

Drought Status Report

May 2012

May is normally a dry month statewide, and this year was no exception. In the past 30 days only one storm system moved through the state, and it brought only light to moderate rainfall to central and southern Arizona leaving the northern watersheds dry.

The drought impacts at this time include very low stream flow in most of the state and dry rangeland conditions. Stock ponds are low or empty, necessitating water hauling for both livestock and wildlife. The forests are very dry, and strong winds over the past month have increased the fire danger and helped fan the flames of several fires in Arizona and New Mexico. The high fire danger is not expected to decrease until the monsoon rainfall begins.

The forecasts call for warmer than normal conditions through the end of the year, but there are no good indicators of how wet or dry the monsoon may be.

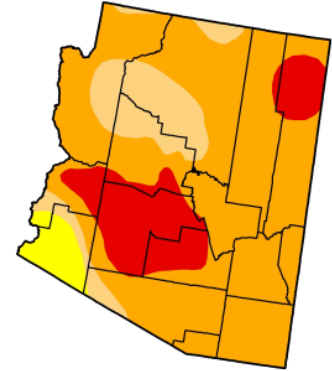
U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona

May 29, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	96.08	82.74	16.29	0.00
Last Week (05/22/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	96.08	82.74	16.29	0.00
3 Months Ago (02/28/2012 map)	0.47	99.53	91.72	40.36	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	16.70	83.30	60.34	36.56	2.78	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	0.02	99.98	69.76	42.81	15.34	1.67
One Year Ago (05/24/2011 map)	22.51	77.49	56.26	28.69	15.59	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://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



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Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Summary produced by the State Drought Monitoring
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