



December 1, 2023

### **Climate Adaptation Specialist (New Mexico) position is now open**

The South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center (CASC) is seeking a Climate Adaptation Specialist to synthesize climate adaptation research and combine the information with our CASC climate projections, tools, or other relevant products for resource managers in New Mexico and West Texas. A major portion of this position is to provide relevant information to help natural and cultural resource managers prioritize management actions that can reduce risk in climate-related decisions at the U.S. Department of the Interior and partner agencies. The incumbent will be responsible for addressing climate change-related questions from our partners and helping to infuse the state-of-the-science into our partners' management planning and implementation. In the CASC's role as a boundary organization, the candidate selected for this position will also serve as one of our primary boundary spanners.

The selected candidate will join a diverse, interdisciplinary team dedicated to supporting the use of climate information in adaptation planning. The Climate Adaptation Specialist will be an employee of the University of Oklahoma **based in New Mexico**. Moderate travel within the state and across the rest of our region (Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana) is expected to meet with partners and continue building relationships with resource managers in the region.

#### Duties include:

- Collaborate with government, university, and non-governmental researchers to conduct science, data collection, data management, visualization, and product creation related to climate, climate impacts, and climate adaptation;
- Provide science-based information to our partners as they adapt to, respond to, and plan for climate change in their local jurisdictions;
- Work with our partners across the south-central US to identify information gaps, needs for science information, products, datasets, decision support tools, etc. to meet their needs. This work will be done in conjunction with federal/state/tribal agencies, NGOs, etc., as appropriate;
- Serve as a liaison between regional climate organizations to ensure services and science are not duplicated among programs;
- Communicate climate and climate-related topics to diverse audiences, including scientists and cultural and natural resource managers, in a variety of venues, including scientific conferences, professional meetings, and university classrooms;
- Conduct novel research and/or synthesize current research on impacts on and adaptation for ecological systems (e.g., aquatic or terrestrial, coastal or inland) in the face of climate change as time allows;
- Prepare reports, DOI science highlights, and other media regarding the science conducted by the South Central CASC;
- Supervise or mentor students and interns, as needed and appropriate; and
- Other duties as assigned and appropriate.

#### Skills:

- Ability to effectively communicate scientific/technical information in a manner useable by non-experts
- Demonstrated ability to be highly organized, handle multiple projects, complete work within deadlines, and create and deliver effective presentations
- Willingness and temperament to work efficiently in a remote teamwork setting, to complete tasks with high-quality work, and to coordinate efforts and share results with team members frequently
- Experience in climate-related data analysis
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision in a responsible manner
- Ability to work as a team with staff that are located across the region



#### Other Requirements:

- Must have a valid driver's license and be able to pass a background check
- Must be able to remain in a stationary position 80% of the time
- Operate a computer and other office products (e.g., printer, copier, etc.)
- Must be able to drive during daytime or in low-light conditions, typically up to 2-3 hours at a time
- Occasionally move equipment or materials weighing up to 40 pounds within or between buildings for workshops or other needs

#### Preferred skills, but not required:

- Professional working proficiency in Spanish
- Experience in management of climate or environmental data
- Familiarity with environmental data formats
- Intermediate programming in R, Python, or similar language
- Data analysis experience applying college-level statistics
- Experience working with partners on actionable science
- Experience writing proposals, governmental reports, or publicity materials
- Experience in vulnerability assessments, climate adaptation planning, or small-group facilitation
- Proficiency with computer applications, including PowerPoint, Word, and Excel (or Mac OS equivalents)
- Experience communicating technical or scientific information to government officials, environmental officials, or tribal elders

#### Required Education

- PhD in ecology, hydrology, physical geography, climate science (broadly interpreted), environmental science, or related fields, OR
- Masters Degree with at least 5 years of experience in ecology, hydrology, physical geography, climate science (broadly interpreted), environmental science, or related fields

Salary range: \$55,000 to \$70,000 dependent on qualifications

#### Application instructions:

- Send the required materials as PDF documents to [emmakuster@ou.edu](mailto:emmakuster@ou.edu) by January 31.
  - o Cover Letter
  - o Curriculum Vitae
  - o 1-page statement on actionable science
  - o ½ page statement on broader impacts
  - o List of contact information for 4 references
  - o Writing Sample – can be a chapter of a dissertation, a published or submitted manuscript in which you are lead author, a government report in which you are lead author, a book chapter in which you are lead author, or an essay in which you are the sole author

#### Center Members

U.S. Geological Survey • University of Oklahoma • The Chickasaw Nation • The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Texas Tech University • Louisiana State University • Oklahoma State University • University of New Mexico

