

# Drought Status Report

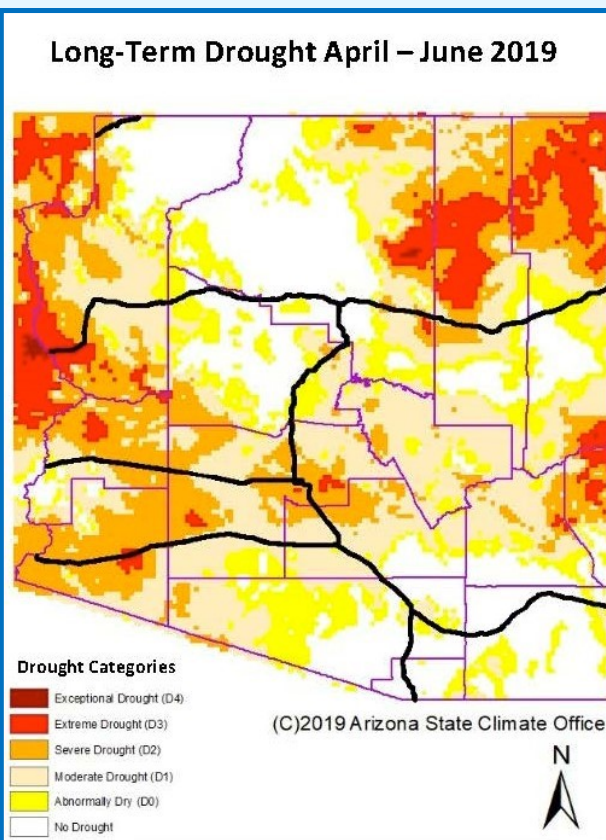
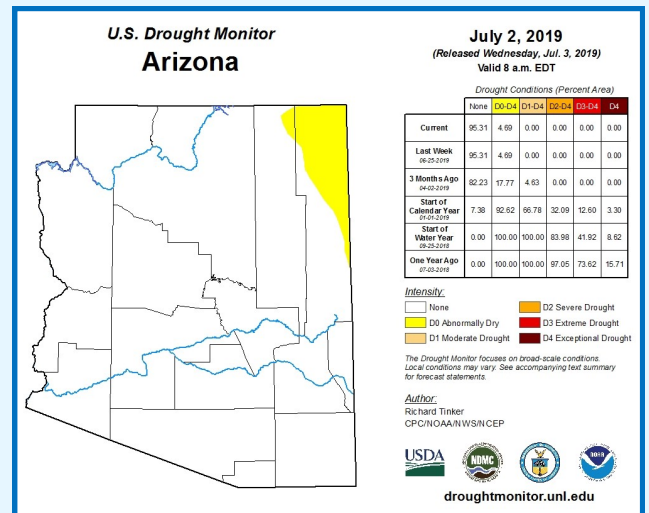
## June 2019 Short-Term Drought Status

May and June are typically the driest months in Arizona, but this year precipitation was reported for both months at many places around the State, continuing the wet winter pattern that Arizona has enjoyed during the past nine months.

Rain (and snow at the highest elevations) at the end of May and scattered rain showers in northern and eastern Arizona in June led to the removal of Moderate Drought (D1) from northeastern Arizona and pulling back Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions from Coconino, Navajo, and Yuma counties.

Currently only 4.69% of the State is Abnormally Dry, while the rest of the State is free of drought in the short-term. This means that rainfall was sufficient to fill stock ponds and grow grass and forage on the rangelands, and many streams are flowing with greater volume than normal for late spring.

However, Arizona's water resources are still impacted by long-term drought after many years of below average precipitation resulting in the depletion of Arizona's reservoirs and aquifers.



## April – June 2019 Long-Term Drought Status

Precipitation in May and June led to further reduction of long-term drought conditions across the State.

Groundwater levels have risen in some fast response basins, particularly in central and southern Cochise County, while other basins are slower to recharge and continue to be low.

The Salt and Verde reservoir levels have increased significantly this year as runoff kept flowing downstream longer than in previous years. In addition, reservoirs on the Colorado River Basin are seeing significant inflows. Once the monsoon activity begins, there may be additional runoff into Arizona's reservoirs, depending on the nature of the storms.

While this winter was significantly wetter than the last, it will take several consecutive years of above-average precipitation to overcome the deficits of the long-term drought.

A dry weather pattern will persist through the early summer with fewer than usual thunderstorms throughout the State in July. Typical summer monsoon conditions, characterized by highly variable precipitation patterns and scattered thunderstorm activity, will likely return for the second half of the summer.