
Responsibilities of the National Drought Council

The Council would be responsible for coordinating the following:

- Timely and efficient delivery of existing federal drought programs.
- Cooperation and participation among federal, state, local, and tribal interests and private water systems in federal drought assistance opportunities by example and through facilitation.
- Program assessments of drought-related assistance efforts.
- Determination of which regions have the most pressing need and greatest opportunities to coordinate and implement drought preparedness assistance programs, recognizing the special drought preparedness needs of tribes, small rural water districts, and small self-supplied water users.
- Development of an array of coordination strategies to provide support for state, local, and tribal drought planning and mitigation measures.
- Support of state, local, and tribal initiatives to coordinate with current regional drought planning entities, perhaps within watersheds or river basins, or to establish new regional entities.
- An assessment of major river basin initiatives and state programs to determine which methods have proven most effective in reducing conflicts over water.
- Development of a handbook of emergency drought preparedness measures.
- A survey of user groups to ascertain drought monitoring, prediction, and research needs and expectations.
- Establishment of drought impact assessment teams of federal, state, and other experts who are responsible, after drought events occur, for analyzing the causes and aggravating factors that contribute to drought and its social, economic, and environmental impacts.
- Development of a handbook on water supply techniques, including traditional and non-traditional strategies.
- Advocacy of drought-related educational training programs within universities, agencies, and public sector programs.

The Council co-chairs should report to the President and Congress annually on the progress of these activities.

The following information is available from the National Drought Policy Commission. You can access the following appendix files as well as the Commission's final report and executive summary at the Commission's web site: www.fsa.usda.gov/drought. The appendix files, final report, and executive summary can also be ordered in electronic format and hard copy. Write: National Drought Policy Commission, USDA/FSA/AO, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 0501, Washington, D.C. 20250-0501.

- FILE A: Summary of Public Testimony at the Commission's Hearings and Public Comments Submitted Independently (by subject matter, entity, and place of business or residence)
- FILE B: List of the Commission's Five Working Groups and Members and Unedited Background Materials
- FILE C: Summary of State Drought-related Programs
- FILE D: Summary of Regional Drought-related Programs
- FILE E: Summary of Local Government Drought-related Programs
- FILE F: Summary of Tribal Drought Plans
- FILE G: Summary of Federal Drought-related Programs
- FILE H: Summary of Federal Drought-related Laws