



USET

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USET Resolution No. 2025:001

BECOMING A CONSORTIUM PARTNER WITH THE NORTHEAST AND SOUTH CENTRAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION SCIENCE CENTERS

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of thirty-three (33) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Natural Resource Committee recognizes that there is overwhelming scientific evidence of climate change, which has been documented in the Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4) Report (2018); and
- WHEREAS,** the NCA4 identified that "climate change threatens Indigenous peoples' livelihoods and economies, including agriculture, hunting and gathering, fishing, forestry, energy, recreation, and tourism enterprises. Indigenous peoples' economies rely on, but face institutional barriers to, their self-determined management of water, land, other natural resources, and infrastructure that will be impacted increasingly by changes in climate;" and
- WHEREAS,** USET Member Tribal Nations are committed to join together to address climate change impacts and to take actions to protect our people, lands, water and natural resources, cultural integrity, rights and sovereignty; and
- WHEREAS,** in September 2009, then Secretary of the Interior, Kenneth Salazar issued Secretarial Order 3289 "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources;" in which the Department of the Interior (DOI) commits to, "Address the impacts of climate change on American Indians and Alaska Natives, for whom the Department of the Interior (DOI) holds trust responsibilities on behalf of the Federal government;" and
- WHEREAS,** Secretarial Order 3289 established regional DOI Climate Science Centers, now referred to as Climate Adaptation Science Centers or "CASCs" to "provide climate change impact data and analysis geared to the needs of fish and wildlife managers as they develop adaptation strategies in response to climate change;" and
- WHEREAS,** the regional CASCs have Consortium partnerships that include institutes of higher education, nongovernmental organizations, government agencies, Tribal Nations, and Tribal organizations; and
- WHEREAS,** CASC Consortium Partners can apply directly to the regional CASC for funding to lead climate adaptation research projects; and

WHEREAS, the Southeast CASC, Northeast CASC, and the South Central CASC provide climate change impact data and analysis within the USET Region; and

WHEREAS, at the 2022 USET/USET SPF Annual Meeting, USET Resolution No. 2023:001 was passed, authorizing North Carolina State University to include USET as a Consortium Partner in its application to continue to serve as the host of the Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center, which was successful, resulting in USET's membership in that consortium; and

WHEREAS, in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors supports efforts of USET Member Tribal Nations to lead climate change adaptation projects and to take actions to protect their people, lands, water and natural resources, cultural integrity, rights and sovereignty; and be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors authorizes the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the University of Oklahoma to include USET as a Consortium Partner in their applications to continue to serve as the hosts of, respectively, the Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center and the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the remote USET Annual Meeting at which a quorum was present on October 8, 2024.



Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
President
United South and Eastern Tribes



Vice Chairwoman Sarah Harris, Secretary
Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes