

Arizona Short-term Drought Status Report

November 2019

A series of winter storms crossed Arizona in mid- to late-November resulting in heavy rain and snowfall across most of the state.

The first major storm moved slowly over four days bringing soaking rainfall to many areas, without causing significant flooding. The second major storm lasted less than two days and brought heavy rain and snow with much colder temperatures. This storm resulted in significant flooding, particularly along the Tonto Creek.

Many parts of the state, which had reported well below-average precipitation for the year due to the dry monsoon, are now well above their annual averages. The widespread precipitation resulted in one to two category improvements in the short-term drought conditions across northwestern, central, and southern Arizona.

Over the last month, Severe Drought (D2) has been reduced from 40% to 25% of the state and Moderate Drought (D1) has been reduced from 78% to 46% of the state. Most of central and southern Arizona is now either Abnormally Dry (D0) or drought free.

Climate models suggest a few periods of wetter weather in December, but favor drier than normal conditions during the latter parts of the winter into spring.

