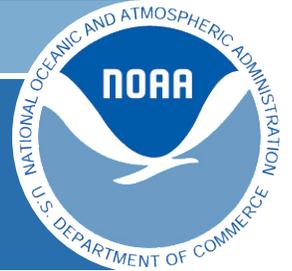




Figure courtesy WWF



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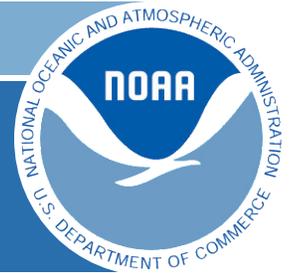


Why We Are Here Today: The Context for Drought in the RGB

- Drought is a short-term and a long-term issue in the RGB that affects a wide range of user communities
- Many interconnected environmental and economic components
- **Long-term climate factors:** e.g., global climate change
- **Interannual climate factors:** e.g., El Nino/La Nina
- **Seasonal climate factors:** e.g., North American monsoon
- **Non-climatic factors:** population dynamics, economic development, water demand (especially for agriculture), etc.



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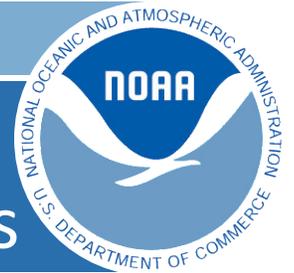


Why We Are Here Today: The 2011 Drought

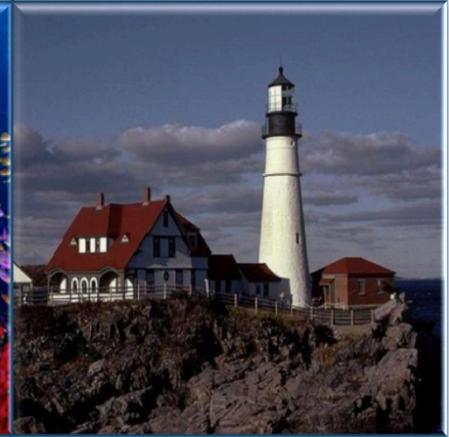
- The 2011 Southern Great Plains and Mexico drought was one of the worst on record
- While the drought was predicted, its rapid intensification and extreme magnitude were not
- The 2011 drought's intensity left many struggling to respond
- **NOAA, CONAGUA, and partners can lead bilateral coordination to more effectively predict, assess, and respond to future droughts in the Rio Grande/Bravo river basin**



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An Example of What We Can Do: NOAA's Role in Providing Climate Services



Climate Adaptation and Mitigation

- *An informed society anticipating and responding to climate and its impacts*

Weather Ready Nation

- *Society is prepared for and responds to weather-related events*

Healthy Oceans

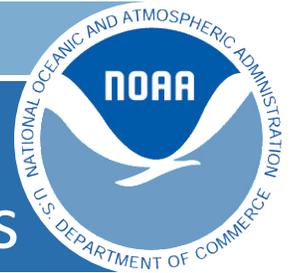
- *Marine fisheries, habitats, and biodiversity sustained within healthy and productive ecosystems*

Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies

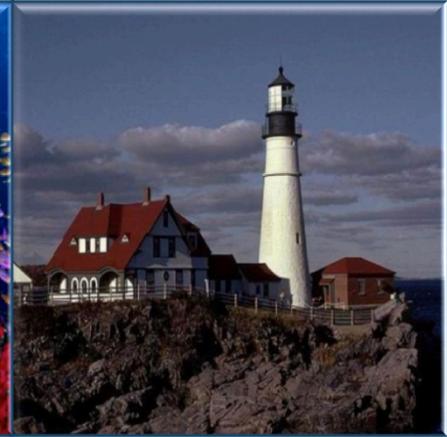
- *Coastal and Great Lakes communities that are environmentally and economically sustainable*



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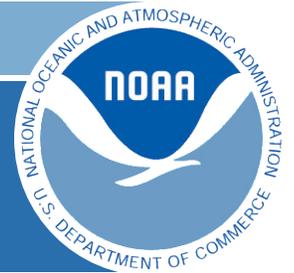
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Examples of NOAA and NOAA-Partner Activities in Response to 2011 Drought

- Regional outlook and assessment forums
 - Drought management webinars
 - State agency drought planning workshops
 - Public and media outreach
 - Scientific assessment reports
-
- **In the RGB, these and other capabilities can be coordinated with CONAGUA and Mexican partners to respond to drought – a bilateral, regional climate service approach**



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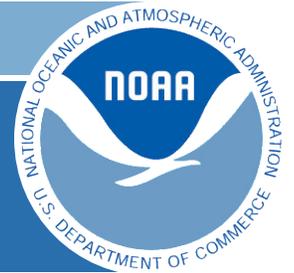


Regional Climate Service Approach for Bilateral Coordination in the RGB

- **Place-based focus:** Understand regional culture & context through active engagement
- Encourage **intersection** between physical and social sciences
- Recognize **climate change as a major stressor** of ecosystems
- **Collaborative, participatory processes** to understand climate science and service needs
- **Form a network of networks** - Leverage existing systems, institutions and networks
- **Recognize and respect complementary roles** of agencies
- Ensure **end-users of climate science & services** are well-served
- Advance coordination processes based on **shared learning and joint problem-solving**



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Our Shared Challenge Moving Forward

- No shortage of needs for drought information and services in the Rio Grande/Bravo, for many constituents and customers
- NOAA, CONAGUA, and partners must work together to identify priority regional needs then align responses
 - Identify areas of current and potential collaboration
 - Prioritize those climate services with maximum user benefit and highest likelihood for rapid and sustained payoff
 - Identify and leverage varying areas of partner expertise
 - Move towards those priorities in a coordinated way