Regional Climate Change Effects and Ecosystem Responses in the North Central U.S.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | 2 – 3:30 P.M.
Lory Student Center Room 386

Ecosystems and climate change are linked through a number of complex interactions which couple the land and water resources with the atmosphere through cycles of energy, water, and nutrients such as carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus. Ecosystems respond to climate and alter the manner in which ecosystem services associated with food availability, water cleanliness and availability, and habitat and shelter, which wildlife, fish, and plants depend upon. Human well-being is also affected by these interactions between ecosystems and climate. The rapid nature of climate change in our region of the U.S. are affecting ecosystems in ways that we are not readily able to manage for. In our region, efforts have been established to understand the dynamics of climate change, its impacts and consequences, and how we manage ecosystem services to maintain livelihoods and our natural resources.

This panel will address what we know of these changes through regional understanding of climate impacts to our ecosystem and natural resources in our region, and how we are working with natural resource managers to develop adaptation and coping strategies for these critical sets of ecosystem services. The panel will discuss issues related to water, rangelands, forests, and water fowl.

Organizer and Moderator: Dr. Dennis Ojima**,** Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory (NREL) Senior Research Scientist

Panelists:

- Dr. Dannele Peck, Agricultural Economist, USDA/ARS (Fort Collins, CO)
- Dr. Robin O'Malley, USGS Director of the North Central Climate Science Center
- Dr. James Rattling Leaf, Senior Coordinator, Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance
- Dr. Rich Conant, Associate Dean, Warner College of Natural Resources and Professor, Ecosystem Science and Sustainability, CSU; NREL Ecosystem Ecologist