



# Drought Information Statement for Southeast Arizona

Valid February 22, 2024

Issued By: NWS Tucson, AZ

Contact Information: [w-twc.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:w-twc.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated March 26, 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/twc/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



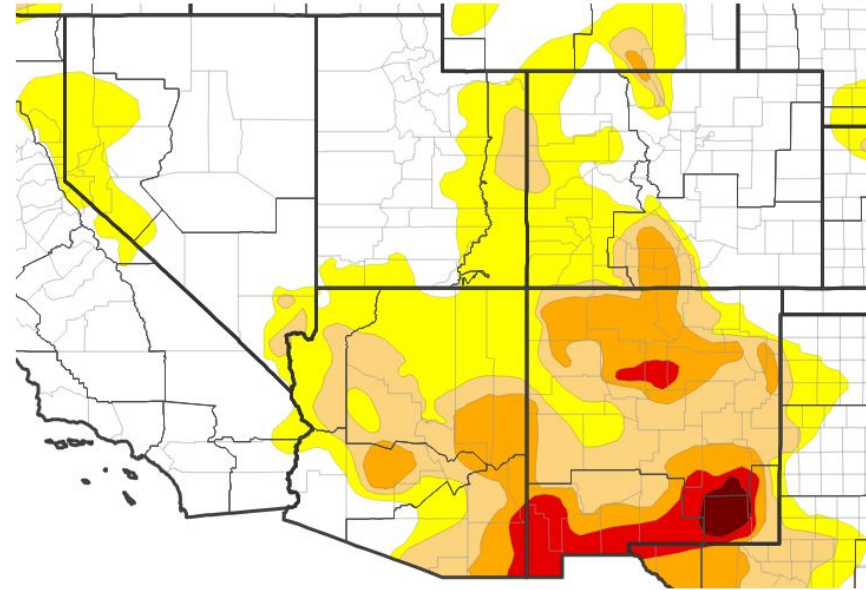


# U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- DROUGHT CONDITIONS SLOWLY IMPROVING FROM WEST TO EAST.
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Eastern Cochise County, far southeast Graham County and far southern Greenlee County.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Remainder of Greenlee County, adjacent sections of eastern Graham County, most of the remainder of Cochise County, all of Santa Cruz County, and southern Pima County.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)/D0 Abnormally Dry:** The remainder of southeast Arizona not under D2 or D3.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/20/24

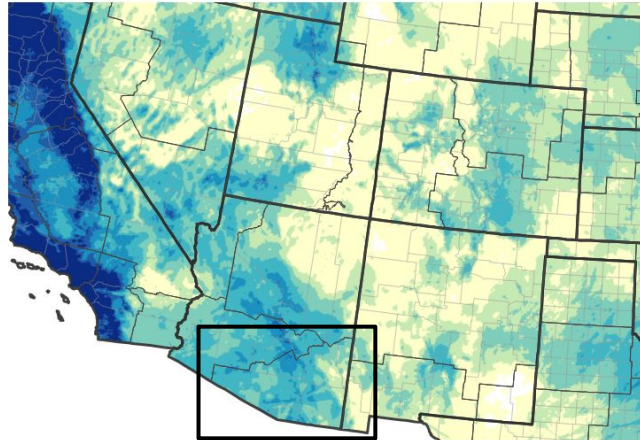




# Precipitation

- The area has seen several widespread precipitation events over the past 30 days.
- Thus most of southeast Arizona is above normal over the past 30 days. The exception is portions of Graham and Greenlee counties which has seen below normal precipitation in the past 30 days.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

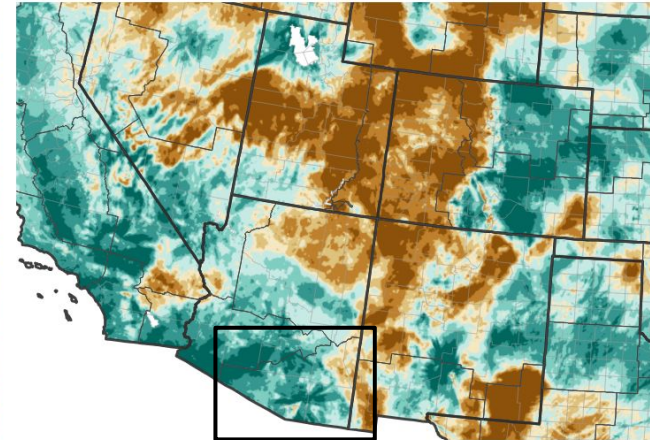


Inches of Precipitation

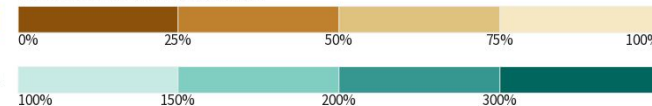


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 02/22/24

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation

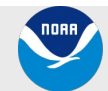


Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 02/22/24

Data over the past 30 days ending February 21, 2024

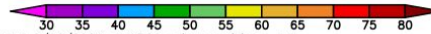
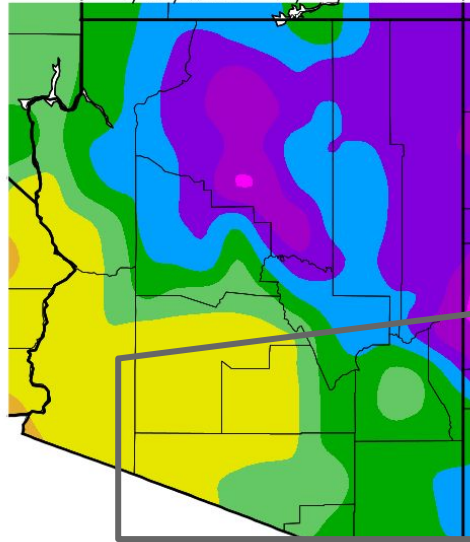




# Temperature

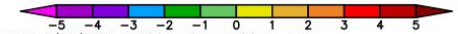
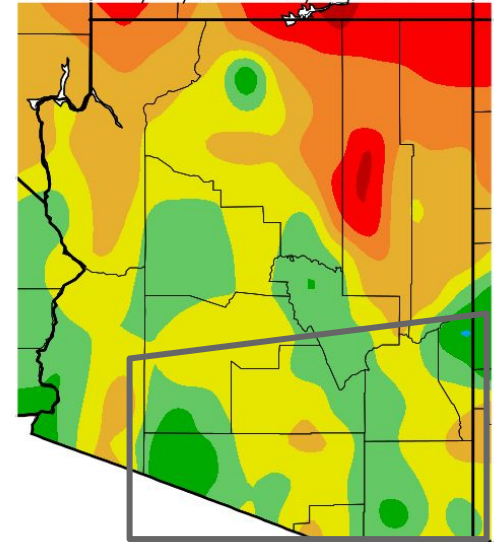
- Average temperatures over the past 30 days generally ranged from 1° below normal to 1° above normal across most of southeast Arizona.

Ave. Temperature (deg. F)  
1/23/2024 - 2/21/2024



Generated 2/22/2024 at WRCC using provisional data.  
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Ave. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)  
1/23/2024 - 2/21/2024



Generated 2/22/2024 at WRCC using provisional data.  
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Image Captions:

Left - [Average Temperature for Arizona w/southeast Arizona in highlighted gray box](#)

Right - [Departure from Normal Temperature for Arizona w/southeast Arizona in highlighted gray box](#)

Data Courtesy Western Regional Climate Center.

Data over the past 30 days ending February 21, 2024





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow conditions in Southeastern Arizona have improved for some basins since last month. The Upper Gila River Basin and Lower San Pedro River Basin have river reaches at normal or above normal. However, the Upper San Pedro Basin remains at much below normal.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture values have improved thanks to the widespread rain but are still on the dry side across the area.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Abundant winter precipitation and cooler temperatures have pushed fuel moisture levels for all classes to near period of record highs. Thus the threat for wildfires is very low and reduced to just a threat of a few smaller grass fires on the windiest and driest days. Potential impending greenup over the next month will continue to moderate the fire threat as well as any additional precipitation.

## Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

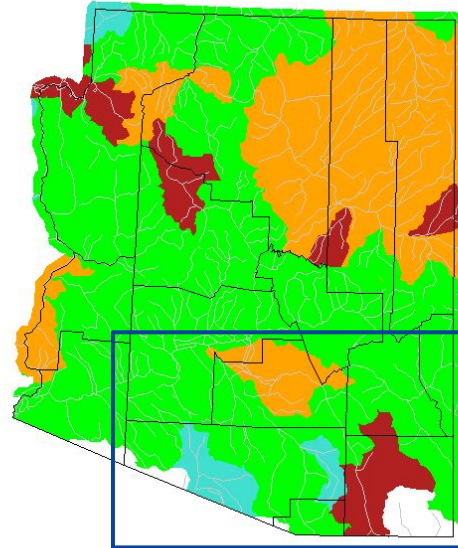




# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow conditions in Southeastern Arizona have improved for some basins since last month. The Upper Gila River Basin and Lower San Pedro River Basin have river reaches at normal or above normal. However, the Upper San Pedro Basin remains at much below normal.

Wednesday, February 21, 2024



GS

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		

Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid February 21, 2024

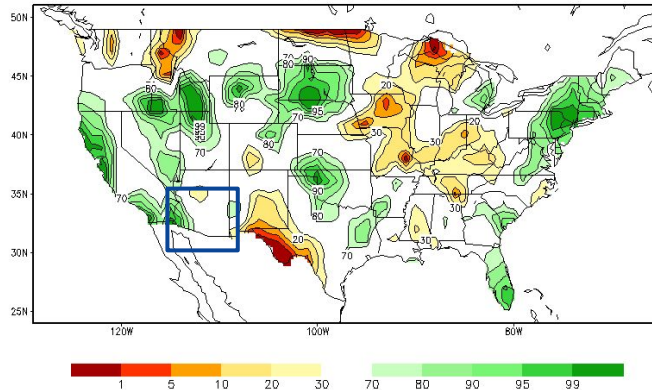




# Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture values are near normal for this time of the year across southeast Arizona.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
FEB 21, 2024



Crop Moisture Index by Division  
Weekly Value for Period Ending FEB 17, 2024  
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

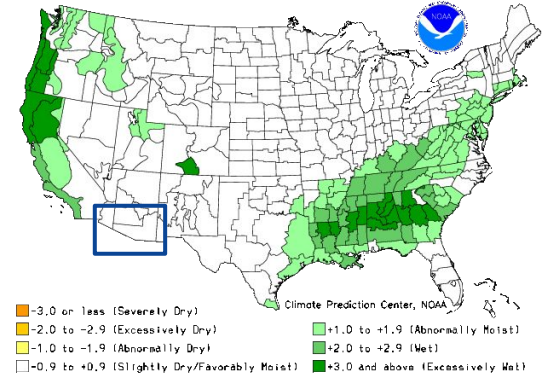


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid February 21, 2024

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending February 17, 2024

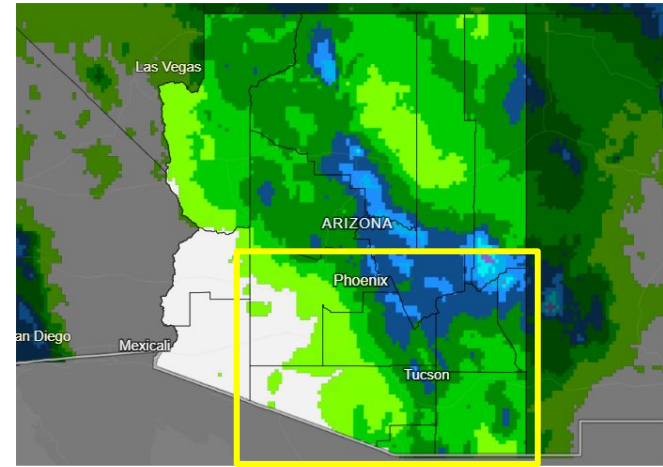




# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- The map to the right shows total precipitation for the last week of February.
- A weather system will move across the area during first half of next week with the best chances of precipitation occurring late on Monday (26th) and through most of Tuesday (27th).

## 7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



### Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center  
Data Valid: 02/22/24

[Drought.gov](https://www.drought.gov)

Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday February 22 to Thursday February 29







# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The Climate Prediction center outlook for **March through May** for southeast Arizona shows equal odds for either above, near or below normal seasonal mean temperatures & seasonal total precipitation.

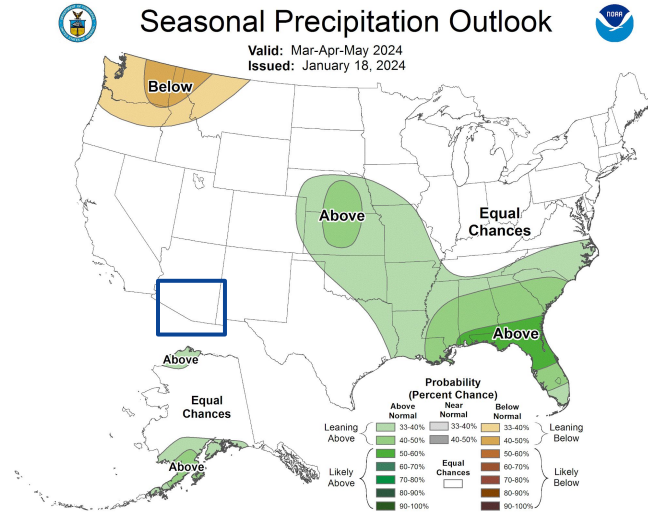
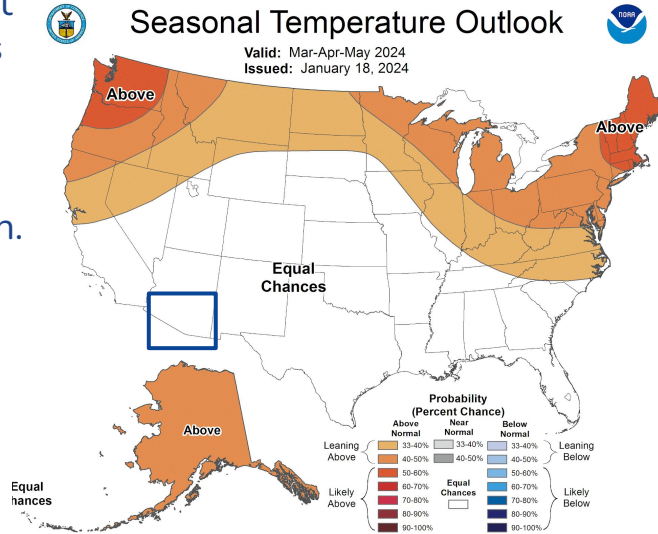


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook](#).

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook](#).

Valid March to May 2024



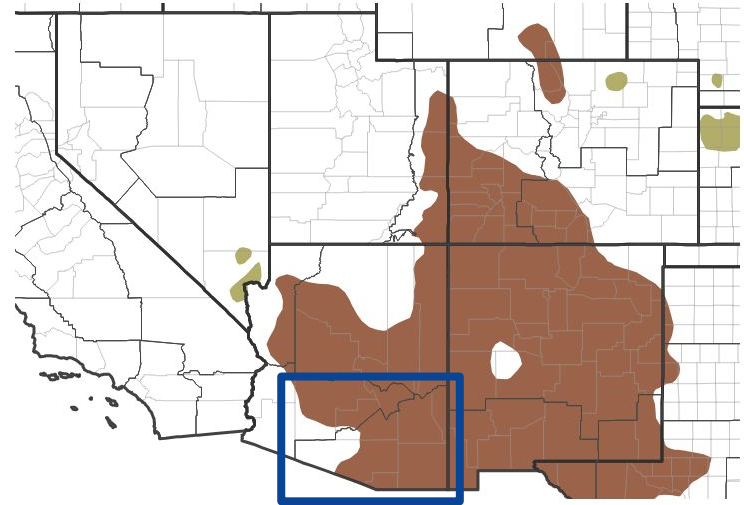


# Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are likely to persist into late Spring across most of southeast Arizona.

## Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



### Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Data Valid: 02/15/24

### Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released February 15, 2024 valid for February 15 to May 31, 2024

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Tucson, AZ