



Scenario planning for an uncertain future in the Sandhills ecoregion

What is scenario planning?

Natural resource managers are tasked with managing ecosystems that are transforming under climate change, yet planning and decision-making is challenged by considerable uncertainty about what future climates and ecosystems will look like. **Scenario planning** is an approach that works *with* this uncertainty to encourage natural resource managers to prepare for a wide range of future conditions instead of a single 'best guess'. Ecological scenarios are quantitative or qualitative descriptions of how ecosystems *could* change under a changing climate, which motivate managers to re-think existing management practices and consider a broader array of management goals and strategies.



What are we doing?

Our goal with this project is to build on **existing scenario planning methods** by better integrating uncertainty in ecological dynamics. **We are using the Sandhills ecoregion as a case study to develop and test-drive methods for producing ecological scenarios.**

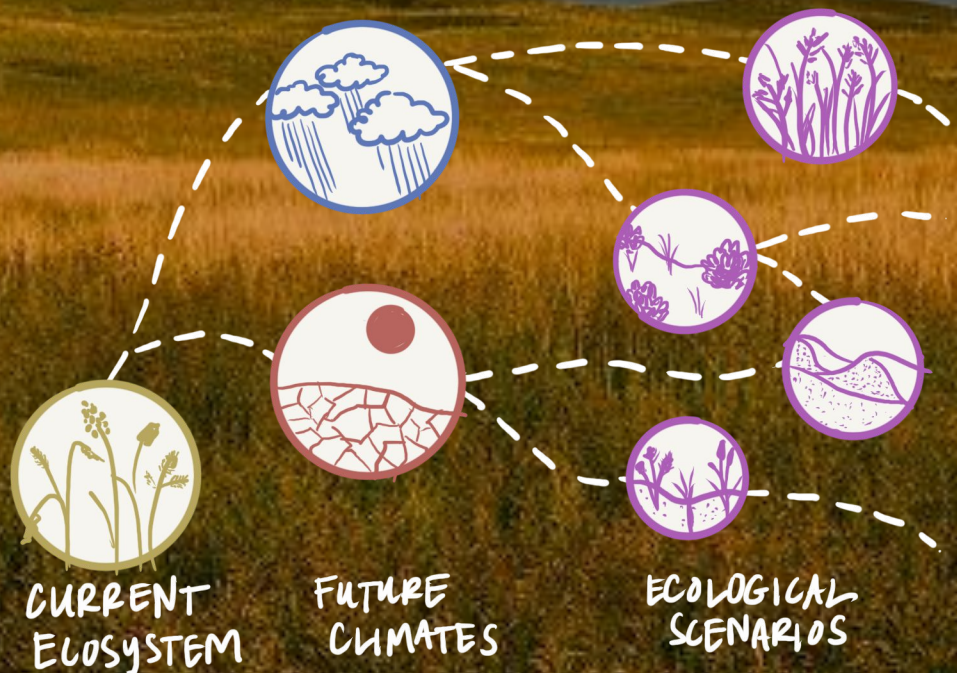


How are we doing it?

We are combining several types of science to develop scenarios of what the Sandhills ecosystem could look like in the future, integrating information on:

- Future climate
- Disturbance regimes
- Invasions
- Ecological dynamics

We welcome *your* ideas on envisioning the future of this ecosystem.



Who are we?

Our team consists of experts in scenario planning, climate adaptation, climate science, and ecology from USGS, University of Colorado, and US Fish & Wildlife Service. We are funded by the **North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center (NCCASC)**.

How can you get involved?

If you are also thinking about what the future looks like in the Sandhills or are interested in our work, we'd love to hear from you!

Project contacts:

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