



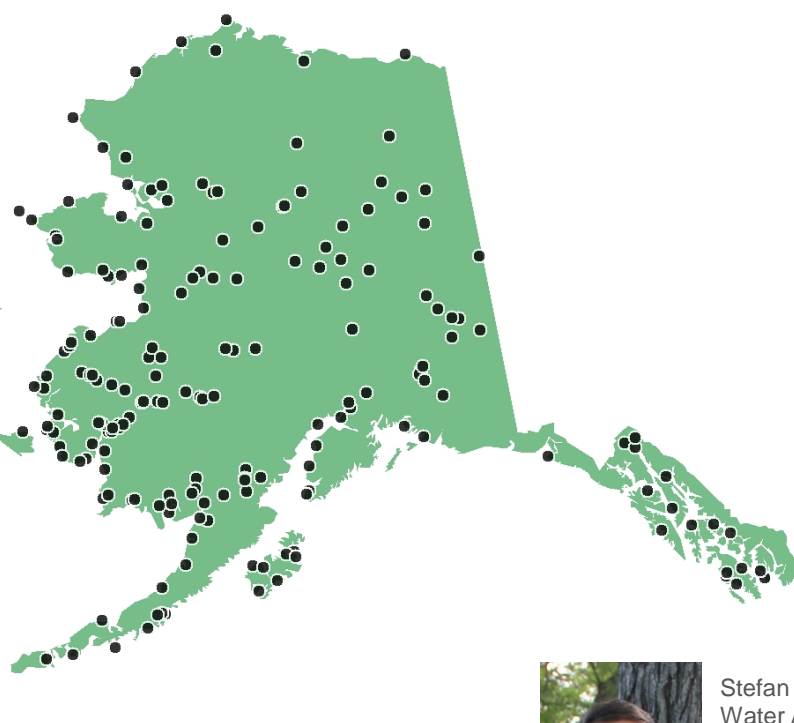
# Tribal Resilience Liaisons



Malinda is an enrolled tribal member of Anvik, a Deg Hit'an Athabascan village, located in Alaska's interior region, at the confluence of the Yukon and Anvik Rivers. Malinda holds a bachelor's degree in American Studies from Wellesley College and a master's degree in Cross-Cultural Studies from the UA-Fairbanks. Her experience is in community planning, non-profit management, Native language revitalization, post-secondary distance education and Alaska Native education. More recently, Malinda's focus is on tribal resilience education that aims to engage the AK Native community in her work with the Association of Interior Native Educators. Malinda loves cutting and preserving salmon and kayaking, especially with her daughter.

**Alaska Success:** Successful collaboration and increasingly stronger networking with tribal entities and allied organizations supporting Alaska tribes and communities in proactive adaptation, training and access to resources and significant engagement opportunities.

**Alaska Challenge:** Working across the multiple, vast regions of Alaska, and especially helping tribes access and respond to significant opportunities during the height of various subsistence seasons.



**Northwest Success:** Very successful in assisting tribes to identify and acquire funding to address their climate-related tribal priorities and developing strong partnerships with tribes we have connected with.

**Northwest Challenge:** Identifying and connecting with staff interested in climate issues from each Tribe in the NW.



Chas is an interdisciplinary expert in the dynamic interactions between climate, water, ecology, and society. He has a Ph.D. in Hydrology from the U of Alaska, where he incorporated traditional knowledge and science to assess exposure of indigenous people to the impacts of climate change. His postdoc research at EPA assesses hydrologic vulnerability to climate across the U.S. Chas also has a M.S. in Environmental Science and Policy and a B.S. in Biology from Northern Arizona University, studying ecological impacts of dams. Chas has a record of success in writing grants and technical writing – useful skills as the NW Tribal Liaison.



Althea Walker is the Tribal Resilience Liaison for the SW CASC and is employed by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. Althea has a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Resource Management and a Master of Science degree in Environmental Technology Management from Arizona State University. For the past five years, she has worked for the Gila River Indian Community Department of Environmental Quality leading the climate change adaptation planning for the Community. She has Tribal affiliations with the Nez Perce, Hopi, and Gila River nations, and is an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community.

**Southwest Success:** Outreach has been successful to foster climate awareness and facilitate discussions on response and adaptation planning and research development that incorporates traditional knowledge

**Southwest Challenge:** Increasing drought and wildfire and resulting strain on water resources and species threaten the traditional foods, natural resource-based livelihoods, cultural resources, and spiritual of Indigenous peoples in the SW.

## Regional USGS CASC and University Host Sites:

NE USGS: <https://casc.usgs.gov/centers/northeast>

NE Host: <https://necsc.umass.edu/>

SE USGS: <https://casc.usgs.gov/centers/southeast>

SE Host: <https://globalchange.ncsu.edu/secsc/>

SC USGS: <https://casc.usgs.gov/centers/southcentral>

SC Host: <https://southcentralclimate.org/>

SW USGS: <https://casc.usgs.gov/centers/southwest>

SW Host: <https://www.swcasc.arizona.edu/>

NW USGS: <https://casc.usgs.gov/centers/northwest>

NW Host: <https://nwcasc.uw.edu/>

NC USGS: <https://casc.usgs.gov/centers/northcentral>

NC Host: <https://nccasc.colorado.edu/>

AK USGS: <https://casc.usgs.gov/centers/alaska>

AK Host: <https://casc.alaska.edu/>

National USGS CASC: <https://casc.usgs.gov/>

Tribal nations and native communities face significant challenges in responding and building resiliency to the extreme weather events and environmental hazards resulting from climate change. The Bureau of Indian Affairs' Tribal Resilience Program (TRP), the US Geological Survey (USGS), and Tribal Groups are collaborating to support a nationwide network of Tribal Resilience Liaisons that operate in conjunction with USGS' regional [Climate Adaptation Science Centers \(CASCs\)](#). Tribal Liaisons are generally employed by tribal organizations, funded by TRP, and work at CASC's to support all federally-recognized tribes. The liaison program will increase the resources available to:

- Help tribes access information, data, and expertise at the CASC's and elsewhere;
- Facilitate research integrating traditional knowledge; and
- Support tribal forums and information exchange.

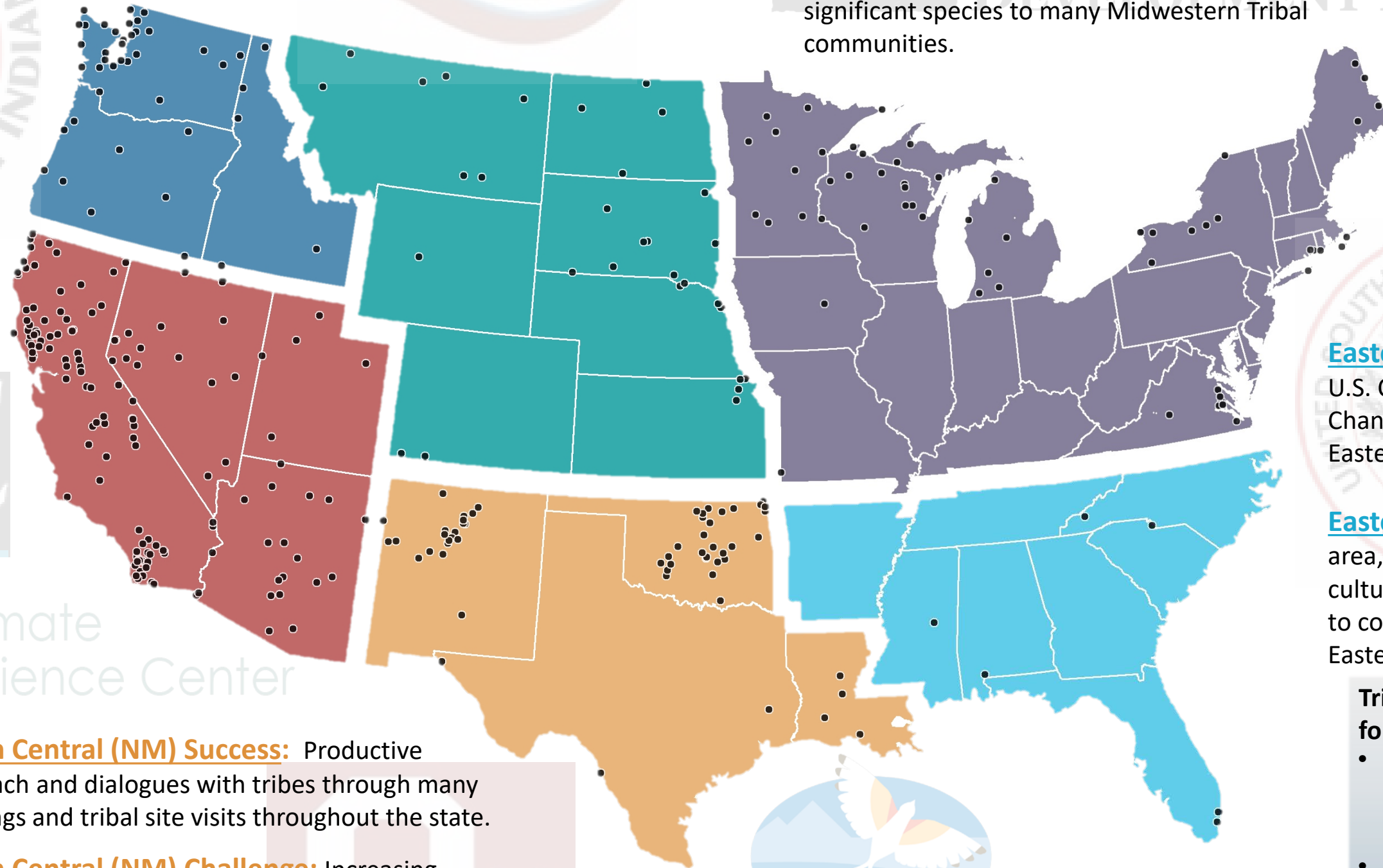
These efforts are designed to better understand, communicate, and meet the needs of tribes through partnerships to promote more resilient tribal communities.



Stefan Tangen serves as the Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance's Tribal Resilience Liaison for the NC CASC and conducts outreach and trainings with tribes to help build capacity and develop adaptation plans and vulnerability assessments based on the best climate science available. He has worked with rural communities of Sierra Leone in West Africa as a teacher and development worker and with native villages and indigenous communities in NW Alaska on climate adaptation planning.

**North Central Success:** Tribes are developing sub regional networks and beginning the process of proactively adapting to climate change.

**North Central Challenge:** Lack of tribal sovereignty over water and other natural resources.



**South Central (NM) Success:** Productive outreach and dialogues with tribes through many trainings and tribal site visits throughout the state.

**South Central (NM) Challenge:** Increasing drought and wildfire and resulting strain on water resources and species threaten the traditional foods, natural resource-based livelihoods, cultural resources, and spiritual of Indigenous peoples in NM.

Maurice Cruz is the newest addition to the Tribal Liaison team, as the South Central CASC's New Mexico Tribal Liaison. Maurice is an enrolled member of Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, and received his undergraduate degree in Psychology and Geographic Information Science from the University of New Mexico. With a background in team leadership, rangeland management, and remote sensing using GIS, Maurice will facilitate tribal planning and decision-making by providing the connection to data and resources in coordination with Indigenous ways of knowing. Outside of work, Maurice spends his time biking, skiing, and rock climbing. Welcome to the team Maurice!

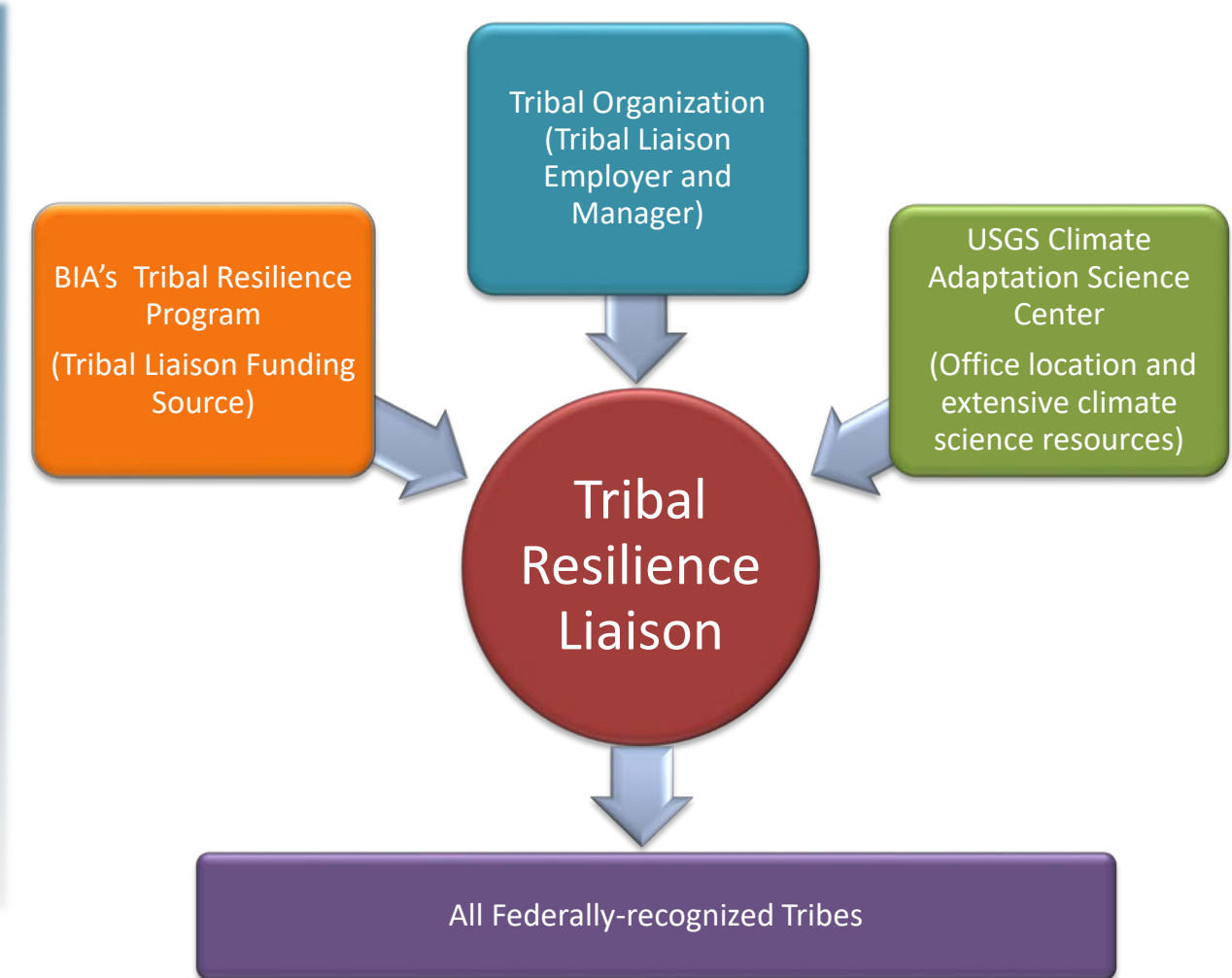


**South Central (OK, TX, LA) Success:** Building connections between tribes and the resources of climate scientists and in developing opportunities for tribal students in STEM fields.

**South Central (OK, TX, LA) Challenge:** Tribes are particularly vulnerable to water resource constraints and extreme weather and struggle with contingencies due to economic, political, and infrastructure limitation.



April Taylor is a Sustainability Scientist with the Chickasaw Nation at the South Central Climate Science Center (SC-CSC) in Norman, OK. April holds a BS in Marine Science from Texas A&M University and a Masters in Earth and Environmental Resource Management from the University of South Carolina. As a Chickasaw citizen with a family tradition of raising Native American grafted pecan trees, she is inspired by helping Tribes manage and plan for the many environmental impacts of climate variability and change and other resilience issues.



**Midwest Success:** Major force behind the publication of [Dibaginiigaadeq Anishinaabe Ezhitwaad: A Tribal Climate Adaptation Menu](#), an extensive collection of adaptation measures and guidelines for Tribal natural resource management and partners working with tribes.

**Midwest Challenge:** Mitigating impacts on black ash trees from emerald ash borers and manoomin (wild rice) from climate change, both of which are culturally significant species to many Midwestern Tribal communities.

Sara is a direct descendant of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin and holds a B.S. in Biology (Ecology and Conservation) and First Nation Studies from the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay and a M.S. in Ecology from the State University of New York - College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Her experience is in research and development, natural resources, ecology, Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), and working with indigenous communities in the Midwest. Sara's interests entail forest ecology and dynamics, bridging the gap between science and indigenous knowledge, climate resilience education, and community outreach



**Eastern Success:** Contributed written testimony to the U.S. Congress Natural Resources Committee on Climate Change impacts on Tribal Nations in the United South and Eastern Tribes, NE/SE CASC service region, February 2019.

**Eastern Challenge:** Working over a large geographic area, from Maine to Florida to Texas, of diverse Indigenous cultures and Tribal Nations, and working with two CASC's to coordinate outreach and technical support to South and Eastern Tribal Nations.

## Tribal Resilience Liaisons generally provide the following assistance to tribes:

- Support tribal leaders, emergency response planners, and resource managers to build capacity for addressing climate impacts on first foods, cultural resources, traditional practices, and tribal rights
- Facilitate the development of climate adaptation plans, vulnerability assessments, policies, and strategies to address tribal priorities and vulnerabilities by leveraging scientific resources in accordance with traditional knowledge.
- Conduct outreach, education, and training that engages communities
- Coordinate with a national working group to build skills, gather information, and develop tribal plans, policies, and strategies.
- Identify resilience priorities, vulnerabilities, data needs and research gaps in climate and natural and cultural resources disciplines
- Provide support for specific implementation of resiliency projects
- Promote youth involvement and engagement to assure future generations are inspired and capable to continue resiliency efforts

