

# STATE OF COLORADO

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## Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Mike King  
Executive Director  
Department of Natural Resources

John Salazar  
Commissioner  
Department of Agriculture

Reeves Brown  
Executive Director  
Department of Local Affairs

FROM: Jim Miller, Co-Chair Agricultural Impact Task Force  
Department of Agriculture

Reagan Waskom, Co-Chair Agricultural Impact Task Force  
Colorado Water Institute, Colorado State University

Veva Deheza, Co-Chair Water Availability Task Force  
Colorado Water Conservation Board

DATE: November 10, 2011

SUBJECT: **Status of Agricultural Impact Task Force, Current Drought Conditions, and Resulting Agricultural Impacts**

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John Hickenlooper  
Governor

Mike King  
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel  
CWCB Director

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This memorandum serves as an update and status report to the Drought Task Force from the Agricultural Impact Task Force (AITF) regarding current AITF activities, current drought conditions around the State, and the resulting agricultural impacts.

Since the last memo sent on September 19, 2011, the AITF has continued bi-weekly conference calls to coordinate efficient and rapid response to the drought conditions in southeast and south central Colorado. Conditions in the Rio Grande and south central portions of the state have improved in recent weeks, as have conditions in the southwest and northern plains of Colorado. Baca County remains the only county with a D4 (exceptional) or a D3 (extreme) drought designation.

#### ***Future Meetings of the Agricultural Impact Task Force (AITF)***

**It is recommended that AITF calls be postponed until more information on winter precipitation is available for the year.** It is unlikely that there will be any additional requests for declarations in the next few months and further insurance claims will come in only as producers fully assess the

impacts of the growing season. Consequently, the AITF proposes reconvening regular calls again in February or March of 2012 depending on conditions. However, the AITF will remain activated should conditions deteriorate rapidly or warrant a response, especially in the extreme south east corner of the state.

**Current Drought Conditions**

As of November 8, 2011, the U.S. Drought Monitor continues to show D4 (exceptional drought) conditions in extreme south eastern portion of Baca County, with D3 (extreme drought) in much of the remainder of the county. The counties of Las Animas, El Paso, Rio Grande, Saguache, Fremont, Huerfano, Pueblo, Otero, Crowley, Alamosa, Teller, Conejos and Costilla have all seen improvements since September. D0 conditions have been removed from the southwest and northern plains of the state and 34% of the state is now experiencing drought conditions, down from 53% in September.

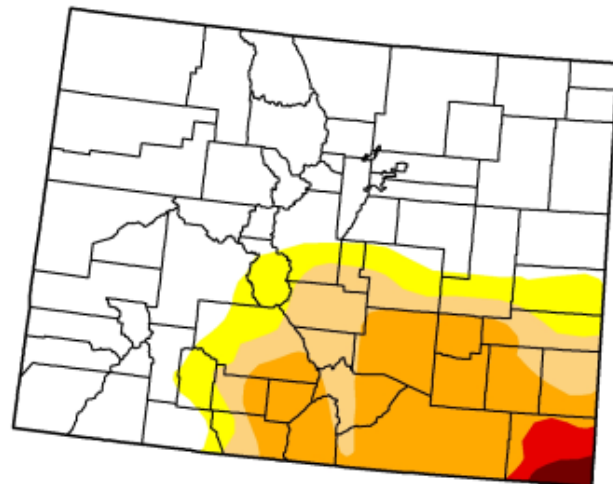
# U.S. Drought Monitor

## Colorado

November 8, 2011  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	65.98	34.02	26.18	17.44	1.85	0.59
Last Week (11/01/2011 map)	64.45	35.55	27.52	19.88	3.11	0.57
3 Months Ago (08/09/2011 map)	61.06	38.94	30.11	24.84	18.37	1.45
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	40.40	59.60	49.57	10.13	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	60.62	39.38	27.69	19.99	7.88	0.56
One Year Ago (11/02/2010 map)	30.27	69.73	27.85	0.00	0.00	0.00



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.*

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, November 10, 2011  
Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

**Federal Disaster Declarations/Drought Disaster Relief**

No new declarations have been made since the last drought update.

**Impacts:**

In addition to the impact highlighted in prior memos, below is a compilation of Livestock Forage Program (LFP) payments that eligible counties have processed to eligible producers as of 10/12/11. Please note that these numbers will likely change as producers continue to apply for the LFP program. The deadline for applying for LFP is January 30, 2012.

There is currently no information on Non-insured Assistance Crop Disaster Program (NAP) payments however; these numbers will likely be available around the first of next year.

**Counties and Amount Paid to Eligible Producers through LFP**

	\$100,000 or less	\$100k-\$500k	\$500k-\$1M	\$1M- \$1.5M	< \$1.5M
Alamosa	✓				
Baca			✓		
Bent			✓		
Conejos		✓			
Costilla	✓				
Crowley			✓		
Custer		✓			
El Paso		✓			
Fremont	✓				
Huerfano		✓			
Kiowa			✓		
Las Animas				✓	
Lincoln		✓			
Otero				✓	
Park	✓				
Prowers			✓		
Pueblo			✓		
Rio Grande	✓				
Saguache	✓				
Teller	✓				

A summary of failed and prevented crops for Colorado is also included below.

<b>Weekly Failed &amp; Preventive Crop Planted Acreage Data</b>						
<b>Totals for 2010</b>	48,920.50	8,209.90	<b><u>CROP BREAKDOWN</u></b>			
			<b>Dates</b>	<b>Failed</b>	<b>Prevented</b>	<b>Crop</b>
5/21/2011	42,929.17	2,205.50	-	-	-	
6/4/2011	60,625.77	9,132.40	-	-	-	
6/18/2011	90,634.51	46,463.38	-	-	-	
6/25/2011	111,808	56,329	-	-	-	
7/5/2011	151,598	66,096	-	-	-	
7/12/2011	171,188	74,484	-	-	-	
7/23/2011	211,325.01	91,524.57	-	-	-	
8/17/2011	215,988	96,872	-	-	-	
8/31/2011	223,753.62	97,373.28	-	-	-	
9/10/2011	226,629.22	97,594.22	Corn	13,940	50,085	
			Sorghum	445	39,413	
			Wheat	199,640	2,063	

**Member organizations represented on the calls included:**

CO Department of Agriculture  
Division of Water Resources  
CSU Extension  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Department of Natural Resources- EDO  
USDA – Rural Development

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
USDA Farm Service Agency  
Lower Arkansas Conservancy District  
Colorado Climate Center  
State Land Board

***Communications***

Veva Deheza and Taryn Hutchins-Cabibi, of the CWCB, will continue working closely with the co-chairs and members of the AITF to collect field reported drought information and drought impact data as it becomes available, and will maintain a clearinghouse of data for analysis and future assessment.

**If there are any questions or concerns with the recommendations in this memo please let us know as soon as possible.**

***For Additional Information***

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