

The Southwest Climate Change Initiative
The Nature Conservancy in Arizona
Forest Conservation & Restoration Program
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Implementing a Climate Change Adaptation Framework for Conservation Planning & Management at Regional Scales

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has initiated the Southwest Climate Change Initiative (SWCCI), a collaboration among TNC and partners (state, federal, NGOs, universities), in the Four Corners states of the Southwest, to provide guidance to conservation practitioners and land managers in climate change adaptation planning and implementation at regional scales.

The project aims:

(1) Expand the TNC-New Mexico climate change assessment protocol using the ClimateWizard tool box (see below) to adjacent Four Corner states—UT, AZ and CO.

(2) Facilitate the identification of vulnerable landscapes, watersheds, habitats, and species, in addition to applying new tools, such as a species vulnerability assessment under development by the U.S. Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station;

(3) Test a new adaptation planning framework developed by the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (UCSB) through a series of case study workshops across the Four Corner states. Expected outcomes of the case studies include the identification of adaptation strategies for use by natural resource managers and an enhanced understanding of how climate change may affect ecosystems.

This suite of "field-tested" tools will be useful in developing forest and fire management plans; in building a regional learning network; and informing the policy-making process—all crucial to meeting the challenges posed by climate change for conservation and management now and in the future.

Ongoing and potential partnership with the Forest Service

- Participate on the SWCCI Advisory Board (Jack Triepke)
- Forest and regional staff participate in the Jemez Mts. pilot workshop, April 21-22
- Expand pilot workshops to Forest Service landscapes in other states
- Incorporate understanding of ecosystem exposure and vulnerability to climate change into Forest Service planning processes.
- Partner with Forest Service Research to accelerate development, testing and integration of adaptation planning tools for use by managers

Adaptation - This combination of management, restoration, and protection strategies will help prepare places, plants, animals—and people—for climate change. Successful adaptation of living systems—such as [lakes and rivers](#), [coral reefs](#), [forests](#), and [grasslands](#)—can help ensure their ability to support the needs of people and to better withstand future changes.
<http://www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/>

Mitigation - is any action taken to permanently eliminate or reduce the long-term risk and hazards of climate change to human life, property.

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines mitigation as: “An anthropogenic intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.” <http://www.global-greenhouse-warming.com/climate-mitigation-and-adaptation.html>

Mauna Loa CO2 observatory - http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends/co2_data_mlo.html

California Adaptation Strategy: <http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/adaptation/index.html>

Conservation Data, studies, and reports:
 AZ – www.azconservation.org

NM – www.nmconservation.org

