



**Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey**

**Northwest Climate Science Center**

**Work Plan Fiscal Year 2016**



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<http://www.doi.gov/csc/northwest/index.cfm>

<https://www.nwclimatescience.org>

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## 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 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 partnered with 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 NW CSC's long-term climate science agenda (<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 work plan 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 work plan is to describe the tasks that the NW CSC plans to conduct in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 (October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016) in support of the goals of the NW CSC Strategic Plan for 2012-2016. These tasks are organized by the five core services identified in the Strategic Plan: 1) Science, 2) Education and Training, 3) Executive, 4) Data, and 5) Communication. Each task is followed by one or more actions, metrics, or anticipated outcomes by which we can measure and evaluate our efforts. The partial or full implementation of this plan, or additional actions and activities not listed here, hinges on Congressional budget allocations, staff capacity, evolving regional priorities expressed by ESAC and other partners, and national guidance provided by NCCWSC and DOI.

## 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 to identify climate-related management, decision-maker, and policymaker needs and continue to invest in research that is both responsive to these needs and co-produced by scientists and managers;
  - Survey of ESAC members on their agencies' management priorities*
  - Survey of ESAC members on management decisions that have used NW CSC-generated science, data, or products*
  - Assessment of scientist-manager partnerships developed or expanded via projects funded by the NW CSC in FYs 2011-2014 (e.g., determine if project-level partnerships resulted in research products being used to inform management decisions)*
- Nurture existing relationships and forge new ones with interested federal, state, tribal, and NGO partners to build a regional science portfolio focused on actionable and broadly applicable climate science and delivery of usable tools to stakeholders;
  - Updated [Regional Inventory of Climate Science Projects](#) (i.e., DEPTH database)*
- Continue to leverage NW CSC investments in science capacity, projects, data, and tools with partners in the research and resource-management communities to the maximum extent possible;
  - Invitation to regional partners to review NW CSC proposals and support (financially or otherwise) selected projects when appropriate*
  - Participation in regional partners' proposal review processes to help identify potential projects for the NW CSC to support*
- Administer progress, perform evaluations, and compile data and publication products of research projects funded by the NW CSC in FY 2011 through 2015;
  - Quarterly check-in calls with project PIs; data products uploaded to ScienceBase (USGS data repository); and publications posted on NW CSC website and*

*advertised through USGS highlights*

- Synthesize and evaluate the body of scientific knowledge on specific, frequently used climate adaptation actions used in response to sea-level rise and climate-induced changes to hydrologic regimes.
  - *Funding of “Available Science Assessment Project (ASAP)” installments (including scientist/manager workshops) focused on adaptation actions used in response to sea-level rise and other emerging topics (e.g., hydrologic regime changes)*

## **Education and Training Services**

The objective of Education and Training 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:

- Organize and implement the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual NW CSC Climate Boot Camp, a week-long educational program that offers a comprehensive, interdisciplinary view of the workings of climate impacts science, science communications, and knowledge integration to highly qualified graduate students and early-career scientists and natural/cultural resource managers throughout the Northwest and the nation;
  - *Delivery of Climate Boot Camp at the University of Idaho’s McCall Outdoor Science School in July 2016*
- With the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) and United Southern and Eastern Tribes (USET) organize the first-ever Tribal Climate Boot Camp, which will serve early career professionals from some of the 83 ATNI and USET tribal nations;
  - *Delivery of Tribal Climate Boot Camp at the University of Idaho’s McCall Outdoor Science School in June 2016*
- Continue to grow and administer graduate fellowship programs at the primary academic consortium partner institutions to help prepare students for interdisciplinary careers in climate impacts science, education, and outreach;
  - *Support provided for four NW CSC Graduate Fellows at Oregon State University, seven at the University of Idaho, and three at the University of Washington*

- Provide leadership, planning, and support for the 6<sup>th</sup> (Idaho) and 7<sup>th</sup> (Oregon) Annual Northwest Climate Conferences and other regional professional gatherings, as appropriate. Continue to financially support participation by tribal members/staff and students to regional professional meetings, and advocate for novel means for scientist-manager-policy maker dialogues to occur at these events;
  - *Co-chairmanship and co-funding of the Northwest Climate Conferences in Coeur d’Alene, ID (Nov. 2015) and Portland, OR (fall 2016)*
- Coordinate with and chair the national CSC Education and Training Working Group.
  - *Convention of two meetings of the CSC national working group focused on provision of professional development opportunities for CSC Fellows.*

## 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 Work plan for FY 2016 (this document) guided by the NW CSC Strategic Plan and input from the ESAC;
  - *Adoption of current document*
- Continue to implement administrative and operational best-practice standards and procedures to maintain NW CSC transparency and accountability;
  - *Publication of information on projects funded, funding amounts, data products; responses to requests for information from stakeholders, the public*
- Administer NW CSC finances consistent with federal regulations and USGS guidelines to advance a regional climate portfolio within approved budgets;
  - *Fully executed annual budget, within the timelines and parameters established by NCCWSC and USGS Office of Acquisition and Grants*
- 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 promote collaboration and leverage resources for

greater impacts;

- Identification of climate-science expertise at the NW CSC's 14-member academic consortium via site visits*
- Participation in regional LCCs' steering and advisory committee meetings*
- Updated [Regional Inventory of Climate Science Projects](#) (i.e., DEPTH database)*
- With the Bureau of Indian Affairs, recruit a tribal Climate Extension Support Liaison who will work with Northwest tribes to identify priority climate information and knowledge needs of tribes and develop relationships with partners to address those needs. The liaison will also help enhance and implement the NW CSC Tribal Engagement Strategy and bolster the NW CSC tribal research and knowledge-management portfolio;
  - Incorporation of Tribal Liaison to NW CSC staff (pending BIA action)*
- Prepare an Annual Report for FY 2015 summarizing the NW CSC's program accomplishments, operations, and accounting.
  - Annual Report published and distributed before the end of calendar year 2015*

## 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:

- Continue to engage stakeholders in discussions of data-related matters, including data administration and standards, technical tools, systems interoperability, and data accessibility and usefulness;
  - Participation in regular calls with NCCWSC Data Stewards and associated personnel to maintain alignment with NCCWSC and USGS policies and tools*
  - NW CSC data products shared with ESAC members to acquire feedback on data accessibility and usefulness*
- Advise and guide NW CSC-funded PIs on best practices for data and metadata management;
  - Newly-funded NW CSC PIs fully compliant with established data management procedures and operation of the DMP Editor system*

- Data and metadata products of all completed NW CSC-funded projects appropriately formatted and quality-controlled*
- Be early adopters of new USGS Data Release protocols;
  - All data products from USGS scientists funded by the NW CSC fully compliant with USGS Fundamental Science Practices review process*
- Present and promote data products generated by NW CSC-funded projects using a variety of innovative means, including story maps, mapping tools, and data articles;
  - Creation of ESRI Story Map featuring NW CSC-funded project data*
- Adopt newly developed protocols for the collaborative development, application and curation of data and knowledge with partner tribes, and new protocols and standards for management of social science data (per FY14 NCCWSC- and NW CSC-funded projects).
  - Training webinar on new protocols for NCCWSC and NW CSC staff*
  - New protocols adopted into NW CSC-funded research and outreach projects conducted in collaboration with tribes*

## 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:

- Maintain an active and coordinated online presence via two NW CSC websites – one hosted and administered by DOI staff (<http://www.doi.gov/csc/northwest/index.cfm>) and one administered by NW CSC staff at the University of Washington (<https://www.nwclimatescience.org/>) – and social media (Facebook, Twitter, and other appropriate fora);
  - Release of 1-3 Tweets per work day (on average)*
  - Release of 1-2 Facebook posts per week (on average)*
  - Description of all NW CSC-funded projects on the [NW CSC academic website](#)*
  - Description of all NW CSC Fellows' research on the [NW CSC academic website](#)*

- Timely report and posting of newsworthy activities*
- Continuously updated website calendar*
- Work closely with USGS communications specialists in the Northwest and at National Headquarters to promote NW CSC-funded science, education and outreach activity via press releases, top stories, project highlights, social media and other outlets;
  - Participation in weekly calls with USGS Western Region communicators*
  - Coordination of press releases for news items with USGS regional and university communications staff*
- Seek further opportunities to partner with federal climate entities in the Northwest to implement the NW CSC Communication Strategy and showcase the coordinated climate change science and adaptation planning projects supported by these entities;
  - Production of the NW Climate Digest in collaboration with the NPLCC*
  - Production of the second issue of the NW Climate Magazine with regional partners*
- Engage general and professional audiences by showcasing NW CSC achievements and other climate-related issues in the Northwest through workshops, webinars, public lectures, and other methods.
  - Multiple dissemination of project results from NW CSC-funded scientists (e.g., Northwest Climate Conference, NCCWSC webinar series, vignettes, press releases)*