

Drones may cloud seed Sierra

By KPIX-TV

California communities suffering from extreme drought could soon get help from an unlikely source – unmanned aerial vehicles, a.k.a. drones.

For years, ground-based machines have injected tiny silver iodide particles into passing storm clouds – a process called cloud seeding. The process can squeeze about 10% more precipitation during a storm.

Meteorologist Jeff Tilley and his team at Nevada's Desert Research Institute in Reno are developing a first-of-its-kind drone to take the seeding process high in the sky.

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