



## ABOUT US

The mission of the Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (MW CASC) is to deliver science to help fish, wildlife, water, land and people in the Midwest adapt to a changing climate. In our fourth year of operation, we continued our efforts to accomplish this mission through objectives in science production, partnerships, capacity building, and communications.

## SCIENCE

Since 2021, the USGS has supported a total of 48 research projects through the MW CASC. 24 projects were active in fiscal year 2025, including four newly added projects. In addition, the MW CASC consortium has six synthesis research projects in progress addressing priority adaptation topics with potential for national-scale replicability and benefits.

In Year 4, the MW CASC supported nine graduate students pursuing climate adaptation research at consortium member institutions.

Spotlight

*This year, the MW CASC provided crucial support for State Wildlife Action Plan revisions by convening key partners and providing climate data, tools, and training. MW CASC staff took a lead role in producing individual reports that provide a detailed overview of climate change impacts to Midwestern habitats to enable wildlife management and protection strategies that are more comprehensive and forward-looking.*



## PARTNERSHIPS

The MW CASC works to respond to high priority resource management challenges and foster substantive, sustained engagement between scientists and managers. In Year 4, the MW CASC and its leaders also participated in several cross-sector collaborations with organizations including, in part, the National Park Service, Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Joint Venture, and the Midwest Landscape Initiative.



## CAPACITY BUILDING

The MW CASC's 2025 Summer Symposium was hosted by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign from August 5-7. More than 150 people registered to attend. Participants shared research, learned new skills, and strengthened cross-institution collaborations.

The MW CASC also officially launched our Community of Practice in Year 4. More than 100 people joined the CoP from MW CASC member organizations and other research and management institutions across the region.

The MW CASC continued to connect early career researchers to skills-building and mentoring opportunities this year. The 2025 Mentoring Program paired 18 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers with adaptation practitioners for a 10-week virtual mentoring experience. Both mentors and mentees reported positive experiences, with 8 out of 10 mentees saying they would "strongly recommend" this program to their peers. A cohort of 12 students participated in the College of Menominee Nation's 2025 summer internship program, two of whom were funded by the MW CASC and worked on climate adaptation research projects.



## Spotlight

*The MW CASC hosted a workshop to advance research addressing the intersecting stressors of climate change, invasive species, and fish and wildlife health relative to managed relocations. 50 experts from management agencies, NGOs, and academia participated, fostering interagency collaborations, synthesizing the current understanding of management relocation risks and benefits, and identifying research priorities.*



## COMMUNICATIONS

In Year 4, the MW CASC continued to grow its audience through several digital platforms, including our website, social media, and virtual research seminars. Our primary social media focus is LinkedIn, where we established groups for early career researchers and the Community of Practice. MW CASC staff, researchers, and leaders also helped expand the MW CASC's reach through conference presentations and meetings with local, regional, and national decision makers.

**5800**

Social media  
followers

**160**

Monthly seminar  
registrants

**1500**

Newsletter  
subscribers

**2700**

Monthly website  
visits