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New climate change short course is convenient, cost-effective, and carbon-emissions free

Self-paced distance-learning course—available as DVD and online—provides land managers with decision support for climate change adaptation

PORTLAND, Ore. October XX, 2009. The U.S. Forest Service's western research stations have released an interactive short course that presents current scientific knowledge on adapting to climate variability in wildland management. Titled "Adapting to Climate Change: A Short Course for Land Managers," the course is available as a DVD or online at the Climate Change Resource Center (<http://www.fs.fed.us/ccrc>).

"It seems especially appropriate that a course on climate change is offered as a Web-based, distance-learning package, which minimizes the carbon costs of connecting scientists and experts with managers," said Michael Furniss, a PNW Research Station hydrologist who produced and directed the course along with colleagues from the Pacific Southwest and Rocky Mountain Research Stations.

The self-paced course is intended to help resource managers and decisionmakers plan for future climate-driven uncertainties and is organized around three central themes: climate variability and projections, ecological responses to climate variability, and management responses to climate variability. It features 15 video lectures along with slide presentations, interactive quizzes, literature citations, and links to additional information—content that was produced during a July 2008 workshop that brought together key Forest Service and U.S. Geological Survey scientists, university collaborators, and a group of pioneering resource managers who reviewed and discussed the course content.

"The process of having scientists and land managers co-create the content was very successful and produced a course that is highly relevant to the challenges facing land and resource managers," Furniss said.

"Adapting to Climate Change" is the latest in a series of Web-based presentations known as "portable electronic presentations," or PEPs, which serve as interactive learning resources representing key scientific talks in an on-demand rich-media format.

(<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pep>)

DVD copies of the course can be requested by emailing pnw_pnwpubs@fs.fed.us or calling (503) 261-1211 and referencing "PNW-GTR-789."

The PNW Research Station is headquartered in Portland, Oregon. It has 11 laboratories and centers located in Alaska, Oregon, and Washington and about 425 employees. The Pacific Southwest Research Station is headquartered in Albany, California, and the Rocky Mountain Research Station is headquartered in Fort Collins, Colorado.