

Tomorrow's Drought: Planning and Preparedness

Long-Term Drought Planning Processes

Kirsten Lackstrom
Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessments (CISA)
University of South Carolina

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Objectives & areas of inquiry

- Document and compare drought response and preparedness planning in the Southeast
 - Key elements of drought plans and programs
 - Coordination mechanisms, both within and between states
 - What works well, what are the needs and gaps
 - Opportunities: activities that could be taken or supported by NIDIS, state, and regional partners

Framework

Policy / Plan Type

Post-Impact
disaster assistance

Preparedness
“today’s drought”
tactical / operational

Mitigation
“tomorrow’s drought”
strategic

Level

Federal

State
University / SCOs

Sub-state
river basin / regions

Local
County / municipality /
water system

Sector

Agriculture

Fire / Forestry

Water

Industry

Health

Environment

Energy

Mitigation

- Activities performed in advance to reduce drought vulnerabilities, impacts, and risks
 - Proactive
 - Some drought plans include recommended activities and priorities
- Drought and/or water shortage preparedness
 - Plans, capacity to implement
- Water planning
 - State, regional/basin, local
- Supply-side strategies
- Demand-side strategies
 - Water conservation, efficiency
- Monitoring, data, information improvements

Local drought planning – “big picture”

- All SE DEWS states require, although specifics vary
 - Primary sector: public water systems and supply
- Terminology and focus: drought, water shortage, water conservation
- At a minimum, states provide templates or expected components
- Stand-alone v. integrated into other plans or processes

Local drought planning – state approaches

State	Approach
AL	Stand-alone plan or integrated option allowed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local comprehensive plans
FL	WMDs: water shortage <u>and</u> water conservation plans
GA	Drought contingency <u>and</u> water conservation plans for surface water withdrawal permittees <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statewide Drought Management Rules establish local response actions; variance requests allowed
NC	Water shortage response plans, part of local water supply plan
SC	Stand-alone plan and ordinance, required for withdrawal permit application
TN	Emergency operations plan <u>and</u> stand-alone plan designating trigger points and actions
VA	Drought response and contingency plan, part of local water supply plan and program

State hazard mitigation plans and planning

- Risk assessments and mitigation actions for all hazards
 - Exposure, vulnerability, past impacts, future probabilities
 - Stand-alone drought assessments receiving more attention
 - often connected with other hazards (e.g., wildfire, heat)
 - Fewer examples of drought-specific mitigation actions
- Interviews
 - Suggest limited coordination and integration with existing drought plans, programs, and processes
 - Exception: Kentucky HMP includes detailed assessment of agriculture and water supply impacts. Next iteration to include health component, integration into statewide drought planning efforts

State water planning examples

- Statewide water plans
 - Comprehensiveness varies widely
 - No / little statewide supply planning (AL, TN)
 - Structured and strategic (FL)
 - Climate change (VA)
- Regional and basin-based planning
 - Many ongoing and evolving
 - State initiated and required (GA, NC, SC, VA)
 - Federal or interstate projects (Army Corps, TVA, FERC-licensed hydropower projects)