



**World Meteorological Organization**

Working together in weather, climate and water

# **Drought Monitoring and Early Warning Systems**

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**Climate and Water Department**



# Summary

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- **Review of High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policies**
- **Introduction to Drought Monitoring and Early Warning Systems**
- **Different Drought Indices and Data Issues**
- **Successful examples/ongoing initiatives**



# Preparation Meetings on National Drought Policy – July 2011 – Wash DC

## “Proposed Elements in the Compendium on National Drought Policy”

**These elements were revised and updated as HMNDP Science and Policy Documents.**



Sivakumar, Mannava V.K., Raymond P. Motha, Donald A. Wilhite, and John J. Qu (eds.), 2011.



# HMNDP Main Organizers and Partners

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- **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**
- **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**
- **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- **UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC)**
- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- A total of 17 Organizations



# Attendance

414 registered participants from 87 countries





# Scientific Segment

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- **9 substantive sessions in the Scientific Segment plus 2 synthesis/reporting sessions (regional breakout groups and summary)**
- **28 posters in three poster sessions. 16 Side events**
- **All sessions produced summaries and recommendations**
- **Proceedings will be published**
- **Compendium from July 2011 Workshop revised as HMNDP Science Document**



# Recommendations

Develop national drought policies and preparedness plans that place emphasis on risk management rather than crisis management;

Establish scientifically sound, comprehensive and integrated drought Early Warning Systems;

Formulate networks/collaborations to enhance knowledge and information sharing to improve public understanding and preparedness to drought;

Develop research and monitoring to improve drought forecasting on the seasonal scale.

[www.hmndp.org](http://www.hmndp.org)



# Launch of initiatives

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- **2013 World Day to Combat Desertification, UN Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification, and UN Decade on Biodiversity**
- **Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) with WMO & GWP**
- **National Drought Management Policies Initiatives (NDMP) with UNW-DCP, FAO, UNCCD, & WMO**





**WMO OMM**

# Introduction



# Why Monitor Drought?

- Drought is a **Normal** Part of the Climatic Cycle
- Drought **Impacts** are Significant & Widespread
- **Many** Economic Sectors Affected
- Drought is **Expensive**
  - Droughts cause more deaths and displace more people than any other kind of natural disaster.
  - Since 1980, major droughts and heat waves within the U.S. alone have resulted in costs exceeding 100 billion dollars

Source: Svoboda, 2009



# Importance of a Drought Monitoring System

- allows for **early** drought detection
- improves response (**proactive**)
- **“triggers”** actions within a drought plan
- a critical **mitigation** action
- **foundation** of a drought plan

Source: Svoboda, 2009



# Components of a Drought Monitoring System

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- timely data and timely acquisition
- synthesis/analysis of data used to “trigger” set actions within a plan
- efficient dissemination network (web, media, extension, etc.)

Source: Svoboda, 2009



# Potential Monitoring System Products and Reports

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- ***Historical analysis*** (climatology, impacts, magnitude, frequency)
- ***Operational assessment*** (cooperative data, SPI and other indices, automated networks, satellite and soil moisture data, media and official requests)
- ***Predictions/Projections*** (SPI and other indices, soil moisture, streamflow, seasonal forecasts, SST's)

Source: Svoboda, 2009



# Components of a Drought Early Warning and Information System

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- Monitoring **AND** Forecasting
- **Tools** for decision makers
- Drought risk assessment and planning
- **Education** and awareness

Source: Wilhite, 2013

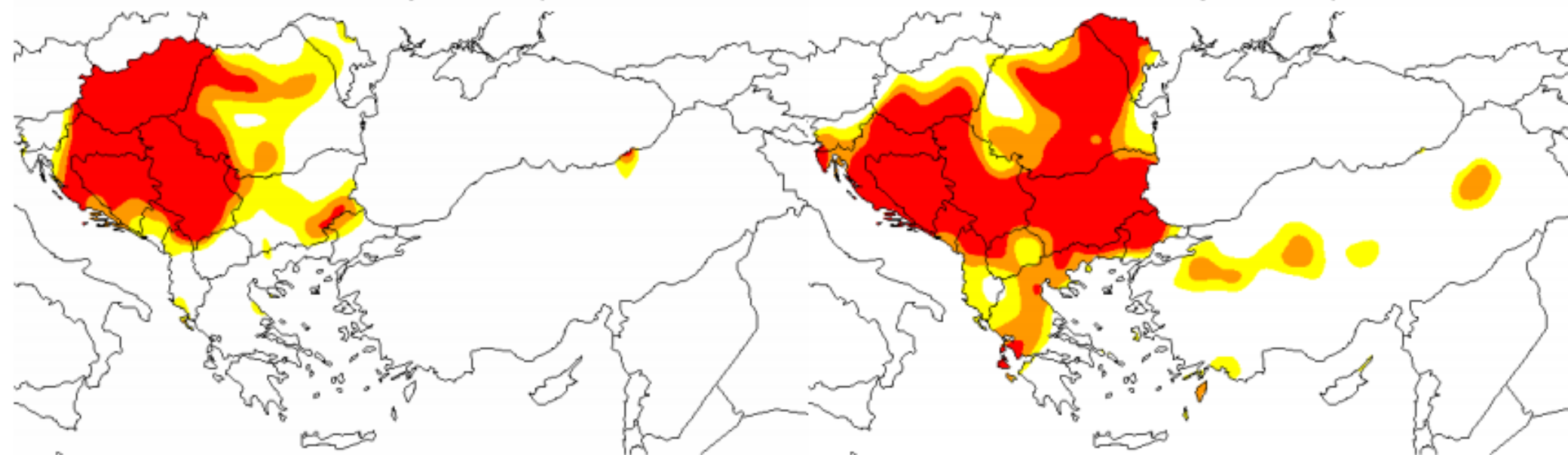
## SPI Index

SPI Aug 2012 (1 month)

GPCC first-guess analysis

SPI Aug 2012 (3 months)

GPCC first-guess analysis



**extreme drought**  
 $SPI \leq -2$

**severe drought**  
 $-2 < SPI \leq -1.5$

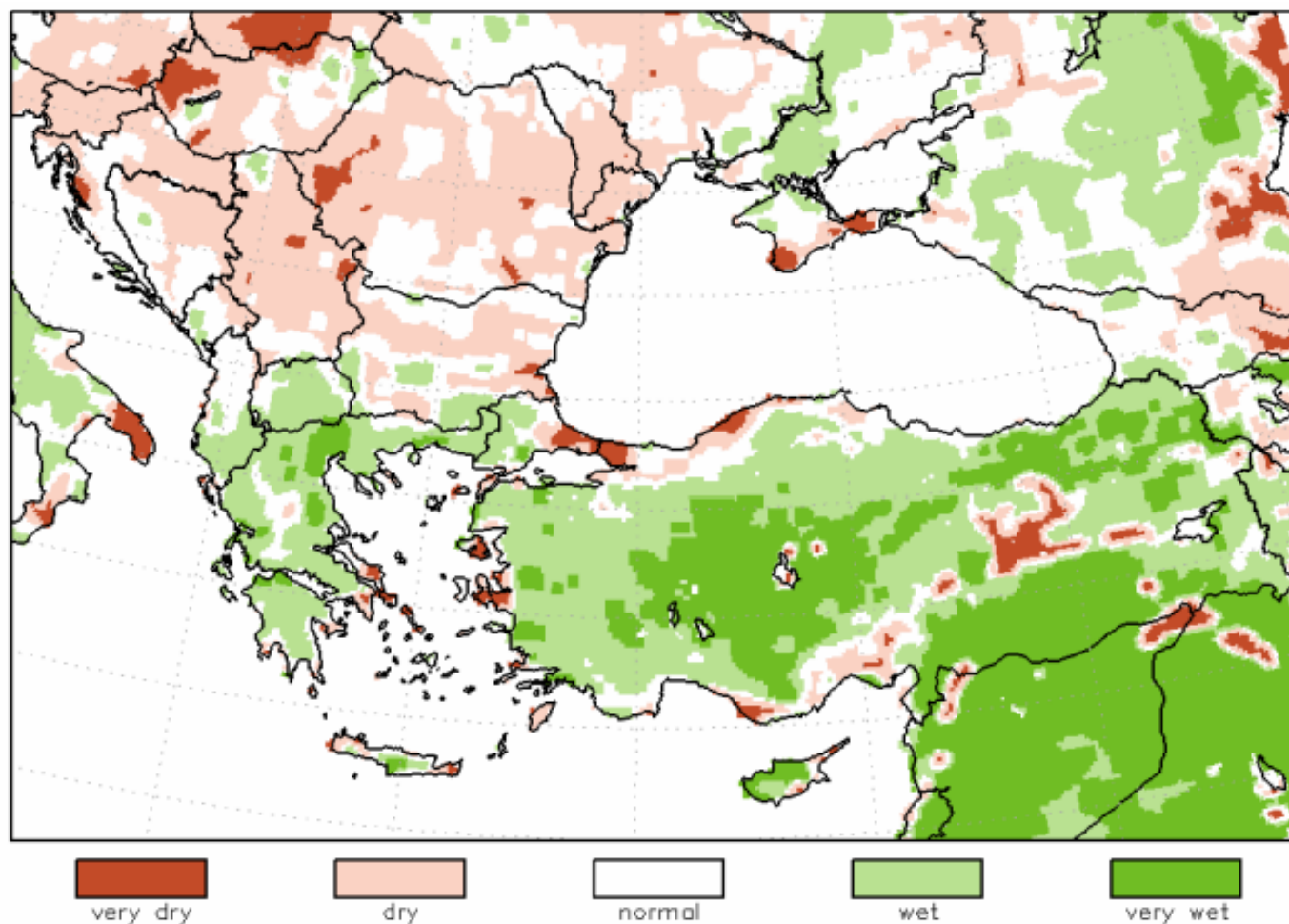
**moderate drought**  
 $-1.5 < SPI \leq -1$

**extreme drought**  
 $SPI \leq -2$

**severe drought**  
 $-2 < SPI \leq -1.5$

**moderate drought**  
 $-1.5 < SPI \leq -1$

## Outlook



Model simulations of the water balance for the time period from 30 July to 27 September show that drought conditions will persist in the northern part of the region while in the southern Balkans and Turkey, wet conditions will prevail.



# Indices and Data Issues



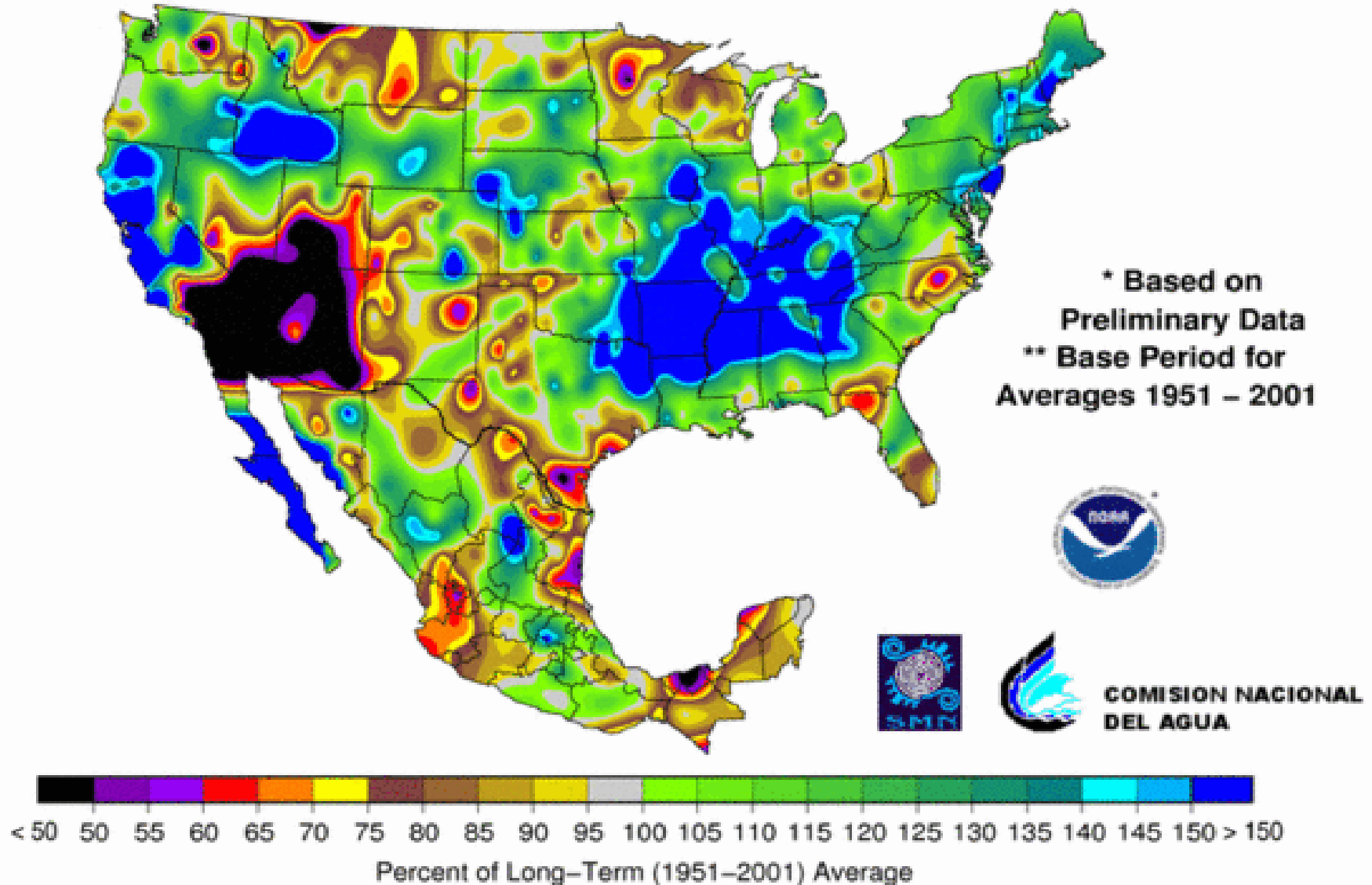
# Approaches to Drought Monitoring

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- **Single index or parameter**
- **Multiple indices or parameters**
- ***Composite index***

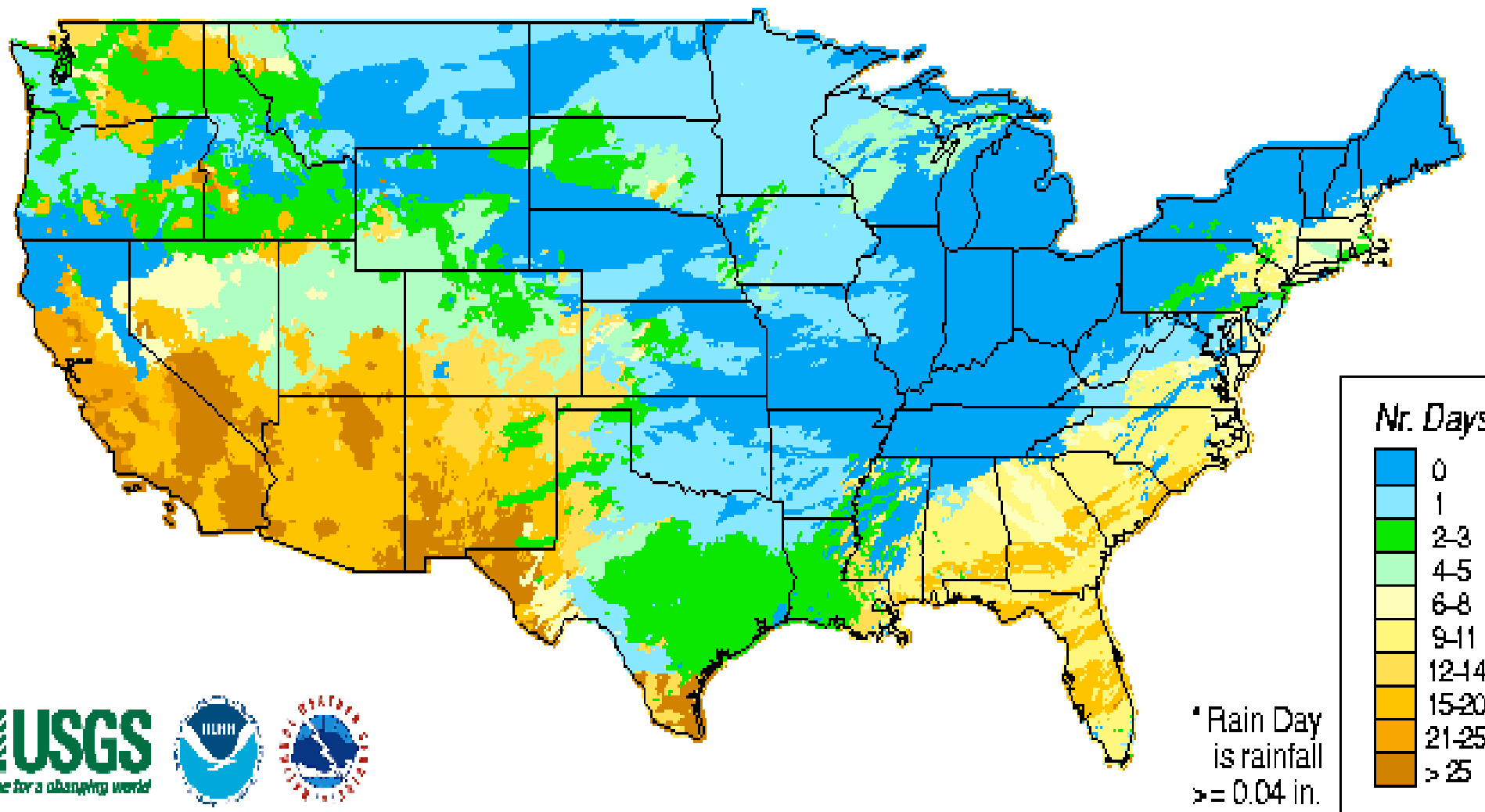
Source: Svoboda, 2009

# Percent of Long-Term Average Precipitation, 6-Month May – October 2009

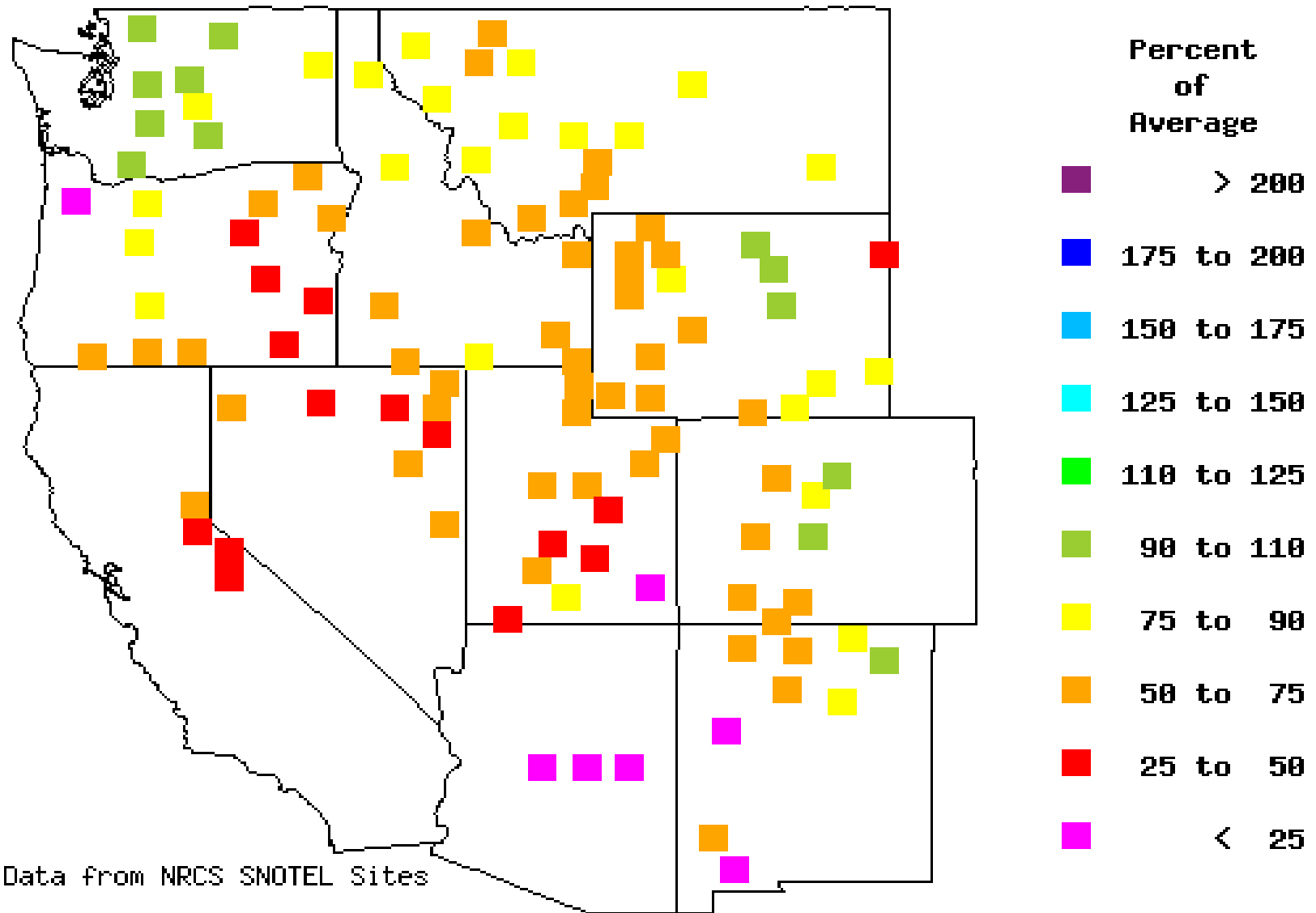


# Number of Days Since a Rain Day\*

in past 30 days, as of 30 Apr. 2009



# Basin Average Snow Water Content. ( % of Average.)



Report Date:

MARCH 31 , 2007

Provisional Data  
Based on Mountain Data from NRCS SNOTEL Sites

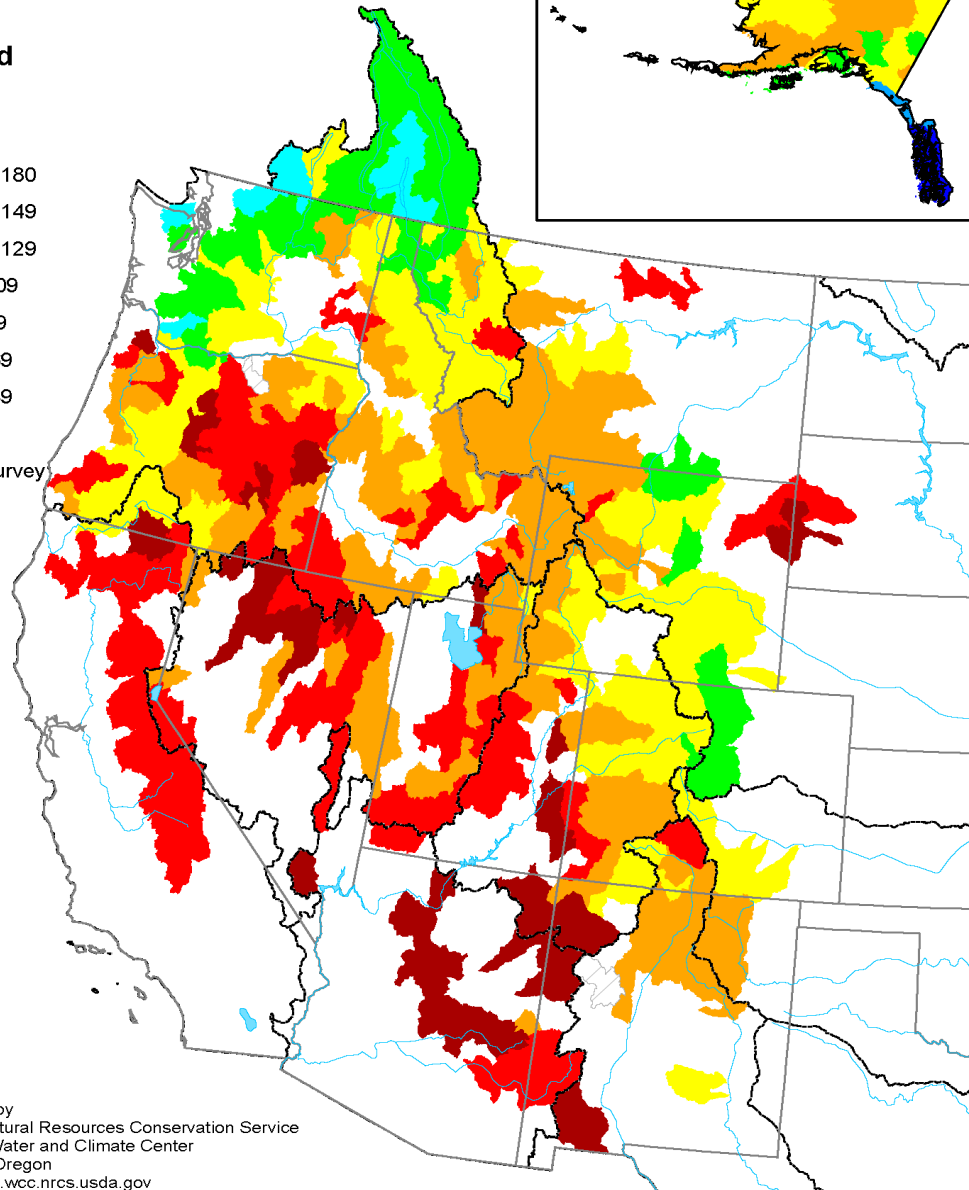
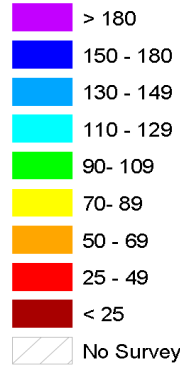
Data provided by  
Water and Climate Center  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Portland, Oregon

Western Regional Climate Center  
Desert Research Institute  
Reno, Nevada

# Mountain Snowpack as of April 1, 2007

## Legend

percent



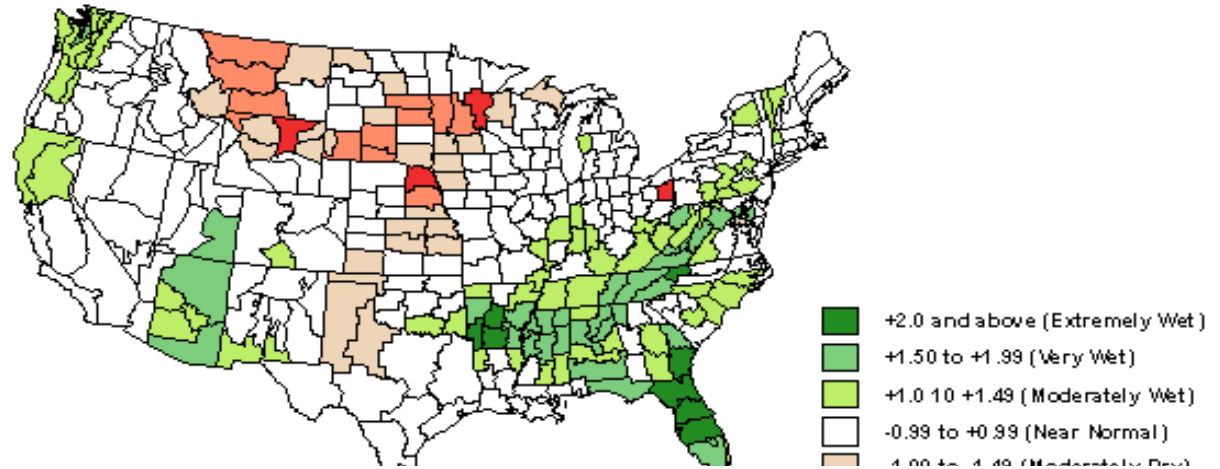
Prepared by  
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
National Water and Climate Center  
Portland, Oregon  
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>

# RESOLUTION:

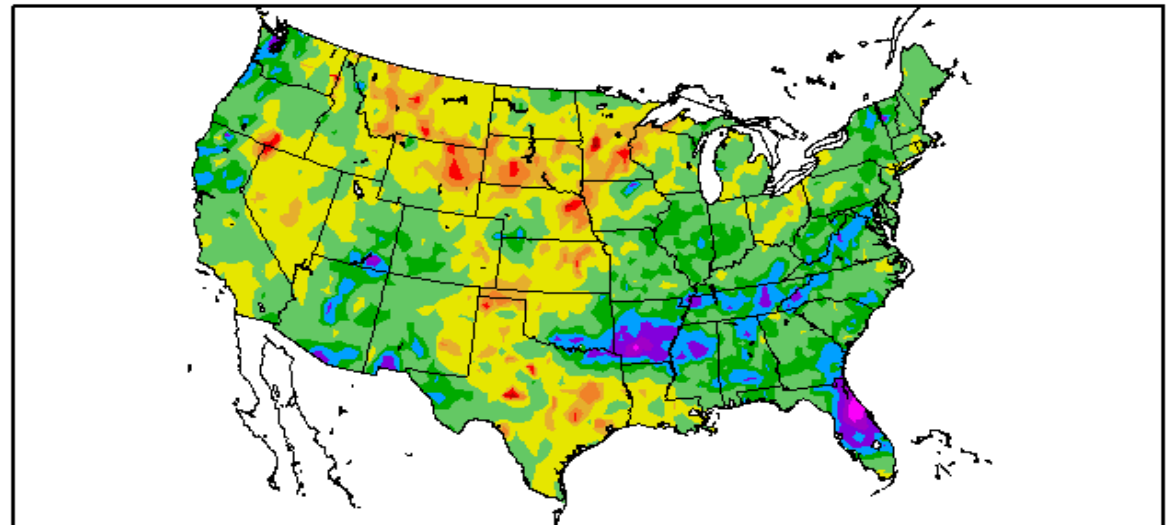
## Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)

by Climate  
Division (above),  
and by 0.4° grid  
(below)

### 1-month SPI through the end of May 2009



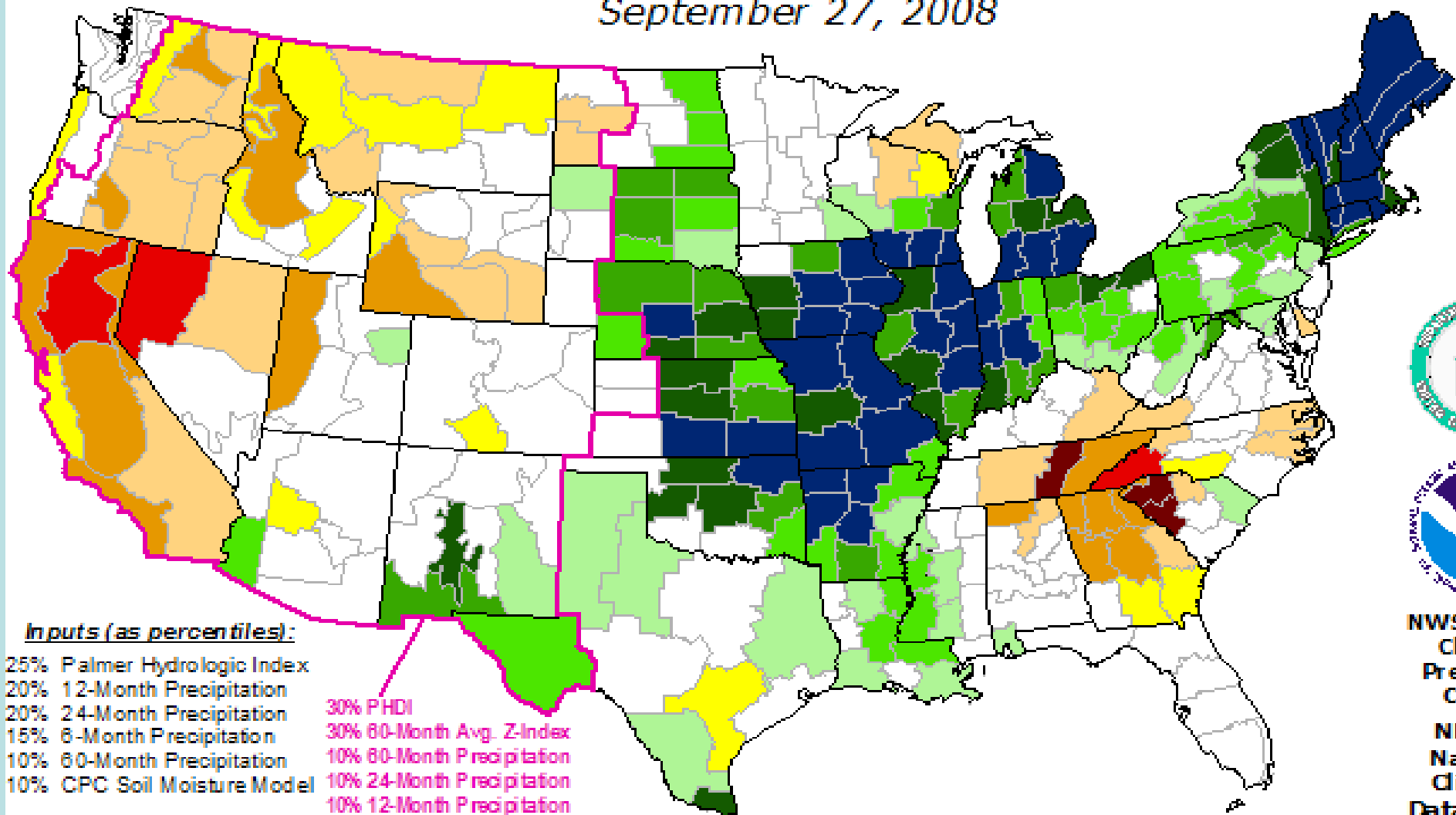
Monthly SPI  
5/1/2009 - 5/31/2009



Source: ACIS/HPRCC/NDMC

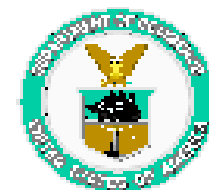
# Objective Long-Term Drought Indicator Blend Percentiles

September 27, 2008



**Inputs (as percentiles):**

- 25% Palmer Hydrologic Index
- 20% 12-Month Precipitation
- 20% 24-Month Precipitation
- 15% 6-Month Precipitation
- 10% 60-Month Precipitation
- 10% CPC Soil Moisture Model
- 30% PHDI
- 30% 60-Month Avg. Z-Index
- 10% 60-Month Precipitation
- 10% 24-Month Precipitation
- 10% 12-Month Precipitation
- 10% CPC Soil Moisture Model

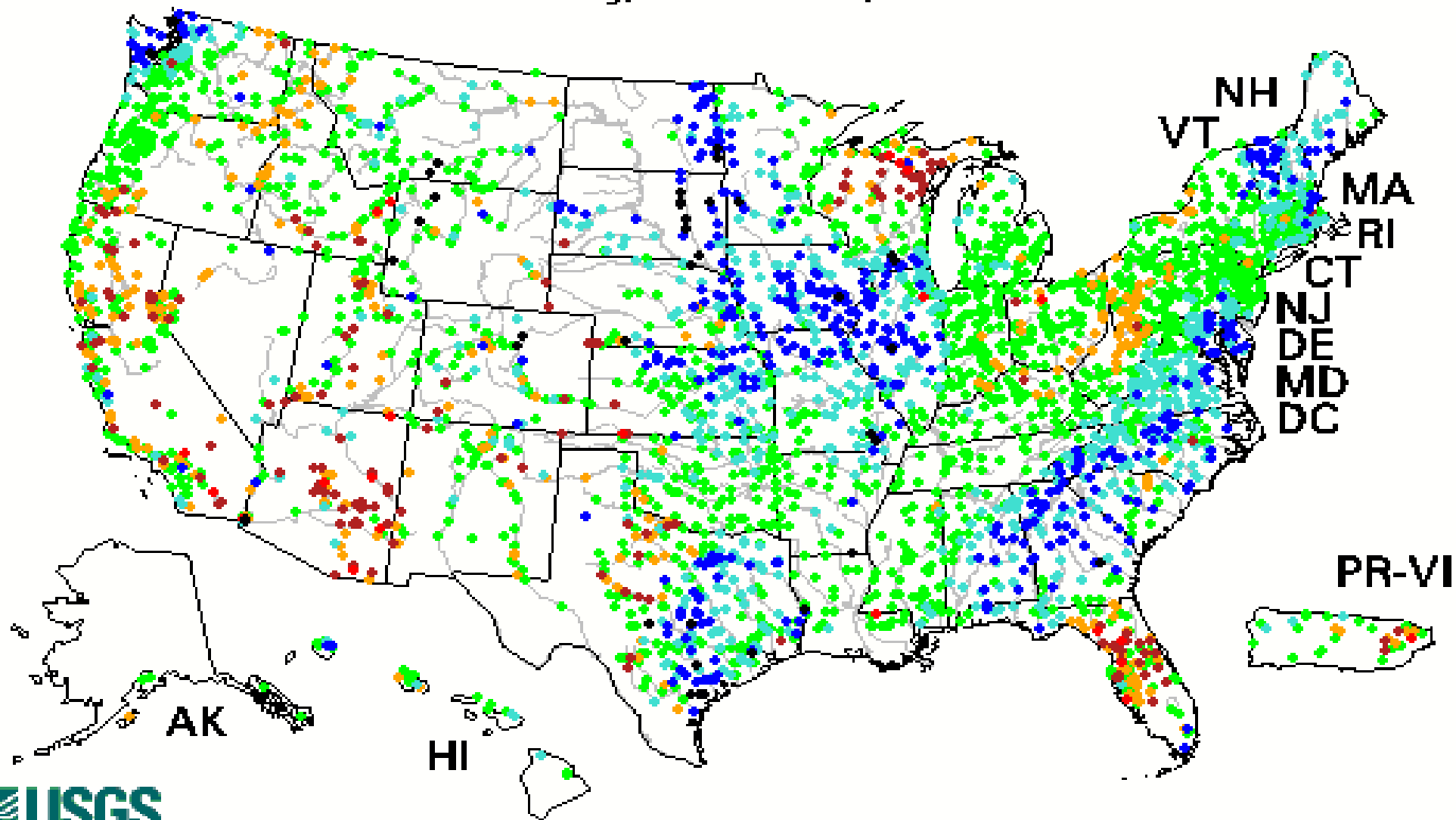


NWS / NCEP  
Climate  
Prediction  
Center  
NESDIS  
National  
Climatic  
Data Center

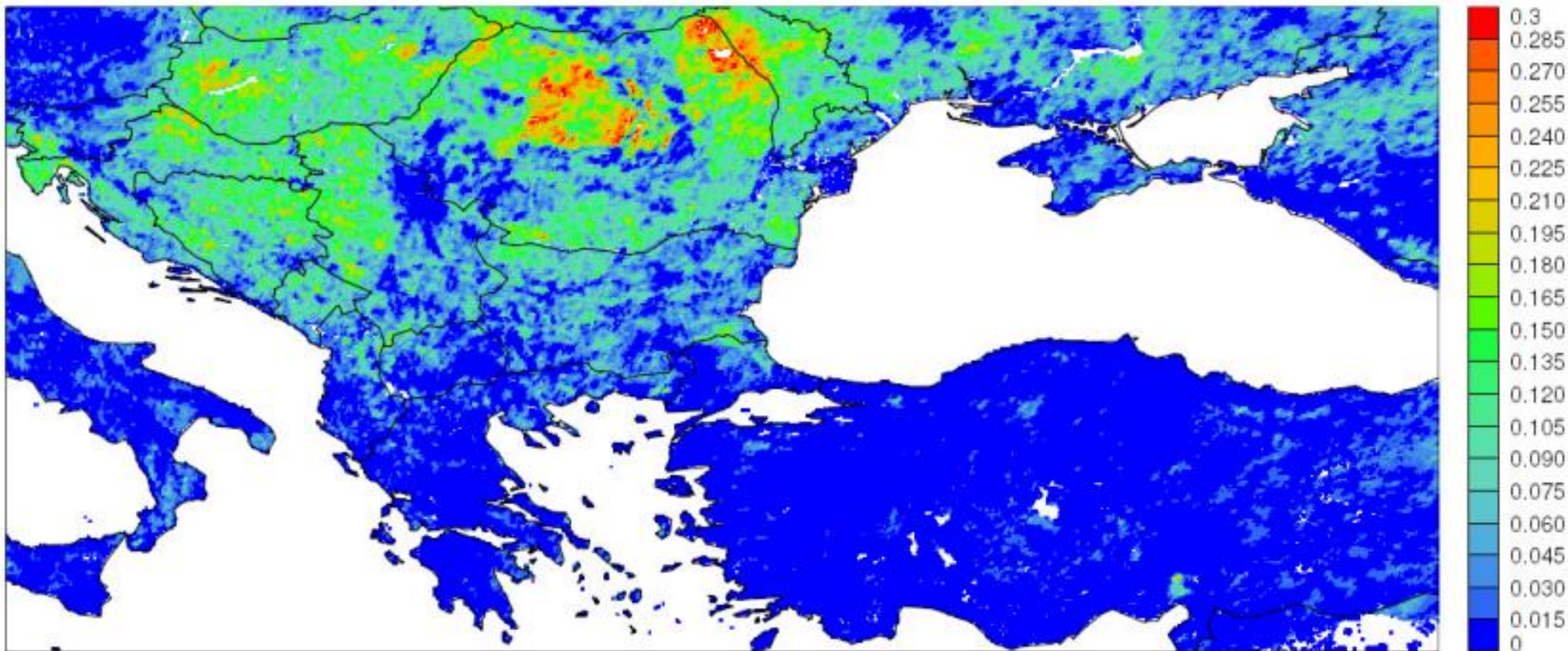
The short-term map (top) approximates impacts that respond to precipitation over the course of several days to a few months, such as agriculture, topsoil moisture, unregulated streamflows, and most aspects of wildfire danger. The long-term map (bottom) approximates impacts that respond to precipitation over the course of several months to a few years, such as reservoir content, groundwater depth, and lake levels. **HOWEVER**, the relationship between indicators and impacts can vary significantly with location and season. **THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF WATER SUPPLIES**, which are additionally affected by source, and management practices.



Thursday, December 03, 2009



Monthly FVC Accumulations ( 20120826 - 20120924 )



Fraction of vegetation cover



# Indicators & Triggers

## Definitions

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- **Indicators:** Variables to describe drought conditions.

Examples: precipitation, streamflows, groundwater, reservoir levels, soil moisture, Palmer indices, ...

- **Triggers:** Specific values of the indicator that initiate and terminate each level of a drought plan, and associated management responses.

Example: precipitation below the 5th percentile for two consecutive months is a Level 4 Drought.

Source: Svoboda, 2009

# Importance of Drought Indices

- ***Simplify*** complex relationships and provide a good communication tool for diverse audiences
- ***Quantitative*** assessment of anomalous climatic conditions
  - Intensity
  - Duration
  - Spatial extent
- ***Historical*** reference (probability of recurrence)
  - Planning and design applications

Source: Svoboda, 2009



# Considerations in Choosing Indicators / Triggers

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- **Proper and Timely Detection of Drought**
- **Spatial and Temporal Sensitivity**
- **Supplies and Demands**
- **Drought In / Drought Out**
- **Composite and Multiple Indicators**
- **Data Availability, Validity, and Clarity**
- **Ease of Implementation**

Source: Svoboda, 2009



# Key Variables for Monitoring Drought

- climate data
- soil moisture
- stream flow / ground water
- reservoir and lake levels
- snow pack
- short, medium, and long range forecasts
- vegetation health/stress and fire danger
- remote sensing products
- **impacts**

Source: Svoboda, 2009



# Lincoln Workshop

- **Inter-Regional Workshop on Indices and Early Warning Systems for Drought held in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA from 8 to 11 December 2009**
- **Co-Sponsors:**
  - National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC)
  - United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
  - United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
  - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
  - University of Nebraska-Lincoln, School of Natural Resources
  - World Meteorological Organization

[http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/agm/meetings/wies09/index\\_en.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/agm/meetings/wies09/index_en.html)



# Workshop Objectives

- To review and assess drought indices currently used around the world for the three types of drought (**meteorological, agricultural, and hydrological**);
- To review and assess the **strengths, weaknesses and limitations** of existing drought indices and early warning systems;
- To develop a **consensus standard index** for each of the three types of drought;
- To develop guidelines for WMO Members in implementing and improving drought early warning systems.

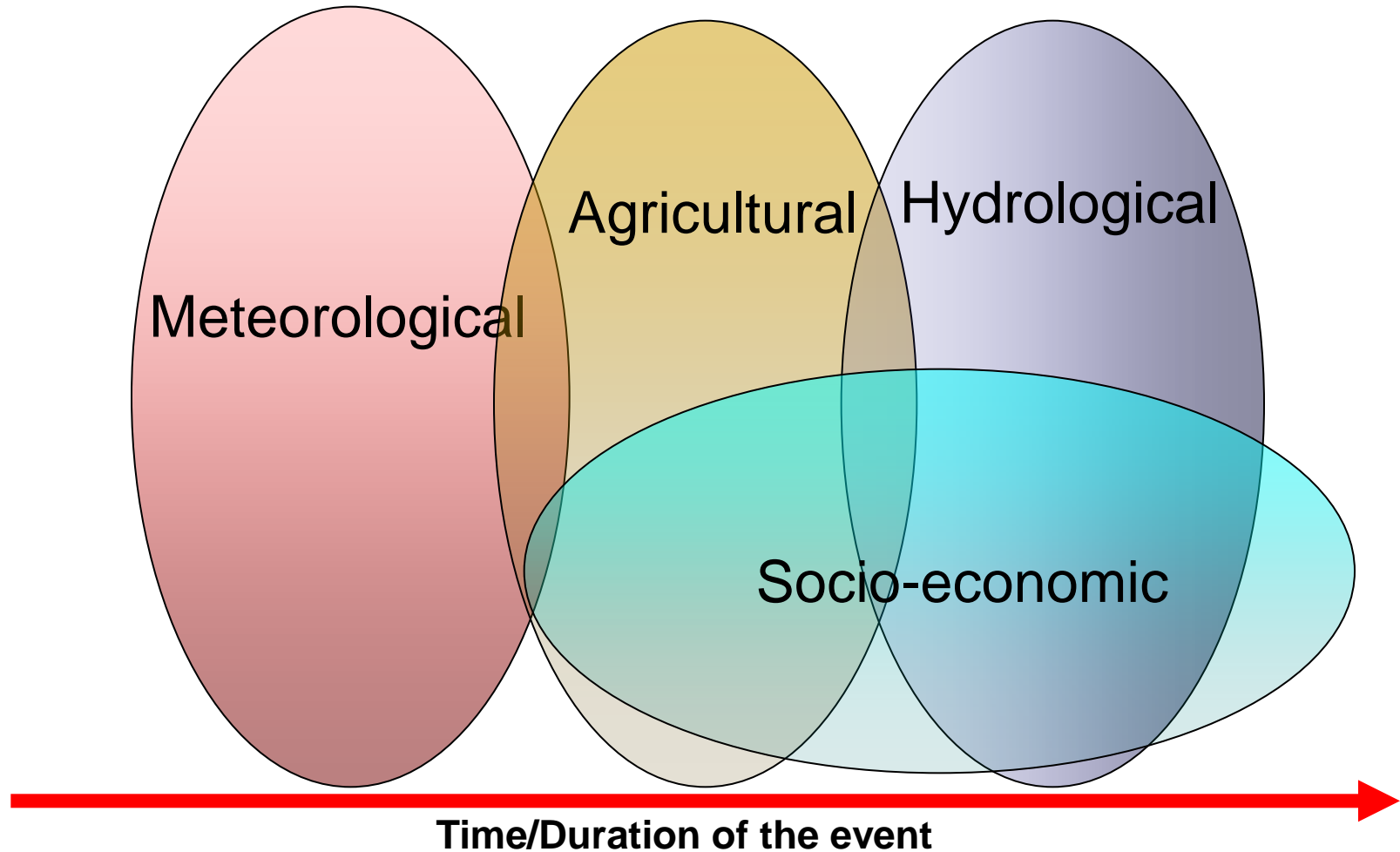


# Natural and Social Dimensions of Drought

Decreasing emphasis on the natural event (precipitation deficiencies)

Increasing emphasis on water/natural resource management

Increasing complexity of impacts and conflicts





# Lincoln Declaration - Recommendations

- **The National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) are encouraged to use SPI to characterize meteorological droughts and provide this information in addition to indices currently in use.**
- **A comprehensive user manual for the SPI should be developed that describes the index, computation methods, specific examples of current use, the strengths and limitations, mapping capabilities, and how it can be used.**



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# Probability of Recurrence

SPI	Category	# of times in 100 yrs.	Severity of event
<b>0 to -0.99</b>	<b>Mild dryness</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1 in 3 yrs.</b>
<b>-1.00 to -1.49</b>	<b>Moderate dryness</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1 in 10 yrs.</b>
<b>-1.5 to -1.99</b>	<b>Severe dryness</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1 in 20 yrs.</b>
<b>&lt; -2.0</b>	<b>Extreme dryness</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 in 50 yrs.</b>



# Outcomes

- The recommendation to use the SPI was approved by the **WMO Congress** in June 2011.
- The **UN International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR)** provided funding for the meetings of the working groups on agricultural (**June 2010 - Spain**) and hydrological (**Sept 2011 - Geneva**) drought indices.
- With these recommendations, WMO contributed to ISDR on chapter on drought risks for the **2011 UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction**.



# Standardized Precipitation and Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI)

- **New variation of the SPI index by Vicente-Serrano et al. (2010) includes a temperature component.**
- **The inputs required are precipitation, mean temperature, and latitude of the site(s) to run the program on.**
- **More information can be explored through obtaining the SPEI at <http://sac.csic.es/spei/index.html>.**
- **Vicente-Serrano, S.M., Beguería, S., and López-Moreno, J.I. (2010). A multi-scalar drought index sensitive to global warming: The Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index – SPEI. *Journal of Climate* 23(7), 1696-1718, DOI: 10.1175/2009JCLI2909.1**



# Recommendations from Murcia

- **Use more than rainfall data in computation of indices for description of agricultural droughts and their impacts.**
- **Important to use more comprehensive data on rainfall, temperature, and soils in computing drought indices.**
- **Greater cooperation is required between different ministries/ agencies responsible for addressing drought issues at the sub-national, national, and regional levels.**
- **Recommends that all countries examine the use of a composite approach (such as the U.S. Drought Monitor).**



# Data Issues I

- **Accurate and long-term weather data is needed**
- **Need at least years 30 years of rainfall data for SPI**
- **Can use fewer years but SPI will become unreliable**
- **For Agricultural and Hydrological drought need other data**
  - **Potential evapotranspiration (ETP)**
  - **Departure of ETP from normal?**
  - **Affected crops – conditions, growth stages**
  - **Soil moisture (measurement/simulation/departure from normals)**



# Data Issues II

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- **Gridded datasets can be used (i.e. GPCC-Global Precipitation Climatology Centre )**
- **Remotely sensed data**
- **Reanalysis of weather model data**
  
- **Vulnerability and impact data are limited in area and length of record**



# HMNDP Science & Policy Documents

See items 18-26

# Ongoing Initiatives



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# Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP)



# Integrated Drought Management Programme (cont)

- **The expected services to be provided are:**
  - **Regional coordination** of drought monitoring, prediction and early warning activities
  - **Inception of pilot projects** and coordination of regional projects to showcase best practices
  - **Collection and dissemination** of information and knowledge on good practices;
  - **Guidelines, methodologies, tools** and supporting documentation on policy development and management practices and procedures; and
  - **Capacity building** and advice on Integrated Drought Management.



# Current Actions - IDMP

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- **Established at HMNDP – March 2013**
- **Donor funding to IDMP**
- **Technical Support Unit created Jul-Aug 2013**
- **IDMP webpage: [droughtmanagement.info](http://droughtmanagement.info)**
- **1st IDMP regional project - Central and Eastern Europe**



**WMO OMM**

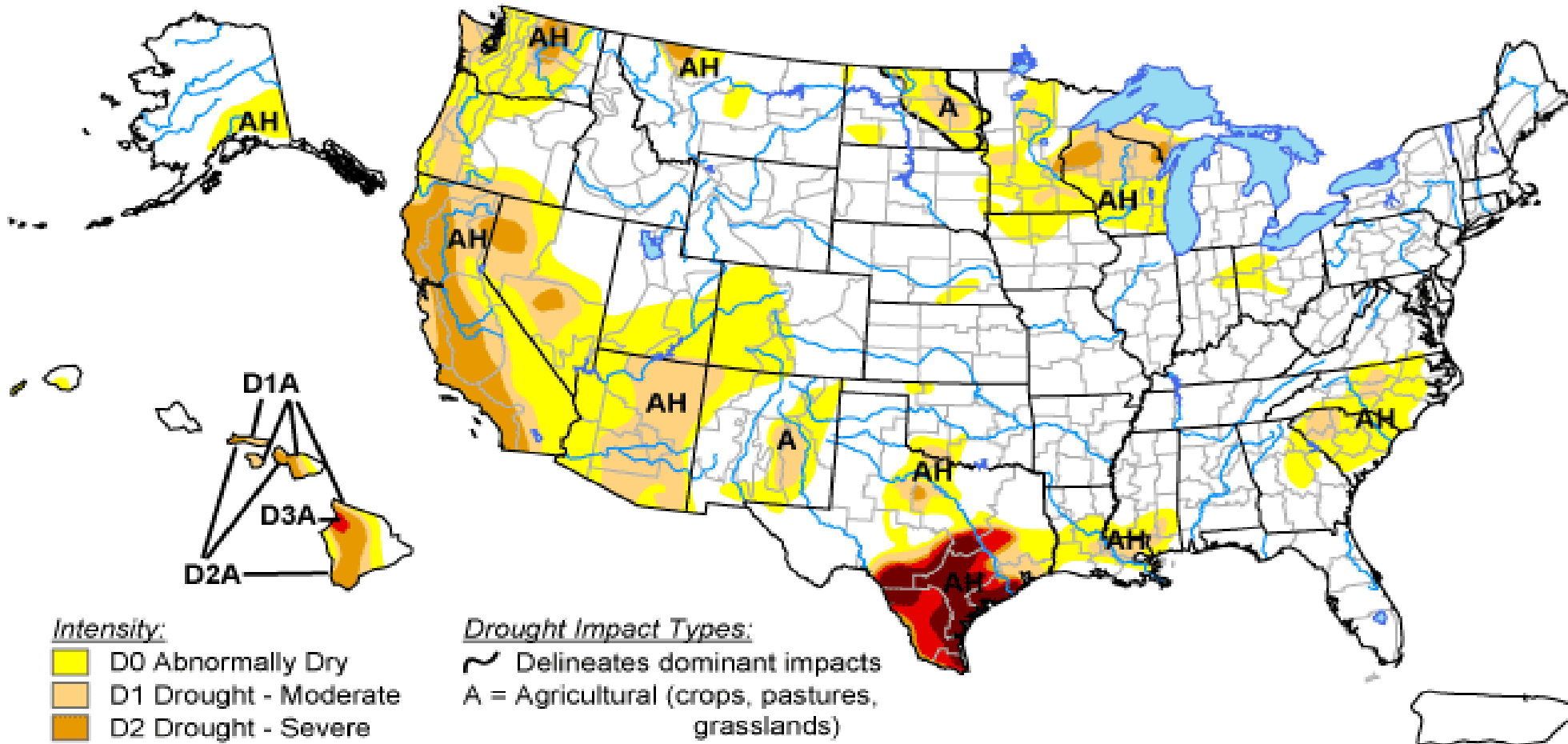
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# Examples

# U.S. Drought Monitor

September 8, 2009

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



## 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, September 10, 2009

Author: Rich Tinker, CPC/NCEP/NWS/NOAA



# The Drought Monitor is widely used:

- ***Policy: Farm Bill/IRS/USDA/NOAA DGT/State drought plan triggers***
- ***~3.75M page views and ~2M visitors/year***
- ***Media: The Weather Channel and all major newspapers/Internet Media/ Network News/ CNN/NPR/etc.***
- ***Presidential/Congressional briefings***
- ***A model of interagency/level collaboration***

Source: Svoboda, 2009





# Some Examples of Decision Making Using the Drought Monitor

- USDA Dried Milk Program 2002-03
- USDA CRP Release hot spot trigger
- Numerous states use as a drought trigger (Governor's declarations)
- 2006-07 USDA Livestock Assistance
- 2006-07 IRS (tax deferral on livestock losses)
- 2008 Farm Bill
- NWS Drought Information Statements

Source: Svoboda, 2009

# Breakout Sessions

# Agricultural Stress Index

## FAO



# Group Questions

- **Group A:** What are the current procedures/challenges on early warning systems?
- **Group B:** What are the meteorological and hydrological networks, data quality, sustainability needed?
- **Group C:** What mechanisms are in place for communicating and liaising drought monitoring and early warning information between national institutions?



# Breakout Group Guidelines

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- **Each Group will have a facilitator.**
- **Group identifies leader and rapporteur.**
- **Either group leader or rapporteur makes presentation in Session 3c.**
- **Each group will spend 45 minutes on main group question and 15 minutes each on other questions**