

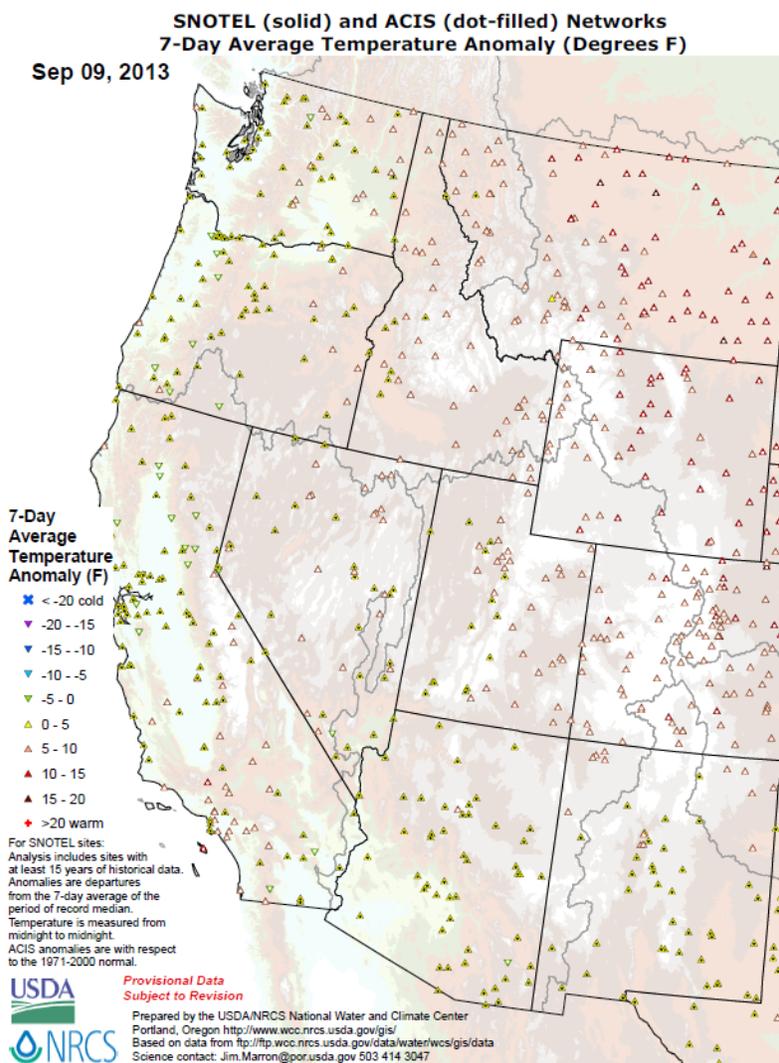


Natural Resources Conservation Service
 P.O. Box 2890
 Washington, D.C. 20013

Weekly Snowpack / Drought Monitor Update September 12, 2013

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Temperature



SNOTEL and ACIS [7-day temperature anomaly](#) map shows a warmer than average week across the western states, especially over the northern and eastern regions. Note: Map is only through September 9.

Click on map to see latest available update.

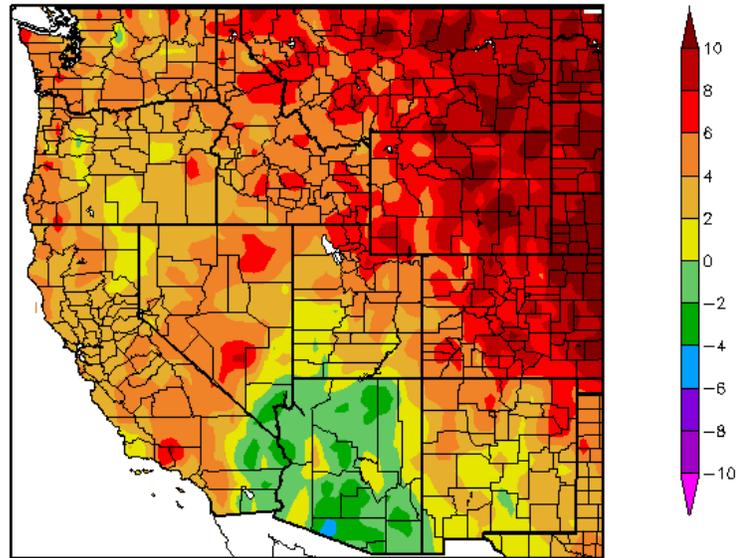
Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

[ACIS](#) 7-day average temperature anomalies, ending September 11, show the greatest positive temperature departures confined to the Northern and Central High Plains (>10°F). The coolest departures occurred over southern Arizona (>-6°F) due to the intensifying monsoon.

This map currently does not use SNOTEL data, but is expected to later this year.

For more figures, see the latest Western Water Assessment's Intermountain West Climate [Dashboard](#). See the [Westwide Drought Tracker](#).

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/5/2013 – 9/11/2013



Generated 9/12/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

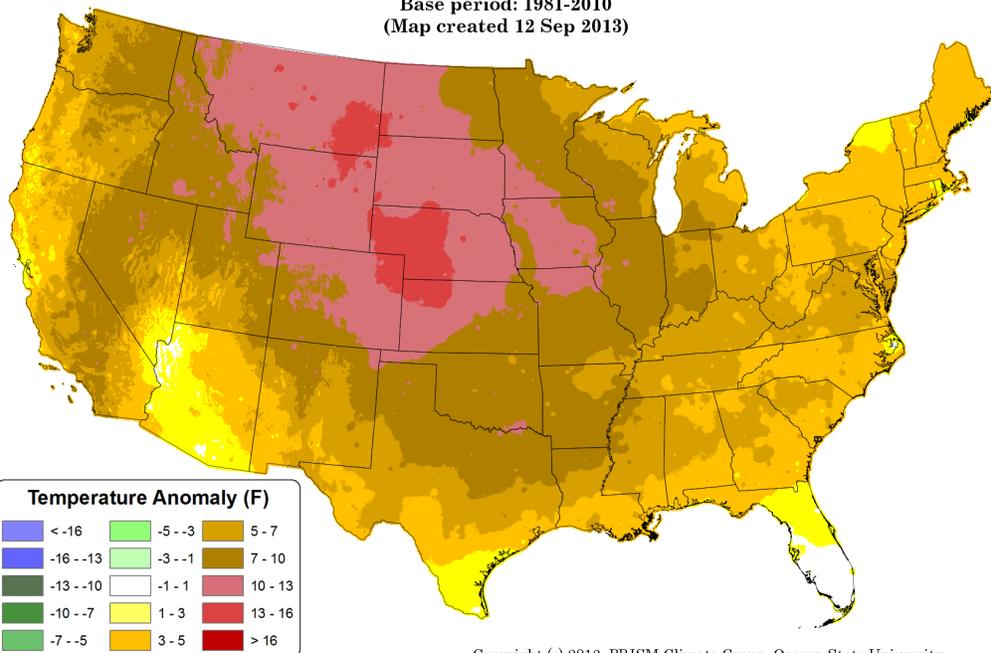
Regional Climate Centers

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: 01 September 2013 - 11 September 2013
Period ending 7 AM EST 11 Sep 2013
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 12 Sep 2013)

This preliminary [PRISM](#) temperature map, updated daily, will be available to the public starting in early October.

Refer to the last page of this report for the August and June through August maps.

The map contains all available network data, including SNOTEL data, and will be updated periodically as additional data become available and are quality controlled.



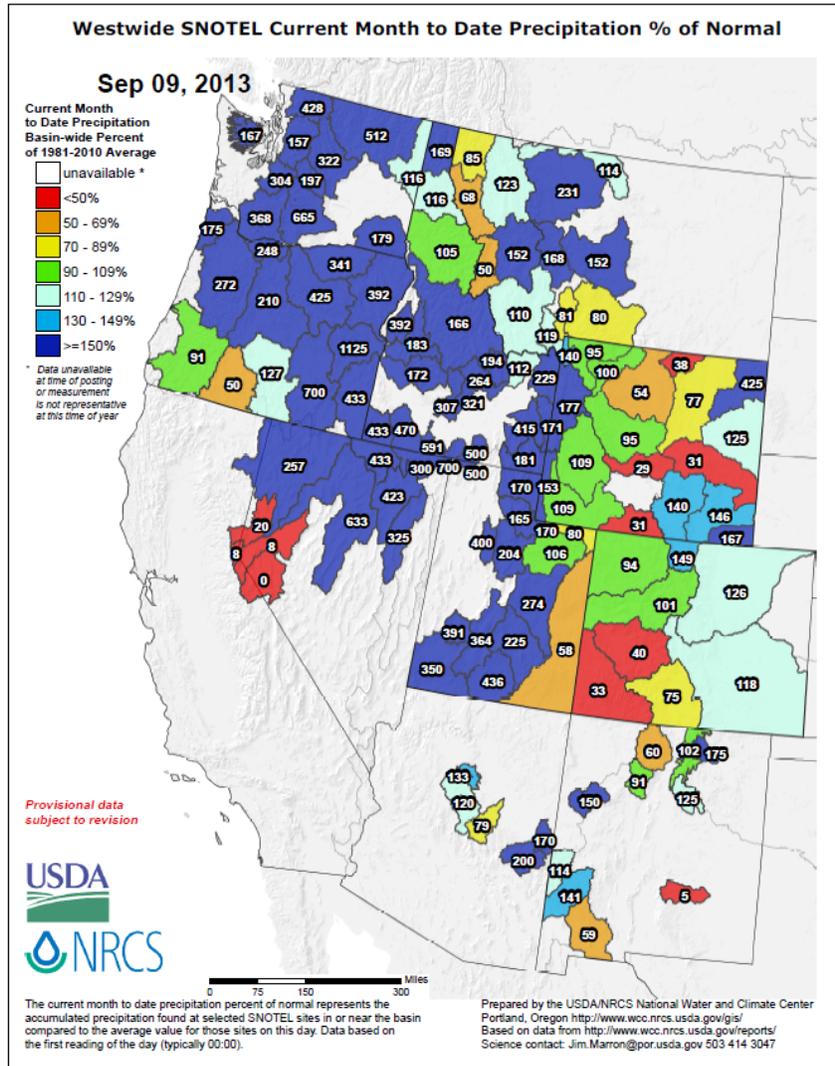
Copyright (c) 2013, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

Thus far for September, temperatures have been considerably warmer than normal over most of the nation; especially over the northern Interior (e.g., >13°F over western Nebraska). The only regions with near average temperatures are southern Florida and northwestern Arizona.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

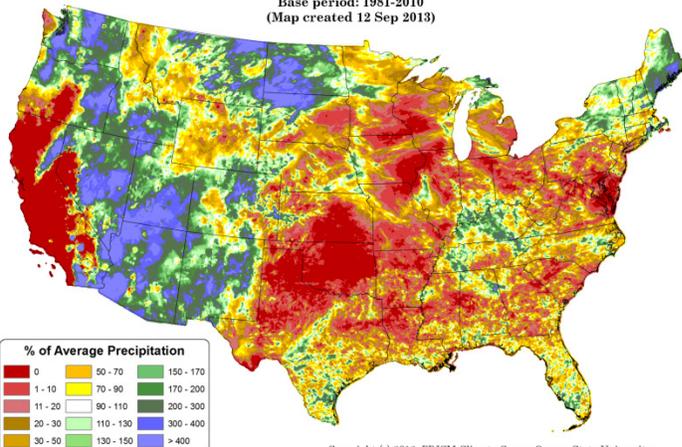
Precipitation

SNOTEL [month to date](#) precipitation percent of normal map shows a very wet month thus far across most of the Western States. Data are available through September 9.



Click images for enlarged latest available update

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 September 2013 - 11 September 2013
 Period ending 7 AM EST 11 Sep 2013
 Base period: 1981-2010
 (Map created 12 Sep 2013)



Copyright (c) 2013, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

September accumulated total precipitation through 7 a.m. on September 12 shows a rainfall pattern that has favored parts of the Southwest, Great Basin, Northern Plains, Pacific Northwest, and Maine. Drier conditions dominate over the remainder of the U.S.

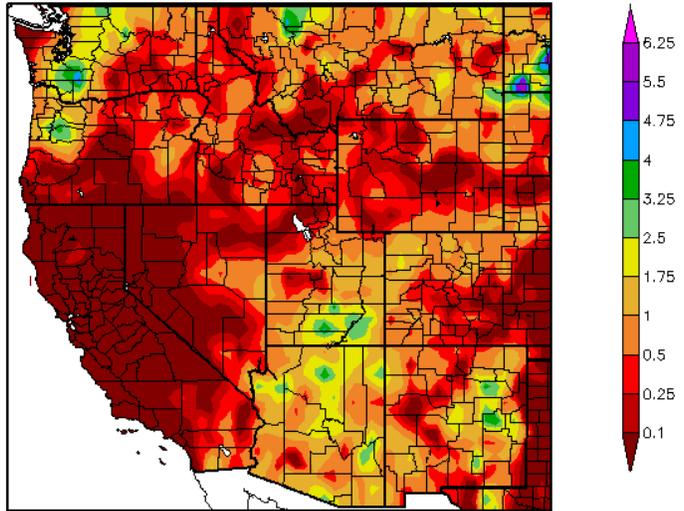
This preliminary [PRISM](#) precipitation map will be available to the public starting around early October. It contains all available network data, including SNOTEL data, and will be updated periodically as additional data become available and are quality controlled.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

[ACIS 7-day](#) average precipitation amounts for the period ending September 11 show a strengthening monsoon over the Southwest. Unusually heavy rains (thunderstorms) impacted the northern Cascades last Thursday morning. The remainder of the West experienced scattered rains, with the exception of much of California, western Nevada, and south-central Oregon.

This map currently does not incorporate SNOTEL data, but is expected to later this year.

Precipitation (in)
9/5/2013 - 9/11/2013



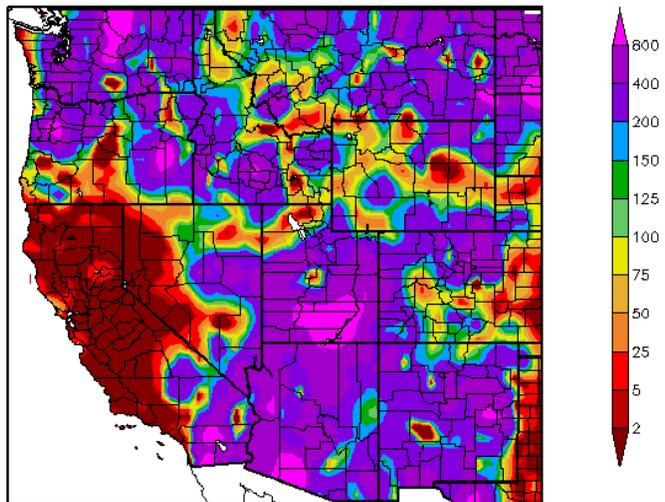
Generated 9/12/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

This [map](#) shows that any rains that fall in normally dry regions for this time of year result in very high percentages of normal; easily exceeding four to eight times the expected (average) weekly amounts. California and western Nevada were the exception, with little rainfall occurring.

This map currently does not use SNOTEL data, but is expected to later this year.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/5/2013 - 9/11/2013



Generated 9/12/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

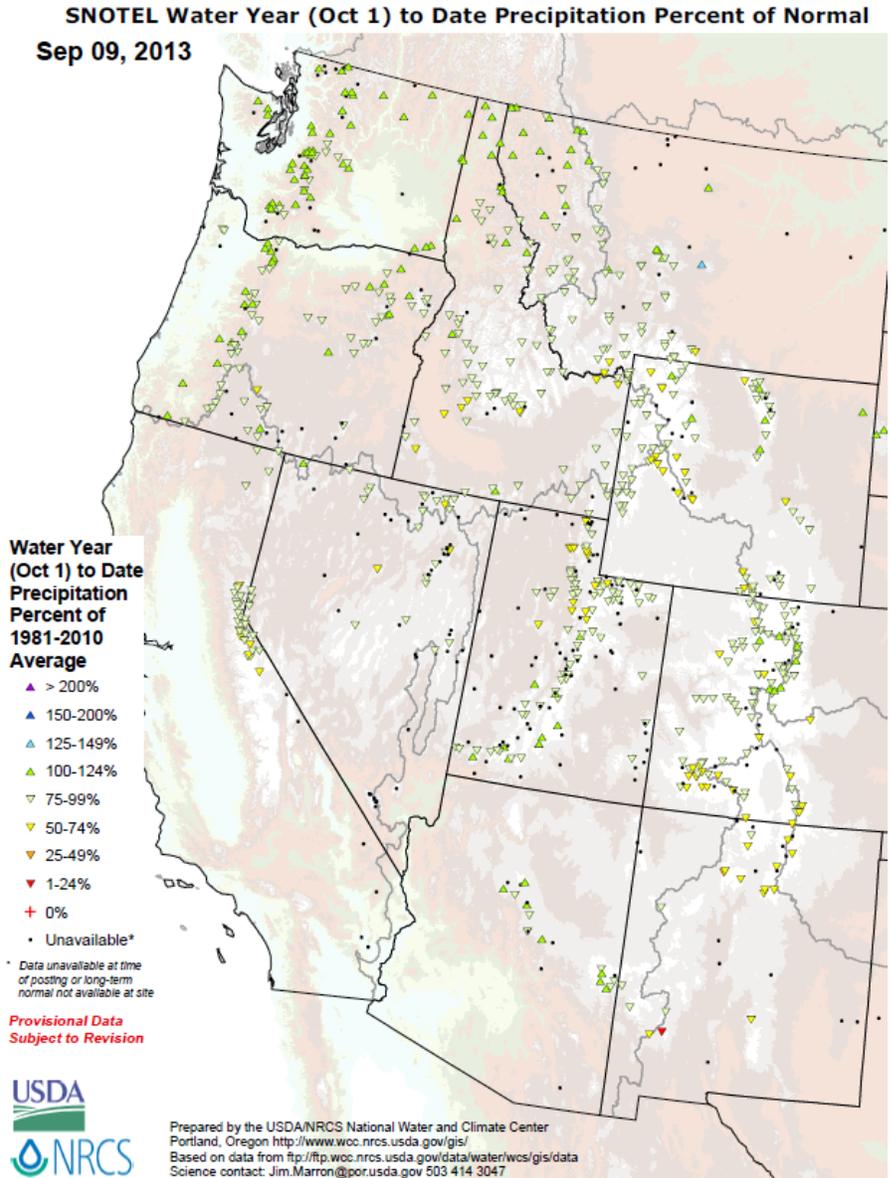
For the [2013 Water Year](#) that began on October 1, 2012, the pattern continues to resemble La Niña (i.e., wetter northern tier).

The impact of the Southwest Monsoon is apparent over Arizona, with near normal values. Despite good July rains over New Mexico, the precipitation deficit from earlier this year has still not improved very much.

For the remainder of this water year, values should not change significantly from this depiction.

Data are through September 9.

For additional information, daily reports by SNOTEL site are available [here](#).



Click image for latest available update

Just Released →

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information**



NOAA COMMUNICATIONS &
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



**NOAA: Contiguous U.S. had eighth wettest and
15th warmest summer**
*Nation had wettest summer since 2004; Warmth dominated
West and Northeast; Alaska had its second warmest summer*

Contact
Katy Vincent, katy.vincent@noaa.gov, 828-257-3136
Brady Phillips, brady.phillips@noaa.gov, 202-482-2365

September 12, 2013

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Weather and Drought Summary

National Drought Summary -- September 10, 2013

The following **Weather and Drought Summary** is provided by this week's NDMC Author: Anthony Artusa, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC.

Weather Summary: "Several fronts moved across the central and eastern contiguous U.S. during the past week, bringing generally under an inch of rain to the Great Lakes and the Northeast. Heavy rain (2 inches or greater) fell across much of the Gulf Coast region, western Illinois, parts of the Northern Great Plains, and the higher terrain of the Washington and Oregon Cascades. A very generous monsoonal flow into the Southwest brought light to moderate rain (less than 2 inches) to much of this region, with many reporting stations in Arizona receiving between 2-4 inches of rain during the past 7-days."

The Southwest: "The seasonal monsoon was very active during the past 7-days. Widespread 2-4 inch rains were reported across the region, especially in Arizona. One-category upgrades were rendered to the Arizona depiction where approximately 2 inches or more of rain fell, especially in the more centrally located counties of Coconino, Yavapai, Maricopa and Gila. A more detailed and thorough reassessment of this region will be performed next week. By then, we should have a better handle on the extent of the impacts of this monsoonal rainfall. Beneficial moisture also worked its way into western and north-central Colorado, and southeastern Wyoming, allowing for 1-category improvements."

The Northwest: "Heavy precipitation (2 inches or greater) fell across western portions of both Washington and Oregon during the past week, in advance of an upper-level trough. Although beneficial for areas currently experiencing dryness (Oregon), the short-term gains have not offset long-term precipitation deficits, so no changes were made in this area."

A comprehensive narrative describing drought conditions for the nation can be found toward the end of this document. For drought impacts definitions for the figures below, click [here](#).

U.S. Drought Monitor

September 10, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EDT

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

Drought Impact Types:
~ Delineates dominant impacts
S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Released Thursday, September 12, 2013
Author: Anthony Artusa, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Current [Drought Monitor](#) weekly summary. The exceptional D4 levels of drought are scattered across the western Corn Belt of the Plains into southeastern Colorado, eastern Arizona and New Mexico, western Nevada, and the northernmost and southernmost regions of Texas.

The latest [drought indicator blend and component percentiles](#) spreadsheet is a great resource for climate division drought statistics. This link is for the latest [Drought Outlook](#) (forecast). See [climatological rankings](#).

For more drought news, see [Drought Impact Reporter](#).

Drought Management Resources (√):
Watch AgDay TV

National Drought Related News (•):

- [Record-Breaking \\$17.3 Billion in Crop Losses Last Year; Significant Portion Potentially Avoidable](#) - Aug 27, U.S.
- [USDA Recommends New Practice to Combat Drought Soybeans](#)

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

- ✓ Drought Monitor for the [Western States](#)
- ✓ Drought Impact Reporter for [New Mexico](#)
- ✓ [California Data Exchange Center & Flood Management](#)
- ✓ [NIDIS Upper Colorado River Regional Drought Earlier Warning System](#)
- ✓ [Intermountain West Climate Dashboard](#)
- ✓ [Great Basin Dashboard](#)

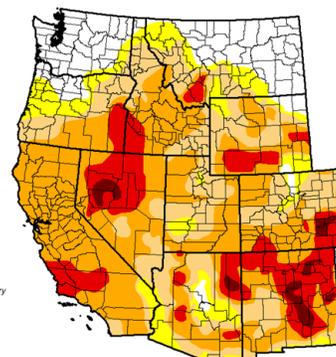
U.S. Drought Monitor

September 10, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

West

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4
Current	14.61	85.39	75.57	53.08	15.86	1.83
Last Week (09/03/2013 map)	14.19	85.01	76.15	53.28	16.40	1.83
3 Months Ago (06/11/2013 map)	15.01	84.99	75.25	47.03	14.85	5.96
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	24.39	75.61	69.31	45.04	18.01	2.15
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	15.12	84.88	77.15	43.65	16.85	1.77
One Year Ago (09/04/2012 map)	15.09	84.91	76.86	46.33	17.26	1.49

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://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

Note that there was no significant change this week. With resurgence in the SW Monsoon, next week's map is expected to show significant improvement over the Southwest.

- [The New Mexico Environment Department and the Office Of The State Engineer Begin a Drought Public Information Campaign](#)

Western Drought News:

- [Unprecedented Cut in Colorado River Flow Ordered, Due to Drought](#) - excellent summary!
- [Colorado winter wheat crop smallest since 2006](#) - Sept 5, Colorado
- [Rim fire in and around Yosemite now state's third largest](#) -Sept 6, California
- [Fish and birds concentrated at Barr Lake from drought-caused draining](#) - Sept 1, Denver, Colorado.
- [Drought disaster declared in S.J., elsewhere](#) - Aug 31, California.

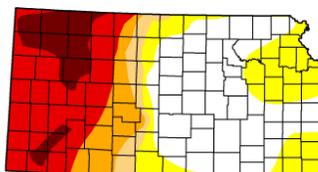
U.S. Drought Monitor

September 10, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Kansas

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4
Current	37.41	62.59	43.74	39.13	30.55	8.83
Last Week (09/03/2013 map)	46.68	53.32	43.58	39.14	30.55	8.83
3 Months Ago (06/11/2013 map)	11.78	88.22	74.56	63.89	44.66	24.28
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	79.36	35.97
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	88.34	51.04
One Year Ago (09/04/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	88.34	60.61

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://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, September 12, 2013
Anthony Artusa, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

D-0 increased >9% during the past week.

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

- ✓ [Kansas Drought Update.](#)

High Plains Drought News:

- [Drought to impact local economy – 5 Sep, Aberdeen, SD](#)
- [Drought Continues to Expand in U.S. Midwest](#) - Sept 5, Midwest.
- [Irrigation Water In Central Nebraska Reduced For Next Year](#) - Sept 6, Nebraska.

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

- ✓ [Texas Drought Website.](#)
- ✓ [Texas Reservoirs.](#)
- [Drought, heat add up to Valley crop losses](#) Sept 1, Rio Grande Valley in far south Texas.
- [Drought Dries Up Lawn & Farming Equipment Sales](#) - Sept 5, Wichita Falls, Texas
- [Drought reduces orb web connections](#) - Sept 4, San Antonio, Texas
- [Drought makes popular spring on Comal River no longer visible](#) - Sept 4

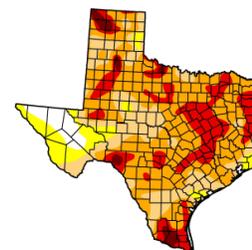
U.S. Drought Monitor

September 10, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Texas

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4
Current	4.14	95.86	87.12	65.59	21.79	2.62
Last Week (09/03/2013 map)	4.14	95.86	87.09	64.63	18.74	2.94
3 Months Ago (06/11/2013 map)	5.44	94.56	84.18	59.45	32.36	14.85
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	3.04	96.96	87.00	65.39	35.03	11.96
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	9.13	90.87	78.73	57.41	24.91	5.18
One Year Ago (09/04/2012 map)	10.31	89.69	72.40	44.20	21.13	3.57

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://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

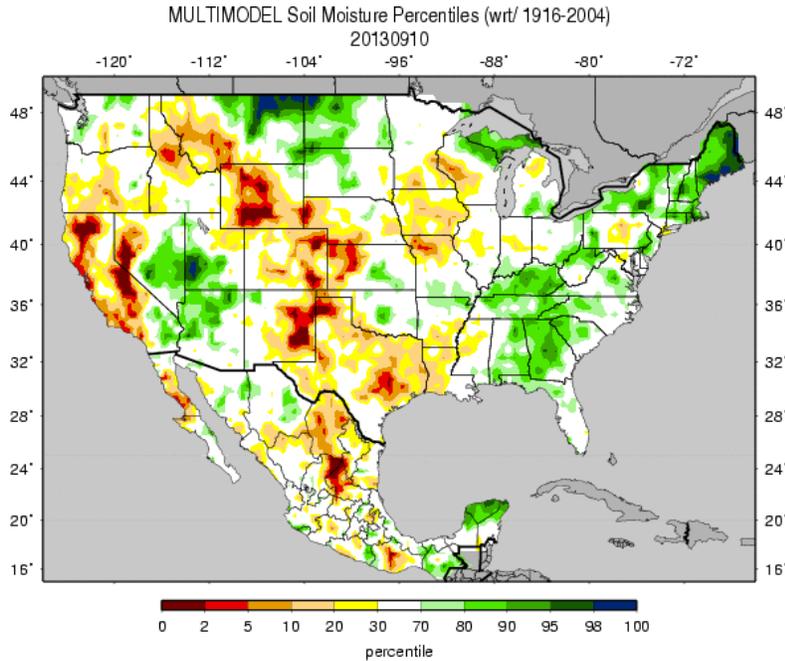


Released Thursday, September 12, 2013
Anthony Artusa, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Note deterioration in D-3 category during the past week.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Soil Moisture



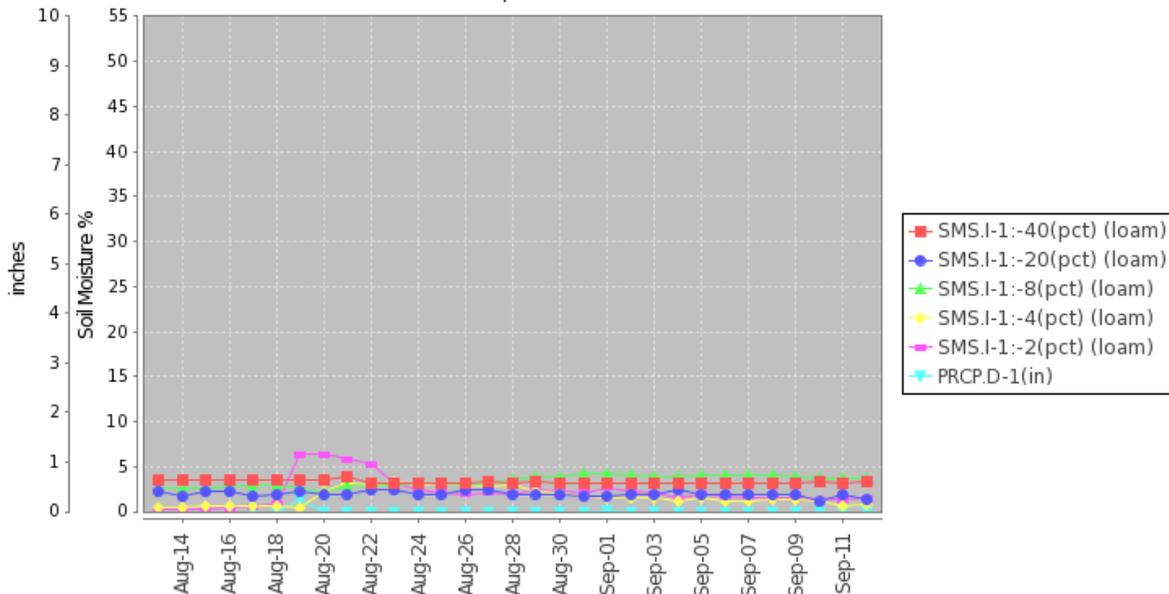
Soil moisture ranking in [percentile](#) as of September 10 shows considerable dryness over the Rockies, western Nevada, and much of California. Excess moisture is noted over northern Montana, western Utah, and over much of northern New England.

Useful Hydrological Links: [Crop Moisture Index](#); [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#); [Standardized Precipitation Index](#); [Surface Water Supply Index](#); [Weekly supplemental maps](#); [Minnesota Climate Working Group](#); [Experimental High Resolution Drought Trigger Tool](#); [NLDAS Drought Monitor](#); [Soil Moisture](#).

[Soil Health-unlock your farm's potential](#)

Soil Climate Analysis Network ([SCAN](#))

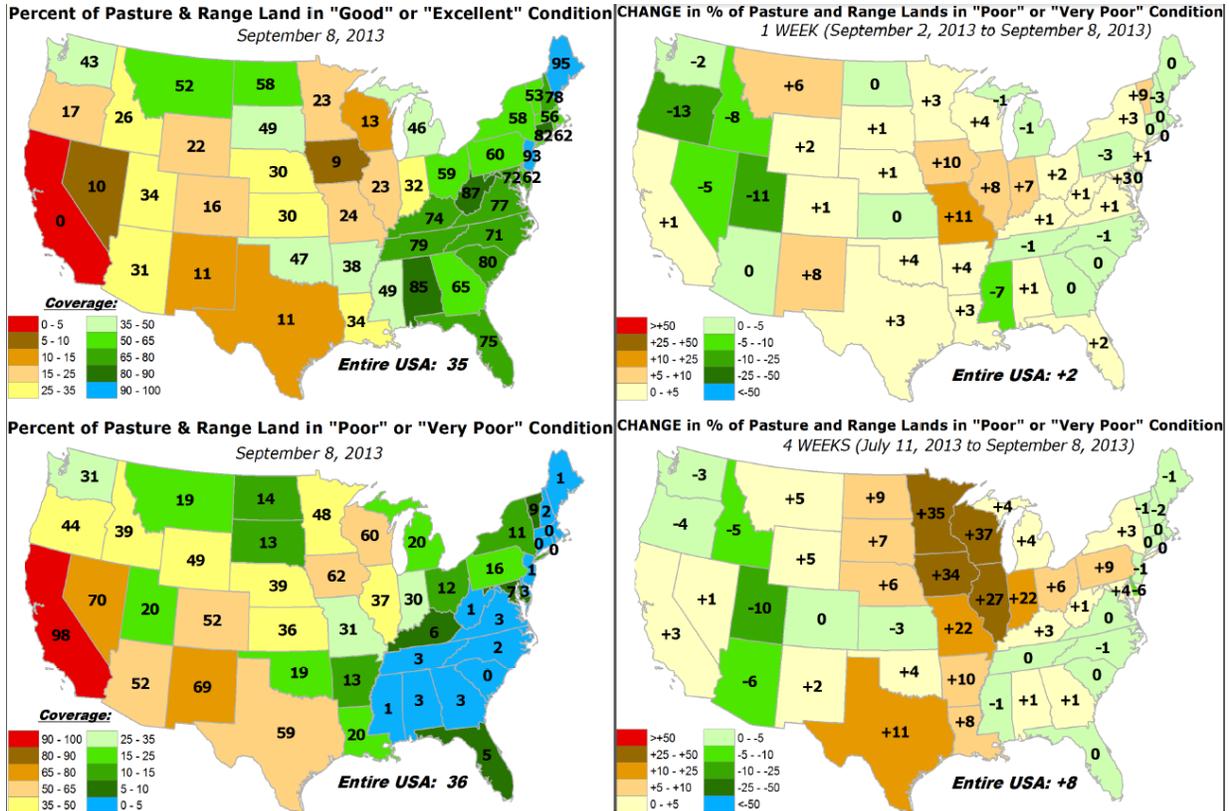
Station (2149) MONTH=2013-08-13 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision as of Thu Sep 12 08:00:16 PDT 2013



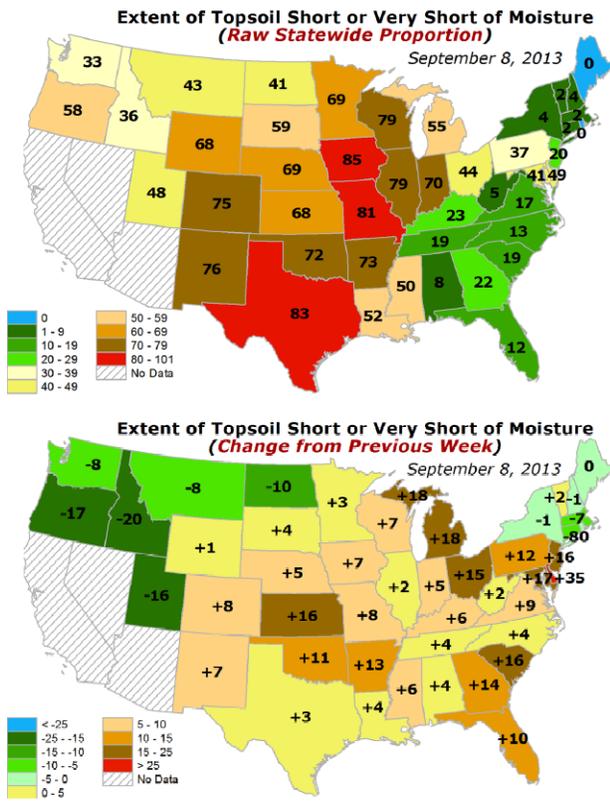
This NRCS resource shows a site over eastern California. Soil conditions could not be much drier.

Useful Agriculture Links: [Vegetation Drought Response Index](#); [Evaporative Stress Index](#); [Vegetation Health Index](#); [NDVI Greenness Map](#); [GRACE-Based Surface Soil Moisture](#); [North American Soil Moisture Network](#). [Monthly Wild Fire Forecast Report](#).

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report



Pastures continue to be in extremely poor condition over California (left maps). Oregon and Utah had the best weekly improvements last week (upper right). The upper Midwest had the worst deterioration during the past four weeks (lower right).



Topsoil conditions are the worst in Iowa, Missouri, and Texas. The greatest improvements during the past week were over Utah, Idaho, and Oregon. The worst deteriorations were over Kansas, Michigan, Ohio, New Jersey, Maryland, and South Carolina.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

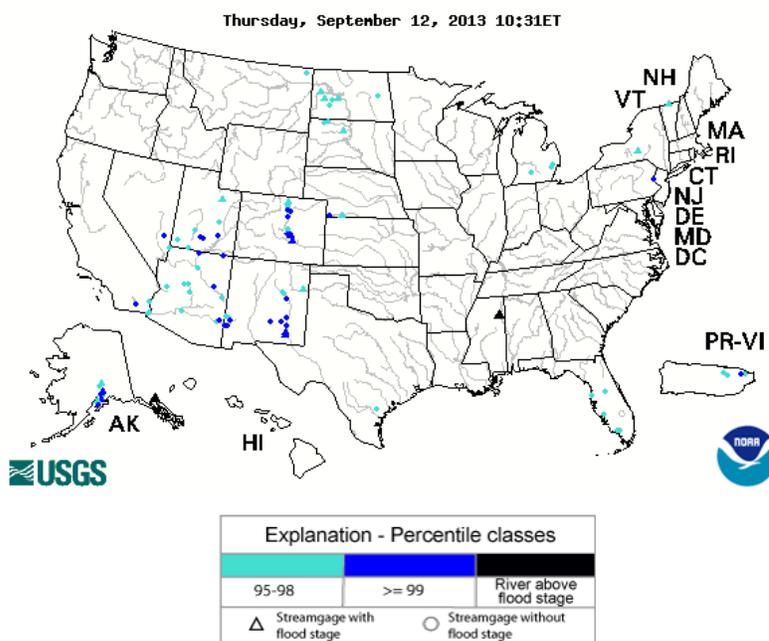
U.S. Historical Streamflow

Flood and high water conditions as of September 12 show increased river flows over parts of the Four Corner States. The Pecos River near Santa Rosa, NM reached its [highest level](#) since 1932.

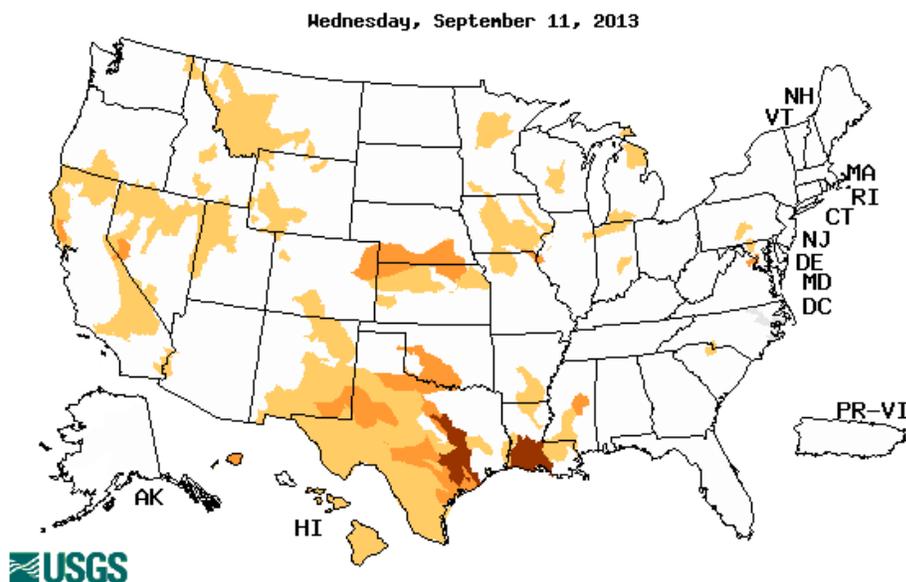
See the [USGS National Water Information System Mapper](#).

The "Flood and high flow" map shows the location of stream gages where the water level is currently at or above flood stage (depicted as a black triangle) or at high flow (depicted as blue circles) The high flow conditions are expressed as [percentiles](#) that compare the current (i.e., within the past several hours) instantaneous flow value to historical daily mean flow values for all days of the year. Please note that flood conditions may be more extensive than shown on the map because the National Weather Service (NWS) has not identified a flood stage (for flood forecasting purposes) at all USGS stream gages. Also, the NWS has determined flood stages for some non-USGS stream gages, which are not shown on the map. The most complete depiction of stream gages at or above flood stage is on the [NWS River Conditions Map](#).

Map of flood and high flow condition (United States)



Map of below normal 7-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of year (United States)



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	

This map shows [the 7-day average streamflow conditions in hydrologic units](#) of the United States and Puerto Rico for the day of the 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.

East-central Texas and southern Louisiana are the only states experiencing severe hydrological drought this week.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Complete National Drought Summary

The following complete **Weather and Drought Summary** is provided by this week's NDMC Author:

Author: [Anthony Artusa, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC.](#)

National Drought Summary -- September 10, 2013

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/>.

Weather Summary: "Several fronts moved across the central and eastern contiguous U.S. during the past week, bringing generally under an inch of rain to the Great Lakes and the Northeast. Heavy rain (2 inches or greater) fell across much of the Gulf Coast region, western Illinois, parts of the Northern Great Plains, and the higher terrain of the Washington and Oregon Cascades. A very generous monsoonal flow into the Southwest brought light to moderate rain (less than 2 inches) to much of this region, with many reporting stations in Arizona receiving between 2-4 inches of rain during the past 7-days.

The Northeast: Continuing dry conditions prompted the introduction of abnormal dryness (D0) across central Maryland, southwestern Connecticut, and Long Island, N.Y., this week. According to AHPS, these areas have significant precipitation deficits at 180-, 90-, 60-, 30-, and 14 days. Streams and rivers are also running low, especially in central Maryland.

The Midwest: Most of the Midwest remained dry this past week, though heavy rain (2-4 inches) fell over a relatively localized portion of west-central Illinois. Positive temperature departures of 4-8 degrees F were common throughout the region, with +10 degree F anomalies over portions of Iowa and southern Minnesota. As a result, widespread 1-category downgrades were made to the drought depiction across northern and southwestern Missouri, southern, central and eastern Iowa, parts of northern Illinois, northeastern and central Indiana, and central and southern portions of both Minnesota and Wisconsin. Since July 1st, La Crosse, WI, has received only 2.40 inches of rain, the driest ever July 1st-September 10th period. The previous record was 2.52 inches, set back in 1948.

The Lower Mississippi Valley: Lack of rain during the past 7-days, temperatures 2-6 degrees above normal, and stream flow values in the lowest quartile of their historical distributions prompted 1-category degradations to the depiction across northern and western Louisiana, central and southern Arkansas, and northern and central Mississippi.

Central and Northern Great Plains: Scattered areas of light rain (0.5-inch or less) were observed over Nebraska this past week, with little if any rain reported over Kansas. One- category downgrades were warranted across southeastern Nebraska, with a 1-category improvement made over extreme northeastern parts of the state. These alterations were largely based on 30-day and 60-day SPI values. In Kansas, the area of abnormal dryness (D0) in the northeast was expanded, and D0 conditions were added to southeast parts of the state. No changes were made to the Northern Plains depiction this week, though widespread moderate to heavy rain (0.5-4.5 inches) occurred over North Dakota and adjacent portions of South Dakota.

Southern Great Plains: Continuing dryness over north-central and northeastern Texas warranted a number of 1-category degradations. In contrast, recent heavy but spotty rains resulted in small areas of improvement across deep southern Texas. No modifications were made to the depiction in west Texas, as dry weather has followed a reasonably wet summer in the region. In Oklahoma, 1-category downgrades were made across a significant portion of the state, with remaining drought-free areas in central and eastern Oklahoma deteriorating to abnormal dryness (D0). In Jackson County (southwest part of state), Lake Altus-Lugert dropped to a historic low level of 12.6 percent of capacity.

The Southwest: The seasonal monsoon was very active during the past 7-days. Widespread 2-4 inch rains were reported across the region, especially in Arizona. One-category upgrades were rendered to the Arizona depiction where approximately 2 inches or more of rain fell, especially in the more centrally located counties of Coconino, Yavapai, Maricopa and Gila. A more detailed and thorough reassessment of this region will be performed next week. By then, we should have a better handle on the extent of the impacts of this monsoonal rainfall.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Beneficial moisture also worked its way into western and north-central Colorado, and southeastern Wyoming, allowing for 1-category improvements.

The Northwest: Heavy precipitation (2 inches or greater) fell across western portions of both Washington and Oregon during the past week, in advance of an upper-level trough. Although beneficial for areas currently experiencing dryness (Oregon), the short-term gains have not offset long-term precipitation deficits, so no changes were made in this area.

Hawaii and Alaska: A 1-category downgrade was warranted for western and southeastern sides of the Big Island of Hawaii, due to continuing dryness. On the west side, it was reported that livestock and ornamental producers were having to haul water to sustain operations, which is very expensive and significantly reduces profits. On the southeast side of the Island, there were reports of crop stress. On the west side of Lanai, D1 conditions improved to D0. No changes were made in Alaska this week. However, the South Coast has seen heavy precipitation again this week, so it would not be unreasonable to see the removal of D0 in this region next week.

Looking Ahead: During September 12-16, heavy rainfall (2-4 inches) is anticipated over New Mexico, Colorado, western Kansas, and far southern Texas. Generally light rain (0.5-inch or less) is expected across the Midwest, with high temperatures near- to slightly below normal.

For the ensuing 5 days (September 17-21, 2013), odds for above normal precipitation are greatest across the central third of the contiguous U.S., the Gulf Coast, Pacific Northwest, and northern Alaska, with maximum probabilities near 60-percent over southern Texas. Odds for below normal precipitation are greatest over the Northeast, mid-Atlantic region, upper Ohio Valley, and southern third of Alaska.”

State Activities

[State government drought activities](#) can be tracked through their drought plans. NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting (SSWSF) Program State Office personnel are participating in state drought committee meetings and providing the committees and media with appropriate [SSWSF information](#). Additional information describing the [tools](#) available from the Drought Monitor can also be found at the [U.S. Drought Portal](#).

For More Information

The National Water and Climate Center (NWCC) [Homepage](#) provides the latest available snowpack and water supply information. This document is available [weekly](#). CONUS Snowpack and Drought Reports from 2007 are available online. Reports from 2001-2006 are available on request.

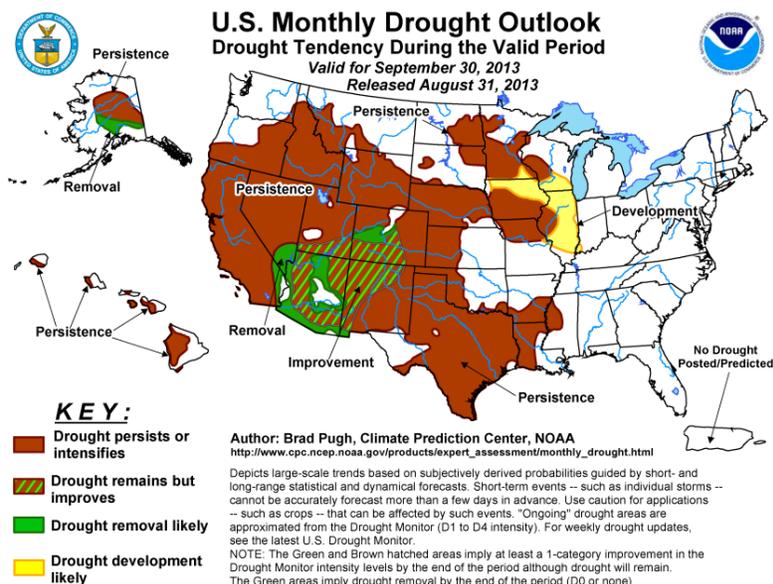
This report uses data and products provided by the Interagency Drought Monitor Consortium members and the National Interagency Fire Center.

/s/

Micheal L. Golden
Deputy Chief, Soil Science and Resource Assessment

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

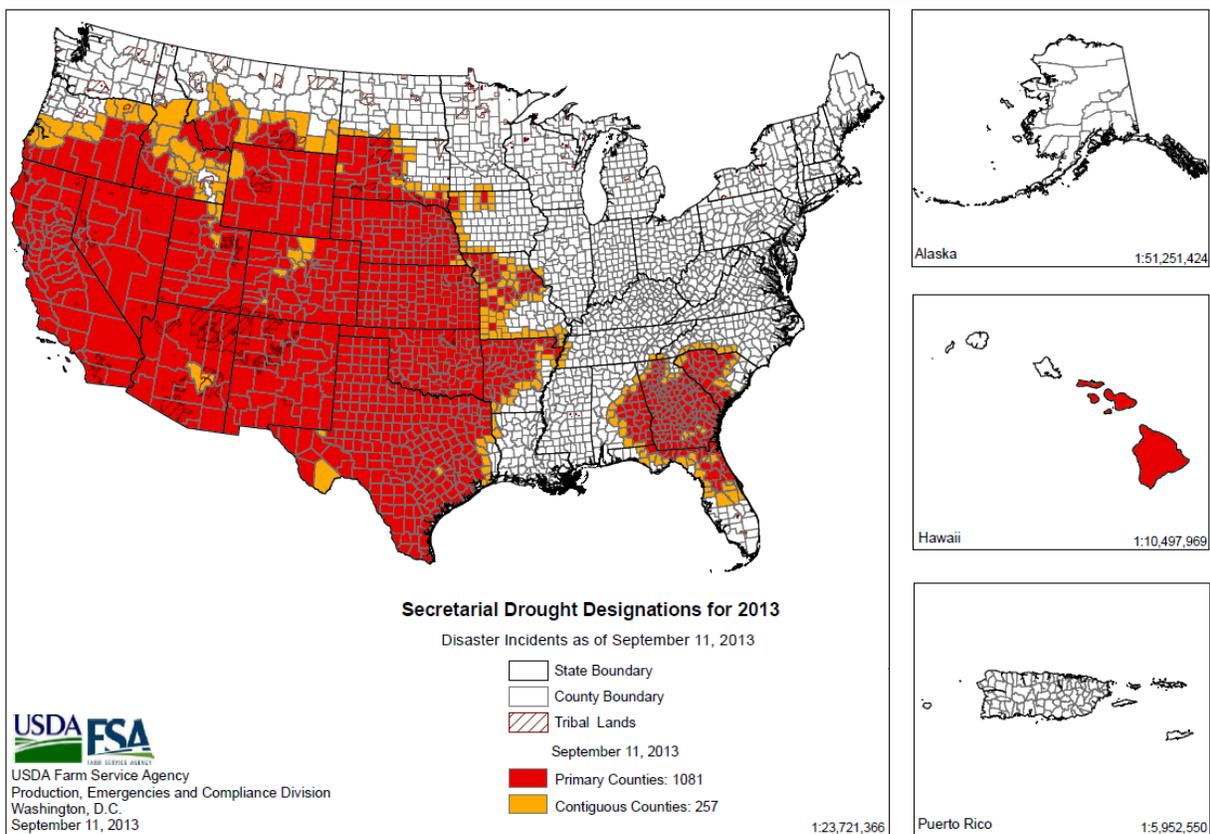
Drought Outlook (Forecast through November)



U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook for September shows:

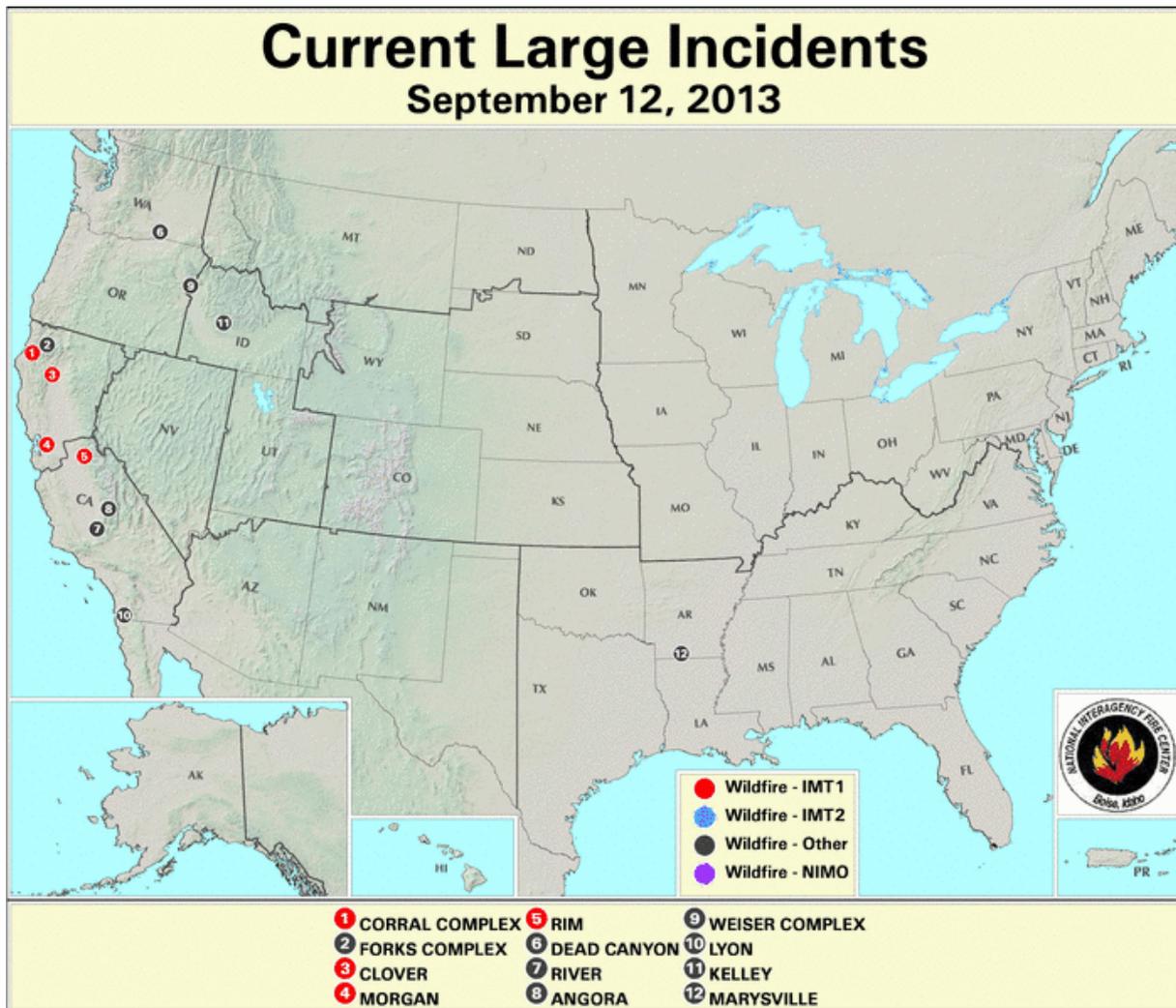
- Expect improvements over southern Nevada, Arizona, northwestern New Mexico, and southern Colorado.
- Drought is expected to develop over northern Iowa, southern Wisconsin, and much of Illinois.
- Drought is expected to persist over much of the western Great Lake states, the western High Plains, and parts of the central and northern Rockies, the Great Basin, and California.

2013 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought



Refer to the USDA Drought Assistance [website](#) and [National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service](#). Read about the new [USDA Regional Climate Hubs](#).

Supplemental Drought Information



The [Information Incident System](#) shows the most recent fires and their status across the U.S.

Noteworthy topics in the news this week:

Agriculture

- Crop conditions continue to deteriorate in the Midwest, pulling down corn and soybean yields.
- Colorado’s winter wheat production was down by about 40 percent, compared to 2012.
- Cotton and grain sorghum production in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas was down by 50 and 60 percent, respectively, due to drought. Crop losses in 2012 amounted to at least \$6.9, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Water supplies

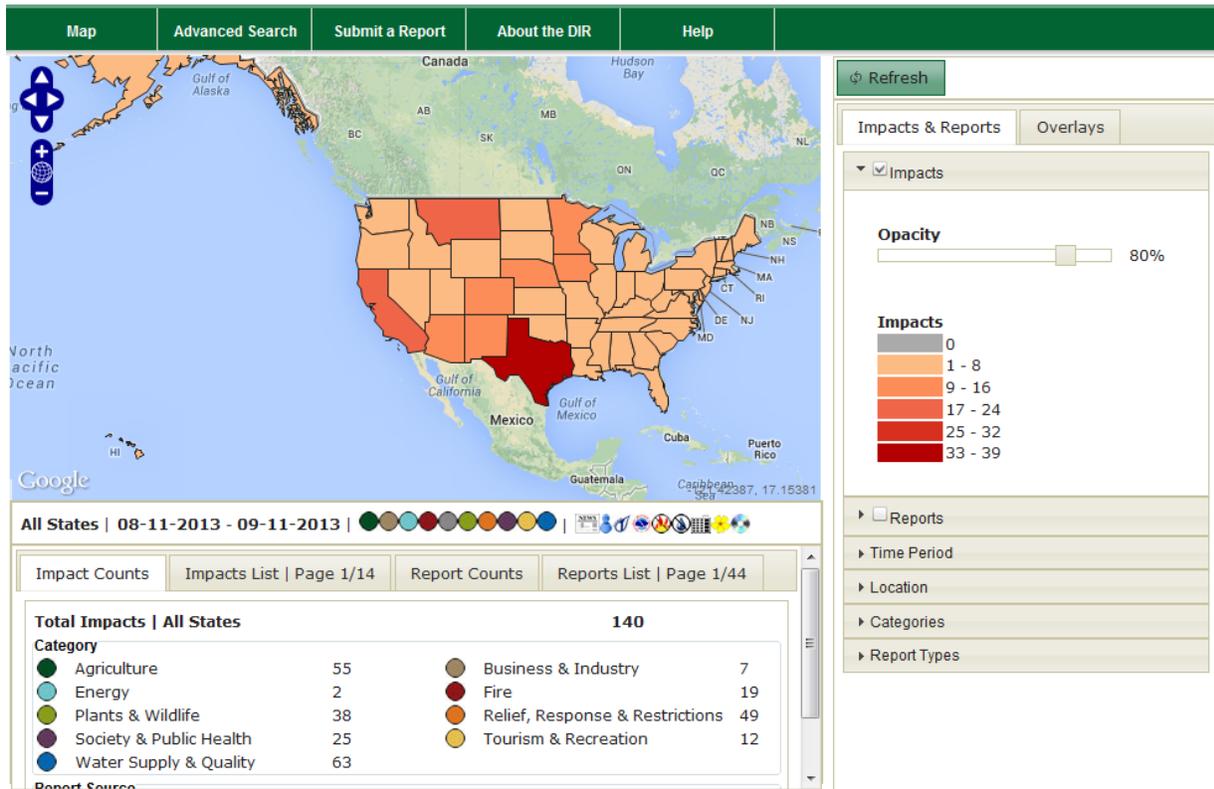
- Water supplies continued to fall into record low territory in Texas this week as drought drags on. Near New Braunfels, Texas, one of the bubbling springs feeding the Comal River was no longer visible and flowing at less than half the usual rate.
- Lake Buchanan near Austin and lakes near Wichita Falls were at or near record lows.
- Irrigators in the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District near North Platte will receive just 9 inches of irrigation water in the upcoming 2014 growing season and only received 10 inches during the 2013 season.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

- Upcountry Maui water users were in a drought watch due to "continued extremely dry weather" with a goal of cutting water use by 10 percent. The most recent drought watch ended in March, but had been in effect since 2009.

Mitigation/Response

- Nearly the entire state of California was recognized as a drought disaster area by the U.S. Department of Agriculture toward the end of August.
- The California Department of Water Resources warned its citizens and local water agencies to conserve and carefully monitor water supplies in preparation for another year of drought in 2014.
- The Southern Nevada Water Authority intends to declare an emergency and hasten the construction of a \$12 million project to prolong the life of the oldest, shallowest intake pipe in Lake Mead to ensure water through the summer of 2014.



Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Supplemental AG-Related Drought Information

The following data are provided by Brad Rippey, USDA Meteorologist, Office of the Chief Economist, World Agricultural Outlook Board). Also see: <ftp://snr-0563.unl.edu/Outgoing/US-Maps.ppt>

The “Ag in Drought” file that had been previously posted each week by NDMC’s Brian Fuchs is now available at: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/Drought/AgInDrought.pdf>

PowerPoint slides are available upon request.

Release of this week’s report was delayed by USDA’s monthly lock-up.

Highlights for the drought-monitoring period ending 7 am EDT on September 10 include:

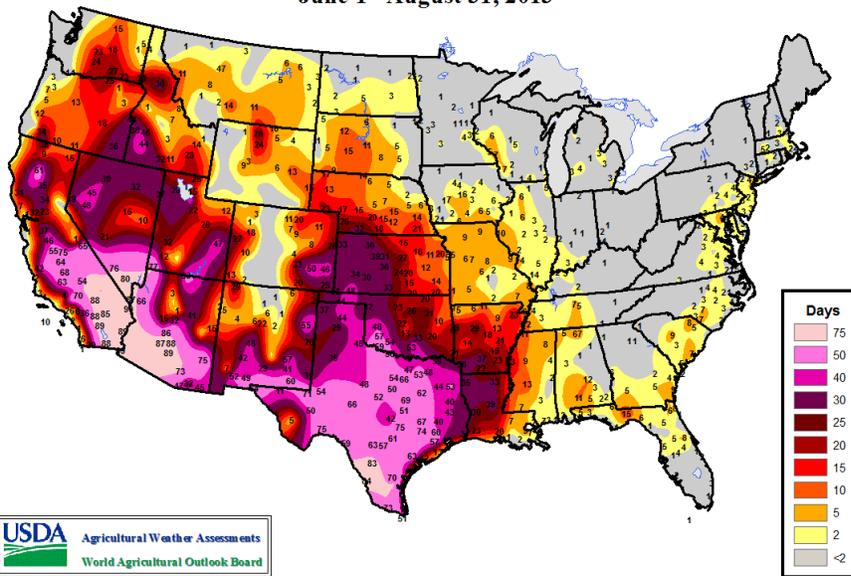
- Overall U.S. moderate to exceptional (D1 to D4) drought coverage increased (up 0.60 percentage point) to 50.69%.
- On September 10, exceptional drought (D4) was affecting 1.25% of the continental U.S., unchanged from week ago.
- Hot, mostly dry weather in the Corn Belt led to further increases in drought coverage. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor Website, drought coverage in the nine-state Midwestern region increased from 8 to 32% during the 3-week period ending September 10. Drought currently covers 72% of Iowa, 55% of Minnesota, 43% of Wisconsin, 40% of Illinois, and 31% of Missouri.
- In the 3-week period ending September 10, corn in drought more than doubled from 25 to 55%. During the same period, soybeans in drought nearly tripled from 16 to 45%, hay in drought increased from 33 to 41%, and cattle in drought rose from 46 to 55%. With winter wheat planting underway (5% complete nationally by September 8), it’s useful to note that nearly half (45%) of the production area was in drought on September 10.
- Weather outlook: Locally heavy showers will maintain the threat of flash flooding in the Southwest, where rainfall during the next 5 days could reach 2 to 4 inches in parts of New Mexico and Colorado. Similar rainfall totals can be expected on the central High Plains. Elsewhere, late-week rainfall could reach 1 to 3 inches in the Northeast, while 5-day totals of 1 to 2 inches may occur in southern Florida, the Intermountain West, and the Pacific Northwest. Rainfall totals in southern Texas will be partly dependent on the possible development of a tropical storm in the southwestern Gulf of Mexico. Meanwhile, persistent heat across the northern High Plains, Northwest, and Deep South will contrast with cool conditions in the Midwest. Late-week frost may occur in the upper Great Lakes region.

“The following data are not official products, and are being provided for informational purposes only. Official weather data should be obtained from your local NWS office or NCDC. Eric D. Luebehusen, Meteorologist of USDA - Office of the Chief Economist produced this in-house for crop-weather impact assessment, and for those in the field that have been inquiring about it. Stations with zero days of occurrence are not included in the map below. This may result in some skewing of the interpolated contours, especially over the Western States.”

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Number of Days $\geq 95^{\circ}\text{F}$

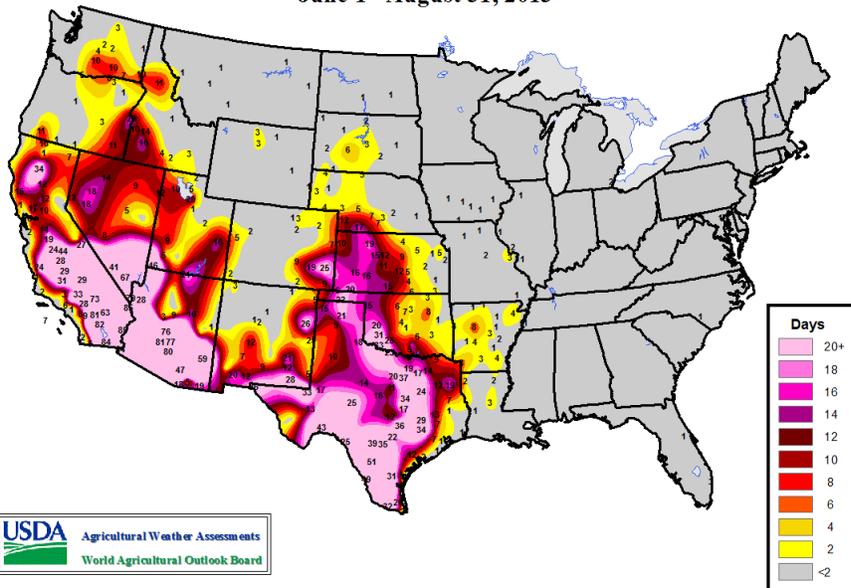
June 1 - August 31, 2013



USDA Agricultural Weather Assessments
World Agricultural Outlook Board

Number of Days $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$

June 1 - August 31, 2013



USDA Agricultural Weather Assessments
World Agricultural Outlook Board

A few interesting statistics about that 100° threshold:

Two States in our Southeast Region have yet to record a 100° value at a COOP/ASOS-AWOS station this year so far...

If 100° is not recorded in South Carolina this year it will be the first time since 1973...

If 100° is not recorded in Alabama this year it will be the first time since 2001...

And this is from the Alabama State Climate Office: "Since 1884, we've had a high of 100 F every year until 1965, then followed by 1974, 1994, 2001."

Provided: William Schmitz
Service Climatologist /
Meteorologist, Southeast
Regional Climate Center