

# Partnerships and Products Supporting USDA Drought Programs

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USDA Office of the Chief Economist / World Agricultural Outlook Board

*Presentation to*

## **The Future of Drought in the U.S.**

### **Information Gathering Session: Drought Data Users and Decision-Makers**

Hosted by The National Academies for Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

October 14, 2025

# USDA NEWS RELEASE

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## GLICKMAN AUTHORIZES EMERGENCY HAYING FOR DROUGHT RELIEF

WASHINGTON, July 6, 2000 – Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman today announced that emergency haying will be permitted on some Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres in areas of the country hit hardest by this year's drought.

"The drought has devastated many farmers and ranchers," said Secretary Glickman. "This additional emergency relief measure will provide some hay for producers who need it most."

CRP is a voluntary program that offers annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term resource-conserving cover on eligible land. This action will permit approved CRP participants to harvest hay on CRP acreage, providing supplemental forage to producers whose pastures have been decimated by drought.

To be approved for emergency haying, a county must have suffered at least a 40 percent loss of normal moisture and forage for the preceding four-month qualifying period. USDA will determine which counties will be approved for haying and will require CRP participants to submit applications with their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices beginning today. Haying may be authorized until August 31, 2000, or until disaster conditions no longer exist – whichever comes first.

Only livestock operations located within approved counties are eligible for emergency haying of CRP acreage. CRP participants who do not own or lease livestock may rent or lease the haying privilege to an eligible livestock farmer located in an approved county.

CRP annual rental payments will be reduced 25 percent to account for the areas hayed. At least 50 percent of the CRP contract acreage must be left unhayed for wildlife. Other restrictions and limitations also apply.

For more information contact local FSA county offices or go to website:  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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## GLICKMAN AUTHORIZES EMERGENCY HAYING FOR DROUGHT RELIEF

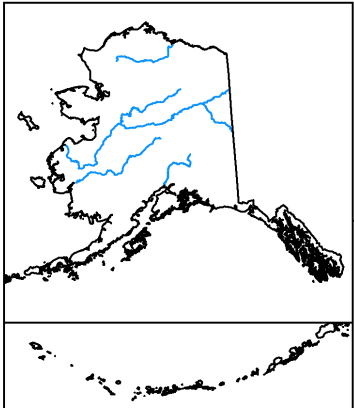
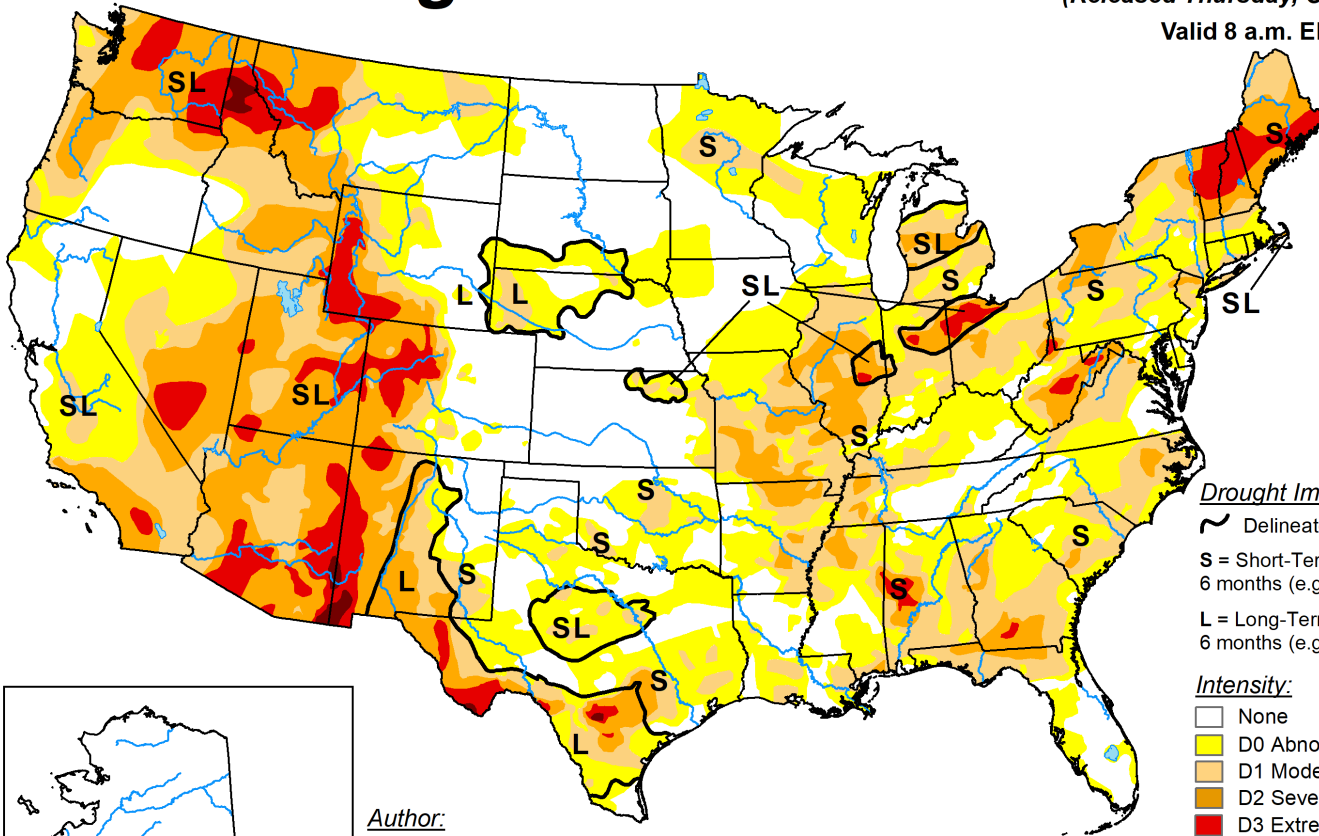
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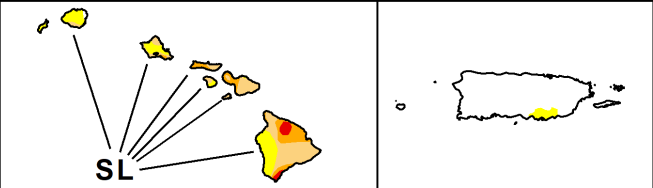
To be approved for emergency haying, a county must have suffered at least a **40 percent loss of normal moisture and forage** for the preceding four-month qualifying period.

# U.S. Drought Monitor

October 7, 2025  
(Released Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Author:  
Curtis Riganti  
National Drought Mitigation Center



- Drought Impact Types:
- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
  - S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
  - L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)
- Intensity:
- None
  - D0 Abnormally Dry
  - D1 Moderate Drought
  - D2 Severe Drought
  - D3 Extreme Drought
  - D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Category	Description	Example Percentile Range for Most Indicators
None	Normal or wet conditions	30.01 or Above
D0	Abnormally Dry	20.01 to 30.00
D1	Moderate Drought	10.01 to 20.00
D2	Severe Drought	5.01 to 10.00
D3	Extreme Drought	2.01 to 5.00
D4	Exceptional Drought	0.00 to 2.00

# What <sup>is</sup> the U.S. Drought Monitor?



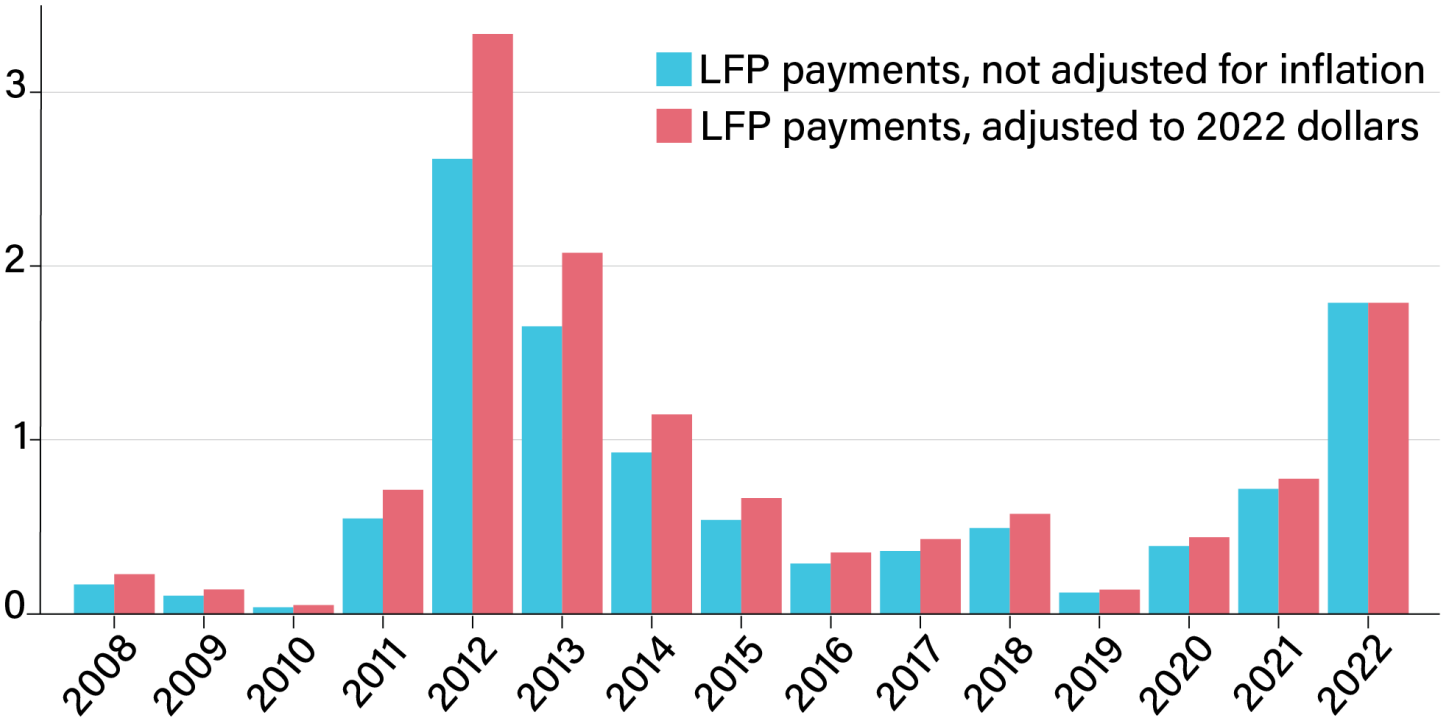
The U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) is a map released every Thursday, showing parts of the U.S. that are in drought. The map uses five classifications: abnormally dry (D0), showing areas that may be going into or are coming out of drought, and four levels of drought: moderate (D1), severe (D2), extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4). It is produced jointly by the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).



**The USDA uses the map as a trigger for programs that help agricultural producers recover from drought and other natural disasters:**

**Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) payments, 2008-22,  
not adjusted for inflation and adjusted to 2022 dollars**

Total annual LFP payments (billions U.S. dollars)



Note: The chart shows total annual payments for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) before adjusting for inflation (nominal) and after adjusting for inflation (real). Nominal payments refer to the amount of payments distributed for losses each year. Real payments show those payments after they have been adjusted for inflation, in this case to the 2022 dollar. LFP payments include those made to producers experiencing forage loss because of drought or because of wildfire on Federal rangeland leased to producers for grazing. The payments for 2011, 2012, and 2013 reflect a 2014 Farm Bill change to eligibility requirements for LFP payments. The bill authorized retroactive payments for producers affected by drought in 2011, 2012, and 2013, when much of the central United States experienced significant drought conditions.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using USDA, Farm Service Agency data.

## Eligibility by County

[Home](#) / Eligibility by County

The County Eligibility tool tells you which, if any, of the Livestock Forage Disaster Program requirements are met for a particular county.

The FSA Eligibility Tool does not guarantee any financial aid. It simply estimates which U.S. counties meet the criteria, based on the U.S. Drought Monitor. Eligibility will be confirmed by the FSA once the signup period has begun. Please contact your [local FSA agent](#) for more details and to verify eligibility after the start of the signup period.

If you would like information at a state or national level, please visit the [Summary Data](#) section or return to the [home page](#).

For help with this tool, please visit the [FSA Eligibility Tool Help](#) pages.

## Location

State

Alabama

▼

County

Autauga County

▼

## Grazing Period

Start of Grazing Period\*

End of Grazing Period\*

\* Grazing periods vary by location and forage type. Please check with your local FSA agent for the applicable grazing period.



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Editorial Type: **Essay**

Article Type: **Other**

Full access

## Lessons Learned from the 2017 Flash Drought across the U.S. Northern Great Plains and Canadian Prairies

Andrew Hoell, Britt-Anne Parker, Michael Downey, Natalie Umphlett, Kelsey Jencso, F. Adnan Akyuz, Dannele Peck, Trevor Hadwen, Brian Fuchs, Doug Kluck, Laura Edwards, Judith Perlwitz, Jon Eischeid, Veva Deheza, Roger Pulwarty, and Kathryn Bevington

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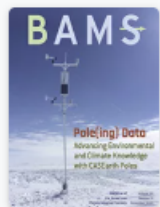
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Supplementary Materials



Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society

Volume 101: Issue 12

Sections

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# Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018

## Section 12512: Improvements to United States Drought Monitor

(a) In General.--The Secretary shall coordinate with the Director of the National Drought Mitigation Center and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to enhance the collection of data to improve the accuracy of the United States Drought Monitor.

(b) Utilization.--To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall utilize a consistent source or sources of data for programs that are based on drought or precipitation indices, such as the livestock forage disaster program established under section 1501(c) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(c)) or policies or plans of insurance established under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.).

(c) Review.--Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a review of--

- (1) the types of data currently utilized by the United States Drought Monitor;
- (2) the geographic coverage and density of existing data collection sites; and
- (3) other meteorological or climatological data that is being collected by other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and non-Federal entities that could be utilized by the United States Drought Monitor.

(d) Improvements.--

(1) In general.--Upon the completion of the review prescribed in subsection (c), the Secretary shall--

(A) seek to expand the collection of relevant data in States or geographic areas where coverage is currently lacking as compared to other States or geographic areas; and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, develop standards to allow the integration of meteorological or climatological data into the United States Drought Monitor derived from--

(i) in-situ soil moisture profile measuring devices;

(ii) citizen science (as defined in the Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Act (15 U.S.C. 3724)), including data from the Cooperative Observer Program of the National Weather Service; and

(iii) other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and non-Federal entities.

(2) Authorization of appropriations.--There is to be authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this subsection \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

Step 1: Survey of Products Available to USDM Authors

Step 2: Recommendations on How to Get More

*“(i) in-situ soil moisture profile measuring devices;”*

*“(iii) other Federal agencies .. and non-Federal entities.”*



Review of Information Used to Produce  
the *United States Drought Monitor*

Submitted by the Office of the Chief Economist as Partial Execution of

**Section 12512**

(IMPROVEMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES DROUGHT MONITOR)  
of The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018

Public Law 115-334; 7 U.S. Code §5856

**Data Used by All Authors Survey Were:**

- In-Situ Observations (rainfall, temperature, etc.) via Regional Climate Centers – Multiple Sources
- SNOTEL – USDA/NRCS
- Streamflow – USGS
- Groundwater – USGS
- Precipitation Estimates – NOAA/NWS/AHPS
- NLDAS Soil Moisture – NOAA/NASA
- Vegetative Health Index – NOAA/NESDIS
- EDDI (Evaporative Demand Drought Index) – NOAA/ESRL
- Vegetative Drought Response Index (VegDRI) – USGS, NDMC, HPRCC
- QuickDRI – NDMC, CALMIT, USGS, USDA/ARS, NASA/Goddard
- Objective Blends – NOAA/CPC

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Submitted by the Office of the Chief Economist as Partial Execution of

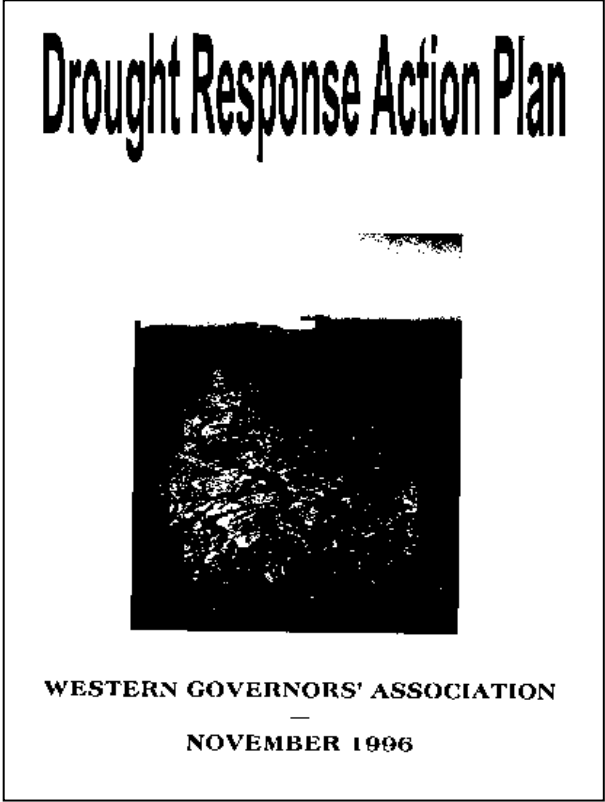
**Section 12512**

(IMPROVEMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES DROUGHT MONITOR)  
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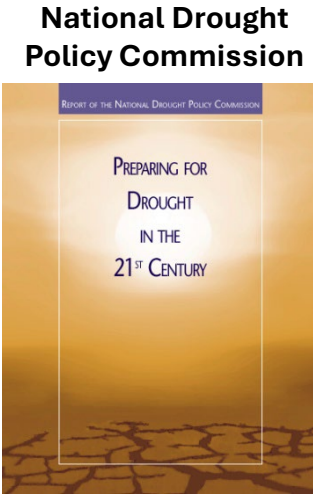
**Recommendations for Inclusion of New Data Included:**

- *Quality requirements for inclusion of in-situ data and other products into the USDM should be made public both for transparency and so that data providers may have an opportunity to participate in the process.*
- *There needs to be coordination amongst NOAA agencies maintaining the various operational databases, so that all sources may be assessed for potential inclusion into the USDM.*
- *To allow state and regional contributors to better understand their local drought depiction, the list of products used most heavily by the USDM author of record for every individual shift should be made public.*
- *Methodologies need to be explored that will allow inclusion of data with short periods of record, and other information the authors are being encouraged to use.*

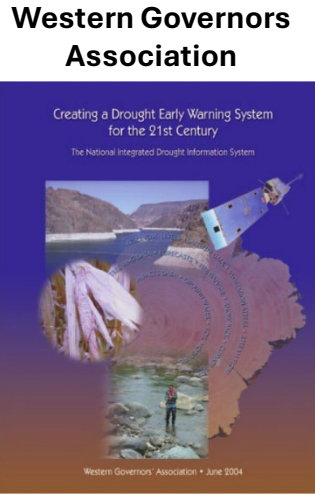


1996

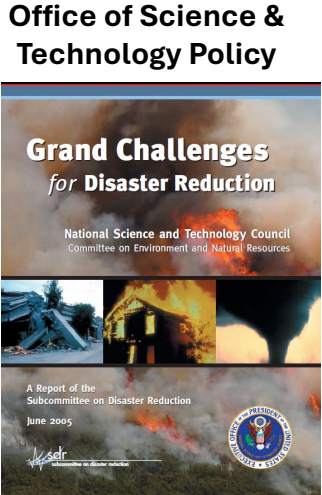
Call to action following several western droughts and resultant wildfires



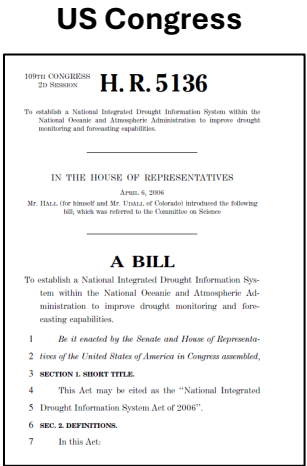
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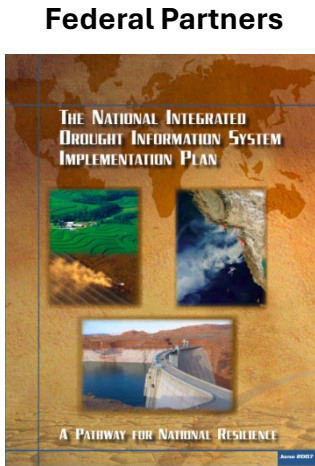
2004



2005



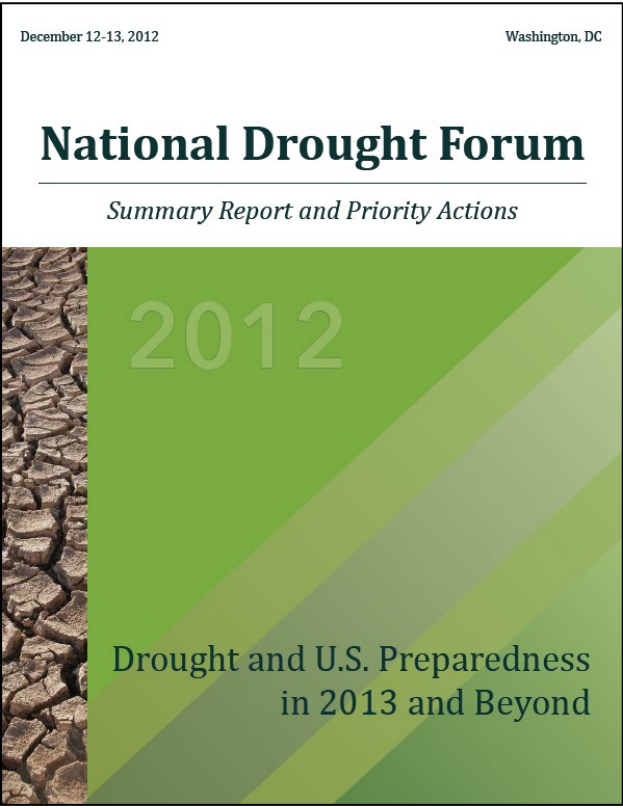
2006



2007

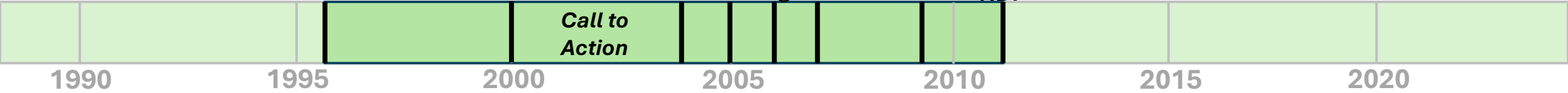


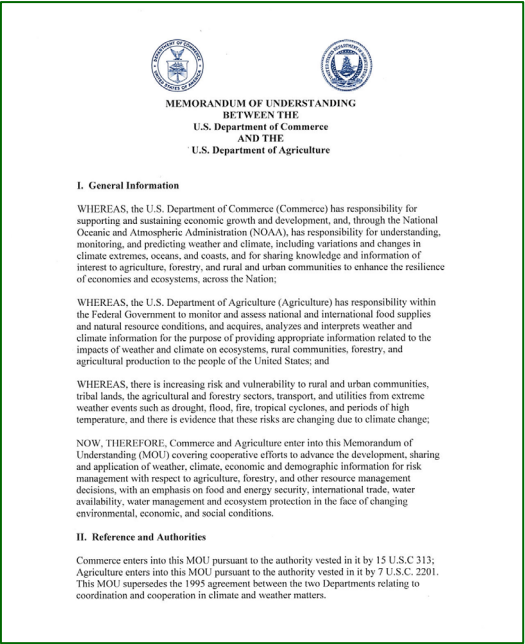
2009



2012

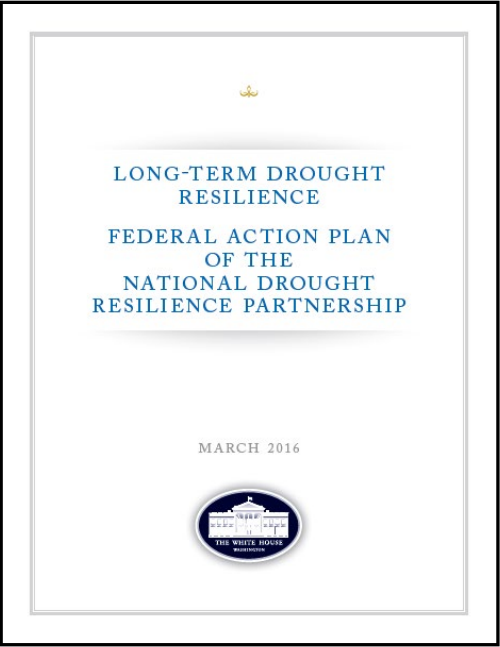
Call to action following 2012 drought





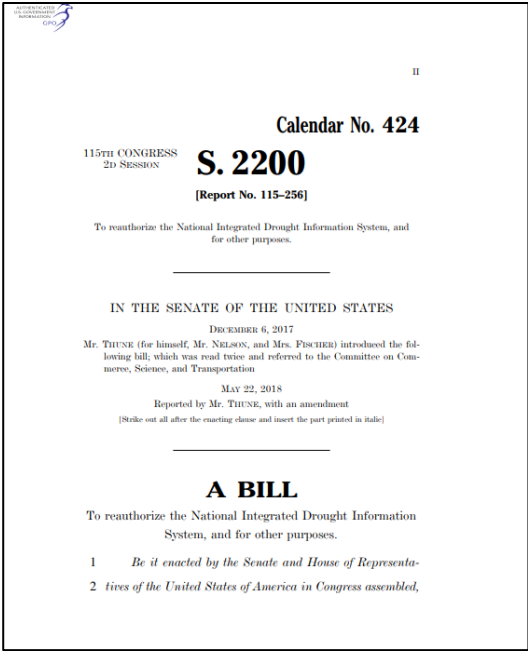
**USDA/NOAA MOU  
(2012)**

*USDA and NOAA agree to partner on developing a National Soil Moisture Network*



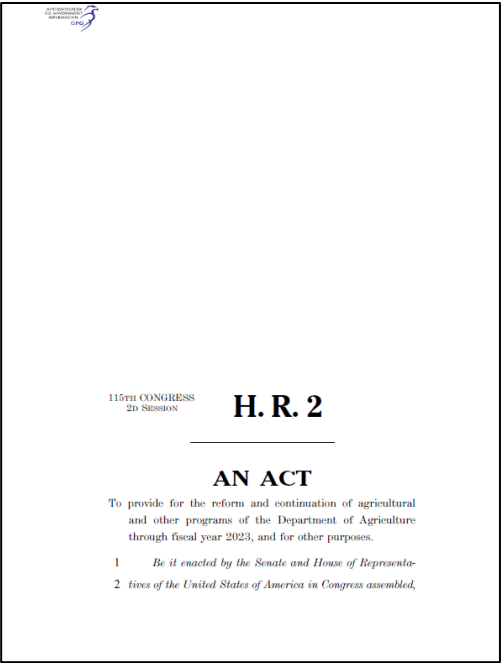
**National Drought  
Resilience Partnership  
(2016)**

*White House promises policy-level support for a National Soil Moisture Network*



**NIDIS Reauthorization  
(2018)**

*Congress tasks NIDIS with developing the framework for a National Coordinated Soil Moisture Network*



**Agricultural Improvement Act  
of 2018**

*Congress urges use of soil moisture observations in creating the US Drought Monitor*

