

Liaison between North Central CSC & Great Northern LCC

The USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center (NOROCK) has gathered a team of researchers to provide liaison between the North Central Climate Science Center (NC CSC) and the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GNLCC). NOROCK and the GNLCC leadership team are co-located on the campus of Montana State University, Bozeman, MT. Liaison team members Geneva Chong, Kathi Irvine, Greg Pederson, Todd Preston and David Wood bring a breadth of experience ranging from landscape ecology, statistics, climatology, geology and resource management, in addition to a history of working directly with the LCC and CSC.

Team lead, Geneva Chong, has been participating in GNLCC planning efforts since 2011 as a representative of NOROCK and since 2012 as a representative of the NC CSC. She has participated in numerous Advisory Team (AT) efforts including development of the GNLCC Science Plan, development of annual funding strategies, and has attended Steering Committee (SC) meetings as an unofficial USGS representative.

Kathryn Irvine, Research Statistician, has collaborated with ecologists and biologists charged with monitoring natural resources on federal and state lands since 2006. Her team provides statistical support for monitoring programs led by the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and state agencies. Kathi's work involves development of survey design and analysis strategies for a variety of plants, animals, and other indicators to inform applied ecological and management questions, such as those related to climate effects on species.

Greg Pederson, Research Ecologist, has an extensive background working with managers on climate change and water resource related issues. He has conducted research on the impacts of climate change on snow, streamflow, treeline dynamics, and fire in the GNLCC region. Recently completed work includes a 500-year reconstruction of Columbia River streamflow with an assessment of historic versus future flow scenarios (based on CMIP5 models), and an 800-year assessment of the drivers of snowpack variability and change.

Todd Preston, Geologist, is currently working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to identify the presence and magnitude of saline contamination from energy development to soils, surface water and groundwater across several National Wildlife Refuge Complexes in Montana and North Dakota. He also works with the USGS Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Project Office to conduct UAS based data collection for several DOI partners. He has extensive experience engaging stakeholders and communicating with managers to incorporate science and technology into management.

David Wood, Ecologist, is focused on applied uses of multiscale monitoring and assessment information to assist land management agencies. He oversaw BLM's Ecoregional Assessment program and was the BLM representative on the GNLCC advisory team during its formation. David is the USGS representative to the BLM Montana Science Committee and has extensive experience in applying climate science information to natural resource assessment and decision processes including Land Use Planning and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.