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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 03-04
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
200 PM EST THU JAN 23 2003

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS
EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/
SUBSCRIBERS
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS
OTHER NWS CUSTOMERS...PARTNERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: ROBERT E. LIVEZEY
CHIEF...CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

SUBJECT: CHANGE TO U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR IMPACT CATEGORIES...EFFECTIVE
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20 2003.

EFFECTIVE THURSDAY...FEBRUARY 20 2003...THE DROUGHT MONITOR TEAM OF THE
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER...U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
/USDA/...NATIONAL DROUGHT MITIGATION CENTER AND NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA
CENTER...WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF DROUGHT IMPACT CATEGORIES DEPICTED ON
THE U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR MAP FROM THREE /AGRICULTURE...FIRE AND
HYDROLOGICAL/ TO TWO /AGRICULTURAL AND HYDROLOGICAL/. THE AGRICULTURAL
DROUGHT IMPACT CATEGORY WILL BE LABELED WITH AN - A - ON THE MAP. THE
HYDROLOGICAL DROUGHT IMPACT CATEGORY WILL BE LABELED WITH AN - H - ON THE
MAP.

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHANGE IS TO SIMPLIFY THE DROUGHT MONITOR MAP AND TO
AVOID APPARENT CONFLICTS WITH INFORMATION PROVIDED BY FIRE AGENCIES.
BECAUSE FIRE DANGER CAN CHANGE QUICKLY AND BECAUSE IT IS NOT ALWAYS
DIRECTLY RELATED TO CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS...DISTINGUISHING AREAS OF
DROUGHT-INDUCED FIRE DANGER ON THE DROUGHT MONITOR CAN LEAD TO CONFLICTS
WITH INFORMATION PROVIDED BY FIRE AGENCIES. THE AGRICULTURAL CATEGORY
WILL INCLUDE DATA ON ALL VEGETATION...INCLUDING
CROPS...PASTURES...GRASSLANDS AND FORESTS.

ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF THE U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR REMAIN THE SAME.

THE U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR MAP IS TRANSMITTED UNDER THE FOLLOWING PRODUCT
IDS:

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION /WMO/ HEADING: PYIA88 KWNC
ADVANCED WEATHER INTERACTIVE PROCESSING SYSTEM /AWIPS/ ID: RBGDRO

IT IS AVAILABLE EVERY THURSDAY AT 8:30 A.M. EASTERN LOCAL TIME EXCEPT IF
THURSDAY IS A FEDERAL HOLIDAY. IN THE CASE OF A THURSDAY HOLIDAY...THE
U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR WILL BE ISSUED ON THE WEDNESDAY BEFORE THE THURSDAY
HOLIDAY AT 8:30 A.M. EASTERN LOCAL TIME.

THE DROUGHT MONITOR MAP IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE INTERNET AT: /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.DROUGHT.UNL.EDU/DM/MONITOR.HTML](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html)

FOR MORE INFORMATION...CONTACT:

DOUG LECOMTE...SENIOR METEOROLOGIST
NOAA/CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER
CAMP SPRINGS MARYLAND
PHONE: 301-763-8000 EXT. 7567

NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

END
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