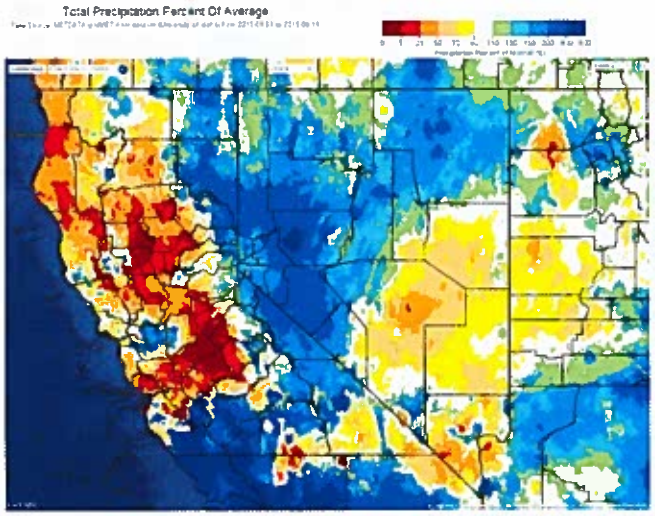
Desert Research Institute

Western Regional Climate Center

University of Nevada, Reno

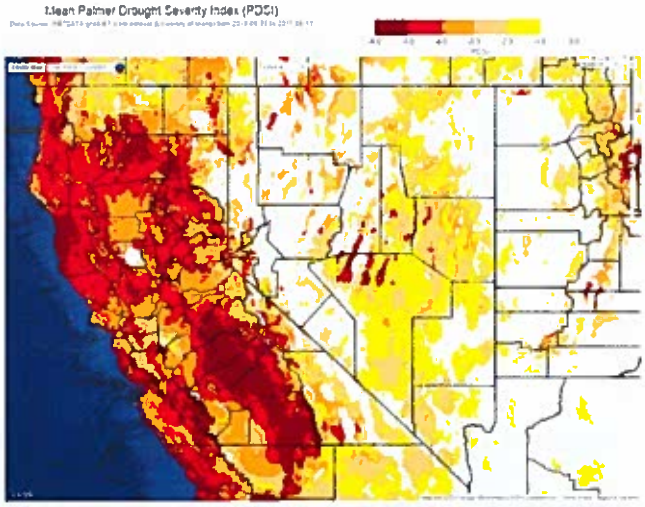
Precipitation and vegetation conditions, spring and summer 2015

Precipitation % of Average June - August, 2015



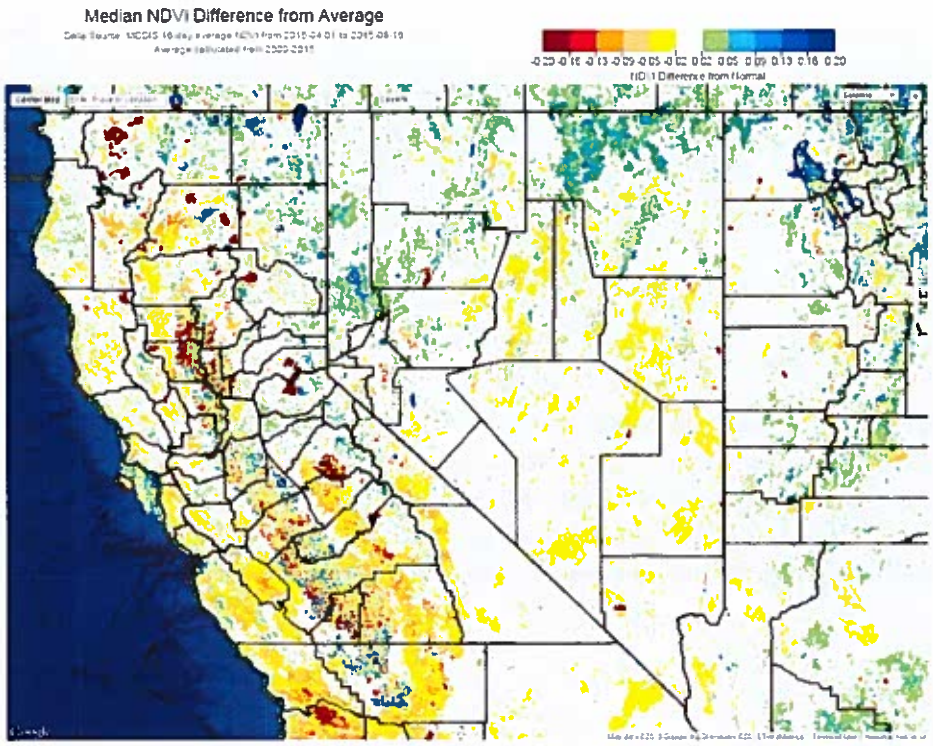
Map illustrates higher than average precipitation in western and north-eastern Nevada, and lower than average precipitation in central and southern Nevada.

Palmer Drought Severity Index June - August, 2015



Map illustrates PDSI, which combines both precipitation and temperature for estimating drought severity. Neutral conditions are shown as white, and exceptional drought is shown as dark red.

Difference from Average Vegetation Greenness, April – August, 2015



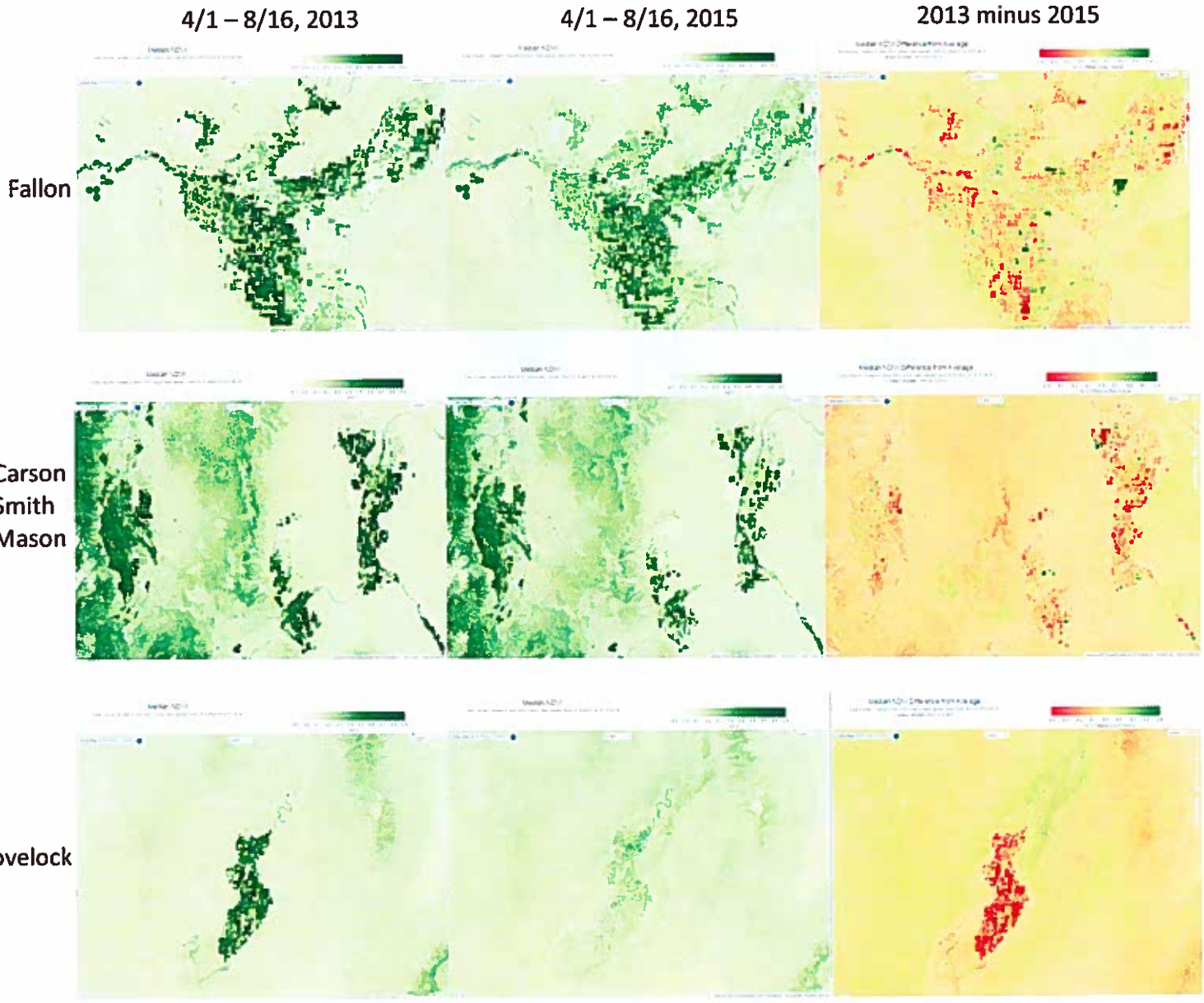
Agricultural areas of Carson Valley, Mason Valley, Fallon, and Lovelock all show lower than average vegetation greenness due to lack of irrigation water. North-eastern Nevada rangelands are greener than average due to higher than average spring and summer rains. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) Image created from MODIS satellite imagery with Climate Engine (climateengine.org)

Desert Research Institute

Western Regional Climate Center

University of Nevada, Reno

Vegetation Greenness for 2013, 2015, and difference between 2013 and 2015.



Median Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) from April 1 to August 16 for major irrigated areas in western-Nevada using Landsat 8 satellite imagery. Landsat 8 NDVI images show vegetation conditions for 2013 (left), 2015 (middle), and the difference between 2013 and 2015 (right). NDVI images clearly illustrate the impact of the current drought, where there is generally less vegetation vigor this year than in 2013, which was also a dry year. Images created with Climate Engine (climateengine.org). For more information, contact Justin Huntington @Justin.Huntington@dri.edu.