Drought Information Statement for South-Central & Southwest Arizona, and Southeast California

Valid April 24, 2025

Issued By: National Weather Service Phoenix

Contact Information: nws.phoenix@noaa.gov

- This product may be updated around May 19, 2025
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/psr/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/?dews_region=130&state=All for regional outlook

- Drought conditions persist with well below normal precipitation over the past year
- Extreme to Exceptional Drought continues across central and western Arizona, as well as southeast California

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor

- EXCEPTIONAL AND EXTREME DROUGHT CONTINUES ACROSS WESTERN AND CENTRAL ARIZONA
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: northern La Paz, central Maricopa counties
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: southern La Paz, Yuma, southwest and eastern Maricopa, Gila, and northern Pinal counties

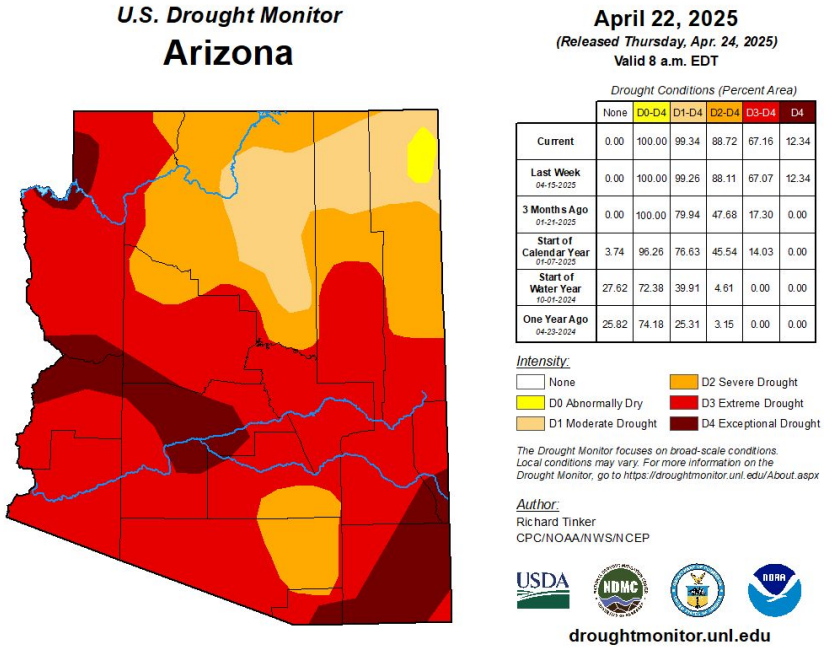


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 5 am MST April 22, 2025

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor

- SEVERE TO EXTREME DROUGHT CONTINUES THROUGH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: far northeast Riverside County
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Much of Imperial and most of eastern Riverside counties
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: central Riverside and far north-central Imperial counties

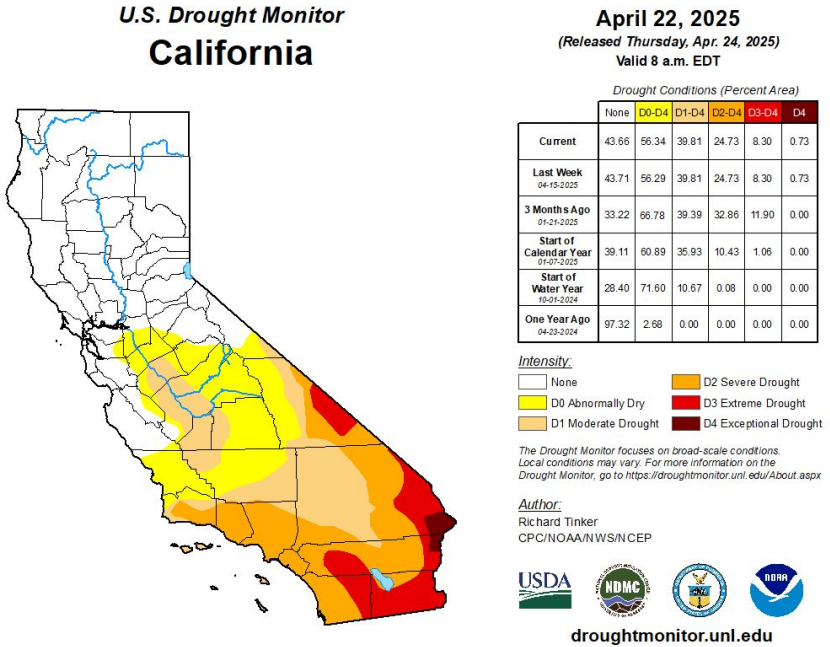
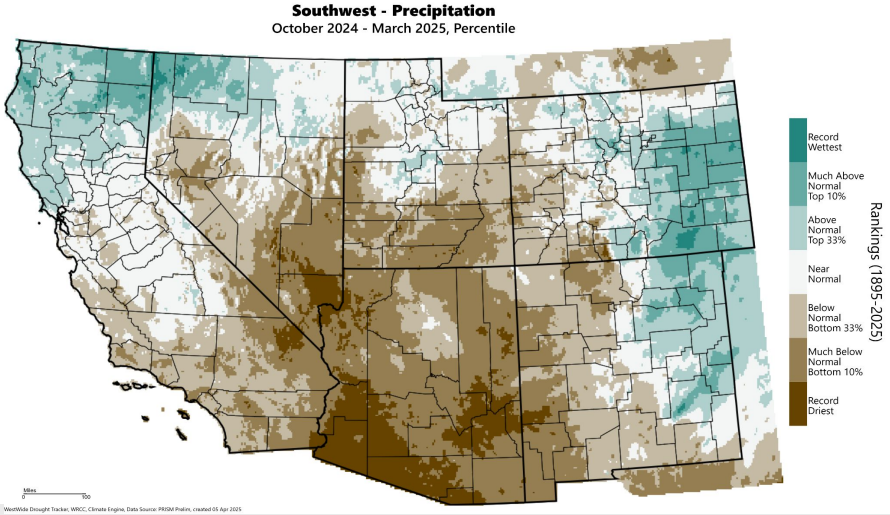


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 5 am PDT April 22, 2025

Precipitation

- Rainfall across much of southern and western Arizona, as well as SE California has been less than 25% of normal so far this Water Year (since Oct 2024)
- Many locations in far SW Arizona have received minimal since the 2024 monsoon, and stand in record dryness
- Rapid intensification of short term drought impacts have been experienced in the past 6-12 months



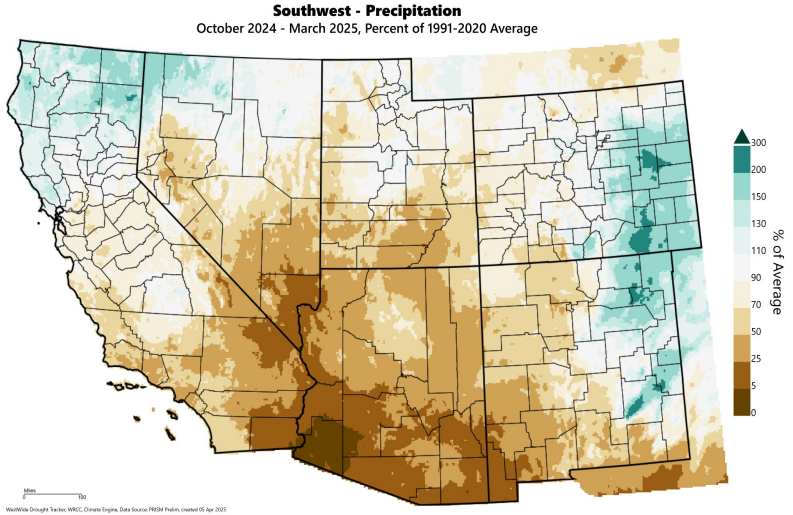
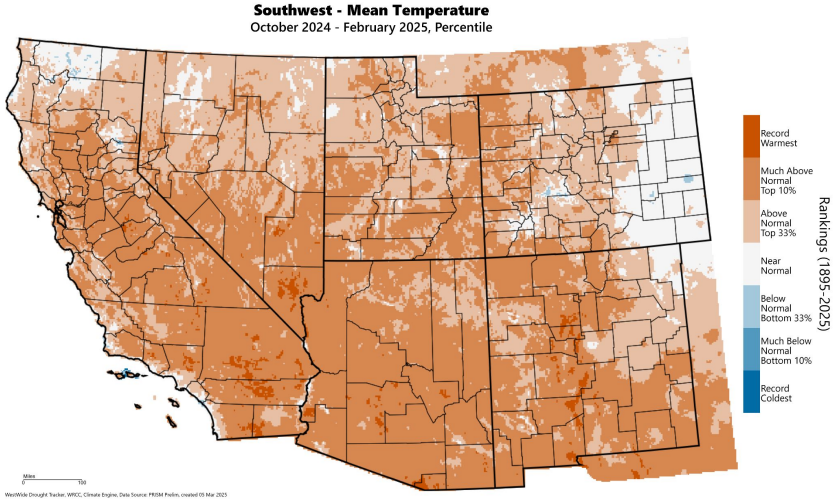


Image Captions:
Left - Water Year Precipitation Percentile Ranking
Right - Water Year Percent of Normal Precipitation
Data Courtesy WestWide Drought Tracker.
Data over the past 6 months ending March 2025

Temperature

- Average temperatures this Water Year (since Oct 2024) are up to 2-3ºF above normal
- This abnormal warmth in the top 10th percentile has heightened evapotranspiration losses and more rapidly depleted soil moisture affecting vegetation and streamflow



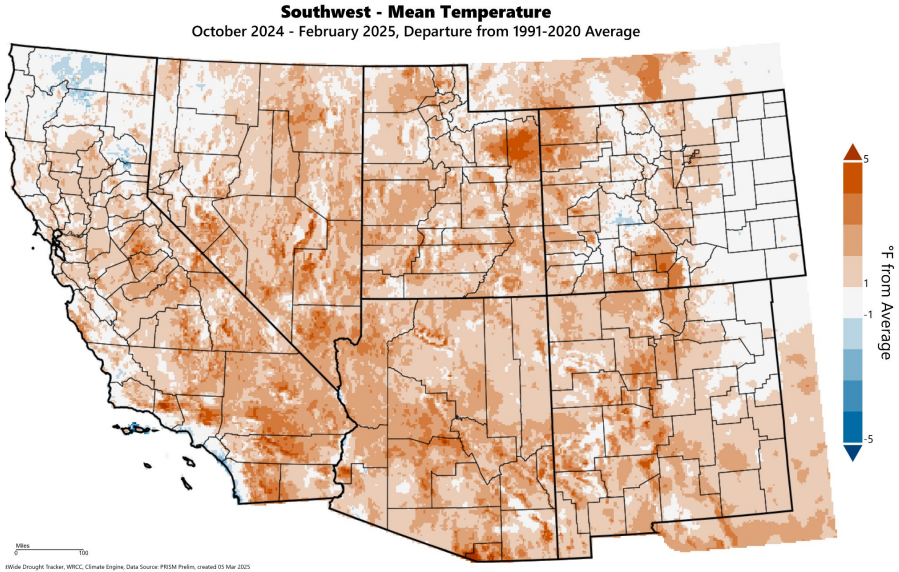


Image Captions:
Left - Water Year Temperature Percentile Ranking
Right - Water Year Departure from Normal Temperature
Data Courtesy WestWide Drought Tracker
Data over the past 5 months ending March 2025

Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) and view the Drought Impacts Reporter

Hydrologic Impacts

- Tier 1 shortage conditions remain in effect on the Colorado River impacting water deliveries in Arizona for 2025
- Unregulated inflow into Lake Powell is expected to be around 70% of average this spring and summer which will keep Lake Powell and Mead water levels depressed such that Tier 1 restrictions are likely through 2026.

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Wildfires are becoming more prevalent entering the typical spring/early summer season stressing resources across the Southwest. Due to expansive, growing drought, the threat for significant wildfires this year is greater than average.

Other Impacts

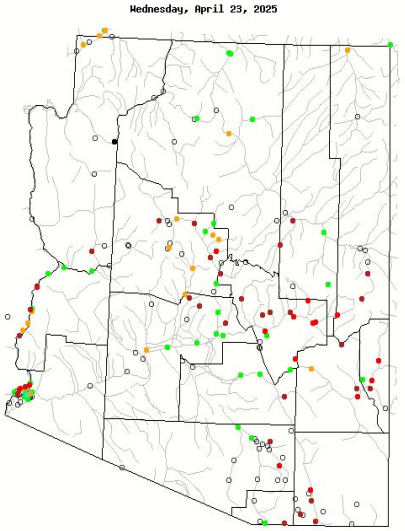
- Ranchers in western Arizona have experienced a significant lack of forage growth due to lack of rainfall the past year. Supplemental feed and water hauling have been necessary in many locations.

Mitigation Actions

- A Drought Emergency Declaration remains in effect for the state of Arizona as signed by the governor in accordance with the Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan. The continuation of this Drought Emergency has been recommended by the Drought Interagency Coordinating Group

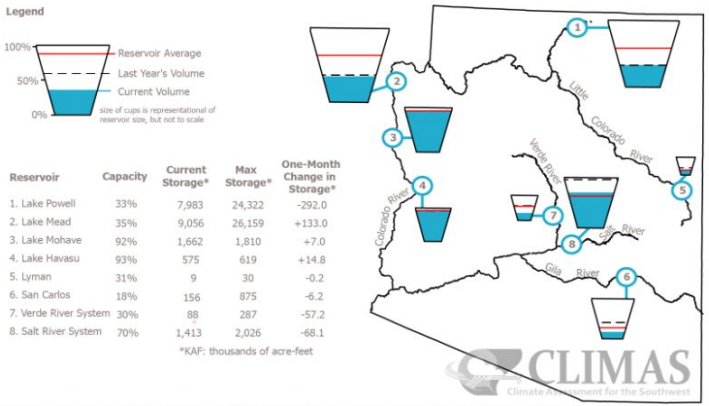
Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Small and medium unregulated rivers and streams across most of Arizona were flowing at below average levels - many near record lows for this time of year
- Small to medium sized reservoirs remained near the long term average, but below levels measured last year
- Larger reservoirs on the Colorado river continue to hover well below average forcing shortage conditions and reduced water deliveries



USGS

Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		



Reservoir	Capacity	Current Storage*	Max Storage*	One-Month Change in Storage*
1. Lake Powell	33%	7,983	24,322	-292.0
2. Lake Mead	35%	9,056	26,159	+133.0
3. Lake Mohave	92%	1,662	1,810	+7.0
4. Lake Havasu	93%	575	619	+14.8
5. Lyman	31%	9	30	-0.2
6. San Carlos	18%	156	875	-6.2
7. Verde River System	30%	88	287	-57.2
8. Salt River System	70%	1,413	2,026	-68.1

*KAF: thousands of acre-feet

Figure 1. Arizona reservoir volumes for the end of February 2025 as a percent of capacity. The map depicts the average volume and last year's storage for each reservoir. The table also lists current and maximum storage, and change in storage since last month.

Image Caption:
Left: USGS 14 day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow valid Apr 23, 2025. Data courtesy of USGS

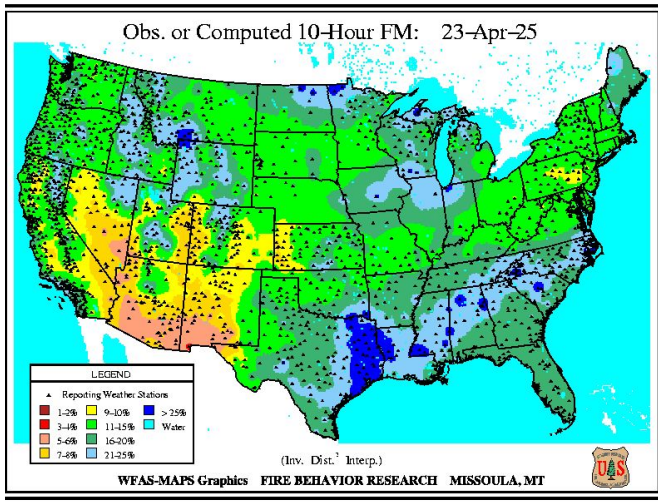
Right: Arizona reservoir status. Data courtesy of CLIMAS

Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.]

- Persistent dry conditions continue to support dead fine fuels below 6% over much of the local area despite recent light rainfall

- The threat of significant large wildland fires will be above normal across much of Arizona in May with the potential for additional expansion through the remainder of the spring and early summer.



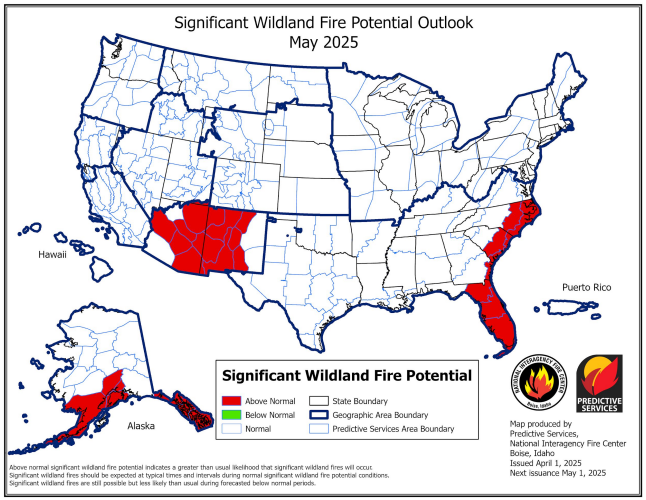


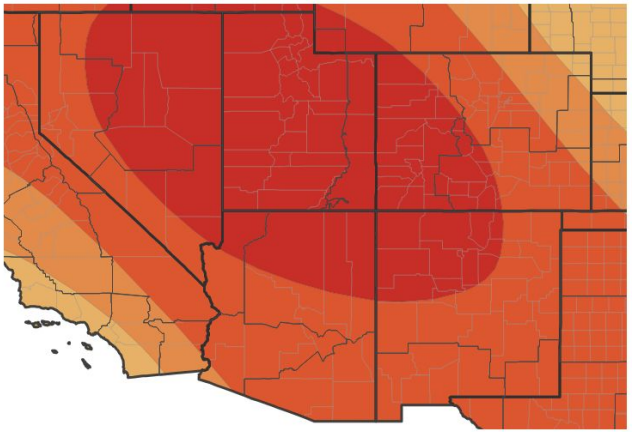
Image Caption: Left - 10-hour dead fuel moisture from [Wildland Fire Assessment System]
Right - [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook] for May 2025

Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Temperatures over the next 3 months (May-Jun-Jul) have better chances of averaging at above normal levels
- There are near equal odds for total precipitation during the May-Jun-Jul time frame to be above, below, or near normal (with the exception of SE Arizona where odds are tilted slightly towards above normal

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for May 1, 2025–July 31, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

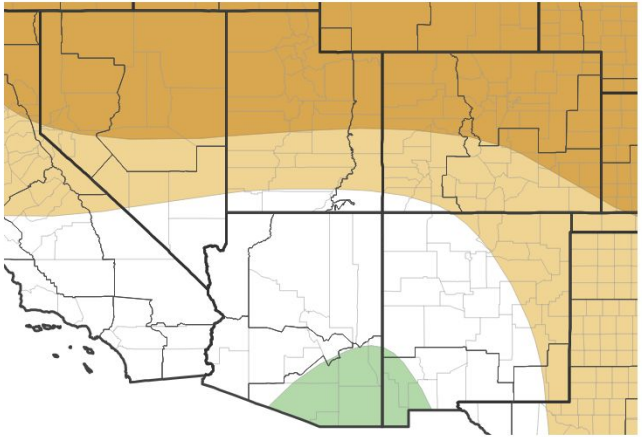
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/17/25

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2025–July 31, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50%

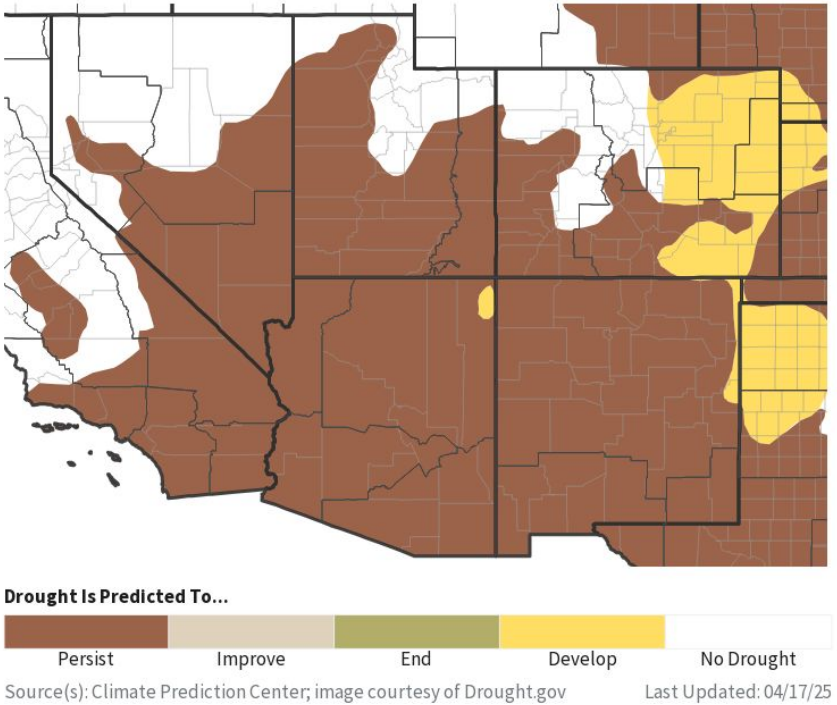
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/17/25

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Widespread Severe to Extreme Drought currently exists over central and western Arizona, as well as southeast California
- The remainder of the spring typically experiences very little rainfall with no improvement in drought expected
- Until monsoon fully becomes established over the Southwest, drought should persist or worsen

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for April 17, 2025–July 31, 2025



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook