Drought Information Statement for New Mexico

Valid May 12, 2024

Issued By: NWS Albuquerque

Contact Information:

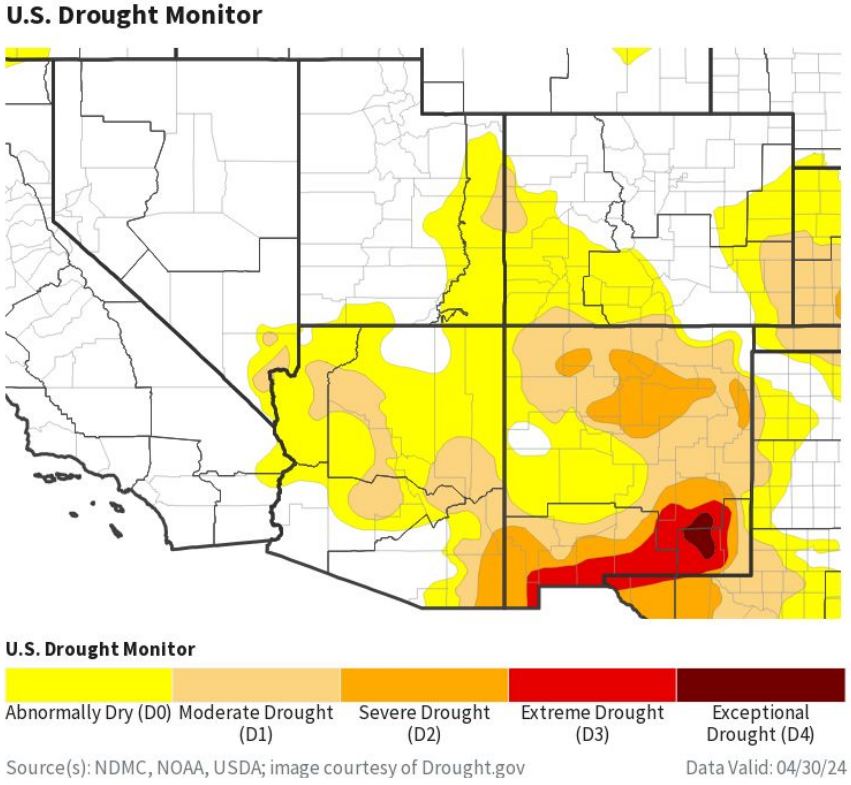
- This product will be updated June 12, 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/ABQ/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates for regional drought status updates.

- Drought persisted with little change over the past month.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for the southwest U.S.

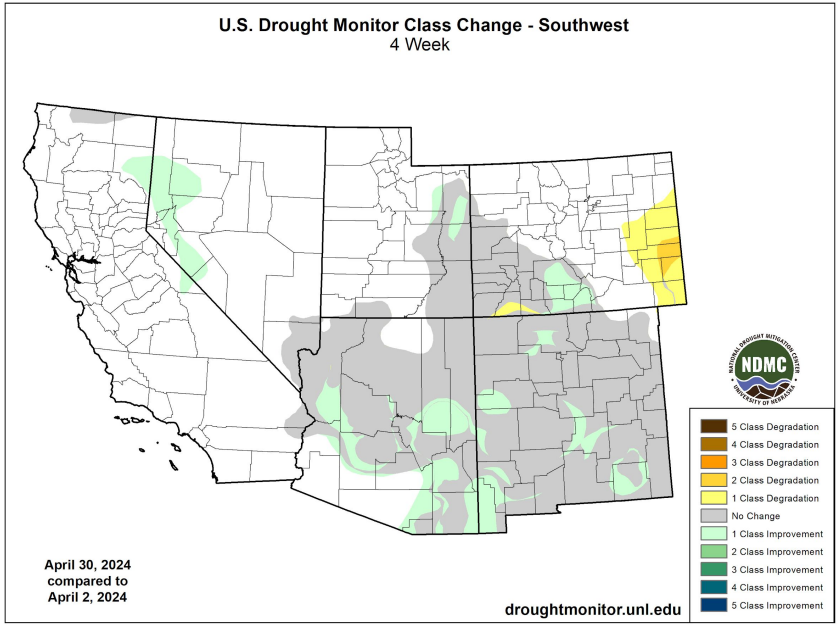
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: Portions of far southeast NM.
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Adjacent portions of southeast NM and far southern NM.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Southeast NM, the borderland, and portions of north-central NM.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Much of northern and eastern NM and the remainder of southern NM.
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: The remainder of NM and surrounding portions of CO, AZ, and TX.



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for the southwest U.S.

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: No noteworthy deterioration occurred in NM.
  - No Change: Most of NM saw little to no change.
  - Drought Improved: Small portions of NM experienced 1 class improvements, mainly a few southern areas.



Precipitation

- April was drier than normal for much of NM with monthly precipitation generally less than 0.5”. Parts of the Four Corners received no precipitation. Areas along the Caprock picked up around 1 to 2” which was one of the only areas with above normal precipitation.

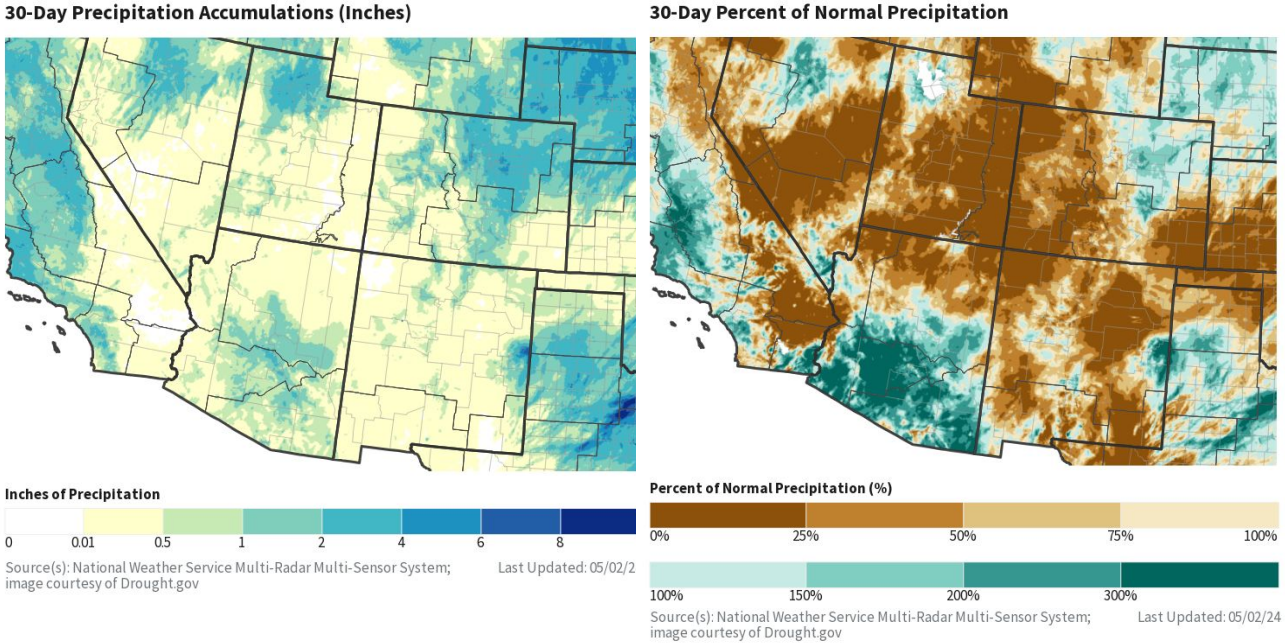


Image Caption: (Left) 30-day Precip (Right) 30-day Percent of Normal ending 5/2/2024.

Temperature

Link to HPRCC

- Temperatures during the last week of April were above normal across northern NM and below normal across southern NM. This was also true for the majority of April.

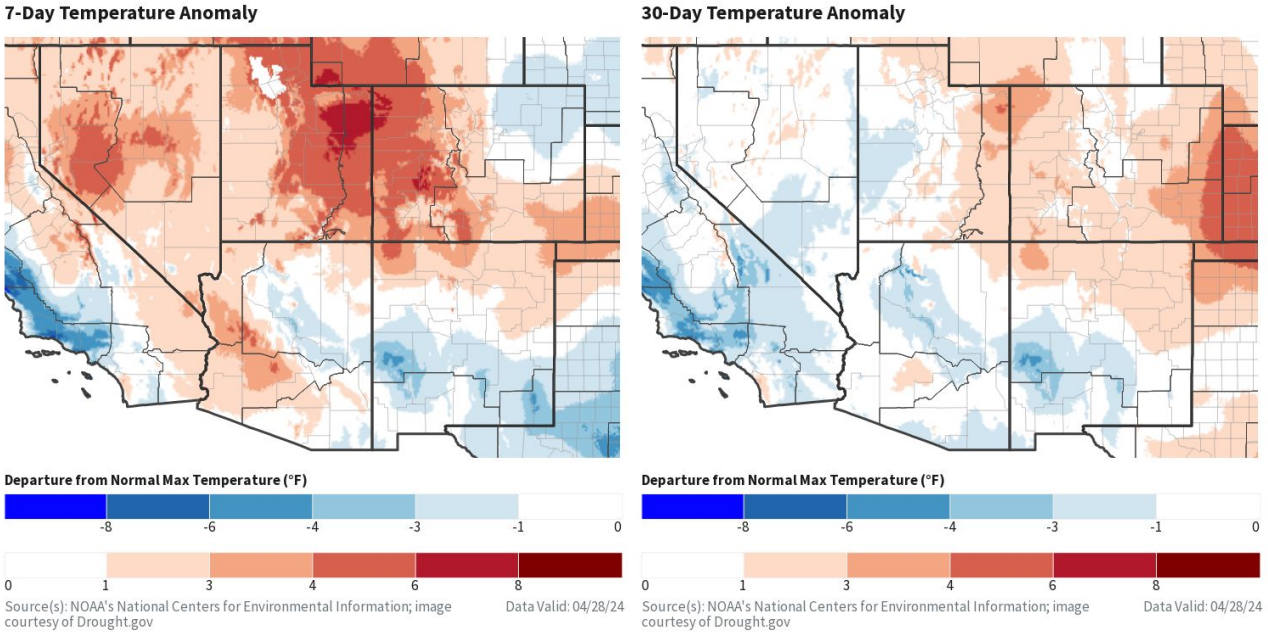


Image Caption: (Left) 7-day Temp Anomaly (Right) 30-day Temp Anomaly ending 4/28/2024.

Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) and view the Drought Impacts Reporter

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow was generally near to below normal across the vast majority of NM at the end of April, except in areas where snowmelt and reservoir releases led to higher flows.

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fuel moisture values are near to below normal across much of the region, including grass and timber fuels (Albuquerque Interagency Dispatch Center). The May and June significant wildland fire potential shows areas along the central mountain chain and southern NM in a higher risk category which lines up well with the area of moderate or greater drought.

Other Impacts

- Main Takeaway (cite or link your sources) or “There are no known impacts at this time”

Mitigation Actions

- Main Takeaway (cite or link your sources) or “None reported” **or** “Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.”

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- This map shows how various river basins are performing compared to a 7 day average streamflow for the week of May 1 over the last 30 years.
- Most of the state is reading as normal with a couple basins below normal and a couple basins above normal.
- It is important to keep in mind that the major river systems of New Mexico are largely controlled by dams and reservoirs and that “performance” is heavily influenced by human activity.

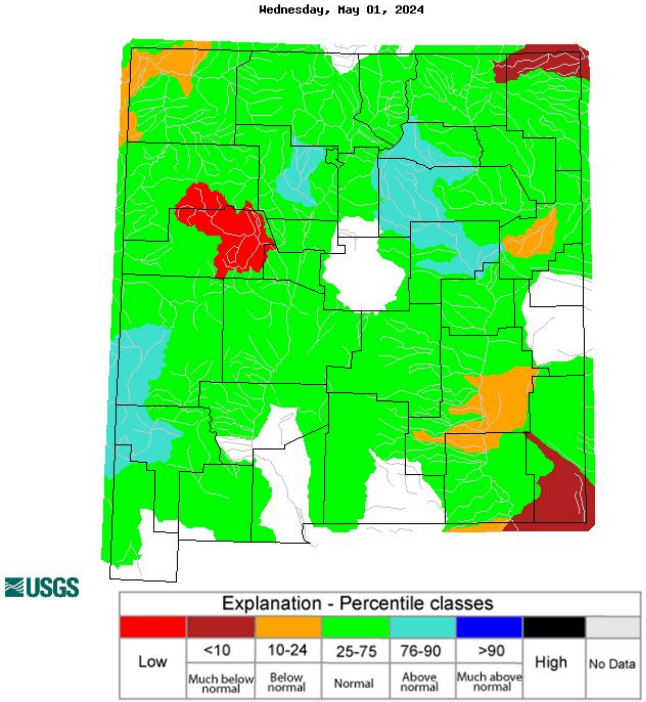
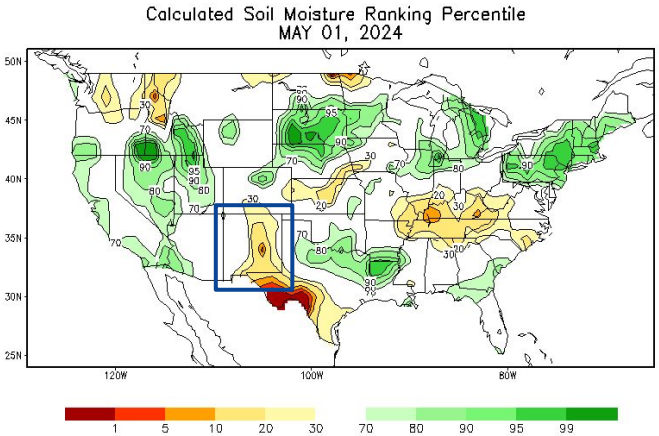


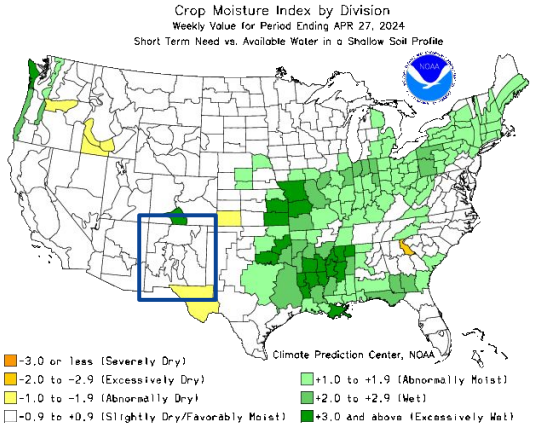
Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid MM DD YYYY

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil Moisture conditions are dry throughout most of eastern and far southern New Mexico. But along the western border soil conditions are wetter than normal.

- Crop moisture conditions are considered normal.



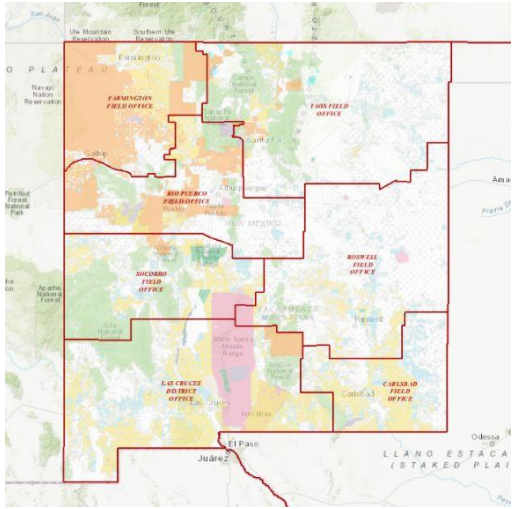


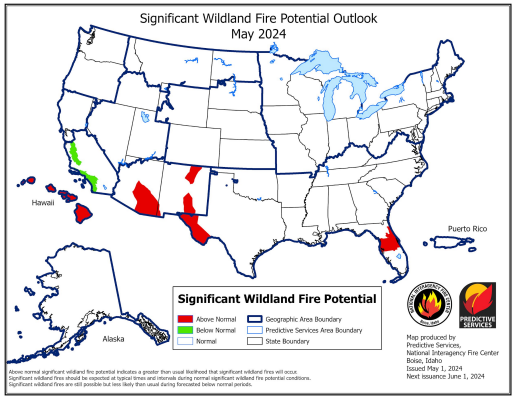
Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.]

- The latest May and June 2024 significant wildland fire potential outlooks shows areas along the central mountain chain, nearby highlands, and southern NM with above normal fire potential.

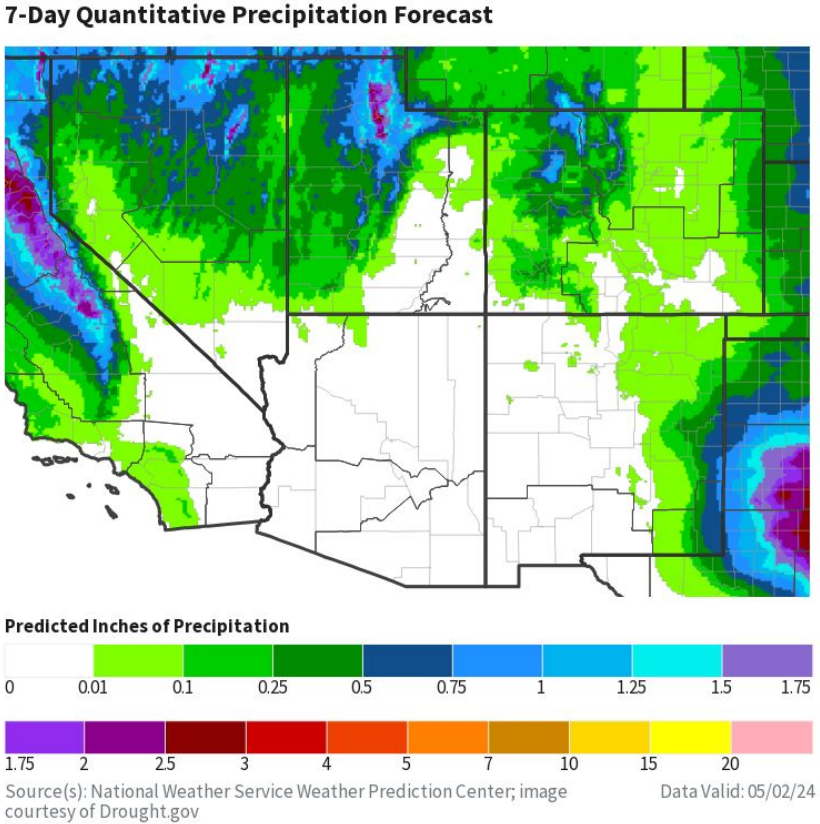
Detailed information available on the interactive map below.





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Parts of northern and eastern NM are forecast to pick up light to moderate precipitation amounts over the next 7 days. The heavier amounts are expected over far southeast NM.



Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- The latest CPC monthly precipitation outlook for May favors below normal precipitation for much of NM.
- The latest CPC monthly temperature outlook for May favors above normal temperatures for the eastern two-thirds of NM, especially near the west TX border.

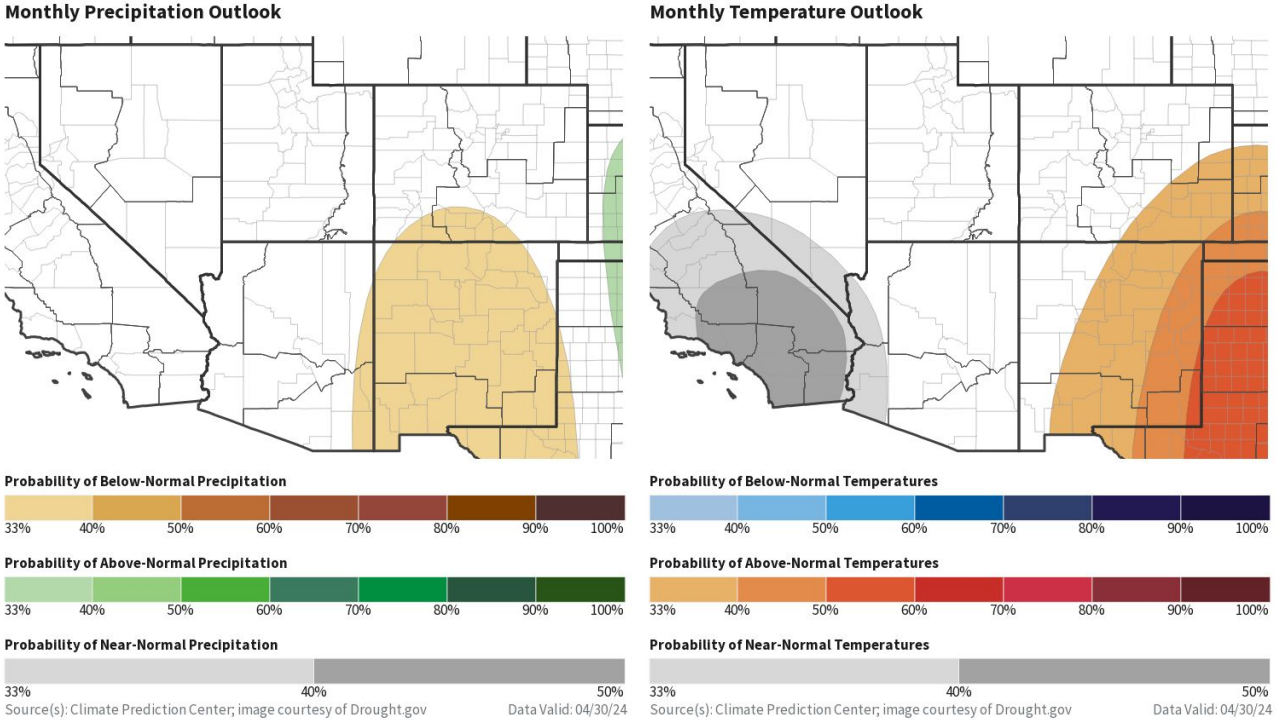
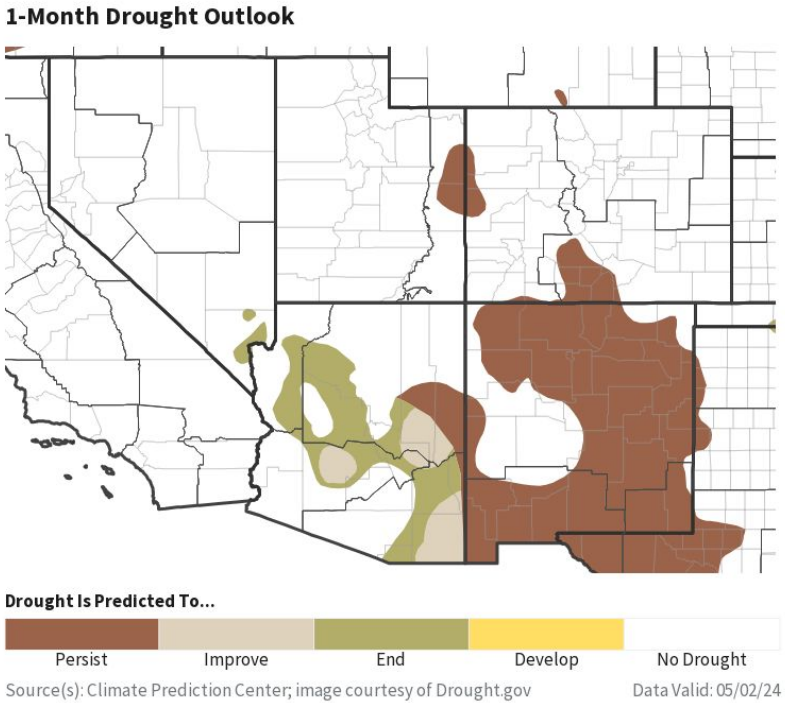


Image Caption: (Left) May Precip Outlook (Right) May Temperature Outlook

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Based on the fact that conditions can be quite dry in New Mexico when we call for near normal temperatures and precipitation, the Climate Prediction Center is calling for persistence of drought conditions throughout much of the state.



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook