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EcoClimate News Southwest

December 2019

Grazing Exacerbates Cheatgrass Expansion

SW CASC principal investigator Erica Fleishman (Colorado State University and University of California, Davis) and her collaborators, including lead author Matthew Williamson (Boise State University and University of California, Davis), recently published the article "Fire, livestock grazing, topography, and precipitation affect occurrence and prevalence of cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) in the central Great Basin, USA." The researchers used long-term data from 417 sites across four mountain ranges in the central Great Basin to assess associations between cheatgrass occurrence or prevalence and fire, livestock grazing, and precipitation. They found that grazing was associated with increases in the occurrence and prevalence of cheatgrass regardless of differences in climate or topography, and their results did not support the hypothesis that grazing can suppress cheatgrass. The research was partially supported by the SW CASC. Read the full article [here](#).

Field teams sampling cheatgrass and other vegetation in the southern Toiyabe Range, Nye County, Nevada.

Photo credit: Erica Fleishman

SW CASC Podcast

The SW CASC will be relaunching our podcast, EcoCast Southwest, this spring! Are you a researcher or resource management practitioner who would like to be considered for a guest spot? What topics would you like for us to discuss? Let us know [here](#)!

SW CASC Scientist in the News

Stephen T. Jackson, PhD, has been named one of the most influential researchers of the decade in the Environment and Ecology category by the Web of Science Group. Researchers must have multiple papers that rank in the top 1% of highly cited papers.

In his position as the USGS Federal Director of the SW CASC, Dr. Jackson works to foster effective engagement between researchers and resource-management decision-makers. He is also Adjunct Professor of Geosciences and of Natural Resources & Environment at the University of Arizona. Before assuming his current position in 2012, he was at the University of Wyoming, where he was founding Director of the Program in Ecology and is now Professor Emeritus of Botany.

Congratulations Steve!
See the full list of researchers [here](#)!

Upcoming Events

The SWCASC Presents:

Webinar Series on the 4th National Climate Assessment Webinar Series

The Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (SW CASC) is hosting a webinar series on the Southwest chapter of the 4th National Climate Assessment (NCA4) in Fall 2019. The webinars will focus on Tribes and Indigenous Peoples, Water Resources, and Ecosystems. During each webinar, an NCA4 author and a resource management practitioner from the Southwest will pair up to discuss information presented in the NCA4, improvements to the NCA, and emerging issues facing Southwest stakeholders. Each 60-minute webinar (40 minutes for presentations and 20 minutes for Q&A) will be moderated by Gregg Garfin, University Director of the SW CASC. Recordings of the first two webinars in the series are available [here](#). The recording for the Ecosystems webinar will be available at the same link one week after the event.

Webinar #3: Ecosystems

Chris Stetson, U.S. Forest Service, Coronado National Forest

David Breshears, University of Arizona

Date: December 12, 2019

Time: 10-11am MST

Register Now

Partners' Highlights

Updates from the USDA Southwest Climate Hub – Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Communities

On December 2, the USDA Southwest Climate Hub held an [Adapted Trees workshop](#) to incorporate future climates in urban forest management plans. Workshop participants represented municipal sustainability and forest managers, tribes, nonprofit groups, cooperative extension, State and US forest service and botanic gardens. Anticipated tangible outcomes from the workshop include updating the urban tree guide with climate adapted species and a community-led seed lot testing project. The workshop was organized in conjunction with the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, Colorado State University and the City of Durango, CO. Learn more about the impacts of climate change on Durango's community forest [here](#).

Online Climate Resources

Agricultural Risk in a Changing Climate provides a geographic and historic view of crop insurance payments by cause of loss. The [AgRisk viewer](#), developed by the Southwest Climate Hub, was recently updated to include all 2018 crop loss data for the nation.

[CLIMAS SW Podcast](#) - Winter Storm "Emergency" Mini-Pod

[CLIMAS SW Climate Outlook November 2019](#) - Monthly climate summary for Arizona/New Mexico

Job and Funding Opportunities

Open Faculty Positions

[Assistant Professor of Global Change Biology](#) - North Carolina State University is looking for a candidate with strong quantitative skills as well as candidates with demonstrated experience in research across ecology, economics, and policy for the quantification of ecosystem services under a changing climate.

DEADLINE - December 15th, 2019.

Tribal Funding Opportunities

EPA NPS Management Grant for Tribal Watershed Projects

The EPA is accepting applications from eligible tribes and intertribal consortia to develop and/or implement watershed-based plans and projects that will address and manage Nonpoint Source (NPS) impairments on a watershed-wide basis.

DEADLINE - December 20th, 2019 by 11:59 p.m.

WaterSMART Drought Contingency Planning Grants

These grants through the Department of Interior will support states, tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts in the western United States to update comprehensive drought plans and implement projects that will build long-term resilience to drought.

DEADLINE - February 5th, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. EST

Student Funding Opportunities

Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship

A two year program which will provide students with the opportunity to participate in interdisciplinary research, network, and receive professional guidance and mentorship. Eligibility: US citizens currently enrolled in a graduate degree program with at least two years remaining in their program.

DEADLINE - December 20th, 2019.

USFWS Directorate Fellows Program (DFP)

A 12-week internship working on projects that support FWS conservation priorities. Eligibility: Undergraduate and graduate students who will not complete their degree before the end of the DFP program.

DEADLINE - January 10th, 2020

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals 2020 Student Summer Internship

An 8 week program for Native American/Alaskan Native students to work with tribal organizations to address tribal environmental issues. Both undergraduates and graduate students enrolled in a full time degree program can apply.

DEADLINE - February 28th, 2020.

Contact us at:

University of Arizona, ENR2 Building, 1064 E. Lowell St., Suite N441, Tucson, AZ 85721

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