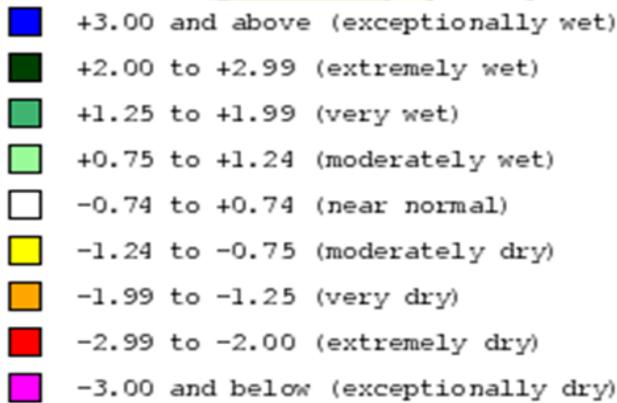
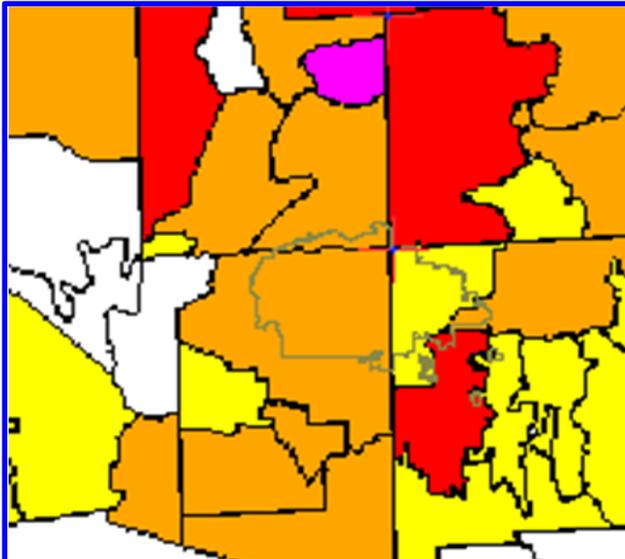




NAVAJO NATION DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

NN Dept. of Water Resources, Water Management Branch

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Navajo Nation Drought Stage

Location	6 month SPI		Stage as of June
	May	June	
NE AZ	-0.53	-1.59	Emergency
NW NM	-0.28	-1.16	Warning
SE UT	-1.11	-1.75	Emergency

Drought Intensity Category

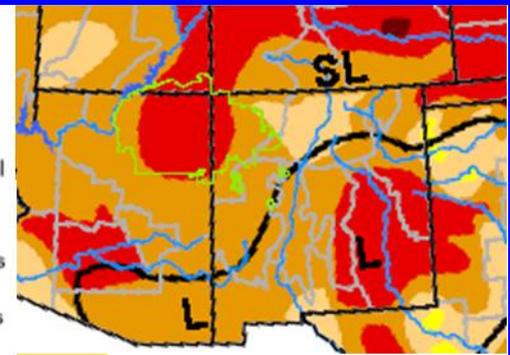
Navajo Nation Drought	US Drought	Drought Intensity Category
Normal	Normal	D0
Alert	Moderate	D1
Warning	Severe	D2
Emergency	Extreme-Exceptional	D3 & D4

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)



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

July 5, 2012 U.S. Drought Monitor <http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

Drought Summary by NDMC July 5, 2012

The Mississippi Valley Westward to the Pacific Coast: Another hot and dry week led to rapid deterioration and expansion of dryness and drought from the Rockies eastward. The only exception was southern Texas, where many locations recorded 1 to 3 inches of rain, leading to areas of improvement in the widespread D1 to D3 conditions. Farther north, D0 to D3 conditions expanded, with exceptional dryness (D4) developing in parts of north-central and east-central Colorado. In New Mexico, 59 percent of the Sorghum crop is in poor or very poor condition, and much of the region's rangeland is in similarly bad shape, including 74 percent of rangeland in Arizona, 77 percent in Colorado, and 89 percent in New Mexico. In addition, the now-infamous Waldo Canyon Fire in Colorado, though partially contained, has been called the most destructive wildfire in the state's history by local officials. Farther north, the Nation's largest wildfire rages in Montana's Custer National Forest, having consumed approximately 186,000 acres as of this writing. Dryness and heat were less exceptional from the Intermountain West westward to the Pacific Coast. No changes in dryness or drought were introduced there.

Southwest Drought at Glance

Climate Summary by CLIMAS June 2012

Drought: Dry conditions that began in late December have continued, and drought has intensified in Arizona and New Mexico in the last 30 days.

Temperature: Eastern New Mexico was more than 3 degrees F warmer than average in the last 30 days, while temperatures across most of Arizona were at least 1 degree F above average.

Precipitation: Most of Arizona and the western half of New Mexico received less than 5 percent of average rain in the last 30 days.

ENSO: Although ENSO-neutral conditions are in full swing, the Climate Prediction Center has issued an El Niño Watch, which means an El Niño may form in the next several months.

Climate Forecasts: There are slightly increased chances for above-average rain for the July–September period in southern Arizona and New Mexico, while temperature forecasts call for increased chances for warmer-than-average conditions throughout the summer.

The Bottom Line: Drought conditions expanded and intensified in May in both Arizona and New Mexico, continuing a trend that began in January. Warmer-than-average temperatures and below-average precipitation in recent months have primed the landscape for wildland fires. As of June 26, six fires were burning in the region, including the Whitewater- Baldy Complex in western New Mexico, where more than 290,000 acres have burned. This fire has become New Mexico's largest on record. Long-term drought conditions are evident in the low reservoir water storage in both states. All but one reservoir in New Mexico, for example, has below-average storage. Storage in Elephant Butte Reservoir is only 17 percent of capacity and farmers in its irrigation district are receiving substantially less water this year. The scant 2011–12 snow in the Upper Colorado River Basin will also decrease reservoir storage in coming months. The best estimate of inflow into Lake Powell for the 2012 water year is only 46 percent of average, which would be the third lowest water year stream flow since 1963. This will help lower water levels in Lake Powell by about 17 feet through the spring of next year. Improvements in drought conditions and fire risk will not come until the monsoon arrives in earnest. Precipitation forecasts from several sources, including the Climate Prediction Center, are currently optimistic. Experts forecast an early monsoon arrival with above-average rainfall totals in July. Although there is uncertainty in monsoon activity in August and September, the emergence of El Niño could increase chances for above-average rainfall in September. An El Niño would also increase chances for a wet winter — good news for a region that has been caught in the throes of short-term severe drought for more than 18 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 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 June
	May	June	
Chinle	-1.23	-1.27	Warning
Eastern	-0.88	-1.51	Emergency
Fort Defiance	-1.44	-1.66	Emergency
Shiprock	-1.31	-1.41	Warning
Western	-1.15	-1.31	Warning

