

Improving NWS Drought Messaging and Regional Collaboration

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47th CDPW – Logan, Utah
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Local Messaging: NWS Drought Information Statements

drought.gov/drought-information-statements

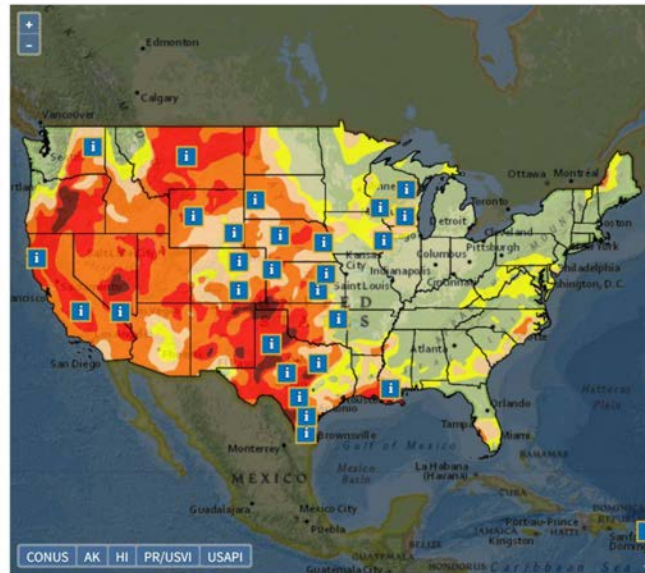
- Centralized access to Drought Information Statements (DGTs) from across the country
- 18,753 page views and 16,644 unique page views since April 2021

National Weather Service Drought Information Statements

Drought Information Statements

National Weather Service drought information statements provide up-to-date reports on the current drought situation for a Weather Forecast Office's (WFO's) county warning and forecast area. These statements are text-based products that summarize recent weather and hydrologic conditions, discuss local drought impacts, and provide a local drought outlook.

WFOs may issue a drought information statement when the U.S. Drought Monitor indicates a drought intensity of Extreme Drought (D3) or greater in any portion of the WFO county warning and forecast area. These statements may also be issued when Moderate to Severe Drought (D1 or D2) designations are present or when drought impacts have been reported in the local area. Use this interactive map to explore all active drought information statements published within the last 35 days.



Source(s): National Weather Service, U.S. Drought Monitor

Updated Daily - 04/15/22



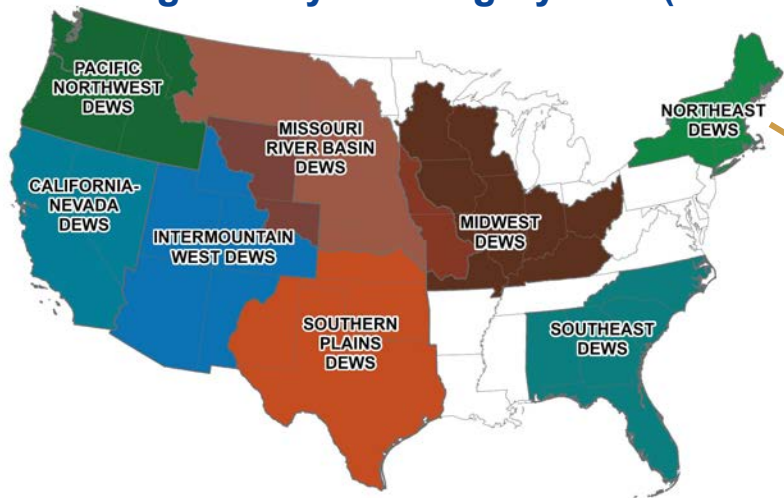
Regional Messaging: NIDIS Drought Status Updates

drought.gov/drought-status-updates

National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)

Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-430) prescribed a comprehensive, interagency approach for drought monitoring, forecasting, and early warning planning and preparedness to help states and local communities cope with the impacts of drought.

NIDIS Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) Regions



August 26, 2022

DROUGHT STATUS UPDATE

Drought Status Update for the Northeast

DEWS Regions: Northeast

States: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont

Update Status: NIDIS and its partners will issue future drought updates as conditions evolve.



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Western States Drought Workshop, June 2021

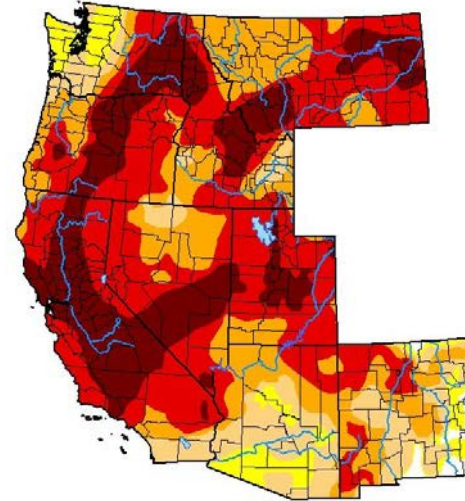
Strengthening Connections Between Climate and Water Resources Services

Drought messaging outcomes included:

- Need for an actionable, graphics-based Drought Information Statement
- Better coordinate messaging between NWS offices
- Improve information-sharing and coordination amongst regional partners
- Strategy needed for messaging for periods of sustained, severe drought conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor
West

September 28, 2021
(Released Thursday, Sep. 30, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>.

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Toward Drought Messaging Recommendations



Drought Messaging Recommendations

Programmatic Improvements

- Strengthen drought messaging coordination at the state level
- Establish a formal role for drought services at field offices
- Provide guidance on effective drought messaging for:
 - Arid or semi-arid regions, i.e., persistent drought conditions in the Southwest
 - Normally wet regions experiencing drought, i.e., Alaska in 2019
 - Rapid dry-to-wet (and wet-to-dry) transitions, i.e., Southeast
- Provide guidance on communicating drought in the context of climate change
- Work toward service equity by enhancing observational networks and outlook products for the Caribbean, Alaska, Hawaii and US-Affiliated Pacific Islands



Drought Messaging Recommendations

Regional Coordination

- Use common graphics and language to facilitate the flow of information from local to state to regional level
- Embed weblinks to help users navigate between drought messaging at different geographic scales
- Use common hashtags and templates to enable drought information-sharing through social media
- Develop regional coordination strategies for the Mid-Atlantic and Gulf states (regions without a NIDIS Drought Early Warning System)



Drought Messaging Recommendations

Modernizing the Drought Information Statement (DGT)

- Add graphics to supplement text
- Facilitate product authorship with pre-populated templates
- Rely on graphics and features available at drought.gov
- Enable multiple field offices to collaborate and co-develop DGTs



Existing Drought Information Statement

Drought Information Statement
National Weather Service Charleston SC
853 PM EDT Thu Jul 21 2022

...SIGNIFICANT DROUGHT IMPROVEMENT IN RECENT WEEKS...

.SYNOPSIS:

.Drought intensity and extent:

The last several weeks have brought rounds of heavy rainfall producing thunderstorms to all of southeast Georgia and southeast South Carolina. Since June 28th, at least 5 inches of rain has fallen across the region, with many areas picking up 10 to 15 inches of rain. This widespread heavy rainfall has significantly improved drought conditions to the point where only a small area of Moderate Drought (D1) covers portions of Jasper, Effingham, Chatham, Bryan, and Bulloch counties. Due to this improvement and the lack of any Severe Drought (D2), drought statements will be suspended.



Proposed Prototype Drought Information Statement

Drought Information Statement
 National Weather Service Charleston SC
 853 PM EDT Thu Jul 21 2022

...SIGNIFICANT DROUGHT IMPROVEMENT IN RECENT WEEKS...

.SYNOPSIS:

.[Current Drought Monitor](#):

Severe Drought (D2): N/A, major improvement since last statement.
 Moderate Drought (D1): portions of Jasper, Effingham, Chatham, Bryan, and Bulloch counties

.[Recent Precipitation](#):

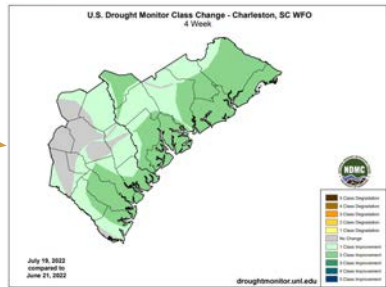
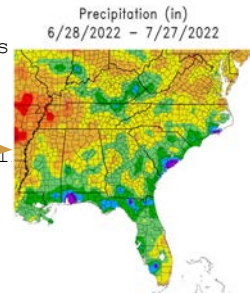
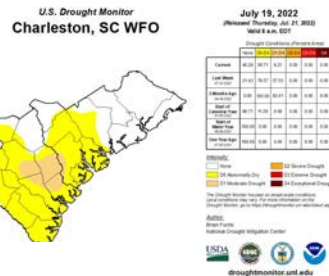
The last several weeks have brought rounds of heavy rainfall producing thunderstorms to all of southeast Georgia and southeast South Carolina. Since June 28th, at least 5 inches of rain has fallen across the region, with many areas picking up 10 to 15 inches of rain.

.[Changes to Drought Classification](#):

This widespread heavy rainfall has significantly improved drought conditions. Nearly 100% of the region had at least a 1 category drought improvement, with more significant changes made along the coastline.

.NEXT ISSUANCE DATE:

Due to this improvement and the lack of any Severe Drought (D2), drought statements will be suspended.



Next Steps

- Summer 2022: Prototype template and samples of modernized Drought Information Statements

[WMO Heading]
[AWIPS Identifier]
[UGC]

DROUGHT INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE [CITY] [STATE]
[LOCAL TIME] [DAY OF WEEK] [MONTH] [DAY] [YEAR]

...[SINGLE SENTENCE SUMMARY OF DROUGHT STATEMENT]...

SEVERITY OF DROUGHT:

Current U.S. Drought Monitor: [provide link here or embed inside subheading]
[D4 Exceptional Drought](#): [State each county or region within WFO station under D4. If there are no areas under D4, remove subheading.]
[D3 Extreme Drought](#): [State each county or region within WFO station under D3. If there are no areas under D3, remove subheading.]
[D2 Severe Drought](#): [State each county or region within WFO station under D2. If there are no areas under D2, remove subheading.]
[D1 Moderate Drought](#): [State each county or region within WFO station under D1. If nowhere is under D1, remove subheading.]
[D0: Abnormally Dry](#): [State each county or region within WFO station under D0. If nowhere is under D0, remove subheading.]

NATIONAL OR REGIONAL DROUGHT GRAPHICS MAY BE ADDED HERE FROM GRAPHIC INSTRUCTIONS

1-Week U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change: [Provide link here or embed inside subheading]

- Fall 2022: drought.gov team to add static links to regional graphics (e.g., precipitation anomalies), enabling a modernized DGT product
- NWS milestone for FY23: Experimentally Implement a Modernized Drought Information Statement, with update to policy directive



Opportunities for the Drought Science & Services Community

- Develop tools and guidance to specifically address:
 - Arid or semi-arid regions, i.e., persistent drought conditions in the Southwest
 - Normally wet regions experiencing drought, i.e., Alaska in 2019
 - Rapid dry-to-wet (and wet-to-dry) transitions, i.e., Southeast
 - How drought characteristics will evolve in the context of climate change
- Enhance drought monitoring and outlook products for the Caribbean, Alaska, Hawaii and US-Affiliated Pacific Islands
- Work with drought.gov to incorporate new drought indicators and tools
- Develop common hashtags, templates and tools to amplify drought messages through social media

