

Climate Tools for Water Managers

This department is provided by the Institute for the Environment and Society at the University of Arizona; visit www.ispe.arizona.edu.

Networking to Address Climate Change

Source: Southwest Climate Change Network

Access: www.SouthwestClimateChange.org

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The first website known to combine social networking with climate science is available to help people and organizations understand and plan for climate change in the Southwest. The Southwest Climate Change Network, launched in January, is an online community in which scientists, other experts, decision makers, and the public can share information on all aspects of climate change. The mission of the network is to accelerate understanding of climate change in the Southwest, foster collaboration to identify solutions, and support action to adapt to impacts and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The network was developed in response to a call from agencies, companies, and organizations that have identified climate change as a planning priority. Administered by the Institute for Environment and Society and the Climate Assessment for the Southwest at the University of Arizona, the website includes climate-change impact assessments; news on events, business, technology, and research; and articles submitted by experts who are working on solutions. This information is becoming increasingly important: climate change is projected to result in a warmer and possibly drier Southwest, with consequences for the region's water resources and the frequency, duration, and intensity of both floods and droughts.

The Knowledge Network, another feature of the website, allows users to discover people and organizations with shared interests and goals, join the network, and organize virtual work groups. These work groups will be formed to identify, evaluate, and validate options for adapting to impacts and reducing emissions. The Knowledge

Network is equipped with communication and collaboration tools that help both small and large groups advance ideas and develop proposals. Results of group

efforts can be communicated within and beyond the network. Future plans include incorporating additional features and decision-support tools into the website.

The screenshot shows the Southwest Climate Change Network website. The header features the title 'Southwest Climate Change' and 'N E T W O R K' with a search bar. A navigation menu includes Home, Climate, Impacts, Solutions, Knowledge Network, Feature Articles, Library, and About Us. The main content area is titled 'Impacts' and features an article 'Mountain Snowpack in the West and Southwest'. The article text discusses the critical role of mountain snow in the hydrological cycle and the impact of climate change on snowpack. A sidebar on the left contains a menu with categories like Land, Water, Floods, Groundwater, Snowpack, Streamflow, and People, along with a 'User Login' button and a 'Related Content' section listing 'Streamflow: Natural Variability and Human-Caused Changes', 'Mountain Snowpack in the West and Southwest', and 'Tourism and Recreation'. A small image of a snow-capped mountain is visible on the right side of the article.

The advertisement features a scenic image of a river flowing through a lush, green forest. Overlaid on the image is the text 'building A BETTER world' in a large, stylized font. Below the image, the MWH logo is displayed, followed by the text 'MWH BUILDING A BETTER WORLD'. A paragraph of text describes MWH as a leader in global infrastructure development, providing various services. At the bottom, the text 'CONSULTING • DESIGN • ENGINEERING • CONSTRUCTION • MANAGEMENT' is listed, along with the website 'www.mwhglobal.com'.