



# Building a Tribal Community of Practice around Drought in the Missouri River Basin

## Logistics

**September 14, 2026, 4:00–8:00 p.m. CDT**

**Meeting Location:** VFW Sports Center, MDU Resources Meeting Room, 1200 N. Washington St., Bismarck, ND 58501

*To be followed by the “Missouri River Basin DEWS Working Partners Meeting,” September 15-16.*

## Purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to bring together Tribal Nations in the Missouri River Basin to discuss drought resilience successes and needs, as well as to build the foundation for establishing a tribal community of practice around drought in the Basin.

## Meeting Goals

- Share successes and challenges around drought resilience to facilitate information exchange and learn from one another
- Identify the highest-priority gaps and needs around drought monitoring, planning, and assessment for the next 5 years to help inform an update to the NIDIS Tribal Drought Engagement Strategy
- Develop a framework for establishing a tribal community of practice around drought in the Missouri River Basin

## Meeting Agenda: Monday, September 14, 2026

| Time (CT)                              | Session                                                                                                              | Engagement Modalities           | Lead(s)                                             |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Welcome and Framing the Meeting</b> |                                                                                                                      |                                 |                                                     |
| 4:00–4:05 p.m.                         | Prayer and Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prayer: Elliott Ward, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe</li></ul> | Guest speakers                  | Doug Crow Ghost, Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance |
| 4:05–4:15 p.m.                         | Introductions and Workshop Goals                                                                                     | Ice breaker, short presentation | Crystal Stiles, CIRES, NOAA/NIDIS                   |

| Setting the Stage: Recent Drought Successes and Challenges                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                           |                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 4:15–5:00 p.m.                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>What decisions are you making with drought information?</li><li>What is working well?</li><li>What are the pain points?</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Roundtable discussion                     | Kyle Bocinsky, University of Montana |
| Session 1 — Building a Framework for a Tribal Community of Practice in the Missouri River Basin |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                           |                                      |
| 5:00–6:00 p.m.                                                                                  | <p>What would a tribal community of practice in the Missouri River Basin look like?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Who would lead it and who should be involved?</li><li>What format would it take on?</li><li>What are the outcomes?</li><li>Are resources needed?</li><li>How would it be maintained?</li></ul>                                                             | Breakout group discussions and report out | Crystal Stiles, CIRES, NOAA/NIDIS    |
| 6:00–6:30 p.m.                                                                                  | <p>Working Dinner (provided by Go Weh Yaza)</p> <p>Presenter: Kyle Bocinsky, University of Montana – Northern Great Plains Regional Incubator for Drought Resiliency (NGP RIDR) Project</p> <p>Presenter: Janna Black, Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance (GPTWA) – GPTWA Tribal Technical Assistance</p>                                                                                |                                           |                                      |
| Session 2 — Soil Moisture Data Interpretation and Visualization                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                           |                                      |
| 6:30–7:00 p.m.                                                                                  | <p>Discussion will be framed around usability of soil moisture information, including the Upper Missouri River Basin Soil Moisture &amp; Snowpack Monitoring Network project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>How do you or how would you like to use soil moisture information?</li><li>What topics or decisions could most benefit from soil moisture information?</li></ul> | Presentation, followed by discussion      | Elise Osenga, CIRES, NOAA/NIDIS      |
| Session 3 — NIDIS Tribal Drought Engagement Strategy                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                           |                                      |
| 7:00–7:45 p.m.                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Presentation: NIDIS Tribal Engagement Strategy 2021-2025</li><li>Discussion: How can NIDIS best support your drought-related needs in the next 5 years to help improve drought early warning and preparedness?</li></ul>                                                                                                                           | Presentation, followed by discussion      | Crystal Stiles, CIRES, NOAA/NIDIS    |
| Wrap-Up                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                           |                                      |
| 7:45–8:00 p.m.                                                                                  | Preview of the Missouri River Basin Drought Early Warning System Partners Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Remarks                                   | Jason Gerlich, CIRES, NOAA/NIDIS     |