

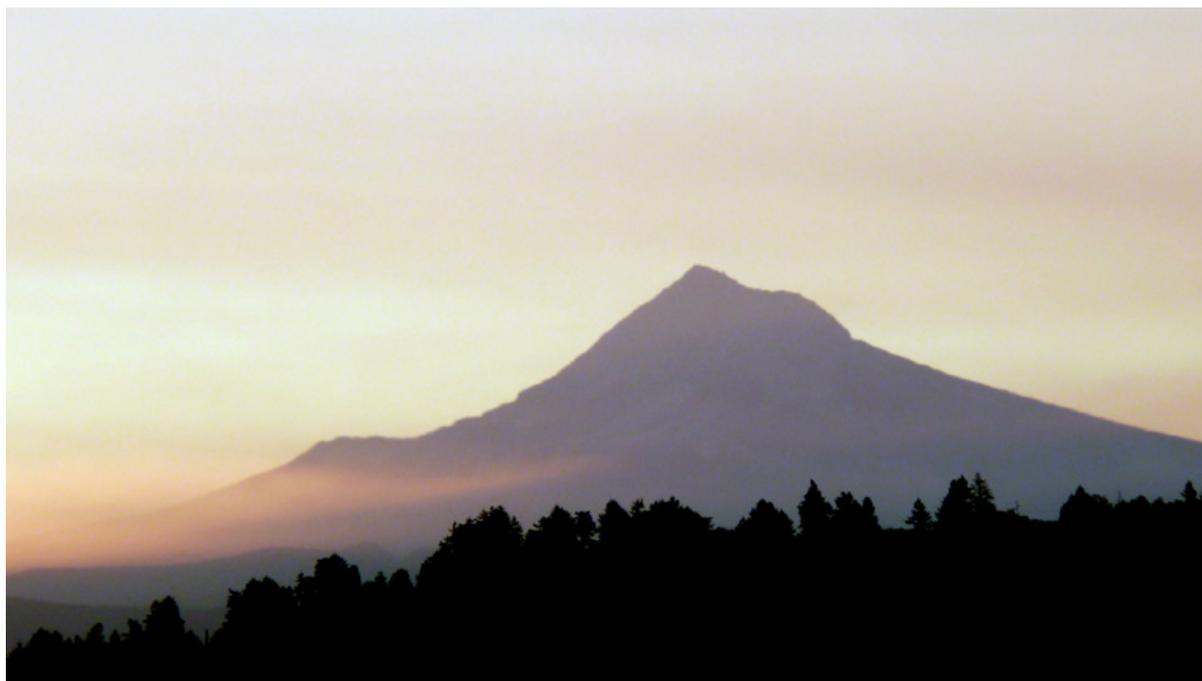


Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

Weekly Report - Snowpack / Drought Monitor Update Date: 17 September 2009

SNOTEL SNOWPACK AND PRECIPITATION SUMMARY

Temperature: SNOTEL and ACIS-day station average weekly temperature anomalies were much above average over the Pacific Northwest and below average over the eastern Plains of Colorado (Fig. 1). This week, Portland broke its most 90 degree or higher daily temperature record for the summer at 24 days. Record heat helped to encourage some large fires to grow over southern Oregon (see photo below and Fig. 5b). ACIS 7-day average temperature anomalies show that the greatest positive temperature departures occurred over the northeastern Montana (>+12F) and the greatest negative departures occurred over southeastern Colorado and central New Mexico (<-6F) (Fig. 1a).



Smoke from distant fires surrounds Mt Hood this week. Photo taken from Portland, Oregon.

Precipitation: ACIS 7-day average precipitation amounts for the period ending 23 September shows a mostly dry West with the exception of some scattered rain over northwestern Washington and over New Mexico and Colorado (Fig 2 and 2a). Seasonal precipitation (rain & snow water equivalent) as a percent of normal for the 2009 Water Year that began on October 1, 2008 shows surplus values over southern Idaho and over eastern Nevada with deficits over the northernmost Tier States, southwest New Mexico, and northwest Oregon. There has been no significant change during the past week as would be expected as we near the end of the Water-Year (Fig. 2b).

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WESTERN DROUGHT STATUS

The West: Seasonal dryness and slightly above-normal readings prevailed in California and the Great Basin as the autumn wildfire season fast approached. Since September is normally dry, conditions were quite typical for this time of the year, thus status-quo was maintained. As of Sep. 22, the NIFC reported that there were 7 large active wildfires, all in the Far West, including the long-burning Station fire in California's Angeles National Forest. At 94 percent containment, Station has blackened nearly 161,000 acres. Farther to the north, a weak Pacific system dropped light to moderate rains (0.1 to 0.5 inches, locally to 1.6 inches near Quillayute, WA) on the Pacific Northwest, halting any further deterioration but not great enough to make any improvements. In contrast, a second week of a resurgent monsoon brought widespread showers and thunderstorms to the Four-Corner states and southern Wyoming. One to two inches of rain fell on western two-thirds of New Mexico and Colorado, east-central Arizona, northeastern Utah, and south-central Wyoming. Accordingly, short-term D1 was erased from central New Mexico, as was D0(A) in western parts of the state. East-central Arizona was improved by 1-category, while northwestern Colorado, north of the Colorado River, received enough rain to remove D0 there. In southwest Colorado, however, flows on the Animas and Los Pinos Rivers above the Vallecito Reservoir remain below normal, and the Lemon Reservoir (near Durango) is currently 25 percent full, or 48 percent of the normal storage, placing this area into D1. Author: David Miskus, JAWF/CPC/NCEP/NWS/NOAA.

A comprehensive narrative describing drought conditions for the nation can be found at the end of this document.

DROUGHT IMPACTS DEFINITIONS (<http://drought.unl.edu/dm/classify.htm>)

The possible impacts associated with **D4 (H, A)** drought include widespread crop/pasture losses and shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells creating water emergencies. The possible impacts associated with **D3 (H, A)** drought include major crop/pasture losses and widespread water shortages or restrictions. Possible impacts from **D2 (H, A)** drought are focused on water shortages common and water restrictions imposed and crop or pasture losses likely. The possible impacts associated with **D1 (H, A)** drought are focused on water shortages developing in streams, reservoirs, or wells, and some damage to crops and pastures (Figs. 3, 3a, and 3b).

SOIL MOISTURE

Soil moisture (Figs. 4a and 4b), is simulated by the [VIC macroscale hydrologic model](#). The detailed, physically-based VIC model is driven by observed daily precipitation and temperature maxima and minima from approximately 2130 stations, selected for reporting reliably in real-time and for having records of longer than 45 years (and various other criteria). Another good resource can be found at: <http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/nldas/drought/>.

OBSERVED FIRE DANGER CLASS

The [adjective class rating](#) is a method of normalizing rating classes across different fuel models, indexes, and station locations. It is based on the primary fuel model cataloged for the station, the fire danger index selected to reflect staffing levels, and climatological class breakpoints. This information is provided by local station managers. About 90% use the Burning Index (BI); others use Energy Release Component (ERC). Staffing class breakpoints are set by local managers from historical fire weather climatology (Figs. 5).

Only reporting station locations are indicated with a marker on the maps. Values between stations are estimated with an inverse distance-squared technique on a 10-km grid. This works pretty well in areas of relatively high station density, but has obvious shortcomings in other areas.

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VEGETATION STRESS (Figure 6)

(http://www.star.nesdis.noaa.gov/smcd/emb/vci/VH/vh_currentImage.php)

Image Interpretation: The images are color-coded maps of vegetation condition (health) estimated by the Vegetation and Temperature Condition Index (VT). The VT is a numerical index, which changes from 0 to 100 characterizing change in vegetation conditions from extremely poor (0) to excellent (100). Fair conditions are coded by green color (50), which changes to brown and red when conditions deteriorate and to blue when they improve. The VT reflects indirectly a combination of chlorophyll and moisture content in the vegetation and also changes in thermal conditions at the surface. This new approach combines the visible, near infrared and thermal radiances in a numerical index characterizing vegetation health. This approach is extremely useful in detecting and monitoring such complex and difficult-to-identify phenomenon as drought. The VT values below 35 are used for identifying vegetation stress which is an indirect drought indicator. The VT is very useful for early drought detection, assessing drought area coverage, duration, and intensity, and for monitoring drought impacts on vegetation and agricultural crops.

U.S. HISTORICAL STREAMFLOW

This map, (Fig. 7) shows the 7-day average streamflow conditions in hydrologic units of the United States and Puerto Rico for the day of year. The colors represent 7-day average streamflow percentiles based on historical streamflow for the day of the year. Thus, the map shows conditions adjusted for this time of the year. Only stations having at least 30 years of record are used. Sub-regions shaded gray indicate that insufficient data were available to compute a reliable 7-day average streamflow value. During winter months, this situation frequently arises due to ice effects. The data used to produce this map are provisional and have not been reviewed or edited. They may be subject to significant change.

http://water.usgs.gov/cgi-bin/waterwatch?state=us&map_type=dryw&web_type=map.

PASTURE AND RANGELAND CONDITIONS (Figure 8)

This product is produced and compiled by the NOAA's Climate Prediction Center:

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/experimental/edb/pasture-range-statewide-conditions.pdf>.

STATE ACTIVITIES

State government drought activities can be tracked at the following URL:

<http://drought.unl.edu/mitigate/mitigate.htm>. NRCS SS/WSF State Office personnel are participating in state drought committee meetings and providing the committees and media with appropriate SS/WSF information -

<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/cgibin/bor.pl>. Additional information describing the products available from the Drought Monitor can be found at the following URL:

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm/> and <http://drought.gov>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The National Water and Climate Center Homepage provide the latest available snowpack and water supply information. Please visit us at

<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>. This document is available from the following location on the NWCC homepage - <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/water/drought/wdr.pl>

This report uses data and products provided by the Interagency Drought Monitor Consortium members and the National Interagency Fire Center.

/s/ NOLLER HERBERT
Director, Conservation Engineering Division

09/24/2009

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SNOTEL (solid) and ACIS (dot-filled) Networks 7-Day Average Temperature Anomaly (Degrees F)

Sep 24, 2009

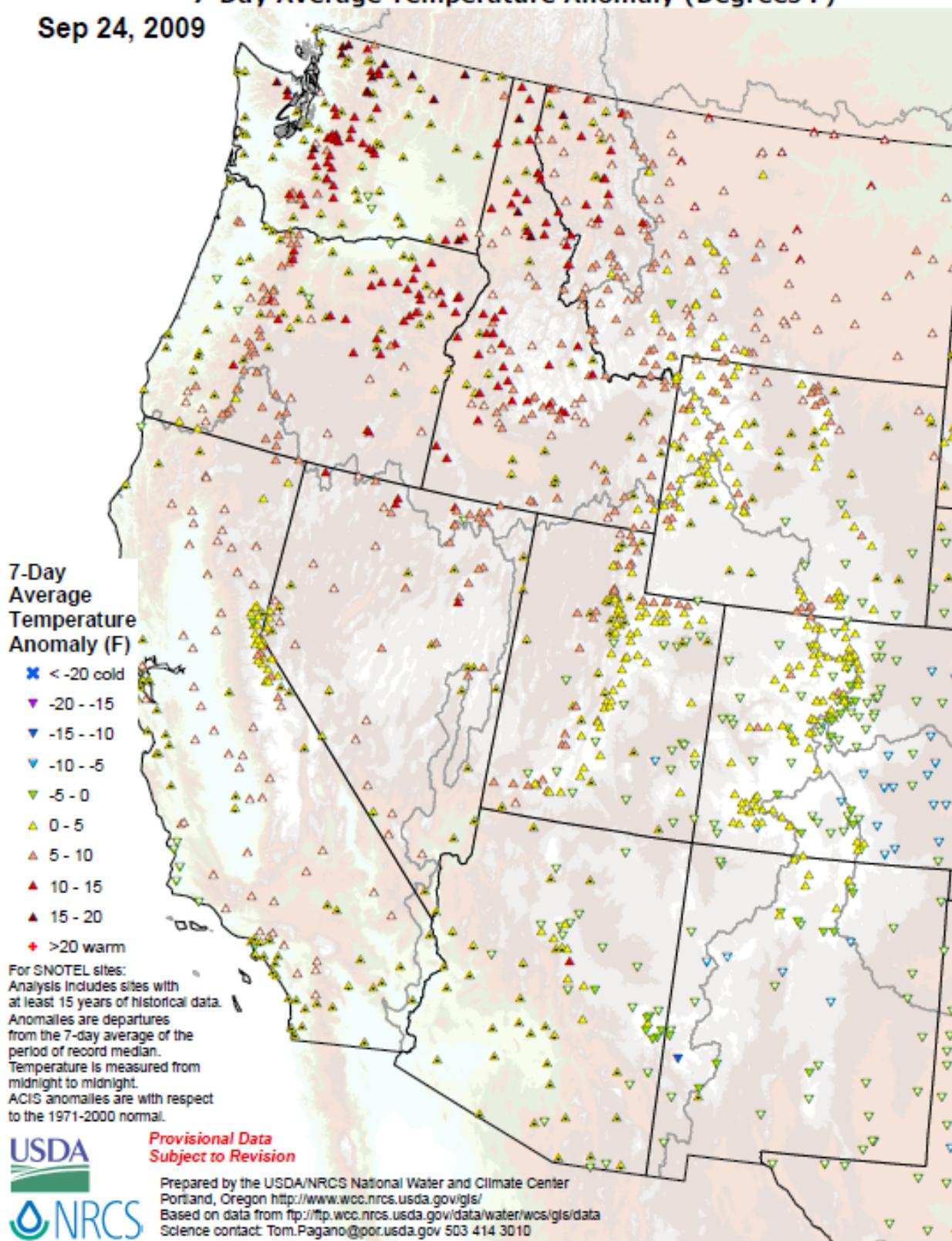
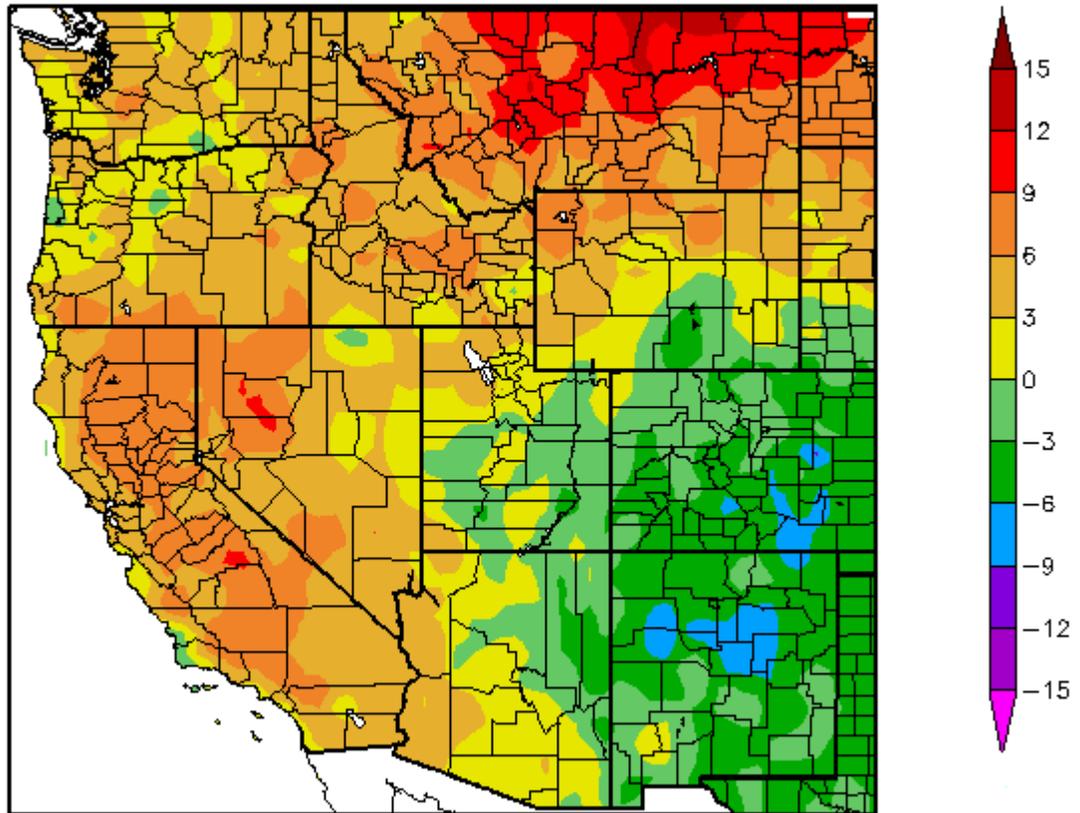


Fig. 1. SNOTEL and ACIS-day station average weekly temperature anomalies were very warm over the Pacific Northwest and below normal over the eastern Plains of Colorado.

<ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/WestwideTavg7dAnomalyAcis.pdf>.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/17/2009 - 9/23/2009



Generated 9/24/2009 at HPRCC using provisional data.

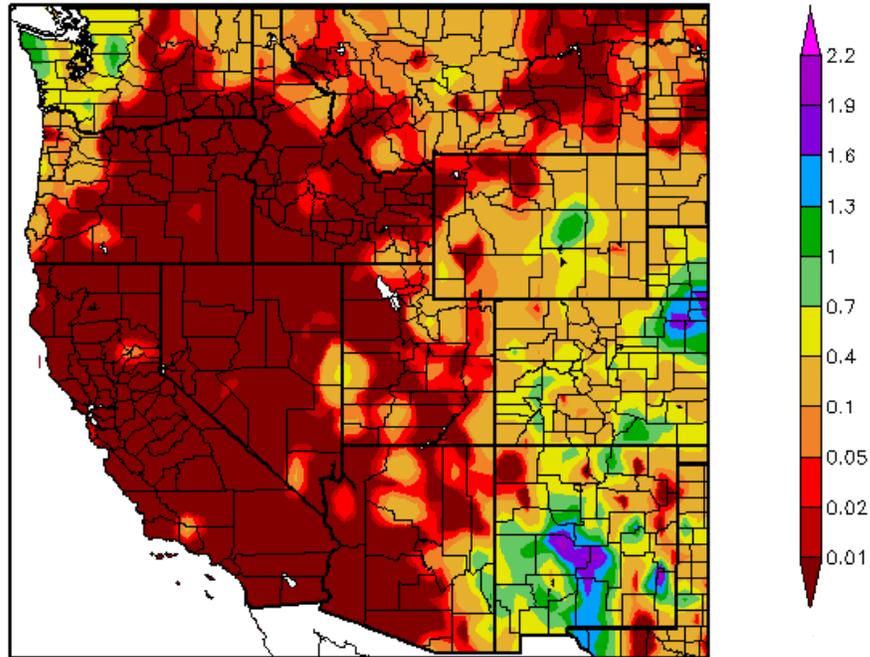
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Fig. 1a. ACIS 7-day average temperature anomalies show that the greatest positive temperature departures occurred over the northeastern Montana (>+12F) and the greatest negative departures occurred over southeastern Colorado and central New Mexico (<-6F). It is interesting to note that the higher elevations over the Pacific NW are not indicated on this map compared to Fig. 1.

Ref: http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current/index.php?action=update_product&product=TDept.

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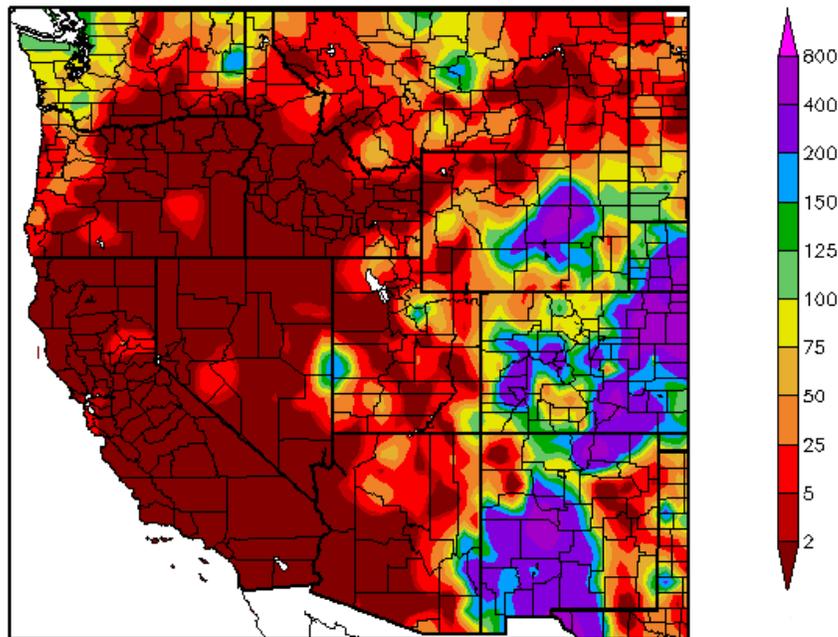
Precipitation (in)
9/17/2009 - 9/23/2009



Generated 9/24/2009 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/17/2009 - 9/23/2009



Generated 9/24/2009 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Fig. 2. and 2a. ACIS 7-day average precipitation amounts for the period ending 23 September shows a mostly dry West with the exception of some scattered rain over northwestern Washington and over New Mexico and Colorado. Ref: <http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current/>.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

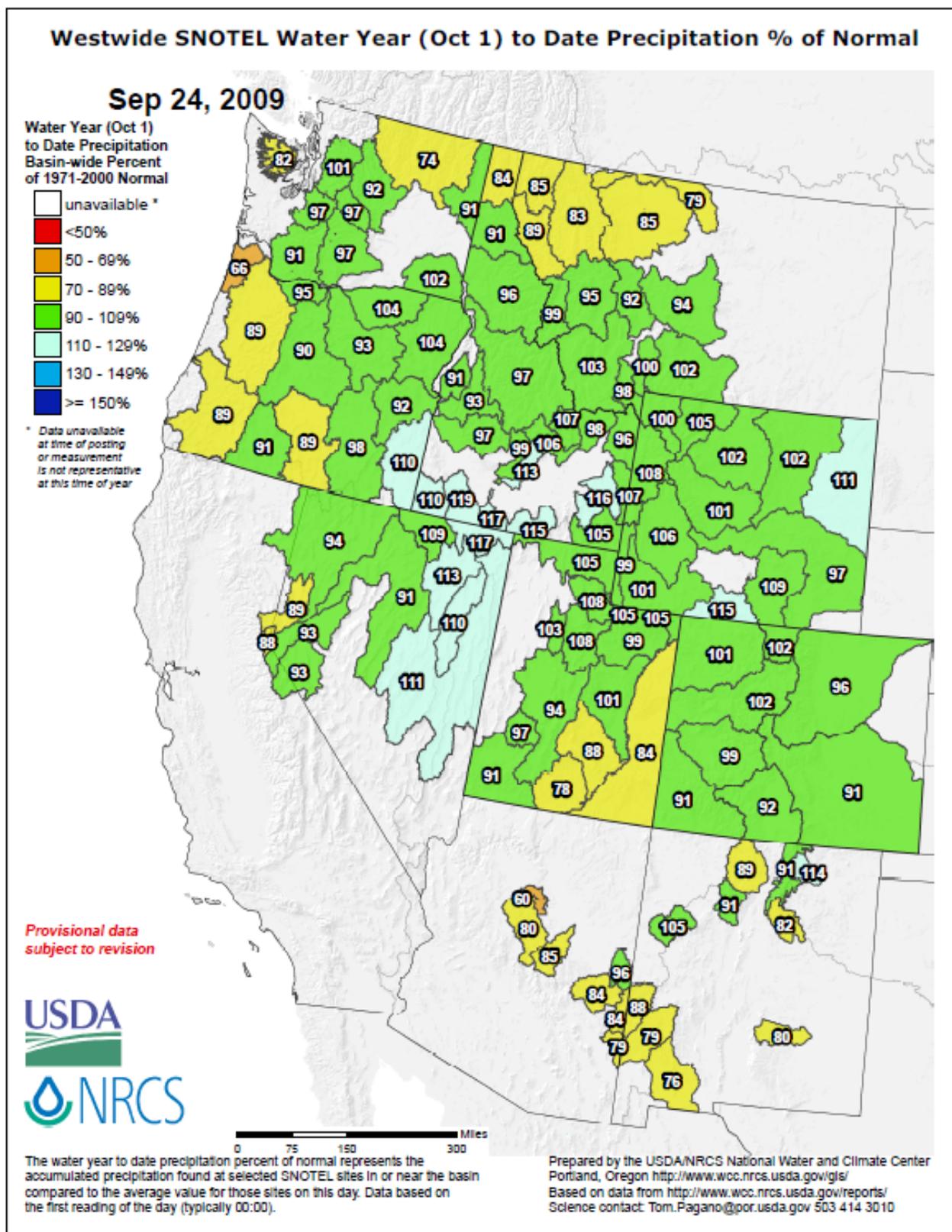
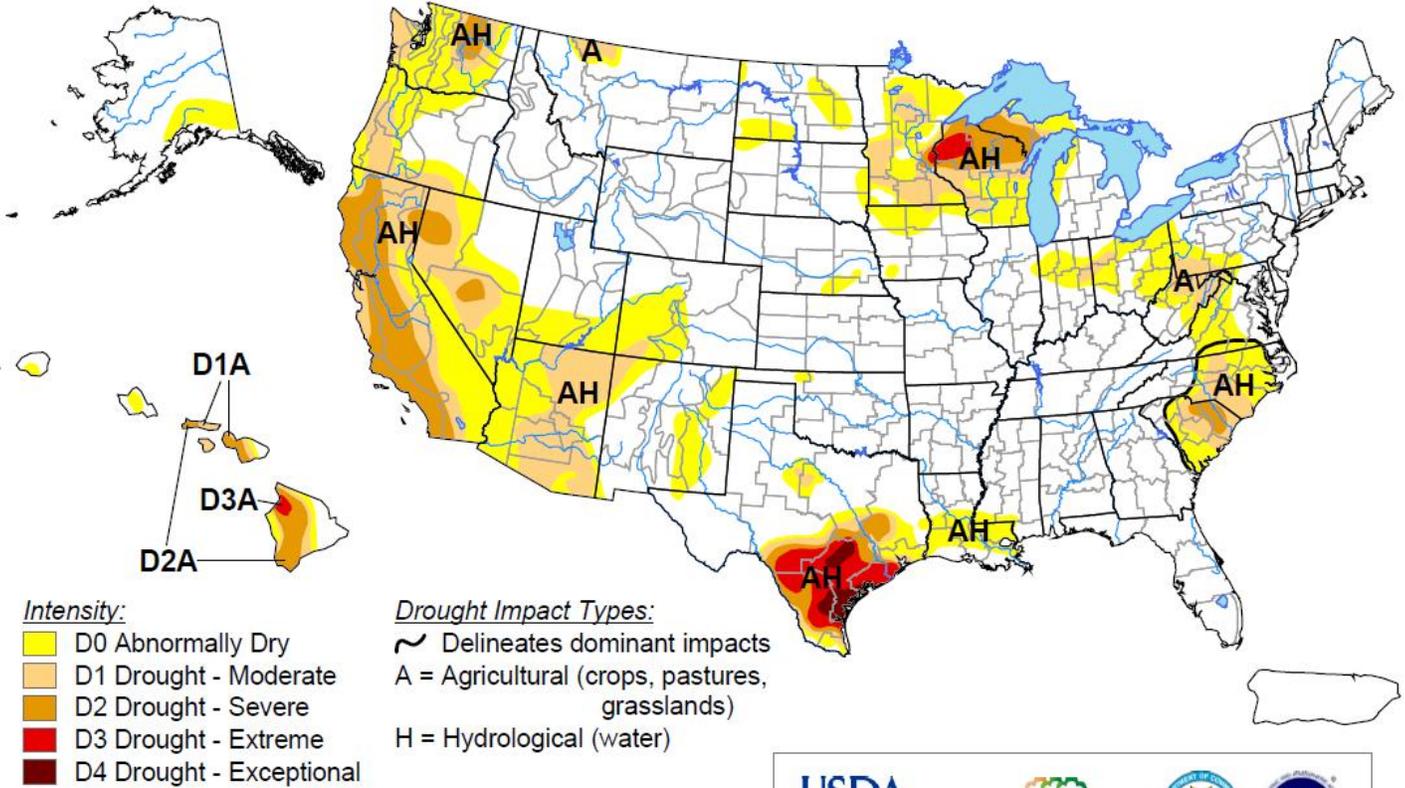


Fig 2b. Seasonal precipitation (rain & snow water equivalent) as a percent of normal for the 2009 Water Year that began on October 1, 2008 shows surplus values over southern Idaho into Wyoming and eastern Nevada with deficits over the northernmost Tier States, southwest New Mexico, and northwest Oregon. There have been no significant changes during the past week as would be expected as we near the end of the Water-Year.

Ref: http://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/west_wytdprecpcnormal_update.pdf.

U.S. Drought Monitor

September 22, 2009
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



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

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, September 24, 2009

Author: David Miskus, JAWF/CPC/NOAA

Fig. 3. Current Drought Monitor weekly summary.

Ref: National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) - <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>.

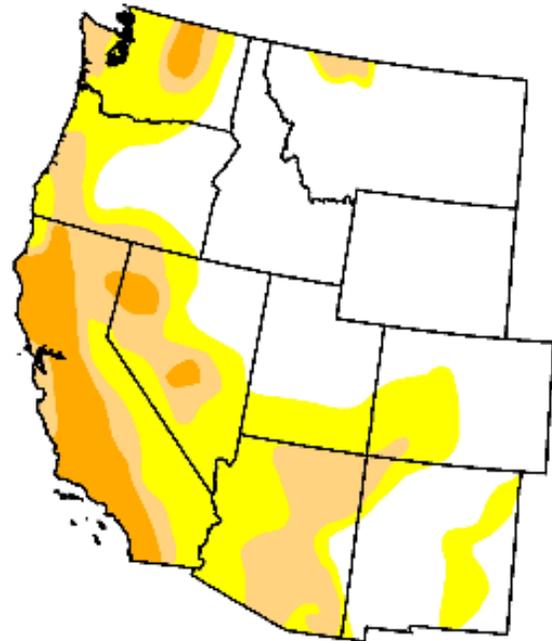
U.S. Drought Monitor

West

September 22, 2009
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	52.8	47.2	22.4	7.5	0.0	0.0
Last Week (09/15/2009 map)	49.4	50.6	23.7	7.7	0.0	0.0
3 Months Ago (06/30/2009 map)	55.1	44.9	17.9	7.1	0.0	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/06/2009 map)	37.4	62.6	28.9	8.8	0.4	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/07/2008 map)	41.3	58.7	28.6	10.4	0.1	0.0
One Year Ago (09/23/2008 map)	40.5	59.5	29.2	10.4	0.4	0.0



Intensity:

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

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

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



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Fig. 3a. Drought Monitor for the Western States with statistics over various time periods. Regionally, there was little change during the past week.

Ref: http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM_west.htm.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Texas

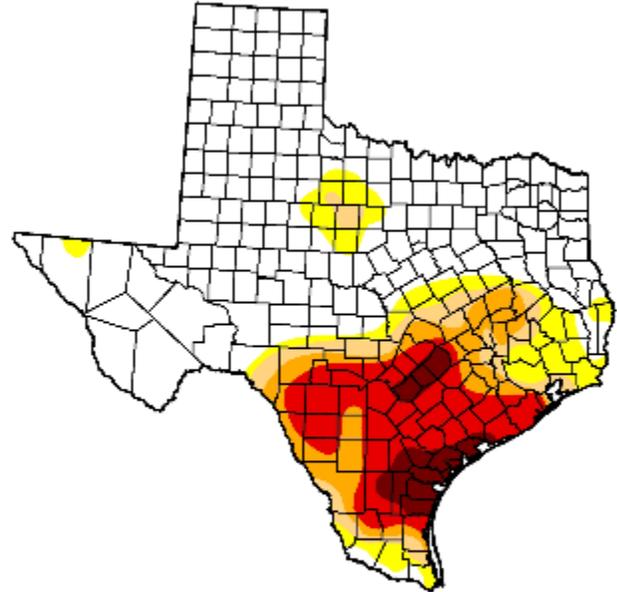
September 22, 2009
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	62.5	37.5	28.5	22.9	15.5	3.8
Last Week (09/15/2009 map)	60.7	39.3	30.6	25.2	15.8	3.4
3 Months Ago (06/30/2009 map)	28.2	71.8	38.4	27.9	20.0	11.1
Start of Calendar Year (01/06/2009 map)	41.7	58.3	24.5	15.0	9.1	4.2
Start of Water Year (10/07/2008 map)	67.2	32.8	20.5	11.0	3.6	0.0
One Year Ago (09/23/2008 map)	68.2	31.8	21.3	9.7	2.8	0.0

Intensity:

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



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

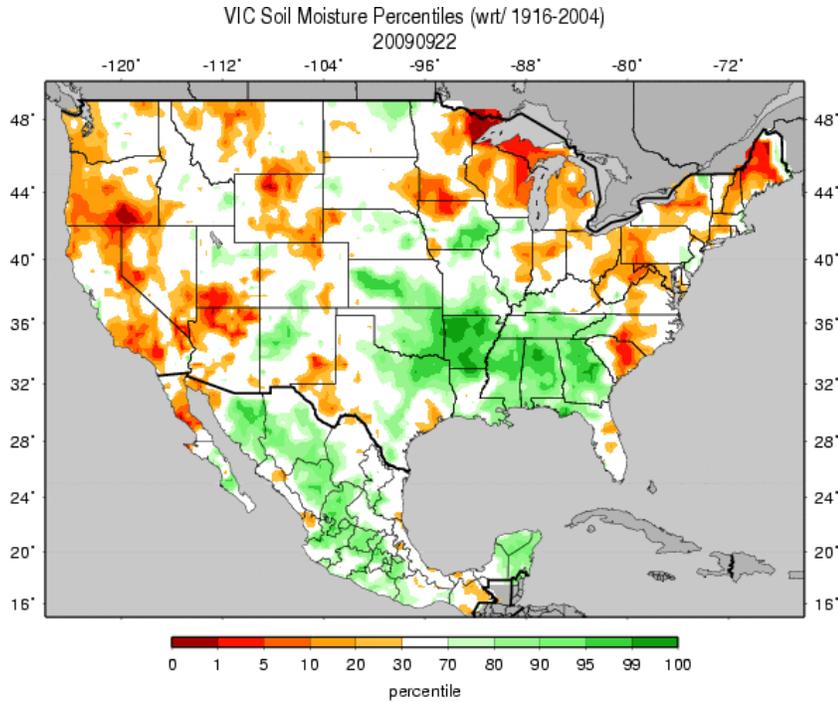
<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, September 24, 2009
Author: D. Miskus, JAWF/CPC/NOAA

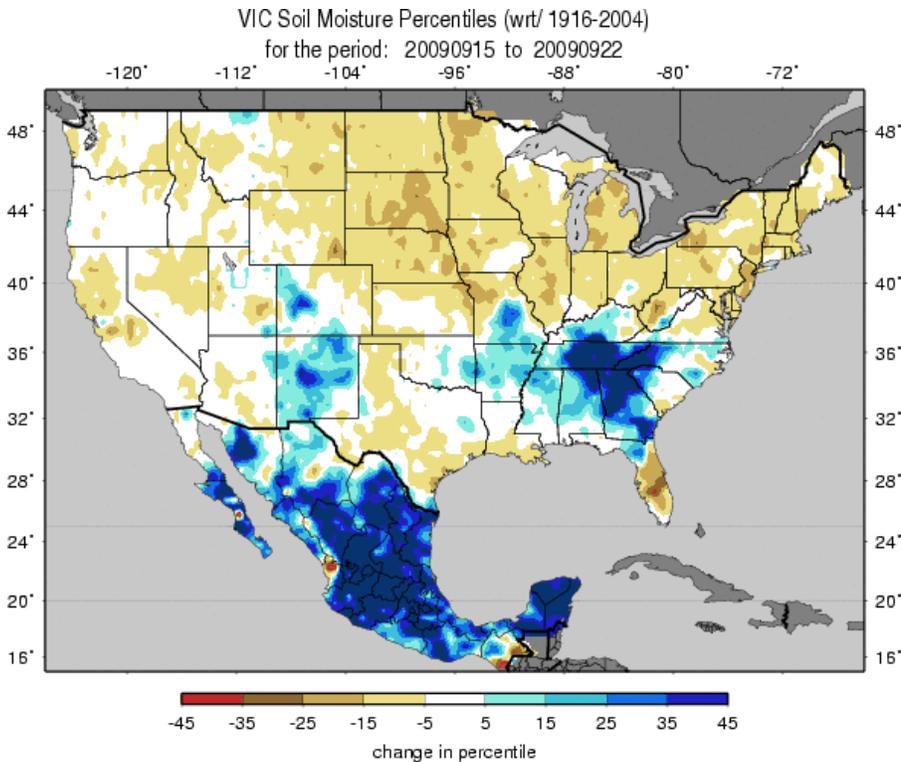
Fig. 3b: Texas is the only state with D4 drought condition in the US. Note that there was a small improvement in all categories since last week.
Ref: http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM_state.htm?TX,S.

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Figs. 4a: Soil Moisture ranking in percentile based on 1916-2004 climatology as of 22 September. Note that Arkansas to Georgia are the wettest areas while the driest areas are scattered across much of the remainder of the nation especially over Maine and the Great Lake and West Coast States.

Ref: http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/curr/conus.mexico/CONUS.MEXICO.vic.sm_qnt.gif.



Figs. 4b: Soil Moisture change in percentile based on 1916-2004 climatology for this past week. Excessive drying is found over much of the northern States. Excessive moistening is found over much of the central Southeast and New Mexico.

http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/curr/conus.mexico/CONUS.MEXICO.vic.sm_qnt.1wk.gif.

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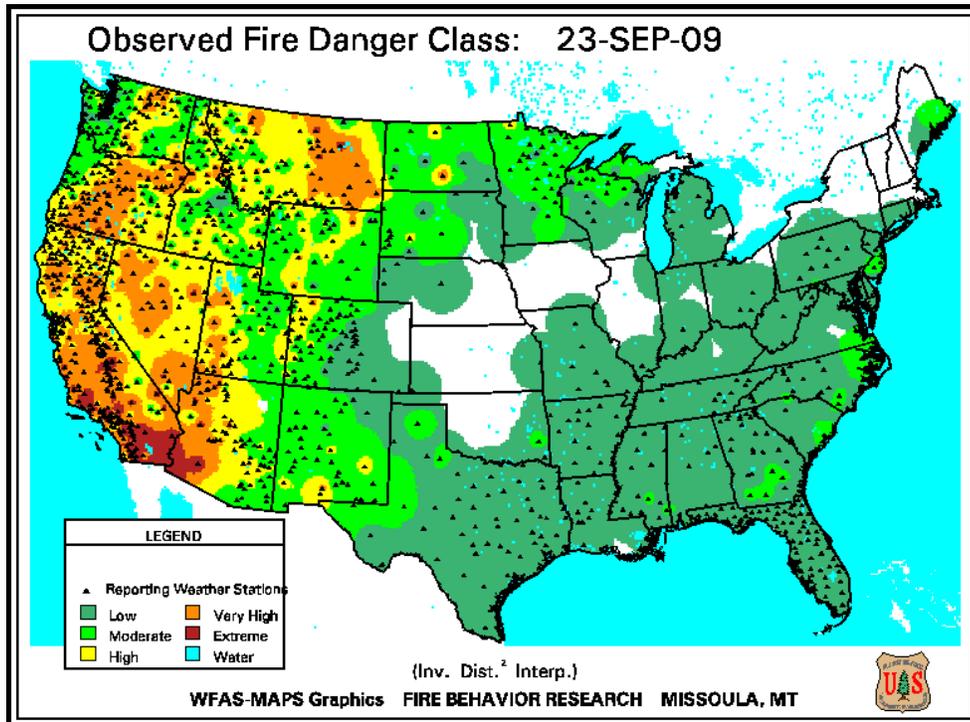


Fig. 5a. Observed Fire Danger Class. Conditions over southern California have deteriorated significantly this week.

Ref: http://www.wfas.net/images/firedanger/fd_class.gif.

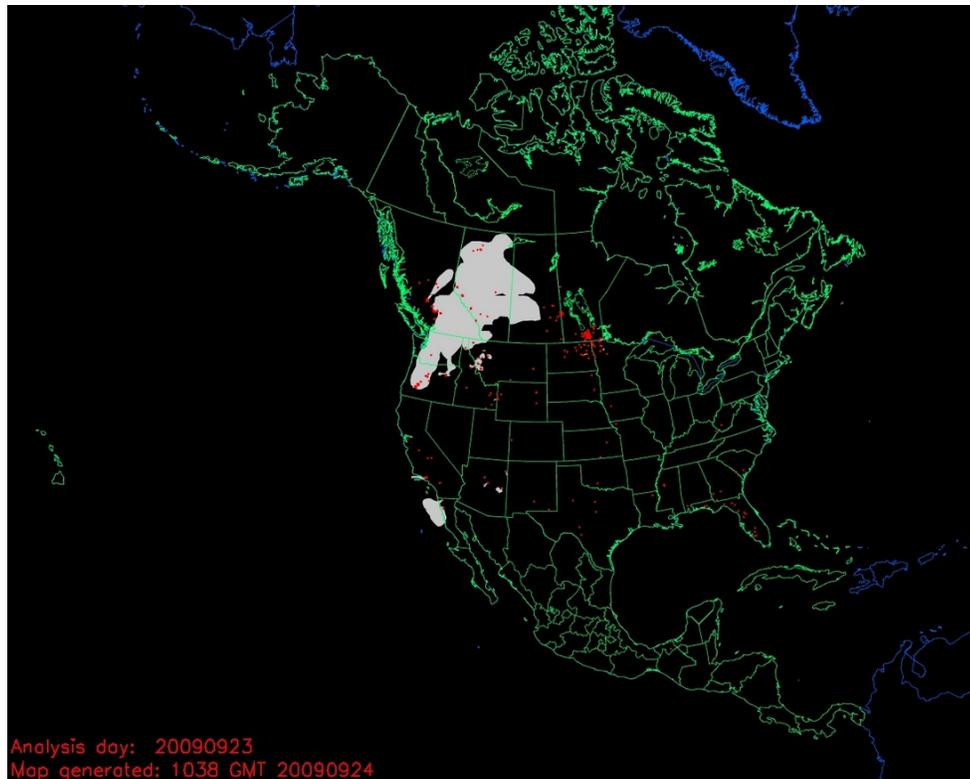


Fig. 5b. Hazard Mapping System Fire and Smoke shows the analysis for 9/23/2009 with fires shown as red dots. Smoke is noted over much of the Pacific Northwest. Smoke, when detected by the analyst, is in gray.

Ref: <http://www.osdpd.noaa.gov/ml/land/hms.html>.

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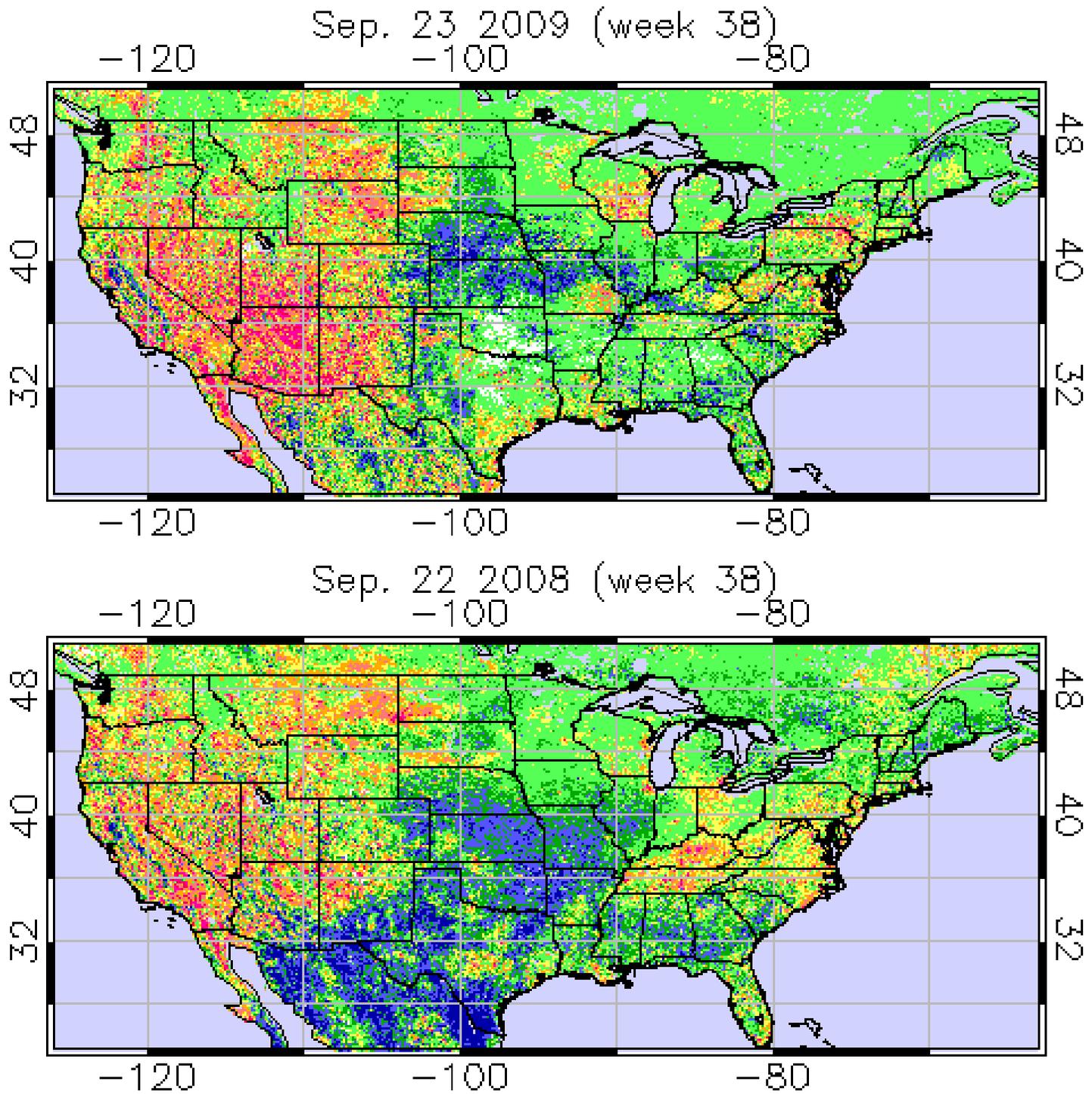
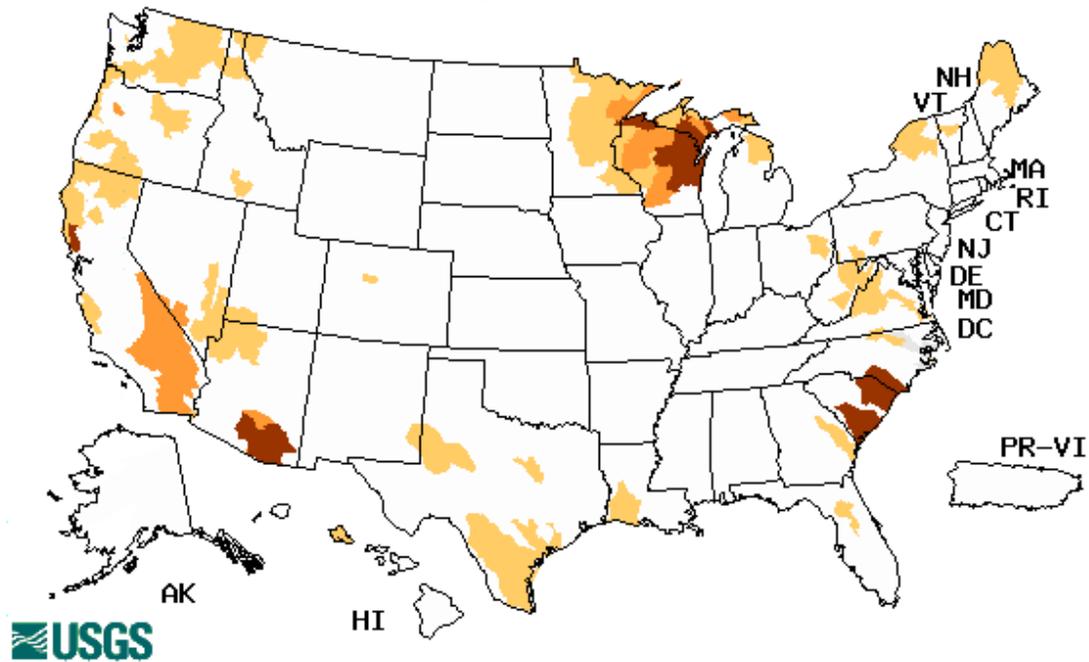


Fig. 6. Vegetation Drought Response Index: Note the comparison to last year. The Central Plains show very favorable conditions while Arizona shows very stressed condition this week. Last year, much of the Central Plains showed favorable conditions.

Ref: http://www.star.nesdis.noaa.gov/smcd/emb/vci/VH/vh_currentImage.php.

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Wednesday, September 23, 2009



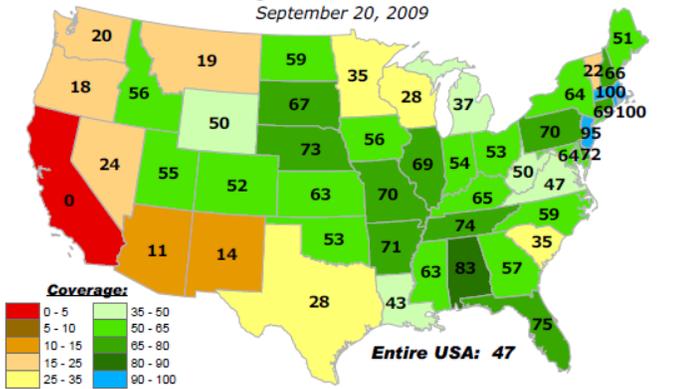
Explanation - Percentile classes				
Low	<=5	6-9	10-24	Insufficient data for a hydrologic region
Extreme hydrologic drought	Severe hydrologic drought	Moderate hydrologic drought	Below normal	

Fig. 7. Map of below normal 7-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of year. Conditions are severe over South-North Carolina, Wisconsin-the Upper Michigan Peninsula, and southern Arizona.

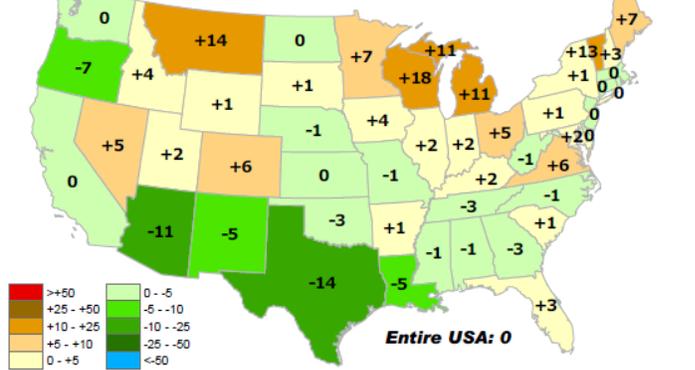
Ref: <http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch/?m=dryw&w=map&r=us>.

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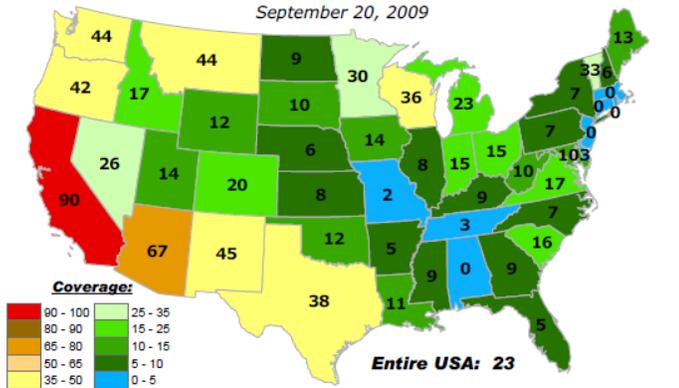
Percent of Pasture & Range Land in "Good" or "Excellent" Condition
September 20, 2009



CHANGE in % of Pasture and Range Lands in "Poor" or "Very Poor" Condition
1 WEEK (September 13, 2009 to September 20, 2009)



Percent of Pasture & Range Land in "Poor" or "Very Poor" Condition
September 20, 2009



CHANGE in % of Pasture and Range Lands in "Poor" or "Very Poor" Condition
4 WEEKS (August 23, 2009 to September 20, 2009)

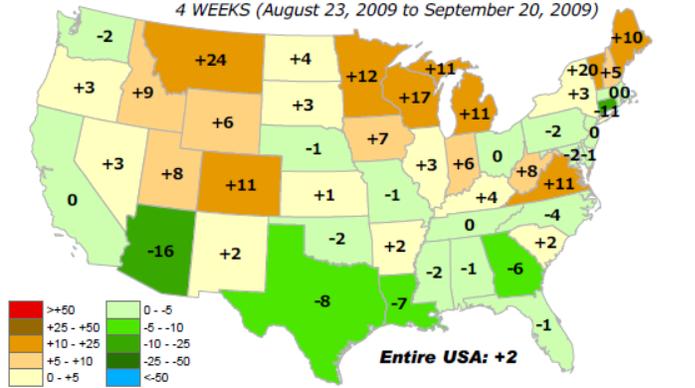


Fig. 8. Current Pasture and Range Land conditions and changes over the last week and last month.

Ref: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/experimental/edb/pasture-range-statewide-conditions.pdf>

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National Drought Summary – September 22, 2009

The discussion in the Looking Ahead section is simply a description of what the official national guidance from the National Weather Service (NWS) National Centers for Environmental Prediction is depicting for current areas of dryness and drought. The NWS forecast products utilized include the HPC 5-day QPF and 5-day Mean Temperature progs, the 6-10 Day Outlooks of Temperature and Precipitation Probability, and the 8-14 Day Outlooks of Temperature and Precipitation Probability, valid as of late Wednesday afternoon of the USDM release week. The NWS forecast web page used for this section is: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/forecasts/>.

During September 15-21, an upper-air low slowly meandered across the Delta and Southeast, drawing moist tropical Gulf and Atlantic air northward and westward. As a result, widespread, numerous, slow-moving clusters of showers and thunderstorms inundated many portions of the Delta and Southeast, including upsloping airflow that greatly enhanced rainfall over parts of the southern Appalachians. Many locations from eastern Oklahoma and southern Missouri eastward into the western Carolinas and Georgia recorded well over 4 inches of rain, with locally up to 18.43 inches measured from a CoCoRaHS observer in Lilburn (north-central Georgia) during September 18-22. Georgia's State Climatologist Dr. David Stooksbury reported that many locations in north Georgia experienced a 100-year rain event Sunday into Monday. This means that a 24-hour rain exceeding 8 inches has only a 1 in 100 chance (1 percent) in any year of occurring in central Georgia. Needless to say, severe, widespread flooding occurred across much of northern Georgia, with localized flooding elsewhere across the South. Amazingly, it was just about 2 years ago that much of this area was in the grips of exceptional (D4) drought. Elsewhere, light to moderate rain also fell on the southern Plains (including Texas again), Four Corner region, Pacific Northwest, northern Plains, western Corn Belt, and upper Great Lakes region.

In contrast, high pressure over the Southwest brought seasonably dry but abnormal warmth to California and the Great Basin, although a resurgent monsoon flow triggered scattered showers and thunderstorms in eastern Arizona, most of New Mexico and Colorado, eastern Utah, and southern Wyoming. Mostly dry weather also affected most of the northern and central High Plains, upper Midwest, and Northeast. Temperatures averaged much above-normal (more than 10 degrees F) from Montana to Minnesota, while the Northeast and south-central Plains experienced unseasonably cool weather.

Atlantic Coast States and Eastern Ohio Valley: A very dry September continued for much of the eastern Corn Belt, central sections of the Appalachians, Piedmont, and North Carolina, and eastern South Carolina. Many locations in this area have measured less than 0.5 inches of rain this month (and during the past 30 days), and month-to-date deficits have accumulated between 2 and 4 inches. Likewise, most USGS 1-, 7-, 14-, and 28-day averaged stream flows have also dropped to below (10-24 percentile) or much-below (less than 10 percentile) normal values in the same area. Negative departures were also common at 60- and 90-days. Accordingly, D0(A) was expanded to incorporate these growing short-term deficits, while D1(A) was added to last week's D0 areas where the lowest 30-day percent of normal precipitation occurred (central Appalachians and east-central Corn Belt). In addition, a dry September has also affected the eastern Great Lakes region and interior New England, but thanks to a very wet summer, surpluses are still common at 60-days and longer periods, so no designation was placed there yet.

Southern Plains and Gulf Coast Region: After last week's deluge and drought improvement across much of Texas, it appeared as though a return to dry weather and status-quo would be the story for this week. A swath of showers and thunderstorms; however, swept through the eastern half of the state on day 7 (24-hour period ending 7am

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CDT Tuesday, Sep. 22), dropping more beneficial rains (1.5 to 2.5 inches) from Del Rio northeastward to Texarkana. Light to moderate rains also fell earlier in the period on extreme southern Texas (up to 2.5 inches). Unfortunately, the rains missed north-central and south-central Texas. But with the Texas A&M SPI blends updated through 7am CDT September 22, a reassessment was made for Texas, including: A 1-category trimming of the northern and eastern drought borders (D0-D2), some improvement in the lower Rio Grande Valley, erasing some of the northern D0 portion in central Louisiana and southern Mississippi (1 to 3 inches of rain), and a redefining the core D4 area, shifting it farther west into Duval, Live Oak, and Bee counties, and southward out of Brazoria and Matagorda counties. The small D0-D1 area in north-central Texas was slightly expanded with dry weather, while little or no rain failed to alleviate the small D0 in northern Oklahoma.

Upper Midwest: Similar to the eastern Ohio Valley and Atlantic Coast States, September continued to be quite dry across the upper Midwest (less than 0.5 inches), especially in northern Wisconsin, UP of Michigan, northwestern lower Michigan, north-central and south-central Minnesota, and northern Iowa. The drought has been exacerbated by unseasonable warmth (weekly temperatures averaging 6 to 14 degrees F above normal, highs in the 80s) and long-term subnormal precipitation, with some areas (e.g., northern Wisconsin and southern Minnesota) receiving less than 70 percent of normal precipitation during the past year (deficits of 8 to 12 inches), and about 80 percent the past 2 years (deficits of 10 to 16 inches). Several USGS 1-, 7-, 14-, and 28-day averaged stream flows were at or near record low (lower 2 percentile) levels in east-central Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and southern UP of Michigan. As a result, D2 was increased and D3 introduced to this 3-state region, while D0 and D1 were expanded into the rest of Minnesota, northern Iowa, UP of Michigan, and northwest Lower Michigan. The news, however, was not all bad as the dry and warm weather accelerated late-season crop progress that was far behind schedule due to the cool and occasionally wet spring and summer months. This eased fears of an early frost that could have reduced the quality and quantity of crop yields. For example, Minnesota's corn dented went from 56 percent of the crop to 76 percent in a week, while soybeans dropping leaves went from 16 percent to 49 percent (according to USDA/NASS). Additionally, spring grain harvesting rapidly progressed (MN: 68 percent to 86 percent spring wheat harvested).

Northern and Central Plains: Hit and miss showers and thunderstorms developed over parts of the northern and central Great Plains while the High Plains mostly saw little or no rain. Fortunately, light to moderate rains (0.4 to 1.5 inches) fell on portions of south-central and eastern North Dakota, providing enough moisture to eliminate the D1(A) in east-central North Dakota, and trimming away the abnormal dryness in Emmons county (south-central ND). Elsewhere, the rains (0.1 to 0.4 inches) were not enough to remove D0 in the remainder of the Dakotas and southeastern Nebraska. And similar to the upper Midwest, the mostly dry and warm weather spurred late-season crop development (which was way behind schedule), harvesting of spring grains, and the planting of winter wheat.

The West: Seasonal dryness and slightly above-normal readings prevailed in California and the Great Basin as the autumn wildfire season fast approached. Since September is normally dry, conditions were quite typical for this time of the year, thus status-quo was maintained. As of Sep. 22, the NIFC reported that there were 7 large active wildfires, all in the Far West, including the long-burning Station fire in California's Angeles National Forest. At 94 percent containment, Station has blackened nearly 161,000 acres. Farther to the north, a weak Pacific system dropped light to moderate rains (0.1 to 0.5 inches, locally to 1.6 inches near Quillayute, WA) on the Pacific Northwest, halting any further deterioration but not great enough to make any improvements. In contrast, a second week of a resurgent monsoon brought widespread showers and thunderstorms to the Four-Corner states and southern Wyoming. One to two inches of rain fell on western two-thirds of New Mexico and Colorado, east-central Arizona, northeastern Utah, and south-central Wyoming. Accordingly, short-term D1 was erased from central New Mexico, as was D0(A) in western parts of the

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

state. East-central Arizona was improved by 1-category, while northwestern Colorado, north of the Colorado River, received enough rain to remove D0 there. In southwest Colorado, however, flows on the Animas and Los Pinos Rivers above the Vallecito Reservoir remain below normal, and the Lemon Reservoir (near Durango) is currently 25 percent full, or 48 percent of the normal storage, placing this area into D1.

Hawaii and Alaska: Light to moderate daily showers (generally 0.1 to 0.5 inches; 1 to 1.5 inches at a few sites) from Thursday through Sunday were common on the windward sides of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and the Big Island, but little or no rain fell on most leeward portions. With no drought designation on the windward sides, and the summer and early fall months typically dry on the leeward portions, status-quo was kept.

In Alaska, stormy weather brought plentiful precipitation (2 to 10 inches) along the southern and southeastern coast, but also into east-central sections. One-half to 2 inches of rain fell from Nenana eastward to Chicken as 7-day averaged USGS stream flows rose into the upper tenth percentile in response to the heavy rains; therefore the northern extent of the D0 was trimmed back.

Looking Ahead: During the next 5 days (September 24-28), widespread rains from a slow-moving storm system are forecast for the eastern half of the Nation, with the largest totals (more than 1.5 inches) expected in Iowa, extreme southern Texas, the Tennessee Valley, and southern Appalachians. In drought areas, moderate rains (an inch) may fall on parts of the upper Midwest, lower Delta, mid-Atlantic and Carolinas. Dry and warm weather is forecast for the West, although temperatures should start to moderate by the weekend.

The CPC 6-10 day forecast (September 29-October 3) calls for above-normal precipitation in the Northwest, Plains, and Delta. Drier weather should return to Arizona and New Mexico, while the eastern third of the Nation should record subnormal precipitation. Unseasonable warmth is forecast for the southern half of the Plains and western Corn Belt, while subnormal temperatures occur in the Northeast and West. Wet weather is probable for the southeastern quarter of Alaska.

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Dryness Categories

D0 ... Abnormally Dry ... used for areas showing dryness but not yet in drought, or for areas recovering from drought.

Drought Intensity Categories

D1 ... Moderate Drought

D2 ... Severe Drought

D3 ... Extreme Drought

D4 ... Exceptional Drought

Drought or Dryness Types

A ... Agricultural

H ... Hydrological

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