

# CLIMATE ADAPTATION SCIENCE CENTERS Tribal Resilience Liaisons

USGS.GOV/CASC | CASC@USGS.GOV



## PROGRAM SUMMARY

Tribal nations and native communities face significant challenges in responding to long-term trends in climate and extreme climatic events. The Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Resilience Program, the US Geological Survey, and tribal groups are collaborating to station Tribal Resilience Liaisons at Department of the Interior Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASCs). Liaisons are generally employed by tribal organizations and work at CASCs, and will increase the resources available to:



Help tribes access information, data, and expertise at the CASCs and elsewhere



Facilitate tribally-focused climate research



Support tribal forums and information exchange

These efforts are designed to better understand, communicate, and meet the needs of tribes through partnerships to build tribal capacity and promote more resilient tribal communities. To learn more about Tribal Resilience funding and other resources you can visit:

<https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/tribal-resilience-program>

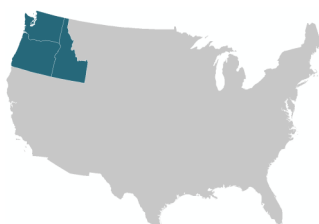
## CASC REGIONS WITH TRIBAL LIAISON SUPPORT



## NORTHWEST: CHAS JONES, PH.D.

Chas is employed as the Tribal Resilience Liaison for the Northwest CASC by the [Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians \(ATNI\)](#) and serves tribal communities by:

- Collaborating with tribes and tribal staff to build capacity for addressing climate impacts on first foods, cultural resources, traditional practices, and tribal rights
- Facilitating the development of climate adaptation plans, vulnerability assessments, policies, and strategies to address tribal priorities and objectives



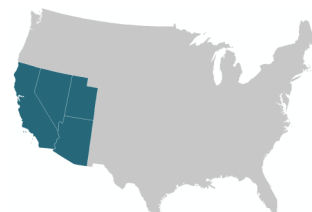
Contact: [cejones@usgs.gov](mailto:cejones@usgs.gov) or (541) 750-1023



## SOUTHWEST: ALTHEA WALKER, M.S.

Althea is employed as the Tribal Resilience Liaison for the Southwest CASC by the [American Indian Higher Education Consortium](#). She is a member of the Gila River Indian Community and serves tribal communities by:

- Fostering climate awareness while facilitating climate response planning and research development that incorporates traditional knowledge
- Providing support to tribes and groups engaged in climate adaptation activities
- Facilitating discussions within and among tribal communities and the broader climate-research and adaptation communities



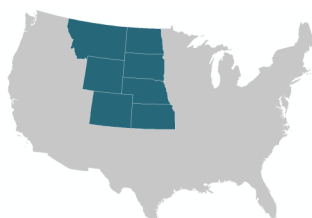
Contact: [awalker@aihec.org](mailto:awalker@aihec.org) or (480) 258-3963



## NORTH CENTRAL: STEFAN TANGEN, M.N.R.M.

Stefan holds a Master of Natural Resources Management (M.N.R.M.) and is employed as the Tribal Resilience Liaison for the North Central CASC by the [Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance](#) and serves tribal communities by:

- Connecting tribes to resources to address climate impacts related to water, infrastructure, health, and food
- Building resilience in tribal communities by supporting planning, adaptation, training, education, and outreach
- Tribal focused extension activities through strategic local engagements and discussions



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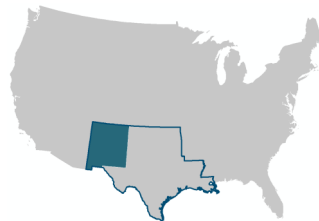




## SOUTH CENTRAL—NEW MEXICO: MAURICE CRUZ, B.S.

Maurice is employed as the Assistant Sustainability Scientist for the South Central CASC by the [University of Oklahoma](#). His work serves tribal communities in New Mexico by:

- Working with tribes, pueblos, and inter-tribal organizations to develop and deliver training on climate adaptation
- Providing support to communities seeking or engaged in adaptation activities and working to identify and reduce barriers to implementing these activities



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## SOUTH CENTRAL: APRIL TAYLOR, M.E.E.R.M.

April holds a Master of Earth and Environmental Resource Management (M.E.E.R.M) and is employed as a Sustainability Scientist for the South Central CASC by the [Chickasaw Nation](#) and serves tribal communities by:

- Helping tribes manage and plan for the impacts of climate variability and other resilience issues
- Facilitating relationships and communication between tribes and climate scientists
- Developing opportunities for tribal students in STEM fields



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## MIDWEST: SARA SMITH, M.S.

Sara is a descendant of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and employed by the [College of Menominee Nation](#)—Sustainable Development Institute as the Midwest Tribal Resilience Liaison for the Northeast CASC. Her work serves tribal communities by:

- Identifying and addressing research gaps in climate, natural, and cultural resource disciplines
- Guiding strategic adaptation planning and implementation of tribal resilience projects



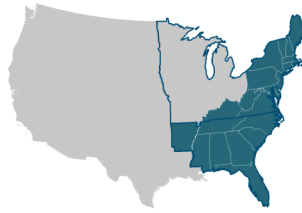
Contact: [ssmith@menominee.edu](mailto:ssmith@menominee.edu) or (651) 649-5134



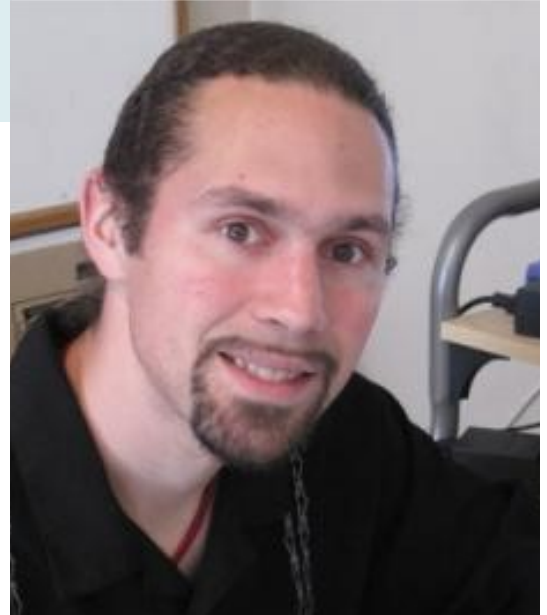
## EASTERN: CASEY THORNBROUGH, PH.D.

Casey is a citizen of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe employed by the [United South and Eastern Tribes \(USET\)](#) as the Tribal Resilience Liaison for the Northeast and Southeast CASCs. His work serves tribal communities by:

- Providing assistance on climate change issues
- Helping to identify resource vulnerabilities
- Facilitating the development of climate adaptation plans for Tribal Nations across the Eastern region



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## ALASKA: MALINDA CHASE, M.A.

Malinda is employed by the [Alaska Pribiloff Islands Association](#) as the Tribal Resilience Liaison for Alaska. She is a member of the Athabascan village of Anvik. Her work serves tribal communities by focusing on:

- Resilience education that engages the native community
- Outreach opportunities that improve the capacity of tribes to prepare for and respond to climate impacts
- Identifying data needs and resources for local climate education, awareness, decision-making, and planning



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