

# IDENTIFY

## DRAFT Menu of Ecological Adaptation Options for Prairies

### Strategies and Tactics

#### **Strategy E1: Sustain fundamental ecological functions.**

- 1.1. Reduce impacts to soils and nutrient cycling.
- 1.2. Maintain or restore hydrology.
- 1.3. Maintain or restore riparian areas.
- 1.4. Reduce competition for moisture, nutrients, and light.
- 1.5. Restore or maintain fire in fire-adapted ecosystems.

#### **Strategy E2: Reduce the impact of biological stressors.**

- 2.1. Maintain or improve the ability of forests to resist pests and pathogens.
- 2.2. Prevent the introduction and establishment of invasive plant species and remove existing invasive species.
- 2.3. Manage herbivory to promote regeneration of desired species.

#### **Strategy E3: Reduce the risk and long-term impacts of severe disturbances.**

- 3.1. Alter habitat structure or composition to reduce risk or severity of wildfire.
- 3.2. Establish fuelbreaks to slow the spread of catastrophic fire.
- 3.3. Alter habitat structure to reduce severity or extent of wind and ice damage.
- 3.4. Promptly revegetate sites after disturbance.

#### **Strategy E4: Maintain or create refugia.**

- 4.1. Prioritize and maintain unique sites.
- 4.2. Prioritize and maintain sensitive or at-risk species or communities.
- 4.3. Establish artificial reserves for at-risk and displaced species.

#### **Strategy E5: Maintain and enhance species and structural diversity.**

- 5.1. Promote diverse age classes.
- 5.2. Maintain and restore diversity of native species.
- 5.3. Retain biological legacies / remnant plants
- 5.4. Establish reserves to maintain ecosystem diversity.

#### **Strategy E6: Increase ecosystem redundancy across the landscape.**

- 6.1. Manage habitats over a range of sites and conditions.
- 6.2. Expand the boundaries of reserves to increase diversity.

#### **Strategy E7: Promote landscape connectivity.**

- 7.1. Reduce landscape fragmentation.
- 7.2. Maintain and create habitat corridors.

#### **Strategy E8: Maintain and enhance genetic diversity.**

- 8.1. Use seeds, germplasm, and other genetic material from across a greater geographic range.
- 8.2. Favor existing genotypes that are better adapted to future conditions.

# IDENTIFY

## Strategy E9: Facilitate community adjustments through species transitions.

- 9.1. Favor or restore native species that are expected to be adapted to future conditions.
- 9.2. Establish or encourage new mixes of native species.
- 9.3. Guide changes in species composition at early stages of establishment
- 9.4. Protect future-adapted plants.
- 9.5. Disfavor species that are distinctly maladapted.
- 9.6. Manage for species and genotypes with wide moisture and temperature tolerances.
- 9.7. Introduce species that are expected to be adapted to future conditions.
- 9.8. Move at-risk species to locations that are expected to provide habitat.

## Strategy E10: Realign ecosystems after disturbance.

- 10.1. Promptly revegetate sites after disturbance.
- 10.2. Allow for areas of natural regeneration to test for future-adapted species.
- 10.3. Realign significantly disrupted ecosystems to meet expected future conditions.

		RESISTANCE	RESILIENCE	TRANSITION
S T R A T E G Y	① Sustain fundamental ecological functions			
	② Reduce the impact of biological stressors			
	③ Reduce the risk and long-term impacts of severe disturbances			
	④ Maintain or create refugia			
	⑤ Maintain and enhance species and structural diversity			
	⑥ Increase ecosystem redundancy across the landscape			
	⑦ Promote landscape connectivity			
	⑧ Maintain and enhance genetic diversity			
	⑨ Facilitate community adjustments through species transitions			
	⑩ Realign following severe disturbance			