

ASSESSING POLICY THROUGH THE LENS OF NON-STATIONARITY

The technical workshop focused on the science and knowledge of drought assessment and improving our ability to assess the phenomenon of drought in a changing climate. However, workshop participants also identified considerations for related policy research, which are captured here to inform future discussions about the implications of non-stationarity to drought policies.

Priority Actions:

1. Evaluate drought assistance programs, over the life of the program, to determine what affected eligibility for programs, and if that could have led to inequities in the distribution of assistance.
 2. Assess how communities and policy makers can leverage existing drought assessment products, programs, and policies to reduce drought risk.
 3. Evaluate programs that use drought assessments to trigger disaster designation and programming to determine if they have or need to change due to current and future changes in climate.
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Research Questions:

1. Have existing drought assessment products missed identification of flash drought conditions? If so, what are the economic consequences of missing conditions like flash drought in current assessment methods, and what information would be needed to inform policies that account for these consequences?
 2. What are the barriers and opportunities within current policies to address aridification and the corresponding adaptation needs of aridifying communities? What drought and aridification information needs would help support the enhancement of responsive policies as it relates to drought assistance?
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