** between achievement of adaptation objectives and other common objectives for a given region and ecosystem type?

Nagel et al. 2017

Core Scientific Questions

Hypothesis-Driven

- Do the treatments create significant changes to forest conditions over time at a particular site, and **how do treatments compare across sites**?
- How do hypothesized treatment responses (DFCs) compare with actual **responses observed in the future**?
- Do these treatments achieve what they were designed for?
- What **criteria** emerge to enable managers to identify which treatments perform best?
- Does one type of treatment (resistance, resilience, transition, or no action) consistently **perform better across all sites**?

Nagel et al. 2017

KEY MONITORING VARIABLES ACROSS THE NETWORK

Key Response Variables to be collected at each ASCC site

	Species Composition	Forest Health	Productivity
Overstory	Species richness Species diversity Relative density Relative dominance	Mortality Crown density Crown dieback Live crown ratio Tree damage (DSI)	Biomass increment Basal area increment
Midstory	Species richness Species diversity Relative density Relative biomass	Relative density or biomass of invasive species	Biomass increment
Ground Layer	Species richness Species diversity Percent cover by species	Percent cover of invasive species	Biomass increment

Other Suggested Variables for Monitoring:

- Leaf area index (plot center)
- Down woody debris
- Archived soil cores
- Forest floor samples
- Wildlife

Photo Credit: Chris Woodall

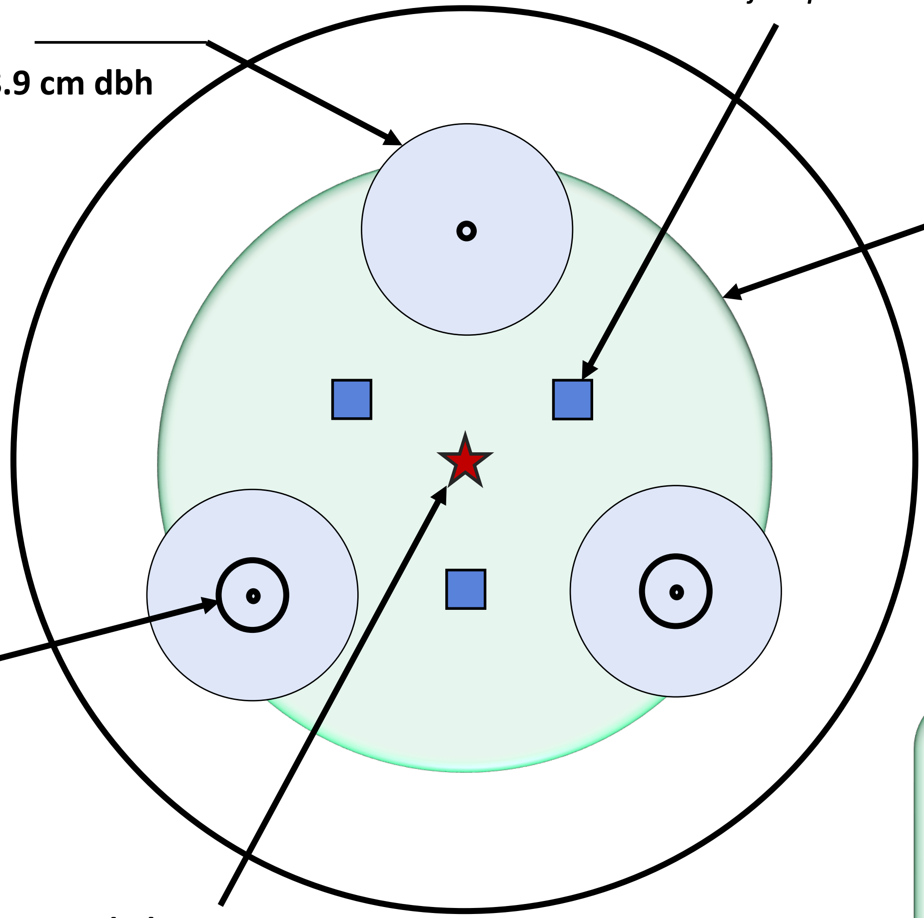
ASCC Plot Design

Ground Layer Plot (3)
1 m²
Measuring herbaceous and woody spp
< 30 cm (1 ft) tall
4m from plot center at 60, 180, and 300°

Small Tree Plot (Adv Regen) (3)
0.004 ha (1/100th ac)
Radius 3.59 m (11.8 ft)
Measuring ≥ 30cm tall to ≤ 8.9 cm dbh
(≥ 1 ft tall to ≤ 3.5 in dbh)
8m from plot center at 0, 120 and 240°

Class I	1 – 4.5 ft in ht
Class II	> 4.5 ft ht – 0.5 in DBH
Class III	0.6 – 1.5 in DBH
Class IV	1.6 – 2.5 in DBH
Class V	2.6 – 3.5 in DBH

Mid-Tree Plot (Sapling) (1)
0.04 ha (1/10th ac)
Radius 11.34 m / 37.2 ft
Measuring 8.9 to 12.6 cm dbh
(3.5 to 7.4 in dbh)



Annular Plot (1)
0.08 ha (1/5th ac)
Radius 16.1 m / 52.7 ft
Measuring ≥ 12.7 cm / 7.5 in dbh
Species, Ht, DBH, snags + decay class, forest health metrics

Shrub Plot (2)
5 m²
Radius 1.26 m (4.13 ft)
Tally by species

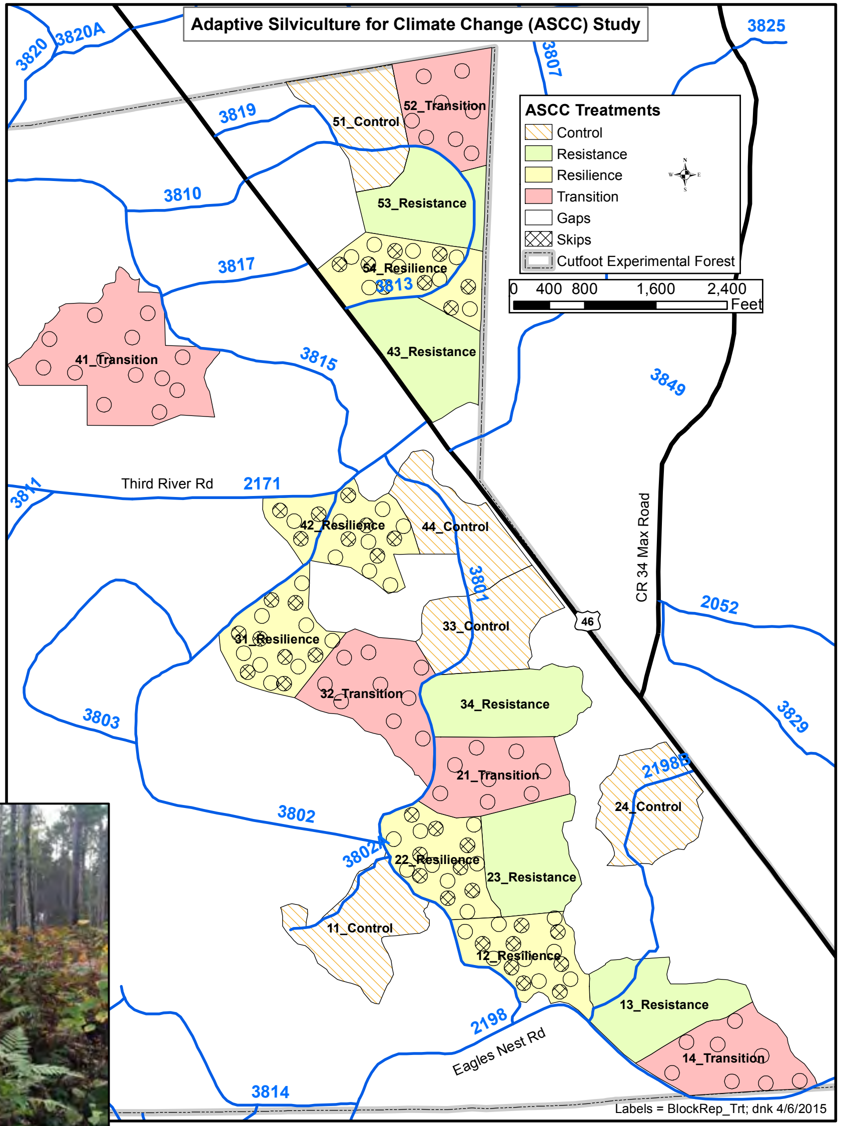
LAI and Photos

Key Response Variables Monitored Across All Sites (Overstory and Understory):

- Species composition, density, diversity, etc.
- Forest health (mortality, local indices)
- Productivity (increment, biomass)

Cutfoot Experimental Forest, MN

- 4 treatments
  - ~10 ha each, 202 ha total (500 ac)
- 5 replicated blocks
- 170 vegetation plots
  - No Action and Resistance: 7 each
  - Resilience: 3 gaps, 3 skips, 5 matrix
  - Transition: 3 gaps, 6 matrix
- 40 microclimate plots
- 4 predominant overstory conditions
  - Skips, High residual BA thinned, Low residual BA thinned, Gaps
- 9 species planted (resilience gaps and throughout entire transition treatment)



Measurement Frequency

Variable	ASCC Suggestion	Group Ideas
Overstory Layer	1, 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, etc.	
Sapling Layer	1, 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, etc	
Shrub & Seedling Layers	1, 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, etc	
Ground Layer	1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, etc	
Forest Health Indicators	1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, etc	
LAI	1, 5, 10, 15, 20, etc	

Note: Times listed indicate post-treatment measurements.
A pre-treatment measurement may also be required for many variables.

ASCC Project Timeline – Key Events

Event	Timeframe
Finalize ASCC treatment details	
Is pre-treatment data needed at this stage?	
Select final treatment locations	
Assign treatments to locations	
Develop formal prescriptions	
Environmental assessments	
Order tree seedlings	
Finalize monitoring details	
Pre-treatment sampling (research focus)	
Implement silvicultural treatments (detail steps)	
Year 1 post-treatment sampling	