

STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Governor's Memorandum of Potential Drought Emergency

TO: Executive Directors, Departments of State Government

FROM: John Hickenlooper, Governor, State of Colorado *JH*

RE: Expanded Activation of the Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan

DATE: May 21, 2012

In addition to lingering drought conditions from last year in southern Colorado, drought conditions have developed in the northern and central mountains of Colorado to the degree that counties in the Yampa/ White, Colorado and Gunnison River Basins are likely to receive severe impacts to their environments and to the various sectors of their economy. If present trends continue, other river basins and sectors of the entire state's economy may also be affected.

Under these circumstances, and based on a recommendation from the Directors from the Departments of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Local Affairs, We have decided to expand the activation of the State's Drought Mitigation and Response Plan to include the northern and central mountains of Colorado so that specific impacts may be identified, and expeditious and effective remedial action may be taken.

As of the date of this memorandum, the Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan will be in effect for the northern and central mountains of Colorado including the Yampa/ White, Colorado and Gunnison River Basins; as well as southeastern and south central Colorado including the Arkansas and Rio Grande River Basins, which were activated in May of 2011. The following actions, as specified in the Plan will be taken:

- 1) Drought Task Force will be activated under chairmanship of directors from the Departments of Natural Resources, Local Affairs, and Agriculture. They will continue to meet regularly during the period of activation.
- 2) The Agricultural Impact Task Forces (ITF) will remain in activation to continue to address impacts from the long term drought in southeastern and south central Colorado. No additional ITF will be formally activated at this time; however, all ITFs should be on notice should conditions deteriorate.
- 3) All addressees will assign: (1) A senior level manager who can commit the resources of the department to act as a drought coordinator and (2) Task Force chairpersons and participants as indicated the Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan.
- 4) Lead agencies will be prepared to take action for drought response and to mitigate drought impacts as appropriate.