



National Integrated Drought Information System

Western States Water Council

ELIZABETH OSSOWSKI | OCTOBER 2019

NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM (NIDIS)

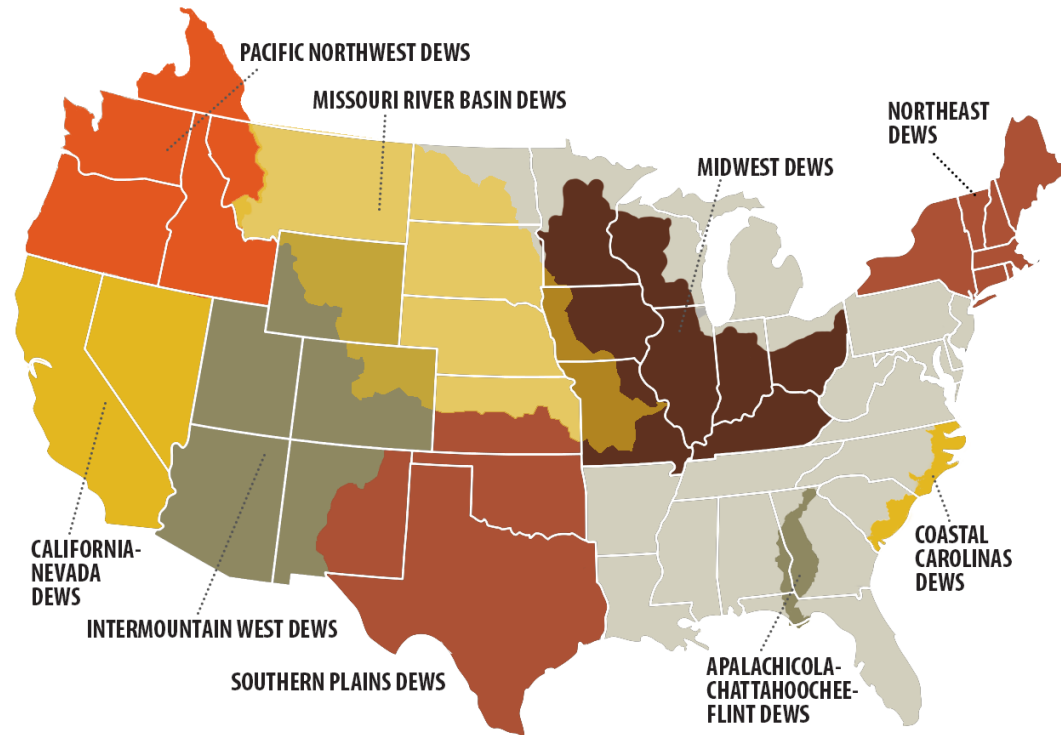
OVERVIEW

- Updates on NIDIS Activities at a National Level
- The 2019 National Drought Forum



REGIONS

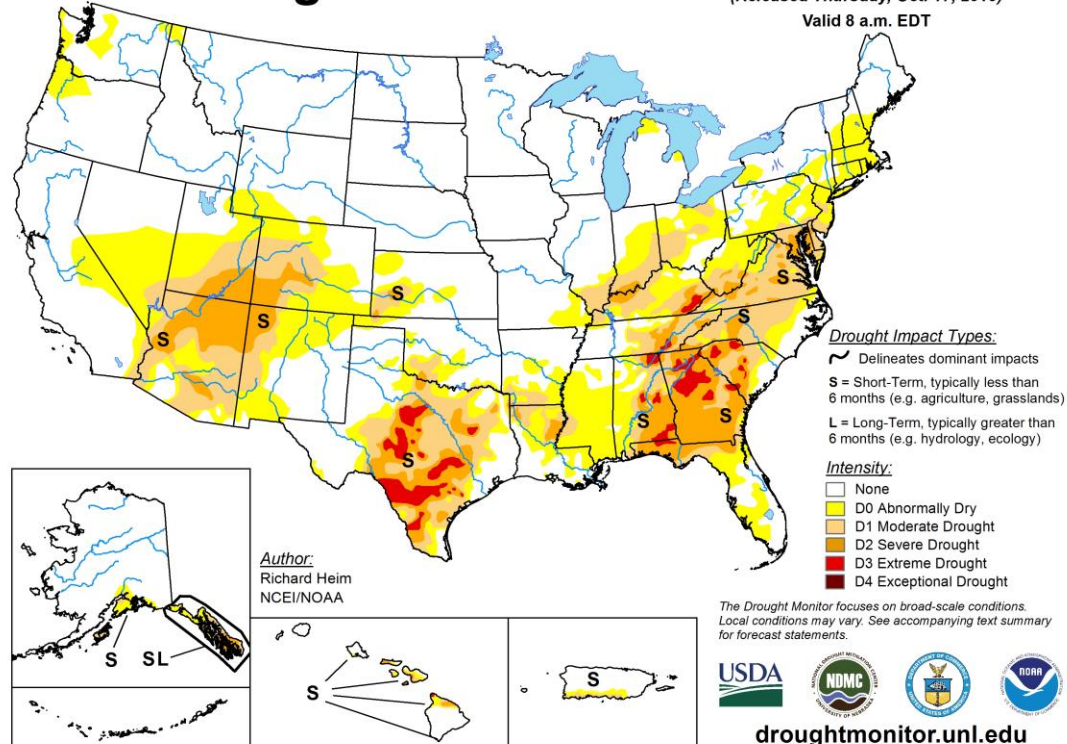
Drought Early Warning Systems



USDM United States Drought Monitor

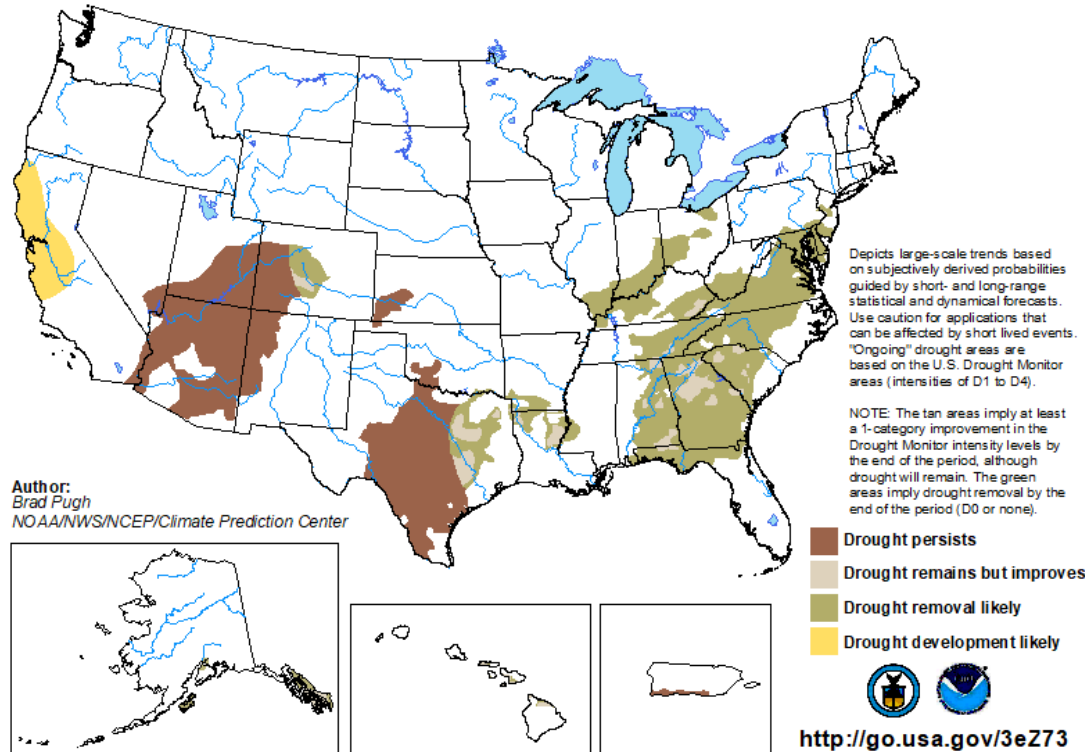
U.S. Drought Monitor

October 15, 2019
(Released Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 17, 2019 - January 31, 2020
Released October 17, 2019



NOAA CPC

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook



2019 Reauthorization

On January 7, 2019, the President signed S.2200 into law, the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Reauthorization Act (Pub. L. 115-423):

- Funding increase to **\$14.5 million in fiscal year 2023**
- Engage in **partnerships with the private sector**, academic institutions, and citizen scientists
- Data, information, and products that reflect **watershed differences** in drought conditions
- Improvements in **seasonal (3mo-2yrs)**, **subseasonal (2wks – 3mo)**, and low flow water prediction
- **National soil moisture monitoring network.**

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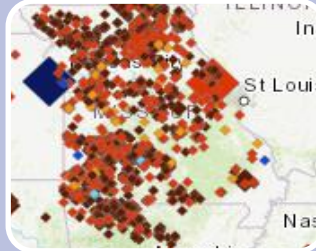
NIDIS in Action Across Regions



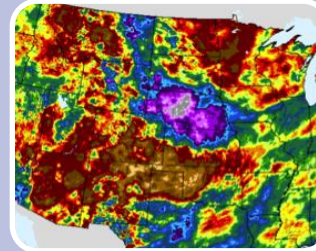
Drought &
Public
Health



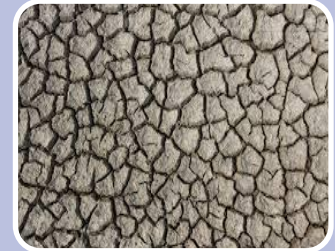
Drought
and
Wildfire



Drought
Impact
Reporting
and
Analysis



Drought
Indicators
and
Triggers



National
Soil
Moisture
Network

NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM (NIDIS)

Drought & Public Health Linkages

2018-2020 Activities:

- ▼ Form a National Drought & Public Health Working Group
- ▼ Host a series of Regional Drought & Public Health Workshops
- ▼ Hold a 2019 Public Health Summit (**completed**)
- ▼ Support research & communication of linkages
- ▼ Create a public health sector space on the U.S. drought portal
- 2020 NIDIS Drought & Public Health Strategy



+Growing List of Partners



NATIONAL DROUGHT
MITIGATION CENTER
at the UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN



Coping with Drought FY20 Grant Program

Research to improve our understanding and use of drought indicators, thresholds, and triggers, and drought impacts.

- \$1.2 million per year
- 2-year cooperative agreements of up to \$650,000 total

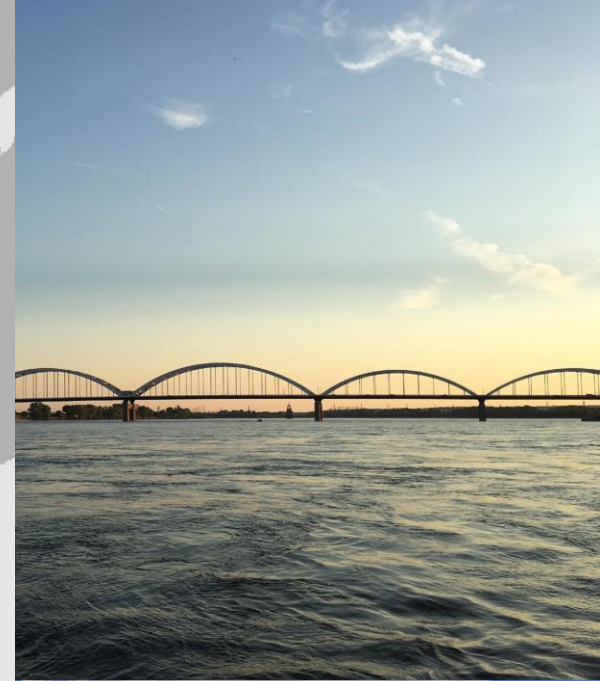
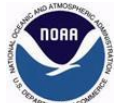


Drought Impact Assessments: The Mississippi River

- Understand the sensitivity of the Mississippi River corridor to drought.
- Assess impacts and opportunities for reducing risks to small communities.

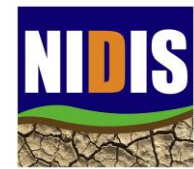
Focus Areas

- Agricultural production
- Commercial navigation & transportation
- Manufacturing
- Recreation and tourism



National Soil Moisture Monitoring Network

- **National, multi-platform soil moisture gridded products** from existing soil moisture data sources across federal and state in-situ monitoring networks, satellite remote sensing missions, and numerical modeling capabilities
- **Consistent methodology** for data collection and installation of in-situ probes including metadata standards
- Improve **collaboration and identify funding** opportunities to build the national network



Drought.gov Redesign

Improved site navigation

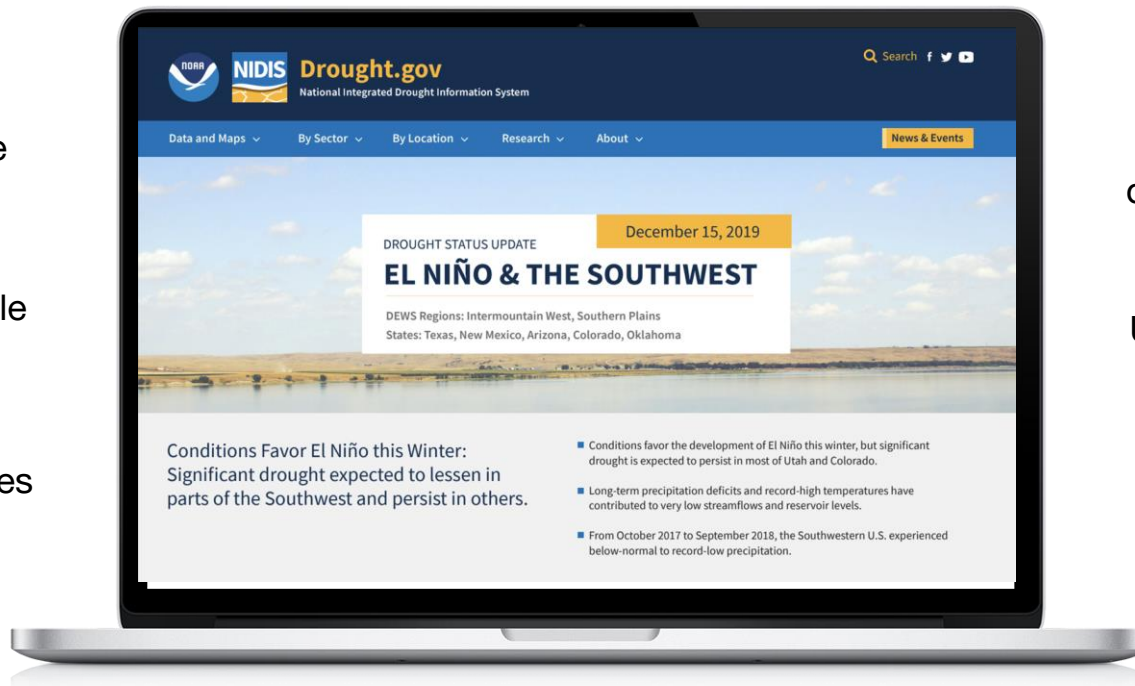
Enhanced mobile experience

New sector pages

New up-to-date drought statistics

Updated content

U.S. Web Design Standards



Anticipated Launch: March 2020

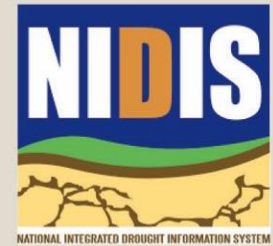


2ND NATIONAL

DROUGHT FORUM

JULY 30-31, 2019 | WASHINGTON, DC

*Co-hosted by the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)
and the National Drought Resilience Partnership (NDRP)*



To assess the status of national drought readiness, to take stock of progress since the 2012 National Drought Forum, and to help provide new information and guidance for coordination to improve the nation's preparedness to drought.

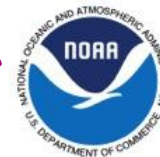
Planning Committee



DUKE
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of Water



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



UCOWR

WALTON FAMILY
FOUNDATION



WESTERN STATES
WATER COUNCIL



The Nature
Conservancy



Panels and Keynotes

Day 1

- Linking National Security and Drought
- Drought Conditions: Past, Present, and Forecasted
- Drought Decisions around the New (Ab)Normal: Water Scarcity, Drought, and Aridity
- Keynote, Joaquin Esquivel, California Water Resources Control Board Chair
- Economics of Drought Part I: Understanding the Cost of Drought

Day 2

- Keynote, Neil Jacobs, Acting Administrator, NOAA
- Economics of Drought Part II: Risk Analysis and Investments that Drive Innovation
- Drought Policies: Congressional Perspectives
- Drought Coordination: Federal Water Officials and the National Drought Resilience Partnership
- Monitoring and Forecasting of Drought



2019 National Drought Forum

July 30-31, 2019, Washington, D.C.

Outcomes

- Invest in forecasting improvements focusing on drought onset, flash drought, and rapid regime change between flood and drought
- Provide greater flexibility in Federal programs to allow/add drought resilience, especially FEMA
- Invest greater percentage of annual disaster response and recovery funding in resilience planning
- Partner with the private sector around risk and reinsurance; tie solutions to resilience planning and to financing
- Build incentives for investing locally in water storage – tying natural storage and ecosystem restoration to human water supply goals
- Advance understanding of integrated surface and groundwater interactions, and use of stormwater for aquifer recharge
- Consider a drought-readiness campaign





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Drought.gov

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