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From the Director: Spring 2000

Donald A. Wilhite

National Drought Mitigation Center, dwilhite2@unl.edu

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Drought

Network News

Winter 1999–
Spring 2000

A Newsletter of the International Drought Information Center
and the National Drought Mitigation Center

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Did you know . . .

. . . that *Drought Network News* is also available online at

<http://enso.unl.edu/ndmc/center/publish.htm>

as a .pdf file. It's presented in the same format that you see here. Mailing costs for distributing the newsletter are substantial, and they continue to increase as our mailing list grows, so we would like to encourage you to accept *Drought Network News* in its electronic format. If you're willing to forgo your paper copy of the newsletter, please let Kim Klemsz (kklemsz2@unl.edu) know, and she will send you e-mail notification when new issues are available. Thank you!!

From the Director

I hope that those of our readers with Internet access will consider receiving future issues of *Drought Network News* online. We realize that some of you do not have access to the Internet, so we will continue to publish hard copies of the newsletter. If you are willing to receive the newsletter electronically, please contact Kim Klemsz as soon as possible. Our plan is to notify readers via e-mail when each new issue of *Drought Network News* is available. Back issues of the newsletter are also available online.

This is a joint winter/spring issue of *Drought Network News*. It contains considerable discussion about drought indices and a description of a new product, the Drought Monitor, that is available on

the World Wide Web. This new product is the result of a partnership formed in spring 1999 between the Joint Agricultural Weather Facility of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Climate Prediction Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska. The Drought Monitor integrates climate information and information from a variety of indices to determine drought severity across the United States. This product is updated weekly and has been well received by technical specialists, policy makers, the media, and commercial groups. I encourage readers to visit the Drought Monitor website (<http://enso.unl.edu/monitor/>) to learn more about this activity and to consider how this approach might be modeled for other countries or regions.

As some of you know, for the past two years I have been involved in the preparation of a book on drought. This book, *Droughts: A Global Assessment*, was published in two volumes in December 1999 by Routledge as part of a series on natural hazards and disasters. Routledge will eventually publish seven books as part of this series. Another volume, *Storms*, is also available, and a volume on floods should be available very soon. A more detailed description of *Droughts* is provided on page 21 of this issue.

Readers are encouraged to submit articles, announcements of workshops and conferences, and other information of interest to our network members to *Drought Network News*. **The deadline for submission for the next issue is May 25, 2000.**

Donald A. Wilhite

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