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

Valid December 5, 2025

Issued By: National Weather Service Phoenix

Contact Information: nws.phoenix@noaa.gov

- This will be the final Information Statement for this drought episode
- 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

- Persistent rainfall has resulted in additional widespread short term drought improvement
- Long term Moderate Drought continues to affect parts of central and western Arizona

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor

- SIGNIFICANT DROUGHT IMPROVEMENT ACROSS WESTERN AND CENTRAL ARIZONA
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: far eastern La Paz and Yuma counties, as well as western Maricopa, much of Pinal, and far eastern Gila counties
  - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: much of La Paz and Yuma countries, as well as eastern Maricopa, western Gila, and small parts of Pinal counties

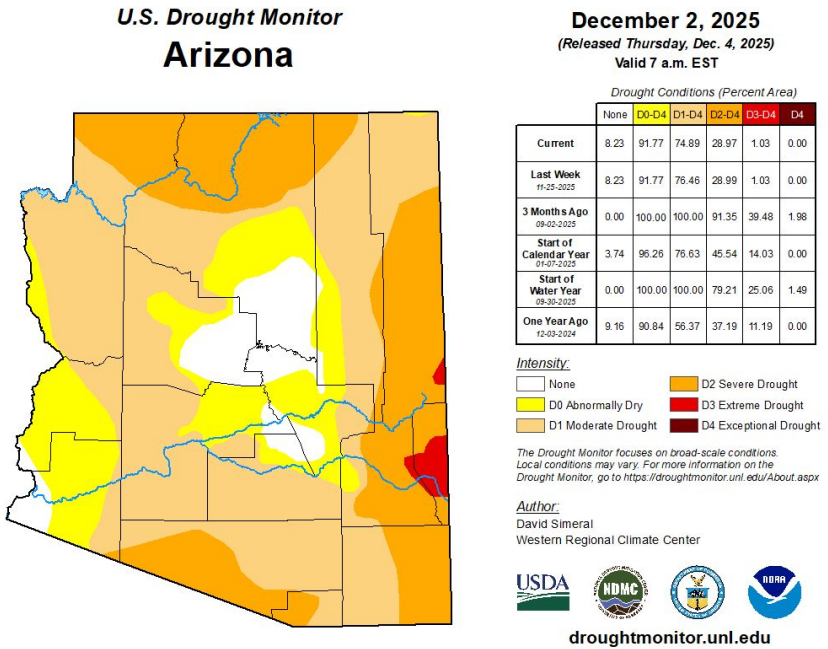


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 5 am MST December 2, 2025

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor

- DROUGHT IMPROVES SUBSTANTIALLY ACROSS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: small parts of Imperial and eastern Riverside counties

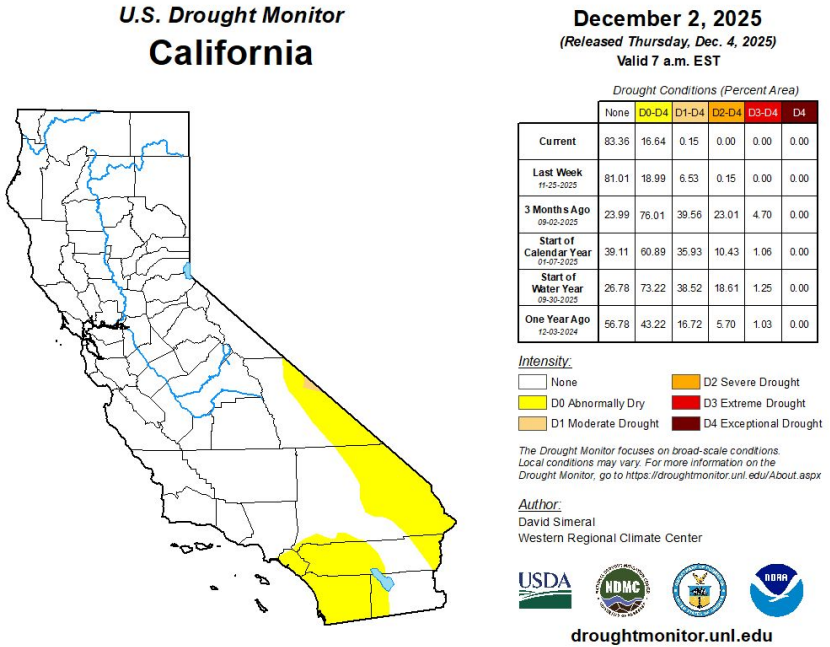


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 4 am PST December 2, 2025

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 rare 2-class and 3-class improvements over the past month

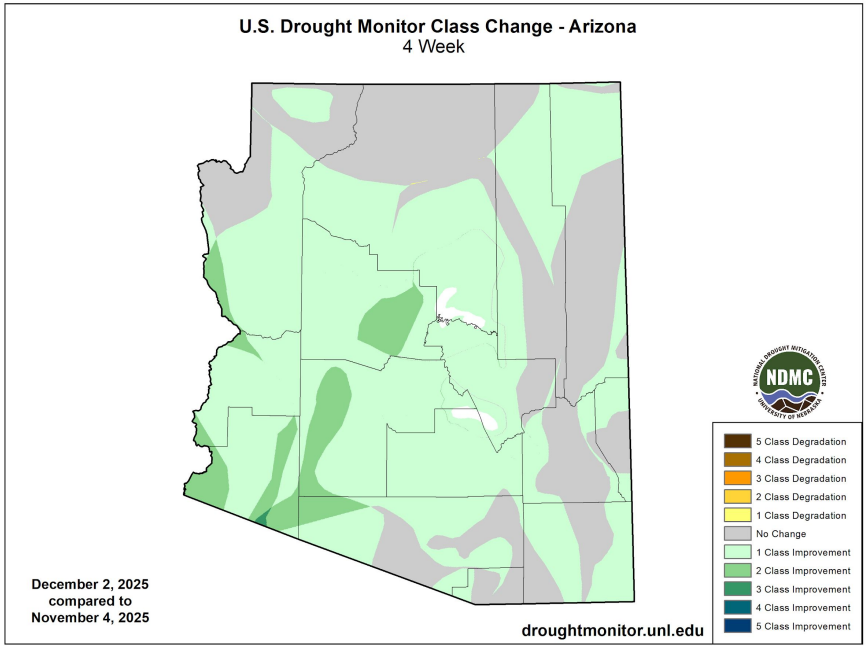
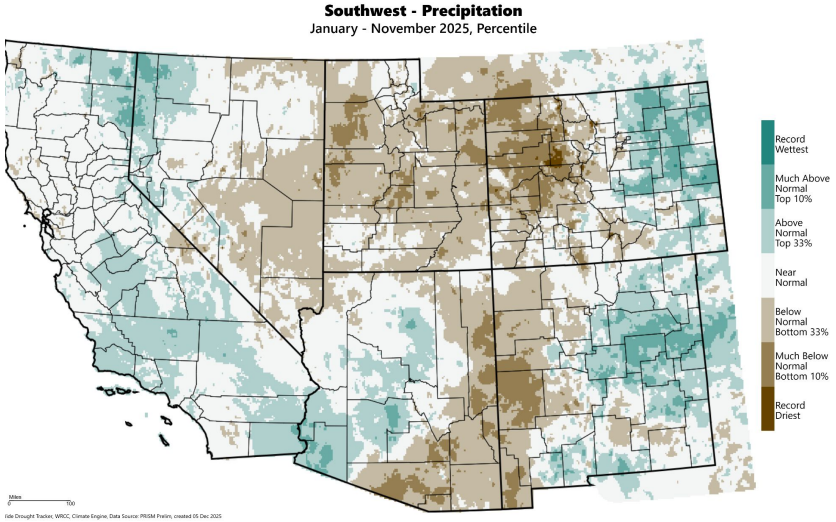


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 5 am MST December 2, 2025.

Precipitation

- Abnormal dryness during the beginning of 2025 has been replaced by recent wet weather
- While some locations remain under 70% of normal annual rainfall, many areas have recovered to at least 100% of normal year to date allowing drought levels to improve



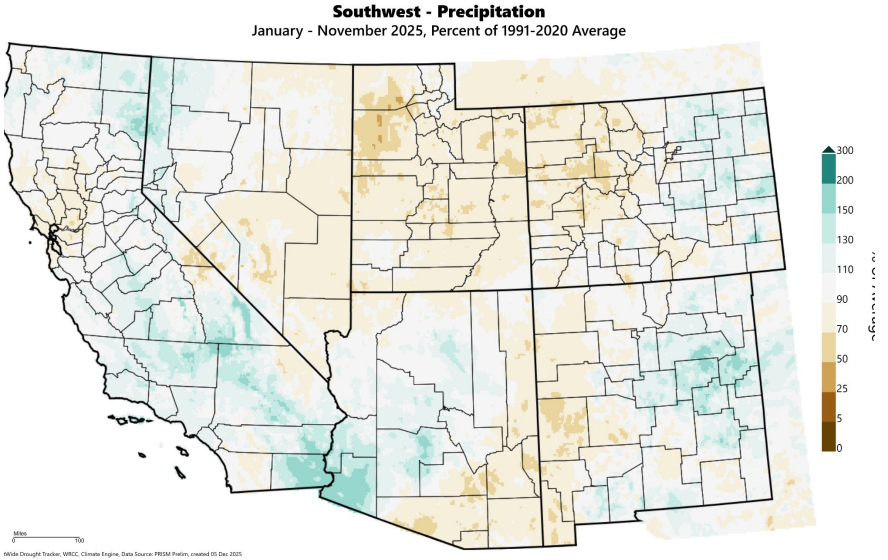
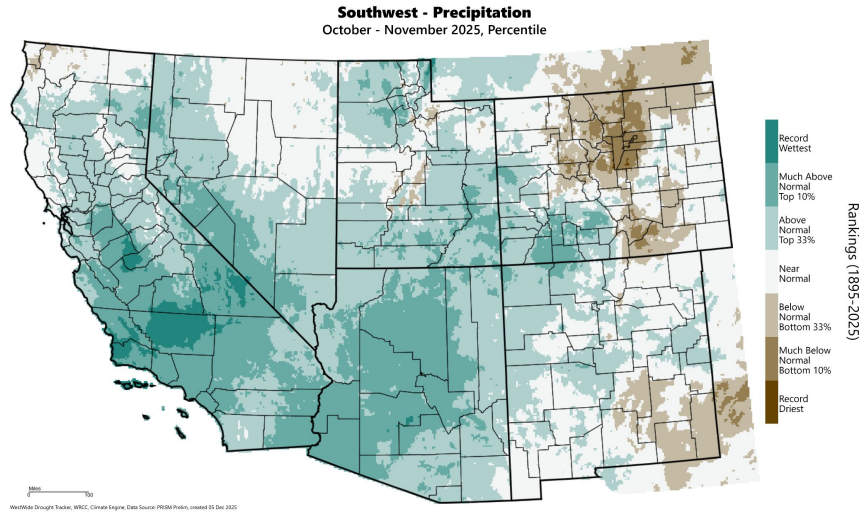


Image Captions:
Left - YTD 2025 Precipitation Percentile Ranking
Right - YTD 2025 Percent of Normal Precipitation
Data Courtesy [WestWide Drought Tracker]
YTD 2025 Precipitation ending November 2025

Precipitation

- Abundant rainfall has occurred this Water Year across the entire region
- Rainfall totals have mostly been above 150% of normal thus far ranking in the top 10% beginning to the Water Year historically
- Substantial drought improvements have been made this Water Year aiding in soil moisture and streamflow



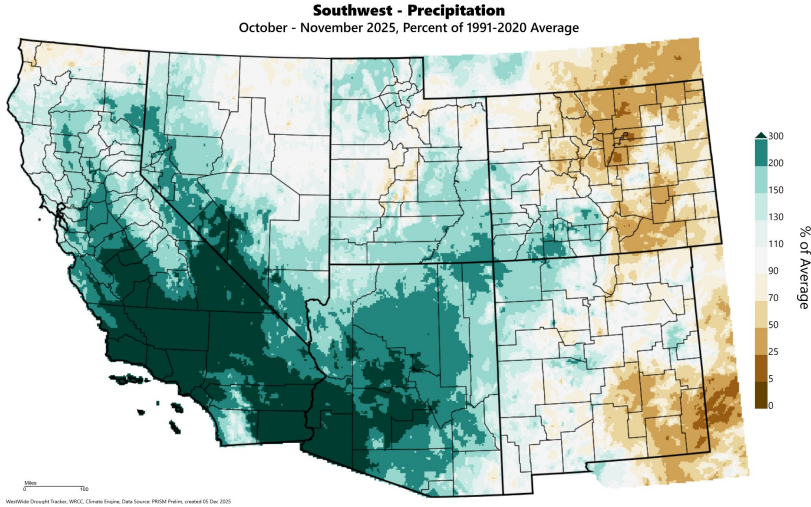
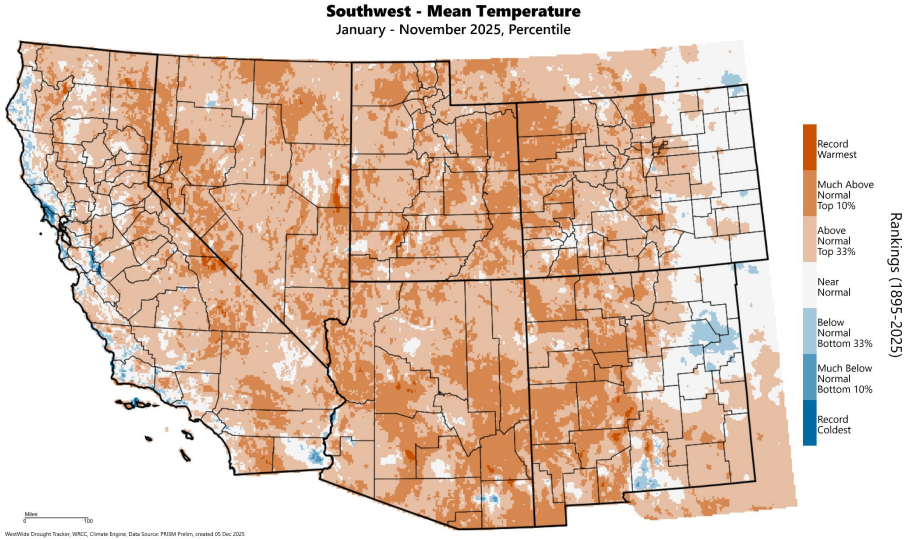


Image Captions:
Left - 2025-26 Water Year Precipitation Percentile Ranking
Right - 2025-26 Water Year Percent of Normal Precipitation
Data Courtesy WestWide Drought Tracker.
Data over the past year ending November 2025

Temperature

- Average temperature for 2025 year-to-date has been up to around 2°F above normal, though many areas are now within ±1°F
- This anomalous warmth places much of the region into an above to much above normal range



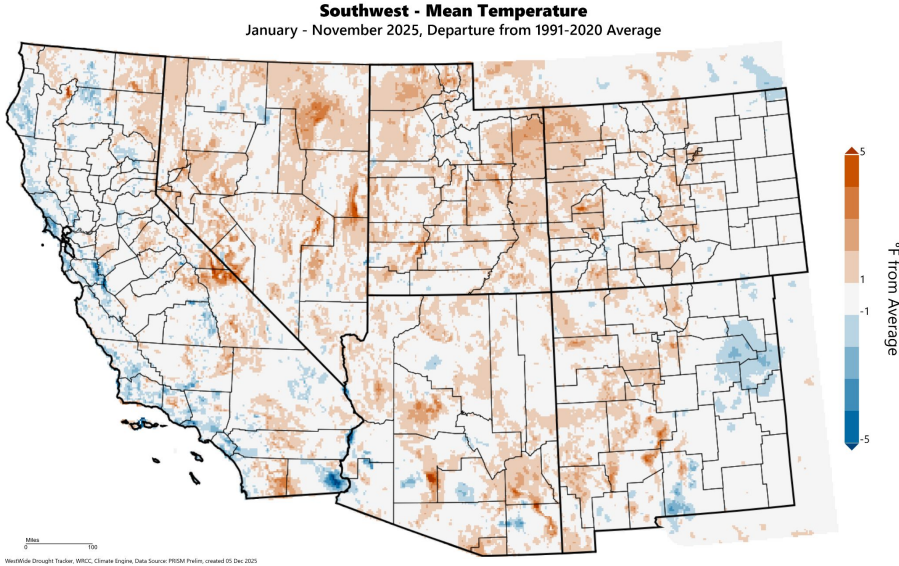


Image Captions:
Left - 2025 YTD Temperature Percentile Ranking
Right - 2025 YTD Departure from Normal Temperature
Data Courtesy WestWide Drought Tracker
Data over the past year ending November 2025

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
- Multi-year projections indicate increasing odds that worsening reservoir levels will be experienced and additional water delivery restrictions may be needed

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 new wildfire starts

Other Impacts

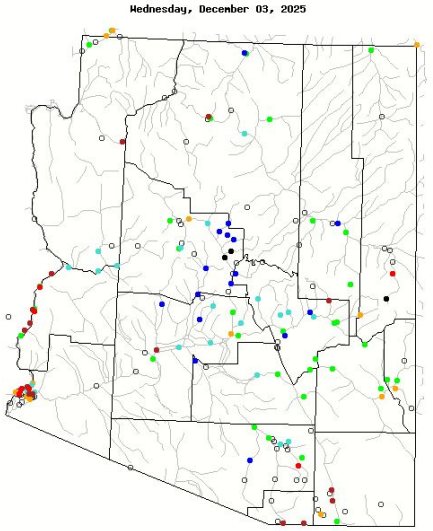
- Ranchers in parts of Arizona have experienced a significant lack of forage growth due to lack of rainfall earlier in the year. Supplemental feed and water hauling have been necessary in many locations.

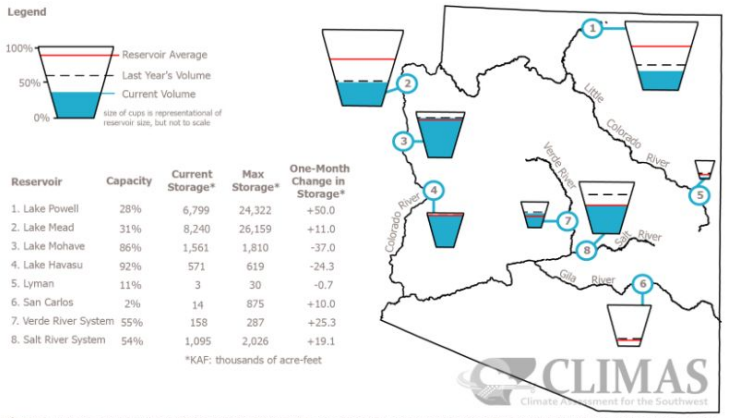
Mitigation Actions

- 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 autumn 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





Reservoir	Capacity	Current Storage*	Max Storage*	One-Month Change in Storage*
1. Lake Powell	28%	6,799	24,322	+50.0
2. Lake Mead	31%	8,240	26,159	+11.0
3. Lake Mohave	86%	1,561	1,810	-37.0
4. Lake Havasu	92%	571	619	-24.3
5. Lyman	11%	3	30	-0.7
6. San Carlos	2%	14	875	+10.0
7. Verde River System	55%	158	287	+25.3
8. Salt River System	54%	1,095	2,026	+19.1

*KAF: thousands of acre-feet

Figure 1. Arizona reservoir volumes for the end of October 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.

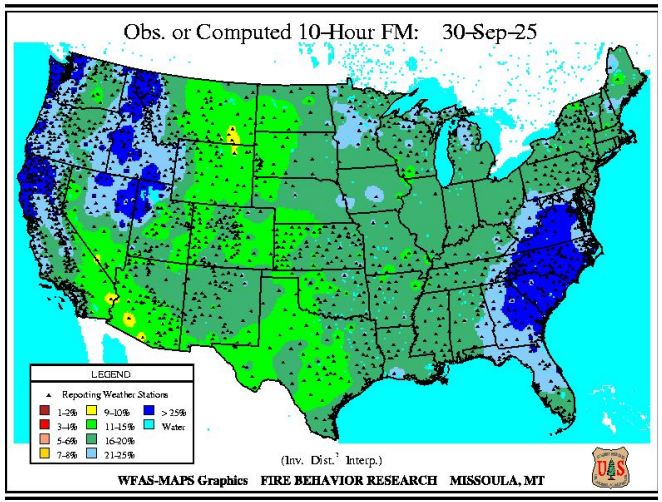
Image Caption:
Left: USGS 14 day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow valid December 3, 2025. Data courtesy of USGS

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 improved above 10% limiting new wildfire starts
- The threat of significant large wildland fires should remain close to normal through January 2026



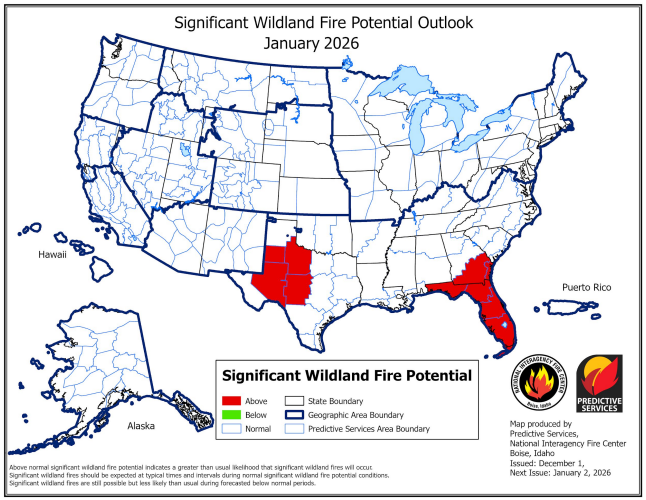


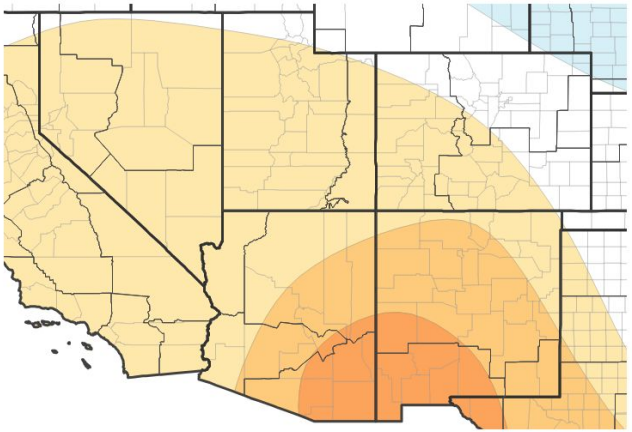
Image Caption: Left - 10-hour dead fuel moisture from [Wildland Fire Assessment System]
Right - [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook] for January 2026

Long-Range Outlooks

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

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

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for December 1, 2025–February 28, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures

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

Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

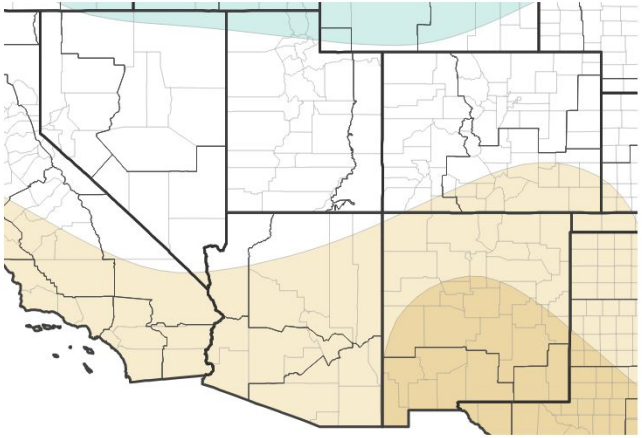
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 11/20/25

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for December 1, 2025–February 28, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

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Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

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

Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50%

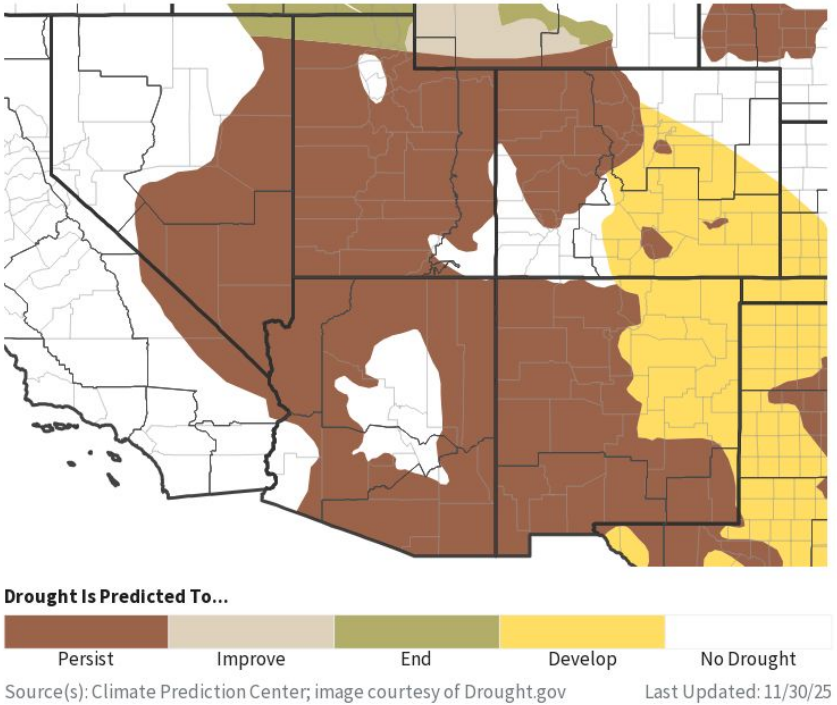
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 11/20/25

Drought Outlook

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

- Widespread Moderate Drought continues across parts of central and western Arizona
- Significant drought improvement has occurred over the past 2 months
- The most likely outcome is for drought to persist in areas currently in moderate drought through Winter 2025-26

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for November 30, 2025–February 28, 2026



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