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Service Change Notice 24-27
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Marina Timofeyeva, Chief
 Climate Services Branch

Subject: The Modernized Drought Information Statement Will Transition to Operational Status: Effective April 1, 2024

Effective April 1, 2024, the modernized Drought Information Statement (DGT) will transition from experimental to operational status.

The modernized format replaces a text-based version of the DGT with a PDF version that is available on NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) "Drought Information Statement" webpages, and is linked from a centralized, national page at drought.gov: <https://www.drought.gov/drought-information-statements>. The PDF version of the DGT is based on a standardized template designed to ensure a common presentation format, incorporate graphics, and enable collaboration amongst neighboring offices. The content and issuance criteria for DGTs have not changed.

In fall 2023, approximately 60 WFOs issued DGTs in the modernized format. Supported by strongly positive feedback received from stakeholders, the NWS is transitioning the modernized DGT to operational status in spring 2024.

The DGT product is issued by WFOs (and Weather Service Office Pago Pago) experiencing drought conditions in their local area. The DGT synthesizes local drought conditions, impacts and outlook. The DGT product draws on NWS and partner-provided drought indicators and tools, including the U.S. Drought Monitor and the NWS Climate Prediction Center's U.S. Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlooks. DGTs deliver localized messaging to key partners, such as state climate offices, agriculture and water resources managers, and the media. A detailed description of the contents, issuance criteria and format of the current DGT text product can be found in NWS Instruction (NWSI) 10-1201:

<https://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01012001curr.pdf>

NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) provided support for the modernized drought information statements through the U.S. Drought Portal (www.drought.gov) team. The U.S. Drought Portal team worked with NWS to create customized regional map images that WFOs can use within the

modernized DGT, overlaying state and WFO boundaries on key climate and drought maps. Each high-quality image is automatically updated each day, allowing WFOs to incorporate these graphics into their drought messaging.

Please see the NWS Product Description Document (PDD) for more details:

https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/abc385a11b6c4250ee15a7dbe54bcb34

For questions or comments regarding the modernized DGT, please contact:

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<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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