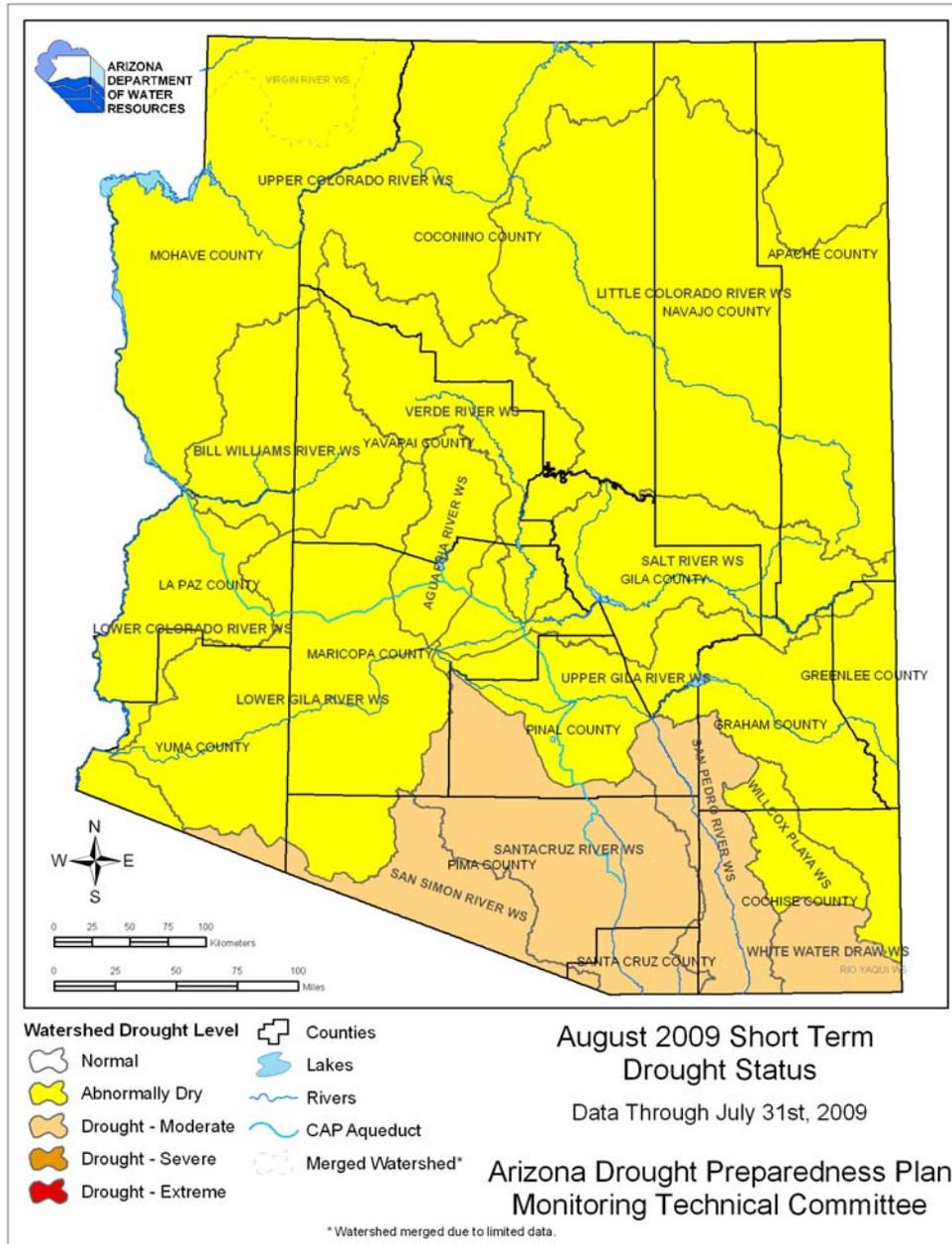




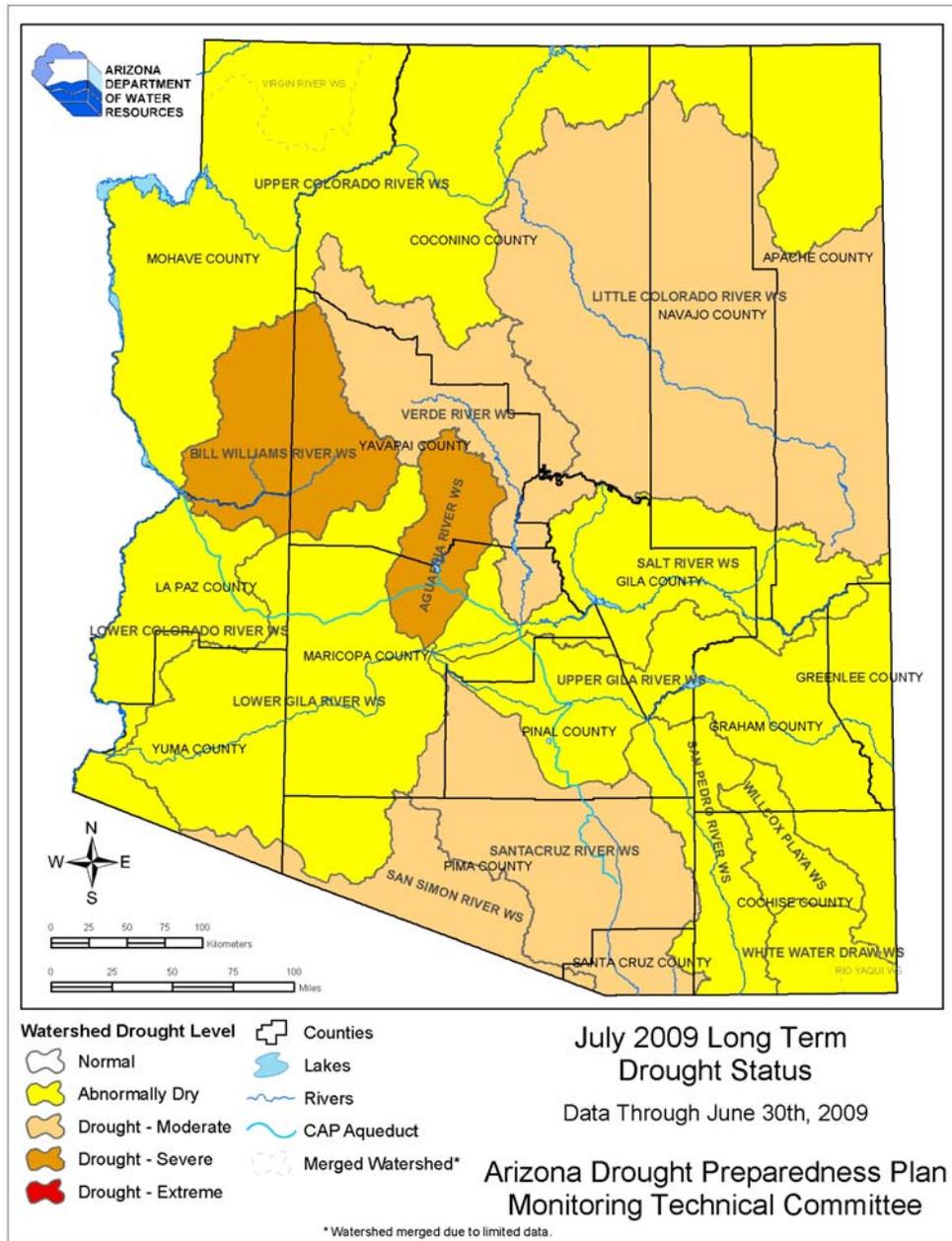
Drought Status Update

August 2009



Short-term Drought Status Update

This year's monsoon season has been named the "non-soon" due to lack of summer rain. Lack of rain, coupled with continuing long-term drought conditions, is cause for concern and continues to stress Arizona's resources. Conditions in southern and southeastern Arizona have deteriorated through July as the monsoon has been much drier than anticipated. The Whitewater Draw, San Pedro and San Simon watersheds have all dropped one category from abnormally dry to moderate drought. The southern Arizona watersheds typically receive 60% of their annual precipitation during the summer. This summer, most areas have seen between 25% and 50% of average precipitation. These well below average precipitation amounts do not bode well for summer grasses. Reports state that creeks are drying up and ranchers are suffering losses. The northern and central parts of the state have also been relatively dry during the monsoon, but received sufficient winter precipitation to remain abnormally dry. We remain optimistic that the end of the monsoon may bring some much needed rain.



Long-term Drought Status

The long-term drought status map will not be updated until October, near the start of the 2010 water year. The map above includes data from the last four years, through June 2009.

Watersheds in Arizona have experienced significantly drier than average conditions over the last six months to four years. The cumulative effect of the dry periods requires consecutive wetter than average years to recover from the drought. Groundwater aquifers are very slow to recharge, compared to surface reservoirs, so the full reservoirs within the state of Arizona are not good indicators that the drought is easing. Water conservation is important even when we are not experiencing drought conditions. Practicing a low water use lifestyle is a way each citizen can help ensure a long-term, sufficient water supply.