



# Nevada



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## Monitoring Team

- NWS
- Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC)
- Nevada State Climate Office (NSCO)

The following entities are also involved in monitoring:

- Nevada Division of Water Resources
- University of Nevada, Reno Extension
- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
- Nevada Division of Emergency Management
- Key drought impact reporters from:
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - Southern Nevada Water Authority
  - U.S. Bureau of Land Management

## USDM Recommendation Process

- The Nevada monitoring team (NWS, WRCC, NSCO) communicates primarily via email to form their state drought recommendation.
- Nevada most regularly communicates with California through a monthly (sometimes more frequently) California-Nevada drought call. Some communication occurs with Arizona as well out of the Las Vegas NWS Weather Forecasting Office.

## Drought Characteristics

- Nevada water resources, mainly large reservoirs and groundwater supply originally from snowmelt, are primarily impacted by long-term drought.
- Some irrigated agriculture in Nevada relies on reservoirs, but ranching is usually most impacted by soil moisture.

## Drought Impacts

- Farming/ranching
- Water supply/low reservoirs
- Recreation
- Dust/air quality
- Water quality
- Ecosystem impacts such as vegetation damage due to heavy use
- Increased fire danger in some places

## Monitoring Challenges

- Nevada's single largest challenge in drought monitoring is lack of information. Much of the state has large swaths of land that are lightly populated and have limited or no internet or cellular coverage. This makes data collection exceptionally challenging.
- Nevada also has strong seasonal precipitation patterns, long but normal dry spells, and rising temperatures, which complicate drought monitoring and assessment.