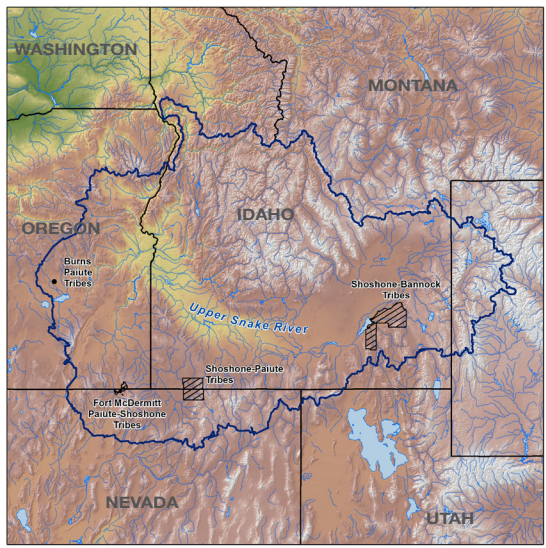




Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment in the Upper Snake River Watershed

Project Overview

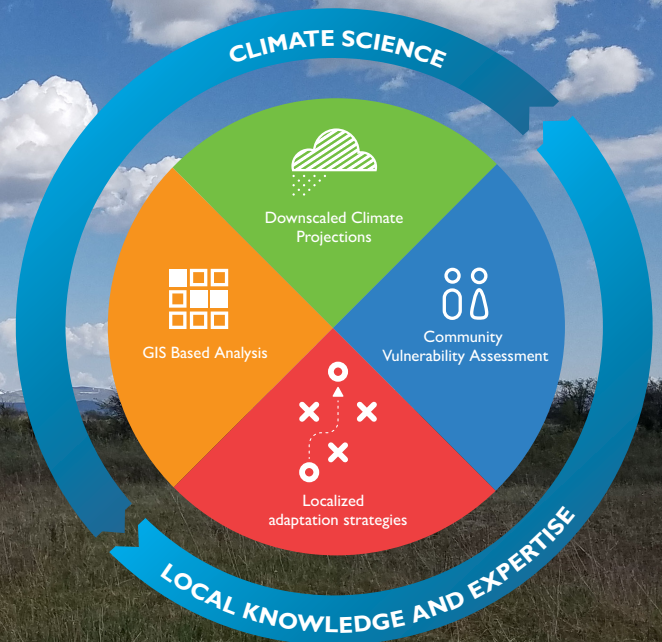


Project Area

The climate around the Upper Snake River is changing. The four member tribes of the Upper Snake River Tribes (USRT) Foundation—Burns Paiute Tribe, Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes—have already noticed shifts in species and habitats driven by increasing temperatures and changing precipitation patterns. Such changes have resulted in drying sagebrush steppe habitat, extended wildfire seasons, less winter precipitation falling as snow, earlier spring run-off, lower summer streamflows, higher water temperatures, reduced flow from springs/seeps, proliferation of invasive weeds, and decreasing productivity of rangeland.

Project Process

This project evaluated the relative climate change vulnerability of some of the species, habitats, and resource issues that are important and valuable to USRT member tribes. Direct and ongoing participation with tribal leadership, staff, and membership was central to the success of this assessment. This collaboration included traditional knowledge, tribal priorities, local scientific observation, downscaled climate projections, and the best available science on how climate change will affect natural resources.



This collaborative vulnerability assessment combines the best available climate science with local knowledge and expertise.

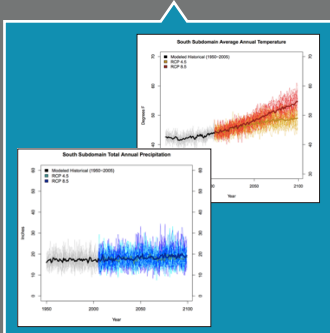
Collaborative Vulnerability Assessment Approach

SPRING 2016

APRIL 2016

SUMMER 2016

JULY 2016



Creation of localized temperature and precipitation projections for the Project Area



Site visits to USRT member tribes' reservations to identify climate change Shared Concerns

Species	2050s RCP4.5	2050s RCP8.5
Bull Trout	EV	EV
Chinook Salmon	EV	EV
Redland Trout	EV	EV
Steelhead	EV	EV
Columbia Spotted Frog	HV	EV
Big Sagebrush	MV	HV
Black-tailed Jackrabbit	MV	HV
Elk	MV	HV
Mule Deer	LV	MV
Black Cottonwood	LV	MV
Quaking Aspen	LV	MV
Golden Eagle	LV	LV
American Beaver	LV	LV
Common Chokecherry	LV	LV
Geyer's Willow	LV	LV
Redosier Dogwood	LV	LV

Use of the Climate Change Vulnerability Index to evaluate the vulnerability of the Shared Concerns



Vulnerability workshop in Boise with USRT member tribes' staff and leadership

Photos by: Sascha Petersen, Adaptation International

Vulnerability Assessment Results

The result of these collaborative steps are locally relevant climate change vulnerability rankings for 26 habitats, plants, and animals.

This overview sheet is part of a series of handouts from this assessment. Other handouts summarize climate change vulnerability in the Upper Snake River Watershed for Big Sagebrush, Black-tailed Jackrabbit, Chinook Salmon, Columbia Spotted Frog, Common Chokecherry, Geyer's Willow, Mule Deer, and Riparian Habitat.

Please visit uppersnakerivertribes.org/climate to access the full report and review these vulnerability rankings in detail.

Contact Scott Hauser, Executive Director, USRT Foundation at scott.hauser@usrtrf.org for more information.

