

Pima County Local Drought Impact Group
(Drought Monitoring Committee)
Wednesday, November 12, 2008
3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
PAG Conference Room

Attendance: Kathy Chavez RWRD Dan Ferguson UA/Climas
Erin Westfall UA/Climas Vicki France Pima NRCD
Bill Petroustson Pima DEQ Mead Meir PAG
Jeff Guthrie PC DEM&HS Mitch Basefsky Tucson Water
Melanie Lenart UA/IES

1. Introductions- K. Chavez announced the LDIG meetings will be moving to 201 N. Stone-3rd Floor Conference Room.
2. Review of September 10, 2008 meeting
3. ADWR Report
 - K. Chavez reviewed the Drought Task Force Interagency Coordinating Group meeting held on November 4, 2008 at the ADWR offices in Phoenix. In addition to an update on the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee, drought updates on the impacts to rangeland health and wildlife were provided. Most of the state is below average on rainfall. It was agreed to recommend to the Governor to keep the drought declaration in place. She also noted the annual report from the Pima County LDIG which will be included in the report to the Governor.
 - K. Chavez reviewed the drought monitor reports for September and October which reflect the wet summer monsoon season. The long term drought status for much of Pima County remains at moderate drought.
4. Arizona Drought Impacts Reporting System – Workshop
 - Mike Crimmins, UA/Cooperative Extension gave an overview of the Arizona Drought Impacts Reporting System which can be found at <http://azdroughtwatch.org>. The system is operational and reporters are beginning to submit drought observations throughout the state. Participants offered several constructive suggestions. PAG has begun entering observations for Cienega Creek. Using NRCS as an example, a test observation was entered for livestock production and grazing land impacts.
 - Drought reporters are needed for water resources and hydrology, agricultural impacts, livestock production and grazing land impacts, societal and community impacts, tourism and recreation and ecological impacts. Vicki France will be coordinating input from ranchers on livestock production and grazing land impacts.
5. Update on Fall Drought Declarations and Discussion
 - The consensus is to keep the drought declaration at Stage One-Alert. It was noted that the major water providers are all at Stage One drought level.
6. Drought Index Tool (Hydroclimatic Index)
 - The UA Institute for Environment and Society is seeking the LDIG's feedback on an experimental drought index. The Hydroclimatic Index is more transparent than the Palmer Severity Drought Index and they want to test whether it reflects conditions on the ground regarding both short-term and long-term drought. An LDIG meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at 3 p.m. at 201 N. Stone-3rd Floor Conference Room.
7. Next Meeting
 - Wednesday, December 10, 2008, 3:00 p.m. at 201 N Stone-3rd Floor Conference Room
8. Adjournment