

World Cafe: Adapting to Climate Change

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The World Café is an interactive discussion session during which workshop participants will engage in conversations to explore solutions to issues related to climate change in desert ecosystems. We will collectively examine issues related to the effects of multiyear and decadal climate variability on desert environments, as well as the potential impacts of climate change on desert environments. We will develop strategies for research needed to make climate information and climate change projections useful to desert ecosystem managers and others. We will evaluate the intersection of human and climatic impacts and explore ways to enhance and adapt management practices to meet these challenges. The World Café discussions will connect ideas presented by the plenary speakers (April 9) with the experience and practical knowledge of land managers and field scientists. This will enrich the perspectives put forth in case studies and state and transition modeling exercises and breakout sessions (April 10). Perhaps most important -- since we will not solve the management challenges of the desert Southwest in one afternoon -- is that through our collective interactions we will begin to build a network for exchanging knowledge and strategies to meet these challenges.

Gregg Garfin is a climatologist with the University of Arizona's Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, and co-investigator on the NOAA-funded Climate Assessment for the Southwest (CLIMAS) project. He specializes in knowledge exchange, drought, and climate change.