

Exceptional Events and Western Wildfire Smoke



Mary Uhl, WESTAR/WRAP
AAPCA meeting
April 2022



Why the American west's 'wildfire season' is a thing of the past – visualized

America's Skies Have Gotten Clearer,
but Millions Still Breathe Unhealthy Air

Wildfire Increasingly an Urban Issue

*Health Risks of Smoke and Ozone Rise in the West as
Wildfires Worsen*

*Calculating Air
Pollution's Death Toll,
Across State Lines*

Western Air Quality

*Smoke From Deadly McBride Wildfire Clouds Sky in Ruidoso, New
Mexico*

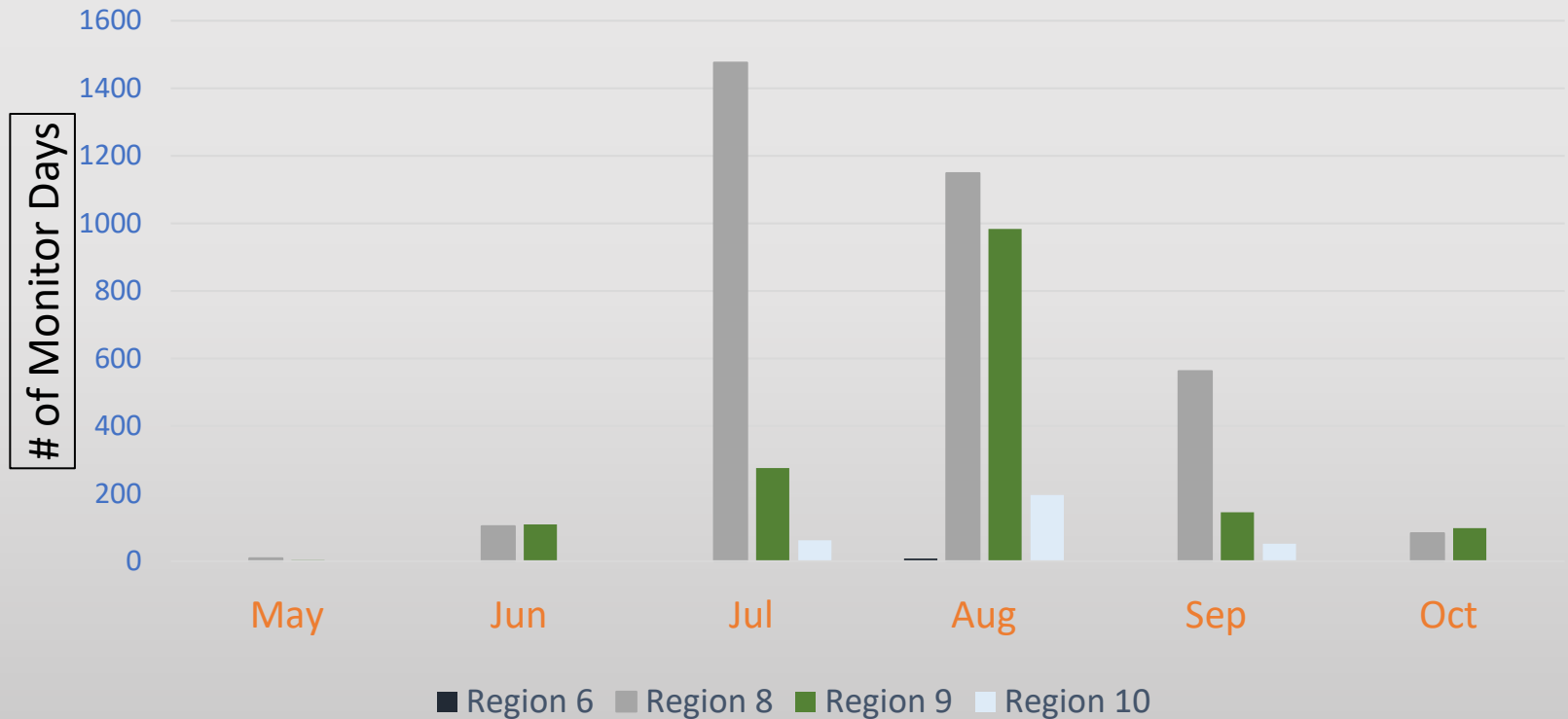
'Dust Bowl' winds hit tornado-devastated western United
States

U.S. Forest Service apologizes for Hermits Peak Fire
*America's Air Quality Worsens,
Ending Years of Gains, Study Says*

See How the World's Most Polluted
Air Compares With Your City's

Extreme heat and the ongoing aridification of the West

2021 Reported Exceedances affected by Smoke



State/Local/
Tribal
Agency
Wildfire
Smoke
Response-
Long-term

Flagging and analysis

Determining regulatory significance
(possibly years later)

Consulting with EPA

Development and submittal of
Exceptional Events demonstration

EPA action on submittal

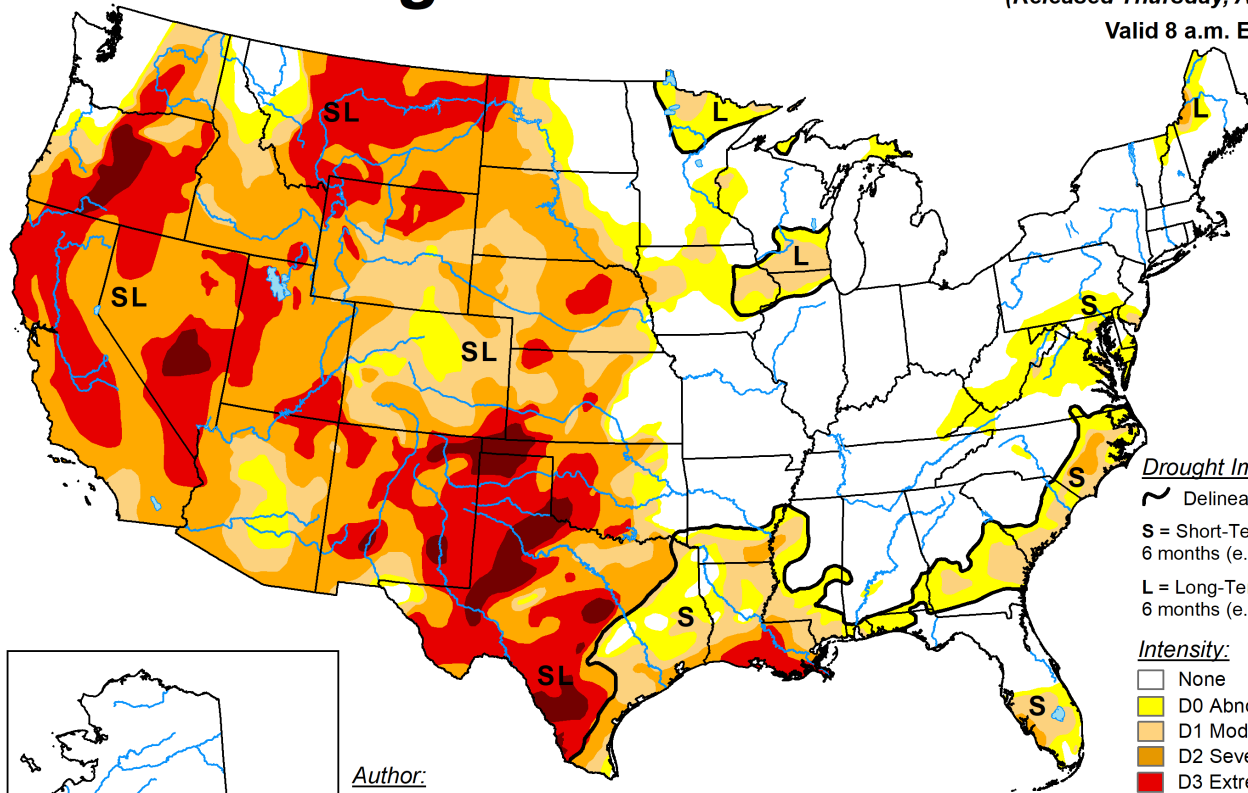
Defense of submittal if there is a court
challenge

U.S. Drought Monitor

April 12, 2022

(Released Thursday, Apr. 14, 2022)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

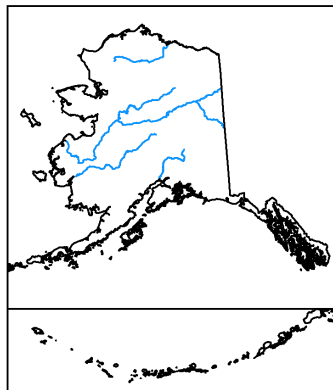


Drought Impact Types:

- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought



Author:
Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP

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>



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

WESTAR
Mary Uhl
maryuhl@westar.org

