



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

Weekly Water and Climate Update

October 23, 2014

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Agricultural Weather Highlights – Thursday, October 23, 2014

- “In the **West**, showers have spread inland across the northern Rockies and as far south as northwestern California. Moisture is especially beneficial in Northwestern winter wheat-producing areas. Across the remainder of the West, mild, dry weather remains ideal for fieldwork, including summer crop harvesting.
- On the **Plains**, late-season warmth continues to promote winter wheat emergence and establishment. Rain showers have ended, except across the southeastern Plains, allowing producers to resume some fieldwork.
- In the **Corn Belt**, widespread frost was noted early today east of the Mississippi River. Meanwhile, isolated showers stretch southwestward from the upper Mississippi Valley. Fieldwork delays—related to late-maturing crops and lingering wetness—include corn harvesting, soybean harvesting (except in the upper Midwest), and soft red winter wheat planting.
- In the **South**, blustery conditions linger in the southern Mid-Atlantic region, while a few showers persist across southernmost Florida. Elsewhere, cool, dry weather favors summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting, except in areas where fields remain wet in the wake of early- to mid-October downpours.

Outlook: Light showers moving into the Midwest will dissipate as the day progresses. Meanwhile, unsettled, showery weather will persist in the Northwest, with another strong moisture surge reaching the northern Pacific Coast by Saturday. In contrast, wet, windy weather will gradually subside in the Northeast. The remainder of the U.S. will remain mostly dry during the next 5 days, except for lingering showers across southernmost Florida through Friday. Across the western and central U.S., warmth will accompany the mostly dry pattern. In fact, late week and weekend high temperatures should range from 80 to 90°F across the southern half of the Plains. At the same time, however, cooler air will begin to overspread the West. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for October 28 – November 1 calls for near- to above-normal temperatures nationwide, except for cooler-than-normal conditions in the northern Rockies. Meanwhile, near- to below-normal precipitation across much of the southern and eastern U.S. will contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in southern Florida and from northern California and the Pacific Northwest into the upper Midwest.”

Contact: Brian Morris, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-3062)
Website: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/DailyTODAYSWX.pdf>

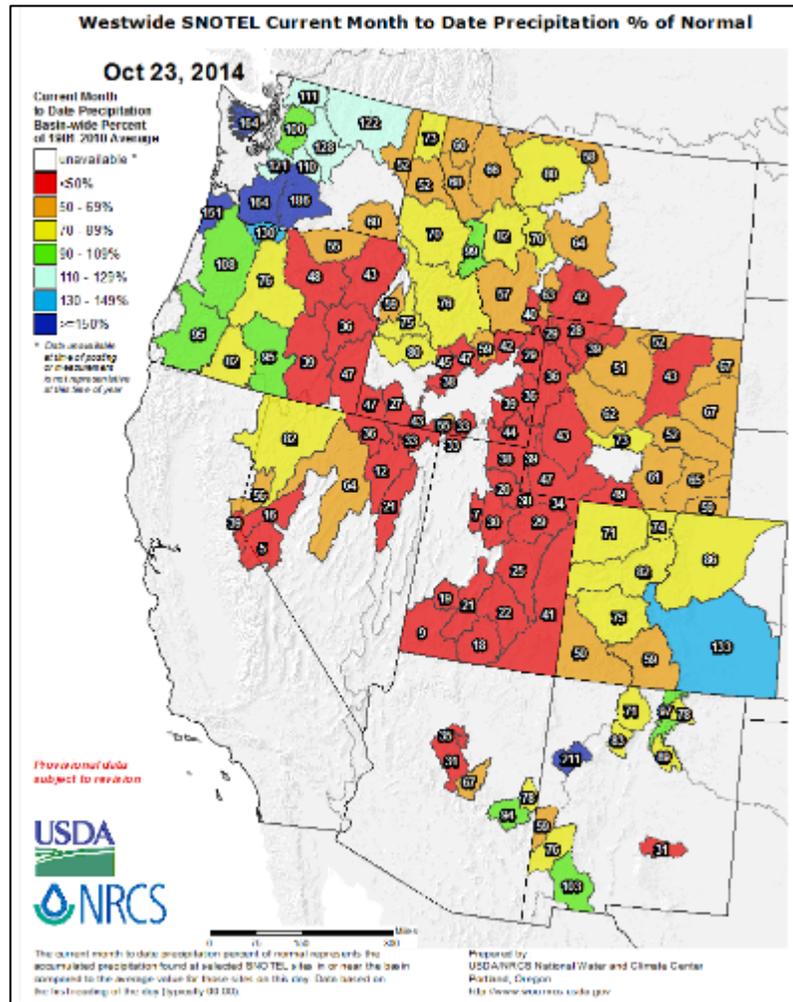
The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment

Weekly Water and Climate Update

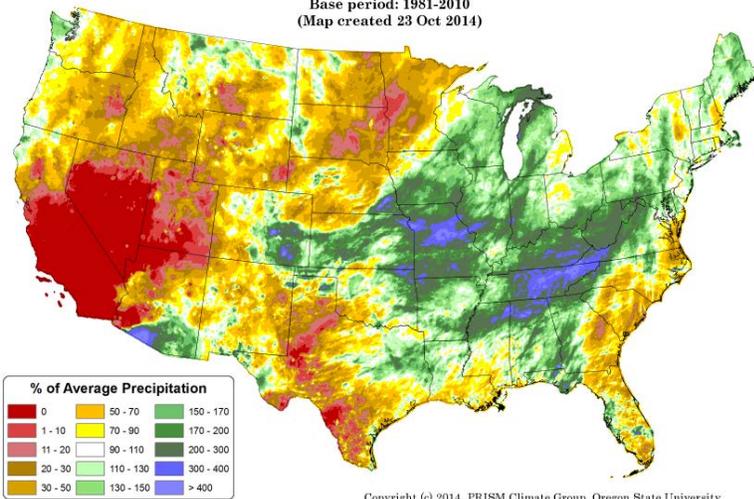
Precipitation

In the West, the [SNOTEL](#) precipitation percent of normal map so far in October shows mainly dry conditions. Nevada, California, Utah, eastern Oregon, southern Idaho, and western Wyoming were much below average for the period. Near or slightly above normal precipitation occurred in select basins in the northern Cascade mountains, Colorado, and New Mexico. 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 October 2014 - 22 October 2014
 Period ending 7 AM EST 22 Oct 2014
 Base period: 1981-2010
 (Map created 23 Oct 2014)

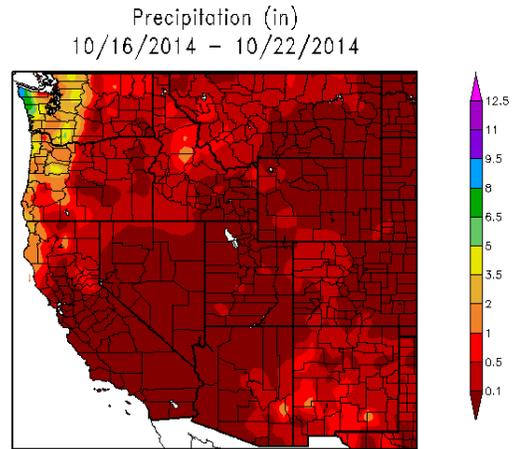


So far in October 2014 the national [precipitation anomaly](#) pattern reveals some higher than normal precipitation across the central U.S. The Great Plains from western Colorado to the central and southern Appalachian Mountains, received the most moisture so far this month. Parts of the West, including California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and Texas, have seen little or no precipitation (red area).

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 Water and Climate Update

The [ACIS 7-day](#) total precipitation map for the western U.S. shows mainly dry conditions. Precipitation has fallen in a few scattered areas in Washington, Oregon, northern California, Idaho, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. The northwest tip of the Olympic Peninsula reported the largest amounts of precipitation.

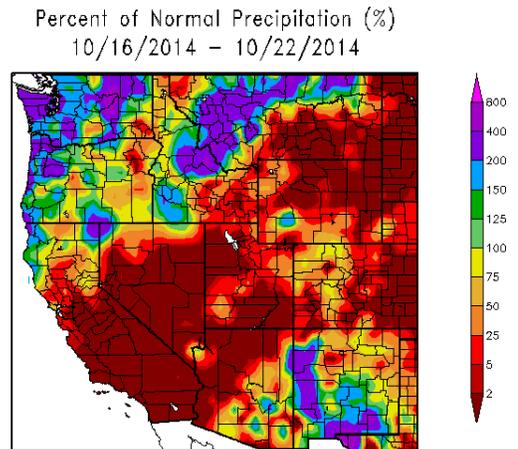


Generated 10/23/2014 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

This percent of normal [map](#) of the West for the last seven days reflects widely scattered precipitation. The heaviest percent of normal precipitation fell across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and New Mexico. Some scattered precipitation also occurred in the rest of the western states.

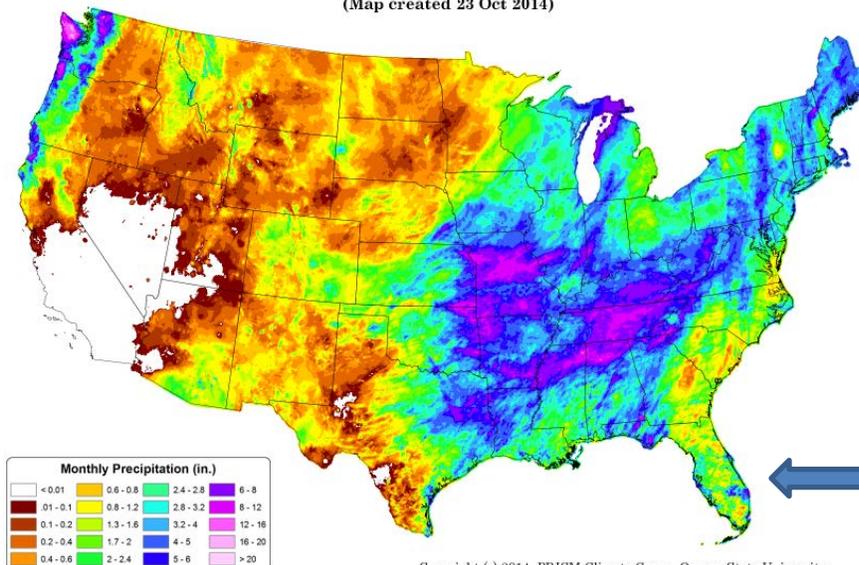
Percent of normal precipitation may be exaggerated in areas where the average for this period is at or near zero.



Generated 10/23/2014 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Total Precipitation: 01 October 2014 - 22 October 2014
Period ending 7 AM EST 22 Oct 2014
(Map created 23 Oct 2014)



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

So far in October 2014, the [total precipitation](#) across the continental U.S. was heaviest in the central and southern part of the country. Other areas that had isolated high precipitation were in northern Michigan and western Washington. In contrast, the far West, including most of California, Nevada, southern Utah, northern Arizona, and parts of Texas, was mainly dry.

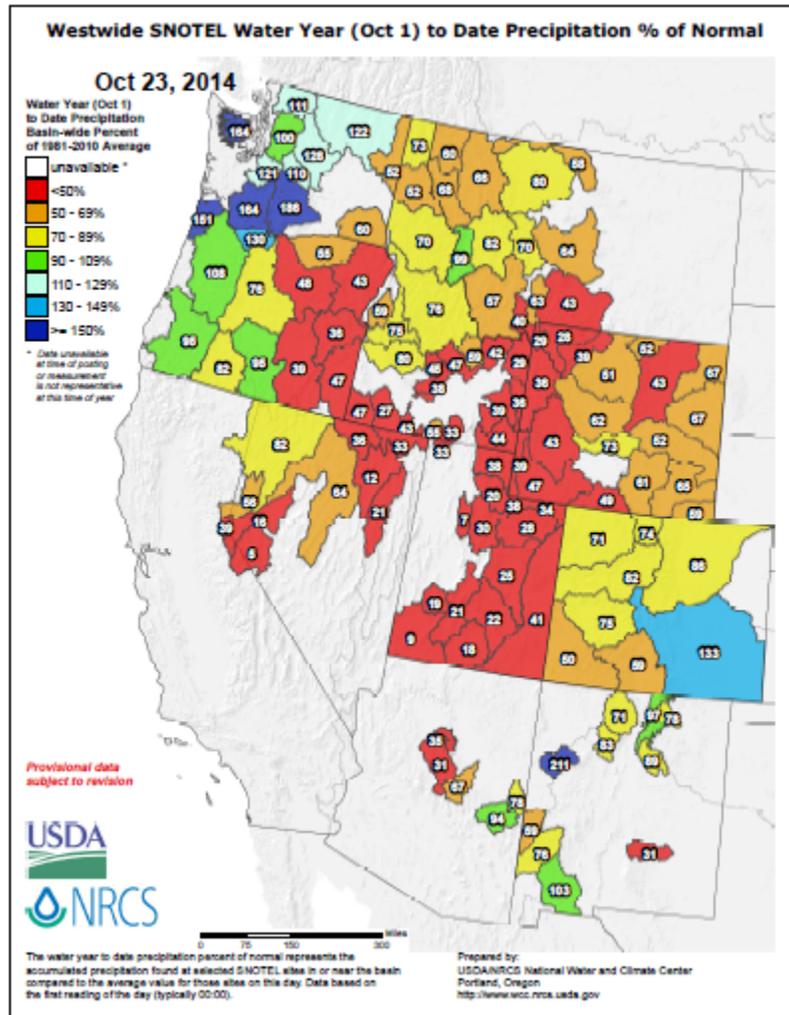
See [Go Hydrology](#) for current and forecast conditions over southern Florida.

Weekly Water and Climate Update

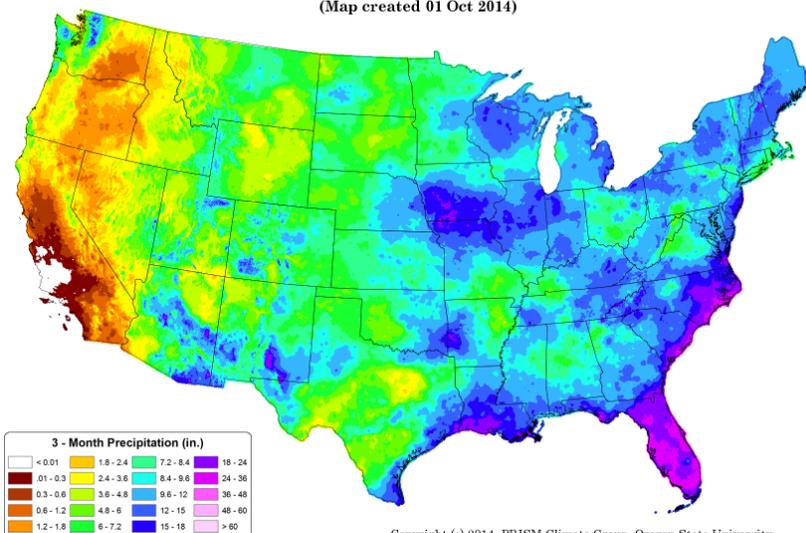
For the [2015 Water Year](#) that began on October 1, 2014, surpluses have occurred in a few basins in the West. Washington, Oregon, and some basins in Colorado and New Mexico have received above normal precipitation.

Many basins across the West had very little precipitation in comparison to normal for the first two weeks of the new Water Year.

At the beginning of the Water Year, basin conditions can change rapidly with small amounts of precipitation. As the Water Year advances, it becomes more difficult for river basins to change bin categories.



Total Precipitation: July 2014 - September 2014
 Period ending 7 AM EST 30 Sep 2014
 (Map created 01 Oct 2014)



The national map of the [three-month period](#) (July - September) shows that the eastern half of the nation received precipitation in the range from 6 inches to greater than 24 inches in Iowa, northern Missouri, Louisiana, Florida, and along the coast from Georgia to Virginia.

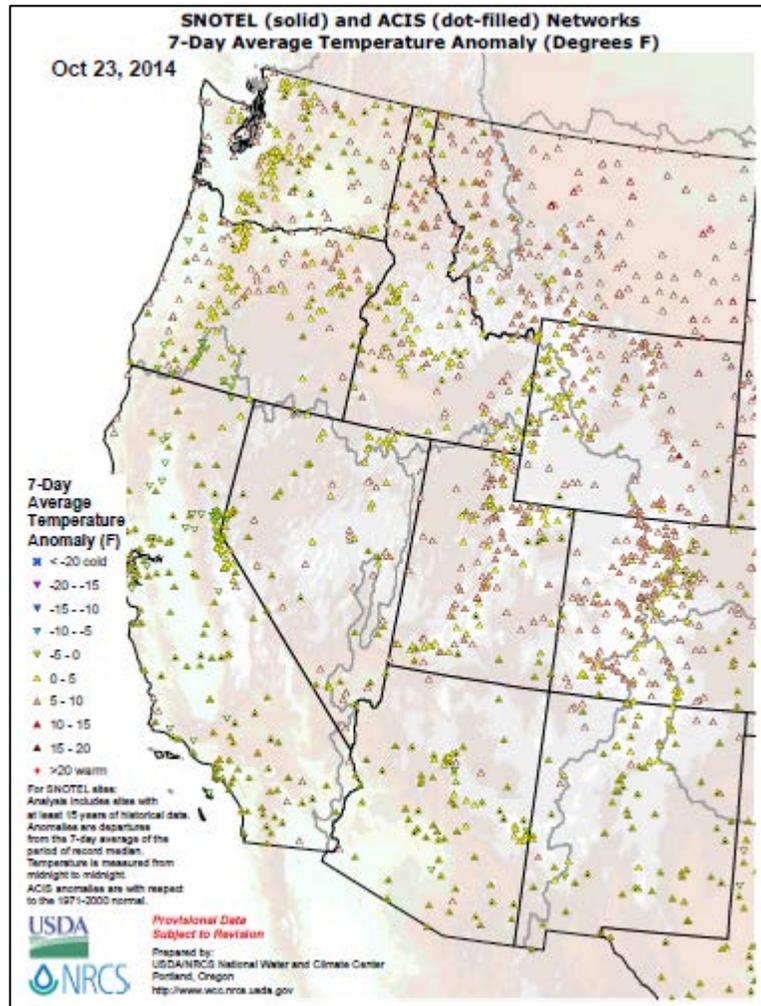
On the other hand, much of the West received totals of less than 4.8 inches. Central and southern California had little to no precipitation for the period. The exceptions in the West were over the northern Rockies, the Cascades, and the Southwest, where totals exceeded 12 inches.

Weekly Water and Climate Update

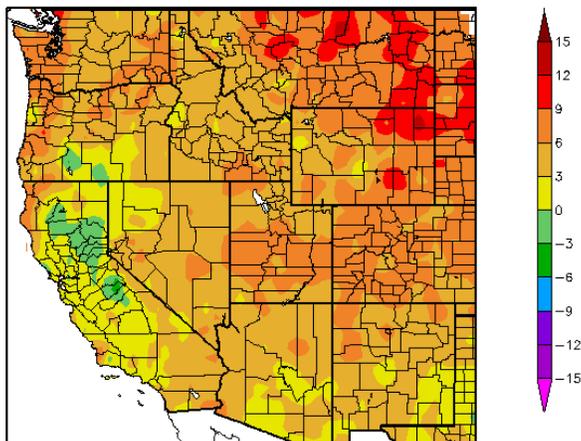
Temperature

The [SNOTEL](#) and [ACIS 7-day temperature anomaly](#) map for the western U.S. shows temperatures above normal for most of the Rocky Mountains and into the Great Plains. Also, above normal temperatures were recorded in Washington, Oregon, Utah, eastern Nevada, and northern New Mexico. Several stations in eastern Montana and eastern Colorado reported greater than 10 degrees above normal for the week.

The remainder of the West was near normal for the week.



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/16/2014 – 10/22/2014



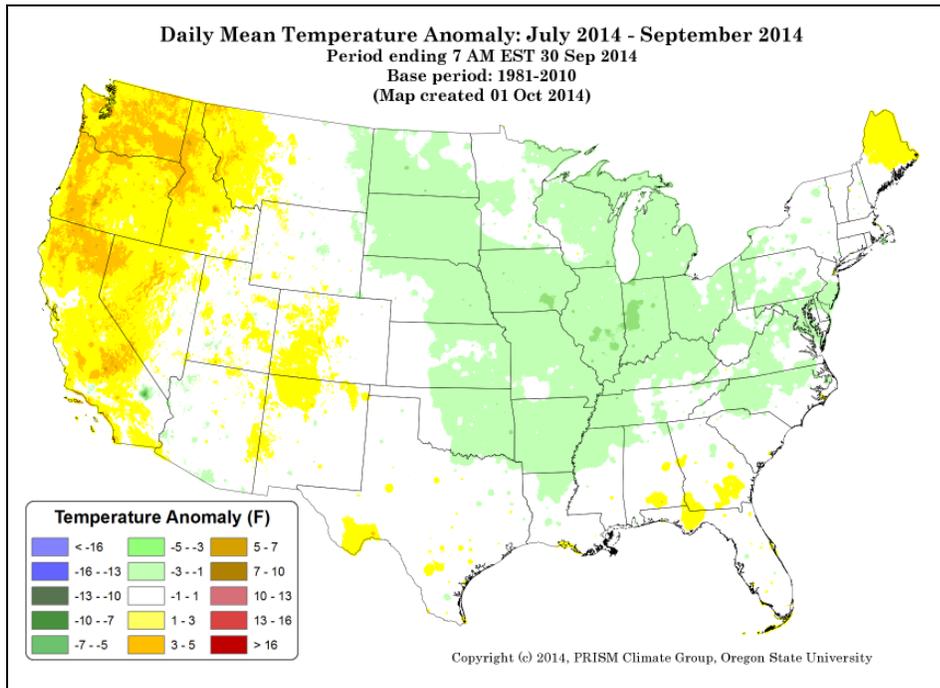
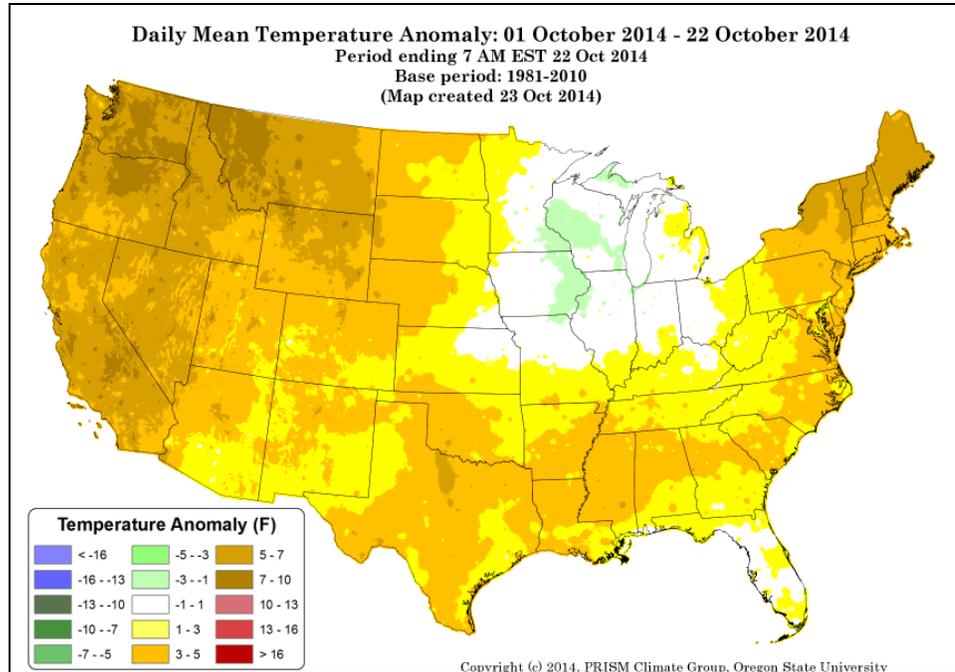
The [ACIS](#) map of the 7-day average temperature anomalies in the West ending October 22, shows the greatest negative temperature departures in central California and southern Oregon ($<-3^{\circ}\text{F}$). The greatest positive temperature departures occurred in eastern Montana, eastern Wyoming, and eastern Colorado ($>+12^{\circ}\text{F}$). Much of the West experienced above normal temperatures.

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

Weekly Water and Climate Update

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.

So far in October 2014, the national daily mean temperature anomaly [map](#) shows a slightly cool pattern in the northern Midwest ($< -1^{\circ}\text{F}$). Above normal temperatures were recorded in most areas of the country. Northern New England and the Pacific Northwest had the highest warm anomalies ($> +7^{\circ}\text{F}$).



July - September 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, Oregon, and Washington ($> +5^{\circ}\text{F}$). Most of the remainder of the country reported normal to slightly cooler than normal temperatures this summer, with the coolest temperatures in Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana ($< -3^{\circ}\text{F}$).

Weekly Water and Climate Update

Weather and Drought Summary

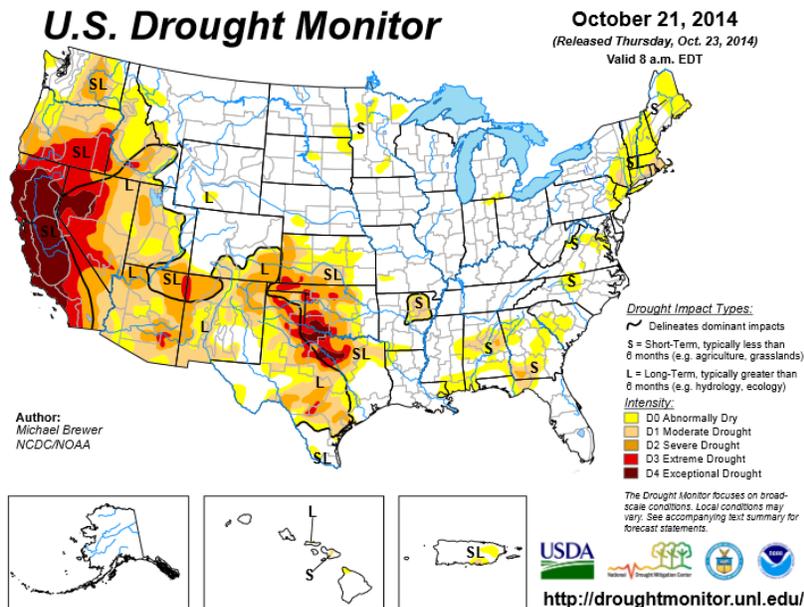
National Drought Summary – October 21, 2014

The following **Weather and Drought Summary** is provided by this week's NDMC Drought Author, Michael Brewer, NOAA/NCDC.

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

“For the contiguous 48 states, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 29.80 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 29.78 percent a week earlier. Drought now affects 74,111,126 people, compared with 74,025,952 a week earlier.

For all 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 24.90 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 24.89 percent a week earlier. Drought now affects 74,182,040 people, compared with 74,096,505 a week earlier.”



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

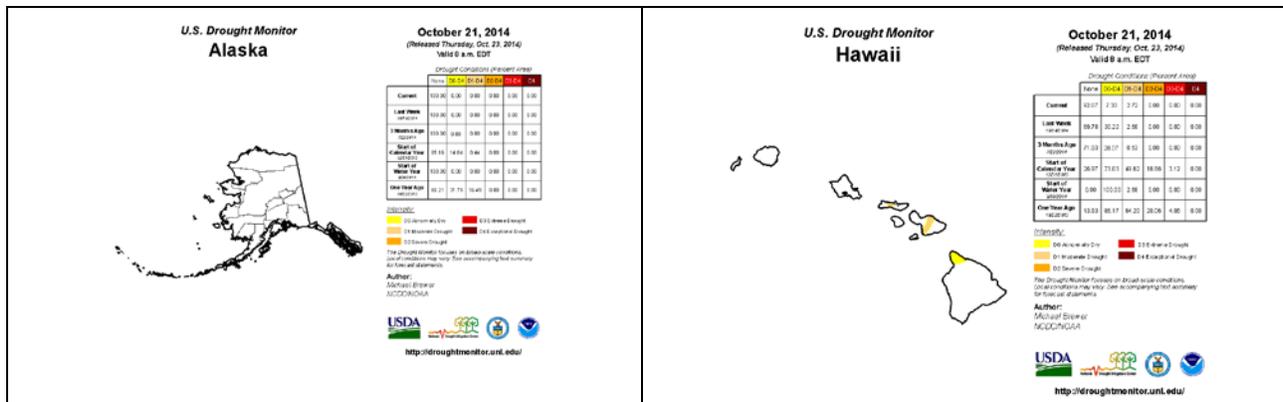
[Current Drought Monitor](#) weekly summary. The exceptional D4 levels of drought are scattered across CA, NV, TX, and OK.

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 er/Drought/AgInDrought.pdf>
- ✓ [Watch AgDay TV](#)
- ✓ [Drought Impacts Webinar Series](#)
- ✓ [NIDIS Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- ✓ [The Spring 2014 edition of DroughtScope](#)



“The [49th](#) and [50th](#) States show normal to moderate drought conditions. No changes were noted for Alaska this week. In Hawaii, D1 increased slightly while D0 dropped dramatically by nearly 23% due to recent heavy rain from Hurricane Ana. 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](#).”

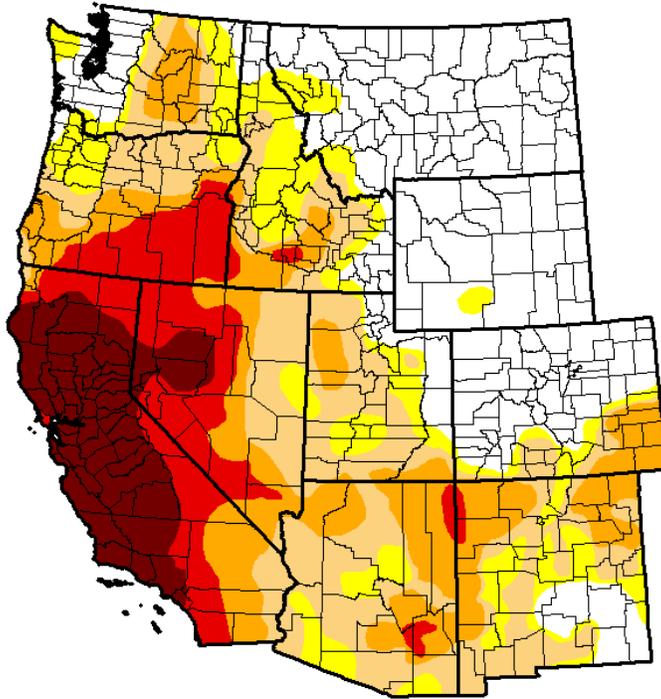
Weekly Water and Climate Update

U.S. Drought Monitor West

October 21, 2014

(Released Thursday, Oct. 23, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	31.95	68.05	55.56	34.82	19.08	8.90
Last Week <i>10/14/2014</i>	31.95	68.05	55.56	35.07	19.75	8.90
3 Months Ago <i>7/22/2014</i>	27.30	72.70	60.66	47.17	23.19	6.02
Start of Calendar Year <i>12/31/2013</i>	22.20	77.80	61.44	31.11	7.75	0.63
Start of Water Year <i>9/30/2014</i>	31.48	68.52	55.57	35.65	19.95	8.90
One Year Ago <i>10/22/2013</i>	27.90	72.10	53.62	32.25	5.34	0.63

Intensity:



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

Author:

Michael Brewer
NCDC/NOAA



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

A slight decrease in D2 and D3 categories occurred in the West during this past week. The other drought categories remained unchanged.

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:

- [Pentagon Signals Security Risks of Climate Change](#) – Oct 13
- CA/NV/AZ - [EPA announces \\$43 million for Southwest tribes](#) – Oct 15

Weekly Water and Climate Update

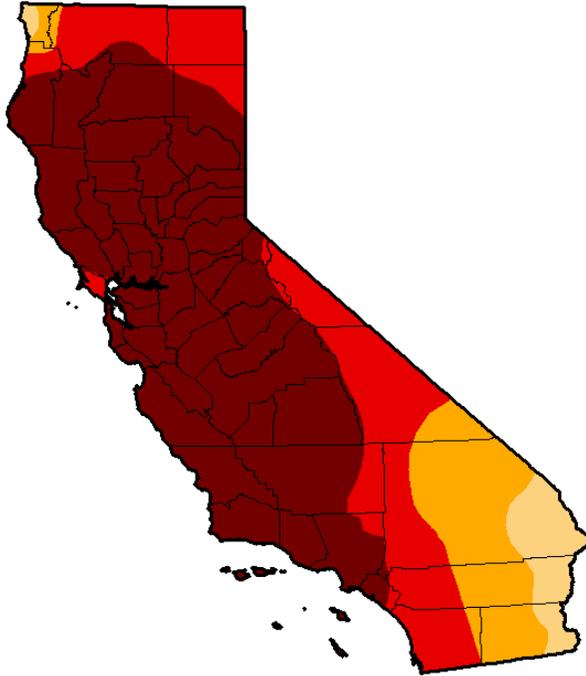
State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor California

October 21, 2014

(Released Thursday, Oct. 23, 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	95.04	81.92	58.41
Last Week <i>10/14/2014</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.04	81.92	58.41
3 Months Ago <i>7/22/2014</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	81.89	36.49
Start of Calendar Year <i>12/31/2013</i>	2.61	97.39	94.25	87.53	27.59	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>9/30/2014</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.04	81.92	58.41
One Year Ago <i>10/22/2013</i>	2.66	97.34	95.98	84.12	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:
Michael Brewer
NCDC/NOAA



<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 giant pumpkin growers undeterred by drought](#) – Oct 13

[Dairy ranchers ask for help with hungry elk](#) – Oct 12

[Another Dust Bowl? California Drought Resembles Worst in Millennium](#) – Oct 15

[Faced with dwindling quail growth, hunters should give birds a break](#) – Oct 16

[Amid drought, Mayor Garcetti directs L.A. to cut water use 20% by 2017](#) – Oct 14

[California drought victims drink in grandmother's kindness](#) – Oct 11

[For California's wealthy, drought a problem money can't fix](#) – Oct 15

[Fishing Report: Week of Oct. 15](#) – Oct 14

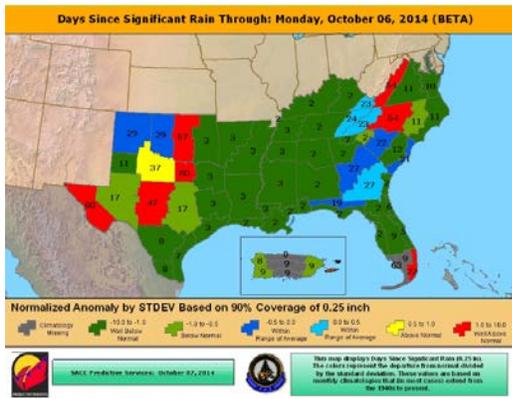
[Lake Oroville inches closer to record low](#) – Oct 13

[Well drilling in Santa Barbara County has tripled during the drought](#) – Oct 15

Weekly Water and Climate Update

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

Texas Drought News:
 Texans Coming to Grips With Rising Water Costs – Oct 12
 Water authority stops pumping from Meredith – Oct 15



[Days since Significant Rain Summary](#)

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

October 14, 2014
 (Released Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014)
 Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	
Current	30.96	69.04	48.42	27.50	10.97	2.86	
Last Week 10/07/14	29.84	70.36	49.29	29.49	11.70	2.80	
3 Months Ago 07/04/14	12.72	87.28	63.36	36.00	18.36	3.77	
Start of Calendar Year 01/01/14	28.48	71.52	43.84	21.15	5.82	0.79	
Start of Water Year 09/01/13	29.92	71.00	48.95	29.54	11.28	2.69	
One Year Ago 10/16/13	8.10	90.90	65.25	21.73	3.19	0.12	

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

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

Author:
 Mark Svoboda
 National Drought Mitigation Center

USDA National Drought Mitigation Center
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

The D0, D1, and D3 drought categories increased in Texas this past week. D2 and D4 remained unchanged. The drought-free area decreased slightly.

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor Nevada

October 21, 2014
 (Released Thursday, Oct. 23, 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	97.07	89.89	48.38	11.89	
Last Week 10/14/14	0.00	100.00	97.07	89.89	48.38	11.89	
3 Months Ago 07/20/14	0.00	100.00	100.00	86.92	54.99	11.00	
Start of Calendar Year 01/01/14	0.39	99.61	96.01	77.66	20.55	5.37	
Start of Water Year 09/01/13	0.00	100.00	97.04	89.89	48.38	11.89	
One Year Ago 10/20/13	0.40	99.60	96.01	79.11	20.55	5.37	

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

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

Author:
 Michael Brower
 NCDC/NOAA

USDA National Drought Mitigation Center
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

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

Nevada Drought News:
[Lake Tahoe Reaches Natural Rim](#) – Oct 15

Weekly Water and Climate Update

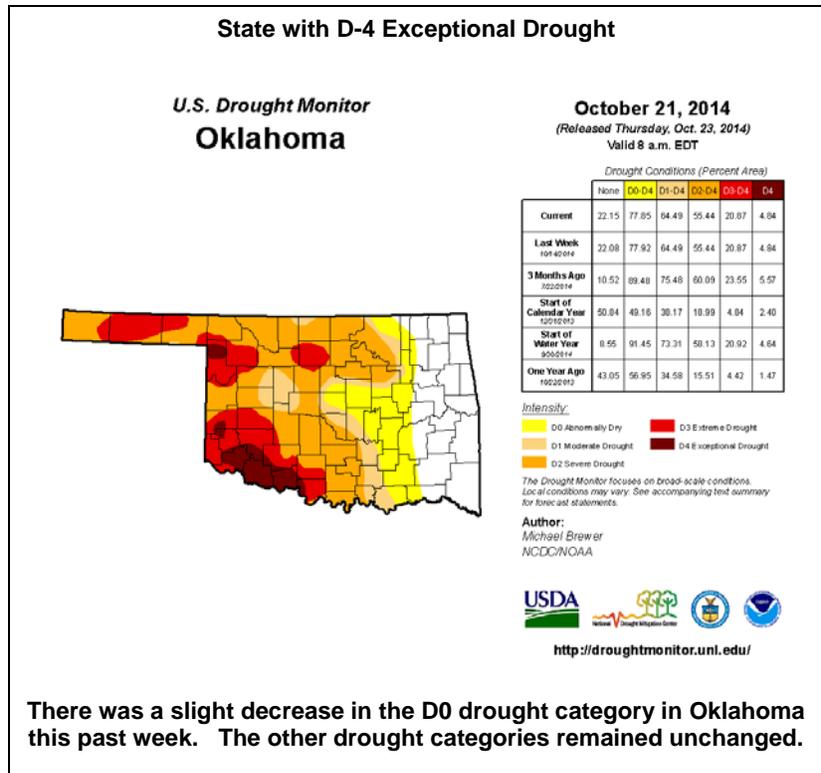
Related Area News:

[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:

[Low Skiatook Lake level draws attention of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Oct 14](#)



U.S. Population in Drought Information

Number of people in each drought category in the U.S. for the week ending October 14, 2014

Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
2014-10-21	173,322,537	132,074,918	74,111,127	51,749,486	40,475,773	29,619,173
2014-10-14	170,562,023	134,835,432	74,025,952	51,759,447	40,611,998	29,619,173

New population figures added to the U.S. Drought Monitor website show that for this week, more than 74 million people in the United States are in a drought-affected area, which is little changed from last week.

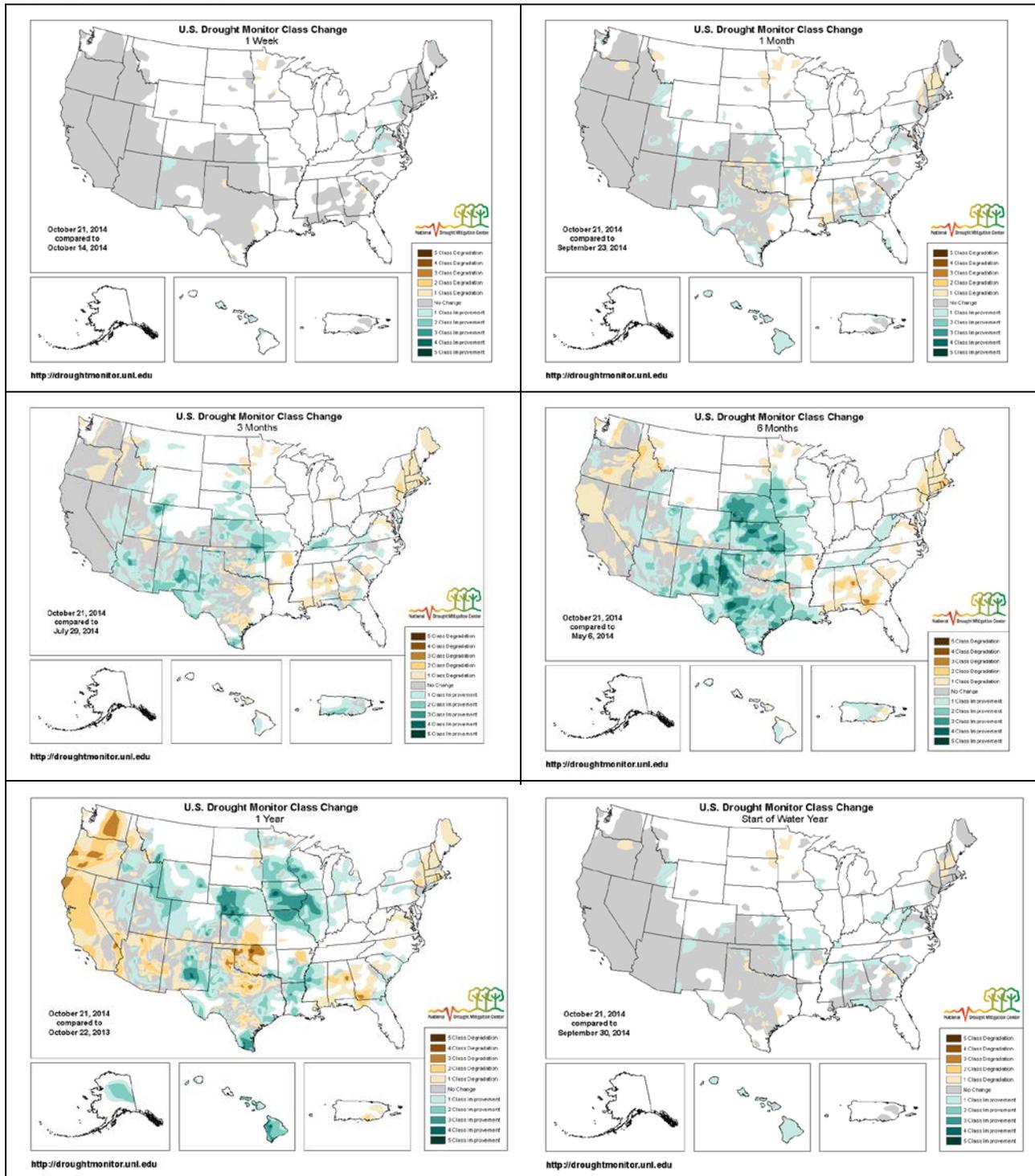
Population Statistics Methodology:

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 Water and Climate Update

Changes in Drought Monitor Categories

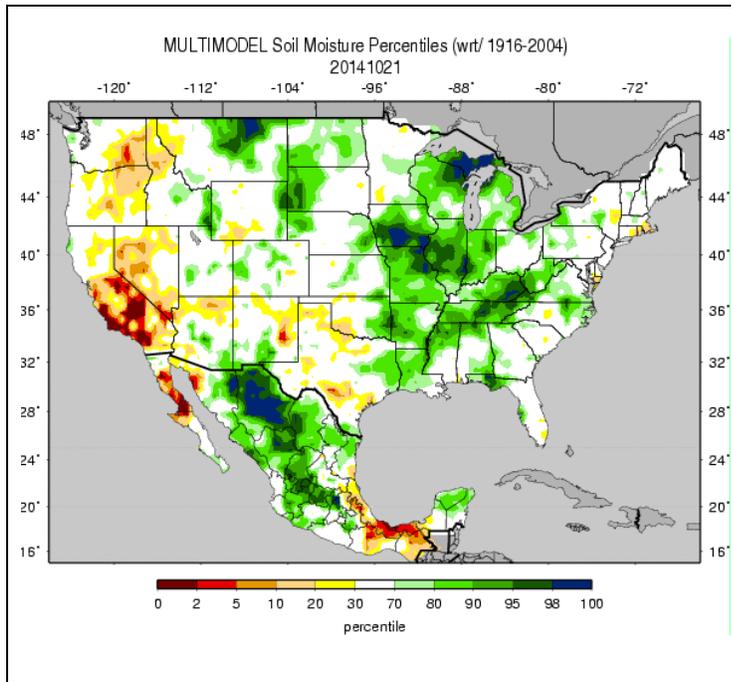
Over Various Time Periods



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 a year ago, conditions over the Northeast, Southeast, parts of the southern Great Plains, and the Pacific coast states have deteriorated significantly (lower left map).

Weekly Water and Climate Update

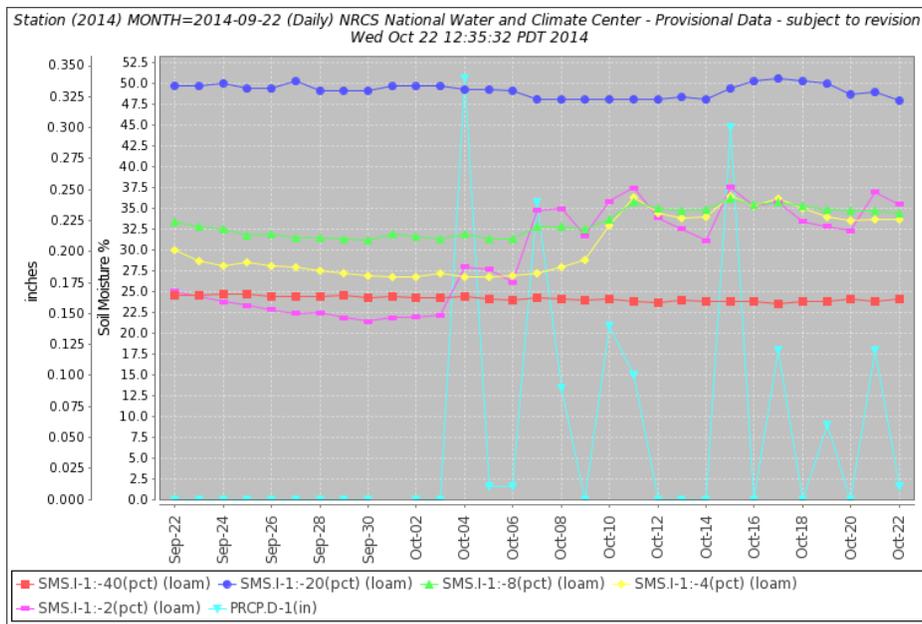
Soil Moisture



The national soil moisture model ranking in [percentile](#) as of October 21, 2014, shows dryness over the West in California, Washington, Oregon, northern Idaho, and western Nevada. There are also scattered dry areas in the Southwest and Texas, the Southeast, parts of the Northeast, and New England. Moist soils dominated central Montana, the upper Snake River, the Midwest, and Great Lakes states. The wettest locations were scattered in the western Dakotas, north-central Montana, northern Michigan, northern Wisconsin, Kentucky, Tennessee, northern Missouri, and Iowa.

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)

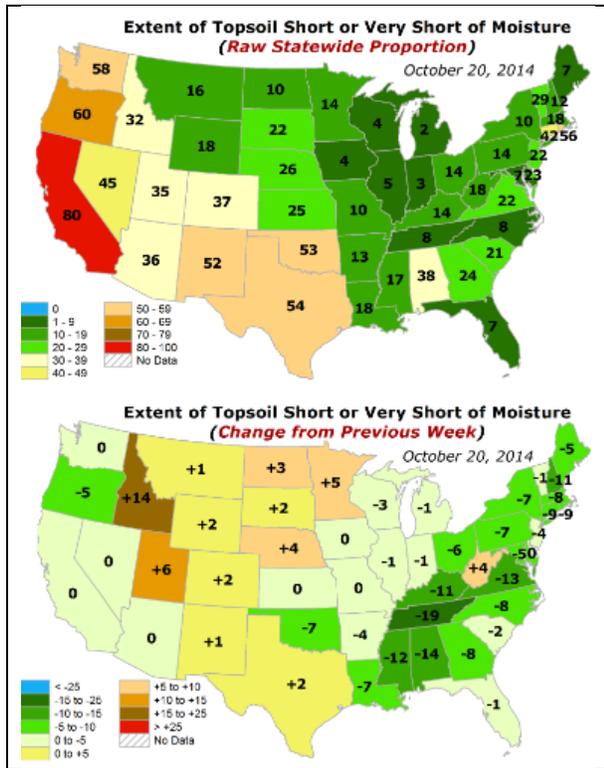


This NRCS resource shows soil moisture data at the [Molly Caren SCAN site \(2014\)](#) located in Ohio. The precipitation in the area was fairly heavy since the start of October (graphed in light blue). This resulted in increased soil moisture at the 2-, 4-, and 8-inch depth sensors. No real change in soil moisture is shown at the 20-inch and 40-inch sensors.

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](#).

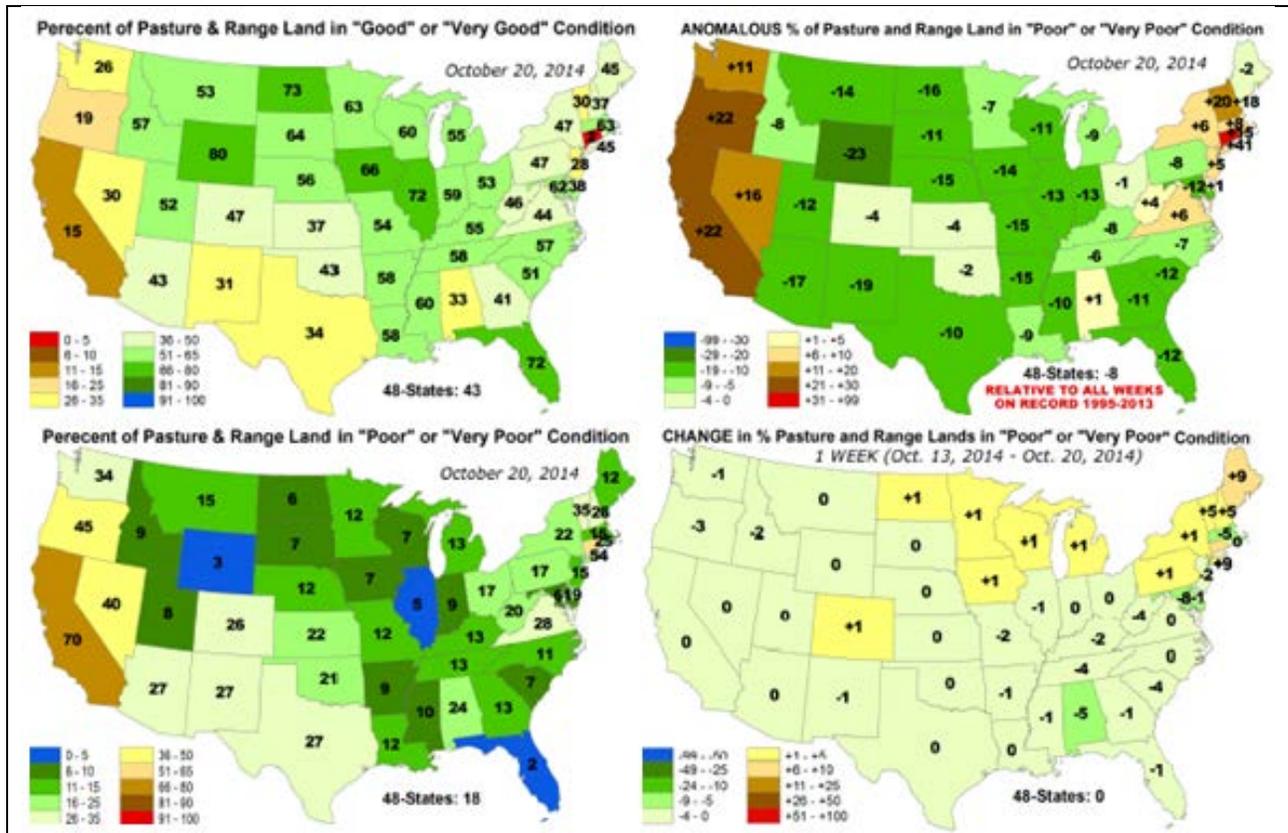
Weekly Water and Climate Update

Topsoil and Pasture & Rangeland National Conditions



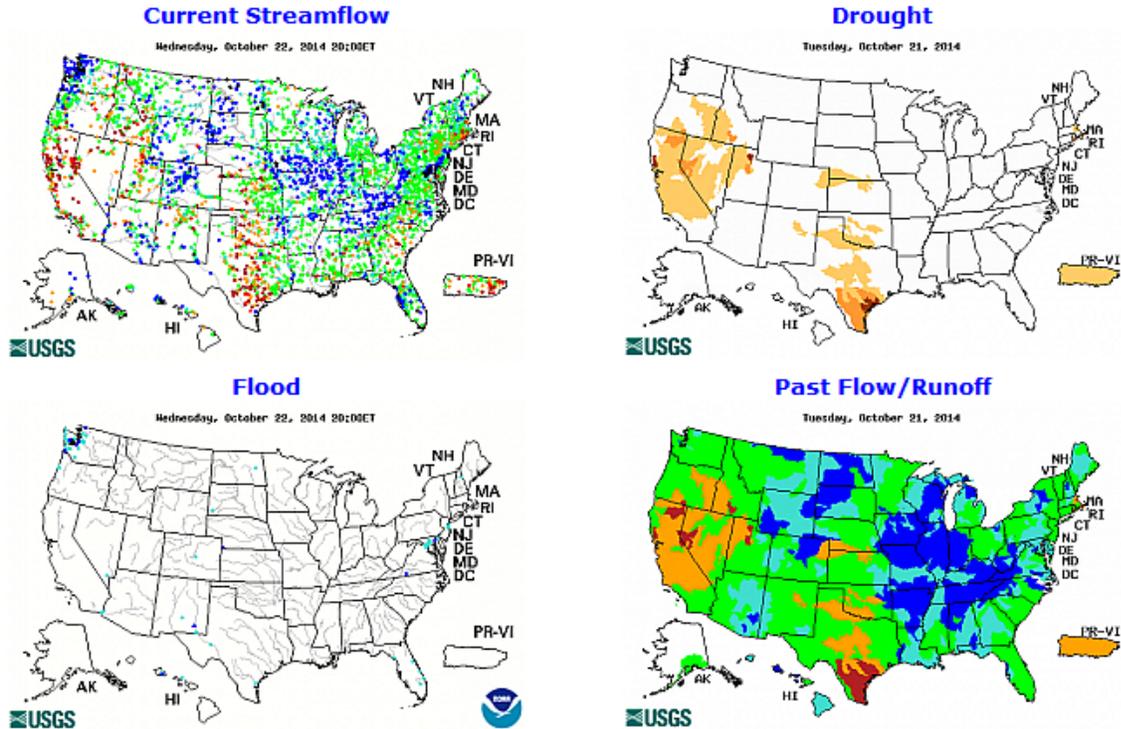
↪ Topsoils are exceptionally poor (top) over California, and Oregon with values representing 60 percent or more poorer conditions than the median for this time of year (bottom panel). Rhode Island, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Washington are 50 – 60 percent short of soil moisture. Locations in the upper Midwest, east to New York, and Florida have good soil moisture conditions.

↪ Many states have near or greater than 50% good pasture and range conditions, as noted below. These conditions extend across most of the central portion of the country. Pasture and rangelands are in poor to very poor condition in California, Oregon, Nevada, and Connecticut. Conditions have changed very little over this past week.



Weekly Water and Climate Update

Streamflow



The rivers are high over most of the central U.S. The Pacific Northwest, Mississippi River Basin, the central Rockies, the upper Ohio River, the Southwest, Florida, and much of the mid-Atlantic States, due to recent precipitation (left maps). Alaska, and Oahu and Kauai, Hawaii, are also reporting a few rivers with high streamflow. The one river above flood stage in the U.S. at this time is the Skokomish River near Potlatch, WA.

National Long-Range Outlook



During the next three months, there is a risk of flooding in some areas of the Mississippi and lower Missouri Rivers, west-central Florida, the Gulf Coast, the Southeast, the Connecticut River, and western Washington. Currently, **1** gage has a greater than 50% chance to experience major flooding; **3** gages for moderate flooding, and **68** gages for minor flooding.

These numbers represent no change in the greater than 50 percent chance of minor flooding category in the last week.

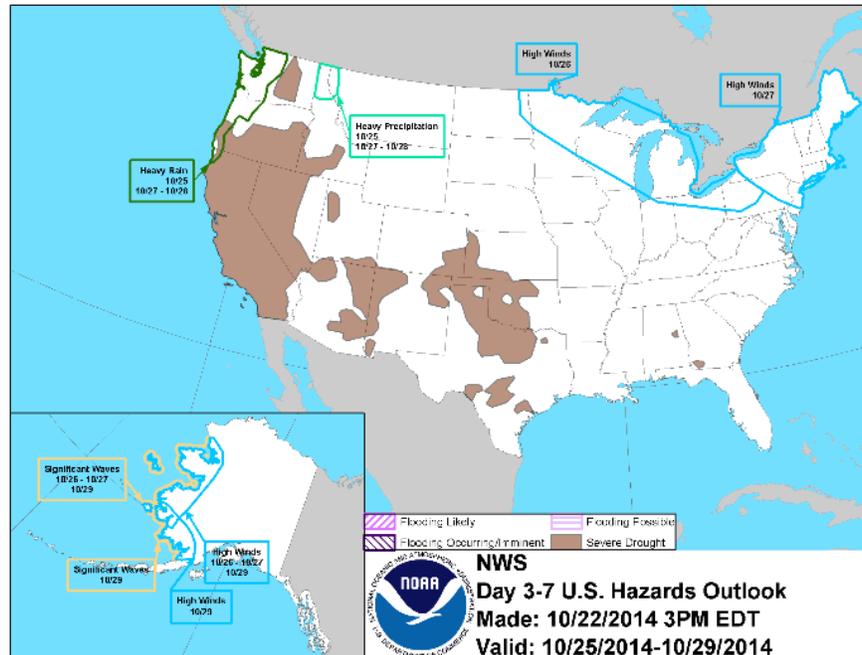
Click maps to enlarge and update

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

Weekly Water and Climate Update

National [Weather Hazards](#)

Heavy rain (outlined in green) is expected during the next week in the Pacific Northwest (10/25, 27-29). During the same period, heavy snow is expected in northern Idaho. High winds are expected in the Great Lakes region (10/26) and in New England (10/27). High winds and significant waves are also expected in Alaska (10/26-27, 29). Severe drought remains a large issue in much of the south-central and western U.S.



[National Drought Summary for October 21, 2014](#)

Prepared by the Drought Monitor Author: Michael Brewer, NOAA/NCDC

Summary

"The major weather system that affected much of the nation's midsection last week left abundant precipitation this week from the mid-Atlantic up into New England. Hurricane Ana lost strength as it approached Hawaii and Tropical Storm Ana passed south of the Hawaiian Islands dumping up to 10 inches of rain in its path.

Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico

Hurricane and then Tropical Storm Ana passed to the south of the Hawaiian Islands this week. The Islands saw widespread precipitation that alleviated most of the Abnormal Dryness (D0). Sufficient rains in Puerto Rico and cooling temperatures in Alaska resulted in those areas remaining unchanged on the Drought Monitor this week.

The Midwest

The lack of rain has been mounting in Minnesota in recent weeks. This week, areas of north and central Minnesota reached criteria for Abnormal Dryness (D0). Other areas of the region remained status quo.

The Northeast and Mid-Atlantic

The storm that affected much of the interior of the country moved through the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast this week. This resulted in a widespread area of one-plus inch rains and part of east-central Pennsylvania saw 4 inches or more. As a result, Moderate Drought (D1) and Abnormal Dryness (D0) were alleviated in a wide area from southern Virginia up through New York.

The Plains

Heavy rain moved through the Plains last week and improvements in drought conditions were reflected then. This week was a relatively dry week in the region. There was some slight improvement in Abnormal Dryness (D0) in Kansas to line up more precisely with the beneficial precipitation of last week. Conversely, there was a slight expansion of Extreme Drought (D3) and Abnormal Dryness (D0) in Texas during this Drought Monitor week as areas of the Texas panhandle and central Texas have missed the beneficial rains.

Weekly Water and Climate Update

The Southeast

Beneficial precipitation that fell in the Mid-Atlantic largely missed the Southeast. Southern Florida was the only area that saw significant precipitation in the last week. Cooler temperatures for the week moderated the impact of the dryness. There was a slight expansion of Abnormal Dryness (D0) around Augusta Georgia. This area is starting to see low streamflow values despite near-normal soil moisture.

The West

Moisture fell in areas of the extreme Southwest and in the coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest this Drought Monitor week. As a result, areas of Moderate (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) were reduced in southwest New Mexico around Hidalgo County. Likewise the area of Extreme Drought (D3) was reduced in the northeast part of the state near San Juan County. There are numerous reports of improvement in pasture and grassland conditions but longer-term deficits remain over much of the state, resulting in conservative improvements. The same is true in the Pacific Northwest. Despite recent rains along the coast, long-term deficits are still being felt so improvement was held in check for another week. The rain has reduced the fire danger. As of October 17, only two large fires are burning in the country and they are both in California. To date, there have been 41,790 wildfires in 2014 that burned 3,070,737 acres. This is well below the 62,864 fire and 6,796,329 acre average of the last ten years (source: National Interagency Fire Center).

Looking Ahead

During the October 22- 27, 2014 time period, precipitation is expected in the Pacific Northwest, southern Florida, and New England. Warmer than normal temperatures are expected throughout most of the interior of the nation.

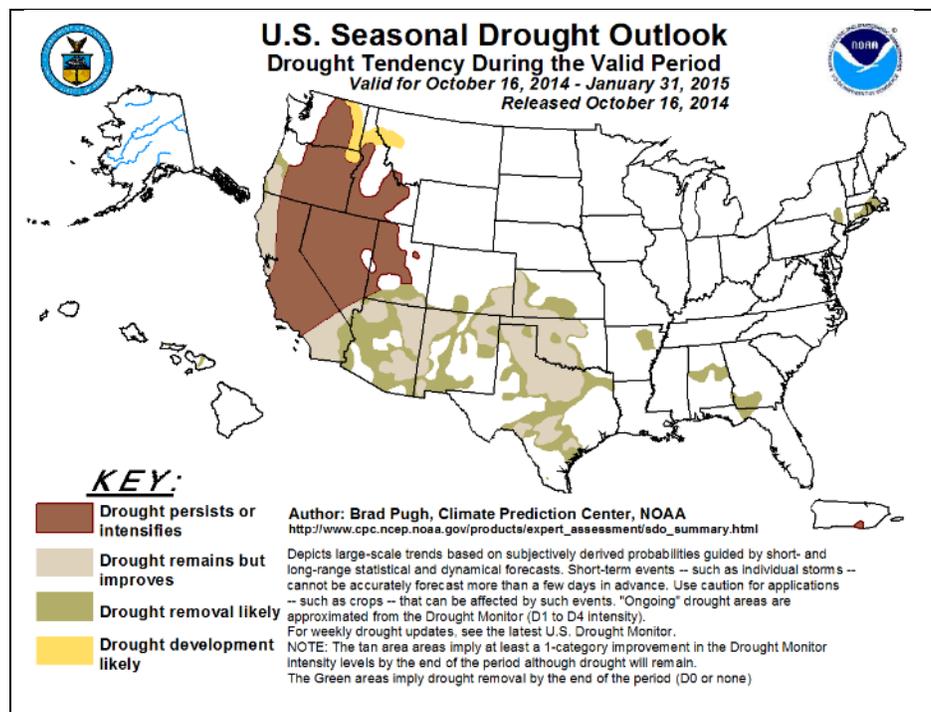
For the ensuing 5 days (October 28- November 1, 2014), the odds favor normal to above-normal temperatures across country with the exception of southeast Alaska. Above-normal precipitation is likely from the Pacific Northwest into the northern Great Plains and Upper Midwest, as well as in southern Florida and northwest Alaska. Below-normal precipitation is expected in a wide area from the Southwest through the Southern Plains and Southeast and up through the Lower Midwest and into the Mid-Atlantic and New England, as well as southeast Alaska."

Supplemental Drought Information

National Seasonal Drought Outlook

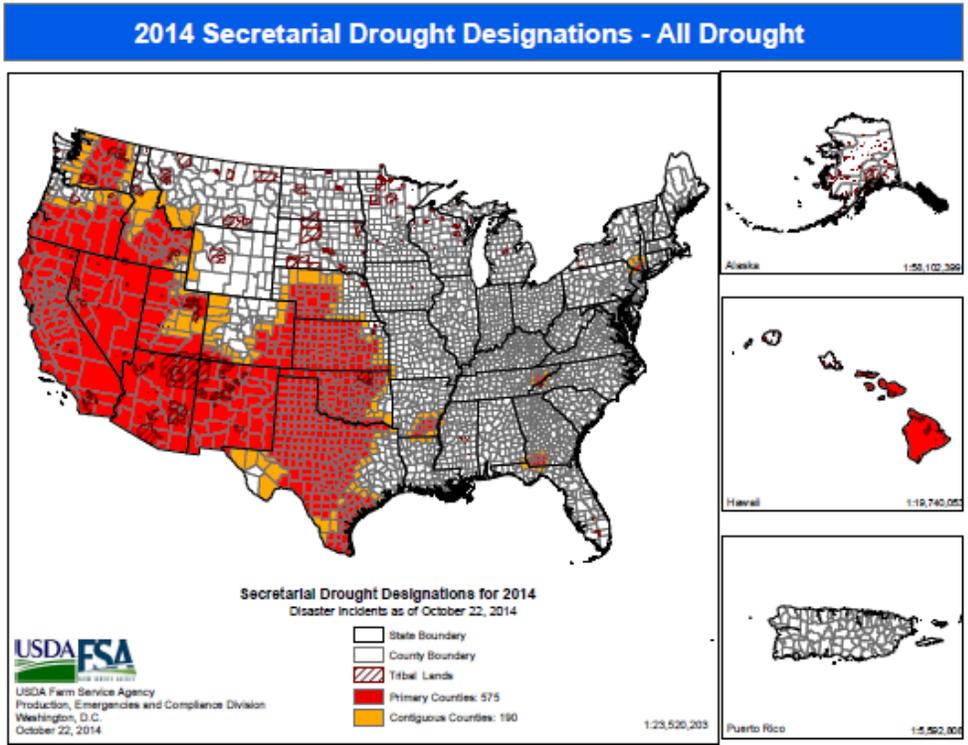
Nationally, [drought](#) is expected to persist or intensify over a small area of Puerto Rico and much of the West, including California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Utah. Improvements are expected in the central Pacific coast, and from the Southwest to Oklahoma and Texas, a few areas of the Southeast, and southern New England.

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.



Weekly Water and Climate Update

2014 USDA Secretarial Drought Designations

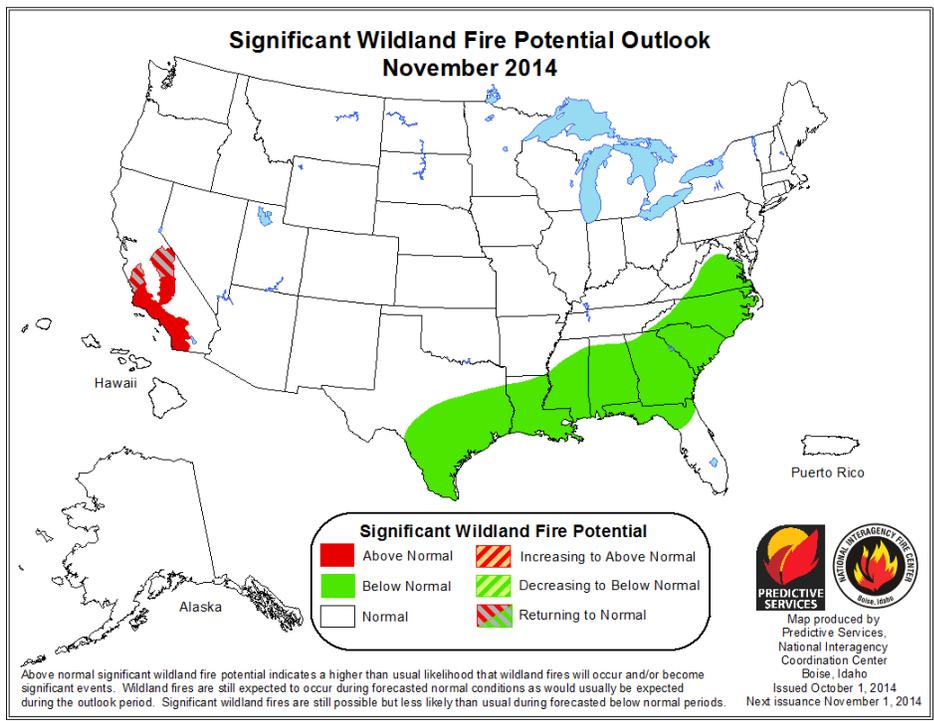


Refer to the USDA Drought Assistance [website](#) and [National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service](#).

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

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

National Fire Potential Outlook



November Forecast

In November, above normal [fire potential](#) will persist in parts of California.

The below normal fire potential area in green on the map is forecast for Texas, through the Southeast, to the mid-Atlantic states.

Weekly Water and Climate Update

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.

California

Los Angeles water users to curb water use by 20 percent in the next 2 ½ years

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti charged all L.A. water users to curb water use by 20 percent in the next 2 ½ years and cautioned that tighter water conservation measures may be enacted if the goal was not met.

"The ongoing drought has created a water crisis second to none. We need bold action," stated the mayor, who was dissatisfied with the city's conservation efforts so far.

Montecito Water Authority in California fined its users \$2 million

The Montecito Water Authority has fined its water users \$2 million as water use exceeds allotted amounts. Montecito is an upscale community that relies on Lake Cachuma for 85 percent of its water supply, but the lake was at 30 percent of capacity.

Conflict over drought-depleted vegetation in Marin County, California

Organic dairy ranchers with livestock on agricultural land in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes seashore are frustrated with local tule elk which compete with livestock for the sparse vegetation. The ranchers are trying to get authorities to remove the elk and construct a fence to keep them out.

The Marin County agricultural commissioner has urged the Park Service to capture and relocate the 76 elk and fence them off the agricultural land, but to no avail.

Poor quail reproduction, few duck hunting sites in the San Joaquin Valley of California

The quail shooting outlook on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley was dismally poor because prolonged drought suppressed reproduction this year. Very few quail and chukar chicks were hatched this spring as there was no cover or humidity to aid the rearing of chicks.

Most ponds, canals, lakes and streams in the Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone were dry, leaving few sites suitable for duck hunting.

\$43 million to aid Native American tribes in Arizona, California and Nevada

Native American tribes in Arizona, California and Nevada are receiving \$43 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to fund environmental and drought-related projects. Arizona tribes will receive \$19.5 million; Nevada, \$4.8 million; and California, \$18.7 million. Forty-four California tribes could run out of water in the next six months.

Bing offers more recent images of California drought

For a look at the level of San Luis Reservoir in Merced County, California, use Bing to get a very brown aerial view of the Dinosaur Point boat ramp. Search on Dinosaur Point Rd, Los Banos, CA 93635 and pan to the right until you see the reservoir. The lines on the exposed shoreline show that the reservoir is very, very low—22 percent of capacity.

Google has an image taken earlier in 2014 when there were patches of green around the reservoir.

Weekly Water and Climate Update



Bing, 2014

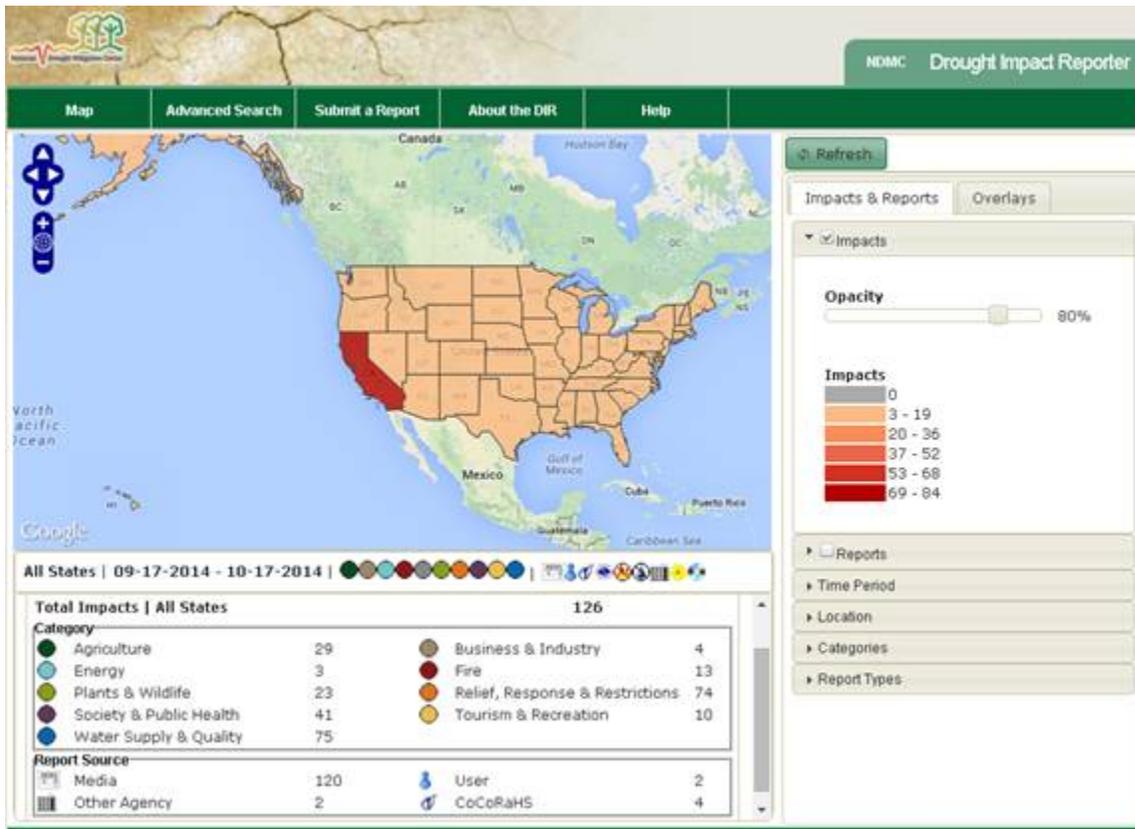


Google, earlier in 2014

Water rates rose 53 percent in Wichita Falls, Texas

Water rates in Wichita Falls rose by 53 percent over the course of a year as residents used less water, but the water provider still need to bring in normal revenue.

See the [Drought Impact Reporter](#) for more details.



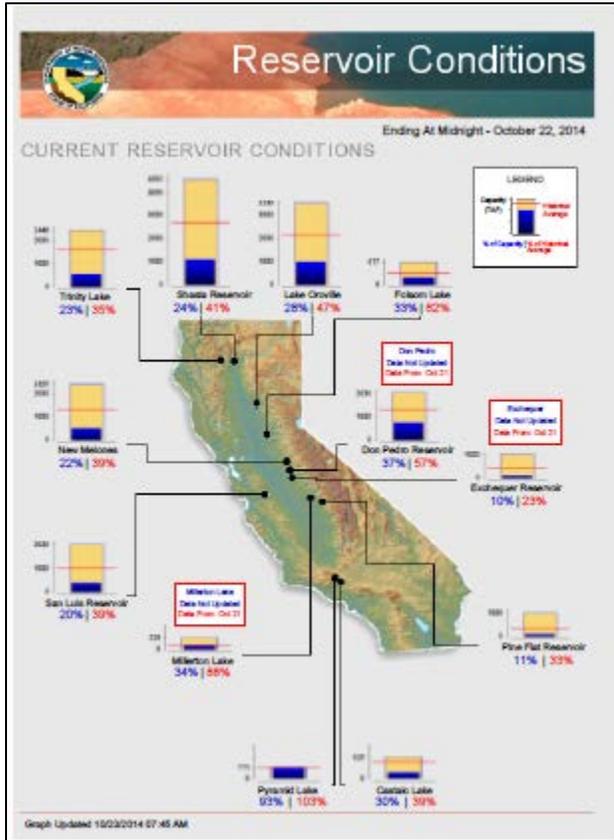
Tea Cup Reservoir Depictions

- <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)

Weekly Water and Climate Update

California Reservoir Conditions

From the California Department of Water Resources.



[California Major Reservoir conditions from the CA Department of Water Resources.](#)

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](#).

Weekly Water and Climate Update

Nevada NRCS assistance in Drought mitigation

[Fighting Drought: Irrigation Improvements Make Believers out of Nevada Dairy Owners](#)



Angela Mushrush, NRCS Nevada soil conservationist (right), talks to Ed Moreda (left) and Henry Moreda about their new manhole structure which was installed as part of an Environmental Quality Incentives Program irrigation pipeline project on their farm. The structure is used to regulate the flow of water. NRCS photo.

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 Water and Climate Updates 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