

## Workshop – Review of 2012 Drought and preparing for Water Year 2013 Drought Possibilities

- Purpose: Discuss WY13 Drought Possibilities, Contingency Planning and Science Needs
- When: 6-7 November 2012 (Tues-Weds)
- Where: Boulder, CO (NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory, Room 1D-708, <http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/about/visiting.html>); also offering GoToWebinar.
- Sponsors: Reclamation R&D, NIDIS, and NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory
- Themes<sup>1</sup>: focus on drought-stricken basins in 2012, review hydrology and operations; consider 2013 hydrologic outlooks and associated operations; science needs
- Outcomes/Products:
  - WY13 hydrologic scenario information and post-workshop summary of discussion.
  - Communication strategy for how we are trying to enhance our projections of the combined impacts of drought and climate change on WY13 supplies.
  - Summary of science needs regarding forecasting and tracking effects of drought on current and future water supplies.

### Draft Agenda (10/29/2012)

#### November 6

- 8:00-8:30 Introductions (Reclamation R&D, NIDIS)
- 8:30-Noon **1. What happened in Water Year 2012?** Assume an Oct-Sep water year (definitions vary). Focus on Reclamation's four regions that experienced drought in 2012 (all except PN). Invite 20-minute briefing (with 10-minute Q&A) characterizing water year hydrology, drought development, operations response, and interactions with customers and stakeholders on supply forecast, allocations and management, any expectations for coming year, etc.
  - 8:30-9:00 UC – Upper Colorado River (Heather Hermansen)
  - 9:00-9:30 LC – Lower Colorado River (W. Paul Miller)
- 9:30-9:50 break
  - 9:50-10:20 MP – Truckee/Carson Basins (Tom Scott)
  - 10:20-10:40 GP – Oklahoma/Texas (Collins Balcombe)
  - 10:40-11:00 GP – Eastern Colorado (Andrew Gilmore)
  - 11:00-11:20 GP – Nebraska/Kansas (William Peck / Jack Wergin)
  - 11:20-Noon Open Discussion
- Noon-1:00pm Lunch
- 1:00-3:00 **2. Looking Ahead in Water Year 2013 - Hydrology.** Focus hydrologic information available from NWS River Forecast Centers, and schemes for adjusting forecasts to (1) account for warming trend, (2) account for

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<sup>1</sup> Random thoughts on Drought challenges, 8/14: (1) Agriculture concerns, (2) FY13 vulnerability dependent on FY11-12 carryover storage, (3) Conjunctive aspects of drought not well-understood, (4) U.S./Mexico response to Rio Grande/Pecos drought, (5) Colorado River Storage System – long-term and sustained drought - compact issues?

- basin carryover-effects from prior-year drought, and (3) be consistent with NOAA CPC seasonal climate/drought outlooks.
- 1:00-1:30 NOAA drought outlook (Ed Olenic, NOAA CPC)
- 1:30-2:00 How do RFCs develop ESP hydrologic forecasts? (Brenda Alcorn, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center)
- 2:00-2:50 Hydrologic Scenarios for 2013 (Subhrendu Gangopadhyay, Reclamation Technical Service Center)
  - Regions submitted short menus of locations
  - RFCs provided ESP forecasts at these locations
  - TSC converted forecasts into hydrologic scenarios corresponding to forecast-adjustment schemes developed collaboratively with NIDIS/NOAA
- 2:50-3:10 break
- 3:10-5:00 **3. Looking Ahead in Water Year 2013 - Operations.** Narrow focus to two basins, translating WY2013 hydrologic scenarios into operations outlooks, reflecting the different forecast adjustments above. Identify communications options based on results. Discuss utility of these hydrologic scenarios and development of Fall-lead operations outlooks for the coming water year.
  - 3:10-3:40 MP-LAO, Truckee and Carson River operations (Shane Coors, Precision Water Resources Engineering)
  - 3:40-4:10 UC Green and Gunnison River Operations (Heather Hermansen): Transitioning from the old to the new while looking ahead in 2013.
  - 4:10-5:00 Open Discussion

## November 7

- 8:30-10:00 **4. Science Needs.** On state of science and needs, we propose to focus on hydrologic information available from NWS River Forecast Centers, and schemes for adjusting forecasts to (1) account for warming trend, (2) account for basin carryover-effects from prior-year drought (e.g., groundwater impacts modulating surface water conditions the following year), and (3) be consistent with NOAA CPC seasonal climate/drought outlooks. Session involves a facilitate discussion (Brekke/Brown) with a panel of climate/drought outlook specialists and climate scientists from NOAA (Marty Hoerling, Judith Perlwitz, Matt Newman, Robert Webb)
- 10:00-10:15 Break
- 10:15-11:30 **5. Take-Aways and Next-Steps.**
  - Communications – key messages?
  - Utility of Fall-lead Hydrologic and Operations Scenarios?
  - Highest priority science needs/research activities?

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