

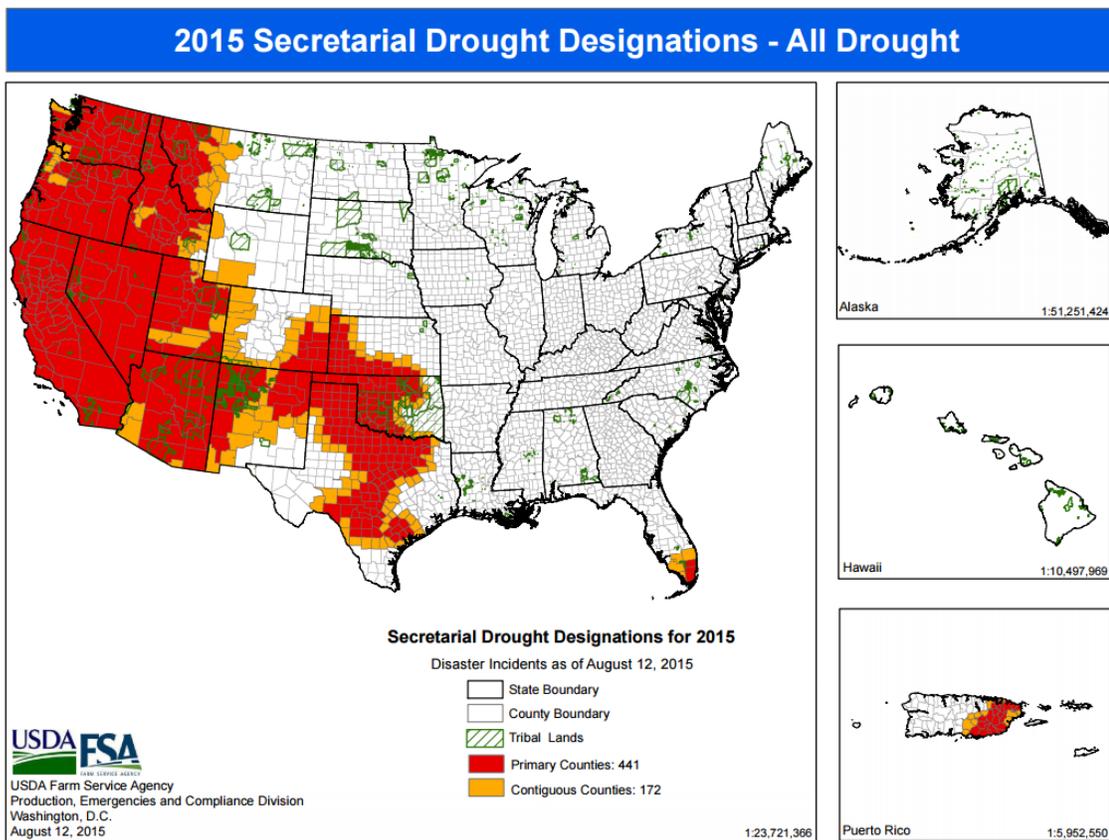
Weekly Water and Climate Update

August 13, 2015

This weekly report uses data and products from the National Water and Climate Center and information provided by other agencies. The report focuses on current precipitation, seasonal snowpack, temperature, and drought conditions in the U.S.

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Weekly Highlight: Many western states under USDA drought designation

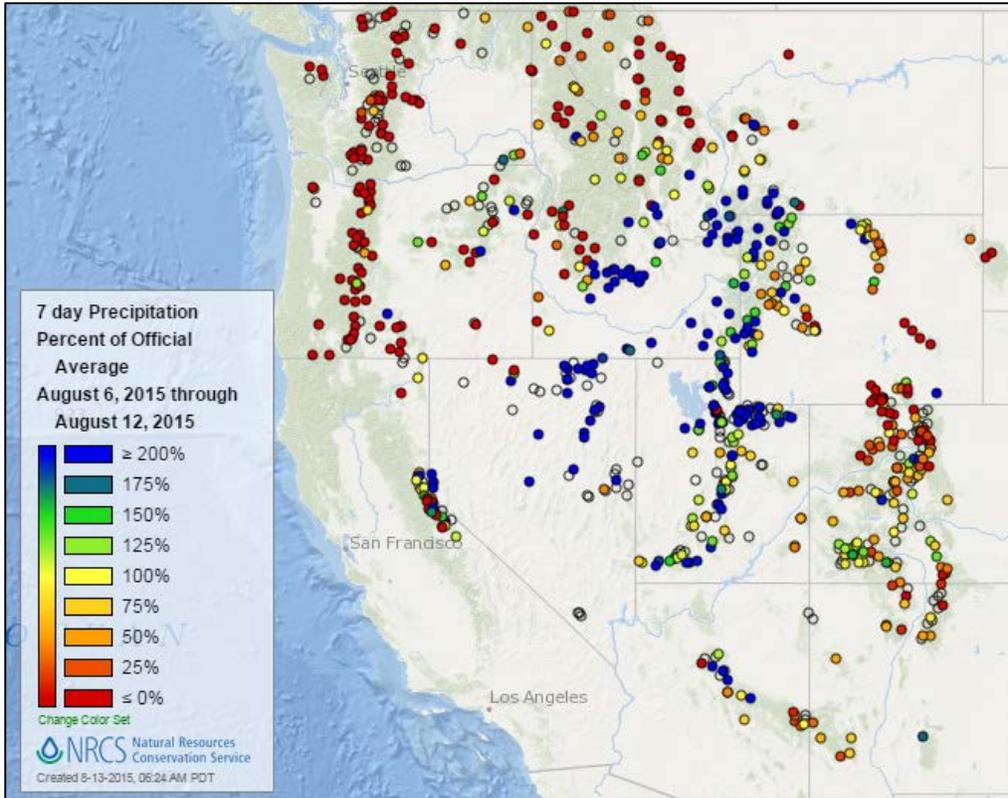


[USDA Disaster and Drought Information.](#) The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is working with producers, communities, affected states, and other agencies to help address the current west coast drought. Information on this web site outlines programs and services available through USDA, coordinated with the seven agencies of the National Drought Resilience Partnership.

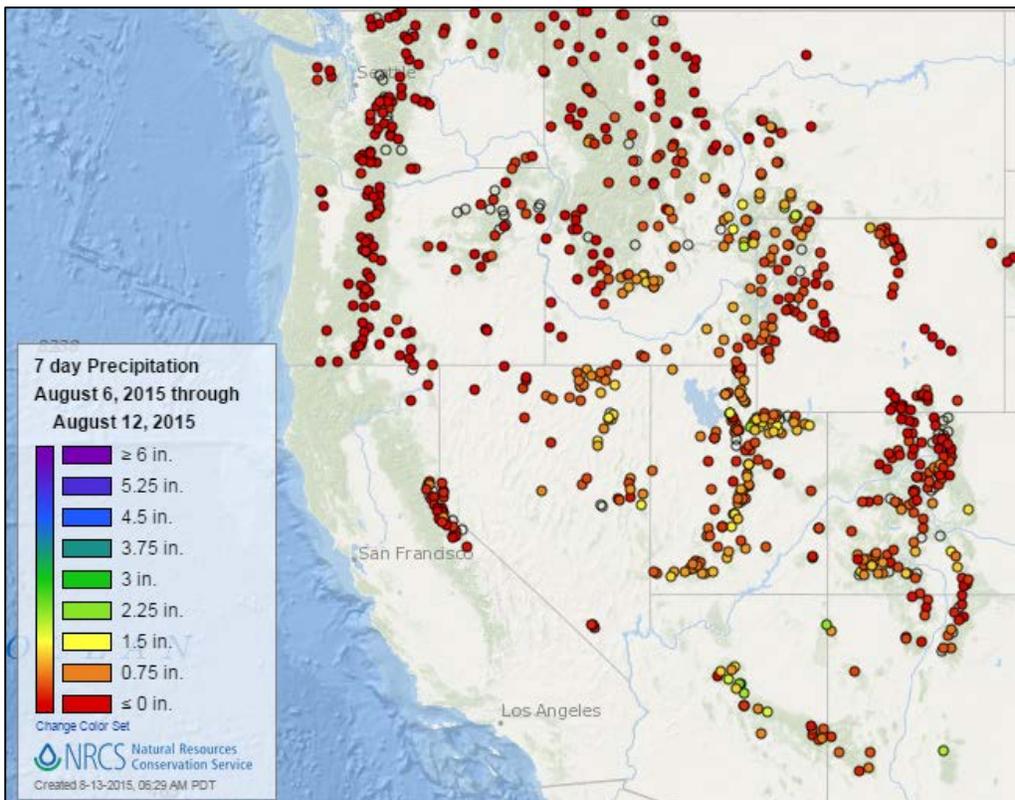
Additional resources are available on the [California Department of Food and Agriculture Drought website.](#)

Precipitation

Last 7 Days, Western Mountain Sites (NRCS SNOTEL)



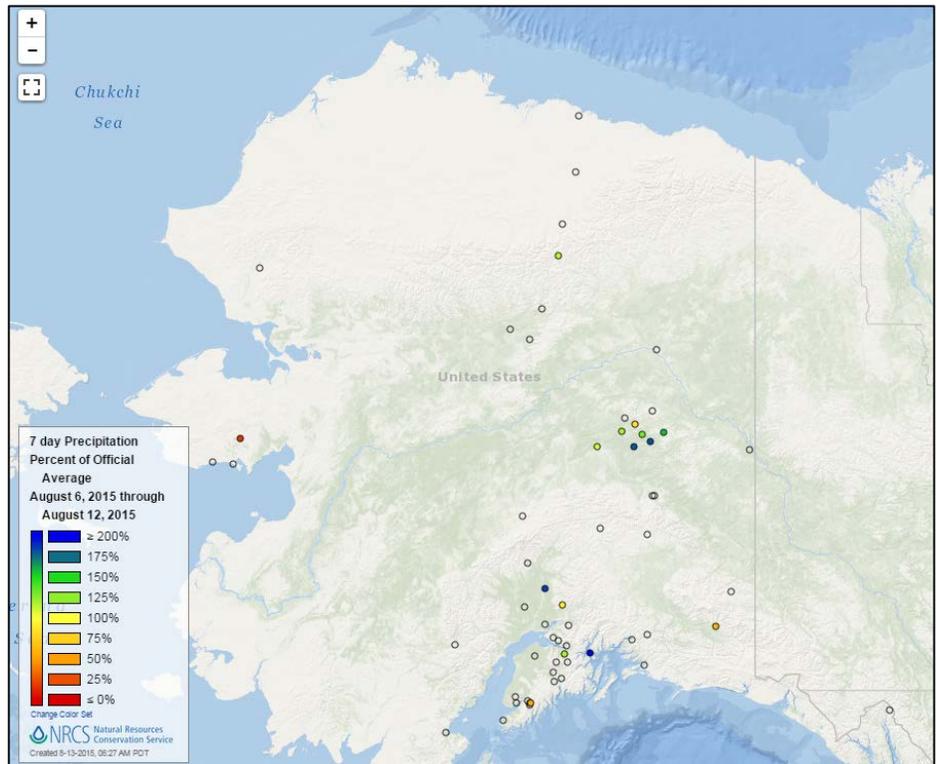
The [precipitation percent of average](#) map shows seasonally very high precipitation in the mountains of northern Utah. Portions of the central Rockies, Nevada, California, and Idaho also received above average precipitation.



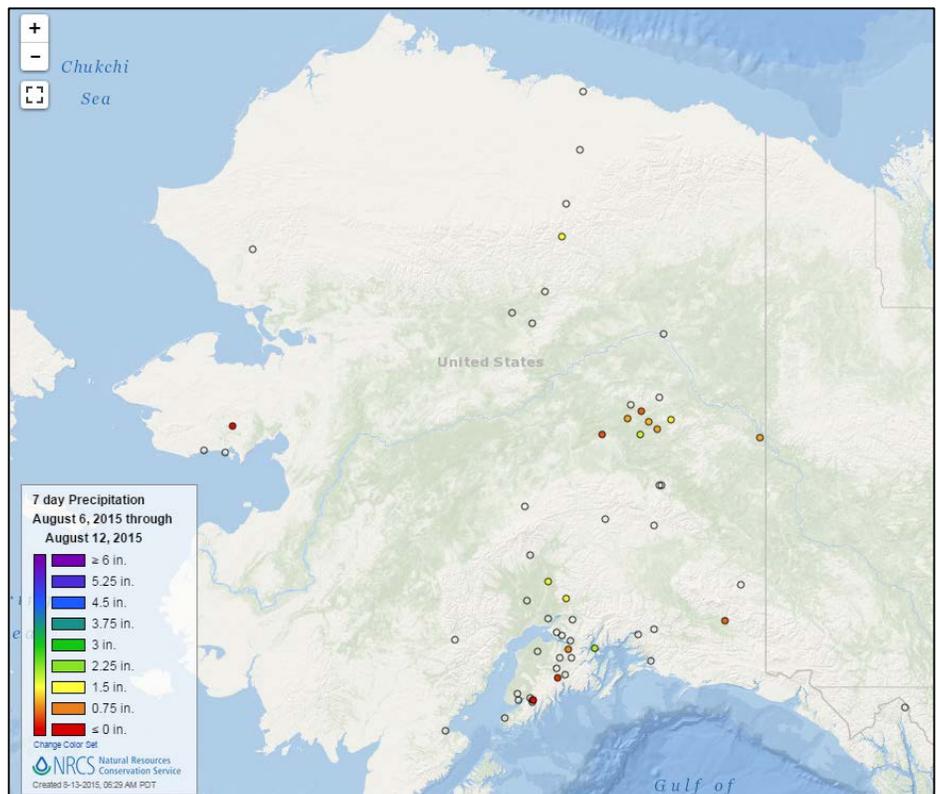
The [total precipitation](#) map shows up to three inches of precipitation in some locations in Arizona and New Mexico. Elsewhere was dry.

Weekly Water and Climate Update

The Alaska [precipitation percent of average](#) map indicates highly variable precipitation over the state, with some stations well above average and others well below average. Some stations are not reporting at this time.



The Alaska [total precipitation](#) map shows that the amount at stations receiving precipitation was generally less than 1.5 inches. Some stations are not reporting at this time.

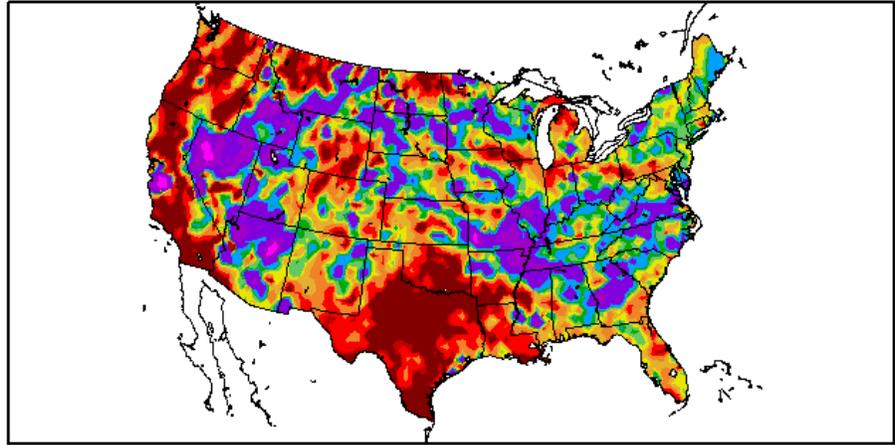


Weekly Water and Climate Update

Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/6/2015 – 8/12/2015

The [percent of normal precipitation](#) map shows precipitation in many areas across the country. Much of the west coast, the Northwest, Texas, and the upper Midwest were dry.

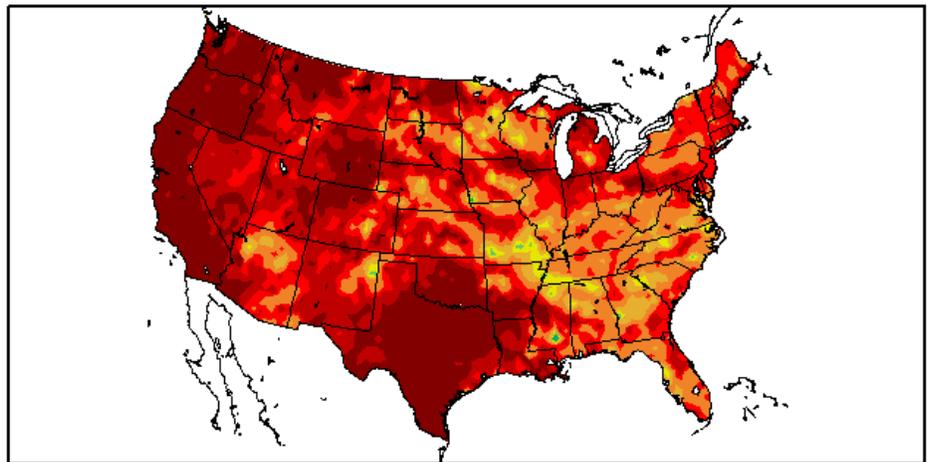


Generated 8/13/2015 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Precipitation (in)
8/6/2015 – 8/12/2015

In the [7-day total precipitation](#) map, very little, if any, precipitation occurred over much of the West, with some isolated areas of high precipitation across the eastern U.S.



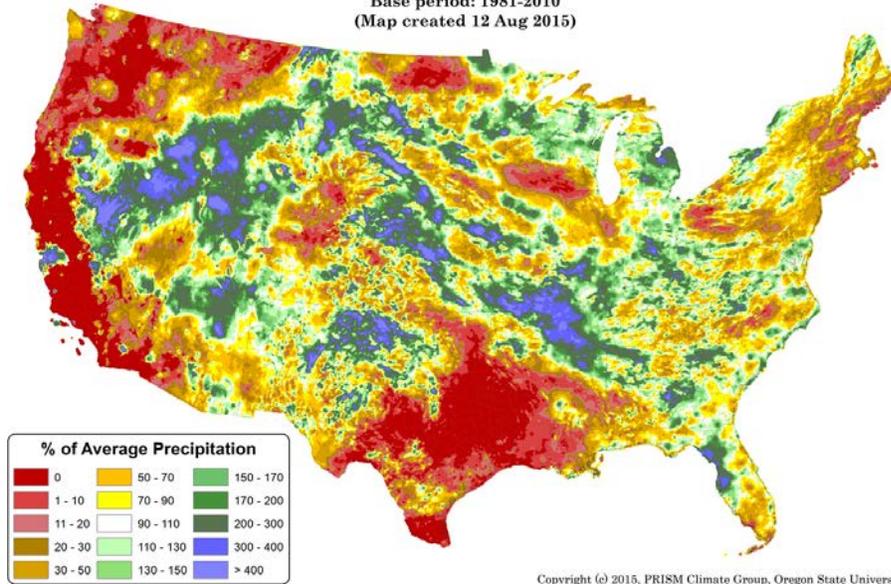
Generated 8/13/2015 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Weekly Water and Climate Update

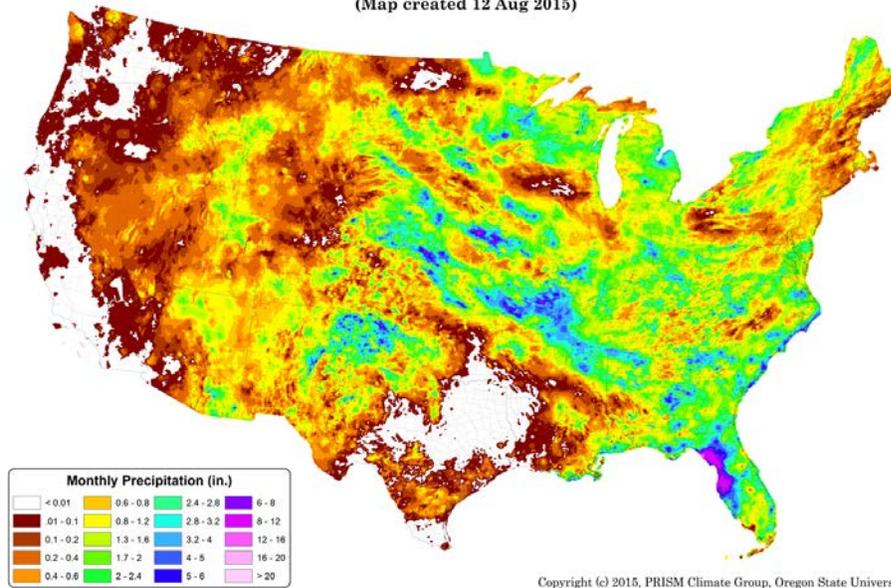
Month-to-Date, PRISM Preliminary, All available data including SNOTEL and NWS

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 August 2015 - 11 August 2015
 Period ending 7 AM EST 11 Aug 2015
 Base period: 1981-2010
 (Map created 12 Aug 2015)



For the month of August to date, the national [total precipitation percent of average](#) pattern reveals much higher than normal precipitation in the central West, Midwest, and elsewhere. The Pacific Northwest, western California, the northern Great Plains, and the south central area of the country remain dry.

Total Precipitation: 01 August 2015 - 11 August 2015
 Period ending 7 AM EST 11 Aug 2015
 (Map created 12 Aug 2015)

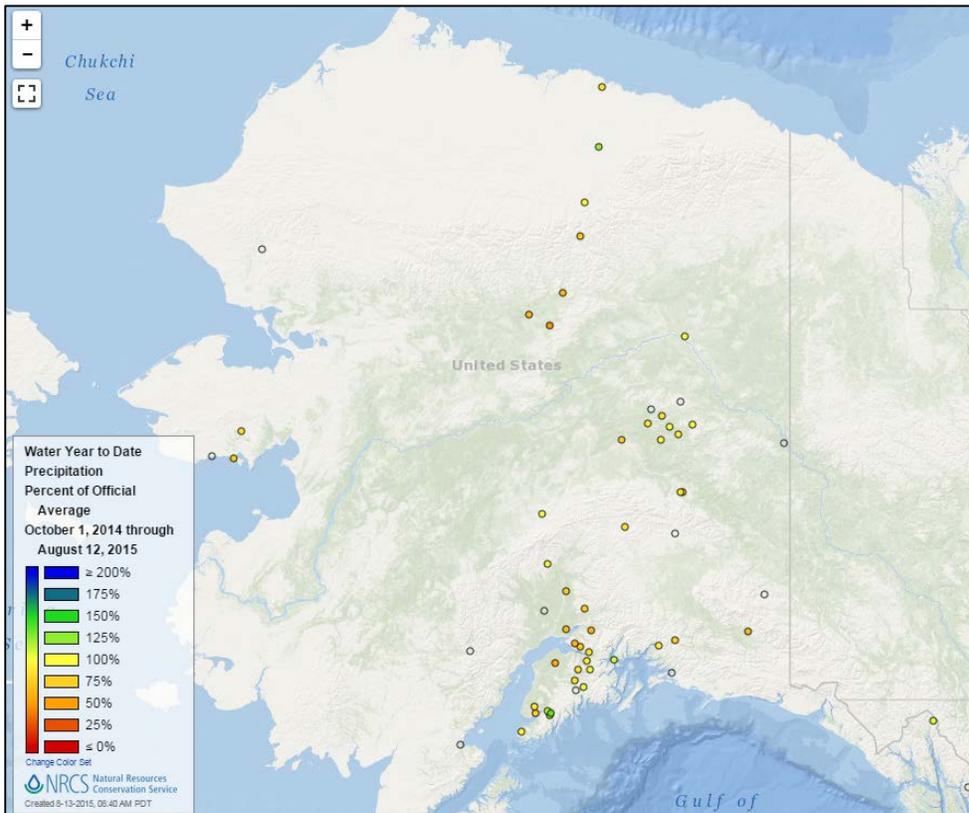
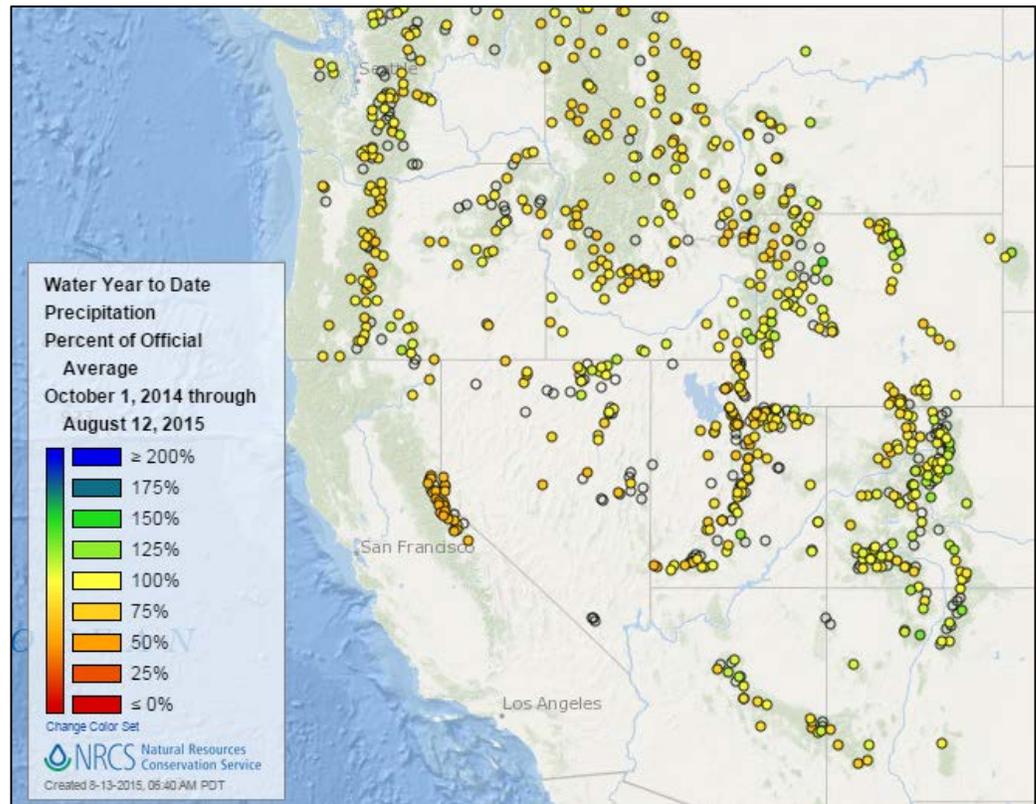


The [total precipitation](#) map shows significant precipitation especially in the central Plains, the Southeast, and Florida. In contrast, dry conditions prevailed along the West Coast, northern Plains, and south central areas of the U.S.

Weekly Water and Climate Update

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

For the [2015 Water Year](#) that began on October 1, 2014, large fluctuations throughout the year have now evened out to make most areas of the West near normal, with the exception of the central Sierra, which remains below normal.



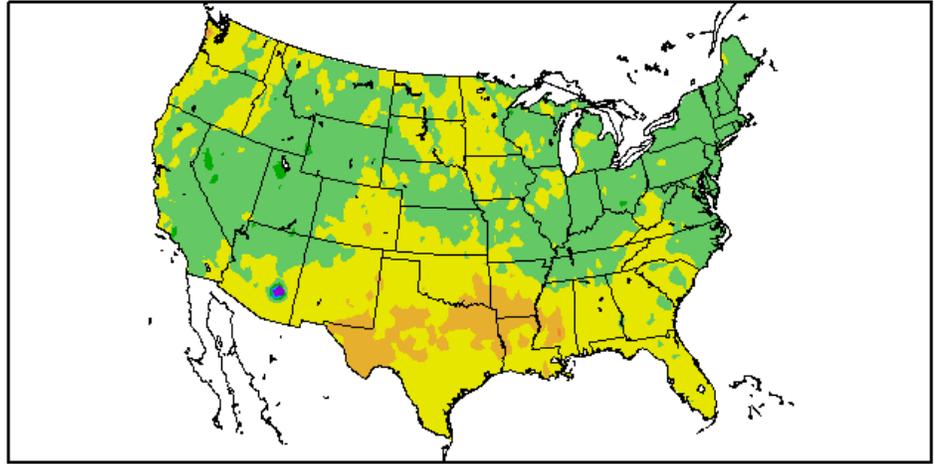
The Alaska [water year-to-date precipitation percent of average](#) map shows mostly near to below average conditions, with a few stations on the Kenai Peninsula reporting above average precipitation for the water year.

Temperature

Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/6/2015 – 8/12/2015

The map of the [average temperature anomalies](#) for the past week indicates much warmer than normal temperatures in the south-central U.S., with cooler than normal conditions in parts of the West and the Northeast.



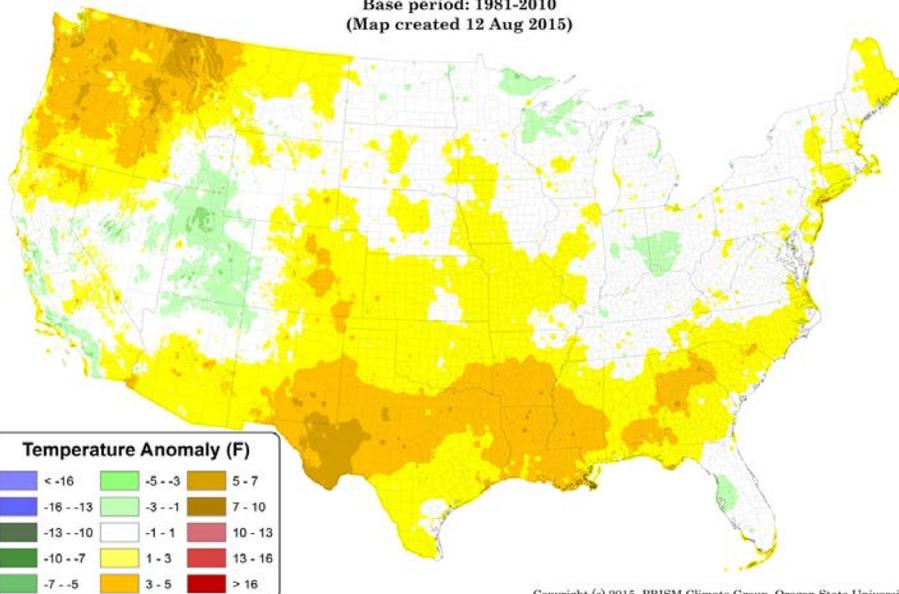
Generated 8/13/2015 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Month-to-Date, PRISM Preliminary, All available data including SNOTEL and NWS

For August 2015 to date, the national [daily mean temperature anomaly](#) map shows very warm temperatures in the Northwest and south central U.S., with cool temperatures in the upper Midwest, Utah, and western Florida.

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: 01 August 2015 - 11 August 2015
Period ending 7 AM EST 11 Aug 2015
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 12 Aug 2015)

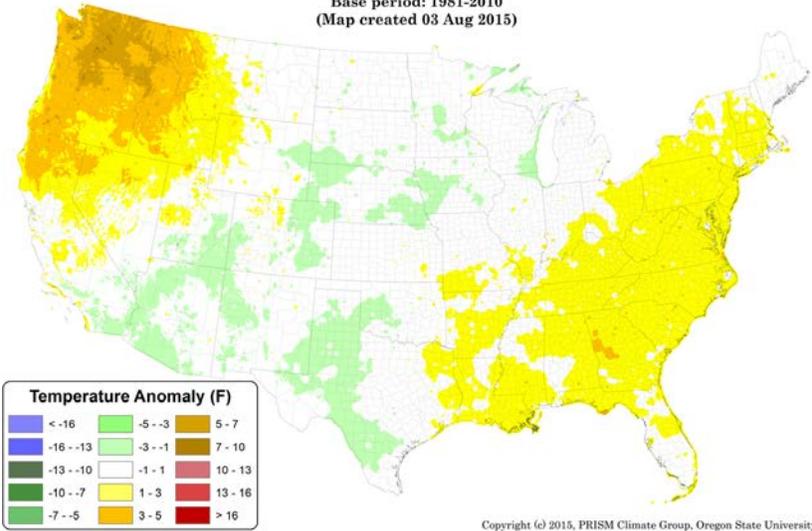


Copyright (c) 2015, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

Weekly Water and Climate Update

Last 3 Months, PRISM Preliminary

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: May 2015 - July 2015
 Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Jul 2015
 Base period: 1981-2010
 (Map created 03 Aug 2015)

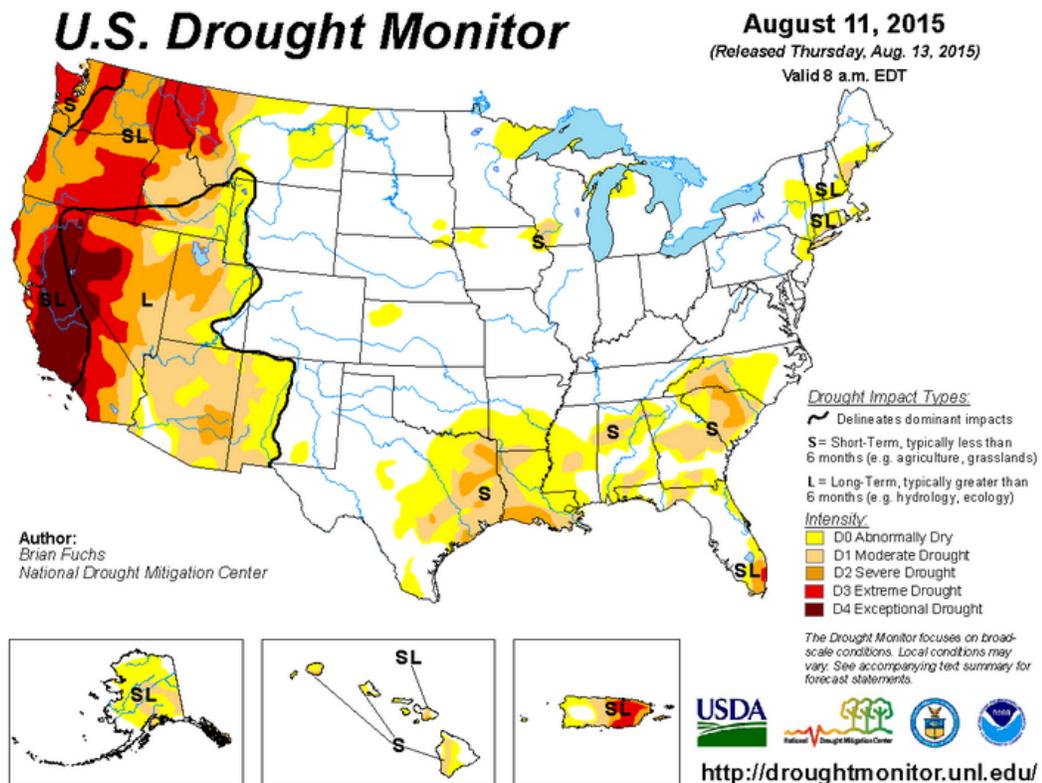


The May through July national [daily mean temperature anomalies](#) for the U.S. show the West and the Southeast had the largest temperature departures above normal. The rest of the country was mostly near average.

Drought

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

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#) See map below. Exceptional levels of drought continue in California and Nevada. To view regional drought conditions, select a region on the map. State maps are available from regional maps.



Weekly Water and Climate Update

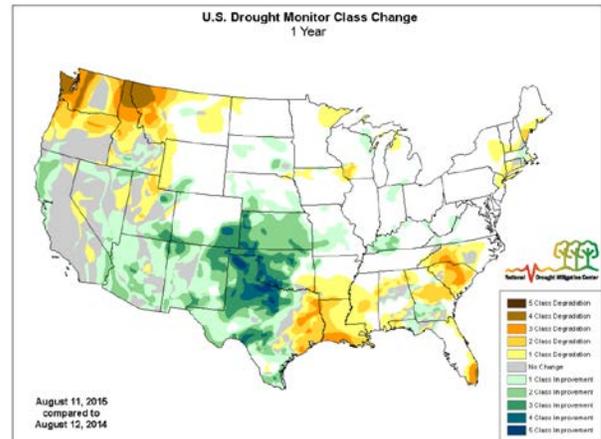
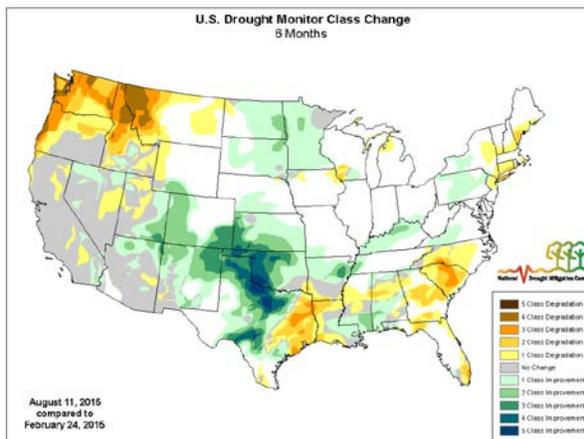
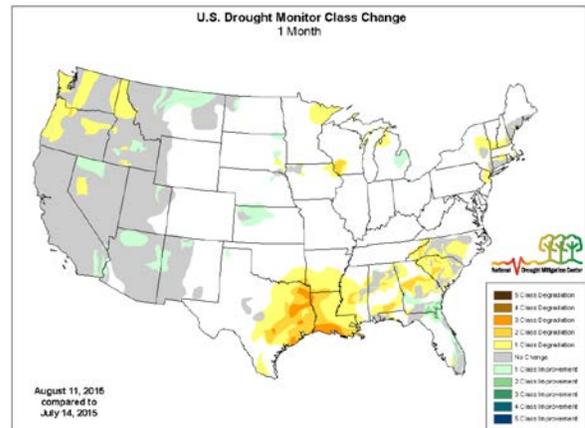
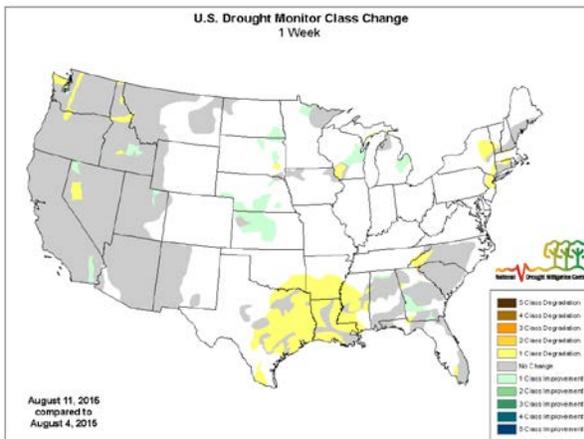
Current National Drought Summary, August 11, 2015

Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

"This week, most of the western and northern portions of the country recorded below-normal temperatures while most of the south was above normal. Active weather from the central plains into the Midwest brought above-normal precipitation over much of the region while the dryness intensified over the south and into the Gulf Coast."

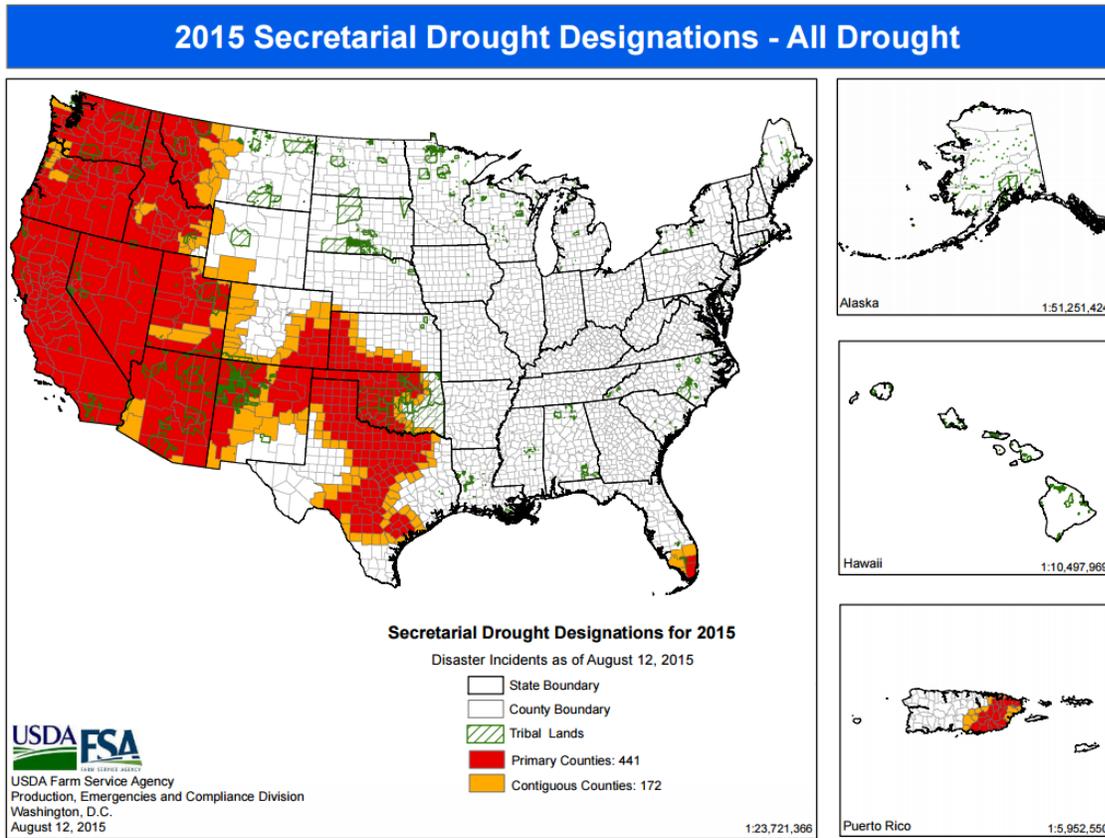
This summary and detailed regional drought narratives for the last week are [here](#).

Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time



Intensifying dry conditions are particularly notable in the Northwest. Conditions have improved significantly in the southern Great Plains and parts of the Southwest.

2015 USDA Drought Designations



[USDA Disaster and Drought Information](#)

[U.S. Population in Drought, Weekly Comparison](#)

Highlighted Drought Resources

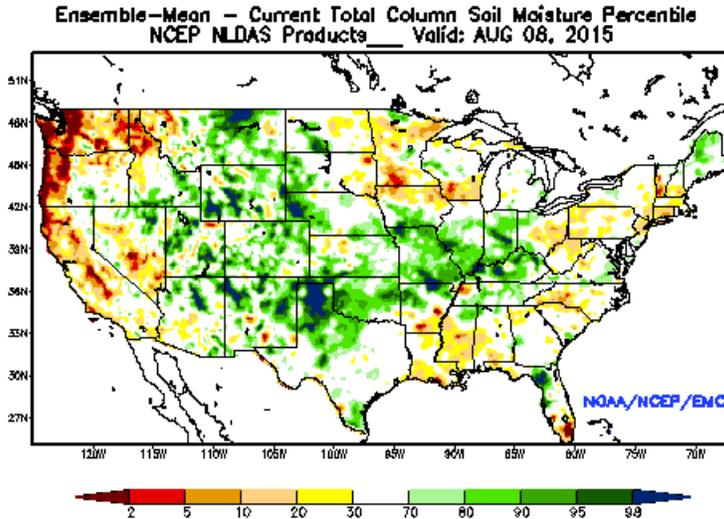
[Drought Impact Reporter](#)

[Quarterly Regional Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)

[U.S. Drought Portal Indicators and Monitoring](#)

Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

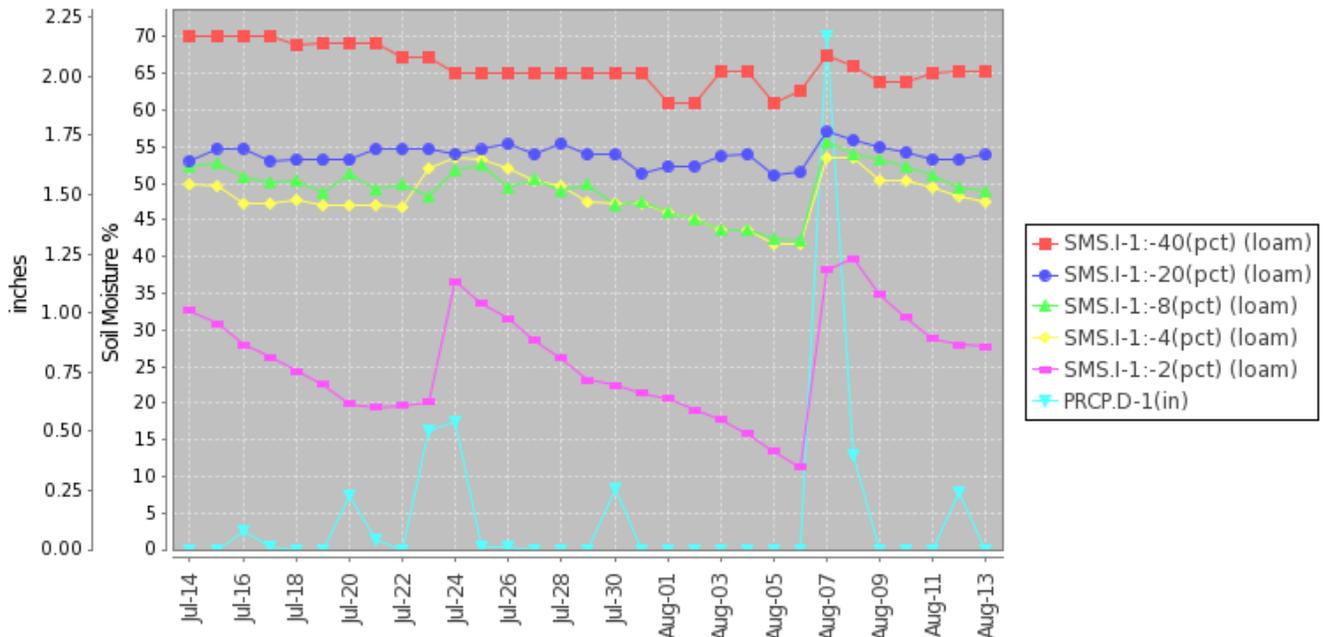


The modeled [soil moisture percentiles](#) as of August 8, 2015 show significant dryness in the far West, the north central part of the country, the Northeast, and parts of the Southeast. Areas of above normal soil moisture include much of the Rocky Mountains, the central Great Plains, the Midwest, and Florida.

[University of Washington Experimental Modeled Soil Moisture](#)

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

Station (2177) MONTH=2015-07-14 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision
Thu Aug 13 07:03:15 PDT 2015



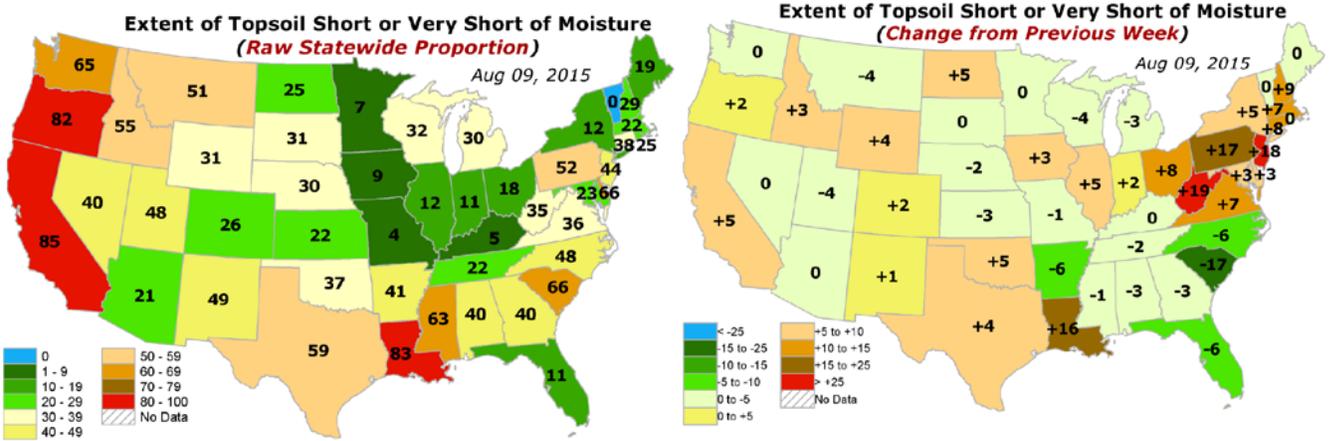
This example NRCS graph shows soil moisture (2, 4, 8, 20, and 40 inch depth) and precipitation for the last month at the [Broad Acres SCAN site](#) (station number 2177) in Alabama. Multiple precipitation events generated corresponding soil moisture response with drying between events.

Soil Moisture Data Portals

[CRN Soil Moisture](#)
[Texas A&M University North American Soil Moisture Database](#)

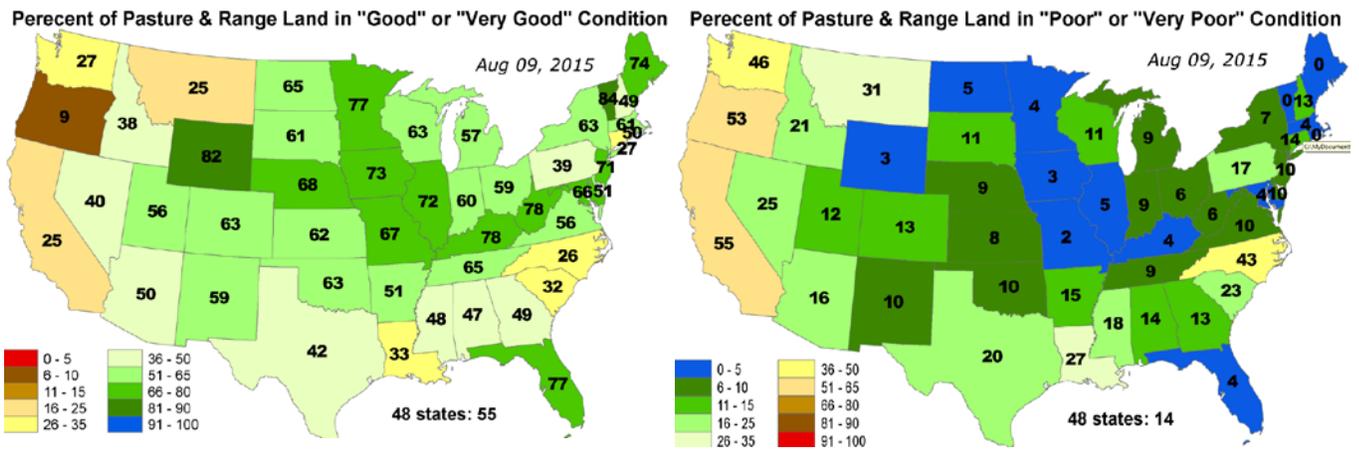
Weekly Water and Climate Update

Topsoil



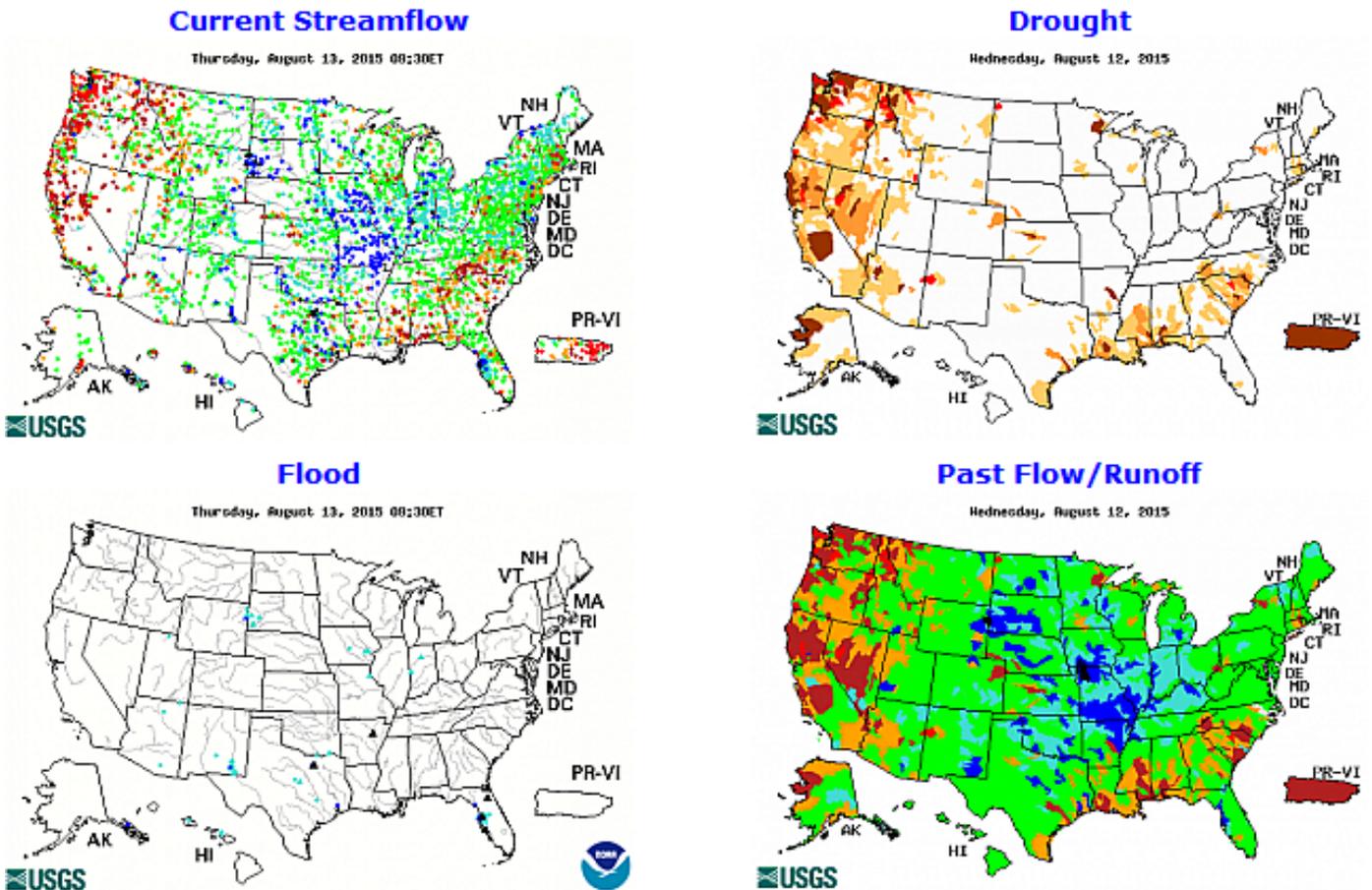
Low [topsoil moisture](#) conditions are especially notable all along the West Coast.

Pasture and Rangeland



[Pasture and rangeland](#) conditions are generally good except on the West Coast.

Streamflow



[Streamflow](#) remains below normal in the West and parts of the Southeast, whereas it is above normal in the central part of the country. From the USGS web site, select any individual map to enlarge and display a legend.

Current Reservoir Storage

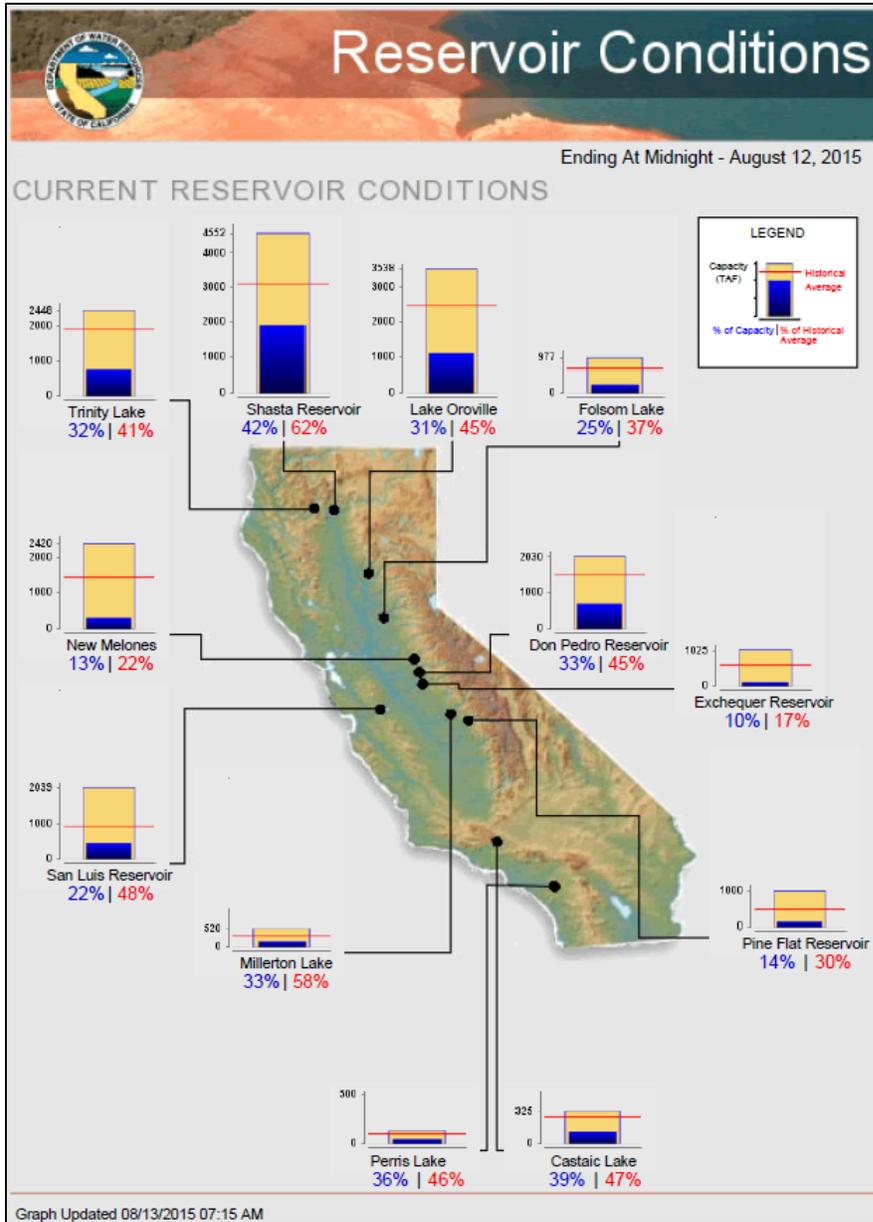
[National Water and Climate Center Reservoir Data](#)

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

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

Weekly Water and Climate Update

California Reservoir Conditions



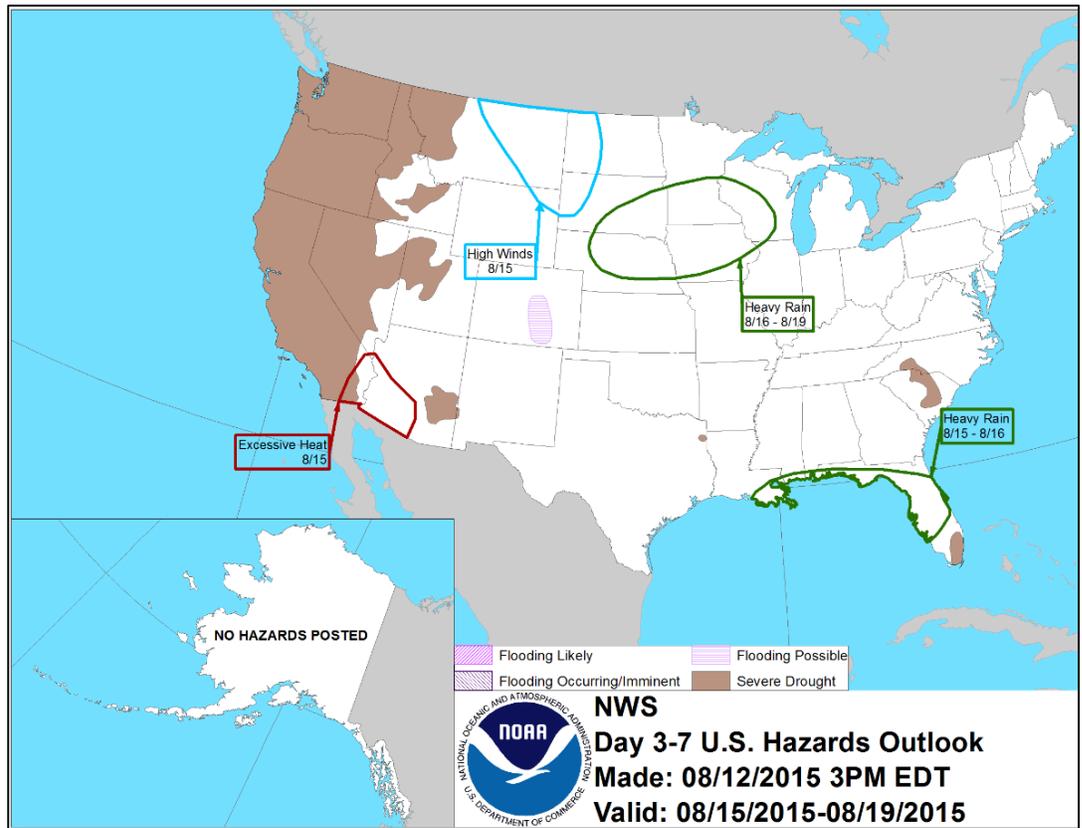
Short- and Long-Range Forecasts

Agricultural Weather Highlights

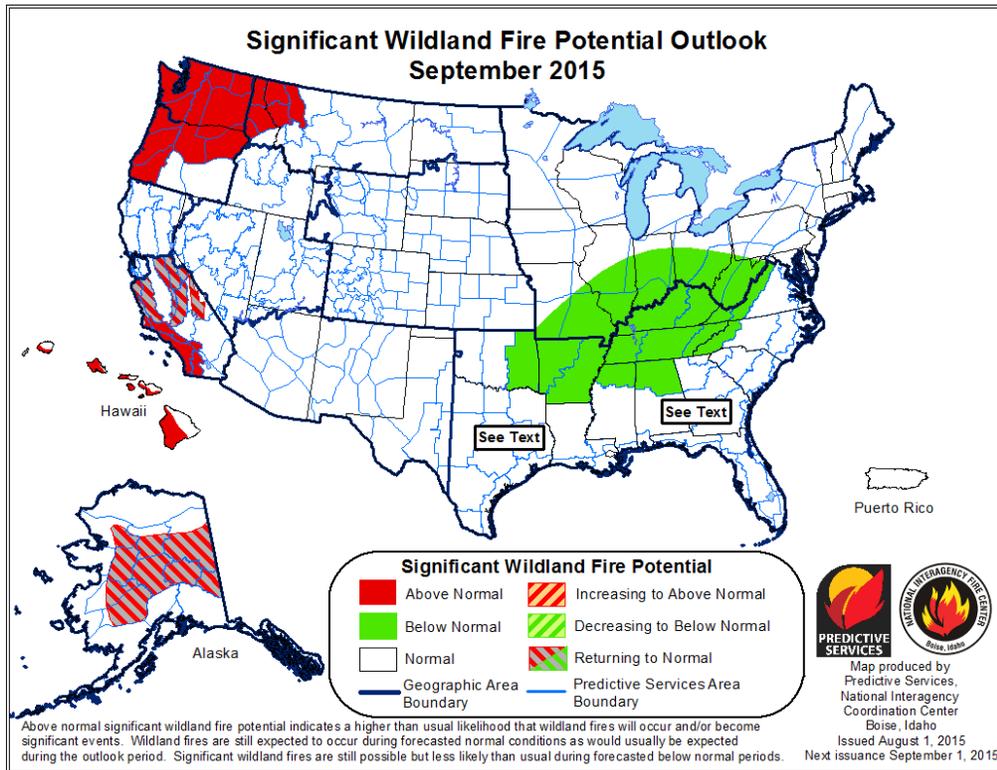
Outlook, August 13, 2015: "For the remainder of the week, shower activity will be mostly limited to the Great Lakes region and the lower Southeast. During the weekend, rainfall will increase in coverage along and near the Gulf Coast and in the southern Atlantic States. Meanwhile, the latest surge of monsoon-related moisture will spread from the southern Rockies across the central Plains and upper Midwest. In advance of the monsoon surge, late-week temperatures will briefly soar to 100°F or higher as far north as South Dakota. Five-day rainfall totals could reach 1 to 2 inches or more in the Deep South and from the southern Rockies to the Great Lakes region, while dry weather will prevail from the southern Plains to the Mid-Atlantic States and much of the Far West. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for August 18 – 22 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures nearly nationwide, cooler-than-normal conditions will be confined to the northern half of the Plains and the upper Midwest. Meanwhile, near- to below normal rainfall in the West will contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in most areas east of the Rockies." Author: Brad Rippey, USDA Agricultural Meteorologist.

National Weather Hazards

The outlook for [weather hazards](#) over the next several days includes excessive heat in the Southwest, high winds in the northern Plains, and heavy rain in the central U.S. and along the Gulf coast. Severe drought remains in the far West.

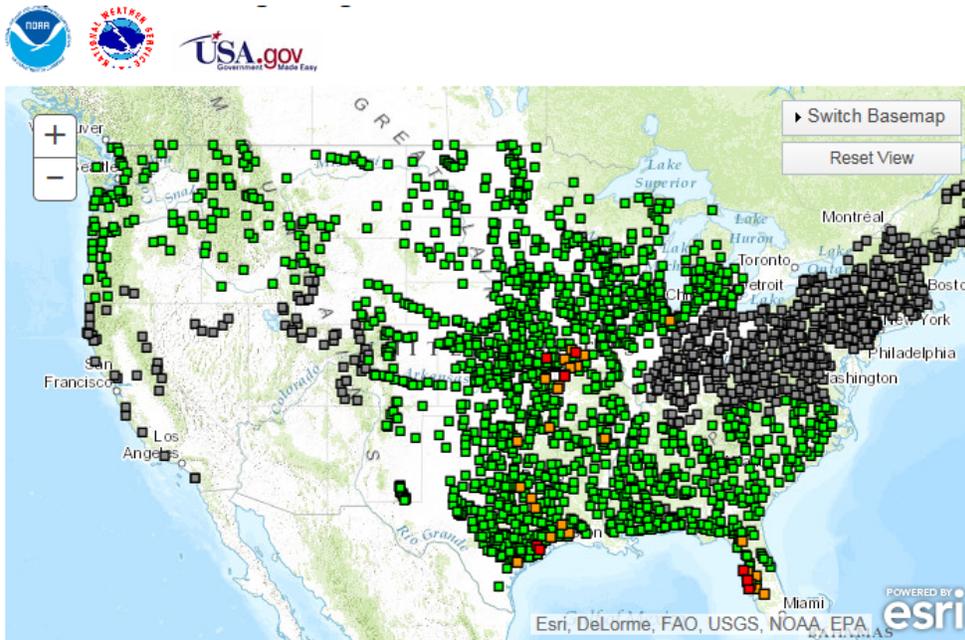


Fire Potential Outlook: September 2015



In September, above normal [fire potential](#) exists in the Pacific Northwest, California, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Long-Range Flood Outlook



During the next three months, there is some [flooding potential](#) primarily in the central part of the country.

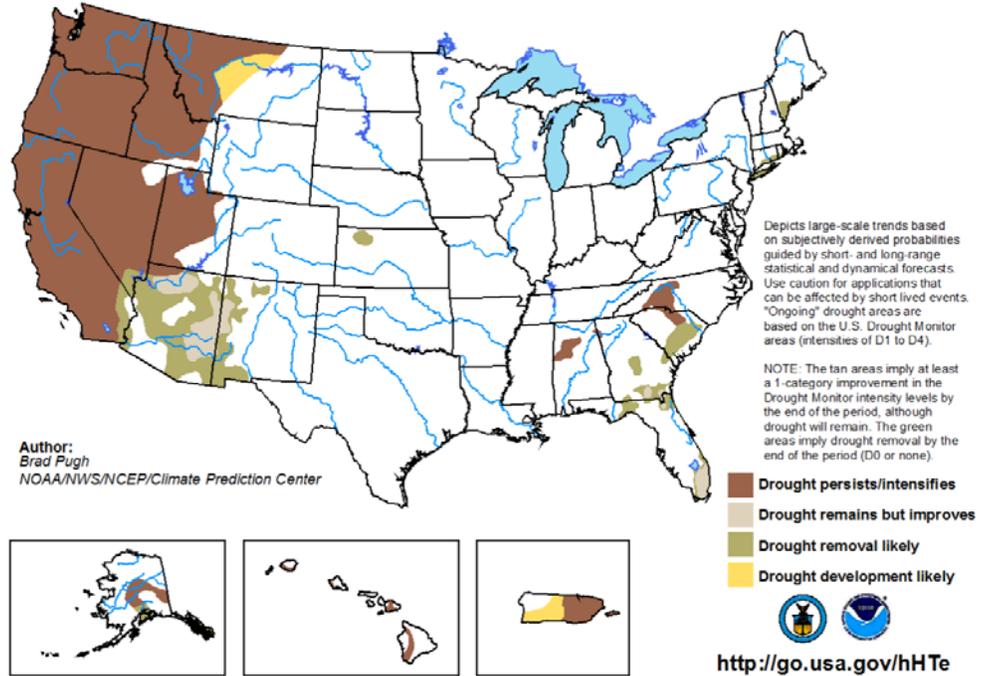
Weekly Water and Climate Update

Seasonal Drought Outlook

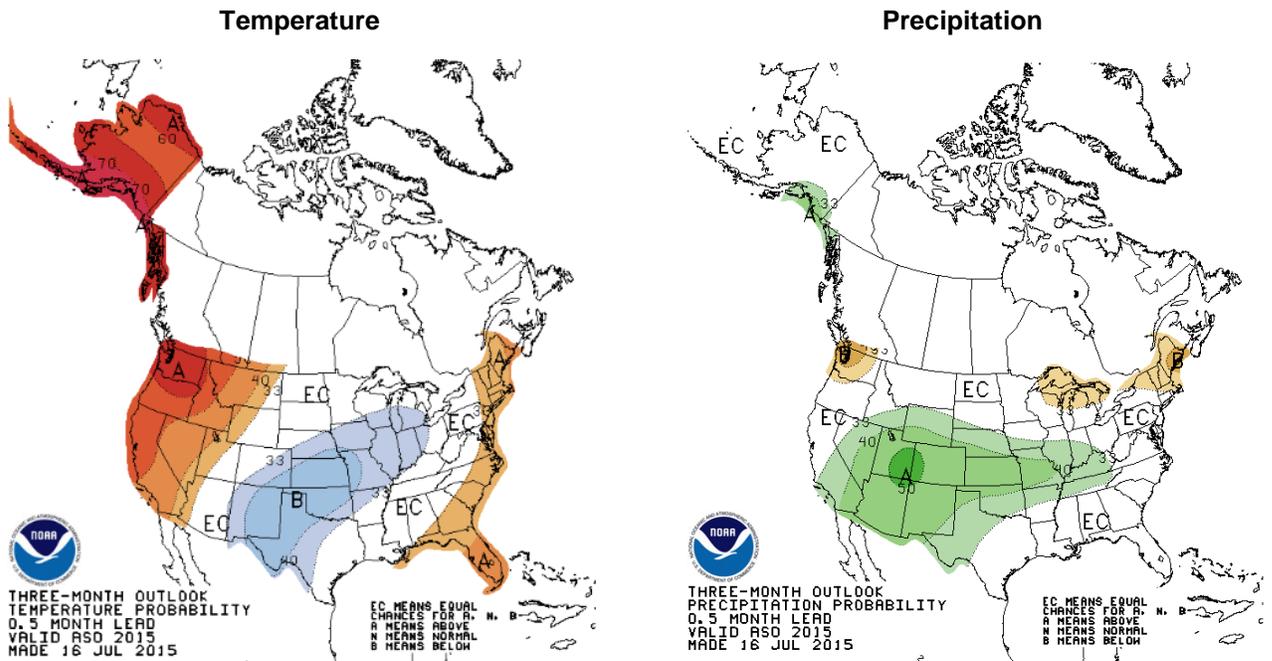
Drought will persist over the far West.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for July 16 - October 31, 2015
Released July 16, 2015



Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook



During **August-October**, there is enhanced probability of above normal temperatures in the West, Alaska, and the East Coast, while below normal temperatures are likely in the southern Great Plains and the Midwest. Enhanced probability for above normal precipitation is predicted for the Southwest, the central part of the country, and south coastal Alaska, with below normal precipitation in Washington, the Great Lakes area, and the Northeast.

More Information

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