



North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center



Tribal Climate Resilience Liaisons

To better support and collaborate with Tribal partners across the nation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Tribal Resilience Program (TRP), the US Geological Survey (USGS), and Tribal organizations are collaborating to support a nationwide network of Tribal Resilience Liaisons that operate in partnership with USGS' regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASCs). At the North Central CASC, Tribal managers are priority partners and we leverage resources to support them in addressing regional climate impacts.

North Central Tribal Liaisons are employed by the Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance, funded by TRP, and work regionally to support all Federally-Recognized Tribal nations. The Liaison program goals are to:

- Help Tribal partners access information, data, and expertise at the CASCs and elsewhere;
- Support climate adaptation planning and implementation; and
- Facilitate Tribal forums and information exchange.

These efforts are designed to better understand, communicate, and meet the needs of Tribal resource managers through partnerships to promote more climate resilient Tribal communities.



Tribal Liaison projects at the NC CASC:

Facilitated and supported the Tri-Ute Climate Resilience Workshop Series which included managers, staff, and leaders from Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Tribe of Utah, and the Southern Ute Tribe (2020-2023)

Supported Rosebud Sioux Tribe's Sicangu Climate Crisis Committee to develop a Climate Adaptation Plan (2019-2023)

Developed and hosted the Haskell Indian Nations University Tribal Climate Resilience Conference (2023) to enable students to connect with Tribal Resilience Professionals

Facilitated, presented, and supported the Lower Missouri River Tribes Climate Resilience Workshops (2018-2022) working with the nine Tribal nations in Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska

Ongoing monthly North Central Tribal Climate newsletter to provide Tribal partners with news, funding opportunities, job openings, and other related information

NC CASC Tribal Resilience Liaisons



Kynser Wahwabsuck Bell works for the Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance as a Tribal Climate Resilience Liaison. Kynser is a member of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas and is a descendant of Shoshone and Sac & Fox Tribes. She received her B.S. degree in Environmental Science from Haskell Indian Nations University and her M.A. degree from the University of Kansas with a focus on nitrogen cycling in headwater streams affected by land-use change.

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Janna Black works for the Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance as a Tribal Climate Resilience Liaison. She works across the region to connect 32 Federally Recognized Tribal Nations to tools, information, and other resources for building resilience to anthropogenic climate change. Janna, of Athabaskan descent, earned her M.S. in Environment, Natural Resources, and Society from the University of Wyoming with a Minor in Collaborative Practice. Her work is deeply rooted in sense of place, emphasizing land-based pedagogies through a kincentric ecological lens. Janna loves spending time in the sun with her family.



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