

What are drought impacts?

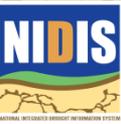


From Washington County, Georgia: what is left of an 11-acre pond that has been there for 50+ years. The brown grass in the photos is typically under water during normal times. Photos are taken by Pete Golden.

Kelly Helm Smith

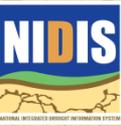
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Drought Impact:

An observable loss or change that occurred at a specific place and time because of drought.



Examples of Impacts

- ▶ Loss of agricultural production
- ▶ Layoffs, i.e., plant closure in Plainview, Texas
- ▶ Loss to landscaping businesses & carwashes
- ▶ Losses due to wildfire
- ▶ Losses to seafood and fisheries affected by salinity
- ▶ Loss of wildlife habitat
- ▶ Loss of ecosystem services



What's an impact? Depends! Who's asking?

- USDM author: real-time indicator
- Drought mitigator (i.e., someone rewriting the Farm Bill): realized losses for a growing season
- Various time-scales for various decisions



Impacts

- What are indicators (precursors)
- Who observes (records) indicators?
- Who is affected?
- Who aggregates?
- Who decides?



Questions, comments, ideas?

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