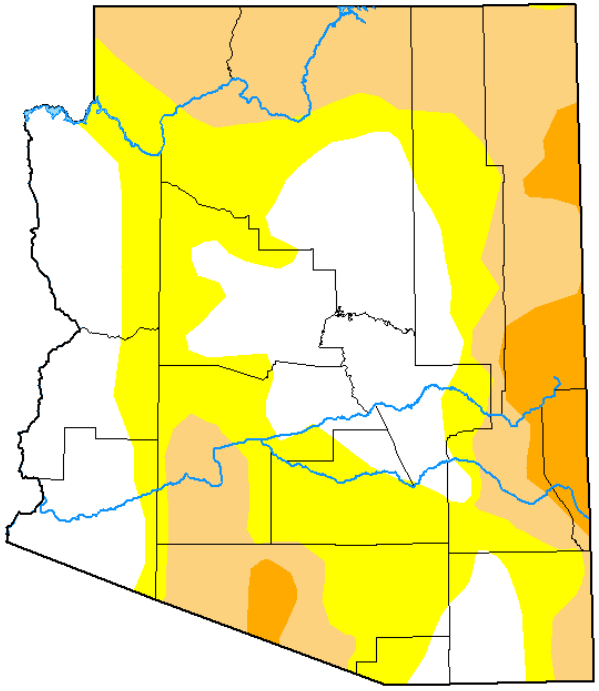
ARIZONA SHORT-TERM DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

JANUARY 2026

Two weather systems in early January dropped precipitation in northern, central, and southeastern counties, including snow at higher elevations. During the last week of January, a low pressure system delivered additional showers and snow along mountain peaks. Southeastern counties received above average precipitation for the month, with Tucson measuring 1.70”, Tombstone with 2.80”, and Willcox with 2.92” of precipitation. Temperatures across the state were above average for January.

Extreme (D3) short-term drought was eliminated from the state in January. Pinal, Santa Cruz, eastern Pima, much of Cochise, and western Graham County improved, with much of western, central, and southeastern counties now Abnormally Dry (D0) or without short-term drought (66% of state). Moderate (D1) short-term drought (28% of state) remained in northern and eastern counties, southern Maricopa, and western Pima County, while most of Greenlee, southern and central Apache, and small parts of central Pima County continued with Severe (D2) short-term drought (6% of state).

Although the current La Niña episode should deteriorate in the next month, the lingering atmospheric pattern will favor a continuation of warmer and drier than normal conditions through the spring.



January 27, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	31.98	68.02	34.36	6.18	0.00	0.00
Last Week 01-20-2026	29.03	70.97	37.57	6.56	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-28-2025	0.66	99.34	94.07	66.75	10.44	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	27.93	72.07	47.69	13.76	1.03	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	0.00	100.00	100.00	79.21	25.06	1.49
One Year Ago 01-28-2025	0.00	100.00	83.70	63.94	21.16	0.00

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:
Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Summary produced by the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee — February 12, 2026