













NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

How NWS Central Region Offices are Working to Provide More Actionable Climate Information to Core Partners through Consistent Subseasonal to Seasonal Impact-Based Decision Support Services

MAY 24, 2022
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Outline



- Local NWS Central Region (CR) offices
- Regional Messaging efforts

Ongoing Work on New Climate Services Initiatives

- NWS CR Roadmap Initiatives
- National NWS Initiatives

















Current Climate Services Messaging:

Local NWS Central Region Offices



Sub-Seasonal to Seasonal IDSS:

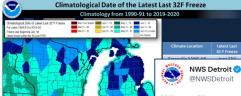


NWS Grand Rapids 📀 @NWSGrandRanids



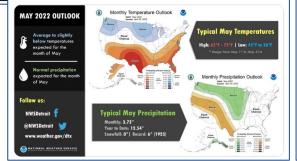
NWS Gaylord 📀 @NWSGavlord

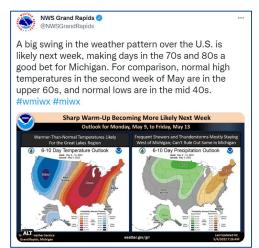
4/27/2022: 8:15 PM: Another chilly night ahead. Here is a map showing the 30 year climatology for the Latest last 32 F Freeze. So chilly springs have lasted though May and even into June. For more information, Here is the Climate blog site, weather, gov/grr/blog

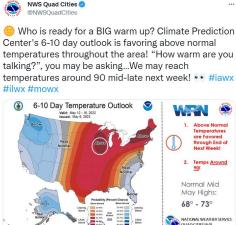


You may be thinking, "what #growingseason??" after this weekend's warmth, a little green is star show in some places around Gaylord. Concerned about your plants? Check with #gardening exper vour local @MSUExtension office! #miwx #northernMichigan #ag

What will temperatures & precipitation look like this month? Here is the latest forecast from the Climate Prediction Center for southeast Michigan #miwx









How Close to Normal is the Growing Season?



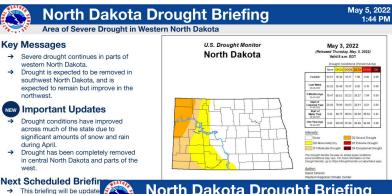


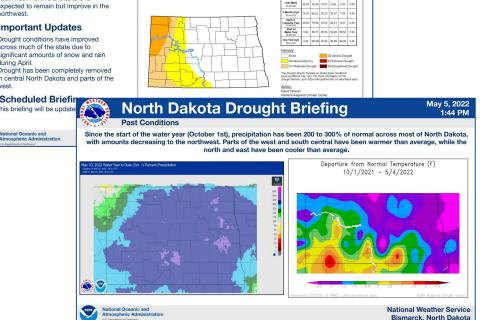
Heat Accumulation

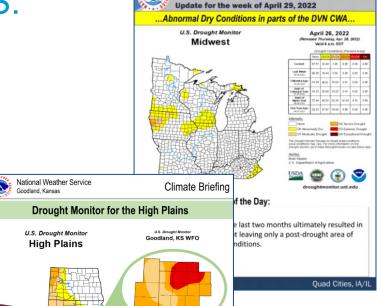
compared to norma as of April 24, 2022



Sub-Seasonal to Seasonal IDSS: WFO Drought/Climate Reports







Drought Briefing

2:45 PM



National Oceanic and

D3 (Extreme Drought)

DO (Abnormally Dry) D1 (Moderate Drought) No Data

Throughout the month of April a 1 class degradation was made to a wide area of the Tri-State area with low precipitation amounts until the final 1-2 weeks of the month. Up until April 29th Goodland and Burlington were both at a Trace of precipitation for the month which would have been the driest

April on record



Sub-Seasonal to Seasonal IDSS: State Interagency Partnerships and Collaboration

- A few states across NWS Central Region have established interagency climate working groups
- Participants may include:
 - NWS WFOs and RFCs, state climate office, state emergency management, state extension, state water office, state forestry, state health and environment, state agriculture, NIDIS, USGS, USDA, etc
- Purpose:
 - Information sharing to improve and enhance collaboration and joint messaging opportunities.

















Current Climate Services Messaging:

Regional Messaging Efforts



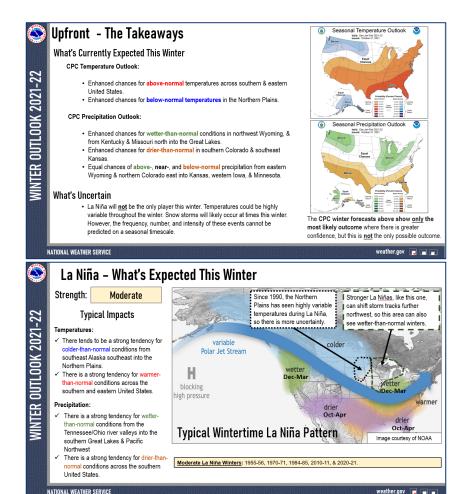


Regional Resource: Winter Outlook Briefing Slides

- WFO Climate leads volunteered to put together a 16-slide Winter Outlook.
 Briefing presentation after the official release of CPC's winter outlook.
 - Distributed to all CR WFO climate leads
- Target Audience:
 - Internal resource for CR NWS employees

• Purpose:

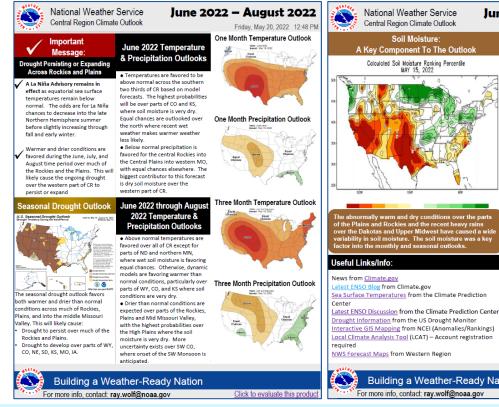
- Provide a regional focus to the outlooks.
- Provide easy-to-understand description of key factors considered for the outlooks.
- Provide CR WFOs with talking points.





Regional Resource: Central Region Monthly Climate Reports

- CR WFO Climate leads volunteer to create these monthly one-pagers.
- More technical/educational
- Target Audience:
 - Internal CR NWS employees
 - Some offices share with savvy media partners



June 2022 - August 2022 National Weather Service Central Region Climate Outlook Friday, May 20, 2022 12:49 PM Soil Moisture: IRI/CPC Probabilistic ENSO A Key Component To The Outlook Forecast/Plumes Colculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile IRI/CPC The abnormally warm and dry conditions over the parts Though La Niña is favored to continue, the of the Plains and Rockies and the recent heavy rains odds are for La Niña to decrease into the late over the Dakotas and Upper Midwest have caused a wide Northern Hemisphere summer (58% chance in variability in soil moisture. The soil moisture was a key Aug-Oct) before slightly increasing through fall actor into the monthly and seasonal outlooks and early winter (61% chance).

summer, with La Niña conditions favored for Other Teleconnection Effects

the fall and early winter 2022-23.

There are roughly equal odds of La Niña and

ENSO neutral during the Northern Hemisphere

A Kelvin wave is expected to move into the Western Hemisphere during late May and early June time period, which may cause an increased chance for early season tropical cyclone activity.



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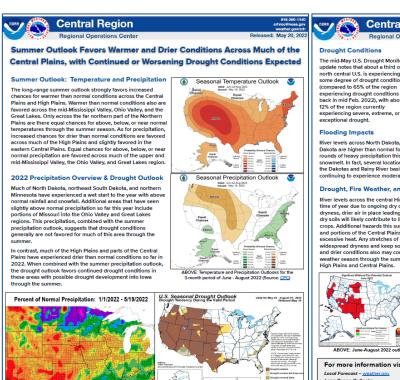




Regional Collaboration: Seasonal Hazard Outlooks



- 2-4 different one-pagers created to better highlight specific regions
- Collaborate with regional SMEs in climate, agriculture, hydrology, drought, etc. for feedback and inputs
- Issued seasonally, in line with CPC seasonal outlook releases and/or spring flood outlook messaging
- Target Audience: local, state, regional, and tribal core partners and stakeholders
 - Plain language





ABOVE: U.S. Drought Monitor as of May 17,

Flooding Impacts

River levels across North Dakota, Minnesota, and northeast South Dakota are higher than normal for this time of year due to several rounds of heavy precipitation this spring combined with the spring snowmelt. In fact, several locations along the James and Red Rivers in the Dakotas and Rainy River basin in Minnesota reached or are continuing to experience moderate to major flooding this spring.

Drought, Fire Weather, and Heat Impacts

River levels across the central High Plains are much below normal for this time of year due to ongoing dry conditions. The combination of long-term dryness, drier air in place leading to higher evapotranspiration, and very dry soils will likely contribute to limited availability of water for growing crops. Additional hazards this summer, particularly across the High Plains and portions of the Central Plains, include the potential for stretches of excessive heat. Any stretches of excessive heat could further exacerbate widespread dryness and keep soils very dry. The anticipation of warmer and drier conditions also may contribute to a potentially active fire weather season through the summer months across many areas in the High Plains and Central Plains.

Areas impacted by persistent or worsening drought conditions may experience this summer: Larger and more frequent wildfires

- Less livestock forage and water
 - Increased crop stress and livestock

ABOVE: 3-Month Change in the U.S. Drought

Monitor (Source: U.S. Drought Monitor)

- Reduced rural water supply and
- Reduced or adapted outdoor recreation and tourism
 - Decreased air quality
- Increased production of harmful
- algae blooms and other ecological impacts due to reduced water



For more information visit: Local Forecast - weather.gov Long-Range Outlooks -

River Forecasts -

Weather & Climate Data - ncei.noaa.go Fire Outlook - nifc.gov/n Drought Information - drought.gov Streamflow Data

















Ongoing Work on New Climate Services Initiatives:

NWS CR Roadmap Initiatives





NWS Central Region FY 22 Roadmap/AOP Goals: Subseasonal to Seasonal IDSS



Background: CR Roadmap establishes regional goals for set time period and these goals have various focus areas

Current CR Roadmap established goals for FY22

One of the Core Focus Areas → Subseasonal to Seasonal Impact-Based Decision Support Services (IDSS)

3 Specific Goals Outlined for this Focus Area:

- Goal #1: Develop an inventory of underserved climatefocused partners and communities at the local, state, and regional levels.
- Goal #2: Develop a proposal and accompanying needs assessment for a standard suite of subseasonal to seasonal IDSS products and services.
- Goal #3: Develop a plan which leverages climate SMEs to communicate to core partners new climate information on various timescales.



Central Region Roadmap





1. Develop an inventory of underserved

sonal to seasonal IDSS products and services 3. Develop a plan which leverages climate SMEs to communicate to Core Partners new climate

Blue Sky initiative

tiative has proven successful in providing mutual aid to offices during high-impact operations, while region via open exchange and discussion between subject matter experts. Expansion of the RMA initiative would further promote these benefits.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities Goals

1. Facilitate regional training on foundational science topics and conceptual models, and highlight their use and utility in a modernized forecast process, focusing on ensembles and probability-based forecasting.



overall knowledge sharing and growth to 3. Increase the number of CR employees able to serve as facilitators for the CR RMA initiativ

Focus Area: Subseasonal to Seasonal IDSS

nnovation Act of 2017 (the "Weather Bill") and NOAA have emphasized the need for increased and communities better prepare for extreme weather and water events. Providing IDSS beyond gaging SMEs, supports the mission of the NWS and incorporates field input received as a

desired outcome from the CR Roadmap FY22.

- climate-focused partners and groups at the local and regional levels. 2. Develop a proposal and accompanying need assessment for a standard suite of subsea-
- information on various timescales









NWS Central Region FY 22 Roadmap/AOP Goals: Subseasonal to Seasonal IDSS



Goal #1: Develop an inventory of underserved climate-focused partners and communities at the local, state, and regional levels.

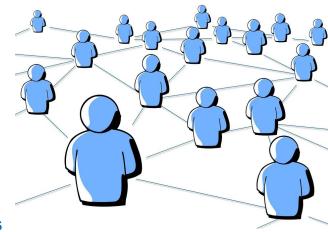
• Will help WFOs with improving partnerships and engaging with communities with climatefocused interests.

Action Items in Progress:

Developing a spreadsheet where each office will identify climate-focused partners and communities that (a) they already serve, or (b) are underserved and could benefit from additional or new NWS engagement.



• The development of this inventory will serve as a stepping stone for enhanced outreach and IDSS to partners and communities with climate-related interests into the future.









NWS Central Region FY 22 Roadmap/AOP Goals: Subseasonal to Seasonal IDSS



Goal #2: Develop a proposal and accompanying needs assessment for a standard suite of subseasonal to seasonal IDSS products and services.

• Will ensure all CR WFOs have a solid foundation of established IDSS products/services they provide that we can then further build upon and enhance in the future.



Action Items in Progress:



Distributed an internal survey for CR field office climate program leaders to 1)
document current best practices for climate outlooks/briefings beyond the 7day forecast period; 2) get suggestions on needed tools, products, and
support services to help develop and expand subseasonal to seasonal IDSS.



Next Steps:

- Utilize feedback to determine types of information, content, and format partners desire for subseasonal to seasonal outlook information and IDSS.
- Develop a needs assessment and proposal with recommendations for requested products and services.
- Develop recommendations for base IDSS templates that can be used for more easily communicating subseasonal to seasonal outlook information.













Goal #3: Develop a plan which leverages climate SMEs to communicate to core partners new climate information on various timescales.

 Will ensure we're leveraging various areas of expertise from individuals across the region and utilizing them to ensure clear and concise subseasonal to seasonal IDSS messaging.





















Include links to:

Climate

Communications

- useful webpages, resources, & graphics
- climate training
- informational journal articles on climate topics

Local NWS Office
Climate Teams,
Individual Areas of
Expertise

Local NWS Office Climate Webpages

- How to leverage online resources to communicate climate info.
- Playbooks, action plans, trigger chart, etc. to assist with consistent climate communications.
- Identify collaboration opportunities for NWS state liaison offices with climate messaging.



Recommendations for

how offices can build a

useful and sustainable

climate program within their office.

Recommendations for enhancing

local NWS office climate pages

with additional resources,

including pertinent regional-

specific resources.



NWS Central Region: Regional Climate Messaging



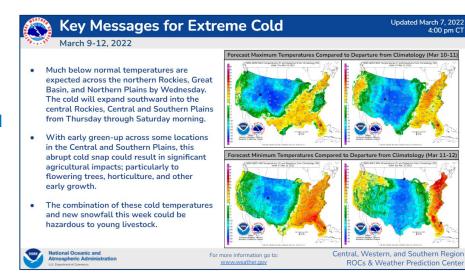
Goal: Develop a standard suite of regional level climate IDSS that will be provided by the Central Region Regional Operations Center (ROC), and determine what "triggers" would initiate the development and dissemination of various types of climate IDSS.



Action Items In Progress:

- Learn more about our FEMA regions' climate messaging interests or needs during the subseasonal to seasonal time frame.
- Develop a regional climate playbook to highlight what climate products/services will be supported by the CR ROC and what internal and external partners should be leveraged for collaboration opportunities.
- Develop a trigger chart for when the CR ROC will initiate climate services messaging and at what frequency such messaging should be completed

 considering both subseasonal and seasonal opportunities.

















Ongoing Work on New Climate Services Initiatives:

National NWS Initiatives







National NWS Initiatives: Collaborative Work with Regional Climate Services Program Managers

















Subseasonal to Seasonal Impact-Based Decision Support Services

- Internal NWS Collaborative opportunities:
 - Develop templates and policy for national Climate Key Messages.
 - Improve collaboration/coordination efforts between local/regional NWS offices and the Climate Prediction Center (CPC).
- Work on Climate Monitoring and Prediction IDSS Templates.
- Develop process for collaboration among key constituents for regional climate IDSS.
- Leverage information gathered from workshops and focus groups to make improvements to drought messaging within the NWS.

Evaluate and Address Gaps in Service Equity

- **NOAA Regional Collaboration Network Climate and Equity Projects**
 - Central Region Project: "Building Knowledge to Support Equitable Climate Resilience."



















Current Local and Regional Climate Services in NWS Central Region

- Social Media
- DSS Briefing Packets
- State Interagency Partnerships and Collaboration
- Winter Outlook briefing slides
- One-Pagers: technical, plain-language

FY22 NWS Central Region Roadmap

- Inventory: underserved climate focused partners, communities
- Needs assessment for standard suite of S2S IDSS products and services
- Leverage climate SMEs to communicate
 S2S climate info to core partners
- Regional climate messaging from the CR ROC

National Climate Services Initiatives

- National Climate Key Messages
- Improved collaboration / coordination with CPC
- Climate Monitoring and Prediction IDSS templates
- Collaboration efforts among key constituents for regional climate IDSS
- Improving NWS drought messaging
- Evaluate and address gaps in service equity



Questions