

# The Future of Drought in the United States

## *Public Information Gathering Session: Intermediary Data Providers for Drought Information*

July 15, 2025

## Statement of Task

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will convene an ad hoc committee to consider approaches for future drought characterization, assessment, and response.

More specifically, the study will:

- Discuss the drought-to-aridification continuum and differentiate among drought, multidecadal drought, and aridification. How do factors such as periods of record, drought type, regionality, and seasonality affect these classifications? How do current periods of record affect drought outlooks and predictions?
- Evaluate data sources currently used for drought assessment. What data will be needed to address non-stationarity? What methodologies can be used to improve future drought assessment, taking into account non-stationarity?
- Discuss metrics and indicators used in drought assessment and identify opportunities to inform decision making, including increasing integration of non-stationarity and incorporating uncertainty and/or confidence.
- Review existing and emerging approaches, both nationally and globally, for incorporating non-stationarity in drought assessment. Are some approaches more appropriate for specific regions and/or time periods?

The committee will recommend a framework for incorporating non-stationarity considerations into drought assessment, for use across a range of geographic regions and of spatial and temporal scales.

# Committee Membership

**Jonathan Overpeck (Chair)**

*University of Michigan*

**Amir AghaKouchak**

*University of California, Irvine*

**Clara Deser**

*NSF- National Center for Atmospheric Research*

**Trent Ford**

*University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*

**Kristiana Hansen**

*University of Wyoming*

**Richard Heim Jr.**

*National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
National Center for Environmental Information  
(retired)*

**Jennifer Henderson**

*Texas Tech University*

**Zachary Hoylman**

*Montana Climate Office  
W.A Franke College of Forestry & Conservation*

**Yusuke Kuwayama**

*University of Maryland, Baltimore County*

**Venkataraman Lakshmi**

*University of Virginia*

**Justin Mankin**

*Dartmouth College*

**Karen McKinnon**

*University of Los Angeles, Los Angeles*

## National Academies Staff

Steven Stichter

*Senior Program Officer*

Charles Burgis

*Program Officer*

Dominique Jenkins

*Senior Program Assistant*

# Meeting Objective

- Gather information from intermediary drought data providers on considerations and implications of drought non-stationarity

# Agenda

*July 15, 2025*

*1:30–2:50pm ET*

## ***Development and Use of the US Drought Monitor***

- US Drought Monitor (USDM)
  - Brian Fuchs, USDM
- *State Climatologists*
  - John Nielsen-Gammon (TX)
  - Laura Edwards (SD)
  - Russ Schumacher (CO)

*2:50–3pm ET - Break*

*3–4pm ET*

## ***Regional Climate Centers and Climate Adaptation Partnerships***

- Beth Hall, Midwestern RCC
- Tim Brown, Western RCC
- Michael Crimmins, Southwest CLIMAS CAP
- Rick Thoman, Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy

# How to Participate

- To ask questions of speakers, use the Slido link posted in the webinar chat:  
<https://app.sli.do/event/dF75tKDMLiV3zd61ouPoST>
- For project updates, you can subscribe to our mailing list on our project webpage here:  
<https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/the-future-of-drought-in-the-united-states>

