



# Drought Status Update

## October 2010

### Short-term Drought Status Update

A number of severe storms hit Arizona in October, bringing tornados to the Flagstaff area, and tennis ball size hail in some areas of the Phoenix metropolitan area. Northern Arizona had widespread precipitation and cooler temperatures as a cold low pressure system moved through the state in the first week of October. The precipitation helped to fill stock ponds in some locations, but was too late in the season to affect most of the vegetation, which is going dormant. Southern Arizona had scattered precipitation, with the driest areas in the southeast and along the eastern border. Short-term drought conditions improved in the northwest quadrant through northern and western Coconino and central Mohave counties.

### U.S. Drought Monitor

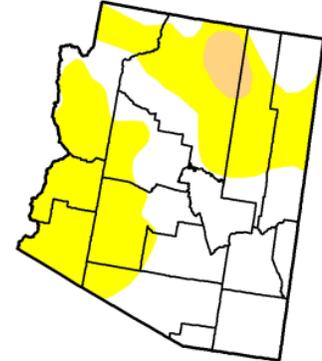
#### Arizona

November 2, 2010  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	51.4	48.6	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Last Week (10/26/2010 map)	51.4	48.6	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
3 Months Ago (08/10/2010 map)	40.0	60.0	13.4	2.7	0.0	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/05/2010 map)	0.0	100.0	97.2	71.1	5.1	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/05/2010 map)	40.0	60.0	18.6	3.2	0.0	0.0
One Year Ago (11/03/2009 map)	0.0	100.0	86.9	53.5	0.0	0.0

Intensity:

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

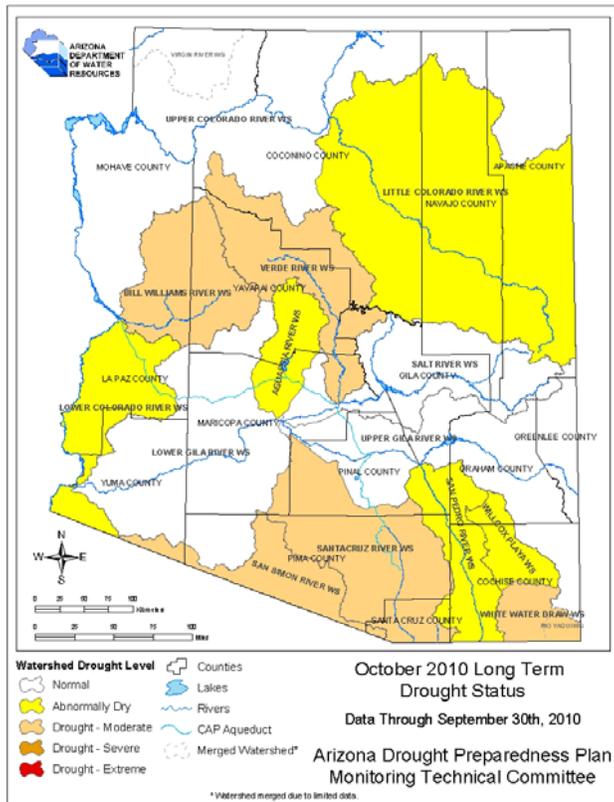


The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, November 4, 2010  
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### Long-term Drought Status Update

The long-term drought situation benefitted from the wet El Niño winter, particularly at the higher elevations along the Mogollon Rim, the White Mountains in eastern Arizona and across northern Arizona. This brought the Upper Colorado, Upper Gila, Lower Gila, and Salt River watersheds out of drought. Most other watersheds in northern and central Arizona also improved by one or two categories. Southern Arizona did not benefit as much from the El Niño winter, but some watersheds with higher elevations experienced a wet monsoon, particularly in the southeast quadrant. The Santa Cruz, San Pedro, and Willcox Playa watersheds all improved one category. The San Simon and White Water Draw remain in moderate drought. Few improvements are anticipated this winter, especially in southern Arizona, as a strong La Niña has developed in the central Pacific Ocean, which is associated with a drier than normal winter across the southern United States. While Arizona's reservoirs are nearly full, groundwater basins have only partially recharged, and the Colorado River reservoirs, Lakes Powell and Mead, are quite low. Without an exceptionally wet winter, there could be a shortage on Lake Mead by 2013, according to the Bureau of Reclamation.

Summaries produced by the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee - Nov. 4, 2010