

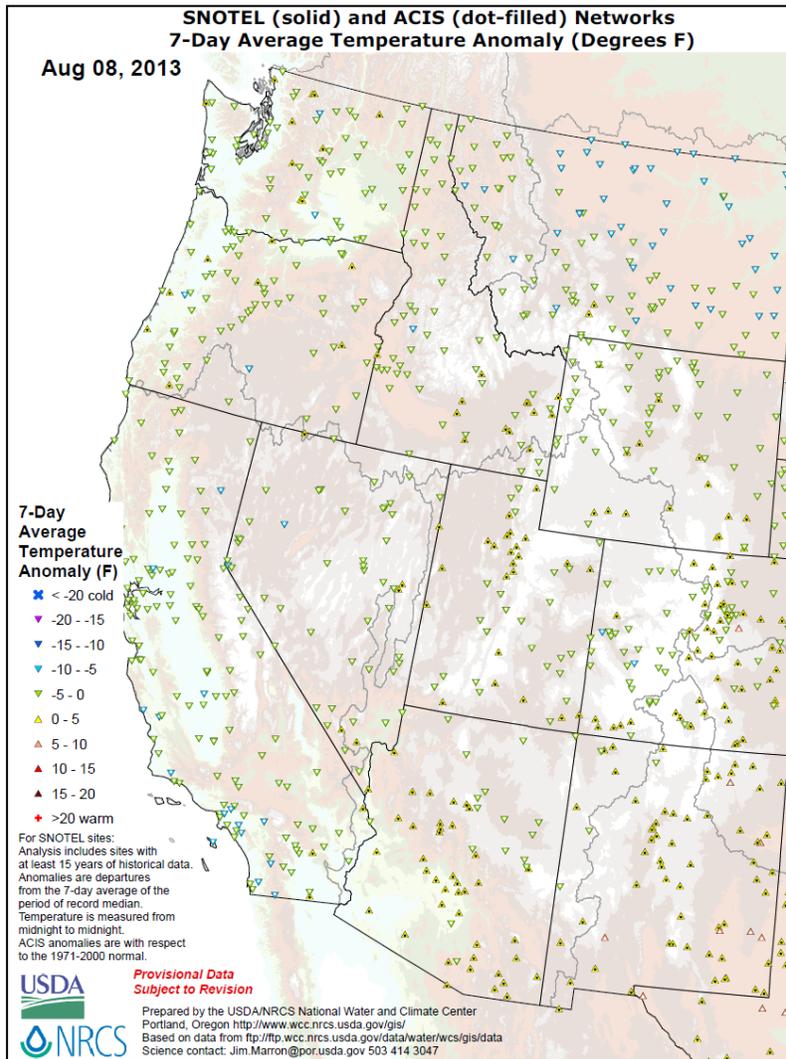


Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 P.O. Box 2890  
 Washington, D.C. 20013

## Weekly Snowpack / Drought Monitor Update August 15, 2013

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### Temperature



SNOTEL and ACIS 7-day temperature anomaly update map is not available this week.

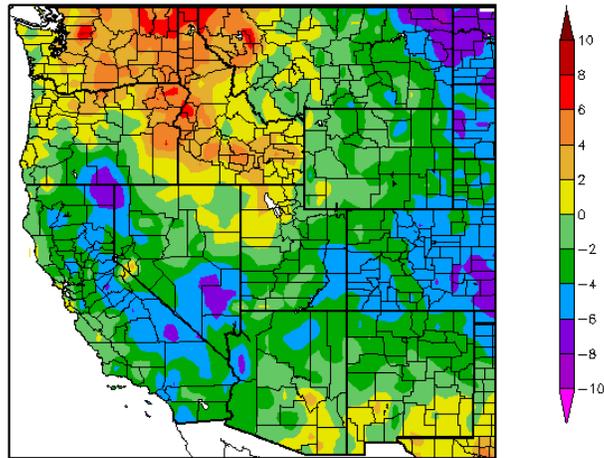
## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

[ACIS](#) 7-day average temperature anomalies, ending August 14, show the greatest positive temperature departures concentrated northeastern Washington to northwest Montana (>6°F). The coolest departures occurred over northeastern Montana and northeast California (>8°F).

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
8/8/2013 – 8/14/2013



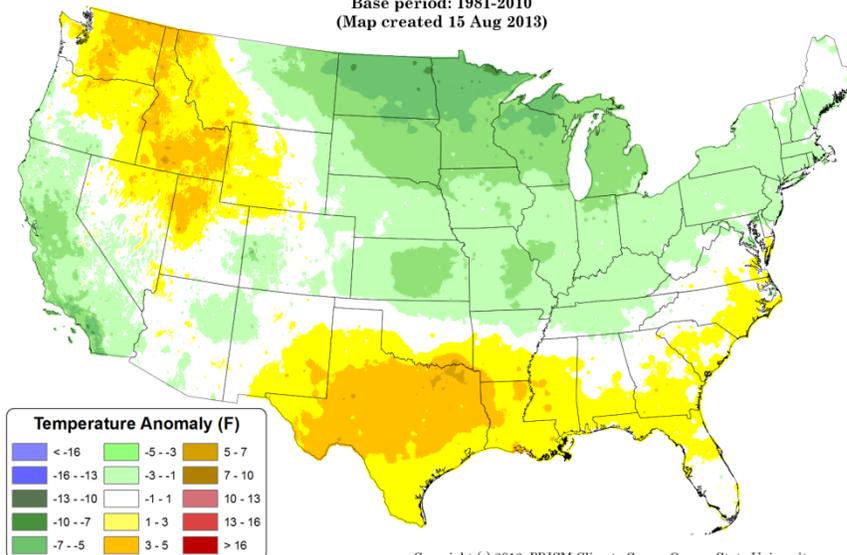
Generated 8/15/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: 01 August 2013 - 14 August 2013  
Period ending 7 AM EST 14 Aug 2013  
Base period: 1981-2010  
(Map created 15 Aug 2013)

This preliminary [PRISM](#) temperature map, updated daily, will be available to the public by September 30.

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



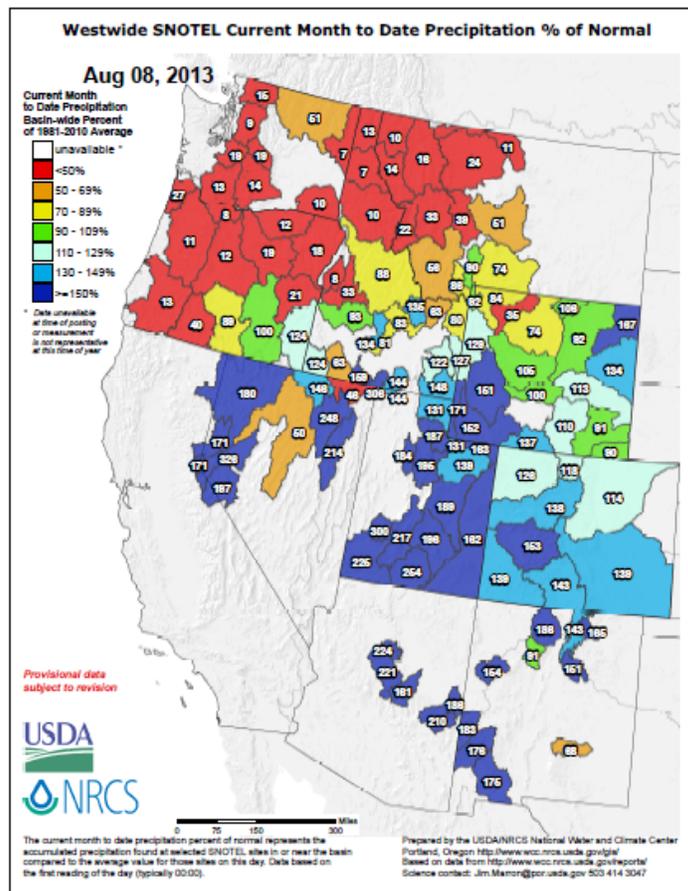
Copyright (c) 2013, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

Accumulated average temperatures for August thus far have been considerably warmer than normal across the southern plains, lower-Mississippi River Valley, and over the northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest. Cooler conditions have prevailed over California, the northern plains, and Great Lakes states.

# Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

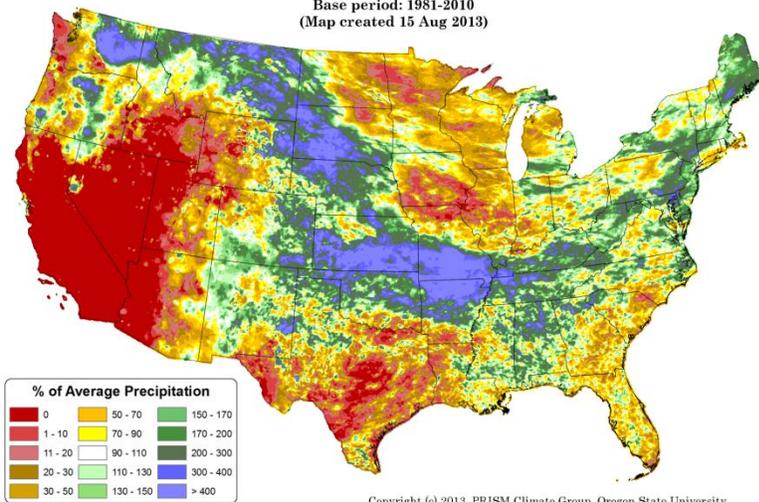
## Precipitation

SNOTEL month to date precipitation percent of normal update map is not available this week.



Click images for enlarged version

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 August 2013 - 14 August 2013  
 Period ending 7 AM EST 14 Aug 2013  
 Base period: 1981-2010  
 (Map created 15 Aug 2013)



Accumulated total precipitation through August 14 shows a rainfall pattern that has favored parts of Washington through Montana and southeastward to Arkansas. Drier conditions dominated from Iowa and Texas. The far West is typically very dry this time of year.

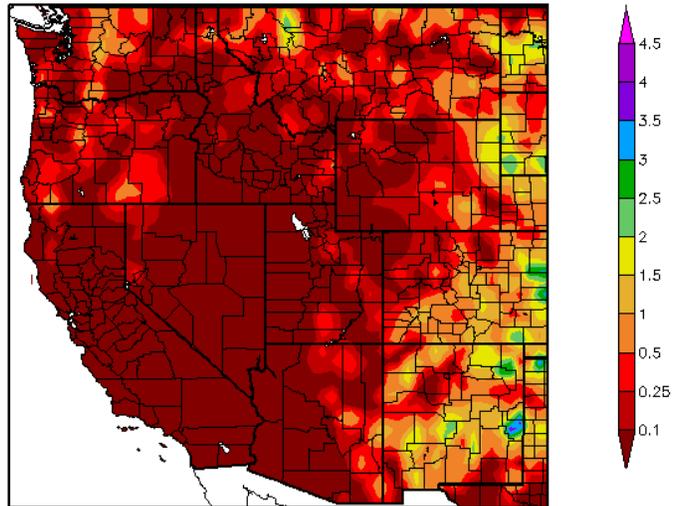
This preliminary *PRISM* precipitation map will be available to the public by **September 30**. It contains all available network data, including SNOTEL data, and will be updated periodically as additional data become available and are quality controlled.

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

[ACIS 7-day](#) average precipitation amounts for the period ending August 14 show an active monsoon over New Mexico and eastern Colorado. The remainder of the West experienced their typically dry conditions for this time of year.

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

Precipitation (in)  
8/8/2013 - 8/14/2013



Generated 8/15/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

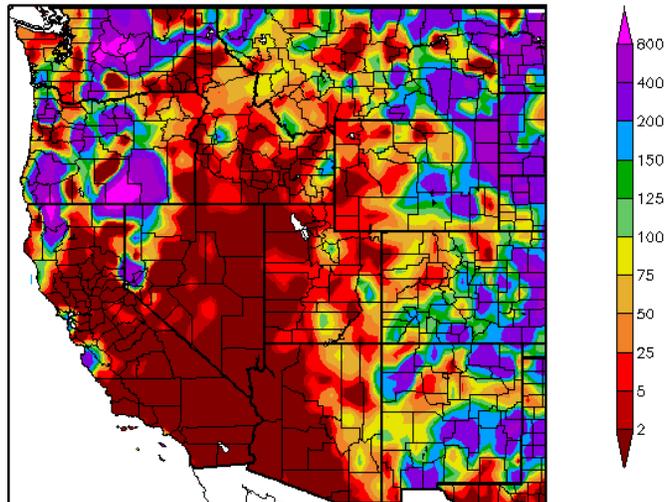
Regional Climate Centers

In this [map](#), where rain occurred, it was enough to register in amounts exceeding what would normally be expected for the week by two to four times.

Thus far, August is proving to be a wet month for several drought areas east of the Continental Divide.

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

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
8/8/2013 - 8/14/2013



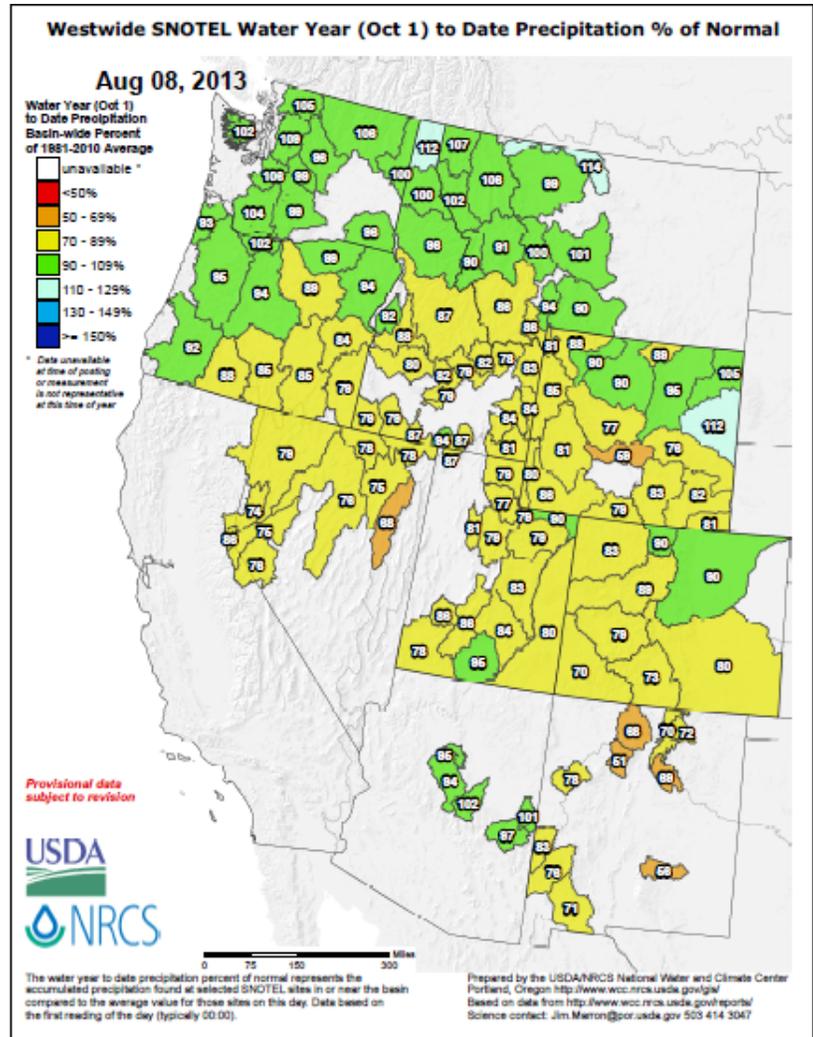
Generated 8/15/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

The 2013 Water Year update map is not available this week.

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



*Click image for larger version*

## Weather and Drought Summary

### Western Drought Summary – August 13, 2013

The following **Weather and Drought Summary** is provided by this week's NDMC Author: [Michael Brewer, National Climatic Data Center, NOAA](#)

**“Summary:** This US Drought Monitor week was dominated by a persistent weather system that dumped precipitation from eastern Colorado, through the Southern Plains and Tennessee Valley, and into the Mid-Atlantic and southern New England over multiple days. Widespread areas of two-plus inches were experienced with some locations receiving over five inches from the storm. While there were numerous reports of wind and hail from Colorado to Maryland, no tornadoes have been reported, according to NOAA's Storm Prediction Center.

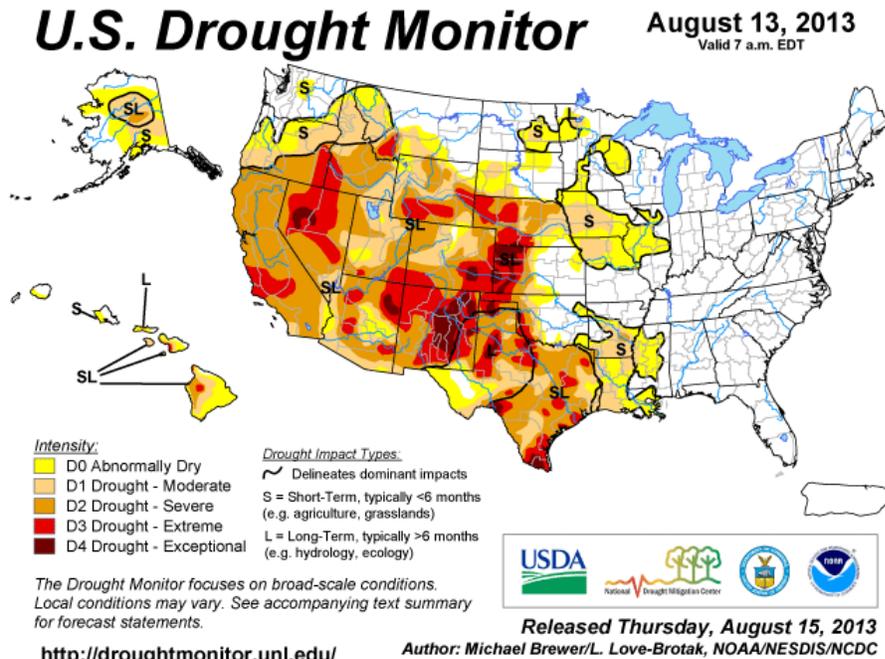
**The West:** Now in its second year of below normal rainfall, and on the heels of experiencing its driest January to July on record, Extreme Drought (D3) conditions were introduced into southern California. Impacts are beginning to be felt in this, and surrounding areas, including dried up rivers, stressed vegetation, and possible water restrictions. Likewise, Extreme Drought (D3) expanded in southwest Idaho as the lack of precipitation mounts. Conversely, conditions improved slightly in

# Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

eastern New Mexico and eastern Colorado this week. Areas of Exceptional Drought (D4) were eased in both states.

Wildfires, although not directly correlated to drought conditions, remain a problem in parts of the West. In particular, the National Interagency Fire Center reported nearly four dozen active, large wildfires on August 14, mostly in California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Specifically, in southwestern Idaho, the Pony Complex has charred more than 140,000 acres of timber, brush, and grass, while the Elk Fire has consumed nearly 100,000 acres of vegetation."

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



Current [Drought Monitor](#) weekly summary. The exceptional D4 levels of drought are scattered across the western Corn Belt of the Plains into southeastern Colorado, eastern New Mexico, western Nevada, and north-central Texas. For more drought news, see [Drought Impact Reporter](#).

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](#).

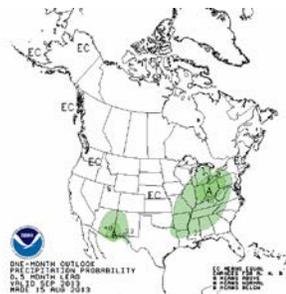
✓ July 2013 [Drought and Impact Summary](#) from the National Drought Mitigation Center is now available

## National Drought Related News (•):

- [Burger costs rising with beef supply at 21-year low - Aug 11, U.S.](#)

**Note the inclusion of D3 in parts of California this week.**

See the latest [Seasonal Outlook](#) updated today.



# Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

- ✓ **Drought Management Resources:**
- ✓ Drought Monitor for the [Western States](#)
- ✓ Drought Impact Reporter for [New Mexico](#)
- ✓ [California Data Exchange Center](#) & [Flood Management](#)
- ✓ NIDIS [Upper Colorado River Regional Drought Earlier Warning System](#)

- **News Stories:**
- [Demand high for Montana hay in drought-bit Western states. Midwest](#) - Aug 11, **Montana**
- [Drought in southeast Colorado tightens supply of wheat seed](#)
- [Drought leads to tighter Colo. wheat seed supply](#)
- [Dry Brush and Winds Feed Blazes in California](#) - Aug 9, **California**
- [Drought takes long-term toll on state's fishing waters](#) - **New Mexico**
- [Top Vegas water official talking drought disaster](#) - Aug 8, **Las Vegas**

## U.S. Drought Monitor

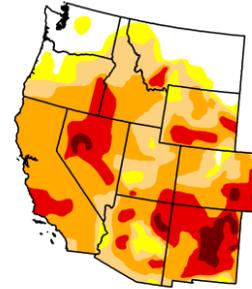
August 13, 2013  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

### West

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	13.31	86.69	77.53	56.74	20.35	3.09
Last Week (08/06/2013 map)	13.20	86.80	77.41	57.03	18.96	3.62
3 Months Ago (05/14/2013 map)	13.09	86.91	71.39	46.93	15.33	5.91
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	24.39	75.61	69.31	45.04	18.01	2.15
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	15.12	84.88	77.15	43.65	16.85	1.77
One Year Ago (08/07/2012 map)	18.40	81.60	68.62	49.94	16.67	0.50

**Intensity:**

- None
- 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 15, 2013  
Michael Brewer, National Climatic Data Center, NOAA

Note that there was a percent improvement in D4 conditions this past week due to the SW Monsoon and an increase in D3 due to deterioration in CA.

- [Arid Southwest Cities' Plea: Lose the Lawn](#)

## U.S. Drought Monitor

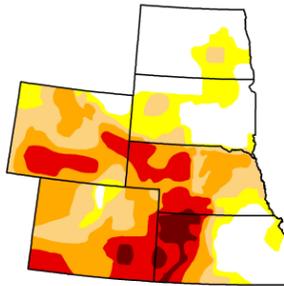
August 13, 2013  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

### High Plains

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	27.33	72.67	58.36	40.42	18.42	3.40
Last Week (08/06/2013 map)	23.95	76.05	60.77	42.80	19.25	5.74
3 Months Ago (05/14/2013 map)	7.52	92.48	80.56	65.20	29.25	7.88
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	1.54	98.46	93.01	86.20	60.25	26.99
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	98.91	83.80	61.28	24.35
One Year Ago (08/07/2012 map)	2.36	97.64	87.16	77.20	49.30	7.92

**Intensity:**

- None
- 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 15, 2013  
Michael Brewer, National Climatic Data Center, NOAA

Significant improvement in all categories this past week.

## Region with D-4 Exceptional Drought

- ✓ [Kansas Drought Update.](#)
- [Fishing lake in Ford County dries up](#)

## Region with D-4 Exceptional Drought

- ✓ **Texas Drought [Website](#).**
- ✓ [Texas Reservoirs.](#)
- [Drought creates precarious conditions at Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge](#) - Aug 8, **Texas**
- [TX agencies asking Texans to share how drought has affected their lives](#)
- [Energy And Water Are Running Out In Texas. But It's Not Too Late](#)

## U.S. Drought Monitor

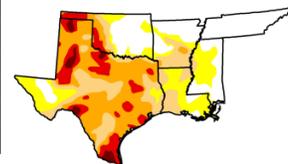
August 13, 2013  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

### South

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	26.87	73.13	55.76	36.73	12.10	1.96
Last Week (08/06/2013 map)	25.56	74.44	56.46	38.82	15.95	3.75
3 Months Ago (05/14/2013 map)	36.15	63.85	55.58	41.73	22.57	7.35
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	21.18	78.82	63.69	50.50	32.80	10.98
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	24.13	75.87	66.61	51.50	29.86	9.11
One Year Ago (08/07/2012 map)	21.49	78.51	67.54	48.51	27.75	8.05

**Intensity:**

- None
- 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.

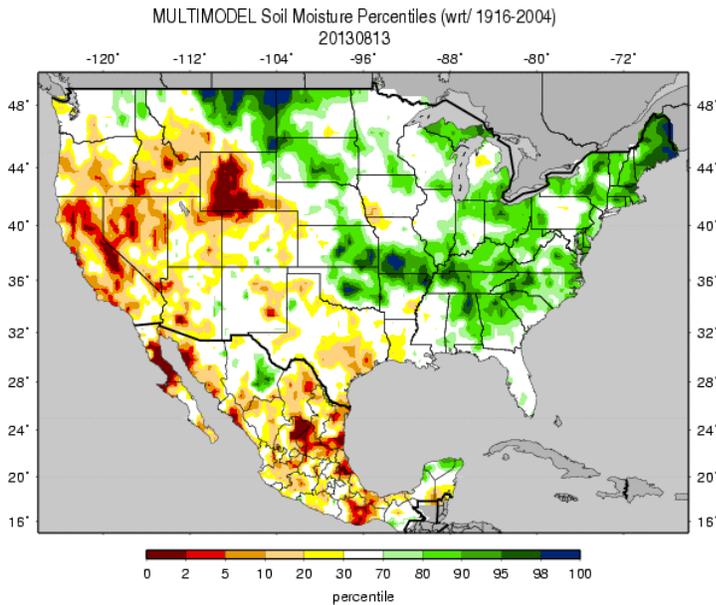
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

Released Thursday, August 15, 2013  
Michael Brewer, National Climatic Data Center, NOAA

Nice improvement in the higher D-categories during this past week.

# Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

## Soil Moisture

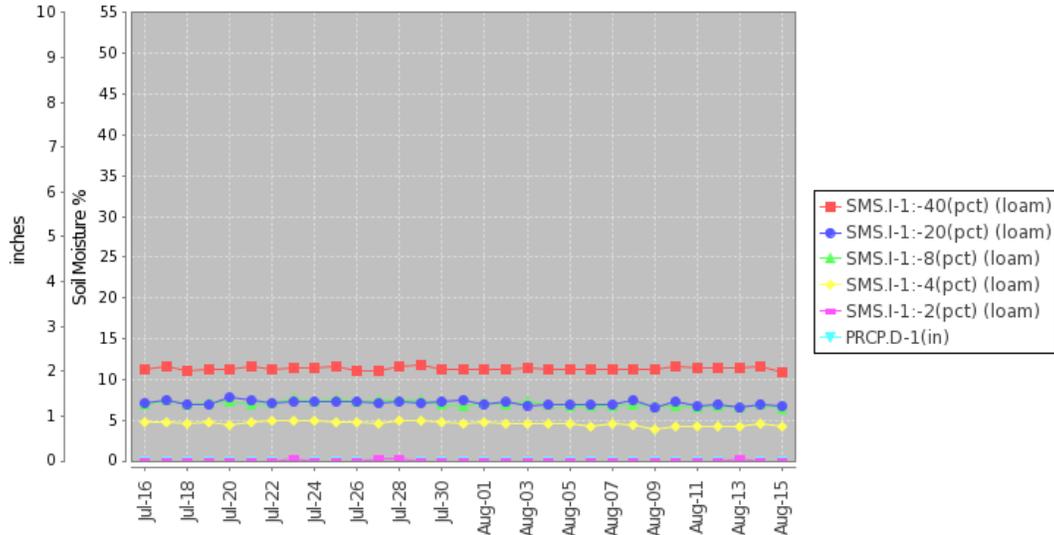


Soil moisture ranking in [percentile](#) as of August 13 shows considerable dryness over Wyoming, the western Great Basin, and northeastern California. Excess moisture is noted over northern Montana, southwest Arkansas, and over eastern Maine.

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 (2189) MONTH=2013-07-16 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision as of Thu Aug 15 08:01:47 PDT 2013



This NRCS resource shows a site over south-central California. Persistent dry conditions have resulted in unchanged low moisture content at all depths.

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](#).

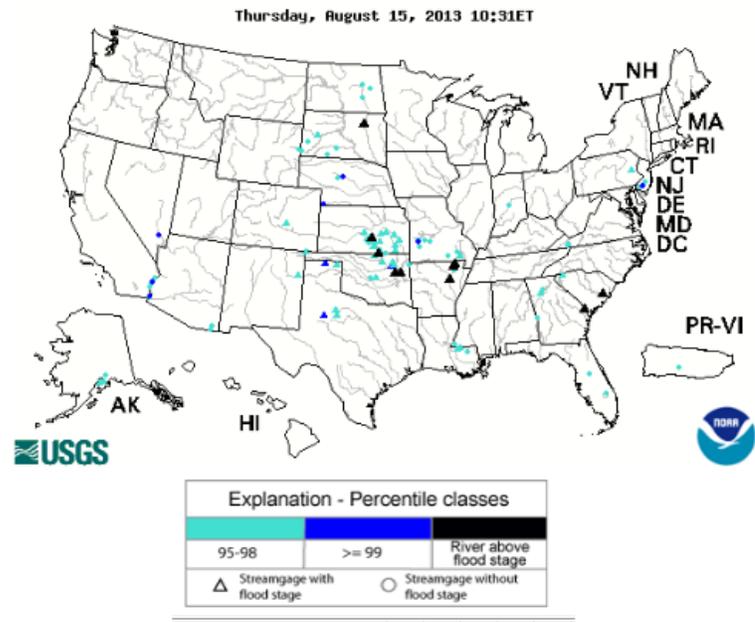
# Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

## U.S. Historical Streamflow

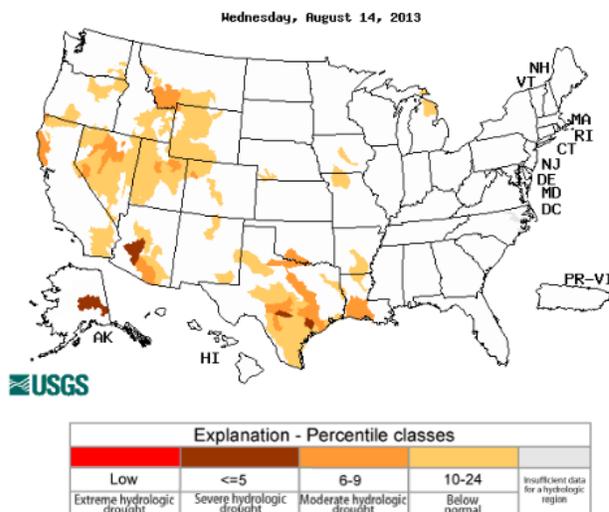
A recent heavy rain over eastern Kansas through northern Arkansas continues causing some flooding.

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

### Map of flood and high flow condition (United States)



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



So you think it's been rainy over the Southeast...

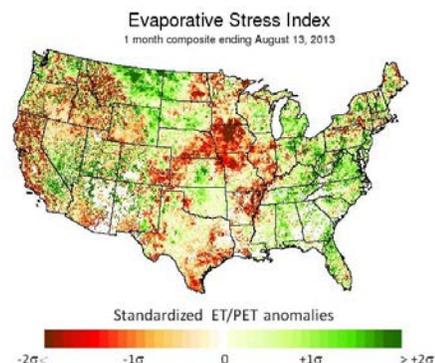
The final numbers are in, for the State of [Florida](#) as a whole this has been the wettest July on record since 1895. **Georgia** and **Alabama** were the 4th wettest.

For the three-month period of May-July, **Florida** was the second wettest on record along with **North Carolina**. **South Carolina** was the wettest ever while **Georgia** and **Alabama** were the 3rd wettest.

For the last 6 months or Feb. - July, **Georgia** and **South Carolina** were the wettest ever.

← Parts of Alaska, Arizona, and Texas are experiencing severe hydrological drought this week.

Slow improvement is seen over the Southwest due to the monsoon becoming apparent in this one-month composite map. Conditions over Iowa and surrounding areas continue to be quiet severe. Eastern Montana shows no stress, however much of the western half of the state shows considerable stress.



# Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

## Complete National Drought Summary

The following complete **Weather and Drought Summary** is provided by this week's NDMC Author: [Michael Brewer, National Climatic Data Center, NOAA](#)

### National Drought Summary -- August 13, 2013

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

"This US Drought Monitor week was dominated by a persistent weather system that dumped precipitation from eastern Colorado, through the Southern Plains and Tennessee Valley, and into the Mid-Atlantic and southern New England over multiple days. Widespread areas of two-plus inches were experienced with some locations receiving over five inches from the storm. While there were numerous reports of wind and hail from Colorado to Maryland, no tornadoes have been reported, according to NOAA's Storm Prediction Center.

**The East:** The eastern U.S. remains drought free again this week. With the exception of a small area of the South currently experiencing Moderate Drought (D1), there is no other drought east of the Mississippi River. Likewise, Abnormal Dryness (D0) is also absent east of the Mississippi River with the exception of select locations in the South and Midwest.

**The South and Southern Plains:** Beneficial rains fell across portions of northern Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas this week leading to improvements in drought conditions in western Kansas, western and central Oklahoma, and the east and Panhandle of Texas. Conversely, Moderate Drought (D1) and Abnormal Dryness (D0) expanded from eastern Texas into Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas.

**The Central and Northern Plains and Midwest:** Beneficial rain improved drought conditions in southern South Dakota as well as northern Nebraska. Conversely, Iowa experienced an expansion of Moderate Drought (D1) and Abnormal Dryness (D0) in the central and eastern part of the state.

**The West:** Now in its second year of below normal rainfall, and on the heels of experiencing its driest January to July on record, Extreme Drought (D3) conditions were introduced into southern California. Impacts are beginning to be felt in this, and surrounding areas, including dried up rivers, stressed vegetation, and possible water restrictions. Likewise, Extreme Drought (D3) expanded in southwest Idaho as the lack of precipitation mounts. Conversely, conditions improved slightly in eastern New Mexico and eastern Colorado this week. Areas of Exceptional Drought (D4) were eased in both states.

Wildfires, although not directly correlated to drought conditions, remain a problem in parts of the West. In particular, the National Interagency Fire Center reported nearly four dozen active, large wildfires on August 14, mostly in California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Specifically, in southwestern Idaho, the Pony Complex has charred more than 140,000 acres of timber, brush, and grass, while the Elk Fire has consumed nearly 100,000 acres of vegetation.

**Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico:** Rain from Tropical Storm Gil alleviated Abnormal Dryness (D0) along the north side of the big Island and Maui while drought intensified across Molokai with the entire island now experiencing Moderate Drought (D1). Likewise, Moderate Drought (D1) spread southward in Alaska. Puerto Rico remains drought free.

**Looking Ahead:** During the August 15-19, 2013 time period, there is an above-normal chance for

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

precipitation in the Southeast and in areas of the High Plains. Temperatures are expected to be above-normal in the West, mostly centered on the Rockies, and below-normal in the Southern Plains and into the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic.

For the ensuing 5 days (August 20-24, 2013), the odds favor above-normal temperatures throughout the entire West, across the northern tier of the country and into New England, as well as across southern Alaska. Normal to below-normal temperatures are favored from the Central Plains, into the South and the Southeast. Above normal-precipitation is likely across most of the East Coast, through the Southeast, and into the Southern Plains, as well as in southern Alaska. The Northern Plains, Northwest, and northern Alaska are all likely to see below-normal precipitation.”

### State Activities

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

### For More Information

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

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

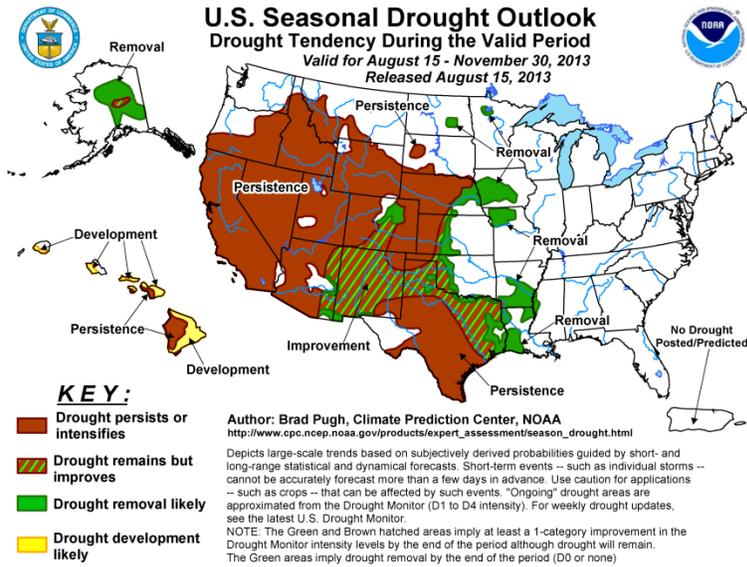
/s/

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

\*\*\*\*\*

# Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

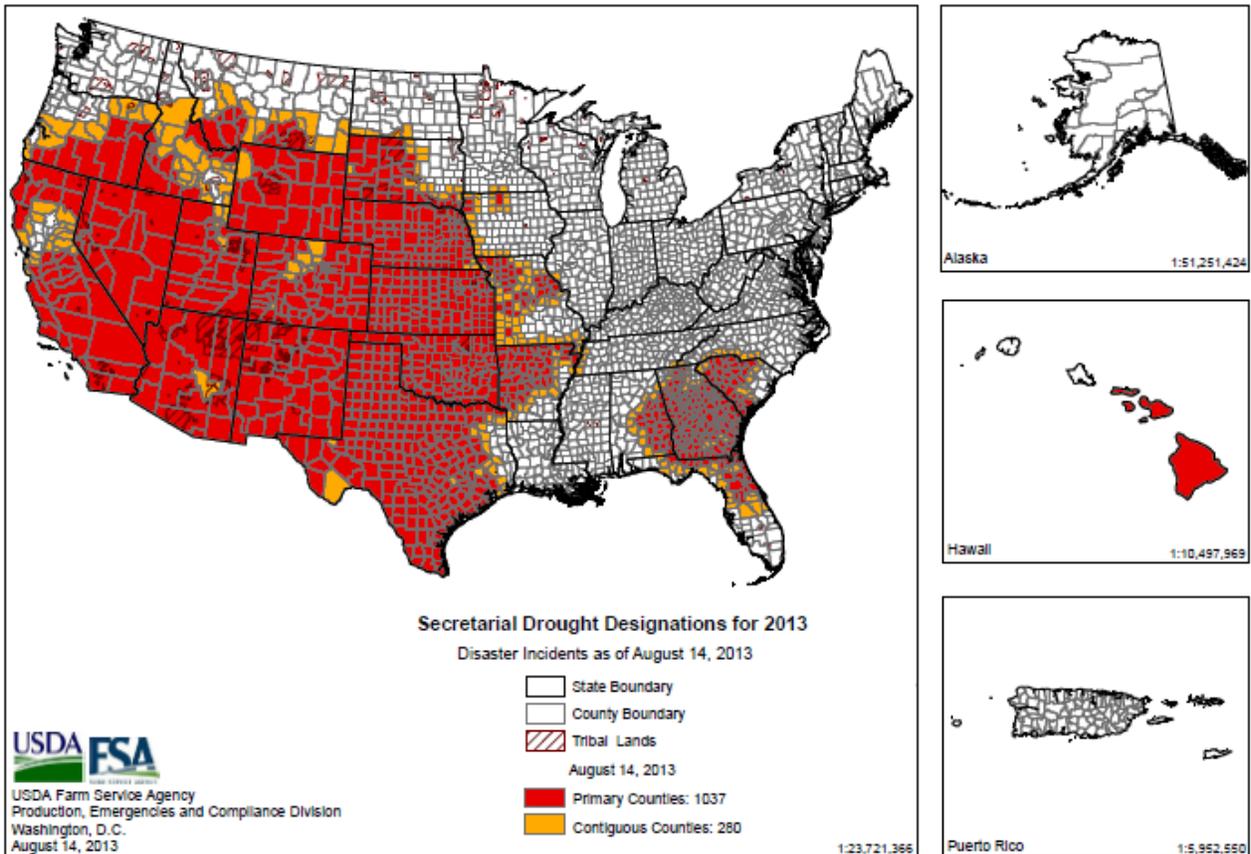
## [Drought Outlook](#) (Forecast through **November**)



U.S. [Monthly](#) Drought Outlook released August 15.

**Note:** Expect improvements over New Mexico and northern and eastern Texas by the end of November. Drought is expected to hold over much of the West while the end of drought is forecast over Iowa, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

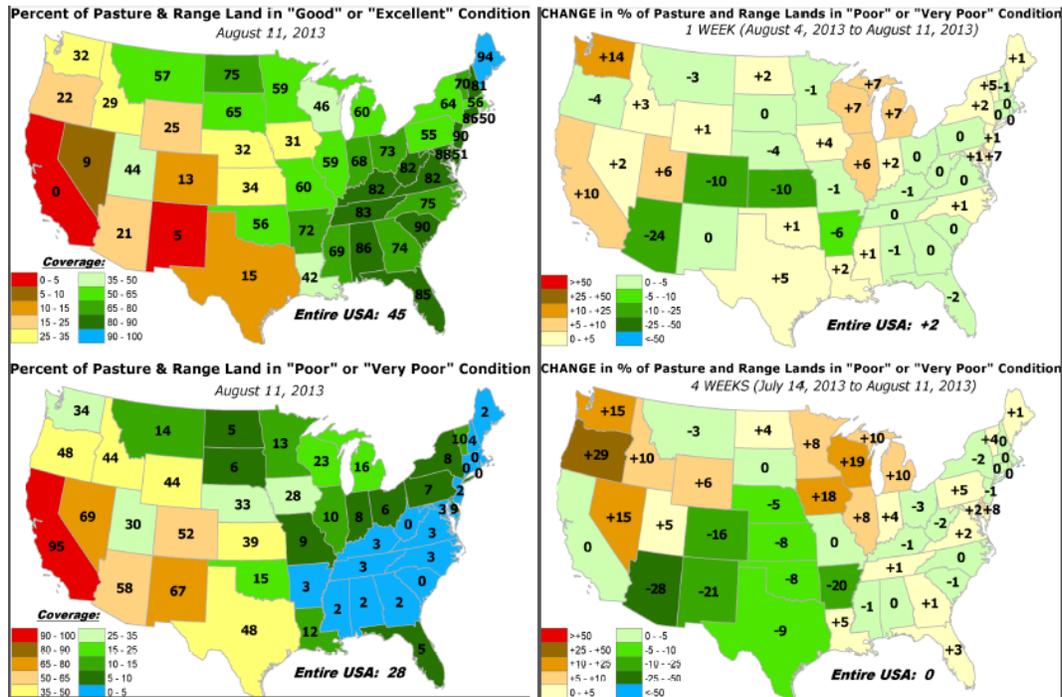
## 2013 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought



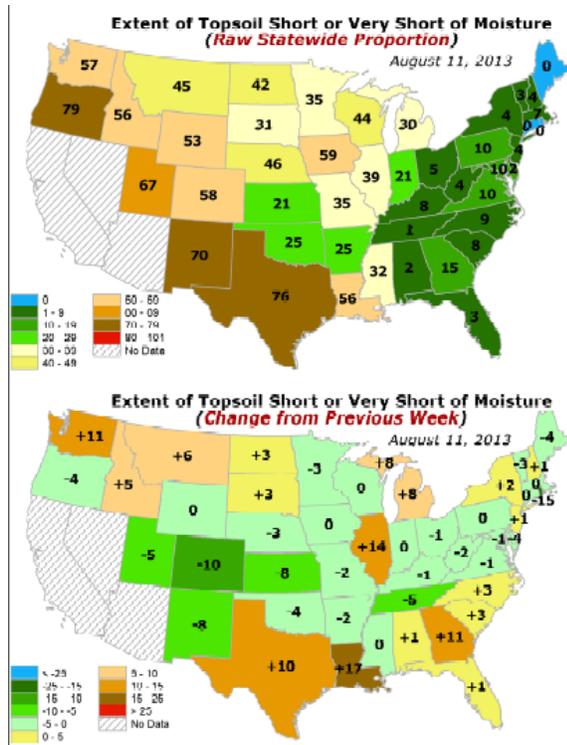
Refer to USDA Drought Assistance [website](#) and [National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service](#). Read about the new [USDA Regional Climate Hubs](#).

# Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

## Supplemental Drought Information



California and New Mexico take top honors as states with least amount of good or better pasture land (top left) and California leads the nation with the greatest poor conditions (bottom left). During the past week, Arizona had the greatest improvement and Washington had the greatest deterioration (upper right).



As of August 11, Texas, New Mexico, and Oregon had the least amount of good to excellent topsoils. Note the sharp divide between Texas and its neighboring states to the north.

←

Much of the eastern third of the country is experiencing ample moisture and soils have responded positively.

During the past week, Colorado experienced the greatest improvement and Louisiana the greatest deterioration.

←

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

### Supplemental AG-related Drought Information

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

"Highlights for the drought-monitoring period ending 7 am EDT on August 13 include:

- Recent heavy rain has been focused in a narrow west-to-east band across portions of the Plains (e.g. Kansas and Oklahoma) and the mid-South, including the Ozark Plateau. On either side of the heavy rain, mostly dry weather has persisted in the western Corn Belt and the western Gulf Coast region. Meanwhile, hot, dry weather across the Northwest has allowed short-term dryness (D0) and varying degrees of drought to inch closer to the Canadian border. Wildfires, although not directly correlated with drought, have flourished in the hot, dry regime, with approximately three dozen blazes actively burning in the Northwest. Two of the fires, the Pony and Elk complexes, have each charred more than 100,000 acres of timber, brush, and grass in southwestern Idaho.

- Overall U.S. drought coverage fell slightly (down 0.23 percentage point) to 45.26%. Drought coverage is more than twenty percentage points (20.19 points) below the peak of 65.45% in late-September 2012.

- Rain in some of the nation's driest areas, including the central and southern High Plains and the Southwest, has led to a sharp decrease in the coverage of exceptional drought (D4). On August 13, D4 covered just 2.03% of the continental U.S., down nearly three-quarters of a percentage point from a week ago to the lowest value since July 17, 2012.

- Resurgent drought in the western Corn Belt has left moderate drought (D1) covering 35% of Iowa and 15% of Missouri.

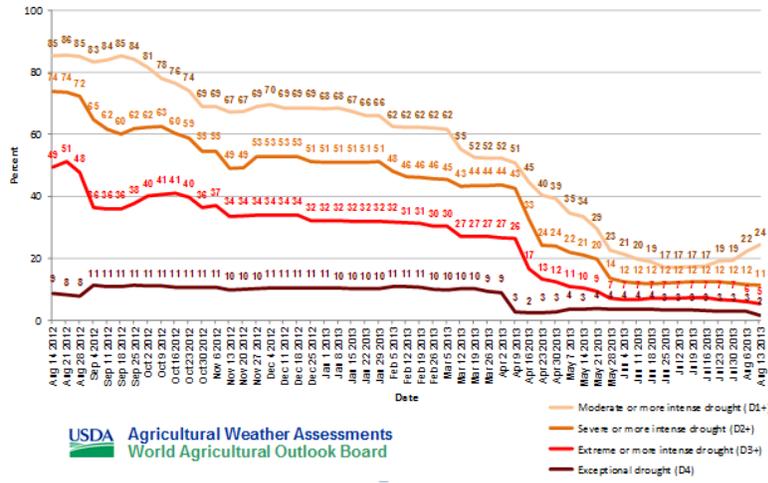
- The portion of the U.S. corn production area in drought has been edging upward in recent weeks, from 17 to 24% between July 9 and August 13. The increase has been largely due to the return of drought to parts of the western Corn Belt, including northern Missouri, eastern Nebraska, and Iowa. Soybeans in drought have also increased in the last five weeks, from 8 to 16%. Hay (33%) and cattle in drought (46%) were both down one percentage point from last week, on the strength of heavy rain in Kansas, Oklahoma, and the mid-South.

- Weather outlook: During the next several days, hot weather across the western half of the U.S. will contrast with near- to below-normal temperatures from the eastern Plains to the Atlantic Seaboard. By early next week, heat will expand across the upper Midwest. Meanwhile, 5-day precipitation totals could reach 2 to 5 inches across the lower Southeast. Most of the remainder of the country will receive little or no precipitation, although rainfall could locally reach 0.5 to 1.0 inch across the central and southern Plains, Four Corners States, and Pacific Northwest."

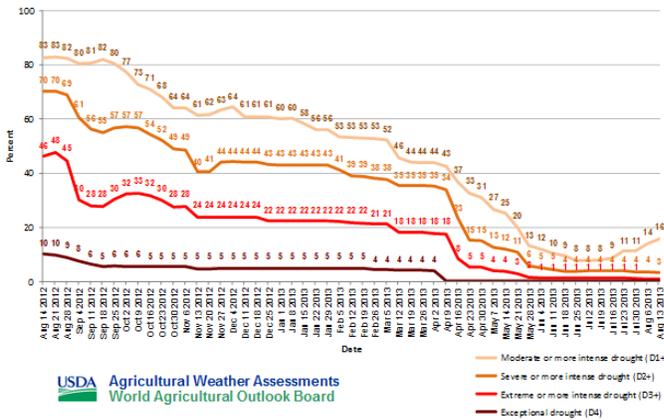
# Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Note: The following maps do not have direct hyperlinks.

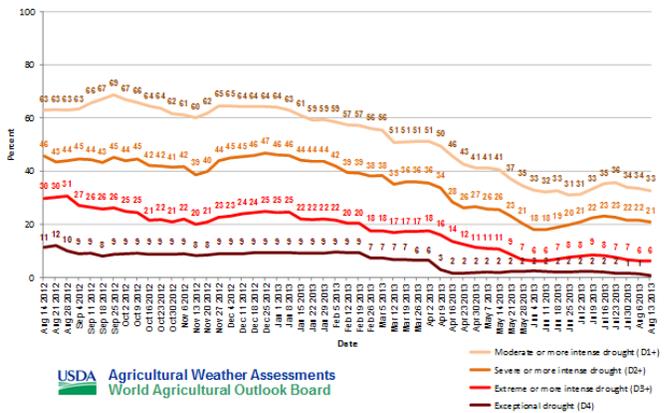
United States Corn Areas Located in Drought



United States Soybean Areas Located in Drought



United States Hay Areas Located in Drought

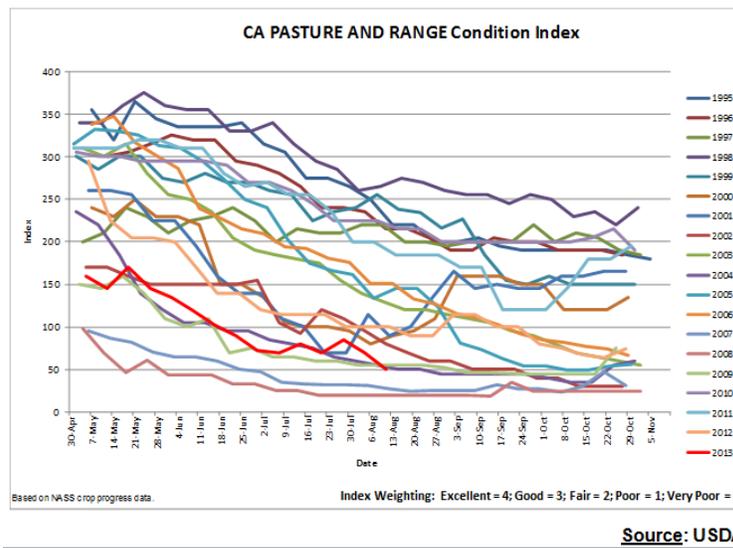


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The [Information Incident System](#) shows the most recent fires and their status across the U.S.

# Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

## California Slips into Extreme Drought



California's pasture/rangeland condition: The August 11 index (see chart above for method of calculation) is 50 on a scale of 0 to 400. This is based on 55% very poor; 40% poor; and 5% fair.

Other comparable condition numbers for this time of year are:

August 10, 2008 // 20  
August 12, 2007 // 27  
August 15, 2004 // 50  
August 9, 2009 // 55

The state's all-time record low index value is 19, established on September 14, 2008.

The period of record is 1995-2013, or 19 years.

Links to view the California USDM depiction for August 2004, 2007, 2008, and 2009 can be viewed at:  
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/archive/2009/drmon0811.gif>  
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/archive/2008/drmon0812.gif>  
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/archive/2007/drmon0814.gif>  
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/archive/2004/drmon0817.gif>

Only in August 2007 were we depicting any appreciable D3 in California, agricultural or otherwise – and that was only in the south.