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# Southwest Climate Hub Bulletin

*News and events for the Southwest Hub region*

**March 2019**



## One Thing is Certain, Drought Will Return

SW Hub acting director Emile Elias reflects on the 2018 drought. Even as we experience above-average moisture across most of the Southwest Region, or do battle with a bomb cyclone that pummeled the Rockies and the Plains, drought is an ever-present threat and it will return. [Read more >>](#)

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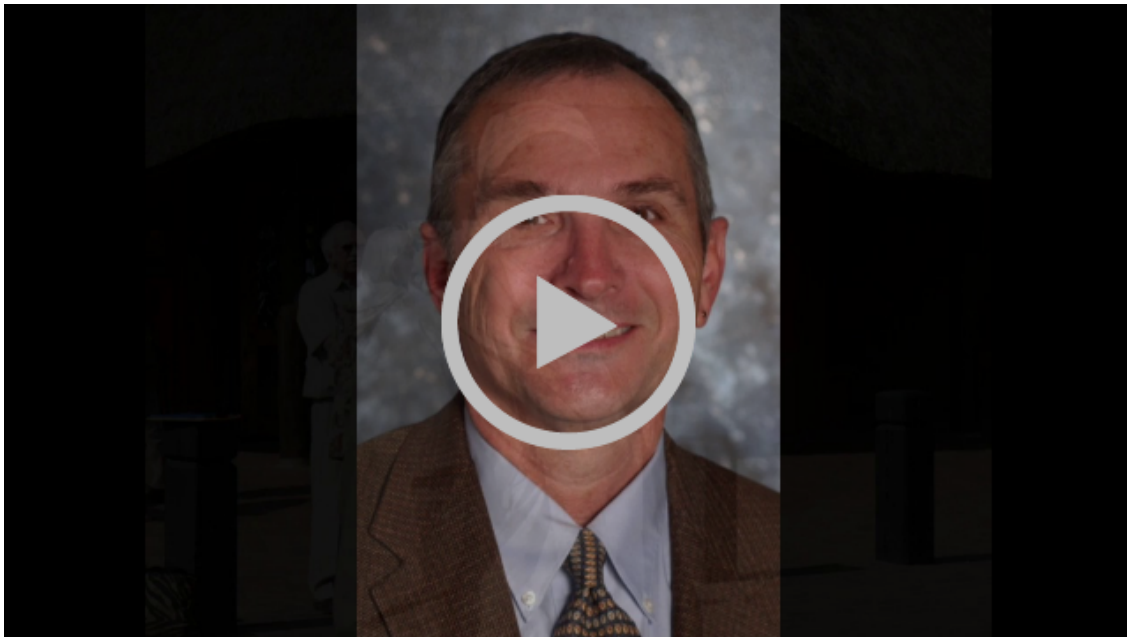
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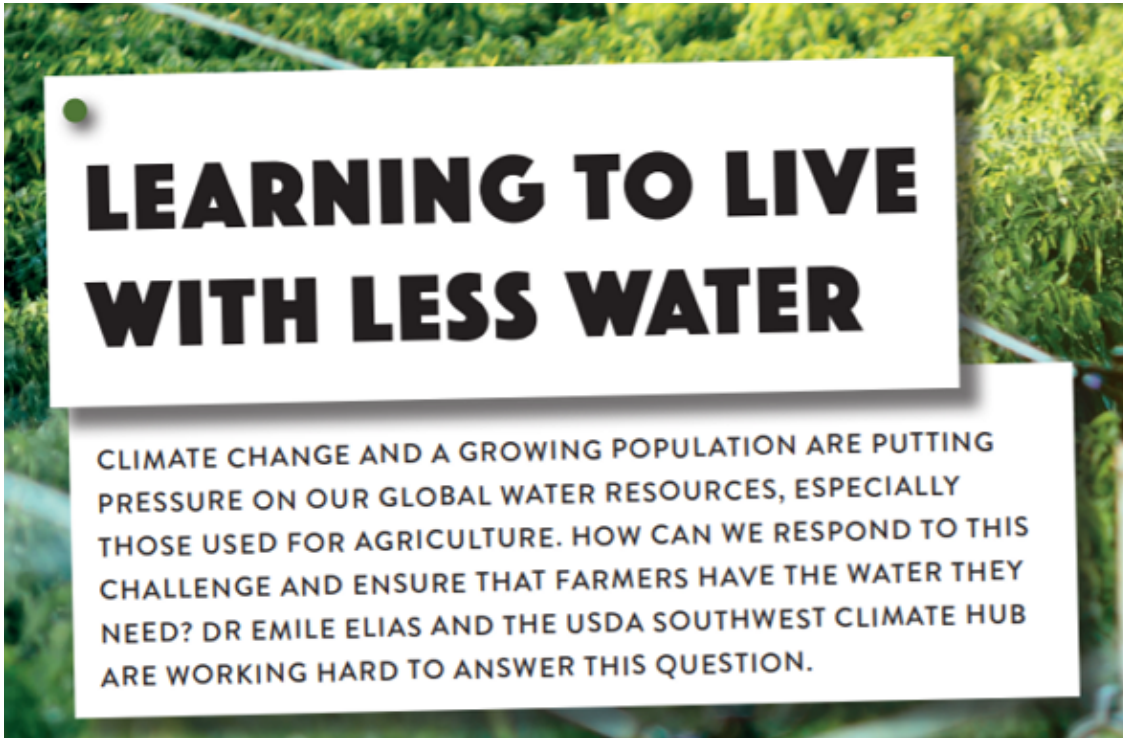
## Monitoring and Reporting Drought in Arizona

We need more people reporting on drought impacts and more ground-measured precipitation data in Western states like Arizona. When this information reaches Drought Monitor authors, they are better able to depict drought onset, severity and extent on the US Drought Monitor Map. But for more people to be involved in reporting drought impacts or to become a volunteer precipitation observer, they need to know the opportunities available to them. Outreach and education are key! [Read more >>](#)



## Frederic G. Renner Award recipient, Dr. Joel Brown

SW Climate Hub Co-lead, Dr. Joel Brown, was presented the Frederic G. Renner Award from the Society for Range Management at the 72nd Annual Meeting. *"The Renner Award is the most prestigious award bestowed by the Society. It was made possible by a generous contribution from Frederic G. Renner, a Charter and Life member and SRM's*



## Learning to Live with Less Water

In case you missed it, March 22 was [World Water Day](#), a day designed to focus attention on the importance of sustainable management of freshwater resources. Future water availability is a big concern in the American Southwest, and it's one of the main research and outreach areas for the Southwest Climate Hub. We invite you to take a look at our new article "[Learning to Live with Less Water](#)" which features Dr. Emile Elias and the Southwest Climate Hub. [Read more >>](#)



## Using 'Big Data' to Explore Soil Health as a Socio-ecological Feedback





## Environmental Impact Bonding to Improve Forest Health

The SW Climate Hub recently met with Ellen Roberts to learn about environmental impact bond funds for forest health projects to minimize catastrophic wildfires, generate electricity and produce high-grade biochar. The San Juan National Forest (SJNF) suffered two wildfires in 2018, the 416 fire and the Burro Fire. [Read more >>](#)

## Climate Reporting for the Southwest

We are currently in an [El Niño Advisory status](#). Forecasters estimate there will be about an 80% chance of a weak El Niño for the spring 2019 and ~60% chance that this will continue into the summer.

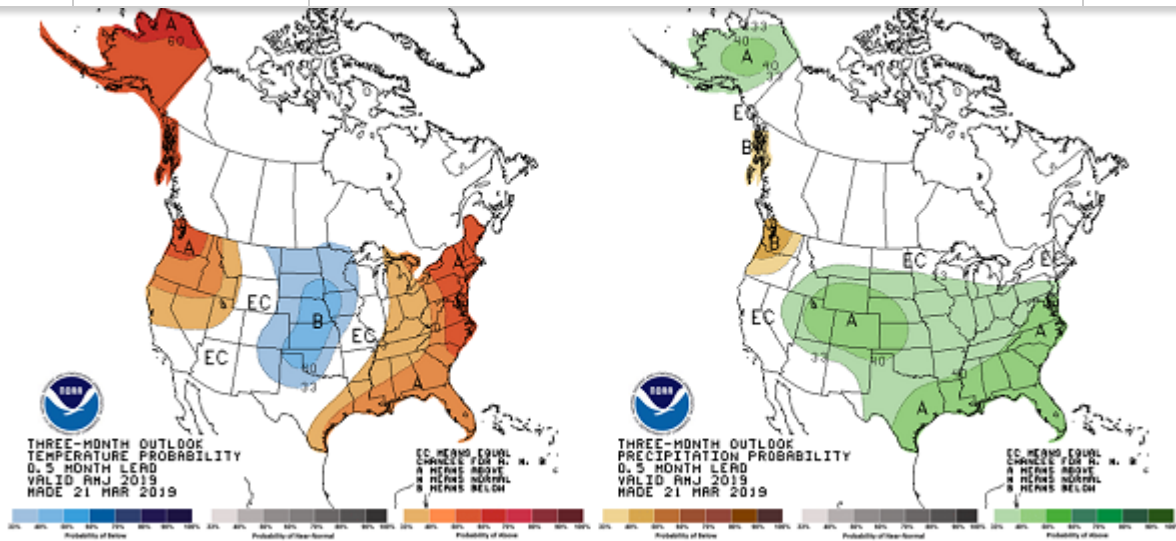
As of March 21, the [three-month outlook](#) (Apr-May-Jun 2019) for much of the southwestern U.S. shows equal chances of for above, normal, and below normal temperatures. For Nevada, the outlook mostly shows a 33-40% of above normal temperatures. The Four Corners region and Utah show a chance of above normal precipitation. These outlooks are created monthly by NOAA Climate Prediction Center and based on departures from the 1981-2010 base period. The [one-month outlook](#) for April shows an equal chance for both temperature and precipitation across the southwest. To view more short-term outlooks, please visit the [NOAA's National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center](#).

### 3-month outlook

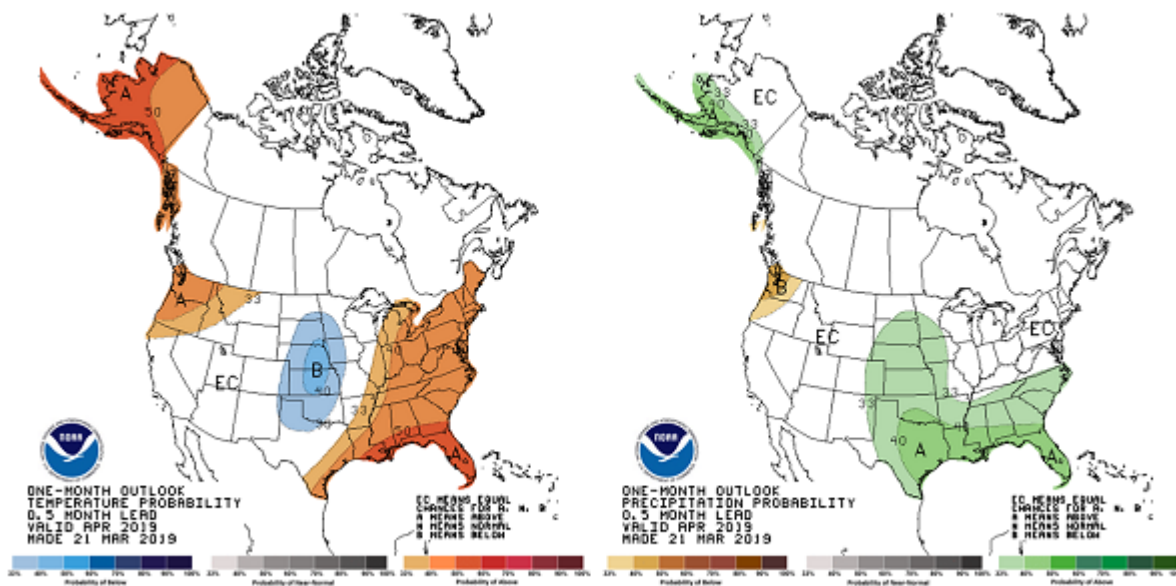
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### 1-month outlook



## Drought

Drought conditions remain in the Four Corners region and in northern New Mexico. Arizona and New Mexico saw an improvement in drought category when compared to last month. In Hawaii, a widespread of D0 drought intensity has occurred. You can view how the maps change from week to week using the [U.S. Drought Monitor Map Comparison Slider](#).

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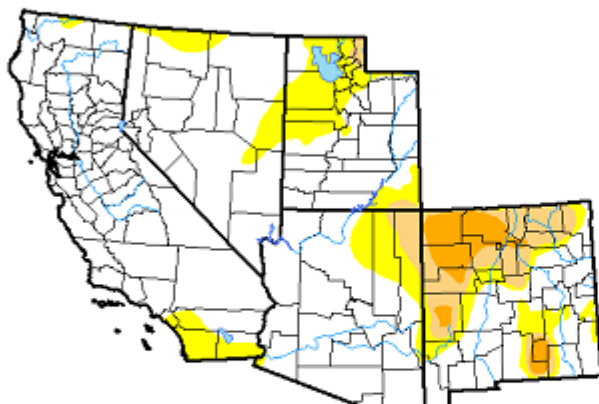
# USDA Southwest Climate Hub

(Released Thursday, Mar. 26, 2019)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	75.44	24.56	9.27	3.28	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> <small>03-19-2019</small>	63.62	36.38	10.97	5.42	1.65	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <small>12-25-2018</small>	8.05	91.95	71.94	30.73	8.13	3.85
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <small>01-01-2019</small>	11.90	88.02	71.21	29.87	8.00	3.78
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <small>09-23-2018</small>	5.39	94.61	74.04	49.21	22.49	5.85
<b>One Year Ago</b> <small>03-27-2018</small>	7.90	92.10	65.42	44.47	19.36	0.00



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

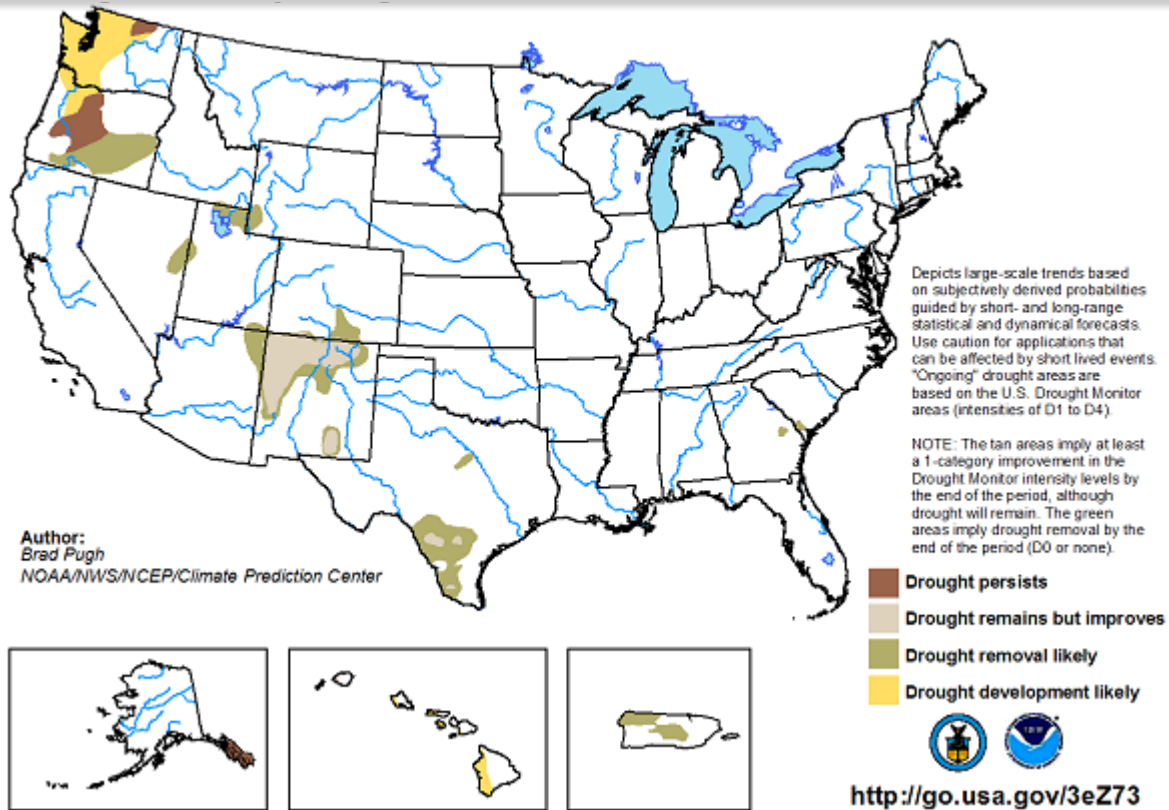
Author:

Eric Luebehusen  
U.S. Department of Agriculture



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

For the seasonal drought outlook, drought remains but improves for the Four Corners region and in northern New Mexico and may develop in Hawai'i.

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## Funding Opportunitites

### Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative, NIFA

Up to \$2,000,000

Deadline: May 2, 2019

[More information.](#)

### Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Grants, Western SARE

Up to \$350,000

Deadline: May 28, 2019

[More information.](#)

## Events

- [After the Flames](#) April 1-3, 2019 Denver, CO
- [National Adaptation Forum](#) April 23-25, 2019 Madison, WI
- [Two Nations One Water US-Mexico Border Water Summit](#) April 23-25, 2019 Las Cruces, NM
- [Soil Moisture and Wildfire Prediction Workshop](#) April 29, 2019 Albuquerque, NM
- [National Native American Fish and Wildlife Society](#) May 20-24, 2019 Chandler, AZ
- [Introduction to Climate Change Adaptation Planning](#) June 4-6, 2019 Las Cruces, NM
- [Climate Prediction Applications Science Workshop](#) June 11-13, 2019 Charleston, SC

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- [Soil Water Conservation Society International Annual Conference](#) July 28-31, 2019  
Pittsburgh, PA
  - [Ecological Society of America](#) August 11-16, 2019 Louisville, KY
  - [Food Sovereignty Summit](#) September 23-26, 2019 Green Bay, WI

## Webinars

- [Forest Management for Mitigating Drought Impacts](#) March 28, 2019 (3 pm ET)
- [Benefits of Intercropping in Organic Systems](#) April 2, 2019 (3 pm ET)
- [Aligning Soil and Human Health](#) April 9, 2019 (2 pm ET)
- [California-Nevada Drought & Climate Outlook](#) May 28, 2019 (11 am PT)

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