

Drought Task Force Meeting
Tuesday, May 28, 2013
1:30pm CDT
State Emergency Operations Center Room E

In attendance:

Jason Bauder, SDDPS-OEM
Paul Merriman, SDDPS-FMO
Doug Hinkle, SDDPS-FMO
Megan Mercer, SDDPS-OEM
Jay Esperance, SDDA-WFS
Steve Hasenohrl, SDDA-WFS
Jamie Crew, SDDA

Mark Rath, SDDENR
Lynn Beck, SDDENR
Steve Harding, SDDOM
Michelle Schmeling, SDDSS
Dennis Todey, State
Climatologist
Courtney De La Rosa, SDDA

Darren Clabo, State Fire
Meteorologist
Chuck Brokaw, AP
David Rookhuyzen, Capital
Journal
Emmitt Keyser, GFP

Drought Conditions Update:

State Climatologist Dennis Todey reported improvement in drought conditions, with some problem areas remaining in the western and extreme southeastern portions of the state.

The 8-14 day outlook will continue with chances of precipitation with normal seasonal temperatures. June is showing no strong indication of above or below average precipitation and temperatures. The three month outlook (June – August) shows the southeastern half has a better chance of being dryer with above average temperatures with the remainder of the state with below or equal chances of average temps and precipitation.

Darren Clabo reported fire concerns for the next 30 days are minimal with southern Black Hills and northwestern South Dakota being a slight concern.

Agency Drought Updates:

WFS: In green up period with no significant fire activity. Concern lies with areas in the Hills with heavy fuels that haven't gained moisture.

SDDA: Posted recent drought SD Focus on website. Planting is looking good east river with west river seeing record numbers of livestock at auction markets.

DENR: Stream gauging stations in southwest South Dakota all show below average numbers for run off at this time of year. This could possibly lead to the issuing of advisories for that area. Reservoir levels are rebounding slowly.

FMO: Nothing to report at this time.

GFP: Seeing improvement in wetland conditions. Game bird and waterfowl nesting is running two weeks behind with concern of possible loss of nests. East river lakes are in good condition and concern lies with stock dams and larger reservoirs in western half of the state. This year can possibly be the best fishing in recent years.

SDNG: Nothing to report at this time.

Health: Nothing to report at this time.

Tourism: Nothing to report at this time.

Next meeting June 24, 2013 at 1:30.

Attachments: Current US Drought Monitor map and an article from the Capital Journal.

U.S. Drought Monitor

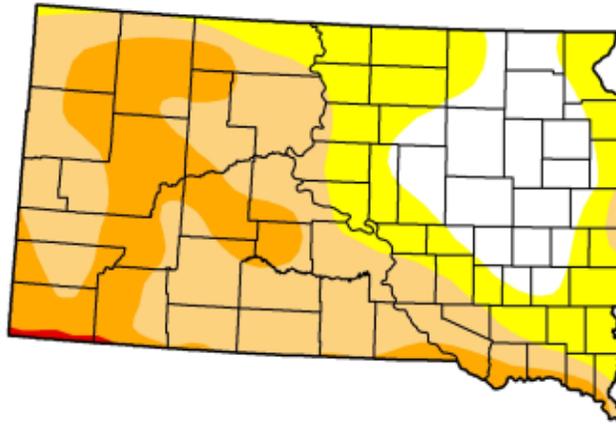
South Dakota

May 28, 2013

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	17.11	82.89	59.17	21.41	0.37	0.00
Last Week (05/21/2013 map)	5.38	94.62	73.90	39.00	5.86	0.00
3 Months Ago (02/26/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	86.77	63.23	29.58
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	96.95	63.17	30.68
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	74.69	50.53	6.72
One Year Ago (05/22/2012 map)	76.69	23.31	2.68	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, May 30, 2013
Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Drought eases across state, but West River still hot, dry

By David Rookhuyzen david.rookhuyzen@capjournal.com

Cooler temperatures and abundant rain have helped eased the state's drought, but West River has a longer road to travel than East River for full recovery, according to Dennis Today, the state climatologist.

Today, speaking to the Governor's Drought Task Force Tuesday, presented an update of South Dakota's moisture conditions. Overall, the state is recovering, with the eastern portion forecasted to improve out of the drought this year, while the western half will show some improvement, but remain in drought. The southwest corner of the state is perhaps the hardest hit, with dryer conditions persisting.

The improvement over the past two months has been encouraging. A drought map from April 2, compiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Drought Mitigation Center, showed 66.49 percent of the state in at least extreme drought and roughly 20 percent in exceptional drought. But a similar map from May 21 shows only 5.86 percent of the state in extreme drought – small swaths of land in the northwest and southeast corners of the state – and none in exceptional drought.

Today said, with the recent moisture, that map may already be outdated, and he said there's a good chance none of the state will remain in extreme drought conditions.

Almost the entire state received some amount of rain in the last week. Parts of Lincoln, Turner, McCook and Minnehaha counties received 6-7 inches, while portions of Hand, Hyde and Sully counties saw 4-5 inches. The rest saw at least half an inch, with a small group of counties in the southwest corner being the exception.

While welcome, the rain only helps, not entirely sates, the state's moisture deficit. Portions of West River are still up to 3 inches below average precipitation from the period between April 28 and May 27. Going back to Oct. 1, those areas are only at 50 to 70 percent of normal precipitation, Todey said.

Soil moisture readings at Cottonwood show that, at 40 inches down, the ground for the 2012 to 2013 water year has less moisture than similar readings taken in the past three years.

There's also a decent chance for above average temperatures in the southwestern part of the state, unlike East River, which in some areas has experienced temperatures two degrees below normal in the past month.

"I'm not calling for a repeat of last year by any stretch, but it could be a little dry in the southwestern portion of the state," Todey said.

Going forward, Todey predicts that temperatures will stay near average and the precipitation will continue, but it will not be the heavy rains of the past month. Also, because of that moisture, fires should be less of an issue for the time being, he said.