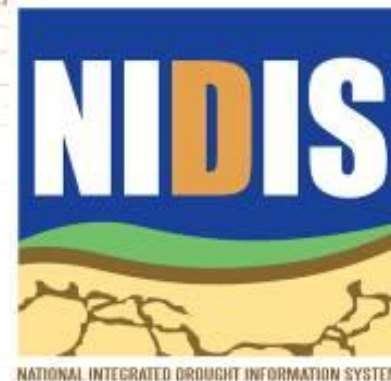


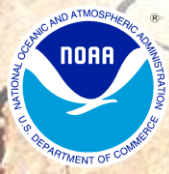
**Governor's Conference on
Managing Drought & Climate Risk
Denver, CO
October 8-10, 2008**



The NIDIS U.S. Drought Portal: A New View on Drought

Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center

Mike Brewer, NOAA/National Climatic Data Center



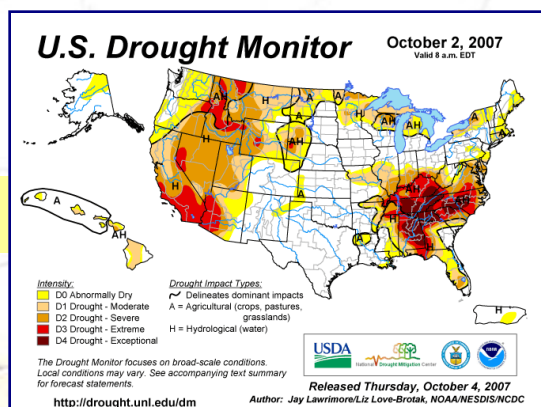
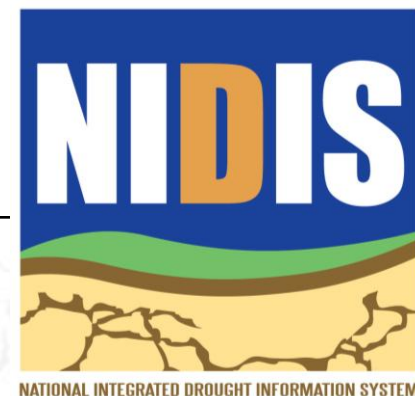
NOAA's National Climatic Data Center



What is NIDIS?

NIDIS: An integrated, interagency national drought monitoring and forecasting system that provides:

- An **early warning & forecast system** for drought.
- Drought impact and causation **education**.
- Information for drought **mitigation**.
- An interactive, web-based **drought portal**.
- Improved **observational** capabilities.



NIDIS Builds Upon Collaborative Successes!

What is the U.S. Drought Portal?

The U.S. Drought Portal (USDP) is a national, internet-based clearinghouse for data, models, forecasts, risk information, and impacts of drought that is part of the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS).

Generally, information on the USDP will answer the following questions:

- Where are drought conditions now and where might they develop?
- Does this drought event look like other events in the past?
- Will the drought continue?
- How is the drought affecting me?
- How can I plan for and manage the impacts of drought?

The U.S. Drought Portal is part of an interactive system designed to:

- Provide early warning about emerging and anticipated droughts
- Assimilate and quality control data about droughts and models
- Provide information about risk and impact of droughts to different agencies and stakeholders
- Provide information about past droughts for comparison and to understand current conditions
- Explain how to plan for and manage the impacts of droughts
- Provide a forum for different stakeholders to discuss drought-related issues

Using the U.S. Drought Portal (drought.gov)

The screenshot shows the drought.gov website. At the top is the NIDIS logo and the text 'National Integrated Drought Information System' and 'drought.gov'. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, Log In, Contact Us, Text-Only, and a search box. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Navigate drought.gov**: A sidebar menu with links: What is NIDIS?, Current Drought, Forecasting, Impacts, Planning, Education, and Research.
- Welcome to drought.gov!**: A central section with three numbered portlets (1, 2, 3) and a 'Drought Impact Reporter' map of the United States showing drought severity by state. The map is color-coded: yellow for 'No reported impacts', light orange for '1-19 reported impacts', medium orange for '20-37 reported impacts', dark orange for '38-55 reported impacts', red-orange for '56-73 reported impacts', and dark red for '74-92 reported impacts'.
- Drought Conditions**: A section on the right showing a pie chart of the '% Area for U.S., including, AK, HI & PR (As of 2.26.2008)'. The chart is divided into five categories: D0 Abnormally Dry (0.91%), D1 Drought - Moderate (1.89%), D2 Drought - Severe (9.78%), D3 Drought - Extreme (11.8%), and D4 Drought - Exceptional (24.19%). A legend below the chart defines these categories.

Annotations include a yellow box on the left titled 'Key Themes' with a list of seven items, and a yellow box on the right titled 'Showcase Portlets' with a list of three items. Arrows point from these boxes to specific parts of the website interface.

Key Themes

- 1.) Current Drought
- 2.) Forecasting
- 3.) Impacts
- 4.) Planning
- 5.) Education
- 6.) Research
- 7.) Regional Activities

Showcase Portlets:

- 1.) U.S. Drought Monitor (NOAA, USDA, NDMC)
- 2.) Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Forecast (NOAA)
- 3.) Drought Impacts Reporter (NDMC)

Integration: Concept of Drought Early Warning

Provide warning assessments, issued as frequently as possible, through a system of systems for data and information sharing, communication, and capacity building to take on the growing worldwide threat of drought.

Information for drought response, planning, mitigation, and recovery

An interactive, web-based drought portal and analysis tools

Provide critical drought information to countries with inadequate monitoring resources

Many nations have important components of a drought early warning system. No one nation has all the tools, products, and data to deliver the best system.

How Can Drought Information Be Delivered Effectively?

**One-stop shop
for up-to-date
drought information and
drought early warning...**

...drought.gov!

**CONTACT: michael.j.brewer@noaa.gov or
msvoboda2@unl.edu
NIDIS.Questions@noaa.gov**



Viewing Drought through the U.S. Drought Portal

What is the U.S. Drought Portal?

The U.S. Drought Portal (USDP) is a national, internet-based clearinghouse for data, models, forecasts, risk information, and impacts of drought that is part of the National Integrated Drought Information Systems (NIDIS). The USDP provides reliable information on drought conditions at county, regional, and national scales and serves as the primary point of entry for drought-related queries (through <http://www.drought.gov>) for a variety of user groups. The USDP will incorporate a spectrum of information from both federal interagency and non-federal sources.



The U.S. Drought Portal is part of an interactive system designed to:

- Provide early warning about emerging and anticipated droughts
- Assimilate and quality control data about droughts and models
- Provide information about risk and impact of droughts to different agencies and stakeholders
- Provide information about past droughts for comparison and to understand current conditions
- Explain how to plan for and manage the impacts of droughts
- Provide a forum for different stakeholders to discuss drought-related issues

Generally, information on the USDP will answer the following questions:

- Where are drought conditions now and where might they develop?
- Does this drought event look like other events in the past?
- Will the drought continue?
- How is the drought affecting me?
- How can I plan for and manage the impacts of drought?

The USDP concept is based on the need to assimilate and quality control drought data, models, risk information, and impacts, and to create a point of entry for archiving and disseminating data. It has the responsibility for archiving and disseminating data through a Web-based portal that will provide personalized capabilities for visitors. The USDP will work by combining drought data and information with tools necessary to exchange and integrate data on various space and time scales, and among various formats.

The USDP will provide information in a variety of formats to best serve the needs of different decision makers. The three general communities the USDP envisions serving include:

- The general public who need to know the status of drought and what actions to take if the drought worsens where they live and work
- Decision makers and businesses at state and county levels that need to plan for and mitigate drought
- Drought experts and scientists tasked with developing more refined decision support systems

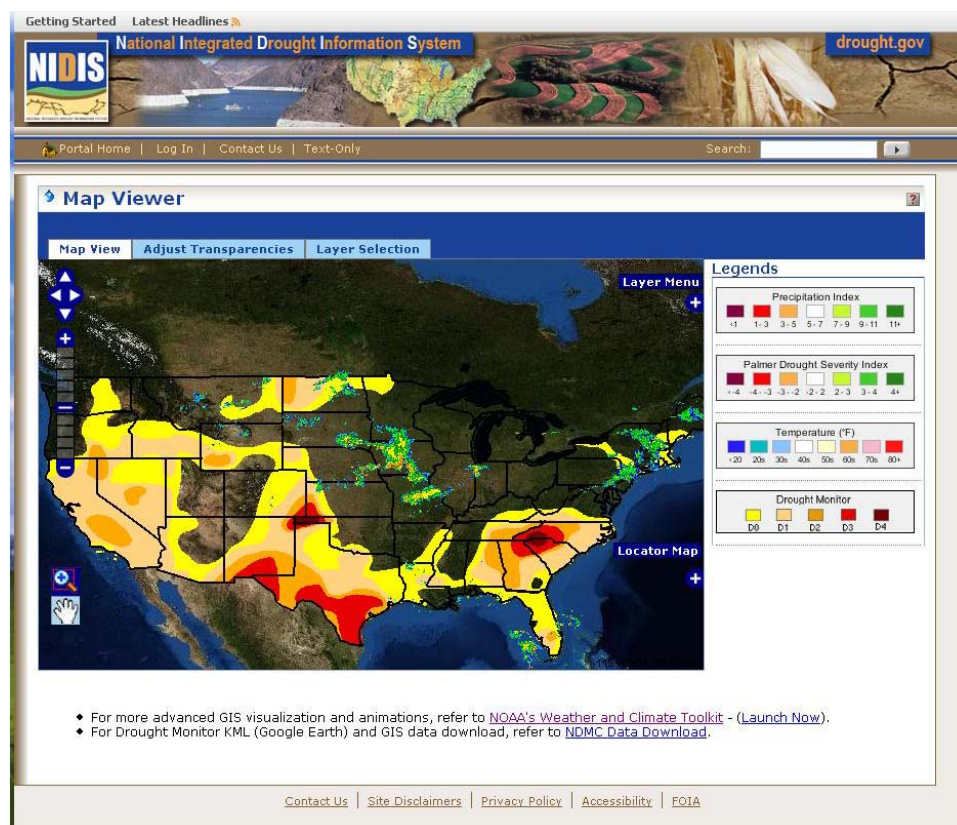
Types of Information the USDP is seeking

The USDP is specifically seeking:

- National internet or geographic information system (GIS) based tools and decision support services related to the drought questions posed above
- Regional, state, or local internet or geographic information system (GIS) based tools and decision support services related to the drought questions posed above in areas that coincide with National Integrated Drought Information System Pilot project areas

Contact Information

If you have questions about the USDP, or would like to contribute information to the USDP, please submit an email to NIDIS.Questions@noaa.gov. The USDP Content Management Team will review your request and contact you.



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As the NDMC's Monitoring Program Area Leader, Mark's duties include overseeing the center's national drought monitoring activities. His responsibilities include providing expertise on climate and water management issues by working closely with states, federal agencies and international governments as well as the media and private sector. He also provides supervision for applied research projects at the center and helps develop data products and tools to meet users' needs. Mark helped develop and establish the U.S. Drought Monitor in 1999 and serves as one of the principal authors of both the weekly USDM and monthly North American Drought Monitor products.

Mark is heavily involved with drought monitoring, assessment and prediction committees at state, regional and national levels, including the Water Availability and Outlook Committee under the Governor's Climate Assessment and Response Committee for the State of Nebraska. He also served as a co-chair for the Monitoring and Prediction Working Groups of both the National Drought Policy Commission and the Interim National Drought Council. His recent work with the Core Team of the Western Governors' Association involved assisting in the development and writing of a report containing recommendations for building a National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) within the United States. He currently sits on the NOAA's NIDIS Program Implementation Team and was appointed a co-chair for NIDIS Portal development.

Education:

M.A. in 1992 in Geography with a specialization in Remote Sensing, Climatology and GIS from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

B.S. in 1989 in Geography with a specialization in Climatology and a minor in Meteorology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.