



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

Weekly Snowpack / Drought Monitor Update September 4, 2014

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Agricultural Weather Highlights – Thursday, September 4, 2014

- In the **West**, the latest surge of monsoon-related moisture is producing locally heavy showers in Arizona. Dry weather covers the remainder of the region. Below-normal temperatures in the interior Northwest contrast with a return to hot conditions across inland sections of California.
- On the **Plains**, cooler air is overspreading roughly the northwestern half of the region. Hot, dry weather persists, however, farther to the south, where today’s high temperatures could again reach 100°F in parts of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The southern Plains’ heat is stressing immature summer crops but favors fieldwork; in Oklahoma, 40% of the winter wheat seedbeds were prepared for planting by the end of August.
- In the **Corn Belt**, locally heavy showers and thunderstorms dot the upper Midwest. The rain is slowing fieldwork but generally benefiting late-developing summer crops. Elsewhere in the Midwest, late-season warmth is helping to push corn and soybeans toward maturity.
- In the **South**, warm, humid conditions prevail. Widely scattered Southeastern showers are providing local relief from unfavorably dry conditions. On August 31, at least one-fifth of the pastures were rated in very poor to poor condition in South Carolina (31%), Georgia (21%), and Alabama (21%).

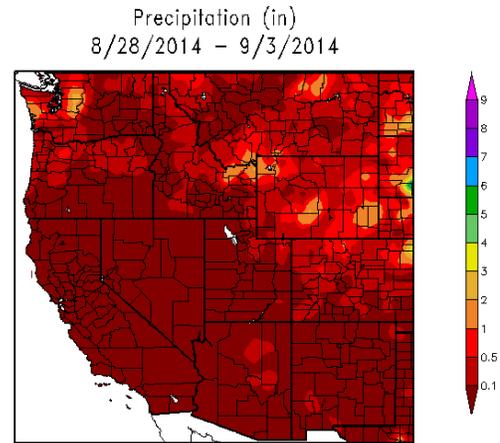
Outlook: A cold front currently crossing the Midwest will remain the focus for showers as it pushes southeastward during the next few days. Five-day rainfall totals could reach 1 to 2 inches from the central Plains to New England. Similar amounts can be expected in the Southeast, except for 2- to 4-inch totals near the southern Atlantic Coast. Meanwhile, locally heavy rain will also occur in the Southwest, with showers spilling across the southern High Plains. Dry weather will prevail, however, from the Pacific Coast to the northern High Plains. Late-season heat across the South, East, and Midwest will be briefly suppressed in the wake of a cold front’s passage, but hot weather will soon rebuild from the Northwest to the nation’s mid-section. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 9-13 calls for above-normal temperatures across the Southeastern and Pacific Coast States, while cooler-than-normal conditions will dominate the Rockies, northern and central Plains, and upper Midwest. Meanwhile, near- to above-normal rainfall across the majority of the U.S. will contrast with drier-than-normal weather in the Northwest.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)
Website: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/DailyTODAYSWX.pdf>

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

The [ACIS 7-day](#) total precipitation map for the western U.S. shows mainly dry conditions. Precipitation has fallen primarily across the northern tier states. Scattered precipitation also occurred in the Rocky Mountains east to the northern and central Great Plains.

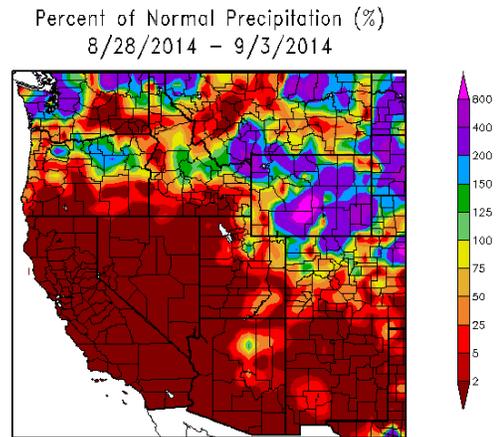


Generated 9/4/2014 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

This percent of normal [map](#) of the West for the last seven days reflects the heaviest scattered precipitation falling across the northern tier states of Oregon, Washington, and the northern Rocky Mountains in Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana. Some scattered precipitation also occurred elsewhere in the West and into the Great Plains.

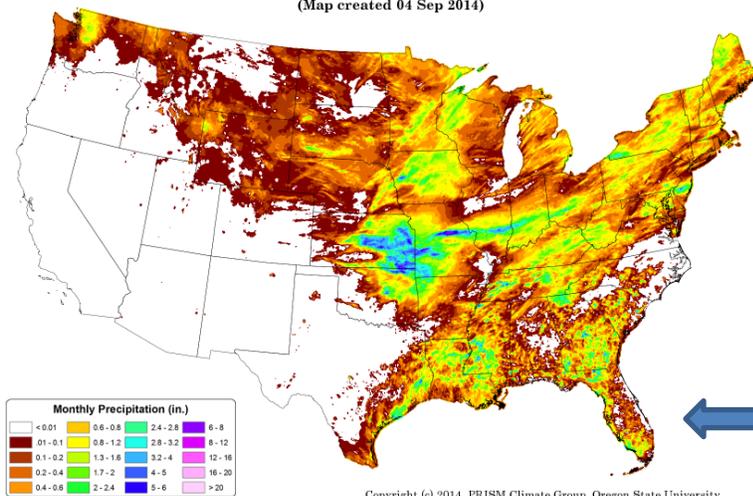
Percent of normal precipitation may be exaggerated in areas where the average for this period is at or near zero.



Generated 9/4/2014 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Total Precipitation: 01 September 2014 - 03 September 2014
Period ending 7 AM EST 03 Sep 2014
(Map created 04 Sep 2014)



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So far in September 2014, the total precipitation across the continental U.S. was heaviest in the central Great Plains, and parts of the central U.S. Scattered precipitation occurred over most of the eastern U.S. In contrast, the West, including California, Nevada, Oregon, Arizona, New Mexico, western Texas, and Oklahoma were mainly dry.

← See [Go Hydrology](#) for current and forecast conditions over southern Florida.

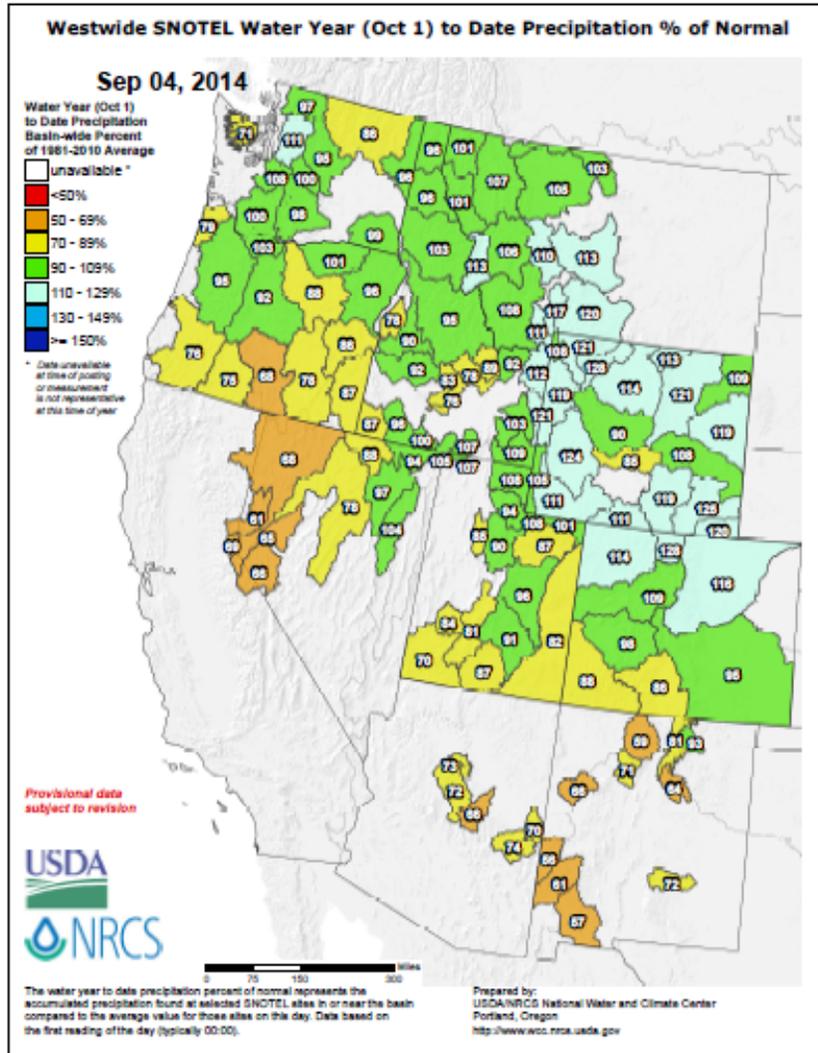
Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

For the [2014 Water Year](#) that began on October 1, 2013, surpluses in the western U.S. occurred in southern Montana, most of Wyoming, and northern Colorado.

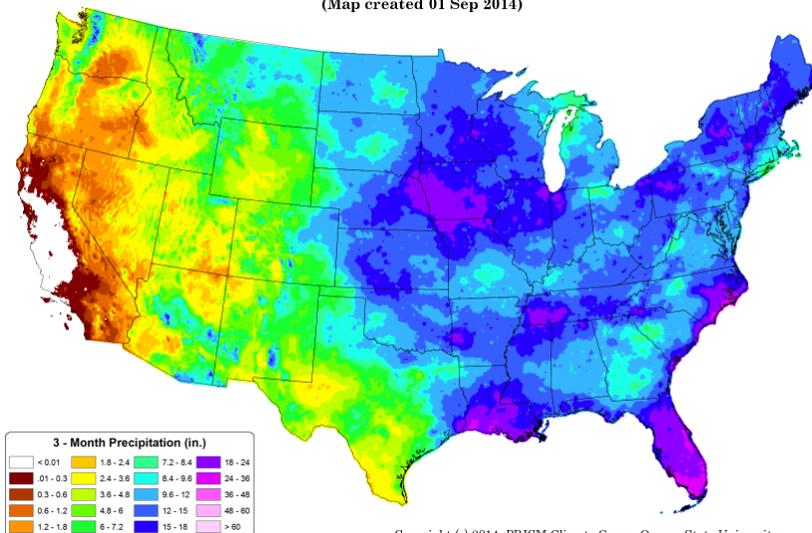
Near average conditions dominated the northern half of the Cascades, the northern half of Idaho, northwestern-most Montana, the Bear River in northern Utah and southeast Idaho, and parts of the southern half of Colorado.

The largest deficits were centered over southern Oregon, the Sierra Nevada in Nevada and California, southern and eastern Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico.

As the Water Year advances, it becomes more difficult for river basins to change bin categories.



Total Precipitation: June 2014 - August 2014
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Aug 2014
(Map created 01 Sep 2014)



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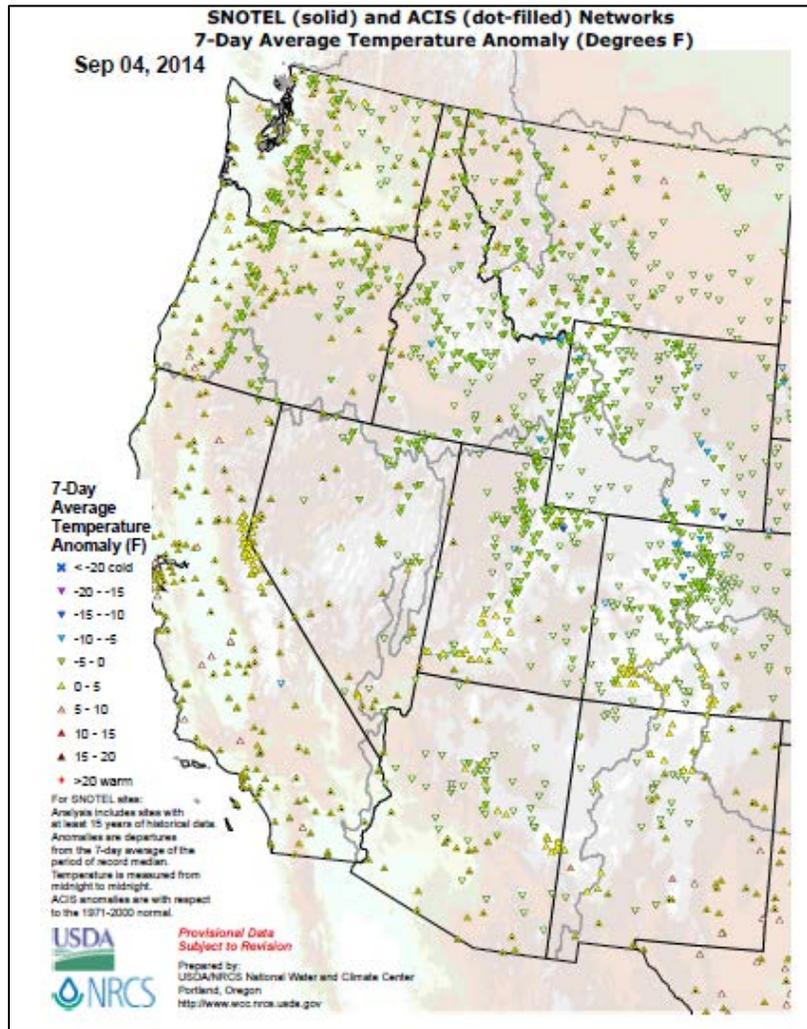
The national map of the [three-month period](#) (June - August) shows that the eastern half of the nation received precipitation in the range from 8.4 to greater than 24 inches in Louisiana, Florida, and North Carolina.

On the other hand, much of the West received totals of less than 4.8 inches. Central California had little to no precipitation for the period. The exceptions in the West were over the northern Rockies and Cascades, where totals exceeded 12 inches.

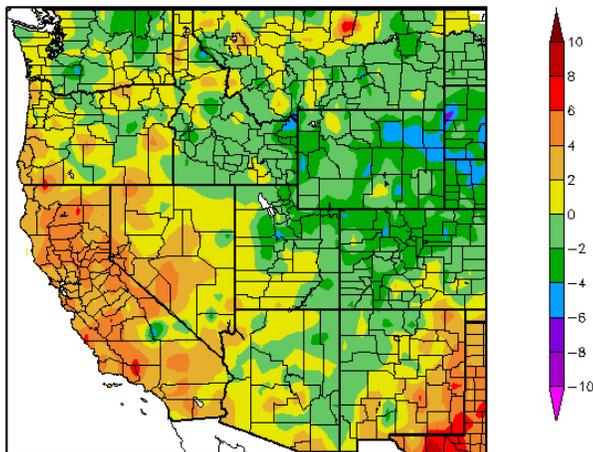
Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Temperature

The [SNOTEL](#) and ACIS [7-day temperature anomaly](#) map for the western U.S. shows temperatures near normal for most of the West. Below normal temperatures occurred along the central Rocky Mountains in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Colorado. There were a few warmer than normal temperatures in California, southern Oregon, and southeast New Mexico. The remainder of the West was near normal for the week.



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/28/2014 - 9/3/2014



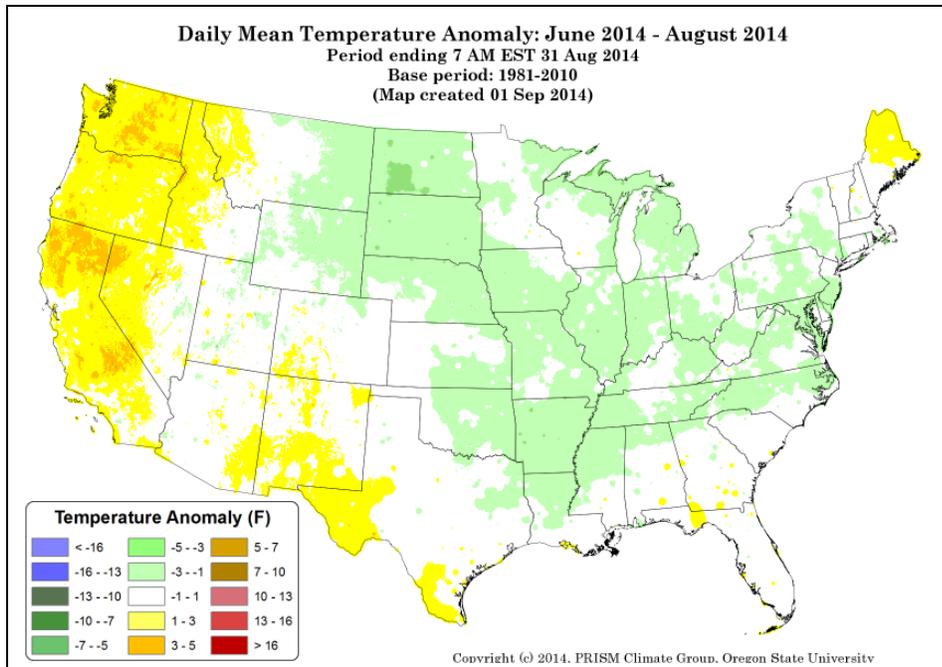
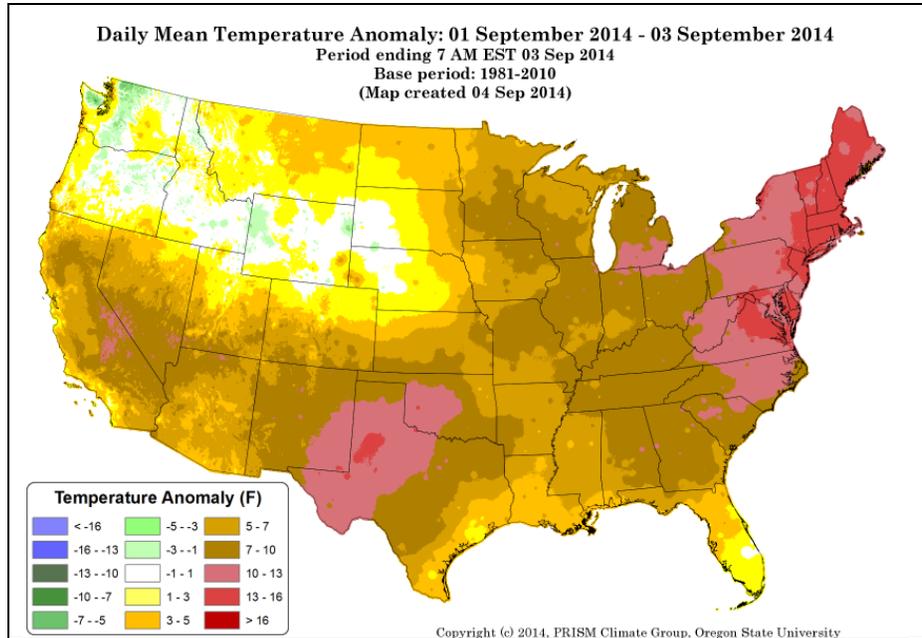
The [ACIS](#) map of the 7-day average temperature anomalies in the West ending September 3, shows the greatest negative temperature departures mainly over eastern Wyoming into South Dakota ($<-4^{\circ}\text{F}$). The greatest positive temperature departures occurred in southeast New Mexico, with a few other scattered warm areas recorded in California ($>+6^{\circ}\text{F}$).

Also, see [Dashboard](#) and the [Westwide Drought Tracker](#)

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

This preliminary [PRISM](#) temperature map contains all available network data, including SNOTEL data, and will be updated periodically as additional data become available and are quality controlled.

During early September 2014, the national daily mean temperature anomaly [map](#) shows a cold pattern over the Pacific Northwest into the northern Great Plains ($<-5^{\circ}\text{F}$). Above normal temperatures were recorded in the northeast and mid-Atlantic states and in the Southwest, centered in west Texas ($>+13^{\circ}\text{F}$).



June - August national daily mean temperature anomalies for the U.S. in this [climate map](#) shows the West coast had slightly to above normal temperatures, mainly in California, western Nevada, and eastern Washington ($>+3^{\circ}\text{F}$). Most of the remainder of the country reported normal to slightly cooler than normal temperatures this summer, with the coolest temperatures in North Dakota ($<-5^{\circ}\text{F}$).

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Weather and Drought Summary

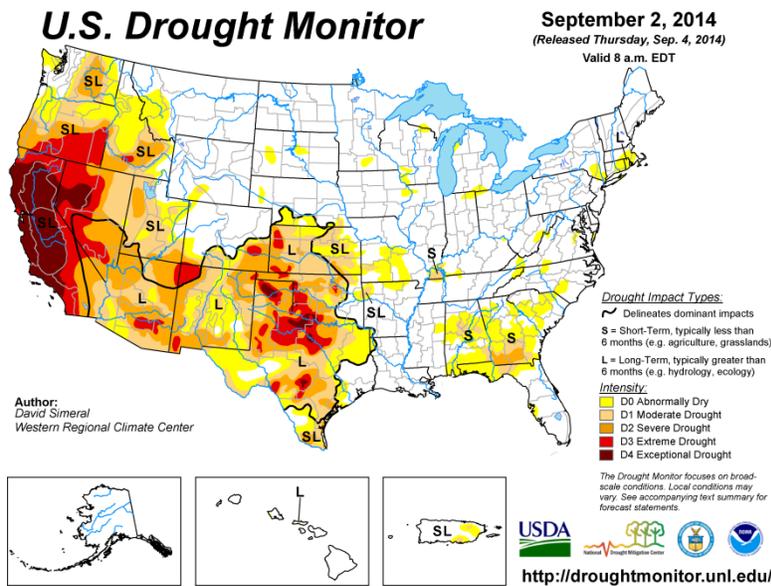
National Drought Summary – September 2, 2014

The following **Weather and Drought Summary** is provided by this week's NDMC Drought Author, David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center.

USDM Map Services: contains [archived maps](#)

“For the contiguous 48 states, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 32.78 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 33.86 percent a week earlier.

For all 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 27.39 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 28.29 percent a week earlier.”



See: Latest Drought [Impacts](#) during the past week.

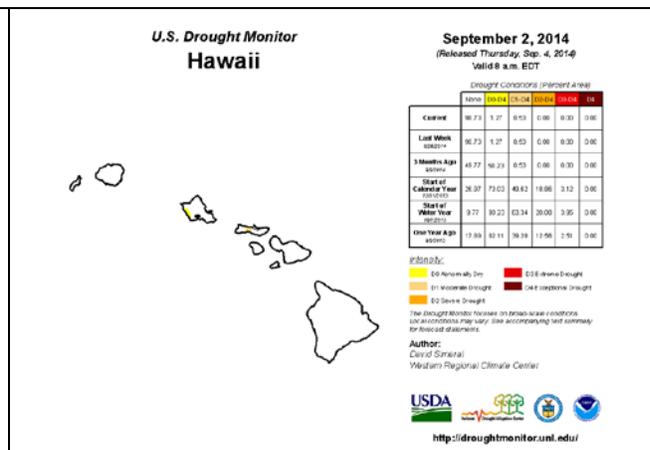
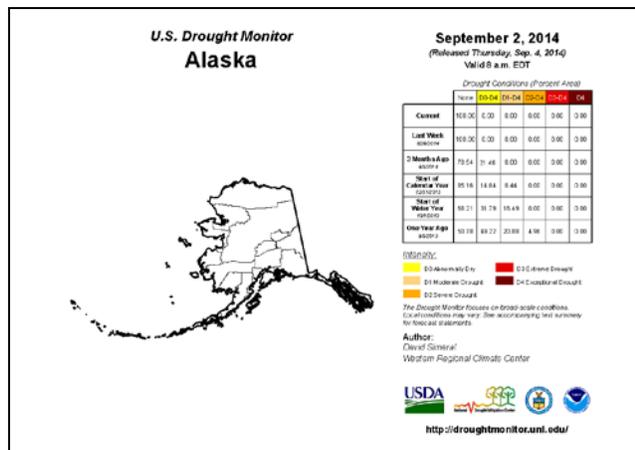
[Current Drought Monitor](#) weekly summary. The exceptional D4 levels of drought are scattered across CA, NV, TX, and OK.

The latest [drought indicator blend and component percentiles](#) spreadsheet is a great resource for climate division drought statistics. This link is for the latest [Drought Outlook](#) (forecast). See [climatological rankings](#).

For more drought news, see [Drought Impact Reporter](#).
New: [ENSO Blog](#).

Drought Management Resources:

- ✓ <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/Drought/AgInDrought.pdf>
- ✓ [Watch AgDay TV](#)
- ✓ [Drought Impacts Webinar Series](#)
- ✓ [NIDIS Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- ✓ [The Spring 2014 edition of DroughtScope](#)

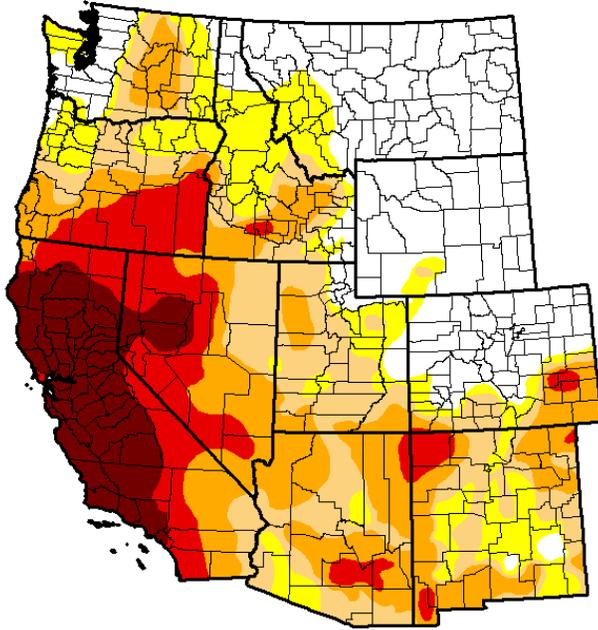


“The [49th](#) and [50th](#) States show relatively benign drought conditions. No changes noted for Alaska and Hawaii this week. A comprehensive narrative describing drought conditions across other parts of the nation can be found toward the end of this document. For drought impacts definitions for the figures that follow, click [here](#).”

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

U.S. Drought Monitor West

September 2, 2014
(Released Thursday, Sep. 4, 2014)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	28.38	71.62	57.74	40.04	20.16	8.90
Last Week 8/26/2014	27.50	72.50	58.91	41.45	20.62	8.90
3 Months Ago 6/2/2014	31.84	68.16	60.32	47.21	20.20	4.31
Start of Calendar Year 12/1/2013	22.20	77.80	51.44	31.11	7.75	0.63
Start of Water Year 10/1/2013	25.25	74.75	58.96	34.18	5.57	0.63
One Year Ago 8/2/2013	14.19	85.81	76.15	53.28	16.40	1.83

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

A slight decrease in D0-D3 categories occurred in the West during this past week. D4 remained unchanged, and the drought-free area slightly increased this past week.

Click to enlarge maps

Risk Management Web Resources

- Drought Monitor for the [Western States](#)
- Drought Impact Reporter for [New Mexico](#)
- [California Data Exchange Center & Flood Management](#)
- [Intermountain West Climate Dashboard](#)
- [California Sierra Nevada-related snow pack](#)

U.S. [Impacts](#) during the past week:

- [Southwest U.S. may face 'megadrought' this century](#)- Aug 27
- [Don't expect any bargains on beef](#) – Aug 29
- [USDA raises 2014 beef, pork retail prices on drought, disease](#) – Aug 25

GA - [Severe drought takes a toll on farmers](#) – Aug 26

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

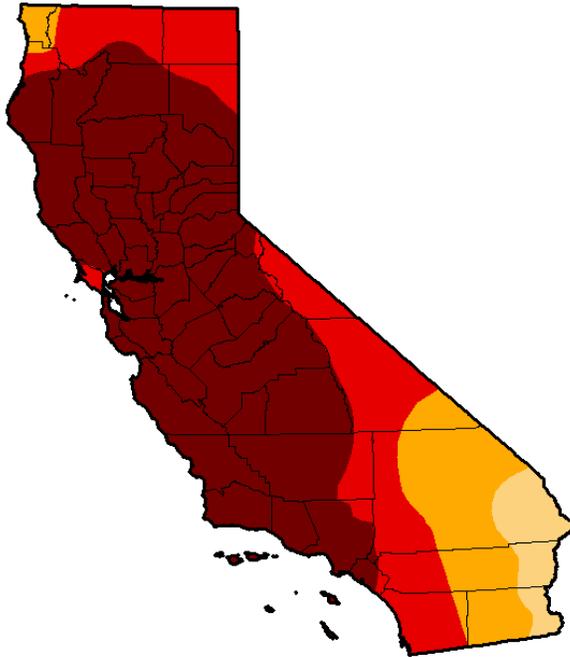
State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor California

September 2, 2014

(Released Thursday, Sep. 4, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.42	81.92	58.41
Last Week <i>9/29/2014</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.42	81.92	58.41
3 Months Ago <i>6/3/2014</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	76.68	24.77
Start of Calendar Year <i>12/31/2013</i>	2.61	97.39	94.25	87.53	27.59	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>10/1/2013</i>	2.63	97.37	95.95	84.12	11.36	0.00
One Year Ago <i>9/2/2013</i>	0.00	100.00	97.08	92.94	11.36	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

There was no change in the California drought conditions this past week.

[CA Drought Information Resources](#)

[Drought News from California:](#)

[Lawmakers approve groundwater management bill – Aug 27](#)

[Californians tear out lawns to cope with drought – Aug 24](#)

[California drought: San Jose declares water shortage, but won't fine wasters – Aug 27](#)

[Drought leaves California homes without water – Aug 23](#)

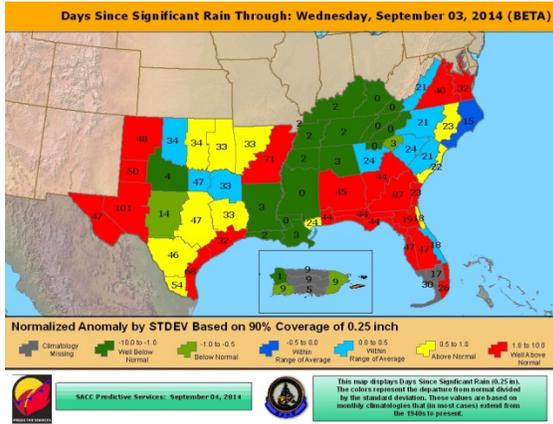
[Exceptional drought status continues: Eel River flows at record low – Aug 28](#)

[Judge won't stop emergency water releases helping Klamath Basin salmon – Aug 27](#)

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Texas Drought [Website](#).
[Texas Reservoirs](#).
[Texas Drought Monitor Coordination Conference](#)
Call: on Monday's 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM CST

[North Texas Municipal Water District approves once-a-week sprinkler use – Aug 28](#)

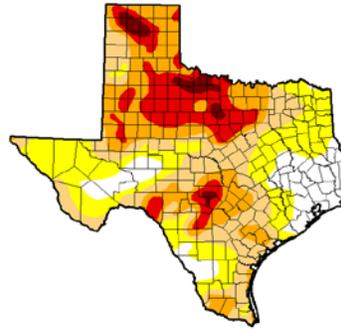


[Days since Significant Rain Summary](#)

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor
Texas

September 2, 2014
(Released Thursday, Sep. 4, 2014)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

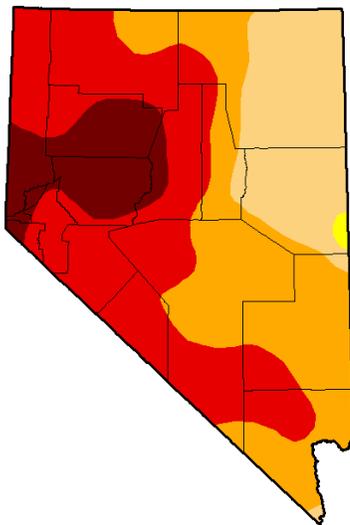


A slight decrease in drought-free and D3 areas occurred this past week. An increase in D0 – D2 occurred this past week. D4 remained unchanged.

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor
Nevada

September 2, 2014
(Released Thursday, Sep. 4, 2014)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



The D1 – D3 drought categories decreased in Nevada this past week. The D4 area remained unchanged.

Nevada Drought News:

[Ranchers appeal grazing ban, invite judge to tour grass – Aug 26](#)

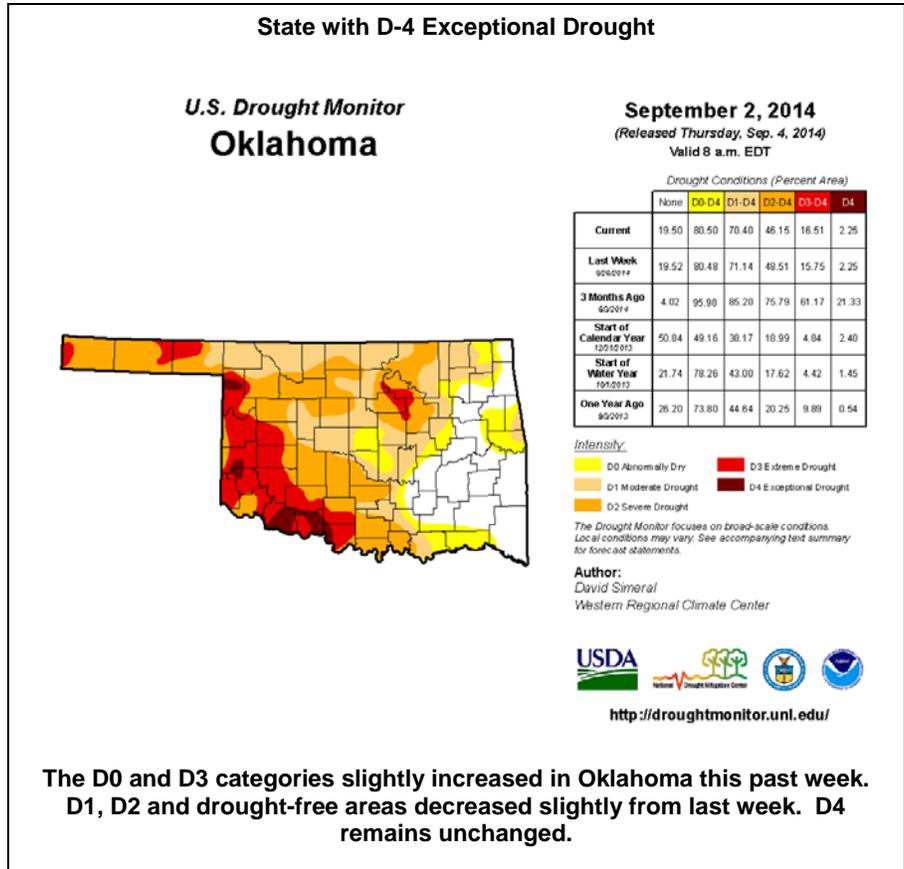
[Ducks dying at drought-lowered Virginia Lake in Reno – Aug 26](#)

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Related Area News:

[2014 Kansas Drought Report and Summary](#)

- [Past 30 days precipitation totals](#)
- [Past 30 days precipitation percent of normal](#)
- [Calendar Year precipitation totals](#)
- [Calendar Year Precip percent of normal](#)
- [Short Crop ET](#)



New! [U.S. Population in Drought information](#)

Number of people in each drought category in the U.S. for the week ending September 2, 2014

Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
2014-09-02	196,071,470	109,325,985	73,046,566	56,873,940	39,255,363	27,701,046
2014-08-26	199,502,168	105,895,287	73,807,143	56,502,644	39,055,937	27,701,046

New population figures added to the U.S. Drought Monitor website show that for this week, more than 73 million people in the United States are in a drought-affected area, with more than half of the total – 37 million – in California.

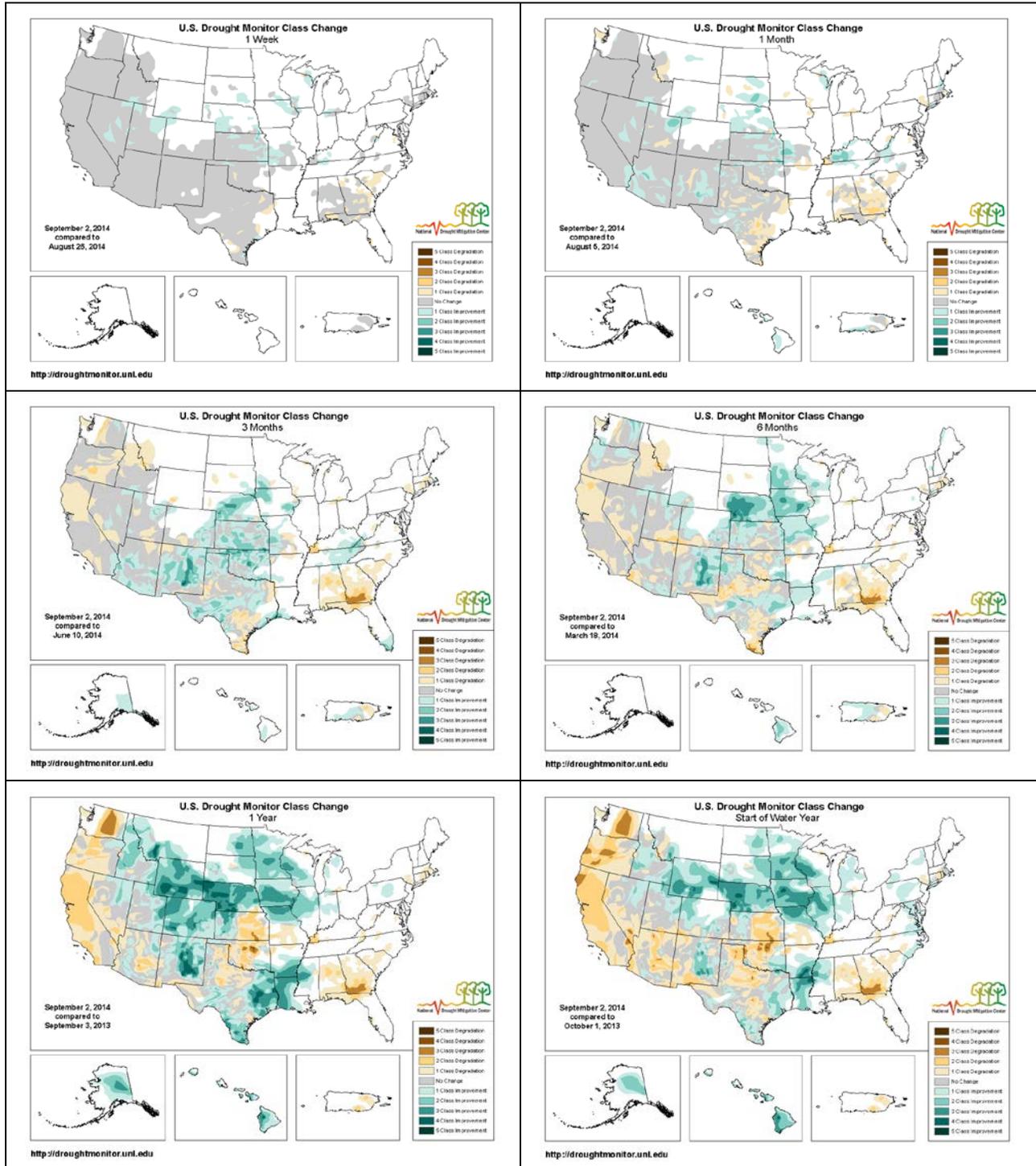
Population Statistics Methodology:

The U.S. Drought Monitor population statistics are calculated at the county level, and aggregated to the state, regional, and national levels. The population densities have been calculated for each county. The proportion of the physical area of the county that is in drought is multiplied by the uniform population density in order to obtain a number for each county. The county values are then summed at the state, regional, and national level.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Changes in Drought Monitor Categories

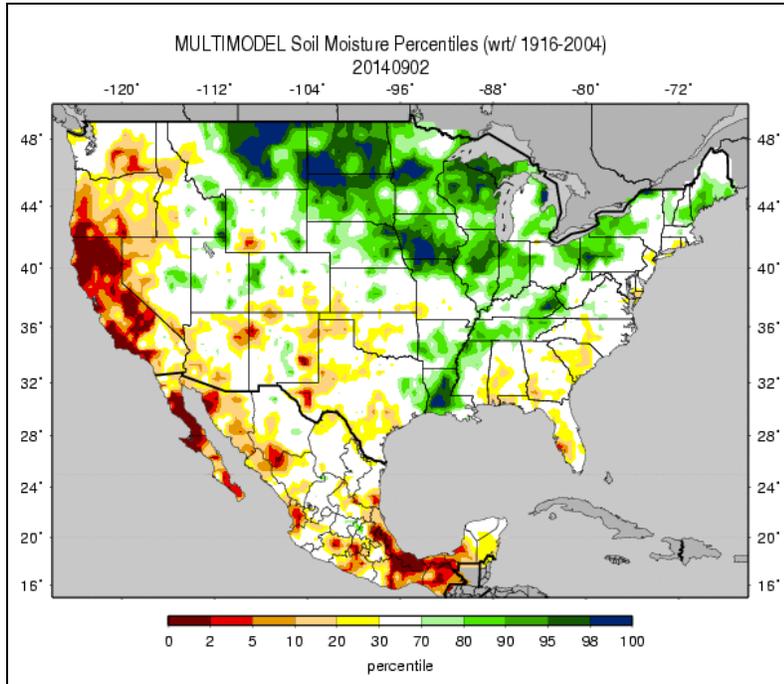
Over Various Time Periods



Click on any of these maps to enlarge. Note how the conditions over the Rockies and northern Great Plains have improved between 6 to 12 months (middle right to lower left maps). However, also note that since the start of the 2014 Water Year last October, conditions over the middle and southern Great Plains and the Pacific coast states have deteriorated significantly (lower right map).

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Soil Moisture

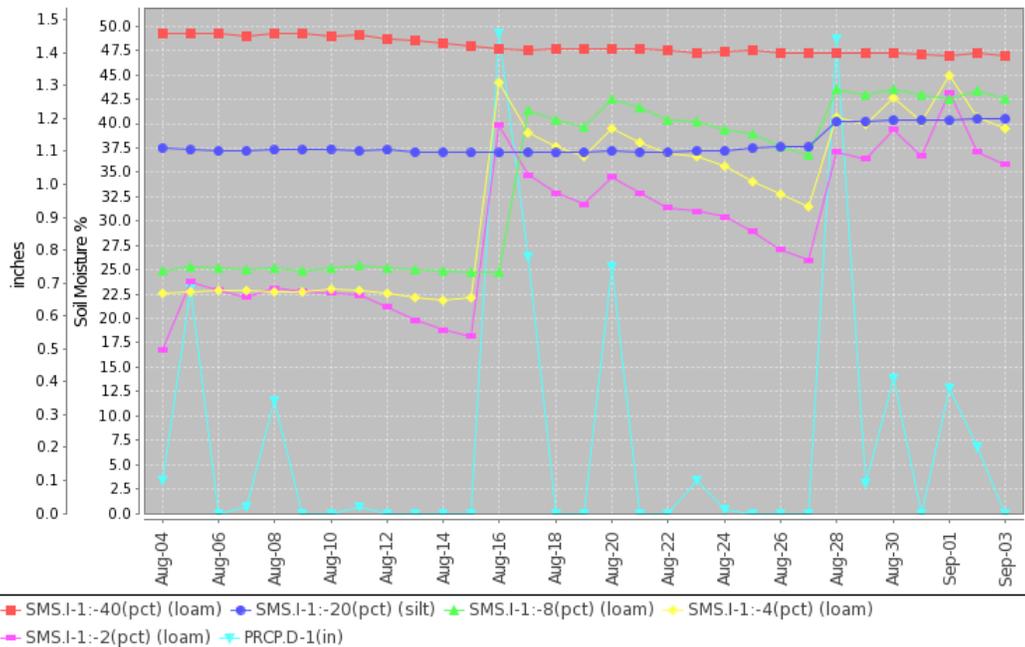


The national soil moisture model ranking in [percentile](#) as of September 2, 2014, shows dryness over California, Washington, Oregon, western Idaho, southern Texas, and southwest Wyoming. Scattered dryness was also reported in other areas of the West, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. Moist soils dominated from Montana to the Atlantic coast, where the wettest locations were centered in the Dakotas and eastern Montana. Soils in Iowa, Louisiana, and eastern Kentucky also had scattered high moisture content.

Useful Hydrological Links: [Crop Moisture Index](#); [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#); [Standardized Precipitation Index](#); [Surface Water Supply Index](#); [Weekly supplemental maps](#); [Minnesota Climate Working Group](#); [Experimental High Resolution Drought Trigger Tool](#); [NLDAS Drought Monitor](#); [Soil Moisture](#)

Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)

Station (2047) MONTH=2014-08-04 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision
Wed Sep 03 20:38:20 PDT 2014

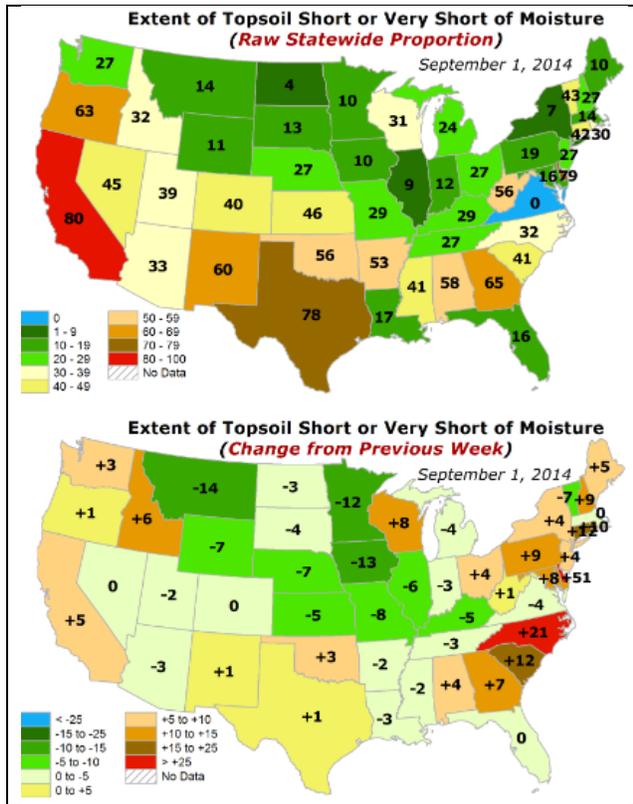


This NRCS resource shows soil moisture data at the [Spickard SCAN site number 2047](#), located in Missouri. The recent precipitation in the area is graphed in light blue. The August precipitation has increased the 2-, 4-, 8- and 20-inch depth soil moisture, whereas the deeper soil sensor at 40 inches depth (red traces) shows continued drying during the month.

Useful Agriculture Links: [Vegetation Drought Response Index](#); [Evaporative Stress Index](#); [Vegetation Health Index](#); [NDVI Greenness Map](#); [GRACE-Based Surface Soil Moisture](#); [North American Soil Moisture Network](#); [Monthly Wild Fire Forecast Report](#).

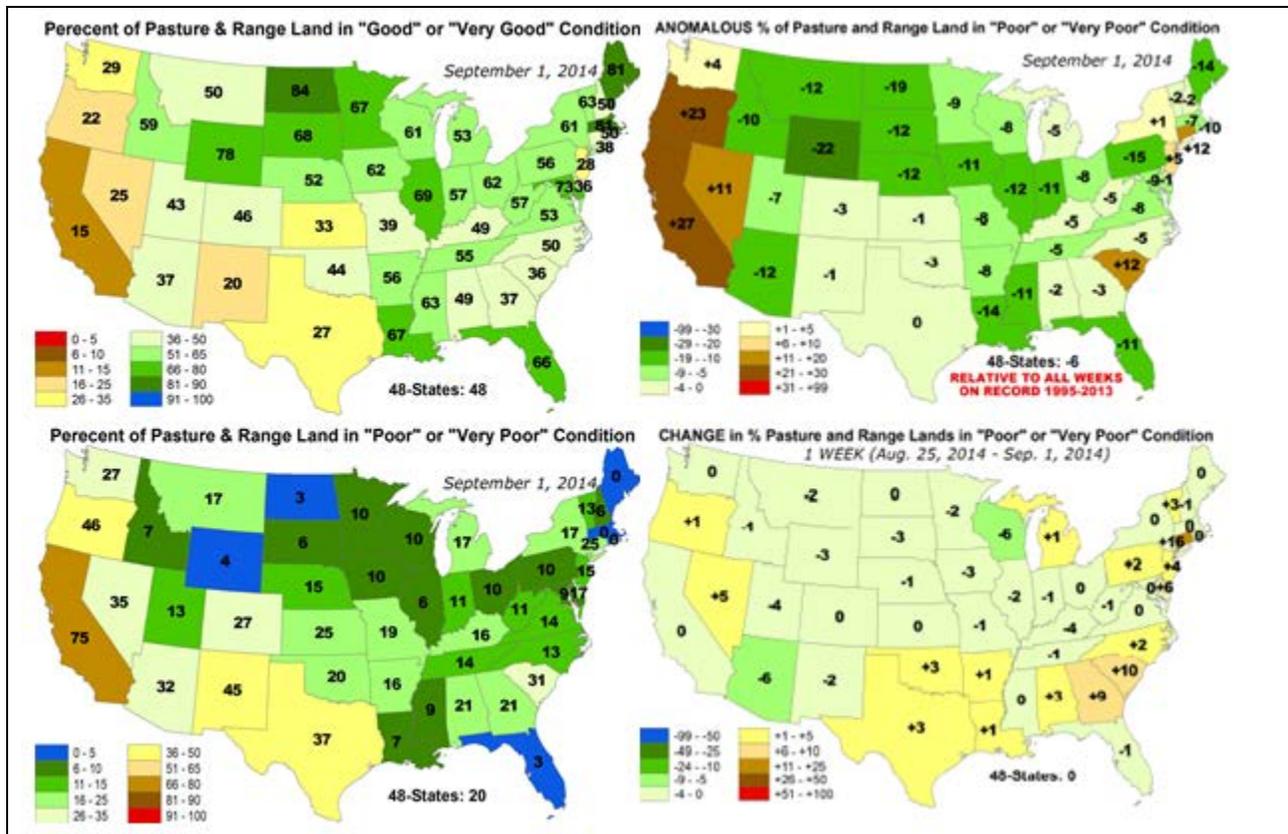
Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Topsoil and Pasture & Rangeland National Conditions



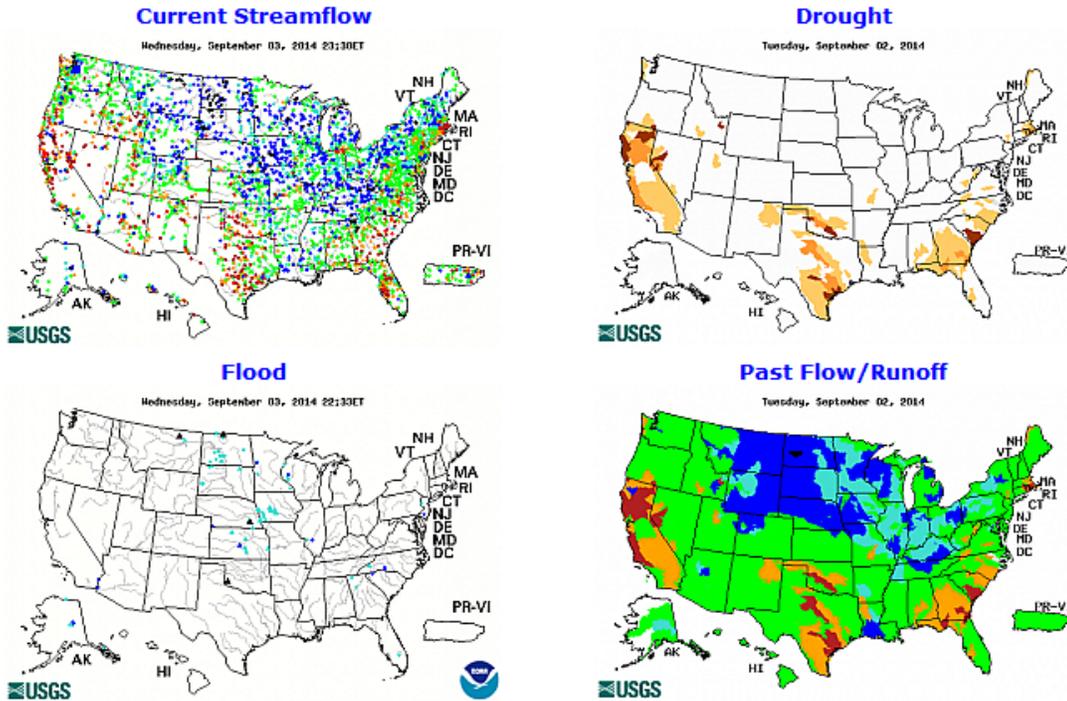
↪ Topsoils are exceptionally poor (top) over Georgia, Texas, New Mexico, California, and Oregon with values representing 60 percent or more poorer conditions than the median for this time of year (bottom panel). Locations in the Dakotas, east to much of the Atlantic coast, as well as Louisiana and Florida have good soil moisture conditions.

↪ Many of the states east of the Mississippi River are doing well, as noted below. These conditions also extend across the northern Great Plains and northern Rockies. Pasture and rangelands are in poor and very poor condition in California, the Great Basin, and the Southwest. Conditions have improved in the Southwest and Rockies over this past week.



Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Streamflow



The streams are high over most of the central U.S., including the Mississippi River Basin, the central Rockies, the Southwest, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, and the Northeast, due to recent precipitation (left maps). Central Alaska, Oahu and Kauai, Hawaii, and central Puerto Rico are also reporting some high streamflow. Rivers are above flood stage along the Souris River in North Dakota, Beaver Creek in Montana, the Salt Fork Red River in Oklahoma, and the Big Blue River in Nebraska (lower left map).

National Long-Range Outlook



Click maps to enlarge and update

Currently the Upper Midwest part of the map has not been calculated for the long range flood outlook (dark gray dots).

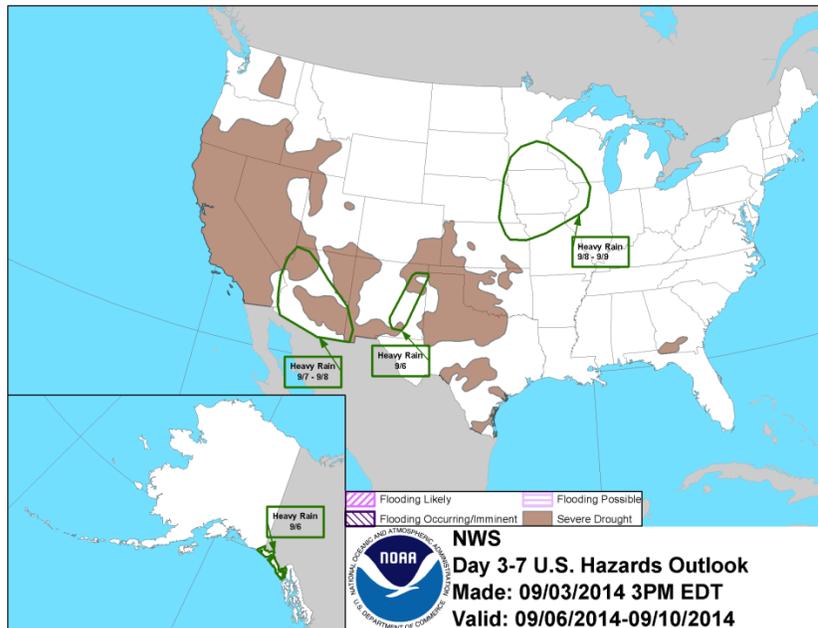
During the next three months, there is a risk of flooding in many areas of the upper Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, west-central Florida, and the Connecticut River. Currently, **1** gage has a greater than 50% chance to experience major flooding; **5** gages for moderate flooding; and **21** gages for minor flooding.

These numbers represent a 1-gage decrease in minor flooding in the last week.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

National [Weather Hazards](#)

Severe weather is expected in the north central part of the country in Iowa and surrounding states on September 8-9, as outlined in green on the hazard map to the right. Several other areas expected to receive heavy rain are in Arizona (September 7-8), eastern New Mexico (September 6), and in southeast Alaska (September 6). Severe drought remains a large issue in much of the south-central and western U.S.



[National Drought Summary for September 2, 2014](#)

Prepared by the Drought Monitor Author: David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center

Summary

"This U.S. Drought Monitor week saw heavy showers and thunderstorms across the Central Plains and portions of the Upper Midwest as well as along the central and western Gulf Coast. Rainfall accumulations in the Central Plains and Upper Midwest were heaviest across Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska with some areas receiving in excess of six inches. The combination of above-average summer rainfall accumulations in many areas and short-term gains (seven-day accumulations) led to improvements in drought-affected areas of Kansas and Nebraska. Along the central and western Gulf Coast, locally heavy rainfall fell across coastal areas of Louisiana and Texas with some areas receiving five-to-ten inches helping to improve drought conditions in southeastern Texas. Meanwhile, much of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast remained relatively dry with the exception of some isolated showers and thunderstorms across portions of Florida and Georgia. Temperatures were well above average for the week across Texas, the Southern Plains, Midwest, and portions of the Mid-Atlantic and New England. Out West, light rainfall accumulations were observed in the Central Rockies, New Mexico, and Wyoming. In the Southwest, monsoonal rains began to taper off across the region. West of the Continental Divide, dry conditions dominated.

Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico

On this week's map, conditions in these regions remained status quo. In Alaska, temperatures were below normal across the Interior while the rest of the state hovered near normal. According to the NWS in Juneau, record wet summer conditions (June-August) were reported in southeastern Alaska at several stations in Juneau and Haines. In the Hawaiian Islands, average temperatures were slightly below normal except for the northern part of the Big Island where temperatures were three-to-five degrees (F) above normal.

Mid-Atlantic

The Mid-Atlantic remained drought free on this week's map. Short-term precipitation deficits led to the introduction of areas of Abnormally Dry (D0) in Delmarva Peninsula and east-central Virginia. Overall, conditions were dry across the region during the past week with well above average temperatures early in

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

the week. According to the NWS, record high temperatures were reported earlier this week at Wallops Islands, Virginia (94° F) and New Bern, North Carolina (96° F).

Midwest

Significant rainfall accumulations (ranging from three-to-seven inches) were observed across portions of Iowa, central Illinois, southern Minnesota, and northwestern Wisconsin. This week's rains led to one-category improvements in areas of Moderate Drought (D1) and Abnormally Dry (D0) in southwestern and central Missouri as well as reductions in areas of Abnormally Dry (D0) in northeastern Iowa, northwestern Illinois, northern Wisconsin, and southeastern Michigan. According to the NWS in Sioux Falls, Iowa, rainfall records were broken at the Sioux Falls Airport for the summer months (30.38 inches from June through August; breaking the previous record of 20.13 inches set in 2010) as well as for the month of August (10.12 inches). Temperatures across the region were above normal during the past week except for extreme northern portions of the Midwest.

The Northeast

The Northeast remained drought-free, and no changes were made on the map this week. Across the region, dry conditions generally prevailed except for some isolated, light shower activity (one-to-two inches). Despite a dry week, a monthly total rainfall record (14.07 inches) for August was broken at Islip MacArthur Airport on Long Island, according to the NWS. Temperatures were one-to-four degrees (F) above normal across the region for the week.

The Plains

Drought conditions continued to improve across portions of Kansas and Nebraska this week as heavy rains increased soil moisture conditions and streamflows. Rainfall amounts were highest across eastern Kansas and southeastern Nebraska where accumulations ranged from three-to-six inches leading to one-category improvements in areas of Severe Drought (D2) and Moderate Drought (D1). In southwestern Nebraska and southeastern South Dakota, summer rains have brought conditions back to normal. In west-central Oklahoma, above-average temperatures and short-term precipitation deficits led to expansion in areas of Extreme Drought (D3) and Severe Drought (D2) while rainfall this week helped to slightly improve areas of Extreme Drought (D3) and Severe Drought (D2) in the Panhandle. During the past week, temperatures were above normal in the Southern Plains while Northern Plains temperatures were below normal.

The South

During the past week, locally heavy precipitation (three-to-eight inches) fell across southern Louisiana, while Mississippi and Alabama received lower accumulations ranging from one-to-three inches in Mississippi and one-to-two in northern Alabama. Along parts of the western Gulf Coast of Texas, significant rainfall accumulations (four-to-ten inches) helped to improve drought conditions in areas of Extreme Drought (D3), Severe Drought (D2), and Moderate Drought (D1). In south-central Texas, on August 12, 2014, the Edwards Aquifer Authority (serving nearly 2 million south-central residents) declared Stage 4 pumping reductions for users in the San Antonio Pool as groundwater levels dropped below threshold levels. Across most of Texas, temperatures were well above average especially in the Big Bend region of southwestern Texas where temperatures were six-to-ten degrees (F) above normal. Record daily high temperatures were set at Amarillo (104° F), Borger (106°), and El Paso (100° F), according to the NWS. In Lake Charles, Louisiana, a summer rainfall record was broken with 36.90 inches reported by the NWS in Lake Charles.

The Southeast

The Southeast received some isolated shower activity during the past week with the heaviest rainfall accumulations (one-to-three inches) observed across parts of Florida while the rest of the region remained generally dry. A continued hot and dry pattern across the region led to further deterioration in conditions across southern and eastern portions of Georgia as well as South Carolina and the Florida Panhandle. In

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southern Georgia, short-term precipitation deficits (30–90 days) continued to mount leading to expansion of areas of Severe Drought (D2) and Moderate Drought (D1). In the Florida Panhandle and South Carolina, low streamflows and short-term precipitation deficits led to expansion of areas of Moderate Drought (D1) and Abnormally Dry (D0). In west-central Florida this week, the NWS in Tampa Bay reported record daily high temperatures at Sarasota-Bradenton (96° F) and Ft. Meyers (96° F).

The West

During the past week, conditions were generally dry across most of the West with the exception of some light, isolated shower activity (<2 inches) in portions of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. The Far West, Great Basin, and Intermountain West were dry, however. Improvements were made on the map in parts of the eastern Great Basin including one-category improvements in areas of Severe Drought (D2) in northwestern and west-central Utah, as well as northeastern Nevada where springtime and monsoon-season rains helped improve rangeland conditions, soil moisture, and streamflows. In the mountains of northeastern Nevada and south-central Idaho, snowpacks were below normal for the Water Year (since October 1st); but total precipitation amounts at Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) SNOTEL sites (observational stations that measure snow water content, snow depth, accumulated precipitation, soil moisture, and air temperature) in these areas show that Water-Year-To-Date accumulated precipitation is near normal or normal. In this region, lingering hydrologic impacts persist as reservoirs remain well below normal. In northwestern, west central, and southwestern Utah, monsoon rains improved soil moisture and rangeland conditions according to the August 25, 2014, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Utah Crop Progress and Conditions Report. In northeastern Utah, northwestern Colorado, and southwestern Wyoming, summer rains helped to improve conditions leading to one-category improvements in areas of Extreme Drought (D2) and Severe Drought (D1). During the past week, temperatures were above normal in the Far West and below normal across the eastern half of the West.

Looking Ahead

The NWS WPC 7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) calls for moderate-to-heavy rainfall accumulations (two-to-five inches) across the Desert Southwest, Southern Rockies, Central Plains, Upper Midwest, Southeast, and lower Mid-Atlantic regions. Late in the period, a plume of subtropical moisture is forecasted to move into the Southwest bringing potentially heavy rains. In the Far West, dry conditions are forecasted to persist across California, the Great Basin, and most of the Pacific Northwest. The 6–10 day outlooks call for a high probability of above-normal temperatures across the Far West, Southern Plains, South, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic while below-normal temperatures are forecasted across the Central Rockies, Northern Plains, Upper Midwest, and New England. Temperatures across much of Alaska, including western, south-central, and southeastern regions are forecasted to be above normal. Regarding precipitation across the conterminous U.S., a high probability of above-normal precipitation is expected across the Southwest and the eastern half of the U.S. Below-normal precipitation is expected across the Pacific Northwest and western Alaska while precipitation in southeastern Alaska and the eastern half of Interior Alaska is forecasted to be above normal for the period.”

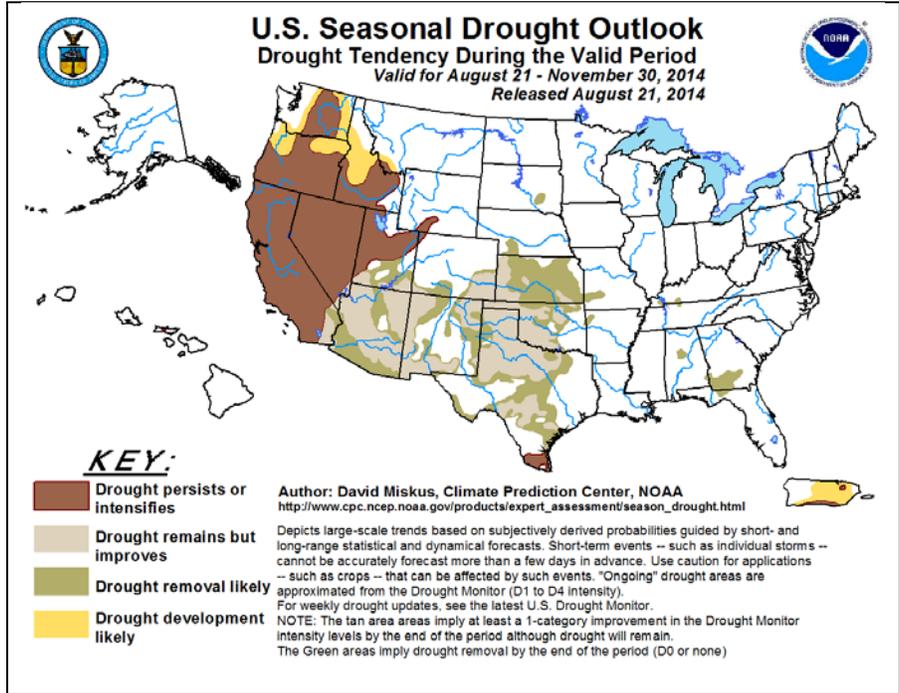
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Supplemental Drought Information

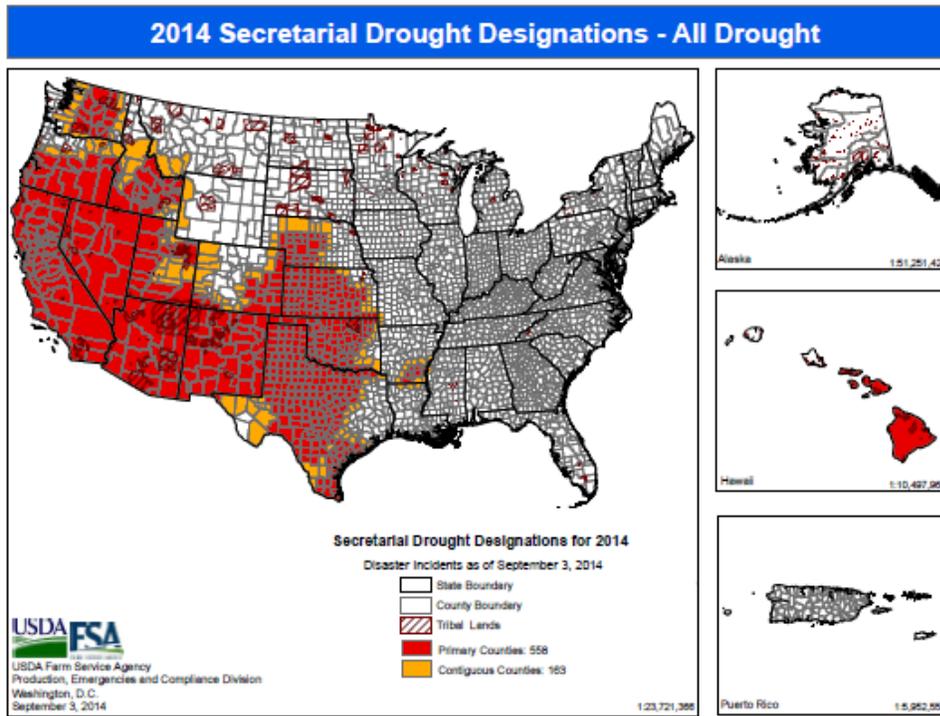
National Seasonal Drought Outlook

Nationally, [drought](#) is expected to persist or intensify over much of the West, the southern tip of Texas, and Puerto Rico. Improvements are expected from the Southwest to the central Great Plains, and in a few areas of the Southeast.

Also see: [National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) (updated on the first of each month) contains a content summary of the previous month's conditions.



2014 USDA Secretarial Drought Designations



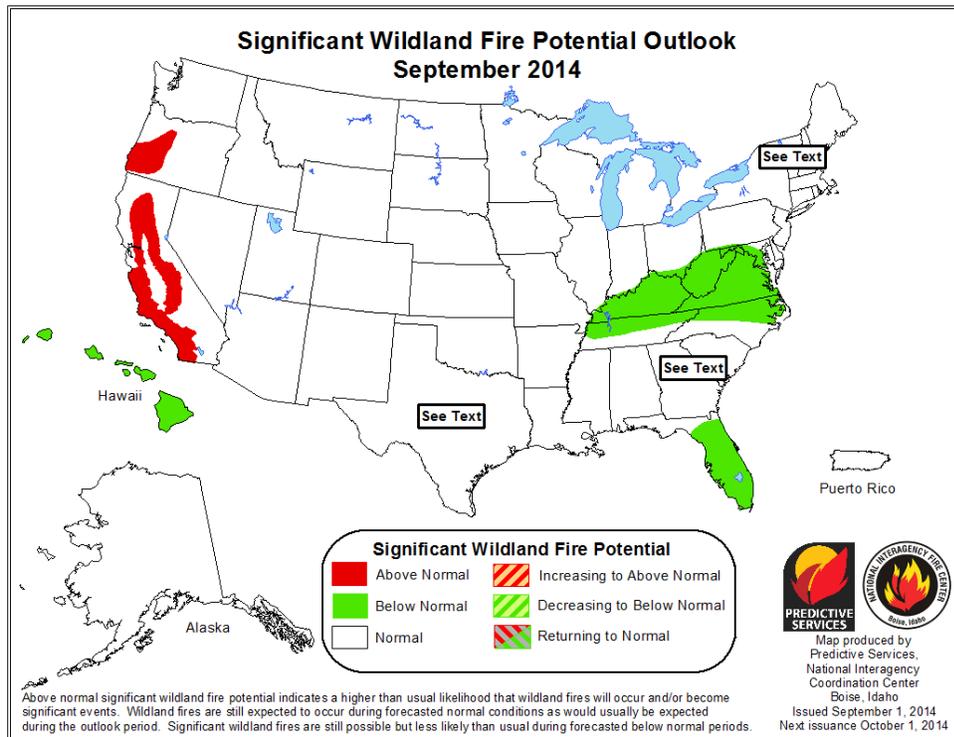
Refer to the USDA Drought Assistance [website](#) and [National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service](#).

Read about the new [USDA Regional Climate Hubs](#).

[New useful resource: NASS Quick Stats](#)

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National Fire Potential Outlook



September Forecast

Above normal [fire potential](#) persists in parts of California and Oregon.

The below normal fire potential area colored green on the map is forecast in Florida, and the mid-Atlantic coast west to the Mississippi River. Below normal conditions are also reported in all of Hawaii.

Additional Maps

U.S. Maps PowerPoint presentation: <http://dmcommunity.unl.edu/maps/US-Maps.ppt>.

Regional zooms of ACIS station data percent-of-normal precipitation: <http://dmcommunity.unl.edu/maps/All-CONUS-ACIS-PNP.pptx>.

National Water and Climate Center (NWCC) Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) maps: <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/swsi.html>

Supplemental Drought-Agriculture News

Download [archived](#) "U.S. Crops in Drought" files

The following is a collection of drought-related news stories from the past seven days or so. Impact information from these articles is entered into the [Drought Impact Reporter](#). A number of these articles will also be posted on the [Drought Headlines](#) page at the NDMC website. The list is compiled by Denise D. Gutzmer, Drought Impact Specialist, National Drought Mitigation Center.

California

"The California Senate passed AB1739, legislation authorizing oversight of groundwater pumping

The California Senate passed AB1739, legislation that authorizes groundwater sustainability agencies to install meters and charge fees. The bill is part of a larger legislative package that would require some local governments to begin managing wells and authorizes the state to intervene in some circumstances if local governments do not. The Assembly will consider companion legislation, SB1168, in coming days.

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Some domestic wells have run dry in East Porterville, California

Wells have run dry in East Porterville, leaving residents to rely on the Tulare County Office of Emergency Services to bring in bottled water since Aug. 22. At least 182 households of the 1,400 homes in town were without adequate running water, according to the Porterville Reporter. The county has also supplied a tank of non-potable water for bathing and toilet flushing.

Some East Porterville residents have been without water for a while, but have been afraid to report it for fear of being evicted or having their children removed from the home by Child Welfare Services. The emergency services manager for Tulare County assured the public that they simply want to provide water and will not share lists of homes lacking running water.

Water shortage in San Jose, California

A citywide water shortage was declared by San Jose city council members, and residents are urged to curb water use by 20 percent, but face no consequences if they fail to do so. The council intends to coordinate with regional water officials to discuss a new recycled water facility, develop a new program to reward frugal water customers and employ teenagers in a new campaign to aid property owners.

SoCal water districts petition for halt in water releases to aid salmon

U.S. District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill in Fresno denied the temporary injunction sought by Westlands Water District and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority. The two water agencies wanted the water releases from a reservoir on the Trinity River to end because less water will be left for Central Valley farmers next year.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation began increasing flows into the Trinity River on Aug. 23 to lessen the spread of disease among salmon and to aid the fish in their journey upstream.

Lawn replacements, lawn painting popular during California drought

Californians have shown more interest lately in replacing lawns with drought-tolerant landscaping, especially when cities offer nice rebates for residents who do so. During July, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California received requests to take out 2.5 million square feet of residential lawns, a dramatic increase from the requests to replace 99,000 sq. feet in January. More than 21 million square feet of turf have been torn out since the district began its turf removal incentives.

Some Californians have chosen to paint their lawns rather than try to keep them green through watering. A vegetable-based dye lasts for a few months.

Texas water shortage

Stage 4 drought restrictions in San Marcos, Texas

The City of San Marcos entered stage 4 drought restrictions Aug. 17 because the 10-day average Edwards Aquifer index well level fell below 630 feet above mean sea level. Drought conditions have never been dire enough for the city to enact stage 4 water restrictions.

Water quality issues led to more lenient watering schedule in North Texas

Strict water conservation measures in the North Texas Municipal Water District left water in the distribution system long enough to compromise water quality, prompting the district board to loosen water restrictions. Cities were asked to reduce water use by 15 to 20 percent earlier in 2014 to keep an adequate emergency supply in reserve. The reduction and concerted conservation efforts kept reservoirs levels from dropping quickly during the summer, but the summer's heat lowered residual chlorine levels. Some cities allowed residents to use sprinklers an extra day to move the old water, but not enough water was used. Fire hydrants were opened to get rid of the water, but that action frustrated residents who have obeyed requests for water conservation. The once a week sprinkler use is intended to keep water moving through the system at an acceptable rate.

Barge in use to draw water from Lake Bridgeport in northern Texas

A barge was installed several hundred yards from the shore of Lake Bridgeport to facilitate water withdrawals as the lake continues its decline of 3 feet in 2013 and 23 feet overall. The Walnut Creek Special Utility District and Brazos Electric Power Cooperative worked together to protect their water intakes as the lake level continued to drop.

The barge can be moved 1,000 feet to a deeper part of the lake if needed and supports two rotating pumps which can take up to 15 million gallons out of the lake daily. Lake Bridgeport is the main water source for Walnut Creek Special Utility District, which supplies water to Rhome, Boyd, Paradise and

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several other cities. The Brazos Electric Power Cooperative uses the lake water for a power plant in Jack County. The project cost \$860,000.

Wildlife

Poor water quality leading to duck deaths in two city parks in Reno, Nevada

Water quality has deteriorated at two Reno city parks, where lakes have not received water from the Truckee River since early August. At that time, the river fell below the level of diversion outlets that direct water to Reno's parks, stopping all water flow to the lakes. With no fresh water coming in, water quality worsened, with 24 ducks found dead at Virginia Lake and about the same number at Teglia's Paradise Park. Avian botulism is the likely culprit, but lab results have not yet verified that suspicion.

Wildfires

There were only eight large wildfires burning in the West, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, four in California and four in Oregon.

Prolonged drought in California has kept the number of wildfires in the state above the five-year average. [Stats](#) from Cal Fire.

Interval	Fires	Acres
January 1, 2014 through August 23, 2014	4,330	84,128
January 1, 2013 through August 23, 2013	3,799	102,435
5 year average (same interval)	3,361	70,028

(Statistics include all wildfires responded by CAL FIRE in both the State Responsibility Area, as well as the Local Responsibility Area under contract with the department, plus all large wildfires in State Responsibility Area protected by CAL FIRE's contract counties)."

More impact information can be found in the [Drought Impact Reporter](#)



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Tea Cup Reservoir Depictions

- <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/basin/> ← Upper Colorado
- http://www.usbr.gov/uc/wcao/water/basin/tc_gr.html; ← Upper Snake
- <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/burtea.html> ← Upper Colorado
- http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/basin/tc_cr.html ← Upper Colorado
- <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/select.html> ← Pacific Northwest
- <http://www.sevierriver.org/reservoirs/teacup-diagram-of-reservoirs/> ← Sevier River Water (UT)

State Activities

[State government drought activities](#) can be tracked through their drought plans. NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting (SSWSF) Program State Office personnel are participating in state drought committee meetings and providing the committees and media with appropriate SSWSF information. Additional information describing the [tools](#) available from the Drought Monitor can also be found at the [U.S. Drought Portal](#).

More Information

The National Water and Climate Center (NWCC) [Homepage](#) provides the latest available snowpack and water supply information. This document is available [weekly](#). CONUS Snowpack and Drought Reports from 2007 are available online. Reports from 2001-2006 are available on request.

This report uses data and products provided by the Interagency Drought Monitor Consortium members and the National Interagency Fire Center.

/s/

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