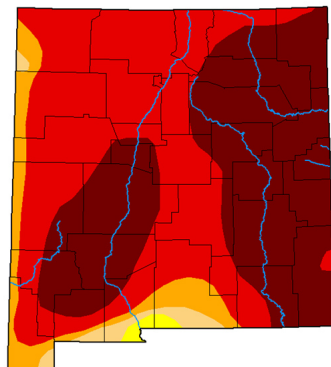


Commissioners place a fireworks ban on McKinley County

Written by By Molly Ann Howell Sun Correspondent
Friday, 17 June 2022 03:56

U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico



May 24, 2022
(Released Thursday, May 26, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT


Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	99.26	97.20	90.06	45.84
Last Week (05-17-2022)	0.00	100.00	99.26	97.20	84.91	36.73
3 Months Ago (02-23-2022)	0.00	100.00	97.09	79.86	32.46	2.53
Start of Calendar Year (01-01-2022)	0.00	100.00	97.83	75.86	20.91	0.00
Start of Water Year (09-01-2021)	15.70	89.30	79.47	49.33	19.12	0.00
One Year Ago (05-24-2021)	0.01	99.99	99.47	94.88	74.71	48.72

Intensity:
None D0 Abnormally Dry D1 Moderate Drought D2 Severe Drought D3 Extreme Drought D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.aspx>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought conditions have still not improved, and with the Fourth of July less than a month away, the McKinley County commissioners have made the decision to ban certain fireworks.

According to the Drought Monitor, McKinley County is now in the D3 (extreme) drought zones, with a small part of the northwest corner of the state in the D2 (severe) zones as of May 26. The Drought Monitor is put out by the the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

According to Weather Underground, a website that provides long-range weather reports, McKinley County hasn't seen any rain since April 13, and that day it only rained .03 inches. It also rained on April 5, but that was only .04 inches.

Wind has also been a factor in the drought conditions. According to Weather Underground, on April 22, wind gusts got up to 52 mph.

McKinley County hasn't seen any extreme fires despite the dry conditions. However, fires continue to ambush other parts of New Mexico.

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According to the McKinley County Fire Department presentation that was given during the commissioners' June 7 special meeting, the Hermit's Peak-Calf Canyon fire has destroyed 315,000 acres. The Black Fire has destroyed 246,000 acres, the Fost Fire over 10,000, and the Bear Trap fire 38,000.

These factors led the commissioners to approve the firework ban during the meeting.

"It was really a no-brainer with the drought conditions and the wildfires in New Mexico," Dist. 1 Commissioner Billy Moore said in an interview with the *Sun*. "We didn't really have a choice."

With a firework ban, only certain fireworks can be banned. Things like sparklers and smaller fireworks that don't go very high will not be a part of the ban.

By Molly Ann Howell
Sun Correspondent