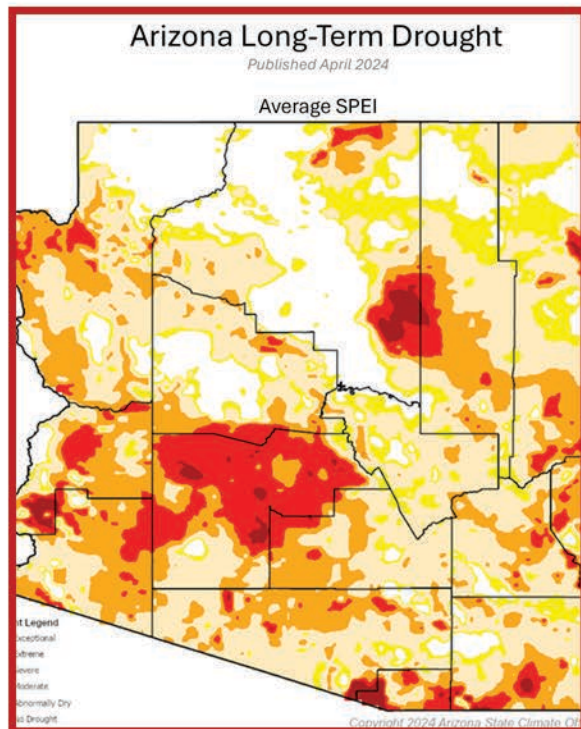
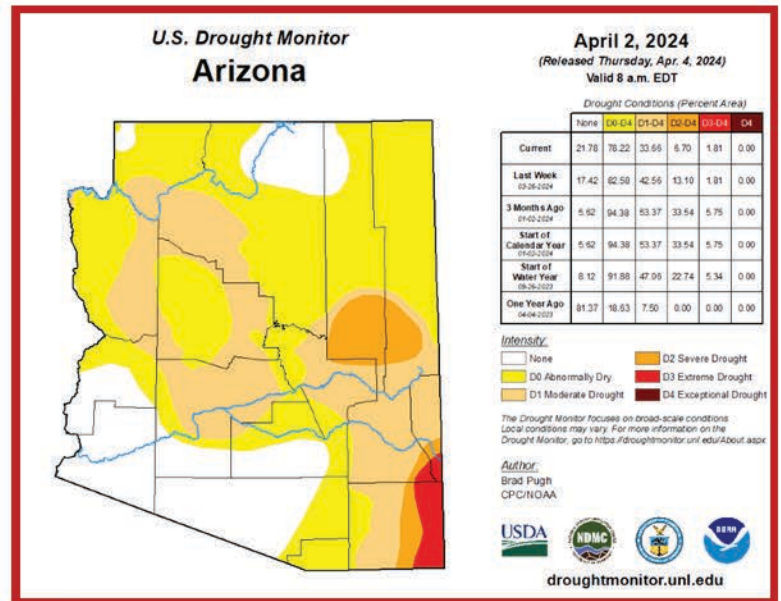


DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

March 2024 Short-Term Drought Status

March brought in additional precipitation, ranking as the 24th wettest March on record (out of 130 years), with Navajo and Apache counties both ranking in their top ten wettest March on record. Statewide temperatures were average for the month. Following a late March event, snow water equivalent (SWE) moved above median levels, with statewide SWE reaching 180% of median at the end of March.

Northeastern Coconino, much of Yavapai, eastern Pima, western Gila, and all of Santa Cruz County saw improvement to areas now without short-term drought or with only Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions (66% of state). Moderate (D1) drought continued in largely Graham, Greenlee, Cochise and Maricopa counties, portions of Mohave and Coconino counties, as well as areas of the Mogollon Rim to the White Mountains (27% of state). Severe (D2) short-term drought improved, remaining in minimal areas of southern Navajo and Apache counties, and slight areas of Cochise, Gila, and Greenlee counties (5% of state). Extreme (D3) short-term drought continued along the southeastern corner of the state (2% total).



January-March 2024 Long-Term Drought Status

July 2023 to March 2024 was the 7th warmest July to March in the past 130 years, which plays a significant role in the long-term drought; statewide precipitation was the 49th driest July to March on record. Long-term drought slightly improved across northern counties, including portions of Mohave, Yavapai, and Coconino counties. Long-term drought expanded somewhat in Santa Cruz and Cochise counties, as well as portions of Graham, Greenlee, southern Apache and Navajo counties. Extreme (D3) long-term drought remained largely in Maricopa and southeastern Coconino counties.

El Nino conditions are currently decaying across the tropical Pacific with a better than 60% chance of a La Nina phase developing over the summer. As a result, there is a slight shift in odds that any given location in the state would have below normal rainfall during the monsoon.