

Drought Task Force Meeting

www.drought.sd.gov

Monday, September 17, 2012

2-3 pm CDT

State Emergency Operations Center Amphitheater

In attendance:

Jon Farris, SDDA

Jay Esperance, WFS

Lynn Beck SDDENR

Jamie Crew, SDDA

Terry Woster, SDDPS

Craig Schaunaman, FSA

Doug Hinkle, FMO

Paul Merriman, FMO

Jason Bauder, SDDPS-OEM

Tina Titze, SDDPS-OEM

Emmett Keyser, GF&P

Dennis Today, State Climatologist

Aaron Jordan, NG

Steve Harding, Dept. of Military

Climatology update:

Dennis Today reported there were no significant changes to the drought and no improvements were made as a result of the isolated rain showers throughout the state. Overall temperatures are averaging 1 to 5 degrees warmer than average. The southwest and south central stream flows have been running 10 to 24 percent of normal stream flow for this time of the year. The 8 to 14 day weather outlook calls for drier than average precipitation and cooler temperatures; however, still running a little above average. The October outlook is being released this Thursday. The 3 month outlook is still showing warmer than average temperatures and no significant change in precipitation. Saturday shows a larger chance of frost throughout the State.

FSA report:

The State FSA office is requesting to allow CRP bales to be allowed on CRP land until November 1st. The deadline as it stands right now is October 1st when the bales have to be removed. Craig also reported there are water quality issues in stock dams West River. He also reported that no federal dollars have been allocated to the Emergency Conservation Program for producers, but he still remains hopeful Congress will approve funding soon.

SDDA report:

Jon Farris reported the Dept. of Ag took part in a televised program last week called SD Ag Focus which allowed them to share information to ag producers.

NRCS report:

No report this week.

DENR report:

Lynne Beck reported that the Big Sioux River did receive some rain, but it did not change the flows greatly and shutoff orders were issued along the Big Sioux River. Lynn also stated the Dell Rapids stream flow gauge is running at about 30%, which then pushes the City of Sioux Falls to enact certain restrictions on water use. West River aquifers are registering all-time lows since they have been monitored. Lake Oahe and Ft. Randall Reservoirs are registering 21 feet lower than last summer's record high.

Wildfire report:

No significant report other than they are in record territory on all their wildland fire indicators.

Other agency reports:

GF&P: Emmett Keyser reported that GF&P is seeing Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in deer which is caused by a mite that is found on the edge of water. This is something they do see every year; however, due to the receding water in water sources this year the disease is having a more widespread effect on the deer population in the James, Big Sioux and Vermillion River areas. The disease causes deer to die when they become infected with the disease. The GF&P Commission will look at the effect on the deer population in counties and decide whether they will issue fewer deer licenses as a result of EHD.

GF&P also has done numerous press releases on the fencing program for ag producers to protect their hay for livestock. Additionally, a grouse season press release was done to caution hunters to be careful of starting fires and to not drive in tall grass and to ensure they had a fire extinguisher with them in case a fire was accidentally started. They also dispatched the GF&P plane over the Ft. Pierre National Grasslands to monitor any fire starts as a result of grouse season opening weekend. No issues were reported.

Lastly, antelope season opens up later this month and a SEAT plane will be stationed in Lemmon to allow for a quick attack to extinguish any wildland fires that may start as a result of these hunters driving in tall grass.

National Guard: Aaron Jordan reported this has been the busiest fire season response by the NG.

The next Drought Task Force meeting will be held Monday, October 1, 2012, from 2-3 pm in the State EOC amphitheater.