



NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM PACIFIC NORTHWEST DROUGHT EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

Collaborating for resilience

Interagency partnerships target drought planning, mitigation

NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) is launching a Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) for the Pacific Northwest in February 2016. The Pacific Northwest DEWS is a collaborative federal, tribal, state and local interagency effort to enhance drought early warning capacity and resilience within the region. This is accomplished through local stakeholder-driven activities encompassing data collection and monitoring; research; planning for climate extreme events; and communication, education and outreach. Activities will focus on areas throughout the states encompassing the Columbia River Basin (Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington).

DEWS OBJECTIVES

- Provide a forum for a diverse group of federal, tribal, state, and local stakeholders who represent all economic sectors, including water and land resource management, to strategize and develop appropriate, relevant, useful, and readily available drought, climate, weather, and water-related information.
- Develop an understanding of existing observation and monitoring networks, data, tools, research and other planning and mitigation resources available for a drought early warning system.
- Identify economic sector-specific and geographic needs for future



WHAT IS NIDIS?

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) program was authorized by Congress in 2006 (Public Law 109-430) with an interagency mandate to coordinate and integrate drought research, building upon existing federal, tribal, state, and local partnerships in support of creating a national drought early warning information system.

WHAT IS A DROUGHT EARLY WARNING SYSTEM?

A Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) utilizes new and existing partner networks to optimize the expertise of a wide range of federal, tribal, state, local and academic partners in order to make climate and drought science readily available, easily understandable and usable for decision makers; and to improve the capacity of stakeholders to better monitor, forecast, plan for and cope with the impacts of drought.

PARTNERS IN THE DEWS PLANNING PROCESS



PLANNING PROCESS AND PARTICIPANTS

The PNW DEWS development process has consisted of the following outlooks and listening session, in addition to the February 2016 Kickoff Meeting in Portland, OR:

- 1) the Inland Pacific Northwest Drought Outlook on May 4, 2015 in Boise, ID
- 2) the Coastal Pacific Northwest Drought Outlook held on September 22, 2015 in Vancouver, WA
- 3) a working lunch listening session for approximately 100 participants at the Northwest Climate Conference on November 4, 2015 in Coeur d'Alene, ID that obtained stakeholder input from throughout the region.

Organizations in attendance at the Outlooks and listening session

Boise State University	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	Trout Unlimited
Desert Research Institute (NV)	NOAA National Weather Service	Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation
City of Boise (ID)	NOAA Regional Climate Service	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
City of Hillsboro (OR)	NOAA Northwest River Forecast Center	U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Climate Impacts Group, University of Washington	North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Climate Impacts Research Consortium (NOAA RISA team)	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Colville Confederated Tribes	Northwest Power and Conservation Council	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Columbia River InterTribal Fish Commission	Office of the Washington State Climatologist	U.S. Forest Service
Eugene Water (OR)	Oregon Climate Change Research Institute	U.S. Geological Service
Idaho Department of Water Resources	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	University of Idaho
Idaho Power	Oregon State University Extension Service	University of Washington
Idaho Water Board	Oregon Water Resources Department	Washington State Department of Agriculture
King County (WA)	Pioneer Irrigation District (ID)	Washington State Department of Ecology
Mt. Hood Meadows	Portland State University	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
National Interagency Fire Center	Portland Water Bureau	Washington State Department of Health
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Seattle City Light	Washington State Department of Transportation
Natural Resource Conservation Service	Seattle Public Utilities	Washington State Emergency Management Division
NOAA National Integrated Drought Information System	Squaxin Island Tribes	Western Regional Climate Center (NOAA)

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST DEWS KICKOFF MEETING

When: February 2-3, 2016

Where: Portland, OR

Registration:

<https://joss.ucar.edu/meetings/2016/nidis-pacific-nw-dews-meeting>



Apple trees near Prosser in the Yakima Valley in August 2015. State of Washington Dept. of Ecology.

The Pacific Northwest DEWS Kickoff Meeting will be held February 2-3, 2016 in Portland, OR to formally launch the DEWS. This two-day event will bring together federal, tribal, state, local, and academic partners and stakeholders for an in-depth discussion on drought in the Pacific Northwest with attention to water, climate, land resources and emergency management. Specifically, the discussions will center on improving the capacity to meet the early warning information needs of decision makers in the region.

Desired outcomes of the Pacific Northwest DEWS Kickoff Meeting include:

1. Increased knowledge and awareness of present decision-support tools and processes, including the National Integrated Drought Information System.
2. Identification of current knowledge and information gaps.
3. Development of recommendations for improved early warning, which would include better coordination of integrating, displaying, and disseminating climate, weather, and water data and information.
4. Development of recommendations for future actions, collaborative research, and decision support tools.
5. Identification of baseline evaluation metrics for drought and its associated impacts.

Following the formal launch of the PNW DEWS during the February 2016 Kickoff Meeting, a two-year PNW DEWS Work Plan will be developed to provide a roadmap on how the DEWS will enhance drought early warning throughout the Pacific Northwest.

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