

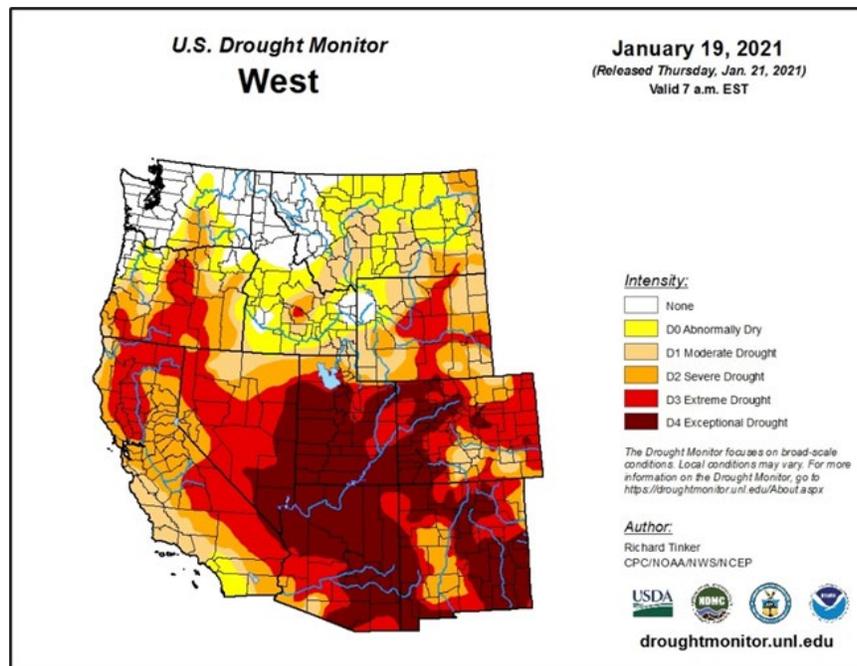
Water and Climate Update

January 21, 2021

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	2	Drought	10
Precipitation	4	Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators	13
Temperature.....	8	More Information	19

Southwest drought areas forecasted to receive inches of precipitation



Powerful winds in Central and Southern California early this week fanned long-smoldering brush fires and toppled trees and power poles. Winds up to 85 mph were reported in San Diego County. Power outages were reported for nearly 270,000 customers. The extreme drought that has gripped the Southwest is predicted to get some relief with a Pacific storm system aiming for the area. Heavy precipitation of 1 to 3 or more inches is forecasted across Southern California and Arizona, with potentially more rain and snow to follow.

Related:

[Powerful Santa Ana wind event kindles January wildfires in California](#) – Washington Post

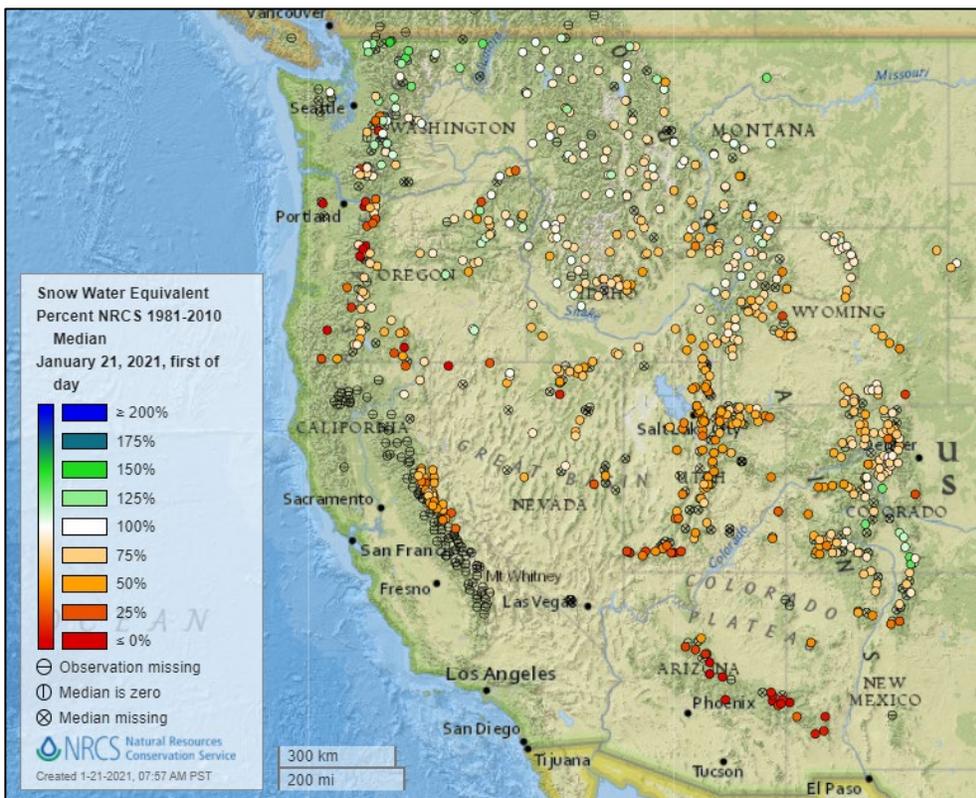
[California winds easing after sparking fires, power outages](#) - ABC

[Drought conditions continue in California due to a La Niña weather pattern](#) – KRCR Chico-Redding (CA)

[Nearly 2 years' worth of rainfall is possible in parts of Southern California over the next week](#) – CNN

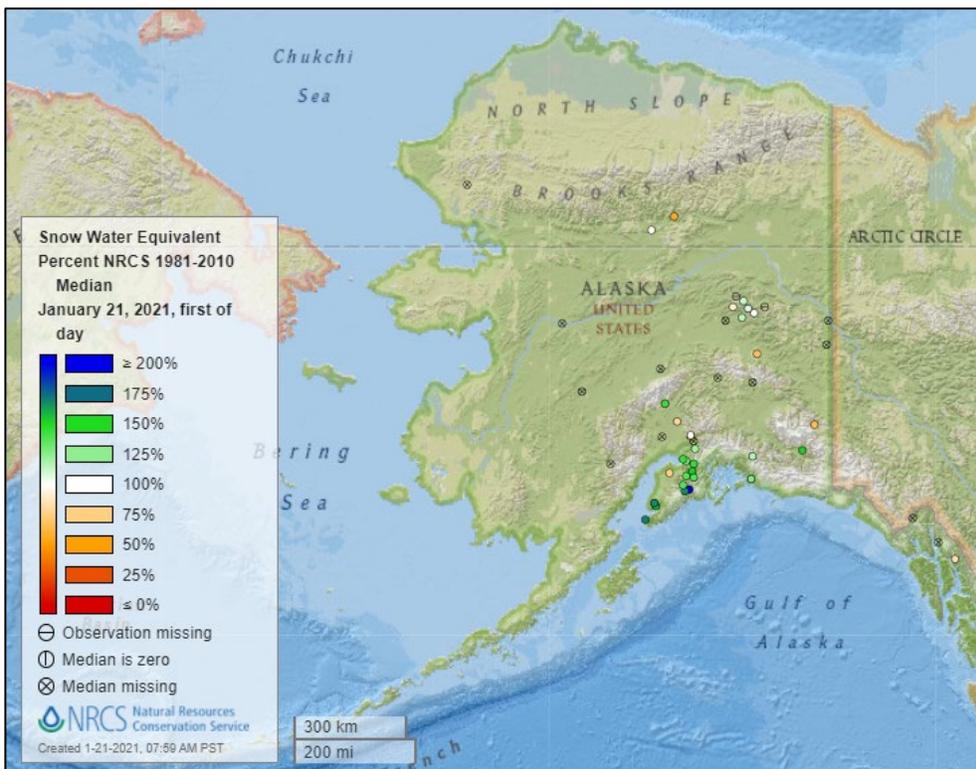
[Rain, snow on tap for drought-weary Southwest](#) – Fox 10 Phoenix (AZ)

Snow



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

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

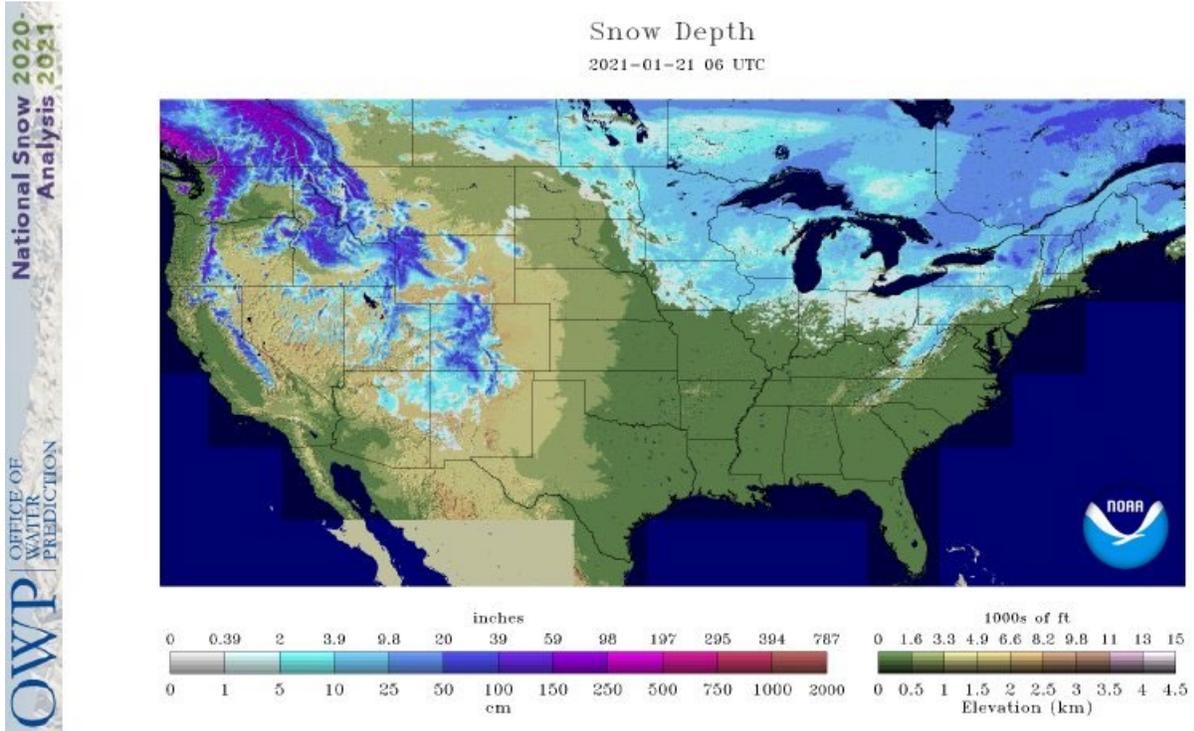


[Alaska snow water equivalent percent of median map](#)

See also:
[Alaska snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)

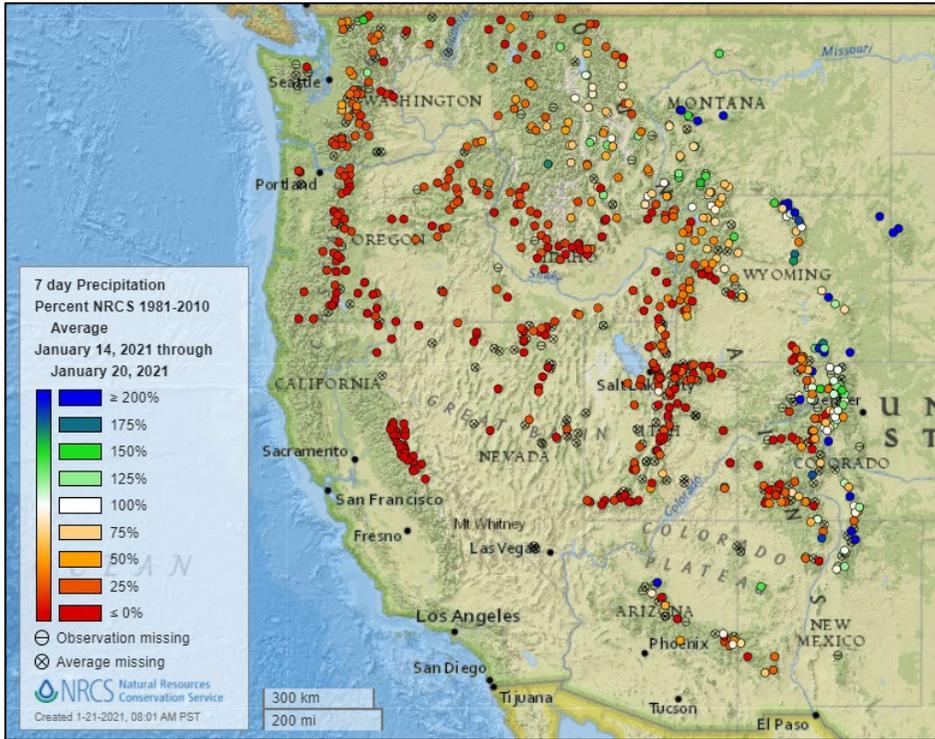
Current Snow Depth, National Weather Service Snow Analysis

Source: NOAA Office of Water Prediction



Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

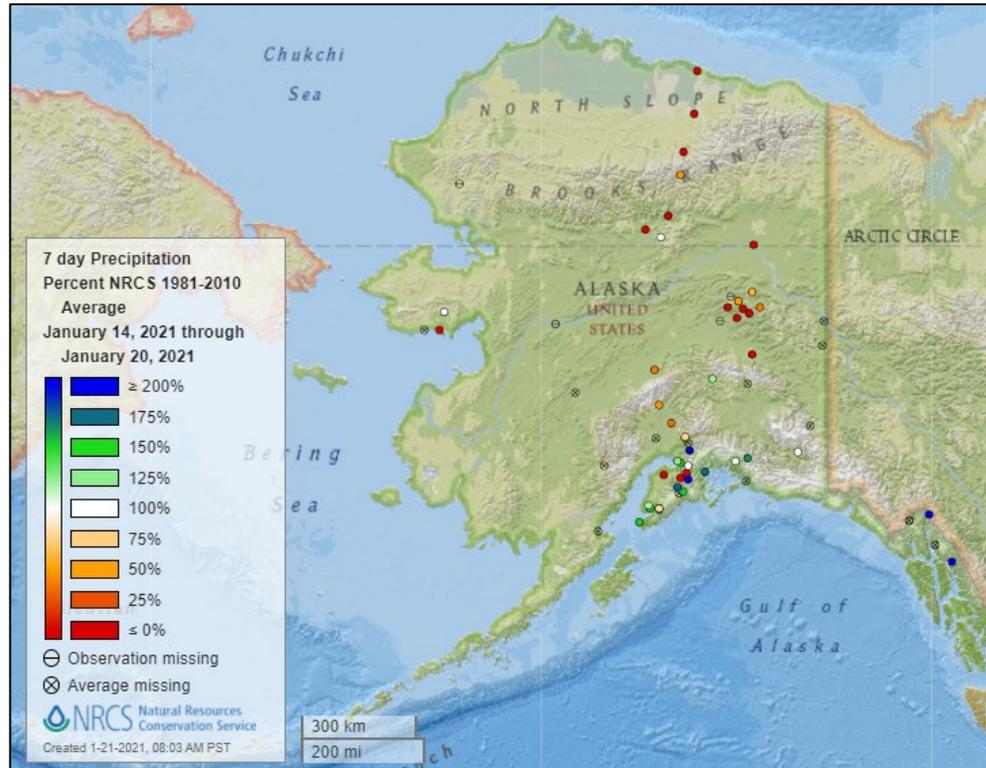


[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

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](#)



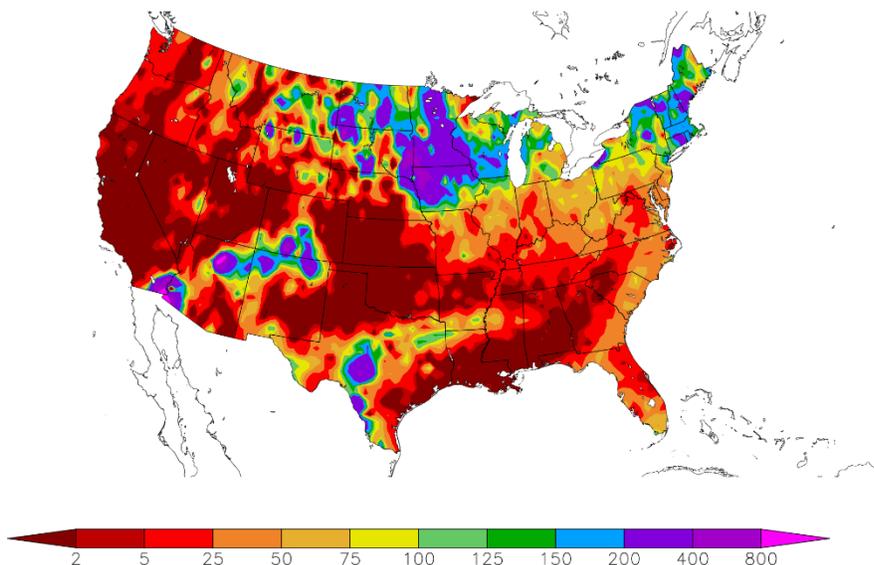
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)
1/14/2021 – 1/20/2021



Generated 1/21/2021 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

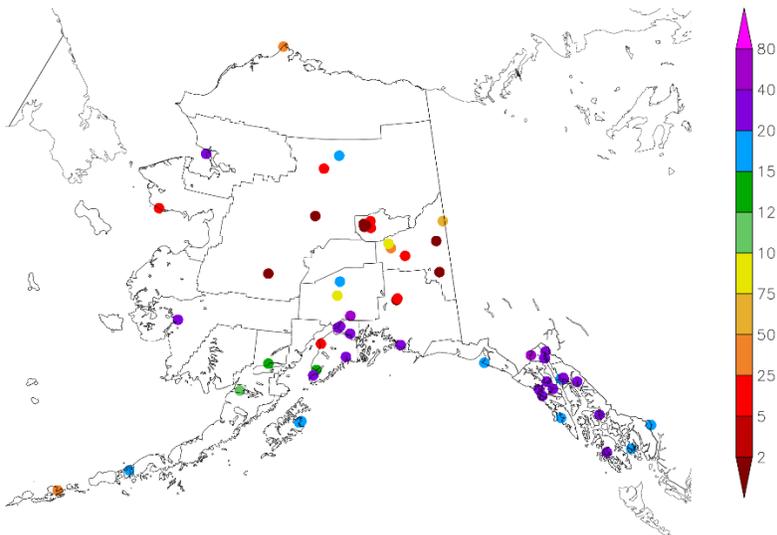
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
1/14/2021 – 1/20/2021



Generated 1/21/2021 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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

Source: PRISM

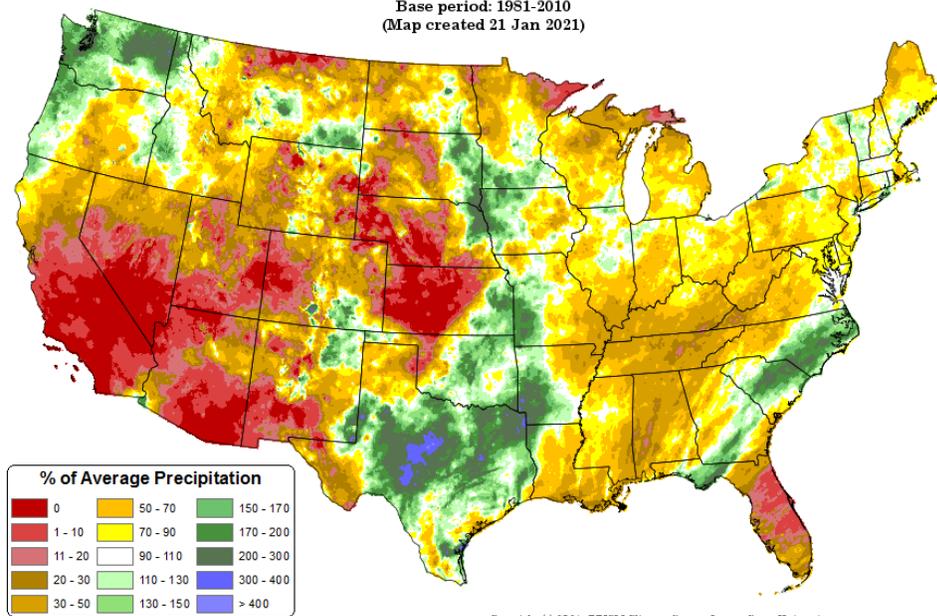
Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Jan 2021 - 20 Jan 2021

Period ending 7 AM EST 20 Jan 2021

Base period: 1981-2010

(Map created 21 Jan 2021)

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



Copyright (c) 2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

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

Source: PRISM

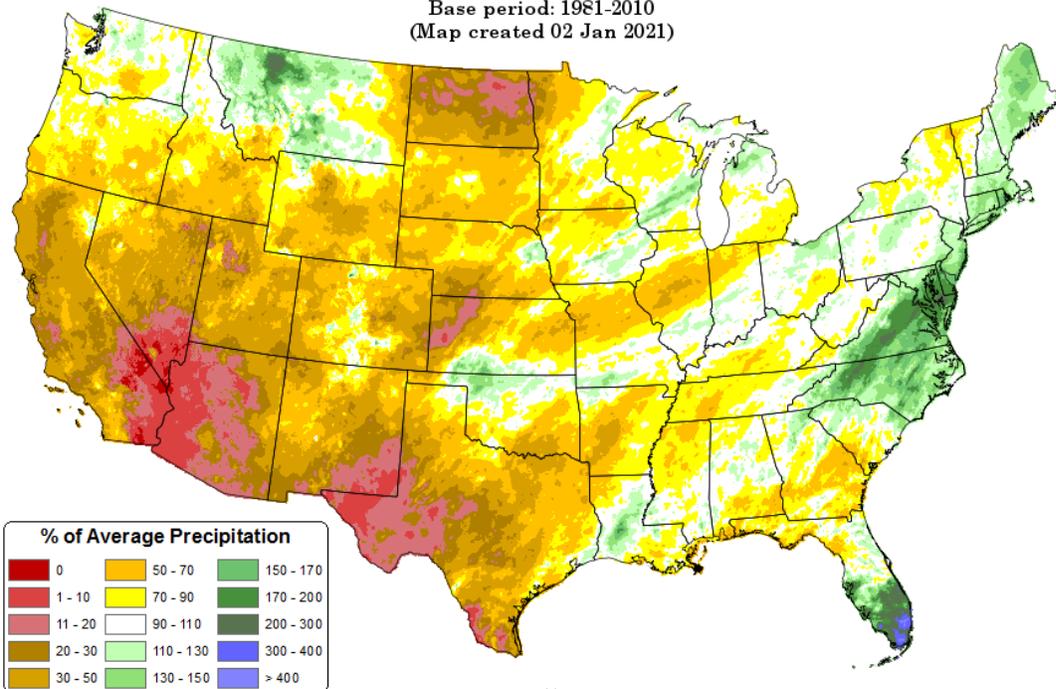
[October through December precipitation percent of average map](#)

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Oct 2020 - Dec 2020

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2020

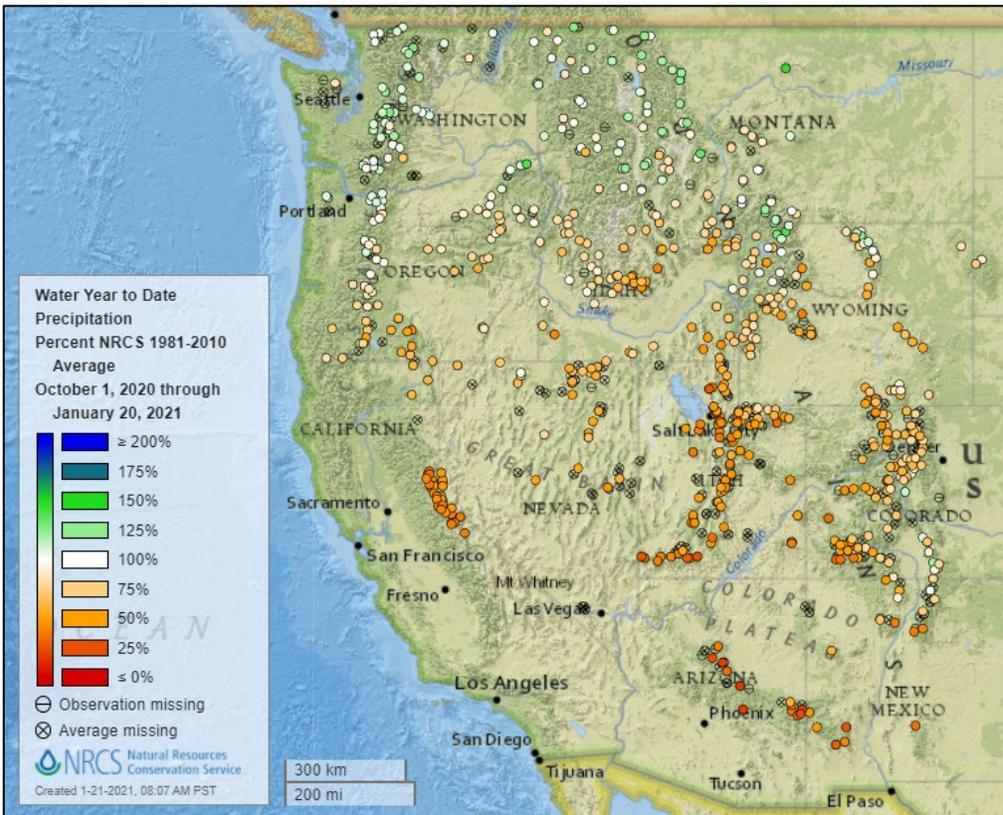
Base period: 1981-2010

(Map created 02 Jan 2021)



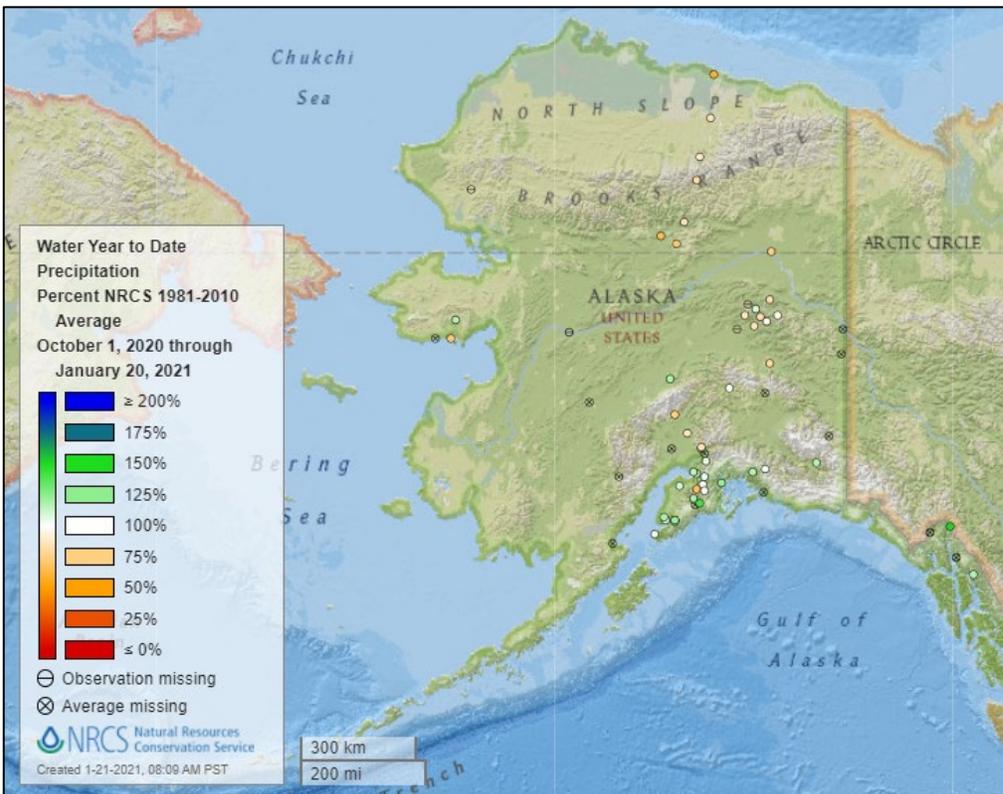
Copyright (c) 2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network



[2021 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also:
[2021 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



[Alaska 2021 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also:
[Alaska 2021 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Temperature

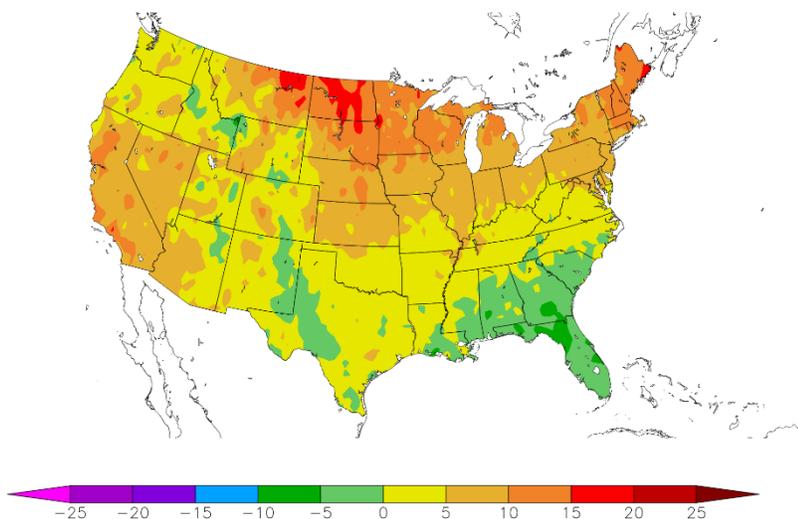
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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)
1/14/2021 – 1/20/2021



Generated 1/21/2021 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

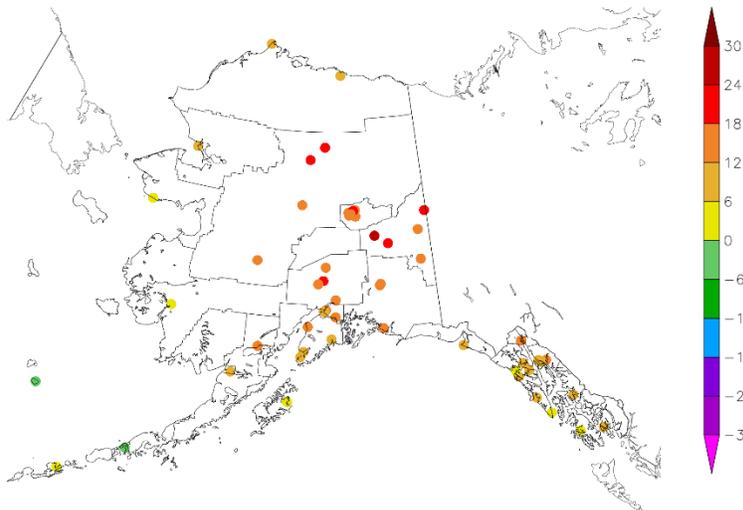
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/14/2021 – 1/20/2021



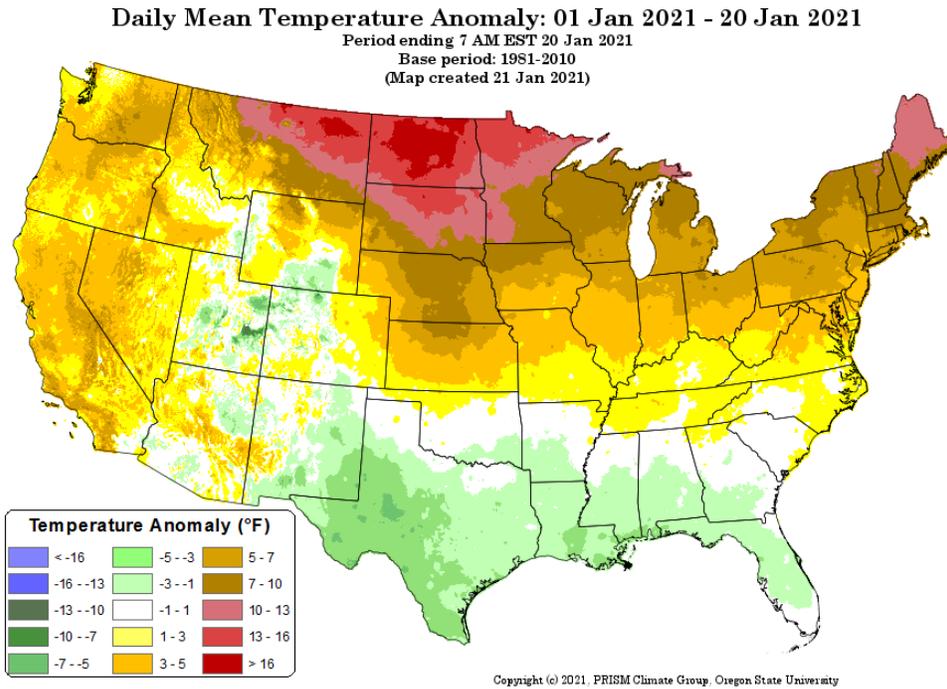
Generated 1/21/2021 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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

Source: PRISM

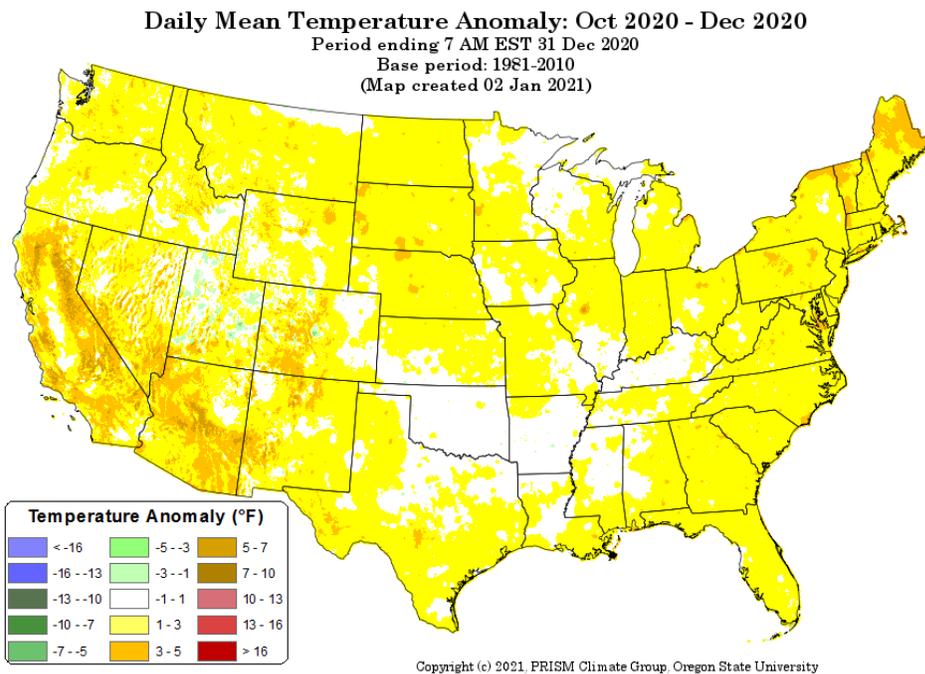
[Month-to-date national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



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

Source: PRISM

[October through December 2020 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



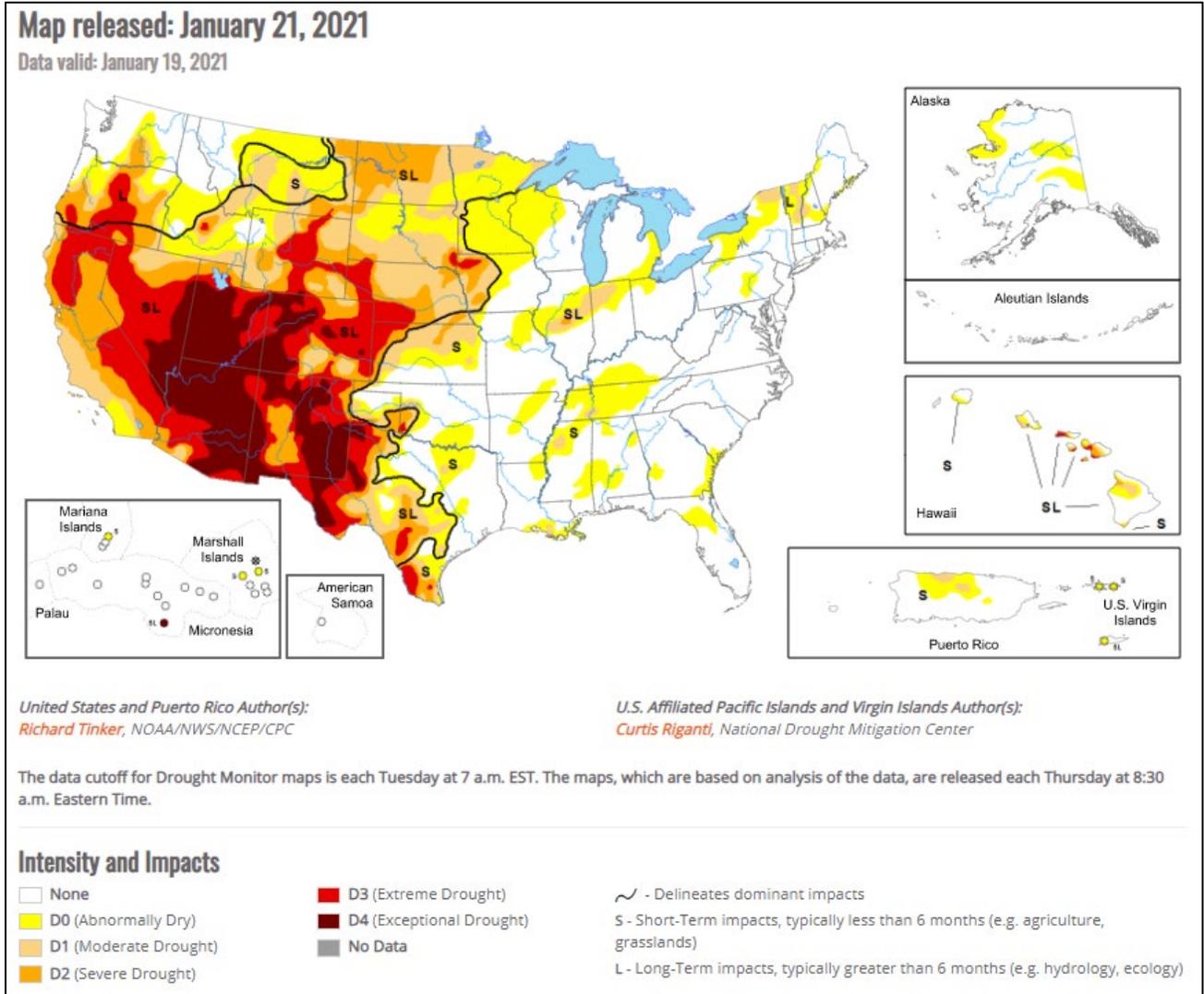
Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA



Current [National Drought Summary](#), January 21, 2021

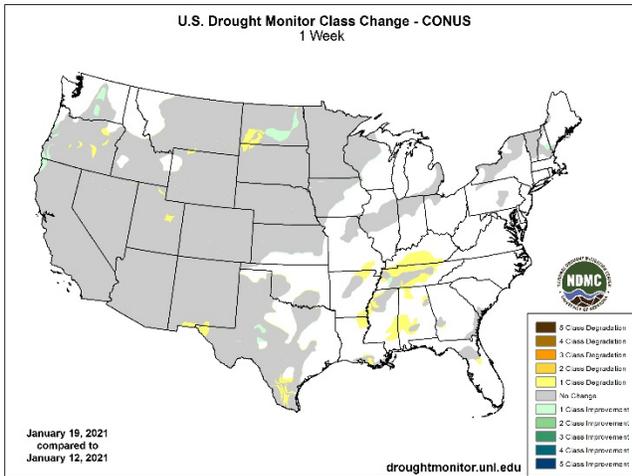
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“In contrast to the prior week, most of the country had a relatively dry week, with the significant exception of the Pacific Northwest and northern Intermountain West. Amounts over 1.5 inches were common, with parts of the Cascades and the coastline recording 4 to as much as 8 inches of precipitation. Elsewhere, most of New England had moderate precipitation, with over 1.5 inches falling on southern Maine and adjacent New Hampshire. Areas from the upper Midwest eastward through the Great Lakes Region and lower Northeast recorded 0.25 to locally 1.0 inch, but the entire remainder of the nation received little or none. But given the time of year, the dry week did not lead to widespread deterioration. Most areas did not change, and significant improvement was limited to the Pacific Northwest.”

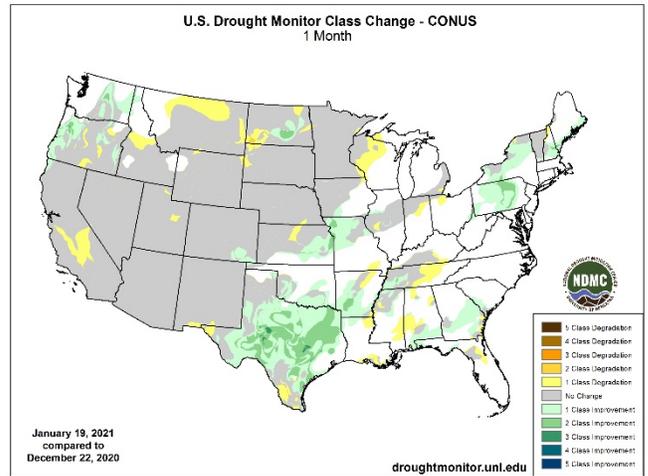
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

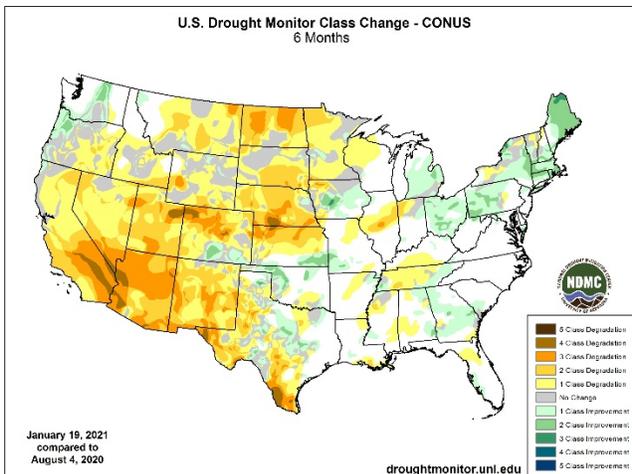
1 Week



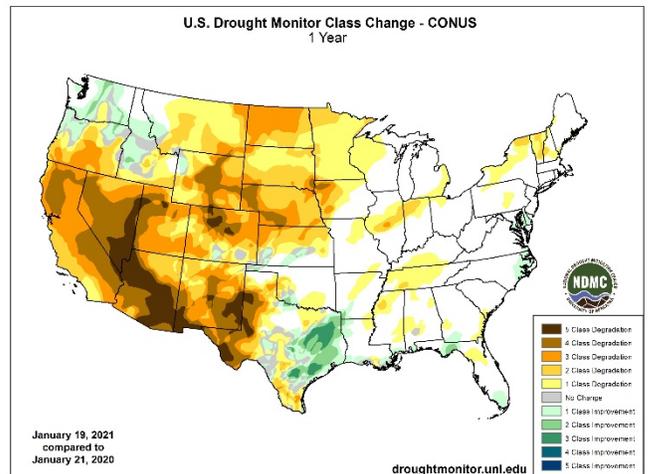
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



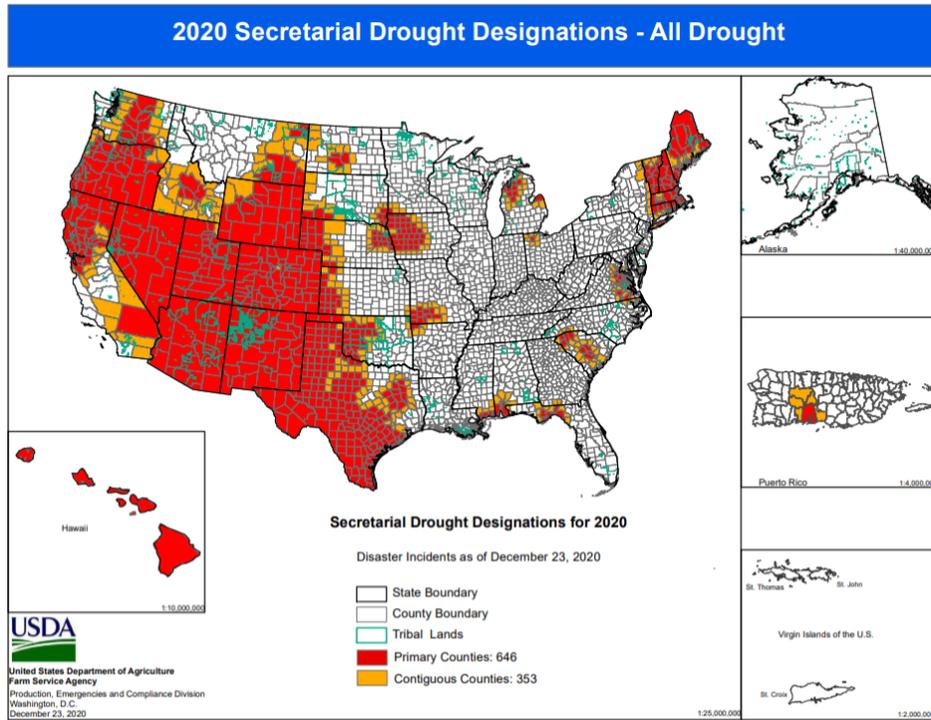
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

Highlighted Drought Resources

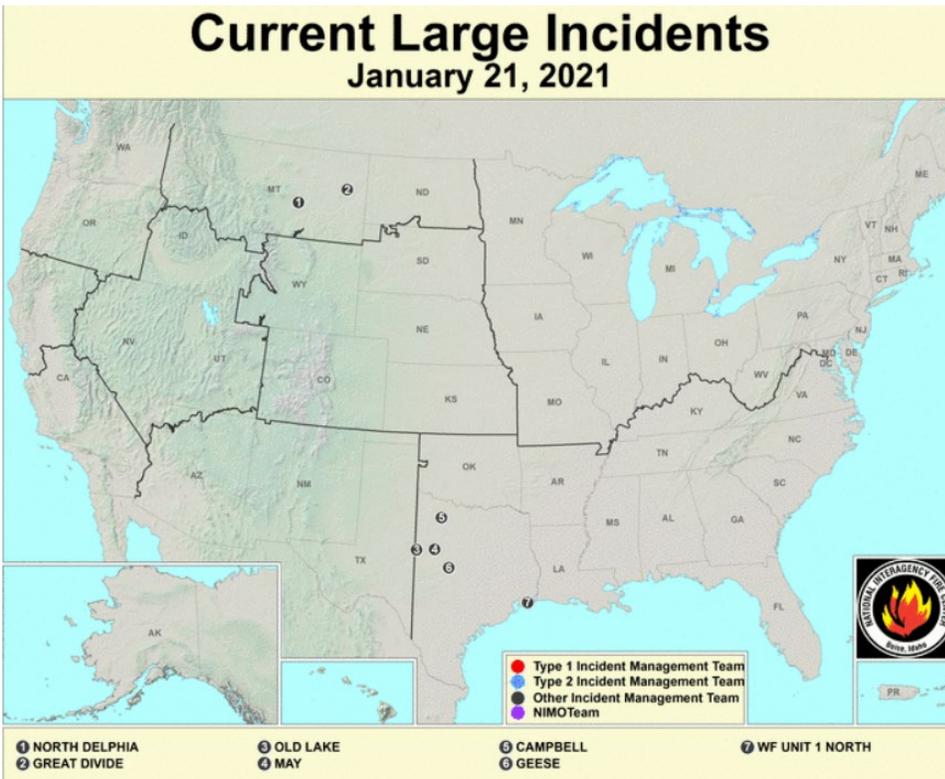
- [Drought Impact Reporter](#)
- [Quarterly Regional Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- [U.S. Drought Portal Indicators and Monitoring](#)
- [U.S. Population in Drought, Weekly Comparison](#)
- [USDA Disaster and Drought Information](#)

Secretarial [Drought Designations](#)

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency



Wildfires: [USDA Forest Service Active Fire Mapping](#)



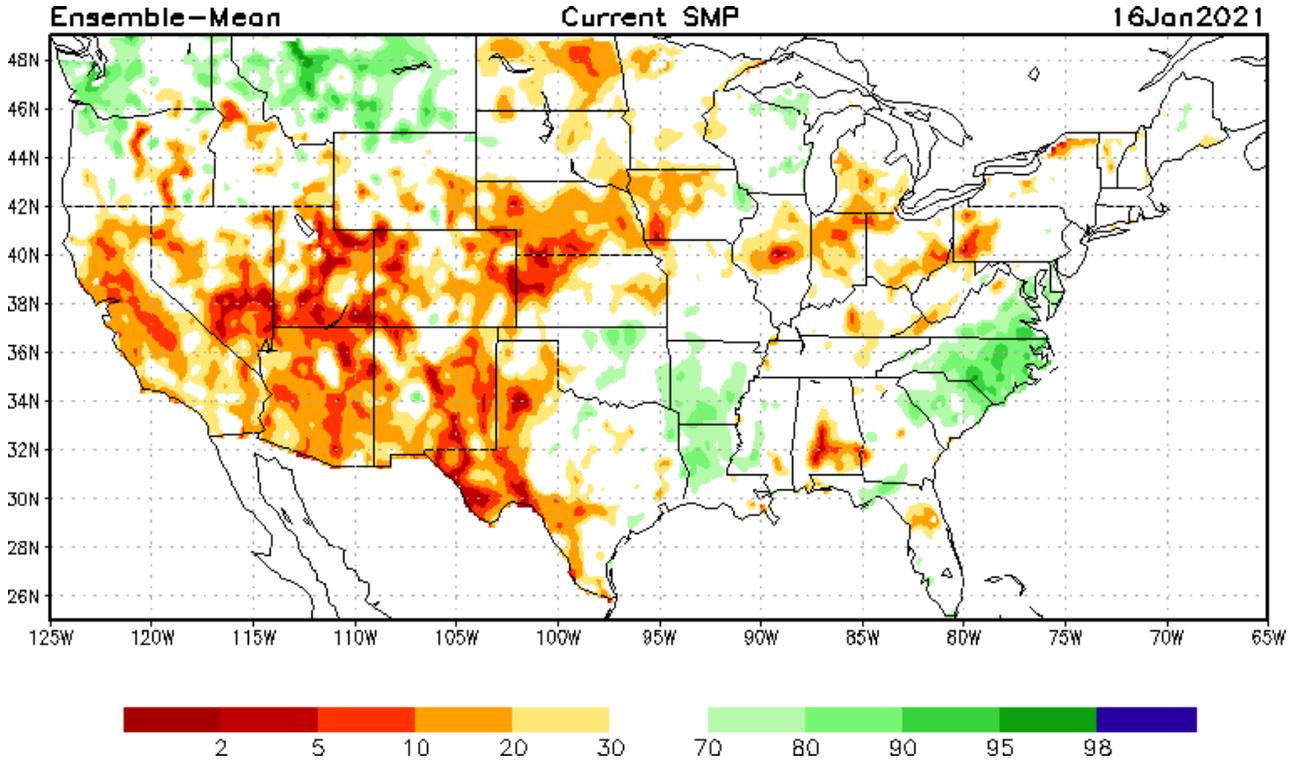
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

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

Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

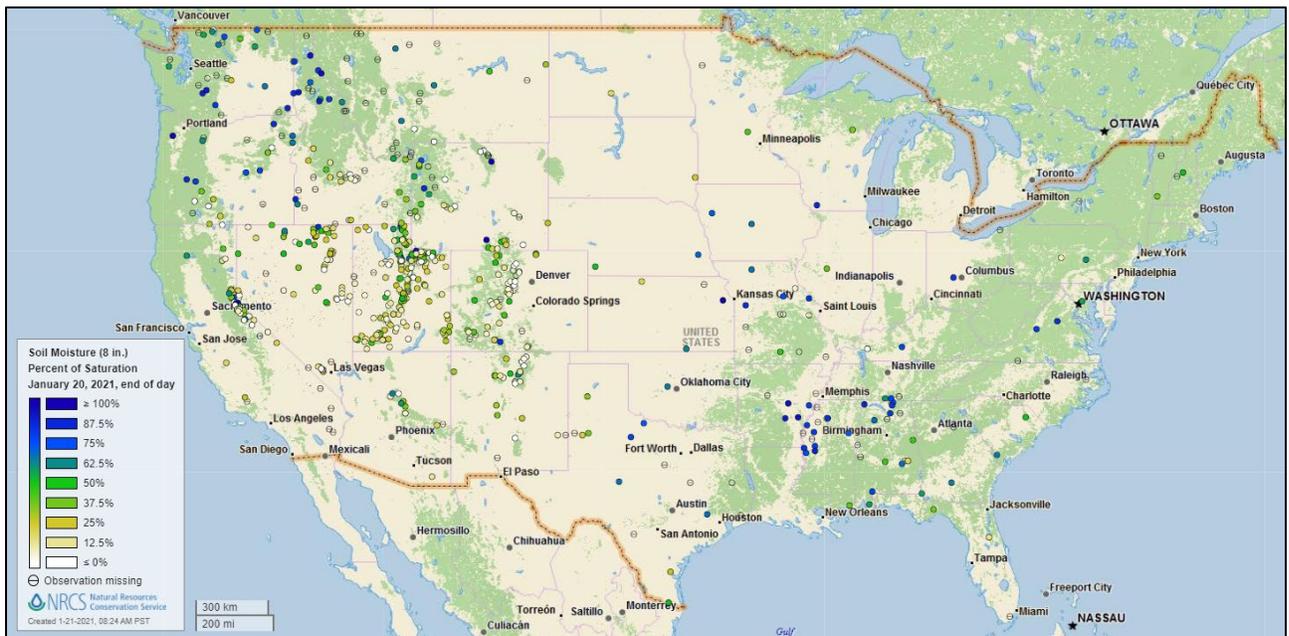
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of January 16, 2021

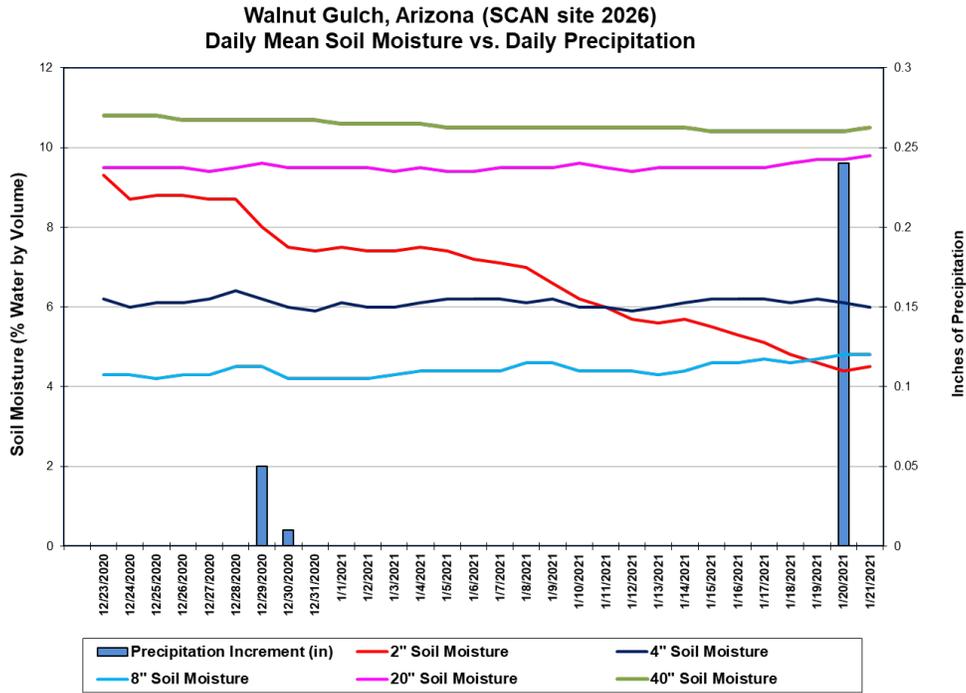
Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

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 [Walnut Gulch](#) SCAN site in Arizona. Dry soil conditions were reported during the last 30 days. Precipitation of 0.25 inches on January 20, 2021 increased the total for the month to 0.30 inches. Soil moisture at the -2-inch sensor shows a slight increase.

Soil Moisture Data Portals

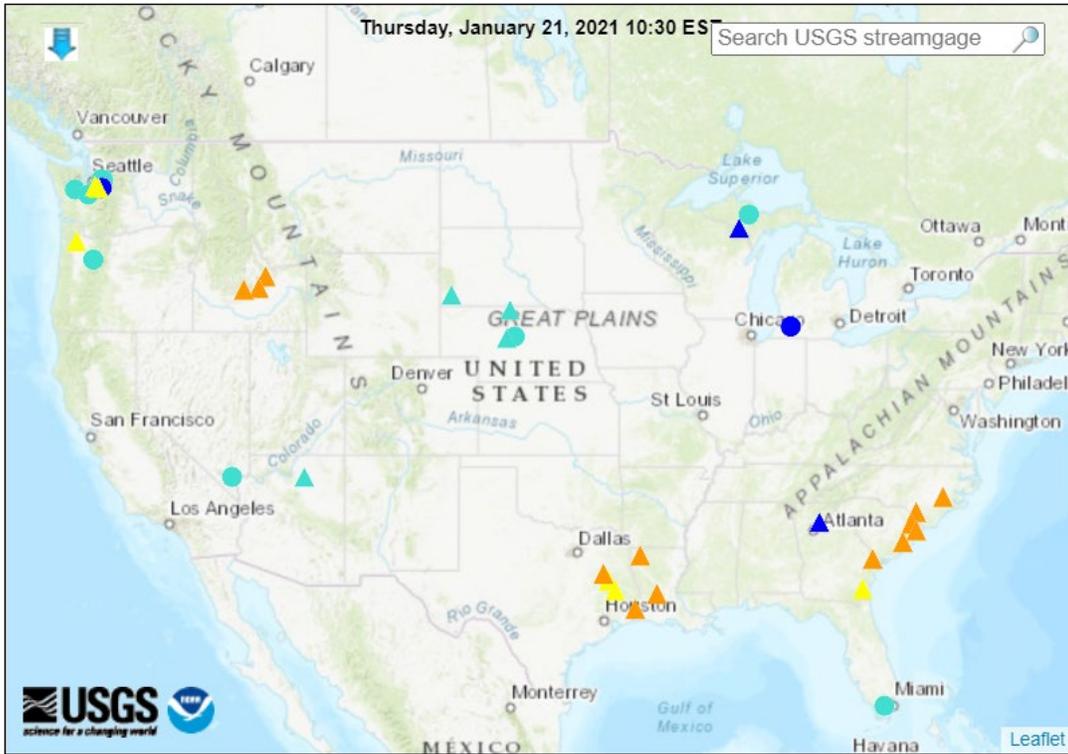
- [CRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [Texas A&M University North American Soil Moisture Database](#)
- [University of Washington Experimental Modeled Soil Moisture](#)

Streamflow, Drought, Flood, and Runoff

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Map of flood and high flow conditions

(13 in floods [major: 1, minor: 12], 6 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](#)

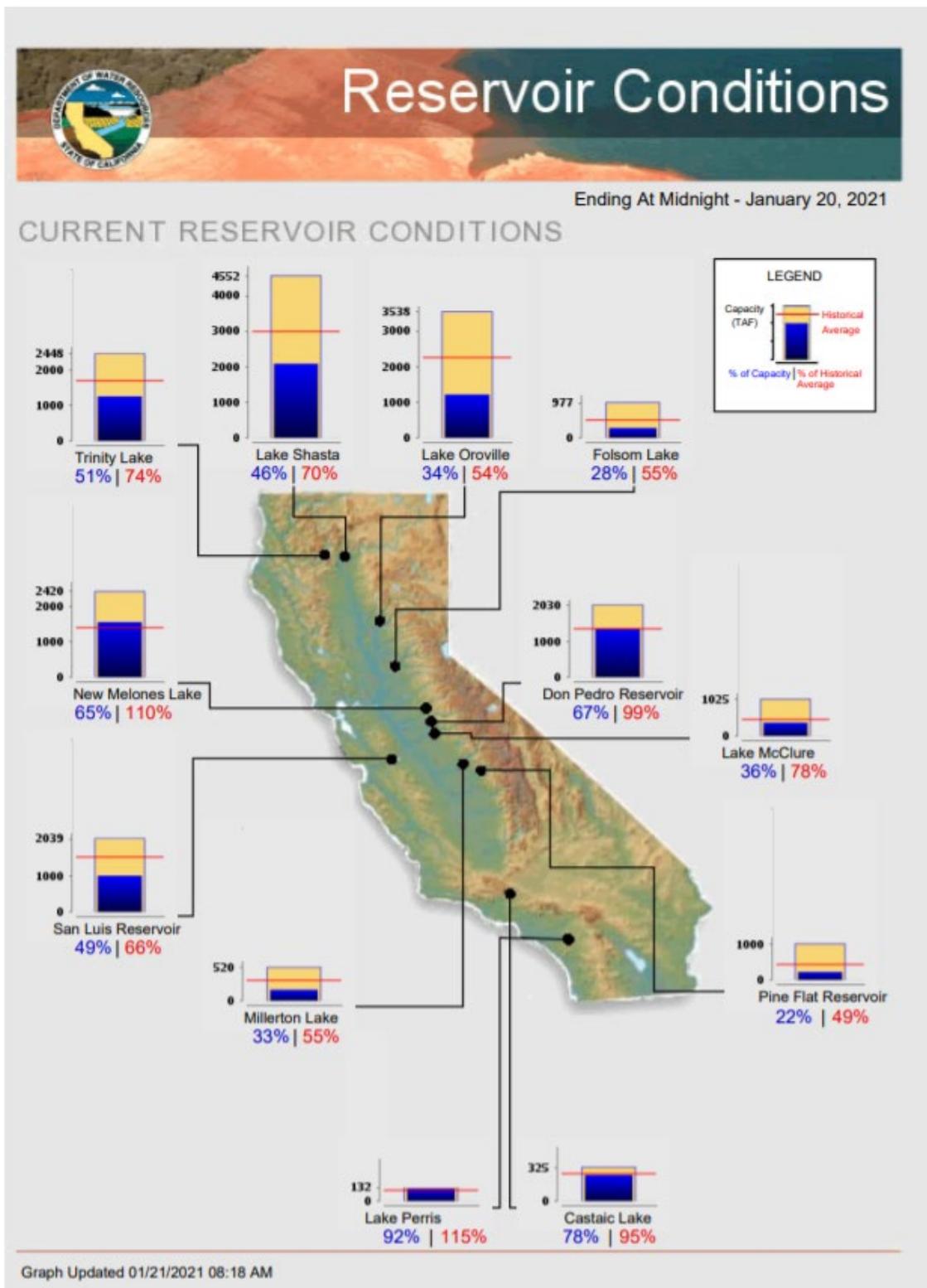
Reservoir Storage

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, January 21, 2021: “Southern rain showers will continue to shift eastward, ending on Friday. Meanwhile, a new Western storm system will drift southward near the Pacific Coast before turning eastward into the Four Corners States. A second storm will follow the first in diving southward along the West Coast. As a result, 5-day precipitation totals could reach 1 to 2 inches or more along and near the Pacific Coast, including parts of California. Similar totals may occur in the Southwest. Meanwhile, rain could become heavy early next week across the interior South, leading to 5-day rainfall totals of at least 1 to 3 inches. Elsewhere, weekend snow may blanket parts of the Midwest, with the threat of wintry weather shifting by early next week into the mid-Atlantic. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for January 26 – 30 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal temperatures in most areas from the Plains to the East Coast, while colder-than-normal conditions will prevail in the West and from the mid-Atlantic into southern New England. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal precipitation across most of the country should contrast with drier-than-normal weather in southern Florida, southern and western Texas, central and eastern Montana, and from the lower Great Lakes region into the Northeast.”

Weather Hazards Outlook: [January 23 – 27, 2021](#)

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center

U.S. Day 3-7 Hazards Outlook

[About the Hazards Outlook](#)

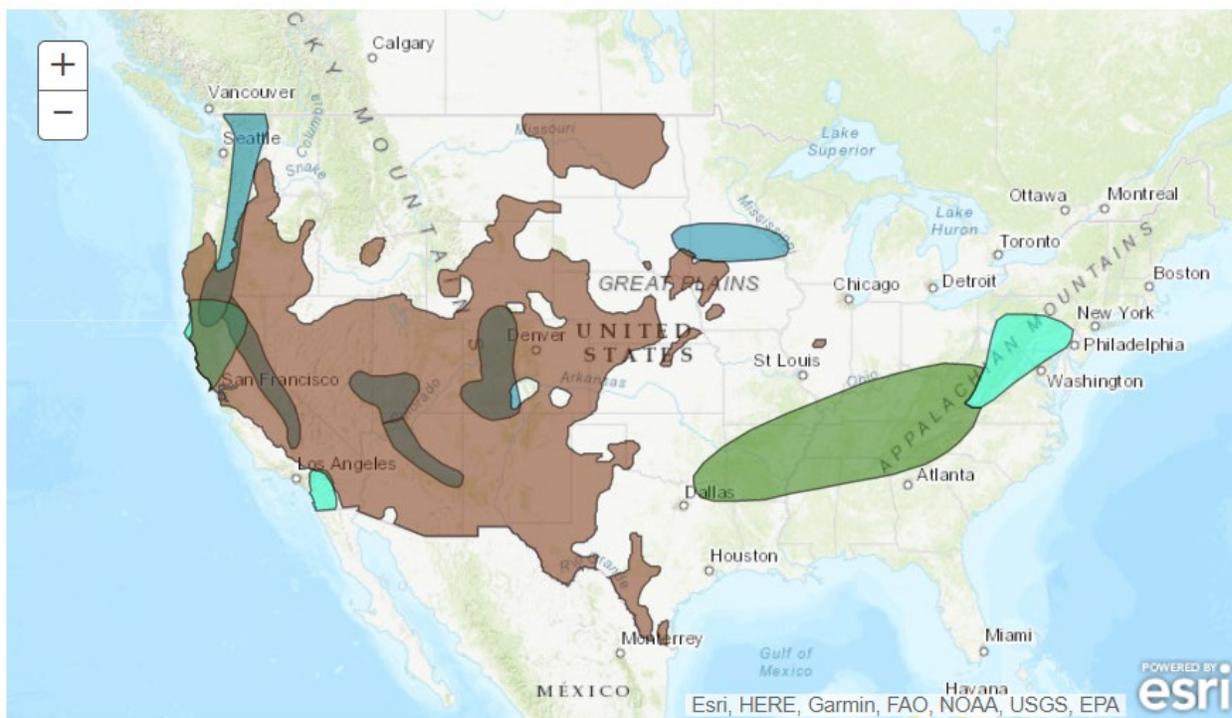
Created January 20, 2021

NOTE: These products are only created Monday through Friday. Please exercise caution using this outlook during the weekend.

Precipitation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Temperature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Legend			
	Flooding Likely		Excessive Heat
	Flooding Occurring or Imminent		High Winds
	Flooding Possible		Much Above Normal Temperatures
	Freezing Rain		Much Below Normal Temperatures
	Heavy Ice		Significant Waves
	Heavy Precipitation		Enhanced Wildfire Risk
	Heavy Rain		Severe Drought
	Heavy Snow		
	Severe Weather		

Valid January 23, 2021 - January 27, 2021

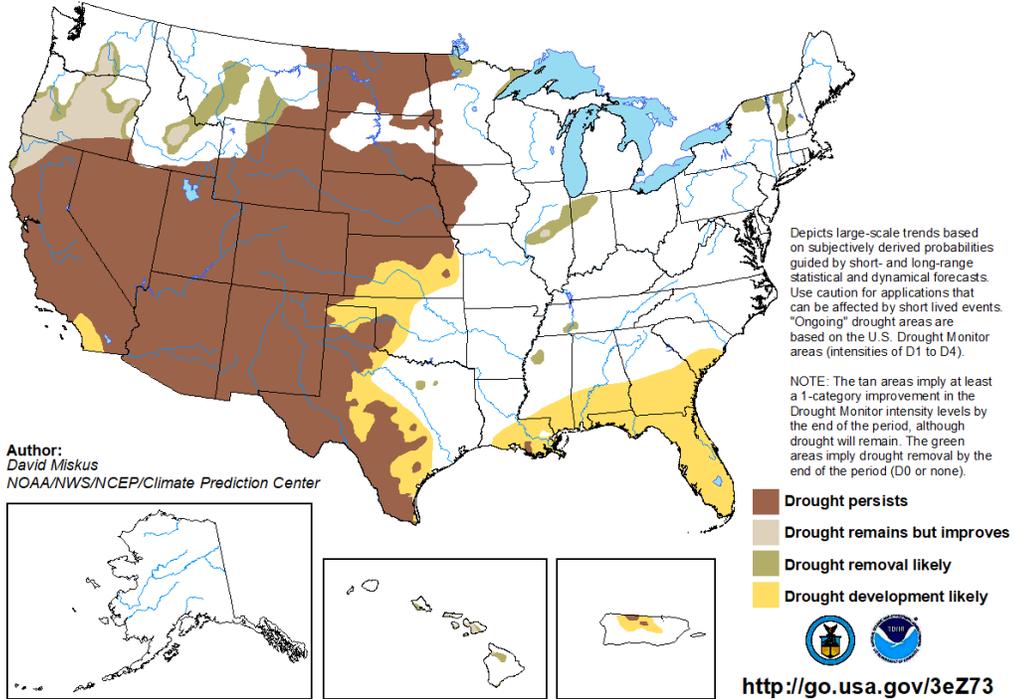


Seasonal Drought Outlook: [January 21, 2021 – April 30, 2021](#)

Source: National Weather Service

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

Valid for January 21 - April 30, 2021
Released January 21

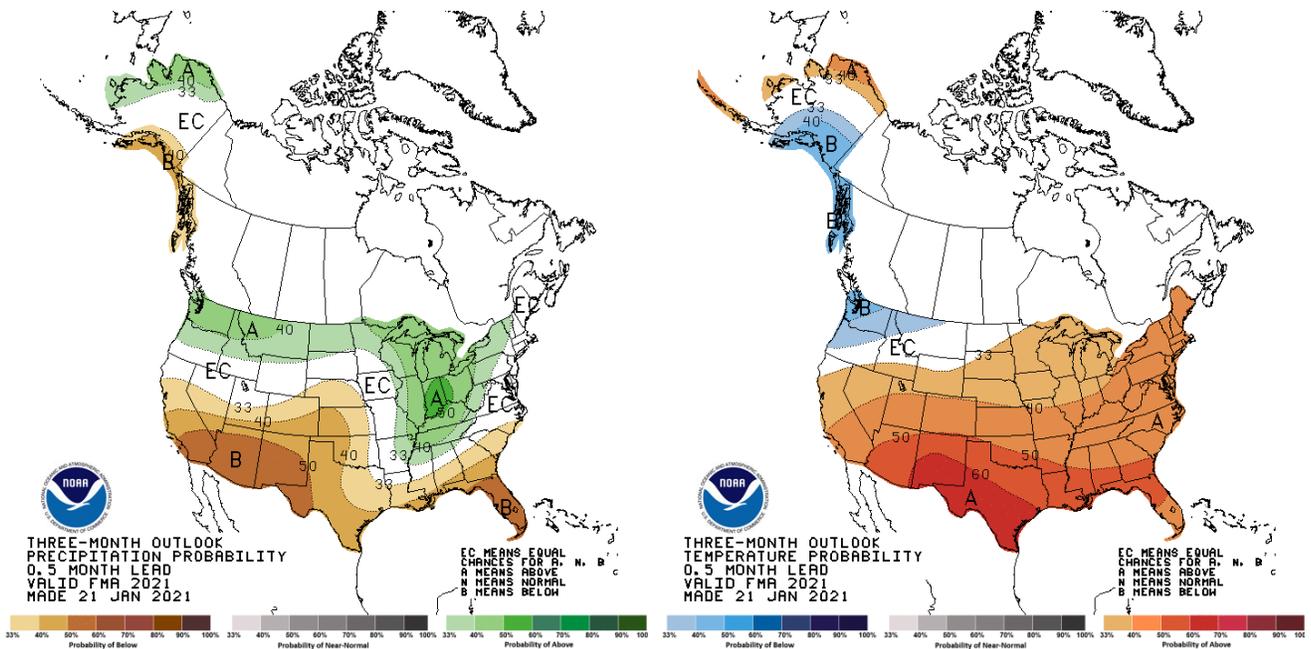


Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

Precipitation

Temperature



[February-March-April \(FMA\) 2021 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](#).