



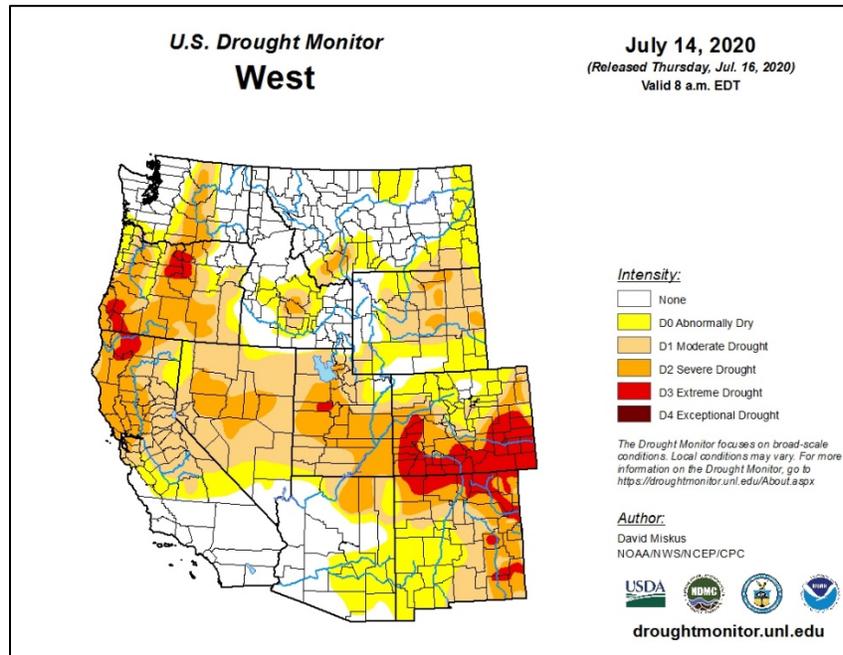
Water and Climate Update

July 16, 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.

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Drought designations expand in the West



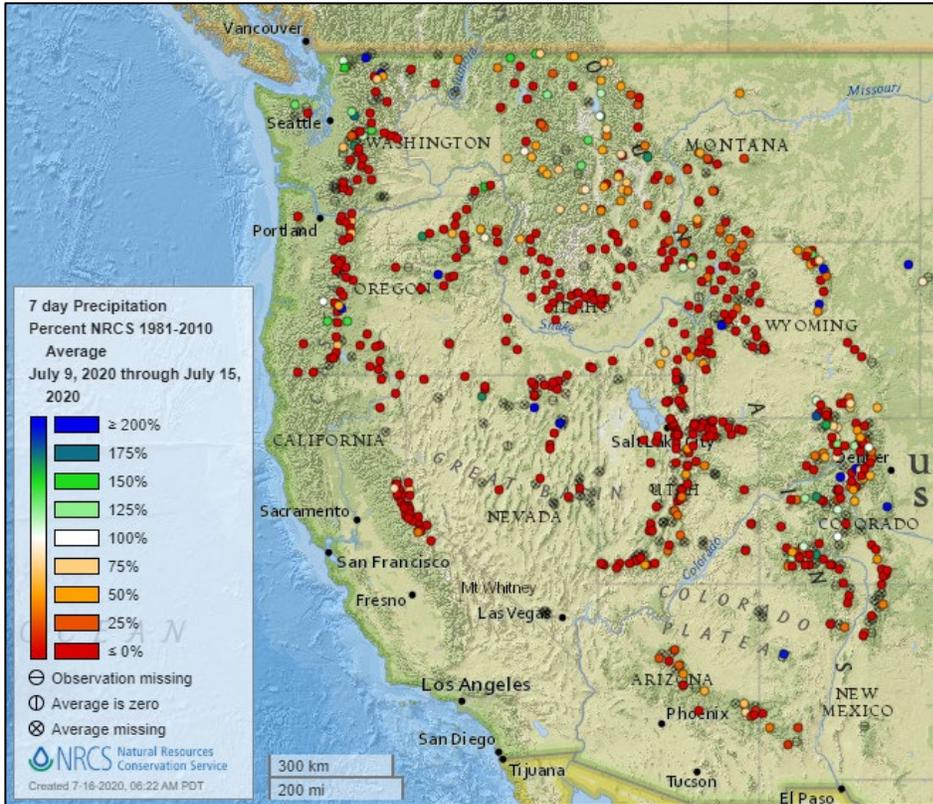
Areas in the West experiencing some drought conditions increased to 68.89% this week, up by over 3% from a week ago. Extreme drought now covers 5.91% of the West, concentrated in a large area of southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. Areas with extreme drought designations are also located in Oregon, California, and Utah. Excessive heat this past week, and a delay in the arrival of the summer monsoon led to drought expansion in the Southwest. Little or no rain is expected in the West during the next five days.

Related:

- [Drought Impacting Pasture and Rangeland Conditions – American Farm Bureau Federation](#)
- [Drought conditions in Colorado currently among worst in U.S. – 7News and TheDenverChannel.com \(CO\)](#)
- [Navajo Nation Council addresses drought and feral horses population – Navajo-Hopi Observer](#)
- [Drought: North Unit Irrigation District dials back water allotments again – The Bulletin \(OR\)](#)
- [Drought Affects Parts of Oregon, Bend Urges Conservation – U.S. News and World Report](#)
- [West Drought Summary – The Drought Monitor](#)
- [Wildfires in Utah, Colorado force evacuations as fire conditions linger out west – Fox News](#)

Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

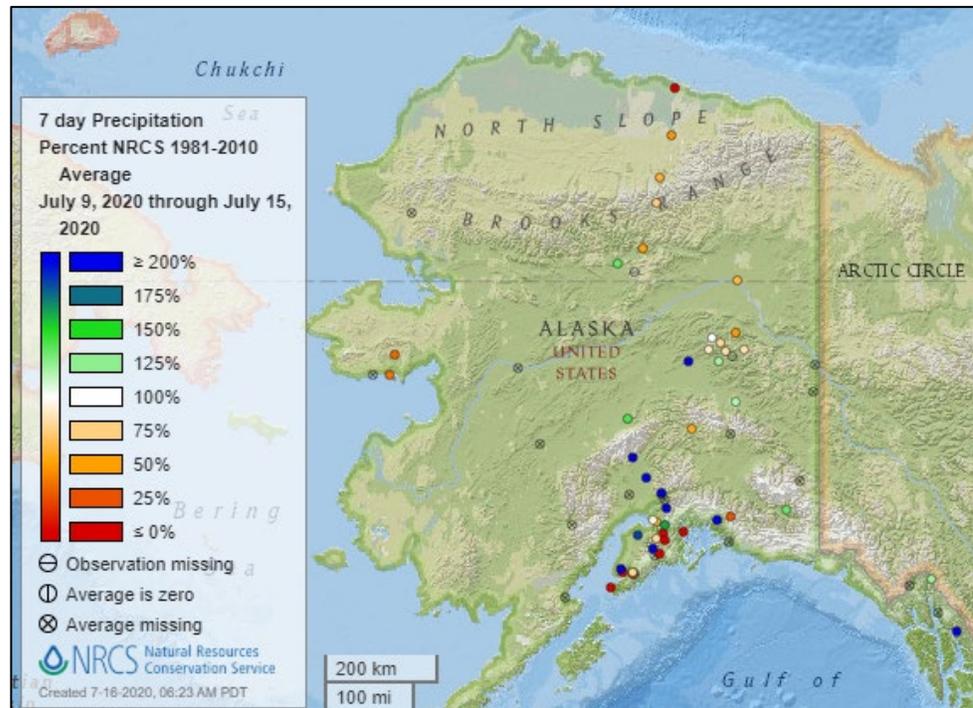


[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

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](#)



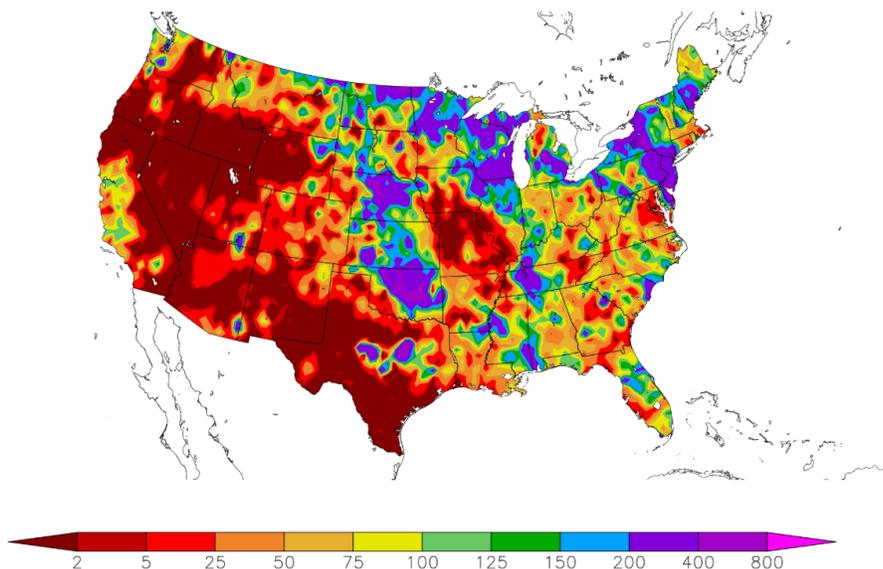
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)
7/8/2020 – 7/14/2020



Generated 7/15/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

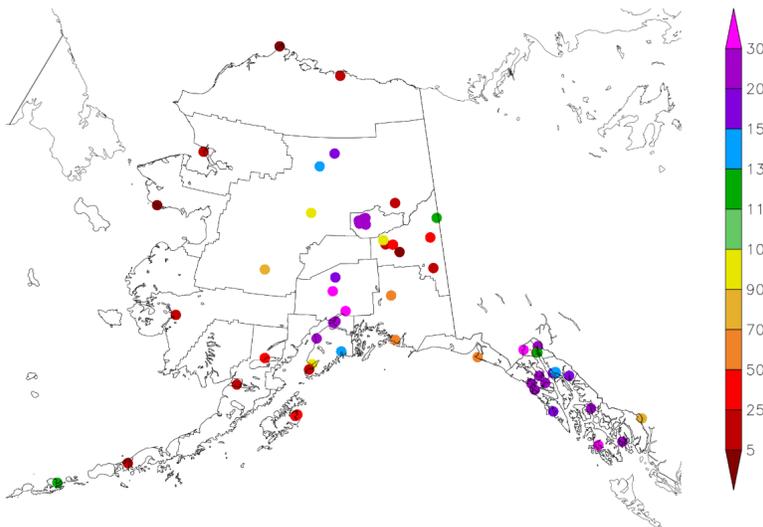
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
7/8/2020 – 7/14/2020



Generated 7/15/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

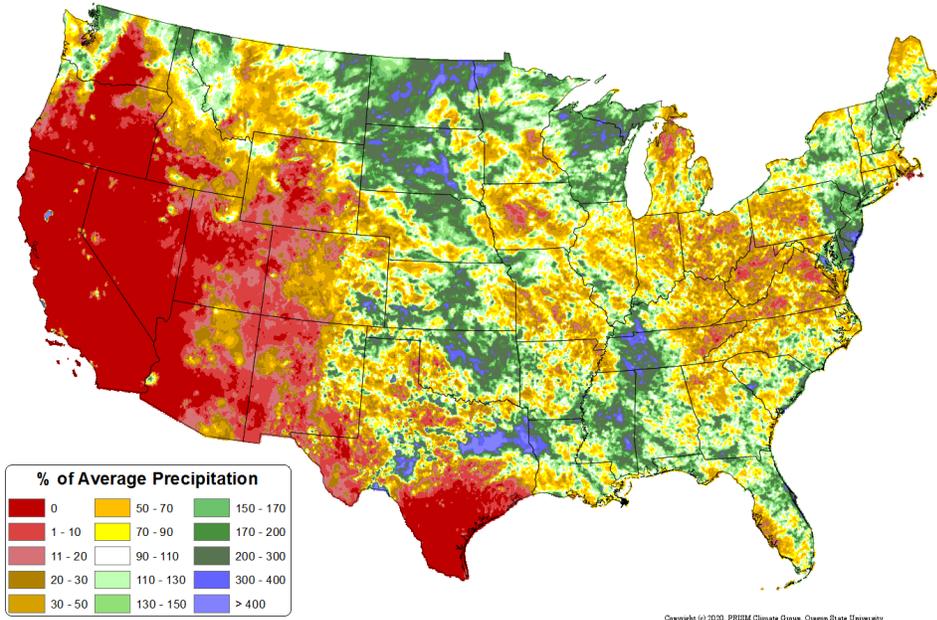
Water and Climate Update

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

Source: PRISM

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Jul 2020 - 15 Jul 2020
Period ending 7 AM EST 15 Jul 2020
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 16 Jul 2020)

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

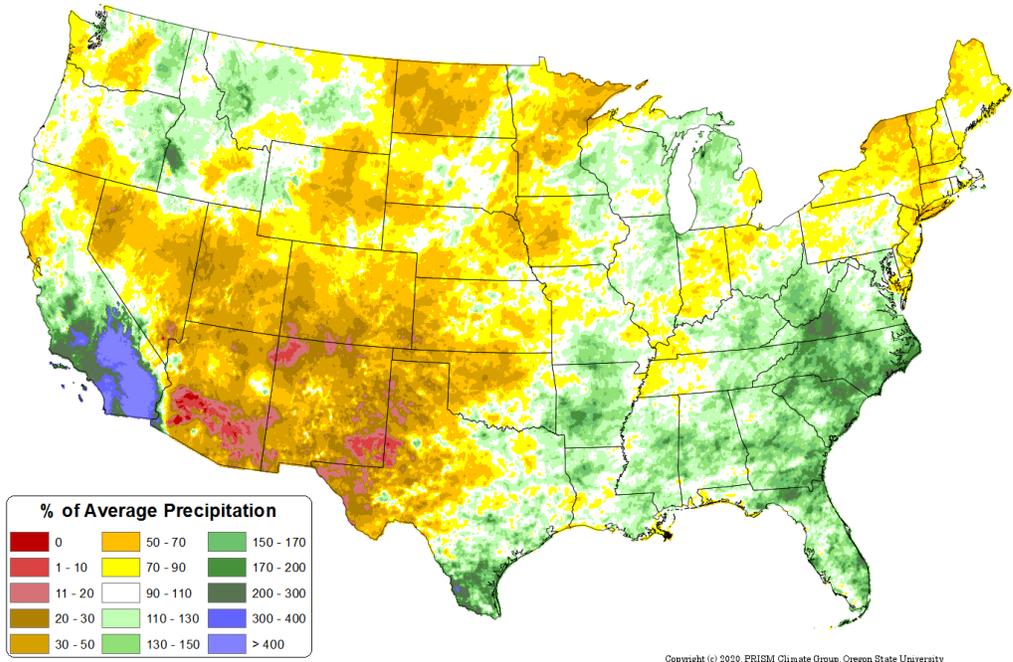


Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

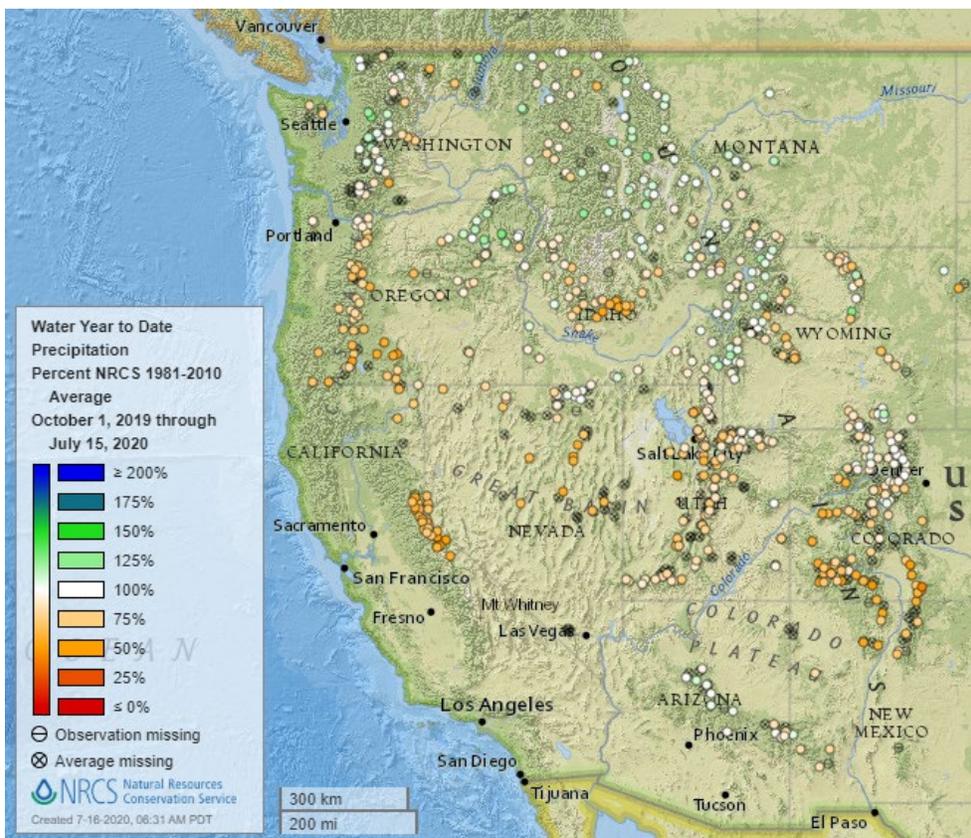
Source: PRISM

[April through June precipitation percent of average map](#)

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Apr 2020 - Jun 2020
Period ending 7 AM EST 30 Jun 2020
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 02 Jul 2020)



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

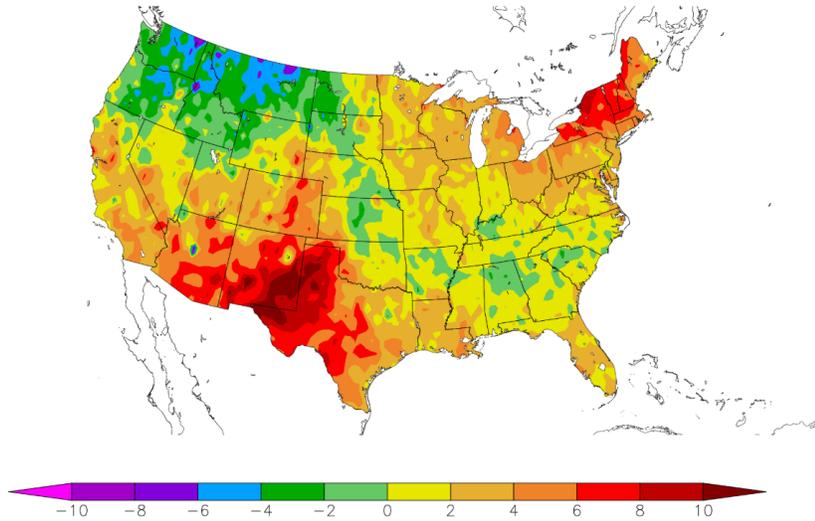
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
7/8/2020 – 7/14/2020



Generated 7/15/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

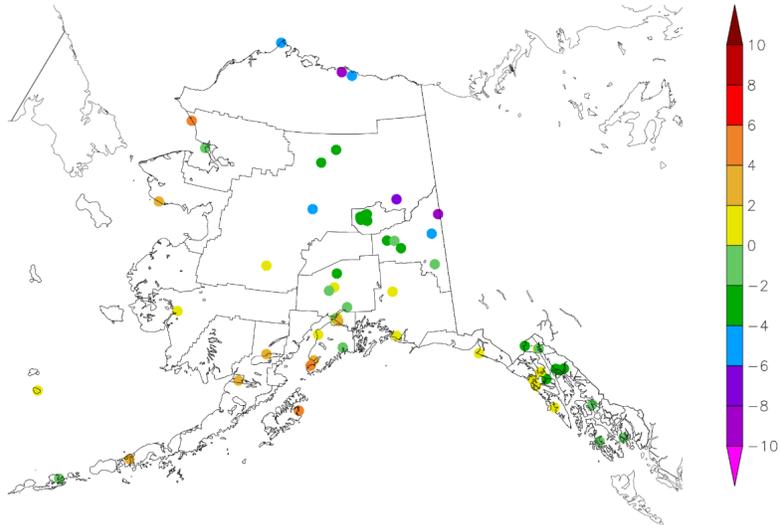
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
7/8/2020 – 7/14/2020



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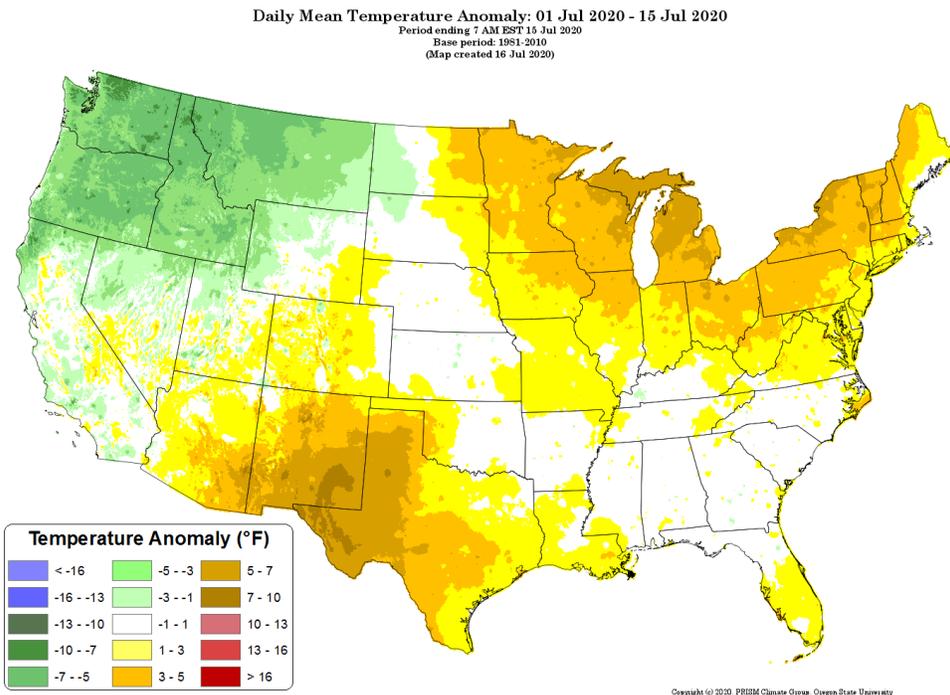
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Water and Climate Update

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

Source: PRISM

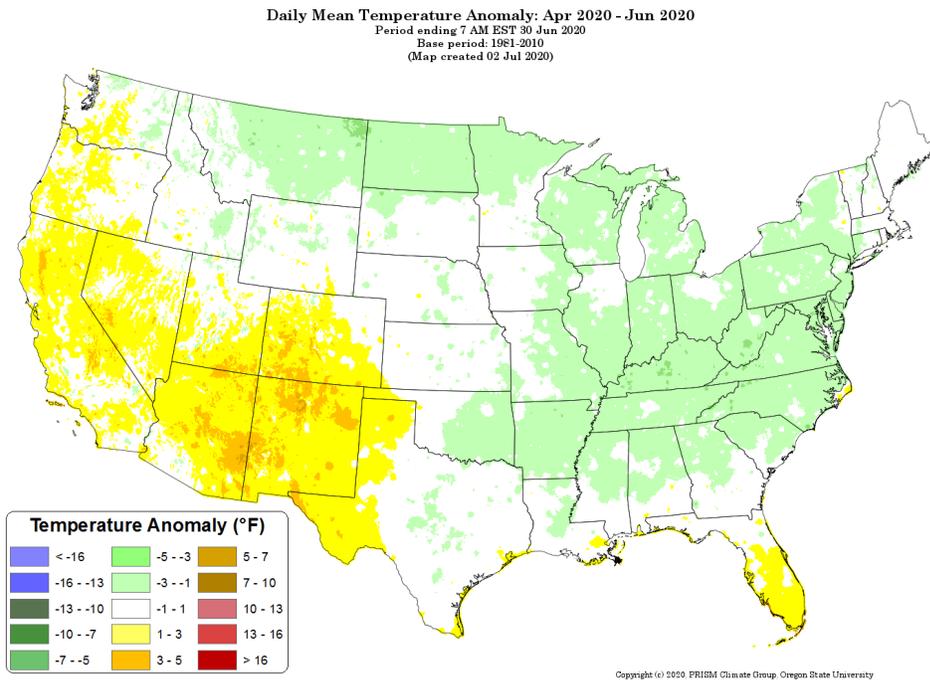
[Month to date national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



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

Source: PRISM

[April through June 2020 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



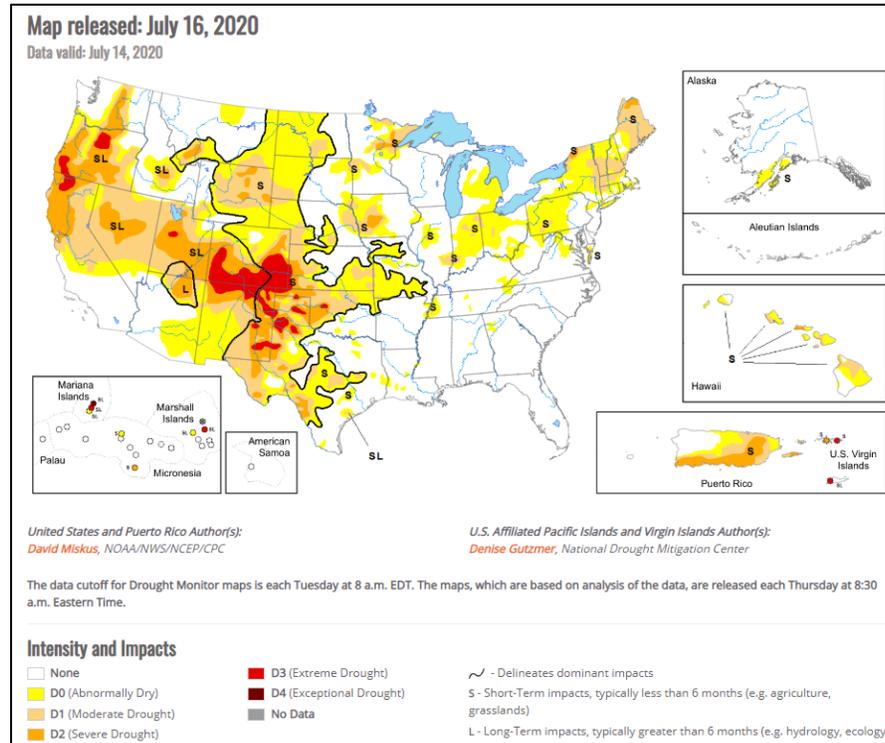
Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA



Current [National Drought Summary](#), July 16, 2020

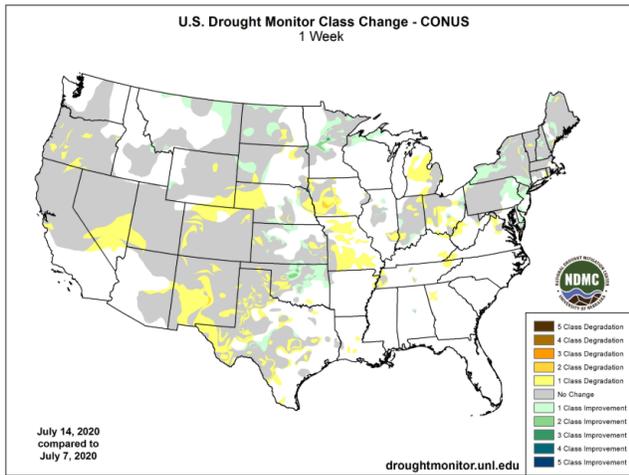
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“The active Atlantic hurricane season continued (with respect to number of named storms) as minimal Tropical Storm Fay formed off the Carolina coast, moved northward, and made landfall in New Jersey. Rainfall from Fay was beneficial for parts of the Northeast, especially the Delmarva Peninsula, New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, and western New York, where 2-3 inches of rain, locally to 7 inches, brought widespread relief from growing short-term dryness and drought. Lighter totals also fell on most of New England, but most areas did not receive enough rain to make any marked improvements. Elsewhere, a series of slow-moving fronts drifted across the lower 48 States, generating MCCs (Mesoscale Convective Complexes) with swaths of decent rain across parts of the central Plains, Midwest, and Southeast. Several fronts produced scattered but heavy thunderstorms across the upper Midwest. Unfortunately, many areas received little or no precipitation this week, including much of the West (from the Rockies to the Pacific Coast), the southern Plains, lower and middle Mississippi River Valleys, and most of the Appalachians and Piedmont. Unfortunately, the dryness was accompanied by excessive heat (weekly temperatures averaged more than 4 degrees F above normal) in the southwestern and northeastern quarters of the Nation. For example, Borger, TX, set an all-time record high of 116 degrees F on July 11. The combination of heat and minimal rainfall was a concern for many agricultural areas as crops are at critical stages of growth and reproduction, and with high evapotranspiration rates during the summer heat, topsoil moisture can become rapidly depleted and stress the crops. In contrast, the Northwest recorded subnormal temperatures (2 to 6 degrees F below normal), along with some light precipitation in northernmost regions. In Alaska, light to moderate precipitation fell on southern, central, and southeastern sections, while Hawaii saw some windward showers early in the period but not enough for any improvement. Heavy rains (2-5 inches) fell again on non-drought portions of northwestern Puerto Rico and along eastern sections (2-6 inches), slightly trimming away some of the D2 there.”

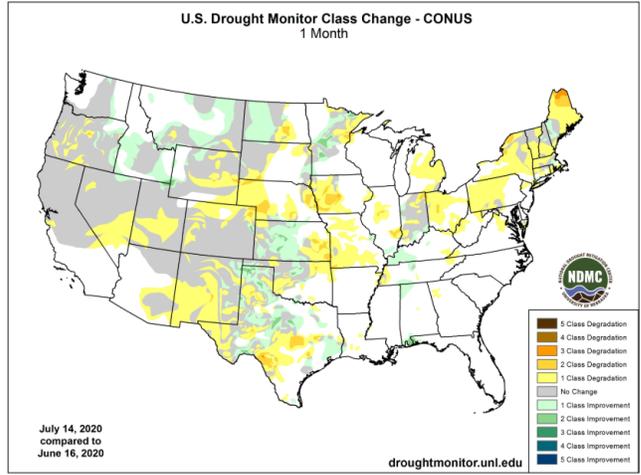
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

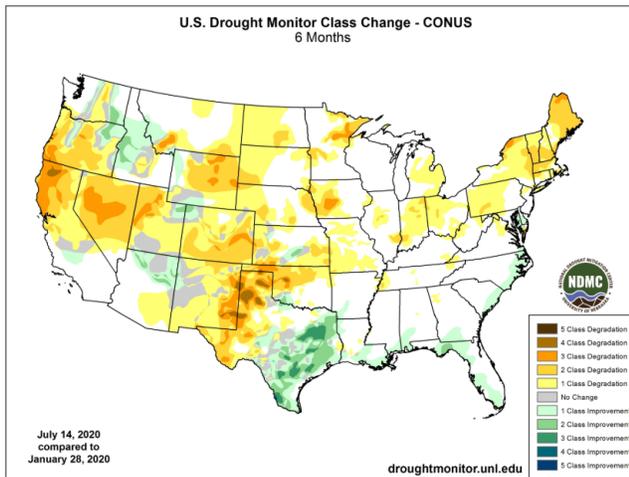
1 Week



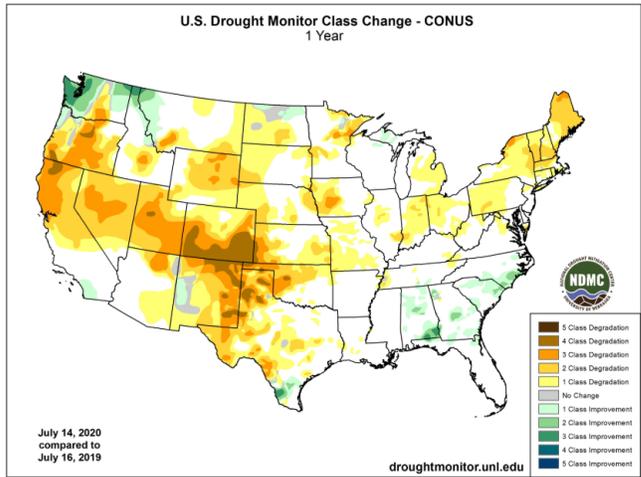
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



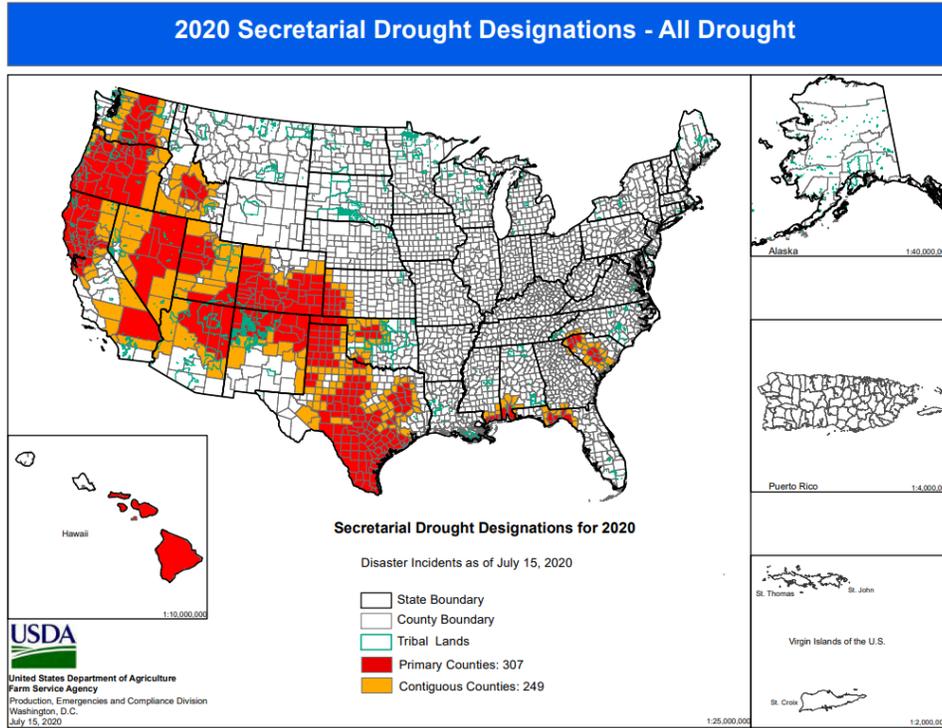
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

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



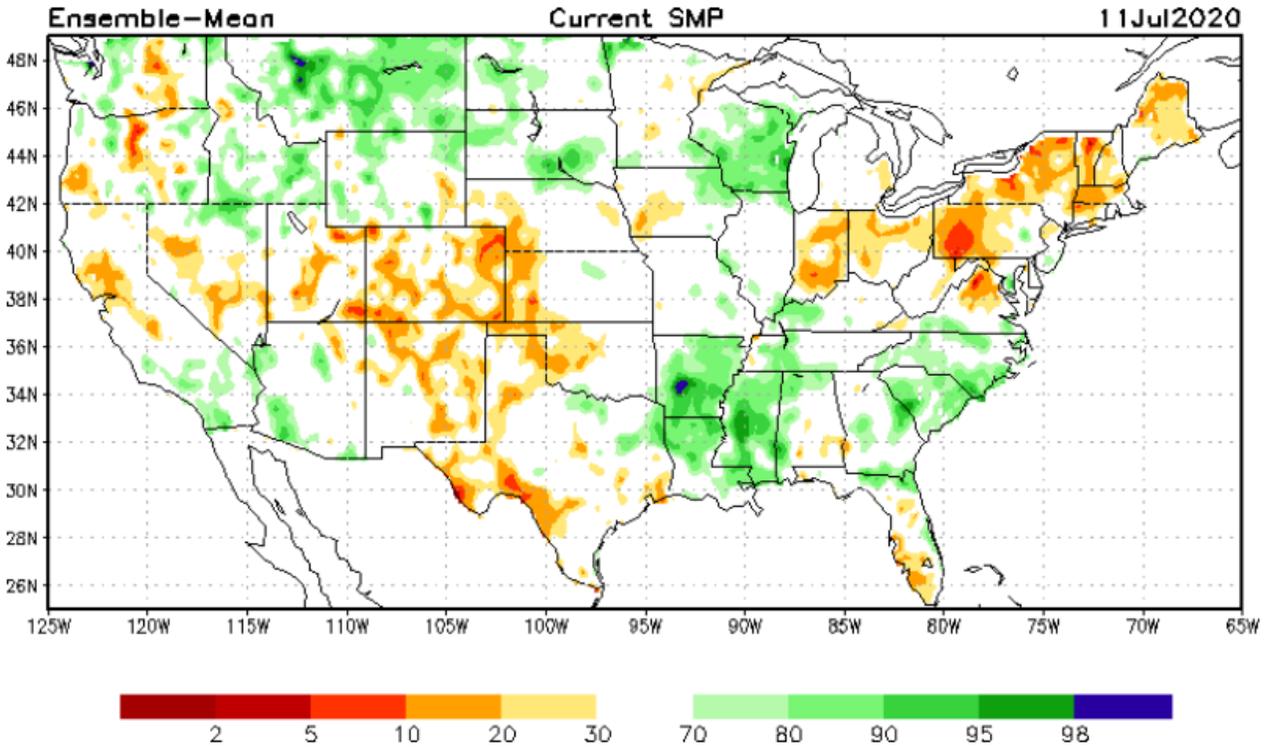
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

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

Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

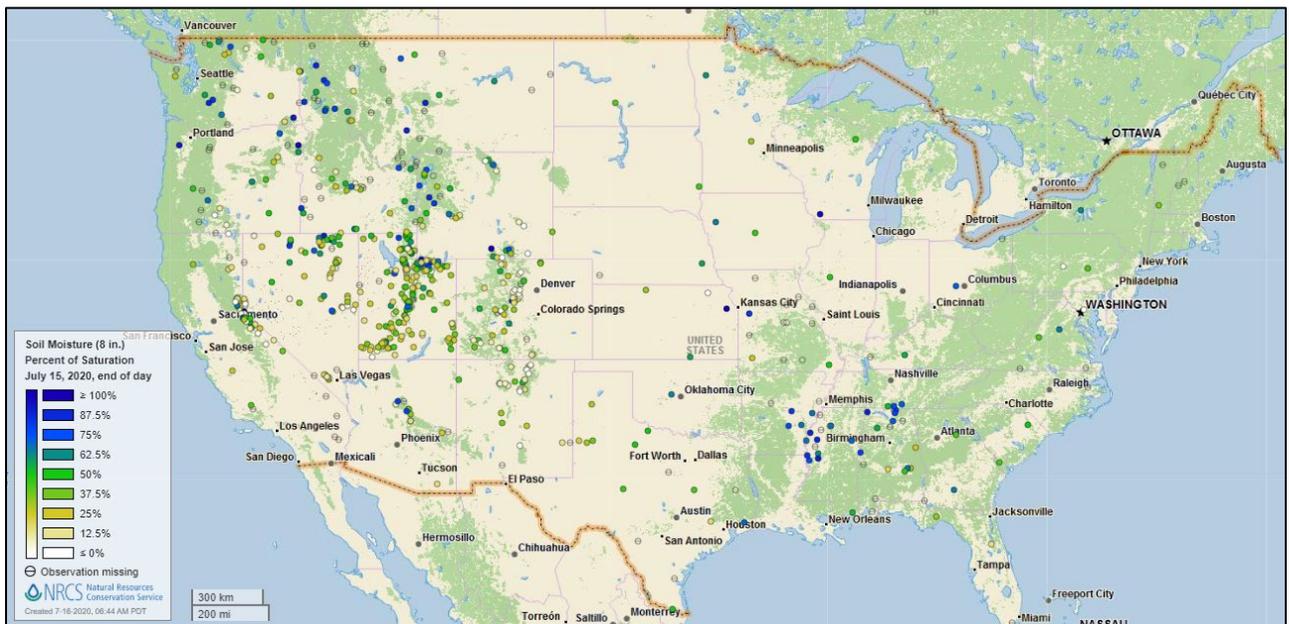
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of July 11, 2020

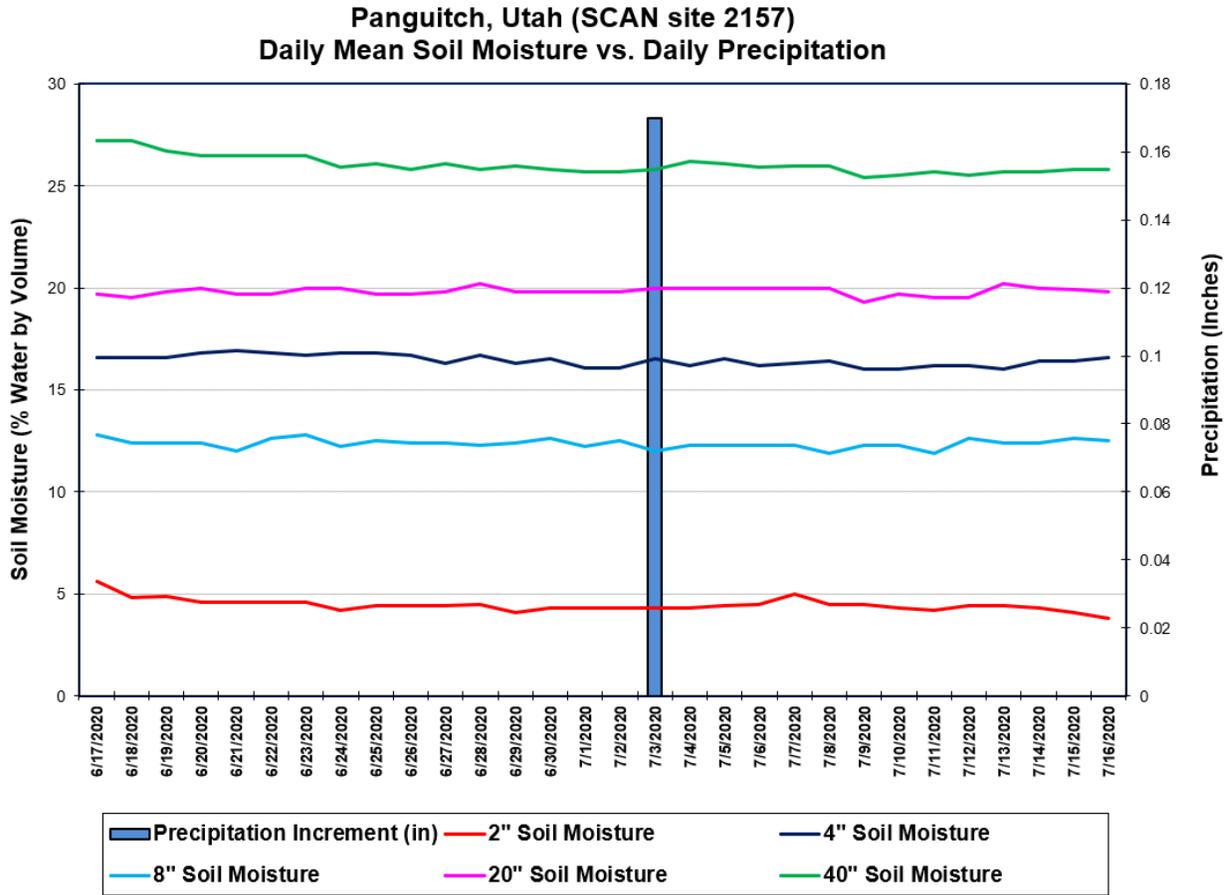
Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

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 [Panguitch](#) SCAN site in southern Utah. The site is in a location currently impacted by severe drought. The small precipitation event on July 3 had little effect on soil moisture at all five sensor depths.

Soil Moisture Data Portals

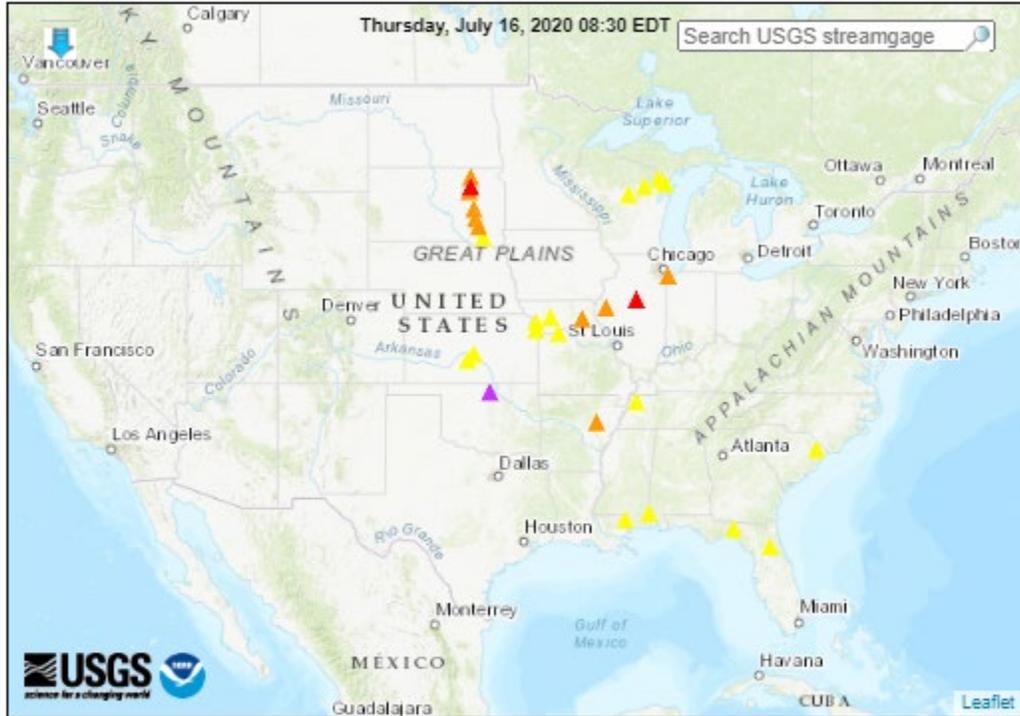
- [CRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [Texas A&M University North American Soil Moisture Database](#)
- [University of Washington Experimental Modeled Soil Moisture](#)

Streamflow, Drought, Flood, and Runoff

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Map of flood and high flow conditions

(12 in floods [major: 1, moderate: 2, minor: 9], 17 in near-flood)



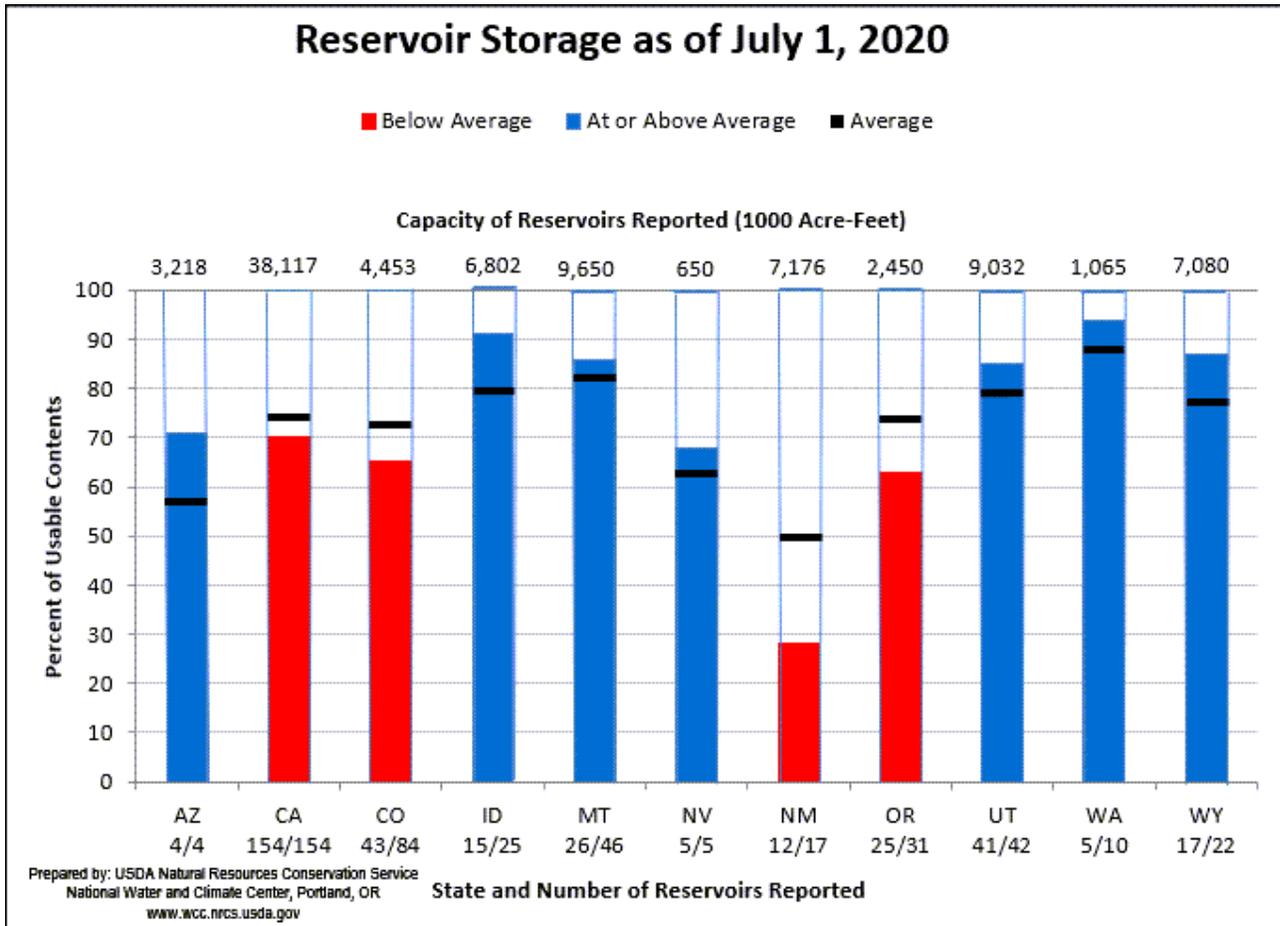
Explanation - Percentile classes						
<95	95-98	>= 99	Above action stage	Above flood stage	Above moderate flood stage	Above major flood stage
			▲ Streamgage with flood stage ○ Streamgage without flood stage			

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

Reservoir Storage

Western States Reservoir Storage

Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center



July 1, 2020 Reservoir Storage: [Chart](#) | [Dataset](#)

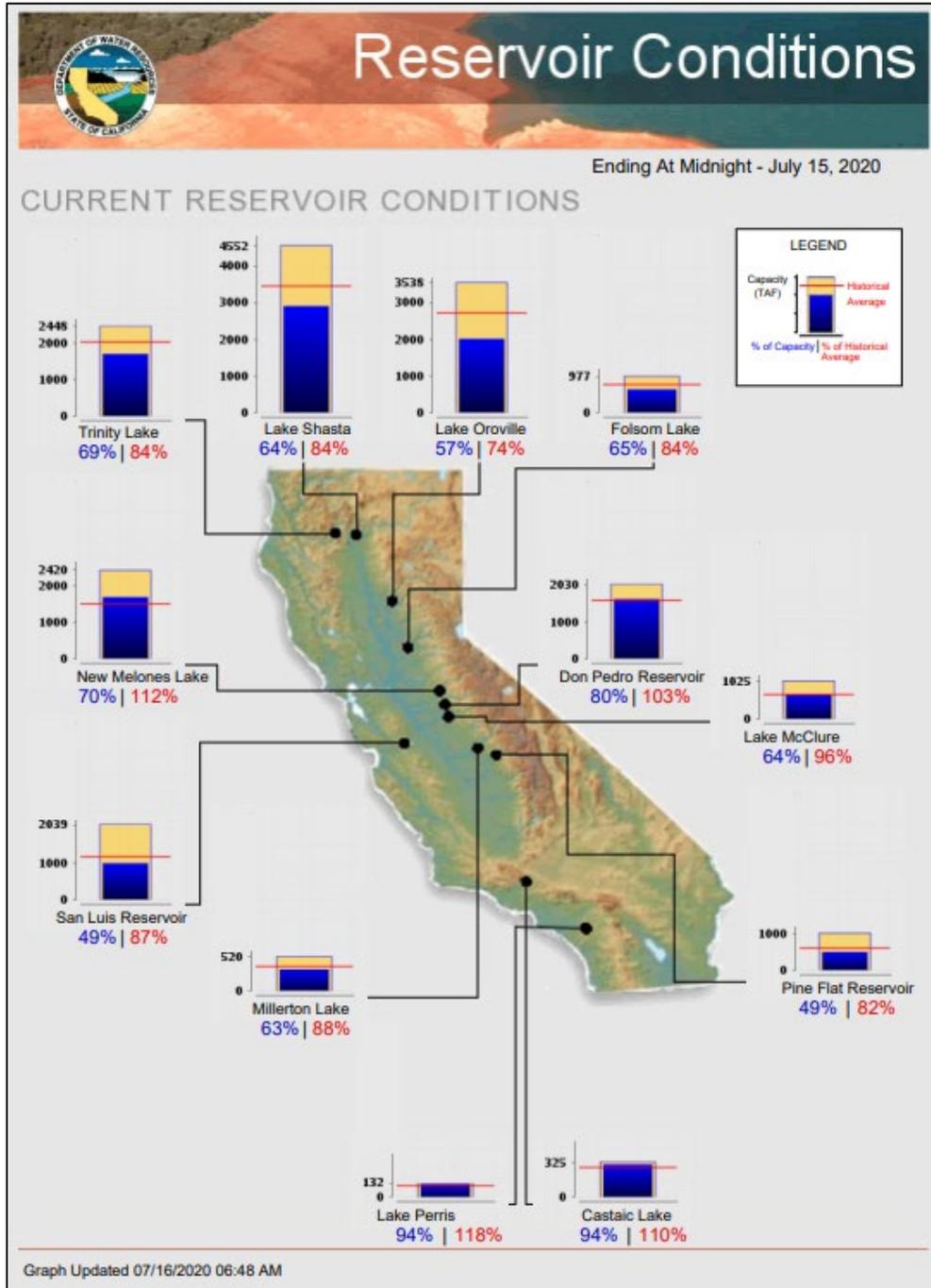
Hydromet Teacup Reservoir Depictions

Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

- [Upper Colorado](#)
- [Pacific Northwest/Snake/Columbia](#)
- [Sevier River Water, Utah](#)
- [Upper Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas](#)

Current California Reservoir Conditions

Source: California Department of Water Resources



[Current California Reservoir Conditions](#)

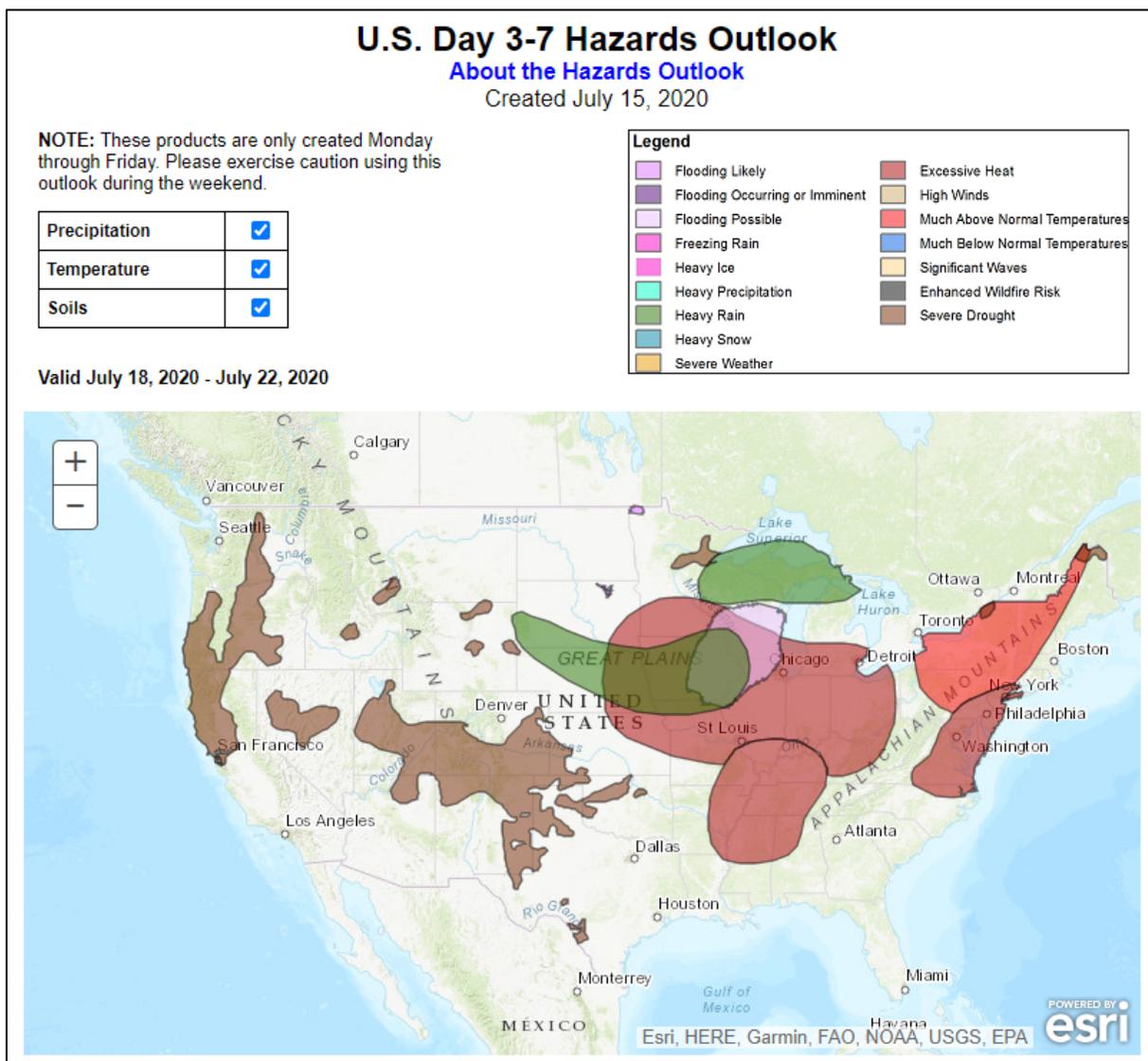
Agricultural Weather Highlights

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

National Outlook, Thursday, July 16, 2020: “A cold front currently crossing the eastern Corn Belt will weaken while approaching the Atlantic Seaboard. A second front will traverse the northern Plains and upper Midwest during the next couple of days before sweeping into the Northeast early next week. Rainfall associated with the two cold fronts could reach 1 to 2 inches or more from the Dakotas to the northern Appalachians. Although hot weather will prevail in much of the Midwest during the weekend, high temperatures should remain below 95°F, except for some higher readings from Nebraska into the middle Mississippi Valley. Meanwhile, the Southwestern monsoon circulation will contribute to scattered showers and thunderstorms, primarily across Colorado, New Mexico, and eastern Arizona. During the next 5 days, dry weather will cover the remainder of the West, as well as much of Texas. Locally heavy showers may occur, however across the eastern half of the Gulf Coast region, especially in southern Florida. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for July 21 – 25 calls for near- or above-normal temperatures nationwide, with the greatest likelihood of hot weather in the Northeast. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal rainfall across much of the country should contrast with drier-than-normal conditions in the Pacific Northwest and throughout the southern half of the Plains.”

Weather Hazards Outlook: July 18 – 22, 2020

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center

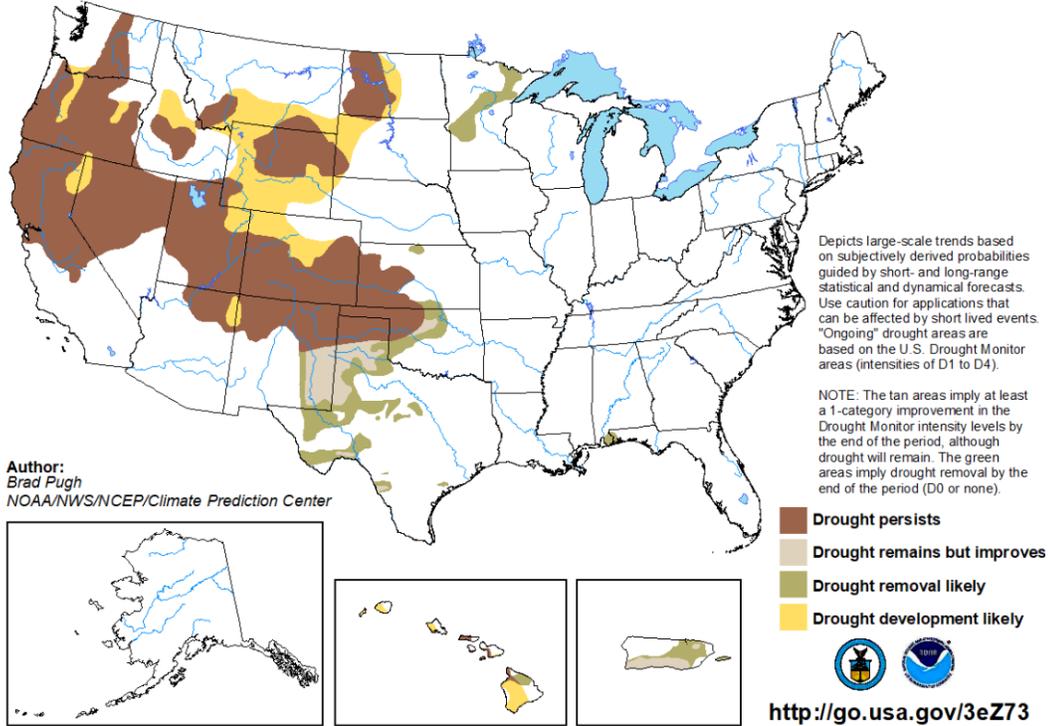


Seasonal Drought Outlook: [June 18 – September 30, 2020](#)

Source: National Weather Service

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

Valid for June 18 - September 30, 2020
Released June 18

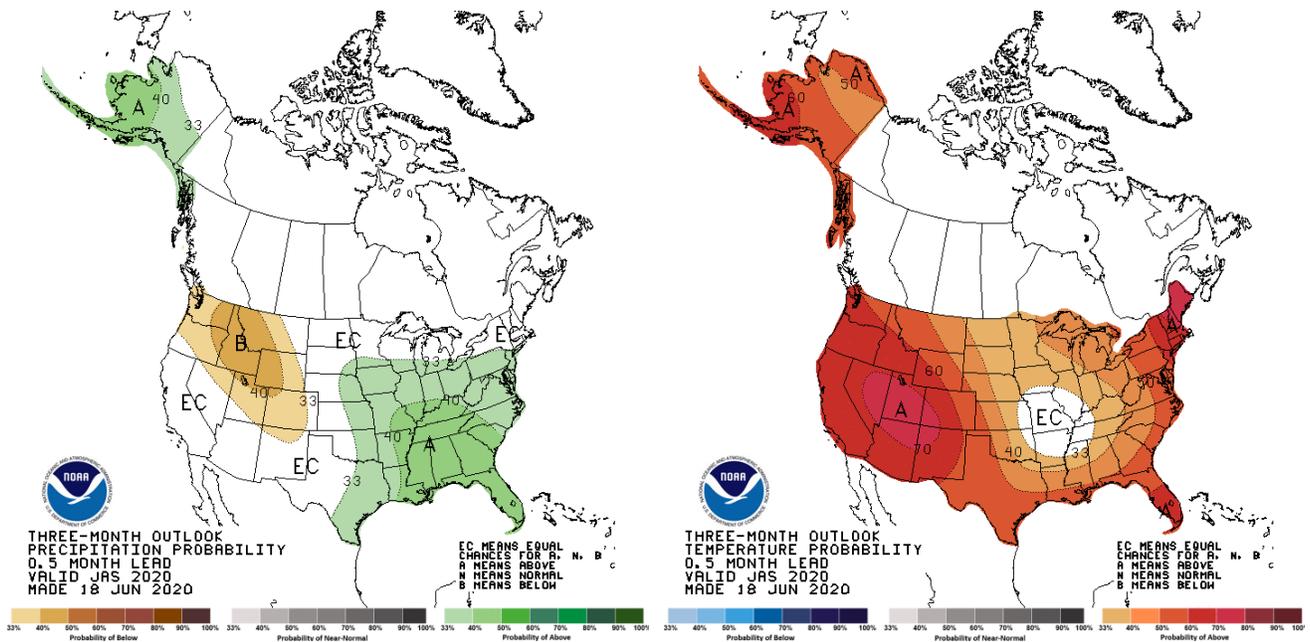


Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

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](#).