



Drought Status Update

June 2011

Short-term Drought Status Summary as reflected in the June 28, 2011 U.S. Drought Monitor Map

June is frequently a dry month statewide, and this year was no exception. Significant precipitation has not fallen in Arizona since mid-May. This dryness has worsened the drought impacts of the dry winter and spring. Wells are drying up across the northern counties. Strong winds and high temperatures have dried out the soil and vegetation. Over the past month, the percentage of the state in each drought category has increased, and only a narrow area along the lower Colorado River is currently without drought.

Both moderate and severe drought areas have been expanded to include northern Navajo and Apache, and eastern Coconino counties. The northwestern quarter of the state — including Mohave, western Coconino and Yavapai counties — has had a very dry spring, drying out vegetation and leading to an expansion of the abnormally dry conditions.

In the southern half of the state, the Wallow, Monument, and Horseshoe 2 forest fires combined have burned over 791,000 acres. If the monsoon brings heavy precipitation in areas that have had substantial fire activity, soil erosion, gullying and flash flooding are likely, as these are well-known post-fire impacts.

The southeastern quarter of the state is in extreme drought, and most of Cochise, eastern Graham and southern Greenlee counties are in exceptional drought. This area has received less than 25% of its average precipitation in the past six months.

The early monsoon season is usually accompanied by dry lightning; thus, fire is still a drought-related hazard to be reckoned with, especially since large fuels (fallen tree limbs, stumps and logs, and exceedingly dessicated live vegetation) are susceptible to ignition. A very wet monsoon could improve short-term drought conditions statewide, but a dry monsoon would not only worsen our short-term situation, it would also negatively impact our long-term drought by further reducing aquifers and wells.

Summary produced by the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee June 30, 2011

U.S. Drought Monitor

Arizona

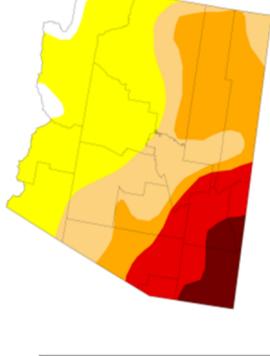
June 28, 2011

Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	2.46	97.54	61.64	40.02	18.27	5.62
Last Week (06/21/2011 map)	22.60	77.40	56.26	28.69	18.27	5.62
3 Months Ago (03/29/2011 map)	24.84	75.16	47.39	21.37	10.96	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	31.40	68.60	32.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/26/2010 map)	40.00	60.00	18.58	3.23	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (06/22/2010 map)	59.75	40.25	14.64	2.66	0.00	0.00

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>



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