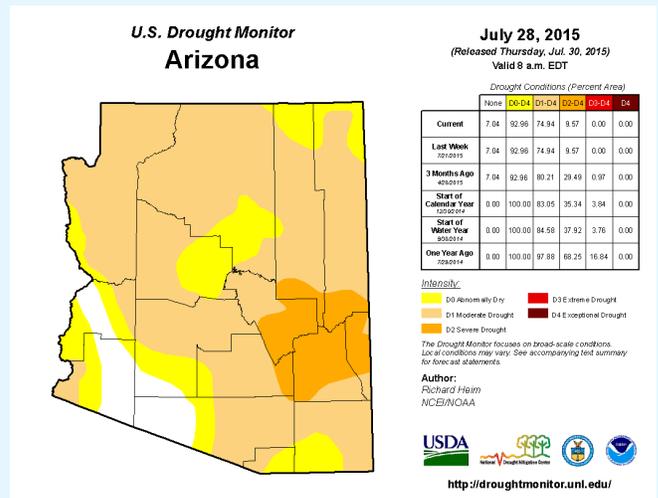


Drought Status Report

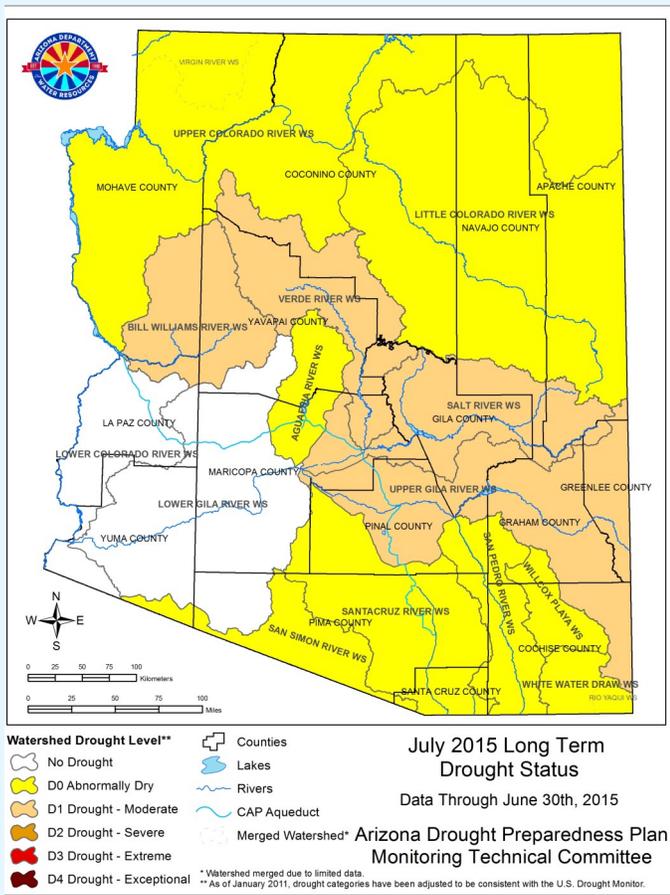
July 2015 Short-term Drought Status

July was near average for monsoon activity and precipitation, so there has not been much change in the short-term drought situation, and most of the state remains in moderate drought.

The heavy rainfall has been highly localized, but northeastern Arizona has received relatively consistent moderate rainfall from the convective activity this summer. As a result, severe drought has been downgraded to moderate drought in northern Coconino and Mohave counties and in central Apache County.



April–June 2015 Long-term Drought Status



There has been slow improvement across the eastern half of the state over the past 4 months, finally resulting in changes to the long term drought map. Seven watersheds in the eastern half of the state have improved from moderate drought to abnormally dry, while the Upper and Lower Colorado and Lower Gila have remained in either abnormally dry or no drought. The Salt and Upper Gila remain at moderate drought even though stream flow has been above average recently. The longer term water resource condition for these watersheds is still a significant long-term deficit.

Much of the improvement is due to spring precipitation, and even the Upper Colorado system in Colorado has several very late snowstorms, which will help alleviate the poor run-off into Lakes Powell and Mead from the dry winter.

So far the monsoon has been a little wetter than normal in some parts of the state, but

very localized. There are two more months of monsoon left, and the eastern Pacific Ocean is still quite warm, so there are good prospects for more moisture to be drawn into the monsoon circulation.