



Drought Status Update

July 2011

Short-term Drought Status Update

July has brought some minor relief to eastern Gila, Pinal and Pima counties, and most of Yavapai and northern Mohave counties. The dry conditions in early spring have recovered slightly with a few early monsoon storms.

Cochise, Greenlee, Graham and Santa Cruz counties continue to be in extreme or exceptional drought in the short term. Range conditions are extremely poor and stock tanks are dry. Water is being hauled to fill stock ponds and tanks, and feed must be brought in to supplement poor forage conditions.

The outlook for winter forage depends on the amount and timing of the monsoon precipitation. Too little too late will not improve the rangeland.

U.S. Drought Monitor

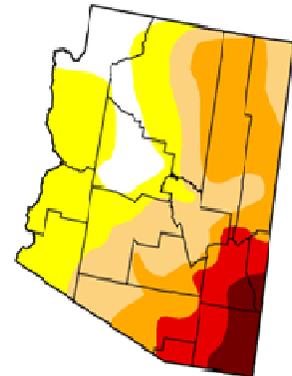
Arizona

August 2, 2011
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	11.15	88.85	60.35	37.15	14.02	4.83
Last Week (8/7/2011 map)	11.15	88.85	60.35	37.15	14.02	4.83
3 Months Ago (5/9/2011 map)	13.93	86.07	57.89	31.84	15.59	9.00
Start of Calendar Year (1/2/2010 map)	31.40	68.60	32.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (9/28/2010 map)	40.00	60.00	19.58	3.23	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (8/7/2010 map)	28.79	71.21	29.56	5.05	0.04	0.00

Intensity:

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

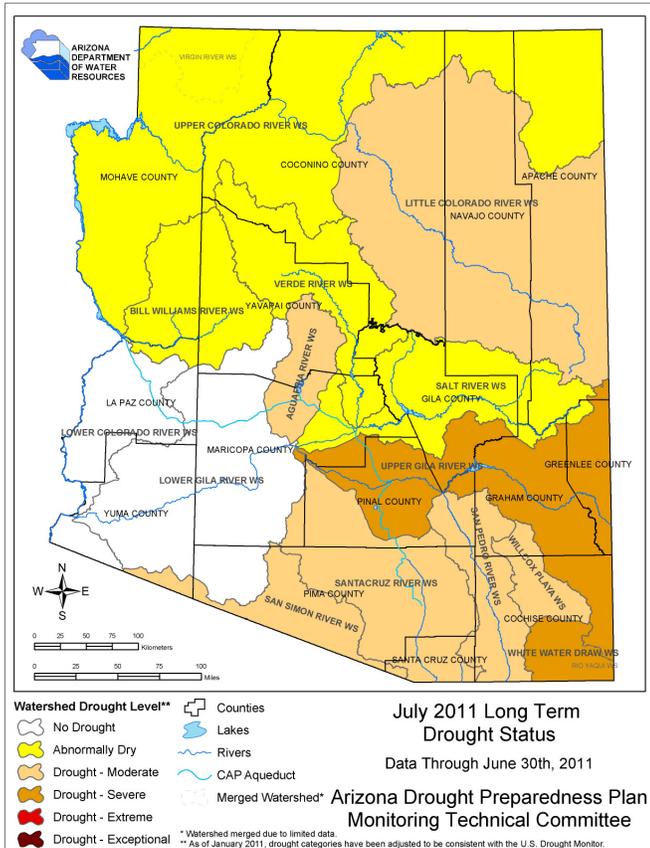


The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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



Released Thursday, August 4, 2011
Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture



Long-term Drought Status Update

In the past year, the southeastern watersheds have become even drier as a weak monsoon in 2010 and a very dry winter in 2011 worsened already dry conditions.

San Simon, San Pedro and Willcox Playa dropped one category from abnormally dry to moderate drought. White Water Draw dropped one category from moderate to severe drought, and the Upper Gila dropped two categories from abnormally dry to severe drought.

Monitoring wells in the southeast have shown a steady decline over the past year. Reductions in groundwater pumping have failed to reverse the declining groundwater levels due to drought. If the current monsoon does not improve, the long-term conditions in the southeast are likely to deteriorate even further.

The western watersheds have had a mixed signal with the southwest and west central watersheds improving slightly while the northwest and northern watersheds became drier. This is a reflection of the winter storm tracks that crossed into western Arizona and tracked to the north or northeast, essentially missing the eastern watersheds.

Summaries produced by the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee
August 11, 2011

