

Department of Forestry and Fire Management



Tiffany Davila
Public Affairs Officer
tdavila@dffm.az.gov



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2020 Outlook & Seasonal Factors

- 2020 Outlook Similar to 2019 - High fire activity in Central Region down into Southern Arizona; Sonoran Desert
- Winter Moisture Attributed to Abundance of Fine Fuels. Areas with Accumulation of Fine Fuels; Grasses and Brush to see Higher Activity
- Above Normal Spring Temperatures Impacted Fine Fuels



2020 Fire Season

2020: 2,324 fires – 959,000 acres burned

2019*:

1,781 fires, 77%

371,940 acres (thru 11/3)

2018*:

1,937 fires, 68%

157,070 acres (thru 11/3)

2017*:

2,205 fires, 72%

419,439 acres



*Stats reflect all land, private, state, federal, and tribal



2020 Fire Season

- **Bush Fire – Tonto National Forest**
Started 6/13/2020
193,455 acres
Human-caused (car)
- **Bighorn Fire – Coronado National Forest**
Started 6/5/2020
119,987 acres
Lightning
- **Mangum Fire – Kaibab National Forest**
Started 6/8/2020
71,450 acres
Unknown



2020 Fire Season Causes

- Target Shooting in Restricted Areas
- Welding
- Grinding
- Exploding Targets; Gender Reveal
- Abandoned Campfires
- Roadside Fires; Dragging Chains, Overheating Vehicles, Tire Blowouts



Ocotillo Fire, Cave Creek



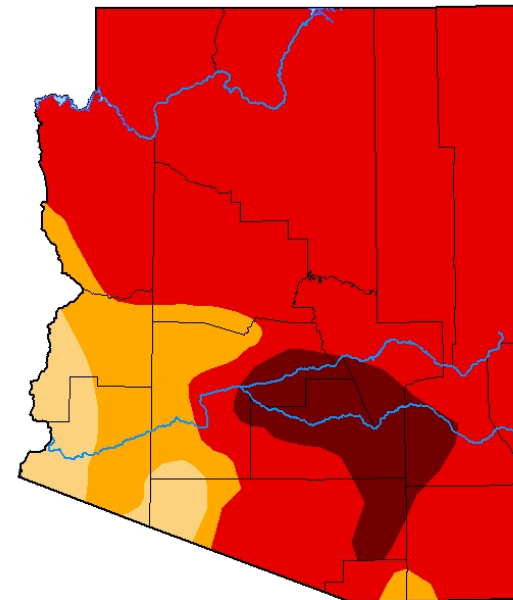
2020 Fall-Winter Outlook

October/November/December:

- Ongoing large fire activity. La Niña, and current fuel conditions are the main drivers of significant fire activity through fall and into winter. Drought conditions expected to continue for much of CA, the Great Basin, and the SW US through October.
- Fire activity and potential will likely diminish across western US, expect for portions of California.
- While fire activity is predicted to decrease over the next few weeks, Arizona Fire Management Officers expect continual activity through December.

U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona

November 3, 2020
(Released Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:

None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



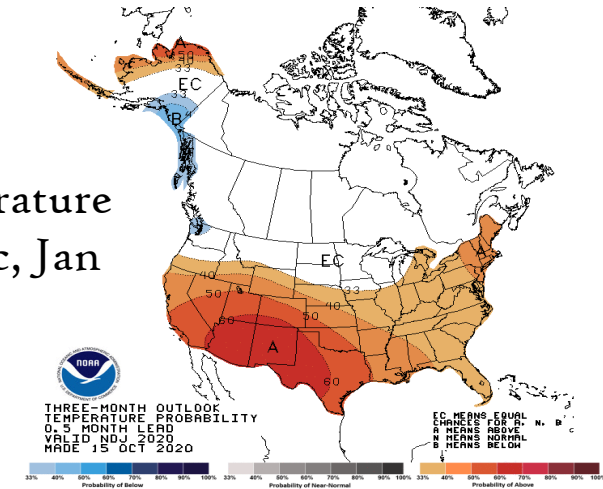
droughtmonitor.unl.edu



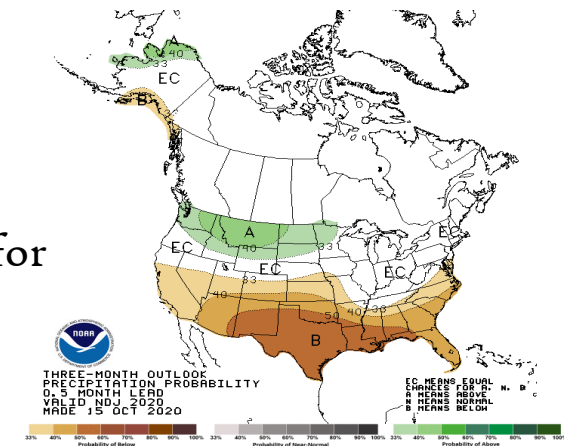
2020 Fall-Winter Outlook

- Near term forecast is for warm and dry conditions for Arizona
- Temperature currently forecast at 60% chance of above normal
- Precipitation forecast for 40 to 50% chance of below normal for the state
- Will limit the growth of grasses to provide fine fuels but will stress the existing vegetation due to lack of moisture
- Dead fuels will continue to be very dry and available for fire in most areas

Three Month Temperature Forecast for Nov, Dec, Jan



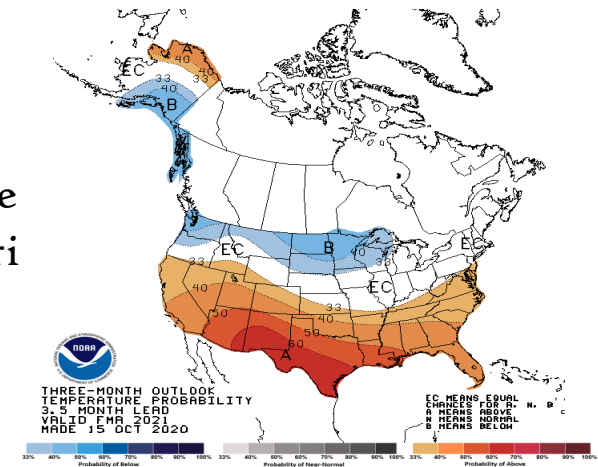
Three Month Precipitation Forecast for Nov, Dec, Jan



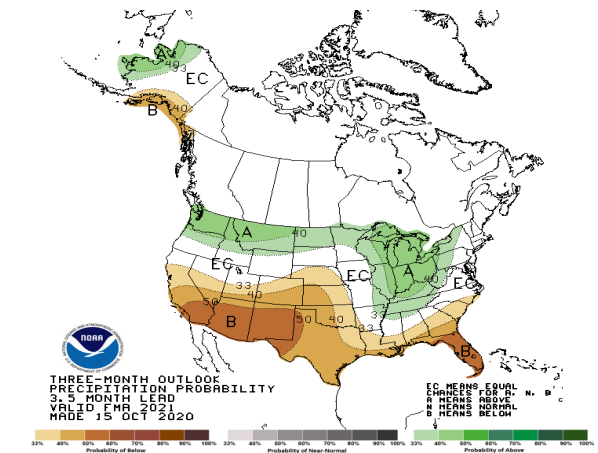
2020 Fall-Winter Outlook

- Temperatures for Spring are slightly better with Arizona having improved to 50% chance of above normal temps
- The Spring looks very dry with the 50% below probability having expanded to most of the state
- These conditions, if they pan out, could lead to an early start to an active fire season. Any windy conditions would enhance the fire conditions

Three Month Temperature Forecast for Feb, Mar, April



Three Month Precipitation Forecast for Feb, Mar, April



Thank You



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