Setting the Stage:
Drought Tools Overview
Bastrop, Texas
February 12, 2009

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Monitoring Program Area Leader

National Drought Mitigation Center
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Photo: Cimarron County, Oklahoma
Gary McManus, Oklahoma Climatological Survey, late June, 2008

National Drought Mitigation Center

Founded: **1995 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

Mission: **To lessen societal vulnerability to drought by promoting planning and the adoption of appropriate risk management techniques.**

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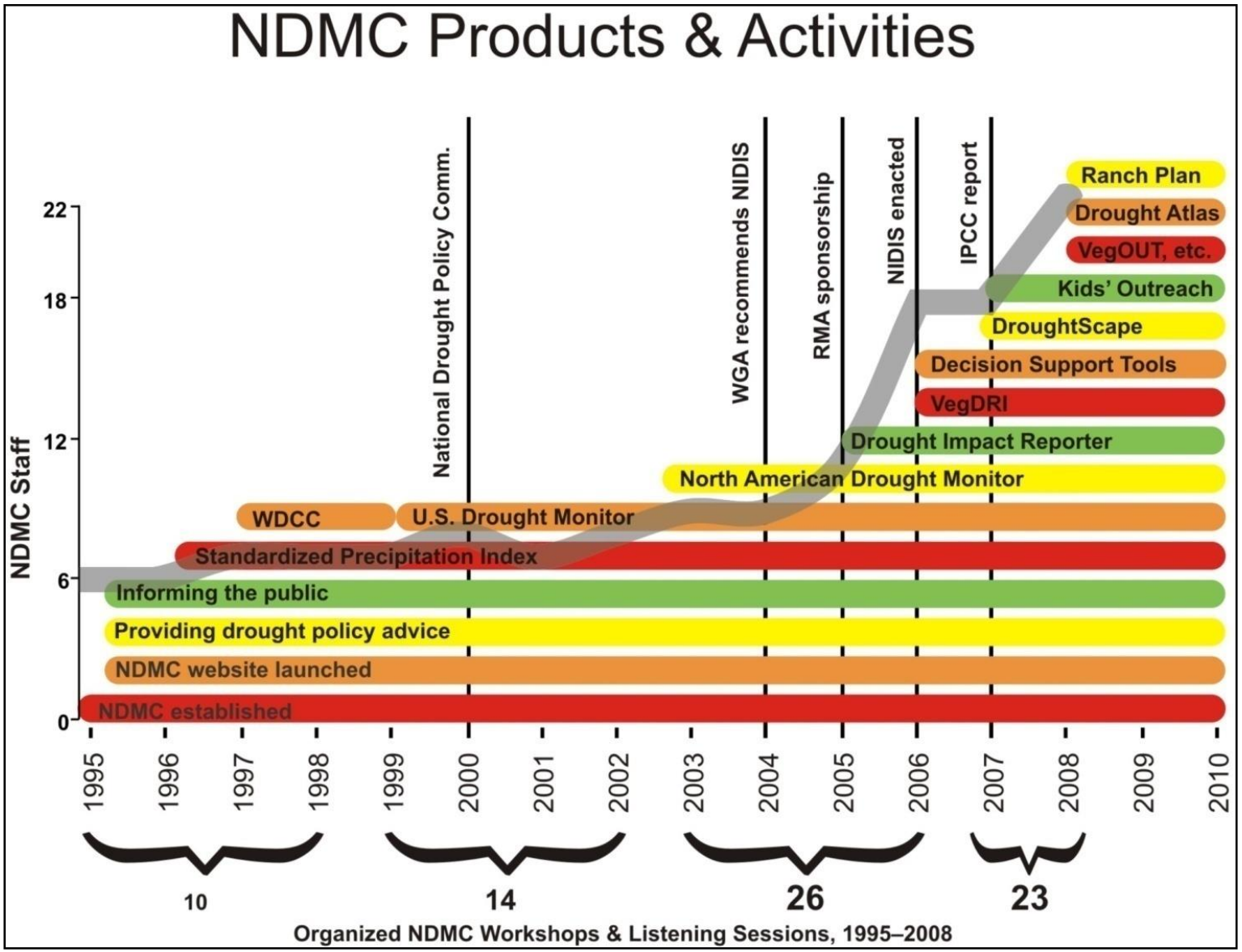

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* ***RMA supported projects developing drought tools for agricultural producers.***

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What are we doing here?

- Funding from USDA-Risk Management Agency
- NDMC partnership w/ UNL's Computer Science and Engineering Department
- How can we get feedback on our tool development to help better them and our nation's assessment capacity
- NOT a substitute for telling locals what you already know!
  - Relevant ties to policy at various levels
  - Uses by decision makers that may have a local impact
  - Uses for assessing drought in other market regions

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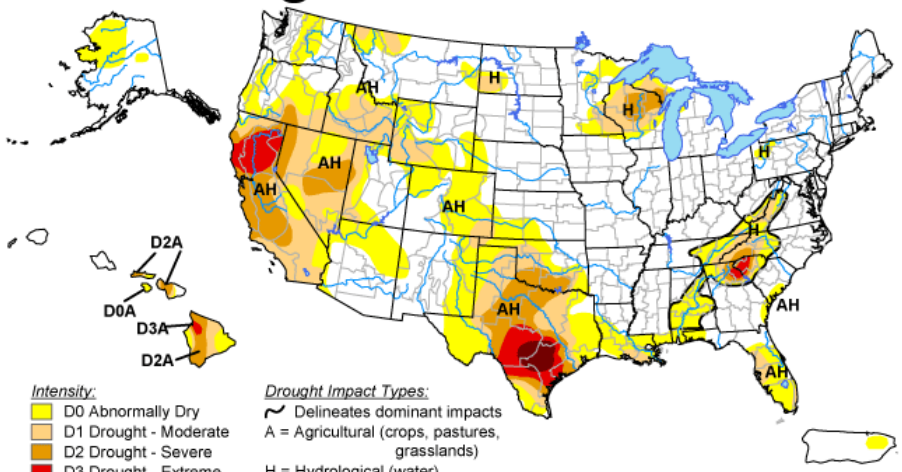
U.S. Drought Monitor

February 3, 2009
Valid 8 a.m. EST



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

Drought Impact Types:
- Delineates dominant impacts
- A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
- H = Hydrological (water)

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

http://drought.unl.edu/dm

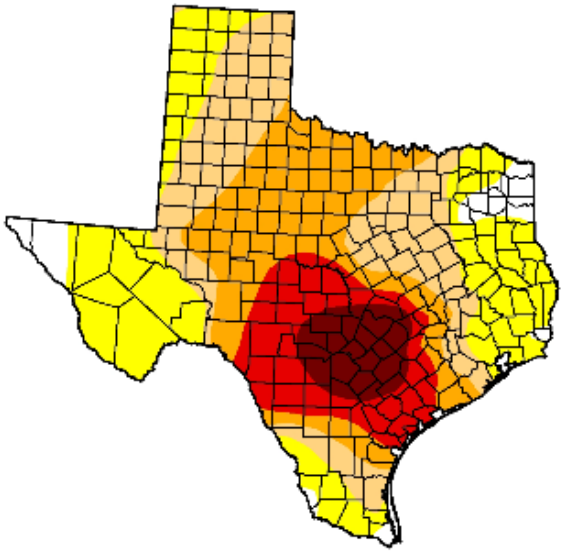
Released Thursday, February 5, 2009
Author: Eric Luebehusen, U.S. Department of Agriculture

rought Monitor
Texas

February 3, 2009
Valid 7 a.m. EST

ought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	4.6	95.4	66.8	42.6	19.6	6.7
Last Week (01/27/2009 map)	11.6	88.4	62.1	37.5	16.5	4.2
3 Months Ago (11/11/2008 map)	59.2	40.8	22.4	14.5	6.8	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/06/2009 map)	41.7	58.3	24.5	15.0	9.1	4.2
Start of Water Year (10/07/2008 map)	67.2	32.8	20.5	11.0	3.6	0.0
One Year Ago (02/05/2008 map)	17.1	82.9	29.4	5.9	0.0	0.0



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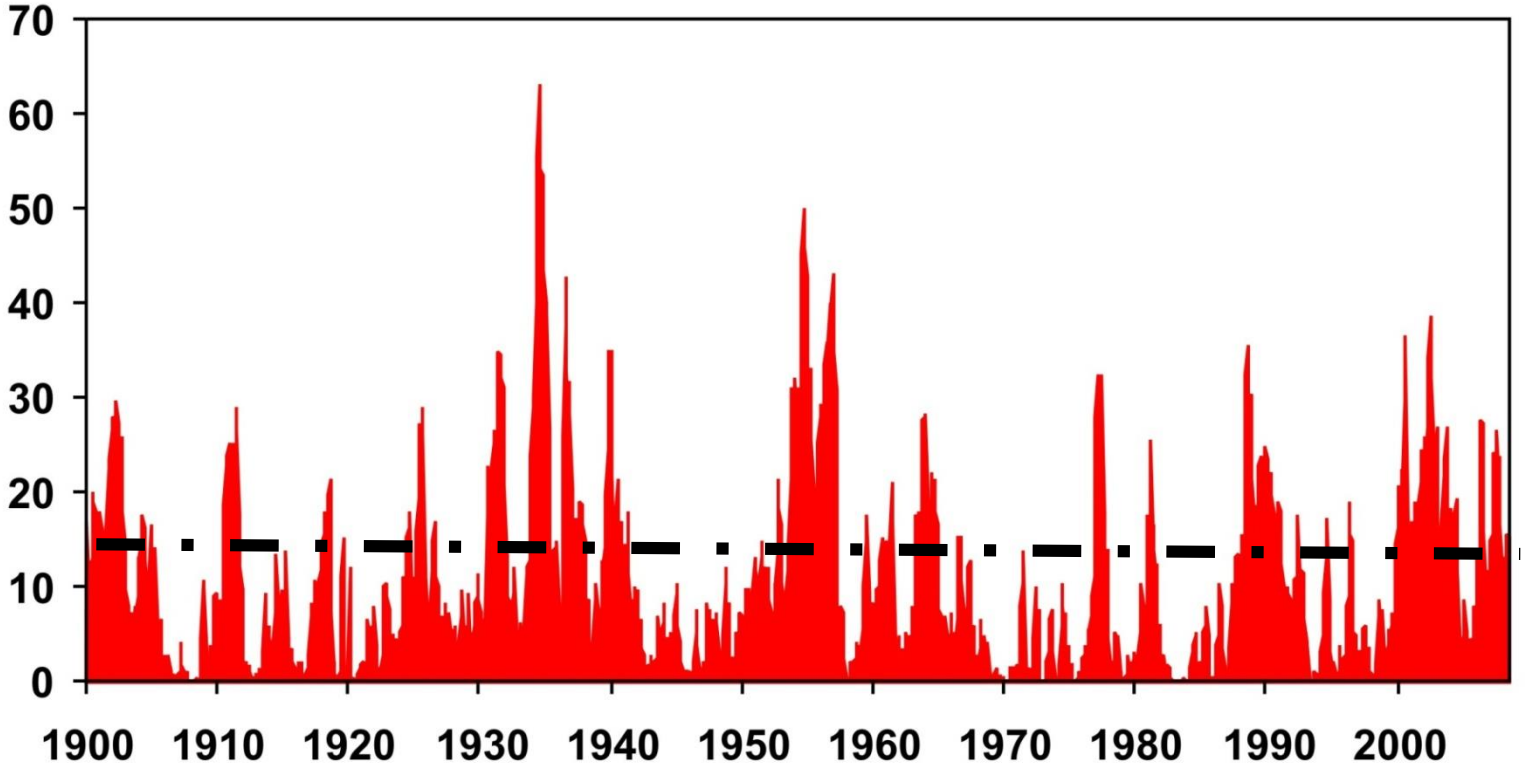
Percent Area of the United States in Severe and Extreme Drought

January 1895–July 2008



Based on data from the National Climatic Data Center/NOAA

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Workshops on Drought Management Tools

- Provide producers and advisors with easy-to-use tools and data to better understand the linkages between local climate and agricultural production
- Obtain feedback on what information or tools are needed to better understand these linkages
  - Multiple feedback approaches
- Effectively plan and prepare for drought

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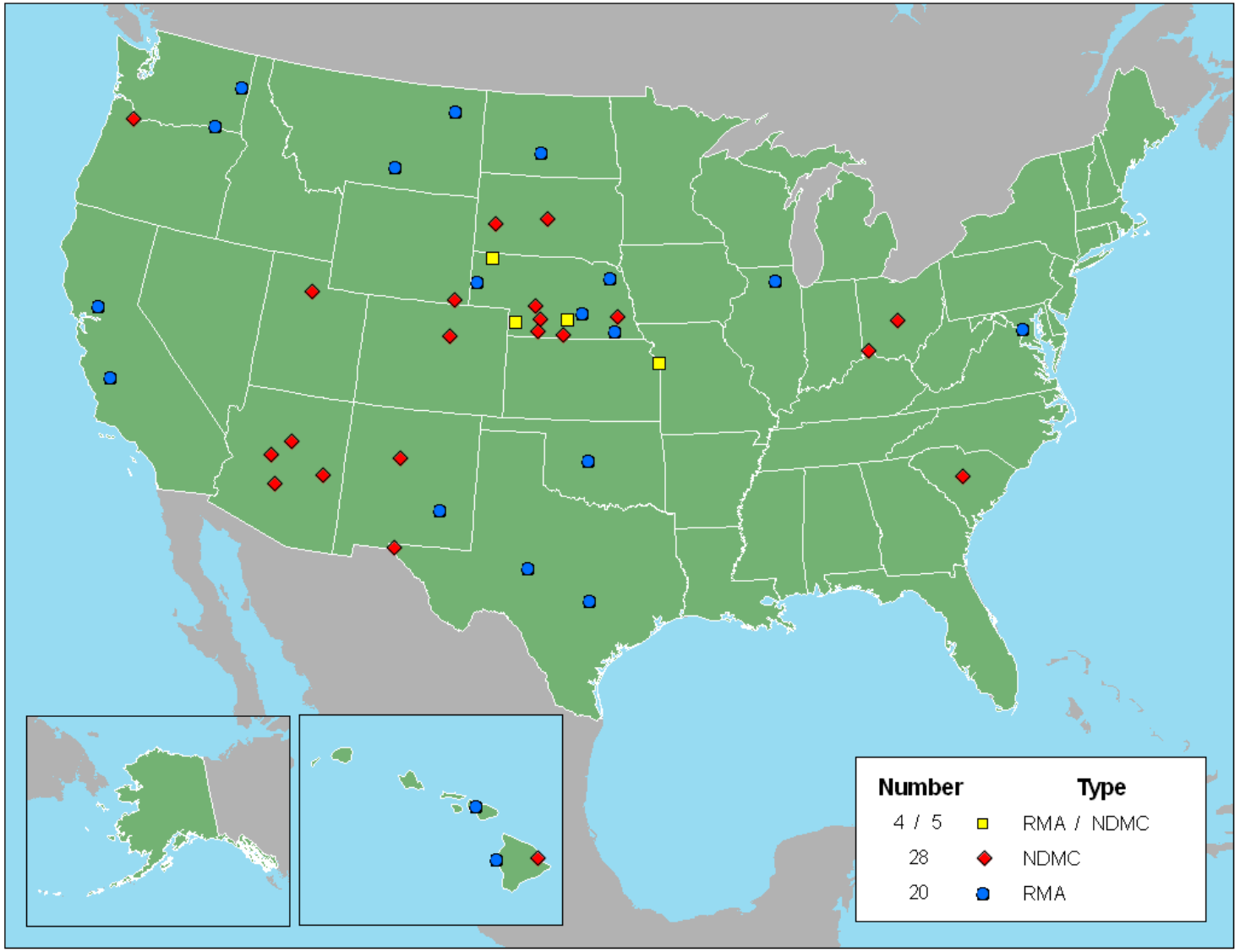
NDMC Stakeholder Workshops 1996-2009



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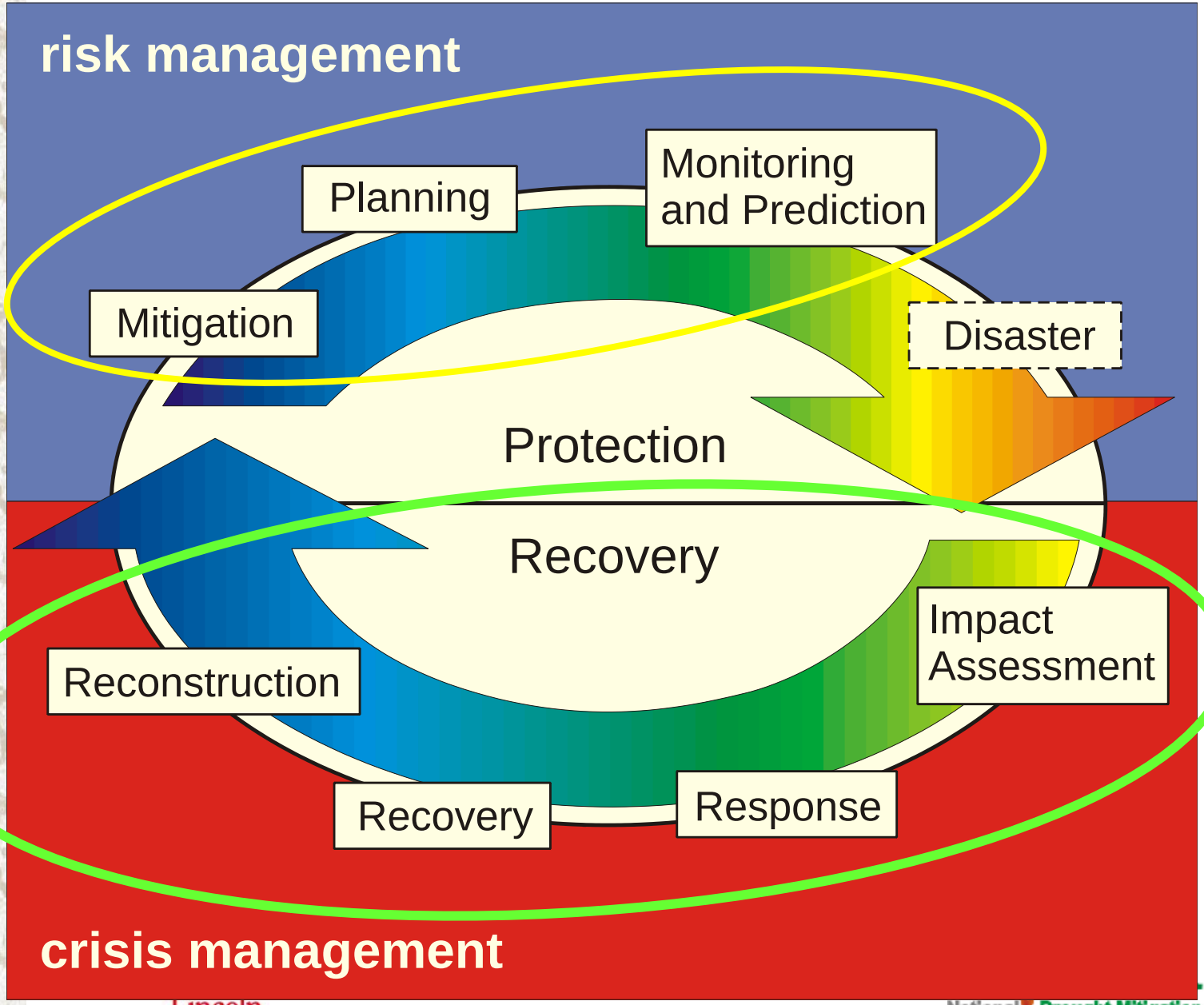
The Cycle of Disaster Management



Lessons Learned

- Drought is not just a physical event
  - Vulnerability plays a major role
  - Vulnerability is dependent upon society
  - Vulnerability is dynamic

Lessons Learned

- Drought is not just a physical event
- “Wait and see” is a natural reaction
  - Can suppress timely responses
  - Need a plan in place…with triggers/thresholds

Lessons Learned

- Drought is not just a physical event
- “Wait and see” is a natural reaction
- Communication is critical
  - Overcome fears
  - Who’s accountable for doing what…..and when?
  - Essential for public support and buy-in

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Lessons Learned

- Drought is not just a physical event
- “Wait and see” is a natural reaction
- Communication is critical
- Planning ahead is a good investment of resources

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Managing Risk on the Ranch

"Here's what my dad used to tell me. He said, if you bet on dry weather in this country, you'll be right more than half the time"
--Nebraska rancher, 2006

Making management decisions is an every day exercise for livestock and forage producers. Producers manage for things they can control and things they can't; for conditions that persist and those that change daily. All regions are prone to some form of extreme weather events such as thunderstorms, blizzards and drought. These extremes and the unknowns that seem to be around every corner, and the disastrous effects they can cause, demonstrate why long-term planning is essential to effectively manage agricultural risk.

Drought is one hazard that affects every portion of the United States sooner or later, and producers are increasingly implementing new ways to better prepare and respond to it. The information, strategies and resources on this site are designed to provide producers with information on how to incorporate management strategies to reduce the threat drought poses to livestock and forage operations.

Our Philosophy and Purpose

- Drought is a normal part of climate...it will happen again.
- There are things you can do before, during, and after drought to reduce your risk.
- You should have both a long-term management plan and a drought response plan.
- The goal of this website is to help you become more resilient to hazards such as drought.

How to Use This Site

The Introduction section of this site provides in-depth information on climate and historical drought occurrence; the effects drought has on livestock, grasses, and grazing management; and drought-related financial considerations.

The Before Drought, During Drought, and After Drought sections detail long- and short-term management strategies that can be implemented to make your operation more resilient and prepared for drought conditions.

The Write a Drought Plan section describes how appropriate strategies can be identified and included in a drought plan for your operation, and the Contacts and Resources section provides examples of other producers who have developed drought plans, as well as, experts and other information sources to help you better prepare for and respond to drought.

Acknowledgements

- Lower Colorado River Authority (Bob Rose)
- NOAA-NWS Southern Region HQ (Victor Murphy)
- Brian Fuchs/Nicole Wall/Ann Fiedler (NDMC)
- McKinney Roughs staff and catering
- Most of all, you all for being here!!

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Thank You

Any Questions ?

Please contact me at:

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