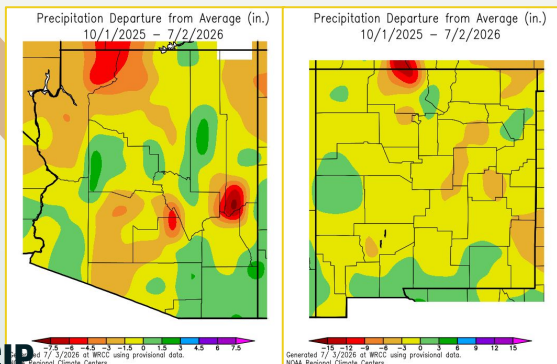
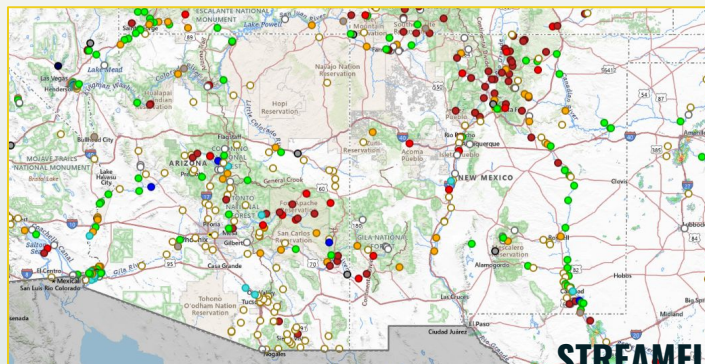


Monthly Outlook

July 2026

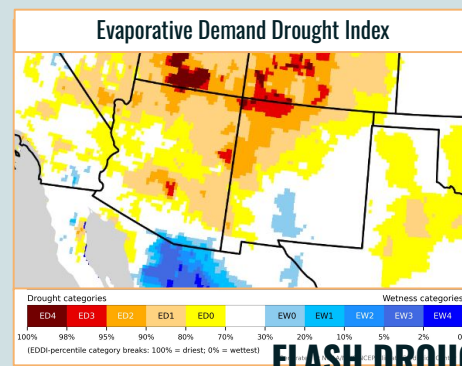
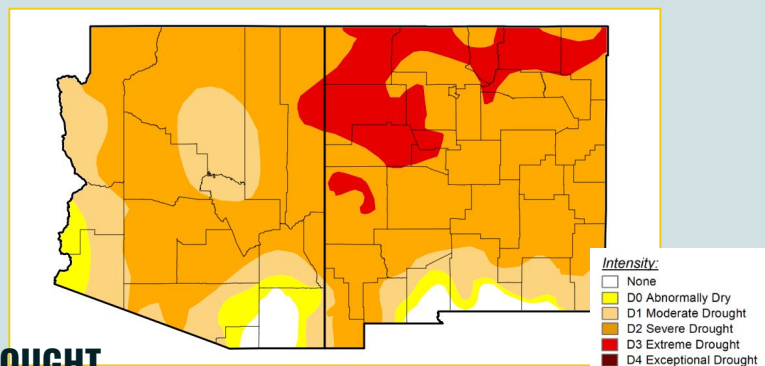


PRECIP



STREAMFLOW

Continued warming of the Pacific saw a shift into El Niño in June but weather remained uncharacteristic of the oscillation. A subseasonal angular momentum wave, (remnant of the MJO wave) in the Indian Ocean contributed to a very anomalous trough passage across the Intermountain West late in the month. The uncommon weather pattern brought strong winds to much of Arizona and New Mexico, where gusts of 55 to 65 MPH occurred across a two day period. While June saw instances of wetting precipitation, it only stood to act as temporary relief to a parched atmosphere. Temperatures were above normal most areas, with the eastern plains seeing temperatures dip just slightly below seasonal averages. Rapid strengthening of El Niño will allow it to become the primary climate driver in July, and tropospheric cooling in the north Atlantic will lead to a more persistent setup monsoonal pattern.



FLASH DROUGHT

Portions of New Mexico saw a reduction of Extreme Drought on the U. S. Drought Monitor, especially across central areas. Arizona retains a localized area in the southeast where drought is not present, with inclusion a small area in southern New Mexico. 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 has occurred, but is 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 later in the month with the monsoonal pattern.

Monthly Outlook

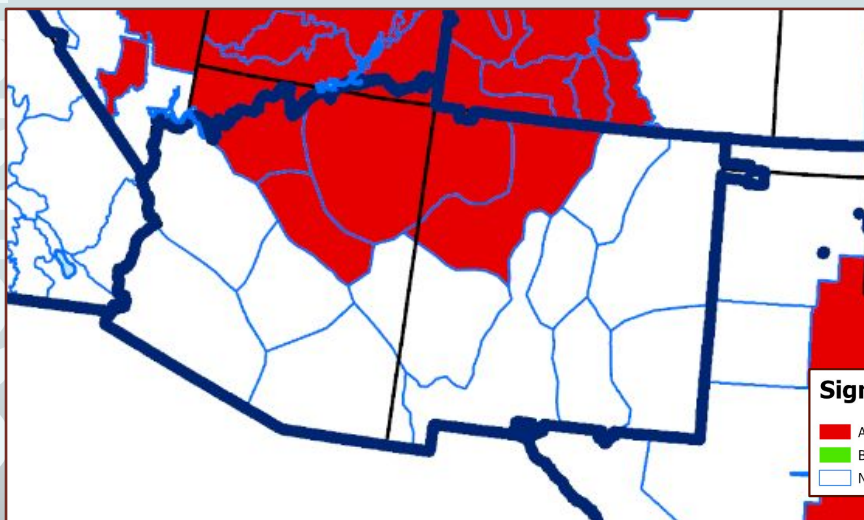
July 2026

Significant Fire Potential

Several large fires (> 100 acres) occurred in June, where above normal fine fuel loading and dryness in heavier fuels persisted. New starts remain possible in early July as monsoonal moisture will be less consistent, enhancing the risk of dry lightning in receptive fuels, as well as gusty winds.

Rx Fire Implications

Despite occasional moisture, Rx planners should monitor increasing fire danger in the warmer/drier weather that precedes influxes of moisture and the lightning that accompanies them. Widespread mortality exists in many mid-higher elevations and will need to be factored into any large-scale burn plans.



July

Significant Wildland Fire Potential

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

With extremely dry fuels, significant fire potential will exist across much of the northern Desert Southwest in early July. This takes into account slow green-up across much of the mountain areas and their adjacent highlands, where standing cured carrier fuels still exist. The transition to the monsoonal pattern will complete in early to mid July, but limited moisture early in the month will lead to enhanced risk of dry lightning and additional ignitions. Significant fire potential is expected to taper off during the month as more consistent moisture takes hold.

*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.