

Final Draft

(Per comments received by the WSTF during their 9/18/08 Meeting)

C. Determination of Water Shortage Identification Regions

It is recommended that the identification of water shortage conditions in the State of Indiana be made using the 9 climate divisions determined by the National Weather Service as shown in Figure 1. Monthly precipitation data are prepared for each climate division by the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC), the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), the Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC) and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Utilizing these 9 climate divisions for the identification of water shortage is appropriate because the lack of precipitation is a principal factor involved in periods of drought, and precipitation deficits typically exist prior to the observation of more significant and obvious effects on plants, animals and people. The determination of these Water Shortage Identification Regions does not diminish the need for the State of Indiana to develop the regional water planning areas necessary to address management and distribution of the resource during times of shortage.