

Making it Work... Adaptation to a Changing Climate



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USDA Vision for America's Forests



Climate Change Adaptation

- *Reduce exposure*
- *Promote resilience*
- *Facilitate transitions*

... for ecological, social, economic and institutional components of landscapes.



What we must do:

1. Assess risks (vulnerabilities) under possible scenarios.
2. Invest in strategies, not just practices.
3. Prioritize investments by vulnerability and likelihood of success
4. Build trust and teamwork among agencies, citizens, and organizations
5. Build skill, capacity and flexibility across institutions



Climate Change Adaptation:

1. Required for sustained carbon sequestration (mitigation).
2. We never had such an overwhelming warning.
3. It is the Forest Service mission.
4. Build on what we know; we don't have to throw away what we have learned about systems.
5. Build it in, not add it on.
6. We have to set priorities anyway.
7. We can't learn unless we take thoughtful action.
8. We will be challenged for not taking action.



Forest Service as Leader in Adaptation

- Complementary mission areas
- Body of proven knowledge and skill
- Mission and authorities
- Geographic diversity
- World-class basic and applied science
- Network of partners
- Energetic and professional workforce



Thank you



Albert Bierstadt

