Climate Science Center Reviews

Administrative Structure

- Cornell Human Dimensions Unit and AFS partner on proposal
- USGS establishes Cooperative Agreement with Cornell through the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) process
- AFS Roles:
  - Manage logistics of reviews, review team solicitation and selection (with review team chair), design review, facilitate process, support review team development of report, edit, design and publish final report
- Cornell Roles:
  - Overall contract management, on-site partnership dialogue, web survey of science producers and users (partners)

Review Components

- On-site review – addressing four topics of review
  - 7-person team; USGS scientist as chair, CSC-Director, and 5 outside members
  - National solicitation and selection process
  - Review design inspired by ACCCNRS report
- Partnership assessment – Cornell team
  - (See later slides)
- Administrative and operational review – NCCCWSC staff
  - Funds management, process, etc.

Schedule of CSC Reviews

2015:

- Alaska CSC – University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Anchorage, AK
- Northwest CSC – Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR
- Southeast CSC – North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

2016

- Southwest CSC – University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
- North Central CSC – Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

2017

- Northeast CSC – University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA
- Pacific Islands CSC – University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI
- South Central – University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Basic Review Design

- Utilized ACCCNRS report as template: institutional development, actionable science, capacity building, partnerships
- 2 ½ day process moved from general architecture of CSC to more specific discussions of research development and utilization
- Established closed dialogues with CSC-federal and CSC-university leads.

Partnership Assessment

- Who is partnering with the CSCs?
- How are they engaged?
- What benefits do they get?
- What barriers do they face?
- How do they contribute to
  - Co-production of science?
  - Actionable science?
- How do CSCs fulfill functions of boundary organizations?

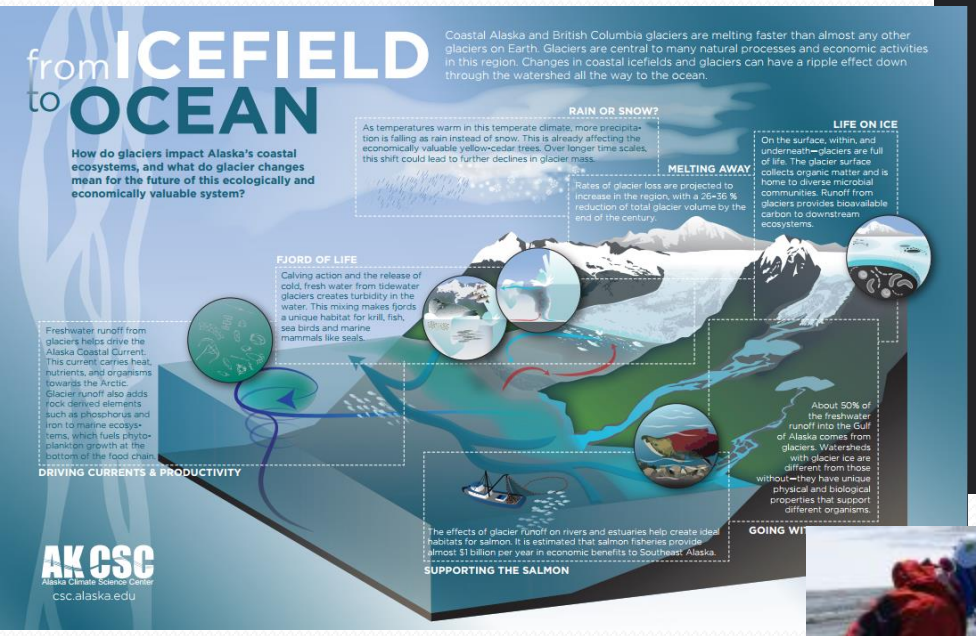
Focus Groups

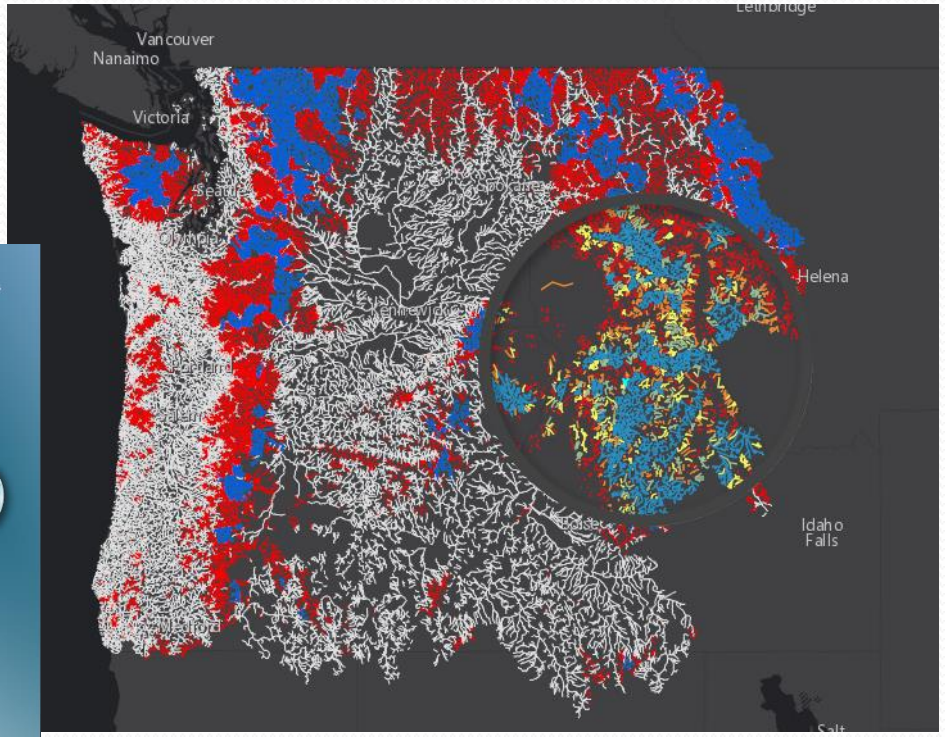
- Two groups during each CSC site visit
  - Science producers
  - Science users
- Two-hour sessions
- 72 participants

Web-based Survey

- Partners and potential partners
  - CSC contacts
  - LCC staff and steering committee members
  - AFWA Climate Science Committee
- 670 individuals for 3 CSCs
- Implementation April 11-May 6
- Nonrespondent phone survey

Initial Observations from the CSC's





◀ Participants of GOI Alaska carefully approach a crevasse on the Gulkana Glacier. During the 12 day program, girls carry out several research projects on the ice.

Disclaimer – *any observations by DJA at this time may not reflect the consensus of the review panels.*

Initial Observation #1

- Develop a better understanding of mutual interests as well as unique drivers
  - Construct of federal-university partnership has inherently different cultural drivers.
  - Good working relationships exist for some CSC's based upon solid personal/professional relationships.

Initial Observation #2

- Stakeholder Advisory Committees (SAC) vary considerably in construct, engagement and utility
  - CSC SAC's highly variable in structure and management
  - Although Terms of Reference (TOR) exist they seemingly were poorly understood.
  - Disconnect between SAC membership composition and expected role
  - Minimizes the role of NGO's and university researchers who can have valuable input (although participation is allowed)

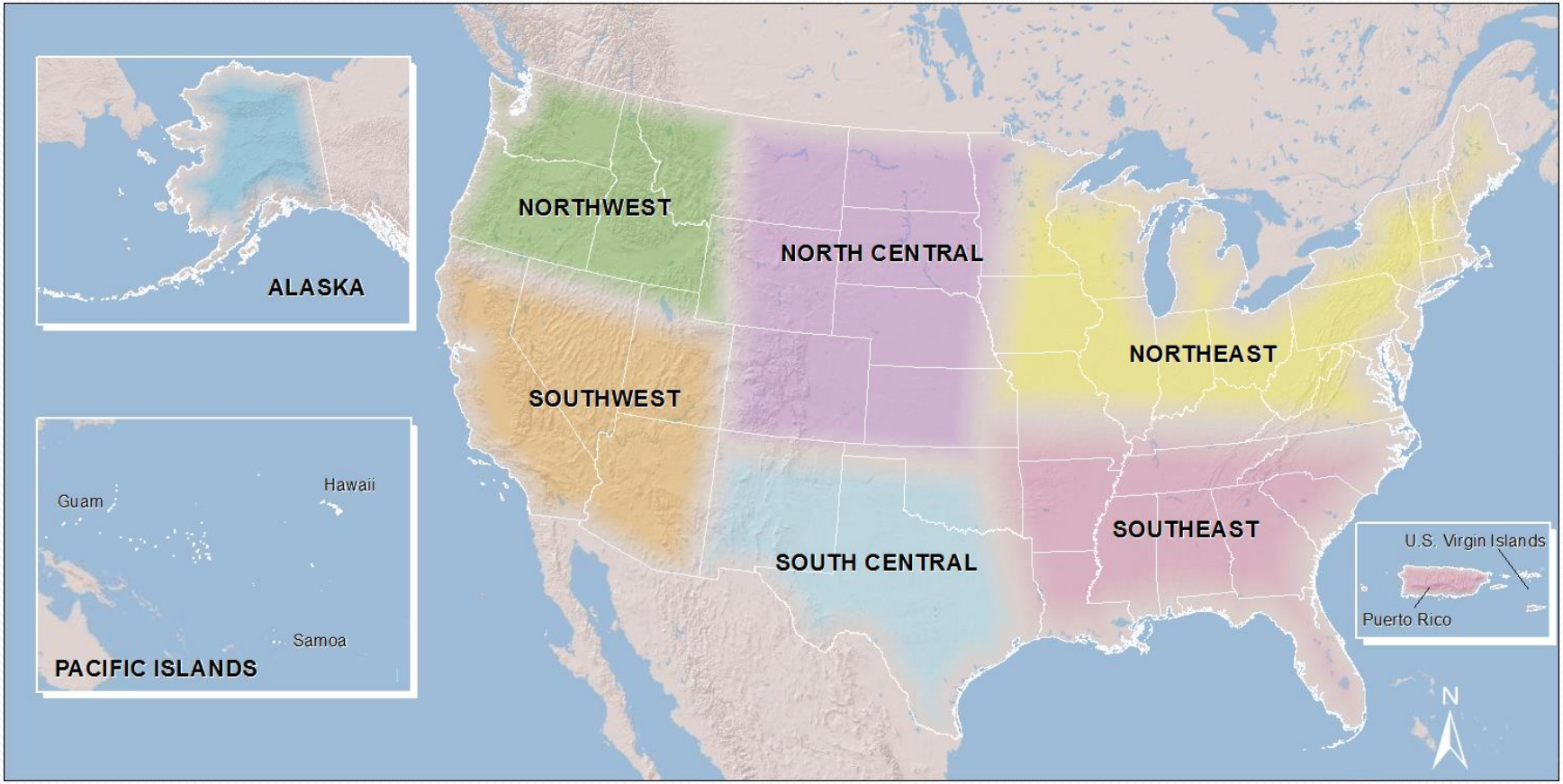
Initial Observation #3

- Consortium structure and positioning of CSC within the university are important
  - Selection of university host department has implications for research priorities, partnerships, etc.
  - Consortiums need to add value without diluting.
  - Recognize the “2-hour drive rule” for research.

Process Improvements

- Longer planning horizon
- Better specifications of required supportive documentation, roles and responsibilities with host CSC (federal and university)
- Expand pre-visit conveyance of CSC basic information to review team (expanded webinars)
- Schedule (and adhere to schedule) review team writing time while on site

Round 2 Schedule



2016-2017 Schedule

Based on late October- early November time frame. Notes that hosts leaning towards early 2017:

April – Establish on-site review dates
May – Solicit review team members
July 1 – Finalize review teams
August – Initial calls with review teams
Late September – early October – CSC webinars

NORTH CENTRAL CLIMATE SCIENCE CENTER

Southwest Climate Science Center