

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

**GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

**Goals**

*The primary goals for the National Drought Forum on Dec. 12-13, 2012, are to understand the extent of 2012 drought impacts and response, and help provide new information and guidance for coordination to improve the nations’ drought readiness in 2013 and preparedness for future droughts.*

- Given the extensive drought and its intensive impacts this past year, assess the impacts of and response to the current drought across key economic sectors, regions, and programs.
- Given that droughts are a natural part of the climate, consider the nation’s overall drought readiness as drought impacts continue into 2013 and how to improve the nation’s level of preparedness for future droughts.

**Objectives**

By convening high-level drought program experts and representatives from impacted regions we hope to engender a candid and enlightening conversation that will result in specific recommendations for further improving U.S. drought readiness. The Forum will:

- Illustrate the nature of drought impacts in agriculture, water resources and other critical sectors and across affected regions the United States.
- Consider the role and improvement of present capabilities, such as NIDIS and the U.S. Drought Monitor, in developing relevant information and mechanisms for delivering and using drought information.
- Consider key elements of drought planning and response, and develop recommendations for building on existing drought preparedness and response efforts.
  - As a part of this discussion, the recommendations contained in the 2000 National Drought Policy Commission report; the January 2011 report from the Western Governors’ Association and Western States Water Council: “Improving Drought Preparedness in the West” and other efforts will be discussed.
- Identify the necessary partnerships and support needed to ensure coordination and integration across all governments—state, tribal, local, and federal, the private sector and local communities—for improving drought preparedness and response.