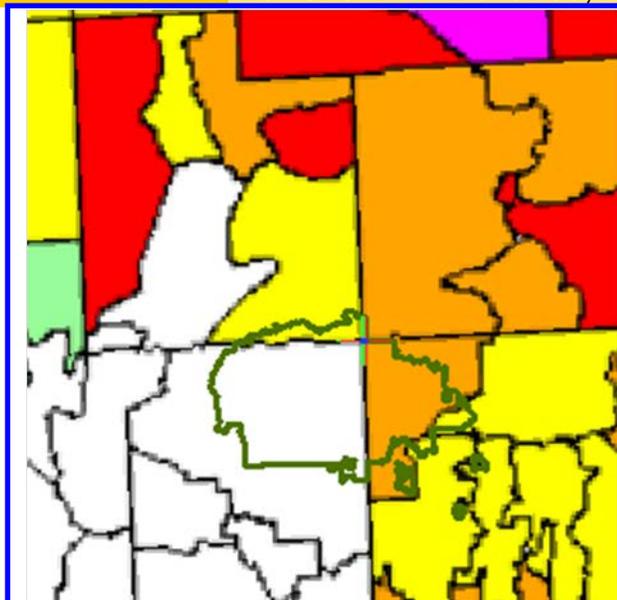




NAVAJO NATION DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

NN Dept. of Water Resources, Water Management Branch

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Navajo Nation Drought Stage

Location	6 month SPI		Stage as of August
	July	Aug.	
NE AZ	-0.41	0.25	Alert
NW NM	-0.44	-1.48	Alert
SE UT	-1.08	-0.08	Alert

Drought Intensity Category

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

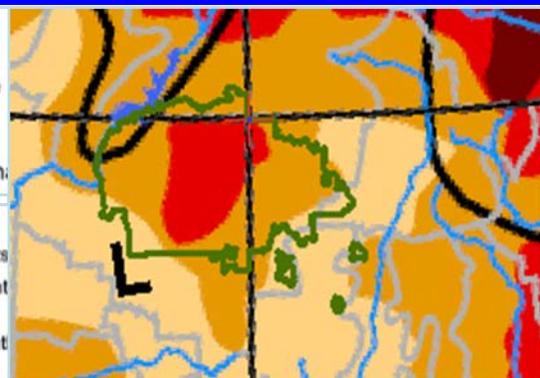
- +3.00 and above (exceptionally wet)
- +2.00 to +2.99 (extremely wet)
- +1.25 to +1.99 (very wet)
- +0.75 to +1.24 (moderately wet)
- -0.74 to +0.74 (near normal)
- -1.24 to -0.75 (moderately dry)
- -1.99 to -1.25 (very dry)
- -2.99 to -2.00 (extremely dry)
- -3.00 and below (exceptionally dry)

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 mont (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically >6 mont (e.g. hydrology, ecology)



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

September 4, 2012 U.S. Drought Monitor <http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

Drought Summary by NDMC September 4, 2012

The West: A mix of improvements and degradation this week. In Wyoming, a large degradation as D3/D4 pushed west out of Nebraska and into the eastern portions of the state. Western Wyoming saw D2/D3 conditions expand as well as D2 in the north central. For Montana, much of the southern portions of the state were put into D2 this week while D1 pushed into the north central portions of Montana. A new area of D3 was introduced in central Montana while D3 also was extended out of Wyoming into the southern portion of the state. In Colorado, some recent rains have allowed for D3 to be improved in the central portion of the state while in the 4 Corners region, D3 was also improved.

Southwest Drought at Glance

Climate Summary by CLIMAS August 2012

Drought: While monsoon precipitation has brought some short-term relief to parts of the Southwest, long-term drought conditions continue to plague all of Arizona and New Mexico.

Temperature: Temperatures have been near average in most of Arizona, while eastern New Mexico has continued to bake.

Precipitation: The monsoon has continued to track across the western border of Arizona, delivering substantial rains but leaving much of New Mexico extremely dry.

ENSO: Neutral conditions continue across the eastern Pacific Ocean, but a weak to moderate El Niño is expected to develop in the next few months.

Climate Forecasts: A materializing El Niño event is expected to bring wetter-than-average conditions to southern Arizona and New Mexico this fall and winter. Cool temperatures, also associated with an El Niño, will likely counter recent warming trends, and forecasts are unclear which will win out.

The Bottom Line: Precipitation deficits that have accumulated over the past two years continue to paint the region with long-term drought. About 94 percent of Arizona and 85 percent of New Mexico are classified with severe drought or a more extreme drought category. One reason for these classifications is that many of the region's important reservoirs are low. The most probable inflow volume into Lake Powell for the 2012 water year is projected to be 5.15 million acre-feet, or 48 percent of average. If this comes to pass, Colorado River streamflows will go down as the third lowest on record. A similar scene is playing out in New Mexico. Irrigation allotments from Elephant Butte Reservoir, which provides water to New Mexico's most productive agricultural region, were only 10 inches; 36 inches is considered a full allotment. While an active second half of the monsoon will help ease short-term drought conditions, it will not erase them or cause substantial rebounds in reservoir storage. A protracted stretch of average to above-average precipitation will be necessary to bring conditions back to normal. The good news is that an impending El Niño event could bring much-needed moisture. Experts expect El Niño conditions to develop during the August–October period and persist through the winter. Although El Niño events historically deliver above-average precipitation to the region, the odds of copious rain and snow are not a sure bet. The Southwest has experienced dry conditions during past El Niño events

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

The normal precipitation in August has improved the drought situation across most of the Navajo Nation and increase the 6 month SPI value above -1, which based on Navajo Nation Drought Contingency Plan is designated as Alert stage, equivalent to moderate D1 as per DM. The following is comparison of the 6-month SPI values for July and August of various Navajo Nation agencies. The trend shows little improvement in Chinle, Eastern and Shiprock agencies and big improvement in Fort Defiance and Western agencies over this period.

Agency	<u>6 month SPI</u>		Stage as of August
	July	August	
Chinle	-0.64	-0.44	Alert
Eastern	-0.85	-0.81	Alert
Fort Defiance	-1.02	-0.25	Alert
Shiprock	-0.59	-0.31	Alert
Western	-0.85	-0.06	Alert

