A Cool, Wet Summer Staves Off Drought Conditions

Summer 2014 was mostly characterized by below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation across the reservation. The seasonal average temperature was about 1 to 2 deg F below normal, while seasonal precipitation totals ranged from about 130-150 percent of normal. June and August were cooler with average temperatures running about 2 deg F below normal, while July temperatures were near normal. Despite below normal precipitation in June and slightly below normal precipitation in July, August precipitation made up for those months with precipitation totals as much as 200-300 percent of normal across the reservation. Cool and wet conditions helped stave off drought conditions in the reservation, which is discussed below.

Reservation Avoids Drought during Summer

Cool and wet conditions kept drought out of the reservation this summer. Abnormal dryness that was present in southern Wyoming at the beginning of the summer eventually crept northward toward the reservation in June, and in late July, a pocket of moderate drought conditions (D1) appeared. By August, however, copious rainfall alleviated drought conditions, and the pocket of drought and dryness began to shrink as it retreated southward. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map for the reservation shows drought-free conditions, which is the opposite of conditions one year ago when 100% of the reservation was experiencing at least moderate drought. Streamflow conditions on water bodies in and around the reservation were mostly normal at the start of the fall season.
Fall Outlook Looks Promising for Avoiding Drought

The reservation has a 33 percent probability of seeing above normal temperatures this fall. Just to the south of the reservation in southern Wyoming, there is an equal chance of seeing above normal, near normal, or below normal temperatures this fall. As for precipitation, the reservation has equal chances of experiencing above normal, near normal, or below normal precipitation this fall.

Ongoing drought conditions in southern Wyoming have improved and are expected to continue improving. Drought is not expected to develop across the reservation this fall. According to the National Weather Service, all streams throughout Wyoming have less than a 50 percent chance of flooding in October-December.

The Climate Prediction Center is currently forecasting a 60-65 percent chance that El Niño will develop in the Northern Hemisphere during this fall and winter. El Niño tends to bring warmer than normal temperatures to Wyoming during wintertime. The winter climate and drought summary will provide more information on the status of El Niño.

3-Month Precipitation Outlook
Valid October-December 2014

3-Month Temperature Outlook
Valid October-December 2014

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Valid September 18-December 31, 2014

Collaborators and Partners:

For more information on climate in Wyoming and the High Plains, go to: http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/
For more information on the U.S. Drought Monitor, go to: http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/
For Wyoming streamflow information, go to: http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wy/nwis/rt

EC: Equal chances of above, near, or below normal
A: Above normal B: Below normal

(Or this space can be used for contact information)