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January Issue of the Southwest Climate Hub Bulletin

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What's Happening at the Hub



AGU MEETING

Access the Presentations and Posters from the SW Climate Hub

The USDA Southwest Climate Hub staff [presented on Climate Change and the Water Cycle](#), temperature shift impacts on Southwestern crops and climate change attitudes at the 2015 American Geophysical Union meeting. We partnered with other federal climate change groups and regional hubs to convene a session on stakeholder data needs. View the posters:

- [Connecting stakeholders with climate science: Farmer, rancher and forester climate data needs and climate change attitudes](#)
- [Impact of projected mid-century temperatures on common southwestern specialty and field crops](#)
- [Climate Change and the Water Cycle: A New Southwest Regional Climate Hub Unit for 6th-12th Grade Students](#)



2015 INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL Recap of December Meeting

The 2015 Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Membership meeting was held on December 7-10, 2015. The meeting brought together many members from different tribes in the US. Topics ranged from cattle prices to olive oil production, and new assistance programs available from Federal agencies.

The Intertribal Agriculture Council was founded in 1987 to pursue and promote the conservation, development and use of our agricultural resources for the betterment of our people. Their mission is to provide a unified effort to promote change in Indian Agriculture for the benefit of Indian People.

The IAC has a technical assistance program that is available to tribal members who want to apply to Federal agencies for assistance.

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Recent Research

[**Improved Seasonal Drought Forecasts Using Reference Evapotranspiration Anomalies**](#)

This study by Daniel J. McEvoy, Justin L. Huntington, John F. Mejia, and Michael T. Hobbins suggests that ETO anomaly forecasts can improve and complement existing seasonal drought forecasts.

doi: 10.1002/2015GL067009

[**Managing for Climate Change on Federal Lands of the Western United States**](#)

This study, published in *Ecology and Society*, described the perceived usefulness of climate science, effectiveness of adaptation strategies, and barriers to implementation. The study was performed by Kemp, K. B., J. J. Blades, P. Z. Klos, T. E. Hall, J. E. Force, P. Morgan, and W. T. Tinkham.

[**Increased Heat Waves with Loss of Irrigation in the United States**](#)

Lu, Y. and L. M. Kueppers discuss in this study that regions experiencing strong groundwater depletion, such as the southern high plains, may suffer more and longer heat waves with reduced irrigation.

doi:10.1088/1748-9326/10/6/064010

Recent News

[**Hot, Wet, and Expensive: Annual 2015 U.S. Climate Report**](#)

Last year was the second warmest on record with the average U.S. temperature at 54.4°F. Every state experienced above-average annual temperature. It was also the third wettest year in the 121-year period of record. The conditions resulted in 10 weather and climate disaster events in the U.S., each with losses exceeding \$1 billion.

[**Can Dairy Cows Help Curb Climate Change?**](#)

A study by Ramboll Environ could impact California's climate protection efforts. It found that dairy manure digesters can help reduce methane as well as reduce the need to generate power from coal or natural gas. An average of \$7 per ton of carbon dioxide – or its equivalent in other greenhouse gases – is kept out of the atmosphere.

[**Try it Out: New Software Measures Agriculture's Carbon Footprint**](#)

USDA's COMET-Farm and [COMET-Planner](#) have released a free, online tool that allow farmers and ranchers to quantify their atmospheric outputs (emissions) and carbon benefits (sequestration) based on site-specific soils, crops, and management practices.

[**Fire Borrowing Extinguished Through 2016**](#)

"Fire borrowing" refers to the use by federal agencies of accounts for forest health and fire prevention activities to fund firefighting efforts when fire suppression accounts run dry. Wildfire suppression will now

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during FY15 and prevent a recurrence in FY16 of "fire borrowing."

[Farmers Hold the Key to Climate Change Action in the United States](#)

An interview with agricultural reporter and policy editor at *The Progressive Farmer*, Chris Clayton, discussed how farmers are getting involved in climate change measures, the struggle over climate policy, and the difficulty of navigating the political shoals surrounding greenhouse gas legislation.

Upcoming Events

[Upcoming EPA Climate Change & Water Workshops](#)

Various Dates & Locations

[Resiliency in New Mexico Food and Agriculture - Regional Meetings](#)

Various Dates through March 9, 2016
Locations throughout New Mexico

[Impacts of Future Climates and Fire on Hydrologic Regimes in the Ecosystems of Southern California](#)

January 26, 2016, 1PM - 2PM PST | [Webinar](#)

[NIDIS California DEWS Winter Status Update](#)

January 26, 2016, 2PM - 4PM MST | [Webinar](#)

[The Science Supporting Changes in Soil Health](#)

February 9, 2016, 2PM EST | [Webinar](#)

[2016 New Mexico Organic Farming Conference](#)

February 19-20, 2016 | Albuquerque, NM

[2016 Land and Water Summit - Creating a New Paradigm for Living in Arid Lands](#)

February 25-26, 2016 | Albuquerque, NM

[Water Resources Research Center 2016 Annual Conference](#)

March 21, 2016 | Tucson, AZ

[NOAA's 14th Annual Climate Prediction Applications Workshop Science Workshop \(CPASW\)](#)

March 22-24, 2016 | Burlington, VT

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