



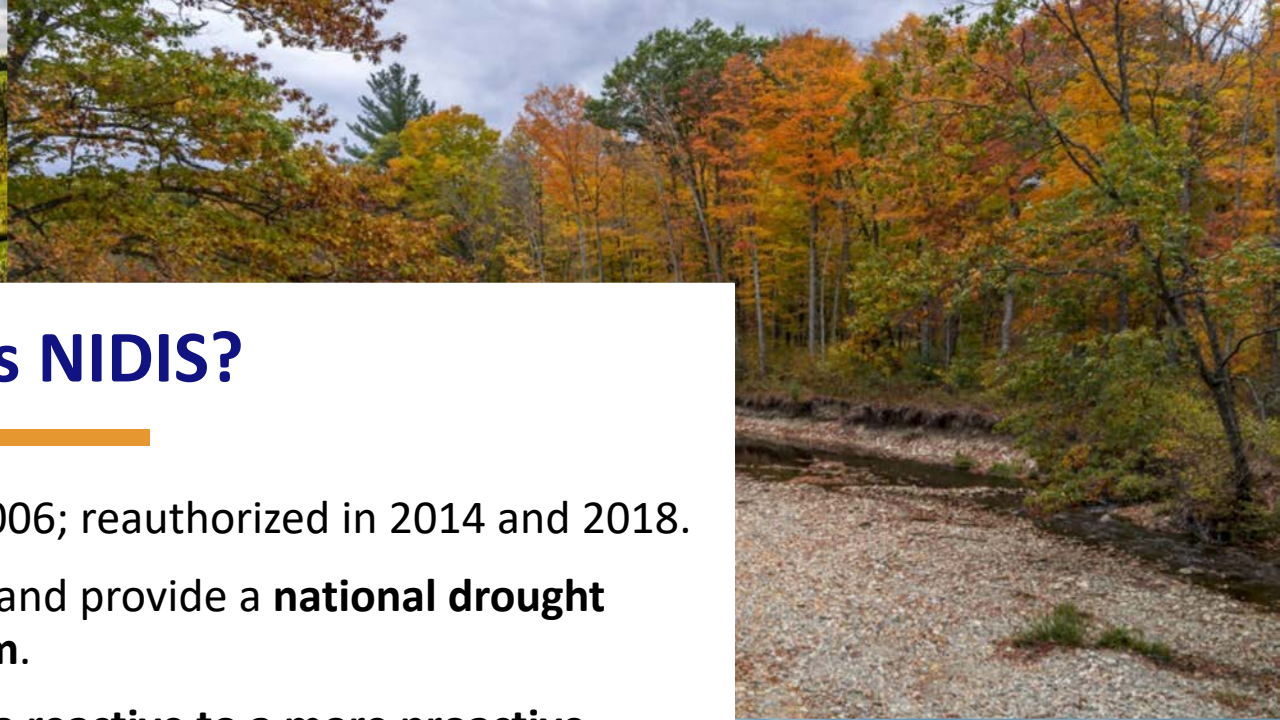
# **Update for the National Integrated Drought Information System**

**Advancing Drought Science and Preparedness Across the Nation**

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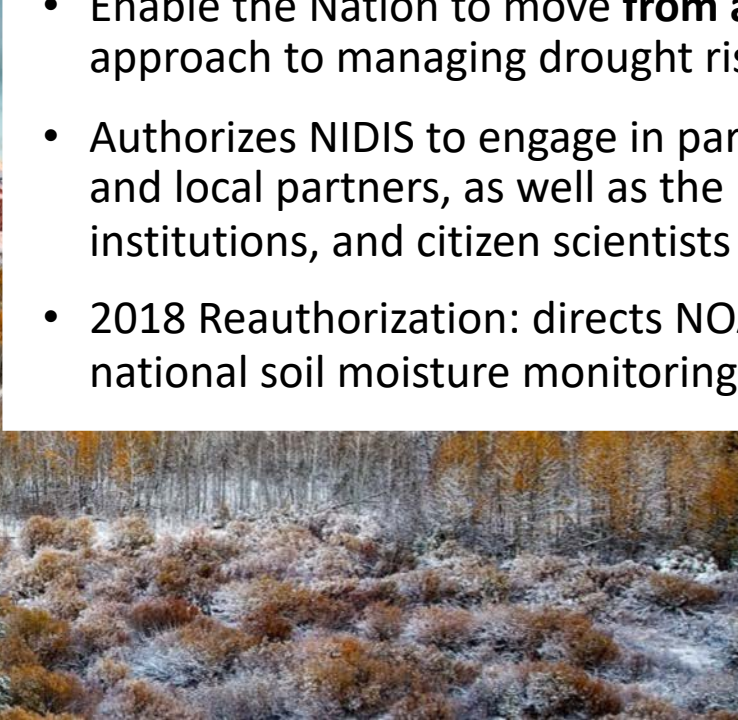
WERA 1012 Virtual Meeting  
Molly Woloszyn | May 18, 2021





## What is NIDIS?

- First authorized by Congress in 2006; reauthorized in 2014 and 2018.
- Interagency mandate to develop and provide a **national drought early warning information system**.
- Enable the Nation to move **from a reactive to a more proactive** approach to managing drought risks and impacts
- Authorizes NIDIS to engage in partnerships with federal, state, tribal, and local partners, as well as the private sector, academic institutions, and citizen scientists
- 2018 Reauthorization: directs NOAA to develop a strategy for a national soil moisture monitoring network.



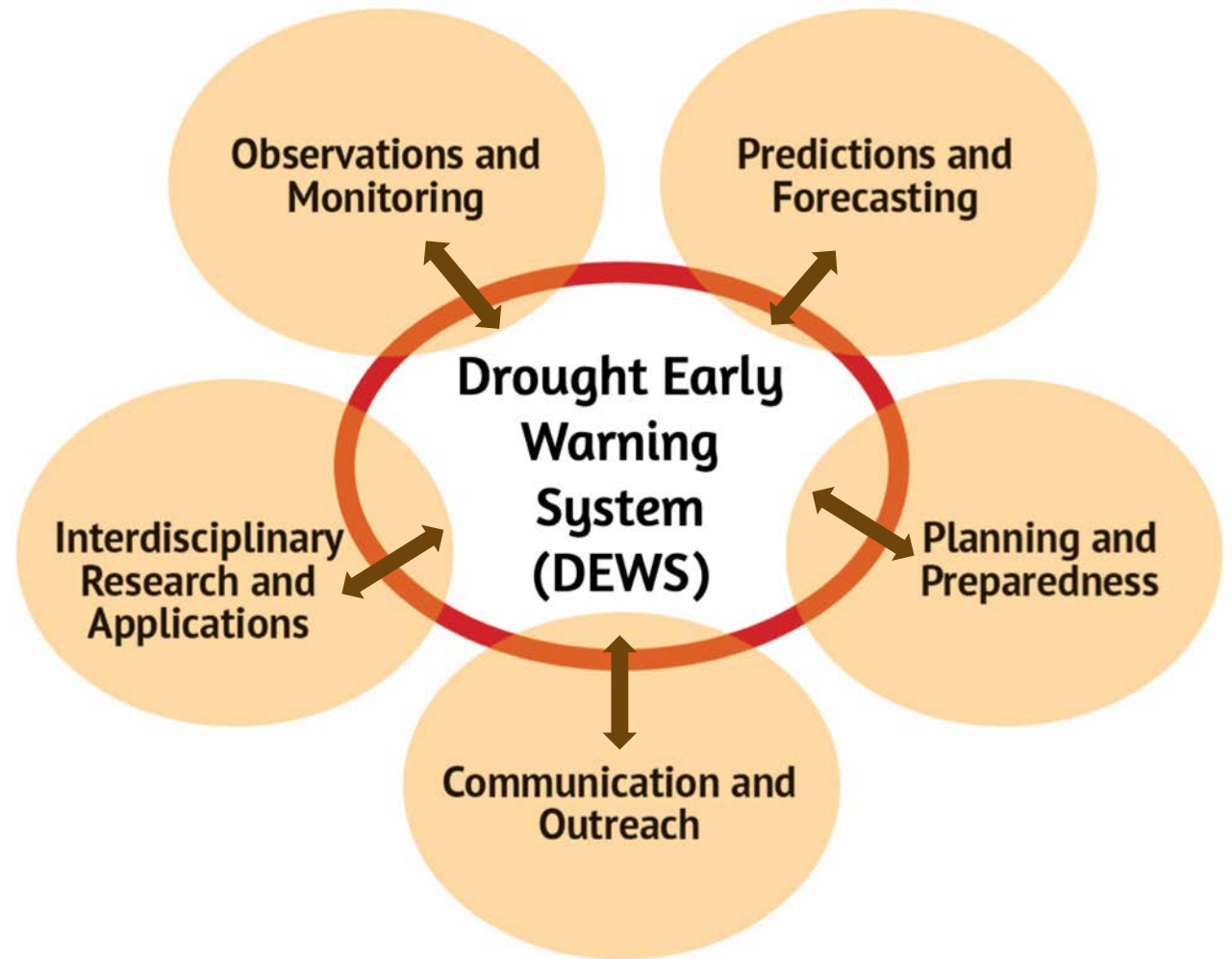


APPROACH

# Drought Early Warning

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“Provision of timely and effective information that allows individuals exposed to a hazard to take action to avoid or reduce their risk and prepare for effective response.”



## REGIONS

# Drought Early Warning Systems

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A Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) utilizes new and existing networks of federal, tribal, state, local and academic partners to make climate and drought science accessible and useful for decision makers.



# NIDIS Regional Drought Coordinators



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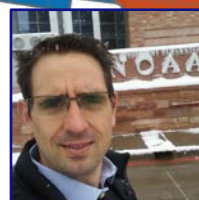
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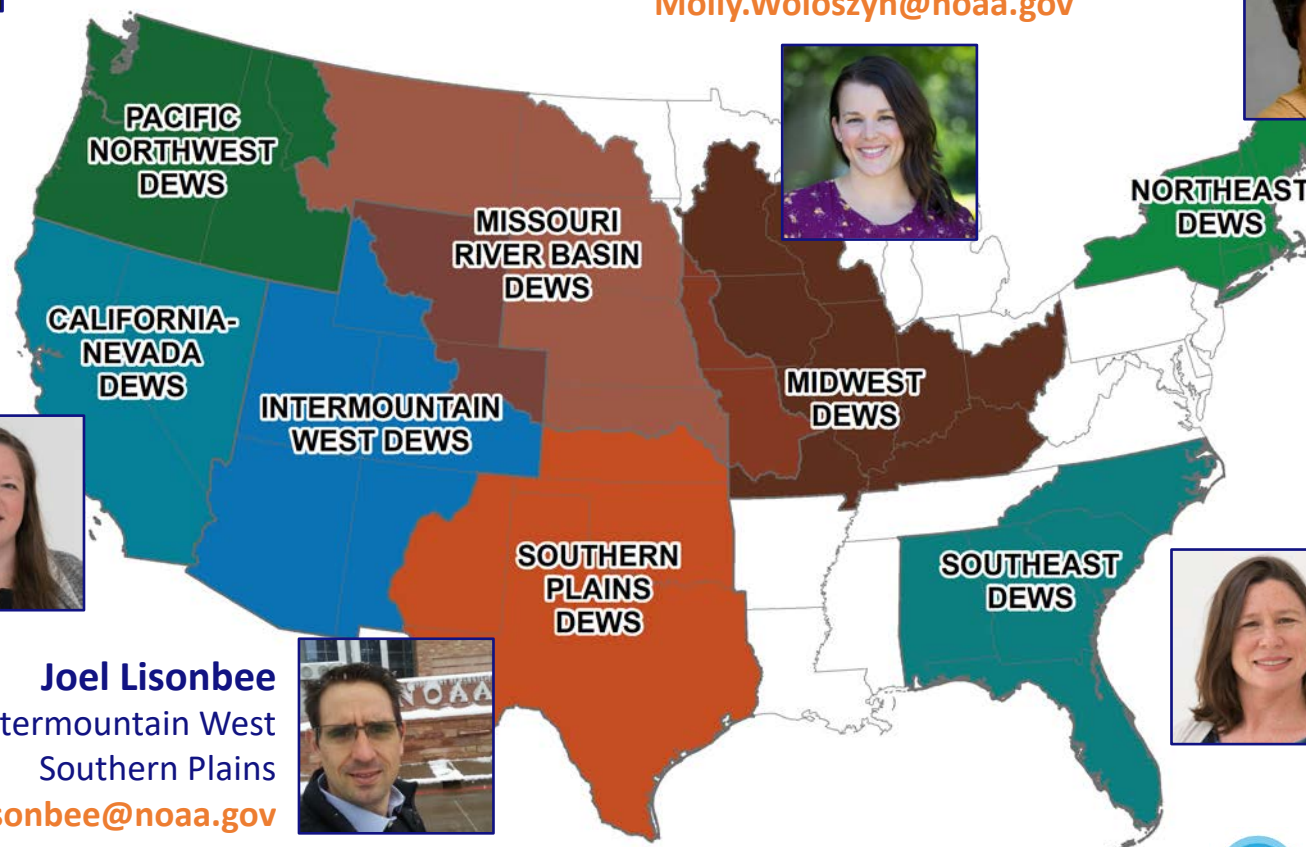
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@DroughtGov





# Drought.gov Redesign

Launched January 2021

- Up-to-date drought conditions from the city and county level to across the globe
- Interactive maps and data that show drought in new ways, including historical drought information (up to 2,000 years)
- Research and Learn section where you can “go back to the basics” on drought



## Advancing Drought Science and Preparedness Across the Nation

The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) is a multi-agency partnership that coordinates drought monitoring, forecasting, planning, and information at national, tribal, state, and local levels.



# NIDIS In Action Across the U.S.

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**Tribal  
Engagement**



**Soil Moisture  
Monitoring**



**Drought & Human  
Health**



**Drought &  
Wildfire**



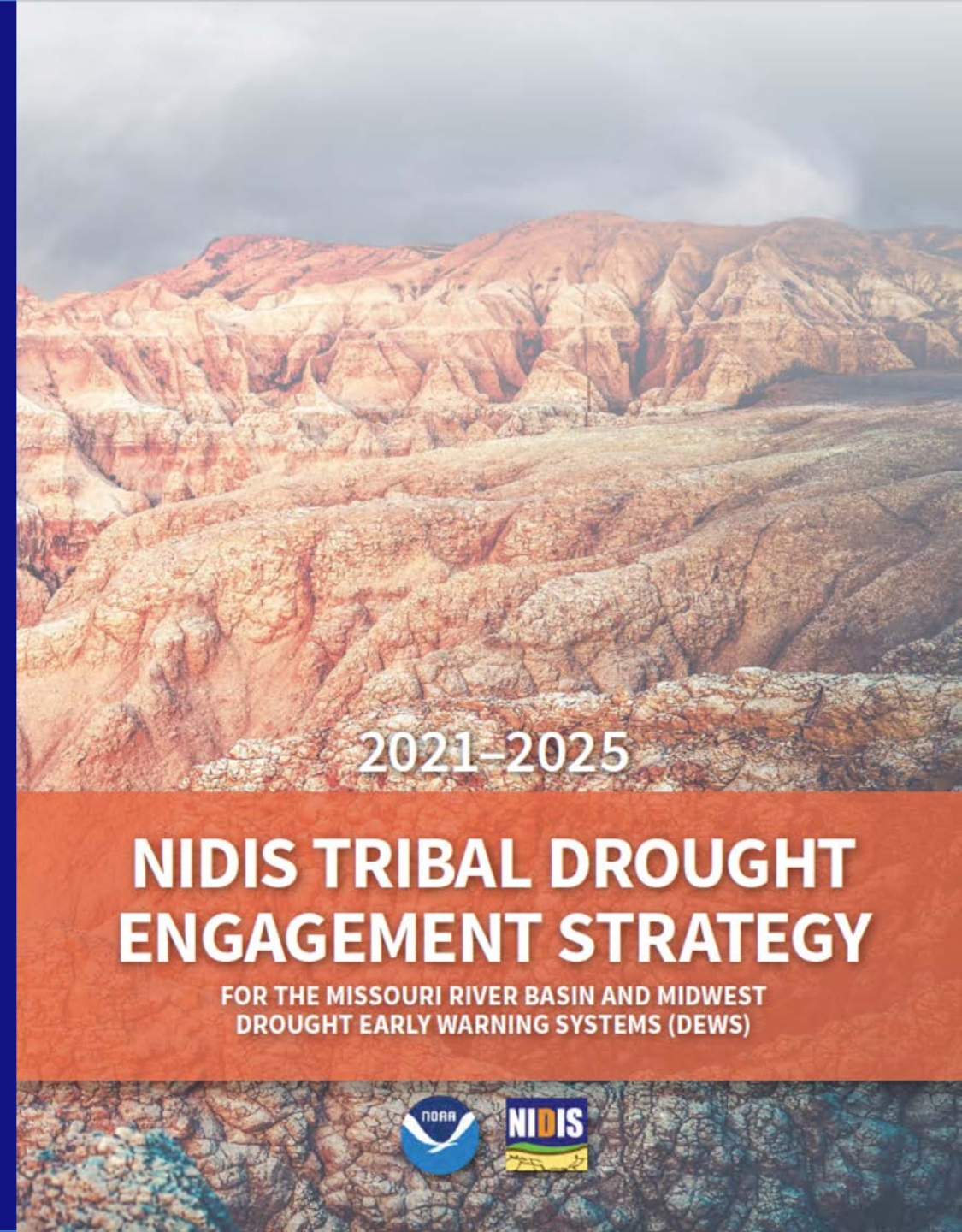
# NIDIS Tribal Drought Engagement Strategy: 2021-2025

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Key tribal engagement activities to  
implement in 2021 and beyond

Presents *Guiding Principles of Engagement*

Integrating tribal perspectives into NIDIS' work is important to ensure tribal nations are equal partners in responding to drought



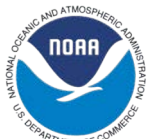


# National Coordinated Soil Moisture Monitoring Network

- NCSMMN mission is to provide “... coordinated, high-quality, nationwide, soil moisture information for the public good.”
- **NCSMMN is a network of people...**
  - Partnering agencies at federal and state levels
  - Research & end user community: 150 members+
- **Next Steps**
  - NOAA Approval of NCSMMN Strategy
  - End User Listening Sessions
  - Measuring in forested lands



Marina Skumanich | NCSMMN  
Program Specialist  
[Marina.Skumanich@noaa.gov](mailto:Marina.Skumanich@noaa.gov)



# Drought & Human Health Activities

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- Support **research and communication** of linkages
- Hosted a 2019 National Public Health Summit
- Host a series of **Regional Drought & Public Health Workshops**
  - Past workshops: California, Minnesota, Arizona, Carolinas (virtual)
  - Upcoming: Missouri River Basin and Pacific Northwest
- **Survey** of PH experts and state climatologists to assess gaps/needs
- All informing a **NIDIS Drought and Public Health Strategy**





# NIDIS Drought and Wildfire Nexus (NDAWN) Strategy

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- Rooted in developing partnerships and collaboration with the wildland fire management community.
- Goals:
  - Address the challenges fire managers face
  - Establish a robust drought and wildland fire decision-support information network
- Convened 8 workshops, presented to fire practitioners at 8 conferences, and interviewed 15 fire weather forecasters on the impacts of drought on wildfire planning, behavior, and post wildfire response.





# Thank You!

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