

ADAPTATION PLANNING AND PRACTICES for the Rio Grande Basin



How will climate change and extreme weather events impact your farm or ranch, or the lands and water resources you manage?

Will you need to adapt your current management practices to maintain productivity and protect natural resources?

We are offering a free online course in [Adaptation Planning and Practices](#) for land owners and managers, agricultural producers, and natural resource professionals in the Rio Grande Basin. We are the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, and the USDA Southwest and Northern Forests Climate Hubs. It is our goal to assist private individuals and public agencies integrate climate change impacts information into their land, water and ecosystem management practices. Our online course gives **hands on training for identifying relevant climate impacts and climate adaptation actions that will help participants plan for and respond to less predictable weather events and a warmer climate.**

PARTICIPANTS WILL PRACTICE HOW TO:

- Identify locally-important climate change impacts, challenges, and opportunities
- Better communicate with partners about key management decisions needed for a changing climate
- Develop specific actions to adapt agricultural systems to changing conditions
- Use the [Adaptation Workbook](#) to create their own “climate-informed” project

REGISTER TODAY

- **DATES:** Weekly Oct 5 – Nov 16, 2021, Tuesdays at 1 pm
- **FORMAT:** Seven sessions. Each session (1.5 hours) includes a short presentation from the facilitators, followed by participant discussion and interactive activity. Sessions will be recorded in case you can't make it every week
- **GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:** Agricultural systems, natural and working lands in the Rio Grande Basin.
- **REGISTER ONLINE:** <https://bit.ly/RioGrandeAdapt>
- **QUESTIONS?** Contact: Lauren Kramer (lrkramer@nmsu.edu), Maude Dinan (mdinan@nmsu.edu), Caiti Steele (caiti@nmsu.edu)

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

This training is designed for natural resources professionals and agricultural producers working in the Rio Grande Basin. This includes but is not limited to natural resource managers, producers, conservation NGOs and nonprofits, county and municipal employees, and consultants working on public, tribal, and private lands. Professionals providing extension service or technical assistance to producers are also encouraged to participate. Individuals as well as small teams can participate in the course.

We ask participants to bring their own real-world projects. Ideally, this is a relevant project from your work, such as a management plan, agricultural project from your farm or another effort that you're currently working on. During the course, we'll help you consider how climate change could affect your project area and your management, and what adaptation options you have available. At the end of the course, you'll have a custom-built adaptation plan that's ready to implement!

Example projects could include:

- a management or stewardship plan for a farm, property, parcel or watershed
- a wildfire management or mitigation plan for building fuel breaks
- a habitat management plan for a wildlife species
- a restoration project

Examples of Adaptation Demonstration projects that have used the Adaptation Workbook are online at www.forestadaptation.org/demos.

HOW DOES THE ONLINE COURSE WORK?

The seven-week online course draws on a combination of regular webinars and discussions with all participants, as well as independent work time to create adaptation projects. Throughout the course, participants will develop (individually or in small groups) their own climate-informed adaptation project.

- **Seven 1-hour web meetings** bring together all course participants to present and discuss key concepts, and smaller group sessions to share insights and questions related to individual projects. We expect participants to attend all sessions, but meetings will be recorded for those who may need to miss a session.
- **Assignments** will guide participants through the new material, actively engaging them with recorded presentations, the online [Adaptation Workbook](#), and other activities. Participants will be assigned work to complete before each session, which is generally expected to take 2-4 hours to complete.

REGISTER!

Interested? Please register online
<https://bit.ly/RioGrandeAdapt>

COURSE OUTLINE

Registered participants will receive instructions regarding how to prepare for the training in advance of the first meeting session. Prior to the training, participants are asked to identify a project to be used during the training and provide some additional information to course instructors.

Session 1 (October 5) — Course Introduction; Defining Project Goals and Objectives

- Course objectives, instructors, and agenda
- Introduction to the Adaptation Workbook tool (tutorial)
- Defining project scope and management goals/objectives
- *Assignment 1: Define project goals and objectives (complete in preparation for Session 1)*

Session 2 (October 12) — Defining Project Goals and Objectives

- Climate projections and impacts on tree species, ecosystems, and regions
- Prioritizing vulnerabilities of greatest concern for management goals/objectives
- *Assignment 2: Assess climate impacts and vulnerabilities.*

Session 3 (October 19) — Evaluating Management Challenges and Opportunities

- Re-considering and revising management goals/objectives in light of climate challenges
- Practice articulating climate-adaptive management goals/objectives
- *Assignment 3: Evaluate objectives considering climate impacts.*

Session 4 (October 26) — Identifying Adaptation Strategies, Approaches and Tactics

- Meeting existing demands while preparing for future conditions
- Adaptation concepts: resisting change, enhancing resilience, and facilitating transitions
- Developing specific actions for climate-change adaptation
- *Assignment 4: Identify adaptation approaches and tactics.*

Session 5 (November 2) — Monitoring and Evaluating Effectiveness

- Tools for measuring effectiveness of implemented adaptation actions
- Capitalizing on existing data, inventory or monitoring processes/partnerships
- *Assignment 5: Monitor effectiveness of implemented actions.*

Session 6 (November 9) — Telling your Adaptation Story, Part 1

- Tools for measuring effectiveness of implemented adaptation actions
- Capitalizing on existing data, inventory or monitoring processes/partnerships
- *Assignment 6: Complete adaptation project plans.*

Session 7 (November 15) — Telling your Adaptation Story, Part 2

- Summarizing and pitching adaptation plans to partners, clients, and others
- Next steps for implementation

INSTRUCTORS

This training will be led by a team of experienced instructors specializing in climate adaptation:



Maude Dinan, Jornada Experimental Range & USDA Southwest Climate Hub

Maude Dinan is a program specialist with the USDA Southwest Climate Hub in Las Cruces, New Mexico. She works with land managers and ranchers to identify household, community, and regional strategies and barriers to drought adaptation. She aims to support environmental sustainability, rancher well-being, and hazard resilience through connection and knowledge-sharing.



Lauren Kramer, USDA Southwest Climate Hub

Lauren Kramer is a Program Coordinator with the USDA Southwest Climate Hub, remotely based in Durango, Colorado. Lauren is involved in various projects for the hub concentrating on building rangeland resistance to climate change. She works to bolster scientific knowledge, assists in tool development and coordinates outreach. She is committed to supporting climate science and research focusing on resilience, adaptation and awareness.



Courtney Peterson, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science & Colorado State University

Courtney is a Research Associate in the Forest and Rangeland Stewardship Department at Colorado State University. One of her major roles is serving as the Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change (ASCC) Coordinator, focusing on disseminating ASCC project findings and translating them into outreach and training opportunities with land managers and scientists working to manage forests for climate change adaptation.



Caiti Steele, USDA Southwest Climate Hub, New Mexico State University

Caiti Steele is Coordinator of the USDA Southwest Climate Hub in Las Cruces and College Associate Professor at New Mexico State University. Her research and outreach activities focus on water, agriculture and forest sustainability in the Southwest Hub region, in the context of both short-term disturbances such as drought and long-term climate change.