What is National Integrated Drought Information System?

Snowpack Monitoring for Streamflow Forecasting and Drought Planning Workshop

West Jordan, Utah
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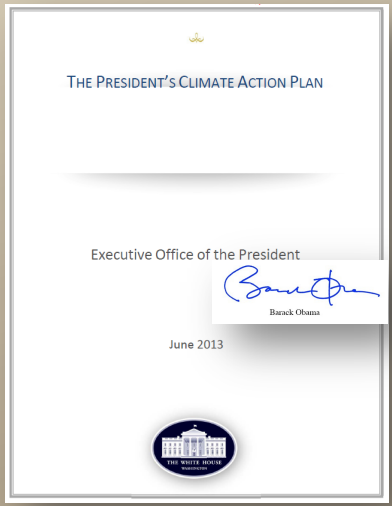
What is the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)?

Authorized in 2006

- **Why:**
  - Recognition that better informed and more timely drought-related decisions lead to reduced impacts and costs.
  - Key support from the Western Governor's Association (WGA)
- **Goal:** "*Enable the Nation to move from a reactive to a more proactive approach to managing drought risks and impacts*" PL 109-403

Reauthorized in 2014

- Authorizes the appropriation of funds (via NOAA) through FY2018
- Component of the President's Climate Action Plan
- Coincided with the creation of the National Drought Resiliency Partnership (NDPR)


THE PRESIDENT'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Executive Office of the President

Barack Obama

June 2013

Three tasks under the NIDIS Act*

1. Provide an effective drought early warning system:
   (a) collect and integrate key indicators of drought severity and impacts;
   (b) produce timely information that reflects local, regional, and state differences
2. Coordinate and integrate as practicable, Federal research in support of a drought early warning system
3. Build upon existing forecasting and assessment programs and partnerships

*reauthorized by Congress in 2014

NIDIS Goals

- **Goals:**
  - Provide a better understanding of how and why droughts affect society, the economy and the environment.
  - Improve accessibility, dissemination and use of early warning information for drought risk management.

How?

Build off of a network of Regional Drought Early Warning Systems (DEWS) to create a National Drought Early Warning System

What is Drought Early Warning?

Provision of timely and effective information, through identified institutions, that allows individuals exposed to a hazard to take action to avoid or reduce their risk and prepare for effective response[1]

- Early warning involves:
  - Utilizing the best available forecasts based on climate projections and the area's drought history,
  - Identifying possible outcomes of developing drought events
  - How long will drought last?
  - How severe will it be?
- Effective early warning systems should involve both technology and all interested parties in drought planning and response.

[1]International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Regional Drought Early Warning Systems (DEWS)

Working with communities and existing networks to build capacity for better decision making for drought planning and mitigation.

- Drought assessments
- Climate outlook forums
- Education and outreach webinars – risk management
- Engaging the preparedness community
- Builds capacity to utilize existing products

NIDIS Regional Drought Early Warning Systems

drought.gov

Event Search
Document Search
U.S.
North America
Global
Search this site
NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM
NIDIS
Drought.gov
U.S. Drought Portal
Data, Maps & Tools
Regions
Research
Resources for ...
What is NIDIS?
Calendar
FAQs
Contact
Where is the drought this week?
U.S. Drought Monitor
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Drought Impacts Report
Wildfire Risks
NIDIS in Your Region
The major weather system that affected much of the nation's midsection last week left abundant precipitation this week from the mid-Atlantic up into New England. Hurricane Ana lost strength as it approached Hawaii and Tropical Storm Ana passed south of the Hawaiian Island dumping up to 10 inches of rain in its path.
As of October 21, 2014, drought (D1-D4) is impacting:
24.90%
of the area of U.S. and 29.80% of the lower 48 states.
74.2 million
people in the U.S. and 74.1 million people in the lower 48 states.
How is Drought Affecting your Neighborhood?
Enter your zip code for current conditions:
Go
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DEWS Early Warning Systems
Find out about NIDIS activities at the regional level. These RDEWS pilot projects will inform the development of the national Drought Early Warning System.
Select a DEWS section
Regional & State Drought Information
High Plains
Regional Overview
CO KA ND NE SD WY
Midwest
Regional Overview
IA IL IN KY MI MN MO OH WI
Northeast
Regional Overview
CT DE MA MD ME NH NJ NY RI VT WV
South
Regional Overview
AR LA MS OK TN TX
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Contact Information

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