



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

Moab/Monticello Ranger District
62 East 100 North
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Moab, UT 84532
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File Code: 2210/2230
Date: April 25, 2014

Kenneth E. Bates
3021 Spanish Valley Drive or Box 165
Moab, Utah 84532

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Dear Mr. Bates:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Beaver 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
Beaver	45	Cattle	Cow/Calf	05/01 to 07/30	Kenneth Bates	Partial non-use	
Beaver	140	Cattle	Yearling	05/01 to 07/30	Kenneth Bates	Partial non-use	
Beaver	10	Cattle	Bull	05/01 to 07/30	Kenneth Bates	Partial non-use	
Beaver	65	Cattle	Cow	09/20 to 10/31	Kenneth Bates	Partial non-use	

You have requested partial non-use for resource protection for 2014. I have approved your request because of the dry conditions that may persist throughout the summer on the Beaver Allotment.

GRAZING SYSTEM AND SCHEDULE

Pasture	Number	Kind	Approximate Dates
Polar Mesa	195	Cattle	05/01 – 05/23
Rincon	195	Cattle	05/24 – 06/16
Death Trap	195	Cattle	06/17 – 07/07
Head of the Mesa	195	Cattle	07/08 – 7/30
South Beaver Mesa (East and West)*	65	Cattle	9/20- 10/31

*The old fence dividing South Beaver will be attempted to be repaired and used to split the pasture. It was discussed that water would need to be hauled in to do this and the road into South Beaver fixed.

Permitted pack and saddle stock authorized on the allotment for livestock management will not exceed four head.

Management Response to Drought Conditions

The drought in Utah is predicted to continue into this year (see enclosed). Though 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, 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 above 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 30% less in AUMs onto the Beaver allotment this year. In addition to a lowered stocking rate, you have agreed that you may need to haul water into the Rincon, Death Trap and Head of the Mesa units to get proper dispersal and use. 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 Beaver Allotment Management Plan.

The proper use criteria listed in the box below are within the ranges identified in the 1990 Forest Plan amendment. However, these more specific criteria have been established through the completion of the Beaver Allotment EA in 2011, in order to provide effective ground cover and to ensure plant recovery from grazing on the Beaver allotment.

Proper Use Criteria for Beaver Allotment

Upland Vegetation

Management System	Percent Use of Key Species		
	May/June pastures	July/Aug pastures	Sept/Oct
Deferred Rotation	40	40-50	50

Browse Utilization on Key Woody Shrubs

Browsing hits on new leaders of key upland woody shrubs should not exceed 45%.

* Key upland herbaceous and browse species selected will depend upon the plant species in the present plant community, the present ecological status, and the potential natural communities for the specific sites monitored.

Soil Disturbance**

Slopes 0-25% - No more than 30% soil disturbance

Slopes 26-40% - No more than 20% soil disturbance

Slopes over 40% - No more than 10% soil disturbance

Slopes over 40% are generally not classified as capable of supporting long-term grazing by livestock.

**This is current year disturbance attributed to cattle use within the key area monitored. Soil Disturbance includes both subsurface and surface soil alteration which adversely impacts soil health, function and productivity.

Riparian proper use criteria are not given because there are not accessible riparian areas on the Beaver allotment. However, Forest Plan Proper Use Criteria apply if there is incidental use.

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, a schedule to bring structural improvements up to Forest Service standards has been developed each year during the Annual Operating Meetings. The development of a schedule will continue in 2014.

In 2014, you agreed to complete heavy maintenance on the division fence between Rincon and Head of Mesa pastures.

In addition the 3 way fenced pond that was cleaned out in 2012 (#44033 on the permit) was blown out last fall and is not holding much water. The dam and spillway needs to be repaired.

When you complete your fence and spring/pond 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 and fail to have it inspected by Forest Service staff by **October 31, 2014** you will not be allowed to stock the allotment in 2015 until the agreement and inspection is completed and you could receive a notice of non-compliance.

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 onto the Forest. 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.

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.

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.

NEPA and PLANNED PROJECTS

An Environmental Assessment was completed for the Beaver Allotment in 2011. An Allotment Management Plan (AMP) is currently being developed to implement the decision that was made. The AMP shall become a part of Part 3 of the Term Grazing Permit. A monitoring plan is part of the AMP and a map which shows current key areas on the Beaver Allotment that are to be monitored is enclosed.

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.

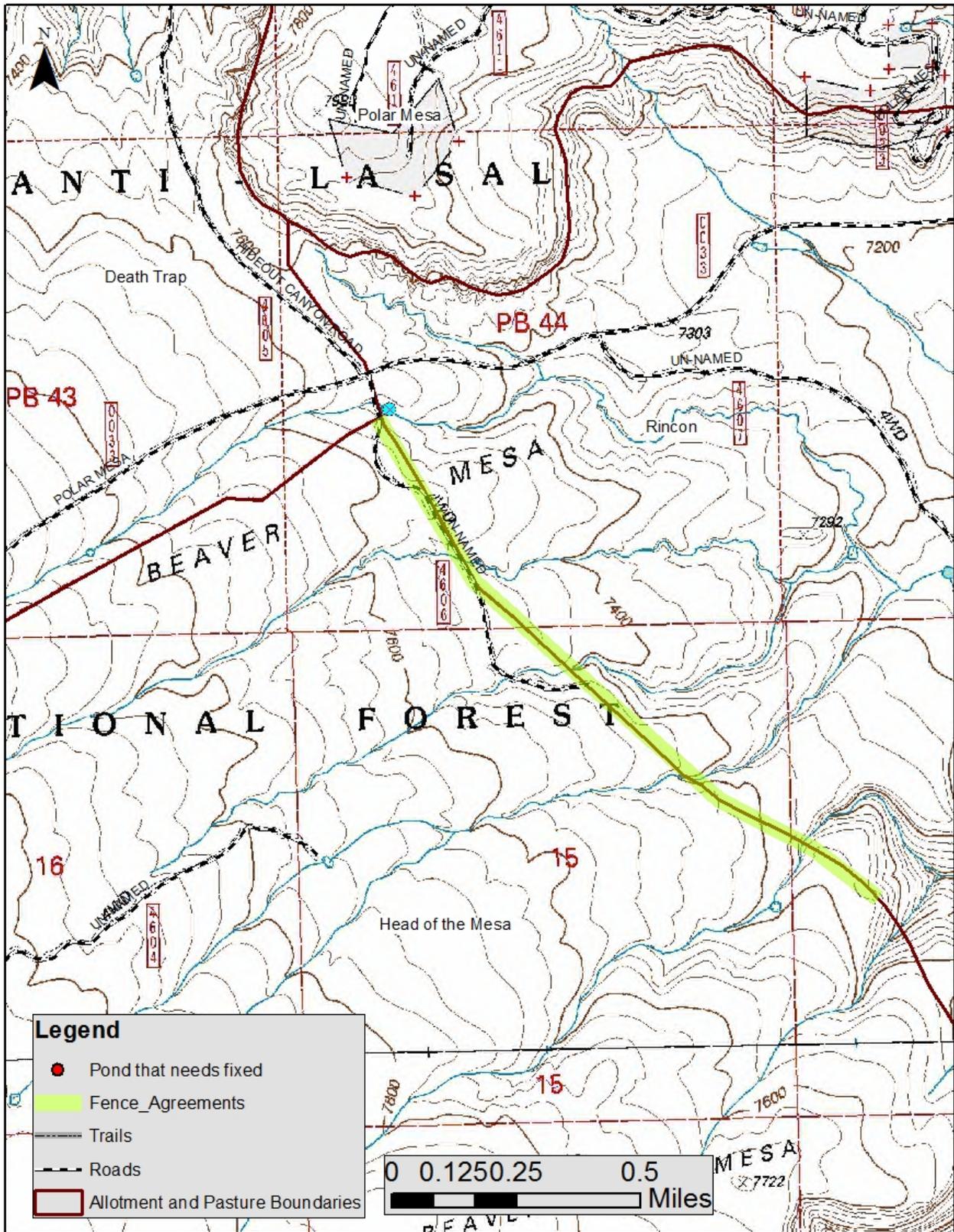
Sincerely,



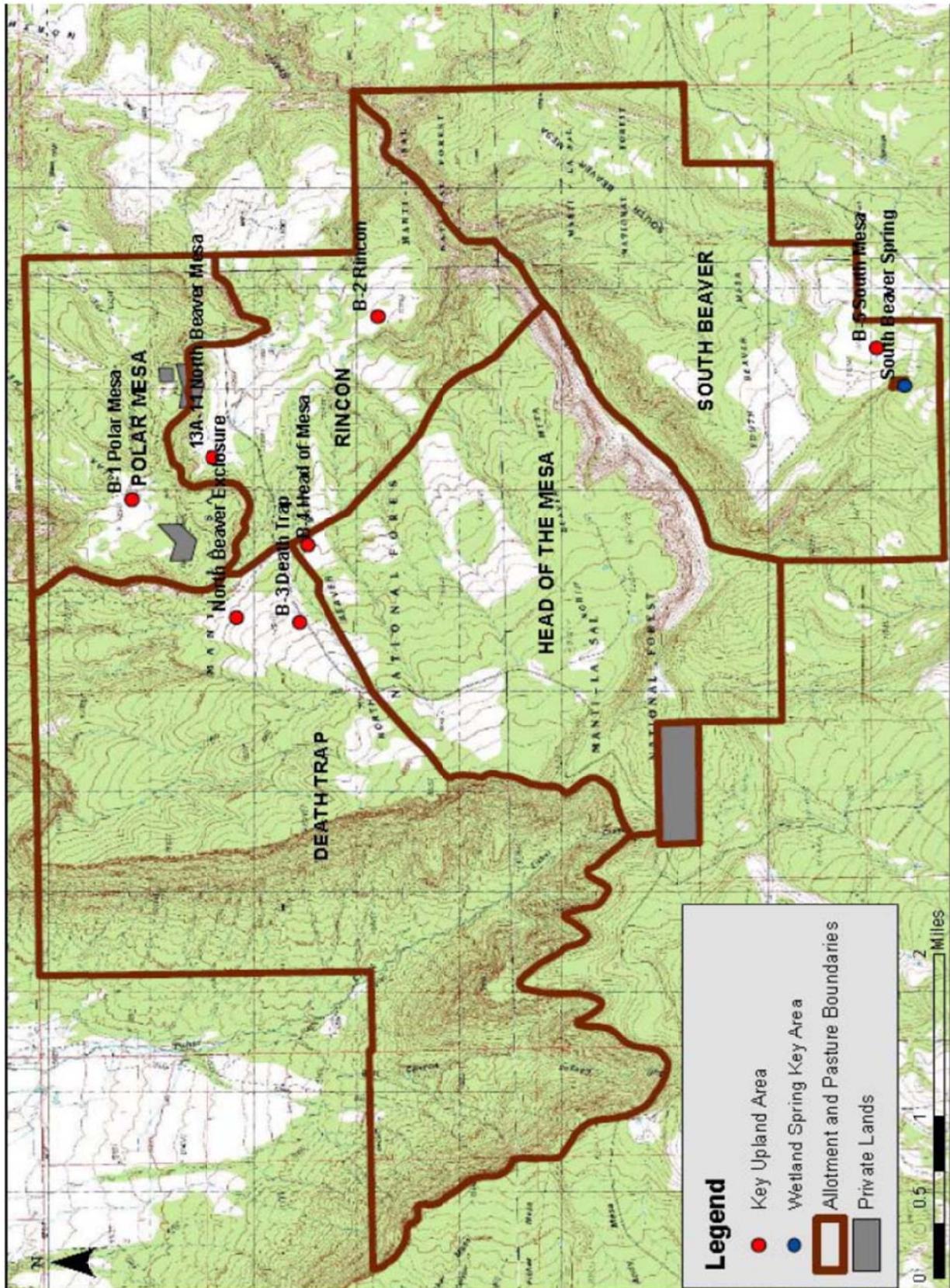
for

MICHAEL DIEM
District Ranger

2014 Fence and Spring/Pond Improvements to be worked on and inspected this year.



Key Areas for Monitoring



U.S. Drought Monitor

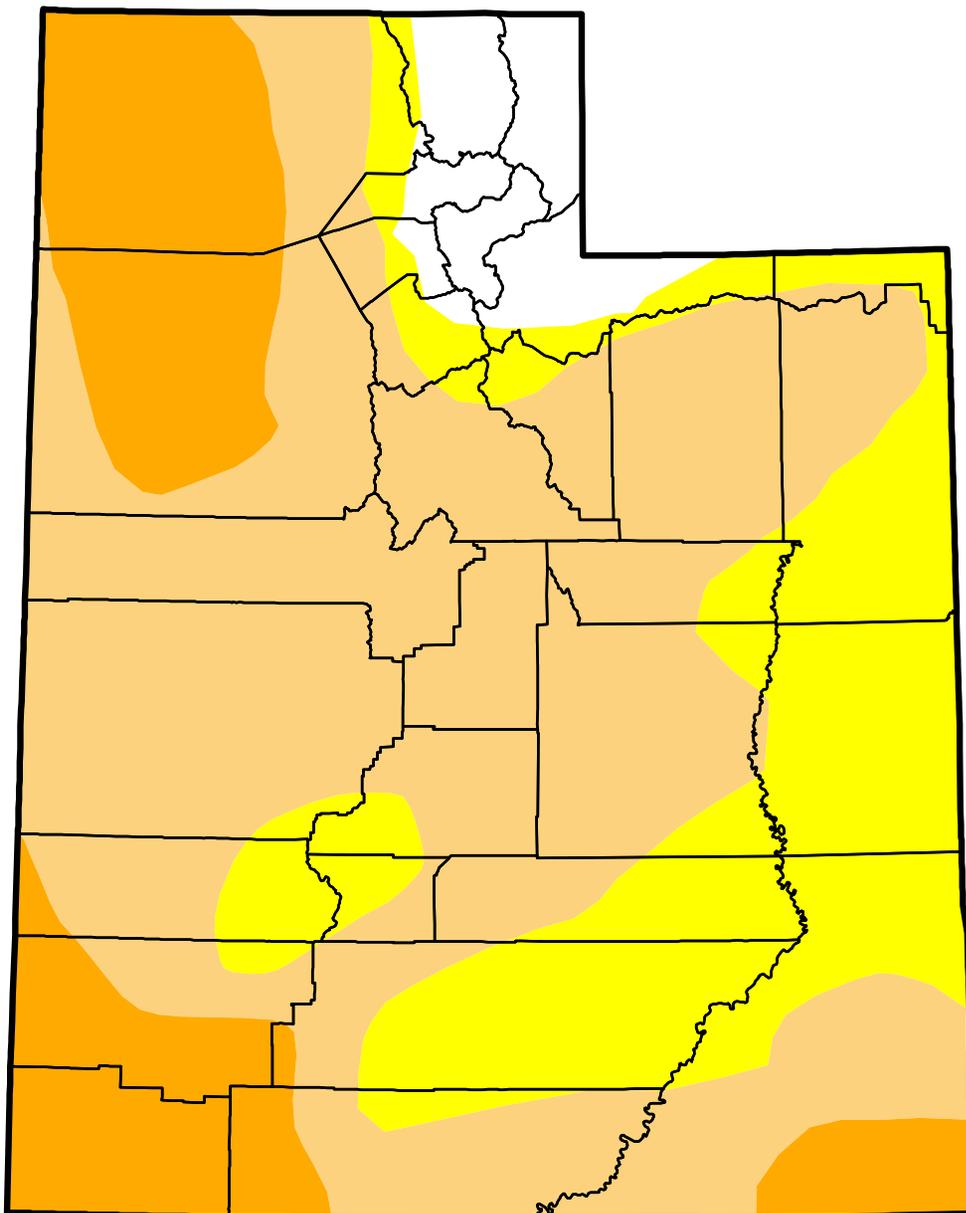
Utah

April 22, 2014
 (Released Thursday, Apr. 24, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	5.57	94.43	69.80	17.94	0.00	0.00
Last Week <i>4/15/2014</i>	5.57	94.43	69.80	17.94	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>1/21/2014</i>	0.00	100.00	58.18	14.10	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>4/23/2013</i>	0.00	100.00	96.29	49.42	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:
 Richard Heim
 NCDC/NOAA



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

