

North American Climate Services Partnership

2015 Accomplishment Report

The **North American Climate Services Partnership (NACSP)** is an innovative trilateral initiative between the U.S., Mexico and Canada. Building from a strong foundation of existing continental-scale collaboration, the NACSP provides a platform for improving the development of products and services the goal of strengthening resilience to a changing climate. Activities in the NACSP include enhancing prediction and modeling capabilities, improving sector-specific products and services, and responding to user needs in regional settings.

NACSP Accomplishments for 2015 include:

Fostered the development of key partnerships with users and stakeholders

- Identified collaboration opportunities between wildland fire and drought thematic areas
- Built awareness of NACSP opportunities through the Mexico National Climate Outlook Forum
- Welcomed the Gulf of Maine Council's Climate Network as a new regional pilot area

Empowered decision-makers with state-of-the-art science

- Increased awareness of North American Wildfire Assessment and Outlook in the United States (NIFC), Canada (CIFFC), Mexico (Climate Services Forum), and other wildland fire management stakeholders
- Enhanced research efforts to improve short and long term drought prediction through sharing of practices
- Advanced the exchange and use of precipitation data from the Eastern U.S. to Atlantic Canada
- Developed an operational Vegetation Drought Response Index model for Canada to improve drought monitoring

Identified gaps in service delivery and end-user input

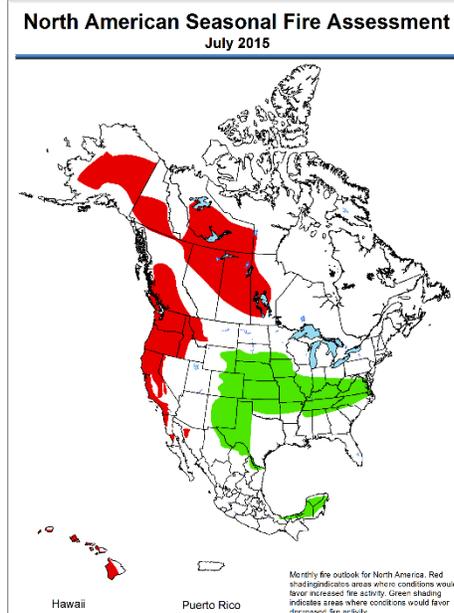
- Completed a U.S.-Canada report that highlights climate science gaps in the Great Lakes region
- Improved a bilateral climate outlook along the U.S. and Mexico border in response to user input

Implemented a place-based approach

- Produced bilateral climate impact and outlook reports for the Rio Grande/Bravo, Great Lakes, and Gulf of Maine regional pilot areas
- Built web presence and information dashboard of climate information for Gulf of Maine pilot area

Shared best practices and lessons-learned

- Compared methodologies related to precipitation estimates, paving the way for a unified precipitation analysis
- Accelerated the implementation of a North American Seasonal Forecast System through trilateral dialogue
- Shared the experiences of forecast model development and product generation through monthly conversations



Fire outlooks are now being produced collaboratively on a monthly basis across North America. Above is the July 2015 outlook. Red and green shading indicates conditions favoring increased or decreased fire activity, respectively.

Key NACSP goals for 2016

- Enhance the **consistency of forecast information** across North America at different time scales
- Foster collaboration between **wildfire and drought products** in North America
- Explore opportunities to **expand the North American Wildfire Assessment and Outlook** to three months from current two months
- Assess **current trans-boundary products** to improve the usefulness of information shared
- Convene a **2016 North American Drought Monitor Forum** that also integrates Rio Grande/Bravo and wildfire activities
- Develop **heat and human health assessments** in the Rio Grande/Bravo and Gulf of Maine transboundary pilot areas
- Expand **transboundary climate outlooks** to new regions
- **Extend the North American Ensemble Forecast System (NAEFS)** to cover week 3 and 4, and hold a face to face workshop on NAEFS strategy and future development
- Improve region-specific information on **short- and long-term drought** in Canada
- Share transboundary services experiences via **scientific presentations and publications**

