Pacific Northwest Drought Early Warning System

October Drought & Climate Outlook

NIDIS

NOAA

CIRC
Climate Impacts Research Consortium

USDA

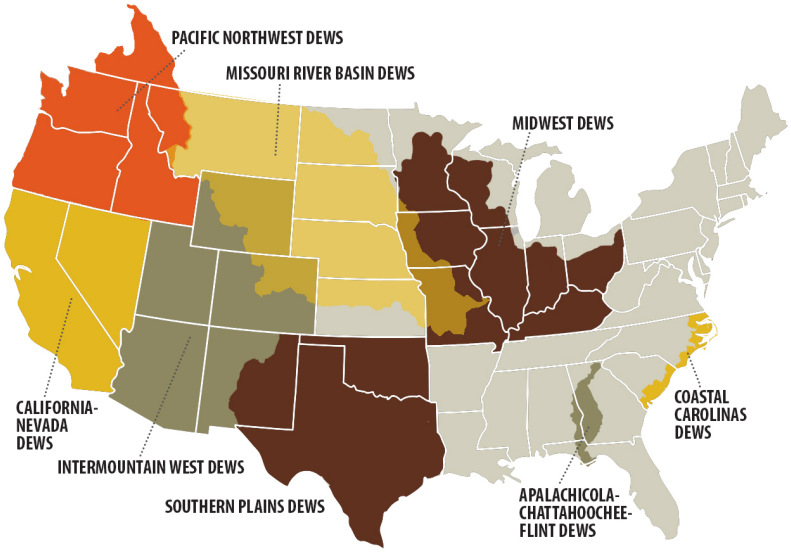
National Weather Service

Agenda

- **Welcome & Intro to NIDIS and PNW DEWS**
  - Alicia Marrs, NOAA/NIDIS
- **Drought update and overview of current conditions in the region**
  - John Abatzoglou, University of Idaho/CIRC
- **Climate Outlook**
  - Andrea Bair, National Weather Service Western Region
- **Observed impacts & associated mitigation actions**
  - Idaho: David Hoekema, Department of Water Resources
  - Washington: Jeff Marti, Department of Ecology
  - Northwest Regional Climate Hub: Gabrielle Roesch McNally, USFS
- **Upcoming Events**

What is the National Integrated Drought Information System?

- Provide a better understanding of how and why droughts affect society, the economy and the environment.
- Improve accessibility, dissemination and use of early warning information for drought risk management.
- Build off of a network of regional Drought Early Warning Systems (DEWS) to create a National Drought Early Warning System.



What is a Drought Early Warning System?

A 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 and impact data readily available, easily understandable and usable for decision makers; and to improve the capacity of stakeholders and economic sectors to better monitor, forecast, plan for and cope with the impacts of drought at all spatial and time scales.

Pacific Northwest DEWS

- Officially launched in February 2016
  - Key takeaways:
    - Drought of 2015 is the new drought of record
    - Additional research and monitoring is needed for decision making
      - Groundwater
      - Soil moisture
      - Snowpack
      - Water temperature
      - Stream flows
    - Better information is needed to identify specific triggers to inform operational decisions
    - Increased communication and outreach
    - Leverage and enhance existing information and collaborative networks
  - Strategic plan is under development