Investigating water scarcity and governance across social-ecological systems (WaterSES): a program on ecosystem change and society (PECS) perspective


Overview

WaterSES: Water scarcity and governance across Social-Ecological Systems

WaterSES is an endorsed project within the Program on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS). PECS promotes transdisciplinary, placed-based comparative research to identify appropriate operational scales for SES stewardship and management, and determine when drivers of global change are fast or slow, direct or indirect.

The PECS-WaterSES compares the social-ecological dynamics causing and caused by water scarcity and governance across international research sites with conflicting local and regional water needs and governance, including arid southern Spain, the south-central Great Plains of Oklahoma (US), and the Portneuf and Treasure Valleys, Idaho (US). WaterSES sites have different climates, water needs and socio-ecological dynamics, but are all experiencing new regional, societal demands for limited water resources. The goal of this working group is to propose sustainable water use and governance solutions.

Next Goals & Steps

• Synthesize the data that has been collected across the three PECS-WaterSES research sites, and identify the novel and pressing SES science questions.
• Develop new SES science research questions that can be answered using additional data that could be collected across the sites in the next year.
  • Identify potential new research sites for PECS-WaterSES, such as China, South Africa, Madrid in Spain or Texas in US.
• Target cross-institutional funding opportunities at the national and international level to continue the data collection process, as well as other venues to support future synthesis workshops

Next WaterSES meeting: II PECS-WaterSES Workshop in Oaxaca (Mexico) at the PECS 2017 Conference