March 2014

Our wettest storm this calendar year occurred in March. Although precipitation totals were above 100% of normal for central and southeastern Arizona and the Rim country, and near normal in a few isolated portions of Mohave County, drought status did not improve due to the warm, dry winter. By the end of the month, the entire state saw below average precipitation for this time of year.

The unseasonably warm conditions and the recent wind combined with the dryness led to downgrading Yuma County from no drought to abnormally dry. Northern Coconino County was also downgraded, from abnormally dry to moderate drought. All areas of the state are now in some state of drought.

The early winter rains led to green-up of a lot of vegetation that is now dried out and poses a significant wildfire hazard. While there is some chance of early April storms, April through June is normally very dry across Arizona. High fire danger is likely to continue until the monsoon.

*Summary produced by the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee—April 4, 2014.*