

Short-term Drought Status Report

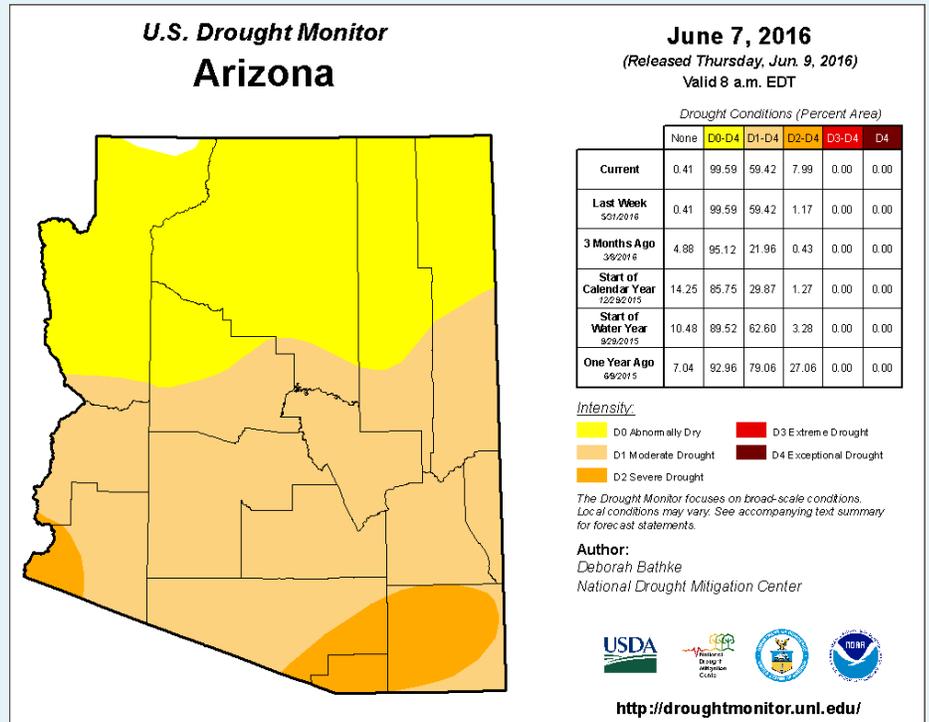
May 2016

May precipitation missed southeastern Arizona, as did April precipitation, so the area has deteriorated from moderate drought (D1) to severe drought (D2).

This part of the state has been unusually dry since last year's monsoon season, leading to deteriorating

range conditions and increasing wildfire risk. Numerous low elevation fires have occurred across southern Arizona this spring due to high fine fuel loads coupled with the unusually dry conditions.

If this year's monsoon behaves as it typically does, southeastern Arizona should see some relief by late June. However, if the monsoon turns out to be a few very large storms with heavy rainfall rather than a large number of smaller storms, the rainfall may not be beneficial to the rangeland and forests.



Summary produced by the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee — June 8, 2016