



# North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center

Volume 1 Issue 6

July/August 2020

## NC CASC Hosts Virtual Tribal Climate Leaders Program Welcome Event



On August 11, the NC CASC held a virtual event to welcome the Tribal Climate Leaders to CU. This event was designed to allow the four incoming and one returning graduate students to introduce themselves to each other and to the wider NC CASC community, and for us to introduce the students to some of the additional programs and resources on campus to support their scholarly, professional, and personal growth. The Zoom welcome included the TCLP students, NC CASC personnel, and a number of other individuals from the CU community who have been supportive of the program. We are very excited to be working with them and are looking forward to seeing how their research and careers will develop. Read more about the [Tribal Climate Leaders Program](#).



## NC CASC Webinar Series: *People, Nature, and Future Climate: Developing prioritized climate adaptation actions through a stakeholder driven process in Southwest Colorado*

Presenters:

**Renee Rondeau**, Conservation Planner and Ecologist, Colorado Natural Heritage Program

**Marcie Bidwell**, Executive Director, Mountain Studies Institute, Durango, CO)

**Andrew Breibart**, Hydrologist, BLM, Gunnison Field Office

Register in advance [here](#).

Read the abstract [here](#).

## University Director Quoted in AP News and CPR News on Climate Change and Wildfires

In August 2020, the NC CASC's University Director, Jennifer Balch, was quoted in an [AP news story](#) about climate change and California's wildfires, and in a [CPR news article](#) about Colorado wildfires and the new "normal" of hot summers in the state.

*Photo credit: AP Photo/Noah Berger*



## NC CASC Welcomes Jane Wolken as New Project Manager

Jane Wolken is a forest ecologist that works at the nexus of climate science research, program coordination and communication. Prior to joining the North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center she was the Program Coordinator of the Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Jane holds an HBSc in Forestry, and an MSc and PhD in Forest Biology and Management. When not at work you can find Jane out running, biking, hiking or skiing with her family.



## Three Centers Summer 2020 Virtual Meeting and Retreat

On July 22-23, NC CASC team members joined colleagues from NOAA, DOI and USDA to participate in the virtual, semi-annual Three Centers Retreat. This event brings together staff from regional climate efforts that are headquartered in the Front Range and are working on climate issues in the Northern Rockies and northern Great Plains. Agenda topics for this session included:

- A.) Assessing Wyoming's landscape of climate adaptation planning & identifying potential opportunities for Western Water Assessment (WWA)
  - B.) How are the different centers reworking stakeholder engagement in the current COVID-19 era (with an eye on social justice)?
  - C.) Update on the economic benefits of Grass-Cast
  - D.) 3-Centers' Projects: Do the puzzle pieces form a picture?
    1. NPS Grazing Management Plan (USGS-NPS)
    2. CO River State of the Science (WWA)
    3. Grassland Vulnerability Assessment
  - E.) Next Steps Toward Moving the Needle: Strategic Collaboration Across 3 Centers
- The group will reconvene in winter 2021.



## Recommendations for Managing Mountain Goats in Montana: Executive Summary

*Imtiaz Rangwala, Climate Science Lead*

NC CASC's Imtiaz Rangwala worked with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks on a Structured Design Making Process to develop recommendations for the future management of mountain goats in the state. Management considerations were drawn from many biological and social inputs, all while accounting for uncertainty. The **Executive Summary** for the report was released, which summarizes the strategies that have the best chance of supporting mountain goats and are the most practical.



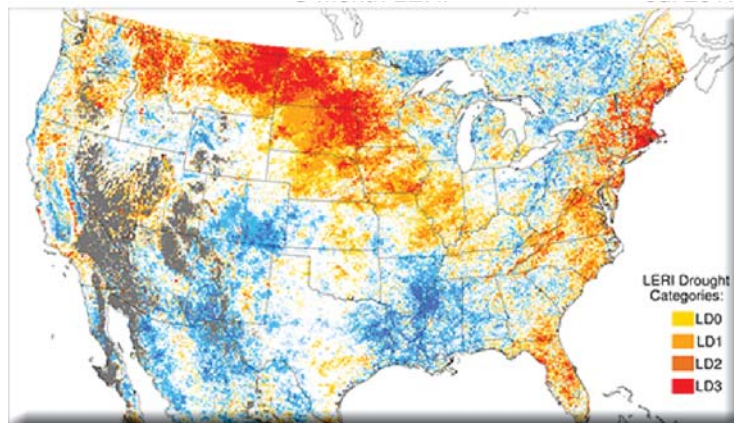


## ***LERI Tool Featured in “Dry Times”***

***Imtiaz Rangwala, Climate Science Lead***

***Landscape Evaporative Response Index (LERI)***, a tool used to remotely-sense high-resolution information of the evaporative response from the land in real time, was featured in the ***August 13th edition*** of "Dry Times", a bi-monthly newsletter from ***NIDIS***.

*Image provided by the NOAA/ESRL Physical Sciences Laboratory, Boulder, Colorado, from their web site at: <https://psl.noaa.gov/> accessed 2020 08 13.*



## ***NC CASC and NPS Welcomes New Research Assistants***

The NC CASC is proud to welcome two new research assistants, Danika Mosher (left) and Brecken Robb (right). Danika and Brecken will assist with scenario



planning and ecological response modeling to meet the needs of the National



Park Service, and other Department of Interior and tribal partners. Brecken recently received an M.S. in Biological Sciences from Boise State University. Danika is completing an M.S. at East Tennessee State University in Geosciences, with a concentration in Geospatial Analysis. Welcome Brecken and Danika!

## **Recent Publications**

***Navigating Climate Adaptation on Public Lands: How Views on Ecosystem Change and Scale Interact with Management Approaches*** • Environmental Management • July 2020 • W. Travis, I. Rangwala

***Ecological forecasting—21st Century Science for 21st Century Management*** • USGS Open-File Report • August 2020 • B. Miller, I. Rangwala

***Social-Environmental Extremes: Rethinking Extraordinary Events as Outcomes of Interacting Biophysical and Social Systems*** • Earth's Future • May 2020 • J. Balch

***Gaps and hotspots in the state of knowledge of pinyon-juniper communities*** • Forest Ecology and Management • November 2019 • In Collaboration with the NC CASC

***Increased drought severity tracks warming in the United States' largest river basin*** • PNAS • May 2020 • In Collaboration with the NC CASC

***Comparative Quality and Trend of Remotely Sensed Phenology and Productivity Metrics across the Western United States*** • Remote Sensing • August 2020 • G. Chong