

Join us for the February Climate Change Integration Team Webinar!

Topic: Leveraging the Power of Partnerships to Advance Climate-Smart Management

When: Wednesday, February 8, 2023, from 2:00-3:30pm Pacific Time

Webinar Description:

The webinar will open two presentations from USDA Climate Hubs. The first will be an overview of the [USDA California Climate Hub](#), including a discussion of the connection of Hub work to USDA Forest Service priorities and opportunities; this presentation will emphasize the role of collaboration and increased federal funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The second will be a discussion of [USDA Southwest Climate Hub](#) partnerships and efforts in Hawaii and the US-Affiliated Pacific Islands that advance climate resilience, including collaborations with the USDA Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service on climate adaptation work, leveraging the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science [Adaptation Workbook](#).

The webinar will then transition to two presentations from the USGS Climate Adaptation Science Centers. The first will be an overview of the [Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center](#) and a discussion of collaborative initiatives the Center is currently supporting in California and the broader Southwestern United States. The second will provide a summary of the [Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center](#), plus information about how the Center is engaged with communities and the interagency community across the Pacific to leverage various funding streams and partnerships.

The webinar will conclude with a presentation about the [Pacific](#) and [California/Nevada](#) Climate Adaptation Partnerships (CAP) Program (*formerly known as the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) Program*). The presentation will showcase examples of how the CAPs/RISAs are leveraging BIL and IRA funding internally and in partnership to build capacity for climate-smart management.

The Presenters

Dr. Emile Elias is the Director of the USDA Southwest Climate Hub, an organization covering five (5) States, including Hawaii and the US-Affiliated Pacific Islands. Dr. Elias is a research hydrologist with more than three decades of experience at the interface of water scarcity, water quality, agricultural production and natural resources. She leads a team engaged in research and science synthesis, data-driven tool development to support climate-informed decision-making, and convening scientists and shareholders to solve critical climate-related challenges.

Dr. Carolyn Enquist has worked for nearly three decades at the nexus of science, communication, and outreach. She has led and developed strategic engagement opportunities and partnerships to promote the mission and efficacy of science-based organizations. Over the course of her career, she has led and contributed to numerous peer-reviewed articles and national and international reports focused on the biodiversity impacts of climate change, practical guidance for conducting vulnerability assessments, and the practice of climate adaptation planning and implementation. As the Acting Federal Director of the Southwest Climate Adaptation Center (SW CASC), an important part of her work is to build collaborations and strategic partnerships in support of effective climate adaptation and resilience.

Dr. Mari-Vaughn Johnson is the Federal Director of the United States Geological Survey's Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center. She brings a human-centric, systems-oriented approach to developing sustainable management responses to climate change related challenges. Her commitment to supporting strong relationships between people and place as foundational to adaptation is informed by her experiences in international diplomacy, multi-functional land-use solutions, and policy impact assessments.

Dr. Victoria Keener is a Senior Research Fellow at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawai'i and a Research Professor at the Arizona State University Global Institute of Sustainability & Innovation. She is a Co-Lead Principal Investigator of the Pacific CAP/RISA program. She earned a Ph.D. in Agricultural & Biological Engineering from the University of Florida and does interdisciplinary research working with Pacific Island communities to transform climate knowledge into resource management and policies that aim to reduce climate-induced vulnerabilities. She was the Lead Author of the Hawai'i and Pacific Islands Chapter of the 4th US-National Climate Assessment and directs the Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment (PIRCA) network and reports, and is the Vice-Chair of the City & County of Honolulu Climate Change Commission.

Dr. Steven Ostoja is the Director of the California Climate Hub, based in Davis, California. As Director, Dr. Ostoja leads the Climate Hub efforts to develop and deliver products and information that enable climate-smart decision-making on California's natural and working lands.

Virtual Connection Instructions

[February 2023 R5 CCIT Webinar Teams Meeting Link](#)

NOTE: The Microsoft Teams platform is accessible to agency personnel and external partners.