



COLORADO

Governor Jared Polis

Governor's Memorandum of Potential Drought Emergency

To: Executive Directors, Departments of State Government

From: Jared Polis, Governor, State of Colorado

Date: Sept 21, 2020

RE: Expansion of the Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan

On June 22, 2020, Phase 2 of the State Drought Mitigation and Response Plan was activated for forty Colorado counties, primarily in southern and eastern Colorado, to better respond to evolving drought conditions. Since June, record-breaking summer temperatures and well-below average precipitation has caused 2020 drought conditions to expand across the entirety of the state. As of August 25th, abnormally dry conditions (D0-D4 categories) covered 100% of the state.

Exceptional (D4) drought conditions returned to Colorado and continue to hold in Kiowa county; 50% of Colorado is currently experiencing extreme (D3) drought conditions; and 39% of the state is under severe (D2) drought (according to the Sept. 17th US Drought Monitor). As of the [September 4th record](#), USDA drought disaster designations are active for 59 of 64 Colorado counties. Record breaking temperatures statewide are projected to persist over the next three months, meaning imminent relief is unlikely.

Based on current conditions, projected climate outlooks, and recommendations from the Drought and Agriculture Impact Task Forces, I have decided to expand Phase 2 activation of the Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan for our state's remaining 24 counties. These counties include: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin, Grand, Jackson, Jefferson, Lake, Larimer, Logan, Moffat, Morgan, Park, Phillips, Rio Blanco, Routt, Sedgwick, Summit, Teller, and Weld. All of these counties are experiencing severe or extreme drought as classified by the [US Drought Monitor](#). If present trends continue and other sectors of the state's economy become notably affected, additional impact task forces may be activated.

The Drought Task Force and Agriculture Impact Task Force, will continue to lead state response and mitigation efforts as indicated in the State's Drought Plan. 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

