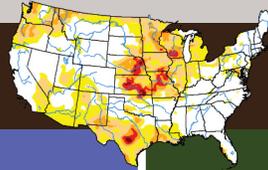


Providing Input to the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM)



Please do:



Please don't:



Send contributions to the full listserv: drought@lists.unl.edu.



Share the map or narrative with anyone outside of your state monitoring team or the national listserv until after its official release on Thursday morning.



Include the state(s) or geographic area you are discussing in the subject line. This helps the author and others identify posts related to their area of interest or potential border issues.



Use local or specific geographic features, regions, management areas or highways in describing the location.



Limit total attachments to 2 MB or less.



Email large attachments. These clog inboxes, can be difficult for mobile users to open and frequently get rejected by email servers.



Use the most recent USDM map or draft to show your recommended placement of lines.



Draw your recommendations on maps and products such as Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, forecast maps, etc.



Summarize your changes and justification, preferably with bullet points.



Include long text descriptions or email chains.



Include or identify the products, time scales, and sources of data used when making your recommendations.

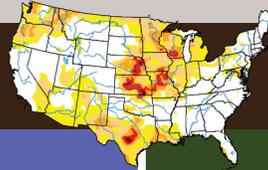


Cherry-pick data, selecting one or two indicators from what is available. The USDM is not trying to mimic any one or handful of indices/indicators.

Providing Input to the U.S. Drought Monitor



Please do:



Please don't:



Use percentiles when referring to your supporting data. Percentiles are the backbone of the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) methodology.



Use percent of normal precipitation (PNP). PNP only uses the most recent 30-year reference period.



Include impact information when possible.



Expect the drought classification to change based on impact information alone.



Recognize that authors do not consider relief programs or other map uses when determining drought classification.



Focus on a single type of drought. The USDM tries to show all types of drought on one map.



Acknowledge that the USDM protocol is to limit changes to a single category per week.



Forget that precipitation takes time to move through the hydrological cycle.



Contribute during all seasons.



Let potential changes fall through the cracks.



Come to a state or regional consensus prior to sending recommendations.



Forget that authors have the final say on how the map will look.



Recognize that disagreements happen. The USDM is a weekly product and adjustments can be made the following week.



Ask for retroactive changes to be made to the map. Once the USDM is completed and published, it is final.

Sample Template for Providing Input to the U.S. Drought Monitor

- This template contains key information that USDM authors, state drought monitoring teams and other local experts consider necessary for justifying proposed changes to the map and increasing the efficiency of the recommendation process.
- Summarizing information on a single slide or page, as shown here, helps authors quickly resolve your recommendations with their analysis. This information doesn't need to appear exactly as shown below or in the same order, though bullet points are preferred. You can share summaries in the body of your email or attach a file (like Microsoft Word or PowerPoint).
- Include the most recent USDM map or draft showing your recommended placement of lines. If using an earlier draft, please note which areas have already been addressed. Lines drawn on other maps, particularly those that don't include previous USDM lines, are difficult to compare against existing drought categories.
- Feel free to include supplemental data, maps or information after your summary. This makes it easier for authors to identify the reasons for any differences between your recommendations and their analysis.

[State Name] Drought Recommendations

For the assessment period ending MM, DD, YYYY

[Name and position of person sending report]

Information to include:

Recommended change #1

1. **Location.** Indicate on the most recent draft of the USDM.
2. **Type of change.** Changes can include the addition/removal, intensification or improvement, shifting of drought areas, or designation as long-term (L), short-term (S), or both (SL).
3. **Justification.** The justification should reference multiple indicators, relevant time scale, and source. Methodologies can differ by data providers. The USDM uses the percentile ranking in determining drought classification; please refer to these when possible.
4. **Impact information (if available).** Impacts provide ground truth to the data and can help determine the type of drought that is occurring, assist in severity classification, and differentiate between long- and short-term drought.

Repeat 1-4 for each additional change or region.

Last week's USDM map with desired edits drawn on the map

Additional information

This could be:

- Information to remember for the upcoming week.
- Areas to keep an eye on.
- Extra detail (maps, data, etc.) for things that you included elsewhere.

Published September 2023 by the National Drought Mitigation Center, through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of the Chief Economist