

North American Climate Services Partnership

Transboundary collaboration for enhancing resilience to climate variability and change

The North American Climate Services Partnership (NACSP)

- an innovative trilateral partnership between the U.S., Mexico and Canada - was established to respond to an increasing demand for accessible and timely scientific data and information in order to make informed decisions and build resilience in our communities. Building from a strong foundation of existing continental-scale collaboration, the NACSP provides a platform for improving the development of products and services through international collaboration. Activities in the NACSP include enhancing prediction and modeling capabilities, strengthening products tailored for specific sectors, and responding to user needs in key regional settings.

NACSP Accomplishments for 2014 include:

Fostered the development of key partnerships with users and stakeholders

- Engaged critical users during the North American Drought Monitor workshop
- Built awareness of NACSP opportunities in Mexico through participation in the Mexico National Climate Outlook Forum

Utilized state-of-the-art science and information by decision-makers

- Issued a 2014 North American Wildfire Assessments and Outlooks report
- Completed a pilot study on expanding the Vegetation Drought Response Index to Canada
- Advanced the ability to exchange precipitation data across borders

Identified gaps in service delivery and end-user input

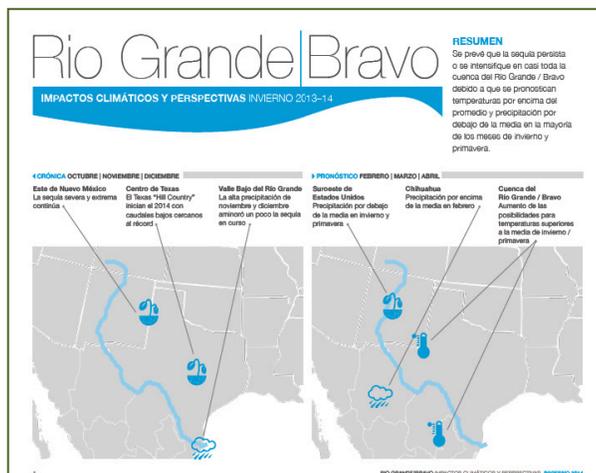
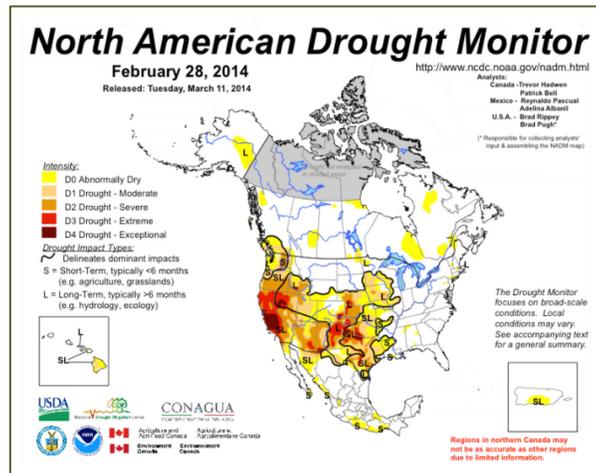
- Completed an assessment of a new bilateral climate outlook along the U.S. and Mexico border
- Completed a user assessment of the North American Ensemble Forecast System (NAEFS)

Implemented a place-based approach

- Convened a bilateral workshop on "Scenario Planning for Climate Adaptation" in the Rio Grande-Rio Bravo region
- Produced bilateral climate impact and outlook reports for the Rio Grande-Rio Bravo and the Great Lakes regional pilot areas

Shared best practices and lessons-learned

- Compared and assessed methodologies related to precipitation estimates
- Face-to-face meetings between U.S., Canadian, and Mexican scientists accelerated the development of the North American Seasonal Forecast



Top: A monthly North American Drought Monitor map, which began production in 2002. Bottom: Prototype regional climate impact and outlook report for U.S./Mexico border, Rio Grande – Rio Bravo region.

Key NACSP goals for 2015

- Improving **seasonal forecast information for wildfire management** through an expansion of the North American Seasonal Fire Outlook
- Enhancing the **consistency of forecast information** across North America at different time scales
- Assessing **current trans-boundary products** to improve the usefulness of information shared
- Expanding collaborations across NACSP thematic areas, with a focus on strengthening the **link between wildfire and weather and climate forecast products**
- Expansion of **drought-related service activities in the Rio-Grand Bravo** transboundary pilot area



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