



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

Valid November, 16, 2024

Issued By: National Weather Service Phoenix

Contact Information: nws.phoenix@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated around December 21, 2024
 - 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
-
- Unusually warm and dry weather resulting in worsening drought
 - Severe to Extreme drought emerging and expanding through central and western Arizona, as well as far southeast California



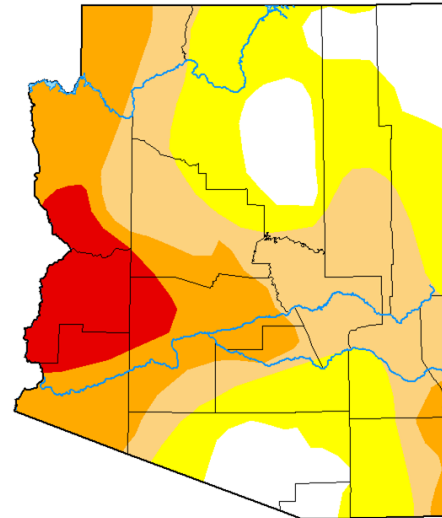


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

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

U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona



November 12, 2024
(Released Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	14.46	85.54	56.04	29.18	8.34	0.00
Last Week 11-05-2024	14.45	85.55	52.56	26.89	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 08-13-2024	17.24	82.76	20.84	1.92	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	5.62	94.38	53.37	33.54	5.75	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	27.62	72.38	39.91	4.61	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 11-14-2023	8.18	91.82	57.19	34.84	6.09	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

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 5 am MST November 12, 2024



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Phoenix

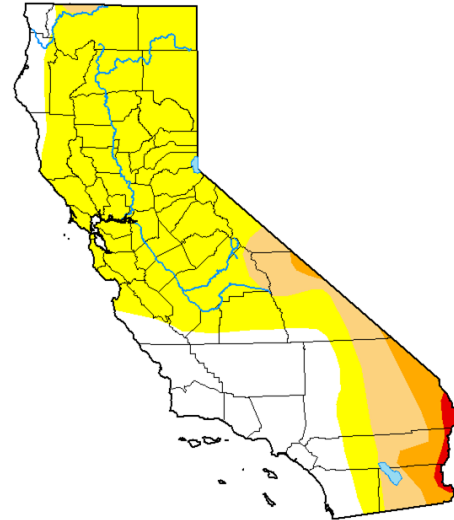


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- EXTREME TO SEVERE DROUGHT EXPANDING INTO SOUTHEAST CALIFORNIA
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: far eastern Imperial and Riverside counties
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: eastern Imperial and Riverside counties
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: western Imperial and central Riverside counties

U.S. Drought Monitor California



November 12, 2024
(Released Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	25.51	74.49	17.00	5.50	0.95	0.00
Last Week 11-05-2024	25.53	74.47	12.26	4.30	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 08-13-2024	77.29	22.71	5.32	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	96.65	3.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	28.40	71.60	10.67	0.08	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 11-14-2023	95.32	4.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	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>

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Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 4 am PST November 12, 2024



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

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Phoenix



Precipitation

- Rainfall across central and western Arizona, as well as SE California has been primarily less than 50% of normal the past 6 months
- The worst conditions were experienced in western Arizona where the driest monsoon on record occurred
- Rapid intensification of short term drought impacts have been seen since this summer

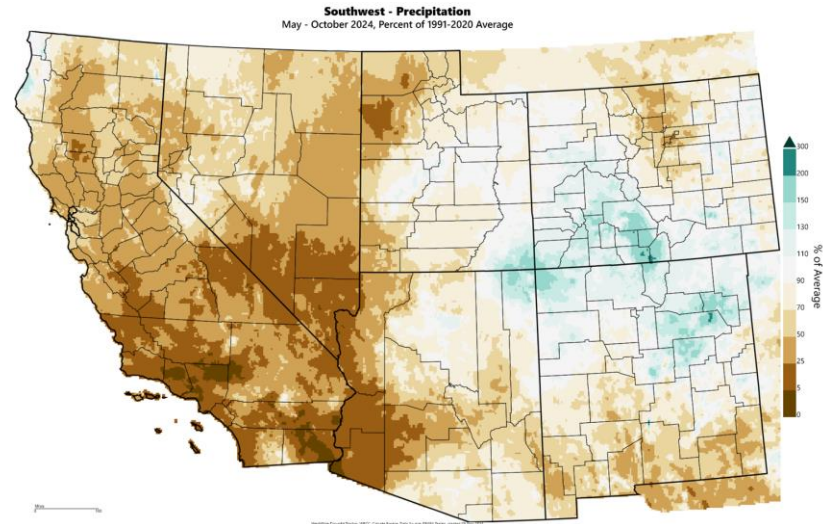
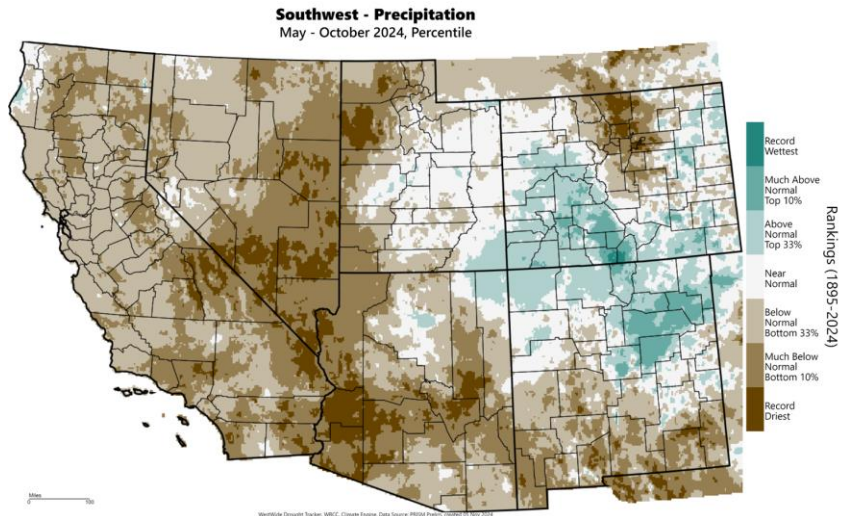


Image Captions:

Left - 6 Month Precipitation Percentile Ranking

Right - 6 Month Percent of Normal Precipitation

Data Courtesy [WestWide Drought Tracker](#).

Data over the past 6 months ending October 2024





Precipitation

- Despite wetter weather early in the year, the dry conditions are becoming more prominent since the monsoon season
- Many locations in central and western Arizona are now in a below normal category for the calendar year with less than 70% of normal this calendar year

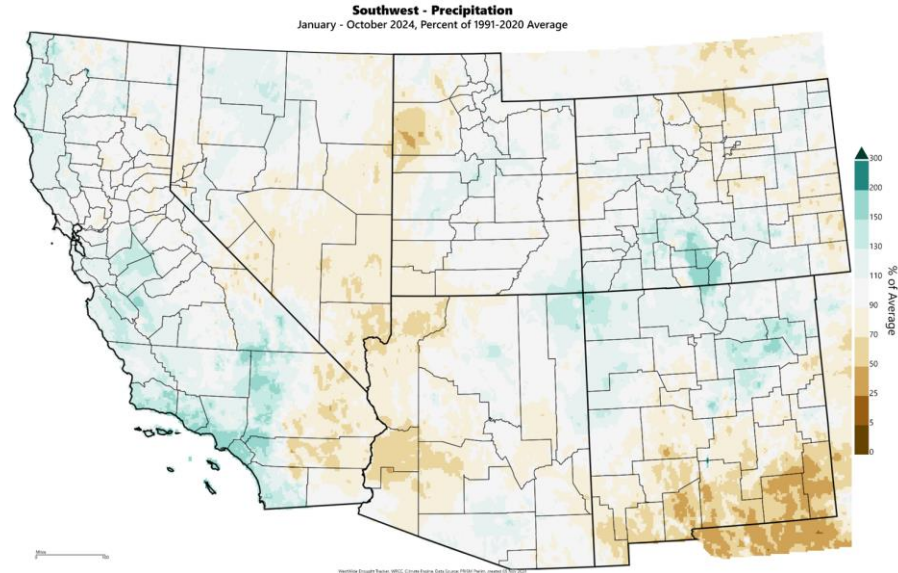
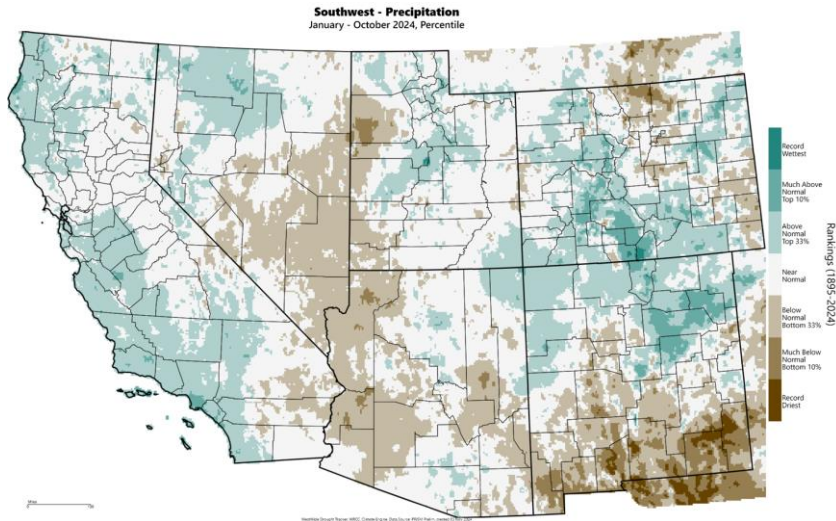


Image Captions:
Left - Year to Date Precipitation Percentile Ranking
Right - Year to Date Percent of Normal Precipitation
Data Courtesy [WestWide Drought Tracker](#)
Year to Date Precipitation ending October 2024

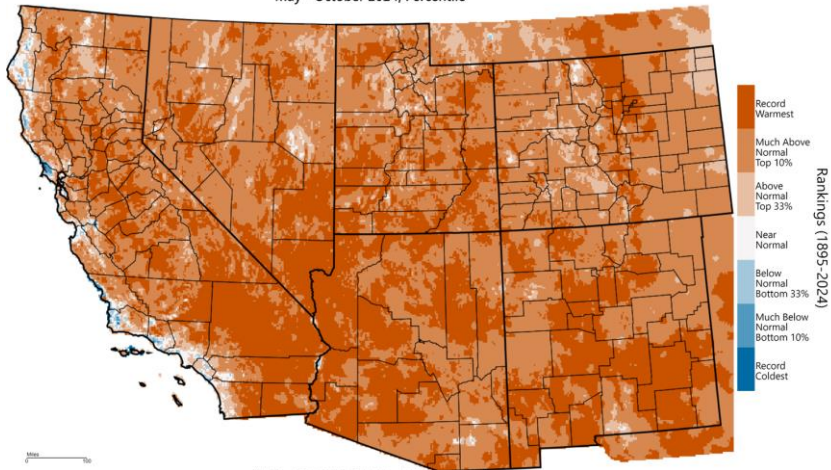




Temperature

- Much of the region has just experienced its hottest 6-month time frame in the entire historical record (since 1896) with average temperatures more than 2°F to 3°F above normal
- The record hot summer has heightened evapotranspiration losses and more rapidly depleted soil moisture

Southwest - Mean Temperature
May - October 2024, Percentile



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

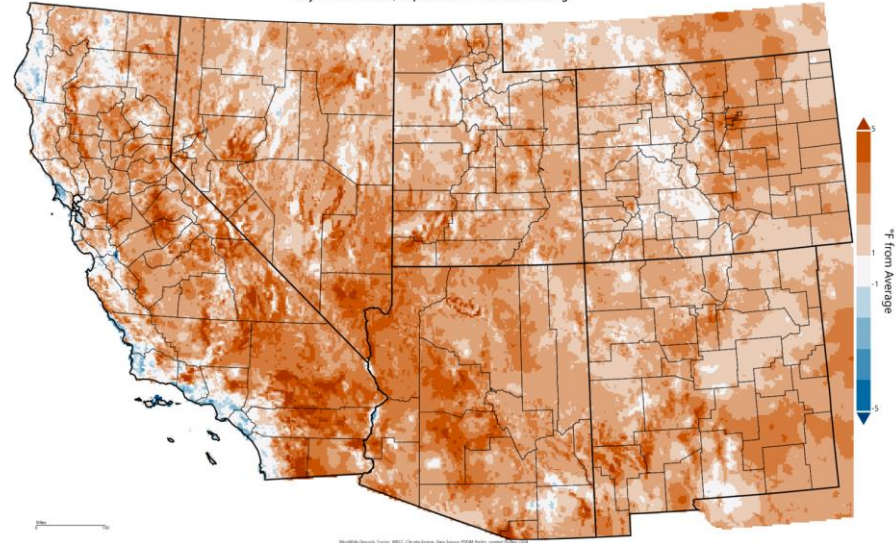


Image Captions:
Left - 6 Month Temperature Percentile Ranking
Right - 6 Month Departure from Normal Temperature
Data Courtesy [WestWide Drought Tracker](#)
Data over the past 6 months ending October 2024





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 will remain nearly steady through the end of the year 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 through the monsoon and into the fall season stressing resources across the state

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](#)

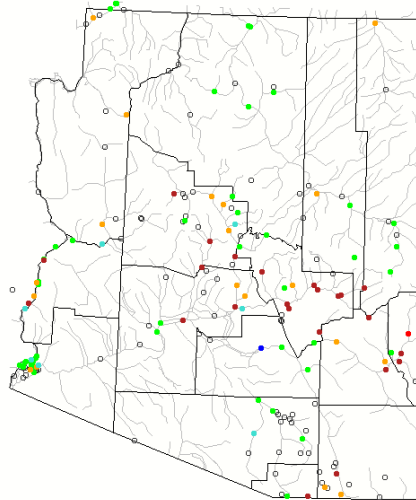




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Small, unregulated rivers and streams across central Arizona were generally flowing at below to much below normal 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, November 14, 2024



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		

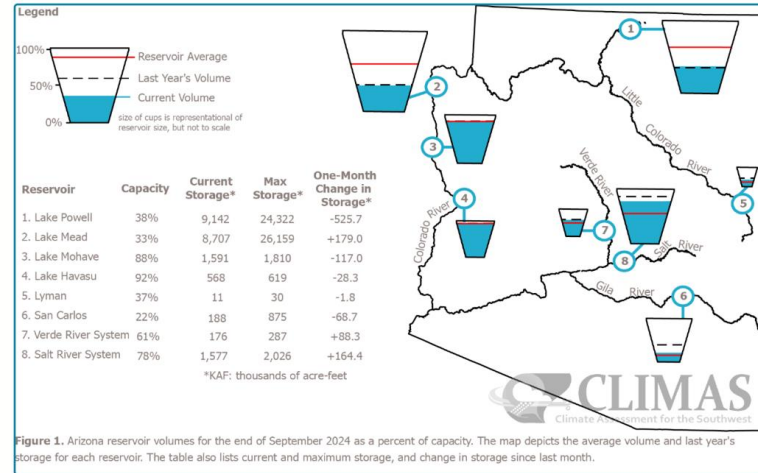


Figure 1. Arizona reservoir volumes for the end of September 2024 as a percent of capacity. The map depicts the average volume and last year's storage for each reservoir. The table also lists current and maximum storage, and change in storage since last month.

Image Caption:

Left: USGS 14 day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow valid Nov 14, 2024. 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](#).

- Recent dry conditions have pushed dead fine fuels below 8% 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 this autumn which is fairly unusual for this time of year

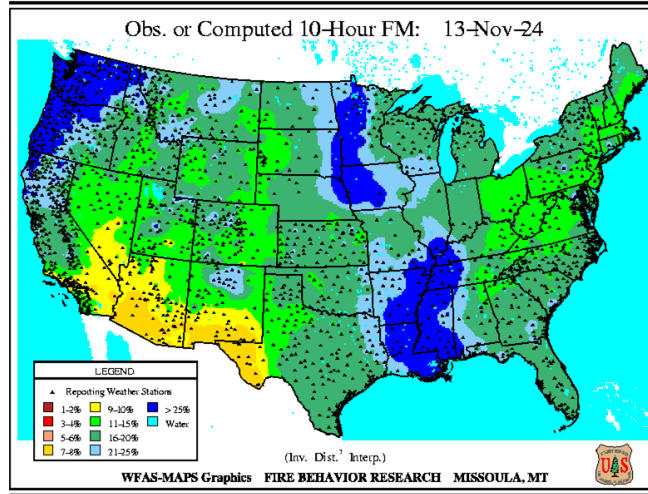


Image Caption: Left - 10-hour dead fuel moisture from [Wildland Fire Assessment System](#)

Right - [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for November 2024



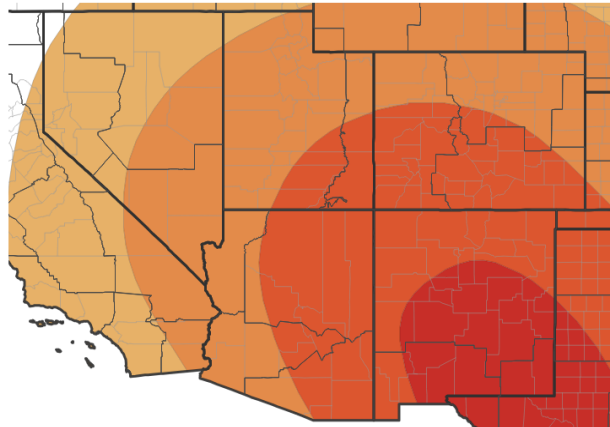


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Temperatures over the next 3 months (Nov-Dec-Jan) have a better chance of reaching above normal levels across Arizona and southeast California
- Odds are slightly tilted towards total precipitation during the Nov-Dec-Jan time frame falling in a below normal category

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for November 1, 2024-January 31, 2025



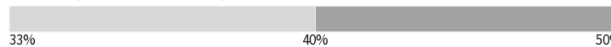
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



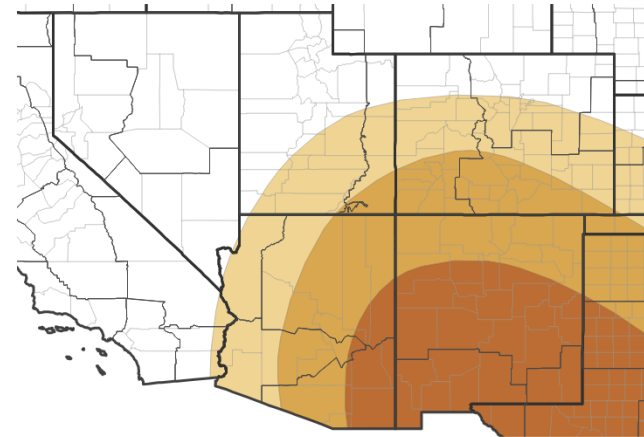
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



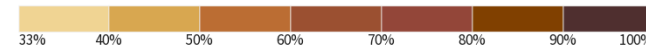
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/17/24

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for November 1, 2024-January 31, 2025



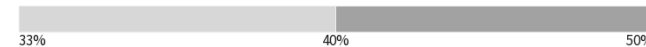
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 10/17/24





Drought Outlook

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

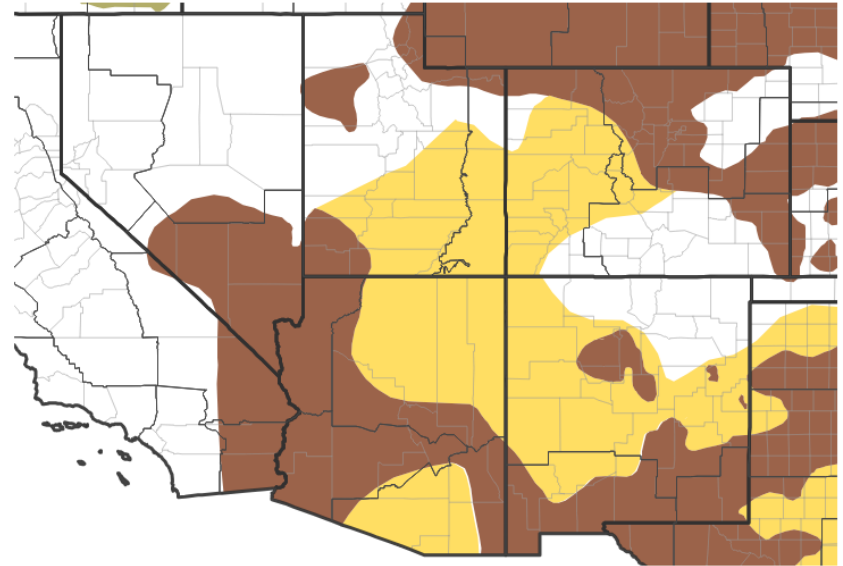
- Severe to Extreme Drought currently exists over portions of central and western Arizona, as well as far southeast California
- Winter precipitation will be crucial in future drought trends
- Given a weak La Nina forecast, drought could develop or worsen over parts of the region

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for October 31, 2024–January 31, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 10/31/24

