FOREST ADAPTATION PLANNING AND PRACTICES

~ ONLINE COURSE ~

Session 3 Discussion: Challenges and Opportunities Session 4 Lecture: adaptation strategies and approaches

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

Discussion session: Please free to join the discussion on webcam or by phone – we want to hear from you!



CHECK INTO CHAT BOX!

Type your name(s), organization, and... dream vacation destination!

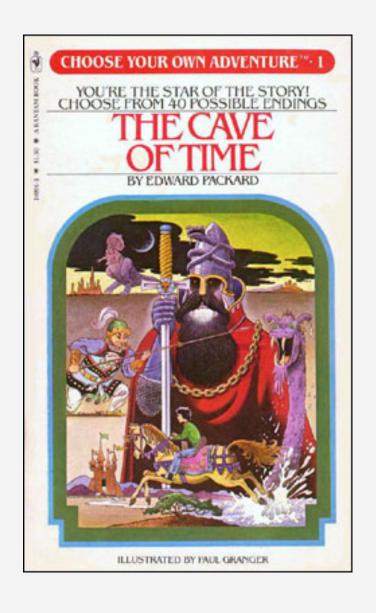
Welcome back!

Discussion: 10:00-10:45

 Discuss climate change challenges and opportunities

Lecture: 10:50-11:30

- Step 4 introduction
- Assignment for Monday,
 Feb 18



Step 3 Review

1. DEFINE location, project, and time frames.

5. MONITOR and evaluate effectiveness of implemented actions.

2. ASSESS site-specific climate change impacts and vulnerabilities

4. IDENTIFY adaptation approaches and tactics for implementation.

3. EVALUATE
management
objectives given
projected impacts and
vulnerabilities.

Key Question:

- What management challenges or opportunities might occur?
- Can current management meet management goals?
- Do goals need to change?

Challenges to Meeting Management Objective with Climate Change – Things that will make it harder to achieve the management objective due to climate change.

Opportunities to Meeting Management Objective with Climate Change – Things that will make it easier to achieve the management objective due to climate change.

Feasibility – Can you meet your management objectives using current (business-as-usual) management actions?

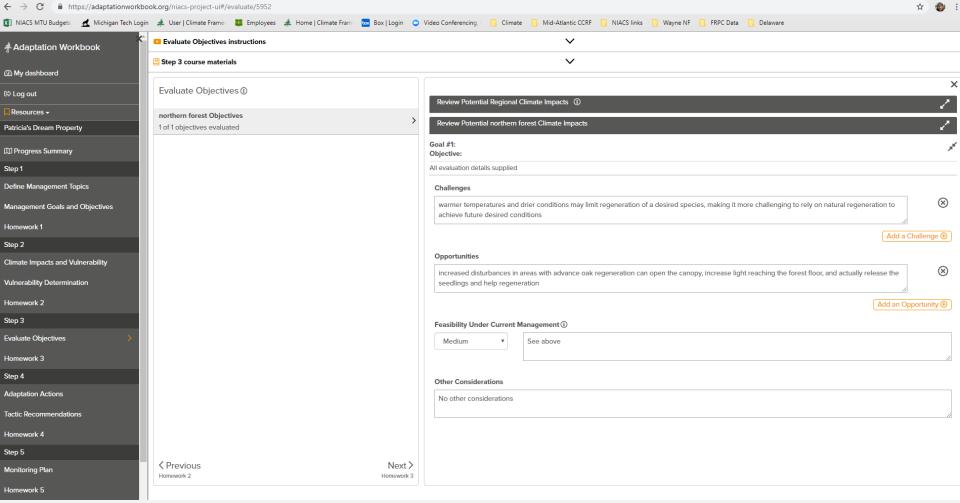
- High: We can do it!Opportunities > Challenges
- Low: We'll need more resources or effort.
 Challenges > Opportunities

Other Considerations – Social, financial, or other factors that also affect your ability to meet objectives.



Are you going to continue with these management objectives?

Step 3



Challenges

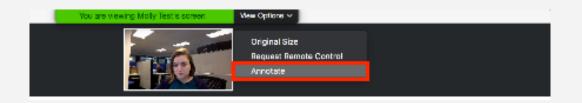
- Reduced regeneration due to
 - Invasive species control (x2)
 - Other factors (i.e., heat stress, disease, soil moisture variability)
 - Interrupted flowering and decreased seed production resulting from premature warming, then frost
 - Continued herbivory
- Stressed trees are more prone to pest attacks and disease.
- More resources needed for tree establishment/maintenance between rain events.
- Soil erosion and nutrient loss from heavy precip.
- Events, may lower water table and increase drought along stream valleys.
- Increased disturbance from extreme weather events (storms)
- Uncertainty in species shifts

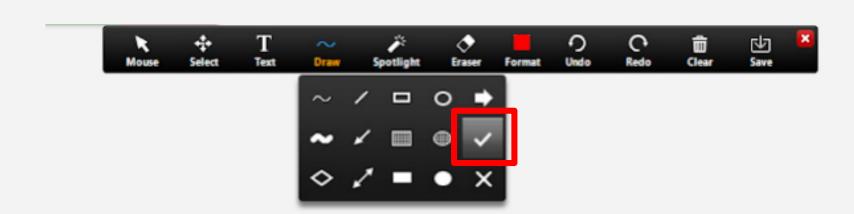
Opportunities

- Declining mesophytic spp. may require intense oak/ hickory management to establish a healthy forest in the understory.
- Decreased threat from gypsy moth, reduced gm population.
- Increase in southern tree species to offset decline of less adaptable northern species.
- Increased public desire for shade trees to help mitigate heat island effects.
- Some native species may benefit from climate change like: red cedar, sweet gum, and pawpaw.
- Increased drought may lower competition from hardwoods to favor oak/hickory/pine.
- Drier wetlands may become suitable for hardwood species

Feasibility Activity

- Pick one of your objectives preferably the one with the lowest feasibility
- •Use "annotate" feature to add a check mark describing the feasibility of that objective on the scale on the next slide.







Feasibility: Short Term (<10 yrs)

Low High

Bean Ridge	
The Glades Red	
Spruce Release	
conifer	
restoration in	
western MD	
Fairfax County	
Chickory Lane	
Farm	
Edge of	
Appalachia	
Preserve	
Potomac Fish	
and Game	
Drda Woods	
CJO Property	
Trust	



Feasibility: Long Term (>50 yrs)

Use the X to mark the spot

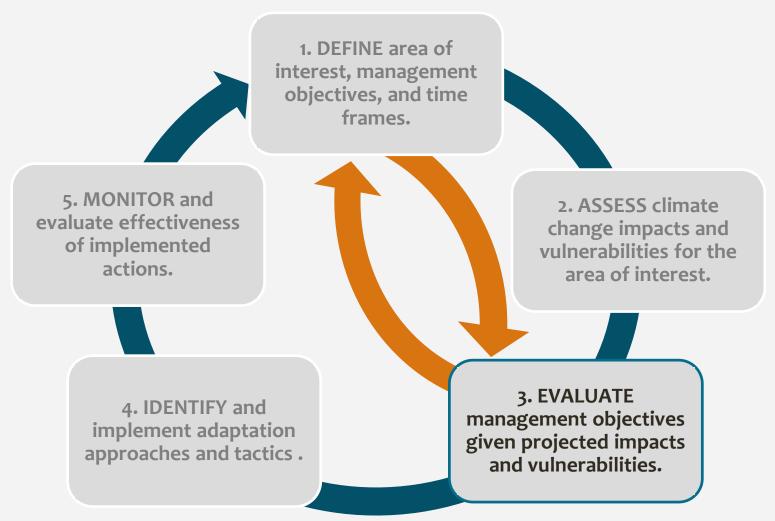
Low High

`	
Bean Ridge	
The Glades Red	
Spruce Release	
conifer	
restoration in	
western MD	
Fairfax County	
Chickory Lane	
Farm	
Edge of	
Appalachia	
Preserve	
Potomac Fish	
and Game	
Drda Woods	
CJO Property	
Trust	

Did anyone adjust their objectives?



Workbook Cycle: Step 3

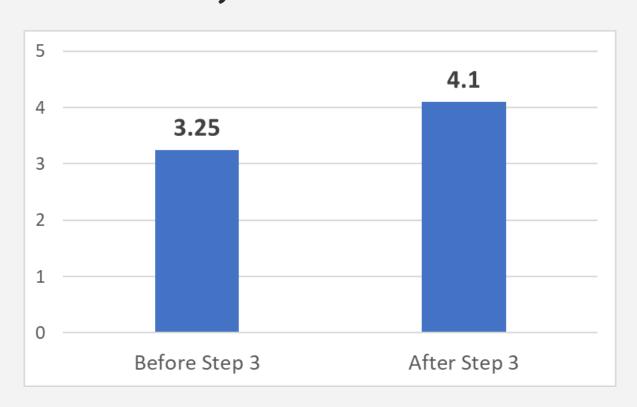


... or, RE-EVALUATE

Other comments on step 3?



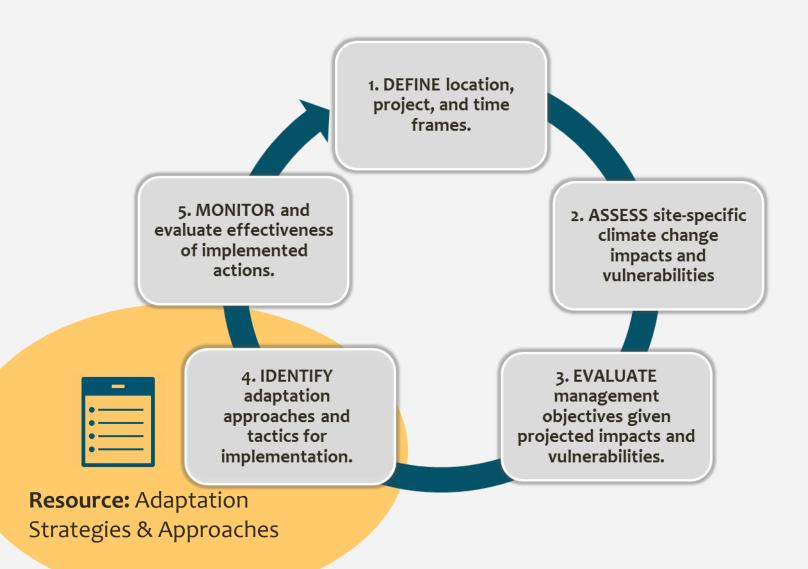
I can explain how climate change may affect my ability to meet management goals and objectives.







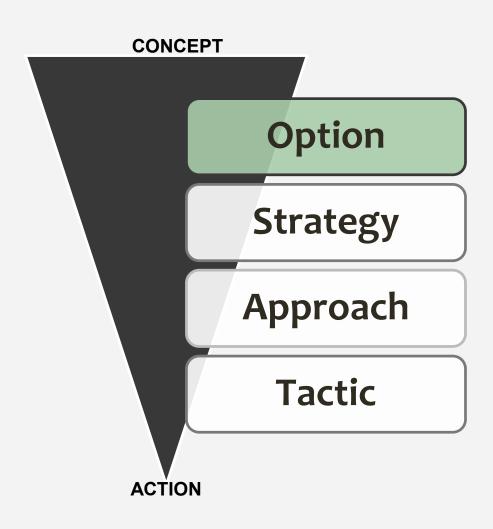
Adaptation Workbook Process





A "menu" of possible actions that allows you to decide what is most relevant for a particular location and set of conditions.

Find in: Step 4 of online workbook, Chapter 3-4 of FAR, or www.adaptationworkbook.org/niacs-strategies www.adaptationworkbook.org/niacs-strategies/urban



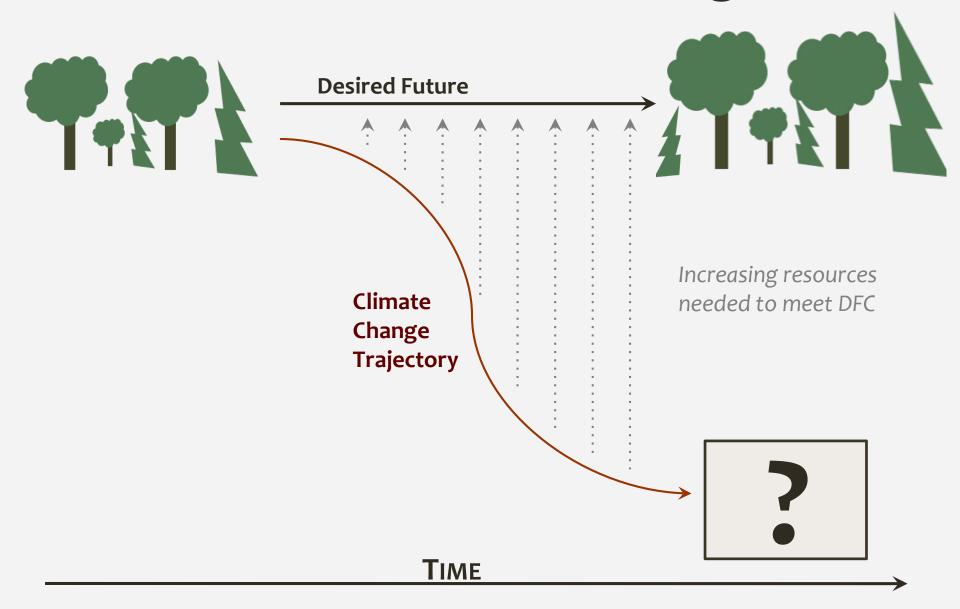
Climate-Driven Changes



Desired Future

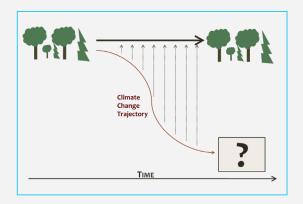


Climate-Driven Changes



Adaptation Options

RESISTANCE



- Improve defenses of forest against change
- Maintain relatively unchanged conditions

Refugia

Valleys that harbor cold air pools and inversions can decouple local climatic conditions from regional circulation patterns.

Deep snow drifts provide insulation to the surface below and provide water later in the season.

Canopy cover can buffer local temperature maximums and minimums throughout the year.

Areas near or in large deep lakes or oceans will warm more slowly due to

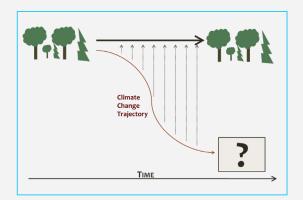
the high heat capacity of water.

Cold groundwater inputs produce local cold-water refuges in which stream temperature is decoupled from air temperature.

Poleward-facing slopes and aspects result in shaded areas that buffer solar heating, particularly during the low solar angles of winter and early spring.

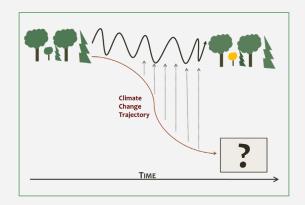
Adaptation Options

RESISTANCE



- Improve defenses of forest against change
- Maintain relatively unchanged conditions

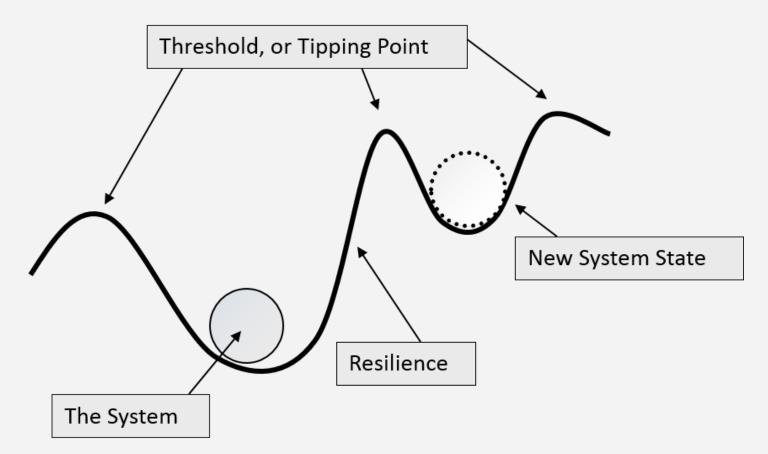
RESILIENCE



- Accommodate some degree of change
- Return to prior condition after disturbance

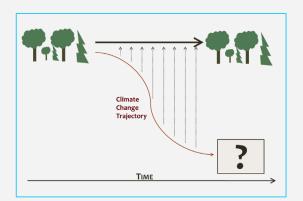
Resilience

ability of a system to maintain or return to a particular ecological state following a disturbance (e.g., Holling 1973, Griffith et al. 2009)



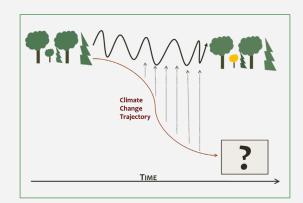
Adaptation Options

RESISTANCE



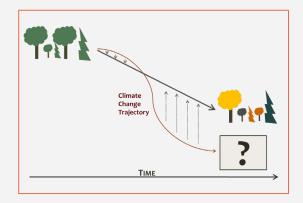
- Improve defenses of forest against change
- Maintain relatively unchanged conditions

RESILIENCE



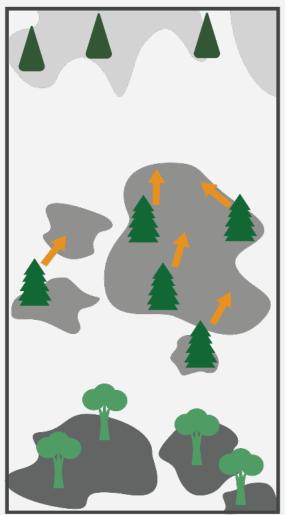
- Accommodate some degree of change
- Return to prior condition after disturbance

TRANSITION

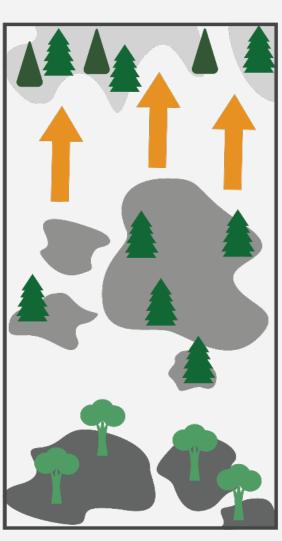


- Facilitate change
- Enable ecosystem to respond to new and changing conditions

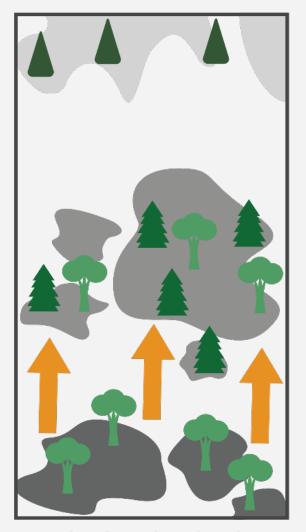
Assisted Migration



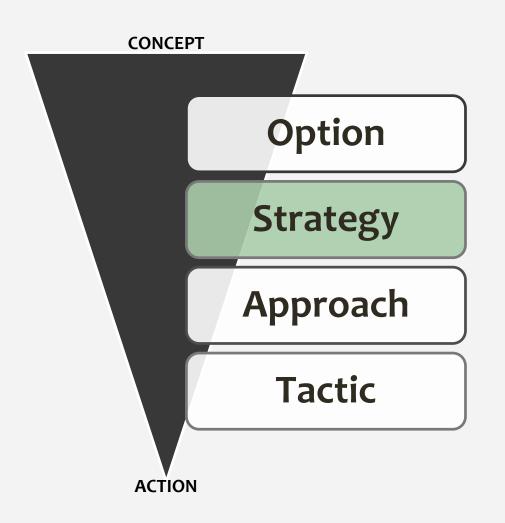
Assisted Population Migration



Assisted Range Expansion

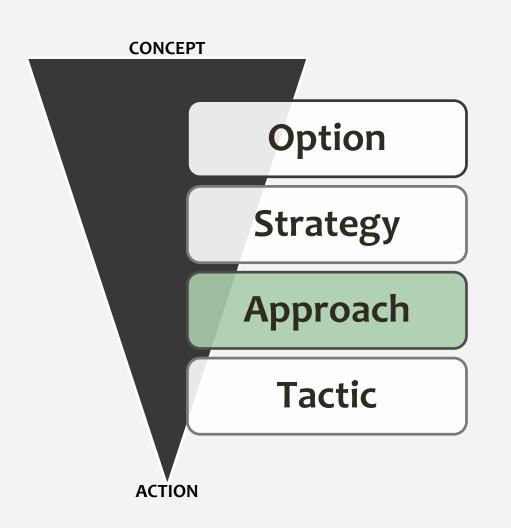


Assisted Species Migration



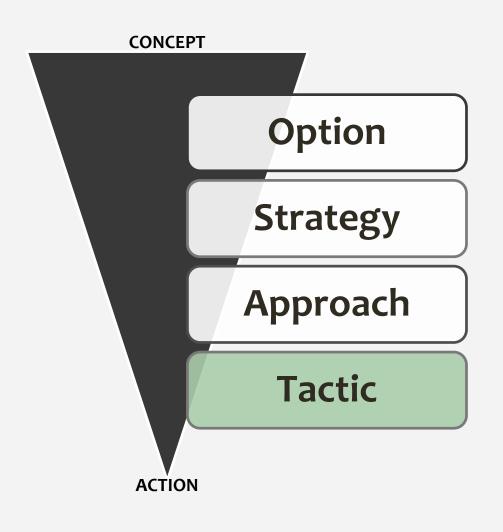
Broad adaptation responses

- Sustain fundamental ecological functions
- Reduce the impact of existing biological stressors
- Maintain and enhance species and structural diversity
- Facilitate community adjustments through species transitions



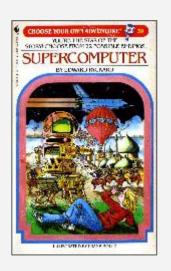
More specific actions

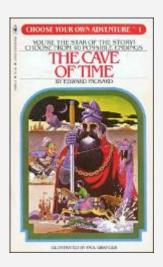
- Promote diverse age classes
- Maintain and restore diversity of native tree species
- Identify and move species to sites that are likely to provide future habitat



Prescriptive actions selected by producer that are designed for individual site conditions and management objectives

→ YOU DECIDE!





Management Goals & Objectives

Climate Change Impacts

Challenges & Opportunities

Why it's important:

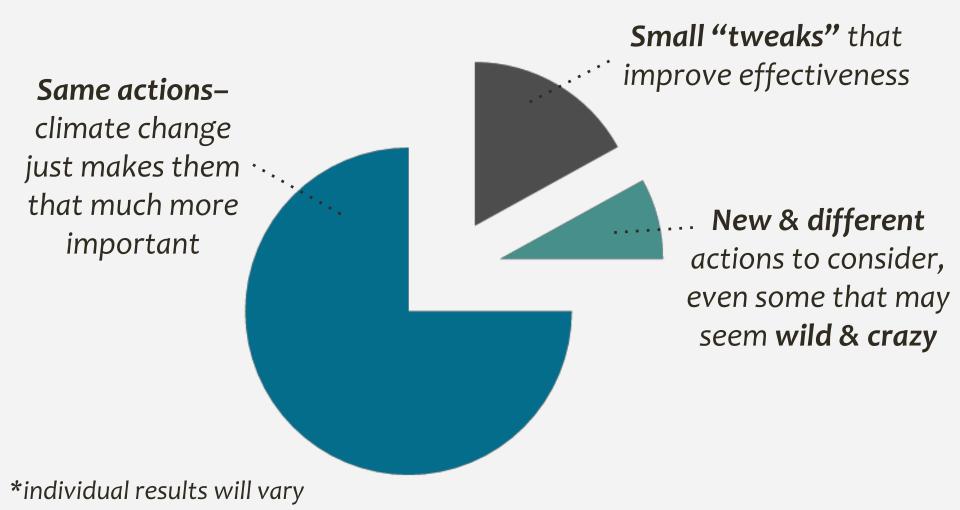
Helps connect the dots from broad concepts to specific actions for implementation.

Intent of Adaptation (Option)

Make Idea Specific (Strategy, Approach)

Action to Implement (Tactic)

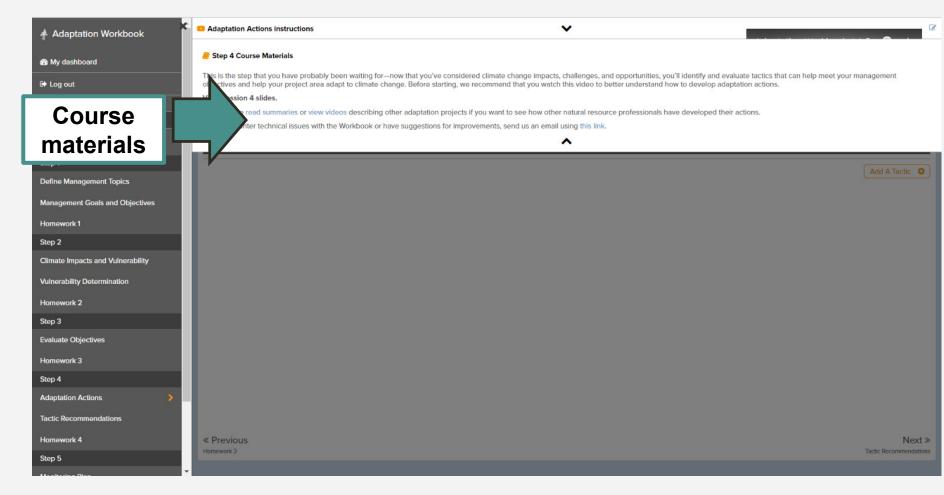
Adaptation actions may not look that different from current management actions, especially in the near term.



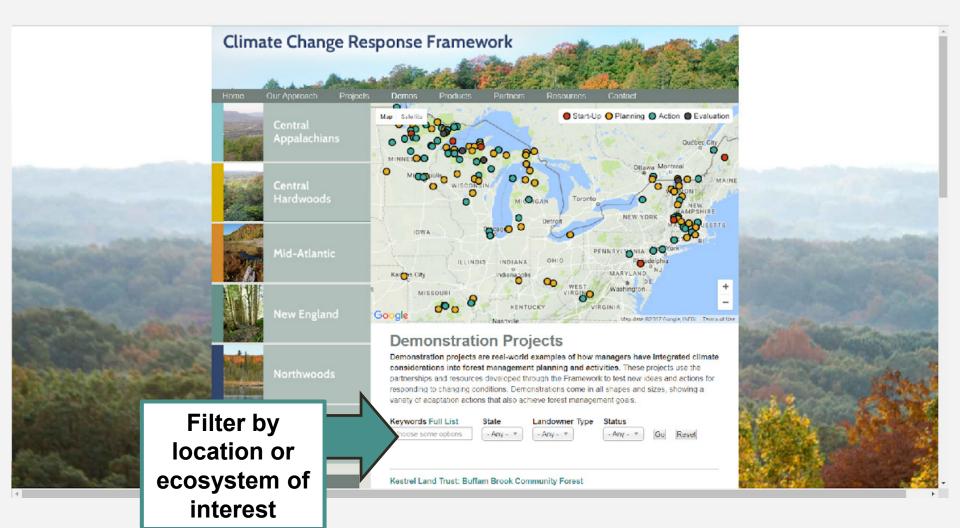
Key Question:

• What actions can enhance the ability of the project area to adapt to anticipated changes and meet management goals?

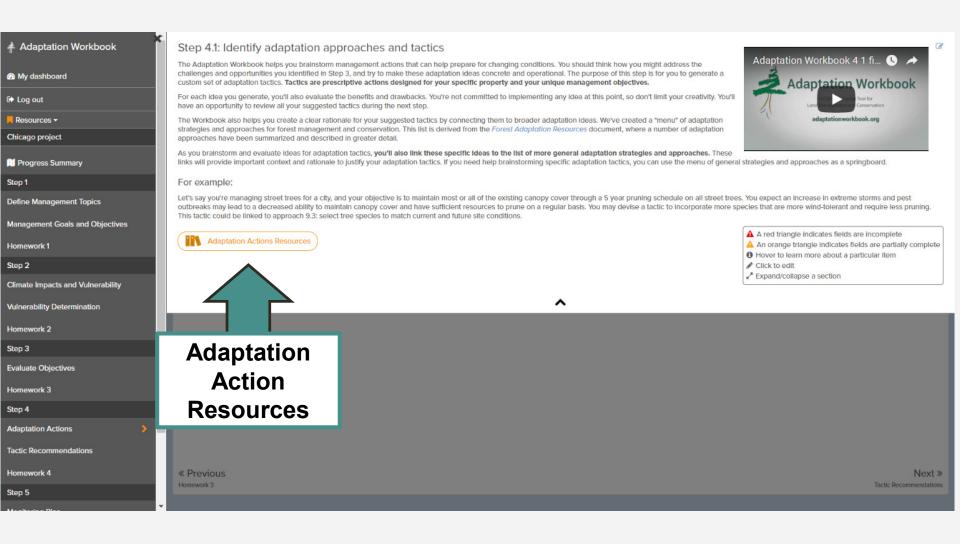
Adaptation Workbook: Step 4



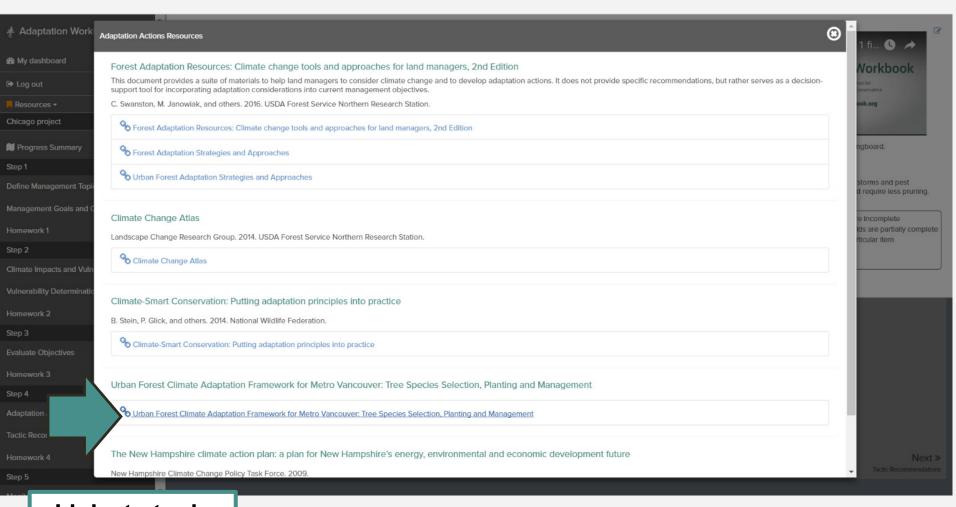
Forestadaptation.org/demos



Adaptation Workbook: Step 4

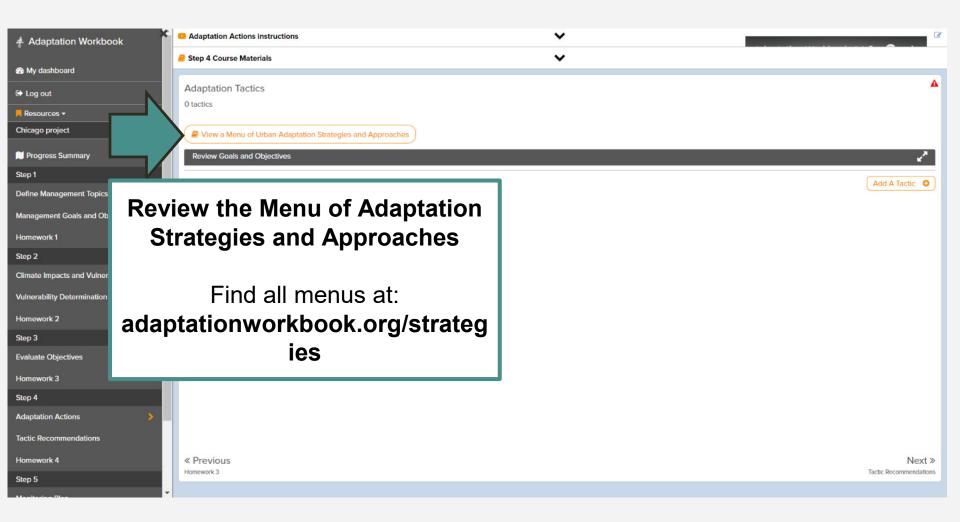


Adaptation Actions Resources



Links to tools and publications

Adaptation Workbook: Step 4



Adaptation Strategies and Approaches Forest Menu

Adaptation Strategies and Approaches (Forest)

Adapted from Forest Adaptation Resources: Climate Change Tools and Approaches for Land Managers

Created using the NIACS Adaptation Workbook

ategy 1: Sustain fundamental ecological functions

- Reduce Impacts to soils and
- Maintain or restore hydrolog
- Maintain or restore riparian :
- Reduce competition for mol
- Restore or maintain fire in fir
- Strategy 2: Reduce the Impact of b
 - Maintain or improve the abil
 - Prevent the Introduction and
 - Manage herbivory to promo
- Strategy 3: Reduce the risk and lor
- - Alter forest structure or com
 - Establish fuelbreaks to slow
 - Alter forest structure to redu
 - Promptly revegetate sites at
- Strategy 4: Maintain or create refue
 - Prioritize and maintain uniqu
 - Prioritize and maintain sensi
 - Establish artificial reserves for artisk and displaced species
- Strategy 5: Maintain and enhance species and structural diversity
 - Promote diverse age classes
 - Maintain and restore diversity of native species
 - Retain biological legacies



Strategy 1: Sustain fundamental ecological functions

Climate change will have substantial effects on a suite of ecosystem functions, such as carbon storage, nutrient cycling, habitat, or water provisioning. As a result, many management actions will need to work both directly and indirectly to maintain the integrity of ecosystems in the face of climate change. This strategy seeks to sustain fundamental ecological functions, especially those related to soil and hydrologic conditions.

Reduce impacts to soils and nutrient cycling

Maintaining both soil quality and nutrient cycling are already common tenets of sustainable forest management (Burger et al. 2010, Oliver and Larson 1996) and can help improve the capacity of ecosystems to persist under new conditions. Physical and chemical changes can result from a variety of forest management and recreation activities, as well as from climate-related processes including fire, drought, and flooding. Examples of physical impacts to soil are compaction, mixing of soil layers, removal of organic layers, rutting, erosion, and landslides. Complex interactions among climate, vegetation, and landforms can result in changes in nutrient cycling, including the leaching or fixation of nutrients and changes in soil biota. Many existing guidelines and best management practices describe actions that can be used to reduce impacts to soil and water; many of these actions are also likely to be beneficial in the context of adaptation, either in their current form or with modifications to address potential climate change impacts.

Examples

- · Altering the timing of forest operations to reduce potential impacts on water, soils, and residual trees, especially in areas that rely on particular conditions for operations that may be affected by a changing climate (e.g., frozen soil, or dry conditions)
- Modifying forest operations techniques and equipment (e.g., using pallets, debris mats, or float bridges) to minimize soil compaction, rutting, or other impacts on water, solls, and residual trees
- · Retaining coarse woody debris to maintain moisture, soil quality, and nutrient cycling
- Restricting recreational access in areas that show signs of excessive wear on natural resources in order to allow for revegetation or soil stabilization
- Using soil amendments to restore or improve soil quality (e.g., using lime to increase base cations in the soil profile in areas affected by long-term acid deposition)
- Restoring native herbaceous groundcover following management activities in order to retain soil moisture and reduce erosion.

Adaptation Strategies and Approaches Urban Menu

Adaptation Strategies and Approaches (Urban)

Adapted from Forest Adaptation Resources: Climate Change Tools and Approaches for Land Managers

eated using the NIACS Adaptation Workbook

Strategy 1: Sustain or restore fundamental ecological functions

- · Maintain or restore soils and nutrient cycling in urban areas
- Maintain or restore hydrology
- · Maintain or restore riparian areas
- · Reduce competition for moisture, nutrients, ar
- Restore or maintain fire in fire-adapted ecosys
- Strategy 2: Reduce the impact of biological stressors
 - · Maintain or improve the ability of forests to res
 - · Prevent the introduction and establishment of
 - · Manage herbivory to promote regeneration, g
- · Strategy 3: Reduce the risk and long-term impacts of
 - · Alter forest structure or composition to reduce
 - · Maintain trees and remove hazards to reduce
- · Strategy 4: Maintain or create refugia
 - · Prioritize,maintain, and restore unique sites
 - Prioritize and maintain sensitive or at-risk spec
 - · Establish artificial reserves for at-risk and disp
- · Strategy 5: Maintain and enhance species and struct
 - · Promote diverse age structure
 - · Maintain and restore diversity of native specie
 - · Retain biological legacies
 - Establish reserves to maintain ecosystem dive
- · Strategy 6: Increase ecosystem redundancy across t
 - Manage habitats over a range of sites and cor
 - · Expand or buffer the boundaries of reserves to
- · Strategy 7: Promote landscape connectivity
 - Reduce landscape fragmentation
 - · Maintain and create habitat corridors through
- Strategy 8: Maintain and enhance genetic diversity
 - Use seeds, germplasm, and other genetic mal
 - · Favor existing genotypes that are better adap

Strategy 1: Sustain or restore fundamental ecological functions

The changing climate may alter the complex interactions among climate, vegetation, and landforms, resulting in changes in hydrology, soil quality, and nutrient cycling. Urban areas often involve further complications because of the greater likelihood that human activities have already significantly altered ecosystem functioning and will continue to do so. Urban conditions are often characterized by difficult growing conditions, including impermeable surfaces, air and water pollution, frequent human interaction, and small soil volumes. Existing guidelines and best management practices for forest management describe actions that can be used to reduce or reverse impacts to soil and water. Many of these actions are also likely to be beneficial in the context of adaptation, although additional effort may be required to maintain ecosystem function in urban areas.

Maintain or restore soils and nutrient cycling in urban areas

Most urban tree problems are related to poor soils or growing conditions (Patterson and Mader 1982), which could exacerbate stresses induced by climate change. Urban soils are often highly disturbed, lack essential nutrients, and commonly include detrimental elements such as chemicals, concrete, asphalt, and other foreign matter that limit the long-term viability of a tree. Trees are dependent on adequate soil characteristics such as rooting volume, organic matter content, drainage capacity, and nutrient availability to achieve healthy maturity. Prior to planting a tree, soil and site analyses can be conducted to determine if the soil content, texture, or volume would meet the long-term needs of a growing healthy tree.

Examples Urban natural areas

- Removing invasive species that have negative impacts on soil processes or undesirable feedbacks to nutrient inputs (e.g., European buckthorn; Heneghan et al. 2006)
- · Adding organic soil amendments (e.g., mulch, biochar) to urban sites undergoing restoration or revegetation.

- · Providing and developing adequate soil volume, texture, structure, and organic matter to support healthy tree growth (e.g., Watson and Himelick 2013)
- · Removing and replacing the soil if toxicity or chemical levels are too high
- . Amending soil with organic or structural material to improve drainage, pH, and rooting
- . Installing a layer of mulch over the root zone of the tree to help retain moisture and mimic a natural growing environment.

Maintain or restore hydrology

Changes in climate may increase runoff during heavy storm events in some areas. Impermeable surfaces are more common in the urban setting and direct water into water bodies through storm sewers. Stormwater thus bypasses vegetation and other natural features that could slow water flow and reduce pollution. Vegetation and associated ecosystem features can filter, intercept, and absorb stormwater, reducing runoff and improving the quality of water reaching streams and lakes. Water is intercepted by the tree canopy and held by the root systems of herbaceous and woody plants and associated soil organic material. In highly developed areas where large areas of vegetation are not feasible, engineered features can also be used to increase permeability and help redistribute water

Examples

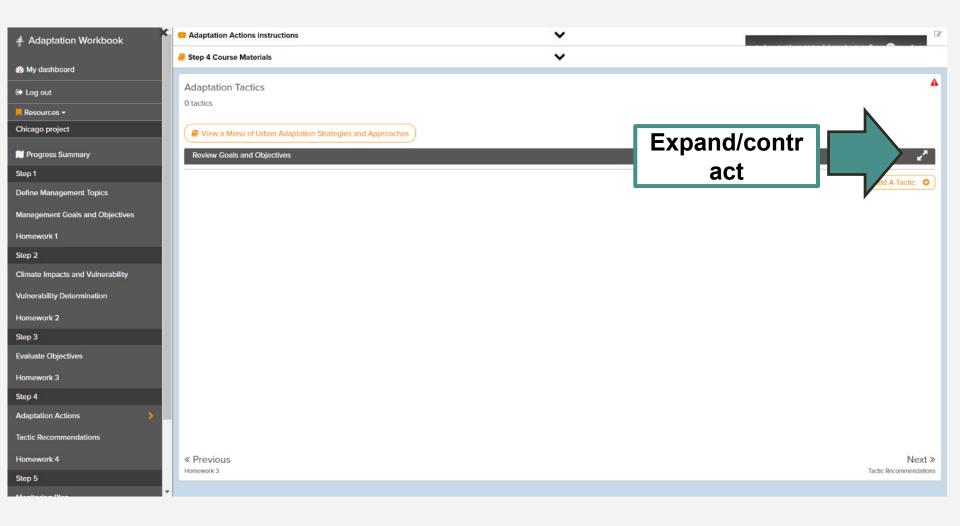
- · Restoring natural hydrology where appropriate by removing drain tiles or other remnant hydrological modifications
- · Restoring native communities and ecosystem components (e.g., natural groundcover, litter layer, coarse woody debris) in riparian areas
- · Adjusting trail location and design to minimize erosion under more intense surface runoff.

- Strategy 9: Facilitate composition adjustments through species transitions
 - · Favor or restore native species that are expected to be adapted to future conditions
 - · Establish or encourage new mixes of native species
 - · Select tree species to match current and future site conditions
 - · Protect future-adapted seedlings and saplings
 - · Disfavor species that are distinctly maladapted





Review Goals and Objectives



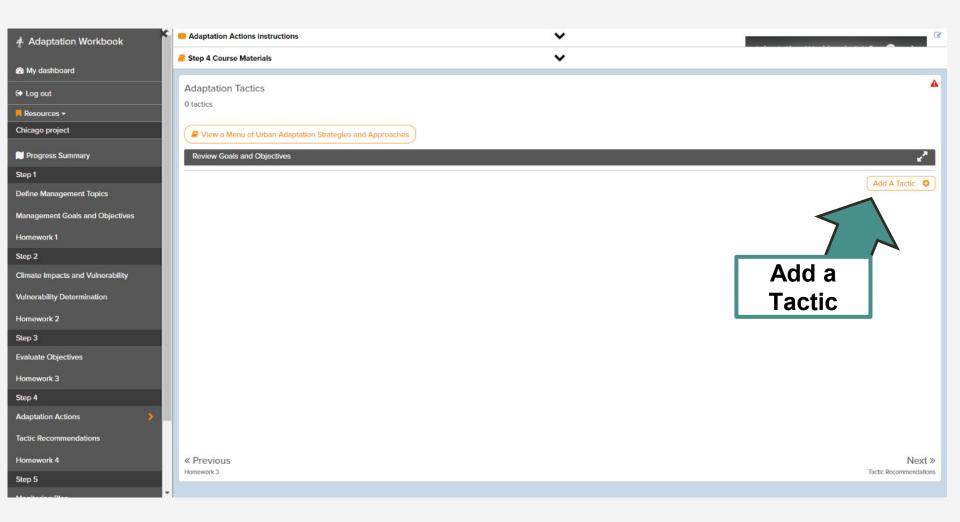
Approach – Select from the menu. Pick any that seem to make sense and help address the challenges.

Tactic – Describe a specific action you can take.

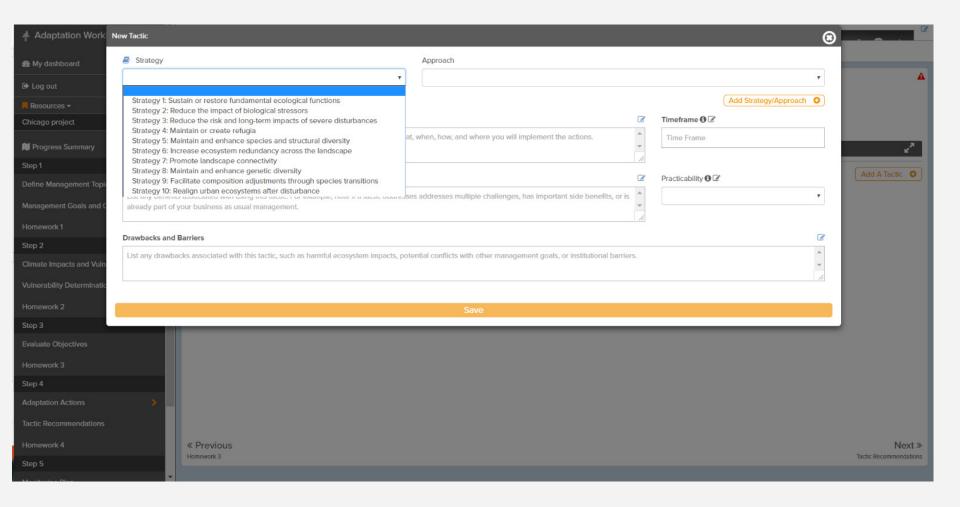
These details should ideally answer what, where, and how you will implement the actions.



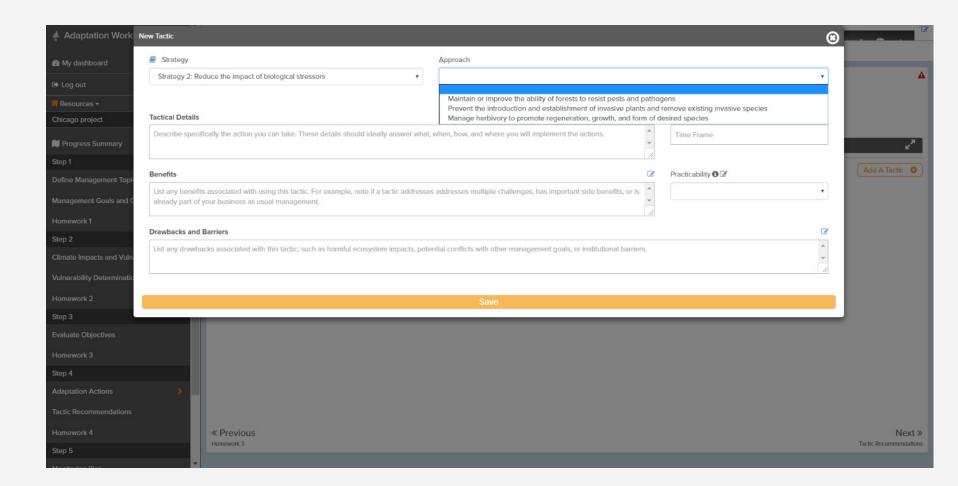
Add a Tactic



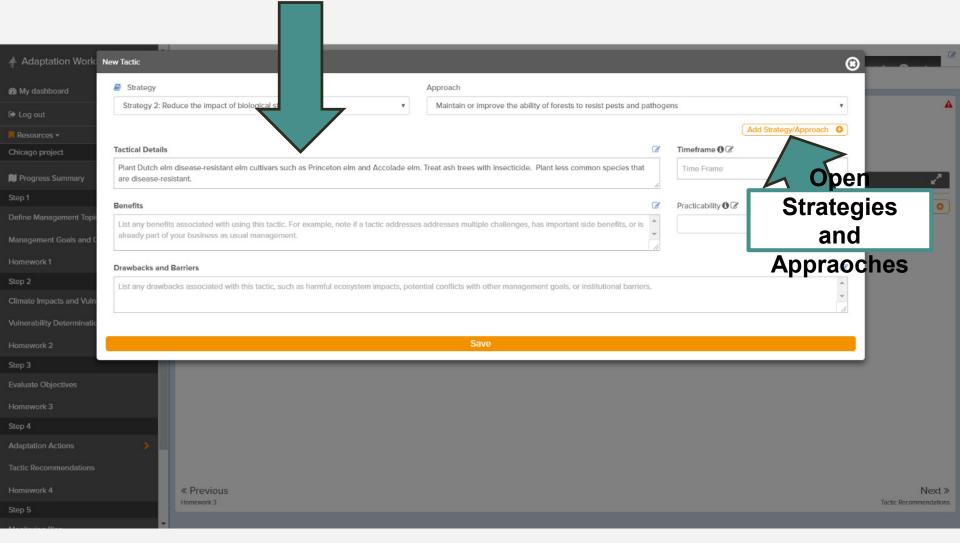
Select a Strategy



Select an Approach



Describe your Tactic

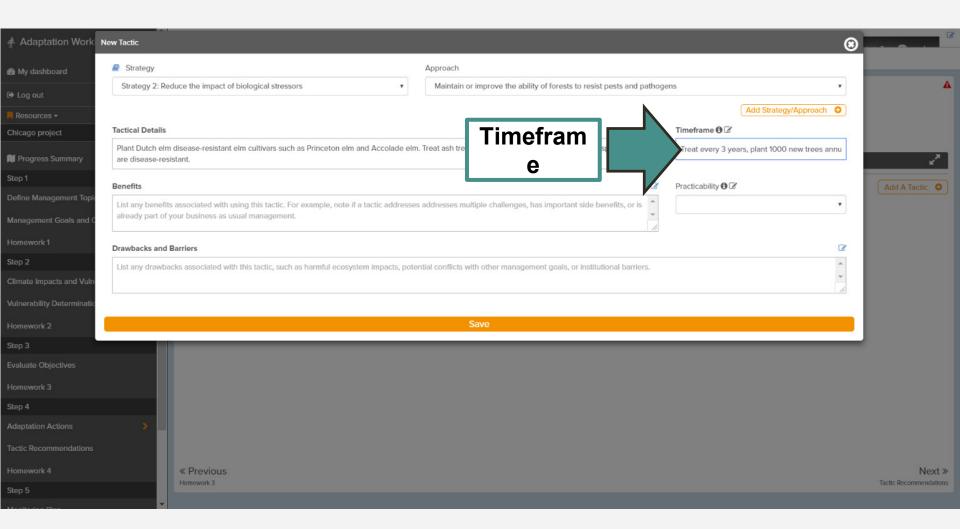


Timeframe – Specify when you will implement the tactic.

For example:

- Summer 2019
- Winter 2019-2020
- Within 3 years of...
- After...
- If... then...

Describe your Timeframe



Benefits – Describe why the tactic is good.

For example:

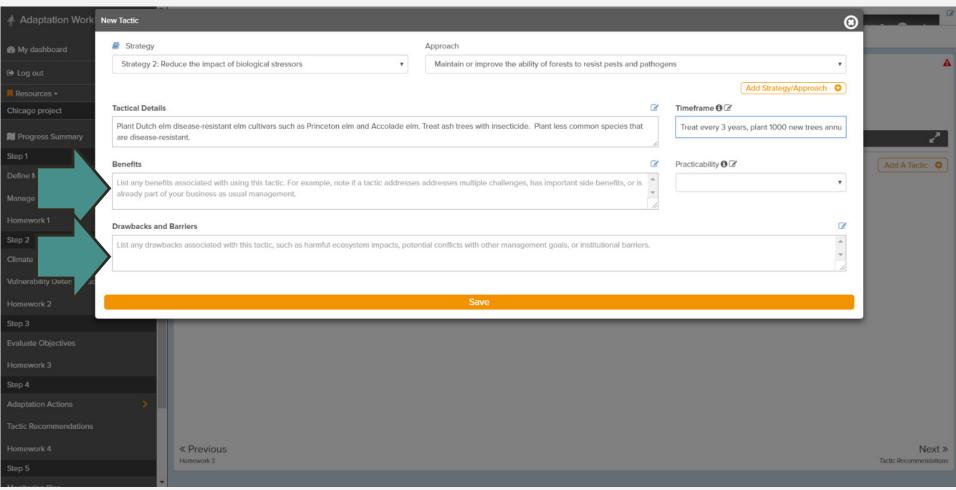
- addresses biggest or multiple challenges
- is cheap and easy
- has co-benefits
- is likely to succeed

Drawbacks and Barriers - Describe why it's not so good.

For example:

- it may have negative side effects,
- Requires high cost or effort
- may not be successful
- has social, financial, or other barriers

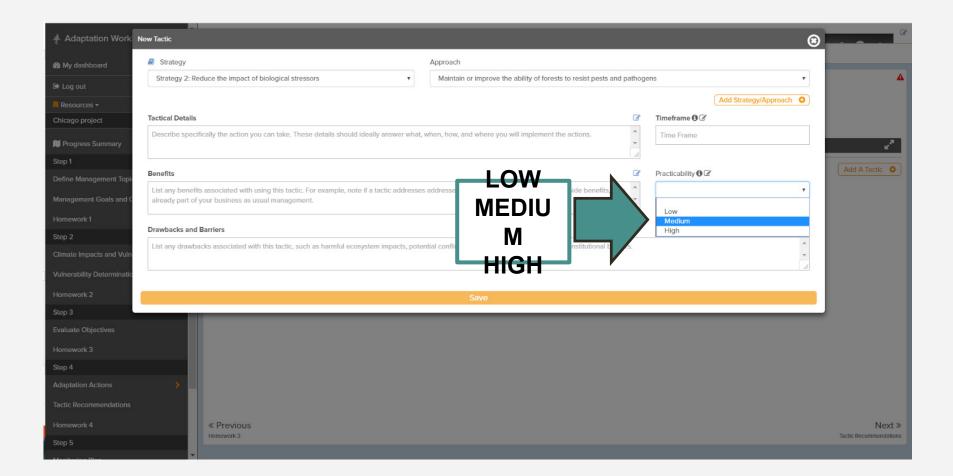
Describe your Benefits and Drawbacks/Barriers



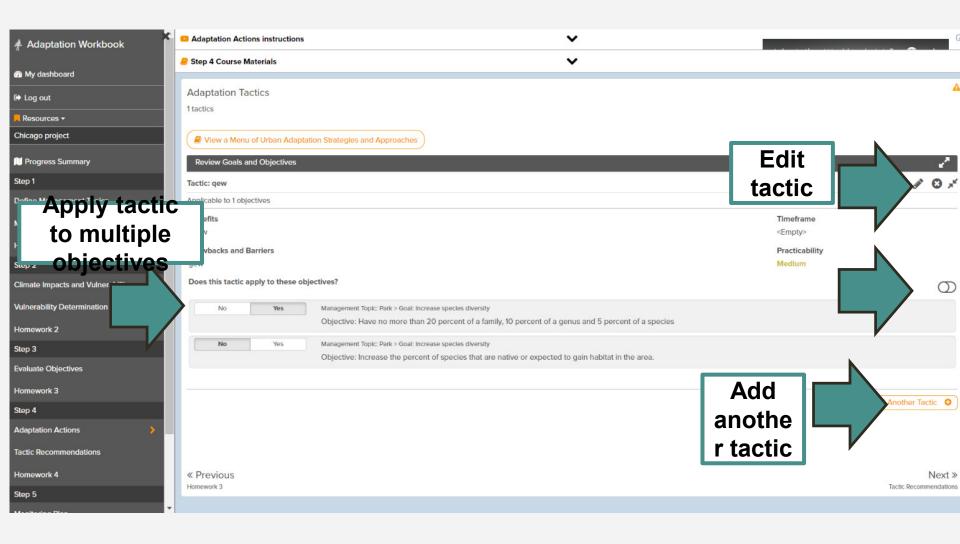
Practicability – Is it both <u>effective</u> (will meet desired intent) and <u>feasible</u> (capable of being implemented)?

- High: Yes to both!
- Moderate: Yeah, but it will take some additional effort or planning...
- Low: No, the barriers/drawbacks seem too big or the benefits too small.

Practicability



Apply tactics to objectives



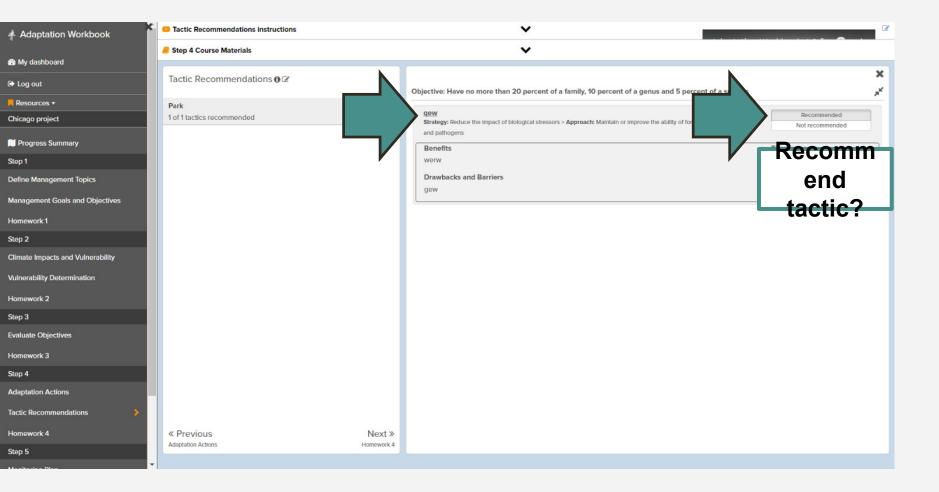
Recommend Tactic– Given all this, is this tactic likely to be helpful?

Also consider: trade-offs, urgency, likelihood of success, cost, and effort...

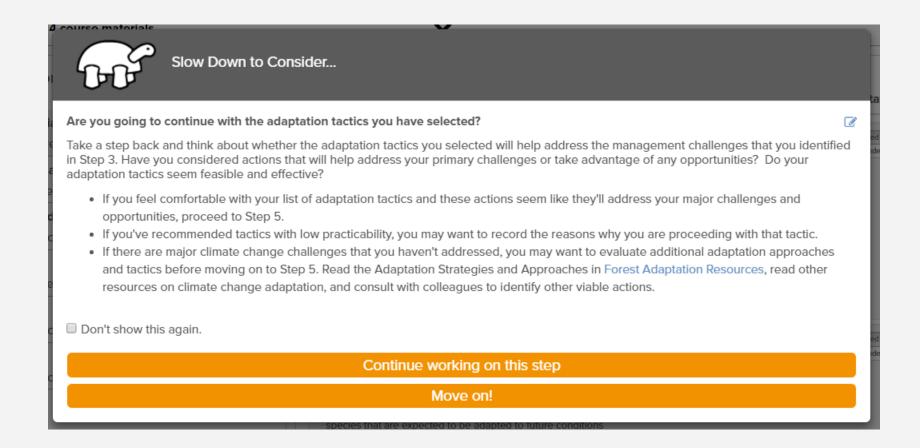
Yes: look to integrate into plan, prescription, or other activities

No: not useful at this time

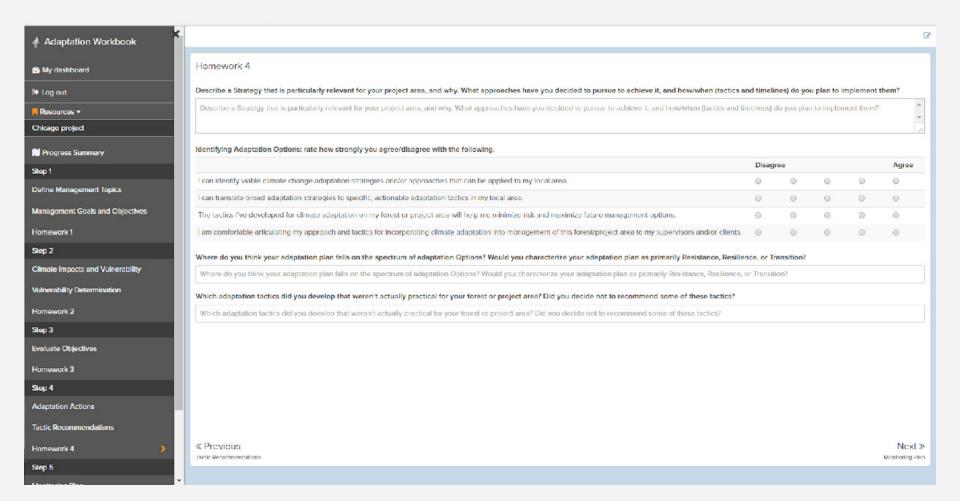
Recommend tactic?



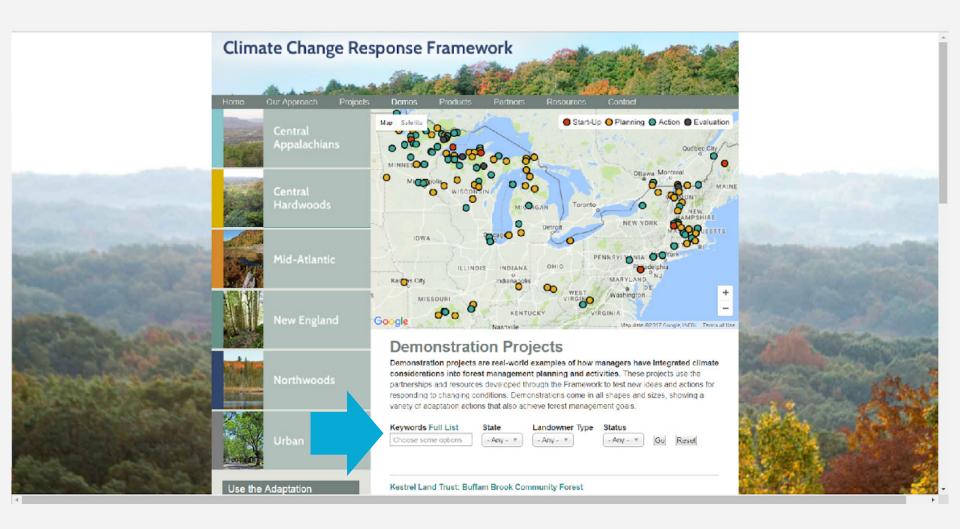
Step 4.2: Tactic Recommendations



Homework



www.forestadaptation.org/demos



Filter projects by keyword, state, land ownership, or project status.

Assignment

- Go back and complete Step 3 as needed
- Complete Step 4: Identifying Adaptation Actions
- Complete the Homework section after Step 4
- These course materials may be helpful:
 - Adaptation Strategies and Approaches
 - Adaptation Demonstrations
- Come to Session 5 (Feb 19) ready to discuss your approaches and actions!

Thanks everyone!

Troubleshooting? Stay on the line.

Questions?

