

Pacific Northwest DEWS



What is a Drought Early Warning System?

A DEWS utilizes **new and existing partner networks** to optimize the expertise of a wide range of federal, tribal, state, local and academic partners in order **to make climate and drought science and impact data readily available, easily understandable and usable for decision makers; and to improve the capacity of stakeholders and economic sectors to better monitor, forecast, plan for and cope with the impacts of drought at all spatial and time scales.**



DEWS Objectives

- Increasing the knowledge and awareness of present decision-support tools and processes
- Identifying knowledge and information gaps.
- Developing recommendations for improved early warning, which would include better coordination of integrating, displaying, and distributing climate, weather and water data and information.
- Developing recommendations for future actions, collaborative research, and decision support tools.
- Identifying baseline evaluation metrics for drought and its associated impacts.

First two years of a DEWS

Year 1

- Scoping the Drought Early Warning System
 - Gap analyses
 - What info exists?
 - How is it used?
 - Identify 2-3 critical issues
 - Characterize and communicate risks across timescales

Year 2

- Implementation of the DEWS
 - Consider seasonal, multi-year, longer term trends
 - Develop drought sub-portals
 - Embed into preparedness & adaptation plans
 - Establish network for ongoing communication on impacts and projects



Common Themes

- Monitoring, Research and Impacts
- Communication & Education
- Information Networks

