

National Drought Forum:
**The 2012 Drought and U.S. Preparedness
in 2013 and Beyond**

December 12-13, 2012

Hall of the States
Washington, DC



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National Drought Forum
***“The 2012 Drought and
U.S. Preparedness for 2013 and Beyond”***

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SSO Meeting Rooms 233-235

FINAL AGENDA

Wednesday, December 12

8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast Available

9:00 **Welcome and Introductions; Forum Goals & Objectives** – Forum Co-Chairs: Donald A. Wilhite, Professor of Applied Climate Science, University of Nebraska’s School of Natural Resources; Robert Detrick, Assistant Administrator, NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

9:15 **Drought Information: Forecasting and Monitoring the 2012 Drought, and Looking Ahead to 2013** – This panel of scientists will discuss the intensity and scope of the 2012 drought, and the outlook for continued drought in 2013.

Moderator: Eric Evenson, USGS

Speakers:

- Brad Rippey, Office of the Chief Economist, USDA – to discuss the U.S. Drought Monitor and evolution of 2012 drought and its impacts
- Ed O’Lenic, NOAA CPC – to discuss the Seasonal Drought and Climate Outlooks
- Mike Strobel, USDA-NRCS – to discuss streamflow, snowpack and soil condition outlooks

- 10:00 **2012 Drought Impacts and Response – *Federal Perspective***
 This panel of federal agency representatives will discuss the response to the drought in 2012, providing important context for the Forum by addressing such topics as, the role that drought information had in informing response actions, intergovernmental coordination on response, the role of timely federal assistance, and drought planning activities that were executed.
Moderator: Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center
Speakers:
- Colleen Callahan, Illinois Director, USDA Rural Development; and USDA’s Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator in Response to 2012 Drought
 - Dionne Thompson, Chief of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation
 - Steve Guertin, Deputy Director for Policy, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 - Chandra Pathak, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hydrology and Hydraulics
 - Deborah Ingram, Assistant Administrator for Recovery, FEMA
 - Kit Muller, Landscape Initiatives Coordinator, BLM
- 11:10 **Break**
- 11:20 **2012 Drought Impacts and Response –*Non-Federal Perspective***
 This panel of private sector, state, tribal and local government representatives will discuss the response to the drought in 2012, providing important context for the Forum by addressing such topics as, the role that drought information had in informing response actions, intergovernmental coordination on response, the role of timely federal assistance, and drought planning activities that were executed.
Moderator: Diane Duff, Director, Southern Governors Association
Speakers:
- Mark Schouten, Administrator, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division
 - Dennis Todey, South Dakota State Climatologist
 - Sophi Beym, Emergency Manager, Pueblo of Acoma, Public Safety Department
 - Kelly Davis, Director of Research, SnowSports Industries America
 - Colin Woodall, Vice President, Government Affairs, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association
- 12:20 **Lunch** – Box lunches provided
Keynote Speaker: Bob Perciasepe, Deputy Administrator, EPA
- 1:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION: Preparing for 2013**
 This panel of federal, state & local government officials will discuss the implications of the seasonal climate outlooks as we enter the winter snowpack season, review and share information on key drought indicators and triggers, and

opportunities for drought information to inform response strategies to respond to evolving and future drought conditions and impacts.

Moderator: Roger Pulwarty, Director of NOAA's NIDIS Office

Panelists:

- Chuck Bohac, Tennessee Valley Authority
- RADM Scott Deitchman, Asst Surgeon General & Assoc Director for Environmental Health Emergencies, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
- Robert Flider, Director, Illinois Department of Agriculture
- David Torres, Economist, El Paso Water Utilities

2:00

Breakout Discussions – Preparing for 2013

What did we learn from 2012; and how are we subsequently preparing for 2013?

Breakout groups will be organized around the following economic sectors:

- Agriculture
- Energy
- Wildfire
- Municipal and Industrial Water Supply; and Public Health
- Tourism; and Natural Resources

3:00

Break

3:15

Building a National Integrated Drought Early Warning Information System

This panel will discuss development of the national integrated drought early warning information system, including the key partnerships and collaboration necessary to collect and integrate data, as well as communicate information on forecasts and impacts.

Moderator: Shaun McGrath, NOAA-NIDIS Advisor

Speakers:

- Roger Pulwarty, NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System Office
- Mike Hayes, National Drought Mitigation Center
- Kent Lanclos, Director, Strategic Data Acquisition and Analysis, RMA-USDA
- Tony Willardson, Director, Western States Water Council

4:15

Coordination with Federal, Tribal, State, and Local Governments

A critical component of preparing and planning for droughts, and responding to them when they occur, are strong and effective coordination partnerships within and across federal, tribal, state, local governments, and the private sector. For example, such partnerships help to ensure that a national drought early warning information system engenders better informed and more timely decisions leading to reduced impacts and costs. This panel will discuss how this cooperation and coordination is working and how those efforts may be improved.

Moderator: Mark Shafer, SCIPP (Southern Great Plains response)

Speakers:

- Butch Blazer, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources & Environment, USDA
- Tom Littlepage, Alabama Office of Water Resources
- Nolan Doesken, Colorado Climate Center
- Josh Barnes, Economic Development Administration; National Coordinator for the Economic Recovery Support Function (RSF) under the National Disaster Recovery Framework

5:15 **Open Discussion with All Attendees**

5:30 **Adjourn**

Thursday, December 13

8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast Available

9:00 **Reconvene – Review Day’s Agenda and Objectives** – Co-Chairs: Don Wilhite & Robert Detrick

9:15 **Key highlights and findings from breakout groups**

9:45 **U.S. Drought Readiness –Improving Resilience (Panel 1)**

Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Sam Brownback, Kansas Governor
Governor Brownback will discuss the impacts from the current drought in the State of Kansas, and will provide the insights from a Governor on his state’s efforts to prepare for, and respond to, drought disasters.

10:30 **Break**

10:45 **U.S. Drought Readiness – Improving Resilience (Panel 2)**

This panel of high-ranking federal agency officials will provide prepared remarks, discussing current federal authorities and programs relevant to drought that they oversee, as well as to consider opportunities and options for better coordinating and integrating federal programs and improving U.S. drought readiness.

Moderator: Robert Detrick, Assistant Administrator, NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

Speakers:

- John Tubbs, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of the Interior
- Michael Scuse, USDA Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services
- Ann Mills, USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment

- James Dalton, Chief of Engineering and Construction, USACE
- Jay Jensen, Associate Director for Land and Water Ecosystems, White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

12:15 **Lunch** – Box lunches provided

12:45 **USDA Efforts on Drought Preparedness and Response**

Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Secretary Vilsack will discuss the impacts from drought on agriculture and natural resources and will describe efforts his Department is taking to improve drought preparedness and response. The Secretary will be joined by Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction and Deputy Administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), to discuss USDA – Commerce collaboration.

1:15 **Congressional Panel**

This panel of key Congressional Committee leaders will discuss how the new Congress may approach U.S. drought readiness and improving resilience.

Moderator: Betsy Cody, Congressional Research Service

Speakers:

- Sara Tucker, Senate Energy and Natural Resources
- Tina May, Senate Agriculture
- Tara Rothschild, House Science, Space and Technology
- Jon Pawlow, House Transportation and Infrastructure
- Kelvin Stroud, Senator Mark Pryor

2:15 **Breakout Discussions**

We will again go into smaller group discussions to facilitate input and dialog from all forum attendees. The groups will be asked to make recommendations with actionable items for improving drought readiness and resilience.

3:00 **Closing Discussion to Identify Key Recommendations to Improve Drought Readiness** – led by Co-Chairs and others

This last exchange among all meeting attendees will provide a final consideration of the key opportunities and needs relevant to U.S. drought readiness. We will identify key recommended actions and next steps that will improve drought readiness and national resilience.

3:45 **Adjourn**