

# Pacific Northwest Drought Early Warning System



## December 2017 Drought & Climate Outlook



Northwest Climate Hub  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



# Agenda

- **Welcome & Intro to New NIDIS PNW Regional Coordinator**
  - Kathie Dello, CIRC
- **Intro to NIDIS and PNW DEWS**
  - Britt Parker, NIDIS
- **Year-End Climate Recap**
  - John Abatzoglou, University of Idaho
- **Winter Climate Outlook & La Niña update**
  - Andrea Bair, NWS Western Region
- **Highlights from the Northwest Chapter of the NCA4: A Reminder to Submit Public Comment**
  - Gabrielle Roesch-McNally, NW Climate Hub

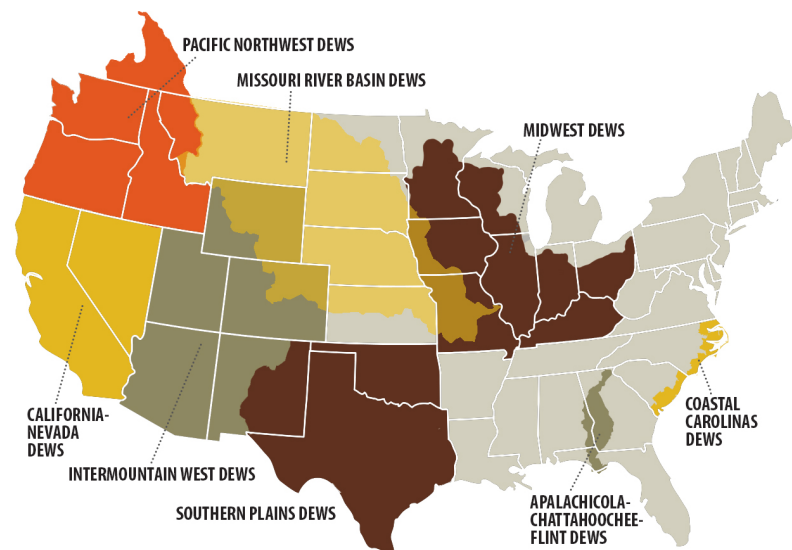


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# What is the National Integrated Drought Information System?

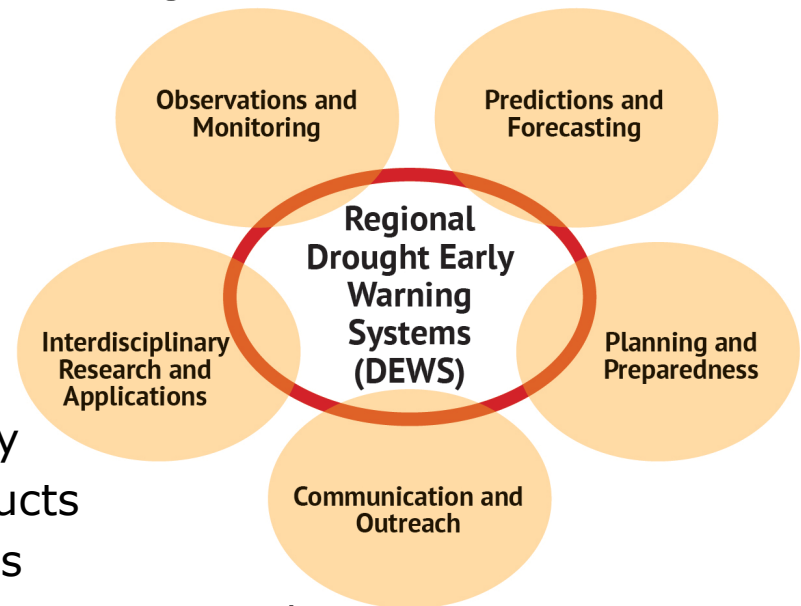
- Provide a better understanding of how and why droughts affect society, the economy and the environment.
- Improve accessibility, dissemination and use of early warning information for drought risk management.
- Build off of a network of regional Drought Early Warning Systems (DEWS) to create a National Drought Early Warning System.



# Regional Drought Early Warning Systems (DEWS)

Working with communities and existing networks to build capacity for better decision making for drought planning and mitigation.

- Research & monitoring
- Drought & risk assessments
- Drought & Climate Outlook Forums
- Education and outreach webinars
- Engaging the preparedness community
- Builds capacity to utilize existing products
  - Provide test beds for new products
- Develop new/utilize existing communication networks



# Pacific Northwest DEWS

- PNW DEWS was officially launched in February 2016
- Strategic plan is available on [drought.gov](http://drought.gov)
  - Provide a roadmap for moving forward with the PNW DEWS
  - Identifies existing and new drought-related activities in the region
  - Living document with a two-year time frame
  - Priority Areas include:
    - Improving monitoring and research for drought risk management
    - Expanding drought early warning communications and outreach
    - Optimizing information and collaborative networks
    - Enhancing drought planning & mitigation



PNW DEWS Region



# Mark your calendars...

## **PNW DEWS Drought & Climate Outlook Webinar Series**

- Bi-monthly webinar series hosted by NIDIS, CIRC, NW Climate Hub, NWS Western Region, etc.
- Designed to provide stakeholders and other interested parties in the Pacific Northwest timely drought and climate information.
- Each webinar will be tailored to reflect recent, current and forecasted conditions and climatic events, but will also include discussions of observed impacts and other relevant updates from across the region.
- Webinars and recordings and other supporting materials will be posted on [drought.gov](http://drought.gov).

**Next webinar is February 2018!**

