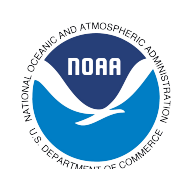


NWS National Perspective on Drought Messaging

Maggie Hurwitz
NWS Climate Services Branch

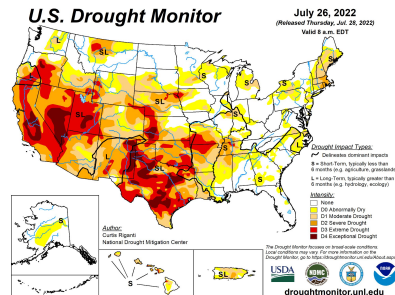
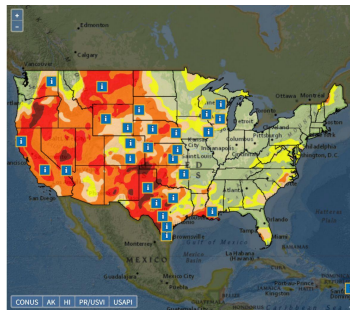




National Weather Service Drought Products

U.S. Drought Monitor droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Weekly map showing areas of the country currently in drought, and relative drought intensity. Produced jointly by NOAA, USDA and the National Drought Mitigation Center.

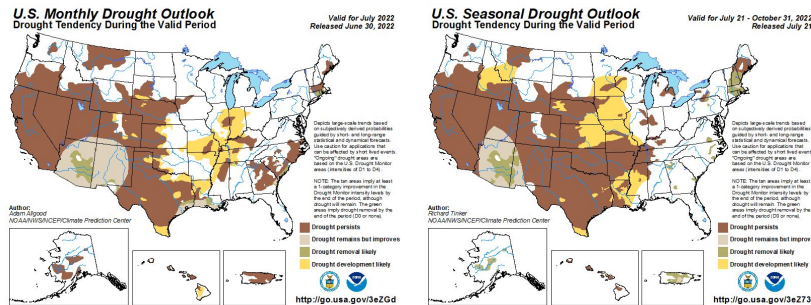


Drought Information Statements drought.gov/drought-information-statements

Text-based reports on the drought situation for an NWS Weather Forecast Office's county warning and forecast area, including local drought impacts and drought outlook. These statements draw on information from NWS River Forecast Centers, Climate Prediction Center and National Water Center to deliver localized messaging to core partners.

U.S. Drought Outlooks cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Drought

NWS Climate Prediction Center's U.S. Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlooks show the predicted evolution for areas currently in drought, and indicate areas where droughts may develop, taking into consideration weather and climate forecasts, and regional climatology.

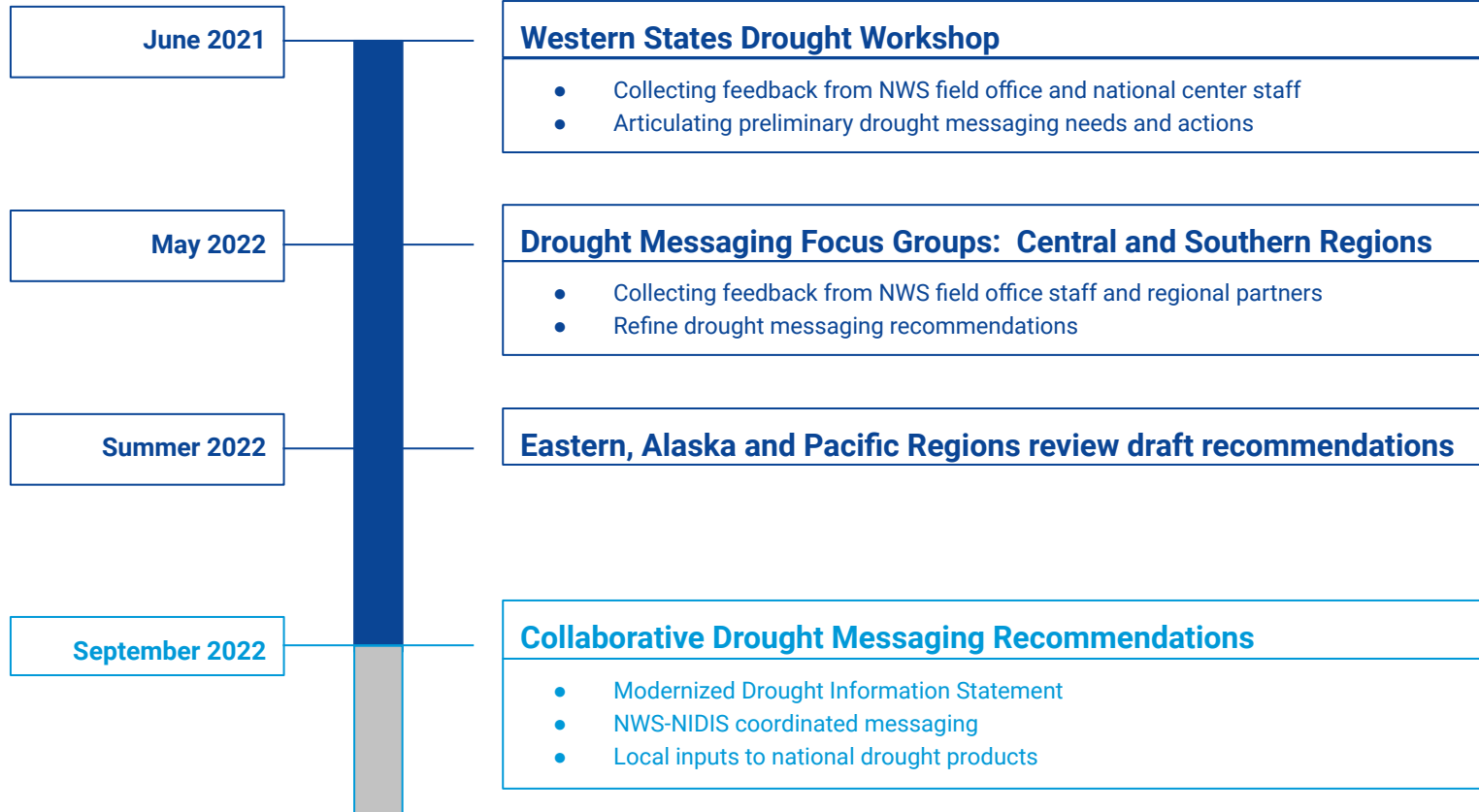


NWS Drought-Related Training Modules

- COMET module: Communicating Subseasonal to Seasonal Impacts: Drought
- Climate Services Professional Development Series
 - "Understanding Drought" web / CLC
 - "CPC Outlooks: Extended-Range" web / CLC
 - "CPC Outlooks: Long-Range" web / CLC
 - "CPC Outlooks: Tropics and Global Oceans" web / CLC
 - "CPC Outlooks: ENSO" web / CLC
 - "Using xmACIS" web/CLC



Toward Drought Messaging Recommendations



***DRAFT* Drought Messaging Recommendations**

NWS Programmatic Recommendations

- Coordinate drought messaging at the state level
- Establish a formal role for drought services at field offices, with consistent training and staff duties
- Streamline the process of engaging field office staff in national drought briefings
- Provide guidance on effective drought messaging in arid or semi-arid regions

Regional Coordination

- Facilitate the flow of drought information from local to state to regional level by referring to the same graphics, and by embedding links to help users navigate between drought messaging at different geographic scales
- Enable drought information-sharing through social media i.e., with common hashtags and templates
- Develop regional coordination strategies for regions without a NIDIS Drought Early Warning System i.e., the Mid-Atlantic



DRAFT Drought Messaging Recommendations

Modernizing the Drought Information Statement

- Combine text and graphics
- Rely on graphics and features available at drought.gov
- Allow multiple field offices to co-develop products



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.

Thanks to Alex Friedman & Stephen Seslar!



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.



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:

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