Natural resource and agricultural production systems, cultural resources, wild lands, and fresh and marine waters in the Northwest are sensitive to changes or variability in climate. Climate directly and indirectly affects wildfire regimes, the spread of invasive species, damaging pest and pathogen outbreaks, sea level rise, and freshwater quality and availability.

Understanding climate processes and their impacts helps researchers develop tools for adaptation and mitigation. Adapting to future changes in climate will protect lives and property, ensure environmental quality, and enable economic development and community vitality.

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DoI), working with universities and other partners, operates a nationwide network of eight regional Climate Science Centers to provide knowledge, data, and tools that land, water, wildlife, and cultural resource managers can apply to develop climate adaptation and mitigation plans. These centers develop regional, landscape-level strategies for understanding and responding to climate impacts.

The Northwest Climate Science Center (NW CSC) was established in fall 2010 as a partnership of the University of Idaho, Oregon State University, the University of Washington, and the U.S. Geological Survey. The center received an initial five-year grant of $3.7 million to establish executive, science, data management, communication, and education and training services at the three primary universities. Since fiscal year 2011, the NW CSC has awarded over $6 million to support climate-related research such as:

- Modeling future hydrologic regimes, extreme precipitation events, snow packs and stream flows in the Northwest
- Assessing the vulnerabilities of native salmon and trout to increasing water temperatures across their ranges
- Understanding climate-related threats to whitebark pine by mountain pine beetles
- Utilizing traditional ecological knowledge to help inform and respond to changes in the availability of natural and cultural resources of significance to Northwest tribes

A full list of funded research projects are featured on the NW CSC website: https://www.nwclimatescience.org/projects.

**Accomplishments in CY 2015**

- Six new research projects were funded to researchers in federal agencies and universities throughout the region.
- An assessment of the policy and technical capacity of Columbia River Basin tribes to address climate change was completed.
- Fourteen new graduate student Fellows were provided support at the University of Idaho, University of Washington and Oregon State University.
- 30 graduate Fellows and early career professionals from tribes, agencies and non-profit organizations attended the 2015 Climate Boot Camp at Pack Forest in Washington.
FY17 PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

- NW CSC completed two projects to establish best practices for management of social science data and Indigenous Knowledge of NW Indian tribes.
- Worked with partners to produce and distribute the first issue of Northwest Climate Magazine to over 8,000 recipients (https://www.nwclimatescience.org/nw-climate-magazine)
- The NW CSC performed very well in an administrative audit by the Department of Interior Inspector General and has just completed a five-year external review.

Goals for CY 2016

The Northwest Climate Science Center’s work plan for 2016 is based on science and education assessments, stakeholder advisory oversight, and technical panel reviews.

Some NWCSC 2016 focus areas include:

- Use modeling to provide resource managers with information about future climate change conditions and uncertainty; to understand how Earth’s systems have responded to past climate conditions and how they may respond in the future; and to investigate how ecosystems respond to changing climate.
- Identify vulnerabilities of ecosystems, human health, cultural resources, and infrastructure to climate change, as well as identifying practices for adaptation.
- Solicit guidance from the Executive Advisory Committee to identify climate-related management, decision-maker, and policymaker needs and continue to invest in research that is both responsive to these needs and co-produced by scientists and managers;
- Administer progress, perform evaluations, and compile data and publication products of research projects funded by the NW CSC in FY 2011 through 2015;
- Organize and implement the 6th annual NW CSC Climate Boot Camp for early career professionals in tribes, non-profits, agencies and universities, and the first annual Tribal Climate Camp for teams of early career leaders in Western, Eastern and Southern tribes.
- With the Bureau of Indian Affairs, recruit a tribal Climate Extension Support Liaison who will work with Northwest tribes to identify priority climate information and knowledge needs of tribes and develop relationships with partners to address those needs
- Present and promote data products generated by NW CSC-funded projects using a variety of innovative means, including story maps, mapping tools, and data articles;
- Seek further opportunities to partner with federal climate entities in the Northwest to implement the NW CSC Communication Strategy and showcase the coordinated climate change science and adaptation planning projects supported by these entities;

The center’s planning and strategy documents, external advisory committee roster, annual work plans lists of funded projects, graduate assistants, and investigators can also be found at www.nwclimatescience.org and www.doi.gov/csc/northwest/index.cfm.

Account: Interior Appropriations, US Geological Survey (USGS), Climate and Land Use Change, Climate Variability, Climate Science Centers

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