



February 2021 Story Archives

Updated Tool: “Welcome to the New Drought.gov!”

NOAA’s National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) has launched the redesigned U.S. Drought Portal (www.drought.gov) to better serve stakeholders, decision makers, the media, and the public.

The new website features updated content and new interactive architecture designed to provide actionable, shareable information and easy-to-understand graphics describing current drought conditions and forecasts by city, county, state, zip code, and at watershed to global scales. The Drought Portal also aggregates and presents drought impact data for economic sectors such as agriculture, energy, water utilities, and recreation using interactive maps and data that don’t exist anywhere else. Learn more and explore this [updated tool](#).

2020 in Review: A Look Back at Drought Across the United States in 12 Maps

NOAA’s National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) has put together a compilation of 12 separate maps review the year in terms of drought and drawing on trends that may have been made apparent during the year. Maps include visuals of weekly drought monitoring, present of normal precipitation, departure from normal temperature, streamflow data and more. [Read more](#) and see the maps.

Coastal harm from invading saltwater 'happening right now'

On December 2, 2020, Bill Lambrecht and Gracie Todd of the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism published an [article](#) in Houma Today that highlights some of the more devastating climate related impacts being observed in the USET region.

“COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Four Native American Tribes on Louisiana’s Gulf Coast requested United Nations assistance this year to force action by the U.S. government on invading saltwater. Their formal complaint cites “climate-forced displacement” and says saltwater has poisoned their land, crops and medicinal plants. “That strips us of not only being able to generate an income to provide for ourselves, it also strips us of our ability to feed ourselves healthy,” Shirell Parfait-Dardar, chief of the Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw in Terrebonne Parish, said in an interview.”

Restoring Longleaf Pines, Keystone of Once Vast Ecosystems

On December 30, 2020, the Associated Press published an [article](#) looking at recent collaborative efforts being made to restore the ecosystems of the culturally significant, and fire adapted tree species known as the longleaf pine across the USET region.

“Now, thanks to a pair of modern day Johnny Appleseeds, landowners, government agencies and nonprofits are working in nine coastal states from Virginia to Texas to bring back pines named for the long needles prized by Native Americans for weaving baskets.... About 400 acres (160 hectares) of land returned to longleaf were planted by the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, for their needles. But branches from most of the first planting are now too high to reach. So Gesse Bullock, the Tribe’s fire management specialist, said he is pushing for another planting on the 10,200-acre (4,100-hectare) reservation.”