

Scenarios and Discussion Questions

Small Group Initial Set Up

Each small group will have one staff member to take notes and help as needed, but we would also like each group to select one person to act as a group lead for the day. The lead for each group will be responsible for leading discussion and ensuring everyone contributes their expertise and perspective to the discussion. Being a group lead does not imply this person should speak for the group—ideally, presenting info from your group discussions should rotate around the other group members.

Initial Tasks: 1. Take a few minutes to skim this guide to the end. 2. Brief introductions (name, agency or organization, expertise (1 minute max for each person). 3. Select a lead for your group. 4. Think about how your group will take notes—computer, paper, stickies, or some combination?

Scenario Process

For the first question, everyone should:

(The note taker should time steps 1-2 to ensure moving through the exercise.)

1. Take 2-3 minutes to read the first question and reflect (quietly, no talking)
2. Turn to your neighbor and briefly discuss their thoughts regarding question 1 (2-4 minutes). Separate chairs as needed to hear each other.
3. Next, the group should turn/move chairs as needed to discuss their thoughts as a group, then move through questions 2 & 3 at their own pace.

Groups can use this discussion technique throughout the scenario discussions as helpful.

Scenario 1 Questions: Drought vs. Deluge

1. This scenario somewhat resembles recent drought events in Nevada—what challenges are you currently facing in your agency/organization/business?
2. If faced with this scenario and the continuation of a dry winter/infrequent intense precipitation events in the next 1-2 years, what happens next? What tools, resources, and leadership guide the response of your agency/organization/business?
3. Where do you have wiggle room to make changes/adapt? Where do you not have the ability to adapt/make changes—or not much?

Scenario 2 Questions: A decade and a half without a wet year

Questions for groups:

(Use discussion technique from above if helpful)

1. What does this sustained scarcity imply for your organization/agency/business?
2. What changes may sustained precipitation scarcity require (policy, infrastructure, planning, resources)?
3. What is the desired future state for your organization, business, or sector? What does this look like? What is the value of this future state?
4. What is the first step?