

# National Drought Resilience Partnership Briefing

for

Western Regional Partnership's  
Natural Resources Committee

Friday,  
June 19, 2015



# Presenters



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U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency



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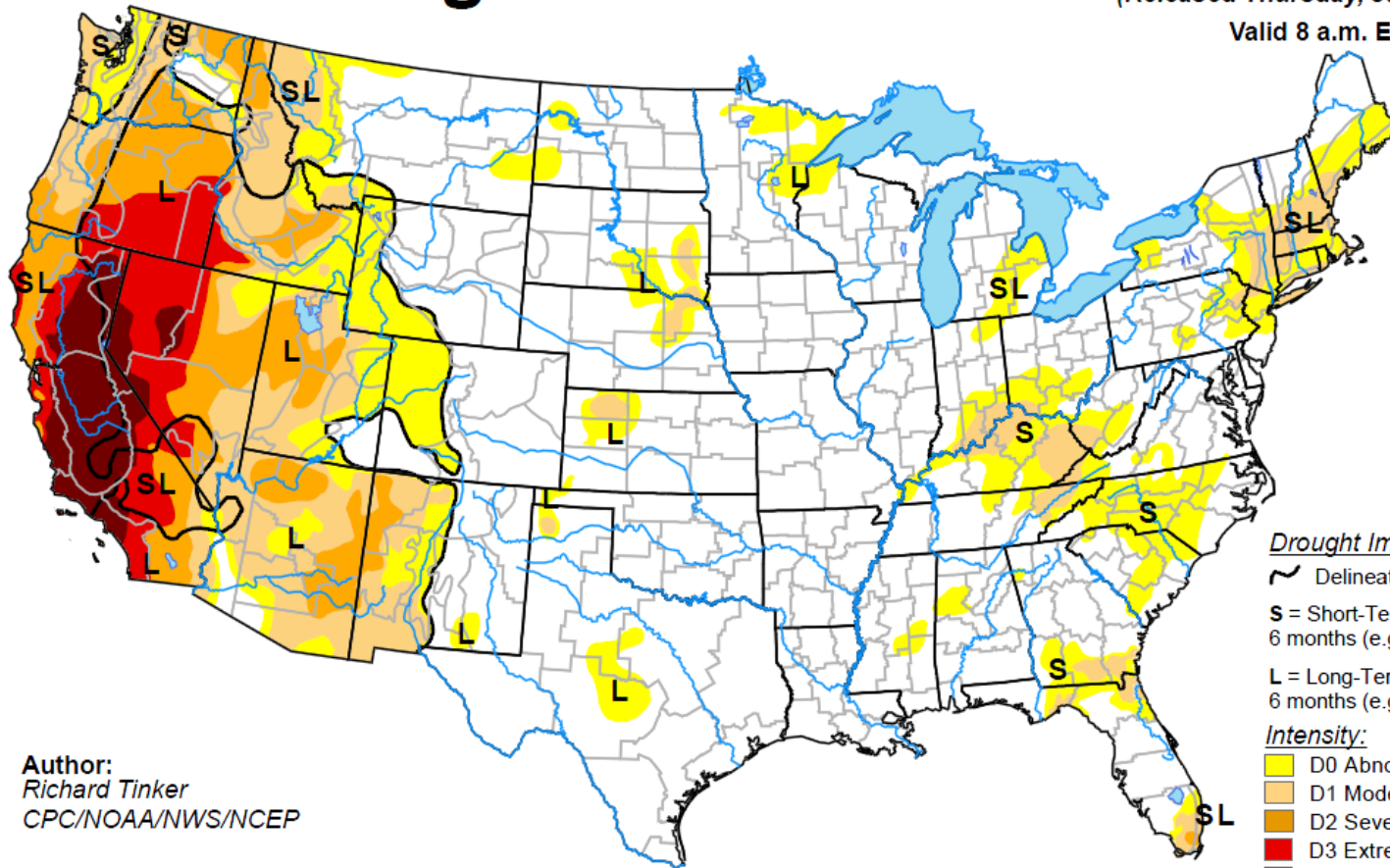
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Deputy Assistant  
Secretary,  
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U.S. Department of the  
Interior

# U.S. Drought Monitor

June 16, 2015

(Released Thursday, Jun. 18, 2015)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



**Drought Impact Types:**

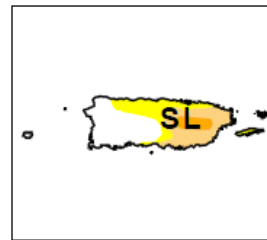
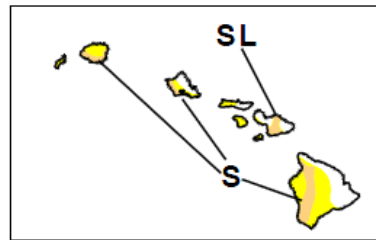
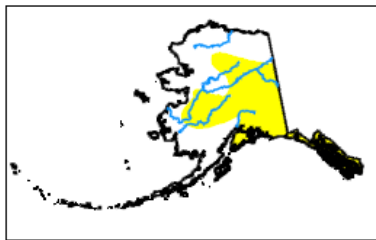
- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

**Intensity:**

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:  
Richard Tinker  
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP

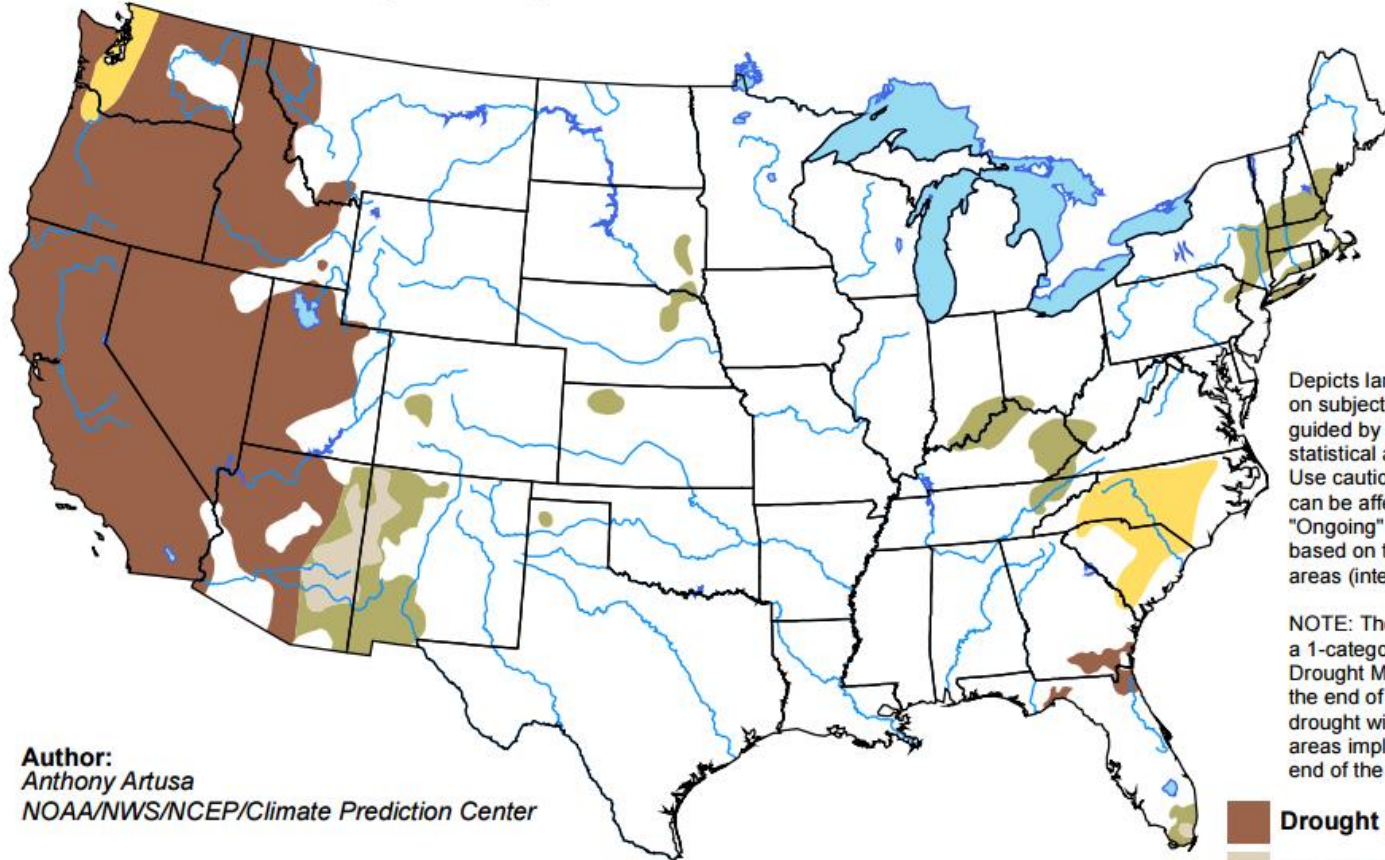


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook





## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for June 18 - September 30, 2015  
Released June 18, 2015

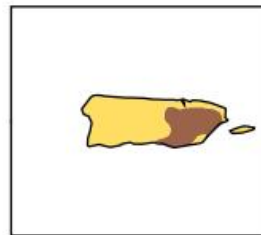
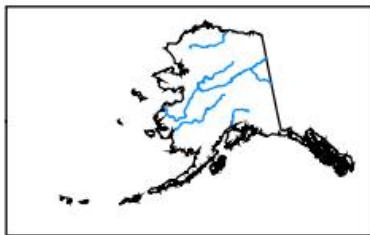


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

-  Drought persists/intensifies
-  Drought remains but improves
-  Drought removal likely
-  Drought development likely

Author:  
Anthony Artusa  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center



<http://go.usa.gov/hHTe>

# President's Climate Action Plan



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graph TD; A[President's Climate Action Plan] --> B[State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force]; A --> C[Resilience Council (Deputy Secretary Level)]; A --> D[National Drought Resilience Partnership (NDRP)];
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*State, Local and Tribal  
Leaders Task Force*

*Resilience Council  
(Deputy Secretary Level)*

**National Drought  
Resilience Partnership  
(NDRP)**

# National Drought Resilience Partnership

- Federal interagency partnership that supports community drought resilience and response strategies.
- USDA, NOAA, DOI, FEMA, EPA, DOE & USACE
- One-stop shop for drought assistance: dedicated phone line: 202-564-8086 & [www.drought.gov](http://www.drought.gov)

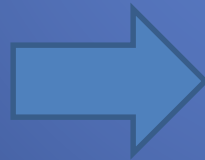


# NDRP Focus Areas

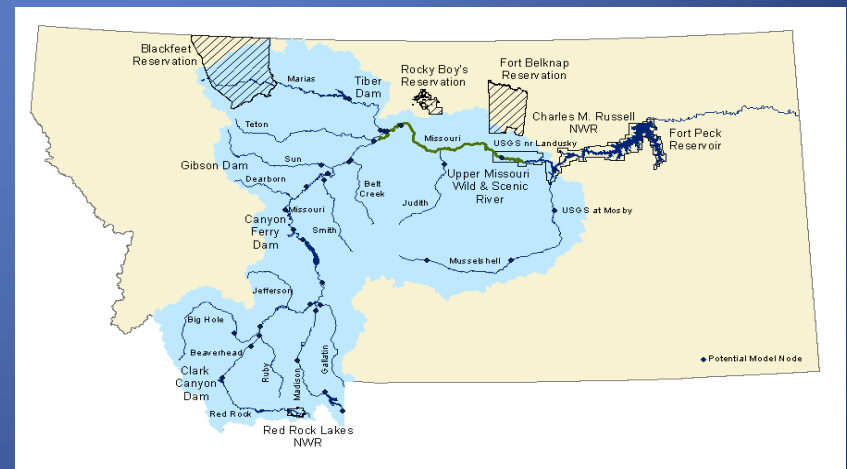
1. Supporting local preparedness, mitigation and risk management efforts;
2. Enhanced science-based data, tools, training, and research;
3. Improving infrastructure – both built and natural;
4. Managing our lands and waters for resilient watersheds and ecosystems – e.g. work with farms, ranches and forests;
5. Innovation in - and implementation of – policy, and communication.

# NDRP Deliverables

- Single federal point of contact for drought
- Support a Soil Moisture Network
- Host Regional Forums
- Create online tools to access federal resources
- Create Demonstration Projects



Improving resilience in the  
Upper Missouri River in  
Montana







# Department of Interior: Drought Response on the Ground

## California

- Enhanced Operational Flexibilities (State Permit Amendment – 300,000 af; 2015 Drought Contingency Plan)
- Increase Coordination and Flexibility in Water Allocations (e.g. New agreements to share/market water)
- Improve Drought Monitoring, Planning, Tools

## Klamath River Basin (California & Oregon)

- Promote conservation, implement Water User Mitigation Program, support water transfers

## Washington – Yakima Basin

- Increased coordination with State and Yakama Nation
- Facilitate potential water rights transfers
- Manage reservoir system to maximize storage refill in spite of record low snowpack

## Colorado River Basin (7 States)

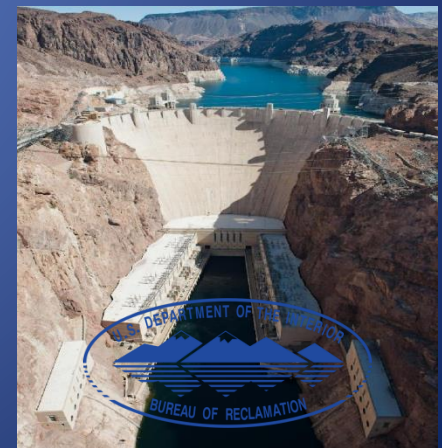
- Strengthen Drought Contingency Planning with seven Basin States
- System-wide Conservation Pilot Program (\$11M Program)
- Minute 319 (Agreement with Mexico)

## New Mexico – Rio Grande & Pecos River

- Close coordination with State, Native American pueblos, and water users
- Facilitate water transfers and leases to balance demands and ESA requirements
- Manage releases to provide spawning flows for silvery minnow

# Department of Interior: Strategic Investments

- **\$50M** in Western drought relief (Feb 2015)
- **\$6.5M** for Agricultural Water Use Efficiency Grants & CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grants (June 2015)
- **\$60.1M** in WaterSMART in FY 2015, which includes:
  - **\$49.5M** for WaterSMART Grants and Title XVI Reuse Program
    - Leveraged by more than \$180M in non-federal cost share
    - Funding provided in 12 Western states
    - 93,000 acre feet expected to be conserved or created
  - **\$2M** for Basin Studies
  - **\$5M** for new Drought Response Program (Planning/ Actions)
- Data Sharing/ Open Water Data Initiative

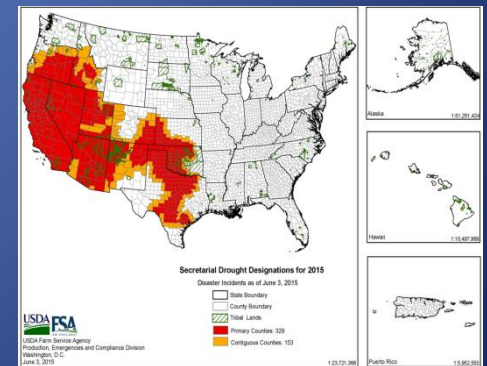


# USDA:

## Farm Bill & Drought

### Near-Term Response

- **Agricultural Disaster Assistance (FSA)**
  - \$4.3B billion in Livestock Forage Program in WGA states, 2012-2014
  - \$13.7 million in Emergency Conservation Program, 2014
- **Community Water Assistance (RD)**
  - \$9.7 million to CA in Emergency Community Water Grants, 2014
- **Conservation Practices (NRCS)**
  - \$35 million in 2014, and \$21 million in 2015 Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- **Crop Insurance (RMA)**
  - Expanding drought related yield exclusions to increase crop insurance payouts to producers



# USDA: Farm Bill & Drought

## Long Term Resilience

- Conservation Initiatives (NRCS, USFS)
  - Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
  - Soil Health Initiative
  - Two Chiefs Joint Landscape Restoration Initiative
  - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Research
  - ARS – water efficiency and plant genetics research
  - NIFA- cooperative extension support, AFRI Water Challenge Grants
  - NRCS – Conservation Innovation Grants
- Climate Hubs
  - Regional technical support

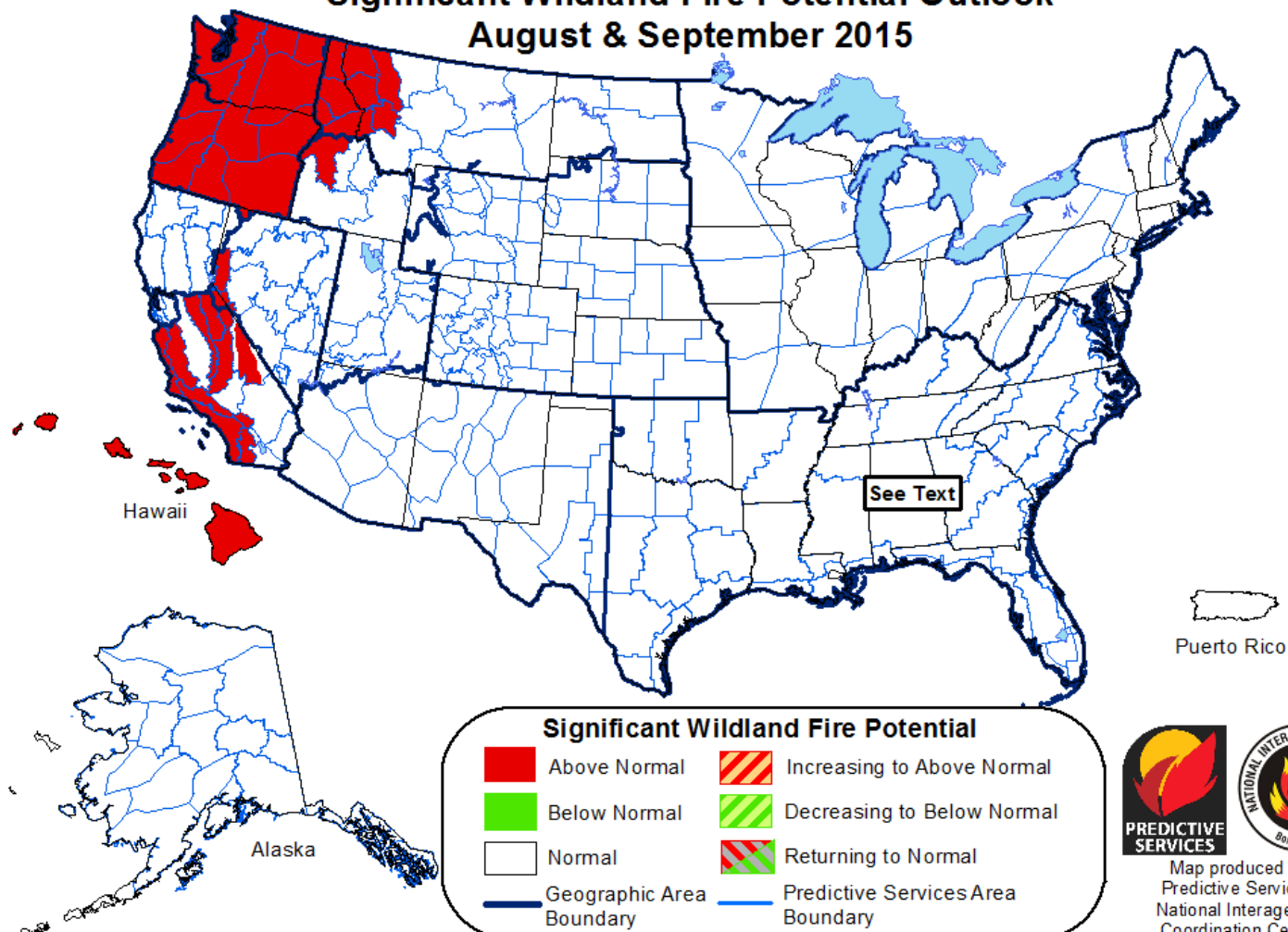


## U.S. EPA:

# Drought Response on the Ground

- Promoting the use of State Revolving Loan Funds (SRF) for water conservation, reuse and recycling projects.
- Supporting Tribal drought resilience through General Assistance Program and SRF Tribal Set Aside funding.
- Scaling-up the acceptance and installation of high-efficiency, WaterSense certified products and practices.
- Continuing to work with large and small utilities on long term drought resilience.
- Publishing and piloting new Drought Response and Resilience Guide for small communities.
- Promoting Green Infrastructure to capture rainwater where it falls to augment water supplies and recharge groundwater.
- Co-leading with Gov Bulloch (MT) the NDRP Demonstration Project in the Upper Missouri River in Montana (EPA Region 8 – Denver).
- Working with utilities on reducing loss in water distribution systems (EPA Region 9 – San Francisco).

## Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook August & September 2015



Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a higher than usual likelihood that wildland fires will occur and/or become significant events. Wildland fires are still expected to occur during forecasted normal conditions as would usually be expected during the outlook period. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.



Map produced by  
Predictive Services,  
National Interagency  
Coordination Center  
Boise, Idaho  
Issued June 1, 2015  
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# Discussion and Q&A

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