



**Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey**

Northwest Climate Science Center

Workplan Fiscal Year 2015



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<http://www.doi.gov/csc/northwest/index.cfm>

<https://www.nwclimatescience.org>

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Introduction

The Northwest Climate Science Center (NW CSC) was established by the Department of the Interior (DOI) in 2010 to provide objective scientific information and tools that Pacific Northwest managers of land, water, wildlife, and cultural resources can use to anticipate, monitor, and adapt to climate change. The NW CSC is one of eight regional climate science centers managed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center (NCCWSC) and is a federally-led research collaboration partnered with three primary universities: Oregon State University, the University of Idaho, and the University of Washington.

The NW CSC receives guidance from the Executive Stakeholder Advisory Committee (ESAC), which helps identify strategic science priorities and sets the NW CSC's long-term climate science agenda (<http://www.doi.gov/csc/northwest/Climate-Science-Agenda.cfm>). ESAC seats are held by representatives from federal, tribal, and state agencies and organizations (<http://www.doi.gov/csc/northwest/ESAC.cfm>). Each year, the NW CSC prepares a workplan for the upcoming federal fiscal year guided by its Strategic Plan (<http://www.doi.gov/csc/northwest/Northwest-CSC-Strategic-Plan.cfm>) and input from the ESAC.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this workplan is to describe the tasks that the NW CSC plans to conduct in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 (October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015) in support of the goals of the NW CSC Strategic Plan for 2012-2016. These tasks are organized by the five core services identified in the Strategic Plan: 1) Science 2) Education and Training 3) Executive, 4) Data, and 5) Communication. The implementation of this plan hinges on Congressional budget allocations, staff capacity, and evolving regional priorities as defined by ESAC and national priorities as defined by NCCWSC and DOI.

Science Services

The objective of Science Services is *to develop and implement a comprehensive Science Agenda to address current and emerging climate priorities in the Pacific Northwest*. To help meet this objective, the NW CSC will:

- Solicit guidance from the ESAC in identification of climate-related management, decision-maker, and policymaker needs;
- Nurture existing relationships and forge new ones with interested federal, state, tribal, and NGO partners to build a regional science portfolio focused on actionable and broadly applicable climate science;
- Continue to leverage NW CSC investments in science capacity, projects, data, and tools with partners in the research and resource management communities to the maximum extent possible;
- Administer progress, perform evaluations, and compile data and publication products of research projects funded by the NW CSC in FY 2011 through 2014 to assess and report their accomplishments;
- Update and add to the regional inventory of climate-related research projects funded by the NW CSC, LCCs, and regional federal, state, tribal, and university partners to:
 - identify synergies and potential for collaboration among agencies;
 - discover management-relevant information gaps to help guide decisions about NW CSC research priorities and investments;
 - identify participants for themed workshops that will assess current research efforts, summarize available science, and help make informed management decisions on specific high priority topics; and
- Synthesize and evaluate the body of scientific knowledge on specific, frequently used climate adaptation actions (CAAs) to determine the conditions, timeframes, and geographic areas where particular CAAs may be most effective for resource managers. Build a database of CAAs for high-priority climate stressors, and, as a pilot project, carry out a systematic literature review on CAAs used in response to climate-induced changes in fire regimes.

Education and Training Services

The objective of Education and Training Services is *to promote broad participation by and support education of diverse young scientists in the work of the NW CSC*. To help meet this objective, the NW CSC will:

- Organize the 5th Annual NW CSC Climate Boot Camp, a week-long educational program that offers a comprehensive, interdisciplinary view of the workings of climate impacts science, science communications, and knowledge integration to highly qualified graduate students and early-career scientists throughout the Northwest and the nation;
- Continue to grow and administer graduate fellowship programs at the primary academic consortium partner institutions to help prepare students for interdisciplinary careers in climate impacts science, education, and outreach;
- Provide leadership, planning, and support for the 6th Annual Pacific Northwest Climate Science Conference and other regional professional gatherings, as appropriate. Continue to financially support participation by tribal members/staff and students to regional professional meetings, and advocate for novel means for scientist-manager dialogues to occur at these events;
- Disseminate information about opportunities for early-career professionals transitioning to the climate workforce or interested in gaining professional experience in climate-related fields; and
- Coordinate with the national CSC Education and Training Working Group.

Executive Services

The objective of Executive Services is *to provide leadership, guidance, and support for climate-related activities through coordination and engagement with relevant stakeholders*. To help meet this objective, the NW CSC will:

- Prepare an Annual Workplan for FY 2015 (this document) guided by the NW CSC Strategic Plan and input from the ESAC;
- Continue to implement administrative and operational best-practice standards and procedures to maintain NW CSC transparency and accountability;

- Administer NW CSC finances consistent with federal regulations and USGS guidelines to advance a regional climate portfolio within approved budgets;
- Identify and engage the regional network of climate-related expertise, resources, and programs with particular focus on academic institutions, federal agencies, and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) to leverage resources for greater impacts;
- Continue to lead national cross-CSC working groups focused on climate scenarios, data management, congressional relations, education and training, and cross-cutting science themes;
- Continue to implement the NW CSC Education and Training Strategy, Tribal Engagement Strategy, and Communication Strategy, and fulfill the research needs identified in the Science Agenda;
- With the Bureau of Indian Affairs, recruit a tribal Climate Extension Support Liaison who will work with Northwest tribes to identify basic climate information and knowledge needs of tribes and develop relationships with partners to address those needs. The liaison will also help enhance and implement the NW CSC Tribal Engagement Strategy and bolster the NW CSC tribal research portfolio;
- With the Tribal Leadership Forum, conduct a capacity assessment of a representative sample of Northwest tribes related to their technical, scientific, policy, and programmatic preparedness for climate change adaptation; and
- Prepare an Annual Report for FY 2014 summarizing the NW CSC's program accomplishments, operations, and accounting.

Data Services

The objective of Data Services is *to collect and secure climate data, while providing timely access, analytical functions, and interpretive services*. To help meet this objective, the NW CSC will:

- Continue to engage stakeholders in discussions of data-related matters, including data administration and standards, technical tools, systems interoperability, and products;
- Advise and guide NW CSC-funded PIs on best practices for data and metadata management;

- Continue to integrate data and metadata management with science activities throughout the lifecycle of NW CSC-funded research and outreach projects;
- Consult with LCCs in the Northwest to identify appropriate outreach services for them as data consumers and to identify ways to better integrate data management efforts;
- Work with NCCWSC to smoothly transition select data management responsibilities from the NW CSC to NCCWSC; and
- Assist NCCWSC and the CSC network with the development of metadata, social science, and tribal data handling and protocols.

Communication Services

The objective of Communication Services is *to provide professional communication and outreach services that support the exchange of information among regional stakeholders, and effectively raise awareness of climate issues in the Pacific Northwest*. To help meet this objective, the NW CSC will:

- Maintain a coordinated online presence via two NW CSC websites – one hosted by DOI and maintained by USGS staff (<http://www.doi.gov/csc/northwest/index.cfm>) and one administered by NW CSC staff at the University of Washington (<https://www.nwclimatescience.org/>) – as sources of climate-related information for regional users;
- Seek opportunities to partner with LCCs in the Northwest and other entities in the implementation of the Communication Strategy;
- Produce a joint annual magazine-style newsletter with the North Pacific LCC and PNW Climate Impacts Research Consortium to showcase the coordinated climate change science and land management work sponsored by these entities and other federal climate organizations across the Northwest region, including the Great Northern LCC, the Great Basin LCC, and the USDA Climate Hub; and
- Engage general and professional audiences by profiling NW CSC achievements and other climate-related issues in the Northwest through workshops, webinars, public lectures, and other methods.