



# North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center

Volume 1 Issue 2

November/December 2019

## ***NC CASC Scientists Participate in Earth Science Women’s Network - Women in Science Leadership Workshop***

*Denver, Colorado - November 4, 2019*

Aparna Bamzai-Dodson, USGS Deputy Director, NC CASC, and Heather Yocum, University of Colorado - Boulder Stakeholder Engagement Lead, were selected to attend the Earth Science Women’s Network Women in Science Leadership Workshop, supported by NOAA and CIRES. The workshop offered a unique opportunity for women across scientific disciplines and career levels to build their leadership and management skills and was intended for people who identify as women and are employed in the sciences, especially those employed in scientific agencies and scientific organizations. The group was composed of two cohorts of 50 (100 total) students, researchers, and professionals from across the country who were selected through a competitive application process. During the workshop, participants identified their own unique leadership and communication styles by attending interactive sessions on effective communication, team building, work-life balance, giving and receiving feedback, negotiations, and strategies for identifying and overcoming challenges to becoming a more effective leader, as well as engaging in a networking event.

*Photo credits: top - Heather Yocum; bottom - Aparna Bamzai-Dodson*



## **O’Malley Addresses SE Climate Science Symposium**

*New Orleans, LA - November 13-15th, 2019*



Robin O’Malley, USGS Director, NC CASC, provided the keynote address for the Southeast CASC’s Climate Science Symposium, which highlighted the need for actionable science through effective communication, partnership building, and capacity building. Mr. O’Malley also presented at a symposium session on Evaluation of Actionable Science which identified evaluation strategies and confounding factors which may make implementation difficult.

*Photo credits: Aranzazu Lascrain*



## NC CASC Researcher Collaborating on Climate-informed Resource Stewardship Strategy (RSS) for Yellowstone National Park's Northern Range

Yellowstone National Park • November 18th-21st, 2019 • Brian Miller, Research Ecologist, USGS

NC CASC ecologist Brian Miller is collaborating with NPS Denver Service Center, Climate Change Response Program, and park staff to develop a climate-informed Resource Stewardship Strategy (RSS) for Yellowstone National Park's Northern Range. RSSs are strategic plans for NPS units, intended to help park managers achieve and maintain desired resource conditions. Drawing on experience from previous NC CASC-funded



projects, the team is addressing climate change in the RSS through scenario planning – a tool for supporting management decisions in the face of uncertainty. Scenario planning enables stakeholders to identify key climate sensitivities of resources, examine a range of relevant and plausible future conditions, and explore management options that can be effective across scenarios. This was the first of three workshops and focused on identifying key issues, stressors, and threats; management goals; priority resources; and the climate sensitivities of priority resources.



## NC CASC Announces FY20 Funding Opportunity

Dec 2, 2019

This solicitation invites proposals for projects to be initiated in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 for the North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center (NC CASC) that inform high-priority natural or cultural resource management issues that can benefit from climate-informed planning and adaptation management. The remaining CASCs are not participating in this funding opportunity. The amount of funding available (if any) is currently pending Congressional budget and appropriations action.

Statements of Interest (SOIs) are due January 14, 2020, at 3pm MT. Full proposals will be solicited by the NC CASC after SOIs are reviewed. View the solicitation:

[https://sciencebase.usgs.gov/rfp/#/49/North\\_Central\\_CASC\\_2020\\_Project\\_Solicitation](https://sciencebase.usgs.gov/rfp/#/49/North_Central_CASC_2020_Project_Solicitation)

Proposals can be within any one of four science priority topics, listed below. It is unlikely that the NC CASC will select more than one project for funding per priority topic, and there is no guarantee the NC CASC will select a project from all four priority topics. Investigators should read the full funding opportunity document and ensure that their proposals are responsive to the opportunity instructions.

Topic A: Typology of climate vulnerability and adaptation for under-studied species

Topic B: Projections of future flows and temperature in streams in the NC CASC region

Topic C: Scientific support for DOI bureaus or state fish and wildlife agencies

Topic D: Scientific support for Tribes or other tribal entities

The NC CASC may actively engage investigators considering similar ideas to achieve maximum synergy and results. Please reach out to Aparna Bamzai-Dodson or Dr. Alisa Wade, (NC CASC Deputy Director and Research Coordinator, respectively) with any questions.

<https://nccasc.colorado.edu/sites/default/files/2019-12/FY20%20NCCASC%20Funding%20Opportunity.pdf>

## NC CASC Seeks Postdoctoral Scholar for Wildfire Research

The USGS North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center (NC CASC) is hiring a Postdoctoral Scholar in Understanding and Managing Changing Wildfire Risk to lead an effort on generating the fire science needed for resource management decisions in the ecosystems of the North Central region. The Postdoctoral Researcher will help lead a working group of partners and scientists whose aim is to better refine the fire information needed for key decisions at management-relevant scales. The position is located at the University of Colorado Boulder and will be housed in Earth Lab. More information about the position and application process can be found here: <https://jobs.colorado.edu/jobs/JobDetail/CIRES-NC-CASC-Understanding-and-Managing-Changing-Wildfire-Risk-NC-CASC-Post-Doctoral-Researcher/23080>.

## Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) Workshop

Stefan Tangen, Tribal Resilience Liaison

On November 13-14, environmental managers from federally recognized tribes of Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa attended a drought early warning systems workshop at the Santee Sioux Tribe's Ohiya Casino and Resort near Niobrara, Nebraska. The second workshop in the series, managers worked to develop monitoring systems to prepare for drought conditions and to coordinate across agencies to mitigate the impacts of drought. Tribes are often the most susceptible to the impacts of drought, and the workshop highlighted the need for a proactive approach to build an adaptive management strategy.



## National Project to Examine Relationship Between Fish and Wildlife Health, Disease, and Climate Change



The USGS National Wildlife Health Center, in partnership with the USGS Climate Adaptation Science Center Network, is leading a one-year project to understand and prepare for emerging challenges related to fish and wildlife health, disease, and climate change across North America. Learn more at: <https://www.usgs.gov/center-news/project-examines-emerging-challenges-related-climate-change-disease-and-wildlife-health>.  
*Photo credit - Jonny Armstrong*

**Recent publication** (work funded by former NC CSC): *Evidence of climate change impacts on crop comparative advantage and land use* • Agricultural Economics • December 5, 2019 • Gaurav Arora

## Video: Stakeholder Engagement for Actionable Science

Alisa Wade, USGS Research Coordinator

NC CASC staff have created a short video primer for stakeholder engagement for actionable science. The video identifies various levels of stakeholder engagement, ranging from communication to co-production, and explains which levels may be best for various situations and goals between researchers and stakeholders. Video can be found the NC CASC YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5\\_OW0kAJIzk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_OW0kAJIzk)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*NC CASC Annual Cooperator's Meeting, CU Boulder, December 18, 2019*

*Three Centers Retreat, January 9, 2020, CU Boulder*

*"Campfire Conversation" at the 73rd Annual Society for Range Management Meeting in Denver, CO. Feb 16-20, 2020*

*8th Annual Rising Voices: Climate Resilience Through Indigenous and Earth Sciences Workshop Northwest Indian College, WA. April 29th- May 1st, 2020*