



Funding Opportunity Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center Faculty Fellowship Program

The Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (NW CASC) invites applications for its 2027 Faculty Fellowship Program¹ from faculty and non-faculty scientists with primary investigator status at University of Washington (UW), Boise State University (BSU), Northwest Indian College (NWIC), Oregon State University (OSU), Portland State University (PSU), University of Montana (UM), Washington State University (WSU) and Western Washington University (WWU).

Modeled after our highly successful graduate student and postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program², the NW CASC Faculty Fellowship aims to support research related to climate adaptation in Northwest natural and cultural resource management and training in the principles and practices of co-producing decision-relevant (i.e., “actionable”) science during the 2027 calendar year (see below for information about specific funding period). **Applications are due August 31, 2026.**

Program Overview

The NW CASC was established to help safeguard the natural and cultural resources of Idaho, Oregon, Washington and surrounding river basins (e.g., western Montana, northern California) by providing managers and policymakers with actionable science on climate change impacts and adaptation actions. The NW CASC is hosted by the UW in partnership with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, BSU, NWIC, OSU, PSU, UM, WSU and WWU. The NW CASC Faculty Fellowship Program aims to support efforts to make existing research more usable for natural and cultural resource managers facing climate-related risks and challenges. To achieve this aim, the program supports research involving faculty at NW CASC Consortium institutions and provides skills-building opportunities around the co-production of decision-relevant (i.e., “actionable”) science.

Research Support. The NW CASC Faculty Fellowship Program is a “last-mile” program that funds activities aimed at enhancing the usability of existing research for natural resource managers. Last-mile activities take research beyond peer-reviewed publication to formats more easily accessed, interpreted and applied by resource managers. All proposed activities must (1) align with the NW CASC Science Agenda, (2) demonstrably benefit NW CASC external partner(s) and (3) result in actionable-science deliverables within the Fellowship year. Example deliverables may include interactive tools, research syntheses, field or lab protocols, workshops and trainings, outreach materials, and/or other products aimed at making existing faculty research more directly applicable to the decision-making of Northwest resource managers.

¹ <https://nwcasc.uw.edu/programs/faculty-fellowship-program>

² <https://nwcasc.uw.edu/programs/research-fellowship-program>

Science priorities. NW CASC science priorities are closely tied to the needs of regional natural and cultural resource managers and are detailed in the NW CASC Science Agenda for 2025-2030, available in Appendix B, and in the NW CASC *Deep Dive Actionable Science Agendas*^{4,5,6,7} and *Research Needs and Capacity Needs*⁸ developed during NW CASC Deep Dives. Applications should focus on co-developing last-mile products that can be directly applied to these management needs, either locally or broadly across landscapes in Idaho, Oregon, Washington and surrounding river basins (e.g., western Montana, northern California). Applications must have a clear link to climate impacts and/or adaptation (not climate mitigation).

Applications addressing the NW CASC Science Agenda for 2025-2030 must address at least one priority ecosystem (as listed in Figure 4) *or* at least one species of greatest conservation need in Idaho, Oregon, Washington (see “Priority Species” on pg. 9), or western Montana (species occurring west of the Continental Divide; see Montana’s State Wildlife Action Plan) *and* at least one climate-linked driver of change (as listed in Figure 5). Applications addressing the NW CASC *Deep Dive Actionable Science Agendas* may address science priorities detailed in the following documents:

- Managing western Washington wildfire risk in a changing climate (*Actionable Science Agenda on Westside Fire*⁴)
- Managing post-fire vegetation change in a warming climate (*Actionable Science Agenda on Post-Fire Vegetation Transformation*⁵)
- Managing inland migration of coastal habitats (*Actionable Science Agenda on Coastal Squeeze*⁶)
- Managing the ecological impacts of extreme heat (*Actionable Science Agenda*⁷)
- Understanding and responding to climate-induced impacts on stream permanence in the northwestern U.S. (*Research Needs and Capacity Needs related to Stream Permanence*⁸)

NW CASC External Partners. Primary NW CASC external partners are fish, wildlife and ecosystem managers within the US Department of the Interior bureaus (National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation; note: the US Forest Service and NOAA are not DOI bureaus), Northwest Tribes or Tribal entities and state/local fish and wildlife and natural resource management agencies. Prospective Faculty Fellows must detail how their proposed project would benefit one of these primary NW CASC partners and provide a letter of support.

⁴<https://nwcasc.uw.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2026/01/Managing-Western-Washington-Wildfire-Risk-in-a-Changing-Climate.pdf> (see pages 9-10)

⁵<https://nwcasc.uw.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2026/01/Managing-Post-Fire-Vegetation-Change-in-a-Warming-Climate.pdf> (see pages 10-11)

⁶<https://nwcasc.uw.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2026/01/Managing-Inland-Migration-of-Coastal-Habitats-in-Response-to-Sea-Level-Rise.pdf> (see pages 12-13)

⁷<https://nwcasc.uw.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2026/01/Managing-the-Ecological-Impacts-of-Extreme-Heat-in-the-Northwest.pdf> (see pages 14-15)

⁸<https://nwcasc.uw.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2026/01/Understanding-and-Responding-to-Climate-Induced-Impacts-on-Stream-Permanence-in-the-Northwestern-U.S.pdf> (summary on page 2, more information in Tables 1-3 & 6-8)

Applications that identify committed NW CASC external partners and an initial plan for their engagement will be evaluated more favorably. Applications may include additional partners who are not primary NW CASC partners.

Faculty Fellowship Funding Period and Deliverables. The funding period for the NW CASC 2027 Faculty Fellowship cohort is from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027. Research applications must define substantive results and deliverables that will be produced during the fellowship period. Progress on the proposed research is required to be documented with a progress report, due by July 1, 2027, and a final report due within one month after fellowship funding ends.

Training in Actionable Science. The NW CASC Faculty Fellowship will provide a variety of skills-building activities to support Fellows' effectiveness in their last-mile projects:

- **Actionable Science Workshop.** This two-day workshop focuses on building the knowledge and skills needed to engage effectively with resource management partners to co-produce actionable science. Such skills are typically not taught or rewarded in traditional science training, yet are increasingly required to meet broader impacts criteria, conduct societally-relevant research that addresses modern environmental crises, and mentor the growing number of graduate students and early career scientists committed to making science that makes a difference.
- **Cohort Calls.** Faculty Fellows will participate in four, quarterly meetings using video conferencing services to facilitate group learning and cohort building. Cohort meetings will provide an opportunity for Faculty Fellows to discuss challenges and opportunities encountered in their last-mile projects, particularly related to their co-production and actionable science efforts. Calls will also provide Faculty Fellows with further skills-building opportunities to support their effective engagement with resource manager partners.

Criteria for Funding of NW CASC Faculty Fellowships

Proposed research projects must:

- Be led by a faculty member or a non-faculty scientist with primary investigator status at a NW CASC Consortium institution (i.e., UW, BSU, NWIC, OSU, PSU, UM, WSU or WWU) who is committed to participating in the Faculty Fellowship training activities described above. Please note that Faculty Fellows will only be funded for a maximum of one fellowship year (i.e., will not be eligible for participation in a second Faculty Fellows cohort).
- Be focused within the NW CASC geographic domain, i.e., Idaho, Oregon, Washington and surrounding river basins (e.g., western Montana, northern California).
- Be relevant to management decisions related to identifying and addressing climate impacts on Northwest natural and cultural resource management, as identified in the NW CASC Science Agenda for 2025-2030 and the NW CASC Deep Dive Actionable Science Agendas.

- Be relevant to a primary NW CASC external partner, i.e., fish, wildlife and ecosystem managers within the US Department of the Interior bureaus (National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation; note: the US Forest Service and NOAA are not DOI bureaus), Northwest Tribes or Tribal entities and state/local fish and wildlife and natural resource management agencies.
- Be designed to produce substantive results and deliverables during the 2027 fellowship year.

NW CASC Faculty Fellowship funding will be used to develop “last-mile” products (e.g., technical reports, protocols, tools, workshops) that make existing research more easily applied to management decisions.

Priority will be given to projects that demonstrably leverage other efforts and resources (e.g., funding from other governmental and private organizations; or use of laboratory space, equipment, field station or site) and for which NW CASC funding will make a meaningful difference.

Maximum funding amount per award is \$32,000.

Application and Selection Process

Applications are due by **11:59 pm PDT on August 31, 2026**. Please complete **two** steps:

1. *Complete online application form*. Please use this online form (<https://forms.gle/a1awETaJUe6APspf8>) to submit the following information:
 - a. Name and contact information (email, phone) of prospective Faculty Fellow
 - b. University
 - c. Academic department
 - d. Project title
 - e. Project study area (if relevant)
 - f. Brief (2 sentence) project description
 - g. Specific component(s) of your project addressed by the NW CASC Science Agenda for 2025-2030, the Actionable Science Agenda on Westside Fire, the Actionable Science Agenda on Post-Fire Vegetation Transformation, the Actionable Science Agenda on Coastal Squeeze, the Actionable Science Agenda on Extreme Heat, or the Research Needs and Capacity Needs on Stream Permanence
 - h. Specific outcomes/products anticipated during period of funding
 - i. List of external partners
 - j. Total requested funding
 - k. Leveraged support

2. *Email application.* Please email your application (as a single pdf) and budget (both within your PDF and as a separate Excel file) directly to nwcasc@uw.edu. **Email must be received by 11:59 pm PDT on August 31, 2026.** Applications should be formatted with 1-inch margins and 12 point font. Include the following documents in the pdf:
- a. *Cover page* listing the name of prospective Faculty Fellow and project title.
 - b. *Letter of application from the prospective Faculty Fellow* (1-2 pages *maximum*). The application letter should include the applicant's reason for seeking a NW CASC Faculty Fellowship and relevance of the fellowship training to their career objectives and previous experience.
 - c. *Concise summary of the proposed research* (3-page limit; references can be included on additional pages) including the following as appropriate to the project:
 - i. Background, justification (including relevance of the proposed project to NW CASC science priorities and primary NW CASC external partner(s)), goals and objectives.
 - ii. Description of last-mile activities. This includes sufficient context about the applicant's existing research, details about the proposed last-mile activities, and explanation of why these activities will enhance the usability of the existing research for the identified NW CASC external partner(s).
 - iii. Timeline with tasks to be completed.
 - iv. Intended deliverables and products.
 - v. Plan for interaction with primary NW CASC external partner(s), expected use of products in natural resource decision making, any additional project outcomes.
 - d. *Budget details* including, as appropriate, salaries, benefits rates, supplies, travel, and indirect (F&A) rates for specific terms, including summer if applicable. Please use the sample budget Excel spreadsheet available here: <https://nwcasc.uw.edu/programs/faculty-fellowship-program/applying-for-the-faculty-fellowship-program/>. (The budget should be included both in the complete pdf application file *and* submitted as a separate Excel spreadsheet.)
 - e. *A brief statement of support from a primary NW CASC external partner* (e.g., in a DOI bureau, state/local resource agency, or Tribe) describing their involvement in the project and the expected impact of the project and its products in supporting their decisions regarding management of climate risks.
 - f. *CV of the prospective Faculty Fellow.*

After screening for the minimum requirements listed above, applications will be reviewed based on the rigor of the proposed work and salience to NW CASC priorities, the potential future impact of the Fellowship on the participating faculty member, and the degree to which their work effectively leverages other efforts and sources of funding. Final decisions also consider representation of Consortium institutions and projects that reflect the breadth of NW CASC Science Agenda priorities. The criteria that reviewers will use to appraise applications is provided in Appendix A of this document.

Note: NW CASC USGS staff (see below) are available to consult with prospective Faculty Fellows on the salience of their potential research to NW CASC science priorities and primary NW CASC external partners and may be able to assist in identifying additional partners for some proposed projects.

For More Information

University of Washington:

- Dr. Meade Krosby – NW CASC University Director, UW Climate Impacts Group
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- Dr. Anima Kalafatis – NW CASC Deputy University Director, UW Climate Impacts Group
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Boise State University:

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Northwest Indian College:

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Oregon State University:

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University of Montana:

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Washington State University:

- Dr. Jan Boll – NW CASC Co-Lead for WSU
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- Dr. Julie Padowski – NW CASC Co-Lead for WSU
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Western Washington University:

- Dr. John Rybczyk – NW CASC Lead for WWU
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USGS:

- Dr. Leona Svancara – NW CASC Acting Regional Administrator
lsvancara@usgs.gov

Appendix A: NW CASC Fellowship Application Review Criteria

Proposed last-mile projects must:

1. Be **led by a faculty member or a non-faculty scientist with primary investigator status** at a NW CASC Consortium institution (UW, BSU, NWIC, OSU, PSU, UM, WSU or WWU) who is committed to participating in the Fellowship training activities described above and:
 - Are currently employed or plan to begin employment at a Consortium institution by January 1, 2027.
 - Have not previously received funding through the NW CASC Faculty Fellowship Program.
2. Be **focused within the NW CASC geographic domain**, i.e., Idaho, Oregon, Washington and surrounding river basins (e.g., western Montana, northern California).
3. Be **relevant to management decisions** related to identifying and addressing climate impacts on Northwest natural and cultural resource management, **as identified in the NW CASC Science Agenda for 2025-2030 and the NW CASC Deep Dive Actionable Science Agendas**. They must have a clear link to climate impacts and/or adaptation (*not* climate mitigation). Applications addressing the NW CASC Science Agenda for 2025-2030 must address at least one priority ecosystem OR species of greatest conservation need AND at least one climate-linked driver of change. Applications addressing the NW CASC Deep Dive Actionable Science Agendas may address science priorities detailed in the following documents:
 - Managing western Washington wildfire risk in a changing climate (*Actionable Science Agenda on Westside Fire*⁴)
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 - Managing the ecological impacts of extreme heat (*Actionable Science Agenda*⁷)
 - Understanding and responding to climate-induced impacts on stream permanence in the northwestern U.S. (*Research Needs and Capacity Needs related to Stream Permanence*⁸)
4. Be **relevant to primary NW CASC external partner(s)**. Prospective Fellows must detail how their proposed research would benefit one of these NW CASC external partners, and provide a letter of support. Support from other partners is welcome, but would need to be *in addition* to support from one of the entities listed here. Primary NW CASC external partners include:
 - US Department of the Interior bureaus (National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation; note: the US Forest Service and NOAA are not DOI bureaus)
 - Northwest Tribes or Tribal entities
 - State or local fish and wildlife and natural resource management agencies

5. Be **designed to produce substantive results and deliverables during the 2027 Fellowship year**. Deliverables should include products likely to be readily applied by decision-makers (e.g., tools, datasets, workshops), rather than peer-reviewed papers (though these would be welcome as additional products).
6. Priority will be given to projects that **demonstrably leverage other efforts and resources** (e.g., funding from other governmental and private organizations) and **for which NW CASC funding will make a demonstrable difference** in advancing the usability of existing work.

After screening for the minimum requirements listed above, applications will be reviewed based on:

- The rigor of the proposed work and its salience to NW CASC priorities
- The potential future impact of the fellowship on the participating faculty member
- Evidence of the prospective fellow's commitment to participating in fellowship training activities
- The degree to which the proposed work effectively leverages other efforts and sources of funding
- Final decisions also consider representation of Consortium institutions and projects that reflect the breadth of NW CASC Science Agenda priorities

Northwest Priority Ecosystems & Species

The NW CASC's mission is to help species, ecosystems, lands, waters, and people adapt to a changing climate. State, Tribal, and federal natural resource management agencies are all stewards of these resources across the Northwest, and each plays a different but complementary role in resource management. Unless preempted by federal authority (e.g., Endangered Species Act [ESA], Marine Mammal Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act), states possess primary authority and responsibility for protection and management of fish and wildlife. However, species occurring in some areas, such as National Parks or National Wildlife Refuges, are typically managed by the relevant federal land management agency. Further, many Tribes also retain the right to manage species within their reservation boundaries and retain rights to hunt, fish, and harvest in off-reservation areas. Ultimately, coordination and cooperation among federal, state, and Tribal agencies is necessary for successful conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats.

Priority Ecosystems

The ecosystems of the Northwest range from moist maritime forest to arid shrub-steppe and from high elevation talus slopes to hardwood riparian forest. Climate change impacts ([Appendix C](#)) vary across these systems and are presenting new challenges for resource managers. NW CASC Advisory Committee members identified six major ecosystem classes and specific habitats or subclasses considered to be current management priorities for their respective agencies and Tribes, including:

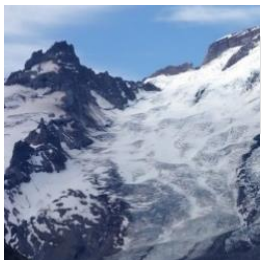
	Aquatic • Streams and rivers • Lakes and ponds • Riparian areas • Forested wetlands • Vernal pools • Cold water refugia		Coastal • Marine coastlines and nearshore habitats • Rocky intertidal zones • Estuaries • Sandy coastlines
	Alpine & Sub-Alpine • High montane forests • High montane mesic meadows • Lower montane forests		Grasslands • Willamette Valley prairies • Western Washington prairies • Palouse Prairie
	Forests & Woodlands • Temperate rain forests dominated by Douglas fir & Western hemlock • Mixed conifer forests • Drier ponderosa and lodgepole pine • Aspen • Oak woodlands • Juniper woodlands • Whitebark pine		Sagebrush Steppe • Perennial bunchgrasses • Large, intact areas of dry shrubland • Mesic areas in shrublands (e.g., vernal pools, playas, saline lakes) • Sand dunes • Greasewood flats • Salt desert scrub

Figure 4. Northwest priority ecosystems identified by the NW CASC Advisory Committee.

While urban areas are not a primary focus of the NW CASC, green infrastructure and green spaces provide benefits to some Northwest priority species (e.g., monarch butterfly, other pollinators), and maintaining and improving these benefits in a changing climate is also a priority.

Priority Species

As noted above, responsibility for managing fish and wildlife in the United States is divided between the federal government, states, and Tribal partners. Resource managers participating on the NW CASC Advisory Committee identified some of their agency's priority management species. We also look to documents published by our partners identifying declining species, species of conservation concern, and federal and state listed species. The ESA provides federal guidelines for the protection of endangered and threatened species. However, state agencies are chief stewards for the wildlife within their borders and often possess scientific data and valuable expertise on the status and distribution of endangered, threatened, and candidate species of wildlife and plants.

State fish and wildlife agencies in the NW CASC region have developed State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs) to strategically conserve and manage the individual states' most at-risk fish, wildlife, and plants (identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need) and the habitats on which they depend. Guidance on voluntary conservation actions needed for these species and habitats emphasizes prevention of future listings of these species under the ESA. For more information on species and habitats of conservation concern in the NW CASC region, see the [Idaho SWAP](#), [Oregon SWAP](#), [Washington SWAP](#), state lists of threatened and endangered species in [Oregon](#) or [Washington](#), and the [federally listed species by state](#).

Climate-Linked Drivers of Ecological Change

Natural and cultural resources in our region are often impacted by multiple interacting stressors and drivers of ecological change. NW CASC partners and advisors indicated that understanding and addressing the following climate-linked drivers of change, as well as interactions among those drivers and compounding threats, are high priorities for implementing effective climate adaptation actions. For a more extensive review of climate change effects and trends in the Northwest see [Appendix C](#). Resource managers participating on the NW CASC Advisory Committee identified five key drivers of change and additional stressors that they considered to be of paramount concern to their respective agencies (Figure 5).

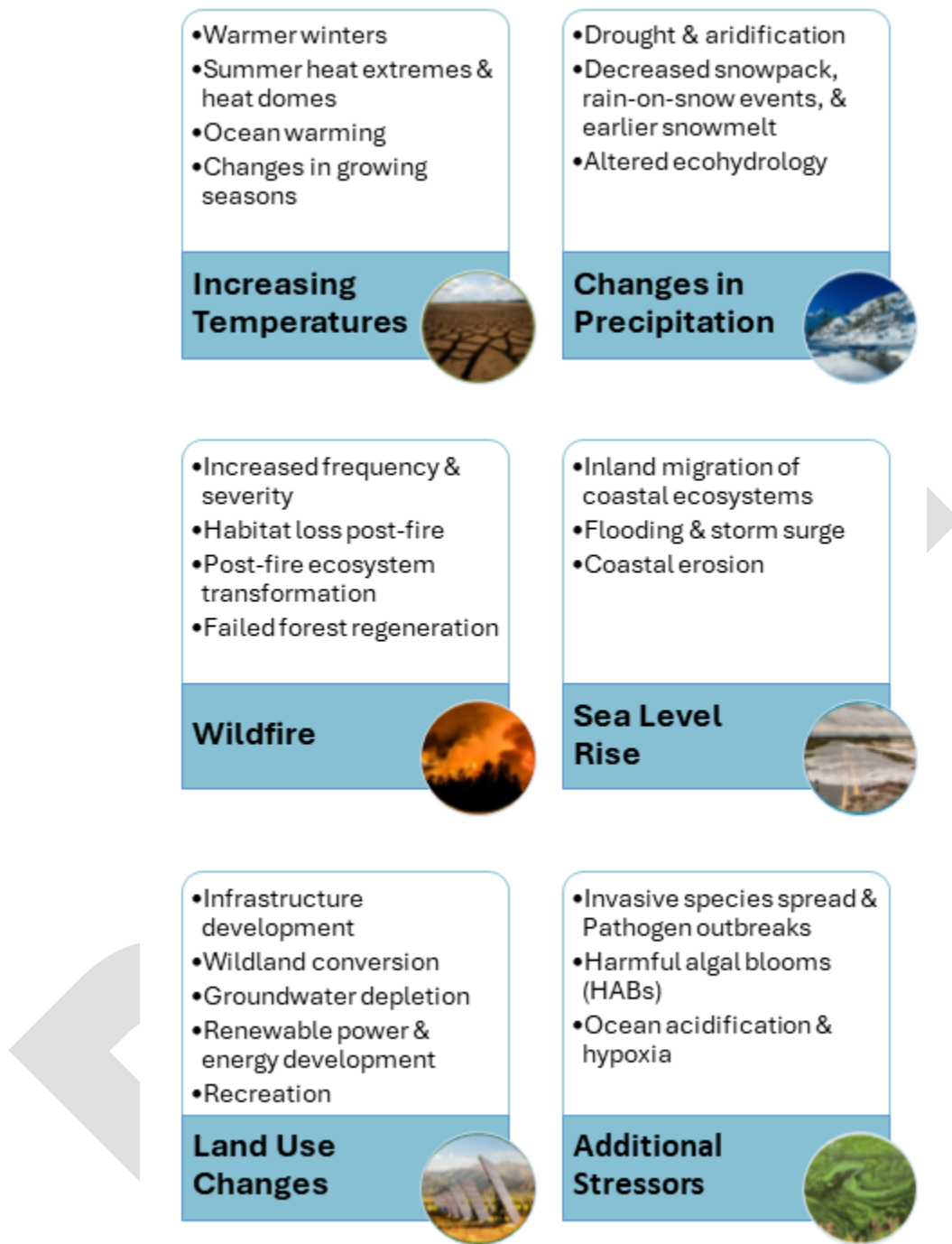


Figure 5. Examples of high priority, climate-linked drivers of change identified by resource managers in the Northwest.

Northwest Priority Ecosystems & Species

Increasing temperatures

As temperatures in the Northwest increase, managers are facing challenges ranging from loss of glaciers and earlier snowmelt to increased summer heat waves and warming ocean temperatures. Increasing temperatures are affecting water availability, stream permanence, loss of habitat for snow-dependent species, and changes in growing seasons that can lead to mismatches in phenology (e.g., flowers and pollinators) resulting in negative impacts to species in the Northwest.

Changes in precipitation

Precipitation under future climate scenarios is expected to continue to have large interannual variability. Timing and amounts of precipitation are also projected to change, with more extreme storms and longer dry spells. Reduced winter snowpack, reduced summer stream flows, and increased evapotranspiration (USGCRP 2023) will compound the effects of increasing temperatures on water availability. Loss of water resources and changes in water availability affect fisheries, forestry, agriculture, and recreation across the region. Frequency of extreme precipitation events is projected to increase, with increased flooding risks in fall and winter.

Wildfire

In the western United States, climate conditions have grown hotter and drier during the last several decades. Larger, more frequent and severe wildfires and longer fire seasons are impacting forests, grasslands, and sagebrush-steppe, resulting in forest regeneration failures and post-fire ecosystem transformations. Secondary climate-related factors, such as invasive bark beetles, have made many forests more susceptible to high severity fire.

Sea level rise

Under all future climate scenarios, sea level is projected to increase across the Northwest, although net sea level changes will vary by location. Wave height and tidal surge are also projected to increase. Relative to the 1991–2009 average, sea levels in the Northwest are projected to rise 0.6 to 1.0 feet by 2050 for the Intermediate and High emissions scenarios, respectively placing physical structures and communities at risk. Inland migration of coastal species and habitats is anticipated with rising sea levels (USGCRP 2023).

Land use changes

Land use change, particularly transformations from natural systems to human-dominated systems, are stressors that can interact with and compound the effects of climate change. Infrastructure development, wildland conversion, renewable energy/power development and operations, and mineral development are all activities that resource managers need to address to restore and maintain healthy ecosystems in the face of climate change.

Additional stressors

Environmental stressors are processes or activities that impair the ability of species to meet their life history needs or affect the ability of ecosystems and communities to function. Species or individuals may become more susceptible to disease while ecosystems can become more vulnerable to invasive species and wide-ranging pathogens. Northwest managers have identified tree diseases, bark beetles, and harmful algal blooms as pathogens of concern. Invasive species, including both nonnative (introduced) and range-expanding native species, are a concern in aquatic and terrestrial systems.

Ecosystem transformation, altered phenology, emerging infectious diseases, range shifts, declining forage for ungulates, ocean acidification, hypoxia (aquatic systems), and unintended consequences of management are additional environmental stressors of concern in these systems. Human activities including recreation, overgrazing, and water removal for agriculture can also be compounding stressors in the Northwest. The NW CASC recognizes that new stressors may emerge over the lifetime of this Science Agenda, and we encourage partners to share [Emerging Priorities](#) with the NW CASC.

Topics Outside the Scope of the NW CASC

NW CASC science seeks to develop knowledge that helps fish, wildlife, water, land, and people adapt to a changing climate. However, our work focuses primarily on climate adaptation approaches for managing natural resources and the services these resources provide to human communities. The following topics are currently not areas of focus for the NW CASC:

- Off-shore marine systems (e.g., deep-water oceanic species and habitats). *Example: Impacts of climate change on marine species distribution.*
- Infrastructure and green building (without an ecosystem or species focus). *Example: Development and evaluation of climate resilient roads, bridges, water supply systems.*
- Agriculture without a priority ecosystem or species focus. *Example: Evaluating crop production in a changing climate.*
- Domesticated animal husbandry and other agricultural practices related to breeding and raising livestock. *Example: Development of grazing strategies to minimize impacts of reduced water availability on beef production.*
- Aquacultural or maricultural practices unrelated to improving climate resiliency of native Northwest species or species considered to be First Foods of Northwest Tribes and Tribal Nations. *Example: Development of practices to reduce heat stress impacts on commercially farmed oysters.*
- Impacts of climate change on outdoor recreation industries (e.g., fishing, skiing, snowmobiling). *Example: Assessing impacts of reduced winter snow on ski resort viability in the Cascades mountains.*