

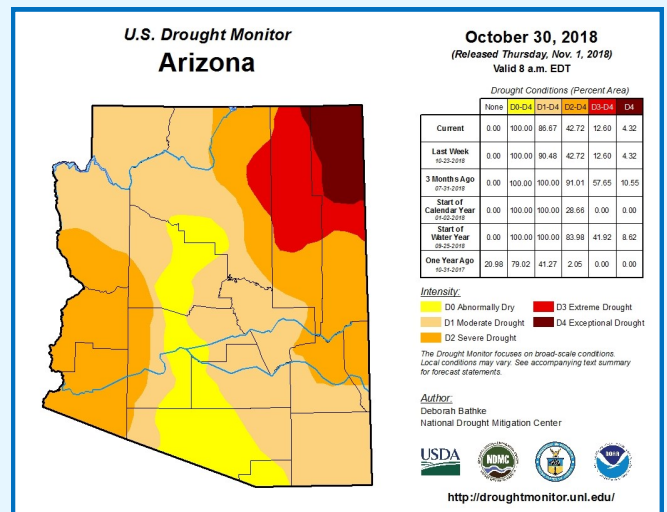
# Drought Status Report

## October 2018 Short-Term Drought Status

Heavy rainfall from the remnants of several tropical storms in October alleviated short-term drought across the state. The percentage of Arizona in Severe drought conditions or worse has been cut in almost half, from 77% to 43%.

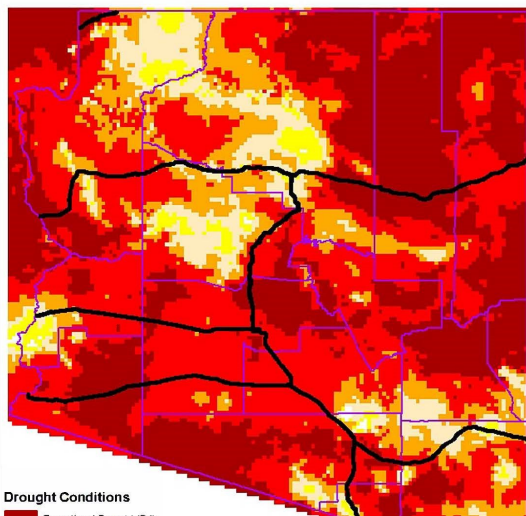
The record October rainfall led to one- or two-category improvements in drought conditions. Now, only 4% of the state (northern Apache County) is in Exceptional Drought (D4). In addition, Extreme Drought (D3) was removed from western and central Arizona and pulled back to far eastern Coconino County. Severe Drought (D2) was also removed from northwestern, central, and southeastern Arizona.

It's becoming increasingly likely that weak El Niño conditions will prevail through the winter season. As a result, there is an increased likelihood of above normal average temperatures and a slightly higher probability for a wetter than normal winter.



## July– September 2018 Long-Term Drought Status

July - September Long Term Drought 2018



Precipitation during the monsoon months of July, August, and September was either near average or slightly drier than average and did not alleviate long-term drought conditions.

Northeastern Arizona had a drier than average summer, leading to a widespread expansion of Exceptional Drought. Additional expansion of Exceptional and Extreme Drought occurred in southeastern Arizona due to the long-term drought impact on water resources. The summer was quite hot, and the monsoon did not significantly improve groundwater conditions or raise reservoir levels due to high evaporation rates.

If the weak El Niño persists through the winter and snow-pack begins accumulating while the soil is still wet, there may be some improvement in the long-term drought conditions. The recent wet October, which was not included in this long-term drought status, is a step in the right direction.

\*In the Grand Canyon area in Northern Mohave, northwestern Coconino and southwestern La Paz counties, the depiction of No Drought and Abnormally Dry is incorrect due to lack of stations and the terrain. Most of these areas have been quite dry during the long-term.\*