June 2012

Continued dry conditions through most of June worsened fire conditions statewide, heading into the July 4th holiday week. All parts of the state except southern Yuma County are now at severe drought or worse condition.

Extreme drought in northeastern Arizona has expanded to cover most of the Navajo Nation where wells are running dry and many communities that don’t normally haul water are hauling water. Dried up stock ponds are taking a heavy toll on Navajo livestock.

The sputtering start to the monsoon activity has brought isolated rain showers to parts of the southeast, with a few light showers across northern Arizona as well. The scant rainfall is not significant, and lightning from the thunderstorms has sparked the Cottonwood fire in the southeast and the Canyon fire near Winslow. Monsoon activity is forecast for the July 4th holiday week, which will hopefully signal the start of our summer rainfall. So far the spring and summer have been a rerun of last year, with well below average rainfall.