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Route To:

Subject: Region 4 Climate Change - Intermountain Adaptation Partnership (IAP) Webinars and Workshops

To: R4 Forest Supervisors, R4 Directors

On April 21, 2015, Region 4 had a successful kick-off meeting to move forward with the region-wide vulnerability assessment and adaptation action partnership, now called the Intermountain Adaptation Partnership (IAP). Our next step is to extend an invitation to partners to participate as part of a collaborative effort. During the April 21 meeting, the importance and value of partner participation was identified, as well as the mutual benefit of sharing ideas and information. In connection with this, Region 4 leaders are encouraged to engage in partnership discussions and invite potential partners into the process. There will be a one-hour webinar on June 11 at 10 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time to inform partners about the IAP process. The webinar will explain the purpose of the assessment and the roles and opportunities for partnership participation.

Please contact Natalie Little, R4 Sustainable Operations and Climate Change Coordinator for additional details and/or to get a partner's name added to the meeting invite. At this time, funding for partnership participation through Forest Service sources is not available. Involvement in the IAP process would be through the partner's own expense. However, partners are encouraged to apply for grants or seek other funding sources that may be available to support participation in this effort.

A website has been developed to communicate the process and progress to participants, partners, and stakeholders. It is <http://adaptationpartners.org/iap> with IAP standing for Intermountain Adaptation Partnership. The website is built on the format of the Northern Rockies Adaptation Partnership website located at <http://adaptationpartners.org/nrap> and will evolve to meet the needs of the Intermountain Region.

For R4 Forests, the effort on Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Actions will:

- Guide planning, forest plan revision, and NEPA per the 2012 Planning Rule;
- Provide a cohesive and consistent approach across the 12 Forests addressing complex climate change issues;
- Make project-level and broader land management decisions more defensible by providing the science-based analyses;
- Identify R4 key resources critical to adaptation action plans such as climate trends, water resources, fisheries, wildlife, forested and non-forested vegetation, disturbance regimes, recreation, and ecosystem services;
- Integrate FS NFS and Research into a highly collaborative and productive platform;
- Provide guidance to management on the most productive use of limited resource funding;
- Focus limited restoration funding to those projects most likely to succeed;
- Enable all R4 Forests to answer "Yes" to Element 6, Vulnerability Assessments, and Element 7, Adaptation Actions on the Climate Change Scorecard with these "Yes" responses greatly improving R4's ability to perform well on the Scorecard;
- Create partnerships with local stakeholders with similar benefiting projects; and



- Develop improved foresight and adaptive management capacity.

R4 climate change coordinators will be kept informed of the IAP process through regular monthly meetings via Adobe Connect and conference calls scheduled on June 4, July 2, and in general on the first Thursday of the month from 2-3pm MDT.

Also, a regional steering committee has been formed to provide leadership and oversight of this partnership. Mark Bethke, R4 Director of Planning and Financial Resources, is the lead of this steering committee and can be reached at 801-625-5269 or markdbethke@fs.fed.us for more information.

Overall timeline:

- April 21, 2015: Kickoff meeting, Ogden, Utah – focus areas were developed, sub-regional geographic areas were presented, and available regional and forest data resources already available were identified
- May 2015 – April 2016: Synthesize information for vulnerability assessment, monthly focus area update meetings via Adobe Connect/conference calls – led by Research with NFS review
- April 2016: Focus area webinars – presentations by Research with NFS attendance
- May 2016: Two-day workshops to review draft vulnerability assessment and develop adaptation plans – co-led by Research and NFS with attendance needed from Research and NFS specialists
- June 2016 – June 2017: Complete final report, review, and submit for publication

The IAP process will be collaboratively led by Natalie Little, R4 Sustainable Operations and Climate Change Coordinator, who will be the primary lead for NFS, and Dave Peterson, Research Biologist at the Pacific Northwest Research Station, who will be the primary lead for USFS Research. Natalie Little's contact information is 801-625-5776 and nlittle@fs.fed.us, and Dave Peterson's contact information is 206-732-7812 and wild@uw.edu. A draft vulnerability assessment will be available by May 2016 which could be used as a preliminary management guide by the Forests. In 2016, adaptation actions will be developed and incorporated into the vulnerability assessment and then published in a General Technical Report (GTR) in 2017.

Please contact Natalie Little if additional information is needed.

/s/Nan Christianson (for)

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Regional Forester

cc: Forest Climate Change Coordinators, Mark Bethke, Dave Peterson, Linda Joyce, Karen Dante-Wood, Jessica Halofsky, Cynthia West, Gary Eickhorst, Natalie Little