

Arizona Short-term Drought Status Report

August 2018

The monsoon activity during the month of August brought short-term drought relief to central Arizona in Maricopa, Pinal, Pima and Greenlee counties. The area of Exceptional Drought (D4) at the border between Yavapai, Gila and Maricopa counties improved by one category to Extreme Drought (D3).

The northeastern quarter of the state however, has seen little monsoon activity and remains in Exceptional or Extreme drought. Yuma and La Paz counties also remain in Extreme Drought as the monsoon activity has moved to the east since July.

The monsoon season will be winding down over the next several weeks, and chances for heavy precipitation may depend on moisture from eastern Pacific tropical storms. This has been an active year for eastern Pacific hurricanes; most of them have moved westward toward Hawaii, however Hurricane John moved up the coast in August and brought Arizona additional moisture.

Confidence is growing that weak to moderate El Niño conditions will materialize this autumn and peak in intensity and influence during the upcoming winter. As a result, the odds of a wetter than average winter have shifted slightly more positive.

