

Building, Evaluating, and Sharing Climate–Based Decision Support for Professional Foresters

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The USDA–funded Pine Integrated Network: Education, Mitigation, and Adaptation Project (PINEMAP) explores future changes in loblolly pine management and production, with a web– based Decision Support System (DSS) as the primary deliverable for project results. DSS tools allow professional foresters to explore future projections from downscaled global climate models and regional ecological models.

Designing this product was an iterative process that included consultation with forestry experts, beta testing with industry professionals, and assessing usability with an eye tracking study. Using these study results and DSS outputs from varying stages of development, we present challenges, successes, and lessons learned from the design process and from extension efforts to train and share the DSS with the target audience.