



Utah



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Monitoring Team

The Utah Water Conditions Monitoring (WCM) group includes a variety of organizations:

- Utah Division of Water Resources
- National Weather Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Utah Climate Center
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
- Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
- USDA Farm Service Agency

The WCM group is jointly led by the Utah Division of Water Resources, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, and the Utah Climate Center.

USDM Recommendation Process

- The Utah WCM group participates in bi-monthly (spring and summer) and monthly (fall and winter) webinars to evaluate drought conditions. These webinars are also open to the public.
- The Utah Division of Water Resources makes recommendations to the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) author.

Drought Characteristics

- Reservoirs are an important indicator of drought (and how effective drought management is) in Utah.
- Most of Utah's water supply comes from snowpack. Snowpack and how it melts have a significant effect on water supply.

Drought Impacts

- Agriculture
- Reservoirs (agriculture and drinking water)
- Recreation and tourism

Monitoring Challenges

Utah has historically had limited official USDM-related communication with neighboring states. The state is working to formalize drought monitoring efforts and publish a drought response plan. They also hope to increase communication and collaboration related to drought assessment with nearby states.