



CLIMATE, PEOPLE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM SEMINAR SERIES



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Understanding climate adaptation on public lands in the Upper Midwest: Implications for monitoring and tracking progress

Under changing climatic conditions, conservation will require new, forward-looking goals and strategies to protect critical ecological services. While substantial investments have been made in climate change adaptation initiatives, there are limited examples of efforts to systematically monitor and track adaptation progress. To better understand the status of adaptation within state natural resource agencies, we utilized and problematized a rational decision making framework to characterize adaptation at the level of public land managers in the Upper Midwest. We conducted in-depth interviews with 29 biologists and foresters to provide an understanding of managers' experiences with, and perceptions of, climate change impacts, efforts towards planning for climate change, and a full range of actions implemented to address climate change. While the majority of managers identified climate change impacts affecting their region, they expressed significant uncertainty in interpreting those signals. Just under half of managers indicated planning efforts are underway, although most planning is remote from local management. Actions already implemented include both forward-looking measures and those aimed at coping with current impacts. In addition, cross-scale dynamics emerged as an important theme related to the overall adaptation process. The results hold implications for tracking adaptation progress which is an increasingly important task for agencies, non-governmental organizations, and donors looking to understand current adaptation to climate change and to support future adaptation efforts.

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:00 pm

AOSS Building, Room 1039

1225 W. Dayton St.

Please join us for coffee at 12:45 in Room 1039