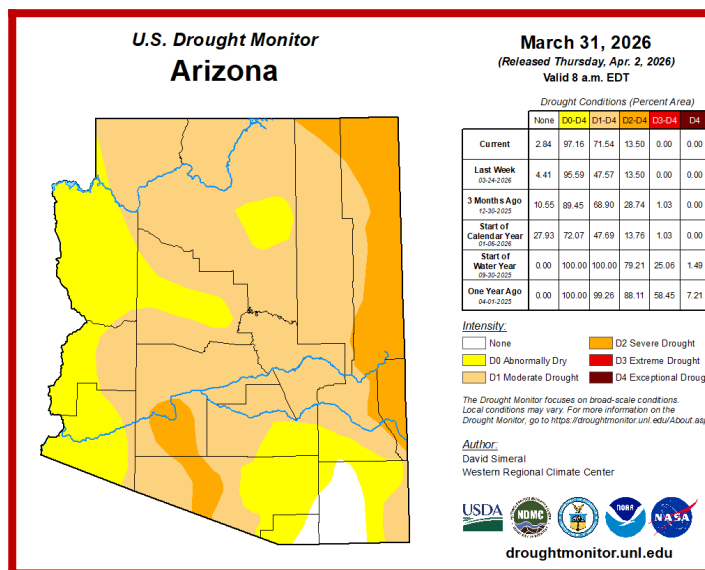


# DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

## March 2026 Short-Term Drought Status

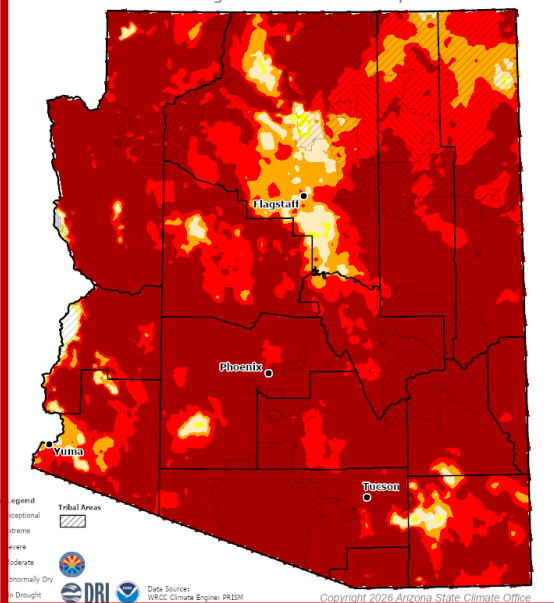
A significant ridge of high pressure brought record-breaking temperatures across the state in March. Many stations measured their hottest March temperatures ever recorded, including Yuma (109°F), Phoenix (105°F), Tucson (102°F), and Flagstaff (84°F), roughly two months ahead of the average timing for those temperatures. A weather system March 9-10 brought modest amounts of precipitation into southeastern counties. Most snowpack in Arizona melted during the month, more than a month ahead of schedule. By the end of March, the Little Colorado basin had 0.3 inches of snow water equivalent (SWE) while Verde, Salt, and Gila basins had no remaining SWE.

Short-term drought conditions degraded during the month. Moderate (D1) short-term drought advanced in northern and central counties, now found in every county except Santa Cruz (58% of state). Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions and areas without short-term drought significantly decreased from the previous month, remaining along western and southeastern counties, central Yavapai County, and east-central Coconino County (29% of state). Severe (D2) short-term drought expanded into southern Maricopa County, northern Navajo County, and most of Apache County (13% of state).



## Arizona Long-Term Drought

Average SPEI Published April 2026



## January-March 2026 Long-Term Drought Status

Arizona experienced the hottest and 28th driest January to March on record this year as well as the hottest and 27th driest past 4 years on record (April 2022 to March 2026). Long-term drought expanded across the state, with Exceptional (D4) long-term drought covering the majority of western, central, and southern counties. Extreme (D3) long-term drought was found in central Yuma, Pinal and Yavapai counties, central Navajo and Apache counties, northern Gila County, western and eastern Coconino County, and much of Cochise County. Small areas of Moderate (D1) and Severe (D2) long-term drought occurred in central Coconino, northern Apache and Navajo counties, southwestern Yuma and Maricopa counties, and northeastern Cochise County.

Although La Nina is rapidly deteriorating, drier than normal conditions are still more likely through the remainder of the spring. However, odds switch to slightly enhanced chances of above normal precipitation once the monsoon begins.