

June 1998

Announcements: June 1998

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Western Drought Coordination Council Products Available

The products of the Western Drought Coordination Council's first year make significant contributions to the information available to assist planners in preparing for and recovering from drought. Among the products presented at the Council's annual meeting June 4, 1998, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, were:

- *Western Climate and Water Status*, a quarterly report that funnels information on water supply, snowfall, and other climate-related issues from scientists and technicians to policy makers.
<http://enso.unl.edu/wdcc/quarterly>
 - The Catalog of Federal Drought Assistance Programs, first compiled by the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA), now enhanced and republished on the World Wide Web.
<http://enso.unl.edu/wdcc/products/programs.pdf>
 - *How to Reduce Drought Risk*, a vulnerability assessment guide for state, regional, and community drought planners, was developed by the Council and the National Drought Mitigation Center.
<http://enso.unl.edu/wdcc/products/risk.pdf>
- The Council's finished drought mitigation products are available on its web site: <http://enso.unl.edu/wdcc/products/infoproducts.html>.
- The National Drought Mitigation Center provides technical advice and staff support to the Western Drought Coordination Council and its working groups.
- Other accomplishments of the Council include:
- helped the NDMC conduct U.S. Bureau of Reclamation-sponsored drought planning workshops.
 - analyzed 17 state and 11 local drought plans to see what each contained.
 - reviewed and analyzed reports on the 1996 drought by the Western Governors' Association and FEMA.
 - initiated survey of states to learn about short-term drought impacts and response strategies.
 - initiated development of a historical climate database inventory
 - initiated transformation of data from single-purpose networks into a multipurpose management tool.
 - initiated distribution of climate-related products via the Unified Climate Access Network.
 - initiated assessment of daily, weekly, monthly, seasonal, yearly, and historical data anomalies based on evaluation of the mean, median, and variance.
 - identified data availability and limitations regarding streamflow, reservoir, and divisional precipitation.
 - assessed the usefulness of various precipitation indices to assess their potential for drought monitoring.
 - identified parameters of drought assessment to include meteorological, agricultural, and hydrological descriptions, while giving consideration to appropriate indicators for assessing drought impacts.
 - monitored various weather and climate prediction information relevant to forecasting drought for decision makers.
 - examined the potential for the application of soil moisture, evaporation, atmospheric and global ocean circulation patterns to support improved forecasting.
 - inventoried drought communication products and developed information about the Council.

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Drought Network News encourages readers to submit information on current episodes of drought and its impacts; timely reports of response, mitigation, and planning actions of governments and international organizations (successes *and* failures); recent research results and new technologies that may advance the science of drought planning and management; recent publications; conference reports and news of forthcoming meetings; and editorials. If references accompany articles, please provide *full bibliographic citations*. All artwork *must* be *camera-ready*—please provide clear, sharp copies (in black/gray and white only—we are unable to reproduce color artwork) that can be photocopied/reduced without losing any detail. Correspondence should be addressed to

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