

# Drought Table- Top Discussion

**Goal:** To better prepare for and respond to the next drought:

- 1) Document **existing** resources & partnerships;
- 2) Identify **gaps & opportunities**;
- 3) Share **tips & lessons** learned.

**Each group has (or needs to appoint) a:**

- Drought scenario;
- Worksheet with 3 questions to answer;
- Facilitator to ensure all voices heard (share, not dominate)
- Representative to report-out group's major points at end

# Drought Cuts Across the Region

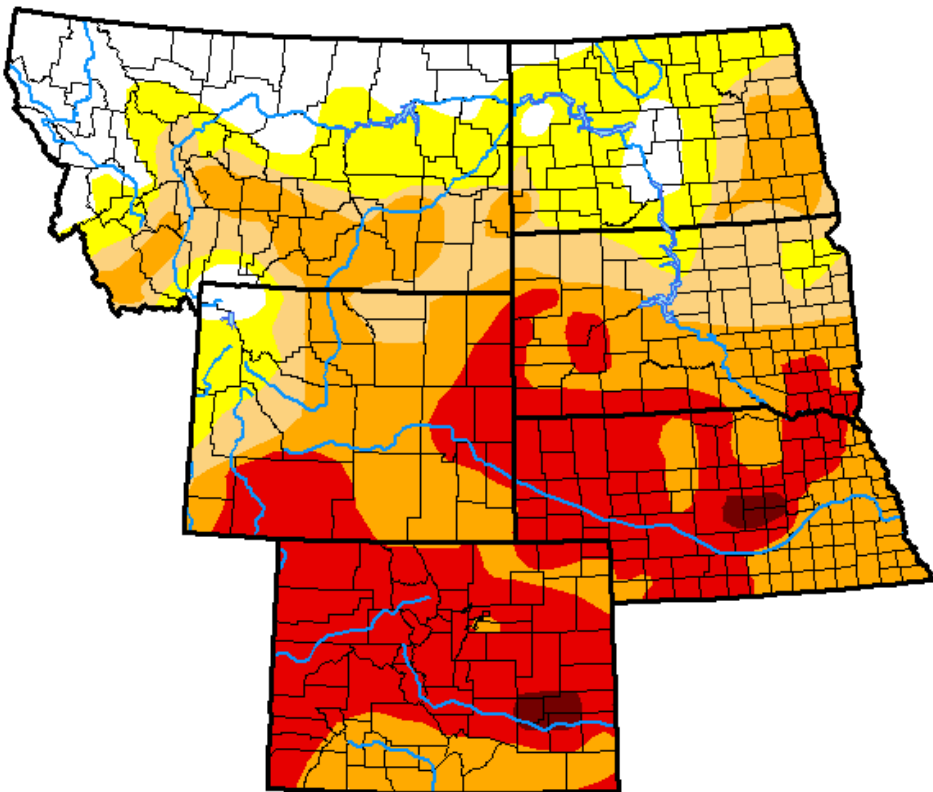
**Previous year:** Most areas of the region received near-average precipitation for the year. A majority of the moisture came early in the year (fall was dry), but few people were complaining.

**Winter:** Snowfall for most of the region is typical, but the mountain ranges feeding the rivers receive 30% of the normal addition to snowpack. Chances for La Nina are growing.

**Spring:** Rains tend to traverse across the northern third of the region.

**Summer:** Scant rainfall occurs across the region from mid-May through mid-July, leaving much of the region bone-dry.

## *U.S. Drought Monitor* **USDA Northern Plains Climate Hub**



### *Intensity:*



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

# Drought Table-Top Discussion

## Goal:

To better prepare for and respond to the next drought in our Greater Northern Plains region by: (i) documenting existing resources & partnerships; (ii) identifying gaps & opportunities; and (iii) sharing tips & lessons learned.

## Questions to Discuss at Your Table:

- 1) What **EXISTING programs & resources** are available before, during, or after drought to help your agricultural community prepare for and recover from drought?

### Programs & Resources

e.g., Forage availability forecasts: Grass-Cast

e.g., Pasture, Range & Forage Insurance (PRF)

e.g., Mental health support: Rural Response Hotline

### Partner Who Has Them?

NPCH & CSU

USDA RMA

Nebraska Interchurch Ministry

2) What **GAPS** or **OPPORTUNITIES** for improvement exist in our **programs, resources, and partnerships**? What needs are being overlooked or under-served? What do you wish we could do better/more/differently, if resources were available? What partnerships would you like to strengthen or develop?

3) What **LESSONS** have you learned from a past drought, or other natural disaster, that you would **pass on** to a new colleague or the next generation? Do you have any **TIPS** or **ADVICE**—something that worked great (i.e., you'd do it again), or did NOT work out so great (i.e., you won't make *that* mistake twice!)?