



# Drought Information Statement for South-Central & Southwest Arizona, and Southeast California

Valid January 25, 2025

Issued By: National Weather Service Phoenix

Contact Information: [nws.phoenix@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.phoenix@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated around February 21, 2025
  - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>
  - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/psr/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements
  - Please visit [https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/?dews\\_region=130&state=All](https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/?dews_region=130&state=All) for regional outlook
- 
- Very dry weather persists yielding worsening drought conditions
  - Severe to Extreme drought continues to expand across central and western Arizona, as well as southeast California



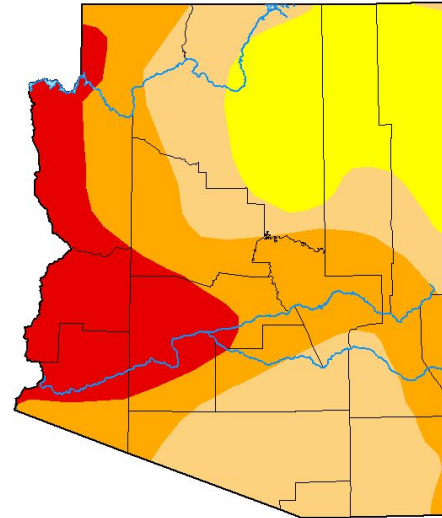


# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

- SEVERE TO EXTREME DROUGHT CONTINUES TO EXPAND ACROSS WESTERN AND CENTRAL ARIZONA
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: La Paz, northern Yuma, and western Maricopa counties
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: southern Yuma, Maricopa, northern Pinal, and much of southern Gila counties
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: central Pinal, and far southern Gila counties

## U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona



January 21, 2025  
(Released Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	79.94	47.68	17.30	0.00
Last Week 01-14-2025	3.74	96.26	79.94	47.10	14.03	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-23-2024	14.49	85.51	52.17	26.89	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	3.74	96.26	76.63	45.54	14.03	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	27.62	72.38	39.91	4.61	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 01-23-2024	5.66	94.34	63.39	34.37	5.75	0.00

**Intensity:**

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:  
Brian Fuchs  
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[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 5 am MST January 21, 2025

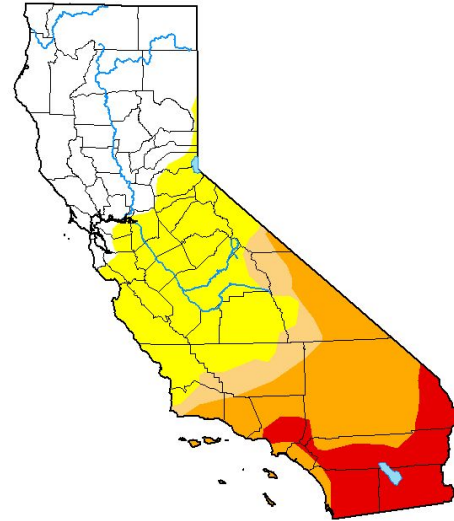


# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

- EXTREME TO SEVERE DROUGHT EXPANDS INTO SOUTHEAST CALIFORNIA
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Imperial and much of Riverside counties
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: northern Riverside County

## U.S. Drought Monitor California



January 21, 2025  
(Released Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	33.22	66.78	39.39	32.86	11.90	0.00
Last Week 01-14-2025	39.11	60.89	35.93	26.95	1.06	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-22-2024	24.68	75.32	14.05	4.30	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	39.11	60.89	35.93	10.43	1.06	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	28.40	71.60	10.67	0.08	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 01-23-2024	96.55	3.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity

None	D0 Abnormally Dry	D1 Moderate Drought	D2 Severe Drought	D3 Extreme Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
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The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:  
Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 4 am PST January 21, 2025



# Precipitation

- Rainfall across central and western Arizona, as well as SE California has been well less than 25% of normal so far this Water Year (since Oct 2024)
- Many locations have not received any rainfall since the summer monsoon
- Rapid intensification of short term drought impacts have been experienced since the summer

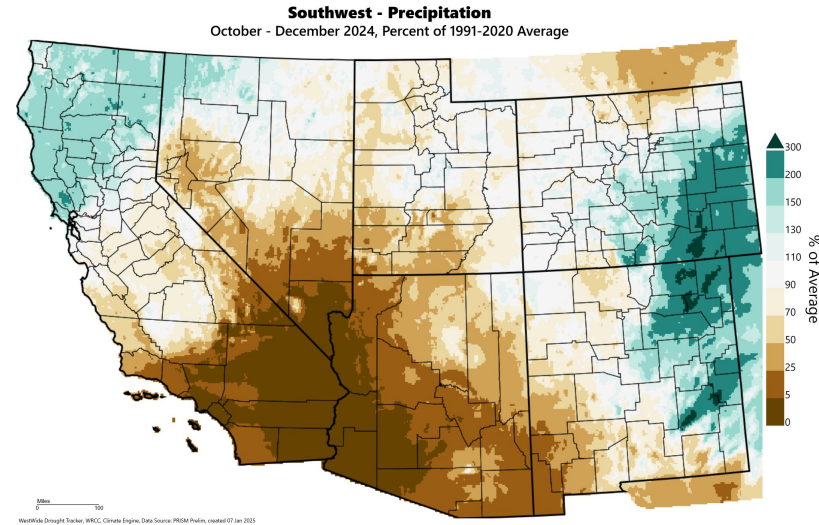
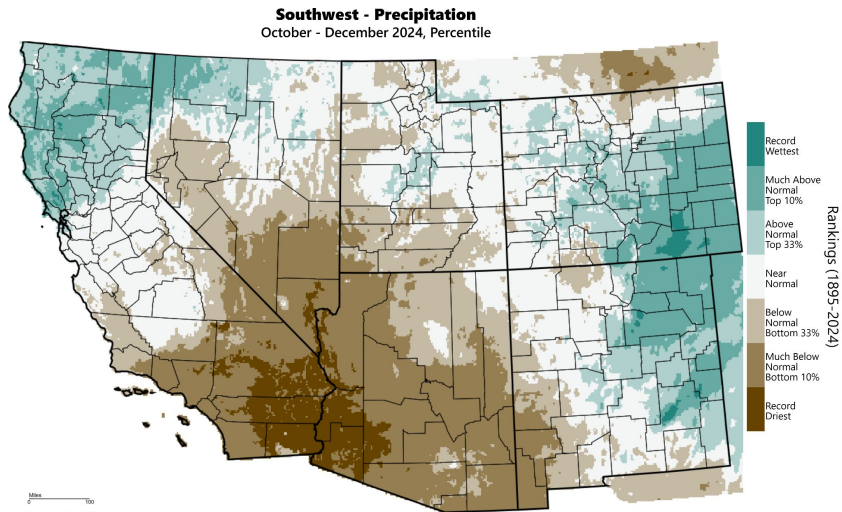


Image Captions:  
Left - Weather Year Month Precipitation Percentile Ranking  
Right - Water Year Month Percent of Normal Precipitation  
Data Courtesy [WestWide Drought Tracker](#).  
Data over the past 3 months ending December 2024







# Precipitation

- Despite wetter weather early in 2024, unusually dry conditions have been prevalent since the monsoon season
- Many locations in central and western Arizona fell to less than 70% of normal in 2024 ranking in the lowest tercile

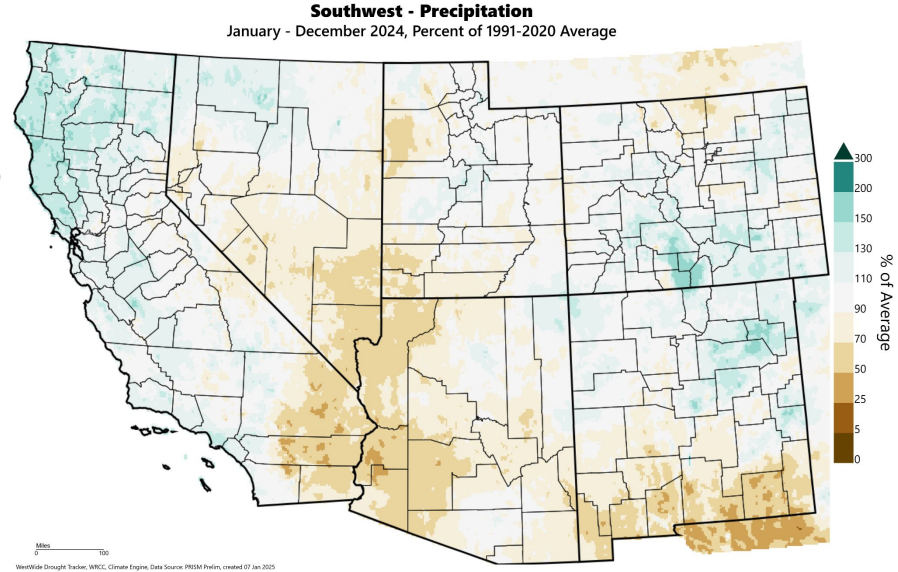
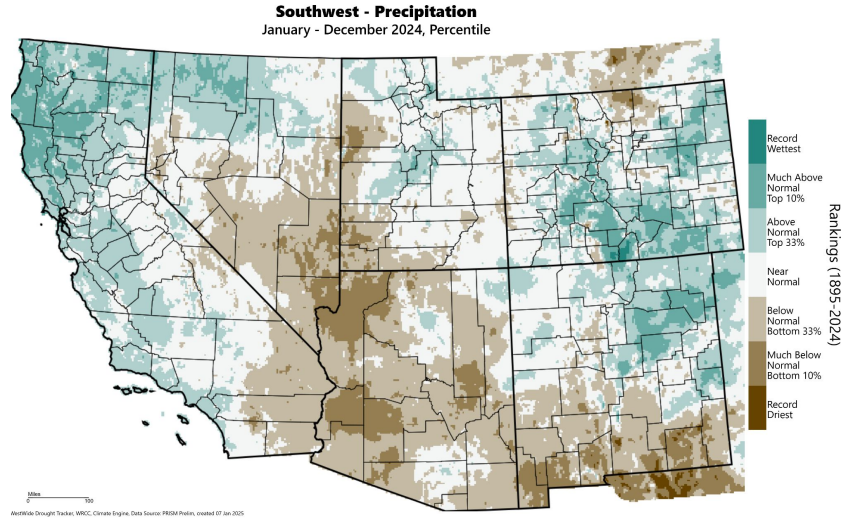


Image Captions:  
Left - 2024 Precipitation Percentile Ranking  
Right - 2024 Percent of Normal Precipitation  
Data Courtesy [WestWide Drought Tracker](#)  
2024 Precipitation ending December 2024

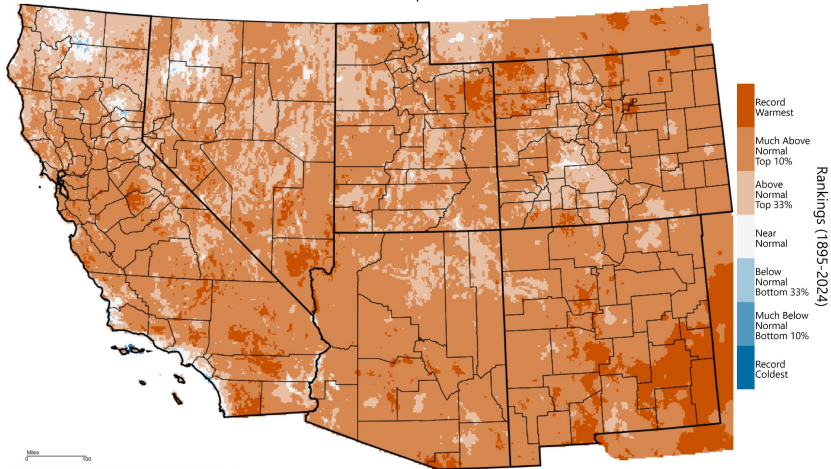




# Temperature

- The Water Year (since Oct) has started where the summer left off with average temperatures more than 1°F to 3°F above normal
- This near record heat has heightened evapotranspiration losses and more rapidly depleted soil moisture

**Southwest - Mean Temperature**  
October - December 2024, Percentile



**Southwest - Mean Temperature**

October - December 2024, Departure from 1991-2020 Average

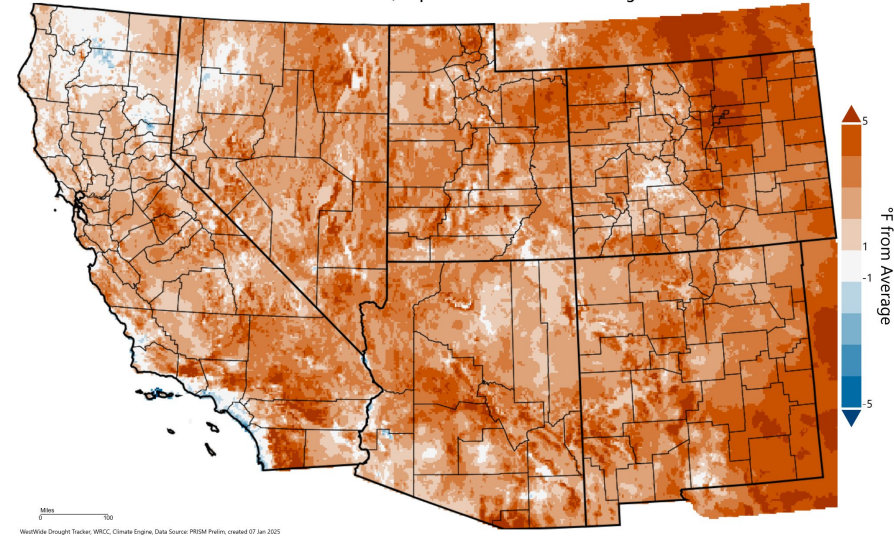


Image Captions:  
Left - Water Year Temperature Percentile Ranking  
Right - Water Year Departure from Normal Temperature  
Data Courtesy [WestWide Drought Tracker](#)  
Data over the past 3 months ending December 2024





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Tier 1 shortage conditions are currently in effect on the Colorado River impacting water deliveries in Arizona
- Lakes Powell and Mead levels have remained nearly steady with a continuation of Tier 1 shortage deliveries in 2025

## Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- An unusually long wildfire season continued into the winter season stressing resources across the state. Many smaller wildfires have continued to occur this winter in areas typically not prone to wildfire this time of year.

## Other Impacts

- Ranchers in western Arizona have experienced a significant lack of forage growth due to absent monsoon rainfall. Supplemental feed will be necessary in many locations to compensate.

## Mitigation Actions

- A Drought Emergency Declaration remains in effect for the state of Arizona as signed by the governor in accordance with the [Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan](#). The continuation of this Drought Emergency has been recommended by the [Drought Interagency Coordinating Group](#)

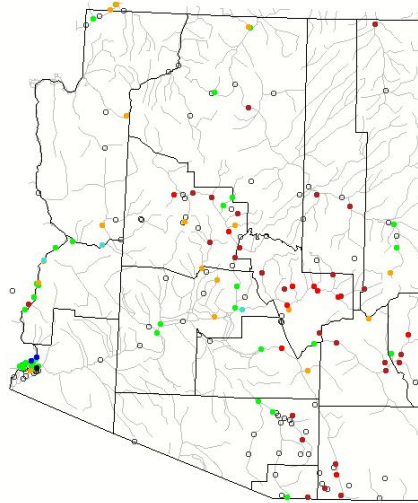




# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Small, unregulated rivers and streams across most of Arizona were flowing at below to historically low levels
- Small to medium sized reservoirs remained above the long term average, but below levels seen last year
- Larger reservoirs on the Colorado river continue to hover well below average forcing shortage conditions and reduced water deliveries

Thursday, January 23, 2025



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		

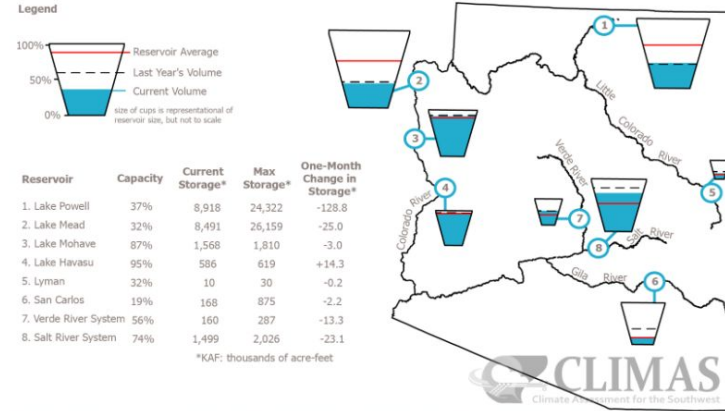


Figure 1. Arizona reservoir volumes for the end of November 2024 as a percent of capacity. The map depicts the average volume and last year's storage for each reservoir. The table also lists current and maximum storage, and change in storage since last month.

Image Caption:

Left: USGS 14 day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow valid Jan 23, 2025. Data courtesy of [USGS](https://www.usgs.gov/)

Right: Arizona reservoir status. Data courtesy of [CLIMAS](https://www.climas.org/)







# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Persistent dry conditions continue to support dead fine fuels below 6% over much of the local area despite cooler temperatures
- Although the threat of significant large wildland fires is near normal, smaller wildfires have still been occurring across parts of Arizona during the cool season which is extremely unusual for this time of year

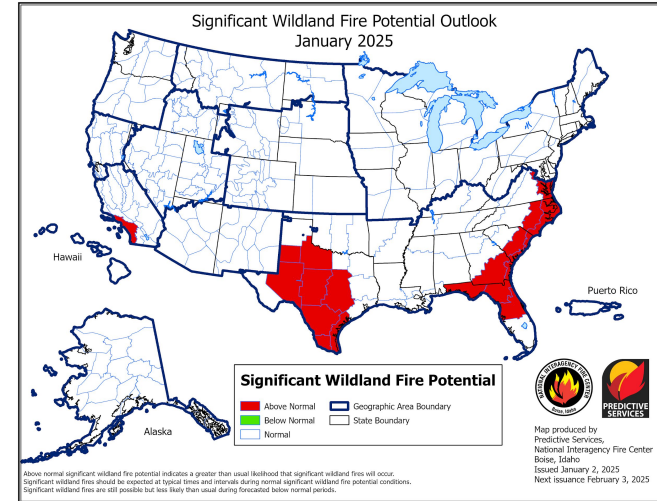
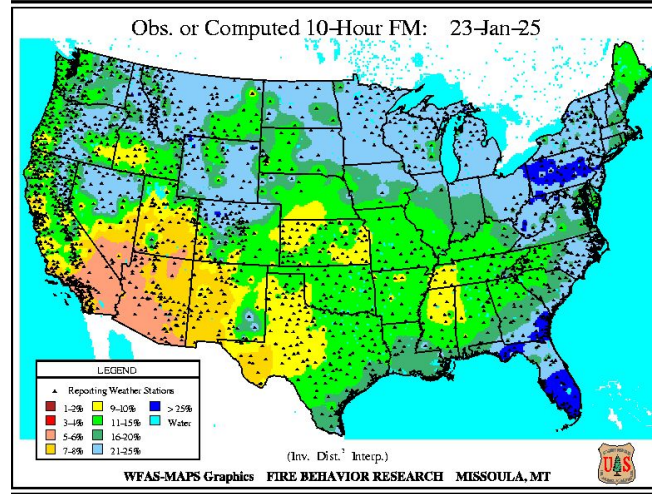


Image Caption: Left - 10-hour dead fuel moisture from [Wildland Fire Assessment System](#)  
Right - [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for January 2025



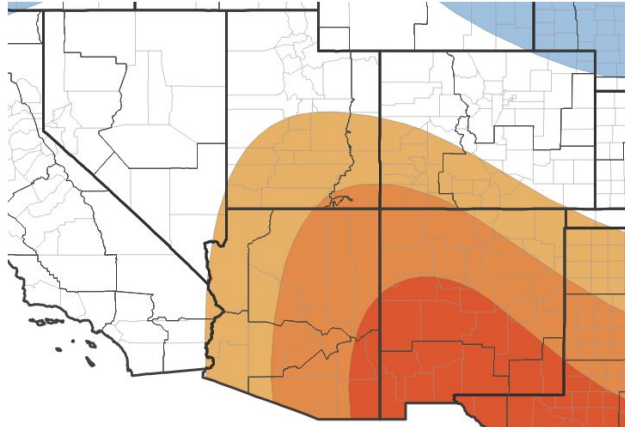


# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Temperatures over the next 3 months (Feb-Mar-Apr) have slightly better chances of reaching above normal levels across Arizona with equal chances over southeast California
- Odds are slightly tilted towards total precipitation during the Feb-Mar-Apr time frame falling in a below normal category

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for February 1, 2025–April 30, 2025



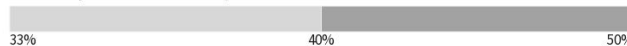
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



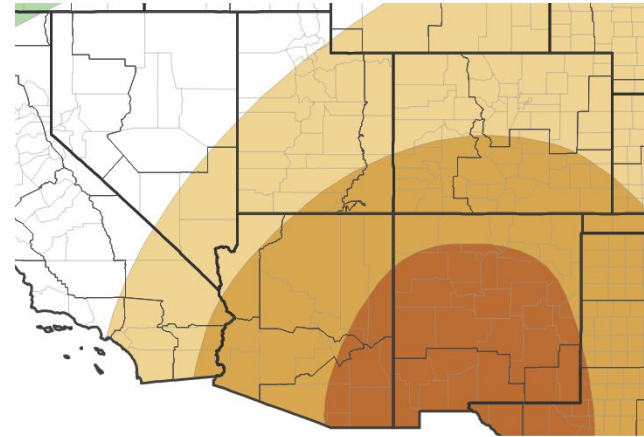
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 01/16/25

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for February 1, 2025–April 30, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 01/16/25





# Drought Outlook

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

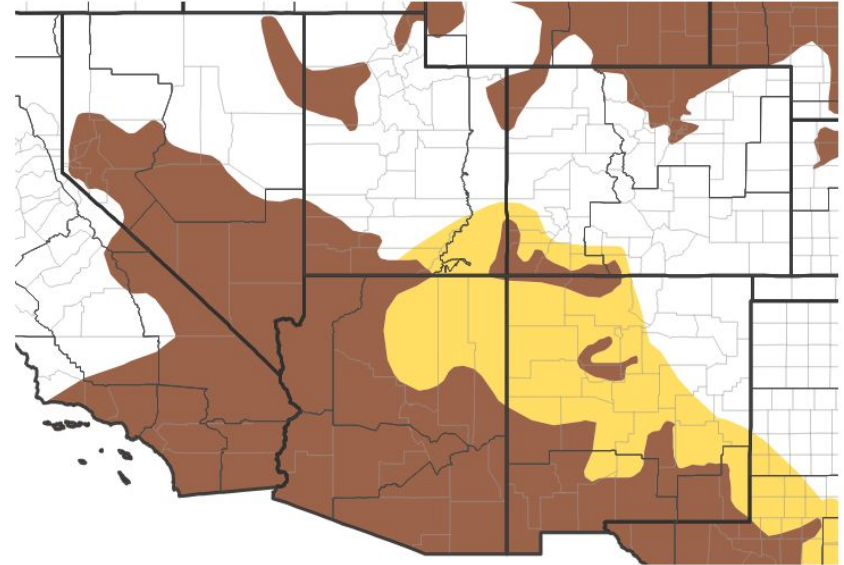
- Severe to Extreme Drought currently exists over much of central and western Arizona, as well as southeast California
- Precipitation the remainder of the winter will be crucial for future drought trends
- Given a weak La Nina currently occurring, drought could worsen over parts of the region through the spring season

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

**Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for January 16, 2025–April 30, 2025**



**Drought Is Predicted To...**



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

Last Updated: 01/16/25

