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Impacts of Climate Change on Native Peoples and Homelands

This presentation will discuss the results of the first workshop specifically designed by Native Peoples to examine the impacts of climate change and extreme weather variability on Native Peoples and Native Homelands and to develop recommendations, as well as identify potential response actions. The workshop was designed to create an opportunity for Native Peoples to provide the basis for the section of the US National Assessment addressing the impacts of global climate change on Native Homelands and Peoples and to participate in the development of the national policy and research agenda. In fact, the discussion results from that workshop were turned into Chapter 12 of the US National Assessment on Climate Change, published in 2001. Primary areas of impacts that were considered in the workshop included agriculture, energy, natural resources, vegetation, fish and wildlife, economies, disaster planning, water resources, tourism, culture, and human populations. Consequences of the clearly observable climate changes now occurring will affect both reservation lands and the much larger land areas encompassed in the concept of Native Homelands.