

o o o o

2025 ARIZONA FIRE SEASON OUTLOOK



Trends in Fire & 2024 Activity

- Fire season started early (April) for Pinal County:
 - April 1/2024 – May 9/2024 – 27 fires, 2,600 acres
 - April 1/2023 – May 9/2023 – 9 fires, 100 acres
- Spring/early summer predominately human-caused
- Lightning-caused fires more prevalent from June-onward due to monsoon activity; largest fire 32k—acre Freeman Fire, N/NE of Oracle
- Fire season and activity dictated by winter/spring moisture, spring temperatures, fuel loading, drought, climate patterns



2024 Fire Activity

- Southwest Pinal County very active: 85 wildfires between 1/1/2024 – 10/31/2024 for a total of 51,362 acres burned
- Of those 85 fires 79 were human caused. Freeman Fire: largest in Pinal and the State at 32,568 acres
- Tonto National Forest – high activity; Black Fire, West and Preacher Fires
- Top causes of State fires: debris burning, equipment usage, target shooting, and roadside fires



Statewide Fire Activity and Past Data

2024 - YTD

- 2,162 fires
- 282,000+ acres burned

2023 - YTD

- 1,831 fires
- 188,000+ acres burned

Numbers reflect all land jurisdictions, including State Trust land, federal, tribal and private lands



*Yuma Hand Crew monitoring
Waterman Fire near Congress,
Arizona*



Plume off Freeman Fire near Oracle, Arizona

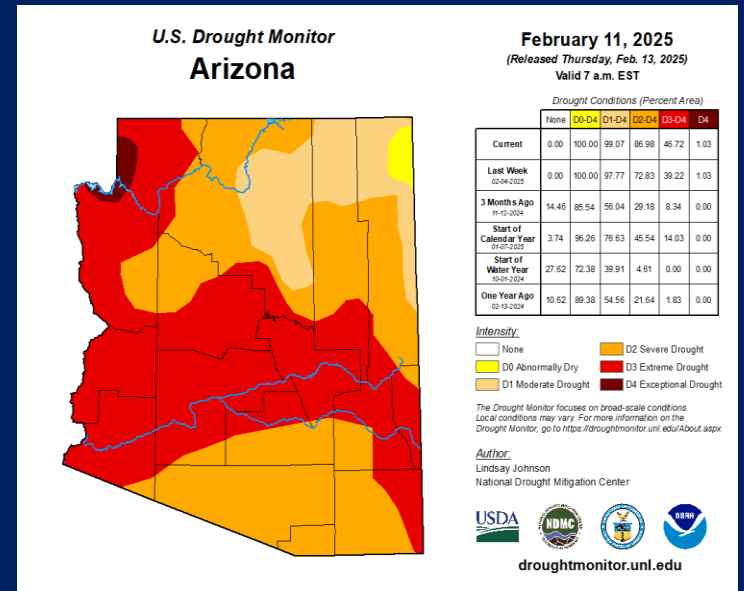
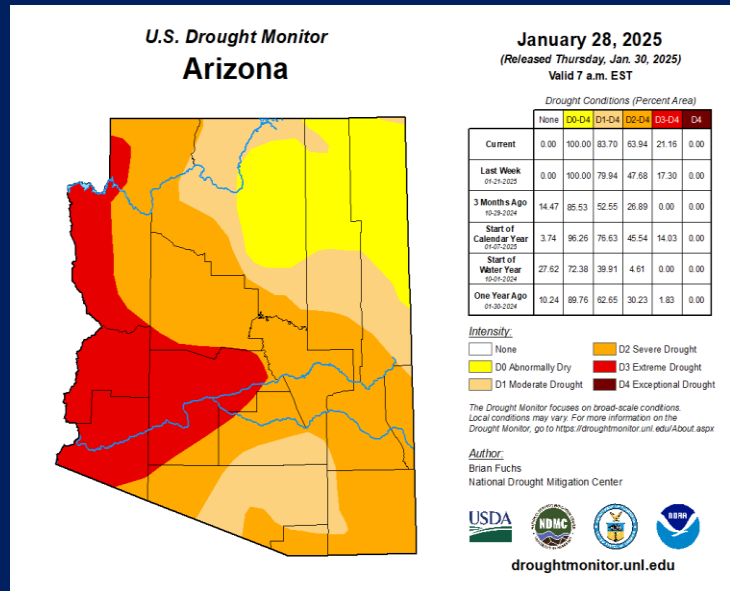
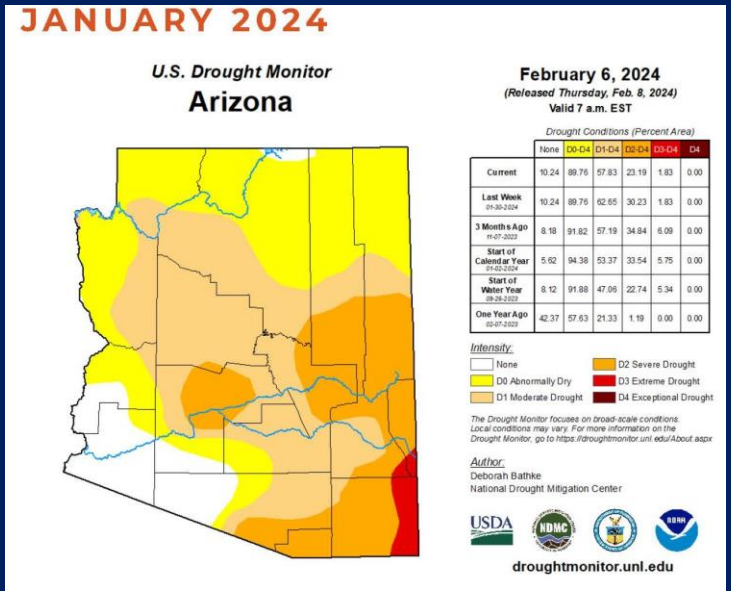


2025 Outlook and Seasonal Factors

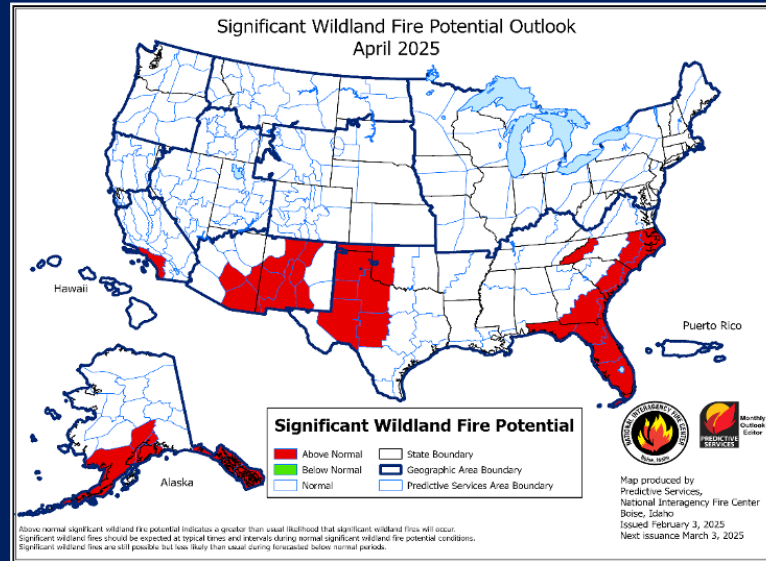
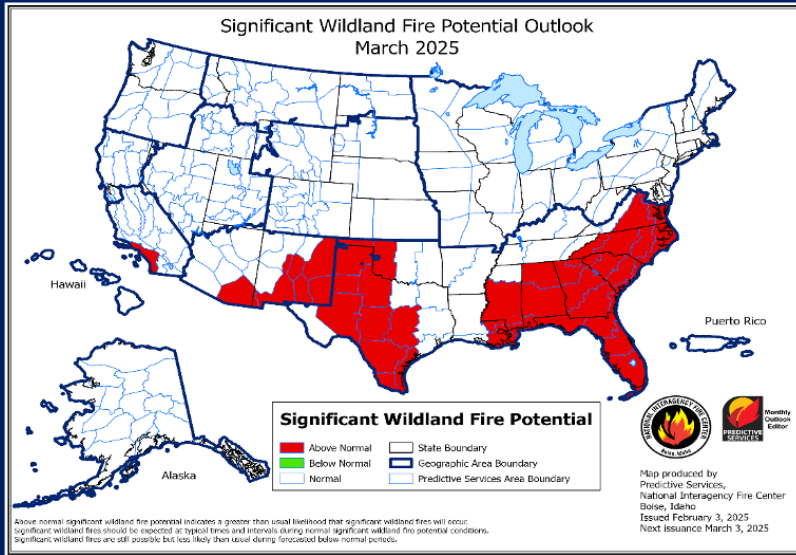
- Drought conditions persist with impacts to fine fuel vegetation; grasses and brush; more significant drought conditions throughout western Arizona
- Above normal temperatures (Feb-April) nearly statewide
- Windy conditions which could induce critical fire burn behavior
- Above normal fuel yields along *and* south of Mogollon
- Impacts to southern Arizona, including far SE Arizona
- Sonoran Desert landscapes



2025 Outlook and Seasonal Factors



2025 Outlook and Seasonal Factors



2025 Outlook and Seasonal Factors

- An overall up/down weather pattern through May characterized by warmer and drier than normal conditions – on average. Likely breezier/windier pattern
- **Monsoon season: Likely on-time to at least slightly early onset and near/above normal moisture for the west**



State, Federal, and Local Cooperators

- DFFM works with Arizona's 260 local fire districts and departments & has access to 2,500 wildland firefighters
- HB 2751: Great Plains Interstate Fire Compact
- DFFM partners with the Department of Corrections and DFFM trains and employs 12 DOC fire suppression crews
- The Phoenix Crew, DFFM's Type 2IA (initial attack) fire crew comprised of former DOC inmates is ready for deployment



State, Federal, and Local Cooperators

- DFFM contracts Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs) and Air Attack (AA). DFFM partners with the federal agencies for use of Very Large Air Tankers (VLATs), additional Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs) & Water Scoopers
- The Department of Public Safety provides helicopter support, and if needed other LE agencies



HB 2751-Interstate Compact; Fire Management; Aid

- Allows DFFM to enter into the Great Plains Interstate Compact for state to state sharing of resources for fire season in order to maintain adequate resources
- South Dakota, North Dakota, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Kansas, as well as Saskatchewan to provide wildland firefighting personnel and equipment to supplement Arizona's
- With the compact, states can coordinate between each other, without the involvement of the federal government



Thank you

Tiffany Davila
Public Affairs Officer

Department of Forestry and Fire
Management

tdavila@dffm.az.gov

