

The Future of Drought in the U.S.

Information Gathering Session: Drought Data Users and Decision-Makers

SESSION OBJECTIVES AND KEY QUESTIONS

The purpose of this public information gathering session is to gather perspectives on how drought assessment is incorporated into decision making. Drought decision-makers and users of drought information from a range of economic sectors and regions will share information regarding what drought information they use, how they use it, what timescales are used, and how it impacts their decisions.

Questions for all speakers

General

- What drought information do you use and how has it been helpful to you? Have there been cases where it seemed inaccurate? In these cases, has the information been harmful?
- What are your decision frameworks (e.g., timelines, data pipelines, scales, regulations, etc.) and how are they informed by drought assessment, monitoring, or prediction? How do you foresee incorporating future changes in drought conditions into these decision frameworks?
- What component of the hydrologic system (water supply [e.g., precipitation], water demand [e.g., PET, AED], intermediate [e.g., soil moisture, groundwater, streamflow, snowpack]) is most important to you in your drought monitoring-related decisions?
- What guidance would you like from this committee (within the context of our charge)?

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025

2:30–2:40p ET Introduction and Session Goals

2:40–3:25p National Level Drought Use & Decision-Making

Federal Drought Related Programs – 10-min presentations, 25-min Q&A

1. Mark Brusberg, Former USDA Chief Meteorologist
Specific question:
 - How does drought information contribute to decisions made by relief programs run by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) or Risk Management Agency (RMA)?
2. Terry Fulp, Former Regional Director of the Lower Colorado Basin for USBOR

3:25–3:30p BREAK

3:30–4:30p State & Local Drought Users & Decision-Makers

8–10-min presentations each, 30-min joint Q&A

1. Michael Anderson, California Department of Water Resources
2. Elizabeth Kerby, Missouri Department of Natural Resources
3. Seth Shanahan, Southern Nevada Water Authority