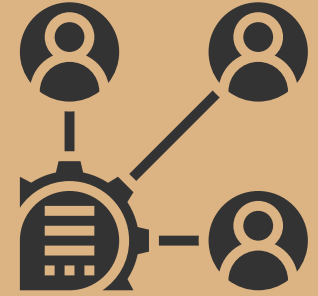




Southwest Drought Learning Network

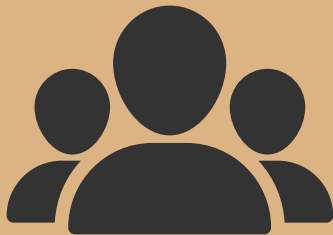
What is the Southwest Drought Learning Network?

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 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 over 120 people representing 40+ different organizations. Through collaboration the SWDLN has hosted numerous meetings/webinars that range from soil health to drought reporting to drought management on the ranch. Collaborative efforts within the SWDLN have also created 29 case studies, produced 22 drought-related podcasts, hosted monthly drought briefings and more. Grant funding was awarded through NRCS for the Climate-Smart Indigenous Agriculture project in 2021. Partners on the project met through SWDLN interactions (Santa Ana Pueblo, Intertribal Agriculture Council, National Drought Mitigation Center, USDA SW Climate Hub and USGS SW Climate Adaptation Science Center).



2024 Teams

Teams are formed based on the region's current needs. The teams for 2024 are Drought in Agriculture, Indigenous Collaboration, Monitoring & Impact Reporting, Fire & Climate Adaptation 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 mitigate 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.

