

Drought Monitoring Technical Committee Update

to the

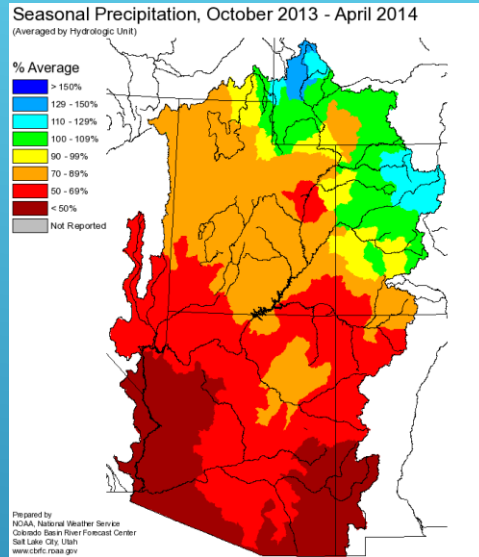
Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group

May 11, 2021

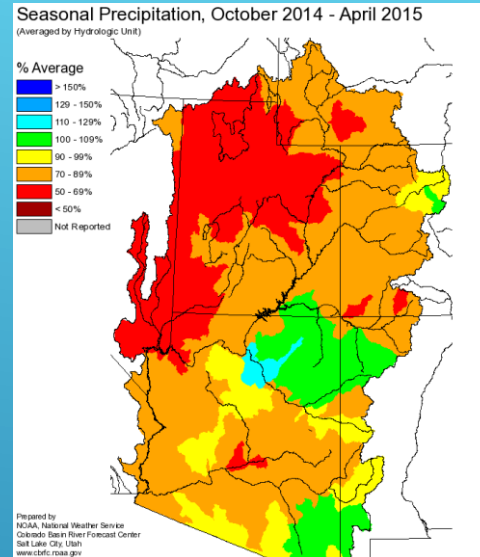
Nancy J. Selover, Ph.D.
Arizona State Climate Office

Precipitation Comparison Colorado River Basin

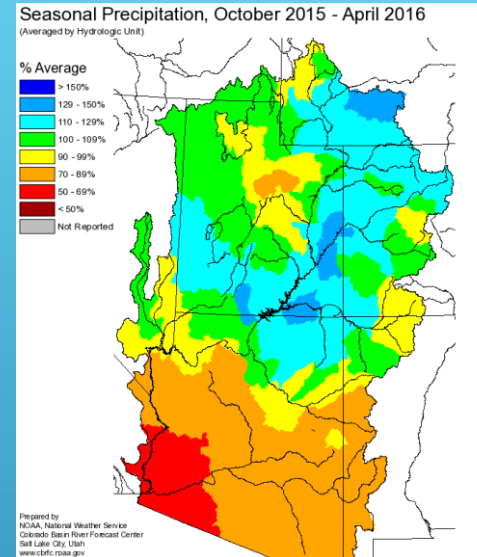
WY 2014



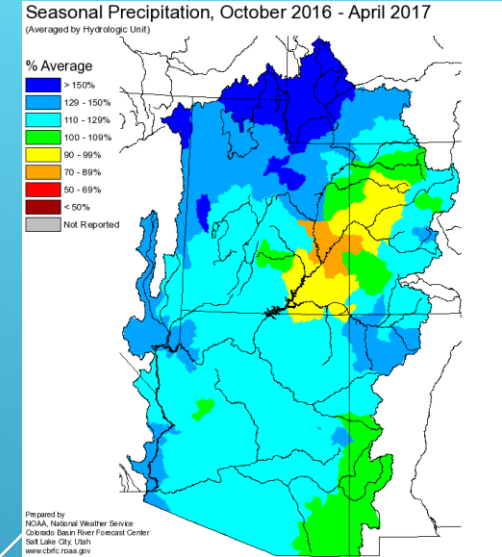
WY 2015



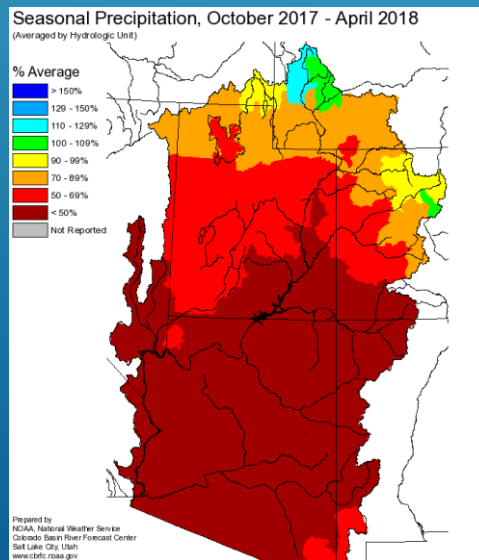
WY 2016



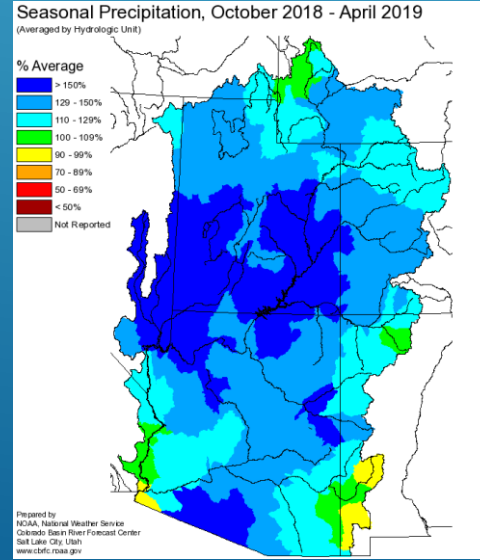
WY 2017



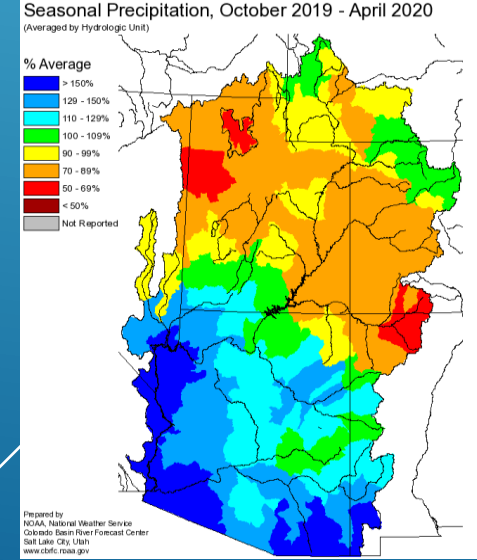
WY 2018



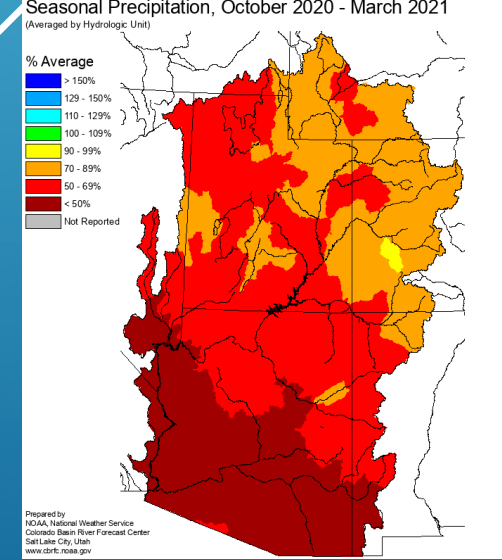
WY 2019



WY 2020



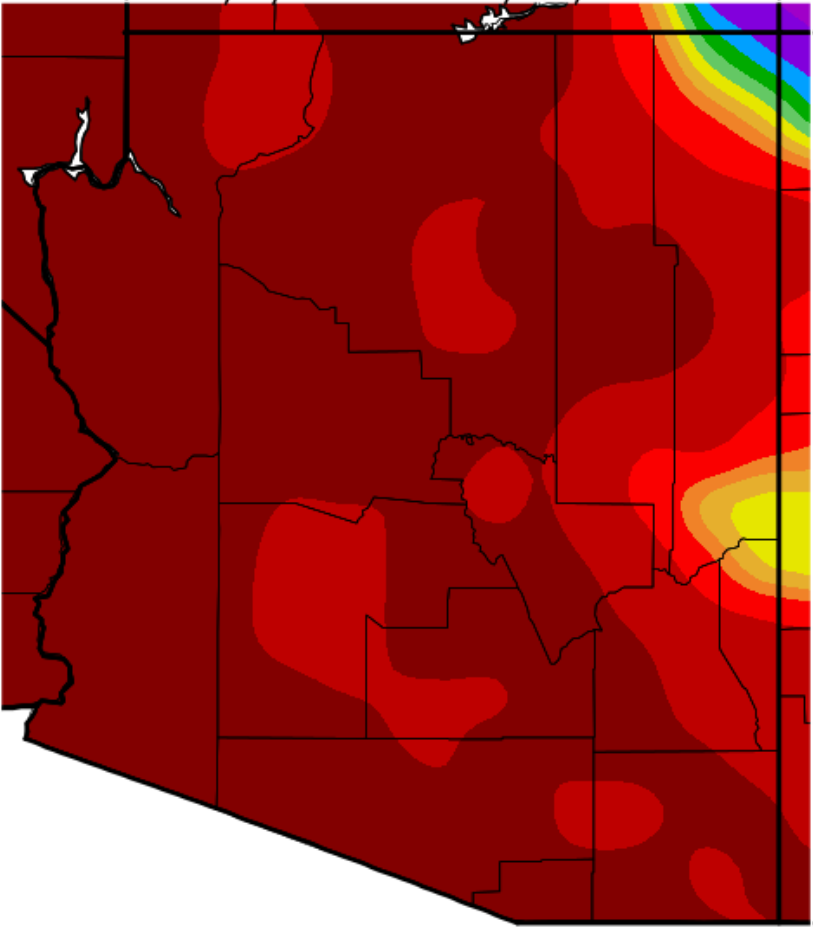
WY 2021



Water Year Precipitation Percent of Average

Oct-Dec 2020

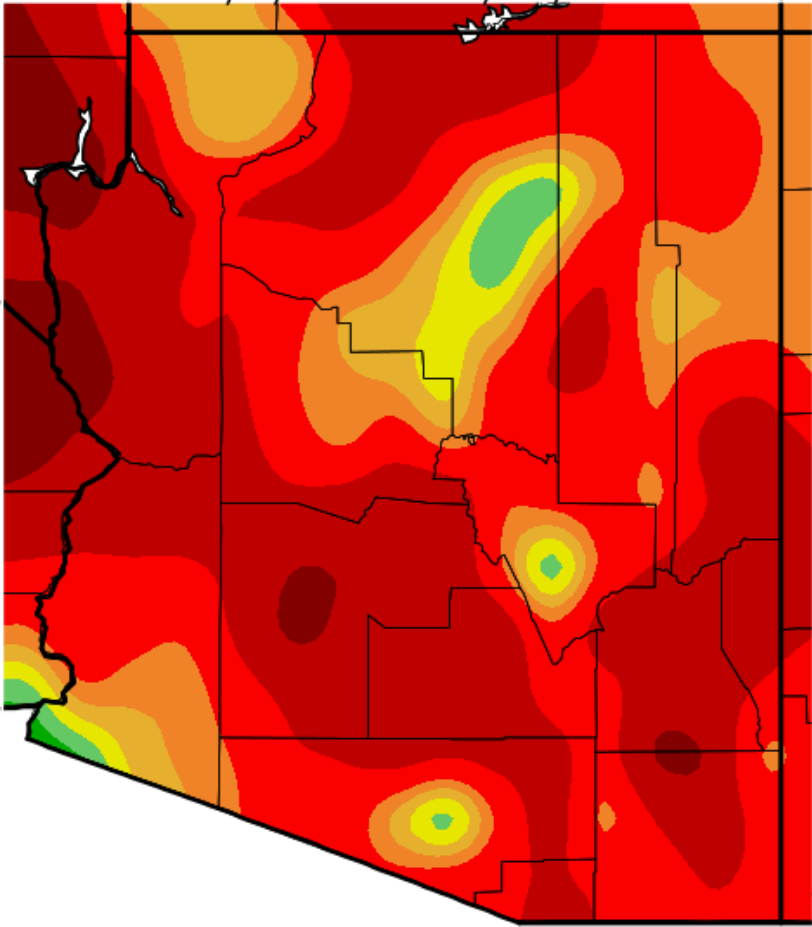
Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
10/1/2020 – 12/31/2020



Generated 1/ 1/2021 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Jan-Apr 2021

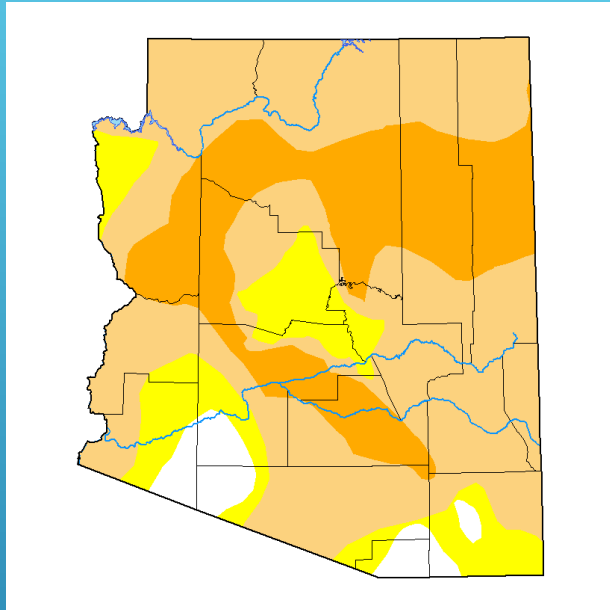
Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
1/1/2021 – 4/30/2021



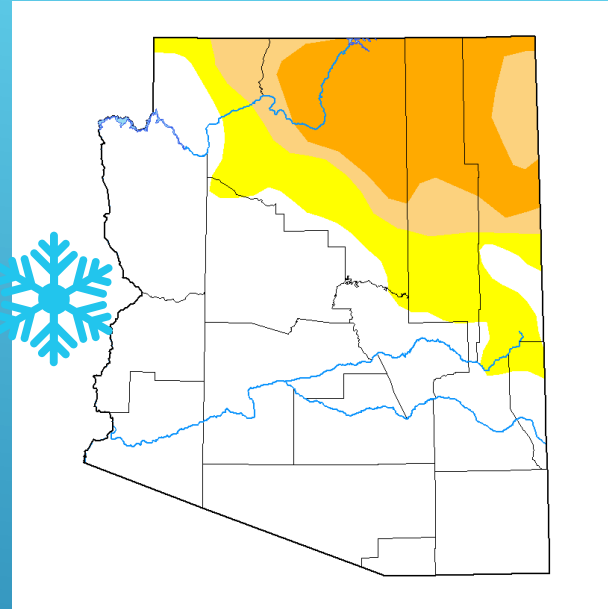
Generated 5/ 1/2021 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

National Drought Monitor Comparison (Short-Term)

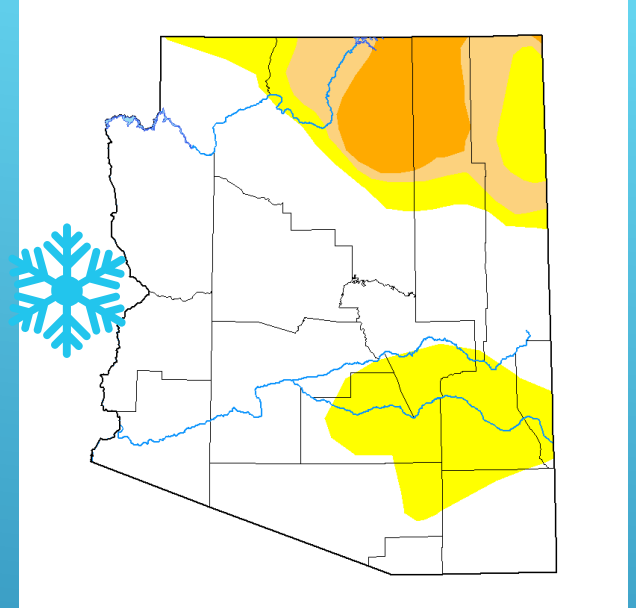
Oct 1, 2019



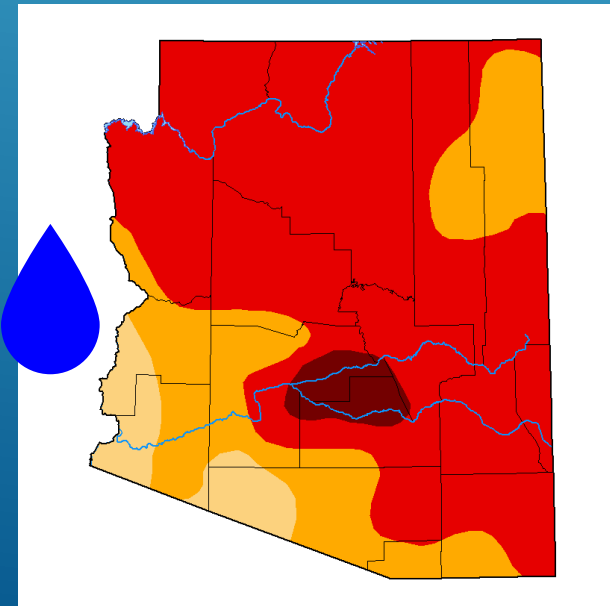
Feb 18, 2020



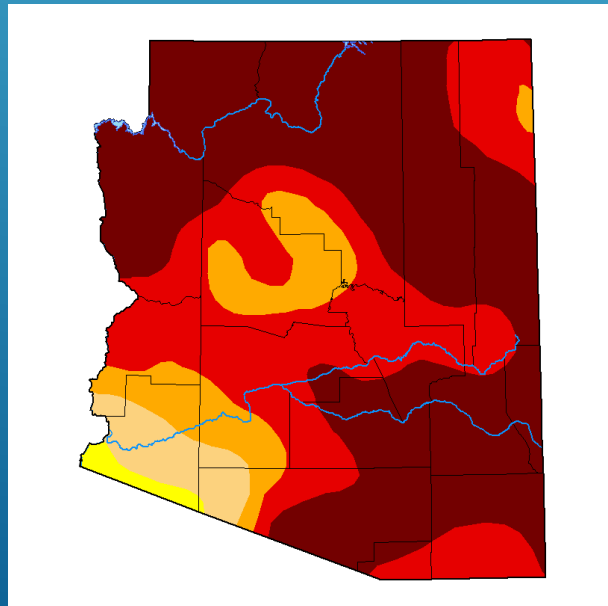
Jun 30, 2020



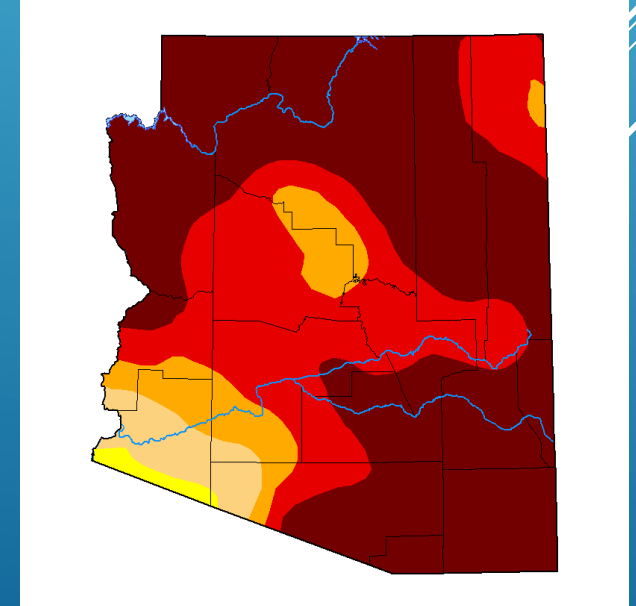
Sep 29, 2020



Feb 16, 2021









May 4, 2021



National Drought Monitor Comparison (Short-Term)

Percent of State in Drought

Category	Oct 1, 2019	Jun 16 2020	Oct 6, 2020	May 4, 2021
Exceptional Drought	0%	0%	7%	58%
Extreme Drought	0%	0%	71%	29%
Severe Drought	26%	 0%	 17%	 8%
Moderate Drought	55%	 4%	 5%	 4%
Abnormally Dry	14%	12%	0%	1%
No Drought	5%	84%	0%	0%

Wet winter 2019 followed by a failed monsoon and failed winter.

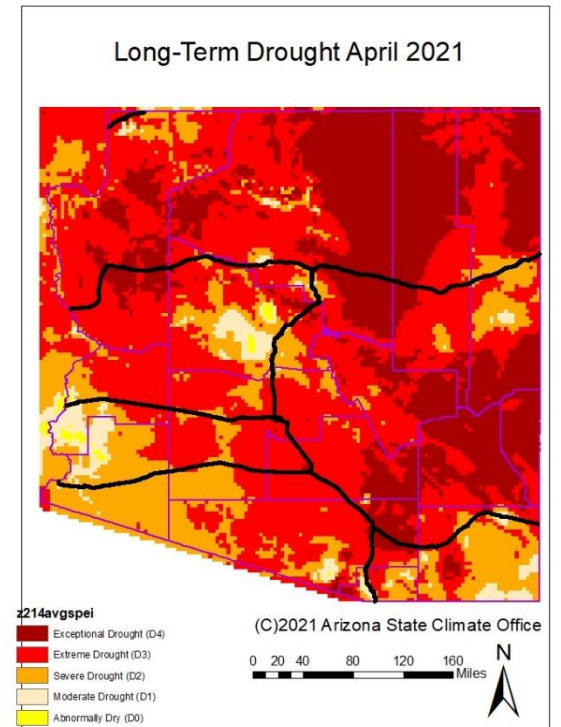
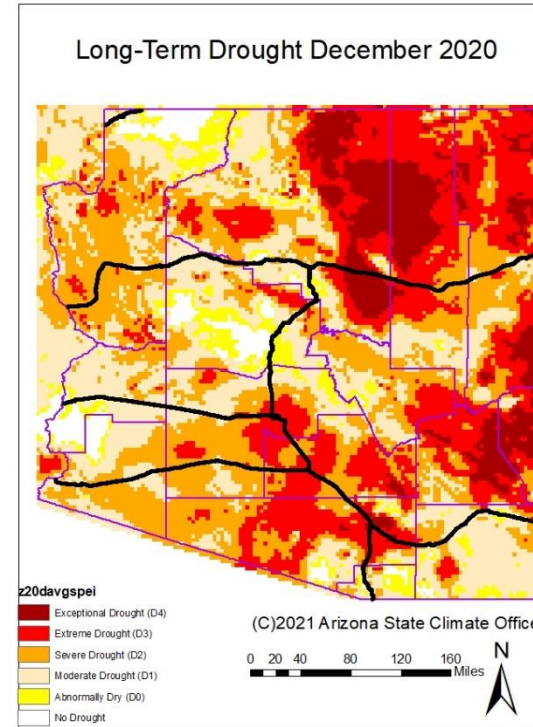
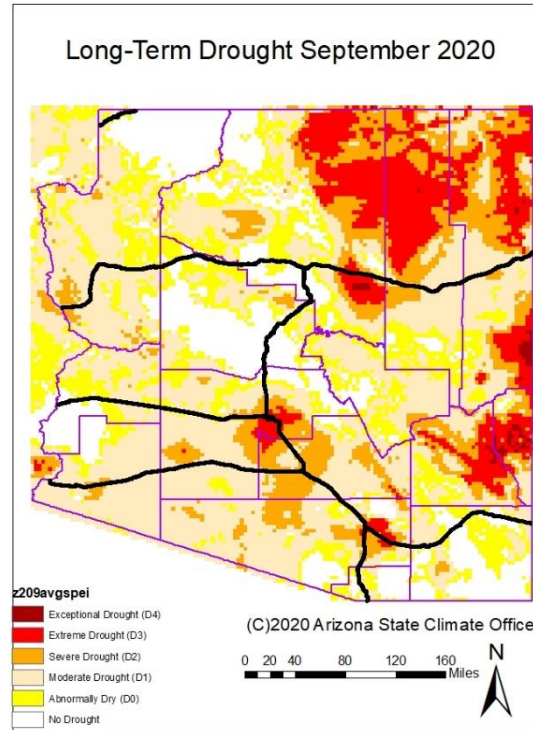
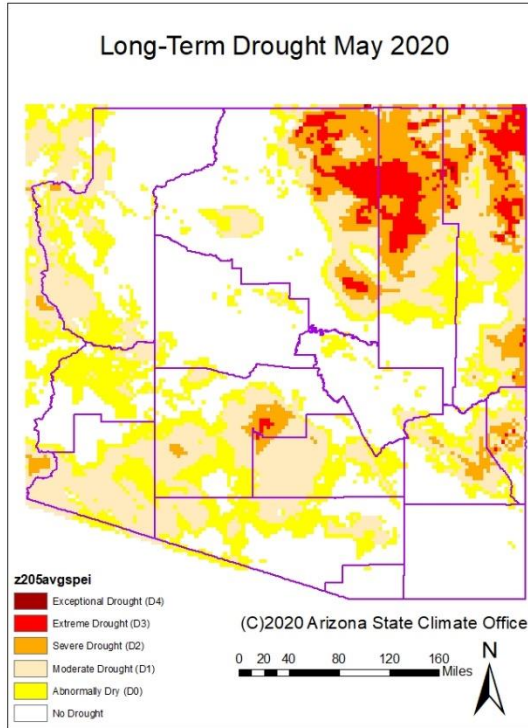
May 2020

Long Term Drought Status – Gridded

September 2020

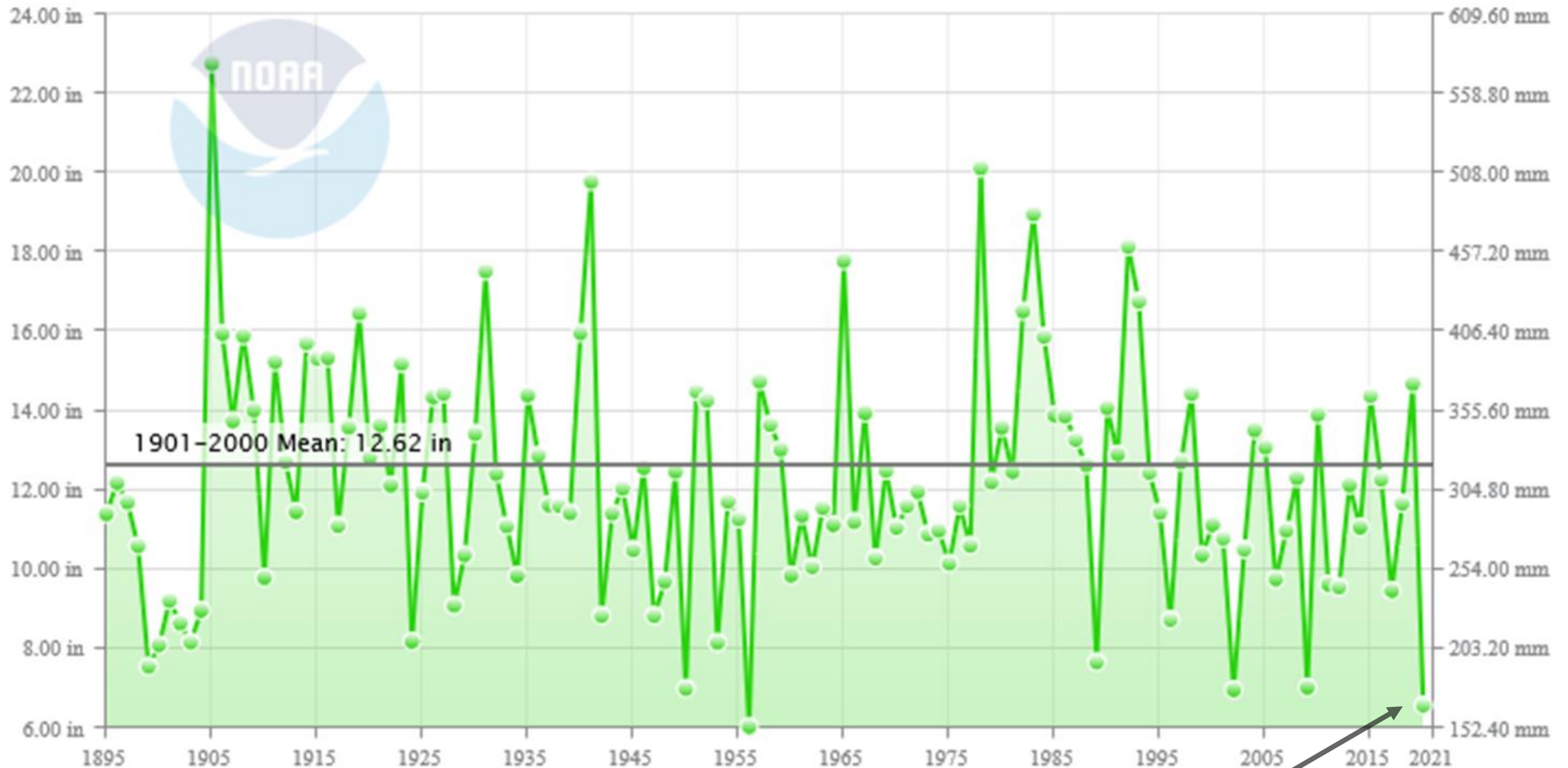
December 2020

April 2021



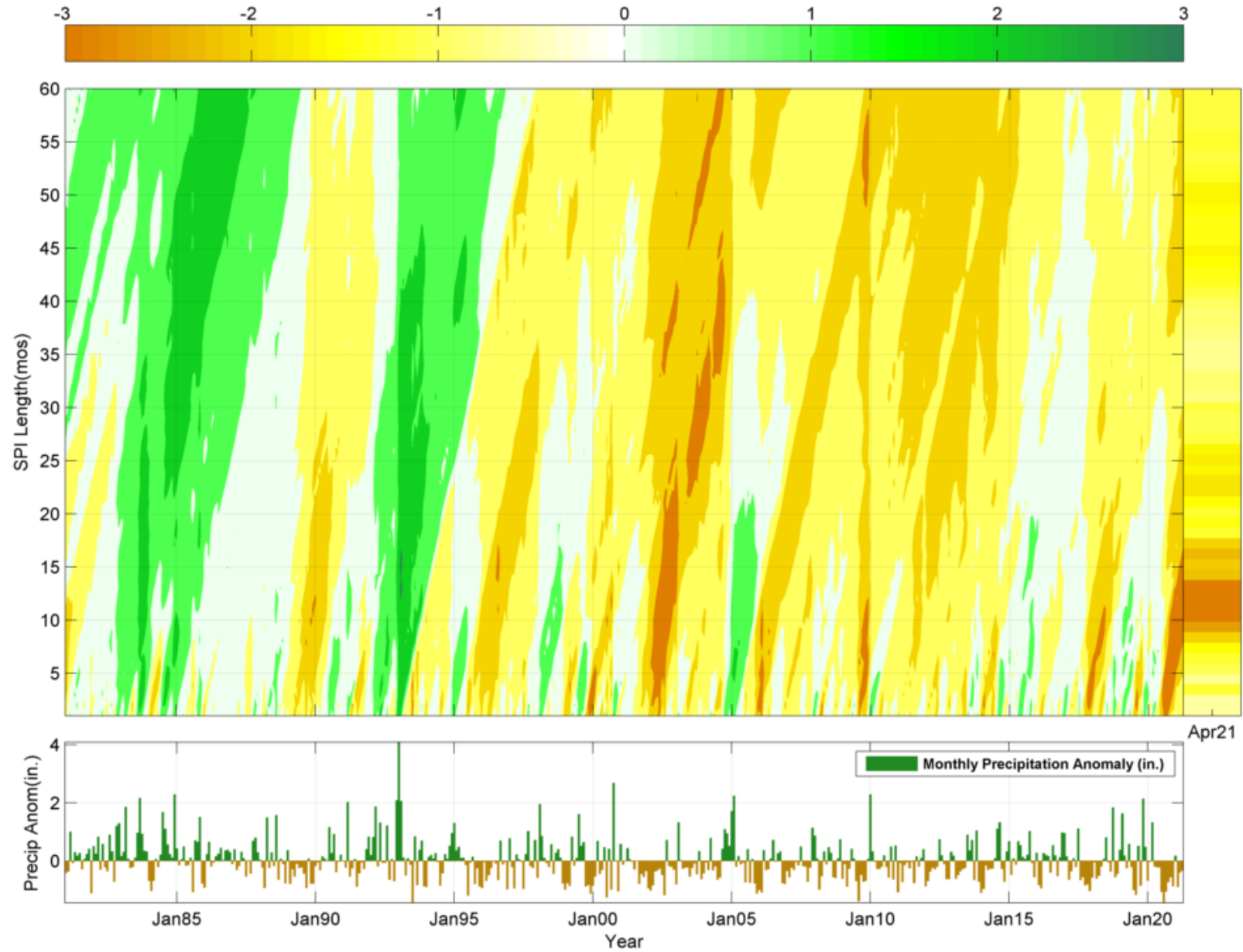
Based on average of 24-, 36-, and 48-month SPI & SPEI

Long-Term Statewide Precipitation



Average Precipitation for 2020 was at 6.58" – ranked 2nd driest

Arizona - Standardized Precipitation Index - (1-60 mos, Jan1981 - Apr2021)



« March 2020–February 2021

Value

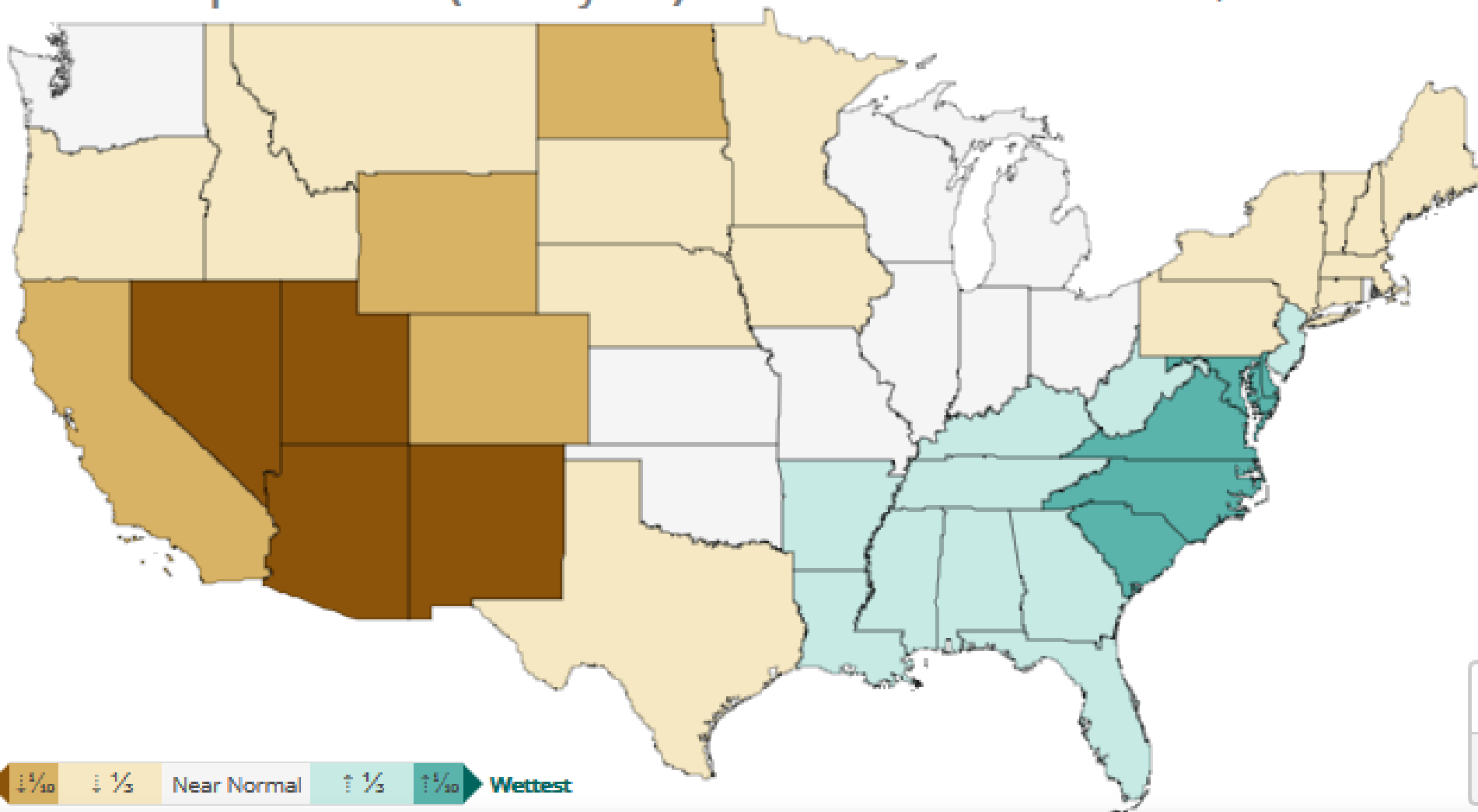
Rank

Anomaly

Mean

Statewide Precipitation Rank (of 126 years)

April 2020 - March 2021



12-month Precipitation Ranking

Arizona Driest on record at 4.87", 7.74" below 1901-2000 mean

Questions ?

Nancy J. Selover, Ph.D.
njselover@gmail.com

Erin Saffell, Ph.D.
Acting State Climatologist
Arizona State Climate Office
Arizona State University

480-965-0580
saffell@asu.edu
<http://azclimate.asu.edu>