



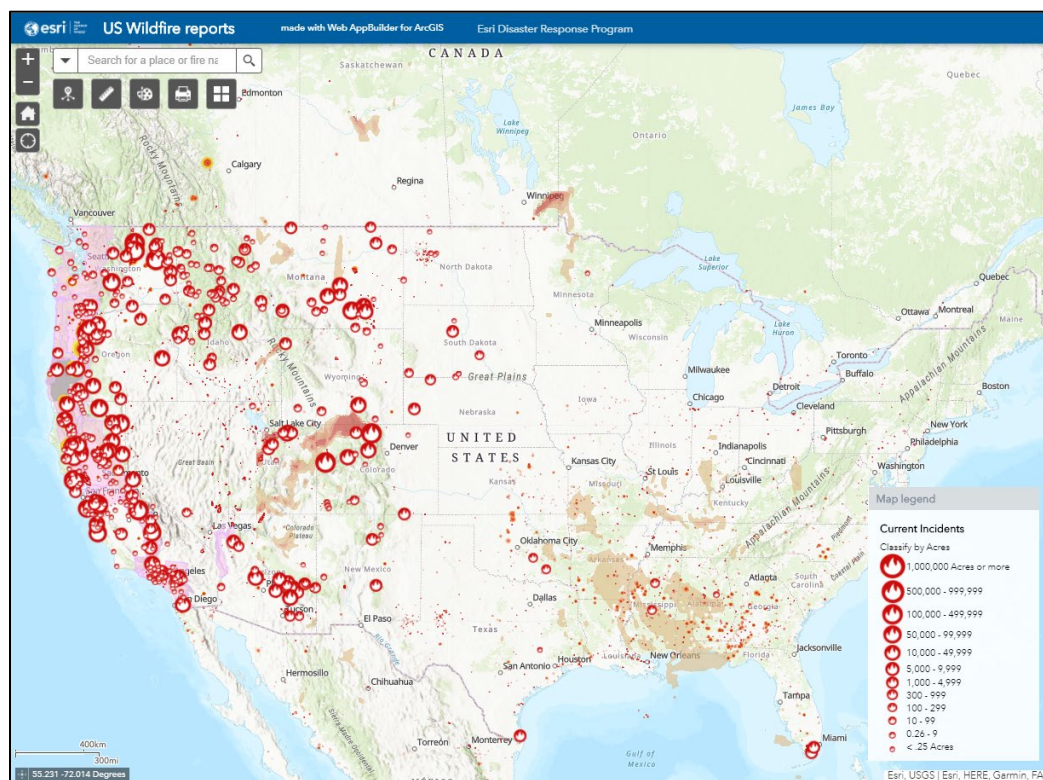
Water and Climate Update

September 10, 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.

Precipitation	1	Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators	11
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High winds contribute to wildfire expansion in the West



Record-setting winds across Washington, Oregon, and California over the last several days have contributed to wildfire expansion throughout the region. Firefighters across the western states are seeing extreme fire behavior on many large fires, with smoke covering much of the Pacific Coastline. The ESRI US Wildfire map above illustrates the location and size of active fires as of Wednesday. According to the National Interagency Fire Center, 17 new large fires were reported yesterday, bringing the national total to 96 large fires, having burned more than 3.4 million acres.

Related:

[Wildfires Bring New Devastation Across the West](#) The New York Times

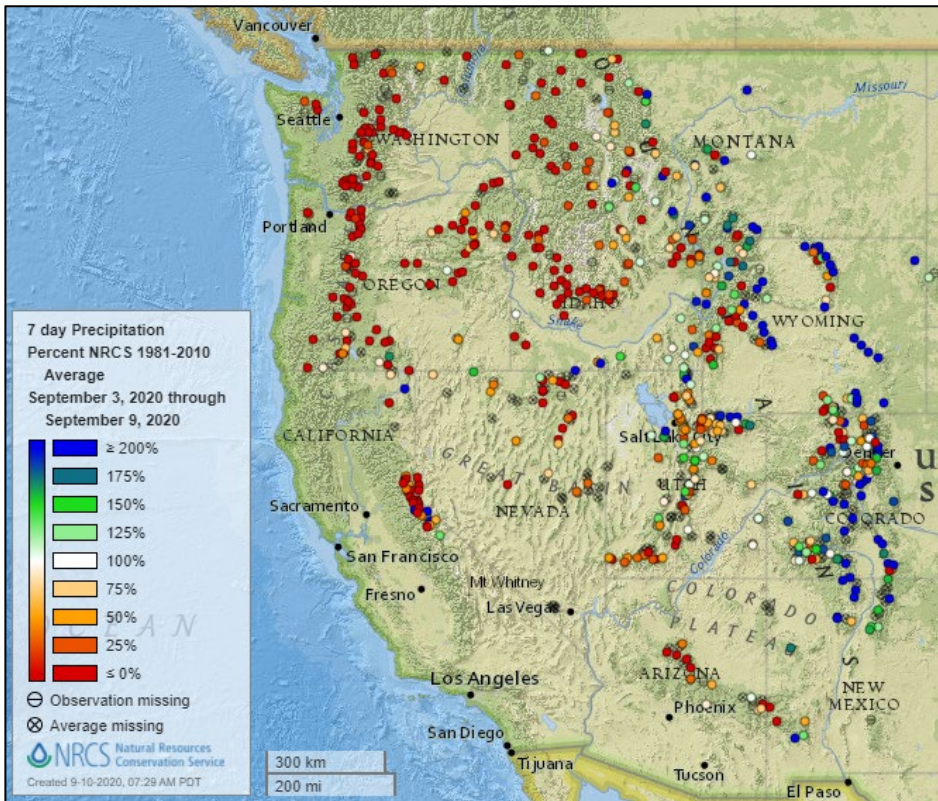
[Smoke, flames alter Western skies as 'unprecedented' wildfires the size of Connecticut burn](#) USA Today

['Like a scene from Mars': Skies in parts of California turn orange as wildfires continue](#) NBC News

[West Coast fires: Oroville and part of Paradise are told to be ready to evacuate as California wildfires rage](#) CNN

Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

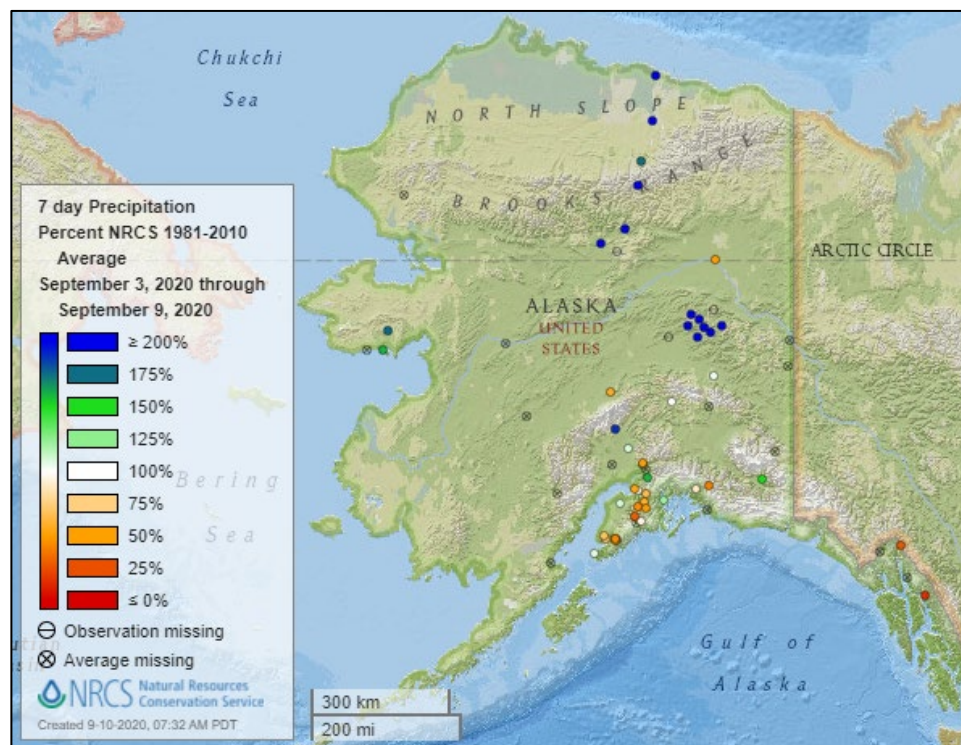


[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

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](#)



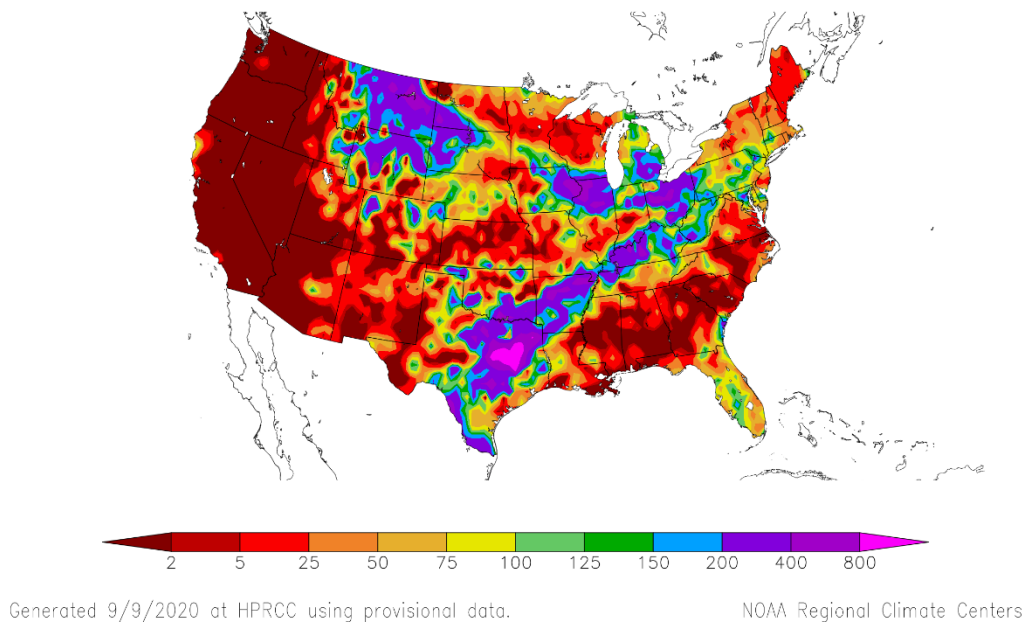
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)
9/2/2020 – 9/8/2020



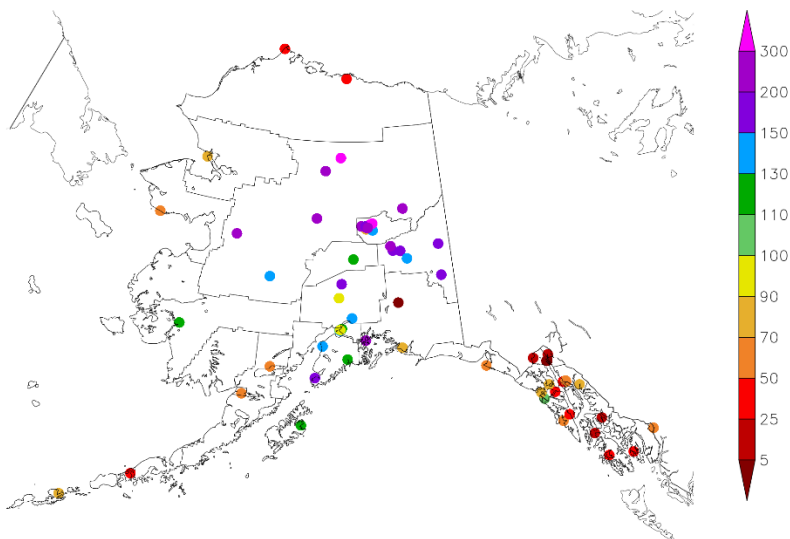
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

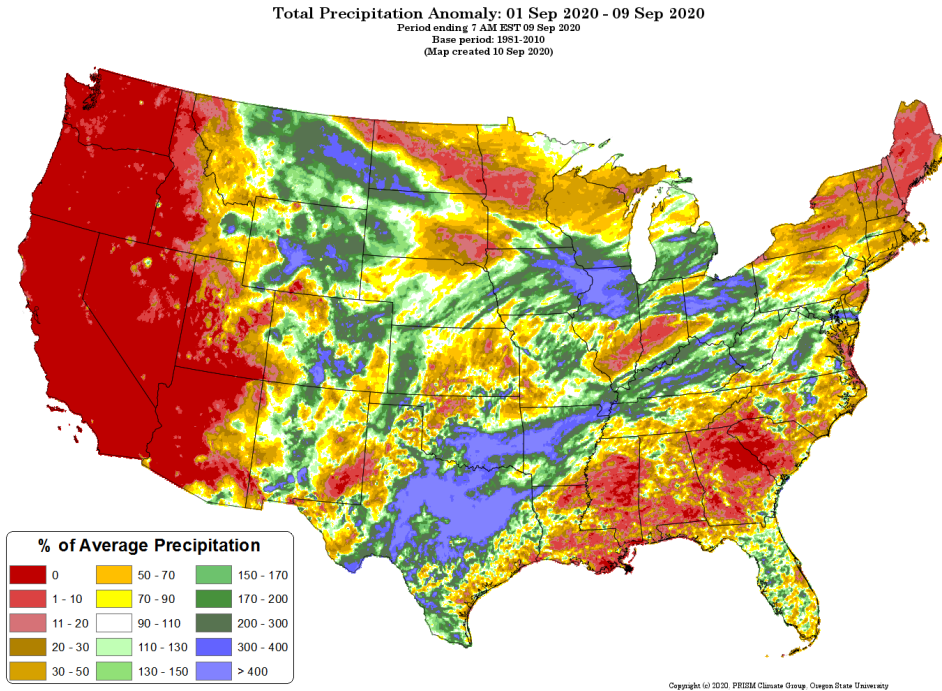
See also: [7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/2/2020 – 9/8/2020



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

Source: PRISM

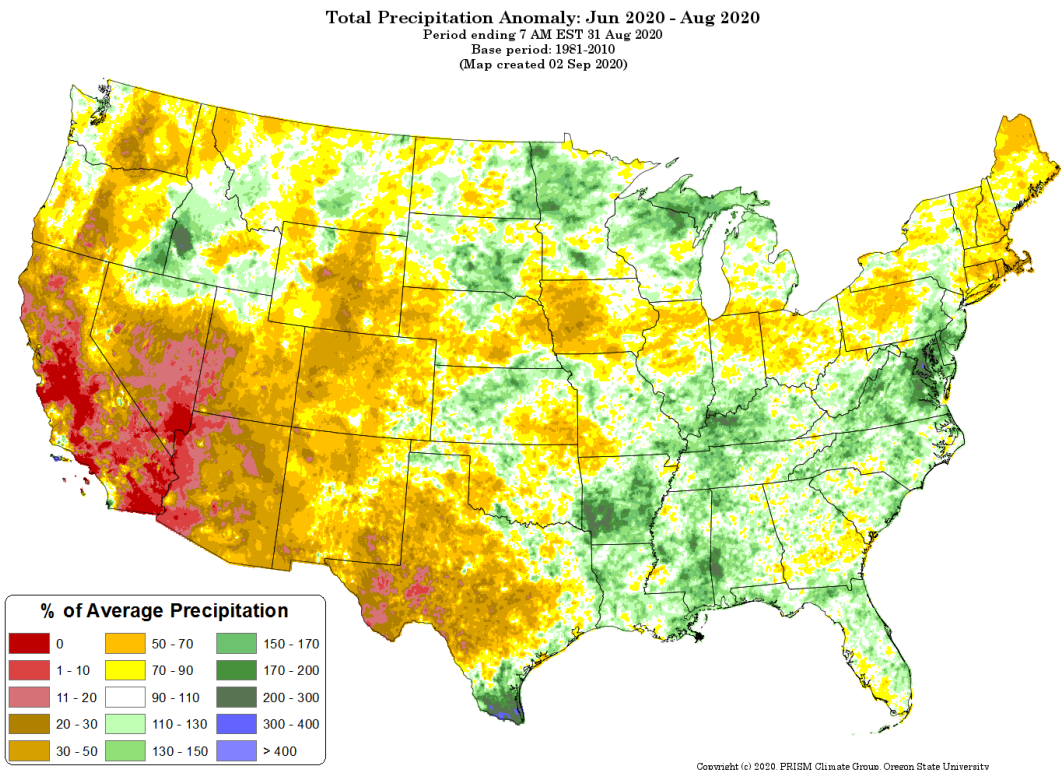


[Month-to-date national total precipitation percent of average map](#)

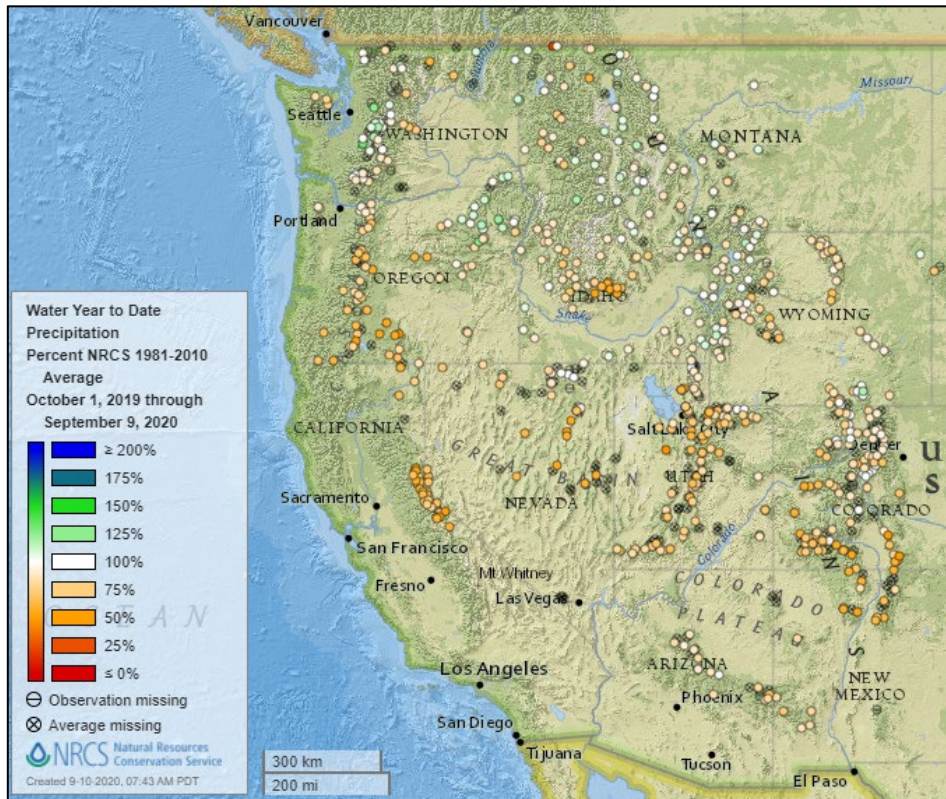
Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

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

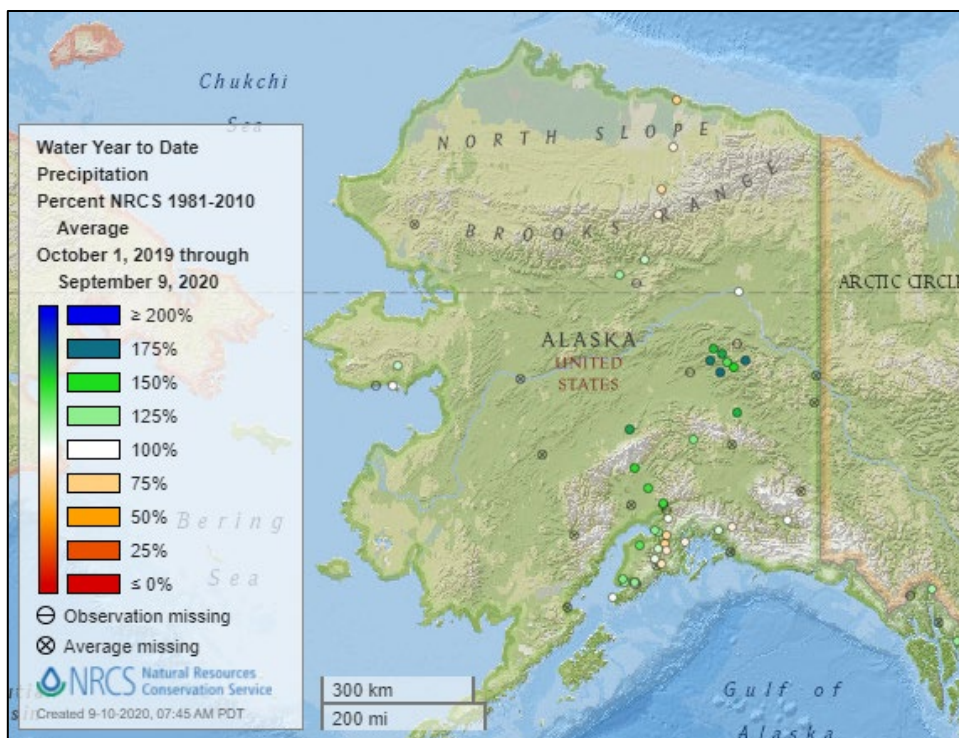


Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network



[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

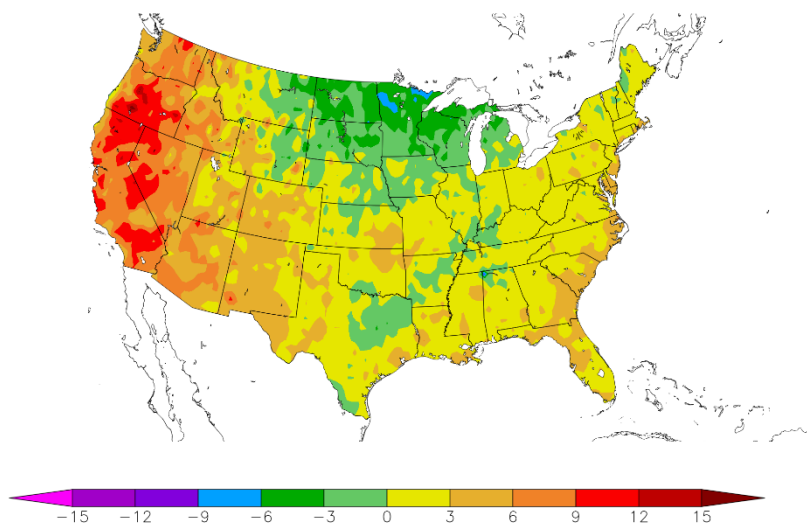
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/2/2020 – 9/8/2020



Generated 9/9/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

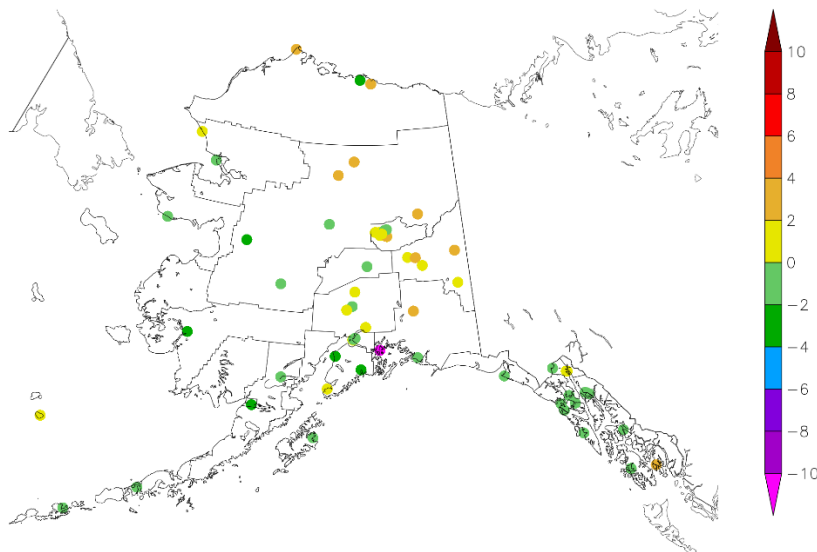
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/2/2020 – 9/8/2020



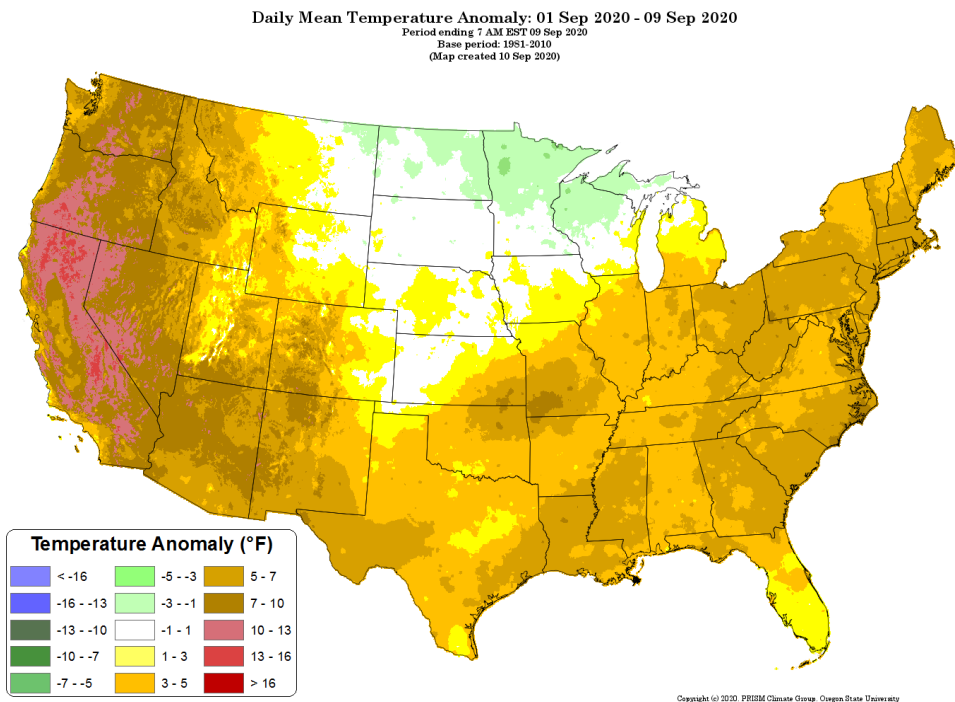
Generated 9/9/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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

Source: PRISM

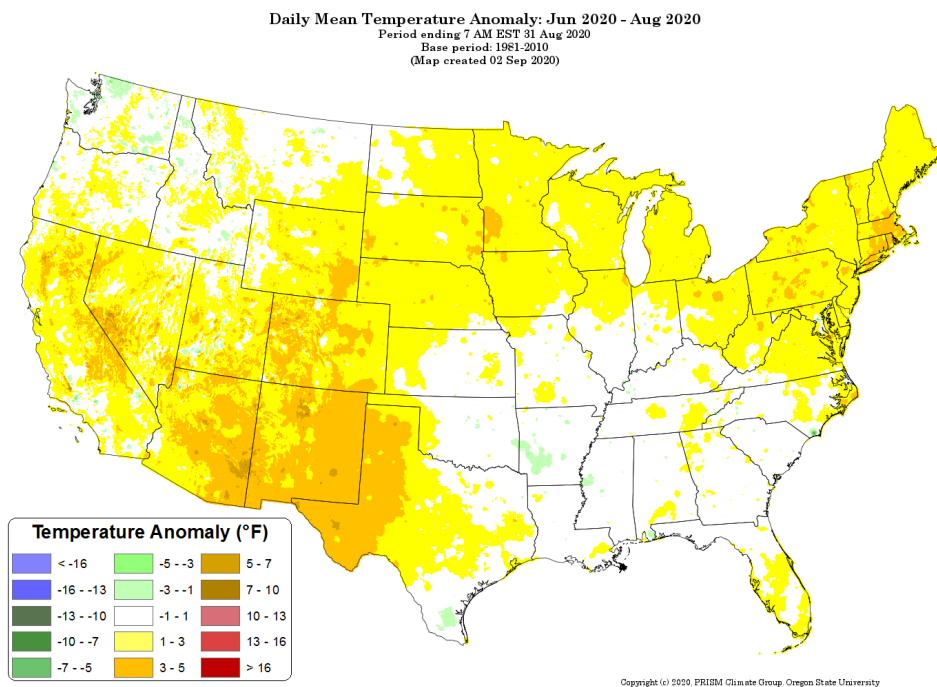
[Month-to-date
national daily
mean
temperature
anomaly map](#)



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

Source: PRISM

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



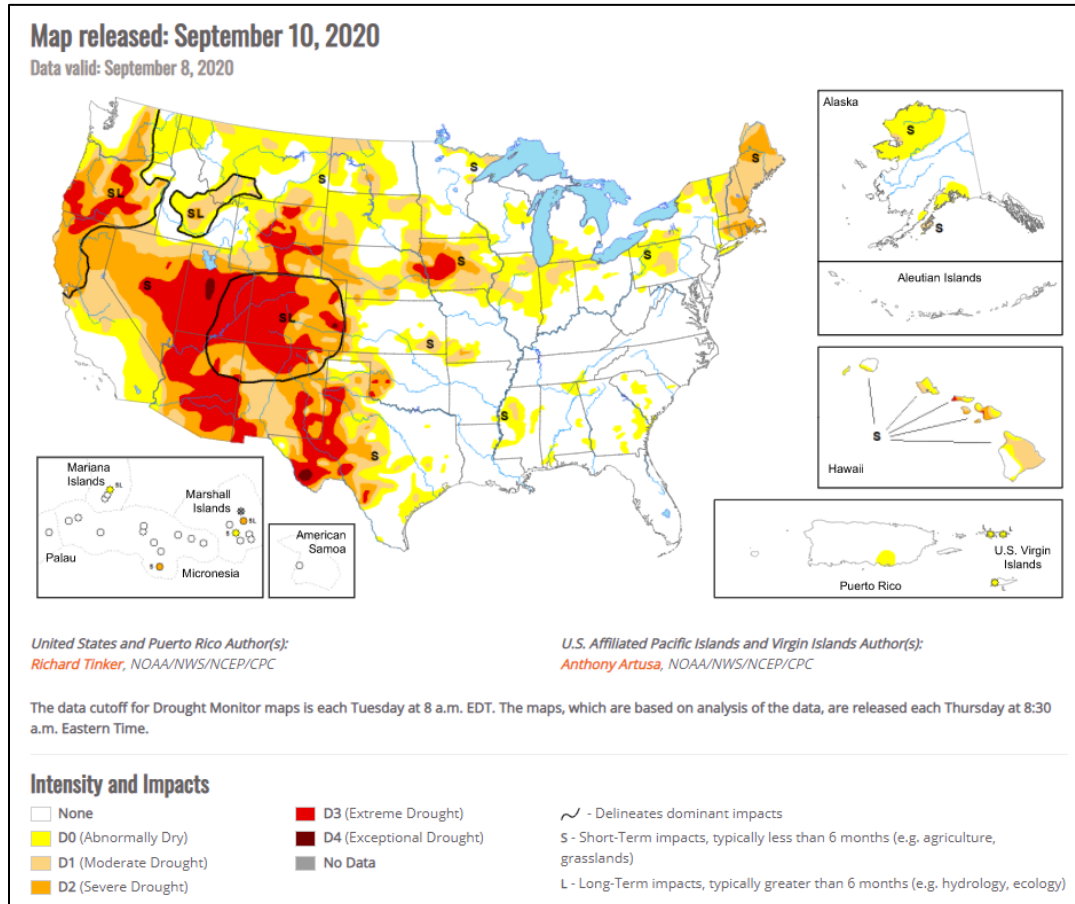
Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA



Current [National Drought Summary](#), September 10, 2020

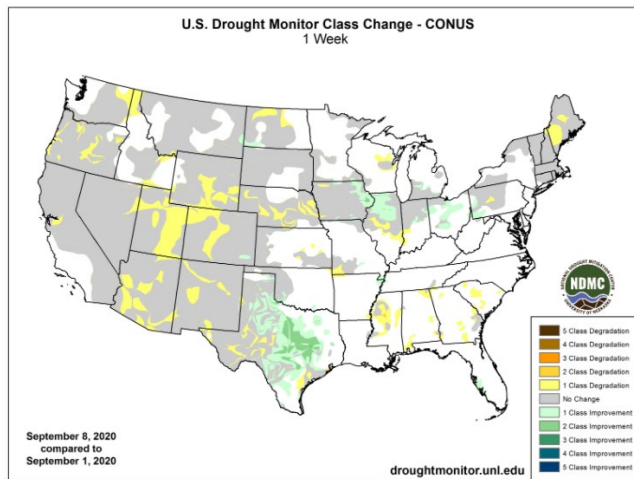
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

"Intense heat, low humidity, gusty winds, and little or no rain allowed for broad-scale drought intensification in most of the central Great Plains and from the High Plains to the Pacific Coast. Conditions took a dramatic turn across the Rockies and Plains as the valid period ended, with hot and dry conditions suddenly replaced by much colder weather, and snow in some areas. A number of sites from the central Rockies into the northern Plains saw temperatures drop from around 90 degrees F Labor Day to near freezing with light snow the next morning. Denver, CO went from temperatures averaging 15 degrees above normal on September 6 to 30 degrees below normal for September 8, with an inch of snowfall reported. East Rapid City, SD appears to have set a national all-time record by going from over 100 degrees F (102) to reporting measurable snow in a span of 2 days. The colder and wetter weather that developed just as the period ended had little impact on drought conditions in most areas, given the hot, dry, and windy conditions that preceded it. Wildfires continued to scorch and spread rapidly across parts of California, with some quickly breaking out and expanding in part of the Rockies as well. Denver, CO went from reporting reduced visibility due to wildfire smoke on Labor Day, to reduced visibility from falling snow the next morning. Elsewhere, several inches of precipitation across interior northeastern Texas, in a swath from eastern Iowa to central Illinois, across Ohio, and in parts of Arkansas brought significant drought relief, and lesser amounts in adjacent areas brought more limited improvement, as did moderate precipitation in parts of the northern Rockies and adjacent Plains."

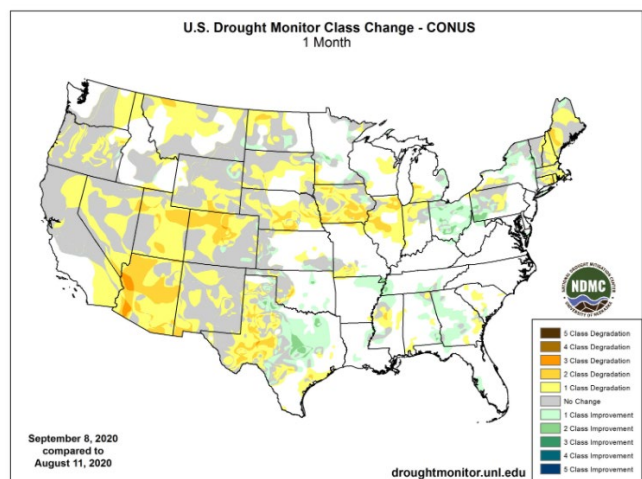
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

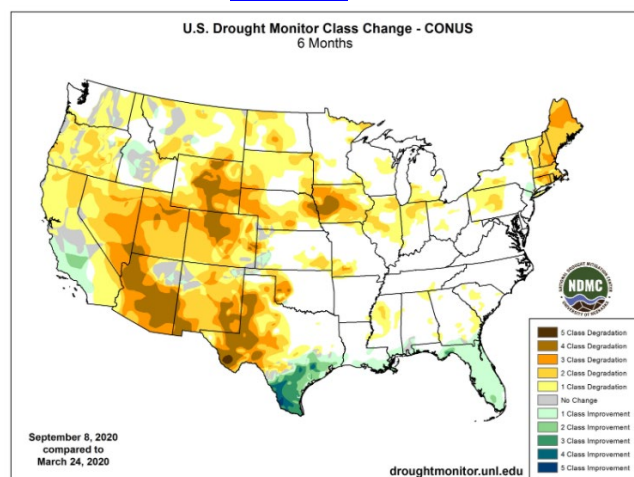
1 Week



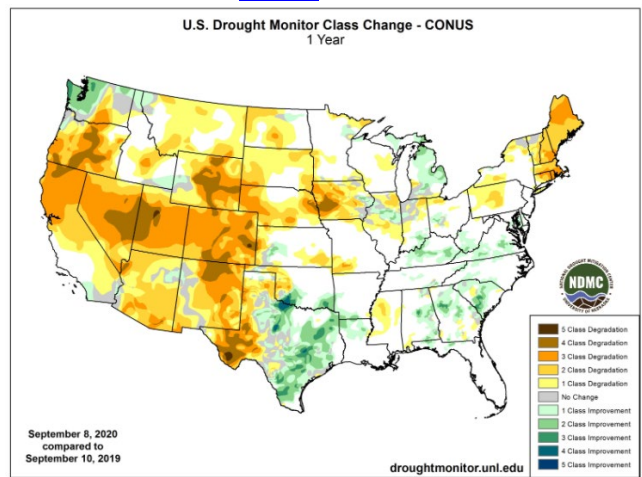
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



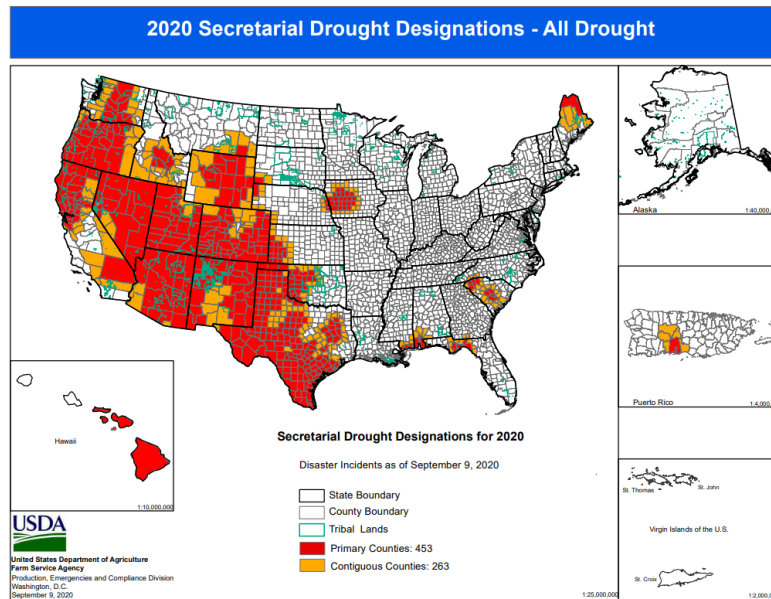
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

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



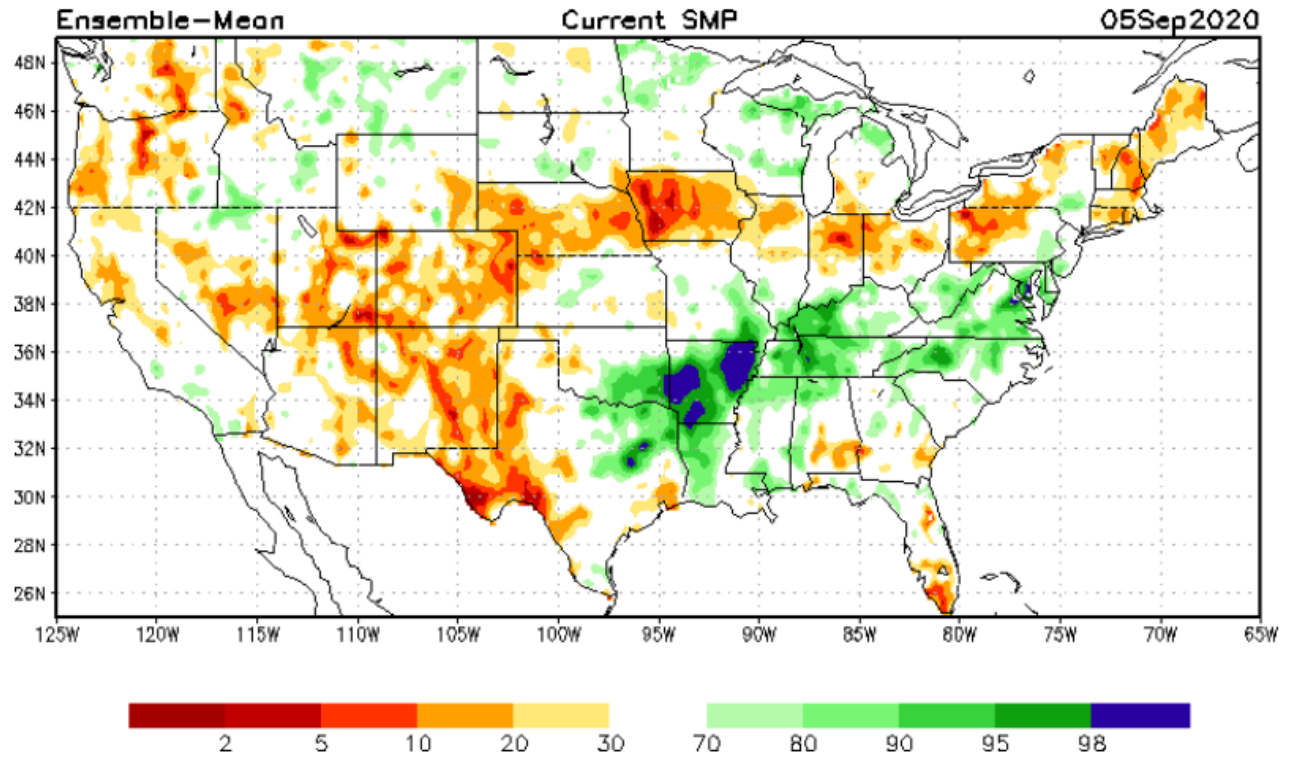
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

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

Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

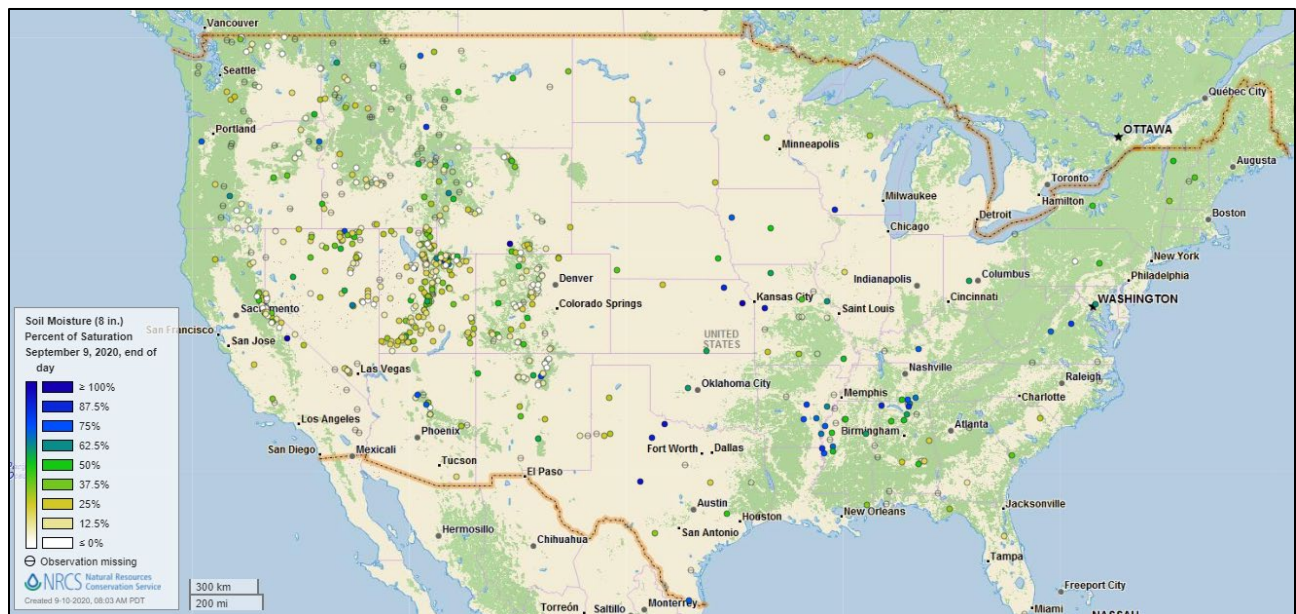
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of September 5, 2020

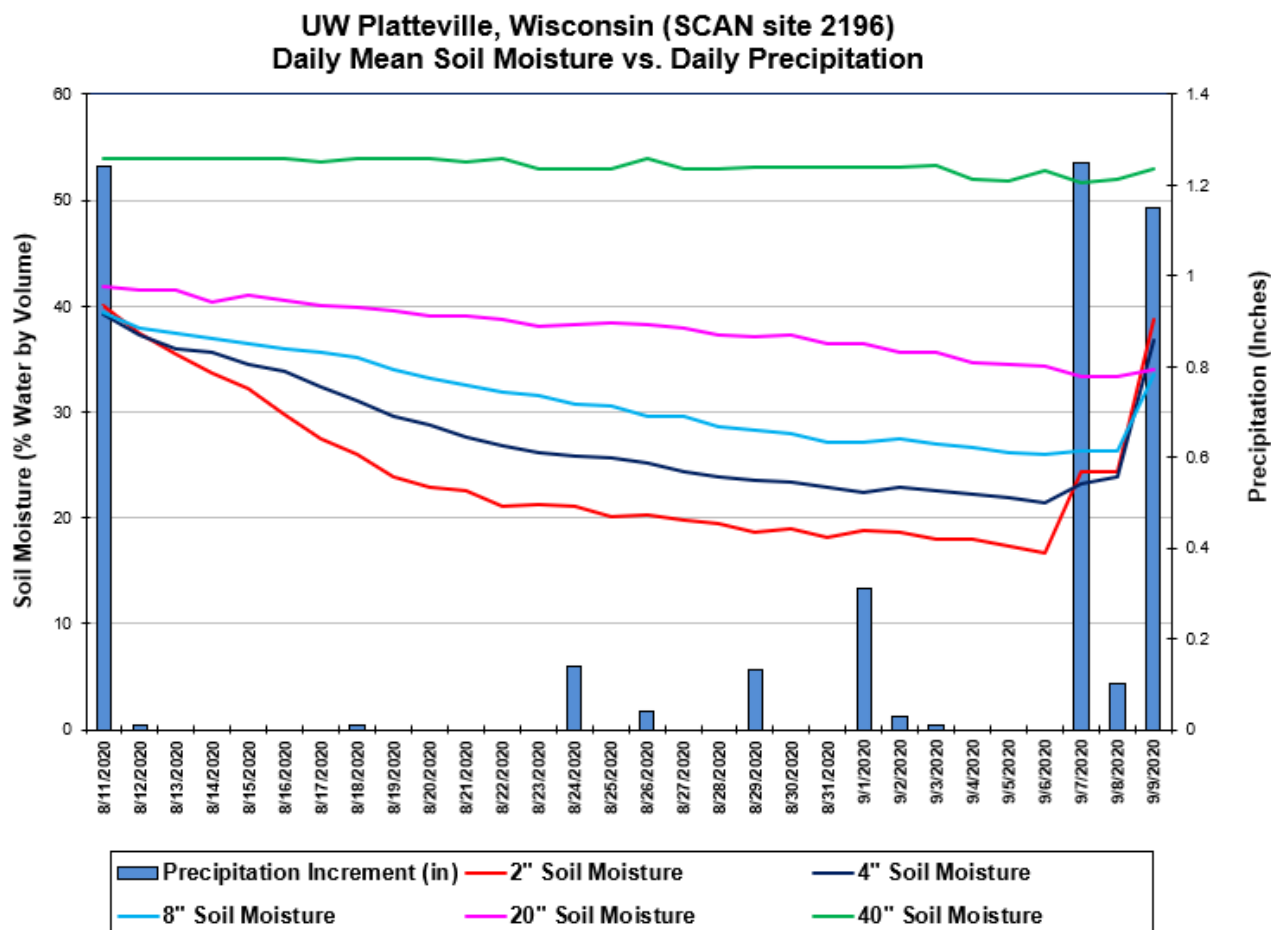
Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

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



Soil Moisture

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



This chart shows the precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the [UW Platteville](#) SCAN site in Wisconsin. Precipitation from September 7-9 resulted in an increase in soil moisture at the -2\", -4\", and -8\" sensors. The -20\" and -40\" sensors had a slight increase in soil moisture.

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

(10 in floods [minor: 10], 16 in near-flood)



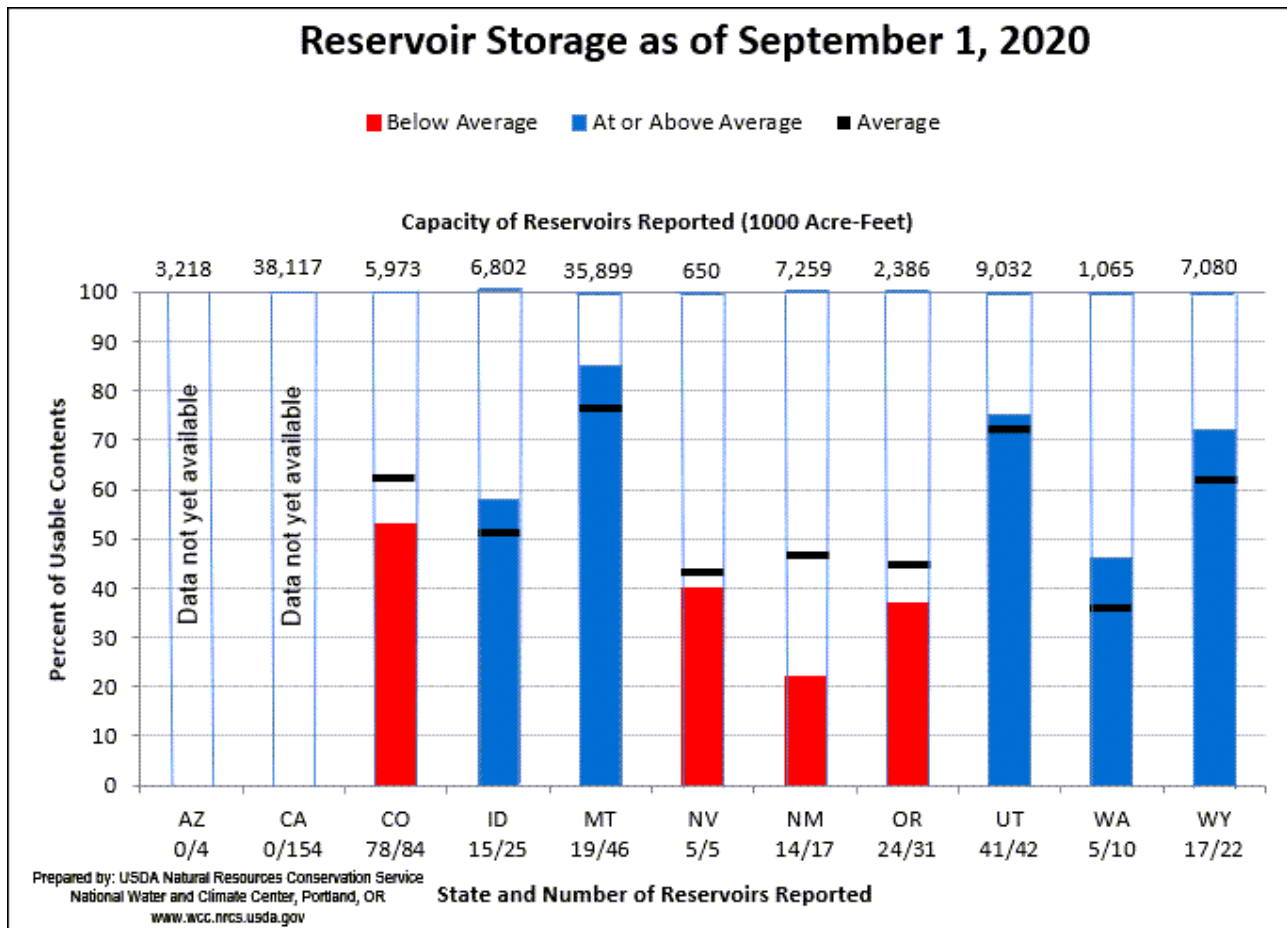
Explanation - Percentile classes						
<95	95-98	>= 99	Above action stage	Above flood stage	Above moderate flood stage	Above major flood stage
△ Streamgage with flood stage ○ Streamgage without flood stage						

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

Reservoir Storage

Western States Reservoir Storage

Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center



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

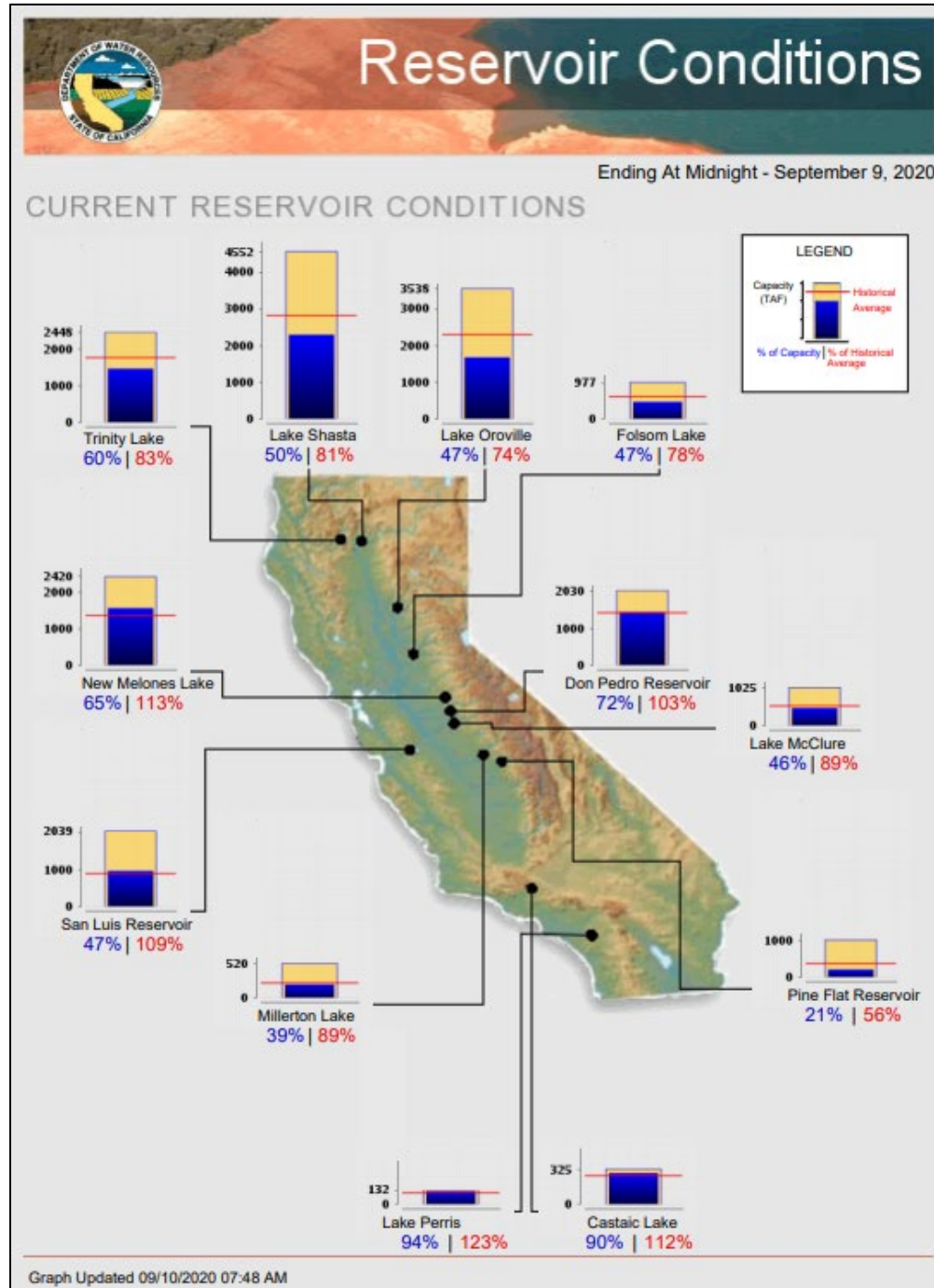
Hydromet Teacup Reservoir Depictions

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](#)

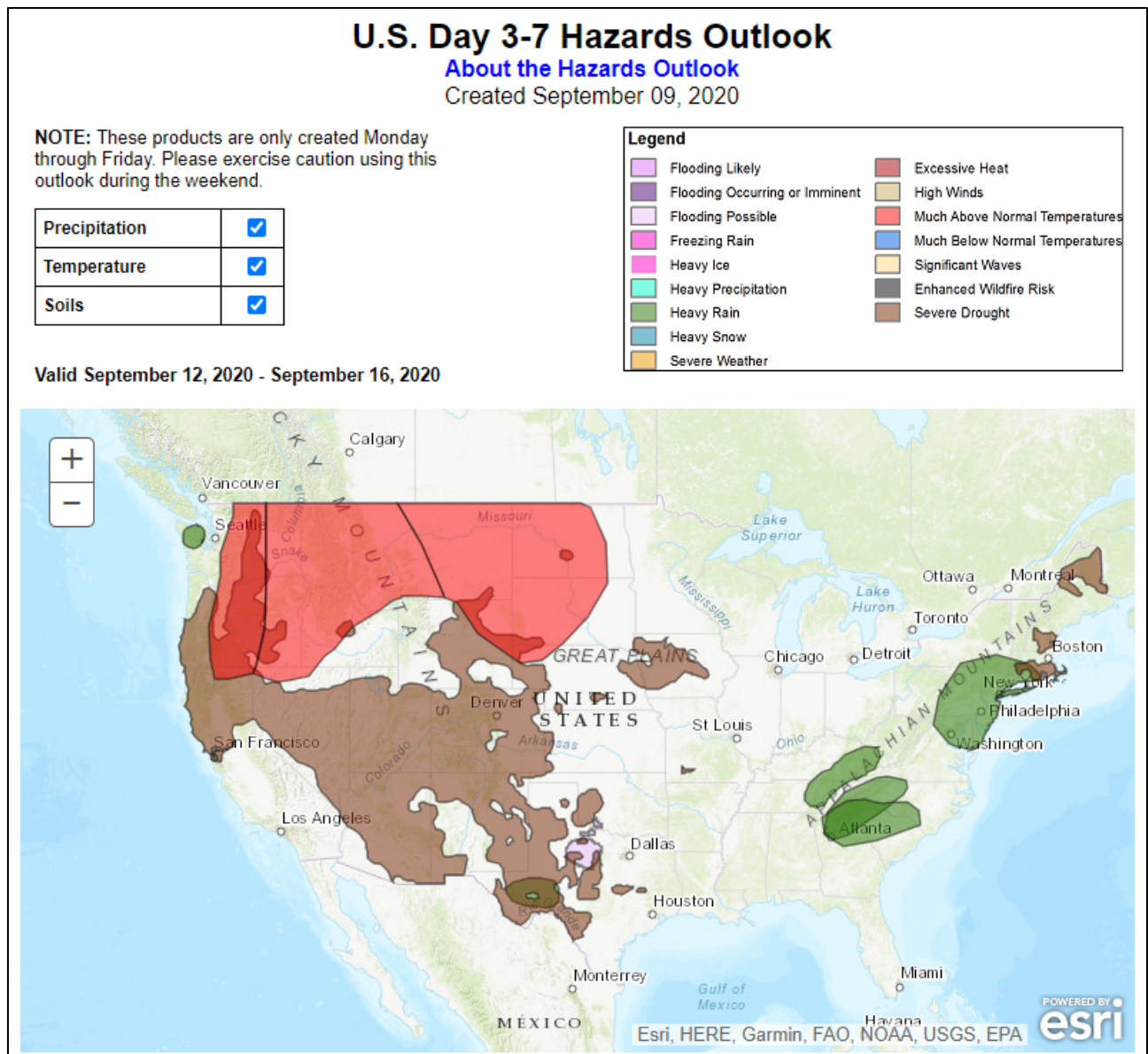
Agricultural Weather Highlights

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

National Outlook, Thursday, September 10, 2020: “During the next few days, temperatures will gradually rebound to near-normal levels across the Plains, Midwest, and Intermountain West. In fact, hot weather will return across the Northwest, with late-season heat expanding to encompass the remainder of the western U.S., as well as the northern Plains, late in the weekend and early next week. During the next 5 days, mostly dry weather will prevail in the Far West, aside from the arrival of a few showers early next week in the Pacific Northwest. Meanwhile, dry weather will return across the Plains and Midwest, as precipitation shifts into the southern and eastern U.S. By early next week, shower activity will be mostly limited to the South. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 15 – 19 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal temperatures nationwide, except for cooler-than-normal conditions in parts of western Texas and southeastern New Mexico. Meanwhile, wetter-than-normal weather in the Pacific Northwest and from the Gulf Coast northward into the Ohio Valley should contrast with near- or below-normal precipitation across the remainder of the country.”

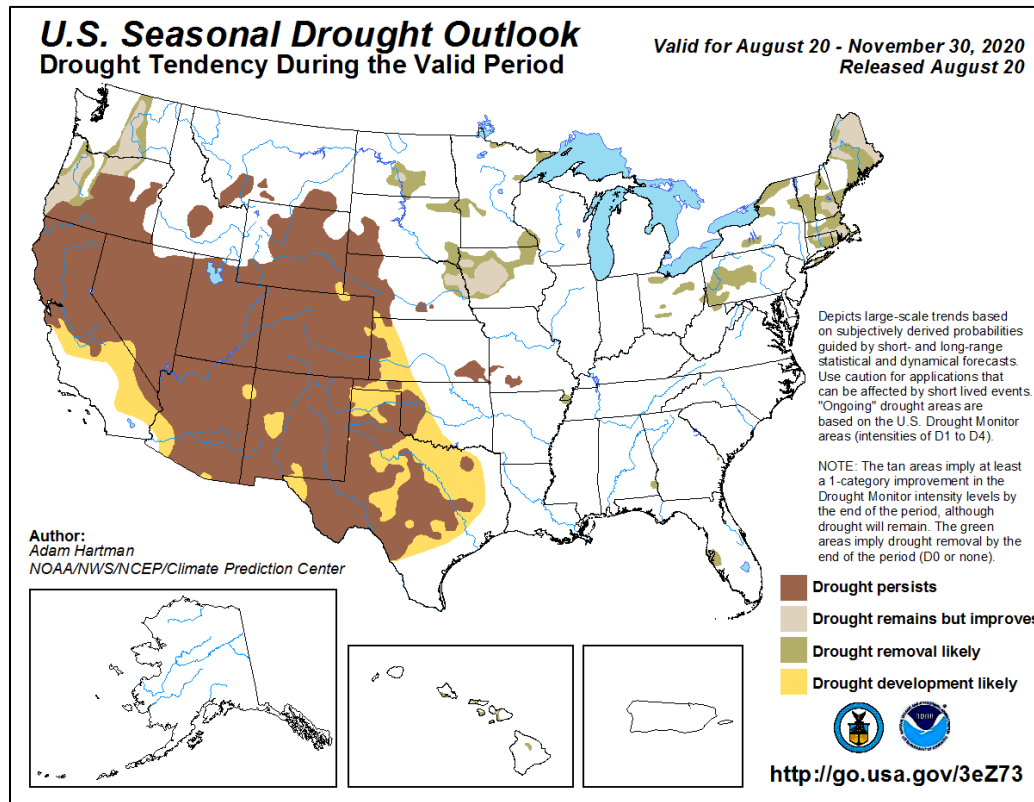
Weather Hazards Outlook: [September 12 – 16, 2020](#)

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center



Seasonal Drought Outlook: [August 20 – November 30, 2020](#)

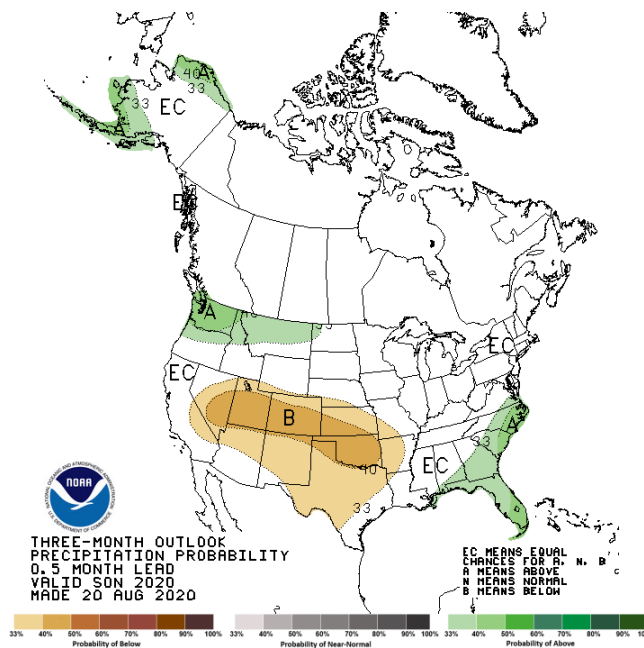
Source: National Weather Service



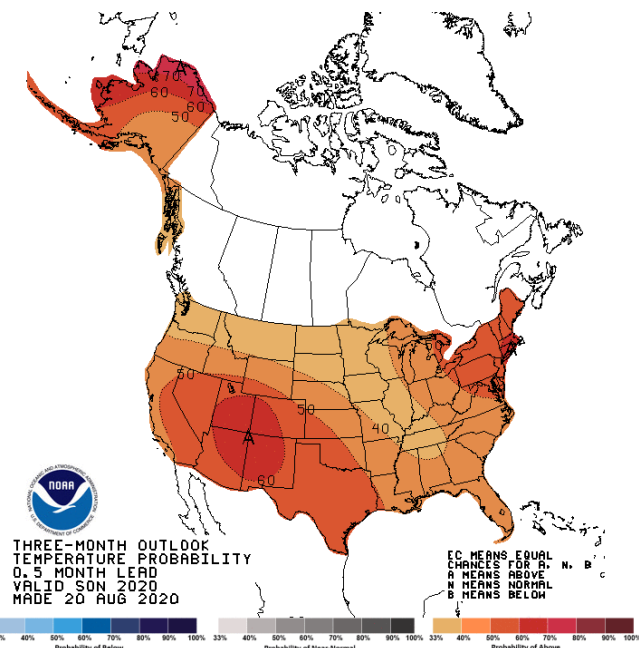
Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

[Precipitation](#)



[Temperature](#)



[September-October-November \(SON\) 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](#).