

Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center Cycle 2, Year 3 Annual Report

1 June 2026

SUBMITTED TO:

U.S. Geological Survey National Climate Adaptation
Science Center

SUBMITTED BY:

University of Washington, on behalf of the Northwest
Climate Adaptation Science Center Consortium (University
of Washington (host), Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians,
Boise State University, Northwest Indian College, Oregon
State University, Portland State University, University
of Montana, Washington State University, Western
Washington University)



ADMINISTRATIVE

Award Recipient

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Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center: Host, Cycle 2

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PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

This report provides a summary of activities completed by the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center's (NW CASC) Consortium during the third year of its second hosting cycle, which will be referred to as "Year 3" throughout the remainder of this report. The Consortium completed the agreed-upon deliverables for its third year, which are described throughout this report and include accomplishments in science, training and capacity-building, and communications. In Year 3, the NW CASC Consortium:

- Funded thirteen research projects in support of the NW CASC's *Science Agenda*, involving nine NW CASC Research Fellows, four Faculty Fellows, and a diverse suite of partners from federal, state and Tribal resource management agencies;
- Provided NW CASC Research Fellows with actionable science skills through a capacity-building curriculum developed and coordinated by the University Host, and provided a two-day actionable science workshop for Faculty Fellows;
- Held four, virtual information sessions for NW CASC programming: welcome calls for the 2025-26 Research Fellows and the 2026 Faculty Fellows and information sessions for those interested in applying for the 2026-27 Research Fellowship Program and 2027 Faculty Fellowship Program;
- Organized visits to Consortium partners University of Washington and Western Washington University, which included seminar presentations as well as visits with Consortium faculty, staff and students;
- Planned a *Deep Dive* into the science and management of the ecological impacts of the loss of winter in the Northwest, bringing together 75 natural resource managers and scientists to identify actionable science and co-production priorities;

- Hosted two undergraduate interns focused on invasive species and communications in summer 2025;
- Began hosting three undergraduate interns focused on social science, invasive species and communications in summer 2026;
- Strengthened cross-CASC collaborations through participating in regular network-wide meetings of the CASC University Directors, Deputy/Assistant Directors and communications staff; and
- Started planning CASC Network Meeting, which will be held in Seattle in September 2026. As part of this effort, the NW CASC Consortium organized a cross-CASC advisory committee for input on meeting goals, agenda and activities.

ORGANIZATION & APPROACH

The NW CASC Consortium is led by a Consortium Leadership Team (CLT) composed of the University Director, Deputy Director and co-PIs from each of the Consortium universities (Tables 1 and 2). The CLT collaboratively selects Research Fellowship projects in consultation with the NW CASC USGS Director and oversees award and sub-award administration. The University Director convenes the CLT for virtual meetings roughly every other month and is in frequent contact with the CLT regarding Consortium operations, strategic opportunities and Consortium-member specific management issues. The University Director and Deputy Director oversee, manage and supervise NW CASC-funded (“core”) personnel at the University of Washington (Table 1).

Table 1. Individuals funded by the NW CASC USGS award at the host institution (UW) and sub-award institutions. Projected FTEs relative to 12 months unless noted.

INSTITUTION	PERSONNEL
<i>Core NW CASC Personnel</i> – Oversee and complete NW CASC Consortium activities.	
University of Washington	Meade Krosby (University Director, 0.3 FTE), Anima Kalafatis (Deputy University Director, 1 FTE) Darcy Gould (Communications Manager, 1 FTE), Cristina Urrutia, (Awards Manager, 0.5 FTE), Jenny Dettmann (Program Coordinator, 0.41 FTE), Eva Colberg (Research Scientist, 0.5 FTE)
<i>NW CASC Research Fellows and Faculty Fellows (Consortium partner universities)</i> – Selected through a competitive process to conduct research that aligns with NW CASC science priorities (NW CASC fellows at UW are listed in Table 3). Note: Reported FTEs reflect total support provided by the NW CASC, including support projected for summer/fall 2026.	
Western Washington University	Brooke Bain-White (1 FTE for 7 months), Sam Kastner (1 FTE for 0.9 months)

Washington State University	Kelechi Ibeh (1 FTE for 9 months)
University of Montana	Jeremy Brooks (1 FTE for 6 months)
Portland State University	Alex Bentley (0.34 FTE for 9 month; 0.23 for 3 months) , Katie Kearney (0.45 FTE for 12 months)
Oregon State University	Jane Van Gunst (0.4 FTE for 3 months), Rebecca Hutchinson (1 FTE for 0.25 months)
Boise State University	Morgan Calahan (0 FTE; funds supported research costs), Jay Carlisle (1 FTE for .775 months)
<i>NW CASC Consortium Leadership Team (Consortium Co-PIs) – Provide strategic leadership, act as NW CASC liaisons to Consortium institutions and administer sub-awards.</i>	
Western Washington University	John Rybczyk (1 FTE for 1 week)
Washington State University	Jan Boll (1 FTE for 0.5 week), Julie Padowski (1 FTE for 0.5 week),
University of Montana	Solomon Dobrowski (1 FTE for 1 week)
Portland State University	Paul Loikith (1 FTE for 1 week)
Oregon State University	Selina Heppell (1 FTE for 1 week)
Northwest Indian College	Emma Norman (1 FTE for 1 week)
Boise State University	Kelly Hopping (1 FTE for 1 week)

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians	Becky Jones (0.06 FTE for 12 months)
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Table 2. Contributed service not funded by award: NW CASC Fellow Advisors.

<i>NW CASC Fellow Advisors</i> – Advise NW CASC fellows on research projects, support administration and compliance of award.	
Western Washington University	Leo Bodensteiner
Washington State University	Austin Himes
University of Washington	Steven Roberts, Jennifer Ruesink
University of Montana	Lisa Eby
Oregon State University	Clinton Epps, Rebecca Terry
Portland State University	Andrés Holz, Catherine de Rivera
Boise State University	Stephanie Galla

Table 3. Leveraged support from other resources.

INSTITUTION	PERSONNEL
<i>NW CASC Research Fellows and Faculty Fellows (Consortium host)</i> – Selected through a competitive process to conduct research that aligns with NW CASC science priorities (fellows at Consortium universities listed in Table 1). <i>Note:</i> Reported FTEs reflect total support provided by the NW CASC, including support projected for summer/fall 2026.	
University of Washington	Maria Garcia (.5 FTE for 6 months), Zachary Bengtsson (0.5 FTE for 9 months), Claire Willing (0.5 FTE for 1 month)
<i>NW CASC Research Fellow alumni supported for contributing to the 2026 Deep Dive process.</i>	

University of Washington	Michael Buck (50 hours), Priscilla Sperandio (50 hours)
Western Washington University	Alicia McGrew (100 hours)
Boise State University	Will Loftin (100 hours), Helina Alvarez (100 hours)
Oregon State University	Ella Gray (50 hours)

RESULTS

PARTNERSHIPS

The NW CASC's goal is to respond to high-priority natural and cultural resource management challenges and foster substantive, sustained engagement between scientists and managers. During Year 3, the Consortium focused on enhancing partnerships between the NW CASC and NW CASC external partners; between the NW CASC and host institution programs; and between the NW CASC and other federal programs.

NW CASC EXTERNAL PARTNERS. NW CASC Advisory Committee: During Year 3, NW CASC personnel continued to participate in the USGS-organized NW CASC Advisory Committee meetings, which provide an opportunity to build new and deepen existing relationships with both the agencies and individuals represented on the Committee. At the Committee's virtual meetings, NW CASC University Director Krosby and Deputy Director Kalafatis provided updates on the Consortium's programs.

HOST INSTITUTION PROGRAMS. Climate Impacts Group: During Year 3, the NW CASC continued its partnership with the Climate Impacts Group at the University of Washington. The NW CASC provides Climate Impacts Group staff with information about NW CASC activities, products and funding opportunities for distribution to their scientific partners and stakeholders. In turn, Climate Impacts Group personnel deliver insights about regional science needs to NW CASC leadership.

OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS. NOAA Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessment (RISA) Program: During Year 3, the NW CASC maintained its strong linkage with the Northwest RISA (formerly the NW Climate Resilience Collaborative), through NW CASC University Director Krosby's participation as a collaborator. In addition, NW CASC University Deputy Director, Anima Kalafatis, continued her ongoing collaboration with the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments.

SCIENCE

NW CASC FELLOWS' RESEARCH. In Year 3, the University Consortium finished supporting 15 research projects that began in Year 2 and began funding 13 new research projects. These 28 projects supported the science priorities identified in the *NW CASC Science Agenda* and the *Deep Dive Actionable Science Agendas*. The projects funded in Year 3 include:

2025-26 Research Fellow Projects

- Can Lakes Serve as Summertime Refugia for Climate-sensitive Bull Trout?
- What are the Ecological Mechanisms Behind Conifer Decline in Southwest Oregon?
- Using Non-invasive Measures of Stress and Microclimate to Assess How Landscape and Habitat Shape Refugia for the American Pika
- How can Wildfire Management Promote Fire Mosaics in Riparian Forests and Increase Stream Ecosystem Resiliency?
- Assessing Western Sword Fern Microhabitat for Northern Red-legged Frogs: A Possible Refuge in a Changing Climate
- How do Forest Management Strategies Shape the Future of Ecosystem Services in the Pacific Northwest Under Climate Change?
- Fish and Crustacean Response to Native and Non-native Eelgrass
- Estimating Remaining Genetic Diversity in Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse to Inform Next Steps in Conservation
- How do Environmental Stressors and Restoration Practices Impact Genetic Variation in Olympia oysters?

2026 Faculty Fellow Projects

- Can Post-fire Fungi Help Forests Recover After Stand-replacing Fire?
- What do they do without their Namesake Tree? Mapping Suitable Habitat for Idaho's Pinyon Jays in a Pinyon-Sparse State
- How can Machine Learning Tools and Citizen Science Data Support Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan?
- How do Long Wave Dynamics and Temperature Variability Affect Clam Gardens in the Northwest?

2026 DEEP DIVE. *Loss of Winter: Managing the Ecological Effects of Shorter and Warmer Winters in the Northwest.* The University Consortium convened 75 natural resource managers and scientists from across the Northwest in a five-month, virtual working group process to review what is known and unknown about managing the ecological impacts of shorter and warmer winters in the Northwest. Expected products from this *Deep Dive*, to be released in August 2026, include three synthesis products (State of the Science, State of the Practice, State of the Policy), an actionable science agenda with considerations for its implementation, and a tools database. The actionable science agenda will include research and capacity-building needs for informing management of shorter and warmer Northwest winters.

SCIENCE AWARDS. Claire Willing, University of Washington assistant professor of environmental and forest sciences and 2026 Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center Faculty Fellow, was named a 2026 Ecological Society of America Early Career Fellow. This program recognizes scientists for contributions to advancing and applying ecological knowledge within eight years of completing a doctorate. Claire's research focuses on how microbes respond, and help plants cope with, environmental change.

CAPACITY BUILDING

The NW CASC aims to build a community of practice of researchers and managers engaged in climate adaptation-oriented work and to foster their leadership in science-based resource management. Efforts in Year 3 were designed to advance novel research and promote the use of existing knowledge in support of climate adaptation decision making. To enhance researchers' proficiency in co-producing knowledge, the Consortium facilitated professional development opportunities through the education, training and capacity-building activities described below.

NW CASC FELLOWS PROGRAMS. Research Fellowship Program: In Year 3, the University Consortium supported nine Research Fellows, selected through a competitive process in Year 2. Research Fellows represented all seven Consortium universities. Their research, described in the Science section above, spans Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Western Montana and Northern California. All 2025-2026 Research Fellows participated in a University of Washington graduate seminar, *The Theory and Practice of Linking Knowledge with Action to Address Modern Environmental Challenges*. During the seminar, Research Fellows learned key theories and best practices for producing actionable science. They also met with practitioners from academic, government and non-government entities working on actionable science to ground their learning in real-world, applied contexts. Fellows participated in monthly video cohort training calls covering topics including career pathways, building networks for co-production, communicating science to policy makers and journalists, and developing compelling scientific presentations. **Faculty Fellowship Program:** NW CASC's second cohort of four Faculty Fellows initiated their projects and the first cohort completed their projects in Year 3. Faculty Fellows across the two cohorts represented six of the seven Consortium universities with research spanning Idaho, Western Montana, Oregon and Washington described in the Science section above. Faculty Fellowship activities are modeled on the Research Fellowship Program but are considerably tailored to the cohort's expressed interests. During a two-day, in-person workshop held at UW in February, the Faculty Fellows learned about and contributed to discussions about the need for and pursuit of actionable science in their projects, how to create useful products, cultivating transdisciplinary knowledge, the historical and legal context of working with Tribes and best practices for working with them, effective facilitation practices and supporting co-productive engagements in academia. Faculty Fellows also participated in a cohort call on pursuing funding support for engagement efforts.

SUPPORTING THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE IN ACTIONABLE SCIENCE. The University Consortium organized a Deep Dive virtual workshop with over 75 participants from federal and state agencies, Tribal governments, universities, NGOs and other entities over a five-month working group process to help create a community of practice for managing the ecological impacts of warmer and shorter winters. Six Research Fellows from two cohorts (2023–2024 and 2024–2025) participated as research assistants in the Year 3 Deep Dive. These fellows supported working groups of managers and scientists, building skills in collaborative, transdisciplinary research and synthesizing different types of knowledge (literature, survey responses, meeting summaries) into key findings and actionable science recommendations.

COMMUNICATIONS

During Year 3, the NW CASC University Consortium communications program maintained its established communications channels, while continuing to build processes and products to support its cycle 2 programs.

COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS & PRODUCTS. **Website Updates:** Kept the NW CASC website up to date with the Center's most-recent projects, publications, webinars and announcements. Updated language and organization across the NW CASC website to help audiences understand NW CASC programming. Added a new "Get Involved" page. **Newsletter:** Distributed five issues of the *NW CASC Connections* newsletter to connect audiences with NW CASC science, products, opportunities and resources. Sent an additional six, special announcements with time-sensitive updates through the NW CASC newsletter platform. **Informational Webinars:** Hosted welcome calls for the new cohort of Research Fellows (2025-26), starting in the fall, and the new cohort of 2026 Faculty Fellows starting in January. Hosted information sessions for those interested in next year's Research Fellowship Program (2026-27) and Faculty Fellowship Program (2027). **Social Media:** Posted and reposted more than 20 times on LinkedIn and also shared announcements on our Bluesky account.

COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT. **NW CASC Research Fellows:** Provided individual communications guidance; promoted Research Fellows' science through NW CASC channels; shared relevant funding and training opportunities; and led a cohort call about effective meeting planning and facilitation. **NW CASC Faculty Fellowship Program:** Led session on meeting facilitation during a Faculty Fellows' cohort call. **USGS-funded Principal Investigators (PIs):** Attended project kick-off and check-in meetings with USGS-funded PIs to discuss project-specific communication opportunities and shared science spotlights on PIs' research through the *NW CASC Connections* newsletter. **Undergraduate Communications Support:** Selected and supervised a communications intern throughout summer 2025, and began hosting a communications intern in summer 2026. **Northwest Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change (NW RISCC) Network:** Supported the NW RISCC Network, a program of the NW CASC, through hosting virtual events and providing graphic design and strategic communications support.

CASC NETWORK COMMUNICATIONS. **USGS Highlights:** Submitted routine advanced notifications (formerly highlights) to inform USGS of upcoming, high-profile activities within the NW CASC network. **Climate Adaptation Insights Newsletter:** Provided regular submissions for consideration in the Climate Adaptation Insights newsletter. **CASC Network Communication Calls:** Took over organizing and hosting these monthly calls from the National CASC communications team, due to capacity constraints.

COMMUNICATIONS EVALUATION. Conducted evaluation of communications channels and efforts, including the NW CASC website, LinkedIn, newsletter and webinars.

OUTREACH

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed publications featuring NW CASC-funded research by NW CASC Consortium Leadership Team members (*), Consortium Host Staff (%), Research Fellows (+), and CAP Fellows (#) include:

Colberg, E.%, S. Kalafatis*, D.M. Bell, M.H. Chang, P. Freeland, M. Horst, **W.L. Loftin+, C.T. Nolan+, S. Vieira+, S. Yegorova+,** and **M. Krosby*.** 2026. Synthesizing ecological impacts and management responses from the 2021 Pacific Northwest heat wave to prepare for future extreme heat events. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* 107:E396–E403.

Jantsch, S.+, J.M. Helfield, L. Bodensteiner, K.L. Sobocinski, and A.G. Bunn. 2025. A characterization of hyporheic temperatures with applications for salmon habitat restoration in a thermally impaired river. *Northwest Science* 98.

Hoecker, T.J.#, K.T. Davis, C. Littlefield, J. Chandler, S. Parks, A. Maguire, K. Kemp, **S. Yegorova+**, and **S. Dobrowski***. 2026. Alternative future vegetation pathways reveal potential transformations of western US ecosystems. *Global Change Biology* 32:e70795.

Sorel, M.H.+, R.W. Zabel, A.R. Murdoch, and S.J. Converse. 2026. Management strategy evaluation for salmon habitat restoration and hatchery supplementation. *Conservation Science and Practice*:e70309.

Yazzie, K., D. Craig, K. Lynn, K. Whyte, N. Cooley, K. Cozzetto, J. Maldonado, and **M. Krosby***. 2026. Improving climate services for Tribes: Recommendations from a national survey of service users and providers. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*:BAMS-D-24-0182.1.

PRESENTATIONS

In Year 3, NW CASC Consortium personnel and researchers delivered 20 presentations on NW CASC-funded research to diverse audiences during conferences hosted by regional, national and international organizations, and state and federal agency events and workshops. For example, these included Goose Lake Fishes Working Group Meeting, Society of American Foresters National Convention, Panthera Small Cats Symposium, The Society for Freshwater Science Annual Meeting, Idaho Bird Conservation Partnership Meeting, and the USDA Forest Service Targeted Grazing Summit.

MEDIA COVERAGE

In Year 3, NW CASC research was highlighted in multiple news stories, including:

Nov 14, 2025 | Seattle Times: [Extreme heatwave causes immediate, widespread mortality of forest canopy foliage, highlighting modes of forest sensitivity to extreme heat](#) featuring 2022 Research Fellow Adam Sibley's paper

Dec 9, 2025 | BSU News: [Sheep vs. cheatgrass: Boise State's new battle for Idaho's rangelands](#) featuring 2024 Research Fellow Khloe Walters's project

Dec 9, 2025 | Washington's National Park Fund website: [Returning a Meadow: Research in Action at Mount Rainier National Park](#) featuring 2024 Research Fellow Allie Howell's project

Feb 26, 2026 | UW Daily blog: [Canada lynx: The unfortunate fate of a specialist species](#) featuring 2017 Research Fellow Travis King's project)

Mar 24, 2025 | Public News Service: [Study: Pacific Northwest needs to prepare for extreme heat events](#) featuring a paper synthesizing extreme heat deep dive findings. This story was picked up by outlets including [Big News Network](#), [NonStop Local \(serving Tri Cities & Yakima\)](#), and [Northwest Prime Time](#).

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Table 1. Engagement Summary by Organization Type

Type	Fellowship Projects		Deep Dive	
	Orgs	Projects	Orgs	People
Academia	4	4	8	21
Collaboration	1	1	0	0
Federal (DOI)	4	7	3	5
Federal (non-DOI)	1	4	3	9
Local	2	2	0	0
NGO	0	0	8	8
Private	0	1	0	0
State Agency	13	14	7	19
Tribal	5	4	12	14

Research supported by the NW CASC in Year 3 was conducted in close partnership with natural resource managers. NW CASC programs engaged with 61 different organizations in Year 3, including thirteen Tribes or Tribal organizations. Table 1 provides a summary of engagement by organization type. Projects funded by NW CASC's fellowship programs (nine newly funded Research Fellowship projects and four newly funded Faculty Fellowship projects)

partnered with 30 organizations. Fellows communicated extensively with resource managers and other partners through regular meetings, organized workshops, presentations and consultations through one-on-one meetings, phone conversations and email communications. This collaboration with resource agencies has shaped research questions, methodologies and analysis and given fellows first-hand experience collaborating with resource managers outside their university setting.

The 2026 *Deep Dive* (described under 'Science', above) engaged over 75 individuals representing more than 40 organizations to assess the knowledge and capacity needs in the region related to responding to the ecological impacts of warmer and shorter winters. Scientists participated from universities and agencies including Oregon State University, Washington State University, University of Washington, Portland State University, Western Washington University, U.S. Geological Survey and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Natural resource managers participated from Tribal, federal, state and other agencies, including the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Nez Perce Tribe, as well as non-governmental organizations such as The Nature Conservancy. Many participants joined one or more working groups examining the state of knowledge around biophysical, management and practice, and policy and human dimensions of the issue. Each working group was composed of 12–20 participants, led by NW CASC personnel and supported by six NW CASC fellows as research assistants. Each working group convened monthly between March–May to review progress towards knowledge syntheses and identify gaps in knowledge to inform a cumulative June *Deep Dive* workshop.

OTHER PRODUCTS FROM NW CASC-FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

During Year 3, in addition to peer-reviewed publications, NW CASC Consortium-funded research projects also produced:

PRODUCTS. Co-produced implementation plan to translocate fishers to an unoccupied portion of their historical distribution including a science synthesis, evaluation of risk and refugia and details of agreed-upon protocols and processes for introduction. **RESEARCH PROJECT:** Collaborative Planning for the Reintroduction of Fishers to Southwest Oregon in a Changing Climate

PRODUCTS. Forty mapping datasets relevant for identifying climate refugia to support management of species of concern in the Pacific Northwest integrated into partner's existing management workflows through two workshops. **RESEARCH PROJECT:** Co-Developing a Tool for Identifying Potential Climatic Refugia for Species in the Pacific Northwest

PRODUCTS. Apps, downloadable data, and training resources for participants in Washington's Voluntary Stewardship Program to assess the impact of conservation practices on the health of habitats and ecosystems. **RESEARCH PROJECT:** Building Capacity to Track Ecosystem Health Across Washington State in a Changing Climate

PRODUCTS. Visualization tool for exploring forest ecosystem service tradeoffs associated with management scenarios in Olympic Experimental State Forest. **RESEARCH PROJECT:** How do Forest Management Strategies Shape the Future of Ecosystem Services in the Pacific Northwest Under Climate Change?

PRODUCTS. Maps, datasets and predictions of stream-riparian ecosystem post-fire responses in Idaho and western Montana with tailored guidance for each project partner informing their use in management. **RESEARCH PROJECT:** How can Wildfire Management Promote Fire Mosaics in Riparian Forests and Increase Stream Ecosystem Resiliency?

PRODUCTS. Maps documenting current locations and predicting future changes in the distribution of western sword fern serving as potential habitat for the northern red-legged frog in Metro Burlington Creek Forest Natural Area. **RESEARCH PROJECT:** Assessing Western Sword Fern Microhabitat for Northern Red-legged Frogs: A Possible Refuge in a Changing Climate

CONGRESSIONAL OUTREACH

During Year 3, the NW CASC continued to participate in the cross-CASC effort to provide outreach and education to Congressional offices about the role and activities of the CASCs and the expressed science and capacity needs of CASC stakeholders regarding climate adaptation for natural and cultural resources.

CROSS-CASC CONTRIBUTIONS

In Year 3, the NW CASC collaborated with working groups across the CASC network on a range of initiatives. The NW CASC communications manager continued to participate in monthly cross-CASC communications calls. In fall 2026, the communications manager began coordinating and facilitating these calls in response to reduced capacity of the National CASC communications team.

The NW CASC University Director continued participating in monthly meetings of regional CASC university directors, monthly meetings for university directors and NCASC leadership, quarterly meetings for all regional CASC university directors and deputy/assistant directors. The University Director also co-lead the cross-Consortia federal relations workgroup.

The NW CASC Deputy University Director continued participating in regional Deputy University Director calls, quarterly meetings for all regional CASC university directors and deputy/assistant directors and became a co-lead of the CASC evaluation workgroup.

The NW CASC team had four representatives attend the 2025 All CASC meeting held in Juneau, AK. The entire team has also started organizing, planning and setting up to host the 2026 All-CASC meeting in Seattle, WA this September.

NEXT STEPS

During Year 4 of the NW CASC award, the NW CASC Consortium anticipates engaging in the following activities:

CENTER & CONSORTIUM OPERATIONS. The Consortium will continue regular meetings and communication among NW CASC University and USGS staff and with the NW CASC Consortium Leadership Team. **TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT.** The Consortium will continue to work collaboratively to support Tribal adaptation work in the Northwest through its partnership with NWIC and ATNI and through engagement with Tribes across all Consortium programs. **SCIENCE FOR MANAGEMENT.** Year 3 Consortium-funded science projects will be completed during summer/fall 2026. Year 4 Research Fellowship science projects have been identified and will begin during summer/fall 2026, while Faculty Fellowship science projects will be selected in summer 2026 and begin in January 2027. A new NW CASC Climate Adaptation Postdoctoral Fellow began work in summer 2025 and will continue work in the cross-CASC *Future of Species Range Shifts* postdoctoral cohort. The Consortium will also scope, plan and implement the 2026-2027 *Deep Dive*. **NW CASC FELLOWS.** The eleventh cohort of NW CASC Research Fellows will begin cohort activities during fall 2026. This cohort includes two MS candidates, four PhD candidates and three postdoctoral fellows spread across six Consortium universities. The second cohort of NW CASC Faculty Fellows will start their fellowships in January 2027. **CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES.** During Year 4, the NW CASC will convene the 2026-2027 *Deep Dive* workshop. The *Deep Dive* workshop will synthesize the state of knowledge and enable participant co-development of an actionable science agenda for addressing an emerging climate risk in the Northwest. During Year 4, the Consortium also anticipates hosting new actionable science webinar series. **COMMUNICATION.** During Year 4, the NW CASC will continue to maintain internal communications and connect its audiences to NW CASC-funded science, resources and opportunities through up-to-date, clear and accessible communication channels. **NATIONAL NETWORK.** During Year 4, the NW CASC will host the 2026 All-CASC meeting in Seattle, WA (September 14-18). The NW CASC will also continue to participate in CASC network university leadership collaborations. The NW CASC communications manager will participate in the monthly cross-CASC communications calls. **CONGRESSIONAL OUTREACH.** During Year 4, the NW CASC will continue to participate in the cross-CASC effort to provide outreach and education to Congressional offices about the role and activities of the CASCs and the expressed science and capacity needs of CASC stakeholders regarding climate adaptation for natural and cultural resources.

APPENDIX: PRESENTATIONS

Selected formal presentations delivered by the NW CASC Consortium Leadership Team (*), Research Fellows (+), and NW CASC Fellow Advisors (#) include:

(July 31, 2025 - July 31, 2026)

Brooks, J.+ May 2026. *Investigating spatial and temporal dynamics in the “fire pulse” across 70 years of monitoring freshwater ecosystems*. 2026 Society for Freshwater Science Annual Meeting. Spokane, Washington.

Calahan, M.+ Jan 2026. *Assessing range-wide diversity and population structure in Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse using whole genome resequencing*. Washington Sage and Sharp-tailed Grouse Annual Workshop. Virtual.

Calahan, M.+ Dec 2025. *Using genomic tools to assess diversity and diet in Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus columbianus*)*. Idaho Bird Conservation Partnership Meeting. Idaho Fish and Game Headquarters, Boise, Idaho.

Calahan, M.+ Oct 2025. *Assessing Range-wide Diversity and Population Structure in Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Using Whole Genome Resequencing*. The Wildlife Society Meeting. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Carey, K.+ Oct 2025. *Frequent use of terrestrial prey by redband trout in drought-prone Great Basin ecosystem*. Goose Lake Fishes Working Group meeting. Lakeview, Oregon.

Carey, K.+ May 2026. *Redband trout growth potential informs habitat quality in drought-prone Great Basin ecosystem*. Oregon Chapter/ Western Division American Fisheries Society Conference. Portland, Oregon.

Chiasson, K.+ Oct 2025. *Understanding and validating bluff stratigraphy*. Meeting with interest holders specializing in the glacial history of Puget Sound, including USGS, WWU, Herrera Environmental Consultants, Landau Associates, LLC, Tulalip Natural Resources, and Qwg Applied Geology. Tulalip, Washington.

Genzoli, L.+ Jun 2025. *Benthic cyanobacterial proliferations drive anatoxin production throughout the Klamath River watershed, California, USA*. Keynote Address, 2025 Society of Freshwater Science meeting. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Gray, Ella R.+, B. Fallon, D.M. Bell, M. Powers. Oct 2025. *Tracking the forest’s giants: demographics and dynamics of large trees at Mount Rainier National Park*. Society of American Foresters National Convention. Hartford, Connecticut.

Hopping, K.A.* Feb 2026. *Assessing the potential of sheep targeted grazing as a tool for cheatgrass management and ecosystem restoration*. USDA Forest Service Targeted Grazing Summit.

Hopping, K.A.*, M. Sorrentino, **K. Walter+**, A. Hulet, R. Kehler, S. Arispe, B. Swette, and M.-A. de Graaff. Feb 2026. *Social-ecological perspectives on cheatgrass targeted grazing with sheep*. Society for Range Management Annual Meeting. Monterey, California.

Jantsch, S.+ Nov 2025. *Hyporheic upwellings, cool-water refuge, and hope for the Chinook salmon*. Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission 2025 Tribal Habitat Conference. Sequim, Washington.

Jantsch, S.+ Nov 2025. *Hyporheic upwellings, cool-water refuge, and hope for the Chinook salmon*. 2025 Salmon Summit. Bellingham, Washington.

Kearney, K.+ Feb 2026. *Assessing western sword fern (Polystichum munitum) microhabitat for northern red-legged frogs (Rana aurora): a possible refuge in a changing climate*. Poster presentation. Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society 2026 Annual Conference. Seaside, Oregon.

Krosby, M.* *Introduction to the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center*. Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA. January 2026.

Krosby, M.*, L. Svancara. *Introduction to the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center*. University of Washington. Seattle, WA. January 2026.

Morris, J.E.+, MM Laughlin, LK Rangel-Parra, S Saenz Kruszka, KH Braziunas, DC Donato, JS Halofsky, CL Raymond, and BJ Harvey. Dec 2025. *Post-fire reburn potential and stand development trajectories of wet temperate forests in northwestern Cascadia, USA*. Association for Fire Ecology 11th International Fire Ecology & Management Congress. New Orleans, Louisiana.

Singh, S.+, Thornton, D., Welfelt, L. Apr 2026. *A Tale of two cats: Temperature driven density gradients of Canada Lynx and bobcats reveal contrasting responses to climate change at a range margin*. Washington-British Columbia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society Joint Annual Conference. Wenatchee, Washington.

Singh, S.+, Thornton, D., Welfelt, L. Mar 2026. *A Tale of two Cats: Temperature driven density gradients of Canada Lynx and bobcats reveal contrasting responses to climate change at a range margin*. Panthera Small Cats Symposium. Virtual, International.

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