

ADWR Monitoring Technical Committee

October 27, 2017

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Intro
2. October Short-term Drought Status Discussion
 - a. Short term looks at 3, 6 and 12 months. The SPI index sometimes does not show a lot of drought because long dry periods becoming the new normal.
 - b. Regional on-ground updates-
 - i. Pima County had a record July for rain but began drying after that. (Bill) Similar situation in Santa Cruz County and Patagonia area. The July rain was fast moving did not soak in for farmers, ranchers. Same thing in Parker, dead brush. Hardly any rain August-October, soil moisture extremely low, just gauging drought by rain does not tell whole story.
 - ii. Mojave County ranchers will bring in hay, last two weeks grass has died. Decline in soil moisture, before shallow soil moisture would bounce back after grass died but now seeing deep soil moisture loss. Cannot go much lower, soil is powder dry. Maybe more targeted drought map increases in Mojave. (Mark) Increase in northeast is justified maybe even more pronounced. Northwest, central state objective indicators not as well pronounced. Reports show drought maybe not showing up on map.
 - iii. (State Parks) Santa Cruz County grasslands very dry, Patagonia Lake down 4.5', which is significant. Safford, Roper Lake and ponds very low, Wilcox Playa dry.
 - iv. (Mark) Short-term map is not what is being seen on the ground, hearing reports of locally that do not reflect map. Need to get more aggressive and if lack of rain continues into November, start increasing watersheds to D2 Severe.
3. July-September Long Term Map
 - a. A number of watersheds improved from D1 to D0 or none.
 - b. SPI & SPEI show San Simon watershed dry but other methods show no drought. Agua Fria drought is getting worse, except for that watershed not ready to make any changes to map. Leaving map as is from July until next meeting.
 - c. SPI is underestimating, SPEI probably more accurate but could be overestimating, depends on the humidity and evaporation.
 - d. MTC wants feedback on Experimental Long Term Maps and which is more accurate to our experience, want it based on impacts not just numbers. Action Item for Pima County LDIG to provide feedback.
 - e. These maps are 24-36-48 month blends equally weighted. Again, longer drought goes on the more it is not seen as dry in data.
4. ICG Meeting
 - a. Standard meeting format; Current drought/weather (Mark & Nancy), SRP update (Charlie), Arizona Game & Fish update, Arizona State Forester. Governor representative will present on Plenary activities and recommendations.
5. 2017 Annual State Drought Report
 - a. No suggested edits. Awaiting SRP updates. State Parks is working on a questionnaire methodology for park managers to report drought impacts.
 - b. Einav is asking for MTC members to send her any drought presentation/workshop etc. they attend for a listing (see page 18 of annual report)
6. Agency Updates
 - a. State Parks is working with NWS for park specific forecast updates; heat warning and QR code signs. Also, heat advisory signs being put up.