

National Flash Drought Workshop

Debrief for CT Drought Planning Staff

5/18/2023

6/8/2023

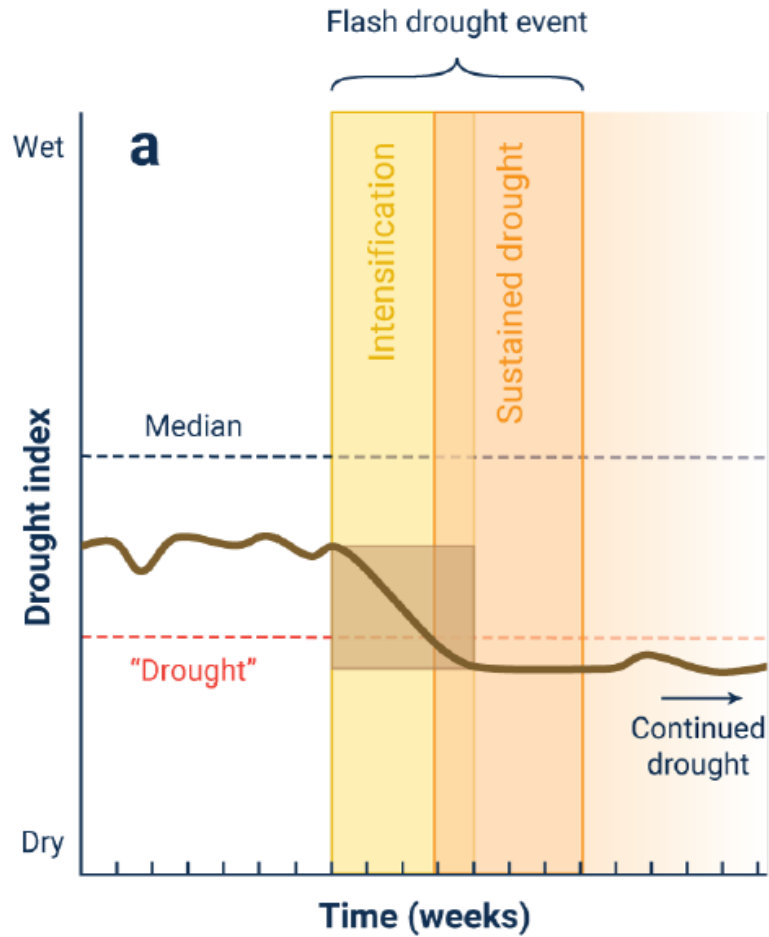
Workshop Objectives

1. The 2nd National Flash Drought Workshop will bring together the flash drought research community and practitioners to learn from one another, build stronger connections and increase coordination.
2. Establish the state of the science on flash drought research, monitoring, prediction, planning, and communication, and share new and emerging areas of flash drought research.
3. Build a better understanding of practitioner needs for improved flash drought preparedness, response, and communication.
4. Share research, tools, case studies, and regional/seasonal characteristics of flash drought in order to improve management and response.
5. Develop an updated list of outstanding research and information needs since the 2020 workshop for flash drought monitoring, prediction, planning and response.

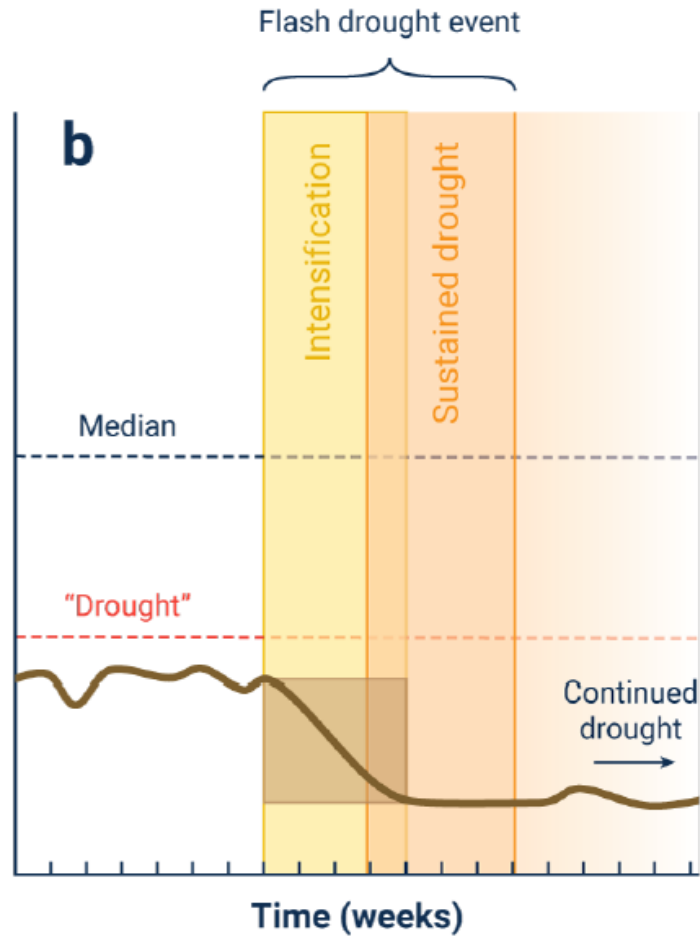
Who was there?

- ▶ Practitioners & Researchers - numerous universities and several early career scientists and grad students
- ▶ 29 states represented (including Connecticut - yay!)
- ▶ Numerous federal agencies - NIDIS, USDA, USFS, BOR, NASA, NOAA/NWS/CPC
- ▶ Insurance, energy, and agricultural industries
- ▶ Consultants
- ▶ International

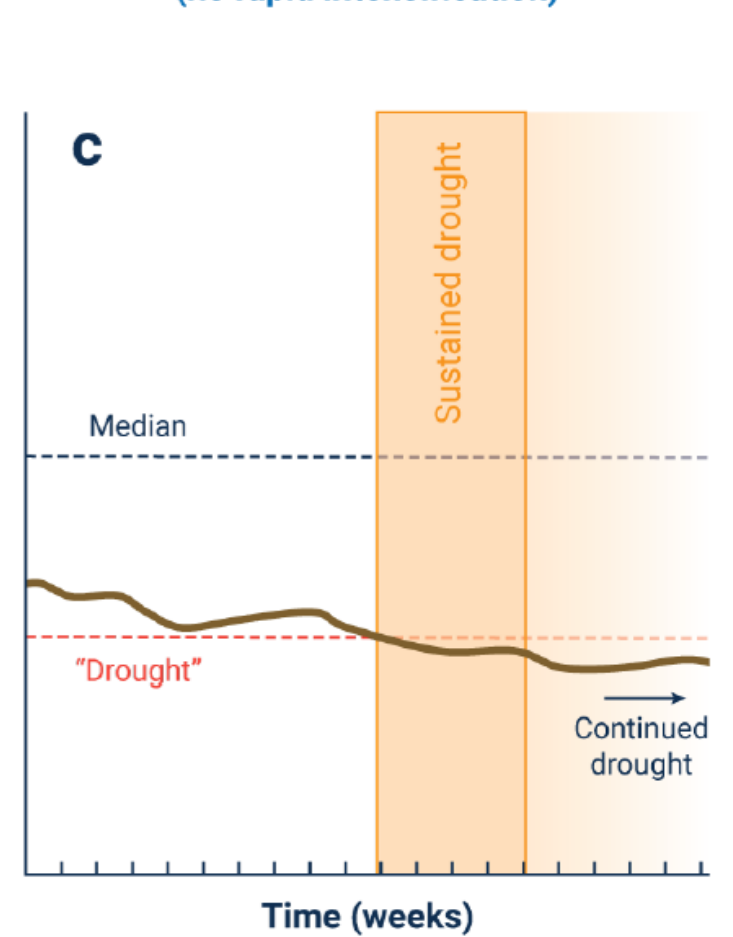
Flash drought from no drought



Flash drought within existing drought



Drought but not flash drought (no rapid intensification)



- Drought index
- Median value
- - - Drought threshold
- Intensification period
- Amount of intensification
- Minimum sustained drought period

The Flash Drought Dilemma

- ▶ Existing operational drought monitoring tools may not be sufficiently responsive to flash drought because they were designed for slower developing droughts
- ▶ State water resource management plans are designed for conventional, “slow-moving” drought and lack the capacity for rapid response
- ▶ How can states plan for and respond to flash drought in a manner that does not create public mistrust?

Key Takeaways

- ▶ Received firsthand insight into forecasting and drought modeling tools from the data experts and scientists who produce them; practitioners provided direct input on the utility of those tools and key areas for improvement
- ▶ Identified inadequacies in many state management plans regarding flash drought - discussed pathways to improve state and local planning & response strategies
- ▶ Insight into where the science of drought/climate prediction and modeling is heading (integration of AI into more toolsets)

Key Takeaways (cont.)

- ▶ Networking and establishing relationships with peers in other states
- ▶ Coordination with USDM authors
- ▶ Table-top exercise resulted in ideas for CT (with help from NIDIS)
- ▶ Possible funding opportunities to improve monitoring network (soil moisture, groundwater, surface water)?