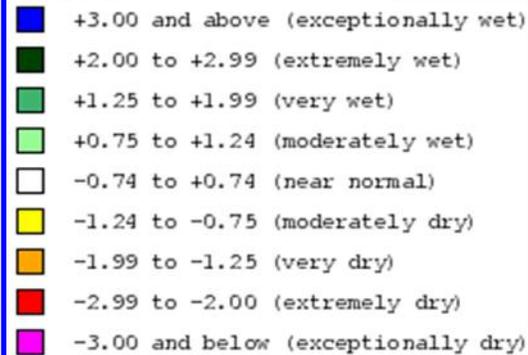
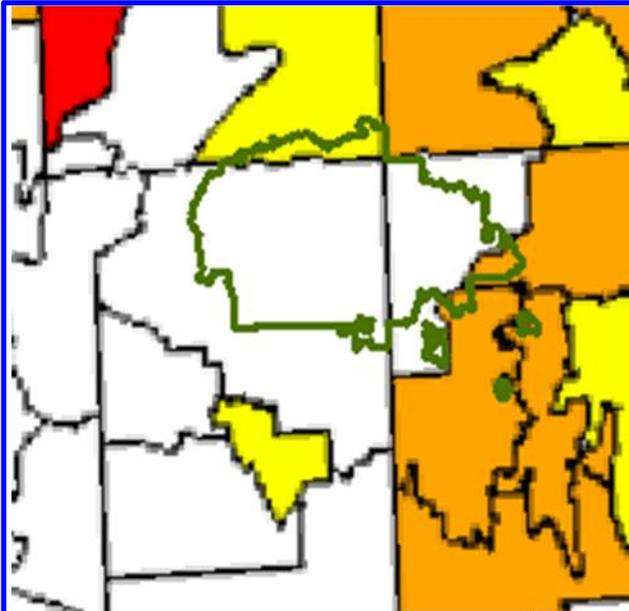




# NAVAJO NATION DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

NN Dept. of Water Resources, Water Management Branch

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## Navajo Nation Drought Stage

Location	6 month SPI		Stage as of July
	June	July	
NE AZ	-1.59	-0.41	Alert
NW NM	-1.16	-0.44	Alert
SE UT	-1.75	-1.08	Warning

### Drought Intensity Category

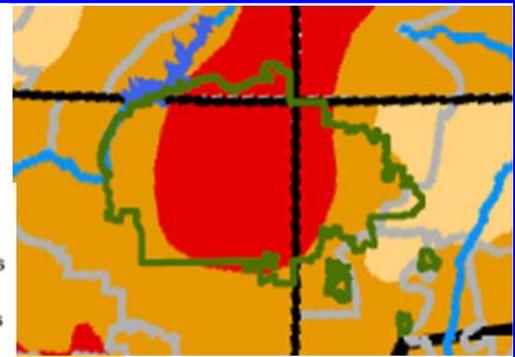
NN Drought	US Drought	
Normal	Normal	D0
Alert	Moderate	D1
Warning	Severe	D2
Emergency	Extreme- Exceptional	D3 & D4

### 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)



6-Month SPI for July 2012 [www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu)

July 31, 2012 U.S. Drought Monitor <http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

## Drought Summary by NDMC July 31, 2012

**The West:** The West remains relatively quiet in most parts, with the West Coast benefitting from below-normal temperatures last week as well. Warmer temperatures continue to plague the Rockies and Front Range while precipitation was mostly confined to Arizona and Colorado, where monsoon rains continue to bring relief. Changes this week on the map are marked by 1-category improvement (from D3 to D2) in north-central and southwestern Colorado as well as eastern Utah. The same can't be said for southeastern Colorado, where D3 has now expanded to cover this region as well as northeastern New Mexico, western Kansas and the Oklahoma Panhandle. To the north, Montana has seen recent dryness as well, leading to a slight expansion of D0 across the northern tier counties.

## Southwest Drought at Glance

### Climate Summary by CLIMAS July 2012

**Drought:** Drought conditions did not change much during the past 30 days. About 94 and 80 percent of Arizona and New Mexico, respectively, are classified with at least severe drought.

**Temperature:** Early and continuous monsoon activity has broken the heat over western and southern Arizona, while eastern New Mexico continues to bake.

**Precipitation:** Vigorous monsoon activity has helped deliver above-average precipitation to some parts of Arizona. However, the monsoon has yet to kick in with full force in southern New Mexico.

**ENSO:** An El Niño Watch remains in effect this month as sea surface temperatures continue to warm and spread across the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. Weak to moderate El Niño conditions are expected to develop in the fall.

**Climate Forecasts:** Forecast models favor above-average precipitation and temperatures in many parts of the Southwest through the monsoon.

**The Bottom Line:** Summer precipitation arrived in southern Arizona earlier than average and has delivered copious rain to many areas. Vigorous monsoon activity has helped suppress wildland fires and reduce the risk of new blazes. However, like always, the monsoon has soaked some places while leaving others dry. Southwestern New Mexico, for example, has not yet received a hefty summer dousing, as the position of the monsoon high has impeded a continuous stream of moisture into the region. Also, while the first month of the monsoon generally has been good across the region, it is still early and forecasters are reticent to declare improved drought conditions until additional moisture falls. As a result, Arizona and New Mexico have about the same drought classifications as they did one month ago. Severe drought or a more extreme drought category currently covers about 94 percent of Arizona, while about 80 percent of New Mexico is labeled with these conditions. Short-term drought relief, however, may be on the horizon. The NOAA-Climate Prediction Center calls for slightly increased chances for above-average rain in coming months. Copious rains will need to persist into the winter and possibly longer to improve drought impacts related to water supply, like reservoir storage. After a dry winter, for example, total streamflow in the Colorado River during this water year is expected to be about 46 percent of average, which will be its third lowest water year on record. Also, streamflows on the Rio Grande will be well below average. The winter precipitation outlook favors some improvement in drought. Forecasts call for an El Niño event to materialize in coming months, which will increase chances for a wet winter.

**Useful Drought Related**

**Sites:**

- NWS-Climate Prediction Center
- Seasonal Outlook [www.drought.unl.edu](http://www.drought.unl.edu)
- USGS Daily Stream Flow [www.usgs.gov/water/](http://www.usgs.gov/water/)
- NDMC Drought Impact Database Webpage <http://droughtreporter.unl.edu>
- Western Regional Climate Center [www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu)
- CLIMAS Southwest Climate Outlook [www.climas.arizona.edu](http://www.climas.arizona.edu)

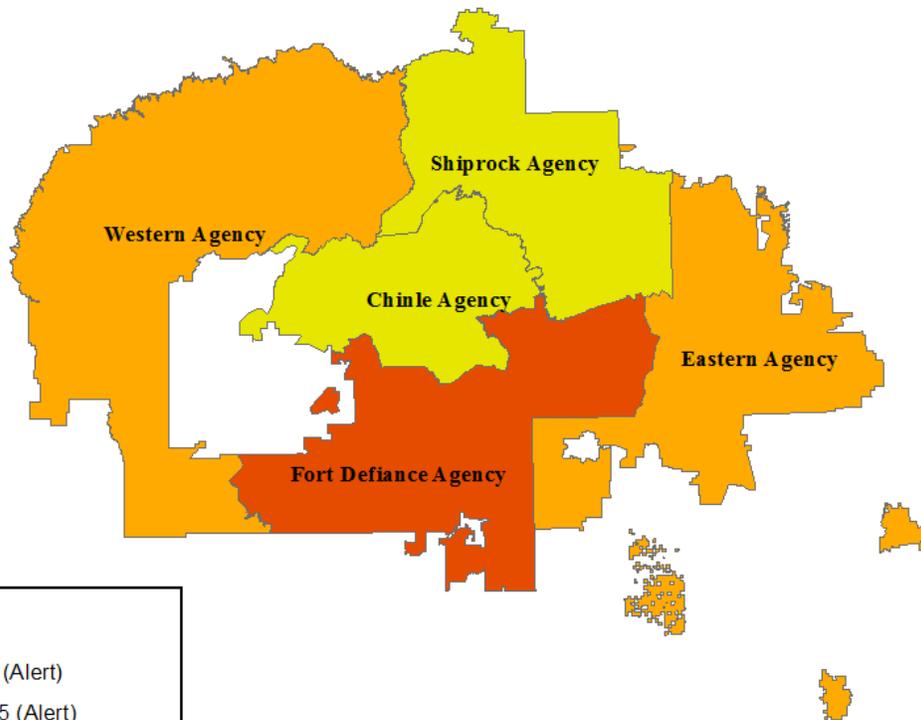
# Navajo Nation Drought Summary

Although the above normal precipitation in July relieved most of the Navajo Nation and increase the 6 month SPI value above -1, which based on Navajo Nation Drought Contingency Plan should be designated as Alert stage, equivalent to moderate D1 as per DM, due to long term drought situation hovering in this area of the country, the Drought Monitor still depicts most of the Navajo Nation under severe drought. Also on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012, the Navajo Nation re-affirmed Drought Emergency across the Nation.

Agency	<u>6 month SPI</u>		Stage as of July
	June	July	
Chinle	-1.27	-0.64	<b>Alert</b>
Eastern	-1.51	-0.85	<b>Alert</b>
Fort Defiance	-1.66	-1.02	<b>Warning</b>
Shiprock	-1.41	-0.65	<b>Alert</b>
Western	-1.31	-0.85	<b>Alert</b>



Navajo Nation Agencywise 6-month SPI for July 2012



**Drought Stage**

- Chinle Agency -0.64 (Alert)
- Eastern Agency -0.85 (Alert)
- Fort Defiance Agency -1.02 (Warning)
- Shiprock Agency -0.65 (Alert)
- Western Agency -0.85 (Alert)

0 12.5 25 50 75 100 Miles Data collected by Water Management Branch  
Map by Bel B. Pachhai