The Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP) is a NOAA supported Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessment (RISA) team that serves the climate research and information needs of the South-Central United States. SCIPP is a joint research program of the University of Oklahoma (OU) and Louisiana State University (LSU) with combined expertise provided through additional institutions in the region. SCIPP concentrates on addressing weather and climate concerns including severe storms, droughts, floods, hurricanes, and extreme temperatures, and works to improve communities' abilities to plan for, absorb, recover from and successfully adapt to adverse effects of these events, both now and in the future.

Providing Trusted Support and Information for Decision Making

“The SCIPP team analyzed past climate information and model projections of future climate. This information was used to assess how climate may affect mission-control objectives of SPR [Strategic Petroleum Reserve], resulting in an SPR that is more able to adapt to extreme events.”

-Robert Sevcik, Fluor Federal Petroleum Operations

“SCIPP allows Oklahoma to have this [Simple Planning Tool] resource available not only for local jurisdictions but for the entire state and beyond. SCIPP, as a research entity, and educational entity, and a life-safety entity provides avenues for the betterment of the people of Oklahoma.”

-Paula Dennison, City of Stillwater Development Services
- Rob Hill, City of Stillwater Emergency Management

A Snapshot of SCIPP’s Partners & Stakeholders

American Planning Association
Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
Bentonville, AR Development Services Dept.
Bethany, OK Community Development Dept.
Disaster Resilience Network
Louisiana Department of Health
Louisiana Department of Transportation
National Weather Service
Oklahoma City Community Foundation
Oklahoma City Emergency Management
Oklahoma Climatological Survey
South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center
Southern Regional Climate Center
Texas Division of Emergency Management
Texas Water Development Board
U.S. Department of Energy
USDA Southern Plains Climate Hub
What is the Value of SCIPP to the South Central United States?

SCIPP connects sources of climate information within NOAA and its partners directly to community decision processes. Iterative interactions with stakeholders allows for improvement of risk characterization both within the individual context of the decision but also more broadly through improving products, services, and tools available to other communities and stakeholders.

Responding to Data Needs in Local Decision Making

Working with local emergency managers and planners in both Oklahoma and Arkansas, SCIPP developed a new tool that will assist planners and emergency managers across the two states with assessing their long-term climate risks. The Simple Planning Tool will help make it easier for communities to identify and apply relevant hazards information to develop risk profiles and inform local hazard mitigation strategies.

Influencing Dam Design Standards

SCIPP provided expertise on a study to determine Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) for the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, which will in return directly guide the updated construction and remediation of dams across the region. Updated PMP estimates may lead to reductions in the rainfall magnitudes inland and increases along the coast. Reduced estimates could lead to tens of millions of dollars in savings in dam construction and unnecessary dam remediation per dam.

Improving the Protection of a Major U.S. Port

SCIPP’s SURGEDAT database of historical storm surge height and inundation envelopes is being used by the Port of Houston to assess risks and protection strategies for a $15B petrochemical complex. Protecting the Port of Houston is important to the U.S. economy, as 65% of all major U.S. cargo moves through the port each year.

For more information, contact:
Margret Boone, Program Manager
(405) 325-7809, mboone@ocs.ou.edu

Please also visit us online at:
http://www.southernclimate.org