



What is CLIMAS?

The **Climate Assessment for the Southwest** (CLIMAS)—a NOAA funded partnership between the University of Arizona, the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, and New Mexico State University—has been working with stakeholders from the private sector, academia, local, state, federal, and tribal government since 1998 to help bring the best-available knowledge to challenges related to weather and climate in the Southwest. CLIMAS is funded by the NOAA CAP/RISA program, which supports research groups that build sustained, collaborative relationships to help communities create lasting and equitable climate resilience.

What does CLIMAS do to help improve community climate resilience in the Southwest?

We are a team of researchers from a variety of social and physical sciences who are committed to collaborative research approaches so that the knowledge we produce is meaningful and useful for real-world challenges. Some of the ways we do this include:



Support Climate-Informed Decision Making

We have worked directly with Southwest Tribes, Pueblos, cities, and towns to provide tailored climate data and information to support their community climate adaptation planning efforts. We also have a long history of working closely with communities to develop climate analyses that can inform decisions about water resources management, agriculture, wildfire planning, drought management, and many other critical topics.

Conduct Community-Based Resilience Research

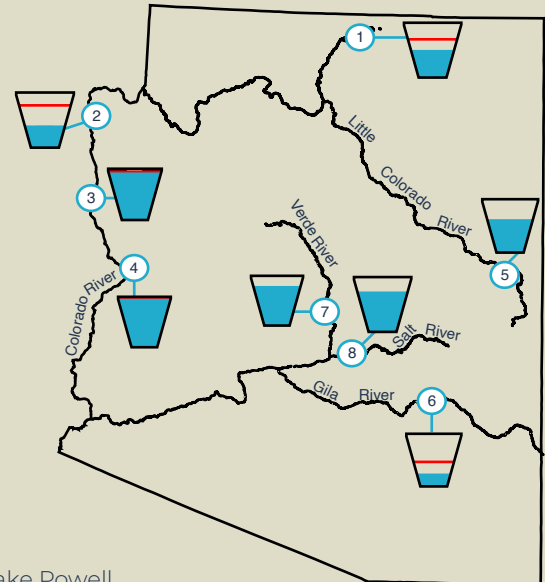
Our team recognizes that science provides an important tool for addressing complex environmental challenges, but we also know that ensuring social and ecological systems remain resilient requires a diverse array of experts working together on a common problem. Therefore CLIMAS researchers frequently work with experts from public health, water management, urban planning, natural resource management and many other fields to help develop new knowledge to deal with real-world problems.

Connect Community Research Questions to Regional Experts

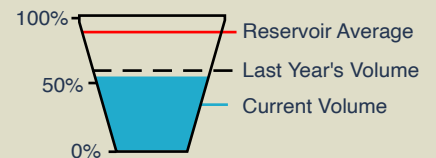
Aside from the researchers we have within the CLIMAS team, we are connected to a broad and diverse group of experts who may be able to answer questions that are beyond our capacity. For example, we do not have any groundwater hydrologists or climate modelers on our team, but we have close connections with experts in those in many other fields that may be able to help with analyses that we are not able to carry out ourselves. In this way CLIMAS acts as a network hub that helps foster new collaborations.

A Trusted Source of Information

The monthly *Southwest Climate Outlook* is the premier summary of regional climate conditions. Initially developed by CLIMAS in 2002 to communicate regional drought information, the summary has evolved into the go-to source for information for everyone from ranchers monitoring local drought conditions to water resource managers keeping an eye on evolving seasonal conditions to scientists looking for reliable and clear graphics for public presentations. In addition to the monthly climate summary, CLIMAS also produces a monthly podcast, maintains an extensive website with data and information about regional climate, and provides in-person presentations about weather and climate issues of concern to communities across the Southwest.



1. Lake Powell
2. Lake Mead
3. Lake Mohave
4. Lake Havasu
5. Lyman
6. San Carlos
7. Verde River System
8. Salt River System



How does CLIMAS work with communities in the Southwest?

Sometimes collaborations between CLIMAS researchers and our partners emerge from a specific project a community is working on—for example a climate adaptation plan—and our expertise is sought to provide data and information to support those efforts. In other cases members of our team will work through networks in the Southwest to identify a community or group that is interested in working on a topic that we are currently pursuing or planning to pursue in the near future. Regardless of how a project starts, members of the CLIMAS team are committed to working closely with our partners to carry out research that results in relevant and useful knowledge that is developed ethically and respectfully. We believe in the power of collective knowledge to solve complex environmental problems, so strive to build trusting and sustainable collaborative relationships through our work.

Current CLIMAS priority areas

The primary CLIMAS funding comes from 5-year competitive grants from NOAA. In 2022 we were successful in securing a new grant to keep our work funded through 2027. In this phase we are moving toward more focused work with communities who are on the frontlines of climate change. Our priority areas are:

- » Social and ecological impacts from increasing aridity
- » Climatic drivers of changes in surface water availability
- » Human health and well being resilience in the face of extreme heat events
- » Public health challenges that arise from climate risks

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