

Water and Climate Update

August 25, 2016

The Natural Resources Conservation Service produces this weekly report using data and products from the [National Water and Climate Center](#) and other agencies. The report focuses on seasonal snowpack, precipitation, temperature, and drought conditions in the U.S.

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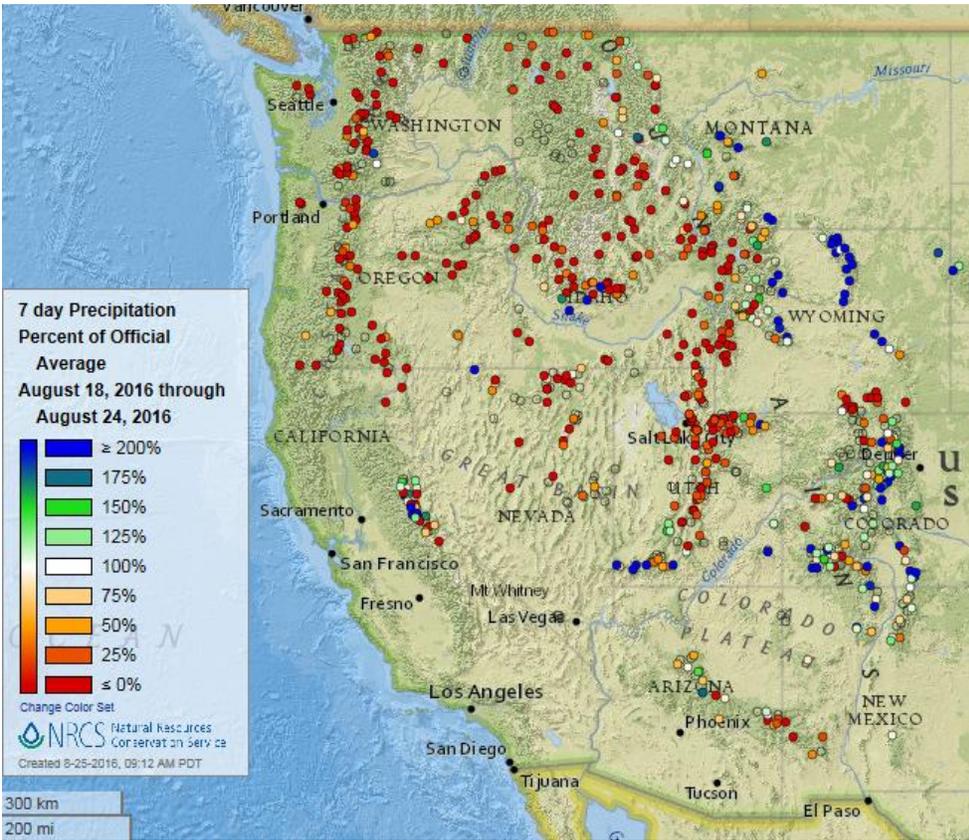
Wildfires continue to plague the West



As of August 25, windy, hot and dry conditions keep wildfires active throughout the West which includes four new large fires today. Firefighters have contained four fires including the Blue Cut Fire in southern California. So far this year, 4,324,962 acres have been burned from 39,276 wildfires in the U.S. (daily statistics are found [here](#)). Photos are from the Tule Fire and Cedar Fire in California, courtesy of the [National Interagency Fire Center](#).

Precipitation

Last 7 Days, Western Mountain Sites (NRCS SNOTEL Network)

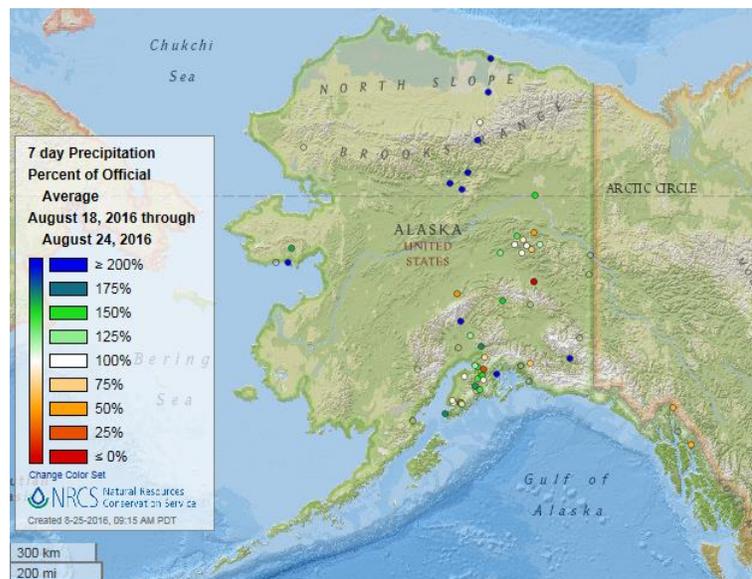


[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

[See also: 7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

[Alaska 7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

[See also: Alaska 7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



Water and Climate Update

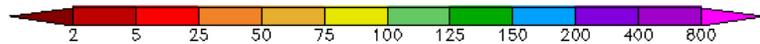
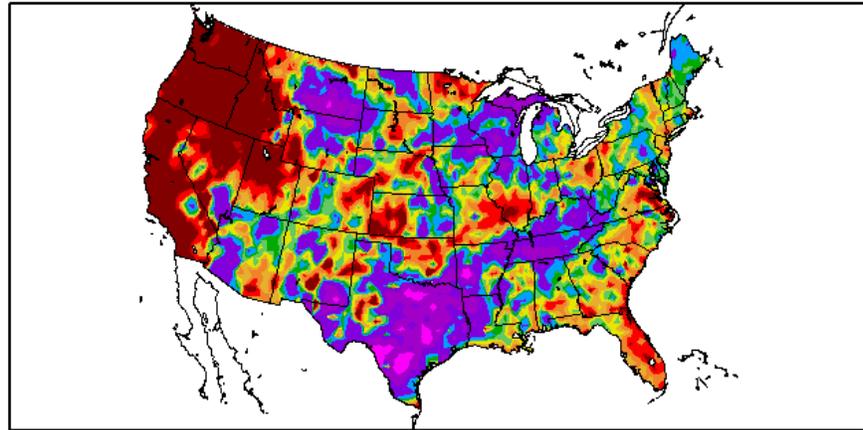
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-dy precipitation percent of normal map](#) for the continental U.S.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/18/2016 – 8/24/2016

See also: [7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

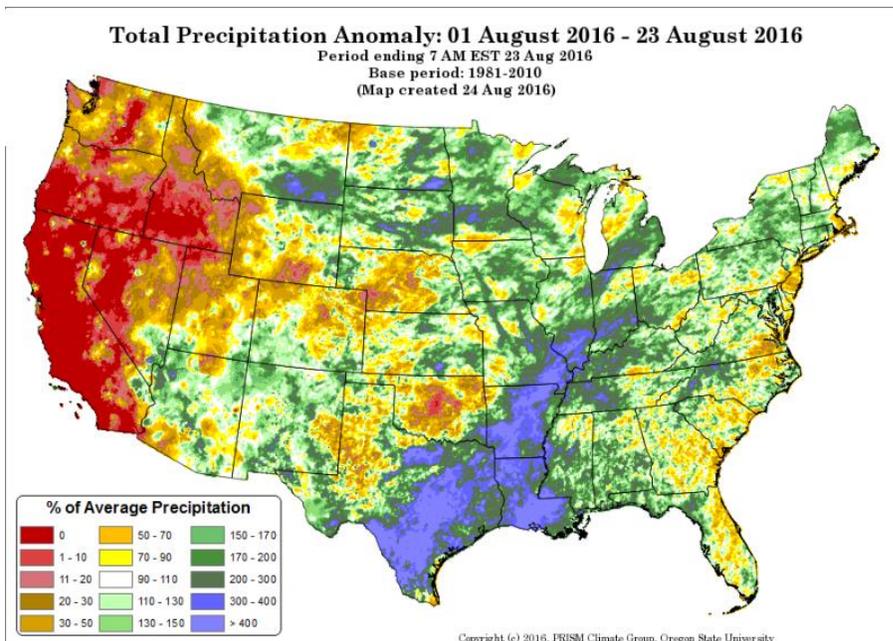


Generated 8/25/2016 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

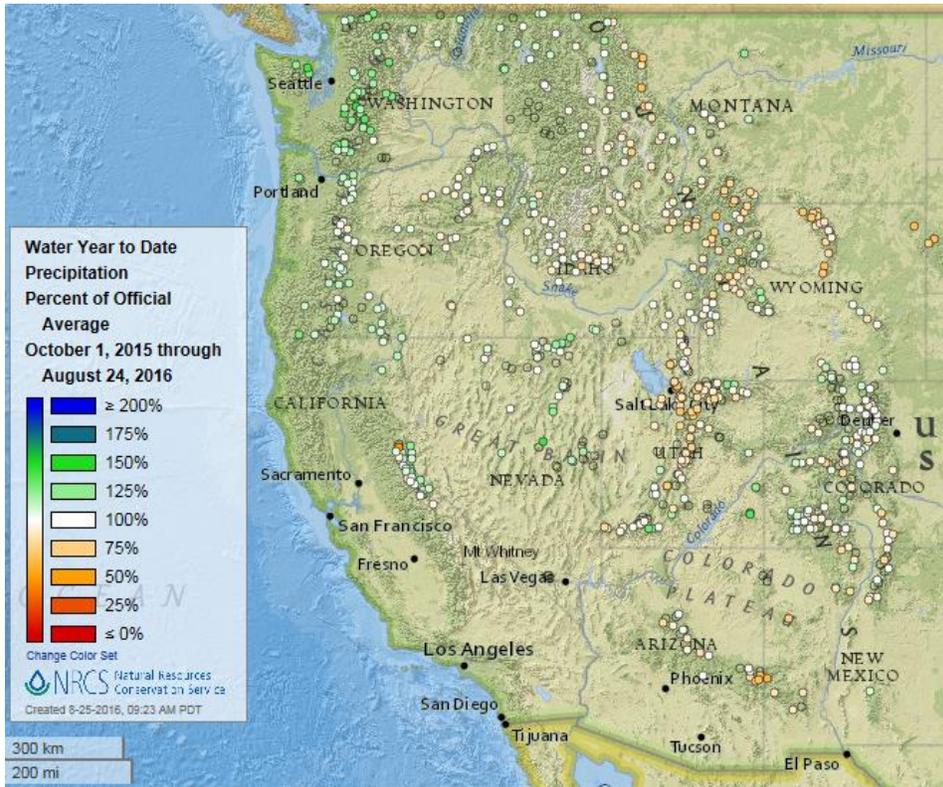
Source: PRISM



[Month-to-date national precipitation percent of average map](#)

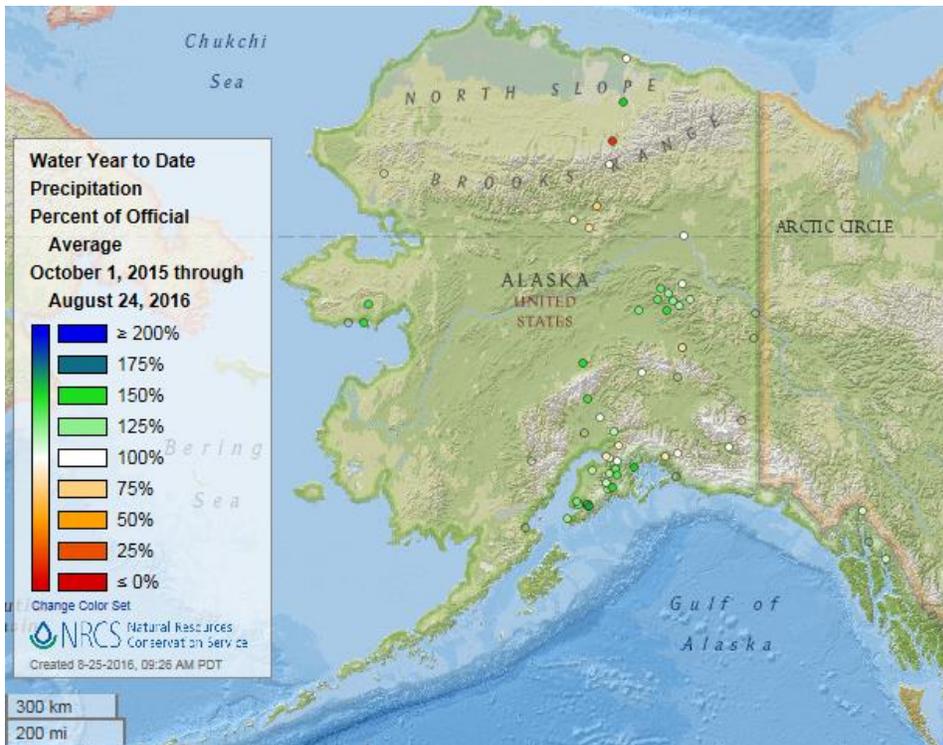
See also: [Month-to-date national total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Water Year-to-Date, Western Mountain Sites (NRCS SNOTEL Network)



[2016 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [2016 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\)](#)



[Alaska 2016 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [Alaska 2016 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Temperature

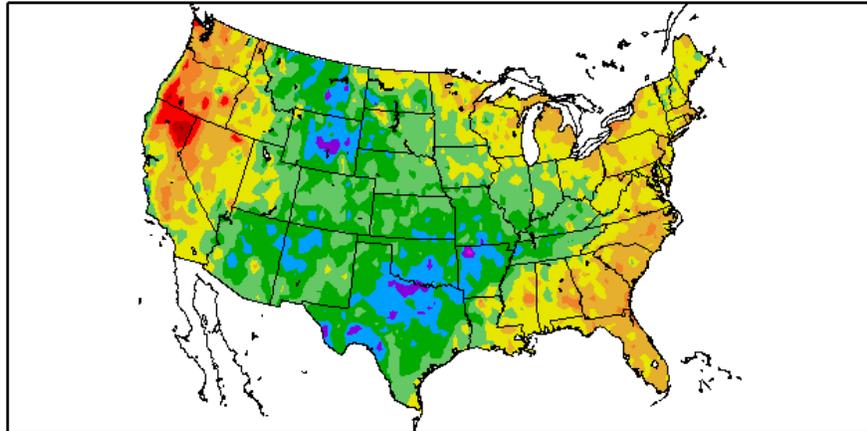
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day temperature anomaly map](#) for the continental U.S.

See also: [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/18/2016 – 8/24/2016



Generated 8/25/2016 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

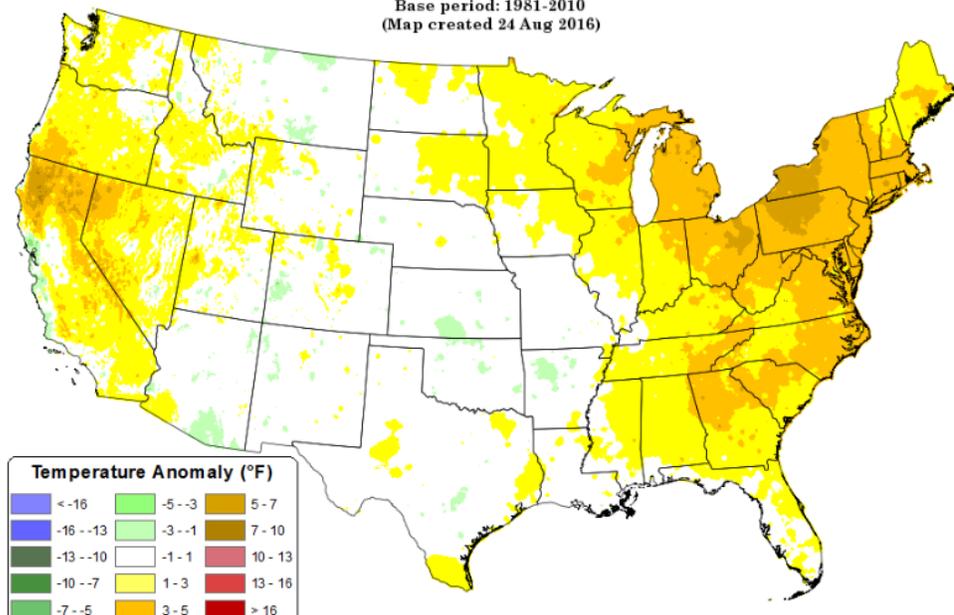
Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

[Month-to-date national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)

See also: [Month-to-date national daily mean temperature \(° F\) map](#)

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: 01 August 2016 - 23 August 2016
Period ending 7 AM EST 23 Aug 2016
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 24 Aug 2016)



Copyright (c) 2016, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

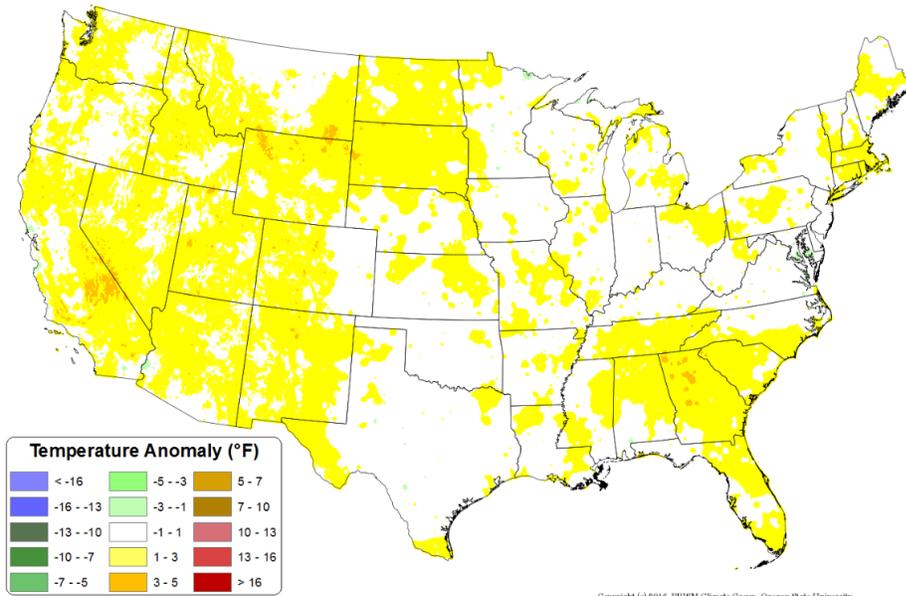
Water and Climate Update

Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: May 2016 - July 2016
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Jul 2016
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 02 Aug 2016)

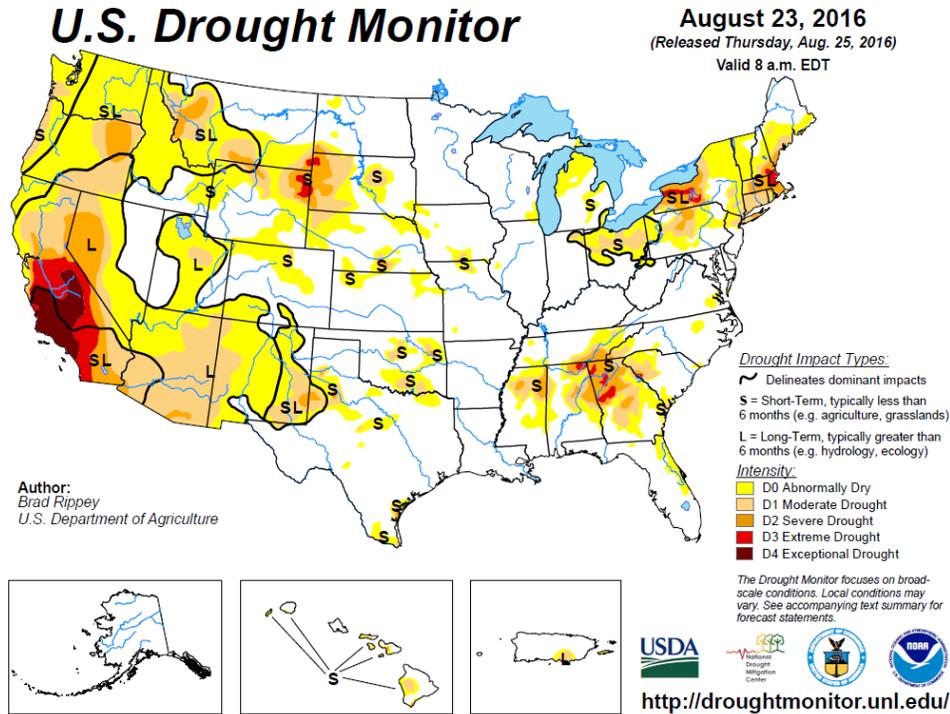
[May through July daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



Drought

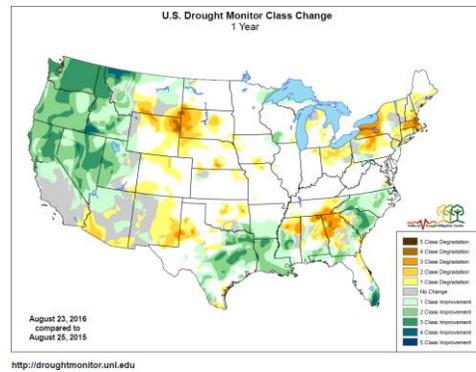
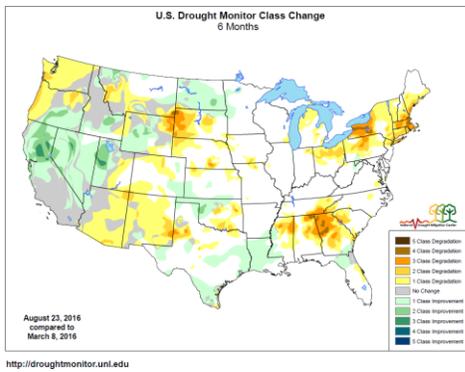
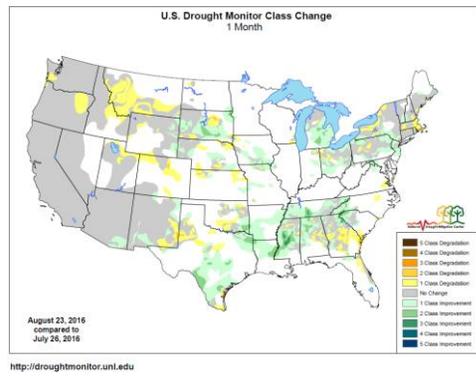
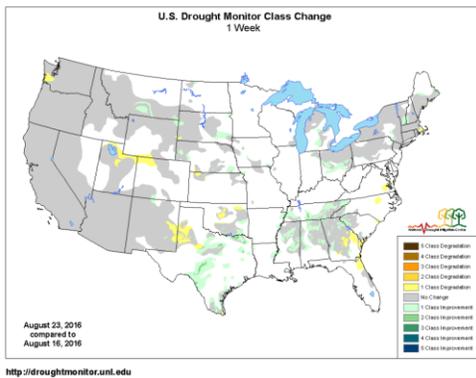
[U.S. Drought Monitor](#) See map below.

[U.S. Drought Portal](#) Comprehensive drought resource.



Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Click any map to enlarge



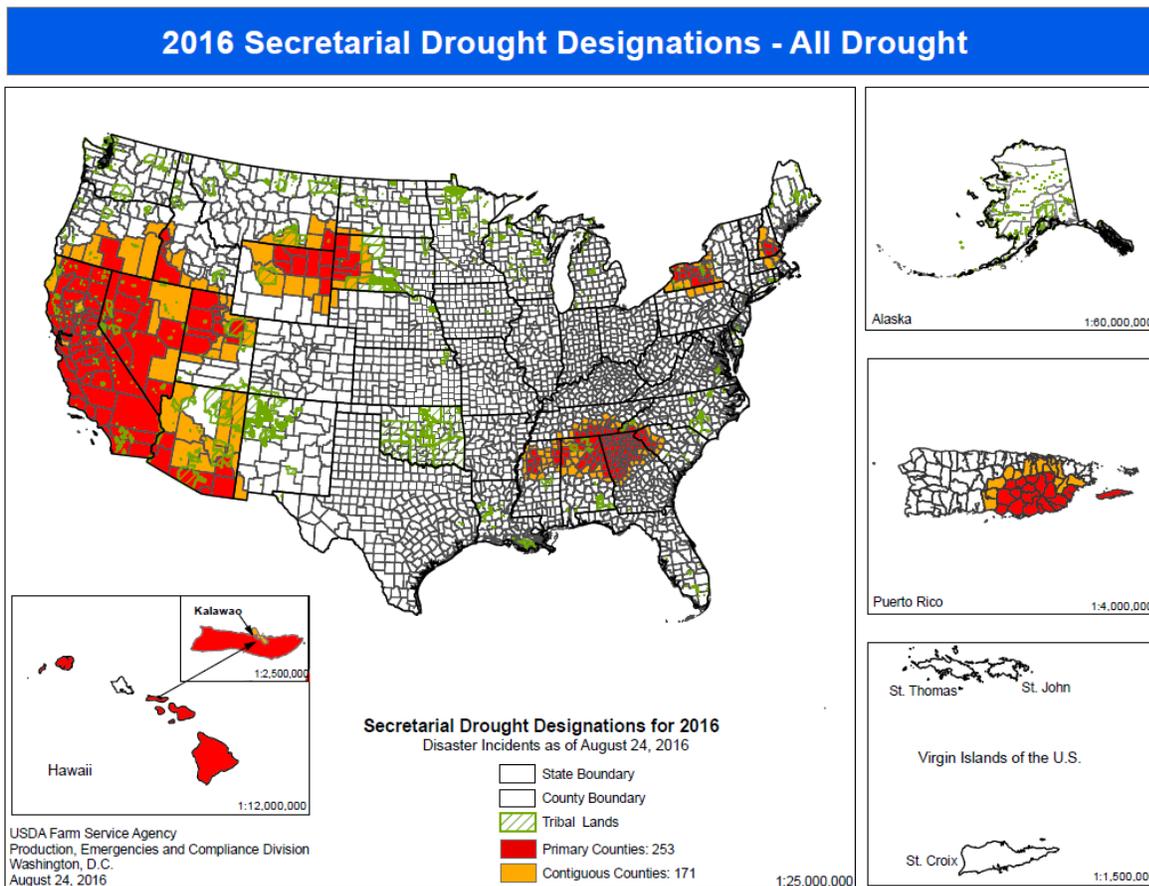
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months](#)

Current National [Drought Summary](#), August 23, 2016

Author: Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture

“An active weather pattern across the central and eastern U.S. led to more drought reduction than introduction, although pesky dryness and hot conditions led to some expansion of dryness and drought in the southern Atlantic States. In stark contrast, catastrophic flooding from the historic, August 12-13 downpours gradually subsided across southern Louisiana; as recovery efforts began, media reports noted that there were at least a dozen fatalities and that more than 60,000 residences were damaged or destroyed. Heavy rain shifted northward and westward during the drought-monitoring period, soaking the western Gulf Coast region and delivering spotty drought relief across the interior Southeast. Pockets of locally heavy rain were also noted across the northern and central Plains, the Midwest, and the Northeast. Elsewhere, scant rainfall occurred west of the Rockies, except for a few monsoon-related showers in the Southwest.”

USDA 2016 Secretarial [Drought Designations](#)

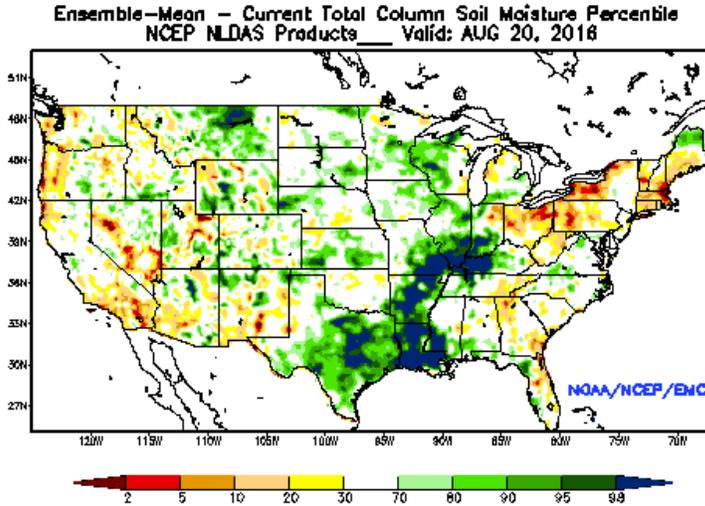


Highlighted Drought Resources

- [Drought Impact Reporter](#)
- [Quarterly Regional Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- [U.S. Drought Portal Indicators and Monitoring](#)
- [U.S. Population in Drought, Weekly Comparison](#)
- [USDA Disaster and Drought Information](#)

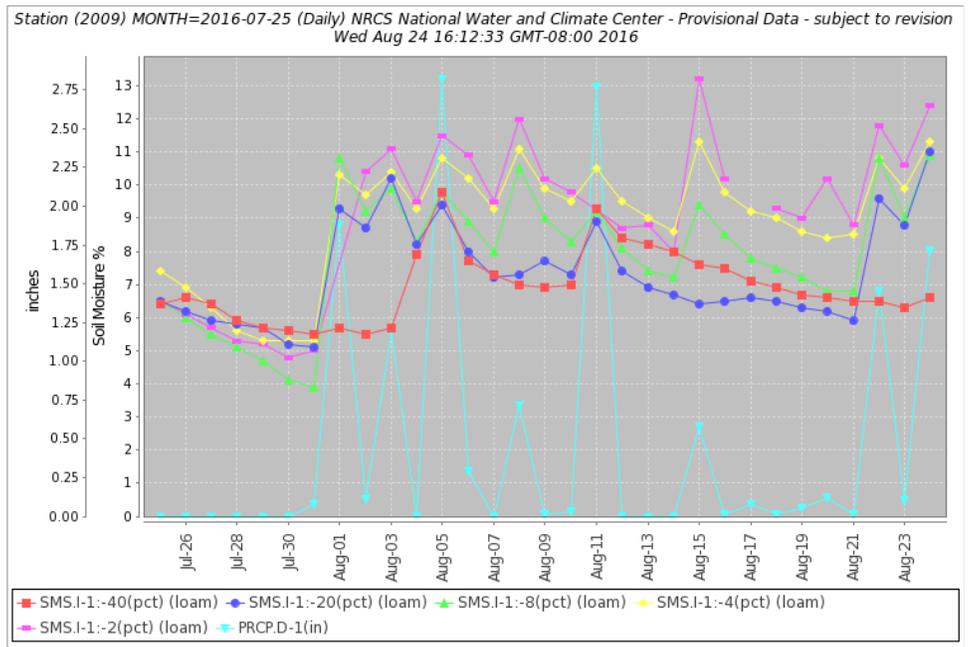
Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of August 20, 2016.

Soil Moisture Data: NRCS [Soil Climate Analysis Network \(SCAN\)](#)



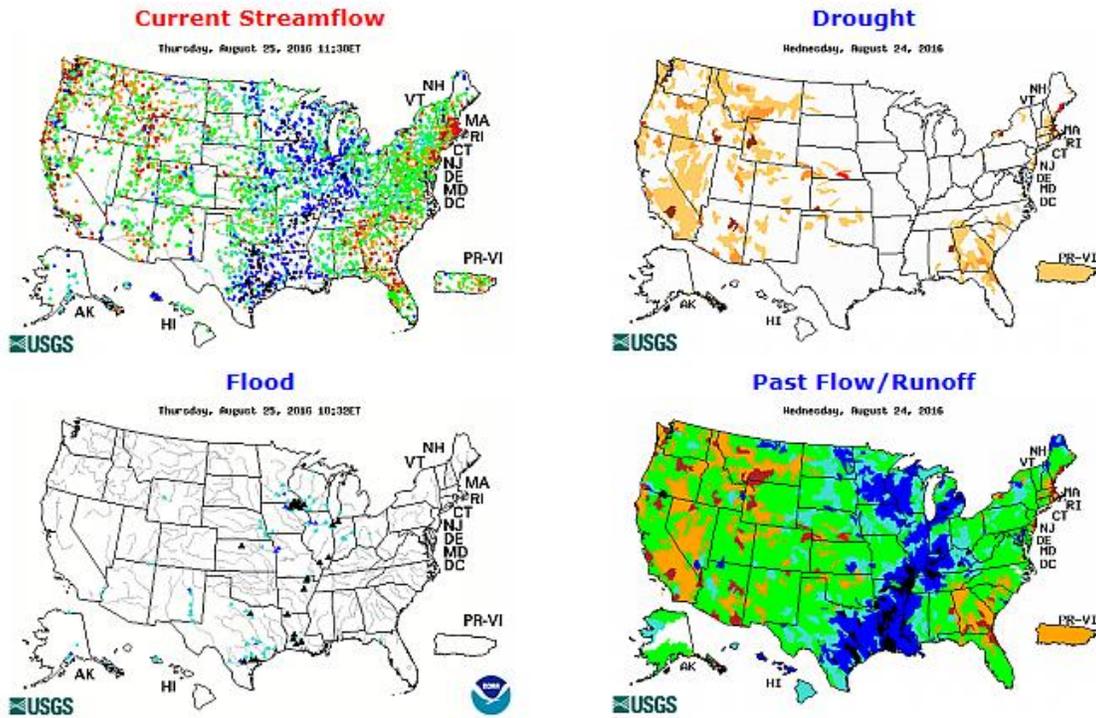
Soil moisture (at 2-, 4-, 8-, 20-, and 40-inch depths) and precipitation for the past 30 days at the [Wakulla #1 SCAN site 2009](#) in Florida. The many precipitation events in the last 30 days have increased soil moisture at all soil moisture sensor depths, but most dramatically at the 2-, 4-, and 8-, inch sensors. All soil sensors show drying between larger events.

Soil Moisture Data Portals

- [CRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [Texas A&M University North American Soil Moisture Database](#)
- [University of Washington Experimental Modeled Soil Moisture](#)

Streamflow

Source: USGS



Click to enlarge and display legends

[Current streamflow maps](#)

Current Reservoir Storage

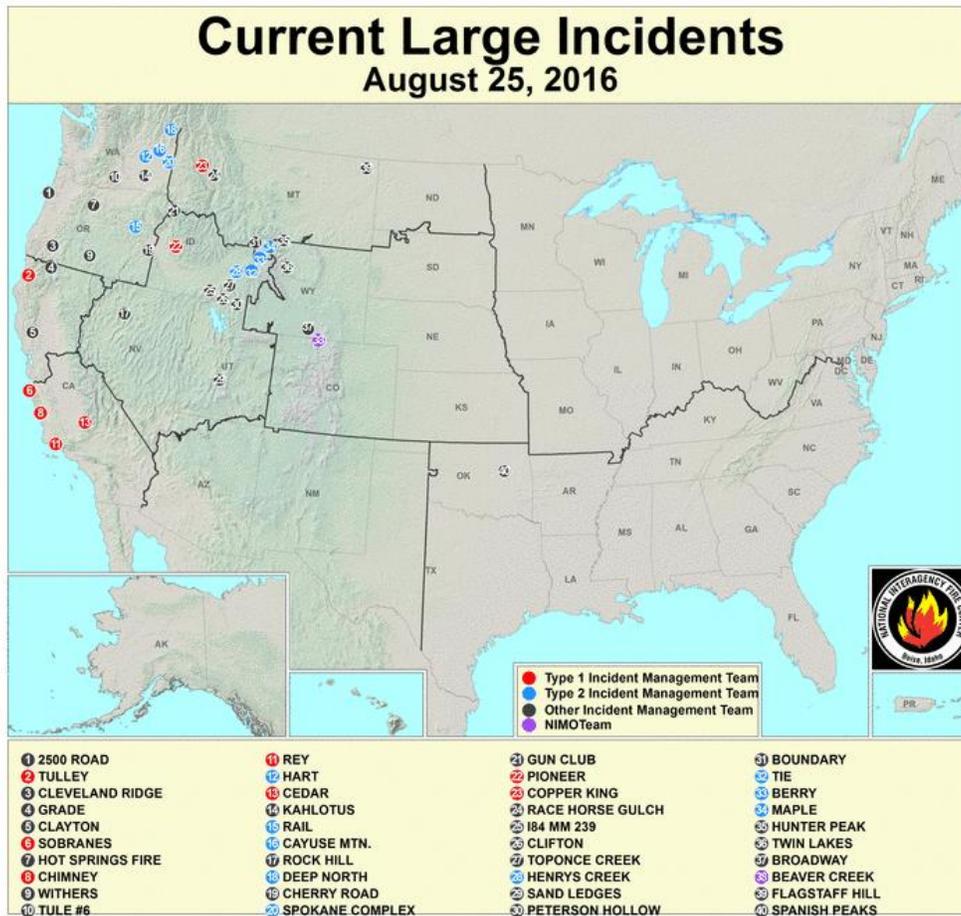
[National Water and Climate Center Reservoir Data](#)

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Hydromet Tea Cup Reservoir Depictions:

- [Upper Colorado](#)
- [Pacific Northwest/Snake/Columbia](#)
- [Sevier River Water, Utah](#)
- [Upper Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas](#)

[California Reservoir Conditions](#)

Wildfires: [USDA Forest Service Active Fire Mapping](#)



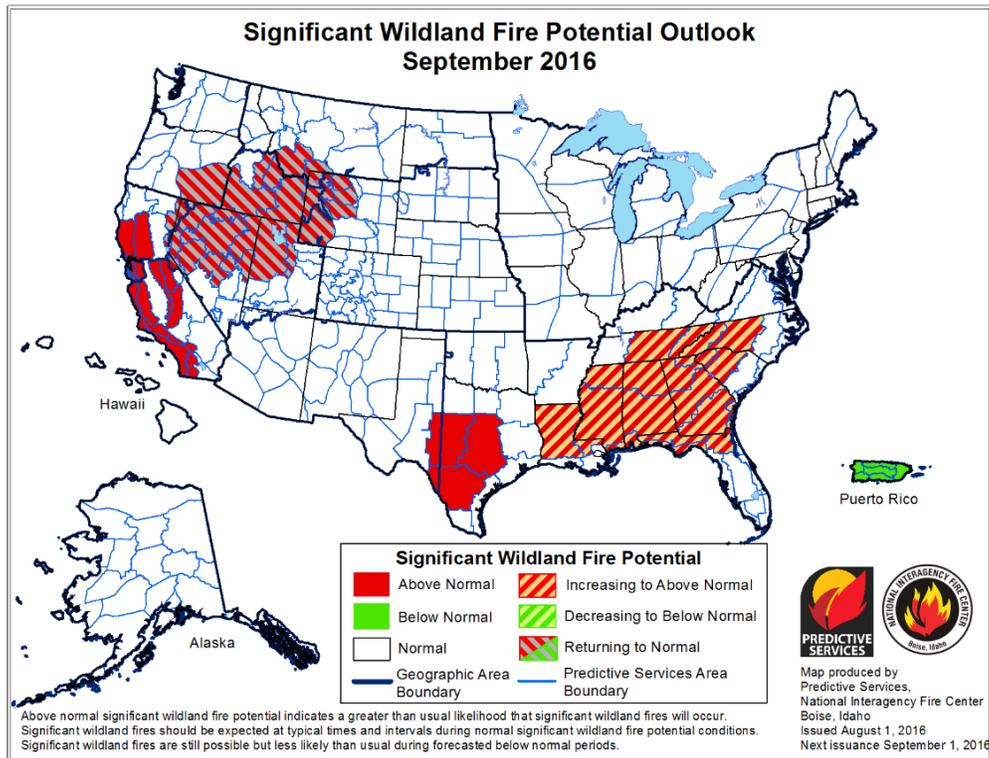
Short- and Long-Range Outlooks

Agricultural Weather Highlights

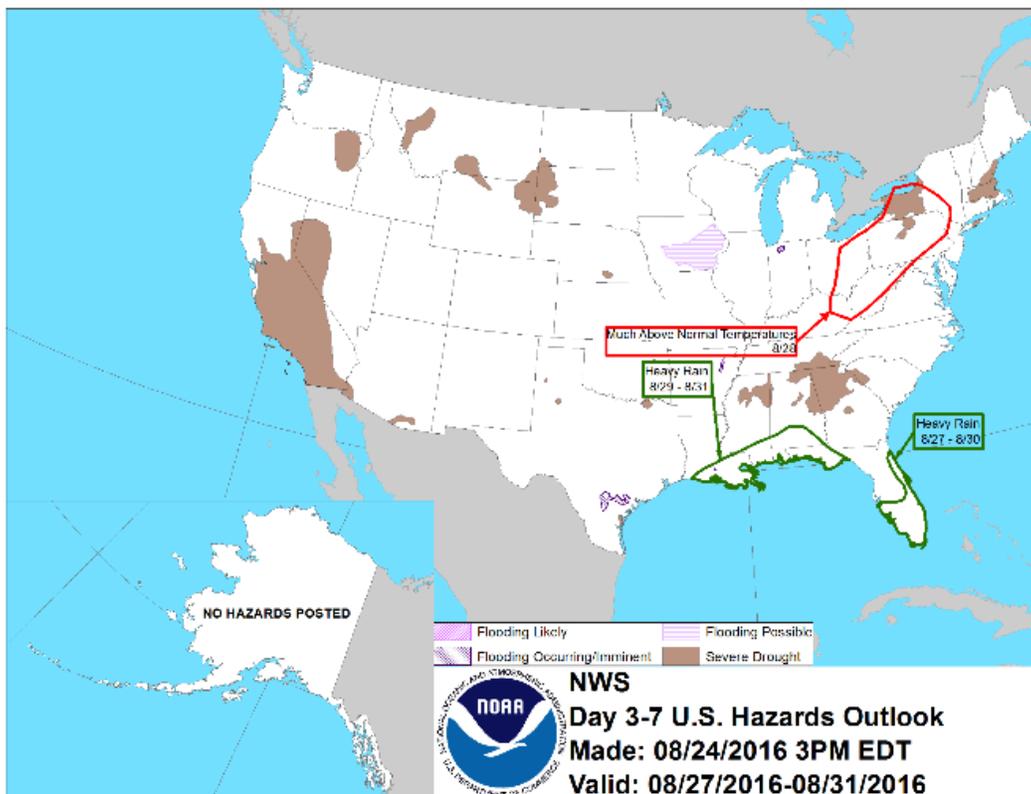
Author: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB

[National Outlook, August 25, 2016](#): “Warm conditions will dominate the country, especially in the East and the Far West, helping to promote summer crop maturation. And, initially cool conditions across the nation’s mid-section will be replaced by near- or above-normal temperatures during the weekend. During the next 5 days, periodic showers can be expected from the southern Rockies into the Great Lakes States, with totals of 1 to 3 inches possible in many areas. In contrast, little or no rain should occur in the Far West, interior Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic region. Farther south, however, a tropical wave that could become Tropical Storm Hermine will approach the southern Atlantic Coast. Initial estimates indicate that parts of Florida could receive at least 2 to 6 inches of rain, starting during the weekend, and that heavy rain could spread to the Gulf Coast region, including southern Louisiana, early next week. The NWS 6-to-10-day outlook for August 30 – September 3 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures nearly nationwide, with the greatest odds of late-summer heat occurring in the eastern U.S. Cooler-than-normal conditions should be confined to northern California and the Pacific Northwest. Meanwhile, below-normal rainfall across the Intermountain West, Southwest, and central and southern Plains will contrast with wetter-than-normal weather across the nation’s northern tier, along and near the Gulf Coast, and in the mid-South and Midwest.”

Fire Potential Outlook: [September 2016](#)

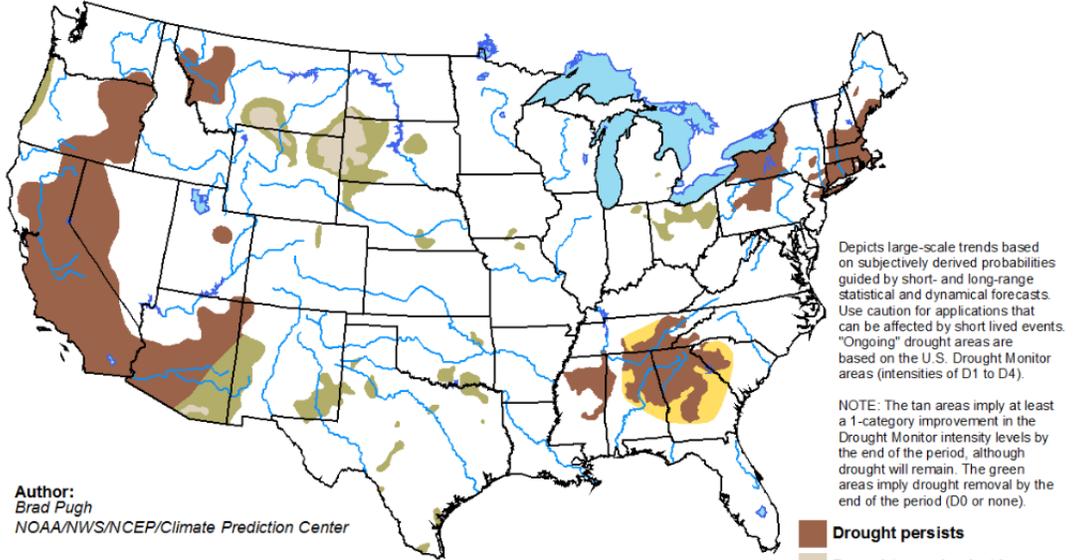


NWS Climate Prediction Center [Weather Hazard Outlook: August 27-31, 2016](#)



Seasonal Drought Outlook: [August 18 – November 30, 2016](#)

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Valid for August 18 - November 30, 2016
 Drought Tendency During the Valid Period Released August 18, 2016



Author:
 Brad Pugh
 NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center



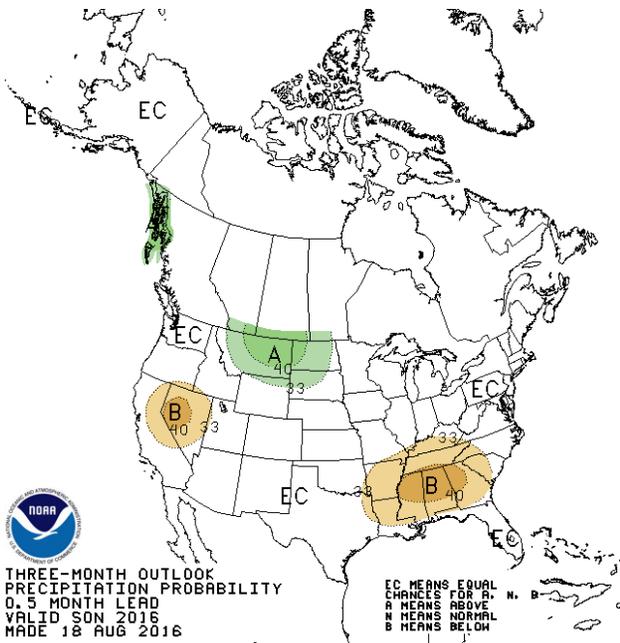
- Drought persists
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely



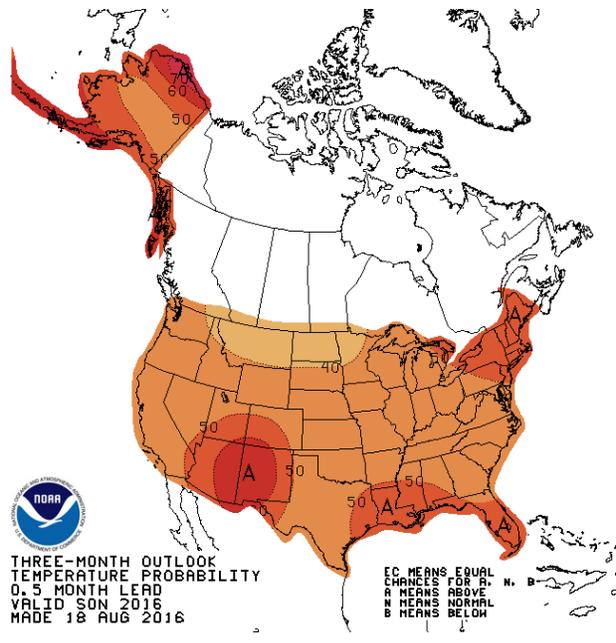
<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

NWS Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

[Precipitation](#)



[Temperature](#)



[September-October-November \(SON\) 2016 precipitation outlook summary](#)

[September-October-November \(SON\) 2016 temperature outlook summary](#)

More Information

The NRCS [National Water and Climate Center](#) publishes this weekly report. We welcome your feedback. If you have questions or comments, please [contact us](#).