



NEVADA DROUGHT FORUM
SUMMARY: Current and Planned Actions Related to Drought

About Nevada's Drought Forum
drought.nv.gov

Questions about the Form
chunt@gov.nv.gov
1-775-684-5670

Under the [Governor's Executive Order 2015-03](#), issued April 8, 2015, state agencies, municipal water providers and federal agencies are requested to provide a summary of current and planned actions related to drought. This information must be provided to the Nevada Drought Forum by no later than **May 15, 2015**. Please use the following form to submit your agency's information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

AGENCY NAME	
Bureau of Land Management	
STREET ADDRESS	CITY, STATE ZIP
1340 Financial Blvd.	Reno, NV 89502
CONTACT NAME	TITLE
Sarah Peterson	State Program Lead for the Soil, Water, Air and Riparian Programs
CONTACT PHONE	EMAIL
775-861-6516	sarahpeterson@blm.gov

ABOUT THE AGENCY

AGENCY TYPE (Check One)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/> State Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> Other
WATER SUPPLY SOURCES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (Describe sources)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
SERVICE AREA DESCRIPTION (Size, number of customers served, location)		

DROUGHT IN NEVADA

Briefly summarize how drought has impacted operations, resource availability and/or planning activities (500 words)
The mission of the BLM is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Drought is impacting or has the potential to impact several BLM programs including range, wild horses and burros, recreation, cultural, restoration, lands and realty, minerals, and wildland fire. Many grazing allotments have limited water available for livestock use and are experiencing reduced forage production resulting in a need to reduce or alter livestock use on public lands. Additionally, wild horse and burro populations are increasing and facing challenges with water and forage availability. Effects of the drought could impact recreation visitation and activities that involve streams, rivers and reservoirs. As these bodies of water dry up there are fewer opportunities to fish, boat, raft, kayak and camp and day use near water bodies, which could lead to visitor displacement and crowding in other areas. Cultural sites could be exposed and available for looting as water levels in lakes and reservoirs decrease and soil erosion due to loss of vegetation increases. Additionally, many surface water sources, such as springs and seeps, are considered

culturally significant to Native Americans and could be impacted due to decreases in water flow. Restoration efforts on public lands have had limited success during the drought due to reduced ability for seed germination, vegetation establishment, and production due to reduced soil moisture and precipitation. Water availability for future land development as a result of land sales and disposals or for use in project construction could result in reductions in lands and realty and minerals activity. The wildland fire program is anticipating fewer water sources available for fire suppression efforts, particularly those that are leased from private individuals, and are seeing increased fire hazard at higher elevation fuel types due to low fuel moistures earlier in the season.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FOLLOWING SECTION:

Utilize the following boxes to outline specific activities your agency has taken or is planning to take in response to drought. Please use additional sheets as necessary.

If you are a state agency, please cite applicable authority for each action.

Sample

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	<i>Assigned watering days</i>
SUMMARY	<i>All customers are prescribed assigned watering days that change seasonally. For example, one assigned day in winter and three assigned days in spring and fall.</i>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Issuing management direction on how to manage public lands during times of drought
SUMMARY	BLM has written several informational memorandums related to management of public lands during drought to help guide managers when making decisions. BLM-NV has also developed a Drought Resource Handbook to ensure a consistent approach for development and implementation of responsive mangement actions .

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	NV Drought Management Review
SUMMARY	BLM-NV identified a need to review current drought policies and implementation strategies across the state. The purpose of this review is to increase understanding of how drought management policy and guidance is implemented in BLM Offices throughout the State. The review included a 3-day Drought Training and a week long Drought Tour. During the training, BLM staff participated in trainings on new tools available for use to determine drought conditions, reviewed existing policies and each office gave individual presentations on how they are managing for drought. During the Drought Tour, BLM Staff from the Nevada State Office, Washington Office, and the National Riparian Service Team visited several allotments across the State to view drought impacts in the field, discuss management changes being taken and identify challenges and concerns from the local Field Office staff.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Drought Monitoring, Drought Environmental Assessments and Changes in Grazing Management

SUMMARY	Starting in 2012, five of the BLM-NV District Offices began developing individual Drought Environmental Assessments (EA). These EAs give managers the ability to take immediate action specific to livestock grazing when drought is impacting rangeland health conditions. Each Drought EA outlines four basic steps: 1) a system for monitoring for drought, 2) a series of triggers that, when met, would require some response or action, 3) a series of Drought Response Actions that can be implemented in the event that a given trigger has been met, 4) an analysis of how applying these Actions will affect the resources on the district. As a result, many BLM Offices have had to make changes to grazing permit terms and conditions, including changes in livestock numbers, timing and duration, and/or addition of water hauling activities.
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Stakeholder Engagement for Healthy Lands
SUMMARY	This was a broader effort taken to gain a better understanding of the interconnected issues in Nevada from both an internal and external perspective. The Situation Assessment Report from the Stakeholder Engagement for Healthy Lands project has informed the State Office's understanding of how drought policy is being implemented across Nevada.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Ban on prescribed burning and other fire restrictions on public lands
SUMMARY	BLM-NV has issued a ban on prescribed burning throughout the State. It is anticipated that all BLM District Offices will be issuing restrictions on fires, such as campfires, on public lands during the summer of 2015.

<input type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	
SUMMARY	

What types of topics/issues would you like the Nevada Drought Forum to address?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How will we determine when the drought is over and recovery has begun? As an agency, BLM has been discussing hydrologic vs vegetative drought and when management activities can return to pre-drought conditions without impacting land health and vegetation conditions. 2. How is the State going to plan for water availability for future growth, particularly in areas that are already at capacity and reductions in water use is needed, or where BLM has identified potential future land disposals/sales? 3. How will the State manage game species that rely on guzzlers? 4. How will the State manage water resources to reduce impacts to listed species, particularly water-dependent species? 5. How will the State continue to manage high revenue producing activities such as tourism, mining and hunting? 6. How can the Drought Forum help the BLM with displacement of recreationists? 7. How can the Drought Forum help grazing permittees with displacement of livestock? 8. How can the Drought Forum help the BLM improve restoration efforts during drought conditions? 9. How can the Drought Forum help with the management of sage grouse and associated habitats throughout the State?



When complete, please return to:

William (Bill) Elliott, Division of Emergency Management
wellriott@dps.state.nv.us

Subj: NAVAL AIR STATION FALLON DROUGHT RESPONSE AND WATER STRATEGY

1. This summary of Naval Air Station Fallon's (NASF) drought response is provided in support of the State of Nevada's Drought Forum and Governor Sandoval EO 2015-03 requesting federal agencies to provide a summary of current and planned actions related to the drought and drought conditions.

2. Situation. As the southwest region of the United States experiences a sustained period of drought, NASF continues to implement all necessary policies, procedures and projects to meet the water use reduction mandates of Executive Order 13693. In addition to federal mandates set by EO 13693, NASF is committed to reducing water consumption in support of the State of Nevada EO 2015-03 as outlined below.

a. Reduce potable water use intensity (gal/sf) by 2% per year for a total of 36% through FY25, with a baseline year of FY07. As we achieve that goal, NASF will continue to push for reductions beyond mandated goals.

b. Develop a water strategy with five focus areas which will have an immediate and long term impact for water reduction. The five focus areas are as follows:

- (1) Water Conservation Awareness;
- (2) Water Conservation Projects;
- (3) Water Flushing Optimization (Code Compliance Flushing);
- (4) Landscaping and Irrigation; and
- (5) Water Data Acquisition.

3. Current Actions. Reducing landscape irrigation as compared to 2013 baseline. Examining the possibility of minimizing,

Subj: NAVAL AIR STATION FALLON DROUGHT RESPONSE AND WATER STRATEGY

capturing, and utilizing water normally lost to hydrant and distribution code compliance flushing requirements. Captured water could be used to offset mission related non-potable water consumption uses. Non-tactical vehicles washing will be limited to one wash every two weeks, personal vehicles will be prohibited unless at a closed loop system, and use of automatic shutoff nozzles on hoses will be mandated and implemented. Implement best management practices as feasible for water management.

4. Planned Actions:

a. Provide base building occupants with routine data and metrics and discuss results at meetings. Intended goal is to move occupants from a passive to an active position in regards to water usage.

b. Increase water metering for facilities, irrigation and high water usage equipment.

c. Execute water distribution projects for facilities and utility infrastructure to reduce waste and unaccounted water.

d. Execute water end usage projects to reduce consumption by installing efficient faucet aerators, showerheads and other end point devices.

e. Develop projects to improve irrigation controllers and/or sprinkler heads to reduce consumption.

f. Develop projects that reduce the need for irrigation.

5. I look forward to supporting the State and the region during this current challenge. My point of contact is Mr. Justin Sielsh, Installation Energy Manager, who can be contacted at (775) 426-3699 or by email at justin.sielsch@navy.com. Thank you for the opportunity to be a valued member of the team.



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CONTACT INFORMATION

AGENCY NAME	
NV Farm Service Agency of the USDA	
STREET ADDRESS	CITY, STATE ZIP
1365 Corporate Blvd, Ste. 200	Reno, NV, 89502
CONTACT NAME	TITLE
Clint Koble	State Executive Director
CONTACT PHONE	EMAIL
775-857-8500 x 128	clinton.koble@nv.usda.gov

ABOUT THE AGENCY

AGENCY TYPE (Check One)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/> State Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> Other
WATER SUPPLY SOURCES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (Describe sources)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
SERVICE AREA DESCRIPTION (Size, number of customers served, location)		
All counties in Nevada except Clark County which is administered by the Utah Farm Service Agency		

DROUGHT IN NEVADA

Briefly summarize how drought has impacted operations, resource availability and/or planning activities (500 words)
The on-going drought has seriously affected our agency and the producers we serve across the state. It has affected our agency in that all 6 of our County Offices have been inundated with drought disaster assistance through the 2014 Farm Bill. Just in our Livestock Forage Program (LFP) alone, our agency has paid out over \$47 million dollars since April 2014, to producers that have suffered forage and livestock losses due to the drought. The 2014 Farm Bill made our disaster programs retroactive for two years to cover the 2 years that weren't covered by the expiration of the 2008 Farm Bill. This required our staff to go back 2 years to cover losses incurred by producers that took considerable effort. Our agency has processed over 2000 applications for drought assistance over the past 3 years for our LFP which is an average of about 700 producers per year. The affects on our producers across the state include: shipping cattle out-of-state to places where forage is available, culling herds to a minimum in some cases, producers having to buy more hay and feedstocks than normal, producers losing or getting federal grazing allotments and or AUMs reduced or lost, some loans that needed servicing due to

the drought, some producers filing for preventive planting applications, many applications received for drought assistance from producers that have not participated with our agency in the past, producers suffering reductions in hay production due to water allotment reductions and or losses. As a result of this, interest in drought forums that include assistance is very high across the state according to the Cooperative Extension. For the first time in the last 5 years, I have heard of several rural communities experience personal wells going dry and in one case, a town concerned about its water supply.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FOLLOWING SECTION:

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If you are a state agency, please cite applicable authority for each action.

Sample

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	<i>Assigned watering days</i>
SUMMARY	<i>All customers are prescribed assigned watering days that change seasonally. For example, one assigned day in winter and three assigned days in spring and fall.</i>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Implemented applications for livestock and forage losses under our Livestock Forage Program across the state.
SUMMARY	We took over 2000 applications for livestock and forage losses for the last 3 years: 2012, 13, and 14 that resulted in over \$47 million in payments to producers. This is an average of approximately 700 producers per year. We are now taking applications for 2015 and we expect another 700-900 applications.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Implemented applications for water restoration under our Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) across the state.
SUMMARY	Under the ECP, producers can cost share projects that include stream restoration, deepening of wells for livestock etc.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Implemented our Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) across the state.
SUMMARY	Under our ELAP producers can apply for cost-sharing for water transportation for their livestock.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Implemented our Emergency Loan process across the state.

SUMMARY	Producers can use this loan in drought disaster declared counties both primary and contiguous for 8 months after the drought disaster declaration has been made. This year most of the drought disaster declarations were made on January 29, 2015, making producers eligible for emergency loans until September 29, 2015. These loans were available for any part of the producers operation, i.e. living costs, buy hay for livestock etc.
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Participation in various Drought Forums and Updates across the state.
SUMMARY	The FSA participated in the Cooperative Extension's "Cattlemen's Update in January 2015, American Indian Drought Program Update in April 2015, and will participate in the Drought Program Update in June 2015". These Drought Updates were to inform producers of drought disaster assistance by the FSA to producers across the state.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Extensive Outreach across the state.
SUMMARY	The FSA promoted Outreach through producer meetings regarding drought assistance programs, sending out our monthly newsletter with drought assistance program information, attending U.S. Drought Monitor forums at RRI for states in the West, State Emergency Board meetings of the USDA to convene with our partners and share information on drought disaster assistance, and the sending of numerous Press Releases related to drought disaster assistance across the state.

What types of topics/issues would you like the Nevada Drought Forum to address?
I would like to see some Federal Agencies listed on the Nevada Drought Forum. This is not to over shadow any efforts by the State of Nevada simply because of federal financial resources available to help with drought disaster assistance. Rather this is to form a stronger relationship of partners assembled by the Governor's Office to better distribute assistance to all Nevada farmers, ranchers, and rural communities in times of drought crises. I appreciate the lead that the State of Nevada has taken and I would glad serve in any capacity that I was asked to per guidelines by the Governor's Office. Clint Koble.



When complete, please return to:

William (Bill) Elliott, Division of Emergency Management
 welliott@dps.state.nv.us

Nevada SBA Disaster Declarations for Drought (As of May 12, 2015)

Declaration Number	Drought Period	Nevada Counties	Application Deadline
NV-14228	Beginning 9/1/14	Carson City, Churchill, Clark, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Storey, Washoe and White Pine	10/5/15
NV-14273	Beginning 4/1/15	Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Nye and White Pine	1/6/16
NV-14286	Beginning 2/20/15	Clark, Lincoln,, Nye and White Pine	12/22/15
NV-14304	Beginning 3/10/145	Elko, Eureka, Lincoln, Nye and White Pine	1/6/16

For these drought disaster declarations:

We have not processed any applications.

We have no applications in processing at this time.



GETTING DROUGHT DISASTER HELP FROM SBA

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- ◆ When the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster declaration for drought or other incidents the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) makes a disaster declaration as well. SBA's declaration makes Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) available to **small nonfarm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size.**
- ◆ These federal loans provide working capital to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses, which could have been met, had the drought not occurred.
- ◆ SBA may loan up to \$2 million to help meet drought caused working capital needs.
- ◆ The interest rate is 4% for businesses and about 3% for private, nonprofit organizations.
- ◆ SBA determines loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition.
- ◆ Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible.
- ◆ Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage.
- ◆ Eligibility includes:
 - a. The disaster caused working capital needs of businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers that have suffered agricultural production losses caused by the drought.
 - b. Working capital needs of businesses caused directly by the drought e.g., low water levels, water shortages and other drought impacts.

APPLYING TO SBA

- ◆ Apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure Web site.
<https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>
- ◆ For more information call SBA toll-free at 1-800-659-2955. Hearing impaired individuals may call 1-800-877-8339. For drought specific information visit SBA's Web site for drought assistance.
<https://www.sba.gov/content/drought-disaster-assistance>



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CONTACT INFORMATION

AGENCY NAME	
U.S. Air Force	
STREET ADDRESS	CITY, STATE ZIP
6020 Beale Ave	Nellis AFB, NV 89191
CONTACT NAME	TITLE
Kenneth Davis	Water Program Manager
CONTACT PHONE	EMAIL
702-682-7639	kenneth.davis.56@us.af.mil

ABOUT THE AGENCY

AGENCY TYPE (Check One)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/> State Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> Other
WATER SUPPLY SOURCES (Check all that apply)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Groundwater	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (Describe sources) Nellis AFB - Water purchased from SNWA	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
SERVICE AREA DESCRIPTION (Size, number of customers served, location)		
Nellis AFB - Military installation, 17,000 customers served. Creech AFB - Military installation, 3,000 served.		

DROUGHT IN NEVADA

Briefly summarize how drought has impacted operations, resource availability and/or planning activities (500 words)
Nellis/Creech AFB - Impact has been minimal, conservation measures were already underway to meet presidential Executive Order requirements for federal facilities.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FOLLOWING SECTION:

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If you are a state agency, please cite applicable authority for each action.

Sample

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	<i>Assigned watering days</i>
SUMMARY	<i>All customers are prescribed assigned watering days that change seasonally. For example, one assigned day in winter and three assigned days in spring and fall.</i>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Nellis/Creech AFB - Conversion to Xeriscape
SUMMARY	Nellis AFB - Removed approximately 24 acres of grass and replaced with xeriscape landscaping, significantly reducing the amount of water needed for irrigation by 54,000 kgallons per year.

<input type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Nellis AFB - Use of Reclaimed Water to Irrigate Golf Course
SUMMARY	Signed agreement with City of North Las Vegas (CNLV) to obtain reclaimed water from their treatment facility for use in irrigating the base golf course, expect to reduce groundwater use by at least 500 acre feet annually. Currently awaiting installation of water lines by CNLV.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Nellis/Creech AFB - Low Flow Fixtures
SUMMARY	Specifications for all new construction require use of low-flow fixtures.

<input type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	
SUMMARY	

<input type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	
SUMMARY	

<input type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	

SUMMARY	
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What types of topics/issues would you like the Nevada Drought Forum to address?



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CONTACT INFORMATION

AGENCY NAME	
USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service	
STREET ADDRESS	CITY, STATE ZIP
1365 Corporate Blvd	Reno, NV 89502
CONTACT NAME	TITLE
Dennis Workeman	Acting State Conservationist
CONTACT PHONE	EMAIL
775-857-8500	dennis.workeman@nv.usda.gov

ABOUT THE AGENCY

AGENCY TYPE (Check One)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/> State Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> Other
WATER SUPPLY SOURCES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (Describe sources)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
SERVICE AREA DESCRIPTION (Size, number of customers served, location)		
Assists Nevada farmers and ranchers with private land conservation activities with offices in Minden, Fallon, Yerington, Winnemucca, Elko, Lovelock, Ely, Caliente, Las Vegas.		

DROUGHT IN NEVADA

Briefly summarize how drought has impacted operations, resource availability and/or planning activities (500 words)
Drought has increased interest in USDA conservation program funding with landowners seeking alternatives to conserve water on their irrigated land acreage and providing livestock water supplies for remote areas of their private rangelands and federal allotments. We currently dedicate a significant portion of our financial assistance allocation for conservation practices that have a positive effect on conserving and utilizing water resources and protecting cropland and soil health. We have seen a small spike of producers wanting to cancel their contracts due to the length and severity of the drought. Drought impacts have resulted in loss of agricultural production, and landowners employing methods to further reduce costs.

Sample

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ACTION	<i>Assigned watering days</i>
SUMMARY	<i>All customers are prescribed assigned watering days that change seasonally. For example, one assigned day in winter and three assigned days in spring and fall.</i>

<input type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Announcing a special signup period for landowners to apply for aUSDA financial assistance.
SUMMARY	Landowners with immediate needs may sign up for practices such as water facilities, spring developments, livestock wells, and practices to reduce soil erosion on croplands idled due to drought.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Request additional USDA funding for drought relief practices
SUMMARY	NRCS requested additional funds to address agricultural producers with critical soil erosion and water supply concerns for their livestock herd.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Participate with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension in 7-8 drought workshops for landowners at several locations throughout the state. This is done in cooperation with, USDA Risk Management and Farm Service Agency.
SUMMARY	Provide outreach on USDA conservation programs available

<input type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	
SUMMARY	

<input type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	
SUMMARY	

<input type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	

SUMMARY	
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What types of topics/issues would you like the Nevada Drought Forum to address?
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Groundwater over appropriation is a critical concern, especially for smaller farmers. Groundwater management districts may provide a valuable forum for conservation and innovation.

Incentives to reduce water use and waste.

A revolving fund water resource development loan program funded by the state, for ditch companies, canal companies and other groups to find loan funding to complete works of improvement such as line or pipe canals, automation, improve water storage and monitoring of infrastructure.



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CONTACT INFORMATION

AGENCY NAME	
USDA, Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest	
STREET ADDRESS	CITY, STATE ZIP
1200 Franklin Way	Sparks, NV 89431
CONTACT NAME	TITLE
William A. Dunkelberger	Forest Supervisor
CONTACT PHONE	EMAIL
775-355-5310	wadunkelberger@fs.fed.us

ABOUT THE AGENCY

AGENCY TYPE (Check One)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/> State Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> Other
WATER SUPPLY SOURCES (Check all that apply)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Groundwater	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (Describe sources) Many springs, streams, and lakes throughout the state.	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
SERVICE AREA DESCRIPTION (Size, number of customers served, location)		
6.3 million acres. Approximately 4 million visitors per year. Potable and non-potable water service to various campgrounds/ picnic areas and visitor centers, wildlife and stock water throughout the forest, various municipal water sources, and potable and non-potable water service to various administrative buildings throughout the forest.		

DROUGHT IN NEVADA

Briefly summarize how drought has impacted operations, resource availability and/or planning activities (500 words)
Drought both reduces the availability of water for the multiple use of National Forest System (NFS) lands and at administrative sites as well as the health of timber stands and in some cases the production of forage on NFS lands. Reduced water availability reduces the opportunity for or quality of recreational activities, especially sport fishing. Reduced water availability also leads to hardships for both wildlife and livestock. Long term drought leads to decreased timber stand health and resiliency, allowing for increased damage from insects and disease. Drought also alters the potential for large wildfires.

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Sample

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Assigned watering days
SUMMARY	All customers are prescribed assigned watering days that change seasonally. For example, one assigned day in winter and three assigned days in spring and fall.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Cooperative reduction in livestock use.
SUMMARY	The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF) has been and continues to work with livestock permittees to identify opportunities for changes in livestock management to reduce grazing pressure on drought stressed lands. These changes include reducing number of livestock, reducing the period of use, or taking Non-Use for Resource Protection. Overall, there has been an 18% reduction of livestock use, by animal unit month (AUM), within the HTNF for the 2015 calendar year. See the attached overview of grazing reductions for more details.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Management of water usage at administrative and public sites.
SUMMARY	The HTNF has recognized a need to reduce water use for maintenance of turf grass lawns. Several administrative sites, including the Carson Ranger District, have already converted at least a portion of their lawns to xeriscaping or hardscaping to reduce irrigation water demands. More conversion is planned and additional competitive funding has been applied for through a regional FS program to help cover costs of this work. Additional changes have been made at some sites to reduce irrigation water use by reducing the amount of time scheduled irrigation occurs and ensuring that it happens during cooler, less windy periods of the day. On the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, HTNF staff are meeting with the Las Vegas Valley Water District to determine if there are measures that could be taken to reduce water usage in our public campgrounds and picnic areas.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Non-use of limited Walker River Decree water apportionment.
SUMMARY	The HTNF apportionment for water to be used on Rosaschi Ranch for 2015 was limited to approximately 24 acre-feet of storage from Bridgeport Reservoir. The extremely limited amount of water flowing through the Walker River would likely have required the installation of an additional channel structure to allow this volume of water to enter into our irrigation ditch. The HTNF has decided not to call for our water to eliminate the need for in-channel construction and to allow water to be utilized by others.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
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ACTION	Management of drought stressed timber stands.
SUMMARY	Monitoring is occurring to identify where drought stress on trees is being exacerbated by tree density or leading to increased mortality due to insects or disease. Where appropriate, especially in areas of high human use such as campgrounds and administrative sites, dead or dying trees are being removed. Other actions include thinning of dense tree stands to reduce competition and adjusting the timing of our vegetation management treatments to limit the creation of green slash to reduce availability of breeding areas for Pine Engraver Beetles.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	Wildfire preparedness.
SUMMARY	While wildfire preparedness is something the HTNF plans for and implements to the best of its ability each and every year regardless of drought, particular attention is being paid to the impacts of drought conditions to wildfire activity and behavior. Drought along with insects and disease may increase the amount of dead and dying timber. Additionally, the spring and summer showers that parts of the state have been experiencing can increase fine fuels in some locations without increasing long term soil or vegetation moisture which can allow fires to spread more aggressively and burn more severely. Warmer temperatures and decreased snowpacks have also led to an almost year-round "fire season".

<input type="checkbox"/> Action Taken or Underway <input type="checkbox"/> Action Planned	
ACTION	
SUMMARY	

What types of topics/issues would you like the Nevada Drought Forum to address?



When complete, please return to:

William (Bill) Elliott, Division of Emergency Management
 welliott@dps.state.nv.us