



Drought Information Statement for Mojave Desert and Eastern Sierra

Valid March 22, 2025

Issued By: WFO Las Vegas, NV

Contact Information: nws.lasvegas@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated April 17, 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/VEF/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/> for regional drought status updates.
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- Despite a handful of winter systems between late February and March, precipitation is still below normal for most of the area.
 - Drought conditions have negatively impacted native plants and wildlife in southern Nevada.



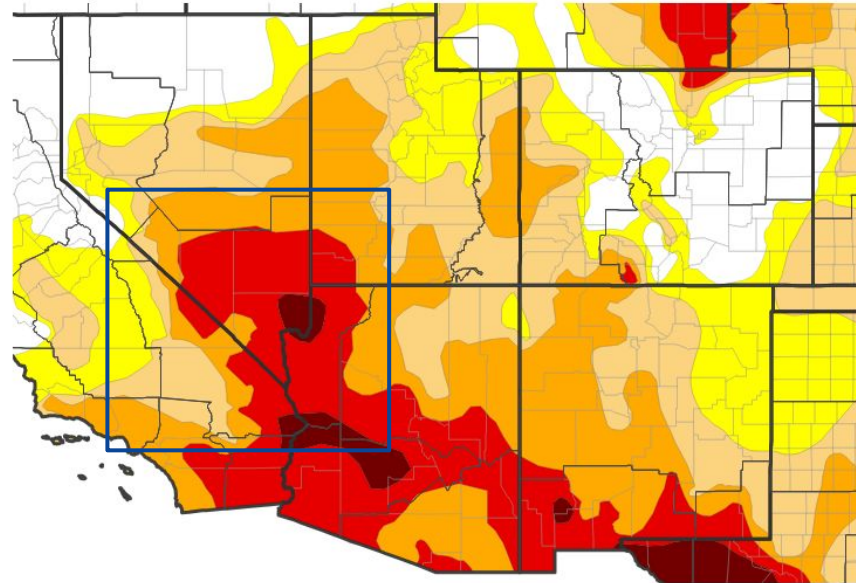


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: Areas around the Bill Williams River and Lake Mead.
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Most of Clark, Mohave, and Lincoln counties, central Nye County, eastern San Bernardino County, and Death Valley in Inyo County.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Esmeralda County, northern Lincoln County, sections of central Inyo and San Bernardino counties, and the Spring Mountains in Clark County.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Western San Bernardino County, sections of central Inyo County, western Esmeralda County.
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: The Eastern Sierra, Owens Valley, and White Mountains in Inyo County.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 03/18/25



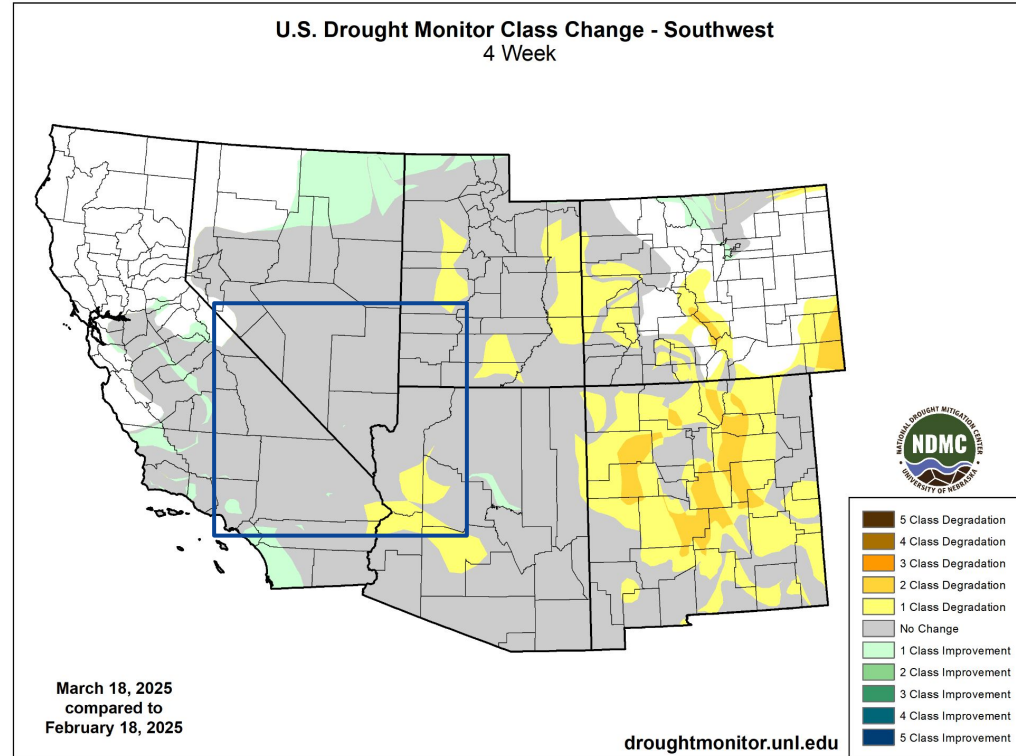


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.

- **Drought Worsened:** Along the Bill Williams River in southern Mohave County.
- **No Change:** The remainder of southern Nevada, southeastern California, and northwestern Arizona.
- **Drought Improved:** No widespread improvement was observed.

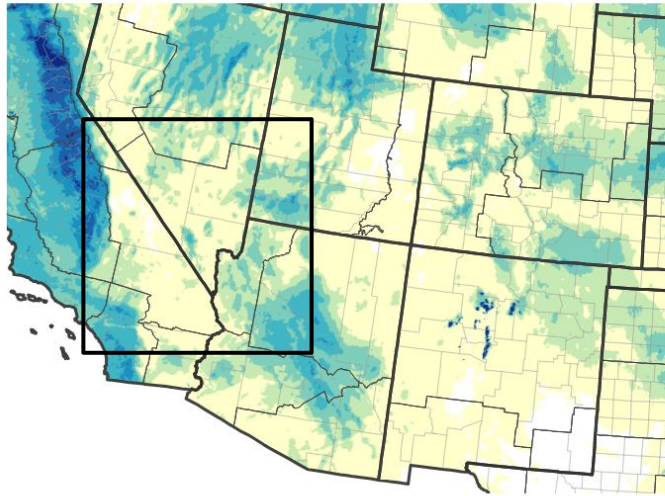




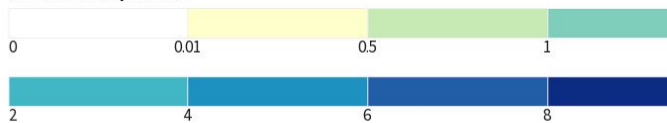
Precipitation

- The second half of February was largely dry.
- Despite two precipitation systems in early and mid March, precipitation remained below normal for most of the area.
- Several inches of snow fell over the southern Great Basin along with 1 to 2 feet over the Sierra and Spring Mountains.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

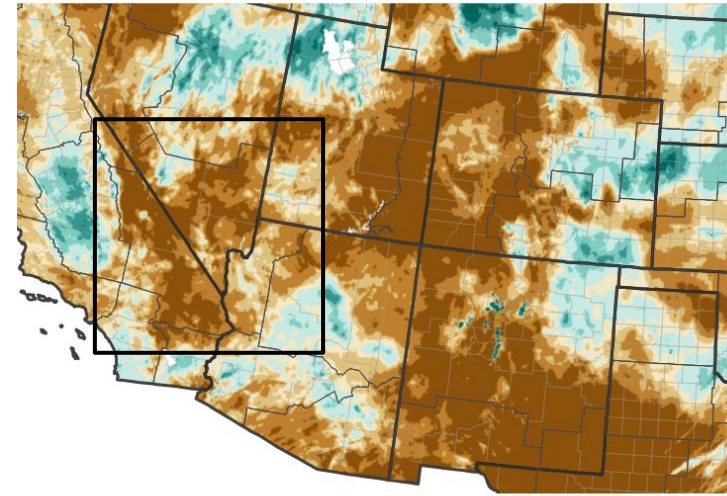


Inches of Precipitation

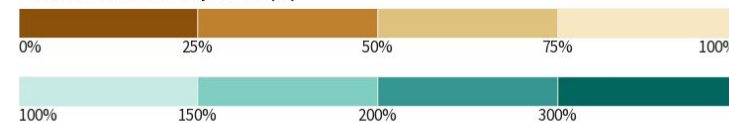


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 0

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 03/22/25

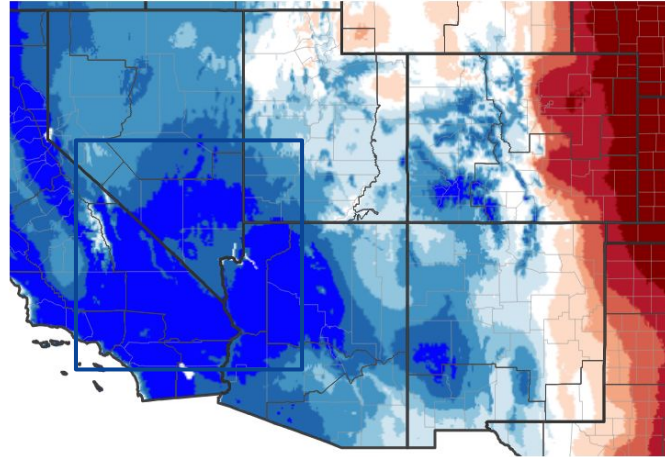




Temperature

- Maximum temperatures over the last 7 days have been below normal for most of the forecast area.
- Maximum temperatures over the last 30 days have been within a few degrees of normal across the area.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



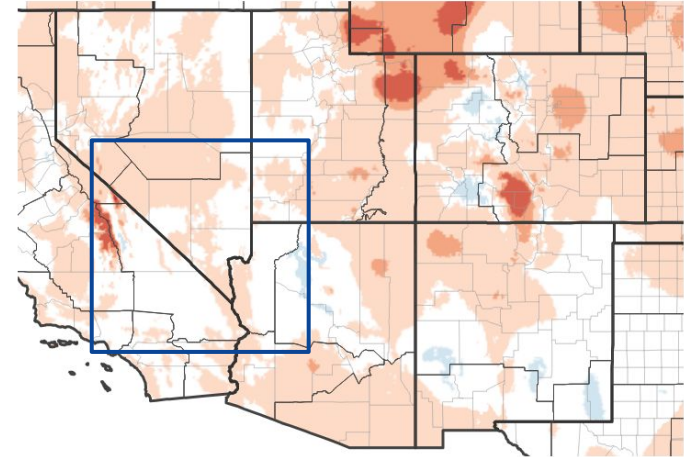
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 03/18/25

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 03/18/25





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- [Lake Mead is at 1,067.53 feet in elevation, or 34 percent full.](#)

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Accumulation of invasive plants at Cathedral Gorge State Park poses a serious fire hazard.

Other Impacts

- Bighorn sheep in Valley of Fire State Park have been hit hard by a lack of surface water and sparse desert flora. Water hauls to man-made reservoirs known as guzzlers are occurring to help the sheep. The current density of sheep in the nearby Muddy Mountains is unsustainable.
- Deer and elk in Spring Valley State Park did not migrate from their usual spring and summer habitat due to a lack of winter rain and snowfall, which limits their food availability this spring and summer.
- Lack of precipitation has led to an increase in invasive species and a reduction in the yield and quality of native plants at Cathedral Gorge State Park. This also impacts biodiversity of native animals, insects, and microorganisms.

Mitigation Actions

- Southern Nevada Water Authority switched to the spring landscape watering schedule.



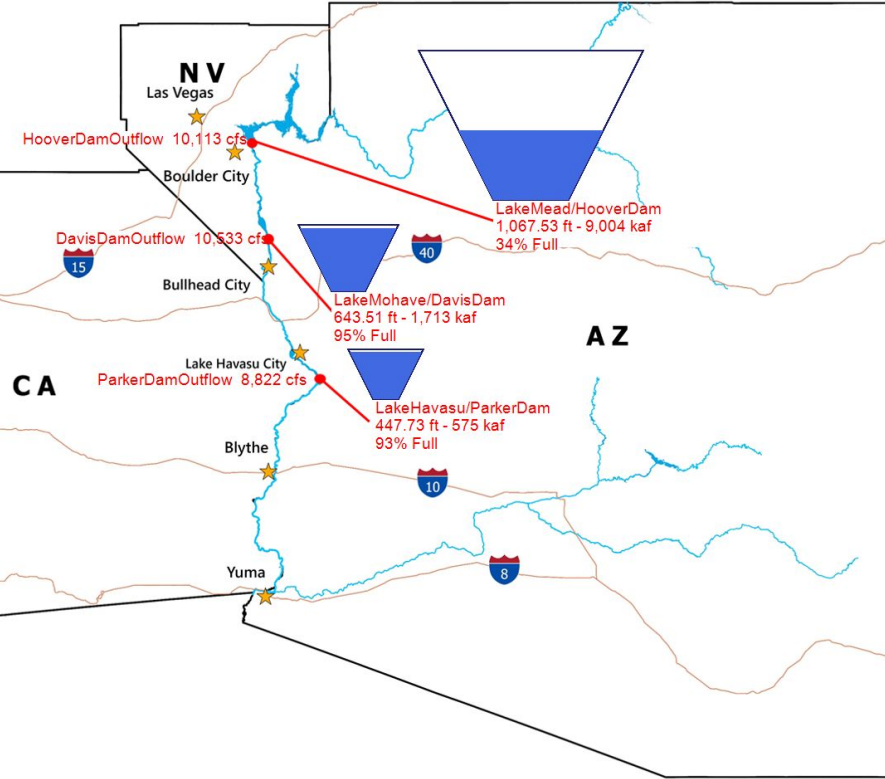
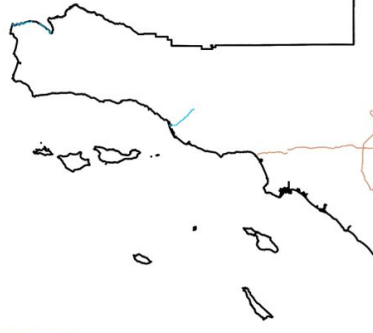


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Lake Mead is at 1,067.53 feet in elevation, or 34% full.
- Lake Mohave is at 643.51 feet in elevation, or 95% full.
- Lake Havasu is at 447.73 feet in elevation, or 93% full.
- The Bureau of Reclamation [24-month study](#) suggests decrease in Lake Mead late spring and summer. Lake Mohave and Lake Havasu remain steady.



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION



Data for: 03/18/2025
 Flows are daily averages as of midnight on the date above.
 Elevations and Storage Volumes are midnight values.
 Last updated on: 03/19/2025 5PM MST

LEGEND:
 cfs: Flows in cubic feet-per-second
 kaf: Storage volumes in thousand-acre-feet
 ft: Elevations in feet above mean-sea-level

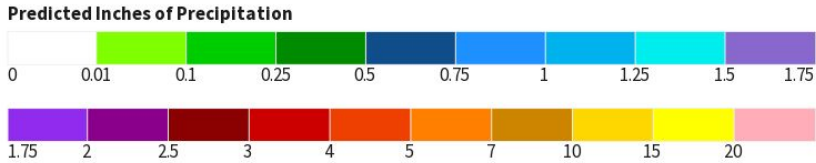
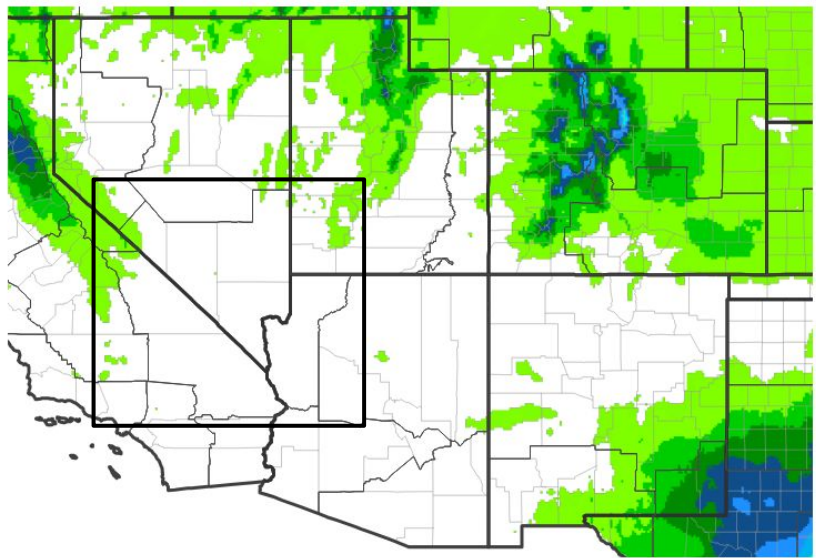




Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Light showers may reach parts of the Eastern Sierra and southern Great Basin.
- The remainder of the forecast area will remain dry.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for March 22, 2025–March 29, 2025



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 03/22/25

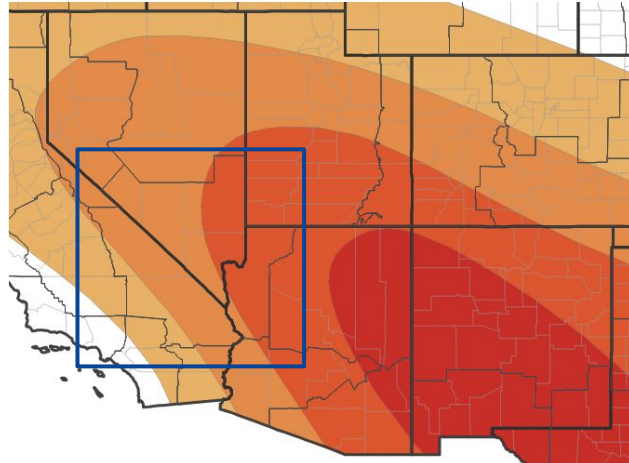


Long-Range Outlooks

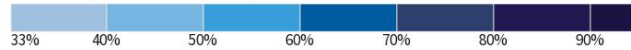
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- There is a 33 to 60% probability of above normal temperatures across the area through June 30, with the greatest probability in Mohave, Clark, and Lincoln counties.
- There is a 33 to 60% probability of below normal precipitation through June 30 for most of southern Nevada, southeastern California, and northwestern Arizona, with the greatest probability in northern Mohave County.

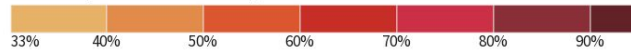
Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for April 1, 2025–June 30, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



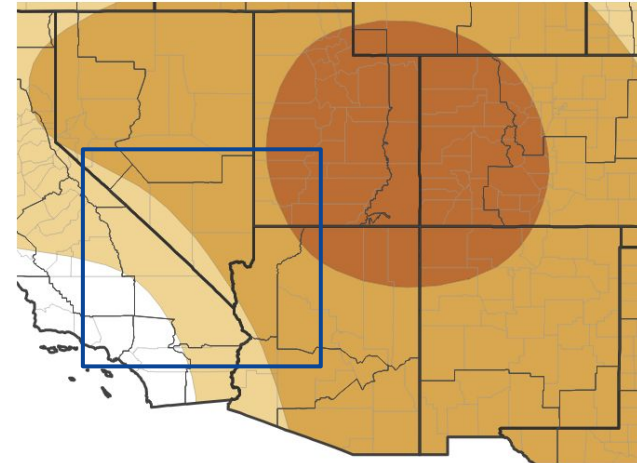
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



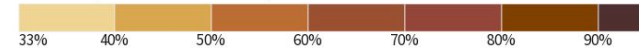
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 0

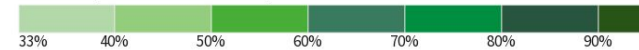
Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for April 1, 2025–June 30, 2025



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: 0



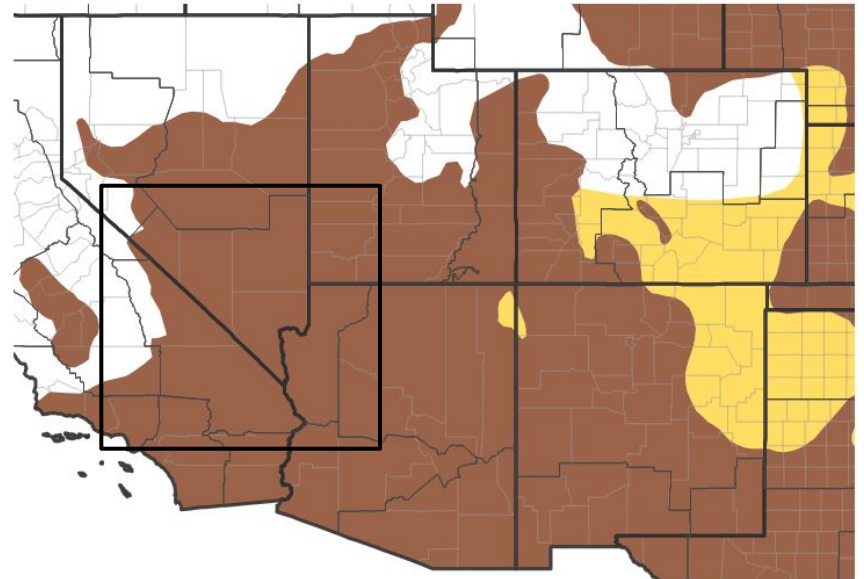


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is expected to persist through June 30 for most of southern Nevada, northwestern Arizona, and southeastern California outside of the Eastern Sierra, Owens Valley, and White Mountains.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for March 20, 2025–June 30, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 03/20/25

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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

National Weather Service
Las Vegas, NV