

Southwest Area Monthly Outlook

June 2025



WEATHER FACTORS AND OUTLOOK:

Drought Conditions: Severe to extreme drought conditions continue across much of the Southwest Geographic Area with a smaller area of exceptional drought focused over southwest New Mexico and southeast Arizona. Drought across the four corners area and eastern New Mexico is not as intense with only moderate drought or abnormally dry conditions in place. The Monthly Drought Outlook predicts that these drought conditions will persist through June.

Fuel Conditions: Live fuel moisture samples taken in the shrubs and trees are very low for the time of year across southwest New Mexico and southeast Arizona, indicating major drought stress. Fuels in these areas are likely to contribute to rapid rates of spread and spotting. Current conditions are closer to what would be expected during the peak of fire season in mid-June. The herbaceous grass crop across portions of southern Arizona is heavier than normal and may contribute to rapid rates of spread across the landscape. Fuel and Fire behavior advisories have been issued for these critical fuel conditions across southeast New Mexico and southwest Arizona.

Precipitation Anomalies and Outlook: Precipitation during the month of May was below to well below normal across southeast Arizona, south-central and southwest New Mexico. Western Arizona saw some wetter storms early in the month and northeastern New Mexico received moisture during the second half of the month.

The latest CPC outlooks call for above normal precipitation over Arizona and northern New Mexico during the month of June. The bulk of this precipitation will come in the first week of the month as a series of low-pressure systems track across the area. A drier pattern will likely set up for the second half of the month, especially across Arizona as a ridge builds into the western U.S.

Temperature Anomalies and Outlook: High temperatures during May were normal to just below normal areawide.

The latest CPC outlooks call for above normal temperatures across all but northeast New Mexico, where temperatures will be closer to normal. The month begins on the cooler side as low-pressure troughs move through the area, but hotter temperatures are expected to expand into the region for the second half of the month.

Significant Fire Potential	Above Normal southeastern and central Arizona and south-central and southwest New Mexico, normal elsewhere. Fire potential will be on the lower end for the first week of June as a series of low-pressure troughs move across the area. However, hotter and drier weather will likely move in by mid-month when the four corners high typically strengthens over the area. Significant large fire activity should peak from late June to early July due to the high sun angle, hot/dry conditions, long burn periods and an initial increase in drier thunderstorm activity.
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