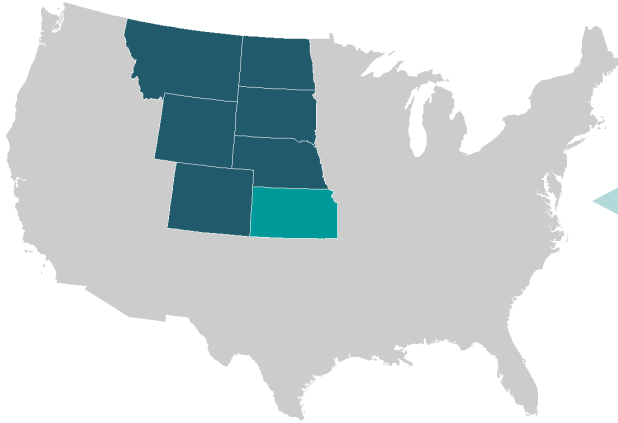




KANSAS

Kansas 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

Conservation Science Partners

South Dakota State University

Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance

Wildlife Conservation Society

OUR WORK IN KANSAS

45+

Projects

since **2011**

Key Science Topics



Wildlife & Plants



Grasslands & Plains



Freshwater



Drought



Science Tools for Managers



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Climate Impacts on Grassland Ecosystems

Grasslands in the Great Plains are important ecosystems that support local economies, tribal communities, livestock grazing, and diverse plant and animal communities. Changing climate conditions impact how people and animals live on and interact with grasslands and can bring more frequent droughts, fires, and invasive species that make managing these landscapes challenging.

WHAT:

The North Central CASC is synthesizing management questions and information needs of stakeholders related to grasslands, assessing the state-of-the-science on climate variability and change in the region, and identifying how grassland ecosystems are responding to climate change and its impacts, including changing fire regimes, the spread of invasive species, and habitat fragmentation.

IMPACT:

With a focus on underserved communities such as tribal resource managers, the results of this project will provide natural resource managers with information on best-practice management decisions for grassland ecosystems in a changing climate.



Climate Vulnerability & Resource Management in Rural & Tribal Communities

The ways in which natural resources are managed by federal and state agencies in the Great Plains impacts the well-being of rural communities. Climate change, which will bring increased droughts, floods, and other threats, poses challenges for resource managers and rural communities alike. Identifying the impacts of management decisions on rural communities is especially important for those who are already disadvantaged and vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

WHAT:

Focusing on Kansas, the North Central CASC is identifying which rural and tribal communities are particularly vulnerable to climate change and natural resource management decisions, as well as how managers currently incorporate considerations of the impacts of their decisions on rural communities.

IMPACT:

By gaining a better understanding of how resource management decisions may impact rural and tribal communities in Kansas, managers can work to ensure that the costs and benefits of resource management decisions will be distributed fairly.