

**The Climate Project Screening Tool Report
for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's
Connecticut Valley District**



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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Methods	4
Overview of the CPST	4
CPST Column Descriptions	5
<i>Project activities of focus for the discussion</i>	5
<i>General climate change trends and local impacts</i>	5
<i>Key questions for managers</i>	5
<i>Response narrative</i>	6
<i>Continue with project?</i>	6
Results	14
Overview	14
Interesting Findings	15
Climate Change Adaptation Techniques Already in Use	15
Using the Climate Action Tool	15
Next Steps	16
Conclusions	17
Works Cited	18
Appendices	19
Appendix 1: WMAs Not Discussed	19
Appendix 2: Additional Resources	19

Table of Tables

Table 1. Climate Project Screening Tool with responses from the Connecticut Valley District	7
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Introduction

As the influence of climate change increases, it is important to consider how adaptation techniques can be integrated into current natural resource management to reduce vulnerabilities to wildlife and their habitats over time. Climate change adaptation in the near term is essential because, owing to inherent time lags in climate impacts, the effects of increased atmospheric greenhouse gases will be felt for decades even if effective mitigation begins immediately (Melillo et al. 2014). However, climate science is a particularly challenging field given the level of technical expertise required, its high degree of uncertainty, and the lack of knowledge of climate change impacts at biologically relevant scales. Thus, climate change adaptation, although understood to be important to resource management, has not been explicitly incorporated into most wildlife management plans or actions.

Some decision-support tools have been developed to aid climate change planning and preparedness in response to the needs of resource managers (Climate Change Resource Center 2017). One such decision-support tool is the Climate Project Screening Tool (CPST) (Morelli et al. 2012), developed initially to aid national forests in the early stages of incorporating climate concerns into operational work and recently modified to aid fish and wildlife management in Massachusetts.

The CPST is a platform that natural resource managers can readily use to assess the potential impacts of climate change on projects and management goals. The CPST is a review and assessment tool that allows managers to explicitly and methodically consider current and impending projects and priorities through the lens of climate change. It provides space to assess whether a specific goal or project is appropriate in light of future climate trends. Through the

CPST process, some projects might be deemed inappropriate as originally designed and be recommended for comprehensive redesign or removal from activity lists.

The CPST is a broad tool that can be modified to accommodate many different working groups and management goals. For the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife), the tool was modified to focus on projects within the Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) owned by the agency. Within MassWildlife, there are 5 Districts (Central, Western, Connecticut Valley, Southeast, and Northeast), all with their own - and occasionally overlapping - WMAs for which they are responsible. Information about many of the WMAs, including key target species, can be found on the [MassWildlife Lands Viewer](#), although this information was not available at the time of these discussions.

This report focuses on the results of a meeting with the Connecticut Valley District's Management team using the CPST to facilitate a discussion of climate change activities on select WMAs. This report provides specific responses to the discussion and process questions as well as general findings and useful resources. Not all WMAs were discussed during the 3-hour meeting. Those not discussed can be analyzed using this Climate Project Screening Tool at a future date.

Methods

Overview of the CPST

The CPST is a table where the first column lists specific project or management activities of interest. Next, the tool provides a summary of climate change impacts relevant to the specific management activity, poses useful discussion and process questions, and provides space for response and record-keeping. Each management activity section concludes with a question of

whether to continue with the specific activity or not, and if so, if any portion of the activity should be modified.

CPST Column Descriptions

(See Figure 1 for the CPST layout and specific responses by managers at the meeting)

Project activities of focus for the discussion

- An important first step is to identify the appropriate scale at which relevant activities will be evaluated. To this end, all management activity categories were identified from the Federal Aid report produced by MassWildlife. District managers were asked to fill out a spreadsheet identifying which activities were being considered or actively done on each WMA. This process allowed the CPST to be tailored to each District and provided a coherent and efficient structure for the meeting.

General climate change trends and local impacts

- Information about projected climate and ecosystem responses can be gathered from many sources and summarized for key indicators of relevance to the local environment. The scientific literature (including a report done specifically for the northeastern states, see Useful Resources) and experts at the Department of Interior Northeast Climate Science Center were the primary sources for local climate data for this report. The purpose of this summary is to give managers a broad sense of anticipated and ongoing changes in climate and related ecological responses throughout their District. The local impacts focus on effects at a scale that is relevant to project design and highlight appropriate changes to the project.

Key questions for managers

- The purpose of this column is to facilitate thinking about the potential impacts of climate

change on a specific project type. The questions used to guide the discussion were originally developed through meetings with US Forest Service resource specialists and then modified with MassWildlife staff. Additionally, information on some project activities was gathered from the MassWildlife website. After the questions were used in the first meeting (with the Central District), modifications were made to enhance relevance in future meetings.

Response narrative

- The response narrative in the fourth column is the centerpiece of the CPST, where managers or facilitators record their answers to the questions and thus their thinking about the interaction between climate change and the project. Users are encouraged to identify and document sources for their answers.

Continue with project?

- The last column is where the user concludes whether to proceed with, modify, or cancel the project given the response narrative. It is intended as a recommendation regarding whether or not climate change impacts are likely to be: 1) insignificant enough to proceed as originally designed, 2) substantial enough to require modification to the proposed activities, or 3) whether the project cannot be adequately modified given relevant climate change effects and thus should be withdrawn. Selection and documentation of one of the three recommendations can then become part of a public report on how resource managers considered climate change prior to project implementation.

Table 1. Climate Project Screening Tool with responses from the Connecticut Valley District

Project Activity	Climate Change Trends and Local Impacts (for more information: climateactiontool.org)	Key Questions for Managers	Response Narrative (please complete)	Continue with Project?
Stream Restoration & Culvert Removal	<p>Trends – Reduced snowpack, thus earlier winter-spring peak flows; wetter springs with more flooding; longer, drier summers, though with heavier rainfall events and thus increased risk of flooding, exacerbated by decreased imperviousness from drier soils</p> <p>Local Impacts – Vegetation and wildlife species movement; reduced water storage in soils; changed hydrologic regimes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the hydrologic system change from perennial to intermittent over time: e.g., what is the future range of flow? 	<p>Herman Covey WMA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetland has had negative effects from drought (1 of the ponds dry for the first time in recent history from the drought) so wetlands could be vulnerable in the future Beaver dam nearby blew out and almost took out the culvert and inundated the road Beavers very common on WMAs, private landowners clean them out Beaver dams seen as positive by the district unless it collapses 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, with modification:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can this area (or project) withstand extreme weather events? Events more extreme than those currently experienced? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Probably not 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are current plant/wildlife species viable in the future given changes in water temperatures? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the restoration area vulnerable to increased fire events and/or erosion? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion definitely Possibly fire events, given the difficulty of conducting controlled burns 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this culvert a barrier to species tracking climate change? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No 	
Vegetation Control – mowing, hand cutting, herbicide	<p>Trends – Increased fuel buildup and risk of wildfire; increased interannual variability in precipitation, leading to fuels build up and causing additional forest stress; increased stress to forests during periodic multi-year droughts;</p> <p>Local Impacts – Densification of vegetation; increased invasive aquatic, plant, and forest pests; earlier and longer growing season</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the activity be sufficient to control invasives that grow larger and more abundantly? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, through mowing efforts • Controlling bittersweet and multiflora rose thru mowing and herbicide treatments and burns <p>Herman Covey WMA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mowing to keep early successional habitat instead of multiflora rose, etc. • Restoring to low density pitch pine/scrub oak/low-bush blueberry (low density should prevent severe southern pine beetle damage – Southern Pine Beetle already seen at Montague plains WMA) 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, with modification:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the project area include anticipated future vulnerable areas (i.e. higher elevation sites, riparian areas, soil types or ecosystems not previously recorded as invaded)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, but there are plans to remove trees, after which the area will need to be monitored for new invasions 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the treatment season need to be adjusted for the earlier growing season? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mowing in winter is possible but doesn't help with invasives – that needs to happen in growing season. • Heritage program gives dates for mowing to avoid nesting birds. 	

			Those dates may not be regularly updated.	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will additional invasives require more work hours to control? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, already targeting invasives on more WMAs than they did 20 years ago. 	
Prescribed Burning	<p>Trends – Increased fuel buildup and risk of wildfire; increased interannual variability in precipitation, leading to fuels build up and causing additional forest stress; increased stress to forests during periodic multi-year droughts;</p> <p>Local Impacts – Increased risk for erratic fire behavior; decreased window of opportunity for prescribed fire conditions; flashier, drier fuels; decreased water storage in soils</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there techniques that can be used to effectively manage a burn considering increased fuel loads and droughty conditions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mow fire breaks for burn crew 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, with modification:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In what ways do the increased droughty conditions factor into a prescribed burn (or lack of one)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall climate changes affecting ability to conduct burn at all 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the timing of prescribed burns need to be adjusted given climate trends (arrival of migratory species, bud break, etc.)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a bind because there are only a few people who can do it and then there are so many and maybe increasing red flag days so that fire use is logistically challenging and often cancelled. 	
Reforestation / Restoration	<p>Trends – Increased stress to trees during periodic summer droughts; reduced snowpack; increased invasive insects and disease</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will local conditions change enough to alter the desired species composition? 	<p>Southwick WMA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used to be tobacco farm, restored to grasshopper sparrow habitat so conditions will get better for sparrow Not sure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, with modification:

	<p>Local Impacts – Increased risk of tree mortality; changes in local species composition; species range shifts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does tree planting density and spacing address anticipated water availability and mortality rates? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a 	
<p>Aquatic and Wildlife Species Restoration</p>	<p>Trends – Loss of seed and other germplasm sources as a result of population extirpation events; increased water temperatures in rivers and streams and lower water levels in late summer; reduced snowpack; longer, drier summers, decreased water quality as a result of increased watershed erosion; general shifts in temperature ranges; chance of fire; increased insect and disease</p> <p>Local Impacts – Historical availability of food and water sources may be altered geographically and temporally; changing temperatures, precipitation, and changing forest stand structure may alter suitable habitat</p>	<p>Aquatic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the plant/wildlife species currently present viable in the future given changes in temperatures and precipitation? What is the future range of flow? Will the hydrologic system change from a perennial to an intermittent system? Given increase in extreme weather events, how will the hydrologic regime change? Will it go from a snowmelt system to a rain on snow regime? Is the restoration area vulnerable to increased extreme events and erosion? 	<p>Herman Covey WMA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, whippoorwill, scrub oak moths <p>Uncertain</p> <p>Don't know</p> <p>Herman Covey WMA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beaver are playing a large role in the hydrologic system but are being removed from private lands. Yes 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, with modification:</p>

Maintenance and Construction: Roads and Trails, Dams, Bridges, Parking Lots, Blinds, Signs, Boundary Markers, Gates/Access Management	<p>Trends – Increased interannual variability in precipitation; more extreme flood and other weather events; decreased water quality as result of increased watershed erosion and sediment flow; increased likelihood of severe flood; increased risk of fire</p> <p>Local Impacts – Changed hydrologic regimes; soil disturbance due to increased runoff and movement of waterways; likelihood of road washouts and closures increase; storm events exacerbate sedimentation and erosion from burned areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given that hydrologic regimes are changing, are your crossings designed and engineered to withstand the predicted changes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installed gates and a stone wall and guard rails to restrict off highway use Yes, should be able to withstand but put water breaks in for the roads but these could be a point of vulnerability as they're designed for current precipitation regimes 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, with modification:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the project located at the right location to reduce watershed erosion and sediment flow or other impacts? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will current road structures/surface treatments be able to withstand the more severe flood events (and possible erosion) predicted in the future? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, ideally. Could be a point of vulnerability as they're designed for current precipitation regimes 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is the surrounding topography and vegetation being considered regarding future climate trends? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, being considered but new information could allow for more information 	
Public Access Management	<p>Trends – Increased interannual variability in precipitation; more extreme flood and other weather events; decreased water quality as result of increased watershed erosion and sediment flow and warmer waters; increased likelihood of severe flood; increased risk of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is current infrastructure resilient given increased extreme events (floods and potentially hurricanes)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possibly. Not the current priority 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, with modification:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will flooding, drought, and other extreme weather events make it more difficult to manage public access? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. Less snow in the winter is causing mountain bike and ATV erosion issues. Generally more use of the land for more of the year. 	

	<p>fire</p> <p>Local Impacts – Changed hydrologic regimes; soil disturbance due to increased runoff and movement of waterways; likelihood of road washouts and closures increase; storm events exacerbate sedimentation and erosion from burned areas; changing temperatures, precipitation and forest stand structure (wildfire, species extirpation) may alter habitat range</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will more personnel hours be needed to manage public access given future climate trends? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, currently using cameras and talking to the police to try to monitor illegal activities • Must rely on help from Environmental Police, who are severely short-staffed 	
<p>Fruit Trees – Prune and Release</p>	<p>Trends – Increased stress to trees during periodic summer droughts; reduced snowpack; increased invasive insects and disease</p> <p>Local Impacts – Increased risk of tree mortality; changes in local species composition; geographic movement of species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will local conditions change enough to alter the desired species composition? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, with modification:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will new trees be planted if old ones die or preform goals poorly given future climate trends? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will present uses of the fruit trees persist under new climate models? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe not – increased variability and spring freezes might result in loss of fruit crops 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there certain species or genetic pools of native species that are well suited for anticipated vulnerabilities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly low bush blueberries • n/a 			

<p>Agricultural License Agreements</p>	<p>Trends – Increased interannual variability in precipitation; more extreme flood and other weather events; decreased water quality as result of increased watershed erosion and sediment flow; increased likelihood of severe flood; increased risk of fire</p> <p>Local Impacts – Changed hydrologic regimes; soil disturbance due to increased runoff and movement of waterways; likelihood of road washouts and closures increase; storm events exacerbate sedimentation and erosion from burned areas; changing temperatures, precipitation, and forest stand structure (wildfire, species extirpation) may alter habitat range</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what ways do current policies regarding ag. license agreements consider future climate trends? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They don't. They could consider the activities they are allowed to cultivate. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, with modification:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will climate change trends influence the level of involvement DFW has with lease holders and the properties? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't think so. Could consider modifying the license agreement (during the 5year bid process or the 5 year renewal) if phenology is shifting. For example, if bobolinks are nesting earlier • On Montague WMA they require a cover crop specific for pheasant habitat. 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should climate create a more favorable environment for agricultural land, will more properties be converted to agricultural land? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not going to convert any more. 	

Results

Overview

The facilitator team met at the Connecticut Valley District office in Belchertown, MA, with 3 Connecticut Valley District staff from Mass Wildlife: District Manager Ralph Taylor, Wildlife Biologist Dave Fuller, Fisheries Biologist Brian Keleher, and Stewardship Specialist Alex Krofta. Meetings centered around management activities that were identified for a given WMA. The purpose of this design was to encourage the discussion of multiple WMAs when thinking about a specific management activity as well as to ensure that each type of management activity occurring within the District was discussed at least once.

Conversation flowed from specific questions in the CPST to a broader discussion of issues related to climate change to other issues faced by the District, and then back to the tool questions in a cyclical pattern until all questions in the management activity section were asked. An interesting secondary result of this meeting was that other management issues were identified, such as bigger picture questions about the continued utility of wood duck boxes. This secondary result was an unintended but beneficial outcome of considering climate change impacts on Agency lands. Many of the comments, activities, and concerns faced by one District were echoed at other Districts as well. These similarities and overlaps are included in this report (see Table 2).

The CPST allows Districts to document that they are thinking about climate change when making management decisions, whether they then choose to modify current activities or not. Deciding that continuing with the current activities, or lack of activities, for now is sometimes the appropriate choice at the end of the process. The critical step is to take time to consider climate change - within daily activities and larger-scale plans.

Interesting Findings

- The Connecticut Valley District cannot perform invasive herbicide spray activities on their own but rather relies on the Headquarters office or contracts out.
- District is facing pressure to lease out land forested with sugar maples for syrup production.
- Some WMAs are managed partially with controlled burns and CT Valley District would like to have additional involvement with the planning process for the burns. They have more on-the-ground knowledge regarding the locations that could be valuable.

Climate Change Adaptation Techniques Already in Use

- Trout stocking dates have been modified according to the water and air temperatures rather than releasing on a specific calendar date.
- Mowing open grasslands in the winter is becoming more of a realistic possibility given that snowfall happens less frequently. Mowing in cooler temperatures is better for the mower engines because it mitigates overheating.
- Discussion of possibly building spadefoot toad habitat as droughts are affecting their natural vernal pool habitats on various WMAs

Using the Climate Action Tool

When faced with challenges to effective management as a result of climate change, the Massachusetts Wildlife Climate Action Tool (CAT, <https://climateactiontool.org>) can be particularly useful to District Managers. The CAT was developed in partnership by MassWildlife, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, the Department of Interior's Northeast Climate Science Center, and the U.S. Geological Survey's Massachusetts Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, so the information within is specifically geared towards the Commonwealth. The CAT includes information on climate impacts, vulnerability of species and habitats, and adaptation actions that can be taken. It was developed using a literature review of the most recent scientific findings as well as new expert input.

District staff can use the CAT to find species-specific information that can be relevant to management goals. For example, the Connecticut Valley District has a goal of protecting vernal pools at the Honey Pot WMA, which is also under the Wetlands Protection Act. If a manager was interested in knowing how to achieve that goal while being mindful of the effects climate change may have on their activities, they could use the CAT website to find information about vernal pools and wetlands as well as ideas of adaptation strategies available. Looking at the CAT's information regarding wetlands and vernal pools, maintaining quality hydrology and avoiding connectivity loss are crucial. The CAT points out that invasive species are a particular threat to wetland habitat, so the work the Connecticut Valley District is doing to keep invasives at bay may already in step with recommended actions.

A number of potential adaptation strategies and actions are included in the CAT that managers could refer to when considering forest management, coastal habitat restoration, or how to promote connectivity among WMAs. Please see Appendix 2: Additional Resources for examples. Since the CAT is a place to showcase existing expertise and practices, it could be modified to include some of the actions being undertaken by District staff as examples.

Next Steps

For the WMAs that were not discussed, the CPST can be used by District staff without facilitation for future projects and plans. A manager can complete it by him- or herself or with others on a team; we found great value in having multiple members of the staff present to share their input and often to spark and deepen the dialogue. This also creates buy-in for the implementation of actions. The versatility and simplicity of the CPST allows it to be useful in

more than just a few select scenarios and times. A complete copy of the CPST developed for MassWildlife is available with this report.

Lastly, as its name indicates, the purpose of the CPST as a screening tool became apparent when the need for additional time to develop coherent climate change adaptation for some management activities and WMAs was identified. For projects such as these, the Climate Adaptation Workbook (see Appendix 2) was mentioned, and the Workbook passed around. The in-depth nature of the Workbook appealed to attendees and there is interest in planning a training day at the Headquarters office, to learn how to use and implement it. The CPST could be considered a first step and its completion can facilitate and enhance the use of the Adaptation Workbook for projects that would benefit from more in-depth discussion and detailed planning.

Conclusions

Using the CPST to facilitate a discussion of climate change impacts on current and planned management activities highlighted multiple results. In many cases, management professionals did not initially identify any ways in which they were modifying their work because of climate change and, in some cases, they did not readily identify ways climate change was affecting their work. However, upon further discussion, it became clear that observations of climate change and modification of activities were occurring, just not explicitly labeled as such. Through the course of the discussion, it also became clear that agency-wide policies on climate change would be helpful or, if already in existence, these could be communicated to Districts in a more comprehensive way. As such, it would be particularly important to have both District and Division Headquarters staff present at the meeting.

Overall, the CPST meetings provided a block of time for on-the-ground managers to pause in an otherwise busy schedule and directly consider climate change as it relates to their daily projects. The goal of these meetings was to facilitate this examination and encourage thoughtful planning for current and future management activities. In this way, work hours and physical resources can be used most effectively to protect and manage Massachusetts' lands and wildlife resources in a changing climate.

Works Cited

- Climate Change Resource Center. 2017. United States Department of Agriculture – United States Forest Service. *Climate Change and Carbon Tools*. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/ccrc/tools>.
- Melillo, J.M., T.C. Richmond, & G.W. Yohe, Eds. 2014. *Climate Change Impacts in the United States: The Third National Climate Assessment*. U.S. Global Change Research Program, 841 pp. doi:10.7930/J0Z31WJ2.
- Morelli, T.L., S. Yeh, N.M. Smith, M.B. Hennessy, & C.I. Millar. 2012. *Climate Project Screening Tool: An Aid for Climate Change Adaptation*. United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Research Paper PSW-RP-263. 40p.

Appendices

Appendix 1: WMAs Not Discussed

Bachelor Brook WMA	Fish Brook WMA	Mt. Toby WMA	Sunderland Islands WMA
Bennett Meadows WMA	Flagg Mountain WMA	Mt. Tom WMA	Tully Mountain WMA
Brewer Brook WMA	Great Swamp WMA	Orange WMA	Wales WMA
Brushy Mountain WMA	Green River WMA	Palmer WMA	Warwick WMA
Catamount WMA	Lake Warner WMA	Pauchaug Brook WMA	Wendell WMA
Coy Hill WMA	Leadmine WMA	Poland Brook WMA	Westfield WMA
Darwin Scott WMA	Leyden WMA	Rainbow Beach WMA	Whately WMA
East Mountain WMA	Millers River WMA	Satan's Kingdom WMA	Williamsburg WMA
Facing Rock WMA	Montague Plains WMA	Shattuck Brook WMA	Mt. Esther WMA
Southampton WMA			

Appendix 2: Additional Resources

- Massachusetts Wildlife Climate Action Tool <http://climateactiontool.org> - For specific information on species and habitat vulnerability, climate trends in Massachusetts, and adaptation strategies and actions. Example pages below.
 - Species
 - Brook trout - <https://climateactiontool.org/species/brook-trout>
 - Moose - <https://climateactiontool.org/species/moose>
 - American Black duck - <https://climateactiontool.org/species/american-black-duck>
 - Habitats
 - Vernal pools - <https://climateactiontool.org/ecogroup/freshwater-wetlands-vernal-pools>
 - Spruce Fir forest - <https://climateactiontool.org/ecogroup/forest-spruce-fir>
 - Coldwater fisheries streams - <https://climateactiontool.org/ecogroup/rivers-and-streams-coldwater-fisheries-resources-streams>
 - Adaptation Actions

- Culvert upgrades <https://climateactiontool.org/content/maintain-habitat-connectivity-retrofit-or-replace-culverts>
 - Riparian restoration for coldwater streams <https://climateactiontool.org/content/ensure-cool-water-temperatures-protect-and-restore-riparian-areas>
 - Promote species in the northern and middle edge of their range <https://climateactiontool.org/content/promote-drought-and-heat-tolerant-species-encourage-species-northern-and-middle-edge-range>
- Adaptation Workbook <https://adaptationworkbook.org> - A process to consider climate change impacts and design adaptation actions. Similar to this CPST, but for a deeper dive into climate change planning for a WMA.
- Vulnerability Assessment of MA Species of Greatest Conservation Need (2017) <https://necsc.umass.edu/projects/vulnerability-northeastern-wildlife-climate-change-using-decision-science-inform-manageme-0>
- North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) streamcontinuity.org – [Database](#) and background information on culvert assessment and prioritization.
- The Deerfield Stream Crossings Explorer SCE.ecosheds.org – Tool to locate and prioritize road-stream crossings. Include ecological data (aquatic connectivity from the NAACC, coldwater streams) and transportation vulnerability data (risk of failure and EMS delays) for Deerfield Watershed. Some of the data will be expanded to the entire state in the next few months.
- [Climate Change Resource Center](#) – Website run by the United States Forest Service containing general information about climate change. The website also has a section with specific tools that can be utilized when trying to make decisions in response to or monitor impacts of climate change. There is even a section which allows users to search for specific tools based on needs and geographic location.
- Northeast [Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change \(RISCC\) Management network](#) <http://people.umass.edu/riscc> - Northeast Climate Science Center initiative to address the question “How can we manage for upcoming biological invasions in the light of climate change?”
- [Integrating Climate Change into Northeast and Midwest State Wildlife Action Plans](#) <https://necsc.umass.edu/projects/integrating-climate-change-state-wildlife-action-plans>
- Climate Change Tree Atlas and Bird Atlas <http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/> - Includes current and possible future distributions for over 100 tree and bird species in the Eastern US.