

## **Kelly Helm Smith**

Communications Coordinator & Assistant Director  
National Drought Mitigation Center  
820 Hardin Hall  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0988

phone: (402) 472-3373  
fax: (402) 472-2946  
ksmith2@unl.edu  
<http://drought.unl.edu>

### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. in Natural Resource Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, December 2019  
Master's in Community & Regional Planning, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, December 2005  
M.S.J., Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, December 1985, print concentration  
B.A., Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, 1984, History major, French minor

### **PRESENT POSITION**

2016-present Assistant Director & Communications Coordinator, National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
2006-present Communications Specialist, National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2007-2012 School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Communication Specialist and PR Manager  
2006 Lincoln Literacy Council, Consultant & Interim Program Coordinator  
2004-2005 African Community Center, Program Facilitator  
2002-2004 First Presbyterian Church, Director of Community Outreach  
1995-2000 National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC), University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Communications Specialist  
1994-1995 Department of Agricultural Meteorology, Conference Organizer, November 1994-May 1995  
1989-1994 Quad/Graphics, Inc., Corporate Communications Writer/Editor  
1987-1989 Reporter, Waukesha County Freeman  
1985-1987 Reporter, Belleville News-Democrat

### **PUBLICATIONS**

**Smith, K.H.**, M.E. Burbach; M.J. Hayes; P.E. Guinan; A.J. Tyre; B. Fuchs; T. Haigh; M.D. Svoboda, in press. Whose ground truth is it? Harvesting lessons from Missouri's 2018 bumper crop of drought observations. *Weather, Climate and Society*.

Johnson, L. E., Geli, H. M., Hayes, M. J., & **Smith, K.H.**, 2020. Building an improved drought climatology using updated drought tools: A New Mexico Food-Energy-Water (FEW) systems focus. *Frontiers in Climate*, 2, 15.

**Smith, K.H.**, A.J. Tyre, J. Hamik, M.J. Hayes, Y. Zhou, L. Dai, 2020. Using climate to explain and predict West Nile Virus risk in Nebraska. *GeoHealth* 9(4). doi: 10.1029/2020GH000244

**Smith, K.H.**, A.J. Tyre, Z. Tang, M.J. Hayes, F.A. Akyuz, 2020. Calibrating human attention as indicator: Monitoring #drought in the Twittersphere. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*. doi: 10.1175/BAMS-D-19-0342.1/347367

Noel, M., D. Bathke, B. Fuchs, D. Gutzmer, T. Haigh, M. Hayes, M. Podebradska, C. Shield, **K.H. Smith**, M. Svoboda, 2020: Linking Drought Impacts to Drought Severity at the State Level. *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*, 101, E1312–E1321. doi:10.1175/BAMS-D-19-0067.1.

Liu, T., **K.H. Smith**, R. Krop, R., T. Haigh, M. Svoboda, 2020. Critical Analysis of the Value of Drought Information and Impacts on Land Management and Public Health. *Water* 2020, 12, 1064. doi: 10.3390/w12041064

Lackstrom, K., A. Farris, D. Eckhardt, N. Doesken, H. Reges, J. Turner, **K. Smith**, and R. Ward, 2017. CoCoRaHS Observers Contribute to "Condition Monitoring" in the Carolinas: A New Initiative Addresses Needs for Drought Impacts Information. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*. doi:10.1175/BAMS-D-16-0306.1, January 2018

Zipper, S. C., **K. Helm Smith**, B. Breyer, J. Qiu, A. Kung, and D. Herrmann. 2017. Socio-environmental drought response in a mixed urban-agricultural setting: synthesizing biophysical and governance responses in the Platte River Watershed, Nebraska, USA. *Ecology and Society* 22(4):39. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-09549-220439>

Bachmair, S., Stahl, K., Collins, K., Hannaford, J., Acreman, M., Svoboda, M., Knutson, C., **Smith, K. H.**, Wall, N., Fuchs, B., Crossman, N. D. and Overton, I. C. (2016), Drought indicators revisited: the need for a wider consideration of environment and society. *WIREs Water*. doi:10.1002/wat2.1154

**Smith, K.H.**, C.J. Stiles, M.J. Hayes, and C.J. Carparelli, 2015: Support for Drought Response and Community Preparedness: Filling the Gaps between Plans and Action. In *Western Water Policy and Planning in a Variable and Changing Climate*, K. Miller, A. Hamlet, D. Kenney, and K. Redmond, eds., CRC Press – Taylor and Francis.

**Smith, K.H.** April 2015. Review of Water Diplomacy: A Negotiated Approach to Managing Complex Water Networks, by Shafiqul Islam and Lawrence E. Susskind (2012). *Journal of the American Planning Association*, Winter 2015, Vol 81, No. 1, 81-82. DOI:10.1080/01944363.2015.1030941

**Smith, K.H.**, M. Svoboda, M. Hayes, H. Reges, N. Doesken, K. Lackstrom, K. Dow and A. Brennan, 2014. "Local observers fill in the details on drought impact reporter maps." *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, Vol. 95, 11, 1659-1662.

Lackstrom, K., A. Brennan, D. Ferguson, M. Crimmins, L. Darby, K. Dow, K. Ingram, A. Meadow, H. Reges, M. Shafer, and **K. Smith**. 2013. The Missing Piece: Drought Impacts

Monitoring. Workshop report produced by the Carolinas Integrated Sciences & Assessments program and the Climate Assessment for the Southwest.

**Smith, K.H.** “New Guide Makes Community Drought Planning Easier.” Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, February 2011, pp. 120-121.

Svoboda, M., **K.H. Smith**, M. Widhalm, D. Woudenberg, C. Knutson, M. Sittler, J. Angel, M. Spinar, M. Shafer, R. McPherson, H. Lazrus (2011) *Drought-Ready Communities: A Guide to Community Drought Preparedness*, National Drought Mitigation Center.

Bathke, D.J, J. Nothwehr, **K. Smith**, M. Widhalm, E. Hunt, and M.J. Hayes. 2009. Status of Drought Early Warning in the United States: National Integrated Drought Information System Workshop Summary. Submitted to the National Integrated Drought Information System program office.

Wardlow, B.D., M.J. Hayes, M.D. Svoboda, T. Tadesse, and **K.H. Smith**. “Sharpening the Focus on Drought – New Monitoring and Assessment Tools at the National Drought Mitigation Center,” *Earthzine*, March 30, 2009.

Ding, Y., and **K.H. Smith**. “2007 drought economic impacts,” *Crop Insurance Today*, Vol. 41, No. 1, February 2008, pp. 7-9, National Crop Insurance Services, Overland Park, KS.

## **POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS**

**Smith, Kelly Helm**, Andrew J. Tyre, Jeff Hamik, Michael J. Hayes (presenting author). Anticipating years with weather-related increased risk of West Nile Virus to humans in Nebraska, poster, American Geophysical Union fall meeting, Washington, D.C., 2018.

**Smith, Kelly Helm**, Andrew J. Tyre, Jeff Hamik, Contribution of weather and climate to human case of West Nile Virus in Nebraska, presentation for Statistical Modeling on Climate and Mobile Health panel, American Public Health Association annual meeting, Nov. 8, 2017, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Smith, K.H.**, E. Tjeldeman (presenting author), S. Bachmair, C.L. Knutson, L. Barker, N. Wall, T. Bernadt, K. Stahl. Reconstructing Droughts Beyond the Hydro-Meteorological Indicators: A Qualitative Analysis to Show What We Can Learn from Impacts in the US Drought Impact Reporter, at AGU 2016. <https://agu.confex.com/agu/fm16/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/158712>

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Planning Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Geophysical Union