# Article information:

Characterizing U.S. drought over the past 20 years using the U.S. drought monitor - Leeper - 2022 - International Journal of Climatology - Wiley Online Library  
<https://rmets.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/joc.7653>

# Article summary:

1. The study characterizes U.S. drought over the past 20 years using the U.S. Drought Monitor, highlighting the wide-ranging societal impacts of drought on agriculture, water quality, industry, and human health.

2. The analysis evaluates regional differences in drought formation and evolution, including timing of onset and termination, duration, severity, and rates of intensification/amelioration across the U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

3. The use of the USDM provides a holistic measure of drought conditions that is widely accepted by both academics and policy makers, aiding in drought monitoring, mitigation efforts, disaster recovery programs, and informing decision makers on economic assistance to agricultural communities.

# Article rating:

May be slightly imbalanced: The article presents the information in a generally reliable way, but there are minor points of consideration that could be explored further or claims that are not fully backed by appropriate evidence. Some perspectives may also be omitted, and you are encouraged to use the research topics section to explore the topic further.

# Article analysis:

The article "Characterizing U.S. drought over the past 20 years using the U.S. drought monitor" provides a comprehensive overview of drought conditions in the United States from 2000 to 2019, utilizing data from the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM). The study highlights the impacts of drought on various sectors such as agriculture, water quality, human health, and critical infrastructure, emphasizing the need for effective mitigation strategies to reduce societal vulnerabilities to drought.

One potential bias in the article is the heavy reliance on data from the USDM as the primary source of information for characterizing drought conditions. While the USDM is a widely used and accepted tool for monitoring drought, it may not capture all aspects of drought impacts or provide a complete picture of regional variations in drought severity. Relying solely on one source of data could limit the depth and accuracy of the analysis.

The article also presents a somewhat one-sided view of drought impacts by focusing primarily on negative consequences such as agricultural losses, forest fires, and societal disruptions. While these are important aspects of drought, there is limited discussion of potential benefits or opportunities that may arise from periods of reduced moisture levels, such as improved water conservation practices or ecosystem resilience.

Additionally, some claims made in the article lack sufficient evidence or support. For example, statements regarding expected increases in population vulnerability to drought due to climate change are mentioned without citing specific studies or projections. Providing more concrete evidence for such claims would strengthen the credibility of the analysis.

Furthermore, there are missing points of consideration in the article related to alternative approaches for assessing historical drought patterns and evaluating mitigation strategies. The focus on using composite measures like the USDM may overlook other valuable indicators or methodologies that could offer complementary insights into drought dynamics and impacts.

The article also lacks exploration of potential counterarguments or conflicting perspectives on certain issues related to drought monitoring and management. Including a more balanced discussion of different viewpoints could enhance the overall robustness and objectivity of the analysis.

Moreover, there is a promotional tone in some sections of the article when discussing the benefits and applications of the USDM. While it is important to highlight its utility for decision-makers and policymakers, excessive promotion without acknowledging limitations or challenges could create an impression of partiality.

Overall, while the article provides valuable insights into U.S. drought conditions over a 20-year period using the USDM, there are areas where biases, unsupported claims, missing considerations, and promotional content could be addressed to improve its overall balance and credibility.

# Topics for further research:

* Alternative methods for assessing historical drought patterns
* Benefits of drought for ecosystems and water conservation
* Conflicting perspectives on drought monitoring strategies
* Population vulnerability to drought under climate change projections
* Limitations of the U.S. Drought Monitor in capturing regional drought variations
* Criticisms of the U.S. Drought Monitor as a sole source of drought data

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/856440b743f9b19186d6b12c51bb7eb9>