

Climate Science Center Reviews



Administrative Structure

- Cornell Human Dimensions Unit and AFS partner on proposal
- USGS establishes Cooperative Agreement with Cornell through the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) process
- AFS Roles:
 - Manage logistics of reviews, review team solicitation and selection (with review team chair), design review, facilitate process, support review team development of report, edit, design and publish final report
- Cornell Roles:
 - Overall contract management, on-site partnership dialogue, web survey of science producers and users (partners)

Review Components

- On-site review – addressing four topics of review
 - 7-person team; USGS scientist as chair, CSC-Director, and 5 outside members
 - National solicitation and selection process
 - Review design inspired by ACCCNRS report
- Partnership assessment – Cornell team
 - (See later slides)
- Administrative and operational review – NCCCWSC staff
 - Funds management, process, etc.

Schedule of CSC Reviews

2015:

- Alaska CSC – University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Anchorage, AK
- Northwest CSC – Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR
- Southeast CSC – North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

2016

- Southwest CSC – University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
- North Central CSC – Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

2017

- Northeast CSC – University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA
- Pacific Islands CSC – University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI
- South Central – University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Basic Review Design

- Utilized ACCCNRS report as template: institutional development, actionable science, capacity building, partnerships
- 2 ½ day process moved from general architecture of CSC to more specific discussions of research development and utilization
- Established closed dialogues with CSC-federal and CSC-university leads.

Partnership Assessment

- Who is partnering with the CSCs?
- How are they engaged?
- What benefits do they get?
- What barriers do they face?
- How do they contribute to
 - Co-production of science?
 - Actionable science?
- How do CSCs fulfill functions of boundary organizations?

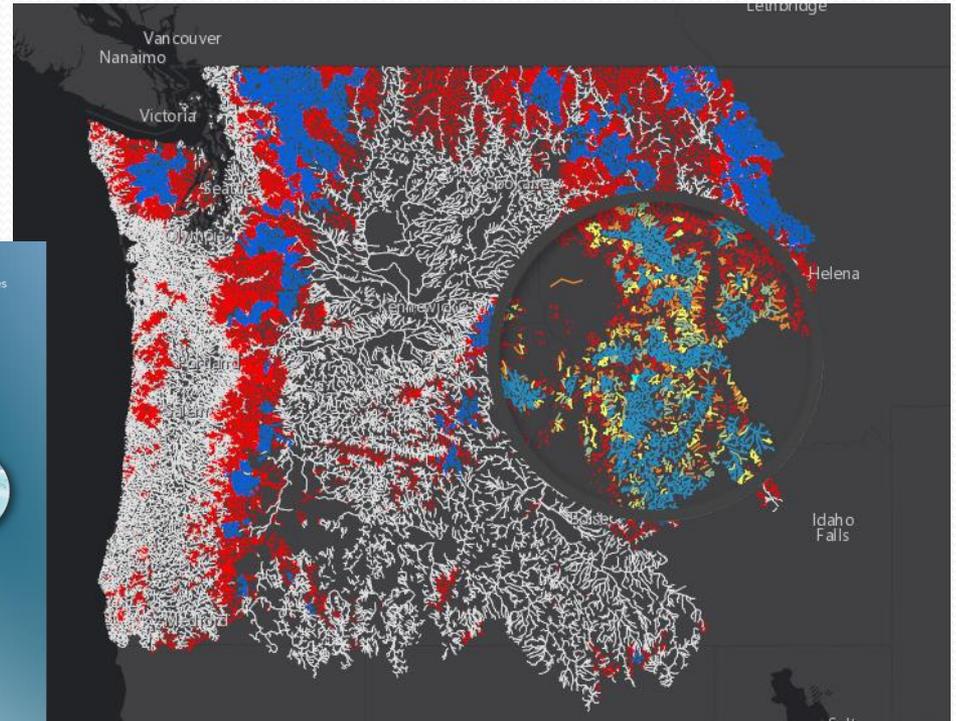
Focus Groups

- Two groups during each CSC site visit
 - Science producers
 - Science users
- Two-hour sessions
- 72 participants

Web-based Survey

- Partners and potential partners
 - CSC contacts
 - LCC staff and steering committee members
 - AFWA Climate Science Committee
- 670 individuals for 3 CSCs
- Implementation April 11-May 6
- Nonrespondent phone survey

Initial Observations from the CSC's



from ICEFIELD to OCEAN

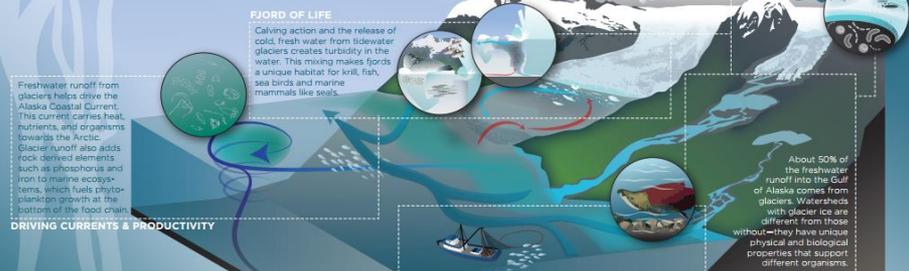
Coastal Alaska and British Columbia glaciers are melting faster than almost any other glaciers on Earth. Glaciers are central to many natural processes and economic activities in this region. Changes in coastal icefields and glaciers can have a ripple effect down through the watershed all the way to the ocean.

RAIN OR SNOW?
As temperatures warm in this temperate climate, more precipitation is falling as rain instead of snow. This is already affecting the economically valuable yellow-cedar trees. Over longer time scales, this shift could lead to further declines in glacier mass.

LIFE ON ICE
On the surface, within, and underneath—glaciers are full of life. The glacier surface collects organic matter and is home to diverse microbial communities. Runoff from glaciers provides bioavailable carbon to downstream ecosystems.

MELTING AWAY
Rates of glacier loss are projected to increase in the region, with a 25-35% reduction of total glacier volume by the end of the century.

How do glaciers impact Alaska's coastal ecosystems, and what do glacier changes mean for the future of this ecologically and economically valuable system?



Participants of GOI Alaska carefully approach a crevasse on the Gulkana Glacier. During the 12 day program, girls carry out several research projects on the ice.

Disclaimer – any observations by DJA at this time may not reflect the consensus of the review panels.

Initial Observation #1

- Develop a better understanding of mutual interests as well as unique drivers
 - Construct of federal-university partnership has inherently different cultural drivers.
 - Good working relationships exist for some CSC's based upon solid personal/professional relationships.

Initial Observation #2

- Stakeholder Advisory Committees (SAC) vary considerably in construct, engagement and utility
 - CSC SAC's highly variable in structure and management
 - Although Terms of Reference (TOR) exist they seemingly were poorly understood.
 - Disconnect between SAC membership composition and expected role
 - Minimizes the role of NGO's and university researchers who can have valuable input (although participation is allowed)

Initial Observation #3

- Consortium structure and positioning of CSC within the university are important
 - Selection of university host department has implications for research priorities, partnerships, etc.
 - Consortia need to add value without diluting.
 - Recognize the “2-hour drive rule” for research.

Process Improvements

- Longer planning horizon
- Better specifications of required supportive documentation, roles and responsibilities with host CSC (federal and university)
- Expand pre-visit conveyance of CSC basic information to review team (expanded webinars)
- Schedule (and adhere to schedule) review team writing time while on site

2016-2017 Schedule

Based on late October- early November time frame. Notes that hosts leaning towards early 2017:

April – Establish on-site review dates

May – Solicit review team members

July 1 – Finalize review teams

August – Initial calls with review teams

Late September – early October – CSC webinars



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