



Drought Status Update

May 2011

Short-term Drought Status Summary (as reflected in the May 31, 2011 U.S. Drought Monitor Map)

May is typically a very dry month statewide, and this year it was drier than average across most of the state, with a few exceptions in northwestern Arizona and in the higher elevations in eastern Arizona. In the southern counties, rangeland conditions continue to be very poor, with even native desert vegetation under significant stress. No changes in drought status were made to the southern or western counties this month. The precipitation in northeastern and east central Arizona allowed some areas of severe drought (D2) to be cut back to moderate drought (D1) in southern Navajo and Apache counties and eastern Gila County. The only area of the state with no current drought condition is Mohave County.

The southeastern corner of Arizona continues to be extremely vulnerable to wildfires, and only the monsoon precipitation will alleviate that situation. As of this writing, the Horseshoe Two Fire in Cochise County has burned more than 106,600 acres, and the Wallow Fire in southern Apache County has burned more than 310,000 acres.

Summary produced by the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee June 8, 2011

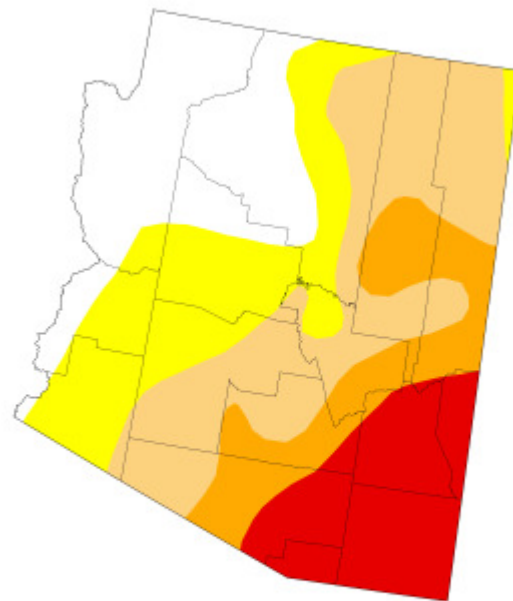
U.S. Drought Monitor

Arizona

May 31, 2011
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	22.51	77.49	56.26	28.69	15.59	0.00
Last Week (05/24/2011 map)	22.51	77.49	56.26	28.69	15.59	0.00
3 Months Ago (03/01/2011 map)	29.07	70.93	40.88	12.59	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	31.40	68.60	32.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/28/2010 map)	40.00	60.00	18.58	3.23	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (05/25/2010 map)	63.43	36.57	14.43	2.66	0.00	0.00



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally 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, June 2, 2011
Anthony Artusa, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC