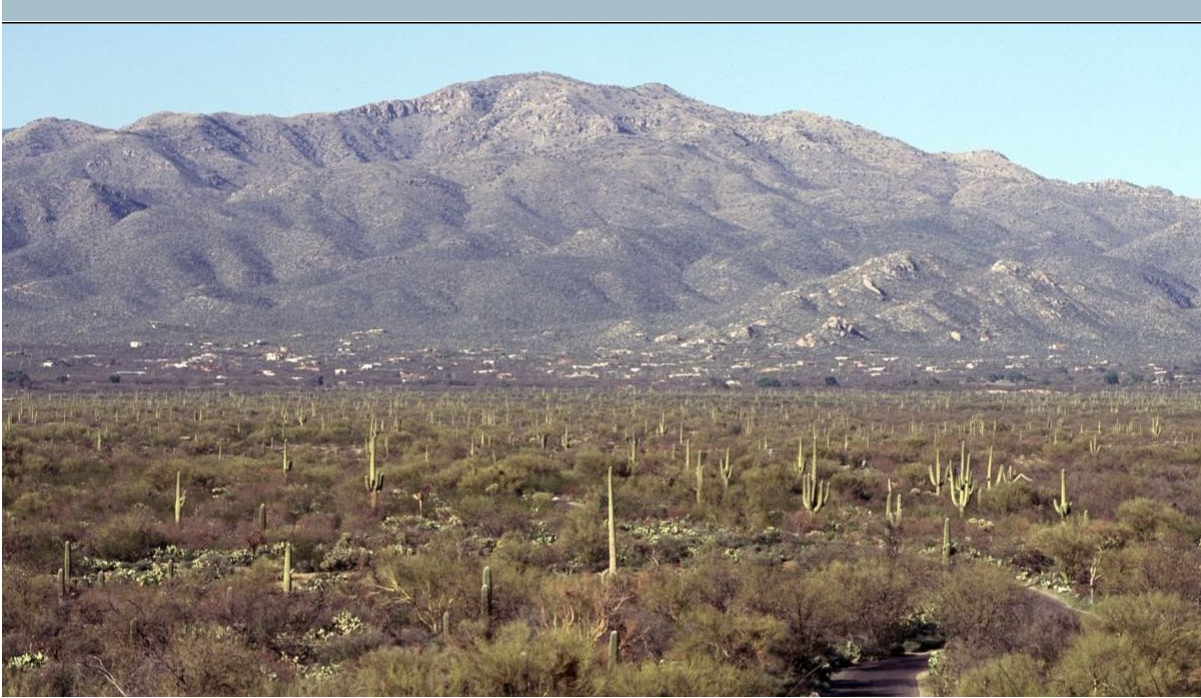


[View this email in your browser](#)



EcoClimate News Southwest

June 2021

**Reflections from Amanda Leinberger,
Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions**



The new website and member portal for the Southwest Practitioners Adaptation Network (SPAN) officially launched at the [virtual Southwest Adaptation Forum](#)

assessment professionals in the Southwest to exchange experiences and best practices from their work and build a network dedicated to finding and implementing integrated, equitable, and community-based adaptation solutions. The new [SPAN member portal](#) is a unique networking platform that allows adaptation practitioners to exchange knowledge, experience, and resources, and connect with one another around shared interests and priorities. In the portal, you can explore members by geography or expertise area, and the visualization tool builds a map of the network according to your specifications.

On the [new SPAN website](#), you can find a curated list of recent publications, reports, and tools created or recommended by SPAN members; information about upcoming and past events; and, in the very near future, news and member spotlight stories. You can also learn about [SPAN membership](#) and what it means to become a member of SPAN. If you are a climate adaptation or assessment professional who lives and/or works in the Southwest, we would love to have you join SPAN! Signing up is easy and free. Once you fill out [the simple registration form](#), you can log in to the member portal and access the expertise directory, network visualization tool, member-specific events, and more.

To make it easier for people in the network to get to know each other and SPAN, we will begin hosting ***second-Monday coffee chats every month***. The first one will take place ***June 14, 2021 at 9 am PDT***. The link to join and information about other future events can be found under the events section in the member portal. We look forward to connecting with you!



Come Rain or Shine Podcast

CoCoRaHS: Citizen Science in Weather Reporting



CoCoRaHS is an acronym for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow), with the unique ability to capture fine-scale variability in local precipitation. CoCoRaHS is currently in all fifty states and currently expanding internationally as well. In this episode we speak with CoCoRaHS founder Nolan Doesken, National Coordinator Henry Reges, and Education Coordinator Noah Newman about the network's origins, current operations, how to get involved, and who uses the data collected.

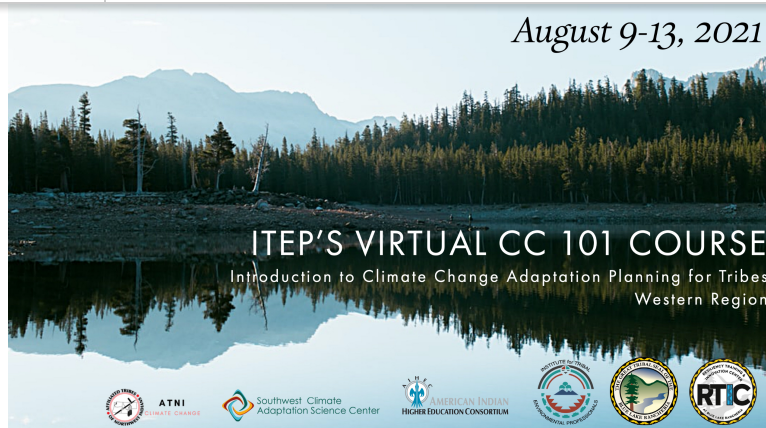
CoCoRaHS Network: <https://www.cocorahs.org/>

If you're enjoying this podcast, please consider rating us and/or leaving us a review on Apple Podcasts, Podcast Addict, or Podchaser

<https://www.podchaser.com/ComeRainOrShine>

Listen Here

**Save the Date for ITEP's Virtual Climate
Change 101 Course!**



Please Save-the-Date for the Virtual Western Region Climate Change 101 Course being offered by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), Blue Lake Rancheria, Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (SW CASC), American Indian Higher Education Consortium, and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. The course will take place virtually **August 9-13, 2021**. If you have any questions, please reach out to Althea Walker at awalker@aihec.org or Nikki Colley at Nikki.Cooley@nau.edu.

Dr. Karletta Chief Receives Distinguished Outreach Faculty Award



Congratulations to Dr. Karletta Chief on receiving the [University Distinguished Outreach Faculty Award](#) for 2021! This honor recognizes faculty who demonstrate outstanding commitment to outreach for the common good of the state and the nation, and it is the highest honor awarded in this category at the University of Arizona. Dr. Chief has had two projects funded by the SW CASC, one in [2012](#), and one in [2016](#). Her work exemplifies the mission and values of the SW CASC, and we are proud that she is one of our partners! Read more [here](#).

Southwest and South Central CASC Investigators Publish Editorial on Managing Colorado River Risk



Photo credit: USGS

Southwest CASC investigator Brad Udall (Colorado State University) and South Central CASC investigator John Fleck (University of New Mexico) recently published an [editorial in *Science* about “Managing Colorado River Risk.”](#) The Colorado River system delivers water to 40 million people in the United States and Mexico, and irrigates millions of acres of agricultural lands. However, as temperatures warm due to climate change, water flow is down by 20% and the two largest reservoirs along the river are projected to be at 29% capacity by 2023. This leaves a complicated situation for decision-makers and politicians as water allocation agreements are renegotiated over the next 4 years. In this editorial, Udall and Fleck lay out this enormous challenge, outline what the latest science is saying, and urge decision-makers to “follow the science” as they negotiate over this precious resource.

New SW CASC Report on Prioritizing Forest Health Investments



Forest health investments are a central component of fire mitigation and carbon management strategies and provide multiple co-benefits. In this report, the Governor of California’s Forest Management Task Force Science Advisory Panel presents an evaluation of factors for prioritizing forest health treatments and review a range of

Davis) are lead and contributing authors. View the report [here](#).

Lending Ecosystems a Helping Hand

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 Computer Science program) interviewed SW CASC co-principal investigator, Mark Schwartz, a conservation biologist at University of California, Davis.



Mark Schwartz began his climate adaptation journey as a plant ecologist, but later became concerned with extinction and has since been working as a conservation scientist. Mark has placed his interest primarily in forest ecology and climate change, with a focus on an emerging area of research known as assisted migration. Assisted migration is the deliberate relocation of a species who is at risk of extinction due to climate change. While this idea sounds fascinating, Mark has expressed concern of the risk such actions could have on an ecosystem and has focused his research on the evaluation and assessment of such drastic measures. Read more [here](#).

Fellows' Highlights

Participating in the Transfer of Knowledge



Ben Davis is a master's student at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at University of California, San Diego. He is focused on sensor development to map the brine plume from the Carlsbad desalination plant and other coastal biogeochemical processes. He will be defending his thesis in early June titled, "Development and testing of a sensor package for sea surface mapping in the nearshore environment by human powered watercraft". Below are his reflections on the SW CASC Natural Resources Workforce Development (NRWD) Fellowship.

There is a phrase I heard a while back that resonated with me deeply. It is something along the lines of "behind a stack of books there is a dam of knowledge, choose one and let it flow". I've heard people say this to incite young readers and inquisitors of the like to welcome new information, but I like to view it as letting the river of knowledge flow for the whole world downstream. And like a stack of unread books, humans can be a dam for information, too. We live in a society where we frequently praise the framework of free speech and the ability to shed light on the truth. Yet, there are many instances in academia when extractors of data, whether it be universities, researchers, journal executives, etc., create systematic blockades by being exclusive on what they write about and who they share it with, and that can greatly affect the population outside of the scholastic realm as well. I may have just been naive, but I was perplexed when I arrived at graduate school and realized academia was not exempt from the common workplace struggles of gatekeeping and ostracism to maintain the status quo. Therefore it is crucial to not only remove the barriers of information transfer, but to also relay what was learned for a more accessible and well-informed future. This was the main motivation for me to apply to become a SW CASC NRWD Fellow. Read more [here](#).

Partner Highlights

Greenhouse Gas and Aerosol Emissions are Lengthening and Intensifying Droughts



Greenhouse gases and aerosol pollution emitted by human activities are responsible for increases in the frequency, intensity, and duration of droughts around the world, according to researchers funded by NOAA's Climate Program Office MAPP program. In this study, published recently in *Nature Communications*, University of California, Irvine (UCI) scientists showed that over the past century, the likelihood of stronger and more long-lasting dry spells grew in the Americas, the Mediterranean, western and southern Africa, and eastern Asia. The research demonstrated that these significant shifts in drought characteristics were due to human influence, or “anthropogenic forcing.” Learn more [here](#).

Reforestation Decision Support Tools



The number of existing and emerging decision-support tools for natural resource management in California can be overwhelming. To help users efficiently find, review, and select the most appropriate restoration tools, the USDA California Climate Hub has amassed a list of known decision-support tools intended to inform and guide reforestation efforts, along with basic information about and links to each tool. View the list [here](#).

Partner Events

2021 National Tribal Leadership Climate Change Summit
Session IV: Traditional Knowledges & Tribal Sovereignty

community goals related to climate impacts and resiliency. Explore how Tribal rights and sovereignty form a unique basis for applying Traditional Knowledge and Tribal world views. Weave together learnings from previous summit discussions on climate policy, community resilience, and youth empowerment.

Date: June 8, 2021

Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PDT

[Register Here](#)

**Washington Round Table on Public Policy:
Sustainably Managing California's Groundwater in the Midst of a
Prolonged Drought**

Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF) is pleased to welcome Ellen Hanak, vice president of the Public Policy Institute of California and director of the PPIC Water Policy Center, to speak at the Washington Round Table on Public Policy. Hanak will speak about the imbalance between supply and demand for water in California as it relates to drought, climate change, and agricultural production, and the consequences for groundwater sustainability. She will also discuss challenges to the early stages of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act's implementation in the context of California's current drought. The round table will be conducted virtually via Zoom Webinars. Once registered, and in advance of the event, you will receive a link and instructions for joining the webinar.

Date: June 9, 2021

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 PM EDT

[Register Here](#)

**Webinar
Fire in the West: Appreciating the Inevitable**

At the upcoming Utah State University Research Landscapes event, we'll discuss the latest in wildfire science and management, including:

- Fuel management to reduce severity of fires
- Focusing less on the number of acres burned and more on human impact

The event will feature a presentation by Dr. Larissa Yocom, followed by a live question-and-answer session.

Both segments of the event will be hosted in a Zoom meeting through a link that will be provided after you RSVP. Listen to Dr. Yocom on the [Instead Podcast](#).

Date: June 22, 2021

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM MDT

RSVP Here

Conference

Mobilizing Decolonial Praxis



Hosted by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), this conference, Indigenous Teacher Education: Mobilizing Decolonial Praxis, will premiere critical Indigenous education efforts that mobilize a decolonial praxis in schools and communities serving Indigenous students. The goals of the conference are to: 1) share ITEP teachers' efforts in indigenizing and decolonizing curriculum and pedagogy; 2) contextualize the ways in which educators develop a critical Indigenous consciousness that engages justice-centered pedagogies; and 3) create opportunities for participants to engage critical dialogues that furthers the goal of mobilizing decolonial praxis.

Register Here

Workshop

Understanding the User-Centered Design Process - Methods to More User-Friendly Scientific Products

The User-Centered Design Process describes a set of formalized procedures used by designers, where user input is considered in each phase of product development. This workshop, Understanding the User-Centered Design Process – Methods to More User-Friendly Scientific Products, introduces participants to the fundamental concepts. In June and September, the USGS Cascades Volcano Observatory, in partnership with University of Tennessee User eXperience Laboratory, will offer two identical workshops. The workshops focus on application of the User-Centered Design Process for creation of products that are well-defined, consistent, engaging, and effective, in a word: usable.

Dates: June 21-25, 2021 & September 20-24, 2021

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 PM PDT

[Register Here for the June Workshop](#)

[Register Here for the September Workshop](#)

Save the Date!

National Tribal & Indigenous Climate Conference



Job and Funding Opportunities

Student Opportunities

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

The 2021-2022 UC3 Collaborative Sustainability Fellowship Program is accepting applications for paid fellowship opportunities that generally overlap with the 2021-2022 academic year (August 2021-June 2022). This program is focused on solutions to pressing climate and environmental issues that require collaborative approaches to problem solving.

DEADLINE - *June 18, 2021*

Job Opportunities

[Farmland Preservation Program Manager](#)

The Coalition for Farmland Preservation -- a collaborative of farmers, food system advocates, planners, and others working to preserve local farms in Maricopa County is hiring a Program Manager to staff the Coalition's work.

Funding Opportunities

Qualified organizations are invited to apply to host and, as applicable, serve as consortium partners for the Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center that includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

DEADLINE - *June 14, 2021*

[Seed Funding for Centering Justice in Climate Research & Action](#)

The Rising Voices Center for Indigenous and Earth Sciences is offering three \$5,000 awards to launch small-scale but impactful projects OR to support the time and effort to write a proposal for a large-scale project. Applications must demonstrate how the proposed work will bring together Indigenous and Earth sciences to address pressing community-driven research and action. Successful applications will support projects to begin around July 20, 2021 and conclude around November 20, 2021.

DEADLINE - *June 25, 2021*

[Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program](#)

In this Request for Applications, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture requests applications for six AFRI priority areas through the Foundational and Applied Science Program for 2021 and 2022. The goal of this program is to invest in agricultural production research, education, and extension projects for more sustainable, productive and economically viable plant and animal production systems. The global agricultural output needs to be expanded significantly to meet the food needs of the population expected in 2050; thus, it is imperative to develop innovative, safe and sustainable management strategies for livestock, crops, and critical underlying resources.

DEADLINE - *Depends on Program Area*

Educational Opportunities

[Inclusive STEM Teaching Project](#)

The Inclusive STEM Teaching Project, a National Science Foundation grant-funded program, is hosting a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from June 15th - July 27th via edX. This six-week course is designed to advance the awareness, self-efficacy, and ability of STEM faculty, postdocs, graduate students, and staff to cultivate inclusive learning environments for all of their students. Participants will engage in deep reflection and discussion around topics of equity and inclusion across a variety of institutional contexts.

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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