

Short-term Drought Status Update

January turned out to be a wet month, based solely on a five day period of rain and snowfall near the end of the month. Two storms moved through: a warm, very wet storm that produced rain on snow and melted most of the snowpack at the mid and lower elevations, followed by a much colder storm that dropped new snow at the mid and higher elevations. The storms moved diagonally through the state from southwest to northeast. The result was drought improvement along the Mogollon Rim country of northern Gila and southern Coconino and Navajo counties, as well as in west-central Arizona.

U.S. Drought Monitor

February 5, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Arizona

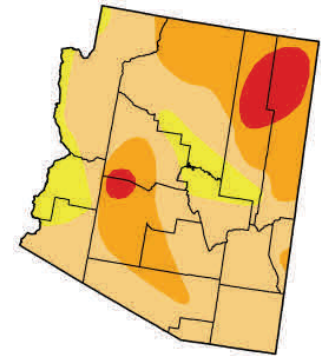
	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	88.73	33.06	6.62	0.00
Last Week (01/29/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	88.73	33.06	6.62	0.00
3 Months Ago (11/06/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	98.66	35.51	5.67	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	97.91	37.78	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 (01/31/2012 map)	6.39	93.61	73.48	36.56	2.78	0.00

Intensity:

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

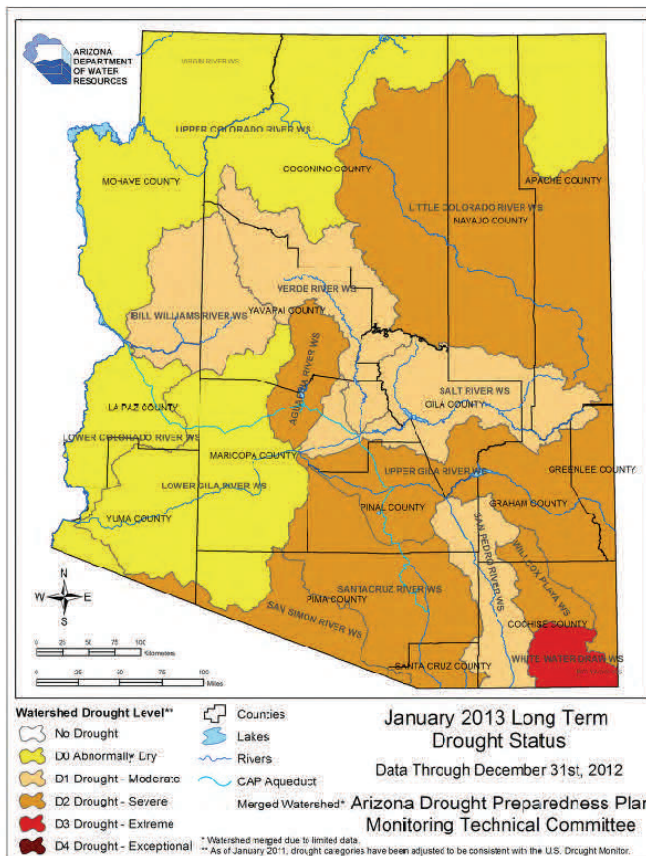
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, February 7, 2013
Michael Brewer, National Climatic Data Center, NOAA

Long-term Drought Status Update: October – December 2012



The fall months brought some improvement to the western half of the state, however, drought conditions worsened in some of the eastern watersheds. The lower Colorado, lower Gila and San Simon watersheds improved, while drought conditions in the Little Colorado and upper Gila watersheds worsened.

The fall and early winter storms were erratic over the state. October and November were very dry, with most of the state receiving less than half the normal precipitation. December was quite wet, bringing the Salt and Verde watersheds up to well over 100% of normal for the snowpack by mid-December. Then the storms in the southwest seemed to develop two tracks – either south into northern Mexico, bringing much needed rainfall to western Arizona, or sweeping across southern Utah and missing most of Arizona. The result left western Arizona near average and eastern Arizona much drier than average.