



Southwest Drought Learning Network

What is the Southwest Drought Learning Network?

The Southwest Drought Learning Network (SWDLN) links climate service providers with resource managers to increase community resilience when facing current and future drought events. This peer-to-peer knowledge exchange network was conceptualized as a framework for stakeholders to share experiences in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from drought so as to inform current and future response and mitigation actions. In February 2020, a workshop convened in Las Cruces, New Mexico that brought together service providers, federal and state officials, scientists, and stakeholders to establish a prototype DLN for the Southwestern U.S. in hopes that they could form a pathway to help communities learn from other communities.



What does the SWDLN do?

Since its inception in 2020, the SWDLN has grown to 119 people representing 41 different organizations. Through collaboration the SWDLN has hosted numerous meetings/webinars that range from soil health, drought reporting, to drought management on the ranch; created 23 case studies, produced 21 drought-related podcasts.

2023 Teams

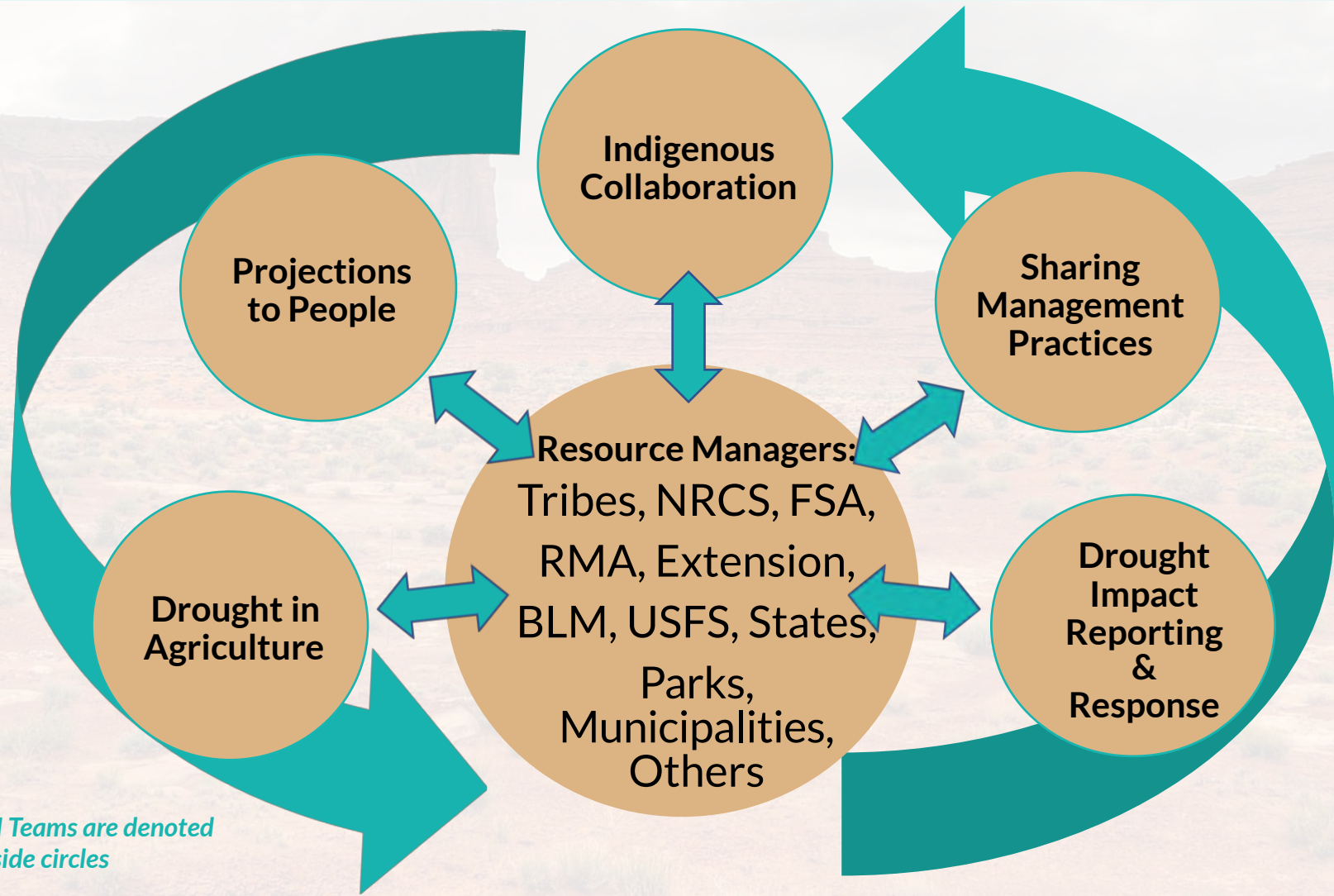
Teams are formed based on the region's current needs. The teams for 2023 are; Drought in Agriculture, Indigenous Collaboration, Monitoring & Impact Reporting, Projections to People, and Sharing Management Practices.

Each team sets goals for the year and chooses leadership teams during the SWDLN annual meeting. The teams work on current needs in an effort to help resource managers prepare for and mitigation drought events.

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Climate service providers support peer-to-peer learning

Each of the five SWDLN teams found in the outside circles of the figure are unique in their focus, but they also work together. The teams, which consist of climate service providers and other experts in the field, share knowledge with each other and pass it on to resource managers/stakeholders. Peer-to-peer learning is the focus of the DLN. Past experiences, lessons learned, and availability to monitoring processes is a constant loop that increases the transfer of knowledge among teams and resources managers.



*2023 DLN Teams are denoted
in the outside circles*