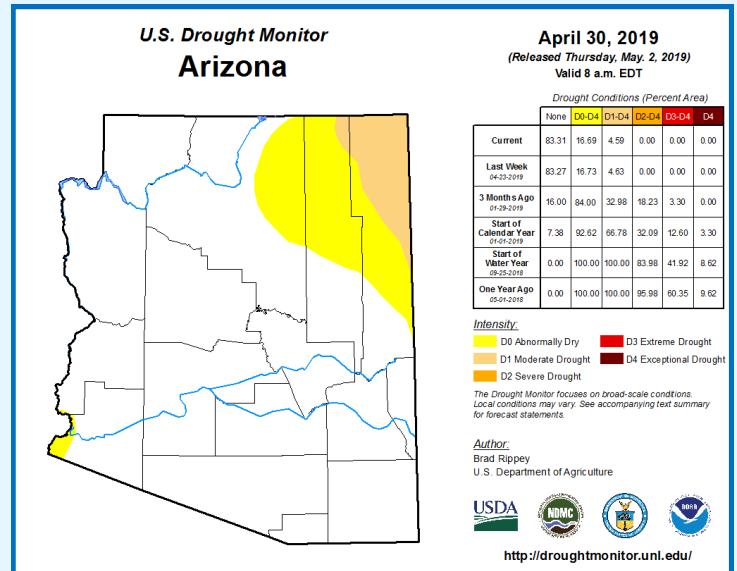


Drought Status Report

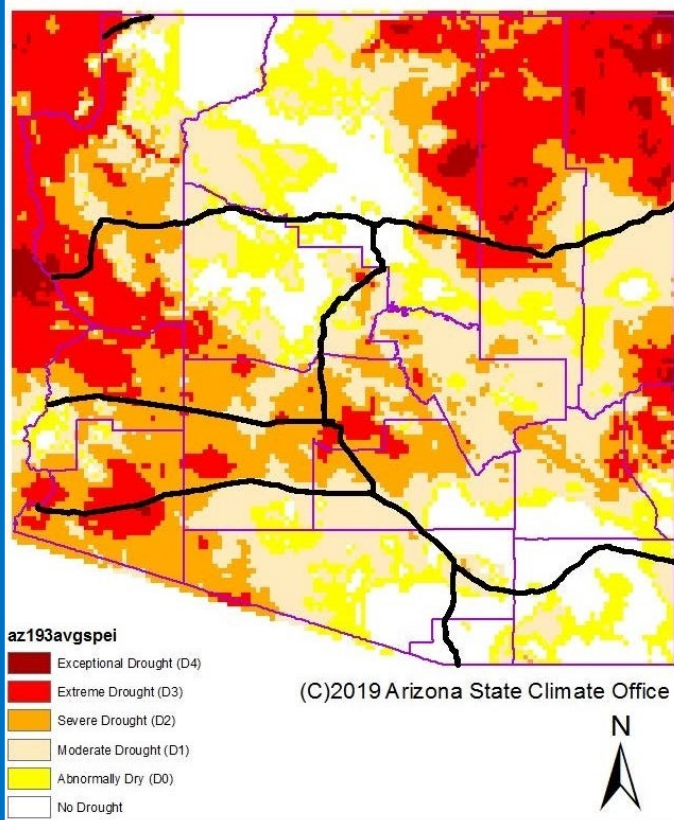
April 2019 Short-Term Drought Status

There have been few short-term drought improvements in April due to the relatively dry conditions. Minimal precipitation in the northeast and southwest quarters of the state left Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions in western Yuma, eastern Coconino, Navajo and central Apache counties. Moderate Drought (D1) continues in northern Apache County.

East central and southeastern Arizona received significant rainfall during April and abnormally dry conditions have been removed from Greenlee County. Small lakes and stock ponds are nearly full in many parts of the state. Wildfire danger is likely to increase due to the dry and windy conditions in May and June, leading to vegetation dying and becoming fine fuels. Arizona is entering its driest season and short-term drought improvements are not likely until the monsoon season begins.



Long-Term Drought March 2019



January – March 2019 Long-Term Drought Status

The State received significant precipitation from January through March. The well-above average snowpack and streamflow has led to a reduction of Exceptional Drought (D4), Extreme Drought (D3), and Severe Drought (D2) in Northeastern, Eastern, and Central Arizona.

Higher than normal snowpack levels accumulated in the Upper Colorado River Basin this Winter. Consequently, increased streamflow is expected in Colorado River Tributaries as snow continues to melt. There has also been a significant water level increase in the Salt-Verde reservoir system. While continued precipitation in May is unlikely, the runoff season is likely to continue well into the summer.

Long-term drought conditions are slow to improve because the time it takes snowpack runoff and streamflow to find their way into the aquifers and groundwater basins. Furthermore, because hydrologic drought has been a long-lasting issue in the West, full recovery will require several years of above average precipitation.

Although weak El Niño conditions will persist into the summer, lighter wind patterns yield little impact from El Niño events. Thus, the late spring will likely be typically dry, but there is no indication of a wetter or drier Monsoon season.