



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

Moab/Monticello Ranger District
62 East 100 North
P.O. Box 386
Moab, UT 84532
Phone # (435) 259-7155
Fax # (435) 259-7737

File Code: 2210/2230

Date: May 15, 2014

Holyoak Land & Livestock LLC
c/o Don and Kathleen Holyoak
PO Box 82
Green River, UT 84525

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Holyoak:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Bald Mesa C&H Allotment for the 2014 grazing season. This AOI is made part of your Term Grazing Permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, item 8(a). A failure to follow these instructions is a violation of your permit. The AOI complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. **Please read your instructions thoroughly.**

AUTHORIZED USE FOR 2014

Allotment	Numbers	Kind	Class	Season	Permittee	Non-use	
						Resource protection	Personal convenience
Bald Mesa	240	Cattle	Cow/calf	06/01 to 10/21	Holyoak Land and Livestock LLC	X	
Bald Mesa	30	Cattle	Yearling	06/01 to 10/21	Holyoak Land and Livestock LLC	X	
Bald Mesa	8	Horse	Mature	07/01 to 09/30	Holyoak Land and Livestock LLC		

GRAZING SYSTEM AND SCHEDULE

Pasture	Number	Kind	Approximate Dates
Maloy Park	270	Cattle	06/01 - 06/15
Loop Road	270	Cattle	06/16 - 07/06
North Hollow	270	Cattle	07/07 - 08/06
Wilcox Flat	270	Cattle	08/07 - 09/06
South Hollow	270	Cattle	09/07- 09/30
South Mesa	270	Cattle	10/01- 10/10
Jimmy Keen	270	Cattle	10/11 – 10/21
South Mesa	270	Cattle	09/23 - 10/15
North Hollow	8	Horse	07/01 – 07/31
Wilcox Flat	8	Horse	08/01 - 08/31
South Hollow	8	Horse	09/01- 09/30



Permitted pack and saddle stock authorized on the allotment for livestock management will not exceed four head. This does not include the 8 head that you are billed for each year.

Management Response to Drought Conditions

The drought in Utah is predicted to continue into this year, although as of Tuesday some forecasts show movement away from drought in the La Sals (see enclosed). The timing of rainfall the past two years in the late summer and fall have kept forage production up on most of the high elevation pastures, but several lower elevation pastures that were used first last year or in 2012 were dry and unproductive during the times they were grazed. This usually resulted in moving off the unit earlier than planned or overuse, if livestock were not moved in time. In these areas, the stressed forage resource will still be trying to recover from last year's dry conditions.

The degree that drought affects future forage production will depend upon intensity, frequency and timing of grazing. Providing plants opportunity to grow and adequate recovery from grazing before, during and after drought conditions, will have a great influence on long term vegetative productivity and rangeland conditions. It is extremely important that the proper use criteria are followed and that the allotment is monitored closely, which may involve an increase in the amount of riding you or your herd manager does.

You are planning to take partial non-use on 51 c/c pair and replace some with yearling heifers in response to the abnormally dry conditions. Management may need to be adjusted depending upon actual conditions on the ground. Livestock may need to be removed from the allotment earlier than planned if drought conditions worsen.

Your allotment should be inspected for range readiness to determine forage growth and fence and water improvement conditions. **The pasture move dates shown above are an estimate, and may change on the basis of actual range conditions.** Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

PROPER GRAZING-USE INDICATORS

Utilization standards are tools used in achieving or moving towards desired rangeland conditions. Utilization standards are not the desired conditions or management objectives themselves, they are indicators. Desired conditions and objectives are discussed in the 1986 Forest Plan and/or the Allotment Management Plan.

Desired goals in the 1986 Forest Plan include:

- Bring livestock obligation in line with rangeland carrying capacity
- Maintain upward or stable trends in vegetation and soil condition.

Management Objectives in the 1995 Bald Mesa Allotment Management Plan include:

- Manage vegetative types in varying successional stages to provide for a high level of vegetative diversity and production.

- Maintain upward or stable trends in vegetation and soil condition.
- Vegetative cover within the riparian component ecosystems would be maintained.
- Maintain ground cover at a level sufficient to protect watershed values.

The 1990 Forest Plan Amendment for Range Proper-Use Criteria states proper use as ranging from 40-65% use of upland key species depending on the grazing system applied and from 30-60% use of riparian key species depending season of use. This amendment kept the existing provision that proper use criteria are to be established on an allotment by allotment basis.

For the Bald Mesa allotment proper use criteria for 2014 is:

<u>Upland Areas:</u>	<u>Use of Key Species</u>
Spring/Summer	*45-50%
Fall	*50-60%

***Though the 1995 AMP sets proper use between 55-65%, this is based on a rest rotation system. The Bald Mesa allotment is and has been functioning as a deferred rotation system which sets 45-60% as proper use.**

<u>Riparian Areas:</u>	<u>Use of Key Species</u>
Spring (Early and rapid growth)	50-60%
Summer (Moderate growth)	45-50%
Fall (Slow growth)	30-40% or 4-5 inches stubble or regrowth

There is a difference between where percentage utilized is applied and where stubble height is applied to determine proper use in riparian areas. Percent utilized is used for plant species that are within the larger riparian area (the area that is influenced by the stream and the water table) but not along the greenline. The greenline is the first perennial vegetation on or near the stream's edge that is at least one foot wide. Stubble height measurements are used to determine proper use along the greenline. The plant species considered are typically water loving species (hydric species) such as sedges.

It is your responsibility as the permittee to recognize when proper use has been reached and promptly move all cattle as necessary. If you need some assistance, or methods and tools for determining proper use, please contact Tina Marian.

When proper use has been reached in the unit being grazed, your cattle are to be herded to the next scheduled unit. **When proper use is reached in the last unit grazed, all cattle are to be removed from the allotment, even if this date is prior to the end of your grazing season.** Cattle found on the Allotment before or after the permitted grazing season will be billed at the unauthorized use rate and permit non-compliance actions will be initiated.

You should be aware that Forest Service policy provides that “an authorized officer may require the permittee to monitor and report information on compliance with the grazing permit, allotment management plan and annual operation instructions as a term and condition of your permit.”

To facilitate livestock moves, gates may be opened a few days prior to the scheduled move date only when moving into an adjacent pasture. Gates must be closed and the grazed pasture entirely cleaned of livestock no later than five days following the scheduled move date. Grazed pastures must be kept clean of livestock following the pasture move.

IMPROVEMENTS

Since 2006, the Forest Service has entered into structural improvement agreements with each permittee which will continue for this season. The purpose of these agreements and the following inspections is to document how and if range structural improvements are being maintained.

Thank you for completed a portion of the new fence construction (minus stays) last year.

FENCE AGREEMENT: For 2014, the fence agreement will be to complete the new fence west and north of the La Sal Loop Rd as shown on the map attached. At the AOI meeting we asked that the fence be completed by June 16th. You indicated that because of the hold up last year with clearing the fence line and waiting on stays that you may not be able to meet that deadline. You indicated that the fence must be completed by the end of June for the GIP funding, but that you would attempt to have it done earlier if possible.

SPRING AGREEMENTS: For 2014, you will please replace the trough that was shot up in the Loop Rd pasture as shown on the map attached. This wasn't done last year as the FS did not get a trough issued to you. We are also planning of building the enclosure around the Webb Hollow spring and installing troughs.

When you complete your fence and spring agreements you must fill out and sign the Improvement Agreement Form (pink) that is found in your folder. I suggest that you provide photographs of before and after conditions to assist in documenting compliance with maintenance requirements. I also encourage you to contact Tina when you complete your maintenance so she can schedule a timely inspection.

If you fail to bring the above agreed improvements up to standard by **Oct 21st, 2014** you will not be allowed to stock the allotment in 2015 until the agreement is fulfilled.

Range improvements are essential in ensuring that livestock are well distributed and that Forest standards and guides are met.

- Improvements are to be maintained to standard prior to livestock entering the pasture and that failure to do so is a violation of their permit and action will be taken when violations are documented.
- If improvements have not been maintained, then develop a schedule to bring them up to standard.

- Until all improvements are functional it is not appropriate to authorize full numbers or season of use, unless assurances can be made that utilization standards will not be exceeded.

The maintenance of all structural improvements listed under part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit, Special Terms and Conditions: *Construction and Maintenance of Structural Improvements* is a requirement and should be completed prior to your entry into each pasture. The allotment permittee or permittees are responsible for the maintenance of all structural range improvements on this allotment. For allotments managed by an Association or Herd Manager specific maintenance responsibilities may be assigned to individual permittees by the Association President or Herd Manager.

There are many troughs on the Forest that do not have wildlife escape ramps and are thus not meeting improvement maintenance standards. All troughs on the allotment need to be equipped with a wildlife escape ramp. You can obtain them from the Forest Service office. We understand that this will not all be completed in one year and will be emphasizing getting wildlife escape ramps installed in all troughs over the next few years.

If you wish to use forest products (trees and oak brush) from the National Forest to maintain your fences/spring enclosures on your allotment, you must receive authorization from either the Moab or Monticello Office prior to cutting.

NEPA and PLANNED PROJECTS

As discussed during the AOI meeting, an Environmental Assessment is currently in process that will complete analysis for the development of several springs on the Bald Mesa allotment. We expected a decision to be made this summer.

There are several bike races that will occur during the grazing season within the Bald Mesa Allotment. Please let us know if there are any impacts to your schedule as a result of these races.

Also, the West Slope Wildland Urban Interface Fuels reduction project planning is continuing this year. The comment period ends May 27th. A draft decision may be issued later in the summer.

MISCELLANEOUS

Refer to Special Terms and Conditions in Part 3 of Term Grazing Permit for specific instructions pertaining to maintenance standards for range stock water developments, range fences, corrals, and herding standards.

All permitted livestock must be branded with your registered brand as documented in your Term Permit before they enter the National Forest.

Place salt blocks away from water, roads, meadows and other open areas so as to draw livestock into areas that receive light utilization. When livestock leave a pasture move the salt out of the pasture as well.

You will furnish sufficient riders or herders to achieve proper distribution of livestock.

Certified Weed Free Hay must be used if you do any supplemental feeding of horses on the allotment while gathering or moving cattle.

If you find the need to use mechanical clearing (tractors, bulldozers etc.) of fence lines or to clean ponds or other water improvements, you must have proper archeological clearance and permission from the District Ranger.

Enclosed in your AOI folder you will find an Actual Use Record sheet. As your 2014 grazing season progresses, please fill out this form in detail and return it promptly at the end of the grazing season. There are also extra sheets included in the folder where you are encouraged to document management on your allotment.

PAYMENT OF FEES

The permittee will not allow owned or controlled livestock to be on Forest Service-administered lands unless the fees specified in the Bill for Collection are paid and confirmation of payment through the "lock box" process is received prior to livestock entering NFS lands.

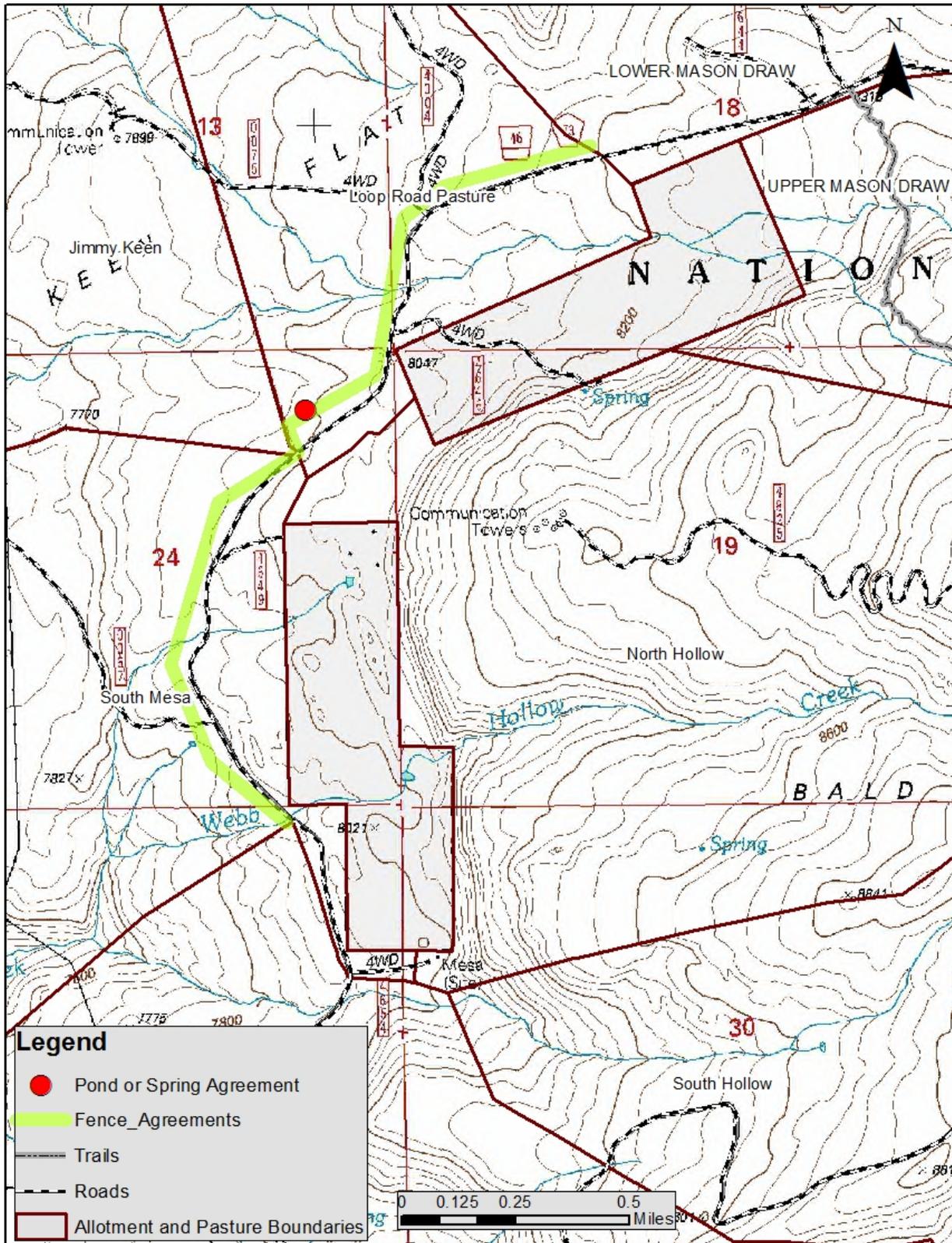
I am looking forward to working with you this summer. Please don't hesitate to call Tina Marian (435-636-3368) if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

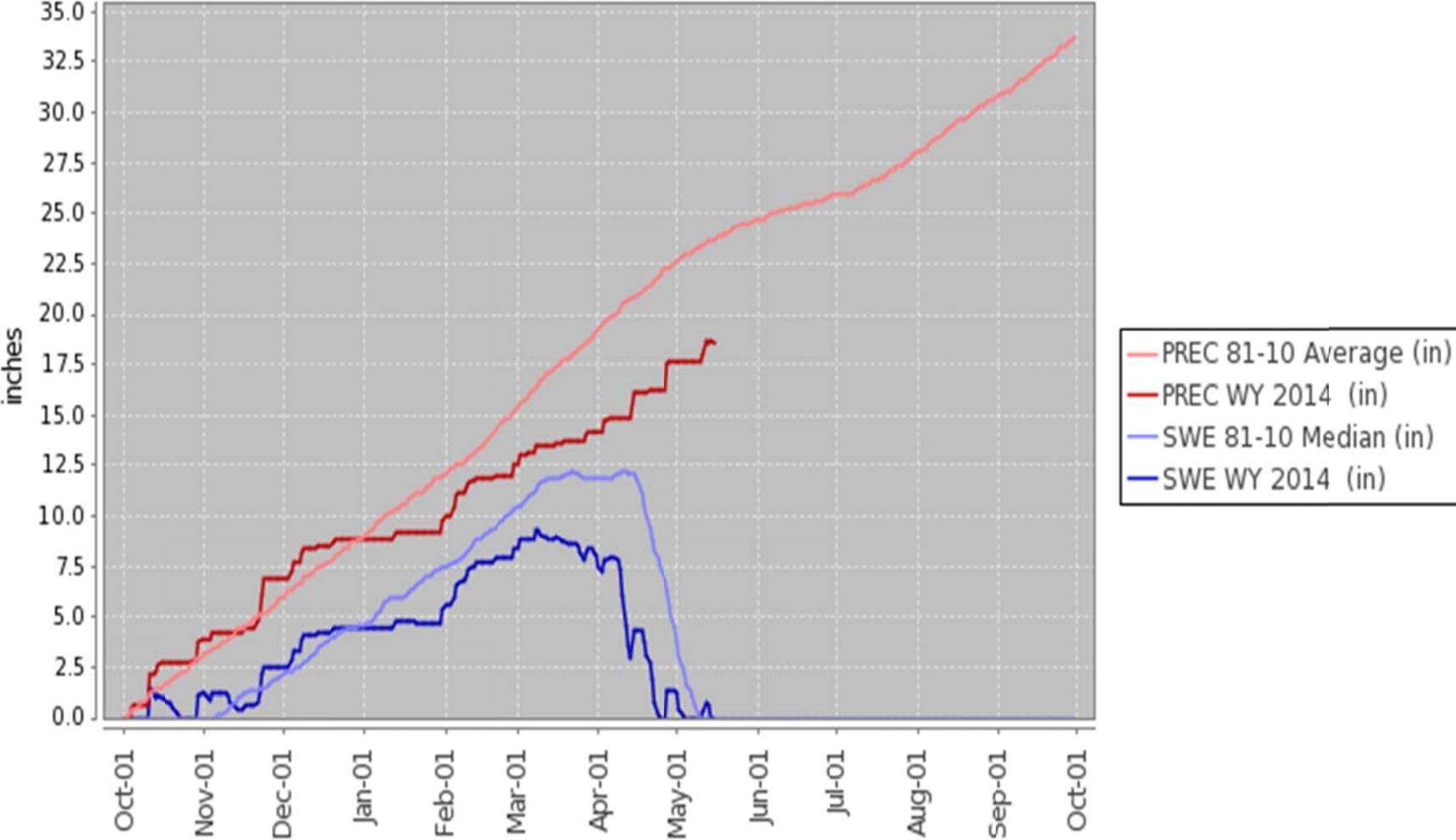


for MICHAEL DIEM
District Ranger

2014 Fence and Spring Agreement



Station (572) WATERYEAR=2014 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision
Thu May 15 11:53:13 PDT 2014



U.S. Drought Monitor

Utah

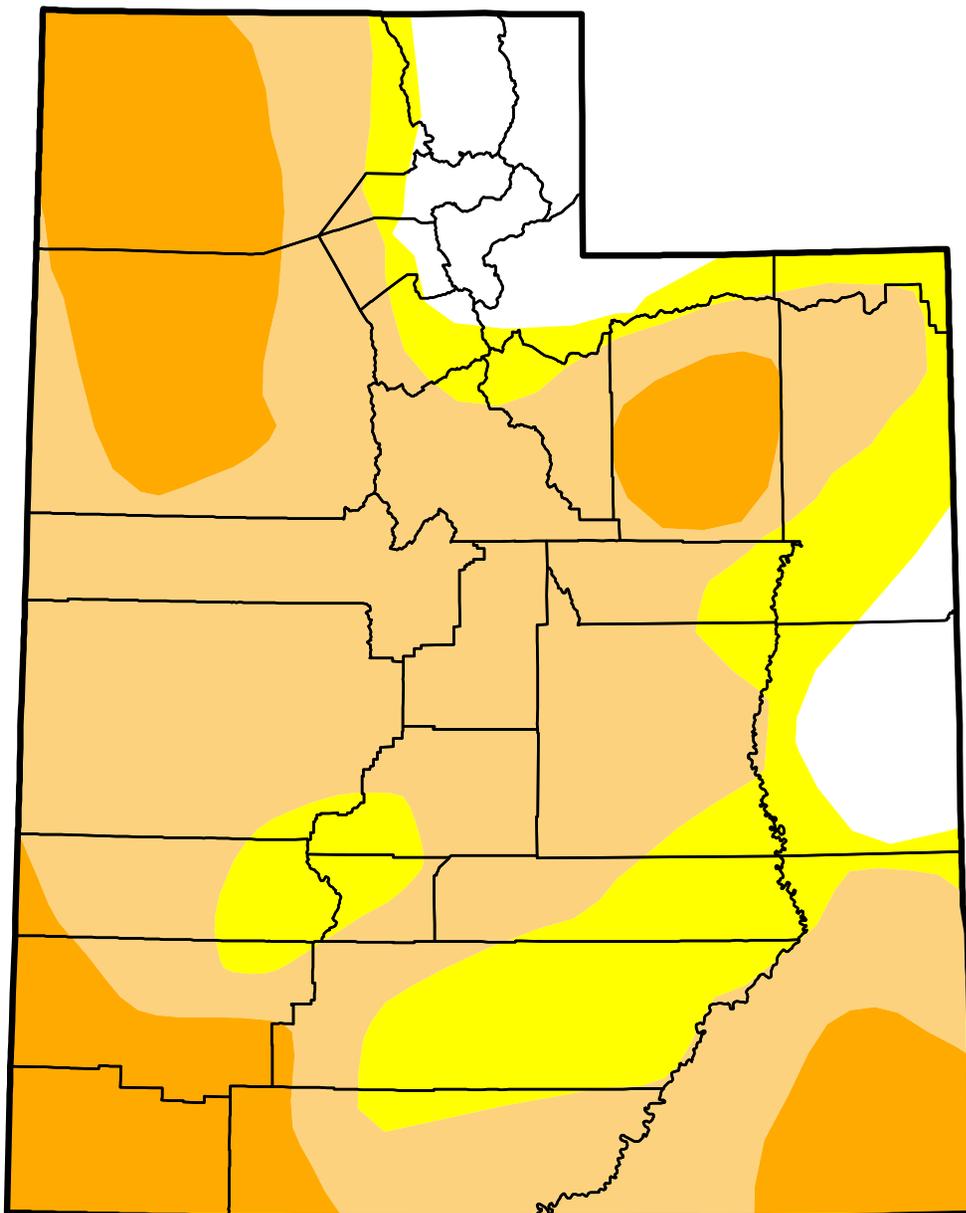
May 13, 2014

(Released Thursday, May. 15, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	9.04	90.96	72.34	21.87	0.00	0.00
Last Week <i>5/6/2014</i>	5.57	94.43	72.34	21.85	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>2/11/2014</i>	0.00	100.00	55.32	13.03	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>12/31/2013</i>	0.00	100.00	58.28	14.10	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>10/1/2013</i>	0.00	100.00	86.59	16.33	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <i>5/14/2013</i>	0.00	100.00	99.46	47.09	1.53	0.00



Intensity:

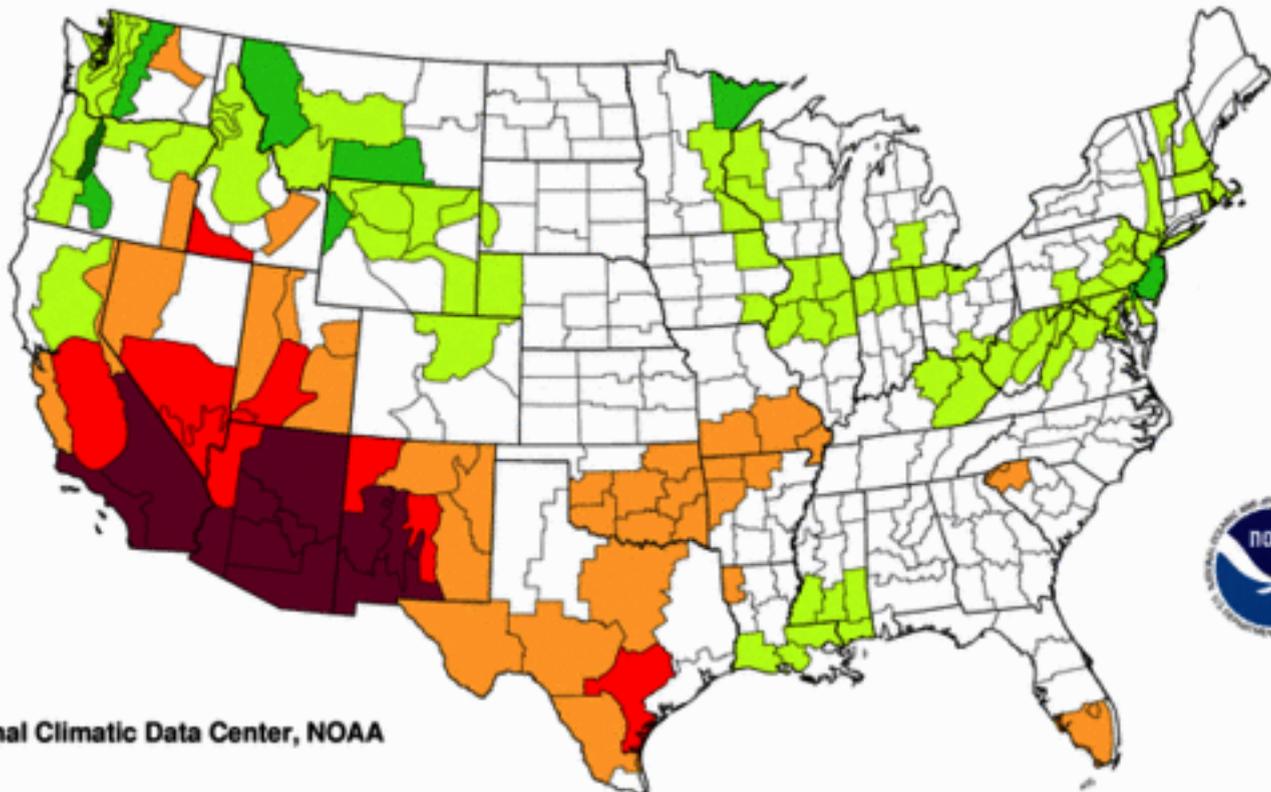
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
Mark Svoboda
National Drought Mitigation Center



Palmer Z-Index February, 2014



National Climatic Data Center, NOAA

extreme
drought



-2.75
and
below

severe
drought



-2.00
to
-2.74

moderate
drought



-1.25
to
-1.99

mid-
range



-1.24
to
+0.99

moderately
moist



+1.00
to
+2.49

very
moist



+2.50
to
+3.49

extremely
moist



+3.50
and
above