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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 13-26  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
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From:         Mike Halpert  
              Acting Director, Climate Prediction Center

Subject: U.S. Drought Outlook Changes: Effective June 20, 2013

The U.S. Drought Outlooks will change both their forecast time period and categories. The U.S. Drought Outlooks will now forecast a Seasonal (3-month) and Monthly time period instead of an Initial and Updated Seasonal (3-month) time frame. The new Seasonal (3-month) Drought Outlook (SDO) will be released on the third Thursday of the month and the Monthly Drought Outlook (MDO) will be released on the last day of the month.

The U.S. Drought Outlooks (SDO and MDO) will change some of their categories. The Some Improvement will be replaced by Improvement (at least a 1-category improvement in the U.S. Drought Monitor intensity level by the end of the period, although drought will remain), and the original Improvement will be replaced by Removal (drought removal by the end of the period [D0 or wetter]). The No Drought, Persistence, and Development categories will not change.

The U.S. Drought Outlooks will no longer be available on the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS). NWS is discontinuing the AWIPS Map ID, RBGDRK, and AWIPS Discussion ID, PMDDRK. The best source for the SDO and MDO maps and narratives are online on the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Webpage. The Drought Outlooks (SDO and MDO) are online at:

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Drought/>.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:  
<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>  
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