

A Comparative Study of Drought Management in Oklahoma and Missouri

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The goal of this project is to identify and document the different tools and strategies used in Oklahoma and Missouri to monitor and communicate drought information to affected constituencies. This past year the state drought plans for Oklahoma and Missouri were reviewed and compared to determine policy theories and frameworks that went into the creation of each state's plan. Three individuals who helped to develop the state drought plan or who work with drought information at the state level were interviewed. The next task will be to identify the network of communication at a more localized level. This will include interviewing people in charge of extension offices or local emergency management offices. It may be helpful to see if other groups have their own drought plans and whether or not such plans are comparable to the state plan.

Next steps will be to identify the "awareness triggers" used to implement the various plans in times of moderate to severe drought. It will be important to identify institutional and scientific barriers that lead to inaction or sub-optimal decisions. It may also be beneficial to determine what tools and resources are currently used and are additionally needed to alert agencies of an evolving drought event. This gap analysis will determine key improvement areas needed for more effective drought information communication. The final focus of the project will be to compare and contrast the effectiveness of governmental response to moderate and severe droughts affecting Oklahoma and Missouri.