October is a transition month in Arizona, often experienced through the progression of the first winter systems of the season. A low-pressure system moved into Arizona October 5-6 bringing moderate amounts of rain to central and southern parts of the state. A colder system across the northern portions of Arizona brought small amounts of snow to Flagstaff and parts of the Kaibab Plateau on October 11-12. Another system on October 25-26 brought rain to northern Arizona, bringing monthly totals into an above-average category across north-central Coconino County. Precipitation for central and southern Arizona largely remained below average during October.

Drought levels slightly improved through October. Since early September, the state has not experienced any Exceptional (D4) drought. Extreme (D3) drought remains in western Mohave County, northeastern Coconino County, northern Navajo County, and north Apache County (9% of the state). Abnormally Dry (D0) areas, considered not to be in drought, now encompass 23% of the state. The majority of the state resides in Moderate (D1) drought (43%) and Severe (D2) drought (25%).

Summary produced by the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee — November 8, 2021