

**Southwest Climate Assessment Authors Meeting  
Boulder, Colorado, August 1-4, 2011**

**Activity: Regional Meeting**

**Presenter(s):** The Southwest Climate Alliance

**Recorder:** Fred Lipschultz, Senior Scientist, National Climate Assessment

The Southwest Climate Alliance (SWCA; <http://www.southwestclimatealliance.org/>) convened potential authors of a comprehensive assessment for the SW on 1-4 August, 2011 in Boulder, CO. The SWCA is a multi-institution consortium with the following host institutions: three NOAA RISAs (CLIMAS, CNAP, WWA), the Department of Interior Southwest Climate Science Center (SW CSC), the Western Regional Climate Center, University of California, Davis, and University of California Los Angeles. Participants included representatives from federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, and professional organizations. After a half-day of plenary talks to set the stage, the workshop focused on small breakout sessions on potential chapters of the assessment, with participants engaging in lively discussion of chapter outlines. Richard Moss discussed characterizing and communicating confidence and uncertainty in the NCA process, based on new IPCC language, which generated avid discussion both immediately after his presentation and throughout the remainder of the meeting.

The Team proposes to produce a comprehensive technical report for the Southwest Region (~100 to 150 published pages). Subsequent to submitting that report by the March 1, 2012 deadline for the NCA, they plan to engage stakeholders more fully, and then revise the report into their own assessment document during the summer of 2012. This post-March 1 effort is envisioned to not only produce a glossy publication for use within the region, but to build out the network of partners and explore various climate scenarios for ongoing assessment capacity. Contributing lead authors, and potential contributing authors were identified for the following chapters: The Changing Southwest, Weather and Climate of the Southwest, Evolving Weather and Climate Conditions of the Southwest, Observed Impacts of Climate Change, The Southwest Climate of the Future—Projections of Mean Climate, The southwest Climate of the Future—Extremes and Thresholds of Change, Natural Ecosystems, Coastal Ecosystems, Water, Agriculture and Ranching, Energy Impacts, SW Urban/Metropolitan, Transportation and Infrastructure, Impacts of Climate Change in the Southwest on Public Health, Impacts of Future Climate Change in the Southwest on Border Communities, Distinct cross-cutting concerns in Southwestern Native Communities, Solution Choices for a Sustainable Southwest, Moving Forward with Imperfect Information, Research Strategies for Addressing Uncertainties.