

Coastal PNW Drought Outlook

Vancouver, WA

September 22

- **Morning Session**

- Drought recaps and outlook (OWSC, NWS NWRFC)
- Panel with 7 sectors represented (water supply, energy, fish, agriculture, aquaculture, forests, recreation)

- **Afternoon Session**

- Recap from Boise, ID (OCS/CIRC)
- Breakout Sessions
 - Focus on drought challenges, how sectors adapted this year, opportunities, information needs and gaps, and what a DEWS should look like

Drought Impacts & Challenges

- It is difficult to deliver relevant drought information that aligns well with the lead-time required for acting on drought
- Lack of funding and staff resources hamper drought response among state agencies
- Messaging drought difficult with so much variation across sectors
 - Differing definitions of drought across sectors and timing of impacts
 - Communication between scientists and resource managers
 - Communication between state agencies and local communities
- Short-term drought coping mechanisms can become problems if the drought lasts longer than expected

Examples of Identified Gaps

- More emphasis (and research) on forecasts for the shoulder seasons
 - Warm & dry spring led to rapid snowmelt in 2014-15
- Drought underscored the need to better track and define impacts as they evolve or even after-the-fact
 - Links to drought preparedness
- More environmental observations desired
 - Groundwater, low-elevation Snotels, stream temps

Drought Early Warning System

- Central website
 - Different drought indicators located in one place
 - Contact information & potentially a forum for community and connections among “networks”
 - Outreach material, e.g., drought descriptions and typical types of impacts for the public
- Webinars and in-person meetings
 - Monthly webinars with less frequent in-person meetings
- More on-the-ground instrumentation
 - More Snotel sites, streamflow monitoring that includes stream temperature, soil moisture, groundwater