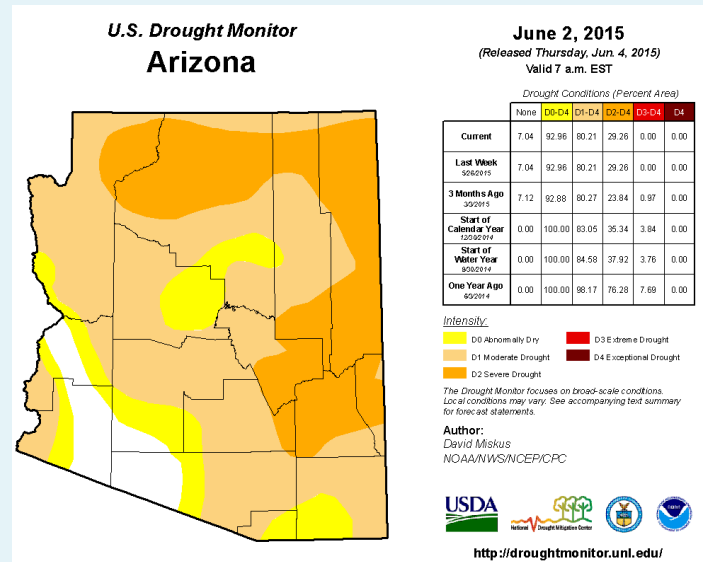


Drought Status Report

May 2015

This May was relatively wet particularly in the southwest deserts. A series of low pressure systems moved across the state almost continuously through the month, bringing rainfall to some areas of the state almost every day. Most of the rainfall was light, though several storms brought over an inch of rainfall, and three of the storms brought snowfall to the higher elevations.

While the precipitation has increased the amount of grasses, and contributed to green-up, it has not significantly improved the drought conditions and may have increased the wildfire risk at the lower elevations. While there are currently no large wildfires, there have been numerous small fires in southern Arizona as is typical for this time of year. The rainfall in May was not enough to overcome the deficits that have accumulated since the beginning of the year in terms of water resources, but the high elevation forests have benefitted from the cooler and wetter conditions.



*Summary produced by the State Drought Monitoring
Technical Committee—June 4, 2015.*