

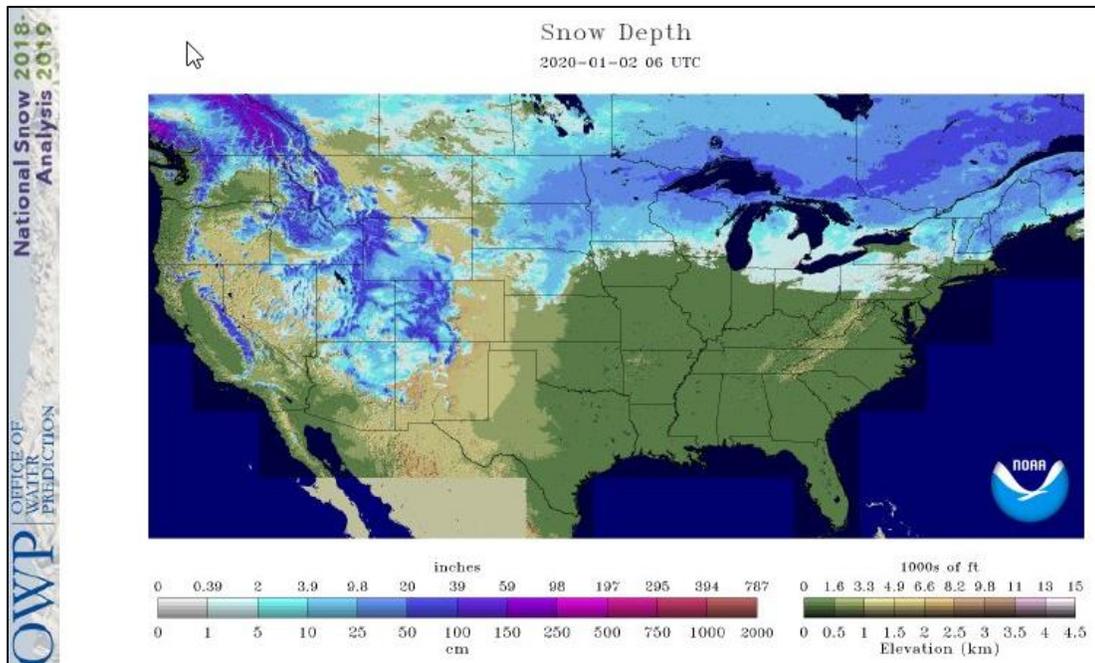
# Water and Climate Update

January 2, 2020

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.

Snow .....	1	Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators .....	10
Precipitation .....	3	Short- and Long-Range Outlooks.....	14
Temperature.....	6	More Information .....	16
Drought .....	8		

## 2019 ends with widespread storms across the US



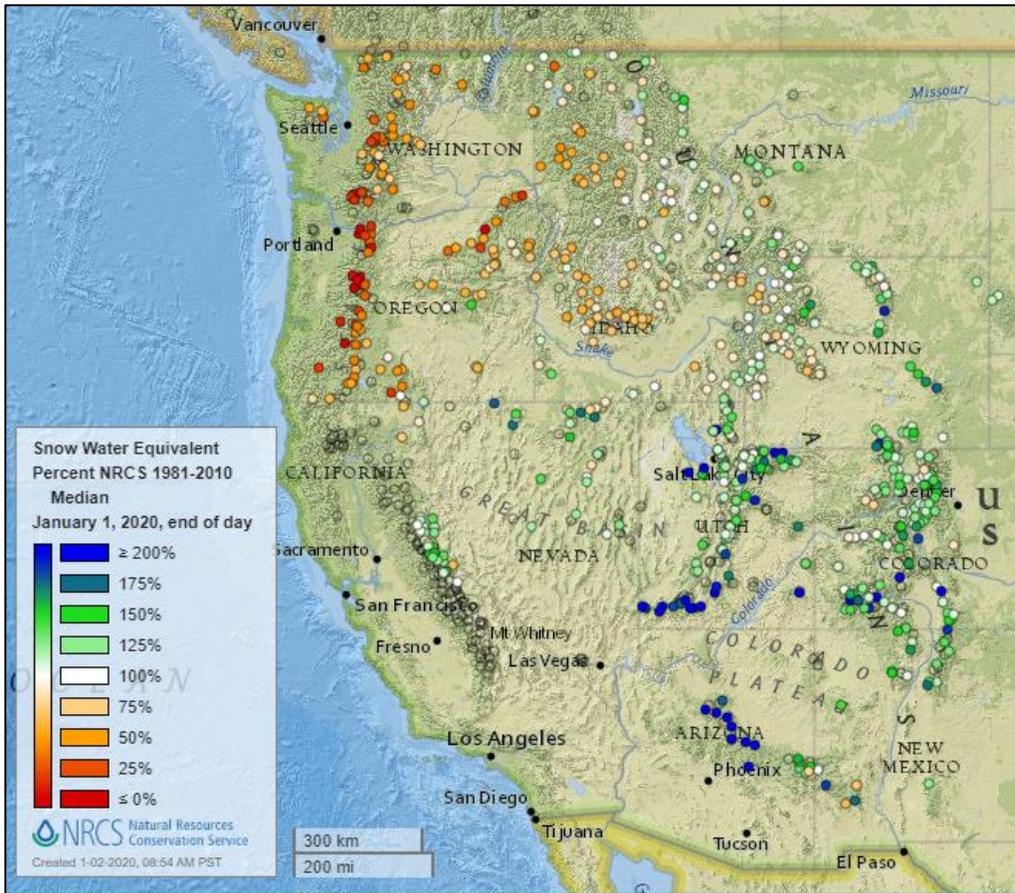
Happy New Year! Winter arrived with snow covering the western mountains and northern tier states. Snowstorms across the country impacted travel in the parts of the West, northern Great Plains, Midwest, as well as the Northeast, during the busiest travel time of the year. Heavy snow blanketed the mountains and inland high desert near Los Angeles, closing a major interstate for 36 hours. Other impacts across the country included power outages and tree damage. The map above shows, as of January 2, 2020, 34.5% of coterminous US is covered by snow according to the National Weather Service.

**Related:**

- [Major storm blanketing roads in snow, ice as travelers head home after holidays](#) - ABC
- ['Difficult or impossible travel': Winter storm wreaks havoc from Midwest to Northeast](#) – USA Today
- [L.A. is pounded by rain, heavy snow and a tornado in wild winter storm](#) – Los Angeles Times
- [Sprawling Winter Storms Leave 100,000 Powerless, Flights Delayed](#) – Bloomberg on MSN.com
- [200+ Crashes As NH's Year-End Thundersnow Storm Ends In A Whimper](#) - Patch

## Snow

### Current Snow Water Equivalent, NRCS SNOTEL Network



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

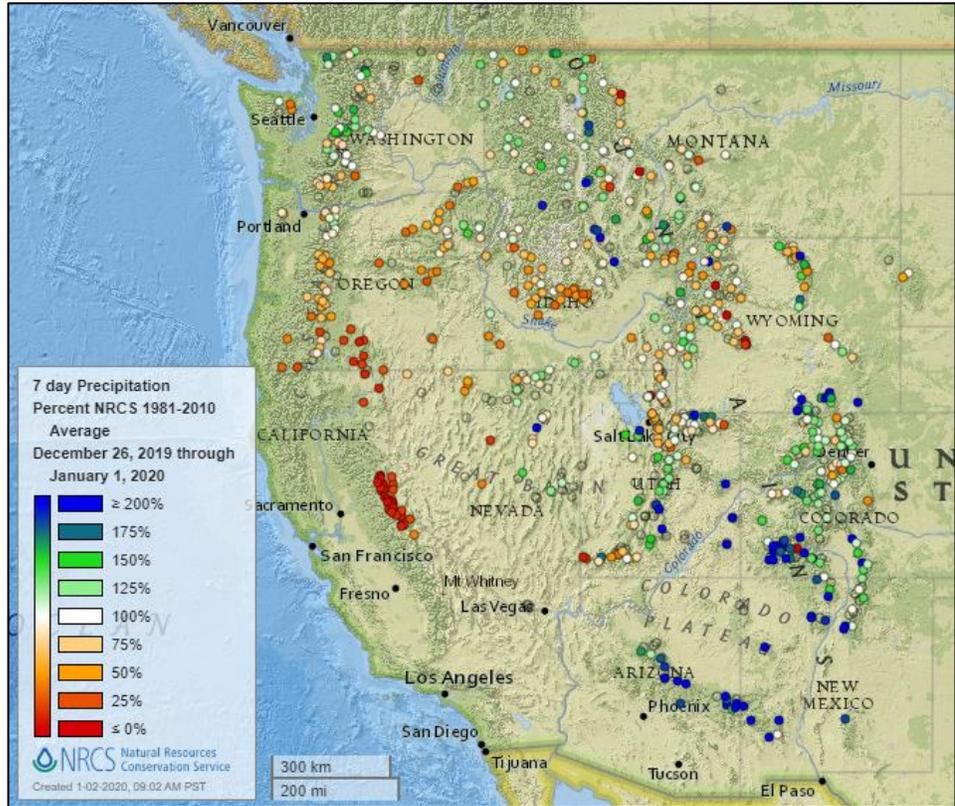
**See also:**  
[Snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)

## Precipitation

### Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

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

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

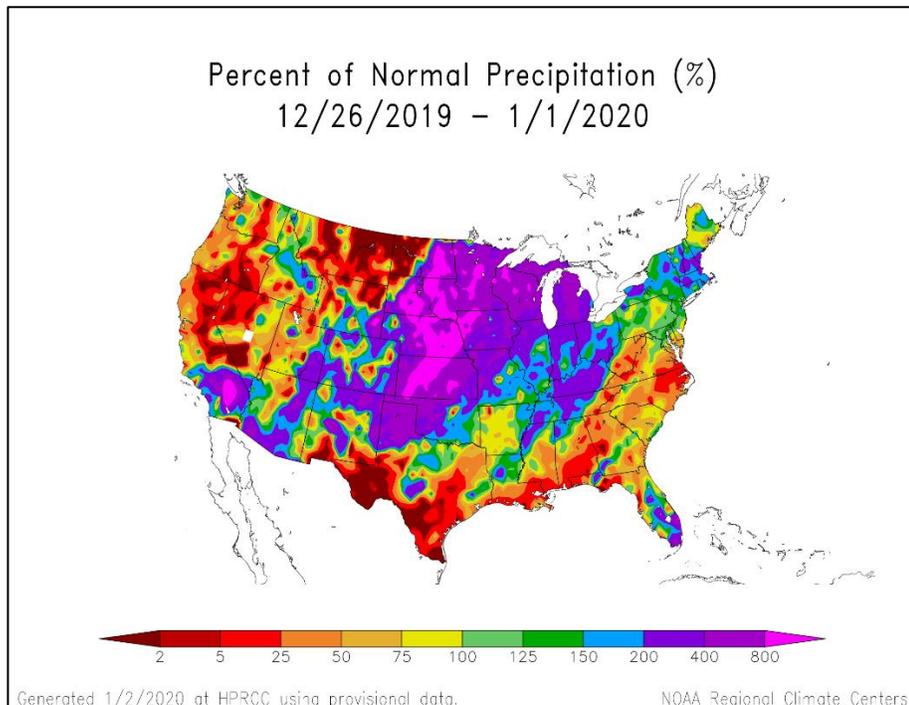


### Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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](#)

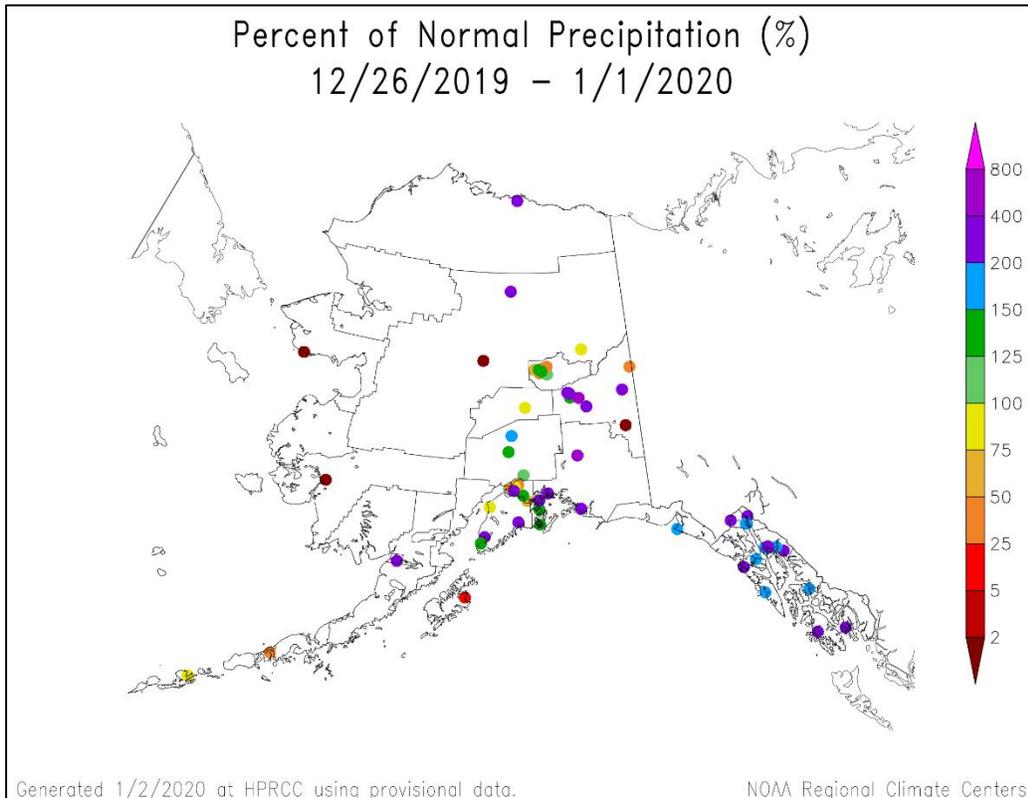


**Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks**

Source: Regional Climate Centers

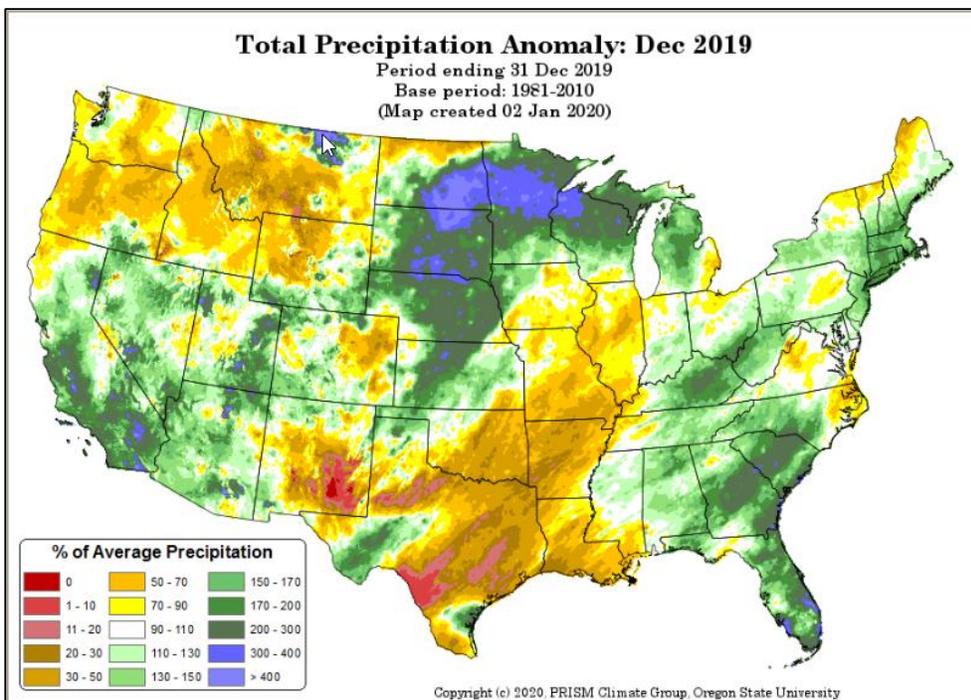
[7-day precipitation anomaly map](#) for Alaska.

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



**Previous Month, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks**

Source: PRISM

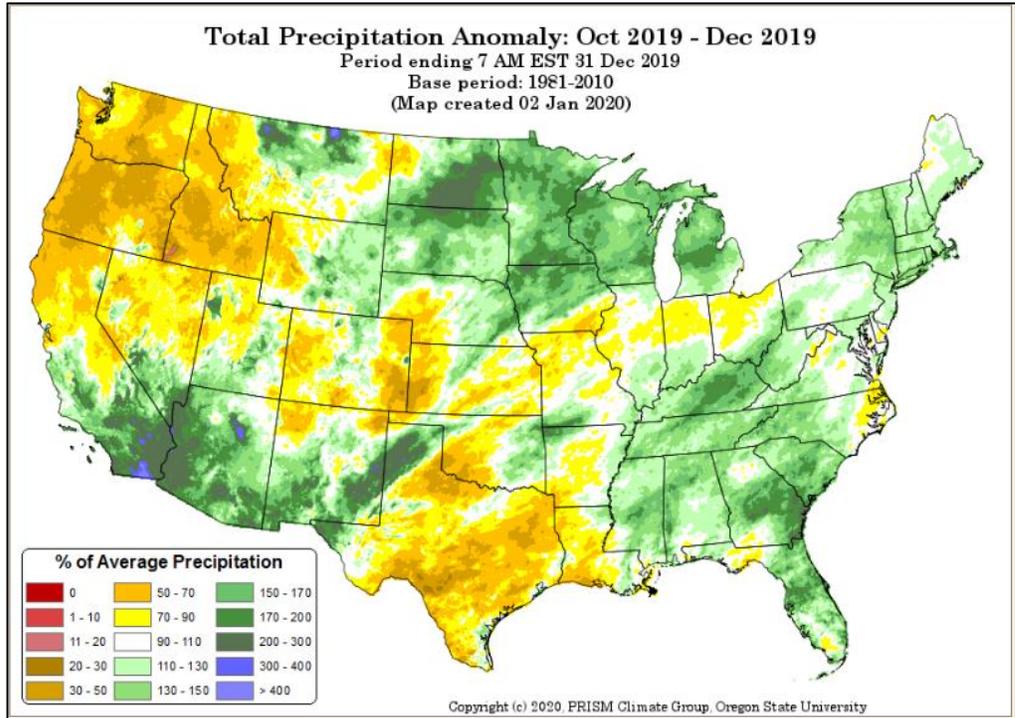


[Previous month national total precipitation percent of average map](#)

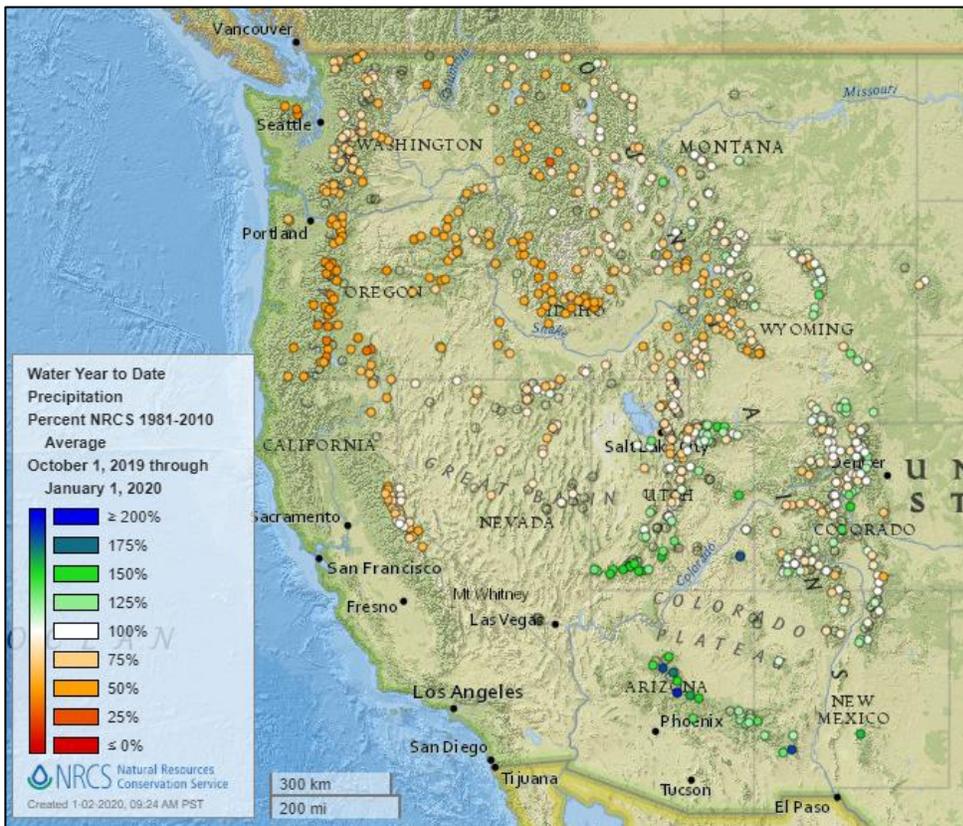
Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

[October through December 2019 total precipitation percent of average map](#)



Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network



[2020 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

**See also:**  
[2020 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

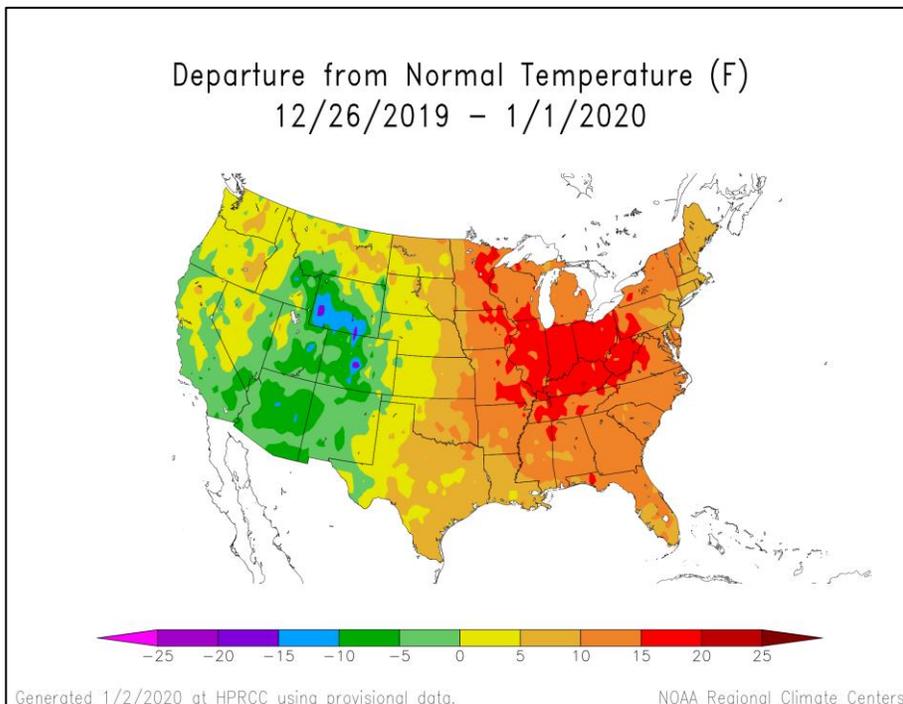
## Temperature

### 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](#)

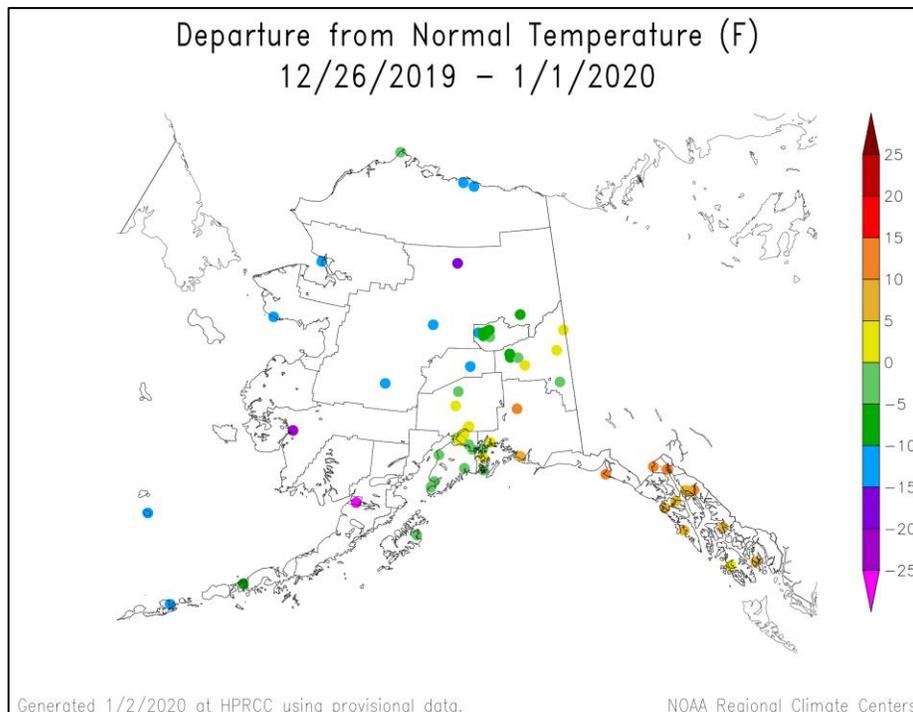


### Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

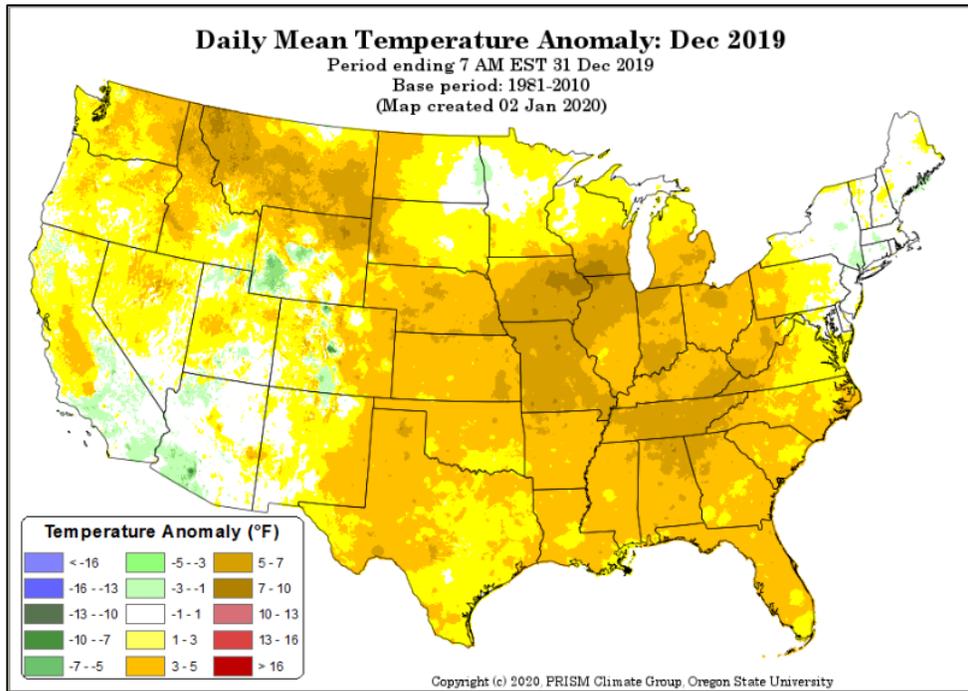
**See also:** [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)



**Previous Month, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks**

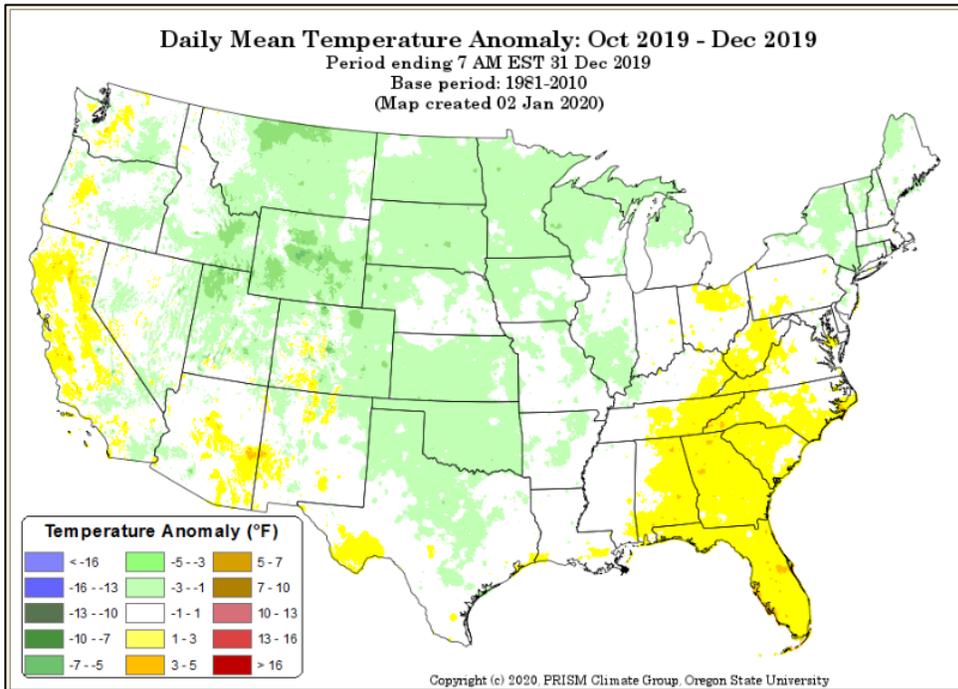
Source: PRISM

[Previous month national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



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

Source: PRISM



[October through December 2019 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)

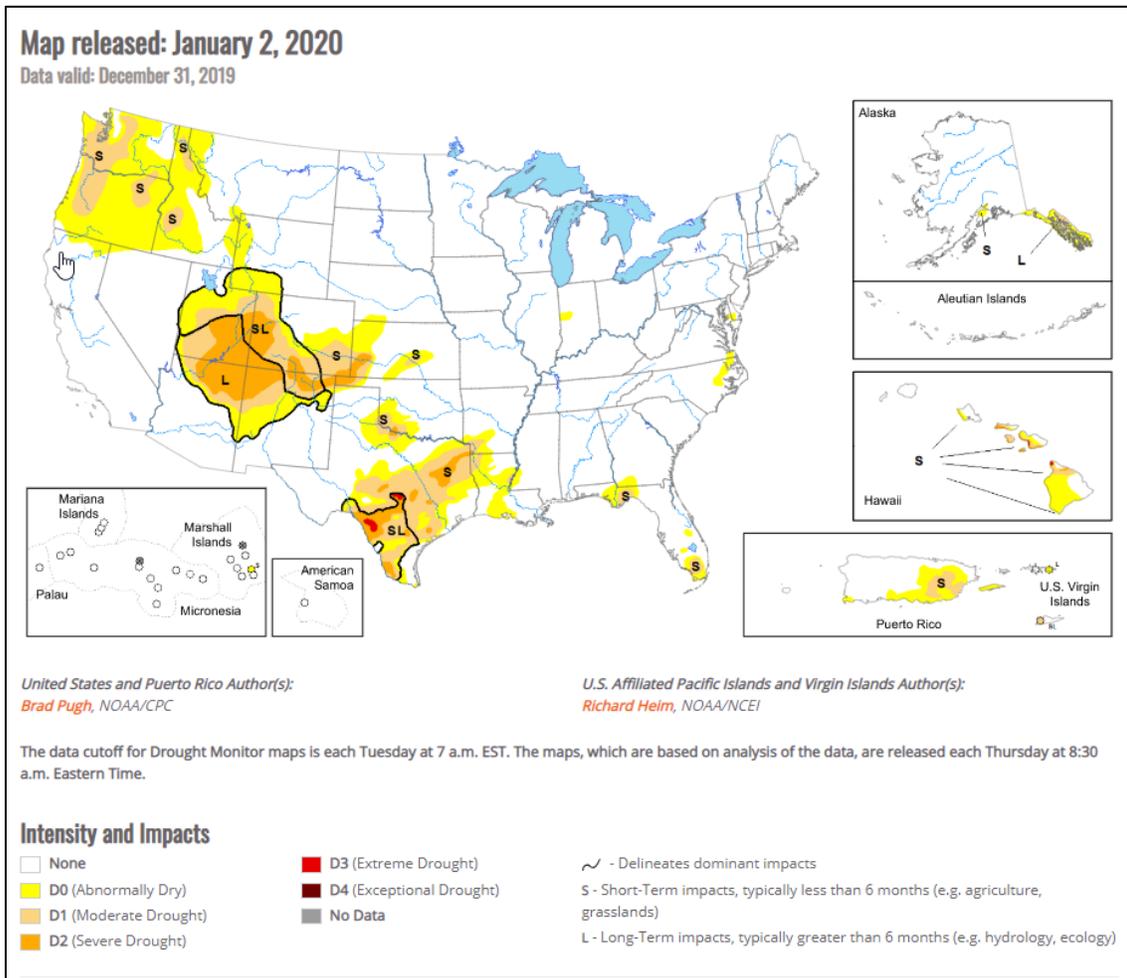
# Drought

## [U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

## [U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA



## Current [National Drought Summary](#), January 2, 2020

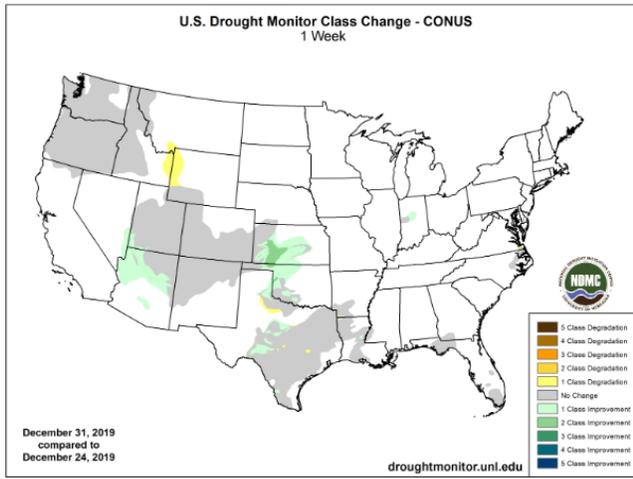
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“An area of upper-level low pressure entered southern California by December 26 and then progressed east across the Four Corners region. This upper-level low resulted in heavy rain and high-elevation snow from southern California east to southwest Colorado and New Mexico. A surface low developed across the south-central Great Plains on December 28 with a subsequent track northeast to the upper Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes. Heavy snow fell to the northwest of this low pressure system, while moderate to heavy rainfall accompanied the cold front as it shifted east from the Great Plains to the East Coast. Following the heavy precipitation across the Pacific Northwest during mid to late December, precipitation average below normal during the final week of December. Enhanced onshore flow resulted in periods of heavy precipitation along the Alaska Panhandle, but longer-term precipitation deficits persist. A low pressure system and trailing front brought locally heavy rain and damaging winds to parts of the Hawaiian Islands this past week.”

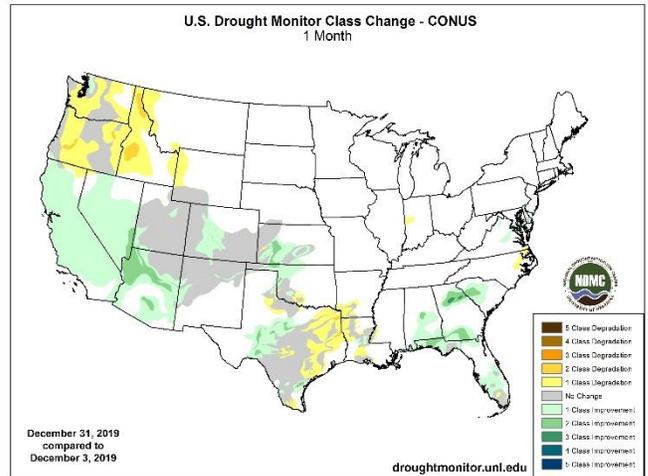
## Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

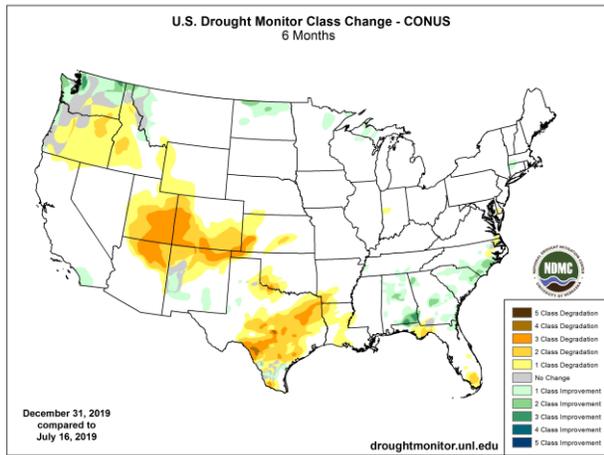
### 1 Week



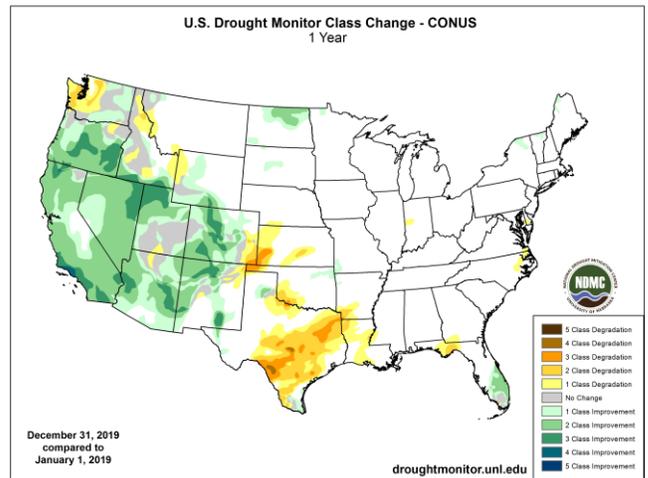
### 1 Month



### 6 Months



### 1 Year



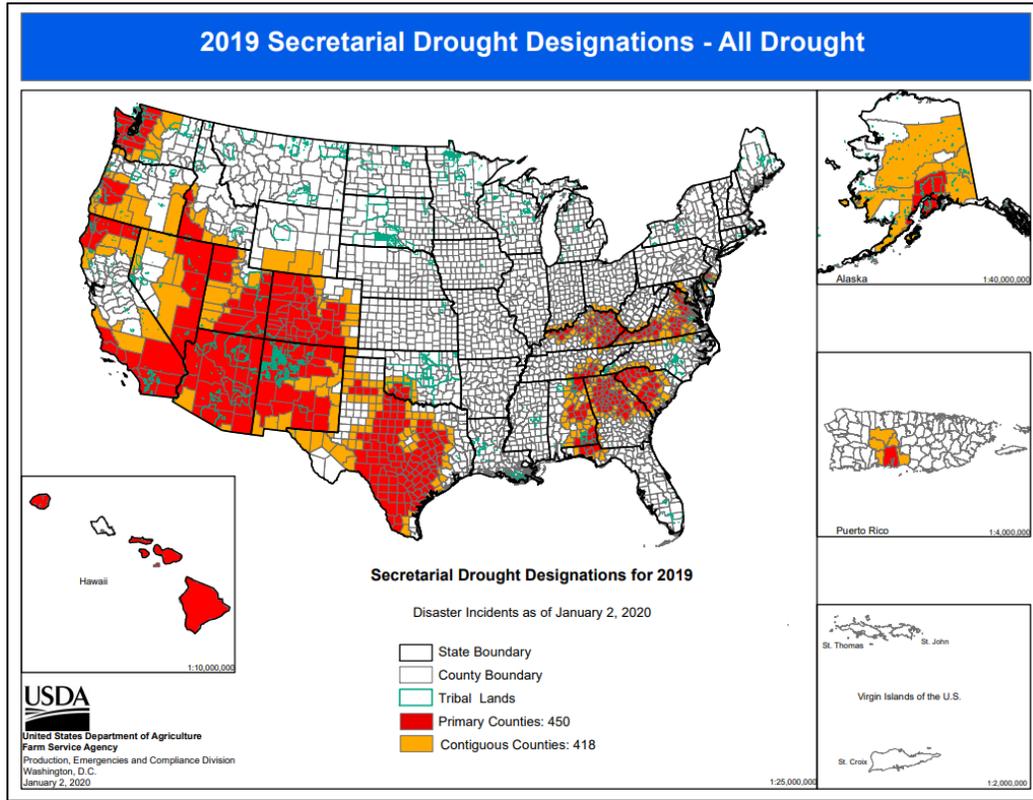
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

## 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

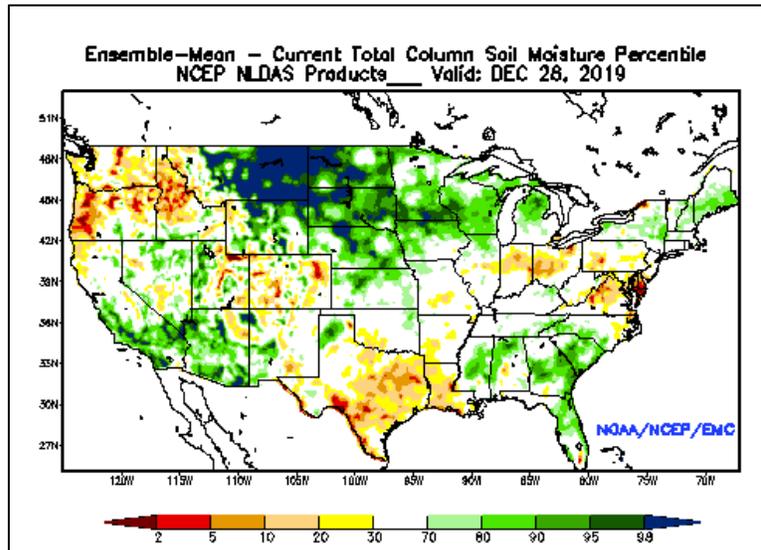
Source: USDA Farm Service Agency



## Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

### Soil Moisture

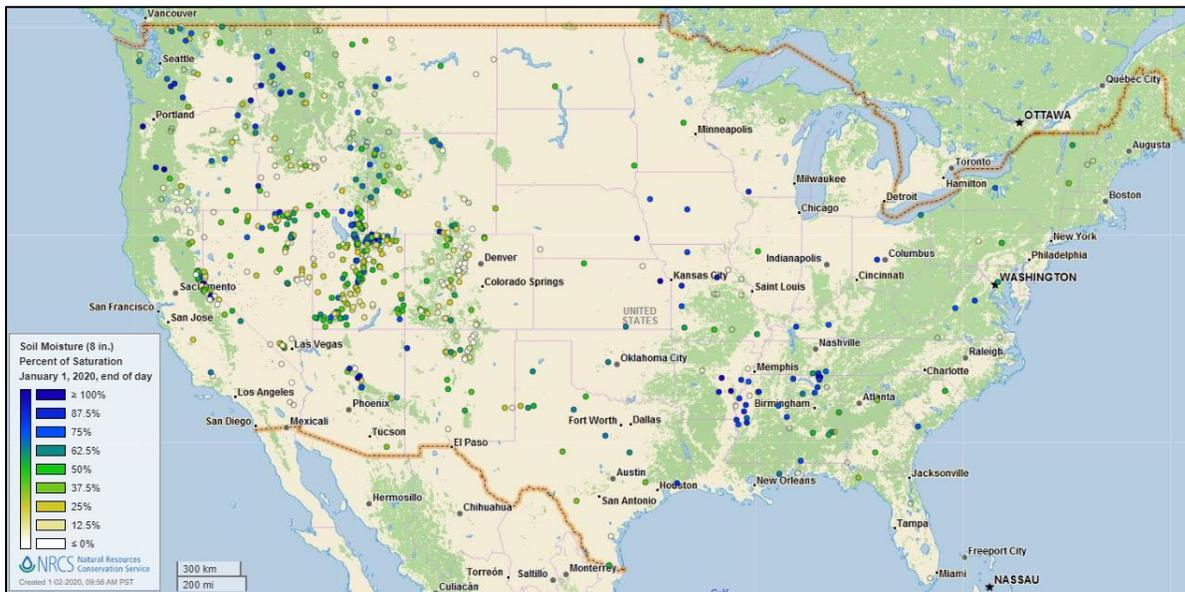
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of December 28, 2019

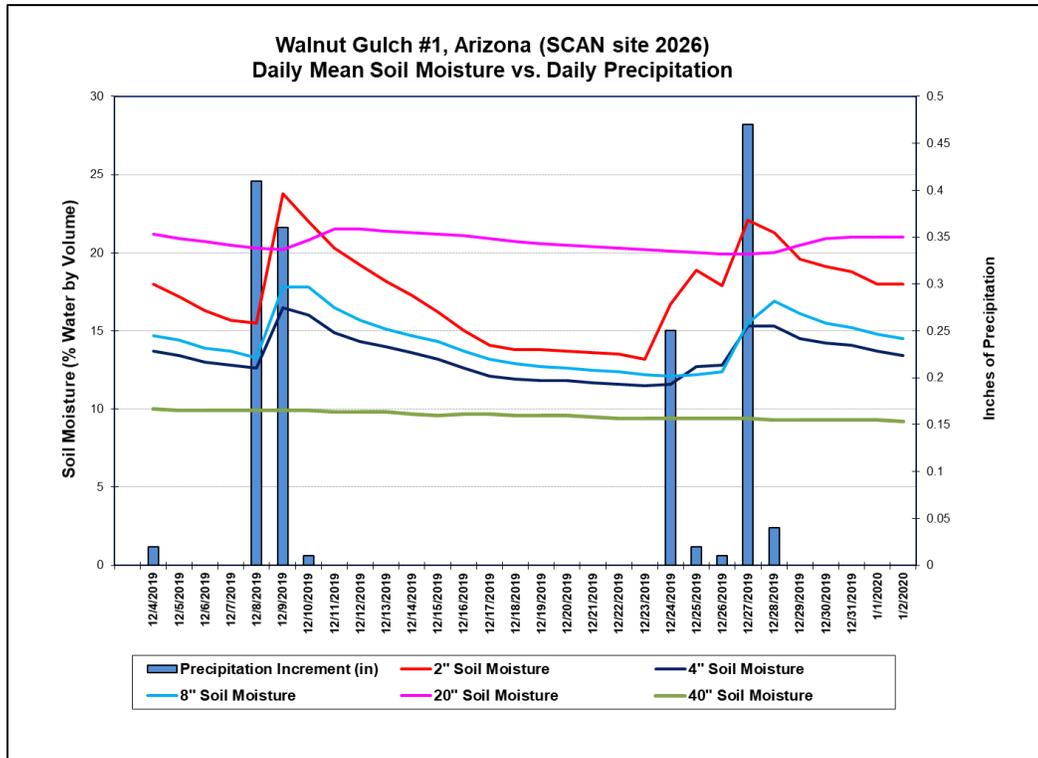
### Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

Source: NRCS SNOTEL and [Soil Climate Analysis Network \(SCAN\)](https://soilclimateanalysis.net) <https://go.usa.gov/xy7hD>



### Soil Moisture Data

Source: NRCS [Soil Climate Analysis Network \(SCAN\)](https://soilclimateanalysis.net)



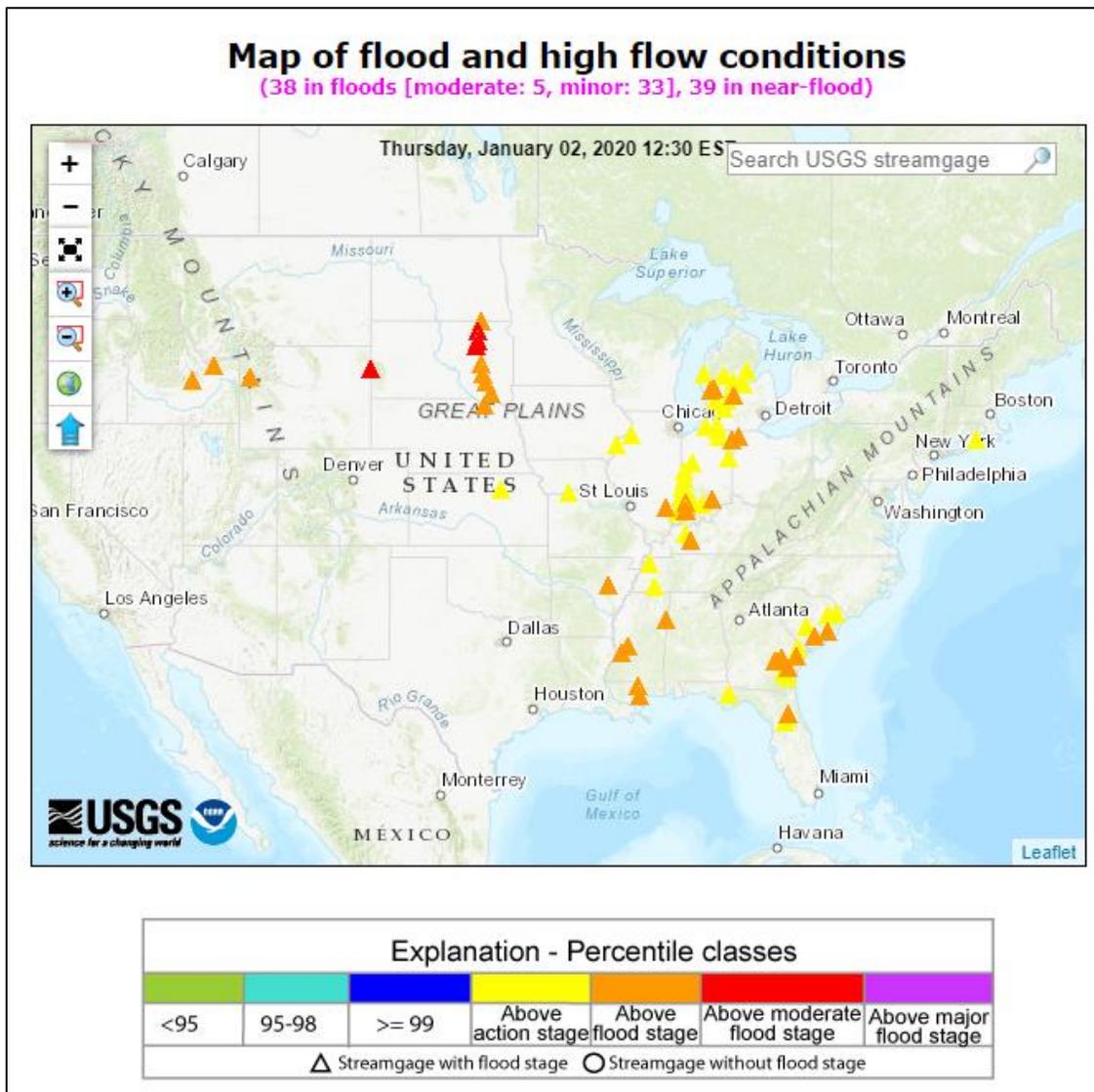
This chart shows the soil moisture and precipitation for the last 30 days at the [Walnut Gulch #1](#) SCAN site in Arizona. The precipitation from December 24 to December 28 was 0.79 inches and resulted in increased soil moisture at all sensors but the -40 inch sensor level.

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

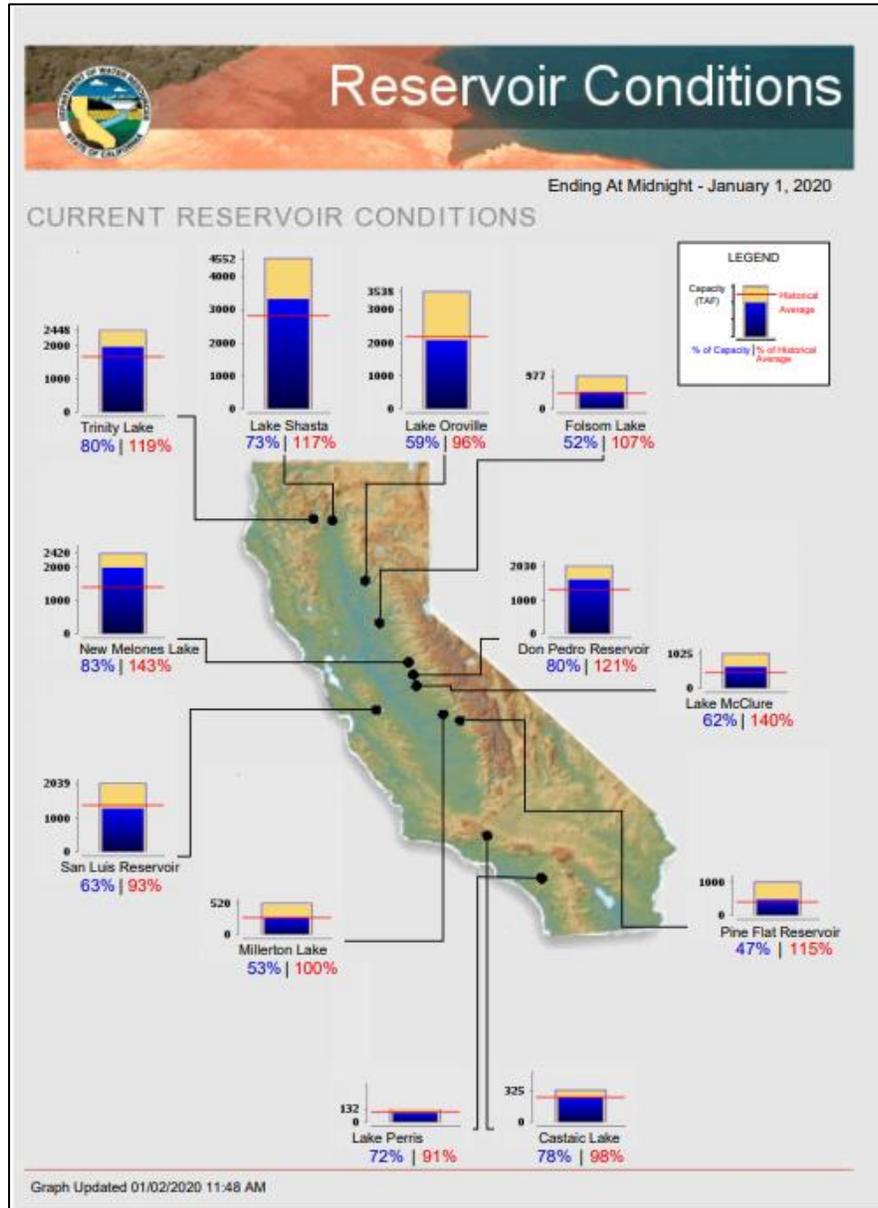


[WaterWatch: Streamflow, drought, flood, and runoff conditions](#)

## Reservoir Storage

### Current California Reservoir Conditions

Source: California Department of Water Resources



[Current California Reservoir Conditions](#)

### 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](#)

## Short- and Long-Range Outlooks

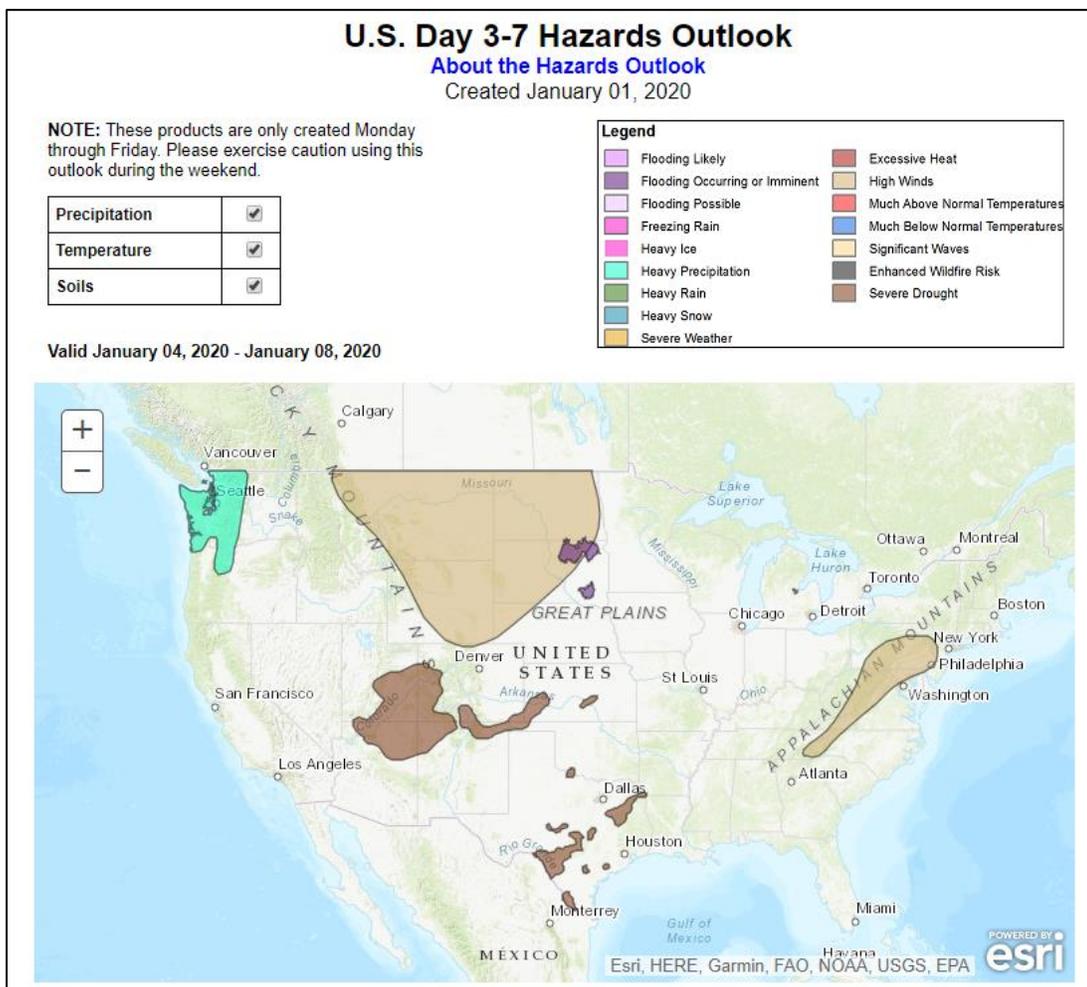
### Agricultural Weather Highlights

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

**National Outlook, Thursday, January 2, 2020:** “A storm system will affect parts of the South, East, and Midwest into the weekend. Storm-total rainfall should reach 2 to 4 inches from the lower Mississippi Valley to the central and southern Appalachians. By Saturday and early Sunday, accumulating snow could fall from the lower Great Lakes region into parts of New England. Subsequently, a pair of disturbances will cross the northern U.S., generating periods of generally light precipitation. The most significant precipitation should fall in the northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest. Modest surges of cold air will trail the disturbances, with below normal temperatures becoming established across the northern Plains and Midwest by early next week. Elsewhere, little or no precipitation will fall during the next 5 days from central and southern California to the central and southern Plains. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for January 7 – 11 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures across much of the eastern half of the country, while colder-than-normal conditions will dominate the West. Elsewhere, much of the nation should experience near- or above-normal precipitation, while drier-than-normal weather will be limited to southern California and the Desert Southwest.”

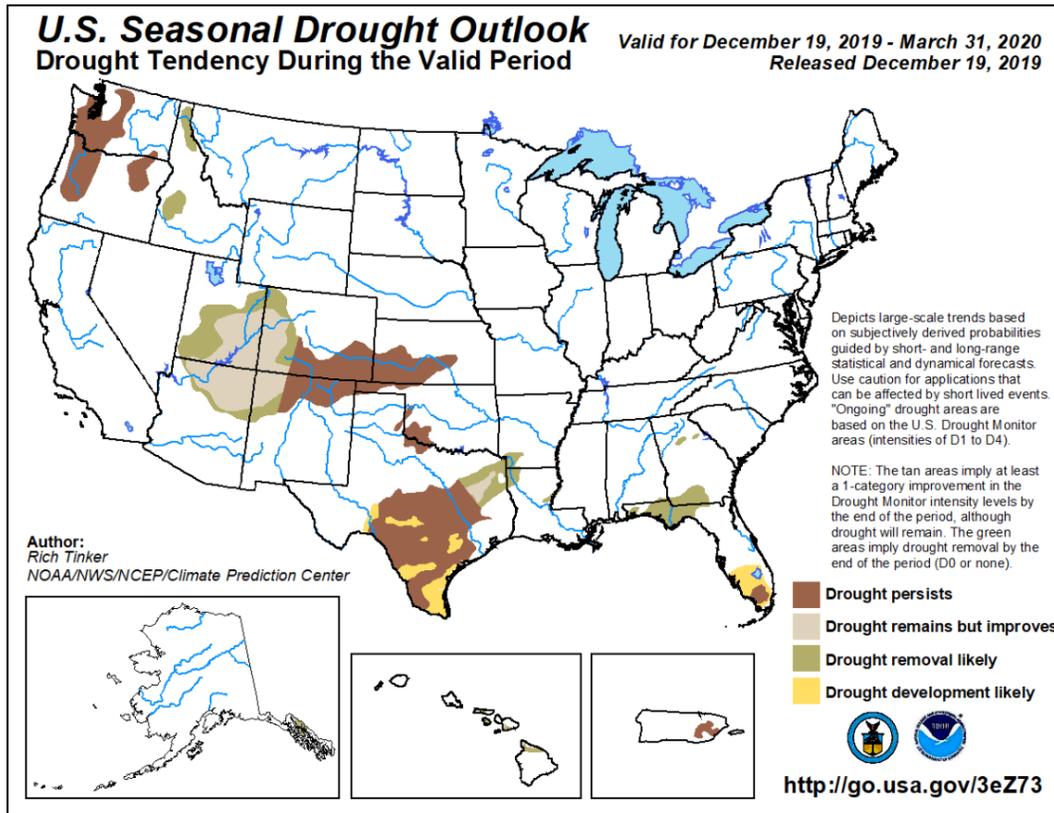
### Weather Hazards Outlook: [January 4 - 8, 2020](#)

Source: NOAA Climate Prediction Center



Seasonal Drought Outlook: [December 19, 2019 – March 31, 2020](#)

Source: National Weather Service

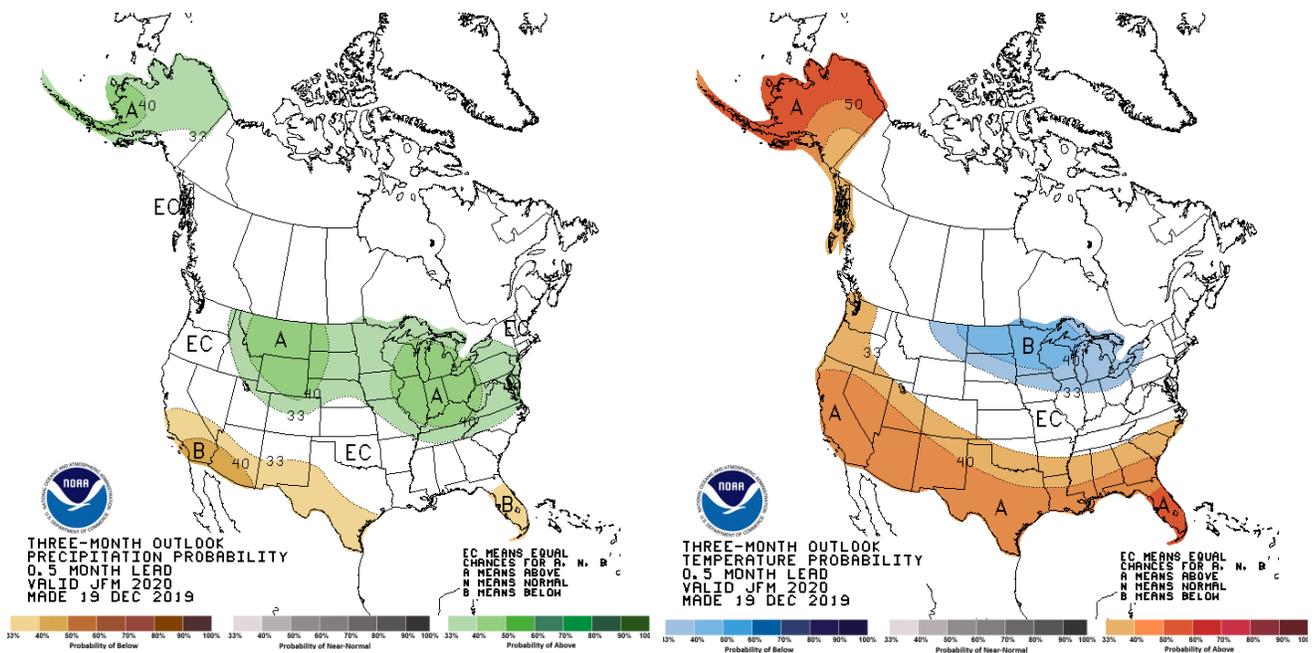


Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

[Precipitation](#)

[Temperature](#)



## 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](#).