

Executive Document

Governor's Executive Order Declaring a "State of Emergency" Due to a Drought.

Issued: November 22, 2000

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Statewide Drought Declaration

WHEREAS, during water year 1999, ended October 1, 2000, severe drought conditions persisted more or less unabated throughout the state of Utah, presenting a serious threat to animal life, private property, agriculture, and the economy;

WHEREAS, despite recent precipitation, previously existing drought conditions have adversely impacted and will continue to adversely impact agricultural producers and the water needs of the residents of the state;

WHEREAS, Utah, along with other western states, had one of the worst wildfire seasons on record during summer and fall 2000, severely straining state and local resources;

WHEREAS, water supply shortages and severe depletion of soil moisture during summer 2000 affected the entire state of Utah;

WHEREAS, the effect of excessively high temperatures and severe winds further depleted limited moisture and damage by frost in the early growing season, lowering production;

WHEREAS, Utah also experienced unusual and serious crop and range damage during 2000 from Mormon Crickets, grasshoppers, and rodents;

WHEREAS, livestock producers in many rural counties of the state were forced to remove their cattle from summer ranges much earlier than usual, and lands historically used for winter ranges have not produced a sufficient amount of forage to sustain normal numbers of cattle and wildlife;

WHEREAS, many livestock producers are faced with liquidation and excessive winter feeding costs, and wildlife populations are at risk;

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

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

WHEREAS, these conditions warrant relief through the United States Department of Agriculture, accessing livestock assistance emergency funds, low interest loans, emergency grazing of CRP lands, and other available assistance and, in addition, constitute a disaster emergency, thereby justifying

implementation of the Disaster Response and Recovery Act of 1981;

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, find, determine, and declare that a "State of Emergency" exists statewide due to the impacts of drought conditions and wildfire damage. This state of emergency is declared to be a disaster requiring aid, assistance, and relief available pursuant to the provisions of state and federal 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 22nd day of November, 2000.

(State Seal)

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

ATTEST:

Olene S. Walker
Lt. Governor

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