

Arizona Short-term Drought Status Report

May 2018

During May, only two weak storm systems passed through the state, dropping very small amounts of rain in northern Arizona.

Southern Arizona remained extremely dry and hot. This led to expansions of Exceptional Drought (D4) into northern Gila and northeastern Maricopa counties and Extreme Drought (D3) into most of Pima County and across northern Coconino County. In addition, Severe Drought (D2) spread into northeastern Cochise County.

There is a growing wildfire danger due to the continued dry and hot conditions, and many parks and forests are closed for recreational activity.

Early signs of the monsoon season are appearing in the southeast corner of Arizona, and thunderstorms may form over Bisbee and Douglas this week. Dry lightning is a possibility until the moisture reaches the state.

