Setting up and Functioning of a National Drought Monitoring Network

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Outline

- Who should be involved?
- National Policy/Plan
- Deliverables/Communication
- NIDIS: The National Integrated Drought Information System in the U.S.
Collaboration

- Identify the agencies or groups that are already working together.
- Take inventory (community capital) of what products are being produced and what is needed for a drought monitoring/early warning system.
- What group(s) need to be involved that are not? Develop a plan on how to include/invite these groups.
Collaboration

- Identify a lead group/agency to be the lead?
- Can funding be obtained to support a new combined effort?
- What non-governmental agencies or universities can be identified to contribute?
National Policy/Plan
An Implementation Plan will outline how to:

1) Develop the leadership and networks to implement an integrated drought monitoring and forecasting system at federal, state, and local levels

2) Foster and support a research environment focusing on risk assessment, forecasting, and management
National Policy/Plan

3) Create an "early warning system" for drought to provide accurate, timely, and integrated information

4) Develop interactive systems, such as a *Web Portal*, as part of the early warning system

5) Provide a framework for *public awareness* and *education* about droughts
Deliverables/Communication

- Even without a national policy, many of the pieces to the puzzle can be put together.
- Focus on the “low hanging fruit”...what can be done immediately or is already being done that can be part of this network?
Deliverables/Communication

- Use existing models to guide the initial steps and processes (The NIDIS Program in the United States for example).
- Find the “champion” person who can deliver a consistent message and pioneer the steps forward.
- Identify and communicate with regional partners/experts who may be undertaking similar tasks or have knowledge to share.
National Integrated Drought Information System

“Drought is the most obstinate and pernicious of the dramatic events that Nature conjures up. It can last longer and extend across larger areas than hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and earth quakes…causing hundreds of millions of dollars in losses, and dashing hopes and dreams.”


Public Law 109-430 (The NIDIS Act 2006)

“Enable the Nation to move from a reactive to a more proactive approach to managing drought risks and impacts”

“better informed and more timely drought-related decisions leading to reduced impacts and costs”

www.drought.gov
What is NIDIS?


Following the Commission's recommendations, the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) was envisioned in a Western Governors' Association Report in 2004. The [NIDIS Act](#) was introduced in the U.S. Congress and signed by the President in 2006.
NIDIS Objectives

Creating a drought early warning information system

- **Coordinating** national drought monitoring and forecasting systems

- Providing an **interactive drought information clearinghouse** and delivery system for products and services—including an internet portal and standardized products (databases, forecasts, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), maps, etc)

- Designing mechanisms for improving and incorporating information to **support coordinated preparedness and planning**
Implementing NIDIS

The NIDIS Implementation Plan outlines how to:

• Develop the leadership and networks to implement an integrated drought monitoring and forecasting system at federal, state, and local levels
• Foster and support a research environment focusing on risk assessment, forecasting, and management
• Create an "early warning system" for drought to provide accurate, timely, and integrated information
• Develop interactive systems, such as the Web Portal, as part of the early warning system
• Provide a framework for public awareness and education about droughts
The initial focus of NIDIS (low hanging fruit)

- Developing the U.S. Drought Portal
- Integrating and fostering coping strategies through research, preparedness, education and public awareness
- Integrating data and predictions
- Developing pilot programs for design and implementation of early warning systems in selected locations
NIDIS Early Warning Systems Pilots

Highlighted - first round prototypes;
Others - Regional DEWS & transferability
Using Pilots to Develop Early Warning Information Systems?

Information-integration, diffusion, use, evaluation

Allows for

- Existing barriers to cross-agency collaboration to be overcome
- Innovations and new information to be introduced and tested, and
- Buy-in and ownership through participation in design and implementation
- Mature prototypes becomes the implemented regional system and its lessons become more likely to be successfully transferred within or to other regions
Pilot Projects within the Portal

Regional Drought Early Warning System
Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin

ACF River Basin
Southeast Data Resources
- Data Resources Spreadsheet

Drought in the News
- Special Report: South Georgia Drought 02/20/2012
- Southeast Georgia fire season could be repeat of 2011
- Inconsistent Weather Affects Winter Crops
- Deal Seeks Drought Disaster Aid
- Officials Ask Georgians to Temper Water Use
- 11th Circuit hands Georgia victory in water wars case | ajc.com
- 5. Georgia waterways hurt by drought | ajc.com
- Wells Run Dry in South Georgia - GPB News
**U.S. Drought Monitor**

**West**

May 8, 2012

West 4 a.m. EDT

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

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

**Drought Monitor Time Series - West**

- Water: Is the Upper Colorado River Basin still in a drought?
- Drought in the Upper Colorado River Basin - Reclamation
Any Questions?
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