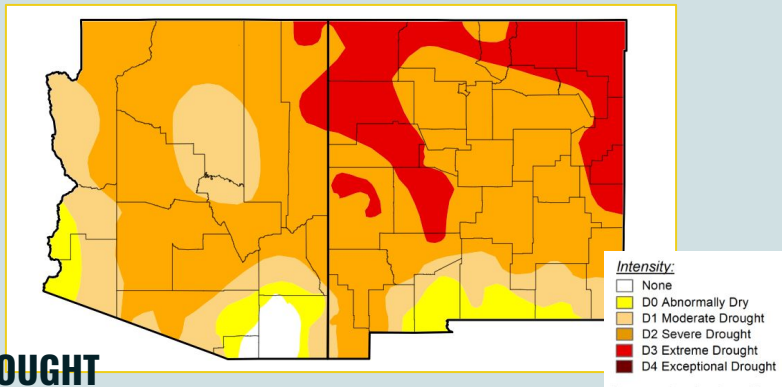


PRECIP

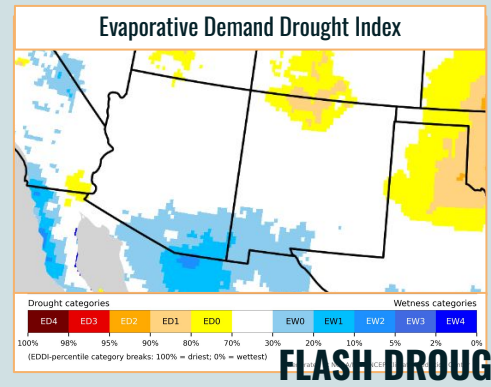
SNOWPACK

Weather

The Desert Southwest saw spring closeout with snow water equivalent at record minimums. A typical active troughing pattern persisted but to a lesser degree, as the La Nina pattern transitioned quickly to ENSO-neutral from April into May and rapid warming in the Pacific took hold. While May saw a few instances of wetting precipitation—and even a few inches of snow in some areas—it only stood to act as temporary relief to an incredibly parched atmosphere. Temperatures were near to above normal most areas, with some of the mountain zones seeing temperatures dip just slightly below seasonal averages. The spring pattern brought a myriad of active weather, with a few significant wind events, as well as several bouts of wet/dry storms.



DROUGHT



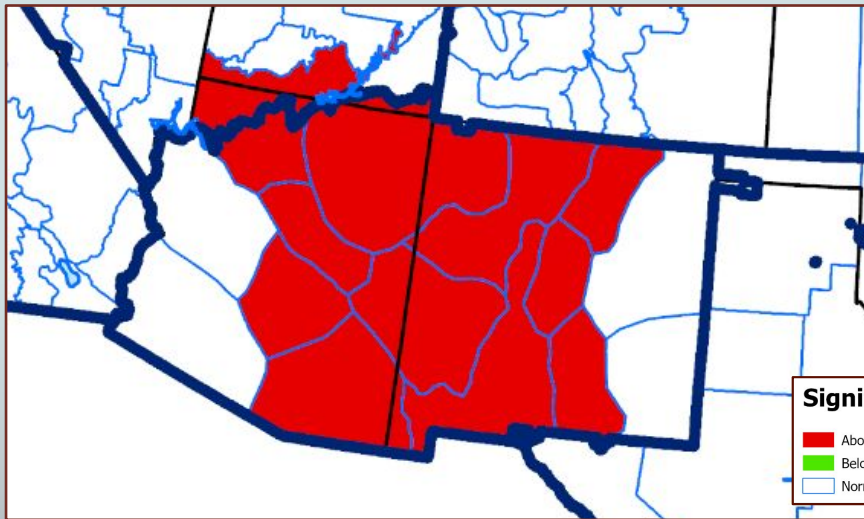
FLASH DROUGHT

Fuels

Portions of New Mexico saw an expansion of Extreme Drought on the U. S. Drought Monitor, especially across western and eastern areas. Arizona retains a localized area in the southeast where drought is not present, but otherwise saw expansion of severe drought. With larger fuel classes hitting record dryness in March, they have been quick to rebound back into 85th Percentile+ after bouts of moisture. Green-up across the eastern plains continues but was delayed, on top of above average fine fuel loading. In the higher elevations, green-up is ongoing, but is occurring amongst standing dead grasses uncompacted from lack of snow. In addition to drought stress, multiple forests with expansive mortality of pinyon-juniper and Ponderosa pine have been identified in portions of the Lincoln, Coronado, and Gila NFs. Mortality, dry fuels, continuity, and fuel loading are contributing to elevated and high fire danger, which will remain in place until consistent moisture arrives with the monsoonal pattern.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Significant Fire Potential</p> | <p>A few large fires (> 100 acres) occurred in May, where there is above normal fine fuel loading and enhanced dryness in heavier fuels. Any significant wind event with minimum humidity below 30% will have the potential to cause large fires.</p> |
| <p>Rx Fire Implications</p> | <p>Despite occasional moisture, Rx planners should monitor increasing fire danger in the warmer/drier weather that precedes influxes of moisture. Low snowpack and widespread mortality exist in many mid-higher elevations and will need to be factored into any large-scale burn plans.</p> |

Fire Potential



June

Significant Wildland Fire Potential

- Above
- Below
- Normal
- State Boundary
- Geographic Area Boundary
- Predictive Services Area Boundary

With fuels quick to rebound into states of enhanced combustibility, significant fire potential will exist across much of the central Desert Southwest. This takes into account slow green-up across much of the mountain areas and their adjacent highlands, where standing cured carrier fuels exist uncompacted by snowfall. While events of moisture will occur, they will be preceded by very dry and windy conditions, creating high fire danger. A transition to monsoonal pattern is likely to take shape during June but more consistent moisture will likely hold off until closer to the end of the month.

*Significant Fire Potential: The likelihood a fire situation will require mobilization of additional resources from outside the area in which the fire situation originates.