

Drought News—Drought intensifying in Northeast, harming crops, triggering water restrictions

July 15, 2016

Drought watch for New York State

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation issued a drought watch for the state of New York on July 15. A watch is the lowest level of drought advisory.

Fire emergency in western, central South Dakota

South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard declared fire emergency conditions for 13 counties in the western and central part of the state. Those 13 counties include Butte, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Harding, Hughes, Jackson, Jones, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Perkins and Stanley counties. State agencies were directed, beginning July 15, to serve the fire zone counties as needed.

Drought watch, advisory for most of Massachusetts

Massachusetts' Drought Management Task Force issued a drought watch for much of the central and northeastern part of the state and a drought advisory for the Connecticut River Valley and Southeastern Massachusetts. Those in the watch were to conserve water and to be cautious with outdoor burning and smoking materials.

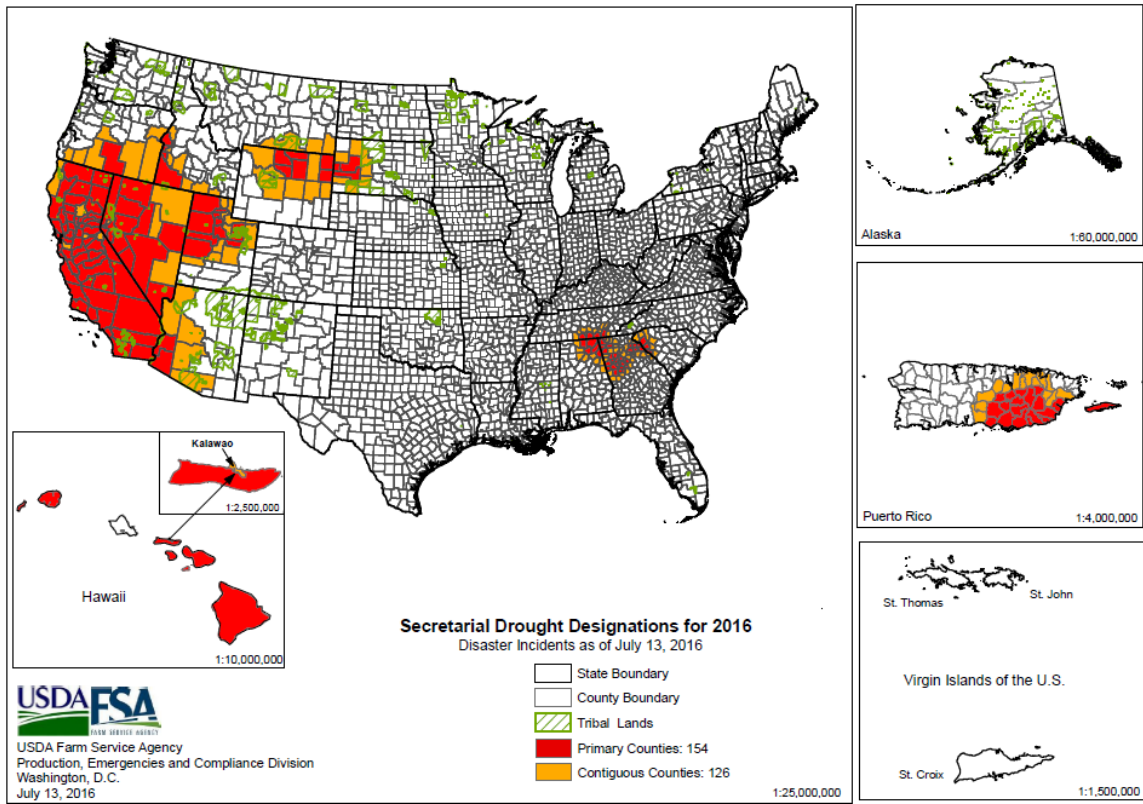
Aquarion of Connecticut requesting customers to conserve

Aquarion Water Company asked its customers to conserve water and reduce non-essential outdoor water use because rainfall was below normal while water demand was extremely high, putting Aquarion's reservoirs and wells below normal capacity. Aquarion serves approximately 192,300 customer accounts or more than 625,000 people in 51 cities and towns throughout Connecticut's Fairfield, New Haven, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex and New London counties. The April through June period was the state's eleventh driest on record.

Drought has dried up or slowed pasture growth in parts of the country, causing some farmers to feed their livestock hay while reducing hay supplies for the winter.

[2016 Secretarial Drought Designations](#) from the USDA

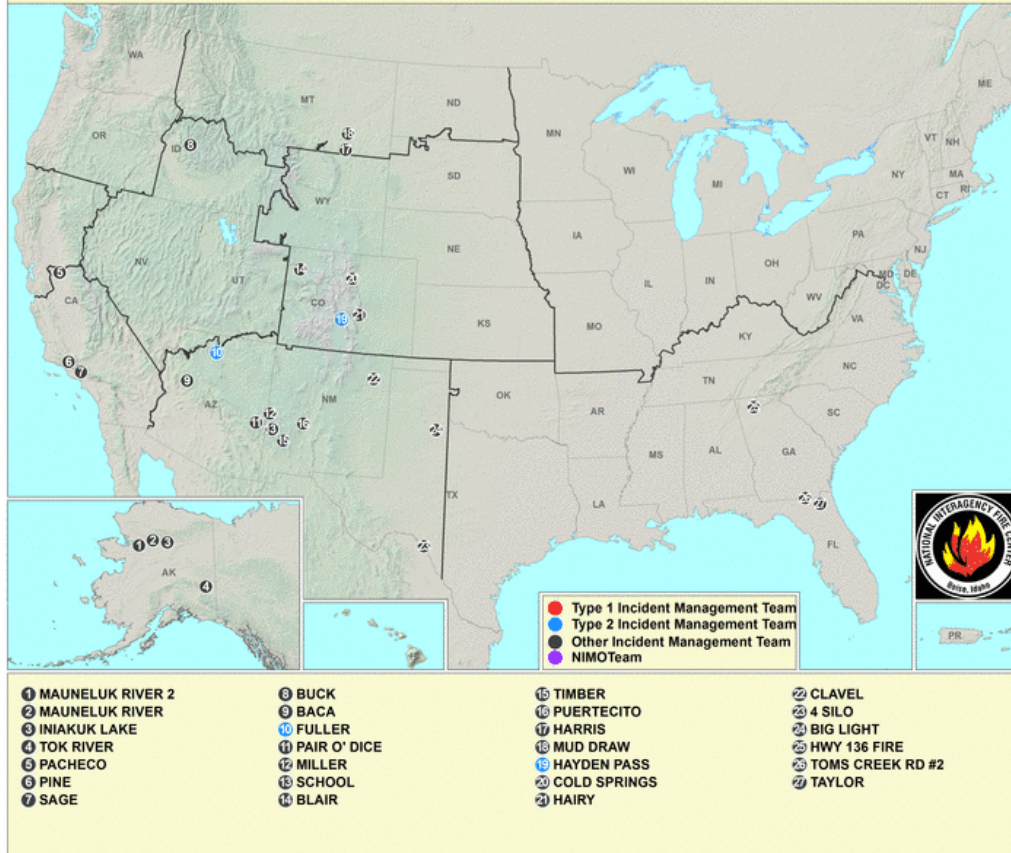
2016 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought



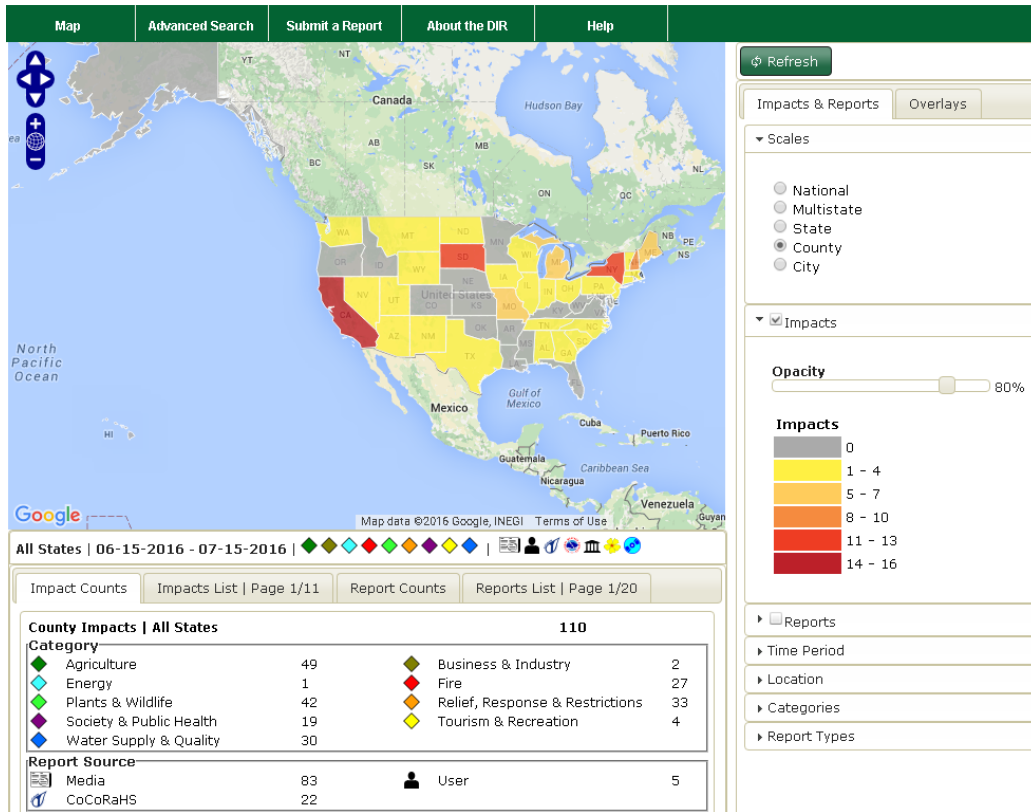
[Large wildfires](#) burning in the U.S.

Current Large Incidents

July 15, 2016



The [Drought Impact Reporter](#) has 148 impacts for the past 30 days.



Agriculture

[Dairy Farms Struggling Through Drought](#)

MyTwinTiers.com

July 11, **New York**. Drought and limited pasture growth may be the last straws for some New York dairy farmers who were struggling financially. Record low milk prices, increased minimum wage and drought leaves dairy farmers wondering how to make ends meet.

[Drought Conditions Taking Toll on Western SD Cattle Producers](#)

WNAX.com

July 12, **South Dakota**. Cattle producers in western South Dakota were running short on pasture and hay as drought stopped pasture growth. Several counties, including Lawrence, Meade and Pennington were declared natural disaster areas due to drought.

[Drought hurting hay harvest in the North Country](#)

North Country Public Radio (Canton, N.Y.)

July 12, **New York**. Corn in southern Jefferson County, New York, was rolling its leaves in an effort to conserve moisture. Hay has taken a bigger hit than corn, at this point, and could mean farmers will be short on hay if rain does not return soon.

[Farmers feel the effects of extreme drought in Catoosa County](#)

WDEF News 12 (Chattanooga, Tenn.)

July 13, **Northern Georgia**. Heat and drought have dried up grass in Catoosa County, with hay production at roughly one-third of normal. Farmers with hay were feeding it to their cattle, which will leave them short of hay for the winter.

[Farmers praying for rain as drought burning up corn, hay](#)

Northwest Georgia News (Rome, Ga.)

July 15, **Northern Georgia**. Crop damage in northern Georgia led to disaster declarations for many counties in northern Georgia, northeastern Alabama, southern Tennessee and western South Carolina. Farmers will not have enough hay to carry livestock through the winter.

[Heat wave could be calamitous for farmers](#)

The Union Daily Times (S. C.)

July 12, **South Carolina**. Some of South Carolina's dryland corn has burned up, while nearly all of the state's corn will have significant reductions in yield. Farmers were irrigating heavily if they were able, but it adds considerable cost to crop production.

[West central Michigan small fruit regional report – July 12, 2016](#)

Michigan State University Extension

July 12, **West central Michigan**. Blueberries in central Michigan were shriveling and dropping from the bushes due to insufficient rainfall, particularly in fields with sandy soil.

[WNY farmers dealing with drought](#)

WGRZ-TV (Buffalo, N.Y.)

July 11, **Eden, just south of Buffalo, New York**. The hot, dry weather has driven farmers near Eden to irrigate around the clock to counter the soil moisture deficit that has been building from the dry winter through the present.

Fire

[Daugaard Issues Emergency Fire Declaration](#)

Rapid City Journal (S.D.)

July 14, **Western, central South Dakota**. South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard declared fire emergency conditions for 13 counties in the western and central part of the state. Those 13 counties include Butte, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Harding, Hughes, Jackson, Jones, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Perkins and Stanley counties. State agencies were directed, beginning July 15, to serve the fire zone counties as needed. The order includes the state Wildland Fire Division covering 90 percent of costs for a Pierre-based air tanker to dump water on a fire in the emergency area.

[Goats being recruited to help prevent wildfires](#)

KFSN-TV Abc30.com (Fresno, Calif.)

July 13, **Merced County, California**. Central Valley goats help lower the fire danger around Los Banos by grazing down the dry vegetation.

General Awareness

[More than a third of Mass. in severe drought](#)

The Boston Globe (Mass.)

July 14, **Massachusetts**. Much of Massachusetts was in moderate and severe drought, leading more than 120 towns statewide to adopt mandatory water restrictions.

[Much of Northeast US experiencing drought conditions](#)

New Jersey Herald (Newton, N.J.)

July 15, **Northeastern U.S.** Western New York, the Finger Lakes region and central and northeastern Massachusetts were the driest of the region as drought intensifies.

[Weather watchers express concern over 'flash drought'](#)

Seguin Gazette (Texas)

July 15, **Texas.** Texas weather forecasters fear that a flash drought is developing in the central part of the state because precipitation has fallen to 25 percent of normal for the past 30 days.

Plants & Wildlife

[Drought Impacts Trees for Years to Come](#)

Journal Star (Peoria, Ill.)

July 11, **Peoria, Illinois.** Large, old trees continued to succumb to damage inflicted by the 2012 drought, according to Rhonda Ferree, an Extension Educator in Horticulture for the Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Extension Unit.

Relief, Response, & Restrictions

[Drought Watch Issued For New York State](#)

Adirondack Almanack (N.Y.)

July 15, **New York.** The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation issued a drought watch for the state of New York on July 15. A watch is the lowest level of drought advisory.

[Governor Dugaard Activates State Drought Task Force](#)

South Dakota State News

July 11, **South Dakota.** Gov. Dugaard of South Dakota activated the state's Drought Task Force, which met on July 11 in Pierre. The task force permits agencies to share information to respond appropriately and be prepared in case drought conditions continue.

[Mass. declares drought watch, advisory for most of state](#)

The Boston Globe

July 12, **Massachusetts.** Massachusetts' Drought Management Task Force issued a drought watch for much of the central and northeastern part of the state and a drought advisory for the Connecticut River Valley and Southeastern Massachusetts. Those in the watch were to conserve water and to be cautious with outdoor burning and smoking materials.

The Drought Management Task Force met to issue the declarations and will continue meeting monthly while certain criteria, such as low precipitation levels, stream flow, and groundwater and reservoir levels exist.

[State lessens Lake Hopatcong draw down by four inches](#)

New Jersey Hills

July 14, **New Jersey.** Lake Hopatcong was about one-foot low, due to the lack of rain, prompting the Department of Environmental Protection to alter the winter drawdown from 26 inches to 22 inches to give the lake a better chance of refilling over the winter.

Tourism & Recreation

[Low water closes 2 boat ramps at Roosevelt Lake](#)

AZCentral

July 11, **Arizona**. Roosevelt Lake in the Toronto National Forest has two fewer boat ramps available for use because the low water level made them unusable. The lake was at 44 percent of capacity.

[Slip renters, McClintock fume over water policies](#)

Village Life

July 13, **Folsom, California**. Boat slip renters at Folsom Lake received notice that they must remove their boats by Aug. 5 as the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation sends water from the lake elsewhere.

Water Supply & Quality

[Drought triggers Aquarion call for water conservation](#)

Greenwich Time (Conn.)

July 15, **Connecticut**. Aquarion Water Company asked its customers to conserve water and reduce non-essential outdoor water use because rainfall was below normal while water demand was extremely high, putting Aquarion's reservoirs and wells below normal capacity. Aquarion serves approximately 192,300 customer accounts or more than 625,000 people in 51 cities and towns throughout Connecticut's Fairfield, New Haven, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex and New London counties. The April through June period was the state's eleventh driest on record.

[Los Angeles Looks for Extra Water Down Its Alleys](#)

The New York Times

July 11, **Los Angeles**. Some of the alleys in the South Park neighborhood of South Los Angeles were being turned into "green alleys," which have been redone to include storm drains and paving materials that permit water to seep through. The alleys funnel water into underground storage receptacles, keeping water from rain, hoses, fire hydrants and other sources from running down sewers, drains and concrete beds and into the ocean, becoming fouled with pollutants along the way. The project is meant to improve Los Angeles' water quality and drought resilience.

[Metropolitan Launches Summer Water Conservation Campaign](#)

Yahoo! Finance

July 12, **California**. The Metropolitan Water District launched a new H2Love™ campaign this week to encourage Southern Californians to embrace conservation as a way of life.

[Nipomo Facing Increased Water Shortage Condition](#)

KEYT.com (Santa Barbara, Calif.)

July 11, **Nipomo, California**. Nipomo was in a severe water shortage condition and anticipates having to reduce groundwater pumping by 50 percent.

[Pawcatuck residents asked to curb water use](#)

The Day (New London, Conn.)

July 13, **Pawcatuck, Connecticut**. The Stonington Board of Selectmen has urged Pawcatuck residents to conserve water because the drought has reduced water resources available to the Westerly Water Co., which serves the eastern part of town. The town will launch a public awareness campaign and encourage residents to voluntarily conserve for the next 60 days or until rains return. The Westerly town council enacted mandatory water restrictions.

[Village of Lyndonville implements water use restrictions](#)

Rochesterfirst.com (N.Y.)

July 13, **Lyndonville, New York**. Lyndonville and Yates have a water shortage, leading the communities to enter stage 1 of their water conservation and water use restriction policies.

[Voluntary Water Conservation Helping in Alden Drought](#)

WGRZ.com Buffalo, N.Y.)

July 12, **Alden, New York**. Low water levels in Alden's four wells that tap an underground aquifer led to requests for water conservation.

International

[El Nino-Hit Southern Africa Seeks \\$2.7 Billion in Drought Aid](#)

The Washington Post with Bloomberg

July 12, **Southern Africa**. Countries in Southern Africa will start an appeal for \$2.7 billion to deal with the region's worst drought in more than 30 years that has left 23 million people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

[El Nino, La Nina could lead to spike in new HIV infections in Africa: UNICEF](#)

Reuters

July 12, **Southern Africa**. It is feared that women and girls in drought-stricken southern Africa will sell sex to get money for food to survive. Without food, people sometimes refuse to take their anti-retroviral therapy, or choose to spend what little money they have on food rather than transport to a health facility.

[Malagasy children bear brunt of severe drought](#)

ReliefWeb

July 13, **Madagascar**. Up to 47 percent of children under five years of age in Southern Madagascar experience stunting—being too short for their age due to malnutrition—stemming from drought. Stunting limits physical and cognitive capacities.