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behaviors. However, heightened risk perceptions after an extreme event may present an opportunity to build readiness toward specific climate impacts.

In-depth interviews explore climate beliefs

Agricultural systems are complex, and weather and climate are among many factors that influence risk perceptions, planning decisions, and farming success. To capture these intricacies and provide context to our survey research we conducted 57 in-depth interviews with agricultural advisors between December 2013 and April 2014. Participants included Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs), staff at conservation agencies, agricultural bankers, and university Extension personnel located in Indiana, Iowa, and Nebraska.

These interviews used a series of open-ended questions to broach a diversity of interrelated yet distinct topics, including climate beliefs, financial considerations, Farm Bill impacts, and more. Analysis is ongoing and results will be used to improve our understanding about how attitudes and perceptions are formed in an individual and to gauge advisors' readiness to use climate information.

Looking Ahead

With future climate projections pointing to likely increases in the frequency of extreme events there is interest in learning how we can rally support for mitigation and adaptation efforts, and whether such events result in specific challenges or opportunities for influencing behavior. Early analysis shows a complex connection between extreme events and climate risk perceptions. Our project team is continuing to explore the many facets of this issue with final results expected in 2015 at the conclusion of our project.

Increasing drought resilience in the Missouri River Basin



Participants pose for a group photo during the workshop. BETHANY PERRY PHOTO

Gathering engages Tribes, scientists, local and national organizations

BY BETHANY PERRY

NOAA Central Region Collaboration Team

Tribal representatives, scientists, academicians and members of both state and federal governments gathered in September in Rapid City, S.D., to discuss drought and climate change, impacts, early warning systems, and planning for extreme events.

The meeting, sponsored by NIDIS, focused on engagement with the tribes in the Missouri River Basin. Sixteen of twenty-eight tribes from the Basin attended, as well as two tribes from Oklahoma with Missouri Basin roots.

A goal of the workshop to share information about the history and culture of the tribes residing in the Missouri River drainage, specifically about impacts from local weather and climate. The workshop built on NIDIS' previous and current work in the Basin, to strengthen lasting relationships with the tribes. The goal of the ongoing activities is to increase drought planning and resilience.

At the workshop tribal representatives shared the conditions, needs and efforts in

their lands to prepare for climate extremes and drought. Key drought partners from various sectors delivered information on resources and opportunities to work together on resilience and planning.

NIDIS, NDMC, NOAA Regional Collaboration, tribal individuals, the American Association of State Climatologists and the HPRCC organized and presented the meeting.

Next steps:

- Exploring opportunities to expand and strengthen monitoring capabilities throughout tribal lands

- Investigating partnerships with tribal colleges to build capacity for climate and drought planning efforts with their specific tribe

- Continuing outreach to the tribes in the basin through several mechanisms, including direct outreach to tribal councils.

- Expanding funding potential via other federal agencies and programs.

A more detailed report specifying outcomes and next steps will be forthcoming.