



Friday, November 21, 2014 – 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Room 137, College of Law Building – 1201 East Speedway Boulevard

Transdisciplinary Research, Environmental Monitoring, and Sovereignty: Lessons from Collaborative Drought Planning in the Four Corners

PRESENTED BY:

**Daniel B. Ferguson, Program Director, Climate Assessment for the Southwest,
Institute of the Environment**

This presentation will focus on recent collaborative work with the **Hopi Tribe's Department of Natural Resources** for developing a monitoring program that addresses drought and long-term climate adaptation.

Integrating regional climate data with local observations provides a more holistic view of drought status than regional climate data alone. Social and ecological system responses to climate may be best observed and characterized by people who's daily lives are immersed in those environmental conditions.

This integrative approach creates two important co-benefits:

- 1) Decision makers become more aware of the capacity and limits of science to support decision-making
- 2) Local communities are empowered to participate in both research and policy making



Daniel Ferguson directs the **Climate Assessment of the Southwest (CLIMAS)** program housed in the **University of Arizona's Institute of the Environment**. CLIMAS has an explicit mission to connect climate science to decision making in the Southwest. Dan directs the day-to-day operations of the CLIMAS program, including outreach and assessment efforts with stakeholders throughout the region. In addition, Dan's research focuses on three related areas: climate impacts and adaptation strategies in Native American communities in the Southwestern U.S.; methods and processes for building scientist/practitioner partnerships to address climate-related issues in society; and communication of science. Prior to his research appointment at the University of Arizona in 2005, Dan spent several years in Fairbanks, Alaska, managing the science management offices for the **National Science Foundation's Arctic System Science Program** and the affiliated Human Dimensions of the Arctic System program.



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