

## **Shoshone Tribe Addresses Climate Change, CCAP a Success Thanks to Grant Funding**

The Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) represented the first crucial step by the Eastern Shoshone Tribe on the Wind River Indian Reservation (WRIR) to develop an effective plan to protect the health and livelihoods of its community members. This CCAP focused on how the Eastern Shoshone Tribe could collectively develop mitigation planning actions to adapt to the increasing temperatures in the inter-mountain west and the increasingly volatile and extreme weather patterns plaguing the area. The impacts from these climate changes include reductions in surface groundwater, lessening water quality, diminished forage amount and quality, increases in wildfire frequency and intensity resulting in air quality issues, and pest outbreaks in forests. Further impacts include diminished crop yield potential due to the droughts and uneven weather patterns and seasons due to the extreme weather. Economic losses are expected to continue due to the effects of climate change for WRIR farmers and ranchers. These various climate change issues have direct impacts on the Eastern Shoshone tribal community members' physical and mental health. In response to the vulnerability assessment results, the Eastern Shoshone Tribe approved a resolution and applied for an adaptation grant through the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funding opportunity award in March, 2024, to develop this CCAP.

A Climate Change Action Plan Working Group was created, comprised of a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) group focusing on four key concepts. The four areas of emphasis concentrated on (1) Planning areas including health and livelihoods; (2) How we can adapt our current and future workforce to improve worker safety and improve workplace efficiency during significant all-hazard events, and (3) What are the steps needed to be completed to finalize a future CEDS plan to improve sustainability and resilience to climate change. Finally, (4) It was investigated how a reliable green energy plan could help the WRIR to become energy self-sustaining. The framework and template for this project were utilized from the previous groundbreaking Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Climate Action Plan (2020). Special thanks go to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe for sharing their well-developed document. This executive summary will highlight the CCAP process and how the CCAP will be implemented to improve resilience. The plan proposes specific actions and funding sources for each area and will highlight current climate resilience programs, action planning, and ongoing implementation projects. This living and breathing Climate Change Action Plan is a testament to the urgency needed by the Eastern Shoshone Tribe to improve climate resilience.

### **1. Climate Change Action Plan Implementation**

The CCAP is currently being implemented for WRIR Eastern Shoshone tribal residents. These projects and many of the programs, actions, and plans will require more time, discussion, and additional funding and partnerships. This plan should help facilitate more ideas to seek grants and related funds from outside resources to provide for an even better climate, all-hazard, and economic and energy resilience, and improve community mitigation to all-hazards. These long-term projects will demonstrate the patience and determination of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe to take timely and proactive actions to achieve much-improved climate resilience.

Two-thirds of the overall 25 projects (Appendix I, Table 2) indicated in section one of the plan are in the process of being accomplished. All 25 of the projects will be on target to be completed by late 2027. Due to the rapid changes occurring due to climate change, it was decided to develop an initial two-year plan from 2026 to 2028. Table 1 is a two-year climate change action plan implementation schedule for the 25 planning and implementation projects.

**Table 1. Eastern Shoshone Tribe All-Hazards Implementation Projects Timeline**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>
<b>2026-2028</b>	<b>Mos. 1-24</b>	<b>Projects Implementation</b>	
Project 1: Five Campbell Scientific Weather Stations		Weather station locations at Bull Lake, East Fork of the Wind River, Morton Lake, Washakie Dam, and Boysen Peak will be installed by Spring, 2026.	Weather station locations at Bull Lake, East Fork of the Wind River, Morton Lake, Washakie Dam, and Boysen Peak will be operational by Summer 2026.
Project 2: Five River Gauges		River gauges will be installed by Spring 2026 at: 17 Mile Bridge, Hudson, Wyoming on Popo Agie River, at Mill Creek at 17 mile road, at Little Wind River at Fort Washakie Dam, and at Little Wind River at Ethete, Wyoming.	River gauges will be operational by Summer 2026 at: 17 Mile Bridge, Hudson, Wyoming on the Popo Agie River, at Mill Creek at 17 mile road, at the Little Wind River at Fort Washakie Dam, and at the Little Wind River at Ethete, Wyoming.
Project 3: All-Hazards Warning Applications		The Regroup All-Hazards Warning software has been installed and is ready for operations. Tribal members will continue to sign up for the Regroup software through 2026.	The Regroup All-Hazards Warning software is installed, and Tribal members will continue to sign up for the All-Hazards warning software to receive all-hazard warning emails, texts, and phone calls through 2026.

<p>Project 4: Weather Ready Communities All-Hazard Preparedness</p>		<p>The Weather Ready Communities (WRC) all-hazard preparedness safety walkthroughs project is completed. All-hazard safety walkthroughs were completed for 70 Tribal buildings and departments. All-hazard safety walkthrough documents were provided to all departments and completed on February 5, 2026.</p>	<p>All-hazard safety walkthroughs and documents were provided to approximately 70 Tribal buildings and departments by February 5, 2026.</p>
<p>Project 5: Eastern Shoshone Tribal Wildfire Resiliency</p>		<p>An Eastern Shoshone Tribal wildfire safety toolkit and multi-agency supported wildfire resilience workshop was completed July 22, 2025.</p>	<p>The Eastern Shoshone Tribal wildfire safety toolkit and multi-agency supported wildfire resilience workshop was completed on July 22, 2025.</p>
<p>Project 6: NOAA All-Hazards and Weather Radio Purchase and Distribution</p>		<p>1,500 NOAA All-Hazards warning radios were purchased and 1,000 radios have been distributed to Tribal residents and installed at all buildings as of February 5, 2026. Phase 2 will be the distribution of 500 NOAA All-Hazards warning radios to residences/buildings in the Fort Washakie area by June 30, 2026</p>	<p>All 1,500 NOAA All-Hazards warning radios will be distributed to all Tribal residents and buildings by June 30, 2026.</p>
<p>Project 7: 40 Turn Around, Don't Drown Flood Signs</p>		<p>40 Turn Around, Don't Drown flood signs for 20 flood-prone locations were purchased and provided to Intertribal Transportation to install at flood-prone locations.</p>	<p>All 40 Turn Around, Don't Drown flood signs will be installed at 20 flood-prone locations through 2027.</p>

Project 8: WRIR Flood Warning System Project		The flood warning system for the Fort Washakie Dam will be funded to keep the river gauge initially operational through September 30, 2028.	The flood warning system for the Fort Washakie Dam is funded to keep the river gauge initially operational through September 30, 2028.
Project 9: WRIR Three Outdoor Warning Sirens		Three outdoor warning sirens will be purchased/ installed at Fort Washakie, Ethete, and Arapahoe.	Three outdoor warning sirens will be installed in Fort Washakie, Ethete, and Arapahoe by July 30, 2026
Project 10: Two Wildfire webcams/RAWS weather stations		The two wildfire webcams/RAWS weather stations will be purchased by Spring 2026.	The two wildfire webcams/ RAWS weather stations will be installed by Summer 2026.
Project 11: Two lightning safety warning systems		Two lightning safety warning systems will be purchased and installed by early Summer 2026.	The two lightning safety warning systems will be installed at Fort Washakie School and the Eastern Shoshone Tribal Pow Wow grounds by Summer 2026.
Project 12: Ten Wyolink Warning System Radios		Ten Wyolink warning system radios will be identified for ten Eastern Shoshone Tribal department heads or designees by Spring 2026.	The ten Wyolink warning system radios will be distributed to ten Eastern Shoshone Tribal department heads or designees by early Summer 2026.
Project 13: Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)		An Eastern Shoshone Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and SPR will be finalized by Spring 2026.	The Eastern Shoshone Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and SPR will be finished by Spring 2026.
Project 14: Eastern Shoshone Tribe-Building Emergency Action Plans		Building Emergency Action Plans were developed for 70 Eastern Shoshone Tribal buildings and departments by early 2026.	The Building Emergency Action Plans will be completed for 70 Eastern Shoshone Tribal buildings and departments by May 1, 2026.

<p>Project 15: Eastern Shoshone Tribe Red Cross Shelter Generator Project</p>		<p>Five building size generators will be implemented and installed at the identified Red Cross Shelter at Fort Washakie School by fall 2026.</p>	<p>The Five building size generators will be installed and operational at the Red Cross certified shelter at Fort Washakie School by fall 2026.</p>
<p>Project 16: Two storage buildings, cots and blankets for two sheltering locations</p>		<p>Storage buildings were purchased for Fort Washakie School and Rocky Mountain Hall sheltering locations. 200 blankets and cots were stored at Fort Washakie School and 100 cots and blankets at Rocky Mountain Hall.</p>	<p>The two storage buildings were installed at Fort Washakie School and at Rocky Mountain Hall. 200 cots and blankets were stored at the storage building at Fort Washakie School. 100 cots and blankets were stored at the storage building at Rocky Mountain Hall.</p>
<p>Project 17: Two drones purchased for search and rescue and documenting hazards and disasters</p>		<p>Two drones were purchased for Eastern Shoshone Division of Homeland Security and Shoshone and Arapaho Fish and Game for search and rescues and documenting hazards and disasters.</p>	<p>The two drones are being stored at Shoshone and Arapaho Fish and Game for search and rescues and documenting hazards and disasters. When the Eastern Shoshone Director of Homeland Security is hired, one of the two drones will be utilized by the Eastern Shoshone Division of Homeland Security.</p>
<p>Project 18: GPS Mapping and Identification of all Eastern Shoshone buildings and residences</p>		<p>Approximately 1,200 Eastern Shoshone Tribal buildings and residences will be precisely identified down to the one-foot level to identify latitude/longitude points of Tribal buildings and residences. This will vastly improve emergency 911 and fire department mapping of buildings and residences in the event of emergencies.</p>	<p>The approximately 1,200 Eastern Shoshone Tribal buildings and residences will be identified down to the one-foot latitude/longitude level by June 1, 2026.</p>

<p>Project 19: Digitizing all Eastern Shoshone Tribal critical infrastructure locations</p>		<p>All Eastern Shoshone Tribal critical infrastructure locations will be digitized by the Eastern Shoshone Archives Department with assistance by contractors.</p>	<p>All Eastern Shoshone Tribal critical infrastructure locations will be digitized by late summer 2026.</p>
<p>Project 20: Snow Removal Front End Loader</p>		<p>A front end loader was purchased and provided to the Eastern Shoshone Solid Waste program. The front end loader will be utilized for snow removal in the winter and routinely for the waste department.</p>	<p>The front end loader is operational and is being utilized by the Eastern Shoshone Solid Waste program.</p>
<p>Project 21: Disaster Recovery Vehicle</p>		<p>A disaster recovery vehicle was purchased and will be available for the new Eastern Shoshone Director of Homeland Security for operations/disaster recovery.</p>	<p>The disaster recovery vehicle is available for Eastern Shoshone Homeland Security operations and disaster recovery.</p>
<p>Project 22: Two Pre and Post Disaster Elderly and Special Needs Rescue and Recovery Buses</p>		<p>Two pre and post-disaster elderly and special needs rescue and recovery buses were purchased for the Warm Valley Senior Center and the Eastern Shoshone Early Intervention Program.</p>	<p>The two pre and post-disaster elderly and special needs rescue and recovery buses are now operational and being used by both the Warm Valley Senior Center and the Eastern Shoshone Early Intervention Program.</p>
<p>Project 23: Eastern Shoshone Tribe-20 Air Quality Monitoring Systems</p>		<p>Eastern Shoshone Division of Homeland Security will apply for future grant funding for 20 air quality monitoring systems by Summer 2026 with installations by late 2027 at ten WRIR locations.</p>	<p>Eastern Shoshone Division of Homeland Security will apply and await grant project funding approval for 20 air quality monitoring systems. Final approval is expected by late 2026 and installation by late 2027.</p>

Project 24: Eastern Shoshone Tribe 40 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)		40 AEDs were purchased with plans to install them at 40 critical infrastructure buildings.	40 AEDs will be installed by June 1 2026.
Project 25: Weather Ready Communities Phase 2 Project		Finalizing the remaining all-hazard safety walkthroughs and NOAA All-Hazard Weather Radios distribution by early 2026.	All remaining all-hazard safety walkthroughs and NOAA All-Hazard Weather Radios will be distributed by June 2026.

## 2. Future Revisions to the Climate Change Action Plan

The new CCAP for 2026-2028 will be reassessed in mid-2027, with plans to extend the climate change action plan to 2033. The CCAP will still be a changing document with time as threats and hazards change related to climate change. The plan will be intermittently updated and built upon as the Tribe continues to undertake focus group meetings and feedback regarding threats and hazards becomes more evident. The planned development of the WRIR Drought and Climate Change Office through both WRIR Tribes' Departments of Homeland Security will continue to engage with the LEPC team and Tribal departments, residents, and elders to maintain and update the plan by meeting quarterly to monitor the planning progress. It is recommended that the plan be updated appropriately and no later than every five years to ensure that the Climate Change Action Plan remains relevant to the ever-changing environment and atmosphere.

Appendix I. Table 2. Eastern Shoshone Tribe 25 Infrastructure and All-Hazard Warning System Projects In Progress and 14 Planned Implementation Projects Table

<b>2022 BIA Tribal Resilience Grants</b>	In progress
1. Five River Gauges-Improved Flood Warnings Project	Completed
2. All-Hazards Warning Applications Project	In progress
3. Weather Ready All-Hazards Community Project Phase 1 Project	Completed
4. WRIR Wildfire Resiliency Project	Completed
5. NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards Warning Project	In progress
6. Flood Warning Mitigation TADD Sign Project	Completed
7. Flood Warning System for 12 WRIR River Gauges Project	Completed
<b>2023 BIA Tribal Resilience Grant</b>	
1. Five Campbell Scientific Weather Stations Project	In progress
2. Three Outdoor Warning Sirens at Fort Washakie/Ethete/Arapahoe Project	In progress
3. Three RAWS Fire Weather Stations Project	In progress
4. Two Lightning Warning Systems-Fort Washakie School/Pow Wow Location Project	In progress
5. WOHS WYOLINK radios (10) for Eastern Shoshone Tribe Project	In progress
6. Complete Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) Project	In progress

7. Eastern Shoshone Tribal Buildings Emergency Action Plans Project	In progress
8. Generator Sheltering Project	In progress
9. Two Storage Buildings, Cots and Blankets Sheltering Project	Completed
10. Two Drones purchased for Eastern Shoshone DHS Project	Completed
11. Eastern Shoshone Buildings/Residences GPS identification Project	In progress
12. Eastern Shoshone Tribe Critical Infrastructure Digitizing Project	In progress
13. Front End Loader snow removal equipment Project	Completed
14. Disaster rescue and recovery truck Project	Completed
15. Pre/Post Disaster Tribal rescue and recovery buses (2) Project	Completed
16. 20 Air Quality Monitoring Stations Project	In progress
17. 40 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) Project	Completed
18. Weather Ready All-Hazards Community Phase 2 Project	Completed
<b>2026 Proposed Future Warning System/Mitigation Grant Projects</b>	
1. WRIR Partial County Warning Alerting Project	Future if funded
2. Eastern Shoshone IPAWS Certification Project	Future if funded
3. Five Additional Campbell Scientific Weather Stations Project	Future if funded
4. 20 Additional Air Quality Monitoring Stations Project	Future if funded
5. Three Additional RAWs Fire Weather Stations Project	Future if funded
6. Updating the WRIR Climate Portal Project	Future if funded
7. Four additional Fire Weather Webcams Project	Future if funded
8. Two Additional Outdoor Warning Sirens Project	Future if funded
9. Crowheart Big Wind Hall-Generator Power Project	Future if funded
10. Shoshone Utilities Backup Water System Generator Power Project	Future if funded
11. Rocky Mountain Hall-Red Cross Shelter Certification and Building Generator Power Project	Future if funded
12. ADA Wheelchair Ramp for Fort Washakie School Shelter Project	Future if funded
13. Intertribal and Eastern Shoshone Business Council Building Generator Project	Future if funded
14. 30 additional Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) Project	Future if funded

***This executive summary was provided by Tim Troutman, Disaster Resiliency Experts, LLC, and Eastern Shoshone Tribal grants contractor***

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