

Drought Status Update

February 2012

While numerous winter storms have passed through Arizona during the past month, precipitation totals have continued to be much lower than normal for this time of year. Most of the storms have brushed across northern Arizona, leaving the rest of the state dry. Only a small area of northern Navajo County has received enough precipitation to show improvement from extreme drought back down to severe drought.

Elsewhere in the state, the continued dryness led to an expansion of severe drought to the western edge of Maricopa County and into southern Yavapai County; expansion of moderate drought across all of Mohave County; and expansion of abnormally dry conditions over Yuma County.

At this time, the only part of the state with no drought is a sliver of northern Apache County. The dryness is affecting the green-up of winter annual vegetation in the lower deserts. As March begins on a dry note, with warmer than average temperatures in the forecast, conditions are likely to continue to deteriorate.

Summary produced by the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee - March 2, 2012.

