

**Climate Adaptation Science Centers  
Advisory Committee  
Terms of Reference  
2021-2026**

The USGS National and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASCs) is a partnership-driven program that teams scientific researchers with natural and cultural resource managers and local communities to deliver science to help fish, wildlife, water, land, and people adapt to a changing climate.

**Purpose**

The purpose of the regional advisory committees is to provide strategic guidance on regional management challenges and climate science needs, relevant to natural and cultural resources.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

Advisory Committee members will:

- Assess and represent the management challenges and climate science needs of member organizations
- Provide counsel for the development and/or revision of the regional science agenda
- Provide counsel on the development of planning and implementation documents, including annual science plans, communications plans, and engagement strategies
- Facilitate engagement between the CASC and member organizations
- Provide and facilitate feedback concerning how effectively CASC activities and products meet the needs of natural and cultural resource managers
- Attend regular meetings, or advise of an absence

Members may also:

- Provide expertise and assess management relevance in the review of statements of interest or research proposals
- Contribute expertise and leadership to CASC symposia, working groups, and meetings
- Support the training of the next generation of professionals (e.g., seminars, mentoring)

The CASC Federal Director will:

- Solicit participation and determine membership and structure of the advisory committee
- Convene and provide operational support for the advisory committee
- Provide travel support for in-person meetings for non-Federal committee members
- Facilitate engagement of the host university and consortium as participants/observers and technical experts
- Provide opportunities for broader engagement of and input from natural and cultural resource managers in the region (e.g., via surveys, workshops, listening sessions)
- Retain final authority for program direction, project selection, funding decisions, and portfolio management.

**Membership and Structure**

- Members should represent agencies, bureaus, and units responsible for priority-setting, resource allocation, and/or decision-making regarding the restoration, protection, or management of natural and cultural resources.
- Members must be drawn only from Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies as defined under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

- Committees should be comprised of members from relevant regional offices or governments. This may include, but is not limited to: U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Environmental Protection Agency, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Army Corps of Engineers, Tribal Nations, Tribal Natural Resource Departments, and State fish and wildlife agencies.
- Consortium institutions may not serve on the committee.
- Members will serve for defined terms, with length specified by the CASC Federal Director.
- Committee recommendations are non-binding.

**Time Commitment**

- Attend 2-4 meetings per year