



Setting the Stage for Improved Drought Management in the United States

by John W. Hess

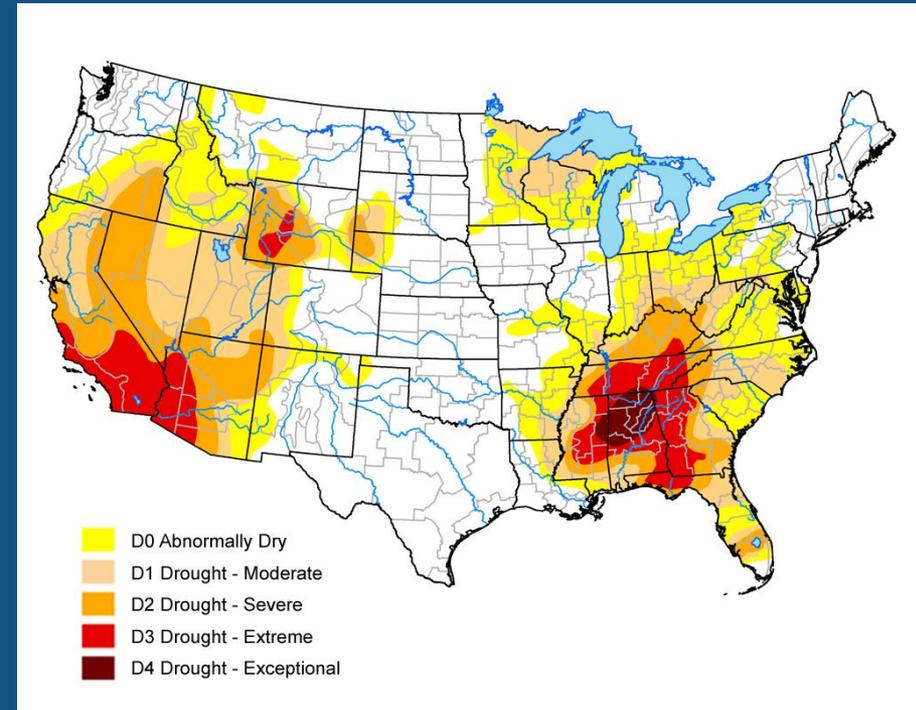
What are the problems?

What are the challenges?

Why is the Geological Society of America addressing this issue?

What are the Problems?

- Currently about 30% of the US is experiencing moderate to exceptional drought conditions.
- Economic, social and environmental impacts.



What are the problems?



*1977 Drought & resulting 24-hour desertification event
Southern California, USA*

Prolonged drought episodes have highlighted an increasing vulnerability of all regions in the U.S. to water shortages

*“A nation that destroys its soils, destroys itself.”
– President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Feb. 26, 1937.*



Dust Bowl, USA: National Archives: 114 SC 5089

Drought threatens the livelihoods of one billion people worldwide



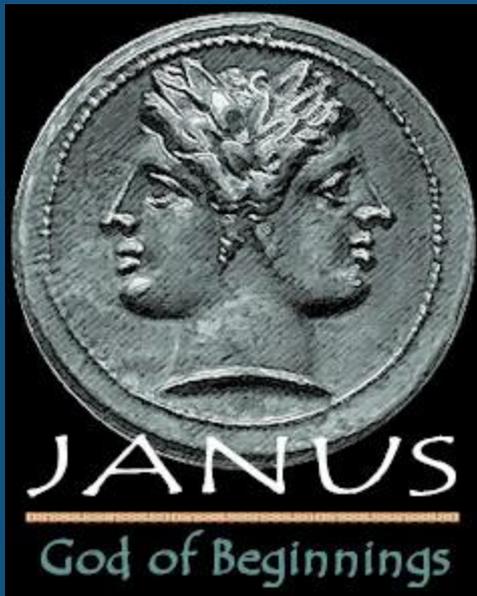
Zinder, Niger - 2005

Challenges?

- Science
- Education
- Policies and Institutions
- Infrastructure
- Management



What is role of Geological Society of America?



A look to the past:

**Long-term geologic history to improve
predictions, planning, and management.**

Managing Drought and Water Scarcity in Vulnerable Environments

Creating a Roadmap for Change in the United States

18-20 September 2006
Longmont, Colorado

