

## **The Southwest Climate Change Initiative: Information and Tools for Natural Resources Management in a Changing World**

The Southwest Climate Change Initiative (SWCCI) a collaboration between The Nature Conservancy and state, federal, private and academic partners, provides information and tools for climate change adaptation planning and implementation to conservation practitioners in the Four Corners states.

### **The project's objectives:**

- (1) Assess and map the exposure of natural areas in the Four Corners states – Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah – to past and projected future climate change.
- (2) Identify vulnerable landscapes, watersheds, habitats, and species.
- (3) At one case study landscape in each of the four states, build understanding of how climate change may affect ecosystems, and identify strategies that natural resource managers can use to prepare for and adapt to climate change.

The scientific information and tools that the SWCCI develops will be useful in developing regional and landscape-scale management plans, fostering cross-site learning, and informing policy. The SWCCI provides scientific information as a foundation for effective land and water management in a changing world.

### **Opportunities and benefits of engagement with the SWCCI:**

- Learn how climate change affects conservation areas of the Southwestern U.S.
- Help develop practical strategies for climate change preparation and adaptation at case study landscapes in each of the Four Corners states.
- Develop partnerships with the climate change research community to inform and develop effective land and water management policy and practice.
- Help develop and test science-based climate adaptation tools for planners and managers.

### **Time frame:**

- The SWCCI regional exposure assessment will be completed in April 2010. Some products are already available at <http://www.climatewizard.org/swcci>.
- Landscape adaptation workshops:
  - New Mexico – Jemez Mountains workshop completed in April 2009, follow-up work is now underway.
  - Colorado – Gunnison Basin workshop will be held in December 2009.
  - Arizona – Workshop will be held in northern Arizona in April 2010.
  - Utah – Workshop will be held in May or June 2010.