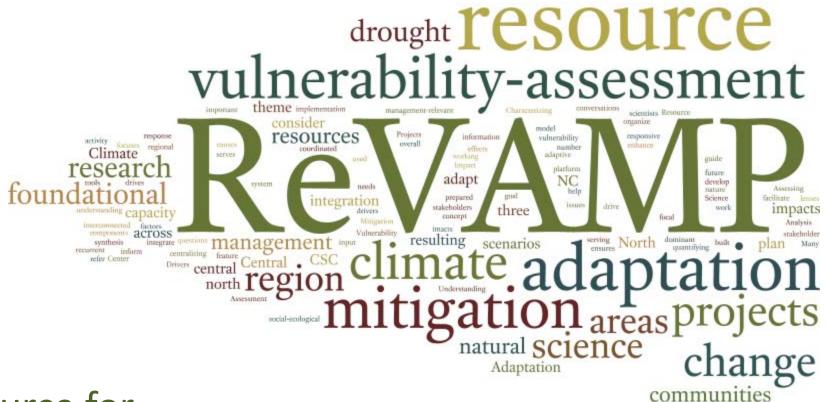


Implications of Climate Change for Wildlife and Ecosystems of the Great Plains: A

Perspective from the Department of Interior

Climate Change Roundtable University of Nebraska, Lincoln October 5, 2015

Jeff Morisette (and a host of other folks...)

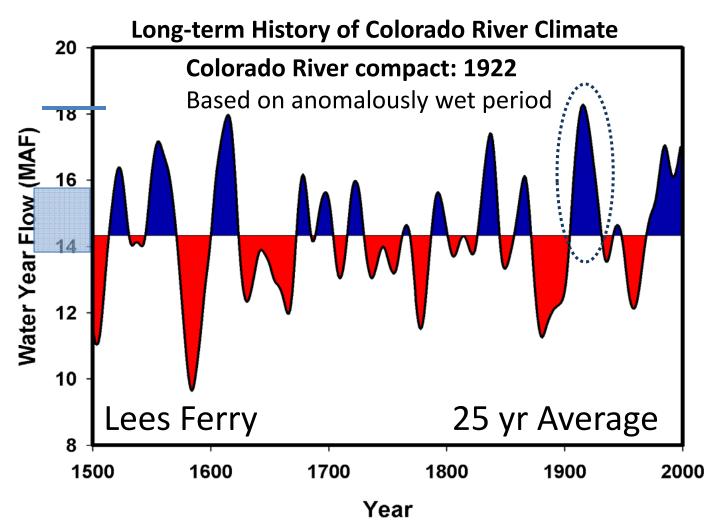


Resource for
Vulnerability assessment
Adaptation and
Mitigation

Projects



"Stationarity is Dead" (Milly et al., Science 2008)



Slide courtesy of Dr. Steve Gray, DOI Alaska Climate Science Center, based on Woodhouse, Gray, and Meko (2006). Water Resources Research 42:W05415



"The mighty Colorado is reduced to a trickle in Mexico"



South Dakota Blizzard October, 2013

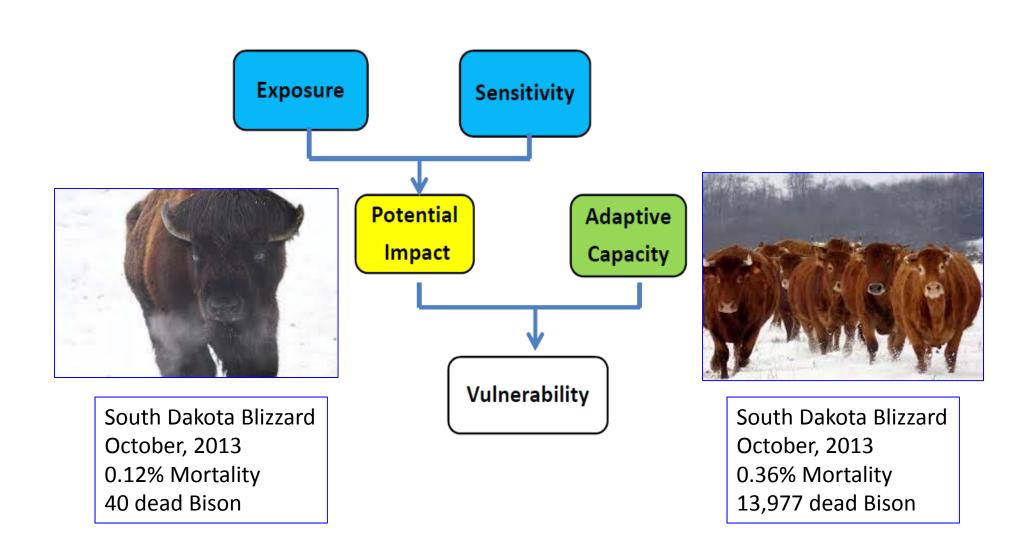


0.12% Mortality40 dead Bison

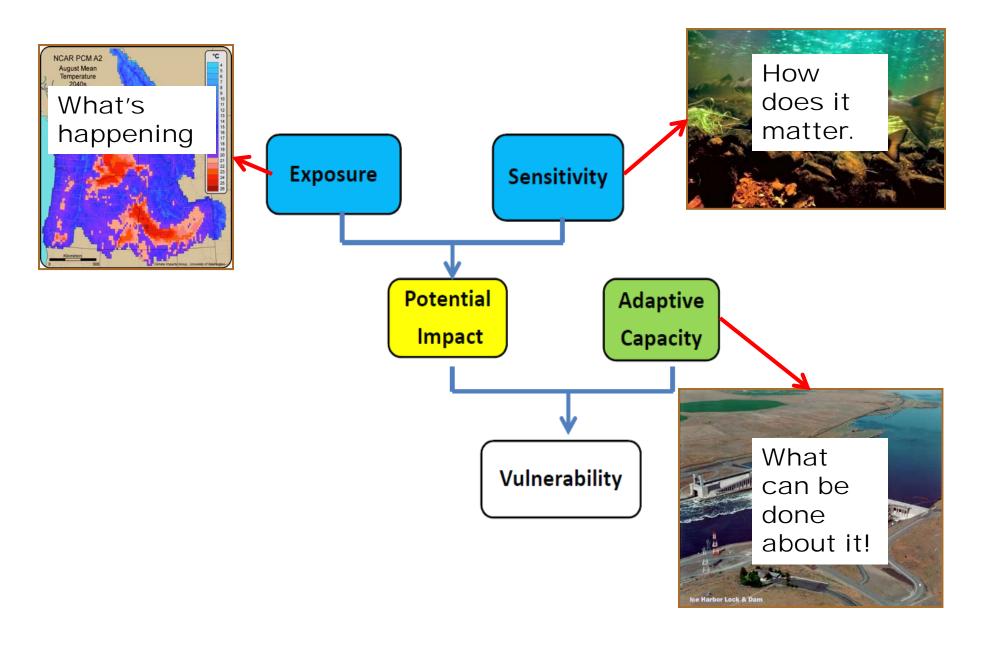


0.57% Mortality13,977 dead Cattle

Components of Climate Change Vulnerability Bison and Cattle example

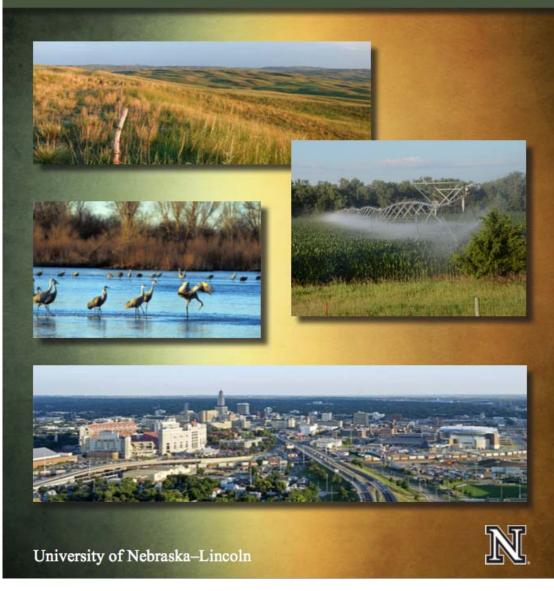


Components of Climate Change Vulnerability



SO WHAT'S HAPPENING...

Understanding and Assessing Climate Change Implications for Nebraska





Deborah Bathke

Bob Oglesby

Clint Rowe

Donald Wilhite

Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on Wildlife and Ecosystems in Nebraska



Nebraska

OCT 5 - Public lecture OCT 6 - Roundtable





Implications of Climate Change on Human Health in Nebraska

OCT 6 - Public lecture OCT 7 - Roundtable

Nebraska



Implications of Climate Change on Nebraska's Forests and Fire

Nebraska.

OCT 13 - Public lecture OCT 14 - Roundtable





Implications of Climate Change on Nebraska's Agriculture, Food and Water

OCT 20 - Roundtable





Implications of Climate Change on Energy Availability, Use and Management in Nebraska

M

Nebraska

OCT 22 - Roundtable





Climate Change in Nebraska: What Does it Mean for our Faith Communities?

SEPT 17 - Public lecture

SEPT 18 - Roundtable

Nebraska.



Implications of Climate Change on Nebraska's Urban & Rural Communities



Nebraska

SEPT 22 - Roundtable



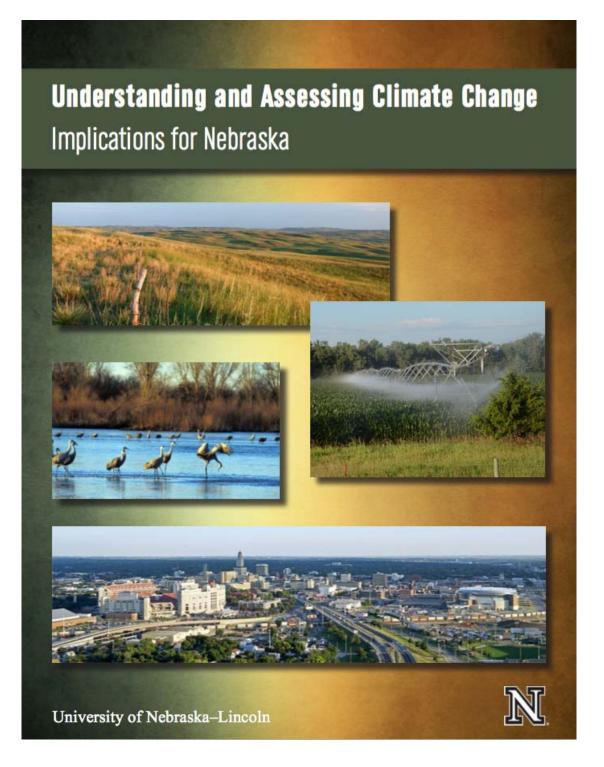


Institutional Responses to Climate Change: Implications for College Campuses in Nebraska

OCT 1 - Roundtable







Change in the length of the growing season.

Greater variability in temperature and precipitation.

Explore highlights of the

National Climate Assessment

including an Overview, the

report's 12 overarching

findings, and a summary of

impacts by region.

EXPLORE

HIGHLIGHTS

UNITED STATES



☆

@

Explore the entire report covering our changing climate, regions, cross sector topics, and response strategies in full detail.

ightarrow EXPLORE THE REPORT



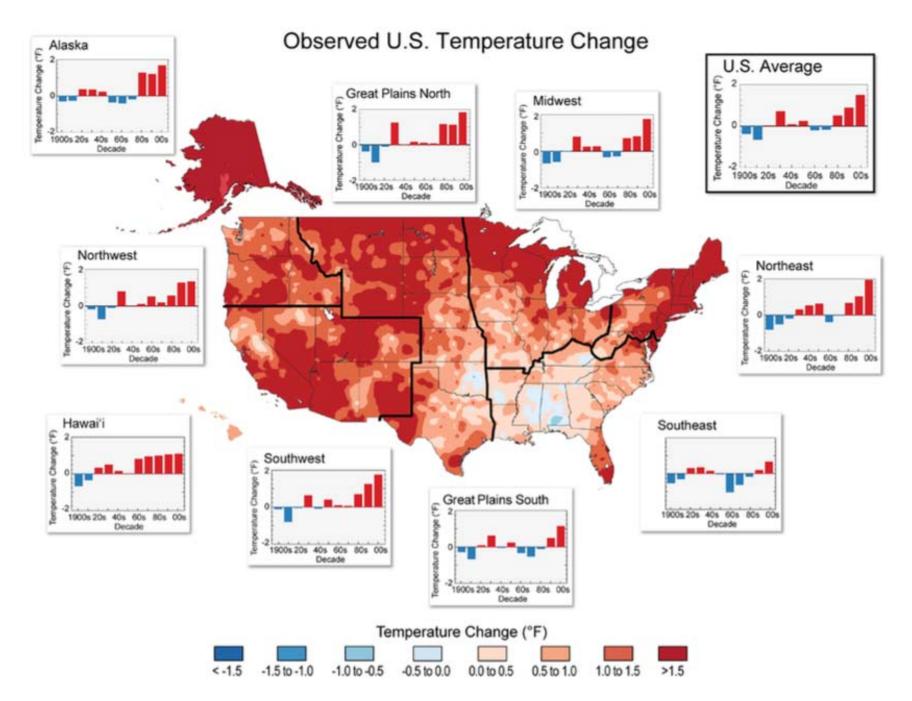
19 GREAT PLAINS

KEY MESSAGES

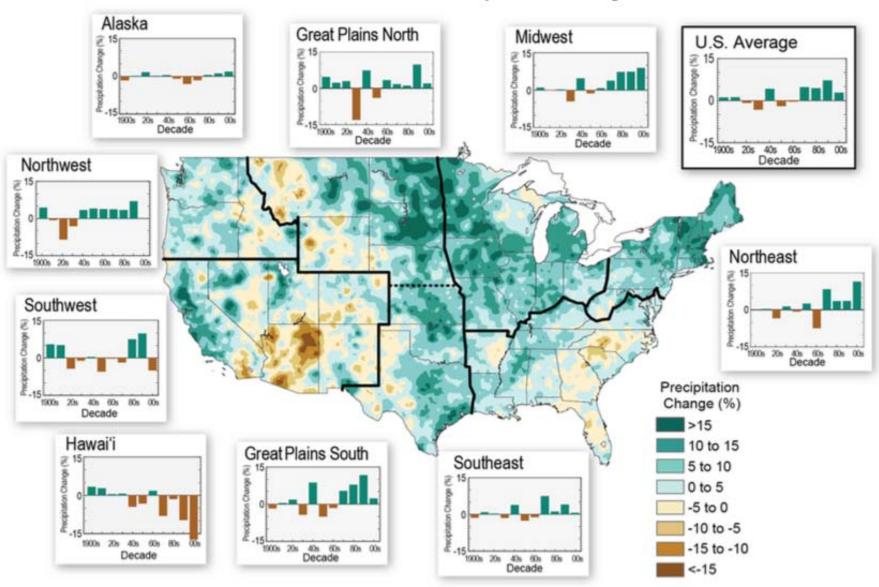
- Rising temperatures are leading to increased demand for water and energy. In parts of the region, this will constrain development, stress natural resources, and increase competition for water among communities, agriculture, energy production, and ecological needs.
- Changes to crop growth cycles due to warming winters and alterations in the timing and magnitude of rainfall events have already been observed; as these trends continue, they will require new agriculture and livestock management practices.
- 3. Landscape fragmentation is increasing, for example, in the context of energy development activities in the northern Great Plains. A highly fragmented landscape will hinder adaptation of species when climate change alters habitat composition and timing of plant development cycles.
- Communities that are already the most vulnerable to weather and climate extremes will be stressed even further by more frequent extreme events occurring within an already highly variable climate system.
- 5. The magnitude of expected changes will exceed those experienced in the last century. Existing adaptation and planning efforts are inadequate to respond to these projected impacts.

Weather vs Climate what's the difference?

- If you don't like the weather:
 - Wait a few minutes!
- If you don't like the climate:
 - Move!

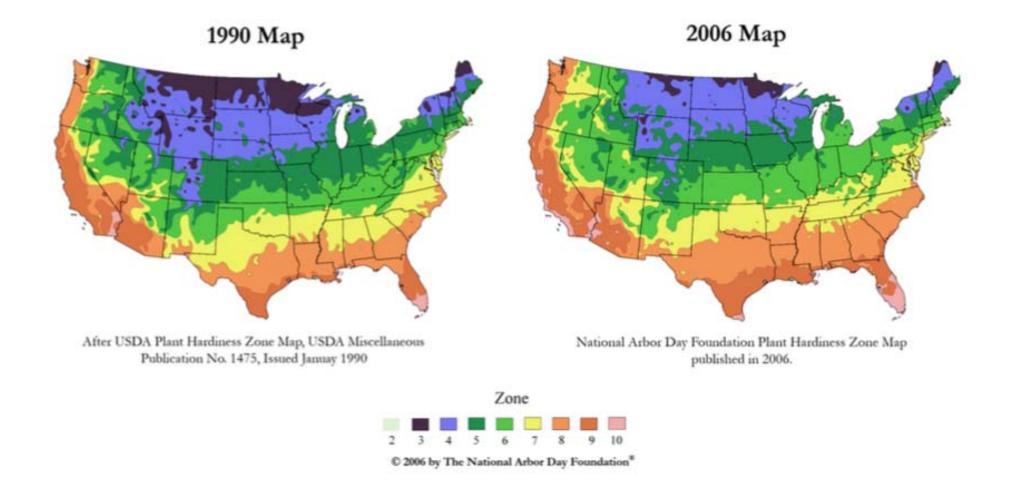


Observed U.S. Precipitation Change

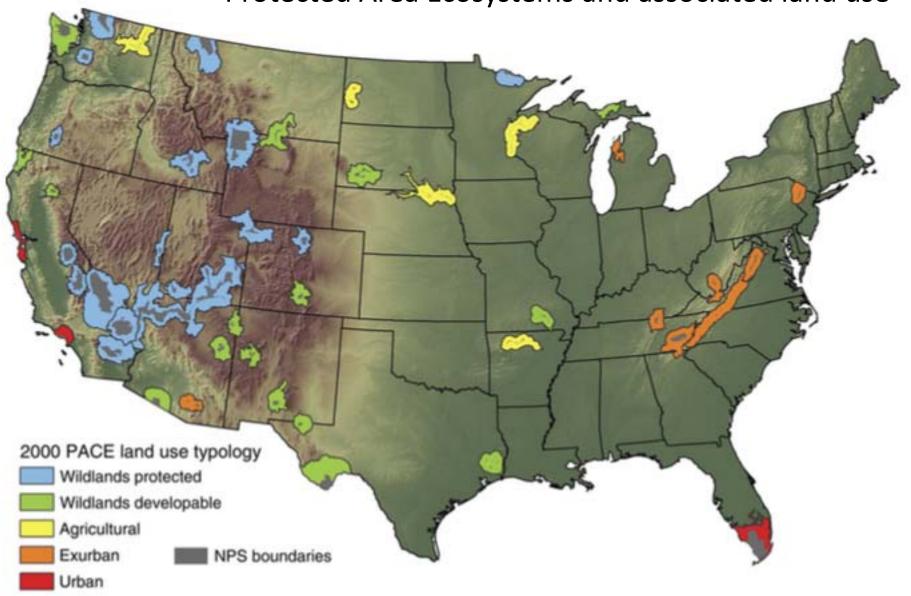


From: Understanding and Assessing Climate Change: Implications for Nebraska

DOES IT MATTER TO WILDLIFE AND ECOSYSTEM...

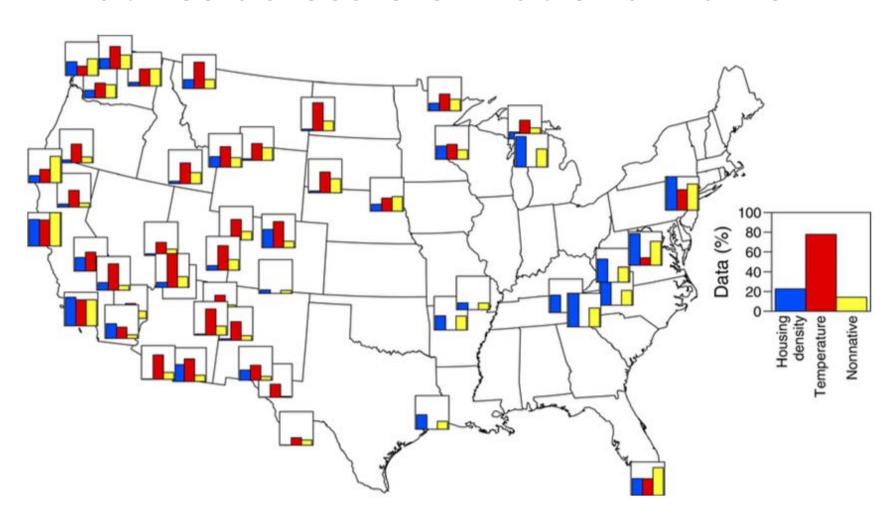


Protected Area Ecosystems and associated land use

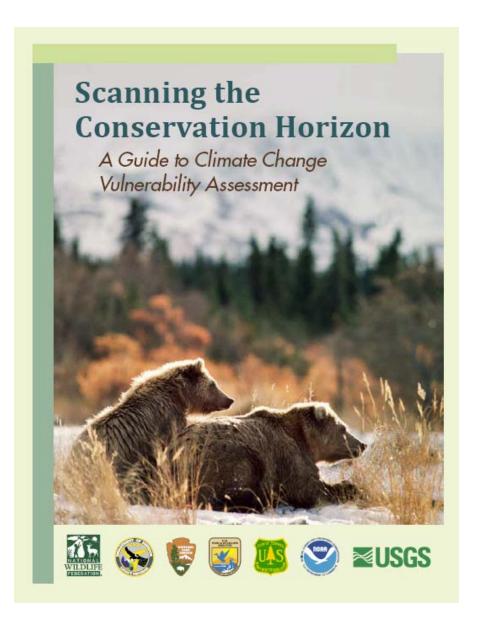


Hansen, Andrew J., et al. "Exposure of US National Parks to land use and climate change 1900-2100." *Ecological Applications* 24.3 (2014): 484-502.

Housing, temperature, and nonnatives across U.S. National Parks

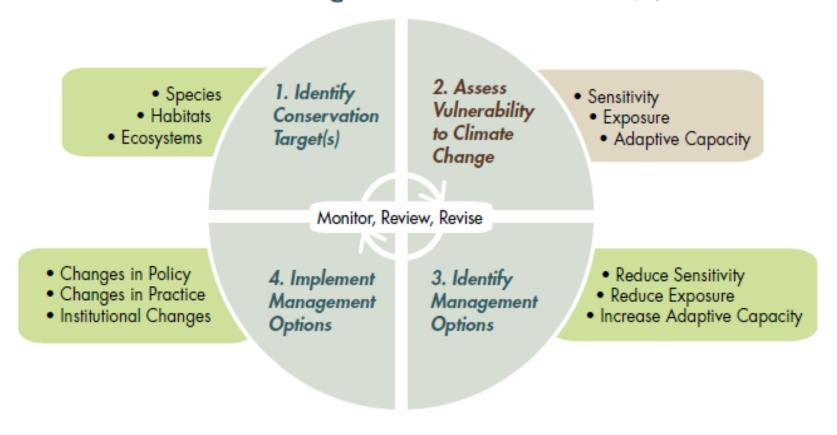


Hansen, Andrew J., et al. "Exposure of US National Parks to land use and climate change 1900-2100." *Ecological Applications* 24.3 (2014): 484-502.



Glick, P., Stein, B.A., and Edelson, N.A., eds., 2011, Scanning the conservation horizon: A guide to climate change vulnerability assessment: Washington, D.C., National Wildlife Federation, 176 p.

Overarching Conservation Goal(s)



In an analysis by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, mollusks, amphibians, and small stream fishes were found to be the most vulnerable to climate change of all groups of plants and animals considered.



http://snr.unl.edu/herpneb/



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri_River

CHAPTER 28 ADAPTATION

Convening Lead Authors

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Lead Authors

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Recommended Citation for Chapter

Bierbaum, R., A. Lee, J. Smith, M. Blair, L. M. Carter, F. S. Chapin, III, P. Fleming, S. Ruffo, S. McNeeley, M. Stults, L. Verduzco, and E. Seyller, 2014: Ch. 28: Adaptation. *Climate Change Impacts in the United States: The Third National Climate Assessment*, J. M. Melillo, Terese (T.C.) Richmond, and G. W. Yohe, Eds., U.S. Global Change Research Program, 670-706. doi:10.7930/J07H1GGT.

28 adaptation

KEY MESSAGES

- Substantial adaptation planning is occurring in the public and private sectors and at all levels of government; however, few measures have been implemented and those that have appear to be incremental changes.
- 2. Barriers to implementation of adaptation include limited funding, policy and legal impediments, and difficulty in anticipating climate-related changes at local scales.
- 3. There is no "one-size fits all" adaptation, but there are similarities in approaches across regions and sectors. Sharing best practices, learning by doing, and iterative and collaborative processes including stakeholder involvement, can help support progress.
- 4. Climate change adaptation actions often fulfill other societal goals, such as sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, or improvements in quality of life, and can therefore be incorporated into existing decision-making processes.
- Vulnerability to climate change is exacerbated by other stresses such as pollution, habitat fragmentation, and poverty. Adaptation to multiple stresses requires assessment of the composite threats as well as tradeoffs among costs, benefits, and risks of available options.
- 6. The effectiveness of climate change adaptation has seldom been evaluated, because actions have only recently been initiated and comprehensive evaluation metrics do not yet exist.

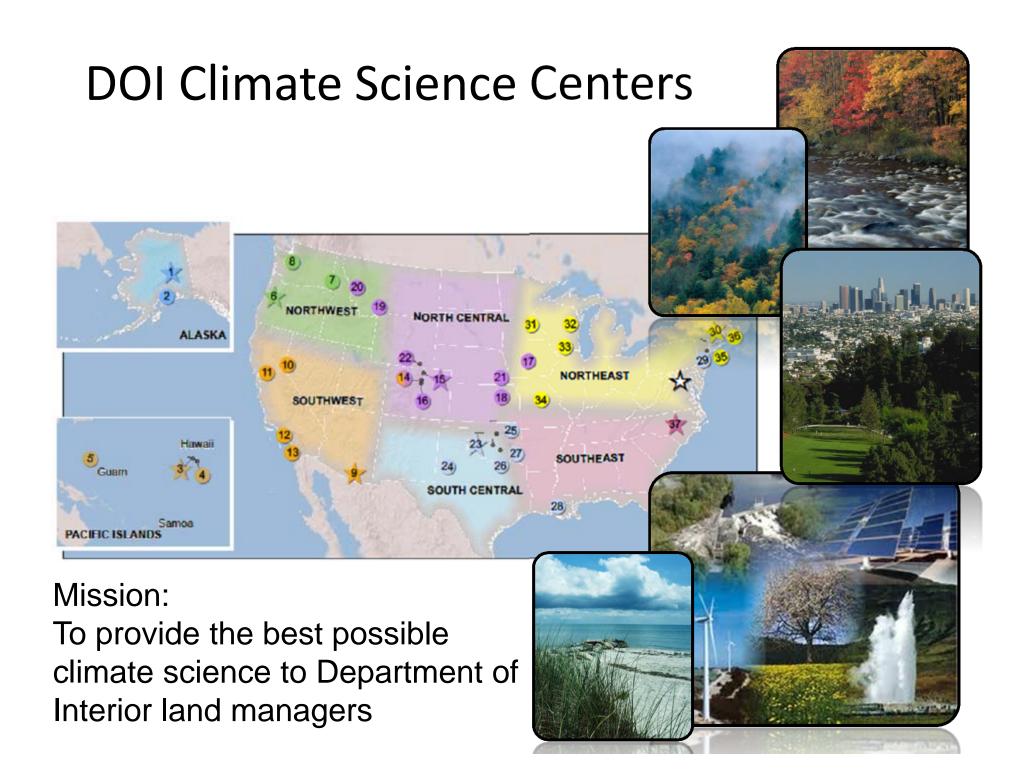
WHAT CAN BE DONE...

What can be done...

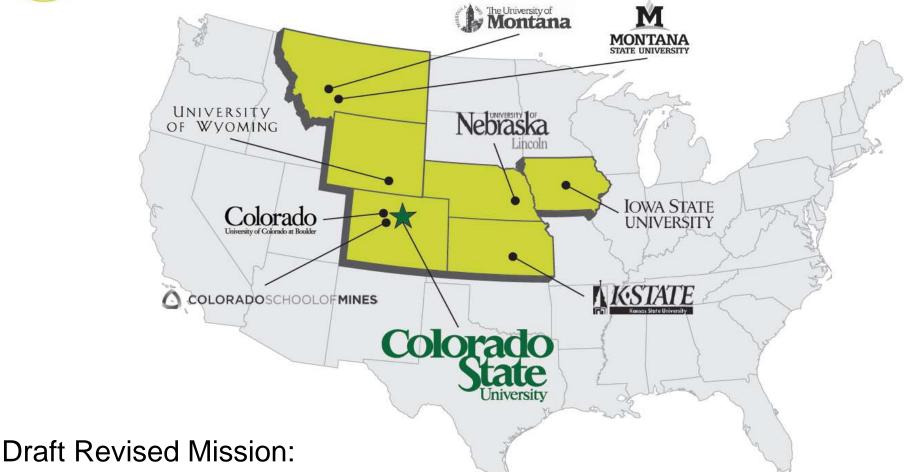
- Take advantage of available resources.
- Increase our understanding and address uncertainty.
- Focus that understanding on "decision space".
- Consider both Adaptation and Mitigation.

What can be done...

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To provide the best possible climate science to Department of Interior land managers & provide university and USGS researchers an opportunity to work with an engaged and proactive applied management community.

NORTHERN PLAINS HUB

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Regional Assessments

Regional Data & Research

About Us

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Northern Plains Hub Welcome Note

Welcome to the Northern Plains Hub, where our purpose is to deliver science-based knowledge, practical information, management/conservation strategies, and decision tools to farmers, ranchers, forest landowners that will help them to adapt to weather variability and changing climatic conditions.



No-till management and cover crops provide farmers with increased soil health, resulting in greater organic matter and water...











Northern Plains Hub

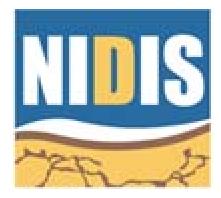


Popular Topics:

- Northern Plains Regional Vulnerability Assessment
- Effects on Rangeland and Pasture
- Resources for land managers
- Climate research and data
- Western Water Assessment Climate Dashboard



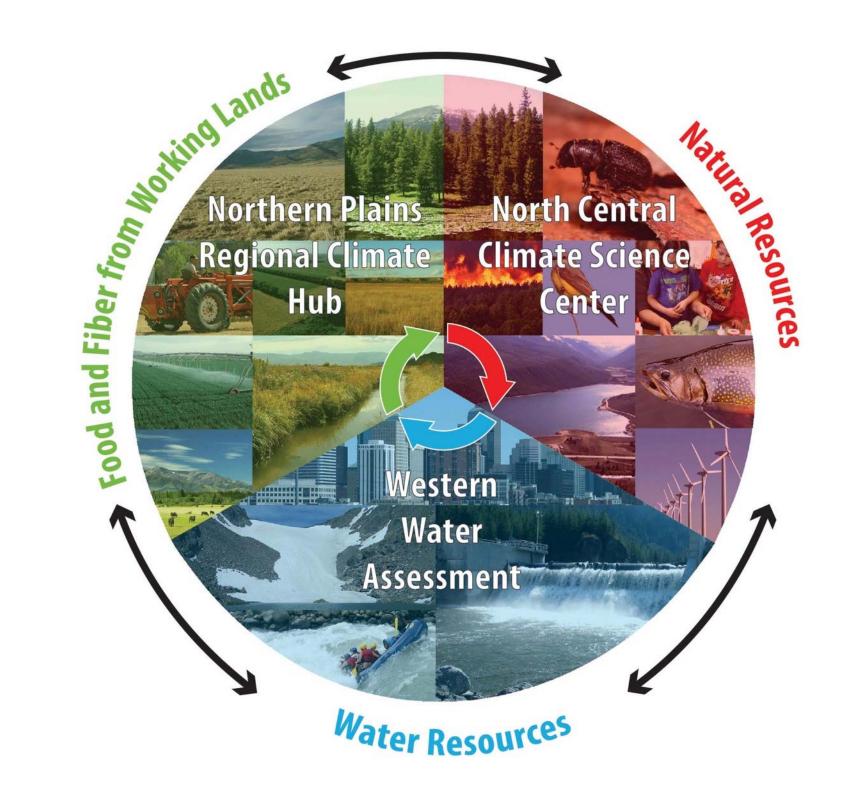


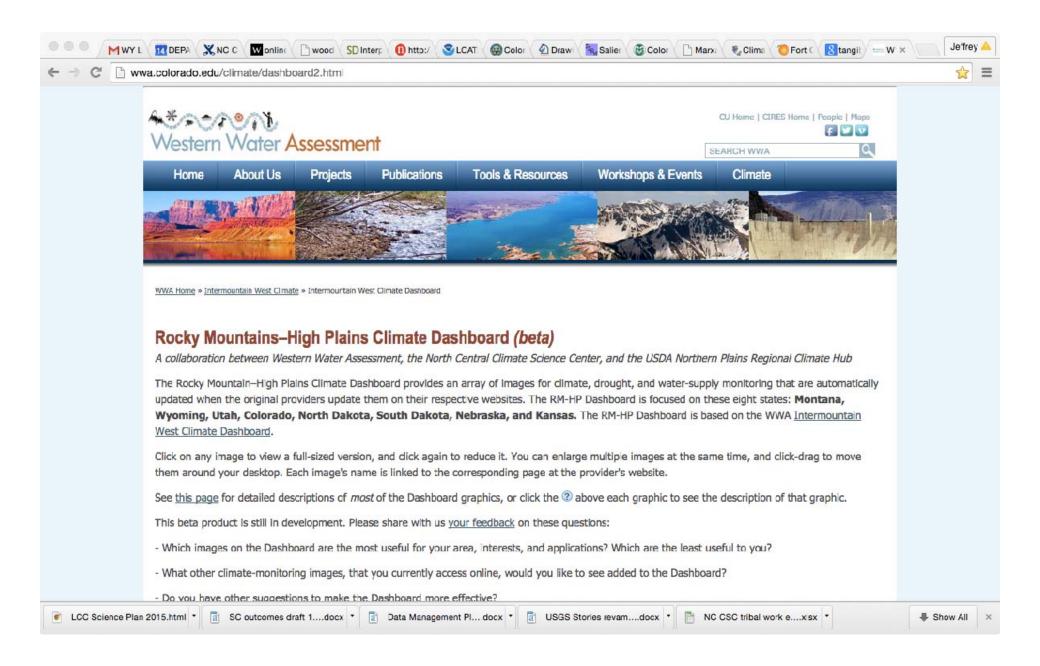


National Integrated Drought Information System









http://wwa.colorado.edu/climate/dashboard2.html

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PhenoCam - Site Map

About Gallery Map FAQ Tools Data Site Table Admin Welcome, Guest (login)





PHENOCAM - Camera Information

About

Map FAQ Tools Data Site Table Admin

Welcome, Guest (login)

Site Name: ninemileprairie (show IR view)

Location: Nine Mile Prairie, Univ. of Nebraska - Lancaster

County, Nebraska, USA

Lat: 40.8680 Lon: -96.8221 Elev(m): 381

Image Count: 6456 Start Date: 2015-04-16 Last Date: 2015-10-03

ninemileprairie - NetCam SCIR - Sun Oct 04 2015 18:00:06 CST - CST6

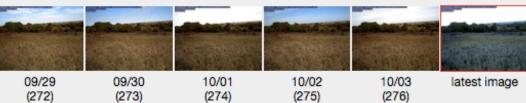






- Base Layer
- Google Hybrid
- Google Satellite
- Google Physical Overlays
- MÓDIS LC 2007

Browse Images





The Townsend Lab







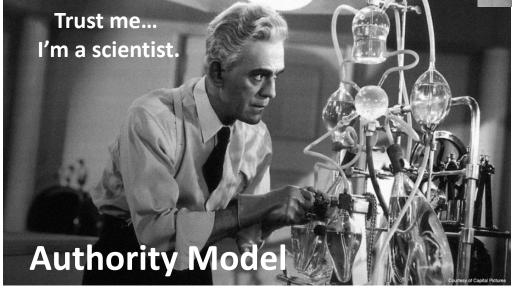
People Research Contact Us Data Phil Townsend Teaching

Snapshot Wisconsin

Uncertainty... NCAR PCM A2 ...in ecological ...in climate projections. response. **Exposure** Sensitivity **Potential Adaptive Impact** Capacity Vulnerability ...in management effectiveness.



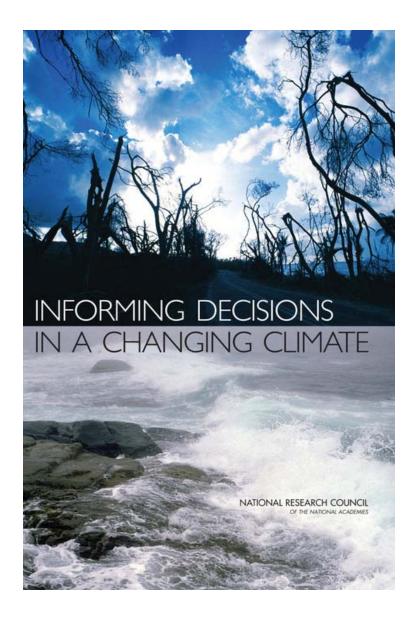




Slide courtesy of Dr. Steve Jackson, SW CSC.

The National Research Council (2009) suggests that government agencies organize their climate-related decision support efforts around six principles:

- 1. begin with user's need in mind
- 2. give priority to process over products
- 3. link information producers and users
- 4. build connections across disciplines and organizations
- 5. seek institutional stability and
- 6. design process for learning



National Research Council, 2009. Informing Decisions in a Changing Climate. Panel on Strategies and Methods for Climate-Relate Decision Support, Committee on the Human Dimensions of Global Change. Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. Washington, DC: the National Academies Press. 188 p.

- Take advantage of available resources.
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 - Collaborate and use "practice-based knowledge".
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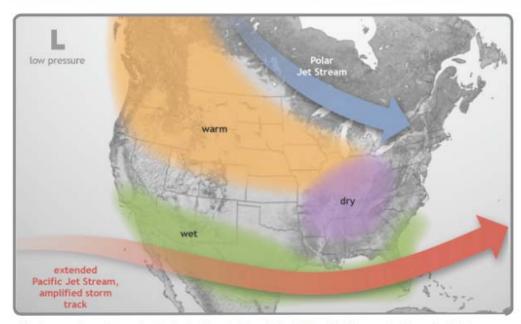
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El Niño Impacts and Outlook

Missouri Basin Region

August 2015

Typical El Niño Winter Pattern



The image above shows the typical pattern in the winter during El Niño events. The polar jet stream tends to stay to the north of the Missouri Basin region, while the Pacific jet stream remains across the southern U.S. With the Missouri Basin isolated between the storm tracks, warmer and possibly drier conditions can develop during El Niño events.

Image courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For more information please visit: https://www.climate.gov/news-features/department/enso-blog

El Niño Outlook

El Niño in Winter

An El Niño develops when sea surface temperatures are warmer than average in the equatorial Pacific for an extended period of time. This is important to North America because El Niño has an impact on our weather patterns, most predominantly in the winter.

Although each El Niño is different, there are some general patterns that are predictable. For instance, the polar jet stream is typically farther north than usual, while the Pacific jet stream remains across the southern United States (see figure to left).

This pattern brings above-normal temperatures to much of the Missouri River Basin region,

particularly across the notice of the Keep in mind that this do weather will not happen cold weather may be mild however.

Snowpack can also be im El Niño winter pattern as northern Rockies and Plai heavy snow events may b



Potential Winter and Spring Impacts

Missouri River



The Missouri River at Gavins Point, South Dakota. Image courtesy of Natalie Umphlett.

The wet spring resulted in higher than normal river levels in the lower Basin, but with weather conditions in the upper Basin switching from wet to dry to wet again, 2015 runoff above Sioux City, lowa is expected to be near average at about 25 million acre feet. The Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System will begin the 2016 runoff season at the base of the Annual Flood Control and Multiple Use Zone, which means that all flood control storage will be available. Some indicators suggest a tilt toward lower than normal mountain snowpack in the upper Basin during a moderate to strong El Niño. Mountain and Plains snowpack will be closely monitored.

Agriculture



Wheat damaged by cold weather in Kansas - 2014. Image courtesy of Mary Knapp.

El Niño has worldwide impacts to the agricultural sector, and in the Missouri Basin region, there could be mixed impacts. Because El Niño winters typically result in a reduced snowpack in the northern Plains, this could expose winter wheat to harsh temperatures and wind, and also lead to soil moisture concerns. In southern areas, however, good soil moisture conditions could be expected where above-normal precipitation may occur. Additionally, warmer conditions in the northern tier of the basin could be beneficial for livestock producers both in terms of greater gains due to less severe cold weather and for calving in the later winter and spring.

Ecosystems



An iconic animal of the Great Plains - the bison. Image courtesy of Natalie Umphlett.

For northern areas of the Missouri Basin region, higher temperatures combined with a lower snowpack could be a recipe for increased fire danger this winter and spring. These conditions could also result in earlier

peak stre wetlands reduced: on spring stream te runoff or negative impacts r spring or springtim



Volume 27 Number 13 • August 1, 2015



The Weekly News Source for Wyoming's Ranchers, Farmers and AgriBusiness Community • www.wylr.net

El Niño impacts predicted to influence warm, dry winter in West

As farmers and ranchers are looking toward winter and the promise for moisture to alleviate drought in the coming year, meteorologists and other experts predict a strong to very strong El Niño will hold until at least spring 2016, meaning a

warm, dry winter is likely.

"El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)
is a global phenomenon

that happens in the tropical Pacific, but it has the potential to affect atmospheric circulation," said Imtiaz Rangwala, researcher with Western Water Assessment, during an update with the North Central Climate Science Center. "Really, a strong El Niño increases the potential for more enhanced extreme weather across the globe, although the impact varies from place to place."

Inside El Niño

The ENSO phenomenon occurs when tropical Pacific waters see increasing temperatures. Connected with the atmosphere, the warming oceans weaken easterly trade winds, even to Please see ENSO on page 6



Pollinators
Producers support bee populations

Reclamation efforts

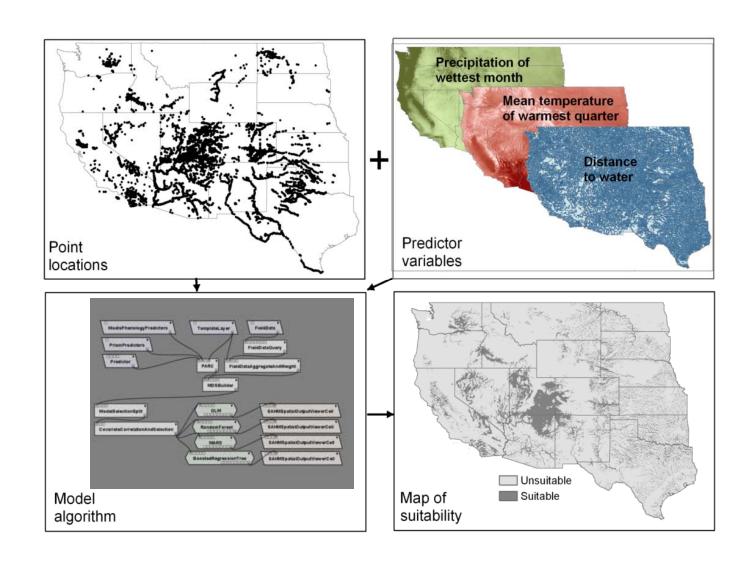
BLM strives to leave no trace after mineral extraction in Wyo

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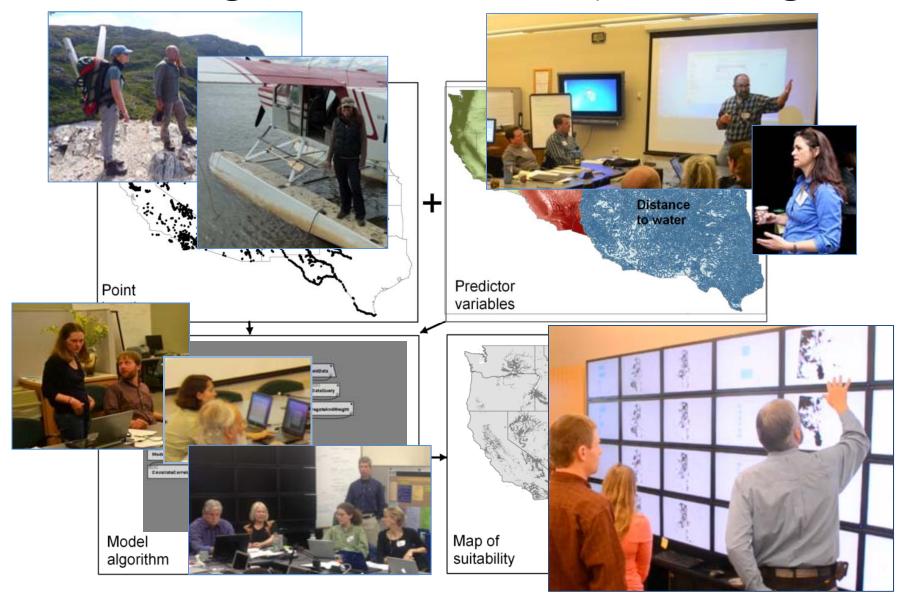


Glick, P., B.A. Stein, and N.A. Edelson, editors. 2011. Scanning the Conservation Horizon: A Guide to Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment. National Wildlife Federation, Washington, D.C.

Connecting Climate to Plants and Animals through ecological response models

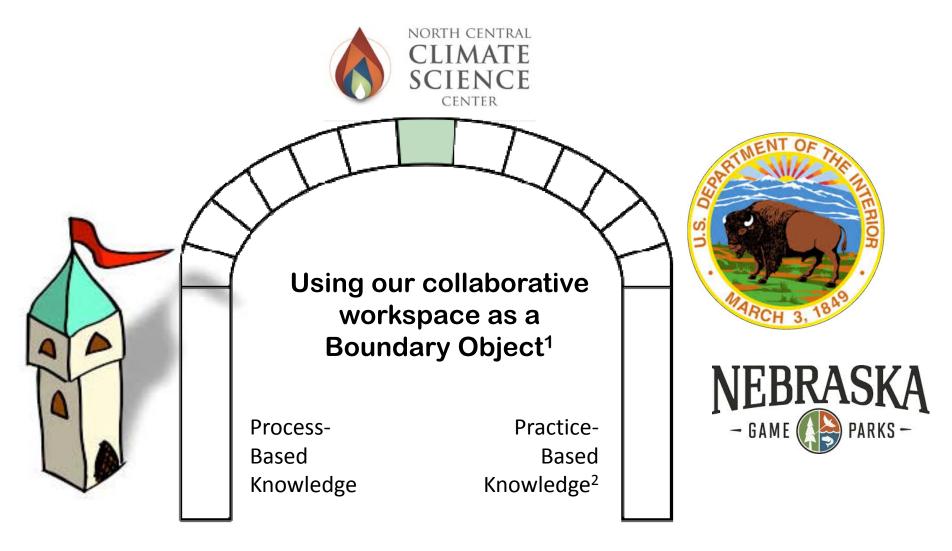


Connecting Climate to Plants and Animals through Habitat Suitability Modeling





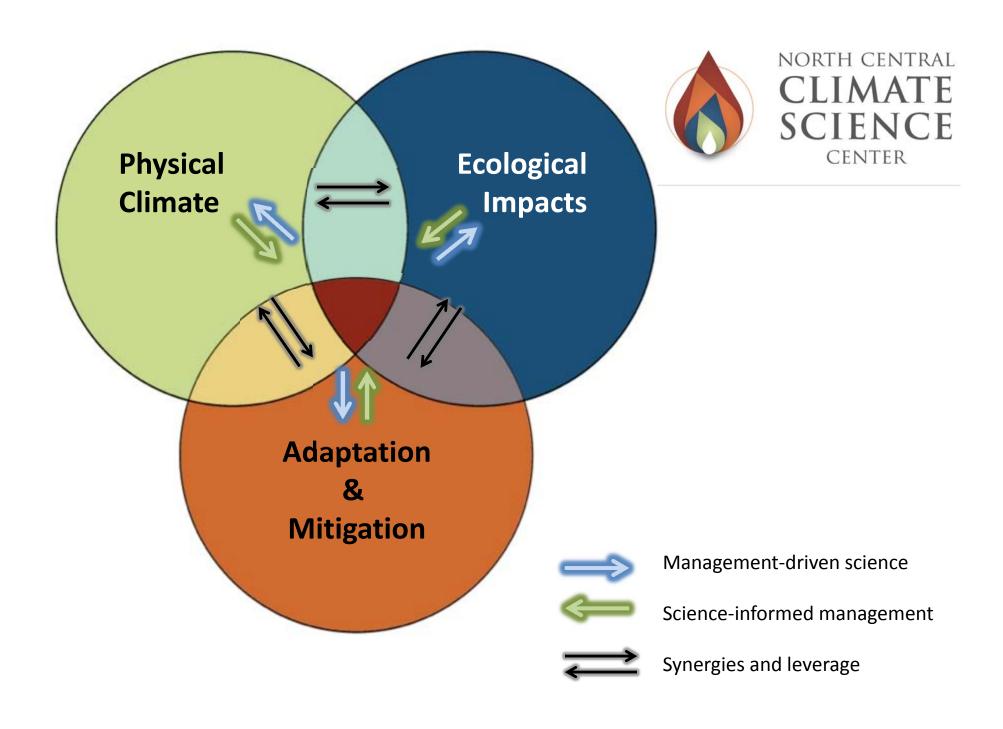
Boundary Organizations Credible, Salient, and Legitimate



¹See articles by David W. Cash at all on Boundary Organizations and boundary objects.

²Weber, Belsky, Lach & Cheng (2014): The Value of Practice-Based Knowledge, Society & Natural Resources: An International Journal

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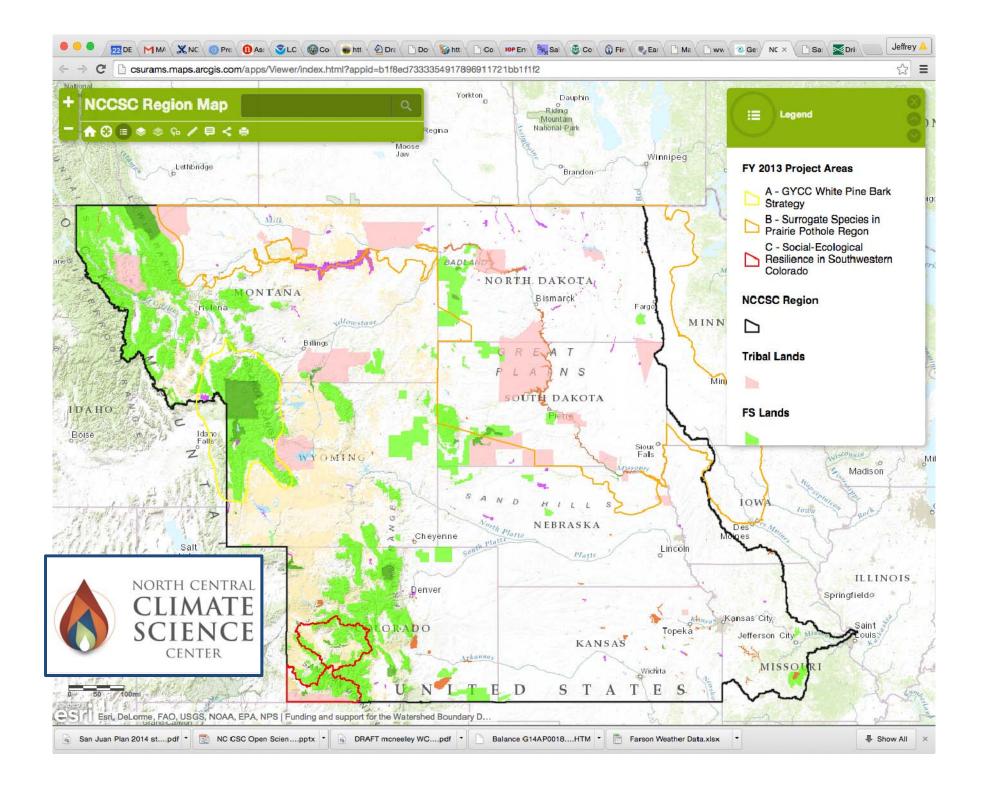


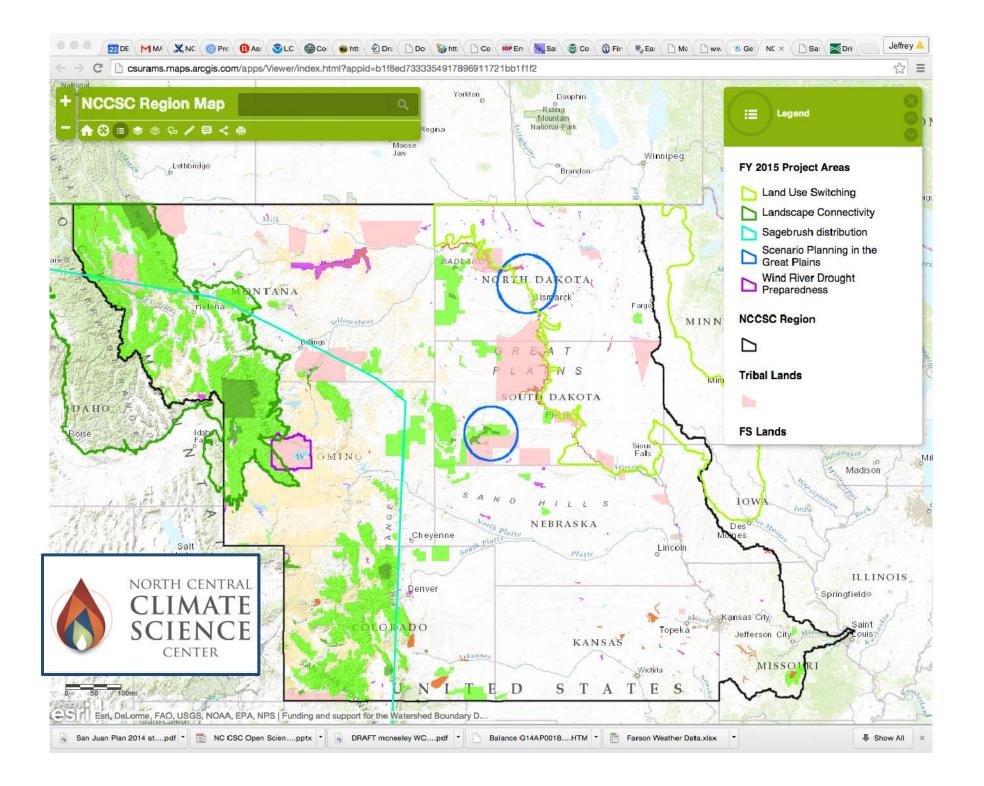
Drought Risk and Adaptation in the Interior (DRAI)

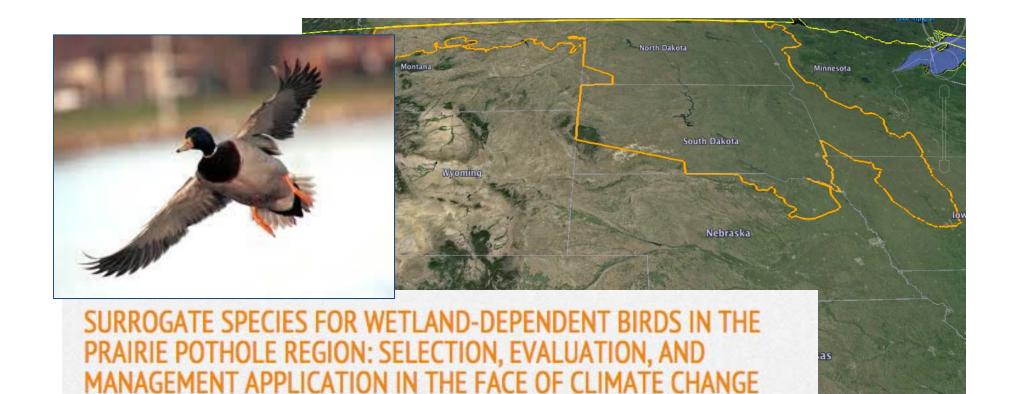
- How do managers define or think about drought in the context of their landscape? (Issue Framing)
- Do managers view drought as a significant risk to their Management activities? (Risk Perceptions)
- What, if any, are some of the triggers that managers use to know if, when, and/or how drought is going to have a negative impact on their landscape? (Triggers/Indicators)
- What Management Decisions do land and resource managers have to make that are impacted by drought? (Management Decisions)
- What are the Adaptive Capacity/Barriers to respond/prepare for drought?

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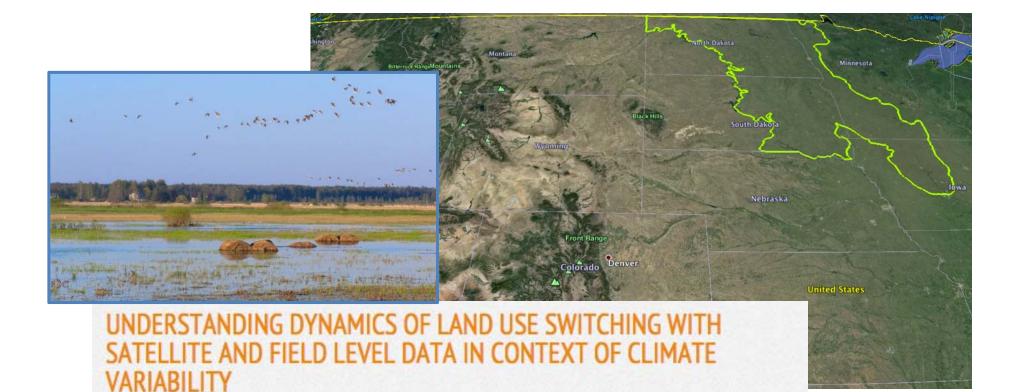
Principal Investigator(s):

Susan Skagen (U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins Science Center) and Barry Noon (Dept Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, Colorado State University)

Co-Investigator(s):

Helen Sofaer (Colorado State University); Valerie Steen (USGS Fort Collins Science Center); Ben Rashford (University of Wyoming); John Stamm (USGS South Dakota Water Science Center); Kevin Doherty (USFWS, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture); Neil Niemuth, (USFWS, Habitat and Population Evaluation Team); Cami Dixon (Zone Biologist, USFWS Region 6, National Wildlife Refuge System); Mark Chase (Director, USFWS Natural Resource Program Center); Natalie Sexton (Chief, Human Dimensions Branch, USFWS Natural Resource Program Center); Lee O'Brien (Ecologist, USFWS National Wildlife Refuge System), Socheata Lor (USFWS, Regional Inventory and Monitoring Coordinator), Rick Nelson and Mike Olson (Plains and Prairie Pothole Landscape Conservation Cooperative (PPPLCC))

2013-2015



Principal Investigator(s):

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2015-2017



SCALING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS THROUGH REGIONAL CLIMATE SUMMARIES AND LOCAL QUALITATIVE-QUANTITATIVE SCENARIO PLANNING WORKSHOPS

Principal Investigator(s):

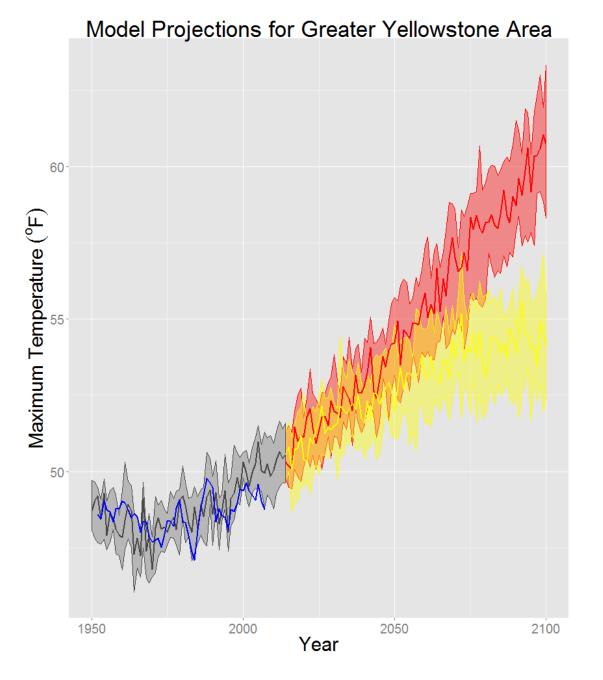
Amy Symstad, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center; asymstad@usgs.gov. (Project Contact: Stephanie Manz, Administrative Officer, smanz@usgs.gov)

Co-Investigator(s):

Brian Miller [Colorado State University North Central Climate Science Center (NC CSC)], Nicholas Fisichelli [National Park Service (NPS)], Gregor Schuurman (NPS), Melinda Koslow (NPS), Andrea Ray [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration], Jonathan Friedman (USGS), Erika Rowland [Wildlife Conservation Society]. Cooperator: Marian Talbert (USGS, NC CSC), Partners: Milton Haar (NPS), Mike McNeill [U.S. Forest Service (USFS)], Wendy Ross (NPS), Cami Dixon [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS)], Neil Shook (FWS).

2015-2017

- Take advantage of available resources.
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The difference between the red and yellow projections is a function of society's choices...

..a function of how we choose to mitigate climate change.

Shaded areas represent the variability in climate models.





- Measure park-based greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Educate staff, partners, stakeholders, and the public about climate change and demonstrate ways individuals and groups can take action to address the issue
- Assist parks in developing strategies and specific actions to address sustainability challenges, reduce GHG emissions, and anticipate the impacts of climate change on park resources

BLM Renewable Energy Program



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration as presented at http://www.newrepublic.com/

26.2%

