United States Department of Agriculture

Water and Climate Update

August 6, 2026

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 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.

Fires rage in the Pacific Northwest

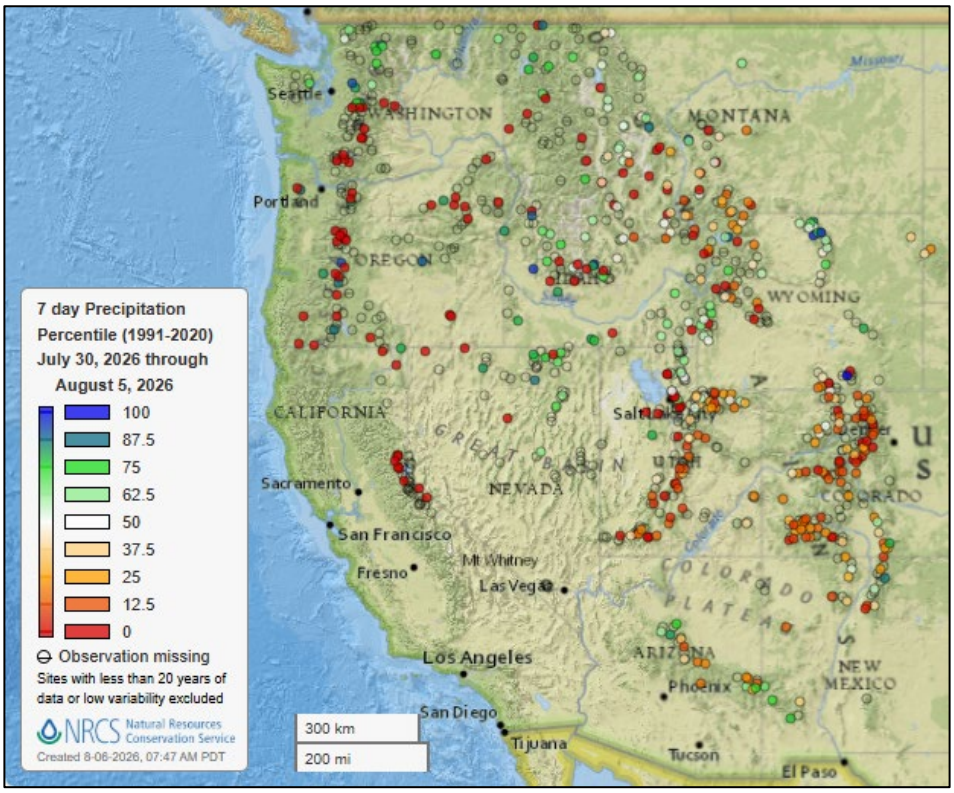
Spokane Area Fires photo courtesy of InciWeb

As of August 6, the Pacific Northwest has the most wildfire activity in the country with 44 large, uncontained fires burning according to the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC). Over 2 million acres have been scorched across Oregon and Washington so far this year. The wildfires have destroyed hundreds of homes and structures in the region, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate. Subsequently, air quality has degraded to hazardous levels in the Northwest. Some air quality index values in the area have exceeded 1,000 parts per million, with index values 300 or greater classified as Hazardous, the highest and most dangerous rating of particle pollution.

Related:
What is the U.S. Air Quality Index (AQI)? – Airnow
Fire and smoke map – U.S. EPA and U.S. Forest Service
Fire Information – NIFC
Fire incident information – INCIWEB
Wildfire Shuts Down Mt. Hood Meadows and Timberline Summer Operations – Teton Gravity
Firefighters get a handle on Spokane wildfires as tens of thousands remain evacuated – Oregon Public Broadcasting

Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

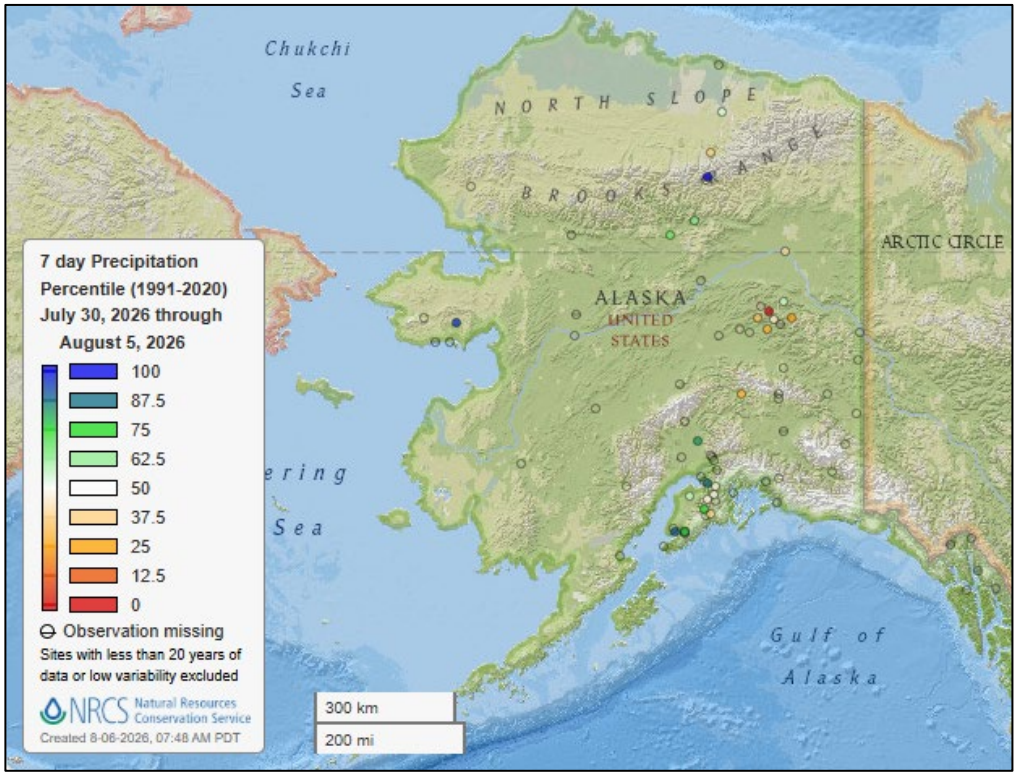


[7-day precipitation percentile map]

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

[Alaska 7-day precipitation percentile map]

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

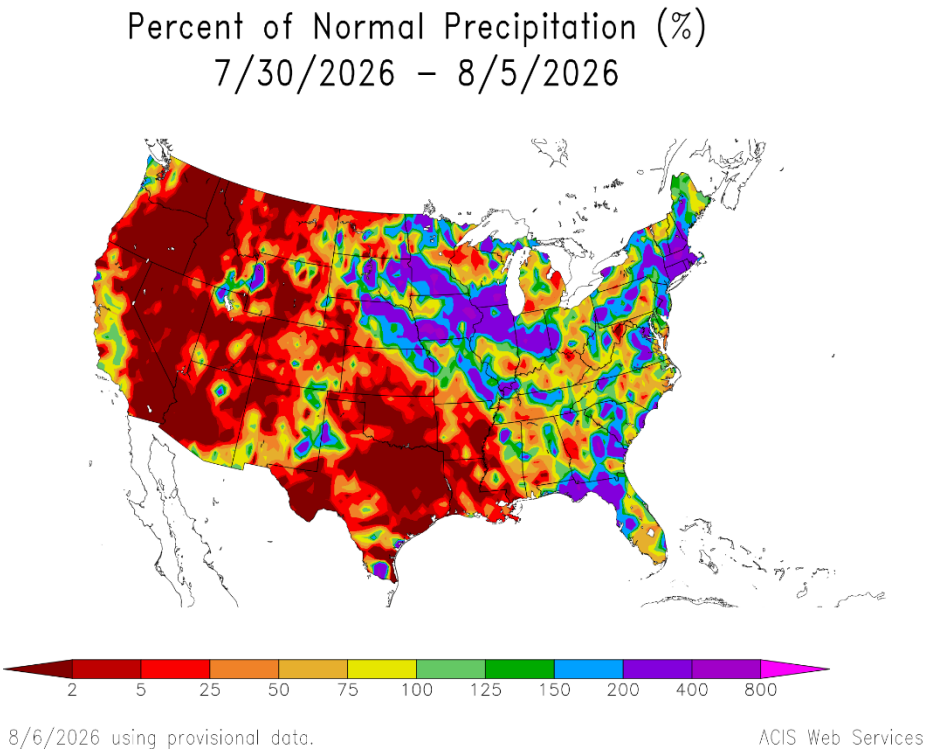


Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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

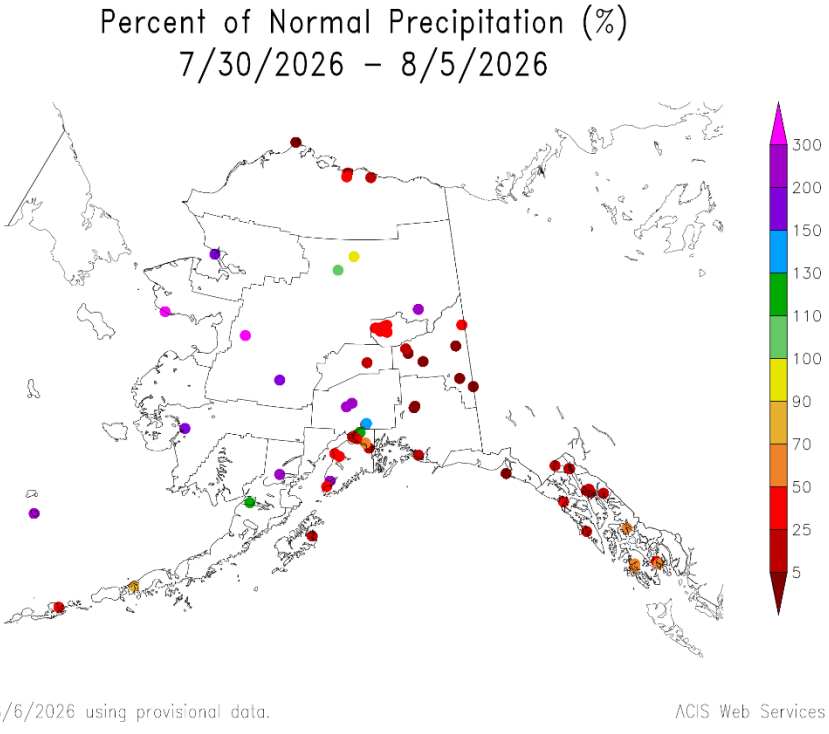


Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

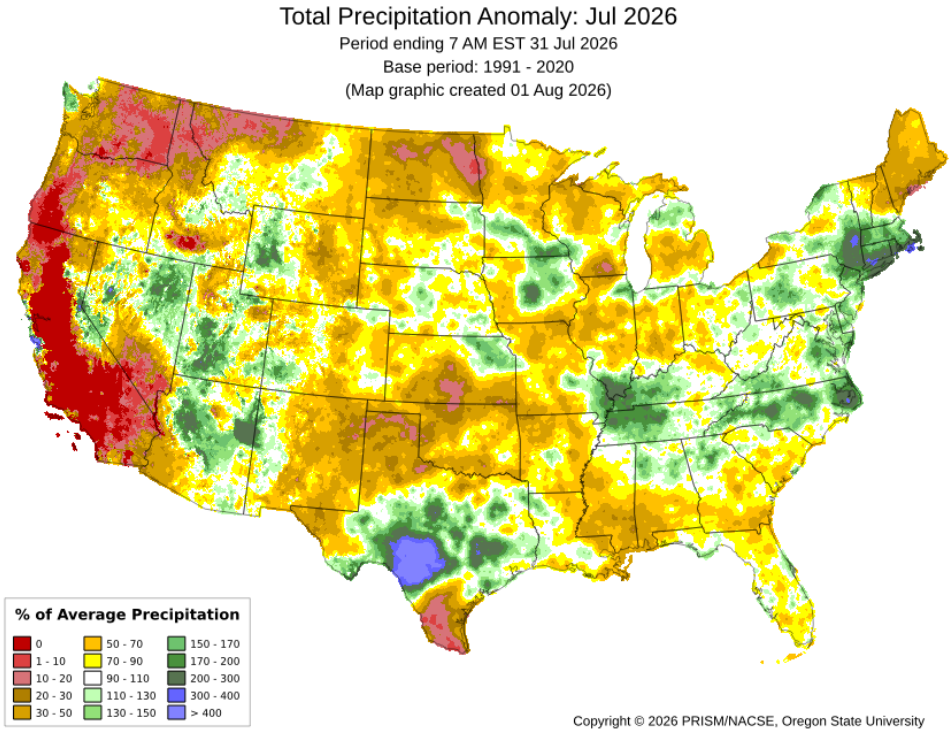
7-day precipitation percent of normal map for Alaska.

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



Monthly, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

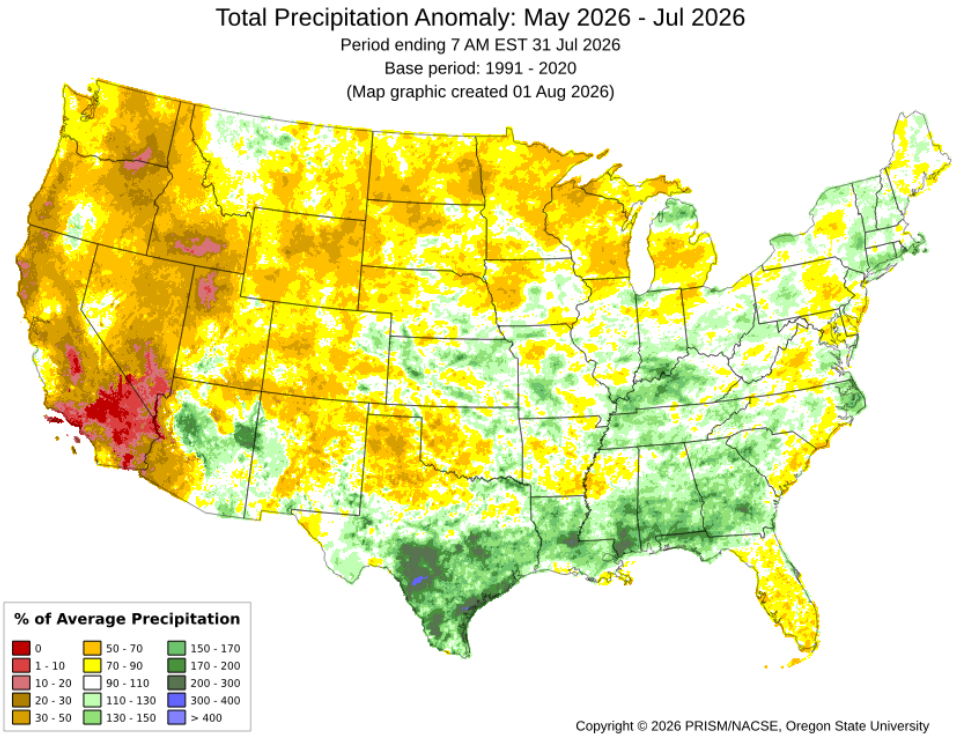


[Monthly national total precipitation anomaly map]

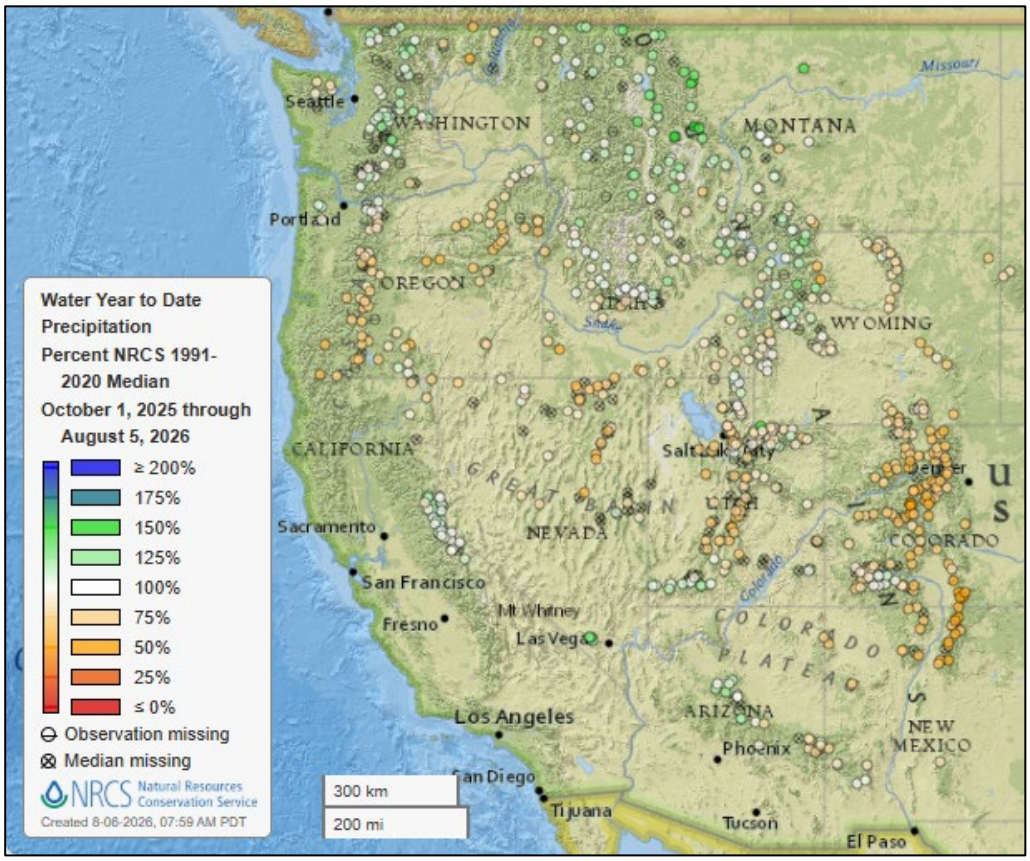
Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

[May through July 2026 precipitation anomaly map]



Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network

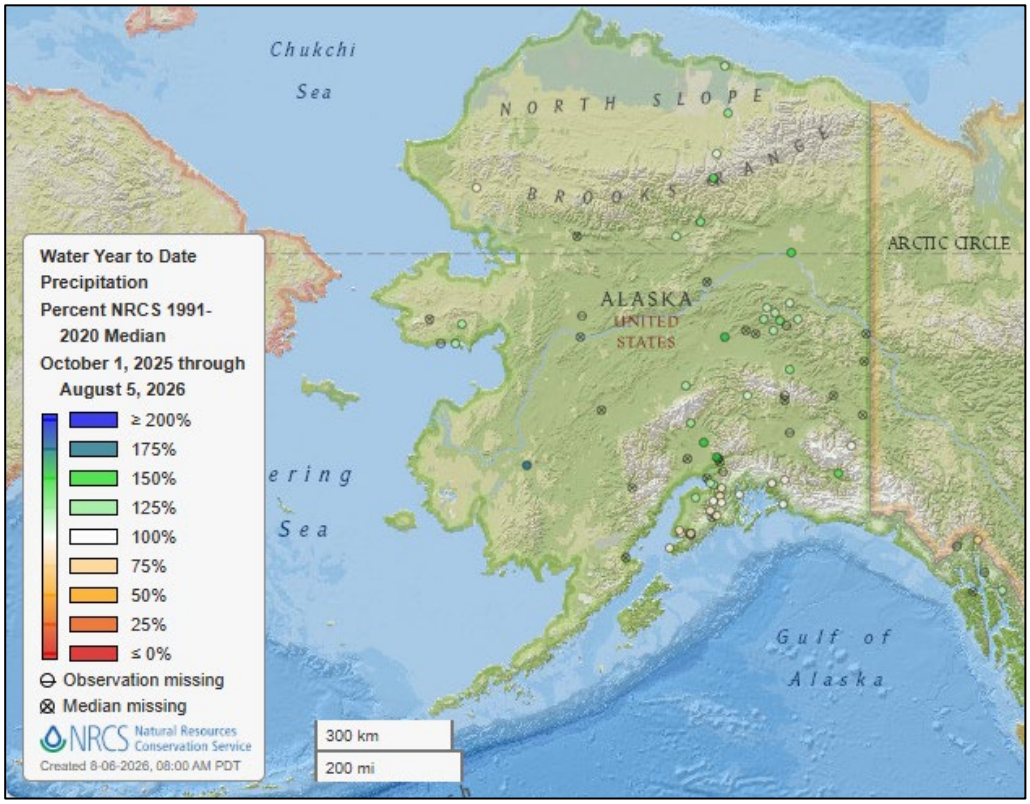


[2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of median map]

See also:

[2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map]

[2026 water year-to-date precipitation values (inches) map]



[Alaska 2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of median map]

See also:

[Alaska 2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map]

[Alaska 2026 water year-to-date precipitation values (inches) map]

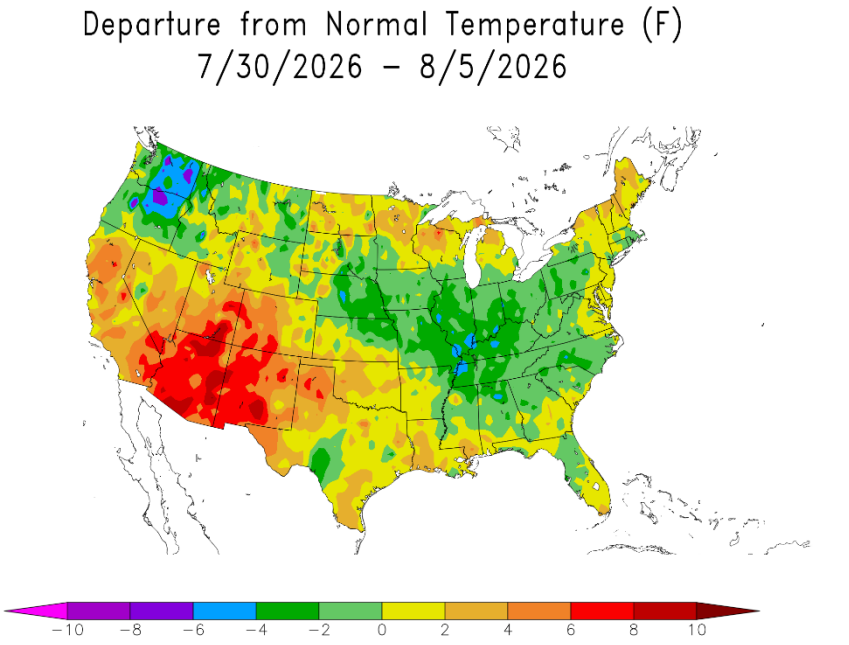
Temperature

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

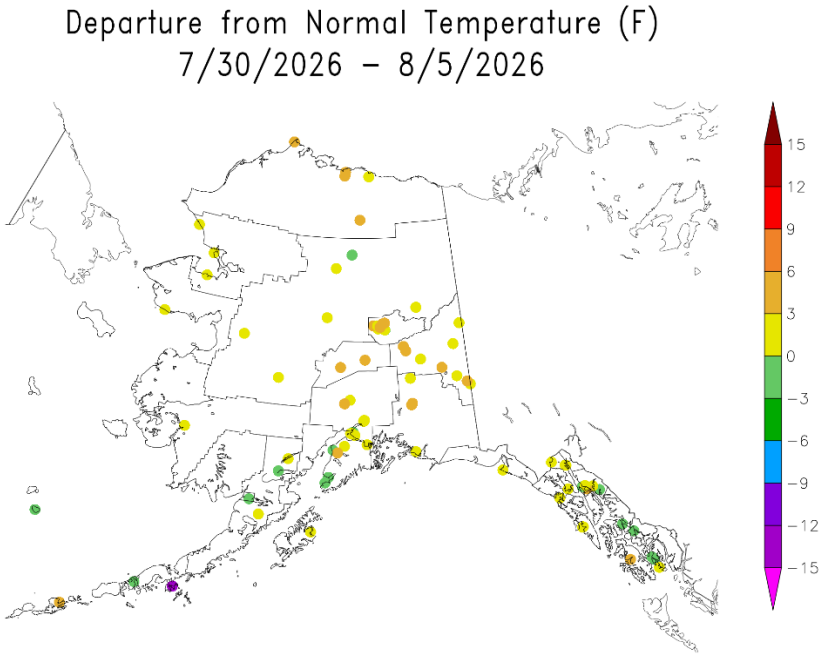


Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

7-day temperature anomaly map for Alaska.

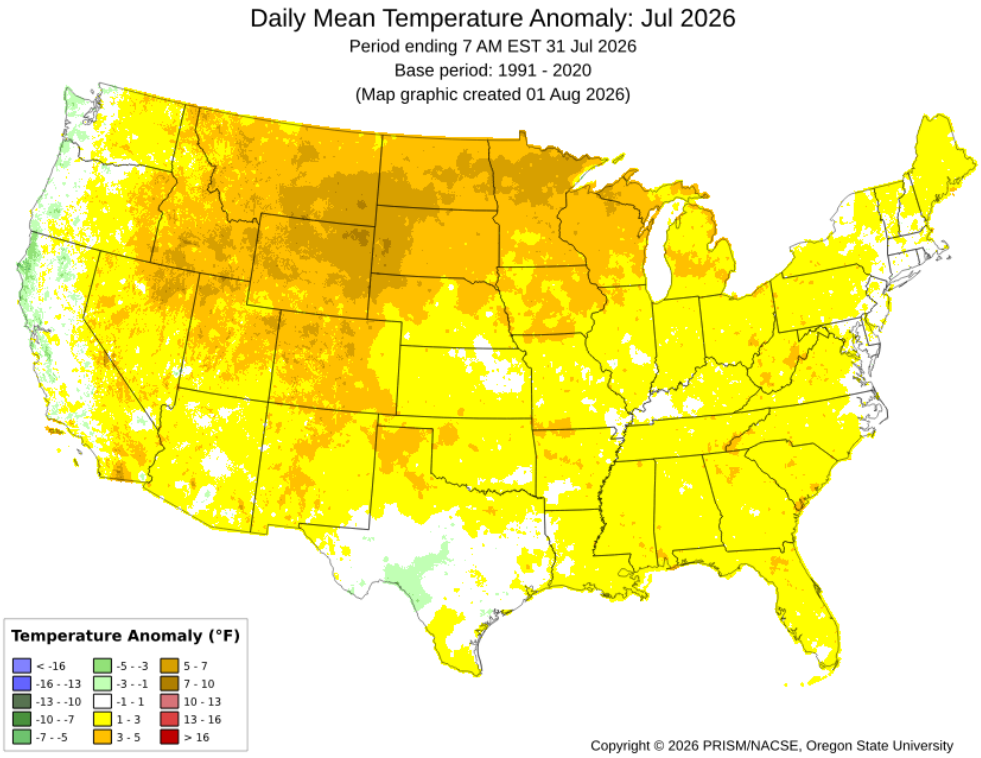
See also: 7-day temperature (° F) map



Monthly, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

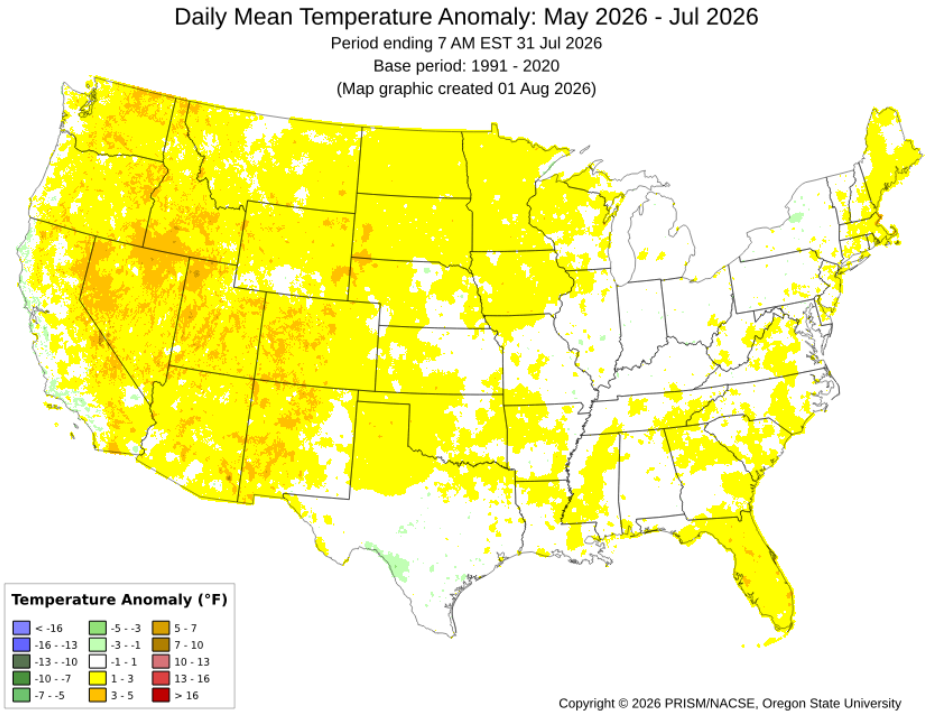
Source: PRISM

[Monthly national daily mean temperature anomaly map]



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

Source: PRISM

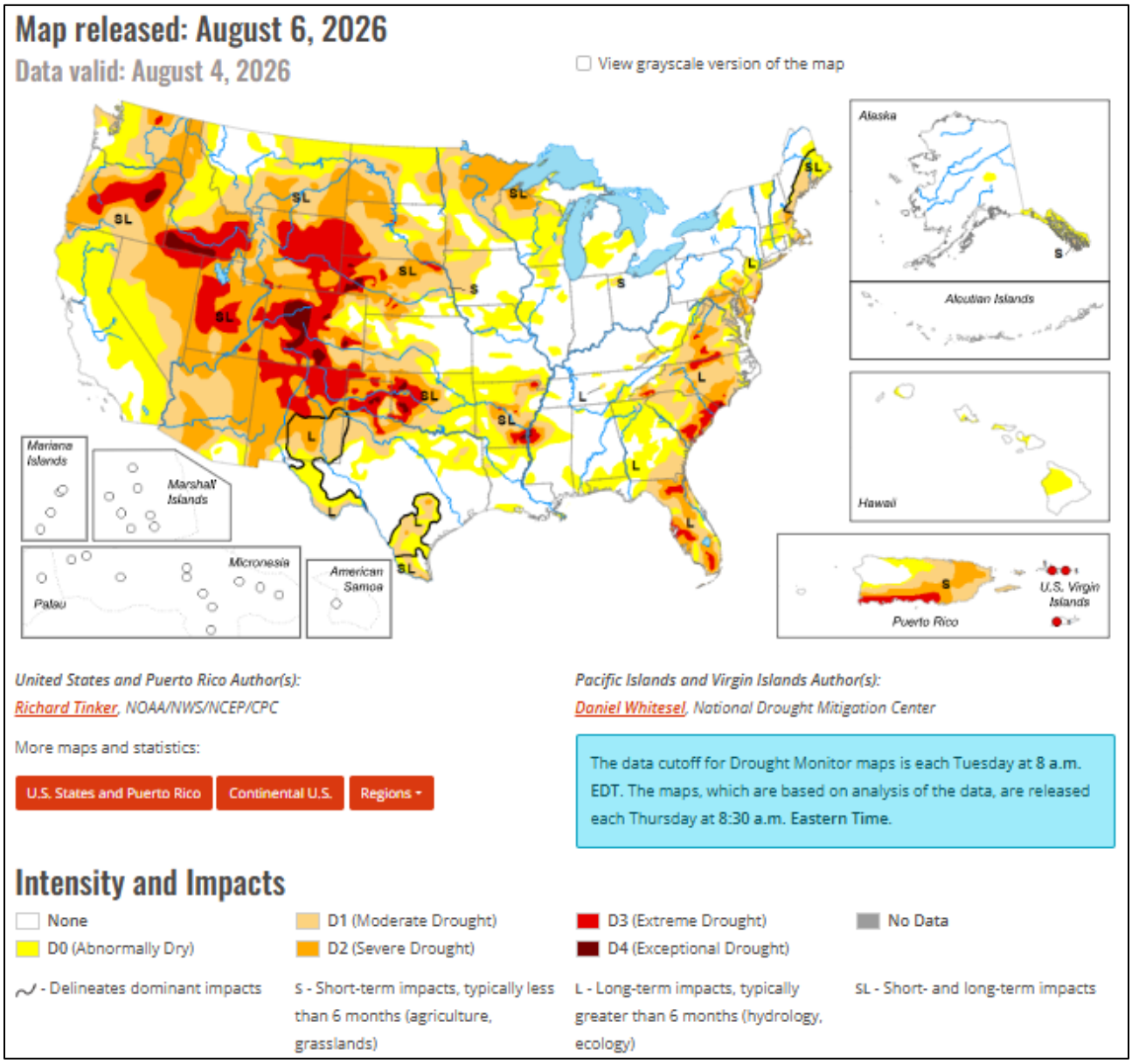


[May through July 2026 daily mean temperature anomaly map]

Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

U.S. Drought Portal
Source: NOAA



Current National Drought Summary, August 4, 2026

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“Moderate to heavy rain fell on almost all areas of dryness and drought along the Eastern Seaboard, improving conditions across large swaths of the region. Numerous locations experienced inundating rains and flooding, but drought conditions in some areas have been securely entrenched, limiting the amount of improvement introduced due to continuing impacts such as reduced water supplies, low groundwater, and similar hydrologic concerns.

Heavy to excessive rains also fell on some areas of dryness and drought farther west, from the central and northeastern Great Plains eastward through much of the Great Lakes Region and Lower Ohio Valley, prompting a few swaths of improvement there. But while heavy rains broadly affected the Eastern Seaboard and the Midwest, there were a few regions that missed the heavier amounts, leaving conditions essentially unchanged or even allowing for some deterioration. Temperatures averaging 6 to locally 12 deg F above normal in parts of the Upper Mississippi Valley and Great Plains, along with unusually low relative humidity across much of the Dakotas and Nebraska, accelerated surface moisture loss.

To the south, heavy rain was not as widespread across the Lower Mississippi Valley, the southern half of the Great Plains, and most of the High Plains. Still, moderate rains were not uncommon here, and there were isolated heavy amounts topping 2 inches. Thus, a variable pattern featuring areas of both deterioration and improvement was observed, with many locations essentially unchanged. Precipitation was markedly deficient from southern Kansas southward through much of Texas, resulting in broad areas of deterioration. Most of these areas were also warmer than normal, although humidity was not lacking. Much of the Texas Panhandle averaged 6 to 9 deg F above normal for the week. Other parts of this region were not as extreme, but most sites still averaged somewhat warmer than normal

From the Rockies westward, precipitation was sparse. Moderate amounts, with isolated totals over 2 inches, fell in association with the Southwest monsoon across portions of New Mexico and Arizona. Over the remainder of the West, scattered areas recorded several tenths of an inch to slightly over an inch across the Rockies and far Pacific Northwest, but most places recorded light precipitation at best. Very little rain fell across the Intermountain West, Great Basin, the interior Pacific Northwest, and California, although this is a dry time of year for many of those areas. Temperatures were above normal outside the Pacific Northwest

Dryness and heat intensified through most of Puerto Rico, with some areas recording one of the driest Julys on record. Hawaii and Alaska saw some new areas of abnormal dryness develop, along with moderate drought in extreme southeast Alaska.”

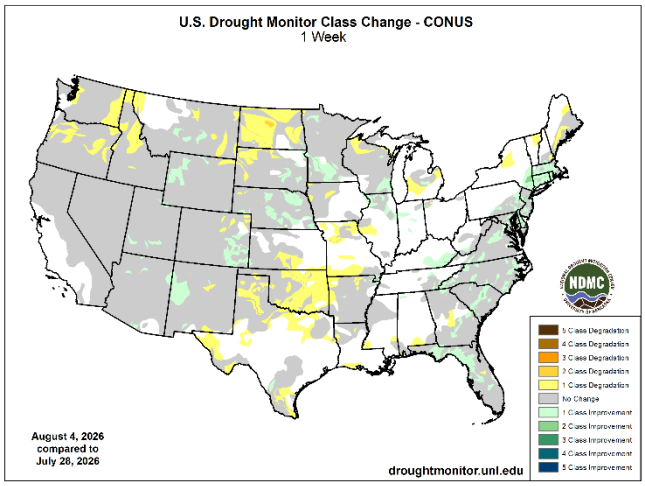
National Drought Summary – West

“Areas of moderate to locally heavy rain, at least partially driven by a mature monsoon circulation, were observed across much of southern and eastern New Mexico, southeastern Arizona, the higher elevations of central Arizona, and a few scattered patches stretching from southern Utah northward through southeastern Idaho, southern Montana, and eastern Montana. A few swatches received similar amounts in western Washington. Other locations recorded little or no precipitation, although this is not uncommon during summer across much of California and the Far West. Conditions across southeastern Idaho and southern Montana have been exacerbated by temperatures averaging 6 to 10 deg F above normal during the past 30 days, including a few days of intense heat. Near- or below-normal temperatures during this period were restricted to the Pacific Northwest, central and northern California, and western Nevada. Relative humidity has been seasonably low during this period. The dry and hot conditions are not too out of character for July across California, Nevada, and southern Oregon, with drought designations unchanged from last week. Farther north, the lack of winter snowpack despite ample winter precipitation is starting to take its toll, with increasing moisture shortages leading to degradations across eastern Washington, northwestern and eastern Oregon, much of the Idaho Panhandle, and parts of eastern Montana. Meanwhile, locally heavy precipitation over the past few weeks, enhanced by rain from a mature monsoonal circulation, prompted localized areas of improvement in west-central New Mexico, parts of southeastern Arizona and some higher elevations farther north in the state, and a few places scattered across Utah.”

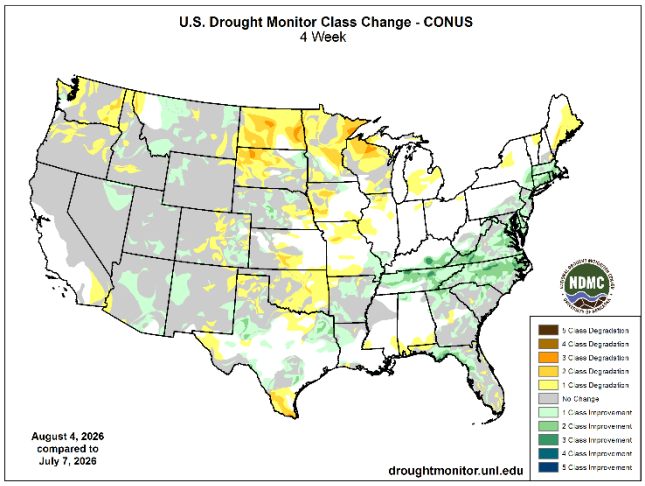
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

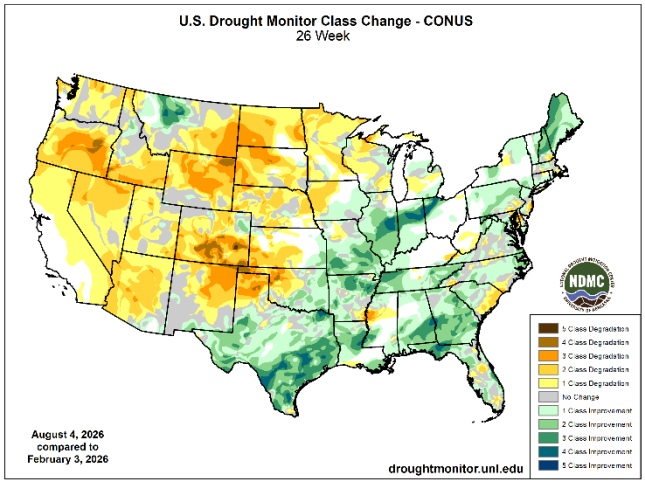
1 Week



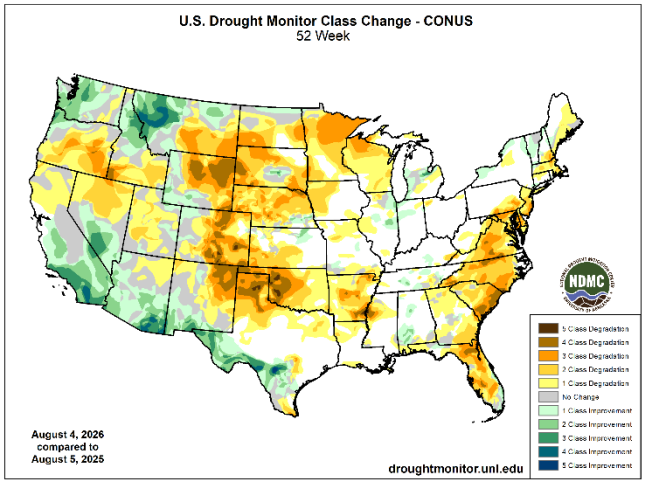
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



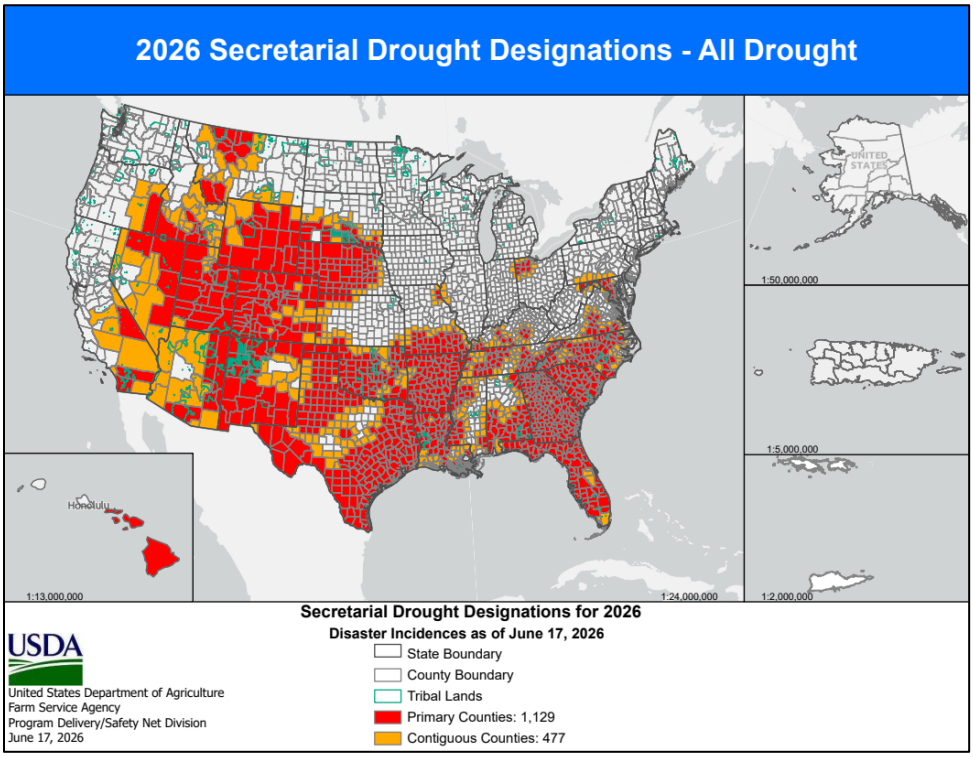
Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.

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

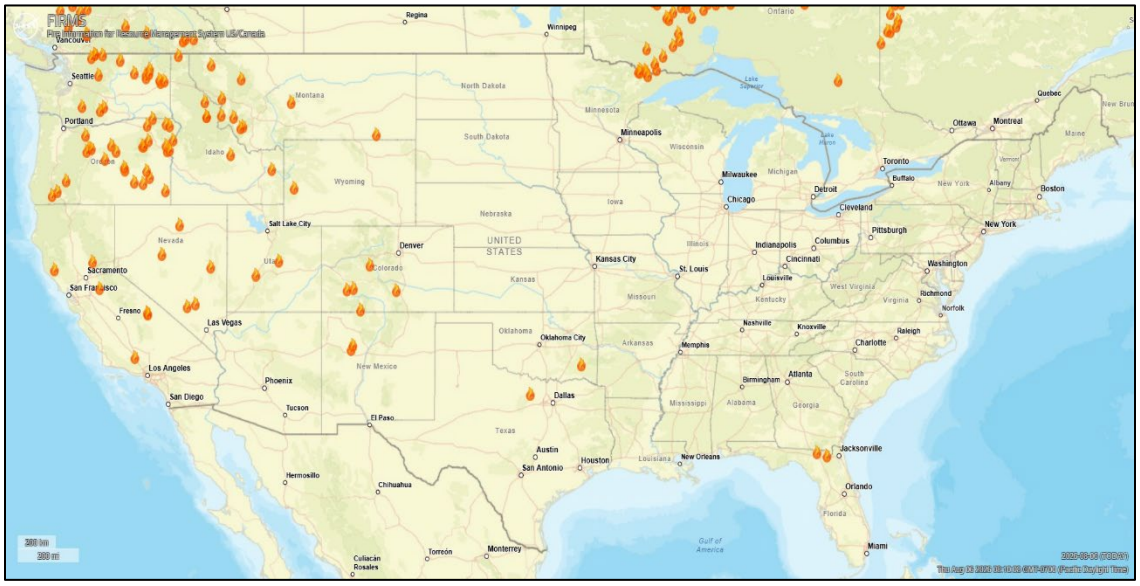
USDA Secretarial Drought Designations

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency



Wildfires: Fire Information for Resource Management System US/Canada

Source: NASA/USDA Forest Service



Current large wildland fires, as classified by the National Interagency Coordination Center

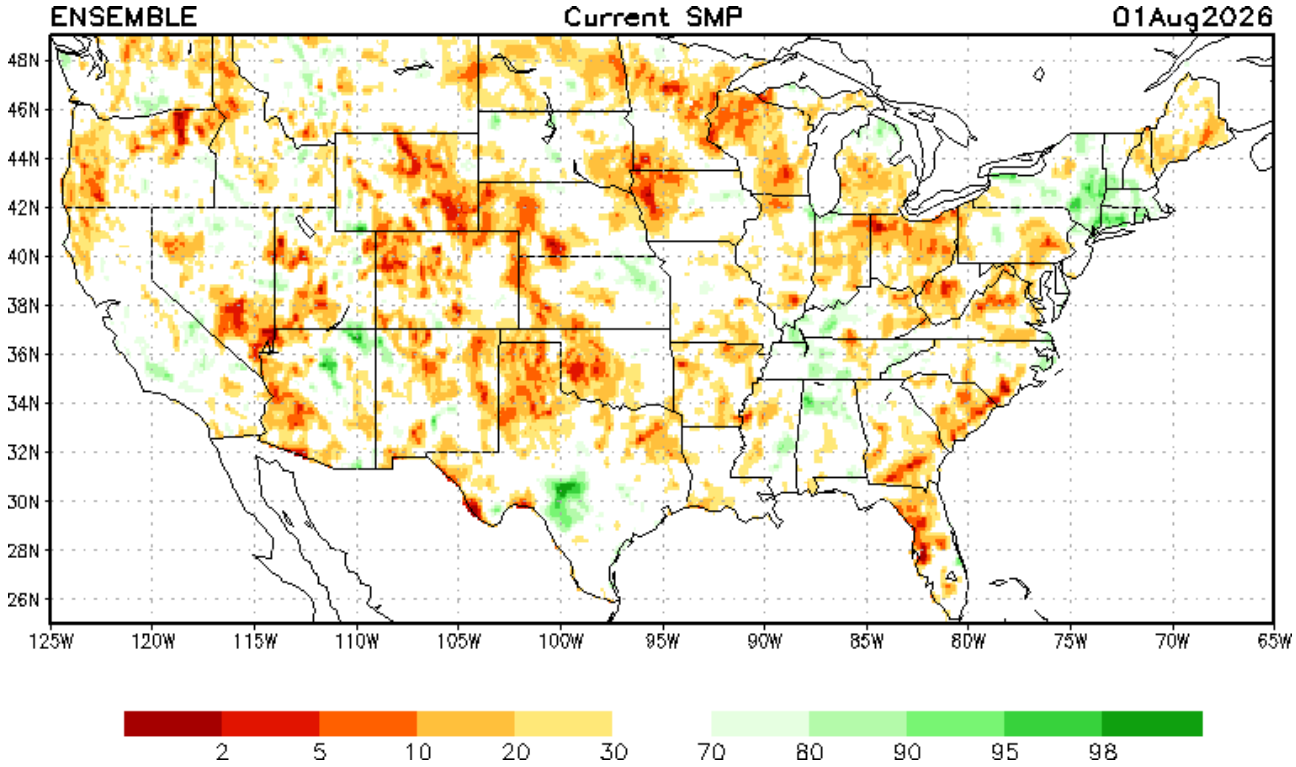
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

- 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

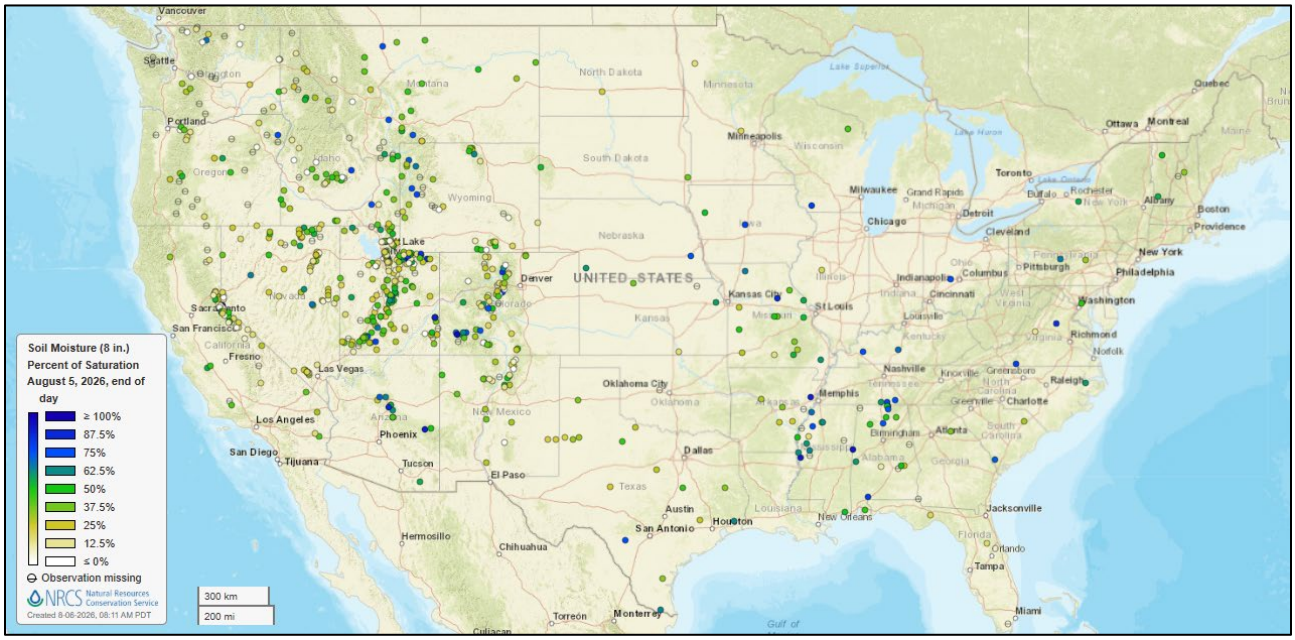


Modeled soil moisture percentiles as of August 1, 2026

Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

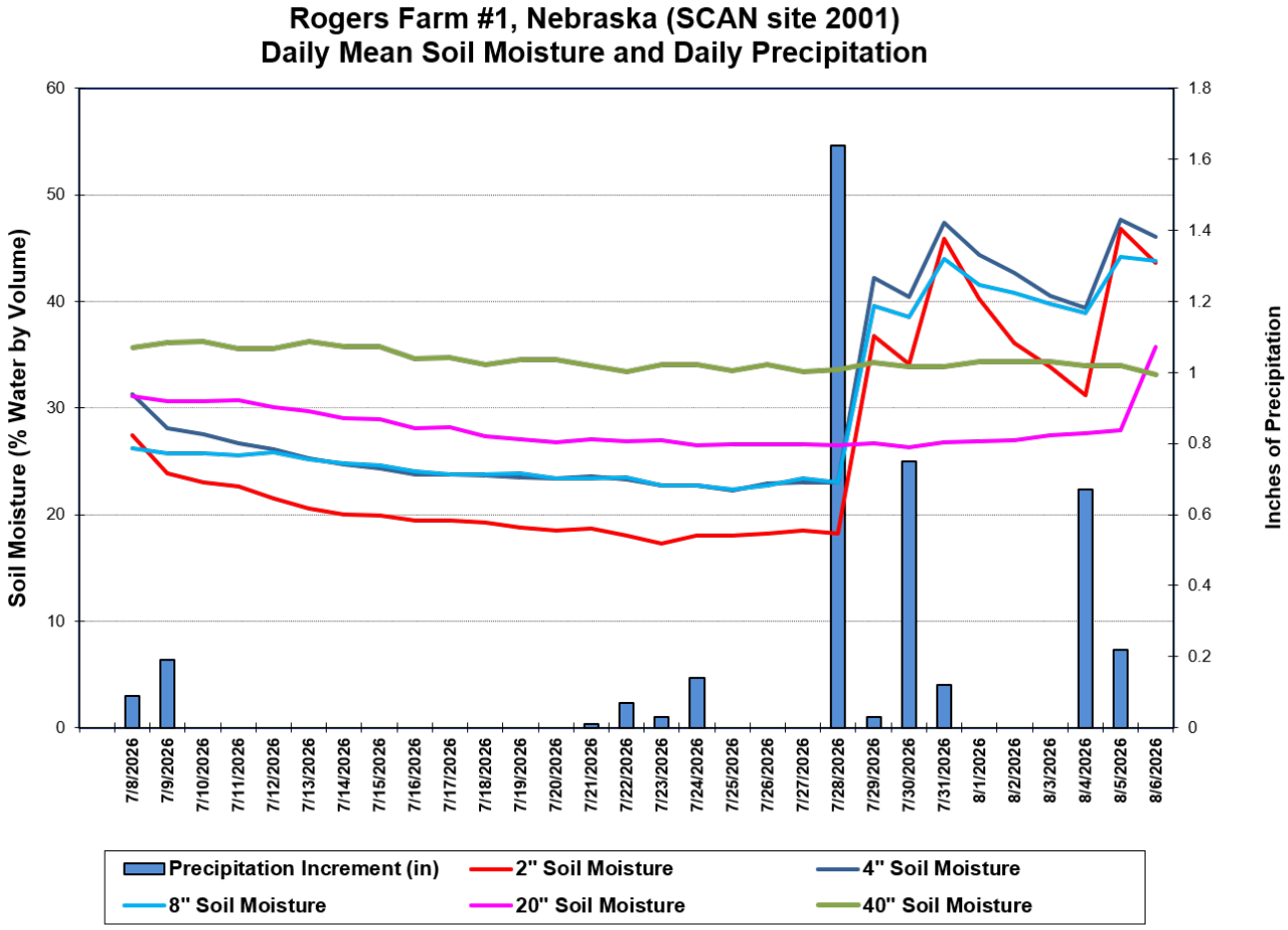
Source: NRCS SNOTEL and Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)

U.S. soil moisture map at 8-inch depth:



Soil Moisture

Source: NRCS Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)



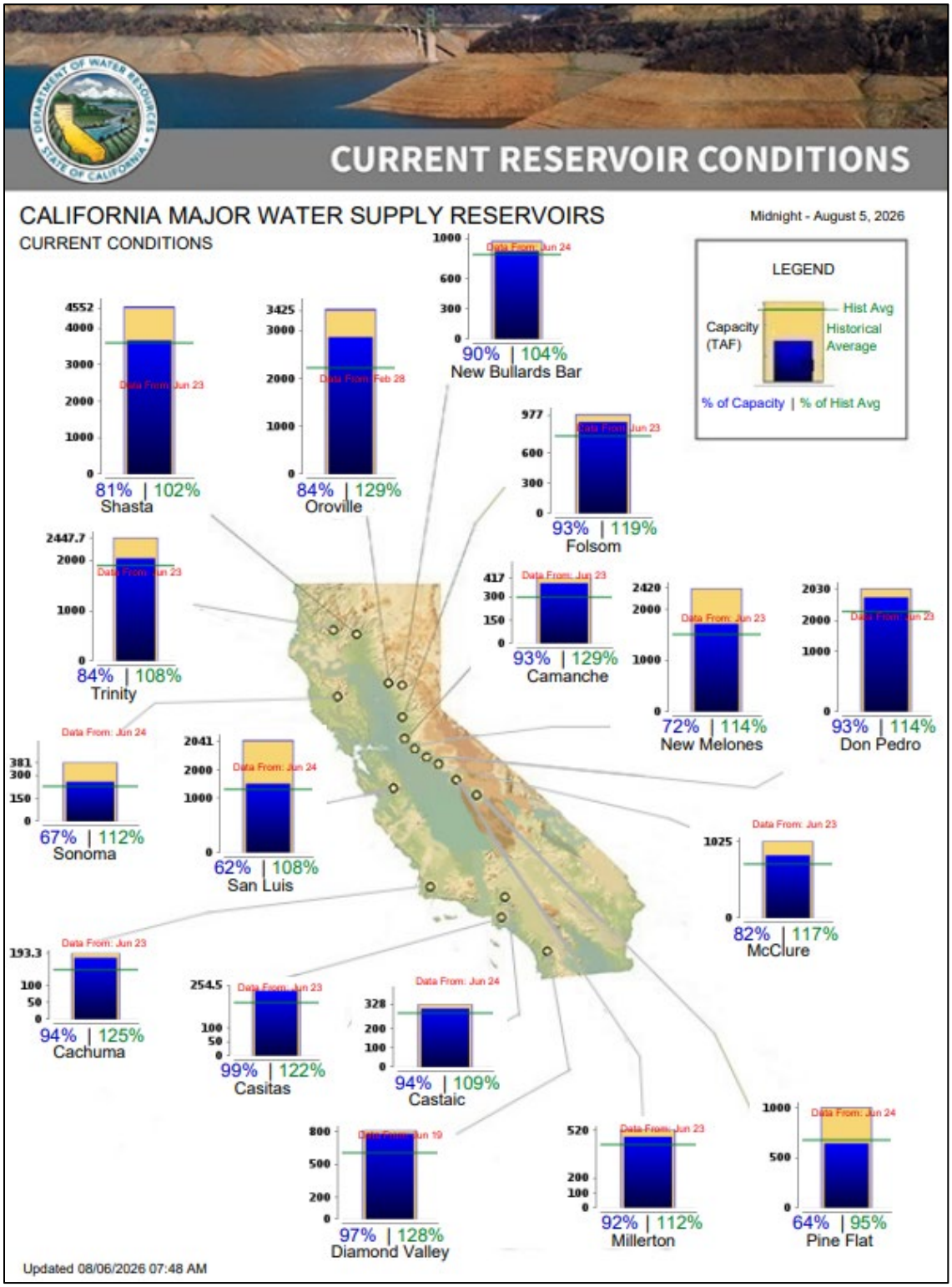
This chart shows the precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the Rogers Farm #1 SCAN site in Nebraska. Soil sensors two, four, and eight inches beneath land surface recorded pronounced increases in soil moisture after the site received 2.54 inches of precipitation between July 28-31. After 0.89 inches of precipitation was deposited at the site between August 4-5, soil sensors at all depths except the -40-inch sensor measured increases in soil moisture. Total precipitation for the 30-day period was 3.96 inches.

Soil Moisture Data Portals

- USCRN Soil Moisture
- National Soil Moisture Network
- NOAA Climate Prediction Center Soil Moisture
- NASA Grace

Current California Reservoir Conditions

Source: California Department of Water Resources



Current California Reservoir Conditions

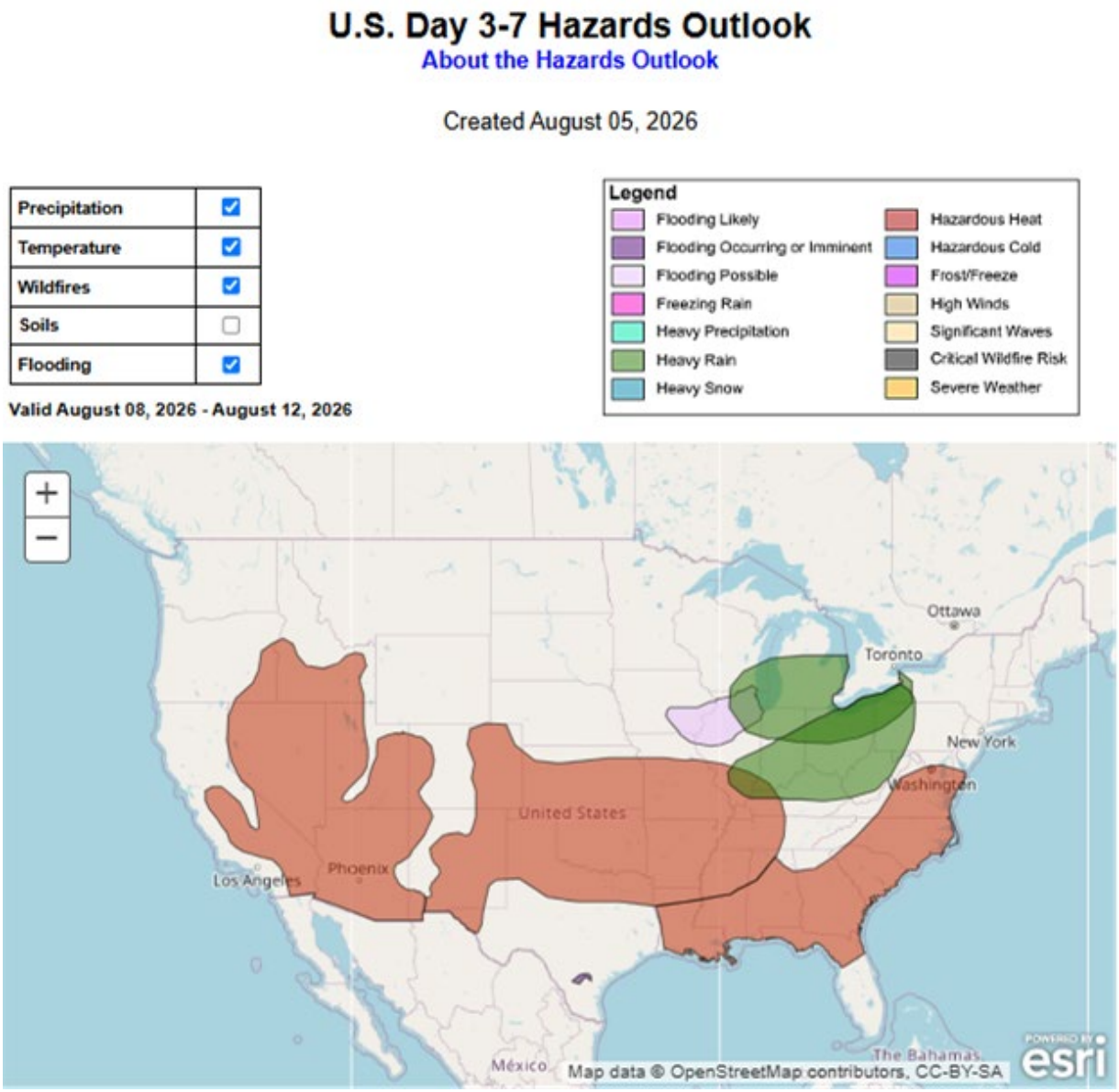
Agricultural Weather Highlights

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

National Outlook, Thursday August 6, 2026: "The Northwestern wildfire situation may worsen over the next couple of days, amid renewed high temperatures, low humidity levels, gusty winds, and ample dry fuels. Additionally, containment efforts for existing wildfires could be hampered. Dry weather will prevail during the next 5 days from the Pacific Coast to the northern High Plains, but a resurgent monsoon circulation should lead to rainfall totaling as much as 1 to 2 inches in the Four Corners States. The Midwest will receive additional rainfall totaling 1 to 3 inches, except for lower amounts in western corn and soybean production areas. Unsettled, showery weather will spread into the Northeast and linger across the lower Southeast. Elsewhere, unusually hot weather will persist into next week across much of the western half of the U.S., with heat and high humidity levels creeping eastward across the Deep South. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for August 11 – 15 calls for the likelihood of hotter-than-normal weather nationwide, except for near- or below-normal temperatures from the northern Plains into the Northeast. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal rainfall across most of the country should contrast with drier-than-normal conditions across Florida's peninsula."

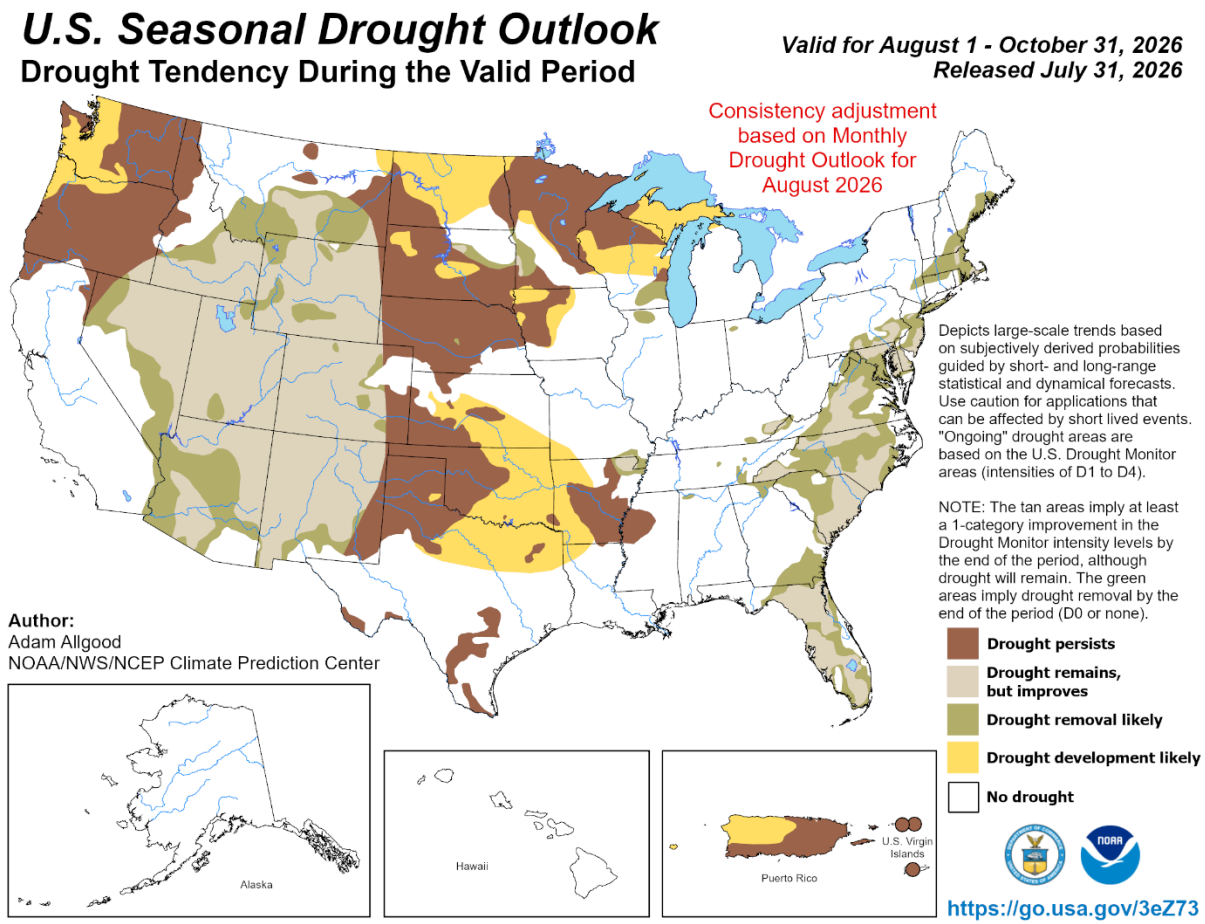
Weather Hazards Outlook: August 8 – 12, 2026

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center



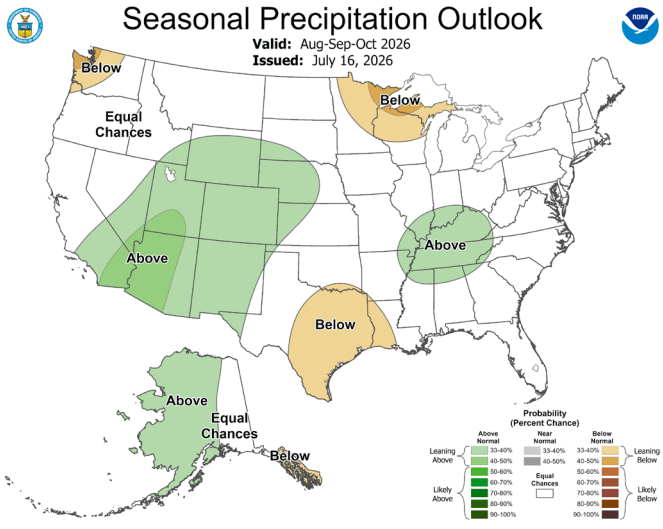
Seasonal Drought Outlook: August 1 – October 31, 2026

Source: National Weather Service

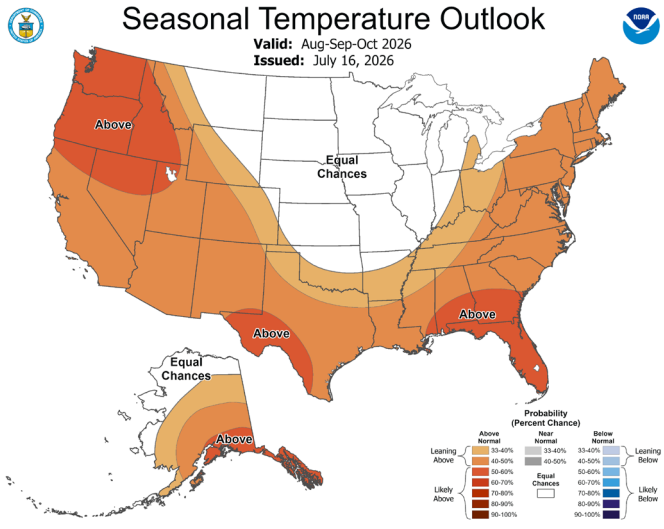


Climate Prediction Center Three-month Outlook

Precipitation



Temperature



August-September-October 2026 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.