

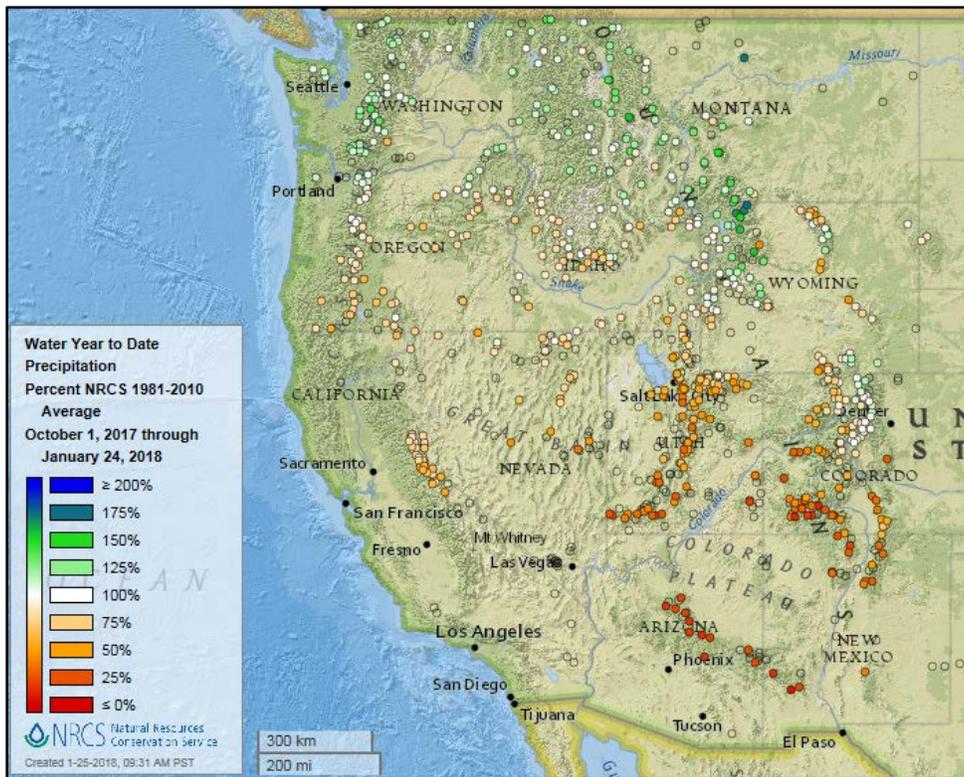
Water and Climate Update

January 25, 2018

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.

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Water Year precipitation lagging in the Southwest



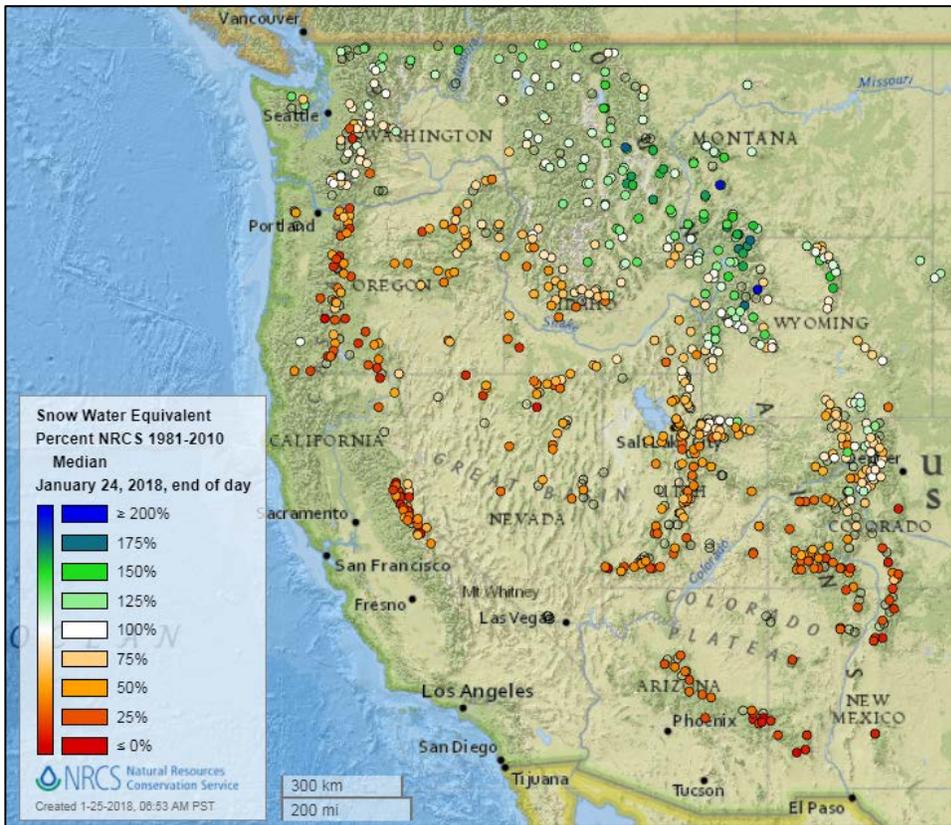
Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) sites show average or above average conditions in the Northwest but dry or very dry conditions in the Southwest. This pattern has been consistent throughout the 2018 Water Year, which began on October 1, 2017. Northwest Wyoming has had the highest percent of average precipitation over the period with three sites reporting over 165% of average. In contrast, Arizona remains the driest region, with SNOTEL sites reporting less than 25% of average.

Related:

- [Arizona in Brief: Weather service - Drought conditions visible across state](#) – The Daily Courier
- [Drought conditions increasing across Arizona](#) - KVOA Tucson News

Snow

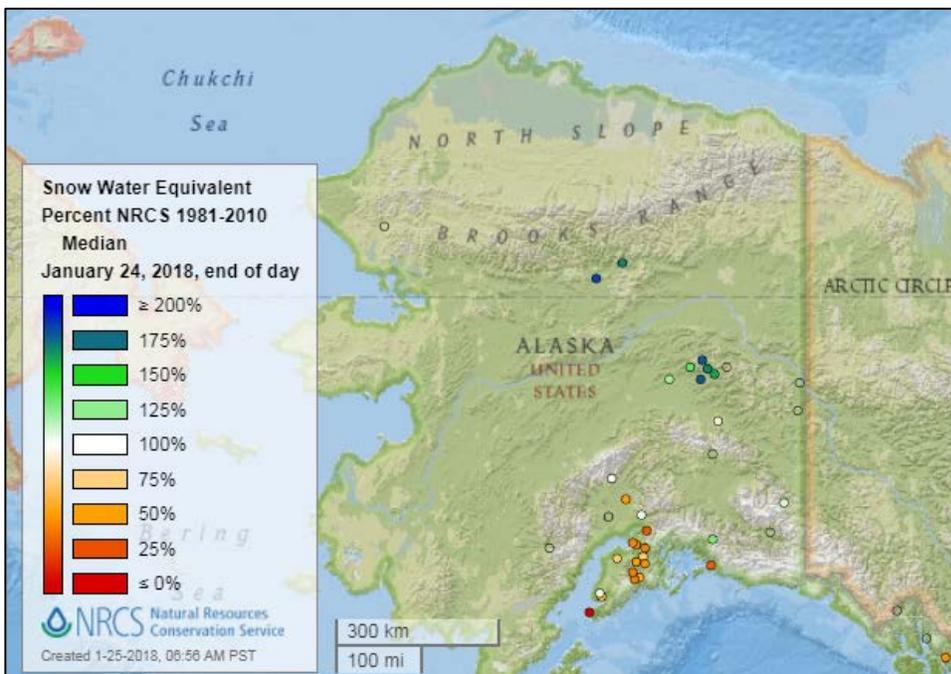
Current Snow Water Equivalent, NRCS SNOTEL Network



[Snow water equivalent percent of median map](#)

See also:

[Snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)

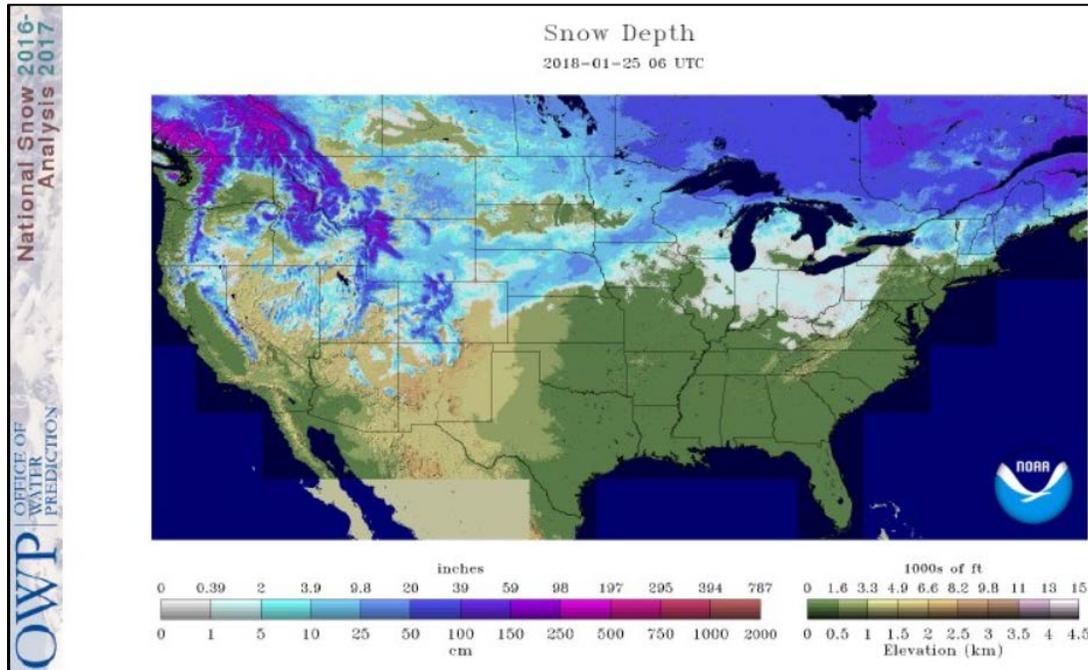


[Alaska snow water equivalent percent of median map](#)

See also:

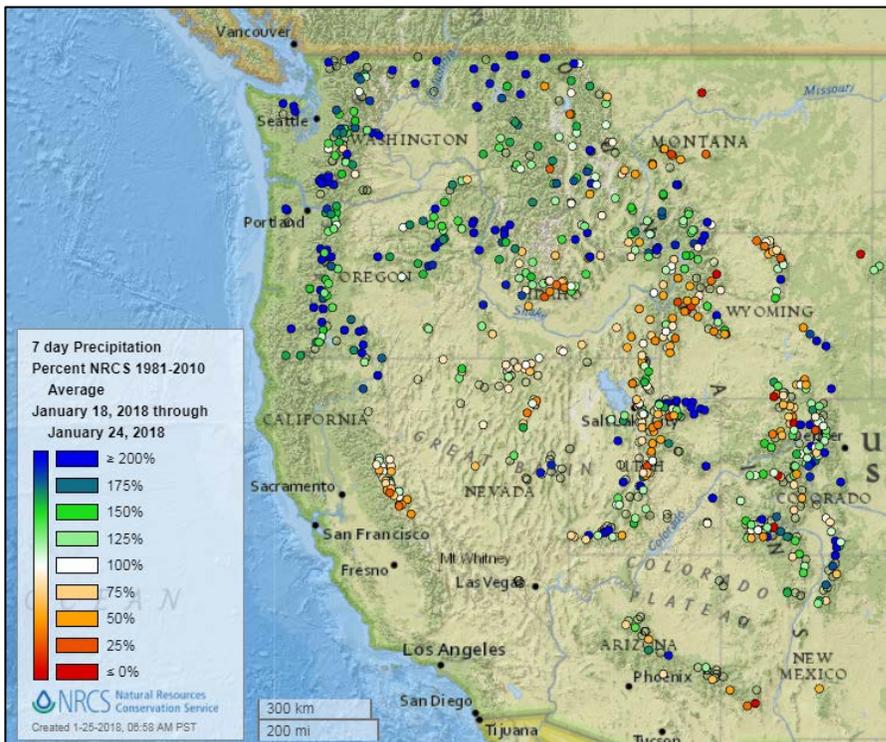
[Alaska snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)

Current Snow Depth, National Weather Service Snow Analysis



Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network



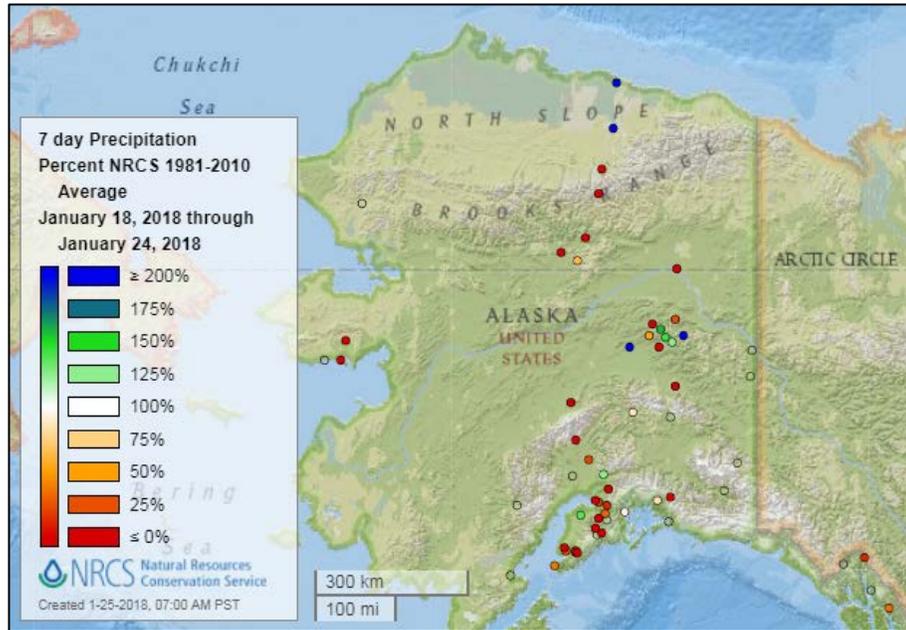
[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

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

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

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



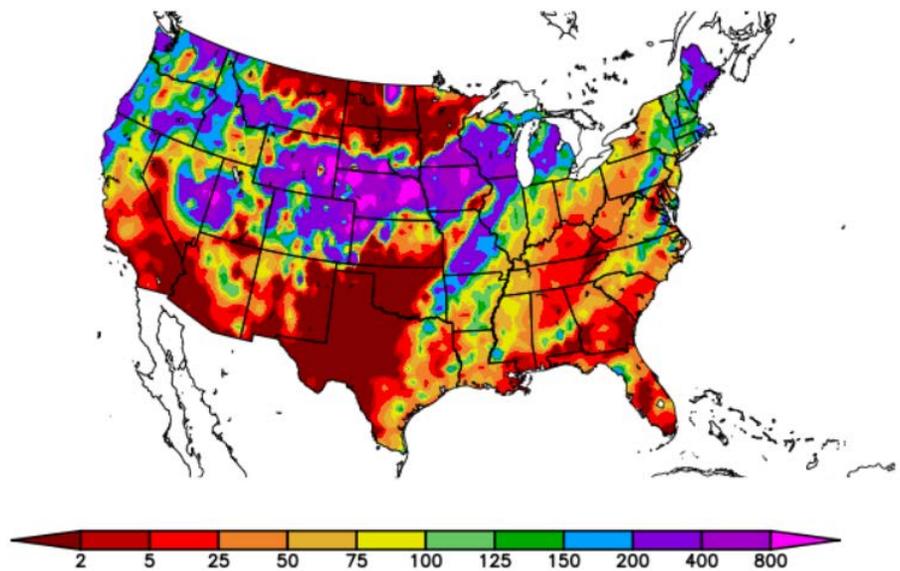
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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](#)

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%) 1/18/2018 – 1/24/2018



Generated 1/25/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

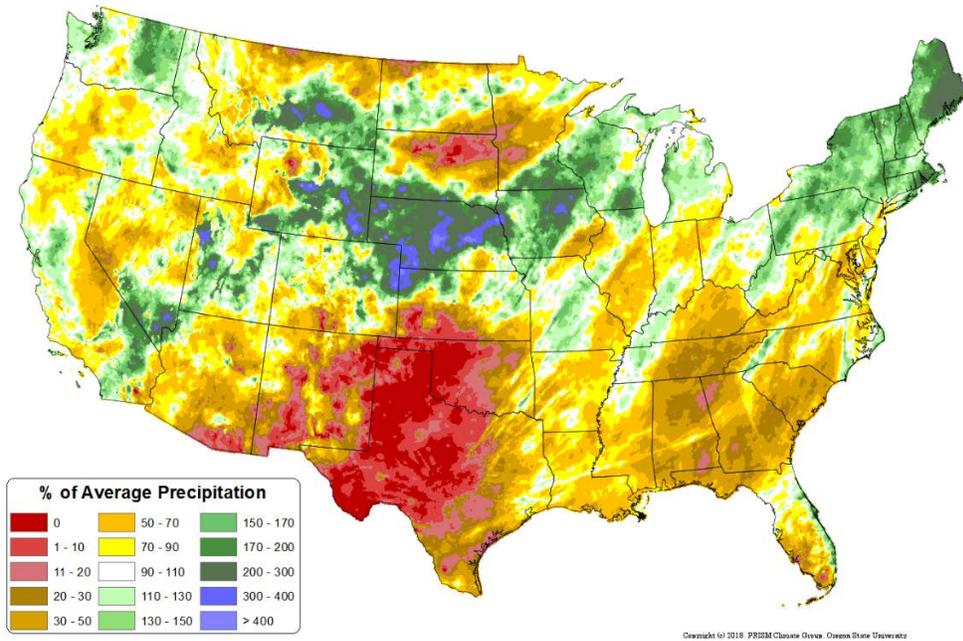
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Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 January 2018 - 24 January 2018
Period ending 7 AM EST 24 Jan 2018
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 25 Jan 2018)

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

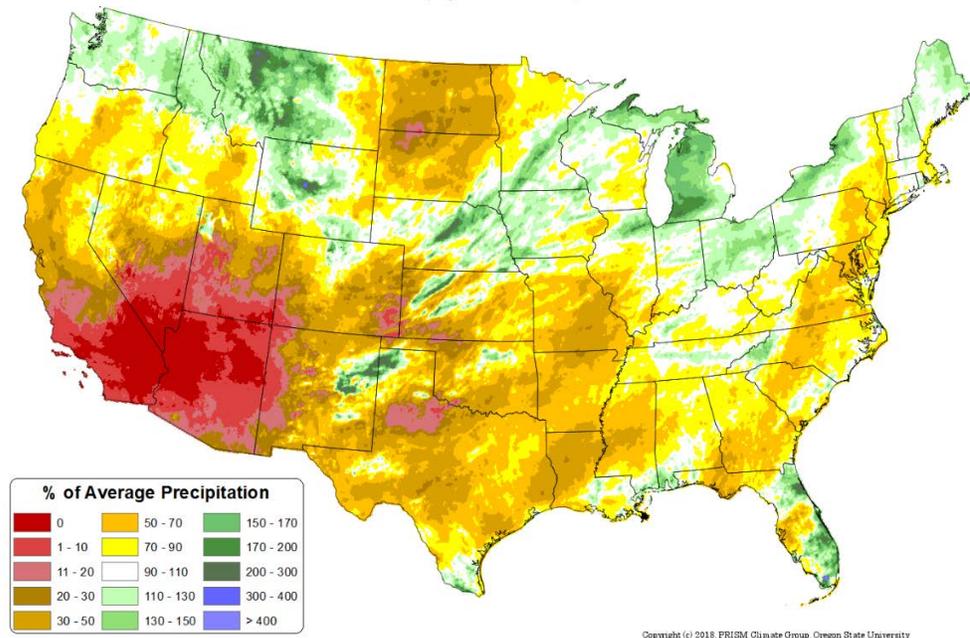


Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

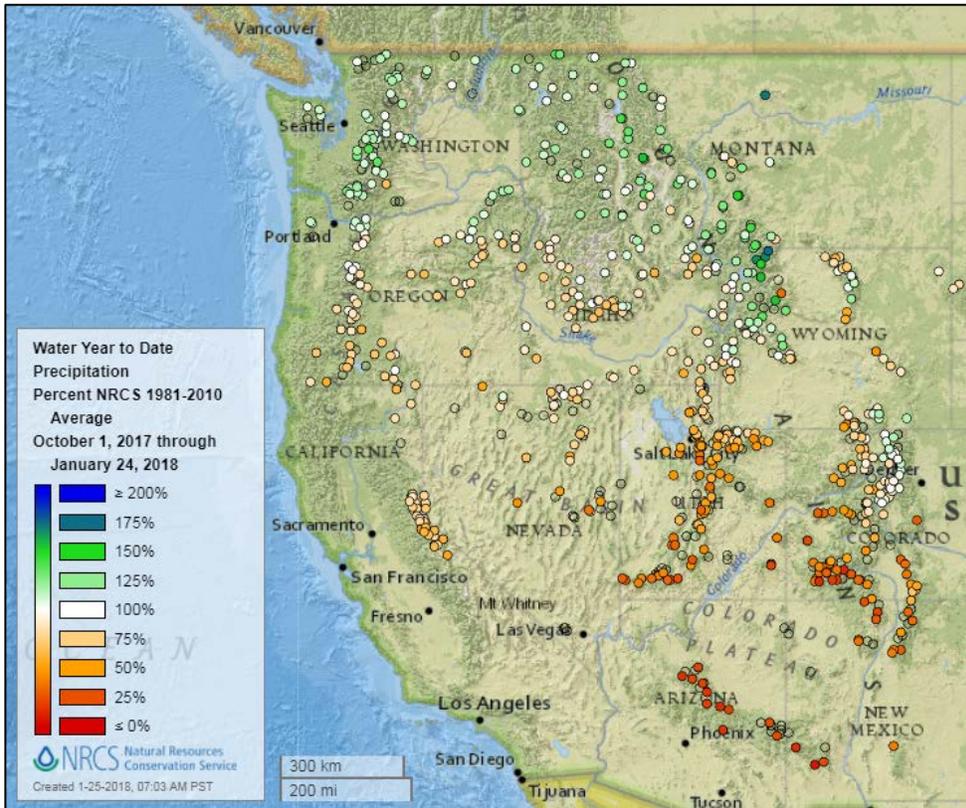
Source: PRISM

[October through December 2017 total precipitation percent of average map](#)

Total Precipitation Anomaly: October 2017 - December 2017
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2017
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 02 Jan 2018)

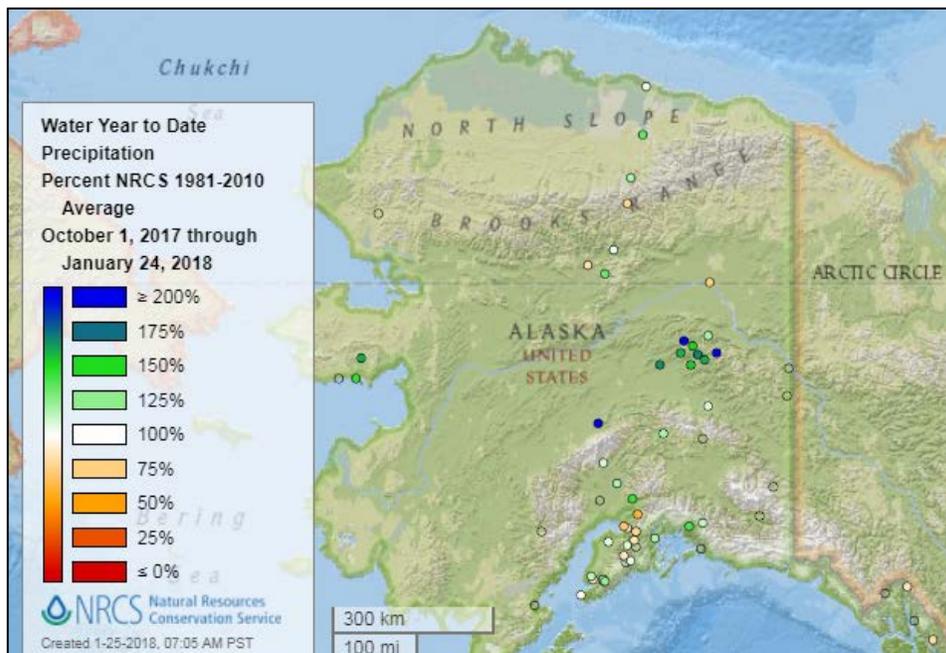


Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network



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

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



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

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

Temperature

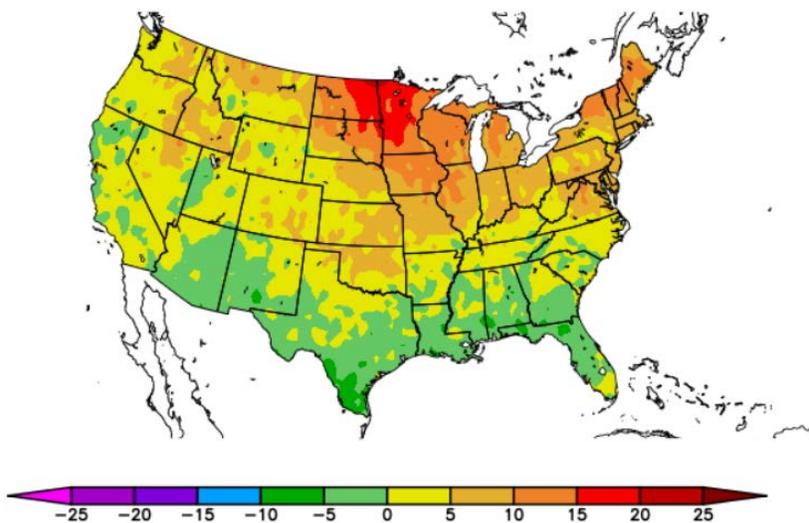
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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)
1/18/2018 – 1/24/2018



Generated 1/25/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

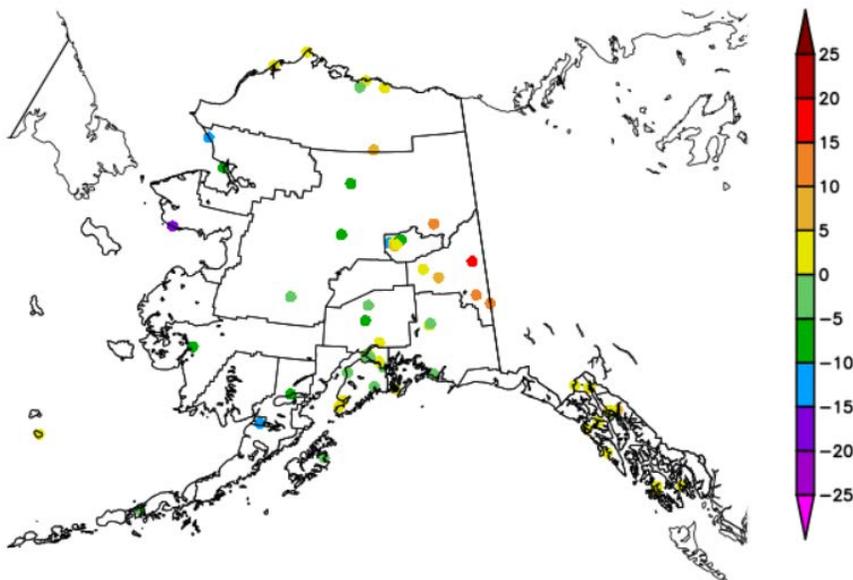
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/18/2018 – 1/24/2018



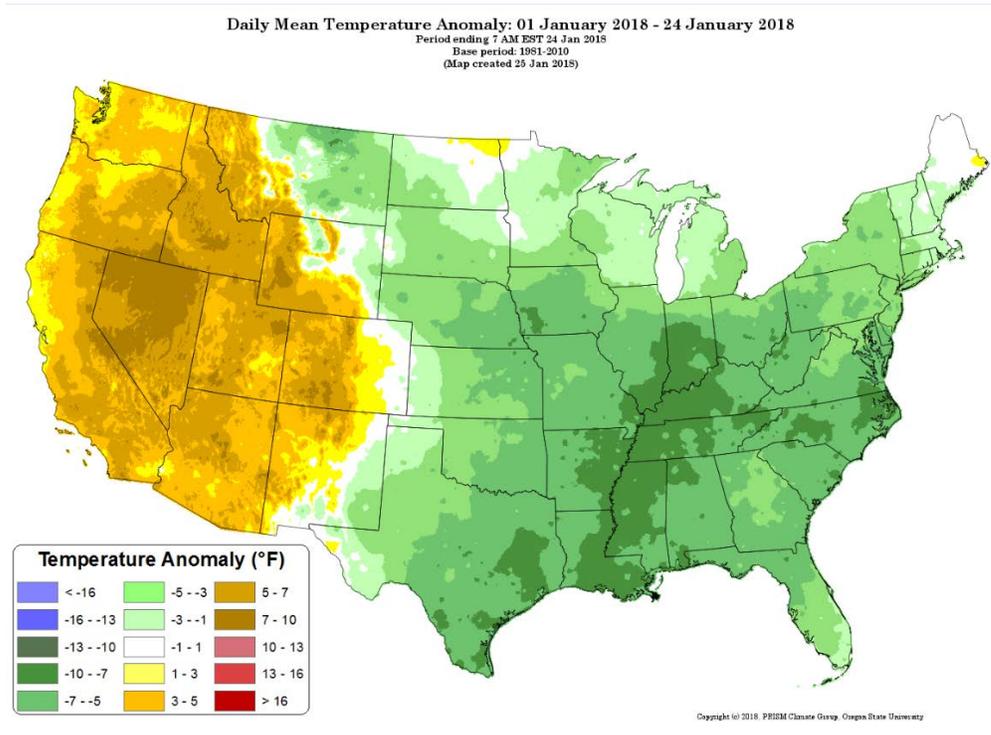
Generated 1/25/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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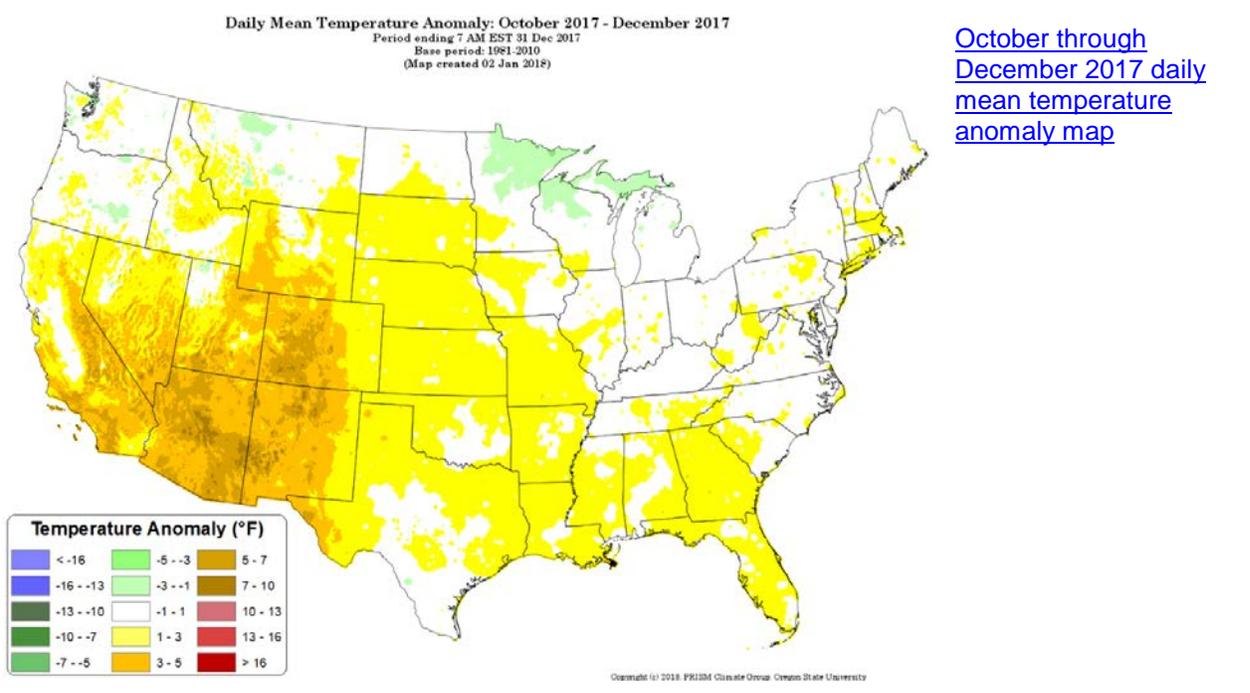
Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks Source: PRISM

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



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

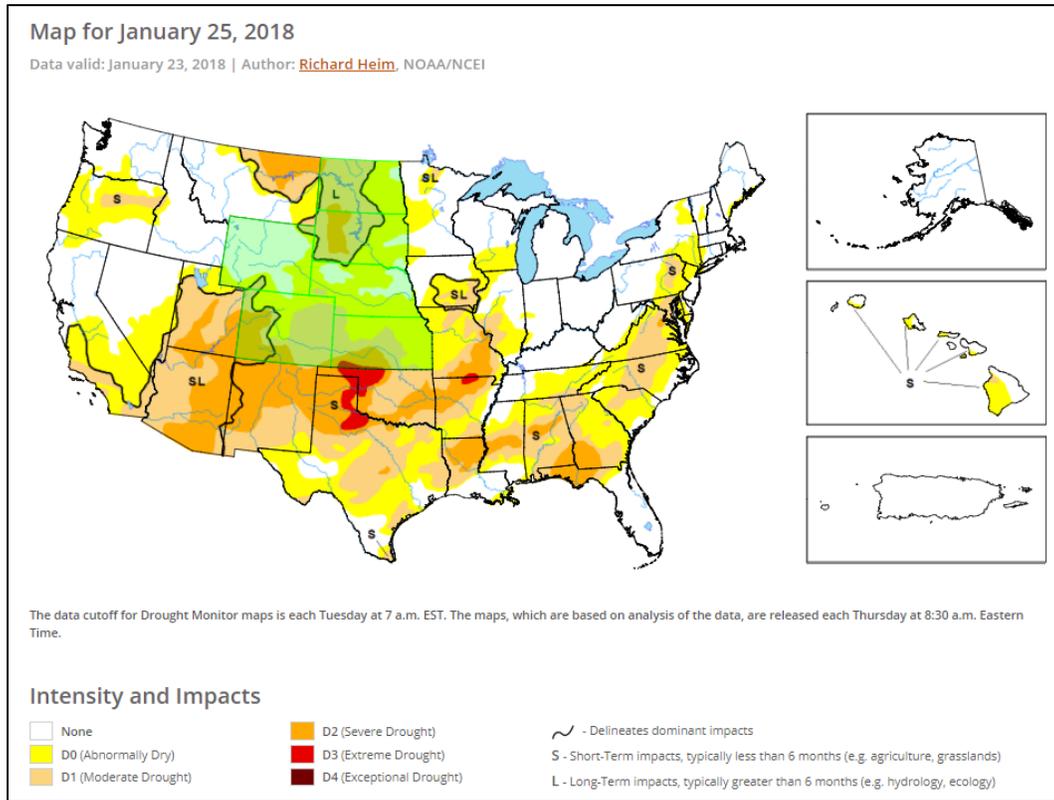
[October through December 2017 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



Drought

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

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



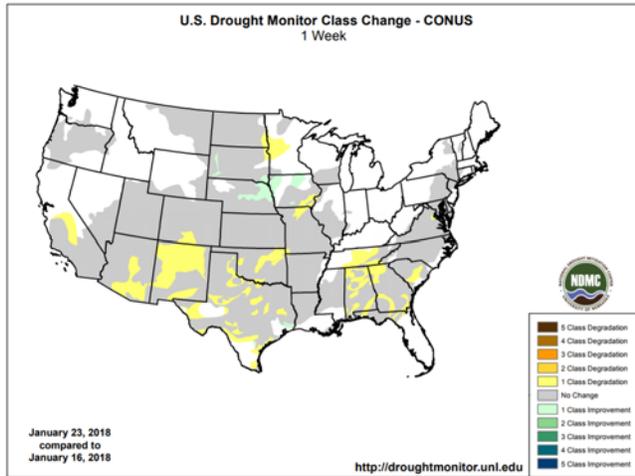
Current [National Drought Summary](#), January 25, 2017

Author: Richard Heim, NOAA/NCEI

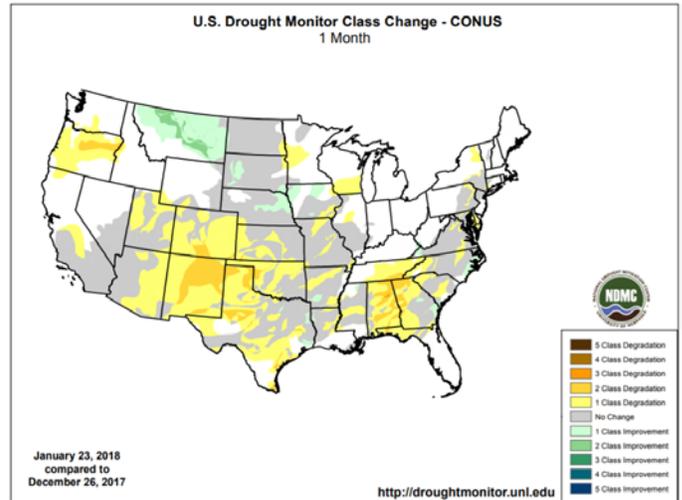
“A westerly flow dominated the upper-level circulation across the contiguous U.S. (CONUS) during this U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) week. The week began with a frontal system exiting the eastern CONUS, and ended with another Pacific system moving across the country. The systems brought an inch to more than locally 5 inches of precipitation to the coasts and Cascades of northern California to Washington; 1 to 2 inches of precipitation to parts of the northern Rockies and in swaths from eastern Nebraska to the Great Lakes and from southeastern Oklahoma to the Mid-Mississippi Valley; and a few reports of 1 inch or more across parts of the South and Southeast. These amounts translated to above normal for the central Plains to western Great Lakes, parts of the Pacific Northwest, the swath from southeastern Oklahoma to the Mid-Mississippi Valley, and a few areas in the South and Southeast. But for large parts of the country, the week was drier than normal, with little to no precipitation falling across large parts of the Southwest and Southern Plains. The westerly flow brought above-normal temperatures to most of the West and across the northern states, especially the Northern Plains to western Great Lakes where weekly temperature departures were 9 to 15 degrees above normal. Weekly temperatures averaged below normal across the southern states from eastern Arizona to North Carolina, where the effects of earlier cold air masses still lingered. Contraction of drought and abnormal dryness occurred with the large winter storm that dumped on eastern Nebraska to the Great Lakes, and contraction occurred in a few other areas in the southern Plains and Northeast. But the continued dry conditions in the Southwest to Southern Plains and Southeast intensified and expanded drought and abnormal dryness in these areas.”

Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

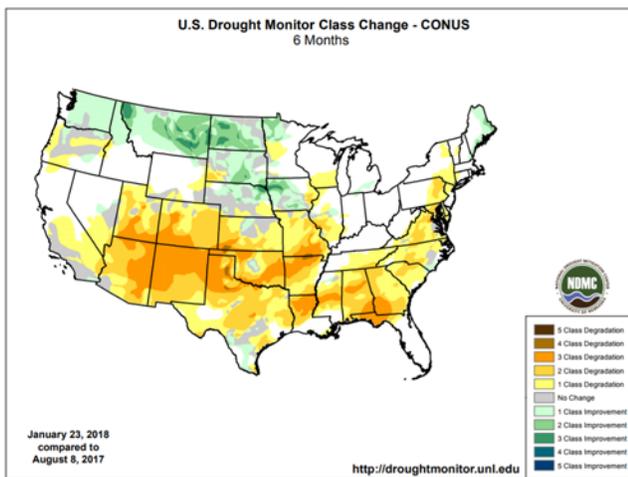
1 Week



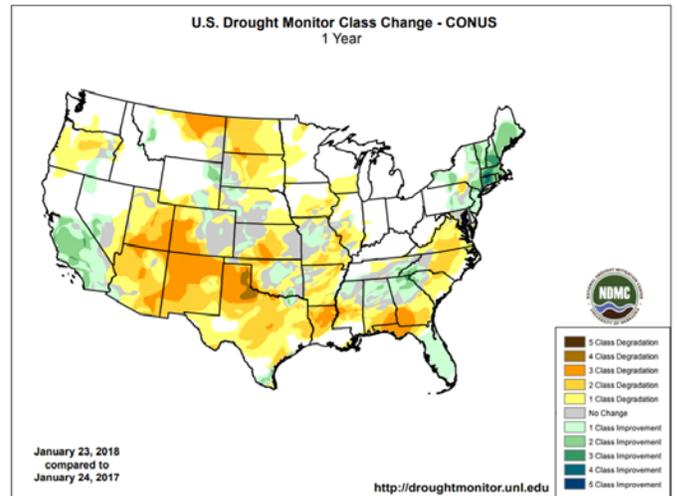
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year

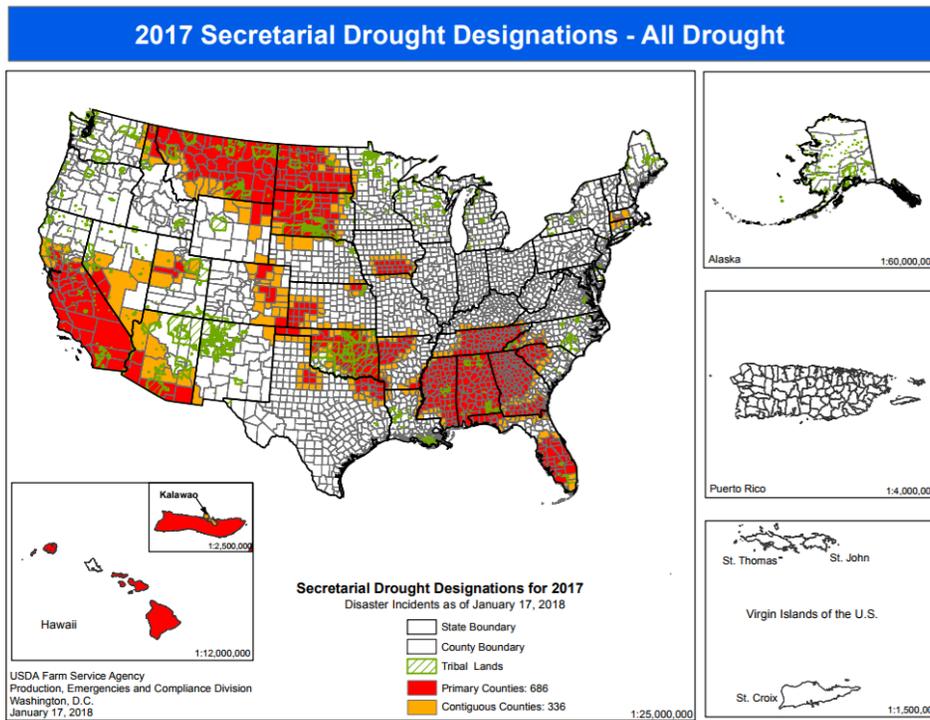


Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months

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](#)

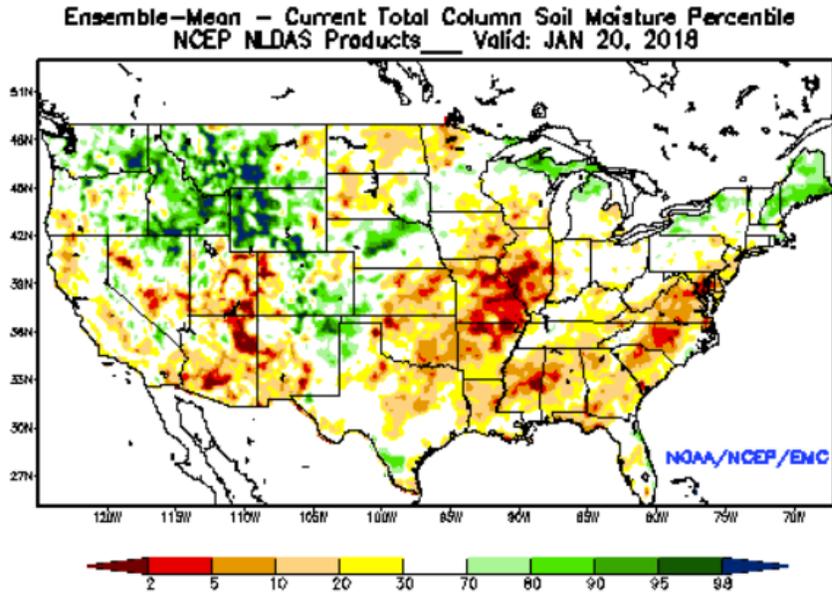
USDA 2017 Secretarial Drought Designations



Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

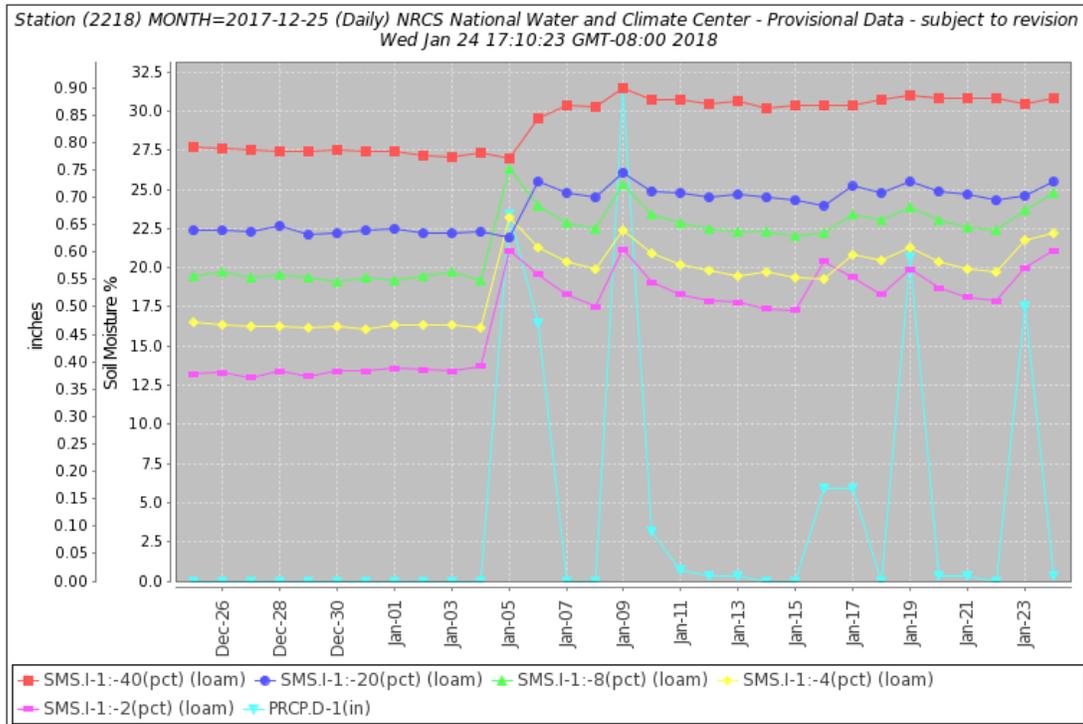
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of January 20, 2018.

Soil Moisture Data

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



The chart shows precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the [French Gulch SCAN site 2218](#) in northern California. The past 30 days show the beginning of fairly frequent precipitation beginning on January 5. On the days with over 0.10 inch precipitation, all depth sensors showed an increase in soil moisture.

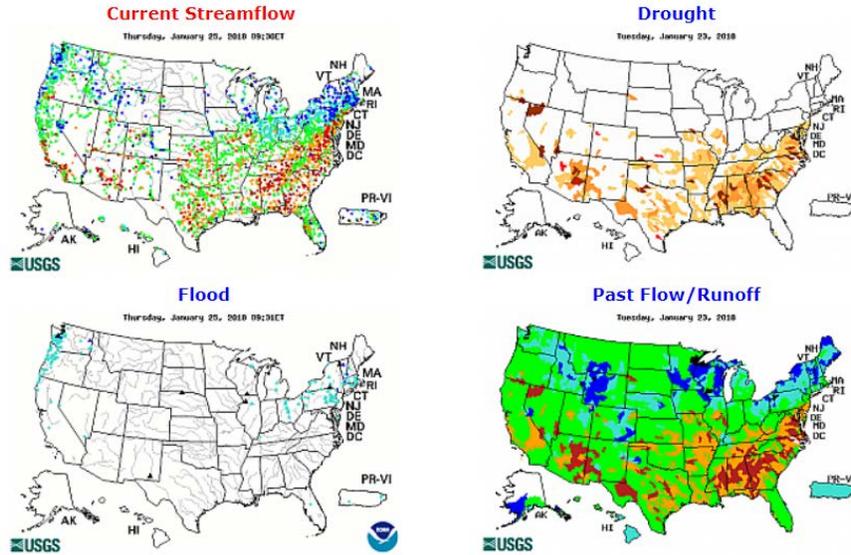
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Soil Moisture Data Portals

- [CRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [Texas A&M University North American Soil Moisture Database](#)
- [University of Washington Experimental Modeled Soil Moisture](#)

Streamflow

Source: USGS

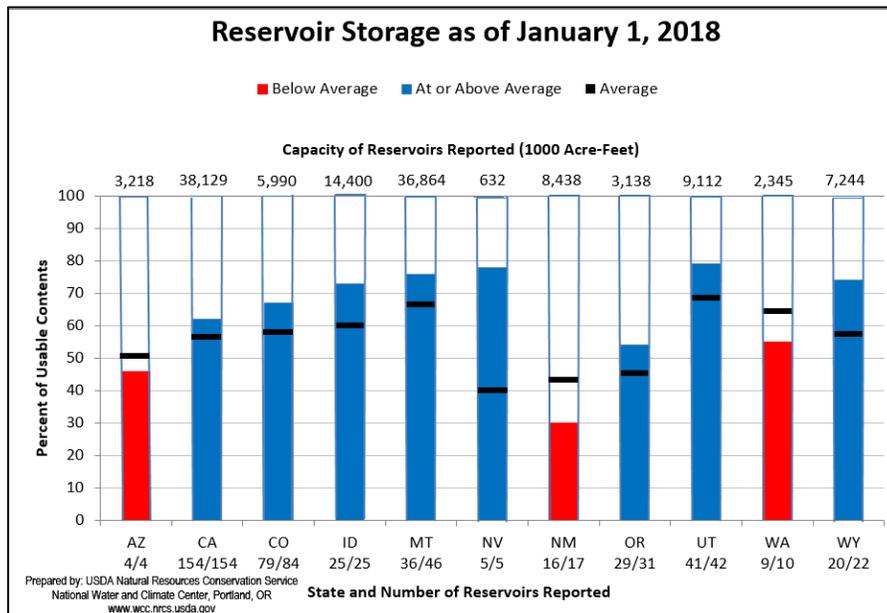


[WaterWatch: Streamflow, drought, flood, and runoff conditions](#)

Reservoir Storage

Western States Reservoir Storage

Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center



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

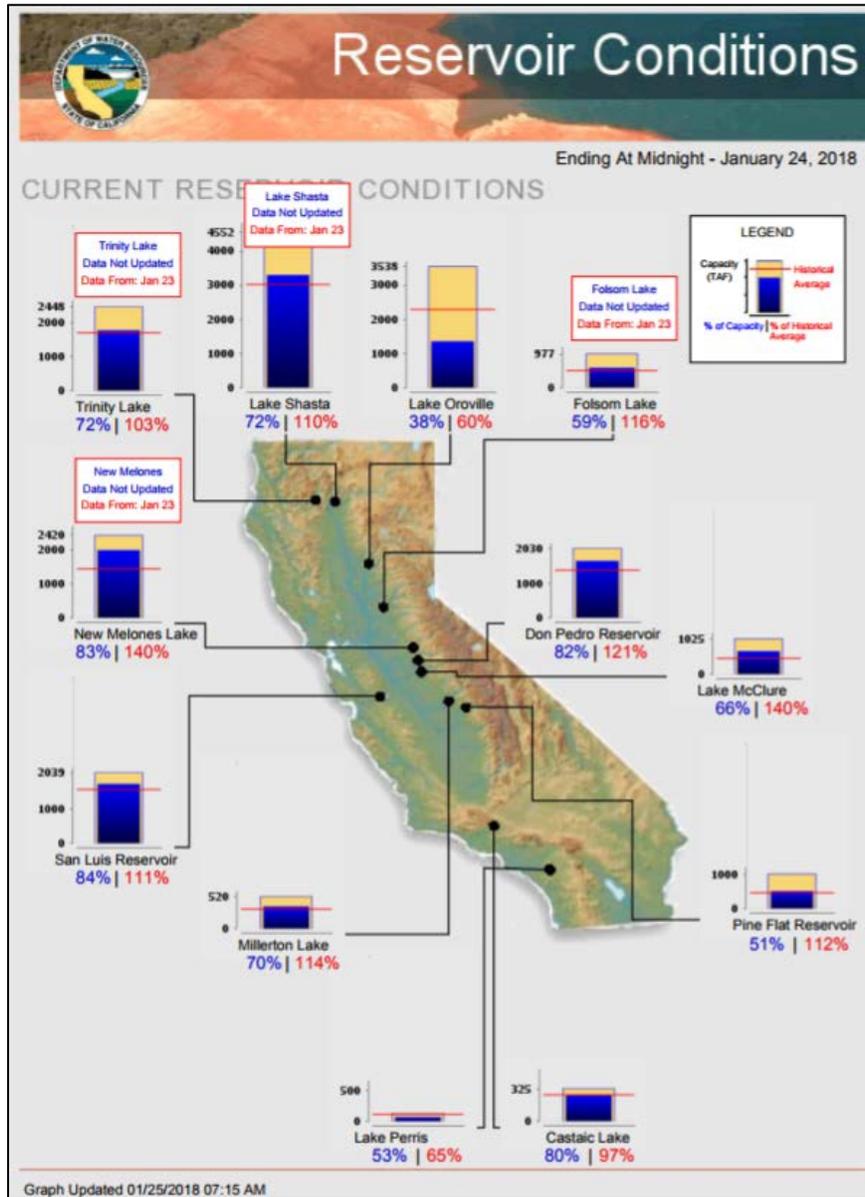
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U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Hydromet Tea Cup Reservoir Depictions

- [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



[Current California Reservoir Conditions](#)

Short- and Long-Range Outlooks

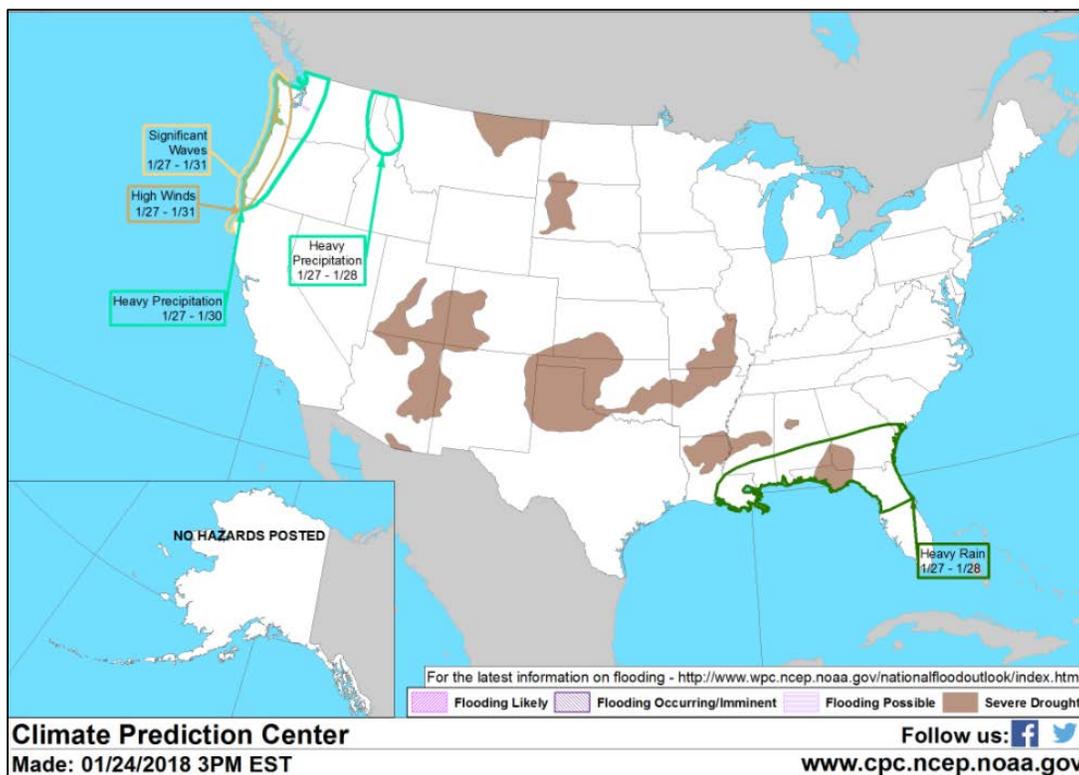
Agricultural Weather Highlights

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

National Outlook, Thursday, January 25: “A storm system currently moving inland across the Northwest will drift eastward, reaching eastern Canada during the weekend. On January 27-28, showers along the storm’s trailing cold front will develop across the South, East, and lower Midwest. The precipitation will be light in most areas, although totals could reach 1 to 3 inches across the lower Southeast. Early next week, there is the potential for a snow storm along the northern Atlantic Coast. Meanwhile, most of the remainder of the U.S. will experience mild, dry weather. In fact, no precipitation will occur during the next 5 days across large sections of the Plains, Southwest, and upper Midwest. In contrast, significant storminess will continue in the Northwest, where 5-day precipitation totals could reach 1 to 3 inches in the northern Rockies and 4 to 12 inches or more from the Cascades westward. As a result, some flooding and mudslides may occur, especially in western Washington. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for January 30 – February 3 calls for the likelihood of near- to above-normal temperatures nationwide, except for colder-than-normal conditions across the nation’s northern tier from Washington to northern Minnesota. Meanwhile, near- to above-normal precipitation across most of the country should contrast with drier-than-normal weather from California to the southern Plains.”

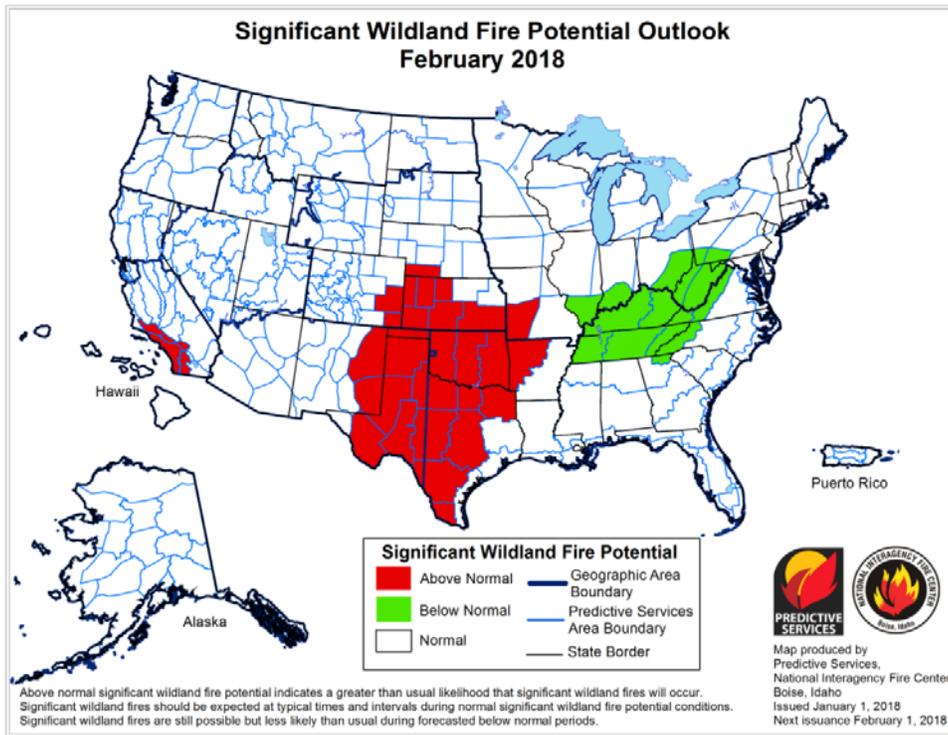
Weather Hazard Outlook January 27 – 31, 2018

Source: Climate Prediction Center



Significant Wildland [Fire Potential Outlook](#)

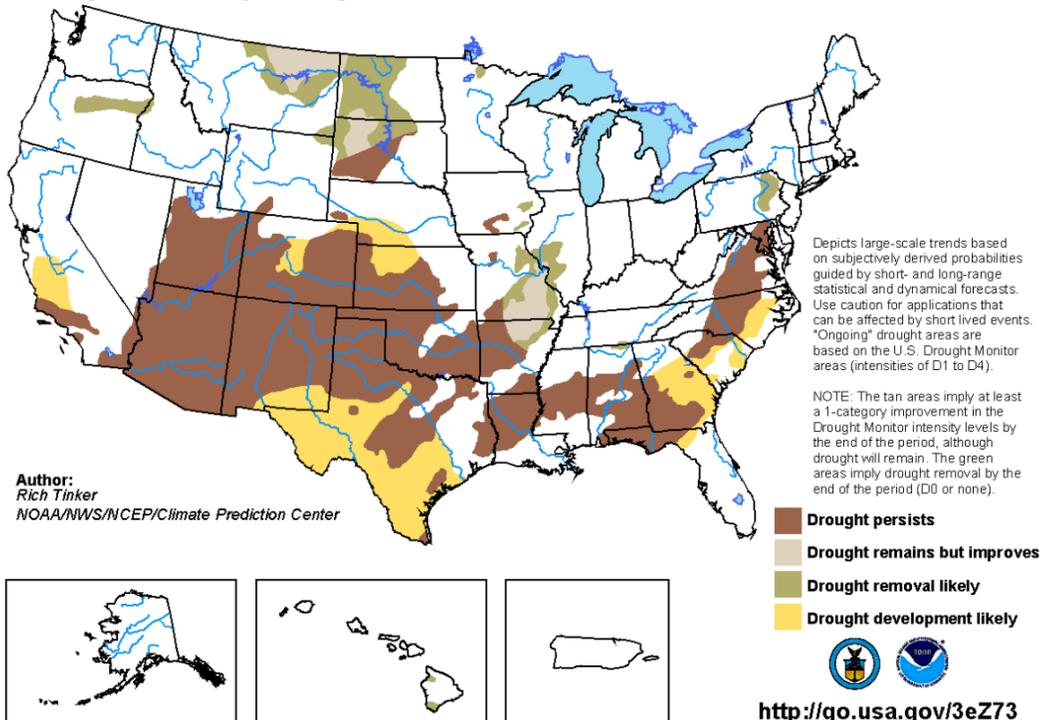
Source: National Interagency Fire Center



Seasonal Drought Outlook: [January 18 – April 30, 2018](#) Source: National Weather Service

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

Valid for January 18 - April 30, 2018
Released January 18, 2018

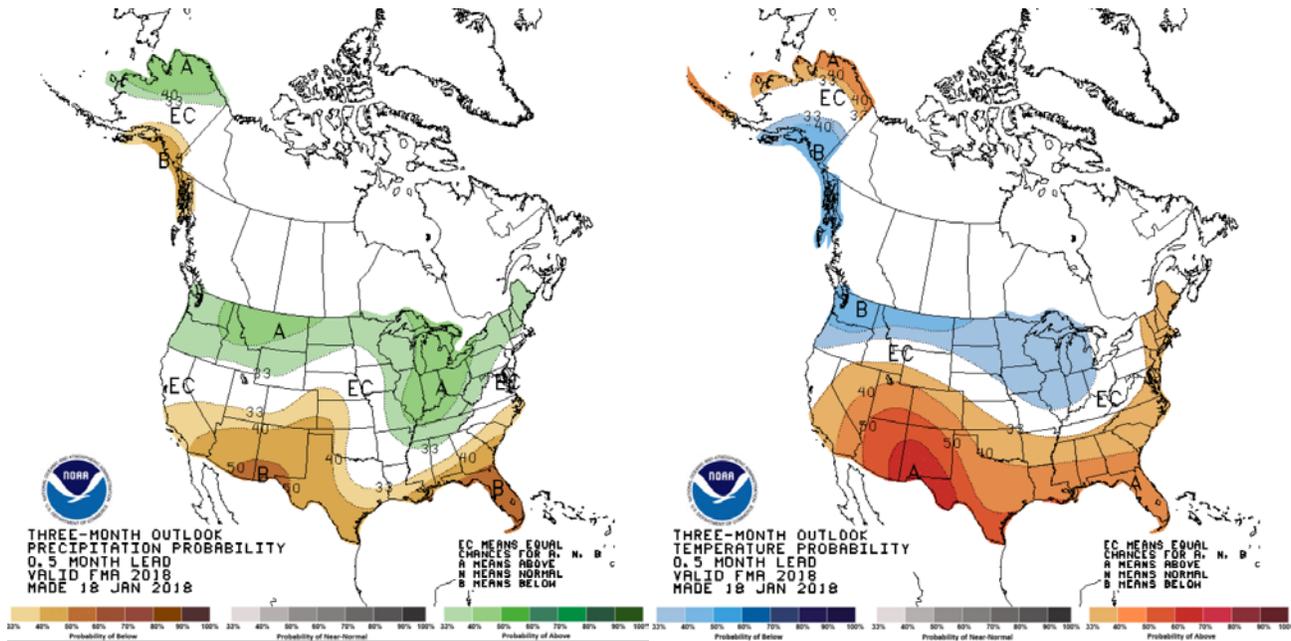


Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

[Precipitation](#)

[Temperature](#)



[Feb-Mar-Apr \(FMA\) 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](#).