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# EcoClimate News SW Highlight

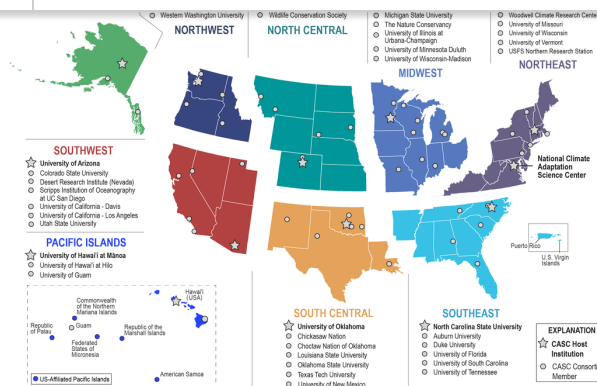
October 2021

## **Newsletter Announcement!**

Thank you for reading EcoClimate News SW, the newsletter of the Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center. Given the vast number of newsletters available today, we have made a strategic decision to publish the full newsletter every other month. The next full newsletter will be published on the second Tuesday of November. In the other months, such as this newsletter in October, we will be publishing a much shorter newsletter with only a few highlights. We hope this new structure will allow our readers to learn what we are up to, while not being overwhelmed with information. Happy reading!

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## **CASC Network Adds Ninth CASC!**



The University of Minnesota Twin Cities was selected as host institution for the Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (CASC) after a competitive request for proposals. The Midwest CASC will work closely with federal, state and Tribal entities in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio to support management and protection of land, water, and natural resources with actionable climate science, innovation, and decision support tools.

[Learn More](#)

## The SW CASC Welcomes Two New Team Members!



Kris Metzger is the new USGS Research Coordinator for the SW CASC, where she will assist SW CASC leadership in the management and coordination of our regional science activities. Trained as a conservation and landscape ecologist, she has experience in and belief of the power and impact of collaborative conservation. In her past position with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, Kris worked with biologists and managers to collaboratively tackle tough conservation challenges facing our National Wildlife Refuge System.

collaboration with the SW CASC. Her current research explores: 1) strategies to address multi-scalar policy barriers and opportunities to implement Indigenous-led traditional burning across land jurisdictions and ecosystems, and 2) the various scales in which Indigenous cultural burning may be applied to address climate change. Read more [here](#)!

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## Prescribed Fire Enhances Forest Resistance to Drought in the Sierra Nevada



Photo credit: Nate Stephenson (USGS)

A history of prescribed fire has the potential to reduce tree mortality during drought, according to recently published [SWCASC-funded research](#). The authors studied low elevation forests of the southern Sierra Nevada, comparing stands with and without a recent history of prescribed fire, to determine how continued drought may have changed forest-tree mortality patterns. They found that burned sites, relative to unburned sites, had lower stem density and lower proportions of recently dead trees that presumably died during the drought. This research can inform management practices related to planning for future drought and building forest resilience in this region. Read more [here](#).

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**Come Rain or Shine Podcast**

**Water Desalination: Barriers and Opportunities**



Episode Art by [Pixabay](#)

This month we take a closer look at desalination of brackish groundwater and/or seawater as a potential solution to augment water supply in the arid southwest. We are joined by Dr. Sam Fernald, Director of the [New Mexico State University Water Resources Research Institute](#), and [Dr. Pei Xu](#), researcher and professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at New Mexico State University, who share their current research and thoughts on the future of this technology.

**Listen Here**

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