

CONNECTIONS

TRI-COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

LOCAL DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN PROCESS BEING LEAD BY UVWUA

The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association was awarded \$200,000 in federal funds to develop a drought contingency plan to evaluate new approaches for future water shortages, review climate conditions, and develop a response framework for irrigation and municipal deliveries.

Funding came from the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART: Drought Contingency Planning grants and the Basin and state funds from the Colorado Water Conservation Board through the Gunnison Basin Roundtable. This program provides cost-share funds for entities to develop and update comprehensive drought plans - employing a proactive approach to build long-term resiliency to drought.

The goals of the DCP project are first to assemble a group of stakeholders to determine actions that can be taken to understand and react to drought conditions impacting the water supply of the Uncompahgre Valley, including both agricultural and municipal supplies. Step two is to create a governing document prioritizing short and long-term actions that can be taken before and during

periods of drought.

The establishment of a Task Force for the purpose of developing a detailed workplan, communication, and outreach plans is crucial. This Task Force will support and provide input in the development of the work, communication, and outreach plans. The Task Force will continue to meet at regular intervals over the course of the plan development - most likely through 2024.

Combining input from the Task Force with existing UVWUA practices, the Project Team will develop a data management system for UVWUA to be used to develop drought triggers and appropriate and effective drought responses.

This group will then identify, evaluate, and prioritize mitigation actions for building long-term resiliency.



**CURRENT
RIDGWAY
RESERVOIR
LEVEL:
70%
FULL**

Conservation CORNER

HOW THIRSTY IS YOUR FOOD?

As drought conditions persist across the country and in key food production areas like the Uncompahgre Valley, one should understand the amount of water used to produce his or her main food sources. The water footprint of various crops and livestock varies drastically and consuming less water reliant foods could have a lasting impact.



Visit www.ers.usda.gov for more food production facts

Dairy Milk:

157 gallons of water to produce one 1 quart of milk

Almond Milk:

93 gallons of water to produce one 1 quart of milk

Rice Milk:

67 gallons of water to produce one 1 quart of milk

Note, it takes more than 1,900 gallons of water to grow one pound of almonds! Whereas peanuts only take 200 gallons to produce a pound.

Watermelon:

About 28 gallons per pound

Raspberries:

About 40 gallons per pound

Grapes:

About 85 gallons per pound

Avocados:

About 200 gallons per pound

Cherries:

About 220 gallons per pound