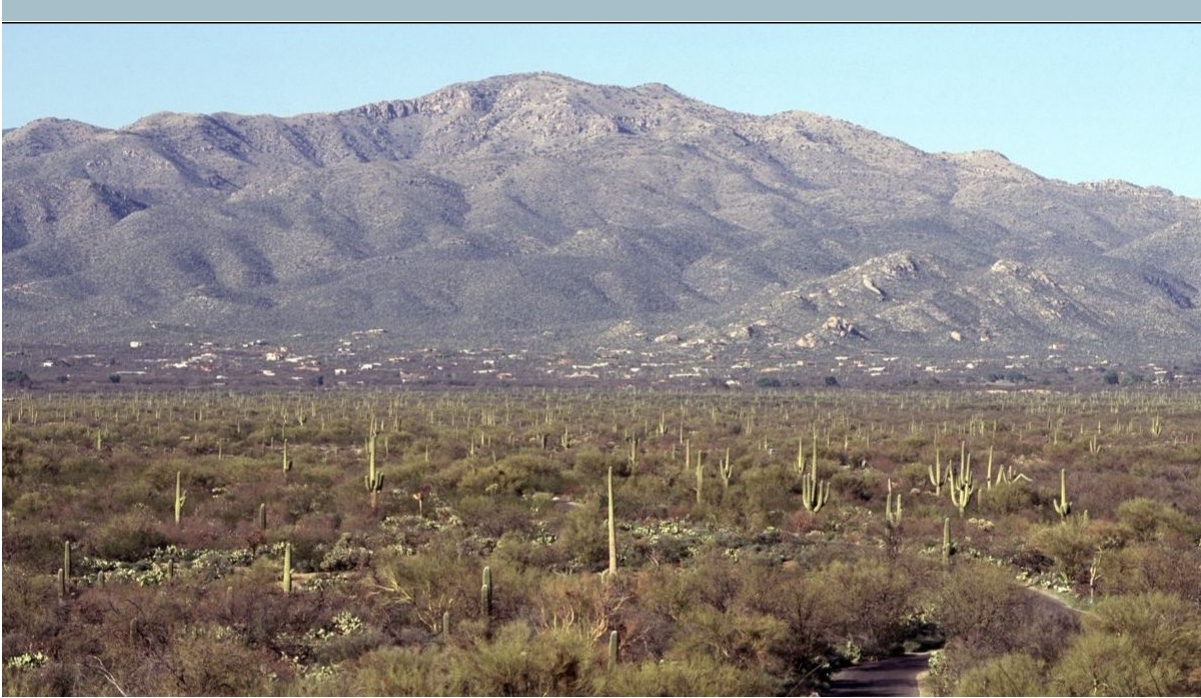


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# EcoClimate News Southwest

February 2021

**Reflections from Anita JT Govert  
SW CASC University Assistant Director**



Ox year, but what the Ox expects from you, and that is hard work, duty, and discipline. In agricultural societies, oxen are reliable and strong work animals. They were responsible for the survival of humanity. Symbolically speaking, our Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center's mission, to deliver science to help fish, wildlife, water, land, and people adapt to a changing climate, embraces that same tenet of responsibility.

As I return to our SW CASC, having been absent the entire fall season, I am heartened by the ongoing ***diligent work*** of a special team, already underway in 2021. I am pleased to draw your attention this month to the unique cadre of nine early career scientists, our ***2020-21 Natural Resources Workforce Development (NRWD) Fellows***. Please click [here](#) to meet them via story map and read their aspirational reasons as to why they are committed to this year-long team science training program. You'll also meet the SW CASC faculty leading and mentoring this cohort in the development of their team science project focused on **Management in the Aftermath of Landscape-Scale Disturbances**.

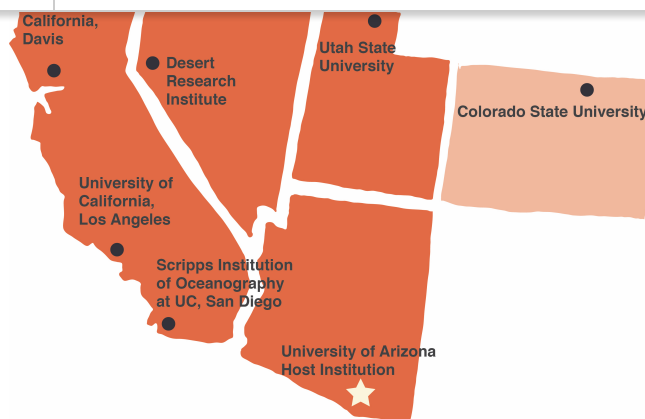
Click [here](#) to read the blog posts from our 2019-20 NRWD Fellows, where they have shared their year-long training experiences. These may be especially helpful for those considering applying for the Year 3 NRWD Fellowship (information on applying to this opportunity is just below in this newsletter).

Stay tuned for our March Newsletter where we will share the 2019-20 Fellows Team Science Project Summary Report and the 2020-21 Fellows initial blog post at month 5 of their year together. I am excited to hear in the future the success stories of where our NRWD Fellows have actively joined the workforce after graduation.



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**SW CASC FY22 Funding Opportunities**



## FY22 Research Project Funding Opportunity

The entire CASC network is requesting statements of interest for research projects addressing high priority climate adaptation science needs. For the SW CASC call, eligible applicants include researchers from USGS and SW CASC consortium institutions (see map above). Parties from other organizations can serve as co-PIs and receive funds via subaward from an eligible organization. Statements of Interest are due **March 19, 2021**. The SW CASC intends to fund 5-8 projects, not to exceed \$350,000 each, that focus on one or more of the following research priorities:

1. Indigenous practices of ecosystem management and restoration in the context of climate change and adaptation.
2. Management implications of mega-disturbance events and ecological transformation.
3. Climate-informed management of natural resources in coastal, freshwater and riparian ecosystems to support effective climate adaptation.
4. Application of existing decision-support tools for climate adaptation (small grants).

Informational webinars will be held on:

- All CASC info session, February 16, 2pm EST
- **SW CASC info session, February 19, 12pm MST**

[Learn More and Apply Here](#)

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## 2021-22 NRWD Fellowship Request for Applications

The 2021-22 Natural Resources Workforce Development (NRWD) Fellowship application period is now open until **March 24, 2021**. The fellowship is open to

applicant from each institution will be selected to take part in each fellowship cohort. Fellows will work as a team to conduct research focused on this year's science theme: endangered streams--building strong and authentic bridges between science and practice to understand impacts of future water flows on aquatic ecosystems. Funding for successful applicants includes a stipend of \$5,000, with an additional travel allowance of \$1,000 for each Fellows cohort meeting that occurs away from their home campus.

**Learn More and Apply Here**

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## Save the Date for the 2021 Southwest Adaptation Forum!



Mark your calendars for the 2021 Southwest Adaptation Forum (SWAF), being held virtually, April 6-8, 2021. Co-hosted by the SW CASC and the Climate Science Alliance, SWAF 2021 will build on takeaways from the [2018 SWAF](#), by bringing together practitioners and researchers from across the Southwest to explore efforts that are advancing climate change adaptation, including hands-on activities, networking, and professional training. Registration will be open starting February 17th. You can register, and learn more about the agenda, [here](#).



**Come Rain or Shine Podcast**

**Talking Wine, Weather, and Science**





Image by [Photo Mix](#) from [Pixabay](#)

**Part 1:** Do you drink wine? Do you know how many varieties of wine there are in the world? What's enology? What makes a vintage unique? Join us as we sit down with three scientists who specialize in viticulture and the cultivation of wine-grapes to hear about all of this and more. Drs. Kerri Steenworth and Andy Walker, from UC Davis, California, and Dr. Jeremy Weiss, from University of Arizona, tell us why the study of viticulture is important to them, how they got into the field, and what they do in their professional calling.

**Part 2:** Is climate change already impacting viticulture (the cultivation of grapevines)? How might a changing climate affect wine production? Is today a better time to drink red wine in Germany? Does weather affect alcohol content? You might be surprised by the answers to some of these! In this second half of our two-episode feature on viticulture, we delve into the effects of climate, weather, and our changing future on viticulture.

[Listen Here](#)

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**SWCASC Researchers Create New Tool to Assist  
Managers in Rebuilding Forests After Fire**

Upload Fire Data

Upload RdNBR

Browse... raster files only

Upload a Fire Perimeter

Browse... .zip files only

Predict Regeneration

Analysis Options

Apply Conifer Forest Mask?

☐ Yes
☒ No

Fire Year After 2012?

☒ Yes
☐ No

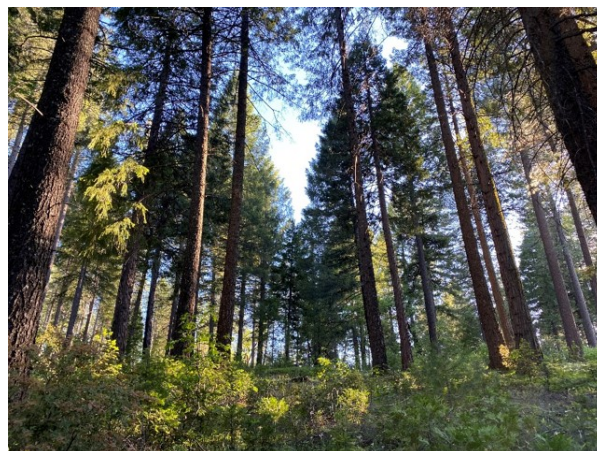
Mapping Options

Newly published SW CASC funded research in [\*Ecological Applications\*](#) estimates postfire regeneration of conifers in low-elevation California forests, to help managers identify where artificial seeding is needed after large wildfires. Researchers, led by project PI Phil van Mantgem (USGS), incorporated climate data, topography, forest composition, and burn severity to model conifer regeneration, and found, among other things, that conifers are less likely to regenerate during droughts in low-to-moderate elevation forests.

As a part of the study, researchers also created a tool to aid managers in selecting which areas will be best for replanting after megafires. The [\*Postfire Spatial Conifer Restoration Planning Tool \(POSCRPT\)\*](#) predicts the probability of post-fire conifer regeneration for fire data supplied by the user. The tool is designed to simplify the process of predicting post-fire conifer regeneration under different precipitation and seed production scenarios.

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## New Briefs Characterize Healthy Forests and Highlight Stressors to Forest Health



the open, grassy hillsides of blue oak woodlands, to the park-like settings of ponderosa forests, to the damp and foggy groves of towering coastal redwoods, each forest type is unique and has its own climate stressors and management needs.

The [Science Advisory Panel of the California Governor's Forest Management Task Force](#), in collaboration with the [USDA California Climate Hub](#) and the SW CASC, developed a series of briefs on healthy forests. These briefs, covering blue oak woodlands, ponderosa pine forests, and coastal redwood forests, are intended to communicate each ecosystems' general physical appearance and summarize critical processes that serve a myriad of ecological functions that contribute to keeping these forests and woodlands intact. Read the briefs [here](#).

Also check out the [California Forest Adaptation Strategies menu](#) from the USDA California Climate Hub, which outlines tangible, but flexible, options for land managers who want to integrate climate change considerations into their management.

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## SWCASC Researchers Publish White Paper on the Future of the Colorado and Green Rivers



Image Credit: USGS

SW CASC PI Brad Udall (Colorado State University), and SW CASC researchers Lindsey Bruckerhoff and Jack Schmidt (Utah State University), are authors on a recently published white paper from the Center for Colorado River Studies titled, "Alternative Management Paradigms for the Future of the Colorado and Green Rivers." The authors describe how declining runoff and increased consumptive use on the Colorado and Green Rivers will impact water supplies and ecosystems. They also focus on how these risks can be addressed, and offer a wide variety of alternative management paradigms for managers to consider, with the goal of encouraging

## Partner Highlights

### NIDIS Launches New Drought.Gov



NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) has launched the redesigned [U.S. Drought Portal](#) to better serve stakeholders, decision makers, the media, and the public. The new website features updated content and new interactive architecture designed to provide actionable, shareable information and easy-to-understand graphics describing current drought conditions and forecasts by city, county, state, zip code, and at watershed to global scales. The Drought Portal also aggregates and presents drought impact data for economic sectors such as agriculture, energy, water utilities, and recreation using interactive maps and data that don't exist together anywhere else. Read the news release [here](#).

The Intermountain West Drought Early Warning System is hosting a webinar demonstrating the new website, on February 19th, 11-11:30am MST. Register [here](#).

### Nevada Climate Initiative Releases State Climate Strategy



The State of Nevada has released the [State Climate Strategy](#), an integrated,



clean energy and technology revolution. The Strategy is just the beginning of future climate action in Nevada. As a living document, the Strategy will be adapted and updated as the impacts of climate change evolve and new climate-friendly technologies become available.

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## Climate Science Alliance Launches Updated Climate Kids Website and Education Resource Panel



The Climate Science Alliance unveils their updated [Climate Kids Website](#) and new Education Resource Portal - [Climate Kids Connects](#). Climate Kids Connects provides online resources that support youth, educators, and the community at large. Videos featuring guided climate science, storytelling, and art activities (in English and Spanish), core curriculum trainings for teachers, and more can be found on the new website! With this new wave of digital resources and activities, the Climate Science Alliance is excited to not only connect and support students that they would normally work with, but also reach new educators, youth, and community members.

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## Partner Events

### SW Climate Hub Webinar Series

# DROUGHT MANAGEMENT



The USDA Southwest Climate Hub and partners are hosting a webinar series that will provide information about the U.S. Drought Monitor, drought programs available through USDA Farm Service Agency, a climate and weather outlook for the Four Corners region, low-cost precipitation monitoring tools, precipitation variability throughout the Navajo Nation, and the Drought Severity Evaluation tool. All webinars are held 5:30-6:30pm MT.

## Dates & Topics

**February 11th:** Monitoring Precipitation on Rangelands: Tools, Strategies, and Best Practices

**February 18th:** Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow (CoCoRaHS) Network

**February 25th:** Precipitation Variability Throughout Navajo Nation and Drought Severity Evaluation Tool Video

[Register Here](#)

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## NIDIS Webinar Series on Ecological Drought

This four-part webinar series, taking place in February and March, seeks to raise awareness of ecological drought, share actions that strengthen ecosystem resilience and mitigate the impacts of droughts, and discuss research and management needs for future drought planning and preparedness. The series is co-hosted by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) program and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Climate Adaptation Science Center (NCASC), with expert speakers from the research community, tribal nations, and government agencies.

Dates: February 17, March 3, and March 17

[Register Here](#)

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## Southwest Drought Briefing

Nearly 50% of the Southwestern United States is currently experiencing the most severe drought classification (D4) conditions. The most recent U.S. Drought Monitor indicated that all of the Southwest was experiencing drought, and forecasts indicate these conditions are expected to continue through spring. This webinar, hosted by the Colorado Climate Center, NIDIS, and the USDA SW Climate Hub, will provide an update of current drought conditions and forecasts for Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Nevada followed by a demonstration of the new [drought.gov](https://drought.gov) website.

Date: February 19, 11am - 11:30am MST

**Register Here**

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## Workshop

### Southwest Drought Learning Network Annual Workshop



Join the Southwest Drought Learning Network for an interactive, virtual annual workshop. The goal of the workshop is to convene drought management leaders and resource managers from the Southwest to continue Drought Learning Network (DLN) activities in peer-to-peer and community-to-community knowledge exchange. Please contact [viktorya@nmsu.edu](mailto:viktorya@nmsu.edu) for more information.

Dates: March 3-4, 1-5pm MST each day

**Register Here**

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## Webinar

### California-Nevada Drought & Climate Outlook

Drought & Climate Outlook Webinar is part of a series of regular drought and climate outlook webinars designed to provide stakeholders and other interested parties in the region with timely information on current drought status and impacts, as well as a preview of current and developing climatic events (i.e., El Niño and La Niña).

Date: March 22, 11am - 12pm PDT

**Register Here**

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## Job and Funding Opportunities

### Job Opportunities

#### [Northeast CASC Deputy Federal Director Position](#)

The Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center is seeking to fill an opening for Deputy Federal Director via a detail opportunity available to federal employees and employees of eligible organizations under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act. The Deputy Director will develop a NE CASC strategic science agenda; contribute to the annual NE science symposium, manage all aspects of the NE CASC strategic operations, including program budget; develop partnerships with diverse agencies and organizations; and respond to information requests from HQ and congress.

North Carolina Institutes for Climate Studies - [Postdoctoral Research Scholar](#) and [Research Associate](#)

The North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies (NCICS) has two open positions for various types of climate science research--a Postdoctoral Research Scholar and Research Associate. NCICS is located in Asheville, NC at the National Centers for Environmental Information. It is part of North Carolina State University (NCSU) and successful applicants will be NCSU employees.

#### [Northwest CASC Postdoc Focused on Fire & Climate](#)

The University of Washington, in partnership with the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (NW CASC) and the University of Montana, is searching for a talented scientist with an interest in climate-fire-ecosystem dynamics and associated natural resource management in the Northwestern U.S. and a passion for delivering research that informs decision-making. Applications received by February 28, 2021 will be prioritized.

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### [Arizona Institutes for Resilience Water Network Student Worker](#)

The Arizona Institutes for Resilience (AIR) at the University of Arizona is seeking a graduate or undergraduate student to work with AIR staff on projects related to the maintenance and expansion of the Water Network website. This position will communicate with faculty and researchers to update network profiles; conduct internet research as needed to maintain and fill gaps in network information; and work through ways to improve and expand the Water Network to better articulate the breadth of environment-related expertise housed at the university. Questions? Contact Amanda Leinberger at [aleinberger@arizona.edu](mailto:aleinberger@arizona.edu)

### [2021 Public Voices Fellowship on the Climate Crisis](#)

The Yale Program on Climate Change Communication is now accepting applications for their 2021 Public Voices Fellowship on the Climate Crisis. This year-long experience will convene a cohort of twenty climate change thought leaders, the majority of whom will be women and people of color, and will provide extraordinary support, leadership skills and knowledge to ensure their ideas shape not only their fields, but the greatest and most urgent conversation of our age.

*DEADLINE - February 14, 2021*

### [Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals \(ITEP\) Paid Summer Internships](#)

ITEP is offering at least 8 positions in air quality, with a technical, educational or policy focus, where interns will work with tribal organizations to address tribal environmental issues. The internship program provides each student intern with a \$4,800 stipend, and internships will likely be remote, so most interns will work from their home or school site.

*DEADLINE - February 26, 2021*

### [Babbitt Dissertation Fellowship](#)

The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy announces a call for proposals for their Babbitt Dissertation Fellowship. They invite applications from doctoral students who are conducting dissertation projects in fields that address the Babbitt Center's primary interest areas in improving the integration of land use and water management and policy.

*DEADLINE - March 1, 2021*

### [Northwest CASC Research Fellowship Program](#)

The Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (NW CASC) invites proposals for its

University of Montana (UM), Washington State University (WSU) and Western Washington University (WWU) and postdoctoral scholars at BSU, OSU, UM, WSU, and WWU (this fellowship cannot support postdocs at UW). The NW CASC Fellowship Program supports research related to climate adaptation for Northwest natural and cultural resource management and provides training in the principles and practices of developing decision-relevant science. Funding will be available as early as Fall Term 2021, to support research performed during the 2021-2022 academic year.

*DEADLINE - March 15, 2021*

### [Southwest CASC 2021-22 NRWD Fellowship](#)

The 2021-22 Natural Resources Workforce Development (NRWD) Fellowship application period is now open. The fellowship is open to graduate students enrolled in research-based thesis or dissertation-granting programs at the seven SW CASC consortium institutions.

Fellows will work as a team to conduct research focused on this year's science theme: endangered streams--building strong and authentic bridges between science and practice to understand impacts of future water flows on aquatic ecosystems. Funding for successful applicants includes a stipend of \$5,000, with an additional travel allowance of \$1,000 for each Fellows cohort meeting that occurs away from their home campus.

*DEADLINE - March 24, 2021*

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## **Funding Opportunities**

### [Southwest CASC FY22 Research Project Funding Opportunity](#)

The SW CASC is requesting statements of interest for research projects addressing high priority climate adaptation science needs. Eligible applicants include Principal Investigators (PIs) from USGS and SW CASC consortium institutions (see map above). Parties from other organizations can serve as co-PIs and receive funds via subaward from an eligible organization. The SW CASC intends to fund 5-8 projects, not to exceed \$350,000 each.

*DEADLINE - March 19, 2021*

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*We at the Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center stand in solidarity with Black communities in the fight for freedom, liberation, and justice. We acknowledge that Black and Indigenous communities, and all people of color continue to experience systemic and institutional racism. We commit to challenging these*

*disproportionately affected by climate change due to the legacy and continuing burdens of environmental racism and injustice. The SW CASC is hosted by The University of Arizona, which sits on the ancestral homelands of the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. The University of Arizona is recognized for being a Hispanic Serving Institution and has long-standing programs and institutions focused on underrepresented communities, including a strong commitment to Indigenous community governance and resilience. Collaboration with tribal communities is a key tenet of the SW CASC mission. We commit to using our expertise and experience, in collaboration with our colleagues, to work in partnership with Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color to anticipate, monitor, and adapt to climate change impacts and collaborate on adaptation efforts that support each community's effort in building sustainable, healthy, and resilient communities.*

**Contact us at:**

University of Arizona, ENR2 Building, 1064 E. Lowell St., Suite N441, Tucson, AZ 85721

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