

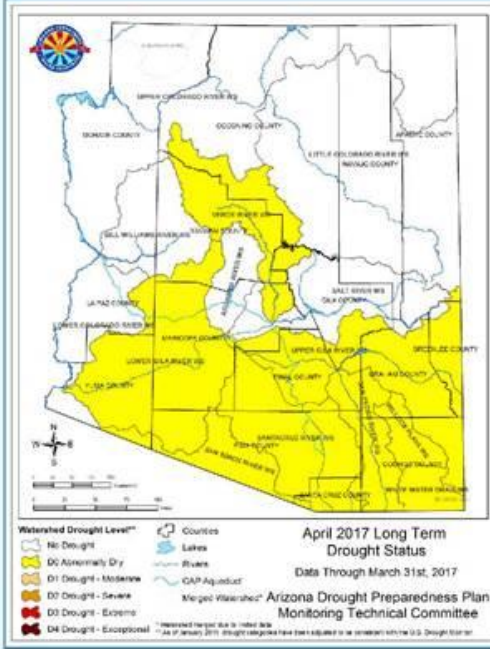
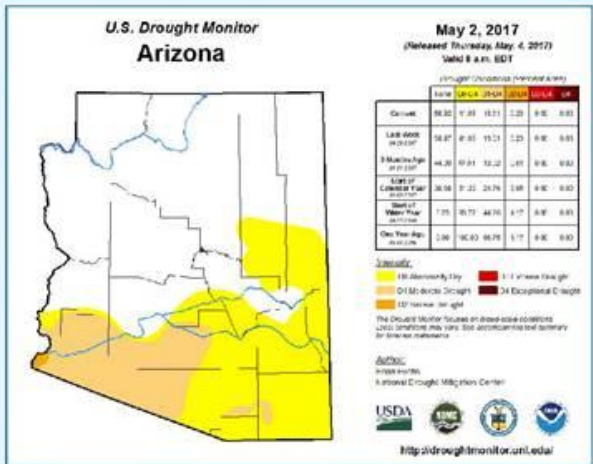
Drought Status Report

April 2017 Short-term Drought Status

April has been very dry across the southern half of the state, continuing the dry spell that plagued the southern counties since mid-winter.

Due to the dryness, abnormally dry conditions (D0) were reintroduced to the southeastern counties and expanded to southern Navajo County.

Early winter precipitation in southern Arizona led to some vegetation growth, which dried up by now, causing significant wildfire danger. Several wildfires have already been burning in this area and the chance for rain is very low, until the monsoon season starts in July.



January–March 2017 Long-term Drought Status

The winter storms in January and February combined with the earlier storms in November and December brought significant rain and snow to northern and central Arizona.

The relatively heavy winter precipitation has finally improved many watersheds that were bordering an improvement over the past six months or longer.

Long-term drought and water supply conditions in northern Arizona and the Salt River watersheds are much better than they were over the past six to ten years. However, this winter was still not as wet as in late 1980s and early 1990s, before this drought began, and abnormally dry conditions still persist in many parts of the state.