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Mark has been with the NDMC since it was formed in 1995. As the NDMC's Monitoring Program Area Leader, his duties include overseeing the center's operational national drought monitoring activities. Mark's responsibilities include providing expertise on climate and water management issues by working closely with states, federal agencies and international governments as well as the media and private sector. Mark co-founded the development of the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) in 1999 and serves as one of the principal authors of both the weekly USDM and monthly North American Drought Monitor products. Mark is heavily involved with drought monitoring, assessment and prediction committees at state, regional and national levels. He currently sits on the American Meteorological Society's Applied Climate Committee as well as NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Program Office's Implementation Team. In addition, he has extensive experience working with the international drought, water and climate community via project collaboration, consultation and through various training and outreach opportunities with over 50 countries and international organizations to date. Mark earned both his Bachelor's Degree in Geography specializing in Climatology and a Masters Degree in Geography with a specialization in Remote Sensing, Climatology and GIS from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.