

Department of the Interior

U.S. Geological Survey

Northwest Climate Science Center

Workplan Fiscal Year 2014



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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 hosted by 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 long-term climate science agenda for the Pacific Northwest (<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 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) 2014 (October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014) in support of the goals of the NW CSC Strategic Plan for 2012-2015. These tasks are organized by the five core services identified in the Strategic Plan: executive, science, data, communication, and training and education services.

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 2014 (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;

- Continue to administer NW CSC finances consistent with federal regulations and USGS guidelines to advance a regional climate portfolio within approved budgets;
- Assemble a core workforce of temporary and permanent staff with the right skills and experience to ensure implementation of the Strategic Plan and the delivery of NW CSC services pledged to regional partners;
- Continue to engage and convene regional science and policy stakeholders to exchange information that improves the planning, production, and use of climate science products;
- Continue to 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 cross-cutting science themes;
- Implement the NW CSC Tribal Engagement Strategy adopted in August 2013; and
- Prepare an Annual Report for FY 2013 summarizing the NW CSC's operations, accomplishments, and accounting.

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 and decision-maker needs for FY 2015;
- Continue to leverage NW CSC investments in science capacity, projects, data, applications and tools with partners in the research and resource management communities to the maximum extent possible;
- Administer progress and perform evaluations of research projects funded by the NW CSC in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013 to assess and report their accomplishments;
- Continue to inventory climate research projects funded by the NW CSC, LCCs, and regional partners to
 - ensure that the science is relevant, timely, and useful for resource managers
 - identify management-relevant information gaps to help guide decisions about NW CSC research priorities and investments

- build opportunities for research collaborations between individual or groups of scientists
- assess how decision support tools and other products are being used
- determine when the portfolio of regional climate-related products satisfies specified resource management needs; and
- Synthesize knowledge from climate science projects funded by the NW CSC and other agencies to build a comprehensive climate science and climate adaptation strategies framework that complements the NCCWSC national agenda and connects NW CSC efforts with those of other Climate Science Centers. The climate adaptation strategies framework will catalog methods and techniques that resource managers are using in response to specific climate change factors and scenarios and help guide those searching for strategies to achieve their management goals.

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:

- Develop and adopt a NW CSC Data Management Strategy that builds upon and broadens national data management requirements currently applied by the NCCWSC, and implement aspects of the strategy;
- Continue to engage stakeholders in discussions of data-related matters, including data administration and standards, technical tools, systems interoperability, and products;
- Continue to integrate data and metadata management planning with science planning during the early stages of NW CSC-funded research and outreach projects;
- Assess what tools or special skills are needed by principal investigators to manipulate, enhance, or manage data and metadata during the life of their projects;
- Consult with the Great Basin, Great Northern, and North Pacific LCCs to identify appropriate outreach services for them as data consumers and to identify ways to better integrate data management efforts; and
- Continue to work as co-leader and key player within the existing USGS National Data Management Working Group to establish data management processes for the lifespan of projects funded by the national network of Climate Science Centers.

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:

- Implement the NW CSC Communication Strategy adopted in March 2013;
- Maintain three vibrant NW CSC websites – one administered by the DOI through the USGS as part of the NCCWSC network; one administered by the University of Washington as a source of climate-related information for regional users, and one administered by the University of Idaho Northwest Knowledge Network in support of the NW CSC Climate Boot Camp;
- Seek opportunities to partner with LCCs and other entities in the development of the communication strategy and websites; 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.

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:

- Develop and adopt a NW CSC Education and Training Strategy and implement aspects of the strategy;
- Disseminate information about opportunities for early-career professionals transitioning to the climate workforce or interested in gaining professional experience in climate-related fields;
- Continue to implement graduate fellowship programs at the primary academic consortium partner institutions to help prepare students for interdisciplinary careers in climate impacts science, education, and outreach; and
- Organize the 4th 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.