

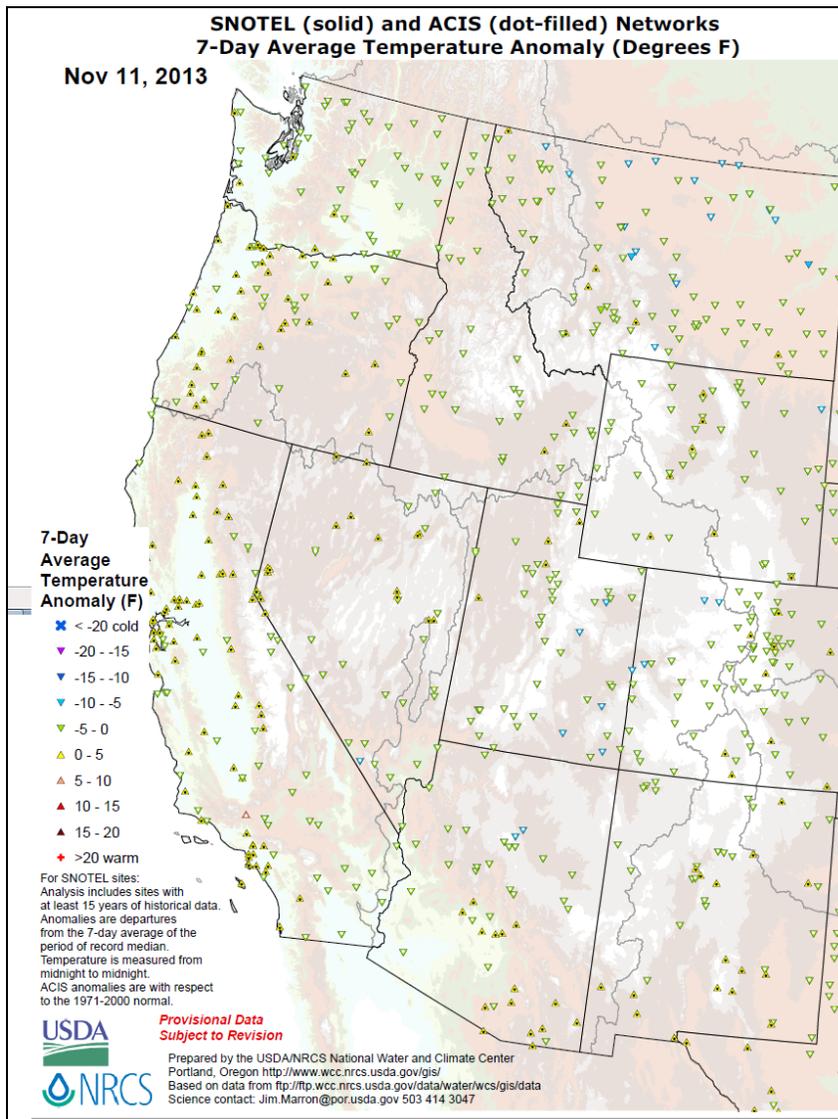


Natural Resources Conservation Service
 P.O. Box 2890
 Washington, D.C. 20013

Weekly Snowpack / Drought Monitor Update November 14, 2013

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Temperature



SNOTEL and ACIS [7-day temperature anomaly](#) map shows temperatures below normal across much of the West through November 11.

Click map to see latest available update.

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

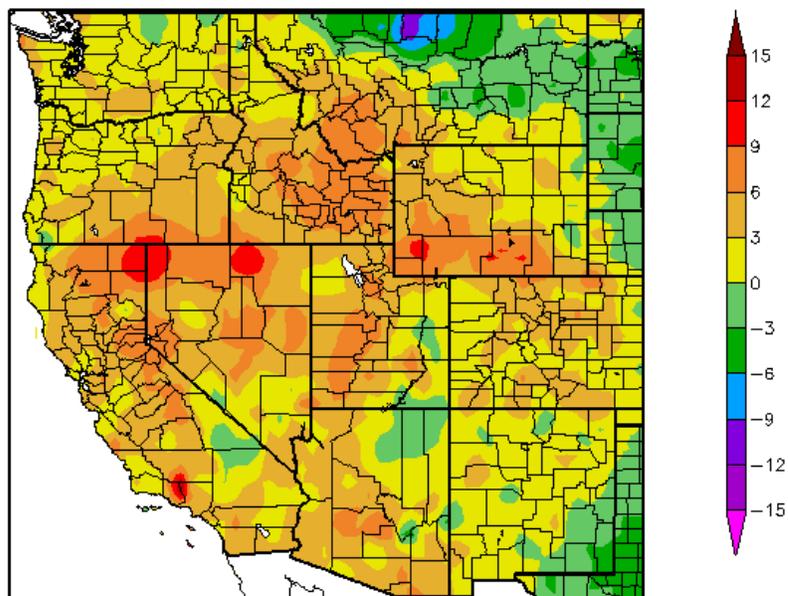
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Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

[ACIS](#) 7-day average temperature anomalies, ending November 13, show the greatest positive temperature departures scattered across northern Nevada, southwest Wyoming, and southern California (>9°F). The greatest negative departures occurred over north-central Montana (>-9°F).

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F) 11/7/2013 - 11/13/2013



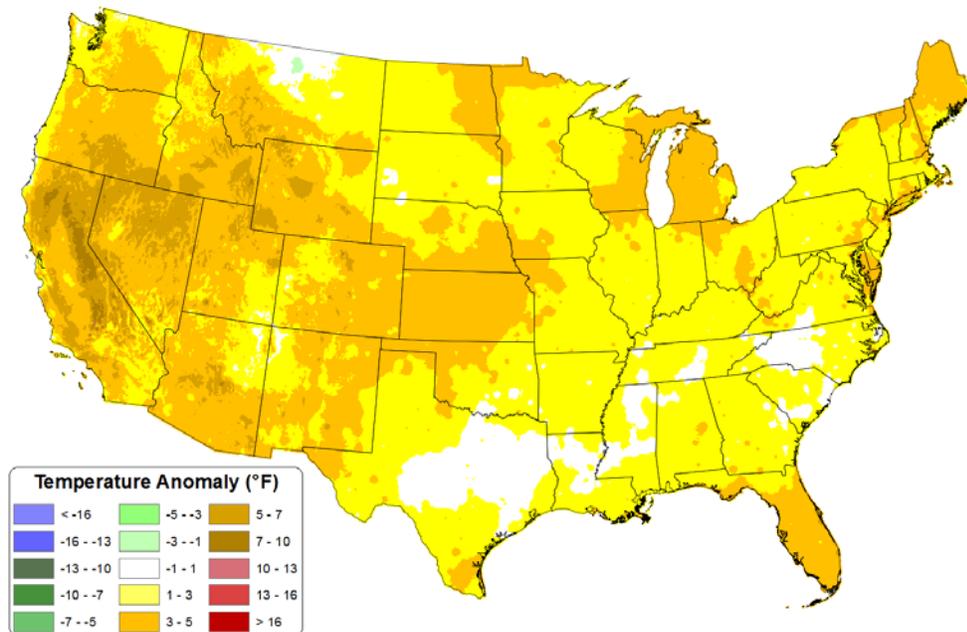
Generated 11/14/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: 01 November 2013 - 12 November 2013

Period ending 7 AM EST 12 Nov 2013
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 13 Nov 2013)

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.



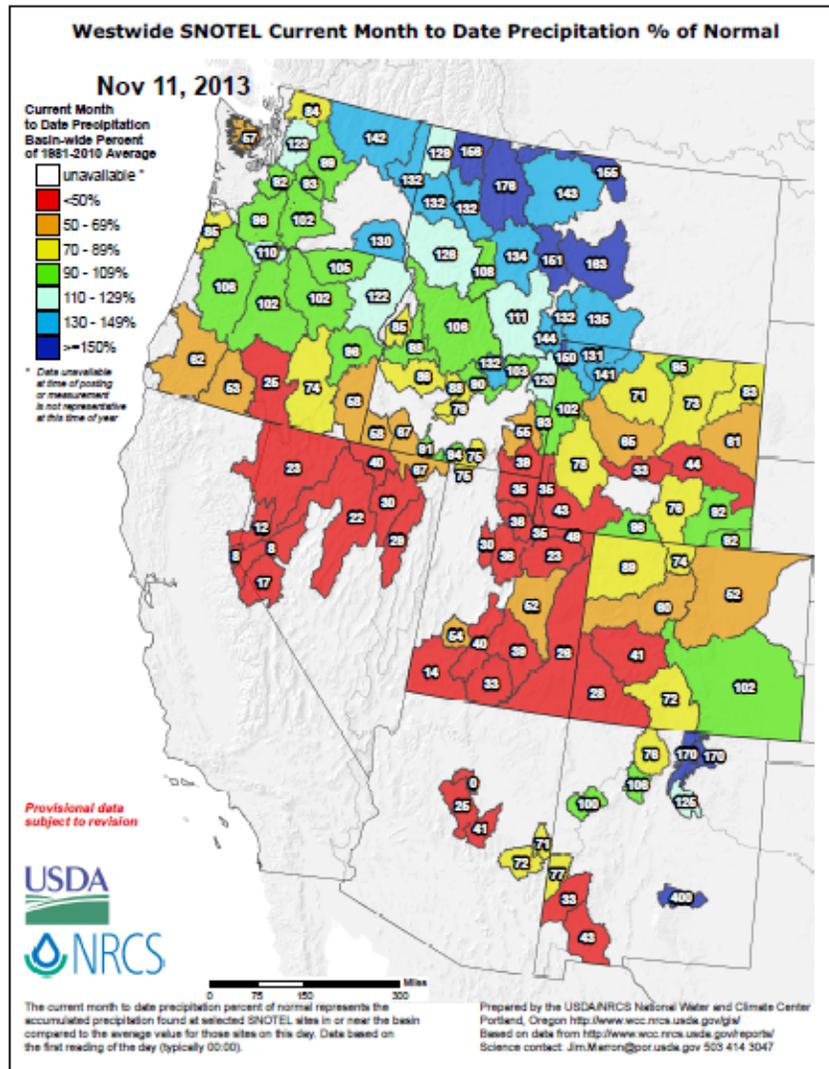
Copyright (c) 2013, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

Thus far, November has been a very warm month across the nation with departures from the long-term average exceeding 5°F over a large region of the West.

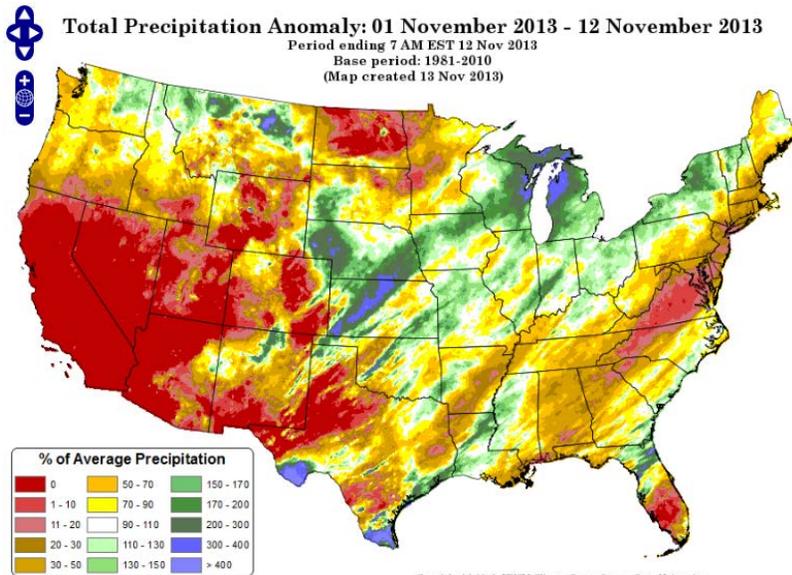
Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Precipitation

SNOTEL [month to date](#) precipitation (through November 11), shows scattered abundant moisture across the northern tier states of the West, but many basins in the interior states have not received much in the way of precipitation.



Click image to enlarge and get latest available update



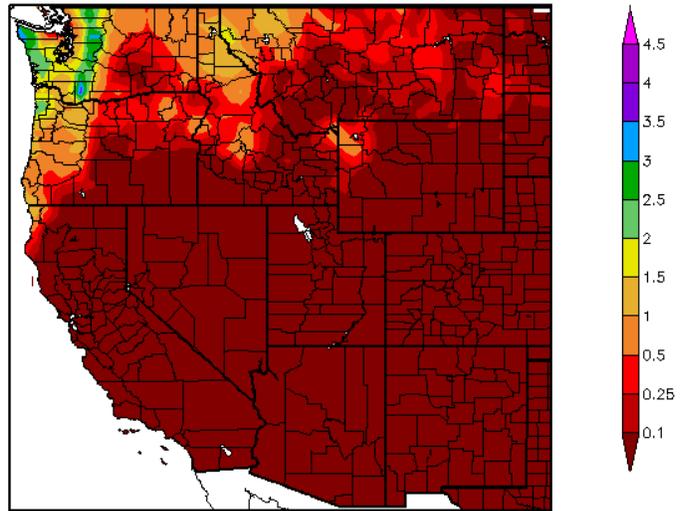
Thus far, November [precipitation](#) has been largely absent over California, the Great Basin, the northern high plains, and Virginia. Moisture has occurred in abundance over parts of western Nebraska, central Kansas, southern Florida, the northern Great Lakes region, and parts of southern Texas.

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

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

[ACIS 7-day](#) average precipitation amounts for the period ending November 13 shows heavier precipitation over the northern Cascades. Elsewhere, scattered precipitation totaling up to 1.5 inches fell across parts of the northern Rockies. Little, if any, precipitation fell over the remainder of the West.

Precipitation (in)
11/7/2013 - 11/13/2013

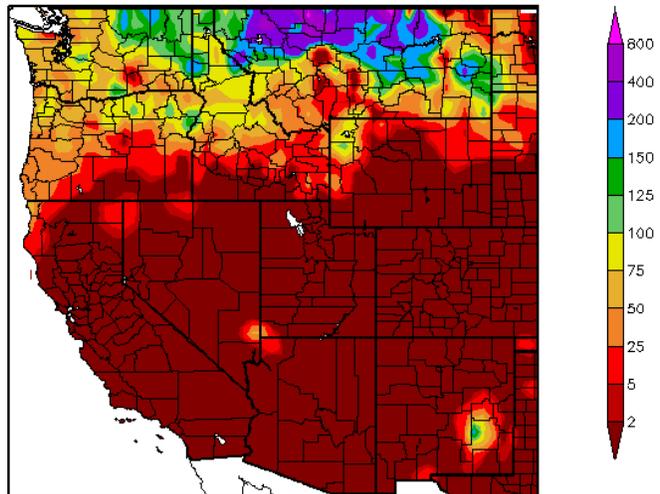


Generated 11/14/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

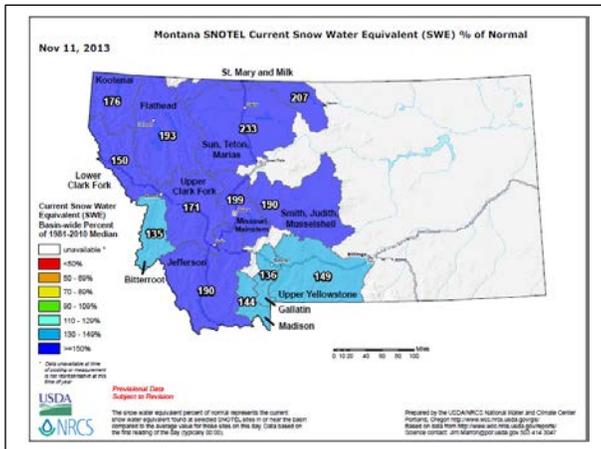
This [map](#) shows that the bulk of precipitation fell over Montana in terms of percent of normal. →

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
11/7/2013 - 11/13/2013



With cooler temperatures over Montana this past week, snowfall accumulation was enhanced, as noted below.

Click map to enlarge



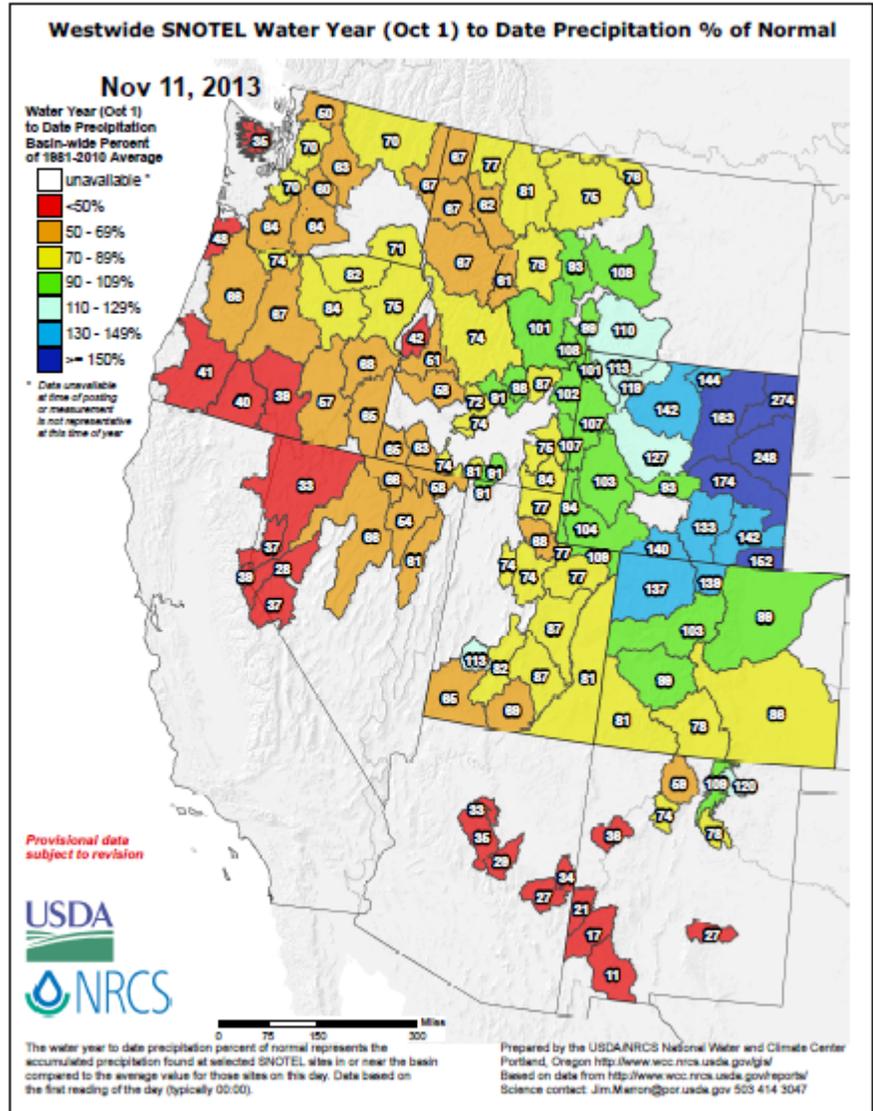
11/14/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

For the [2014 Water Year](#) that began on October 1, 2013, the ENSO pattern thus far looks neutral (i.e., north and south regions of the West are dry while the eastern slope of the Rockies are somewhat wetter).

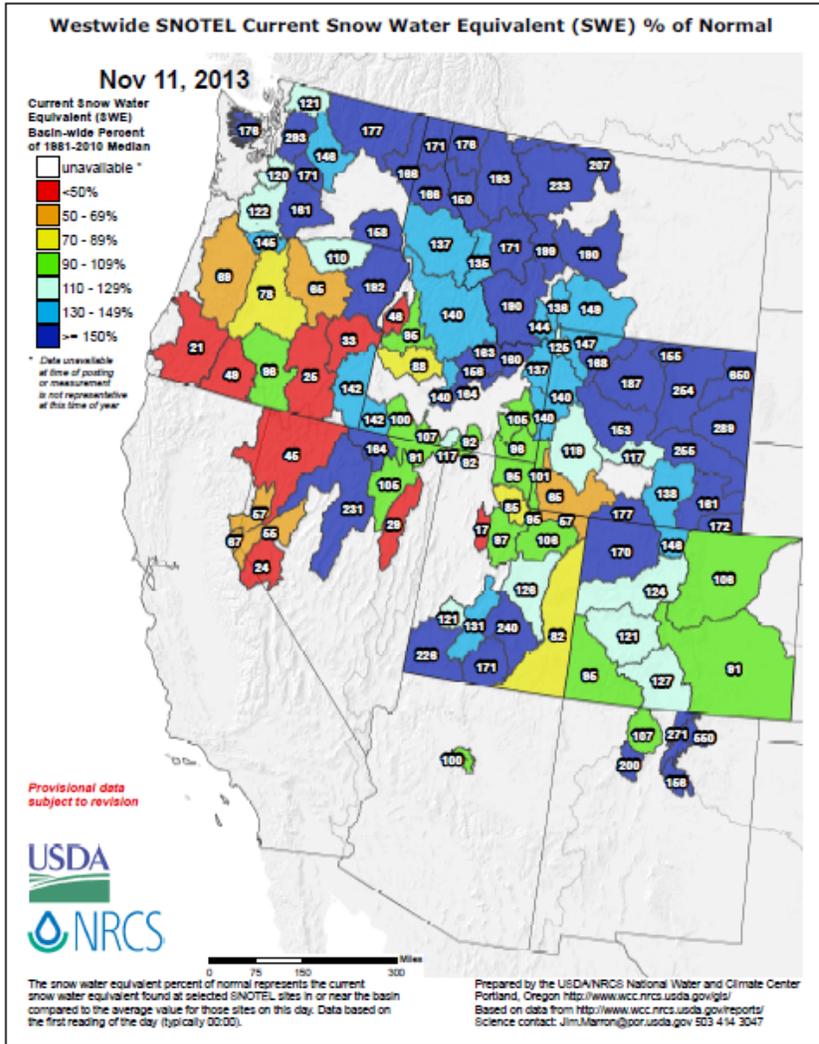
Long range weather forecasts are suggesting mixed signals; therefore this winter is expected to see a lot of variability and extreme weather.



Click image for latest available update

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Snow

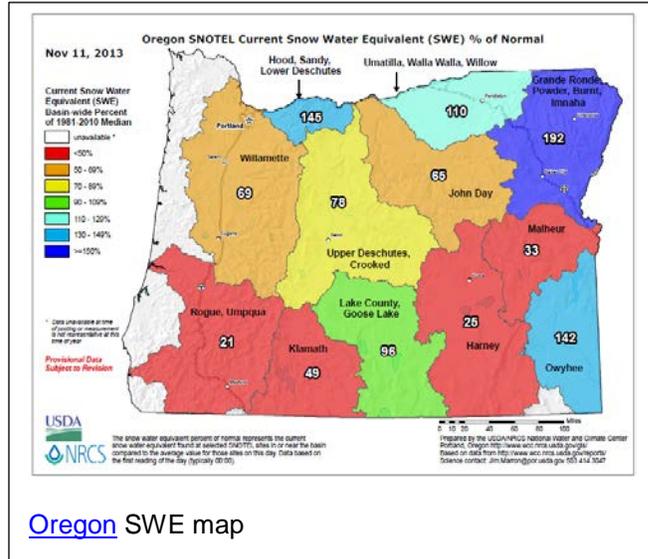


[Snow Water Equivalent](#) (SWE) values are off to a good start over much of the western states; especially over the Washington Cascades, Montana, much of Wyoming, southern Utah, northern Idaho, and western Colorado-northern New Mexico. The only notable exceptions include much of Oregon, western Nevada, and from southwestern Wyoming to eastern Utah. However, early season snows are highly variable in the timing of their appearance across the West. Persistent periods of dry weather can result in SWE percent of normal values dropping by more than three percent each day during this time of year.

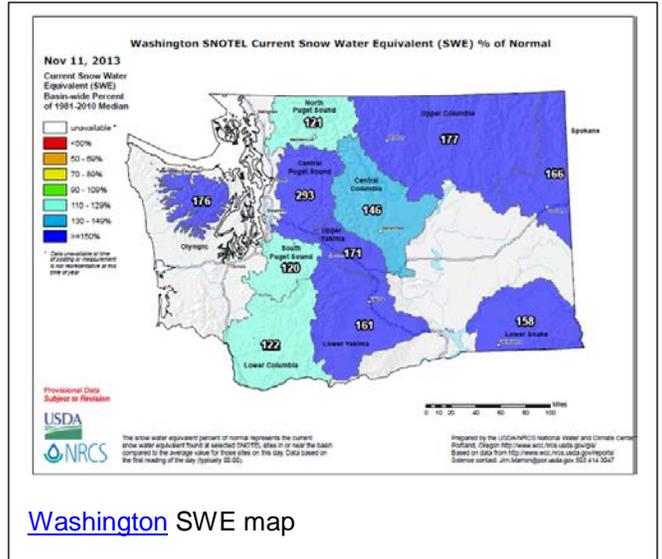
By the beginning of December, a better indication of how the snow accumulation season will materialize.

The all-important April 1 SWE date will best determine the water supply forecasts issued by this [Center](#).

See latest [National Snow Analysis](#).



[Oregon](#) SWE map



[Washington](#) SWE map

Each week, this report will highlight a different pair of states that reflect the greatest week-to-week change in SWE.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

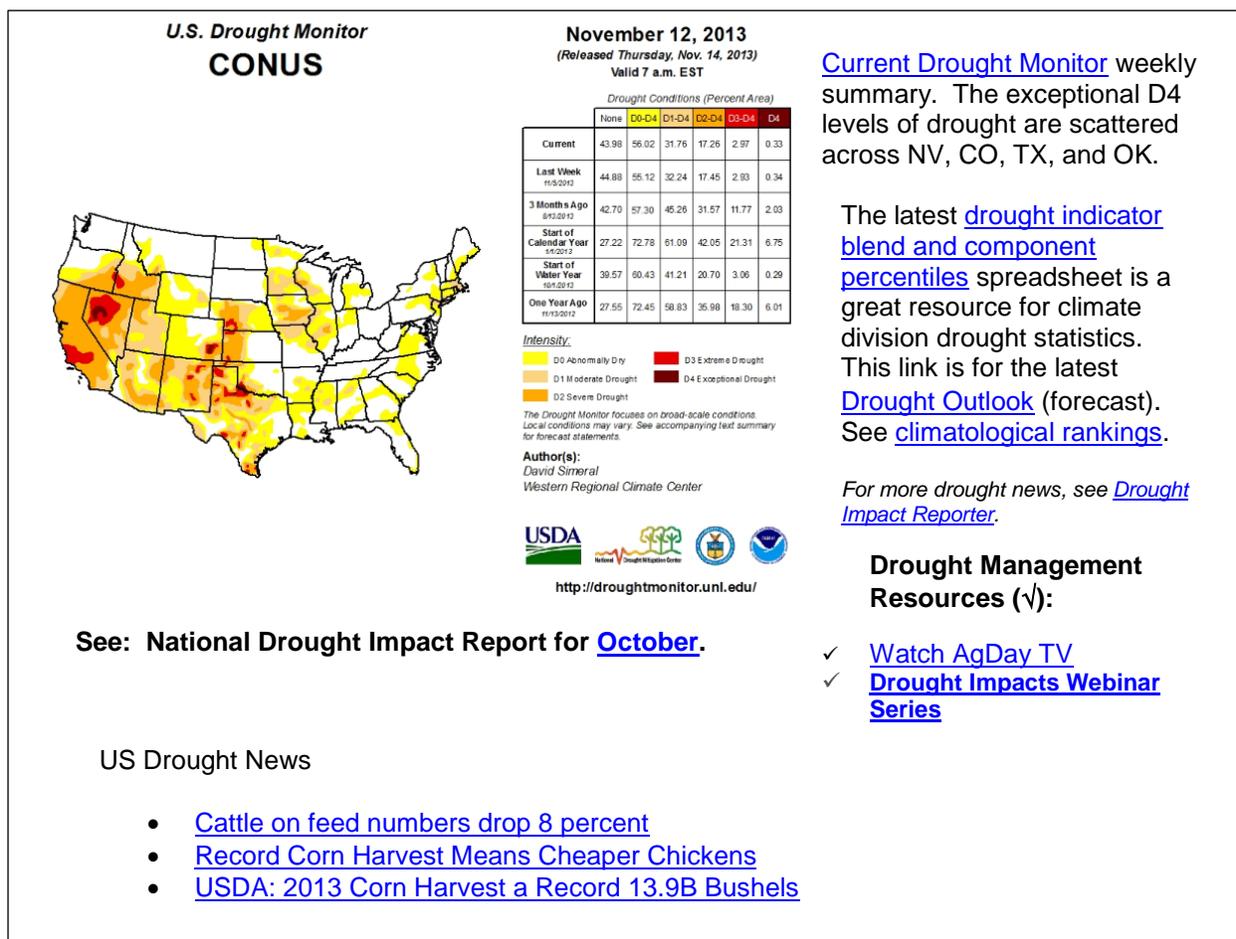
Weather and Drought Summary

National Drought Summary – November 12, 2013

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

Important update: If you are currently displaying any of the U.S. Drought Monitor maps on your website, there is a new way of doing so. Visit the Map Service page for more information and also to obtain the appropriate HTML code. The old method will continue to work until Monday, December 2nd but will be discontinued beyond that point.

USDM Map Services: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/MapsandDataServices/MapService.aspx>



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 below, click [here](#).

The West: During the past week, most of the active weather in the West occurred across the Pacific Northwest where several storm systems made landfall off the Pacific Ocean delivering rain to the coastal lowlands of Oregon and Washington and snow showers to higher elevations of the northern Cascades as well as portions of northern Idaho, north-central Montana, and northwestern Wyoming. The rest of the West was unseasonably warm and dry during the past week. Through the weekend, daily high temperature records were broken or tied at South Lake Tahoe, California (62°F), Stanley, Idaho (55°F), and Klamath Falls, Oregon (63°F). According to the Natural Resource Conservation Service SNOTEL network, above-average precipitation has been observed across the river basins of south-central Montana, Wyoming, northern Colorado, and north-central New Mexico while the Sierras, southern Cascades, and most of the Intermountain West have been experiencing below-normal

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

precipitation since the beginning of the Water Year, October 1st. For the past week, conditions on the map remained unchanged around the West.

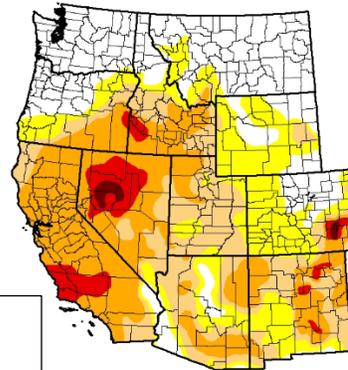
During the past week, SNOTEL [Temperatures](#) were generally within $\pm 5^\circ\text{F}$ of normal. SNOTEL [Snow](#) depths increased 4 to 12 inches over the Montana Rockies, ranges in Idaho, and the Cascades, 1 to 3 inches over the Colorado Rockies, and decreased a few inches over most of the remaining mountains. For the 2014 Water Year SNOTEL [Precipitation](#) surpluses extend from south Montana to northern Colorado. Deficits exist generally elsewhere.

- ✓ 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](#)
- ✓ [Intermountain West Climate Dashboard](#)
- ✓ [Great Basin Dashboard](#)

Western Drought News:

- [California on pace for driest year](#)
- [Full reservoirs buoy optimism of farmers along Pecos-NM](#)
- [Hawaii's only alpine lake shrinking, almost gone](#) - HI
- [Drought Strains Deer, Upland Bird Populations](#) - ID
- [Valley Water Drying Up](#)-CA

U.S. Drought Monitor West



November 12, 2013
(Released Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	28.07	71.93	51.83	32.22	5.34	0.83
Last Week 11/05/13	28.07	71.93	51.83	32.22	5.34	0.83
3 Months Ago 08/10/13	13.31	86.69	77.53	56.74	20.35	3.09
Start of Calendar Year 01/01/13	24.39	75.61	69.31	45.04	18.01	2.15
Start of Water Year 10/01/13	25.25	74.75	58.95	34.18	5.57	0.83
One Year Ago 11/13/12	25.77	73.23	52.65	21.86	8.98	0.14

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

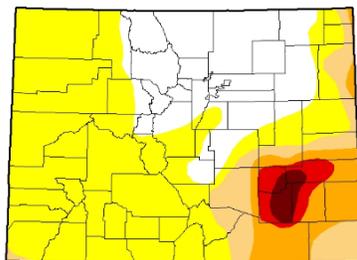
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center

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

Note that there was no significant change this week.

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado



November 12, 2013
(Released Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	26.04	73.96	21.01	12.01	4.01	1.47
Last Week 11/05/13	26.04	73.96	21.04	12.01	4.01	1.47
3 Months Ago 08/10/13	1.53	98.47	83.82	68.72	28.33	3.04
Start of Calendar Year 01/01/13	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.06	53.47	13.48
Start of Water Year 10/01/13	24.81	75.09	37.88	12.01	4.01	1.47
One Year Ago 11/13/12	0.00	100.00	100.00	91.52	48.56	12.50

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:
David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center

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

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

No changes have occurred during the past week.

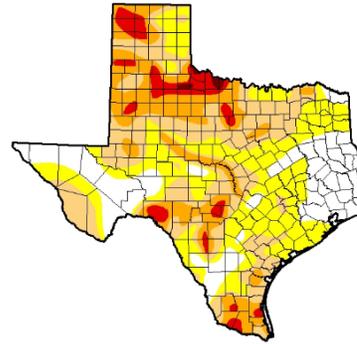
Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

- ✓ [Texas Drought Website](#).
- ✓ [Texas Reservoirs](#).

- [Water proposal gets a big OK](#)
- [LCRA Proposes Emergency Drought Measures](#)
- [Valley Farmers File Insurance Claims](#)
- [Record Low Levels](#)
- [Lake Texoma in drought management mode](#)
- [Floods end agricultural drought in Austin, don't help Lake Travis](#)
- [Day of prayer gives thanks for N.M., Texas rain](#)

U.S. Drought Monitor Texas



November 12, 2013
(Released Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4	
Current	20.35	79.05	50.05	23.66	0.25	0.43	
Last Week 11/05/13	20.07	79.93	50.49	23.61	5.43	0.49	
3 Months Ago 08/12/13	2.82	97.18	87.90	65.02	20.84	3.94	
Start of Calendar Year 01/01/13	3.04	96.96	87.00	65.39	35.03	11.96	
Start of Water Year 09/01/12	6.82	93.30	70.94	26.08	4.01	0.12	
One Year Ago 11/12/12	10.54	89.46	69.59	36.99	19.92	6.12	

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: David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center

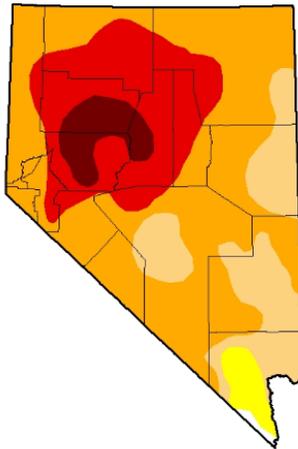


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Slight deterioration in D3 to D4 has occurred during the past week.

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor Nevada



November 12, 2013
(Released Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4	
Current	0.38	99.61	96.61	79.11	28.55	5.37	
Last Week 11/05/13	0.38	99.61	96.61	79.11	28.55	5.37	
3 Months Ago 08/12/13	0.00	100.00	100.00	90.11	42.65	5.37	
Start of Calendar Year 01/01/13	0.00	100.00	94.13	62.22	16.46	0.00	
Start of Water Year 09/01/12	0.38	99.61	96.79	79.11	28.55	5.37	
One Year Ago 11/12/12	0.00	100.00	94.26	55.49	27.37	0.00	

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: David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center

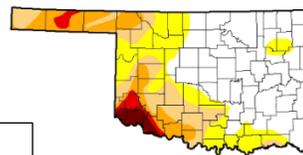


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

No changes have occurred during the past week.

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma



November 12, 2013
(Released Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4	
Current	50.24	49.75	29.89	15.43	4.48	2.08	
Last Week 11/05/13	47.85	52.15	30.50	14.58	4.48	2.08	
3 Months Ago 08/12/13	48.40	50.80	32.98	22.82	12.57	0.19	
Start of Calendar Year 01/01/13	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	94.89	37.06	
Start of Water Year 09/01/12	21.74	78.26	43.05	17.62	4.42	1.46	
One Year Ago 11/12/12	0.00	100.00	100.00	86.53	71.70	31.93	

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: David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center



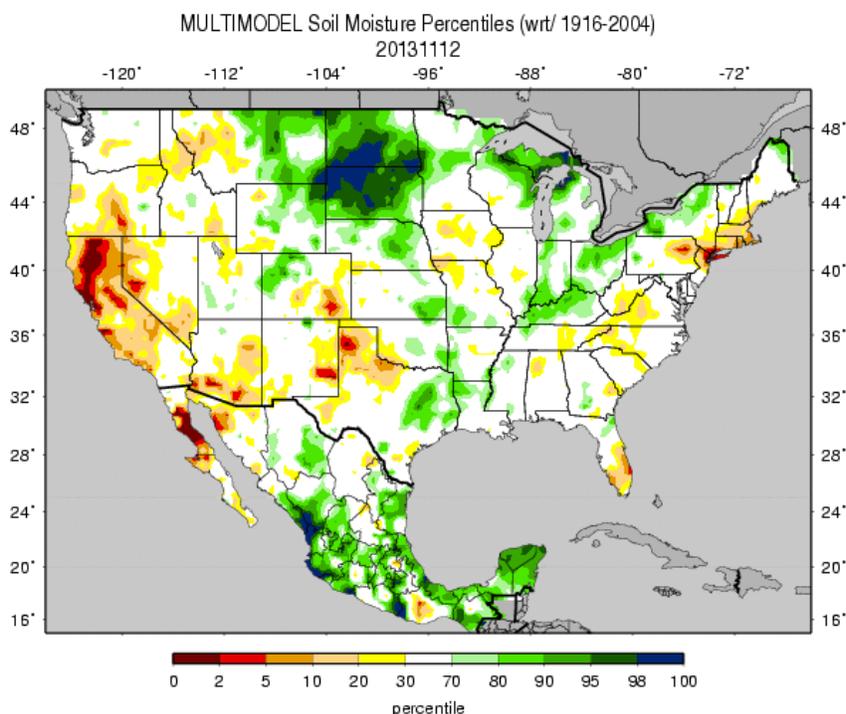
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Note no changes occurred this past week.

- [Even the best farmers thwarted by drought](#)
- [Duncan explores water supply options](#)
- [Canton Businesses on the Brink Months After Oklahoma City Water Withdrawal](#)

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Soil Moisture



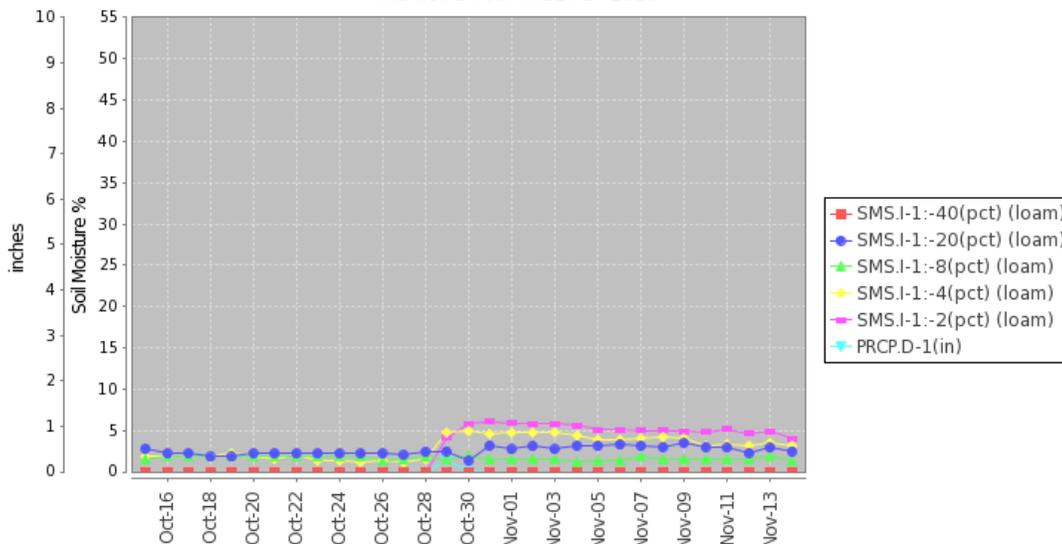
Soil moisture ranking in [percentile](#) as of November 12 shows considerable moisture over the northern Great Plains. Excessive dryness is noted over the panhandle of Texas, northern California, and the New York City area.

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 Health-unlock your farm's potential](#)

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

Station (2192) MONTH=2013-10-15 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision
Thu Nov 14 08:44:12 PST 2013



This NRCS resource shows a site over northern California. Soil conditions are very dry from 2 to 40 inch 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

Complete National Drought Summary

The following complete **Weather and Drought Summary** is provided by this week's NDMC Author: David Simeral, from the Western Region Climate Center.

Summary: This U.S. Drought Monitor week saw some improvements across portions of the South and Midwest, while continued short-term precipitation deficits led to deterioration of conditions in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast. During the past week, most of the significant precipitation accumulations (greater than two inches) generally were restricted to drought-free areas of the Pacific Northwest and Upper Midwest. In the Pacific Northwest, the passing of several Pacific storm systems brought rains to the coastal lowlands and snow showers across the higher elevations of the Cascades and Northern Rockies, while the rest of the West remained dry. In the Midwest, some lesser precipitation accumulations and colder temperatures were observed across the region including lake-effect snow showers downwind of the Great Lakes. In the Northeast, light showers and lake-effect snow flurries fell across western New York, the Adirondacks, and northern Vermont. Across the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast, conditions during the past week were generally dry.

Mid-Atlantic The Mid-Atlantic was generally dry during the last week. Short-term precipitation deficits during the last 60 days and low streamflows led to expansion of areas of Abnormally Dry (D0) in the Blue Ridge Mountains and Valley and Ridge region of Virginia, extending across the border into the eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. In northern New Jersey and northeastern Pennsylvania, well below normal streamflows and short-term precipitation deficits (four-to-six inches) during the past 60 days led to the introduction of Moderate Drought (D1) into the region as well as expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) into central New Jersey. Temperatures were below normal during the past seven days.

Midwest Parts of the Midwest received light rains and snow showers during the past week. Precipitation accumulations of about an inch and a half were seen across northwestern Iowa and central and northern Wisconsin while some greater accumulations (two and a half inches - liquid) were observed in the Upper Peninsula and northern Michigan downwind of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. Lake-effect snowfall accumulations during the past week in the Upper Peninsula ranged from three-to-six inches according to the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Marquette, Michigan. One-category improvements were made across the northern half of Iowa, central and northern Illinois, and the southern half of Wisconsin as short-term (30-60 days) precipitation accumulations improved soil moisture conditions; and area streamflow conditions improved with exception of a small area of Severe Drought (D2) in central Illinois where stream flows were well below normal. Overall, temperatures throughout the region were below normal as cold Arctic air pushed into the region bringing unseasonably cold temperatures to northern Iowa, Minnesota, and northern Wisconsin.

South During the past week, some modest precipitation fell (one-to-two inches) across portions of south Texas, the Hill Country, and along the Red River leading to one-category improvements. In south Texas, a small area of Exceptional Drought (D4) was removed; and improvements were made in areas of Extreme Drought (D3), Severe Drought (D2), and Moderate Drought (D1) in response to shower activity during the past week. In the Panhandle, continued dry conditions led to expansion of areas of Extreme Drought (D3), Severe Drought (D2), and Moderate Drought (D1). The rest of the region remained unchanged for the week. Temperatures were generally below normal across the region during the past week.

Southeast The Southeast was generally dry during the past week with the exception of some light shower activity in South Florida. As with much of the Eastern tier, precipitation accumulations during the past 60 days were below normal leading to introduction of Abnormally Dry (D0) into central Georgia and expansion of Moderate Drought (D1) in Alabama. Temperatures across the region were below normal with the exception of Florida which experienced above normal temperatures during the past week.

The Northeast The Northeast saw some deterioration in conditions as short-term precipitation deficits during the past 60 days and below-normal streamflows led to slight expansion of Moderate Drought (D1) into central Massachusetts and southeastern New York as well as the expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) in Connecticut, Maine, and New Hampshire. According to the National Climatic Data Center,

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Massachusetts and Rhode Island had their fourth driest Octobers on record. Temperatures throughout the region were generally below normal during the past seven days.

[The Plains](#) The Plains were generally dry during the past week with the exception of about an inch of precipitation in southeastern Nebraska and southeastern Kansas. In Oklahoma, light rainfall (one-to-two inches) led to minor improvements in areas of Moderate Drought (D1) and Abnormally Dry (D0) in south-central and western regions while conditions deteriorated in north-central Oklahoma as continued dryness degraded soil moisture conditions leading to the slight expansion of areas of Severe Drought (D2) and Moderate Drought (D1). During the past week, temperatures were below normal, especially in the northern tier.

[Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico](#) The Hawaiian Islands saw some shower activity on Maui where a daily maximum precipitation record was set at Kahului (3.52"). In Alaska, a powerful storm affected much of western Alaska bringing strong winds, coastal flooding, and heavy precipitation to the region while the Interior received freezing rain and snow. For the month of October, much of Alaska experienced one of the warmest Octobers on record. Anchorage had its warmest October since records began in 1916. Average temperatures in Anchorage were 8.2 degrees above normal for the month. This trend continued through the weekend as daily maximum temperature records were broken in Barrow (35°F) and Cold Bay (55°F). Conditions on the map remained status quo for the week.

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 Reports from 2007 are available online. Reports from 2001-2006 are available on request.

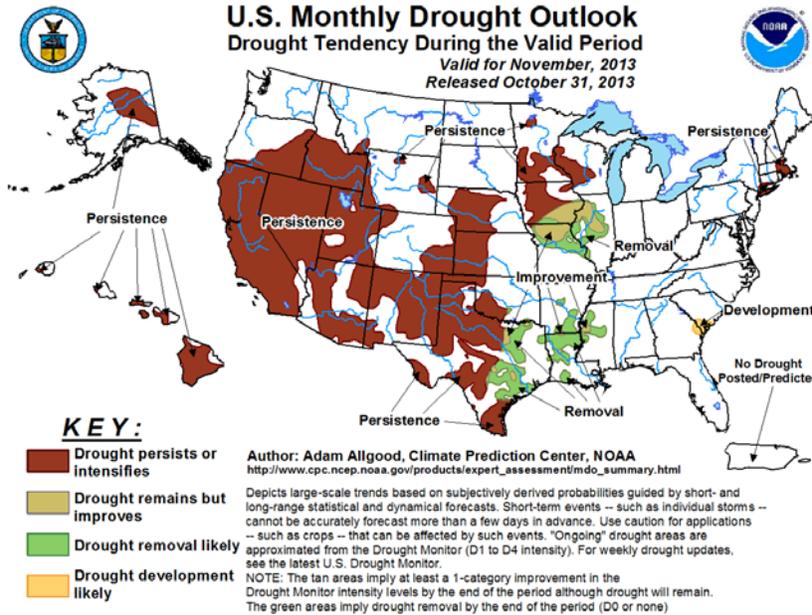
This report uses data and products provided by the Interagency Drought Monitor Consortium members and the National Interagency Fire Center.

/s/

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

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

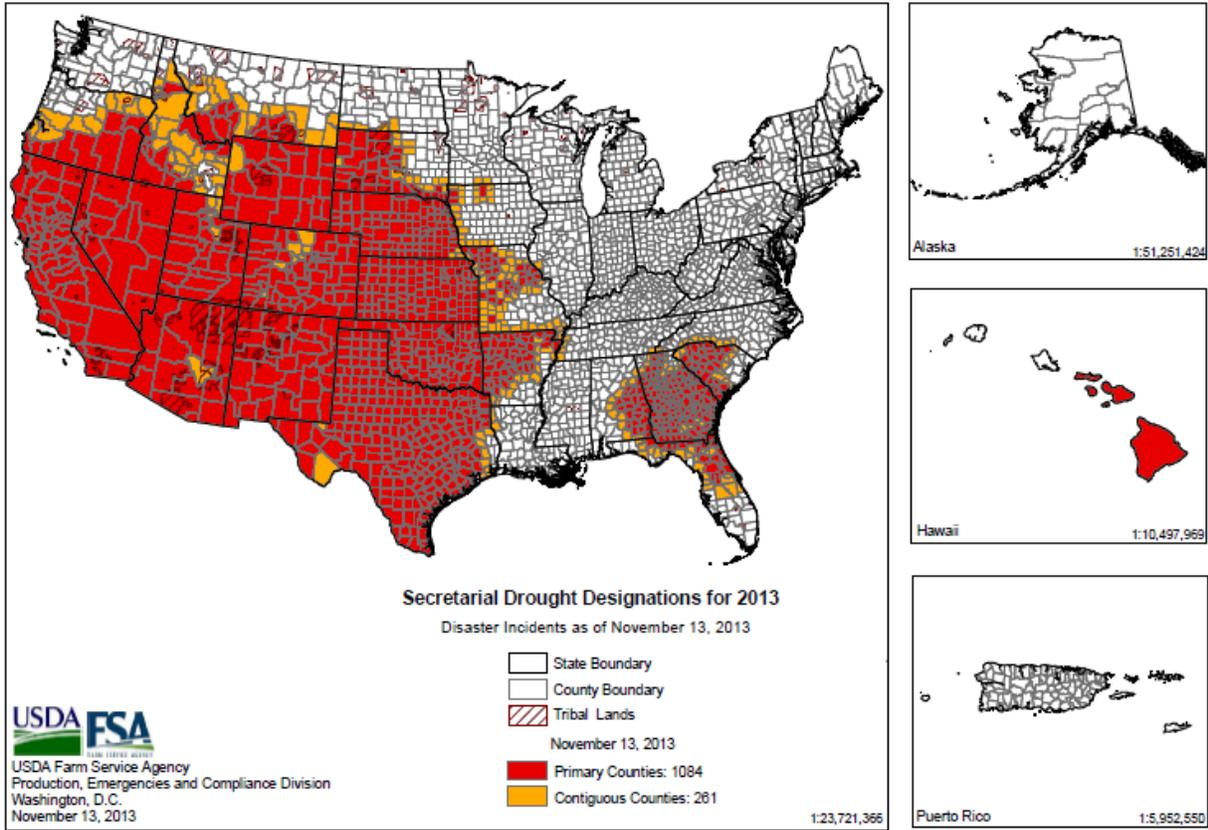
Drought Outlook (Forecast for November)



U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook for November shows:

- Drought is expected to improve over parts of Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri, as well as over parts of Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Elsewhere, drought persists over much of the West and south-central plains.
- Also see: [National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) (updated on the 1st of each month) and contains a nice content summary of the previous month's conditions.

2013 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought



Refer to the 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

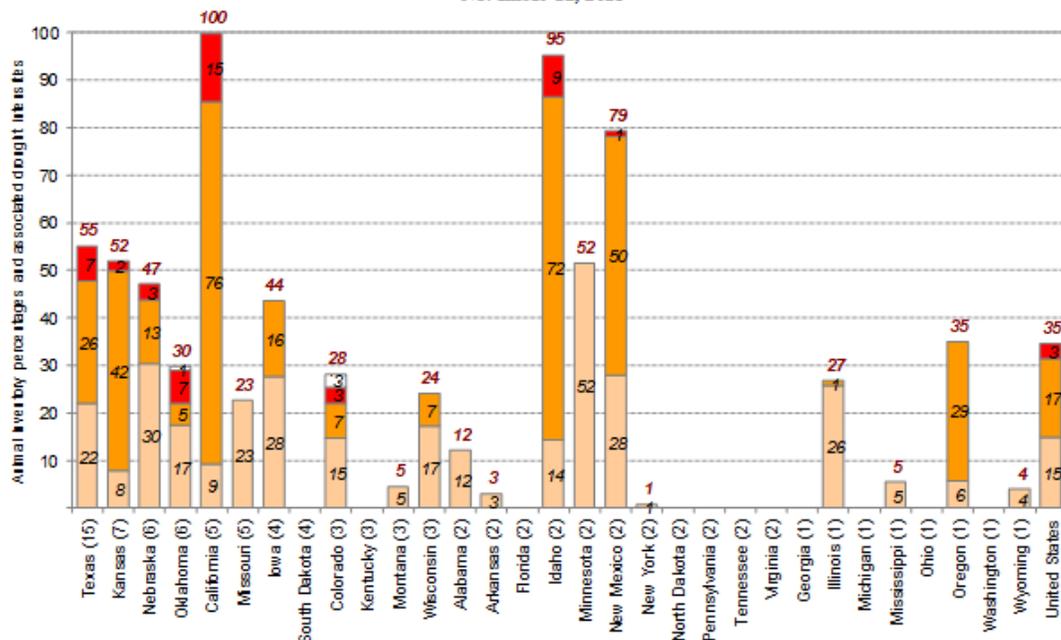
Supplemental Drought Information

The “Ag in Drought” file that had been previously posted each week by NDMC’s Brian Fuchs is now [available](#). Archived files are also [available](#).

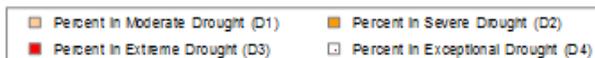
Highlights for the 7-day drought-monitoring period ending 7 am EST on November 5 include:

- Widespread precipitation continued to chip away at drought across the Great Plains and Midwest. Nearly all of the remaining U.S. drought is considered to be long-term in nature, or a combination of long- and short-term effects. Only in the Northeast is drought considered to be a short-term feature, as precipitation deficits have developed over the last couple of months. On November 5, overall U.S. drought coverage stood at 32.24%, down 2.46 percentage points from a week ago. This represents the smallest areal extent of drought in the contiguous U.S. since January 3, 2012.
- Based on the definitions of drought employed in the production the U.S. Drought Monitor, historical U.S. drought coverage should average near 20%. The last time contiguous U.S. drought coverage was below 20% was December 14, 2010.
- On November 3, USDA/NASS reported that 73% of the U.S. corn and 86% of the soybeans had been harvested. Lingering drought remains a concern in a few Midwestern States, including Iowa (68% in drought on November 5), Illinois (38%), Wisconsin (27%), Missouri (26%), and Minnesota (26%).
- Cattle in drought (36%), winter wheat in drought (31%), and hay in drought (22%) were down two to three percentage points from a week ago. USDA/NASS reported that 91% of the winter wheat had been planted by November 3, with 78% of the crop emerged. Although most of the wheat crop is growing well – rated 63% good to excellent on November 3 – dryness remains a concern on the southern High Plains. For example, 20% of the winter wheat in Texas was rated very poor to poor on November 3, up from 5% two weeks ago.

Approximate Percentage of Cattle Located in Drought *
November 12, 2013



* Drought percentages were calculated from U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) data for the above date. More information on the USDM is available at: <http://droughtmonitor.usda.gov/>.



State contributions to the total national inventory (percentages in parentheses) are based upon National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) 2007 Census of Agriculture data. More information on NASS data can be found at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

- Weather outlook: For the remainder of today, a weakening cold front will generate scattered showers across the eastern U.S. Meanwhile, a Pacific storm will arrive in the Northwest. During the next several days, the storm will traverse the nation's northern tier, resulting in generally light rain and snow. However, storm totals could reach two to four inches from the Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies. In contrast, mostly dry weather will prevail across the southern two-thirds of the U.S., except in southern sections of Florida and Texas. Early next week, a surge of cold air will arrive across the Midwest and Northeast.- Provide by Brad Rippey, USDA

Noteworthy topics in the news this week:

Record corn crop

USDA crop production forecast

The Crop Production report, issued by the USDA on Nov. 8, forecasts corn production to be 14.0 billion bushels, 1 percent higher than the September forecast. Soybean production is forecast to be 3.26 billion bushels, or 3 percent higher.

Cheaper corn and poultry expansion

Falling corn prices have led to an expansion in poultry production in the U.S. and lower meat prices. Wholesale prices are expected to fall 7.1 percent to \$0.92 per pound in 2014, according to Bloomberg's survey of seven analysts.

Record number of Rio Grande Valley farmers in south Texas filing claims

A record number of Rio Grande Valley farmers have filed crop insurance claims as drought devastated crops and pastures in south Texas again this year.

Hidalgo County farmers filed roughly \$5 million in claims in 2012, and have filed nearly \$10 million this year.

Depleted water supplies in Oklahoma, Texas and other areas

Water supplies are stressed in many areas that have endured years of drought.

Canton, Oklahoma

Oklahoma City drew water from Canton Lake early in 2013, depleting the lake and causing hardships for Canton. Fewer visitors came to the lake for recreation this summer since the lake was very low, reducing revenue for many businesses and causing a café to close. Remaining business owners wonder how long it might take their town and Lake Canton to recover and hope that they can hang on until then.

Duncan, Oklahoma

Drought has driven Waurika Lake down to 44 percent of the conservation pool, leaving enough water to supply the town of Duncan through mid-2015. Two lakes that also supply the town are Lake Fuqua and Lake Humphreys and contain roughly 4 ½ years' worth of water.

Near Altus in southwestern Oklahoma

Lake Lugert contained too little water for the second straight year to provide water for irrigation. Lake Lugert is at 12 percent of capacity.

Lake Texoma on Oklahoma/Texas border north of Dallas

Lake Texoma entered Drought Level 2 when the lake receded to 612 feet. The lake's recreational users are urged to be cautious about shallow areas and submerged hazards.

Inflows to the lake have been 23 percent of average this year.

Highland Lakes in Central Texas

The Lower Colorado River Authority has proposed unprecedented measures to keep water in the depleted Highland Lakes in central Texas to allow the lakes to recover from years of drought. LCRA authorities recommend limiting releases for threatened river species, requiring curbs on outdoor

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watering in Central Texas cities and making it easier to withhold water from rice farmers near the Gulf Coast.

Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan are part of the Highland Lakes.

Wichita Falls, Texas

Lakes Arrowhead and Kickapoo have fallen to 28.6 and 33.7 percent of capacity, respectively, reaching lows not seen for these lakes since 1971 for Lake Arrowhead and 1953 for Lake Kickapoo. The dry ground surrounding the lakes soaks up any rain that falls before the water can reach the lakes.

Central Valley of California

Groundwater is becoming depleted in the Central Valley, forcing farmers to deepen their wells to reach water, or plant crops requiring less water.

Some well drillers have many jobs lined up and are booked until mid- summer 2014.

Hawaii

Lake Waiau near the summit of Mauna Kea on the Big Island has nearly disappeared. The lake began shrinking in 2008 when drought began on the island, but other factors, such as melting permafrost, may be playing a role in the lake's decline.

Other Headlines: [Few pheasants available as season begins Saturday](#) - KS