

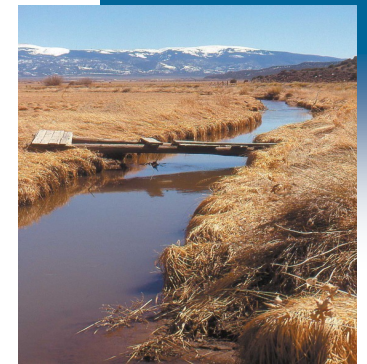
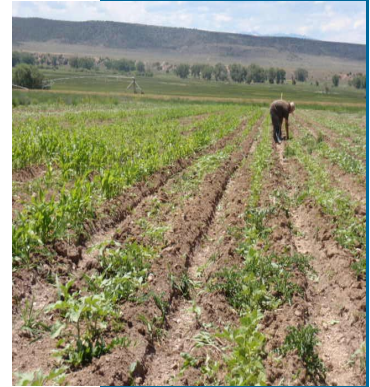


Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association

El Parciante

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El Parciante



Drought

Drought

A drought is an event of prolonged shortages in the water supply, whether atmospheric, surface water or ground water. A drought can last for months or years, it may be declared after as few as 15 days. It can have a substantial impact on the ecosystem and agriculture of the affected region and harm to the local economy. Periods of heat can significantly worsen drought conditions by hastening evaporation of water vapor. Drought is one of the natural disasters that can be reverted by nature itself. In this article, we will see what drought is, its types, causes and effects. Drought is a temporary situation in which rainfall is below normal that leads to water shortage. Even though it does not affect much initially, it has serious consequences. The precipitation be-

comes low which affects the ground and surface water. It comes under the category of natural disaster owing to changes in climate and global warming. Prolonged reduction of ground-water supplies can have a devastating effect on a farmer's crop yields. If a drought occurs soon after seeding, plants may fail to germinate; and during the later stages of development, a drought can cause entire crops to wither. However, as long as there is sufficient moisture in the top-soil to see the seedlings through the early growing stages, yields may not be affected if there is enough water stored in the sub-soil to sustain the plants through the remainder of their growth cycle. The dryness of the land also leads to soil erosion. Another problem for farmers is that drought conditions encourage the influx of invasive species, such as weeds and insects, which cause damage to crops and can be difficult to get rid of.

Drought is a temporary and natural climate feature caused by a significant decrease in precipitation over a prolonged period. Human activities, such as ground clearance and changes in land use, can exacerbate drought situations.

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Sangre De Cristo Acequia Association Mission Statement

To Preserve Acequias, Their Traditional Governance And Water Rights

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One-third of Colorado is now in a severe drought mostly in the south

58 out of 64 counties are experiencing drier than normal conditions and that could mean wildfire trouble and result in crop losses

Drought conditions are setting in across most of Colorado, and that has top state officials worried about wildfire, crop losses and water restrictions.

Nearly 83% of Colorado is experiencing abnormally dry conditions and 33% is reporting extreme or severe drought, as of Tuesday, the U.S. Drought Monitor reported, up slightly from the week before.

A year ago, none of the state was experiencing drought conditions.

The driest conditions are in the southern plains and in southwest Colorado, where wind-driven wildfires are burning in four locations.

“What makes or breaks a fire season is ignition and wind,” Tim Mathewson, a meteorologist at the Bureau of Land Management said. “This year, we have had some hellacious wind events.”

So far, confined to southwest Colorado, and nothing like the 2002 and 2012 seasons that began in the spring and affected the entire state, the conditions are ready for ignition, whether the fires are caused by nature or humans,

Mathewson said.

“It’s been busy, but it still does not rank up to our biggest ones,” he said.

But that could change within the next few weeks.

The Southwest Monsoon, which comes annually to Arizona, New Mexico and parts of Colorado in July, brings moisture — and its trademark thunderstorms and flooding — from southern Mexico and is important to farmers and ranchers in the region. This year, the monsoon is expected to relieve dry conditions in the southern parts of Colorado and lower the risk of wildfires there.

“In seven to 10 days, we hope to be talking about the first moisture pulse coming out of the southwest,” he said. “The onset of the Southwest Monsoon is the first sign that fire and drought season will

start moving north.”

The abnormally dry conditions also have implications for farmers and ranchers and so Gov. Jared Polis has activated the state Drought Task Force. The panel, made up of the departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Local Affairs, Public Safety and the Colorado Water Conservation Board, will assess the potential damage to Colorado’s \$8 billion agricultural economy.

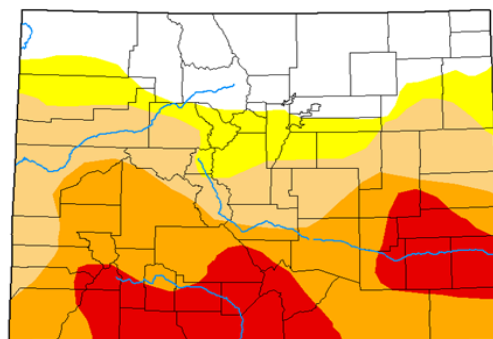
“It doesn’t necessarily mean that there are impacts currently affecting communities, but it does mean that the U.S. Drought Monitor is showing drier conditions than are optimal,” said Sara Leonard spokeswoman for the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

The task force will meet weekly and use information ranging from on-the-ground reports from farmers to satellite images, to discuss actions that could be taken to aid communities experiencing effects of the drought, Leonard said.

Written by Lauren Irwin The Colorado Sun

U.S. Drought Monitor
Colorado

May 26, 2020
(Released Thursday, May 28, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:
None
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. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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National Drought Mitigation Center





San Luis Peoples Ditch

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Calendar

- Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Meeting – the second Tuesday of each month. Beginning at 2:00 pm in Alamosa.
- SdCAA Monthly Meeting— The second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM Via Zoom meeting. Have an event you want readers to know about? Please send the information to Nancy Escalante at Sangredecristo-acequia@gmail.com

Water Use

Water in any stream, or river in Colorado is an adjudicated right . Therefore, it belongs to the water right holder, Acequia water is no different. The water that flows through the Culebra Watershed Acequias belongs to the parciantes (landowners) on the acequia, who use the water to irrigate their land. Using the water without this right is stealing and is in direct violation of Colorado Law.