



United States Department of Agriculture

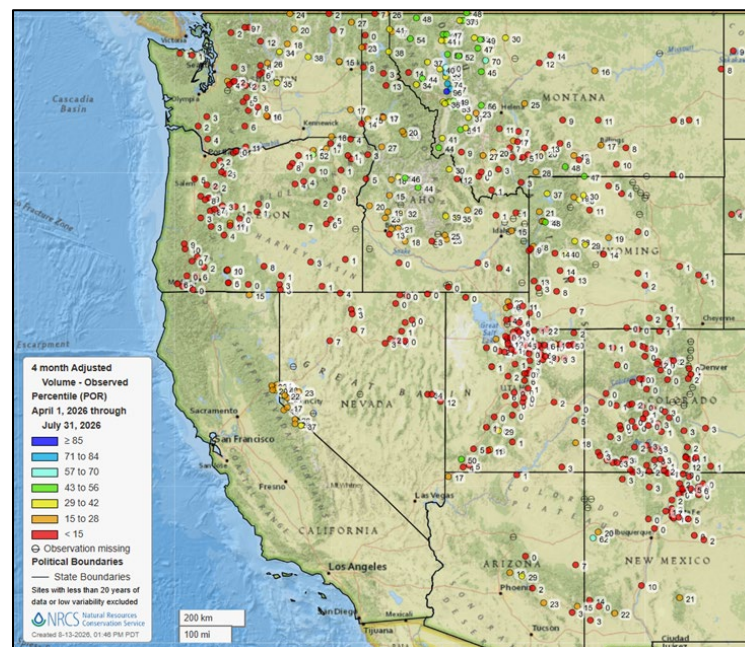
Water and Climate Update

August 13, 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.

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Drought	8		

Western U.S. summer streamflow reaches historic lows



Many streamflow stations in the West set new records or near records for low summer streamflows, where some records date back over 100 years. Winter snowpack remained well below seasonal normals this year, which is typically one of the major contributors in shaping and sustaining the spring and summer streamflow volumes. Spring temperatures were relatively warmer than usual, which accelerated snowmelt of the already low snowpack except in some of the highest elevations. Some regions also experienced below normal spring precipitation, which caused lower soil moisture and less moisture inputs to the system, another set of factors contributing to the low streamflow observed during the April through July period. The full water supply picture includes August and September streamflow, but these flows are typically the lowest of the year. Below median streamflow during the growing season has major implications that adversely impact agriculture, hydropower, drinking water supplies, recreation, fish, and wildlife.

Related:

[April - June departure from normal temperature](#) – Western Region Climate Center

[Drought data dashboard information](#) – National Integrated Drought Information System

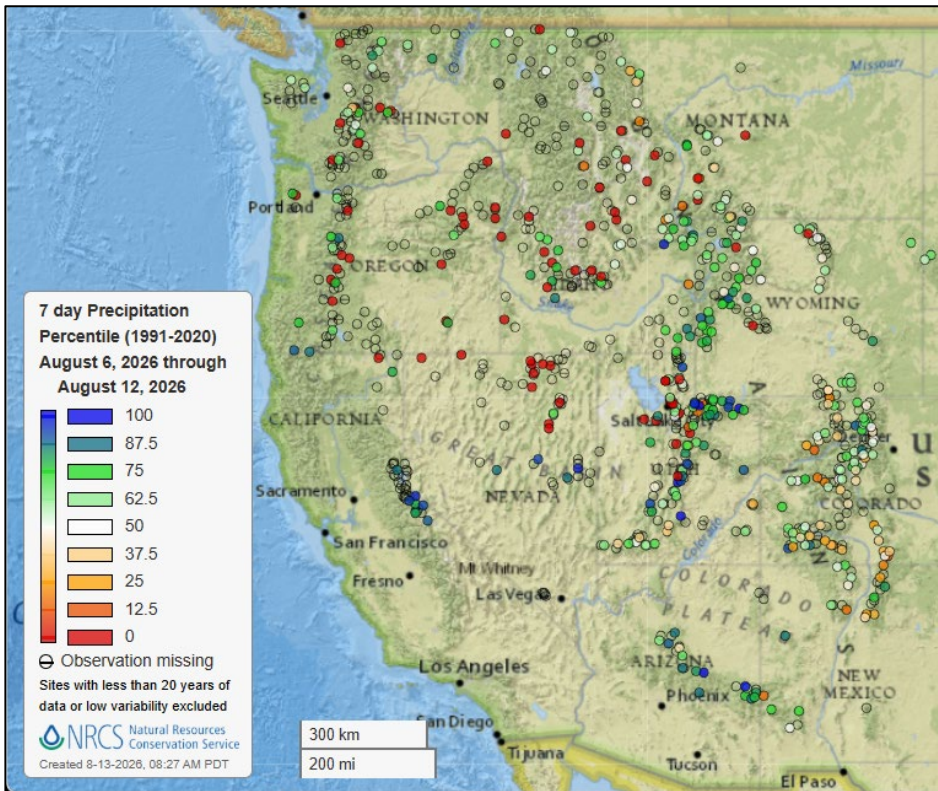
[April - July 2026 Streamflow Percentiles](#) – Interactive Map, NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

[Lake Mead hits historic low water level as Colorado River struggles](#) – 9 News (Denver, CO)

The NRCS delivers practical, voluntary, and locally led conservation solutions that help producers conserve natural resources, strengthen agricultural production, and keep working lands productive for generations to come.

Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

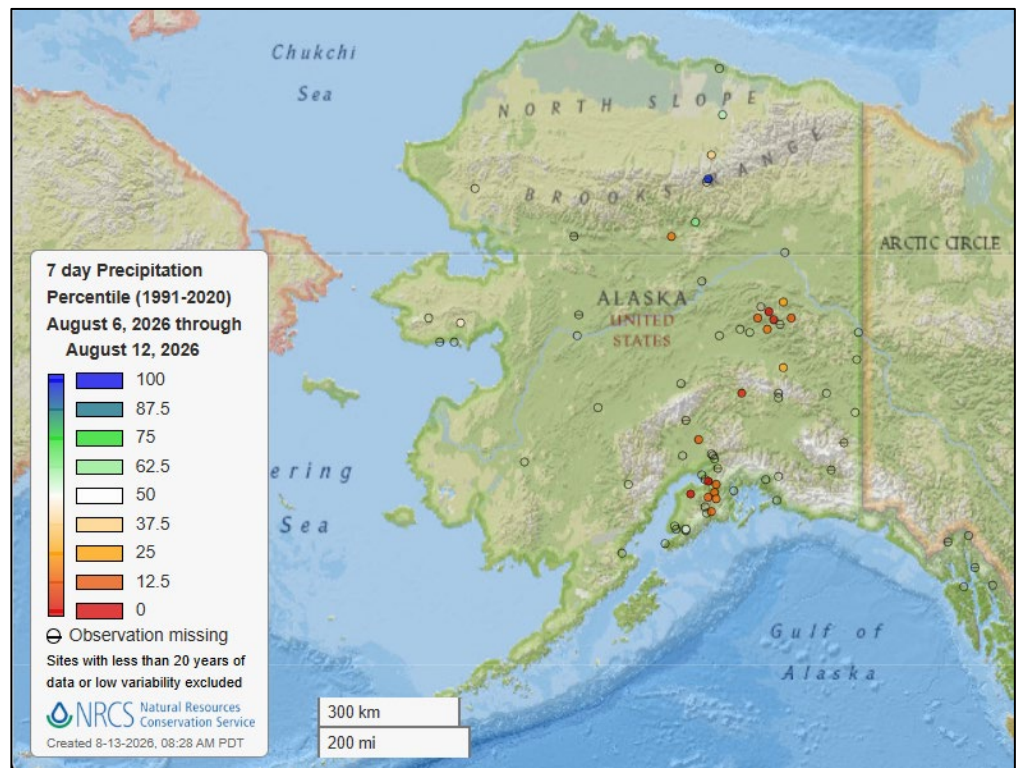


[7-day precipitation percentile map](#)

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](#)



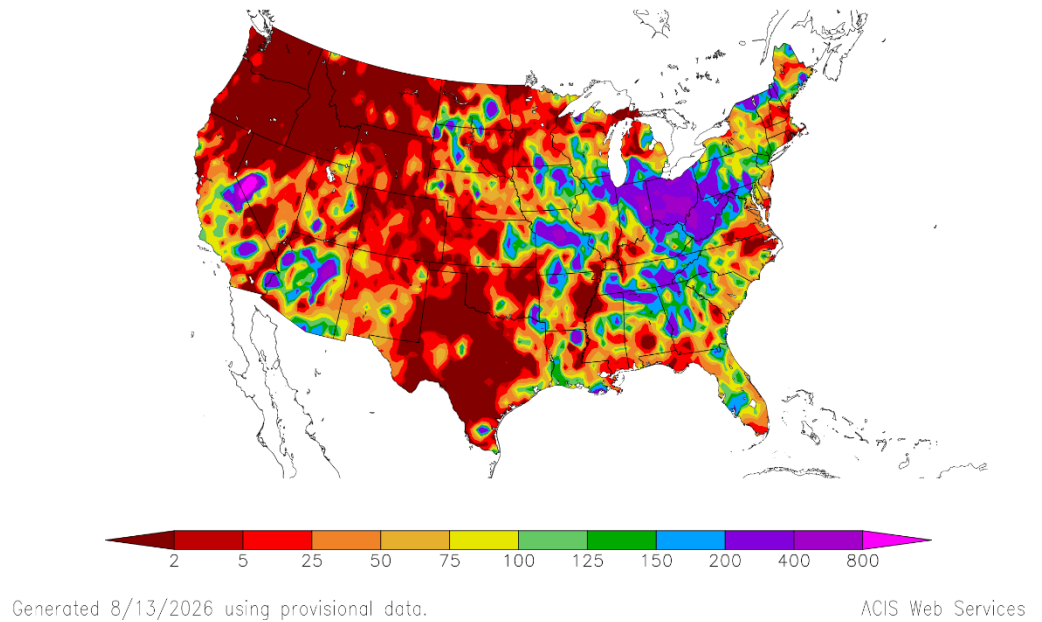
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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](#)

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/6/2026 – 8/12/2026



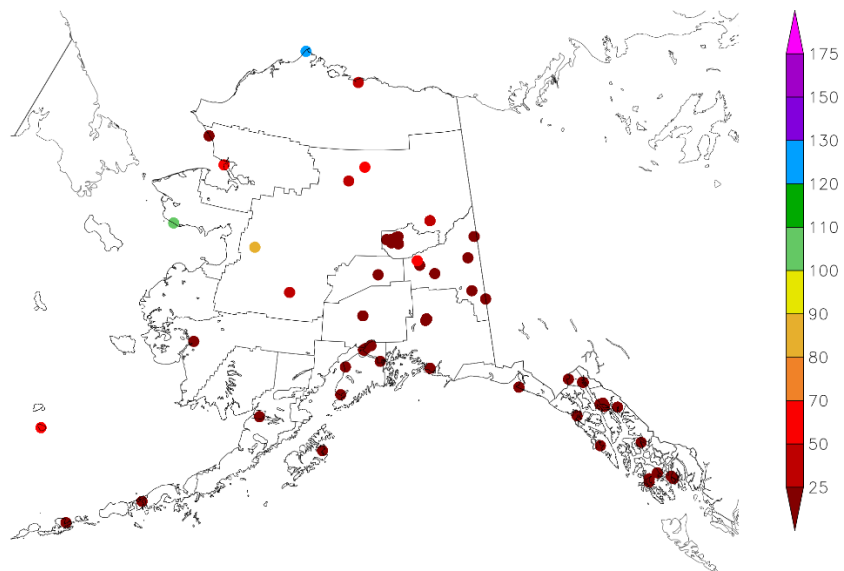
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day precipitation percent of normal map](#) for Alaska.

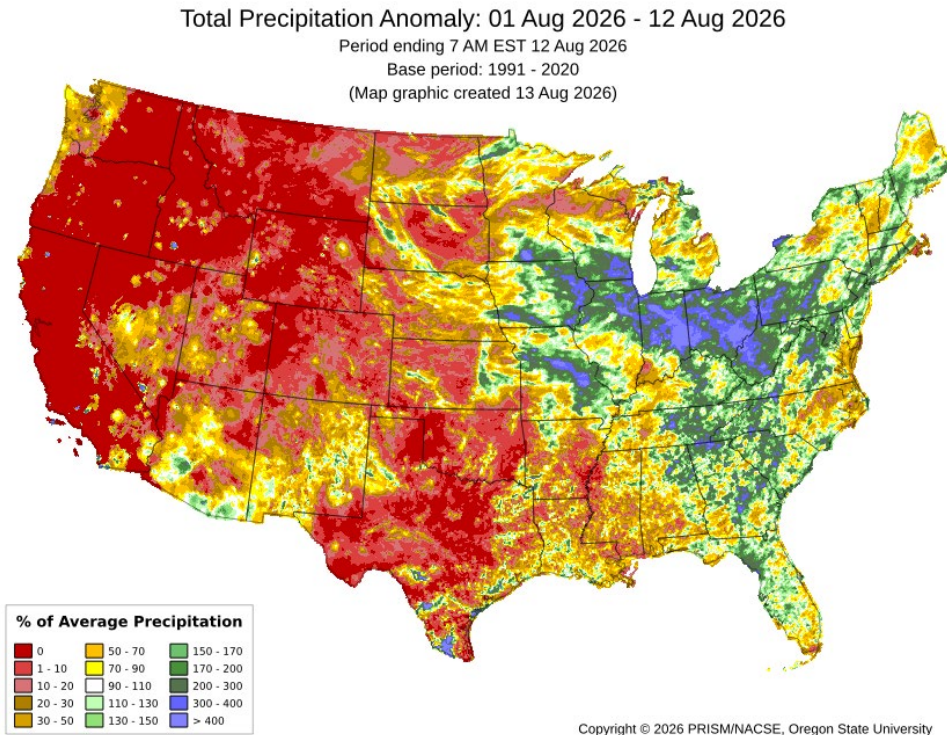
See also: [7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/6/2026 – 8/12/2026



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

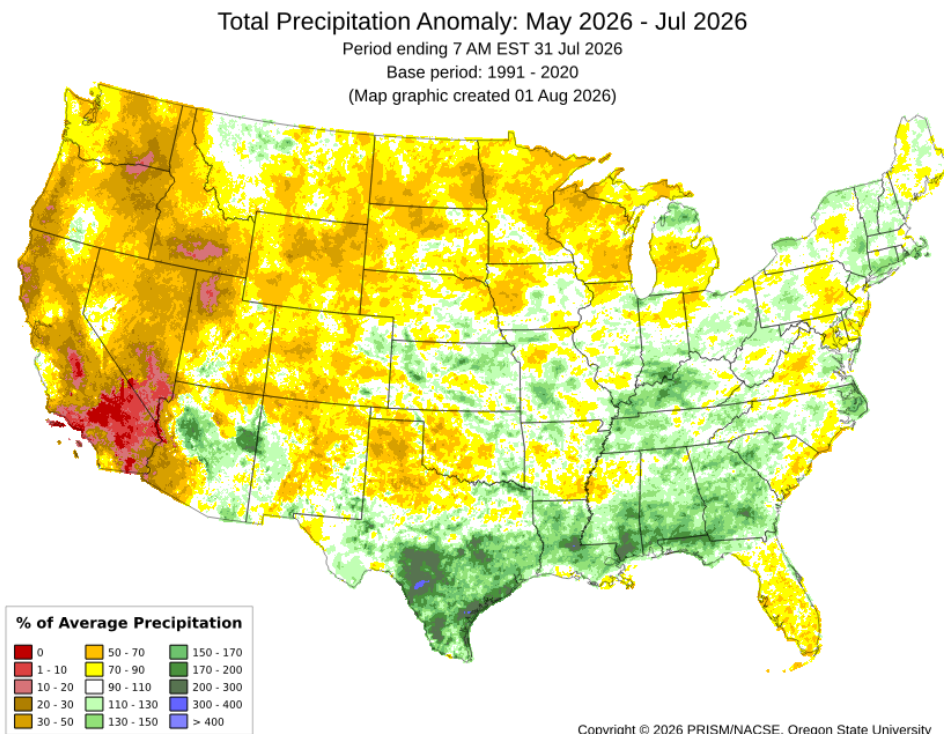
Source: PRISM



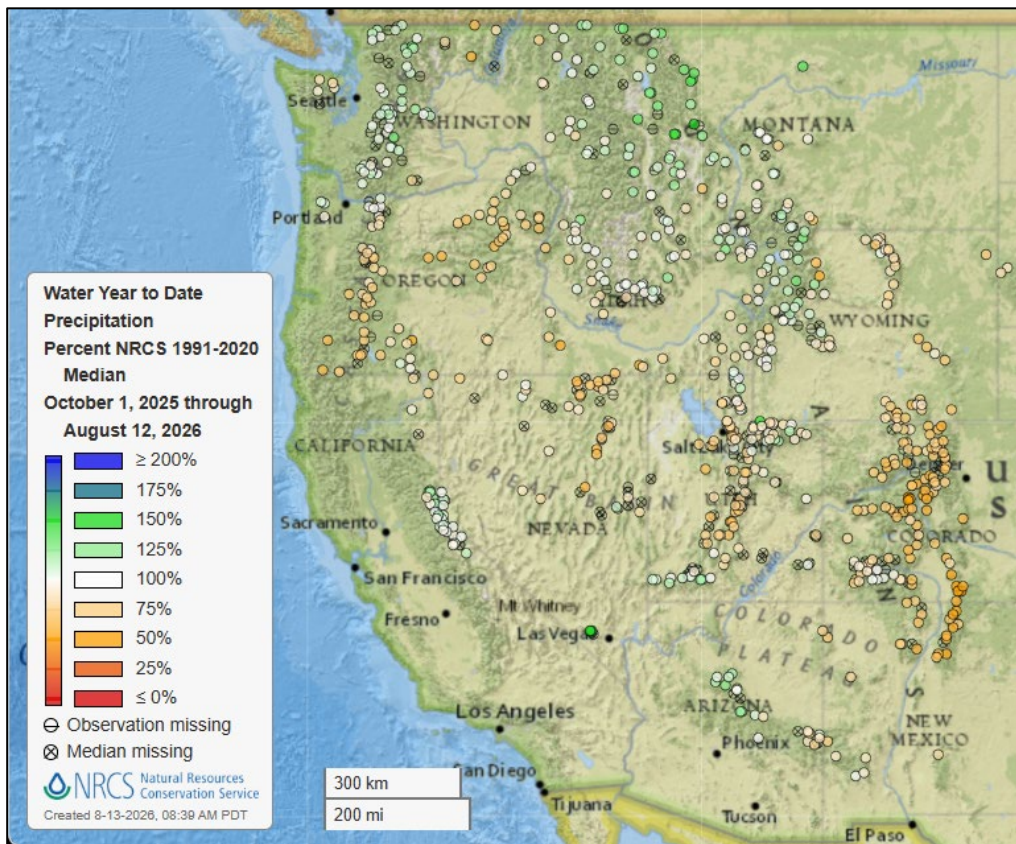
Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

[May through July 2026 precipitation anomaly map](#)



Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network

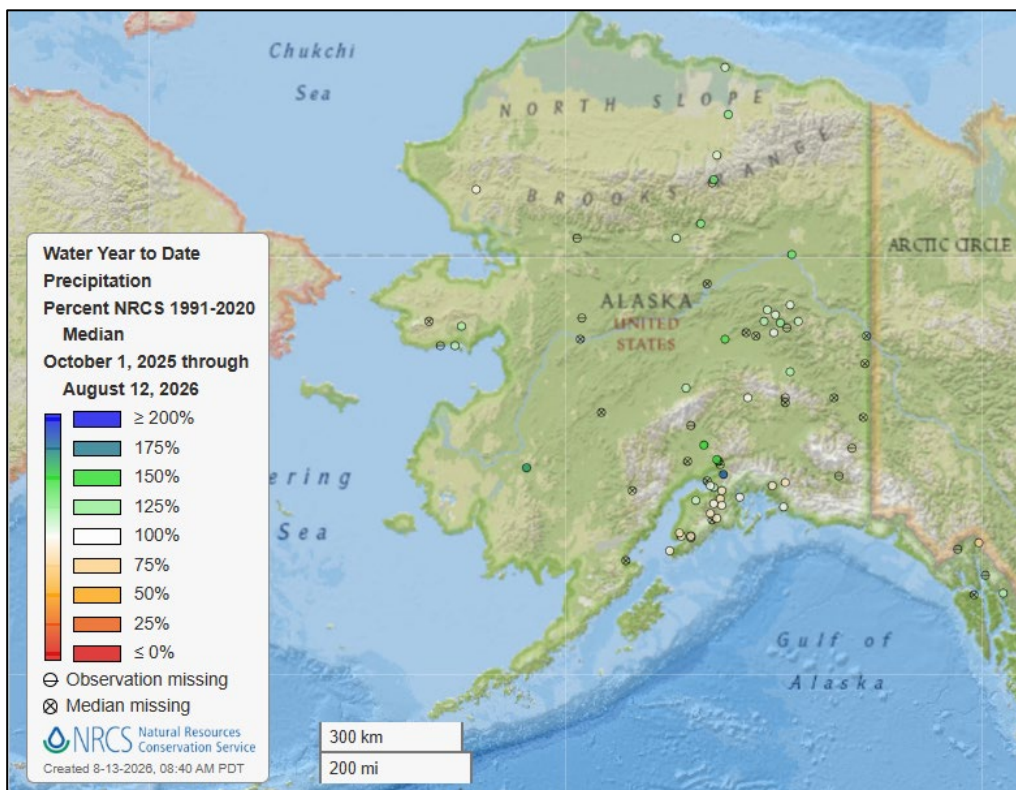


[2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of median map](#)

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

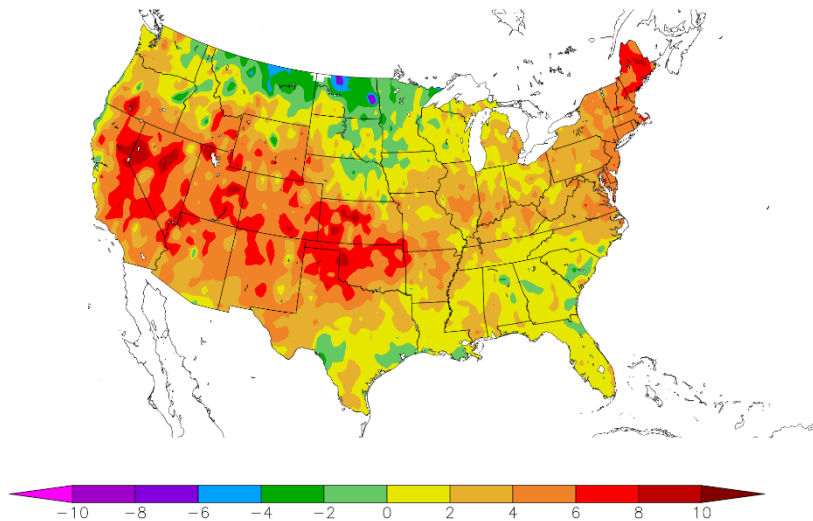
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/6/2026 – 8/12/2026



Generated 8/13/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

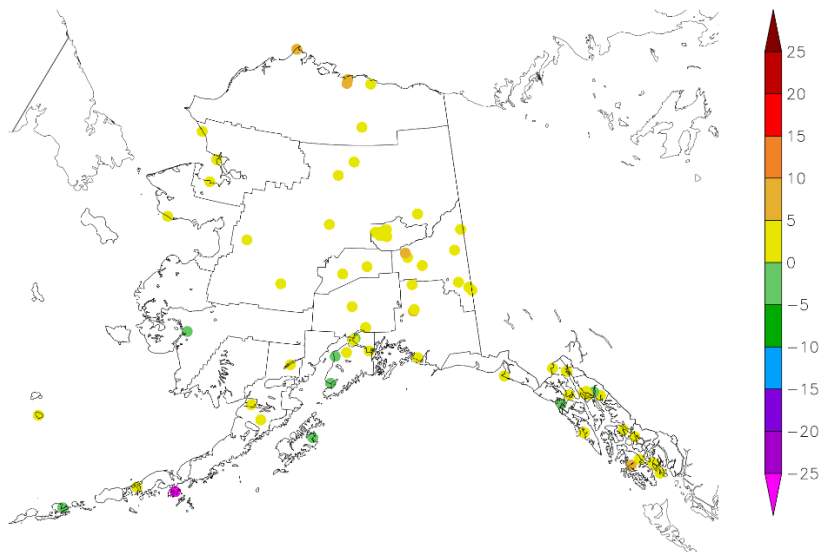
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/6/2026 – 8/12/2026



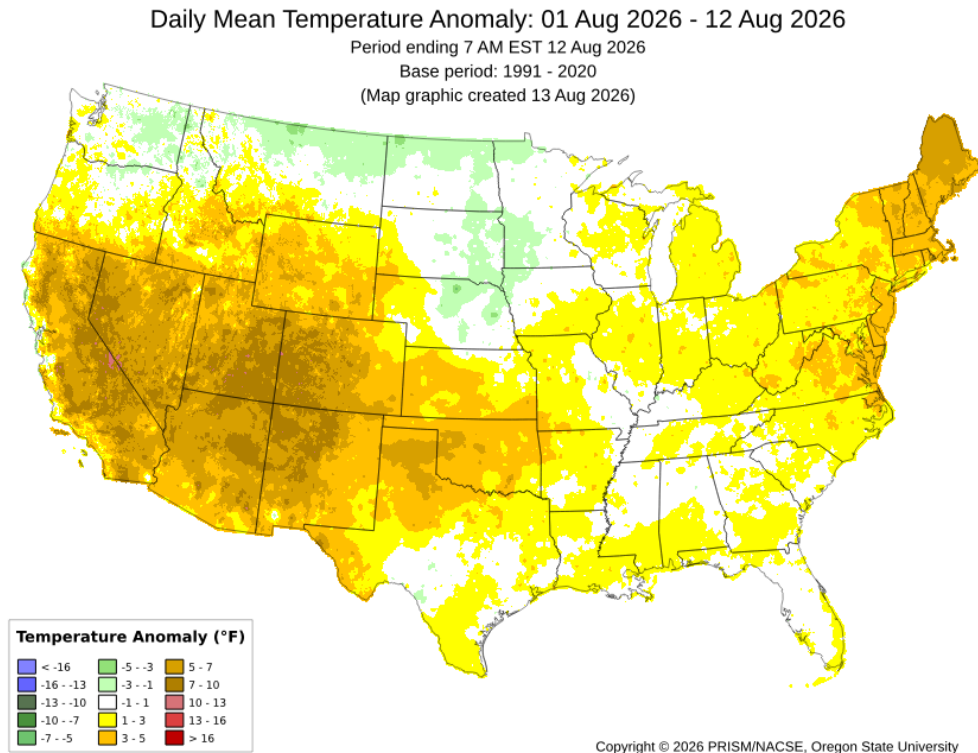
Generated 8/13/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

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

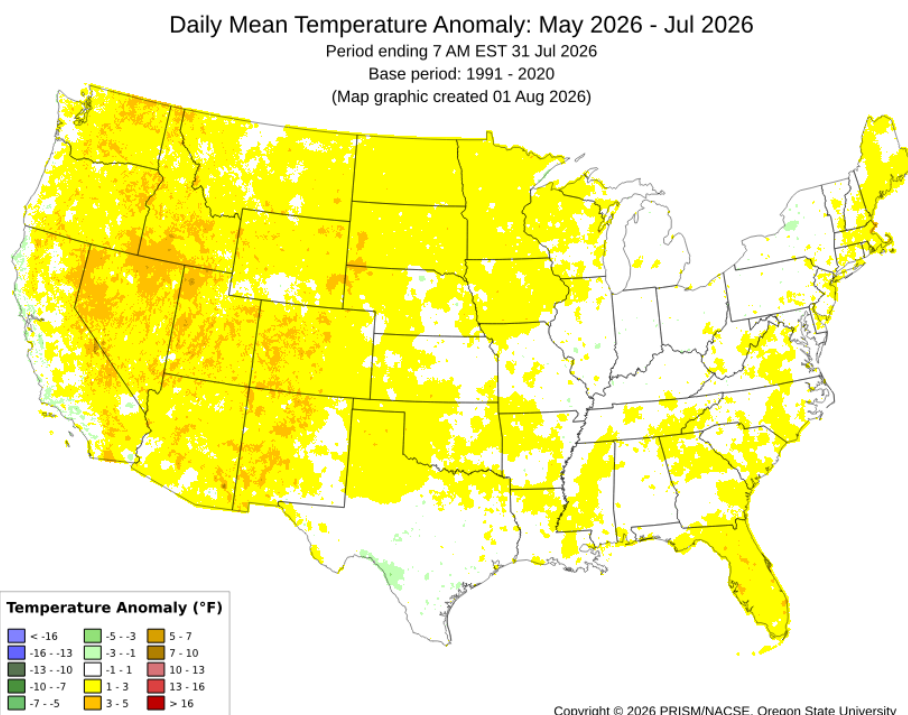
Source: PRISM

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



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

Source: PRISM



[May through July 2026
daily mean
temperature anomaly
map](#)

Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

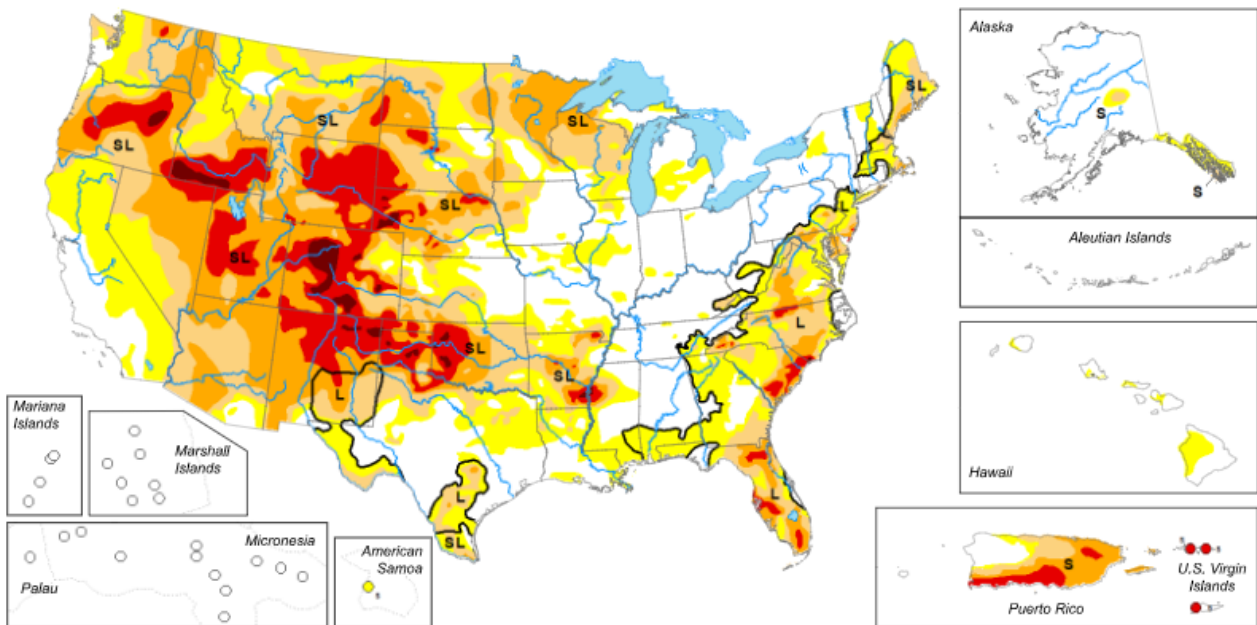
[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA

Map released: August 13, 2026

Data valid: August 11, 2026

☐ View grayscale version of the map



United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Richard Tinker](#), NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Daniel Whitesel](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

More maps and statistics:

[U.S. States and Puerto Rico](#)

[Continental U.S.](#)

[Regions ▼](#)

The data cutoff for Drought Monitor maps is each Tuesday at 8 a.m. EDT. The maps, which are based on analysis of the data, are released each Thursday at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

Intensity and Impacts

☐ None

☐ D0 (Abnormally Dry)

☐ D1 (Moderate Drought)

☐ D2 (Severe Drought)

☐ D3 (Extreme Drought)

☐ D4 (Exceptional Drought)

☐ No Data

~ - Delineates dominant impacts

S - Short-term impacts, typically less than 6 months (agriculture, grasslands)

L - Long-term impacts, typically greater than 6 months (hydrology, ecology)

SL - Short- and long-term impacts

Current [National Drought Summary](#), August 11, 2026

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“Rainfall was highly variable across the Nation this past week. Totals exceeding 2 inches were widespread from northern and eastern Indiana through much of Ohio and into West Virginia and western Pennsylvania. Localized areas across central and eastern Indiana, central and southeastern Ohio, and western West Virginia recorded 5 to 7 inches. Interior sections of central and northern Missouri also saw widespread totals topping 2 inches, with a few isolated patches receiving 4 to 5 inches. Other areas with more scattered totals over 2 inches include the Upper Midwest, east-central Great Plains, the southern Great Lakes region, the central and southern Appalachians and adjacent foothills, the Carolinas, central and northern Georgia, and the Florida Peninsula. More moderate amounts, with isolated spots recording 2 to 3 inches, were dotted across the remainder of the Eastern Seaboard, Gulf Coast, Lower Mississippi Valley, and the Desert Southwest where a decent monsoonal circulation remained in place. Meanwhile, little or no precipitation fell on most locations in the seasonably-dry Far West, the Great Basin, the Intermountain West, much of the central and northern Rockies, most of the Plains, the Upper Mississippi Valley, the Great Lakes region, most of the Tennessee and Lower Ohio Valleys, portions of southern New England, the Virginia Tidewater, and adjacent locations. Farther north, a few tenths of an inch of precipitation were observed in central Alaska and the upper half of Southeast Alaska while little or no precipitation fell farther south there. The areas of Hawaii experiencing abnormal dryness (D0) recorded isolated amounts approaching an inch last week, but most of these areas received a few tenths of an inch at best.

Temperatures averaged at least slightly above normal along the West Coast and from the Great Basin and Southwest through the southern Plains and most of the Lower Mississippi Valley. Most areas from the eastern Great Lakes, Ohio Valley, and Mid-Atlantic regions northeastward to the Atlantic Ocean and Canadian Border also experienced a warmer than normal week. Numerous locations from near the Great Basin through Oklahoma and western Texas average 6 to 10 deg. F above normal, as did much of New England. Meanwhile, subnormal temperatures dominated the northern Plains. Other sites across the Lower-48 recorded near-normal temperatures for the week.”

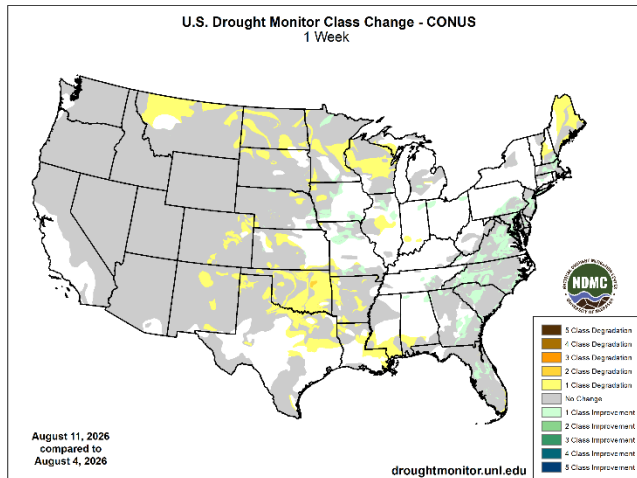
National Drought Summary – West

“Moderate to locally heavy precipitation (0.5 to 3 inches) fell on much of Arizona and New Mexico primarily due to monsoonal convection. Farther north, a few tenths of an inch with isolated higher amounts of over an inch were recorded across Utah, much of the Great Basin, and some adjacent areas. The rest of the West Region was dry, with only isolated locations reporting as much as 0.2 inch. These conditions brought little change to dryness and drought across the West Region, with changes restricted to several areas of deterioration across the plains of Montana and part of the adjacent northern Rockies, similar to conditions farther east across the northern tier of the central Lower-48. Dryness and drought continue to cover a large proportion of the West Region, sparing only parts of central and western California, coastal areas near the Oregon/Washington border, and west-central Montana. Extreme to exceptional drought (D3-D4) is common across a large swath in interior Oregon, southern Idaho, the adjacent Great Basin, and a large section of Utah. Conditions have been exacerbated by 30-day temperatures averaging 4 to 8 deg F. above normal across Utah, southeastern Idaho, much of southern Montana, and -scattered locations across the Southwest. In Utah, 33 percent of winter wheat is in poor or very poor condition, compared to a 5-year average near zero. In addition, one-half to three-quarters of rangelands in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah are in poor or very poor condition, which is well above average for this time of year. In addition, multiple years of persistently below-normal precipitation has left some large reservoirs in the West with extremely low water stores. The contents of Lake Mead have dropped to an all-time low since daily reports are available, back to 1937. By August 10, the amount of stored water dropped below 7 million acre-feet (capacity is over 28 million acre-feet).”

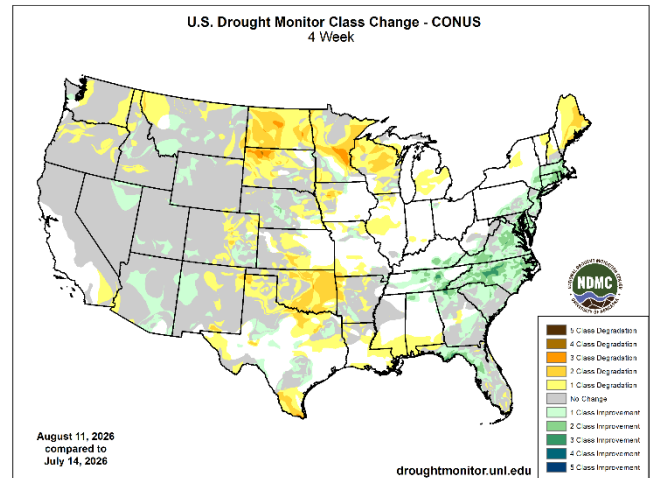
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

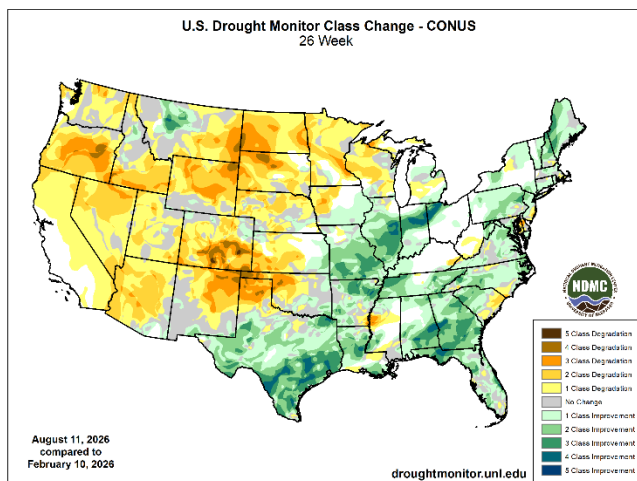
1 Week



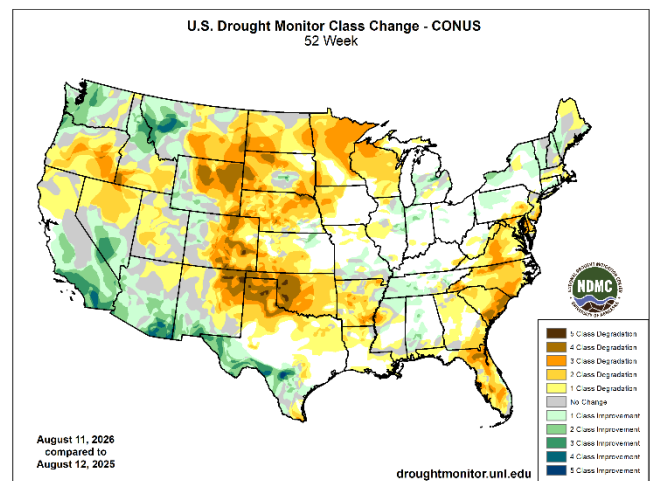
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



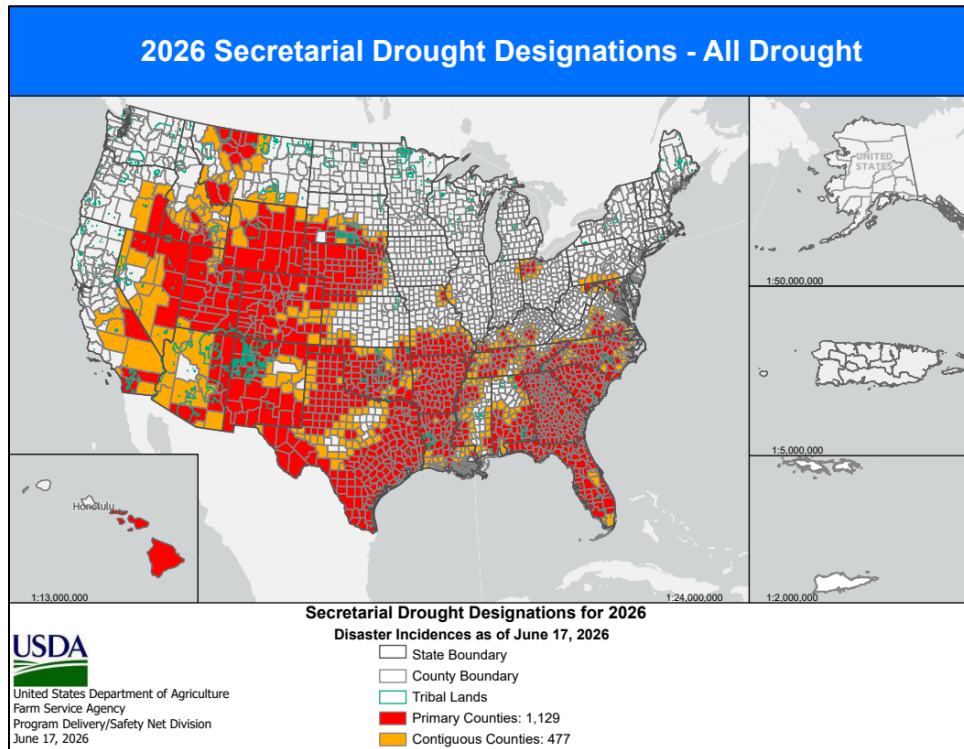
Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.

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](#)

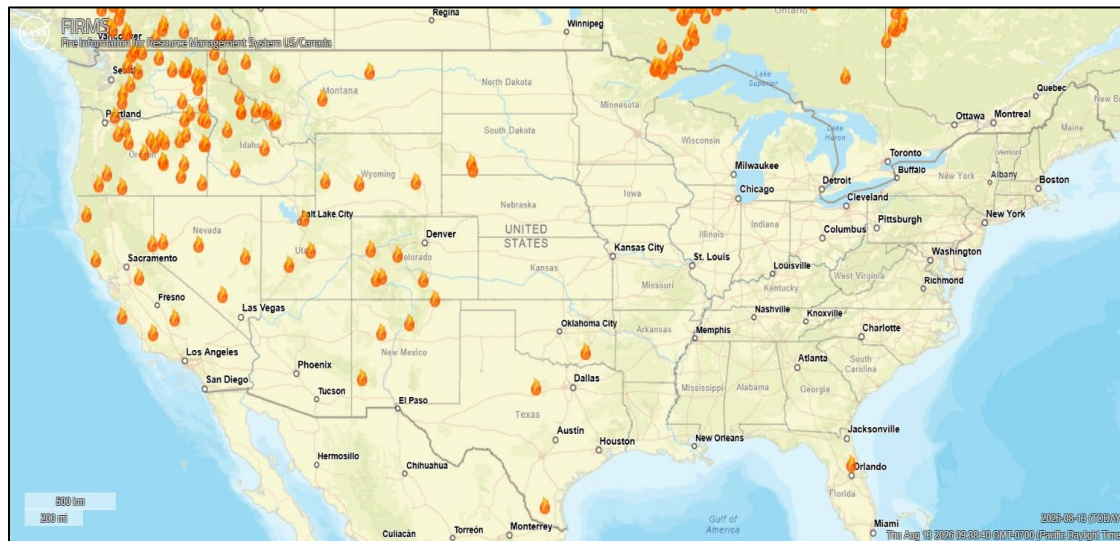
USDA Secretarial [Drought Designations](#)

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency



Wildfires: [Fire Information for Resource Management System US/Canada](#)

Source: NASA/USDA Forest Service



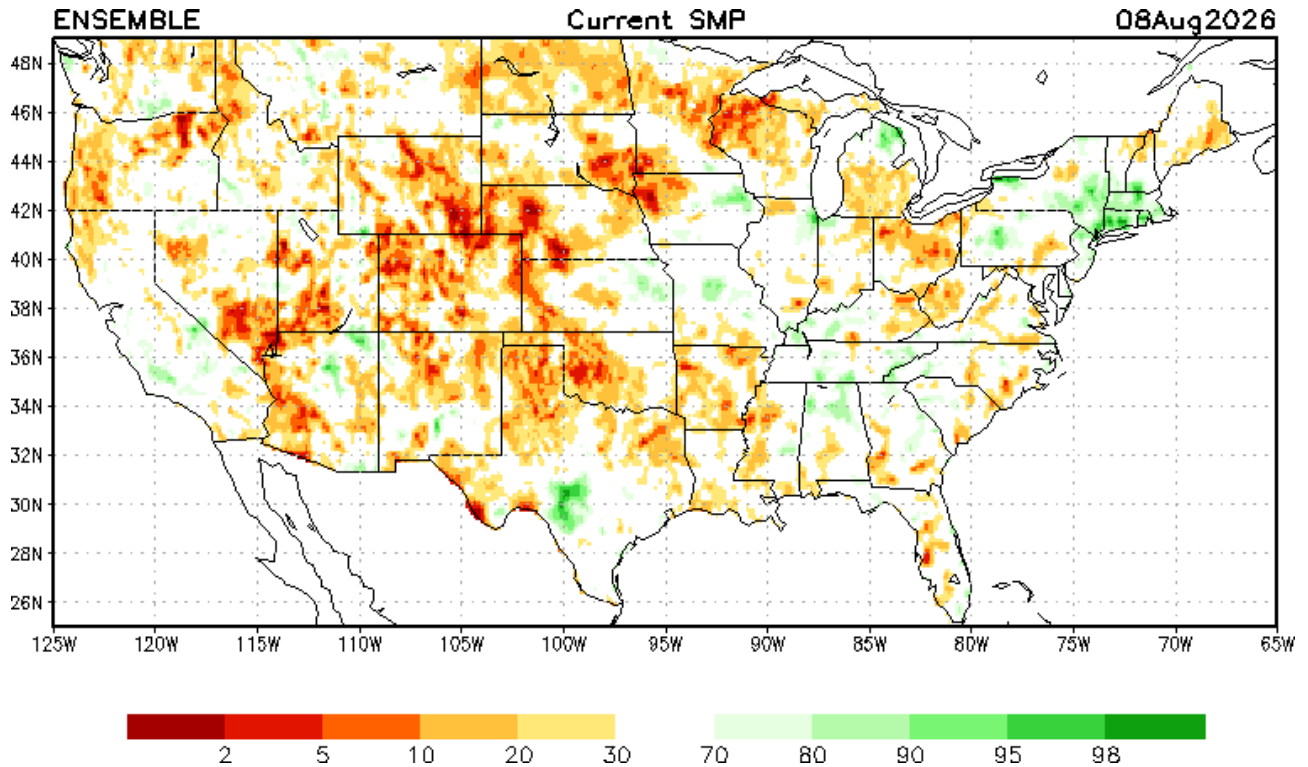
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

- [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

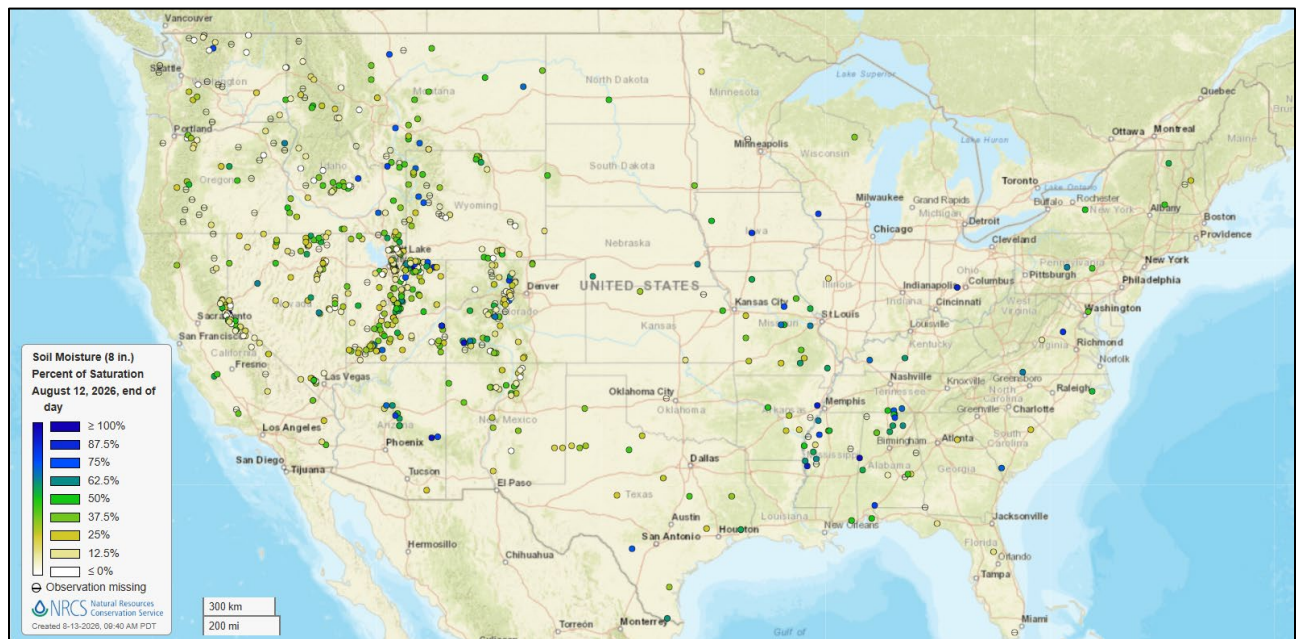


[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of August 8, 2026

Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

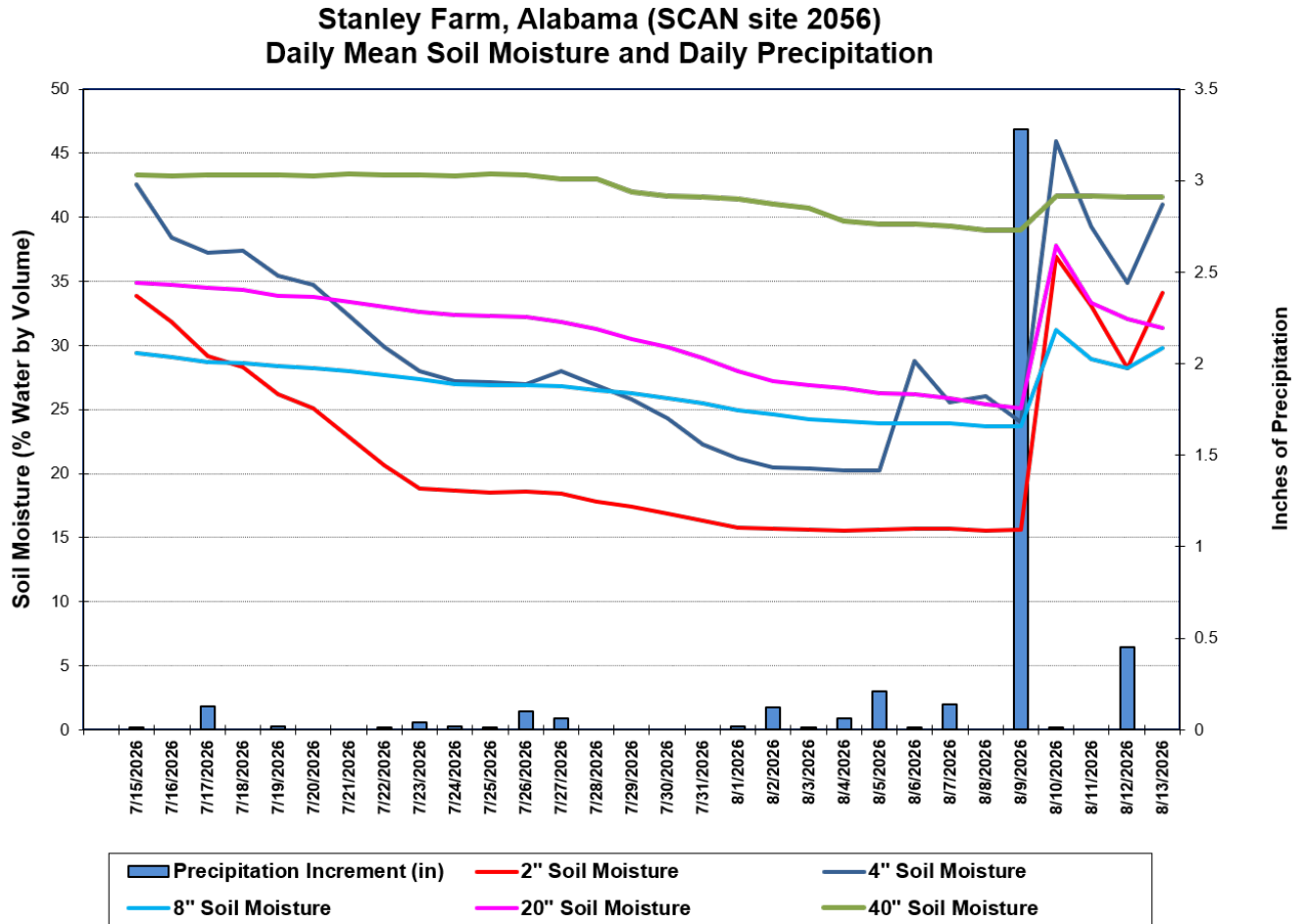
Source: NRCS SNOTEL and [Soil Climate Analysis Network](#) (SCAN)

[U.S. soil moisture map at 8-inch depth:](#)



Soil Moisture

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



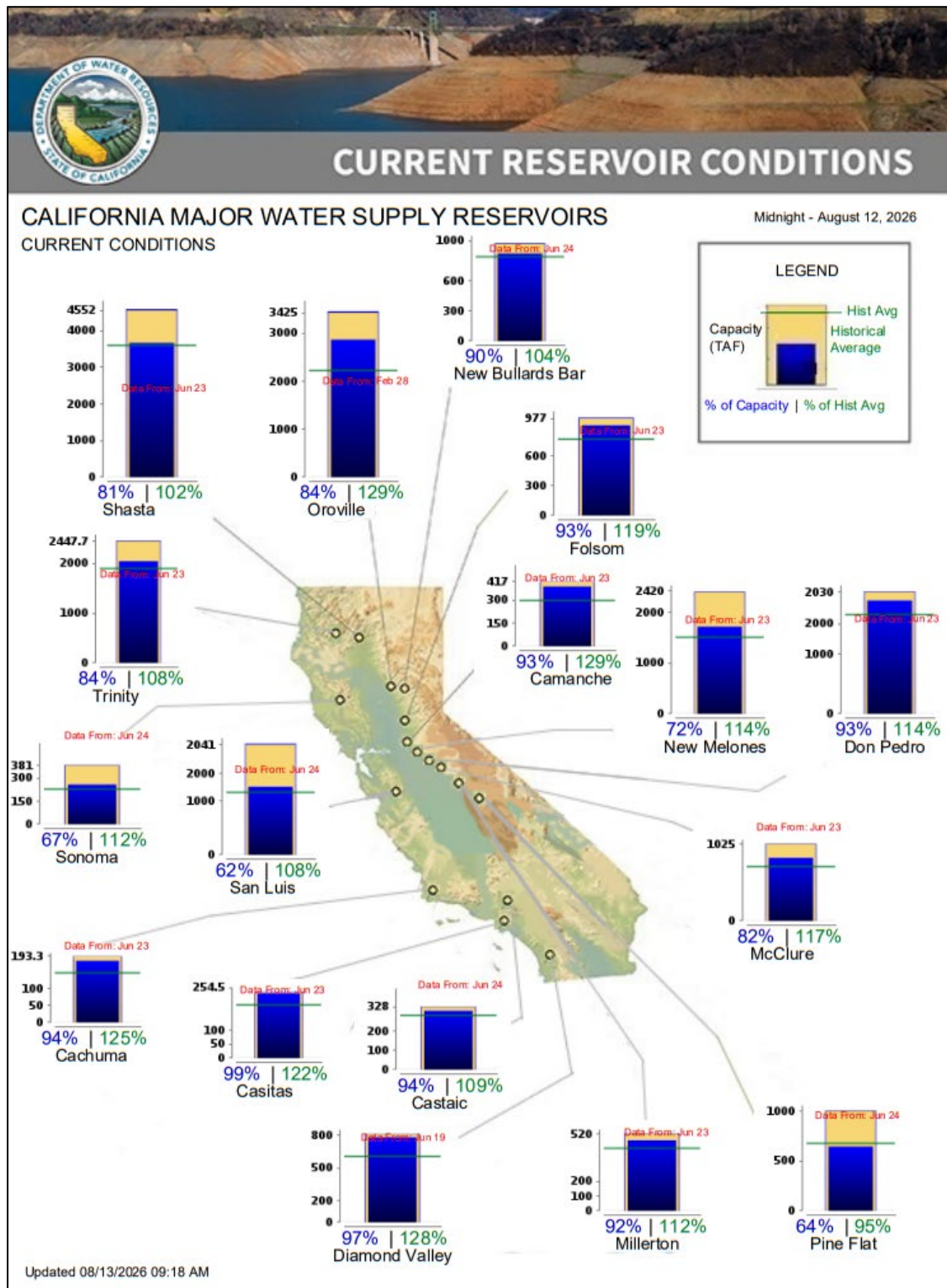
This chart shows the precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the [Stanley Farm](#) SCAN site in Alabama. Soil sensors at all depths recorded an increase in soil moisture after the site received 3.28 inches of precipitation on August 9. Total precipitation for the 30-day period was 4.71 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 13, 2026: "For at least the next 5 days, thunderstorms will form in various parts of the Midwest and move toward the east or southeast, with an ongoing threat of high winds, large hail, and flash flooding. However, the active pattern will also help to suppress temperatures and boost soil moisture reserves, with 5-day rainfall reaching 1 to 4 inches or more from Nebraska and Iowa into the Ohio Valley. Farther south, however, hot, mostly dry weather will persist from the southern Plains to the Mississippi Delta, with afternoon temperatures routinely topping 100°F. Hot weather will also spread into the Southeast, although scattered afternoon thunderstorms will occur. Elsewhere, Western rainfall will greatly diminish during the weekend, with lingering showers mostly limited to the central and southern Rockies. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for August 18 – 22 calls for near- or above-normal temperatures nationwide, except for cooler-than-normal conditions in the Sierra Nevada and western Great Basin. The South will have the greatest likelihood of experiencing unusual heat. Meanwhile, below-normal rainfall from the southern Plains to the southern Atlantic Coast should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in much of the northern and western U.S., including the northern Corn Belt and the northwestern half of the Plains."

Weather Hazards Outlook: [August 15 – 19, 2026](#)

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center

U.S. Day 3-7 Hazards Outlook

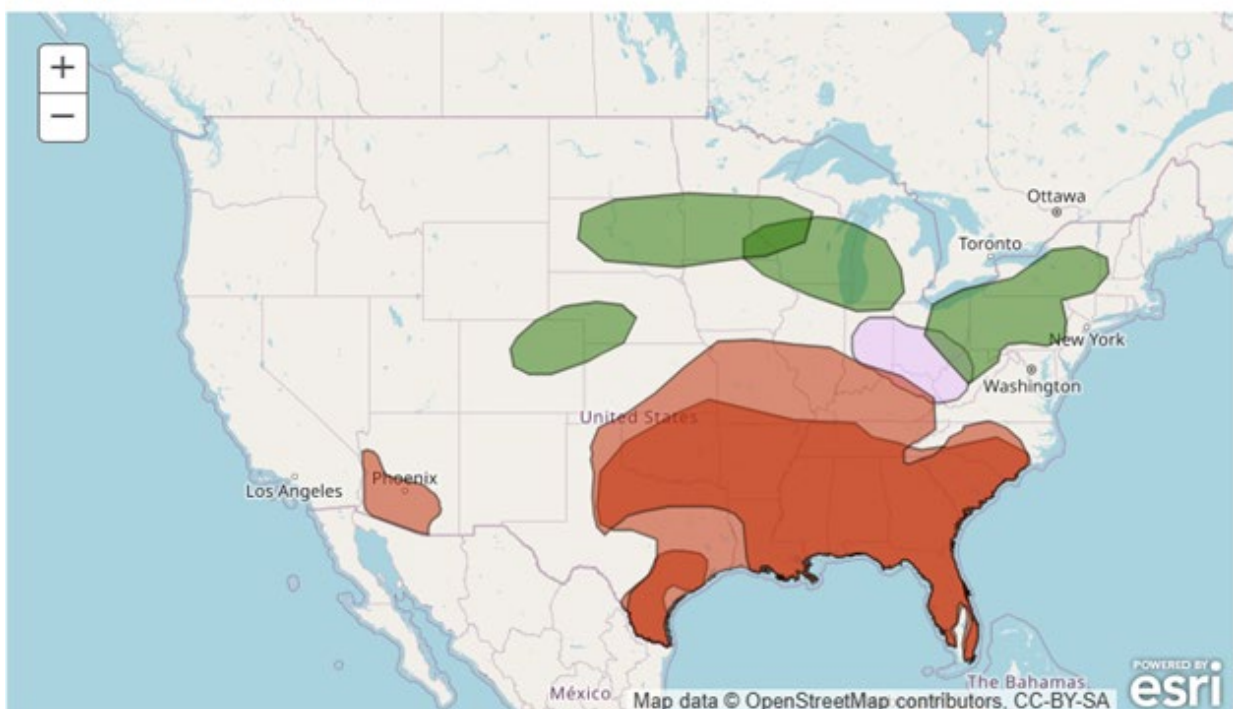
About the Hazards Outlook

Created August 12, 2026

Precipitation	☒
Temperature	☒
Wildfires	☒
Soils	☐
Flooding	☒

Legend	
	Flooding Likely
	Flooding Occurring or Imminent
	Flooding Possible
	Freezing Rain
	Heavy Precipitation
	Heavy Rain
	Heavy Snow
	Hazardous Heat
	Hazardous Cold
	Frost/Freeze
	High Winds
	Significant Waves
	Critical Wildfire Risk
	Severe Weather

Valid August 15, 2026 - August 19, 2026

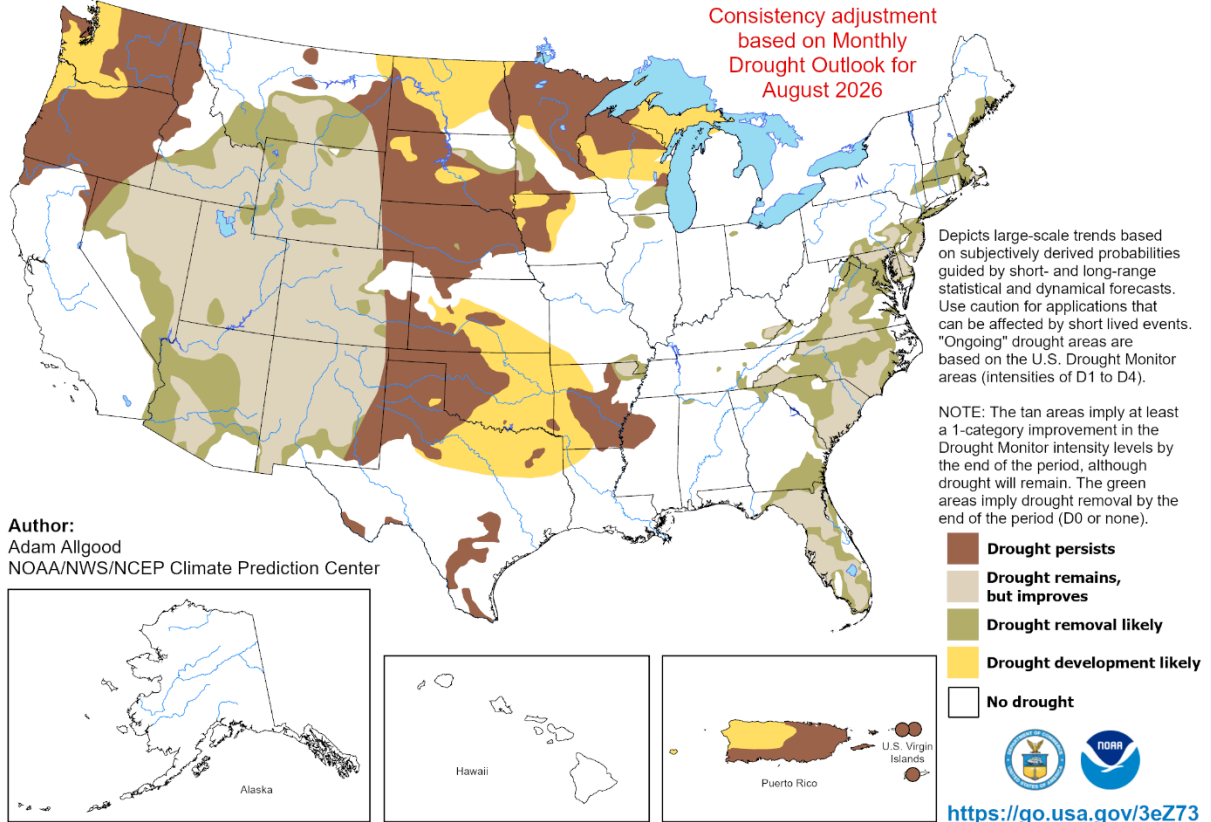


Seasonal Drought Outlook: [August 1 – October 31, 2026](#)

Source: National Weather Service

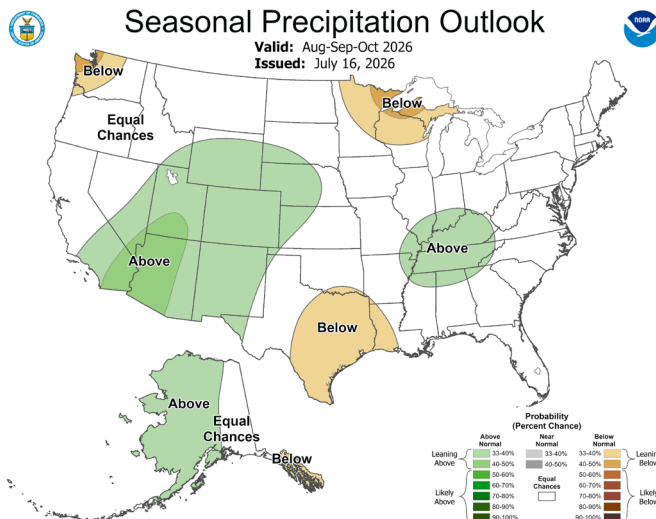
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for August 1 - October 31, 2026
Released July 31, 2026

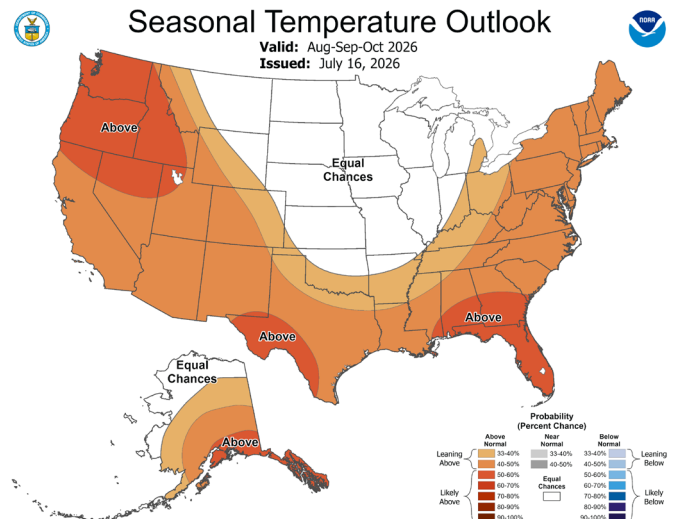


Climate Prediction Center Three-month Outlook

[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](#).