



July 15, 2025

Nevada State Director Jon Raby
Bureau of Land Management – Nevada
Via email: BLM_NV_NVSO_web_mail@blm.gov

Dear Director Raby,

We are writing to express deep concern over the ongoing and intensifying drought conditions across Nevada, particularly in Elko, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties. These areas have experienced extreme temperatures and prolonged aridity throughout the year, conditions that pose a serious risk to the health of public rangelands and the wildlife that depend on them. See below, *NOAA Drought Map*, 7/10/25.

Given the severity of the current drought, it is surprising that BLM has not issued any public notice indicating activation of the agency’s Resource Management During Drought. Instruction Memorandum No. 2013-094. The IM lays out “*formulating and implementing actions to mitigate the effects of BLM authorized uses on drought-stressed resources.*” In past years, when drought indicators reached comparable levels, BLM implemented this protocol to mitigate resource degradation and ensure compliance with Land Health Standards.

The drought management protocol includes:

- Increased field monitoring of range conditions and water sources;
- Temporary or permanent reductions in authorized AUMs;
- Early removal of livestock or delayed turnout;
- Coordination with permittees to modify grazing use;
- Emergency water hauling for wild horses and wildlife where water sources have dried up.

The absence of visible agency action or communication in this critical period raises questions about how BLM is currently responding to drought risks. We would appreciate information on what steps the agency is taking to protect Nevada’s public lands and how the state office is coordinating with local field offices and permittees under the current conditions.

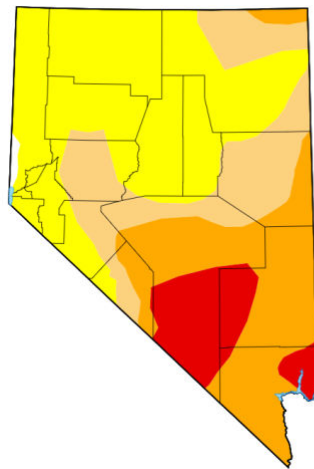
We have not met in a few years since we last talked about PEER’s land health evaluation map. (peer.org/mapping-the-range). **Would it be possible to meet to discuss BLM’s current drought response strategy?**

We are very interested in hearing what monitoring data is being collected and how the agency plans to adapt management if conditions continue to worsen. We look forward to



your response and to working together to ensure sound stewardship of Nevada's public lands.

Sincerely,
Chandra Rosenthal
Rocky Mountain Director
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Map released: Thurs. July 10, 2025

Data valid: July 8, 2025 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

- ☐ None
- ☒ D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- ☒ D1 (Moderate Drought)
- ☒ D2 (Severe Drought)
- ☒ D3 (Extreme Drought)
- ☒ D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- ☐ No Data

Authors

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