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Research poster: Vulnerability to climate change and policy support in rural Nevada

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I am conducting this project in two phases: data collection and data analysis. Within the first phase I will collect data and fieldwork consisting of two main parts; a) administering a survey to 1893 ranchers/farmers in 2009, and b) conducting in-depth interviews with tribal leaders and tribal governmental officers. In the data analysis phase, I will use both GIS spatial analysis tools and Multivariate Regression Analysis to test the research hypotheses.

So far, I have gathered a list of 1893 farmers and ranchers from a partner academic program. Mail-out, mail-back surveys were sent to all the 1893 ranchers/farmers on December 29th, 2009. Using Dillman’s approach, each Package included a survey, a personalized cover letter, a holiday card and a return envelop (Schutt, 2006). To date, 365 surveys were returned representing a response rate of 19%.

Three Native American communities have been selected based on criteria that include: a) having effective tribal sovereignty, b) having control over tribal lands, and c) size of community, size of land controlled and finally willing to cooperate in the research activities. The three reservations were located on September 11th and 12th, 2009. The project objectives and strategies were presented to two tribal councils on December 12, 13, 2009. The surveys are on their way to the members of those two tribes. Trying to gain more Native American partners the research was communicated to 8 Nevada tribal environmental managers on January 13, 2010.

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