

Training for Native Tribes of Louisiana and New Mexico on Understanding Climate in a Changing World

Kristine DeLong (LSU)

Researchers at LSU also conducted a three-day training in October 2016 with New Mexico Pueblos and Tribes at the Pueblo of Jemez community center. There were 34 attendees from 14 Pueblos and Tribes in New Mexico, Arizona, Minnesota, and Kansas. After the Water Blessing Ceremony by a local spiritual leader, the participants engaged in a conversation about Traditional Knowledge of Climate Change. Attendees discussed historical aspects dating back to Chacoan times, and other migrations following moisture, to more contemporary times and man-made contributions to climate change. This conversation included the intersection and clashing of Native and non-Native values, traditions and science, technology and nature, harmony and confusion, and belief and trust. Presenters included Dr. Micha Rahder (LSU), Dr. Kristine DeLong (LSU), Jacob Warner (LSU), Kim Merryman (OU SC-CSC), Dr. Dave DuBois (New Mexico State University), and Edward Schuyler (University of Arizona). As a result of this training, the **Southwest Water and Climate Change Working Group** was formed. This group is a consortium of nonprofits, academic institutions, and tribal environmental administrators. Their goal is to assist Tribes, individuals, and organizations in building resiliency against a changing climate.