


North Carolina

Drought Status and Outlook

Ryan Boyles
State Climate Office of North Carolina
North Carolina State University

Environmental Review Commission
Raleigh, NC
October 31, 2007





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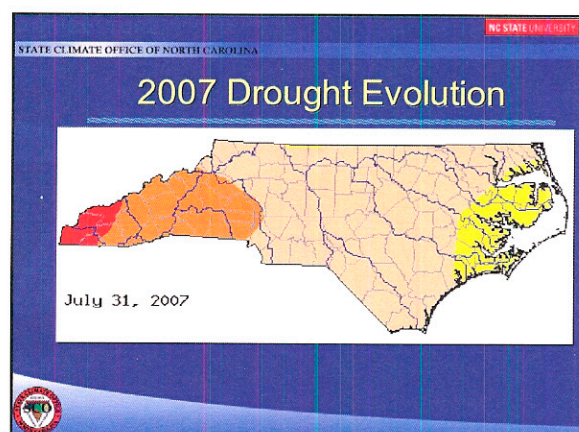
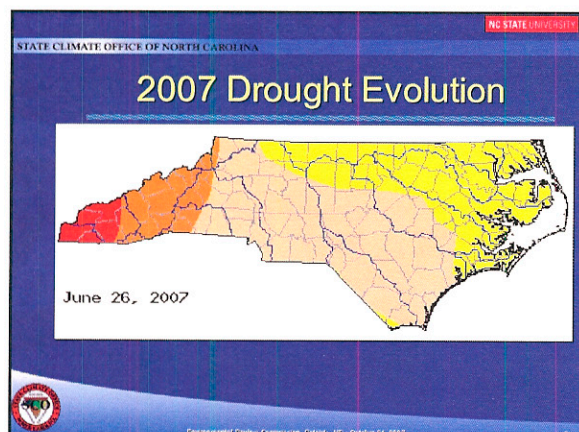
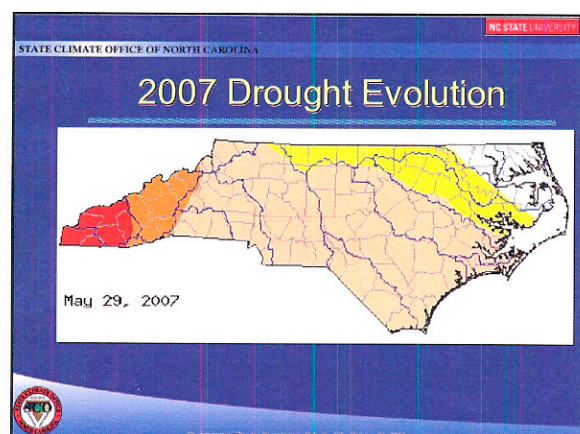
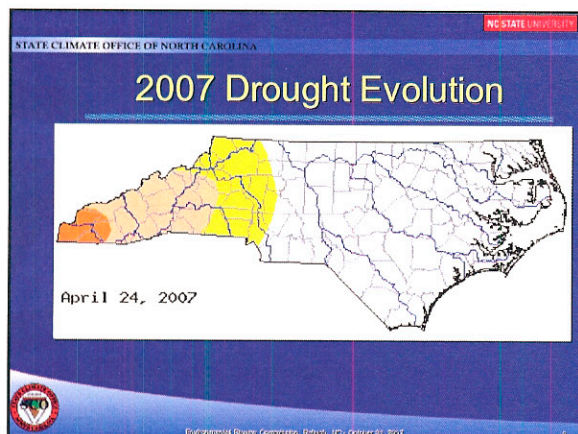
About the State Climate Office

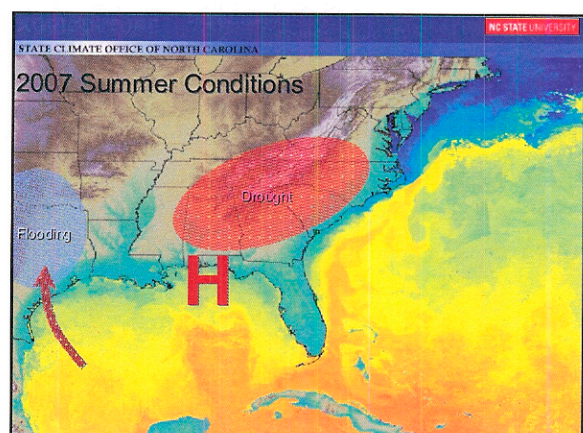
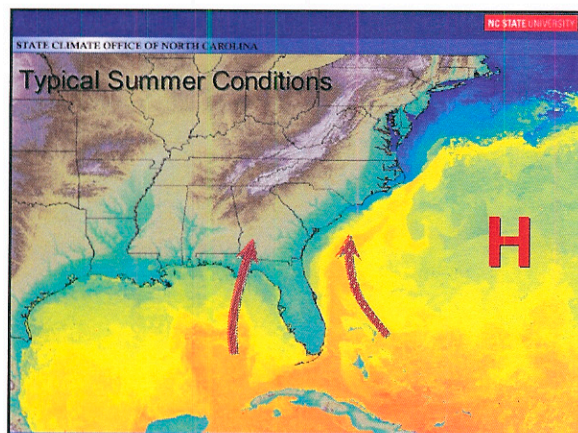
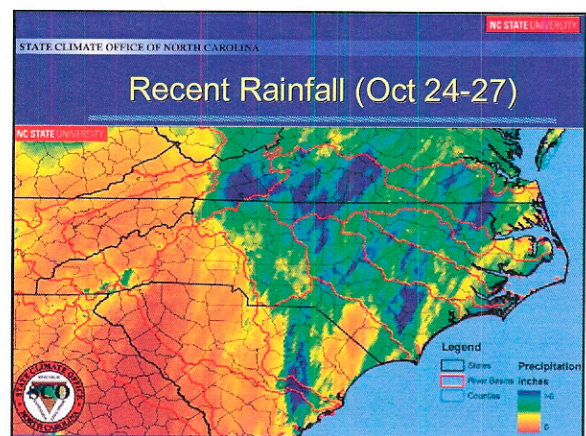
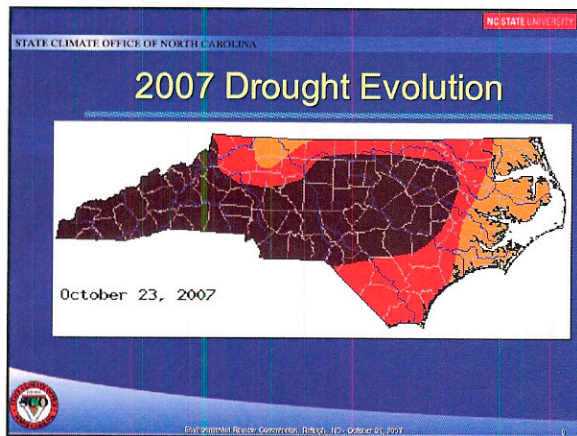
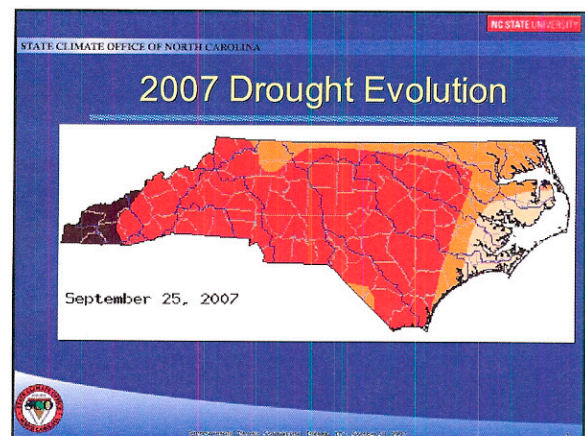
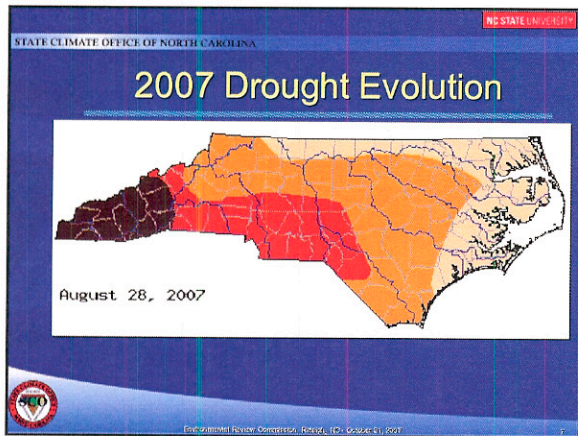
- Statewide public resource for weather and climate information and services
 - Extension of research to community applications
 - Research on NC weather and climate
 - Outreach
 - Education
- UNC Public Service Center

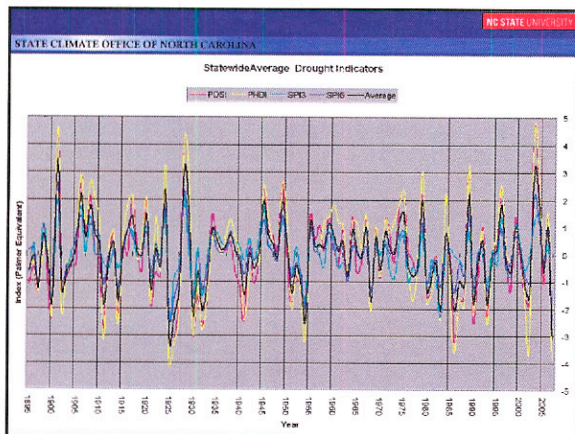



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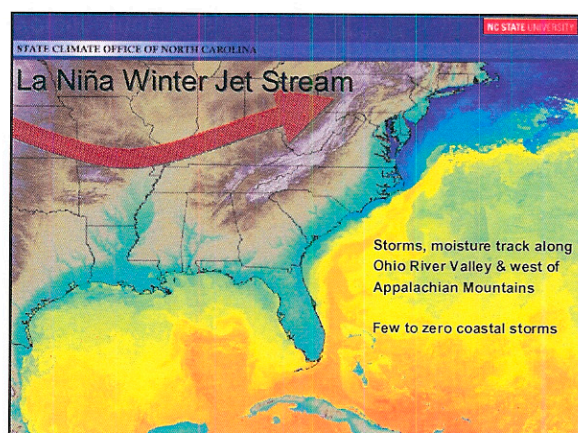
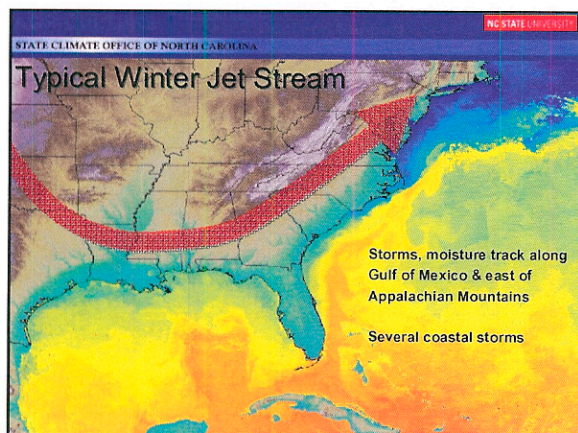
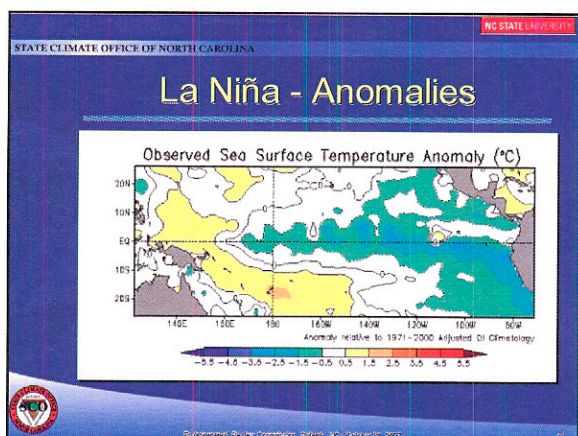
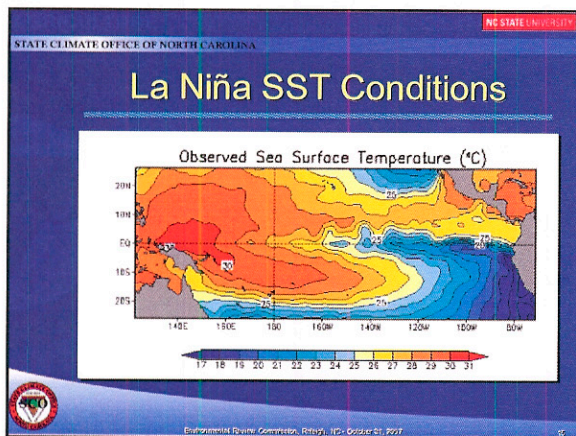
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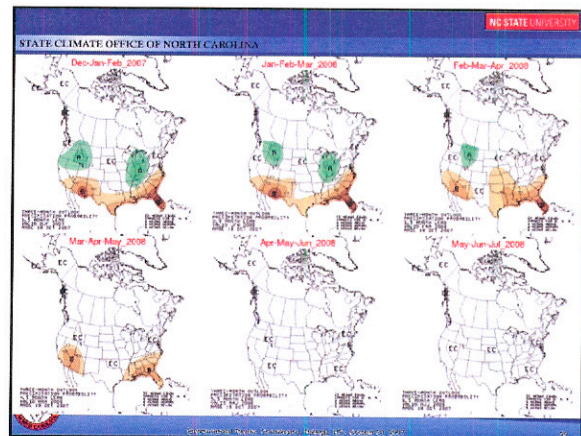
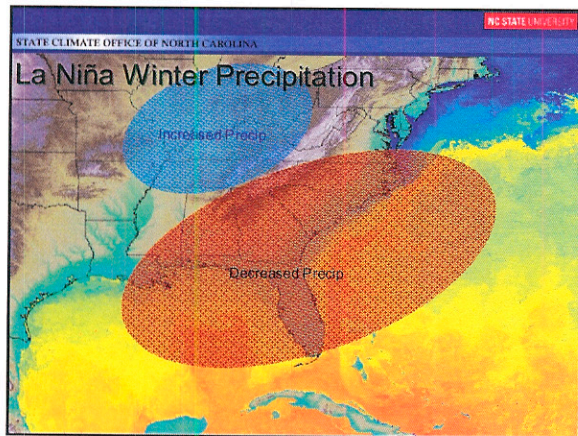
Where are we going?

- Developing La Niña conditions
 - Cooler tropical Pacific ocean temperatures
 - Opposite of El Niño (warm phase)
- Higher likelihood of below-normal precipitation this winter and spring

Environmental Science Commission Report, 10/13/2005, p. 20

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Winter Outlook

- Avg Precipitation (Nov-Apr): ~20in
- For substantial drought recovery
 - 20-30 inches over next 6 months
- To eliminate rainfall deficits
 - 30-45 inches over next 6 months
- **40%-60% chance of below-normal precipitation**

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Winter Outlook

- Substantial recovery may not happen
- If water resources not full in spring, problems possible in summer
 - Experienced this in 2002
- No guidance for summer 2008
 - Little skill in summer forecasts
- Conserve now to prevent possible problems next summer

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