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What's Happening at The Hub:

Welcome to The Southwest Climate Hub's debut newsletter.

In February 2014, the USDA announced the formation of 7 regional climate hubs. The mission of the hubs is to help farmers, ranchers and forest land owners cope with the impacts of climate change (climate-smart agriculture). Since our formation the SW Climate Hub, composed of 6 states, has established three programmatic areas:

- outreach to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners
- science education on the impacts of climate change
- scientific research related to weather, drought and agriculture

In our first 6 months, The Southwest Climate Hub established important links with Cooperative Extension. With support of \$213,000 from the Jornada Experimental Range's research budget, collaborating with Cooperative Extension will help us hear from farmers and ranchers and support climate-smart agriculture across the Southwest. Environmental Science educators began developing climate education modules. Researchers presented and submitted



UPCOMING EVENTS

California Climate Adaption Forum August 19-20, 2014

Join the comprehensive network of adaptation leaders who have a strong commitment to addressing climate risks. The Forum will address the diverse needs and challenges facing California and bring together leading voices to share insights about how we can most effectively respond. Southwest Climate Hub Members will be in attendance.

→ [Find out more](#)



MEET OUR PARTNERS

Albert Rango
Director

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RECENT NEWS

[USDA SW Climate Hub Partners with Cooperative Extension](#)

In July, the Cooperative Extension Deans and Directors for all 6 SW climate hub states (AZ, CA, HI, NM, NV, and UT) met to plan future work with the USDA SW regional climate hub. The southwestern cooperative extension group will focus on education work related to the occurrence of weather extremes and reducing weather related risks, such as prolonged drought and the on-site impacts of extreme precipitation.

The SW is a highly diverse region, with different social, economic, cultural, physical and climate conditions, so Cooperative Extension will adapt general themes to specific states and regions.

A future meeting to share programmatic ideas and experiences will foster future extreme weather education and collaboration in the Southwest Region. Directors will build upon experiences, such as the information developed in the first Farm and Ranch Weather and Climate Workshop, held in Wilcox, AZ on June 12, 2014.

Mike Crimmins and Paul Brown (University of Arizona cooperative extension) and J.J. Brost and Jerald Meadows (National Weather Service Tucson Forecast Office) teamed up to provide a weather and climate workshop focused on supporting agricultural and resource management decision making. The [meeting website](#) hosts web links to key weather, drought and agricultural information. The meeting conveners wanted to learn about the needs of farmers and ranchers attending the meeting. One of the most important meeting outcomes was the need for a way to document and share the localized impacts of drought.

The University of Nevada Cooperative Extension recently launched [Living with Drought](#), a website hosting a list of resources related to drought and agriculture. The CA Drought Portal for agriculture that has been up since early January. The site hosts program

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Key Partners





RECENT RESEARCH

Dr. Al Rango will be presenting “USDA Southwest Regional Hub for Risk Adaptation to and Mitigation of Climate Change” at the American Geophysical Union meeting in December 2014. In the session titled *Coming Attractions: Climate Services in the Western United States*, Al will describe the SW hub.

→ [Read his abstract here.](#)

In the next newsletter: Impacts of climate change on Upper Rio Grande streamflow by E. Elias, C. Steele, A. Rango and J. Mejia.

WELCOME TO THE SW HUB

Amber Kerr - Amber is the new Academic Coordinator of the California subhub. She is based at and supported by UC Davis. Amber received her Ph.D. in 2012 from the Energy and Resources Group at the University of California, Berkeley. Although her doctoral research focused on drought resilience of agroforestry systems in southern Africa, she is a third-generation Californian and has worked on a variety of California land use issues, including greenhouse gas emissions inventory methods for California and effects of global change on California grasslands. Before joining the Climate Hub, Amber worked as a consultant for CCAFS (the Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security). You can contact her at ackerr@ucdavis.edu.



Estrella Herrera - Estrella is a PhD level intern at The University of Texas at El Paso in Environmental Engineering, funded by the EPA Internship Program. She is now writing the first vulnerability assessment of southwestern agriculture and forests to



Education



Communications




TOOLS & RESOURCES

The following are external tools & resources, not affiliated with the SW Hub.

- [Assessment of Climate Change in the Southwestern United States](#)
- [Climate Wizard](#)
- [Online Animal Ag & Climate Change Course](#)
- [Living With Drought](#)
- [SW Region Meeting Website](#)

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worked with Dr. Zhuping Sheng, doing hydrology research on the Rio Grande River. She also worked with an environmental consulting company in El Paso.

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