

Drought Declaration

DECLARATION DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF A DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN SAN JUAN COUNTY, UTAH PURSUANT TO UTAH CODE ANN. § 17-78-307

Whereas, drought conditions in 2026 have created a threat to human health and safety, the environment, the agricultural industry, culinary water supplies, secondary water supplies, agricultural water supplies, wildfire risk, and the general economy of San Juan County; and

Whereas, the ongoing drought is likely to cause many livestock producers in San Juan County to reduce the size of their herds and may force many producers to import feed from outside the region, creating significant financial impacts on livestock operations; and

Whereas, the continued lack of adequate precipitation, coupled with insect infestations and plant stress, is likely to result in below-normal agricultural production on farms and ranches throughout San Juan County during 2026, as well as reduced forage growth on both public and private rangelands within the County; and

Whereas, the use of public and private rangelands within San Juan County may be severely restricted or temporarily suspended as a result of continuing drought conditions and lack of precipitation; and

Whereas, current drought conditions have placed San Juan County in severe drought conditions and have increased the likelihood of fire restrictions and elevated wildfire danger; and.

Whereas, firefighting resources are expected to be limited due to drought conditions, elevated fire danger, and regional demand for suppression resources; and

Whereas, drought conditions and associated fire restrictions are likely to negatively affect visitor use and tourism in San Juan County, with economic impacts to local businesses and communities; and

Whereas, drought conditions also impair the ability of the San Juan County Road Department to adequately and effectively maintain county roads due to limited moisture, dust control challenges, and other operational impacts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the San Juan County Commission as follows:

Section 1. Declaration of Drought Emergency.

Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 17-78-307, the San Juan County Commission hereby declares that a drought emergency exists within the jurisdictional boundaries of San Juan County, Utah.

Section 2. Severability.

The provisions of this Declaration are severable. If any provision of this Declaration is held invalid, such

