

## Goals and Framing of the Breakout Sessions

### Session 1: Discussion of the 2012 Drought Response and Preparing for 2013

The first breakout session provides an opportunity for participants to raise issues and identify information that was not covered during the prior panel discussions. Most importantly, the breakouts will be asked to offer and discuss ideas for improving drought preparedness and response.

Breakouts will be organized by specific economic sectors, and attendees will be asked to self-select which breakout to join. The options will be:

- Agriculture
- Energy
- Wildfire
- Municipal and Industrial Water Supply; and Public Health
- Tourism and Natural Resources

Topics to be discussed are:

- 1) What data and information did you rely on in your decision-making regarding the drought? What other types of information would have been useful and when?
- 2) How well prepared were you and/or your sector for the 2012 drought? Are there opportunities to improve the preparation? Please identify specific actions or programs that would have assisted in your level of preparation.
- 3) Was the response to the 2012 drought and drought impacts well coordinated (e.g., proactive drought plans in place and executed; timely federal assistance, etc.)? What are the prospects to enhance the responses in the future? Should a more coordinated federal effort towards preparation and response be considered?
- 4) What partnerships are important in your drought preparations and response, e.g. intergovernmental coordination, and how can these partnerships be improved/strengthened?
- 5) What are the challenges and opportunities to significantly advance our drought preparedness and response capabilities to anticipate, plan for, and respond to drought and its impacts? Are there actionable next steps for improving drought readiness and resilience? If so, what are these next steps and are they incremental or transformative?

### Session 2: Next Steps

The second breakout session provides an opportunity for participants to work on formulating recommendations with actionable items for improving drought readiness and resilience. The topics to be covered will depend on the outcome of the first breakout session. A synthesis of the first breakout session will be presented at the beginning of the second day and the compilation of the challenges and opportunities to significantly advance our national integrated drought information system capabilities to anticipate and respond to drought and its impacts will serve as starting point in the discussion of next steps.

These breakouts will **not** be organized by economic sector. The intent is to engender a cross-sectoral consideration of the topic areas. Therefore, attendees will be asked to randomly select one of the 4-5 breakouts in which to participate.

Likely topics may include:

- What beyond NIDIS is needed to achieve a coherent national drought policy?
- Is the current level of federal program coordination and integration sufficient?
- Is the current portfolio of drought readiness and resilience programs adequate and effective?
- What opportunities are there for drought management tools to be integrated into other federal initiatives and programs?
- Are there specific needs for better preparedness planning, public awareness, observations, monitoring, research, forecasting, new products and services, and information delivery?
- What needs to be done either administratively or legislatively to achieve any of the recommendations resulting from the above?
- Given the current spatial coverage and severity of drought nationally, and the possibility for the persistence of drought into 2013, what are the **priority** actions that should be taken in the very-short term to improve our readiness and mitigate the impacts from drought in the coming months?