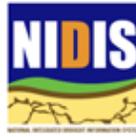




WESTERN  
GOVERNORS'  
ASSOCIATION



# Western States Drought Coordinators and Emergency Managers Meeting

**Who:** Western States Drought Coordinators, Climatologists and Emergency Managers

**Where:** Seattle, WA; Mayflower Park Hotel

**When:** July 21-22, 2015

**Sponsors:** National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC), National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), Western Governors' Association (WGA)

## Goals and Objectives

Bring together for the first time the individuals that serve as the lead coordinator for, or are heavily involved in the coordination of, drought-related activities from the 19 western states represented by the Western Governors' Association (WGA) to:

- Identify and address drought-related issues that cut across all western states such as:
  - ◆ new drought indices and monitoring tools
  - ◆ roles of state drought task forces
  - ◆ early warning capabilities
  - ◆ processes in declaring drought
  - ◆ challenges in addressing drought impacts
  - ◆ drought simulations, funding and planning
- Highlight where states are working together and how interstate coordination can be improved
- Share effective strategies, recent lessons learned and case studies of mitigation and response

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## DAY 1: TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2015

**7:30 a.m. Continental breakfast served**

**8:30-9:15 a.m. Session 1: Welcome & Overview**

Introductions and overview of the two-day agenda. Meeting goals, objectives, and desired outcomes.

- *Veva Deheza, National Integrated Drought Information System*
- *Carlee Brown, Western Governors' Association*
- *Maia Bellon, Washington Department of Ecology*

**9:15-10:20 a.m. Session 2: Drought & Fire Outlook**

Drought in the West is a persistent issue, particularly in California over the last four years and more recently in Oregon and Washington. This session will discuss the status and expected evolution of drought and fire conditions across the Western U.S., as well as the status of El Niño and its expected strength for the upcoming fall season. Washington State will present information on what it is doing to respond to the current drought.

- Overview of historic and current conditions  
*Kelly Redmond, Western Regional Climate Center; Desert Research Institute*

- Climate Prediction Center's Seasonal Forecast and El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)  
*David DeWitt, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center*
  - Wildland Fire Potential Outlook  
*Tim Brown, Western Regional Climate Center; Desert Research Institute*
  - Washington State Drought Response  
*Jeff Marti, State of Washington Department of Ecology*
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## **Break 10:20-10:35 a.m.**

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**10:35-10:55 a.m.                      Icebreaker**

**10:55 a.m. -12:15 p.m.            Session 3, Part I: Monitoring to Inform Drought Response**

Drought is a slow-onset disaster and as such requires consistent monitoring for early detection and response. This session will focus on some of the latest drought indicators and monitoring processes such as the state drought monitoring groups that provide input in the U.S. Drought Monitor.

*Moderator: Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC)*

- Before, During, After: Identifying Triggers and Indices  
*Mark Svoboda, NDMC*
  - Evaporative Demand Drought Index  
*Nolan Doesken, Colorado State Climatologist*
  - Coordinated National Soil Network  
*Jessica Lucido, U.S. Geological Survey*
  - Southern Climate Impact Planning Program (SCIPP) Photo Project  
*Mark Shafer, Associate State Climatologist for Oklahoma*
  - CoCoRaHS in the Carolinas, and Drought Salinity Index  
*Kirsten Lackstrom, Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessments*
  - National Multi-Model Ensemble Forecast  
*David DeWitt, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center*
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## **WORKING LUNCH 12:15-1:15 p.m.**

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**1:15-2:05 p.m.                      Session 3, Part II: State Views on Compiling the U.S. Drought Monitor**

*Moderator: Mark Svoboda, NDMC*

- Texas perspective: *John Nielsen-Gammon, Texas State Climatologist*
  - Oregon perspective: *Kathie Dello, Oregon Climate Change Research Institute*
  - Colorado perspective: *Nolan Doesken, Colorado State Climatologist*
  - Facilitated discussion
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## **Break 2:05-2:15 p.m.**

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**2:15-4:40 p.m.                      Session 4: When and How States Declare Drought**

Some Western states declare drought at a state level while in others, drought declaration responsibilities are appointed to the local counties. This session addresses these approaches along with the scientific, political and communication considerations of declaring drought.

**Panel: Role of State Drought Task Forces in Drought Response and Declarations (2:15-3:20)**

*Moderator: Carlee Brown, Western Governors' Association*

- State perspectives

*Jeanine Jones, California Department of Water Resources  
Jeff Marti, State of Washington Department of Ecology  
Diane Knowles, Kansas Water Office*

**Panel: How States Communicate About Drought (3:20-4:05)**

*Moderator: Kathie Dello, Oregon Climate Change Research Institute*

*Ginny Stern, Washington State Department of Health  
Christina Curry, California Department of Emergency Services  
Chris Nicholson, Wyoming State Climate Office*

**Panel: Communicating About the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomena and its potential for informing state drought risk management (4:05-4:40)**

*Moderator: Kathie Dello, Oregon Climate Change Research Institute*

*Jeanine Jones, California Department of Water Resources  
John Nielsen-Gammon, Texas State Climatologist*

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**NETWORKING EVENT: 6:00 P.M.** Details forthcoming

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## **DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2015**

**7:30 a.m. Continental breakfast served**

**8:30-9:40 a.m. Session 5: Drought and Water Rights Implications**

Administration of water rights provides a structured framework for allocating water supplies, particularly when supplies are limited during drought. Junior water rights holders are often the first water users to legally be "shut-off," however, water rights of more senior priority can also be affected, depending on drought severity. This session presents three case studies where water users were curtailed, and discusses future implications.

*Moderator: Kevin Werner, NOAA*

- Panel: Impacts and challenges encountered; management of stakeholder and public outreach; adaptive strategies that have been used to minimize/avoid impacts (i.e. voluntary conservation activities); potential legal outcomes and future implications

*Kevin Rein, Colorado Division of Water Resources*

*Molly Magnuson, New Mexico Office of the State Engineer*

*Kelsey Collins, Washington Department of Ecology*

**9:40-10:50 a.m. Session 6: How Drought Initiates Institutional, Policy, Regulatory Change**

State drought response and mitigation plans have been activated and tested over the past five years. Opportunities and limitations posed by existing institutional and policy frameworks to cope with and mitigate for drought and water supply shortages have been revealed. This session will explore innovations in these frameworks that have come about as a result of the drought in the West.

*Moderator: Kirsten Lackstrom, Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessments*

**Discussion** will focus on the role drought has had in driving innovative policies in the following areas:

- Wildland Fire

*Tim Brown, Western Regional Climate Center; Desert Research Institute*

*Melissa Lineberger, Center of Excellence for Advanced Technology Aerial Firefighting*

- Fisheries

*Teresa Scott, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

- Water Efficiency  
*Kevin Reidy, Colorado Water Conservation Board*  
*Jon Culp, Washington State Conservation Commission*
  - Groundwater  
*David Gutierrez, California Department of Water Resources*
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## **Break 10:50 a.m.-12:20 p.m.**

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### **11:05 a.m.-12:20 p.m.      Session 7: Drought Tools and Simulations to Inform Planning**

NDMC's Drought Risk Atlas puts an ongoing drought into context with an area's drought history, thereby helping the user visualize and assess risk related to drought. Drought simulations and gaming exercises have been used to test drought plans, informing where gaps might exist, and what might be acceptable trade-offs in terms of response and mitigation actions.

*Moderator: Kelly Smith, NDMC*

- Drought Risk Atlas  
*Mark Svoboda, NDMC*
  - New Drought Plan Analysis Tool  
*Kelly Smith, NDMC*
  - Drought simulations, roles and importance of using them in planning, and communicating lessons learned  
*Courtney Black, NIDIS*  
*Taryn Finnessey, Colorado Water Conservation Board*  
*Jim Reese, Secretary of Agriculture, State of Oklahoma*
  - Group discussion: What additional tools and resources do state coordinators want and need?
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## **WORKING LUNCH 12:20-1:20 p.m.**

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### **1:20-3:10 p.m.      Session 8: Drought Mitigation Planning and Funding**

Three major components of an effective Drought Plan include mitigation, response and vulnerability assessment. Optimal statewide mitigation planning coordinates the efforts of state agencies and organizations, and local jurisdictions. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA)-associated guidance for state hazard mitigation plans lays out this important planning process. Adequate funding sources are necessary to support such planning processes, as well as the flexibility to leverage them.

*Moderator: Veva Deheza, NIDIS*

- Benefits of linking local and state-level drought planning  
*Kelly Smith, National Drought Mitigation Center*
- FEMA technical resources for linking statewide drought plans with natural multi-hazard mitigation plans  
*Ken Murphy, FEMA Region 10*
- How to incorporate vulnerability assessments in statewide drought planning  
*Taryn Finnessey, Colorado Water Conservation Board*  
*Mark Rath, South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources*
- Available federal resources for drought planning, mitigation and response funding  
*Owen Walker, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation*  
*Bevin Horn, EPA Region 10*

### **3:10-3:30 p.m.      Closing remarks**