



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

Weekly Snowpack / Drought Monitor Update September 11, 2014

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Agricultural Weather Highlights – Wednesday, September 10, 2014

- In the **West**, an early-season snowfall is blanketing the eastern slopes of the northern Rockies. Elsewhere, cool, dry weather prevails, except for lingering, late-season heat in western Oregon and much of California.
- On the **Plains**, lingering warmth is confined to portions of Texas and Oklahoma. Elsewhere, markedly cooler weather is arriving in the wake of a cold front's passage, although scattered showers linger across portions of the northern Plains. Rain has mixed with or changed to snow in parts of Montana, where the spring wheat harvest has been once again curtailed by adverse weather conditions.
- In the **Corn Belt**, rain is soaking the upper Mississippi Valley and the upper Great Lakes region. Sharply colder air is arriving in the far upper Midwest, where temperatures have fallen below 50°F. Warmth lingers, however, from the Ohio Valley into the lower Great Lakes region.
- In the **South**, warm, mostly dry weather favors fieldwork and crop maturation in advance of a strong cold front.

Outlook: The season's first significant push of cold air will continue to overspread areas east of the Rockies. The center of the high-pressure system will move into Montana on Thursday, settle across the north-central U.S. on Friday, and reach the upper Mississippi Valley by Saturday morning. Widespread freezes can be expected on the northern High Plains on September 11-12, while frost and scattered freezes will affect the upper Midwest on September 12-13. At this time, a widespread, growing season-ending freeze is not expected in the Midwest. In advance of the cold wave, additional rainfall could reach 1 to 2 inches or more from the southern Plains into the Great Lakes region. Similar rainfall amounts can be expected in the Southeast, where rain will linger into the weekend. Elsewhere, heat will build across the Pacific Coast States and spread across other areas of the West during the weekend. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 15-19 calls for near- to below-normal temperatures across the eastern two-thirds of the U.S., except for warm weather across Florida and southern Texas. Warmer- than-normal weather will also cover the northern High Plains and much of the West. Meanwhile, below-normal precipitation from the northern Rockies into the Midwest and Mid-South will contrast with wetter-than-normal conditions in the southern and middle Atlantic States and from the Desert Southwest to the southern High Plains.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)
Website: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/Daily/TODAYSWX.pdf>

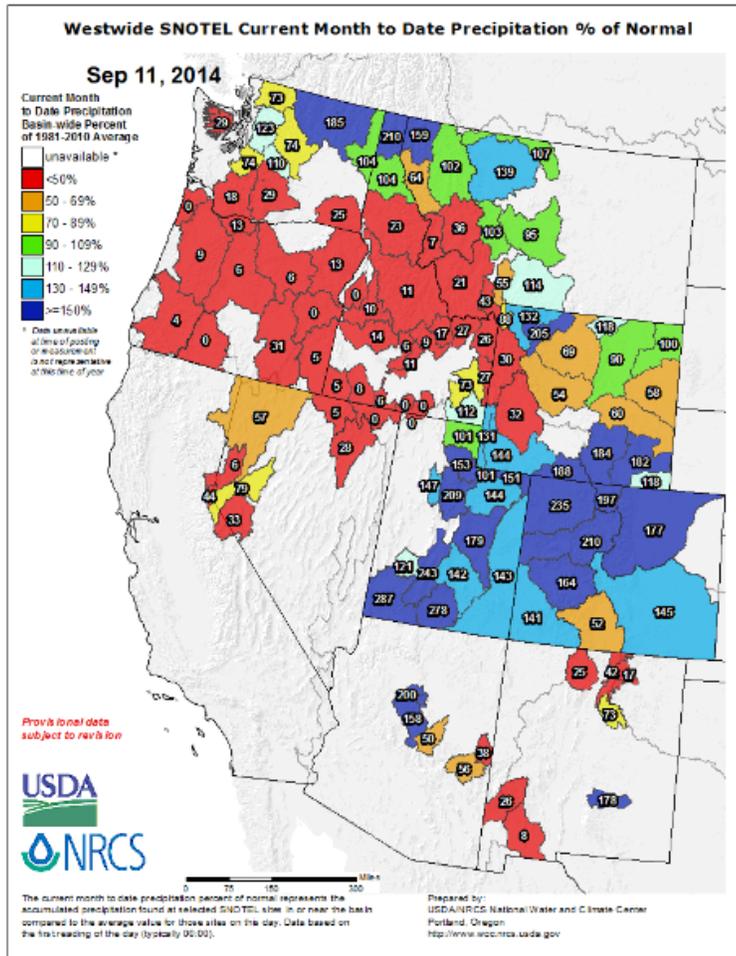
The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

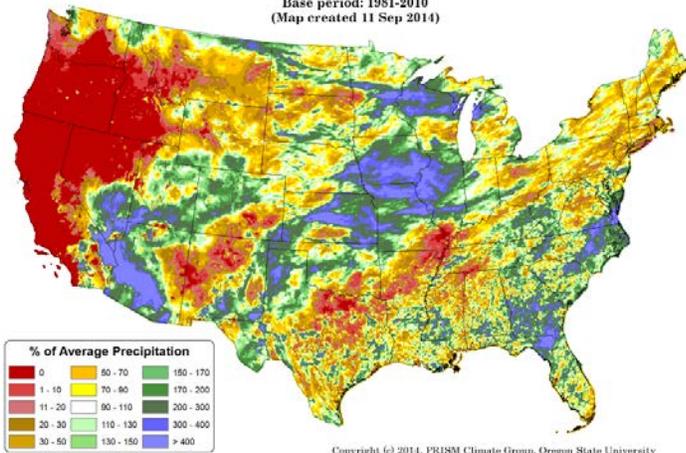
Precipitation

In the West, the early September [SNOTEL](#) precipitation percent of normal map shows a wide variety of conditions in Washington, Montana, and Wyoming where precipitation occurred only in select basins in each of the states. Utah, Colorado, southern Wyoming, central Arizona, and central New Mexico received much above normal precipitation for the period. The percent of normal values (especially in the dark blue areas) may be amplified where normally very little precipitation falls during this time of year.

Click on most maps in this report to enlarge and see latest available update.



Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 September 2014 - 10 September 2014
 Period ending 7 AM EST 10 Sep 2014
 Base period: 1981-2010
 (Map created 11 Sep 2014)



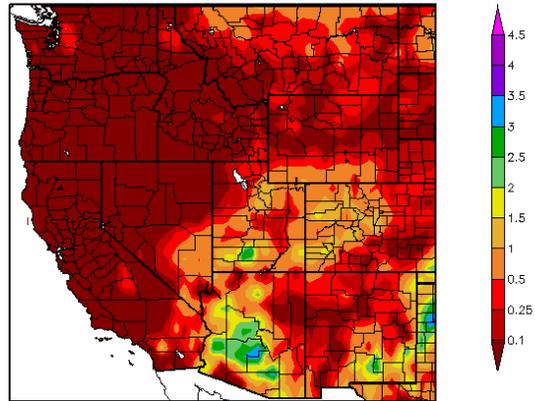
So far in September 2014, the national [precipitation anomaly](#) pattern reveals some higher than normal precipitation across the central Great Plains, in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and northern Wisconsin. Monsoon moisture dominated Arizona and parts of southeastern California, southern Nevada, Utah, and in scattered areas of New Mexico into the Texas panhandle. Above average moisture was also recorded in parts of the Southeast. A large area of the West, especially California, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, and southern Washington, has seen little or no precipitation.

This preliminary daily PRISM precipitation anomaly map contains all available network data, including SNOTEL data, and is updated periodically as additional data become available and are quality controlled.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

The [ACIS 7-day](#) total precipitation map for the western U.S. shows mainly dry conditions. Precipitation has fallen primarily across the northern tier states. Heavy precipitation fell in Arizona, as well as in southeast New Mexico and southern Utah. Scattered precipitation also occurred in the Rocky Mountains east to the southern Great Plains.

Precipitation (in)
9/4/2014 - 9/10/2014



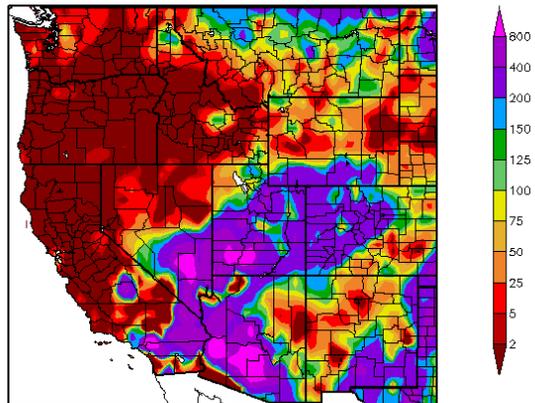
Generated 9/11/2014 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

This percent of normal [map](#) of the West for the last seven days reflects the heaviest scattered precipitation falling across the southern tier states of Arizona, southern California, southern New Mexico, and Utah into Colorado. Some scattered precipitation also occurred along the Canadian border and elsewhere in the West and into the Great Plains.

Percent of normal precipitation may be exaggerated in areas where the average for this period is at or near zero.

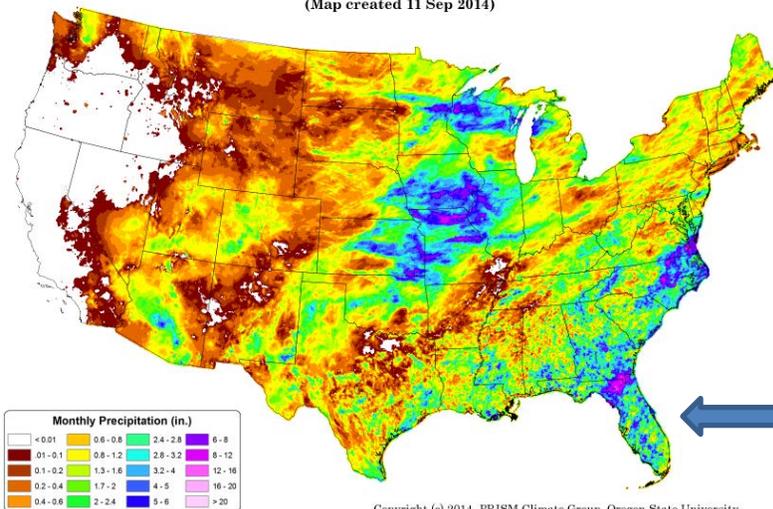
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/4/2014 - 9/10/2014



Generated 9/11/2014 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Total Precipitation: 01 September 2014 - 10 September 2014
Period ending 7 AM EST 10 Sep 2014
(Map created 11 Sep 2014)



Copyright (c) 2014, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

So far in September 2014, the total precipitation across the continental U.S. was heaviest in the central part of the country. Scattered precipitation occurred over most of the eastern U.S. Heavy precipitation was also recorded in Arizona. In contrast, the West, including California, Nevada, Oregon, and Idaho were mainly dry.

See [Go Hydrology](#) for current and forecast conditions over southern Florida.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

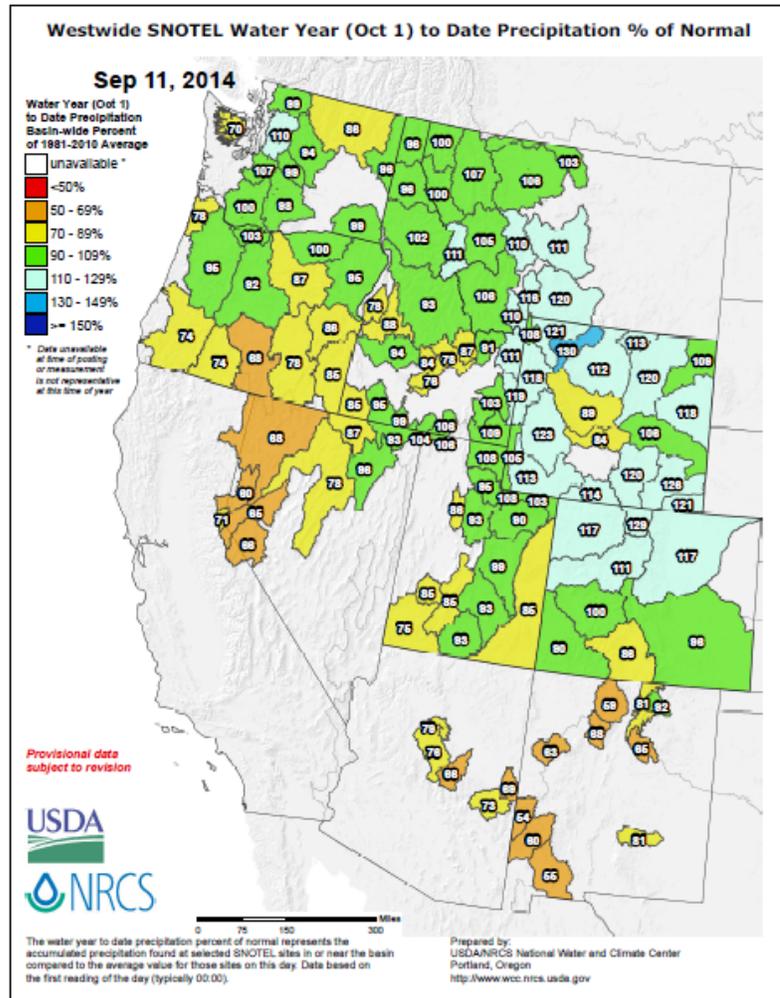
For the [2014 Water Year](#) that began on October 1, 2013, surpluses in the western U.S. occurred in southern Montana, most of Wyoming, and northern Colorado.

Some basins in Montana, Wyoming, and northern Colorado have received above normal precipitation.

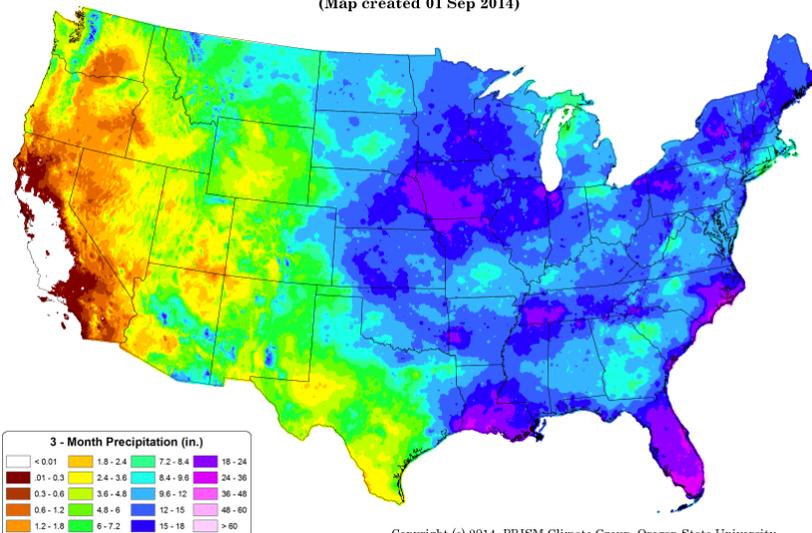
Near average conditions dominated the northern half of the Cascades, the northern half of Idaho, northwestern-most Montana, much of Utah and southeast Idaho, and parts of the southern half of Colorado.

The largest deficits were centered over southern Oregon, the Sierra Nevada in Nevada and California, Arizona, and New Mexico.

As the Water Year advances, it becomes more difficult for river basins to change bin categories.



Total Precipitation: June 2014 - August 2014
 Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Aug 2014
 (Map created 01 Sep 2014)



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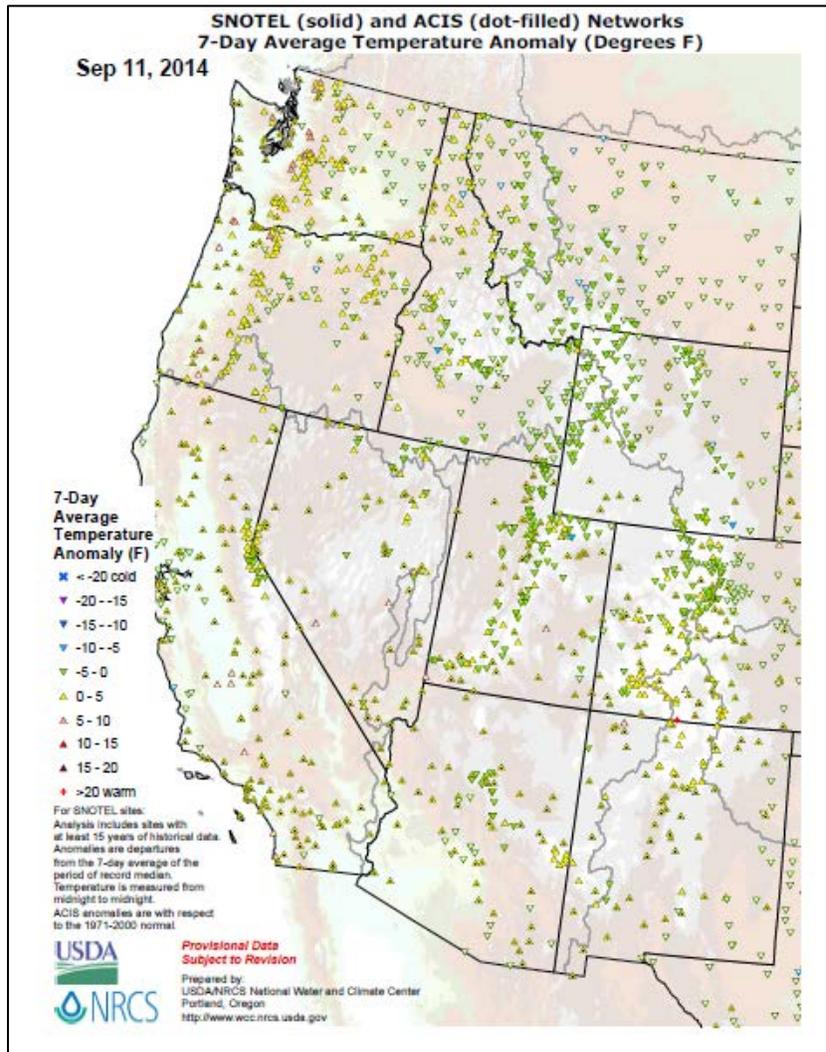
The national map of the [three-month period](#) (June - August) shows that the eastern half of the nation received precipitation in the range from 8.4 inches to greater than 24 inches in Louisiana, Florida, and North Carolina.

On the other hand, much of the West received totals of less than 4.8 inches. Central California had little to no precipitation for the period. The exceptions in the West were over the northern Rockies and Cascades, where totals exceeded 12 inches.

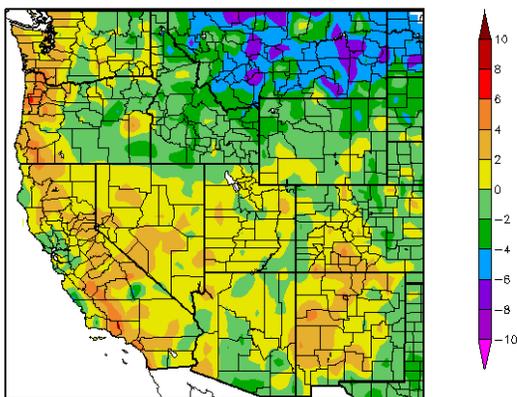
Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Temperature

The [SNOTEL](#) and ACIS [7-day temperature anomaly](#) map for the western U.S. shows temperatures near normal for most of the West. Below normal temperatures occurred along the northern and central Rocky Mountains in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Colorado. There were a few warmer than normal temperatures in California, Washington, and Oregon. The remainder of the West was near normal for the week.



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/4/2014 – 9/10/2014



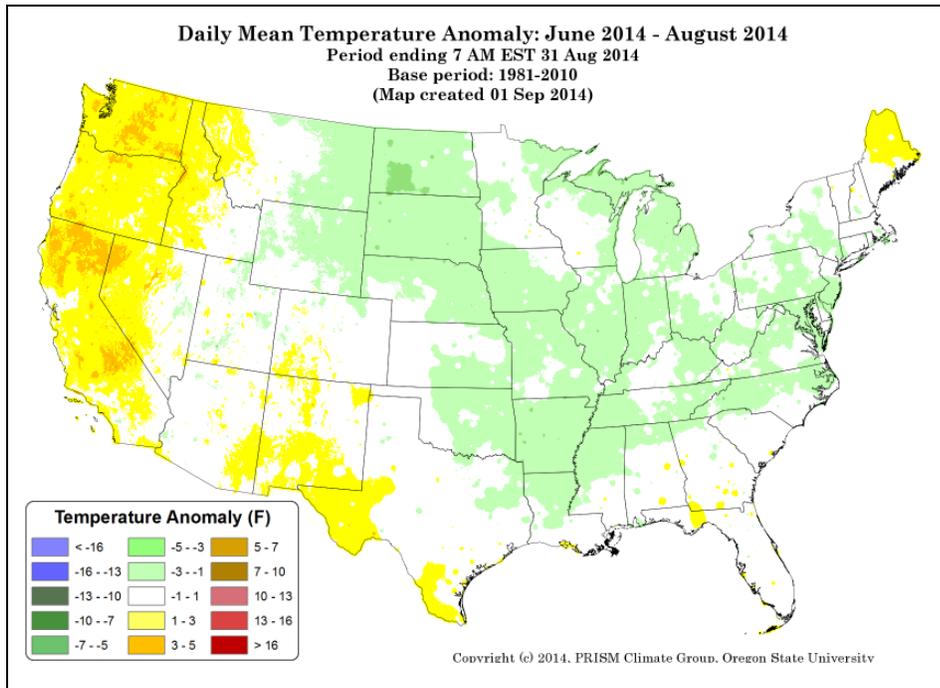
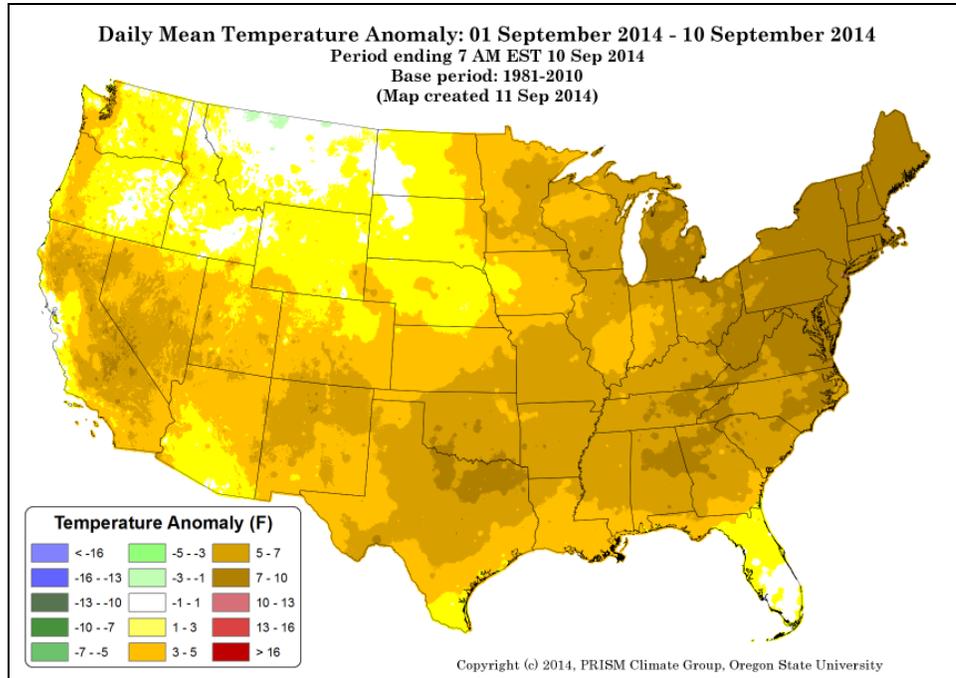
The [ACIS](#) map of the 7-day average temperature anomalies in the West ending September 10, shows the greatest negative temperature departures mainly over Montana ($\lt; -8^{\circ}\text{F}$). The greatest positive temperature departures occurred in southern California and western Oregon ($> +6^{\circ}\text{F}$).

Also, see [Dashboard](#) and the [Westwide Drought Tracker](#)

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

This preliminary [PRISM](#) temperature map contains all available network data, including SNOTEL data, and will be updated periodically as additional data become available and are quality controlled.

During September 2014, the national daily mean temperature anomaly [map](#) shows a cool pattern centered over Montana ($<-1^{\circ}\text{F}$). Above normal temperatures were recorded in most of the rest of the country, especially in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic states, a few areas of California and in Texas ($>+7^{\circ}\text{F}$).



June - August national daily mean temperature anomalies for the U.S. in this [climate map](#) show the West coast had slightly to above normal temperatures, mainly in California, western Nevada, and eastern Washington ($>+3^{\circ}\text{F}$). Most of the remainder of the country reported normal to slightly cooler than normal temperatures this summer, with the coolest temperatures in North Dakota ($<-5^{\circ}\text{F}$).

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Weather and Drought Summary

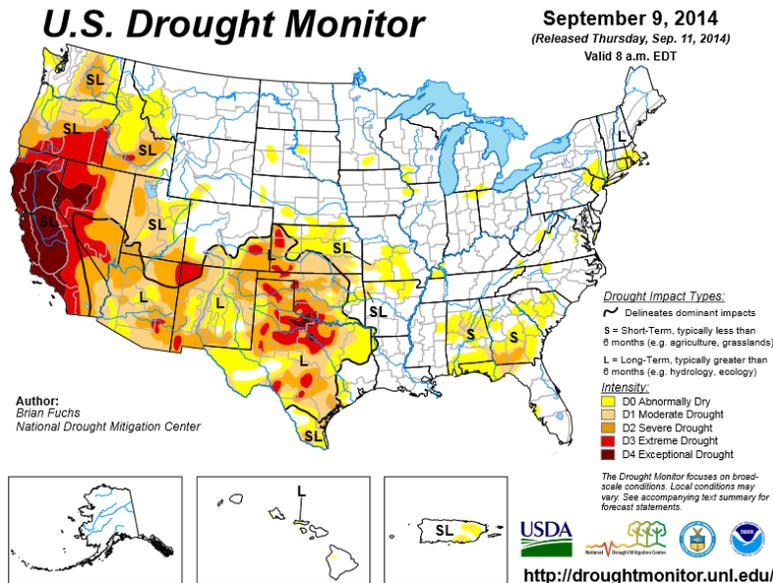
National Drought Summary – September 9, 2014

The following **Weather and Drought Summary** is provided by this week's NDMC Drought Author, Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center.

USDM Map Services: contains [archived maps](#)

“For the contiguous 48 states, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 31.27 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 32.78 percent a week earlier. Drought now affects 71,346,004 people, compared with 73,046,566 a week earlier.

For all 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 26.12 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 27.39 percent a week earlier. Drought now affects 71,540,385 people, compared with 73,240,947 a week earlier.”



[Current Drought Monitor](#) weekly summary. The exceptional D4 levels of drought are scattered across CA, NV, TX, and OK.

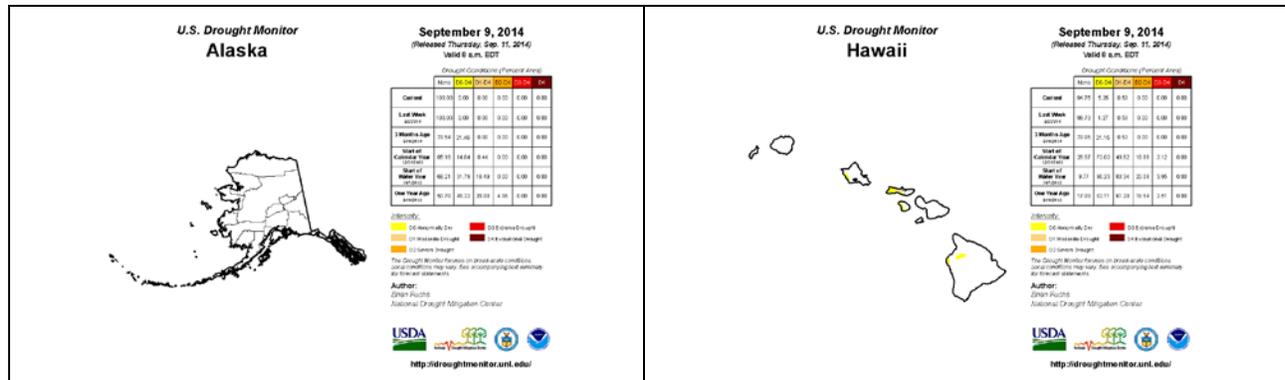
The latest [drought indicator blend and component percentiles](#) spreadsheet is a great resource for climate division drought statistics. This link is for the latest [Drought Outlook](#) (forecast). See [climatological rankings](#).

For more drought news, see [Drought Impact Reporter](#).
New: [ENSO Blog](#).

Drought Management Resources:

- ✓ <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weath/Drought/AgInDrought.pdf>
- ✓ [Watch AgDay TV](#)
- ✓ [Drought Impacts Webinar Series](#)
- ✓ [NIDIS Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- ✓ [The Spring 2014 edition of DroughtScape](#)

See: Latest Drought [Impacts](#) during the past week.



“The [49th](#) and [50th](#) States show relatively benign drought conditions. No changes noted for Alaska. D0 increased in Hawaii this week. A comprehensive narrative describing drought conditions across other parts of the nation can be found toward the end of this document. For drought impacts definitions for the figures that follow, click [here](#).”

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

U.S. Drought Monitor West

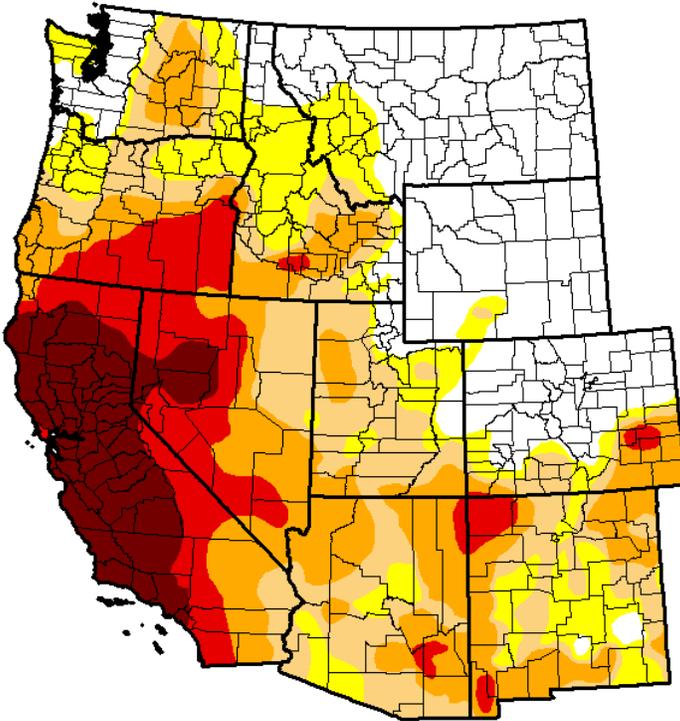
September 9, 2014

(Released Thursday, Sep. 11, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	28.38	71.62	57.36	39.26	19.83	8.90
Last Week 8/2/2014	28.38	71.62	57.74	40.04	20.16	8.90
3 Months Ago 6/9/2014	30.93	69.07	60.11	47.10	20.35	4.28
Start of Calendar Year 12/31/2013	22.20	77.80	51.44	31.11	7.75	0.63
Start of Water Year 10/1/2013	25.25	74.75	58.96	34.18	5.57	0.63
One Year Ago 8/9/2013	14.61	85.39	75.57	53.08	15.86	1.83



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:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



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

A slight decrease in D1-D3 categories occurred in the West during this past week. D1 and D4 and the drought-free area remained unchanged this past week.

Click to enlarge maps

Risk Management Web Resources

- Drought Monitor for the [Western States](#)
- Drought Impact Reporter for [New Mexico](#)
- [California Data Exchange Center](#) & [Flood Management](#)
- [Intermountain West Climate Dashboard](#)
- [California Sierra Nevada-related snow pack](#)

U.S. [Impacts](#) during the past week:

- U.S. - [73 million Americans now living in drought](#) – Sep 5
- U.S. [Global drought real threat to lives and economies: Experts](#) – Sep 5

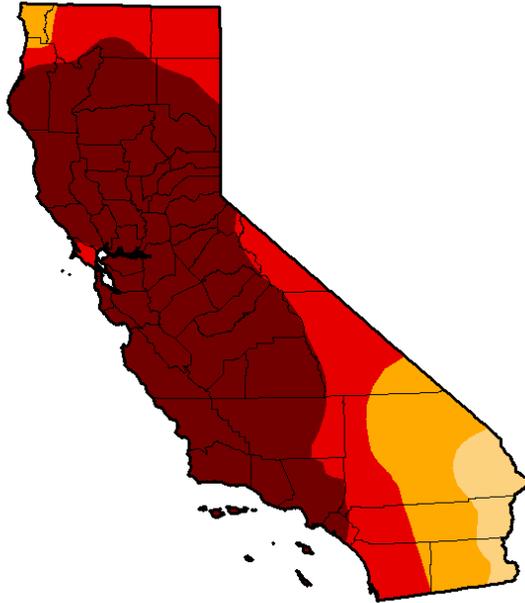
- NM - [New Mexico drought claims life of 600-year-old tree](#) – Sep 4
- AL - [Dry pattern causing some crops to lose yield](#) – Aug 29
- AL - [Little rain makes for anxious fire officials](#) – Aug 30
- MA - [Ipswich imposes outdoor water ban](#) – Sep 5

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor California

September 9, 2014
(Released Thursday, Sep. 11, 2014)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.42	81.92	58.41
Last Week 8/2/2014	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.42	81.92	58.41
3 Months Ago 6/10/2014	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	76.68	24.77
Start of Calendar Year 12/01/2013	2.61	97.39	94.25	87.53	27.59	0.00
Start of Water Year 10/01/2013	2.63	97.37	95.95	84.12	11.36	0.00
One Year Ago 9/10/2013	0.00	100.00	97.08	92.94	11.36	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:
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



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

There was no change in the California drought conditions this past week.

[CA Drought Information Resources](#)

[Drought News from California:](#)

[California's drought sends hay prices soaring – Sep 3](#)

['Super scoopers' arrive in L.A. as wildfire season begins – Sep 4](#)

[California Senate Approves Bill Requiring Oil Industry to Detail Water Use – Aug 28](#)

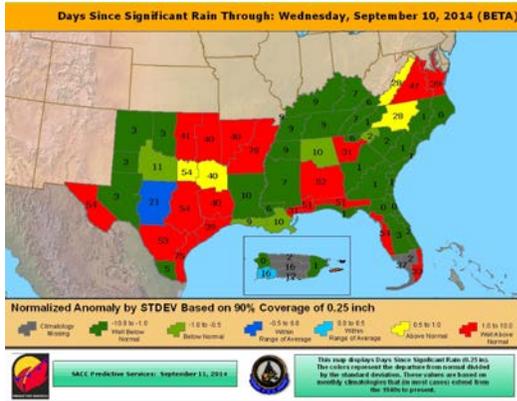
[California Drought: Irrigation irritation running rampant over water wasters – Sep 2](#)

[Growers Donate Produce To San Diego Agricultural Families Struggling In Drought – Sep 5](#)

[Video: The Eel River has stopped flowing – Sep 4](#)

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Texas Drought [Website](#).
 Texas Reservoirs.
 Texas Drought Monitor Coordination
 Conference Call: on Monday's 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM CST



[Days since Significant Rain Summary](#)

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor
Texas

September 9, 2014
(Released Thursday, Sep. 11, 2014)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	13.77	86.23	57.62	36.26	13.87	1.54
Last Week 8/29/14	13.26	86.74	61.29	37.92	16.18	2.70
3 Months Ago 6/10/14	11.28	88.72	69.16	45.10	23.23	6.68
Start of Calendar Year 12/31/13	28.48	71.52	43.84	21.15	5.82	0.79
Start of Water Year 1/1/13	6.62	93.38	70.95	25.00	4.01	0.12
One Year Ago 9/10/13	4.14	95.86	87.12	65.59	21.79	2.82

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:
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center

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

A decrease in all drought categories in Texas occurred this past week. Drought free areas also increased slightly.

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor
Nevada

September 9, 2014
(Released Thursday, Sep. 11, 2014)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	99.64	80.96	50.30	11.89
Last Week 8/22/14	0.00	100.00	99.64	80.96	50.30	11.89
3 Months Ago 6/10/2014	0.00	100.00	100.00	87.03	40.84	8.24
Start of Calendar Year 12/31/2013	0.39	99.61	96.81	77.66	28.55	5.37
Start of Water Year 1/1/2013	0.39	99.61	96.79	79.11	28.55	5.37
One Year Ago 9/10/2013	0.00	100.00	99.57	82.82	36.00	5.37

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:
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center

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

There was no change in Nevada drought categories this past week.

Nevada Drought News:

[Honeybees face a new danger with the drought](#) – Sep 2

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Related Area News:

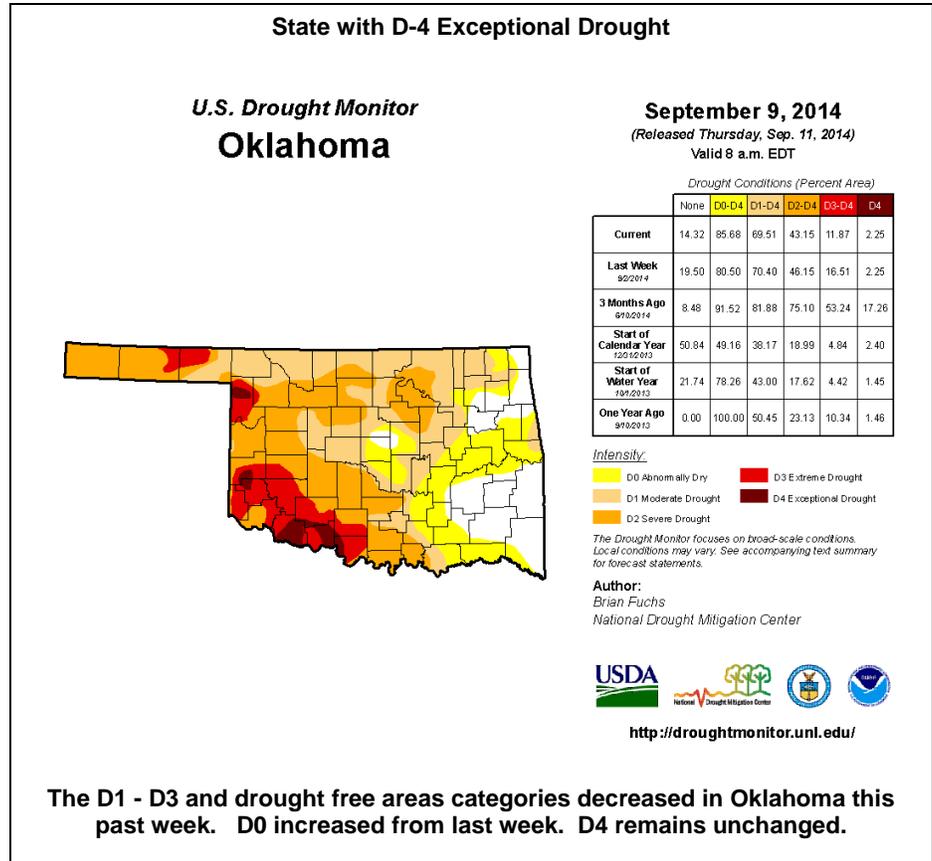
[2014 Kansas Drought Report and Summary](#)

- [Past 30 days precipitation totals](#)
- [Past 30 days precipitation percent of normal](#)
- [Calendar Year precipitation totals](#)
- [Calendar Year Precip percent of normal](#)
- [Short Crop ET](#)

Oklahoma News:

[Lawton enters Stage 3 water restrictions for the first time – Sep 2](#)

[Ranchers in Altus selling off cattle due to persistent drought – Sep 3](#)



[U.S. Population in Drought information](#)

Number of people in each drought category in the U.S. for the week ending September 9, 2014

Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
2014-09-09	184,287,379	121,110,075	71,346,004	53,712,618	39,227,585	27,615,939
2014-09-02	196,071,470	109,325,985	73,046,566	56,873,940	39,255,363	27,701,046

New population figures added to the U.S. Drought Monitor website show that for this week, more than 71 million people in the United States are in a drought-affected area, down more than 1.7 million from a week ago.

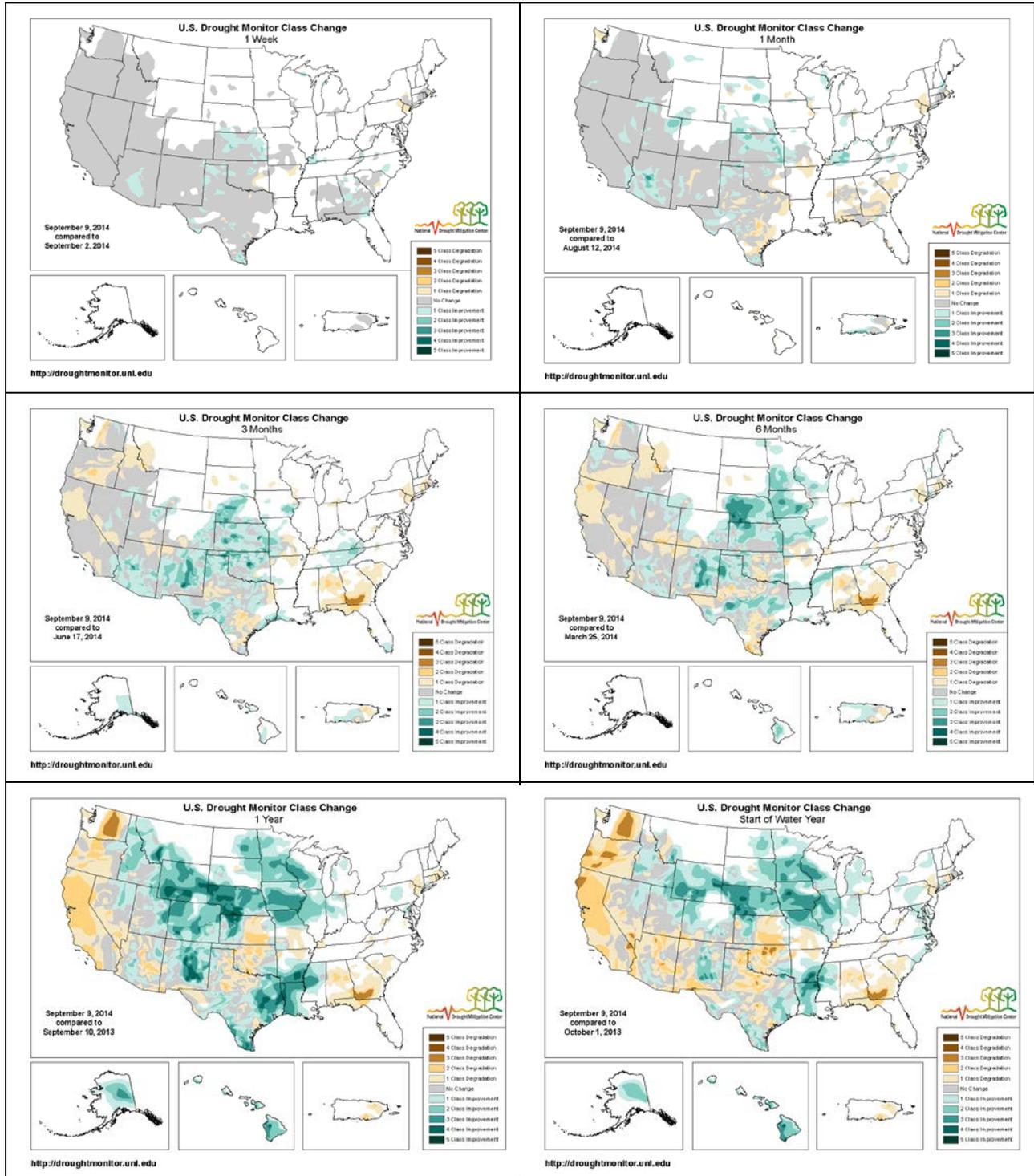
Population Statistics Methodology:

The U.S. Drought Monitor population statistics are calculated at the county level, and aggregated to the state, regional, and national levels. The population densities have been calculated for each county. The proportion of the physical area of the county that is in drought is multiplied by the uniform population density in order to obtain a number for each county. The county values are then summed at the state, regional, and national level.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Changes in Drought Monitor Categories

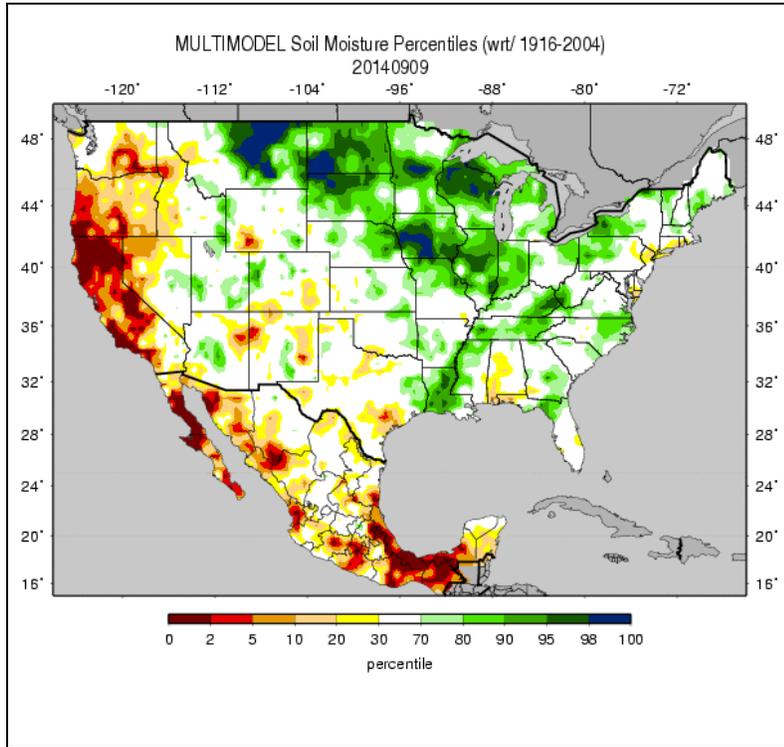
Over Various Time Periods



Click on any of these maps to enlarge. Note how the conditions over the Rockies and northern Great Plains have improved between 6 to 12 months (middle right to lower left maps). However, also note that since the start of the 2014 Water Year last October, conditions over the Southeast, parts of the southern Great Plains and the Pacific coast states have deteriorated significantly (lower right map).

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Soil Moisture

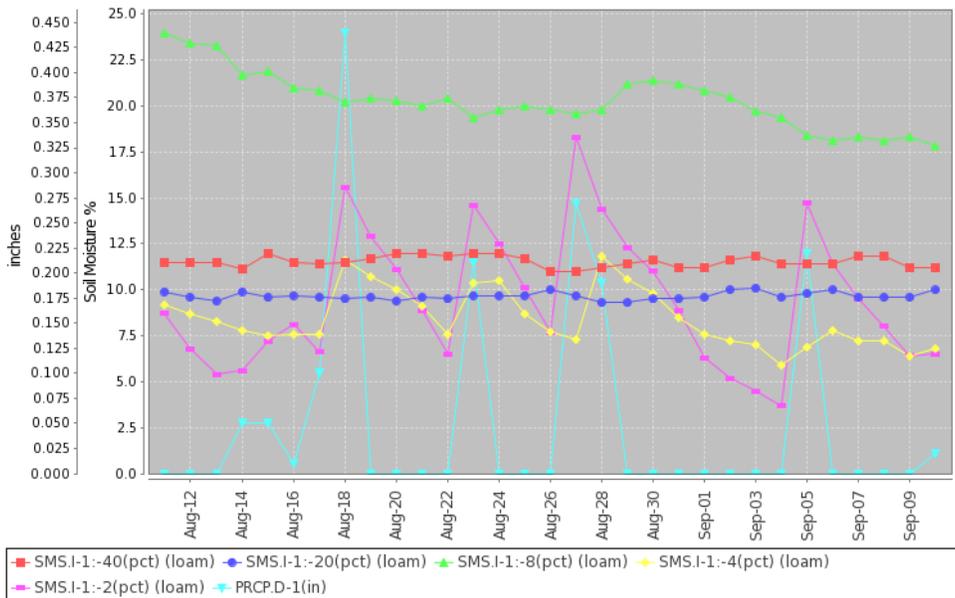


The national soil moisture model ranking in [percentile](#) as of September 9, 2014, shows dryness over California, Washington, Oregon, western Idaho, southern Texas, southwest Wyoming, southern Colorado, areas of Arizona and New Mexico and the Florida Panhandle. Scattered dryness was also reported in other areas of the West, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. Moist soils dominated from Montana to the Atlantic coast, where the wettest locations were centered in the Dakotas and eastern Montana. Soils in Iowa, Louisiana, and eastern Kentucky and West Virginia also had scattered high moisture content.

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 Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)

Station (2171) MONTH=2014-08-11 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision
Wed Sep 10 16:29:36 PDT 2014

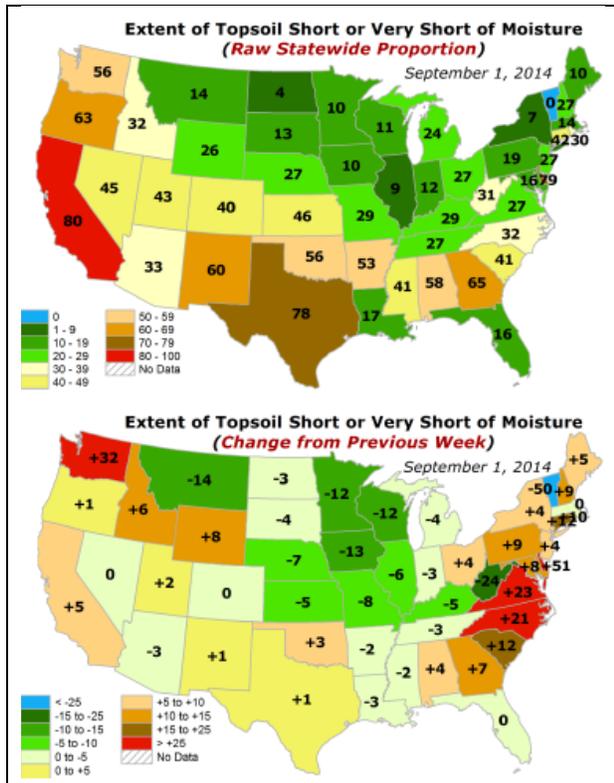


This NRCS resource shows soil moisture data at the [Sevilleta \(2171\)](#) SCAN site, located in New Mexico. The recent precipitation in the area is graphed in light blue. The precipitation over the last month has increased the 2-, and 4-inch depth soil moisture, whereas the deeper soil sensors at 8, 20, and 40 inches have shown fluctuations in soil moisture during the month.

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](#).

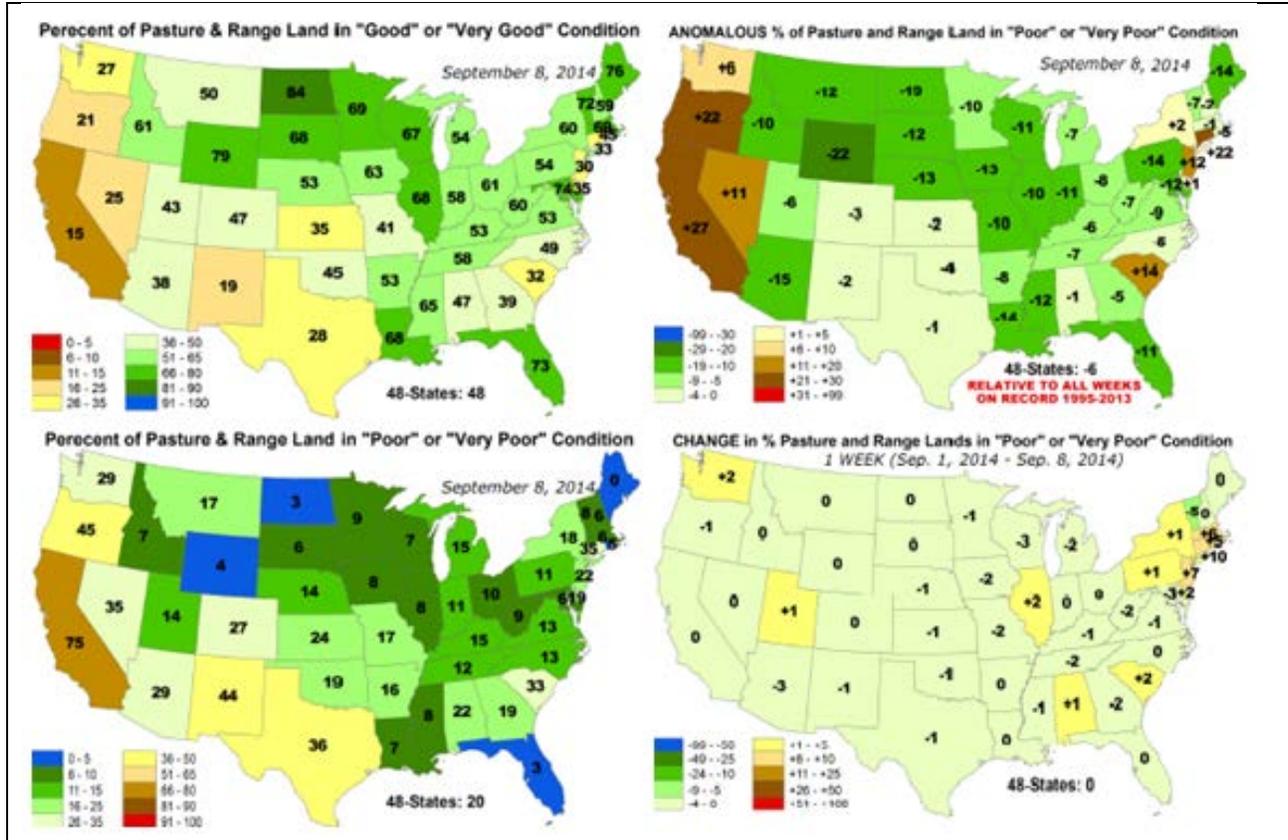
Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Topsoil and Pasture & Rangeland National Conditions



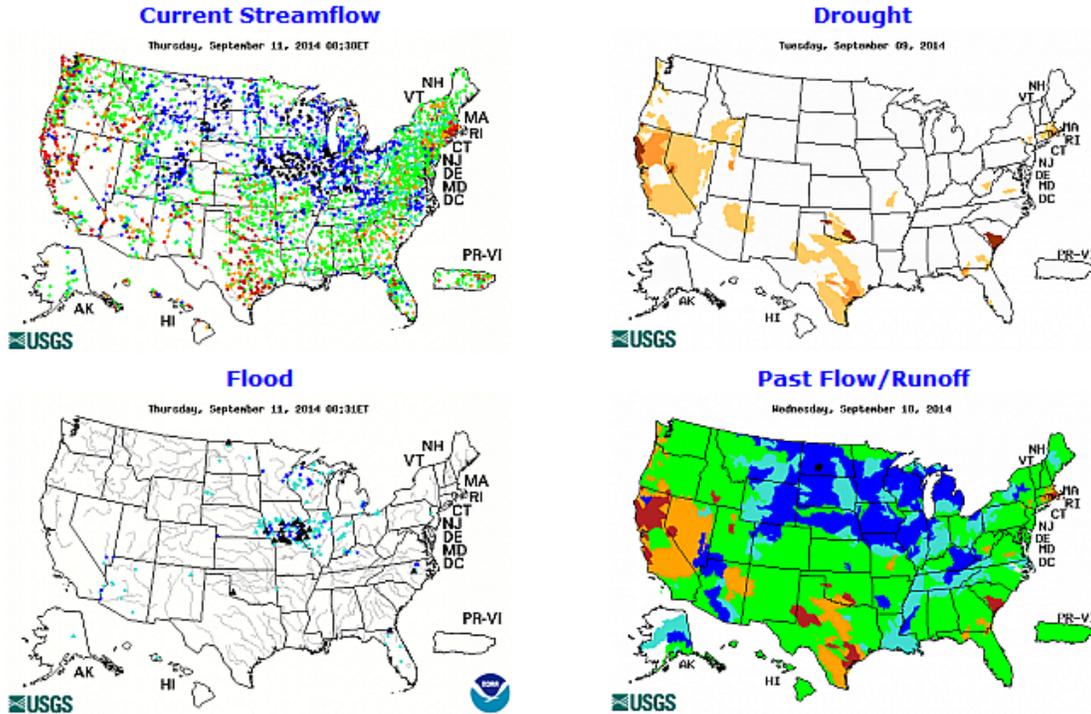
↪ Topsoils are exceptionally poor (top) over Georgia, Texas, New Mexico, California, and Oregon with values representing 60 percent or more poorer conditions than the median for this time of year (bottom panel). Locations in the Dakotas, east to much of the Atlantic coast, as well as Louisiana and Florida, have good soil moisture conditions.

↪ Many of the states east of the Mississippi River are doing well, as noted below. These conditions also extend across the northern Great Plains and northern Rockies. Pasture and rangelands are in poor to very poor condition in California, Oregon, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas. Conditions have changed very little in the West over this past week.



Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Streamflow



The streams are high over most of the central U.S., including the Mississippi River Basin, the central Rockies, the Southwest, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, and parts of the Mid-Atlantic States, due to recent precipitation (left maps). Central Alaska, and Oahu and Kauai, Hawaii are also reporting some high streamflow. Rivers are above flood stage along the Souris River in North Dakota, the Salt Fork Red River in Oklahoma, St. Mary's River in Florida, and 18 rivers in northern Missouri and southern Iowa (lower left map).

National Long-Range Outlook



Click maps to enlarge and update

Currently the Upper Midwest part of the map has not been calculated for the long range flood outlook (dark gray dots).

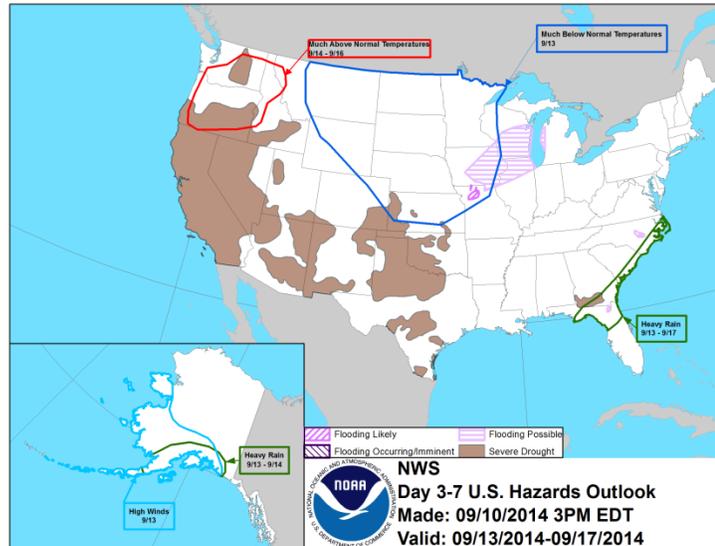
During the next three months, there is a risk of flooding in some areas of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, west-central Florida, and the Connecticut River. Currently, **1** gage has a greater than 50% chance to experience major flooding; **5** gages for moderate flooding; and **22** gages for minor flooding.

These numbers represent a 1-gage increase in the greater than 50 percent chance of minor flooding category in the last week.

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National [Weather Hazards](#)

Heavy rain is expected during the next week along the southeast Atlantic coast (9/13 –17) and in southern Alaska (9/13-14) outlined in green. Flooding is possible or likely in the upper Midwest states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, and northern Missouri. Small areas of possible flooding are also located in North Carolina and northern Florida. The northern Great Plains is expected to see cold temperatures on 9/13 and the central Columbia River Basin in the Pacific Northwest is expected to see much above average temperatures (9/14 – 9/16). Severe drought remains a large issue in much of the south-central and western U.S.



High winds are also expected in a large area of western Alaska on 9/13.

[National Drought Summary for September 9, 2014](#)

Prepared by the Drought Monitor Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

Summary

“Over the last seven-day period, an active pattern has helped to bring precipitation over several of the drought regions in the country. As the monsoon season continues and has been aided by tropical moisture coming up the Gulf of California, portions of the Southwest continue to see significant moisture. Areas in and around the Phoenix metro area recorded up to 6 inches of rain on the morning of September 8. Substantial flooding took place in many parts of the area. Several days of rain and thunderstorms helped to bring some relief over the southern Plains where August was especially dry. In the Texas panhandle, central Oklahoma, and eastern Kansas, 1.5-3.0 inches of rain was recorded this week. The upper Midwest also had a good week of rain where 2-3 inches fell over portions of northern Wisconsin, northern Michigan, and central Minnesota. A change in the pattern over the southeastern United States allowed for a return of moisture into the region, with significant rains, up to 6 inches this week, over areas from northern Florida up the coast and into the Carolinas. Temperatures varied across the country this week, with above-normal temperatures over the eastern third and west coast of the United States. Below-normal temperatures were recorded over much of the central to southern Plains as well as the central to northern Rocky Mountains.

Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico

Even with the recent tropical activity in Hawaii, not all areas were experiencing an abundance of precipitation. With some dryness being observed, D0 was introduced on the Big Island and expanded on Molokai. There were no changes in Alaska and Puerto Rico this week.

Midwest

Mainly a dry week over the Midwest, but the upper Midwest and Kentucky did see 200-300 percent of normal rain this week. Temperatures were generally warm as well with departures of 2-4 degrees Fahrenheit over the north and east portions of the region and 2-4 degrees Fahrenheit below normal over Iowa and southern Illinois. The improvements this week came with the removal of D0 over northern Wisconsin and northern Michigan. A full category improvement was also done over western Kentucky and adjacent areas into Tennessee. In northern Indiana, D0 was expanded slightly to the south as well.

South

The western portions of the region saw above-normal precipitation this week, upwards of 200-300 percent of normal in the panhandles of Texas and Oklahoma. Farther east, the precipitation diminished.

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Temperatures were below normal in those areas that recorded the most rain, but generally, the region was 2-4 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. Many improvements were made this week, especially in west Texas and the Texas panhandle, where a full category improvement was observed. Some tropical moisture made it into far south Texas and improvements were made to the D0 and D1 there this week. In Oklahoma, D3 was improved over the western portions of the state while D1 and D0 were improved in the central and northeastern portions of the state. Lingering dryness over northern Arkansas led to the expansion of D0 this week.

Southeast

Much of the region was warm this week with departures from normal of 4-6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. Along with the warmer temperatures, an abundance of precipitation was also recorded, with many areas from Florida up to Virginia having more than 200 percent of normal rain for the week. With this moisture, some improvements were made in the region. In North Carolina, D0 was removed in the southeast and northwest portions of the state. Georgia saw D0 removed over several northern counties as well as into the southwest. Georgia also had D1 improved in the southeast. The improvements were also observed in northeast Florida, where D0 was improved as well.

The High Plains

Mainly dry conditions over most of the region this week, with only portions of Kansas, central Nebraska, and North Dakota recording more than 200 percent of normal precipitation. Temperatures were generally below normal over Nebraska, Kansas, and northern Wyoming and into the western Dakotas. Improvements were made in Nebraska and Kansas as there was little support for D1 in the eastern portions of both states. In southeast Nebraska and eastern Kansas, D1 was improved, while improvements to D1 were also made in north central into western Kansas. In southwest Nebraska, D0 was also improved as the current pattern of above-normal moisture continued. Southeast Kansas saw D2 removed this week as well.

The Northeast

A generally dry week, with most areas recording less than 1 inch of precipitation and areas along the New England coast recording less than 0.25 inches. Along with the dryness, temperatures were above normal, with departures of 4-6 degrees Fahrenheit common throughout the region. The dryness was acknowledged this week with expansion of D0 around New York City, south into northern New Jersey, west into Pennsylvania, and farther north into New York.

The West

Warm temperatures over most of the region were experienced during the week, with only areas of Idaho, Montana, eastern Washington, and eastern Oregon having temperatures below normal this week. The monsoon moisture over the southwest continued and was amplified with some tropical moisture this week. Flooding rains over the Phoenix metro area along with significant moisture over much of the central portion of the state did help to ease drought concerns, and a full category improvement was made where the greatest precipitation was observed.

Looking Ahead

Over the next 5-7 days the precipitation pattern looks to be quite active and encompassing the eastern half of the United States. The greatest precipitation amounts are anticipated over the Midwest, southern Plains, and Southeast, with projected amounts of up to 3.50 inches. The moisture plume over the Southwest looks to shift east over the next week with amounts of up to an inch in New Mexico, west Texas, and Colorado. Temperatures will be cooler than normal over the High Plains, with maximum temperature departures of 12-15 degrees below normal forecast over Nebraska, South Dakota, and eastern Wyoming. The 6-10 day outlook shows the cooler-than-normal temperatures more likely over the eastern half of the United States. The best chances for above-normal temperatures are centered on the Great Basin and western United States as well as most of Alaska. The projections show that most of the Midwest, New England, Plains, northern Rocky Mountains, and southern Mississippi Valley have the best chances for below-normal-precipitation. Above-normal precipitation chances are greatest over the southeast and southwestern United States as well as southern Alaska.”

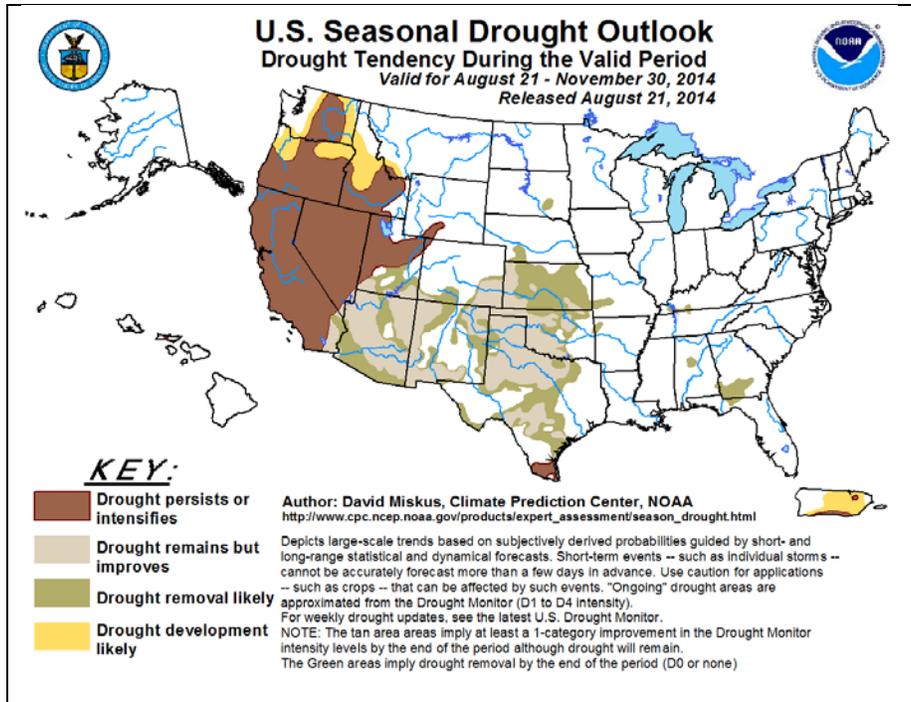
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Supplemental Drought Information

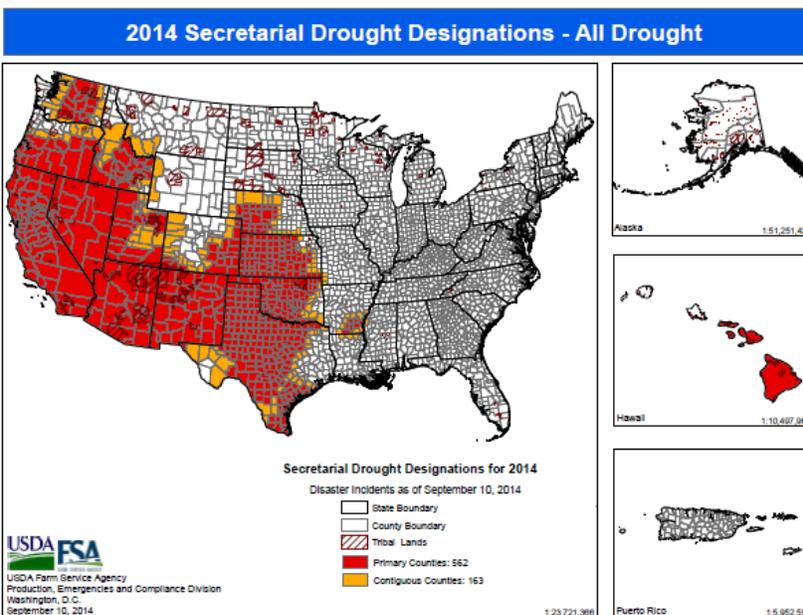
National Seasonal Drought Outlook

Nationally, [drought](#) is expected to persist or intensify over much of the West, the southern tip of Texas, and Puerto Rico. Improvements are expected from the Southwest to the central Great Plains, and in a few areas of the Southeast.

Also see: [National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) (updated on the **first** of each month) contains a content summary of the previous month's conditions.



2014 USDA Secretarial Drought Designations



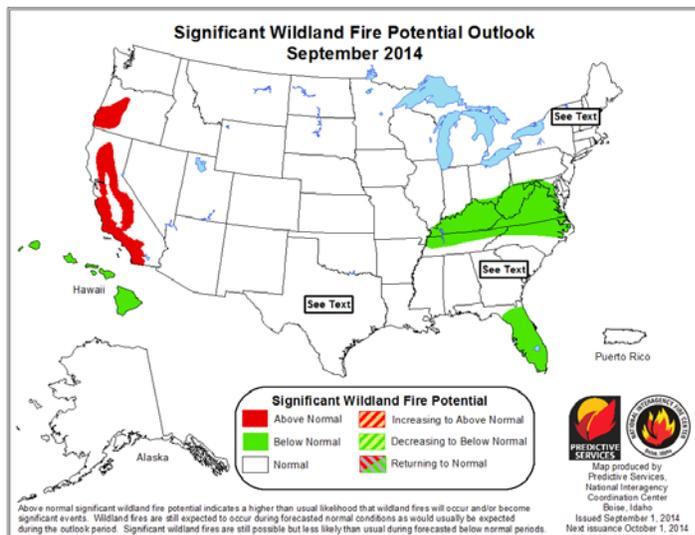
Refer to the USDA Drought Assistance [website](#) and [National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service](#).

Read about the new [USDA Regional Climate Hubs](#).

New useful resource: [NASS Quick Stats](#)

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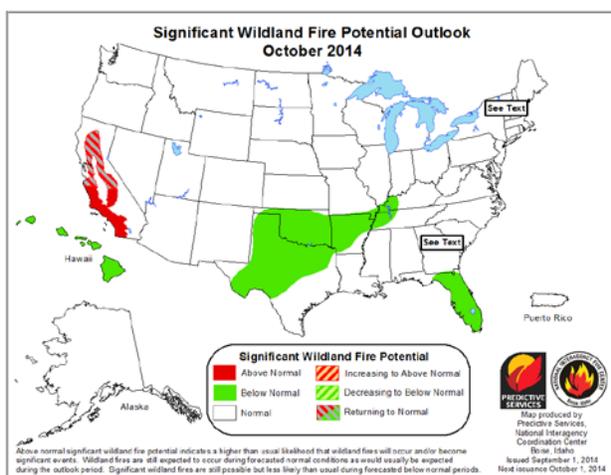
National Fire Potential Outlook



September Forecast

Above normal [fire potential](#) persists in parts of California and Oregon.

The below normal fire potential area colored green on the map is forecast in Florida, and from the mid-Atlantic coast west to the Mississippi River. Below normal conditions are also reported in all of Hawaii.



October Forecast

Above normal [fire potential](#) persists in parts of California.

The below normal fire potential area in green on the map is forecast for Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, western Tennessee and Kentucky, and Hawaii.

Additional Maps

U.S. Maps PowerPoint presentation: <http://dmcommunity.unl.edu/maps/US-Maps.ppt>.

Regional zooms of ACIS station data percent-of-normal precipitation: <http://dmcommunity.unl.edu/maps/All-CONUS-ACIS-PNP.pptx>.

National Water and Climate Center (NWCC) Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) maps: <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/swsi.html>

Supplemental Drought-Agriculture News

Download [archived](#) "U.S. Crops in Drought" files

The following is a collection of drought-related news stories from the past seven days or so. Impact information from these articles is entered into the [Drought Impact Reporter](#). A number of these articles will also be posted on the [Drought Headlines](#) page at the NDMC website. The list is compiled by Denise D. Gutzmer, Drought Impact Specialist, National Drought Mitigation Center.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

“Of the 73 million people affected by drought in the U.S., 37.25 million are in California.

Water monitoring in California

The California state Senate approved a bill requiring that oil companies report the amount of water used in their drilling operations and the water's source, as ongoing drought raises the importance of using water efficiently and wisely. Just last week, the California Senate approved legislation to monitor groundwater pumping.

Impacts continue to intensify in California as drought persists.

- Drought has parched oat, barley and wheat pastures, driving hay prices to record highs in California.
- The arrival of two super scooper water-dropping aircraft in L. A. County heralded the “official” start to California’s fire season, although during the recent years of drought, the fire season runs year round.
- The Happy Camp Complex fire, which began on Aug. 11 from a lightning strike in the Klamath National Forest in Siskiyou County, has charred nearly 76,960 acres, was just 19 percent contained and has already, cost \$44.7 million to battle.
- The nearby July Complex fire, also burning in the Klamath National Forest, has burned more than 40,000 acres since July.
- The Eel River stopped flowing in Fortuna in Humboldt County.
- Central Valley farmers and businesses are donating fresh produce to food banks across the state where unemployed agricultural workers are struggling to feed their families.

More California communities are tightening water restrictions, but prefer to avoid fining residents in favor of helping them comply with water restrictions. Bay Area residents, on the other hand, are frustrated when they encountered water waste. Reports of water waste are high in other communities too.

- During August, the Santa Clara Valley Water District got nearly 240 reports of water waste, about four times more complaints than the district received earlier in the year.
- The number of calls to the East Bay Municipal Utility District rose to 211 in July.

Cattle, water supplies in southwestern Oklahoma

Drought is smarting in southwestern Oklahoma, where ranchers in the Altus area were selling cattle as three years of drought leave little to nothing for cattle to eat.

Stage 3 restrictions took effect in Lawton to prolong the water supply as lakes Lawtonka, Ellsworth and Waurika dropped below 50 percent of capacity.

Crop yields in Alabama, Georgia

Crops in Alabama and Georgia were hindered by the lack of precipitation. The lack of rain was chipping away at cotton and peanut yields in southeastern Alabama, but rainfall could prevent further deterioration. Peanuts in parts of South Georgia were losing yield also.

Summer fire activity in Alabama

Dry conditions have allowed more fires than usual across Alabama, where summer is not normally a part of their fire season. During a recent seven-day period, 43 wildfires blackened more than 593 acres, according to the Alabama Forestry Commission.

For more impact details, visit the [Drought Impact Reporter.](#)”

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Tea Cup Reservoir Depictions

- <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/basin/> ← Upper Colorado
- http://www.usbr.gov/uc/wcao/water/basin/tc_gr.html; ← Upper Snake
- <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/burtea.html> ← Upper Colorado
- http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/basin/tc_cr.html ← Upper Colorado
- <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/select.html> ← Pacific Northwest
- <http://www.sevierriver.org/reservoirs/teacup-diagram-of-reservoirs/> ← Sevier River Water (UT)

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](#).

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/

David W. Smith

Deputy Chief, Soil Science and Resource Assessment