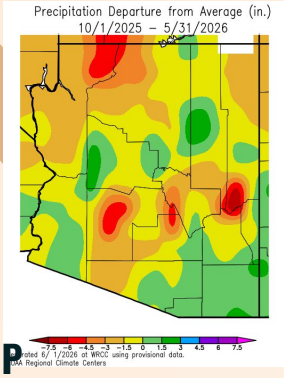
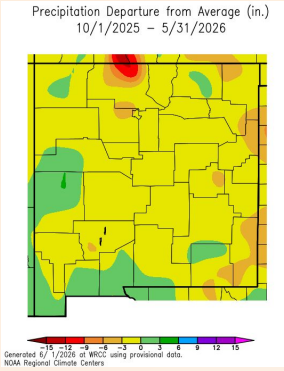
SOUTHWEST COORDINATION CENTER

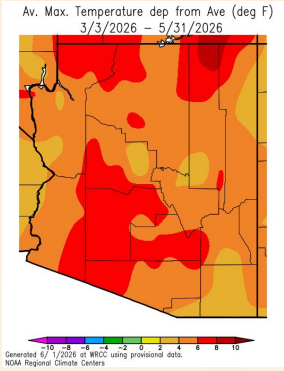
Seasonal Outlook

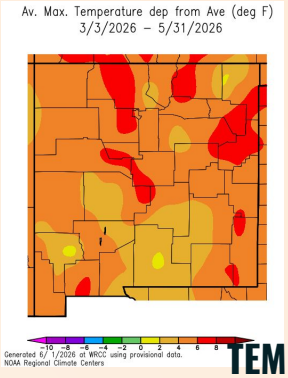
June – September 2026





PRECIP

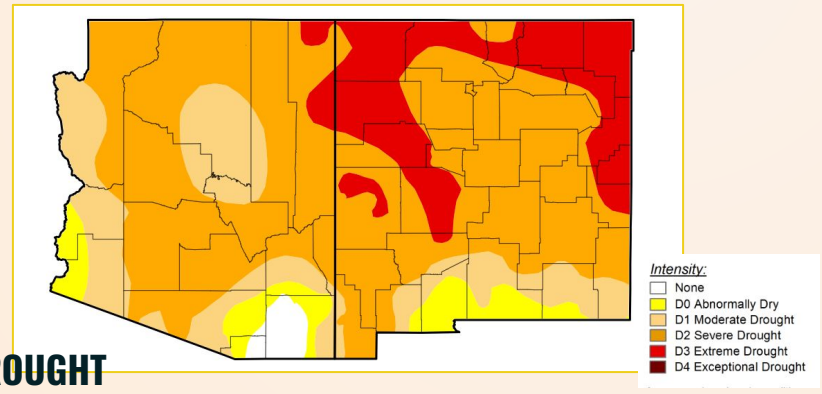




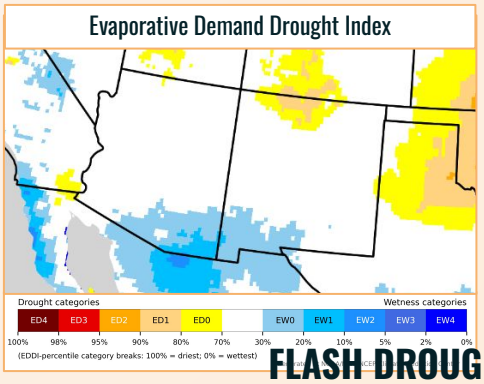
TEMPS

Weather

As May comes to a close, temperatures across the region remained near normal overall, with western Arizona experiencing slightly warmer-than-average conditions. Precipitation was more variable, with southeast Arizona, the Continental Divide, and southern New Mexico receiving the best moisture, with many locations receiving upwards of 150 percent of normal rainfall for the month. In contrast, most other areas, particularly western Arizona, recorded below-normal precipitation. Lightning activity was also abundant, with both wet and dry thunderstorms contributing to an uptick in initial attack activity across the region



DROUGHT



FLASH DROUGHT

Fuels

Drought continues to intensify across the Southwest. Most of Arizona and New Mexico are now classified in D1–D2 (Moderate to Severe) drought, with significant areas of D3 (Extreme) drought in New Mexico. These deepening drought levels reflect persistent warmth, limited late-spring precipitation, and ongoing drying across regional fuels as we move into June.

Evaporative demand drought index values across the Southwest show near-to-above-normal evaporative demand, indicating continued atmospheric drying pressure on fuels. Warm anomalies are expected to remain dominant through the early summer period, limiting relief ahead of the monsoon. Even if intermittent monsoonal surges occur, elevated temperatures will sustain high evaporative demand, supporting ongoing fuel dryness and above-normal fire danger.

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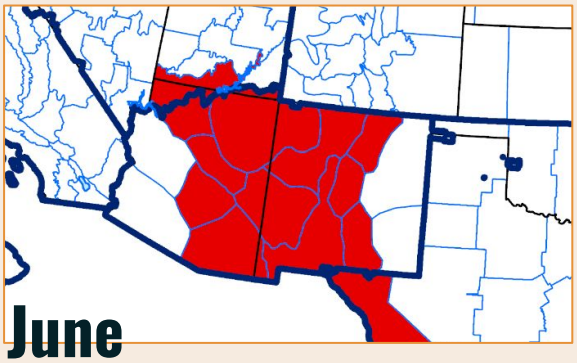
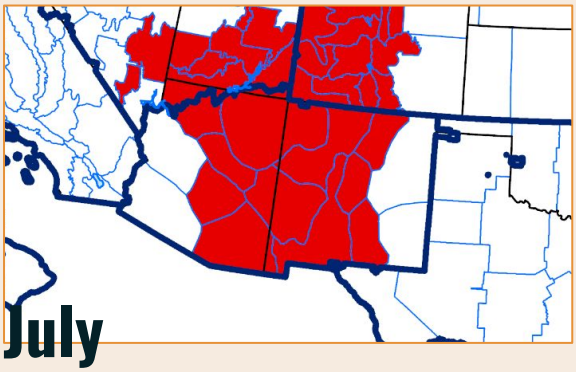
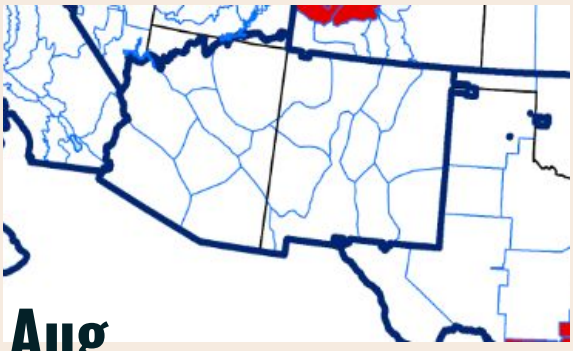
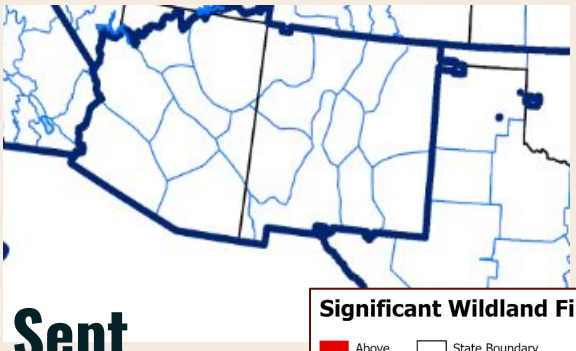
Fire Potential









Fire potential is expected to peak in late June through early July, when critically dry fuels, above normal temperatures, and periodic dry thunderstorms may align to support rapid growth. Seasonal guidance for precipitation provides a more encouraging signal, with ensembles leaning toward near to above normal precipitation across the Southwest. This wetter tendency is more pronounced along the Rim, southeastern Arizona and parts of New Mexico, suggesting the potential for a more active and beneficial monsoon period.

Probabilities strongly favor above normal temperatures across Arizona, New Mexico, and much of the western United States, with some areas carrying a 60-70 percent likelihood of warmer than average conditions in July. As we move into August and September, the threat of above normal temperatures shifts northwest slightly each month.

By September, fire potential should steadily decrease across the region as widespread monsoonal rainfall and shorter days help moderate fuels. However, lingering pockets of dry fuels in western Arizona and areas that experience below-average monsoon precipitation could still support isolated fire activity into early fall.

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