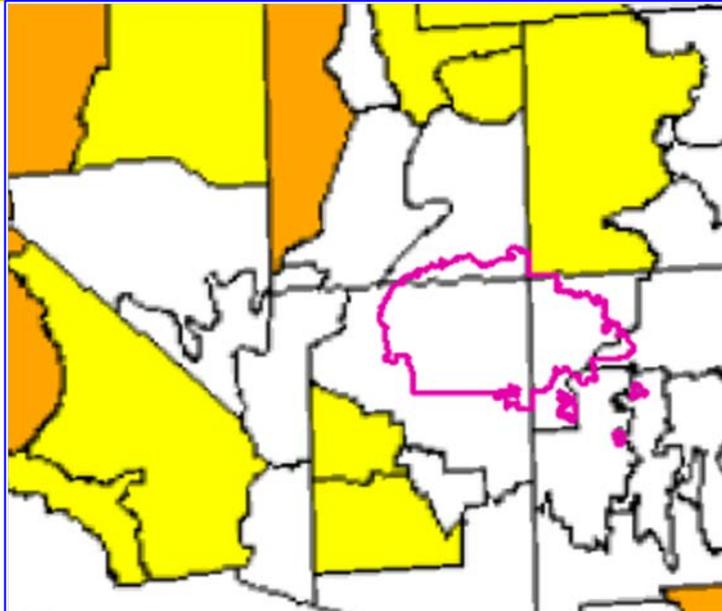




NAVAJO NATION DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

NN Dept. of Water Resources, Water Management Branch

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Navajo Nation Drought Stage

Location	6 month SPI		Stage as of Jan.
	Dec.	Jan.	
NE AZ	0.41	0.04	Normal
NW NM	0.84	0.57	Normal
SE UT	0.12	-0.68	Alert

Drought Intensity Category

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

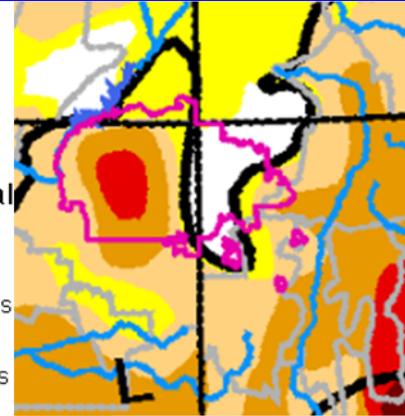
- +3.00 and above (exceptionally wet)
- +2.00 to +2.99 (extremely wet)
- +1.25 to +1.99 (very wet)
- +0.75 to +1.24 (moderately wet)
- -0.74 to +0.74 (near normal)
- -1.24 to -0.75 (moderately dry)
- -1.99 to -1.25 (very dry)
- -2.99 to -2.00 (extremely dry)
- -3.00 and below (exceptionally dry)

Intensity:

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

Drought Impact Types:

- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)



6-Month SPI for January 2012 www.wrcc.dri.edu

January 31, 2012 U.S. Drought Monitor <http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

Drought Summary by NDMC January 31, 2012

Western U.S.: After last week's much-needed precipitation, dry weather returned from central California into the Four Corners Region. From southern California into southern Nevada and northwestern Arizona, Moderate Drought (D1) was introduced to reflect very low water-year-to-date precipitation (locally below 25 percent of normal) as well as declining snow water percentiles. The new D1 area also corresponds with the latest 3- and 6-month Standardized Precipitation Indices (SPI), which depict D1 conditions or worse in these same locales.

January 2012

Southwest Drought at Glance

Climate Summary by CLIMAS January 2012

Drought: Warm and dry conditions reigned in Arizona in the past 30 days, and moderate or a more severe drought category covered more than 60 percent of the state. In eastern New Mexico, drought conditions slightly improved.

Temperature: Temperatures were warmer than average in many regions in the Southwest in the last month. Most of Arizona was at least 3 degrees F above average, and temperatures across a large section of the Colorado Plateau were up to 6 degrees F warmer than average.

Precipitation: Conditions generally have been dry in the past 30 days, which reflects the typical La Niña pattern that was not present during the first three weeks of December.

Climate Forecasts: Seasonal precipitation outlooks call for drier-than-average conditions through the winter in New Mexico and Arizona, with southern regions drier than northern areas. Temperature outlooks call for increased odds of warmer-than-average conditions through the winter.

The Bottom Line: Dry conditions returned to Arizona and the western half of New Mexico after a wet and cool December. These conditions are more representative of typical La Niña events, in which the jet stream and the storms it ferries are often pushed north. Like last winter, December was wet and January has been dry. The key difference, however, is that this winter the Upper Colorado River Basin did not benefit from the December storms that blanketed the high elevations of Arizona and New Mexico in snow. Rather, snow has been sparse and most snowpacks in this region are well below average. Consequently, early spring streamflow forecasts for the Colorado River call for inflow into Lake Powell to be about 64 percent of average. Conditions can rapidly change, and there likely will be more wet spells. However, using past La Niña events as a guide, forecasters expect dry conditions to be more common than wet ones.

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 126 precipitation stations across the Navajo Nation. On a monthly basis, these stations are checked manually for precipitation data. 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.

Agency	6 month SPI		Stage as of January
	December	January	
Chinle	0.78	0.13	Normal
Eastern	0.32	0.31	Normal
Fort Defiance	0.73	0.25	Normal
Shiprock	0.58	0.10	Normal
Western	0.46	0.07	Normal



Navajo Nation Agencywise 6-month SPI for January 2012

