

# Join Us for a Webinar

## Wildlife Conservation Society

### Climate Adaptation Fund:

#### Supporting public-private partnerships

February 21, 2018, 2:00pm to 3:30pm Eastern



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Climate change poses serious concerns for the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources. To incentivize new and innovative approaches to help wildlife and ecosystems respond to climate change, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation have created the WCS Climate Adaptation Fund. Between 2011 and 2017, the WCS Climate Adaptation Fund awarded more than \$14 million to 78 adaptation projects across the United States. Speakers will describe the goals of the Fund and the 2018 Request For Proposals (RFP), provide examples of forest adaptation projects supported by the Fund, and discuss tools and resources available to help forest managers prepare for the effects of a changing climate.

### Agenda

Moderated by Dixie Porter, USDA Forest Service, Office of Sustainability and Climate

2:00	<b>Introduction</b> – Cynthia West ( <i>USDA Forest Service, Director of the Office of Sustainability and Climate</i> ) and Rob Harper ( <i>USDA Forest Service, Director Of Wildlife, Fish, Air &amp; Rare Plants</i> )
2:05	<b>An Introduction to the WCS Climate Adaptation Fund</b> – Darren Long ( <i>Director of the WCS Climate Adaptation Fund and Global Lead for WCS Climate Adaptation Program</i> )
2:20	<b>Questions and Answers</b>
2:30	<b>WCS Climate Adaptation Fund priorities and examples of past funded projects</b> – Molly Cross ( <i>Director of Climate Adaptation for the WCS Americas Program</i> )
2:50	<b>Questions and Answers</b>
3:00	<b>Tools and resources for designing climate-informed forest management projects</b> – Chris Swanston ( <i>USDA Forest Service, Director of the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, and USDA Northern Forest Climate Hub Director</i> ) and Stephen Handler ( <i>USDA Forest Service, Climate Specialist for the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science</i> )
3:20	<b>Questions and Answers</b>
3:30	<b>Conclude</b>

### Connection Information

Webinar information: <http://www.climatewebinars.net/webinars/wcs-climate>

Audio Conference Line: 1-877-369-5243; **Access Code:** 0240625##

WO Meeting Room: Leopold Training (2SE01)

Questions? Contact Aurora Cutler, [auroraacutler@fs.fed.us](mailto:auroraacutler@fs.fed.us)

*A recording of the webinar will be available upon its conclusion at the webinar link shown above.*



## Speaker Information



**Dr. Molly Cross** is the Director of Climate Adaptation for the WCS Americas Program. Her work brings together experts in the fields of climate change, ecology, conservation-planning and natural resource management to translate climate change adaptation science into on-the-ground conservation actions. Molly is leading climate change planning efforts involving government agencies and diverse stakeholders at several landscapes across North America, focused on a range of targets from individual species to more complex ecosystems. She is also the science advisor to the WCS Climate Adaptation Fund. Molly has been researching, writing reports, and coordinating outreach with stakeholder groups on the potential ecological and socioeconomic impacts of climate change in North America for over two decades.



**Stephen Handler**, U.S. Forest Service, is a Climate Change Specialist with the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS) and coordinates the Northwoods Climate Change Response Framework across Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. This work involves building partnerships, assessing climate change risk, and working with forest managers and landowners to develop real-world adaptation projects.



**Darren Long** currently serves as global director for climate adaptation and managing director of the Climate Adaptation Fund at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), where he is responsible for all management, grants administration, communications and grantmaking activities for a program which has invested more than \$15 million to support nonprofit conservation organizations and oversees a global portfolio of science, planning and applied conservation across more than 50 countries. Before joining WCS, Darren spent four years at The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation in Atlanta, Georgia, where his work focused on green space preservation, expansion and improvement of urban parks, and improving outcomes for early learning and child development through the Foundation's Environmental and Better Beginnings initiatives.



**Dr. Chris Swanston**, U.S. Forest Service, is the director of the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS) and the USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub. NIACS is a multi-organization partnership that provides practical information, resources, and technical assistance related to land management and climate change. Chris and Stephen will share information on the Adaptation Workbook, a structured process that has helped hundreds of managers and organizations develop their own custom-built adaptation plans. They will also share example projects that have used the Adaptation Workbook to develop project ideas that were funded for implementation through the WCS Climate Adaptation Fund.

