



# Wyoming



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## Lead Representative

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Two other individuals also serve as lead representative. The leads meet on the third or fourth Thursday of each month to set the rotation schedule.

## Monitoring Team

Includes 15–20 individuals from a diverse group of organizations, including:

- Wyoming State Climate Office/ Water Resources Data System
- National Weather Service (NWS)
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Wyoming State Engineer's Office
- Farm Service Agency
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- Office of the Tribal Water Engineer
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Homeland Security
- Wyoming Water Development Office
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- Wyoming State Forestry Division

## USDM Recommendation Process

- Every Monday, the state climatologist generates a set of draft maps illustrating his proposed changes to the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) map. These draft maps are generally reviewed by the core group of drought authors, including the state climatologist. The state climatologist makes their recommendation for how to best characterize drought in Wyoming and shares with the larger condition monitoring group via email.
- Depending on the week, they may or may not receive comments from the group, although they generally receive feedback from the NWS offices. In general, no feedback indicates people agree with their recommendation.
- By Tuesday mid-day, the monitoring team has collectively decided on their drought depiction and the state climatologist shares it with the weekly USDM author.

## Drought Characteristics

Agricultural drought is important in Wyoming and is closely tied to stream regulation.

## Drought Impacts

- Agriculture
- Reservoirs
- Water rights and allocation/priority dates
- Recreation/tourism
- Water quality
- Wildland fire

## Monitoring Challenges

Wyoming has several very different climate regimes, and it is sometimes a challenge to determine indicators that best capture the conditions experienced in a region. As a result, there is not a "one size fits all" approach to broadly characterize drought in Wyoming.