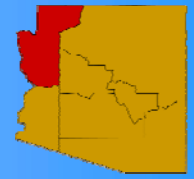




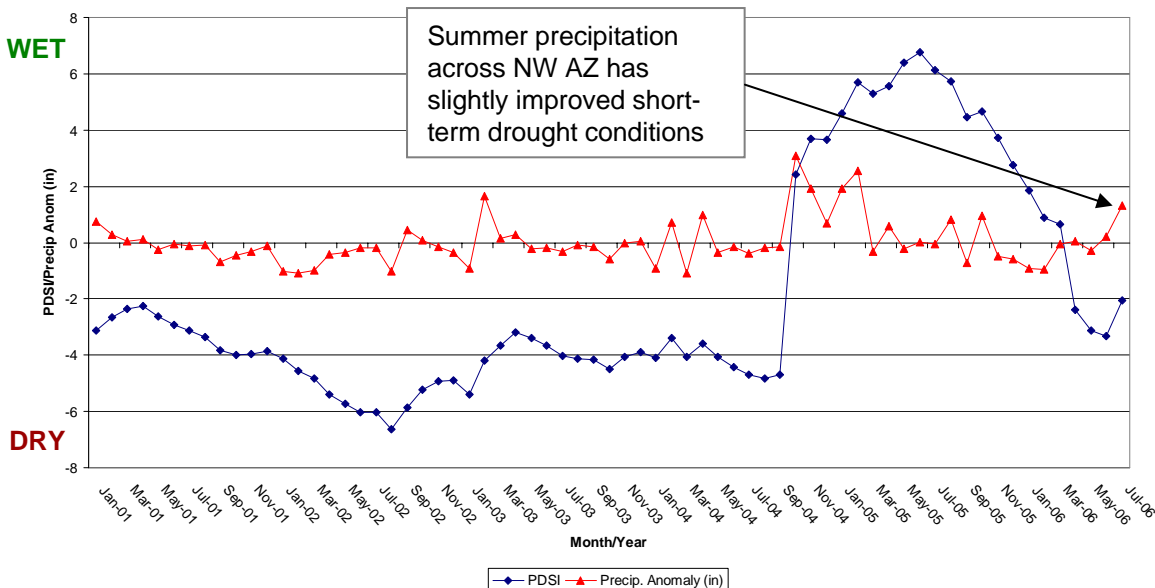
Northwest Arizona Climate Summary Early Fall 2006



September 24, 2006 – Exceptionally dry conditions experienced across northwest Arizona during the winter of 2005-2006 have given way to near-normal precipitation through the spring and summer of 2006. Precipitation amounts associated with the summer monsoon have been spotty, but generally near normal across central and northern Mohave County. Kingman received 1.58 inches of precipitation during July, which is over a half-inch above the long-term July average of 1.04 inches. Precipitation amounts for July around the Kingman area measured by the Mohave County Flood Control weather station network were from over 8 inches in the Hualapai Mountains to less than 0.15 inches near Yucca, Arizona. Precipitation amounts are below normal, so far, for the 2006 summer season across southern Mohave County. The official National Weather Service observing site in Needles, CA reported only 0.10 inches of rainfall for July which is below the long-term average of 0.33 inches. Conditions have also been warm across NW AZ for the period of May through July. Temperatures have been generally 2-4 degrees F above average through the 2006 late spring-summer period.

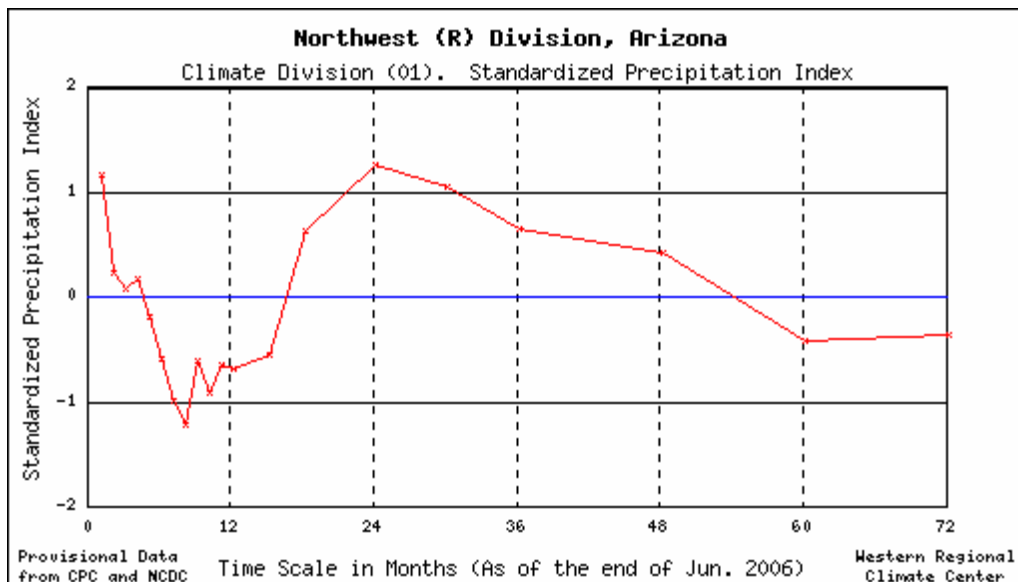
Forecasts for the upcoming fall season (October-November-December) from the Climate Prediction Center indicate that the southwest U.S. will see an increased chance of above normal temperatures with equal chances of above, below and average precipitation amounts. A trend in above normal temperatures is expected to continue leading to the above normal temperature forecast. The 'equal chances' precipitation forecast is an indication that there is no strong forecast signal on which to base either an above or below average precipitation forecast for this fall. This is due to the fact that fall weather patterns over the southwest are not strongly tied to circulation patterns and sea surface temperatures over the Pacific Ocean. Weak El Niño conditions have developed and may continue to intensify into a moderate event through the fall. The current event may lead to an increased chance in above-average winter precipitation for Arizona. Winter time forecasts are strongly based on the Pacific Sea Surface temperature patterns related to the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (i.e. El Niño and La Niña events). Stay tuned to climate forecasts through the fall to monitor this current El Niño event (<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov>).

Northwest Arizona Palmer Drought Severity Index and Precip. Anomaly: Jan. 2001 - July 2006



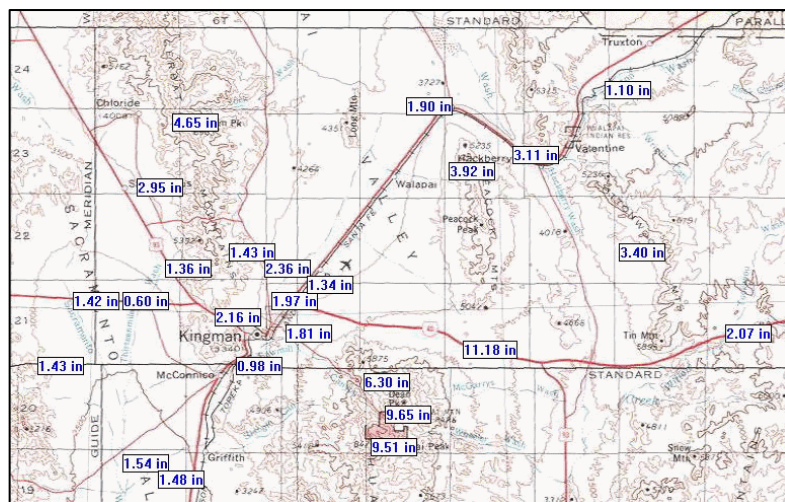
Dry conditions through the fall and winter of 2005-06 caused PDSI values to drop dramatically indicating the development of short-term drought conditions. Near to above average precipitation in the spring and summer of 2006 have caused PDSI values to rebound, indicating slight short-term improvements.

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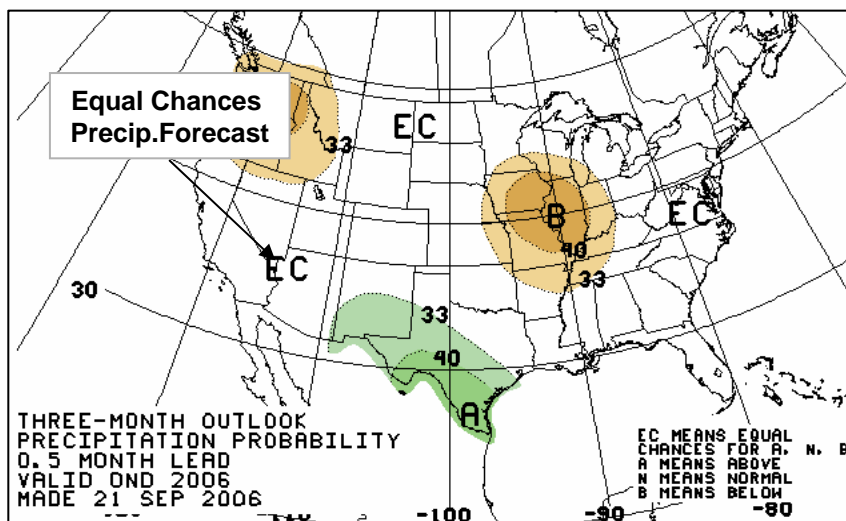
The SPI represents precipitation levels over different time-scales in standard deviation units. The time scales represent discrete comparison periods (12-month time-scale represents total precip over last 12 months compared to historical record of same period). Recent above-average precipitation has pulled the 1 month value to above 1, but longer-term precipitation deficits are evident with negative SPI values in the 6 to 16 month windows

Rainfall amounts for the period of May 1, 2005 through August 1, 2006 have varied widely across northwest Arizona. The official total precipitation for the same period in Kingman was 1.74" (National Weather Service). Rainfall measurements provided by the Mohave County Flood ALERT system showed amounts ranging from 0.6" west of Kingman to 11.18" along Interstate 40 east of Kingman. Most other precipitation totals were between 1 and 3 inches around the area for the same period. (Find more Mohave County precipitation maps at <http://weather.co.mohave.az.us/perl/DWRReports.pl>)



Total Rainfall from 5/1/06 – 8/1/06 Map from Mohave County Flood Control <http://weather.co.mohave.az.us/perl/DWRReports.pl>

The Oct-Nov-Dec seasonal forecast from the Climate Prediction Center depicts an equal chance of above, below, and normal precipitation. This means that forecast models do not indicate that there is an increased probability of either above or below average precipitation for the fall relative to average conditions. Weak El Niño conditions are developing in the Pacific Ocean and could lead to above average precipitation amounts later in the winter 2006-2007 season. Stay tuned to forecasts through the fall.



From: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead01/off01_prp.gif