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 put current conditions into historical perspective for diverse users.
Local and Regional Expertise

- CCC and other 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
We even use on the ground reports of snowpack conditions.
Weekly Drought and Water Assessment Webinars

- During critical times of year (Feb – June or times of drought), weekly webinars are held at 10AM on Tuesday.
  - At least monthly through the rest of the year
- Normally 15-20 are on the call and the USDM author is invited to attend.
  - Greater attendance with long range climate outlooks/streamflow forecasts.
- Approximately 30 minutes, covering precipitation, snopack conditions, streamflow, reservoir levels, water demand and NWS forecast.
- Ends with discussions, sometimes contentious, of the USDM and any needed changes.
Weekly Drought and Water Assessment Webinars

- Content is dynamic, it changes based on user input, current conditions and time of year.

- Farm Service Agency contacts have been very useful for on the ground reports and indirectly provide evaluation of satellite/model derived products.
  - i.e. Does VegDRI depiction represent what is being observed on the ground?

- After the call, summaries are sent out to a larger email list of 400+ (and growing!).

- Suggestions and feedback are suggested and encouraged!
If you’re tired of getting so few e-mails and would like one or two each week

Give me your business card today, and we can put you on our weekly update list