

North American Droughts of the Medieval Climate Anomaly and Little Ice Age Cooling - Response of the Pacific Northwest

Linda Heusser, Adjunct Research Scientist, LDEO

Abstract: The availability of new high-sedimentation rate cores taken off coastal Oregon provides the opportunity to explore the apparent disparity in PDSI climate reconstructions and to develop high-resolution paleoclimate records from the northwest Pacific. Analysis of pollen from the climatically sensitive Pacific rainforest in conjunction with marine components of the same sediment samples will provide terrestrial and marine data that will lead to a better understanding of drought variability in the Pacific Northwest (an ENSO sensitive region) during the climatic fluctuations of the Medieval Climate Anomaly (MCA) and the Little Ice Age (LIA).