UCRB Weekly Drought and Water Assessments

NIDIS

Upper Colorado River Regional Drought Early Warning System

Weekly Climate, Water & Drought Assessment

http://climate.colostate.edu/~drought/
We help put current conditions into historical perspective for diverse users.
Local and Regional Expertise

- Federal, state and local agencies provide updates on current conditions.
  - USGS puts streamflow data into context.
  - NWS provides weather forecasts
- Regional experts provide less frequent, but desirable updates.
  - CBRFC provides water supply and peak flow forecasts. We refer folks to CBRFC forecast webinars.
  - Klaus Wolter provides long range climate outlooks.
Snowpack and runoff monitoring

SWE is essential to drought monitoring.
On the ground reports of snowpack conditions confirm measurements.
Weekly Drought and Water Assessment Webinars

- During critical times of year (Feb – July or times of major drought), weekly webinars are held at 10AM on Tuesday.
  - ~ monthly through the rest of the year
- Normally 15-20 are on the call and the USDM sometimes joins
  - Greater attendance with long range climate outlooks/streamflow forecasts.
- Approximately 30 minutes, covering precipitation, snowpack conditions, streamflow, reservoir levels, evapotranspiration, soil moisture and NWS forecast.
- Ends with open discussion from all participants on recommended USDM changes
Weekly Drought and Water Assessment Webinars

- Content is dynamic as conditions change
- Farm Service Agency and Extension contacts have been very useful for on the ground crop and grazing conditions
  - i.e. Does VegDRI depiction represent what is being observed on the ground?
- After the call, summaries are sent out to the entire list
- Suggestions and feedback are encouraged!
If interested, we can put you on our weekly update list

See me today
And don’t forget –
Help measure Snow and SWE
Join the
Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network

http://www.cocorahs.org
There’s room for you in CoCoRaHS
Even in Metro Denver