



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

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**Weekly Report - Snowpack / Drought Monitor Update****Date: 9 August 2012****SNOTEL SNOWPACK AND PRECIPITATION SUMMARY**

**Temperature:** [SNOTEL](#) and ACIS 7-day temperature anomaly ending 7 August showed values within  $\pm 5^{\circ}\text{F}$  except up to  $10^{\circ}\text{F}$  below normal over southeast California (Fig. 1). ACIS [7-day](#) average temperature anomalies show the greatest positive temperature departures over the Northern Washington Cascades and with a secondary maximum over eastern New Mexico ( $>+8^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). The greatest negative departures occurred over eastern Montana and the Black Hills of South Dakota ( $<-4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) (Fig. 1a). The past three months saw well above average temperatures over the mid section of the country. A similar pattern occurred in 1901, 1914, 1934, and 1936 (Fig. 1b).

**Precipitation:** [ACIS](#) 7-day average precipitation amounts for the period ending yesterday shows scattered thunderstorms over the Great Basin, 4-Corner States, and Montana (Fig. 2). In terms of percent of normal, this is clearly reflected by the pattern of a partial Southwest Monsoon surge as well as scattered storms across the Northern Rockies (Fig. 2a). Since the start of the [2012 Water-Year](#) that began on 1 October 2011, the seasonal moisture has continued to favor the Northern Tier States. Over much of the southern half of the West, drier conditions dominate. However, values are moderately higher over parts of New Mexico in response to the Summer Monsoon. Values are not expected to change much for the remainder of this Water-Year. With one-third of [August](#) finished, values are starting to paint a relatively dry pattern over Colorado and the Northern Rockies while a wetter pattern is occurring over southwest Utah, parts of the Southern Rockies, and north-central Montana (Fig. 2c).



**Isolated thunderstorms dotted the landscape over New Mexico this week. – J. Curtis**

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

**The West:** The West saw a mixed bag of results over the past week with the monsoon rains bringing relief to some and nothing much for many others. A slight expansion of D1 this week is noted in Montana on the heels of an expansion of D0 northward to the Canadian border last week. Most of Colorado remains unchanged this week but the heat and dryness does lead to a joining of the D4 between east central CO and western Kansas. The D3 also extends out of southeast Colorado and the Oklahoma Panhandle into more of northeastern New Mexico along with a slight push westward of the D2 in north central New Mexico this week. Northwestern New Mexico has benefitted from a good start to the monsoon, leading to a reduction of D2 and D3 in the northwestern part of the state into the eastern edge of the Navajo Nation lands. Longer-term conditions and impacts in the Navajo Nation have led to a state of emergency Executive Proclamation due to the extreme conditions on their lands in the Four Corner region. **Author:** [Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center](#)

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

### Drought Impacts Definitions

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

### Soil Moisture

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

### Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)

Figure 5 provides supplemental data on soil conditions (moisture and temperatures at various depths from 2 inches to 80 inches. For more information about SCAN see ([brochure](#)).

### U.S. Historical Streamflow

This map, (Fig. 6) shows the 7-day average streamflow conditions in hydrologic units of the United States and Puerto Rico for the day of year. The colors represent 7-day average streamflow percentiles based on historical streamflow for the day of the year. Thus, the map shows conditions adjusted for this time of the year. Only stations having at least 30 years of record are used. Sub-regions shaded gray indicate that insufficient data were available to compute a reliable 7-day average streamflow value. During winter months, this situation frequently arises due to ice effects. The data used to produce this map are provisional and have not been reviewed or edited. They may be subject to significant change.

### **Fire Conditions**

Fig. 7 comes from the [Predictive Services](#) (USFS) facilitates integration of comprehensive climate, weather, situation and fuels information in geospatial format.

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

### State Activities

State government drought activities can be tracked at the following URL: <http://drought.unl.edu/mitigate/mitigate.htm>. NRCS SS/WSF State Office personnel are participating in state drought committee meetings and providing the committees and media with appropriate SS/WSF information - <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/cgibin/bor.pl>. Additional information describing the products available from the Drought Monitor can be found at the following URL: <http://drought.unl.edu/dm/> and <http://www.drought.gov>.

### For More Information

The National Water and Climate Center Homepage provide the latest available snowpack and water supply information. Please visit us at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>. This document is available from the following location on the NWCC homepage - <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/water/drought/wdr.pl>. Reports from 2007 are available on-line while ones from 2001-2006 can be acquired upon request.

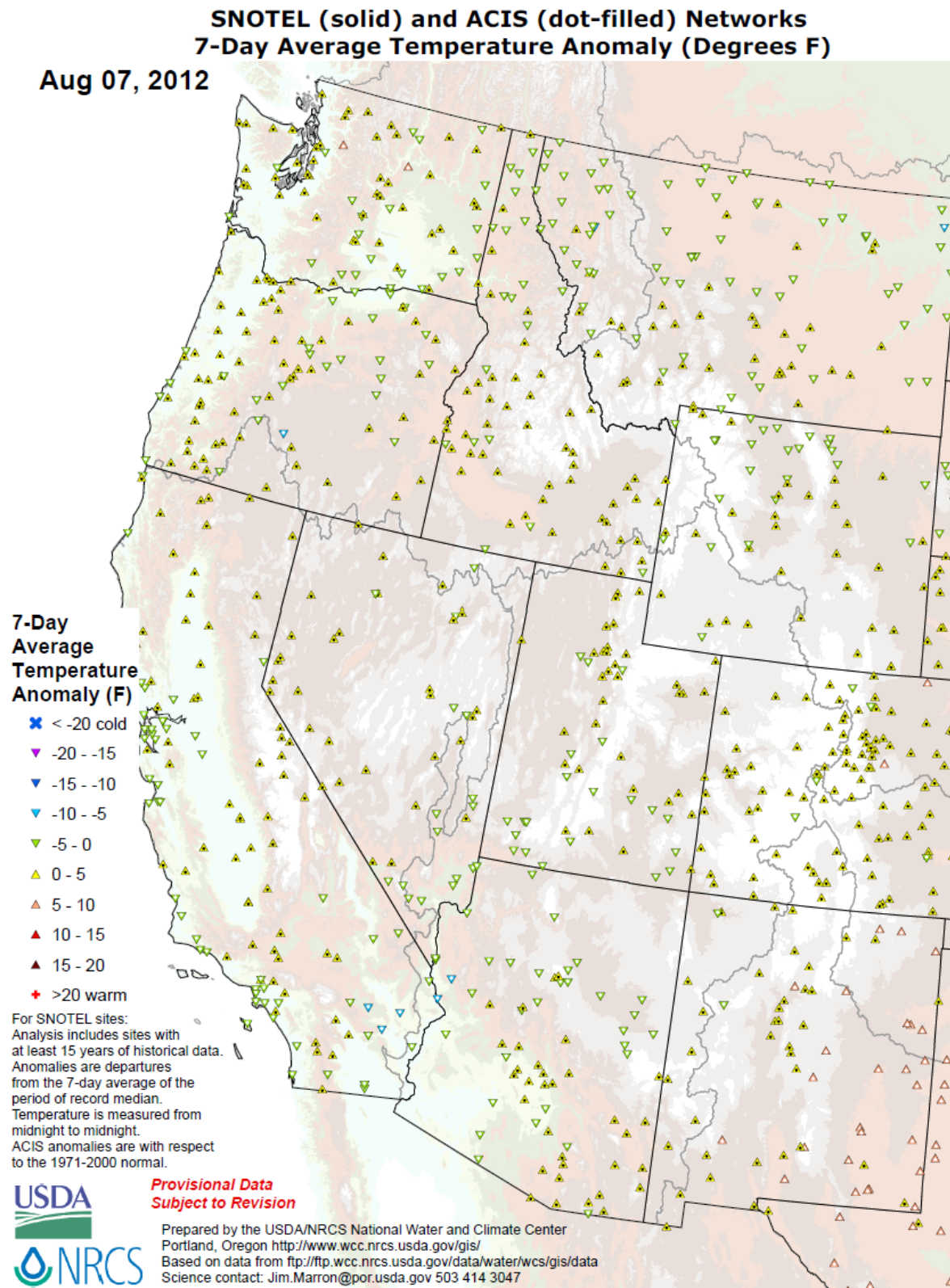
This report uses data and products provided by the Interagency Drought Monitor Consortium members and the National Interagency Fire Center.

/s/

Micheal L. Golden

Deputy Chief, Soil Survey and Resource Assessment

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

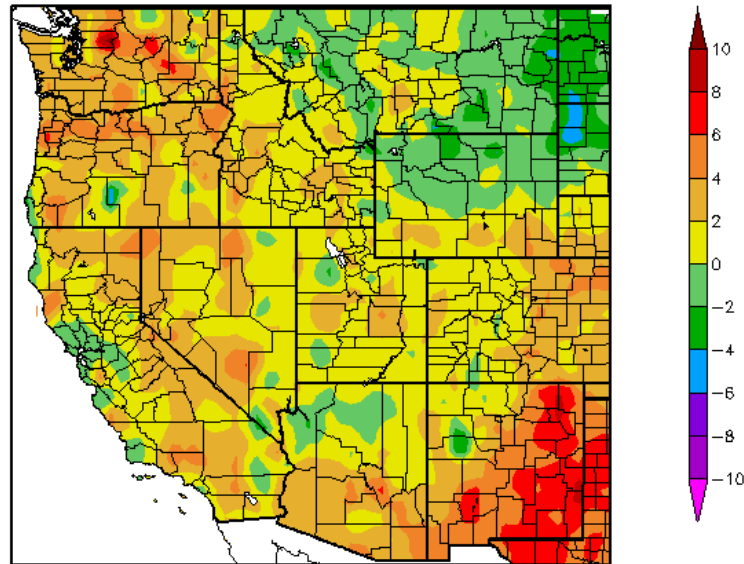


**Fig. 1: SNOTEL and ACIS 7-day temperature anomaly ending 7 August showed values within  $\pm 5^{\circ}\text{F}$  except up to  $10^{\circ}\text{F}$  below normal over southeast California.**



## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
8/2/2012 – 8/8/2012

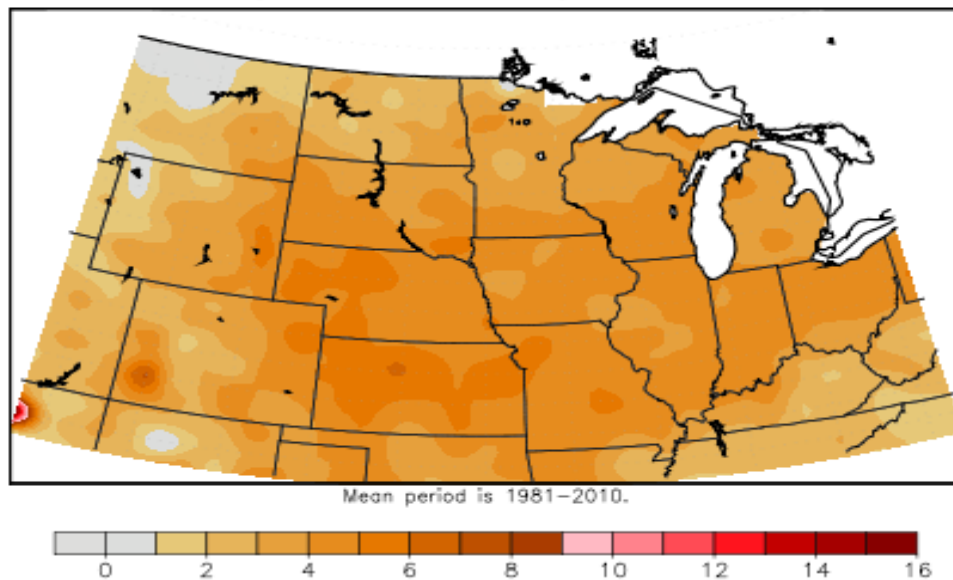


Generated 8/9/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

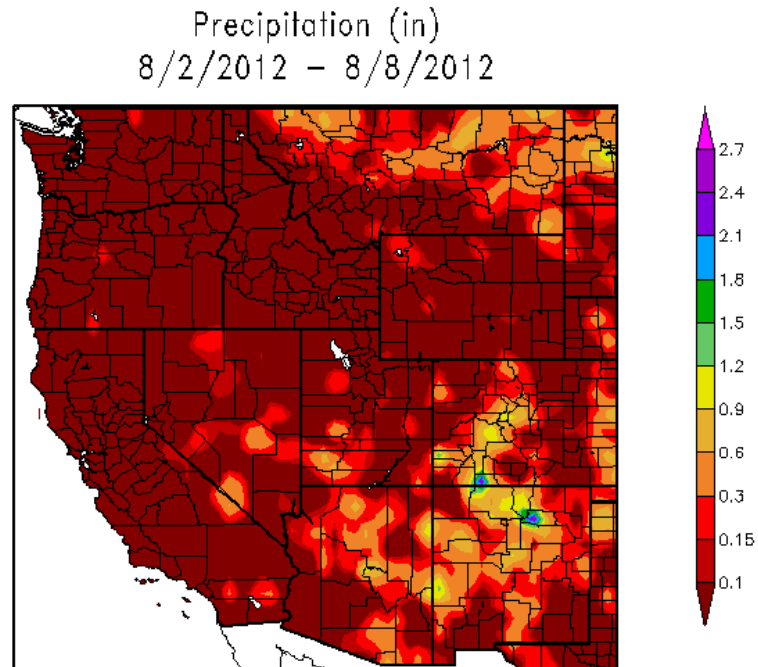
**Fig. 1a:** ACIS 7-day average temperature anomalies show the greatest positive temperature departures over the Washington Cascades and with a secondary maximum over eastern New Mexico ( $>+8^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). The greatest negative departures occurred over eastern Montana and the Black Hills of South Dakota ( $<-4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).

Average Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{F}$ ): Departure from Mean  
May 1, 2012 to July 31, 2012



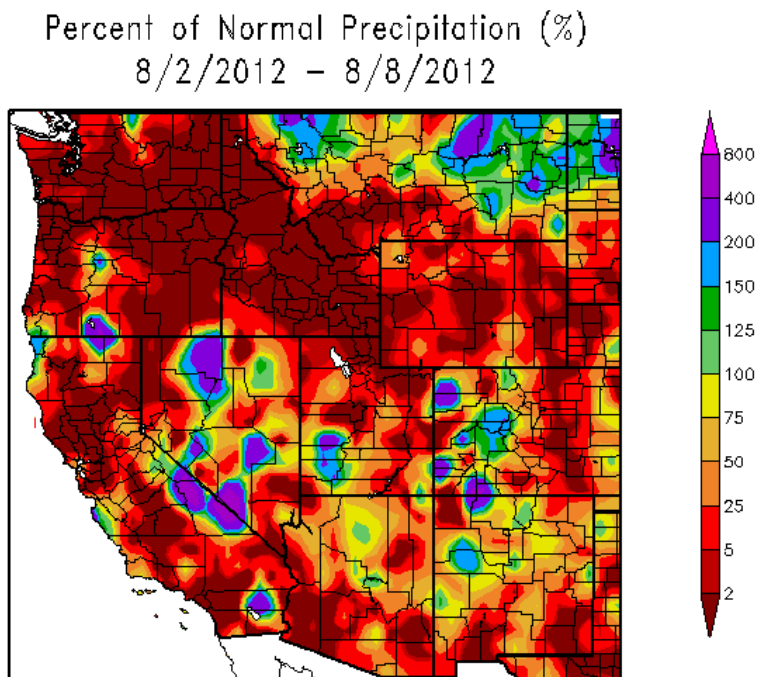
**Fig 1b:** The past three month saw well above average temperatures over this section of the country. A similar pattern occurred in 1901, 1914, 1934, and 1936. Map provided by the [Midwest Regional Climate Center](#).

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report



Generated 8/9/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

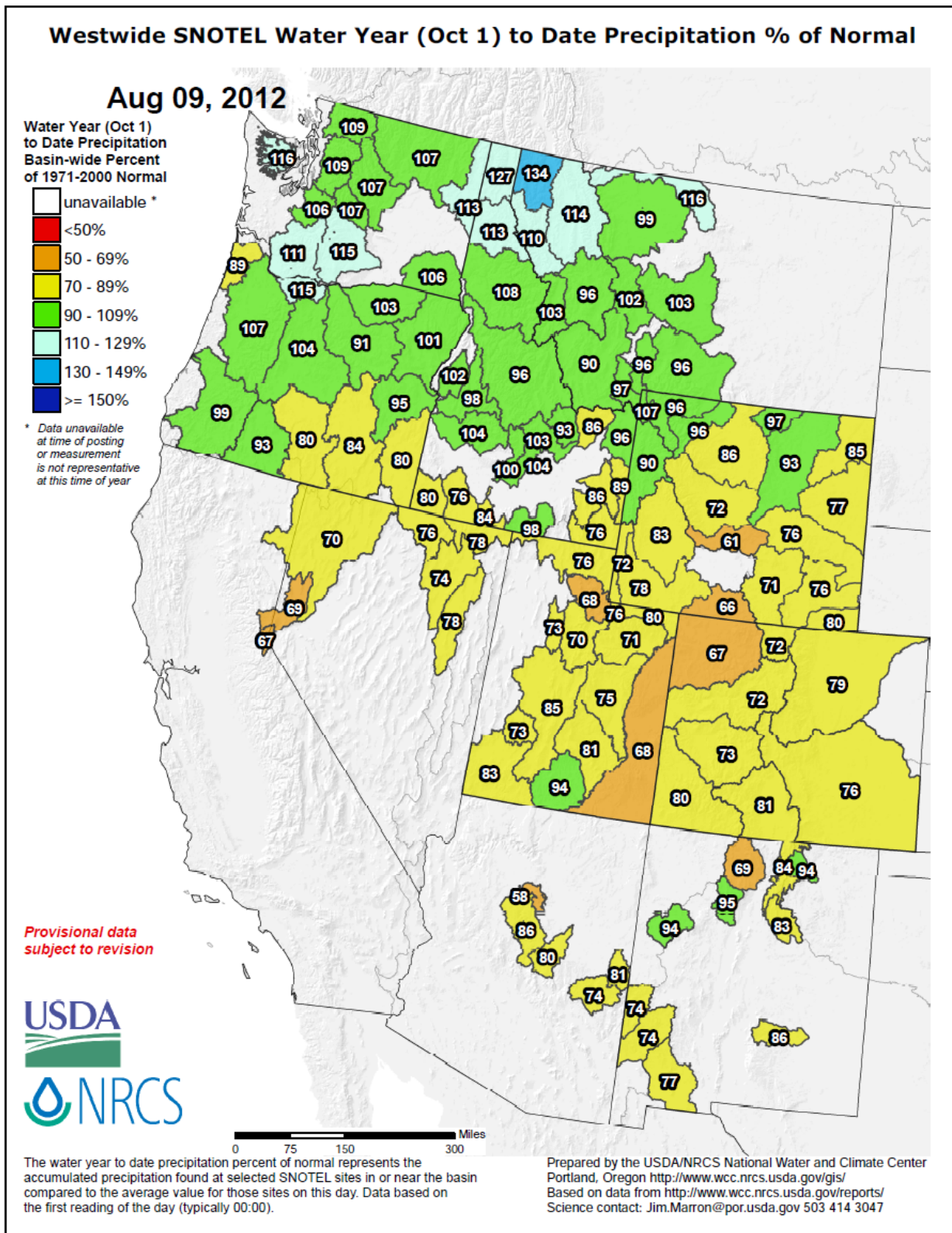


Generated 8/9/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

**Fig. 2 and 2a:** [ACIS](#) 7-day average precipitation amounts for the period ending yesterday shows scattered thunderstorms over the Great Basin, 4-Corner States, and Montana (top). In terms of percent of normal, this is clearly reflected by the pattern of a partial Southwest Monsoon surge as well as scattered storms across the Northern Rockies.

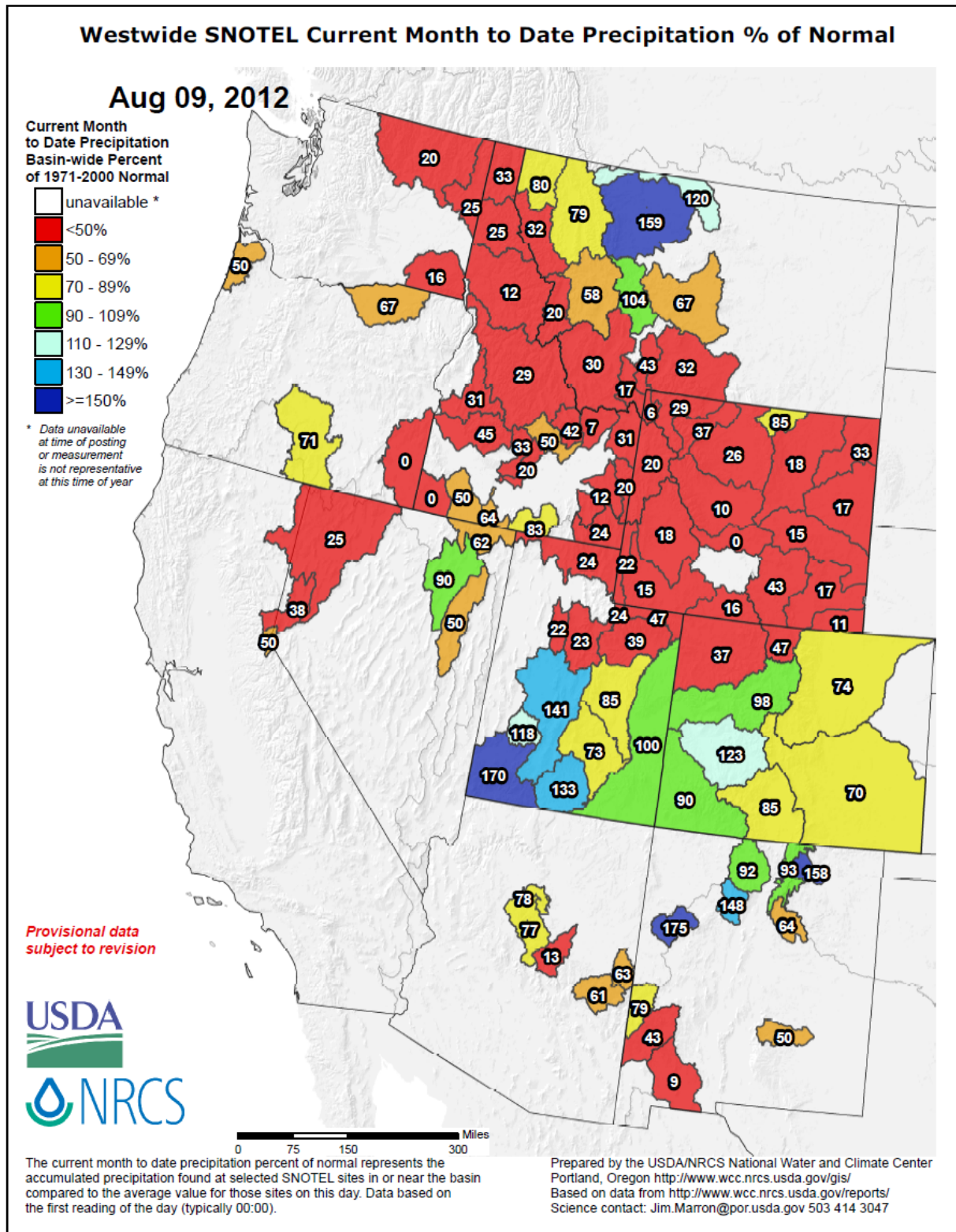
## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report



**Fig 2b:** Since the start of the 2012 Water-Year that began on 1 October 2011, the seasonal moisture has continued to favor the Northern Tier States. Over much of the southern half of the West, drier conditions dominate. However, values are moderately higher over parts of New Mexico in response to the Summer Monsoon. Values are not expected to change much for the remainder of this Water-Year.



## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report



**Fig. 2c:** With one-third of **August** finished, values are starting to paint a relatively dry pattern over Colorado and the Northern Rockies while a wetter pattern is occurring over southwest Utah, parts of the Southern Rockies, and north-central Montana.



## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

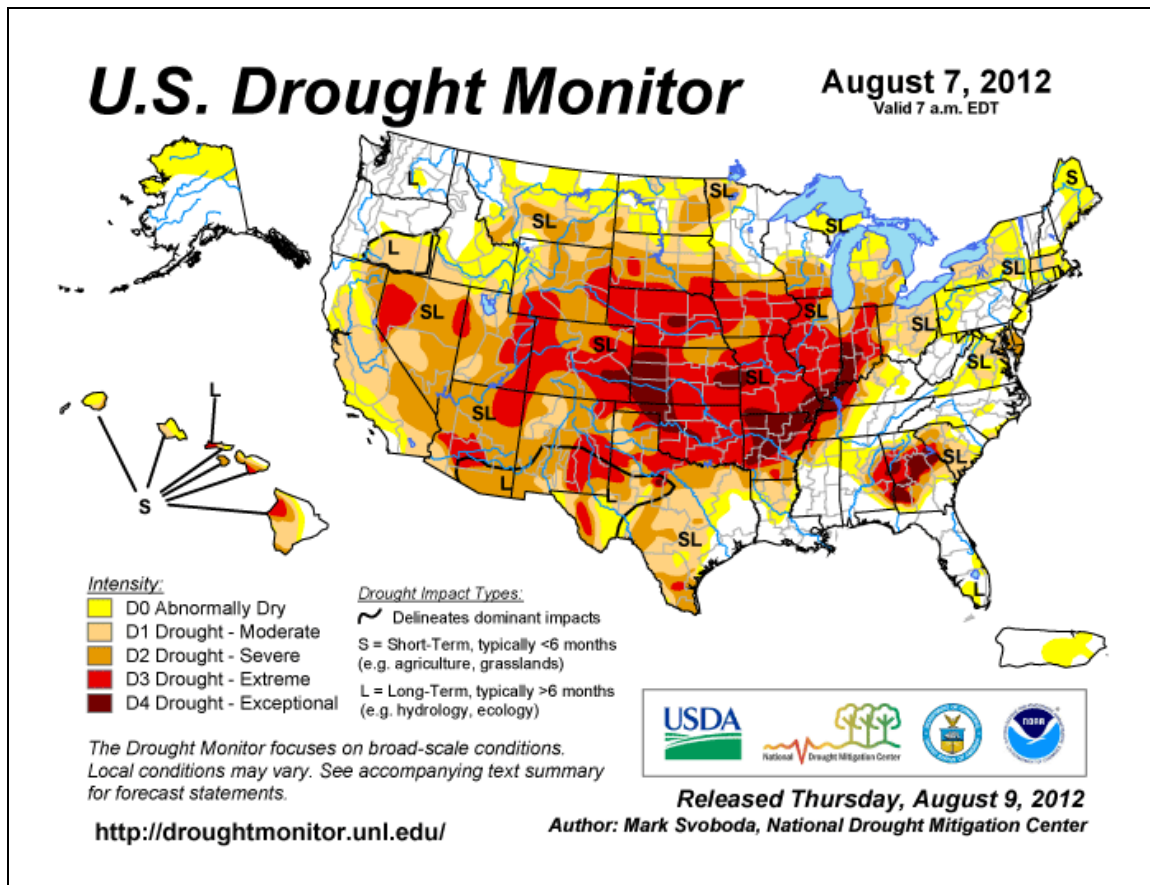


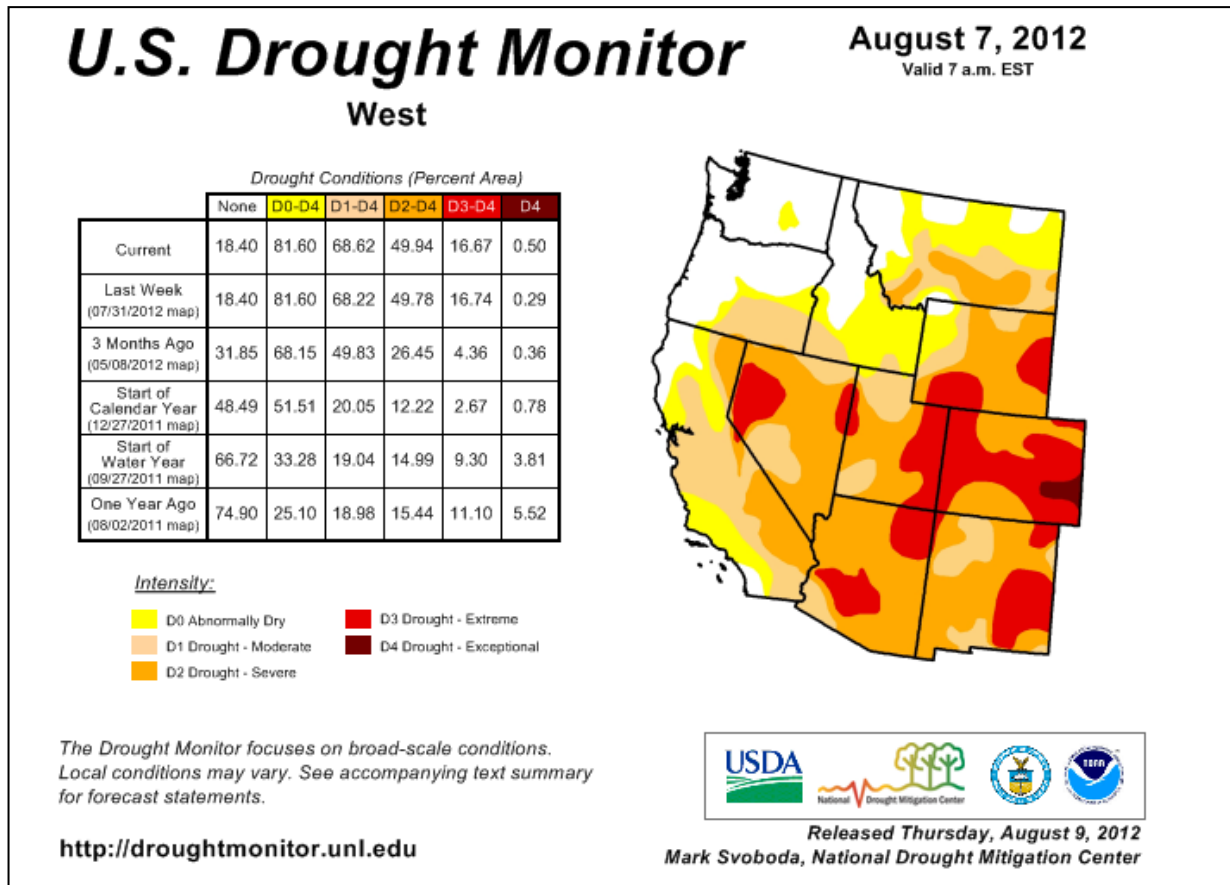
Fig. 3: Current [Drought Monitor](#) weekly summary. The exceptional D4 levels of drought are found over the Southeast and scattered across the corn belt of the Central Plains into Colorado. For more drought news, see [Drought Impact Reporter](#). Click for the latest statistics for [California Reservoirs](#). The monthly [drought indicator blend and component percentiles](#) spreadsheet is a great resource for climate division drought statistics.

### Agriculture

[Christmas tree growers lose seedlings to drought](#) - Aug 1, **Southern Wisconsin**.  
[Historic drought puts over half of U.S. counties in disaster zones, USDA says](#) - Aug 1, **U.S.**  
[Kentucky farmers face paltry yields, hay shortages](#) - July 30, **Kentucky**.  
[Nebraska wildfire worsens conditions for ranchers](#) - July 27, **North central Nebraska**  
[Small Midwest farmers struggle to fill orders, stay afloat as drought, heat kill vegetables](#) - July 31, **Midwest**  
[U.S. drought worsens; farm aid stalls](#) - Aug 3, **US**.

### Water Supply & Quality

[As drought lingers, cities curb water use](#) - Aug 1, **Kansas**.  
[Dead zone shrinks in drought](#) - July 30, **Gulf of Mexico**.  
[Dredgers try to keep barges moving on Illinois River](#) - Aug 2, **Illinois River**.  
[Dredging to restart at Louisiana port as drought stalls movement of crops](#) - July 31, **Louisiana**



**Fig. 3a: Drought Monitor for the [Western States](#) with statistics over various time periods. No significant change this week.**

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

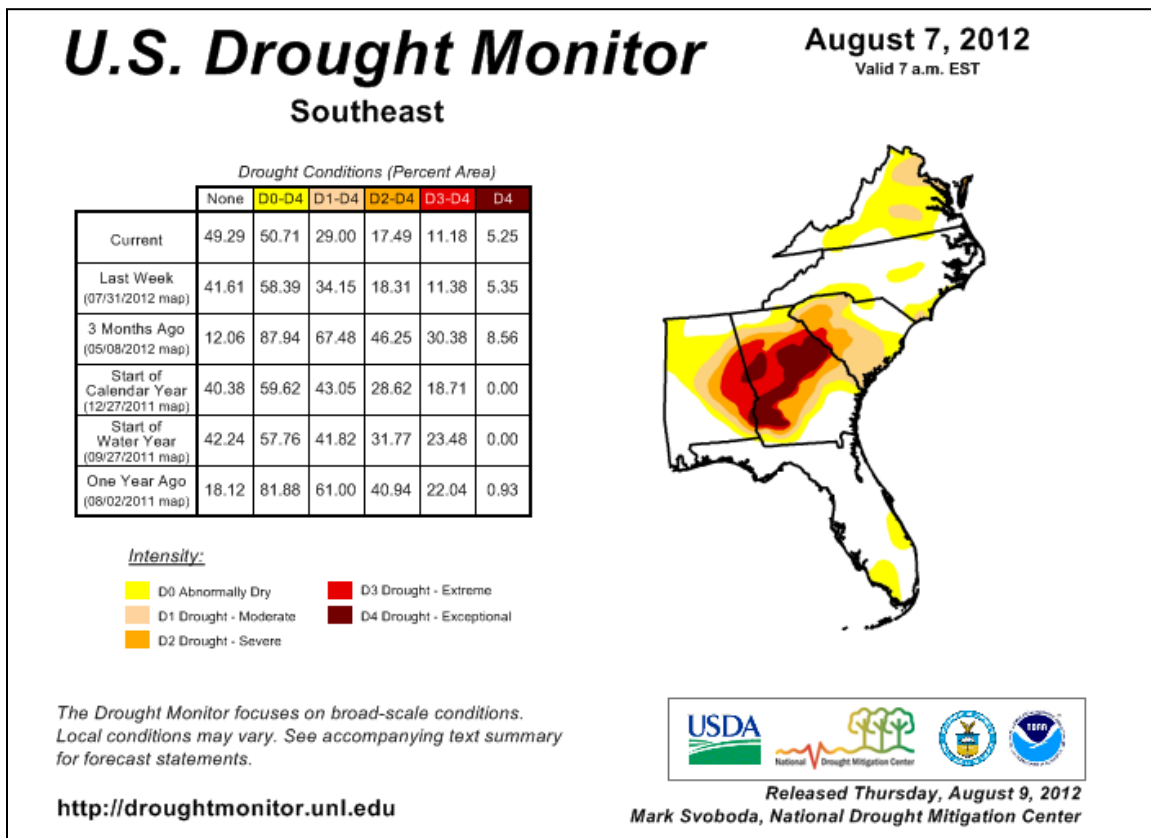


Fig. 3b: Drought Monitor for the [Southeastern States](#) with statistics over various time periods. Note significant improvement in D0-D1 this week.

### SC

The counties along the coast and in higher elevations in the Upstate benefited from heavy rain during the week ending August 5, 2012.

Thunderstorms created humid weather along the coast for most of the week dropping multiple inches of rain at a time. Severe weather was present Wednesday and Thursday in the Low County with large hailstones and a brief EF-0 tornado near Kiawah Island. Areas in the Upstate received heavy rain throughout the week. Inland areas missed out on most of the rain and conditions remained very warm and dry. Soil moisture conditions improved to 7% very short, 32% short and 61% adequate. The State average rainfall for the period was 1.3 inches. The State average temperature for the period was two degrees above normal with 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork.

### GA

According to the National Agriculture Statistics Service's Georgia Field Office, there were 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, August 5, 2012.

Statewide topsoil moisture was rated at 8% very short, 38% short, 49% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture 18% very short, 45% short, 35% adequate, 2% surplus. Precipitation estimates for the state ranged from no rain up to 5.1 inches. Average high temperatures ranged from the mid 70's to the low 90's. Average low temperatures ranged from the mid 60's to the mid 70's. Looks like improvements all around here.

# Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

## U.S. Drought Monitor

August 7, 2012  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

### Midwest

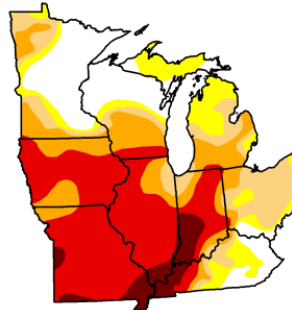
	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	18.58	81.42	69.11	55.13	38.19	5.78
Last Week (07/31/2012 map)	17.22	82.78	71.01	55.41	31.80	4.96
3 Months Ago (05/08/2012 map)	68.76	31.24	5.80	0.18	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	71.84	28.16	13.42	6.80	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	58.85	41.15	14.01	5.03	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (08/02/2011 map)	62.16	37.84	5.19	0.52	0.00	0.00

#### Intensity:

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

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

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, August 9, 2012  
Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from Mean  
May 1, 2012 to July 31, 2012

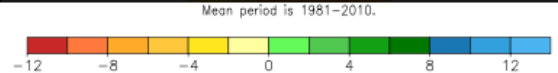
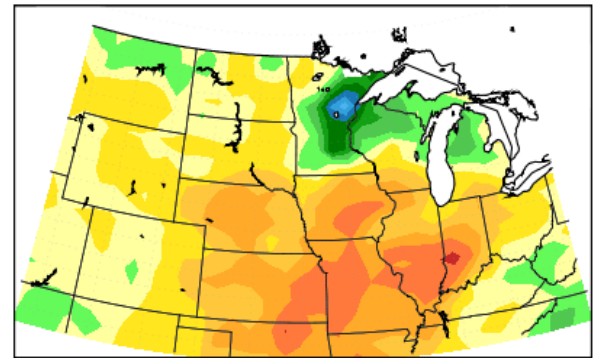


Fig. 3c: Drought Monitor for the [Mid-West](#) with statistics over various time periods. Note significant deterioration in D3 this week. At right, this section of the nation has seen a similar May-July precipitation pattern in 1901, 1914, 1934, and 1936 with regional temperatures somewhat warmer in 1934 and 1936 (no shown).

## U.S. Drought Monitor

July 31, 2012  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

### High Plains

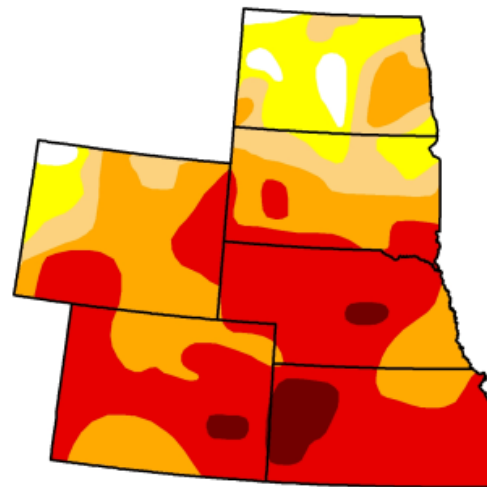
	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	2.36	97.64	87.16	77.25	48.26	4.01
Last Week (07/24/2012 map)	2.32	97.68	86.74	76.98	44.51	2.51
3 Months Ago (05/01/2012 map)	57.05	42.95	13.27	6.41	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	61.66	38.34	18.12	7.22	2.07	0.04
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	70.09	29.91	17.44	11.97	6.22	2.96
One Year Ago (07/26/2011 map)	79.57	20.43	15.17	11.97	6.64	2.31

#### Intensity:

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

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

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

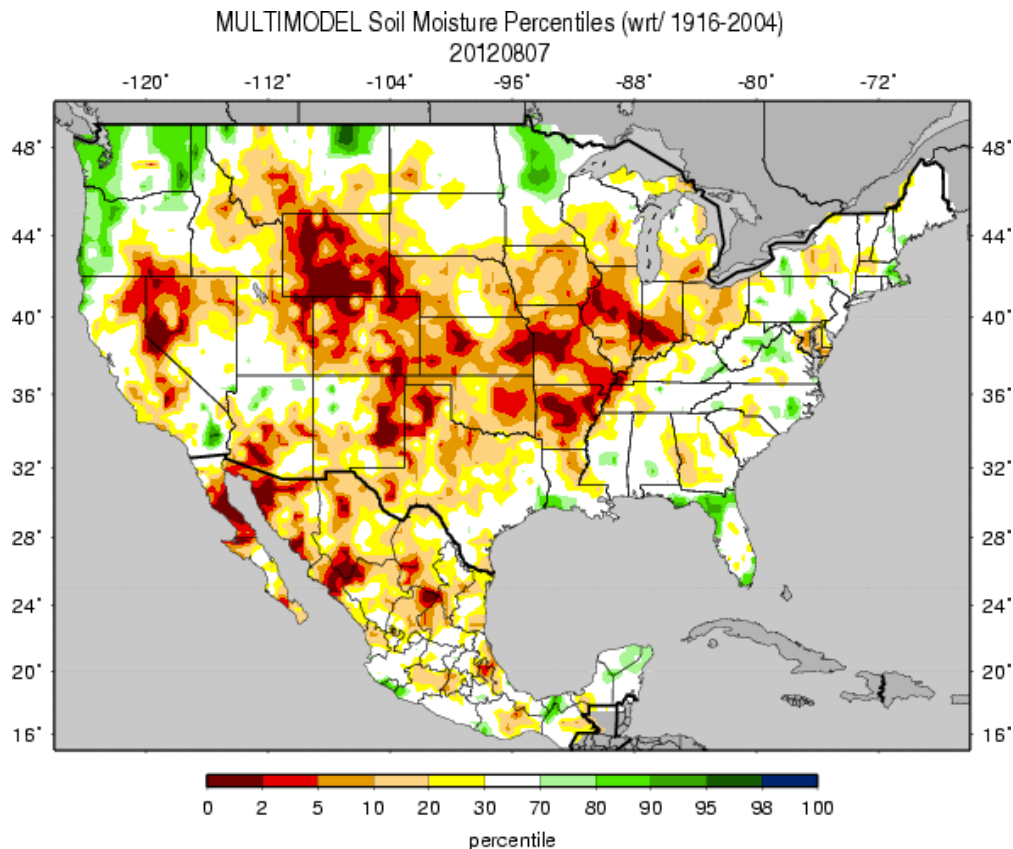


Released Thursday, August 2, 2012  
Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center

Fig. 3d: Drought Monitor for the [High Plains](#) with statistics over various time periods. Note some increase in D3 and D4 this week. See the latest [Kansas Drought Report](#).



## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report



Figs. 4: Soil Moisture ranking in [percentile](#) as of 7 August shows dryness over much of the US. Exceptions include the Coastal Region of Oregon & Washington and northeast Montana.

### *Useful Hydrological Links:*

USDA western U.S. mountain snow water content anomaly map.

USGS (U.S. Geological Service) [observed streamflow](#);

NOAA Climate Prediction Center (CPC) modeled runoff [anomalies](#) and [percentiles](#);

VIC (University of Washington Variable Infiltration Capacity macro scale hydrologic model) [1-](#), [2-](#), [3-](#), and [6-month](#) and [water year-to-date](#) runoff percentiles;

NLDAS (North American Land Data Assimilation System) modeled streamflow [anomalies](#) and [percentiles](#);

NLDAS model runoff [anomalies](#) and [percentiles](#);

USGS groundwater observations ([real-time network](#), [climate response network](#), [total active network](#));

USDA snow water content observations for the West (SNOTEL station [percentiles](#) and [percent of normal](#), SNOTEL basin [percent of normal](#) and [percent of average](#)) and Alaska ([SNOTEL station percent of normal](#), [SNOTEL basin percent of normal](#));

USDA reservoir storage as [percent of capacity](#).

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

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

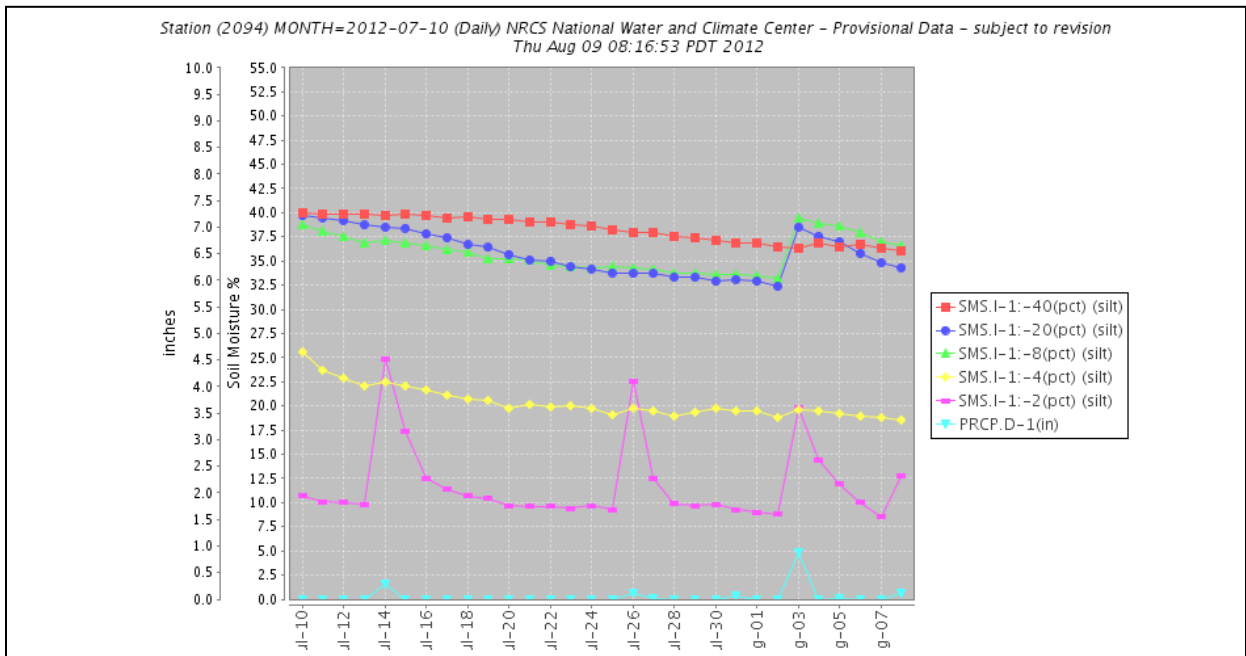


Fig. 5: This NRCS resource shows a site over [northeast Kansas](#) declining soil moisture with brief upticks near the surface when it rains.

#### Useful Agriculture Links:

- USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) [observed soil moisture conditions](#), [departures and percentiles](#), and comparison to [5-year average](#) and [10-year average](#);
- the Palmer [Crop Moisture Index \(CMI\)](#), which intensified during the month in the West and Lower to Mid-Mississippi Valley (weeks [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#));
- CPC modeled soil moisture [anomalies](#) and [percentiles](#) for end of May, and [soil moisture anomaly change](#) compared to previous month;
- CPC's Leaky Bucket model [soil moisture percentiles](#);
- NLDAS modeled soil moisture percentiles for the [top soil layer](#) and [total soil layer](#);
- VIC modeled [soil moisture percentiles](#), and [soil moisture percentile change](#) compared to previous month;
- USDA observed [pasture and rangeland conditions](#);
- [Vegetation Drought Response Index \(VegDRI\)](#);
- the NOAA/NESDIS satellite-based [Vegetation Health Index \(VHI\)](#);
- the USGS agro-hydrologic model ([Soil Water Index](#), [Water Requirement Satisfaction Index](#));
- Selected SNOTEL Sites (measured [2"](#), [4"](#), [8"](#), [20"](#), and [40"](#) soil moisture depths);

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

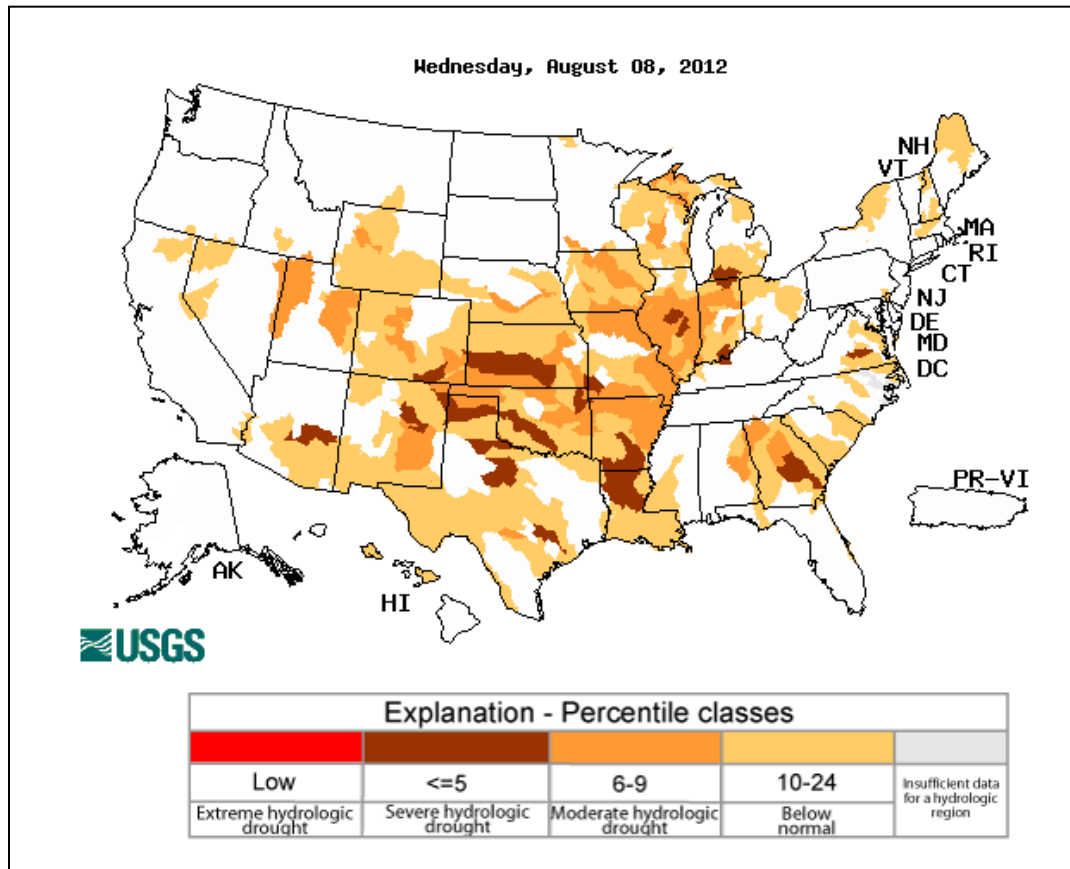


Fig. 6: Map of below normal 7-day average [streamflow](#) compared to historical streamflow for the day of year. **Severe** conditions exist over parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, southwest Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, north-central Kentucky, Louisiana, Georgia, and Virginia.

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

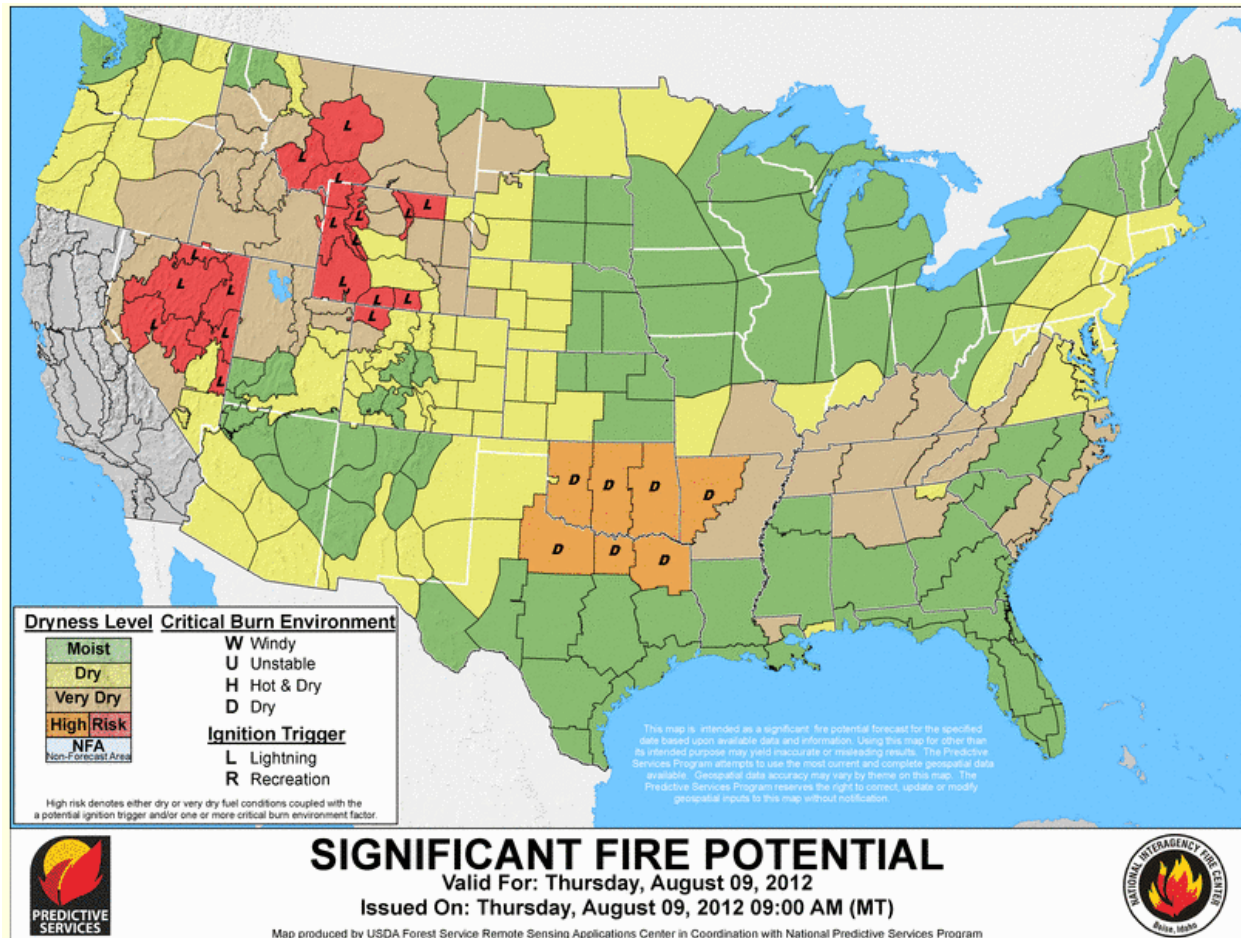


Fig. 7: Significant fire potential for today. This resource also provides forecasts out to 7 days. Also check out: [NOAA's Fire Server](#). Risk has increased over Nevada, Wyoming, and southwest Montana during the past several days. Also see: [Experimental Southwest area wildland fire smoke impact awareness page](#) and the latest, [National Interagency Fire Agency Report](#).

As of 7 August:

### FIRES IN OKLAHOMA

#### ACRES BURNED

More than 93,400 acres have burned in fires across the state since Friday.

Oklahoma Forestry Services reports:

Creek County Fire (Freedom Hills/Mannford area) – 58,500 acres

Cushing Fire – 1,578 acres

Drumright – 6,493 acres

Luther Fire – 2,600 acres

Norman/Noble/Slaughterville Fire – 7,900 acres

Shamrock Fire – 3,990 acres

Yale Fire – 2,823 acres

Grady County Emergency Management reports 9,600 acres have burned in the Ninnekah fire.



## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

### National Drought Summary -- August 7, 2012

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

**The Northeast and Mid-Atlantic:** Rainfall over the past week was scattered and temperatures were above normal for most locales. As such, most of this area stays status quo this week. Minor adjustments of note include some reduction of D0 and D1 in West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina, where some locales saw 3 to 5 inches this past week. Low streamflow and groundwater levels remain a concern heading into fall for parts of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and northern Maine.

**The Southeast:** Parts of the Southeast received a good soaking last week while others missed out, leading to a mixed bag of changes on this week's map. The heaviest precipitation fell over eastern Tennessee, the western Carolinas, northern Georgia, eastern Alabama and the Florida Panhandle, leading to 1-category improvements along the drought's perimeter in these regions. This hasn't removed drought, but instead has only tightened the gradients between the haves and the have-nots, as conditions can vary wildly over very short distances. The underlying hydrologic drought in Georgia and Alabama remains well seated, with low streamflows being commonplace as they are well into a two-year drought.

**The Midwest:** Conditions continue to improve in the eastern half of the region as another week of good rains came to parts of Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. Again, generally speaking, the drought continues to improve and is being pushed west, tightening the gradient along the way with 1-category improvements noted in eastern and southern Ohio, eastern and central Kentucky and north-central Indiana. Parts of the core region of drought in this region continue to see deterioration this week marked by a slight expansion of D2/D3 in southeastern Indiana. Continuing east, both Iowa and Illinois see expansion of D3 and D3. Missouri and Arkansas continue to worsen as the heat and dryness continues its grip, leading to an expansion of D4 in northern Arkansas and southern Missouri along with a new area of D4 in extreme west-central Missouri adjoining Kansas. Reports of water-related impacts are ticking upward with each passing week as mandatory restrictions continue to ramp upward around the region. As the drought continues, this will undoubtedly become a more prevalent issue as the agricultural season passes and attention turns to next year's crops or herds.

**The Great Plains and South:** Same song, tenth verse last week as much of the Plains saw the pattern of excessive heat and dryness persist, leading to more expansion across Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and parts of Texas. As a result, D3 has moved across east central Nebraska and into west central Iowa, D3 pushes more to the northeast in Kansas, and D4 expands in western Kansas and connects up with a growing area of D4 in western Oklahoma. In addition, water emergencies and shortage concerns in several communities result in a new D4 region in east central Kansas over into extreme west central Missouri. The only real area of improvement noted this week is in the Black Hills region of South Dakota, where generally cooler weather and recovering streamflows lead to a small improvement from D3 to D2, which extends into extreme

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

northeastern Wyoming. After some improvement of late, the heat and dryness bring the return of a bit more D0-D3 into the Panhandle and western reaches of Texas. The other change of note this week lies in northern Louisiana after a recent dry spell led to a slight southward push of D0 and D1 there.

**The West:** The West saw a mixed bag of results over the past week with the monsoon rains bringing relief to some and nothing much for many others. A slight expansion of D1 this week is noted in Montana on the heels of an expansion of D0 northward to the Canadian border last week. Most of Colorado remains unchanged this week but the heat and dryness does lead to a joining of the D4 between east central CO and western Kansas. The D3 also extends out of southeast Colorado and the Oklahoma Panhandle into more of northeastern New Mexico along with a slight push westward of the D2 in north central New Mexico this week. Northwestern New Mexico has benefitted from a good start to the monsoon, leading to a reduction of D2 and D3 in the northwestern part of the state into the eastern edge of the Navajo Nation lands. Longer-term conditions and impacts in the Navajo Nation have led to a state of emergency Executive Proclamation due to the extreme conditions on their lands in the Four Corner region.

**Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico:** Conditions remain unchanged on this week's map for Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico.

**Looking Ahead:** The 5-day forecast (August 8-12) shows a shift in the heat from the country's mid-section to the West as high pressure builds in there. This leaves prospects for precipitation high and dry for most locations west of the Rockies and increases the chances for the wet stuff over the Midwest, Northeast, Great Lakes, Gulf Coast and Atlantic coastal reaches of the Carolinas and Georgia. Above-normal temperatures will accompany the high pressure in the West and the cool down to the east of the Rockies will be a welcomed respite for most of the Great Plains and Midwest.

For the period August 13-17, above-normal temperatures are more likely across Alaska, the Southwest, Great Basin, southern Rockies and southern Plains. Interestingly, no regions are forecasted to see below-normal temperatures during this period. The chances for below-normal precipitation are greatest in eastern and central Alaska, the southern Plains and lower Midwest while the odds of above-normal rains are best situated over the Southwest, northern Plains and eastern Montana as well as along the Gulf Coast and Atlantic Coast from Florida northward to Virginia.

**Author:** [Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center](#)

### Dryness Categories

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

### Drought Intensity Categories

D1 ... Moderate Drought

D2 ... Severe Drought

D3 ... Extreme Drought

D4 ... Exceptional Drought

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

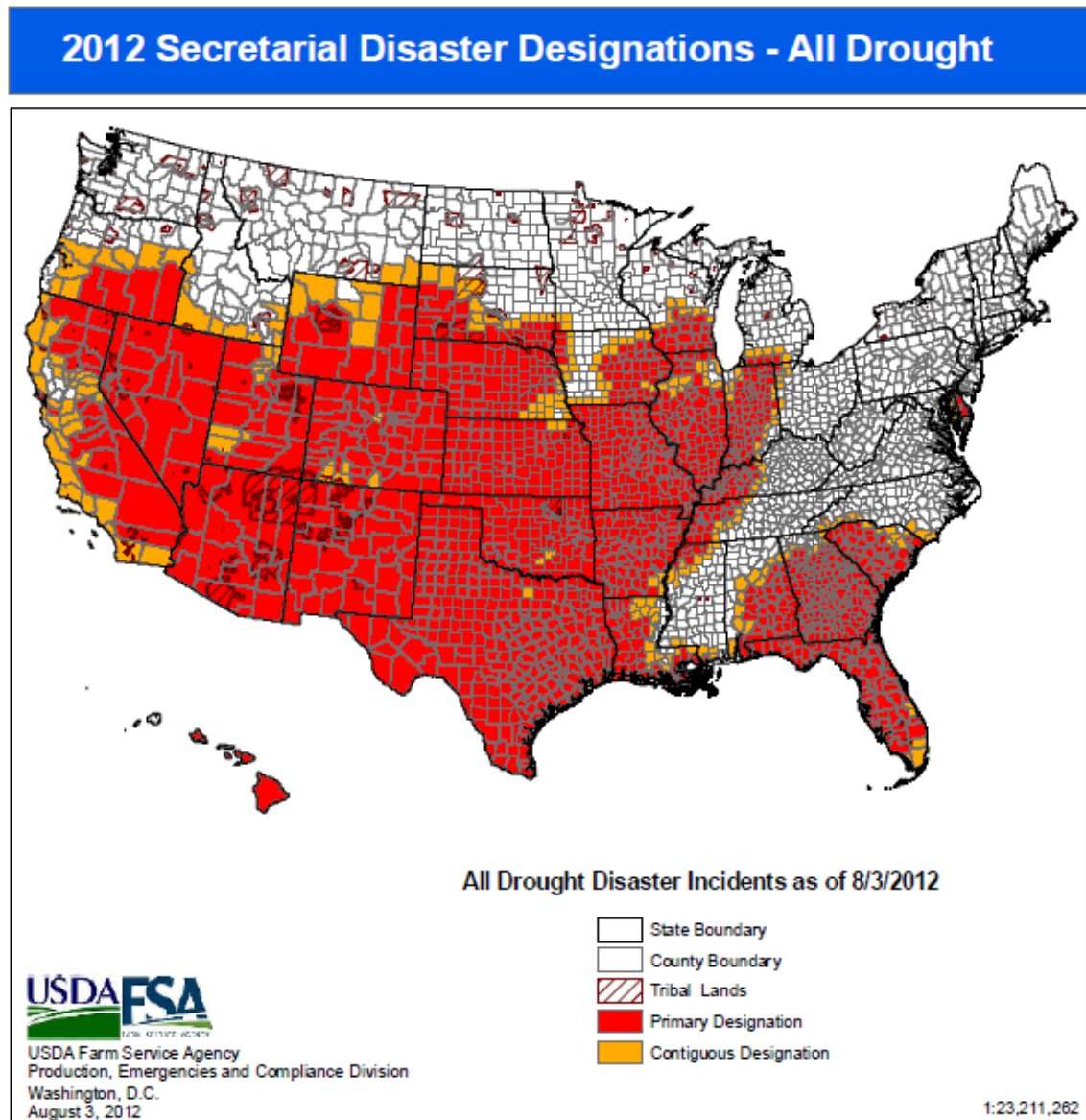
### Drought or Dryness Types

S ... Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agricultural, grasslands)

L ... Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Updated August 8, 2012

### Special Drought Update



### Nineteen States Targeted for Drought Relief Financial and Technical Assistance

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8, 2012—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that USDA will target nearly \$16 million in financial and technical assistance to help eligible crop and livestock producers in 19 states cope with adverse impacts of the historic drought gripping the nation. States will have the option to hold special signups for producers interested in applying conservation practices that will alleviate the drought's impacts, and improve soil health and productivity.

"President Obama and I continue to work across the federal government to provide relief for those farmers and ranchers who are affected by the severe drought conditions impacting many states across our nation," Vilsack said. "This additional assistance builds on a number of steps USDA has taken over the past few weeks to provide resources and flexibility in our existing programs to help producers endure these serious hardships."

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will use \$16 million in existing funds from its Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to target states experiencing exceptional and extreme drought. The states with exceptional, or the most severe, drought are Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky and Nebraska. States experiencing extreme drought are Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Nevada, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Wisconsin. Learn more about the [NRCS drought assistance](#) that each state has received.

NRCS state conservationists will announce special signups for WHIP and EQIP funds which will allow eligible producers to apply for selected conservation practices. These practices include prescribed grazing, livestock watering facilities and water conservation practices. Eligible producers also can re-apply for financial assistance to re-apply failed conservation practices due to drought and modify existing contracts to re-schedule planned conservation practices.

USDA has also announced the following:

- Allowing producers to modify current EQIP contracts to allow for grazing, livestock watering, and other conservation activities to address drought conditions.
- Authorizing haying and grazing of Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easement areas in drought-affected areas where haying and grazing is consistent with conservation of wildlife habitat and wetlands.

For more information, producers and landowners can visit the [NRCS website](#) or their [local NRCS office](#).

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