

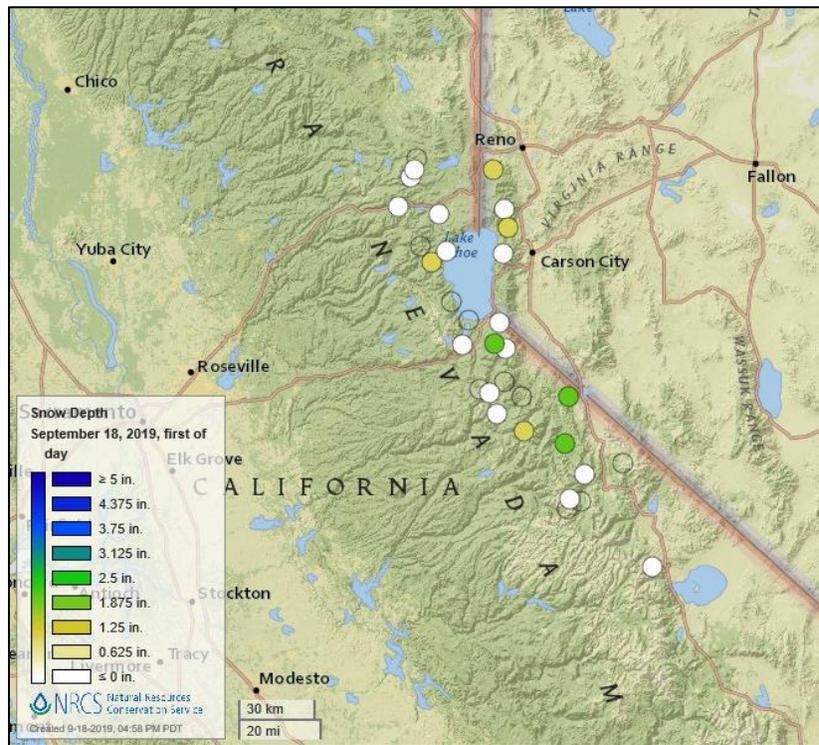
Water and Climate Update

September 19, 2019

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.

Precipitation	2	Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators	11
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Drought	8	More Information	18

First snowfall in the Sierra Nevada



The first snowfall in the mountains of the West is now being reported in the high elevations. While Colorado reported a dusting in the high country last week, the Sierra Nevada saw unusual late summer snow this week. A strong cold front provided the start of the winter season in the Sierra Nevada with snow accumulation on the Interstate 80 pass over the Sierra Nevada and winds up to 50 mph. The snow ranged from an inch or two at pass level and to a foot or more at higher elevations.

Related:

[Sierra Nevada Mountains get a late summer snow](#) - CNN

[Back-to-back storms forecast to deliver 2 inches of snow in Tahoe Basin, 2 feet on Shasta](#) – SF Gate (CA)

[NWS: Light snow in the Sierra today, rain and cool temps expected in Reno](#) – Reno Gazette-Journal (NV)

[It's still summer but snow is already falling along the California-Nevada line](#) – KTVU (NV)

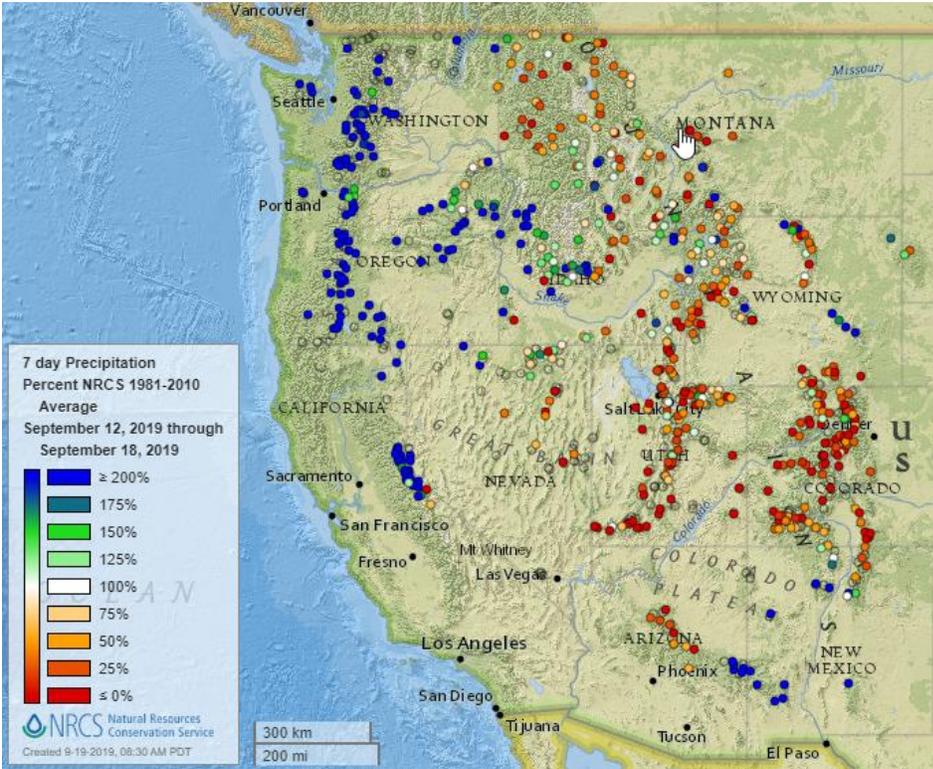
[Storm Front Dumps Snow On Sierra Peaks](#) – CBS SF Bay (CA)

[Sun Valley gets its first snowfall of the season](#) – KTVB (ID)

[First snow of the season dusts Colorado high country](#) – The Denver Post (CO)

Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

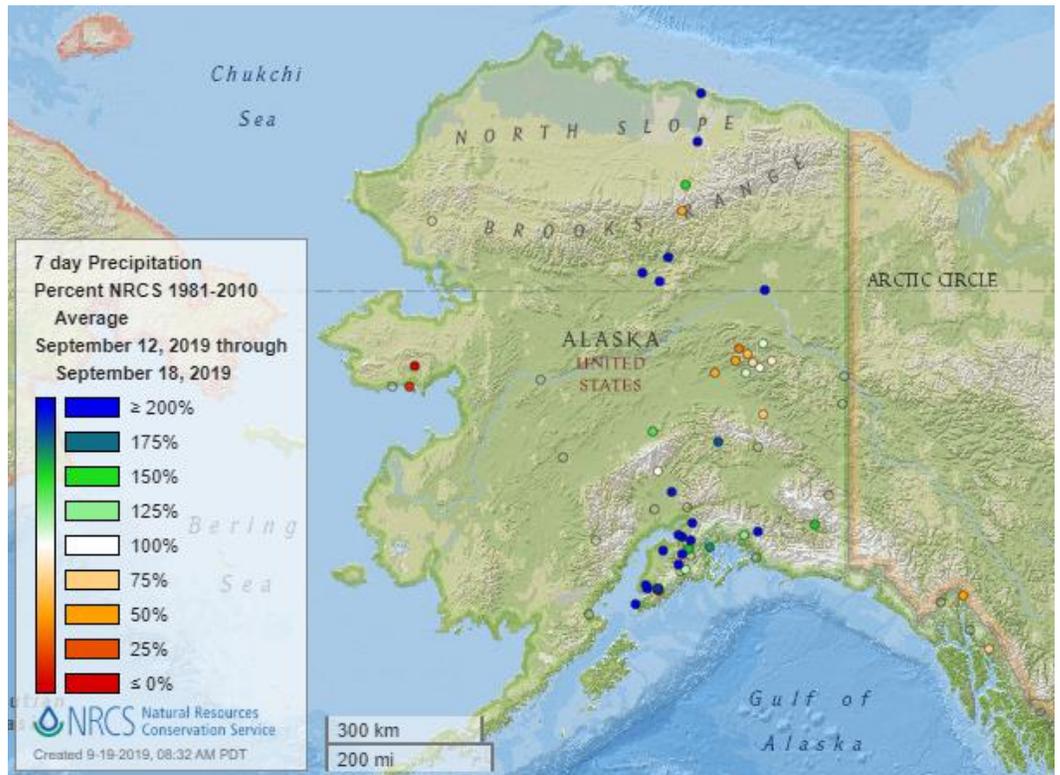


[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

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](#)



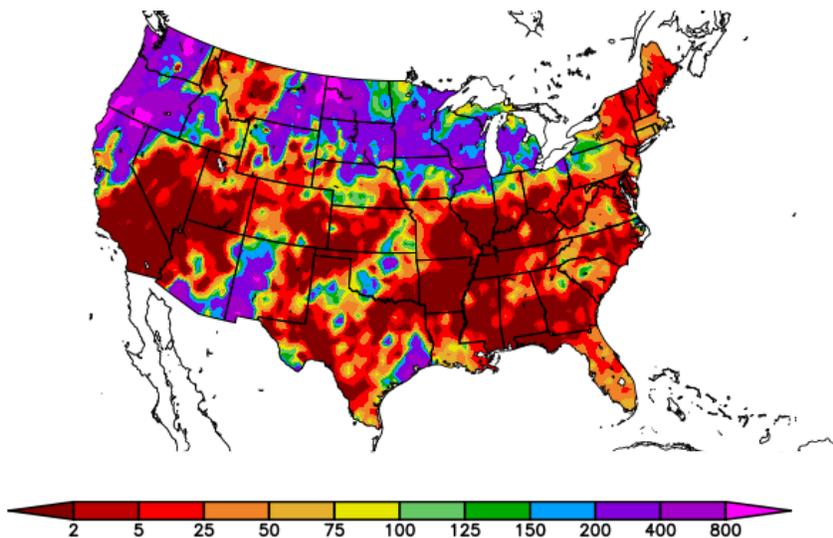
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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](#)

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/12/2019 – 9/18/2019



Generated 9/19/2019 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

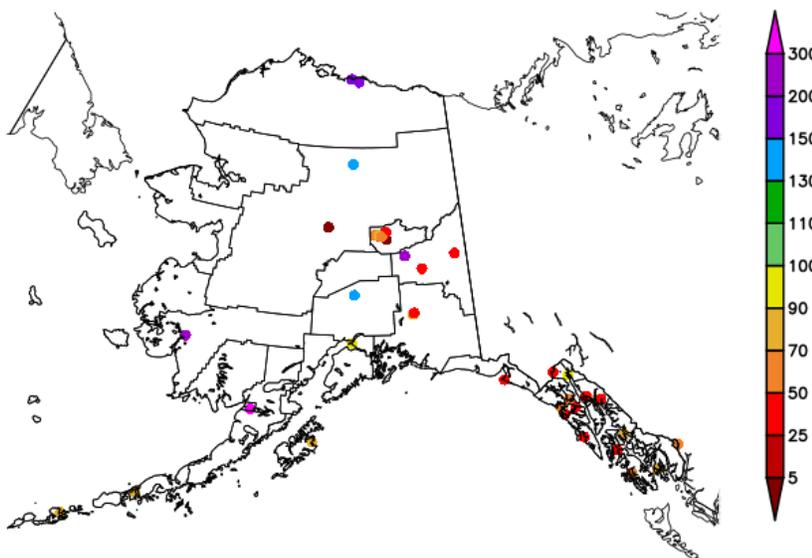
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/12/2019 – 9/18/2019

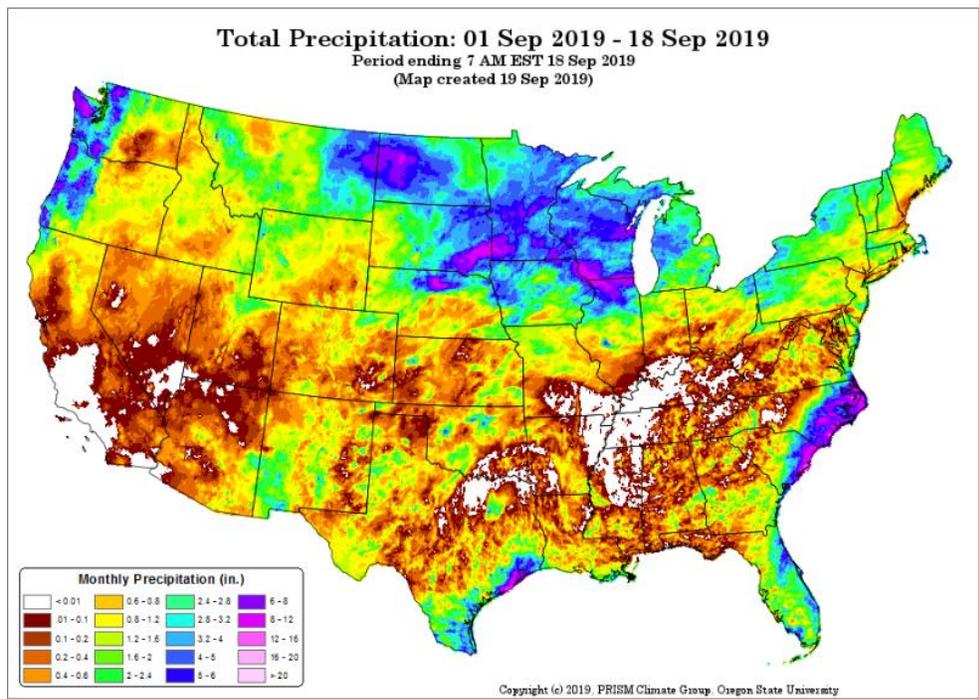


Generated 9/19/2019 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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

Source: PRISM

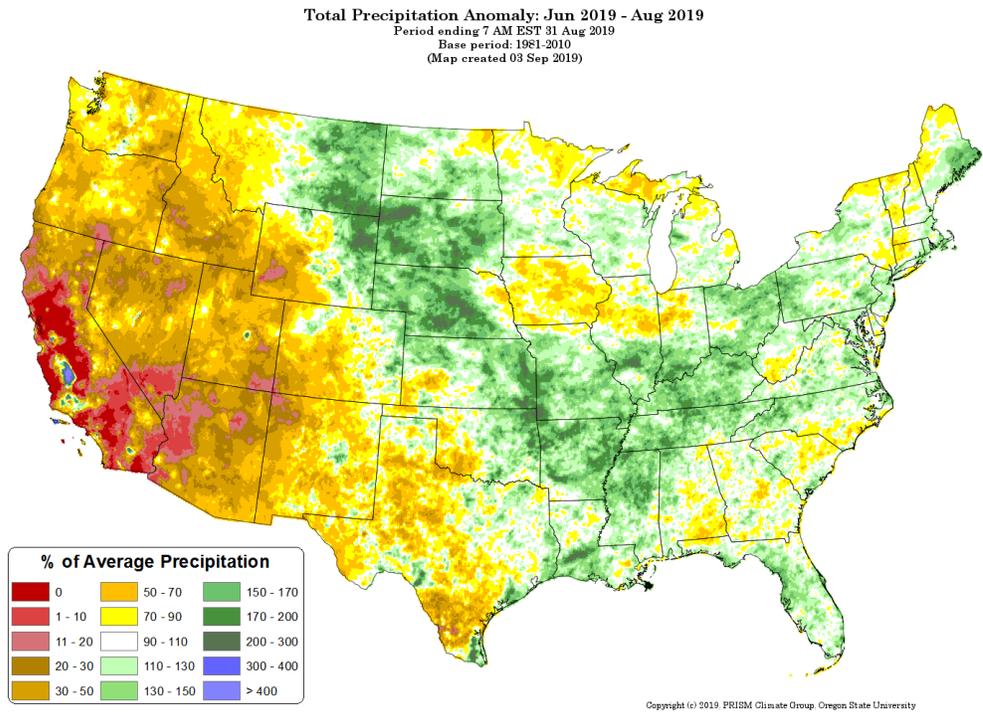


[Month-to-date national total precipitation percent of average map](#)

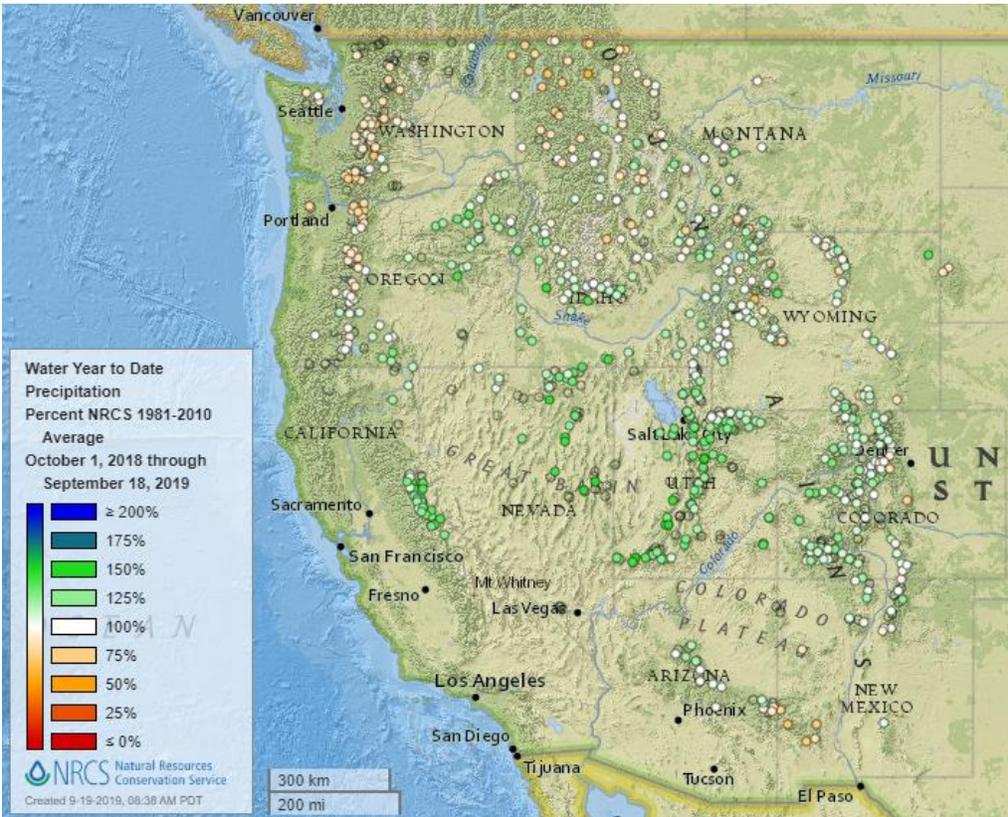
Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

[June through August 2019 total precipitation percent of average map](#)

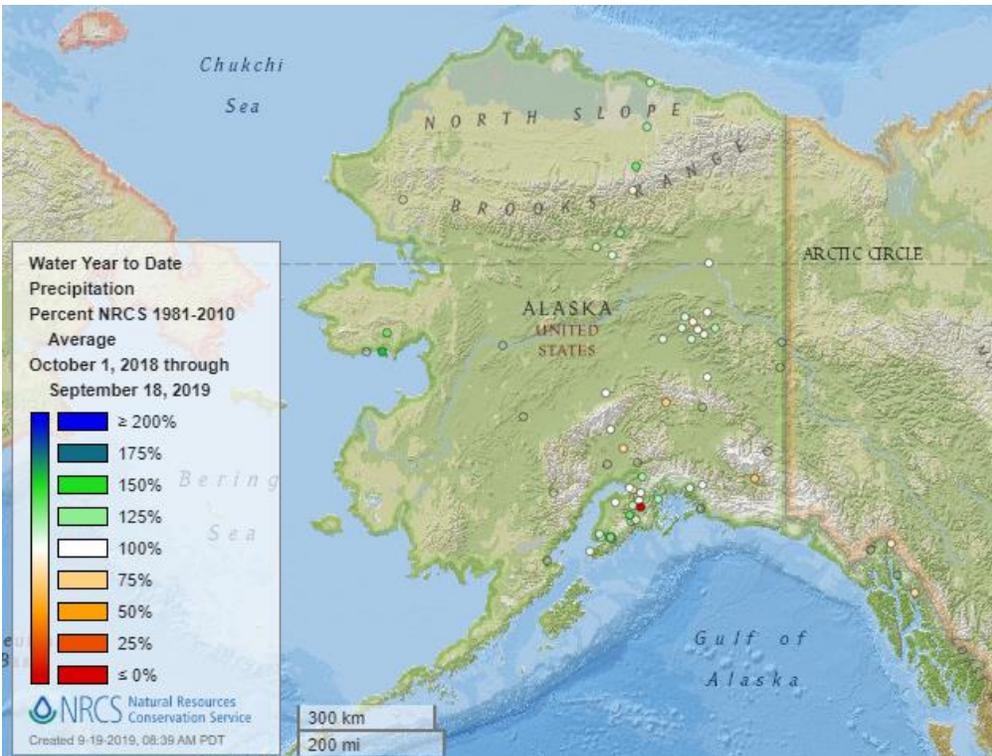


Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network



[2019 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also:
[2019 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



[Alaska 2019 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [Alaska 2019 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Temperature

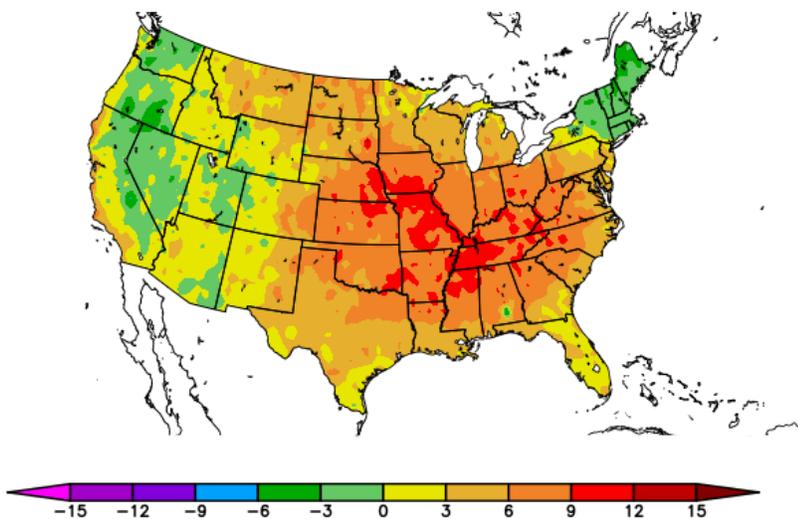
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/12/2019 – 9/18/2019



Generated 9/19/2019 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

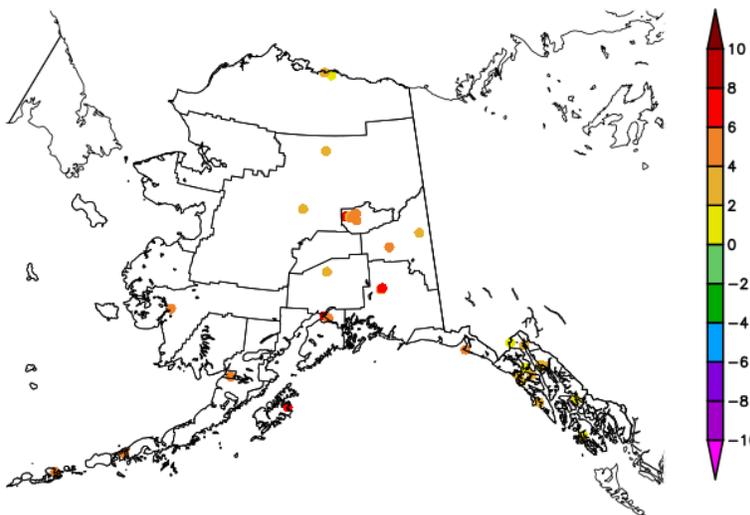
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/12/2019 – 9/18/2019



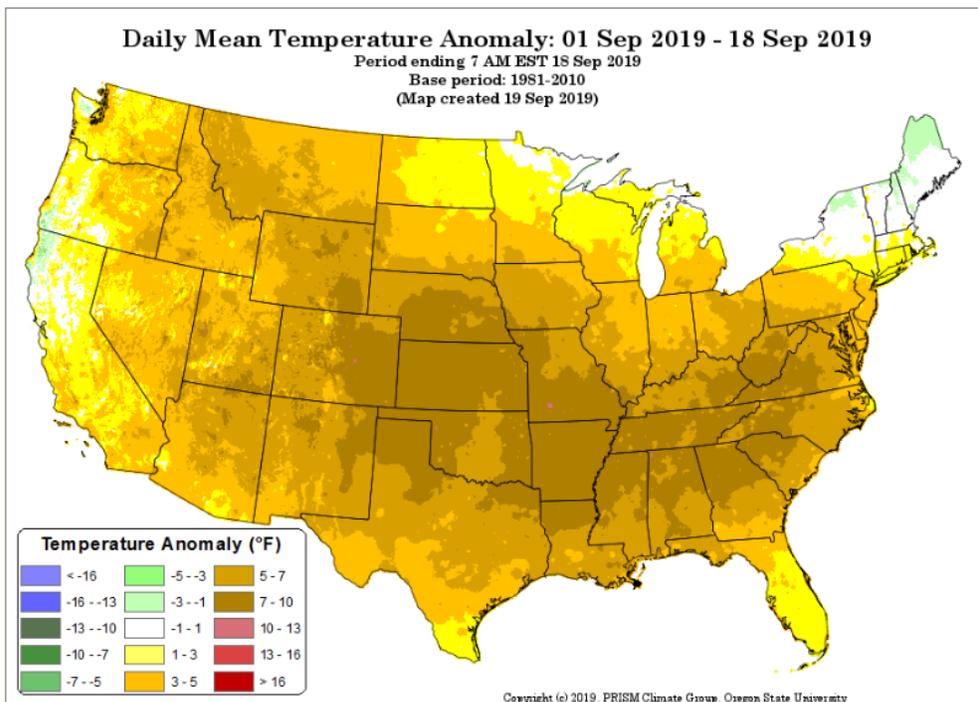
Generated 9/19/2019 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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

Source: PRISM

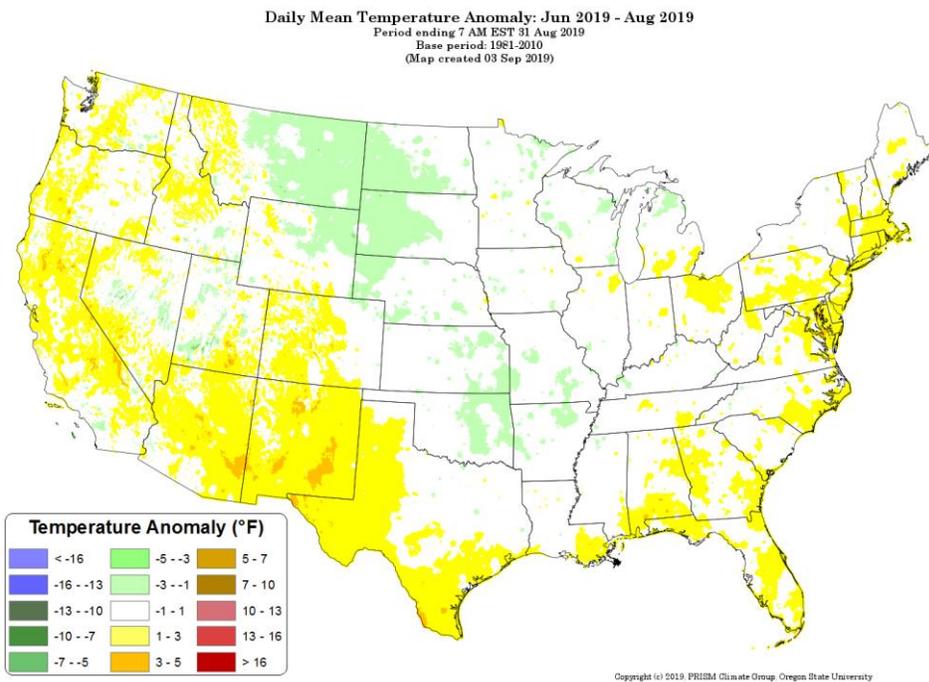
[Month-to-date national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



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

Source: PRISM

[June through August 2019 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



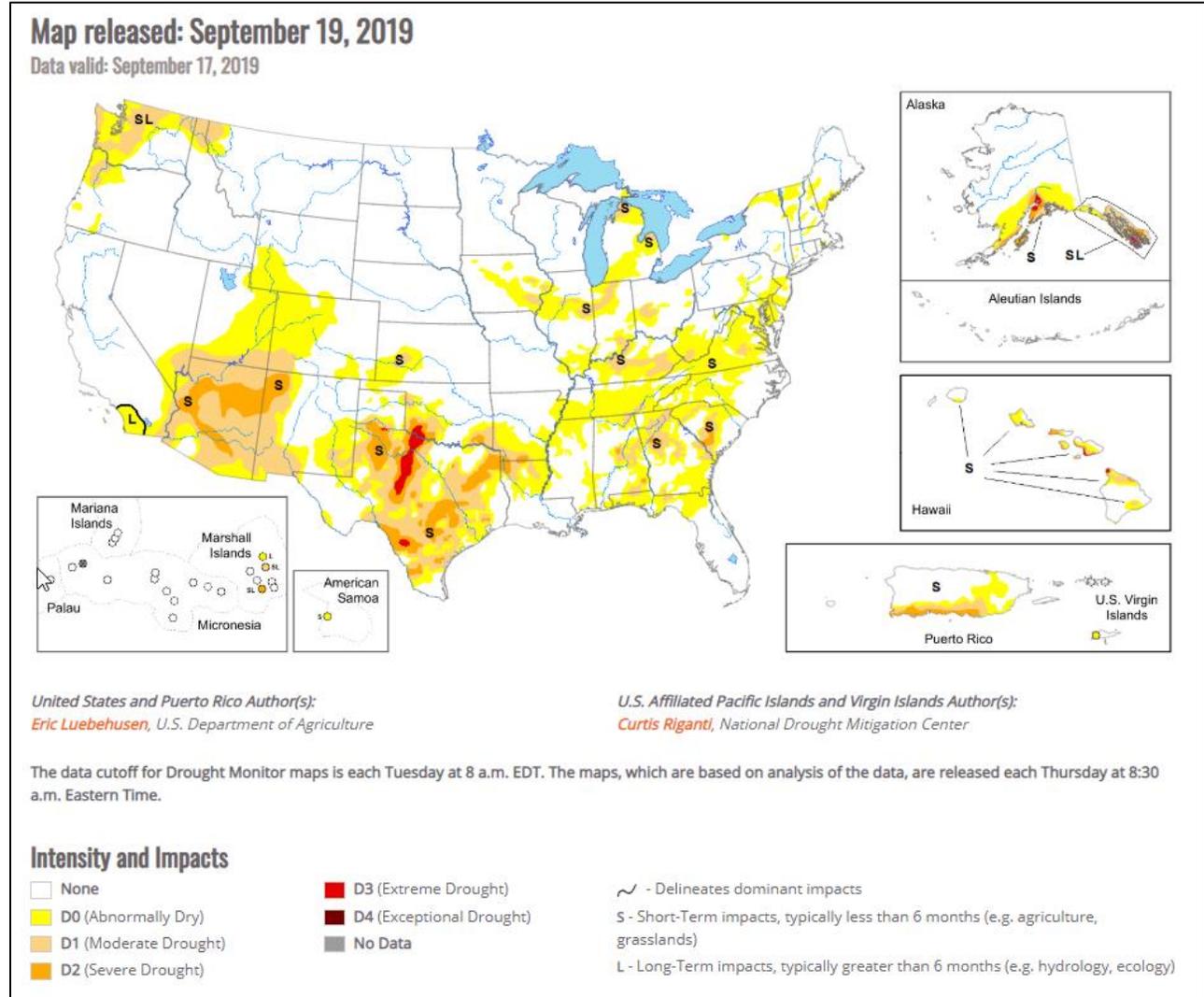
Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA



Current [National Drought Summary](#), September 19, 2019

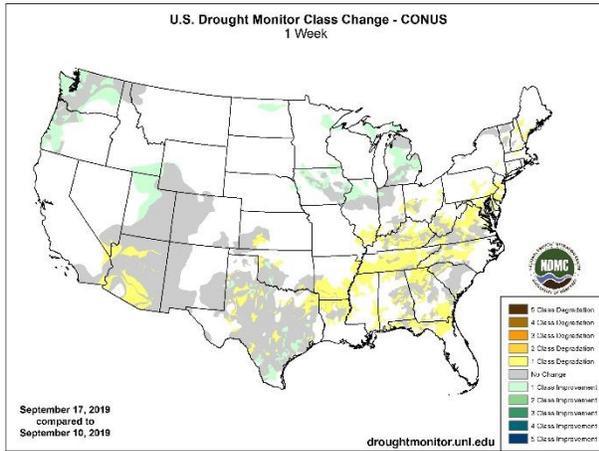
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“Rapidly intensifying “flash drought” — attributed in part to extreme late-summer heat — continued to afflict many areas from the lower Midwest and Mid-Atlantic States to the Gulf Coast. Likewise, an abysmal Southwestern monsoon (to-date) led to increasing drought intensity and coverage in Arizona, while short-term drought persisted across the Hawaiian Islands. Conversely, moderate to heavy rain eased or alleviated dryness and drought from the Great Lakes into the Northwest as well as in southwestern Alaska and southern Puerto Rico.”

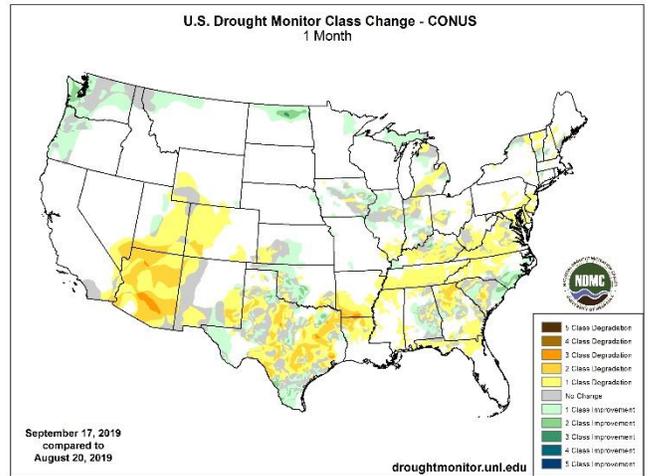
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

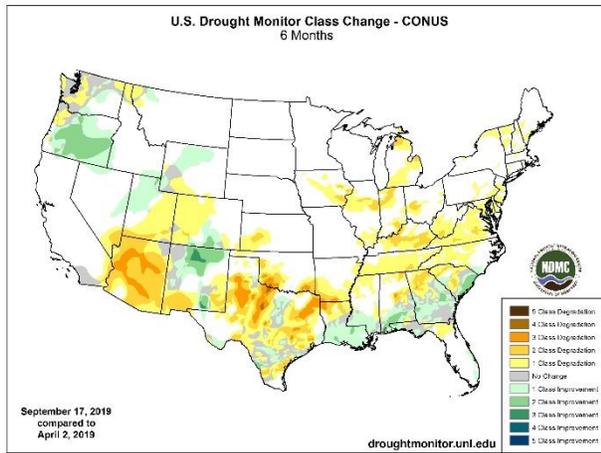
1 Week



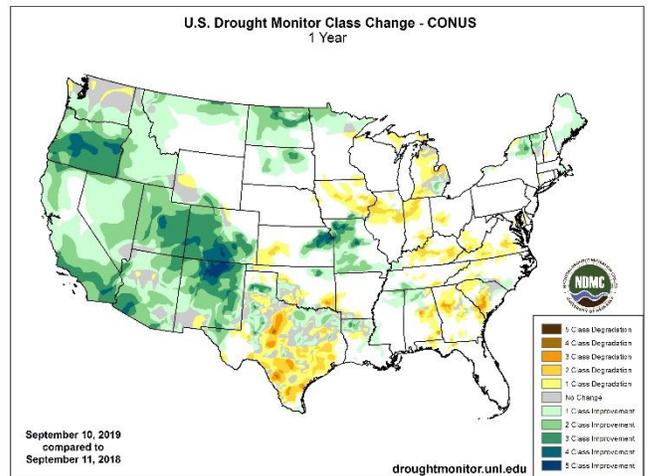
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



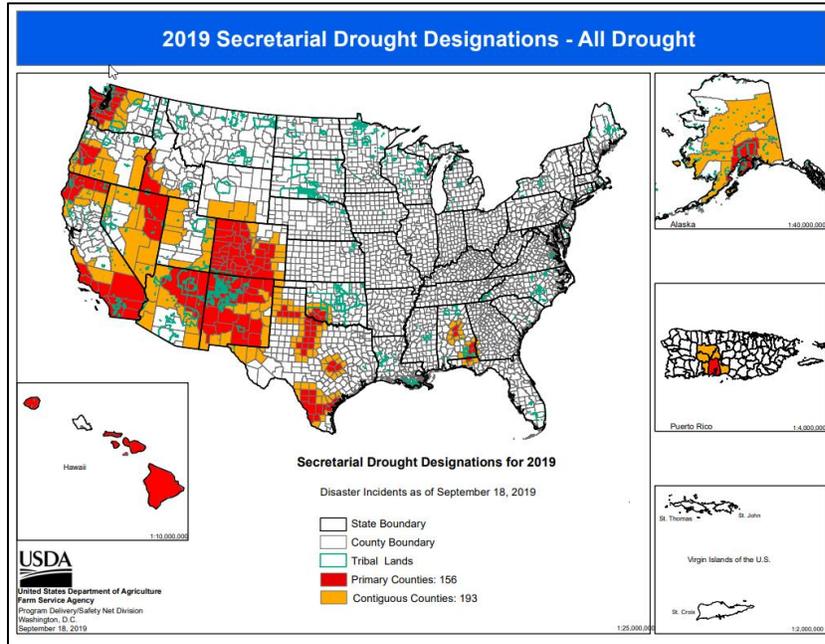
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

Highlighted Drought Resources

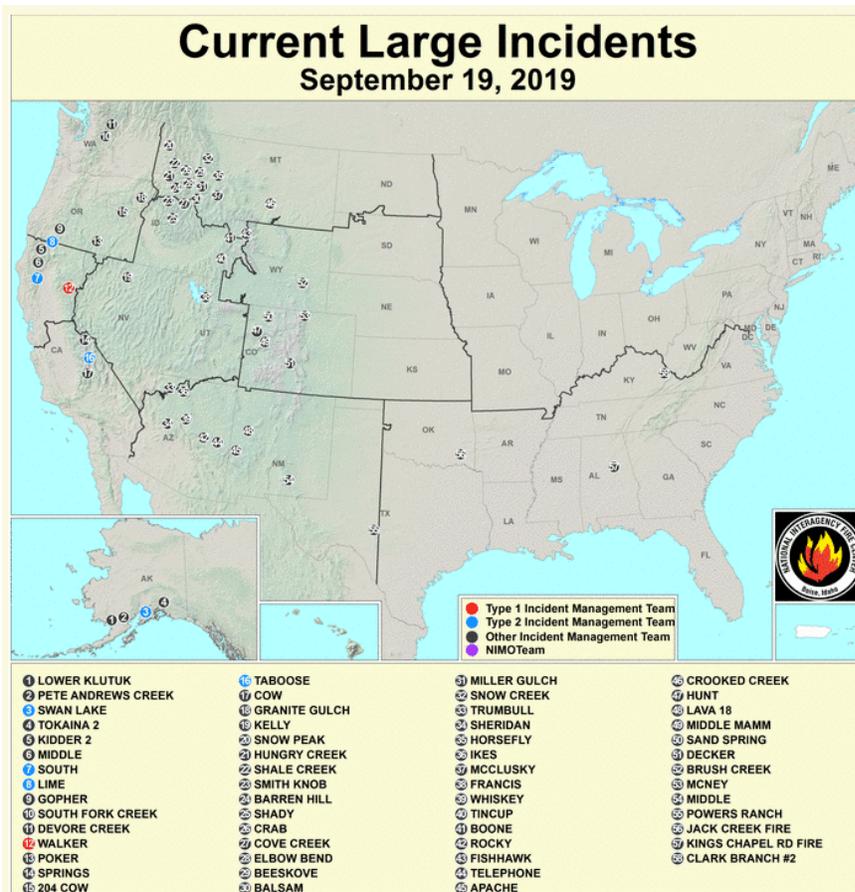
- [Drought Impact Reporter](#)
- [Quarterly Regional Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- [U.S. Drought Portal Indicators and Monitoring](#)
- [U.S. Population in Drought, Weekly Comparison](#)
- [USDA Disaster and Drought Information](#)

Secretarial Drought Designations

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency



Wildfires: USDA Forest Service Active Fire Mapping



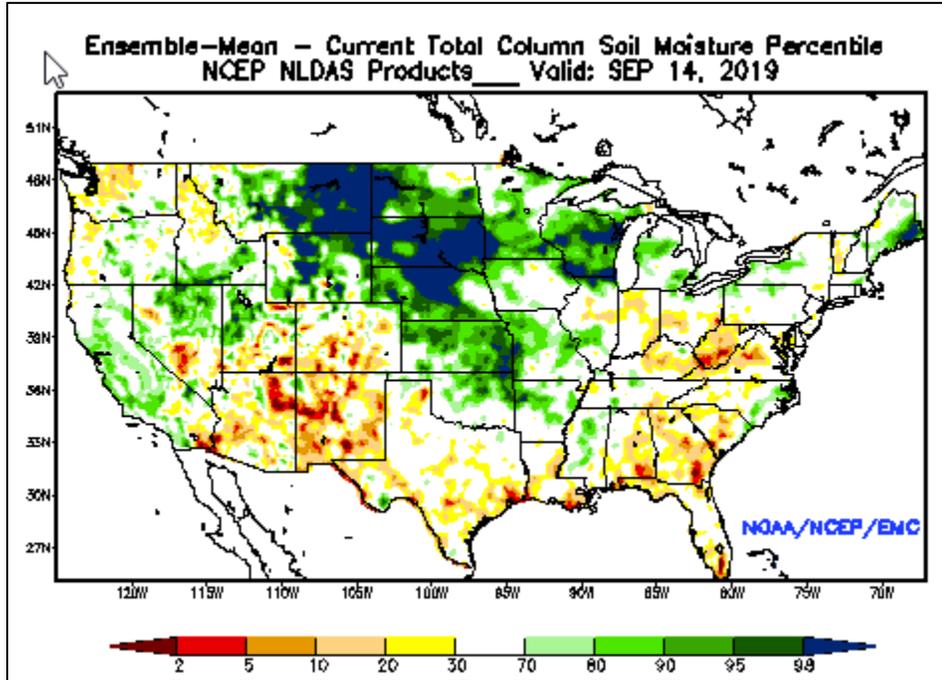
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

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

Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of September 14, 2019

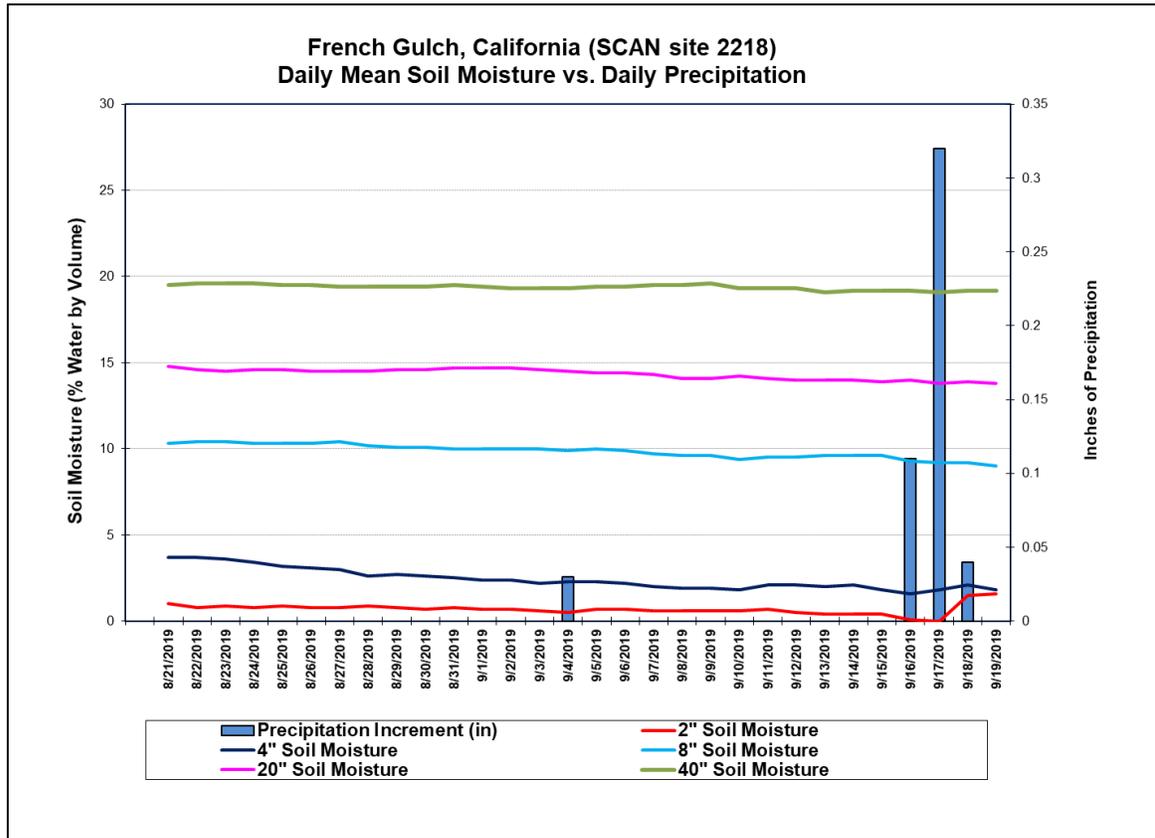
Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

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



Soil Moisture Data

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



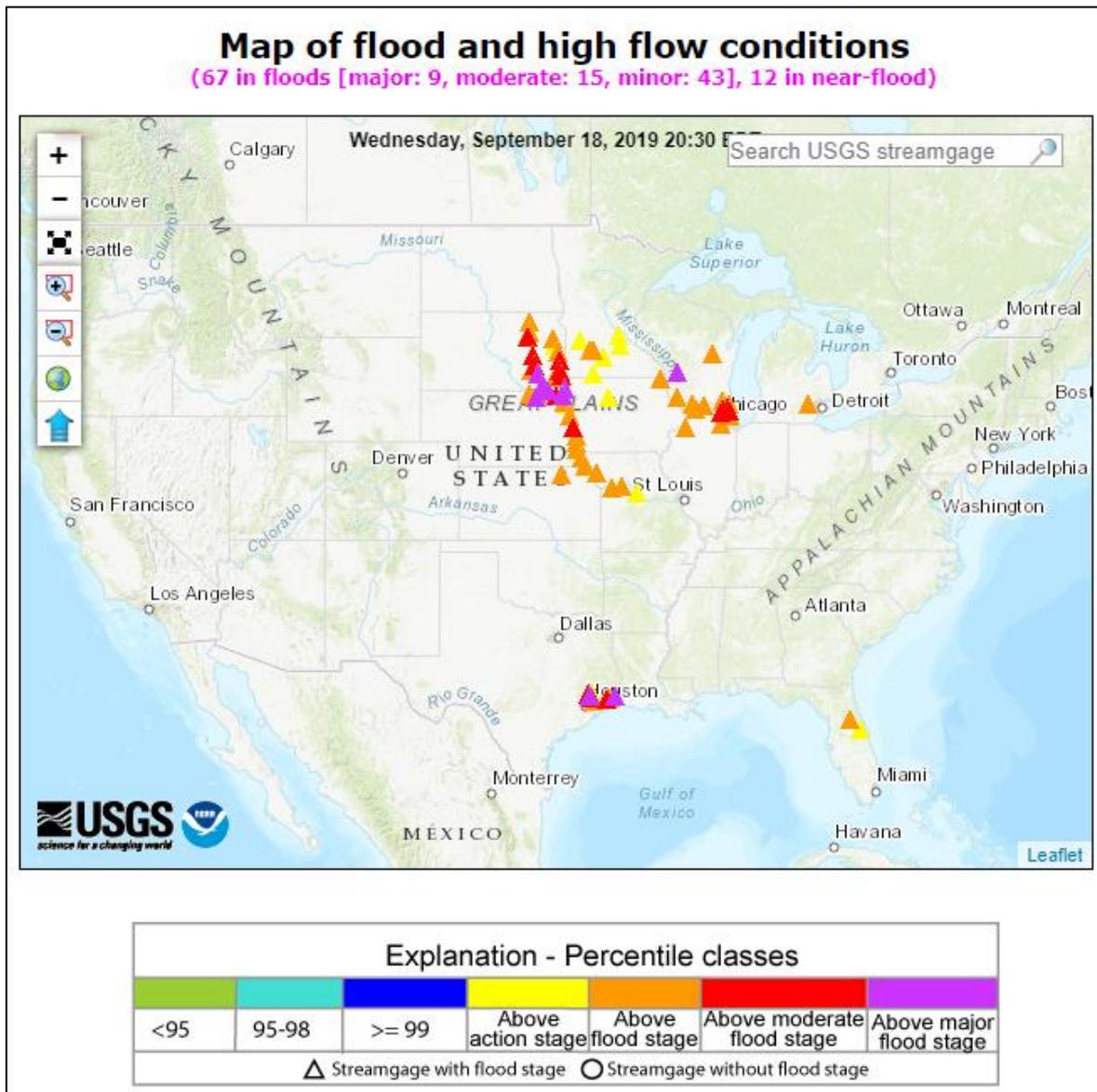
This chart shows the soil moisture and precipitation for the last 30 days at the [French Gulch SCAN site 2218](#) in California. There was very little precipitation in the last 30 days until September 17-18 when a total of 0.43 inches fell. The soil moisture increased at the -2", and -4" sensor levels from this event. The rest of the sensors show a slight decline or no change over the month.

Soil Moisture Data Portals

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

Streamflow, Drought, Flood, and Runoff

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

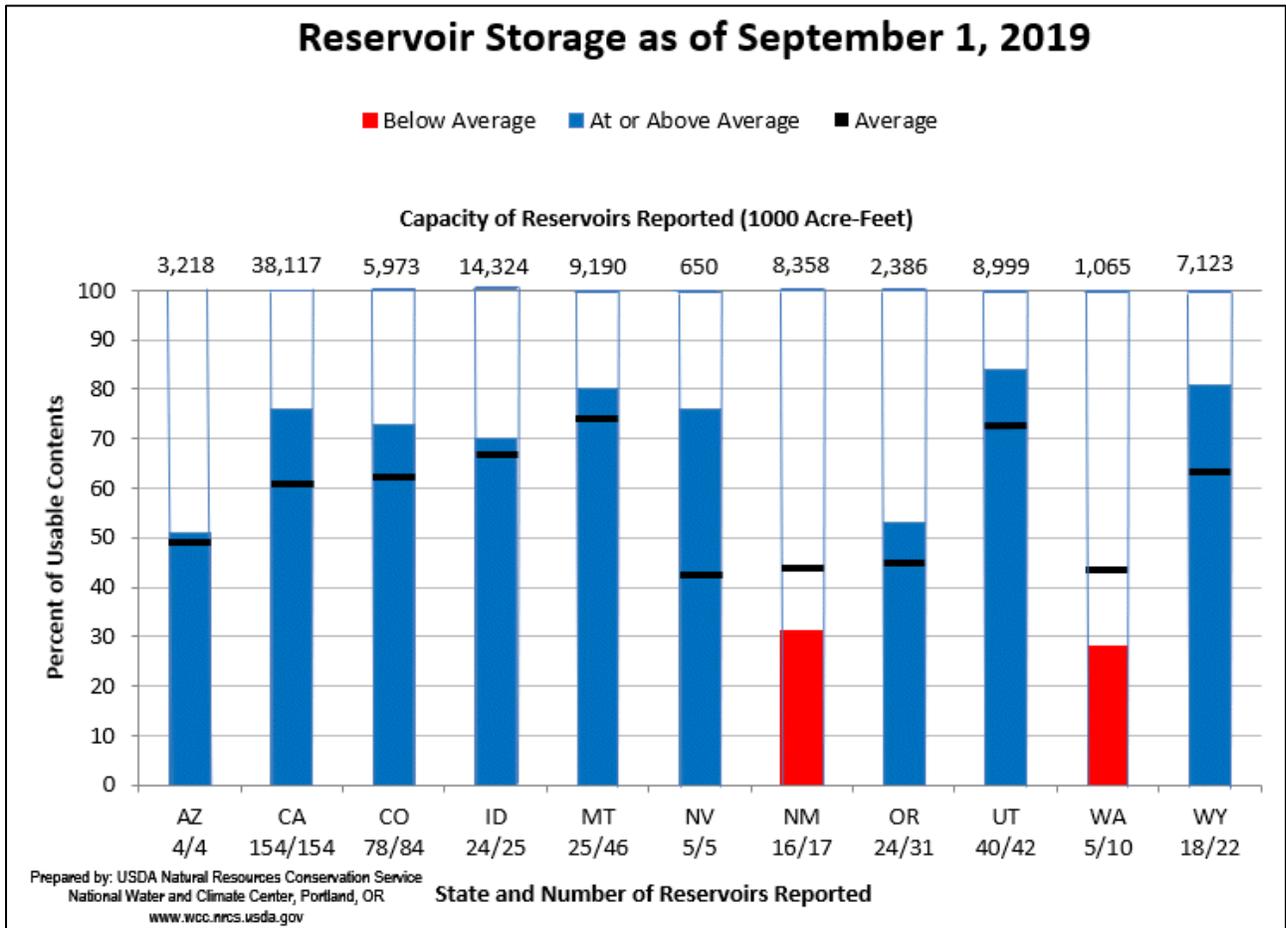


[WaterWatch: Streamflow, drought, flood, and runoff conditions](#)

Reservoir Storage

Western States Reservoir Storage

Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center



September 1, 2019 Reservoir Storage: [Chart](#) | [Dataset](#)

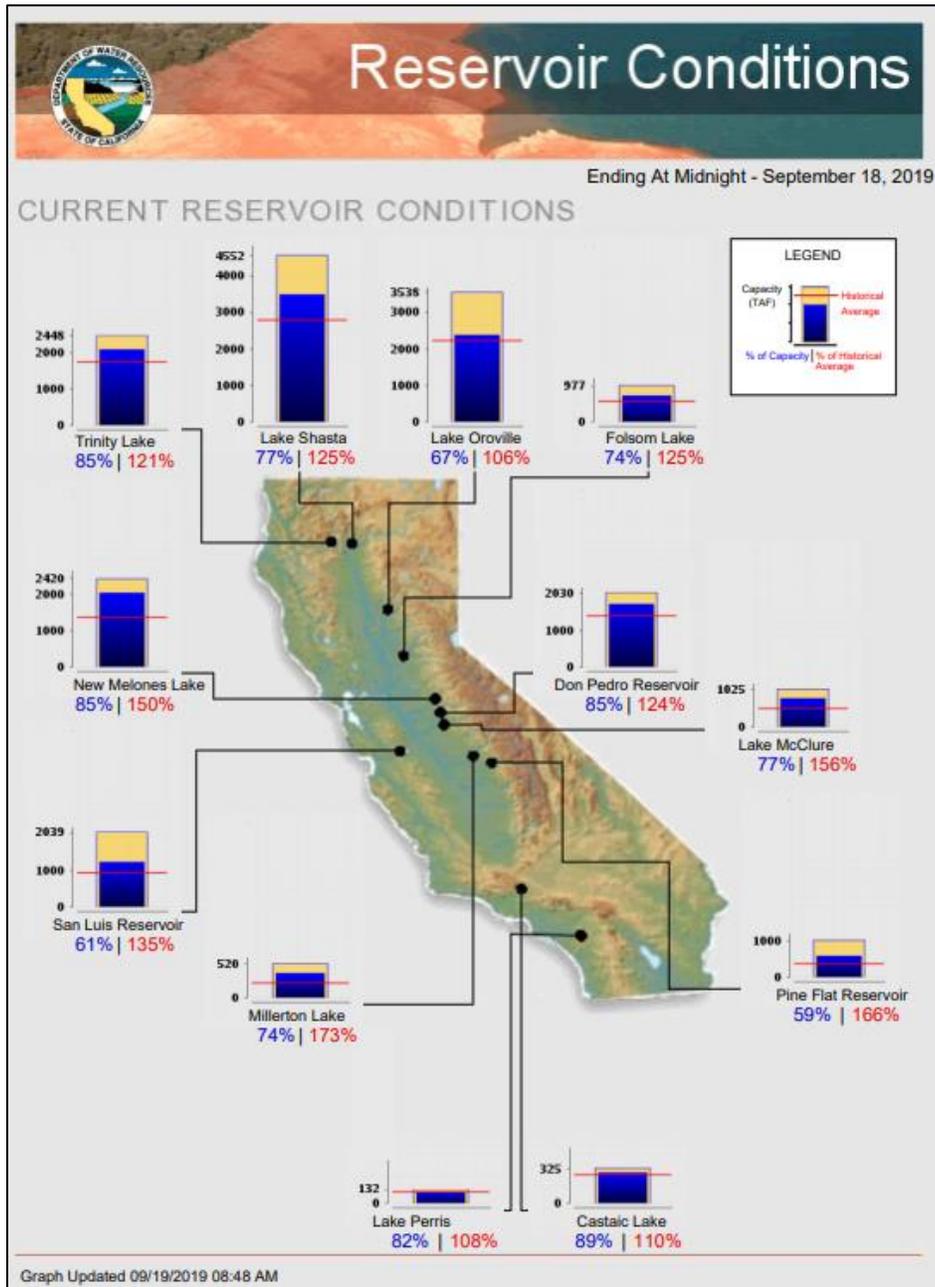
Hydromet Tea Cup Reservoir Depictions

Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

- [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

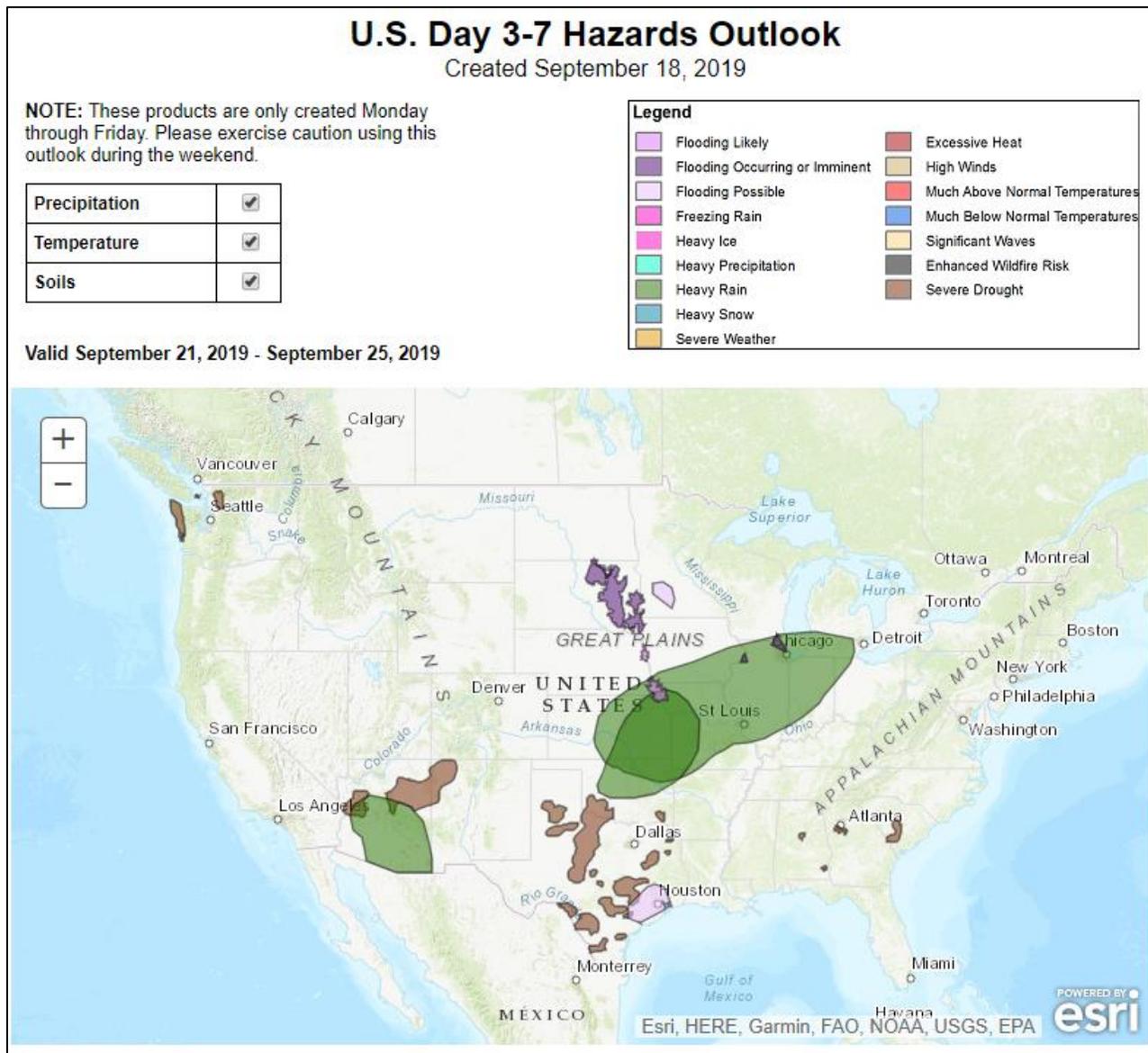
Agricultural Weather Highlights

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

[National Outlook, Thursday, September 19, 2019](#): "Text."

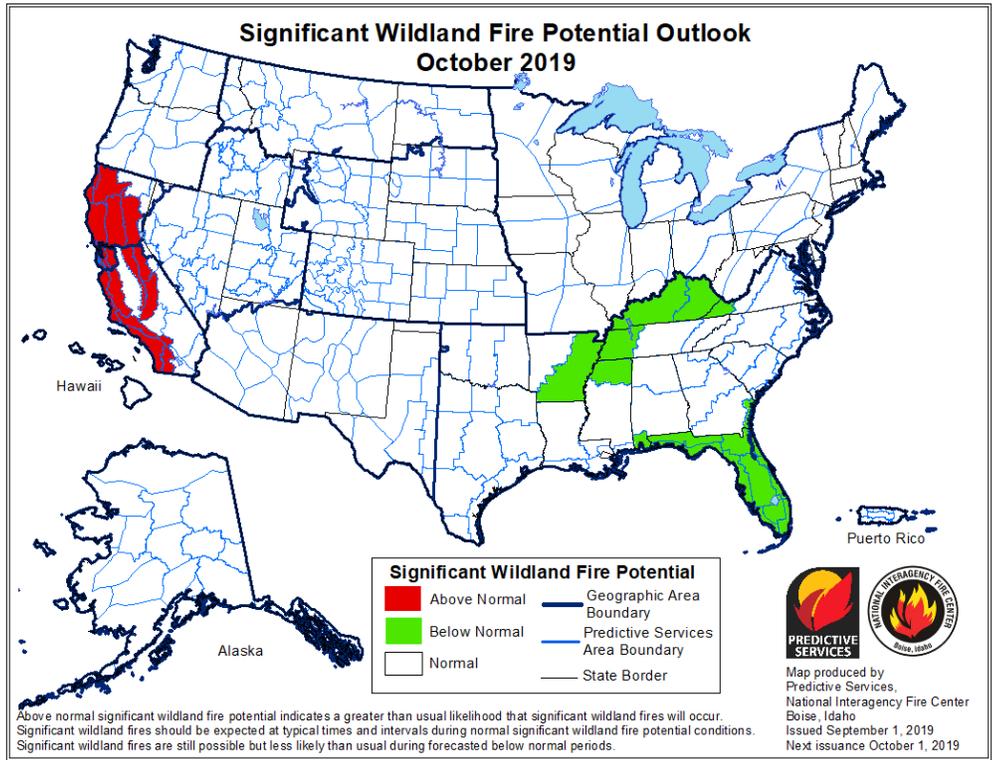
Weather Hazards Outlook: [September 21 – 25, 2019](#)

Source: NOAA Climate Prediction Center



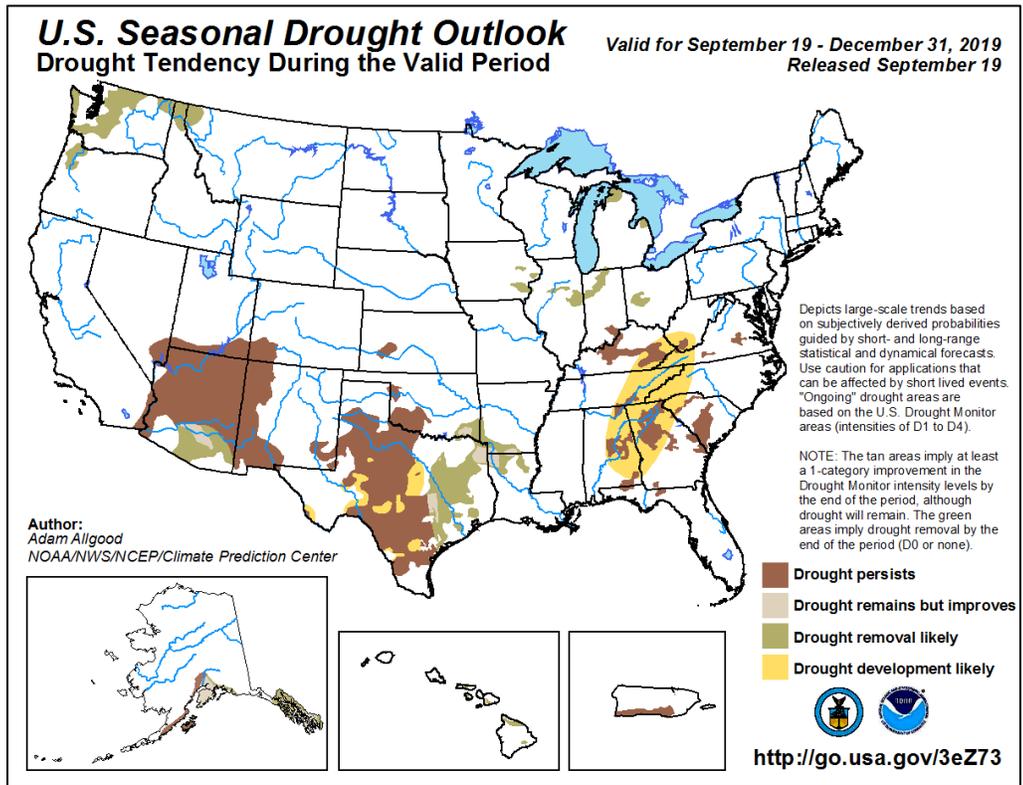
Significant Wildland [Fire Potential Outlook](#)

Source: National Interagency Fire Center



Seasonal Drought Outlook: [September 19 – December 31, 2019](#)

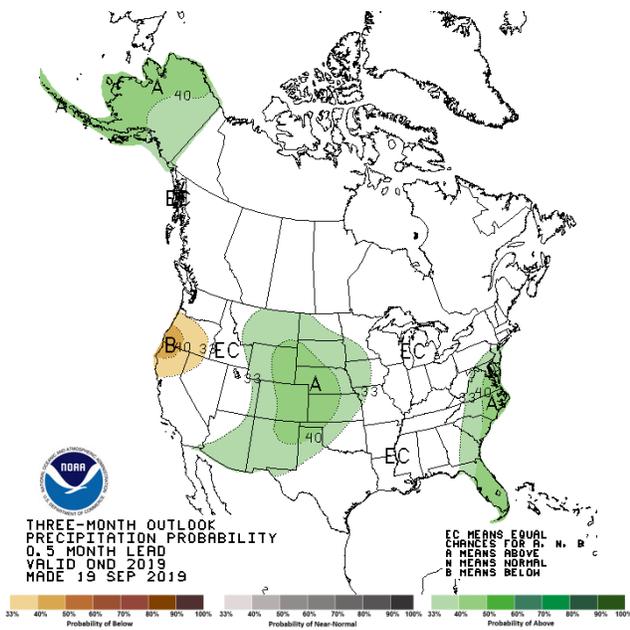
Source: National Weather Service



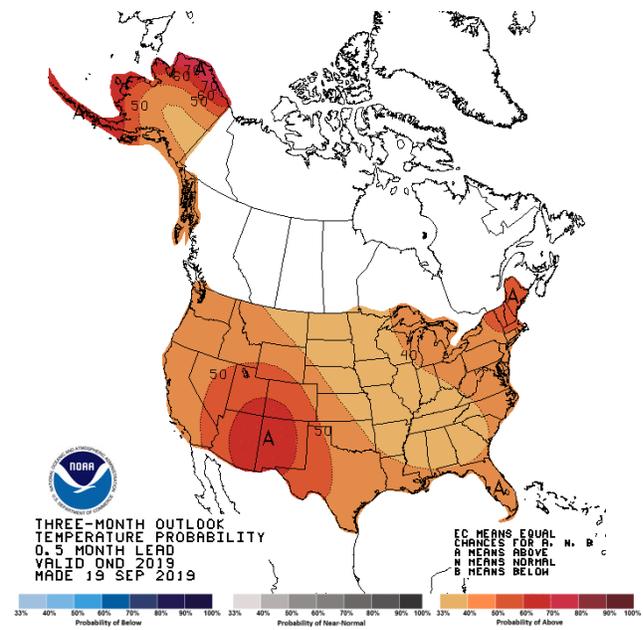
Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

[Precipitation](#)



[Temperature](#)



[October-November-December \(OND\) 2019 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](#).