



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

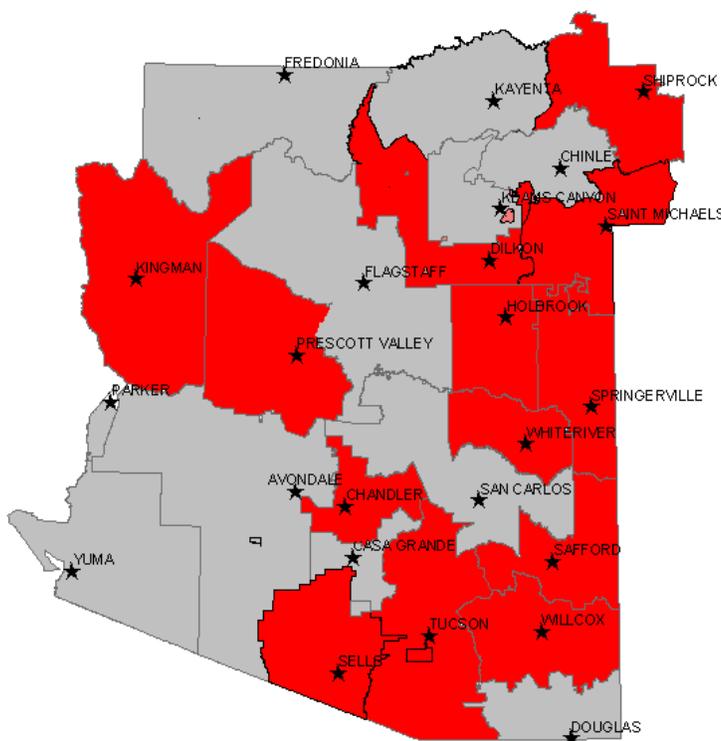
Arizona 2013 Forage Loss Report

The ENSO neutral conditions of the 2013 winter brought some improvement in forage conditions compared to previous winters; however, precipitation levels were still below normal across most rangelands and resulted in only slightly improved forage conditions prior to the summer monsoon season. Spring and early summer were relatively dry in many areas, but the monsoon did bring good precipitation and significantly improved forage conditions across most of the state with the biggest exception as the low elevations and desert in the south central part of the state (Pinal, Maricopa and Yavapai counties).

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 2013 forage losses in Arizona from range study data, inventory and 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. Based on the above information the average forage production across Arizona was approximately 66 percent of normal for 2013.

Offices Reporting Livestock Forage Shortages



Arizona 2013 Forage Loss

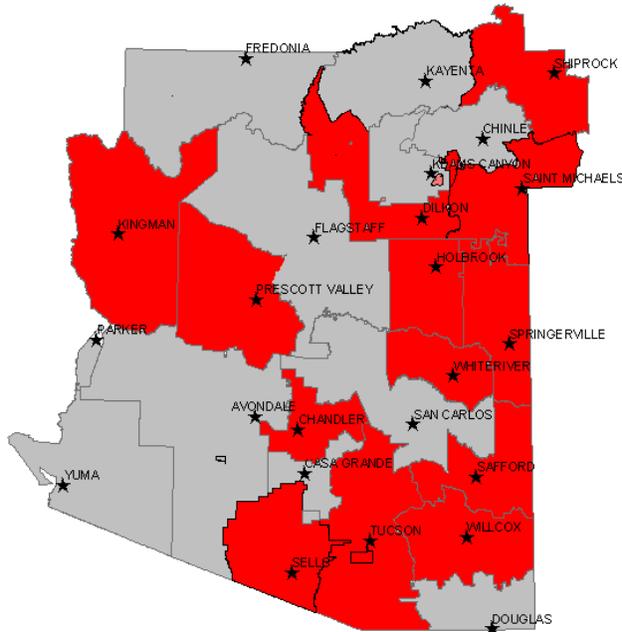
<u>MLRA</u>	<u>MLRA Name</u>	<u>% Forage Loss</u>
30	Mohave Basin and Range	10%
35	Colorado Plateau	34%
38	Mogollon Transition	50%
40	Sonoran Desert	70%
41	Southeastern Basin and Range	25%
39	Az and New Mexico Mountains	15%
Statewide Average		34%



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

Offices Reporting Livestock Water Shortages



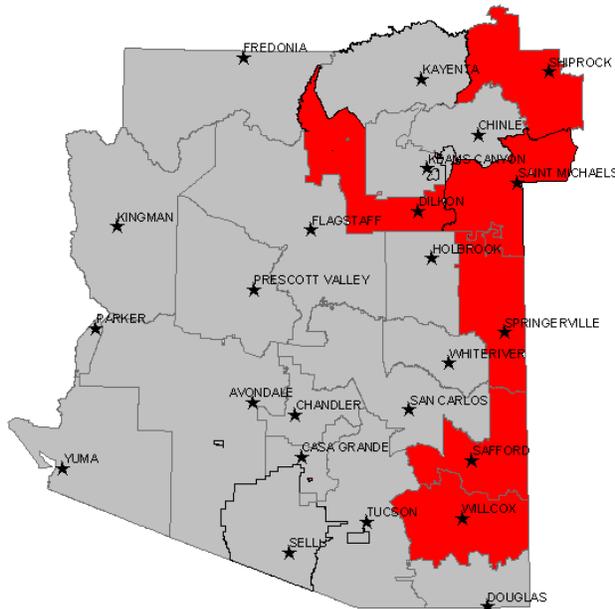
■ = Areas with Livestock Water Shortages

2014 Outlook

As part of the report, NRCS Field Offices were asked to assess the outlook for forage production for the 2014 spring season. The offices that reported indicated that below normal forage production would likely occur. With current conditions indicating average or slightly below average precipitation for the winter/spring it is probable that available forage will be average to below average as well.

In addition to forage production loss, livestock water shortages were indicated from the offices that reported throughout the state. Dirt ponds, water harvesting catchments, springs, and wells were all impacted by water shortages, although the monsoon did help to replenish some supplies. In some cases livestock operators are relying on water hauling.

Offices Reporting Impacted Irrigated Cropland



■ = Areas with Cropland Water Shortages

Several Field Offices reported irrigation water shortages due to drought conditions. Crop production losses ranging from 20 to 80 percent were expected. Crops affected include corn, cotton, wheat, barley, oats, beans, alfalfa, and irrigated pasture. Affected water sources included wells, direct diversion from streams, and reservoirs.

