

**Julio Betancourt** is a Senior Scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Arizona in Tucson, where he obtained both his Master's and Ph.D. His training in the sciences is broad and includes geology, hydrology, climatology, and ecology. This has allowed him to do innovative research in the seams between disciplines, and to publish over 130 technical papers in a wide variety of scientific journals ([http://www.paztcn.wr.usgs.gov/julio\\_cv.html](http://www.paztcn.wr.usgs.gov/julio_cv.html)). Dr. Betancourt investigates how climate variability and climate change affect floods, fires, droughts and ecosystem dynamics to inform management of natural hazards and natural resources. He has conducted field studies in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Mexico, Australia and throughout the western U.S. Dr. Betancourt has received prestigious awards from the American Water Resources Association, the Ecological Society of America, and the U.S. Department of Interior, and was recently honored by the White House with the prestigious Presidential Rank Award. He has also been a leader in both regional and national scientific initiatives, including recent establishment of a National Phenology Network that is aimed at observing and predicting how plants and animals will respond to climate change in the U.S., engaging the public in Citizen Science, and informing adaptive strategies that integrate climatic forecasts with phenological data and models ([www.usanpn.org](http://www.usanpn.org)). Over the past 4 years, Dr. Betancourt also has led the effort to educate and galvanize mitigation and adaptation to the spread of African buffelgrass that threatens to transform fireproof desert to flammable grassland ([www.buffelgrass.org](http://www.buffelgrass.org)).