



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

Valid October 18, 2025

Issued By: National Weather Service Phoenix

Contact Information: nws.phoenix@noaa.gov

- This product may be updated around November 24, 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
-
- Heavy rainfall has resulted in widespread short term drought improvement
 - Long term Moderate to Severe Drought continues to affect much of central and western Arizona, as well as southeast California



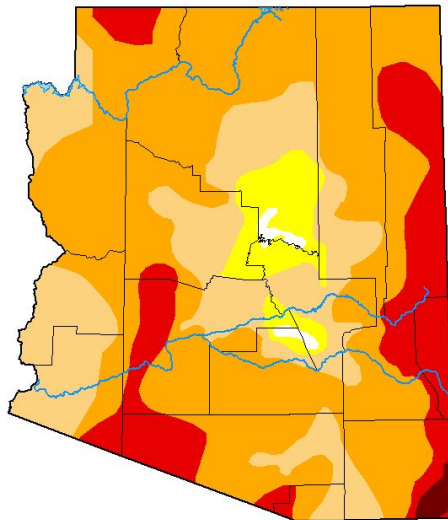


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

- WIDESPREAD DROUGHT IMPROVEMENT ACROSS WESTERN AND CENTRAL ARIZONA
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Small part of southeast Yuma and western Maricopa counties
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Eastern La Paz, eastern Yuma, parts of Maricopa, Pinal, and southern Gila counties
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** western La Paz, western Yuma, eastern Maricopa, NE Pinal, and western Gila counties
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry):** far eastern Maricopa, northeast Pinal, and southwest Gila counties

U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona



October 14, 2025
(Released Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.66	99.34	94.07	69.98	15.88	0.64
Last Week 10-07-2025	0.00	100.00	100.00	76.87	25.06	1.49
3 Months Ago 07-15-2025	0.00	100.00	97.33	77.90	45.63	3.10
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	3.74	96.26	76.63	45.54	14.03	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	27.62	72.38	39.91	4.61	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 10-15-2024	11.51	88.49	52.17	26.89	0.00	0.00

Intensity

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 5 am MST October 14, 2025



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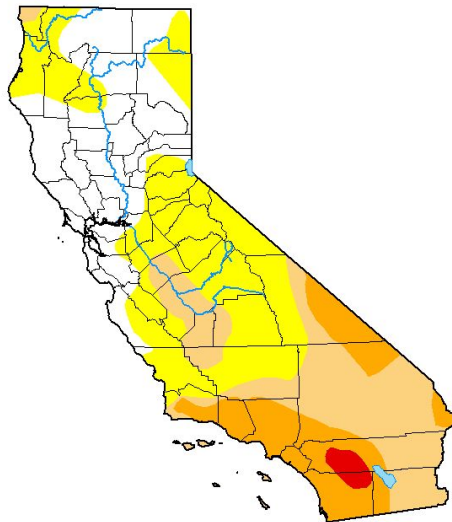


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

- LONG TERM DROUGHT PERSISTS ACROSS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: far western Imperial and central Riverside counties
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: much of Imperial and eastern Riverside counties

U.S. Drought Monitor California



October 14, 2025
(Released Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	27.30	72.70	38.52	15.64	1.25	0.00
Last Week 10-07-2025	27.20	72.80	38.52	15.64	1.25	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-15-2025	23.98	76.02	39.56	23.01	5.90	0.10
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	39.11	60.89	35.93	10.43	1.06	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	28.40	71.60	10.67	0.08	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 10-15-2024	24.68	75.32	14.05	4.30	0.00	0.00

Intensity

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 5 am PDT October 14, 2025



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Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#)

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Improved: Significant Drought improvement across all of southwest and south-central Arizona.
 - This includes very rare 3-class and 4-class improvements over the past month

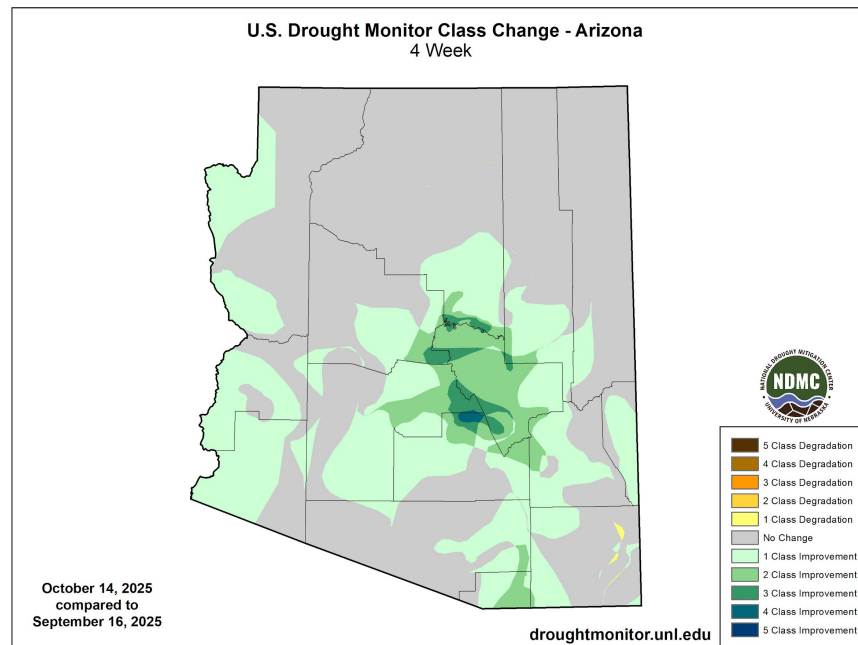


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 8am MST October 14, 2025.

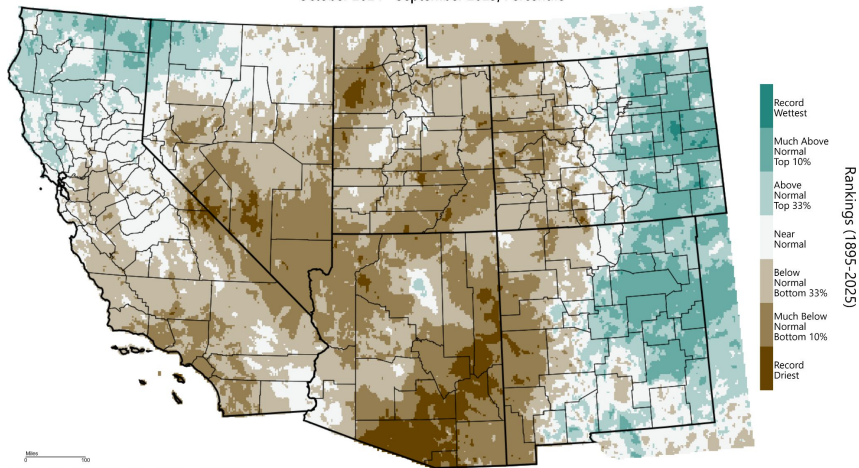




Precipitation

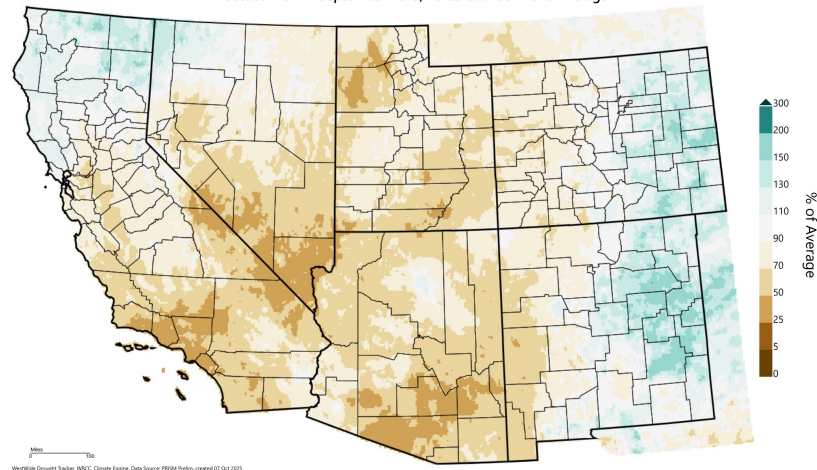
- Rainfall across much of southern Arizona last Water Year (Oct 2024-Sept 2025) ended in the bottom third of historical outcomes with many areas recording the record driest WY
- Rainfall totals across SE California and lower Colorado River valley mostly ended the Water Year near normal
- Modest drought improvements have been made towards the end of the monsoon where locally heavy rainfall was recorded

Southwest - Precipitation
October 2024 - September 2025, Percentile



Westwide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Prods, created 07 Oct 2025

Southwest - Precipitation
October 2024 - September 2025, Percent of 1991-2020 Average



Westwide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Prods, created 07 Oct 2025

Image Captions:

Left - 2024-25 Water Year Precipitation Percentile Ranking

Right - 2024-25 Water Year Percent of Normal Precipitation

Data Courtesy [WestWide Drought Tracker](https://www.westwidetracker.com/).

Data over the past year ending September 2025



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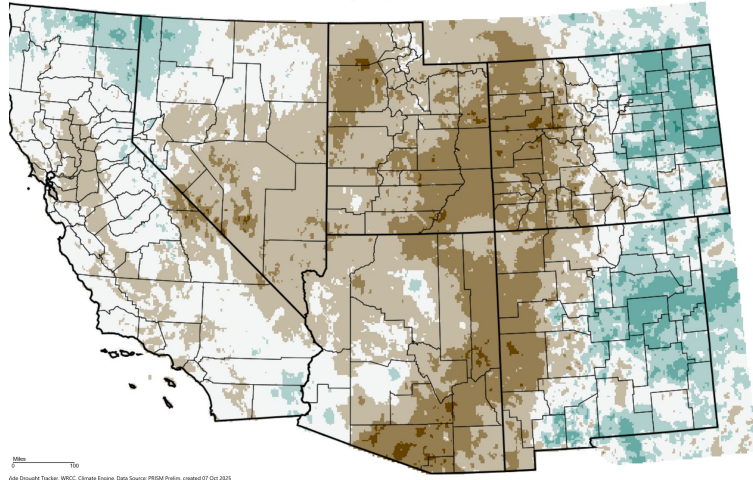
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Precipitation

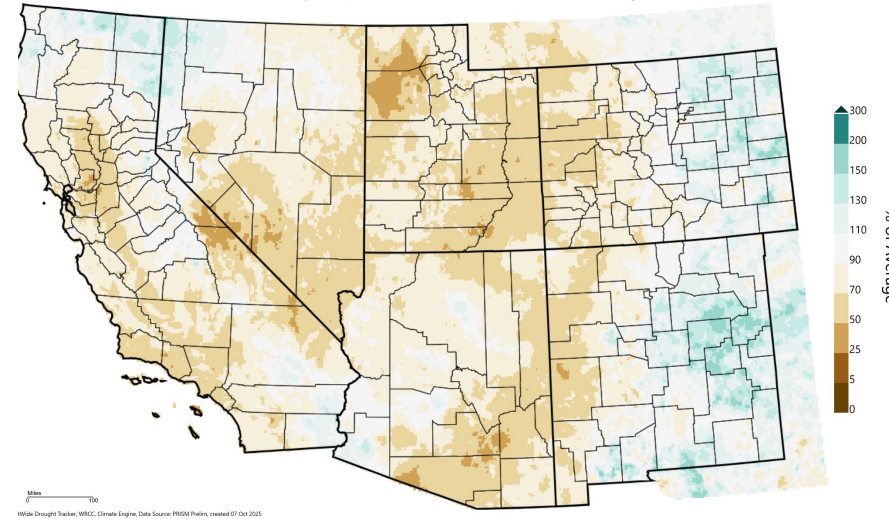
- Abnormal dryness during the beginning of 2025 has been replaced by recent wet weather
- While some locations remain under 50% of normal annual rainfall, many areas have recovered to at least 100% of normal to date allowing drought conditions to relax

Southwest - Precipitation
January - September 2025, Percentile



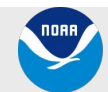
Map
0 100
Miles
Data Source: WestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Projections, created 07 Oct 2025

Southwest - Precipitation
January - September 2025, Percent of 1991-2020 Average



Map
0 100
Miles
Data Source: WestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Projections, created 07 Oct 2025

Image Captions:
Left - YTD 2025 Precipitation Percentile Ranking
Right - YTD 2025 Percent of Normal Precipitation
Data Courtesy [WestWide Drought Tracker](#)
YTD 2025 Precipitation ending September 2025



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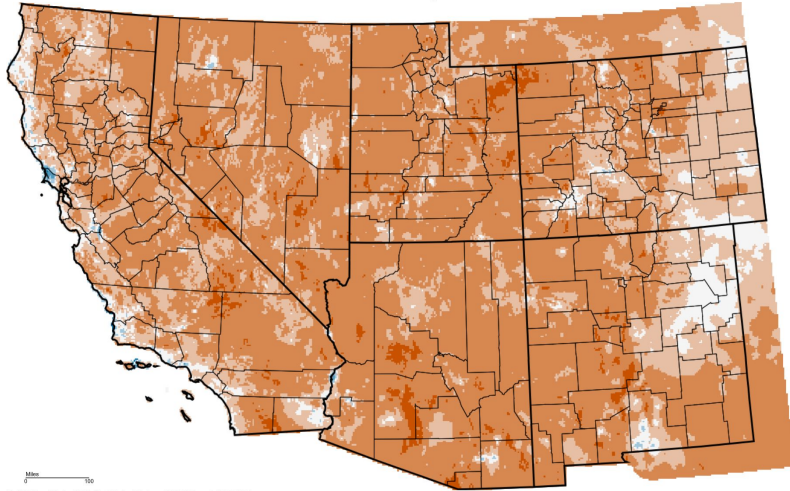
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Temperature

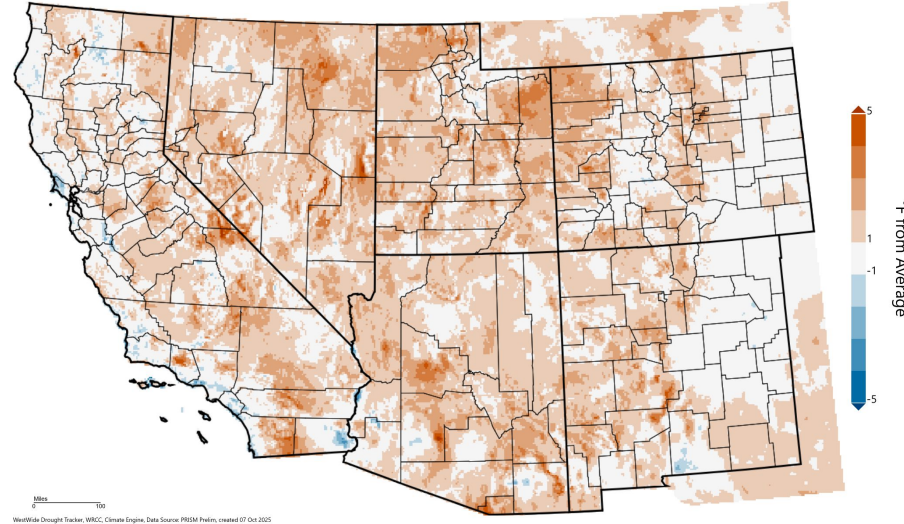
- Average temperatures last Water Year (Oct 2024-Sept 2025) were primarily 1-2°F above normal though some areas have recently retreated closer to normal
- The anomalous warmth in the historical top 10th percentile has more rapidly depleted soil moisture negatively affecting vegetation and streamflow

Southwest - Mean Temperature
October 2024 - September 2025, Percentile



WestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Projections, created 07 Oct 2025

Southwest - Mean Temperature
October 2024 - September 2025, Departure from 1991-2020 Average



WestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Projections, created 07 Oct 2025

Image Captions:

Left - 2024-25 Water Year Temperature Percentile Ranking
Right - 2024-25 Water Year Departure from Normal Temperature
Data Courtesy [WestWide Drought Tracker](#)
Data over the past year ending September 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
- Below average unregulated inflow will keep Lake Powell and Mead water levels depressed such that Tier 1 restrictions have been announced through 2026

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Recent rainfall has significantly aided drought improvement with a low threat of wildfire starts heading into the cold season.

Other Impacts

- Ranchers in parts of Arizona have experienced a significant lack of forage growth due to lack of rainfall earlier in the 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

- Most smaller, unregulated rivers and streams have responded to recent heavy rainfall with above normal streamflow
- Small to medium sized reservoirs were below levels measured last year and near or below long term averages
- 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		

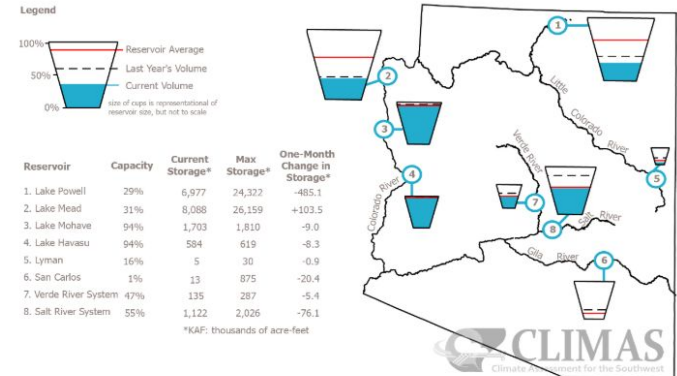
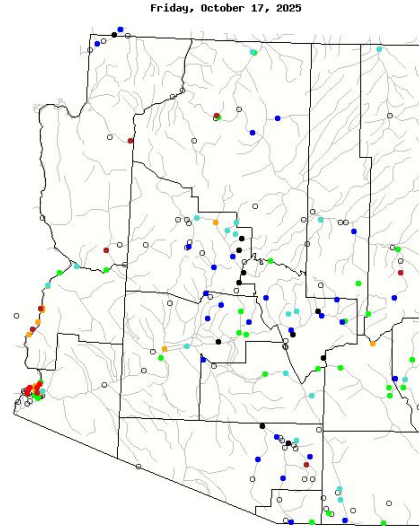


Figure 1. Arizona reservoir volumes for the end of August 2025 as a percent of capacity. The map depicts the average volume and last year's storage for each reservoir. The table also lists current and maximum storage, and change in storage since last month.

Image Caption:

Left: USGS 14 day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow valid October 17, 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](#).

- With recent rainfall, dead fine fuels have mostly improved above 10% limiting new wildfire starts
- The threat of significant large wildland fires should remain close to normal in November entering the cold season

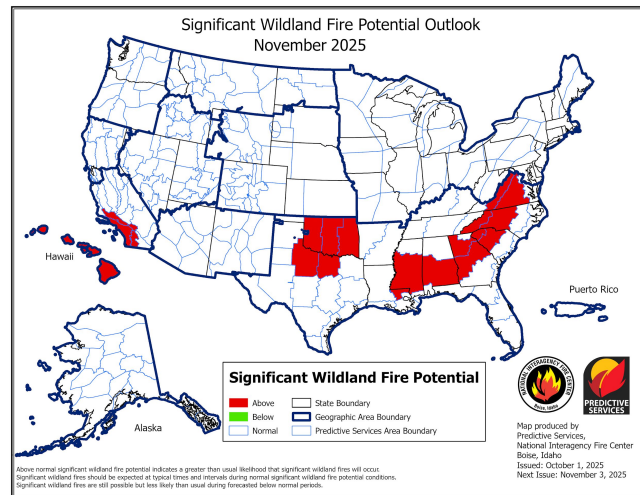
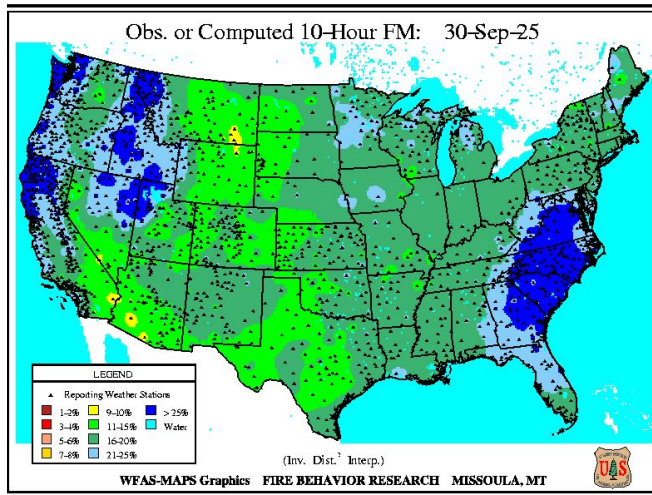


Image Caption: Left - 10-hour dead fuel moisture from [Wildland Fire Assessment System](#)
Right - [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for November 2025



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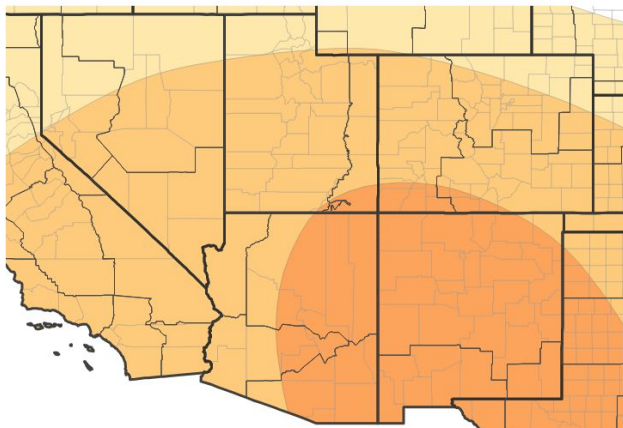


Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Temperatures over the next 3 months (Nov-Dec-Jan) have better chances of averaging at above normal levels
- Odds of total precipitation during the Nov-Dec-Jan time frame have a slightly better chance of ending in the below normal category

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for November 1, 2025–January 31, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



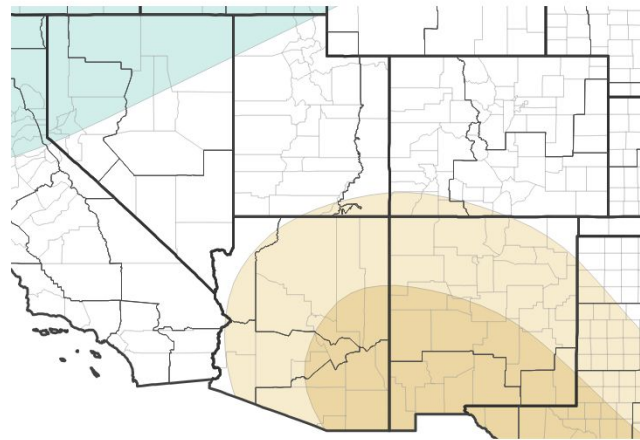
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/16/25

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for November 1, 2025–January 31, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/16/25



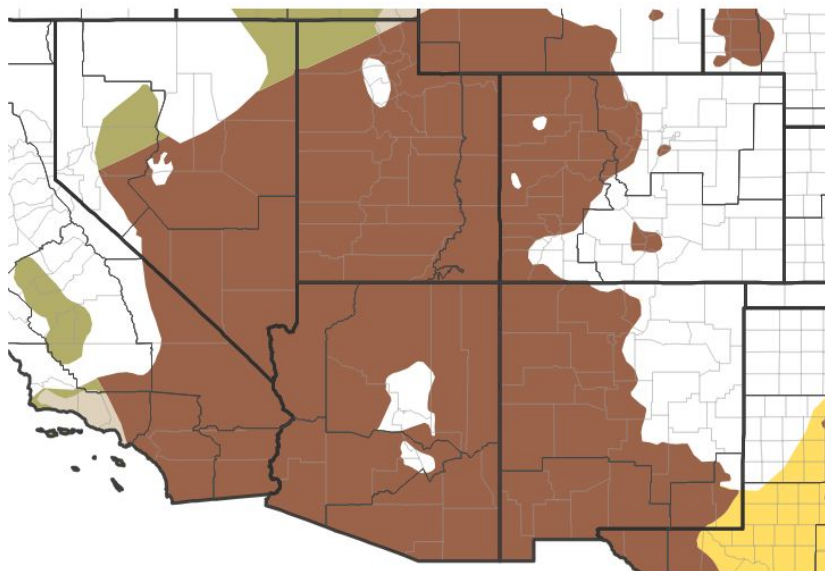


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Widespread Moderate to Severe Drought holds across central and western Arizona, as well as southeast California
- Historically some very large rainfall events have occurred in October, however prolonged periods of dry weather are also common during the autumn
- The most likely outcome is for persisting drought during Fall-Winter 2025-26

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for October 16, 2025–January 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/16/25

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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