

# Drought Status Report

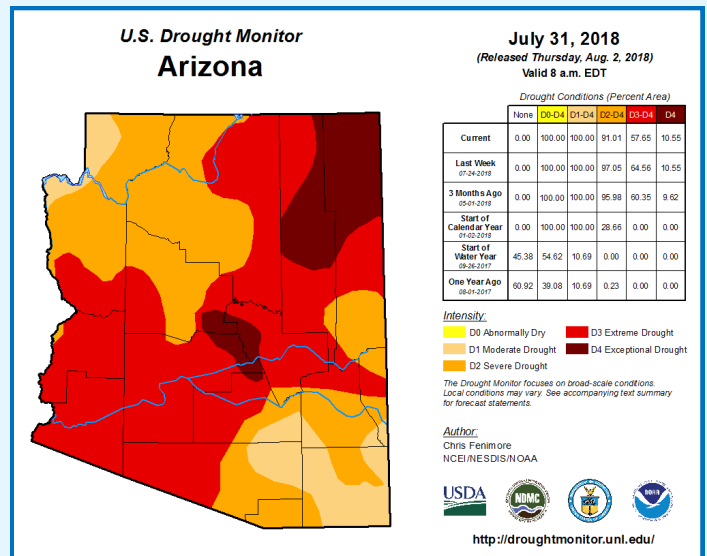
## July 2018 Short-Term Drought Status

The monsoon activity began later than usual this summer and rainfall has been localized across much of the state with some locations receiving twice their normal amount and others remaining dry.

Rainfall has been plentiful along the Mogollon Rim, through western Coconino and northern Yavapai counties across to southern Navajo and northern Gila counties. This moisture has led to a removal of Exceptional Drought (D4) across the Rim, and reduction of Extreme Drought (D3) in western Coconino, northern Yavapai, eastern Pima and Pinal, and southern Apache counties.

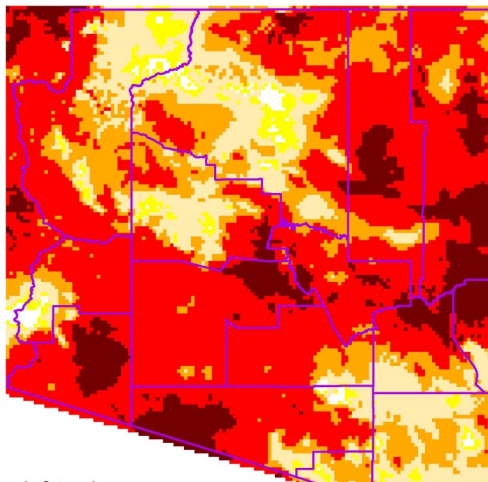
The rain improved rangeland conditions in some areas and the humidity has slowed the spread of wildfires, though potential for significant flash flooding over the burn scars exists.

Substantial moisture deficits remain after the exceptionally dry winter and further improvements in drought conditions will require a robust monsoon season.



## July 2018 Long-Term Drought Status

Long-Term Drought July 2018



**Drought Categories**

- Exceptional Drought (D4)
- Extreme Drought (D3)
- Severe Drought (D2)
- Moderate Drought (D1)
- Abnormally Dry (D0)
- No Drought



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

The lack of moisture this winter season has had significant long-term drought impacts on the state water resources with wells and springs drying up and almost non-existent reservoir inflows.

Groundwater pumping has increased statewide to accommodate water needs for agriculture as well as consumption by people, livestock and wildlife. In addition, water hauling has been common across the state. Dry conditions continued from April through June leading to expansion of Moderate Drought (D2), Severe Drought (D3) and Extreme Drought (D4) across northern and southeastern Arizona.

As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, the Salt-Verde reservoir system is 49% full, Lake Powell is 52% full, and Lake Mead is 37% full. There is a 52% chance for a declaration of a Colorado River shortage in 2020.

There are indications the remainder of the monsoon season will continue to provide good rainfall for the state. However much like the first half of the season, beneficial rainfall during the monsoon is more localized. A weak to moderate El Niño is likely during the upcoming autumn and winter, though its effects on precipitation on the state only justify a very slight tilt in odds towards wetter weather.