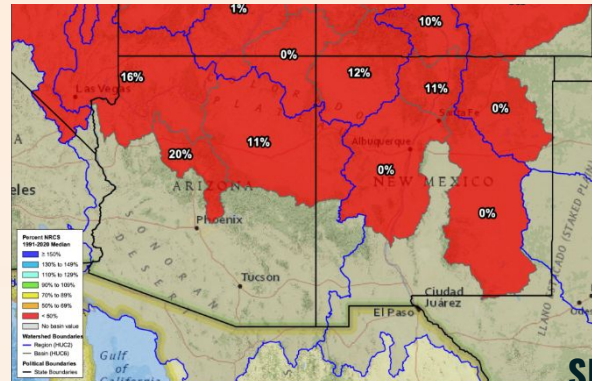


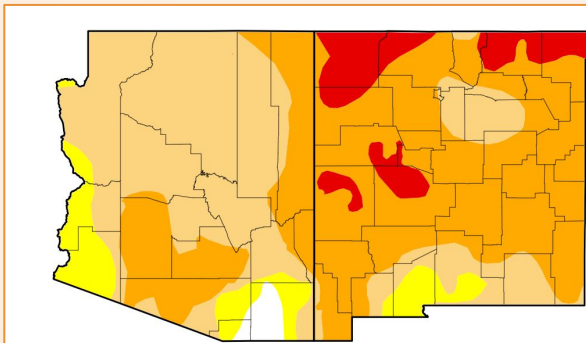
PRECIP



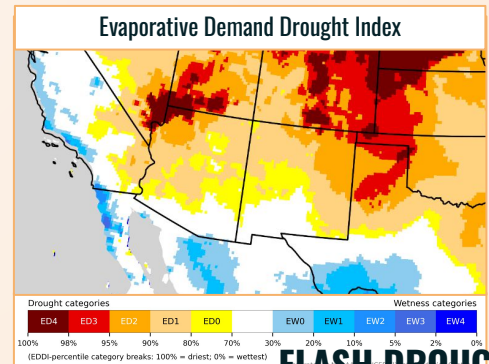
SNOWPACK

weather

The Desert Southwest saw some relief from March's dry conditions and historic heat in April. Multiple rounds of wetting precipitation was seen across much of the high terrain, while the lowlands were largely missed. Atmospheric thirst caused quick vegetative rebound in the days following these events. Even with a few rounds of precipitation, snowpack remained well below average across all basins in the Southwest. With the decay of La Nina, the region will likely see continued bouts of precipitation but also a few more windy and dry events as active troughing persists. This will result in near the slight above normal precipitation for the month and a few stints of below normal temperatures.



DROUGHT



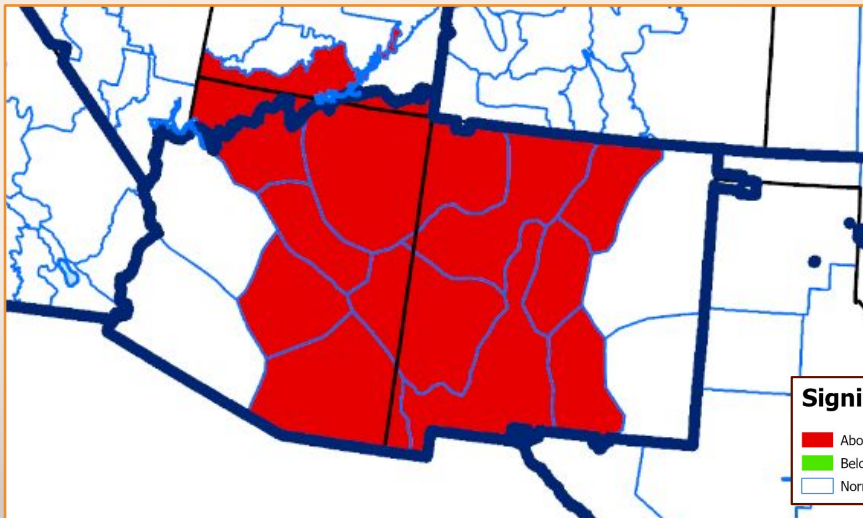
FLASH DROUGHT

Fuels

Portions of New Mexico saw an expansion of Severe Drought on the U. S. Drought Monitor and an introduction of Extreme Drought. Arizona retains localized areas where drought is not present, but it is anticipated that drought conditions will form. While drought is likely to persist through May, some severity improvement can be expected. With larger fuel classes hitting record dryness in March, they have been quick to rebound back into 85th Percentile+ after bouts of moisture. Above normal fuel loading continues across the eastern plains, where green up amongst the grasslands has been slow. Green-up across the higher elevations 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.

<p>Significant Fire Potential</p>	<p>A few large fires (> 100 acres) occurred in April, 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



May

Significant Wildland Fire Potential

- Above
- Below
- State Boundary
- Geographic Area Boundary
- Normal
- 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.

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