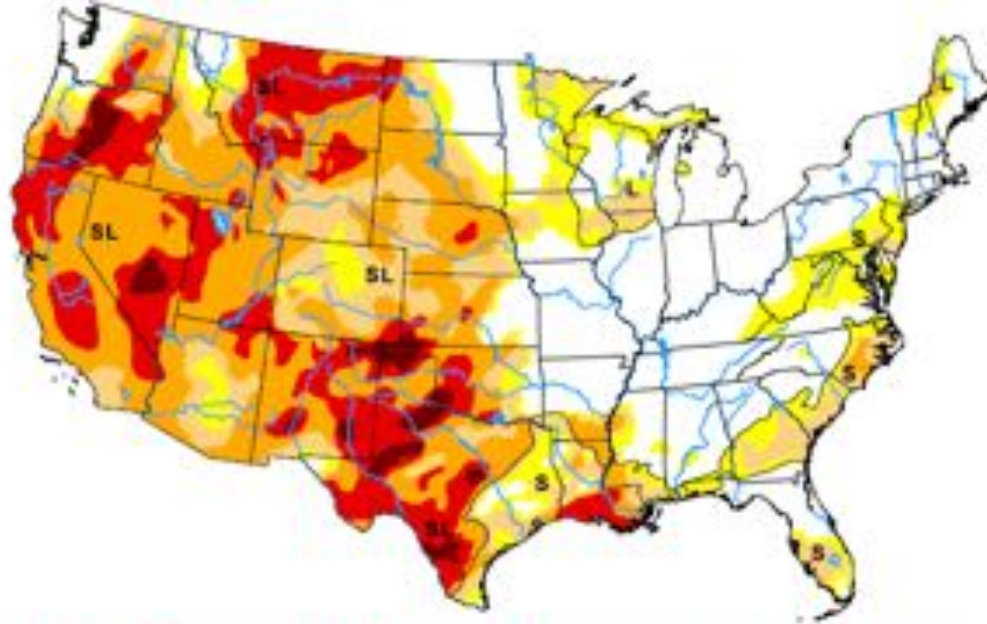


The United States Drought Monitor Process

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
School of Natural Resources





U.S. Drought Monitor Learning Sessions

May 18, 2022, 1–2 PM CDT

June 23, 2022, 2–3 PM CDT

July 14, 2022, 3–4 PM CDT

Register: go.usnl.edu/USDM_Info

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) staff and others interested in learning more about the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) are invited to sign up for an informational webinar. Each webinar will be led by a different USDM author, and will focus on the data, information and process that go into the map, and on how USDA staff and others can contribute.

Each webinar is scheduled for an hour, including time for questions and discussion. The main content will be the same for each webinar, but people are welcome to sign up and attend more than one.

For questions or assistance prior to the webinar, contact Brian Fuchs at the National Drought Mitigation Center: bfuchs2@usnl.edu or 402-472-6775. Support for the sessions is provided by USDA's Office of the Chief Economist.



The zoom link will be the same for all of the webinars: <https://usnl.zoom.us/j/7243255882>.



The USDM
map is...

An attempt to
represent **all** the
different types of
drought on one
map



Types of Drought



Meteorological



Agricultural



Hydrological



Socio-
economic



Ecological

Instead of using a single indicator/index, a Hybrid Approach is used: U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM)

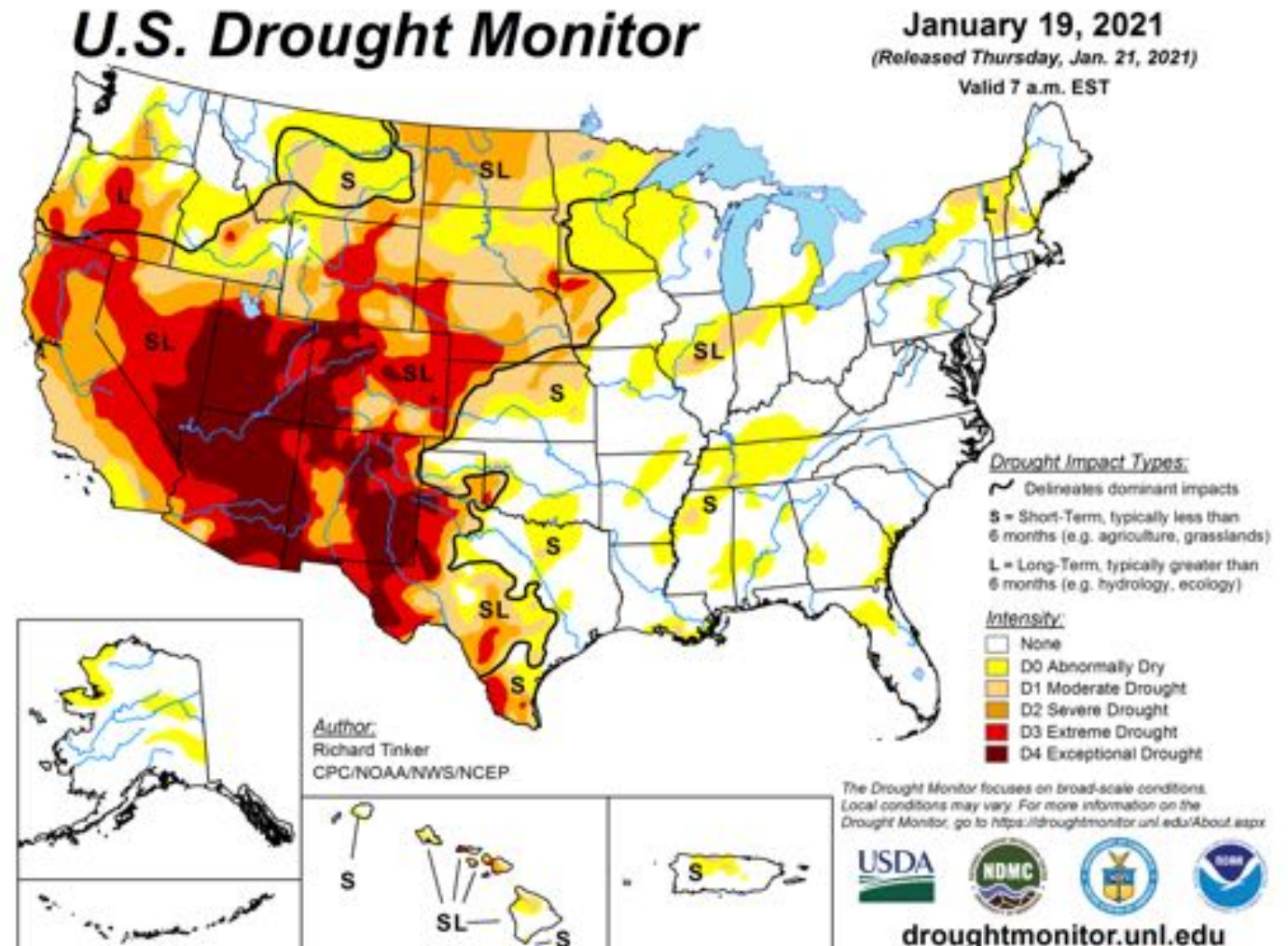
Objective

Physical indicators
& indices



Subjective

local expertise
and impacts

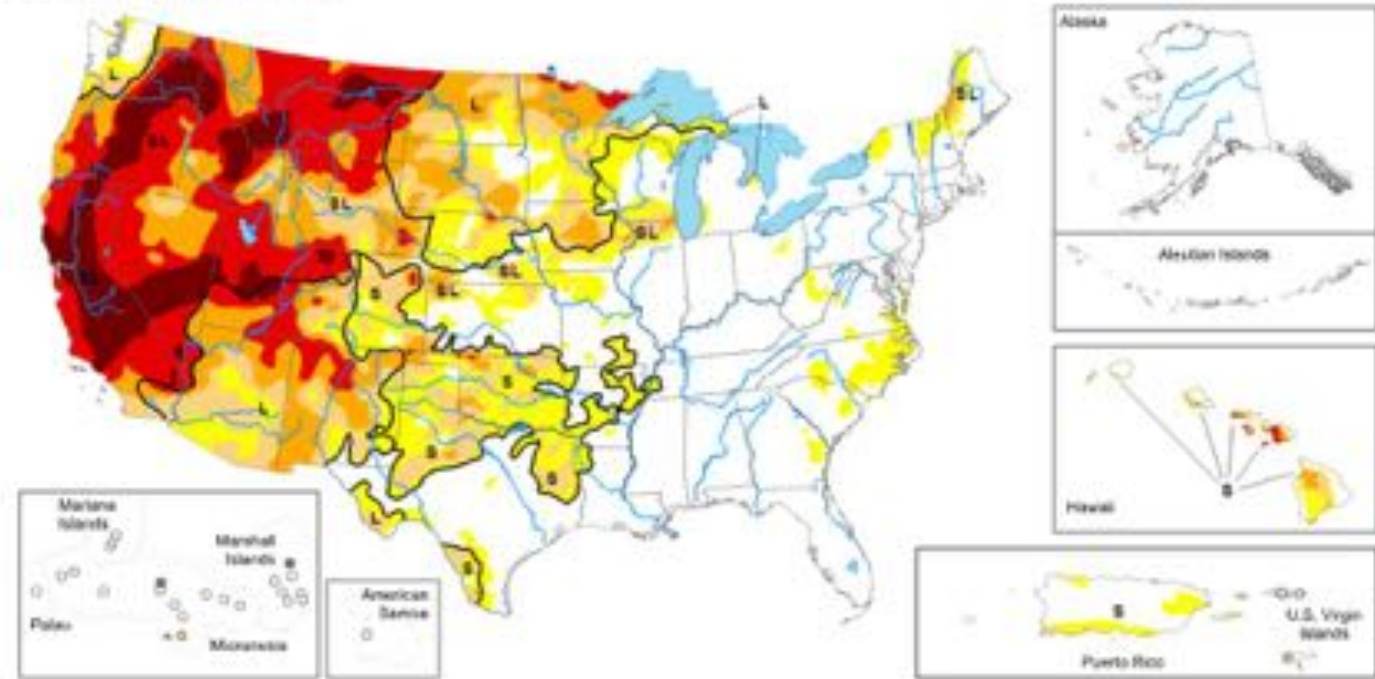


The United States Drought Monitor

- Hosted by the NDMC as part of a 3-way partnership with NOAA and USDA
- USDM website has on average 12.5 million hits a year (more during significant drought events)
- Used in several USDA programs
- Used by the IRS for tax deferrals
- Many other programs have started utilizing the USDM in official capacities

Map released: October 21, 2021

Data valid: October 19, 2021








Percentiles and the U.S. Drought Monitor



Advantages of percentiles:

- Can be applied to any parameter used in the drought analysis
- Can be applied to all indicators and indices regardless of length of data record
- Puts drought in historical perspective:

How many expected occurrences in a given period of time

D4: Exceptional Drought		(<i>1st-2nd</i> percentile)
D3: Extreme Drought		(<i>3rd-5th</i> percentile)
D2: Severe Drought		(<i>6th-10th</i> percentile)
D1: Moderate Drought		(<i>11th-20th</i> percentile)
D0: Abnormally Dry		(<i>21st-30th</i> percentile)

Period of record is important !

U.S. Drought Monitor Objectives




- Assessment of **current** conditions and **current** impacts
- The U.S. Drought Monitor is **NOT** a model
 - The map is made manually each week based off the previous week's map
- The U.S. Drought Monitor is **NOT** interpreting only precipitation
- The U.S. Drought Monitor is **NOT** a forecast or drought declaration
 - Can be used by decision makers in this way though
- The U.S. Drought Monitor does **NOT** take into account any relief programs when the map is produced.
- Identifying **impacts**
 - “**S**” short-term impacts, “**L**” long-term impacts or “**SL**” for a combination of both
 - “**S**”-6-month time scales or less, “**L**”-greater than 6-month time scales
- Incorporate **local expert** input (USDAM listserver)
 - Accomplished via email and impact reports
 - Validation of Objective Indicators
- Authors try to be as **objective** as possible (using the percentiles methodology) and the “**Convergence of evidence**” approach
- The physical data, drought indices/ indicators **must** support the depiction on the map
- **Impact data validates physical data but impacts alone will not drive changes on the map.**

Any Questions ?



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e | ndmc@unl.edu

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Brian Fuchs
bfuchs2@unl.edu
402-472-6775

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