

Southeast Arizona Monthly to Seasonal Outlook

April Update

Weather Forecast Office

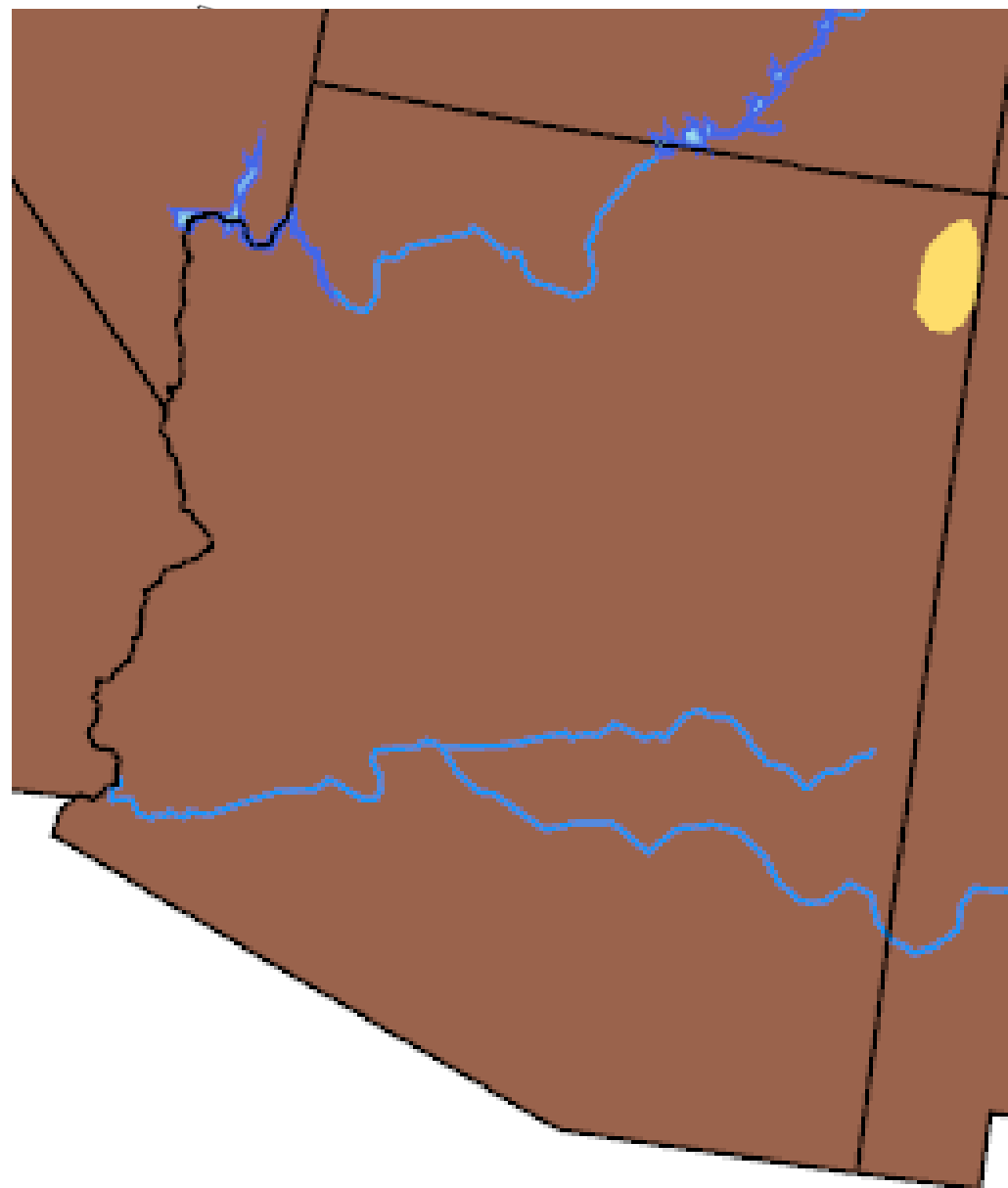
Tucson, AZ

Friday, April 18



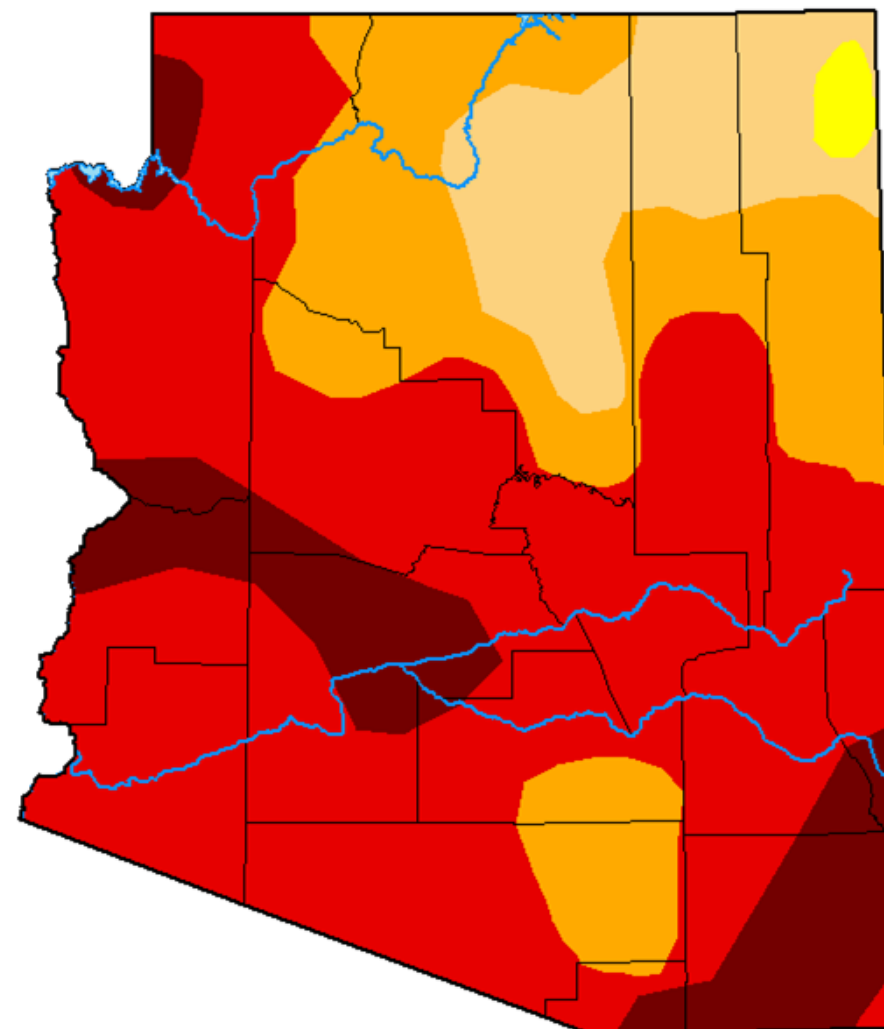
- **Seasonal Drought Outlook** shows drought conditions will persist through spring into early summer given the dry seasonal outlooks and current dry forecast.
- **Drought Monitor** shows southern Arizona is in D2 (Severe), D3 (Extreme), and D4 (Exceptional) drought conditions.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Valid for April 17 - July 31, 2025
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Released April 17, 2025



U.S. Drought Monitor
Arizona

April 15, 2025
(Released Thursday, Apr. 17, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



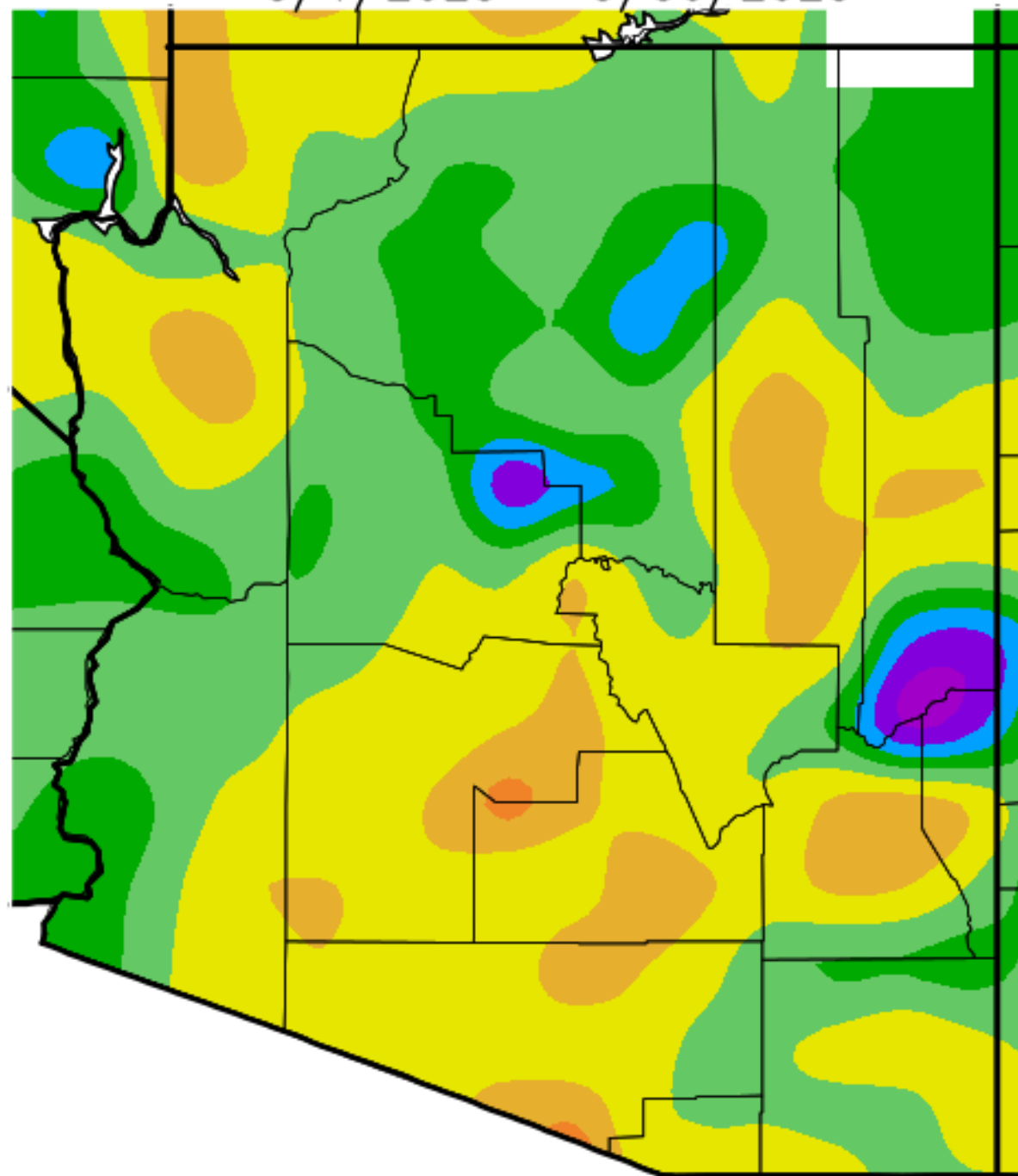
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



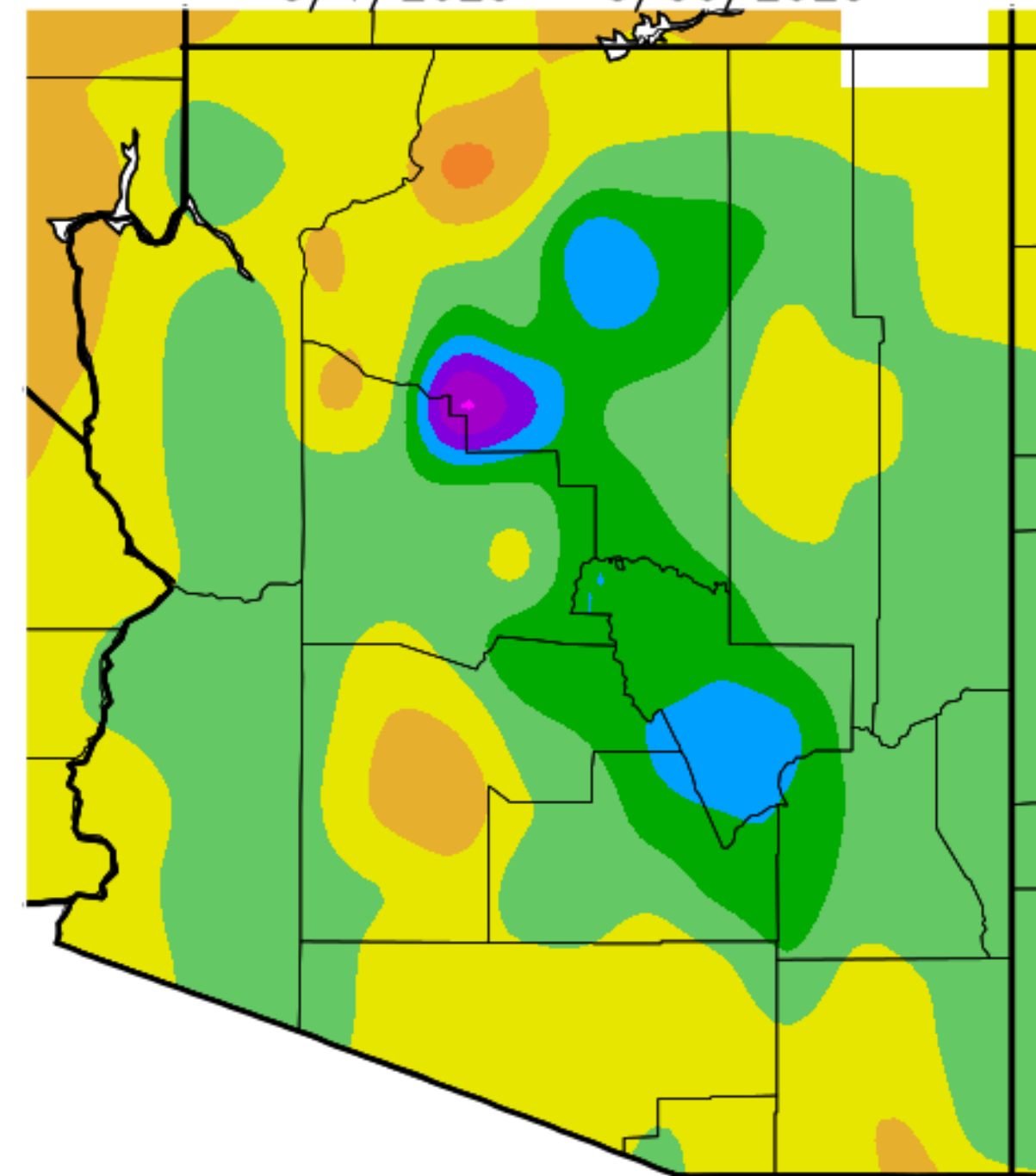
- **Temperatures** were -3 degrees below normal to +3 degrees above normal for March.
- **Precipitation** was -0.9 inches below normal to +0.9 inches above normal for March.

Ave. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
3/1/2025 – 3/30/2025



Generated 3/31/2025 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Precipitation Departure from Average (in.)
3/1/2025 – 3/30/2025



Generated 3/31/2025 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers



1-Month Outlook

1-Month Outlook: May

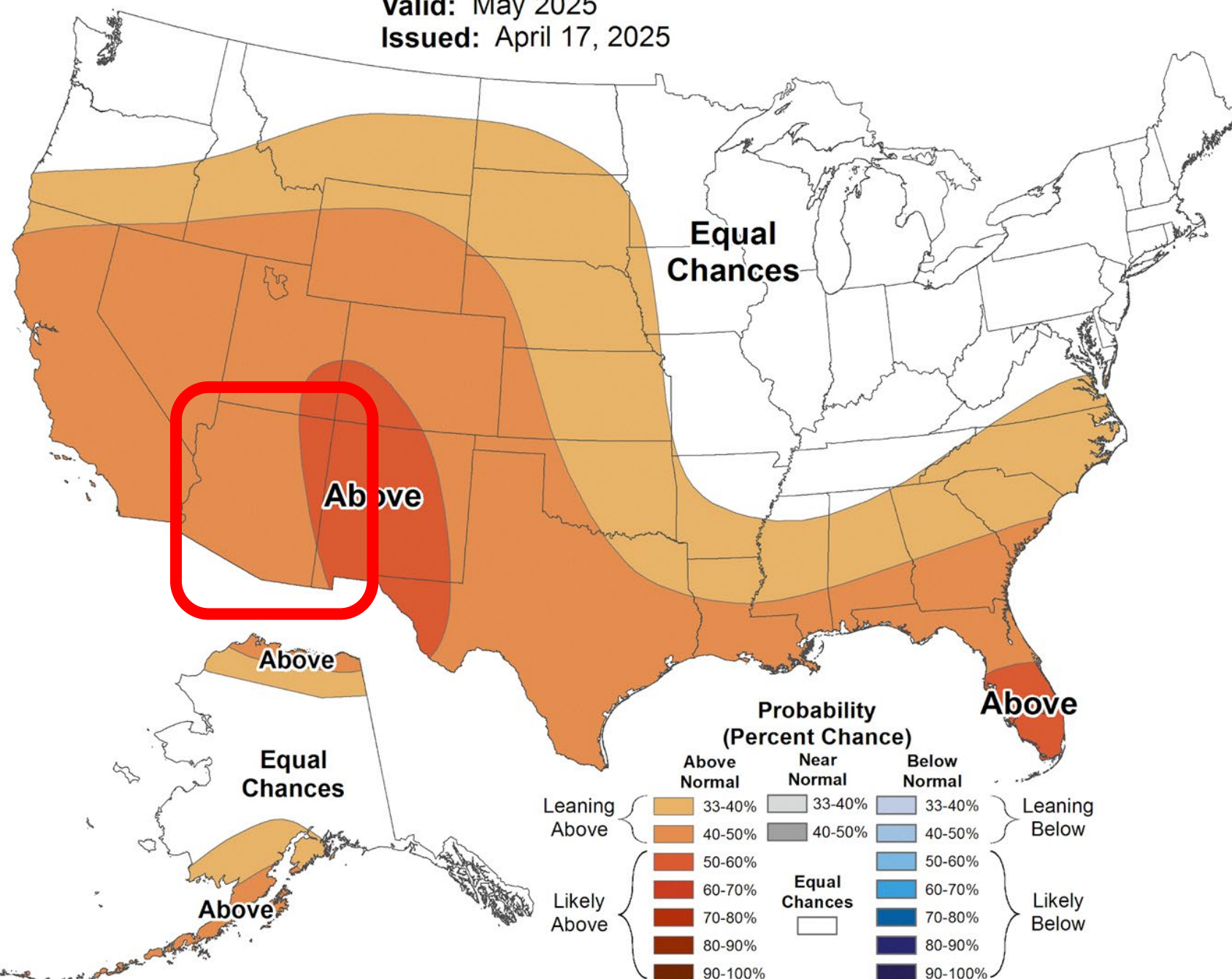
Temperature/ Precipitation: The ensemble models show a series of building high pressure that will bring above normal temperatures (40-60%) and equal chances for below, above, or normal precipitation. Normal precip ~0.25”.



Monthly Temperature Outlook



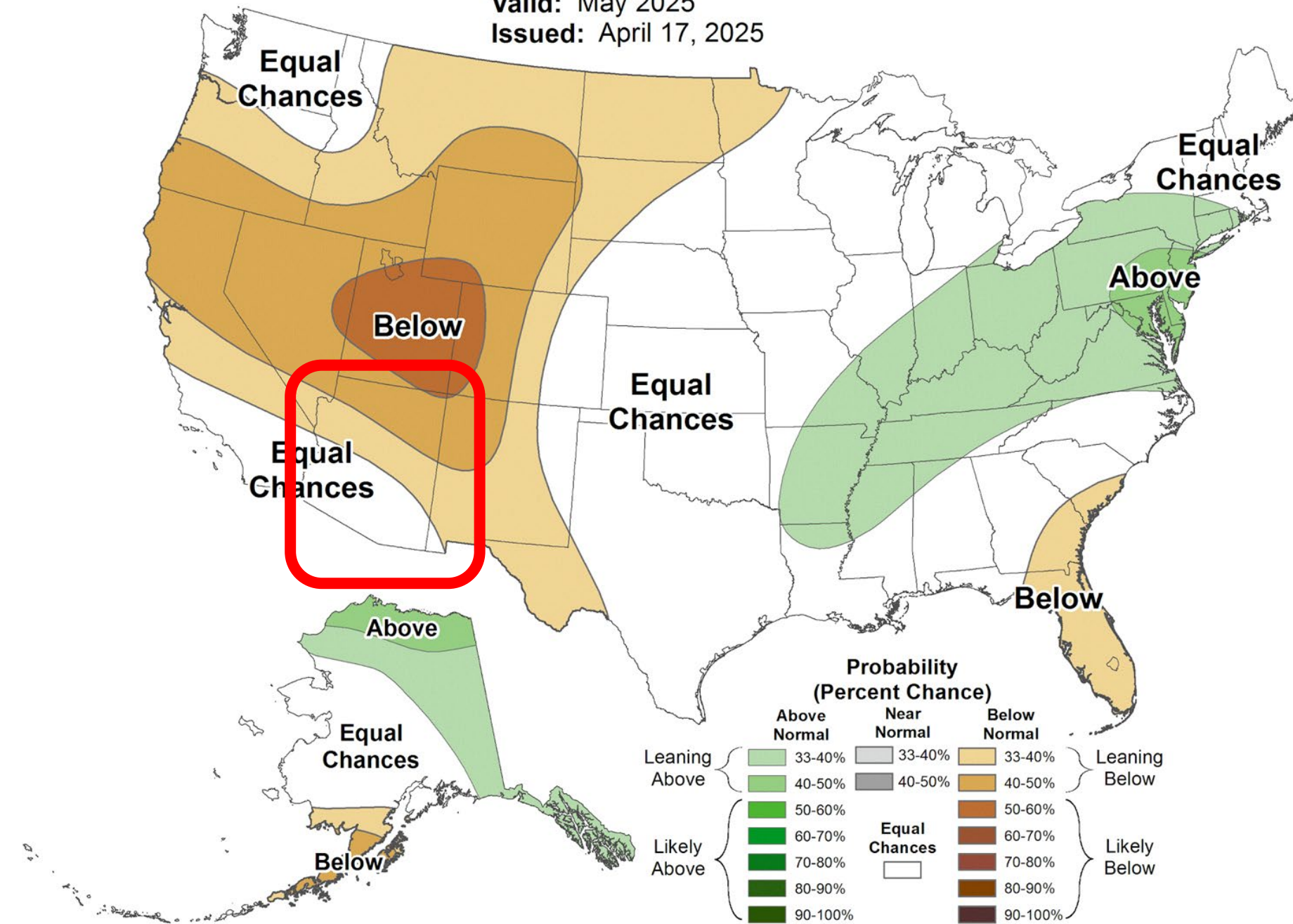
Valid: May 2025
Issued: April 17, 2025

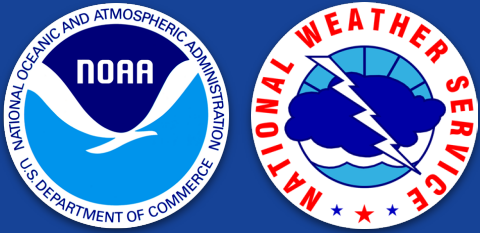


Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Valid: May 2025
Issued: April 17, 2025





3-Month Outlook

Weather Forecast Office
Tucson, AZ
Friday, April 18

3-Month Outlook: May - July

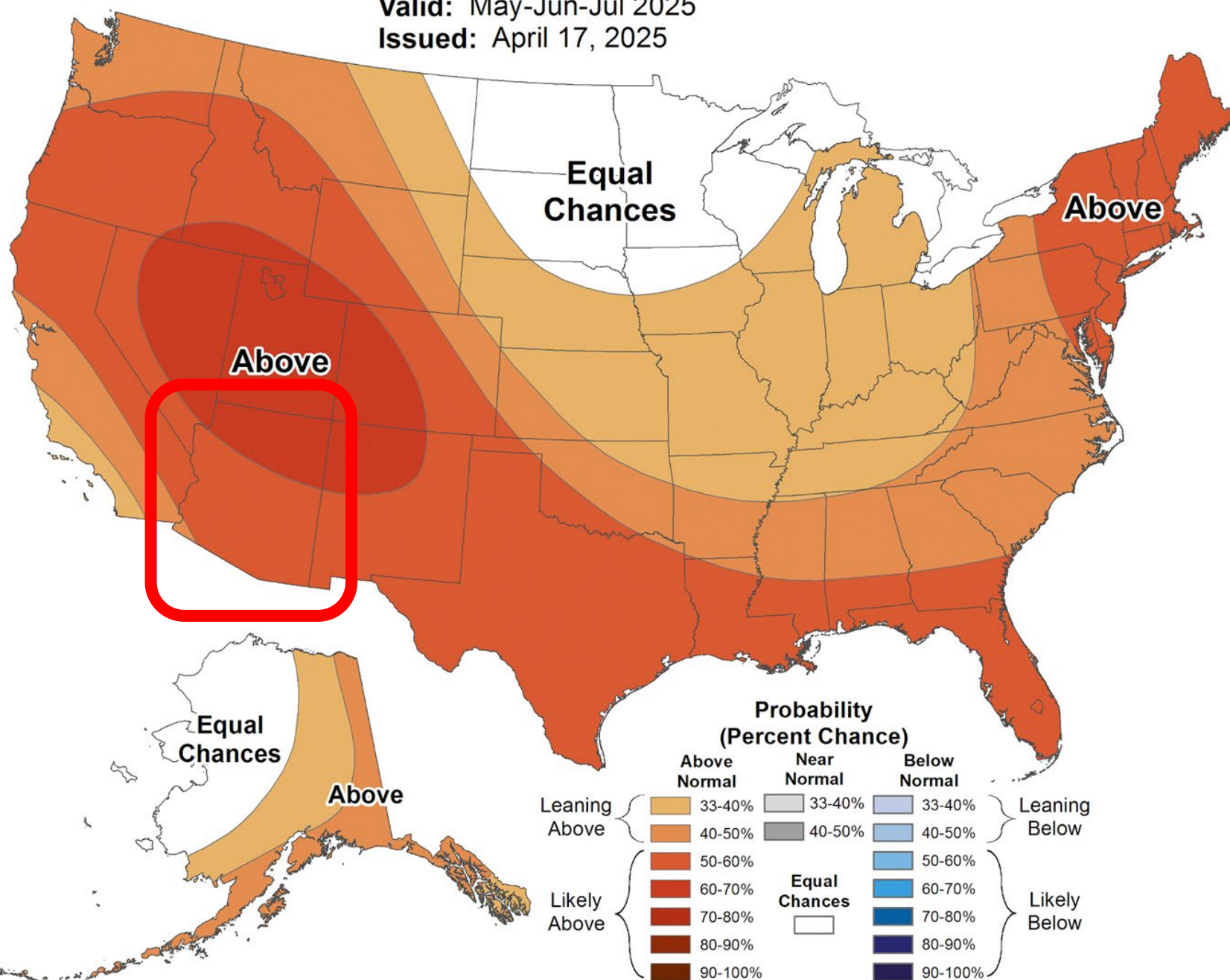
La Niña conditions are expected to transition to ENSO-neutral in the next month and will persist through the summer. The May through July outlook has temperatures trending above normal (50-60% chance) and precipitation leaning above normal (33-40% chance) for southeast Arizona.



Seasonal Temperature Outlook



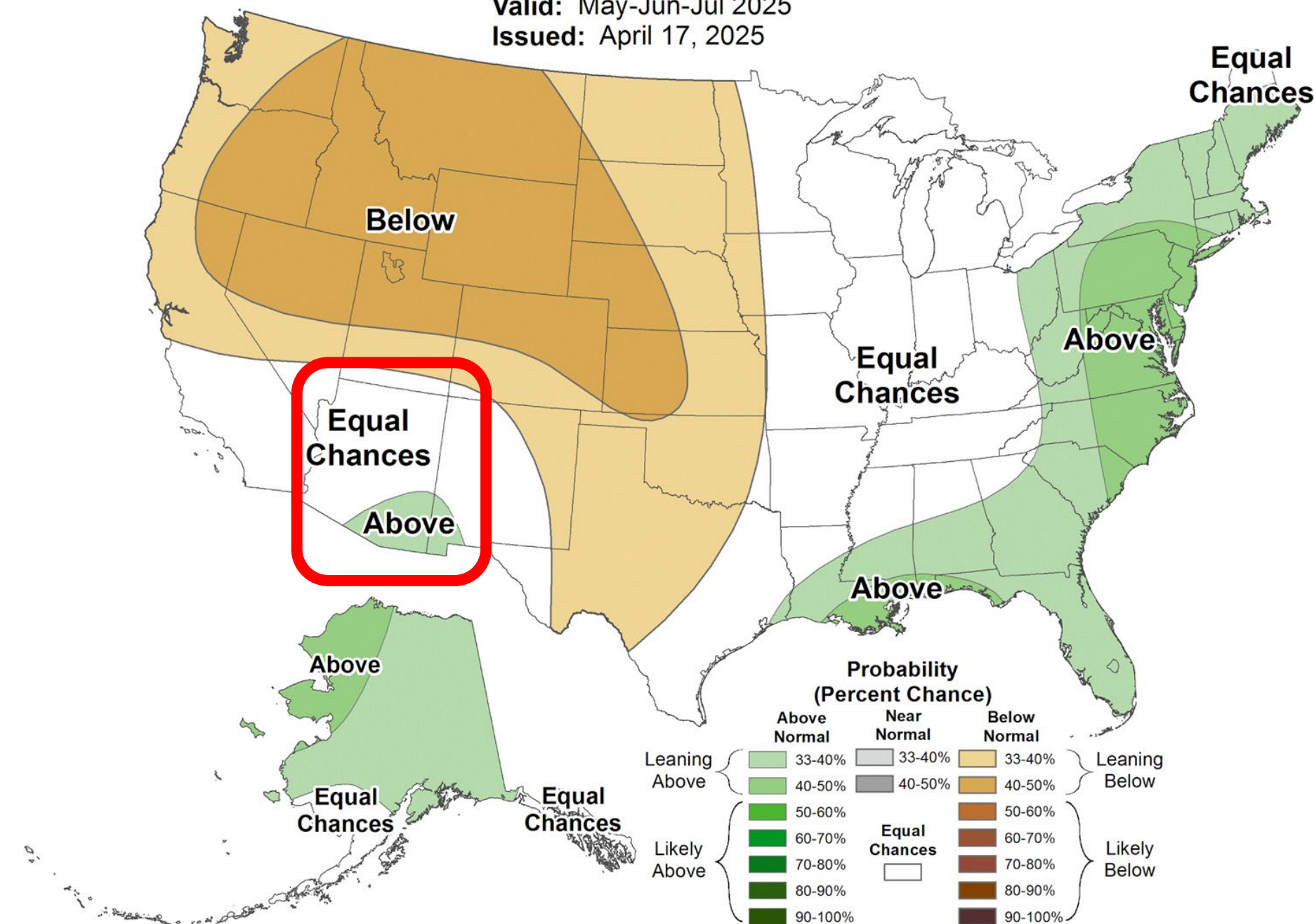
Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2025
Issued: April 17, 2025



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



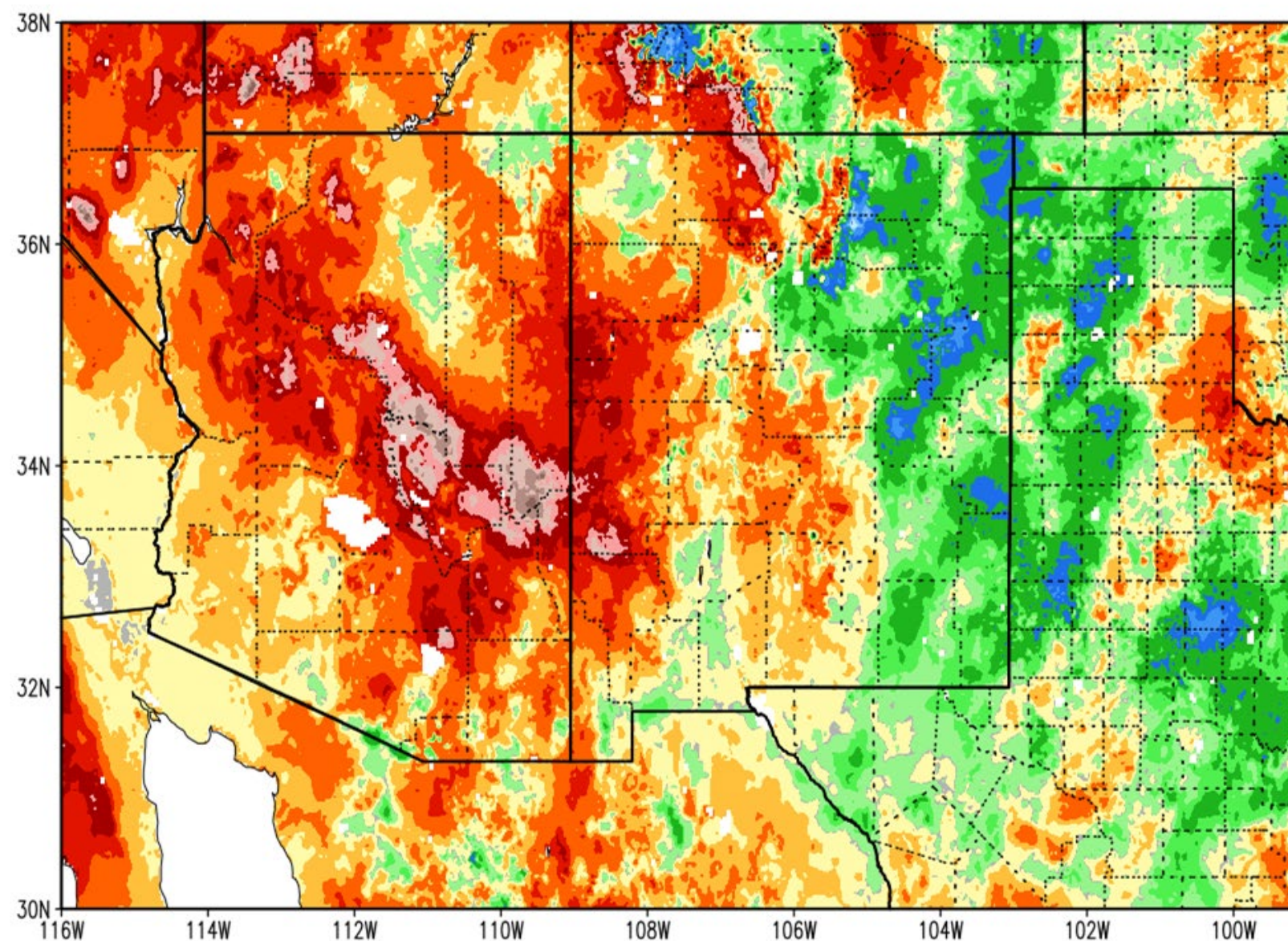
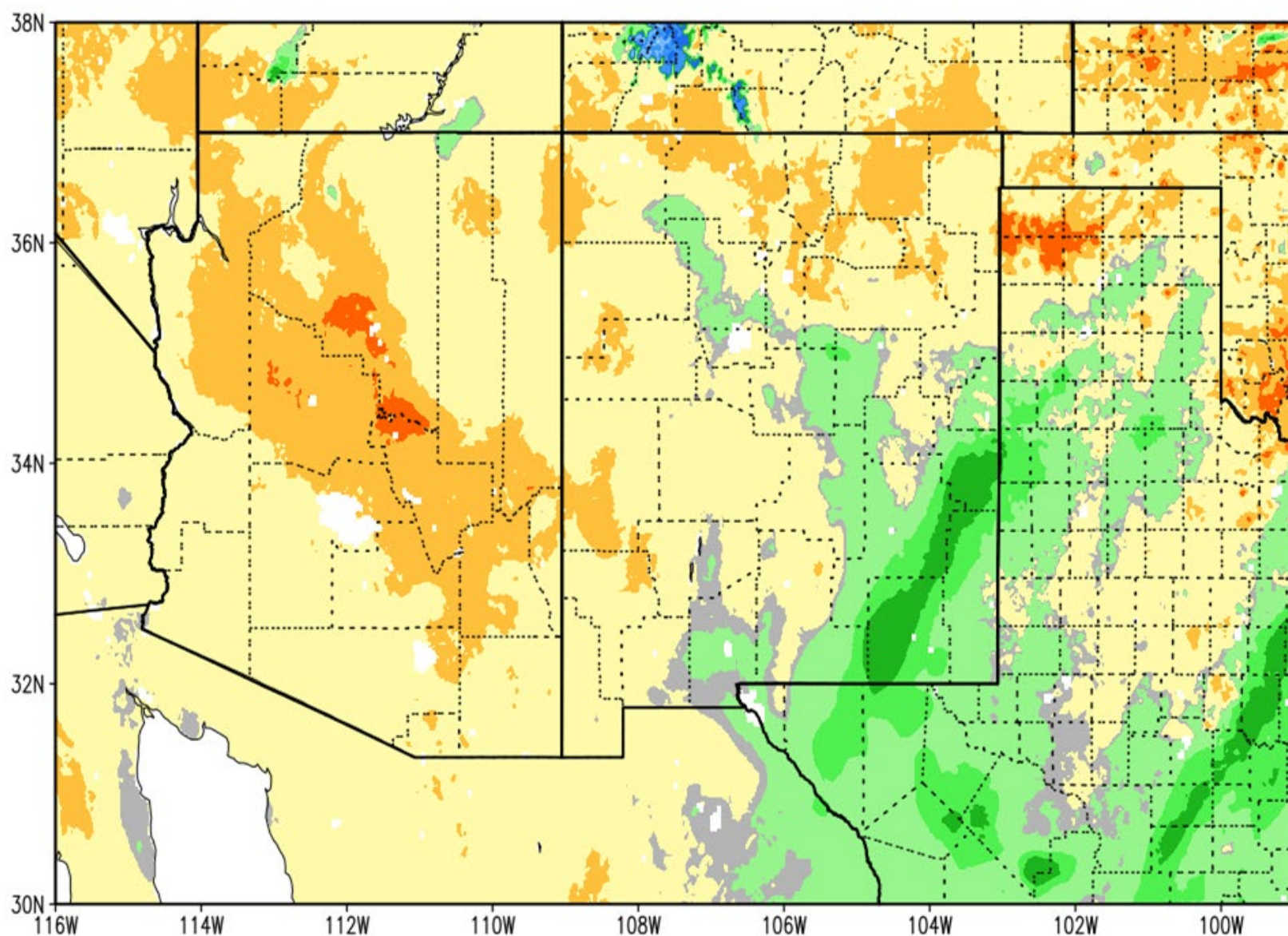
Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2025
Issued: April 17, 2025

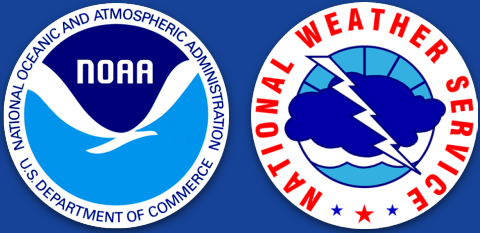


- **1-Month Difference** generally shows to 2%-4% drier (yellow/orange) across Southeast Arizona in soil moisture compared to March 17, 2025.
- **1-Year Difference** shows significant dry conditions (yellow to gray) across much of the state of Arizona with localized areas of wet conditions (green) compared to April 1, 2024.

1-Month Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) valid 12z 17 Apr 2025

1-Year Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) valid 12z 17 Apr 2025



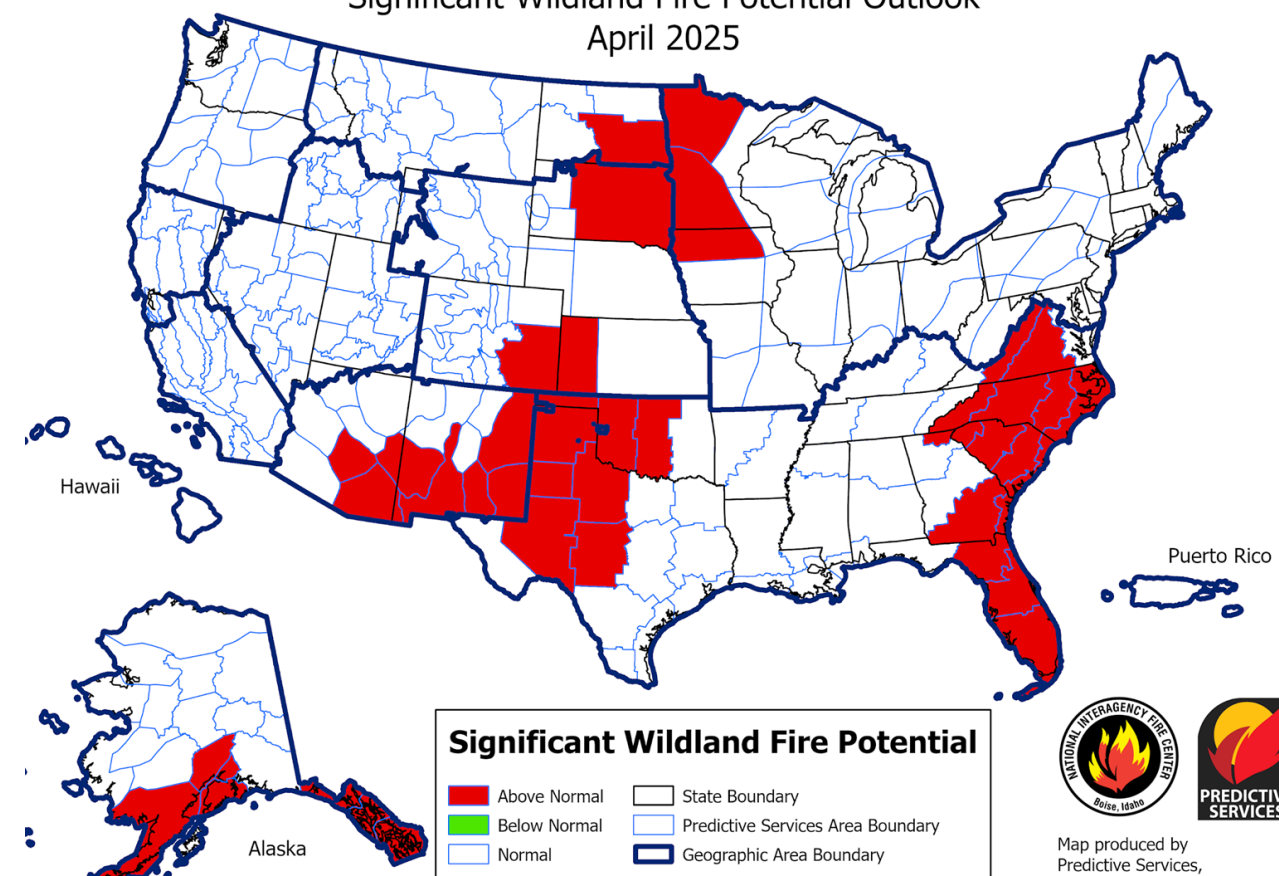


Fire Weather Potential

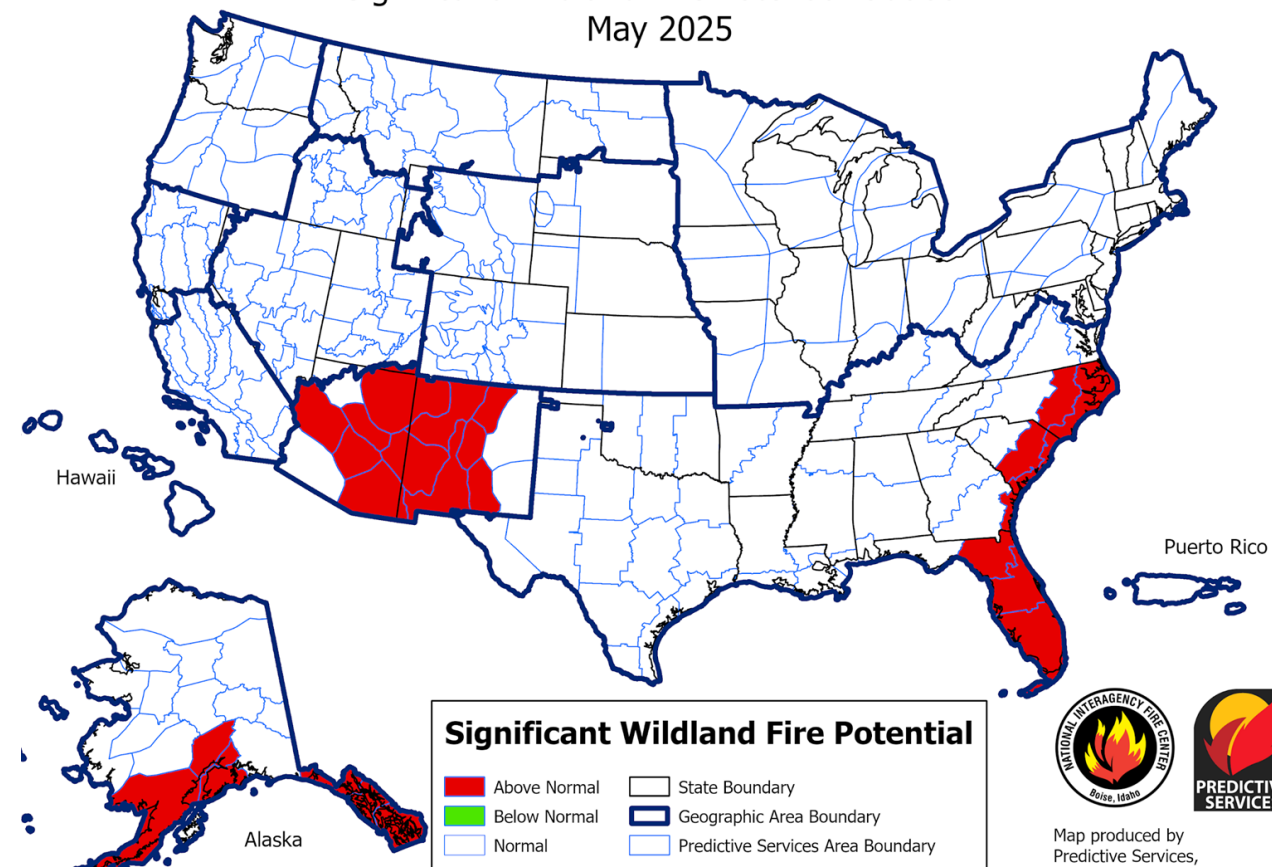
Weather Forecast Office
Tucson, AZ
Friday, April 18

- **April:** Southeast Arizona (Cochise, Santa Cruz, Eastern Pima, Graham and Greenlee counties) are forecast to be in above normal potential for a significant wildland fire (red).
- **May:** Southeastern, eastern and northern Arizona are forecast to be in above normal potential for a significant wildland fire (red).
- **June:** A majority of Arizona is forecast to be in above normal potential for a significant wildland fire (red).

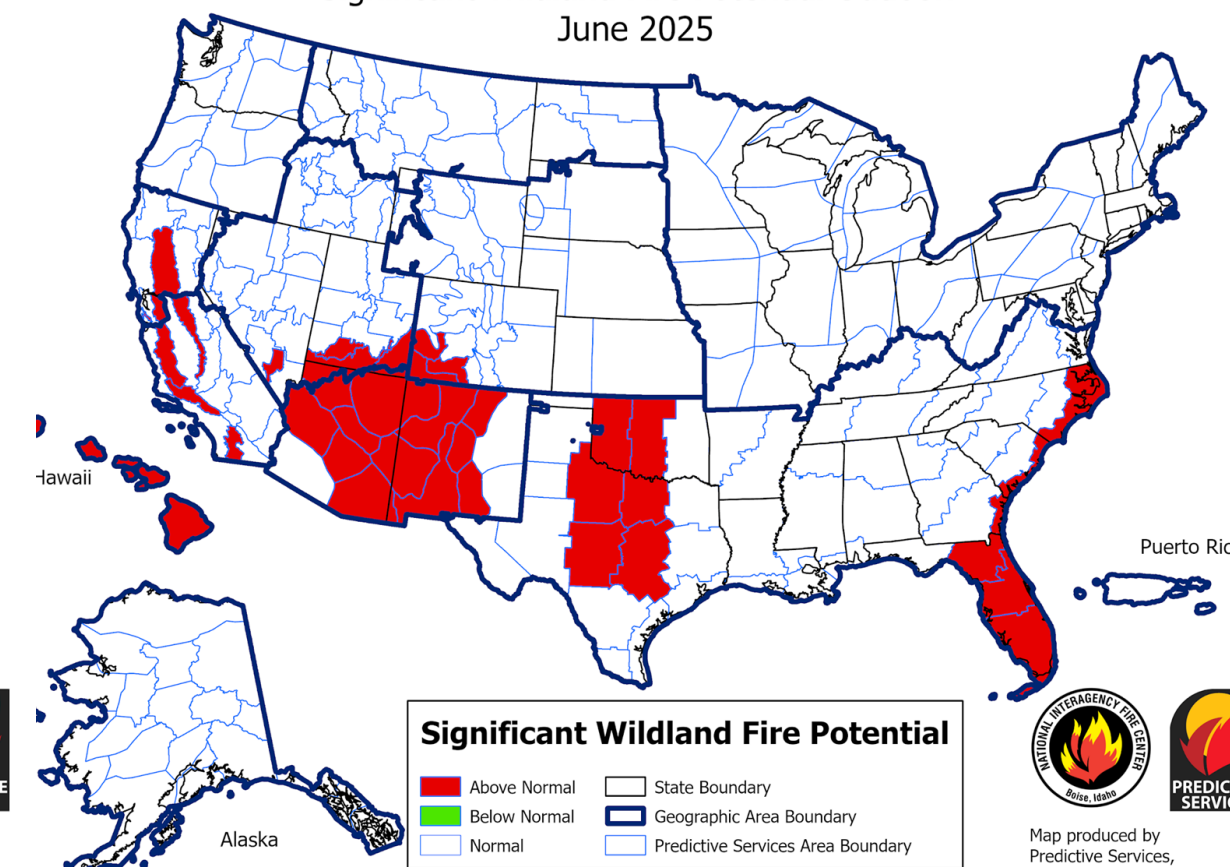
Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook
April 2025



Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook
May 2025



Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook
June 2025



ve normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur.
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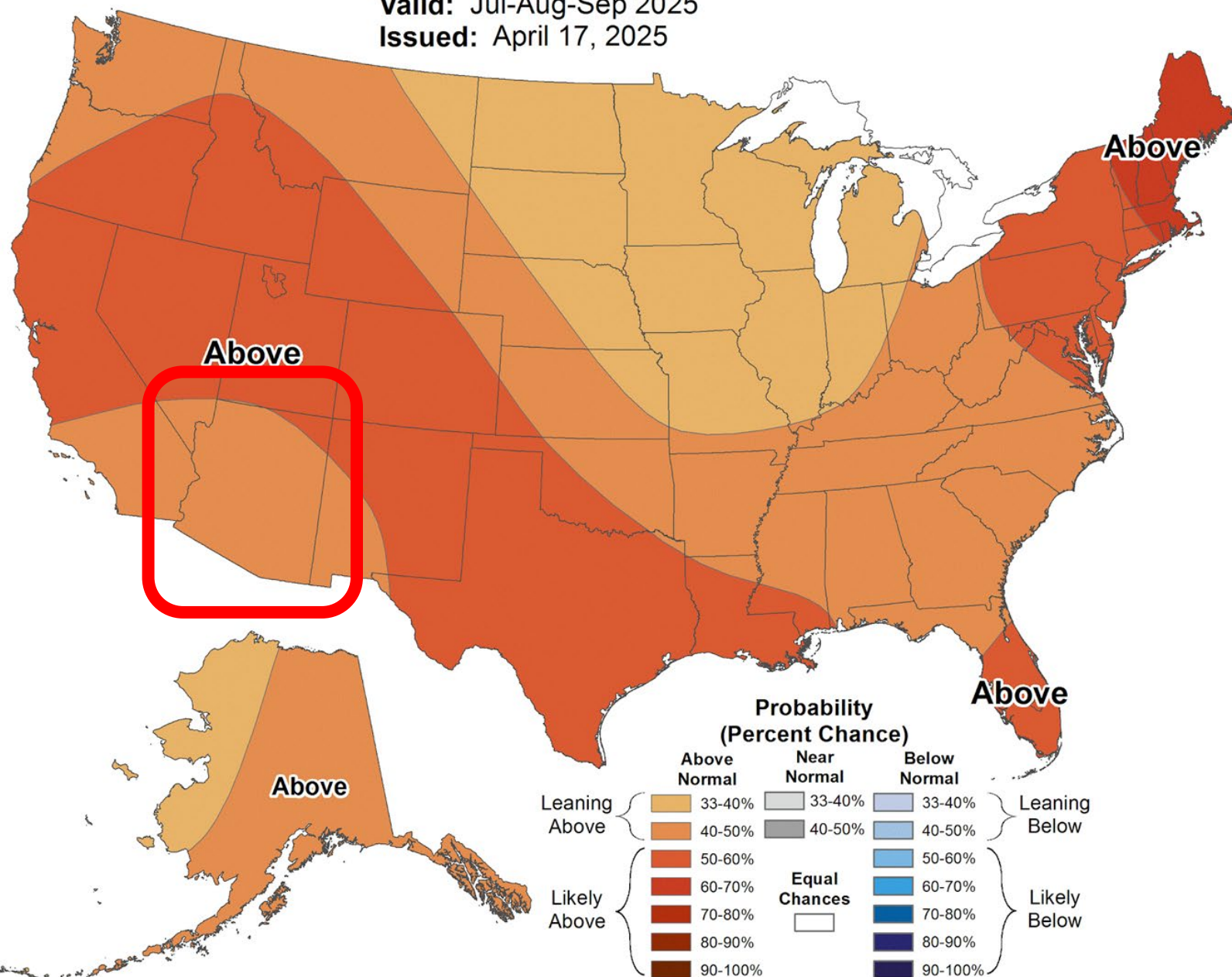
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- This past winter (December through February) was very dry.
- Climatology tells us that a **very dry winter leads to a wetter than normal Monsoon season** (~60% of the time)

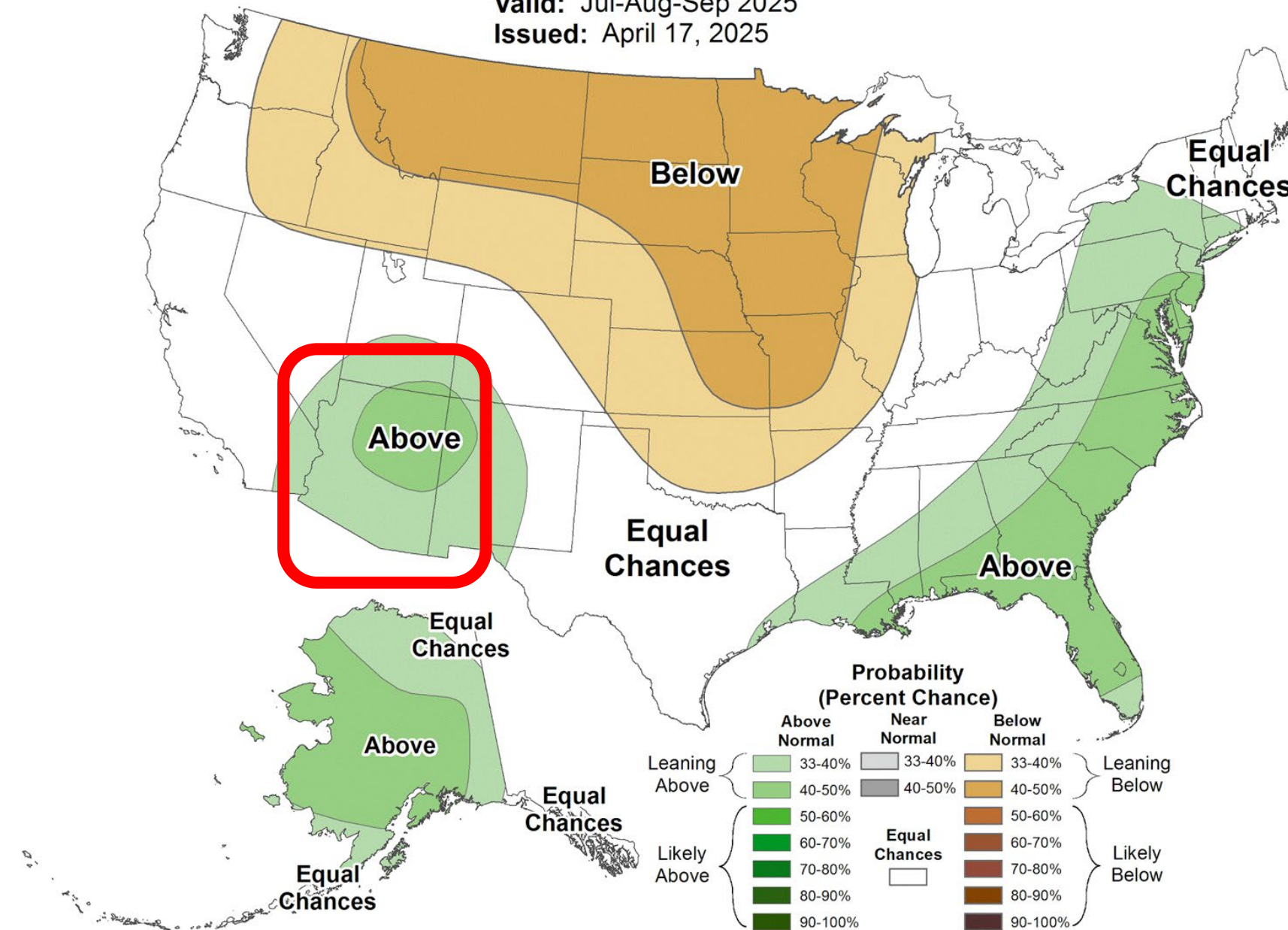
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Jul-Aug-Sep 2025
Issued: April 17, 2025



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Jul-Aug-Sep 2025
Issued: April 17, 2025



Arizona Climate **Division 7**: Southeast Arizona

Note: The 2024-2025 Winter (0.17") was ranked as the driest on record by NCEI

| The 10 Driest Winter Seasons (DJF) | Precipitation | Monsoon rainfall (JJAS) | Ranking | Monsoon start date |
|--|---------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2005-2006 | 0.27" | 10.45" | 10th wettest | June 28 |
| 1999-2000 | 0.37" | 6.72" | near normal | June 17 |
| 1963-1964 | 0.57" | 10.15" | 12th wettest | July 8 |
| 1998-1999 | 0.62" | 10.75" | 8th wettest | June 26 |
| 2013-2014 | 0.69" | 10.69" | 9th wettest | July 3 |
| 1966-1967 | 0.79" | 9.83" | 15th wettest | June 18 |
| 1903-1904 | 0.83" | 7.70" | near normal | - |
| 1901-1902 | 0.87" | 4.69" | below normal | - |
| 1920-1921 | 0.90" | 11.21" | 5th wettest | - |
| 1899-1900 | 0.94" | 5.04" | below normal | - |
| Normal Winter precipitation 1991-2020 (3.45") 10 driest average: 0.68" | | Normal Monsoon rainfall 1991-2020 (7.31") Monsoon average: 8.72" | | Avg date June 27 |

ENSO state: **La Niña**; **El Niño**; Neutral

Six of the **WETTEST** 15 Monsoons on record have occurred following **10 of the driest Winter seasons** on record for southeast Arizona. Two of the earliest Monsoon starts (2000 & 1967) happened after two of the driest Winters on record.



Key Points

- **Current Drought Status:** Southern Arizona is in D2 (Severe), D3 (Extreme), and D4 (Exceptional) drought conditions. Drought is expected to continue through the spring.
- **Recap of March**
 - Temperatures were -3 degrees below normal to +3 degrees above normal.
 - Precipitation was -0.9 inches below normal to +0.9 inches above normal.
- **Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks**
 - 1-Month outlook shows above normal temperatures (40-60%) and equal chances for below, above, or normal precipitation.
 - 3-month outlook shows above normal temperatures (50-60%) and above normal precipitation (33-40%).
 - Monsoon: leaning towards above normal precipitation (33-40% chance).
- **Fire Potential Outlook:** Given the below average precipitation this winter season and drought severity, we will have an increased potential for an extended and significant wildfire season.
 - Soil moisture is 2%-4% drier than 30 days ago (March 17, 2025) for areas south of Tucson and up to 4% wetter for areas north of Tucson and significantly drier compared to last year (April 17, 2024) across most of Arizona.