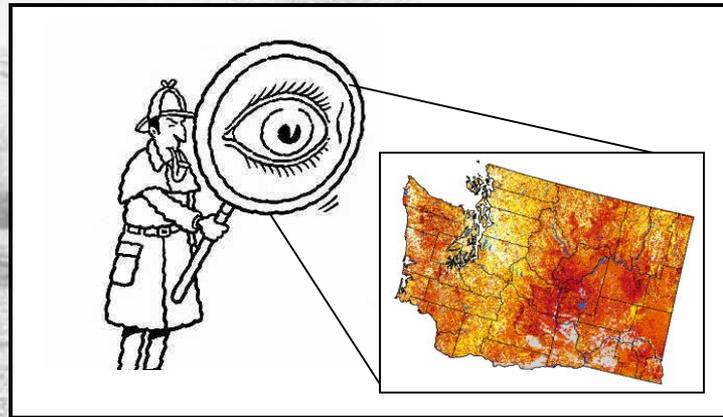


VegDRI Evaluation

Purpose: Establish a network of evaluators across the U.S. that provide periodic feedback regarding the accuracy of the VegDRI maps for their 'local' area.



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Goal: Collect 'baseline' information about VegDRI's performance and better understand the current strengths and weaknesses of this approach for research purposes.

Types of feedback:

- 1) *qualitative:*
 - *visual observations*
 - *photos*
 - *impacts (e.g., cattle sales & feed surplus/deficits)*

- 2) *quantitative:*
 - *clip plot data (e.g., biomass)*
 - *rainfall measurements & variations*
 - *production (e.g., 'How yield/forage production compared to the average.')*

VegDRI Evaluation

Feedback in 2008 from ~200 evaluators across a 22-state region.

Composition:

- farmers & ranchers
- climate experts (state climatologists & USDM authors)
- agricultural experts & university extensions specialists
- natural resource managers
- *Workshops:* 3 per year nationally
 - 2006: Illinois, New Mexico, & Oklahoma
 - 2007: North Dakota, Texas, & Wyoming
 - 2008: Montana & Washington
 - 2009: Arizona, California, & eastern U.S. (states TBD)

VegDRI Two Week Evaluation Form

Please limit your evaluation to the map released on _____. If you would like to comment on a previous map, please use the general comment form.

1. Based on your style of Internet connection (e.g., dial-up, broadband, DSL, etc.) did you have problems accessing the VegDRI mapping tool?

- Yes No

If yes, what problems did you experience?

2. Did you have problems with the functionality or navigating around the VegDRI mapping tool?

- Yes No

If yes, what problems did you experience?

3. How accurately does the VegDRI image released on reflect conditions in your county or region?

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Very inaccurate

Moderately accurate

Very accurate

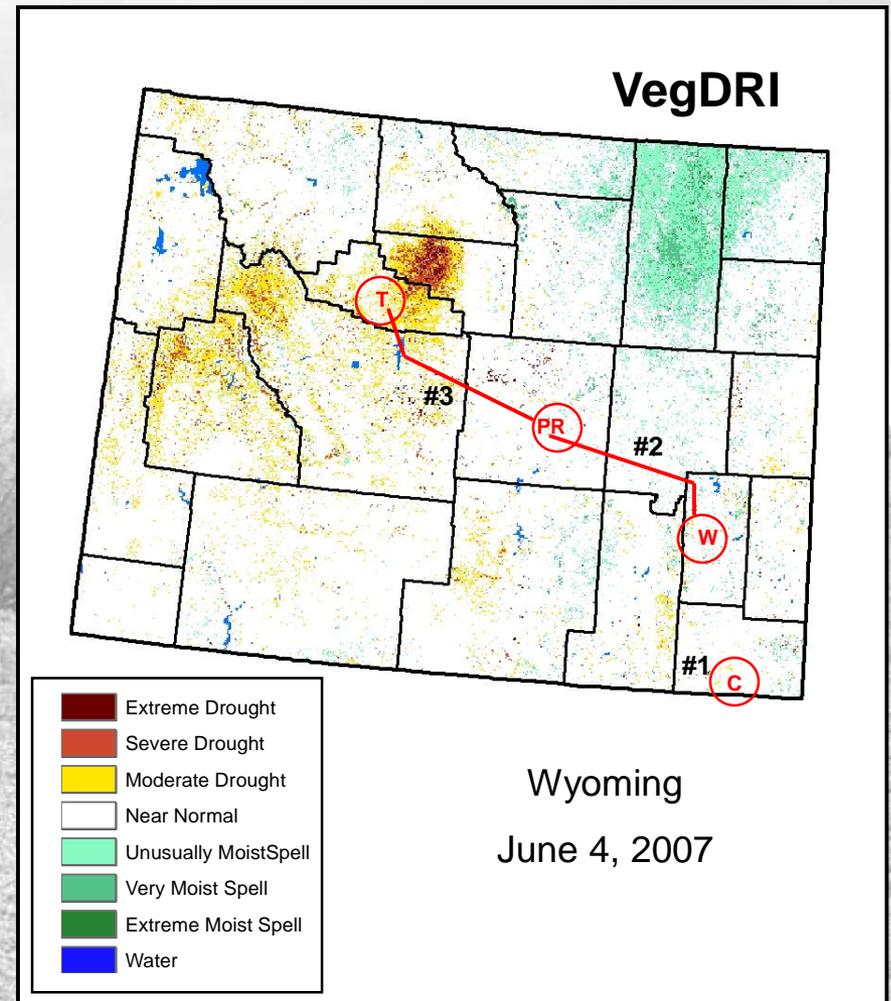
Comments on areas (e.g., northeast section of Lancaster county) that VegDRI accurately (e.g., VegDRI and observed normal) represented conditions.

Evaluator Comments

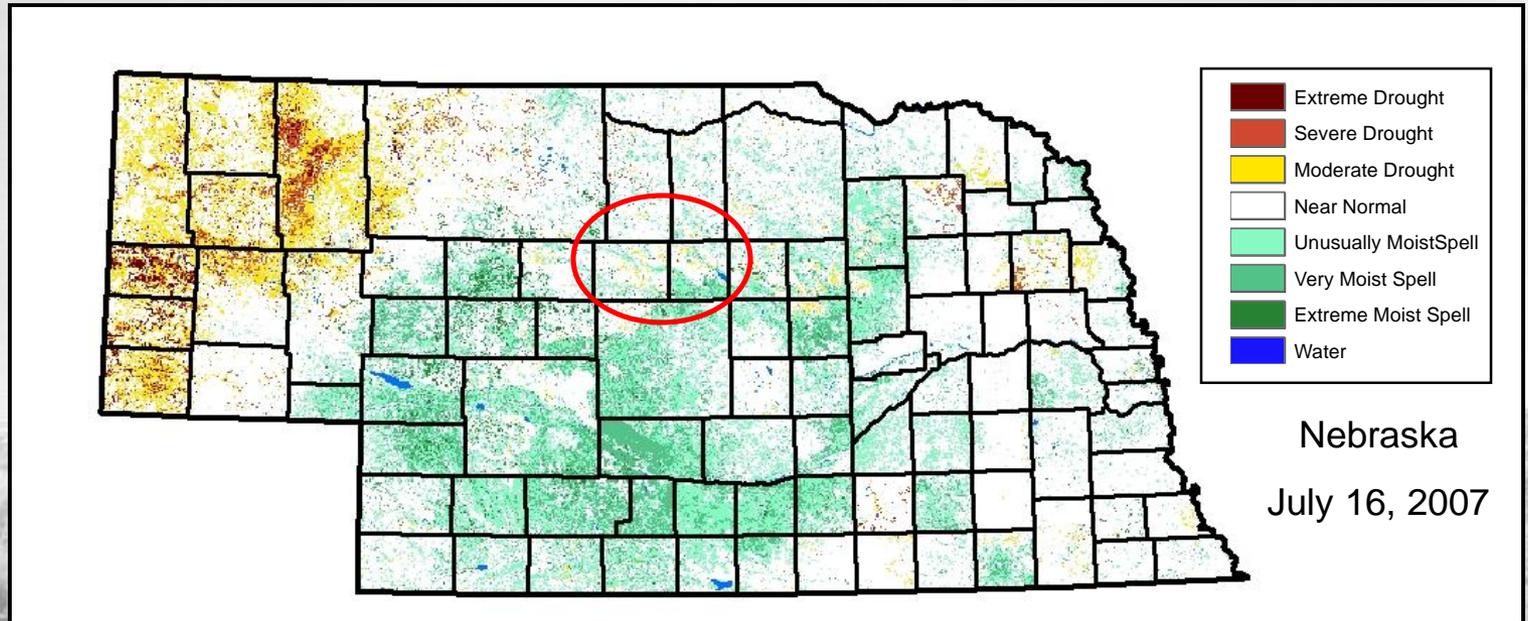
“Cheyenne is quickly degrading in terms of greenness (now about 2 inches below normal precipitation after being normal on April 1). Vegetation is quickly browning out.” (#1)

“At our Nunn, CO site things have markedly browned in the last week. Also, just got back from a trip to Thermopolis and the area from Wheatland to about 30 miles west of Casper is green and in good shape (#2), the area west of Casper from Powder River to Thermopolis is very dry - vegetation is very brown, the cheatgrass is brown, no new green growth there (#3).”

- USDA ARS scientist
Source: visual scan
VegDRI for June 4



Evaluator Comments



“Our ranch is a block extending into 3 counties, Rock, Loup, and Blaine. We have had very little rain since middle of June, inch or less. Because of that one might think we should be shown as dryer than your map shows. However we have had pretty good growth in our warm season grasses so things still look good and I would say your map portrays things accurately.”

- Rancher
Source: visual scan
VegDRI for July 16

If you rated the accuracy of the VegDRI image as a value LESS than 7 in the question above, how much worse or better are the vegetation/rangeland conditions in your state or region compared to the VegDRI image?

- 5 -4 -3 -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5

Much worse

N/A

Much better

Comments on areas (e.g., south central part of Buffalo county) that VegDRI did not accurately (e.g., VegDRI shows normal, but you observe severe) represent conditions.

4. What method did you use to compare the conditions with the image depicted on VegDRI?

- Forage height
- Forage coverage within specific area (i.e. hoop/square)
- Visual scan/estimation
- Other; specify: _____

5. What suggestions do you have for improving the website?

***If you are interested in participating in the
VegDRI Evaluation Group, please contact:***

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or

Nicole Wall

nwall2@unl.edu

