

What are DROUGHT TRIGGERS?

WE GIVE SPECIAL
THANKS TO:



FOR FIGURES
AND CONTENT

DROUGHT TRIGGERS ARE THRESHOLD VALUES OF A DROUGHT INDICATOR OR INDEX THAT INITIATE OR TERMINATE RESPONSES TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS AS PART OF A DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. THEY ARE BASED ON DROUGHT INDICATORS

Popular Drought Triggers

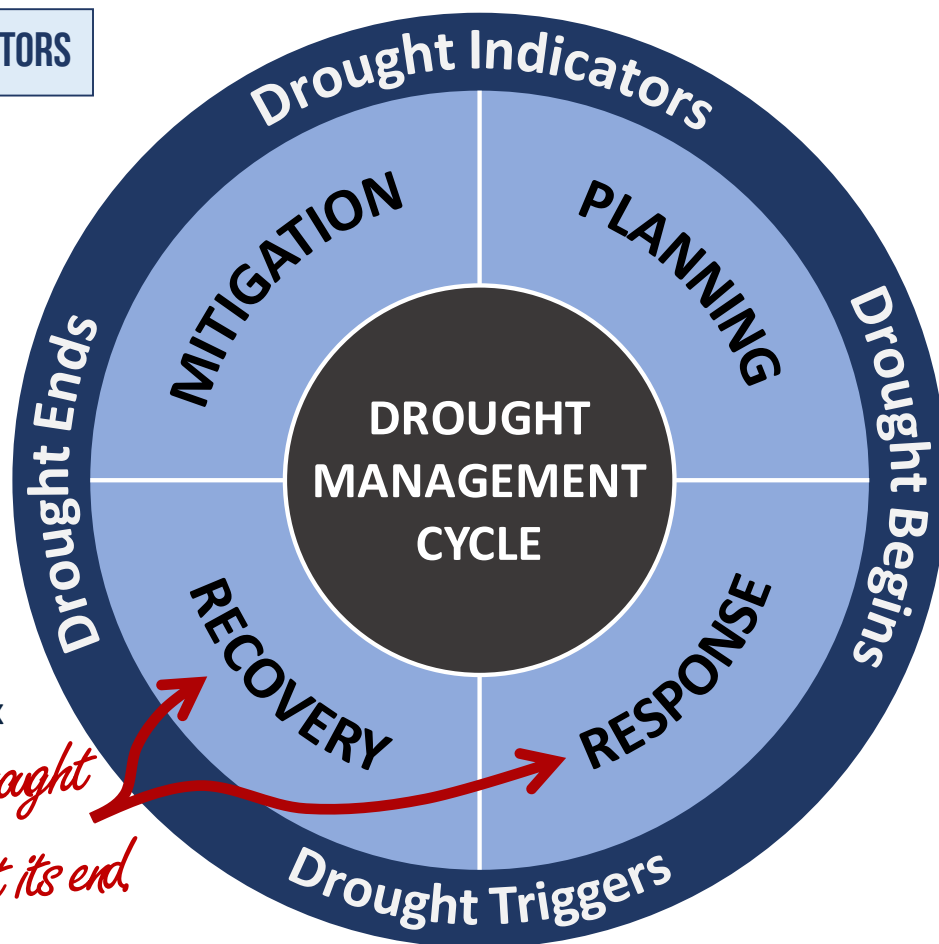
Physically-Based Triggers:

Lake or Reservoir Elevation
Depth to Groundwater
Stream Stage or Streamflow

Index-Based Triggers:

Surface Water Supply Index
Palmer Drought Severity Index
Percent of Normal Precipitation
Standardized Precipitation Index

*Triggers conserve water during drought
and transition back to normal use at its end.*



DROUGHT INDICES ARE COMPUTED NUMERICAL REPRESENTATIONS OF A DROUGHT'S INTENSITY AND ARE DROUGHT INDICATORS THEMSELVES

What are DROUGHT TRIGGERS? (Continued)

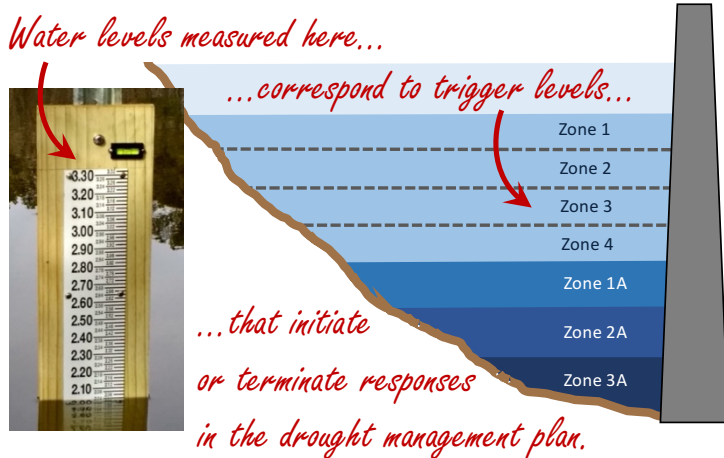
3. THEY PRIORITIZE AND RESTRICT WATER USE AS A CRITICAL PART OF A DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN

A hypothetical drought management plan is shown below with actions initiated and terminated by drought triggers, which correspond with drought severity. The 'Trigger Levels' in this example could be tied to one or more drought triggers as decided by the governing authority of that area. Generally, triggered responses to drought go from voluntary to mandatory, less restrictive to more restrictive, and narrow to widespread impact on water users.

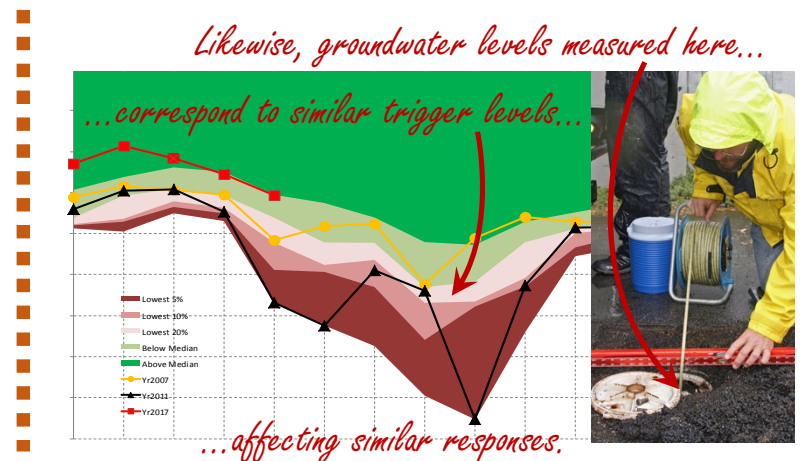
| Drought Severity | Trigger Level | Restriction Level | Example Water Restrictions / Actions | Most Affected Water Users |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| No Drought | 0 | Standard Conservation | Normal Waste Eliminating Practices | None |
| Mild | 1 | Voluntary | Encouraging Car Washing or Lawn Irrigation on Specific Days of the Week; Communicating Water Saving Practices | Progressive and/or Drought Conscious Persons and Entities |
| Severe | 2 | Mandatory | Forbidding Residential Car Washing and Lawn Irrigation; Temporarily Hiked Water Cost Structure During Drought | Residential and/or Non-Essential Heavy Water Users |
| Extreme | 3 | Mandatory | Forbidding Recreational Water Use; Reducing Water Use to Permitted Withdrawals During Drought | Industrial, Commercial, and Some Essential Water Users |
| Exceptional | 4 | Mandatory | Forbidding All Non-Essential Water Uses; Imposing Major Penalties on Restriction Violators; Rationing Water Supply | All Water Users |

2. THE TWO MOST POPULAR EXAMPLES ARE LAKE / RESERVOIR LEVELS AND DEPTH TO GROUNDWATER

WATER LEVELS OF A LAKE / RESERVOIR



DEPTH TO GROUNDWATER



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