



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

Valid February 21, 2025

Issued By: National Weather Service Phoenix

Contact Information: nws.phoenix@noaa.gov

- This product may be updated around March 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 for regional outlook
-
- Drought conditions continue to worsen with minimal precipitation the past 6 months
 - Extreme drought continues to expand across central and western Arizona, as well as southeast California



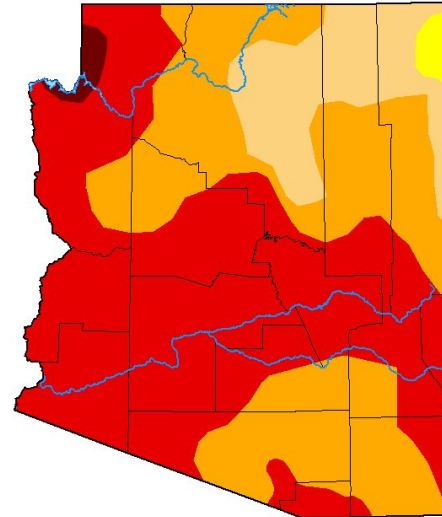


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- EXTREME DROUGHT CONTINUES TO EXPAND ACROSS WESTERN AND CENTRAL ARIZONA
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: La Paz, Yuma, Maricopa, Gila, and northern Pinal counties
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: central Pinal County

U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona



February 18, 2025
(Released Thursday, Feb. 20, 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	99.07	86.97	52.89	1.03
Last Week 02-11-2025	0.00	100.00	99.07	86.98	46.72	1.03
3 Months Ago 11-19-2024	14.44	85.56	56.04	29.18	8.34	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 02-20-2024	13.53	86.47	48.58	18.12	1.83	0.00

Intensity



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

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 5 am MST February 18, 2025



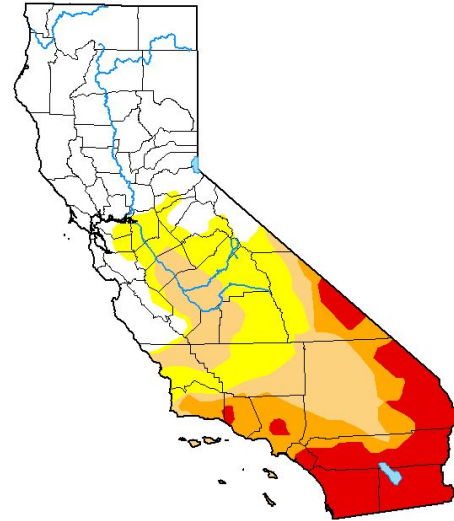


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- EXTREME DROUGHT EXPANDS THROUGH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Imperial and much of Riverside counties
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: north-central Riverside County

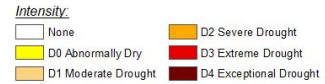
U.S. Drought Monitor California



February 18, 2025
(Released Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	41.82	58.18	41.58	24.83	14.75	0.00
Last Week 02-11-2025	33.22	66.78	54.31	34.66	21.21	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-19-2024	28.61	71.39	16.88	5.50	0.95	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	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 02-20-2024	92.97	7.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



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

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 4 am PST February, 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 along the lower Colorado River valley have received little to no rainfall since the summer monsoon
- Rapid intensification of short term drought impacts have been experienced in the past 6 months

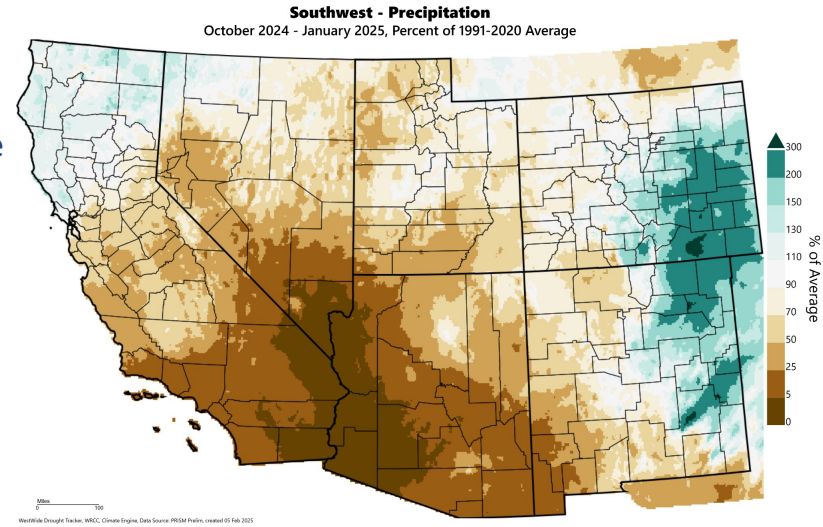
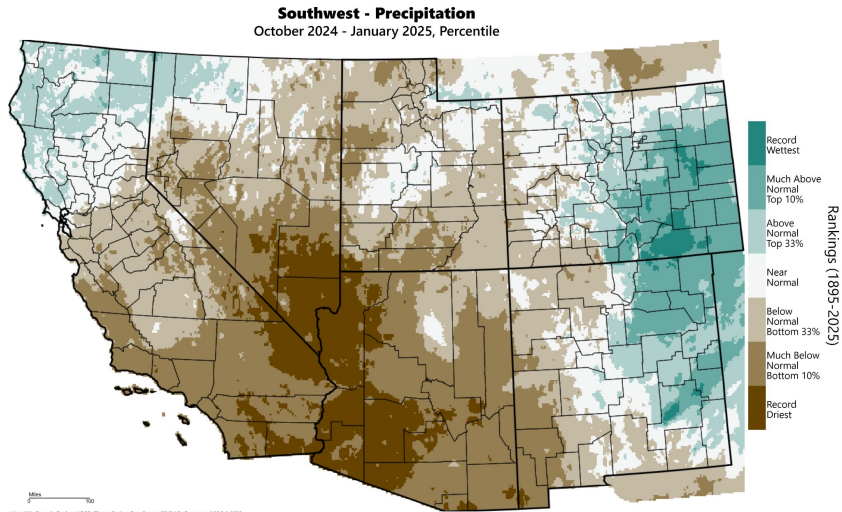
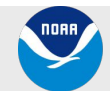


Image Captions:
Left - Water Year Precipitation Percentile Ranking
Right - Water Year Percent of Normal Precipitation
Data Courtesy [WestWide Drought Tracker](#).
Data over the past 4 months ending January 2025

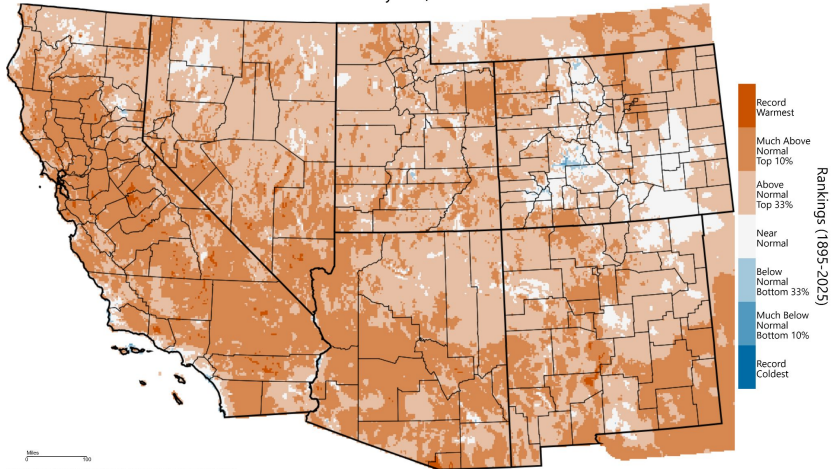




Temperature

- Despite a cooler January, average temperature this Water Year (since Oct 2024) are up to 3°F above normal
- This abnormal warmth in the top 10th percentile has heightened evapotranspiration losses and more rapidly depleted soil moisture

Southwest - Mean Temperature
October 2024 - January 2025, Percentile



Southwest - Mean Temperature
October 2024 - January 2025, Departure from 1991-2020 Average

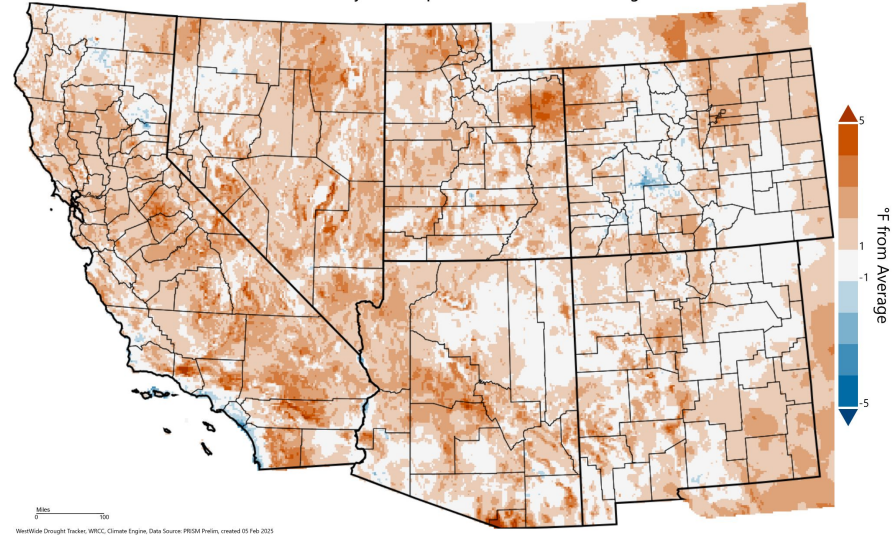


Image Captions:
Left - Water Year Temperature Percentile Ranking
Right - Water Year Departure from Normal Temperature
Data Courtesy [WestWide Drought Tracker](#)
Data over the past 4 months ending January 2025





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Tier 1 shortage conditions remain in effect on the Colorado River impacting water deliveries in Arizona for 2025
- Unregulated inflow into Lakes Powell is expected less than 75% of average this spring which will keep Lake Powell and Mead water levels depressed such that restrictions are likely through 2026.

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Many smaller wildfires have continued this winter in areas typically not prone to wildfire this time of year. This has stressed resources across Arizona heading into the typical spring/early summer wildfire season.

Other Impacts

- Ranchers in western Arizona have experienced a significant lack of forage growth due to absent rainfall the past 6-9 months. Supplemental feed has been 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](#)

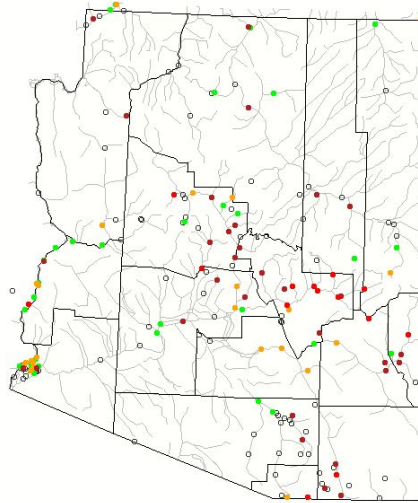




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Small and medium unregulated rivers and streams across most of Arizona were flowing at below to historically low levels
- Small to medium sized reservoirs remained at or 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, February 20, 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		

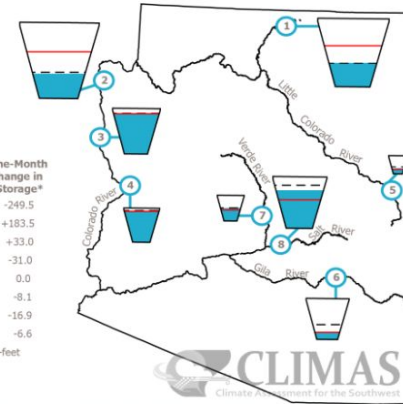
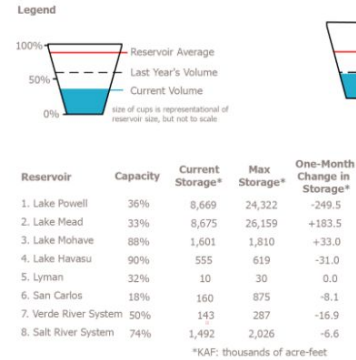


Figure 1. Arizona reservoir volumes for the end of December 2024 as a percent of capacity. The map depicts the average volume and last year's storage for each reservoir. The table also lists current and maximum storage, and change in storage since last month.

Image Caption:

Left: USGS 14 day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow valid Feb 20, 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 8% over much of the local area despite the frequently cooler winter temperatures.
- The threat of significant large wildland fires will be above normal across southeast Arizona in March with the potential for this area to expand north through the spring.

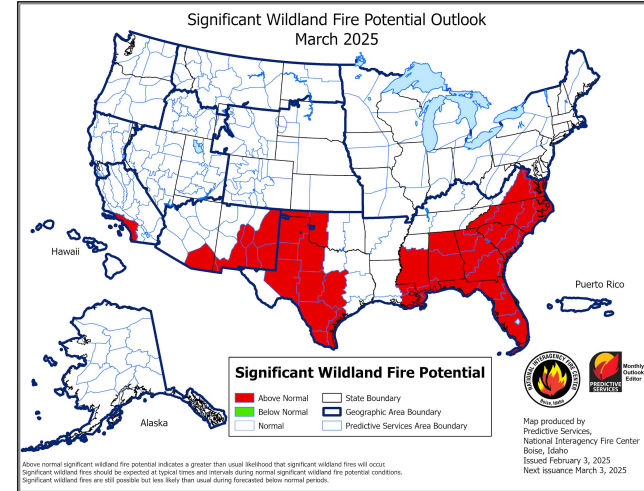
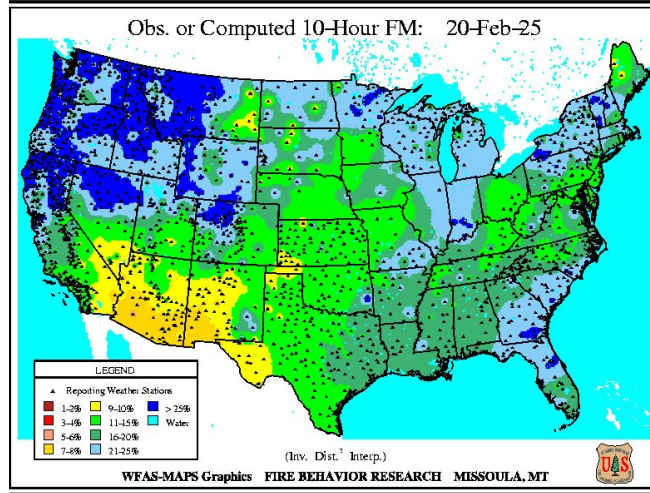


Image Caption: Left - 10-hour dead fuel moisture from [Wildland Fire Assessment System](#)
Right - [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for March 2025



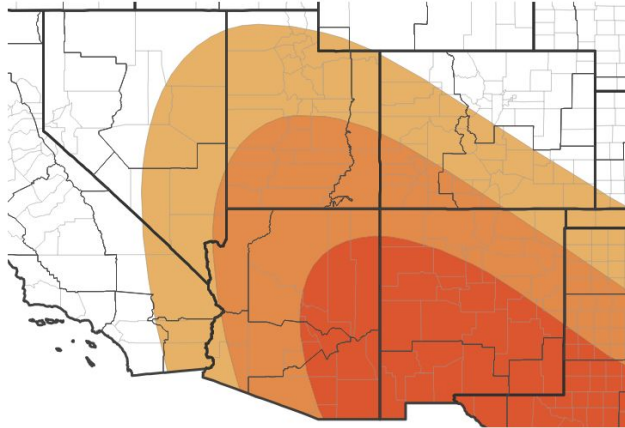


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Temperatures over the next 3 months (Mar-Apr-May) have slightly better chances of averaging at above normal levels
- Odds are slightly tilted towards total precipitation during the Mar-Apr-May time frame falling in a below normal category

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for March 1, 2025-May 31, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



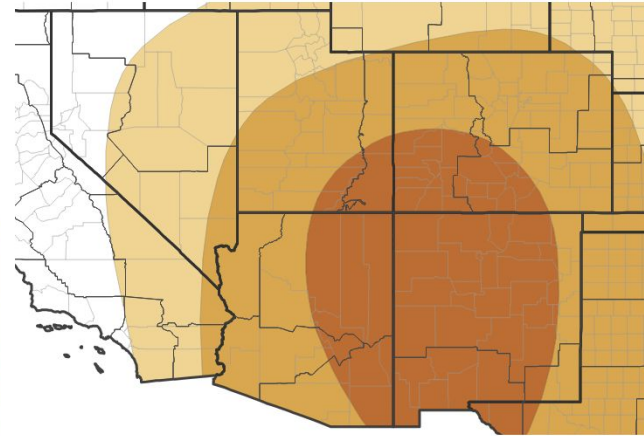
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 02/20/25

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for March 1, 2025-May 31, 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: 02/20/25





Drought Outlook

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

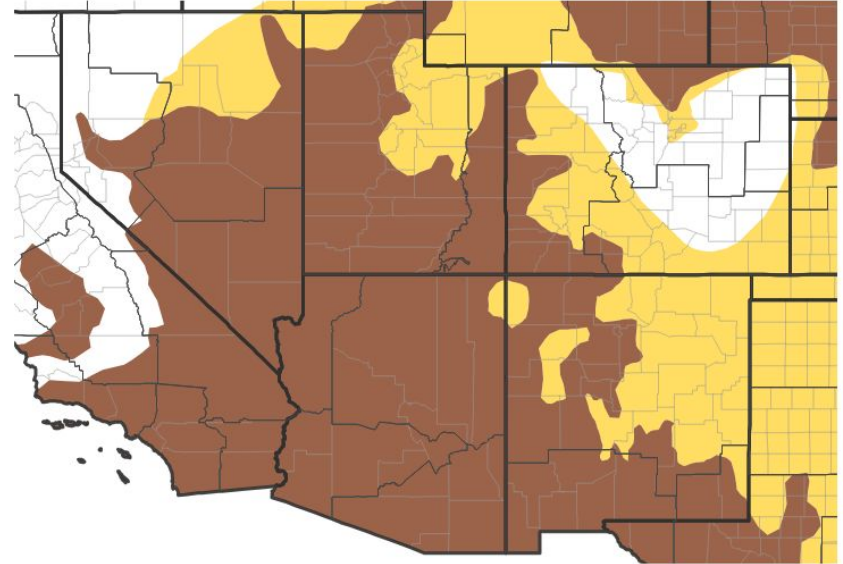
- Severe to Extreme Drought currently exists over central and western Arizona, as well as southeast California
- Precipitation the remainder of the winter and spring will be crucial for future drought trends
- Given a current weak La Nina and odds for drier than average weather through the spring, drought should persist or worsen over much of the region

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

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

