

Drought Status Update

Short-term Drought Status Update

There was no change in drought status through October, except along the Colorado River valley in northwestern Mohave County. The improvement from moderate drought (D1) to abnormally dry (D0) was due to a significant rainfall event in the Las Vegas area.

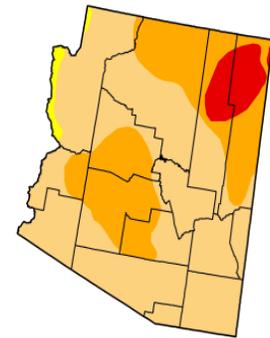
October was relatively dry across most of Arizona, but this is not unusual for October. This is a month that normally transitions from the monsoon to the winter storm pattern that usually takes over in November. Northeastern Arizona on the Navajo Nation still has a large area of severe drought that will hopefully be in the path of some winter storms in the next several months

U.S. Drought Monitor

October 30, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Arizona

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	98.66	34.89	5.67	0.00
Last Week (10/23/2012 mas)	0.00	100.00	98.66	31.28	5.67	0.00
3 Months Ago (07/31/2012 mas)	0.00	100.00	100.00	94.07	25.07	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 mas)	16.70	83.30	60.34	36.56	2.78	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 mas)	0.00	100.00	100.00	31.93	5.67	0.00
One Year Ago (10/25/2011 mas)	1.43	98.57	68.57	42.81	15.12	1.24



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

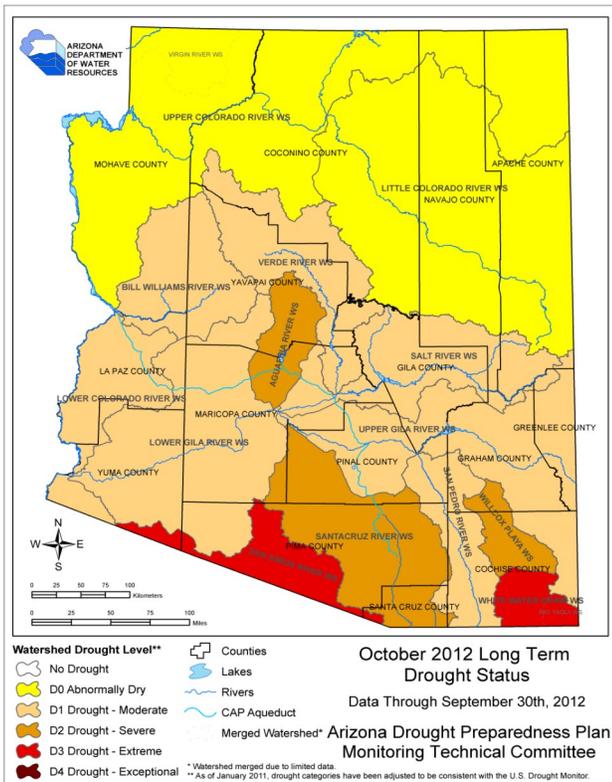


Released Thursday, November 1, 2012
Michael Brewer, National Climatic Data Center/NOAA

Long-term Drought Status Update: July–August

The monsoon of 2012 was wetter than the monsoons of 2009, 2010 and 2011 for many parts of the state, so there was improvement in the long-term drought status in five watersheds. The Little Colorado, Upper Colorado, Upper Gila, Bill Williams and San Pedro watersheds all saw a one category improvement, while White Water Draw in the southeast corner of Arizona dropped from severe drought (D2) to extreme drought (D3).

The other eight watersheds had no change in drought status. This leaves the state with the northern two watersheds abnormally dry while the southern two-thirds of the state is in moderate, severe, or extreme drought. Another dry winter will seriously degrade the situation as groundwater pumping will further deplete the aquifers.



This winter is forecast to be either a weak El Niño or neutral, with no strong indication of wetter or dryer conditions for this winter.