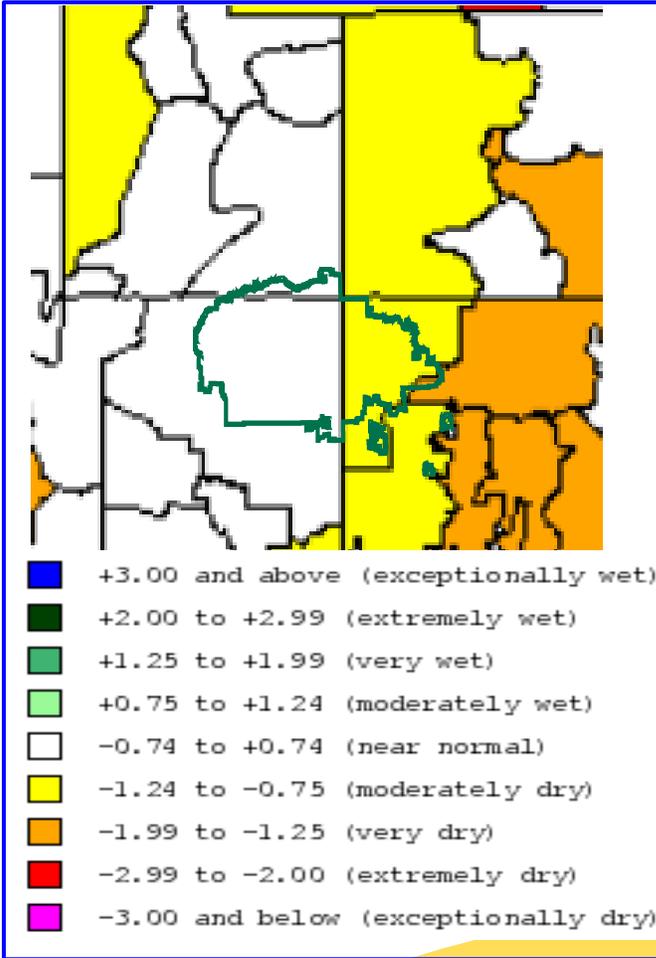




NAVAJO NATION DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

NN Dept. of Water Resources, Water Management Branch

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Navajo Nation Drought Stage

Location	6 month SPI		Stage as of Mar.
	Feb	Mar	
NE AZ	-0.58	-0.63	Alert/Warning
NW NM	-0.75	-0.89	Alert/Warning
SE UT	-0.36	-0.44	Alert

Drought Intensity Category

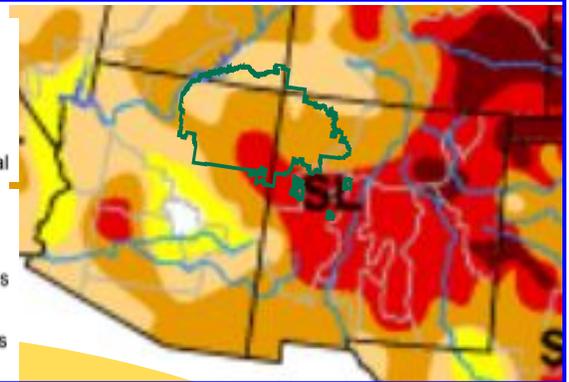
Navajo Nation Drought	US Drought
Normal	D0
Alert	D1
Warning	D2
Emergency	D3 & D4
	Exceptional

Intensity:

- Yellow: D0 Abnormally Dry
- Light Orange: D1 Drought - Moderate
- Orange: D2 Drought - Severe
- Red: D3 Drought - Extreme
- Dark Red: 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 Mar 2013 www.wrcc.dri.edu

April 09, 2013 U.S. Drought Monitor <http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

Drought Summary by NDMC April 9, 2013

Weather Summary: An active weather pattern, with several fronts and storm systems traversing the lower 48 States, brought welcome precipitation to much of the Nation, and particularly the Plains. Unfortunately, little or no precipitation fell on the Southwest, northern Plains, and Northeast, although the latter area was expecting precipitation this week. After a cold start to the period in the East and a mild one in the West, temperatures began to moderate as the week ended

The Far West and Southwest: Farther south, little or no precipitation and warm weather aided deteriorating conditions in parts of the Southwest. In Arizona and New Mexico, growing deficits in southwestern, southeastern, and northeastern Arizona, and central New Mexico expanded D1-D3 drought. Since early October, precipitation has been less than half of normal in eastern Arizona and much of New Mexico, and the same hold true at 12-months. As a result, drought worsened in Yavapai and Maricopa Counties in southwestern Arizona, and most of southeastern Arizona was degraded to D2. D3 was expanded into northeastern Arizona (Apache County), and increased in size in western and southern New Mexico. Amazingly, central Arizona was close to normal as the WYTD basin precipitation was between 85 to 97 percent of normal. Unfortunately, reservoir storage as of April 1 was below average in Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada.

Looking Ahead: Much of the Southwest and High Plains will be dry. Temperatures should average below normal across the northern third of the U.S., especially in the northern Plains and upper Midwest, while above-normal readings are expected in the Southwest and Southeast.

Drier-than-normal weather is forecast for the West, Southwest, southern Florida, and Alaska. Temperatures are expected to be similar to the Day 1-5 forecast, with odds favoring below-normal readings in the North-Central States, and above-normal temperatures in California and the eastern Gulf and southern Atlantic States.

For further enquiries contact Mr. Robert Kirk, Principal Hydrologist, Ph (928) 729-4140, Email: robertkirk@navajo-nsn.gov

March 2013

Southwest Drought at Glance

Climate Summary by CLIMAS March 27, 2013

Drought: Central Arizona is the only region in the Southwest to experience drought improvement in the last 30 days; moderate to severe drought conditions still cover the majority of the region, with drought most intense in New Mexico.

Temperature: Rapid warming in March has led to temperatures that are more than 3 degrees F above average in many regions.

Precipitation: Most of Arizona and New Mexico experienced less than 70 percent of average precipitation in the last 30 days.

ENSO: Neutral conditions remain entrenched in the equatorial Pacific Ocean and are expected to continue through the summer and possibly into next year.

Climate Forecasts: Forecasts for the April—June period call for increased chances for above-average temperatures, in part based on recent trends, and below-average precipitation in northern parts of Arizona and New Mexico.

The Bottom Line: The 2012–2013 winter is nearing an end, and although it is several weeks premature to write this winter’s eulogy—early April storms do happen—it appears that Arizona and New Mexico will experience their third consecutive drier-than-average winter. Since January 1, less than 70 percent of average rain and snow fell in nearly all of Arizona except central regions. It was drier in New Mexico, where many areas received less than 50 percent of average precipitation. On March 8, one storm dropped substantial precipitation in Arizona but bypassed New Mexico. This storm helped improve drought conditions in central Arizona, which is now drought-free, but most of the Southwest remains classified with at least moderate drought. It has been about two years since the majority of Arizona was drought-free and about two-and-a-half years for New Mexico. Cold temperatures that helped sustain snowpacks in the mountains around the Southwest throughout much of the winter rapidly warmed in March, particularly in the last two weeks. March temperatures in Arizona, for example, were up to 6 degrees F above average, while temperature anomalies in New Mexico were only slightly lower. The warm conditions have eaten into snowpacks around the region. Nearly every basin in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah have below-average snowpacks, and many monitoring stations in Colorado are in the lowest fifth percentile of their historical records. Consequently, forecasts for watersheds around the region all call for below-average streamflows. This is particularly grim for the Pecos River and the Rio Grande in New Mexico, which already have low stores. Historically, the coming months are dry and windy, and there is some indication that temperatures may be warmer than average.

Useful Drought Related

Sites:

- NWS-Climate Prediction Center
- Seasonal Outlook
- www.drought.unl.edu
- USGS Daily Stream Flow
- www.usgs.gov/water/
- Western Regional Climate Center
- www.wrcc.dri.edu
- CLIMAS Southwest
- Climate Outlook
- www.climas.arizona.edu

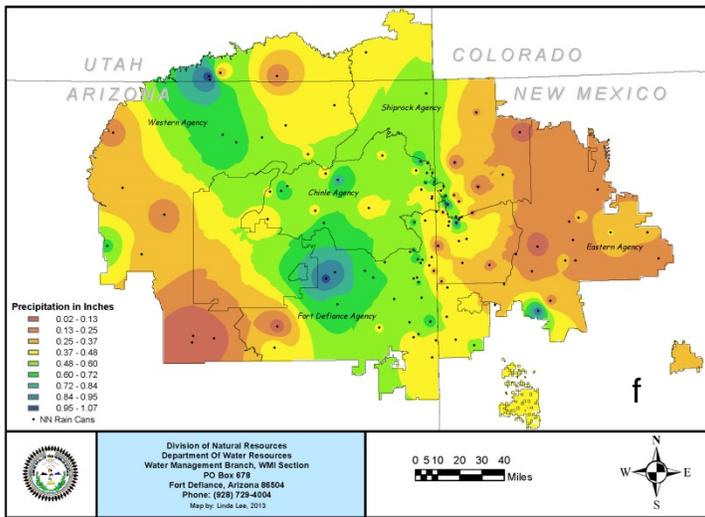
April 24-25, 2013-Conference
 Drought Mgnt/Climate Change
 Navajo Dep. of Agriculture and
 Fish and Wildlife
 Nakai Hall, Window Rock, AZ
<http://www.agriculture.navajo-nsn.gov/2013conference.html>

Navajo Nation Drought Summary

The monthly precipitation for March are well below the monthly precipitation averages for all agencies. Eastern, Shiprock, Fort Defiance, and Chinle agencies are around half the normal percentages of averages for March. Meanwhile the Western agency is in the 70% of the monthly averages for March.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Precipitation</u>	<u>Summary</u>
	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>Percent of Avg</u>
Chinle	0.53"	1.05"	50%
Eastern	0.31"	0.64"	48%
Fort Defiance	0.51"	0.89"	57%
Shiprock	0.41"	0.88"	47%
Western	0.41"	0.58"	71%

Average Precipitation On The Navajo Nation
 March 2013



In terms of Snow Surveys, the Chuskas are at 78% of average in terms of snow depth. The average snow depth, for April 01, is about 13-14 inches. The Defiance Plateau was at 0% of average in terms of snow depth. The average snow depth, for April 01, is about 3 inches. The survey was preformed around April 01, 2013. This is the last snow survey for the Navajo Nation for water year 2013.

