

Executive Document

Governor's Executive Order Declaring a State of Emergency Because of Drought in Daggett and Garfield Counties.

Issued: August 25, 2000

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Drought in Daggett and Garfield Counties

WHEREAS, severe drought conditions exist and continue to worsen in Daggett and Garfield counties, Utah, and present a serious threat to human life, health, private property, agriculture and the economy; and

WHEREAS, the current drought conditions have and will continue to cause adverse effects to agricultural producers, the tourism industry and threaten the health and culinary water needs of the residents of Daggett and Garfield counties; and

WHEREAS, restrictions have been placed on culinary water use in Daggett County; and

WHEREAS, livestock producers in Garfield County have been forced to withdraw their cattle from summer ranges much earlier than usual and lands historically used for winter ranges have not produced a sufficient amount of feed to sustain normal numbers of cattle; and

WHEREAS, livestock producers in Garfield County will have to feed their cattle hay throughout the winter; and

WHEREAS, declining water conditions at Panguitch Lake, Wide Hollow Reservoir and Tropic Reservoir in Garfield County have caused a significant decline in hay production in that county; and

WHEREAS, there are Stage 2 fire restrictions currently in place and more restrictive conditions are anticipated; and

WHEREAS, the potential for wildfires throughout the entire State of Utah remains extreme; and

WHEREAS, the wildfire threat is increasing as drought conditions persist and may require additional firefighting resources which are very limited due to the number of wildfires burning throughout the western part of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the forecast for continuing and worsening drought in Daggett and Garfield counties and the entire State of Utah is not expected to change in the near future; and

WHEREAS, the situation has the potential to greatly worsen if left unattended;

and

WHEREAS, immediate action is required to protect public health and safety, public and private property, agriculture and the environment; and

WHEREAS, these conditions do create a disaster emergency within the intent of the Disaster Response and Recovery Act of 1981, and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michael O. Leavitt, Governor of the State of Utah by virtue of the power vested in me by the constitution and the laws of the State of Utah,

DO HEREBY ORDER THAT: It is found, determined and declared that a "State of Emergency" exists due to the aforesaid drought conditions and wildfire potential in Daggett and Garfield counties and is declared to be a disaster requiring aid, assistance and relief available pursuant to the provisions of the state statutes, and the State Emergency Operations Plan, which is hereby activated.

IN TESTIMONY, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Utah this 25h day of August, 2000.

(State Seal)

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

ATTEST:

Olene S. Walker
Lieutenant Governor

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