

# CARIA Annual Meeting 2008

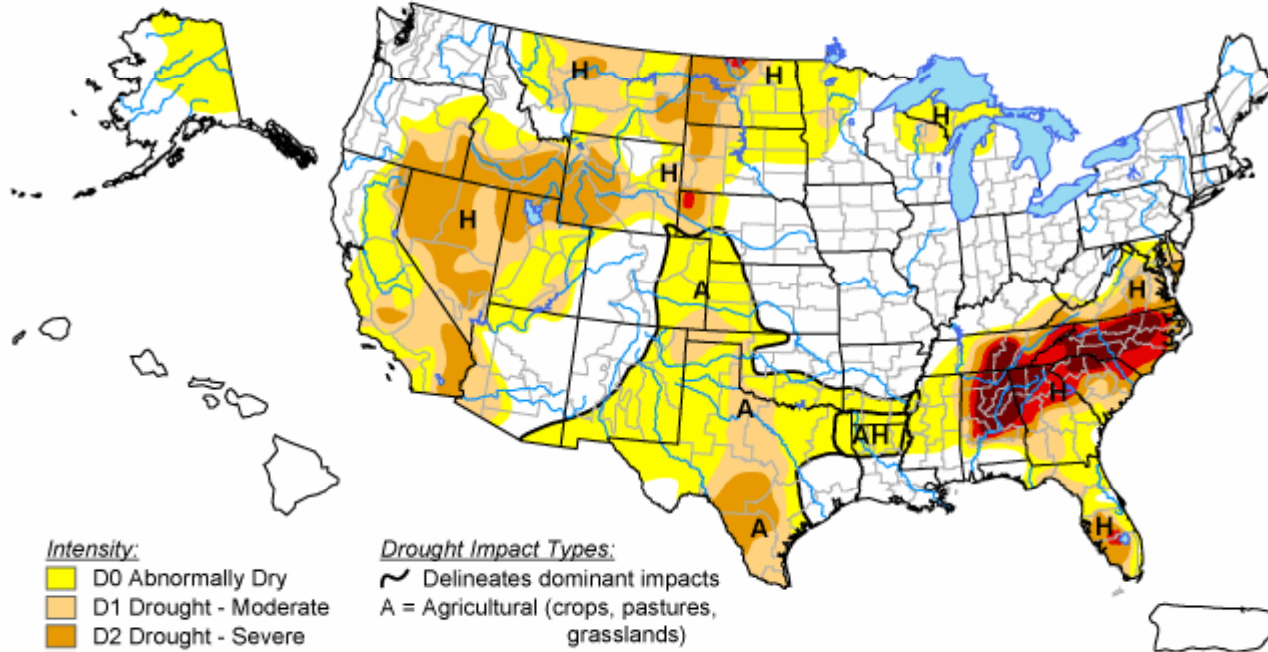
Rob Erhardt

Meteorologist, USACE, Mobile

*Drought  
Termination –  
If not now, when?*

# U.S. Drought Monitor

February 12, 2008  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:

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

Drought Impact Types:

- Delineates dominant impacts
- A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
- H = Hydrological (water)

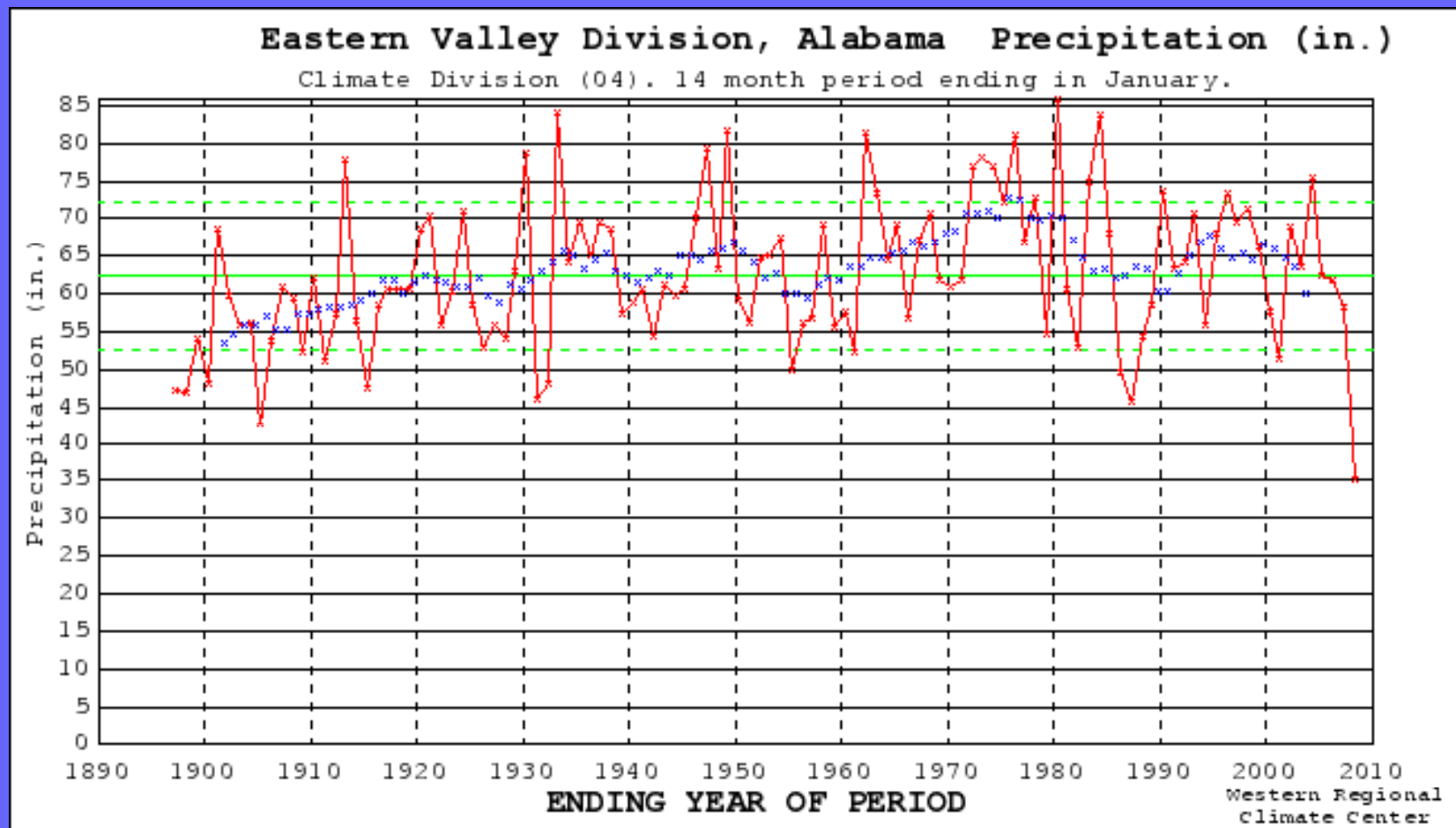
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.  
Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary  
for forecast statements.

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



Released Thursday, February 14, 2008

Authors: Jay Lawrimore/Liz Love-Brotak, NOAA/NESDIS/NCDC



red - 14 month period

blue - 10 year running mean

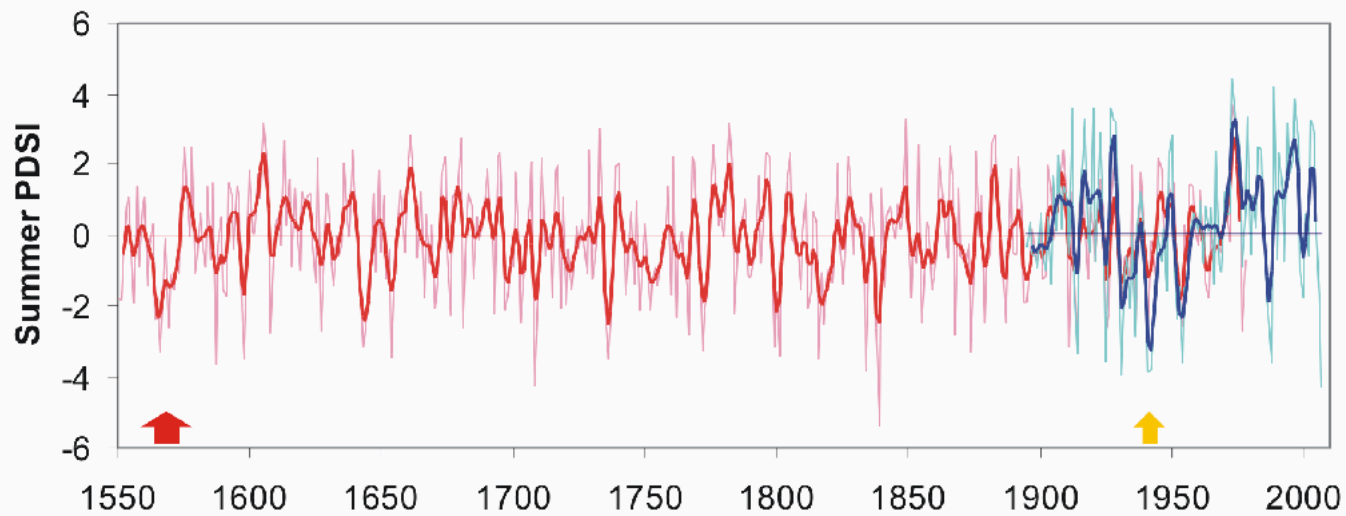
green - average (solid),  $\pm$  sigma (dashed)

# Summer (June-August) PDSI, central Tennessee



Tennessee Division 3 Summer PDSI, 1895-2007

Central Tennessee Summer PDSI reconstructed from tree rings, 1550-1978



National Climatic Data Center, NOAA

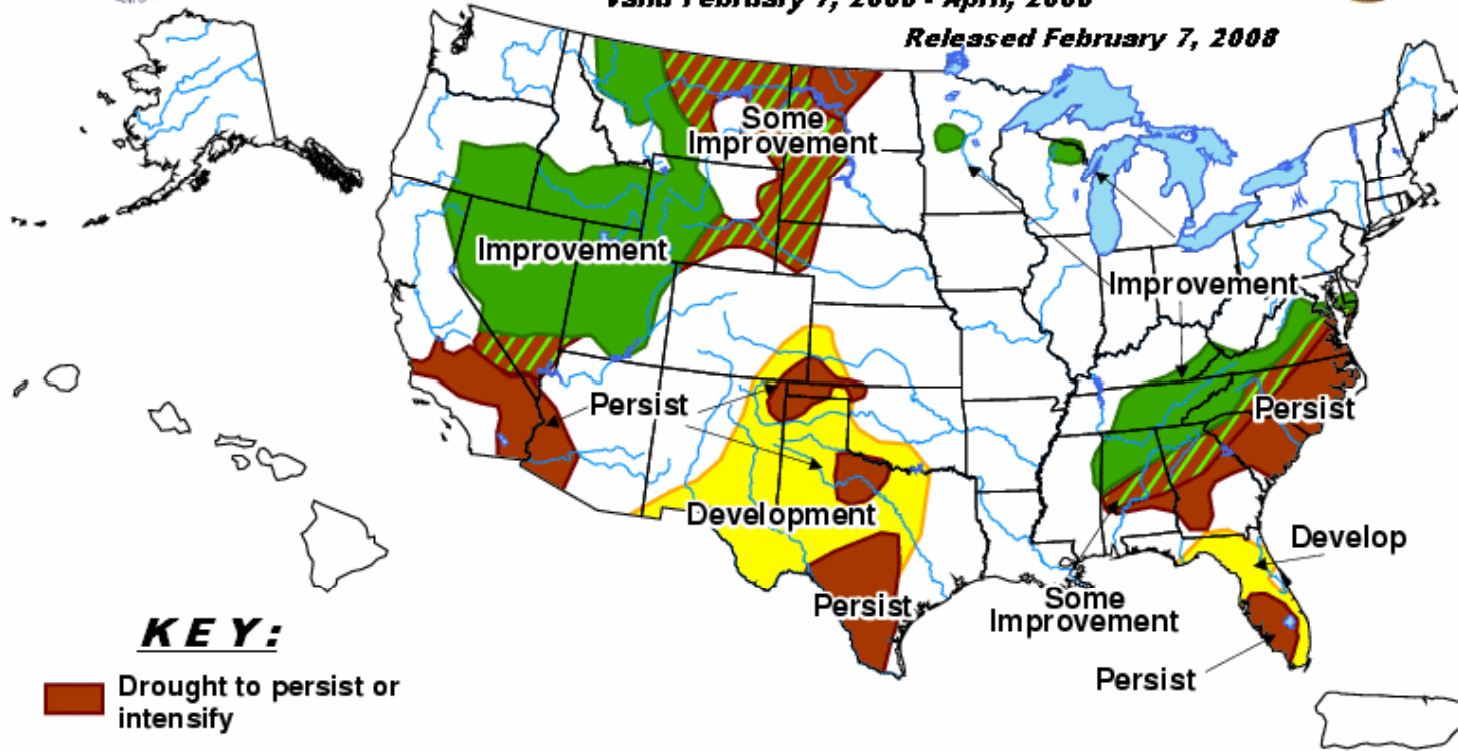


# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid February 7, 2008 - April, 2008

Released February 7, 2008



## KEY:

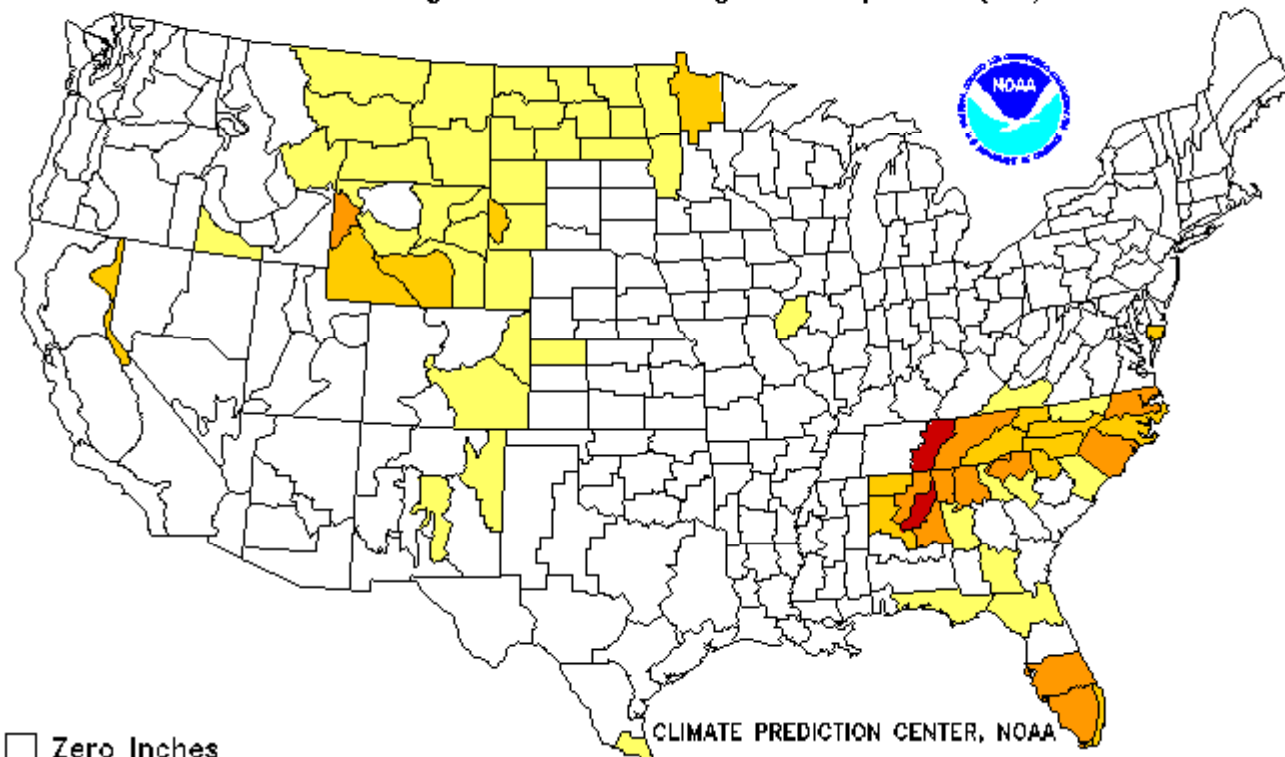
-  Drought to persist or intensify
-  Drought ongoing, some improvement
-  Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
-  Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.

# Additional Precip. Needed (In.) to Bring PDI to -0.5

Weekly Value for Period Ending 16 FEB 2008

Long Term Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDI)





# SUMMARY

- Exceptional Drought Conditions will improve in the short term
- Virtually all hope of major recovery will focus on the next several months
- Major concern: without significant spring time improvement - drought conditions could worsen in summer 2008