



# **NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic**

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**Crystal Stiles & Elizabeth Ossowski**

**Northeast Monthly Webinar | September 30, 2025**

# National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)

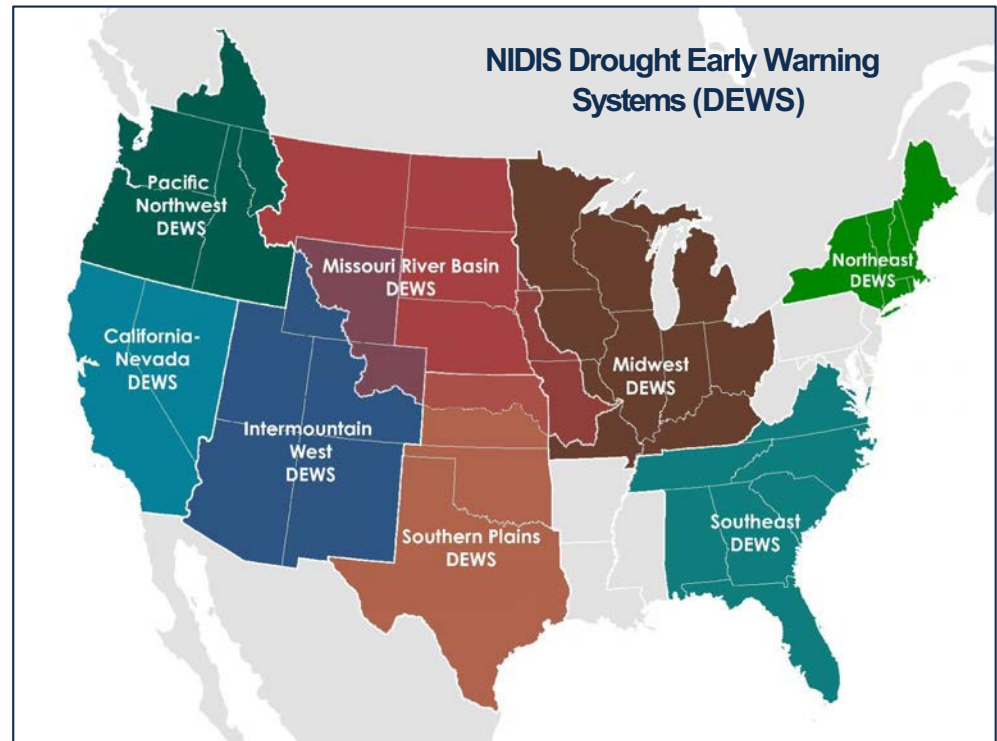


NIDIS is a **multi-agency partnership** that coordinates drought monitoring, forecasting, planning, and information at federal, tribal, state, and local levels across the country.

## How do we do this work?

- Advancing Regional Drought Early Warning Systems
- Improving drought prediction and forecasting
- Supporting drought planning and preparedness
- Supporting drought impact assessments
- Strengthening collaboration
- Leading the U.S. Drought Portal: [www.drought.gov](http://www.drought.gov)

Enable the Nation to move **from a reactive to a more proactive** approach to managing drought risks and impacts

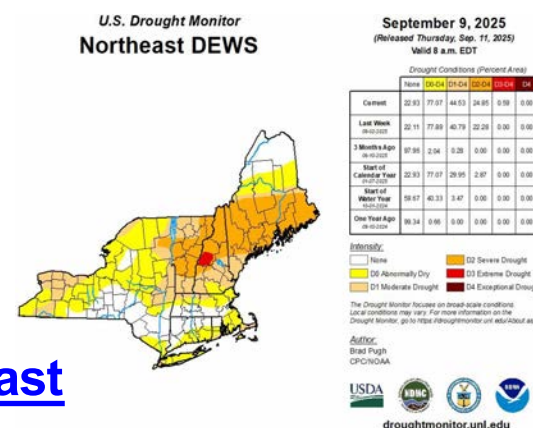


# The Northeast Drought Early Warning System



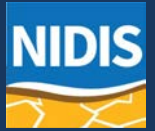
## Activities

- Acting Coordinator Crystal Stiles
- Northeast DEWS coordination on the U.S. Drought Monitor weekly recommendations
- Drought Status Updates and newsletters
- NIDIS-sponsored drought research with the Northeast Regional Climate Center:
  - Vermont drought dashboard
  - Northeast drought assessment
  - Flash drought climatology & case studies
  - Northeast snowpack climatology (led by Plymouth State University)



<https://www.drought.gov/dews/northeast>

# The U.S. Drought Portal: Drought.gov



An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

**Drought.gov**  
National Integrated Drought Information System

[Data and Maps](#) [By Sector](#) [By Location](#) [Research and Learn](#) [About](#) [News and Events](#)

**Young Scientists Monitor Air Quality Trends During Drought Evolution in the Pacific Northwest**

As part of the Summer 2023 NASA DEVELOP team, early-career scientists will evaluate trends in air quality during drought evolution and construct maps to depict vulnerable air quality areas in the Pacific Northwest.

**FEATURED NEWS AND ARTICLES**

NIDIS to Chair Sessions on Drought at AMS Meeting

New Drought & Public Health Roadmap

Drought Status Update for the North Central US: July 26

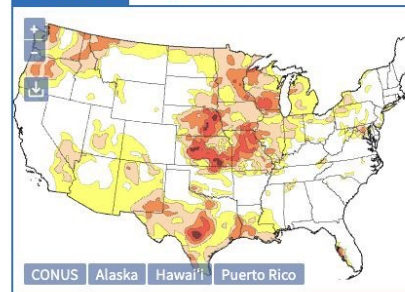
**How is drought affecting your neighborhood?**

## Advancing Drought Science and Preparedness Across the Nation

The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) is a multi-agency partnership that coordinates drought monitoring, forecasting, planning, and information at national, tribal, state, and local levels.

### U.S. Drought Monitor

[Current Week](#) [1-Week Change](#)



#### Legend

##### U.S. Drought Monitor



[About](#)

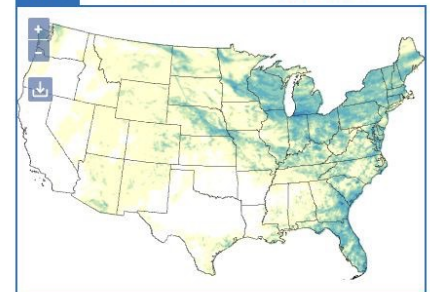
[Updates](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

DATA VALID: 07/25/23

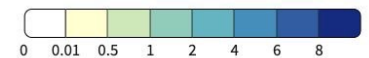
### Precipitation Conditions

[7-Day](#) [30-Day % Normal](#) [60-Day % Normal](#)



#### Legend

##### Inches of Precipitation



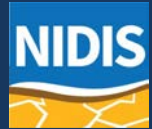
[About](#)

[Updates](#)

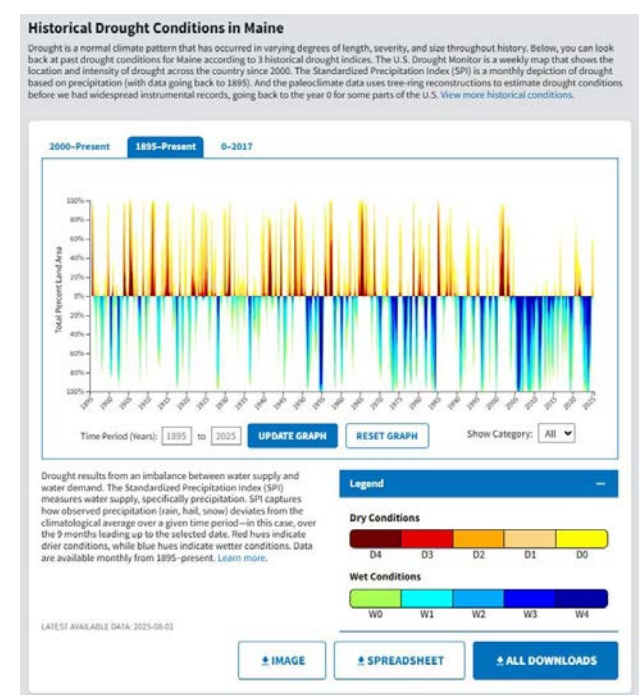
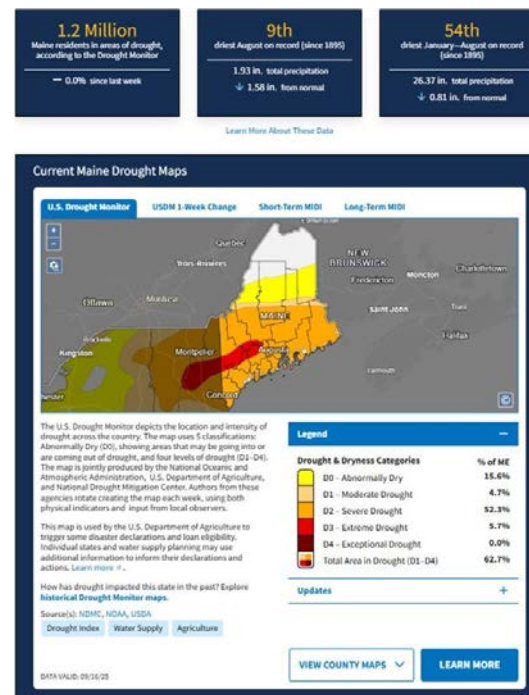
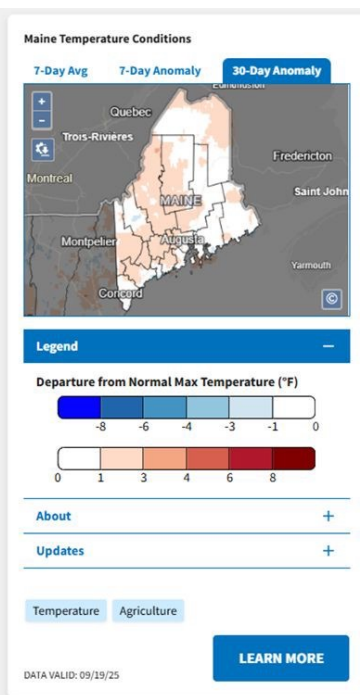
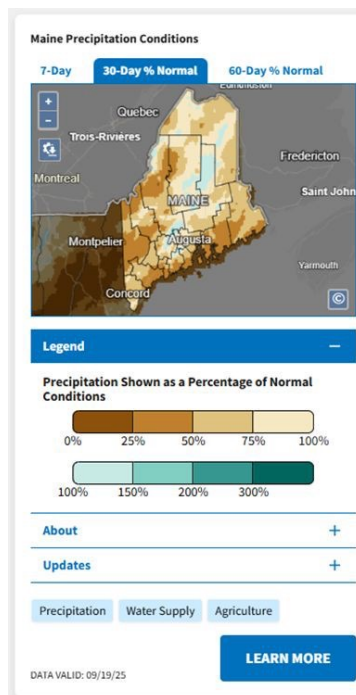
[LEARN MORE](#)

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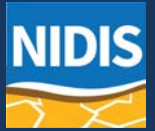
# Drought.gov State Pages



One-stop shop for state drought information. Find your state at [drought.gov/states](https://drought.gov/states)










# NIDIS Email Newsletters



Sign up to receive national and regional drought news, research, and updates.

March 19, 2025

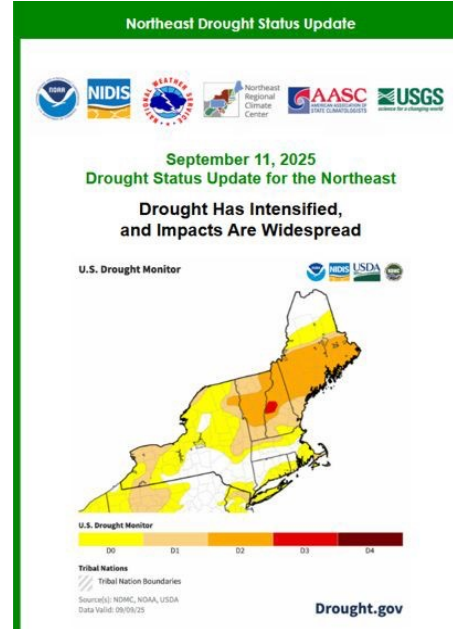

 

NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM

*Dry Times*


**Early Warning in Action: Reflecting on 2024's Record Drought in Ohio**

Before drought hit Ohio last summer, the state and the Midwest Drought Early Warning System provided early warning of dry conditions to come.



**Southeast Climate Webinar Series**



**February 2025 Southeast Climate Webinar + CoCoRaHS: The Role and Importance of Citizen Science**

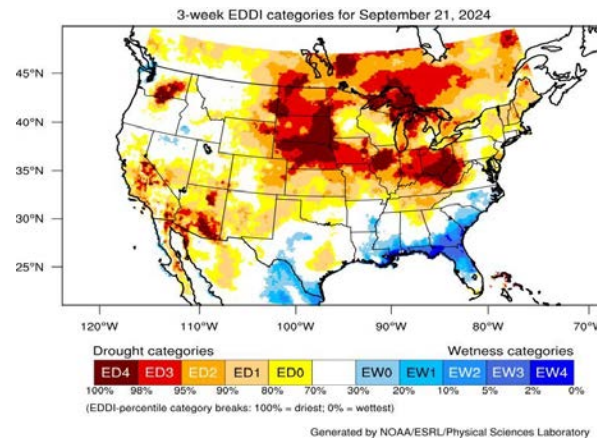
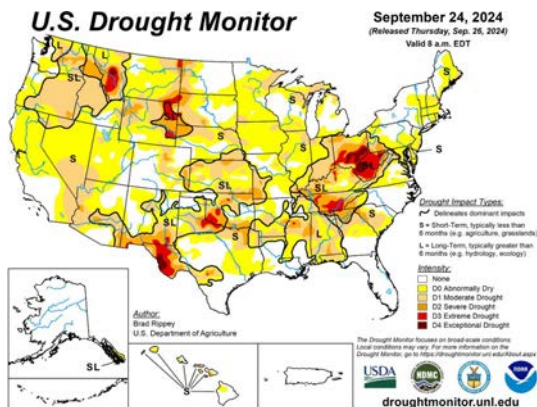
**Recording Now Available**

Check out the recording below to hear more on Southeast climate conditions and a special presentation, "CoCoRaHS: The Role and Importance of Citizen Science," from Melissa Griffin at the South Carolina Climatology Office. We posted a [webinar recording](#) for those who were unable to participate in the live event or wish to share it with others.

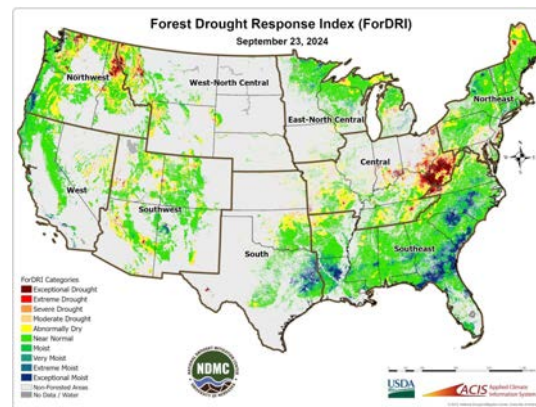
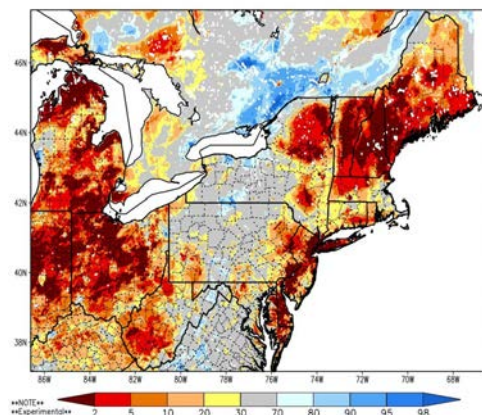
**What's new**  
Average temperatures over the past four weeks were near normal for most of the region, although most of the Gulf Coast and much of Florida experienced



# 2024-2025 Drought in the Mid-Atlantic



SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 25 Sep 2024



## Impacts

- Crop yield loss reports
- Some soils so dry that cover crops and small grains cannot germinate
- Dry wells and well collapses
- Mandatory and voluntary water restrictions
- Low levels in irrigation wells/ponds resulted in hauling of water for livestock
- Unprecedented early livestock sold due to lack of feed/water
- Increase in brush fires and fire risk impacted urban and rural landscapes
- Public health impacts related to drought from wildfire smoke, aggressive wasp behavior
- Delayed timelines for infrastructure projects

## 2024-2025 Mid-Atlantic Drought Assessment Meetings

- **Looked back** at the 2024-2025 Mid-Atlantic drought's evolution and response actions taken
- **Assessed** the impacts, hurdles, successes, and needs experienced across sectors during the drought
- **Identified potential next steps** toward improved drought early warning capacity in the region



# Mid-Atlantic Drought Early Warning System



## Observations and Monitoring

- Challenges Reflecting Conditions in Drought Data
- Expanded In-Situ Soil Moisture Monitoring in the Region
- Incorporating Drought Amelioration tools into decision-making

## Prediction and Forecasting

- Sector-specific, short-term drought outlooks
- Predictions for Headwater ecosystems to focus restoration efforts more efficiently

# Mid-Atlantic Drought Early Warning System



## Communications and Outreach

- Shareable Regional Communication
- Effective communications pathways and partnerships for rural communities
- Communicating drought recovery
- Targeted sectoral outreach

## Planning and Preparedness

- Training on data products, forecasting products, and available drought indices
- Better regional coordination
- Flash drought planning resources
- Drought and Wildfire preparedness

# Mid-Atlantic Drought Early Warning System



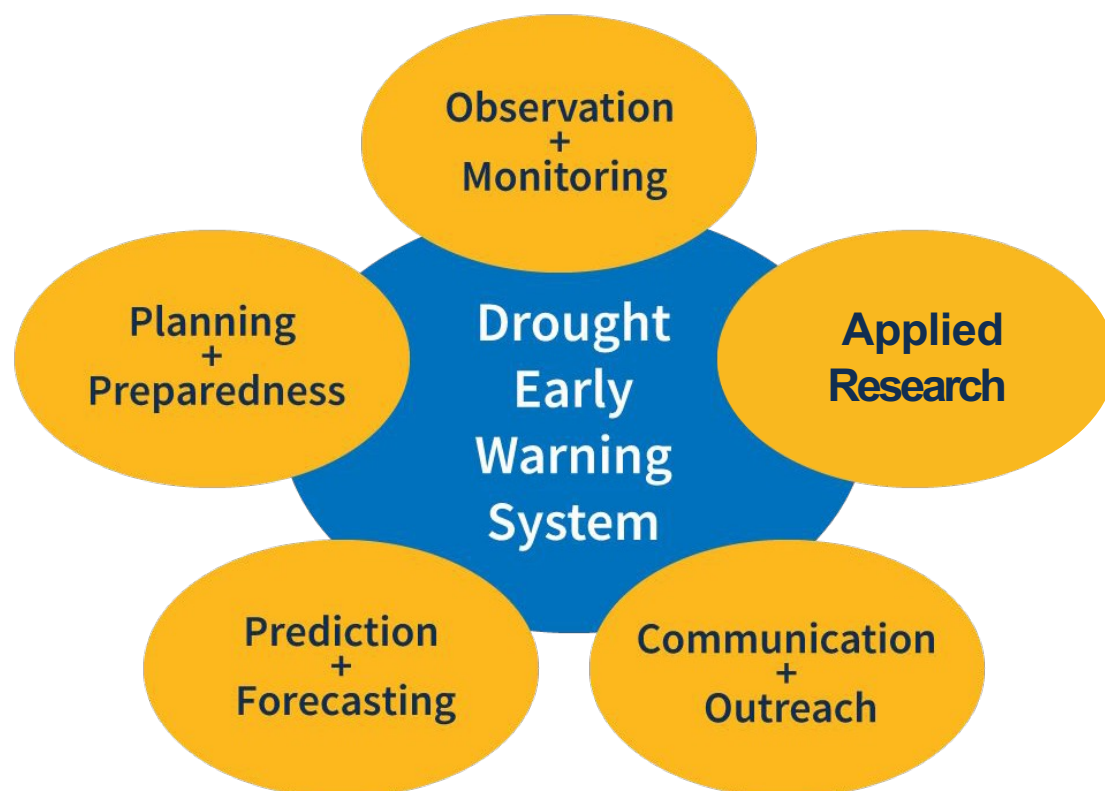
## Interdisciplinary Research and Applications

- Post-Flash Drought Assessments
- Evaluate current infrastructure for precipitation effectiveness monitoring capacity
- Weather Whiplash
- Wildfire and Flash Drought
- Tree Mortality and Drought
- Drought Amelioration

# What is a Drought Early Warning System (DEWS)?

Improve the capacity of farmers, ranchers, water suppliers, wildfire managers, and other decision makers to **plan for, forecast, monitor, and cope with the impacts of drought.**

This is accomplished through a **network of partners** that work together to prepare a region for drought.



# Next Steps: Mid-Atlantic Strategic Planning Meeting

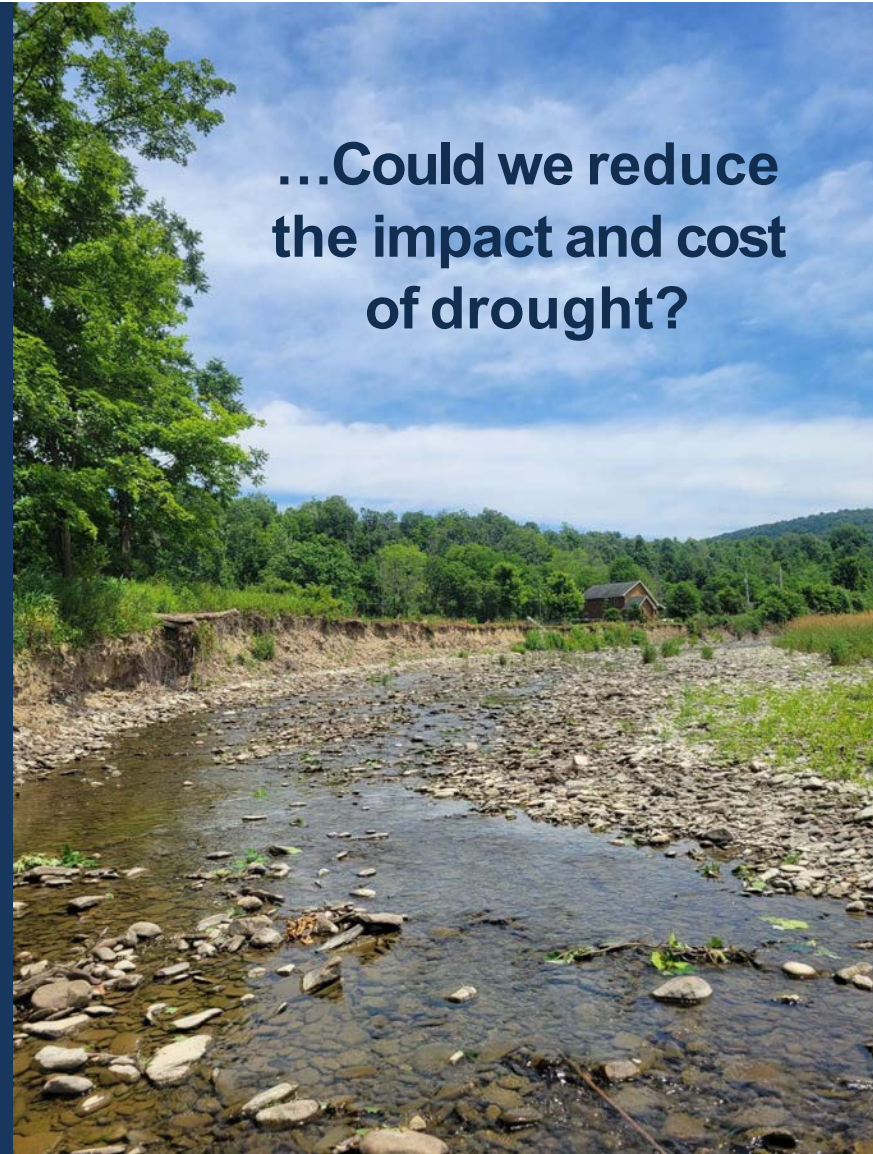
## Thursday, December 4, 2025



## WHAT IF...

- Decision-makers had access to the data and forecasts they needed?
- We had a better understanding of the cascading impacts of drought?
- We improved communication about drought and its impacts to the public?
- We worked together to tackle droughts' most challenging issues?

**...Could we reduce the impact and cost of drought?**



# Sign Up for Mid-Atlantic DEWS Updates



# Thank You

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