JUNE 2013 DROUGHT UPDATE

Water Availability Task Force Co- Chairs

Taryn Finnessey, CWCB
303.866.3441 ext. 3231
Taryn.Finnessey@state.co.us

Tracy Kosloff, DWR
303-866-3581 ext. 8211
Tracy.Kosloff@state.co.us

Activation of Phase 2 &3 of the State Drought Mitigation and Response Plan, and the activation of the Agricultural & Municipal Impact Task Force remain in effect to respond to ongoing drought conditions throughout Colorado.

Following a near average May, with regard to temperature and precipitation (93%), June has brought increased temperatures and below average precipitation for much of the state. While storms have brought some moisture relief to the southeastern plains which have been faced with exceptional drought conditions for two years, soils are so dry in this region that some fields have become hydrophobic. Rolling dust storms have been reported on multiple occasions and many more storms will be needed to alleviate dry conditions. Areas of the state that saw beneficial springtime moisture have now begun to dry out; and the southwest has seen recent changes in their drought classification from "severe" to "extreme." Fires have broken out statewide and many communities have implemented fire bans.

- As of the June 18, 2013 US Drought Monitor, 100% of Colorado continues to experience some level of drought classification. Conditions across the state have either remained constant or declined since May. D1 (moderate) conditions cover 25% of the state; while D2 (severe) covers 40% and D3 (extreme) accounts for an additional 18%. 18% of the state is now experiencing exceptional drought (D4).

- Fires have broken out across many parts of the state and the fire situation rating for the Rocky Mountain Area has increased to Preparedness Level 4. This rating indicates highly complex large fire activity is occurring, with multiple large fires in the zone. Fire severity is extreme as reported in multiple areas, and fires are escaping initial attack, as evident by the number of large fires. Multiple regional dispatch centers are experiencing an incident requiring type-1 or type-2 teams, and a majority of zone resources are committed.

- Thus far in June the Yampa/White, South Platte and Gunnison River Basins have received 0% of their average June precipitation. The Rio Grande has receive 13% of average while the southwestern basins have gotten 14% of their average monthly rainfall. All of these basins, with the exception of the South Platte, were also below average for May.

- As of the first of June, statewide reservoir storage is at 78% of average. The highest storage levels are in the Yampa/ White River Basin, at 111% of average, while the lowest storage in the state is the Rio Grande basin at 40% of average. All other basins range from 50% to 92% of average. Last year at this time the state was at 98% of average reservoir storage.*

- Despite runoff that has filled some reservoirs, most municipalities and water providers have maintained watering restrictions implemented earlier this spring. The CWCB drought response portal www.COH2O.co continues to help individuals determine the restrictions in their specific community. Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District continues to hold the C-BT quota at 60%.

- Streamflow forecasts indicate below average streamflow across much of the state, although improvements have been made in the forecasts since May. The Colorado and South Platte have the highest streamflow forecasts ranging from 62-111% of normal. The lowest forecasts in the state are in the Upper Rio Grande, with flows ranging 14% to 52% of normal. The Southwestern, Arkansas and Gunnison also have low forecasts ranging from 26-71% of normal.

- Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) values represent near normal surface water conditions in parts of the Colorado and South Platte, but remain negative elsewhere in the state. Below average reservoir storage and low streamflow forecasts contribute to these values and data reflect conditions on June 1, 2013.

** The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) uses a 30 year running average that is updated every ten years. The transition to the new "normal" period of 1981-2010 began in early 2013. NRCS is also transitioning to the use of median rather than average to define normal. Please keep in mind that this transition will affect the data when presented as a percent of normal.*

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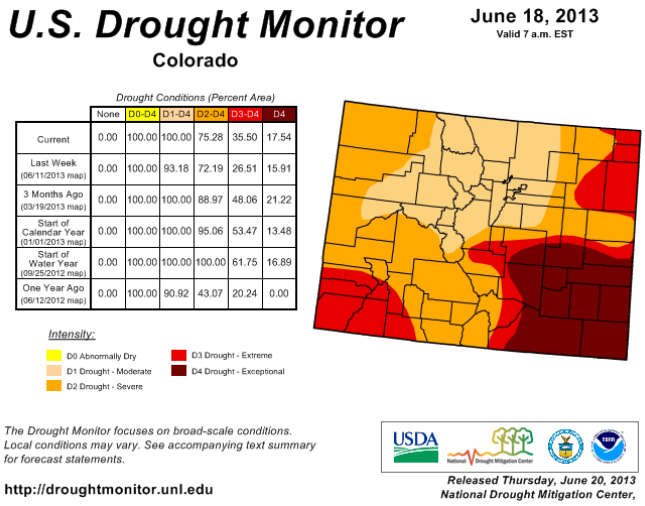
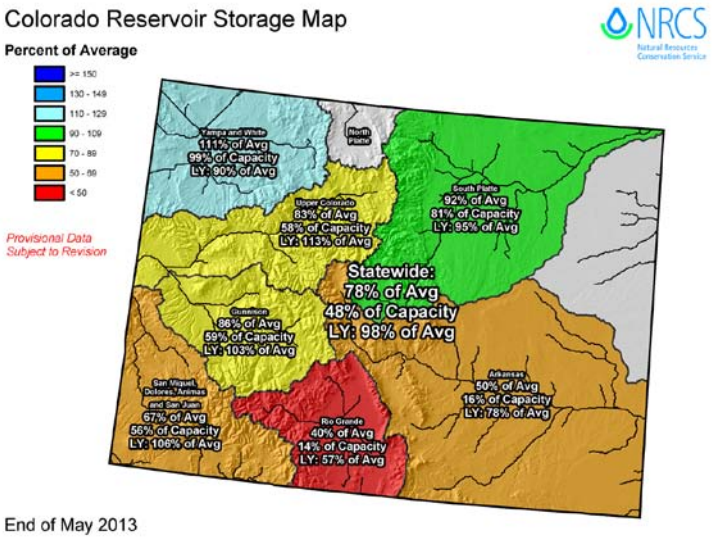
The US Drought Monitor illustrates current drought conditions across Colorado. Much of the state (40%) continues to experience severe drought conditions. While an additional 36% of the state is experiencing extreme and exceptional conditions.

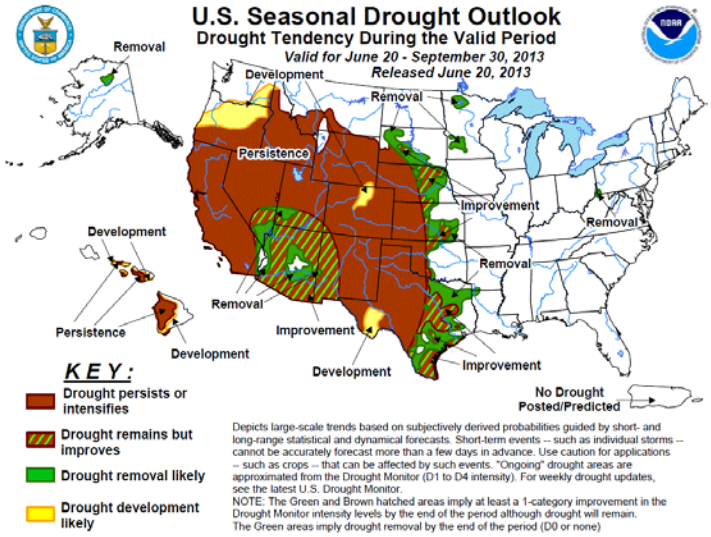




End of May 2013

Late spring snow storms led to sufficient summer streamflows to fill some reservoirs, however, as a whole the state remains below normal at 78%, a slight increase over last month. Southern portions of the state have very low storage levels.

The Climate Prediction Center at NOAA is forecasting persistent drought conditions across most of Colorado with drought developing along portions of the northern Front Range, an area that saw some relief from dry conditions during the spring.



NOTE: The next WATF meeting will be held July 18, 2013 at Colorado Parks and Wildlife Broadway Office, additional information can be found at www.cwcb.state.co.us or by contacting Ben Wade at Ben.Wade@state.co.us