

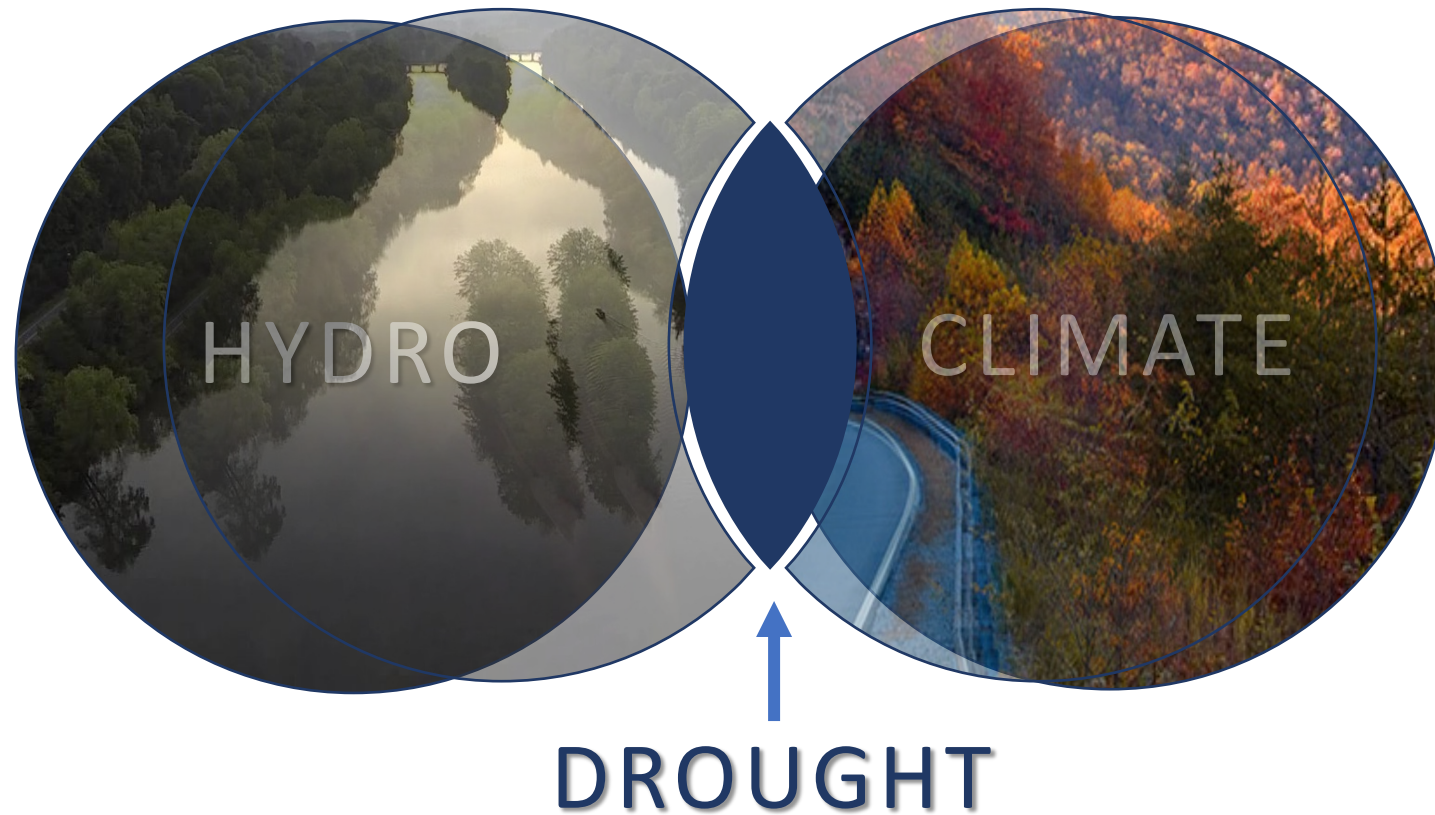
# DROUGHT MESSAGING

## *A Local Perspective*

**Laura Belanger**  
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NWS Atlanta / Peachtree City

# WFO Drought Services

Within the local WFO, *drought services* often has a varied living space.



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## Hydro Services Program

- Routine drought collaboration
- Leads DGT efforts
- Documents D2+ drought in Storm Data
- Internally collaborates with Climate FP for messaging

## Climate Program

- Contributes to drought collaboration during D2+ conditions
- DGT co-author
- Internally collaborates with Hydro Team for messaging

# WFO Drought Collaboration

REGIONAL

STATE

LOCAL



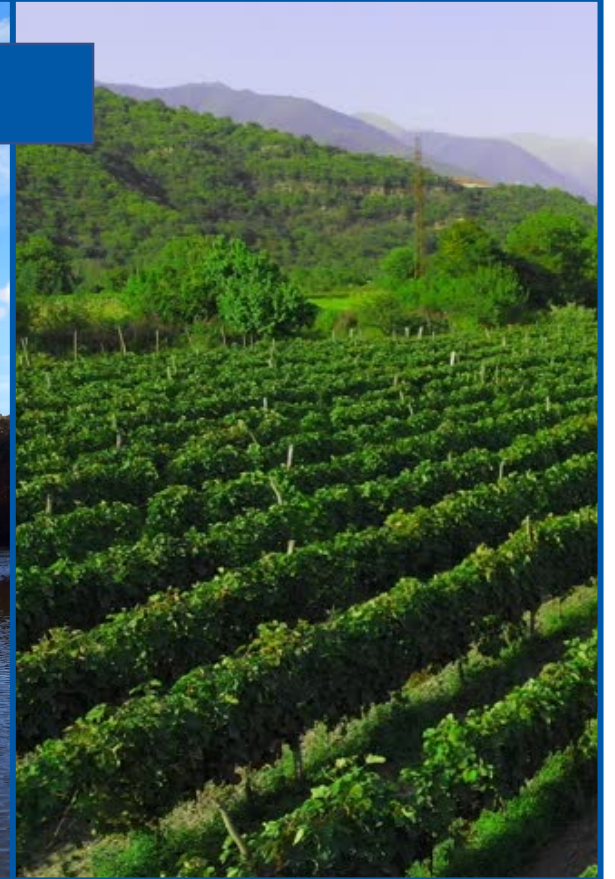
*climatological*



*meteorological*



*hydrologic*



*agricultural*



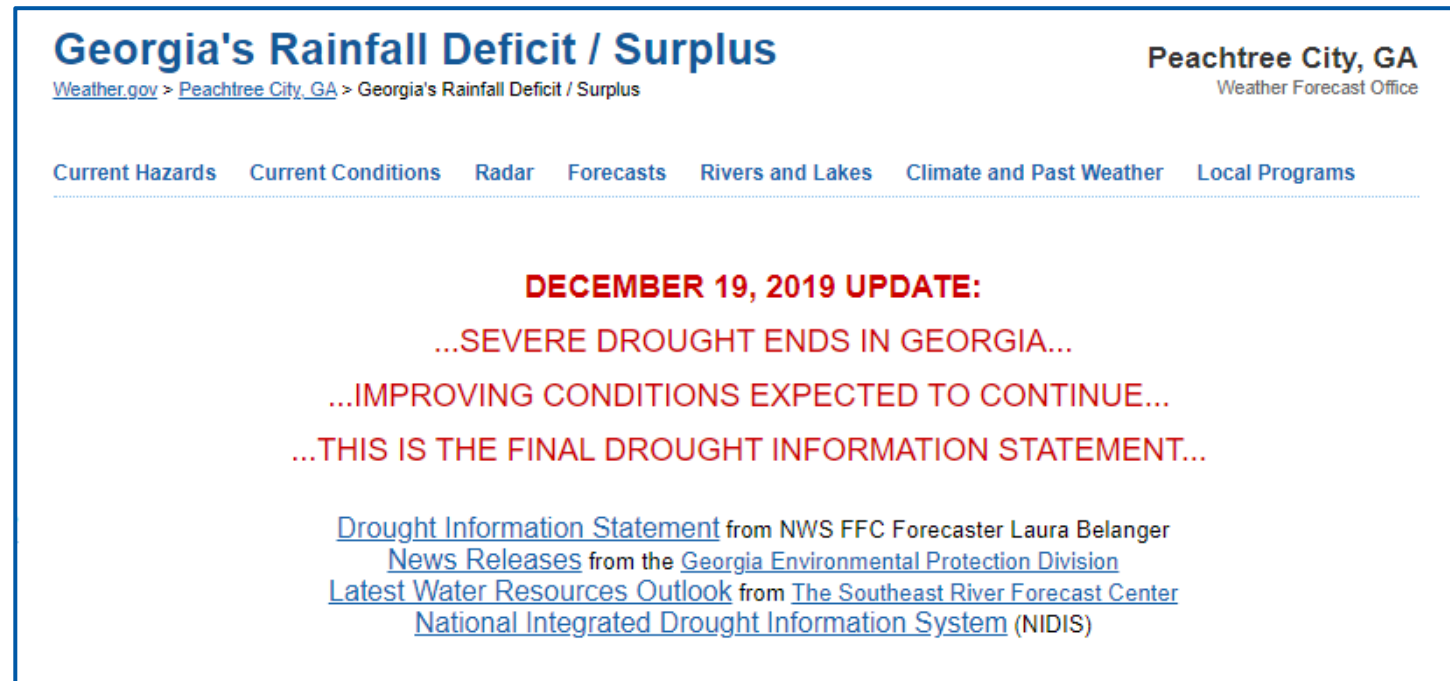
# Messaging to Partners and Users

Drought Information Statements (DGT) are issued by local WFOs during *D3 or worse* drought conditions, *or during lesser drought conditions if more appropriate for local partners and other users.*

NWS Instruction 10-1201, Drought Services, NWSPD 10-12

## DGTs as a WFO Product

- Cumbersome, lengthy
- Content can widely vary
- Limited usability (text only)
- Infrequent issuances could impact proficiency
- Operational burden



The screenshot shows a web page titled "Georgia's Rainfall Deficit / Surplus" from Weather.gov. The page is for Peachtree City, GA, Weather Forecast Office. It features a navigation menu with links for Current Hazards, Current Conditions, Radar, Forecasts, Rivers and Lakes, Climate and Past Weather, and Local Programs. The main content area displays a "DECEMBER 19, 2019 UPDATE:" in red, followed by three lines of red text: "...SEVERE DROUGHT ENDS IN GEORGIA...", "...IMPROVING CONDITIONS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE...", and "...THIS IS THE FINAL DROUGHT INFORMATION STATEMENT...". Below this, there are several blue hyperlinks: "Drought Information Statement" from NWS FFC Forecaster Laura Belanger, "News Releases" from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, "Latest Water Resources Outlook" from The Southeast River Forecast Center, and "National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)".

# Messaging to Partners and Users

**Current Drought Situation:**

The maps below are from the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#). They show the latest drought conditions across North and South Carolina.

The maps below are from the [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#) and the [National Climatic Data Center Drought Termination and Amelioration Index](#).

The [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) is a weekly collaborative effort between a number of federal agencies NOAA/NWS, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Drought Mitigation Center. The product is updated weekly on Thursdays at 8:30 AM Eastern Time. For those needing to look at past U.S. Drought Monitor an archive is available back to January 4, 2000. This information can be found at the [U.S. Drought Monitor website](#).

NWS Wilmington

The categories of drought are defined as follows:

### Central Indiana Drought Information

[Weather.gov > Indianapolis\\_IL > Central Indiana Drought Information](#)

Indianapolis Weather Forecast

Current Hazards | Current Conditions | Radar | Forecasts | Rivers and Lakes | Climate and Past Weather | Local Programs

Introduction | Drought Monitor Status | Local Drought Statements | Recent Temp & Precip | Impacts | Water Resource | Forecasts & Outlooks | Acknowledgements

**Impacts**

**Soils / Vegetation**

EDDI: 1 week, 2 week, 1 month, 3 month

Drought categories: ED1, ED2, ED3, ED4, ED5, ED6, ED7, ED8, ED9, ED10, ED11, ED12, ED13, ED14, ED15, ED16, ED17, ED18, ED19, ED20, ED21, ED22, ED23, ED24, ED25, ED26, ED27, ED28, ED29, ED30, ED31, ED32, ED33, ED34, ED35, ED36, ED37, ED38, ED39, ED40, ED41, ED42, ED43, ED44, ED45, ED46, ED47, ED48, ED49, ED50, ED51, ED52, ED53, ED54, ED55, ED56, ED57, ED58, ED59, ED60, ED61, ED62, ED63, ED64, ED65, ED66, ED67, ED68, ED69, ED70, ED71, ED72, ED73, ED74, ED75, ED76, ED77, ED78, ED79, ED80, ED81, ED82, ED83, ED84, ED85, ED86, ED87, ED88, ED89, ED90, ED91, ED92, ED93, ED94, ED95, ED96, ED97, ED98, ED99, ED100.

Wetness categories: EW1, EW2, EW3, EW4, EW5, EW6, EW7, EW8, EW9, EW10, EW11, EW12, EW13, EW14, EW15, EW16, EW17, EW18, EW19, EW20, EW21, EW22, EW23, EW24, EW25, EW26, EW27, EW28, EW29, EW30, EW31, EW32, EW33, EW34, EW35, EW36, EW37, EW38, EW39, EW40, EW41, EW42, EW43, EW44, EW45, EW46, EW47, EW48, EW49, EW50, EW51, EW52, EW53, EW54, EW55, EW56, EW57, EW58, EW59, EW60, EW61, EW62, EW63, EW64, EW65, EW66, EW67, EW68, EW69, EW70, EW71, EW72, EW73, EW74, EW75, EW76, EW77, EW78, EW79, EW80, EW81, EW82, EW83, EW84, EW85, EW86, EW87, EW88, EW89, EW90, EW91, EW92, EW93, EW94, EW95, EW96, EW97, EW98, EW99, EW100.

Generated by NOAA/ES&L/Physical Sciences Laboratory

NWS Indianapolis

### Kansas Drought Information

Current/Recent Drought | Drought Outlook | Past Precipitation | Agricultural Impacts | Hydrological Impacts | Fire Weather Impacts

Temperature/Precipitation Outlooks | Additional Information | Questions/Comments

**Current/Recent/Past Drought:**

The [U.S. Drought Monitor](#), established in 1999, is a weekly map of drought conditions that is produced jointly by the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#), the [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#), and the [National Drought Mitigation Center \(NDMC\)](#) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The U.S. Drought Monitor website is hosted and maintained by the NDMC.

U.S. Drought Monitor maps are updated every Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m., based on data through 6 a.m. the preceding Tuesday. The map is based on measurements of climatic, hydrologic and soil conditions as well as reported impacts and observations from more than 350 contributors around the country.

**Kansas Drought Monitor**

**Drought Change from 4 weeks Ago**

NWS Wichita

Weather.gov web content and DGT access vary widely by WFO. Some local pages have had success supplementing text products with visuals.

# Messaging to Partners and Users

WFO messaging through partner briefings and social media is more consistent WFO-wide, and yields higher user interactions.

## YOUTUBE

**Drought Summary**

Intensity:

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

July 5th

June 28

Introduction of D2 – Severe drought to some areas

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Weekly Weather Briefing for 7 July 2020

## TWITTER

NWS Charleston, SC  
@NWSCharlestonSC

Here is some good news! The drought across the SC Lowcountry & SE GA has dramatically improved over the past month. On June 21, ~73% of the region was classified in either a moderate or severe drought. Now, only 8% of the region is in a moderate drought. #gawx #scwx #drought

**U.S. Drought Monitor**  
Charleston, SC WFO

July 12, 2022  
(Released Thursday, Jul. 14, 2022)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D1	D2-D3	D4	D5	D6
Current	21.43	78.57	57.53	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week (7/4/2022)	0.21	99.79	71.25	26.76	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (4/12/2022)	0.00	100.00	83.61	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (1/1/2022)	88.71	11.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (9/26/2021)	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (7/13/2021)	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- 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. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.aspx>

Author:  
Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center

## FACEBOOK

US National Weather Service Peachtree City Georgia  
March 12, 2021 · 🌐

Although this is #FloodSafety Preparedness Week, it's worth highlighting a new drought resource. [Drought.gov](https://drought.gov) is brought to you by NIDIS, a multi-agency partnership that coordinates drought services. #droughtpreparedness #FSPW2021 #gawx

NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) has recently launched the redesigned **U.S. Drought Portal**

"The new state of the art U.S. Drought Portal...is designed to be a one-stop shop for data, decision-support products, resources and information on drought."  
- Veva Deheza, Executive Director of NIDIS

Available on the site are latest drought conditions, impacts and outlooks, as well as drought-related maps for temperature, precipitation, wildfire updates, soil moisture conditions, and more!

visit [drought.gov](https://drought.gov)

# Local Drought Services: Moving Forward

- Drought Education
  - Incorporate more education and resources in existing outreach programs
- Standardize, Streamline Drought Products
  - Quality, usability, consistency
- Slack for Collaboration
  - NWSChat Migration
  - Contract signed July 12, 2022



GEMA Hazardous Weather and Flood Preparedness Course,  
Georgia Public Safety Training Center



# Questions?

Laura Belanger

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