

April 4, 2006

National Drought Summary

by National Drought Mitigation Center

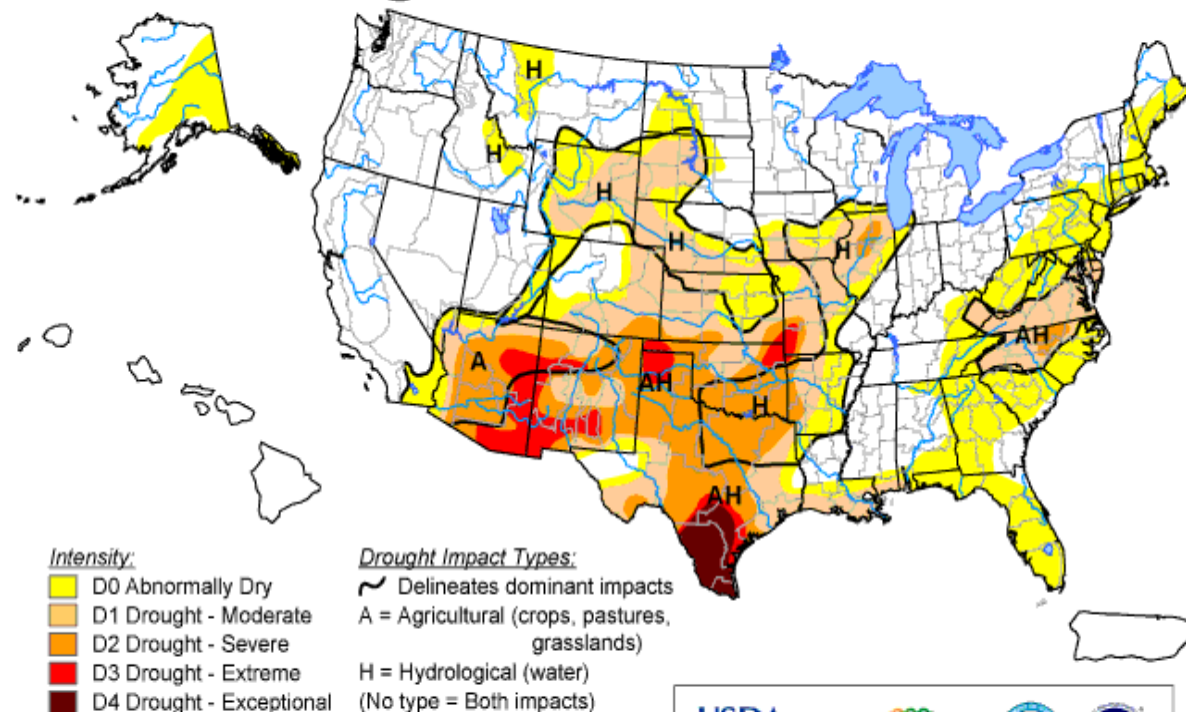
The Rockies, Southwest, and California: More Pacific storms slammed into the West, bringing widespread valley rains and mountain snows from the Continental Divide to the coast. The heaviest precipitation fell in areas outside of ongoing drought concerns, although up to 1 inch of precipitation fell in northern Arizona. The area of D2 to D3 drought remained intact in Arizona and New Mexico, as large snow and rain deficits persisted. Flagstaff's total snowfall this season of 42 inches was 57 inches below normal. To the north, in contrast, enough rain and snow fell in western Montana to erase the lingering D1 area there.

Looking Ahead: Weather that could have an impact over ongoing dry or drought areas during the next 2 weeks: 1) a low pressure system crossing the Plains on Thursday April 6, bringing rain to the central Plains and then the Ohio Valley; 2) low pressure developing April 8 spreading widespread rain over the dry areas of the Southeast; 3) **more storm systems in the next 2 weeks spreading precipitation eastward from the West, resulting in above-normal rainfall for the West, northern Plains, and upper Midwest (NNWMB emphasis);** 4) below-normal rainfall over the South and East Coast beyond the first 5 days of the period.

Taken from <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>

U.S. Drought Monitor

April 4, 2006
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:
 D0 Abnormally Dry
 D1 Drought - Moderate
 D2 Drought - Severe
 D3 Drought - Extreme
 D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:
 ~ Delineates dominant impacts
 A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
 H = Hydrological (water)
 (No type = Both impacts)

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

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



Released Thursday, April 6, 2006
 Author: Douglas Le Comte, CPC/NOAA

The Navajo Nation

Drought Status Report

Navajo Nation Water Management Branch (NNWMB)
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April 2006

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.

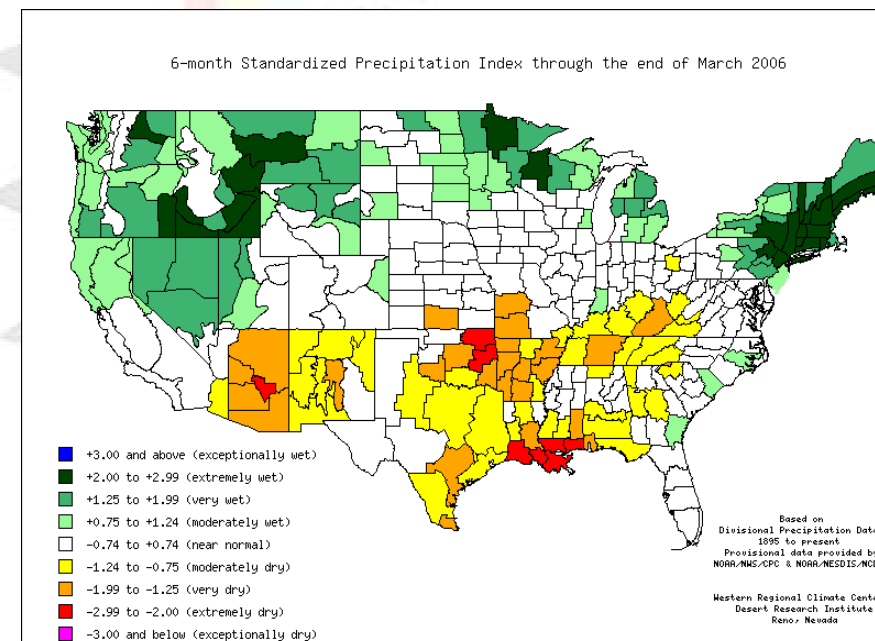
CLIMAS Southwest Climate Outlook, March 21, 2006.
<http://www.ispe.arizona.edu/climas>



Climate Division	6-Month SPI	Possible Drought Stage
Northeast Arizona	-1.75	D3
Northwest New Mexico	-0.85	D2
Southeast Utah	-0.08	D0

Dryness Category (See Map on back page)
 D0 ... Abnormally Dry
Drought Intensity Categories
 D1 ... Moderate Drought D3 ... Extreme Drought
 D2 ... Severe Drought D4 ... Exceptional Drought
 Source: Western Regional Climate Center and U.S. Drought Monitor

Navajo Nation Water Management Branch Water Monitoring Activities:	
Stream Gaging	March 20 - 24
Precipitation Gage Measurements	March 27 – April 5 April 26 – May 5



6-month Standardized Precipitation Index through the end of March 2006

- +3.00 and above (exceptionally wet)
- +2.00 to +2.99 (extremely wet)
- +1.25 to +1.99 (very wet)
- +0.75 to +1.24 (moderately wet)
- 0.74 to +0.74 (near normal)
- 1.24 to -0.75 (moderately dry)
- 1.99 to -1.25 (very dry)
- 2.99 to -2.00 (extremely dry)
- 3.00 and below (exceptionally dry)

Based on Divisional Precipitation Data 1995 to present
 Provisional data provided by NOAA/NWS/CPC & NOAA/NESDIS/NCDC
 Western Regional Climate Center
 Desert Research Institute
 Reno, Nevada

President of Navajo Nation signs Re-affirmation of Drought Emergency; Governor of NM declares State of Drought

On March 8, 2006, the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management passed a resolution re-affirming the Navajo Nation Emergency Drought Declaration State of Emergency dated March 26, 2002. The resolution was signed by Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr. The Declaration recommends that all branches of the Navajo Nation implement their respective drought responses pursuant to the Navajo Nation Drought Contingency Plan (October 2003).

On March 14, 2006, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson declared a state of drought in New Mexico (Executive Order 2006-012). This declaration orders state agencies to implement water-saving strategies and prepare to help with drought relief efforts across the state.