



DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Senior Tribal Liaison

Research Objectives: (1) to develop and strengthen relationships between the South Central CASC and its Tribal partners in Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas for the purpose of supporting Tribal communities in their adaptation activities; (2) to synthesize climate adaptation-related information into a context relevant to Tribal governments, Tribal communities, and intertribal organizations; and (3) to lead initiatives that increase climate knowledge and promote collaboration through partnerships with natural and cultural resource managers, addressing the specific needs of Tribal partners in climate adaptation planning. This position will serve as one of our primary boundary spanners between researchers and practitioners.

To fulfill the research objectives above, specific tasks may include:

- Serve as the primary liaison between Tribal partners and the South Central CASC, ensuring that research and professional efforts are aligned with the priorities and needs of Tribal communities;
- Oversee and manage tribal engagement activities of the South Central CASC, including project administration, reporting, and logistics as well as technical assistance to Tribes;
- Lead and coordinate research and education activities as requested by Tribal partners, promoting collaboration through research partnerships and connecting communities with external resources to support specific projects;
- Travel within the South Central region to meet with Tribal partners, build and maintain strong relationships, conduct educational sessions, support Tribal adaptation activities, and ensure that the needs and priorities of Tribal communities are effectively addressed through ongoing collaboration and engagement;
- Identify and address barriers to implementing Tribal adaptation activities, working to ensure that research, data products, and tools are tailored to the specific needs of Tribal partners;
- Assist in developing and implementing best practices for ethical research with Tribes, ensuring that the cultural and natural resource needs of Tribal communities are met;
- Collaborate closely with Tribal and intertribal partners to develop and deliver educational content or programs on climate adaptation, ensuring capacity building for Tribal staff working on climate adaptation-related work and ongoing support for communities engaged in adaptation activities;
- Mentor Native youth to develop research and technical communication skills and experiences, especially through different epistemologies and ontologies;
- Maintain effective communication with the USGS, other tribal liaisons working for the Consortium, and other CASC faculty, staff, and students, and ensure that activities align with the USGS strategic science agenda.

Qualifications: They will have a graduate-level degree in environmental sustainability, Native American studies, geography, regional planning, science education, or a related field. They will have at least 18 months of experience in building and maintaining relationships of trust within Indian Country. They must demonstrate cultural competence and ethical integrity in working with Indigenous peoples and communities, with a deep understanding of sovereignty, Tribal governance, traditional knowledge, and culturally based decision-making processes. Experience in vulnerability assessment, climate adaptation planning, or climate science is highly desirable. They will be able to work efficiently in a remote teamwork setting, to complete multiple projects and tasks with high-quality work, and to coordinate efforts and share results with team members frequently.