Drought Monitoring and Planning for Climate Change

Water Resources in Developing Countries: Planning and Management in a Climate Change Scenario 27 April – 8 May 2009

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Building Bridges Between Climate Sciences and Society

The World's Shortest Primer to Tree-Ring Streamflow Reconstruction

DENDROHYDROLOGY

Physical Basis for Dendrohydrology:



Courtesy of Katie Hirschboeck, UA-LTRR

Site Selection



Site selection: low soil moisture is likely to limit growth

Rings narrow in dry years, *wide* in *wet* years

Courtesy of Dave Meko, UA-LTRR

Sensitive Site: Western Juniper at Carson Pass, CA



Courtesy of Dave Meko, UA-LTRR

Dendrochronology: Dating Tree Ring Records



Courtesy of Katie Hirschboeck, UA-LTRR



Courtesy of Katie Hirschboeck, UA-LTRR

Crossdating and development of long chronologies



Relating Tree-Growth to Climate

Climate: Precipitation, temperature, snow...



Courtesy of Kurt Kipfmueller, UA-LTRR

Chronology Development











Replication



































Replication





Reconstruction Model



Courtesy of Dave Meko, UA-LTRR

Reconstruction Accuracy



Courtesy of Dave Meko & Katie Hirschboeck, UA-LTRR

Tree Ring Ensemble Streamflow Reconstruction South Platte at South Platte 20th Century



Calibration data — Best Model — Ensemble Mean — Ensemble Members —

Courtesy of Robert S. Webb and Connie Woodhouse, NOAA

Long-Term Reconstruction



Courtesy of Dave Meko & Katie Hirschboeck, UA-LTRR

Back to our regularly scheduled program

Characteristics of Drought

• "Creeping"

- Effects accumulate
- Onset and termination unclear
- Effects are nonstructural
- Effects may linger
- No standard definition
- Multiple time scales
- Timing sensitive
- Interacts with management practices
- Interacts with societal vulnerability
- Often the last problem to gain attention





-National Drought Mitigation Center

What Goes Into a Drought Plan?

Drought Plan Goals

 Identify the impacts of drought.
 Define the sources of drought vulnerability.
 Develop monitoring programs to alert water users and resource managers of the onset and severity of drought events.

4. Prepare drought response options mitigation strategies to reduce the impacts of drought.

State Drought Coordination



Drought Monitoring

- Ground-based observations
- Remotely-sensed observations
- Blended data
- Estimated data
 - Statistical, Modeled
- Indices
- Impacts -- reporting/perceptions can be motivated by non-climate factors

Drought Monitoring

- Long records
 - High quality
 - Undisturbed
- External and internal drivers

 SSTs
- Causes and effects...or not?
- Inputs and outputs
 - Recharge, discharge
 - Supply, demand

MTC Indicators and Procedure

- Monitor drought at a regional level
- Calculate and display drought status for two time periods:
 - Short-term (< 12 months)</p>
 - Long-term (12-48 months)
- Indicators: SPI, streamflow, reservoir levels
- Corroborate with other data:
 - SNOTEL
 - Range and pasture status, vegetation health
 - Drought impacts information

MTC Drought Triggers

Level	Description	Percentile
0	No Drought	40.1-100.0%
1	Abnormally Dry	25.1-40.0%
2	Moderate Drought	15.1-25.0%
3	Severe Drought	5.1-15.0%
4	Extreme Drought	0.0-5.0%

Triggers are specific values of the indicators that initiate and terminate drought status levels and management responses

June 2008 Status Maps





Eye On Drought

Produced by the Monitoring Technical Committee

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Arizona Drought Monitor Report *September 2006*

September 2006 Short Term

Drought Status

Data Through August 31st, 2006

Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan

nitoring Technical Committ

Short-term Drought Status

All areas of the state have continued to improve in the short-term to either abnormally dry or moderate drought status. Monsoon rains have improved soil moisture, refilled stock ponds, reinvigorated grass growth, and decreased the fire danger dramatically. Improvement was particularly dramatic in the southeastern portion of the state, which received the most extreme rainfall events. However, the state is still seeing lingering impacts from one of the driest winters on record. Wildlife continue to migrate from mountain areas into urban areas in search of food sources.

Long-term Drought Status

Although the short-term map has shown significant improvement. long-term drought conditions will be slower to recover. Only the San Pedro and Willcox Playa watersheds have improved since last month, from extreme to severe drought. Despite the monsoon rains, overall reservoir storage has decreased over the past year due to the extremely dry winter and lack of snowpack. Although grasses have benefited from the recent rain, other types of vegetation will take longer to recover. However, with the prospect of a weak to moderate El Niño, conditions are expected to continue to improve through the winter months.

Lessons:

 Objective calculated drought status must be supplemented Local impacts information More study to connect status to impacts



Manual

Drought - Moder

Drought - Senara

bought - Exten

laber.

- Rivers

CAP Ages

Herpic Vist





Percent of Normal Precipitation (%) 7/24/2005 - 1/23/2006



azdroughtwatch.org

Address 🥙 http://azdroughtwatch.org/

💌 🔁 Go



Mike Crimmins, UA Cooperative Extension

Geographical distribution of PRCP stations

(NADM data base of 132 stations)



Davydova-Belitskaya and Cruz, 2009







Drought.gov



Experimental Surface Water Monitor for the Continental U.S.

The plots below show the current percentiles for soil moisture, with respect to the climatological period (1916-2004 for CONUS and 1926-2004 for Mexico), for the following models:

Links



Multimodel

Plots

Home

- SAC (Sacramento/Snow-17)
 CLM (Community Land Mode
 - CLM (Community Land Model) version 3.5
 Multimodel (average of the percentiles of VIC, Noah, SAC, and CLM)

Home

Info

Noah (National Centers for Environmental Prediction/Oregon State University/Air Force/Hydrologic Research Lab) version 2.8



Note: percentiles are computed for current day with respect to grand distribution of values in the 5-day window centered on current day over the climatological period (1916-2004 for continental US and 1926-2004 for Mexico). This is also true of the multimodel ensemble average, i.e. first we compute the average of the percentiles of the individual models, then we compute the percentile of this average with respect to the historical distribution of the average.

Contacts

Disclaimer

(Click on thumbnails below for larger image)

Multimodel Surface Water Monitor

VIC (Variable Infiltration Capacity) version 4.0.6









http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/curr/conus.mexico/main_sm.multimodel.shtml



What Do We Need to Do Differently to Cope With Climate Change?



Upper Colorado Basin Mean Annual Temperature. Units: Degrees F. Annual: red. 11-year running mean: blue Data from PRISM: 1895-2005.









Drought Monitoring for Climate Change

- Seasonality
- Extremes variability outside of historic ranges
- Temperature as a hydrologic variable
- Demand-side monitoring
 - ET, consumptive uses, groundwater pumping
- Trends
- Monitoring for detection and attribution

Establishing Attributable Cause



Martin Hoerling and Arun Kumar, NOAA





Suggestions to Improve Drought Plans for Climate Change

Hudson Valley, NY



Brad Lyon, IRI/Columbia University



Context: Institutional



- Decentralized
- Easy data access
- Management continuity
- Strong regulation and enforcement
- Good access to funds for management and research



- Highly centralized
 Consejos de Cuenca
- Limited data access
- Short-term water management appointments
- Gap between laws and enforcement
- Lack of funds

R. Varady, M. Wilder, R. Diaz, UA Udall Center + CLIMAS

Improved Vulnerability Assessments

- Hydrological vulnerability
- Vulnerable water supply and delivery systems
 - Improve security of surface water supplies
 - non-stationarity
 - decadal variation
 - climate signals propagating slowly in groundwater in arid areas

Changes in energy supplies and costs

Improved Vulnerability Assessments

- Social, cultural and economic issues and perceptions affect vulnerability:
 - Response of indigenous communities to drought is often different from that of neighboring communities;
 - Long-term farmers may be less likely to diversify and survive economically;
 - Farming communities may object to fallowing programs on principle even if the economics are significantly in their favor

Integrated Planning

- Integrate long-term water management planning objectives with drought planning
- Reuse, desalination, surface-groundwater conjunctive managment, water banking
- Economic alternatives
 - -Dry year trade-offs
 - -Water markets
- Shifts in global agriculture production
- Iterative assessment adaptive management

Metrics for Drought Planning Success

- Coordination and Structure
- Planning
- Communication and Awareness
- Infrastructure
- Preparedness
- Conservation Action
- Policy, Regulation, and Conflict Resolution



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