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EcoClimate News Southwest

January 2021

**Reflections from SW CASC USGS Director,
Dr. Stephen Jackson**



Events of recent days, weeks, and months remind me of the apocryphal curse, *May you live in interesting times*. Indeed we do. But the turbulence of the past week

away soon. They'll be with us through and beyond the imminent transition to the new Biden Administration. Climate change promises to be a prominent focus of the new administration, and we expect that we'll be asked to step up to new challenges. Addressing climate change puts us squarely in the path of many of these long-term societal tensions: evidence-based versus emotion-based decisions, technocracy and expertise versus tradition and populism, rule of law versus rule of man, stasis versus change. These aren't, or at least needn't be, oppositional, but the dichotomies have sharpened in recent years, to the point where large sectors of society view them as either/or propositions.

In practice, the Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center has worked in the middle of these polarities, pragmatically striving for 'yes and' rather than 'either/or' solutions. As a science center, we're committed to evidence-based solutions, but we acknowledge the role of values and feelings in dealing with natural resources and environmental change. We try to apply scientific expertise as partners, not dictators, working with decision-makers and communities to make the most effective use of scientific knowledge and technical tools in context of the specific values, mores, laws, and traditions within which people live and work. We work to help our partners understand and adapt to environmental change, acknowledging the senses of loss, discomfort, and even fear that arise under rapid and inexorable transformation. Perhaps our small and localized efforts can help contribute to broader societal understanding that the world isn't black-and-white, or even shades of gray, but rather a rich, multispectral array, where change, however frightening, becomes embraced as part of the world we find ourselves in. Paradoxically, change may be a way to bring people together in a broader enterprise and adventure. We look forward to working with the new administration, through and beyond the transition, to address climate challenges, and to help bridge some of the societal and cultural divides across our nation.

Save the Date for the 2021 Southwest Adaptation Forum!



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. Learn more about the agenda [here](#), and keep an eye out for a forthcoming registration link!



Come Rain or Shine Podcast

Episode 9: Climate Hope

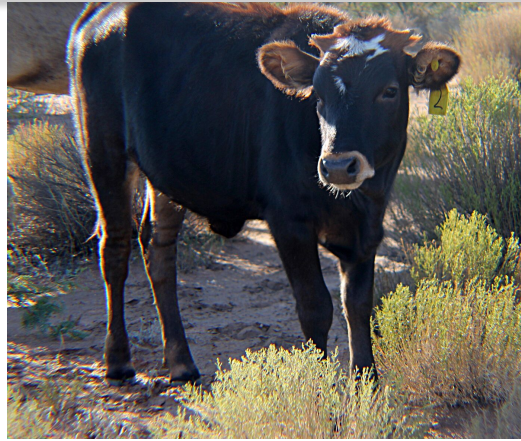


Image Credit: USDA

We interview Ann Marie Chischilly, a member of the Navajo Nation and Executive Director of the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), and Amber Pairis, Director of the Climate Science Alliance and partnership liaison for the SW CASC, to hear what they have to say about climate hope, and what gives them hope for the future.

[Listen Here](#)

Episode 8: Novel Strategies in Beef Production



Dr. Andres Cibils reflects on the first year of the Sustainable Southwest Beef Project - what's been accomplished, what's in the works, and what's changing. To learn more about the project, visit <https://southwestbeef.org/>.

Listen Here

SW CASC Researchers Collaborate with Water Managers to Assess Future Drought Impacts on Colorado River Water Supply Reliability



New SW CASC funded research aims to provide meaningful data of future water supply reliability for the Upper Colorado River Basin water management community. Researchers, led by Connie Woodhouse at the University of Arizona, collaborated with this water resource management community of practice to develop plausible scenarios of future droughts in the Upper Colorado River Basin, then used the scenarios to examine future reductions in streamflow. To managers, plausible droughts in the future look similar to droughts over the past century, in terms of precipitation deficit, but with increased temperatures. Researchers used this

about 6% for the +1 °C scenario to about 31% for the +4 °C scenario. To ensure results were meaningful to the water management community, the researchers expressed their analyses in the context of water delivery metrics and specific vulnerable conditions. View the publication [here](#).

Developing Solutions to Restore the Coast

This profile is a part of our consortium profile series, highlighting the people that make up the SW CASC—what inspires them, makes them passionate about their research, and gives them hope for the future. For this profile, Bryson Mineart (SW CASC communications student assistant and undergraduate student in the University of Arizona Physics program) interviewed SW CASC co-investigator Richard Ambrose, Research Professor in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences and the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).



Rich Ambrose has been a long-time advocate for saving our environment and the world surrounding us. Growing up in southern California, Rich often found himself adventuring outside, exploring the hills surrounding his childhood home before the region became heavily developed. Because of his passion for the environment, Rich knew he wanted to study the natural world, but it was not until attending UC Irvine that he discovered there was a discipline, ecology, that encompassed all the things he was most interested in. Rich has concentrated his career primarily on studying the impacts of human interaction with the coastal environment and ways to manage those impacts, including ecosystem restoration. Over the past decade, much of Rich's research has focused on climate change and coastal habitats. Read more [here](#).

SCIENCE TO ACTION FELLOWSHIP.

The National Climate Adaptation Science Center (NCASC) is soliciting Statements of Interest for their Science to Action Fellowship program, which supports graduate students in developing a product that puts science into action, directly applying scientific research related to climate change impacts on fish, wildlife, or ecosystems to decision making about natural resources. Up to two fellows will be selected to receive a financial award of \$10,000 each. During the fellowship year and beyond, fellows benefit from collaborations with university and USGS mentors, from interactions with other colleagues and partners of USGS, and from exposure to high priority, real-world challenges in the natural resources policy arena. This opportunity is open to graduate students at [Climate Adaptation Science Center \(CASC\)](#) Consortium Institutions who are students for the entire fellowship year (*special circumstances otherwise considered*). To view the list of consortium institutions for each CASC, please check out the [CASC pages](#) and the [CASC Network map](#). Statements of Interest are due January 31, 2021. Learn more and apply [here](#).

New Online Short Courses Focus on Transdisciplinary Research



The Transdisciplinary Environmental Science for Society (TESS) initiative at the University of Arizona has developed a set of online professional development shortcourses, to equip future generations of researchers, practitioners, political leaders, and educators with the knowledge to actively confront society's most complex environmental challenges. Many researchers want to apply their research to real-world problems, and decision makers want better access to advances in science. TESS content helps researchers and practitioners to bridge the gap between science and the needs of society. TESS is built for both working professionals and graduate students, with three 4-week online courses that allow participants to work at their

Practicing Collaborative Research begins January 25, 2021. You can find more information [here](#), and register [here](#).

Partner Events

Online Course

Managing for a Changing Climate: Societal Impacts of Climate Change

This spring, the [South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center](#) is offering two free online short courses that will dive into the impacts of climate change and adaptation strategies. The first course, which runs from February 1-26, 2021, will introduce participants to the societal impacts of climate change, including a review of environmental economics and societal vulnerability. Upon completion of each course, participants will receive a certificate of fulfillment. The courses are open to anyone around the world interested in learning about how a changing climate will impact different aspects of society.

Registration Deadline: January 31, 2021

[Register Here](#)

Webinar

Ecological Drought National Webinar Series

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 3 & 17 and March 3 & 17, 2020

[Register Here](#)

Save the Date: 2022 Southwestern Tribal Climate Change Summit

The Climate Science Alliance (CSA), in partnership with the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians and the Pala Band of Mission Indians, is excited to announce the return of the Southwestern Tribal Climate Change Summit. The 2022 Southwestern Tribal Climate Change Summit continues to build off of momentum gathered from the inaugural event in 2017 in San Diego, CA followed by the 2019 event in Idyllwild, CA. This event will be a three-day gathering, with engaging discussions and activities centered around the kinship with fire and its role in community, conservation, and climate change adaptation. Join CSA and their partners for this interactive, leadership-style retreat. They will provide additional details and opportunities for registration in the coming months.

Date: January 19-21, 2022

[Learn More](#)

Job and Funding Opportunities

Job Opportunities

[Pending Job Openings in Climate Variability, Change, Impacts, and Adaptation](#)

The host universities for all Climate Adaptation Science Centers **may** have several positions available during the next 6-12 months. Positions include several Post-Doc positions, a Research Coordinator position, and a Graduate student opportunity, all focusing on the impacts of climate variability and change on ecosystems, natural resources, cultural resources, infrastructure, tribal lands and waters, urban and rural settlements, and economic development. If you wish to be contacted about official job postings if grants are awarded, please send contact information (name, address, email, and phone) to info@southcentralclimate.org.

[Open Rank Early Career Position in Forest Ecology and Restoration](#)

This position at Ohio State University is available at Assistant Professor Level or as a Post-doctoral Fellowship with a mentored pathway into independent research and teaching.

Fellows will transition into a tenure track appointment. The successful candidate will develop a research and teaching program with an emphasis on the ecology and restoration of forest ecosystems.

[University Climate Change Coalition \(UC3\) Fellowship Program](#)

The UC3 Spring 2021 Collaborative Sustainability Leadership program is offering fully remote, paid fellowship opportunities that generally overlap with the Spring 2021 semester (February-June). Eligible members for the Spring 2021 fellowship cohort include University of Arizona students (undergraduate and graduate), University of Arizona faculty/staff, and local residents including Tucson/Pima County/Tribal community members.

DEADLINE - January 17, 2021

[2021 National Climate Adaptation Science Center \(NCASC\) Science to Action Fellowship](#)

NCASC is soliciting Statements of Interest for their Science to Action Fellowship program, which supports graduate students in developing a product that puts science into action, directly applying scientific research related to climate change impacts on fish, wildlife, or ecosystems to decision making about natural resources. Up to two fellows will be selected to receive a financial award of \$10,000 each. This opportunity is open to graduate students at Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASCs) Consortium Institutions who are students for the entire fellowship year (*special circumstances otherwise considered*).

DEADLINE - January 31, 2021

[USDA Announces Scholars Programs for Students at Historically Black and Tribal Land-Grant Colleges and Universities](#)

USDA is now accepting applications for its 1890 National Scholars Program. The scholarships help students build a career path in agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, and many more agriculture-related subjects. They are looking to provide funding for minority undergraduates.

DEADLINE - January 31, 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

Northern Arizona University is recruiting up to three graduate students (MS or PhD) for funded positions that begin in Fall 2021. The positions are focused on understanding modern dust cycling on the Colorado Plateau, and on understanding rapid Arctic warming. For further information visit nau.edu/mckay and email nicholas.mckay@nau.edu.

Funding Opportunities

[University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program Funding Cycle](#)

Preliminary proposals are requested for the 2022-2024 University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) funding cycle. Hawai'i Sea Grant supports a multidisciplinary, integrated program of applied research, outreach, and education addressing marine and coastal issues of public concern. Faculty from universities and colleges; state, local and regional governments and organizations; and individuals in Hawai'i and US Pacific territories are encouraged to apply.

DEADLINE - January 15, 2021

[The Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\) Mini-Grants](#)

CSW is now accepting applications for their Mini-Grant funding for the upcoming year. University of Arizona departments, programs, and individual faculty, staff, and graduate students are eligible to apply for CSW mini-grants, which typically range between \$500-1500. Funding will be awarded based upon the project's expected impact (one measure of this is the number of people who will benefit from the funded activity) and how well it advances one or more CSW goals.

DEADLINE - January 18, 2021

Learning Opportunities

[Online Short Courses: Transdisciplinary Environmental Science for Society \(TESS\)](#)

The TESS initiative at the University of Arizona has developed a set of online professional development short-courses, to equip future generations of researchers, practitioners, political leaders, and educators with the knowledge to actively confront society's most complex environmental challenges and bridge the gap between science and the needs of society. TESS is built for both working professionals and graduate students, with three 4-week online courses that allow participants to work at their own pace. Once each course is completed, participants will receive a digital badge and will be eligible to receive two

REGISTRATION DEADLINE - January 25, 2021 for Part 2

[Free Online Course: Managing for a Changing Climate - Societal Impacts of Climate Change](#)

This self-paced course will introduce the societal impacts of climate change, including a review of environmental economics and societal vulnerability. Upon completion of this course, participants will receive a certificate of fulfillment. This course runs from February 1-26, 2021 and is open to anyone around the world interested in learning about how a changing climate will impact different aspects of society.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE - January 31, 2021

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 entrenched systems through our work on climate change adaptation, and through our personal behavior. We acknowledge that communities of color are 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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