



COLORADO

Governor Jared Polis

To: Executive Directors, Departments of State Government
From: Jared Polis, Governor, State of Colorado
Date: June 22, 2020
RE: Activation of the Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan

Drought conditions have developed throughout southern Colorado to the degree that forty counties are likely to experience severe impacts to their ecosystems and to various sectors of their economy, particularly agriculture. The impacted counties include: Montezuma, La Plata, Archuleta, Conejos, Costilla, Las Animas, Baca, Prowers, Bent, Otero, Huerfano, Alamosa, Rio Grande, Mineral, Hinsdale, San Juan, Dolores, San Miguel, Ouray, Montrose, Mesa, Delta, Gunnison, Garfield, Eagle, Pitkin, Chaffee, Saguache, Fremont, Custer, Pueblo, Crowley, Kiowa, Cheyenne, Lincoln, El Paso, Elbert, Kit Carson, Washington and Yuma.

All of these counties are experiencing severe or extreme drought as classified by the [US Drought Monitor](#). If present trends continue, other regions and sectors of the state's economy may also be affected.

Under these circumstances, and based on a recommendation from the Water Availability Task Force and Directors from the Departments of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Public Safety and Local Affairs, I have decided to activate the State's Drought Mitigation and Response Plan 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 is in effect for the above listed counties and 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. The first meeting of the Task Force will be held within seven days of receipt of this memorandum.
2. The following Impact Task Force (ITF) will be formally activated: Agriculture. The ITF chairpersons will call their first meeting as soon as possible after the Drought Task Force meeting. All other ITFs should be on notice should conditions deteriorate.
3. The Drought Task Force Lead Agencies, will assign a senior level manager who can commit the resources of the department and act as a drought coordinator. Other state agencies and the Colorado Water Center at Colorado State University will provide Task Force chairpersons and participants as indicated in the State's Drought Plan.
4. Lead agencies will be prepared to take action for drought response and to mitigate drought impacts as appropriate.

Should you have questions about the role of your agency during this activation please contact Megan Holcomb, Sr. Climate Specialist, at 720-772-6928 or at megan.holcomb@state.co.us.

Sincerely,



Jared Polis
Governor

