

Title - ACSF Topical Lunch – Building Collaborations Around Potential Changes In Regional Drought Risks

Hosts: Todd Walter and Art DeGaetano

Date: September 16, 2016, 12:00 – 1:00pm

Abstract:

The first half of 2016 has been one of central New York State's driest periods in recorded history. The drought has resulted in failed crops, extremely low stream flows, and concerns about both groundwater and surface water supplies. If these kinds of droughts become more frequent, there are multifaceted implications across socio-economic, ecological, agricultural, and water resources systems. At this point, it is not clear how the region should (or could) respond. As an example, consider the adoption of expanded irrigation as a climate adaptation strategy for agriculture. Given the very low water tables and stream flows this summer, would increasing upstream irrigation have exacerbated Ithaca's already critically low drinking water supplies? These issues require cross-disciplinary opportunities to develop holistic understandings of the challenges facing the region as well as potentially transformative changes required to promote resiliency to the kinds of extremes the recent drought exemplifies.