



# NAVAJO NATION DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

NN Dept. of Water Resources, Water Management Branch

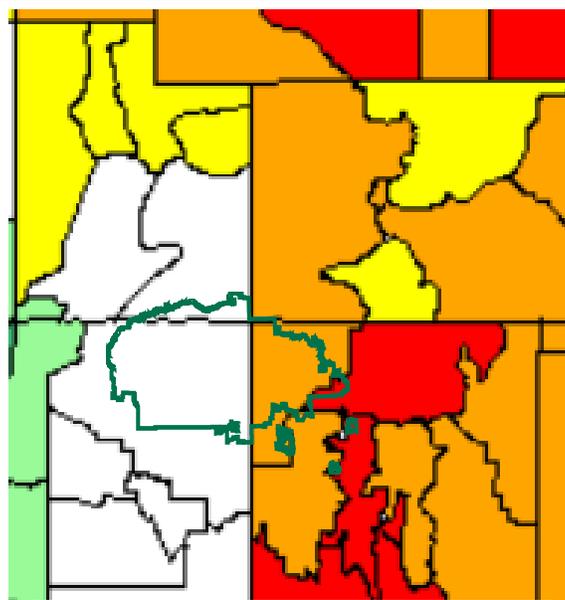
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## Navajo Nation Drought Stage

Location	6 month SPI Nov.	Stage as of November
NE AZ	0.09	Alert
NW NM	-1.32	Warning
SE UT	-0.58	Alert

### Drought Intensity Category

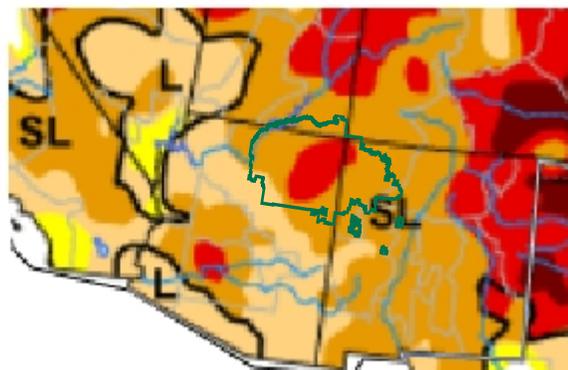
Navajo Nation Drought	US Drought	Category
Normal	Normal	D0
Alert	Moderate	D1
Warning	Severe	D2
Emergency	Extreme- Exceptional	D3 & D4



- +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 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 November 2012 [www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu) December 11, 2012 U.S. Drought Monitor <http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

## Drought Summary by NDMC December 11, 2012

**The West:** It was a dry week in eastern sections of Washington and Oregon, and from the central Rockies to the Mexican border. In these areas, dryness and drought remained essentially unchanged. Farther north and West, the precipitation across California, Idaho, Montana, and northwestern Wyoming improved conditions in some of the former D0 to D2 areas there. Among other changes, dryness was pulled out of the Sacramento Valley, and moderate drought (D1) improved in parts of Yellowstone and adjacent areas.

**Looking Ahead:** During the next 5 days (December 13 - 17, 2012), moderate to heavy precipitation (0.5 to locally 3.0 inches) is expected from the central Rockies and the Intermountain West westward to the Pacific Coast, from part of the central Plains northeastward through the Great Lakes region, from the central Gulf Coast states northeastward through the central and southern Appalachians, and along the East Coast from Virginia southward through South Carolina and central and northern Georgia. Most locations across the eastern half of the country are forecast to receive at least 0.25 inch of precipitation, with little if any expected in the Florida Peninsula, northern Maine, and the High Plains. For the next 5 days (December 18 - 23, 2012), odds favor above-median precipitation once again from the central Rockies and part of the Intermountain West westward to the Pacific Coast. Wetter than normal weather also seems most likely across the mid-Atlantic, the northern half of the Appalachians, and the Northeast.

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# November 2012

# Southwest Drought at Glance

## Climate Summary by CLIMAS November 21, 2012

**Drought:** The drought picture remains largely unchanged from one month ago. Moderate to extreme drought covers all of Arizona and New Mexico.

**Temperature:** Warmer-than-average temperatures continue to be the norm in the Southwest, upholding recent trends toward a warmer fall and early winter.

**Precipitation:** Dry conditions have prevailed in the last month, which is not uncommon for this time of year.

**ENSO:** The prospect of an El Niño event faded this past month. ENSO-neutral conditions are now expected to persist through the winter season.

**Climate Forecasts:** Precipitation outlooks call for increased chances for drier-than-average conditions in January through March, while temperature outlooks suggest warmer-than-average conditions this winter.

**The Bottom Line:** Drought conditions across the Southwest are widespread, with only about 1 percent of Arizona and New Mexico not experiencing at least moderate drought. These conditions reflect both short-term drought, which accumulates over several months, as well as the persistence of longer-term rain and snow deficits. In the last six years, for example, most of the Southwest has received between 71 and 90 percent of average precipitation. The past two years were especially dry, as back-to-back La Niña events helped divert winter storms north of the region. Water supply is one measure of long-term drought impacts, and currently low storage in the region's reservoirs paints a grim picture. Combined, the 15 reservoirs in New Mexico are only about 19 percent full. In Arizona, reservoirs on the Verde and Salt rivers have decreased 36 percent in the last two years and contain only about half of their 2.3 million acre-feet storage capacity. Lakes Mead and Powell are also storing about half of their capacity. The next several months will go a long way toward determining if water supply and drought conditions improve or deteriorate. While the winter outlook called for above-average precipitation only a few months ago, that forecast has dissipated, along with a once-promising El Niño. Now, ENSO-neutral conditions are expected and historically have had lower odds of bringing above-average precipitation to the Southwest. In fact, an ENSO-neutral event coupled with other current factors contributes to an outlook for increased chances for below-average precipitation and above-average temperatures for most of the winter. If conditions are warmer, more rain may fall instead of snow, especially at mid-elevations, and spring snowmelt may begin earlier in the year, as has been the case in recent years.

**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

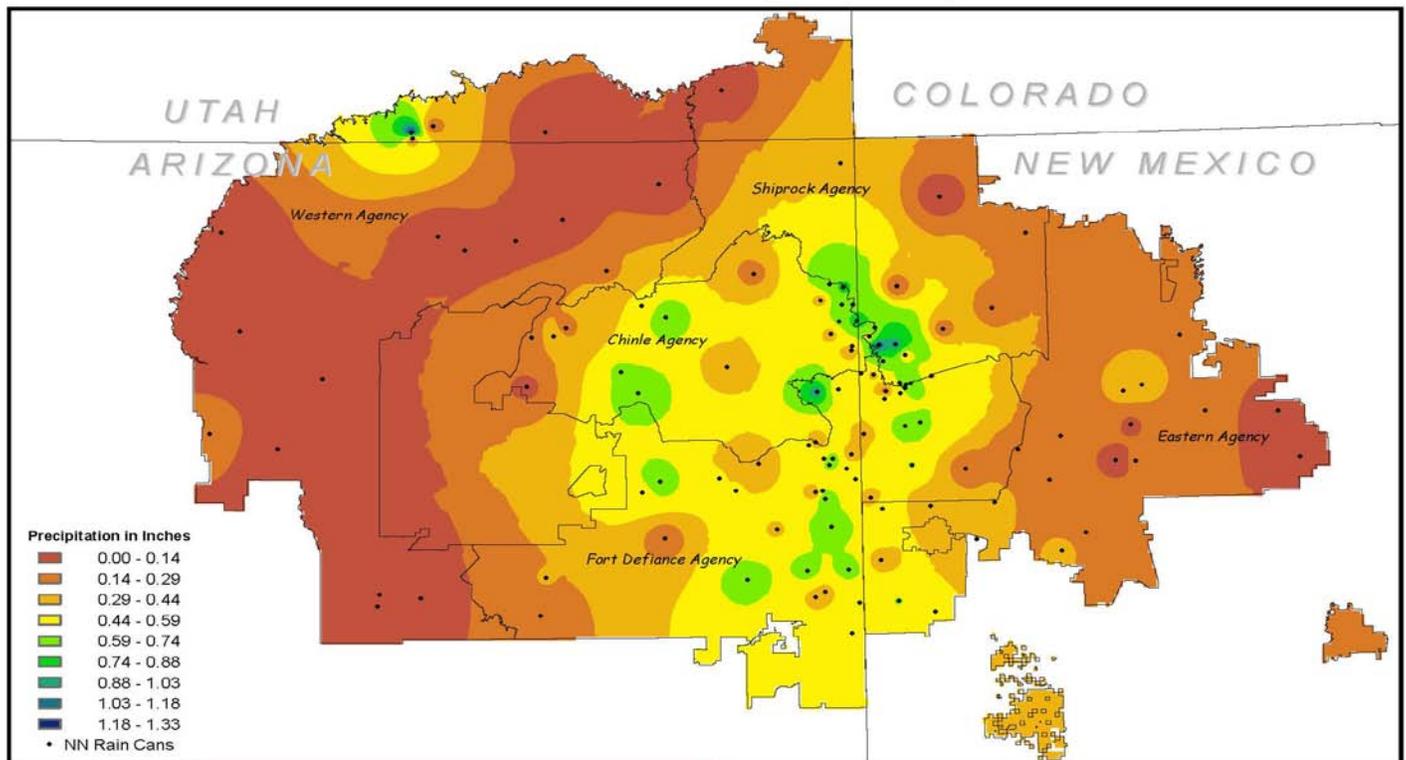
[www.climas.arizona.edu](http://www.climas.arizona.edu)

# Navajo Nation Drought Summary

The monthly precipitation for November are below the monthly agency precipitation averages for all agencies. Fort Defiance and Shiprock agencies fared much better for November and Chinle and Eastern agencies are in the average range. As for Western agency, it is showing a average precipitation of 0.14 inches of precipitation and the average is 0.51 inches. This is 27% of average.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Precipitation</u>	<u>Summary</u>
Agency	Nov	Avg	Percent of Avg
Chinle	0.48"	0.72"	67%
Eastern	0.28"	0.42"	67%
Fort Defiance	0.51"	0.63"	81%
Shiprock	0.50"	0.63"	79%
Western	0.14"	0.51"	27%

**Average Precipitation On The Navajo Nation  
November 2012 (WY 2013)**



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Map by: Linda Lee, 2012

0 5 10 20 30 40  
Miles

