

Northern Region US Forest Service  
**IMPROVING DROUGHT RESILIENCE  
 FOREST TO VALLEY BOTTOM**  
 DROUGHT WORKSHOP (MARCH 14-16, 2017 ~ CHOTEAU, MT)

Workshop presented in partnership with:





United States Department of Agriculture  
Northern Plains Climate Hub









Workshop conducted as part of the  
 2017 Crown Managers Partnership Annual Forum

- Welcome
- Thank you for being here and thank you for the interest from so many different backgrounds and organizations
- We have 131 participants -
- This sort of participant response tells us a lot about how important drought is to everyone in the northern rockies
  - from 9 different states and provinces (AB, BC, MT, WA, OR, ID, ND, ID, CO)
  - 16 different agencies
  - 2 tribes,
  - 34 NGOs and collaboratives
  - 6 industry
- Last year President Obama announced an interagency National Drought Resilience Partnership (NDRP) – co chaired by USDA and NOAA.
- Two action items emerged from this:
  - 1) examine the ecological impacts of drought across the United States
  - 2) manage Federal assets to promote local drought resilience.



## CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITIES BEFORE US

### CLIMATE CHANGE

- INCREASES THE FREQUENCY, INTENSITY, DURATION OF DROUGHTS
- CHANGES TIMING AND AMOUNT OF RAINFALL
- INCREASES ECOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITIES

### DROUGHT AND WATER CHALLENGES

- THREATENS ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCY AND DELIVERY OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
- IMPACTS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE
- IMPACTS HUMAN HEALTH AND NUTRITION



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Improving Drought Resilience – Forest to Valley Bottom

- As a contribution to the first action item the Forest Service published a science synthesis on the effects of drought on forest and rangeland systems in 2016.
- The synthesis helps us with our limited understanding of the relationship among drought, wildfire severity and extent, impacts to future vegetation, carbon, and water quality.
- Copies of this publication are available at the check in desk of link to it is provided in this power pt.



## REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

- BETTER INFORM MANAGERS ON DROUGHT RELATED VULNERABILITIES
- DESCRIBE THE MANAGEMENT CONSTRAINTS/ OPPORTUNITIES IMPOSED BY FUTURE DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND OTHER WATER CHALLENGES;
- IDENTIFY ADAPTATION STRATEGIES TO MANAGE FORESTS AND RANGELANDS FOR INCREASED RESILIENCE IN THE FUTURE
- BUILD CAPACITY TO ADDRESS IMPACT OF LONG TERM DROUGHT TO FORESTS AND RANGELANDS



Improving Drought Resilience – Forest to Valley Bottom

- To better help us and our partners and neighbors manage lands to promote resiliency - the Forest Service Office of Sustainability and Climate (at the national level) have sponsored a series of workshops to help delivery and discuss drought information in addition to discussing and developing adaption strategies to improve system's resiliency to drought.
- This workshop is one of many drought adaption workshops occurring this spring across the nation in each of our 9 regions.
- So thank you again for taking the time to participate in this workshop.
- We expect that you will leave this workshop with a better understanding of vulnerabilities of our resources from ecological drought and take away strategies and tactics that could improve their resiliency as well as make the connections necessary to collaborate and increase capacity among agencies and partners.