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
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File Code: 2210/2230
Date: May 20, 2014

Paul D. Redd
c/o Steven Redd
P.O. Box 624
Monticello, Utah 84535

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear Mr. Redd:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the South Paradox, North Paradox and Deep Creek C&H Allotments 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
South Paradox (Hop Creek and Two Mile Divisions)	132-600*	Cattle	Cow/Calf	Between 06/01 and 11/01	Paul D. Redd		
South Paradox (Pine Ridge Division)	16**	Cattle	Cow/Calf	11/01 to 06/10	Paul D. Redd		
North Paradox	100-540*	Cattle	Cow/Calf	Between 06/15 to 07/15	Paul D. Redd	X	
Deep Creek	23	Cattle	Cow/Calf	08/10 to 9/14	Paul D. Redd		

*Variable numbers and season permit, grazing schedule below will give numbers and dates grazed in more detail.
**Grazed in conjunction with adjacent BLM lands in the spring and fall equivalent to 16 c/c for a season from Nov 1 to June 10.

GRAZING SYSTEM AND SCHEDULE

South Paradox:

Pasture	**Number**	**Kind**	**Approximate Dates**
Hop Creek Unit	275	Cattle	06/01 – 07/10
Paradox Creek Unit/Dry Point	132	Cattle	06/06 – 07/12
Hang Dog Unit	400	Cattle	07/10 – 07/25
Two Mile Unit	600	Cattle	10/15 – 11/01
Pine Ridge	16	Cattle	Between 11/01 and 06/10

North Paradox:

Pasture	**Number**	**Kind**	**Approximate Dates**
Buckeye Unit	540	Cattle	07/10 – 07/15
Dry Point/Paradox Creek	132	Cattle	06/06 – 07/12
East Carpenter Unit	100	Cattle	06/15 – 06/25
West Carpenter Unit	100	Cattle	06/26 – 07/05
Roc Creek Unit	100	Cattle	07/06 – 07/15

Deep Creek*:

Pasture	**Number**	**Kind**	**Approximate Dates**
Deep Creek	23**	Cattle	08/10 – 09/14

*This small allotment is used in conjunction with surrounding private lands. The use on the Forested portion is estimated to be equivalent to 23 c/c for a period of Aug 1 to Oct 15.

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

Hop Creek unit will be divided by an electric fence so as to prevent livestock from traveling to the top of the unit and concentrating use there. The Forest Service will provide the materials for the fence.

<u>Management Response to Drought Conditions</u>

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 Sal Mountains (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 on grazing with about 70% lower stocking rate on the North Paradox allotment due to the recent fire and drought conditions. South Paradox has been stocked light the past two years with Paradox Creek rested last year and Hop Creek the year before that, thus no plans for a lowered stocking rate on South Paradox this year. 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 South Paradox, North Paradox and Deep Creek Allotment Management Plans.

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 South Paradox Allotment EA in 2011.

1. Forage Utilization on Key Species: Uplands

Maximum Forage Utilization Based on the Average Current Year's Growth (includes use by livestock and wildlife)			
Uplands			
Management System	Percent Use of Key Species*		
	June pastures	July-Aug pastures	Sept-Nov pastures
Deferred Rotation	40	40-50	50
Rest Rotation	40	40-50	50

Management systems that may be used on the allotment include but are not limited to those listed above.

2. Browse Utilization on Key Woody Shrubs: Riparian and Upland (non-Aspen)
Browsing hits on new leaders of key riparian (willow) and upland woody shrubs should not exceed 45%.

3. Browse Utilization on Aspen Suckering
Midseason browse should be avoided over consecutive years. Intensity of terminal leader browse should be minimized during mid- and late season. Repeat browsing of suckers within a growing season should be avoided.

4. Forage Utilization on Key Species*: Riparian, Greenline, and Wetland**

Vegetation Type	Percent Utilization by Season Used (measured in general riparian area).			Stubble Height (measured on the Greenline)	Comments
	June	July/Aug	Sept/Nov		
Greenline/Riparian Hydric Species	< 45	< 45	< 40	4-5”	Utilization at the time livestock are in the pasture, stubble height, vegetation remaining at end of the growing season.
Hydric species in wetlands** not influenced by streams	< 45	< 45	< 40	4-5”	Utilization at the time livestock are in the pasture, stubble height, vegetation remaining at end of the growing season.
Non-hydric species in riparian areas	< 45	< 45	< 40	2-3”	Utilization at the time livestock are in the pasture, stubble height, vegetation remaining at end of the growing season.

* The key species selected will depend upon the plant species in the present plant community, the present ecological status, and the desired conditions for the specific sites monitored.
**Typically perennially wetlands are not grazed, this refers to seasonal wetlands.

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, <u>even if this date is prior to the end of your grazing season.</u>** 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

Your agreed fences for 2013 still need to be inspected as well as the ponds that were agreed to be cleaned out. You indicated that they didn't get done because there was too much water in them in the fall.

North Paradox agreements were put on hold due to the fire in 2012.

As discussed during your 2014 AOI meeting:

FENCE AGREEMENTS: For 2014 in South Paradox, you have agreed to complete heavy maintenance on and bring to standard your portion of the Chicken Creek/Hang Dog boundary fence, #42020 on the permit, 1.5 miles as approximately shown on the map attached.

For North Paradox you have agreed to complete heavy maintenance on/rebuild the Buckeye division fence, #42029 in the permit, 1.5 miles as approximately shown on the map.

POND AGREEMENT: Since extra ponds were cleaned out in 2012 on South Paradox, there will be no new agreements for this allotment. The 2013 ponds still need to be cleaned and inspected.

For North Paradox we will follow up on the Bear Wallow spring that was assigned in 2011 but not completed in 2012 because of the fire. We will also evaluate the condition of other spring on the allotment.

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 **November 30th 2014**, you will not be allowed to stock the allotment in 2015 until the agreement is fulfilled and you may receive a non-compliance letter.

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 exclosures 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 was completed for the South Paradox 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 South Paradox Allotment that are to be monitored is attached.

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.

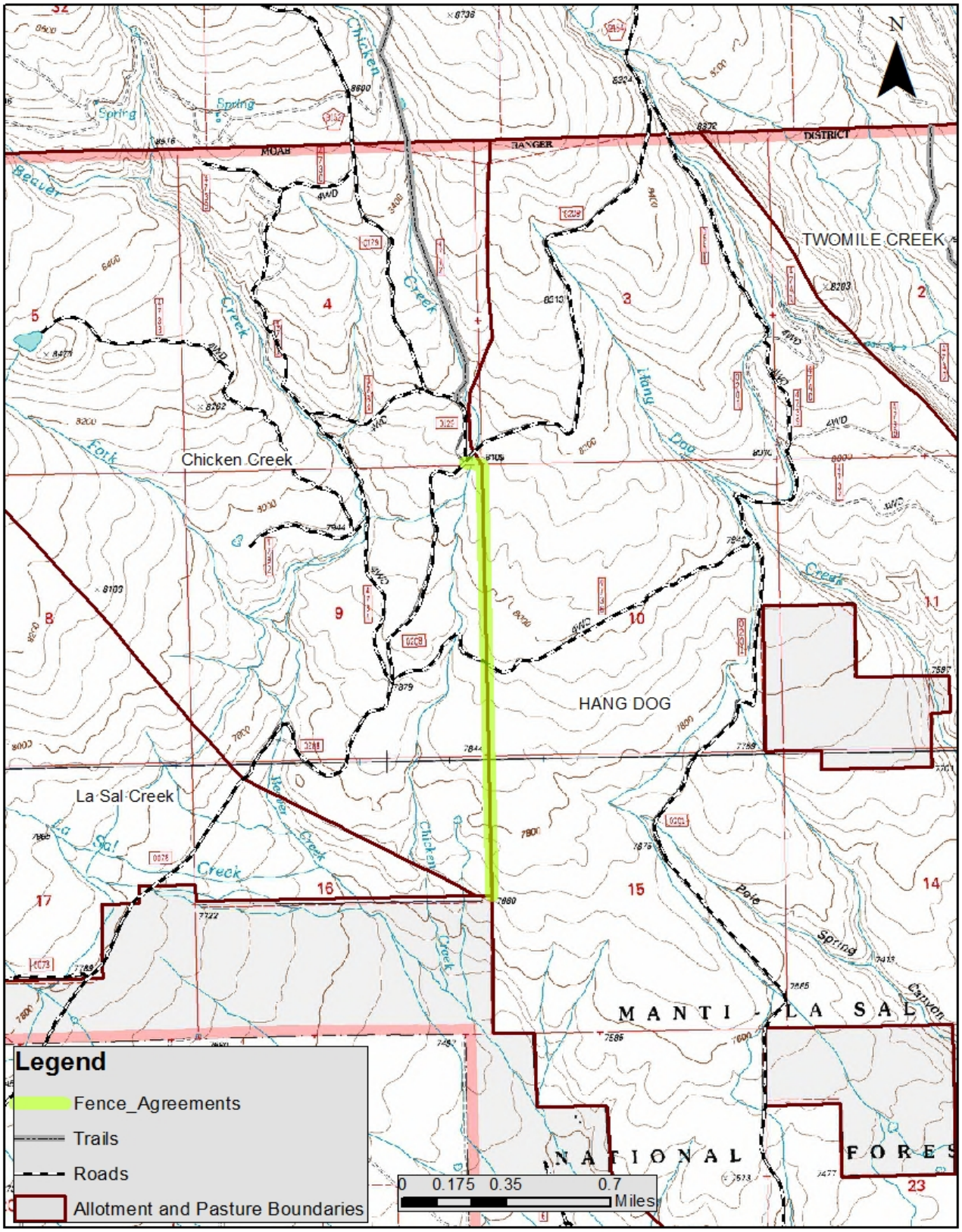
I am looking forward to working with you this summer. Please call Tina Marian (435-636-3368) if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

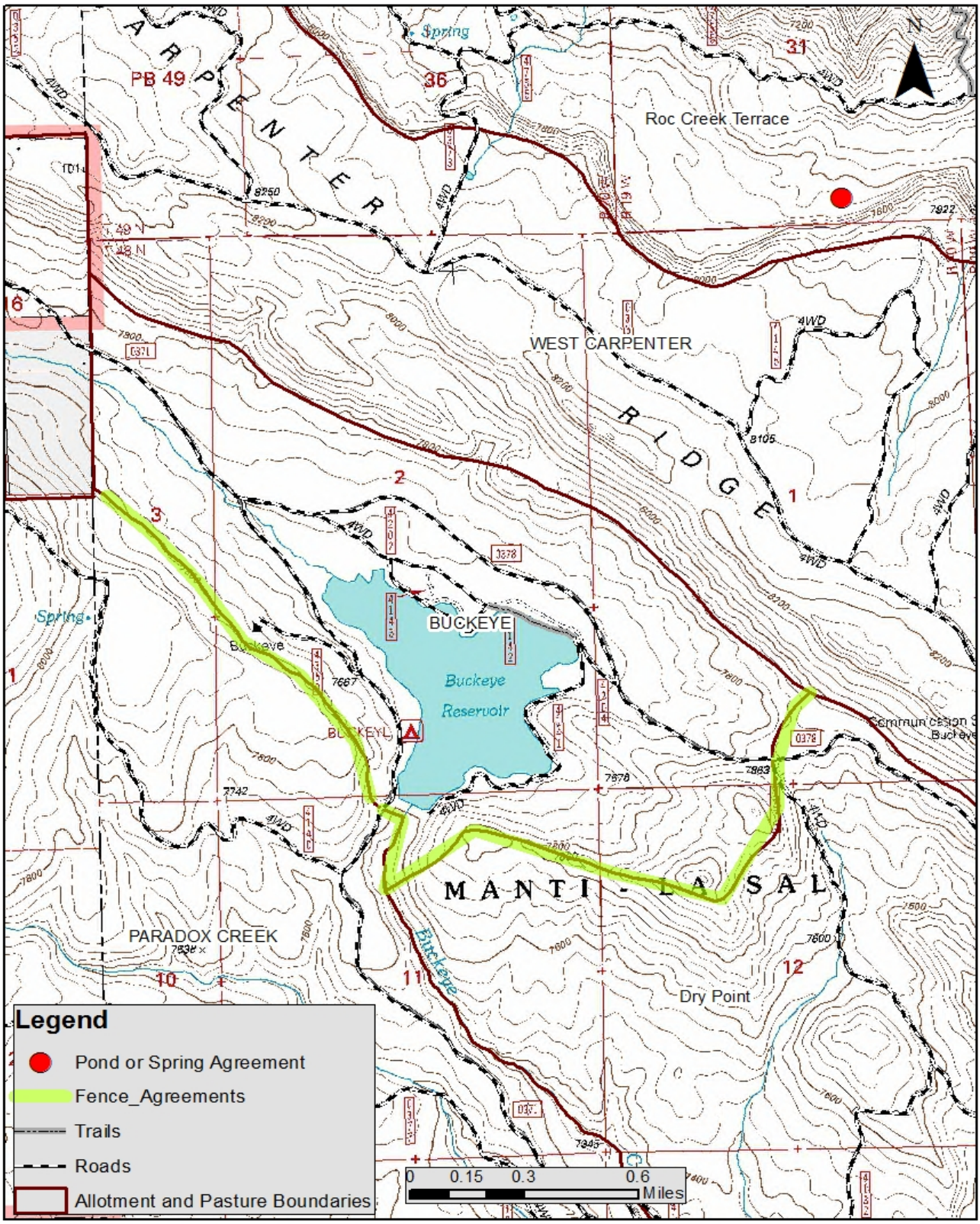
Tina Marian

for MICHAEL DIEM
District Ranger

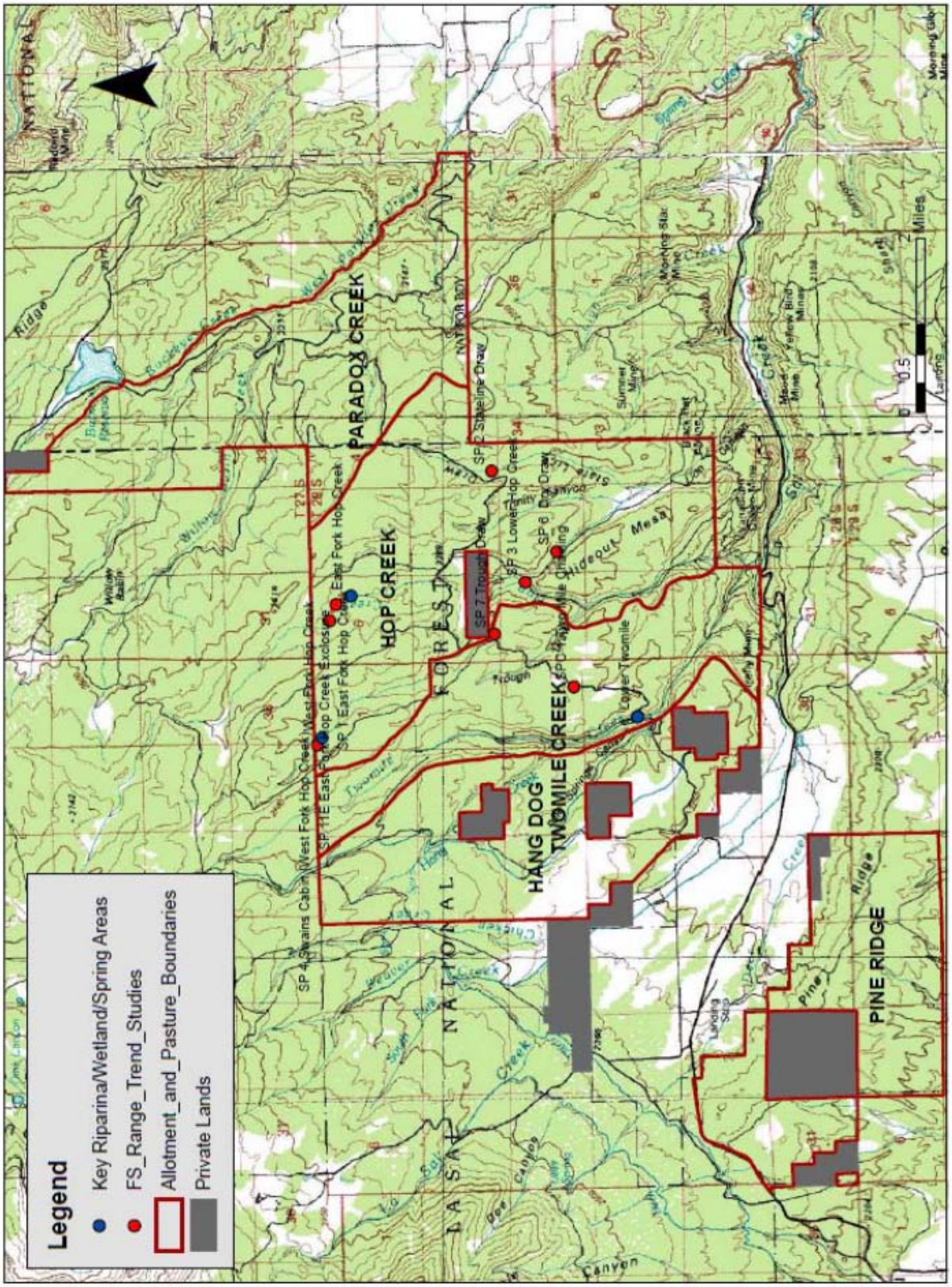
2014 South Paradox Improvement Agreements

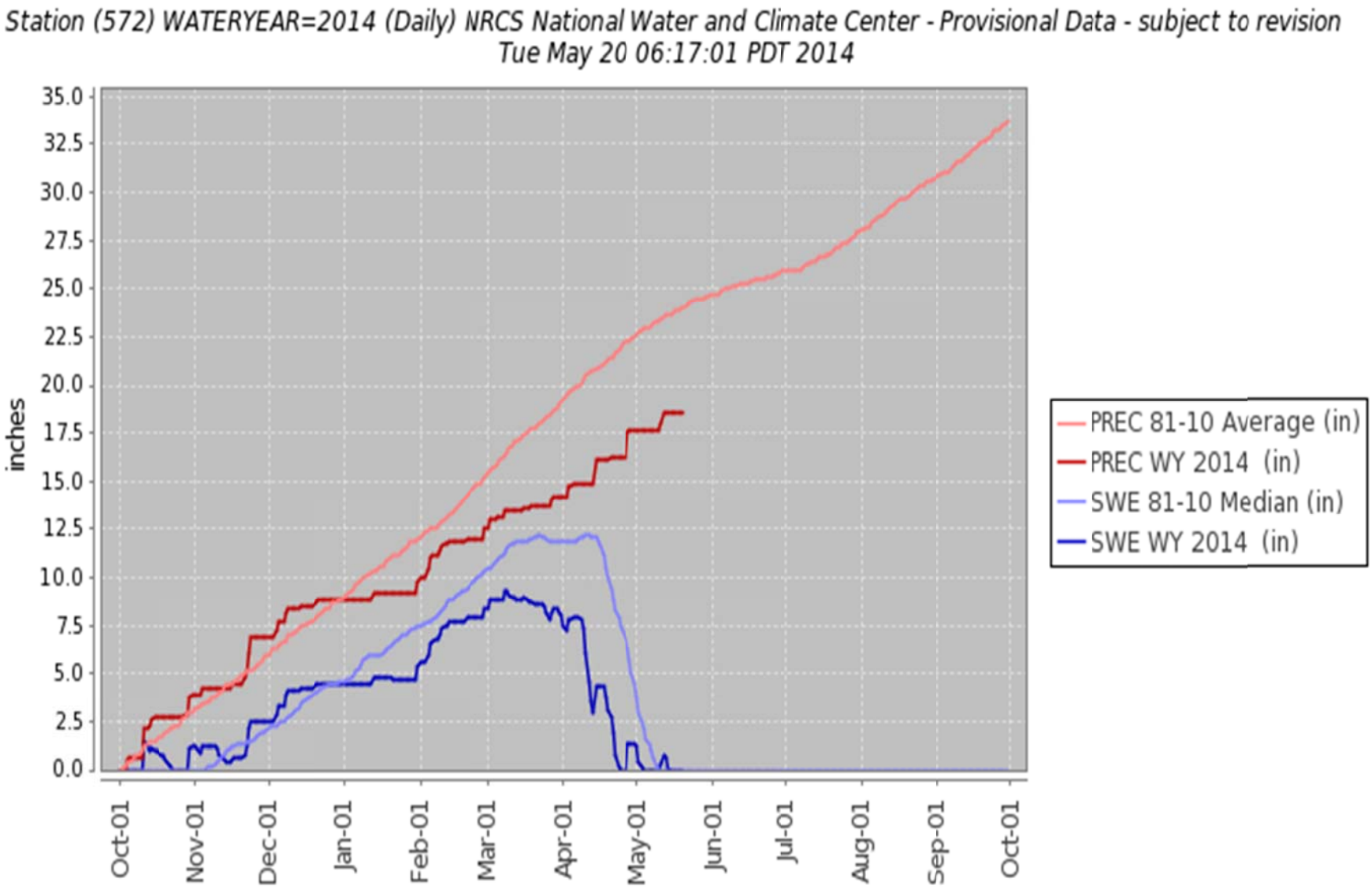


2014 North Paradox Improvement Agreements



South Paradox Key Areas Map

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Tue May 20 06:17:01 PDT 2014
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Aug-01
Sep-01
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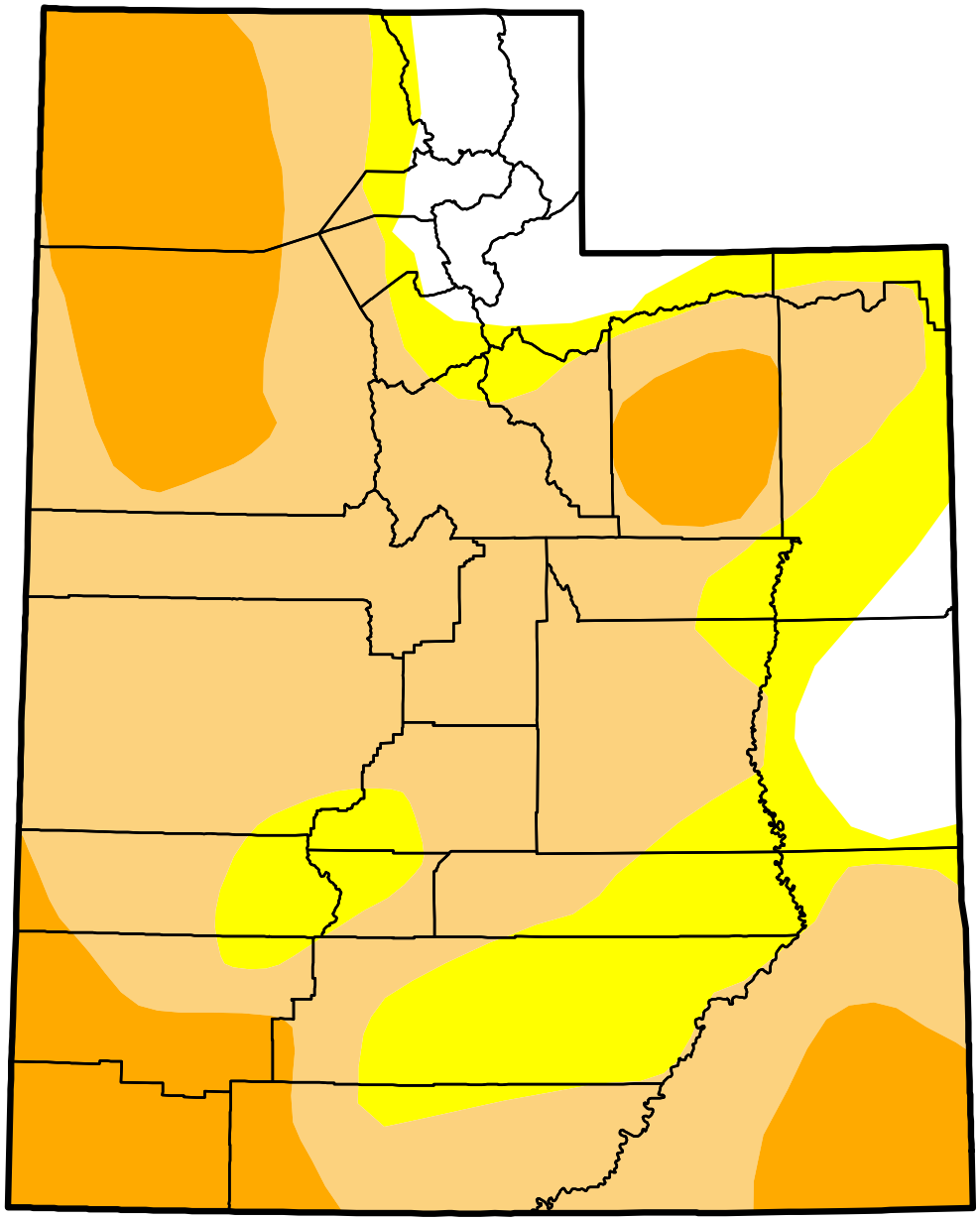
PREC 81-10 Average (in)
PREC WY 2014 (in)
SWE 81-10 Median (in)
SWE WY 2014 (in)

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 *5/6/2014*	5.57	94.43	72.34	21.85	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago *2/11/2014*	0.00	100.00	55.32	13.03	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year *12/31/2013*	0.00	100.00	58.28	14.10	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year *10/1/2013*	0.00	100.00	86.59	16.33	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago *5/14/2013*	0.00	100.00	99.46	47.09	1.53	0.00

Intensity:

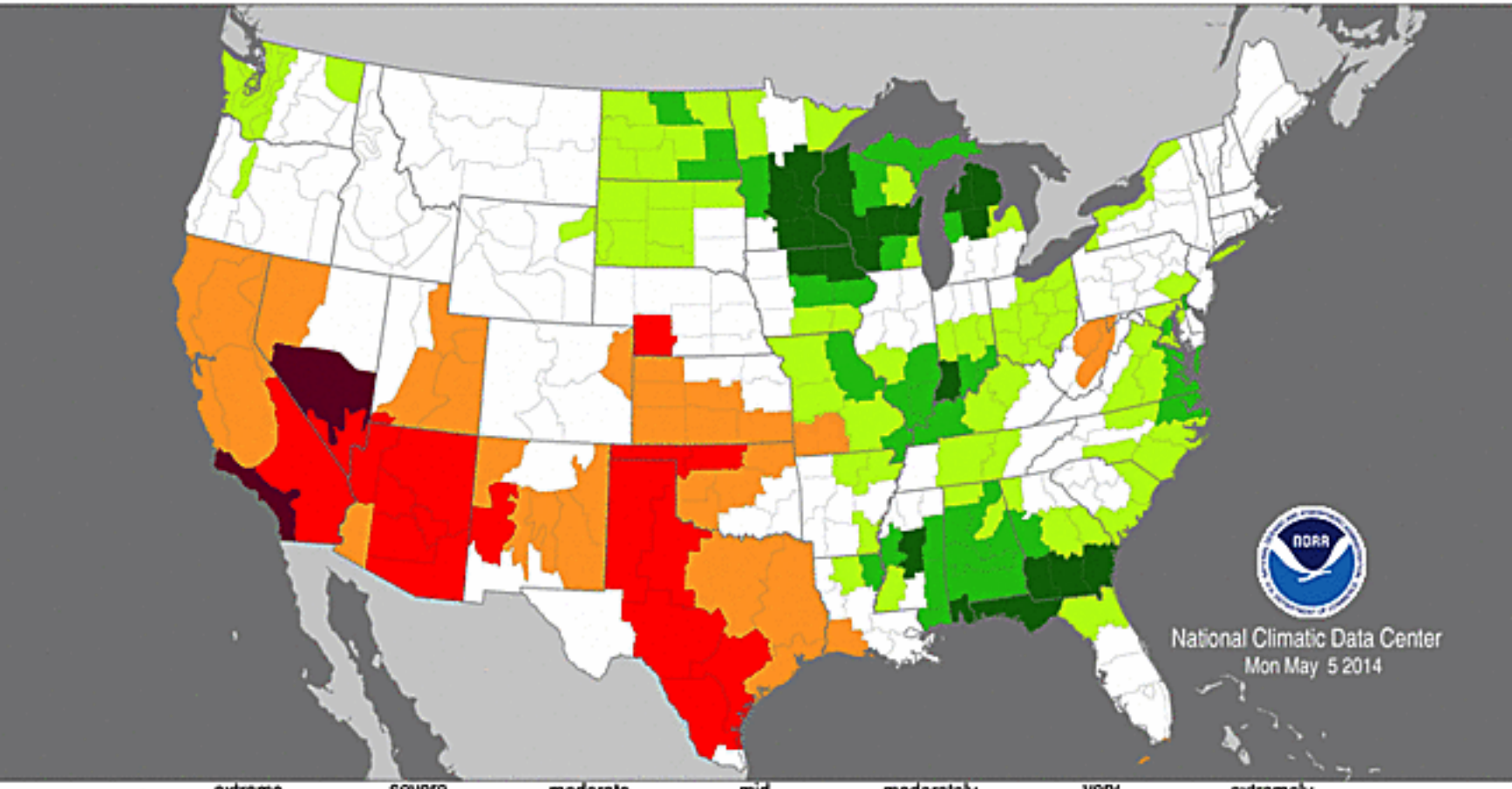
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

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

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

Palmer Z Index
Short-Term Conditions
April 2014



extreme drought	severe drought	moderate drought	mid-range	moderately moist	very moist	extremely moist
-2.75 and below	-2.00 to -2.74	-1.25 to -1.99	-1.24 to +0.99	+1.00 to +2.49	+2.50 to +3.49	+3.50 and above