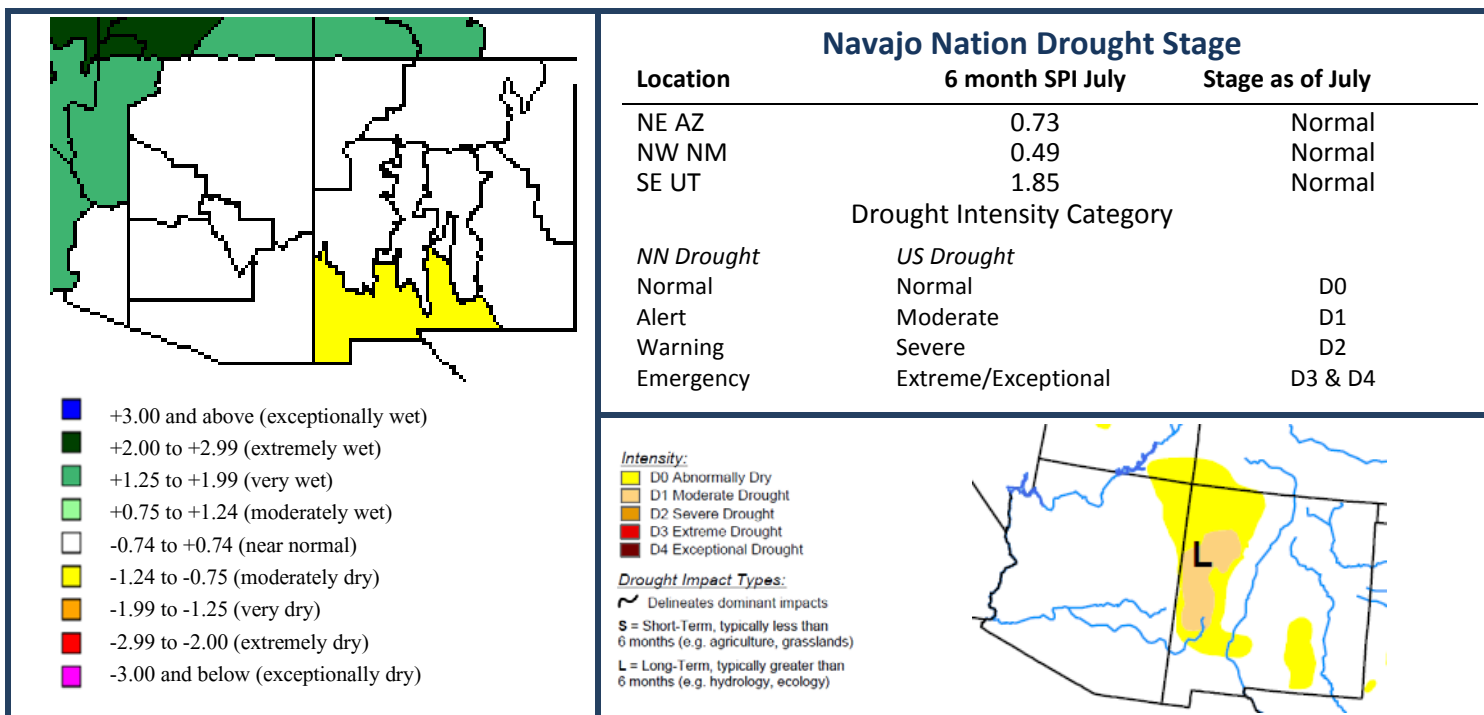




# NAVAJO NATION DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

NN Dept. of Water Resources, Water Management Branch

P.O. Drawer 678 Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504 Ph. (928) 729-4004, Fax (928) 729-4126



## National Drought Summary for July 30, 2019

**Summary:** The far western United States was dry this week while monsoonal thunderstorms were scattered about parts of Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. Widespread precipitation fell from northeast Colorado to southwest South Dakota to northeast Minnesota, and in Missouri and southwest Iowa. Widespread rainfall took place in Florida, southeast Georgia, and North Carolina and Virginia. Meanwhile, dry weather encompassed much of Alabama, Kentucky, Ohio, and the central and southern Great Plains. Generally, below-normal temperatures occurred from the southern Plains to the mid-South to the Southeast, while warmer than normal temperatures were common in the Southwest, particularly in California, Arizona, and New Mexico.

**West:** During the last week of July, above-normal temperatures were widespread in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and parts of Colorado. Below-normal temperatures occurred in eastern Montana and eastern Washington. Precipitation was widespread in New Mexico, but was generally spotty or nonexistent elsewhere. No changes were made to the ongoing drought areas across the West, though an area of abnormal dryness was introduced in northwest Colorado, southwest Wyoming, and far northeast Utah, where short-term precipitation deficits combined with above-normal evaporative demand over the past few months.

**Looking Ahead:** Temperatures will be variable across much of the country next week, but generally, expect warmer than normal temperatures in the Intermountain West, near to below normal temperatures in the south-central United States, and variable conditions elsewhere. Over the next week, the NWS forecast calls for scattered rain to continue over Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico, and for heavier rain from eastern Nebraska southward to Louisiana. Rain is also forecast for much of the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic region.

For further enquires contact Mr. Carlee McClellan, Senior Hydrologist, Ph. (928) 729-4125, Email: cmcclellan@navajo-nsn.gov

July 2019

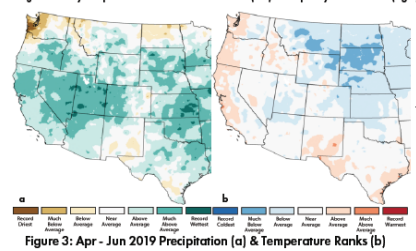
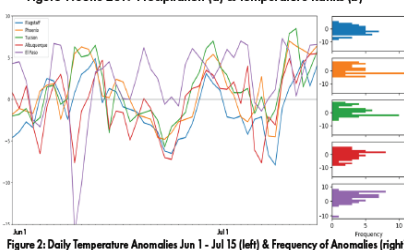
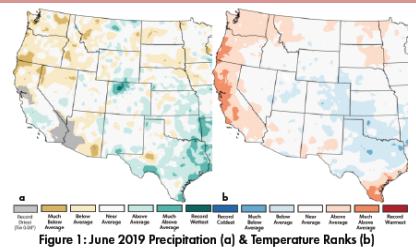
# Southwest Drought At Glance

## Climate Summary by CLIMAS July 2019

**June Precipitation and Temperature Recap:** June precipitation was variable in Arizona, ranging from record driest to above average, with a majority of the region recording average to below average precipitation, while New Mexico was mostly average with pockets of both below and above average precipitation (Fig. 1a). June temperatures were mostly average in Arizona and New Mexico, with pockets of above and below average temperatures (Fig. 1b). Daily average temperature anomalies for Jun 1 – Jul 15 demonstrate the fluctuations above and below average (Fig. 2).

**Seasonal Precipitation and Temperature Recap:** Cumulative precipitation for April-June was mostly above average to much above average in Arizona, and below average to above average in most of New Mexico (Fig. 3a). Temperatures for the same period were average to below average in Arizona, and average to above average in New Mexico (Fig. 3b).

**Drought:** Water year precipitation to date was above average across much of the Southwest, with Arizona, Utah, Nevada, and southern California doing particularly well, while other areas (i.e. parts of Colorado and New Mexico) were closer to average and even below average (Fig. 4). This extended period of above average precipitation is reflected in the Jul 9 U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM), which continues to document widespread improvements in regional drought conditions in the western United States, and with most of the region no longer classified as experiencing drought (Fig. 5).

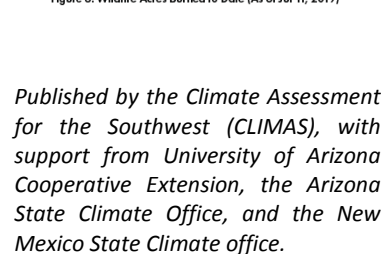
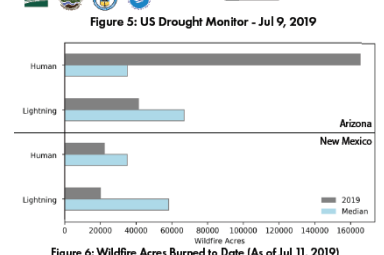
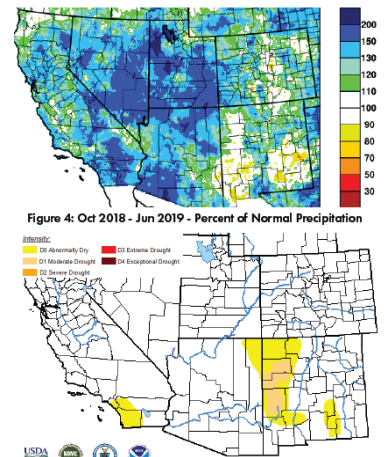
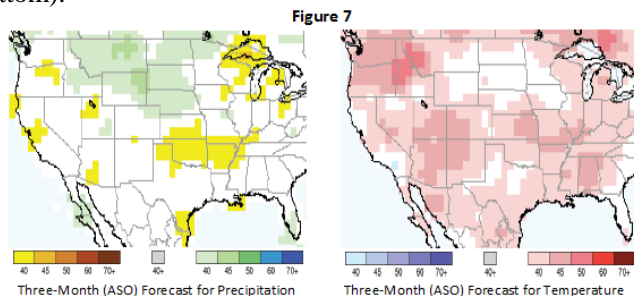


**Water Supply:** Most of the reservoirs in the region are at or above the levels recorded at this time last year, but most reservoirs are also below their long-term average. This highlights the short term improvement in drought conditions and reservoir storage, as well as the accumulated deficits linked to the persistent drought affecting the region for much of the last 20 years.

**Wildfire, Health, and Safety:** The onset of monsoon activity, including precipitation and increased humidity, has more or less tamped down elevated wildfire risk in much of the Southwest. The National Interagency Fire Center outlook for August calls for average fire risk across the region. In terms of wildfire acres burned, lightning caused fires in Arizona and New Mexico, as well as human caused fires in New Mexico, are all below their long term annual median acres burned for 2019 to date, while human caused fires in Arizona are well above the annual median acres burned (Fig. 6).

**El Niño Tracker:** After multiple months of outlooks that hinted at an El Niño event that might last through 2019 and into 2020, this event is currently forecast to return to ENSO-neutral conditions this summer.

**Precipitation and Temperature Forecast:** The three-month outlook for August through October calls for increased chances of below-normal precipitation in parts of western Arizona, with equal chances of above- or below-normal precipitation in the rest of Arizona, New Mexico, west Texas, and northern Mexico (Fig. 7, top). The three-month temperature outlook calls for increased chances of above-normal temperatures across most of the U.S. Southwest and northern Mexico (Fig. 7, bottom).



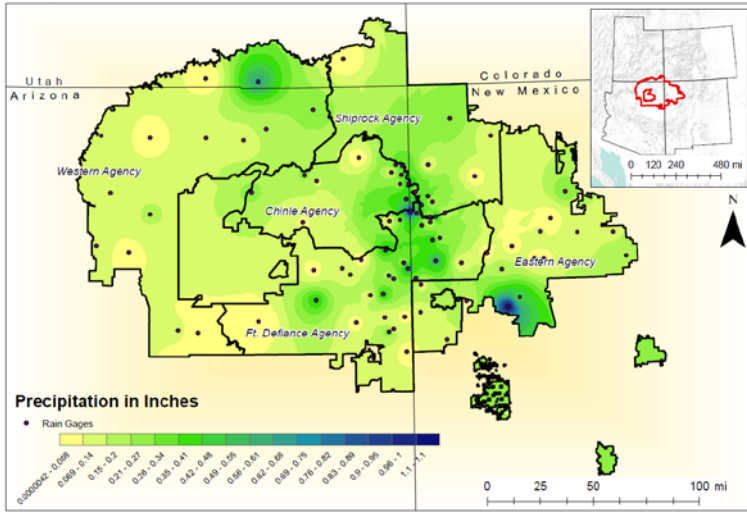
*Published by the Climate Assessment for the Southwest (CLIMAS), with support from University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, the Arizona State Climate Office, and the New Mexico State Climate office.*

# Navajo Nation Precipitation Summary



Observed Precipitation on the Navajo Nation  
(June 2019, WY 2019)

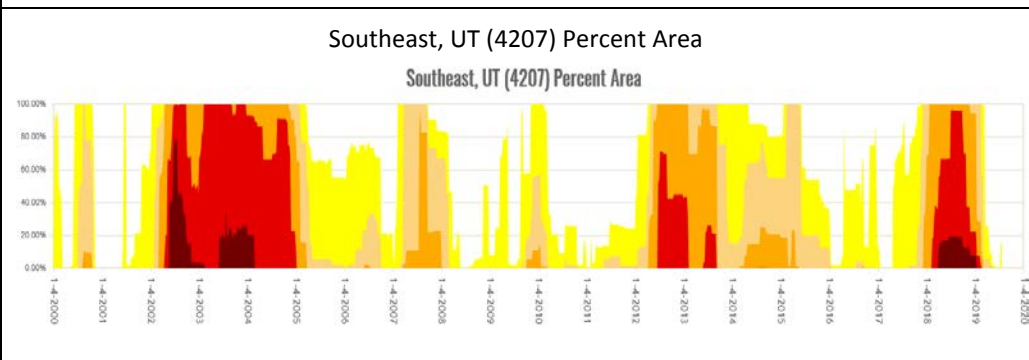
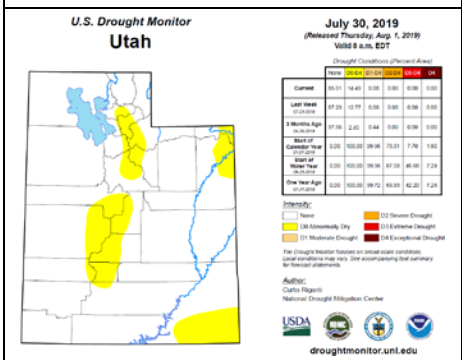
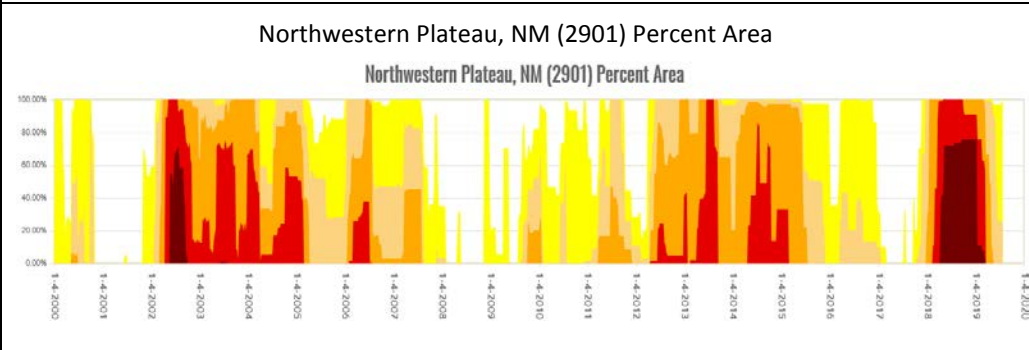
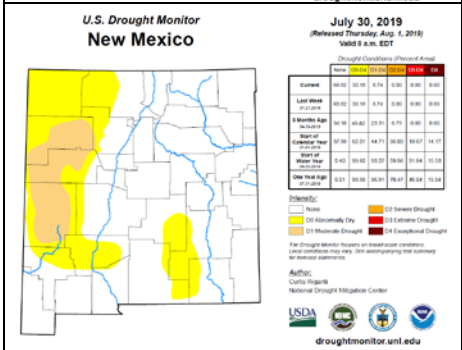
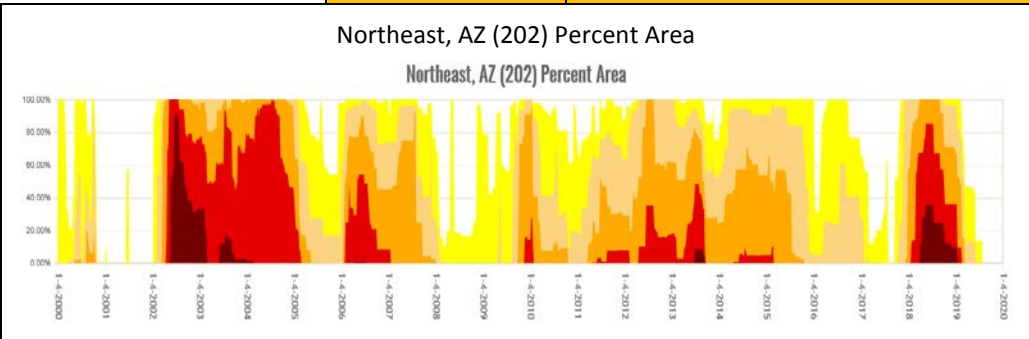
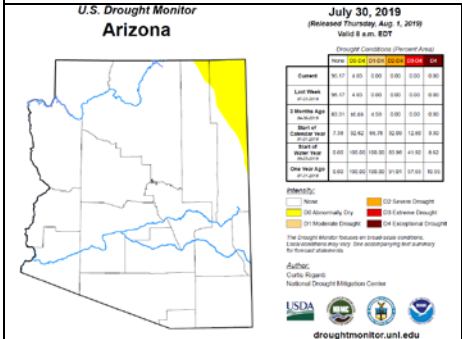
Division of Natural Resources  
Department of Water Resources  
Water Management Branch, WMI Section  
PO Box 678  
Fort Defiance, Arizona 85504  
Phone: (928) 729-4800  
Map by: Carlos McClellan, 2019



Agency	June	Avg	% of Avg
Chinle	0.21	0.34	62%
Eastern	0.17	0.33	52%
Fort Defiance	0.24	0.32	75%
Shiprock	0.18	0.34	53%
Western	0.13	0.21	62%

### Useful Drought Related Sites:

- NWS-CPC Seasonal Outlook  
[www.drought.unl.edu](http://www.drought.unl.edu)
- USGS Daily Stream Flow  
[www.usgs.gov/water/](http://www.usgs.gov/water/)
- Western Regional Climate Center  
[www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu)
- CLIMAS Southwest Climate Outlook  
[www.climas.arizona.edu](http://www.climas.arizona.edu)
- New Mexico Governor's Drought Task Force  
[http://www.pse.state.nm.us/DroughtTask\\_Force/index.html](http://www.pse.state.nm.us/DroughtTask_Force/index.html)
- ADWR Drought Program  
<http://www.azwater.gov/azdwr/StatewidePlanning/Drought>
- Utah Division of Water Resources  
<http://www.water.utah.gov/DroughtConditions/>
- Navajo DWR-Water Management Branch  
[http://www.frontiernet.net/~nndwr\\_wmb/](http://www.frontiernet.net/~nndwr_wmb/)



July 2019