



Drought Status Report

December 2012

Precipitation in December was a relief from the previous two dry winters. The southern deserts enjoyed some rain showers, but not enough to make up the moisture deficit, and the driest areas of western Maricopa County and northern Navajo and Apache Counties remain in extreme drought (D-3).

December winter storms dropped over 150% of average precipitation on central Coconino, eastern Yavapai, all of Gila, and the southern two-thirds of Mohave County. Several snow storms in the Kaibab Plateau (Coconino County) and the eastern mountains brought us well above average snow pack.

Although snow pack within the state is well above average, the snow pack in the Colorado River watershed in Colorado is currently between 50 and 75% of normal. The early snow was welcome, but more winter storms will be needed to maintain the snow-pack through the spring.

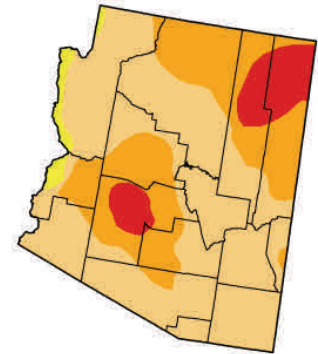
U.S. Drought Monitor

January 1, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Arizona

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	97.91	37.78	8.68	0.00
Last Week (12/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	97.91	37.78	8.50	0.00
3 Months Ago (10/02/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	31.42	5.67	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	97.91	37.78	8.68	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	31.93	5.67	0.00
One Year Ago (12/27/2011 map)	16.70	83.30	60.34	36.56	2.78	0.00

Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, January 3, 2013
Richard Heim, National Climatic Data Center, NOAA

*Summary produced by the State Drought Monitoring
Technical Committee - January 4, 2013.*