



Drought Status Report

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Climate Summary by CLIMAS

Drought – Wet winter conditions helped keep short-term drought at bay across most of Arizona even with very dry conditions over the past thirty days. New Mexico has not fared as well with deepening drought conditions due to many months of below-average precipitation.

Temperature – Temperatures were above-average across much of Arizona and New Mexico over the past thirty days. Many locations across the Southwest observed temperatures at least 1–2 degrees F above-average.

Precipitation – Much of Arizona and New Mexico observed below-average precipitation again this past thirty days. Almost no measurable precipitation fell across Arizona and southern New Mexico during this period.

ENSO – The current La Niña event weakened considerably this past month with warming sea surface temperatures in the eastern and central Pacific as well as a weakening influence on atmospheric circulations. Most forecast models indicate a steady slide towards ENSO-neutral conditions by mid-summer 2008.

Climate Forecasts – Seasonal climate forecasts project above-average temperatures and an equal chances precipitation forecast as La Niña impacts on precipitation patterns across the Southwest wane into the spring.

The Bottom Line – The transition from wet and cool winter conditions to more typical warm and dry springtime conditions appears to be complete with storm tracks retreating north. La Niña continues to become less of a player in Southwest weather. Long-term temperature trends dominate the expectation of above-average temperatures through the summer.

6-Month SPI by Western Regional

Climate Center



