

Liaison between North Central CSC & Southern Rockies LCC

John Bradford will serve as the liaison between the North Central Climate Science Center (NC CSC) and the Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative (SRLCC.) John is a research scientist at the Southwest Biological Science Center who studies the impact of global change on dryland ecosystems, focusing on understanding how climate change enhanced climate variability are impacting vegetation structure, composition, and function.

John has long history of working with the SRLCC. He joined the USGS from the USFS in 2011 to pursue research related to the SRLCC needs, and has subsequently built a program designed to provide the Southern Rockies LCC with information about landscape-scale land management challenges including ecological drought and climate change, sagebrush ecosystem response to climate and disturbance and dryland forest sustainability. This liaison position is an excellent opportunity to expand John's ability to help both the NC CSC and SRLCC by enhancing communication between these entities.

Climate dynamics are a major component of John's research, and he will utilize a broad network of research collaborators and contacts to strengthen his liaison role and enhance engagement among the SRLCC, NCCSC, and other scientists investigating climate-related topics. In particular, John will engage with the team of university scientists on the NC CSC consortium as well as faculty and scientists at other universities within the region. John's efforts will enhance connections with other researchers at the Southwest Biological Science center with expertise in disciplines from ecosystem science to wildlife biology who are located in Tucson, Flagstaff and Moab. John also plans to reach out to researchers at other USGS science centers within the SRLCC area and utilize his contacts within other federal agencies and research organizations.

Engaging with the broad array of experts and scientists will allow John to develop this liaison role in two important directions. First, his work will strengthen communication of scientific knowledge and insights to the resource management community, but helping identify relevant experts in topics of concern for the SRLCC facilitating connections between those scientists and the SRLCC. Second, John will work to enhance awareness of applied information needs among the scientific community, potentially by assisting the SRLCC in developing concise reports that describe their information needs.

Climate dynamics and impacts are major area of concern for the SRLCC partners and stakeholders. John's efforts in this NCCSC-supported liaison position will help bridge gaps between the scientific and resource management communities and help promote effective adaptation and mitigation of climate change.