

Climate Change on weed biology, ecology, and management (Symposium to be held on Thursday, March 16)

Climate change, manifested as increased temperatures and altered precipitation, is predicted to have profound impacts on weed invasion, control, and interactions with other organisms. Invasive plants may increase their ranges, and annual invasive grasses may interact with fire to increase their spread and fire frequency to the detriment of rangeland health. With respect to weed management, chemical control of rangeland and agronomic weeds may be hindered as increased temperature and elevated CO₂ reduce the efficacy of control measures, and biological control agents could be negatively impacted by an altered climate as they may not be adapted for novel environmental conditions.

This symposium will address the effects of climate change on weed biology, ecology, and management. Speakers will cover a diversity of topics related to climate change, weeds, and management from the basic to the applied, and the ecological to the social. A forum will be provided to discuss the impacts of climate change within the context of rangeland and cropland weeds in the West. This will enable a multi-directional exchange of information and ideas to (1) assist in managing agronomic and invasive weeds under altered climate, (2) facilitate the development of informed research objectives, and (3) provide outreach professionals the background needed to discuss climate change and weed issues with their clientele.