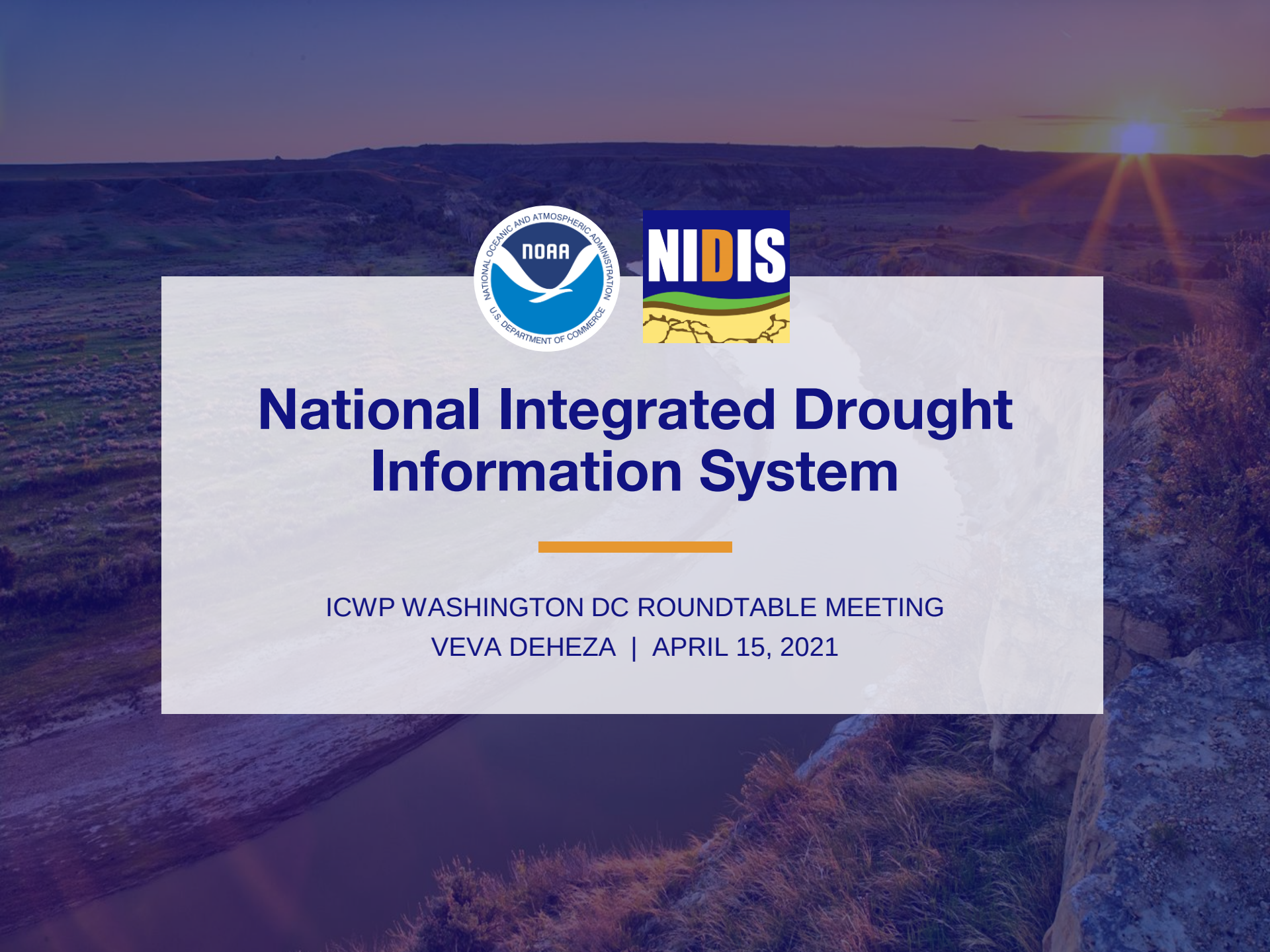


National Integrated Drought Information System

ICWP WASHINGTON DC ROUNDTABLE MEETING

VEVA DEHEZA | APRIL 15, 2021

NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM (NIDIS)

MISSION + ACTIVITIES

Regional Drought Early Warning Systems

Prediction and Forecasting

Integrated Research and Monitoring

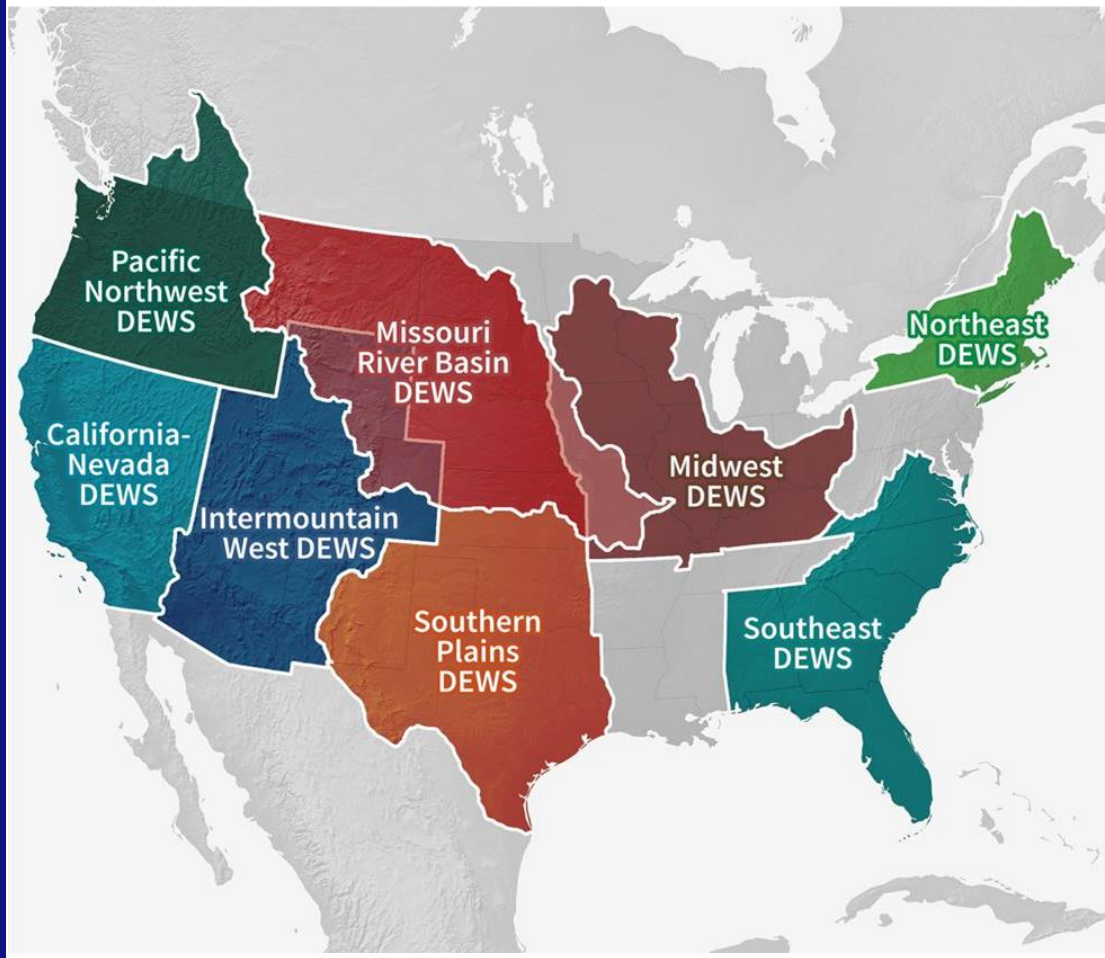
Drought Planning and Preparedness

Collaboration with Existing Programs and Partners

The U.S. Drought Portal (www.drought.gov)

8 Regional Drought Early Warning Systems

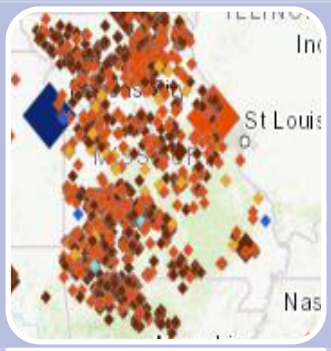
A Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) utilizes new and existing networks of federal, tribal, state, local and academic partners to make climate and drought science accessible and useful for decision makers.



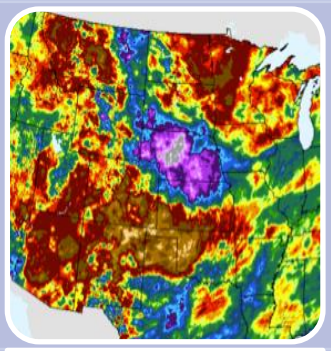
NIDIS in Action Across the U.S.

Drought & Public Health

Drought and Wildfire



Drought Impact Reporting and Analysis

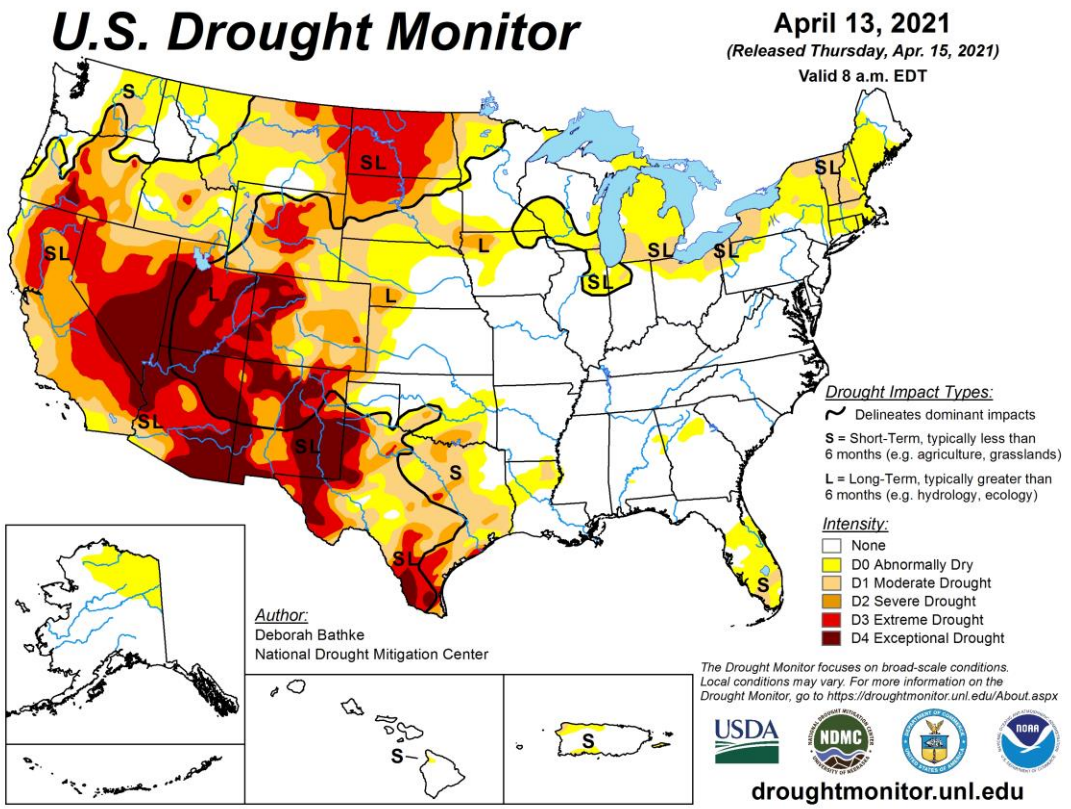


Drought Indicators and Triggers

National Soil Moisture Network

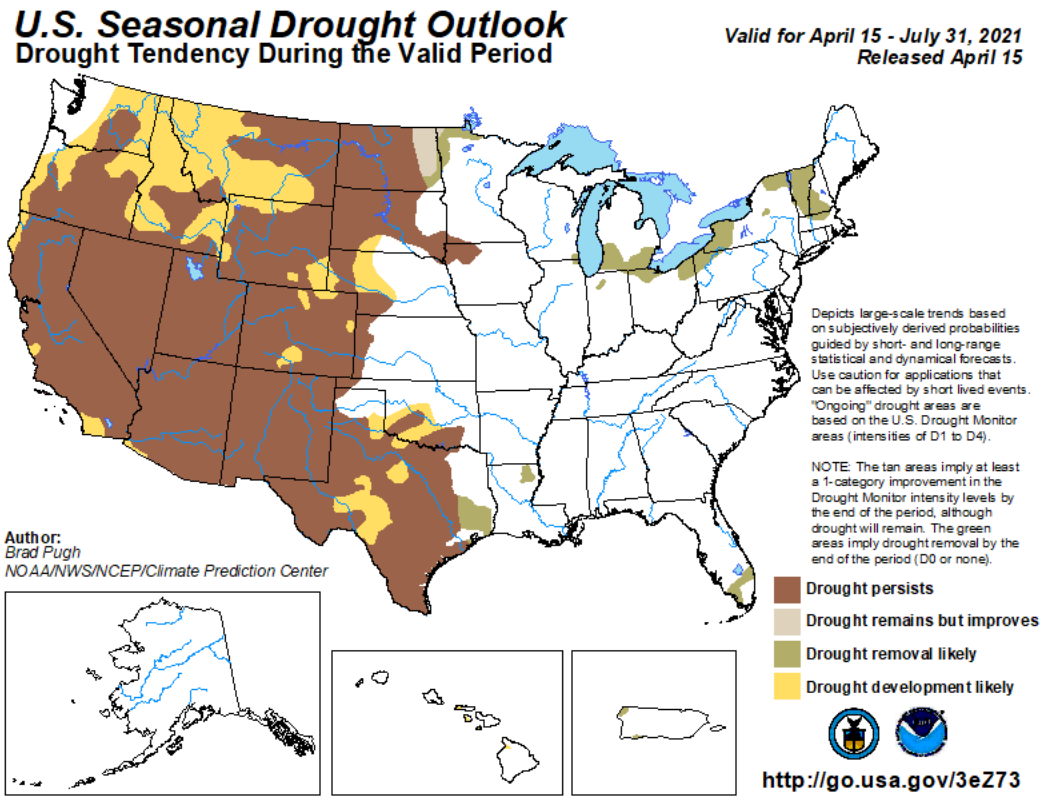
U.S. Drought Monitor

April 6, 2021



U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Valid for April 15 - July 31, 2021



Current Drought Response

- **External Communication of Drought Conditions, Forecasts and Impacts:**
  - Drought status updates in partnership with regional partners
  - Regular Drought Briefings and Webinars
- **Partner Engagement:** Coordination on consistent drought messaging and media outreach and to avoid duplication.
- **Documenting Lessons Learned and Post-Drought Impact Assessments**

Virtual Flash Drought Workshop

December 2020

- Agree on the **basic set of characteristics** of flash drought, including definitions by sector, region, and application
- Document how **existing flash drought tools and research** can meet user needs both in the near-term and in the future
- Develop a list of **outstanding research needs** in monitoring, prediction, and planning/response to improve early warning
- Agree on next steps for this emerging domain and how NIDIS and other partners can support **research and coordination**

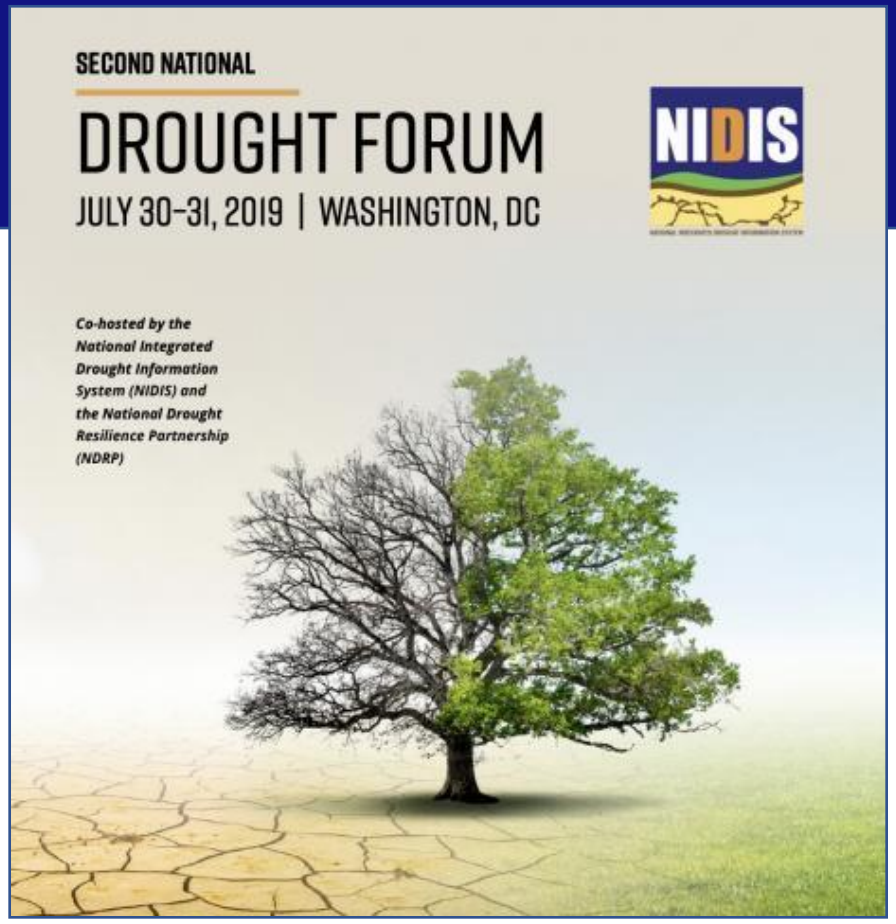
National Coordinated Soil Moisture Monitoring Network (NCSMMN)

In 2019, Congress called on NIDIS to develop a strategy for the NCSMMN, a multi-agency, multi-institutional initiative to integrate soil moisture data from around the country, and to capitalize on its transformative potential for a wide range of applications.

- Coordinated **soil moisture network expansions** in the Upper Missouri River Basin and in the Southeastern U.S., both areas that were previously underrepresented
- Development of **proof-of-concept gridded national soil moisture maps** blending *in situ*, satellite, and modeled data
- Active **stakeholder engagement and interaction** through annual National Soil Moisture Workshops and other venues

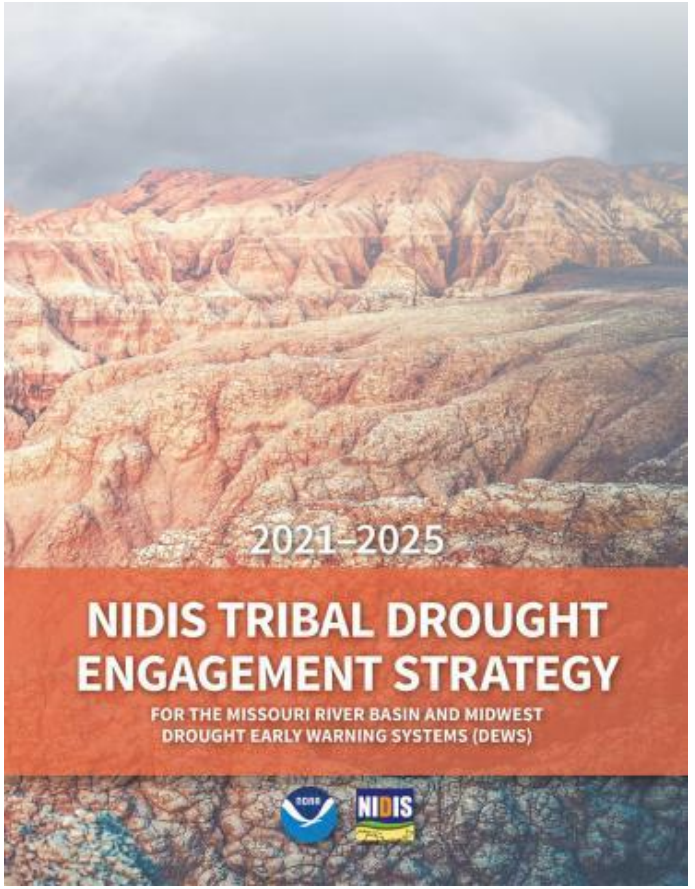
2019 National Drought Forum
July 30-31, 2019 • Washington, D.C.

To assess the status of national drought readiness, to take stock of progress since the 2012 National Drought Forum, and to help provide new information and guidance for coordination to improve the nation's preparedness to drought.



2021-2025 Tribal Drought Engagement Strategy

- **Developed with Tribal Nations in the Missouri River Basin and Midwest**
- **Guiding Principles of Engagement** that capture important approaches to partnerships with Tribal Nations.
- **Key Drought Early Warning Activities** with Tribal Nations organized around the five components of a DEWS



Drought.gov Re-Launch

Major new features:

- City, county, and watershed level conditions
- New, up-to-date drought statistics
- Historical data and maps
- “By Sector” pages detailing Impacts and Resources
- “Research and Learn” section

National Integrated Drought Information System

Drought.gov

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