

# UPPER PLATTE RIVER DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN (UPRDCP)



## VULNERABILITY & MITIGATION ACTION ASSESSMENT

The following worksheet is to help guide the Drought Task Force in thinking collectively, as basin stakeholders. This worksheet will assist in answering the overarching questions guiding the development of the Upper Platte River Drought Contingency Plan:

- How will we recognize the next drought in the early stages? orce in thinking collectively, as basin stakeholders. This worksheet will assist in answering the overarching questions gu
- How will drought affect us?
- How can we protect ourselves from the next drought?

### VULNERABILITY – HOW DOES DROUGHT AFFECT US?

1. In your opinion, how vulnerable are the following sectors to drought impacts in your area?

	Not at all vulnerable	Slightly vulnerable	Moderately vulnerable	Extremely vulnerable	Unsure/No Opinion/Not Applicable
Agriculture					
Energy					
Environment					
Municipal					
Industrial					
Recreation					
Socio-Economic					

2. On a scale of 1-5 (with 5 being Very Severe), please rate the severity of the following potential drought impacts in your area:

Impact	Rating	Impact	Rating
Crop loss and damage		Erosion of soil	
Unavailability of water/feed for livestock		Reservoir/ Lake levels	
Fires		Loss of biodiversity	
Income Loss for farmers/agricultural producers		Water quality (salt concentration, increased temperature, PH, etc.)	
Loss of tourism/recreation		Air quality (dust, pollutants, etc)	
Increased energy demand		Loss of life	
Cost of water transport or transfer		Increased conflicts (water user, political, management)	
Strain on financial institutions (foreclosures, greater credit risks, etc.)		Inequity in the distribution of drought relief	
Increased groundwater depletion		Recognition of institutional restraints on water use	

Other potential drought impacts (and their severity):

3. Which hydrologic measures are important to you (i.e. stream flows, temperature, groundwater levels, etc.)?

4. What are some critical thresholds of these measures and which do you think are the most critical?

5. Climatic trends indicate warming temperatures with less frequent but more intense rainfall events. Assuming these trends continue, how might your answers to the above questions change?

## MITIGATION ACTIONS – HOW CAN WE AFFECT DROUGHT IMPACTS?

Mitigation actions are actions, programs, and strategies implemented before drought to address potential drought risks and impacts. These actions are outside of regular water management activities and operations and are intended to decrease vulnerabilities and reduce the need for response actions.

1. What are some existing programs, policies, operational criteria, etc. for mitigating drought risk in your community?  
How effective are these existing mitigation measures?

2. Which of the following do you feel should be the priority or primary focus of mitigation activities?

- Decrease water use/demand
- Augment water supplies
- Prevent/mitigate economic loss
- Other (please specify):

3. Can the existing programs, policies, operational criteria, etc. you listed in question #1 be modified or enhanced to address these priorities?

4. What are some potential new mitigation actions you would like to see implemented in your area to address these priorities?

Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_

**When considering enhancements/modifications to existing mitigation measures and potential new measures here are some additional items to consider:**

- Are they economically feasible (cost/benefit)?
- Are they technically feasible?
- Are they publicly acceptable?
- Do they provide short- and long-term solutions?
- Do they consider long-term climatic trends?