

Drought Task Force Meeting
www.drought.sd.gov
Monday, November 26, 2012
2-3 pm CDT
State Emergency Operations Center

In attendance:

Jon Farris, SDDA	Steve Hasenohrl, WFS
Lynn Beck, SDDENR	Mark Rath, DENR
Jeff Zimprich, NRCS	Terry Woster, DPS
Emmett Keyser, GF&P	Dennis Today, State Climatologist
Aaron Jordan, NG	Jason Bauder, OEM
Kristi Turman, OEM	

Climatology update:

State Climatologist Dennis Todey reported the outlook for this winter is very mixed, but unlikely of any significant changes. The last 30 days temperatures were running above average statewide. The US Drought Monitor is in the D1 (Moderate) in the northeast part of the state and D3 to D4 (Exceptional) in the southern 1/3 of the state. The 8 to 14 day outlook calls for likely above average temperatures and some minor chances of precipitation. The December outlook calls for cooler than average temperatures and no indication of precipitation. The 3 month outlook is the same as the December outlook. Soil moisture recovery at this point is going to be dependent upon spring rains to replenish the moisture.

SDDA report:

Jon Farris reported the SDDA of put a press release out asking producers what they were looking for from SDDA to help them with the drought conditions. The department did receive some information and is in the process of evaluating them at this time. Some of the reports asked for them to continue the same services already being provided.

FSA report:

No report this week.

NRCS report:

Nothing new to report.

DENR report:

Lynne Beck reported the James and Big Sioux Rivers are starting to see some icing in the northern portion of the State, so flow readings are no longer accurate in that area. The rivers below Huron and Brookings have remained the same with no changes being recorded. The BOR dams west river are 44%

to 90% full. The main stem Missouri River storage dam levels are 27 feet to 30 feet lower than last years recorded high levels.

The Corps is being pressured to release water upstream to maintain barge traffic on the Mississippi River. Potentially the level on Oahe could be lowered 4.5 to 5 million acre feet which could equate to another 2 to 3 feet lower. Next year low levels could affect irrigators and where the placement of the intakes are for the irrigation systems. RWS's are going to be ok because during the last drought, many intakes were lowered to resolve such issues. Irrigation applications have drastically increased this winter in preparation for next year.

Wildfire report:

Steve Hasenohrl with WFS reported they are still seeing fire potential whenever they lose snow cover. Jim Strain met with fire departments in Fall River County (Red Zone area designated by the Governor) and has determined that there will be some fire departments submitting repair reimbursements to the State. It is unknown at this point what the dollar amount they will request. Additionally, the DTF discussed what should be the deadline for the Red Zone determination to end. This will be a topic for the next meeting to decide what needs to be done to rescind the Executive Order for the determination and the timing of it.

WFS has many slash piles that need to be burned this winter if possible to decrease the fuel load; however, they are only going to burn if the conditions allow them to do it.

With the drought persistence through the winter, more planning may need to be done for fires on the prairie next year.

Other agency reports:

GF&P: Emmett Keyser reported that depending upon what the Corps does with the barge traffic on the Mississippi River, there could certainly be some issues with boat ramp access next spring. This will be something they keep a close eye on.

Emmett also reported if this winter ends up being an open winter it will really help the wildlife sustain fat reserves through the winter and especially help the depleted deer population in the southeast and south central part of the state as a result of the EHD disease.

FMO: No report this week.

National Guard: No report this week.

Emergency Management: Kristi Turman is working with the State Climatologist and the National Drought Mitigation Center to bring a representative to the next DTF meeting to discuss drought mitigation planning in order to aid in our drought planning for next year due to the persistent drought.

The next Drought Task Force meeting will be held Monday, December 10, 2012, from 2-4 pm in the State EOC amphitheater. This date is dependent upon the representative being available to attend from the National Drought Mitigation Center. It may need to be adjusted to fit their schedule to attend.