Wyoming falls within the domain of the North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center (CASC)

North Central CASC Consortium Institutions
Host: University of Colorado at Boulder
Consortium:
University of Montana
South Dakota State University
Wildlife Conservation Society
Conservation Science Partners
Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance

OUR WORK IN WYOMING

42+ Projects since 2011

Key Science Topics
- Wildlife & Plants
- Drought
- Fire
- Forests
- Native Communities
Preventing Forage Conditions for Elk & Mule Deer

The Wind River Indian Reservation, home to the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes, has experienced frequent severe droughts which have impacted tribal livelihoods and cultural activities. Balancing water resources among competing demands is challenging, particularly given a lack of available data to monitor changing climate conditions on tribal lands.

WHAT: The North Central CASC worked closely with tribal water managers to assess how drought affects the reservation, improve drought preparedness, and develop a reservation-wide drought management plan.

RESULTS: This project forged the development of an online drought decision dashboard for the reservation, a place for easy-to-access, tailored climate information describing current temperature, precipitation, and drought intensity in the Wind River region, as well as future climate outlooks.

IMPACT: Prior to this work, the Wind River Indian Reservation did not have a process for collecting drought-related data or managing for drought conditions. The drought dashboard is helping the reservation make informed water allocation decisions across diverse sectors, ultimately helping to reduce the negative impacts of drought on the reservation’s communities.

Contact the North Central CASC: nccasc.colorado.edu

Preparing for Drought on the Wind River Indian Reservation

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