



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

Moab/Monticello Ranger District
62 East 100 North
P.O. Box 386
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File Code: 2210/2230

Date: May 28, 2014

TY Cattle Company
c/o Zeb Dalton
323 North 600 West
Blanding UT 84511

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Dear Mr. Dalton:

This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Twin Springs 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
Twin Springs	500	Cattle	Cow/Calf	06/06 to 10/05	TY Cattle Company		
Twin Springs	9*	Horse	Mature	06/06 to 10/05	TY Cattle Company		

*As stated on page 5 of your permit, only 6 horses may be pastured for a period of two months between the months of July to September in Horse Pasture.

GRAZING SYSTEM AND SCHEDULE

Pasture	Number	Kind	Approximate Dates
Little Mtn Unit (used to gather on)	250-500	Cattle	06/06 – 06/20(trailing on)*
JN Unit/Little Mtn	500	Cattle	06/16 - 06/28
Kigalia **	500	Cattle	06/29 - 07/31
Dark Canyon	500	Cattle	08/01 - 08/21
Dry Mesa (except very northern end)/Government Unit	500	Cattle	08/22 – 09/10
West Flat Unit/Tree Unit	500	Cattle	09/10 – 09/30
Gathering Pasture	500	Cattle	10/01 to 10/05(trailing off)



*Livestock are being actively gathered from BLM lands into the Gathering pasture and then moved into the Tree Unit and then on to Dry Mesa and not staying in the Gathering pasture the entire time of the dates that are shown.

****Due to the lack of fence between the Twin Springs and Babylon allotment at Kigalia, I understand that there will be cattle that get onto the Babylon allotment. You will not actively herd the cows onto the Babylon allotment and you agreed to ride Babylon weekly to drive cattle back onto the Twin Spring allotment. All cattle must be removed from Babylon and the expectation is that cattle will no longer be crossing into Babylon once the herd is moved into Dark Canyon unit at the end of July.**

Permitted pack and saddle stock authorized on the allotment for livestock management will not exceed four head. This is separate from the 9 head that is on your permit and you are billed for.

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 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 not planning on lowering your stocking rate. You plan to haul water into West Flat unit if needed. 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 1983 Twin Springs AMP include:

- Meet livestock needs and the physiological needs of desirable forage.
- Increase diversity and production of desirable grass species.

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 and as given in the AMP and AOIs.

For the Twin Springs allotment proper use criteria in 2014 is:

<u>Upland Areas:</u>	<u>Use of Key Species</u>
Spring/Summer	40-45% *
Fall	50-55%

***Dry Mesa may be utilized up to 60% because the key species is mainly crested wheatgrass (see AMP).**

The AMP set a special allowable use for the Dark Canyon wilderness area at 40% of key species.

<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) regrowth	30-40% or 4-5 inches stubble or

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

Thank you for completing the new fence last year and all the associated rehabilitation of the dozer damage.

FENCE AGREEMENT: For 2014, you will reconstruct the Rig Canyon fence (#52096 on permit) where currently the old corral acts as the fence, and replace with posts and wire. Also, the Horse Pasture fence (#52101) needs some work done, but it needs to be clarified what tools can be used and what can be done. You will please plan on visiting the fence this summer with Tina or one of the range crew.

POND AGREEMENT: No new pond agreements for this year as you cleaned out several last year. However, you indicated that you would like to replace the trough at the Kigalia pond spring. The FS will provide you with a new trough and wildlife ramp to be installed.

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 **October 5, 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 exclosures on your allotment, you must receive authorization from either the Moab or Monticello Office prior to cutting.

NEPA and PLANNED PROJECTS

The Twin Springs Allotment is scheduled to have an environmental analysis completed in the next few years. Forest Service staff will be collecting data on the allotment this year and in the next few years in preparation for the analysis. You are invited and encouraged to participate in data collection and monitoring activities.

The Kigalia Fence and Water Development EA is planned to be completed this year. The water storage tank was purchase last year and the water development may be ready to implement in the fall.

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.

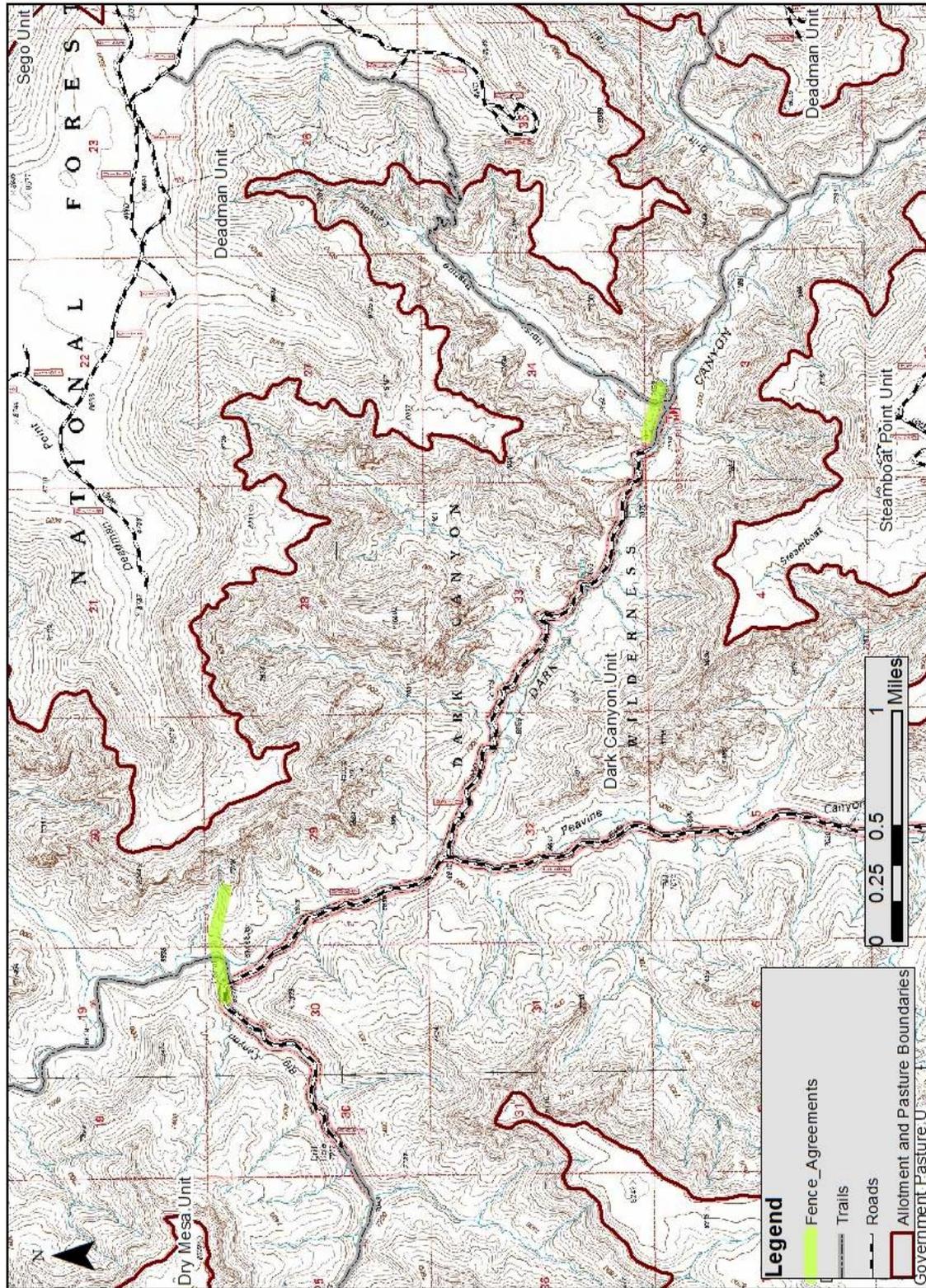
I am looking forward to working with you this summer. Please call Tina Marian (435-636-3368) if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



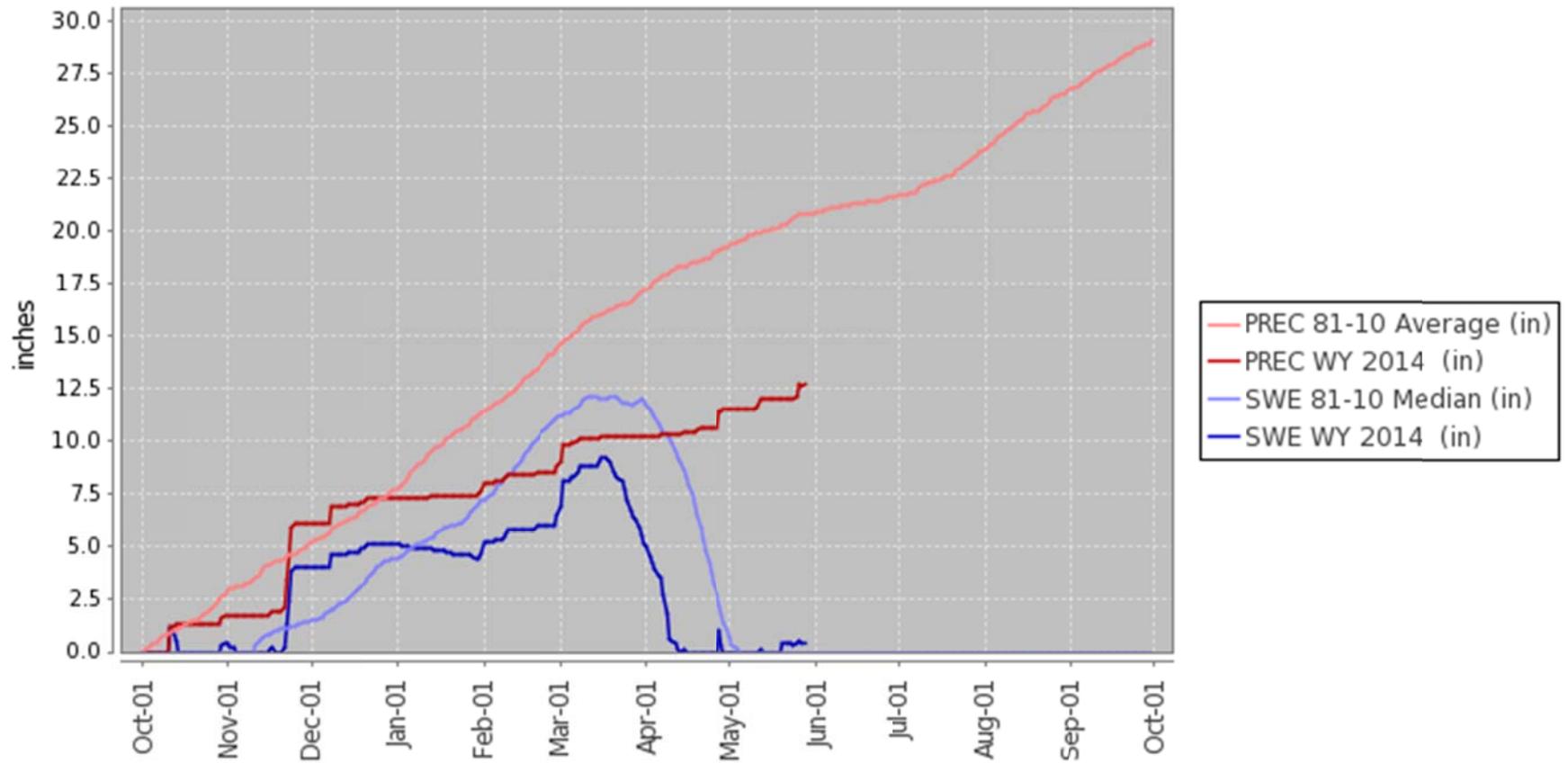
for MICHAEL DIEM
District Ranger

2014 Fence Agreements Map



Below normal precipitation so far this year.

Station (383) WATERYEAR=2014 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision
Wed May 28 13:34:42 PDT 2014



U.S. Drought Monitor

Utah

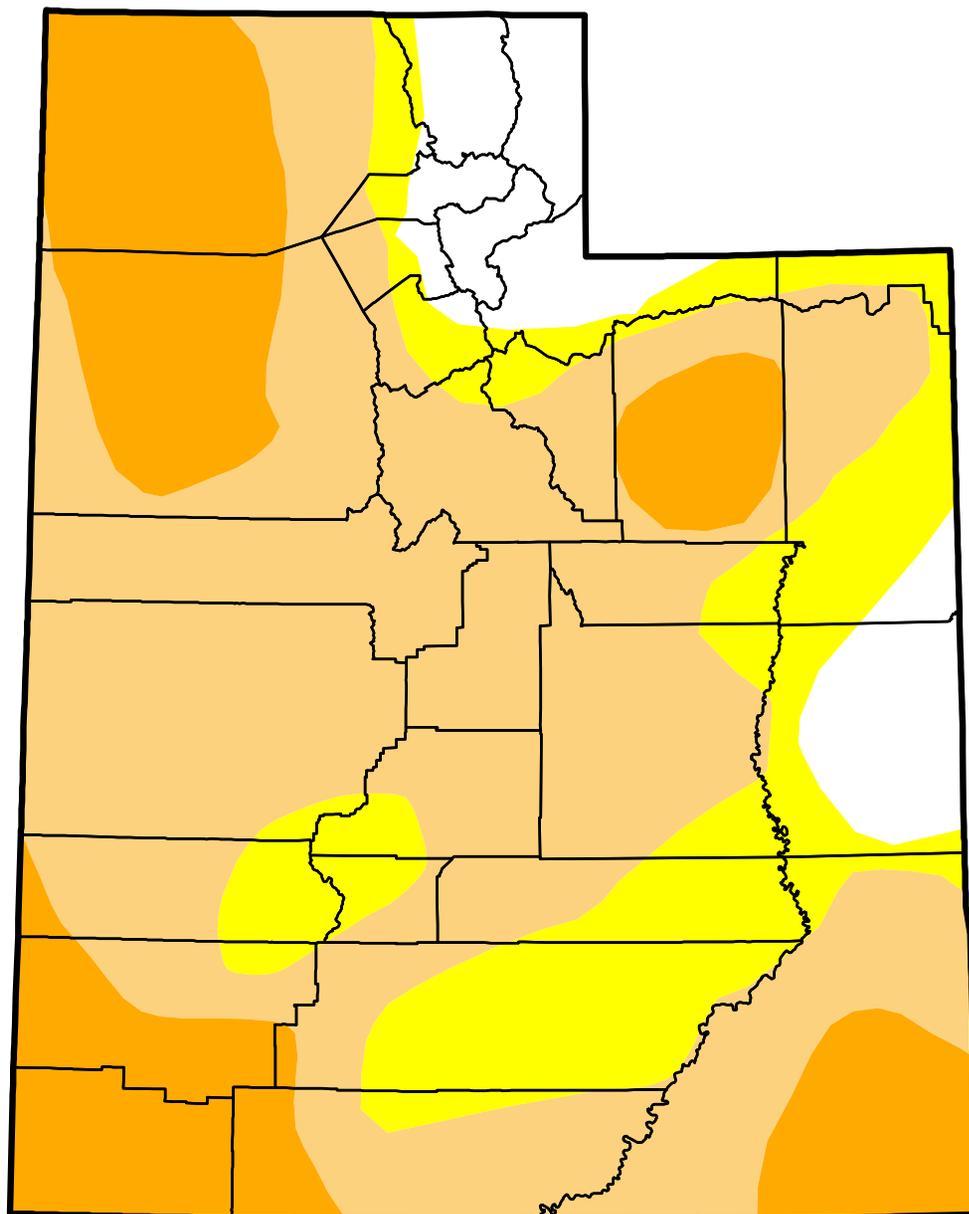
May 20, 2014

(Released Thursday, May. 22, 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>5/13/2014</i>	9.04	90.96	72.34	21.87	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>2/18/2014</i>	0.05	99.95	54.85	11.19	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>5/21/2013</i>	0.00	100.00	99.46	50.24	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:
Michael Brewer
NCDC/NOAA



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