



Project Summary

Assessment of Adaptation Plans and Practices for Natural and Cultural Resources

Project at a Glance

Duration: 2022-2024

Proponent: University of Minnesota

Financial support: This work is supported by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center under cooperative agreement #G21AC10796-00

Goals:

- Understand the state of climate adaptation practice in sectors related to resource management and conservation in the Midwest region.
- Identify best practices in adaptation planning that help address on-the-ground barriers to regional adaptation action.

Lead researchers:

- Dr. Melissa Kenney, Director of Research and Knowledge Initiatives of the Institute on the Environment, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, MN (Principal Investigator)
- Dr. Diele (Dee) Lobo, Postdoctoral Associate, Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center

Primary contact: Dee Lobo, lobo0010@umn.edu

What is the research project about?

The project aims to understand the state of climate adaptation practice in sectors related to natural and cultural resource management and conservation in the Midwest region.

An example of these efforts is developing plans that include natural resource management and conservation actions as part of a response to the impacts of climate change on nature and people.

By learning from these plans, we aim to gain a comprehensive understanding of past and current adaptation efforts in the Midwest, as well as of the on-the-ground barriers and opportunities resource managers face in planning for climate adaptation in this region.

Additionally, we seek to identify best practices in adaptation planning that can help resource managers overcome these barriers and capitalize on these opportunities.



Why do we think the research project is important?

Many impacts of climatic changes on natural and cultural resources and people's lives are unavoidable. But, taking action to prepare ourselves and others for these impacts – such as effective adaptation planning – could yet avert the worst outcomes and secure improved quality of life.

This project will consolidate and synthesize scattered information on resource-focused adaptation planning and practices carried out by land trusts and other resource managers across the Midwest, including tribes and federal and state agencies. With this synthesis, we can generate new knowledge, identify best practices, highlight knowledge gaps, and increase the applicability of and access to existing information relevant to climate adaptation planning in the Midwest.

Who is on the team?

The project is developed and supported by a group of experienced professionals affiliated with the University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin, The Nature Conservancy, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science. **Melissa Kenney and Dee Lobo** are the team members with primary responsibilities for the development and execution of the project. Other team members provide support in an advisory capacity.



[Dee Lobo](#)



[Melissa Kenney](#)



[Jessica Hellmann](#)



[Kimberly Hall](#)



[Stephen Handler](#)



[Lucinda Johnson](#)



[Ben Zuckerberg](#)



[Heidi Roop](#)



[Rob Croll](#)



Grand River, Michigan. Photo credit: Rachel Kramer.

How will research findings be shared?

We will share research findings primarily through articles in scientific journals, presentations at the MW CASC Annual Gatherings, facilitated discussions in Communities of Practice associated with the MW CASC, and an executive summary for non-academic audiences.

All publications resulting from this project will be accessible online at no cost. Additionally, updates about the project will be shared through the [MW CASC newsletter](#) and social media platforms (links below), which you can subscribe to or follow at any time.

What is the Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center?

The Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (MW CASC) brings together scientists and natural and cultural resource managers to help fish, wildlife, water, land, and people adapt to a changing climate.

Based at host institution the University of Minnesota, the MW CASC is a consortium of research-focused academic, Tribal, and non-profit partners working collaboratively with the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

You can learn more about the MW CASC's projects and resources at mwcasc.umn.edu



Who can you contact if you want to know more about the project?

The primary contact for the project is Dee Lobo, who can be reached at lobo0010@umn.edu.

If you cannot reach her or prefer to speak with someone other than the lead researchers, you can contact other team members. Their contact information can be found in the "Who is the team?" section of this document by following the provided links.

