

Here's a sampling of what the South Central CSC consortium has been up to this month and a sneak peek of what's to come in April.



SOUTH CENTRAL CLIMATE SCIENCE CENTER

March 2018 Newsletter

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Feature Story: Building A Climate "Roadmap" for Transportation

Weather extremes can impact transportation infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and vehicles, endangering public safety. Dr. Esther Mullens, South Central CSC postdoctoral researcher, evaluated recent and future trends in a number of transportation-relevant weather and climate variables in the south-central U.S. [State-specific resources are now available online](#) to assist transportation decision makers in planning for future weather extremes. This project was supported in part by the [Southern Plains Transportation Center](#).

Research Highlights

Modeling Future Fire and Climate Suitability for Woody Vegetation Communities

Climate and fire are primary drivers of plant species distributions. Researchers [supported in part by the South Central CSC](#) used projected climate data and [future fire probability models](#) to identify locations where future conditions might be suitable for three different vegetation communities found in the south-central U.S.: an oak type, a mesquite type, and a pinyon-juniper type. Managers can use the [map products](#) resulting from this work to inform long-term planning for maintenance or restoration of these woody vegetation communities.



Opportunities and Resources

April Partners Call: Sea-Level Rise, Submersed Aquatic Vegetation, and Waterfowl in the Northern Gulf of Mexico

Join us on April 18 at 10 AM CT for our [bi-monthly partners call](#). Dr. Megan La Peyre will discuss her CSC-supported [investigations](#) into the potential impact of sea level rise on food resources critical for wintering waterfowl. Call-in information will be available on our website.



Job Opportunity: Tribal Climate Science Liaison at Southwest CSC

The [Southwest Climate Science Center](#) is seeking a [Tribal Climate Science Liaison](#). This full-time position will provide direct extension support to tribes and tribal colleges located in AZ, CO, NV, and CA, and is located on the campus of the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ. The position will work with the SW CSC to support Tribal governments, schools and communities interested in learning about and conducting climate resilience planning and implementation. Apply by April 16, 2018.



Application Deadline Extended to Monday, April 9 at 5 PM CT for Early Career Researcher Workshop

We've extended the deadline to apply for our [Early Career Researcher Professional Development Training!](#) Applications are now due Monday, April 9 at 5 PM CT. This five-day training will include a series of workshops, activities, and field trips exploring Louisiana's climate challenges. Participants will learn how to effectively communicate their research, develop multi-disciplinary research proposals, and engage in actionable science.

Register Now: NW CSC Actionable Climate Science Skills-Building Webinar Series



The [Northwest Climate Science Center](#) is hosting a [webinar series](#) designed to help those engaged in climate science research better understand the range of approaches for developing actionable science. Each webinar will explore ways to support effective collaborations between scientific researchers and natural resource managers.

In Memoriam

Dear Colleague and Friend, Dr. Rodica Gelca

It is with extreme sadness that we mourn the passing of our CSC colleague, [Dr. Rodica Gelca](#), in a tragic accident that took place in late March. Rodica loved life and shared her joy with all of those fortunate enough to know her. She and her husband loved to kayak, ski, and hike, and often traveled to explore national parks across Texas and New Mexico, as well as in their home country of Romania.



Rodica completed her Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology at Texas Tech. After graduating, she accepted a postdoctoral research fellowship with the TTU Climate Science Center, where she conducted ground-breaking research on the intersection between [climate change and water quality in reservoirs in Texas](#), studying observed climate trends and their connection to [water quality and golden algae blooms](#). Most recently, she accepted a position as instructor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, where she soon became a much-respected and appreciated [teacher](#).

A passionate scientist and much-loved teacher, the CSC deeply mourns Rodica's passing. The TTU Climate Science Center has established a [fund](#) for those who would like to honor her memory and assist her husband during this difficult time.

Featured Video: Overview of Climate Projections

Researchers and managers at the South Central CSC often use future climate projections in their work. But what exactly *are* climate projections? How are they developed, and what value can they provide to water managers, city planners, agricultural producers, wildlife managers, and other decision-makers?

To find out, check out this [video](#) from our popular online course "[Managing for a Changing](#)

[Climate](#)." It features Dr. Esther Mullens, postdoctoral researcher at the South Central CSC (and some really fun animations).



From Our Partners

Share with Wildlife: Call for Project Proposals

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish's Share with Wildlife program announces the release of the [Call For Project Information](#) for Fiscal Year 2019 projects. The Share with Wildlife program funds wildlife projects up to \$50,000 that pertain to one of the following categories: habitat enhancement, biological and ecological research studies, wildlife rehabilitation, and wildlife education. All proposals must be submitted by 5 PM MT on Friday, June 1, 2018.



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