



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

[Drought Management Research in Utah](#)

The western US faces increasing water demand from urban areas and considerable uncertainty in the year-to-year water yield from mountain snowmelt. Recent drought in Utah has raised calls for crisis management including water conservation in urban areas and wildland vegetation management to increase water yield. However, as population growth in much of the arid West continues to outpace water availability, some long-term solutions to bring supply and demand into balance are needed. The overarching objective of the Drought Management, Utah Project is to better understand options for and results from changes in vegetation management, supply management, and water use practices using experimental and investigative research. This objective is currently being addressed by conducting disciplinary and multi-disciplinary research related to different aspects of water management. An overview of the experimental approaches for ongoing research is presented. Preliminary results are also discussed for inquiry into the controls on annual yield from mountain sources, use of drought tolerant landscape species and factors shaping public perceptions and behaviors about water use.

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