



SOUTHWEST DROUGHT VIRTUAL FORUM

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 AGENDA

11:00 - 11:15 am EDT

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Welcome attendees, introduce partners, and review of the Southwest Drought Virtual Forum objectives and why this discussion is so critical at this time for the region.

- Veva Deheza, NOAA/NIDIS Executive Director
- Dr. Richard (Rick) Spinrad, NOAA Administrator

11:15 - 12:00 pm EDT

The 2020-21 Western Drought: What are Current Conditions?

Drought subject matter experts provide an overview of current regional drought conditions and forecasted outlooks, and a wildland fire expert provides a regional wildland fire outlook. Researchers from the scientific community review what is known about the historic nature of drought in the region and what they expect to see in the future. A Q&A period follows.

- Richard Heim, NOAA/NESDIS/National Centers for Environmental Information
- David Dewitt, NOAA/NWS/Climate Prediction Center
- Nick Nauslar/Jim Wallmann, DOI/BLM/National Interagency Fire Center

12:00 - 12:40 pm EDT

Setting the Stage: How did we get here?

Experts share a look back from 2000 to present day with a focus on the last two years and offer a summary of how we got here with respect to drought, setting the stage for the Forum agenda.

- Isla Simpson, National Center for Atmospheric Research
- Andy Hoell, NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory
- Erica Fleishman, DOI/USGS Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center

Break (15 Minutes)

12:55 - 1:40 pm EDT

Sector and Community-Based Perspectives on Cascading Drought Impacts and Needed Changes

In the face of drought and aridification, there are new and emerging challenges to ensuring adequate quality water supply to meet the needs of Southwestern communities and economies. Speakers illuminate diverse vulnerabilities and how the risk landscape is changing for diverse sectors of our economy. From the losses on agricultural lands, to threats to our nation's energy production, impacts across key economic sectors and communities must be understood, measured, and predicted to mitigate the toll drought takes. This session features sectors and communities responding to the cascading impacts of drought.

Panel presentations are followed by moderated Q&A:

- Terry Fankhauser, Colorado Cattlemen's Association
- Deanna Ikeya, Central Arizona Project
- Bidtah Becker, Navajo Nation

1:40 - 2:40 pm EDT

Continued: Sector and Community-based Perspectives on Cascading Drought Impacts and Needed Changes

Panel presentations followed by moderated Q&A:

- Kevin Moran, Environmental Defense Fund
- Chris Perkins, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
- Jesse Bell, University of Nebraska Medical Center
- William Hasencamp, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Break (10 Minutes)

2:50 - 3:20 pm EDT

Analysis of the Impact of Drought on Agriculture, Local Economies, Public Health, and Crime across the Western United States

This session presents recent NIDIS-supported research at Colorado State University to assess the impacts of drought on Western agricultural productivity, employment, wages paid, business openings/closings, criminal activity, and health outcomes. A Q&A period follows.

- Christopher Goemans, Colorado State University

3:20 - 3:30 pm EDT

Closeout