

Overview of the Southern California Climate Adaptation Project

Led by: EcoAdapt and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

Funded by: USFS and California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CALCC)

Goals:

The goals of this project are to conduct a vulnerability assessment, develop climate-smart adaptation strategies and actions, and generate implementation plans for focal resources of Southern California, with a specific focus on four National Forests (Angeles, San Bernardino, Cleveland, Los Padres). **This effort will provide information and tools for USFS planning and management (e.g., Forest Plan Revisions, Climate Change Performance Scorecard) and other natural resource management and conservation efforts to prepare for climate change impacts in Southern California.**

Approach:

- Establish a science-management partnership involving multiple agencies and stakeholders to assess climate change impacts to natural resources and identify adaptation actions
- Collaboratively identify focal resources (e.g., habitat types, species)
- Lead a vulnerability assessment of focal resources and develop associated adaptation strategies to help build resistance, enhance resilience, or facilitate ecological transitions
- Develop implementation plans that lead to on-the-ground adaptation actions
- Educate and engage with resource managers and planners, conservation practitioners, and others to provide tools and resources that can be applied in their own work



Figure 1. Geographic focus of the Southern California Climate Adaptation Project.

Workshops:

This project involves three workshops to be held in or near Southern California.

- **Workshop 1: Selecting Focal Resources.** We will convene a 1-day workshop with scientists, resource managers, conservation practitioners, and other stakeholders to collaboratively identify a suite of focal resources. *We anticipate this workshop will be held sometime during the week of November 17th.* EcoAdapt will then work with scientific experts to assess the vulnerabilities of selected resources.
- **Workshop 2: Identifying Adaptation Strategies.** We will convene a two-day workshop with scientists, managers, conservation practitioners, and others (including those who participated in the first workshop) to use the findings of the vulnerability assessment to inform the development of climate-smart adaptation strategies and actions to conserve priority resources.
- **Workshop 3: Developing Implementation Plans.** Participants from the first and second workshops, as well as others, will convene during a 2-day workshop to explore climate-informed mapping and spatial analysis for the region. We will use the spatial data and previously generated adaptation strategies in order to develop implementation plans that clearly lead to on-the-ground action.