

CLIMATE – POSTER #17

Western Regional Climate Center, California Nevada Applications Program, and Southwest Climate Science Center: Improving the Flow of Climate Information in the West

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A variety of issues affect resource management in the western United States; many are significantly influenced by weather and climate. To address these issues, resource managers, tribes, agriculturalists, recreation managers and many other stakeholders require knowledge and data about weather and climate as part of their solution pathway. Some climate information is available from multiple sources, some is from unique locations, and other information needs further development. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Regional Climate Centers (RCCs) and Regional Integrated Science and Assessments (RISA) Programs, as well as the recently-established Department of Interior (DOI) Climate Science Centers, provide climate services and act as facilitators between knowledge providers and users. They seek to understand how stakeholders use climate knowledge and information, and how to improve the delivery and communication of such information for better implementation by end users.

This poster explores the roles of each of these organizations and how they can support the needs of stakeholders, researchers, and others in the western United States. The Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC) focuses on the provision of climate services and climate data. The California Nevada Applications Program (CNAP) performs research on the physical nature of climate and climate variability. CNAP also implements social science to understand users and their decision environment and facilitate the delivery of climate information. The Southwest Climate Science Center (SW-CSC) emphasizes more specific agency needs within DOI. One primary constituency of the CSC Program is the network of 22 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) across the nation. The LCCs require development of climate information to support their resource management mission. WRCC has been heavily involved in the evolution and coordination of all of these programs. The varied contributions of these organizations to solution-finding are illustrated with examples from within Nevada and the Great Basin.