



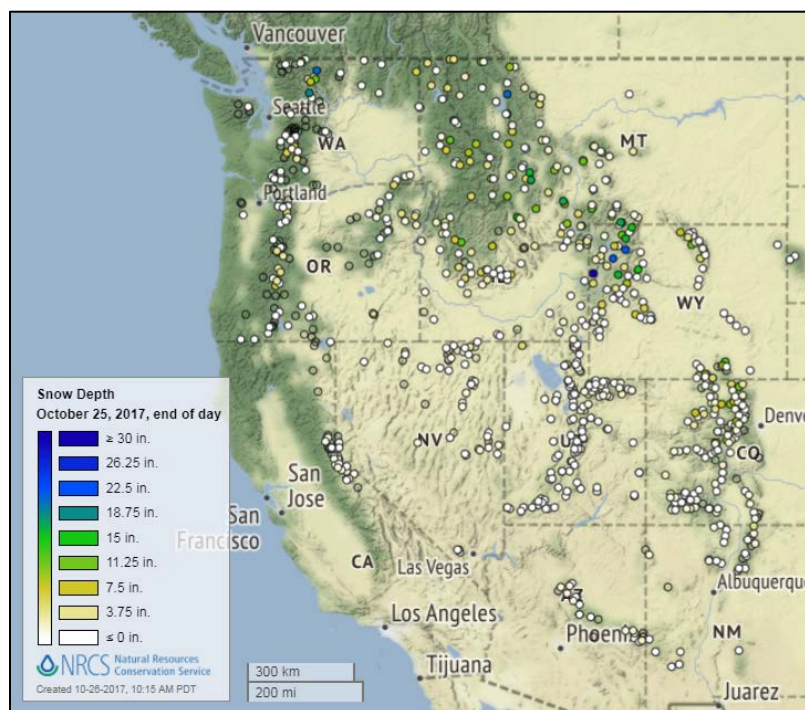
Water and Climate Update

October 26, 2017

The Natural Resources Conservation Service produces this weekly report using data and products from the [National Water and Climate Center](#) and other agencies. The report focuses on seasonal snowpack, precipitation, temperature, and drought conditions in the U.S.

<i>Precipitation</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators</i>	<i>11</i>
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Snowpack accumulating in the West



Winter has arrived in the West as snowpack starts to build in the northern mountains. Snow depths of over two feet have been reported at a few SNOTEL stations in the central and northern Rockies and northern Cascades, with lesser amounts elsewhere. Much of the current snow was provided by the cool, atmospheric river aimed at the Northwest.

The [NOAA winter outlook](#) for 2017-2018 forecasts a cooler and wetter season for the Northern Tier states from Washington to North Dakota, with warm and dry weather for much of the rest of the contiguous U.S.

Related:

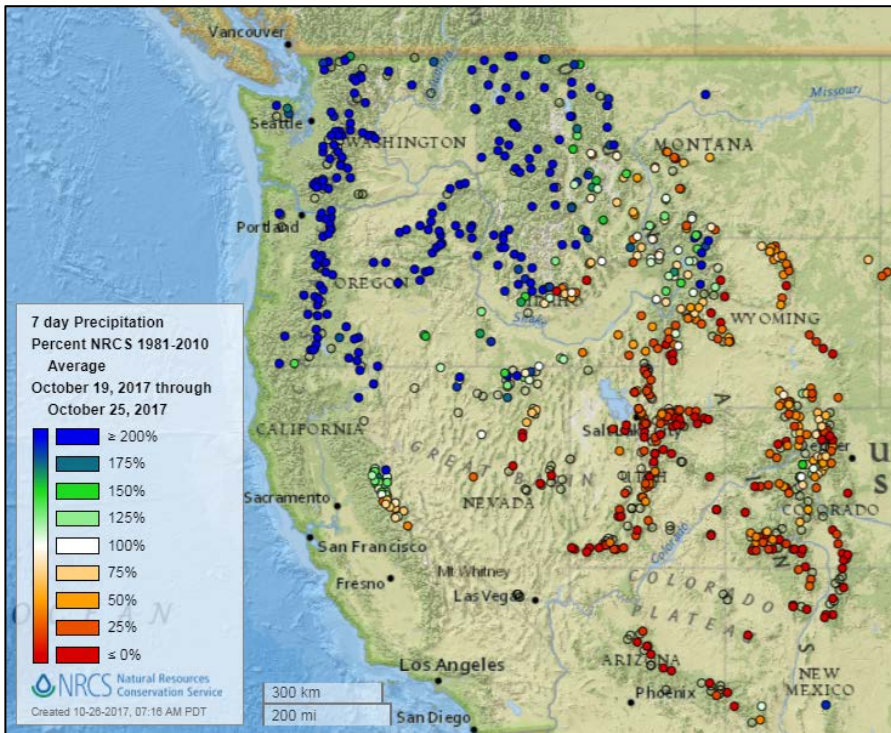
[NOAA Releases Winter 2017-2018 Outlook](#), WHNT News, Alabama

[Let it snow? Wetter-than-normal winter likely but too early to predict Montana's snowfall](#), Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Montana

[SR20 North Cascades Highway to reopen Wednesday at 10am](#), KPQ Newsradio, Washington

Precipitation

Last 7 Days, Western Mountain Sites (NRCS SNOTEL Network)



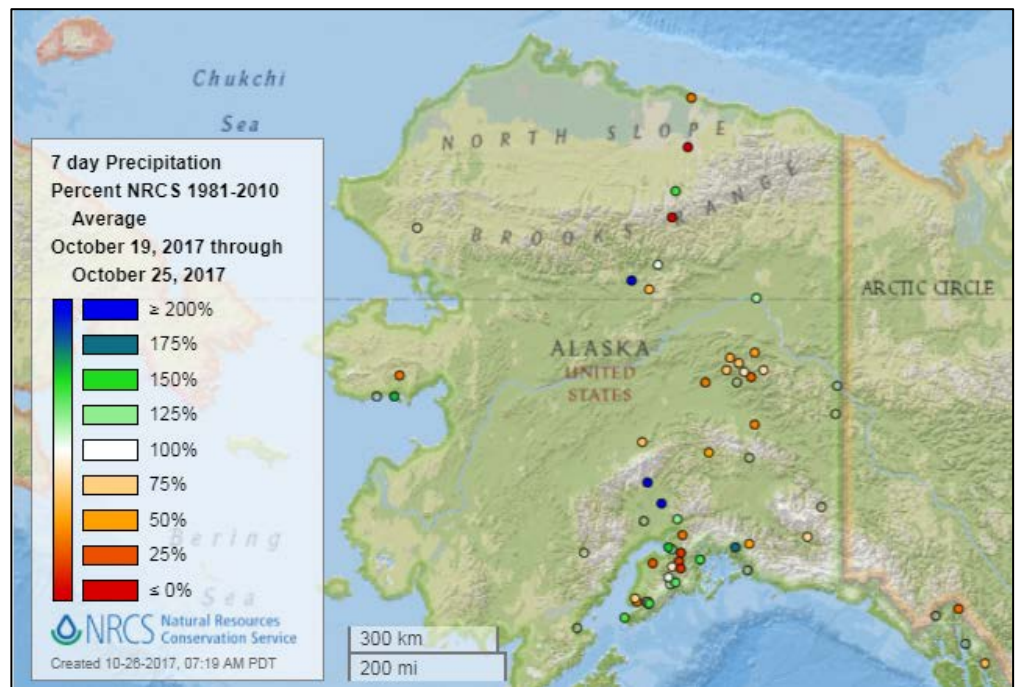
[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also:

[7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

[Alaska 7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [Alaska 7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

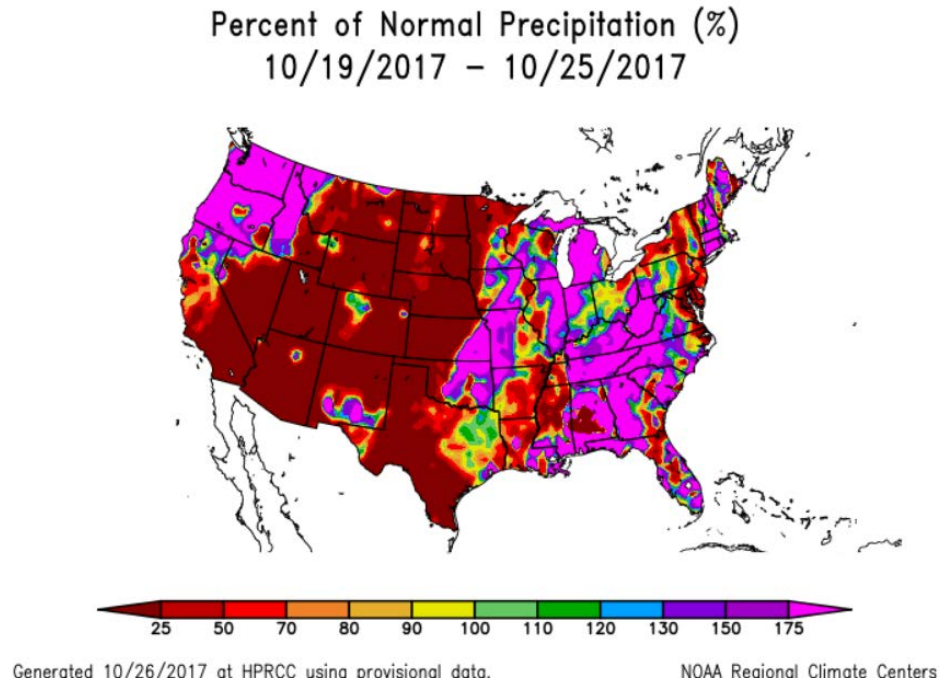


Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day precipitation percent of normal map](#) for the continental U.S.

See also: [7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

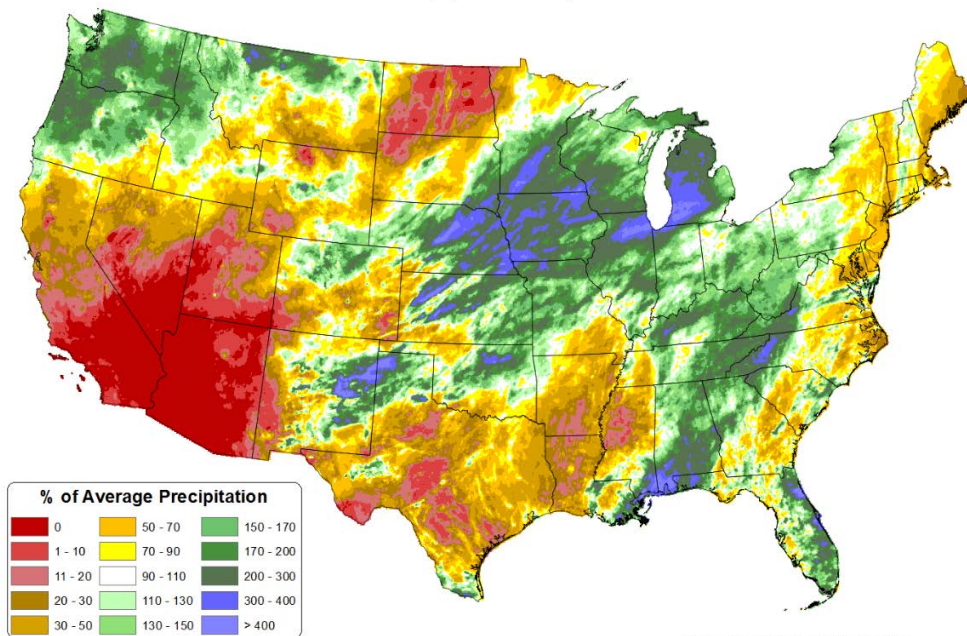


Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 October 2017 - 25 October 2017
Period ending 7 AM EST 25 Oct 2017
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 26 Oct 2017)

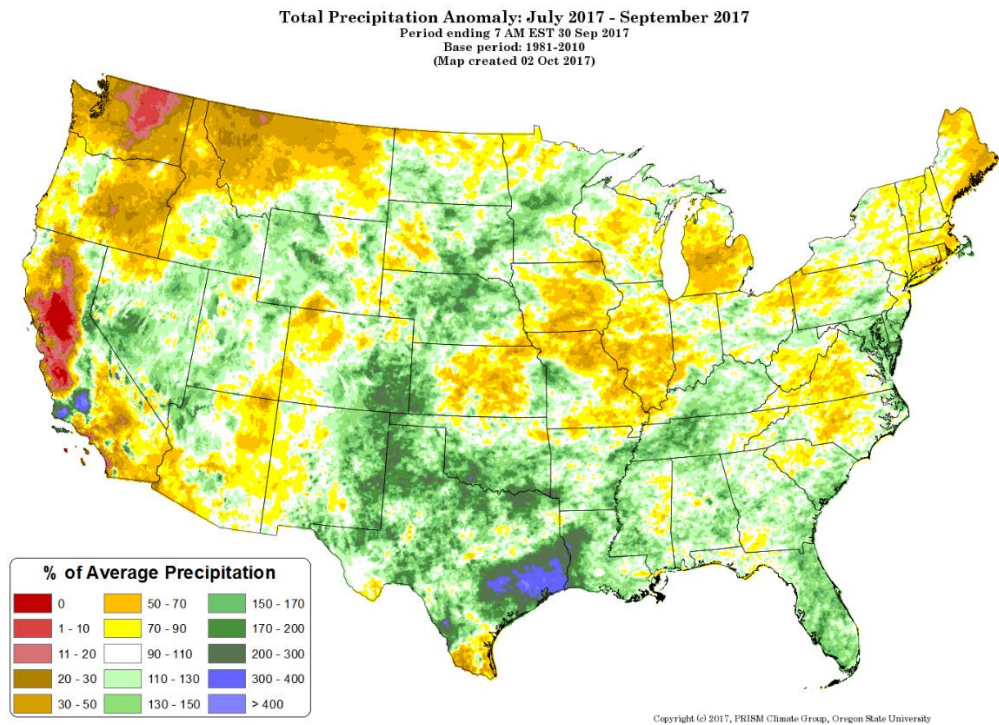
[Month-to-date national precipitation percent of average map](#)



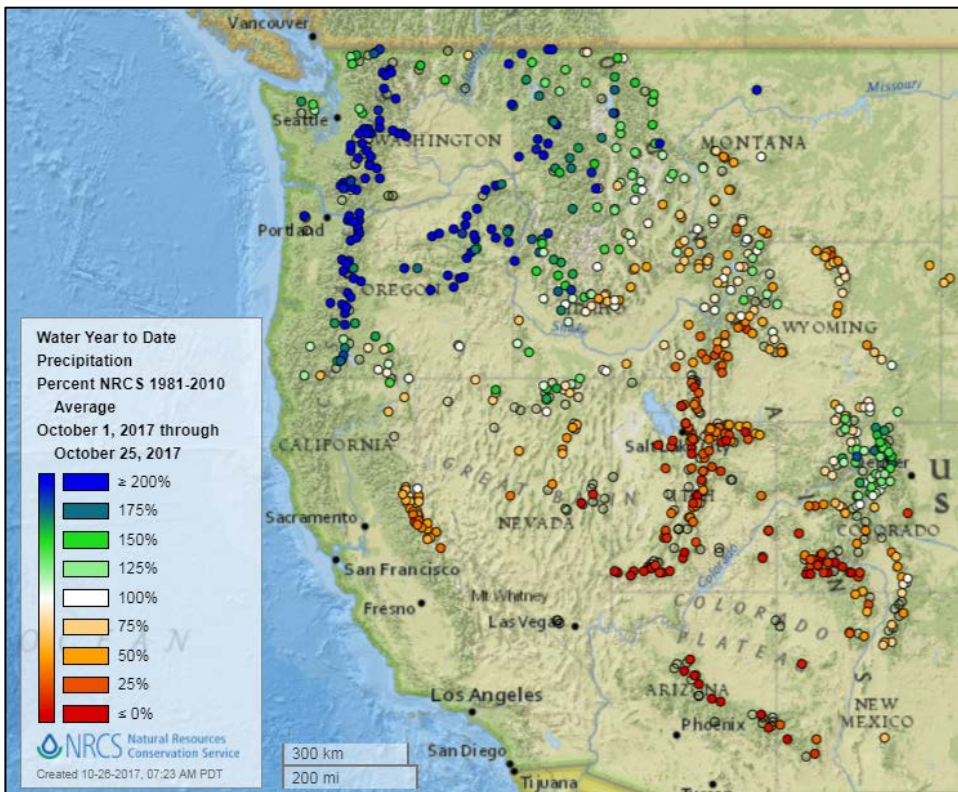
Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

[July through September 2017 total precipitation anomaly map](#)



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

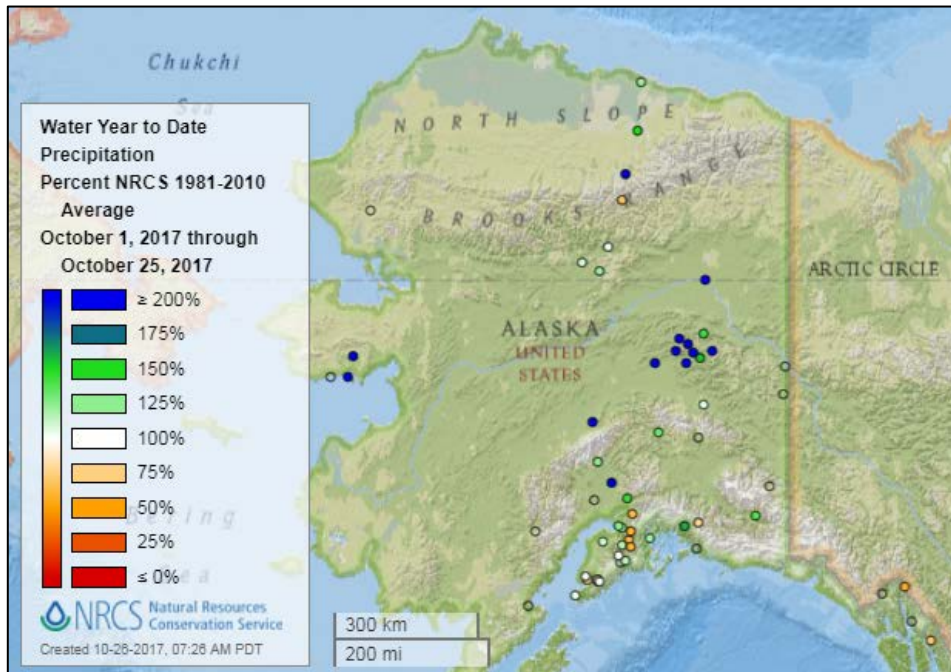


Note: October 1 marked the beginning of the 2018 Water Year

[2018 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [2018 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\)](#)

Water and Climate Update



[Alaska 2018 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [Alaska 2018 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Temperature

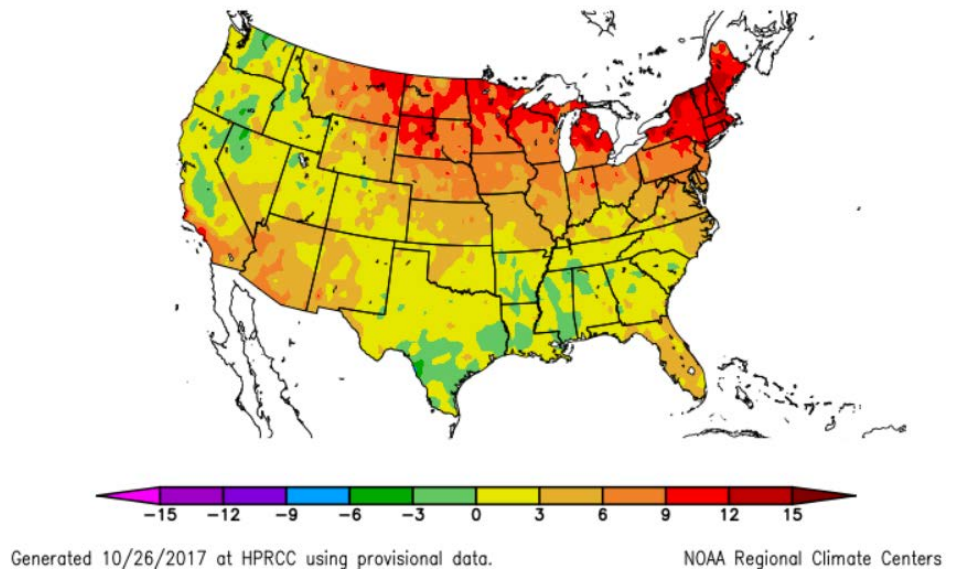
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day temperature anomaly map](#) for the continental U.S.

See also: [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/19/2017 – 10/25/2017



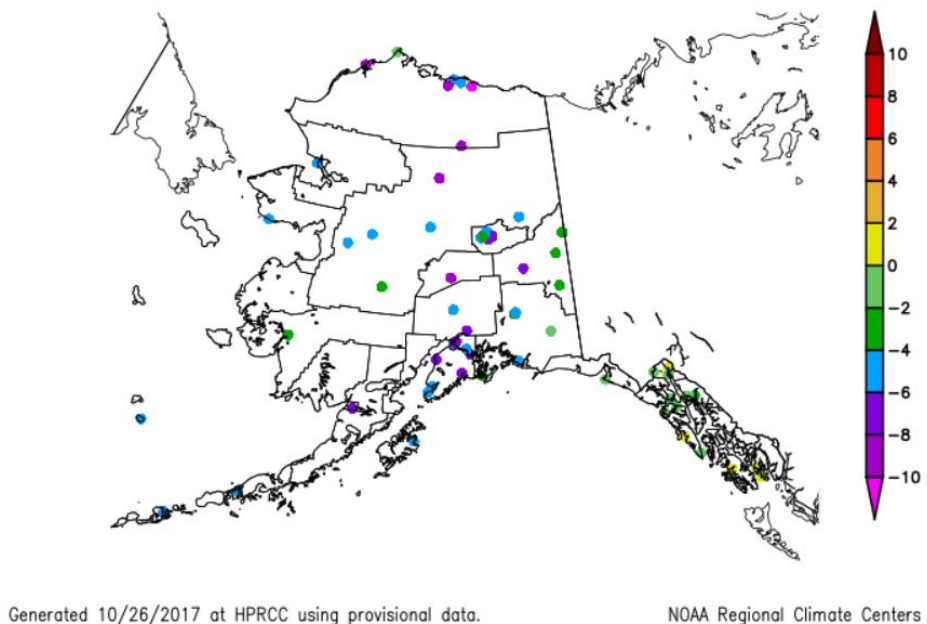
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day temperature anomaly map](#) for Alaska.

See also: [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)

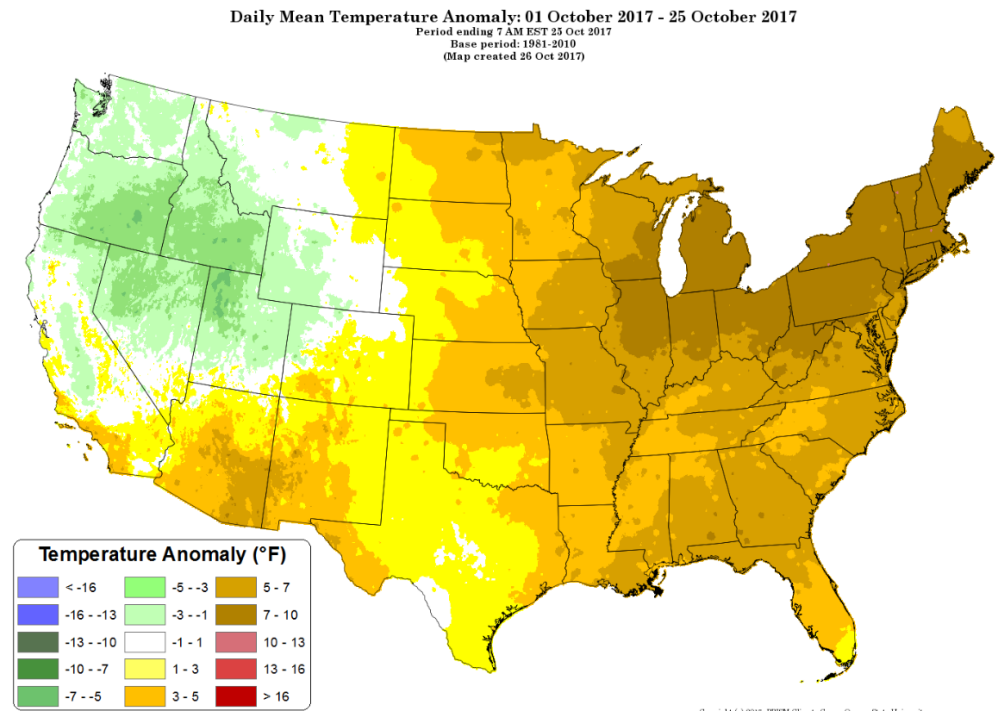
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/19/2017 – 10/25/2017



Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

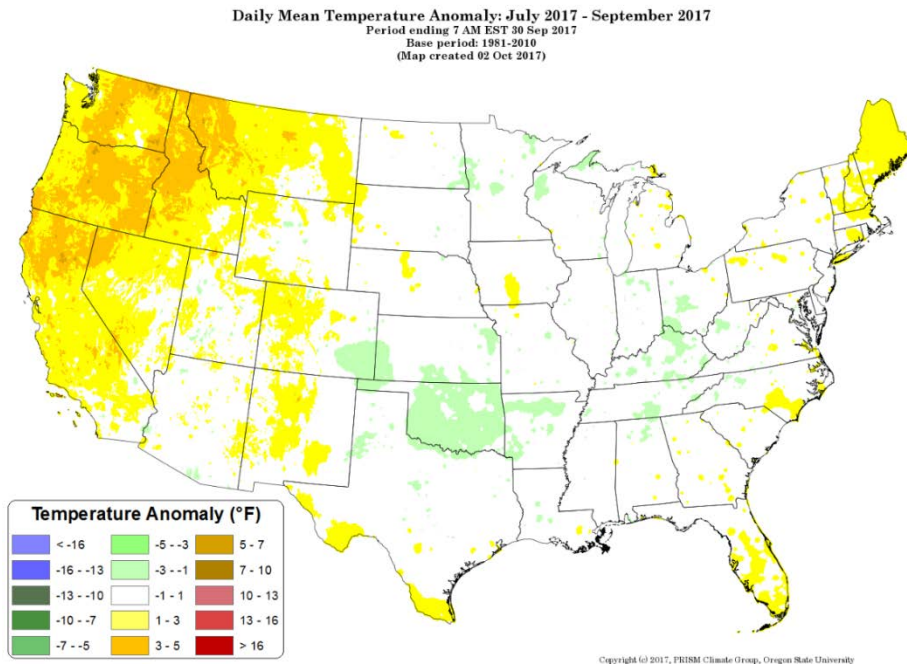
Source: PRISM

[Month-to-date national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM



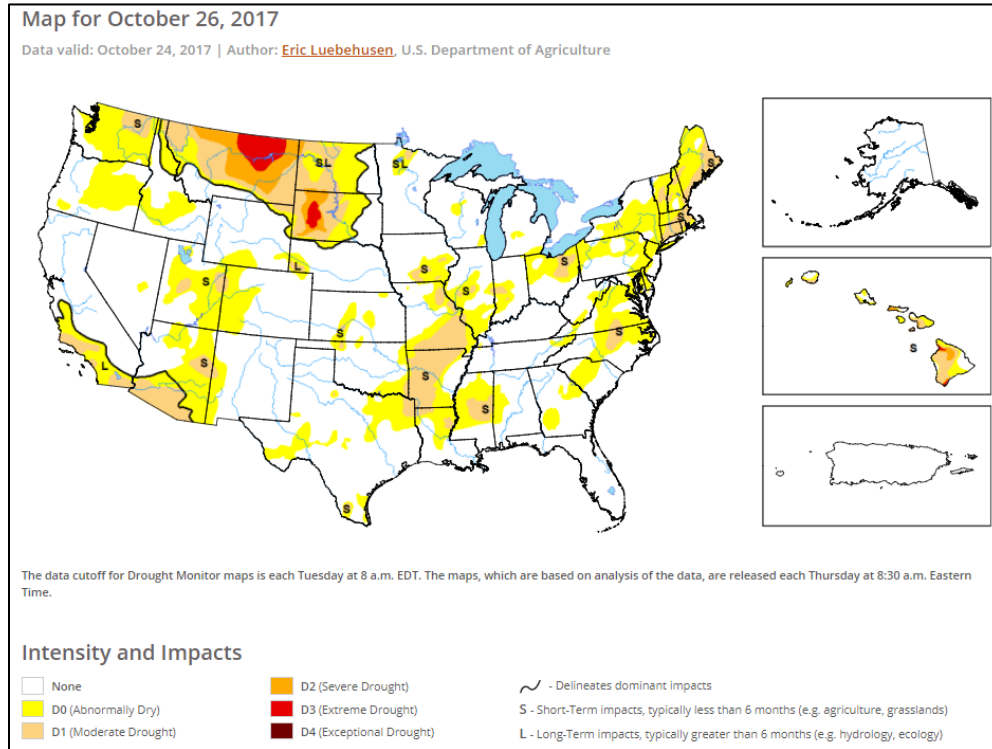
[July through September 2017 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)

Drought and Wildfires

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#) Select map below.

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

PLEASE NOTE – The Drought Monitor reflects observed precipitation through Tuesday, 1200 UTC (8 am, EDT); any rain that fell after the Tuesday 1200 UTC cutoff will be reflected in next week's map.



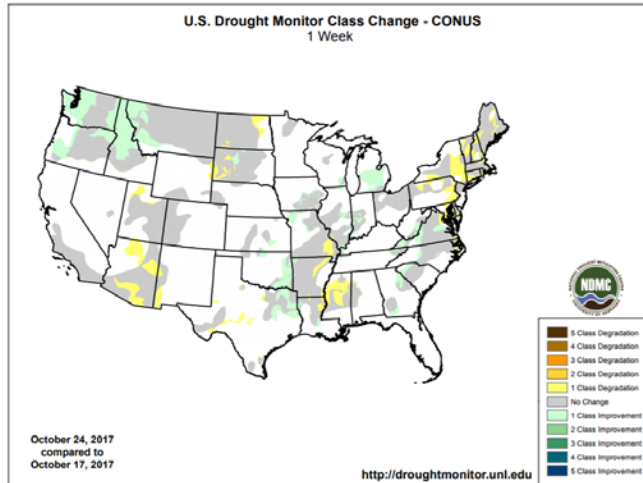
Current [National Drought Summary](#), October 24, 2017

Author: Eric Luebehusen, U.S. Department of Agriculture

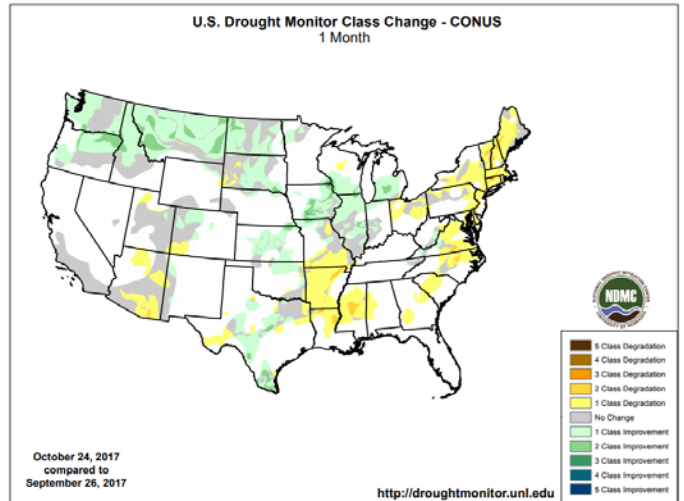
“During the 7-day period (ending Tuesday morning), widespread moderate to heavy rain eased drought from eastern Texas and the southeastern Plains to the Great lakes and central Appalachians. Furthermore, a vigorous storm system brought much-needed rain and snow to the Northwest and northern Rockies. Conversely, hot, dry weather exacerbated developing drought in the lower Four Corners Region, while unseasonably warm, dry weather continued to worsen drought conditions across much of the Northeast.”

Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

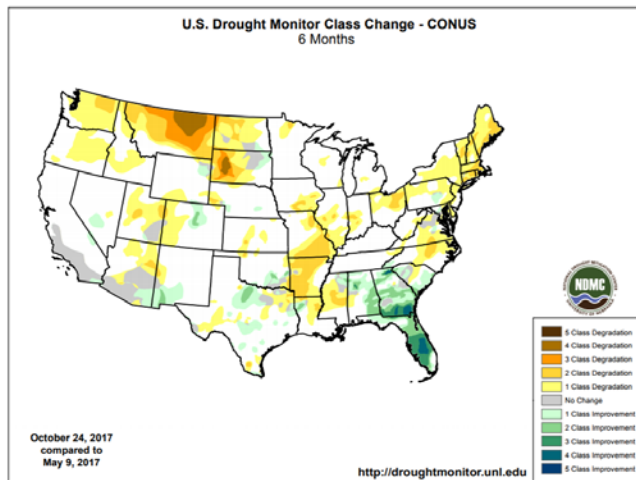
1 Week



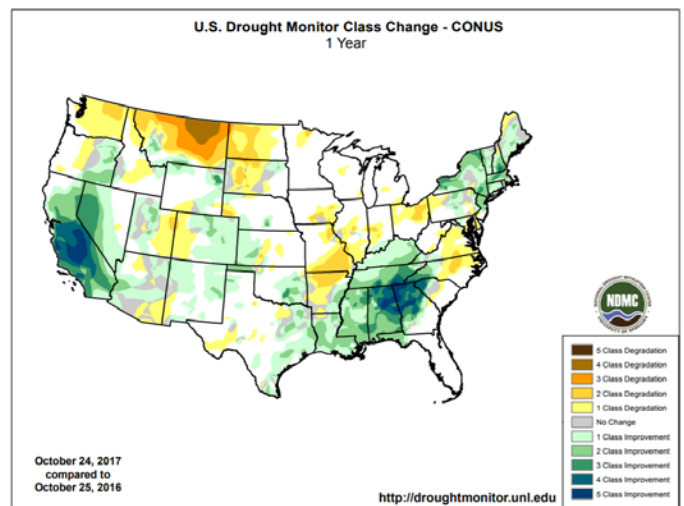
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year

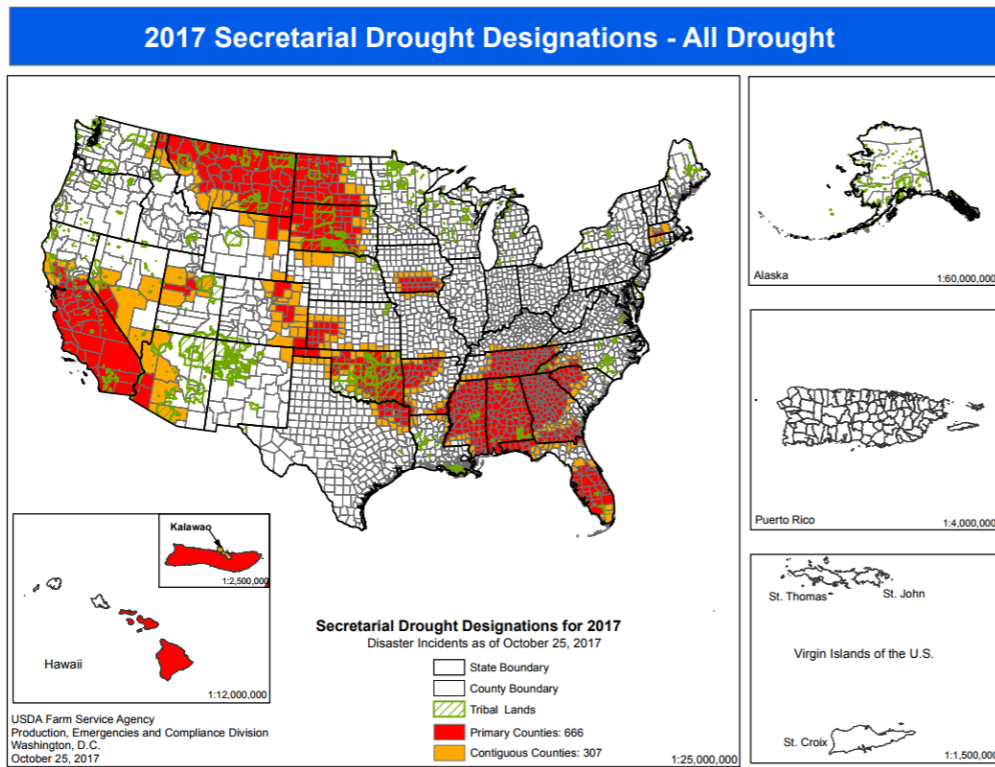


Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months

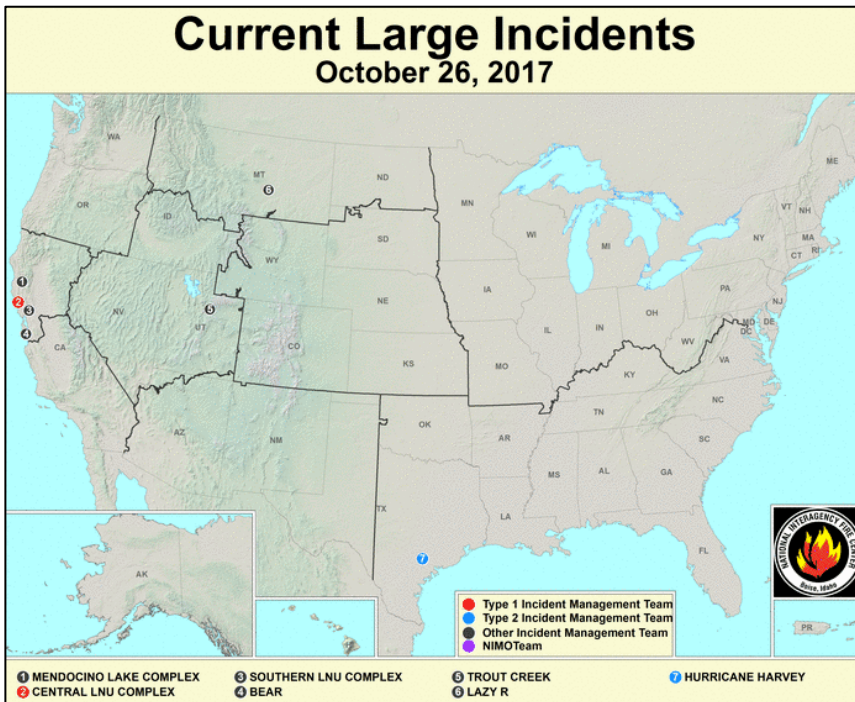
Highlighted Drought Resources

- [Drought Impact Reporter](#)
- [Quarterly Regional Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- [U.S. Drought Portal Indicators and Monitoring](#)
- [U.S. Population in Drought, Weekly Comparison](#)
- [USDA Disaster and Drought Information](#)

USDA 2017 Secretarial Drought Designations



Wildfires: USDA Forest Service Active Fire Mapping

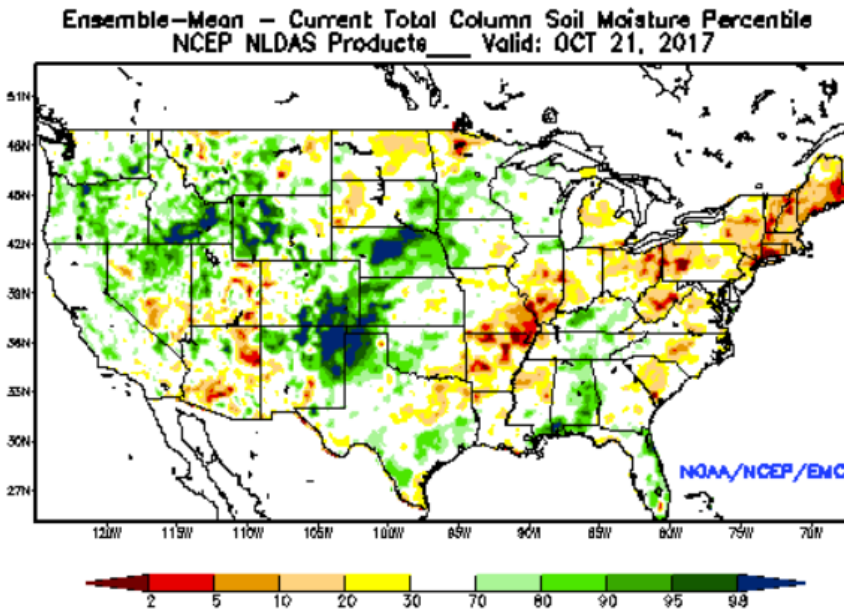


Highlighted Wildfire Resources

- [National Interagency Fire Center](#)
- [InciWeb Incident Information System](#)
- [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#)

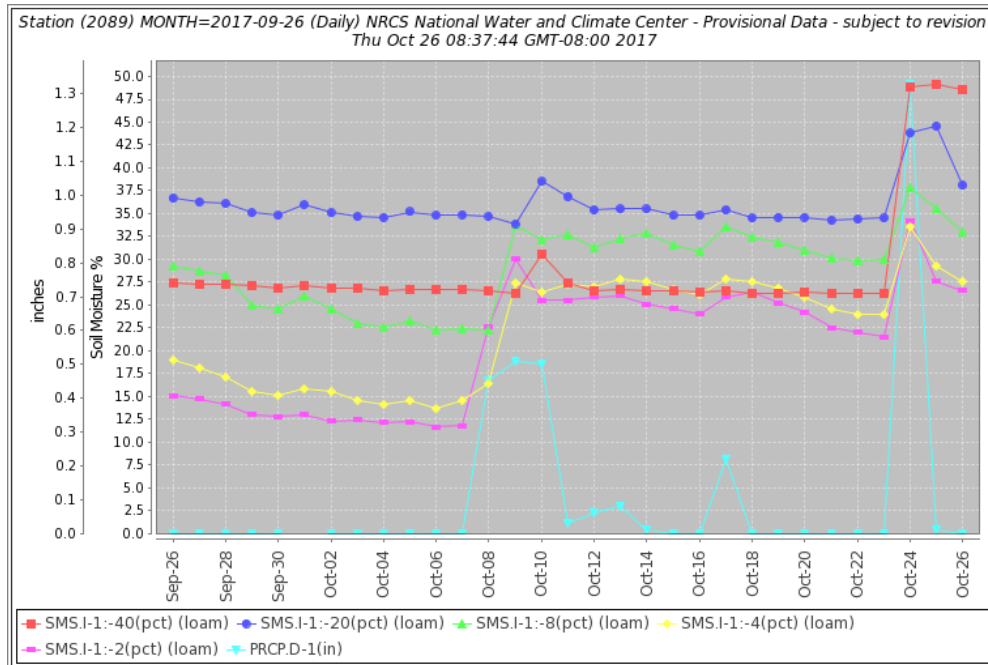
Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of October 21, 2017.

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



The chart shows precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the [Reynolds Homestead SCAN site 2089](#) in Virginia. The chart shows dry conditions until precipitation events on October 8-14, October 17, and a large event of 1.3 inches on October 24. The larger precipitation events caused soil moisture increases at all the sensor levels.

Soil Moisture Data Portals

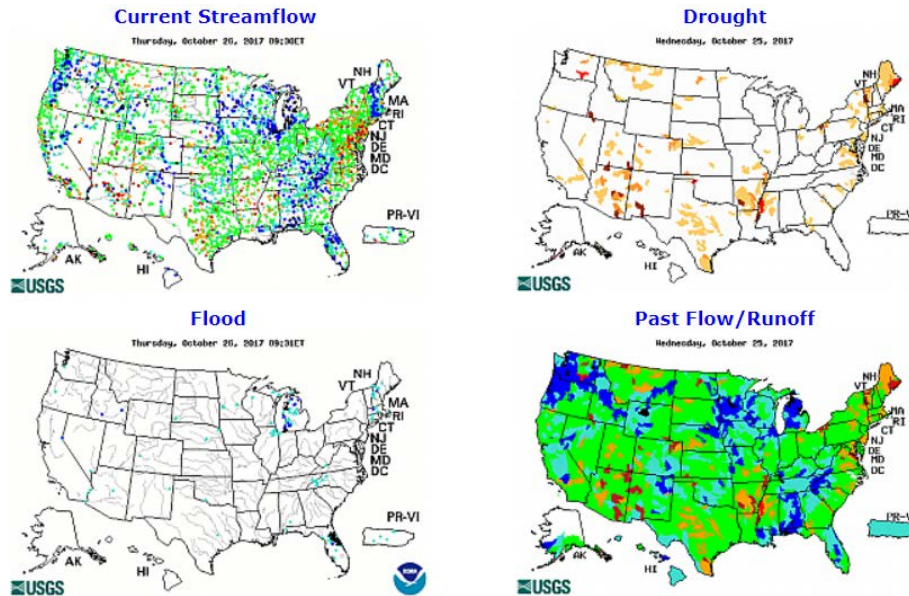
[CRN Soil Moisture](#)

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

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

Streamflow

Source: USGS

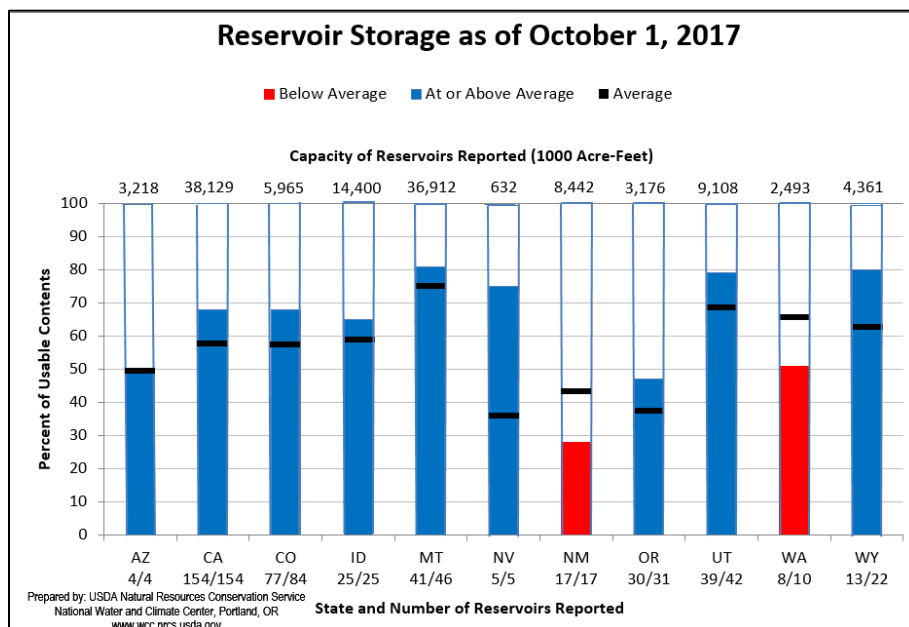


[WaterWatch: Streamflow, drought, flood, and runoff conditions](#)

Reservoir Storage

Western States Reservoir Storage

Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center



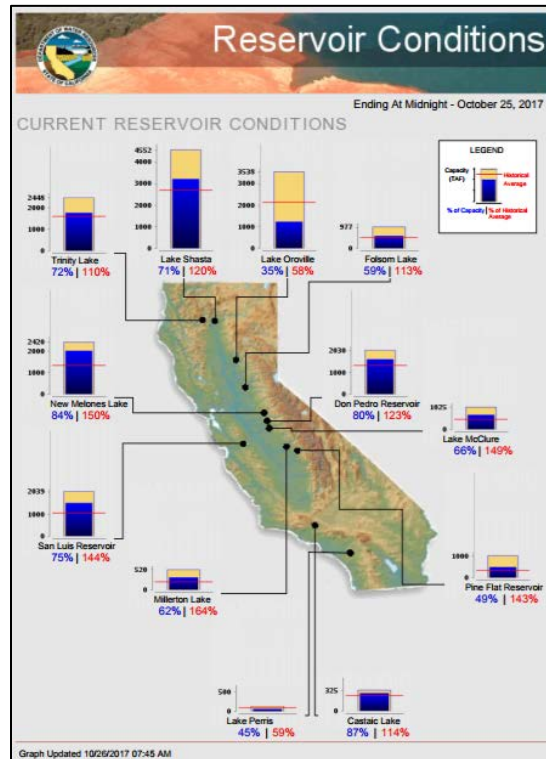
October 1 Reservoir Storage: [Chart](#) | [Dataset](#)

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](#)

Current California Reservoir Conditions

Source: California Department of Water Resources



[California Current Reservoir Conditions](#)

Short- and Long-Range Outlooks

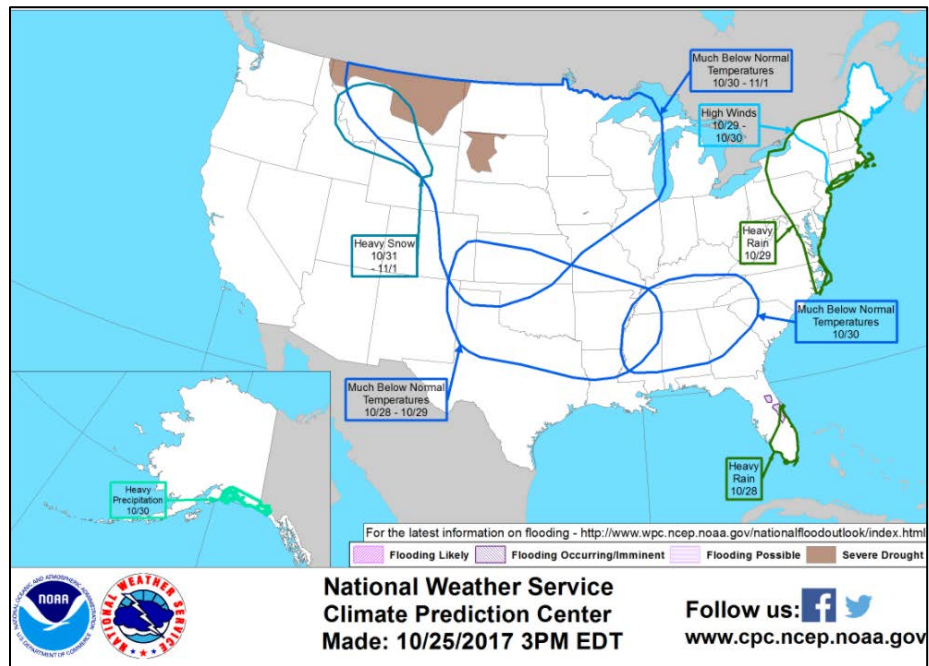
Agricultural Weather Highlights

Author: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB

[National Outlook, Thursday, October 26, 2017](#): "Two surges of cold air will arrive across the central U.S.—today and again early next week. During the weekend, freezes should end the growing season north of a line from northern Texas into the mid-South. On Saturday, temperatures could fall below 10°F as far south as Nebraska, possibly burning back recently emerged winter wheat. By Monday, temperatures will again plunge across the nation's mid-section. Farther east, rain will develop east of the Mississippi River, starting on Friday, while snow will blanket the upper Great Lakes region. Five-day precipitation totals could reach 3 to 6 inches in the Northeast, with the heaviest rain falling late in the weekend and early next week. Other areas of the eastern U.S. could locally receive 1 to 2 inches, except for 2 to 4 inches in southern Florida. Elsewhere, dry weather will prevail in most areas from the Pacific Coast to the Plains, with late-season warmth continuing in the Far West. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for October 31 – November 4 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures in the Northeast and from California to the Rio Grande Valley, while cooler-than-normal conditions will cover the Plains, Midwest, and interior Southeast. Meanwhile, near-to below-normal precipitation in much of the U.S. should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in the western Gulf Coast region and across the nation's northern tier from Montana to interior New England."

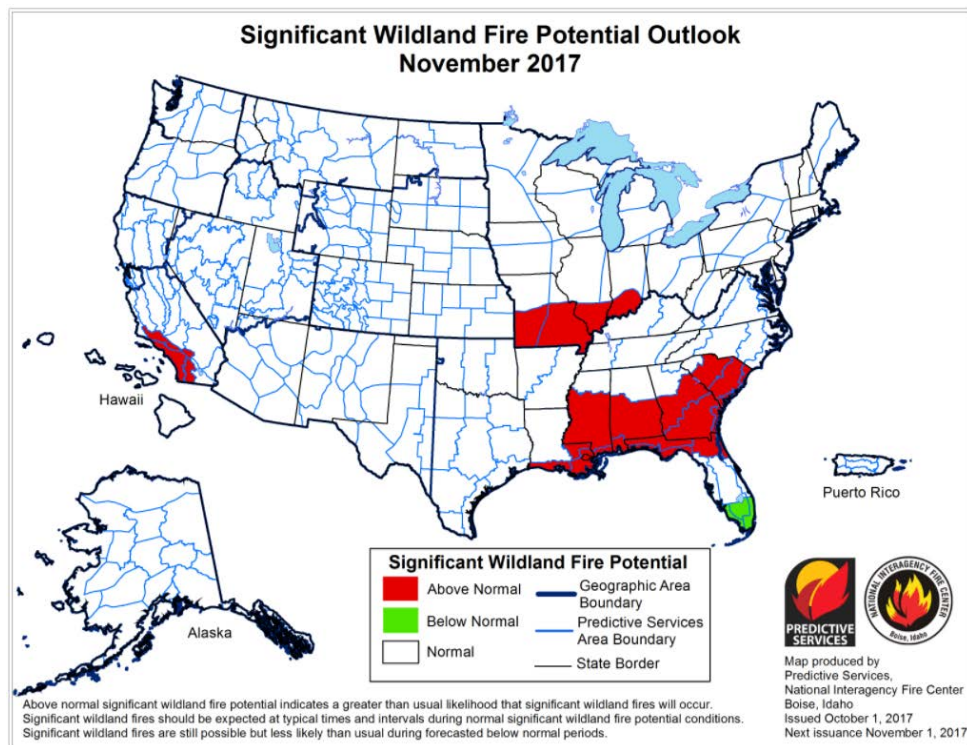
Weather Hazard Outlook October 28 - November 1, 2017

Source: Climate Prediction Center

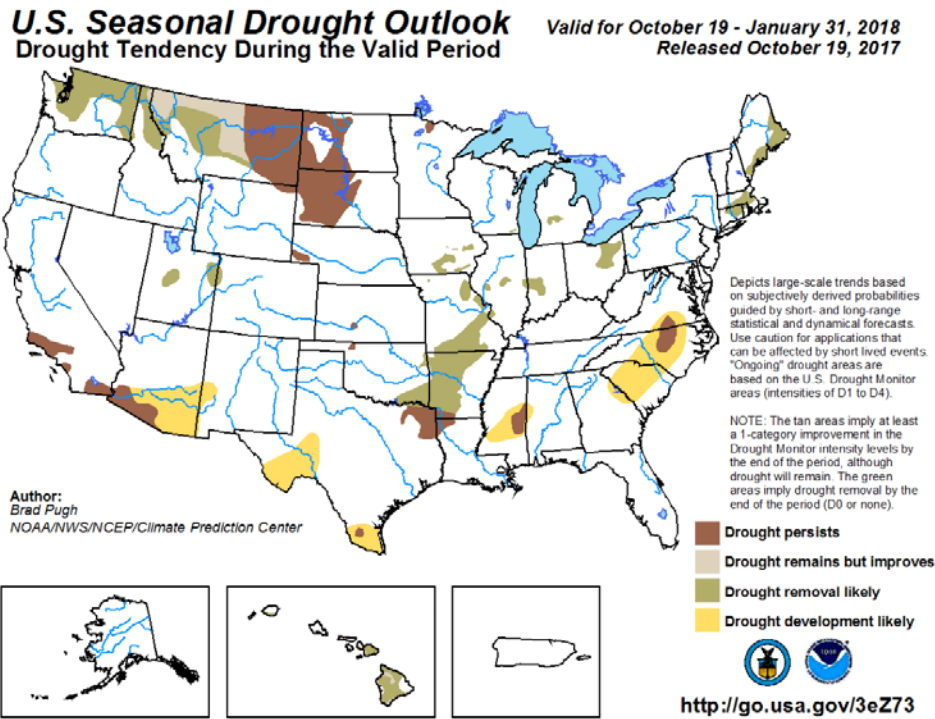


Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

Source: National Interagency Fire Center



Seasonal Drought Outlook: [October 19, 2017 - January 31, 2018](#) Source: National Weather Service

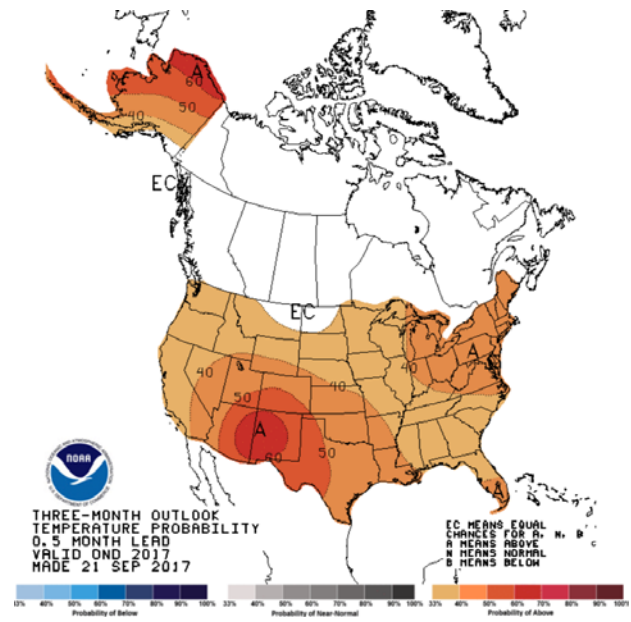
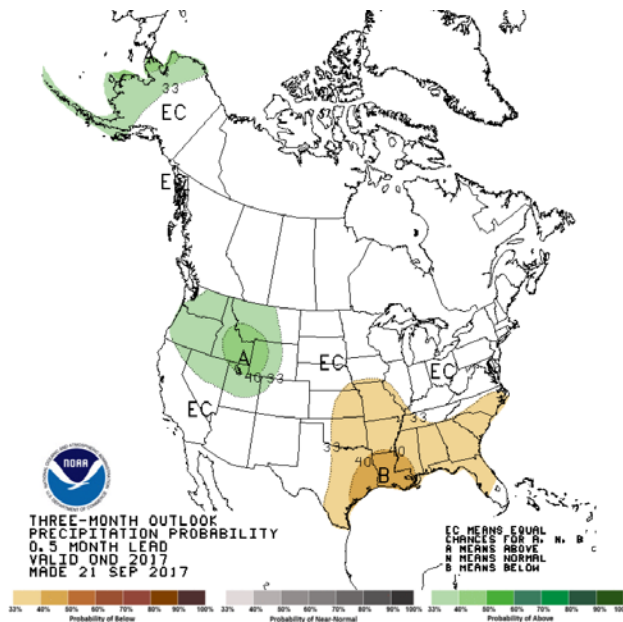


Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

[Precipitation](#)

[Temperature](#)



[Nov-Dec-Jan \(NDJ\) 2017-2018 precipitation and temperature outlook summaries](#)

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](#).