

## **Measuring Drought**

**Ward, Rebecca**<sup>1</sup>, Curtis Weaver<sup>2</sup>, Michael Money Penny<sup>3</sup>, Bob Stea<sup>4</sup>, and Ryan Boyles<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*State Climate Office of North Carolina*

<sup>2</sup>*US Geological Survey, NC Water Science Center*

<sup>3</sup>*National Weather Service*

<sup>4</sup>*NC Dept of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources*

<sup>5</sup>*DOI Southeast Climate Science Center*

Drought is something almost everyone can relate to, and we all probably have a picture in our heads of what drought is. But how exactly do we define drought? More importantly, how do we define a drought's severity where there are conflicting indicators, such as low lake levels and soggy yards? This talk will go through the process of how the weekly US Drought Monitor maps are made with an emphasis on the collaborative process of North Carolina's Drought Management Advisory Council. A brief overview of the data and indicators analyzed by experts will be included.