

What is your landscape's current

CONDITION?

Tell us by submitting a "CoCoRaHS Condition Report"

WET?
NORMAL?
DRY?



A Guide to Monitoring your Local Conditions



REPORTING LANDSCAPE CONDITIONS AT YOUR LOCATION

Welcome to our short tutorial on
“Condition Monitoring”

This short slide show will help you understand the difference between the varying conditions of your landscape . . . wet, normal, dry and in-between. It will also discuss their impacts. Finally we will show how to file a “condition report” via the CoCoRaHS Website.



CONDITION MONITORING

To understand the impacts of drought on plants, animals, and people, it is very helpful to monitor conditions regularly, whether the weather is wet or dry. This allows us to see how a drought year differs from a normal year, and we learn how different plants, animals and people respond to the onset, intensification, and recovery of drought.

Regular condition monitoring can also help identify expected seasonal changes versus changes caused by unseasonably wet or dry conditions.

This type of monitoring can also help to identify long-term or cumulative effects of drought.

CONNECTING WEATHER AND CLIMATE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

Your knowledge about the local environment and how weather influences it can reveal much more than can be learned from recording daily rainfall alone.



GUIDANCE ON CHANGING CONDITIONS

Changing conditions - the following slides will talk about seven different, but somewhat similar categories over the range of dry, normal and wet, while giving you guidance on how to distinguish between each category. Local conditions will change from wetter to drier, or drier to wetter, with varying amounts of rain or snowfall, or as seasons change. A lack of rainfall may lead to drier conditions more quickly in warmer summer months. In the case of an extreme event such as a hurricane or tropical storm, conditions may transition more quickly (e.g., moderately dry to severely wet).



SEVEN CATEGORIES

MILDLY DRY

MODERATELY DRY

SEVERELY DRY

NEAR NORMAL

MILDLY WET

MODERATELY WET

SEVERELY WET



K. Rodgers

DRY CONDITIONS

DRY CONDITIONS
MILDLY DRY
MODERATELY DRY
SEVERELY DRY



DRY CONDITIONS

MILDLY DRY

Growth may have slowed for plants, crops or pastures.

Local plants, pastures, or crops may have not fully recovered if conditions are changing from drier to wetter.

Soil is somewhat dry.

Precipitation or water deficits may be present.



DRY CONDITIONS

MODERATELY DRY

Plants may be brown due to dry conditions.

Streams, reservoirs, or well water levels may be low.

Voluntary water use restrictions may be in place.

Water shortages may be present.

Plants, crops, or pastures may be stressed.

Soil is dry.



DRY CONDITIONS

SEVERELY DRY

Ponds, lakes, streams and wells may be nearly empty or dry.

Mandatory water restrictions may be in place.

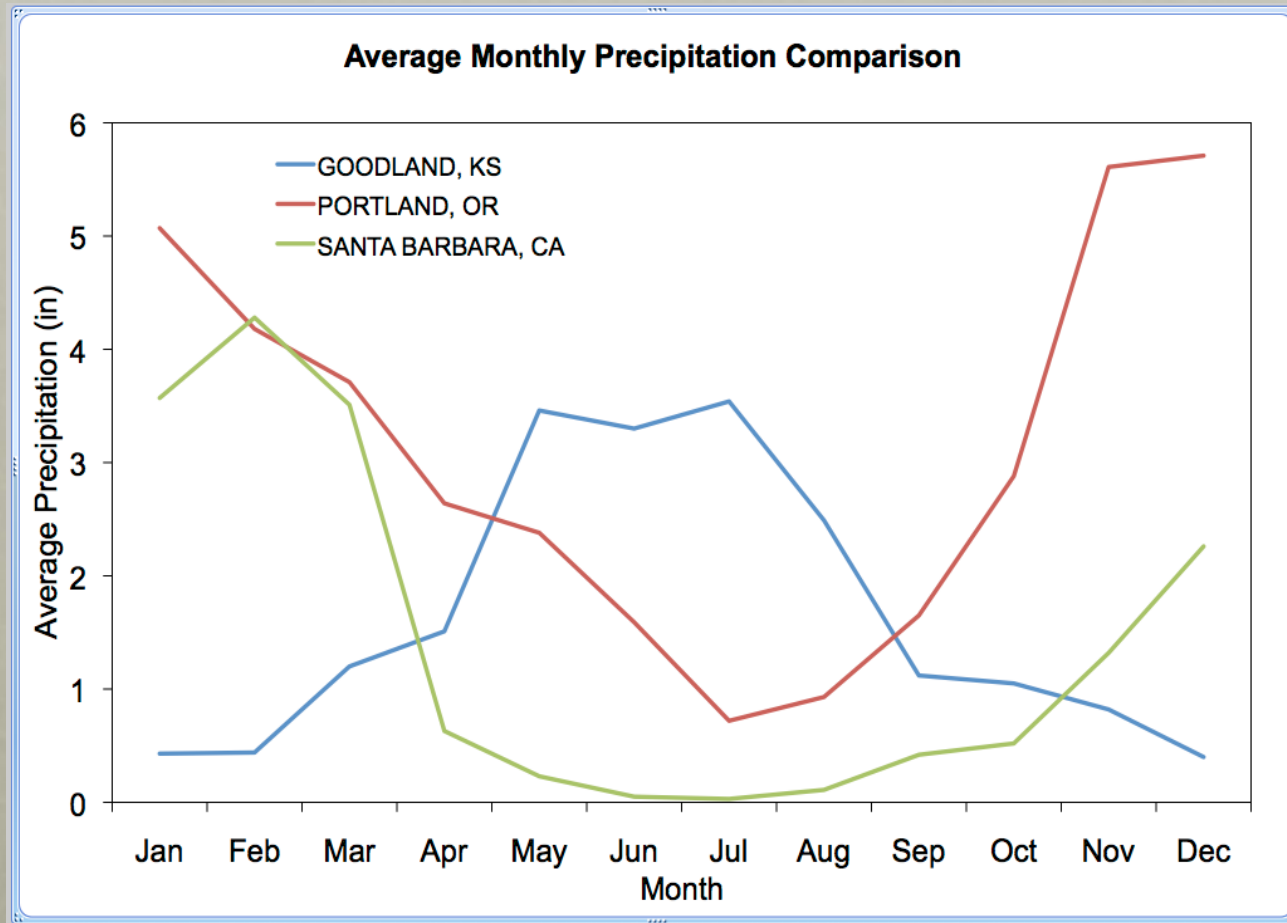
Soil moisture is absent.

Crop or pasture losses may be experienced.

Water shortages or water emergencies are present or possible.



IS THIS DROUGHT?

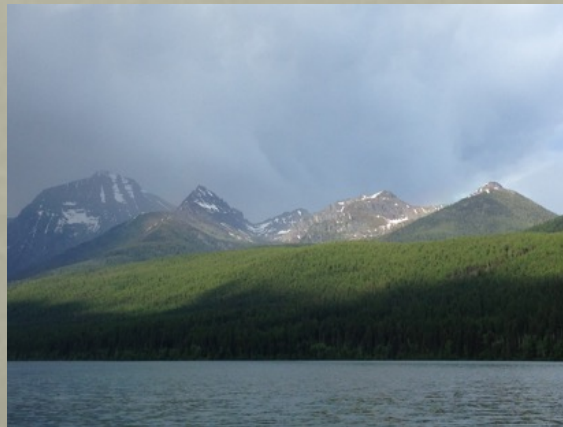


Several regions across the country go through “normal dry periods” each year. This is not considered drought. Drought will look different depending on the location and region of the country.

NEAR NORMAL CONDITIONS

NEAR NORMAL

Observed conditions are expected for this time of year.



WET CONDITIONS

WET CONDITIONS

MILDLY WET

MODERATELY WET

SEVERELY WET



WET CONDITIONS

MILDLY WET

Local plants, crops, or pastures are healthy, recovering from dry conditions or draining from wet conditions.

Soil moisture is above normal.



WET CONDITIONS

MODERATELY WET

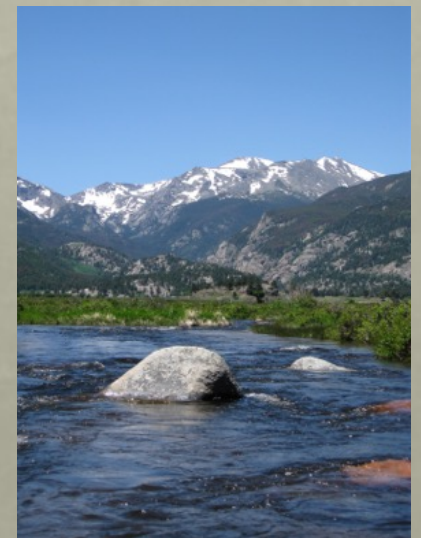
Local plants, crops, or pastures are healthy and lush.

Soil is very damp.

Standing water may be present in low areas and ditches.

Water bodies may be slightly more full than normal.

The ground is partially saturated with water.



WET CONDITIONS

SEVERELY WET

Water bodies are very elevated.

Standing water is severe and abundant.

Flooding may be present, leading to plant, crop, or pasture damage.

Soil is wet.

Ground is completely saturated with water.



B. Haywood



TIME TO FILE A REPORT

It's very easy to do . . . Just observe, then report!



Observe

Condition Monitoring Report Form Submit Data Reset

Station Number : SC-RC-51
Station Name : Columbia 6.6 SE

Condition monitoring reports are submitted on a regular (weekly, biweekly, monthly) basis to share information about the effects of local precipitation on the environment and society. By submitting reports on a regular basis, you create a baseline to see change through time, such as seasonal differences or changes caused by more or less precipitation. Please refer to the [Condition Monitoring training slide show](#) for more information.
** indicates required field*

Report Date *
4/22/2016

Condition Scale Bar [More information on the scale bar](#) Clear Scale Bar

Severely Dry	Moderately Dry	Mildly Dry	Near Normal	Mildly Wet	Moderately Wet	Severely Wet
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Description
Please provide a description of how dry, normal or wet conditions are affecting you, your livelihood, your activities, etc. *

Report Categories
Please check at least one report category. If you check a category, please provide supporting information in the description. [More information on condition monitoring categories.](#)

- General Awareness
- Agriculture
- Business And Industry
- Energy
- Fire
- Plants And Wildlife
- Relief Response
- Society And Public Health
- Tourism And Recreation
- Water Supply And Quality

Submit Data Reset

Report

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I FILE A CONDITION MONITORING REPORT?

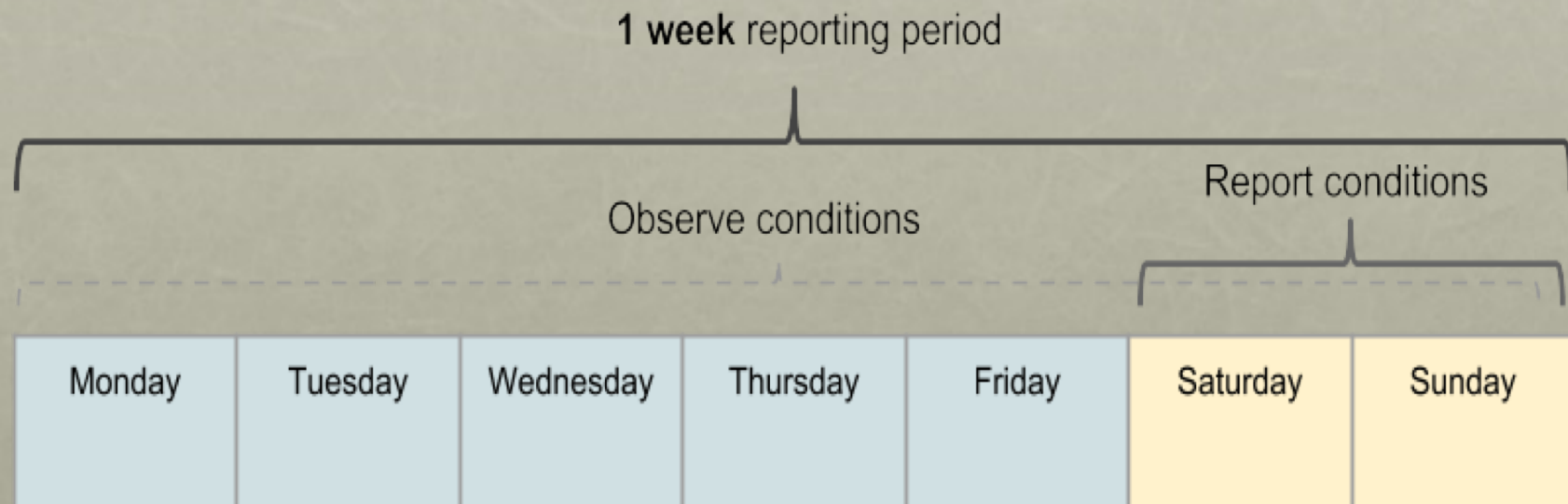
Great Question!

Weekly or as conditions change . . . It's up to you, but the more often you report, the better picture we'll get of your landscape's conditions. To be really helpful (see next slide) . . .



A HELPFUL REPORTING SUGGESTION

One idea to improve reporting consistency is to ask that you **report conditions for a one week reporting period**. In doing so you would **submit reports on either Saturday or Sunday**.



WHY SUBMIT REPORTS ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS ?

- This will ensure that up-to-date information is available to US Drought Monitor authors, who review the information at the beginning of week in order to publish the Drought Monitor map on Thursdays.
- Having all observers submit condition monitoring reports on a weekly basis will also make condition reports more reliable and timely, thus more useful in scientific research.

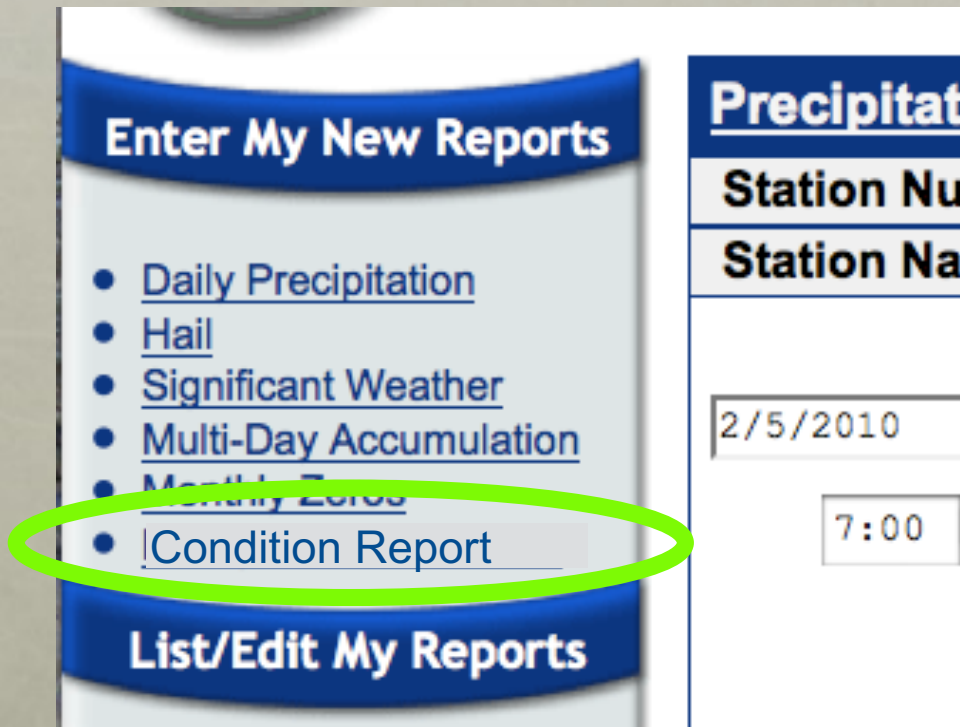


HOW DO I FILE A “CONDITION MONITORING REPORT” ?

First click on “My Data” from the menu at the top of the CoCoRaHS Web page



CHOOSE “CONDITION REPORT” FROM THE “ENTER MY NEW REPORTS” PANEL



Condition Monitoring Report Form Submit Data Reset

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Station Name : Columbia 6.6 SE

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4/22/2016

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- Fire
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- Tourism And Recreation
- Water Supply And Quality

Submit Data Reset

CONDITION MONITORING REPORT FORM

Condition Monitoring Report Form							Submit Data	Reset
Station Number : SC-RC-51								
Station Name : Columbia 6.6 SE								
<p>Condition monitoring reports are submitted on a regular (weekly, biweekly, monthly) basis to share information about the effects of local precipitation on the environment and society. By submitting reports on a regular basis, you create a baseline to see change through time, such as seasonal differences or changes caused by more or less precipitation. Please refer to the Condition Monitoring training slide show for more information.</p> <p><i>* indicates required field</i></p>								
Report Date *								
4/22/2016								
Condition Scale Bar More information on the scale bar							Clear Scale Bar	
Severely Dry	Moderately Dry	Mildly Dry	Near Normal	Mildly Wet	Moderately Wet	Severely Wet		
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Description								
Please provide a description of how dry, normal or wet conditions are affecting you, your livelihood, your activities, etc. *								
<input type="text"/>								
Report Categories								
Please check at least one report category. If you check a category, please provide supporting information in the description. More information on condition monitoring categories .								
<input type="checkbox"/> General Awareness								
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture								
<input type="checkbox"/> Business And Industry								
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy								
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire								
<input type="checkbox"/> Plants And Wildlife								
<input type="checkbox"/> Relief Response								
<input type="checkbox"/> Society And Public Health								
<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism And Recreation								
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Supply And Quality								
							Submit Data	Reset

ENTER REPORT DATE

Condition Monitoring Report Form

Submit Data

Reset

Station Number : SC-RC-51

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Report Date *

4/22/2016

Condition Scale Bar [More information on the scale bar](#)

Clear Scale Bar

Severely Dry

Moderately Dry

Mildly Dry

Near Normal

Mildly Wet

Moderately Wet

Severely Wet



Description

Please provide a description of how dry, normal or wet conditions are affecting you, your livelihood, your activities, etc. *

Report Categories

Please check at least one report category. If you check a category, please provide supporting information in the description. [More information on condition monitoring categories.](#)

General Awareness

Agriculture

Business And Industry

SELECT FROM THE CONDITION MONITORING SCALE BAR

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Report Date *

4/22/2016

Condition Scale Bar [More information on the scale bar](#) Clear Scale Bar

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General Awareness

Agriculture

Business And Industry

The condition scale bar is used to provide a standardized form of condition reporting. You can select from one of the seven categories representing a range of dry, wet, or normal conditions.

There is a link to additional guidance to help you select from the different categories.

Severely Dry	Moderately Dry	Mildly Dry	Near Normal	Mildly Wet	Moderately Wet	Severely Wet
Dry Conditions			Normal Conditions	Wet Conditions		
Mildly Dry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil is somewhat dry. • Growth may have slowed for plants, crops, or pastures. • Precipitation or water deficits may be present. • Local plants, pastures, or crops may not have fully recovered if conditions are changing from drier to wetter. 			Near normal Observed conditions are expected for this time of year.	Mildly Wet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil moisture is above normal. • Local plants, crops, or pastures are healthy, recovering from dry conditions, or draining from wet conditions. 		
Moderately Dry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil is dry. • Plants may be brown due to dry conditions. • Plants, crops, or pastures may be stressed. • Streams, reservoirs, or well water levels may be low. • Water shortages may be present. • Voluntary water use restrictions may be in place. 				Moderately Wet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil is very damp. • The ground is partially saturated with water. • Standing water may be present in low areas and ditches. • Local plants, crops, or pastures are healthy and lush. • Water bodies may be slightly more full than normal. 		
Severely Dry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil moisture is absent. • Crop or pastures losses may be experienced. • Ponds, lakes, streams, and wells may be nearly empty or dry. • Mandatory water restrictions may be in place. • Water shortages or water emergencies are present or possible. 				Severely Wet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil is wet. • Ground is completely saturated with water. • Standing water is severe and abundant. • Water bodies are very elevated. • Flooding may be present, leading to plant, crop, or pasture damage. 		

Further detail on the seven categories

WRITE A CONDITION MONITORING DESCRIPTION

Condition Monitoring Report Form Submit Data Reset

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Station Name : Columbia 6.6 SE

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Report Date *

4/22/2016

Condition Scale Bar [More information on the scale bar](#) Clear Scale Bar

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General Awareness

Agriculture

Business And Industry



WRITING DESCRIPTIONS

When writing descriptions you can use the report categories as a guide:



Were there agricultural impacts this week?



Was business and industry affected?



Did you notice any public health impacts?



Was there fire?

- General Awareness
- Agriculture
- Business And Industry
- Energy
- Fire
- Plants And Wildlife
- Relief Response
- Society And Public Health
- Tourism And Recreation
- Water Supply And Quality

OBSERVATION GUIDANCE

If possible, consistently report from specific locations:



Report on specific
bodies of water



Report on
specific plant life



Report on specific
businesses

Please note the differences between your last report and the current conditions.

DESCRIPTION EXAMPLES



Madison County, NC – March 8, 2015: This has been a week of extremes – from a high of 73° to a low of 18° with a covering of snow and ice. The good news is that **definite signs of spring** are finally appearing. Song sparrows are starting to sing. Crocuses are blooming. And, best of all, **wood frogs have returned to our pond and laid eggs.** This is late. According to my records over 10 years, the average date for wood frogs coming to the pond is February 18.

Buncombe County, NC – November 30, 2015: We continue in the all or nothing weather pattern. 6" rain, a week of unseasonably warm and dry, 2" 15 days warm and dry and a quick 2 day cool down, and now 2+ precip again. **In between the rain it has been alarming how quickly the streams and creeks go back to below normal levels.** Birds are emptying the feeders quickly, and I am still seeing snakes, groundhogs and one bear sighting. We ate our thanksgiving dinner on the porch. sunsets and sunrises have been spectacular. **Tourists** are enjoying the warm dry spells for hiking and shopping. **Farmers** are shaking their heads! **Most everyone has a sniffle** - seasonal whiplash

MORE DESCRIPTION EXAMPLES

Pickens County, SC, April 20-June 10, 2014 –

Incipient drought is now occurring in western Pickens County, SC. Except for a 3.14" single day rainfall on May 15, only 2.12" of rain has fallen during a 51 day span from April 20 to June 10. Irrigation has become an increasingly normal activity for both agriculture and (in my case) horticulture. Year to date rainfall at SC-PC-1 is only 20.71" or about 7 inches below normal.

Rio Grande County, CO, December 17, 2015 –

In the last four weeks I have recorded only 0.02" of moisture. Without snow cover, crops started this fall suffer desiccation and vulnerability to winter kill. This coupled with laws preventing supplemental irrigation in winter has me concerned about my perennial and fall seeded crops.

**DRY
CONDITIONS**

WET CONDITIONS

Nash County, NC, February 3, 2016 – Rain total for last week is 2.64. The creek (Flat Rock Branch) is back to normal. The Pond at Rocky Mount Memorial Park is full. Minor flooding last Friday in nearby fields. Minor flash flooding on roads last week. The daffodils are at their peak of flowering, brightening the yard with yellow flowers.

Richland County, SC, October 31, 2015 – Our station had 19.38" in October, almost 16" of which fell in the first six days. We've had 1.55" during the last five days of the month. Our neighborhood has plenty of springs, but they only appear when it's really wet. The neighborhood has "bled" all month, although only the most persistent springs are still active. We have one French drain that runs when it's really wet and it's still going strong, but it's drawing water from a foot or more under the surface.

4/22/2016

Condition Scale Bar [More information on the scale bar](#)

Severely Dry	Moderately Dry	Mildly Dry	Near Normal	Mildly Wet	Moderately Wet	Severely Wet
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- General Awareness
- Agriculture
- Business And Industry
- Energy
- Fire
- Plants And Wildlife
- Relief Response
- Society And Public Health
- Tourism And Recreation
- Water Supply And Quality

A more detailed look at each category follows in the slides ahead.



LAST STEP: REVIEW THE CATEGORIES AND CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

REPORT CATEGORIES

General Awareness

Fire

Energy

Tourism and Recreation

Agriculture

Business and Industry

Water Supply and Quality

Plants and Wildlife

Relief Response

Society and Public Health

GENERAL AWARENESS

General Awareness-

The “General Awareness” option provides a box to check when conditions may not have changed or if the other report categories are not appropriate for the content of your report.

AGRICULTURE



Agriculture

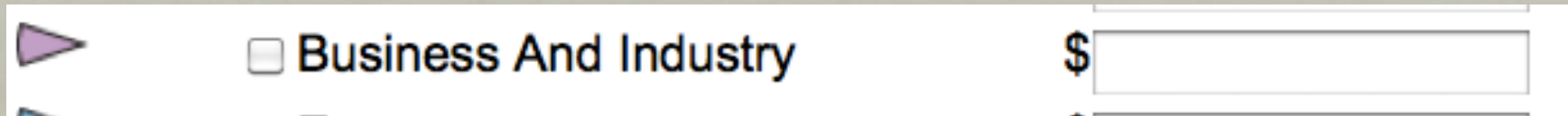
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Agriculture-

Varying precipitation conditions can effect agriculture, farming, aquaculture, horticulture, forestry and ranching.

Examples of agricultural impacts, including some backyard gardens may include: damage to crop quality; income changes for farmers due to reduced crop yields or abundant yields; reduced productivity of cropland; flooded fields; insect infestation; plant disease; increased/decreased irrigation costs; Changes in productivity of rangeland; forced reduction of foundation stock; closure/limitation of public lands to grazing; and high cost/unavailability of water for livestock, Christmas tree farms, forestry, raising domesticated horses, bees, fish/shellfish and horticulture.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY



Business & Industry-

Examples of precipitation/drought impacts affecting non-ag businesses, lawn care businesses, sales of recreational vehicles/other recreational gear or plant nurseries, etc.

Examples of precipitation-induced business impacts could include: physical damage due to flooding, reduction/loss of employees, change in sales/business, variation in number of calls for service, early closure/late opening for the season or vice-versa, bankruptcy, permanent store closure and economic impacts.

ENERGY



Energy

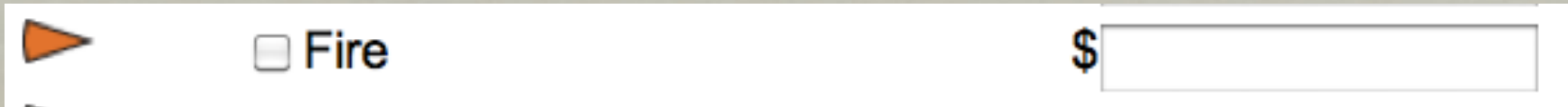
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Energy-

Precipitation/drought effects which are associated with power production, electricity rates, energy revenue, and purchase of alternate sources of energy.

Examples include hydropower and non-hydropower production when affected by drought or flood, electricity rates, revenue shortfalls and/or windfall profits and the purchase of electricity when hydropower generation is down. Power outages due to severe weather or extreme events. Physical damage due to flooding.

FIRE



Fire-

These include precipitation/drought effects contributing to forest, range, rural, or urban fires, fire danger, and burning restrictions.

Examples of fire impacts include: Increase of possible fuels during wet season, Enactment/easing of burning restrictions, fireworks ban, increased/decreased fire risk, occurrence of fire (# of acres burned, # of wildfires compared to average, people displaced, etc.), increase/decrease in fire fighting personnel, state of emergency during periods of high fire danger and the closure of roads land due to fire occurrence or risk. Increased potential for flooding and debris/rock/mud slides in and downstream of burn areas.

PLANTS & WILDLIFE



Plants And Wildlife

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Plants & Wildlife-

Wetness/drought effects which are associated with wildlife, fisheries, forests and other fauna.

Examples include: loss of biodiversity of plants or wildlife; health of trees, shelterbelts, wooded conservation areas; reduction and population of fish and wildlife; Variations of feed and drinking water; In drought conditions greater mortality due to increased contact with agricultural producers, as animals seek food from farms and producers are less tolerant of the intrusion; disease; change in vulnerability to predation (from species concentrated near water); migration and concentration (loss of wildlife in some areas and too many wildlife in other areas); Changes in stress to endangered species; and salinity levels affecting wildlife, wildlife encroaching into urban areas, loss or gain of wetlands.

RELIEF RESPONSE



Relief Response

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Relief, Response, & Restrictions-

Some precipitation/drought effects associated with disaster declarations, aid programs, requests for disaster declaration or aid due to flood or drought, water restrictions and fire restrictions.

Impacts include: Disaster declarations, aid programs, USDA Secretarial disaster declarations, SBA disaster declarations, government relief and response programs, state-level declarations or “state of emergency”, county-level declaration or “state of emergency”, requests for declarations or aid, non-profit organization based relief, water restrictions, flood or drought declarations, fire restrictions and declaration of drought watches/warnings.

SOCIETY & PUBLIC HEALTH



Society And Public Health

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Society & Public Health-

Precipitation/drought effects associated with the public and human health.

Examples of precipitation/drought-induced social impacts include: health-related problems, loss of human life (e.g., from heat stress, suicides, floods, drownings); increased respiratory ailments; mosquito and water borne illnesses; increased disease caused by wildlife concentrations; population migrations (rural to urban areas, migrants into the United States); loss of aesthetic values; change in daily activities, elevated stress levels, meetings to discuss flooding or drought, communities creating drought plans and flood mitigation and storm water management strategies, communities opening shelters, cancellation/alteration of events, festivals or holiday traditions, stockpiling water, public service announcements and drought/flood info websites.

TOURISM & RECREATION



Tourism And Recreation

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Tourism & Recreation-

Precipitation/drought effects associated with people's recreational activities and tourism.

Examples of tourism and recreation impacts include: public safety threats caused by flooding; water access or navigation problems for recreation; bans on recreational activities; reduced license, permit, or ticket sales (e.g. hunting, fishing, ski lifts, etc.); losses related to curtailed activities (e.g. bird watching, hunting and fishing, boating, etc.); reduced park visitation (trails closed due to flooding); delayed or early opening for ski resorts; increase/decrease in artificial snow generation; and cancellation or postponement of sporting events/tournaments.

WATER SUPPLY & QUALITY



Water Supply And Quality

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Water Supply & Quality-

Here are some precipitation/drought effects associated with water supply and water quality.

Dry and wet examples include: Dry wells, saturated septic leach fields, water restrictions, changes in water rates (usually drought), easing of water restrictions as conditions get wetter, increase in requests for new well permits, changes in water use, water demand, and water allocation/allotments. Installation/alteration of water pumps or water intakes, changes to allowable water contaminants, water line damage/repairs due to drought stress, drinking water turbidity, change in water color or odor, declaration of drought watches/warnings and mitigation activities. Runoff increasing pollution in lakes and streams.

WATER SUPPLY & QUALITY



Water Supply And Quality

\$

Water Supply & Quality-

Here are some precipitation/drought effects associated with water supply and water quality.

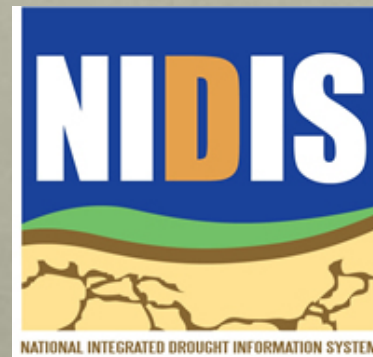
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○	○	○	○	○	○	○
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<input type="checkbox"/> Energy						
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire						
<input type="checkbox"/> Plants And Wildlife						
<input type="checkbox"/> Relief Response						
<input type="checkbox"/> Society And Public Health						
<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism And Recreation						
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Supply And Quality						
					Submit Data	Reset

FINALLY CLICK ON THE **SUBMIT DATA** BUTTON
TO FILE YOUR REPORT

WHO WILL USE MY CONDITION REPORTS ?

They will be used by many entities interested in climate and landscape conditions.



CONGRATULATIONS!

YOU'VE JUST FILED A CONDITION REPORT!

Hey, that was really easy. I think I'll file these on a regular basis. Next one next weekend!



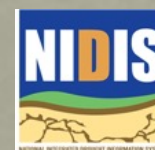
IT'S PRETTY SIMPLE AND GETS EASIER THE MORE YOU FILE THEM

THANKS FOR YOUR CONDITION REPORT!

With all the extra “CoCoRaHS eyes and ears” out there you can make a real difference through condition monitoring! Thanks so much!!



Thanks to our sponsors



THE END

Click on your “*back browser*” button to return to
“Condition Monitoring Reporting Resources”

