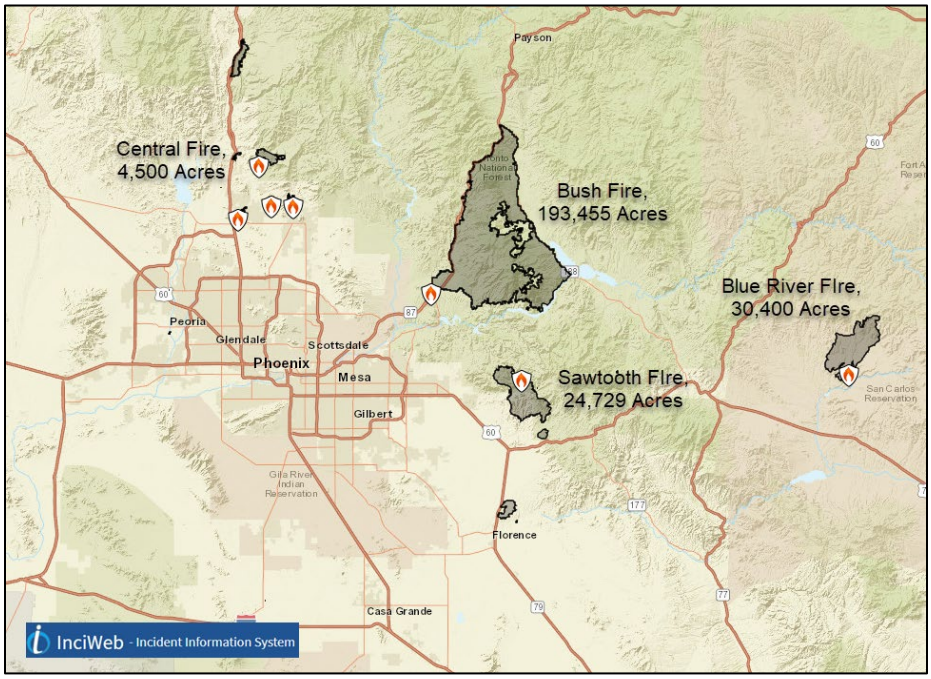
United States Department of Agriculture

Water and Climate Update

July 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.

Wildfire season begins in multiple states



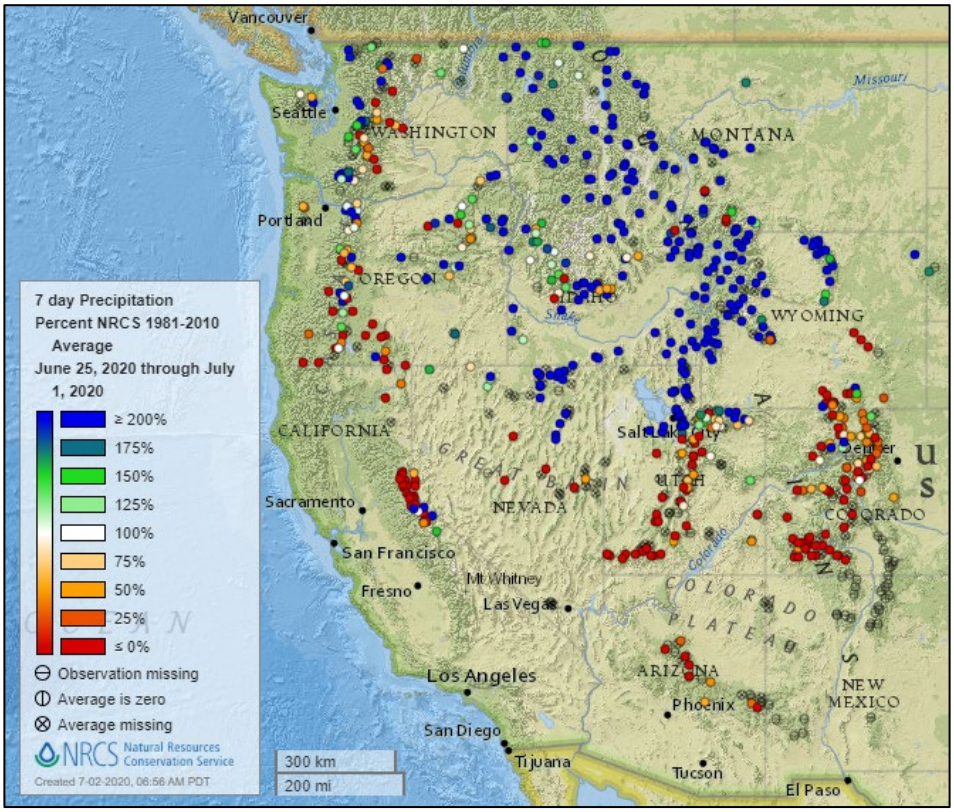
From the National Fire Information Center report for July 2: “Large fire activity continues in seven states where 42 wildfires have burned 726,735 acres. New large fires were reported in Colorado, Nevada, and Washington.” Fire crews in Arizona are fighting to fully contain wildfires that have grown to be the thirteen largest fires in the state since 2002. The state currently has 416,417 acres of active wildfires.

Related:

Arizona firefighters forced to handle multiple historic wildfires at once – UPI.com
Arizona wildfires: Bighorn Fire at 118,000 acres, 54% containment as others wrap up – The Arizona Republic (AZ)
UPDATES: Bighorn Fire near Tucson, July 1: Here's what we know – Arizona Daily Star (AZ)
Firefighters hold the line on mountain wildfire – Las Vegas Sun (NV)
Wildfire burns homes in Southern California desert town – San Francisco Chronicle (CA)
Red flag warnings in effect across multiple states amid wildfire threat – Yahoo!
Above normal wildfire activity predicted to expand from the Great Basin into the Northwest and Northern Rockies – Wildfire Today

Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

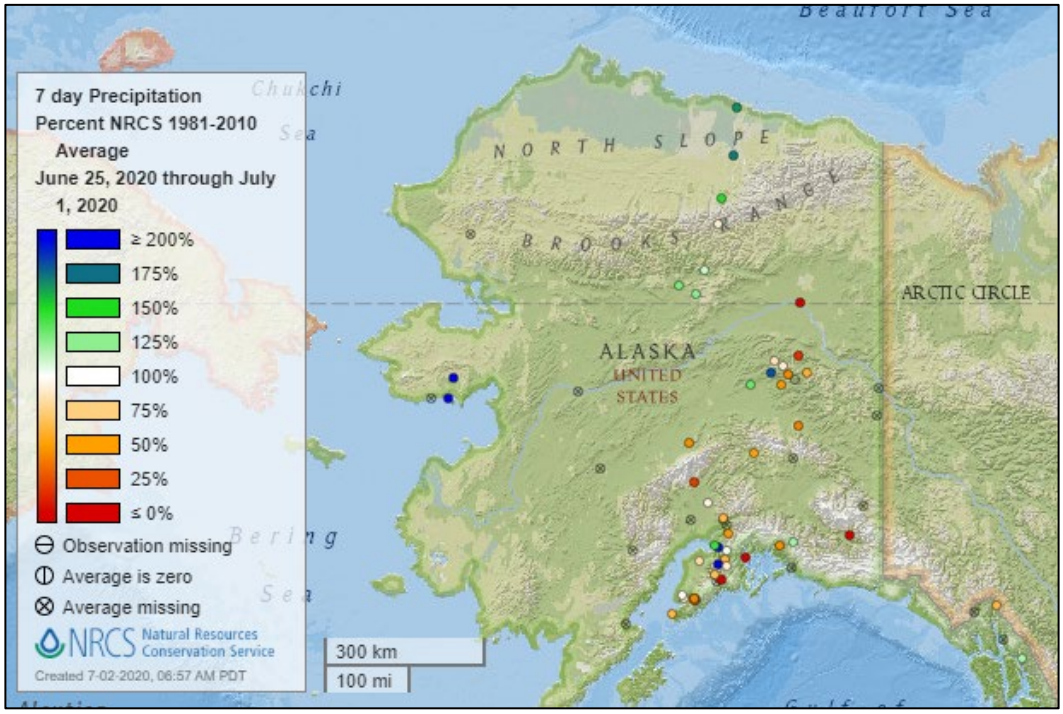


[7-day precipitation percent of average map]

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]

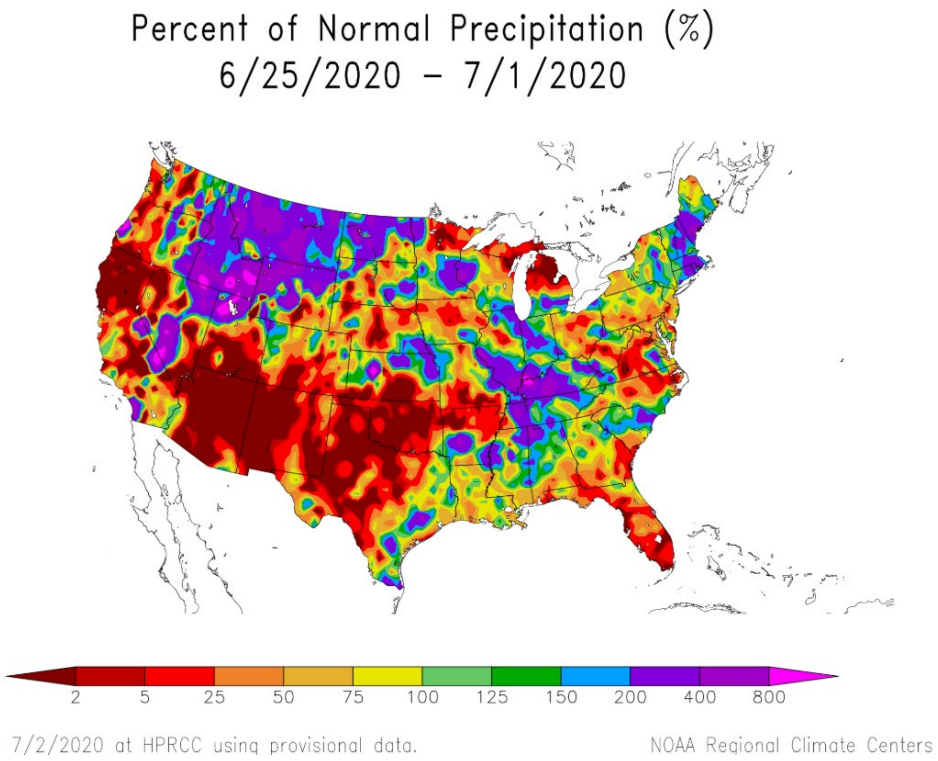


Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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]

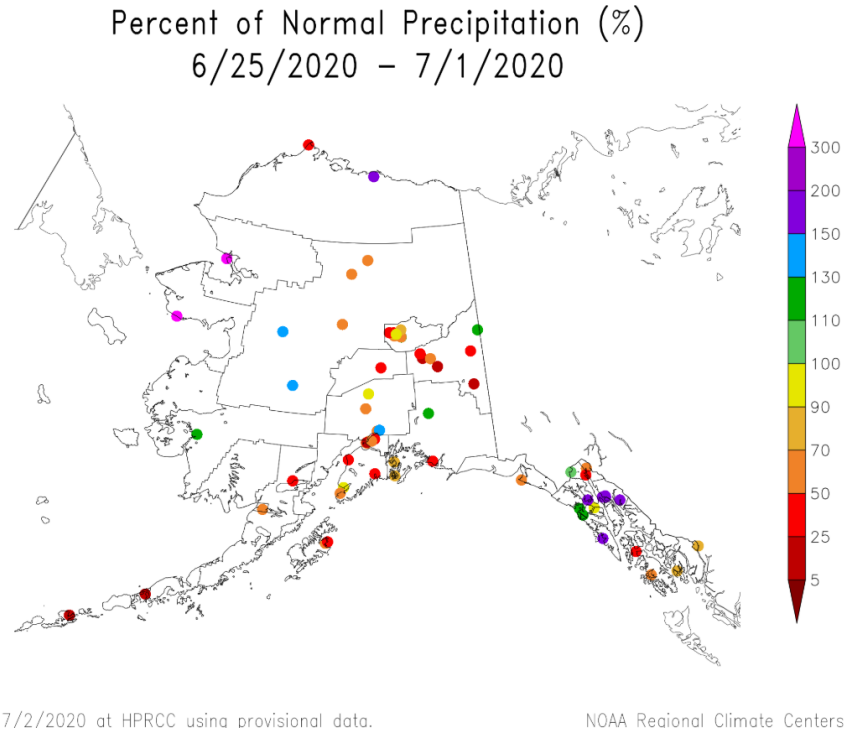


Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

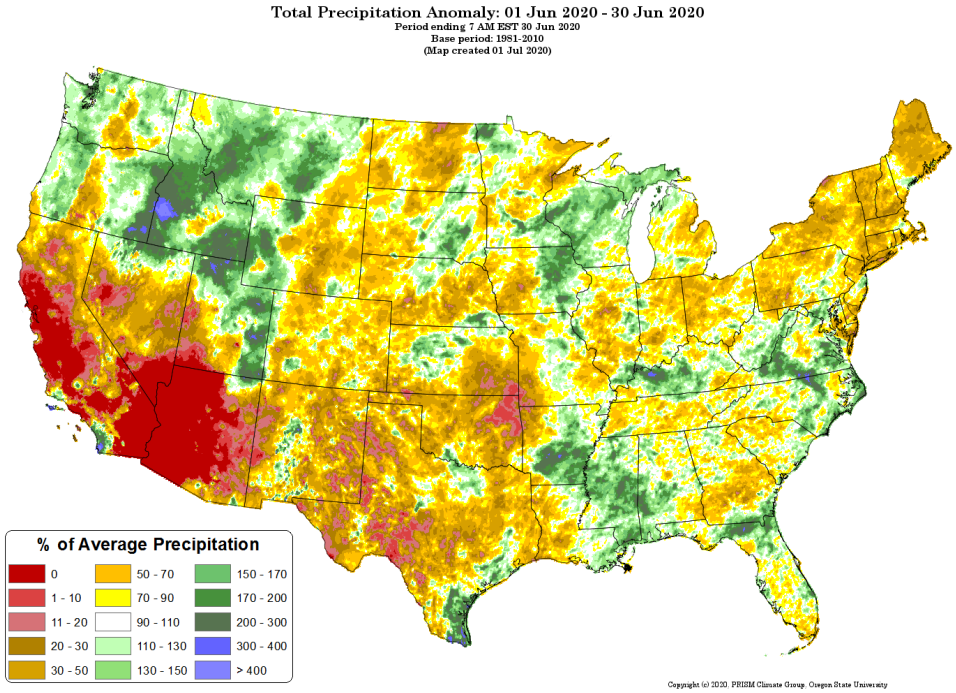
[7-day precipitation anomaly map] for Alaska.

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



Previous Month, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

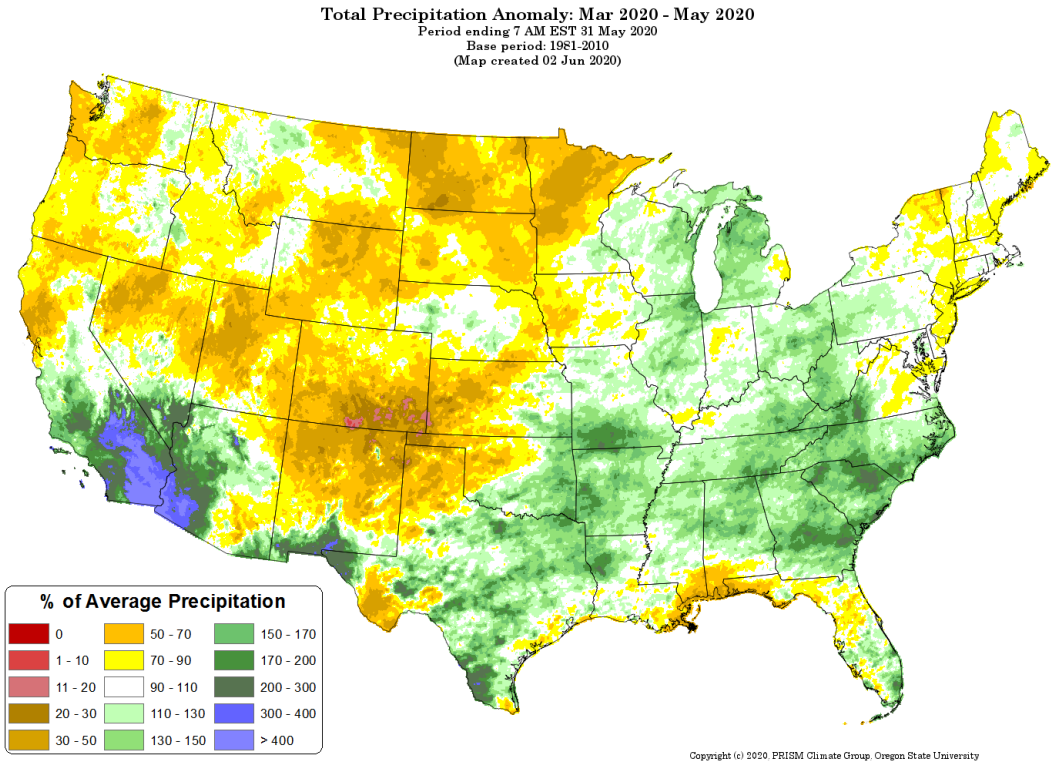


[Previous month national total precipitation percent of average map]

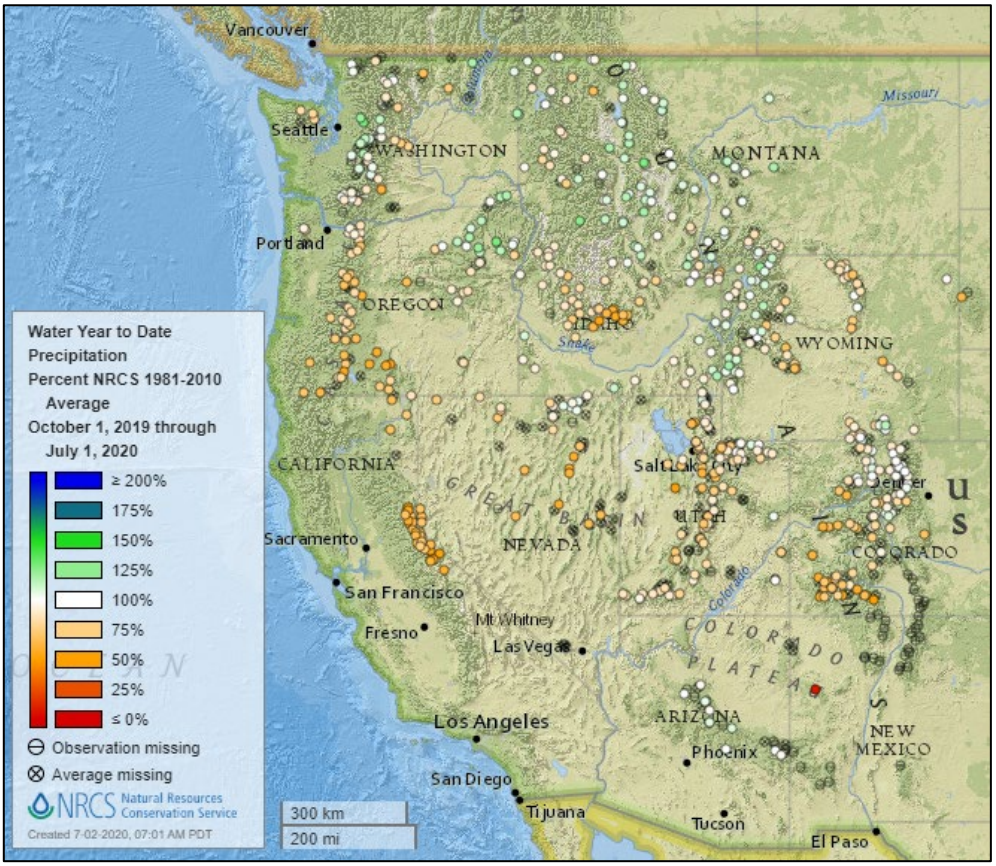
Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

[March through May precipitation percent of average map]

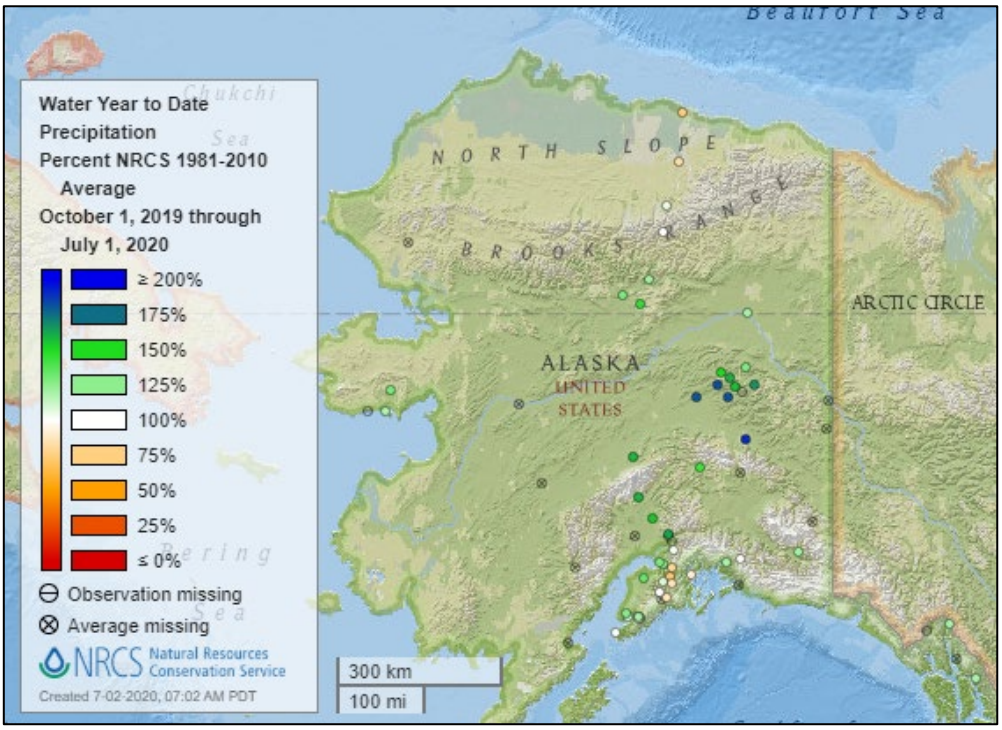


Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network



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

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



[Alaska 2020 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map]

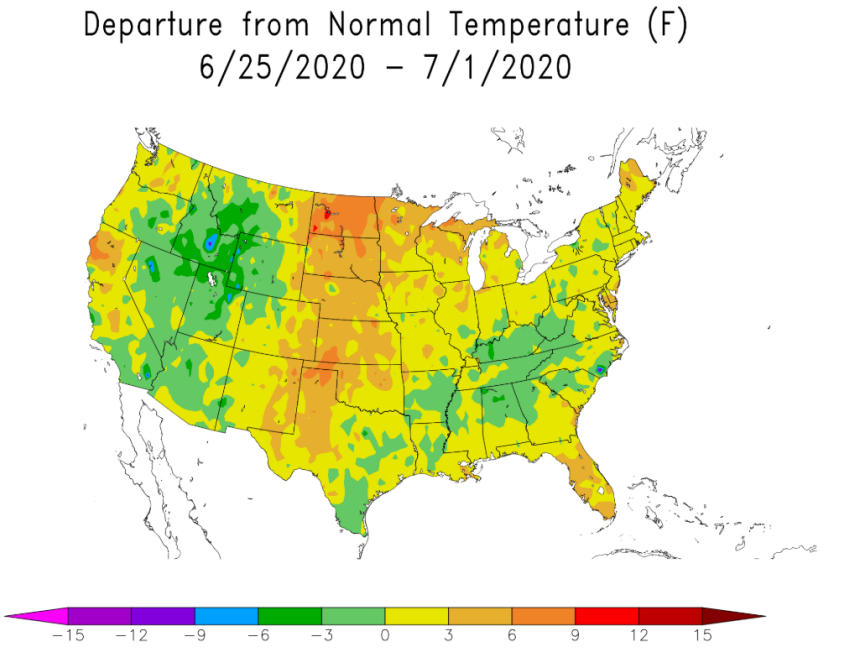
See also: [Alaska 2020 water year-to-date precipitation values (inches) map]

Temperature

Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks
Source: Regional Climate Centers

7-day temperature anomaly map for the contiguous U.S.

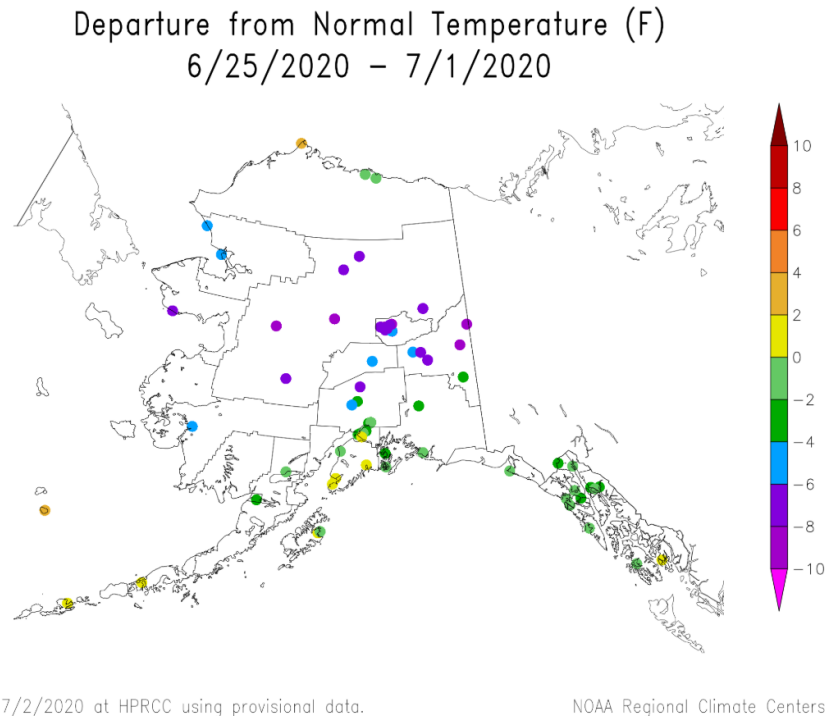
See also: 7-day temperature (° F) map



Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks
Source: Regional Climate Centers

7-day temperature anomaly map for Alaska.

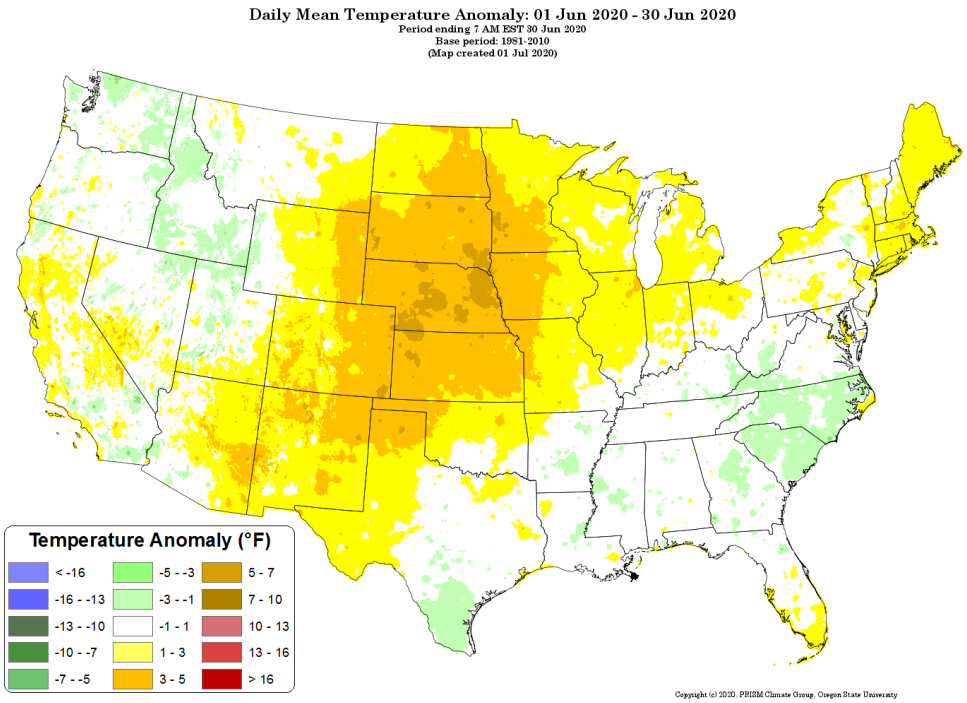
See also:
7-day temperature (° F) map



Previous Month, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

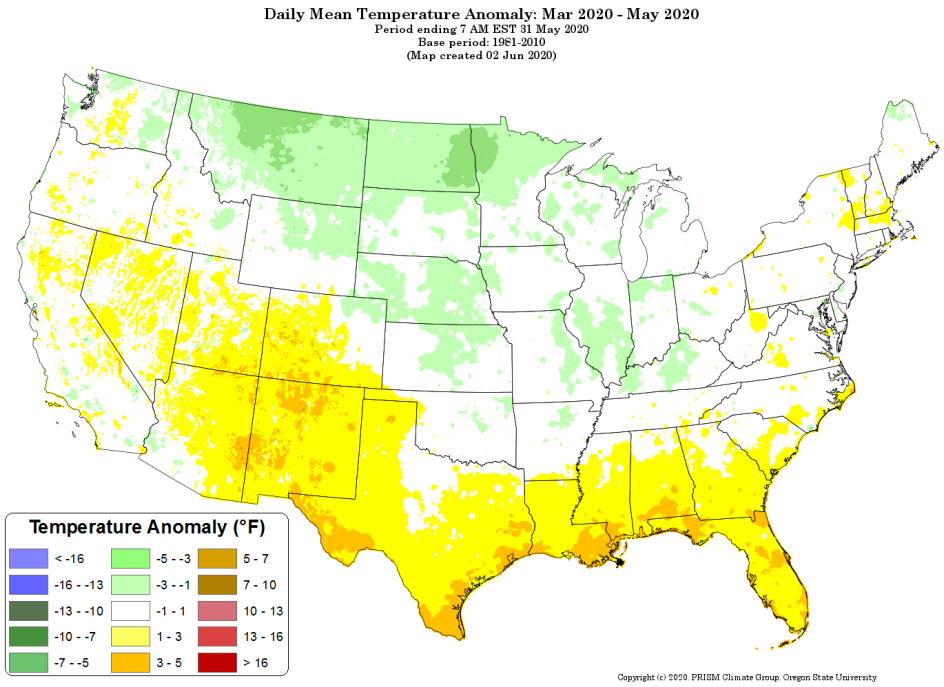
Source: PRISM

[Previous month national daily mean temperature anomaly map]



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

Source: PRISM



[March through May 2020 daily mean temperature anomaly map]

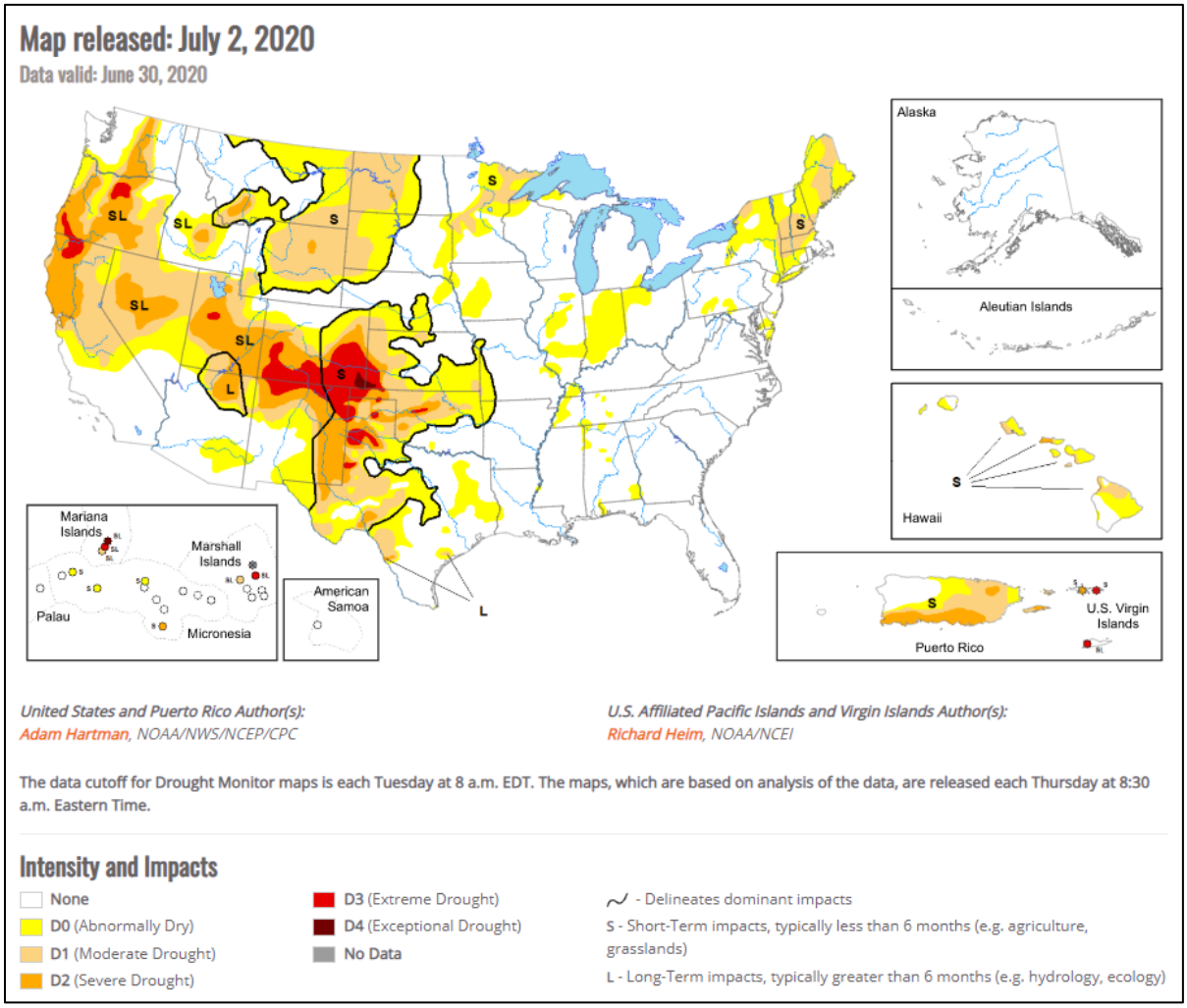
Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

U.S. Drought Portal

Source: NOAA



Current National Drought Summary, July 2, 2020

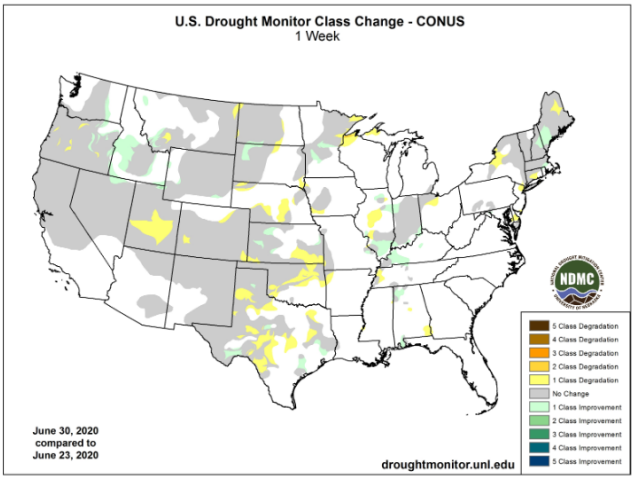
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“Precipitation was hit-or-miss this week for many locations east of the Great Plains. Much of the Midwest, South, and Southeast saw combinations of D0 additions and removals based on 7-day rainfall accumulations. Most areas with D0 removal observed at least 2-3 inches of rainfall. Some short-term dryness crept into southern Georgia (isolated 2-4 inch 30-day deficits) and the Florida Gulf Coast (widespread 2-4 inch deficits over the last 14 days). The Mid-Atlantic coast saw some D0 expansion near the Delmarva Peninsula. Portions of New England saw more than 3 inches of rainfall, drastically reducing 30- and 60-day deficits and warranting some D1 removal. However, USGS 7-day average stream flows remain below normal for much of the Northeast. The High Plains and northern Rockies also received some beneficial rainfall. Many locations in Idaho saw 1-category improvements (D1 to D0 and D0 removal), but much of the northern High Plains Region did not receive enough rainfall for much improvement. Some degradation from D3 to D4 occurred in southeastern Colorado and southwestern Kansas in areas where little or no precipitation fell and temperatures averaged above normal for the week. The wildfire risk remains high for many locations that remain in drought, particularly in the West.”

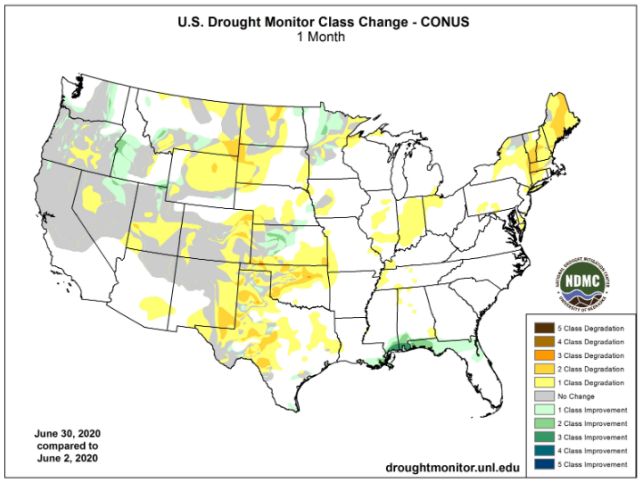
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

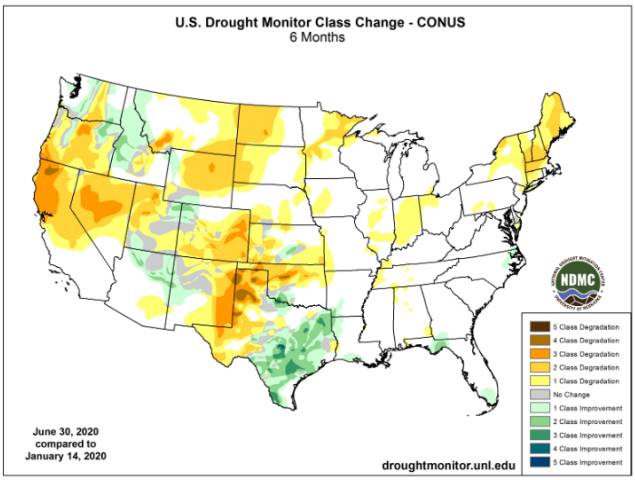
1 Week



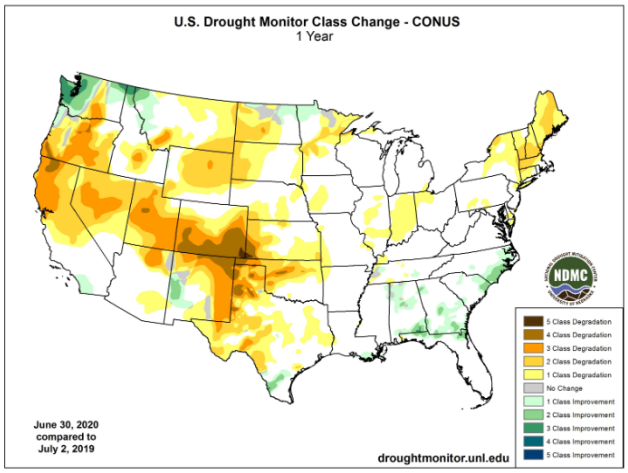
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



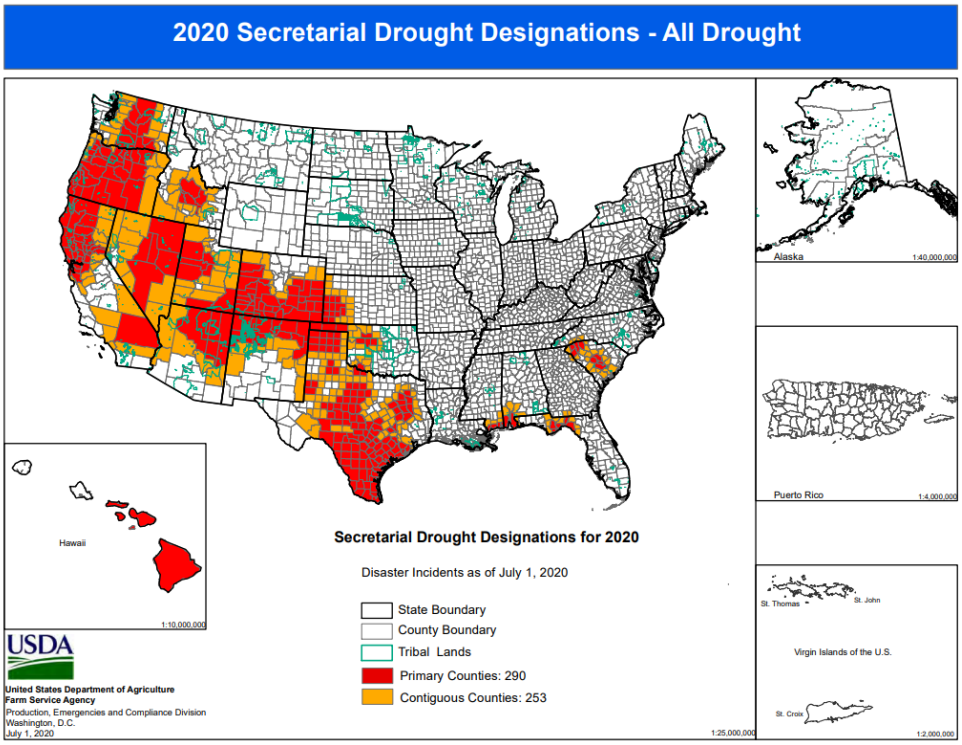
Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.

Highlighted Drought Resources

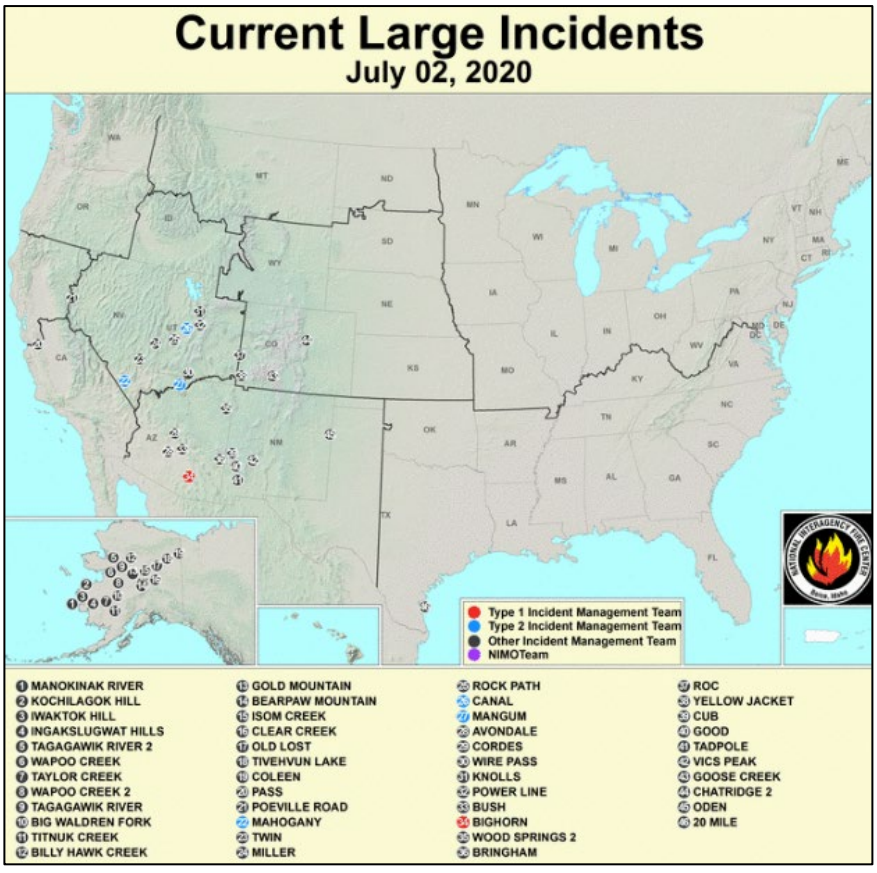
- Drought Impact Reporter
- Quarterly Regional Climate Impacts and Outlook
- U.S. Drought Portal Indicators and Monitoring
- U.S. Population in Drought, Weekly Comparison
- USDA Disaster and Drought Information

Secretarial Drought Designations

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency



Wildfires: USDA Forest Service Active Fire Mapping



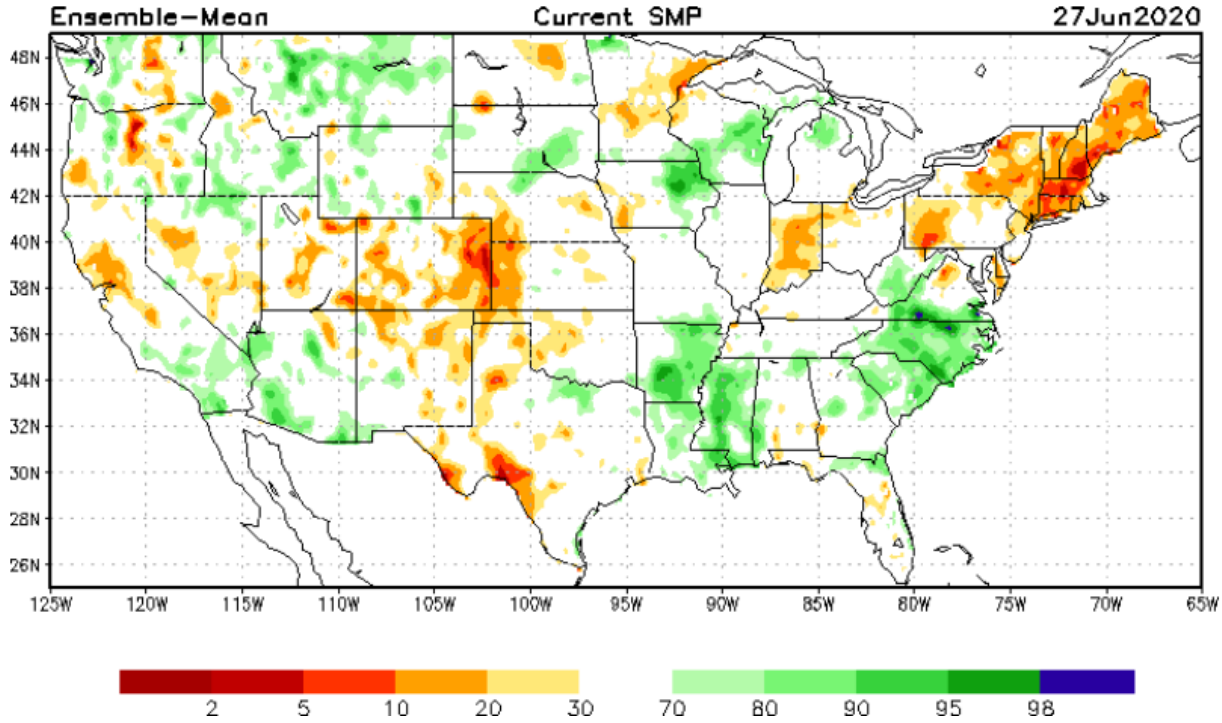
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

- National Interagency Fire Center
- InciWeb Incident Information System
- Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

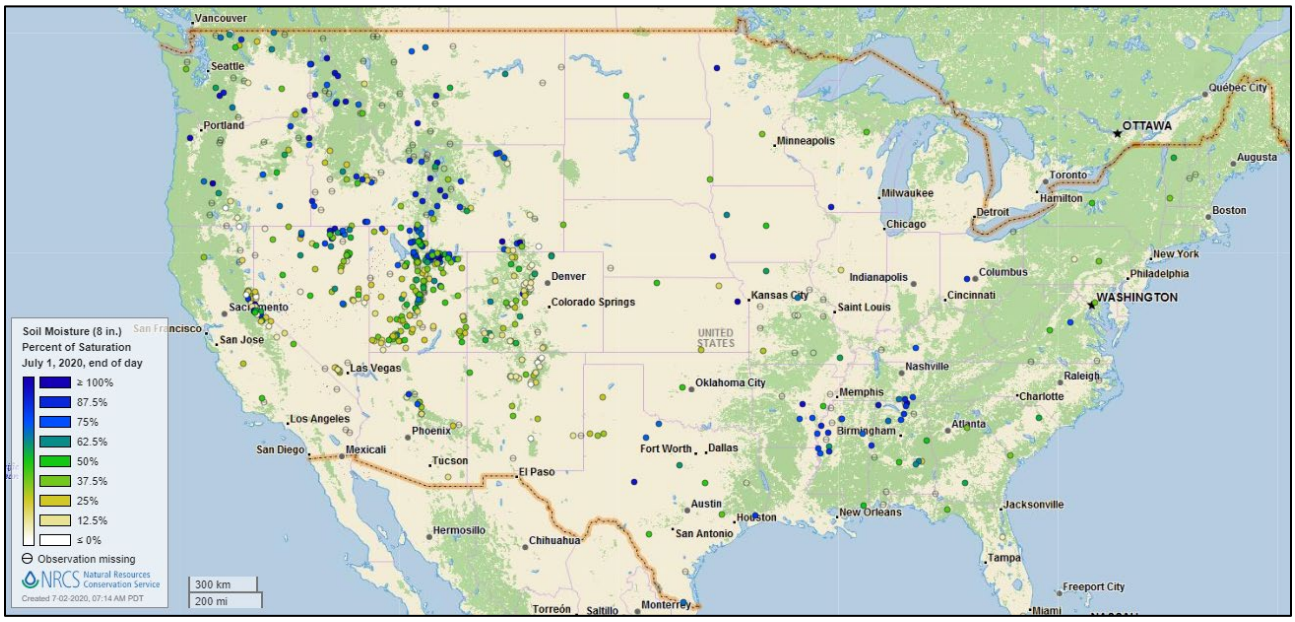
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



Modeled soil moisture percentiles as of June 27, 2020

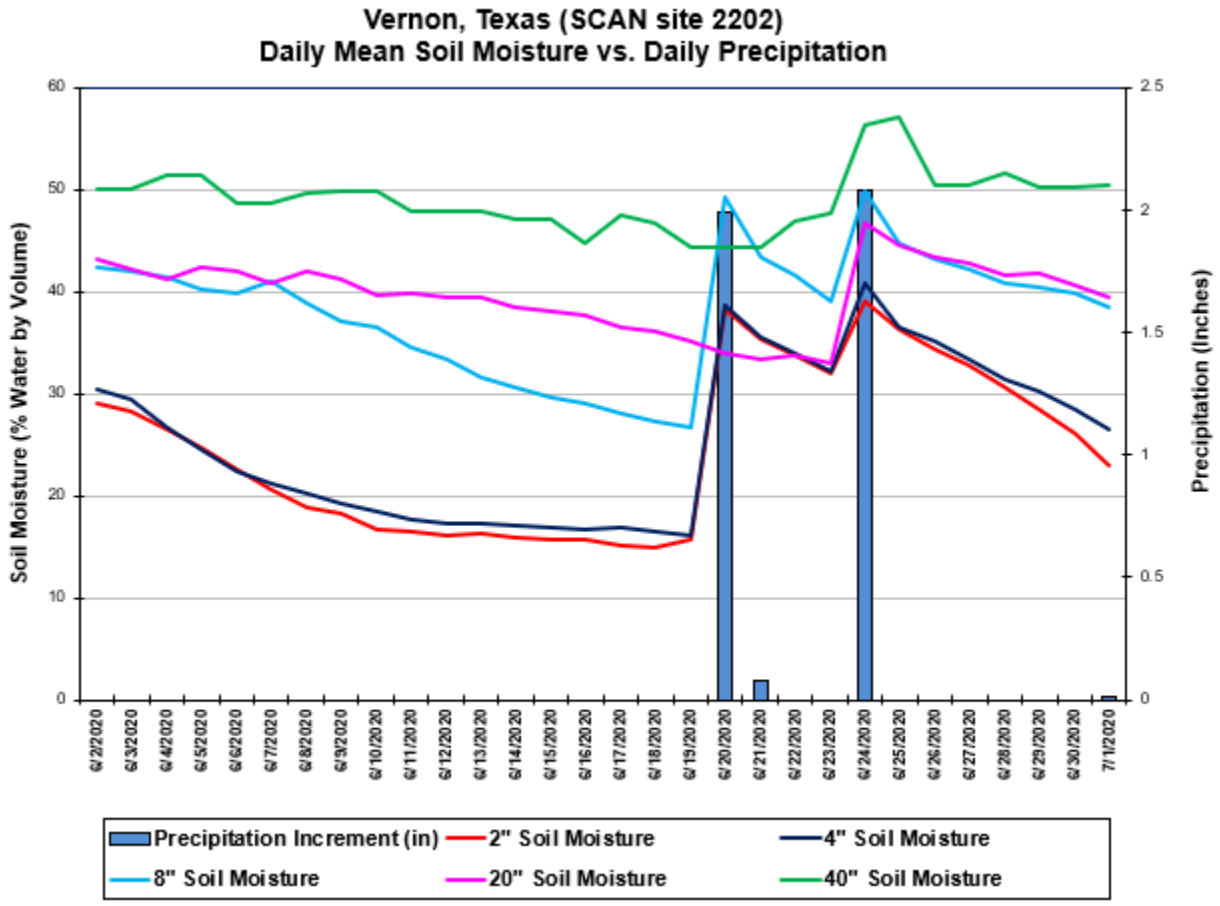
Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

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



Soil Moisture Data

Source: NRCS Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)



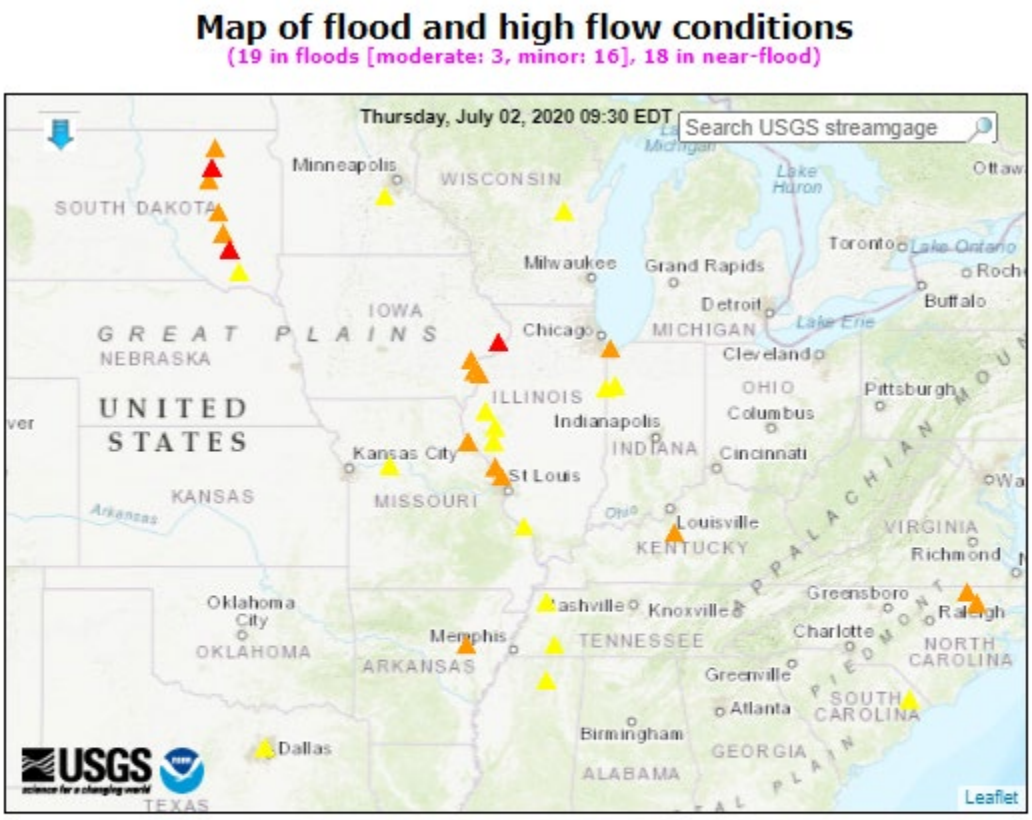
This chart shows the soil moisture and precipitation for the last 30 days at the Vernon SCAN site in Texas. Precipitation on June 20 resulted in increased soil moisture at the -2", -4", -8", and -40" sensor depths. Precipitation on June 24 increased soil moisture at all sensor depths.

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

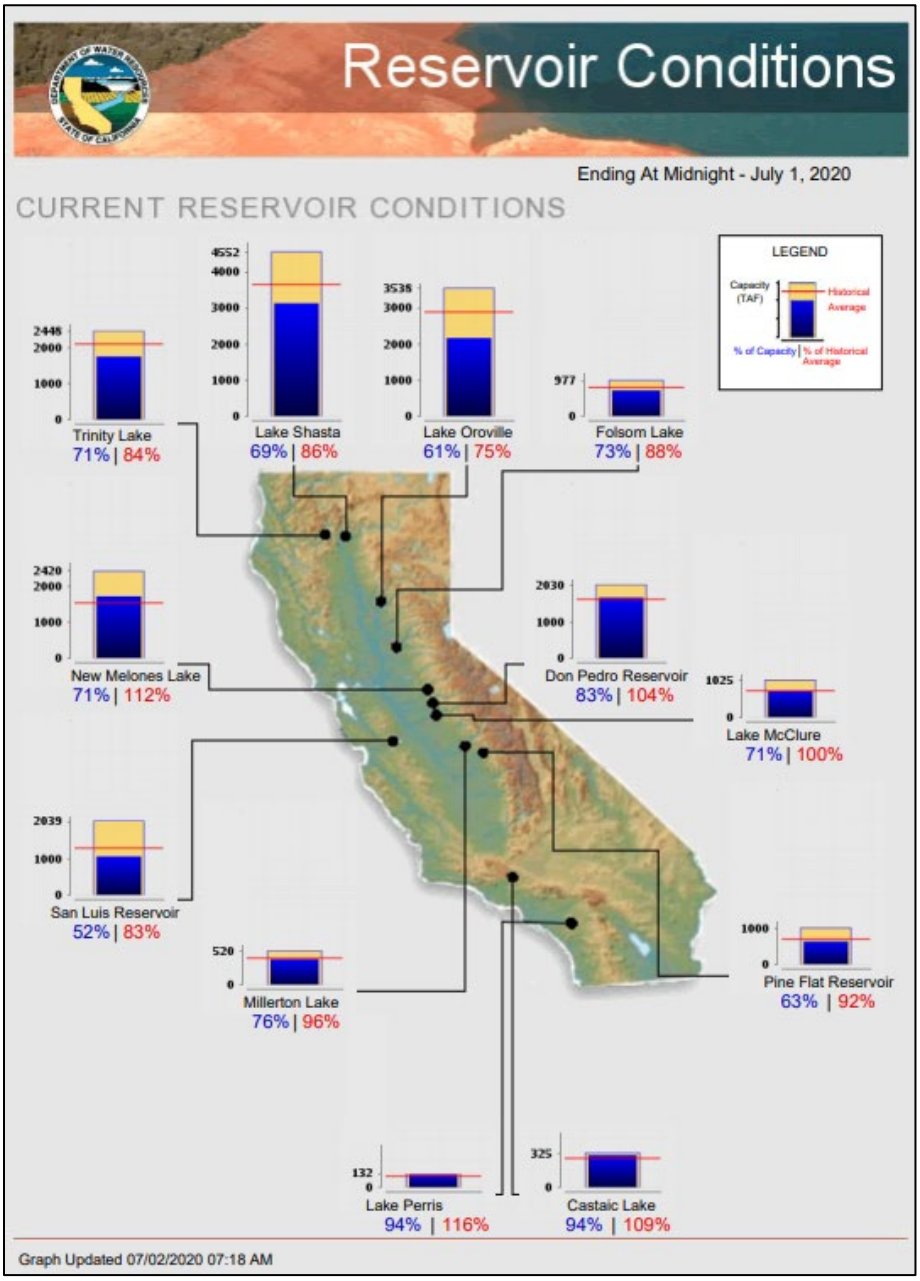


Explanation - Percentile classes						
<95	95-98	>= 99	Above action stage	Above flood stage	Above moderate flood stage	Above major flood stage
△ Streamgage with flood stage ○ Streamgage without flood stage						

[WaterWatch: Streamflow, drought, flood, and runoff conditions]

Reservoir Storage

Current California Reservoir Conditions
Source: California Department of Water Resources



Current California Reservoir Conditions

Hydromet Teacup Reservoir Depictions
Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

- Upper Colorado
- Pacific Northwest/Snake/Columbia
- Sevier River Water, Utah
- Upper Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas

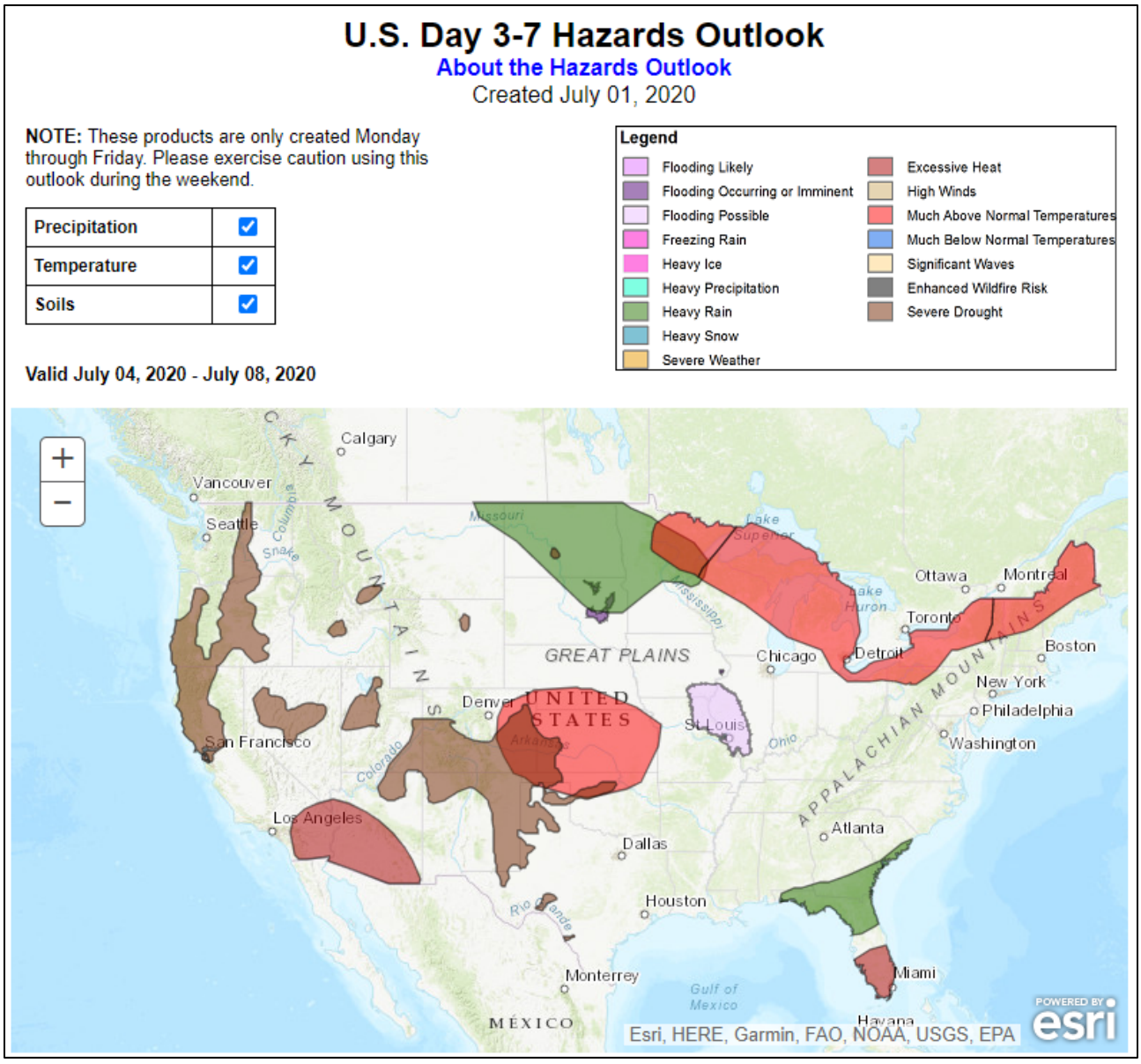
Agricultural Weather Highlights

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

National Outlook, Thursday, July 2, 2020: "A Western warming trend will continue, with above-normal temperatures returning across much of the Four Corners region during the holiday weekend. General warmth will across cover the central and eastern U.S., although Midwestern high temperatures will remain mostly below 95ºF. Meanwhile, temperatures may occasionally top the 100-degree mark across the central and southern High Plains. During the next several days, little or no rain will fall west of the Rockies, in central and southern Texas, and across the Ohio Valley and lower Great Lakes region. In contrast, 5-day rainfall totals could reach 2 to 4 inches from Louisiana to Florida and in parts of the Dakotas. In addition, drought-affected areas of New England may experience some drought relief. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for July 7 – 11 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal temperatures nationwide, except for cooler-than-normal conditions in northern California, the northern Great Basin, and the Northwest. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal rainfall across most of the country should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in parts of the Southeast and from the northern Plains into the upper Great Lakes region."

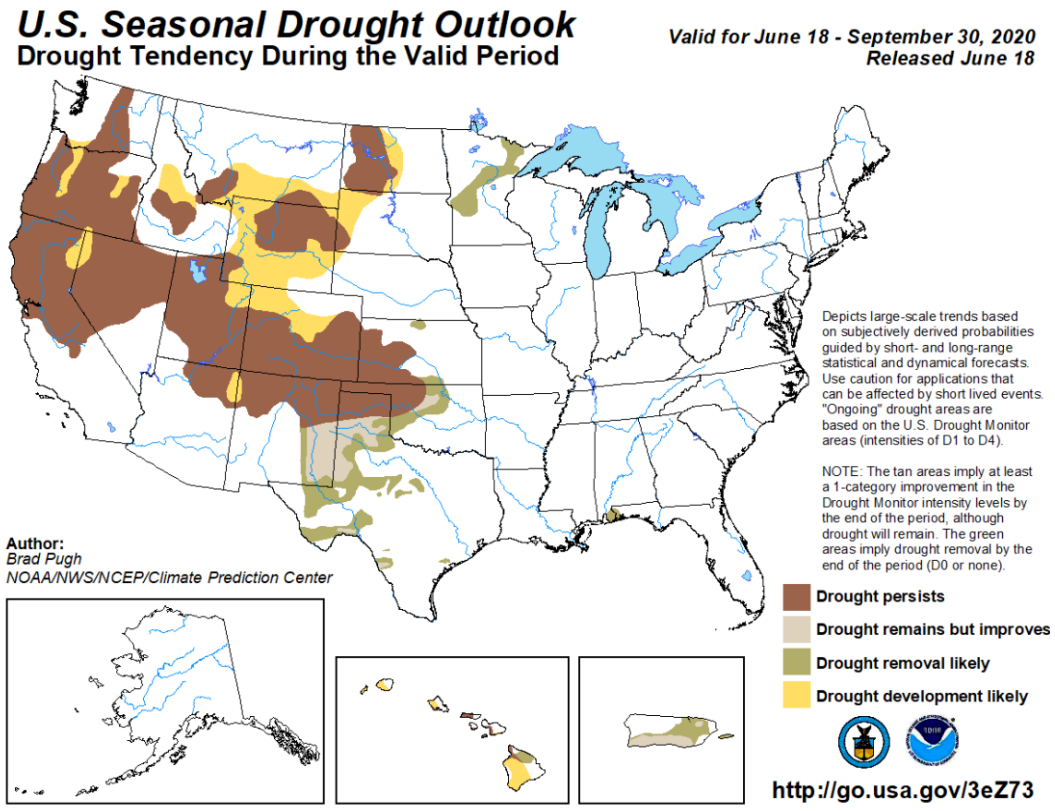
Weather Hazards Outlook: July 4 – 8, 2020

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center



Seasonal Drought Outlook: June 18 – September 30, 2020

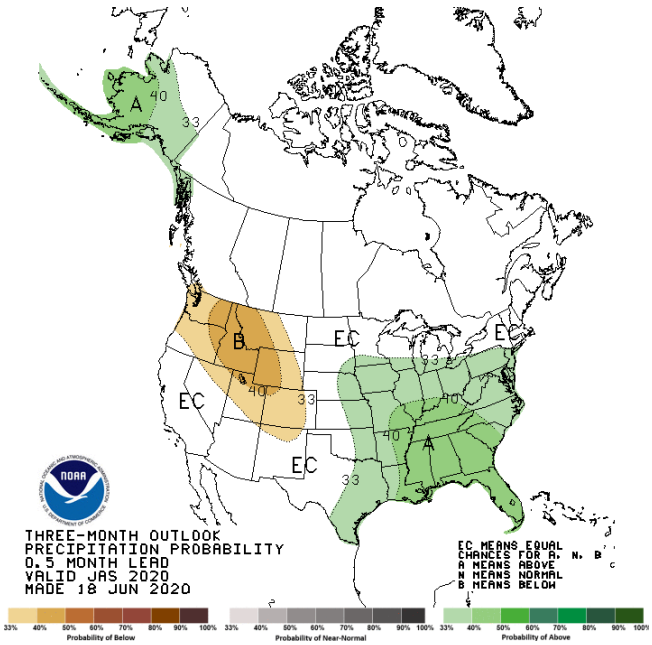
Source: National Weather Service



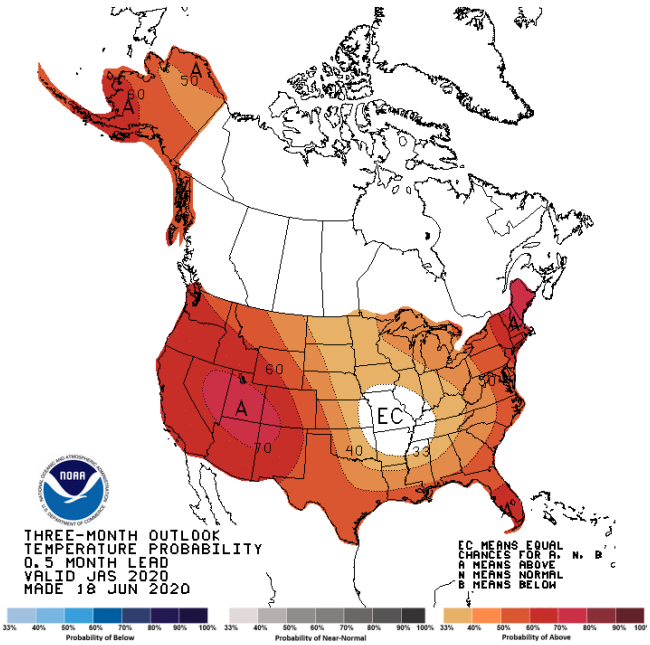
Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

Precipitation



Temperature



July-August=September (JAS) 2020 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.