



Drought Information Statement for Northern Arizona

Valid December 24, 2023

Issued By: WFO Flagstaff, AZ

Contact Information: nws.flagstaff@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated January 18, 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/fgz/Drought> for previous statements.



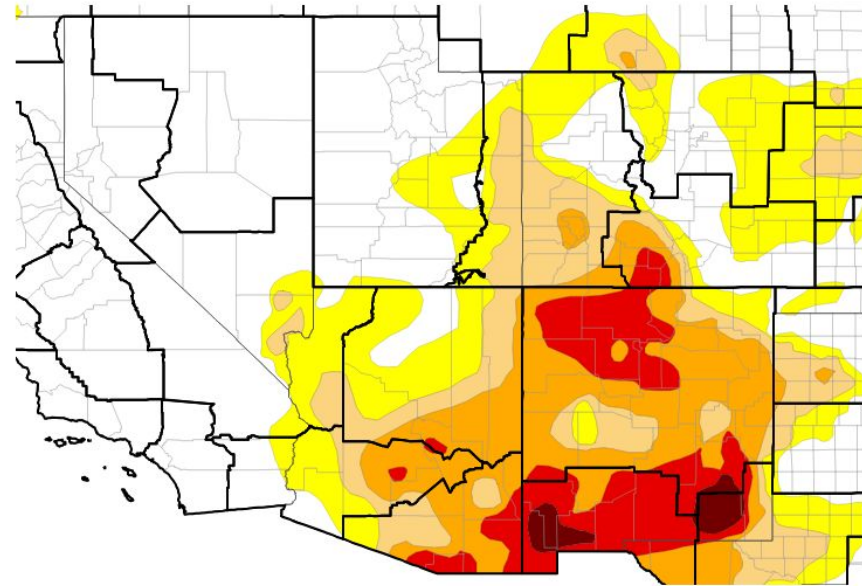


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- EXTREME DROUGHT CONTINUES IN PARTS OF GILA COUNTY
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): West central Gila County
 - D2 (Severe Drought): Southeast Yavapai, Gila, extreme southern Coconino, southern Navajo, southern Apache counties.
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): Central Yavapai, south central Coconino, south central Navajo, central and northern Apache County.
 - D0: (Abnormally Dry): northern Yavapai, most of Coconino, northern Navajo counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 12/19/23

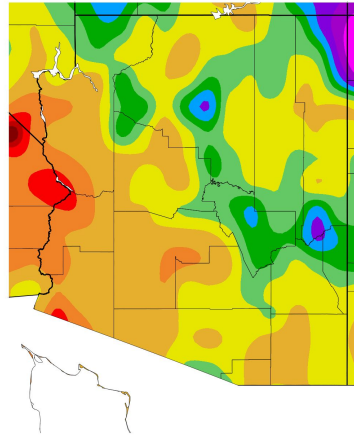




Precipitation

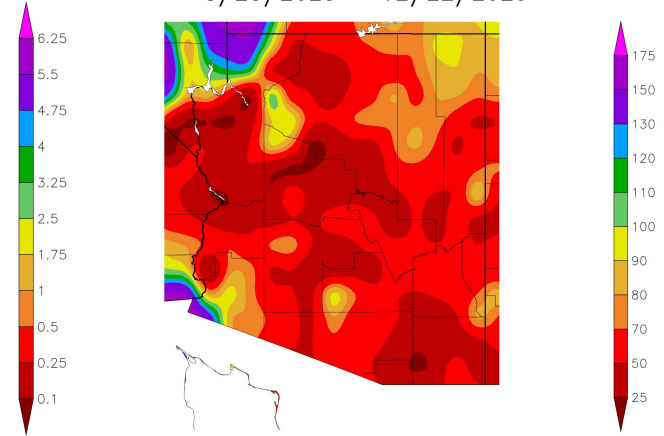
- 120-day rainfall has been less than 50% of normal for much of Yavapai and Coconino counties.
- Less than 70% of normal rainfall has fallen since late August for much of Navajo and Apache counties.

Precipitation (in)
8/25/2023 - 12/22/2023



Generated 12/23/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/25/2023 - 12/22/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers at HPRCC using provisional data.

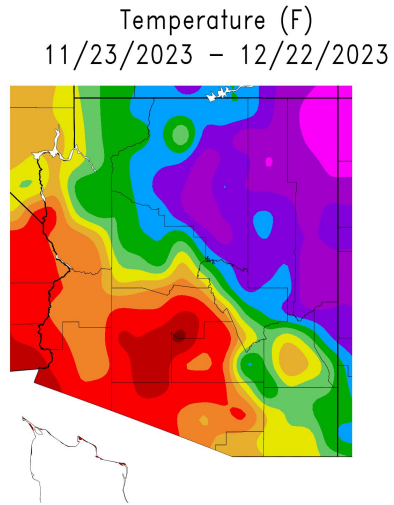
NOAA Regional Climate Centers



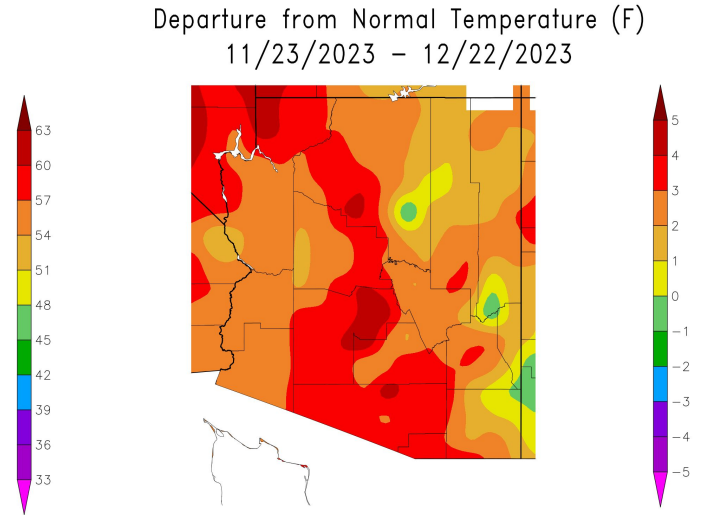


Temperature

- Most of Arizona was 1-3 degrees warmer than normal over the past 30 days. Portions of eastern Yavapai and Coconino counties were 3-5 degrees warmer than normal.



Generated 12/23/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers





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 in east central and northwest Arizona, and in the normal range for the remainder of the area.

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is below the 30th percentile in southern Coconino, Navajo, and Apache Counties. Portions of Yavapai and Gila are below the 5th percentile.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Recent precipitation and cooler temperatures has decreased fire risk across the northern and central portions of Arizona. However, a few wildfires have still occurred in Yavapai County in December.

Mitigation Actions

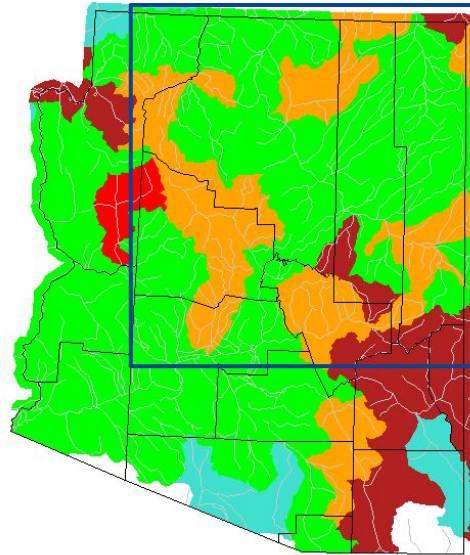
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow is well below normal for this time of year in east central and northwest Arizona.



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

Image Caption: [USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map](#) valid December 21, 2023

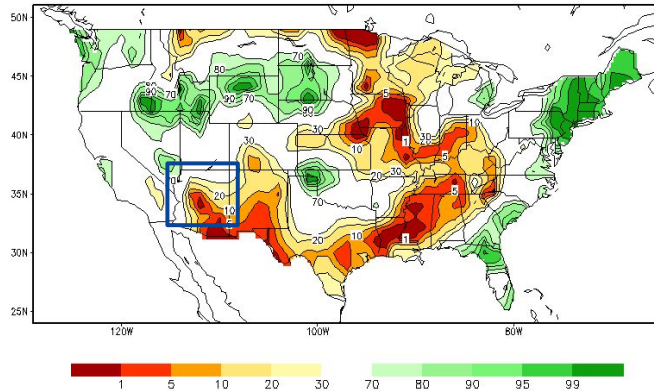




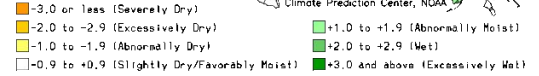
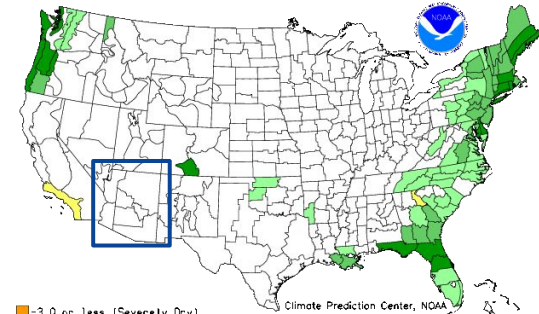
Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is below the 30th percentile in southern Coconino, Navajo, and Apache Counties. Portions of Yavapai and Gila are below the 5th percentile.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
DEC 21, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending DEC 16, 2023
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

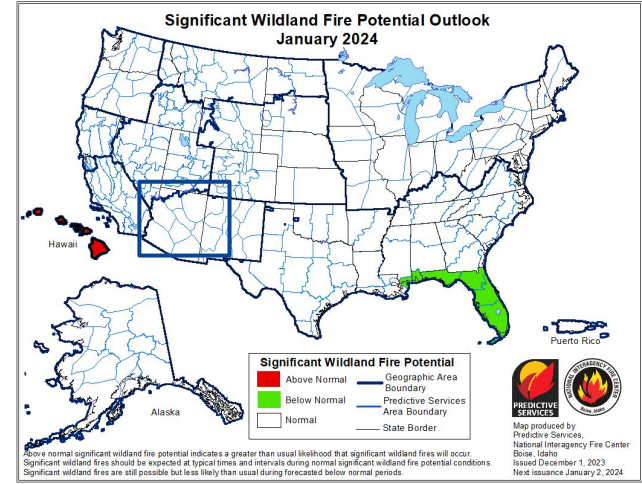
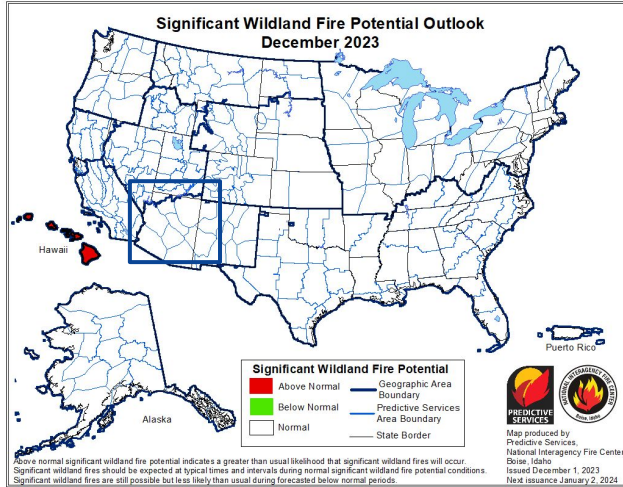




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- A drier than normal monsoon through early winter has left fuels drier than usual for this time of year.
- Rain received on Dec 22-23 improved conditions, but fire danger still remains moderate in parts of northern Arizona.

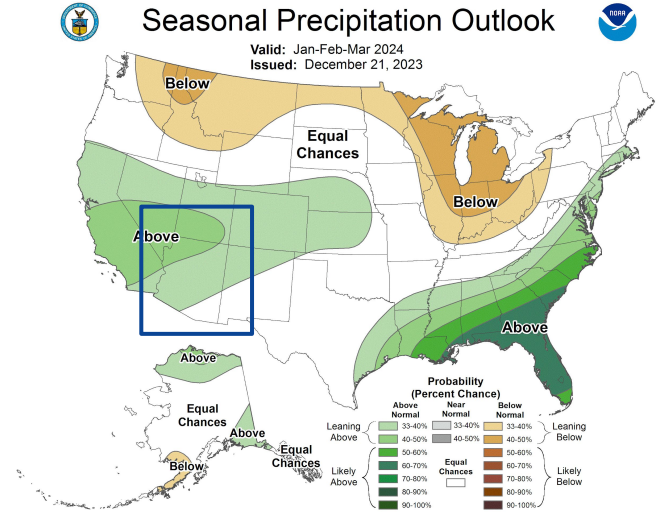
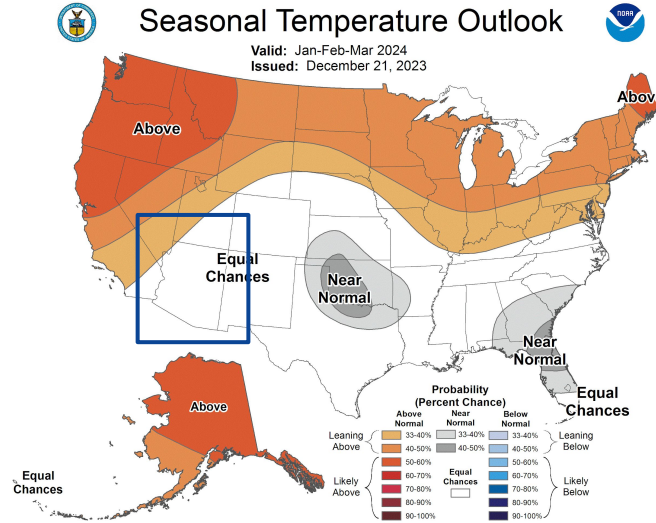




Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The latest outlooks for January through March 2024 from the Climate Prediction Center indicate equal chances for below, near, and above normal temperatures.
- Odds are slightly tilted toward wetter than normal conditions over most of Arizona with the exception of the far southeast part of the state.



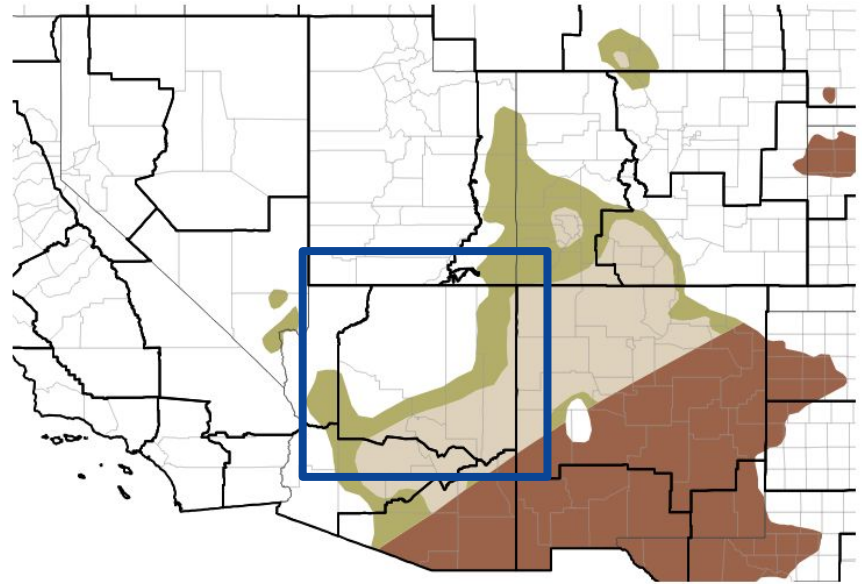


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are forecast to improve over southeast Yavapai, northern Gila, and southern Coconino, Navajo, and Apache counties through March 2024.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Data Valid: 12/21/23

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

