



Drought Information Statement for Northern Arizona

Valid February 22, 2025

Issued By: National Weather Service Flagstaff, AZ

Contact Information: nws.flagstaff@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated around March 20, 2025 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/fgz/Drought> for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates?dews_region=130&state=139 for regional updates.

- Very dry weather leads to worsening drought conditions
- Coverage of Severe and Extreme drought expands in central and northern Arizona



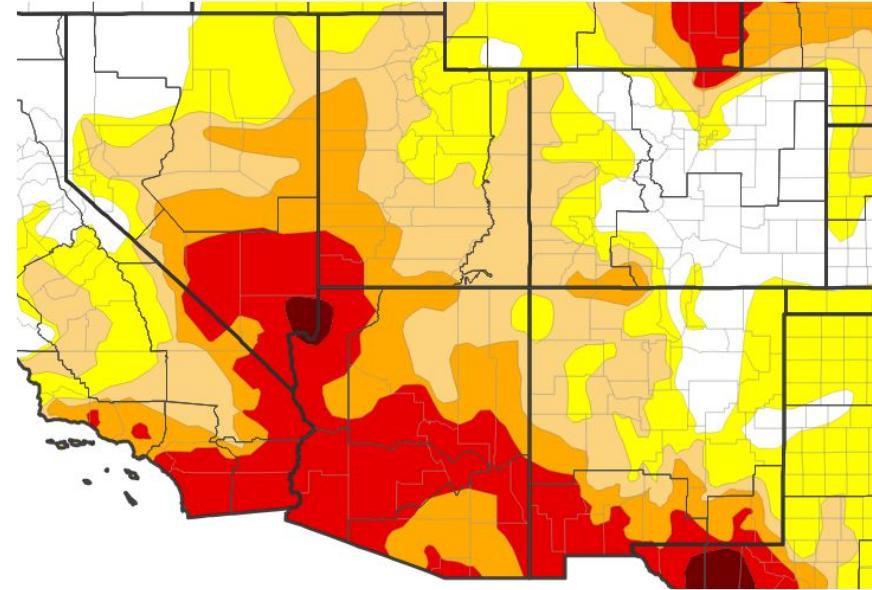


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the southwest United States

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Gila County, much of Yavapai County, extreme southern Coconino, Navajo, and Apache counties.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Southern/western Coconino County, southern/central Navajo and Apache counties.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** The remainder of Coconino, Navajo, and Apache counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/18/25

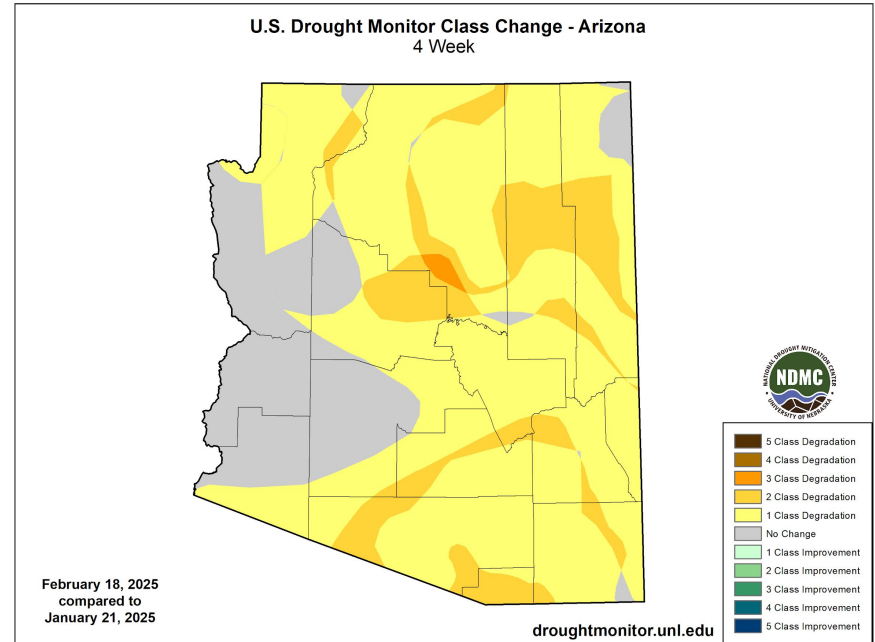




Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for the southwest United States

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - **Drought Worsened:** One category degradation for most of northern Arizona, with two category degradation in northeast Yavapai County and portions of Coconino, Navajo, and Apache counties.
 - **No Change:** Northwest Yavapai County and portions of the Chuska Mountains.

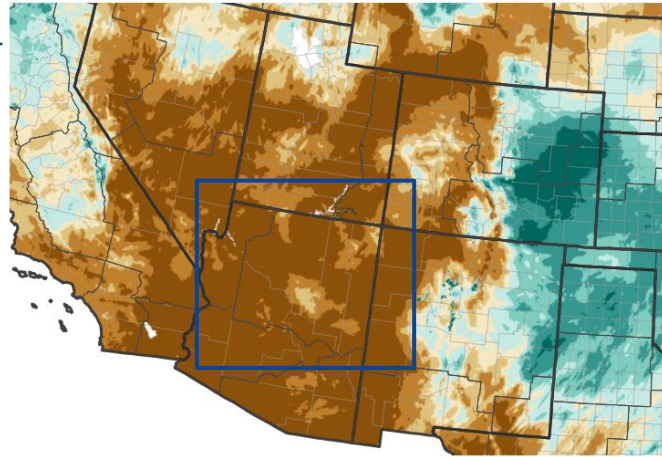




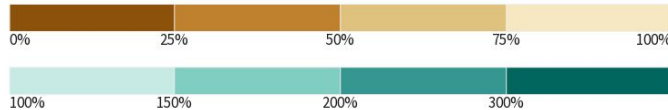
Precipitation

- 120-Day Precipitation is less than 25% of normal for most of Arizona.
- A small area in the Flagstaff region and along the Mogollon Rim is near 50% of normal.

120-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation

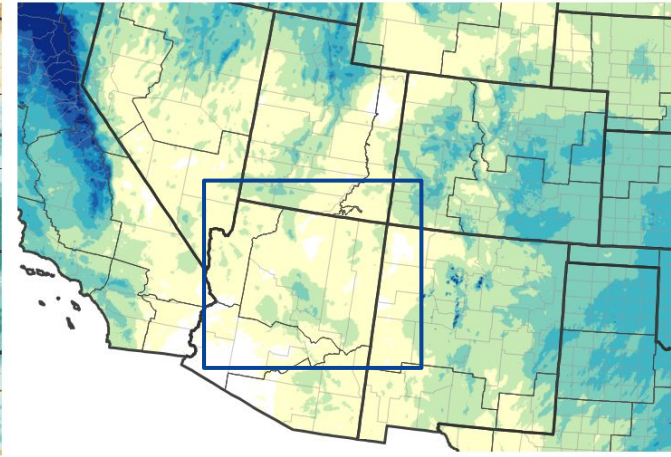


Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; Last Updated: 02/22/25
image courtesy of Drought.gov

120-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; Last Updated: 02/21/25
image courtesy of Drought.gov





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow is much below normal for this time of year.

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is much lower than normal and may lead to poor forage conditions in spring if dryness persists. Ranchers are reporting that they are hauling water to livestock and that this would not be necessary in a more typical winter.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire danger has decreased into the moderate category at least temporarily due to precipitation in mid February, but could increase again if dry weather returns. There is a potential for an extended and significant fire season if dry weather persists into spring.

Other Impacts

- Winter recreation has been impacted due to the lack of snowpack at higher elevations.

Mitigation Actions

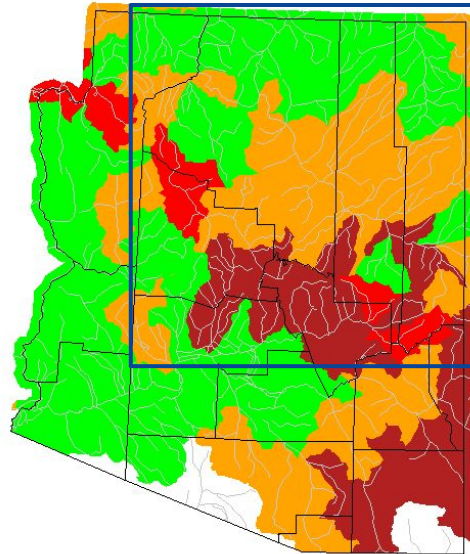
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow over much of Arizona is less than the 25th percentile for this time of year.
- Some of the normally wettest areas of the state along the Mogollon Rim into the White Mountains are experiencing much below normal streamflow values in the 10th percentile or lower.



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	No Data

Image Caption: [USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map](#) valid February 21, 2025

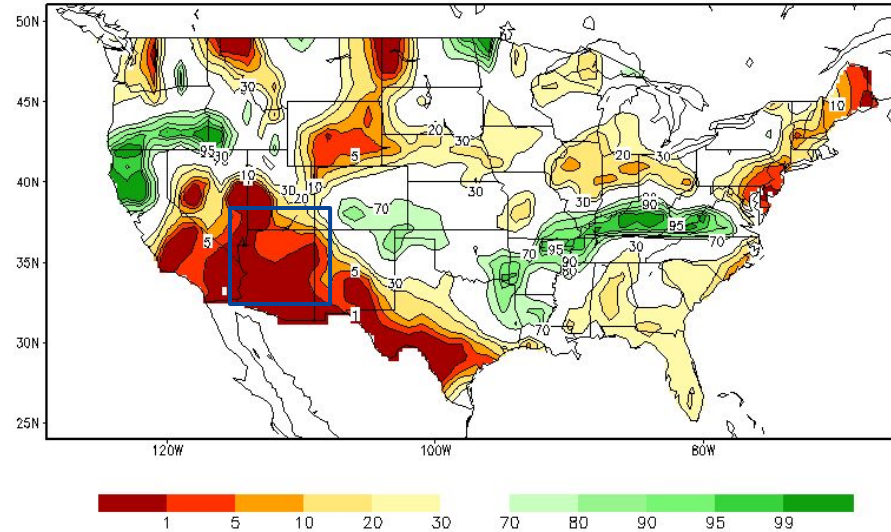




Agricultural Impacts

- Most of northern Arizona is reporting soil moisture in the 1st to 5th percentile.
- Forage for ranching purposes was less abundant than normal in summer 2024 due to a drier than usual monsoon season. Ranchers are also hauling water to livestock which is unusual in winter.
- Low soil moisture could lead to poor spring forage if the dryness persists.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
FEB 21, 2025

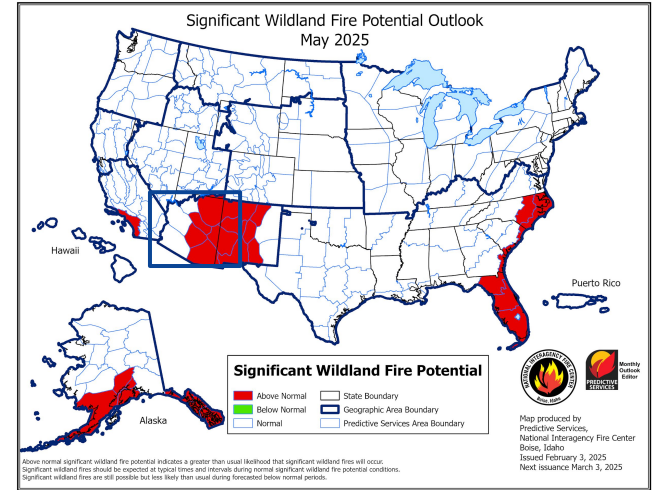
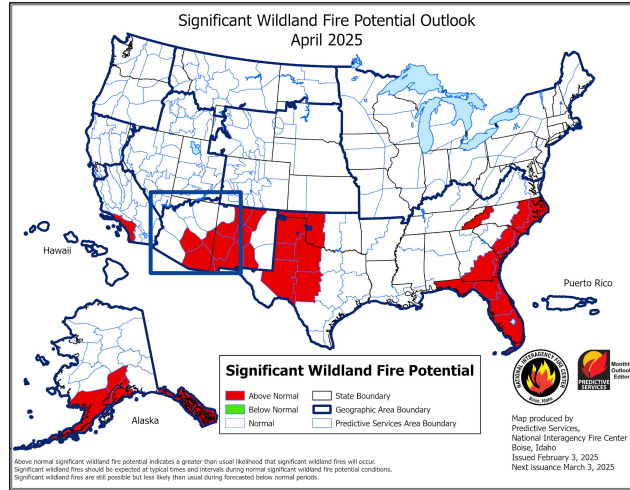




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Fuels are drier than normal for February, bringing a current risk of wildfire which is unusual for winter.
- By April and May, there is an above normal potential for significant wildland fire in much of the eastern half of Arizona including the Mogollon Rim and White Mountains.
- If dry conditions persist, there is a potential of an extended and significant wildfire season.

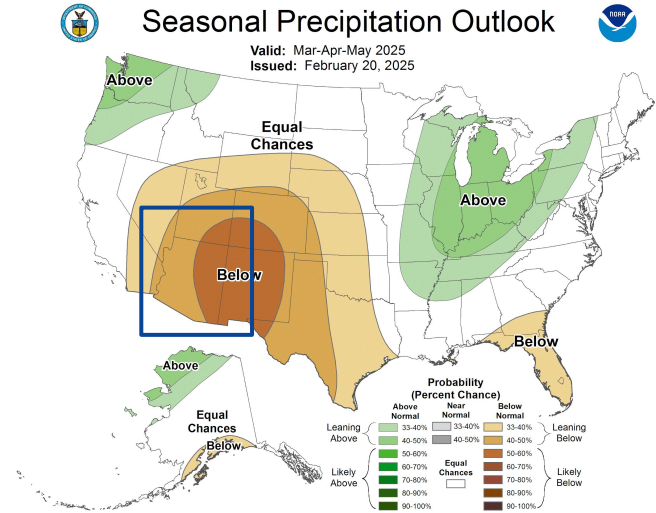
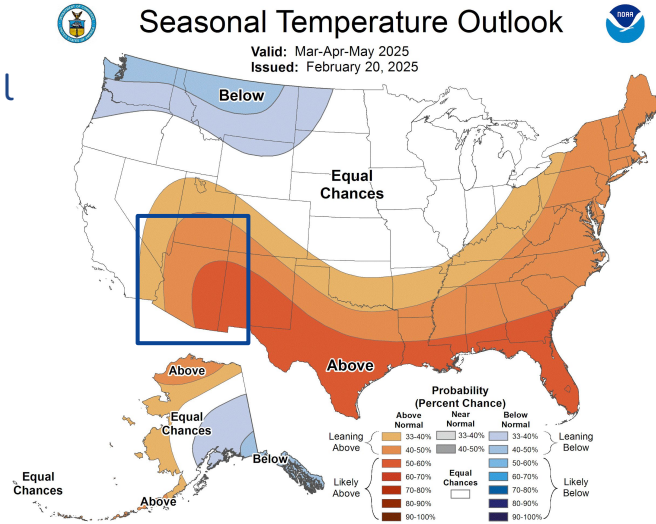




Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- The latest outlooks for March through May from the Climate Prediction Center favor above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation in Arizona.



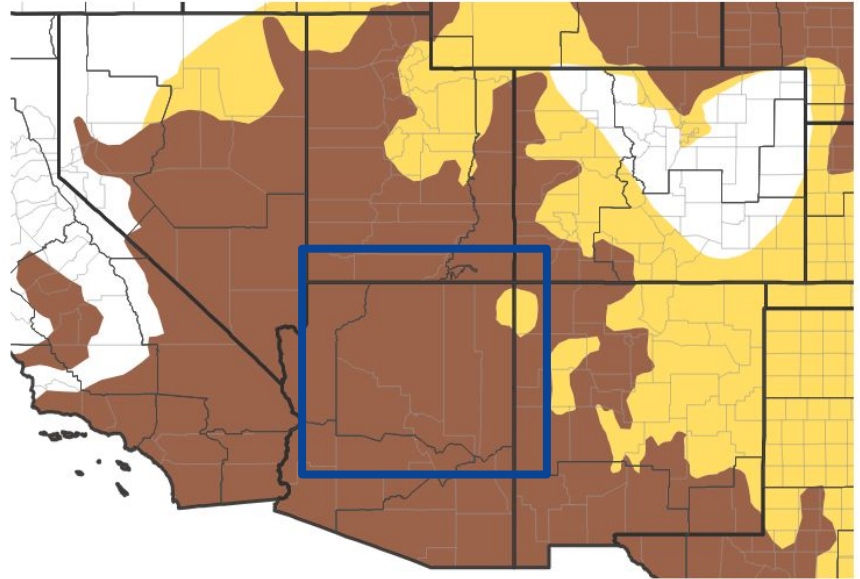


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Drought conditions are forecast to persist over the state through the end May.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for February 20, 2025–May 31, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 02/20/25

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

