Monsoon 2022

Dr. Erinanne Saffell Arizona State Climatologist

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Early outlooks favored above-average chances for a wetter monsoon in Arizona.



Confidence built and spread in July to most of Arizona, southern Utah, and western New Mexico for aboveaverage precipitation.



August confidence increased to much of the desert southwest.

Western trends: hotter and drier



SW Climate Region



SW Climate Region trends: hotter



Average Annual Temperature



Average Annual Precipitation

Monsoon 2022

Many locations received above-average precipitation for the monsoon (to date).





June

Strong activity first in New Mexico, then in Arizona.

First measurable monsoon precipitation in Arizona was June 18.

July

Pattern setting up, but not widespread.

August

Persistent flow with large amounts of atmospheric moisture.

Averages for Jun-Jul-Aug 2022





7th wettest for SW Climate Region



Short-term drought in Arizona and New Mexico improved substantially. Colorado introduced small areas without drought. Utah decreased areas of exceptional drought but maintained extreme drought.

U.S. Drought Monitor West

October 11, 2022

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The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Water Year 2022

Water year runs Oct 1- Sep 30 and is used to manage water.

Arizona shows some areas of average precipitation amounts for this water year (to date).



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Since 1994, Arizona has only had 7 years of above-average water year precipitation (compared to the long-term average).







Summary

Arizona and New Mexico experienced an active monsoon season, which has assisted short-term drought.

However, long-term drought persists.



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Monsoon 2022 officially began June 15 and will end on September 30, so these reports only encompass some portions of the monsoon season. Data are considered preliminary.