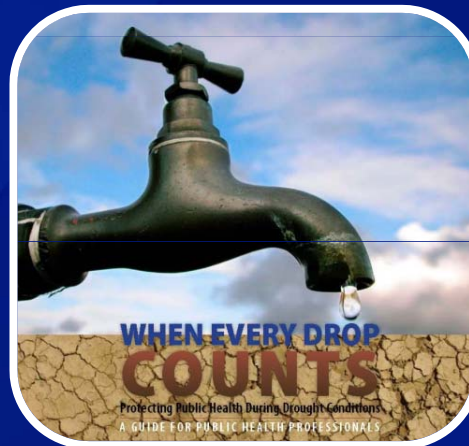


When Every Drop Counts: Initiatives in Indian Country



ITEP's Climate Change Trainings & Resources for Tribes

Sue Wotkyns

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
Northern Arizona University



American Public Health Association Webinar
October 22, 2012

Presentation Overview

- Overview of ITEP
- Tribes—background information
- Challenges for tribes in adaptation planning
- Climate Change Training
- Resources for Tribes



Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP)

- Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ
- Mission: ITEP serves tribes through outstanding, culturally-relevant education and training that increase environmental capacity and strengthen sovereignty
- In 20 years, ITEP has served over 500/566 tribes nationally
- ITEP Programs: Climate Change, Air Quality, Waste Management, K-16 Environmental Education and Outreach, Tribal Clean Energy Resource Center



San Francisco Peaks, Flagstaff, AZ



Tribes—some background information

- 566 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes in US (229 are in AK)
- Population=5.2 million AI/AN (1.7% of total US population)
- Greatest concentrations of AI/AN populations are in West, Southwest, and Midwest
- 19.5% of AK population is AI/AN
- Tribes vary in population and reservation size
- 12% AI/AN homes lack safe and adequate water supply and/or waste disposal facilities



Tribes—some background information

- Tribes manage 95 million acres of land = 4% of land in US
- Close ties to land and natural resources
- Disproportionately impacted by climate variability and change
- High vulnerability and low adaptive capacity



*2011 Las Conchas Fire in New Mexico.
Source: D. Chavarria, Pueblo of Santa Clara.*



Sand dune migration on Navajo Nation. Source: M. Hiza, USGS



*Source: Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition,
<http://www.shishmarefrelocation.com/index.html>*

Adaptation Planning: Challenges

- Funding – for impact and vulnerability assessments, development and implementation of adaptation plans
- Tribal support (from tribal leadership and community). How to make climate change a priority (other competing immediate issues)?
- How to get started? Process?
- Limited staff time
- Where to get information--climate projections, impacts, adaptation strategies
- Integrating traditional knowledge and western science

Climate Change Training

- *Climate Change on Tribal Lands*
- *Climate Change Adaptation Planning*

Upcoming :

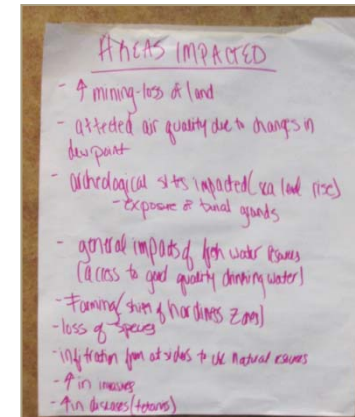
- February 19-21, 2013, Pueblo of Santa Ana, NM
- May 14-16, 2013, Glennallen, AK



*Climate Change Adaptation Planning
Missoula, MT, September 2012*

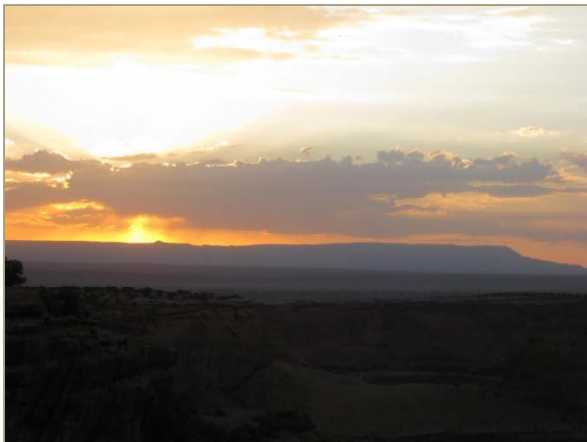


*Climate Change Adaptation Planning
Oneida, WI, June 2012*



Climate Change Webinars

- AK-focused quarterly webinars, in collaboration with USEPA Reg.10
- Other webinars -- general tribal audience
- Archived at:
http://www4.nau.edu/itep/climatechange/tcc_webinars.asp



Tribes & Climate Change Website

- Fundamental Information
- Tribal Profiles
- Resource Library
- Take Action
- Upcoming Events

<http://www4.nau.edu/tribalclimatechange/>

Tribes & CLIMATE CHANGE

Basic Information | Tribal Profiles | Resources | Take Action | Events | Contacts | Search | Home

Assisting Tribes in the management of their environmental resources.

"In rural Alaskan communities, the value of the land is of significant importance, and the connection is vital."

Welcome:

Earth's climate is changing as a result of human practices—that fact is no longer in dispute. Climate change is impacting people and ecosystems around the world. What does this mean for tribes and Native American communities who have for centuries relied on the bounty of the land and sea to sustain them?

On this website we provide information and resources tailored to helping Native people gain a better understanding of climate change and its impacts on their communities. Here you'll find basic climate-change information; profiles of tribes in diverse regions of the U.S., including Alaska, who are coping with climate change impacts; audio files of elders discussing the issue from traditional perspectives; and resources and contacts you can use to develop climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. Soon we'll also provide an open forum where you can share your ideas and views on climate change with others.

As the science of climate change expands, we will continue to update and refine this website to provide the best, most-current information possible. We will also continue to gather and share tribal perspectives and strategies for dealing with climate change.

We hope this site provides you with useful information and tools to help you better understand climate change, educate others on the issue, and develop strategies for dealing with climate change in your own community. We welcome your ideas and input.

What's NEW | Tribal Voices | Myron Ford

What's NEW on Tribal Climate Change

- Upcoming Events
- Tribal Climate Change Newsletter—sign up now!
- NEW- Vulnerability of Coastal Louisiana Tribes
- NEW- First Stewards Symposium
- 2013 Adaptation to Drought Announcement for Program Funding
- Kids Helping the Environment
- Great Ways to Go Green!
- Surging Seas

Tribal Climate Change Newsletter

- Delivered monthly by email
- ITEP CC Program News
- In the News
- Technical Resources
- Funding Opportunities
- Upcoming Events

Sign up by sending email to:
susan.wotkyns@nau.edu



The screenshot shows the header of the newsletter with the Northern Arizona University logo and the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals. Below the header is a title 'Tribal Climate Change Newsletter' and the date 'March 2012'. A welcome message follows, stating the newsletter provides news, resources, and information on tribal climate change. The main content is divided into two columns. The left column features a photo of sheep on the Navajo Nation and a notice about pre-registration for a Climate Change Adaptation Planning course. The right column contains an 'About Us' section with contact information for Sue Wotkyns, a 'Tribal Climate Change Listserve' notice, and a notice about the National Tribal Forum on Air Quality. A footer section mentions a template for tribal resolutions.

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY
Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

Tribal Climate Change Newsletter
March 2012

Welcome to ITEP's Tribal Climate Change Newsletter. This monthly newsletter provides news items, resources, announcements about funding opportunities, conferences, and training, and other information relevant to tribal climate change issues.

ITEP's Climate Change Program News

About Us:

- Sue Wotkyns, Climate Change Program Manager
Sue is leading the development of ITEP's Climate Change Program and coordinating ITEP's climate change efforts. Please contact her with any inquiries, suggestions or comments.
928-523-1488
Susan.Wotkyns@nau.edu
- Tribal Climate Change Listserve
Did someone forward this to you? Send an email to Sue Wotkyns to subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter. We may occasionally send announcements in addition to the monthly newsletters if we have something to share that is time-sensitive. Archived issues can be found at: www4.nau.edu/itep/climatechange
- Tribes & Climate Change website
For more on tribes and climate change issues, visit ITEP's Tribes & Climate Change website at www4.nau.edu/tribclimate. The website includes profiles of tribes that are impacted by climate change, audio recordings of tribal elders offering their views on

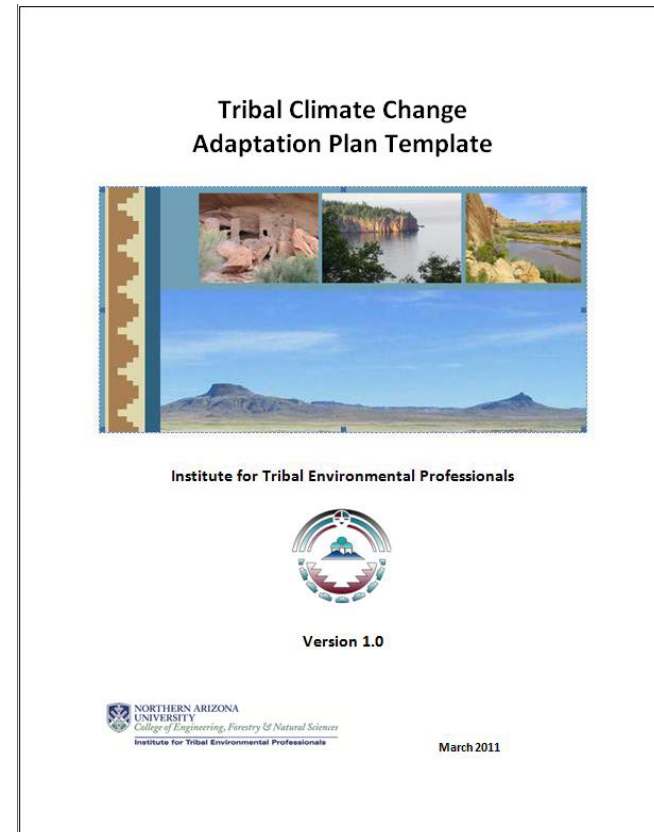
Pre-registration forms for the Climate Change Adaptation Planning course (June 5-7, Oneida WI) are available on the ITEP website: www4.nau.edu/itep/climatechange/. Since the course will focus on climate change impacts and adaptation in the Great Lakes and eastern US, we especially encourage tribal environmental and natural resource professionals from the region to attend. Please register by April 10, and our thanks to the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin for hosting the course. Another offering is being planned for September (dates TBD) in Missoula, MT, and will be hosted by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

The National Tribal Forum on Air Quality is scheduled for May 22-24, in Tulsa, OK, and will include presentations on ambient air quality, indoor air quality, and climate change. More information and online registration are available at: www4.nau.edu/itep/conferences/conf/ntf.asp.

ITEP has developed a Template for a Tribal Resolution: Climate Change Adaptation Initiative to serve as a model on which tribes can base their own resolution for a tribal climate change initiative. The template is not a "one-size-fits-all" solution, and users are encouraged to

Tribal Climate Change Adaptation Plan Template

- Guidelines and suggestions for writing an adaptation plan
- Outline of sections to include
- Key terms, additional resources
- Microsoft Word document
- Available by request:
susan.wotkyns@nau.edu



Template for a Tribal Resolution: Climate Change Adaptation Initiative

- Template and 4-page guide
- Focused on establishing a climate change adaptation initiative for tribe
- Available by request: susan.wotkyns@nau.edu



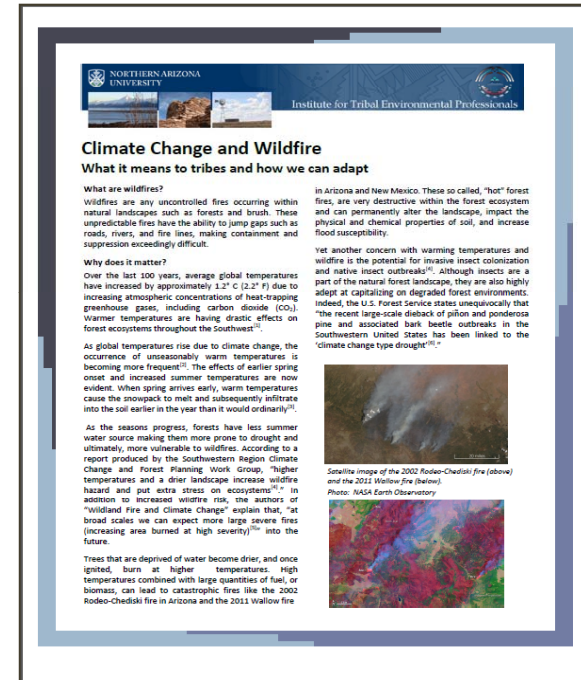
Climate Change Outreach Materials

Climate Change Fact Sheets

- 2-page
- Focused on impacts and adaptation strategies
- Drought
- Wildfire
- Invasive Species
- More being developed in collaboration with University of Oregon
- Available at:
http://www4.nau.edu/itep/climatechange/tcc_SWProj.asp

Powerpoint presentation for outreach

- Climate change impacts
- For tribes to use in their outreach with community
- Not yet available



CLIMATE CHANGE AND WILDFIRE

What it means to tribes and how we can adapt

What are wildfires?
Wildfires are any uncontrolled fires occurring within natural landscapes such as forests and brush. These unpredictable fires have the ability to jump gaps such as roads, rivers, and fire lines, making containment and suppression exceedingly difficult.

Why does it matter?
Over the last 100 years, average global temperatures have increased by approximately 1.2° C (2.2° F) due to increasing atmospheric concentrations of heat-trapping greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide (CO₂). Warmer temperatures are having drastic effects on forest ecosystems throughout the Southwest.

As global temperatures rise due to climate change, the occurrence of unseasonably warm temperatures is becoming more frequent¹. The effects of earlier spring onset and increased summer temperatures are now evident. When spring arrives early, warm temperatures cause the snowpack to melt and subsequently infiltrate into the soil earlier in the year than it would ordinarily².

As the seasons progress, forests have less summer water source making them more prone to drought and ultimately, more vulnerable to wildfires. According to a report produced by the Southwestern Region Climate Change and Forest Planning Work Group, "higher temperatures and a drier landscape increase wildfire hazard and put extra stress on ecosystems"³. In addition to increased wildfire risk, the authors of "Wildland Fire and Climate Change" explain that, "at broad scales we can expect more large severe fires (increasing area burned at high severity)⁴ into the future.

Trees that are deprived of water become drier, and once ignited, burn at higher temperatures. High temperatures combined with large quantities of fuel, or biomass, can lead to catastrophic fires like the 2002 Rodeo-Chediski fire in Arizona and the 2011 Willow fire.

In Arizona and New Mexico, these so-called, "hot" forest fires, are very destructive within the forest ecosystem and can permanently alter the landscape, impact the physical and chemical properties of soil, and increase flood susceptibility.

Yet another concern with warming temperatures and wildfire is the potential for invasive insect colonization and native insect outbreaks⁵. Although insects are a part of the natural forest landscape, they are also highly adept at capitalizing on degraded forest environments. Indeed, the U.S. Forest Service states unequivocally that "the recent large-scale dieback of piñon and ponderosa pine and associated bark beetle outbreaks in the Southwestern United States has been linked to the 'climate change type drought'⁶."

Satellite image of the 2002 Rodeo-Chediski fire (above) and the 2011 Willow fire (below).
Photo: NASA Earth Observatory

Questions?



Our Contact Information

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Executive Director
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For more information about ITEP, please visit our website:

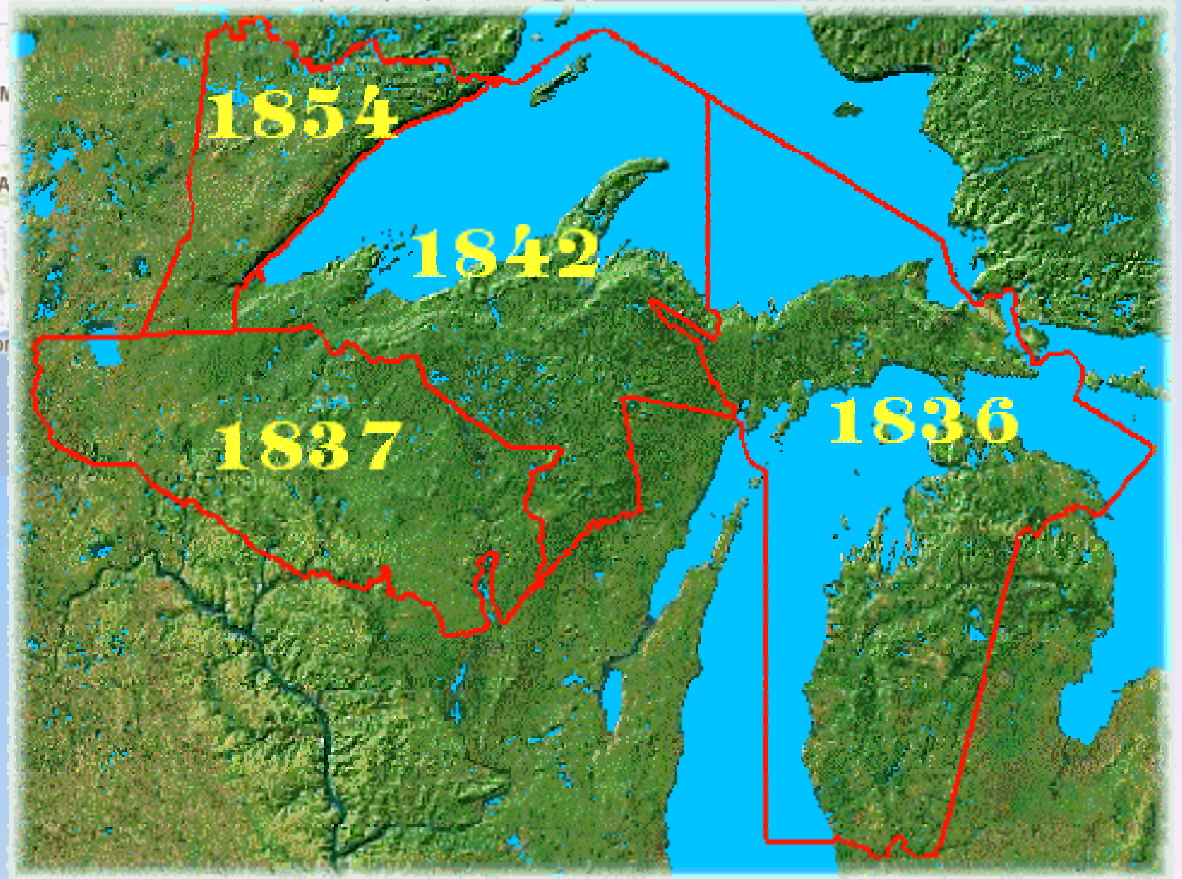
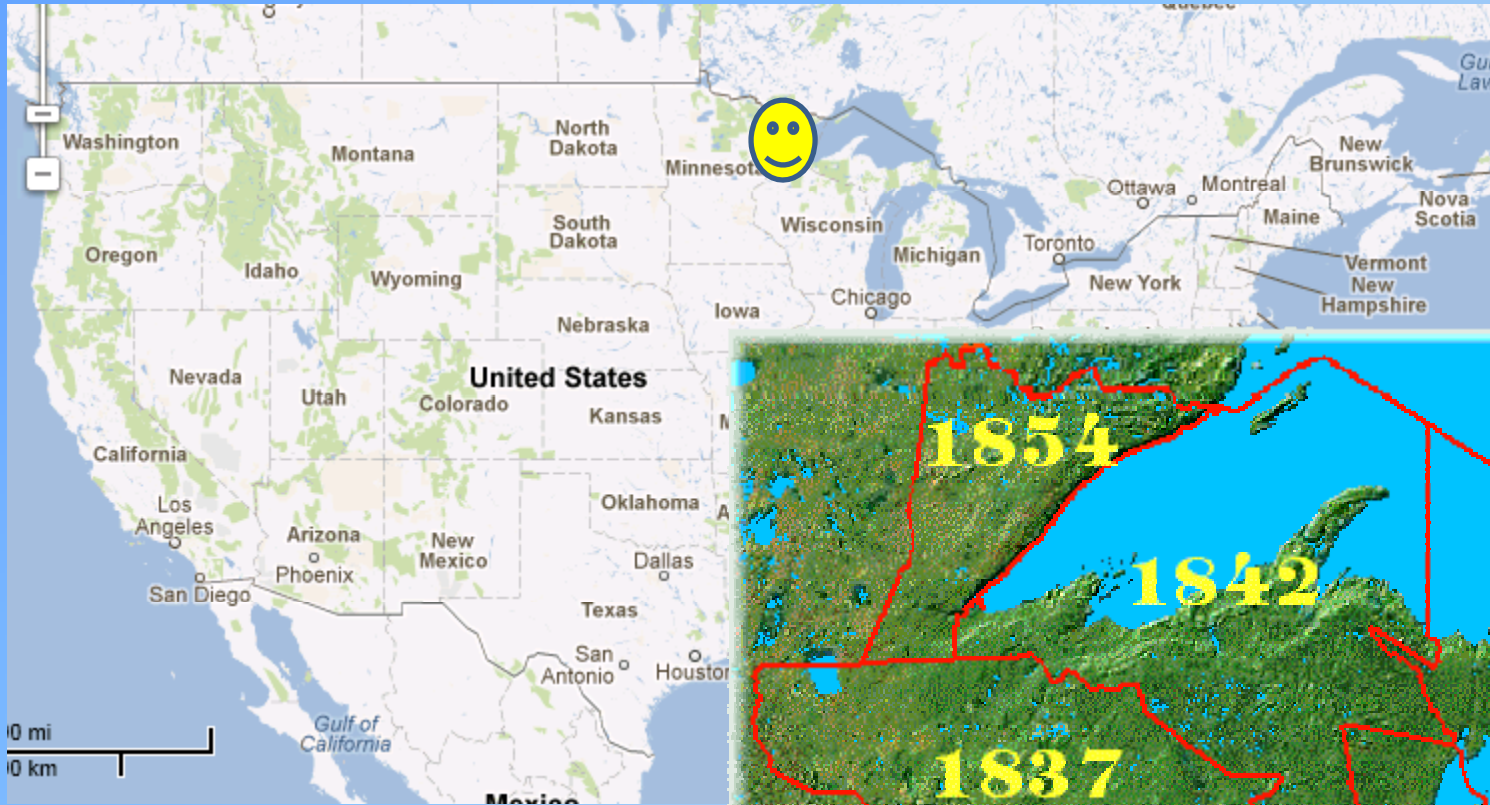
<http://www4.nau.edu/itep/>

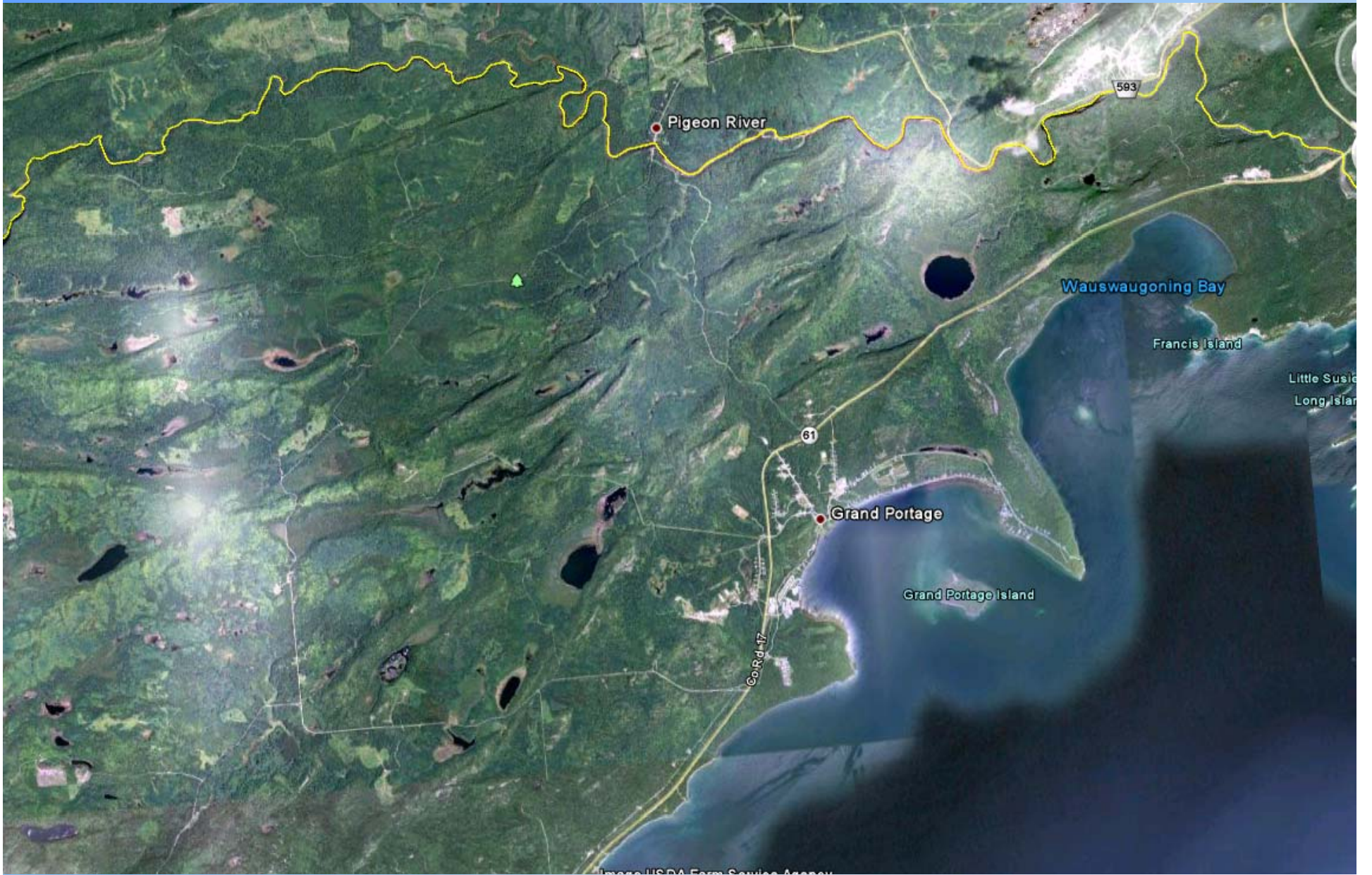
Grand Portage Climate Change Adaptation Plan, Impacts leading to Adaptation



Seth Moore, PhD
Director of Biology and Environment
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
samoore@boreal.org
218-475-2022

Where is Grand Portage?





Alameda USDA Farm Service Agency

What defines Grand Portage?









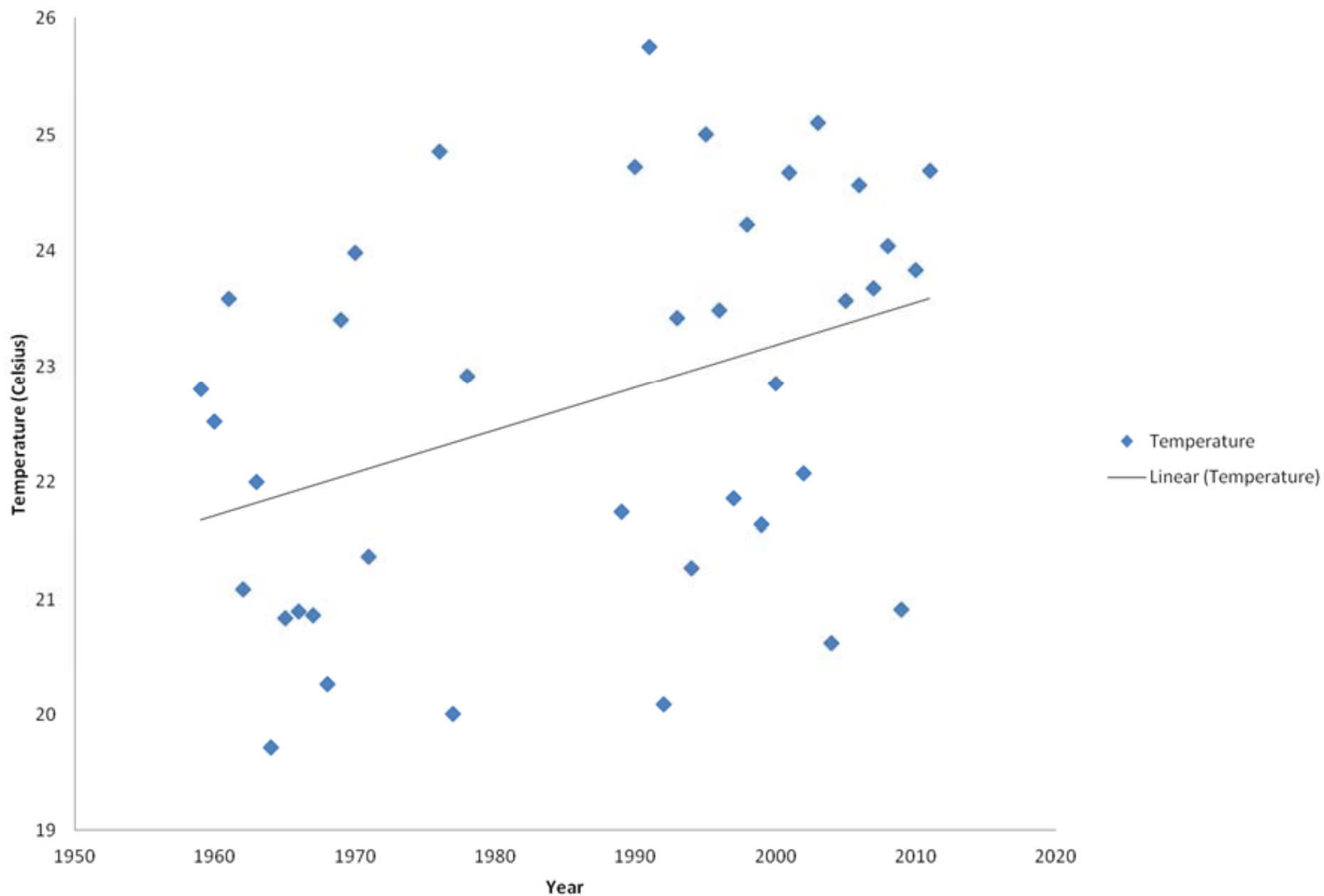




Is climate change happening in Grand Portage?

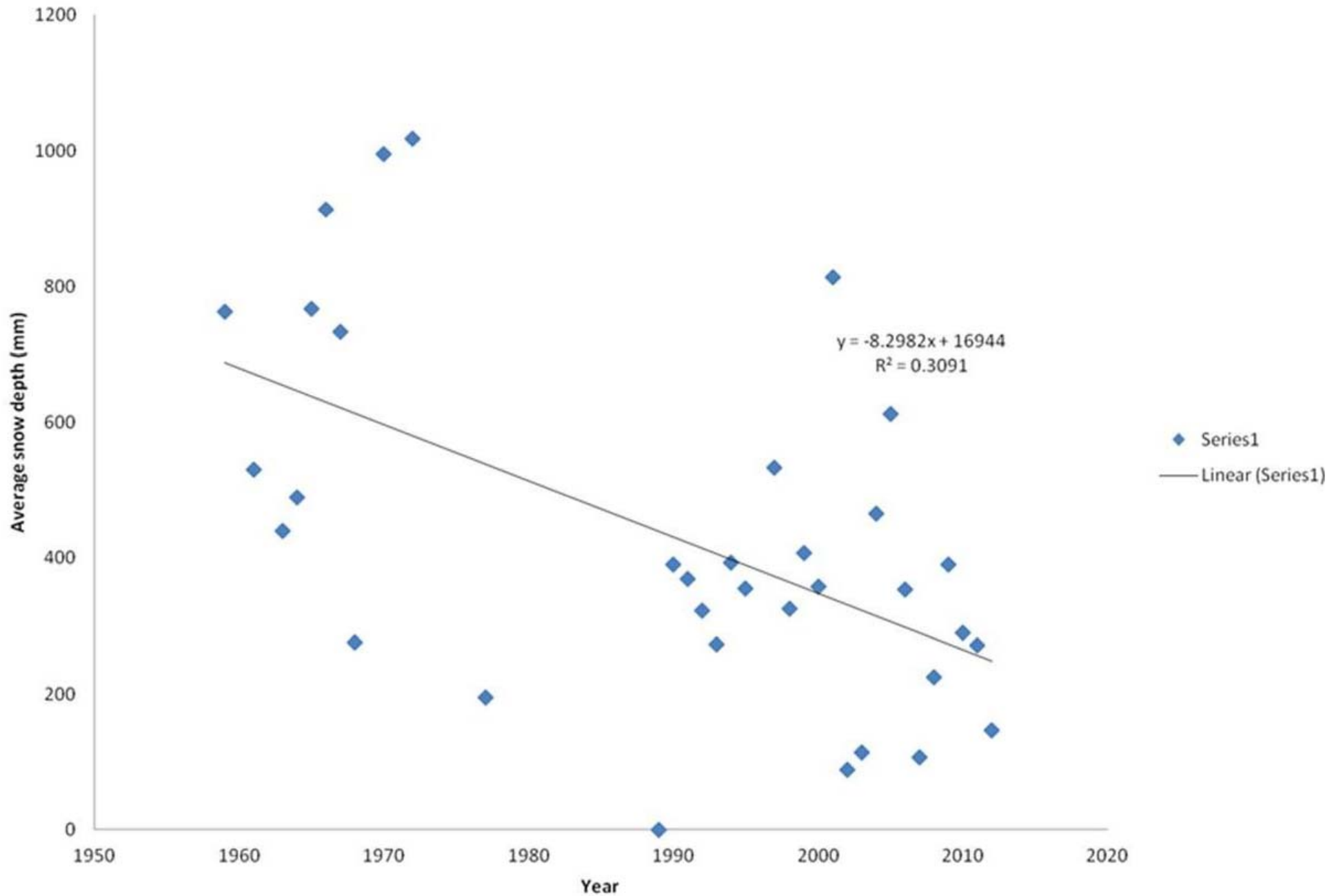


Grand Portage average August maximum temperature

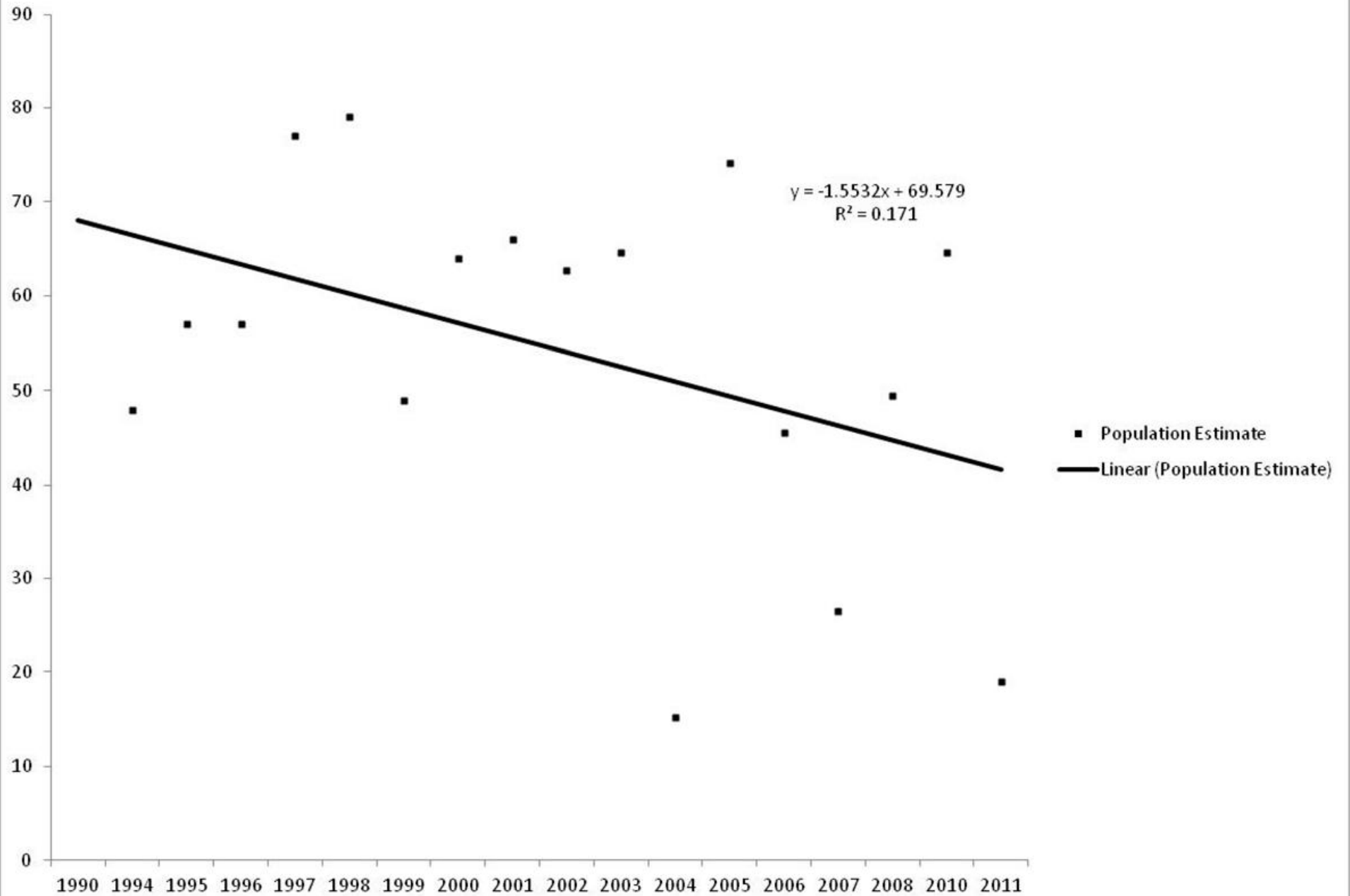


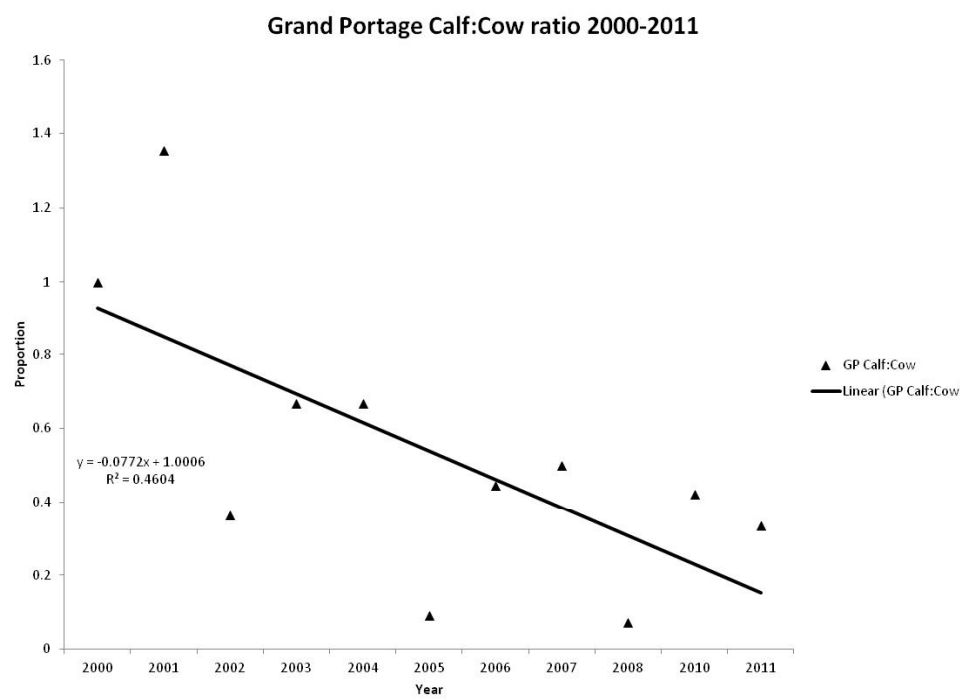
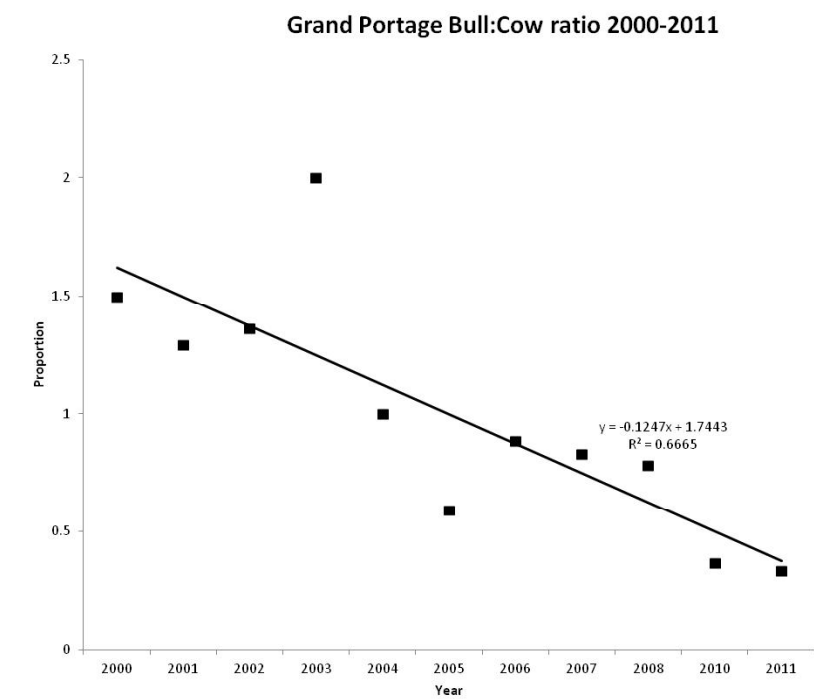
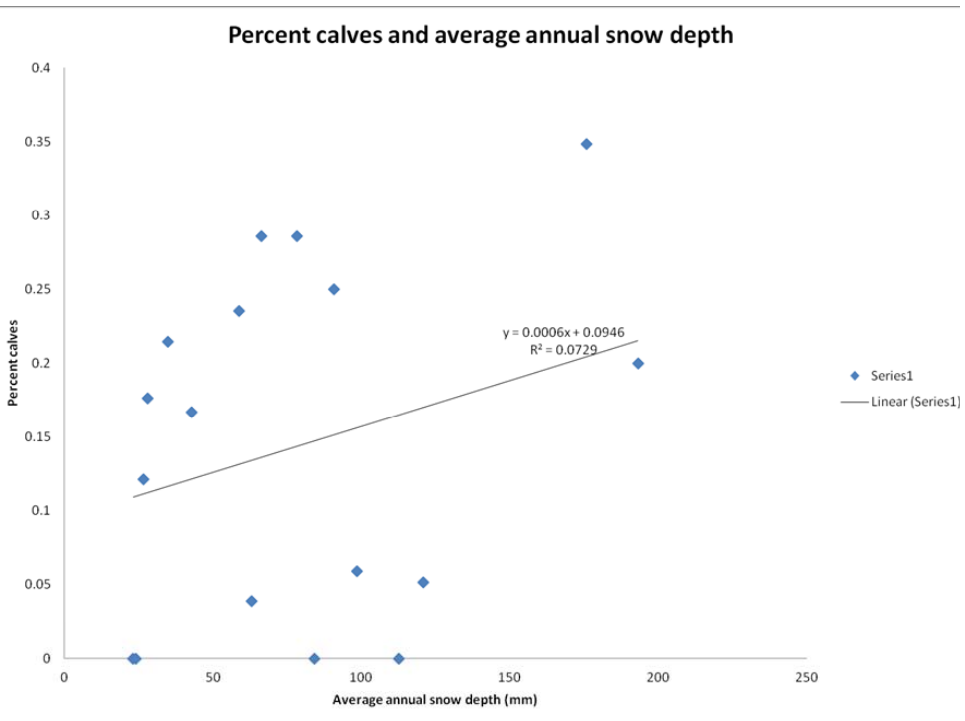
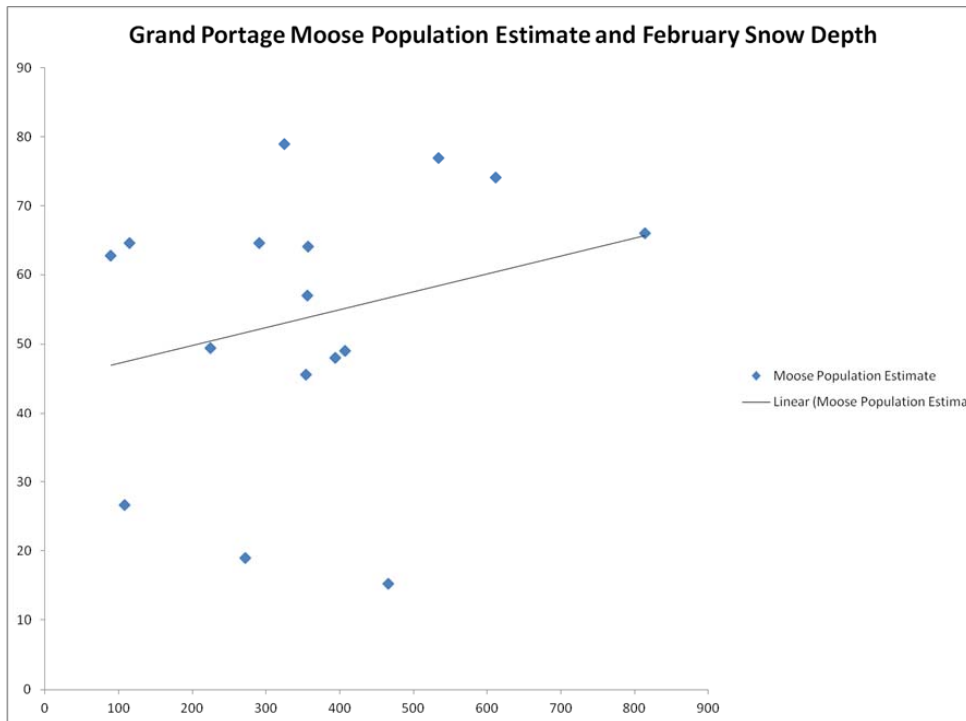
Data from Grand Portage Weather station, provided by NOAA

Grand Portage Average February Snow Depth



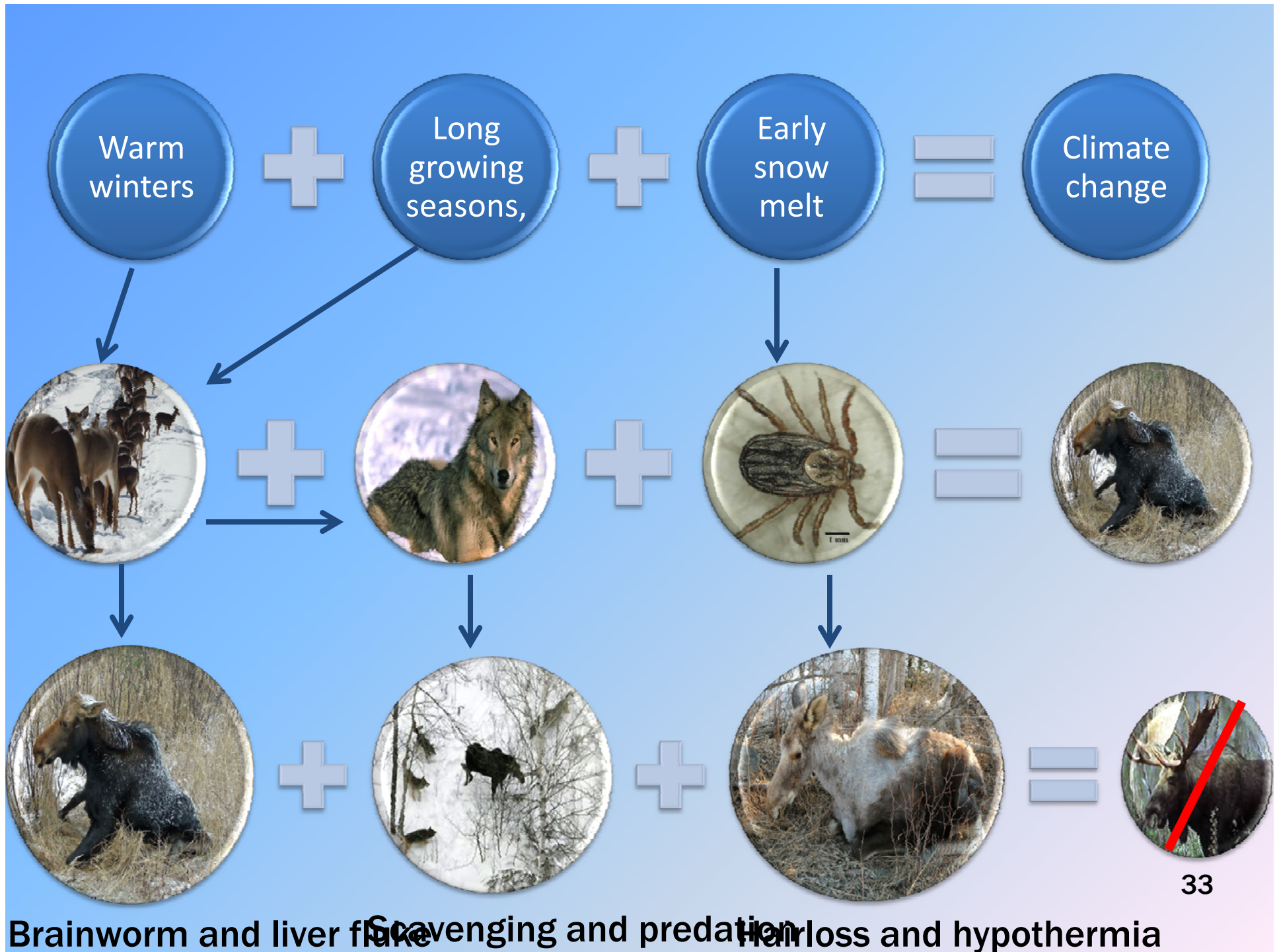
Grand Portage Reservation Moose Population 1990-2011

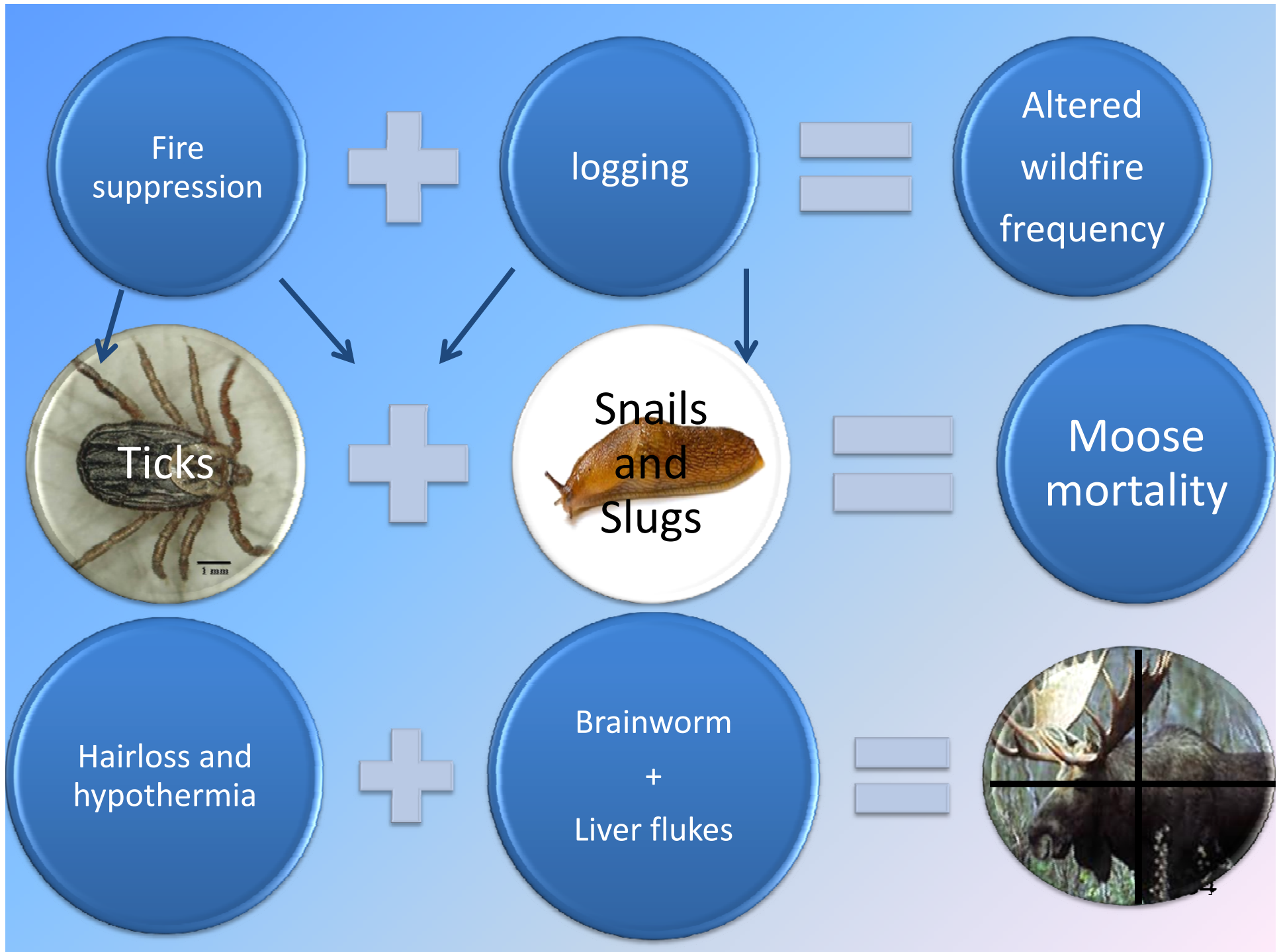




Vectors for moose population decline





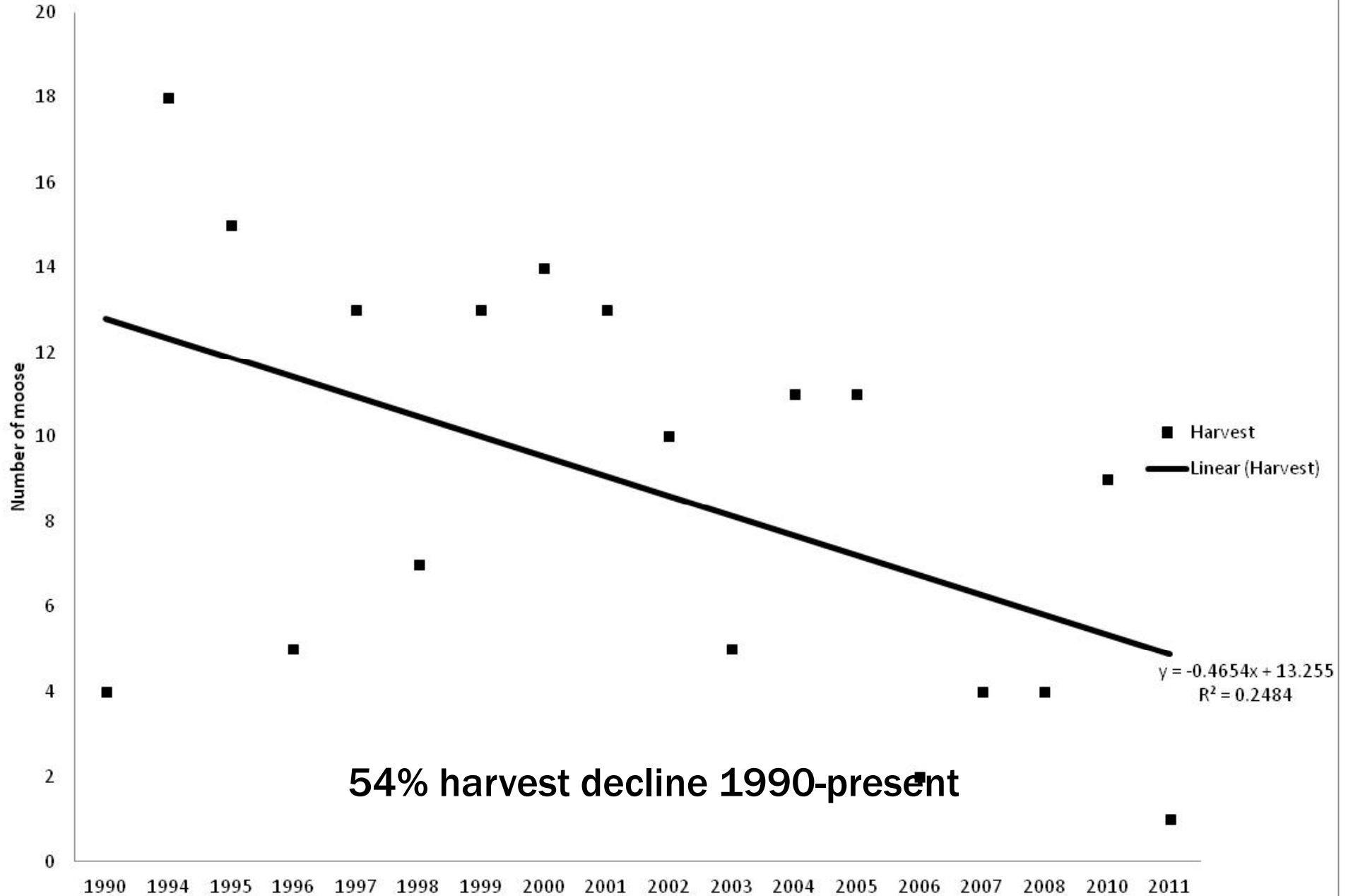


What are climate change impacts to subsistence lifestyles and traditional practices?

Are there impacts to access to nutritional foods?

Are we seeing effects of extreme weather conditions?

Moose Harvest 1990-2011



Grand Portage

History of the climate change plan

- Began in 2008
- Request of Trust Lands Administrator to create a white paper on climate change
- Set up a team
- Monthly meetings for a year
- Interview elders
- Air quality, water quality, forestry, fisheries and wildlife, solid waste, food and energy sustainability
- One chairperson

Structure of our plan

- Executive Summary

Chapter 1 - White paper on climate change

- Guiding Principles
- History
 - Native Cultures Worldwide
 - Grand Portage Band
- Evidence of climate change
 - Global
 - Local
 - Recommendation for adaptation



Chapter 2 Strategic planning for resource management

- Air
- Water
- Forestry
- Fisheries
- Wildlife
- Food Sustainability
- Alternative energy₄₀

Components of our plan

Guiding Principles

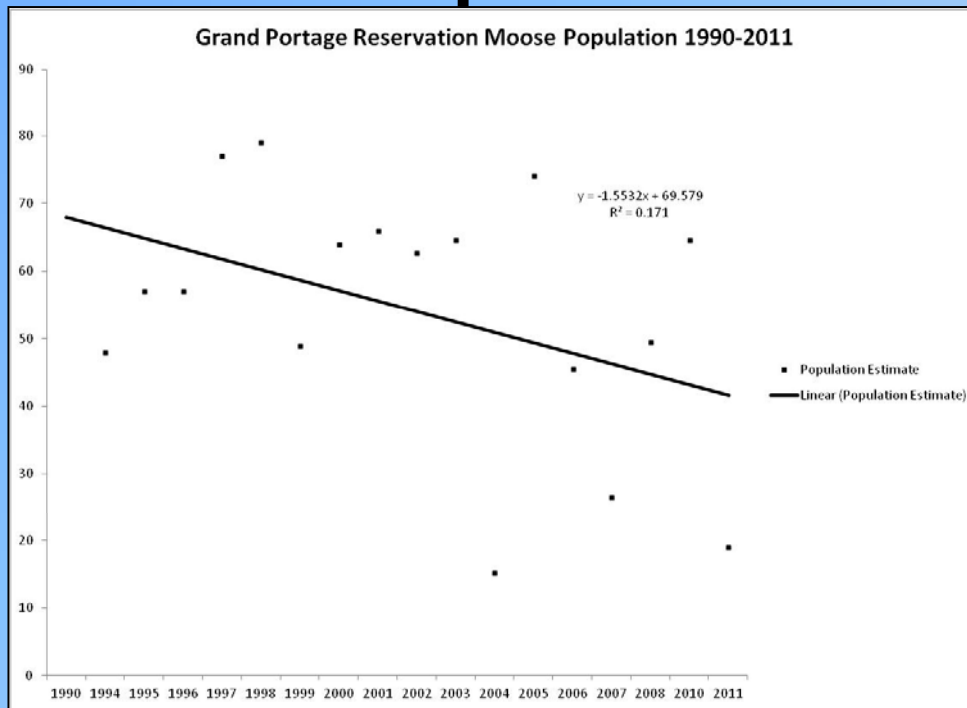
1. Look Seven Generations Ahead
2. Incorporate Ojibwe Worldview
3. Protect Existing Resources
4. Restore on the Basis of Sound Science
 - Improve and Protect Impacted Resources
 - Plan for Future Change
 - Establish Rigorous, Long-Term Monitoring Programs
 - Critically Evaluate Management and Regulation of Natural Resources
 - Coordinated Research to Fill Critical Gaps in Knowledge
 - Include a Long-Term Integrated Strategic Plan for Restoration, informed by the best science and management practice

Hurdles and impediments

- **Staffing – commitment/funding**
- **Scope of plan**
- **What to plan for: forestry, wildlife, water, air, energy, food sustainability**
- **Seven voices**
- **How do we plan?**

Examples of trigger points

- Acute
- Paradigm shift
- A few examples



Acute - Wildfire in Airshed

- When BAM monitor exceeds 41-65 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ unsafe for sensitive parts of population, 65-150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ unhealthy
- Alert school, Clinic, Community Center, Headstart, Elder complex
- Put up flyers, mass email, call public radio station, newspaper
- Continue monitoring and updates, similar notification when level drops

Acute trigger points – Trout Lake Fishery

- **When brook trout population exceeds Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) of 15 fish/electrofishing hour - do nothing**
- **When brook trout population falls between 5-15/e-fishing hour**
 - **aggressive restoration – supplemental stocking, limit harvests**
- **When brook trout CPUE falls to 0-5 for three years**
 - **shift to warm water fish assemblage**

Case study, Trout Lake

- Historically a brook trout lake
- Populations diminished
- Supplemental stocking
- Decision to shift to warm water fish assemblage
- Yellow perch 2004
- Walleye 2006
- Last brook trout 2007
- Presently self sustaining perch/walleye



Paradigm shifts..

- **Regional mining compounded with warming temperatures may lead to higher atmospheric mercury deposition, increased runoff, and pollution issues near mines**
 - **Increase AQ and WQ presence in permit and EIS review, ensuring mining companies adhere to applicable state and federal laws**
 - **Increase annual monitoring of fish mercury levels**

Food Sustainability

- Increasing dependence upon conventional food systems that are rapidly growing more unstable
 - Intense weather extremes: drought, flooding, extreme temperatures, hail
- Conventional Ag is rapidly increasing its dependence upon fossil fuels
 - Average piece of food has traveled 1500 mi.
- Grand Portage is in a “food desert”
- Fossil fuels price increases = food price skyrocketing; places like GP will be the hardest hit
- GP can add resiliency to the community by becoming food sustainable

Plan for Food Sustainability

- **Creation of a community garden**
 - started in 2008
 - tripled in size
 - currently used by 20 families
- **Development of a bison ranch**
 - Feasibility study underway
 - Land parcels being evaluated
 - Grazing specialist this June
 - Seeking grant funding



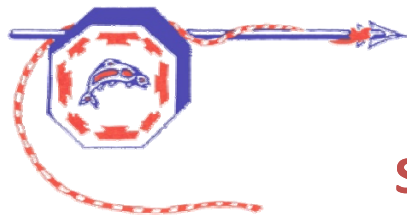
Where are we now?

- Initial Draft of Plan nearly complete
- Must be vetted/edited
- Present to council
- Will request resolution to adopt plan



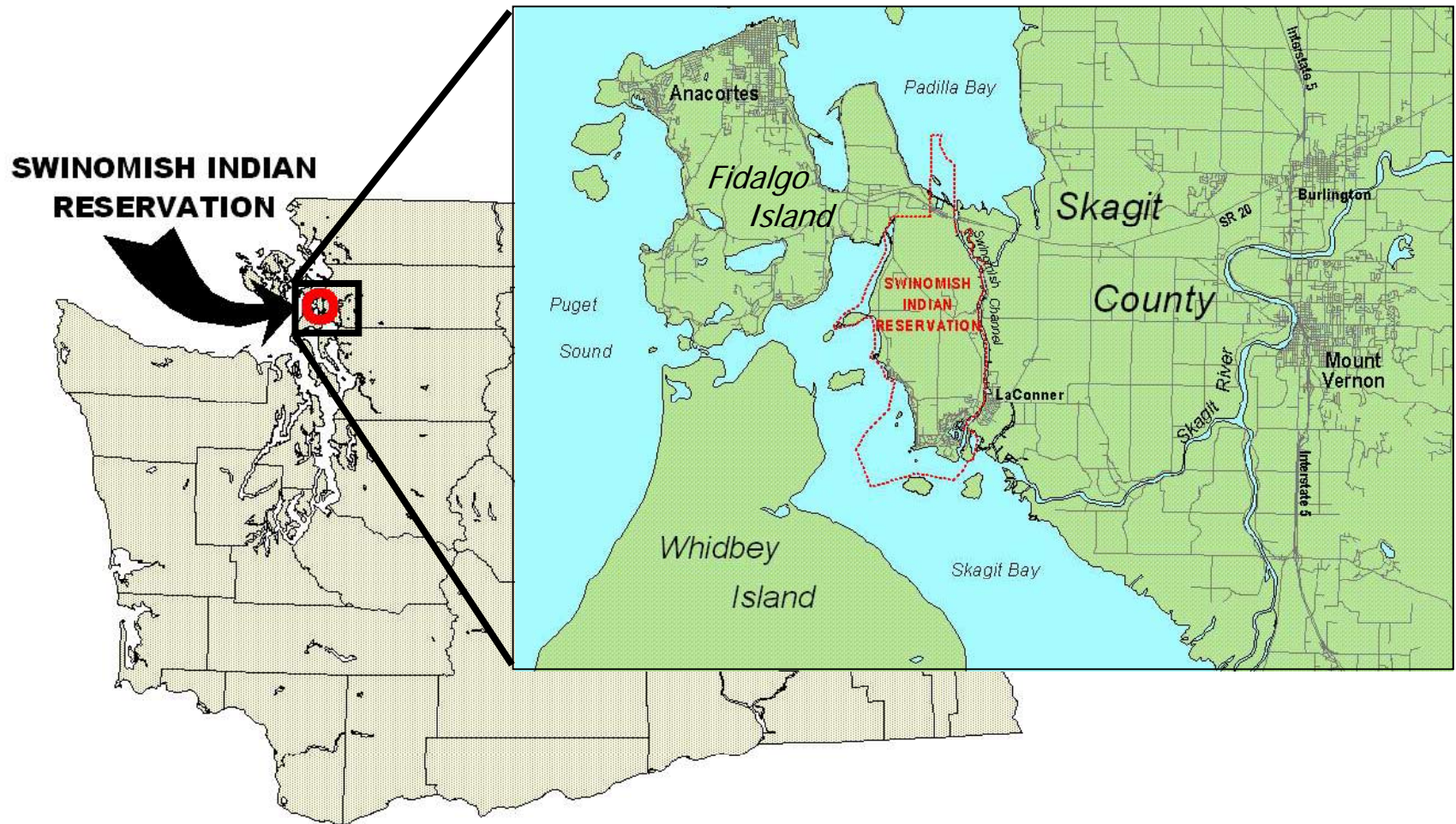
**Public Health Implications of Extreme
Weather Conditions in Tribal Communities
October 22, 2012**

**Local Response to Climate Change:
Swinomish Case Study**



**Ed Knight, AICP, Senior Planner
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community**

Location of Swinomish Indian Reservation



Swinomish Indian Reservation

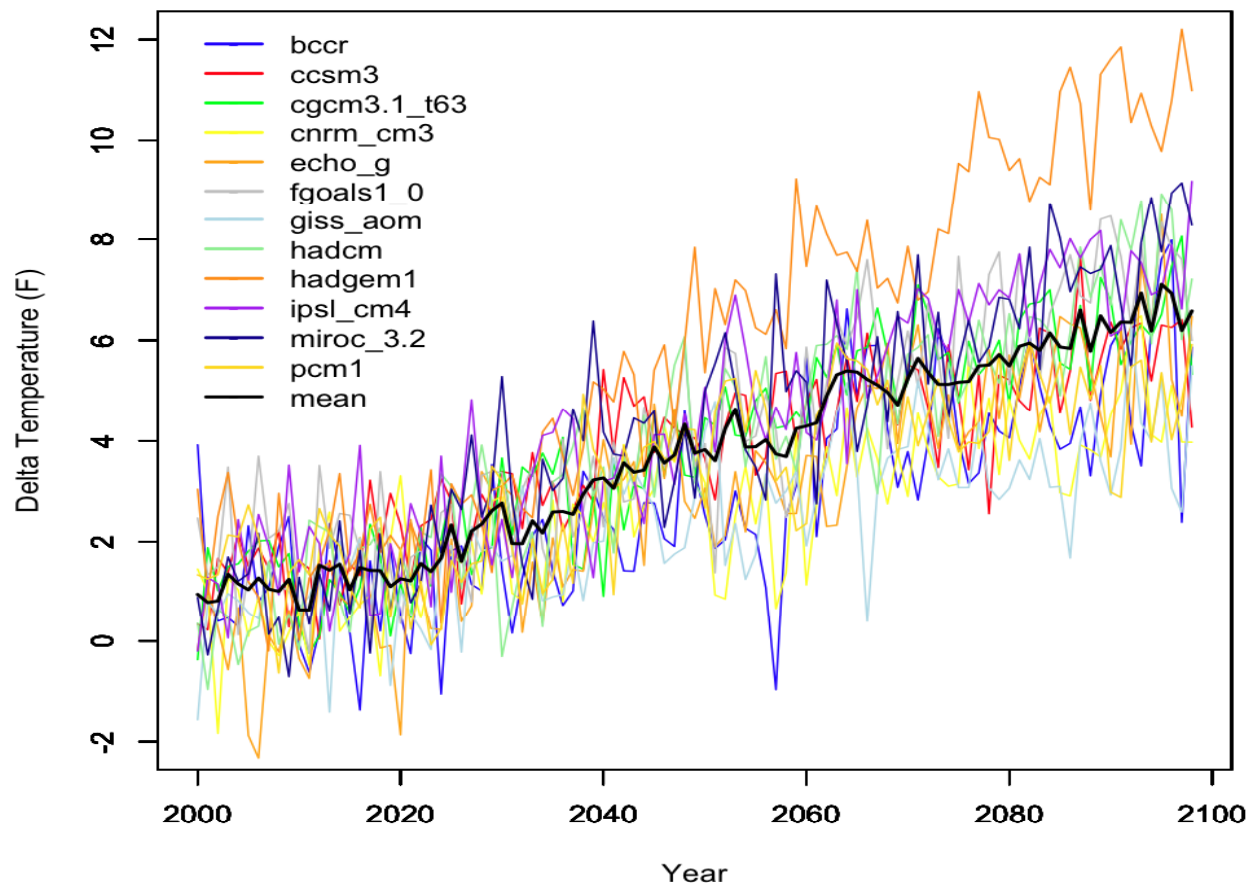


Some Terms & References

- **IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (United Nations)**
- **CIG: Climate Impacts Group, University of Washington**
- **Mitigation: Dealing with the causes of climate change**
- **Adaptation: Dealing with the effects of climate change (actual or projected)**

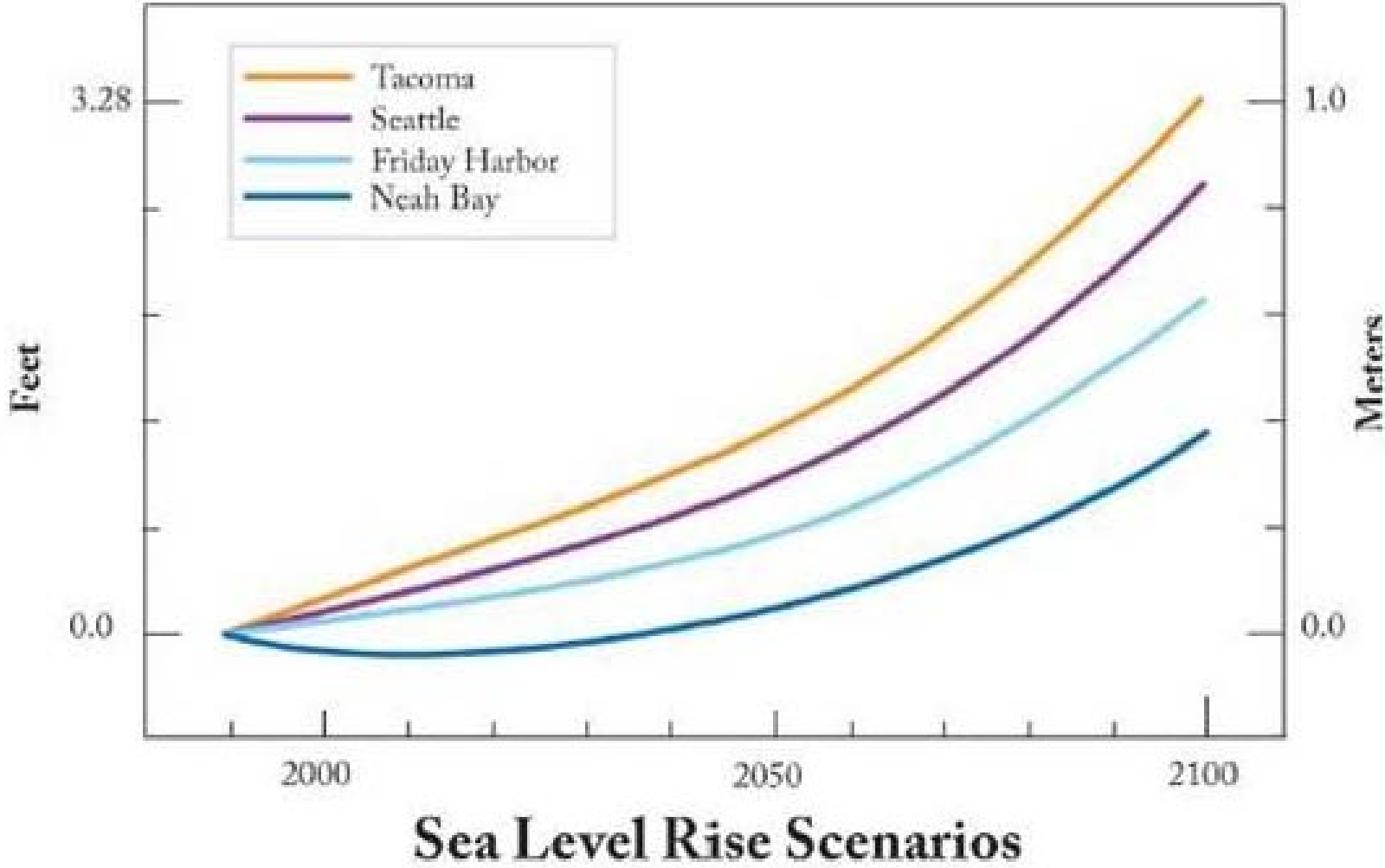
Projected Temperature Increase (F) (CIG, 2009)

Modeled Temperature Change
(A1B scenario)

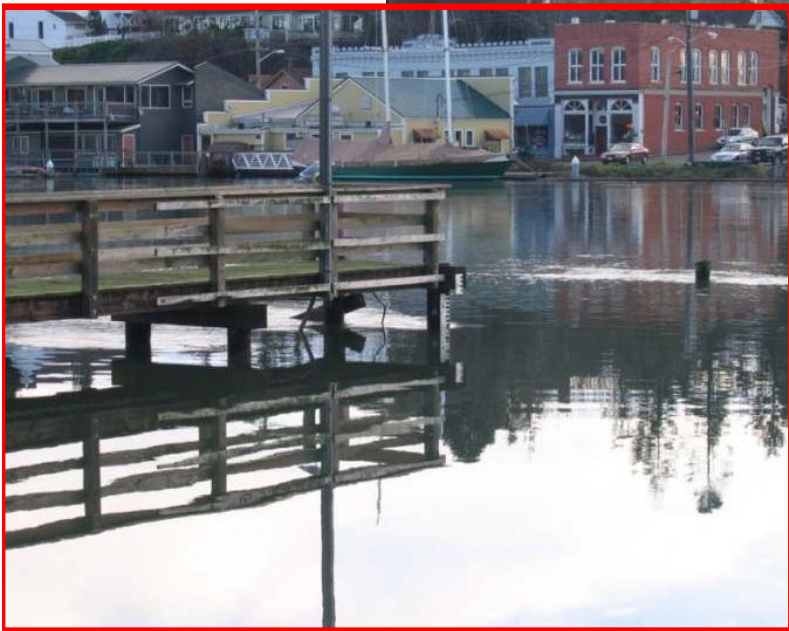


3° -8° F change in mean temperature by 2100

Projected Sea Level Rise Puget Sound & WA Coast (CIG, 2006)

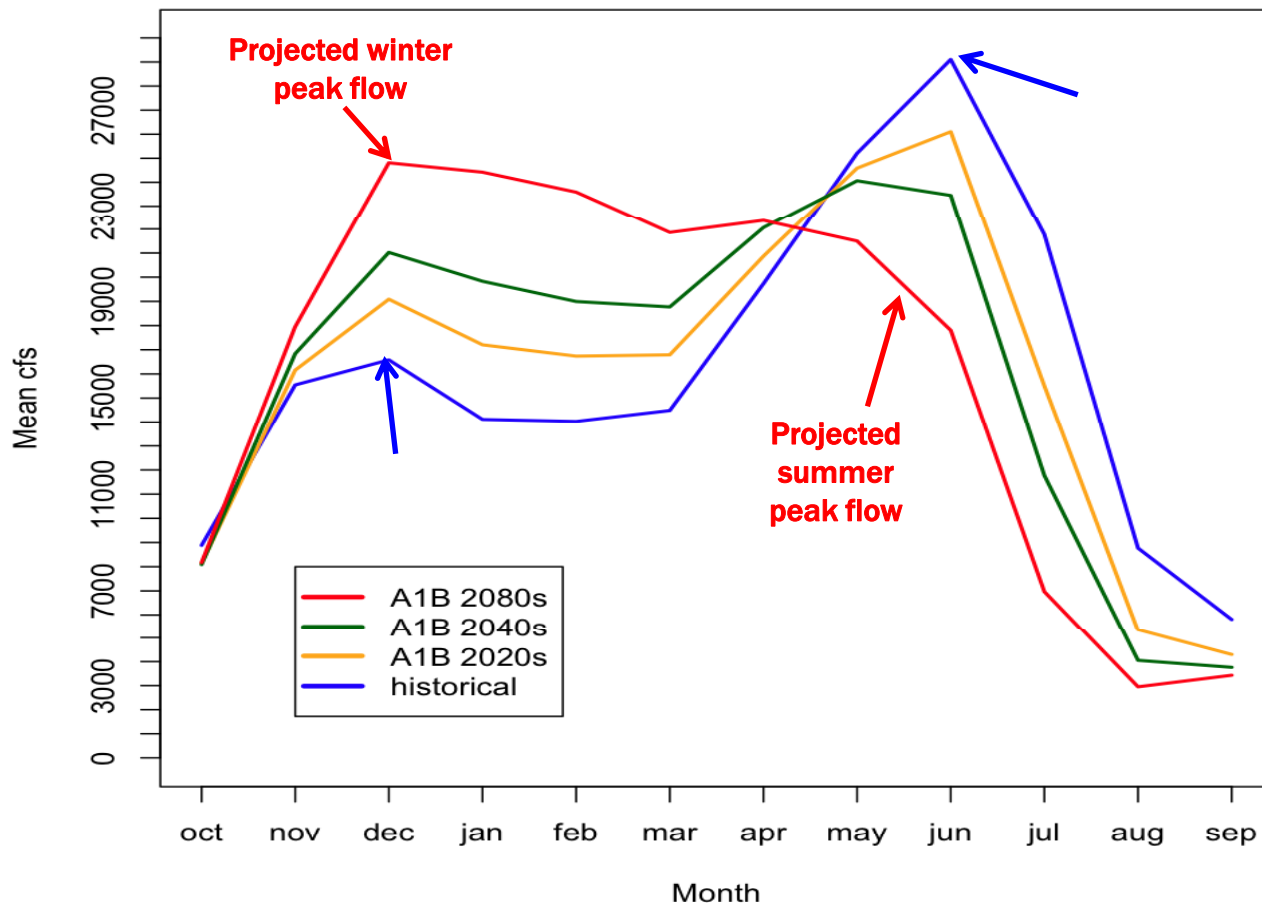


Tidal surge, Swinomish Reservation, 2006



Changing/Declining River Flows (CIG, 2009)

Mean Monthly Flow
Skagit River at Mount Vernon



since 1948

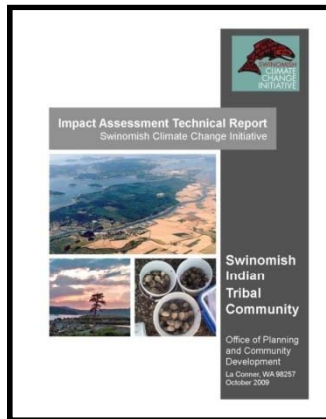
Adaptation Planning Challenges

- **Many disciplines, many moving parts**
- **Data uncertainties and gaps**
- **Complex issues, changing circumstances**
- **Public perceptions and communication**
- **Funding options, sources, availability**
- **Long, indefinite timeframes for impacts; shorter, finite project timelines**

Swinomish Climate Change Initiative

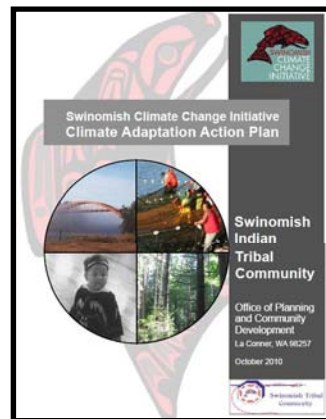
(Guidance: CIG/King County guidebook)

- 2-year, \$400,000 project (80% federal, 20% tribal)
- Partners: UW-CIG, Town of LaConner, Skagit Co.



- Year 1 – Technical Report (2009):

- Impact assessment
- Vulnerability assessment
- Risk analysis



- Year 2 – Action Plan (2010):

- Review strategies, criteria
- Assess requirements
- Develop/prioritize recommendations₆₀

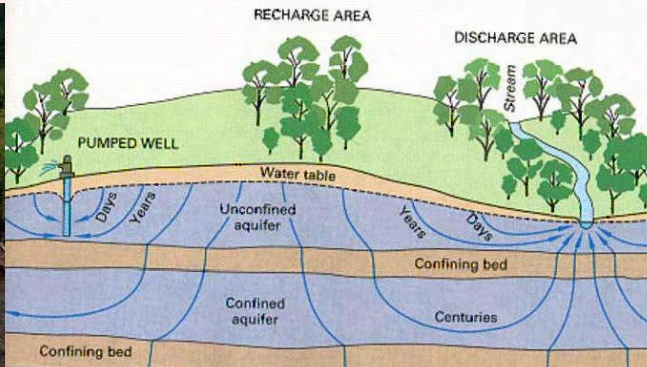
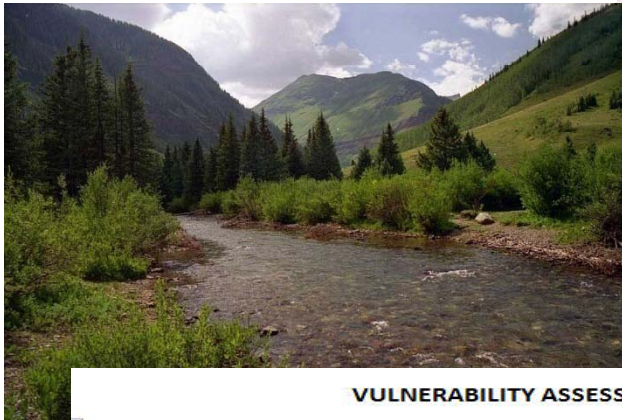
Project Participants

Swinomish Climate Change Initiative

- **Interdisciplinary core staff team**
- **Univ. of WA Climate Impacts Group (CIG), science advisors**
- **Advisory Partners: Town of LaConner, Skagit County, Shelter Bay Community**
- **Community engagement group (Tribal leaders, elders, youth, staff)**

Impact Assessment

Swinomish Climate Change Initiative



VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS BY SECTOR

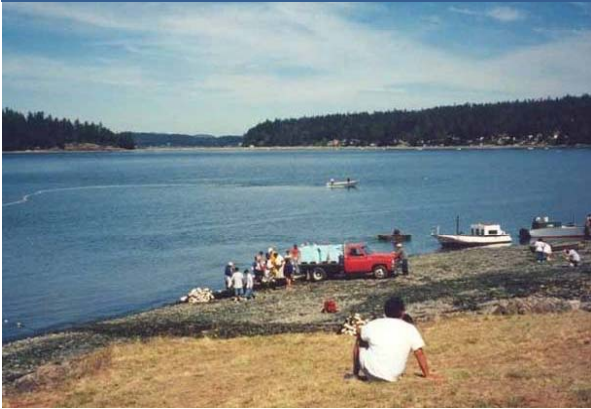
| Sector | Element | Potential Impacts | Impact Sensitivity (exposure/ susceptibility) | Adaptive Capacity | Complicating Factors | Vulnerability (impact level) |
|-----------------|-------------|--|---|-------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Water Resources | Freshwater | Declining consistency/volume of in-stream flows, earlier peak runoff | Medium-High, greater as temperature rises | Low | More acute in snow-to-rain dominant transition areas | Medium-High |
| | Groundwater | Increasing salinization from salt water intrusion | Medium-High, wells near shoreline zones | Low | Greater drawdown exacerbates issues | Medium-High |
| | Wetlands | Increasing inundation from higher tides, storm surges (estuarine) | High, greater for estuarine, freshwater wetlands | Low | Conversion/loss proportional to inundation | High |
| | | Decline/degradation of upland wetlands from reduced flow input | High, greater with increasing temperature and declining precipitation | Low | Increased loss may contribute to higher wildfire potential | High |

RISK ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS BY SECTOR

| Sector | Element | Potential Impacts | Vulnerability | Probability | Estimated Risk |
|-----------------|-------------|--|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| Water Resources | Freshwater | Declining consistency/volume of in-stream flows, earlier peak runoff | Medium-High | Medium | Medium-High |
| | Groundwater | Increasing salinization from salt water intrusion | Medium-High | Medium | Medium-High |
| | Wetlands | Increasing inundation from higher tides, storm surges (estuarine) | High | High | High |
| | | Decline/degradation of upland wetlands from reduced flow input | High | Medium | Medium-High |

Impacts on Tribal Resources

TOO MUCH WATER:



Beach seining



Fishing facilities



Shellfish

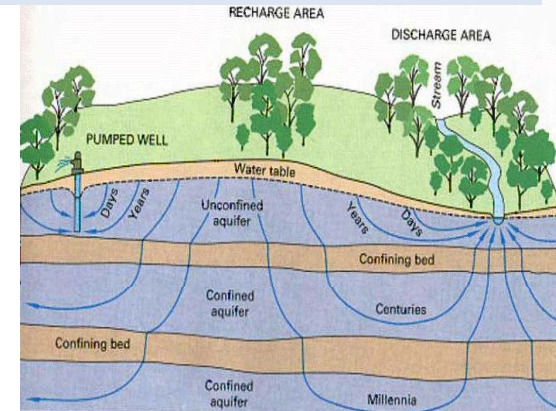
TOO LITTLE WATER:



Streamflows



Wetlands



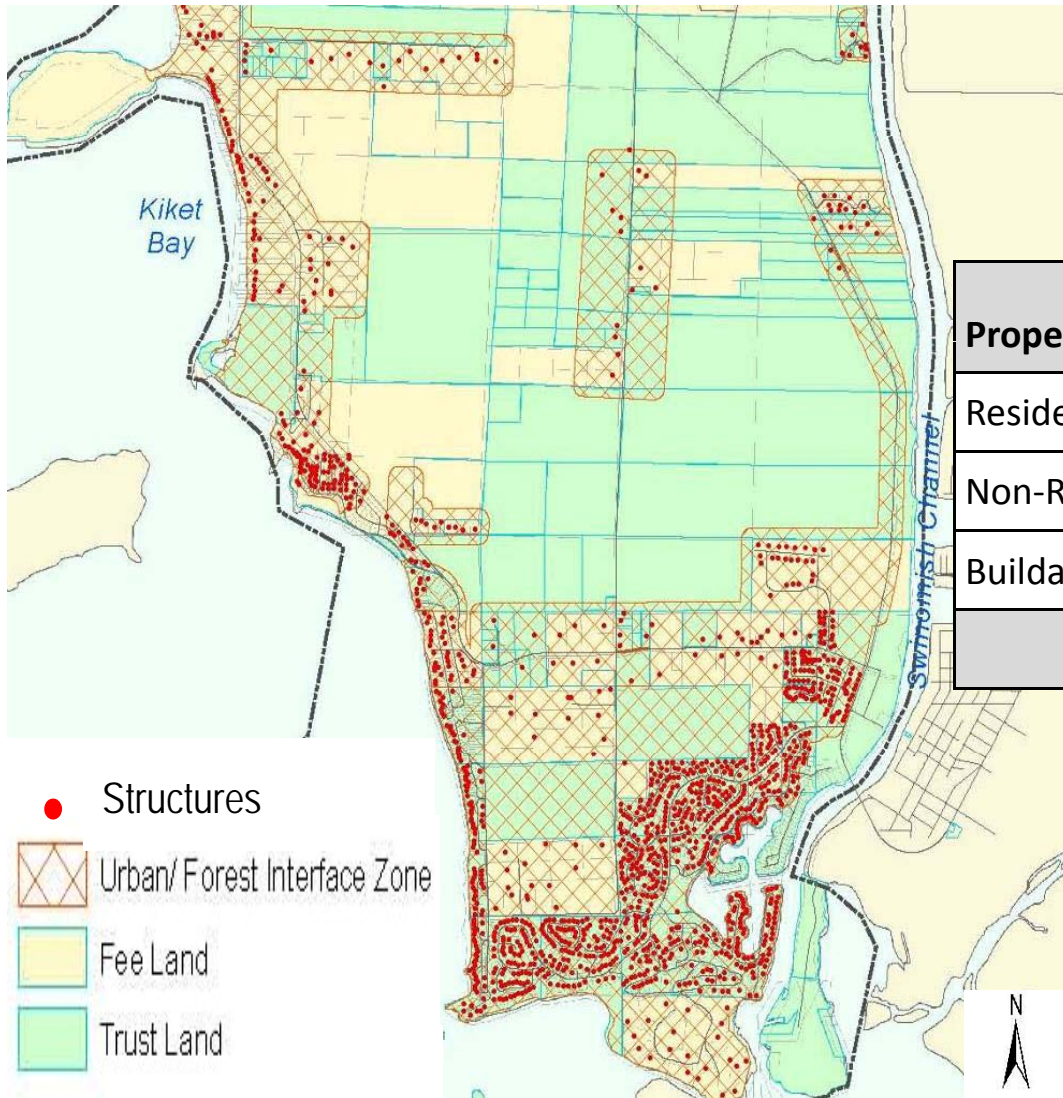
Groundwater recharge

Water Resource Issues

- **Increasing demand/shrinking resource**
- **Surface water/groundwater balance**
- **Local/non-local supply dependence**
- **Regional water supply allocation/planning**
- **Control over vulnerability, protection**
- **Conservation/usage restrictions**

Wildfire Risk Zone

Swinomish Climate Change Project



| Property Type | Number | Acres | Approximate Value |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Residential | 1,368 | 1,995 | \$ 493,688,000 |
| Non-Residential | 9 | 143 | \$ 4,806,000 |
| Buildable Lots | 183 | 80 | \$ 19,918,000 |
| TOTAL | 1,560 | 2,218 | \$ 518,412,000 |

Impacts on Human Health

- **Heat-related illness (exhaustion, stroke)**
- **Respiratory problems (asthma, air quality)**
- **Opportunistic viruses (West Nile, flu)**
- **Emerging health threats (fungal, viral)**
- **Food-borne/pollution related threats (toxins, water quality)**

Strategy Evaluation Criteria

- **Comprehensiveness –**
Address range of impacts and risk
- **Sustainability –**
Long-term solution, not band-aid fix
- **Dynamic approach –**
Respond to changing facts, circumstances
- **Fiscal impact/feasibility –**
Consider financial commitments, term
- **Community goals –**
Align with desires/needs of the community

Community Outreach/Awareness

Events:

- School Science Fair
- Annual Tribal Clam Bake
- Earth Day Activities

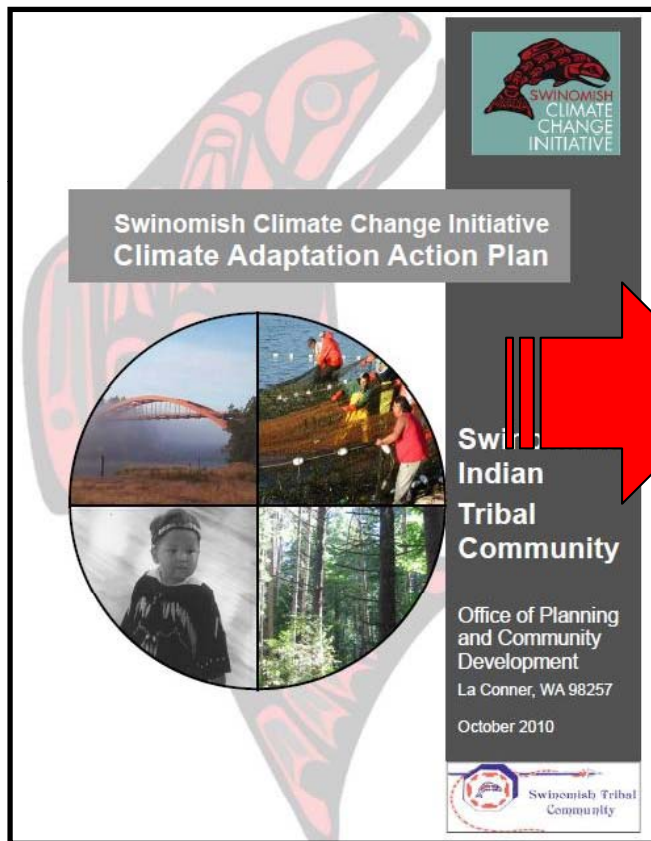


Communications:

- Tribal Newsletter
- Community Meetings
- Individual Interviews



Implementing Action Plan Priorities (\$ = relative estimated cost per \$1000)



- Coastal zone protection (\$\$\$?)
- Dike maintenance/repair (\$\$\$\$\$)
- Regional access preservation (\$\$\$\$\$)
- Wildfire control (Firewise) (\$)
- Local emergency planning (\$)

Implementation Challenges

- **Competing priorities, political realities**
- **Funding options, sources, availability**
- **Identifying/forging partnerships**
- **Monitoring, criteria for evaluation**
- **Flexibility, adaptive approaches**
- **Institutionalizing planning, efforts**

Credits and References

- Swinomish Climate Change Initiative supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Native Americans.
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- Snover AK, Whitely Binder LC, Lopez J, Willmott E, Kay J, Howell D, Simmonds J (2007) *Preparing for Climate Change: A Guidebook for Local, Regional, and State Governments*. In association with and published by ICLEI, Oakland, CA.
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- Photos: Channel Town Press (Doug Cole), Feb. 2006; Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.
- Presentation preparation/contact: Ed Knight, AICP, Senior Planner, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, LaConner, WA, 360-466-7304, eknight@swinomish.nsn.us. Information and complete copies of reports available on the Swinomish Climate Change web site, www.swinomish-nsn.gov/climate_change/project/reports.html

