

WORKING SESSION - REPORT OUT

Increasing Drought and Climate Change Research/Teaching/Outreach Capacity with TCUs

Key Discussion Points

- Longer grants, more money, and open applications/annual competitions
- TCUs as full partners in research grants
- Support for students and faculty salary
- Support TCU aspirations/career paths
- Build relationships - visit, LISTEN, followup
- Could tribal TCU faculty write the funding opportunity

Resources and/or Entities Needed

- Long term cooperative agreements or similar mechanism signed with TCUs (get off the grant treadmill)
- Technical centers/support for grant writing

Short-Term Actions

- NOAA-AIHEC MOU being signed
- Assessing the agency strategies, is there follow through on the ground
- Building flexibility into grants to add funds if needed
- Resources TCUs/tribal nations to convene
- Representation in agencies (DEI) - not just bringing in to status quo agency but what changes need to occur to support and retain that representation.

Longer-Term Actions

- Evaluate MOUs and agreements - are they working
- Funds to TCUs then federal agencies can apply to work with the TCUs (flip funding on its head)

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Building Capacity & Identifying Tech Assistance for Funding Opportunities

Key Discussion Points

- Tribes have limited capacity to develop proposals
- 1 person running programs AND writing proposals
- Differing submission requirements across agencies
- Need more flexibility on funding deadlines
- Federal programs need to support self-determination (e.g., fund via 93-638)

Resources and/or Entities Needed

- Increased Tribal capacity (staff) and partner resources
- List of contacts for advice / Tech Assist.
- Tribal Climate departments - for continuity and long-term focus
- Alliances to help compensate for tribal capacity

Short-Term Actions

- Cultural sensitivity training for all govt employees (eg Maranda presentation to bust myths)
- Better coordination across federal agencies
- Have policy leaders regularly sit together with tribes to share experiences
- Agency staff to assist tribes w proposals
- Better communication on available resources to support proposals
- Do review of “terms and conditions” to ensure not overly burdensome

Longer-Term Actions

- Needs to be more acknowledgment of trauma & and focus on healing
- Move to consistent 93-638 across agencies

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Enhancing Drought Monitoring

Key Discussion Points

- **Tribal well-being is holistic:** people, land, culture
- **Monitoring should not be siloed away from impacts:** context and diversity matter (culture, landscape, ecosystem)
- Drought indicators/impacts are **place-based and often culturally specific**
- **Relationships take time**, research takes time, developing climatologies take time...
- **Data that are specific to the tribes, should stay with the tribes**

Resources and/or Entities Needed

- **Long-term funding** (Tribal LTER, Tribal RCN) — for partnerships, monitoring, maintenance
- Non-profits may be able to provide different resources (than Feds)

Short-Term Actions

- **Develop a TEK Guidebook for NOAA** (and associated training for all of NOAA)
- **Time/capacity/resources to share the great work happening in Tribal communities** — more effective communication/dissemination
- More effective Tribal outreach on USDM map (NIDIS, NDMC) and funding that is triggered (FSA, RMA)

Longer-Term Actions

- **Invest in developing drought indicators for Tribes:** place-based, culturally specific, holistic
- **Invest in TCUs and workforce development:** boundary-spanners, problem-solvers
- **Develop TEK SES program to work with government officials** as they implement TEK policy
- Develop program-to-program as well as person-to-person relationships

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Streamlining Drought and Climate-Related Planning

Key Challenges/Issues	Solutions	
Limited capacity to actually implement plans and projects.	More funding specifically for hiring/staffing for multiple years to implement plans and projects.	Sharing success stories/experiences about how all of the major challenges/issues discussed are being addressed. What to share: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Case studies (formal written case study, presentation, training, etc.) Avenues to share: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Newsletters● Webinars● In-person meetings
Building trust is a challenge , but is essential - internal (within the tribe) and external trust building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● LISTEN● Start with a small collaborative project● Establish MOUs, MOAs● Informal and formal opportunities to connect and share (face-to-face or virtual) (agencies - fund travel)● Break bread (agencies - fund food!)	
Communication is needed early and often for trust building and buy-in from the community.		
There can be differing perspectives on how to manage drought - coming to a consensus is often difficult.	Getting all the players at the table early on in the process (e.g., drought task force). Share information between plans on things you've already agreed upon (like in hazard mitigation plan)	

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Drought Impacts

Key Discussion Points

- Tribal practices for reducing drought impacts have been highly successful: beaver mimicry sites, snow fencing, regenerative grazing, traditional harvesting, prescribed burning
- Agencies need to come to tribes with standards that fit their needs because tribes cannot fit the standards that the agencies bring (Ex. NRCS CSP/528 Prescribed Grazing)

Resources and/or Entities Needed

- NRCS (program standards)
- BIA (inventories)
- USGS (remote sensing data)
- NWS (climatology studies)
- Funding for expanding climate projects (ex. Blackfeet mobile climate exhibit)

Short-Term Actions

- Agencies help tribes update rangeland and fence line inventories.
- Work with NWS on small climatology studies (ex. changes in wind).

Longer-Term Actions

- Increase flexibility with funding - focus on funding that is stable and action-oriented.
- Bridge connections and build relationships with tribes.
- Get more people of Native descent into federal positions.
- Increase tribal land buy-back so that strategies can be better implemented.
- Incorporate indigenous practices into programs such as EQIP.