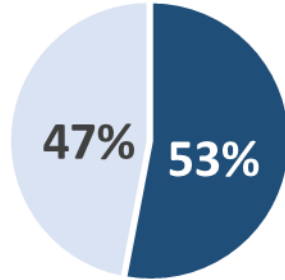




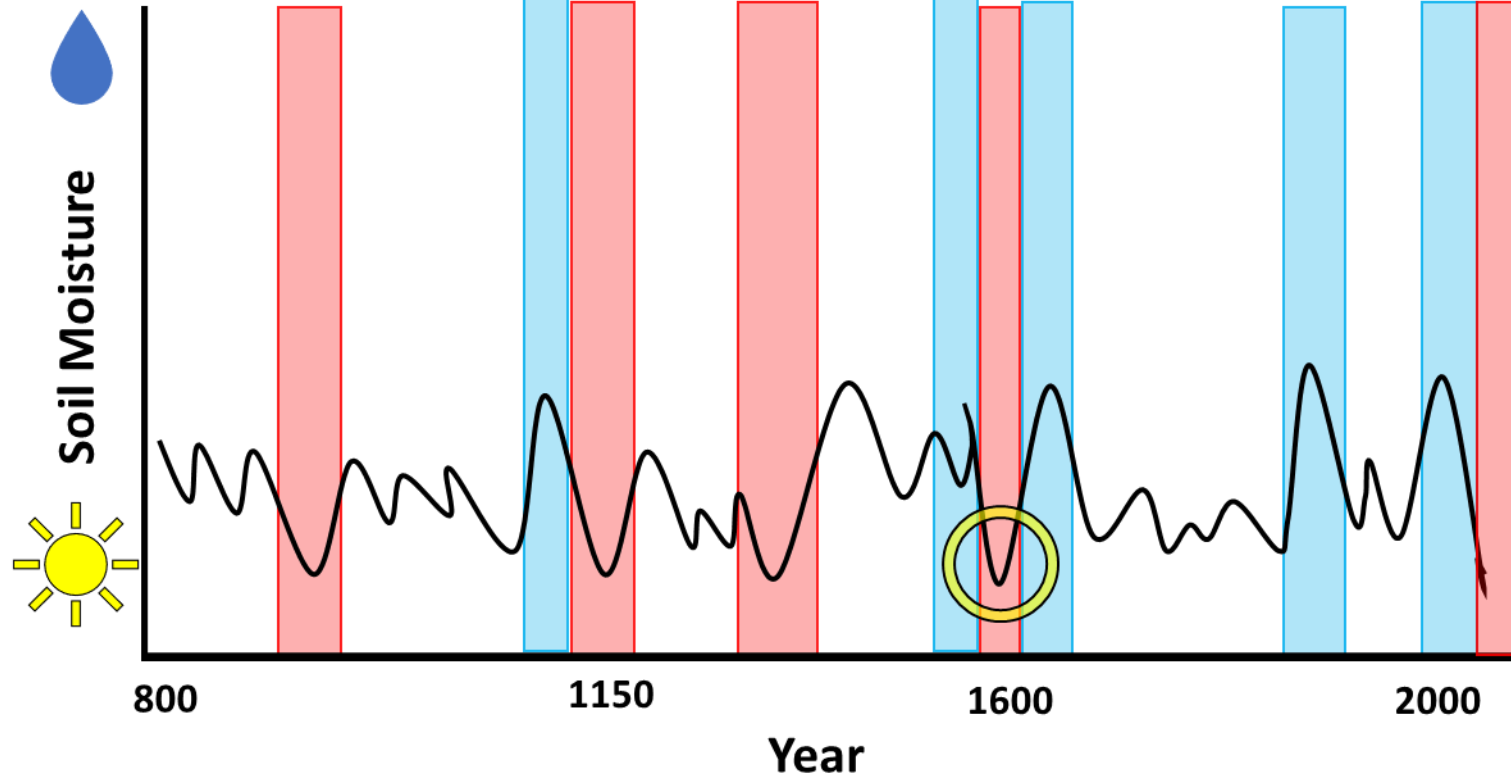
Anthropogenic warming contributes to an emerging North American megadrought

Drivers of Current Drought Severity

Anthropogenic (human induced) climate change



Natural variability



So what?

Researchers characterized summer soil moisture in the Western United States from 800 CE to present using tree ring data. The second driest period observed was 2000-2018, exceeded only by a megadrought in the late 1500s. Climate change has intensified the current drought and has pushed its trajectory from moderate to severe. Future climate change will continue to increase the intensity of droughts across the Western United States, including impacts to water and ecosystems in the Delta.

Wet Periods

Driest Period Observed

Dry Periods

Large contribution from anthropogenic warming to an emerging North American megadrought. Williams, A.P., *et al. Science*. 2020.