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November Issue of the Southwest Climate Hub Bulletin

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## What's Happening at the Hub



### **FOCUSING VISION, MISSION GOALS Steering Committee Meeting, November 17th**

This was our first meeting and our Steering Committee provided valuable feedback on how to focus our work plan and future projects. Following their advice, we have developed a vision statement (“Resilient working landscapes”) and are streamlining our mission and goals. We plan to increasingly be a reliable, high quality and well-utilized resource for southwestern farmers, forestland managers and ranchers, translating scientific information to support climate adaptation and informed management.



### **IMPROVED DROUGHT PLANNING University of Arizona Co-Develops an Approach to Drought Planning**

To address the need for improved planning, ranchers, personnel from Tonto National Forest and a specialized team from The University of Arizona are working together to develop various approaches that are practicable and that also comply with federal policies. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Sectoral Applications Research Program provided the funding for the project. Read more in [Droughtscape](#), the National Drought Mitigation Center's newsletter.

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### **ANIMAL AGRICULTURE** NIFA sponsored educational videos on "Climate Change Adaption"

An [Adaption video](#) and [Impact video](#), were produced for the Animal Agriculture in a "Changing Climate Project." The two course adaptations include both short-term and long-term strategies, and they can be applied to all areas of farm operation, including farm inputs, animal production, logistics and farm exports.

[Read More](#)


### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION** 2015 Dr. Richard W. Becker Award of Excellence

Congratulations to Stephanie Haan-Amato, of the Asombro Institute for Science Education, for being recognized and honored by receiving the Dr. Richard W. Becker Award of Excellence in Environmental Education by the Environmental Education Association of New Mexico.

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## Recent Research

### **[Biophysical Impacts of Climate-Smart Agriculture in the Midwest United States](#)**

This study by Bagley, Miller, and Bernacchi used a combination of observational data and an agroecosystem model to assess a series of climate-smart agricultural scenarios to determine their biophysical impacts in the Midwest.

doi: 10.1111/pce.12485

### **[Public Attitudes Toward Water Management and Drought in the United States](#)**

This article by Stoutenborough and Vedlitz, published in 2014, reports the results of two national public opinion surveys that focused on drought and water management issues.

doi: 10.1007/s11269-013-0509-7

### **[Significant Anthropogenic-Induced Changes of Climate Classes Since 1950](#)**

This study by Chan and Wu, published in August 2015, used gridded observed data to examine changes in major Köppen climate classes and found that "these changes of climate types since 1950 cannot be explained as natural variations but are driven by anthropogenic factors."

doi:10.1038/srep13487

### **[Shallow Aquifer Recharge from Irrigation in a Semiarid Agricultural Valley in New Mexico](#)**

This paper, published in the Journal of Hydrologic Engineering, looks at how irrigation percolation can be used to help replenish shallow aquifers in arid regions of the Southwest. The study used data from various irrigation experiments as well as data at the piezometric level to assess the effects of irrigation percolation on the recharge of an aquifer in northern New Mexico.

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### [Stakeholders in Climate Science: Beyond Lip Service?](#)

In their recent commentary paper published in *Science*, Klenk and co-authors review different forms of stakeholder engagement and discuss the power imbalance between scientists and stakeholders in the coproduction of climate change research.

doi: 10.1126/science.aab1495

## Recent News

### [Future Coastal Vulnerability from Extreme ENSO Events](#)

A recent paper published in *Nature Geoscience* explores how El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) events cause elevated wave energy and severe coastal erosion. If the magnitude and frequency of ENSO events increases over the 21st century, coastal areas on both sides of the Pacific Ocean Basin will be exposed to extreme coastal erosion and flooding, independent of sea level rise. [Read more on USGS.gov.](#)

### [Map IDs Farmland for Replenishing Groundwater](#)

The California Soil Resource Lab at UC Davis have developed a new interactive map that identifies farmland in California that has the best potential for groundwater banking.

### [Who's Who of California Agriculture Issues a Call on Protect On-Farm Renewable Energy Prospects](#)

A group of leading agricultural trade groups and advocacy organizations in California came together and delivered a letter to Commissioners asking them to preserve the NEMA program, which is a key feature in the state's renewable energy program, especially on-farm. U.S.

### [The Uncertainty Handbook: A Practical Guide for Climate Change Communications](#)

"Have you ever struggled with the communication of climate change uncertainties? Are you frustrated by climate skeptics using uncertainty – inherent in any area of complex science – as a justification for delaying policy responses?" Find the answers you need in *The Uncertainty Handbook*, a free handbook with easy-to-apply principles for smarter communication about climate change uncertainties.

### [New Report Finds Human-Caused Climate Change Increased the Severity of Many Extreme Events in 2014](#)

Human activities, such as greenhouse gas emissions and land use, influenced specific extreme weather and climate events in 2014, including tropical cyclones in the central Pacific, heavy rainfall in Europe, drought in East Africa, and stifling heat waves in Australia, Asia, and South America, according to a new report published by the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*.

### [America's Preparedness Report Card Plans to Help States Assess and Improve Level of Preparedness for Climate-Related Threats](#)

Search an interactive map that explores the preparedness actions that each of the 50 states are taking in relation to their current and future changes in climate threats.

### [FAO Releases Voluntary Guidelines on Genetic Diversity for Climate Adaptation](#)

In the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, FAO has released new guidelines to assist countries in better conserving and sustainably using genetic resources in times of climate change.

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**[American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting](#)**  
December 14-18, 2015  
San Francisco, CA

**[Upcoming EPA Climate Change & Water Workshops](#)**  
Various Dates & Locations

**[Resiliency in New Mexico Food and Agriculture - Regional Meetings](#)**  
Various Dates Starting December 2, 2015 - March 9, 2016  
Locations throughout New Mexico

**[How Temperature and Precipitation Trends Have Affected Mountain Hydrology and Ecology](#)**  
January 7, 2016, 10AM - 11AM PST  
Webinar

**[Soil Water Sensors for Agriculture - Theory and Issues](#)**  
January 14, 2016, 11:30AM EST  
Webinar

**[Grazing Strategies for Riparian and Wet Meadow Improvement in the Sagebrush Steppe](#)**  
January 20, 2016 12PM EST  
Webinar

**[2016 New Mexico Organic Farming Conference](#)**  
February 19, 2016 7AM MST - February 20, 2016 5PM MST  
Albuquerque, NM

**[2016 Land and Water Summit - Creating a New Paradigm for Living in Arid Lands](#)**  
February 25-26, 2016  
Albuquerque, NM

**[NOAA's 14th Annual Climate Prediction Applications Workshop Science Workshop \(CPASW\)](#)**  
March 22-24, 2016  
Burlington, VT

## Meet Our Partners

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*Many thanks to those who have provided material for this edition!*

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