



Background:

The National and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASCs) are a partnership-driven program at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) that connects scientists from USGS and other research institutions with local communities to help them adapt to a changing climate.

The CASC network partners with a wide range of stakeholders, including federal and state agencies, Tribes and other Indigenous communities, and nongovernmental organizations. The CASCs work directly with these partners to identify priority issues related to climate change, develop research plans, and produce useful science products.

The CASCs recognize that Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other Indigenous Peoples face disproportionate impacts from climate change, and prioritize partnering with Tribal Nations, tribal organizations, and other Indigenous groups.

Project Highlights:

The North Central CASC partnered with the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to incorporate climate data into the 2020 Wyoming Statewide Habitat Plan. The Habitat Plan now specifically responds to the impacts of climate change and will help Wyoming maintain healthy fish and wildlife population levels and thriving ecosystems.

The Pacific Islands CASC is developing a comprehensive dataset for coastal wetland restoration on the island of Moloka'i in Hawai'i. Land managers will use the data to determine which sites are most likely to provide long-term, high-quality habitat for endangered waterbirds and insects, and will target these areas for future conservation work.

The Need:

The CASCs have never been formally authorized by Congress.

Bill Summary:

The CASC Act permanently authorizes the CASC Program at USGS. It also sets out funding levels through fiscal year 2027 so the CASCs continue to meet the growing need for this critical scientific work:

\$97 million for FY 2023
\$109 million for FY 2024
\$121 million for FY 2025
\$133 million for FY 2026
\$145 million for FY 2027



A full inventory of CASC Projects can be found here: <https://cascprojects.org/#/>

For more information, contact Sarina Weiss, Professional Staff for the House Natural Resources Committee at Sarina.Weiss@mail.house.gov