
South Dakota Drought Mitigation Plan Development Fact Sheet

Background

The State of South Dakota is in the process of developing a Drought Mitigation Plan. The plan is being prepared in coordination with the State's Drought Task Force, which is comprised of various state agencies and co-chaired by the Departments of Agriculture and Department of Public Safety, Office of Emergency Management. The Drought Task Force is charged with coordinating the exchange of drought information related to the agriculture, health and other societal effects, tourism, water resources, wildland fire, and wildlife sectors. The state is utilizing a consulting firm, Amec Foster Wheeler, to prepare the plan and analyze drought vulnerability by sector. The plan will include a stakeholder process with input from a wide array of state and federal agencies and experts.

Purpose

Drought can be defined as an extended shortfall of precipitation that results in water supplies inadequate to meet the requirements of people and the environment. The entire state of South Dakota is susceptible to drought and was recently impacted by severe drought during 2012. Based on historical records notable droughts have occurred somewhere in the state about every 12 years, which is equivalent of an 8% annual chance. Losses, especially to agribusiness, are assumed to exceed millions of dollars during drought years.

This project will result in the development of a South Dakota Drought Mitigation Plan (Drought Plan) which will consist of two main components): 1) a vulnerability assessment for the state; 2) a plan to mitigate those identified risks & vulnerabilities. The plan development approach follows a process similar to the FEMA four phase state hazard mitigation planning process that includes:

1. Organize Resources
2. Assess Risks
3. Develop a Mitigation Plan
4. Implement the Plan and Monitor Progress

The planning process began in August 2014 and is anticipated to be completed during the summer of 2015.

Please take a short online survey by following this link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SD_DroughtMitigationPlan

The Drought Mitigation Plan will:

- Include a sector-based vulnerability assessment for 6 sectors including:
 - Agriculture
 - Health/Socioeconomic
 - Tourism
 - Water Resources
 - Wildland Fire
 - Wildlife
- Develop a statewide strategy to reduce the impacts of future droughts
- Serve as a hazard specific annex for the State of South Dakota's Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Include collaboration with the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and National Drought Mitigation Center and various stakeholders
- Provide a resource for local drought planning.

Opportunities for Input

Public and stakeholder input is invited and welcomed. In addition to the survey a draft will be made available for public and stakeholder review in fall 2015

For more information on the plan and opportunities for input contact:

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