



Drought Monitoring and Response Activities in South Carolina

S.C. Drought Response Committee (DRC)

United States Drought Monitor (USDM)

Purpose:

To carefully and closely monitor, conserve, and manage the State's water resources in the best interests of all South Carolinians.

National product that maps drought severity and extent.

Description:

The DRC is the primary drought decision-making entity in the State. It is chaired and supported by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and the state Climatology Office (SCO). Local members are organized according to four Drought Management Areas (DMAs). The DRC reports on conditions and impacts and evaluates drought indicators to determine drought status defined by the S.C. Drought Response Act to protect the State's water resources.

The SCO serves as the coordinating entity for the agencies across South Carolina tasked with monitoring drought conditions and taking appropriate actions to help response to and mitigate drought impacts. Each week, the SCO evaluates multiple different inputs, communicates with collaborating agencies, along with neighboring states, and sends recommendations to the USDM Author.

Outcomes:

County-level drought designations (normal, incipient, moderate, severe, extreme), where a status of moderate drought (or worse) enacts local-level water conservation.

The USDA uses the drought monitor to trigger disaster declarations and eligibility for low-interest loans. State, local, tribal and basin-level decision makers use it to trigger drought responses, ideally along with other more local indicators of drought.



Drought Monitoring and Response Activities in South Carolina Continued

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Data Inputs:

- Percent of Normal Rainfall
- Crop Moisture Index
- Palmer Drought Severity Index
- Keetch-Byrum Drought Index
- U.S. Drought Monitor
- Streamflows
- Groundwater
- Lake & Reservoir Levels

- Precipitation
- Temperature
- Soil Moisture
- Streamflows
- Groundwater
- Lake & Reservoir Levels
- Vegetation health
- Impact Reports

Collaborating Agencies:

State Level:

- SCFC
- SCDA
- SCDHEC
- SCEMD
- SCDNR

Local Level:

- Water Utilities
- Local Govt.
- Power Generation Facilities
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts

State Level:

- SCDNR
- Clemson Extension
- SCDA

Federal Level:

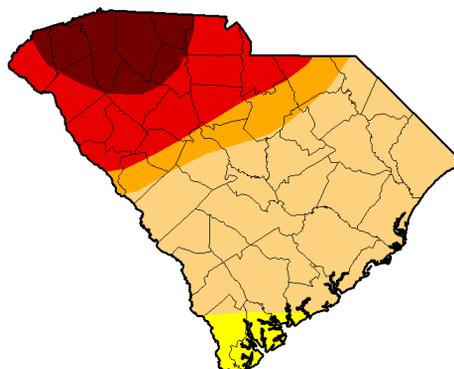
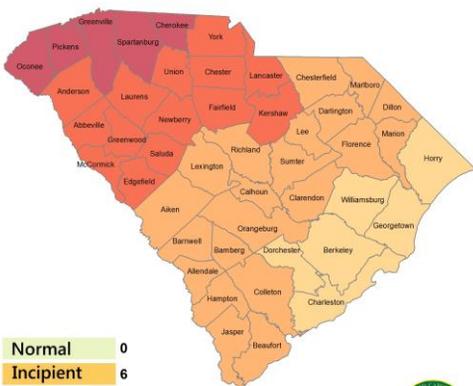
- NWS
- USGS
- USDA

Example Drought Coverage Maps (Last week of June 2008):

U.S. Drought Monitor South Carolina

June 24, 2008
(Released Thursday, Jun. 26, 2008)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Status: 06-30-2008



Normal	0
Incipient	6
Moderate	21
Severe	14
Extreme	5

Number of counties in each category



SC Department of Natural Resources
State Climate Office

- Intensity**
- D0 Abnormally Dry
 - D1 Moderate Drought
 - D2 Severe Drought
 - D3 Extreme Drought
 - D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>