



# National Integrated Drought Information System

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Interstate Council on Water Policy Annual Meeting

ELIZABETH OSSOWSKI | OCTOBER 2019

# NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM (NIDIS)

## OVERVIEW

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- What is NIDIS? Update on Activities at a National Level
- The 2019 National Drought Forum



# NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM (NIDIS)

## MISSION + ACTIVITIES

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**Regional Drought Early  
Warning Systems**



**Prediction and  
Forecasting**



**Integrated Research  
and Monitoring**



**Drought Planning and  
Preparedness**



**Collaboration with Existing  
Programs and Partners**

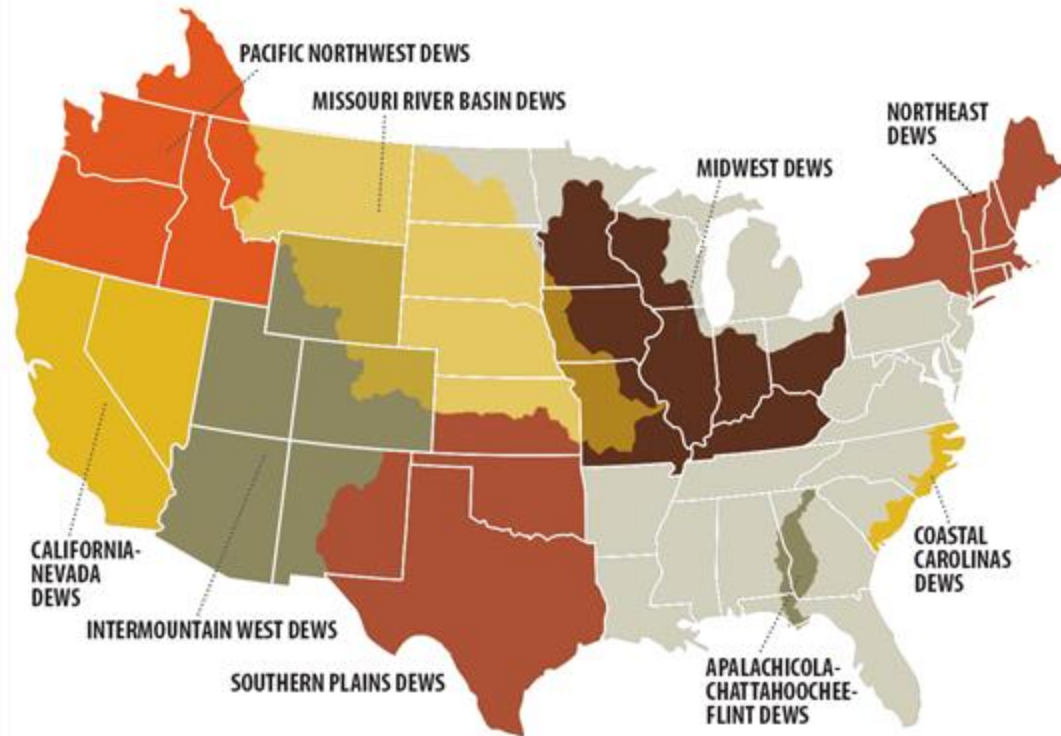


**The U.S. Drought Portal  
([www.drought.gov](http://www.drought.gov))**

## REGIONS

# Drought Early Warning Systems

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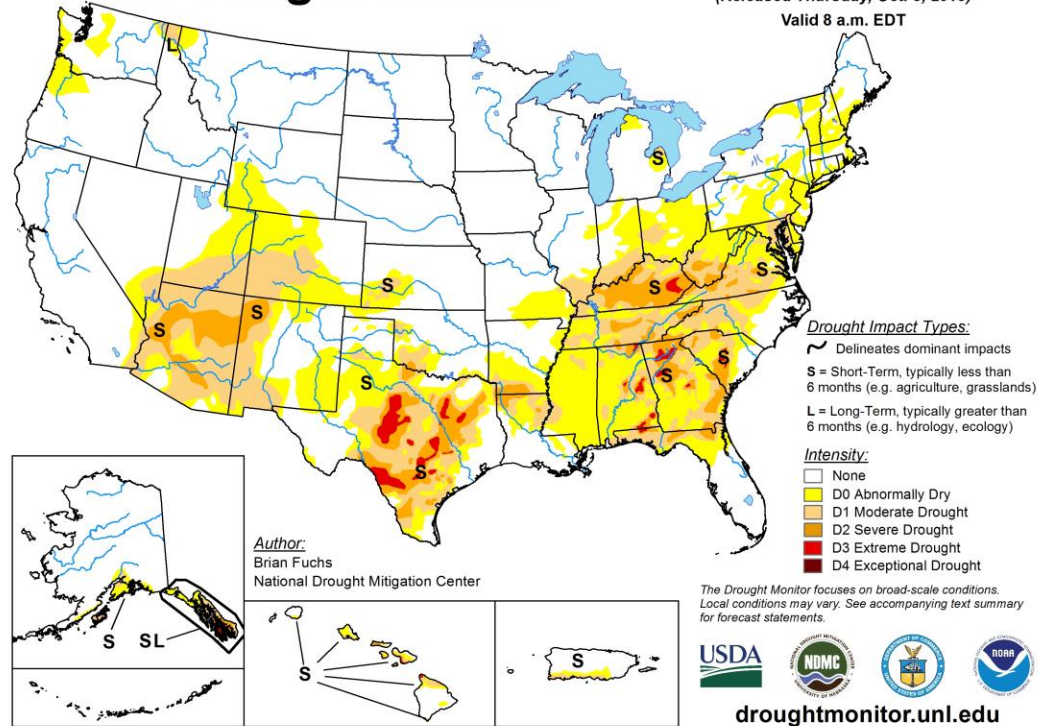




# USDM United States Drought Monitor

## U.S. Drought Monitor

October 1, 2019  
(Released Thursday, Oct. 3, 2019)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT





## 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.**

## NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM (NIDIS)

# NIDIS in Action Across Regions

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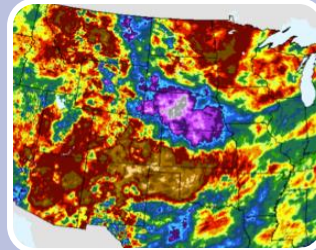
Drought &  
Public  
Health



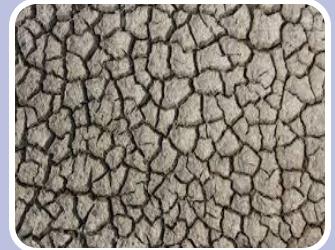
Drought  
and  
Wildfire



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





# Coping with Drought FY20 Grant Program

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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

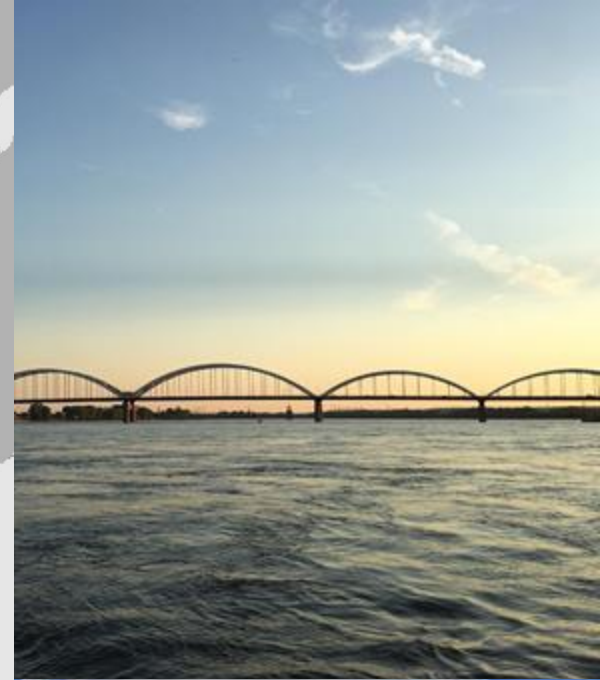


# Drought Impact Assessments: The Mississippi River

- 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

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- **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

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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**



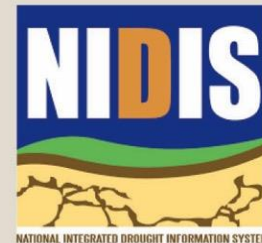


2ND NATIONAL

# 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



# 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 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







# National Integrated Drought Information System

Drought.gov

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