



New Mexico Drought Task Force

New Mexico Drought Plan

Update: November 2003



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Introduction

Governor Gary Johnson created the New Mexico Drought Task Force by Executive Order in 1996. The five-member Task Force was chaired by the Cabinet Secretary of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources and consisted of three Cabinet Secretaries, the State Engineer, and a member of the Office of the Governor. The New Mexico Drought Plan, Volumes I and II, were published in 2002 under Governor Johnson's leadership.

Governor Bill Richardson created the current New Mexico Drought Task Force by Executive Order 2003-019 in the Spring of 2003. The twelve-member Task Force is chaired by the State Engineer and includes Cabinet Secretaries from the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Department of Environment, Department of Finance and Administration, Department of Agriculture, Department of Tourism, and Economic Development Department; Executive Directors from the New Mexico Finance Authority and the Office of Indian Affairs; Directors of the Interstate Stream Commission and the Office of Emergency Management of DPS; and the Director of Policy and Planning from the Office of the Governor (Appendix A).

The year 2003 is the fourth year of New Mexico's current drought. The latest predictions call for a likely continuance and deepening of the drought. To meet ever-increasing needs, Drought Task Force activities are taking a two-pronged approach - increased emergency assistance and further advance planning to identify and reduce New Mexico's vulnerabilities to drought. Current activities emphasize identifying regions and groups that are most at risk and taking action to help them meet their immediate needs and reduce their future risks.

The New Mexico Drought Task Force has created five Work Groups to build upon the efforts of previous subgroups and address specific sectors impacted by drought. The current groups were convened in the Summer of 2003 and have been working to determine their sector's vulnerabilities to drought, formulate plans and policy proposals for the Drought Task Force to mitigate drought impact, and take action to reduce the impact of drought on their sector. The Work Groups provide a means for representation and participation by a broad spectrum of stakeholders for each sector impacted by drought, with representatives from Federal, State, Tribal, local, and private organizations.

Emergency response to drought conditions, whether drinking water emergencies or fire suppression, should be an important component of the Drought Plan. Some of this is covered in the description of each Work Group's ongoing activities, but in the future, this element of the Drought Plan needs to be expanded.

In addition, there are numerous state government divisions and agencies that should have drought plans. One example is the State Parks Division of NMEMNRD, which is

updating and expanding its plan. This document does not include these plans, which in the future should probably be incorporated so that New Mexico citizens will have easy access to all state drought planning activities.

Drought is essentially a human construct. The increase in New Mexico's population over the past several decades has dramatically increased our vulnerability to drought. It is therefore critical to both inform and educate New Mexico residents about drought conditions and the threats posed to the environment, to our economy, and to our health. There is much that the general public can do to conserve water and mitigate the local impacts of drought. Each of the Drought Task Force Work Groups have outreach programs in operation or planned for the immediate future to inform and educate the public and gain support for and active participation in drought mitigation activities.

Drought Conditions Update

CURRENT DROUGHT STATUS

Since August 2003, there have been only two significant precipitation events in New Mexico:

- Some heavy rain fell over extreme North and Northwest New Mexico September 9 – 11.
- Another event around October 7 – 8 was focused in an area from the Gila through the Rio Grande Valley and Central Highlands to a small portion of the Eastern Plains. This event produced the heaviest 24-hour rainfall in Albuquerque since the spring of 1998.

Despite these two precipitation events, drought conditions have not improved over New Mexico, and have actually worsened in the South.

- Conditions have especially deteriorated over Southwest New Mexico, where 40 – 50 percent of the annual precipitation usually falls during July and August.
- This past summer, rain was spotty and light over much of New Mexico.

Short-term drought indices showed some improvement over the Northwest and extreme North where summer rainfall was greatest, but these indices exhibited virtually no change elsewhere.

- The weekly Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) is negative in all climate regions of the state except the Northwest Plateau and remains between –4 and –5 over the Central Highlands covering the area from east of Albuquerque through the Capitan and Sacramento Mountains.
- PDSI Values of less than –4 indicate Extreme Drought.

Long-term indices continue to show the effect of precipitation deficits over the past 18 – 72 month period. The following table shows the short-term PDSI and long-term lowest Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) for climate divisions in New Mexico. Please note that the deficits are average values for each climate division.

Climate Division	PDSI (Sept Avg)	Lowest SPI	Precipitation Deficit
Northwest Plateau	+0.8	-0.7 (24-month)	2 – 4 inches
Northern Mountains	-2.1	-2.3 (30-month)	10 – 15 inches
Northeast Plains	-0.4	-1.3 (30-month)	5 – 8 inches
West-Central Mtns	-2.5	-1.1 (24-month)	2 – 4 inches
Central Valley	-2.5	-1.1 (24-month)	3 – 6 inches
Central Mountains	-5.1	-1.8 (30-month)	8 – 12 inches
Southeast Plains	-2.8	-1.4 (30-month)	7 – 9 inches
Southern Desert	-2.9	-1.9 (24-month)	5 – 10 inches

Some of the larger precipitation deficits since the beginning of 1999 (57 months) include:

- Las Vegas -25.18 inches
- Los Alamos -24.23 inches
- Ruidoso -18.93 inches
- Capitan -18.61 inches
- T or C -17.28 inches
- Santa Fe -16.10 inches
- Gila Hot Springs -15.99 inches

Fire danger is moderate to high over most of New Mexico with a few areas that are very high to extreme over the North and Northeast. Fuels will continue to dry out until winter storms arrive.

Soils are still suffering from multi-year deficits over a large portion of New Mexico.

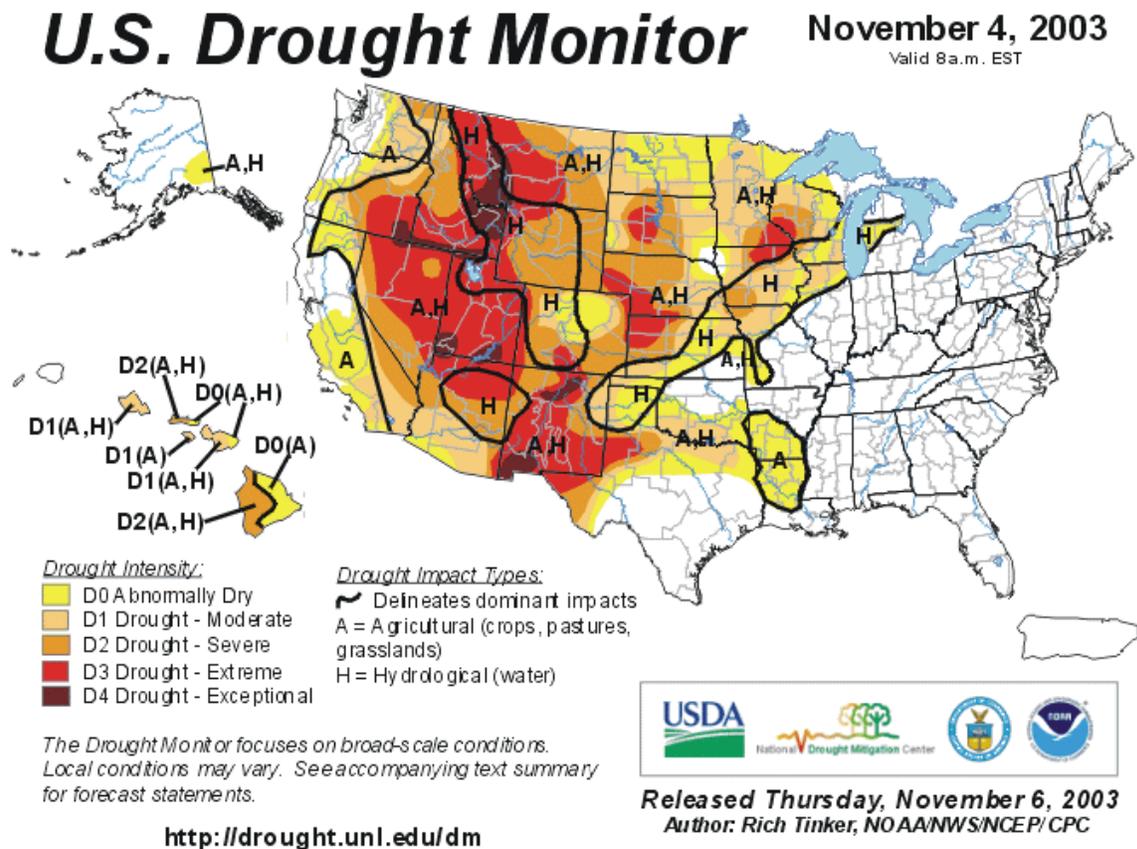
- According to the US Department of Agriculture, 79 percent of New Mexico range and pastureland is in poor to very poor condition. This is unchanged from last

month and is second worst in the nation, with California being the worst at 90 percent.

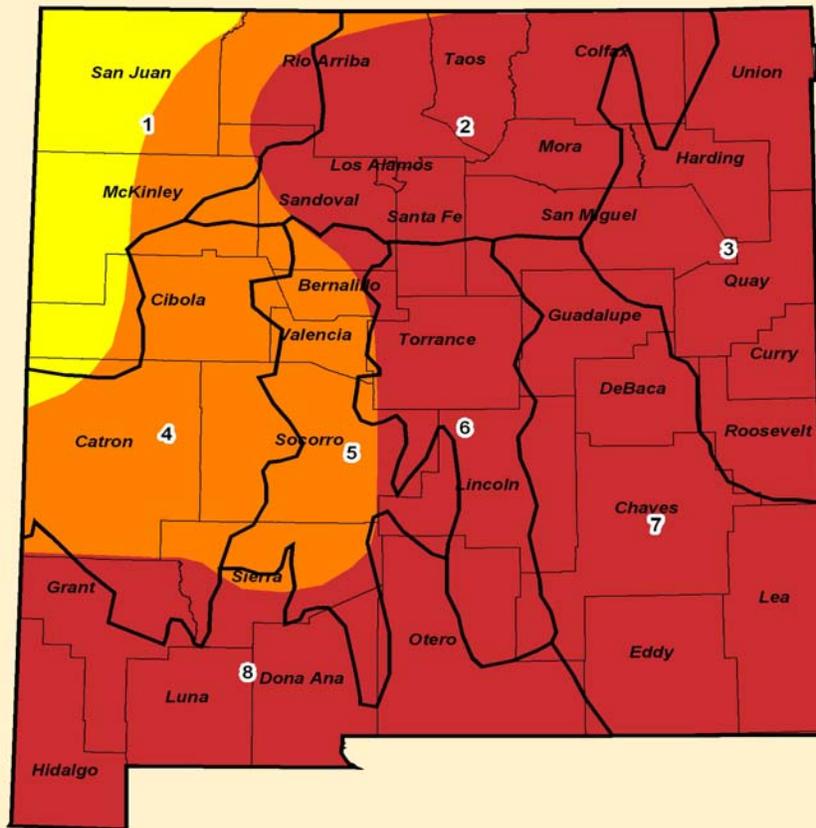
Virtually all river basins in the state remain in a Moderate (Warning Status) to Severe (Emergency Status) Drought.

- Reservoir storage is at its lowest levels since the mid-1970s, and will require several years of above average snow pack and snow melt runoff to recover.

The current National and State Drought Conditions can be seen in the following three figures.



**METEOROLOGICAL DROUGHT STATUS MAP
NOVEMBER 21, 2003
NEW MEXICO**

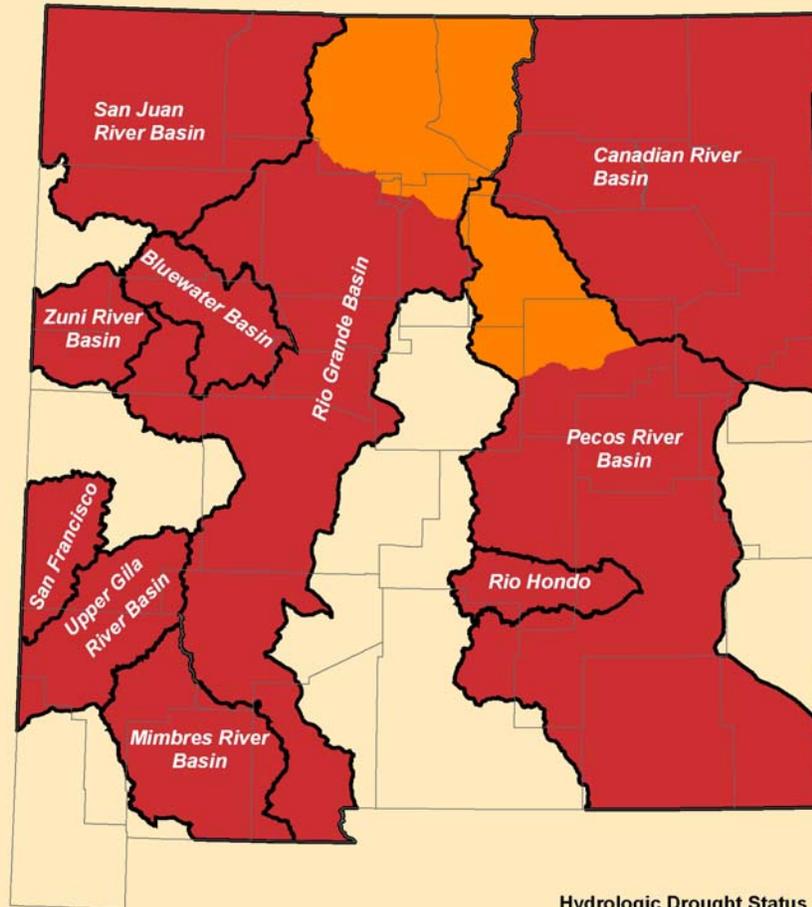


Drought Status	
█	Normal
█	Advisory
█	Alert-Mild
█	Warning-Moderate
█	Emergency-Severe

Divisions	
Climatic Areas	
1	Northwestern Plateau
2	Northern Mountains
3	Northeastern Plains
4	Southwest Mountains
5	Central Valley
6	Central Highlands
7	Southeastern Plains
8	Southern Desert


 Source: NM Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Climate Divisions Delineated by National Weather Service


HYDROLOGIC DROUGHT STATUS MAP
NOVEMBER 21, 2003
NEW MEXICO



Hydrologic Drought Status

- Normal
- Advisory
- Alert - Mild
- Warning - Moderate
- Emergency - Severe



Source: NM Natural Resources Conservation Service
Climate Divisions Delineated by National Weather Service

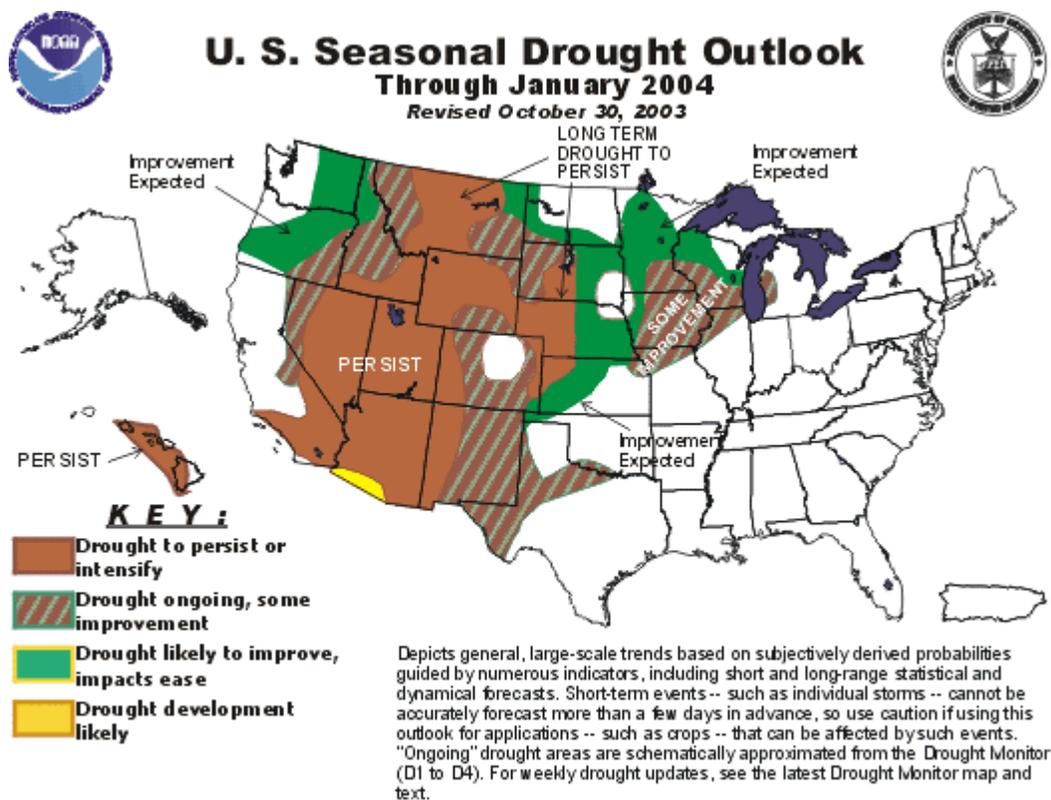


LONG RANGE FORECAST

The likelihood of a significant El Niño or La Niña event this coming Winter is small.

There are equal chances of receiving above, below, or normal precipitation during the winter of 2003 – 2004.

If New Mexico experienced a wetter than normal winter, the likelihood of drought conditions continuing into 2004 is very high, as illustrated by the following figure.



Structure of Drought Planning

DROUGHT TASK FORCE

The New Mexico Drought Task Force (DTF) oversees the implementation of drought-preparedness activities in the State of New Mexico. This Task Force acts as a liaison between the Monitoring and the Impact Assessment Work Groups (described below) and the Office of the Governor. The Task Force also assumes the lead role in intergovernmental drought preparedness and response coordination and media information releases.

The DTF has established several teams and work groups to address specific elements of drought management.

STRIKE TEAM

A Strike Team was established several years ago to respond to calls for emergency assistance when drinking water supplies are affected by drought conditions. Strike Team members have expertise in the fields of hydrology and water resources, emergency management, finance, and construction programs. The team analyzes emergency requests that come to the hotline at the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) to determine whether the problem is drought-related, and if so, recommends to the DTF that the Governor be requested to release emergency funds to resolve the problem.

DROUGHT TASK FORCE WORK GROUPS

Currently, five Work Groups meet regularly to evaluate sector-specific drought vulnerabilities and recommend mitigation activities. Additional work groups will be established over the next year, including a Water Development Work Group. Communication between the groups is crucial, as drought impacts are complicated and interrelated and a single mitigation activity will often require the expertise of several groups. Membership among the subgroups includes individuals from appropriate state, federal, and local governments; Indian tribes, pueblos and nations; and private, non-profit organizations. The current five groups and one proposed group are as follows:

Monitoring Work Group

The Monitoring Work Group of the DTF includes water resource, agriculture, and climate professionals from all levels of government. The group is responsible for monitoring all available climatological data, soil moisture readings, reservoir storage levels, and other pertinent information necessary to analyze the current status of drought conditions in the State of New Mexico. The group also examines and reports on long-term forecasts to assist the DTF in their

preparedness and response actions. As necessary, the MWG issues "notices" based on various stages of drought that trigger actions by the DTF. The current chair of the Monitoring Work Group is an employee of the Interstate Stream Commission.

Drinking Water Work Group

The Drinking Water Work Group is comprised of professionals knowledgeable in fields such as water resources and planning, water construction programs, and water financing. The group has a broad spectrum of responsibilities for mitigation and response, working to prevent community water systems from reaching emergency status through improved planning (including conservation and drought contingency plans) and by identifying new opportunities for multi-system collaboration. The group also identifies methods for the domestic, commercial, and industrial sectors to reduce water use, through the use of techniques such as market-based incentives, changes in land-use regulations, and increased education and technical assistance, and makes recommendations to the DTF for policy that may assist with water conservation in those sectors.

Agriculture Work Group

The Agriculture Work Group includes representatives from livestock and farming associations, land management offices, water resource groups, and fish and game programs. The group focuses their mitigation and response efforts on the impacts of drought to the agricultural sector. The length and degree of intensity of drought can produce profound impacts on the state's agricultural industries. Farmers and ranchers, historically, have been the communities most visibly affected by drought and numerous federal assistance programs are available for the agricultural sector. Timely and accurate assessment of agricultural conditions allows effective response mechanisms to be activated. Therefore, the Agriculture Work Group is particularly interested in soil moisture and precipitation forecast data provided by the Monitoring Work Group and works closely with the Monitoring Work Group.

Wildlife and Wildfire Work Group

The Wildlife and Wildfire Work Group focuses on the interrelated impacts of drought on local wildlife and forests. The group includes professionals from the forestry, emergency management, game and fish, water use, and land management fields. Drought greatly increases wildland fire danger and the probability of large forest fires that can have catastrophic effects on watersheds and threaten communities. Increased fire restrictions can negatively impact rural economies. Drought reduces forest health and increases susceptibility to outbreaks of insects and disease. In addition, wildlife often suffer from lack of forage, increasing competition with livestock on rangelands. Fish and riparian

areas also suffer during droughts. Low stream flows during drought can increase threats to endangered and threatened fish species. The Wildlife and Wildfire Work Group focuses its efforts on all of these drought areas, assessing impacts, and making recommendations for mitigation. Because of the interrelated aspects of these issues with the agricultural communities, this group closely coordinates activities with the Agriculture Work Group, *particularly* concerning the Forest Health Initiative.

Recreation, Economic Development, and Tourism Work Group

The Recreation, Economic Development, and Tourism Work Group has not yet become active but will include representatives from tourism, economic development, and parks agencies and organizations. This group will consider opportunities to reduce the socio-economic impacts of drought across the state. The group assesses the impacts of drought, recommends new initiatives, and will assist with preparedness for and mitigation of drought impacts on recreation, tourism, and the New Mexico economy. The tourism industry represents a significant sector of the overall state economy, particularly with respect to the skiing and recreational opportunities available in the state. Tourism and the livelihood it brings to many New Mexicans can be negatively impacted by drought. The state's economy, in general, can be dramatically impacted by drought, making the work of this group very important.

Water Development Work Group

Identifying and developing new sources of water will be important to the continued viability of the state. Particularly in times of drought, alternatives to surface water are critical, as are new sources of groundwater to offset or avoid excessive depletions. A new work group will identify brackish water reserves in the state and investigate opportunities for desalination or other treatments that can render them usable, whether to enhance potable water supplies or for other purposes. The group will also investigate wastewater treatment as an option for extending the life of existing water supplies. Included in this will be consideration of best locations for treatment facilities to maximize water availability for area usage, as well as opportunities for using existing infrastructures (for example, abandoned oil and gas pipelines) for transporting water to end users. There is tremendous opportunity, with the national laboratories and research institutions in the state, to attract federal and other research and development money for pilot projects and new facilities.

Drought Task Force Work Group Priorities

In addition to a number of activities that each Work Group will continue to pursue, each group has identified new initiatives for 2004. Most of these will require considerable research as well as development of policy, legislation, and funding recommendations that can be discussed by the DTF.

Monitoring Work Group

1. Support the efforts of the Western Governor's Association Technical Working Group in upgrading the monitoring network in the West.
2. Pursue funding to upgrade New Mexico's Drought Monitoring Network, which will include a statistical analysis of historical and currently available data, as well as recommendations for equipment upgrades to better monitor temperature, precipitation, soil moisture conditions, and snow pack levels.
3. Use the analysis conducted under item 2 above to develop a New Mexico Drought Index, which has the potential to be more meaningful to New Mexico residents than generic drought indices developed for national/regional use.
4. Develop improved mechanisms for making information about drought conditions available at local levels throughout the state.

Drinking Water Work Group

1. Develop implementation plans for some of the water conservation best management practices outlined in the Framework for a *Comprehensive Statewide Municipal and Industrial Water Conservation Program* (Appendix D). Specifically, the DWWG will have subcommittees to develop proposals to:

---change landscaping ordinances and statutes to decrease both the amount of water used for this purpose and to expand opportunities for use of non-potable water for this purpose;

---change land use and subdivision laws and regulations in order to tie water availability to new developments;

---identify obstacles to increased conservation in the commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors and recommend new programs, policies, and incentives; and

---make recommendations for expansion of the water conservation education program.

2. Pursue legislation to require water conservation planning and drought planning for all water systems not covered by SB 554-2003.
3. Complete the Model Community Drought Preparedness and Water Conservation Project, using the results from three pilot projects to develop a template for regional collaboration that can be used in other areas of the state.

Agriculture Work Group

1. Investigate opportunities for agricultural water conservation initiatives and make recommendations to provide incentives and remove obstacles to agricultural water conservation projects. This will include a review of tax and other incentives.
2. With the Wildlife and Wildfire Work Group and the Forest Health Initiative, develop a strategic focus for watershed projects that includes opportunities to increase aquifer recharge and "wet water" in streams; enhance water quality; protect species at risk; and decrease the threat of forest fires.
3. Support and assist with regulatory change to allow Conservation Reserve Program grazing, regardless of county or state lines, in time of severe drought.
4. Continue to support efforts to improve watersheds and restore riparian areas with particular focus on leveraging additional federal funds and interagency weed management.
5. Assist with development of a proposal for a joint project with Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID), USDA NRCS, and the Paseo del Norte Watershed Council to improve management and retention of flood waters by placing radio telemetry stations at flood control dams and arroyos throughout EBID. If successful, this model can then be utilized by other conservancy and irrigation districts.

Wildlife and Wildfire Work Group

1. Coordinate with and support the Forest Health Initiative, which will develop a statewide interagency forest health strategy by developing partnerships to assure focused actions. The Agricultural Work Group and this Work Group will coordinate activities to support this initiative in conjunction with watershed restoration in order to prioritize watershed projects that protect communities and surface water drinking systems.
2. Focus on adoption of state-of-the-art fire management practices to reduce potential for catastrophic wildland fire. Develop partnerships within communities to increase catastrophic fire prevention and protection. Increase fire department capability, coordinate fire restrictions, investigate arson fires through interagency cooperation, and promote community defensible space ordinances.
3. Support and participate in the development of wildfire management plans that promote fire use in appropriate conditions. Coordinate interagency fire suppression

actions to assure the safety of the public and firefighters and minimize loss of property. These activities will be in cooperation with the New Mexico Fire Planning Task Force and the Southwest Coordination Group.

4. Address species at-risk, developing programs to prevent them from becoming listed as endangered species.
5. Provide enterprise stabilization training session for private fish and game-based enterprises, emphasizing drought contingency planning.
6. Employ alternatives for reducing competitive land uses such as promoting habitat on private lands using federal grant programs, reducing big game species populations in areas of concern, and developing waterfowl feeding alternatives including local farmer emergency agreements.
7. Support changes in recreational fishery management programs that respond to drought conditions, such as curtailment of fish stocking programs where habitat becomes unsuitable for stocked fish, reallocating inventory of hatchery fish to alternative recreational fishing sites, and reengineering hatchery water delivery systems to solve water quality problems.
8. Adjust fishing and hunting regulations and conduct public education programs to protect impaired fish and wildlife resources and ecosystems.
9. Monitor insect and disease outbreaks and work with communities to reduce impacts. Provide forest management information to private landowners through www.nmforestry.com and through other outlets.

Recreation, Economic Development, and Tourism Work Group

This work group has not yet initiated its work, but its focus will be on the following initiatives:

1. Assess and publish the impact of drought on the recreation, economic development, and tourism sectors, including a Department of Tourism regression study to help determine the effects of drought on travel decisions to the state.
2. Identify strategies to reduce the socio-economic impacts of drought.
3. Provide outreach to the tourism and recreation communities to assist with diversification and preparedness.
4. Develop a communications plan to reach key market areas impacted by negative media coverage of New Mexico drought and wildfires.
5. Promote water conservation techniques within the industry, including xeric landscaping, technical assistance with gray water use, tax credits for low flow water fixtures and appliances, and water re-use for snowmaking.

Water Development Work Group

This proposed new work group will identify brackish water reserves in the state and investigate opportunities for desalination or other treatments that can render them usable, whether to enhance potable water supplies or for other purposes. Developing new sources of water will be important to the continued viability of the state. Particularly in times of drought, alternatives to surface water are critical, as are new sources of groundwater to offset or avoid excessive depletions. The group will also investigate wastewater treatment as an option for extending the life of existing water supplies. Included in this will be consideration of best locations for treatment facilities to maximize water availability for area usage, as well as opportunities to use existing infrastructure, such as abandoned oil and gas pipelines, for transporting water to end users. There is tremendous opportunity, with the national laboratories and research institutions in the state, to attract federal and other research and development money for pilot projects and new facilities using innovative techniques for water development.

Drought Task Force Work Group Ongoing Mitigation Activities

DRINKING WATER WORK GROUP			
IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	TIMELINE
<p>Many water systems experience system failures when operating for extended periods of drought induced operation. And responses to drought emergencies have been on an ad hoc, reactive mode.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make permanent a drought strike team, with state experts in financing, water project construction, water rights, conservation, and water quality, to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Proactively diagnose community water needs, b. Identify the relative severity of the emergency, technical options and costs, water rights availability and financial capacity in local administrative entities. c. Identify drought vulnerable water systems in need of technical assistance, capital improvements or other measures to prevent each system from experiencing a drought related failure. d. Develop plan of possible actions for each problem system, including demand reduction, increased storage, increased pumping capacity, system retrofit, leak detection or other distribution or infrastructure improvements. e. Develop funding for use of these systems to identify and implement emergency measures. f. Investigate alternatives for emergency water rights transfers from agricultural water users. 2. Provide \$500,000 to fund the drought strike team . 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NMED NMFA OSE Technical Assistance Providers: NM Rural Water Association; Environmental Finance Center, NM Tech; Rural Communities Assistance Corporation; Water Utilities Assistance Program 2. Legislature 	

DRINKING WATER WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	TIMELINE
<p>Funding is inadequate to address drinking water needs.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set aside one-quarter of the legislative capital outlay to fund a comprehensive program of water drilling and financial or technical assistance to communities to implement water conservation. 2. Institute a drinking water trust fund, capitalized with an initial infusion of general fund money, with additional contributions from fees assessed new development. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NMFA 2. Water Trust Board 	

DRINKING WATER WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	TIMELINE
<p>New methods of providing water are given insufficient attention.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Augment current water supply methods with emerging ones such as desalination and overlooked ones such as reuse of effluent and greywater. 2. Allow laundry greywater application directly on the ground providing that the greywater does not pond, the ground has vegetative cover and use of phosphate detergents is avoided. 3. Amend the water banking law to allow conjunctive use by the state by storing water in underground aquifers. 4. Develop a research and development capacity at the state to further advancement of new water supply technologies. 5. Map aquifers, to more fully understand surface and underground waters interrelationship and the capacity and recharge capabilities of aquifers. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OSE NMED 2. NMED 3. OSE 4. OSE NM Tech 5. NM Tech 	

DRINKING WATER WORK GROUP			
IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	TIMELINE
Basic information on well levels, water rates, storage capacity and delivery mechanisms is often poor.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a comprehensive analysis of water providers' rates and their abilities to pay. 2. Gather well water trend data, measuring depth from time well drilled to present. 3. Audit public water systems' storage, treatment and delivery mechanism. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drinking Water Bureau, NMED 2. Rural Community Assistance Corporation, Environmental Finance Center, NM Rural Water As'n, WUTAP 3. same as 2) 	
Water disputes taken to court are contentious, time consuming and costly	Set up a water alternative dispute resolution arm of the state's ADR program. Direct water disputes headed for court to first use this other means of dispute resolution.	Department of Regulation and Licensing OSE	

DRINKING WATER WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	TIMELINE
Reactions to water shortages usually only feature supply options, no matter the cost.	The State should adopt a least-cost policy . Integrate demand side reductions of water use into drinking water supply considerations, requiring first the exercise of options that are most cost effective.	OSE NMED NMFA Water Trust Board	
Responses to the drought by public water systems vary.	Require each community and public water system to develop a water conservation ordinance. Measure ordinance progress through best management practices such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conservation-oriented rate structure b. Metering/accounting of all water uses c. Leak detection and repair d. Water waste prohibition, ordinance, enforcement e. Installation of water-wise landscaping f. Water-efficiency requirements on new development g. Plumbing and appliance retrofit program h. Building permit – water linkage program i. Cooperative agreements among entities 	OSE OSE	

DRINKING WATER WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	TIMELINE
<p>Communities and public water systems' adoption of drought contingency plans is rare, inconsistent.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require each community and public water system to adopt a drought contingency plan. Phases of the plan: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Drought Alert: Lower than normal precipitation, declining water source b. Conservation: water supply and quality deteriorating c. Restrictions: continued decline water supply and quality d. Emergency: severe water supply problems 2. Options for enforcing both the water conservation ordinance and drought contingency plan: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. OSE greatly expand its education and oversight functions, using an added \$300,000 from the legislature for additional staff and materials. b. Make funding for water-related projects contingent on passage and implementation of the plan and ordinance. c. Make any state aid to a municipality, public water system or educational institution contingent on passage and implementation of the plan and ordinance. 	<p>OSE</p>	

DRINKING WATER WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	TIMELINE
Water conservation products need a push via price discounts.	Set up a water conservation products standard list – toilets, pumps, showerheads, front-loading wash machines – from which water wise certified communities can get products at a discount. Urge funding agencies to fund such products.	OSE NMED EFC-NM Tech	
Metering has been found to be an effective way to reduce water demand.	Require metering of all water users. Administrative discretion of the State Engineer	OSE	

AGRICULTURE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	REPORTING DEADLINE/STATUS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
<p>Agricultural Producers suffering crop and livestock losses due to drought.</p>	<p>1. USDA Secretarial Disaster Declaration. (Short Term)</p>		<p>FSA, NRCS, RDA, CES, FSIS, APHIS, FS, NASS, FNS, and Governor's office</p>
	<p>a. USDA County Emergency Boards meet to assess data and submits report and data to the USDA State Emergency Board.</p>	<p>Flash reports and letter requesting Secretarial disaster designation was sent to the Governor's office on September 12, 2003.</p>	
	<p>b. State Emergency Board reviews county data and recommends actions to the Governor</p>		
	<p>c. Governor requests declaration from USDA Secretary</p>	<p>In progress.</p>	
	<p>d. USDA determines which counties are included for Secretarial Emergency Disaster Declaration.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	
	<p>e. Notify Congressional Delegation about the Governor's disaster request.</p>	<p>Copies of Governor's letter was sent to delegation by the Governor's D.C. office</p>	
	<p>f. Low interest emergency loans will be available to qualified applicants for declared disaster counties and contiguous counties.</p>		

AGRICULTURE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	REPORTING DEADLINE/STATUS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Agricultural Producers suffering crop and livestock losses due to drought.	1. Implement the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). The Livestock Compensation Program provides payments to cattle, sheep, goat, and buffalo producers who have been struck by severe drought conditions for livestock and livestock must have been owned or subject to a cash lease on June 1, 2002. (Short Term)	USDA has implemented LCP-I and LCP-II. LCP-II signup occurred from April 1, 2003 to early June. LCP-II was available to livestock producers who were ineligible or missed the application deadline for LCP-I.	FSA
	2. Implement the Livestock Assistance Program (LAP). The program was authorized by the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003 and \$250 million was made available to livestock producers for grazing losses that occurred in either 2001 or 2002. Eligible livestock include beef and dairy cattle, buffalo, beefalo, sheep, goats, and swine.	Sign-up for the program started on August 6, 2003 and ends on October 24, 2003. The total value of all applications will be determined and if excess of \$250 million will be adjusted proportionately.	FSA
Agricultural Producers suffering crop and livestock losses due to drought.	1. Provide information to producers on drought related issues.	The CES will conduct a well management workshop on November 12, 2003. Tentative plans have been made to provide tax information regarding secretarial disaster designations at the Joint Stockman's meeting and information on the nonfat dry milk program.	All
Reduced forage and water for livestock	1. Implement the emergency grazing and haying of Conservation Reserve Program lands in the State. (Short Term)	Dependent on a Secretarial or Presidential disaster declaration. Request will be made one disaster declaration is announced.	FSA

AGRICULTURE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	REPORTING DEADLINE/STATUS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	2. Prepare and provide list of water haulers to agricultural producers. (Short Term)	Work in progress.	NMDA, CES, FSA, Ag organizations
	3. Implement Hay Hotline. Provides supply information to agricultural producers needing supplemental feed. (Short Term)	Ongoing activity by NMDA.	NMDA, CES, FSA, Ag organizations
	4. Implement the Nonfat Dry Milk (NDM) Program (Short Term) .	The USDA made San Juan, Rio Arriba, Taos, Union, and Colfax counties eligible for the program. NMDA issued 264 vouchers totaling approximately 50 truckloads for the counties listed above.	NMDA, CES, FSA
	5. Implement the NAP program. Ongoing program. The program is available for commodities that are not insurable. (Short Term) .	Ongoing program	FSA
	6. Review existing NAP program and possibly other Federal disaster aid programs to determine if they are helpful with existing droughts. (Short Term) .	The subgroup met on November 10, 2003.	Farmers Union, NMDA; FSA; NRCS, NMFLB; OSE
Focus on Water Supply instead of Water Demand (watershed restoration)	1. Manage riparian areas to remove non-native species and restore riparian areas to native vegetation. (Water Supplies are being depleted from our stream systems as a result of competing non-native vegetation.) (Long Term)	SWCD and other entities are currently working on program to eradicate salt cedar in the state. The largest projects are occurring in the Pecos and Rio Grande river basins.	SWCD and land management agencies

AGRICULTURE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	REPORTING DEADLINE/STATUS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	2. Support Federal/State funding for telemetry on flood control dams to monitor flows and water quality. Such devices can be used as a management tool by irrigation and conservancy districts. (Pilot Program) (MidTerm) .	Workgroup will be established to work on proposal.	All
	3. Interagency weed management. Develop coordinated management plan to leverage federal funds.	Workgroup will be established.	NRCS, NMDA, SWCD
	4. Review and develop possible incentives to assist farmers/ranchers to finance new water saving technologies. (i.e., tax credits)	Work in progress	All
Non Impact	1. Keep NM Congressional delegation informed on agricultural drought issues.	Ongoing activity. FSA informed congressional delegation on flash reports.	NMDA, FSA

WILDLIFE AND WILDFIRE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
<p>A. An assessment of drought-related environmental impacts should be conducted for the state to define qualitatively and quantitatively problems for planning purposes and critical decision-making.</p>	<p>Wildlife The assessment will be conducted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Identify baseline conditions, major potential impacts, and offer an evaluation of findings and considerations of alternatives to alleviate negative impacts. b) Identify alternatives that involve systems control should be evaluated for their: speed (how quickly stressors or disturbances can be eliminated), precision (the ability to achieve a desired outcome), reliability (conditions under which management approaches succeed or fail), and cost efficiency. c) Summarize findings and present in regional management plans. 	<p>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 14</p>	
<p>B. During periods of drought, reduced stream flow may affect endangered species of aquatic plants and animals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prior to drought, develop prioritized list of possible drought affected habitats for endangered species of aquatic plants and animals. 2. Based on priority areas, develop alternatives for sustaining existing habitat or developing emergency habitats for targeted species. Provide briefing for Governor on T & E species obligations. 3. Prior to drought, initiate partnerships with local water users and regulatory agencies in priority areas to develop emergency alternatives for in stream flow 	<p>ALL</p>	

WILDLIFE AND WILDFIRE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
	manipulation.		
C. During periods of drought, low stream or lake levels may cause fishing opportunities to diminish.	Develop partnerships with major water users to develop alternatives for providing emergency water transfers to affected lakes and/or streams.	1, 2, 6, 8, 12 NM Game and fish, US Fish and Wildlife Service	
D. Reduction in income on private drought affected fish and wildlife-based enterprises	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Assist in developing economic analyses, by climatic regions, to reflect reduced private hunting and fishing revenues for 25%, 50%, 75% reduction in hunting and fishing opportunities. 5. Provide enterprise stabilization training sessions for private fish and wildlife-based enterprises, emphasizing drought contingency planning for the enterprise. 	13	
E. While flows may be adequate to sustain aquatic plants and animals during the irrigation season (except when flows are excluded from natural channels), they often become critically low at other	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Several alternative approaches exist for the establishment of in-stream flows that would sustain aquatic life forms, including during periods of drought. These alternative approaches should be assessed for their applicability to different situations and locations in New Mexico, with emphasis on areas of impaired habitat and areas vulnerable to 	ALL	

WILDLIFE AND WILDFIRE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
<p>times. Extensive manipulation of flows through large reservoirs and irrigation canals serves to disrupt the continuity of aquatic habitats in time and space, often precluding the existence of an attractive perennial fishery. Habitat simplification and fragmentation often results from regulated flows leading to altered ecological functions, different levels of biological organization, and reduced biological diversity. This may also contribute significantly to the demise of numerous types of fish.</p>	<p>cumulative stress.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Initiate discussions with local water users in priority areas to assess alternatives for in-stream flow. 		
<p>F. Many populations of big game species respond to drought conditions through reduced reproductive and survival rates and increased mortality rates. Land uses such as livestock grazing can</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examine alternatives for reducing competitive land uses during periods of drought. 2. Consider careful reduction of big game species populations in areas where concerns of forage resource damage arise due to sustained periods of drought. 	<p>1, 2, 3, 11, 14</p>	

WILDLIFE AND WILDFIRE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
<p>exacerbate the effect of drought through competition for limited resources. Drought conditions may reduce the amount of available wildlife drinking water, affect the amount of usual food supply for wildlife species and may cause species to migrate to areas of adequate food and water. Drought conditions may also reduce grain production at waterfowl preserves. All of these items may increase the incidence of wildlife depredation on private interests.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Develop priority list of waterfowl preserves vulnerable to drought induced feedstock reductions. From priority list, develop waterfowl feeding alternatives, including local farmer emergency agreements. 4. Continue NMDGF wildlife depredation program. Emphasize public education programs to address wildlife survival and hunting restrictions during drought. 5. Prior to drought, determine the effect of alternative hunting seasons on the compensatory response of populations of drought affected species. 		
<p>G. Fish habitat conditions may deteriorate at some sites during times of drought and preclude recreational fishery management programs that are reliant on hatchery produced fish. There may be insufficient water to produce</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If necessary, temporarily curtail fish stocking programs where habitat conditions become unsuitable for species of stocked fish. 2. If necessary, curtail hatchery production and reallocate inventory of fish to alternative recreational fishing sites. 3. Reengineer hatchery water delivery systems to 	1, 2	

WILDLIFE AND WILDFIRE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
fish at existing hatcheries.	provide technical solutions to possible water quality problems.		
H. Loss or impairment of fish and wildlife resources, fragmented ecosystems and animal populations; altered ecosystem functions and energy pathways; reduced productivity.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement corrective and compensatory adjustments through fishing and hunting regulations 2. Conduct public education programs. 	1, 2	
I. Unfavorable public opinion and public concern about fish and wildlife conservation and preservation, along with environmental protection.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance sport-fishing opportunities by stocking hatchery-produced fish where habitat conditions permit. 2. Employ aquaculture to secure and enhance the status of non-game species of fish including state and federal listed endangered species. 	1, 2	
J. Discussion of general drought impacts if there is a "normal" moisture year in 2003 or if drought conditions are similar to 2002:	<p>In a "normal year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Pecos and Rio Grande flows will still be below normal and operations will have to undertaken to protect the Silvery Minnow and potentially the Pecos Blunt Nose Shiner. NM Game and Fish and US Fish 		

WILDLIFE AND WILDFIRE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
	<p>and Wildlife will continue to utilize the Rock Lake Hatchery and Dexter National Fish Hatchery. These agencies will also partner with City of Albuquerque and other local governments and agencies.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Continued low river flows will affect recreational fishing by limiting or eliminating opportunities. 3. Anticipate continued human/wildlife interactions and depredation. 4. Game animal populations will continue to be reduced due to decreased habitat. Anticipate increases and decreases in allowable hunting to conserve populations. 		
<p>K. It is assumed the effects of drought are cumulative on wildlife species, hence one year of normal will not alleviate all effects experienced in 2002. Drought conditions similar to 2003 would have a multiplied effect.</p>	<p>In a drought year similar to 2003:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased depredation, especially from bear, elk and deer. 2. Increased supplemental feeding will be required to maintain migratory waterfowl. 3. Increased restrictions on the Rio Grande will greatly impact endangered species. Endangered species issues will become more divisive. Anticipate additional litigation affecting agricultural and 		

WILDLIFE AND WILDFIRE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
	domestic water use. 4. Anticipate bear, elk and deer populations to be greatly reduced but to remain viable.		
<p>L. <u>Monitoring and Assessing Fire Danger Conditions</u></p> <p>Drought increases wildland fire danger to extreme conditions for an extended period of time. The fire season, which normally runs from May 1 to July 15th each year, starts earlier and lasts longer. Agencies responsible for wildland fire management need fire danger and climate data to plan actions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Wildland Fire</u></p> <p>g. Monitor fire danger conditions in the field.</p> <p>h. Coordinate collection and analysis of fire season data at the Southwest Coordination Center (SWCC). SWCC will assure data quality through testing and calibration of Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS).</p> <p>i. Identify data gaps and install RAWS sites. Install RAWS site in northeastern New Mexico.</p> <p>j. Utilize the Energy Release Component (ERC) chart published by the SWCC to monitor and compare fire danger potential by year. Disseminated fire season data through the SWCC website.</p> <p>k. Assume "normal" winter/spring precipitation will not alleviate all the effects of 2002 drought. There may be a period when fire danger is as intense as 2002 but for a shorter time.</p> <p>l. Assume a drought similar to 2002 would have a</p>	Federal land Management agencies responsible for wildland fire management; Southwest Fire Management Board; NM-EMNRD, Forestry Division.	Year-round; Critical from March through July

WILDLIFE AND WILDFIRE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
	<p>multiplied effect. Expect an earlier, longer and more intense fire season. At the height of the fire danger, anticipate higher elevation spruce-fir forests will burn with an unprecedented intensity beyond fire suppression capabilities.</p>		
<p>M. <u>Fire Management Activities</u></p> <p>Increased fire danger results in more fires and increased acres burned. The probability of ignition increases. Wildland fires are more intense and spread more rapidly. Wildland fires are larger and harder to control. The threat to firefighter and public safety increases.</p> <p>2003: In a “normal” year, expect several fires +1000 ac. With 2 or 3 fires threatening communities. Expect large fires in pinon – juniper forest type due to insect damage. Anticipate average state</p>	<p>1. Fire Prevention:</p> <p>a) Conduct aggressive fire prevention media campaign to reduce the number of careless human caused fires. Educate the public through media, workshops, signage, patrols and law enforcement.</p> <p>b) Federal and state agencies, and local governments implement fire restrictions and closures as fire danger increases. Maintain a statewide survey of federal, state and local government fire restrictions on the EMNRD, Forestry.</p> <p>c) Division website to promote coordination of fire restrictions. Utilize law enforcement to encourage responsible stewardship by citizens. Utilize a multi-agency task force approach to investigate difficult or persistent incidents.</p> <p>d) In a drought year similar to 2002, anticipate extensive and extended closures of federal lands. Closures will also affect State Parks such as Fortson</p>		<p>Year round</p>

WILDLIFE AND WILDFIRE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
<p>emergency fund costs of \$3.7 million.</p> <p>In a drought year similar to 2002 expect several large fires that threaten communities. Anticipate up to 20 homes and structures could be destroyed and more than 2000 citizens could be affected by evacuations that last more than three days. Lack of fire suppression resources will result in no action on large fires burning in remote areas. Anticipate state emergency fund obligations of \$25.0 million with a final cost of \$10.0 million.</p>	<p>Closures will also effect State Parks such as Fenton Lake and Hyde. Work with federal land management agencies to focus closures to minimize impact to rural economies, such as the Cumbres Y Toltec train near Chama, NM.</p> <p>e) Implement local government ordinances requiring defensible space in new developments and new construction. See National Fire Protection Association, Ruidoso, NM and Santa Fe county for example ordinances</p> <p>2. Fire Pre-suppression:</p> <p>a) Conduct fire pre-suppression activities to promote wildland fire training, equipment and agency commitment. Provide wildland firefighter and fire department training to promote national wildland fire qualification standards.</p> <p>b) Provide federal grants to fire departments to improve wildland fire equipment and organization.</p> <p>c) Develop Resource Mobilization Plan agreements between EMNRD and local governments to provide statewide mobilization of qualified structural firefighting resources for wildland/urban interface fires.</p>		<p>July through March</p>

WILDLIFE AND WILDFIRE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
	<p>3. Suppression:</p> <p>a) Prioritize firefighter and public safety for all fire suppression operations. Initial attack fires aggressively but provide for safety first!</p> <p>b) Develop extended attack teams for each Interagency Zone Dispatch area to support initial attack efforts.</p>		As incidents occur
<p><u>N. Fires that Threaten Communities</u></p> <p>Increased fire danger increases the probability of large forest stand replacement fires that can catastrophically effect watersheds and threaten communities. Public safety is threatened. Property and natural resource loss can be</p>	<p>1. <u>Prioritize Fire Incidents</u>: Follow the prioritization process established by the interagency Southwest Coordination Group.</p> <p>a. Control all new fire starts. Keep fires small.</p> <p>b. Prioritize fire incidents that threaten communities where public safety and property are threatened. Give priority to watersheds that directly serve community water systems.</p> <p>c. Consider fires in remote locals a lower priority.</p> <p>2. <u>Coordinate Evacuations</u>: EMNRD will notify NM</p>	EMNRD-Forestry, DPS-EOSS & federal land management agencies	Year round

WILDLIFE AND WILDFIRE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
severe.	<p>Department of Public Safety, State Police, and Office of Emergency Management (DPS-OEM) when a wildland fire threatens public safety. EMNRD will coordinate requests for state resources through the DPS-OEM. Coordinate evacuation operations with the wildland fire Incident Management Teams.</p> <p>3. <u>Fuels Reduction Treatments for Long-Term Solutions:</u> Implement the New Mexico Fire Plan and the federal National Fire Plan to prioritize fuels reduction and defensible space work in communities most at risk from catastrophic wildland fires. Recognize that making communities safer is a long term project that can only be accomplished through partnerships with federal and state agencies and local governments working with citizens in their backyards, with communities in the wildland/urban interface and with resource agencies in the forest lands. Community leadership is very important. Projects should be design at the lowest level.</p> <p>4. <u>Monitoring:</u> Agencies should monitor and evaluate fuel treatment projects and transmit lessons learned to land managers.</p> <p>5. EMRD, Forestry will implement the New Mexico Fire Planning Task Force (NMFPTF) (Senate Bill 148, 2002 Legislature). The NMFPTF will review priority</p>		

WILDLIFE AND WILDFIRE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
	<p>communities, develop model ordinances and building codes, and provide recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by December 15th each year.</p> <p>6. <u>Conservation Easements to Reduce Development in Forestlands:</u> Continue to implement the Forest Legacy program through EMNRD, Forestry to purchase conservation easements to reduce development in high-risk communities threatened by development.</p>		
<p>O. <u>Forest Health</u></p> <p>Drought can also affect forest health including susceptibility to insects and disease. Large stands of insect mortality have occurred in Northern New Mexico that will greatly increase fire danger.</p> <p>In a normal year anticipate trees will regain some live fuel moisture and be less prone to crown fires. Also, trees will</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognize wildland fires are a natural process. Consider fire use and prescribed fire to reintroduce fire into the forest ecosystem. 2. Coordinate watershed restoration projects. The State Forester will take the lead in developing a statewide watershed restoration strategy as mandated by the 2003 New Mexico Legislature, House Bill 910. The State Engineer's Office will be a critical partner to develop the strategy. 3. Conduct mid-summer and late fall aerial and ground survey to identify location and extent of insects and disease outbreaks. Fly northern New Mexico to map insect mortality. Coordinate multi-agency effort 	<p>EMNRD-Forestry, DPS-EOSS & federal land management agencies</p>	<p>As incidents occur</p>

WILDLIFE AND WILDFIRE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
<p>increase in vigor and withstand insect attacks.</p> <p>In a drought year similar to 2002 anticipate increased mortality due to insect and disease epidemics. Expect community protection and restoration projects will be halted due to high fire danger. Tree seedling and nursery stock sales will be reduced due to concerns about water availability</p> <p>Public agency costs for wildland fire suppression and burned area rehabilitation can be very high. Private citizen costs to replace private property and rehabilitate burned areas can be beyond their capability and result in off property, down stream impacts.</p>	<p>through the US Forest Service, Southwest Region, Forest Health Program.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Extensive control projects that spray insecticides will be prohibitive due to cost and environmental concerns. Homeowners and businesses may to spray specimen trees at a cost of \$20 to \$120 per tree. Provide forest insect and disease management information to private landowners on www.nmforestry.com 5. Consider fire use and prescribed fire to reintroduce a normal fire cycle into the ecosystem. Prescribed fire is a controversial issue. Mitigate by training prescribed fire practitioners at the New Mexico Fire Use Training Academy. Agencies have completed a update of procedures to be used in coordinating prescribed fire activities, especially at high fire danger levels. 6. Work with New Mexico Environment Department, Air Quality Bureau to develop and implement new Smoke Management Program Rules (SMPR). The US Forest Service and BLM will coordinate SMPT by hiring Smoke Management Specialists stationed at the NM-ED-AQB. 7. Review impacts and implementation of federal laws such as the Endangered Species Act and the 		

WILDLIFE AND WILDFIRE WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
<p>Watersheds throughout the state are susceptible to damage by catastrophic fire and insect and disease infestations because forests are too dense. Forest restoration projects on National Forests are slowed due to an elaborate review and implementation process</p>	<p>National Environmental Planning Act. Consider streamlined review and implementation processes. (Wildlife/Wildfire, O)</p> <p>8. Design projects at the community level to gain public support for local forest restoration projects. Utilize the Community Restoration Act to promote community-based projects.</p> <p>9. Promote small diameter forest product industries to reduce the cost of treatments and strength the economies of rural forest-based communities.</p>		

RECREATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
<p>Public's negative perception of drought situation in state will have negative effect on tourism</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete and distribute a regression analysis on the potential affects of drought and wildfires on tourism in New Mexico. Analysis will be provided to policy makers and industry once it is completed. 2. Fulfillment and visitor information centers will advise visitors on available alternative activities, including outdoor recreation. 3. Develop informational handout on available alternative activities, including outdoor recreation. 4. Pop-up message and/or link on New Mexico Department of Tourism (NMDOT) website on available alternative opportunities. 5. Develop partnership with the NM Broadcasters Association to produce PSAs featuring the Governor on in-state attractions. 6. Monitor key market media coverage to determine when to implement NMDOT crisis communications plan (similar to the NMDOT response to the Cerro Grande Fire). 7. Monitor visitor information center visitation numbers and the inquiries on a weekly basis. 8. Distribute water conservation brochures to visitors and through payroll to NMDOT employees. 9. NMDOT to provide input prior to National Park, Forest, and 	<p>New Mexico Department of Tourism</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

RECREATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
	<p>Monument closures due to the negative economic impact to tourism-related businesses.</p> <p>10. NMDOT will request discussion on drought issues during industry board meetings.</p> <p>11. Work with the Office of the State Engineer and the State Environment Department to develop a program to provide technical assistance to tourism related businesses for the implementation of gray water usage and redirection/recycling.</p>		
<p>Lack of conservation efforts will further deplete water resources in hotels/motels, restaurant, and recreation small businesses</p>	<p>1. Hotel/Resorts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promote alternative landscaping. b. Recommend tax credits for the installation of low flow toilets and appliances. c. Recommend mandating multi-day linen use . d. Promote gray water storage and redirect. e. Encourage routine swimming pool maintenance/water management and redirect. <p>2. Restaurants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recommend drinking water be made available only upon request. b. Encourage use of paper coverings to limit linen use and wash. <p>Make disposable tableware available as an option; possibly offer meal discounts for those that opt for disposable tableware.</p>	<p>New Mexico Department of Tourism</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

RECREATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
	<p>c. Promote alternative landscaping within industry. d. Recommend tax credits for the installation of low flow toilets.</p> <p>3. Recreation Small Businesses:</p> <p>a. Recommend public land/water-use permit credits to allow businesses in affected areas (rafting companies, concessionaires, etc.) to recoup costs. b. Provide information for emergency low interest loans through the Small Business Administration and other entities. c. Make marketing grants available when drought period is over. The NMDOT offered a one-time Emergency Tourism Assistance grant program to drought affected local governments and non-profits through a special appropriation in 2002. d. Small Business Development Centers provide free consultation/assistance on business adaptation/diversification.</p>		
<p>Extended drought may have substantial impact on the skiing industry.</p>	<p><u>Skiing Industry:</u></p> <p>Most ski areas with snowmaking equipment recycle run-off from their ski slopes, and in addition collect surface water and pump groundwater to make snow. Ski areas should be encouraged to purchase and use snowmaking equipment and advertise this capability.</p>	<p>New Mexico Department of Tourism</p>	
<p>States Parks projects shortfalls in camping</p>	<p>Implement strategies to minimize projected revenue shortfalls within the NM State Parks Division while maintaining essential visitor</p>	<p>EMNRD; DFA; LFC</p>	

RECREATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
<p>entrance, and boating revenue sources. This is primarily attributed to drought related conditions: forest closures, park closures, fire restrictions, and low lake elevations.</p>	<p>services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Request DFA and LFC to recommend contingency funding, subject to Agency certification and DFA approval, in the amount of \$1 million in FY03 and \$1.25 million in FY04 from the Legislature to offset shortfalls. b. If action above is not possible, request support to implement fee increases. c. Request funding through Executive Emergency Declarations related to drought impacts on NM State Parks. Each declaration could provide up to \$750,000. d. If above is not possible, State Parks would need to scale down their operating budget. 		
<p>Reduced revenues will impact hiring of seasonal positions and filling vacant permanent positions. These dollars not spent on salaries will have a negative impact on the economies of local communities near state parks.</p>	<p>Projected shortfalls can be offset with a special appropriation or some form of contingency fund and will lessen other drought related shortages.</p>	<p>EMNRD; DFA; LFC</p>	

RECREATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
<p>Reduced lake levels have had a significant impact on recreational use.</p>	<p>State Parks is developing a Drought Response Action Plan (DRAP). The plan will identify both short and long term planning and management strategies for all state parks. State Parks will divert all available fiscal resources to meet the physical needs for adequate public access to state parks, such as boat ramps, roads, parking areas, and facilities.</p>	<p>EMNRD; DFA; LFC</p>	
<p>Public perception of drought and the impacts to outdoor recreation is of primary concern. Ensuring recreational user confidence and access to parks is key to minimizing visitation and revenue losses.</p> <p>Reduced visitation will also impact local businesses reliant upon parks for livelihood. This could result in reduced jobs and state revenues from taxable income.</p>	<p>Promote parks through comprehensive advertising and marketing campaigns. State Parks has never appropriated an advertising and marketing budget, which would be required in order to meet the challenge.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Appropriate funds for NM State Parks for advertising and marketing the entire State Park system. Promote alternative park uses, organize and promote more special events at all parks, promote non-lake park utilization, offset negative national publicity, and promote water conservation educational programs. b. Develop interpretive and educational programs focused on water issues. 	<p>EMNRD; DFA; LFC</p>	

RECREATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
<p>and gross receipts. The impact is greatest in rural areas most reliant on tourism.</p>			
<p>Reservoir water releases occur in order to meet downstream demands. Negative impacts, due to insufficient notice to involved agencies, can be substantial.</p>	<p>Communication is key. All agencies with vested interests at reservoirs should be apprised of water releases in advance. Advance notice can trigger action to minimize public impact, protect resources, and enhance public perception.</p>	<p>BOR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Irrigation Districts, State Parks, Game and Fish</p>	
<p>Many small businesses reliant upon tourism have had substantial decreases in revenues due to wildfires and other drought impacts. In many cases, they cannot afford more debt, regardless of</p>	<p>Assist businesses in accessing Federal programs for businesses impacted by natural disaster.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Economic Adjustment (Title IX) Program – US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration b. Business and Industrial Loan Program – USDA Rural Development, Rural Business-Cooperative Service c. Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program – US Small Business Administration 	<p>NM Emergency Management</p>	

RECREATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM WORK GROUP

IMPACT	PLANNED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	REPORTING DEADLINE
low interest rates.	Assist small businesses impacted by drought through: a. Tax credits b. Grant in Aid programs.		

Appendix B: Drought Task Force Members

NEW MEXICO DROUGHT TASK FORCE				
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I. Miley Gonzalez	Secretary Department of Agriculture MSC 3189, PO Box 30005, Las Cruces, NM 88003	505-646- 5063	505-646-8120	nmagsec@nmda.nmsu.edu

David W. Harris	Executive Director NM Finance Authority 409 St. Michael's Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505	505-984-1454	505-984-0002	dharris@nmfinanceauthority.org
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William Hume	Director Policy and Planning Capitol, Santa Fe, NM 87505			william.hume@state.nm.us
James Jimenez	Secretary Department of Finance and Administration Bataan Bldg., Room 180, Santa Fe, NM 87503	505-927-4985	505-827-4984	james.jimenez@dfa.state.nm.us
Estevan Lopez	Director Interstate Stream Commission Bataan Bldg., Room 101, Santa Fe, NM 87501	505-827-6160	505-827-6188	elopez@ose.state.nm.us

Tim Manning	Director Office of Emergency Management of DPS P.O.Box 1628, Santa Fe, NM 87504	505-476-9622	505-476-5922	tmanning@dps.state.nm.us
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Joanna Prukop	Secretary Energy Minerals & Natural Resources Department 1220 S. St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505	505-476-3227	505-476-3200	jprukop@state.nm.us
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Appendix C: Drought Task Force Work Group Members

MONITORING WORK GROUP				
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Charlie Liles	National Weather Service 2341 Clark Carr Loop, SE Albuquerque, NM	505-243-0702	505-244-9151	charlie.liles@noaa.gov
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