

Drought Status Report

May 2006

National Drought Summary by National Drought Mitigation Center



Upcoming NDWR-WMB Water Monitoring Activities:

Stream Gage Measurements

May 22 - 26

Precipitation Gage Measurements

April 26 – May 5

May 29 – June 5

Navajo Nation Snowpack Water Content Summary For Winter 2006

Snow Survey Site Name (*Chapter*)

Arbab's Forest (*Kinlichee*)

2.4 Total Water Content (in)

10.2 Avg. Total Water Content (in)

24% of Average

Beaver Springs (*Sanostee*)

11.1 Total Water Content (in)

49.2 Avg. Water Content (in)

23% of Average

Bowl Canyon (*Mexican Springs*)

7.9 Total Water Content (in)

44.8 Avg. Total Water Content (in)

18% of Average

Fluted Rock (*Kinlichee*)

2.0 Total Water Content (in)

15.2 Avg. Total Water Content (in)

13% of Average

Hidden Valley (*Two Grey Hills*)

5.2 Total Water Content (in)

35.9 Avg. Total Water Content (in)

14% of Average

Missionary Springs (*Two Grey Hills*)

3.2 Total Water Content (in)

17.6 Avg. Total Water Content (in)

18% of Average

Tsaile I (*Lukachukai*)

5.6 Total Water Content (in)

32.5 Avg. Total Water Content (in)

17% of Average

Tsaile III (*Lukachukai*)

9.3 Total Water Content (in)

47.7 Avg. Total Water Content (in)

19% of Average

In the West, the story continues to focus on the dry wet season felt in the Southwest. Arizona and New Mexico continue to share this plight. Most areas of both states are running at 50% of normal or worse for the Water Year (October 1, 2005, to date). Tucson has just completed their driest September to April on record, with only .79 inches being reported. In fact, that ranks as the driest 8-month period on record. Naturally, this has also led to the driest Water Year to date (Oct. 1–Apr. 30) on record as well. Deficits over the past year in central and southern Arizona are

running anywhere from 5 to 15 inches below normal (just 25-50% of normal). With this in mind, the region continues to worsen on this week's map as extreme drought (D3) expands westward slightly and a new area of exceptional drought (D4) is introduced in the southeast corner of the state and over into extreme southwestern New Mexico. It's looking like this region and the surrounding environment will be even more dependent this year on a good monsoon season.

National Drought Summary, May 2, 2006.
<http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>

April 2006 Southwest Climate Summary by CLIMAS

Drought – Recent rain and snow brought some short-term relief to the Southwest, but most of the region is in severe or extreme drought.

- The extremely low snowpack in most of the basins in Arizona and New Mexico has led to a streamflow forecast of well below average for 2006.
- Reservoirs have improved since last year, but many remain below average.

Fire Danger – The rain and snow received in mid-March may delay the start of the fire season, but the abundant fine dry fuels still point to a very active fire season.

Temperature – Since the start of the water year on October 1, temperatures over most of the Southwest have been above average.

Precipitation – Almost all of the

Southwest has been drier than average since the start of the water year, especially during the last four months.

Climate Forecasts – Forecasts show increased chances of warmer-than-average temperatures through September and equal chances of precipitation through June.

El Niño – Ongoing La Niña conditions are expected to continue over the next three to six months.

The Bottom Line – Drought is likely to persist throughout most of the Southwest following some temporary improvement in Arizona and northwestern New Mexico. Hydrological drought continues to affect some large reservoir levels, and agricultural drought conditions have persisted throughout most of the region.

CLIMAS Southwest Climate Outlook, April 26, 2006.
<http://www.ispe.arizona.edu/climas>

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Navajo Nation Snowpack Water Content Summary For Winter 2006 (Con't)

Whiskey Creek (*Two Grey Hills*)
10.0 Total Water Content (in)
48.4 Avg. Total Water Content (in)
21% of Average

Provisional Data Provided By Navajo Nation
Department of Water Resources - Water
Management Branch

Water Management Branch
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Useful Drought- Related Sites:

NWS-Climate Prediction Center
– Seasonal Outlook
www.drought.unl.edu

USGS Daily Stream Flow
www.water.usgs.gov

NDMC Drought Impact
Database Webpage
<http://droughtreporter.unl.edu>

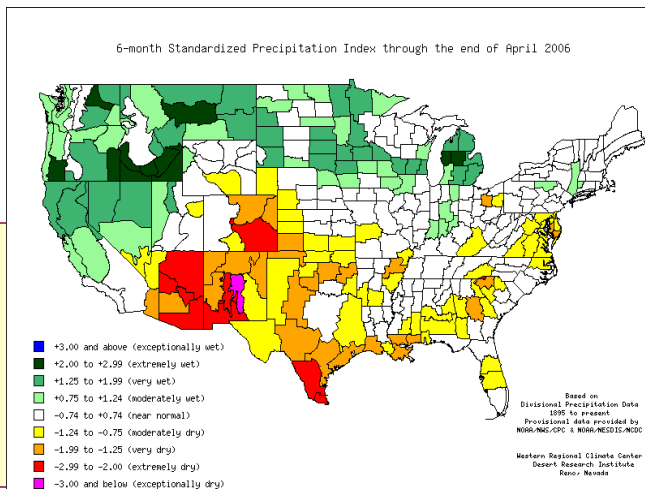
Western Regional Climate
Center
www.wrcc.dri.edu

CLIMAS Southwest Climate
Outlook
www.ispe.arizona.edu

Climate Division	6 Month SPI	Possible Drought Stage
NE AZ	-2.10	emergency
NW NM	-1.32	warning
SE UT	-0.47	alert

Drought Intensity Categories

NN Drought Stages		“US Drought Monitor” Stages
Normal	Normal	D0
Alert	Moderate	D1
Warning	Severe	D2
Emergency	Extreme- Exceptional	D3 & D4



6-Month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)

Navajo Nation Drought Task Force Activities

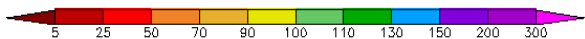
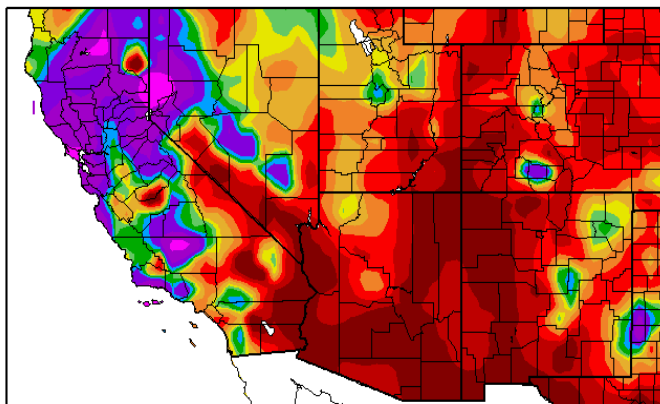
Prior to and since the Commission on Emergency Management passed a resolution re-affirming the Navajo Nation Emergency Drought Declaration State of Emergency on March 8, 2006, the Navajo Nation Drought Task Force, which consists of representatives from the Divisions of Public Safety, Health, and Natural Resources, has been involved in several activities related to the drought. The Task Force has met on a regular basis to draft a budget for drought emergency funds from the Navajo Nation. It hopes to bring the budget before the Navajo Nation Council during a special session or the upcoming summer session. The Task Force has also developed a drought presentation that will help educate Navajo people on the drought conditions affecting the Navajo Nation.

A Few Words about Streamflow and Snowpack

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (April 1), in Arizona, “Forecasts call for much below median stream flow levels during April and May. March precipitation was near average to above average across the river basins, while basin precipitation for the water year remains extremely low ranging from 35 to 48 percent of average according to SNOTEL readings. The remaining April 1 snowpacks are melting out and are much below the 30-year average in all basins.” The snowpack for the Chuska Mountains in AZ and NM was 30% of average.

<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/cgibin/bor2.pl?state=az&year=2006&month=4&format=text>

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
4/8/2006 – 5/7/2006

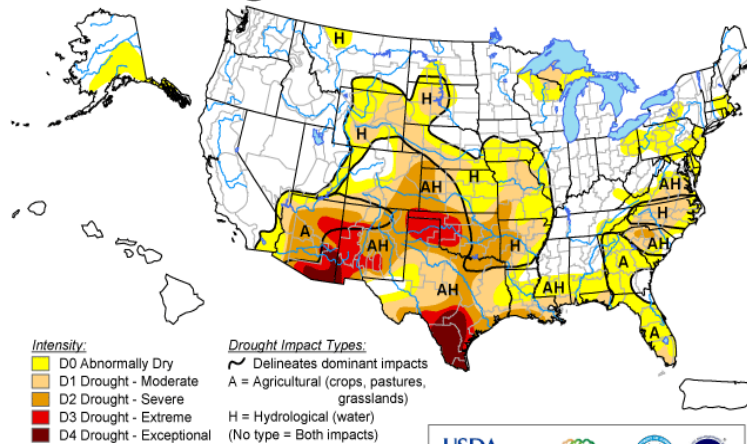


Generated 5/8/2006 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

U.S. Drought Monitor

May 2, 2006
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



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<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

Please Conserve Water