

Experts & Policy Stakeholders Convened for 2nd National Drought Forum

On July 30 – 31, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's [National Integrated Drought Information System \(NIDIS\)](#) and the [National Drought Resilience Partnership \(NDRP\)](#) co-hosted the 2nd National Drought Forum in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the forum was to convene high-level drought experts and decision-makers from drought impacted regions and economic sectors of the country, along with the private sector, research institutions, and officials across all levels of government to discuss and determine priority actions around emerging drought early warning and long-term resilience issues.

Among the key goals of the forum were to take stock of lessons learned and progress towards U.S. drought readiness since the last Forum in 2012; strengthen the state – federal relationship to realize greater collaboration and promote cooperative partnerships with U.S. businesses to address drought across time scales and across levels of government and sectors; and to discuss new information and opportunities that help move the Nation to a more proactive approach to drought risk management. Through engaged discussions among the participants, the forum aimed to produce a list of actions items that could improve U.S. drought readiness and resilience.

Forum sessions provided insightful information resulting in takeaways such as learning about water management decision-making challenges, as well as opportunities under increasingly arid conditions, particularly in the West. Additionally, there was considerable discussion and data presented about the economics of drought, including how drought and water scarcity has disrupted different sectors and communities, and how governments – across all levels –

along with the private sector, will need to enhance drought monitoring, risk analysis, and establishment of new financing solutions for drought resilience. The forum also highlighted the importance of collaboration and coordination among federal, state, and local governments to effectively plan and respond to drought.

Feedback from the forum's breakout sessions produced meaningful insights and recommended actions including the improvement of public confidence of the NDRP, improving the accuracy and confidence of drought forecasting, supporting open drought data, enhancing basin scale drought planning, improving the forecasting of heatwaves in concert with precipitation, and establishing creative financing mechanisms for drought resilient infrastructure. Participants also recommended a higher degree of drought resilience planning, including the documenting and sharing of information that communities and water basins should be using to manage and mitigate drought risks.

Information and several publications were made available prior to and during the forum. These publications can be viewed and downloaded at the [2nd Drought Forum's website](#). In the coming days, the organizers of the forum will release guidance from the breakout sessions. These will be available at the above-referenced site.

To review current drought conditions, please visit the [U.S. Drought Monitor online](#).