NAVAJO NATION DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

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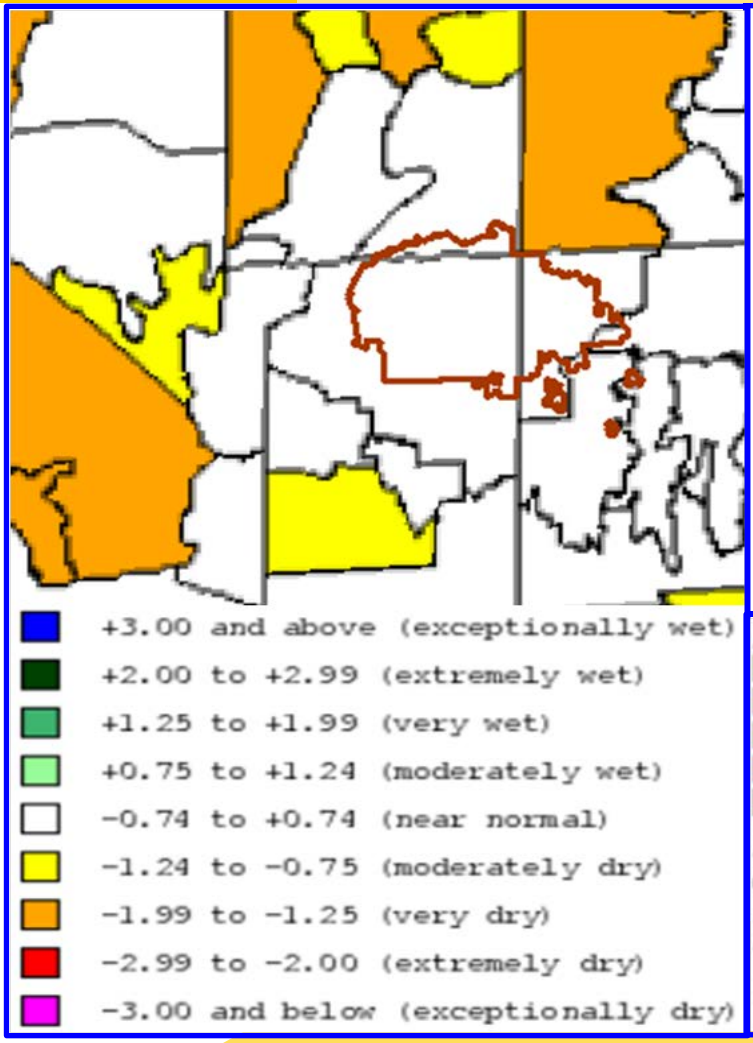


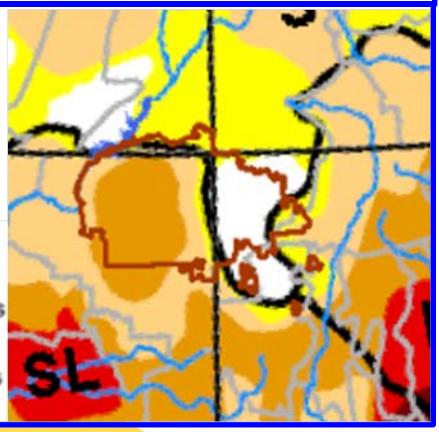
6-Month SPI for March 2012 www.wrcc.dri.edu

Navajo Nation Drought Stage

Location	6 month SPI Feb.	Mar.	Stage as of Mar.
NE AZ	0.30	-0.46	Alert
NW NM	0.03	-0.59	Alert
SE UT	-0.33	-0.71	Alert

Drought Intensity Category

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



March 27, 2012 U.S. Drought Monitor http://drought.unl.edu/dm

Drought Summary by NDMC March 27, 2012

West The Southwest was dry, with water-year precipitation totaling less than 30 percent of normal in the newly-expanded Severe Drought (D2) areas of southeastern California and neighboring portions of southern Nevada. Expansion of Extreme (D3) drought was noted in southwestern Arizona, as local assessment coupled with satellite-derived vegetation information indicated deteriorating conditions in this corner of the state. In Colorado, most of the state was now under Abnormal Dryness (D0) or worse, with Severe Drought (D2) introduced in the northwestern quarter of the state, where snow-water equivalents and water-year precipitation were in the lowest 5th percentile (generally 50 percent of normal or less).

Southwest Drought at Glance

Climate Summary by CLIMAS March 2012

Drought: Drought conditions continue to expand and intensify across Arizona, while severe drought continues to grip much of New Mexico.

Temperature: Several storms in February resulted in slightly below-average temperatures in Arizona and western New Mexico. The storms dodged eastern New Mexico, causing warmer-than-average temperatures there.

Precipitation: Precipitation in most of Arizona and New Mexico has been less than 75 percent of average in the past month.

ENSO: The current La Niña event is running out of steam and is expected to end by late April. ENSO-neutral conditions are forecast to hold sway through the spring and summer seasons.

Climate Forecasts: Warming trends in recent decades are driving forecasts for above-average spring and summer temperatures in the Southwest. Precipitation forecasts for these periods, however, are less definitive—monsoon season forecasts have historically been about as accurate as a coin flip.

The Bottom Line: Below-average rain and snow is almost guaranteed for many parts of the Southwest this winter in large part because of La Niña's influence. Despite a recent winter storm that brought much needed moisture to the Southwest around March 18, snowpacks and precipitation across most of the region are mostly below average. Similar to last year, January and February were dry, and rain and snow tallied less than 50 percent of average in these months in many parts of the Southwest. As a result, drought has expanded and intensified, most notably in Arizona. The scant precipitation is also driving forecasts that call for a 40 percent chance that spring flows in the Verde, Salt, and Gila rivers will be less than 60 percent of average, while the Rio Grande likely will be less than 90 percent of average. The Upper Colorado River Basin, which received historically high snowpacks during last winter's La Niña event, also likely will experience well below-average streamflows this spring and summer. While the La Niña event is expected to end in April, spring storms in the Southwest—most notably in Arizona—are often few and far between, presenting few opportunities to overcome shortfalls in precipitation before the monsoon begins.

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 19 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	February	March	Stage as of March
Chinle	0.32	0.02	**Normal**
Eastern	0.21	-0.23	**Alert**
Fort Defiance	0.04	-0.52	**Alert**
Shiprock	0.22	-0.28	**Alert**
Western	0.20	-0.15	**Alert**