Climate Research Position Opportunities  
Southwest Climate Science Center, Southwest Climate Alliance

An alliance of six universities <http://www.southwestclimatealliance.org> has been appointed by the US Department of the Interior (USDI) to host and support a Southwest Climate Science Center (SWCSC). The host institutions seek to hire several positions to contribute to a linked research program on physical, biological, and societal aspects of climate change in the southwestern United States. This coordinated effort will require a close interaction across teams from the participating institutions, and interaction with decision makers to inform integrated planning and management activities under way throughout the region.

Expressions of interest for particular positions are solicited from the following participating institutions.

1. University of California, Davis. A post-doc to help meet the needs of the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management for information on adaptive management in response to climate change. The position will focus on modeling ecological responses of populations to ecosystems and providing decision support for management of biological resources. The post-doc will assist in translating the information directly to stakeholders and agency representatives at state and regional levels. The post-doc also will work to convey agency needs for information on climate and climate variability to post-docs and researchers at UCLA, Scripps and DRI/WRCC. Please contact Professor Mark Schwartz, <mwschwartz@ucdavis.edu>.

2. University of California Los Angeles. A post-doc working on downscaling of climate model results via nested physical based models for the southwestern United States and its coastal waters. This is an expansion of the current UCLA physical based model to extents of 2 to 12 km. The post-doc will also work to improve this model’s ability to capture natural climate variability. The post-doc will work with local Department of the Interior agencies, US Forest Service, state agencies, and local and regional water management groups. This post-doc will be working particularly closely with colleagues at Scripps Institution of Oceanography to generate a coordinated and comprehensive set of regional products. She or he also will also work closely with DRI on presentation and visualization of results. Please contact Professor Glen MacDonald, <macdonal@geog.ucla.edu>.

3. Scripps Institution of Oceanography/University of California, San Diego. A post-doc working on downscaling and interpretation of observed and model simulated climate and hydrologic variability over the 20th and 21st centuries for the Southwest region. This post-doc ideally will be skilled in statistical data analysis and synoptic meteorology and will use the downscaled data products
to study variability and change in temperature, precipitation and hydrologic extremes. He or she will be interfacing with the UCLA post-doc on fine resolution climate issues and with post-docs working at other partner institutions on issues of instrumental climate variability, ecology, hydrology, resource management, and social science, as well as working with local Department of the Interior and state agencies. Please contact Dr. Alexander Gershunov, <agershunov@ucsd.edu>.

4. Desert Research Institute, Western Regional Climate Center, Reno NV. A computer scientist / climate analyst will work to improve the development, enhancement, access, and visualization of climate databases to meet needs of the SWCSC partners and affiliates. These needs span historical and ongoing in situ observations and gridded or interpolated fine-resolution fields of hydroclimatic elements, data integration, climate monitoring methods, data search and interactive access and visualization tools, and applications for climate adaptation that make use of projected conditions. Activities will be informed by past and ongoing stakeholder interactions, and will be coordinated with national RCC data management and access initiatives. These efforts will also link with and serve the 5 CSCs the 14 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives within the WRCC service region, and USDI agencies. This individual will work extensively with post-docs at the other 5 institutions to ensure a comprehensive and highly usable suite of products. Applicants at BS/MS/PhD levels with strong computer science and physical/mathematical interests will be considered for permanent hire. Please contact Dr. Kelly Redmond, <kelly.redmond@dri.edu>.

Within the research profiles outlined above, these climate science researchers will also be involved in authoring of the Southwest Climate Alliance’s contribution to the United States National Climate Assessment. Post-doc appointments are for one year at the respective institutions, with performance-based extensions possible.

Information about the postdoctoral opportunities and the Southwest Climate Alliance is available from http://www.southwestclimatealliance.org.