

## 43<sup>RD</sup> NATURAL AREAS CONFERENCE

### Climate Change Adaptation and Natural Areas Management: Turning Words to Action

#### Conference Theme

Climate warming is having accelerating impacts on North American ecosystems. In many places, climatic challenges to ecosystem health and sustainability are magnified by the effects of human land use and management, which have greatly altered the landscape, and the species, ecosystem structures and ecological processes that characterize it. These effects are synergistically driving trends in hydrology, mortality, wildfire severity, and habitat loss that threaten the sustainability of ecosystems across the country. Such trends also imperil human livelihoods and safety, the provision of essential ecosystem services, and even the character of the human-nature relationship.

It has been 25 years since the first Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report. We have made assessments of the vulnerabilities of ecosystems and society to climate change across much of the U.S. In California, the state has developed a carbon cap-and-trade market and climate change mitigation efforts are underway, but most of the country has been slower to respond. Actual climate change adaptation efforts, management actions which seek to prevent or minimize ecological and social vulnerabilities to climate change, have only just begun. Many states have climate change adaptation strategies, and federal agencies have developed similar guidance, but the reality is that resource managers continue to struggle with fundamental questions about what concrete actions they might take, and whether such actions are likely to work.

#### The Event

In October, 2016, the Natural Areas Association (NAA), a national organization dedicated to supporting resource and conservation managers, will hold its annual conference in Davis, CA. **The conference will focus on the nuts-and-bolts of climate change adaptation, with the target audience being organizations and individuals involved in on-the-ground natural areas management.** The event and its content are being planned by a multiparty committee including individuals from federal and state agencies, NGOs, and research and academic institutions.

Besides adaptation activities on the ground, the conference will cover how to plan and assess adaptation actions, new tools to support adaptation actions, & other management-oriented issues. Important topic areas for oral sessions, symposia, & workshops include connecting ecological restoration & adaptation, assisted migration, forest management, planting (seed zones, genetics, techniques), advances in tree genomics, use of native plant materials, prescribed fire, wildland fire use, meadow & stream restoration, sea-level rise, hydrology & connections to resource management, fisheries, invasive plants, pollinators, wildlife habitat, adaptation actions in rangelands, links between climate change and tree mortality, etc.

#### For Students

There will be a number of functions dedicated to students, including a speed networking session with resource professionals, conservation and resource management career sessions, sessions on using USA.JOBS and the federal PATHWAYS student employee program, student awards for papers and posters, and there are plans to include a hiring fair. Scholarships will also be offered to some students, based on need and ability to contribute to the conference.

**Sponsorships are critical to our event's success.** If you are interested in our sponsorship opportunities, contact Lisa Smith at [lsmith@naturalareas.org](mailto:lsmith@naturalareas.org).



We are accepting proposals for symposia, organized oral sessions & workshops until March 11. Contact B. Wayman at [rbwayman@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rbwayman@ucdavis.edu).

Our **Call for Papers** opens March 1.



#### DAVIS, CA

UC Davis is the nation's top agricultural university and one of the world's most important ecological research institutions. The City of Davis is a leader in urban sustainability, and an hour from San Francisco Bay, Napa Valley, and the Sierra Nevada.

#### CURRENT SUPPORTERS INCLUDE:

- U.S. Forest Service
- UC Davis
- Bureau of Land Management
- CalFire
- The Nature Conservancy - CA
- California Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- Cleveland Museum of Natural History
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy