

America's 2012 Great Drought

As Bad as During the 1930s Dust Bowl?

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Environment](#)

In-depth Report: [Climate Change](#)

Percentage of U.S. Land Covered in Drought As Bad As Dust Bowl ... But Severe Drought - and Dust Storms - Not As Bad

The progress of the drought has been horrific:

The current drought is covering almost as much of the U.S. as during the 1930s dust bowl:

As the Weather Channel [pointed out](#) last month, the area covered by drought [rivals](#) some of the dust bowl years:

As of June - the area covered by severe drought was still lower than during the Dust Bowl years, but still made the top 10 list:

But - despite the recent rains in some areas, which reduced by 1% the area covered by drought - the farm states remain parched, and the area covered by [severe drought is still growing](#).

Much of the area hit during the Dust Bowl - and again today - is naturally prone to drought. As the Weather Channel [notes](#):

The area is known as semi-arid and is naturally prone to drought and high winds. In fact, early settlers referred to it as the "Great American Desert."

Interestingly, HowStuffWorks [notes](#):

About 90 percent of the 450 million hectares of arid land in North America suffers from moderate to severe desertification [source: [Center for International Earth Science Information Network](#)]

July was the [warmest month](#) recorded in the U.S. since records began in 1895. And AP [reports](#):

The first seven months of 2012 were the warmest on record for the nation. And August 2011 through July this year was the warmest 12-month period on record, just beating out the July 2011-June 2012 time period.

Unfortunately, the one certainty is higher food prices.

Postscript: Predictably, some say this proves global warming is a dire threat, and others say that it is dishonest to claim that short-term weather proves anything.

But we can [all agree](#) on the following:

- We should use [benign technology](#) – and not [cures which are worse](#) than the ailments (like sending nearly [microscopic particles of specially made glass into the Earth's upper atmosphere](#) or [cutting down trees and burying them](#)) – to address climate
- Nuclear is [not the answer](#) ... although the nuclear lobby would [like you to think it is](#)
- As Britain's [energy regulator](#) and many others note, [microgeneration is key](#)
- Reducing soot is [crucial ... and economically feasible](#)
- Imposing fascism is [never justified](#)
- [Downsizing the military](#) is *vital*
- Cap and trade is [not](#) the [least bit helpful](#)

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