



# NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM MISSOURI RIVER BASIN DROUGHT EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI; NOV. 21, 2014

## Kansas tribes meet on extreme events, drought resiliency



On November 21, 2014, more than 35 individuals met in Kansas City at the National Weather Service Training Center to better understand drought and climate impacts on tribal lands; build partnerships to facilitate water management, drought early warning, and responses to extreme events; identify resources and points

of contact for planning, natural resources, and environmental offices; and engage and leverage tribal colleges and universities.

Tribes in northeast Kansas live in a highly variable climate. The Missouri River Basin is known for extreme weather and climate variability, as evidenced by the stark contrast between flooding in 2011 and drought in 2012. Drought is a normal part of climate throughout the basin, causing devastating impacts.

Extreme events, such as drought, flooding and other climate and weather phenomena, will profoundly exacerbate growing demands on finite tribal resources. These extremes create new challenges and opportunities for problem-solving to ensure tribal sustainability and resiliency into the 21st Century.

The meeting featured discussion of these issues and focused on several key topics: availability of data and monitoring; vulnerability and cultural resources; and prediction and early warning in the context of drought and climate extremes impacts. This NIDIS-sponsored meeting was a follow-up to the Missouri Basin tribal meeting held in September

in Rapid City, S.D. Four tribal governments participated in the November meeting, including the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, and Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. In addition, numerous federal and state agencies attended including the Kansas Water Office, FEMA Region VII, EPA Region 7, Army Corps of Engineers, USDA Rural Affairs, National Drought Mitigation Center, High Plains Regional Climate Center and Haskell Indian Nations University.

The participating tribes shared the conditions and experiences on their lands, and engaged with federal and state agencies as well as other partners, to better identify the needs and opportunities within tribal communities. Federal and state agencies shared the available resources and information to provide assistance in areas of resiliency and drought planning.

Outcomes and next steps include:

- Exploring tribally specific early warning systems for drought, including climate and drought summaries; education; and building capacity on monitoring of climatological and cultural aspects
- Familiarization and education on drought aspects of monitoring and climate data holdings
- Leveraging agencies for resources on planning and building resilience
- Potentially conducting vulnerability assessments of cultural and water resources
- Tribal adaptation training

Related activities from the meeting are underway, including visits of tribal members to the High Plains Regional Climate Center and National Drought Mitigation Center.

### PARTICIPANTS

James Rattling Leaf, Meeting Facilitator  
Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas  
Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska  
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation  
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)  
National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC)  
High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC)  
Haskell Indian Nations University  
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Region 7  
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Region 7  
Kansas Water Office  
United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)  
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
Kansas Climate Office  
University of Kansas  
National Climatic Data Center

### WHAT IS NIDIS?

The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) promotes collaboration among government agencies, states, communities, tribes, and individuals at all levels to share information about drought, and provide resources for planning, forecasting, management and recovery. With partners, NIDIS pursues the goals of leadership and networking among all sectors; supporting research on the science of drought; creating local early warning systems for drought management; and developing educational resources to assist communities in dealing with drought.

