

CSC Proposal Development

The Department of the Interior (DOI) will be issuing an RFP in early 2011 for universities to host three regional Climate Science Centers (CSC). These centers will provide scientific information, tools and techniques that land, water, wildlife and cultural resource managers and other interested parties can apply to anticipate, monitor and adapt to climate and ecologically-driven responses at regional-to-local scales. They will be administered through the USGS <http://www.doi.gov/whatwedo/climate/strategy/index.cfm>. Five regional centers have already been established at the University of Alaska (Alaska), Oregon State (Northwest), Colorado State (Northcentral), North Carolina State (Southeast), and the University of Arizona (Southwest).

In selecting centers, the USGS is seeking partners that can deliver strong intellectual and scientific capabilities in the area of climate change and its effects on natural and cultural resources. The strongest candidate institutions or consortia will have established links with natural resource management issues and entities, within the Department of the Interior and more broadly elements such as Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Research Units, Cooperative Ecosystem Study Units, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, NOAA Regional Integrated Science and Assessments, USDA Forest Service research offices, and other entities. USGS seeks partners that bring together appropriate scientific capabilities, space and facilities, outreach or extension services, data management, networks, computational services, or super-computing capacity from the organization or collaborating partners.

Cornell would be an excellent competitor for the Northeast CSC based the on its facilities, partnerships, science capabilities and opportunities for collaborations. The CSCs will include USGS employees and other federal staff with the goal of the linking these federal researchers with university partners to understand high priority science needs. Typically hosting universities have received budgets on the order of \$700K/yr. However, the CSC also provide a mechanism for attracting additional DOI research funding on a project-to-project basis. In this respect, the Center would be a valuable resource for Cornell faculty interested in competing for research funding related to climate change and responses to it.

The time frame for developing this proposal will be short and there will be extensive background work needed (including strategically deciding if we would like to collaborate with partner universities). This lunch will provide a mechanism to 1) gauge interest, 2) brainstorm some initial proposal strategies and 3) assemble a leadership team for moving forward with attracting the DOI Northeast Climate Change Science Center to Cornell.