

Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR)

help us “see more” drought

go.unl.edu/cmor_drought



NATIONAL DROUGHT
MITIGATION CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

By Kelly Helm Smith

WERA 1012, Estes Park, Colorado, May 16, 2023



Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR)

National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska

Smith, K. H., Burbach, M. E., Hayes, M. J., Guinan, P. E., Tyre, A. J., Fuchs, B., Haigh, T., & Svoboda, M. D. (2021). Whose Ground Truth Is It? Harvesting Lessons from Missouri's 2018 Bumper Crop of Drought Observations. *Weather, Climate, and Society*, 13(2), 227-244. Retrieved May 20, 2022, from <https://journals.ametsoc.org/view/journals/wcas/13/2/WCAS-D-19-0140.1.xml>

- Dashboard Year to Date
- CMOR Madness
- Dashboard 2018 - Yesterday
- Detail Year to Date
- Detail 2022
- Detail 2021
- Detail 2020
- Detail 2019
- Detail 2018
- About/How To Use

Filter Options

Select Date Range

Predefined Calendar

☒ Year to Date

Past 30 Days

Past 7 Days

Reset

Select State

Select one or more

Select County

Select State First

Select How Dry or Wet

Select one or more

Reports with Photos

Show All Reports

Crop Conditions

Excellent - Yield prospects are...

5

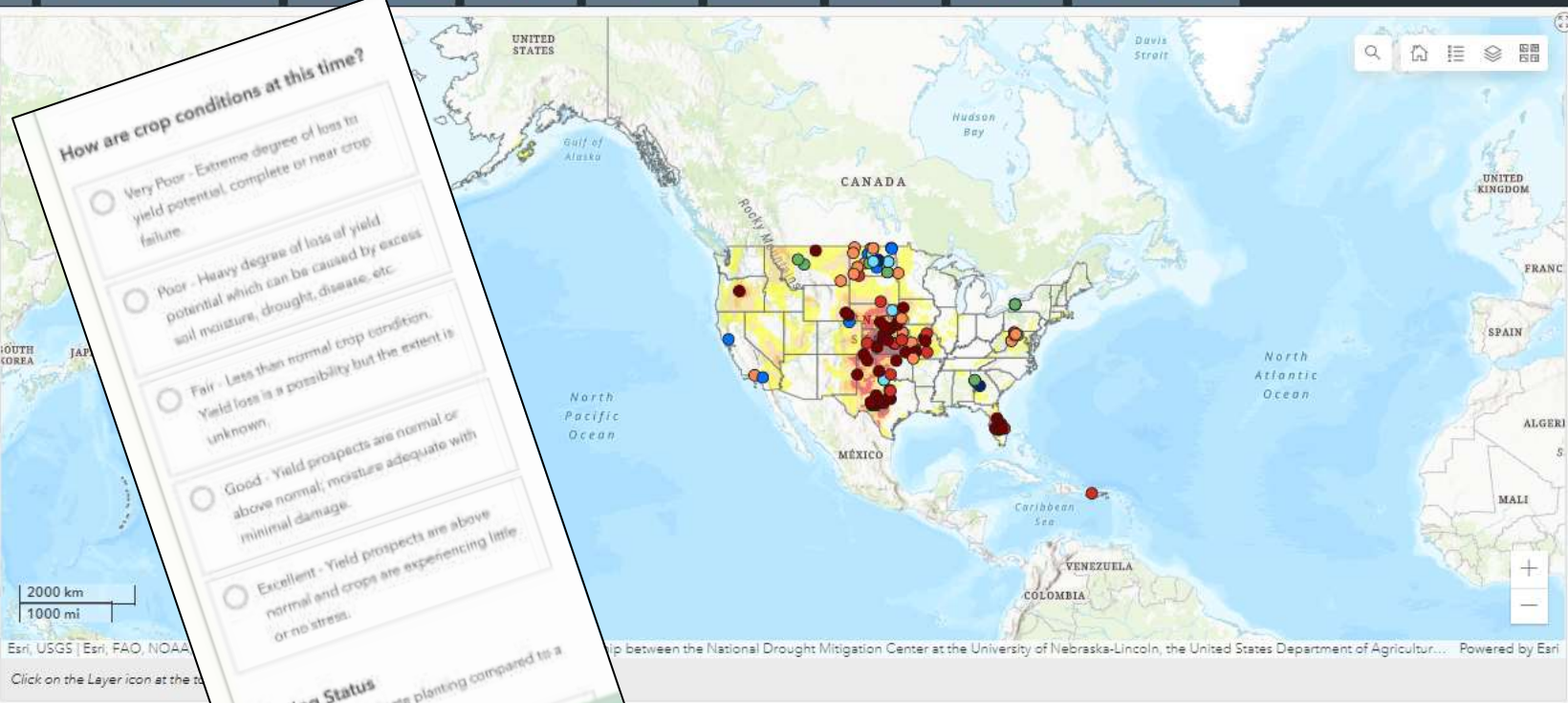
Range Conditions

No condition selected

Display Name

Select one or more

NDMC NATIONAL DROUGHT MITIGATION CENTER UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA



Total CMOR Reports

121

1 of 121

State/Territory: Nebraska

County: Webster

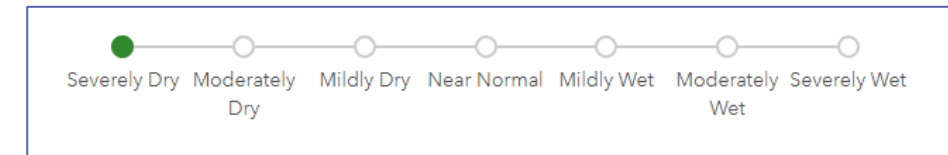
Date: 5/13/2023

How dry or wet is it? Severely Dry

cent. Displayed

2005
Drought Impact Reporter
included “user reports”
via “Submit A Report” tab

Evolution of Condition Monitoring Reporting



2018
CMOR reports replaced DIR user
reports, including 7-point scale

2010
CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring reports
added to Drought Impact Reporter
database

2016
7-point dry-to-wet scale added to
CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring system

Old DIR “Submit A Report” + “Condition Monitoring” pioneered by CoCoRaHS = CMOR

Feature	CoCoRaHS	CMOR
Report frequency	Daily	Weekly
Type of information reported	Measurement from a special rain gauge + see below	What you’re seeing or experiencing
Collect sector observations	Can check off sector and add text with Condition Monitoring report	Can choose from list of impacts within sectors or use free text
Photos	No	Yes (optional)
Formal signup and structure	Yes, with excellent education and community-building follow-up	No, anyone can report
7-point dry to wet scale	Yes	Yes
Can report from mobile	Yes	Yes

Landing Page:
Go.unl.edu/CMOR_drought

Drought Impacts Toolkit

[Home](#)[Tools](#)[Emerging Impacts](#)[Impact Assessments](#)[Home](#) > [Tools](#) > CMOR

Submit and view Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR)

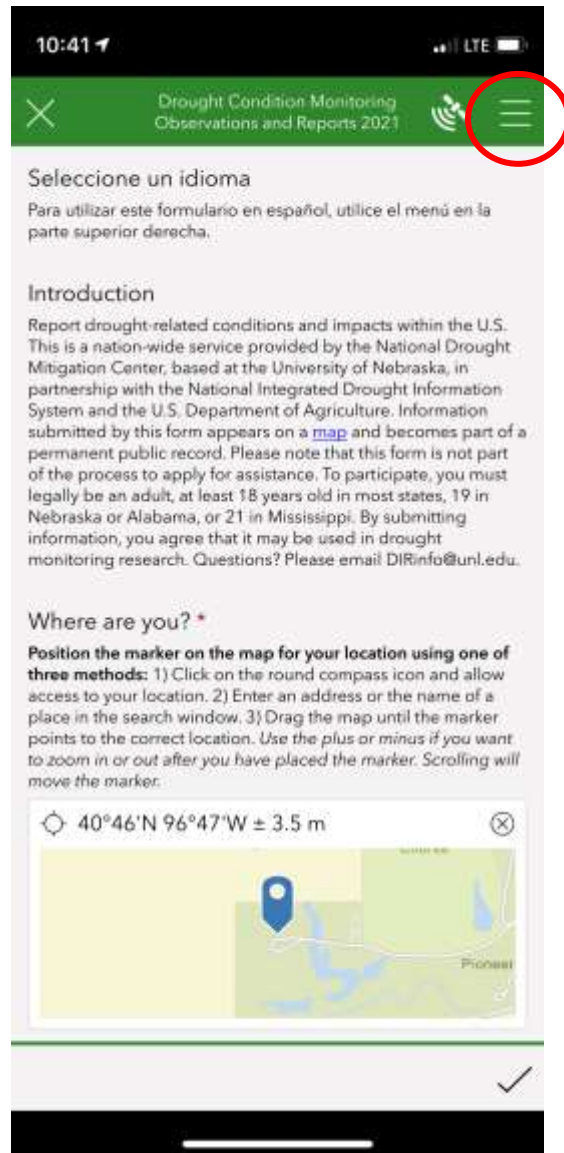
[2022 Map](#)[Archive](#)[Download Factsheet](#)[Watch Video](#)[Social Media Resources](#)

Report drought-related conditions and impacts within the U.S. This is a nation-wide service provided by the National Drought Mitigation Center, based at the University of Nebraska, in partnership with the National Integrated Drought Information System. Information submitted by this form appears on a map and becomes part of a permanent public record. Please note that this form is not part of the process to apply for assistance. To participate, you must legally be an adult, at least 18 years old in most states, 19 in Nebraska or Alabama, or 21 in Mississippi. By submitting information, you agree that it may be used in drought monitoring research. Questions? Please email DIRinfo@unl.edu.

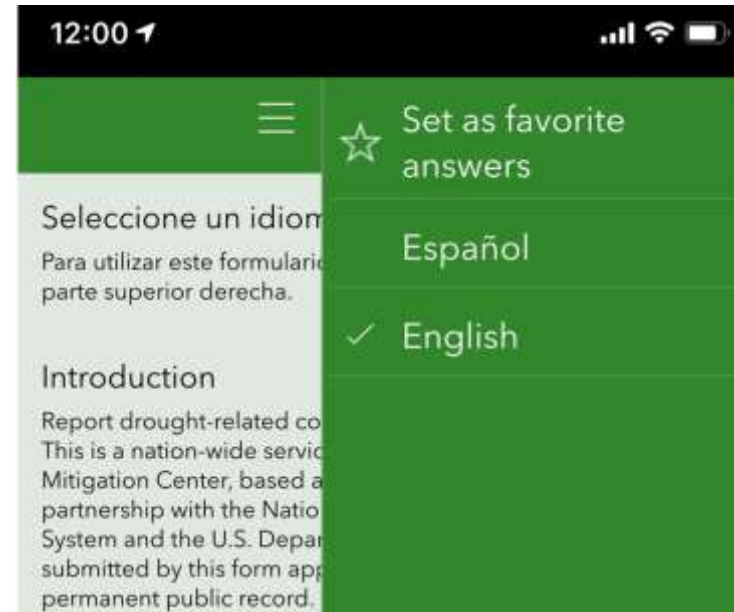
[Submit a Report](#)[Submit Report by App](#)

For further assistance in using the app, see [the factsheet](#).

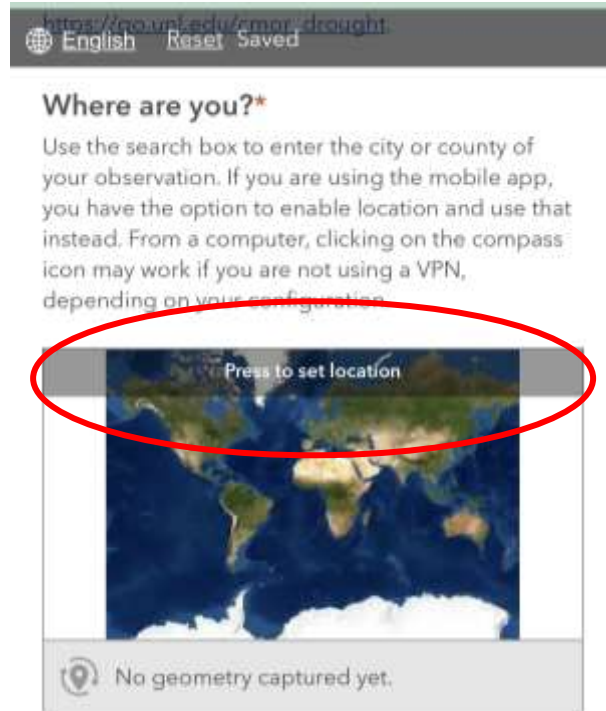




Pick a language
(current choices are English or Spanish)



Location widget



← Type it in. City or county is close enough.

← Touch the compass to let it find you. Can be extremely precise, especially from the app. But not from a computer with VPN.

← Position the marker on the map.



7-point dry to wet scale

How dry or wet is it?*

Please use what you know about your part of the country and base your observation on what is normal for this time of year. A normal dry season is not the same as drought.

Severely Dry: There is no soil moisture. Ponds, lakes, streams and wells may be nearly empty or dry. Producers may have crop or pasture losses. Mandatory water restrictions may be in place.

Moderately Dry: Plants may be brown due to dry conditions. Streams, reservoirs or well water levels may be low. Voluntary water use restrictions may be in place. There may be water shortages. Plants, crops or pastures may be stressed. Soil is dry.

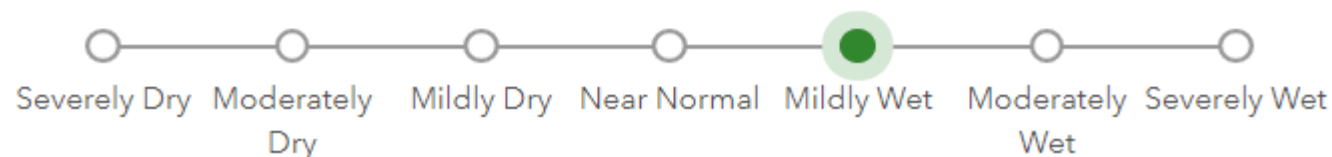
Mildly Dry: Growth may have slowed for plants, crops or pastures. Soil is somewhat dry. Local plants, pastures or crops may not have fully recovered if conditions are changing from drier to wetter.

Near Normal: What you're seeing is what you expect for this time of year.

Mildly Wet: Local plants, crops or pastures are healthy, recovering from dry conditions or draining from wet conditions. Soil moisture is above normal.

Moderately Wet: Local plants, crops or pastures are healthy and lush. Soil is very damp and the ground may be saturated with water. There may be standing water in low areas and ditches. Water bodies may be fuller than normal.

Severely Wet: Water levels in lakes, streams and ponds are well above normal. Standing water covers some areas that are normally dry. Soil is wet and ground is completely saturated. There may be flooding.



New in 2022:

Report normal or wet conditions

Conditions are normal or wet

Please use the checkboxes to tell us which of these conditions you are seeing.

☐ Normal conditions for this time of year

☐ More green than usual for this time of year

☐ More standing or flowing water than usual for this time of year

☐ Increased moisture or humidity

☐ Groundwater wells above normal static level

☐ Soil moisture is adequate to good

☐ Non-irrigated crops or pastures are doing well

☐ Lawn and garden watering is not necessary

☐ Low fire danger

☐ Abundant insects or water-loving wildlife

☐ Fisheries in good condition

N

- Report crop production impact ▶
- Report livestock production impact ▶
- Report municipal water supply impact ▶
- Report community hydropower impact ▶
- Report health impact ▶
- Report household impact ▶
- Report recreation or tourism impact ▶
- Report other business or industry impact ▶
- Report fire impact ▶
- Report forest impact ▶
- Report wildlife impact ▶
- Report freshwater fish impact ▶
- Report spawning fish impact ▶

Impact checklists

Report crop production impact ▼

Crop production

Please use the check boxes to tell us what effects of drought you have experienced and actions you have taken.

☐ Less water for irrigation

☐ Reduced yield

☐ Insect infestation

☐ Crop disease

☒ Other

|

Crop condition scale, planting and harvest status

Report crop production impact

How are crop conditions at this time?

- ☐ Very Poor - Extreme degree of loss to yield potential, complete or near crop failure.
- ☐ Poor - Heavy degree of loss of yield potential which can be caused by excess soil moisture, drought, disease, etc.
- ☐ Fair - Less than normal crop condition. Yield loss is a possibility but the extent is unknown.
- ☐ Good - Yield prospects are normal or above normal; moisture adequate with minimal damage.
- ☐ Excellent - Yield prospects are above normal and crops are experiencing little or no stress.

Planting Status

When do you anticipate planting compared to a typical year?

- ☐ Normal
- ☐ Earlier than normal
- ☐ Later than normal

Harvest Status

When do you anticipate harvesting compared to a typical year?

- ☐ Normal
- ☐ Earlier than normal
- ☐ Later than normal



Report livestock production impact

Livestock production

Please use the check boxes to tell us what effects of drought you have experienced and what actions you have taken.

☐ Reduced pasture, forage

☐ Feeding hay early

☐ Supplemental feed

☐ Purchased hay

☐ More invasive species (plants)

☐ Decreased stock weights

☐ Animal stress

☐ Mortality

☐ Reduced grazing on public lands

Range conditions

How are range conditions at this time?

☐ Very Poor - Pastures provide very little or no feed. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.

☐ Poor - Pastures are providing marginal feed; supplemental feeding required.

☐ Fair - Pastures are providing generally adequate feed but still less than normal for the time of year.

☐ Good - Pastures are providing adequate feed supplies for the current time of year.

☐ Excellent - Pastures are supplying feed in excess of what is normally expected at the current time of year.

Upload photo(s)

You can upload a photo of up to 10 MB, if you are the photographer or have permission to share the photo. It will be visible on the web. Please be sure to use the description field below for credit and caption information: Who took the photo, what is the location, what is the date, and what is it showing us?

You as the copyright holder agree that by uploading a photo, it may be used by UNL, and shared with and by government and academic partners, for drought monitoring, management, and education. Your photo will become part of a permanent public archive. UNL reserves the right to remove objectionable content.

Select image file



Description

Please enter a description to help us understand the drought impact or conditions that you checked, or what to look for in the photo(s). Try to provide context, even a photo from a different year, to help show the difference between dry and normal conditions.

1000

Photos

- Take a photo, or upload one that's already taken
- Up to 5 photos
- Provide caption information. If the photo shows drought, please tell us what normal would look like, or upload a photo contrasting drought conditions with normal conditions.
- By uploading a photo, you agree that it may be used and shared for educational and management purposes, but you still hold the copyright.

Identity

Display name

Your role

Please choose one or more observer types to help us understand your perspective.

☐ Extension or Farm Service Agency (FSA)

☐ Farmer or livestock producer

☐ Water supplier

☐ Homeowner

☐ Natural or water resources professional

☐ Field worker

☐ Climate or weather professional

☐ Outdoor enthusiast

☐ Other

Display Name

A display name will let users of this information see whether multiple reports are from a single individual. Especially if you submit reports consistently over time, this helps you build a credible track record.

You can use your real name, come up with a descriptive username such as "NDRancher07," or use a random string of letters and numbers. If you forget your display name, you can zoom in on the map to find your previous report and see what you used. If the drought center uses one of your photos, we may use your display name as attribution, i.e., "Photo by HappyRancher42 via CMOR."

Name*

We won't use your name on public-facing maps but will share it internally with state and federal officials who are assessing drought conditions.

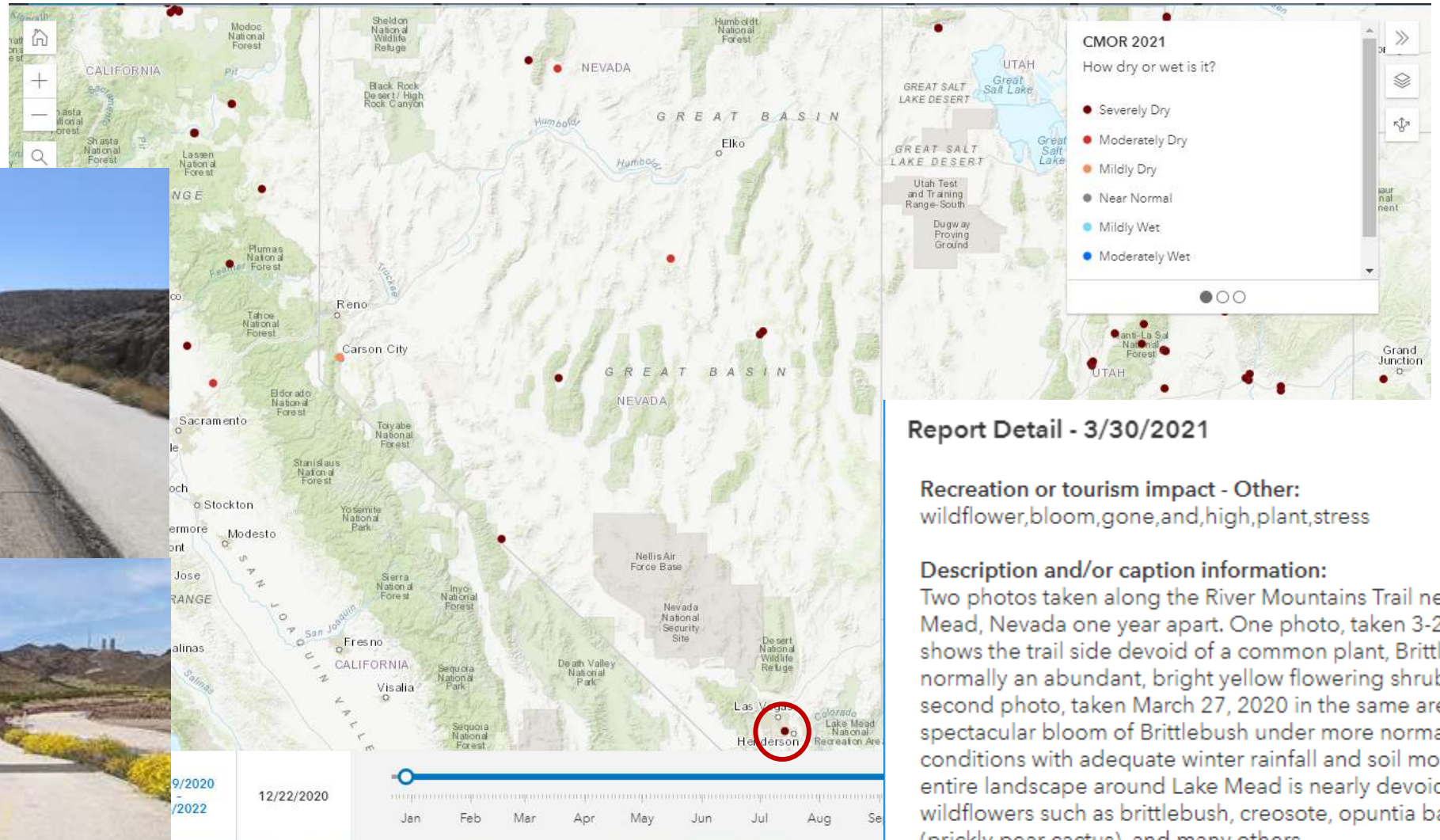
IMPORTANT: Please enter your name the same each time you submit a report if you wish to establish a consistent record.

Your email*

We won't use your email on public-facing maps but will share it internally with state and federal officials who are assessing drought conditions in case they need to follow up with you.

IMPORTANT: Please enter your email the same each time you submit a report if you wish to establish a consistent record.

Find your dot on the map



Zoom to

Default view of year-to-date CMOR dashboard

Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR)

National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska

- Dashboard Year to Date
- CMOR Madness
- Dashboard 2018 - Yesterday
- Detail Year to Date
- Detail 2022
- Detail 2021
- Detail 2020
- Detail 2019
- Detail 2018
- About/How To Use

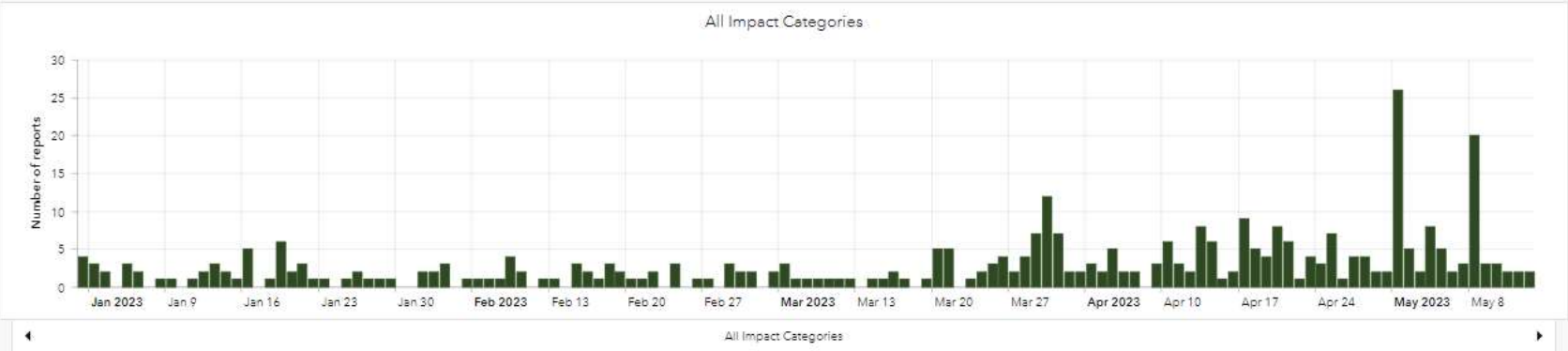
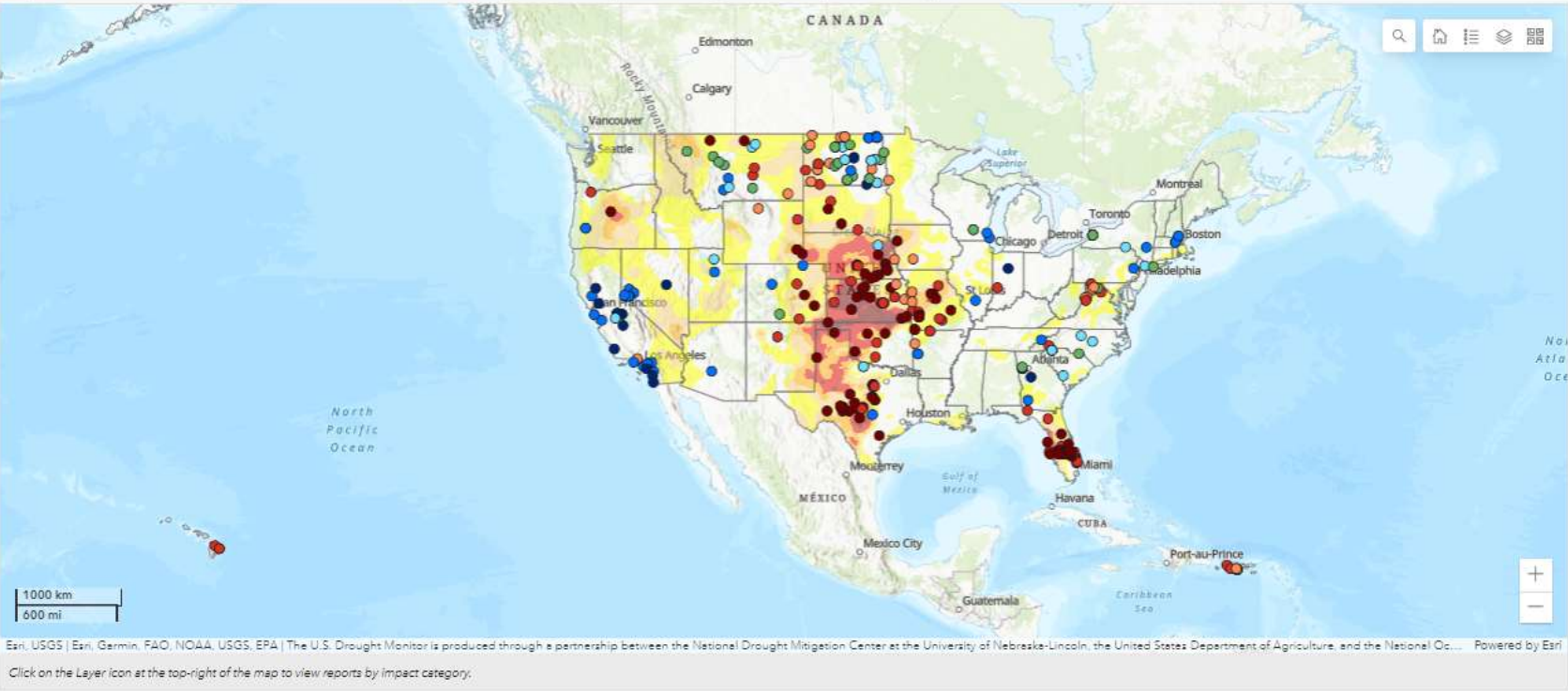
Filter Options

- Select Date Range
- PredefinedCalendar
- Year to Date

Past 30 Days

Past 7 Days

Reset
- Select State
- Select one or more
- Select County
- Select State First
- Select How Dry or Wet
- Select one or more
- Reports with Photos
- Show All Reports
- Crop Conditions
- No condition selected
- Range Conditions
- No condition selected
- Display Name
- Select one or more



Total CMOR Reports

357

4 of 357

Report Details

Display limited to 2,000 reports in order of most recent. Displayed reports correspond to filter selections.

Condiciones que estuvieron ocurriendo el pasado martes 9 de abril en área cercano al Campamento Santiago y como se nota el cambio en la vegetación, foto suministrada por un familiar.

Submitted by: Hector Martinez observador CoCoRaHS, PR-SN-2



Zoomed in to Kansas

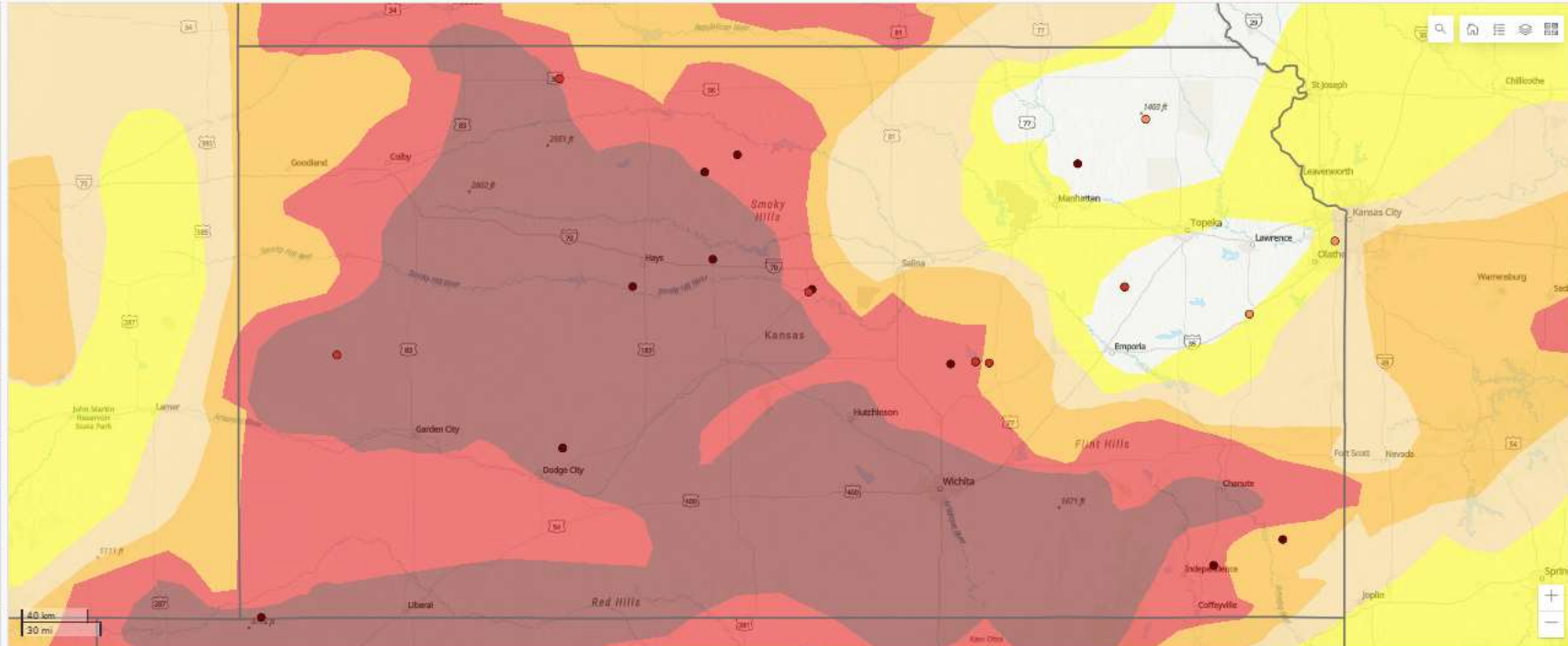
Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR)

National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska

Dashboard Year to Date CMOR Madness Dashboard 2018 - Yesterday Detail Year to Date Detail 2022 Detail 2021 Detail 2020 Detail 2019 Detail 2018 About/How To Use

Filter Options

- Select Date Range
 - Predefined
 - Calendar
- Year to Date
 - Past 30 Days
 - Past 7 Days
- Reset
- Select State
 - Kansas
- Select County
 - Select one or more
- Select How Dry or Wet
 - Select one or more
- Reports with Photos
 - Show All Reports
- Crop Conditions
 - No condition selected
- Range Conditions
 - No condition selected
- Display Name
 - Select one or more



Esri, USGS | Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS | The U.S. Drought Monitor is produced through a partnership between the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. | National Drought Mitigation Center | Powered by Esri | Click on the Layer icon at the top-right of the map to view reports by impact category.

Total CMOR Reports
23

2 of 23

Report Details

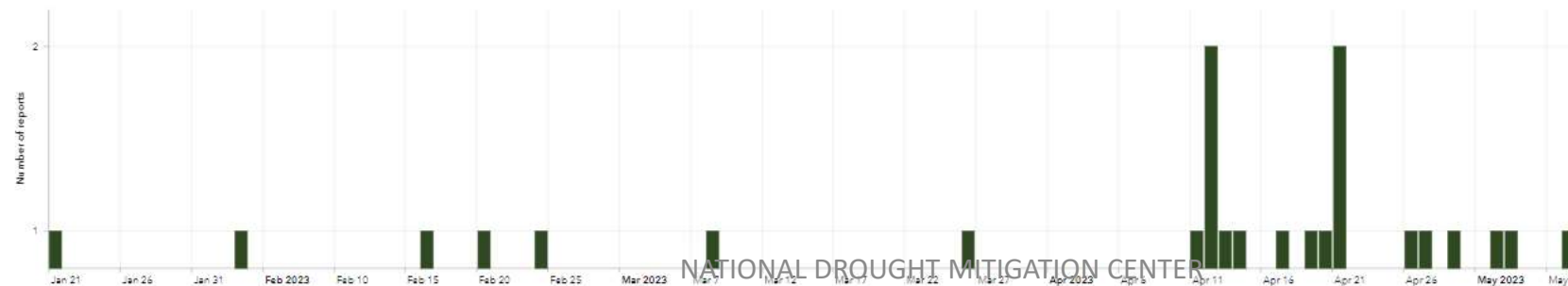
Display limited to 2,000 reports in order of most recent. Displayed reports correspond to filter selections.

This drought is the worst on record in my lifetime. Looking at extreme effects on the wheat crop and a lot of effects on the pasture grass continuing to not green up and grow and farm ponds for livestock.

Submitted by: MidwayExtensionCrops



All Impact Categories



“2018-yesterday” dashboard adds US Drought Monitor intensity

Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR)

National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska

Dashboard Year to Date CMOR Madness **Dashboard 2018 - Yesterday** Detail Year to Date Detail 2022 Detail 2021 Detail 2020 Detail 2019 Detail 2018 About/How To Use

Filter Options

Select Date Range:

Predefined Calendar

Period of Record

2023

2022

2021

2020

2019

Reset

Select State

Select one or more

Select County

Select State First

Select How Dry or Wet

Select one or more

Reports with Photos

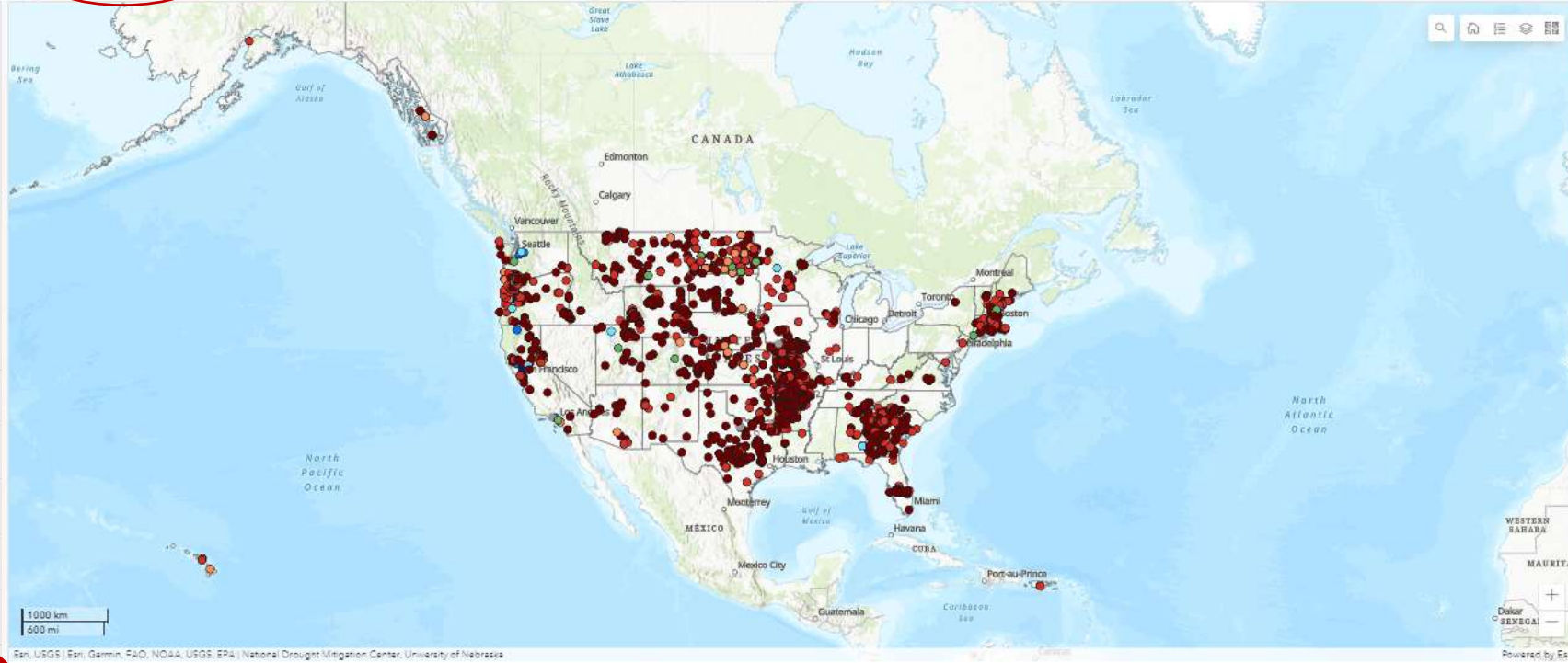
Show All Reports

Display Name

Select one or more

U.S. Drought Monitor Intensity

D2 (Severe Drought)



Esri, USGS | Esri, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA | National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska

* Click on the Layer icon at the top-right of the map to view reports by impact category

Total CMOR Reports

11,048

7 of 2000

Report Details

Display limited to 2,000 reports in order of most recent. Displayed reports correspond to filter selections.

State/Territory: TX
County: Schleicher

Date: 5/7/2023

How dry or wet is it? Severely Dry

U.S. Drought Monitor Intensity:
D2 (Severe Drought)

How much experience do you have with conditions there?
5-10 years

How many times in the past have you seen it like this?
once

When was it like this in the past?
2011

How localized or widespread are the conditions you are reporting?
Widespread

How are crop conditions at this time?
very_poor

Planting Status:
later_than_normal

Harvest Status:
later_than_normal

Crop production:
less_water_for_irrigation,reduced_yield,insect_infestation,crop_disease,plant_stress,increase_d_irrigation,erosion,less_water_in_ponds_creeks_etc

How are range conditions at this time?
very_poor

Livestock production:
reduced_pasture_forage,feeding_hay_early,supplemental_feed,purchased_hay,more_invasive_species_plants,depressed_stock_weights,animal_stress,mortality,less_water_in_ponds_creeks_etc,sold_livestock,erosion

Public health impact:
air_quality_dust,pollen,special_meetings_or_activities_held,garden_needs_more_water_or_yields_less_stress

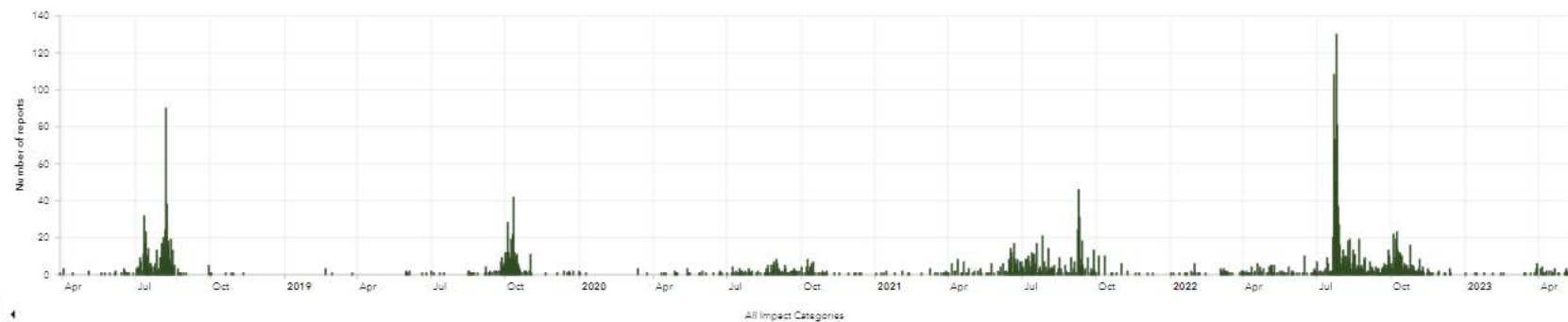
Fire impact:
more_fires_than_usual,more_intense_fires,more_fire_risk,burn_or_fireworks_bans

Wildlife habitat impact:
less_food,less_water,invasive_plant_or_animal,species,wildlife_disease_or_mortality,wildlife_fragging_near_people,water_quality_reduced

Description and/or caption information:

The photos are planted dry land fields in the western side of Schleicher County, Texas.

All Impact Categories



Separate maps for each year show more detail

Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR)
National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska

Dashboard Year to Date

CMOR Madness

Dashboard 2018 - Yesterday

Detail Year to Date

Detail 2022

Detail 2021

Detail 2020

Detail 2019

Detail 2018

About/How To Use

CMOR Year to Date

CMOR Main Page | Submit a Report

+

Home

Map

CMOR Reports year to date

State/Territory Boundary

U.S. Drought Monitor - Current Week

Options

Filter

Map extent

Zoom to

Clear selection

Refresh

Select a state/territory:	Select a county:	How dry or wet is it?	How much experience do you have with conditions there?	How many times in the past have you seen it like this?	Other	When was it like this in the past?	When was it most recently like this?	How localized or widespread are the conditions you are reporting?	How are crop conditions at this time?	Planting Status	Harvest Status	How are range conditions at this time?	Generator issues	Other	Description and/or caption information	photo_exists	Form Version	What is the date?	Crop production	Other crop production impact	Livestock production	Other	Municipal water supply	Other	Community hydropower	Public and community health	Other	How
Nebraska	Buffalo	Moderately Dry	20 or more years	Once		2012		A longways								0	CMOR 2022 NDMC	5/13/2023										
Nebraska	Webster	Severely Dry	20 or more years	Twice or more			2015	widespread throughout the county and neighboring counties.	Poor - Heavy degree of loss of yield potential which can be caused by excess soil moisture, drought, disease, etc.	Normal	Earlier than normal				The grass picture shows how short the grass in the pasture is. Usually it is taller than this. The pond picture shows where the water level used to be and how much it has dropped. The	1	CMOR 2022 NDMC	5/13/2023	reduced_yield.pl									

You can change the calendar to view reports from any year, but the sector icons are specific to each year. The survey has evolved over time.

Date Filter

Calendar year to date

Year to Date

Past 7 Days

Past 30 Days

Select a Date Range

Select a Date

and

Select a Date Range

Select a Date

and

Select a Date Range

Select a Date

and

Select a Date Range

Select a Date

and

The attribute table lets you write custom queries and export to csv

Filter power!

Condition Monitoring Observations

National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska

Dashboard Year to Date

CMOR Madness



CMOR Year to Date

REVISED



State/Territory/County



How Dry or Wet



Photos



Display Name



Normal or Wet Conditions



Crop/Range Conditions



Planting/Harvest Status



Crop Production



Livestock Production



Municipal Water Supply



Comm



Public



House



Recrea



Other



Fire



Forest



Wildlif



Freshw



Spaw



Detail Year to Date

Detail 2022

Detail 2021

Detail 2020

Detail 2019



Custom Filter

Custom filter ☒

Layer: CMOR Reports 2018 - Year to Date

Display features in the layer that match the following expression:

Description and/or caption information (String)

contains

low

☐ Case sensitive

+ Add expression + Add set

Filtered by a checked off impact: 2022 reports of low or dry wells

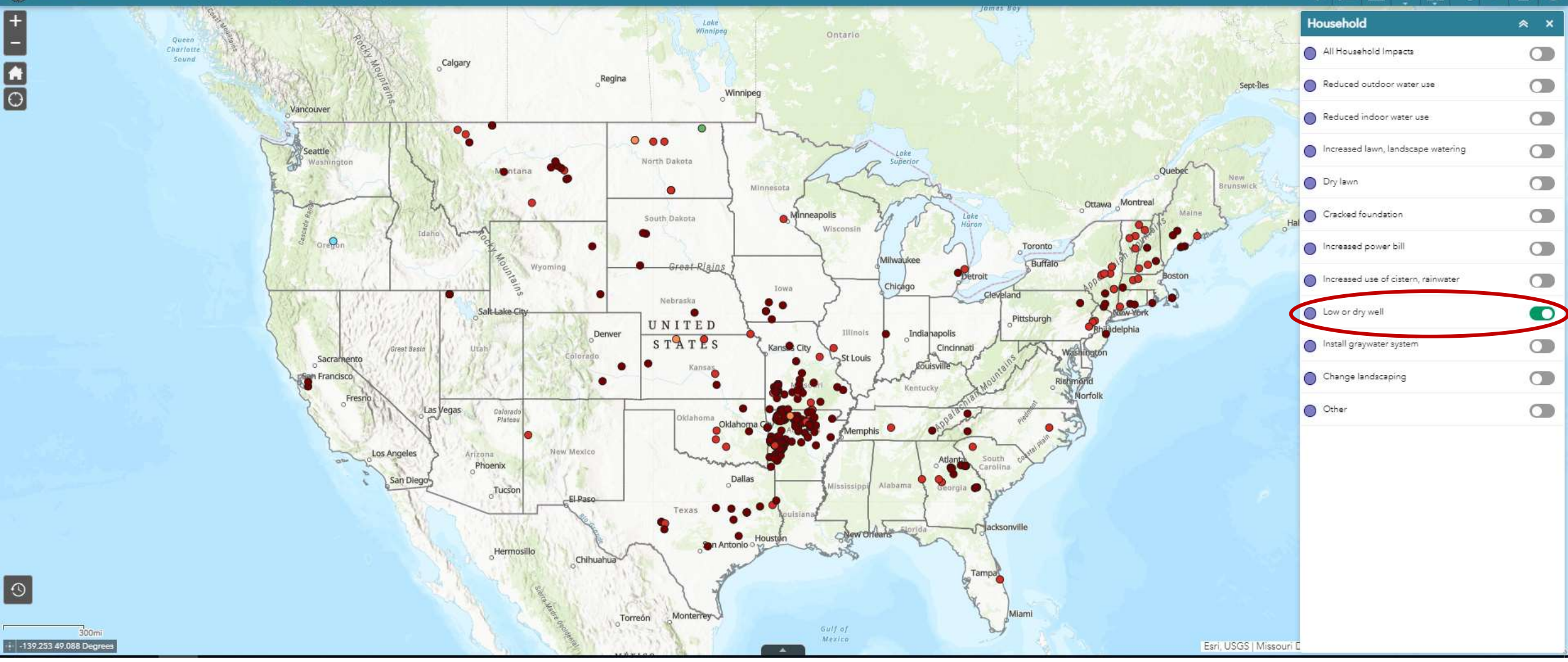
Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR)

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CMOR 2022

[| CMOR Main Page |](#) [| Submit a Report |](#)

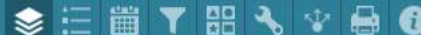


Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR)

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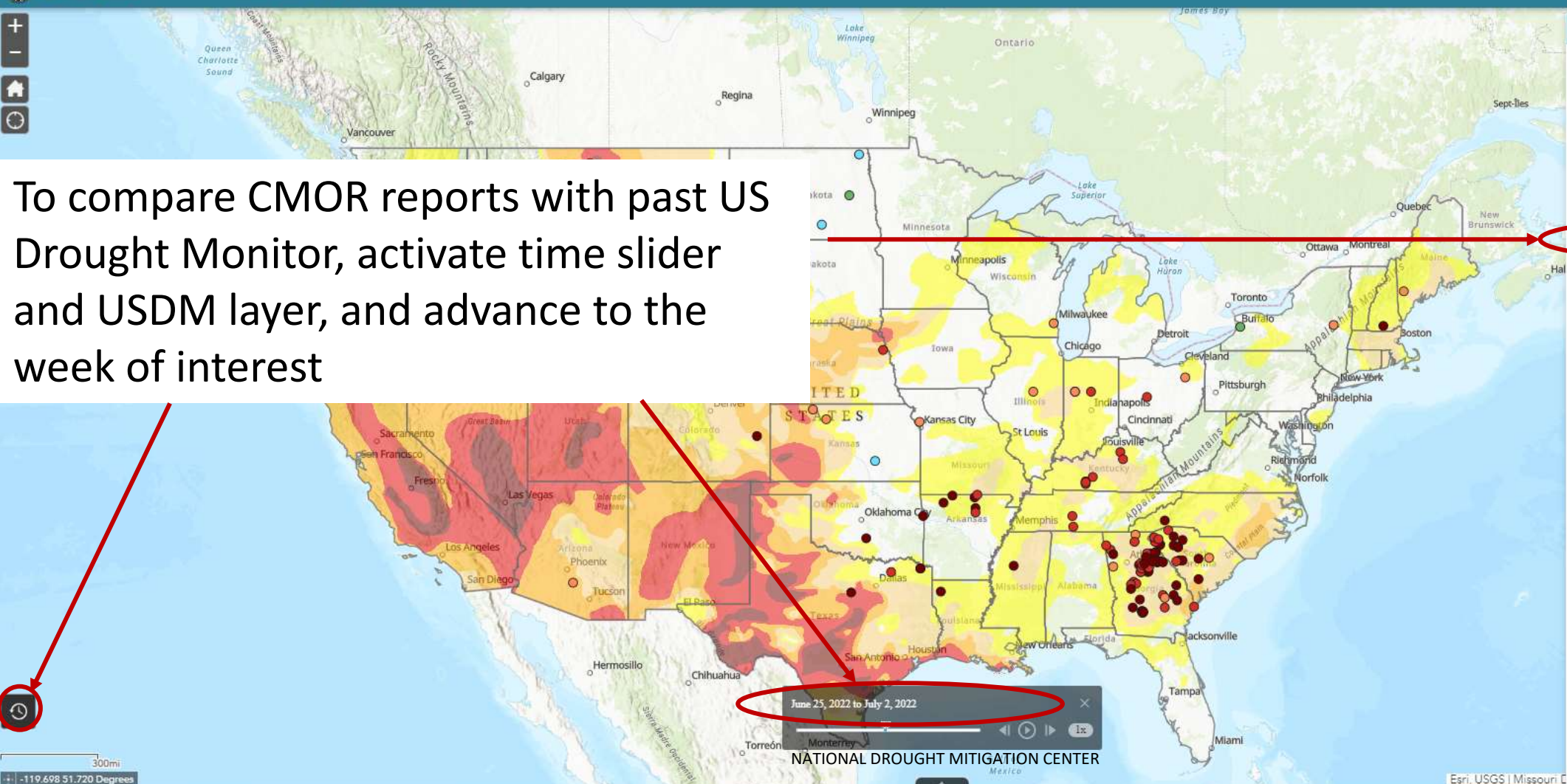
CMOR 2022 | CMOR Main Page | Submit a Report |

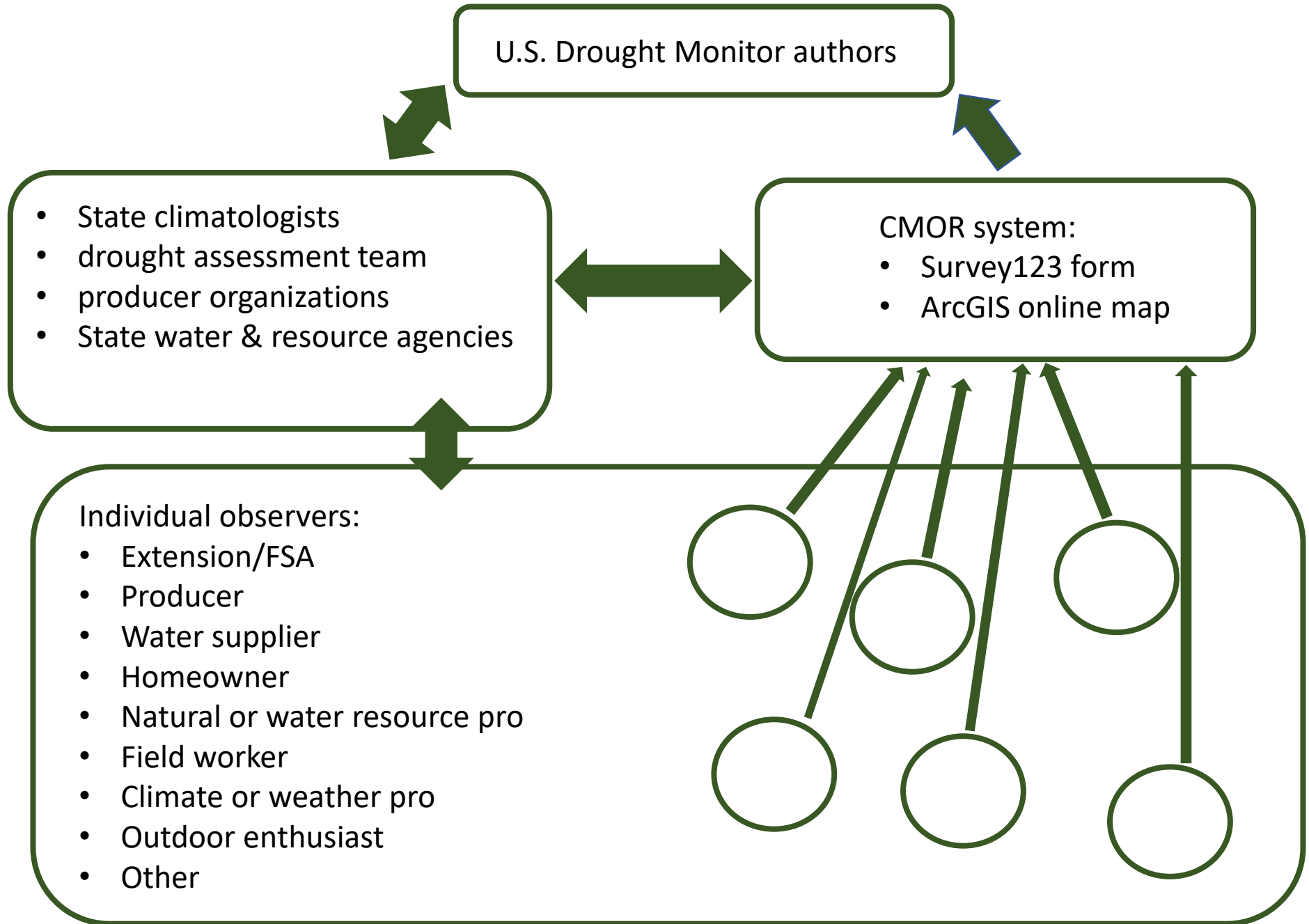


Map Layers

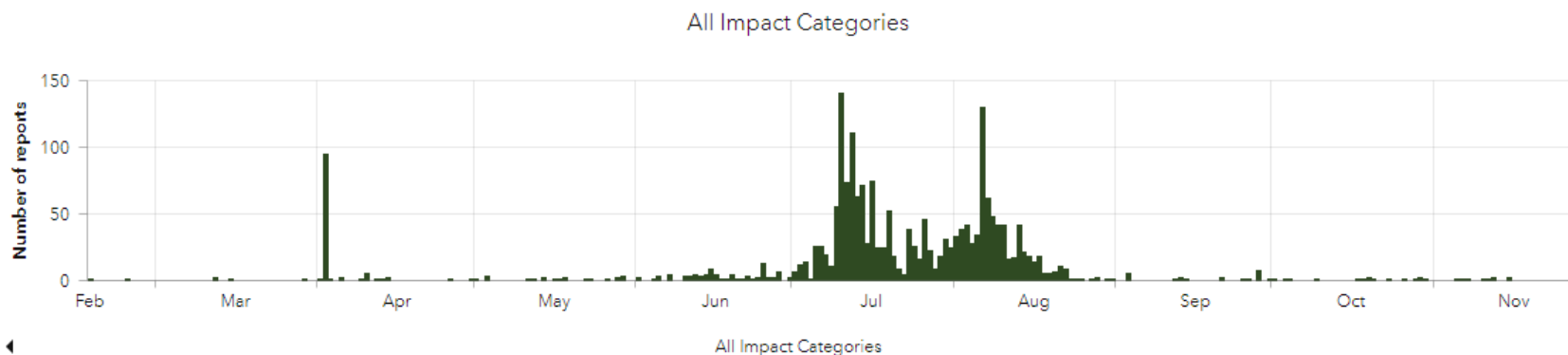
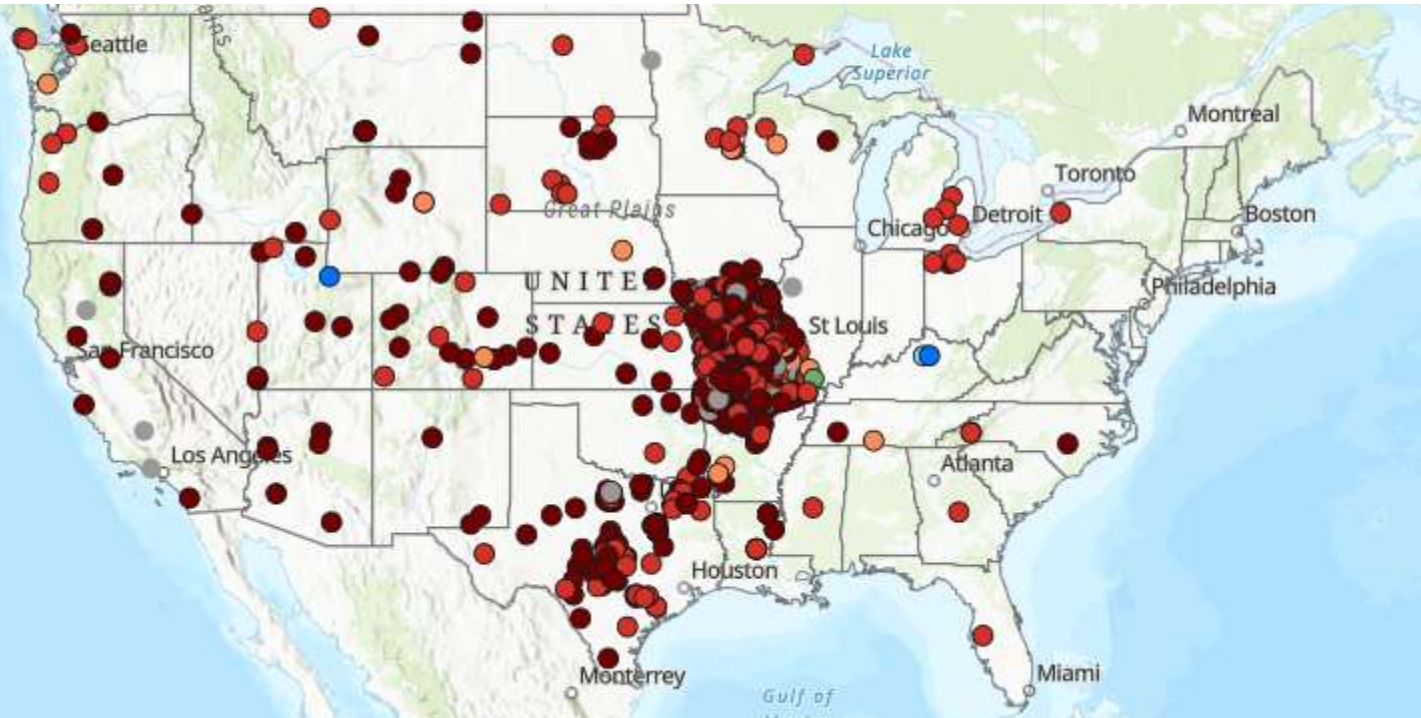
- ☒ CMOR Reports 2018 - Yesterday
- ☒ US State/Territory Boundary
- ☐ US County/Territory Boundary
- ☐ U.S. Drought Monitor - Current Week
- ☒ U.S. Drought Monitor - Archive

To compare CMOR reports with past US Drought Monitor, activate time slider and USDM layer, and advance to the week of interest





2018: Missouri's "media blitz," building on years of effort by state climatologist to cultivate impact reporting. State officials: "Trust but verify."



◀ 3 of 1521 ▶

Report Details

Display limited to 2,000 reports in order of most recent. Displayed reports correspond to filter selections.

State/Territory: MO

County: Boone

Date: 10/18/2018

How dry or wet is it? Mildly Dry

U.S. Drought Monitor Intensity:

D0 (Abnormally Dry)

How localized or widespread are the conditions you are reporting?

Description and/or caption information:

The attachment shows two pictures of a Missouri Dept. of Conservation lake, just southeast of Columbia, Missouri. The first pic was taken on Aug 2, 2018 and the second was taken on Oct 18, 2018. Nearly 6-inches of rain fell during the first half of October and some recovery is noted. Initially, there was not much runoff due to a very dry soil profile, but additional rainfall events contributed to some recharge, though the lake is still not at capacity.

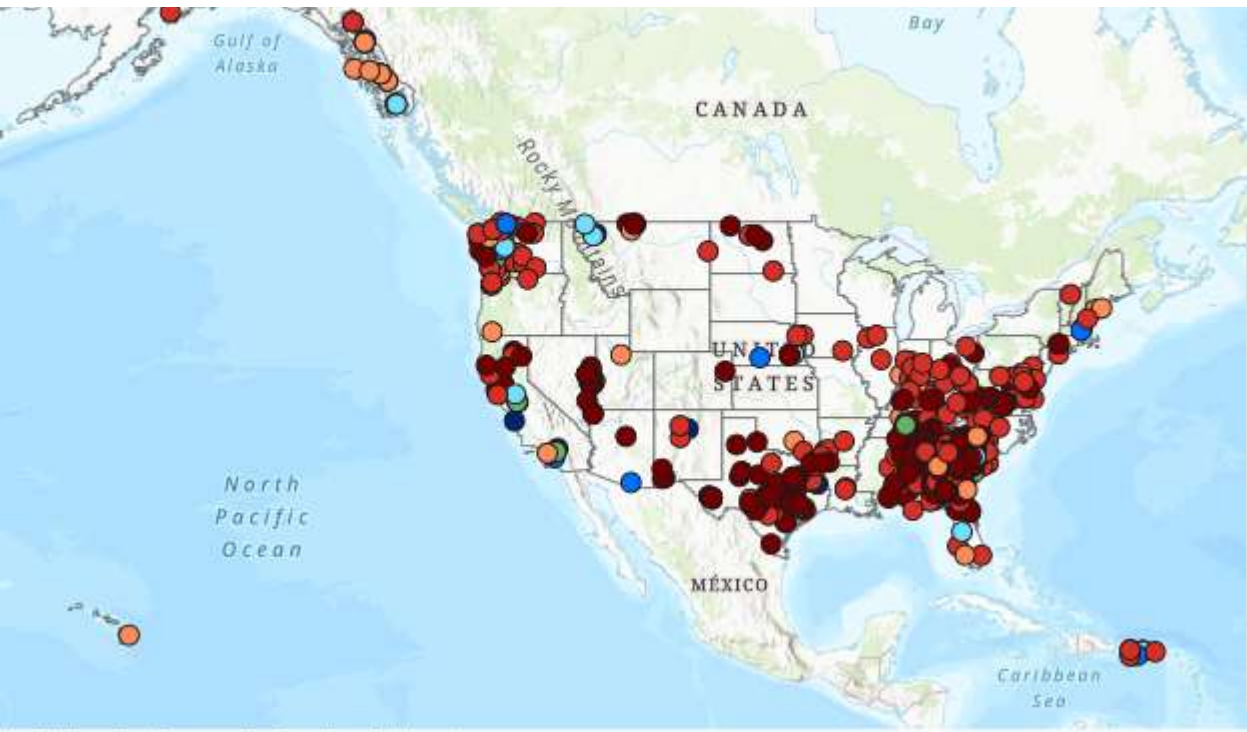
South Farm R-1 Lake, southeastern city limits of Columbia, Missouri, Boone County, August 2, 2018



South Farm R-1 Lake, southeastern city limits of Columbia, Missouri, Boone County, October 18, 2018



2019: Late-season, fast-emerging drought in Georgia. State officials said they tuned in to any and all impact information and appreciated the convenience of CMOR.



Description and/or caption information:
There are two photos. One is us feeding and the other is a cow and calf on brown and so.e green grass. We are still selling livestock because we just don't have the grass to keep them. The grass is growing but not very fast. We keep getting missed by the big rains and only receive small showers here and there. The ponds the cows drink out of is once again getting a green tinted. So I know the water quality is down again.

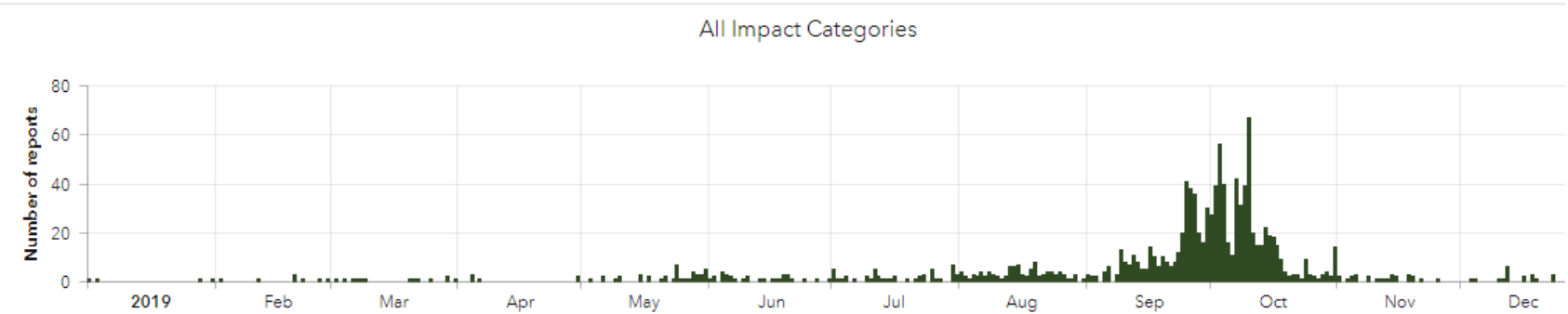
Report Details
Display limited to 2,000 reports in reports correspond to filter selecti

State/Territory: GA
County: Lamar

Date: 12/10/2019

How dry or wet is it? Mildly Dry

U.S. Drought Monitor Intensity: None



2021: North Dakota SC persuades Extension to report weekly during growing season.

Process includes verification, calibration, weekly calls with state officials.

2021: Oregon Forestry makes a broad appeal for forestry-related reports

Out of 2,078 reports in 2021:

- 864 were from North Dakota
- 362 were from Oregon

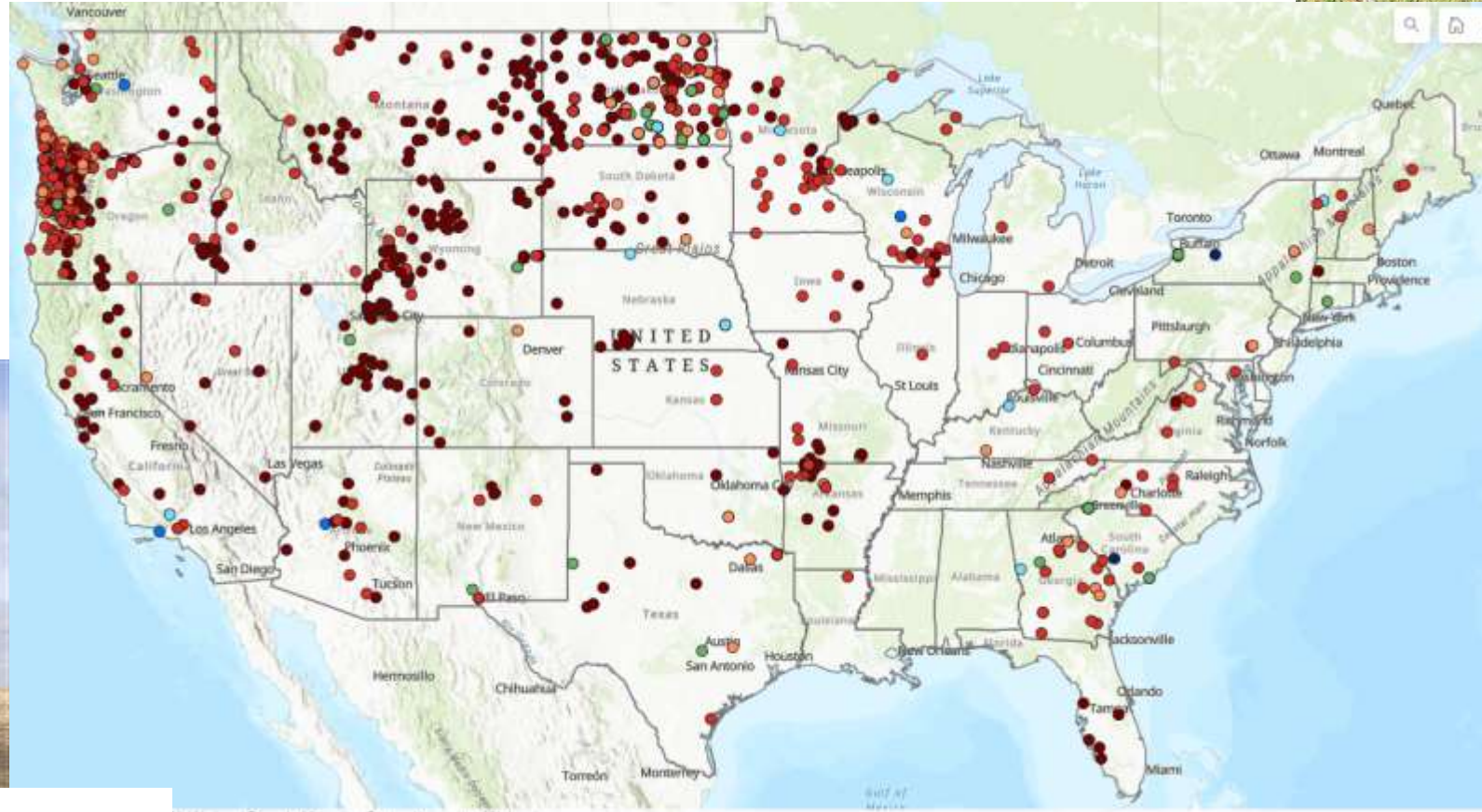


State/Territory: OR
County: Lane

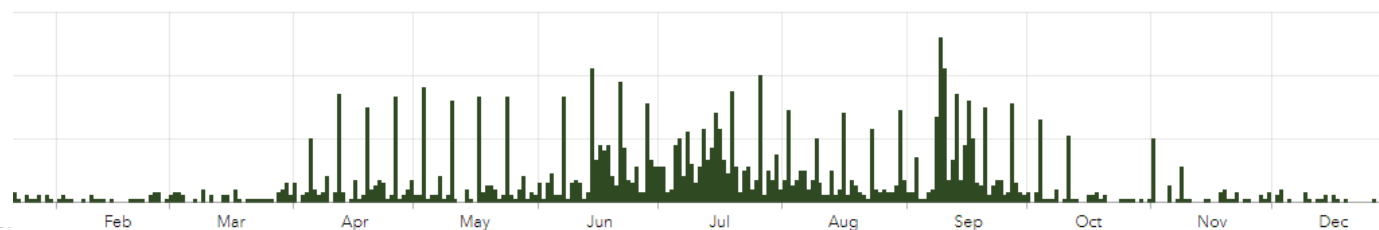
Date: 7/8/2021

How dry or wet is it? Severely Dry

U.S. Drought Monitor Intensity:
D2 (Severe Drought)



All Impact Categories



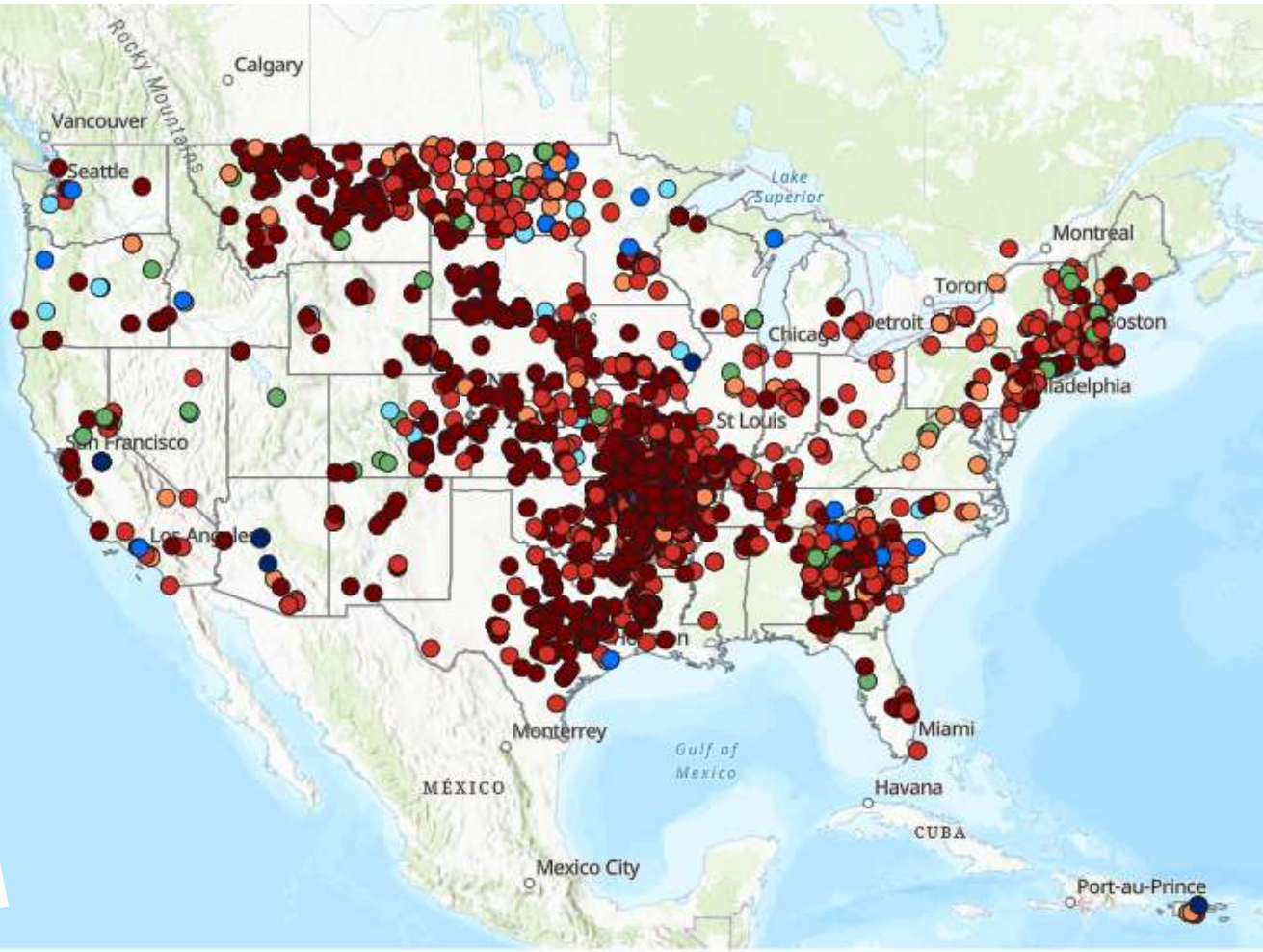
State/Territory: ND
County: Slope

Date: 4/30/2021


How dry or wet is it? Severely Dry

U.S. Drought Monitor Intensity:
D3 (Extreme Drought)

2022: A few states (Montana, Kentucky) begin tailoring forms within the overarching data flow.



Default “multi-tool” view compares CMOR and CoCoRaHS reports



Drought Impacts Multi-Tool

Multi-Tool Dashboard

The Drought Impacts Multi-Tool allows you to display layers from the Drought Impact Reporter, Condition Monitoring Observer Reports, CoCoRaHS, Drought News, and Drought Tweets, as well as the U.S. Drought Monitor and state and county boundaries. CMOR and CoCoRaHS, the default view, is a particularly relevant comparison.

> Drought Impact Reporter

> CMOR

> Visual Drought Atlas

> Media Drought Index & News

> Drought Tweets

> CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring Map

Filter Options

Select a Date Range

Predefined

Calendar

☒ Past 7 Days

☐ Past 30 Days

☐ Year to Date

☐ Period of Record

Reset

Select State

No State Selected

Select State for DSCI Chart

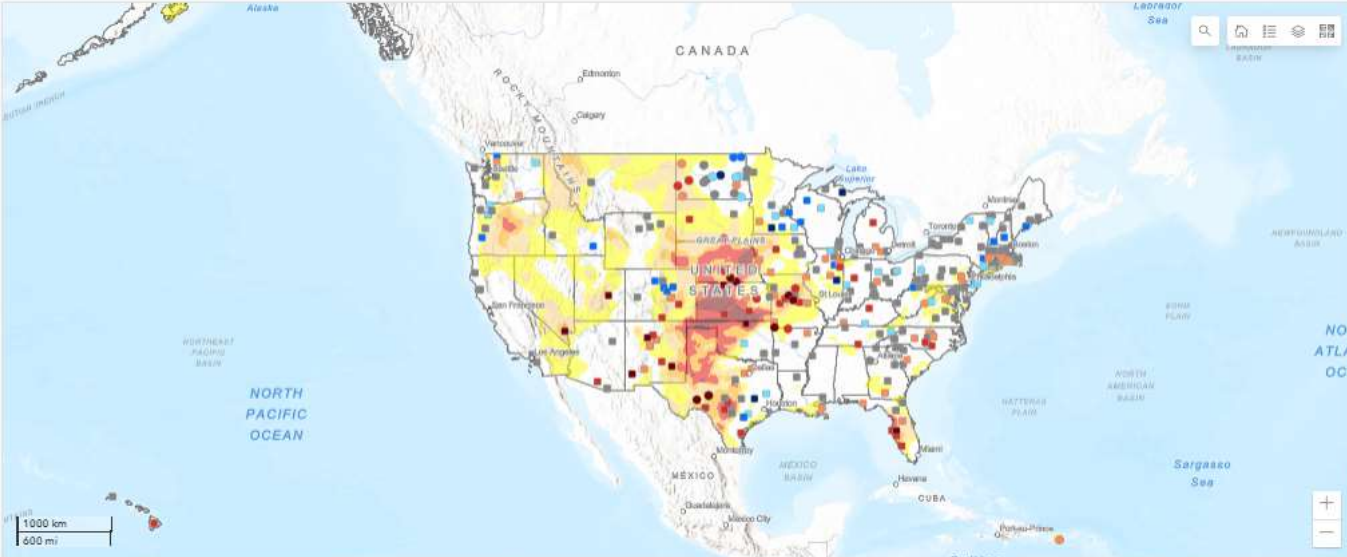
50 US States and D.C.

Select County

Select a State First

CMOR Reports with Photos

Show All



Map Legend

CMOR Reports 2018 - Yesterday

How Dry or Wet is it?

● Severely Dry

● Moderately Dry

● Mildly Dry

● Near Normal

● Mildly Wet

● Moderately Wet

● Severely Wet

● No Data

CoCoRaHS

■ Severely Dry

■ Moderately Dry

■ Mildly Dry

■ Near Normal

■ Mildly Wet

■ Moderately Wet

■ Severely Wet

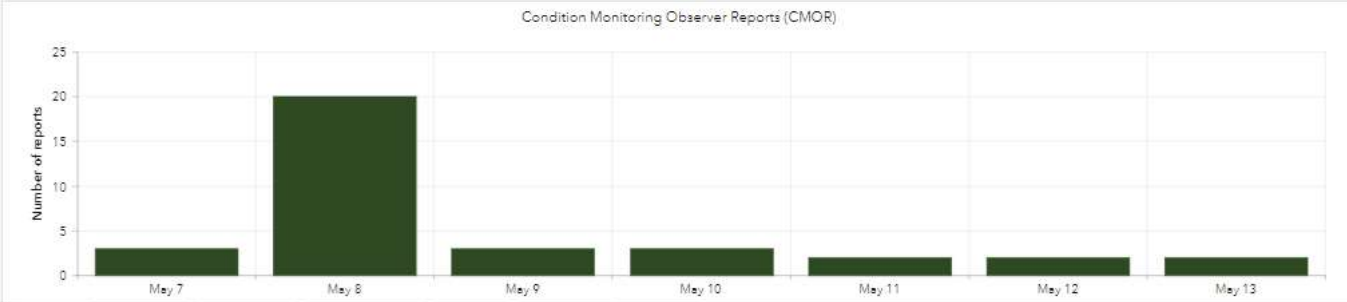
■ No Data

U.S. Drought Monitor - Current Week

Map Legend


About


Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR)



CMOR CoCoRaHS News Stories Drought Tweets DIR City DIR County DIR State

Drought Severity and Coverage Index (DSCI)





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1 of 35

Display limited to 2,000 impacts in order of most recent. Displayed impacts correspond to filter selections.

CMOR Reports

State/Territory: NE

County: Webster

Date: 5/13/2023

How dry or wet is it? Severely Dry

How much experience do you have with conditions there? 20_or_more_years

How many times in the past have you seen it like this? twice_or_more

When was it most recently like this? 2015

How localized or widespread are the conditions you are reporting? widespread throughout the county and neighboring counties.

How are crop conditions at this time? poor

Planting Status: normal

Harvest Status: earlier_than_normal

Click on left or right arrows below to scroll through different data sources.

CMOR

Go.unl.edu/multi_tool



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