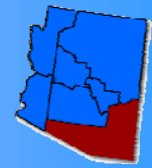




Southeast Arizona Climate Summary

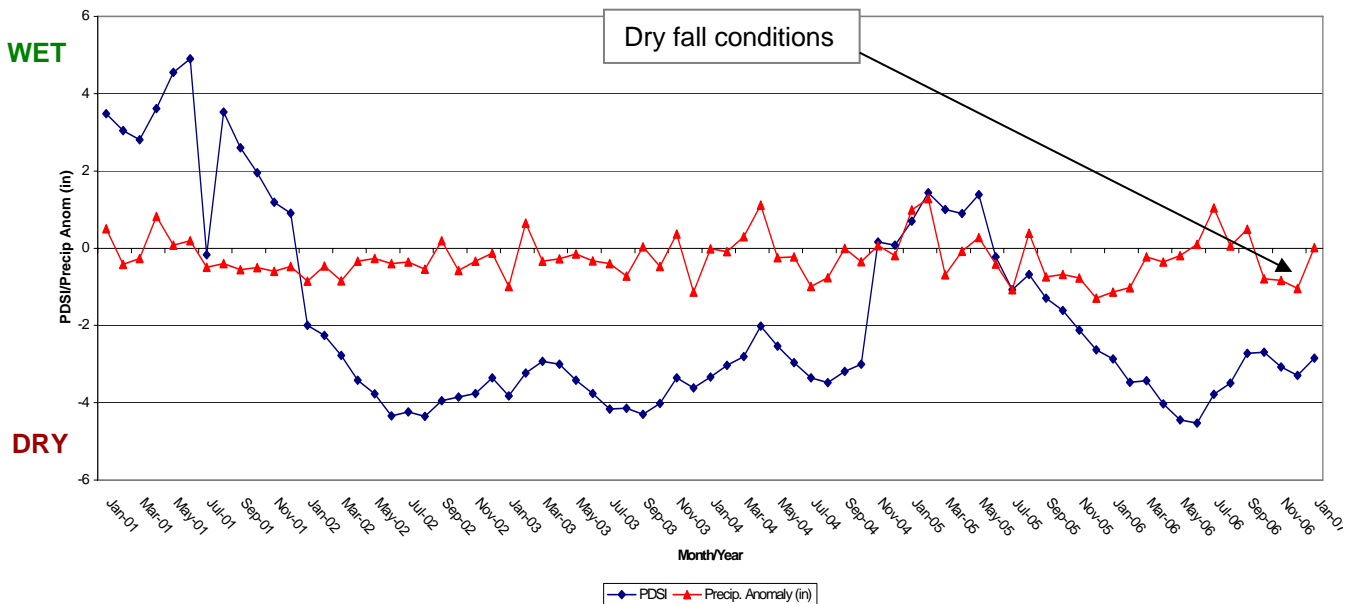
Early Spring 2007



February 19, 2007 – The wet summer of 2006 gave way to a relatively dry fall and winter season, quickly reversing and exacerbating short-term drought conditions. Precipitation for the period of November through January was below-average across most of southeast Arizona with the far western reaches of Pima County receiving less than 25% of average. Eastern areas of Cochise and Greenlee counties have generally fared better, but precipitation amounts are only half to three-quarters of normal for the period. Most precipitation occurred with a series of cold winter storms that passed through the region in January. Snow levels fell to 2000' on January 21st with Tucson recording over an inch of snow by the morning of the 22nd. The best winter storm activity across the southwest this past winter was confined to New Mexico. Southeast Arizona just missed this activity as subtropical moisture was pulled up into New Mexico ahead of these storms. Arizona was generally on the cold and drier side of this activity. Temperatures were 2 to 4 degrees F cooler than average for the November through January period.

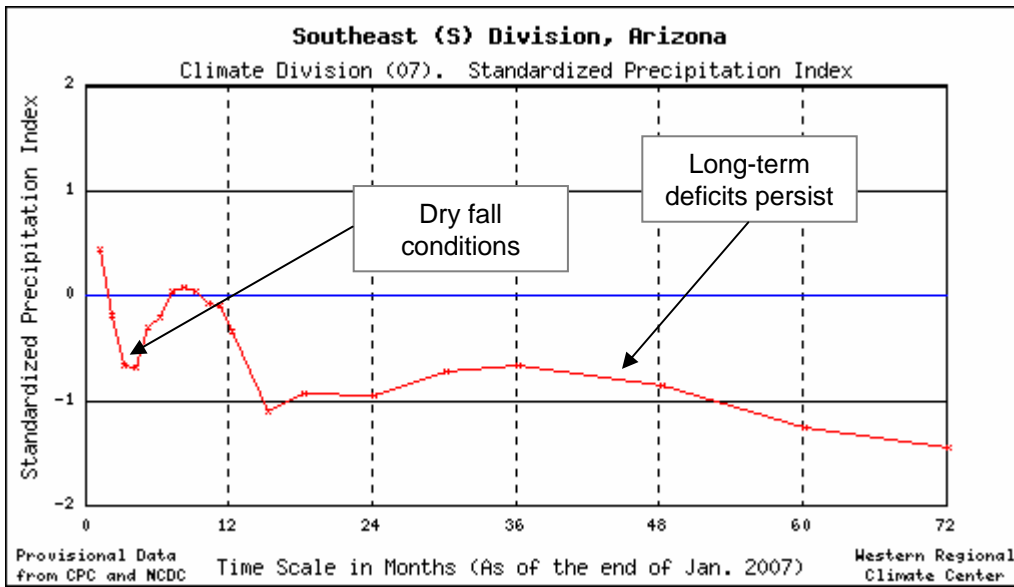
The 2006-07 El Niño didn't do much to deliver on expectations of above-average winter precipitation for the region and has since quickly dissipated. The weak event failed to strengthen through January as expected. Subsequently the atmosphere did not organize and respond with a wet winter circulation pattern for Arizona. The wet pattern briefly set up for northern Sonora and New Mexico, but was too far south and east for Arizona to fully benefit. The El Niño event has quickly retreated and neutral conditions are expected to return to the equatorial Pacific in the next several months. Precipitation forecasts reflect this shift back towards neutral conditions with previous above-average precipitation forecasts also being scaled back to 'equal chances' or no forecast. Neutral ENSO conditions do not provide a strong forecast signal for the southwest U.S. in the spring leading to the lack of an above or below average forecast for the area. Temperature forecasts pick back up with increased chances of above-average temperatures persisting through the summer based on long-term trends. (more info at <http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/fxus05.html>)

Southeast Arizona Palmer Drought Severity Index and Precip. Anomaly: Jan. 2001 - Jan. 2007



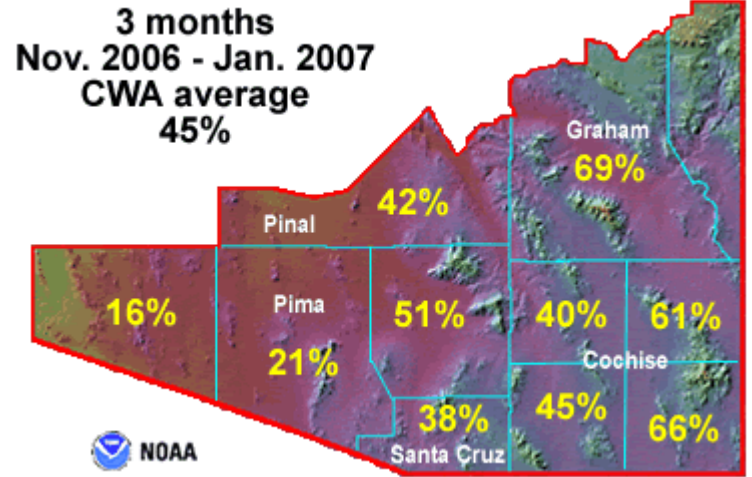
Above-average rainfall this past summer caused PDSI values to rebound slightly through September, but relatively dry conditions since have exacerbated short-term drought conditions. PDSI values dropped slightly through December in response to the below-average fall precipitation.

Southeast Arizona Climate Summary – Early Spring 2007



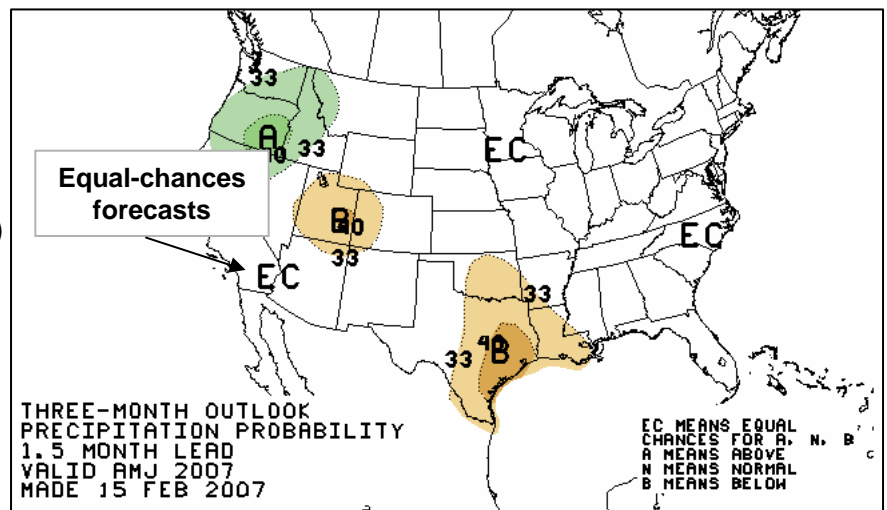
Dry fall and winter conditions are reflected in the short-term SPI values as of January 2007. The one-month SPI value is above zero indicating slightly above-average precipitation for January, but negative values persist at the 3-6 month lags. These values reflect the relatively dry conditions that occurred from late fall through December. Above-average precipitation from summer of 2006 is visible at the 8-10 month lags (values close to 0), but has done little to alleviate long-term drought conditions

Climatic conditions quickly reversed this past fall from a wet summer monsoon season to dry conditions that have lingered through most of this winter. All of southeast Arizona experienced below-average precipitation for the three month period of November through January. Western portions of Pima County have been especially hard hit receiving less than a quarter of their expected winter precipitation. Several winter storms passed through the state in January bringing snow and rain to portions of Cochise and Greenlee Counties. Even with the storm activity, winter precipitation amounts are below-average across these areas.



http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/twc/climate/seazDM/cwa_percent.php

The April-May-June seasonal forecast from the Climate Prediction Center depicts equal chances of above, average, and below-average precipitation. This forecast means that there is an equal probability of receiving above or below-average amounts and that there is no strong climatic signal (like ENSO) on which to base a forecast. The quick retreat of weak El Niño conditions present in the Pacific Ocean this past winter has prompted major adjustments to the spring forecasts. Earlier forecasts called for a greater chance of above-average precipitation for southern Arizona through April, but have been scaled back to 'equal chances'.



From: http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead02/off02_prp.cif