

# Data needs of the US Drought Monitor related to the NWS COOP and CoCoRaHS Programs

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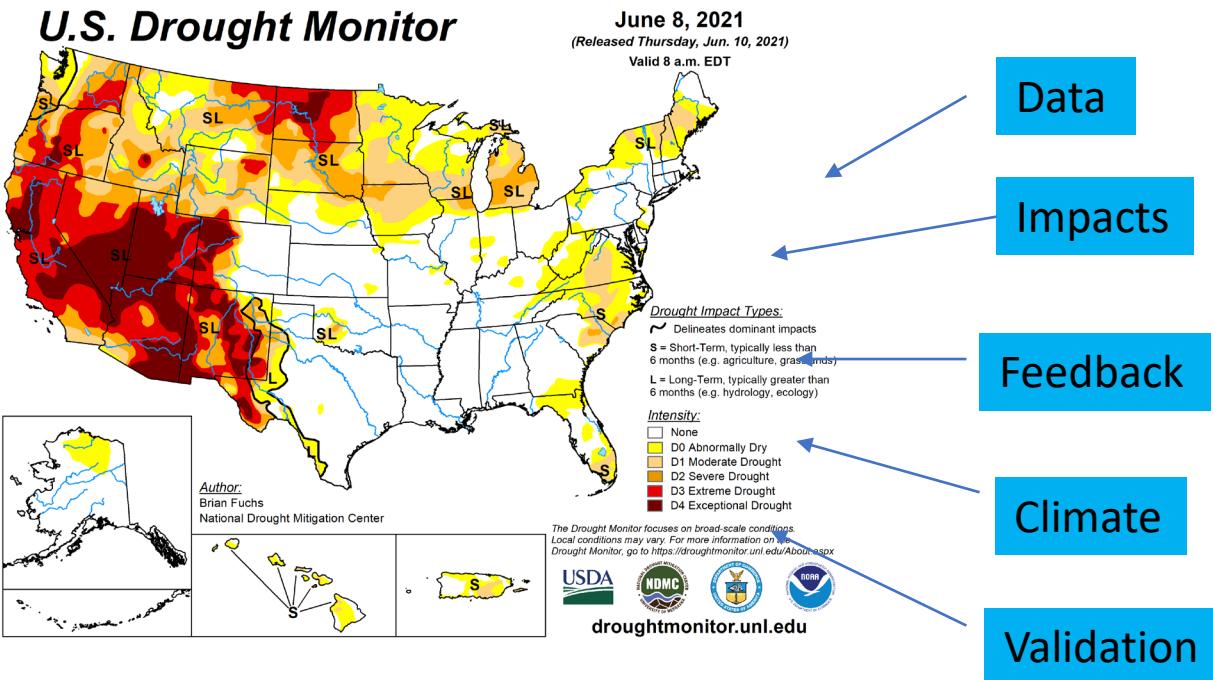


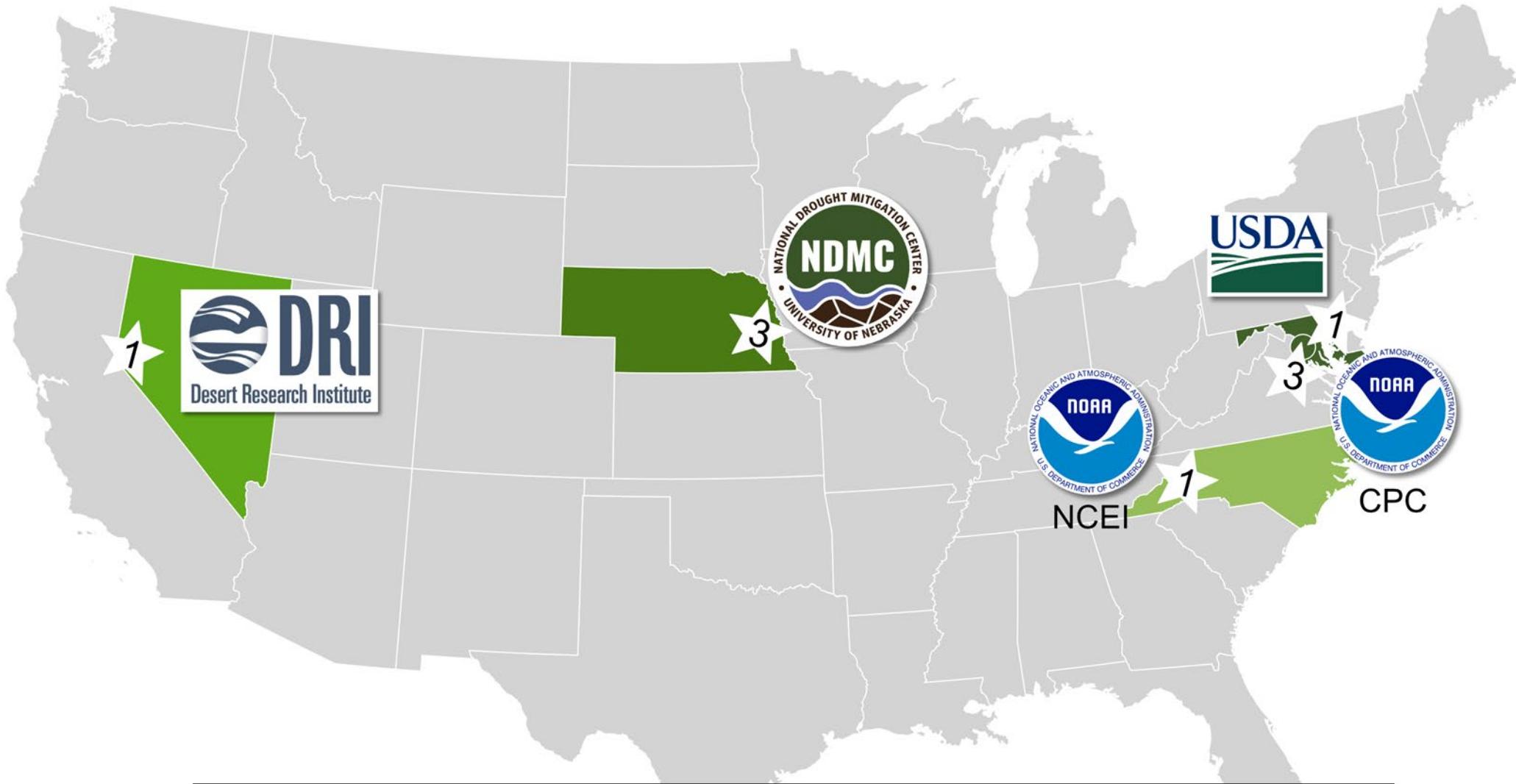
NATIONAL DROUGHT  
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*WERA 1012 Meeting*

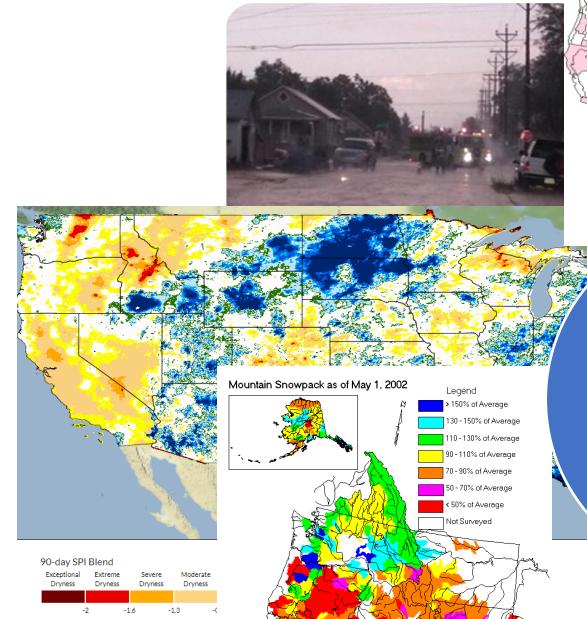
# Drought Machine

## U.S. Drought Monitor

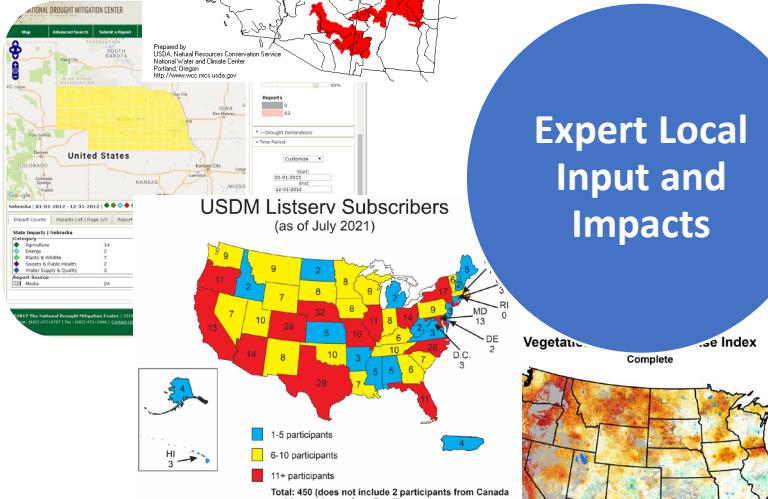




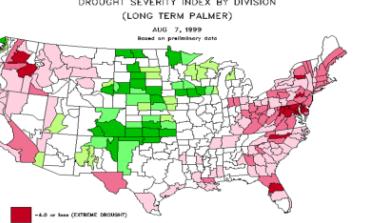
**Requirement: Authors must work at a regional or national  
“center”, government or in academia/research  
There are currently 9\* authors, and all are volunteers**



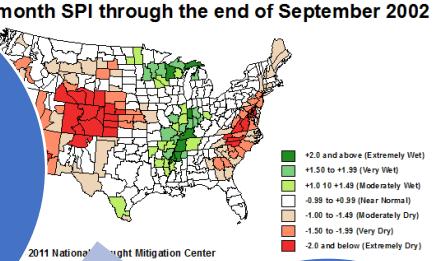
## Precipitation and Snow



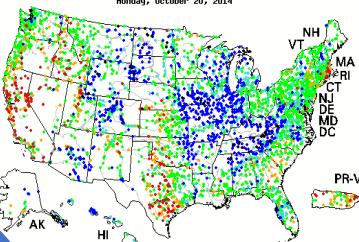
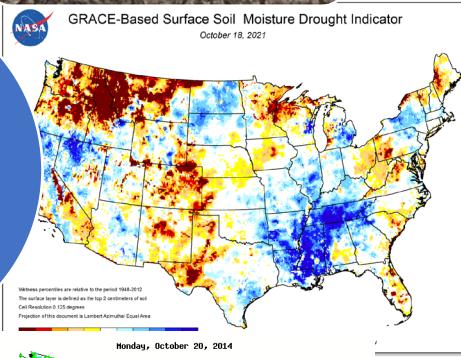
## Expert Local Input and Impacts



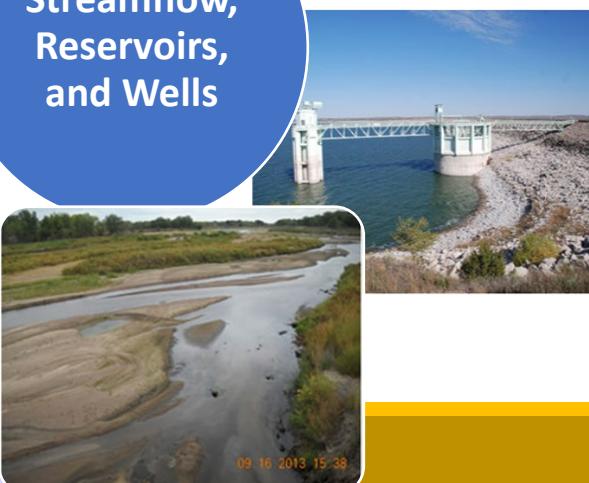
## Drought Indices such as SPI/PDSI



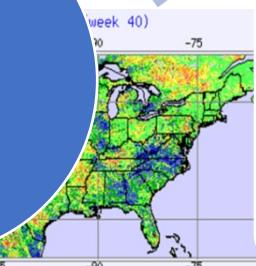
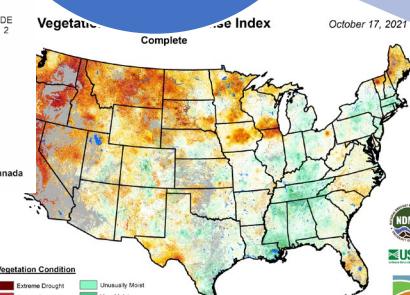
## Soil Moisture: both modeled and measured



## Streamflow, Reservoirs, and Wells



## Remote Sensing



Most of the information analyzed each week falls into one of these categories.

Authors now use roughly **40-50 unique indicators** while creating the U.S. Drought Monitor map, but not all areas are represented equally by all pieces of data.

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

Seasonal

Annual

Multi-  
annual

Precipitation

Snowpack

Humidity

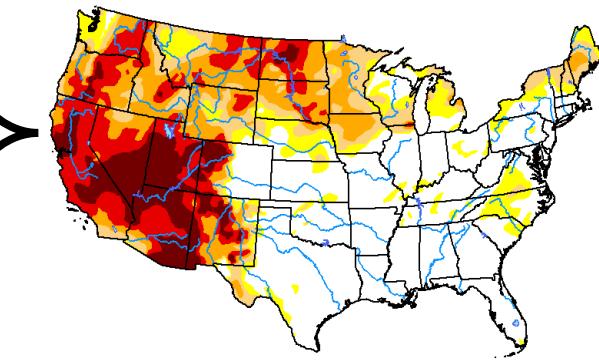
Vegetation health

Evapotranspiration

Soil moisture  
& groundwater

Streamflow

Lake &  
reservoir  
levels



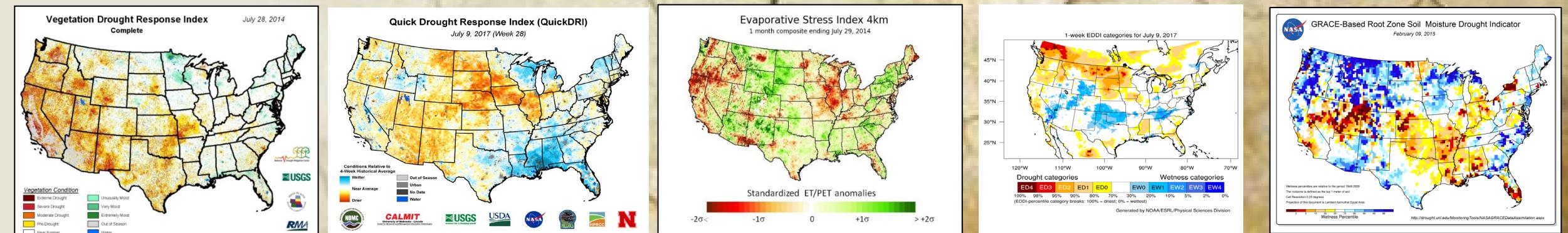
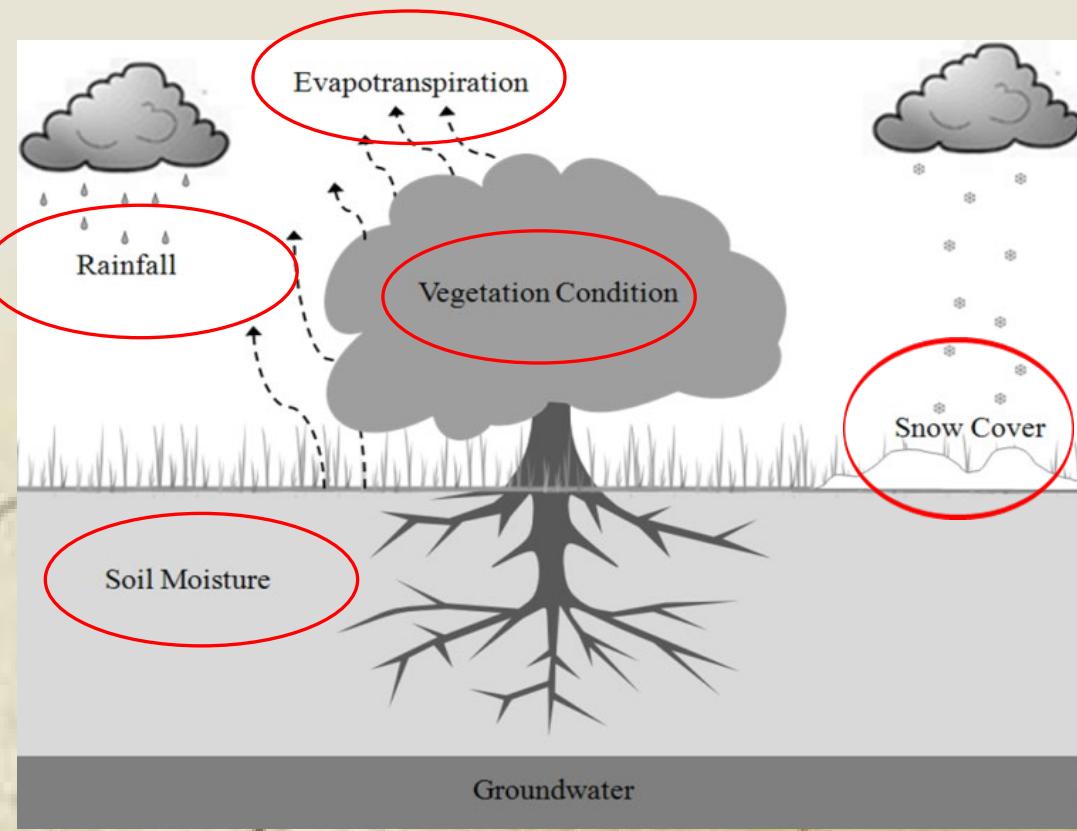
Map incorporates multiple types of data & multiple timescales

# Emerging Satellite-based Observations and Products

Over the past 10+ years, a number of satellite remote sensing-based tools and ***products characterizing different parts of the hydrologic cycle that influence drought conditions*** allowing new composite drought indicators to be developed.

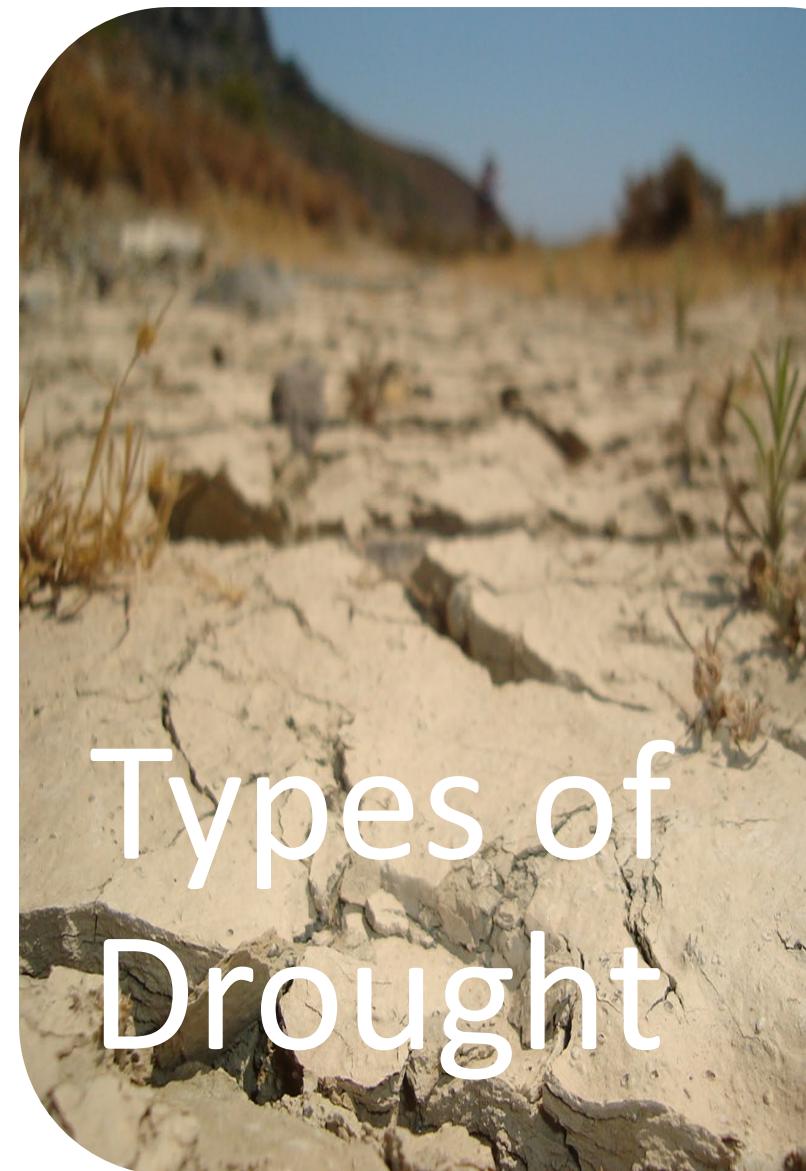
## Examples

- Evaporative Stress Index (ESI)
- Quick Drought Response Index (QuickDRI)
- Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI)
- GRACE soil moisture and groundwater anomalies
- Vegetation Drought Response Index (VegDRI)



The USDM  
map is...

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



Meteorological



Agricultural



Hydrological



Socio-  
economic



Ecological

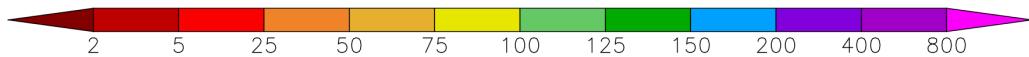
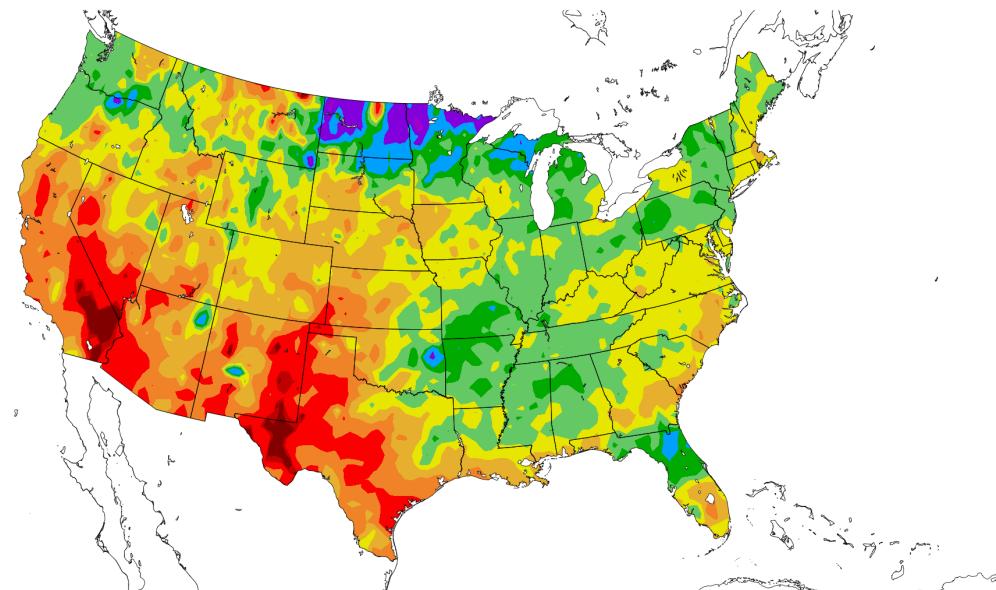
# How the US Drought Monitor uses COOP and CoCoRaHS data

- RCC's ACIS program
  - Precipitation and Temperature Maps
  - SPI/SPEI Calculations
  - ACIS data grids feeding into the NDMC's Objective Blends



## Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

2/15/2022 – 5/15/2022



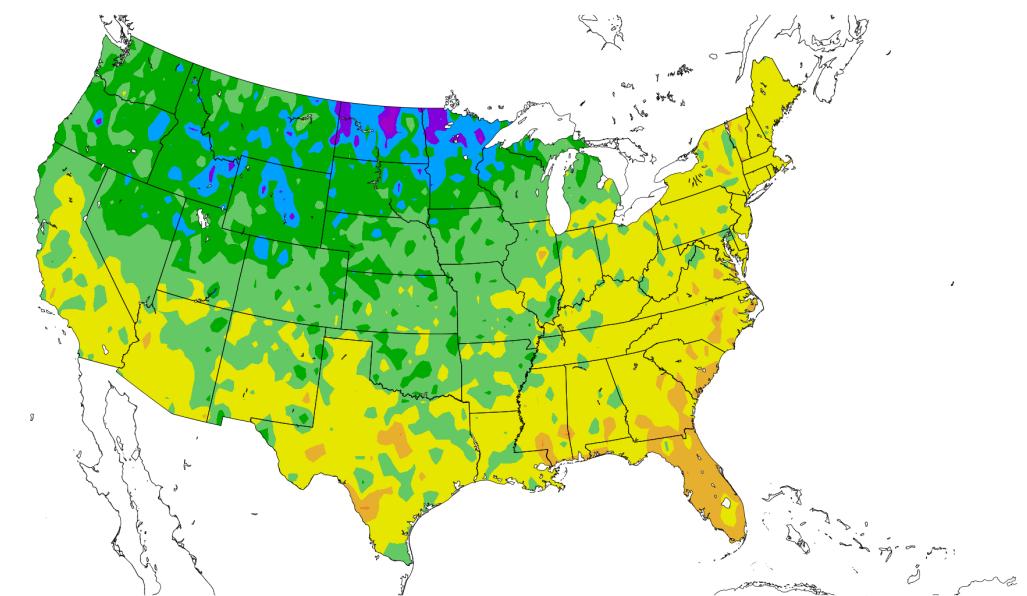
Generated 5/16/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers



## Departure from Normal Temperature (F)

2/15/2022 – 5/15/2022



Generated 5/16/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

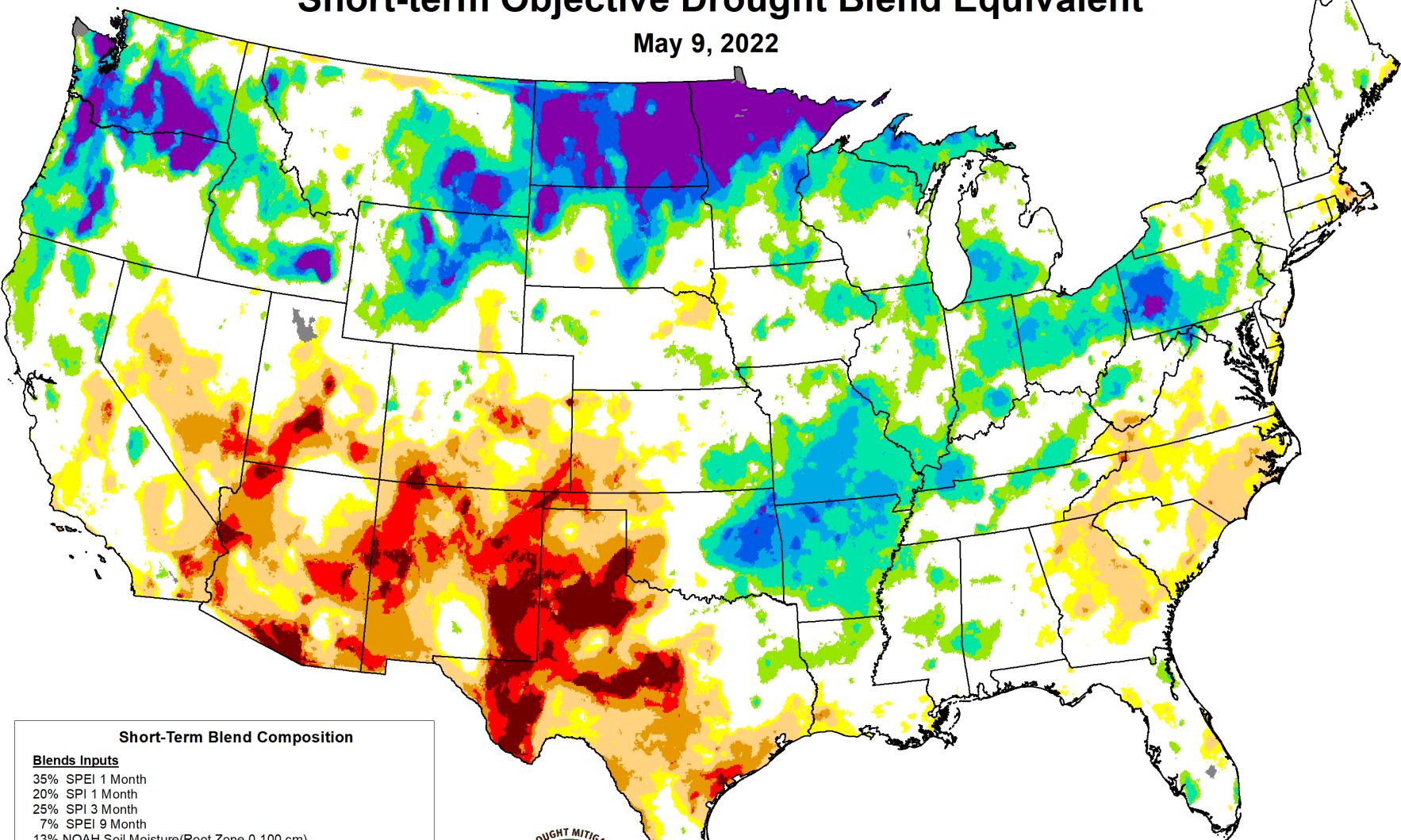
NOAA Regional Climate Centers



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# Short-term Objective Drought Blend Equivalent

May 9, 2022



## Short-Term Blend Composition

### Blends Inputs

35% SPEI 1 Month  
20% SPI 1 Month  
25% SPI 3 Month  
7% SPEI 9 Month  
13% NOAH Soil Moisture (Root Zone 0-100 cm)

### Categories and Percentile Ranges

|                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| D4 Exceptional Drought (0 < 2) | Abnormally Wet (70 < 80)     |
| D3 Extreme Drought (2 < 5)     | Moderately Wet (80 < 90)     |
| D2 Severe Drought (5 < 10)     | Severely Wet (90 < 95)       |
| D1 Moderate Drought (10 < 20)  | Extremely Wet (95 < 98)      |
| D0 Abnormally Dry (20 < 30)    | Exceptionally Wet (98 - 100) |
| Near Normal (30 < 70)          | No Data                      |

<https://NDMCBlends.unl.edu/>

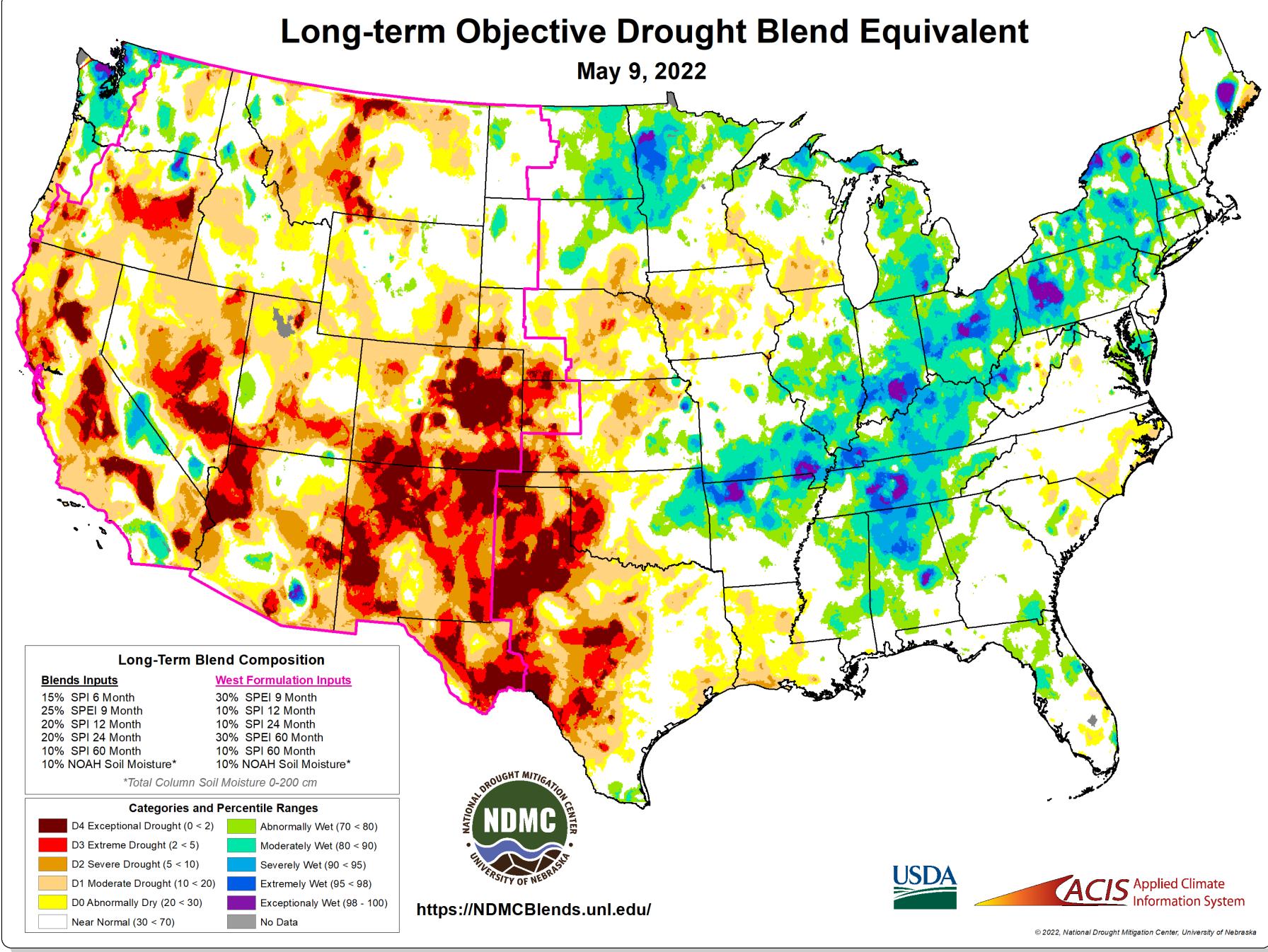


**ACIS** Applied Climate  
Information System

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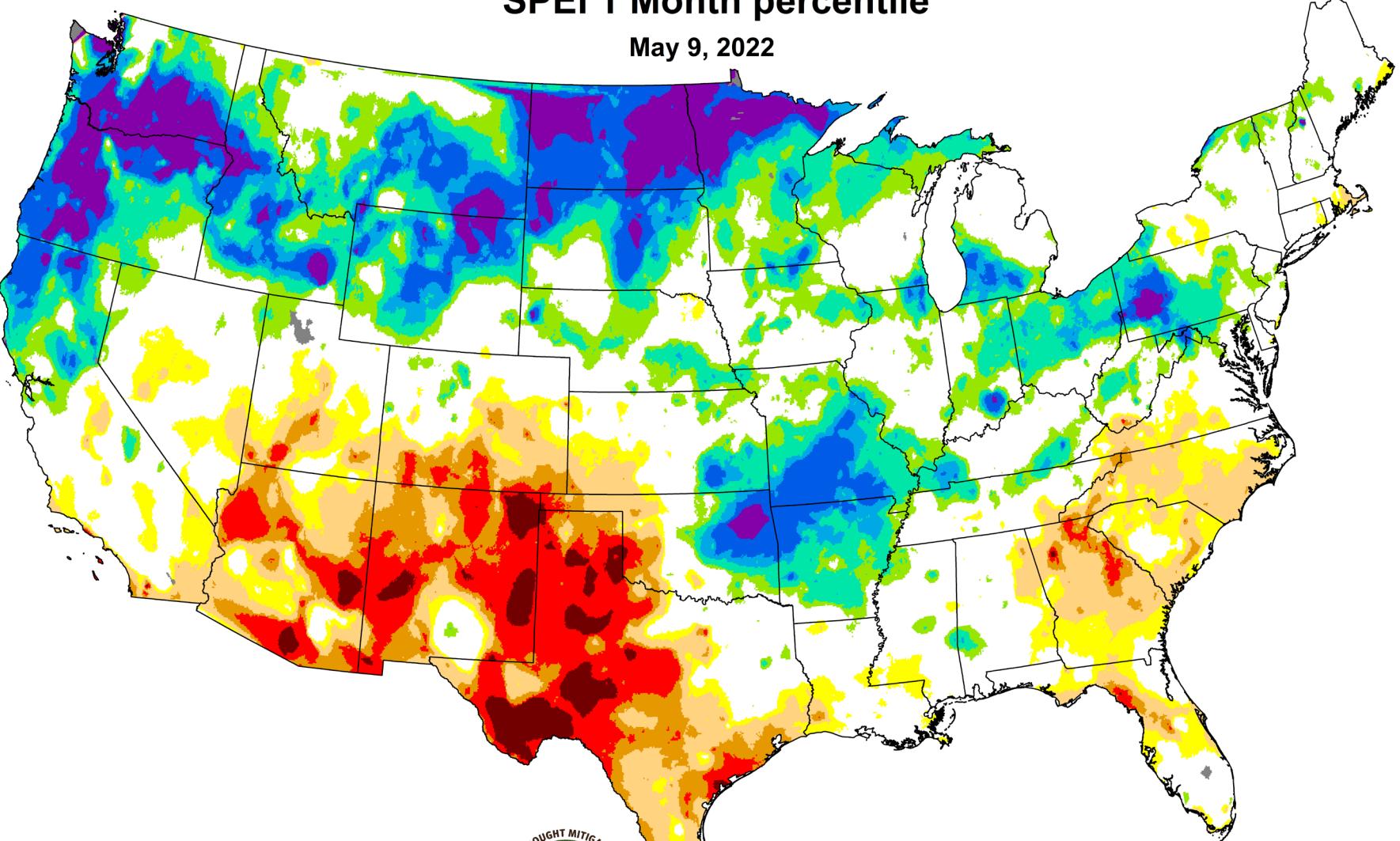
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## SPEI 1 Month percentile

May 9, 2022



| Categories and Percentile Ranges |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| D4 Exceptional Drought (0 < 2)   | Abnormally Wet (70 < 80)     |
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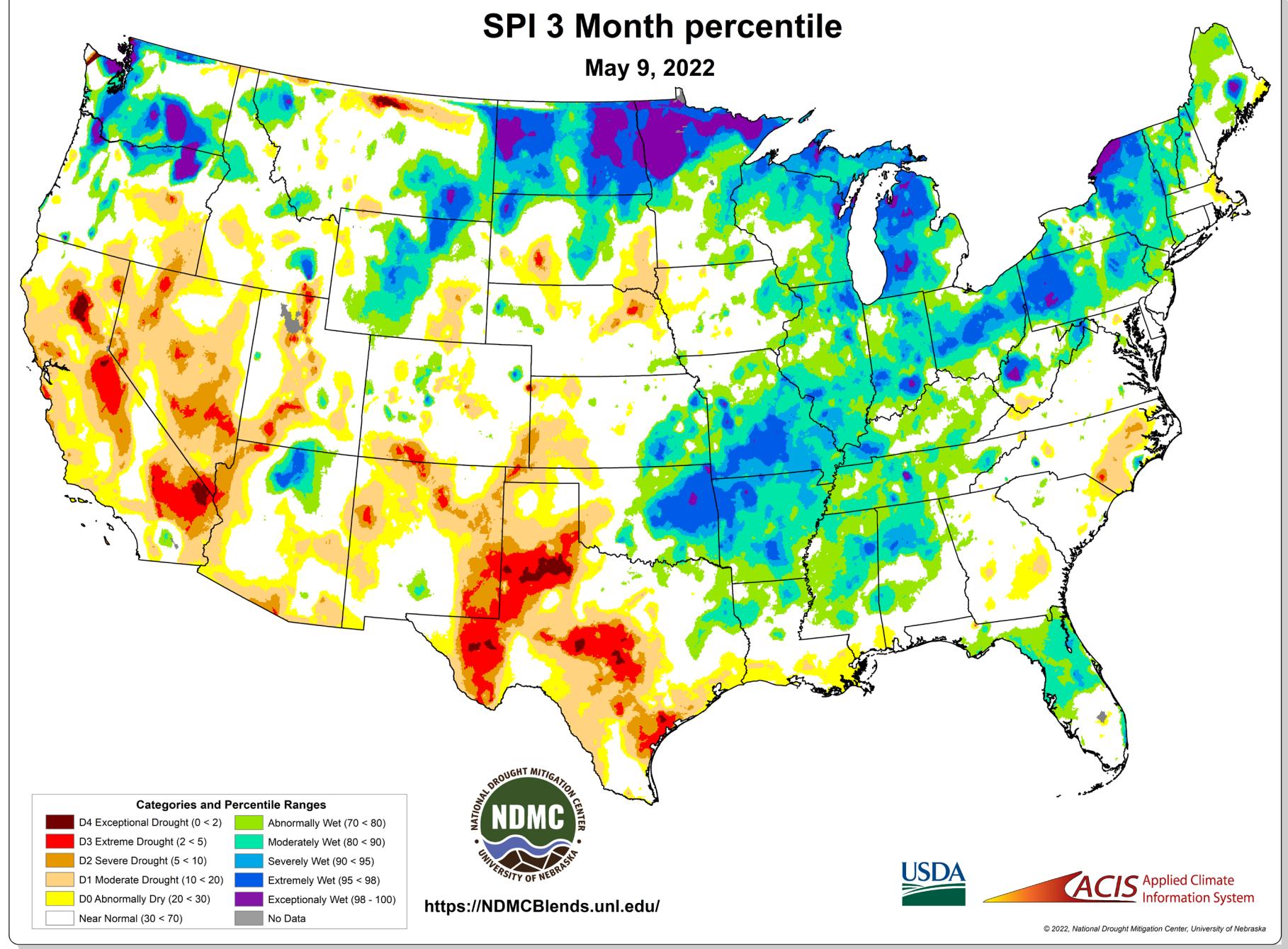


ACIS Applied Climate  
Information System

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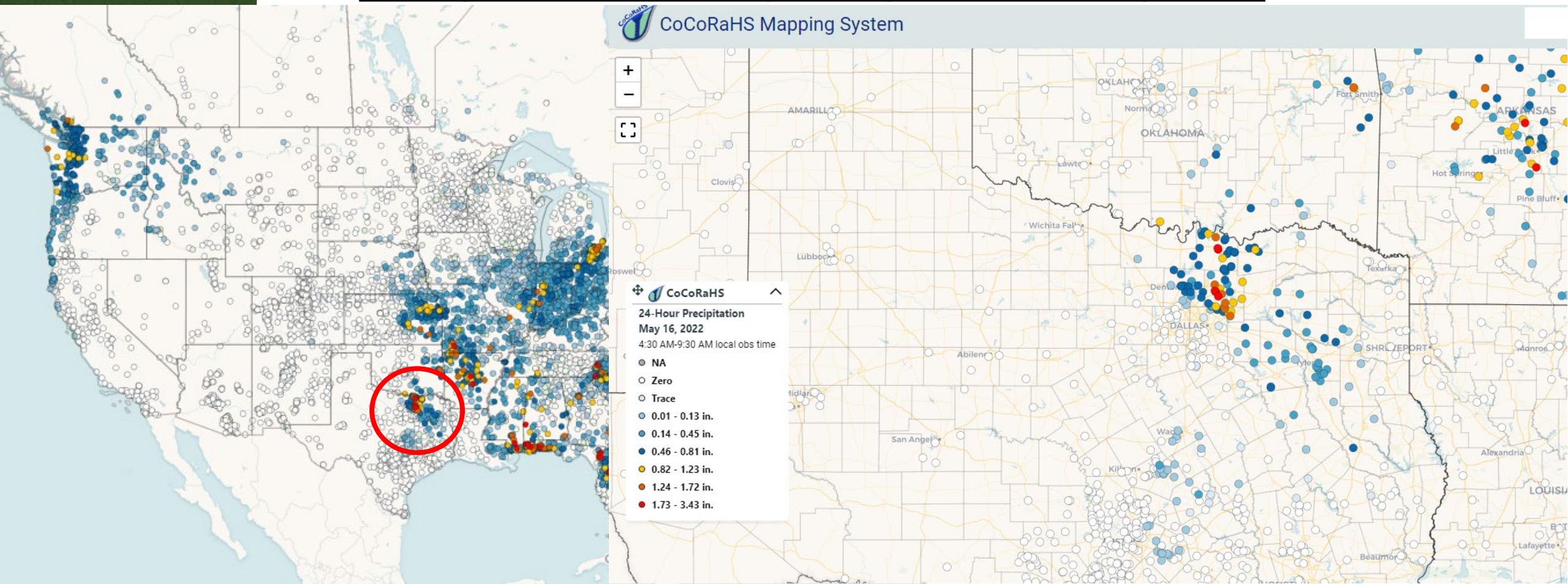


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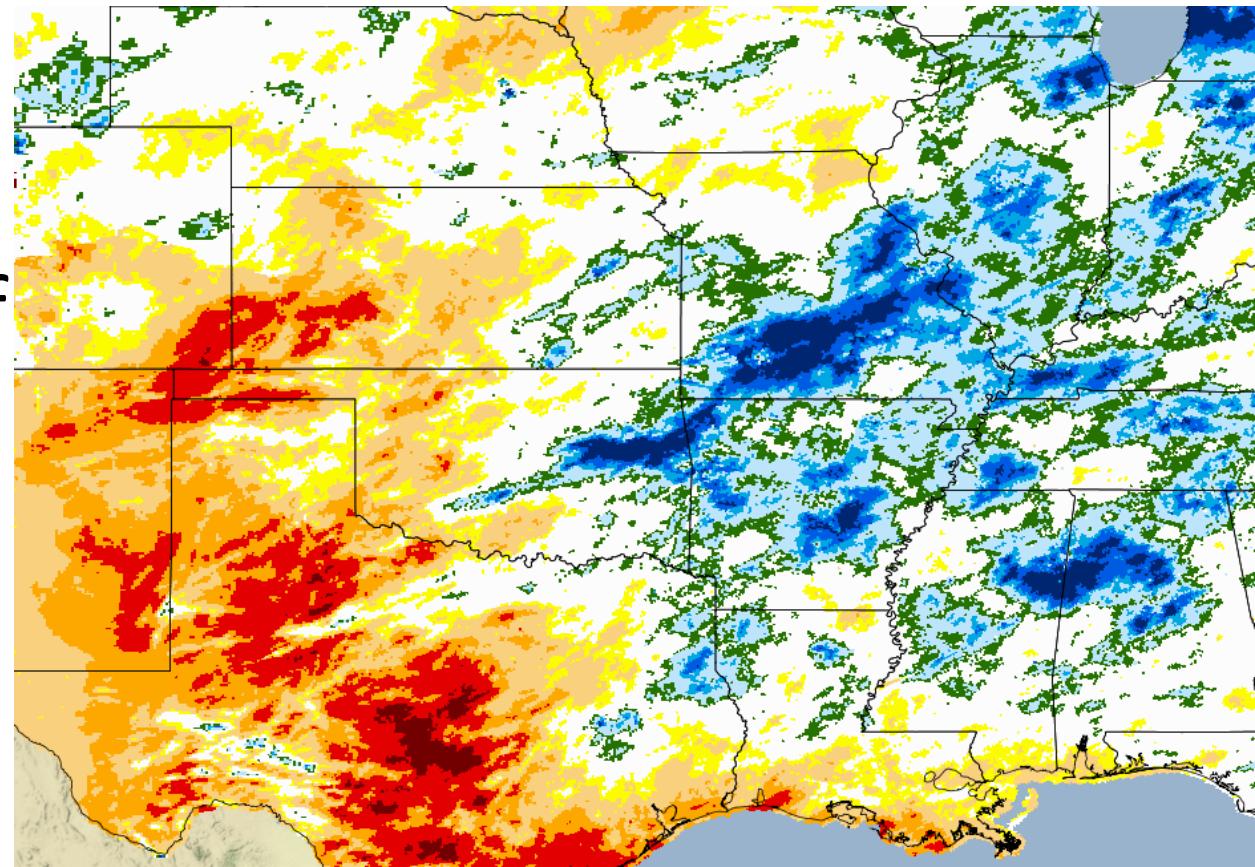
# How the US Drought Monitor uses COOP and CoCoRaHS data

- **Daily CoCoRaHS precipitation reports**



# How the US Drought Monitor uses COOP and CoCoRaHS data

- NWS AHPS program
  - Precipitation estimates
  - SPI/SPEI gridded products based off AHPS estimates



# How the US Drought Monitor uses COOP and CoCoRaHS data

- NDMC's Drought Risk Atlas (DRA)
  - Archive of historical drought indices based off the best/most complete COOP sites
  - Weekly gridded maps for each index





# Drought Risk Atlas

Home Data Map Viewer Methodology About Help

## Climate

Home > Data > Climate

Selected Atlas Station: none selected

Use one of the options to select a station.

**Close [x]**

### Search

Select a state.

**Search by State**

Enter part of a station name, or station ID.

**Search by Name or ID**

Enter a latitude and longitude (in decimal degrees) or click on the map.

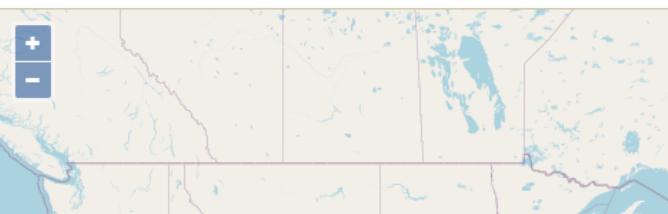
Lat.

Lon.

Search Radius  (miles)

**Search by Location**

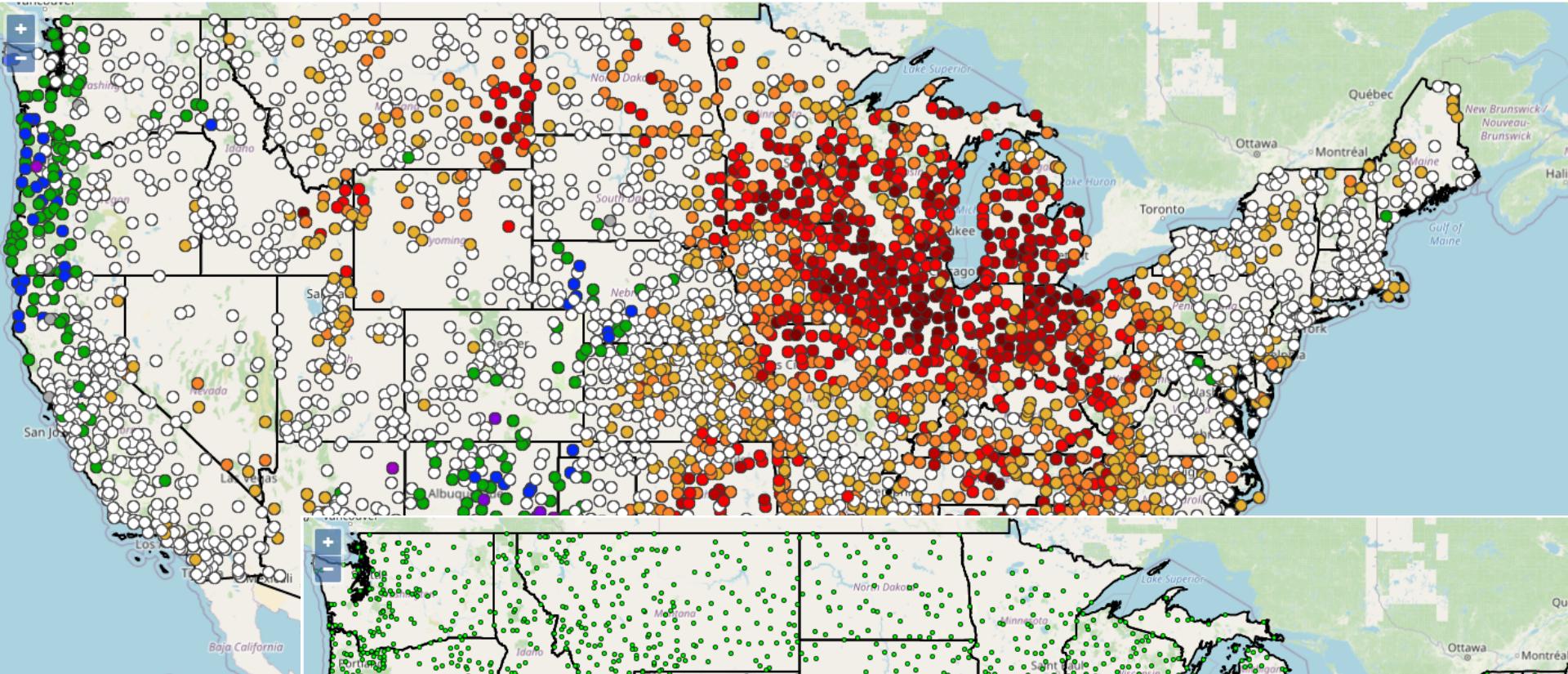
### Station Map



### Dataset

See the [notes](#) on the climate datasets.

### Station List



Station-based SPI (7/15/1988; 3 Month)

Dataset:  Aggregate:  Year:

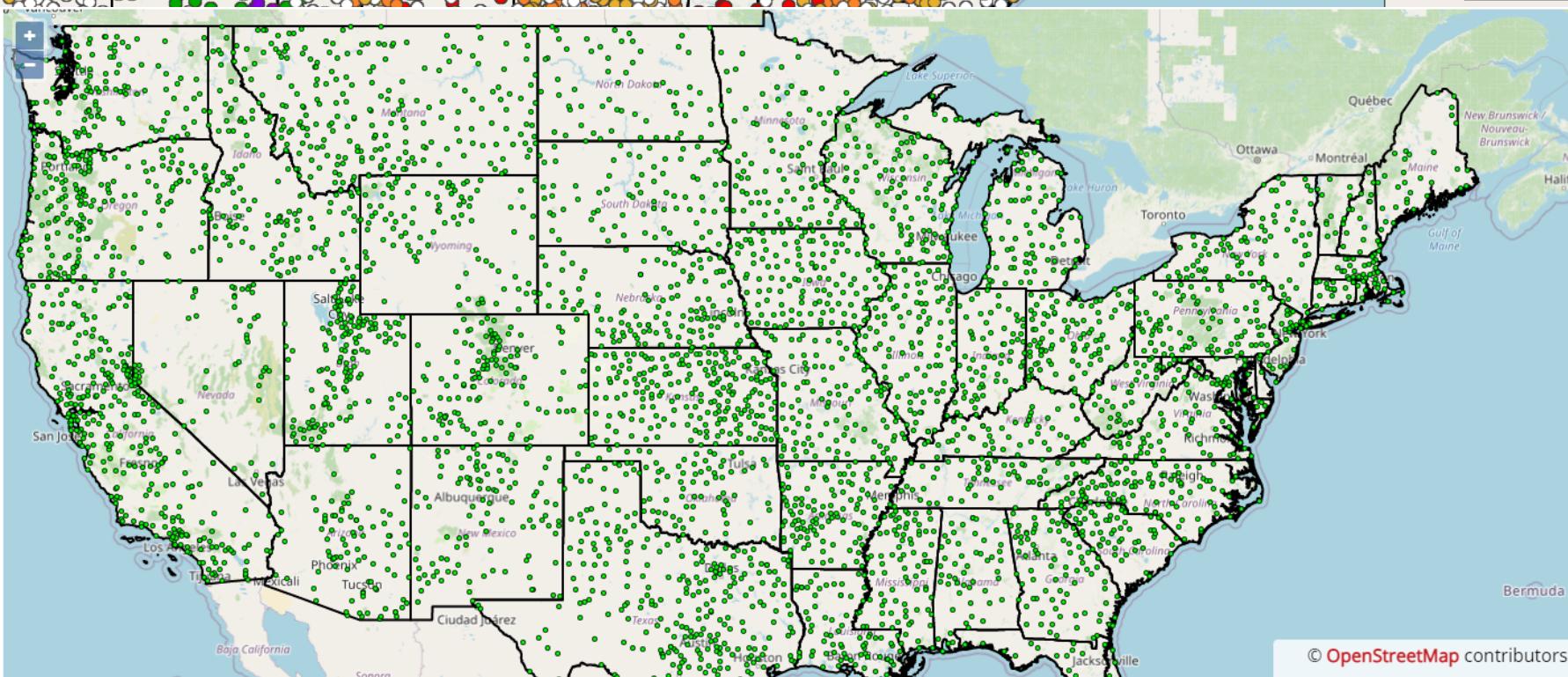
- 3.00 and above
- 2.51 to 2.99
- 2.01 to 2.50
- 1.51 to 2.00
- 1.00 to 1.50
- 0.99 to 0.99
- 1.49 to -1.00
- 1.99 to -1.50
- 2.49 to -2.00
- 2.99 to -2.50
- 3.00 and below
- No Data

Dataset:  Aggregate:  Year:

#### Climate Layers

- Atlas Stations (4617 total)
- Homogeneous Clusters
- U.S. Drought Monitor (12/28/2017)
- Gridded SPI (12/23/2012; 1 Month)
- Station-based SPI (7/15/1988; 3 Month)
- Station-based SPEI (12/24/2017; 1 Month)
- Station-based PDSI (12/1/2017)
- Station-based Deciles (12/24/2017; 1 Month)
- Station Trend

#### Base Layers





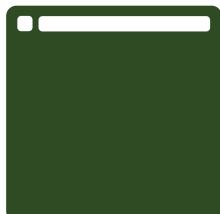
# Final thoughts.....

- The NWS COOP network is a key cog in the USDM system.
- CoCoRaHS data helps to fill in data gaps and validate other products.
- Legacy stations in the COOP network are invaluable to the drought and climate communities
- More data, more data, more data ! The more daily observed and reported data, the better (preaching to the choir, I know)
- If a legacy station is shutting down, it should be a priority to get replaced somehow.
- CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring Reports help validate other physical indicators
- Continue with the Data Stewardship team
- Zero values being recorded are so important !



Thank You!  
Questions?

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[drought.unl.edu](http://drought.unl.edu)



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