



Today's Agenda/Goals

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Background -- Prior WSWC Drought-Related Meetings

- Weather forecasting workshop (at Council meeting), October 2011, Idaho Falls, ID
- Extreme weather events workshop, July 2012, San Diego
- NIDIS reauthorization workshop, September 2012, San Diego

From Prior Meetings

- Western observing systems vision for extreme precipitation (better understanding, monitoring, forecasting of extreme precip)
- Linkage between predicting conditions favoring atmospheric river storms and predicting drought
- Need for NIDIS reauthorization to include drought prediction

NIDIS Statute

The National Integrated Drought Information System shall—

(1) **provide an effective drought early warning system**

that—

(A) is a comprehensive system that collect and integrates information on the key indicators of drought in order to make usable, reliable, and timely drought **forecasts** and assessments of drought, including assessments of the severity of drought conditions and impacts;

Goals of this workshop

- Explore pathways to improving drought prediction, to help inform NIDIS work
- Existing federal predictive efforts (e.g NOAA CPC outlooks) aren't skillful or used by water managers – what alternative approaches could be pursued?
 - Predicting AR storm seasons?
 - Researching decadal scale variability?
 - Analog years?

Goals, con't.

- Develop suggested actions that NIDIS could pursue to improve drought prediction in the West
- Identify possible new collaborations
- Identify actions that WSWC could support or lead

Breakout Questions

- How could predicting intraseasonal/seasonal conditions favorable for atmospheric river (AR) storms be used to inform drought prediction? Are there particular geographic areas or timeframes where this approach shows the most promise? What information or new research is needed to predict conditions favorable for AR storms?
- Existing research activities (e.g. Climate Prediction Center seasonal outlooks) are not producing drought predictions that are skillful (summer Midwestern 2012 drought was unpredicted), or used by water managers. Are there alternative approaches to drought prediction that could be piloted? What might those approaches be?
- Are there gaps in remotely sensed or in-situ observing or monitoring systems that, if filled, would have a demonstrable benefit for at least intra-seasonal predictive ability in the near-term? (Improved monitoring of soil moisture, for example, has been mentioned as a data gap for drought prediction; planned future satellite missions are intended to provide global-scale estimation of soil moisture.) More specifically, are there practical monitoring efforts that the Council should be supporting that would be useful for Western states?

