About the National Drought Forum
The first National Drought Forum was held in December 2012 to assess the status of national drought readiness, understand the extent of the 2012 drought impacts and response, and help provide new information and guidance for coordination to improve the nation’s preparedness to drought. The second National Drought Forum will 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.

Meeting Goals
- 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.
- Discuss new information and opportunities for coordination that help move the Nation from a reactive to a proactive approach to drought risk management.
- Produce a list of “action items” that could improve U.S. drought readiness and resilience.

**DRAFT AGENDA**
**Tuesday, July 30**
8:00 AM       Registration Opens
8:30 AM       Continental Breakfast
9:00 AM       **Welcome and Introductions**
The forum co-chairs will lead introductions and will present the forum goals and objectives.
Speakers: Forum co-chairs Bill Northey, Chuck Chaitovitz, Tony Willardson
9:15 AM  **Linking National Security and Drought**  
At its core, national security is about the protection of lives, livelihoods, property, and the environment. The Nation depends on vital, up-to-the-minute drought information for preparedness, response, and recovery for both public safety and the protection of the Nation’s critical infrastructure and natural resources. These themes will resonate throughout the course of our two-day event.

9:45 AM  **Drought Conditions: Past, Present, and Forecasted**  
This panel will present major drought events since the 2012 Great Plains Drought, the accomplishments in the intervening seven years, and the role of intergovernmental coordination on drought response. Current drought conditions and the forecasted outlook will also be highlighted. Speakers will share the progress made and opportunities that remain across sectors and levels of government.

10:45 AM  **Break**

11:00 AM  **Drought Decisions around the New (Ab)Normal: Water Scarcity, Drought, and Aridity**  
This panel will discuss the implications of water management decision-making under increasingly arid conditions. In particular, panelists will explore: (1) the role of existing water infrastructure in arid environments and investment-based repurposing of infrastructure for drier conditions; (2) opportunities under the Presidential Memorandum on Promoting the Reliable Supply and Delivery of Water in the West; (3) the U.S. Farm Bill and opportunities for Western irrigated agriculture; and (4) associated research priorities.

12:00 PM  **Transition to Lunch**

12:15 PM  **Lunch with Governors**  
Each governor will explore the topics of the previous two sessions from his or her state’s perspectives.

1:30 PM  **Transition to Panel**

1:45 PM  **Economics of Drought Part I: Understanding the Cost of Drought**  
This panel will feature representatives from sectors and communities impacted by drought and water scarcity, but whose impacts have yet to be fully quantified and well understood. Featured representatives from diverse sectors will discuss how drought is impacting bottom lines and
ecosystems throughout the country, and how we can better measure those economic impacts.

2:45 PM  Break/Transition to Breakout Discussions

3:00 PM  **Preparing for 2020 and Beyond**  
Breakout Discussions

4:00 PM  Transition to Plenary

4:15 PM  Open Discussion with all Attendees, Public Comment, Adjourn

**Wednesday, July 31**

8:00 AM  Continental Breakfast

8:30 AM  **Highlights and Findings**  
The forum co-chairs will share insights so far and, again, will present the forum goals and objectives. They will then invite the reporters from each of the previous day’s breakout sessions to share the insights from the breakout sessions. 
Speakers:  Bill Northey, Chuck Chaitovitz, Tony Willardson  
Breakout Group Reporters

9:00 AM  **Opening Remarks: NOAA Administrator**  
Speaker:  Neil Jacobs, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction, performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere

9:30 AM  **Economics of Drought Part II: Risk Analysis and Investment to Drive Innovation**  
This panel of private sector and government representatives will discuss drought risk analysis and decision-making, illuminating new financing solutions for drought resilience, cost of drought to cities and bond ratings for flood and drought resilience, and insights into how industry metrics are changing in the context of drought.

10:30 AM  Break
10:45 AM  **Drought Policies: Congressional Perspectives**
Congressional staffers will discuss recent and potential legislation, including the Farm Bill, NIDIS Reauthorization, WRDA, and legislation tackling water infrastructure, soil moisture monitoring, and other issues.

11:15 AM  **Companion Panel to the Congressional Panel**

12:00 AM  Transition to Lunch

12:15 AM  **Lunch with the Water Subcabinet**
Each member will share his or her key drought issues and opportunities.

1:45 PM  Transition to Panel

2:00 PM  **Monitoring and Forecasting of Drought across Timescales**
Over the past seven years, advances have been made in monitoring and forecasting of drought, but many challenges remain - particularly in the areas of flash drought, and sub-seasonal to seasonal to decadal forecasting. This panel will identify priority needs for strengthening existing capabilities in monitoring and forecasting, as well as applied research, to build our nation's drought early warning capacity.

3:00 PM  Break

3:15 PM  **Priority Actions for Improving National Drought Readiness**
The forum co-chairs will share insights and recommendations so far. They will then invite participants to share the recommendations they heard over the previous two days.

4:45 PM  Public Comment, Adjourn