

ARIZONA DROUGHT REPORT

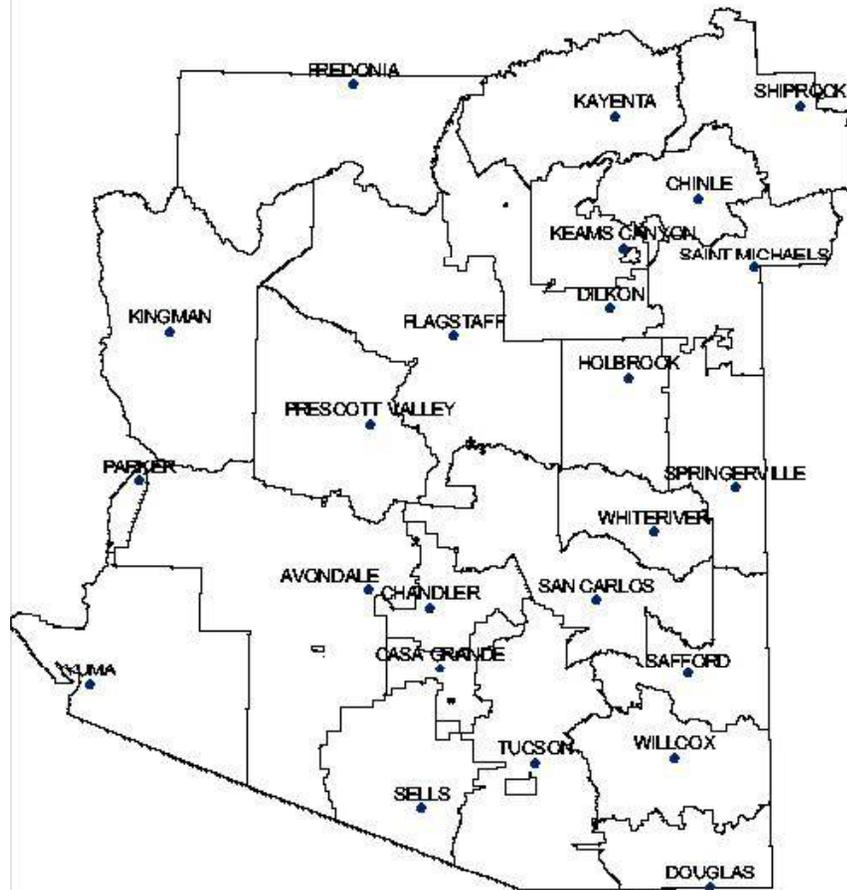
An Update - November 2009

Steve Cassady

State Rangeland Management Specialist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Arizona

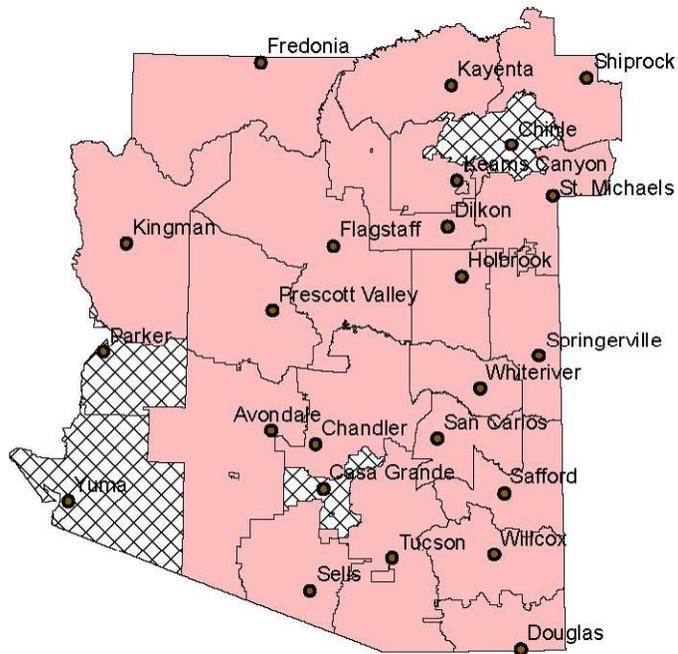


NRCS Field Offices



- NRCS has 24 Field Offices located throughout the state.
- These District Conservationists and staff provide the on-the-ground knowledge and data collection.
- A survey was sent to all Field Offices in September 2009 to assess conditions on Arizona's range and croplands following the 2008-2009 precipitation year.

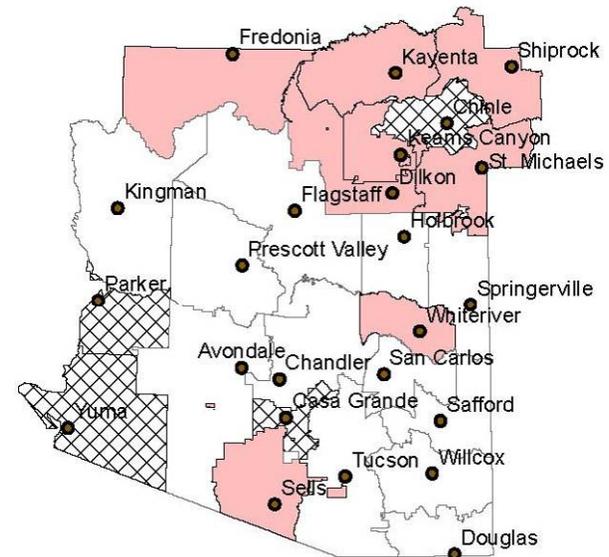
Field Offices Reporting Drought Impact



- All reporting Field Offices (20 of 24) reported drought conditions were observed within the work area.
- *No report received from Casa Grande, Chinle, Parker and Yuma.

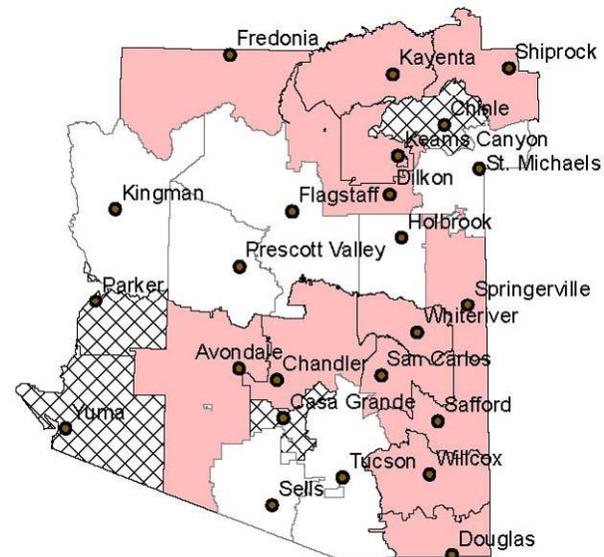
Drought Affected Dryland Cropland

- Eight offices (Fredonia, Kayenta, Shiprock, Dilkon, Keams Canyon, St. Michaels, Whiteriver and Sells) reported there was dryland cropland affected by drought in the work area.
- Crop loss on affected acreage ranges from 30 to 100 percent with an average of 61% which is up substantially from last year's (50%). Approximately 6,440 acres are affected, up from last years 4,000 acres.
- Crops affected include corn, squash, melons, alfalfa, wheat, Hopi lima beans, Hopi purple beans and pasture.



Drought Impacted Irrigated Cropland

- Thirteen field offices (up from 7) reported irrigation water shortages due to drought conditions.
- Most of these offices reported most or all of the irrigated lands were affected .
- Crop production losses ranging from 15 to 90 percent were expected.
- Crops affected include corn, cotton, small grains, alfalfa, fruit and nut orchards, and irrigated pasture.
- Affected water sources include wells, direct diversion from streams, and reservoirs.

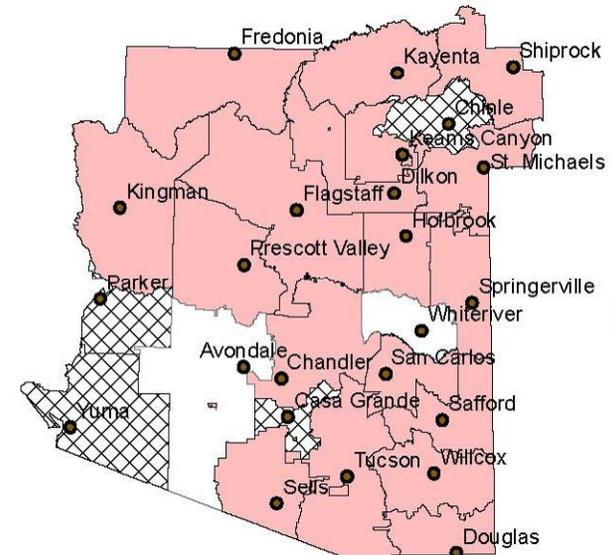


Based on NRCS Field Office Reports, October 2008

Livestock Water

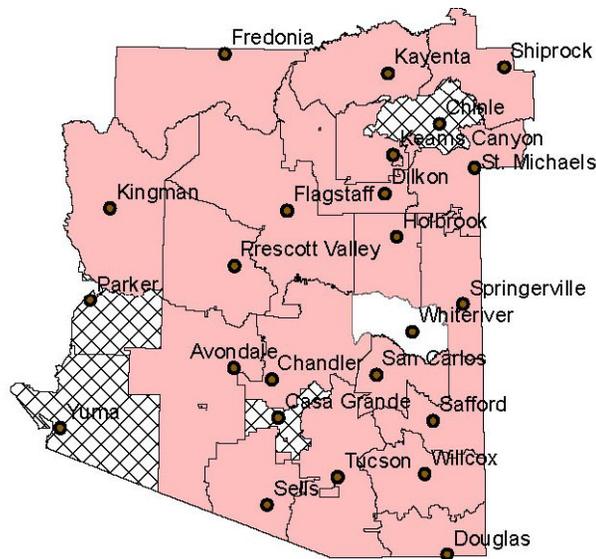
- Twenty field offices reported livestock water shortages are occurring in the field office work area.
- Seventeen offices reported ranchers are hauling water due to drought conditions.
- The percent of ranchers hauling water in these field offices range from 5% (Willcox) to 85% (Shiprock).
- Dirt ponds, water harvesting catchments, springs, and wells are all impacted.

Areas Hauling Water



Rangeland Forage Production

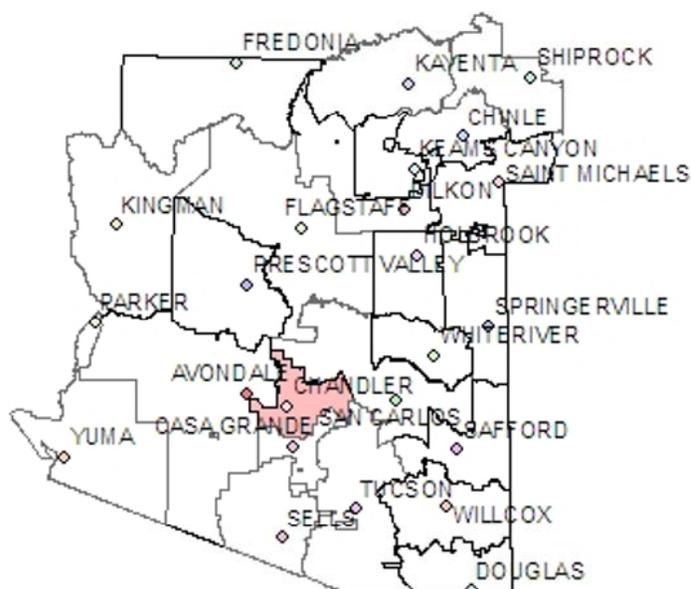
Areas reporting livestock forage shortage



- Nineteen field offices reported shortages of livestock forage due to drought conditions in the work area.
- Percent of normal spring forage ranged from 20% to 90% in these offices.
- Percent of normal for the entire growing season ranges from 10% to 70%.
- Livestock numbers are 5% to 100% of established carrying capacity in these offices.

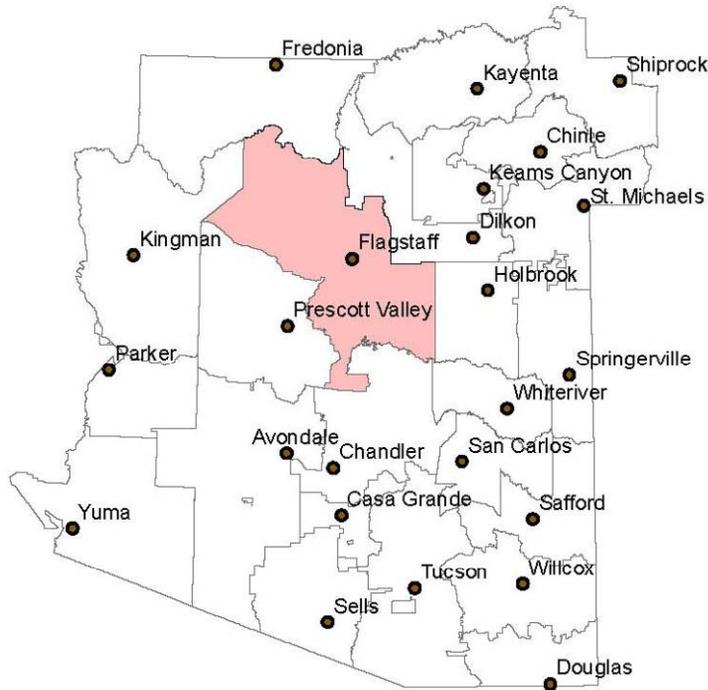
Based on NRCS Field Office Reports, October 2007

Additional Comments of Interest:



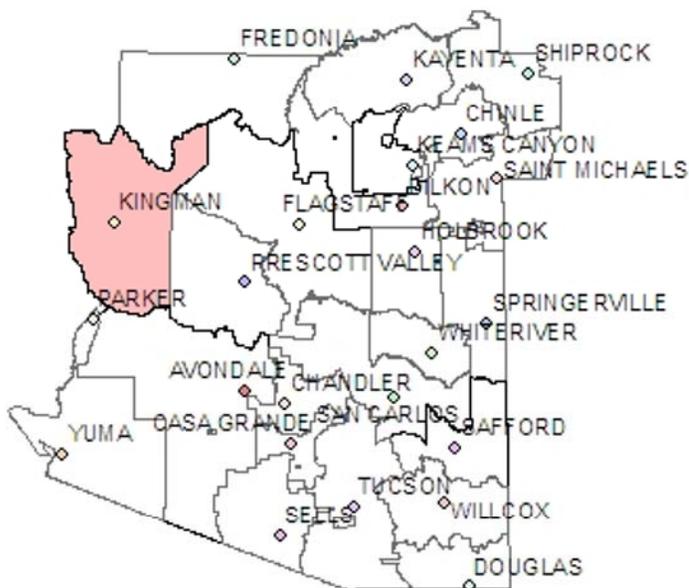
- **Chandler Field Office:**
Most pastures that received use in the late spring early summer did not receive much growing season rain and show little to no regrowth after being grazed. Plants that did produce seed stalks show very poor vigor, very little recruitment exhibited by warm season grasses. Acorn production is real spotty, where acorns were produced there are many blanks or empty shells, lack of good mast production puts more pressure by deer and elk on what warm season grass growth did occur, example I estimate use on plains lovegrass at a 38.2 granitic hills site at 20 -30 %, strictly elk use only.

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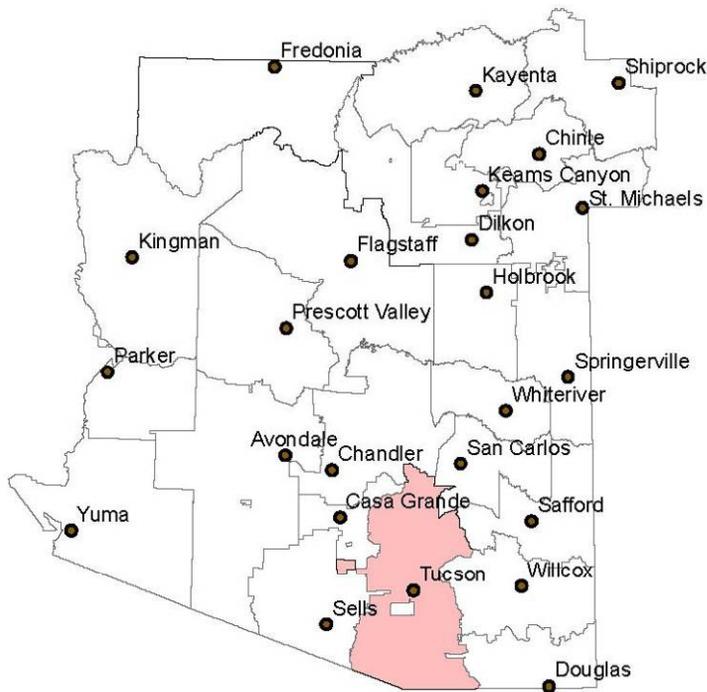
- **Flagstaff Field Office:** Last year the Flagstaff Field Office reported above normal amount of water in ponds. This year - between Twin Arrows and Meteor Crater has received less than 2" of rain this summer. We have residual forage resources left over from the late spring storms but grew little to no feed during the Summer. Of the nearly 100,000 on the ranch we have 3 earthen tanks that have water. We will have to haul water to about 60% of the ranch until conditions improve..

Additional Comments of Interest:



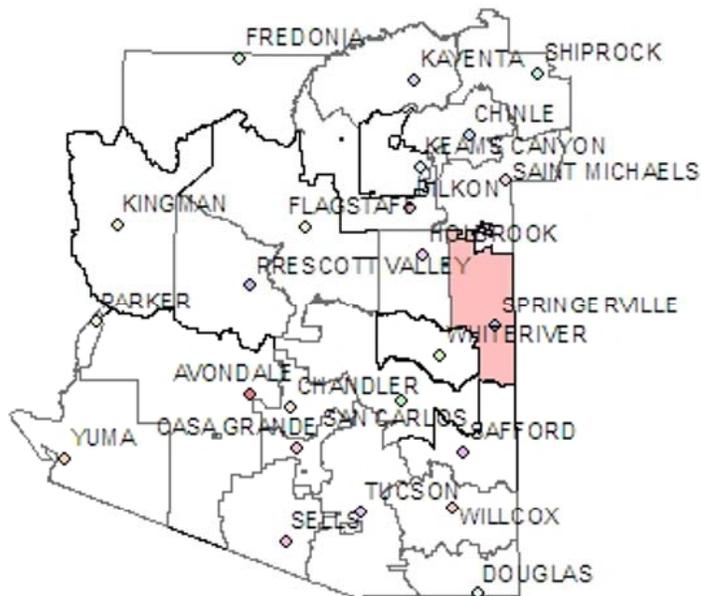
- **Kingman Field Office:** Last year reported spotty rain, that MLRA 30 (Mohave Desert) looks very rough this year providing 30% or less of normal year feed. This year This summer has been dry with very spotty monsoons. A few areas got rain at the right time for summer growth but most places look dry with little summer growth. Please send rain!

Additional Comments of Interest:



- **Tucson Field Office:** Conditions are bad in some parts of the work area. 2 ranches- one in Pima and one in Santa Cruz have or are in the process of selling off their entire herd. Many other ranches are making drastic culls to their herds in Pima and Santa Cruz. If they have (IP irrigated pasture), then most cattle have been moved onto it now in order to not sell.

Additional Comments of Interest:



- **Springerville Field Office:** Due to prolonged drought conditions ranchers have been reducing herd size over the years. Estimate that numbers are down considerably from last year's 50-60% of normal livestock numbers being grazed. One rancher reported that he normally runs 350 to 400 head on his winter country, this winter he is forced to reduce down to 25 head due to lack of forage.

Additional Comments of Interest:



- **Fredonia Field Office:** The winter moisture was really good on the Strip and on towards spring, but the timing wasn't the greatest for many areas for the spring moisture. Some areas, like House Rock and around Mt Trumbull did very well, but the rest of the area including Lower Hurricane, Pipe Valley, and Mainstreet did not fair well. The summer moisture was really poor. Very little moisture came. The storms were spotty if any. Very few ponds have water. Producers are relying on cool season forage, but there will not be enough to last. Many are selling and reducing numbers this month to see if they can make it through the winter, but they will not have an abundance of forage in the spring since we are at the end of the growing season.

Thank You

