



Idaho



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Lead Representative

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Monitoring Team

The Idaho Drought Committee includes representatives from the following organizations:

- University of Idaho
- National Weather Service
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Irrigation districts
- Watermasters

USDM Recommendation Process

- The Idaho drought monitoring team usually meets every Tuesday morning to discuss drought conditions across the state.
- Members of the monitoring team monitor drought conditions in different regions of the state. Each region reports to the IDWR with their recommendation on how drought looks in their area. Some of these regions include and overlap with neighboring states.
- If the IDWR is unable to report to the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) author, someone from the monitoring team will volunteer to fill in.
- USDM drought team members from Idaho assess conditions in Oregon by communicating through the Pacific Northwest Drought Early Warning System interagency network and coordinating directly with Oregon drought experts.

Drought Characteristics

- In southern Idaho, monitoring efforts prioritize snowpack levels and maintain a multi-year perspective on drought.
- In northern Idaho, monitoring focuses more on regional hydrology, stream flows, and runoff.
- Drought in Idaho relates closely to snowpack levels in the winter, base flow conditions in the fall, and increasing temperature throughout the year.

Drought Impacts

- Agriculture (irrigated and rain-fed)
- Water supply
- Hydropower generation
- Fisheries

Monitoring Challenges

A better understanding of drought impacts is needed, particularly for the forested and rangeland areas across the state where data can be challenging to find.