

Department of the Interior

U.S. Geological Survey

Northwest Climate Science Center

Workplan Fiscal Year 2013



Department of the Interior

U.S. Geological Survey

Northwest Climate Science Center

Workplan Fiscal Year 2013

October 29, 2012

Gustavo A. Bisbal, Ph.D.
Director, Northwest Climate Science Center
326 Strand Hall, Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331
(541) 737-2525; gbisbal@usgs.gov

Primary Academic Consortium Partners
Philip W. Mote, Ph.D., Oregon State University
Steven B. Daley-Laursen, Ph.D., University of Idaho
Nathan J. Mantua, Ph.D., University of Washington

Contents

Introduction.....	1
Purpose and Scope	1
Executive Services	1
Science Services	2
Data Services	3
Communication Services	3
Training and Education Services	4

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) 2013 (October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013) 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 2013 (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; and
- Prepare an Annual Report for FY 2012 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 NW CSC climate science priorities for FY 2013 and FY 2014;
- Release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for priority climate science needs identified for FY 2014 and administer the proposal solicitation, prioritization, and selection process;
- Continue to leverage NW CSC investments in science capacity, projects, and data 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 and FY 2012 to assess and report their accomplishments;
- 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
 - build opportunities for collaboration
 - 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 framework that complements the NCCWSC national agenda and connects NW CSC efforts with those of other CSCs.

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 a regional data management strategy that builds upon and broadens existing national data management requirements currently applied by the NCCWSC and start implementing aspects of the strategy;
- Continue to engage relevant stakeholders in discussions of data-related matters, including data administration and standards, technical tools, systems interoperability, and products;
- Continue to integrate data management planning with science planning during the conceptualization stage of NW CSC 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 Northern, Great Basin 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 a 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:

- Develop a communication strategy and start implementing aspects of the strategy;
- Maintain vibrant NW CSC websites (one administered by the University of Washington, one administered by the DOI through the USGS) as sources of climate-related information for regional users;
- Seek opportunities to partner with LCCs and other entities in the development of the communication strategy and websites;
- Engage general and professional audiences by profiling NW CSC achievements and other climate-related issues in the Pacific Northwest through workshops, webinars, public lectures, and other methods; and
- Work with the data management staff to integrate the data portal into the NW CSC website.

Training and Education Services

The objective of Training and Education 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:

- Continue to assist in disseminating information about opportunities for early-career professionals transitioning to the climate workforce or interested in gaining work experience in climate-related fields;
- Continue to implement graduate fellowship programs at the primary academic consortium partner institutions (Oregon State University, University of Idaho, University of Washington) to help prepare students for interdisciplinary careers in climate impacts science, education, and outreach; and
- Organize the 3rd Annual Climate Boot Camp, a week-long interdisciplinary program that offers a comprehensive view of the workings of climate impacts science to highly qualified graduate students and early-career scientists.