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Nevada part of climate change research

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The Nevada System of Higher Education has received a \$15 million federal grant to research regional climate change in a tri-state project during the next five years.

A "dream team" of researchers from the Desert Research Institute, University of Nevada, Reno, University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Nevada State College will spend the next five years analyzing and modeling the effects of regional climate change on the state's ecosystems and water resources.

The team will lay the groundwork to provide science, education and outreach programs for the study of climate change and its effects on Nevada for years to come, higher education officials said.

Five-year effort

The National Science Foundation's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research provided the five-year grant.

Nevada will collaborate with New Mexico and Idaho, which received NFS funding to participate in the project.

Nevada's higher education system is supporting the effort with \$6.6 million in staffing, resources and state appropriations to match the federal funding.

Endangered region

Scott Mensing, chairman of the UNR geography department and co-principal investigator of the project, said the Great Basin is one of the most endangered ecological regions in the United States because of such factors as climate change, urbanization, changing land use and limited water resources.

"It is essential to understand the effect that climate change may have on our environment and the state's water resources," Mensing said. "This project will increase our ability to plan for the future and better manage our resources to support the state's environment, businesses and economy."
