



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

## Weekly Water and Climate Update

### October 30, 2014

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### Agricultural Weather Highlights – Thursday, October 30, 2014

- “In the **West**, mild weather continues to promote a variety of fieldwork activities. Warmth also favors Northwestern winter wheat establishment. Isolated showers are confined to the Pacific Northwest.
- On the **Plains**, cold weather is returning to the Dakotas. Mild, dry weather covers the remainder of the region, including the southern Plains, where today’s high temperatures will approach 80°F. Soil moisture shortages are hampering winter wheat establishment across portions of the southern Plains.
- In the **Corn Belt**, tranquil weather prevails in advance of a strong push of cold air. Widely scattered rain showers are confined to the western Corn Belt. On October 26, the soybean harvest was nearly complete in the upper Midwest. Across the southern and eastern Corn Belt, however, the soybean harvest ranged from just 44% complete in Michigan to 63% complete in Illinois.
- In the **South**, mild, dry weather is promoting winter wheat planting and summer crop harvesting. On October 26, North Carolina’s wheat planting was 22% complete, while harvest progress was 92% complete for corn, along with 64% for peanuts, 34% for cotton, and 21% for soybeans.

**Outlook:** A sharp but short-lived surge of cold air will overspread the eastern half of the U.S. from October 31 – November 2. Widespread, late-week freezes can be expected into the Mid-South. By Sunday morning, freezes will occur in the Southeast, excluding Florida and the immediate Gulf Coast. Meanwhile, cool air will also overspread the West. Precipitation associated with the Eastern cold outbreak should total an inch or less, although some snow will accumulate in the central Appalachians. Showery weather will persist in the Northwest, where 5-day totals could reach 2 to 5 inches, and spread farther south and east by Friday. Parts of California could receive 1 to 2 inches, with late-week snow expected in the Sierra Nevada. By early next week, rain will develop from the southern Plains into the middle Mississippi Valley. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for November 4-8 calls for warmer-than-normal weather nationwide, except for near-normal temperatures across the Deep South. Meanwhile, below-normal precipitation from central and southern California to portions of the northern and central Plains will contrast with wetter-than-normal conditions in the Northwest and along and east of a line from Texas to Wisconsin.”

**Contact:** Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)  
Website: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/Daily/TODAYSWX.pdf>

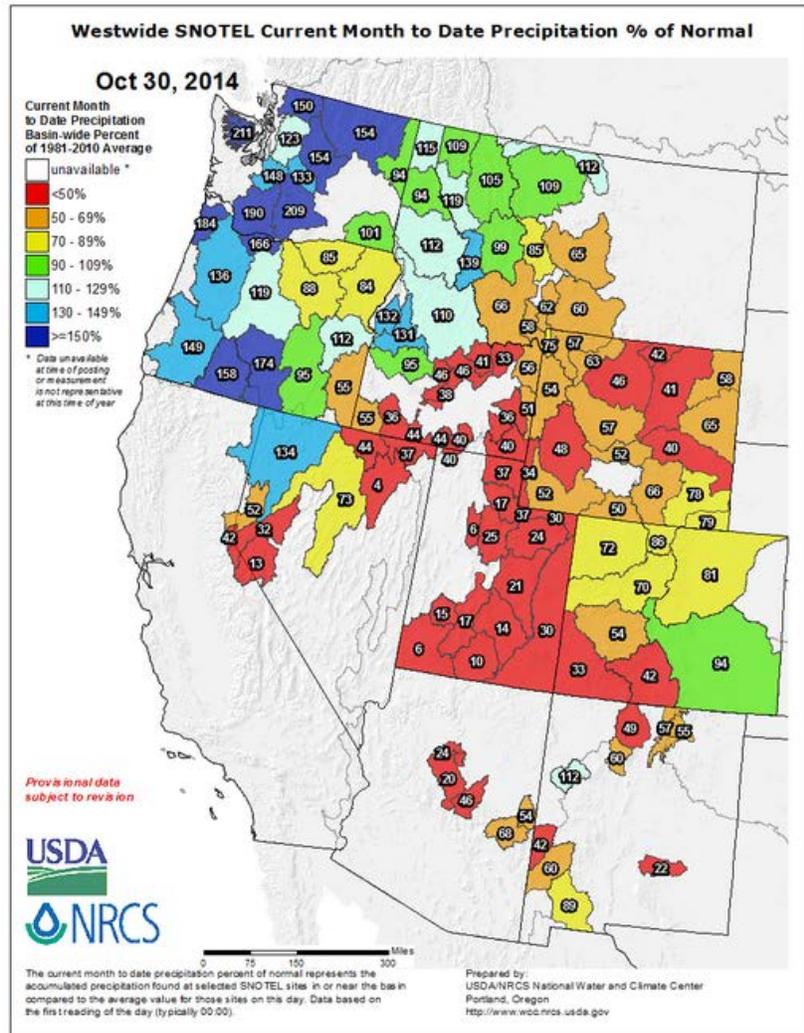
The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment

# Weekly Water and Climate Update

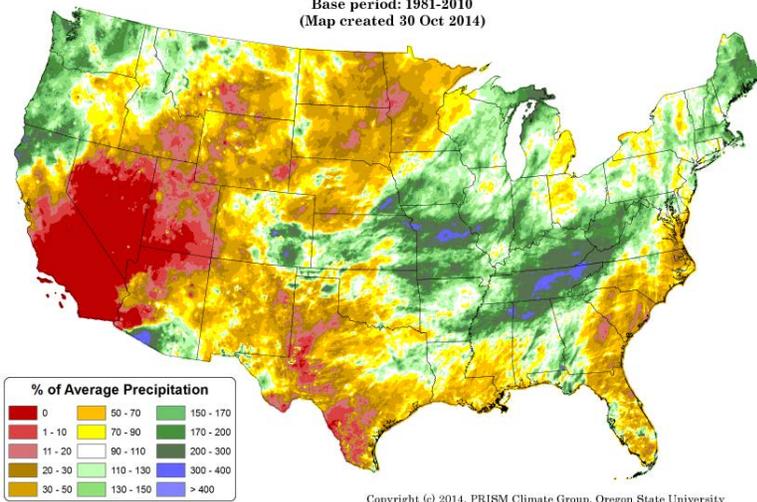
## Precipitation

In the West, the [SNOTEL](#) precipitation percent of normal map for October shows most of Nevada, California, Utah, eastern Oregon, southern Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona are much below average for the period. Near or above normal precipitation occurred in basins in Oregon, Washington, northern Idaho, western Montana, and northwest Nevada. The percent of normal values (especially in the dark blue areas) may be amplified where normally very little precipitation falls during this time of year.

*Click on most maps in this report to enlarge and see latest available update.*



Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 October 2014 - 29 October 2014  
 Period ending 7 AM EST 29 Oct 2014  
 Base period: 1981-2010  
 (Map created 30 Oct 2014)

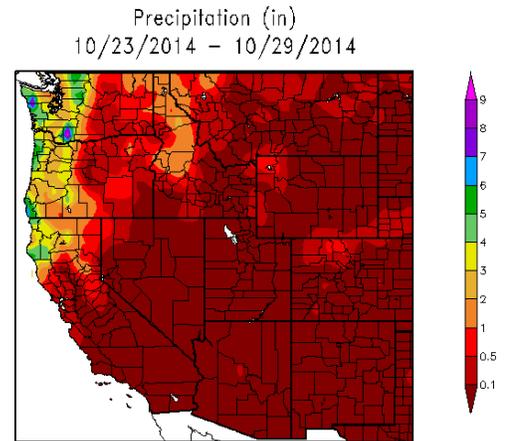


Thus far in October 2014, the national [precipitation anomaly](#) pattern reveals some higher than normal precipitation across the central U.S. The Great Plains from western Colorado to the central and southern Appalachian Mountains received the most moisture. Parts of the West, including California,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

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

## Weekly Water and Climate Update

The [ACIS 7-day](#) total precipitation map for the western U.S. shows mainly dry conditions. Precipitation has fallen in a few scattered areas along the coast and Cascade Mountains in Washington, Oregon, and northern California. Northern Idaho, Montana, and scattered areas in Nevada, Colorado, and Wyoming also received precipitation. Two areas in Washington reported the largest amounts of precipitation.

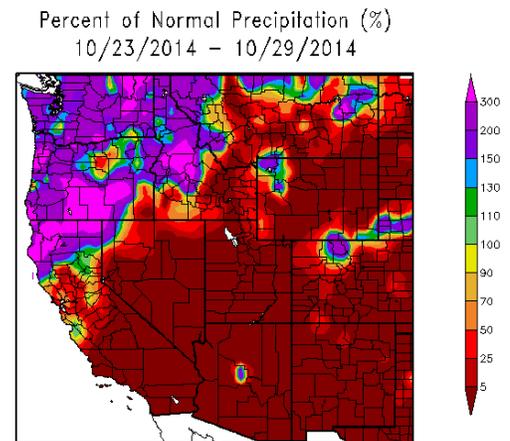


Generated 10/30/2014 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

This percent of normal [map](#) of the West for the last seven days reflects heavy precipitation in the northwest quadrant of the area. The heaviest percent of normal precipitation fell across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and northern California. Some scattered precipitation also occurred in the rest of the western states.

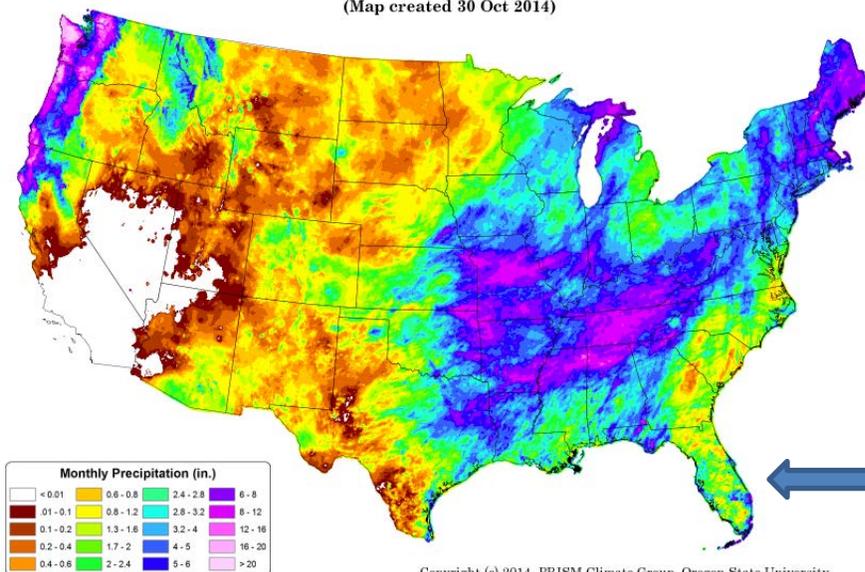
Percent of normal precipitation may be exaggerated in areas where the average for this period is at or near zero.



Generated 10/30/2014 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Total Precipitation: 01 October 2014 - 29 October 2014  
Period ending 7 AM EST 29 Oct 2014  
(Map created 30 Oct 2014)



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

For October 2014, the [total precipitation](#) across the continental U.S. was heaviest in the Pacific Northwest, central Mississippi basin, and Northeast part of the country. Isolated high precipitation was also recorded in northern Michigan and Florida. In contrast, the far West, including southern California, Nevada, southern Utah, and northern Arizona, were mainly dry.

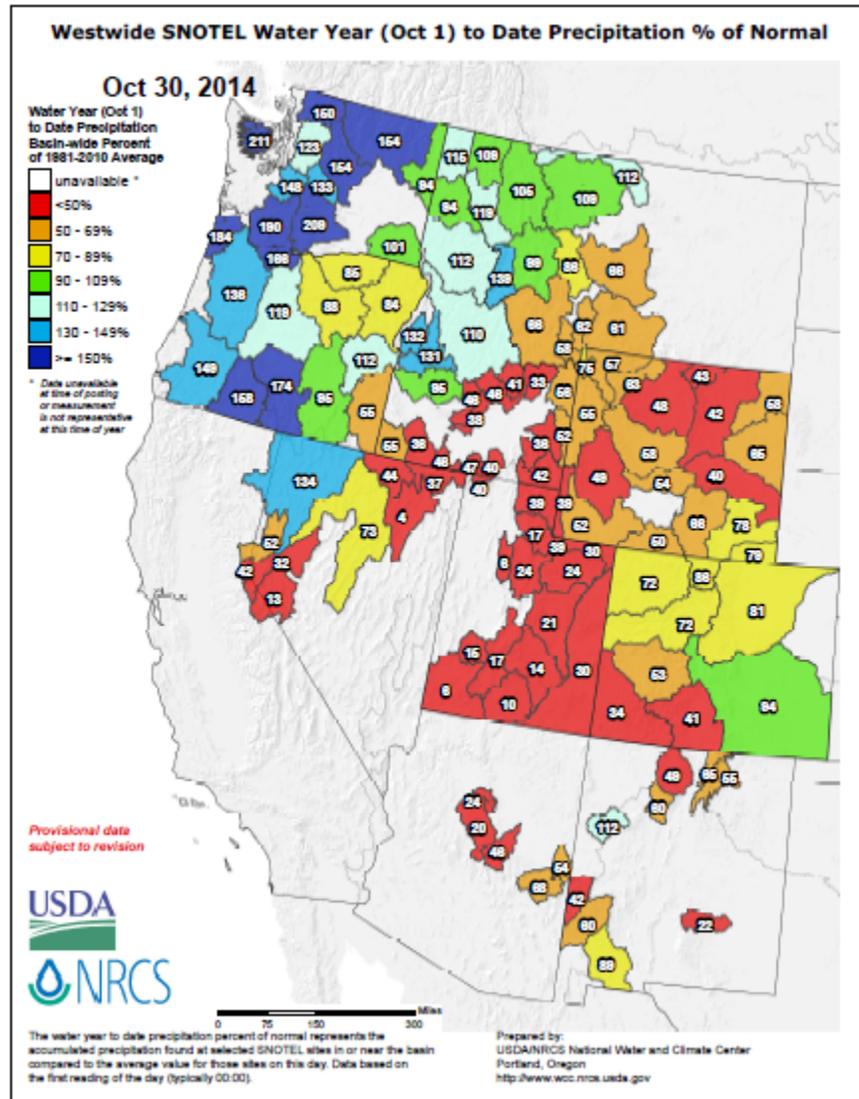
See [Go Hydrology](#) for current and forecast conditions over southern Florida.

## Weekly Water and Climate Update

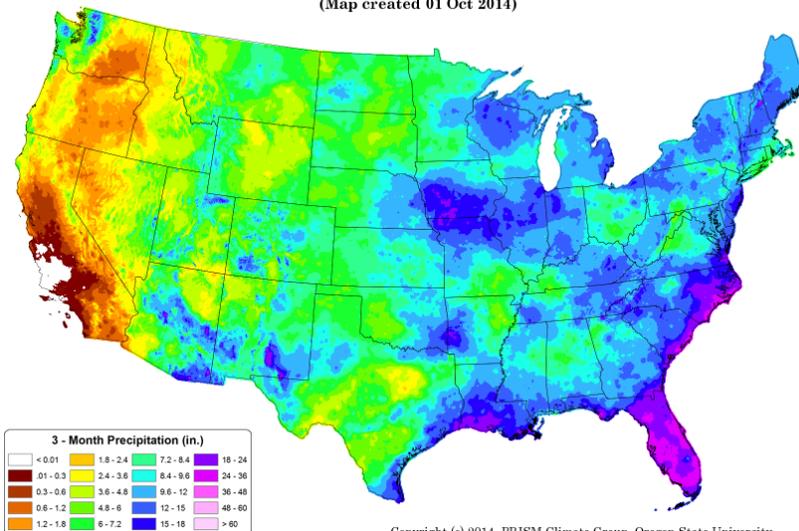
For the [2015 Water Year](#) that began on October 1, 2014, surpluses have occurred in a few basins in the West. Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and some basins in Colorado and Nevada have received above normal precipitation.

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

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



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



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

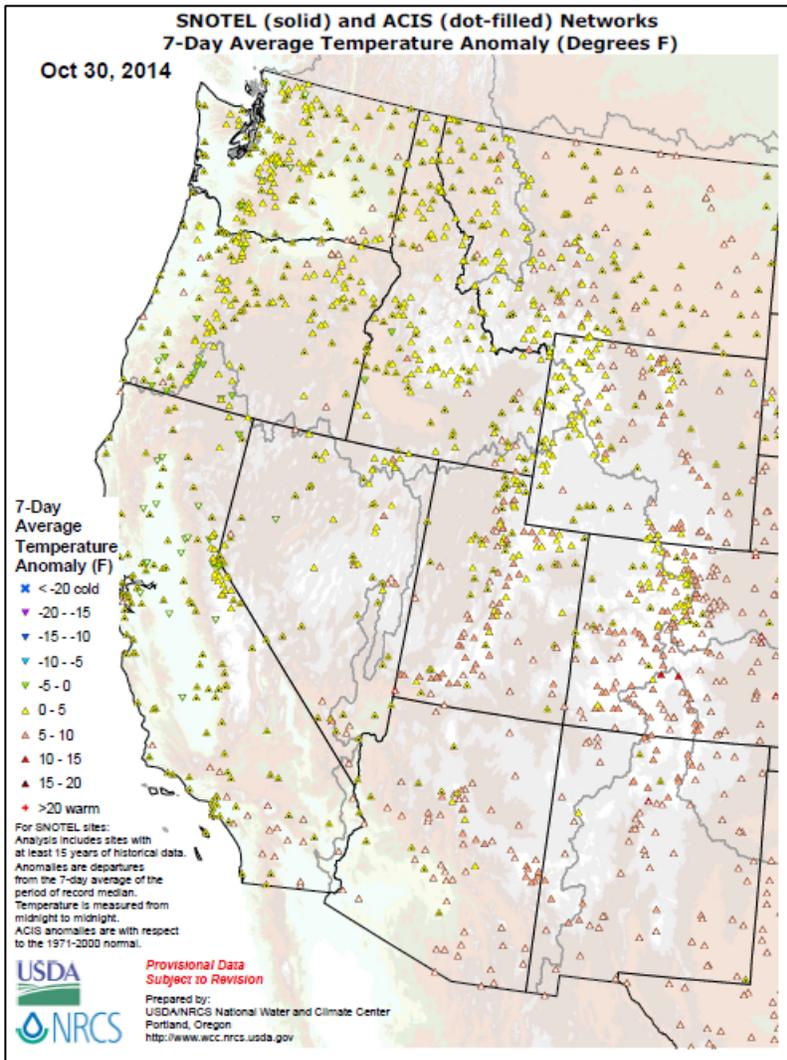
On the other hand, much of the West received totals of less than 4.8 inches. Central and southern California had little to no precipitation for the period. The exceptions in the West were over the northern Rockies, the Cascades, and the Southwest, where totals exceeded 12 inches.

# Weekly Water and Climate Update

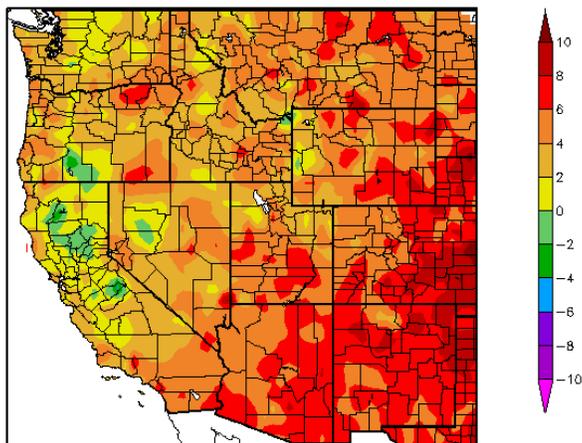
## Temperature

The SNOTEL and ACIS [7-day temperature anomaly](#) map for the western U.S. shows temperatures above normal for most of the central and southern Rocky Mountains and into the Great Plains. Above normal temperatures were recorded in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and southern Nevada.

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



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
10/23/2014 – 10/29/2014



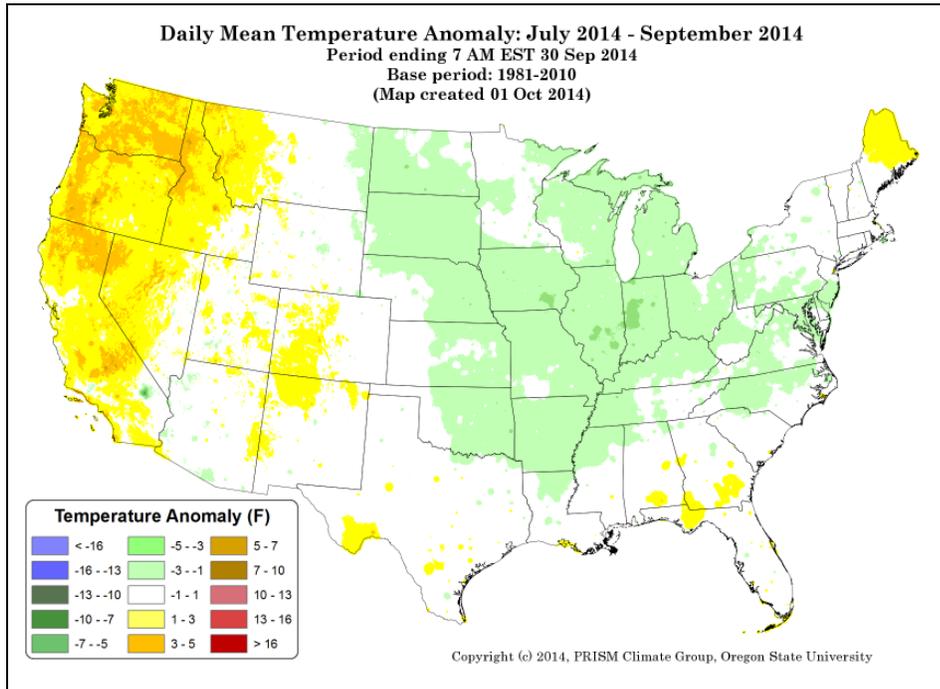
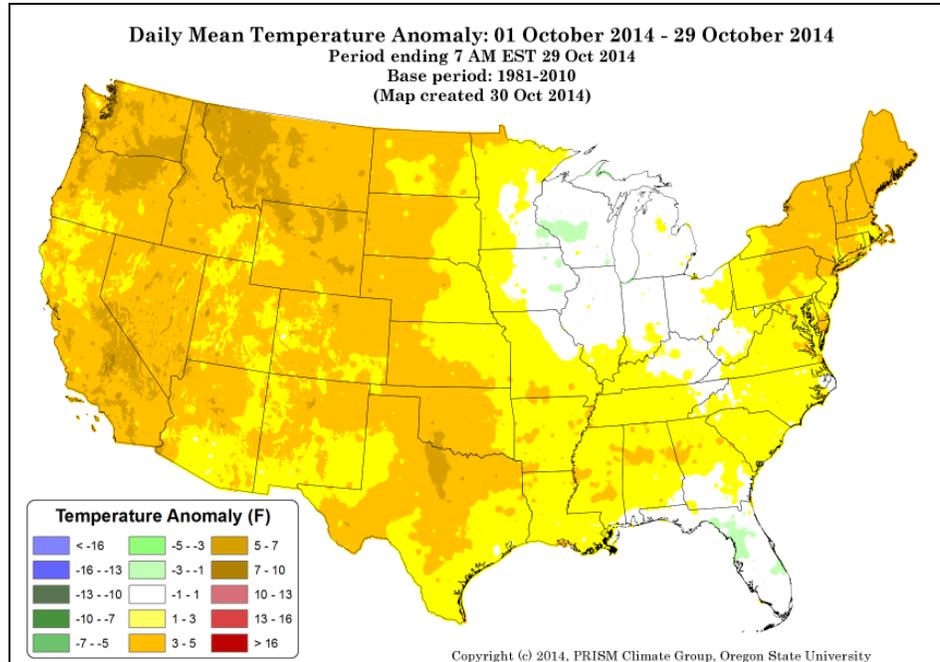
The [ACIS](#) map of the 7-day average temperature anomalies in the West ending October 29, shows the greatest negative temperature departures in central California and southern Oregon (<-2°F). The greatest positive temperature departures occurred in eastern Colorado, and eastern New Mexico (>+8°F). Much of the West experienced above normal temperatures.

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

## Weekly Water and Climate Update

This preliminary [PRISM](#) temperature map contains all available network data, including SNOTEL data, and will be updated periodically as additional data become available and are quality controlled.

Thus far in October 2014, the national daily mean temperature anomaly [map](#) shows a slightly cool pattern in the northern Midwest and Florida (< -1°F). Above normal temperatures were recorded in most areas of the country. Small areas in California, Montana, and Wyoming had the highest warm anomalies (>+7°F).



July - September national daily mean temperature anomalies for the U.S. in this [climate map](#) show the west coast had slightly to above normal temperatures, mainly in California, western Nevada, Oregon, and Washington (>+5°F). Most of the remainder of the country reported normal to slightly cooler than normal temperatures this summer, with the coolest temperatures in Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana (<-3°F).

# Weekly Water and Climate Update

## Weather and Drought Summary

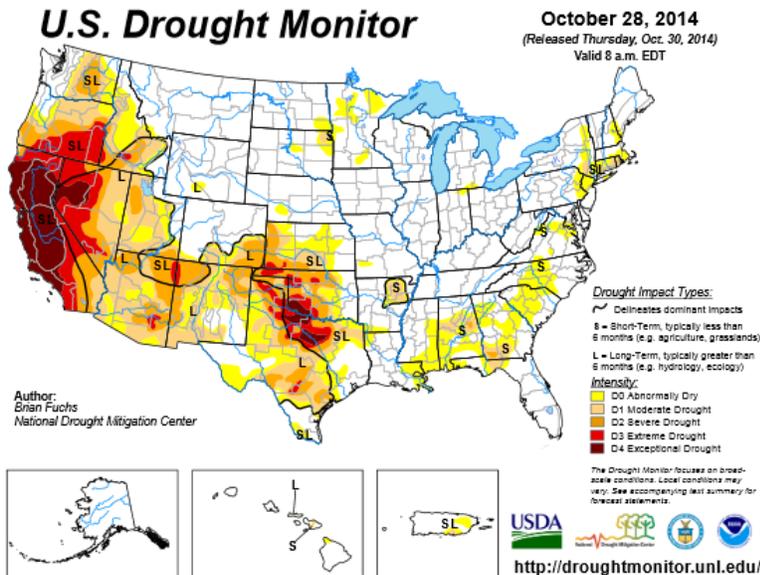
### National Drought Summary – October 28, 2014

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

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

“For the contiguous 48 states, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 29.61 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 29.80 percent a week earlier. Drought now affects 70,929,858 people, compared with 74,111,126 a week earlier.

For all 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 24.74 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 24.90 percent a week earlier. Drought now affects 71,000,771 people, compared with 74,182,040 a week earlier.”



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

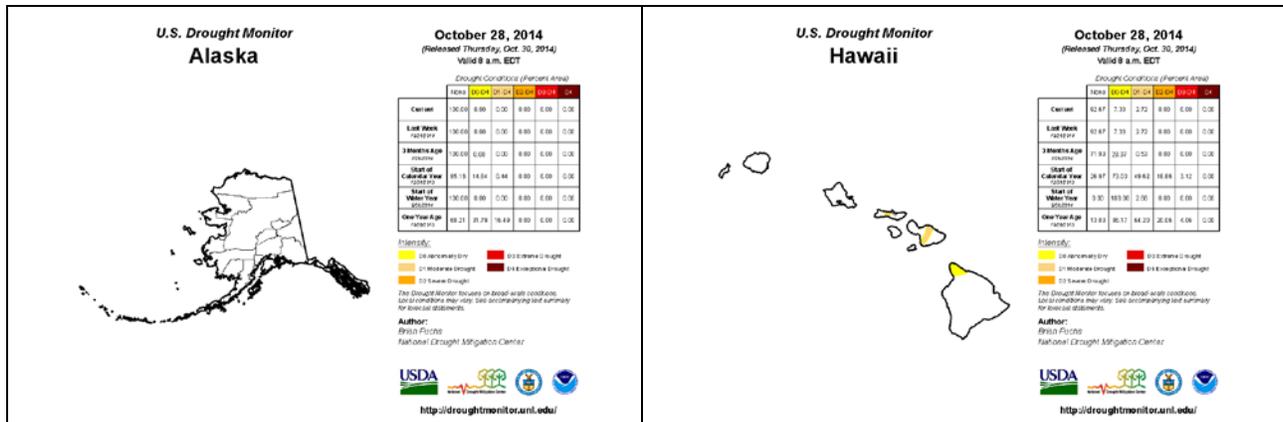
[Current Drought Monitor](#) weekly summary. The exceptional D4 levels of drought are scattered across CA, NV, TX, and OK.

The latest [drought indicator blend and component percentiles](#) spreadsheet is a great resource for climate division drought statistics. This link is for the latest [Drought Outlook](#) (forecast). See [climatological rankings](#).

For more drought news, see [Drought Impact Reporter](#).  
New: [ENSO Blog](#).

#### Drought Management Resources:

- ✓ <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weath er/Drought/AgInDrought.pdf>
- ✓ [Watch AgDay TV](#)
- ✓ [Drought Impacts Webinar Series](#)
- ✓ [NIDIS Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- ✓ [The Spring 2014 edition of DroughtScope](#)



“The [49th](#) and [50th](#) States show normal to moderate drought conditions. No changes were noted for Alaska or Hawaii this week. A comprehensive narrative describing drought conditions across other parts of the nation can be found toward the end of this document. For drought impacts definitions for the figures that follow, click [here](#).”

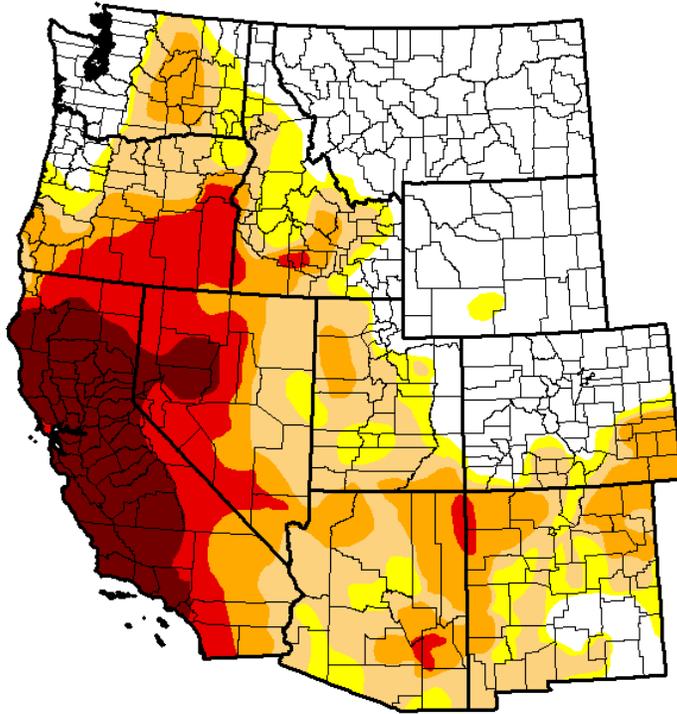
# Weekly Water and Climate Update

## U.S. Drought Monitor West

**October 28, 2014**

(Released Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	34.52	65.48	55.05	34.64	19.08	8.90
<b>Last Week</b> <i>10/21/2014</i>	31.95	68.05	55.56	34.82	19.08	8.90
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>7/29/2014</i>	27.73	72.27	60.93	44.49	21.68	8.98
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>12/31/2013</i>	22.20	77.80	51.44	31.11	7.75	0.63
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>9/30/2014</i>	31.48	68.52	55.57	35.65	19.95	8.90
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>10/29/2013</i>	27.90	72.10	53.62	32.25	5.34	0.63

*Intensity:*

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

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

**Author:**

Brian Fuchs

National Drought Mitigation Center



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

A slight decrease in D0 - D3 categories occurred in the West during this past week. D3 - D4 drought categories remained unchanged. The drought-free area increased slightly.

*Click to enlarge maps*

### Risk Management Web Resources

- Drought Monitor for the [Western States](#)
- Drought Impact Reporter for [New Mexico](#)
- [California Data Exchange Center & Flood Management](#)
- [Intermountain West Climate Dashboard](#)
- [California Sierra Nevada-related snow pack](#)

U.S. [Impacts](#) during the past week:

CT - [Residents' wells dry up as lake drawdown begins](#) – Oct 20

# Weekly Water and Climate Update

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

## U.S. Drought Monitor California

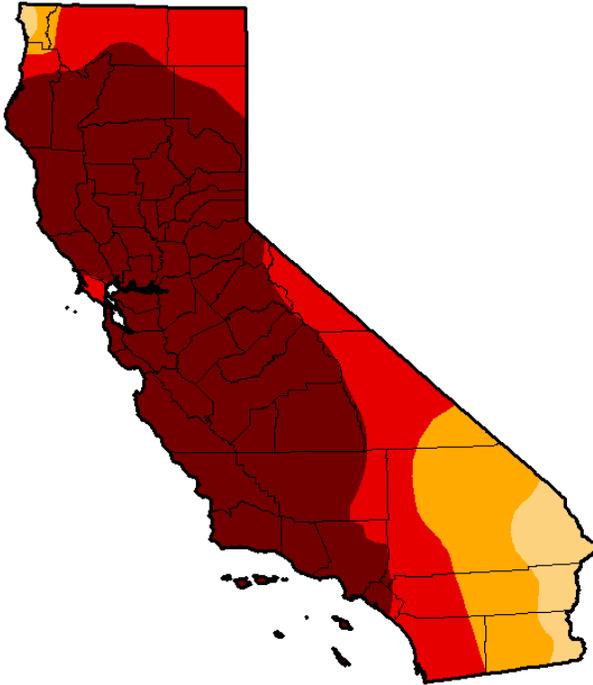
**October 28, 2014**

(Released Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.04	81.92	58.41
<b>Last Week</b> <i>10/21/2014</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.04	81.92	58.41
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>7/29/2014</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	81.89	58.41
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>1/2/2013</i>	2.61	97.39	94.25	87.53	27.59	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>8/30/2013</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.04	81.92	58.41
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>10/29/2013</i>	2.66	97.34	95.98	84.12	11.36	0.00



*Intensity:*

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

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

**Author:**

Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center



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

**There was no change in the California drought conditions this past week.**

[CA Drought Information Resources](#)

[Drought News from California:](#)

[How bad is the drought? – Oct 21](#)

[Drought causing hay shortages among farmers, ranchers – Oct 24](#)

[California ISO: Challenging 2014 Summer but Reliability Held Firm – Oct 20](#)

[Minimize chance of encounter with bears – Oct 22](#)

[Californians favor \\$7.5 billion water bond to fight drought: poll – Oct 23](#)

[For Sierra resident, the well runs dry -- along with her options – Oct 24](#)

[Kaiser Permanente awards \\$500,000 in grants for Fresno County drought impacts – Oct 21](#)

[San Gabriel Valley water agency declares supply emergency – Oct 22](#)

[West Nile cases surging in state, Bay Area – Oct 19](#)

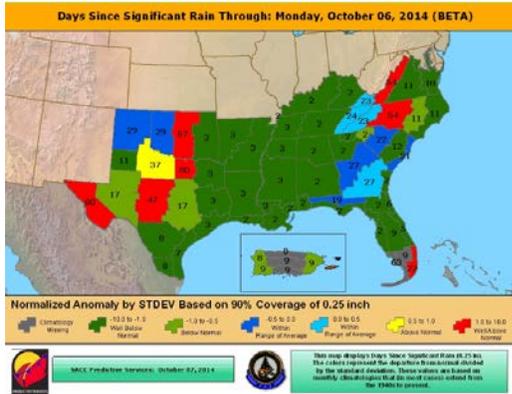
['Drought' beer: California breweries hit dry times – Oct 21](#)

[San Gabriel Valley water agency declares supply emergency – Oct 22](#)

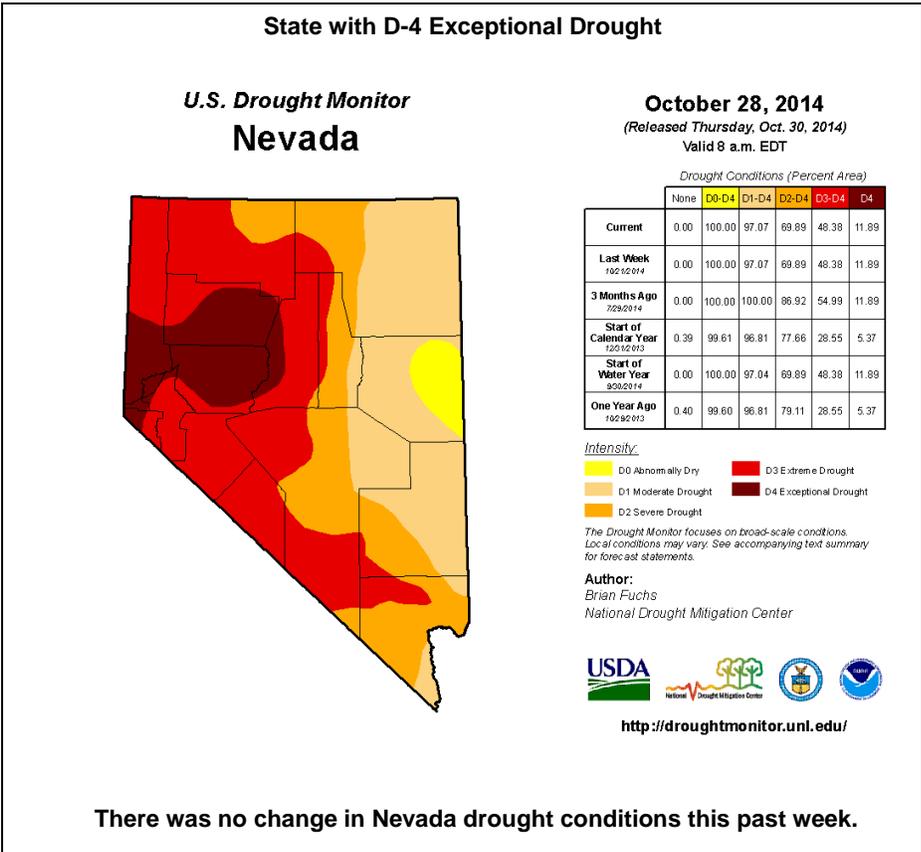
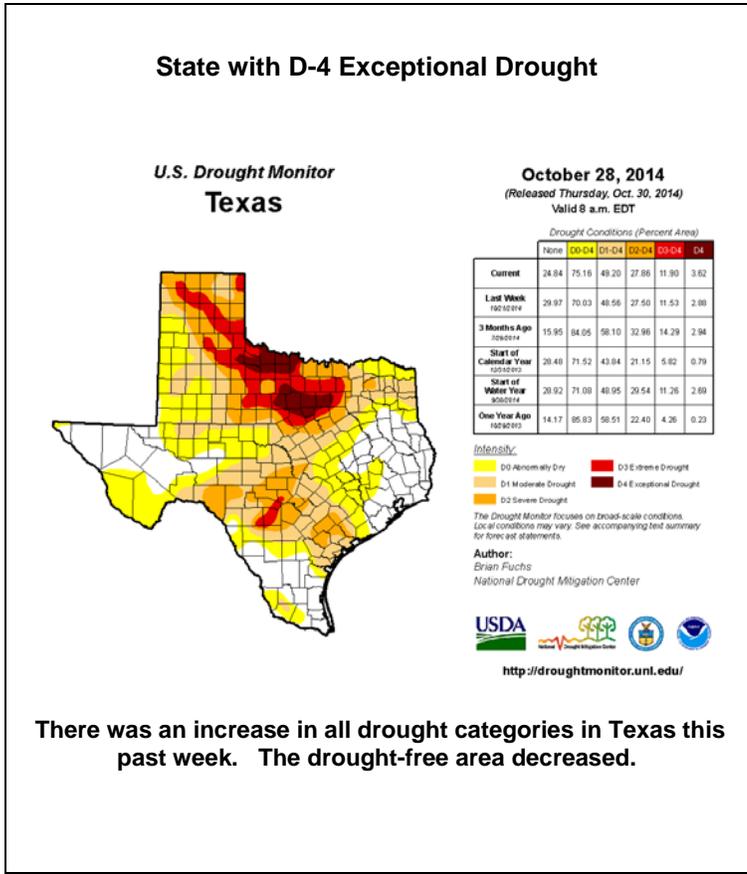
# Weekly Water and Climate Update

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

Texas Drought News:  
[As drought continues, boat ramps close on area lakes – Oct 17](#)  
[Drought, cooler weather lead to limits on North Texas water use – Oct 23](#)



[Days since Significant Rain Summary](#)



Nevada Drought News:  
[Bears going out on the town in Nevada – Oct 22](#)

# Weekly Water and Climate Update

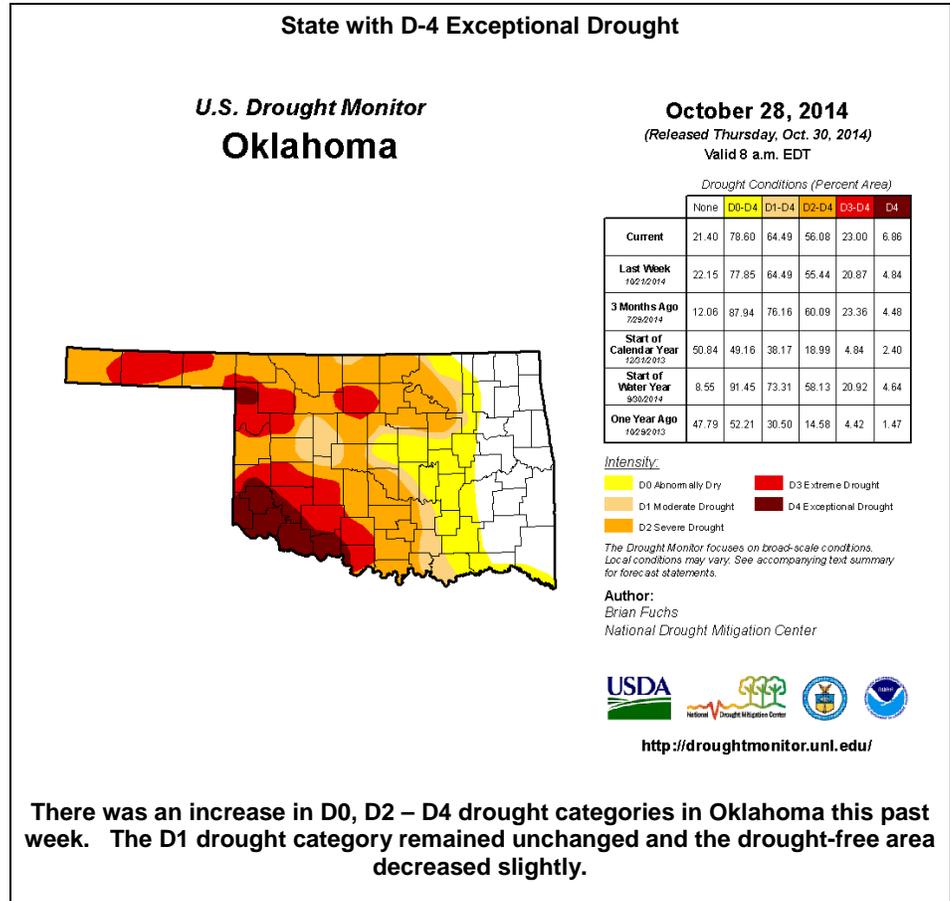
## Related Area News:

[2014 Kansas Drought Report and Summary](#)

- [Past 30 days precipitation totals](#)
- [Past 30 days precipitation percent of normal](#)
- [Calendar Year precipitation totals](#)
- [Calendar Year Precip percent of normal](#)
- [Short Crop ET](#)

## Oklahoma News:

[U.S. Army Corps, other agencies, to discuss drought situation at Skiatook Lake on Friday – Oct 21](#)



## U.S. Population in Drought Information

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

Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
2014-10-28	176,916,294	128,481,160	70,929,858	52,025,923	40,825,019	29,703,073
2014-10-21	173,322,537	132,074,918	74,111,127	51,749,486	40,475,773	29,619,173

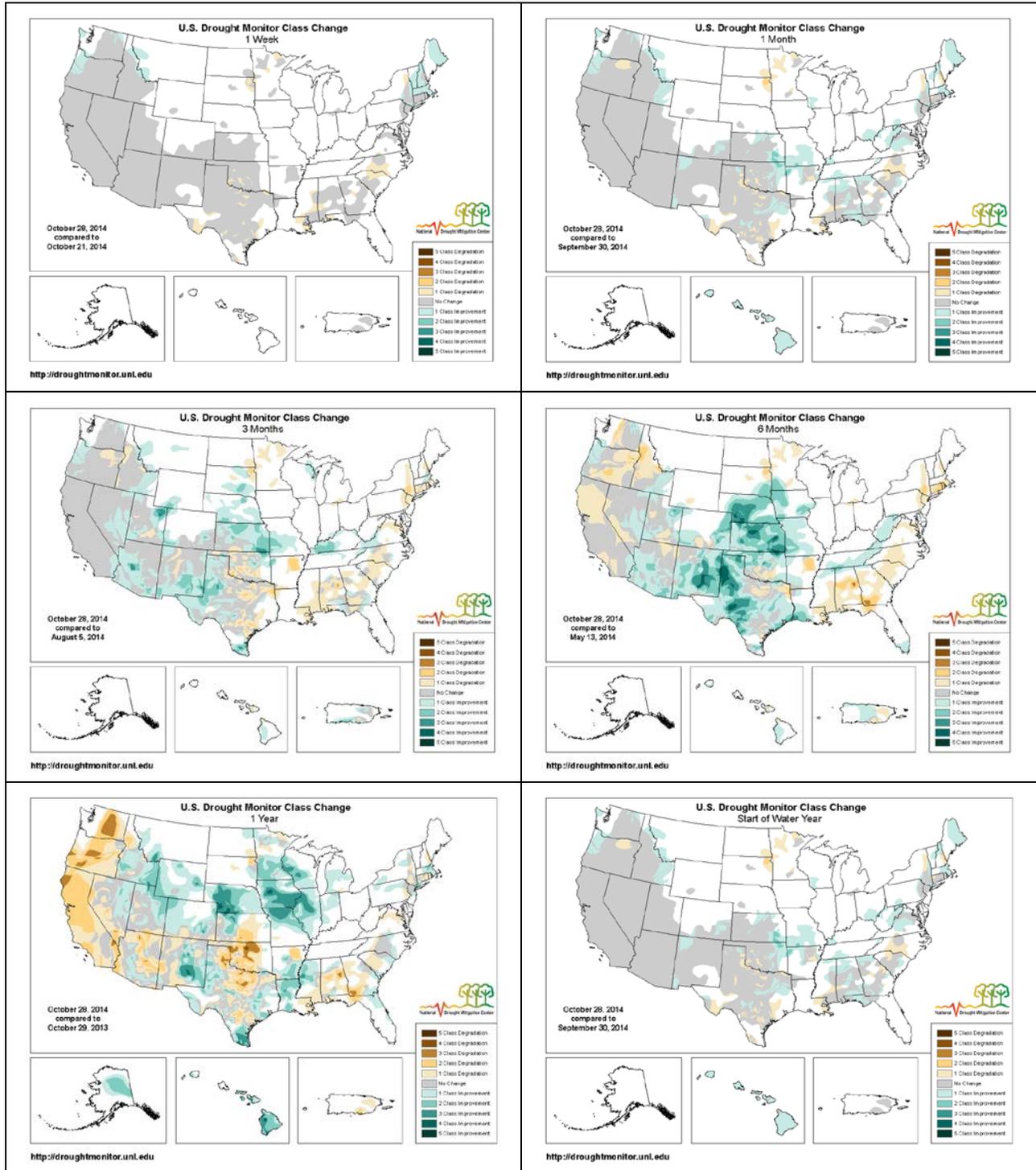
**New population figures added to the U.S. Drought Monitor website show that for this week, more than 70 million people in the United States are in a drought-affected area, which was reduced by over 3 million people from last week.**

Population Statistics Methodology:  
The U.S. Drought Monitor population statistics are calculated at the county level, and aggregated to the state, regional, and national levels. The population densities have been calculated for each county. The proportion of the physical area of the county that is in drought is multiplied by the uniform population density in order to obtain a number for each county. The county values are then summed at the state, regional, and national level.

# Weekly Water and Climate Update

## Changes in Drought Monitor Categories

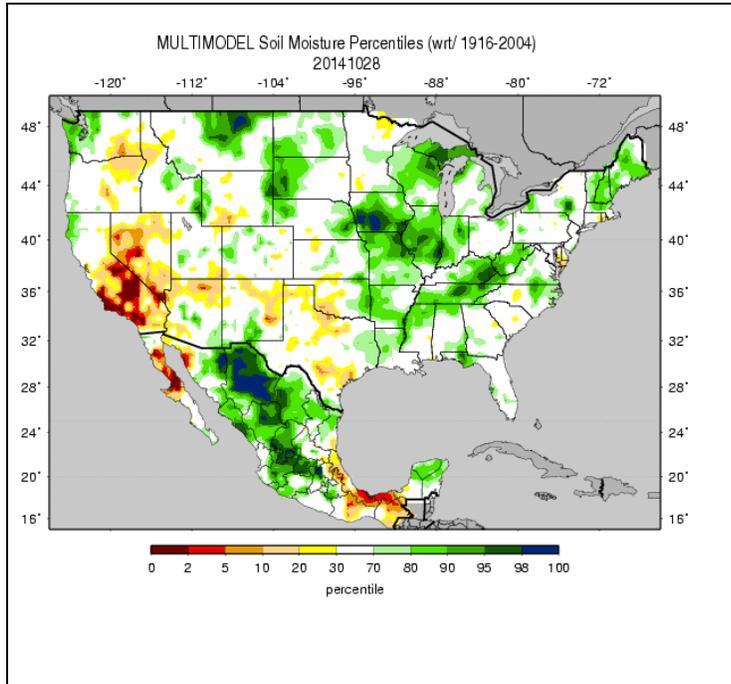
### Over Various Time Periods



Click on any of these maps to enlarge. Note how the conditions over the Rockies and northern Great Plains have improved between 6 to 12 months (middle right to lower left maps). However, also note that since a year ago, conditions over the Northeast, Southeast, parts of the southern Great Plains, and the Pacific coast states have deteriorated significantly (lower left map).

# Weekly Water and Climate Update

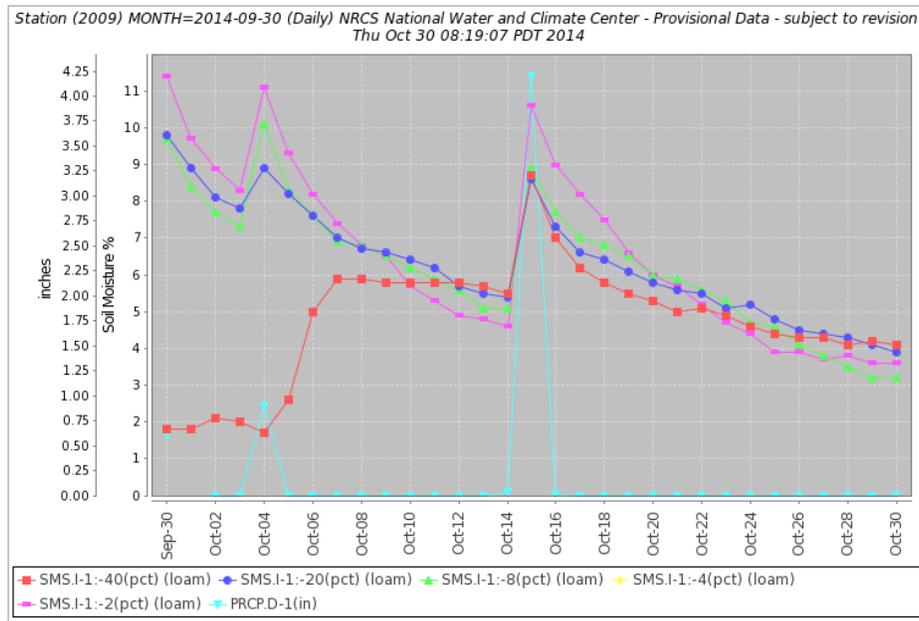
## Soil Moisture



The national soil moisture model ranking in [percentile](#) as of October 28, 2014, shows dryness over the West in California, eastern Washington, eastern Oregon, northern Idaho, and western Nevada. There are also scattered dry areas in the Southwest into Texas, the Southeast, and small areas of Maryland and Rhode Island. Moist soils dominated central Montana, eastern Idaho, much of the Midwest, and Great Lakes states. The wettest locations were located in western South Dakota, north-central Montana, northern Michigan, northern Wisconsin, Kentucky, Tennessee, northern Missouri, Illinois, and Iowa.

Useful Hydrological Links: [Crop Moisture Index](#); [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#); [Standardized Precipitation Index](#); [Surface Water Supply Index](#); [Weekly supplemental maps](#), [Minnesota Climate Working Group](#); [Experimental High Resolution Drought Trigger Tool](#); [NLDAS Drought Monitor](#); [Soil Moisture](#)

## Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)

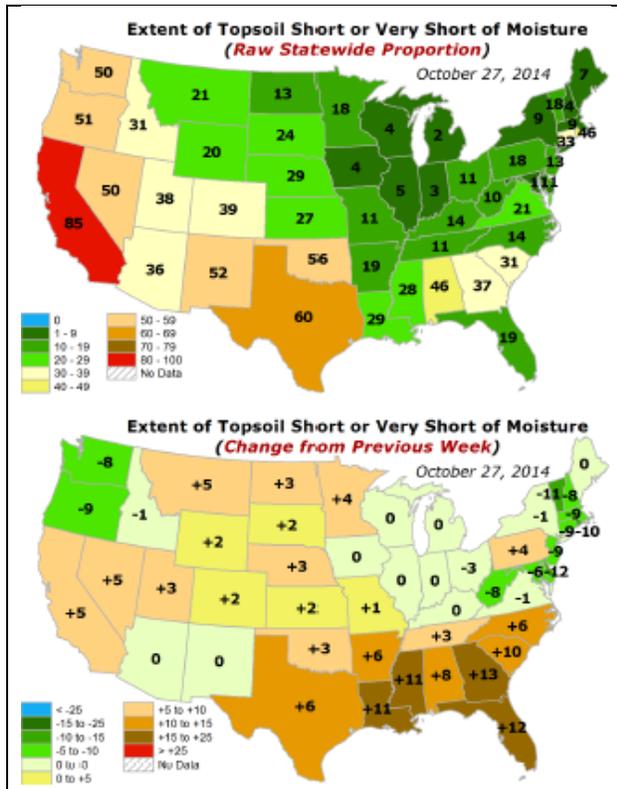


This NRCS resource shows soil moisture data at the [Wakulla #1 SCAN station \(2009\)](#) in Florida. The precipitation in the area was heavy on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October (graphed in light blue). This resulted in increased soil moisture at all depth sensors. Since that time, all depths of soil are drying out.

Useful Agriculture Links: [Vegetation Drought Response Index](#); [Evaporative Stress Index](#); [Vegetation Health Index](#); [NDVI Greenness Map](#); [GRACE-Based Surface Soil Moisture](#); [North American Soil Moisture Network](#); [Monthly Wild Fire Forecast Report](#).

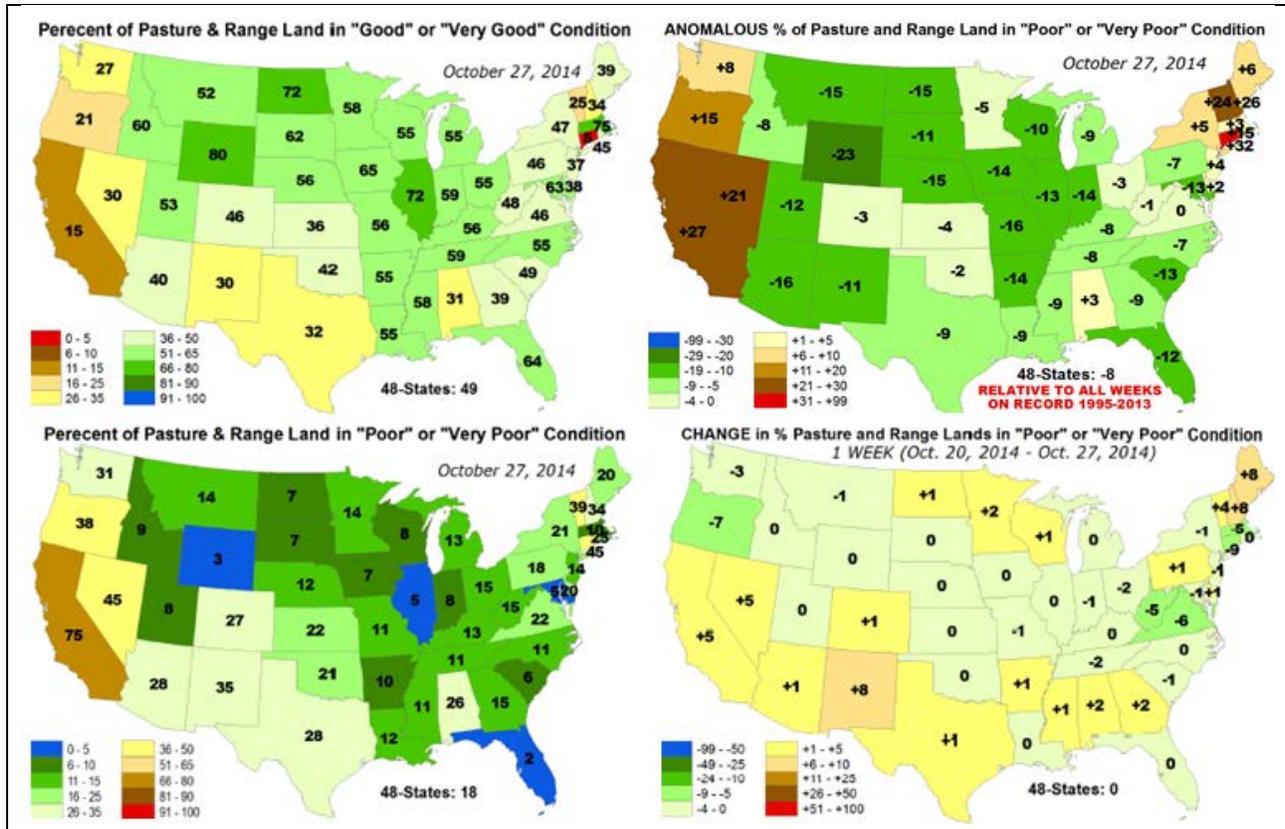
# Weekly Water and Climate Update

## Topsoil and Pasture & Rangeland National Conditions



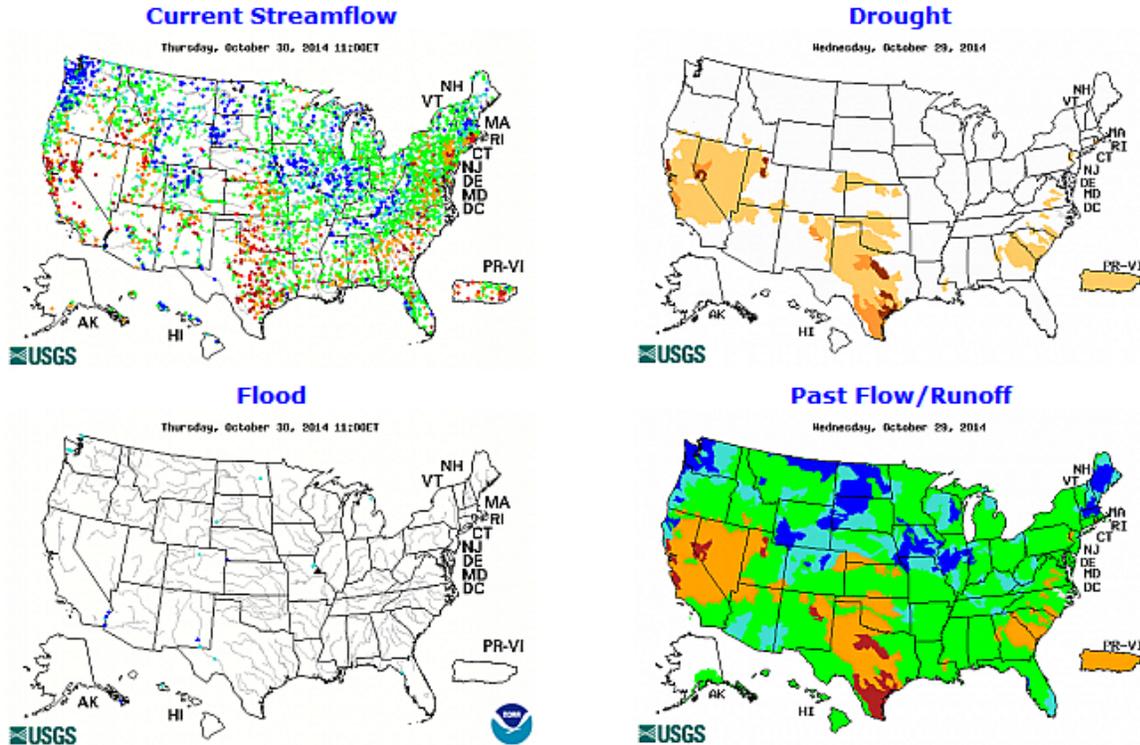
↪ Topsoils are exceptionally poor (top) over California and Texas, with values representing 60 percent or more poorer conditions than the median for this time of year (bottom panel). Oklahoma, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington are 50 – 60 percent short of soil moisture. Locations in the upper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

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



# Weekly Water and Climate Update

## Streamflow



The rivers are high over most of the central U.S. The Pacific Northwest, northern Great Plains, the central Rockies, the upper Ohio River, the Southwest, northern New England, and central Florida are also reporting higher than normal streamflow due to recent precipitation (left maps). Oahu and Maui, Hawaii, are also reporting a few rivers with high streamflow. The one river above flood stage in the U.S. at this time is the Cuiyre River near Troy, MO.

## National Long-Range Outlook



*Click maps to enlarge and update*

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

During the next three months, there is a risk of flooding in some areas of the Mississippi and lower Missouri Rivers, west-central Florida, the Gulf Coast, the Southeast, the Connecticut River, and western Washington. Currently, **1** gage has a greater than 50% chance to experience major flooding; **4** gages for moderate flooding, and **123** gages for minor flooding.

These numbers represent a 56 gage increase in the greater than 50 percent chance of minor flooding category in the last week.

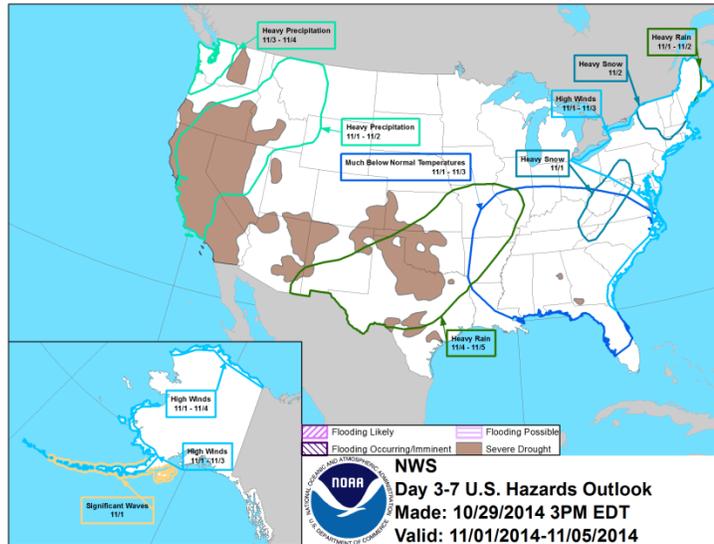
## Weekly Water and Climate Update

### National [Weather Hazards](#)

Heavy rain (outlined in green) is expected during the next week in the south central U.S. (11/4-5) and in eastern Maine (11/1). Heavy precipitation is also expected in parts of the West (11/1-3). High winds are forecast for the eastern Great Lakes and in New England (11/1-3). Much below normal temperatures are expected in the Southeast (11/1-3). Heavy snow is expected in the Appalachians and northern New England (11/1-2).

In Alaska, high winds and significant waves are expected along the north coast, the west coast, and the Aleutian Islands (11/1-4).

Severe drought remains a large issue in much of the south-central and western U.S.



### [National Drought Summary for October 28, 2014](#)

Prepared by the Drought Monitor Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center.

#### Summary

"Over the last 7 days, much of the country has been dry, with the most significant precipitation occurring over the coastal regions of Washington, Oregon, and northern California. The first Nor'easter of the season made its way up along the east coast, bringing with it some significant precipitation to portions of New England. Other areas receiving lighter precipitation were in the northern Rocky Mountains and portions of the Midwest. Temperatures for the week were generally above normal for most of the country, with the greatest departures from normal over the plains states. On the plains, temperatures were 9-12 degrees Fahrenheit above normal for the week. The coolest temperatures were over the Gulf Coast in the southeast, where departures from normal were 3-6 degrees Fahrenheit below normal.

#### Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico

Temperatures were below normal over the interior of Alaska and above normal over the northern coastal region. It was mainly a dry week in Alaska, with most precipitation departures being 1.50 inches or less. No changes were made to the drought status in Alaska for this week. In Hawaii, most of the islands observed temperatures that were above normal by a degree or two. Precipitation was mixed on the island, with some areas well above normal while others were below normal. No changes were made for the Hawaiian drought depiction this week. No changes were made in Puerto Rico as well.

#### Midwest

Temperatures again trended above normal through the Midwest, with departures from 9-12 degrees Fahrenheit above normal in northwest Missouri, western Iowa and western Minnesota to 3-6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal over most of the rest of the region. It was generally a dry week over the area, with some portions of Iowa, southern Illinois, northern Wisconsin, and northern Michigan picking up near to slightly above normal precipitation. Some dryness is continuing to be monitored over Minnesota and D0 conditions were expanded this week in the northern portions of the state as well as the west central. No drought is designated in the Midwest at this time.

#### South

A week of above-normal temperatures coupled with dryness again brought concerns to the region that the long-term drought conditions will remain. Temperatures were 9-12 degrees Fahrenheit above normal over most of Oklahoma and north Texas while other areas were generally 6-9 degrees Fahrenheit above

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normal this week. Most of the region was dry, with weekly departures of up to 1.50 inches below normal over east Texas and Louisiana. Drought conditions generally changed little but some expansions were made in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. D0 was pushed into the bayou regions of southern Louisiana. In Texas, D4 was expanded in the northern part of the state, D0 was introduced in the Big Bend region, D2 was expanded in the central portion of the state, D1 was expanded in the south and D0 was expanded in the east. In Oklahoma, D4 was expanded in the southwest, while D3 and D2 were expanded in the central portions of the state.

### **Southeast**

A dry week over the region, as only portions of extreme south Florida received any precipitation. Temperatures were cooler than normal in Florida, south Georgia and the coastal regions of Alabama, South Carolina, and North Carolina, where departures from normal were generally 2-4 degrees Fahrenheit below normal for the week. Areas farther to the north were at or slightly above normal, with temperature departures of up to 2 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. Dry conditions over the last 30-90 days prompted the introduction of D0 in North Carolina and South Carolina. In southern Alabama, D0 was expanded to the east to include portions of the Florida panhandle and to the west to include more of eastern Mississippi.

### **The High Plains**

A warm week over the High Plains brought with it temperatures that were 6-12 degrees Fahrenheit above normal, with the warmest conditions in Kansas and the Dakotas. Areas of eastern Nebraska, northeast Kansas, western Nebraska, north central Colorado, northwest Wyoming and southeastern South Dakota did see precipitation amounts up to 200% of normal for the week. It was observed that the dry and warm weather has started to impact the winter wheat in the region. In northeast South Dakota, D0 was expanded and a small area of moderate drought was introduced based upon the dryness over the last 2-3 months.

### **The Northeast**

Even with the influence of the Nor'easter, temperatures were warm during the week, with departures generally 2-6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. Areas that were impacted by the onshore flow associated with the Nor'easter were also those areas that received the greatest precipitation. Areas from Massachusetts and eastern New York up to Maine recorded generally 2-5 inches of rain. Areas of Long Island and northern New Jersey recorded 1-3 inches of rain. The impact of this precipitation allowed for a categorical improvement of the drought status in the region. In Massachusetts, the D0 and D1 were improved, D1 was removed from New Jersey, and D0 was eliminated from most of Maine. Some areas of eastern New York again missed out on this precipitation event and D0 was expanded to the north this week.

### **The West**

As with the trend over most of this year, the temperatures in the western United States were above normal this week. Some areas of northern and central California as well as southern Oregon did see temperatures that were slightly below normal. Most areas were 3-6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal for the week. A series of storms moved across the Pacific Northwest, bringing with them welcomed precipitation. Most of the precipitation was in and along the coastal regions of Washington, Oregon, and northern California, but some of this moisture did make it into Idaho and Montana. Even as some areas picked up several inches of precipitation and snows were falling in the upper elevations, the long-term issues continued over the west. Categorical improvements were made over southwest Oregon, where D0 and D1 conditions were improved. D0 was removed from the Olympic Peninsula of western Washington and D0 and D1 conditions were improved over western Washington. In southwest Montana, D0 and D1 conditions were improved based on the recent wet pattern, and some D0 was removed over the eastern panhandle of Idaho.

### **Looking Ahead**

The outlook over the next 5-7 days shows a continuing chance of precipitation from the southern plains up into the Ohio River Valley, with amounts generally projected to be less than 2 inches. An active pattern along the coast of the Pacific Northwest ushers in more precipitation during the next 7 days. Some areas along the Washington coast could receive up to 5 inches of rain for the period. Dry conditions dominate the southwest into the northern Plains. Temperatures during this time are forecasted to be above normal for the central and northern plains as well as the northern Rocky Mountains. Cooler than normal temperatures are expected over the eastern half of the country as well as along the west coast into the Great Basin.

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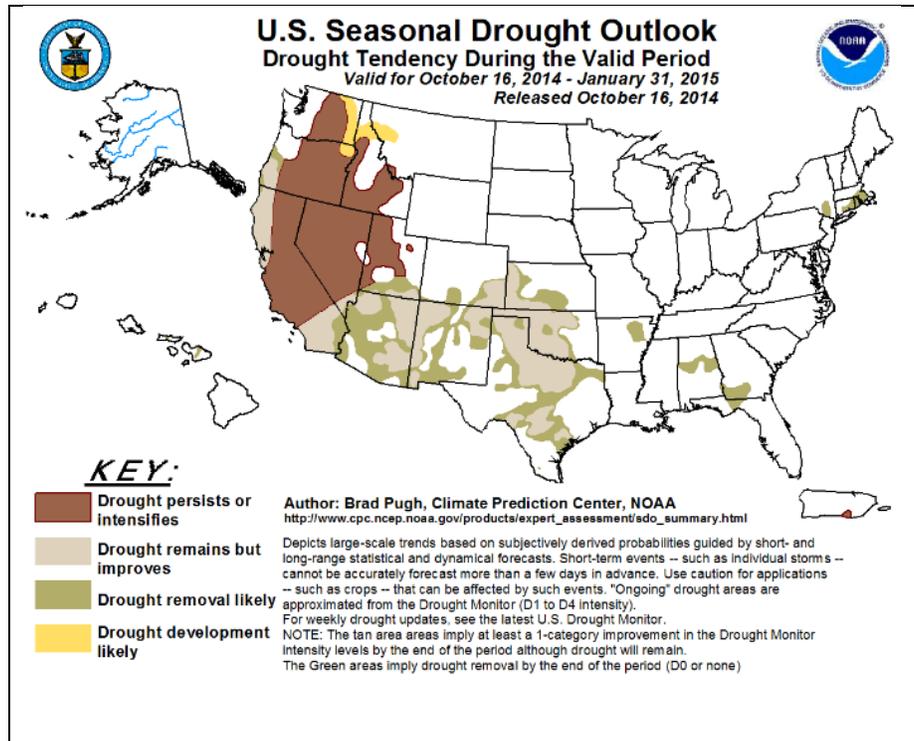
The 6-10 day outlook shows a trend of above-normal temperature chances continuing over most of the United States. The highest probabilities of above-normal temperatures will be over the northern tier of the country. The greatest probabilities of above-normal precipitation will be from the southern plains into the Midwest as well as the Pacific Northwest, which is a continuation of what is expected in the 5-7 day outlook. The probability of dry conditions is greatest over the central and northern plains, southwest, and into California.”

### Supplemental Drought Information

#### National Seasonal Drought Outlook

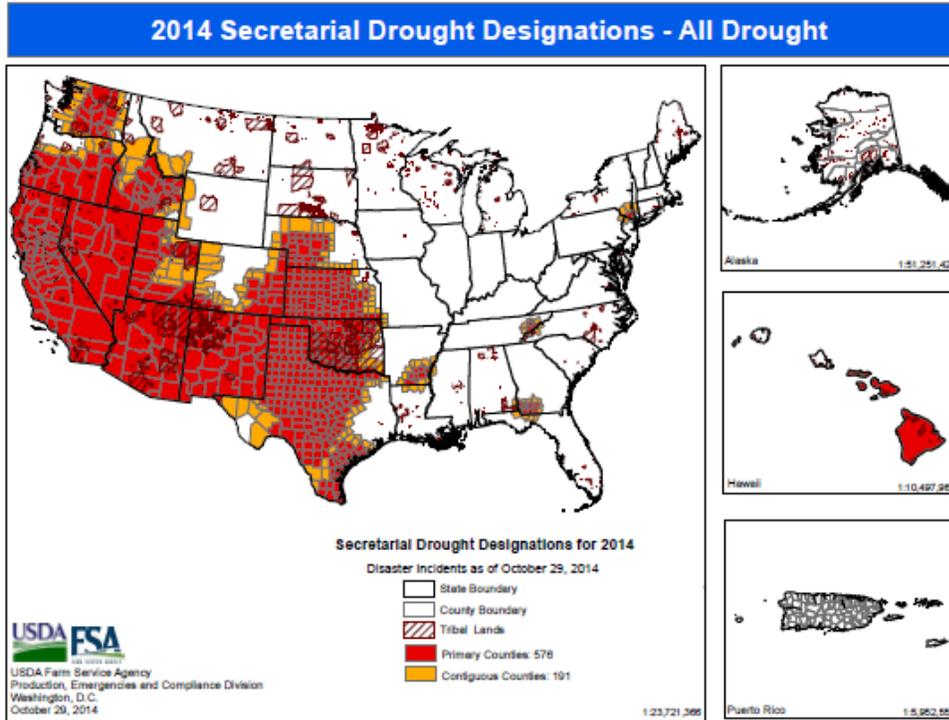
Nationally, [drought](#) is expected to persist or intensify over a small area of Puerto Rico and much of the West, including California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Utah. Improvements are expected in the central Pacific coast, and from the Southwest to Oklahoma and Texas, a few areas of the Southeast,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

Also see: [National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) (updated on the **first** of each month) contains a content summary of the previous month's conditions.



# Weekly Water and Climate Update

## 2014 USDA Secretarial Drought Designations

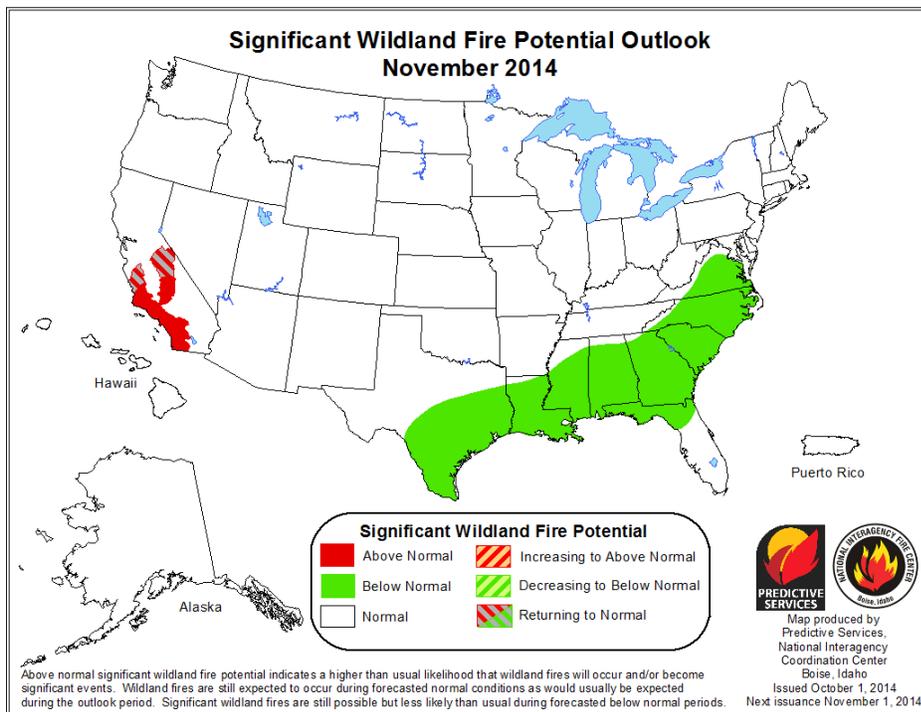


Refer to the USDA Drought Assistance [website](#) and [National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service](#).

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

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

## National Fire Potential Outlook



### November Forecast

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

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

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### Additional Maps

U.S. Maps PowerPoint presentation: <http://dmcommunity.unl.edu/maps/US-Maps.ppt>.

Regional zooms of ACIS station data percent-of-normal precipitation:  
<http://dmcommunity.unl.edu/maps/All-CONUS-ACIS-PNP.pptx>.

National Water and Climate Center (NWCC) Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) maps:  
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/swsi.html>

### Supplemental Drought-Agriculture News

Download [archived](#) "U.S. Crops in Drought" files.

The following is a collection of drought-related news stories from the past seven days or so. Impact information from these articles is entered into the [Drought Impact Reporter](#). A number of these articles will also be posted on the [Drought Headlines](#) page at the NDMC website. The list is compiled by Denise D. Gutzmer, Drought Impact Specialist, and National Drought Mitigation Center.

#### **Water supply emergency in the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal District in Los Angeles County, California**

The Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District declared a water supply emergency because drought reduced the amount of water provided by the Metropolitan Water District, which the USGVMWD sells to San Gabriel Valley cities.

#### **West Nile virus**

The number of California mosquitoes infected with the West Nile cases has risen to record heights this year, according to the California Department of Public Health. Throughout California, there have been 562 human cases of West Nile reported through Oct. 21, more than twice the count at this time in 2013. Seventeen deaths have been related to the virus since the start of the year, compared with 15 deaths in all of 2013.

#### **Californians support water bond**

The majority of Californians support a \$7.5 billion water bond to bolster the state's water supplies by constructing a new reservoir and underground storage projects. The poll involved 1,704 Californians and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.

#### **Dry wells bring hardship**

A Butte County woman has had no running water since her well went dry a month and a half ago. She does not have the money to have the shallow well dug deeper, buy an above-ground tank and pump or connect to the local water system. She is unemployed and cannot get a loan for getting an above-ground tank and pump.

#### **Kaiser Permanente offered \$500,000 in grants to help residents in Fresno County, California**

Kaiser Permanente has offered \$500,000 in grants to help Fresno County residents impacted by the drought. Food, drinking water, healthcare and other services will be provided with the funds.

#### **Hay scarce in California**

High quality organic and conventional hay were scarce in California where years of drought have cut into hay production. Cattle ranchers and dairy farmers have been hard pressed for the past two years to find suitable hay and have had to look to distance sources for hay. Some organic hay growers have opted to grow conventional hay to get better yields, further limiting the organic hay supply.

#### **Black bears seeking food in residential areas in Kern County, California**

At least ten black bears have disturbed Kern County inhabitants in the past two months as the bears forage for food in residential areas. People were urged to eliminate food sources for the bruins by bringing dog food inside and securing trash cans.

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### Black bears active in Reno, Nevada, Lake Tahoe

Black bears were causing a commotion in Reno as they wander into residential areas looking for food. The drought has dried up natural food sources for the animals, leaving them to look elsewhere for a meal at a time of year when they eat roughly 30,000 calories daily in preparation for hibernation. Hungry bears were also very active in the Lake Tahoe area.

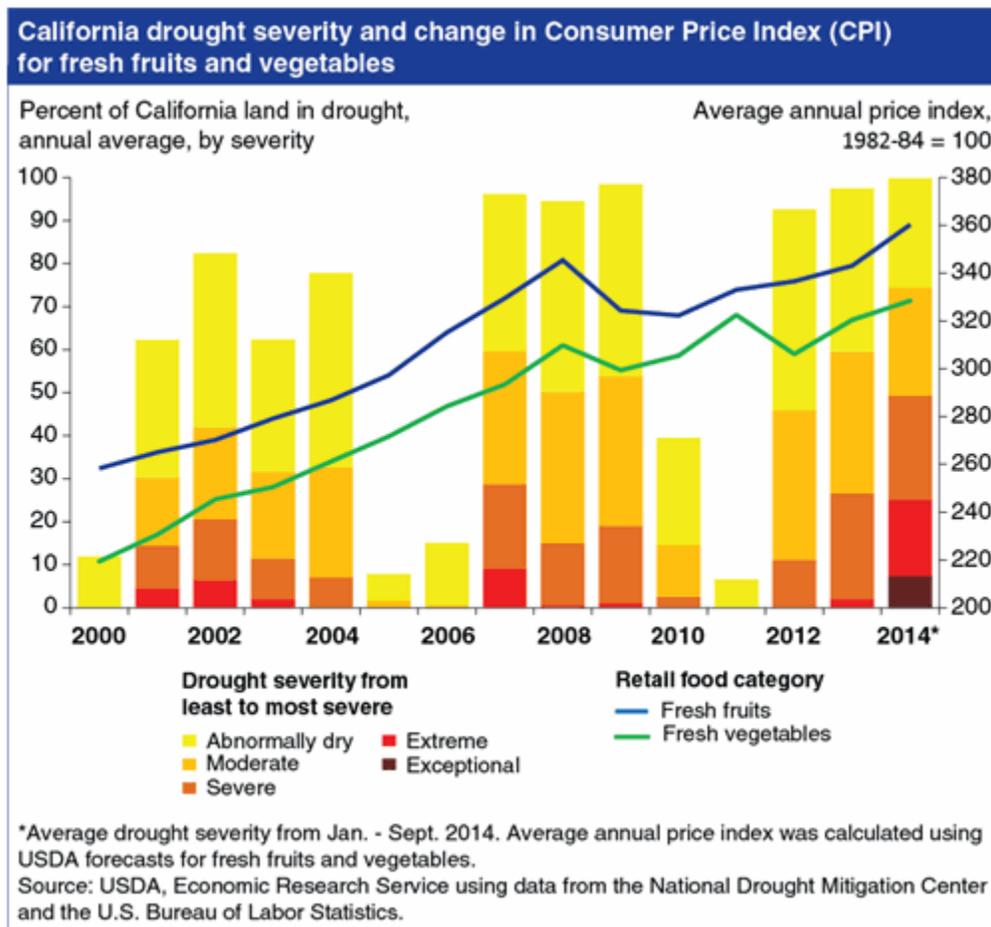
### Continued water conservation in the North Texas Municipal Water District

Customers of the North Texas Municipal Water District were asked to curb sprinkler use to once every two weeks from Nov. 1 through March 31, 2015. The district's reservoirs were very low from years of drought. Lake Texoma, which provides about 25 percent of the district's water, is so salty that it must be mixed with "sweeter" water from lakes Lavon and Chapman at a ratio of 4:1.

### Drought meeting to discuss level of Skiatook Lake in Oklahoma

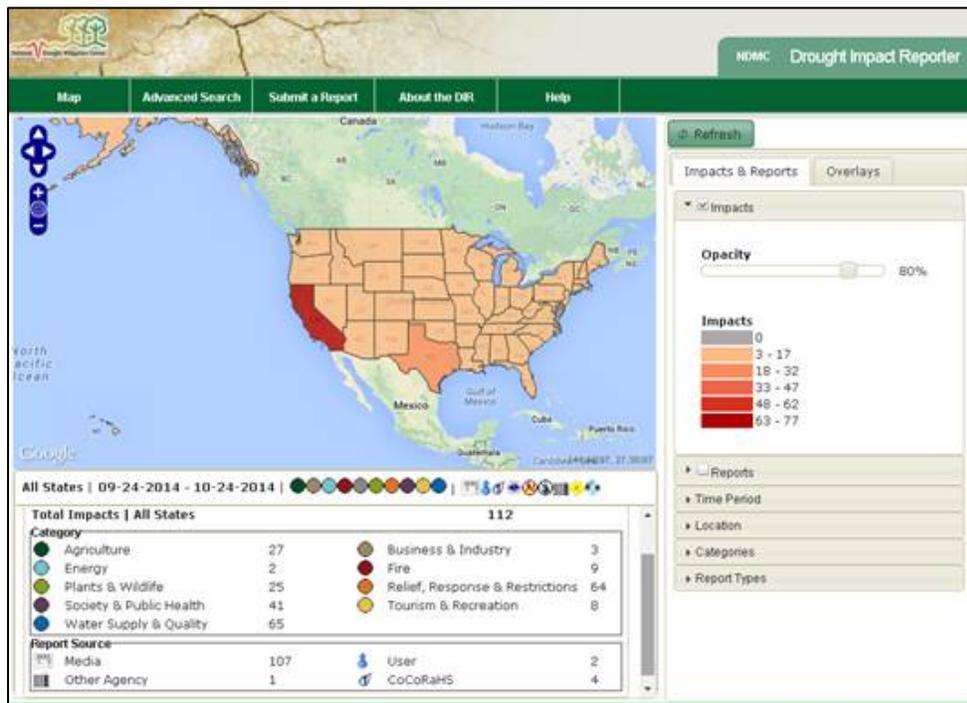
An Interagency Drought Management Committee meeting was held on Oct. 24 at the Skiatook Community Center to address the low level of Skiatook Lake. The Tulsa District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hosted the event.

The USDA's Economic Research Service's [California Drought 2014: Farm and Food Impacts](#) page offers an explanation of the relationships between drought, fruit/vegetable production, Consumer Price Index and retail prices.



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More details in the [Drought Impact Reporter](#)



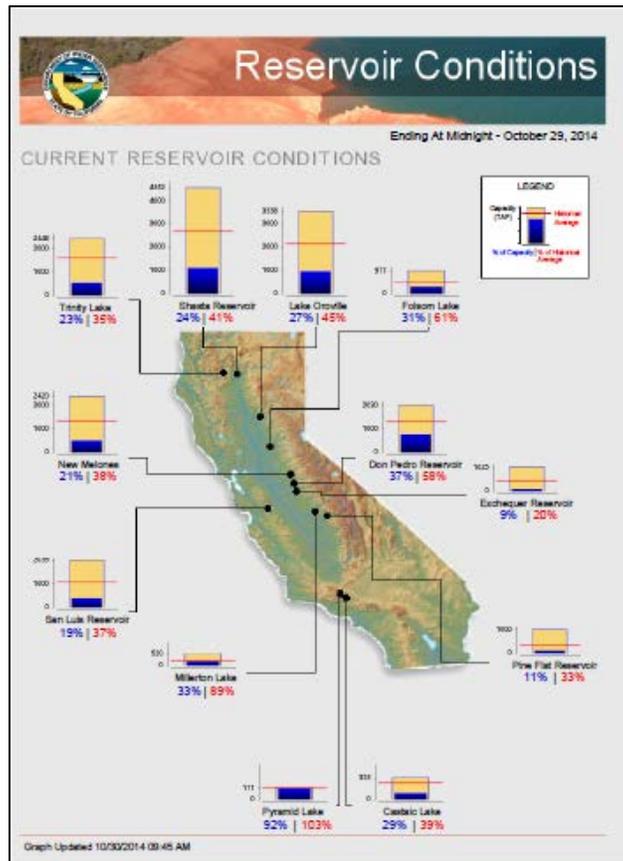
## Tea Cup Reservoir Depictions

- <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/basin/> ← Upper Colorado
- [http://www.usbr.gov/uc/wcao/water/basin/tc\\_gr.html](http://www.usbr.gov/uc/wcao/water/basin/tc_gr.html); ← Upper Snake
- <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/burtea.html> ← Upper Colorado
- [http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/basin/tc\\_cr.html](http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/basin/tc_cr.html) ← Upper Colorado
- <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/select.html> ← Pacific Northwest
- <http://www.sevierriver.org/reservoirs/teacup-diagram-of-reservoirs/> ← Sevier River Water (UT)

## Weekly Water and Climate Update

### California Reservoir Conditions

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



### State Activities

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

### More Information

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

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

/s/

David W. Smith

Deputy Chief, Soil Science and Resource Assessment