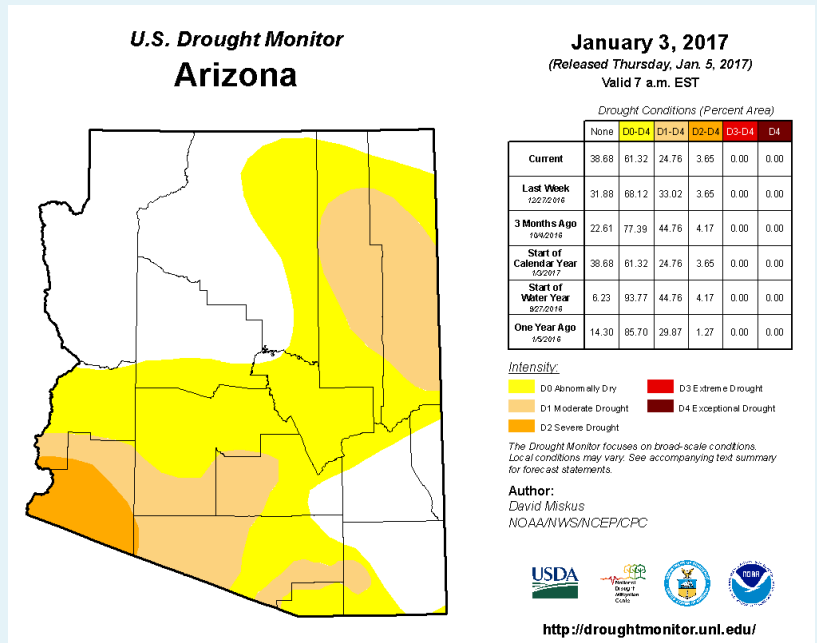


Short-term Drought Status Report

December 2016

The recent winter storms that moved through the state during December and the New Year brought soaking rains and much needed snow to the high country. These wet and snowy conditions improved soil moisture, filled water tanks, and have led to improvements in the short-term drought conditions across central and northern Arizona.



All of Mohave County and all but the southern border of Yavapai County are now drought free. Gila, La Paz, and the northern two-thirds of Maricopa County have improved from moderate drought (D1) to abnormally dry (D0). The northern and southern portions of Navajo and Apache counties have also improved from moderate drought to abnormally dry.

The southern third of the state received some rainfall, but not enough to warrant improvements at this time.

With a weak La Nina now deteriorating, there is little to no indication whether the remainder of the winter and upcoming spring will be wetter or drier than normal across the state. If the wet weather pattern continues, more improvements should follow.

Summary produced by the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee — January 5, 2017