

Contributing to the U.S. Drought Portal

What is the U.S. Drought Portal?

The U.S. Drought Portal (USDP) is a national, internet-based clearinghouse for data, models, forecasts, risk information, and impacts of drought that is part of the National Integrated Drought Information Systems (NIDIS). The USDP provides reliable information on drought conditions at county, regional, and national scales and serves as the primary point of entry for drought-related queries (through <http://www.drought.gov>) for a variety of user groups. The USDP will incorporate a spectrum of information from both federal interagency and non-federal sources. Generally, information on the USDP will answer the following questions:



- Where are drought conditions now and where might they develop?
- Does this drought event look like other events in the past?
- Will the drought continue?
- How is the drought affecting me?
- How can I plan for and manage the impacts of drought?

The USDP concept is based on the need to assimilate and quality control drought data, models, risk information, and impacts, and to create a point of entry for archiving and disseminating data. It has the responsibility for archiving and disseminating data through a Web-based portal that will provide personalized capabilities for visitors. The USDP will work by combining drought data and information with tools necessary to exchange and integrate data on various space and time scales, and among various formats.

The USDP will provide information in a variety of formats to best serve the needs of different decision makers. The three general communities the USDP envisions serving include:

- The general public who need to know the status of drought and what actions to take if the drought worsens where they live and work
- Decision makers and businesses at state and county levels that need to plan for and mitigate drought
- Drought experts and scientists tasked with developing more refined decision support systems

Types of Information the USDP is seeking

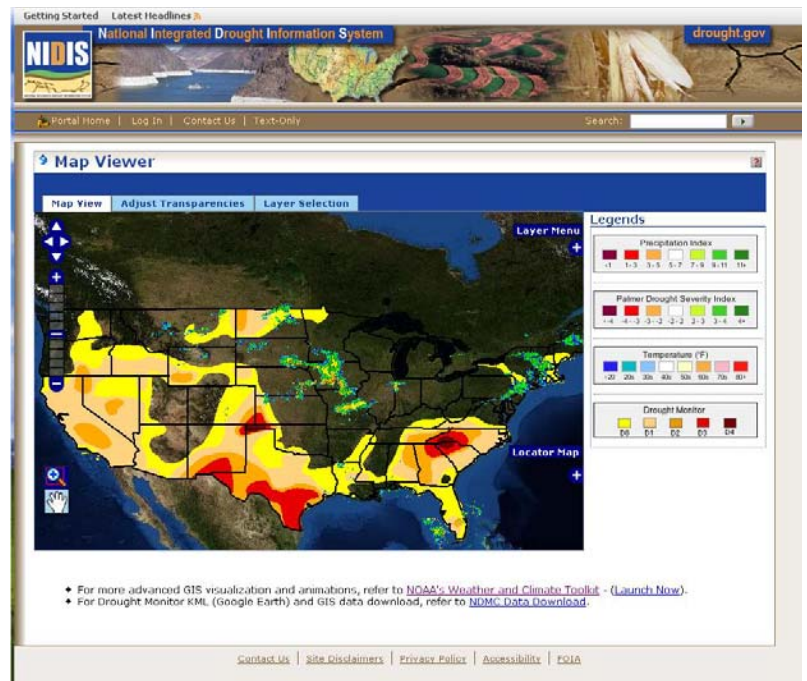
The USDP is specifically seeking:

- National internet or geographic information system (GIS) based tools and decision support services related to the drought questions posed above
- Regional, state, or local internet or geographic information system (GIS) based tools and decision support services related to the drought questions posed above in areas that coincide with National Integrated Drought Information System Pilot project areas

Specifically, the following four types of information are requested for inclusion in the USDP in priority order:

1. Web Mapping Services (WMS) that meet the standards of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) 1.0 or higher. For more information see <http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/wms>. These data will be integrated directly into the USDP map viewer.
2. Drought-related maps and web sites that are regularly updated and can be rendered in a USDP portlet.
3. Drought-related maps and web sites that are regularly updated and can be made available only as a stand-alone page, separate from the USDP.
4. Non-regularly issued reports related to drought, of a non-time sensitive nature.

Other information formats are welcome to contribute, however, the lag in incorporating that information will be larger than with the four listed above.



Contact Information

If you would like to contribute information to the USDP, please submit an email to NIDIS.Questions@noaa.gov briefly describing your information and which of the four types of information described above it represents. The USDP Content Management Team will review your request and contact you.