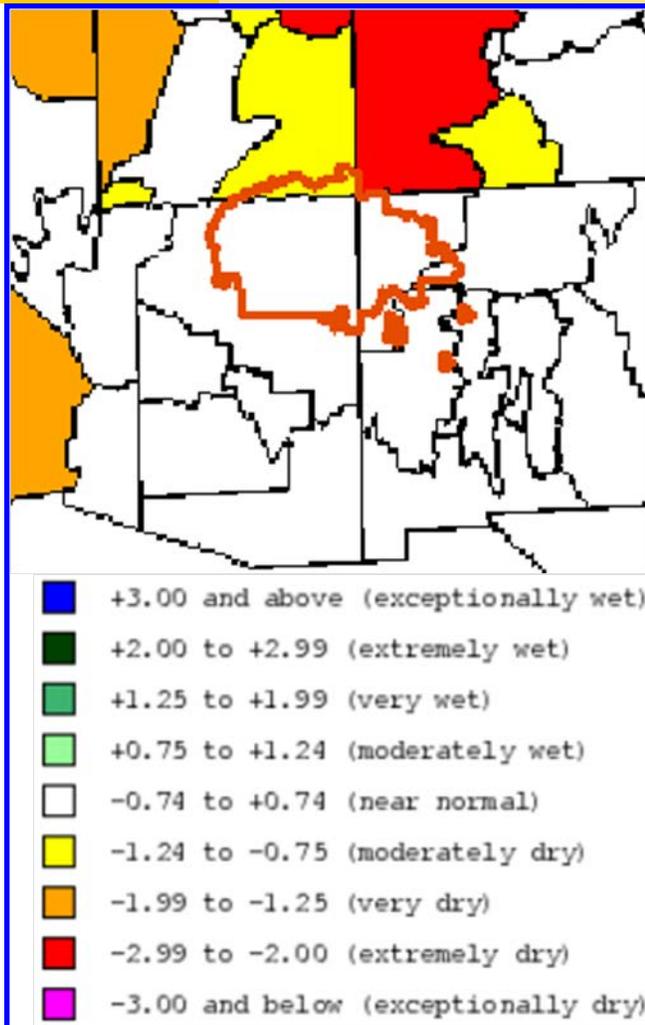




NAVAJO NATION DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

NN Dept. of Water Resources, Water Management Branch

P.O. Drawer 678 Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504 Ph.(928) 729-4004, Fax.(928) 729-4126



Navajo Nation Drought Stage

Location	6 month SPI		Stage as of Apr.
	Mar.	Apr.	
NE AZ	-0.46	-0.53	Alert
NW NM	-0.59	-0.28	Alert
SE UT	-0.71	-1.11	Warning

Drought Intensity Category

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

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 April 2012 www.wrcc.dri.edu

April 24, 2012 U.S. Drought Monitor <http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

Drought Summary by NDMC April 24, 2012

The West: A slight improvement was made in far western New Mexico (D2 to D1). Additional degradation (from last week) was made across northeastern Arizona and extreme northwestern New Mexico, with a slight eastward extension of D2 across this area. The situation across northeastern Arizona justifies a D3 designation, and is supported by longer-term deficits. Deteriorating drought conditions across southeastern parts of the state support the change from D1 to D2. In southwestern Colorado and nearby southeastern Utah, moderate drought conditions (D1) were expanded based upon 60-day SPI's (ranging from -1 to -1.5) and 6-month SPI's (near -1).

April 2012

Southwest Drought at Glance

Climate Summary by CLIMAS April 2012

Drought: Moderate or more severe drought covers most of Arizona and New Mexico. Central and southern Arizona and eastern New Mexico are the only areas in the West classified with extreme or exceptional drought.

Temperature: Temperatures across most of the Southwest in the last 30 days were 2 to 6 degrees F warmer than average.

Precipitation: Precipitation in most of Arizona and southern and western New Mexico measured less than 50 percent of average in the last 30 days, continuing a dry stretch that began around January 1.

ENSO: The La Niña event is transiting to ENSO-neutral conditions; neutral conditions are expected to persist through the May–July. Signs of a developing El Niño are on the horizon.

Climate Forecasts: Forecasts call for above-average temperatures through the monsoon. Precipitation forecasts, however, are less definitive, as monsoon forecasts historically have been about as accurate as a coin flip.

The Bottom Line: Had it not been for the cavalcade of storms that drenched many parts of Arizona and New Mexico in December 2011, precipitation deficits would be much higher across the Southwest. Since January 1, rain and snow have measured less than 50 percent of average across the region, and it has been similarly dry in the Upper Colorado River and Rio Grande basins. In these regions, snowpacks are below average and most stations report that the water contained in snowpacks is less than 50 percent of average. The scant snow this winter is feeding low spring streamflow projections across the region. Inflow into Lake Powell, for example, is expected to be 3.5 million acre-feet less than average, or 44 percent of average. Relief from expanding and intensifying drought may not come until the monsoon begins this summer, but it is unclear when the monsoon will begin in earnest or how much rain it will deliver. Although monsoon forecasts are not definitive, there is higher confidence that temperatures will be above average in coming months, in part because summer months have become progressively warmer in recent decades.

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.

Agency	<u>6 month SPI</u>		Stage as of April
	March	April	
Chinle	0.02	-0.39	Alert
Eastern	-0.23	-0.59	Alert
Fort Defiance	-0.52	-0.85	Alert
Shiprock	-0.28	-0.73	Alert
Western	-0.15	-0.19	Alert

