NAVAJO NATION DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

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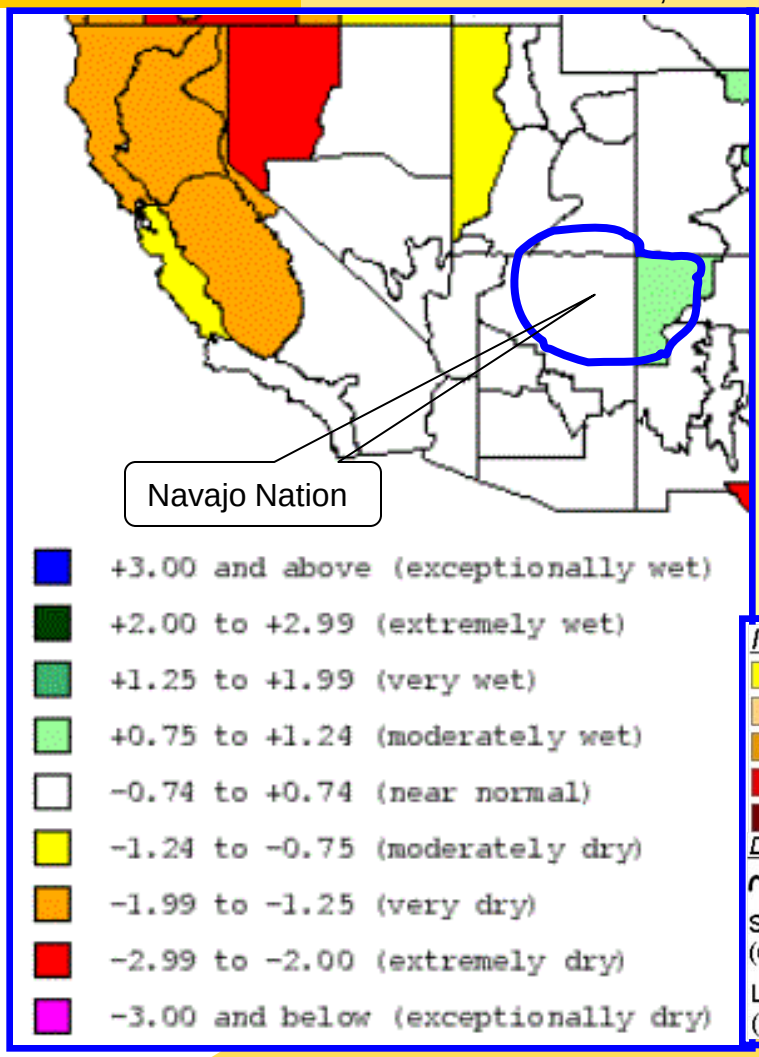


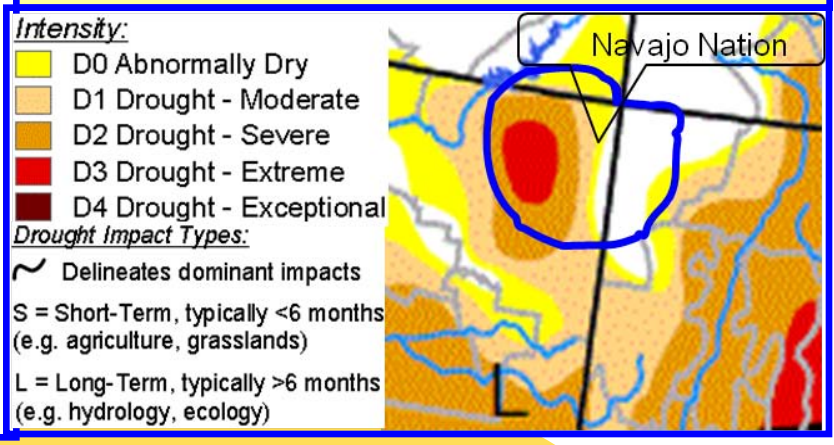
6-Month SPI for December 2011 www.wrcc.dri.edu

Navajo Nation Drought Stage

Location	6 month SPI		Stage
	Nov.	Dec.	as of Dec.
NE AZ	0.05	0.41	Normal
NW NM	0.94	0.84	Normal
SE UT	0.03	0.12	Normal

Drought Intensity Category

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



December 27, 2011 U.S. Drought Monitor http://drought.unl.edu/dm

Drought Summary by NDMC December 27, 2011

The Southwest: Like the southern High Plains, the southern Rockies were graced with abundant, drought-easing snowfall. By December 27, the water equivalent (SWE) of the high-elevation snow pack generally ranged from 100 to 200% of normal, with a few higher values, in most watersheds across Arizona and New Mexico.

Southwest Drought at Glance

Climate Summary by CLIMAS December 2011

Drought-Drought conditions in Arizona and New Mexico have improved slightly as a result of several early winter storms. Drought conditions remain widespread, however, due to significant precipitation deficits that have accumulated since the start of last winter.

Temperature-Temperatures have been colder than average in the last 30 days, but near average since the water year began on October 1.

Precipitation-Several winter storms tapped subtropical moisture and moved across Southern California and into Arizona and New Mexico in the past 30 days. As a result, many areas have received more than 150 percent of average rain and snow.

ENSO-Weak to moderate La Niña conditions persist in the tropical Pacific Ocean. Forecasts suggest the event will peak in January or February, with half of the models suggesting it will increase to moderate intensity.

Climate Forecasts-Seasonal precipitation outlooks call for drier-than-average conditions through April in New Mexico and Arizona, with southern regions drier than northern areas. Temperature outlooks call for increased odds of warmer-than-average conditions in New Mexico in the next three months.

The Bottom Line-A weak to moderate La Niña event remains entrenched in the tropical Pacific Ocean and continues to influence below-average precipitation outlooks for the winter. However, several wet and cold early winter storms moved through the region, dumping rain and snow in the Southwest that improved drought conditions in some areas. These storms tapped tropical moisture and chilly polar air, creating ripe conditions for snow to fall at mid-elevations. However, these storms missed the southeast corner of New Mexico, where precipitation in the last month has been below 75 percent of average. Exceptional and extreme drought continue to grip this region. The atmospheric circulation that ferried several early winter storms into the Southwest is somewhat abnormal for a La Niña, which often pushes storms north of the region this time of year. However, weak La Niña events tend to be wetter than moderate or strong events. There is uncertainty about how long and how strong this La Niña will be, but forecasts suggest at least a weak event will persist through the winter.

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 18 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.

6 month SPI

Agency	November	December	Stage as of December
Chinle	0.78	0.78	**Normal**
Eastern	0.07	0.32	**Normal**
Fort Defiance	0.71	0.73	**Normal**
Shiprock	0.49	0.58	**Normal**
Western	0.40	0.46	**Normal**