



Water Conservation and Consumption...a different story!

Sara Syswerda

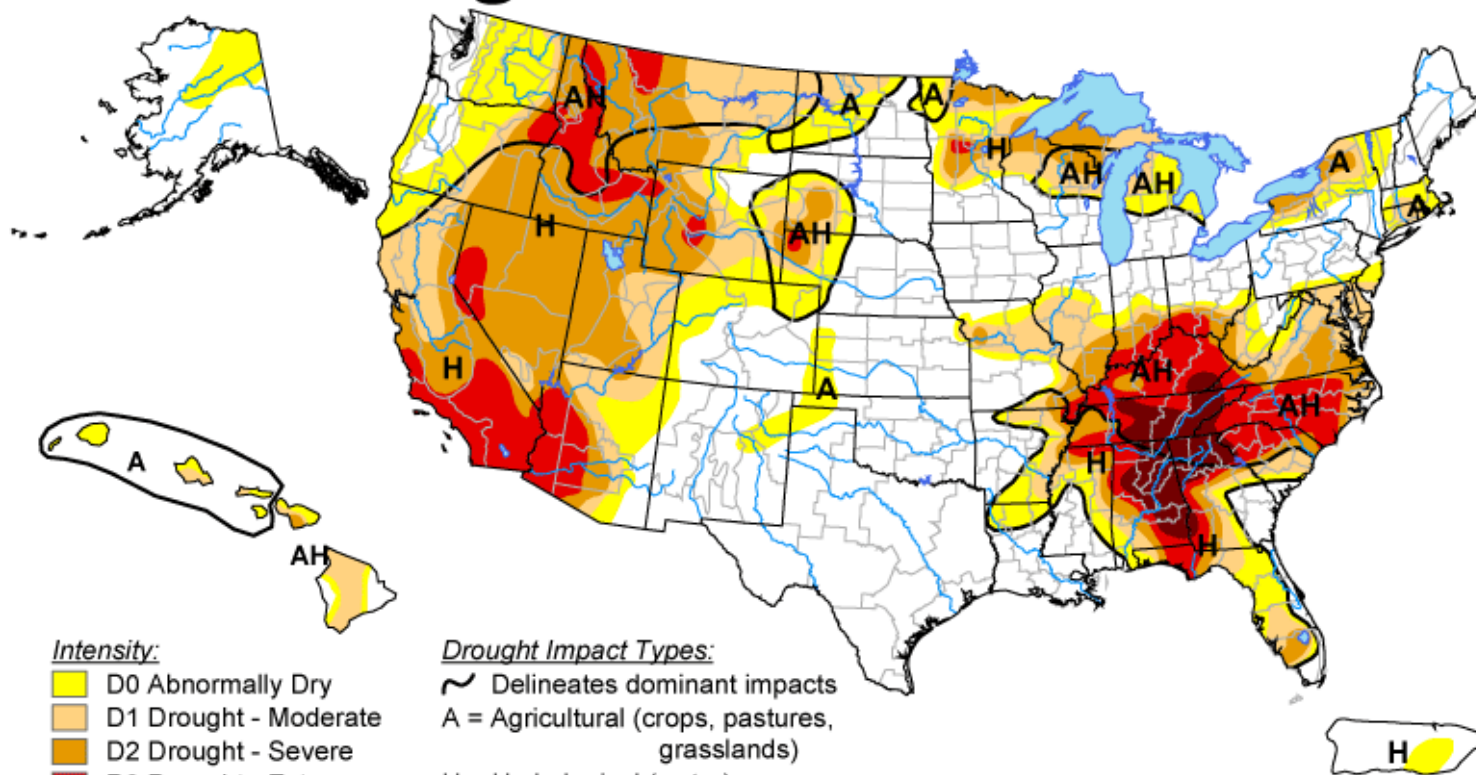
Kellogg Biological Station
Michigan State University

What's the problem?

U.S. Drought Monitor

September 25, 2007

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

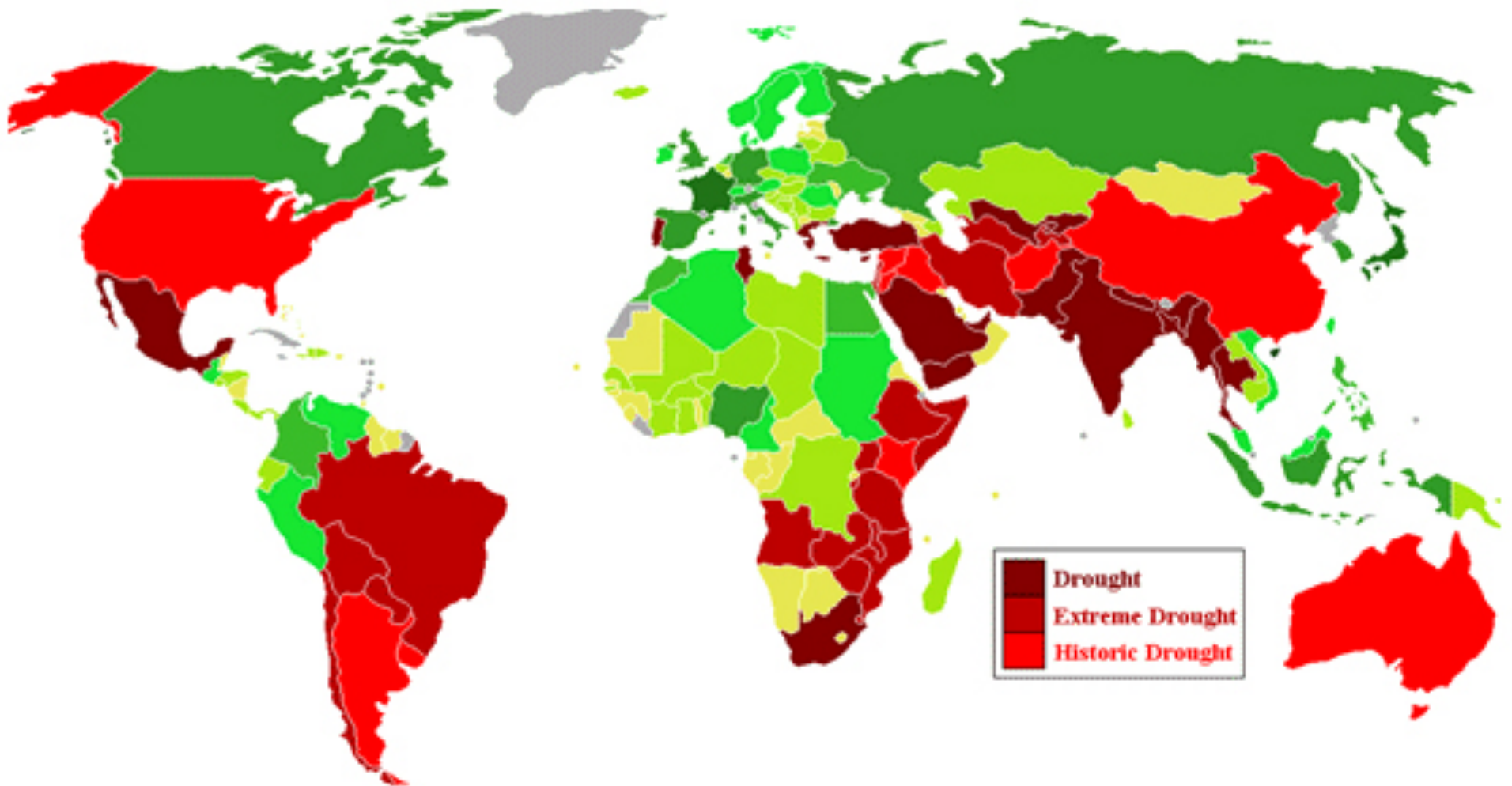
<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, September 27, 2007

Author: David Miskus, JAWF/CPC/NOAA

Globally this is an issue, too.



The major concerns:

- Inadequate access to safe drinking water for about 884 million people
- Inadequate access to water for sanitation and waste disposal for 2.5 billion people
- Groundwater overdrafting (excessive use) leading to diminished agricultural yields
- Overuse and pollution of water resources harming biodiversity
- Regional conflicts over scarce water resources sometimes resulting in warfare

It's not what you think!

- Our energy system is responsible for 39 percent of our entire fresh water use, our farms use 40 percent, and our factories use about 5 percent.
- Households consumption make up less than 15% of the total water usage, but our use of other products/services is the bigger issue!

Let's think about consumption...

- For example, the average American today uses about 5 times as much electricity as Americans did 50 years ago.
- Similarly, the average single-family house in 1950 was less than half of the size of one these days.
- And our food consumption is even more shocking: on average Americans today eat about 600 more calories per day than we did in 1970.