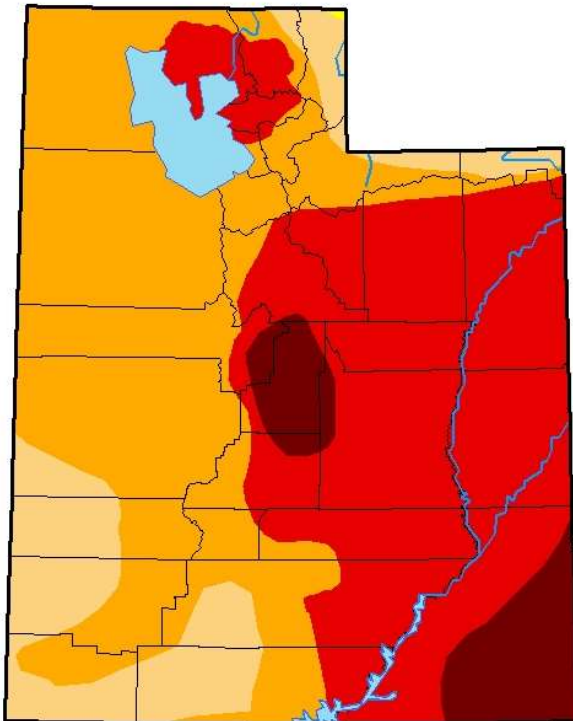


.....2018 Drought Declaration

All of Utah's 29 counties are experiencing at least some level of drought, and it is hurting the quality of life and livelihoods of many Utahns. As a result, Governor Gary Herbert issued an official drought declaration to provide resources to impacted communities and encourage Utahns to work together to conserve during this challenging time.

U.S. Drought Monitor Utah

October 2, 2018
(Released Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

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

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

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<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

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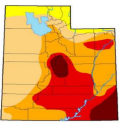
of Utah's reservoirs are less than

20 Percent Full

8

of Utah's reservoirs are less than

5 Percent Full



2018 Drought Declaration

Governor Gary R. Herbert recently issued an Executive Order Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency Due to Drought. The following are quotes by members of the Drought Review and Reporting Committee:

“Already, wildlife experts have observed fawn mortality rates increase within the big game population. For example, within the San Juan County the study they were conducting on the local fawn, 100% mortality of those collared, which leads to conclusive results that there is 100% mortality of all fawn in San Juan County.”

“Wildfires occur more frequently, burn hotter, and burn more acres in drought years. This leads to a loss of rangeland for sheep and cattle and destroys watering structures and fences on the range. It also increases erosion since the plants’ roots are unable to stabilize the soil, further degrading the range and its suitability for grazing.”

“The crop losses and expenses incurred in hauling in water, pumping water instead of diverting surface water, or drilling new wells due to stock watering and irrigation water shortages can be extreme. Farmers have fixed costs (fertilizer, fuel, etc.) but less crop revenue in drought years to help cover these costs.”

“Some ranchers are selling off animals early to lessen the burden of having to provide feed, which in the case of emergency sales can result in livestock being sold at 60% of normal value.”

“Stock watering and irrigation water shortages – Reduced snowmelt in drought years diminishes streamflows, reduces aquifer recharge, lowers water tables, and results in increased pumping which depletes aquifers and can dry up wells. This can result in a loss of

watering holes or streams which water livestock and in a reduction or complete loss of water used to irrigate crops. In addition, the loss of a perennial such as alfalfa to drought may result in extra expenses to replant the crop.”

“Increasing heat index - Lack of irrigated crops means fewer cooler and wetter microclimates and less canopy over bare soil, which increases the solar exposure and heat retention of the soil. This exacerbates the effects of the drought, especially with wildfires and monsoons.”

“Livestock Diseases - The increase in dry and dusty conditions may increase incidences of soil borne bacteria such as *Corynebacterium paratuberculosis* as the winds blow the soil into atypical areas, which can cause Pigeon Fever in horses. Also, this disease may be spread from concentrating biting insects at water sources.”

“Insects – We anticipate seeing a greater concentration and wider distribution of insects in pastures, other forage, and crops. Droughts tend to create ideal conditions for insect reproduction, increasing numbers. With the drought reducing the availability of forage on the range, these larger populations move into crops and irrigated pastures.”

What can you do?

1. **Take H2Oath: Utah’s Water-Wise Pledge at Water.Utah.Gov/H2Oath**
2. **Follow the Weekly Lawn Watering Guide and other tips on SlowTheFlow.Org**
3. **Consider upgrading your landscape using LocalScapes.com techniques.**
4. **Get a Smart Timer Rebate at UtahWaterSavers.com**