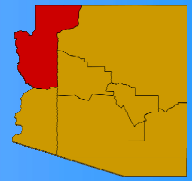




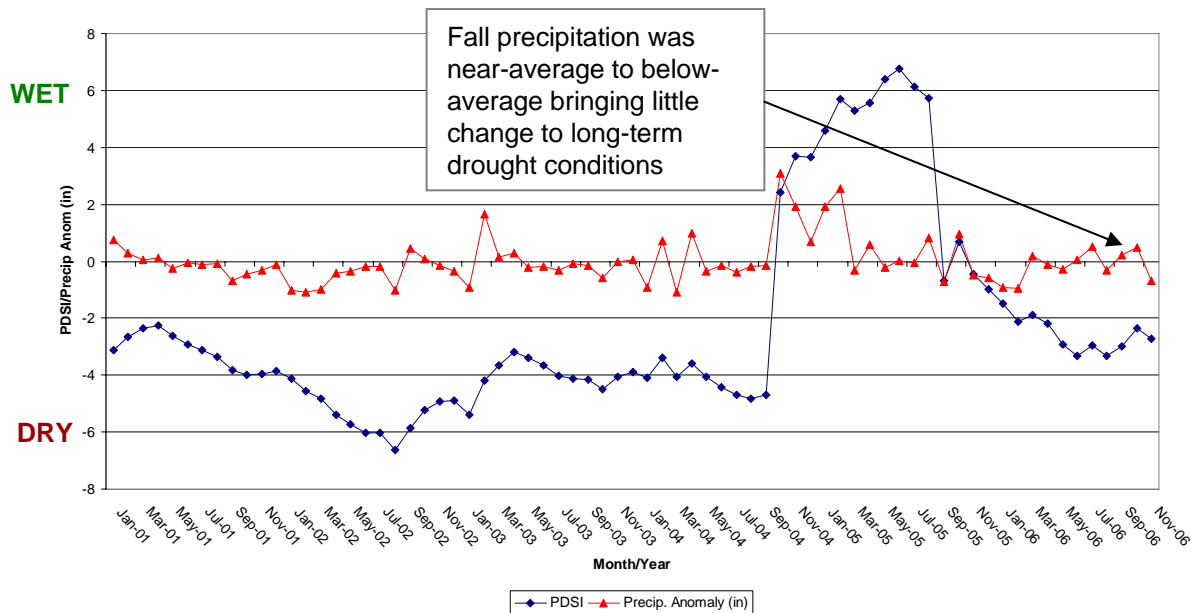
Northwest Arizona Climate Summary Winter 2006-07



December 20, 2006 – Fall precipitation amounts were near-average across extreme northern Mohave county, but below-average across the rest of northwestern Arizona. Colorado City recorded a total of 2.57 inches of precipitation from September through the end of November with most occurring during a series of storm events in early October. Several low pressure systems crossed northern Arizona during the first week of October bringing precipitation to extreme northern Arizona, southern Utah and much of New Mexico. Arizona missed much of the action with these storms. Areas close to Lake Powell received large amounts of rainfall producing high runoff volumes. Lake Powell rose close to three feet in three days with inflows from these storm events. Precipitation amounts for the September through November period decrease to the south of Colorado City. Bureau of Land Management weather stations indicate that precipitation amounts on the Arizona Strip were between 1 and 2 inches for Sept-Nov. Areas in central and southern Mohave County saw little precipitation during the fall. Bullhead City recorded only 0.02 inches of precipitation in October and nothing in September and November. The average precipitation amount for Sept-Nov for Bullhead City is 1.27 inches, leaving a fall rainfall deficit of 1.25 inches. Temperatures were generally near normal to slightly above normal across northwestern Arizona during the fall.

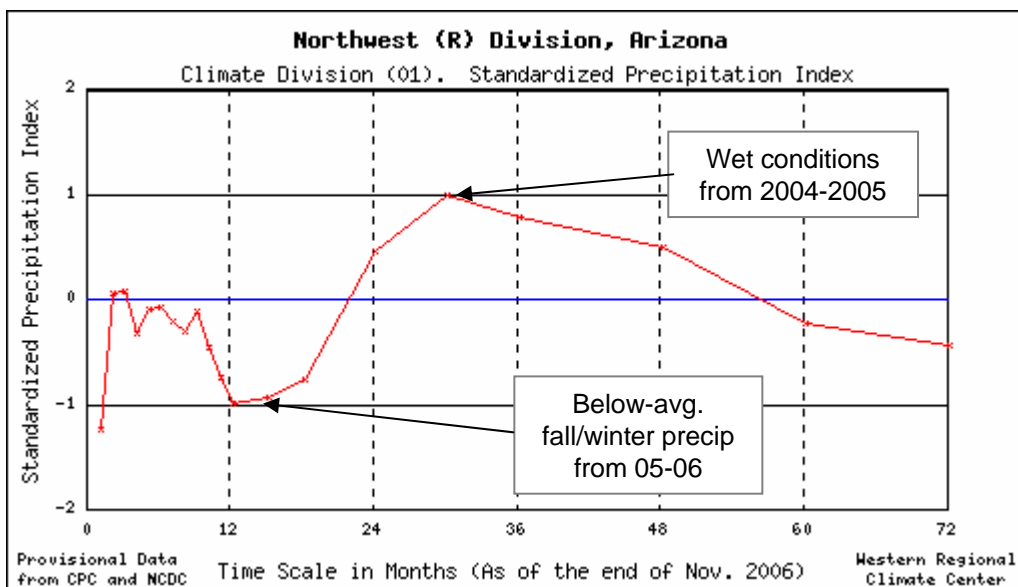
Forecasts for the upcoming winter season (January-February-March) from the Climate Prediction Center indicate that the southwest U.S. will see an increased chance of above-average precipitation and equal chances of above, below, and average temperatures. The forecast for increased chances of above-average precipitation is based on the moderate intensity El Niño event underway in the Pacific Ocean. Energy and moisture in the eastern tropical Pacific connected to El Niño conditions tends to enhance the subtropical jet stream and winter storm track across the southwest U.S. This shift in the dominant winter storm track brings the best chances of above-average precipitation to southern Arizona, but may impact northern Arizona to a lesser degree as well. The strongest connection between El Niño events and enhanced precipitation across Arizona typically occurs in the late winter (February and March). Stay tuned to climate forecasts through the winter for updated precipitation projections (<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov>).

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



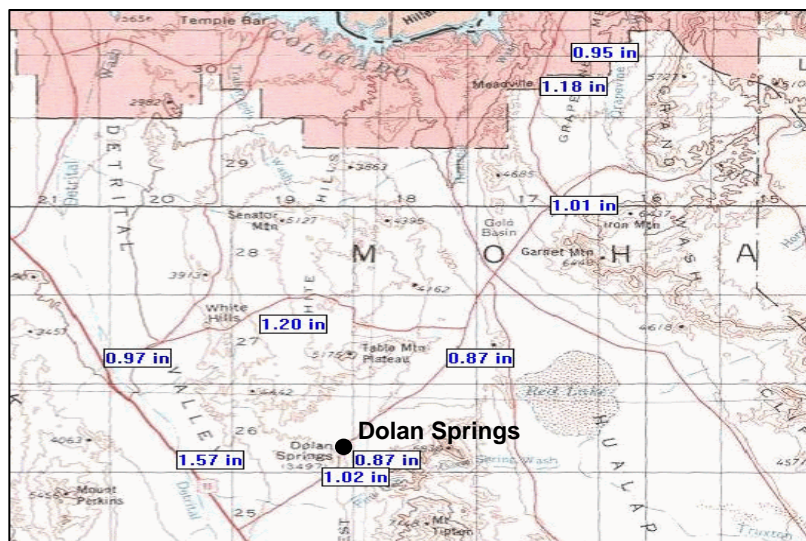
Precipitation amounts were generally near-average to below-average during the fall for most of northwestern Arizona. The lack of substantial rainfall during the fall led to little change in PDSI values which still indicate drought conditions induced by the exceptionally dry winter of 2005-06.

Northwest Arizona Climate Summary – Winter 2006-07



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). Dry November conditions have pulled the 1-month SPI value below -1 indicating that the Nov. precipitation deficit is greater than 1 standard deviation below-average compared to the long-term historical record.

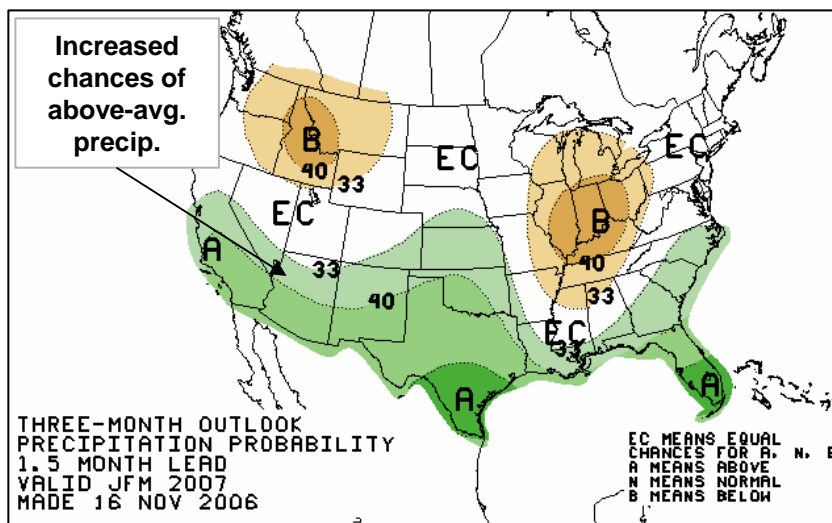
Weather stations across central Mohave County recorded precipitation amounts from just less than an inch to over 1.5 inches between September and mid-December (see figure on right). These precipitation amounts generally increase to between 1.5 and 2 inches total precipitation northward across the Arizona Strip (not shown). Some higher elevation locations close to Kingman received close to 4 inches of precipitation during the same period. (Find more Mohave County precipitation maps at <http://weather.co.mohave.az.us/perl/DWRReports.pl>)



Total Rainfall from 9/10/06 – 12/20/06 Map from Mohave County Flood Control <http://weather.co.mohave.az.us/perl/DWRReports.pl>

An online, streaming web presentation with more information on the current El Niño and winter forecasts is available at: <http://breeze.ltc.arizona.edu/p26396791/>

The Jan-Feb-Mar seasonal forecast from the Climate Prediction Center depicts an increased chance of above-average precipitation for much of Arizona. This forecast is based on the typical connection between El Niño events and the change in winter storm track that favors enhanced winter precipitation across the Southwest. The best chances for above-average winter precipitation with the current El Niño event are across the southern half of Arizona. Stay tuned to forecasts through the winter.



From: http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead02/off02_prpc.gif