



Drought Status Update

February 2011

Short-term Drought Status Update

February brought widespread precipitation to the state, although the southeast corner still lags behind other areas in rainfall. The White Mountains are well below their normal snowpack, so moderate drought has been extended from Navajo County down to Graham and Greenlee counties in the Upper Gila watershed. Northwestern Arizona still shows no drought due to wetter than normal conditions in late December and early January. However, due to the low density of gauges in Mohave and western Coconino counties, some locales may actually be abnormally dry. During the last month, La Niña conditions weakened in some parts of the Pacific Ocean – weakening considerably in the eastern Pacific. This increases chances of near-average precipitation for the rest of the winter; however, the February 17 seasonal outlook for Arizona from the NOAA Climate Prediction Center indicates increased chances of below-average precipitation from March through May. Although a welcome surprise, the winter storms of the last two weeks of February were unusual for La Niña conditions. If there is continued dryness, drought conditions across southern Arizona will likely worsen.

*Summary produced by the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee
March 9, 2011.*

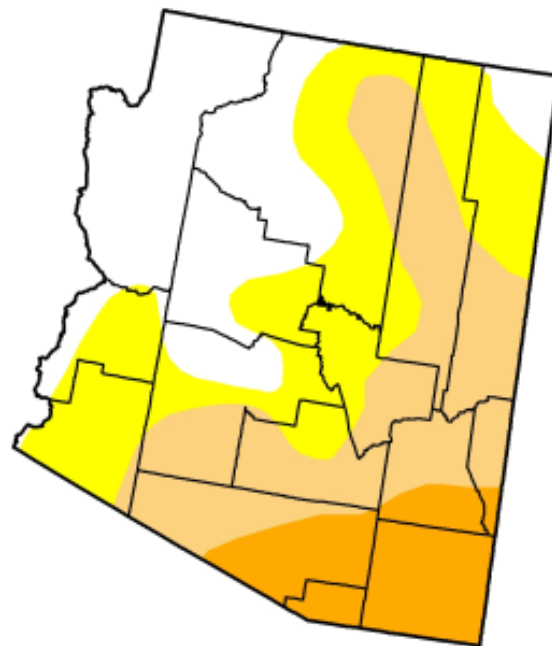
U.S. Drought Monitor

Arizona

March 1, 2011
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	29.07	70.93	40.88	12.59	0.00	0.00
Last Week (02/22/2011 map)	29.07	70.93	40.88	12.59	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (11/30/2010 map)	50.48	49.52	6.76	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	31.40	68.60	32.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/28/2010 map)	40.00	60.00	18.58	3.23	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (02/23/2010 map)	15.26	84.74	53.30	14.48	0.00	0.00



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

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

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



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