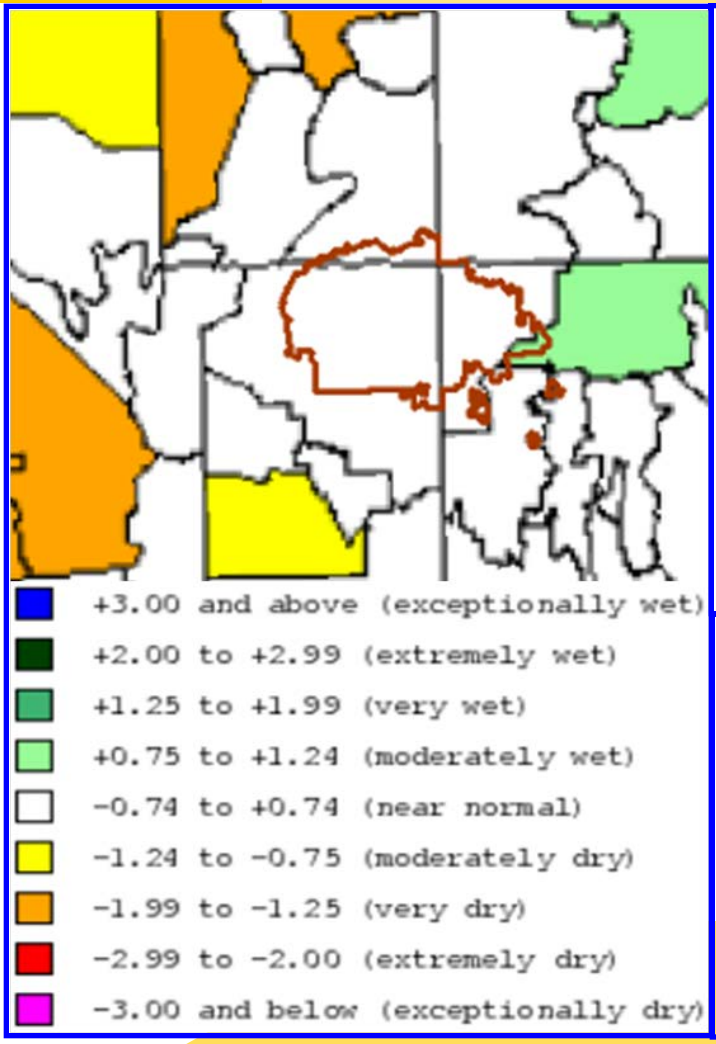
NAVAJO NATION DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

NN Dept. of Water Resources, Water Management Branch
P.O. Drawer 678 Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504 Ph.(928) 729-4004, Fax.(928) 729-4126



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

Navajo Nation Drought Stage

Location	6 month SPI		Stage
	Jan.	Feb.	as of Feb.
NE AZ	0.04	0.30	Normal
NW NM	0.57	0.03	Normal
SE UT	-0.68	-0.33	Alert

Drought Intensity Category

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

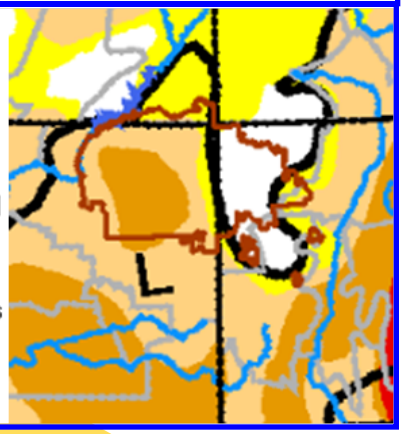
Intensity:
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

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)



February 28, 2012 U.S. Drought Monitor http://drought.unl.edu/dm

Drought Summary by NDMC February 28, 2012

West: The most active weather was mostly confined to the Pacific Northwest this week with cooler temperatures prevailing except for the Southwest, which saw above-normal temperatures. Some of the better precipitation fell across parts of the continental divide in north central Colorado and up into southern Wyoming, leading to minor reduction of D0 and D1 there. Favorable Water Year numbers also lead to readjustments and trimming of D2 on the central border between New Mexico and Colorado.

Southwest Drought at Glance

Climate Summary by CLIMAS February 2012

Drought: Warm and dry weather has caused short-term drought conditions to intensify across much of Arizona and persist in New Mexico.

Temperature: Warm temperatures have reigned in the last 30 days, largely because high pressure has dominated and few winter storms have traversed the region.

Precipitation: Several winter storms dipped into the Four Corners region before wafting northeast through Colorado in the last 30 days. While this storm track delivered wetter–than-average conditions to the Four Corners, it left most of Arizona and New Mexico very dry.

ENSO: The La Niña event is expected to continue for the next several months. The official forecast indicates a 74 percent chance that La Niña will continue during the February–April period, but chances for its continuation thereafter precipitously decline.

Climate Forecasts: March–May forecasts call for above-average temperatures and below-average rain and snow.

The Bottom Line: January and the first half of February have been dry and warm, conditions often associated with a La Niña event. The rain and snow that soaked the region in December—modestly improving drought—was relatively short-lived; drought is once again on the march. Snowpack conditions in all of Arizona and most of New Mexico are below average, as are those in the Upper Colorado River and Rio Grande basins. As a result, there is a 50-50 chance that spring inflow into Lake Powell will be about 64 percent of the 1971–2000 average; chances for above-average flows are small. Last winter's exceptionally high streamflows, however, increased combined storage in Lakes Mead and Powell by about 2 million acre-feet more than average and will help buffer below-average flows in the Colorado River this year. More dry weather is expected to continue as forecasts call for the continuation of La Niña for at least the next several 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 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.

6 month SPI

Agency	January	January	Stage as of February
Chinle	0.13	0.32	**Normal**
Eastern	0.31	0.21	**Normal**
Fort Defiance	0.25	0.04	**Normal**
Shiprock	0.10	0.22	**Normal**
Western	0.07	0.20	**Normal**