



Advancing the understanding, monitoring and prediction of North American drought in support of NIDIS

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The NOAA's Drought Task Force was established in October 2011 with the goal of achieving significant new advances in the ability to understand, monitor and predict drought over North America. The Task Force is an initiative of NOAA's Climate Program Office Modeling, Analysis, Predictions, and Projections (MAPP) program in support of the National Integrated Drought Information System NIDIS. It brings together over thirty-five leading drought scientists research laboratories and/or operational centers from NOAA, other U.S. agencies laboratories and academia. Their concerted research effort builds on individual MAPP research projects and related drought-research sector developments. The projects span the wide spectrum of drought research needed to make fundamental advances, from those aimed at the basic understanding of drought mechanisms to those evaluating new drought monitoring and prediction tools for operational and service purposes. In this presentation we will show how a coordinated, sustained multidisciplinary effort to assess understanding of both past droughts and emergent events contributes to the effectiveness of early warning systems.

This contribution will present an overview of Drought Task Force activities to date, including highlights of research activities and how the group has been working in partnership with NIDIS to advance the science underpinning the development, assessment and provision of drought information.