



Drought Information Statement for Mojave Desert and Eastern Sierra

Valid December 16, 2024

Issued By: WFO Las Vegas, NV

Contact Information: nws.lasvegas@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated January 16, 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.

- A hot dry summer and late start to winter precipitation worsened drought conditions across southern Nevada, southeastern California, and northwestern Arizona.
- Extreme drought has expanded into Las Vegas and southern Nevada and may continue to expand if the dry winter pattern persists.



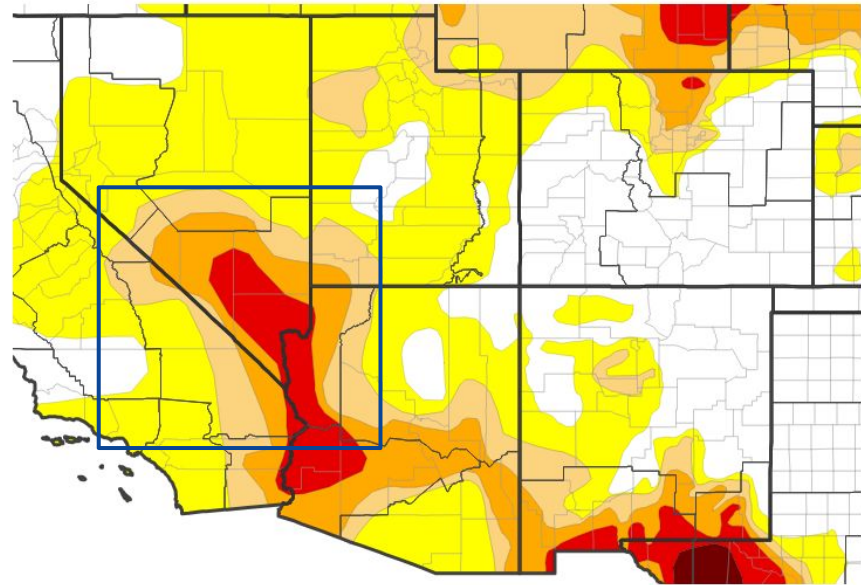


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Colorado River Valley, Clark County, southwest Lincoln County, and southern Nye County.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Southern Nye County, central Lincoln County, eastern Esmeralda County, central Mohave County, far eastern San Bernardino County.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Western Esmeralda County, northern Lincoln County, eastern Mohave County, eastern San Bernardino County, northern and eastern Inyo County.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Southwest Inyo County, western San Bernardino County, and far northern Lincoln County.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 12/10/24



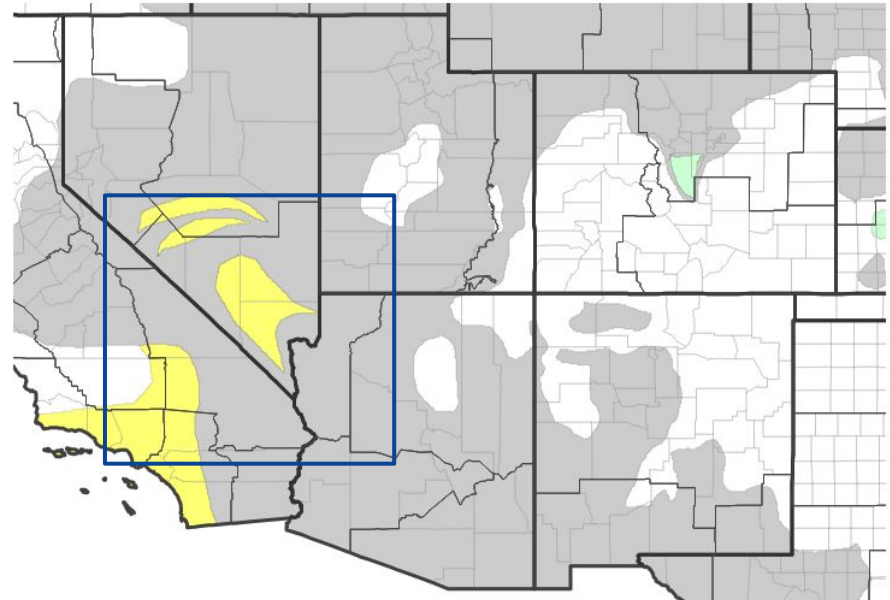


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

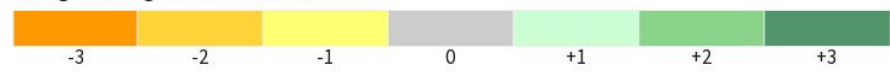
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southwestern United States

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - **Drought Worsened:** Most of Clark County, southwestern Lincoln County, southeastern Nye County, northern Esmeralda County, far southwestern Inyo County, and far western San Bernardino County.
 - **No Change:** Remaining areas of southern Nevada and southeastern California, all of northwestern Arizona.
 - **Drought Improved:** No improvement was observed.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week

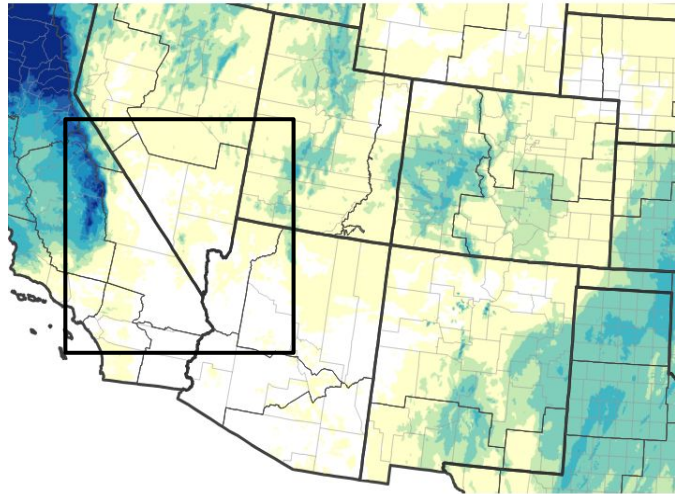




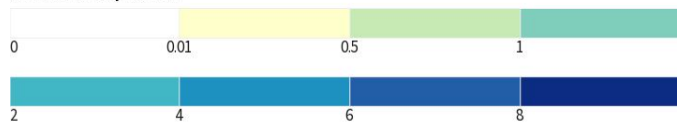
Precipitation

- Near to above normal precipitation fell in the Eastern Sierra, northern Owens Valley, White Mountains, Spring Mountains, and northern Lincoln County.
- Remaining areas of the Mojave Desert and southern Great Basin received little to no precipitation, far below normal for this time of year.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

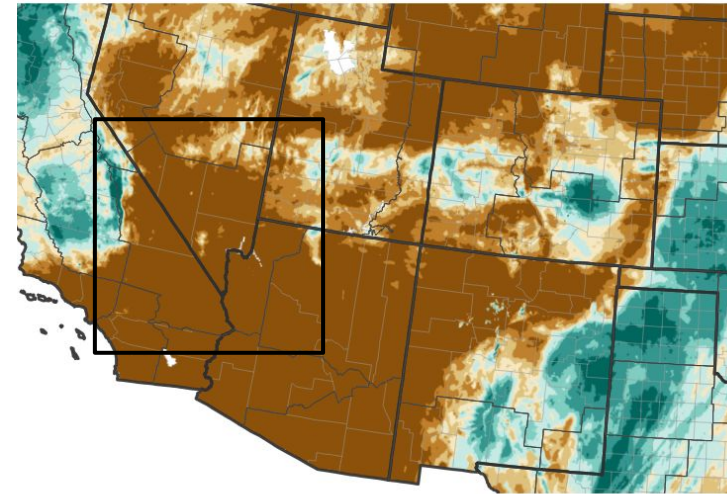


Inches of Precipitation

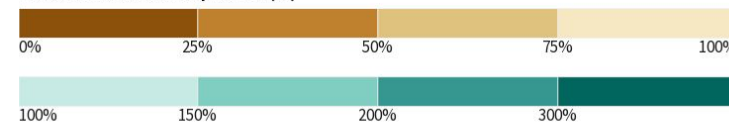


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 12/16/24

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: 12/16/24

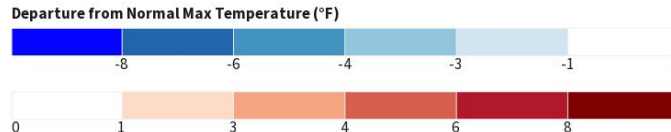
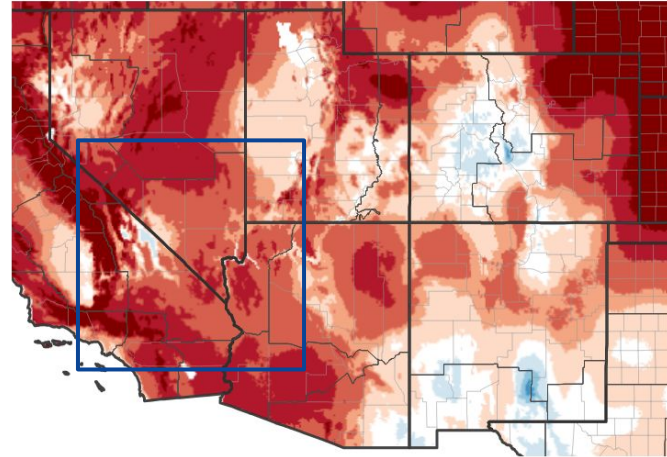




Temperature

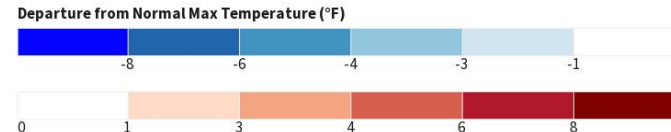
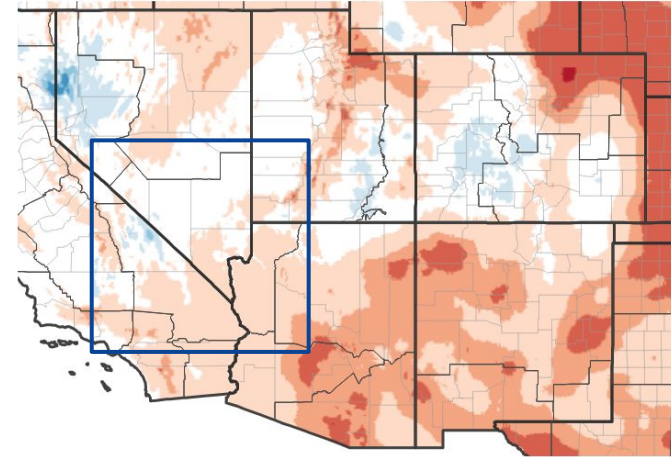
- Maximum temperatures over the last 7 days have been 4 to 10 degrees above normal for mid-December.
- Maximum temperatures over the last 30 days have been near to slightly above normal for most of southern Nevada, southeastern California, and northwestern Arizona.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 12/12/24

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 12/12/24





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- [Lake Mead is at 1,061.70 feet in elevation, or 33 percent full.](#)

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Mitigation Actions

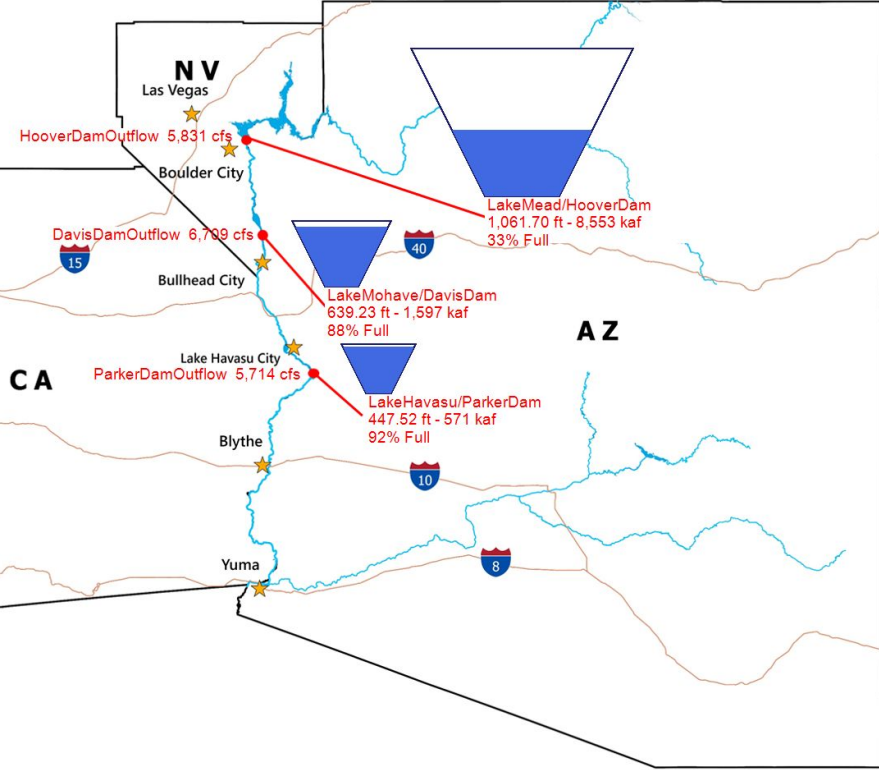
- [Watering restrictions are in place by the Southern Nevada Water Authority.](#)
- [Nevada small businesses eligible for federal disaster loans amid drought.](#)
- [USDA designates several counties Contiguous Natural Disaster Area for Drought.](#)





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Lake Mead is at 1,061.70 feet in elevation, or 33% full.
- Lake Mohave is at 639.23 feet in elevation, or 88% full.
- Lake Havasu is at 447.52 feet in elevation, or 92% full.
- The Bureau of Reclamation [24-month study](#) suggests a rise in Lake Mead and Mohave through March, and a slight decrease in Lake Havasu before rising again in the spring.



Data for: 12/15/2024
 Flows are daily averages as of midnight on the date above.
 Elevations and Storage Volumes are midnight values.
 Last updated on: 12/16/2024 2PM MST

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

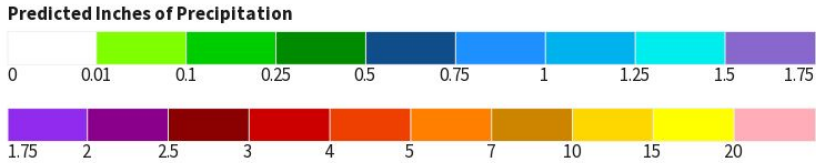
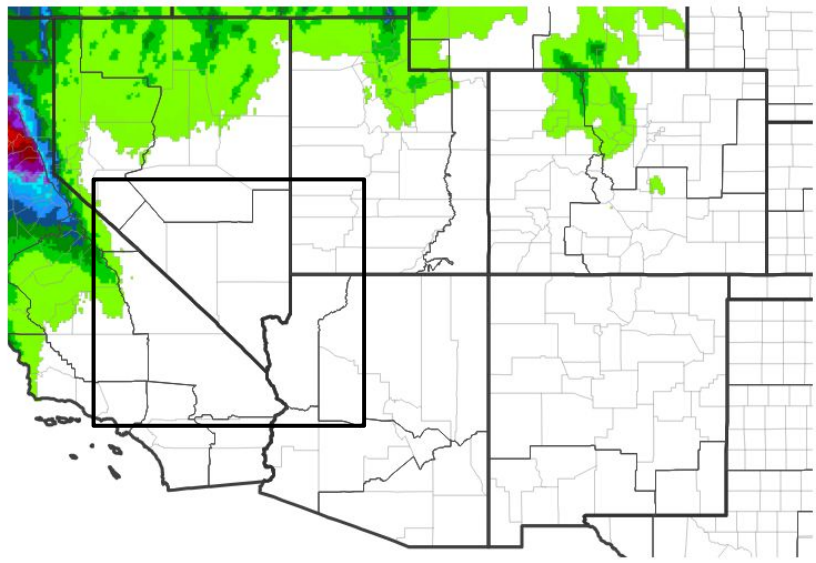




Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A ridge of high pressure is expected to maintain warm and dry conditions across most of the forecast area through December 23.
- There is a possibility for light precipitation including snowfall above 8000 feet in the Eastern Sierra on Saturday, December 21.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for December 16, 2024–December 23, 2024



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 12/16/24

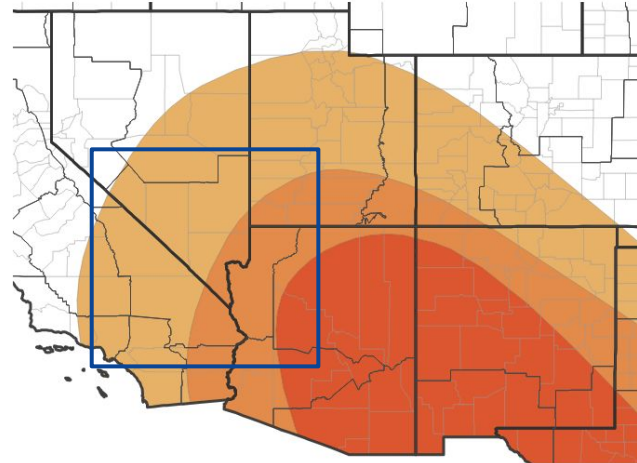


Long-Range Outlooks

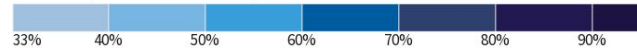
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- There is a 33 to 50% probability of above normal temperatures through February 28, 2025.
- In Mohave, Clark, southern Lincoln, and eastern San Bernardino Counties, there is a 33 to 50% chance of below normal precipitation through February 28, 2025. The remainder of the forecast area has equal chances of above or below normal precipitation.

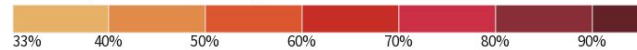
Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for December 1, 2024–February 28, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



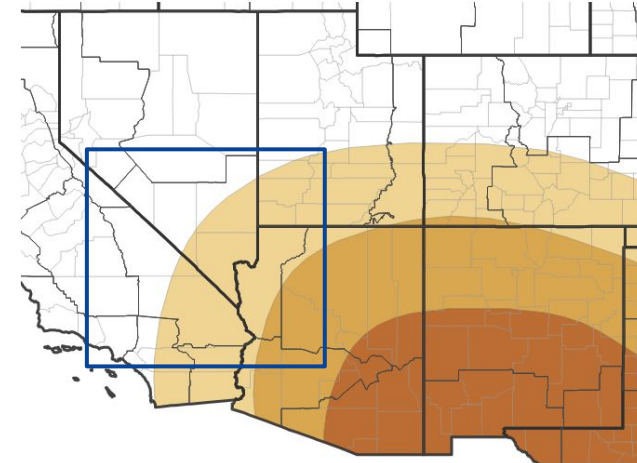
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



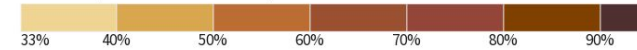
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 11

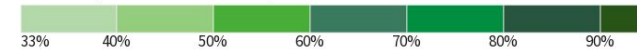
Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for December 1, 2024–February 28, 2025



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

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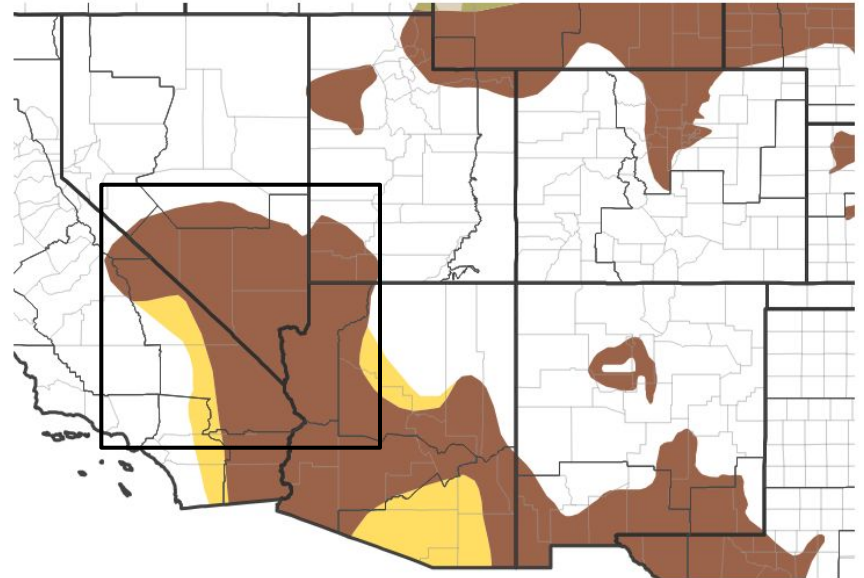


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is expected to persist through February 28, 2025 for most of southern Nevada, northwestern Arizona, and southeastern California.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for November 30, 2024–February 28, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 11/30/24

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