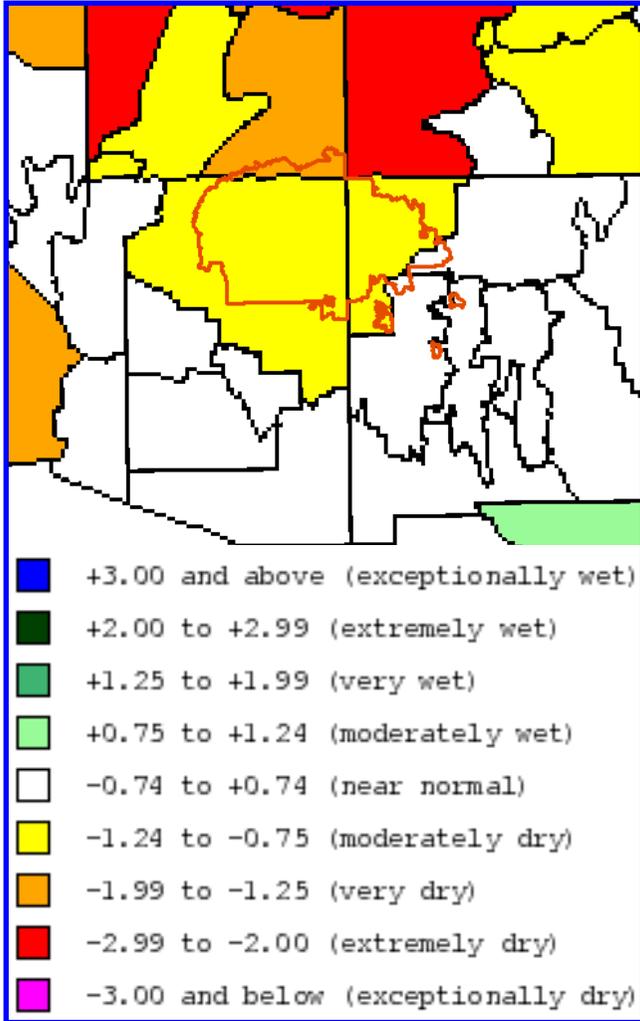




NAVAJO NATION DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

NN Dept. of Water Resources, Water Management Branch

P.O. Drawer 678 Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504 Ph.(928) 729-4004, Fax.(928) 729-4126



6-Month SPI for May 2012 www.wrcc.dri.edu

Navajo Nation Drought Stage

Location	6 month SPI		Stage as of May
	Apr.	May	
NE AZ	-0.53	-0.53	Alert
NWNM	-0.28	-0.28	Alert
SE UT	-1.11	-1.11	Warning

Drought Intensity Category

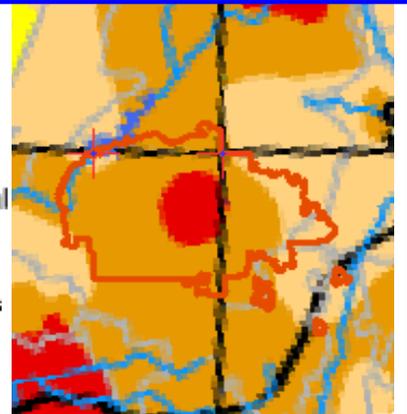
NNDrought	US Drought	
Normal	Normal	D0
Alert	Moderate	D1
Warning	Severe	D2
Emergency	Extreme- Exceptional	D3 & D4

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:

- Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)



June 5, 2012 U.S. Drought Monitor <http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

Drought Summary by NDMC June 5, 2012

The West: A series of Pacific storm systems brought late season precipitation to the Northwest and as far south as northern California and the northern and central Sierra Nevada. Unfortunately, most of the light to moderate precipitation fell over non-drought areas, except in central Oregon where 1 to 1.5 inches fell. This precipitation brought the Water year to date (YTD) amounts close to normal, so D0 was removed there. The rest of the West, however, received little or no precipitation (southern California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, western Colorado, southern Idaho, and southern Wyoming). Temperatures also soared into the 90s in southern Oregon and southern Idaho, with triple-digit heat occurring in southern California, southern Nevada, Arizona, and southern New Mexico. Temperatures averaged 4 to 12 deg F above normal, especially in the Great Basin. With the normally dry and warm season underway in the Southwest, no changes were made this week. Through June 5, Water YTD average basin precipitation was at or above normal in the Cascades and northern Rockies, and below normal in the Sierra Nevada and central Rockies. The southern Rockies were a mixed bag (values between 69 and 109 percent). In general, the Water YTD precipitation was above normal north of 42 degrees latitude, and below normal south of it.

May 2012

Southwest Drought at Glance

Climate Summary by CLIMAS May 2012

Drought: Most of Arizona and New Mexico continue to experience moderate drought or more severe drought conditions. The driest areas are in central and southern Arizona and eastern New Mexico.

Temperature: Warm temperatures have set in across the Southwest as a result of high pressure systems that have blocked incursions of colder and moister air.

Precipitation: Precipitation in parts of southwestern New Mexico was been 1–2 inches above average in the past 30 days, while western New Mexico and virtually all of Arizona were bone dry.

ENSO: ENSO-neutral conditions have officially returned and near-average sea surface temperatures characterize much of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. However, there is some early indication that an El Niño event is brewing.

Climate Forecasts: Warming trends in recent decades are driving forecasts for above-average temperatures in coming months. Precipitation forecasts for the monsoon, on the other hand, are not definitive, in part because the monsoon is difficult to forecast.

The Bottom Line: The historically driest time of the year for Arizona is in full swing. Precipitation in the last month totaled less than 0.5 inches for nearly the entire state, which is less than 50 percent of average. Extremely dry conditions have been a mainstay in Arizona since the end of December, and the January–April period ranks as the 11th driest on record in the state; New Mexico experienced the 12th driest on record. Despite the overall dry conditions in New Mexico, the last 14 days delivered much-needed rain to southern regions, which have been mired in extreme and exceptional drought for more than a year. Dry conditions usually favor warmer weather, and this held true in the last 30 days. In Arizona, temperatures were 4–6 degrees F above average in the past month, while New Mexico was slightly cooler. The warm and dry conditions helped expand and intensify drought. Extreme drought now occupies a large swath in the Four Corners region, and extreme drought remains entrenched in central Arizona. In Phoenix, for example, precipitation deficits in the last year amounted to 3.6 inches. La Niña, which helped cause the dry winter, waned to neutral conditions at the end of April. While it is currently difficult to project the evolution of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), there is some indication that an El Niño may emerge in coming months. This would increase chances for a wetter-than-average monsoon and winter. The fate of ENSO will become clearer in coming months and precipitation forecasts for the monsoon remain a coin flip.

Useful Drought Related

Sites:

NWS-Climate Prediction Center
Seasonal Outlook

www.drought.unl.edu

USGS Daily Stream Flow

www.usgs.gov/water/

NDMC Drought Impact Database Webpage

<http://droughtreporter.unl.edu>

Western Regional Climate Center

www.wrcc.dri.edu

CLIMAS Southwest Climate Outlook

www.climas.arizona.edu

Navajo Nation Drought Summary

Navajo Nation Water Management Branch has a network of 126 precipitation stations across the Navajo Nation. On a monthly basis, these stations are checked manually for precipitation data. The 6-month SPI is calculated on the basis of 19 years of precipitation data. The SPI value for a particular agency is the average of SPI values of all precipitation collection sites located within the agency boundary.

Agency	<u>6 month SPI</u>		Stage as of May
	April	May	
Chinle	-0.39	-1.23	Warning
Eastern	-0.59	-0.88	Alert
Fort Defiance	-0.85	-1.44	Warning
Shiprock	-0.73	-1.31	Warning
Western	-0.19	-1.15	Warning

