



North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center

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Climate Solutions Days 2022



Earth Day was founded in 1970 as a day of education surrounding environmental issues. In recent times, Earth Day has focused on confronting the climate crisis. The North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center (NC CASC), a joint effort of the U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Colorado Boulder, held its inaugural “Climate Solutions Days” during Earth Week 2022, providing an à la carte offering of presentations, workshops and training by scientists and practitioners working on climate change and natural resource changes in the North Central region of the United States. This region includes the states of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. Learn more about who we are at NC CASC [here](#).

Participants engaged in pressing climate problems and solutions in the region, such as the growing wildfire hazard and drought, which is increasingly desiccating parts of the intermountain and West and Great Plains. Sessions also included a discussion of effective ways to communicate climate change impacts and adaptation strategies, the science tools and applications available to resource managers to assess current and future risk to ecosystems as part of the center’s Climate Science Support Platform, climate adaptation partnerships with Tribal Nations, and specific projects, like the Grasslands Synthesis. “Climate Solutions Days” provided an opportunity to bring research, applications, and collaborative effort to bear on actionable science – science that will make a difference in people’s lives and the ecosystems upon which they rely.

Most participants hailed from the 7-state North Central region, with a little over a third from elsewhere around the country. International participants registered from Pakistan, South Africa, France and Canada. Large percentages were affiliated with the federal agencies (30%) and academic institutions, as professional researchers and teachers (27%), with 15 participants affiliated with Tribal Nations. The event was held entirely in a virtual environment and made use of creative outlets like breakout rooms within Zoom, Mentimeter (interactive real-time voting) and Padlet (a collaborative web platform for sharing ideas in virtual bulletin board form).

Please continue to check on our “Climate Solutions Days” playlist on our YouTube channel. On Twitter, check out @NC_CASC for highlights from our sessions during Earth Week. A “Climate Solutions Days” page will soon be available on our website with links to the session recordings and pages containing the conference agenda and other information.



UPCOMING EVENTS: The NC CASC Webinar Series will be on hiatus through the summer. Watch [this page](#) for announcements about the next webinar planned for September.

Heather Yocum Represents NC CASC at CU Chancellors Annual Summit, “Working to Forge a Just and Sustainable Future”



[Heather Yocum](#), NC CASC Stakeholder Engagement Lead, represented the NC CASC and its [Tribal Climate Leaders Program](#) at the recent CU Chancellors Annual Summit, “[Working to Forge a Just and Sustainable Future](#)” held at the History Colorado Center in Denver. Presentations made during the evening revolved around the idea that “to confront the existential threat that is climate change, governments, industry and institutions of higher education must give voice to those most affected by it, transcend political divisiveness, and deploy empathy and compassion alongside research and innovation”. [Clint Carroll](#), a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, associate

professor of Native American and Indigenous studies, and advisor to the Tribal Climate Leaders Program, began his remarks with a 1980 quote from Dakota poet and activist John Trudell, framing the challenge of climate change not only as a matter of “human rights” and “civil rights” but also of protecting “natural rights.” Approximately 200 people attended the event that was billed as the precursor to the “[Right Here, Right Now Global Climate Summit](#)”, scheduled for December 1-4, 2022 and co-hosted by the University of Colorado Boulder and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights. [Read more.](#)



James Rattling Leaf Serves as Panelist for UCAR’s 2022 Worldwide Climate Justice Teach-in Event

NC CASC PI [James Rattling Leaf](#) served as a panelist for [2022 Worldwide Climate Justice Teach-in Event](#), “Sound the Solutions”, hosted by the [UCAR Center for Science Education](#) on March 30th. The 60 minute panel discussion focused on climate change solutions, action, hope, and why justice is a critical component of it all. View the session recordings [here](#).



UCAR CENTER FOR
SCIENCE EDUCATION

New Publication by NC CASC-USGS team: *Murky Waters: Divergent Ways Scientists, Practitioners, and Landowners Evaluate Beaver Mimicry*

A new publication by NC CASC team members and others examines beaver mimicry as a conservation technique to restore streams and manage water that is gaining popularity within the natural resource management community because of a wide variety of claimed socio-environmental benefits. Despite a growing number of projects, many questions and concerns about beaver mimicry remain. This study draws on qualitative data from 49 interviews with scientists, practitioners, and landowners, to explore the question of how beaver mimicry projects continue to be promoted and implemented, despite the



lack of comprehensive scientific studies and unclear regulatory requirements. Specifically, we investigate how these three groups differentially assess the salience, credibility, and legitimacy of evidence for beaver mimicry and analyze how those assessments affect each group's conclusions about the feasibility, desirability, and scalability of beaver mimicry. By highlighting the interaction between how someone assesses evidence and how they draw conclusions about an emerging natural resource management approach, we draw attention to the roles of experiential evidence and scientific data in debates over beaver mimicry. Our research emphasizes that understanding how different groups perceive salience, credibility, and legitimacy of scientific information is necessary for understanding how they make assessments about conservation and natural resource management strategies. Tori Pfaeffle, USGS Research Social Scientist [Amanda Cravens](#), and NC CASC/USGS Deputy Director [Aparna Bamzai-Dodson](#) contributed to [this paper](#). The paper was a product of [this project](#).

NPS Climate Change Response Program and NC CASC Partner on Climate Change Scenario Planning Presentation

The NPS Climate Change Response program and NC CASC partnered to deliver a presentation “Participatory Climate Change Scenario Planning: A standard approach, application guidelines, and management outcomes from a decade of research and development with US national parks” as part of the “Climate Change Adaptation: Information Exchange in Southern and Eastern Africa’s Protected Areas” webinar series, whose intent is to share climate change-related priority issues, best practices, guidance, and tools. NC CASC/USGS Research Ecologist [Brian Miller](#) will presented along with Dr. Gregor Schuurman Climate, Change Ecologist Climate Change Response Program, U.S. National Park Service. [Click here](#) to view a recording of the presentation.



Recent NC CASC Webinars & Newsletters

[NC CASC Webinar Series April 2022 webinar: Tools for developing reproducible climate futures for resource planning](#)

[NC CASC April 2022 Tribal Climate Newsletter](#)

[NC CASC March 2022 Tribal Climate Newsletter](#)

Recent NC CASC Publications

[*Murky waters: divergent ways scientists, practitioners, and landowners evaluate beaver mimicry*](#) • Ecology and Society • T. Pfafelle, A. Cravens, A. Bamzai-Dodson

Confirmed EF-3 tornado strikes Andover, Kansas, April 29, 2022. Photo credit: *The Wichita Eagle*

