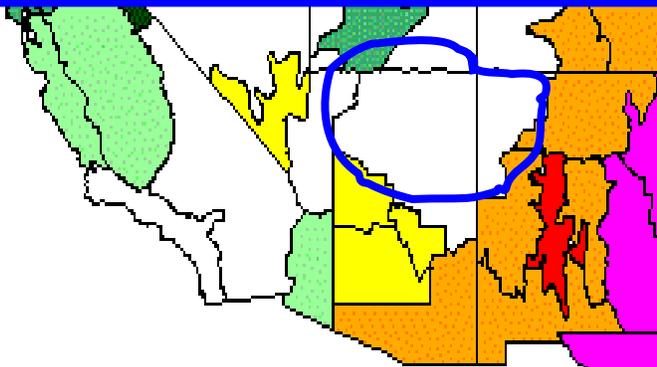




DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

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- +3.00 and above (exceptionally wet)
- +2.00 to +2.99 (extremely wet)
- +1.25 to +1.99 (very wet)
- +0.75 to +1.24 (moderately wet)
- 0.74 to +0.74 (near normal)
- 1.24 to -0.75 (moderately dry)
- 1.99 to -1.25 (very dry)
- 2.99 to -2.00 (extremely dry)
- 3.00 and below (exceptionally dry)

Navajo Nation Drought Stage

Location	6 month SPI		Stage as of July
	June	July	
NE AZ	-0.88	-0.54	Alert
NW NM	-1.27	-0.62	Alert
SE UT	-0.79	0.28	Normal

Drought Intensity Category

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

Drought Impact Types:

- Delineates dominant impacts
- A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
- H = Hydrological (water)

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional



6-Month SPI for July 2011 www.wrcc.dri.edu

August 4, 2011 U.S. Drought Monitor <http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

Drought Summary by NDMC August 4, 2011

The Southwest: An active monsoon circulation continued to generate scattered showers and thunderstorms across the Four Corners States. July ended wetter than normal at many Southwestern locations, including Douglas, Arizona (3.57 inches, or 114% of normal), and Grand Junction, Colorado (1.71 inches, or 259%). However, recovery in drought-affected areas was slow, with rangeland and pastures struggling to rebound. At the end of July, USDA rated 88% of New Mexico's rangeland and pastures in very poor to poor condition, along with 64% in Arizona.

Southwest Drought at Glance

Climate Summary by Climas July 25, 2011

Drought– A spotty and slow start to the monsoon has caused drought conditions to deepen across much of New Mexico. Most of Arizona also remains gripped in drought, with little relief so far.

Temperature–Most of New Mexico was 2–6 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than average in the past month, while temperatures in most of Arizona ranged between 0–2 degrees F warmer than average.

Precipitation– The monsoon has brought relief to the higher elevations of Arizona, but rainfall in New Mexico generally has been scant, particularly in the southeast and southwest corners of the state.

ENSO– Neutral conditions were present again across the equatorial Pacific Ocean in the past 30 days. Neutral conditions are expected to persist through the remainder of 2011, but there is some indication that La Niña could reemerge later this fall.

Climate Forecasts– Precipitation forecasts spanning the monsoon are historically difficult to make, and the NOAA-Climate Prediction Center calls for equal chances of above-, below-, or near-average rainfall. Temperature forecasts call for increased chances for above-average temperatures through the winter.

The Bottom Line–Exceptional drought, which is defined as a drought that occurs once in every 50 years, remains entrenched in New Mexico and southeast Arizona. Since the monsoon officially began on June 15, little rain has fallen in New Mexico. On the other hand, a gulf surge from Tropical Storm Arlene provided Arizona with much needed precipitation around July 4, and spotty thunderstorms have moistened the parched landscape, especially at higher elevations. Another gulf surge beginning on July 23—which is not reflected in this issue—dumped copious rains in southeast Arizona and southwest New Mexico and will help alleviate drought in those areas. Forecasts call for improving drought conditions in parts of both states. However, even if the monsoon delivers average or above-average rain, the dry conditions brought on by this past winter's La Niña event will not be completely erased. While a high probability exists that ENSO-neutral conditions will persist into at least early next year, a pool of cold water below the sea surface in the tropical Pacific Ocean hints at a return to La Niña conditions in the fall. The state of ENSO this winter will become clearer in upcoming months.

Useful Drought Related Sites:

NWS-Climate
 Prediction Center
 Seasonal Outlook
www.drought.unl.edu

USGS Daily
 Stream Flow
www.usgs.gov/water/

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

Western Regional
 Climate Center
www.wrcc.dri.edu

CLIMAS Southwest
 Climate Outlook
www.climas.arizona.edu

Navajo Nation Drought 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. The 6-month SPI is calculated on the basis of 18 years of precipitation data. The SPI value for a particular agency is the average of SPI values of all precipitation collection sites located within the agency boundary.

6 month SPI

Agency	June	July	Stage as of July
Chinle	-0.84	-0.03	Alert
Eastern	-0.88	-1.01	Warning
Fort Defiance	-0.64	-0.08	Alert
Shiprock	-0.72	-0.14	Alert
Western	-0.98	-0.51	Alert

Navajo Nation 6 Month SPI for July 2011

