

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
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Janet Napolitano
Governor

Herbert R. Guenther
Director

Date: November 13, 2007

To: The Honorable Governor Janet Napolitano

From: Herbert R. Guenther, Co-chair
Governor's Drought Task Force Interagency Coordinating Group

Re: Recommendation to maintain the Drought Emergency Declaration and Drought Declaration for the State of Arizona

The Governor's Drought Task Force Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) met on October 25, 2007, to discuss drought conditions throughout Arizona and determine whether or not to recommend continuation of the Drought Emergency Declaration issued on June 23, 1999 (PCA 99006) and the Drought Declaration for the State of Arizona issued on May 22, 2007 (Executive Order 2007-10). The ICG considered reports by the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee, State Forester, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Arizona Game and Fish Department on precipitation, temperature, forest and rangeland health, and impacts to wildlife.

After consideration of the information presented, the ICG made a unanimous decision to recommend that both declarations be kept in place. The ICG's decision was based on the following considerations:

- Many parts of the state are still suffering from long-term precipitation deficits which affect vegetation health, fire potential, water supplies, and range and pasture conditions.
- 2007 precipitation totals for much of the state are well below normal.
- Below average winter and spring moisture is resulting in reduced spring runoff, reduced spring forage, reduced water production from wells and springs and reduced water availability in reservoirs.
- Continued drought accelerates negative impacts to wildlife populations because habitat suitability decreases.
- Arizona's forest areas continue to be affected by drought, including dieback and mortality of Aspen and Juniper vegetation types.