

Forest Conservation and Stewardship:

A joint meeting of the Heart of the Lakes and the Michigan Inter-Tribal Council

This meeting is designed to gather natural resource professionals from Michigan's tribes, land conservancies, and other organizations around a common theme—forest conservation in an era of rapid change. Emerging threats like climate change, deer browse, and forest pests can cross all ownerships and have the potential to alter our shared natural environment in profound ways over the next century. We all have a stake in learning from each other and addressing challenges cooperatively where possible. This meeting is designed to share the best available information on potential impacts on Michigan's forests and best practices on how to prepare for these changes. A day-long workshop on the second day will provide an opportunity for hands-on training, for people who want to do a deeper dive into climate change and to consider climate adaptation actions for their own real-world project.

Day 1: Emerging Issues for Michigan's Forests

9:30 **Registration & Coffee**

10:00 **Welcome & Introduction**

10:30 **Our Shared Purpose: Forest Conservation and Protection**

Dialog session to share information and discuss the different tools, opportunities, and constraints that apply to tribes, land trusts, and other organizations with regard to forest conservation and stewardship

12:00 **Lunch**

12:45 **Forest Health Issue #1: Deer Browse**

Dustin Bronson, Wisconsin DNR

1:30 **Forest Health Issue #2: Invasive Species, Pests, and Diseases**

Bob Heyd, Michigan DNR

Deb McCullough, Michigan State University

2:15 **Break**

2:45 **Forest Health Issue #3: Climate change**

Jon Fosgitt, Compass Land Consultants

3:15 **How to Prepare: Adaptation and Forest Conservation**

Stephen Handler

4:00 **Questions and Discussion**

▪ *Moderated discussion session with the afternoon speakers*

4:30 **Adjourn**

Day 2: Hands-on Adaptation Planning

This second day will be an active, hands-on training for a limited number of people. The goal for the day is to use the NIACS Adaptation Workbook process to identify climate change risks and adaptation actions for a real-world land management project.

Through this training, participants will be able to:

- Think about site-level characteristics that will determine climate change impacts at local scales
- Identify challenges and opportunities for land management projects
- Develop actionable steps to adapt forests to changing conditions

We require participants to develop a project idea prior to this training, which will help make the best use of time. Prior to the training, we will contact participants registered for Day 2 to discuss the goals and organization of the training and answer any lingering questions. We will also work with participants to identify a project that will be used during the training. We encourage small groups of people to work together during this training, including people from different organizations!

8:00 **Registration & Coffee**

8:30 **Introduction**

Introduce participants and instructors.

Outline objectives and agenda for training.

9:00 **Adaptation Workbook Step 2: Climate Change Impacts on Land Management Projects**

Identify additional climate change impacts most relevant to each project and location.

10:00 **Break**

10:15 **Adaptation Workbook Step 3: Challenges & Opportunities for Meeting Management Objectives**

Identify challenges and opportunities relevant to the project management objectives.

Evaluate whether it is feasible to achieve management objectives.

11:30 **Adaptation Workbook Step 4: Identifying Adaptation Approaches and Tactics**

Select potential adaptation actions from the menu of Adaptation Strategies and Approaches.

Evaluate potential adaptation tactics and decide which ones to recommend

12:00 **Lunch**

1:00 **Adaptation Workbook Step 4: Identifying Adaptation Approaches and Tactics - Continued**

Groups continue to brainstorm and refine possible adaptation actions.

2:45 **Break**

3:15 **Adaptation Workbook Step 5: Identifying Monitoring Metrics and Evaluating Effectiveness**

Identify metrics to use to evaluate the effectiveness of adaptation actions

4:00 **Next Steps & Wrap-up**

Discuss opportunities for coordination, learning, or shared resources.

Describe next steps and expectations for moving forward.

4:30 **Adjourn**