Climate Forestry Stewardship Planning Training for Foresters

Training Session 1 February 9, 2022



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION









WELCOME!

For today, please:

- **Turn on your webcams** (if you can).
- **Mute** yourself unless in a breakout room
- Have a question? Use the chat box!
- 'Rename' yourself: First name, Affiliation

🗢 P	articipants (2)	_		×
DS	Danielle Shann	on (Host, me)	×	
LB	Leslie Brandt			
	Mute/u	unmute yo	our line	
	Mute All	Unmute All	More 🗸	

WELCOME!

This training will be led by a team made up of staff from the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, as well as the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.





Jennifer Fish Mass DCR Service Forestry Program Director

Learn more: <u>www.forestadaptation.org/team</u> & <u>www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-conservation-recreation</u>

Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science



Climate

Carbon



Provides **practical** information, resources, and technical assistance related to forests and climate change Chartered by USDA Forest Service, universities, nonprofit and tribal conservation organizations





WHY ARE WE HERE?

 Integrate climate considerations into your forest stewardship planning work.



TRAINING OBJECTIVES

- Overview of new climate forest stewardship planning efforts
- Identify site-specific climate change impacts, challenges and opportunities, and adaptation actions
- Familiarize with climate forest stewardship plan directions and requirements
- Explore the Forester Guide as supporting tool for climate change planning
- Communicate climate change and adaptation ideas to landowners



TRAINING SCHEDULE

February 9 - Web Session 1

 Introduction to Climate Forestry Program, climate impacts on Massachusetts forests

February 16 - Web Session 2

Integrating climate adaptation into forest management

February 23 Web Session 3

 Walkthrough of climate forest stewardship plan directions and sample plan



TRAINING DETAILS

- Keep an eye out for **emails**!
- Keep track of materials, find resources on the training webpage
- Sessions will be recorded? (minus the breakout room discussions)



Who we are 🗸

Massachusetts DCR: Climate Forestry Stewardship Planning Training for Foresters





Date

Wed, 2/9/2022, 2:00pm - Wed, 2/9/2022, 3:30pm ET Wed, 2/16/2022, 2:00pm - Wed, 2/16/2022, 3:30pm ET Wed, 2/23/2022, 2:00pm - Wed, 2/23/2022, 3:30pm ET

Location

Online

Description

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), in partnership with the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS), Mass Audubon, the New England Forestry Foundation, and Mass Woodlands Institute, are hosting a three-session Climate Forestry Stewardship Planning training intended for licensed foresters interested in providing *Climate Forestry* services. The virtual training sessions will be held on **Wednesdays**, **February 9th**, **16th**, and **23rd from 2-3:30pm EST**.

Climate Forestry is a Massachusetts DCR program providing cost share assistance to landowners to hire a qualified consulting forester to conduct a climate-focused forest assessment on their land. Consulting foresters must attend this training and then conduct two assessments under the review of NIACS and DCR in order to become certified to provide this service to landowners.

TRAINING TIPS & EXPECTATIONS

Be as fully engaged as possible

- Close your email
- Mute your cell phone
- Shut your door / minimize distractions in your office or home office
- Utilize Zoom chat and annotate function





BREAKOUT INTRODUCTIONS

- Join your breakout room
- Introduce yourself!
 - Name
 - Location
 - Focal property (if selected)



WHO IS IN THE TRAINING? (AND FOCAL PROPERTIES)



- DCR Service Foresters
- Consulting Foresters
- Bay State Forestry Service
- Long View Forest
- Wigmore Forest Resources
- Shire Forestry
- Sweet Birch Consulting
- Jourdain Forestry
- New England Forestry Consultants

FORESTER GUIDE

- "Managing Forests for Climate Change in Massachusetts"
 - Attached in email and available on training webpage
 - Includes climate impacts on various forest types, example mgmt. options for adaptation & mitigation, a climate glossary, and more...
 - Incorporates NIACS' Adaptation Workbook process



STEP 1 ACTIVITY – WHAT ARE SOME LANDOWNER GOALS FOR YOUR SITE?

Management Goal

Broad, general statements, usually not quantifiable, that express a desired state or process to be achieved.

Examples from the form

- Improve hunting or fishing
- Protect water quality
- Increase forest resiliency
- Produce income from timber products, or other products and services

Landowner Goals

Please check the column that best reflects the importance of the following goals

Goal	Importance to Me		
		LOW	
Improve access for walking/skiing/recreation			
Improve hunting or fishing			
Maintain or enhance privacy			
Preserve or improve scenic beauty			
Protect special features, including those of historical or person significance			
Enhance the quality and/or quantity of forest products*			
Practice agroforestry			
Produce income from timber products, or other products and services			
Produce firewood for personal use			
Enhance habitat for birds			
Enhance aquatic habitat in streams, ponds, and other wetlands			
Enhance habitat for wildlife			
Promote diversity of plant species and habitat types			
Increase forest resiliency			
Minimize damage from forest pests			
Protect water quality			
Sequester and/or store carbon to mitigate climate change			
Suppress or eradicate invasive plants			
Lower property taxes			
Protect land from development			

QUESTIONS?



MASSACHUSETTS DCR CLIMATE FORESTRY

Mass Audubon

- Part of the Working Forest Initiative
- https://www.mass.gov/guides/climate-forestry
- Working on various climate projects for 1.5 years
 - Stewardship and climate change
 - Municipal carbon

dcr

Massachusetts

Various projects geared toward harvesters

NEW ENGLAND



Applied Climate Science

Massachusetts

Woodlands

STEWARDSHIP AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- We're all seeing some aspect
 - Winters have changed significantly
 - Freeze thaw issue
 - Summer temperatures
 - Larger rain events
- Stressors
- Anxiety about climate







STEWARDSHIP AND CLIMATE CHANGE

New programs and new policies

MASSACHUSETTS 2050 DECARBONIZATION ROADMAP



A report commissioned by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Attains to identify cost-effective and equitable strategies to ensure Massachusetts achieves net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.



Decem



For larger forestlands, projects may be able to enroll under California ARB market/registry or in voluntary market registries (e.g., ACR)

> *not exhaustive; there may be newer developers or developers for specific types of projects there are not included here

Development of the Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2025 and 2030

Agency/Office Public

Forest Carbon Works

Public Engagement

Topic

Approved under California's ARB market/registry



Independent market, registry, and developer In process of approval with VCS registry





Approved under ACR registry



More Information

Smaller forestlands

In process of approval with VCS registry

For more information and links to these developers, see www.northeastforestcarbon.org

Alexandra Kosiba

CHANCE FOR FORESTERS TO LEAD

Just like Foresters for the Birds Tweaks to management. **Climate forward** Can be active! Put you and your landowner in a good place to take advantage of climate programs and policies Understand the conversation Be able to speak about climate change on a policy level and with your landowners

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- <u>Caring for your Woods Setting Goals</u> landowner guide—the items in this goals booklet are also part of a checklist in the FSP template and include checkboxes for both climate change and carbon, which provides a potential avenue for monitoring.
- <u>Caring for your Woods Adapting to Changing</u> <u>Conditions</u> landowner guide – led by NIACS and summarizing best practices and no-regrets practices from our work; could be adapted to other states/regions
- <u>Caring for your Woods Managing for Forest</u>
 <u>Carbon</u> landowner guide also led by NIACS broadly applicable to other states/regions



Landowner Guide from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Forester Guide – Adaptation

- Managing Forests for Climate Change Adaptation in Massachusetts forester guide, that is parallel to a
 guide developed for the Forestry for the Birds program. The guide summarizes climate change
 impacts on forests in MA and provides an overview of how to integrate climate change consideration
 into developing management plans (broadly, not just FSPs) based on our Adaptation Workbook
 process.
- Design and Printing
- Forester Guide Carbon
 - In process



Managing Forests for Climate Change in Massachusetts

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Acknowledgements:

Logos: MA DCR, USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub, Forest Service, NIACS, Mass Audubon

INTRODUCTION

Forest management activities are constantly changing to accommodate new challenges, and it is becoming increasingly important that forest and land management planning intentionally consider a changing and uncertain climate. This guide is designed to assist foresters who are interested in integrating climate change information into the plans that they write and projects that they implement. The information presented here is intended to support the development of forest management and stewardship plans that address climate change impacts and identify management actions that support landowner goals in the face of changing conditions.

MANAGEMENT PLAN DIRECTIONS AND TEMPLATE

- Alison Wright-Hunter will cover in depth on the 23rd
- We've created the directions so that any format can be combined
 - stew, stew/ch61, stew/birds, stew/climate, stew/climate/birds
- We plan on having all new plan forms and directions posted on the DCR website by 19th
- If you've bookmarked the laws forms and directions page you'll need to re-bookmark it

CERTIFICATION

Similar to Foresters for the Birds
Training
Write plan with help
Write plan on own with review
Climate smart people always there to answer your questions
Follow up trainings as the landscape changes

QUESTIONS?



CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

CLIMATE CHANGE PRESENTS MANY CHALLENGES...

- Forests and ecosystems are changing and will continue to change due to a changing climate.
- We are experiencing the impacts of climate change – now!
- Climate change impacts are exacerbating underlying issues and worsening current challenges.
- One-sized-fits-all answers to these problems are insufficient.

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT & SYNTHESIS

- Series of reports for natural resource professionals
- Focus on tree species and forest ecosystems
- Examine a **range** of future climates
- Evaluate key ecosystem vulnerabilities to climate change
- Does not make recommendations or assess vulnerability to changes in mgmt., land use, policy





Reports, Summaries and StoryMaps: www.forestadaptation.org/vulnerability-assessment

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT & SYNTHESIS

- Synthesizes state/regional assessments and scientific literature
- Incorporates results from forest impact models: Climate Change Tree Atlas, LINKAGES, LANDIS
- Draw on local expertise of scientists and land managers

Seasonal Mean Temperature Change



PCM B1 GFDL A1FI





34 authors – General Technical Report – 234 pages

THIS PRESENTATION...



ALL MODELS PROJECT INCREASED TEMPERATURES



OBSERVED CHANGES IN PRECIPITATION



MODELS PROJECT SEASONAL CHANGES IN PRECIPITATION



SHORTER WINTER (LESS SNOW)

Projected decreases in snow fall, cover, and depth

- 30-70% decreases in snowfall
- Greatest loss in December/January

Area with some snow on ground for 30 days per year



Red = historic White = high emissions

Notaro et al. 2014, Figure: Frumhoff et al. 2007

SHORTER WINTER (LESS SNOW)

Projected decreases in snow fall, cover, and depth

- 30-70% decreases in snowfall
- Greatest loss in December/January

Decreased snowpack

 Increased soil freeze-thaw cycles can damage roots and alter soil processes



What may be at risk: The ability to do winter timber harvest when it is preferred to prevent damage to forest soils and residual forest; tree species sensitive to soil freeze-thaw

SHORTER WINTER (LESS SNOW, MORE RAIN)

More rain

- Warmer temperatures
- Increased precipitation
- Extreme rain events
- Earlier peak stream flows
- Flashiness and episodic high flows may increase



Dale et al 2001, Huntingon 2004, Parmesan 2006

SHORTER WINTER (LESS SNOW, MORE RAIN)

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Earlier peak stream flows

 Flashiness and episodic high flows may increase



Dale et al 2001, Huntingon 2004, Parmesan 2006

What may be at risk: Increased erosion/sedimentation on susceptible sites; culvert washouts and road damage from extreme events; aquatic habitats and species



LONGER GROWING SEASON

Warmer temps result in longer growing seasons

- Evidence of phenological shifts
- Projected to increase 3-7+ more weeks

Longer period for plant growth



Melillo et al. 2014, Nelson Center 2014

LONGER GROWING SEASON

Warmer temps result in longer growing seasons

- Evidence of phenological shifts
- Projected to increase 3-7+ more weeks

Longer period for plant growth

Phenological changes/mismatches

Early bud break and frost damage spring freezing.



Longer and warmer growing seasons may lead to drier conditions during the growing season.



Longer and warmer growing seasons may lead to drier conditions during the growing season.



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Longer and warmer growing seasons may lead to drier conditions during the growing season.

Risk may be greatest:

- Sites with drought-prone or shallow soils
- South-facing ridges
- Mesic species on drier sites (marginal sites or off-site)



FUTURE CHANGES IN CLIMATE

Anticipated Change in Climate	Evidence	Confidence
Warmer temperatures increasing another 5.3 to 9.1 °F	$\bullet \bullet \bullet$	$\bullet \bullet \bullet$
Longer growing season increasing another 20+ days		
Shorter, warmer winters with less snow fall and snow cover		
Sea levels rising by another 2 to 4.5 feet		
Altered precipitation patterns with increased annual rainfall		
Intense precipitation events that are more frequent and severe		
Altered soil moisture potentially both wetter and drier	••	
Increased risk of drought stress during the growing season		••

••• = robust/high
••• = medium

Many northern/boreal species are projected to decline in the regioncontract to more northerly and higher-elevation locations

Many species common farther south are expected to see increased and new habitat within the region.

2070-2100 Moderate

Suitable Habitat: Eastern hemlock (USFS Climate Change

Tree Atlas)

Current Distribution Importance Value Low



High

2070-2100 High

CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL TREE SPECIES MASSACHUSETTS

GOOD CAPABILITY	
American basswood	Northern red oak
American beech	Pignut hickory
American holly	Post oak
American hornbeam	Red maple
Black oak	Sassafras
Blackgum	Scarlet oak
Chestnut oak	Shagbark hickory
Eastern redcedar	Sugar maple
Flowering dogwood	White oak
Ironwood	Yellow-poplar
Mockernut hickory	
NEW HABITAT WITH M	GRATION POTENTIAL
Chinkapin oak	Sweetgum
Common persimmon	Sycamore
Loblolly pine	Virginia pine
Shortleaf pine	Water oak
Southern red oak	

Atlantic white-cedar	Paper birch
Balsam fir	Pitch pine
Black ash	Quaking aspen
Black spruce	Red pine
Black walnut	Red spruce
Boxelder	Slippery elm
Bur oak	Swamp white oak
Eastern hemlock	Sweet birch
Eastern white pine	Tamarack (native)
FAIR CAPABILITY	
American elm	Green ash
Bigtooth aspen	Silver maple
Black cherry	White ash
Gray birch	Yellow birch
<u>à</u> 1	www.forestadaptation.o

- Full results included as an appendix in the Forester Guide
- Results for broader southern and coastal New England region available <u>forestadaptation.org/new-</u> <u>england</u>
- 'Zoom in' to results for 1 degree latitude x 1 degree longitude using the USFS Climate Change Tree Atlas:

www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/

- Many common tree species are projected to have reduced suitability in the future
- Changes will occur slowly—not instant dieback
- Mature and established trees should fare better
- Immense lags to occupy habitats

Risk may be greatest:

- Location is relatively near the southern extent of species range
- Trees are projected to decline and located on a marginal site
- Forest is composed of few species, esp. those projected to decline
- Something is "missing" from the ecosystem
- Other factors cause additional stress

EXTREME EVENTS

Extreme events may become more frequent or severe

- Heavy precipitation
- Ice storms
- Heat waves/droughts
- Wind storms
- Hurricanes
- "Events" are not well modeled



What may be at risk: Depends greatly on site conditions and susceptibility to different types of disturbance

Photo: Joe Klementovich, HBRF

INTERACTIONS: WILDFIRE

Future climate conditions suggest increased risk of fire.

Wildfire may increase:

- Warmer/drier summers
- Increased stress and mortality
- Shift toward fire-associated species like oaks and pines

Wildfire may not change:

- Spring/early summer moisture
- Current regeneration of more mesic species
- Spatial patterns of land use and fragmentation
- Fire suppression

What may be at risk: Fire-dependent forests or areas of tree mortality when fire is not suppressed.

Clark et al. 2014, Guyette et al. 2014

INTERACTIONS: INSECTS AND DISEASE

- Increased damage from forest insects & diseases
- Indirect: Stress from other impacts increases susceptibility

Direct:

- Pests migrating northward
- Decreased probability of cold lethal temperatures
- Accelerated lifecycles

Risk may be greatest: Presence of host species; pest is nearby; other factors reduce that forest vigor



Hemlock woolly adelgid incidence ~2015

Ayres and Lombardero 2000, Parmesan 2006, Dukes et al. 2009, Weed et al. 2013, Sturrock et al. 2011

INTERACTIONS: INVASIVE PLANTS

Increased habitat for many noxious plants

Indirect: Stress or disturbance from other impacts can affect the potential for invasion or success

Direct:

- Expanded ranges under warmer conditions
- Increased competitiveness from ability of some plants to take advantage of elevated CO₂

Risk may be greatest: Presence of invasive species nearby; other factors that reduce forest/understory vigor





Dukes et al. 2009, Hellman et al. 2008; Figure: Northeast RISCC Management; Images: Invasives Plants Atlas of New England (www.eddmaps.org)

VULNERABILITY: *FOREST COMMUNITIES*

Forest communities across New England will be affected differently

Forest system	Potential impacts	Adaptive capacity	Vulnerability
Central hardwood-pine	Neutral-Positive	Moderate-High	Low
Northern hardwood	Positive and Negative	Moderate-High	Low-Moderate
Transition hardwood	Positive and Negative	Moderate-High	Low-Moderate
Lowland/riparian hardwood	Positive and Negative	Moderate-High	Moderate
Montane spruce-fir	Neutral-Negative	Moderate	Moderate-High

VULNERABILITY: *NORTHERN & TRANSITION HARDWOODS*

Impacts:

- Extreme storms
- Several diseases, pests, invasives
- Northern species projected to decline

Adaptive Capacity:

- Mixed species forests
- Southern species projected to increase
- Extensive type, exists farther south



VULNERABILITY: SPRUCE-FIR

Impacts:

- Warm temperatures
- Declines in boreal tree species
- Extreme storms

Adaptive Capacity:

- Generally slow to adjust to change
- Constrained by elevation/latitude
- Isolated mountaintops



VULNERABILITY: *CENTRAL HARDWOOD-PINE*

Impacts:

- Extreme storms
- Several diseases, pests, invasives
- Several northern species projected to decline

Adaptive Capacity:

- Mixed species forests
- Several southern species projected to increase
- Extensive type, exists farther south



A CHANGING CLIMATE POSES RISKS TO FORESTS

- Altered climate
- Extreme weather
- Chronic stress
- Disturbances
- Insect pests
- Forest diseases
- Invasive species
- Altered habitat suitability



LAST SLIDE: LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Research and assessments describe <u>broad</u> <u>trends</u> but <u>local conditions</u> and <u>management</u> make the difference.



QUESTIONS ?

CLIMATE IMPACTS IN YOUR REGION

What impacts are you seeing or <u>concerned</u> about at your focal property?



ANNOTATE TOOL

• Use the Zoom "annotate" feature to add a symbol on the next slide.



ANNOTATE MAP FOR PRACTICE



SELECT YOUR TOP CLIMATE IMPACTS – 3 VOTES

Impact	Your Votes Here:
Sea-level rise	
Warmer temperatures	
More days with extreme heat	
Fewer days with extreme cold	
Altered precipitation patterns/seasonality	
More frequent heavy precipitation events	
Less snow/shorter winter season, variable snow and ice	
Altered stream flows	
Increased water temperatures	
Reduced soil moisture in summer	
Longer growing season	
Changes in phenology or phenology mismatches	
Declines in northern/boreal tree species	
Increases in southern tree species	
More frequent and intense storms	
Potential changes in wildfire	
Increases in insect pests/forest pathogens	
Increases in nonnative plant species	
Changes in patterns of herbivory	

QUESTIONS ?

ASSIGNMENT

- Identify property that you will create or revise a FSP for with a climate-carbon focus
- Identify broad landowner goals using the Landowner Goals worksheet and Caring For Your Woods Landowner Goals booklet
- Identify climate change impacts for one stand
 - *Resources for exploring climate impacts are included in the Forester Guide and at <u>adaptationworkbook.org/explore-impacts</u>*

Questions? Share now or email NIACS or DCR staff

Landowner Goals

Please check the column that best reflects the importance of the following goals:

Goal	Importance to Me		
	HIGH	LOW	
Improve access for walking/skiing/recreation			
Improve hunting or fishing			
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Preserve or improve scenic beauty			
Protect special features, including those of historical or person significance			
Enhance the quality and/or quantity of forest products*			
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Promote diversity of plant species and habitat types			
Increase forest resiliency			
Minimize damage from forest pests			
Protect water quality			
Sequester and/or store carbon to mitigate climate change			
Suppress or eradicate invasive plants			
Lower property taxes			
Protect land from development		1	



KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR *EMAILS*

And visit training webpage to access:

- Slides
- Agenda & assignments
- Links to relevant resources

NEXT SESSION: Wednesday, February 16th 2:00-3:30pm EST Massachusetts DCR: Climate Forestry Stewardship Planning Training for Foresters

ing Training for Foresters



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forestadaptation.org/learn/training-and-workshops

Who we are ~





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