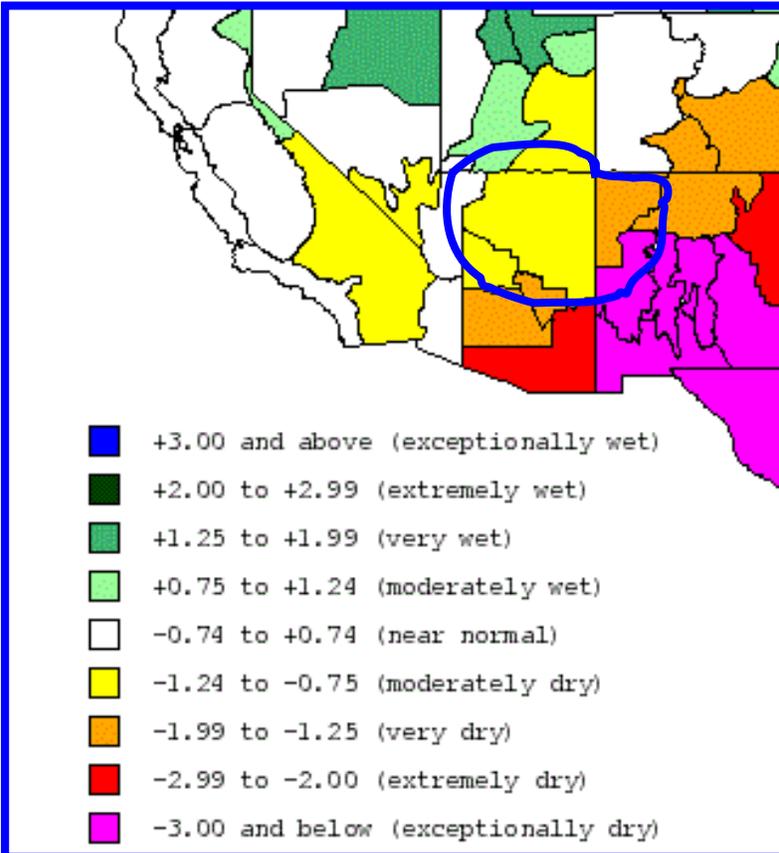




# Navajo Nation DWR – Water Management Branch

## DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

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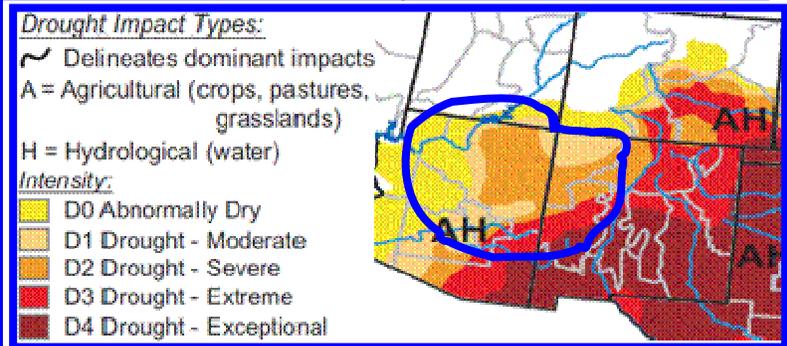
### Navajo Nation Drought Stage

Location	6 month SPI	Stage
NE AZ	-0.88	Alert
NW NM	-1.27	Warning
SE UT	-0.79	Alert

### Drought Intensity Category

NNDrought	US Drought	
Normal	Normal	D0
Alert	Moderate	D1
Warning	Severe	D2
Emergency	Extreme-Exceptional	D3 & D4



6-Month SPI for June 2011 [www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu)

June 28, 2011 U.S. Drought Monitor <http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

### Climate Summary by Climas June 20, 2011

**Drought**– Drought conditions intensified across southeast Arizona and much of New Mexico over the past 30 days, with extreme and exceptional drought now covering much of these areas.

**Temperature**– In the last month temperatures in Arizona mostly have been between 2 and 6 degrees F cooler than average, while the eastern half of New Mexico has been 2 to 6 degrees F warmer than average.

**Precipitation**– Scant rainfall during May meant no reprieve from dry conditions in New Mexico and southern Arizona, where southwestern drought conditions are most severe.

**ENSO**– Near-average sea surface temperatures across the equatorial Pacific Ocean were present again this month, providing further evidence that ENSO-neutral conditions have returned. Forecasts indicate a high probability that neutral conditions will persist through the end of 2011.

**Climate Forecasts**– The July–September monsoon precipitation forecast is equal chances for above-, below-, and near-average rainfall, while forecasts call for increased chances for above-average temperatures during this period.

**The Bottom Line**– Impacts from a dry winter are often not felt until spring. This year the point has been hammered home, as widespread and exceptional drought conditions have combined with strong winds to fan fires across the region. Both Arizona and New Mexico have set records for the most acres burned in those states, with more than 750,000 acres charred in Arizona and another 630,000 in New Mexico as of June 17. Above-normal significant fire potential is forecasted to continue across most of the Southwest through July. Monsoon storms likely will quell fire risk and improve drought conditions, but some indicators hint at a late arrival—the monsoon typically arrives in the first week of July for southern Arizona and New Mexico. Seasonal forecasts for the entire monsoon period, however, do not indicate if total rainfall will be above, below, or near average.

May/June 2011

**Useful Drought Related Sites:**

NWS-Climate  
 Prediction Center  
 Seasonal Outlook  
[www.drought.unl.edu](http://www.drought.unl.edu)

USGS Daily  
 Stream Flow  
[www.usgs.gov/water/](http://www.usgs.gov/water/)

NDMC Drought Impact  
 Database Webpage  
<http://droughtreporter.unl.edu>

Western Regional  
 Climate Center  
[www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu)

CLIMAS Southwest  
 Climate Outlook  
[www.climas.arizona.edu](http://www.climas.arizona.edu)

# Navajo Nation Precipitation Summary

Navajo Nation Water Management Branch has a network of 135 precipitation cans across the Navajo Nation. On a monthly basis, these cans are checked manually for precipitation depths. Collections are done during a 10 days period; the last 5 days of the month and the first 5 days of the following month.

June 2011 Measurement

The month of June is the driest month in a year and particularly the June of 2011 is the driest month in the recorded history. The average precipitation for the month of June for Chinle Agency is 0.01 inch, (3% of average), for Eastern Agency is 0.02 inch (5% of average), for Fort Defiance Agency is 0.07 inch (23% of average), for Shiprock Agency is 0.03 inch (6% of average) and for western agency is 0.07 inch (39% of average). Although we experienced relatively high precipitation averages for the month of May, due to no or little rainfall with high temperature and significant winds in the month of June, the drought situation across the Navajo Nation worsened.

**Navajo Nation Average Precipitation for June 2011**

