



Natural Resources Conservation Service
230 N. First Avenue, Suite 509
Phoenix, Arizona 85003 -1706

phone 602.280.8801
fax 602.280.8805
web site www.az.nrcs.usda.gov

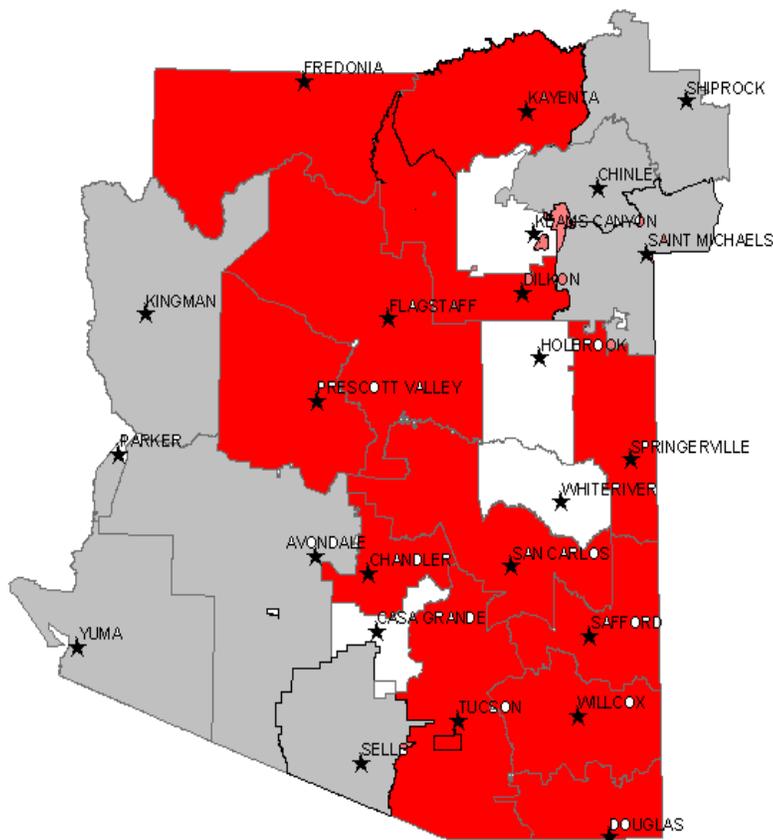
Arizona 2011 Forage Loss Report

Drier than average precipitation in the 2010-2011 winter, related to a La Niña pattern, resulted in a worsening in drought conditions during the 2011 year. Spring and early summer were relatively dry, but the monsoon did bring some precipitation to southeastern Arizona and the higher elevations of the state. The southwestern deserts and Mohave County did not benefit greatly from the monsoon season and drought conditions worsened.

NRCS uses Major Land Resource Areas (MLRAs) to differentiate major ecological regions and their climate and vegetation subdivisions within the state. Forage loss estimates for each of the Major Land Resource Areas in Arizona are shown in the table below. Because of the sample size, the forage loss estimates are generally reliable at the MLRA or State level.

NRCS evaluated 2011 forage losses in Arizona from range study data and from Field Office Drought Reports. NRCS has 24 Field Offices located throughout the state. The District Conservationists and staff from these offices provide the on-the ground knowledge and data collection to support the report. Reports were submitted within Arizona with the exception of the Colorado Desert (31) MLRA. Based on the above information the average forage production across Arizona was approximately 56 percent of normal for 2011.

Offices Reporting Livestock Forage Shortages



Arizona 2011 Forage Loss

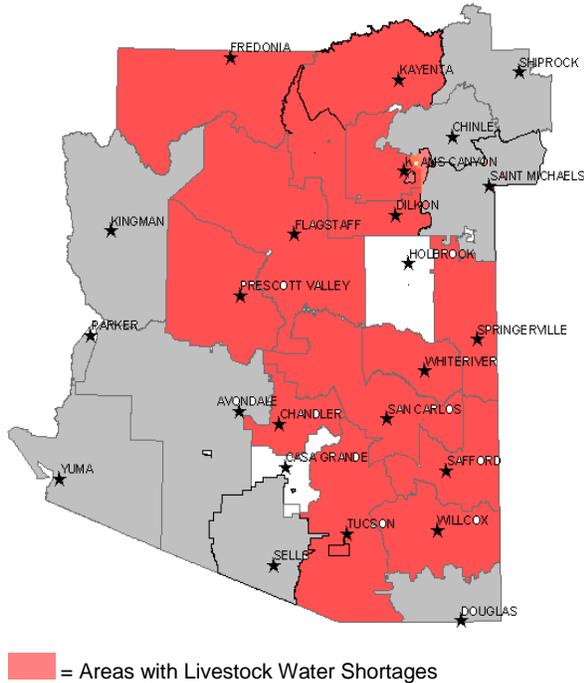
<u>MLRA</u>	<u>MLRA Name</u>	<u>% Forage Loss</u>
30	Mohave Basin and Range	40
35	Colorado Plateau	55
38	Mogollon Transition	40
40	Sonoran Desert	55
41	Southeastern Basin and Range	45
39	Az and New Mexico Mountains	<u>30</u>
Statewide Average		44%



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Offices Reporting Livestock Water Shortages

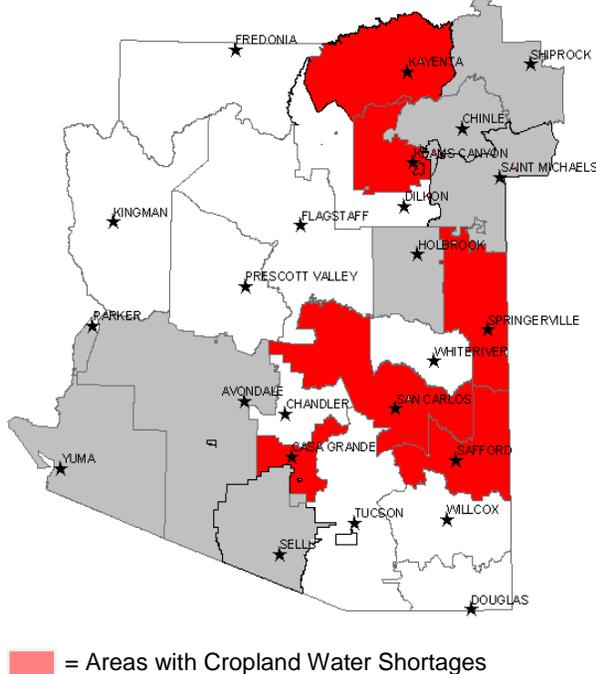


2012 Outlook

As part of the report, NRCS Field Offices were asked to assess the outlook for forage production for the 2012 spring season. The offices indicated only 57% of normal forage production would likely occur. With current conditions indicating continued drought it is probable that available forage is even less than the estimate submitted.

In addition to forage production loss, livestock water shortages were reported from most of the offices throughout the state. Dirt ponds, water harvesting catchments, springs, and wells were all impacted by water shortages and in many cases livestock operators are relying on water hauling.

Offices Reporting Impacted Irrigated Cropland



Several Field Offices reported irrigation water shortages due to drought conditions. Crop production losses ranging from 10 to 90 percent were expected. Crops affected include corn, cotton, wheat, barley, melons, squash, beans, small grains, alfalfa, nut orchards, and irrigated pasture. Affected water sources included wells, direct diversion from streams, and reservoirs.