

2022 U.S. Drought and Heat Webinar Series: The West

July 21, 2022

10am—12pm MDT

The 2022 Western Drought and Heat Webinar will assemble stakeholders, decision makers, and drought experts for an informational webinar on drought conditions and response efforts in the Western United States.

NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS) are hosting this webinar in collaboration with NOAA's National Weather Service, USDA's Office of the Chief Economist, along with Federal, Tribal, State, and local partners. The webinar will provide the latest information on current drought, heat, and fire conditions and forecasts, as well as the serious impacts to diverse sectors of the economy and communities throughout the West. Perspectives from those on the ground who are responding to these worsening drought and heat conditions will be shared.

1. Introductions (10:00am – 10:15am MDT)

The webinar will kick off with opening remarks and a review of the goals of the webinar. Logistics for the virtual platform will also be reviewed, and the first panel will be introduced.

- Veva Deheza, Executive Director, NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)
- Dr. Sarah Kapnick, Chief Scientist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Juli Trtanj, Executive Director, NOAA's National Integrated Heat Health Information System (NIHHIS)

2. Drought, Heat, and Wildfire Conditions and Forecasted Outlook (10:15am – 11:05am MDT)

Presenters will deliver an overview of current drought, heat, and fire conditions across the Western U.S., and the forecasted monthly and seasonal outlooks. Speakers will provide a historical context for the drought to include influences on current conditions, including snowpack, temperatures, precipitation, and soil moisture. Presentations will be followed by Q&A.

- David Simeral, Desert Research Institute, Western Regional Climate Center
- Jon Gottschalck, Climate Prediction Center, NOAA / National Weather Service / National Centers for Environmental Prediction
- John Balbus, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Jim Wallmann, National Interagency Fire Center
- Q&A

3. Drought and Heat Impacts and Western Perspectives (11:05am – 11:55am MDT)

Across the West, impacts of drought and heat are being felt in communities and diverse sectors of our economy. Presenters from multiple sectors and communities will speak about the heat- and drought-related impacts they are experiencing.

- David Hondula, Director, Office of Heat Response and Mitigation, City of Phoenix
- Dr. Michael Kotutwa Johnson, Hopi Dryland Farmer, University of Arizona
- Tom Ballard, Hydrologist, California Rural Water Commission
- Stanley Clayton Palmer, Western Area Power Administration
- Q&A

4. Conclusion (11:55am – 12:00pm MDT)

Concluding remarks will be provided on drought and heat information and management resources.