

Drought Stage	Definition	Information Resources	Agency Actions
<p><b>Pre-Turnout under Abnormally Dry Conditions</b></p>	<p>Areas showing abnormal dryness but not yet in drought.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Drought Monitor, Vegetation Drought Response Index</li> <li>• Collect local data (Include Checklist from NV-1730 Handbook)</li> <li>• Use RAWs data to verify</li> <li>• Review online reports from NV 915 (Predictive Services)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monthly Briefings which cover 1-4 month time periods</li> <li>○ Daily Briefings (available June thru Sept.) which cover 1-2 week periods.</li> <li>○ Consult with NV 915 as necessary.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Use predictive maps/on-ground assessments to determine the drought condition.</li> <li>• Make drought monitoring a high priority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 1</b>-Statewide Preliminary Drought assessments begin.</li> <li>• <b>Mid-Oct</b> -SLT coordination call about statewide drought conditions, by District,                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Minimum follow ups once monthly thereafter.</li> <li>○ Update maps minimally once per month.</li> <li>○ Verify Statewide Map showing predictive/ground assessments of current drought conditions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Re-issue Communication Plan as needed.</li> <li>• <b>Nov 1</b>- Issue Pre-drought (ABNORMALLY DRY) letter to Permittees/Interested Public (IP)/ others as needed.</li> <li>• <b>Mid-December</b>- Establish meetings with each Permittee/IP explaining current and predicted weather/drought conditions and discuss appropriate drought response actions. What can we do within the boundaries of the permit to mitigate current issues?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify action items based on current and anticipated drought conditions.</li> <li>○ Priority on T&amp;E species habitats, sage grouse habitat, and riparian habitats.</li> <li>○ Emphasize agreements which</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			<p>implement voluntary actions within the terms and conditions of the grazing permit as outlined in the Drought Management Plan/Proposed Action in Drought EA such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Temporary</u> partial reductions in Animal Unit Months (AUM).</li> <li>▪ <u>Temporary</u> Change in Season of Use.</li> <li>▪ <u>Temporary</u> Reduced Grazing Duration</li> <li>▪ Identify areas for <u>temporary</u> water hauling in areas dominated by invasive and non-native species.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue assessment of drought status after turn-out and throughout the grazing season. Initiate appropriate responses to changes in drought status.</li> </ul> <p><b>Wild Horse and Burro</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If within an HMA or occupied HA, initiate update of WH&amp;B Escalating Issues report to NSO and Program Lead forwards to WO.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Pre-Turnout under Moderate Drought Conditions</b></p>	<p>1. Prolonged chronic shortage of water, as compared to the norm, often associated with high temperatures and winds during spring, summer and fall.</p> <p>2. A period without precipitation during which soil water content is reduced to such an extent that plants suffer from lack of water.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Drought Monitor, Vegetation Drought Response Index</li> <li>• Collect local data (Include Checklist from NV-1730 Handbook)</li> <li>• Use RAWS data to verify</li> <li>• Review online reports from NV 915 (Predictive Services)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monthly Briefings which cover 1-4 month time periods</li> <li>○ Daily Briefings (available June thru Sept.) which cover 1-2 week periods.</li> <li>○ Consult with NV 915 as necessary.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Use predictive maps/on-ground assessments to determine the drought condition</li> <li>• Make drought monitoring a high priority.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Oct.1-</b> Statewide Preliminary Drought assessments begin</li> <li>• <b>Mid-Oct-</b> SLT coordination call concerning statewide drought conditions.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Minimum follow ups once monthly thereafter. Update maps minimally once per month.</li> <li>○ Verify Statewide Map showing predictive/ground assessments of current drought conditions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Re-issue Communication Plan as needed.</li> <li>• <b>Nov 1-</b> Issue initial DROUGHT letter to Interested Public (IP).</li> <li>• <b>Mid-December</b> - Establish meetings with each Permittee/IP by explaining current and predicted weather/drought conditions and discuss appropriate drought response actions. What can we do within the boundaries of the permit to mitigate current issues?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify action items based on current and anticipated drought conditions.</li> <li>○ Priority on T&amp;E species habitats, sage grouse habitat, and riparian habitats.</li> <li>○ Emphasize agreements which implement voluntary actions within the terms and conditions of the grazing permit such as:</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Temporary</u> partial reductions in Animal Unit Months (AUM).</li> <li>▪ <u>Temporary</u> Change in Season of Use.</li> <li>▪ <u>Temporary</u> Reduced Grazing Duration</li> <li>▪ Identify areas for <u>temporary</u> water hauling in areas dominated by invasive and non-native species.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue follow up letter documenting agreed upon Drought Response Actions (DRAs) as outlined in the Drought Management Plan/Proposed Action in Drought EA.</li> <li>• Drought Response Triggers (DRTs) (see Drought Management Plan/Proposed Action in Drought EA) MUST BE outlined within the follow up letter</li> <li>• If no agreement can be reached, prepare an early alert to Washington Office and Congressional Delegation prior to issuance of decision(s).</li> <li>• Initiate water hauling as necessary to sustain WH&amp;B until corrective actions can be taken or drought related issues diminish.</li> </ul> <p><b>Wild Horse and Burro</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If within an HMA or occupied HA, initiate update of WH&amp;B Escalating Issues report to NSO and Program Lead forwards to WO.</li> </ul>
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Drought Stage	Definition	Information Resources	Agency Actions
<p><b>Pre-Turnout under Severe or Worse Drought Conditions</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prolonged chronic shortage of water, as compared to the norm, often associated with high temperatures and winds during spring, summer and fall.</li> <li>2. A period without precipitation during which soil water content is reduced to such an extent that plants suffer from lack of water.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Drought Monitor, Vegetation Drought Response Index</li> <li>• Collect local data (Include Checklist from NV-1730 Handbook)</li> <li>• Use RAWS data to verify</li> <li>• Review online reports from NV 915 (Predictive Services)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monthly Briefings which cover 1-4 month time periods</li> <li>○ Daily Briefings (available June thru Sept.) which cover 1-2 week periods.</li> <li>○ Consult with NV 915 as necessary.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Use predictive maps/on-ground assessments to determine the drought condition</li> <li>• Make drought monitoring a high priority.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow actions outlined for “Pre-Turnout Moderate” Drought then for SEVERE or Worse Drought Conditions:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In important habitats/areas assess resource conditions in order to determine whether to authorize livestock grazing.</li> <li>○ Prepare early alert to Washington Office and Congressional Delegation concerning possible need to issue decision(s) due to current adverse conditions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Drought Stage	Definition	Information Resources	Agency Actions
<p><b>Post Turnout Drought Conditions Develop</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prolonged chronic shortage of water, as compared to the norm, often associated with high temperatures and winds during spring, summer and fall.</li> <li>2. A period without precipitation during which soil water content is reduced to such an extent that plants suffer from lack of water.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Drought Monitor, Vegetation Drought Response Index Collect local data (Include Checklist from NV-1730 Handbook)</li> <li>• Use RAWS data to verify</li> <li>• Review online reports from NV 915 (Predictive Services)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monthly Briefings which cover 1-4 month time periods</li> <li>○ Daily Briefings (available June thru Sept.) which cover 1-2 week periods.</li> <li>○ Consult with NV 915 as necessary.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Use predictive maps/on-ground assessments to determine the drought condition</li> <li>• Make Drought monitoring the highest priority.</li> <li>• Continue the collection of additional drought monitoring data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue DROUGHT letter detailing voluntary and mandatory actions                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify specific areas of concern</li> <li>○ Prioritize areas for initial drought monitoring</li> <li>○ Assign preliminary drought monitoring to specific staff members</li> <li>○ Plan Field trips with ID team &amp; affected Permittee(s)/IP(s) to identify specific issues.</li> <li>○ Assess Drought Response Triggers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Where Drought Response Triggers (DRTs) have been achieved:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contact the Permittee(s) to discuss Drought Response Actions (DRAs) and/or voluntary removal of livestock from the affected allotment.</li> <li>○ Agreements must identify specific DRAs and areas available for grazing use (i.e. areas where DRTs have not been met, areas dominated by invasive, non-native species).</li> <li>○ Implement DRAs in selected order.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If no grazing use areas are available, livestock removal will be required.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inform the permittee(s) that in the absence of an agreement for</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			<p>voluntary livestock removal, mandatory removal will be required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Prepare an early alert to Washington Office and Congressional Delegation prior to issuance of decision(s).</li><li>○ Issue decision(s) requiring removal plus one growing season rest(Intact native upland vegetation) and or one hot season rest (riparian areas) following cessation of drought.</li></ul> <p><b>Wild Horse and Burro</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ If within an HMA or occupied HA, initiate update of WH&amp;B Escalating Issues report to NSO and Program Lead forwards to WO.</li><li>○ Follow WH&amp;B Drought Related Actions</li></ul>
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Drought Stage	Definition	Information Resources	Agency Actions
<p><b>WH&amp;B Drought Related Actions</b></p>	<p>1. Prolonged chronic shortage of water, as compared to the norm, often associated with high temperatures and winds during spring, summer and fall.</p> <p>2. A period without precipitation during which soil water content is reduced to such an extent that plants suffer from lack of water.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Drought Monitor, Vegetation Drought Response Index</li> <li>• Collect local data (Include Checklist from NV-1730 Handbook)</li> <li>• Use RAWS data to verify</li> <li>• Review online reports from NV 915 (Predictive Services)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monthly Briefings which cover 1-4 month time periods</li> <li>○ Daily Briefings (available June thru Sept.) which cover 1-2 week periods.</li> <li>○ Consult with NV 915 as necessary.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Use predictive maps/on-ground assessments to determine the drought condition</li> <li>• Make Drought monitoring the highest priority.</li> <li>• Continue the collection of additional drought monitoring data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify specific areas of concern                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate update of WH&amp;B Escalating Issues report to NSO and Program Lead forwards to WO.</li> <li>• Prioritize areas for initial drought monitoring focusing on water and forage availability and body condition                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As necessary conduct WH&amp;B distribution flights</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Assign preliminary drought monitoring to specific staff members</li> <li>• Plan field trips with ID team, state program lead &amp; National Office Representative.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Where drought response triggers have been achieved:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with NSO/WSO</li> <li>• Prepare DNA to Drought Plan EA/FONSI.</li> <li>• Complete draft gather plan</li> <li>• CCC with permittees and IP</li> <li>• Summarize monitoring &amp; documentation</li> <li>• Make determination of level of</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			<p>removal necessary to respond to drought situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Prepare early alert to Washington Office and Congressional Delegation prior to issuance of decision(s).</b></li><li>• Issue decision to gather &amp; implement appropriate livestock grazing removal and closures</li><li>• Initiate water hauling as necessary to sustain WH&amp;B until corrective actions can be taken or drought related issues diminish.</li><li>• Post final documents for public notice</li></ul>
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Drought Stage	Definition	Information Resources	Agency Actions
<p><b>After Grazing Restrictions Lifted or Closed Areas Reopened</b></p>	<p>1. Water availability has returned to normal</p> <p>2. Precipitation and soil water content has improved to a point that perennial plants do not exhibit indicators of stress.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Drought Monitor, Vegetation Drought Response Index</li> <li>• Collect/review local data                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Checklist from NV H-1730-1</li> <li>○ Requirements in Closure Decisions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Use RAWS data to verify</li> <li>• Review online reports from NV 915 (Predictive Services)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monthly Briefings which cover 1-4 month time periods</li> <li>○ Daily Briefings (available June thru Sept.) which cover 1-2 week periods.</li> <li>○ Consult with NV 915 as necessary.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Use predictive maps/on-ground assessments to determine the drought condition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue drought letter informing permittees outlining the specific date that grazing restrictions will be lifted and closed areas will be reopened to livestock grazing (See Section 7 (b) of NV H-1730-1 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DURING DROUGHT).                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Areas that have been closed through decision as a result of drought are to remain closed for the duration of the drought plus one growing season (Intact native vegetation/uplands) and/or one hot season (riparian areas) following the cessation of the drought to allow for recovery (See Section 7 (c) of NV H-1730-1 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DURING DROUGHT).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>