



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

Weekly Snowpack / Drought Monitor Update September 18, 2014

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Agricultural Weather Highlights – Wednesday, September 18, 2014

- “In the **West**, the remnant circulation of former Hurricane Odile is crossing the southernmost Rockies. Heavy showers are ending across southeastern Arizona but continue in southern New Mexico, where flash flooding remains a threat. Elsewhere, isolated showers dot the Northwest, but several wildfires in various stages of containment are affecting California and Oregon.
- On the **Plains**, heavy showers are spreading into western Texas in conjunction with the remnants of Odile. Locally heavy rain is also falling in several other areas, including southeastern Kansas, northeastern Oklahoma, and the western Gulf Coast region. Farther north, late-season warmth favors summer crop maturation and fieldwork, including winter wheat planting and spring wheat harvesting.
- In the **Corn Belt**, dry weather accompanies a gradual warming trend, helping to push late-developing corn and soybeans toward maturity. On September 14, ten percent or less of the corn was fully mature in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Dakotas.
- In the **South**, showers are developing primarily west of the Mississippi Delta. In the Southeast, warm, mostly dry weather favors fieldwork, including corn and peanut harvesting.

Outlook: Late-season warmth will continue to expand, covering most of the country during the weekend. Early next week, however, cooler weather will return across much of the South, East, and lower Midwest. Meanwhile, locally heavy rain will linger across parts of the South, with 2- to 6-inch totals possible in Texas. In addition, totals may exceed 2 inches along and near the southern Atlantic Coast. Elsewhere, late-week showers can be expected in the Great Lakes region, followed by a round of locally heavy precipitation in the central Rockies and environs. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 23-27 calls for above-normal temperatures along the Gulf Coast and along and northwest of a line from Arizona to Wisconsin. Cooler-than-normal conditions will stretch from the southern Rockies into the lower Midwestern, Mid-Atlantic, and Northeastern States. Meanwhile, near- to below-normal precipitation across the majority of the U.S. will contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in the Pacific Northwest, lower Southeast, and southern sections of the Rockies and High Plains.”

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

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

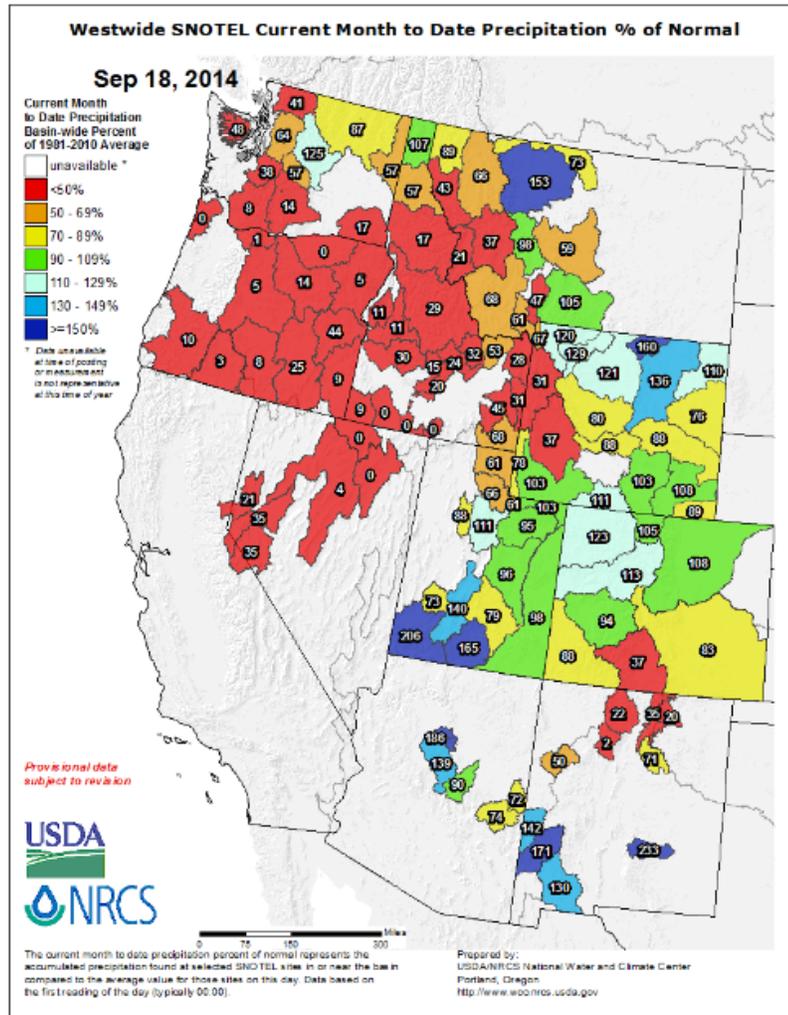
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Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

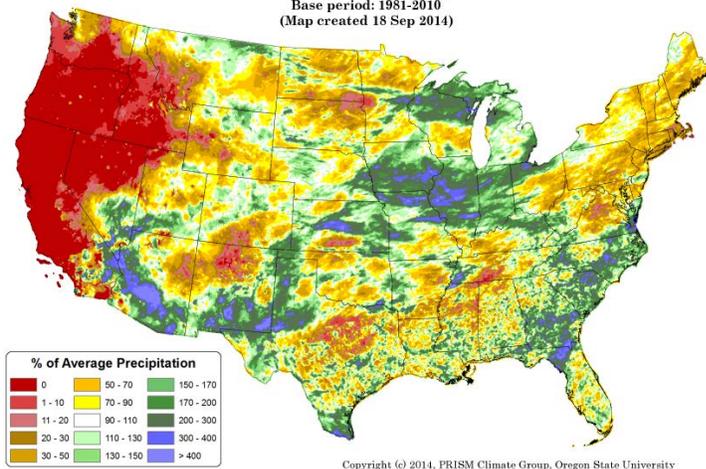
Precipitation

In the West, the September [SNOTEL](#) precipitation percent of normal map shows a wide variety of conditions in Washington, Montana, Colorado, and Wyoming where precipitation occurred only in select basins in each of the states. Much of Utah, northern Wyoming, northeast Colorado, central Arizona, and southern New Mexico received much above normal precipitation for the period. The percent of normal values (especially in the dark blue areas) may be amplified where normally very little precipitation falls during this time of year.

Click on most maps in this report to enlarge and see latest available update.



Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 September 2014 - 17 September 2014
 Period ending 7 AM EST 17 Sep 2014
 Base period: 1981-2010
 (Map created 18 Sep 2014)



In September 2014, the national [precipitation anomaly](#) pattern reveals some higher than normal precipitation across the central Great Plains, in Iowa, Illinois, northern Missouri, central Kansas, and northern Wisconsin. Monsoon and hurricane-remnant moisture dominated Arizona and parts of southeastern California, southern Nevada, southern Utah, and southern New Mexico into western Texas. Above average moisture was also recorded in parts of the Southeast. A large area of the West, especially California, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, and southern Washington, has seen little or no precipitation.

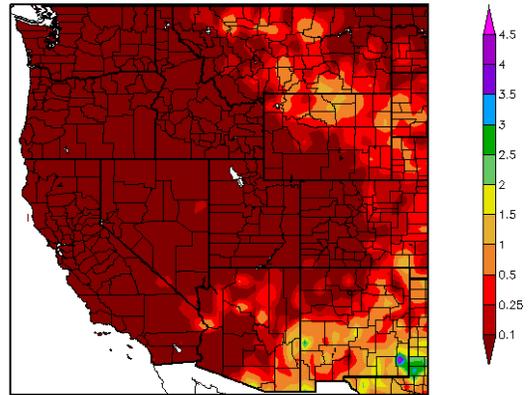
This preliminary daily PRISM precipitation anomaly map contains all available network data, including SNOTEL data, and is updated periodically as additional data become available

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

and are quality controlled.

The [ACIS 7-day](#) total precipitation map for the western U.S. shows mainly dry conditions. Precipitation has fallen primarily across the southwest states. Heavy precipitation fell in southeast Arizona, as well as in southern New Mexico and into Texas. Scattered precipitation also occurred in the northern Rocky Mountains east to the southern Great Plains.

Precipitation (in)
9/11/2014 - 9/17/2014



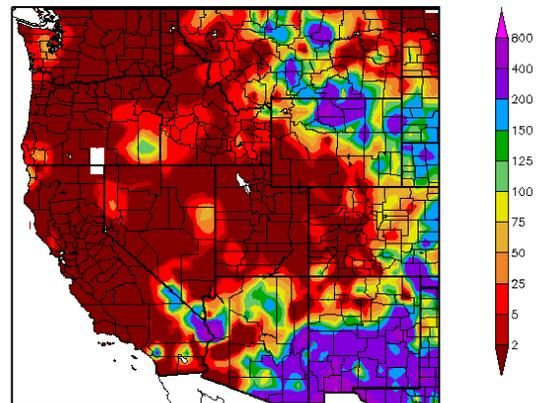
Generated 9/18/2014 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

This percent of normal [map](#) of the West for the last seven days reflects the heaviest precipitation falling across the southern tier states of Arizona, southern California, and southern New Mexico. Some scattered heavy precipitation also occurred in Montana and northern Wyoming. Other areas of the West saw some limited scattered precipitation.

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

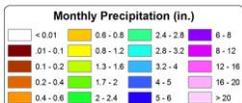
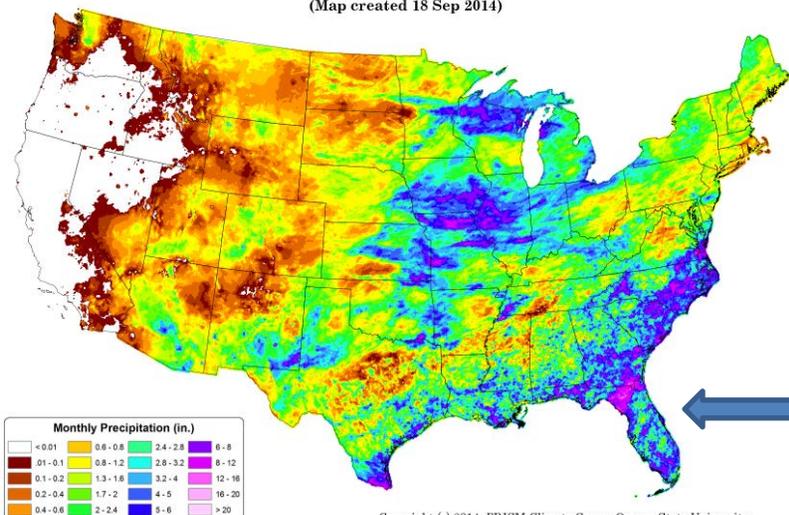
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/11/2014 - 9/17/2014



Generated 9/18/2014 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Total Precipitation: 01 September 2014 - 17 September 2014
Period ending 7 AM EST 17 Sep 2014
(Map created 18 Sep 2014)



Copyright (c) 2014, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

So far in September 2014, the [total precipitation](#) across the continental U.S. was heaviest from the central to the eastern part of the country. Scattered precipitation occurred over most of the southeastern U.S. Heavy precipitation was also recorded in Arizona, southern New Mexico, and in the upper Midwest. In contrast, the far West, including California, northern Nevada, Oregon, southern Washington and Idaho, were mainly dry.

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

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

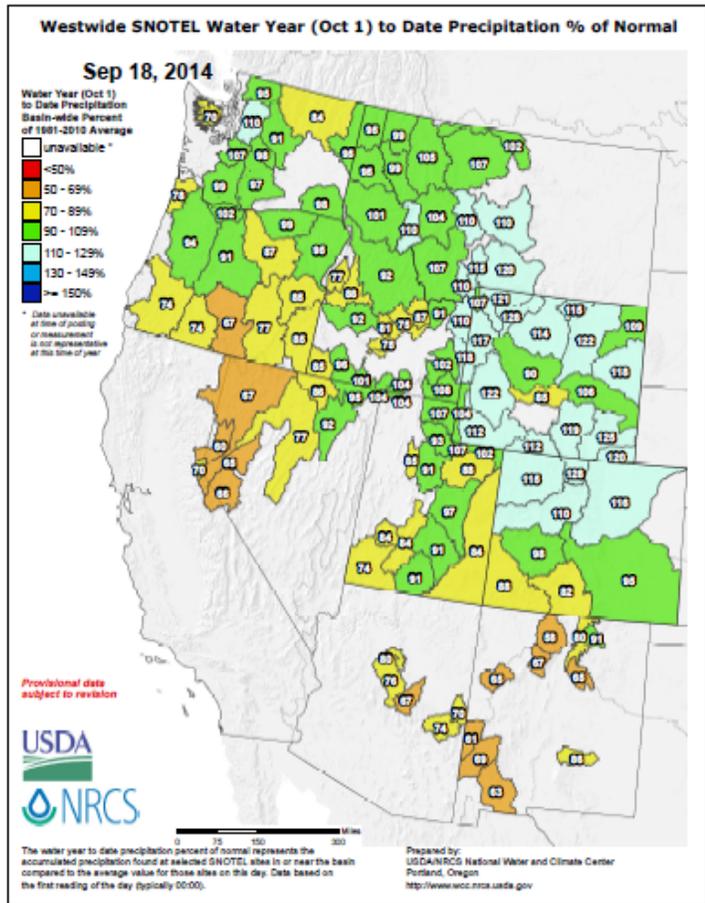
For the [2014 Water Year](#) that began on October 1, 2013, surpluses in the western U.S. occurred in southern Montana, most of Wyoming, and northern Colorado.

Some basins in Montana, Wyoming, and northern Colorado have received above normal precipitation.

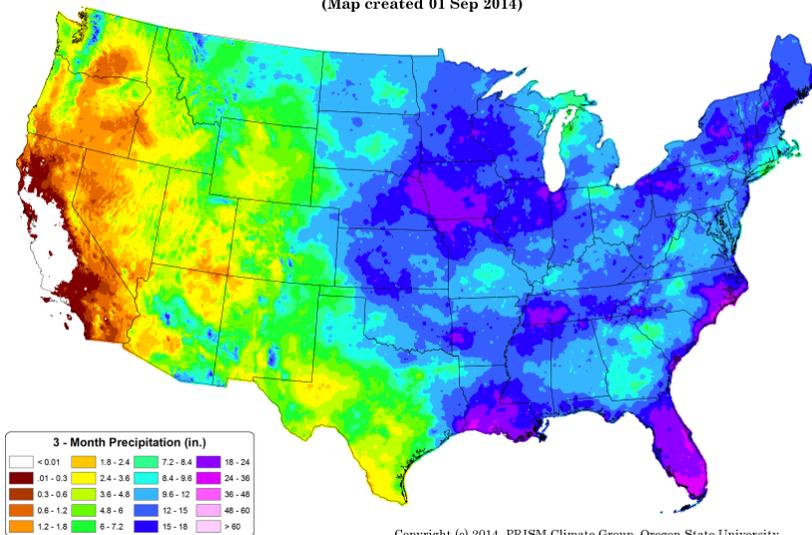
Near average conditions dominated the northern half of the Cascades, the northern half of Idaho, northwestern-most Montana, much of Utah and southeast Idaho, and parts of the southern half of Colorado.

The largest deficits were centered over southern Oregon, the Sierra Nevada in Nevada and California, 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 inches to greater than 24 inches in Iowa, eastern Nebraska, northern Missouri, western Tennessee, Louisiana, Florida, North Carolina and scattered areas of the Northeast.

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.

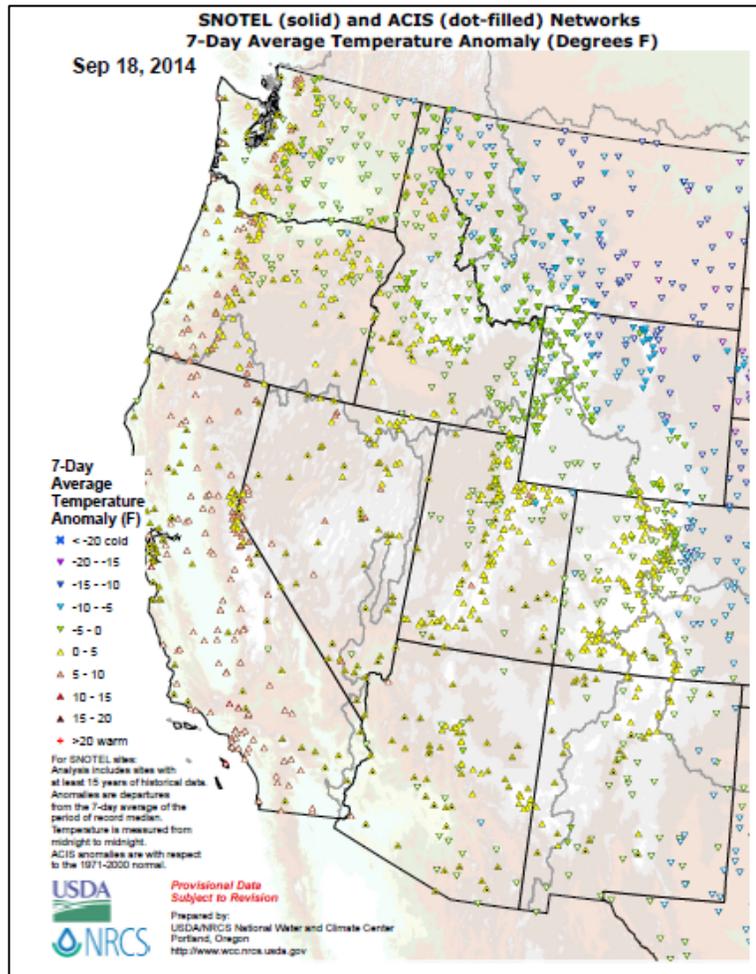
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Temperature

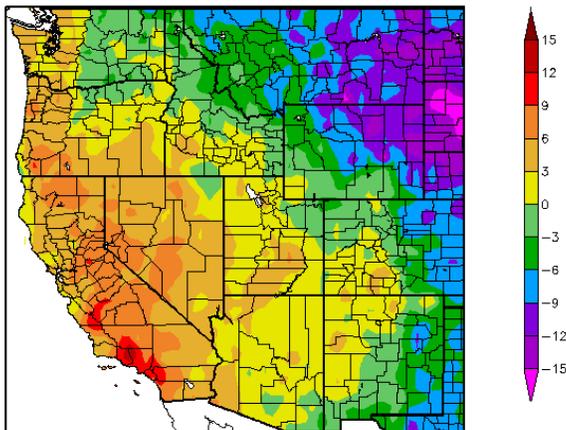
The [SNOTEL](#) and ACIS [7-day temperature anomaly](#) map for the western U.S. shows temperatures above normal for the coastal West, and below normal for the Rockies and east.

Below normal temperatures occurred along the northern and central Rocky Mountains into the plains in Montana, eastern Idaho, Wyoming, and eastern Colorado. Warmer than normal temperatures were recorded in California, Nevada, western Washington, and western Oregon.

The remainder of the West was near normal for the week.



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/11/2014 – 9/17/2014



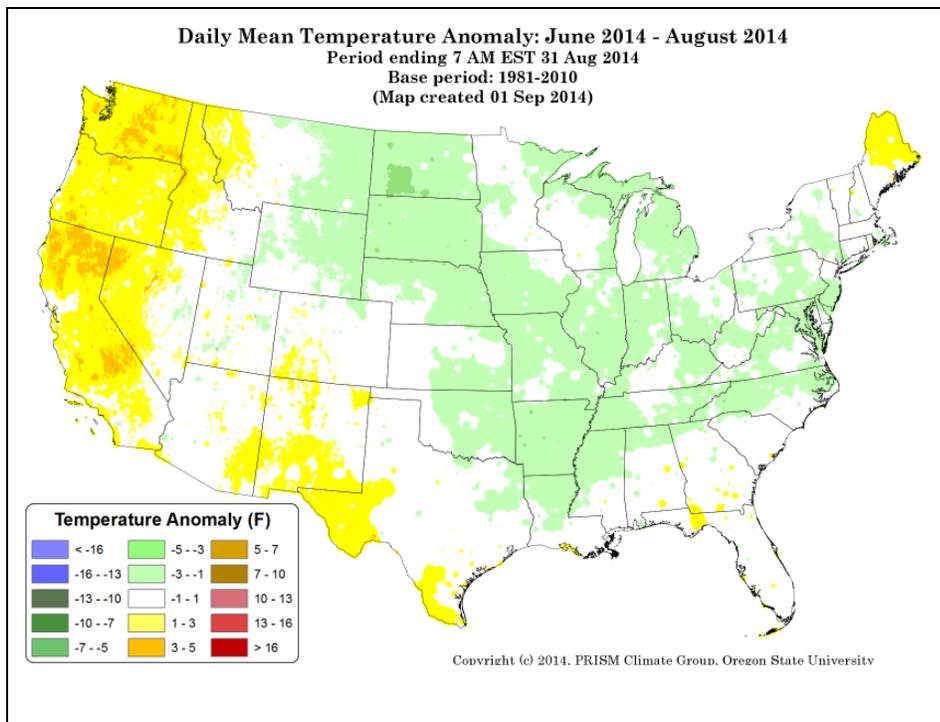
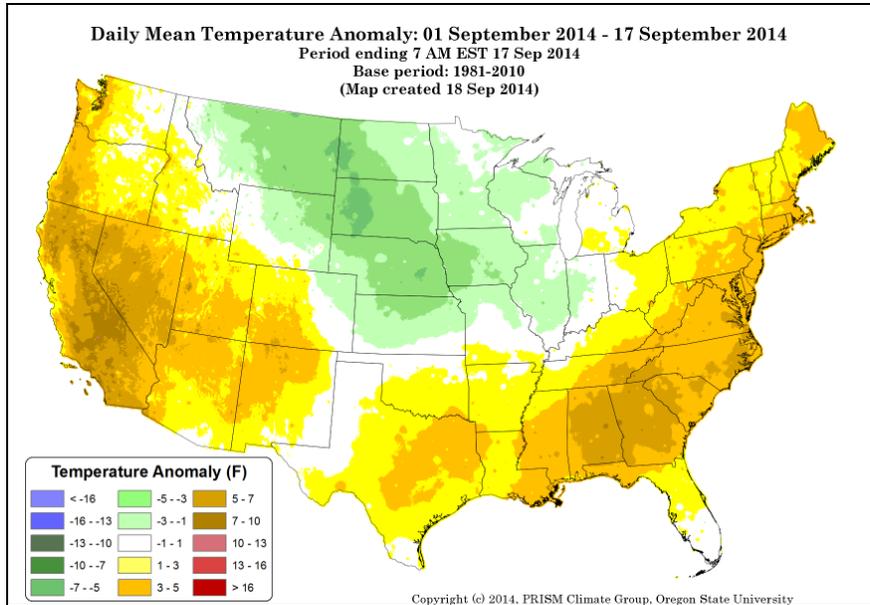
The [ACIS](#) map of the 7-day average temperature anomalies in the West ending September 17, shows the greatest negative temperature departures mainly over Montana and Wyoming ($<-12^{\circ}\text{F}$). The greatest positive temperature departures occurred in southern California ($>+12^{\circ}\text{F}$).

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 September 2014, the national daily mean temperature anomaly [map](#) shows a cool pattern centered over western South Dakota ($<-7^{\circ}\text{F}$). Above normal temperatures were recorded in the West and the East, especially in the Southeast, the mid-Atlantic states, and California with the largest area of warm anomalies ($>+7^{\circ}\text{F}$).



June - August national daily mean temperature anomalies for the U.S. in this [climate map](#) show 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 western North Dakota ($<-5^{\circ}\text{F}$).

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Weather and Drought Summary

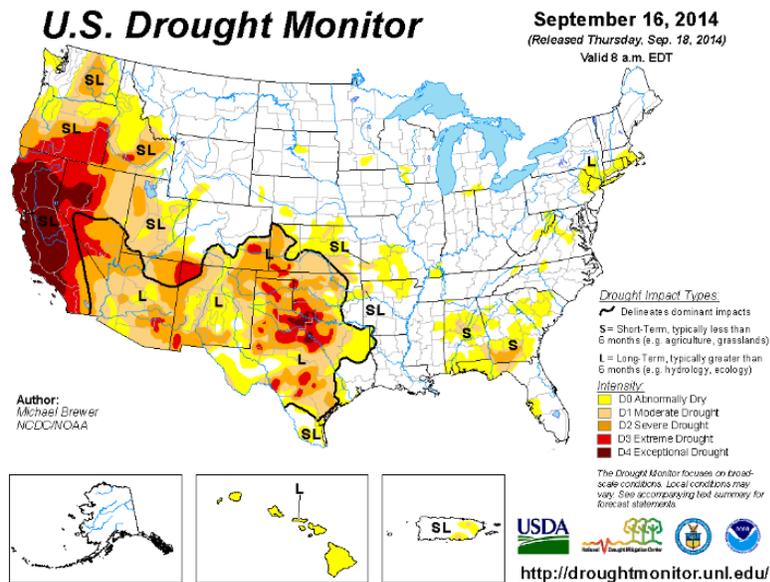
National Drought Summary – September 16, 2014

The following **Weather and Drought Summary** is provided by this week's NDMC Drought Author, Michael Brewer, NCDC/NOAA

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

“For the contiguous 48 states, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 31.11 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 31.27 percent a week earlier. Drought now affects 70,810,751 people, compared with 71,346,004 a week earlier.

For all 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 26.00 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 26.12 percent a week earlier. Drought now affects 71,005,132 people, compared with 71,540,385 a week earlier.”



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

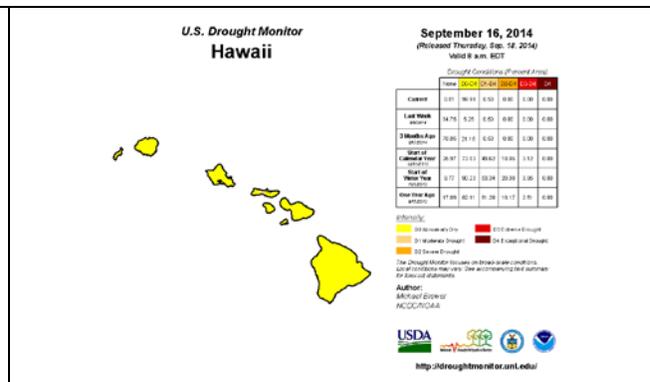
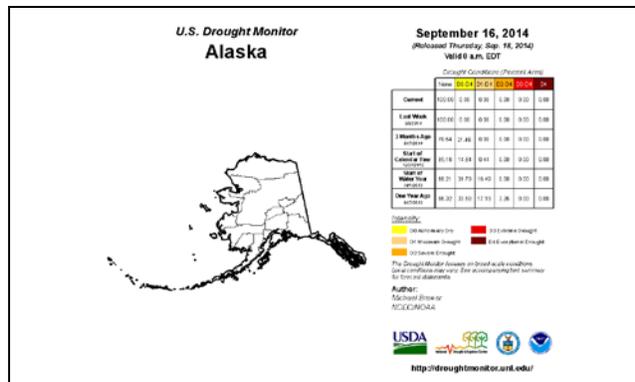
[Current Drought Monitor](#) weekly summary. The exceptional D4 levels of drought are scattered across CA, NV, TX, and OK.

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](#)

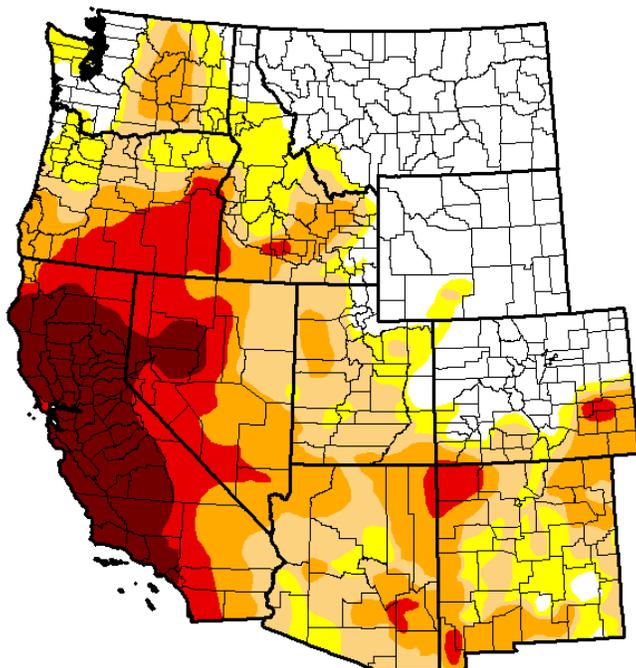


“The [49th](#) and [50th](#) States show normal to abnormally dry conditions. No changes noted for Alaska. D0 increased from 5.25 to 99.9 in Hawaii this week. The whole state of Hawaii is now designated as abnormally dry. A comprehensive narrative describing drought conditions across other parts of the 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 16, 2014
(Released Thursday, Sep. 18, 2014)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	29.74	70.26	57.24	38.69	19.88	8.90
Last Week 9/9/2014	28.38	71.62	57.36	39.26	19.83	8.90
3 Months Ago 6/17/2014	30.39	69.61	60.26	47.14	20.35	5.64
Start of Calendar Year 12/31/2013	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 9/17/2013	18.13	81.87	68.36	40.05	8.00	0.63

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:
Michael Brewer
NCDC/NOAA



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

A slight decrease in D0-D1 categories occurred in the West during this past week. D2 and D3 and the drought-free area increased slightly this past week. D4 remained unchanged.

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:

- U.S. - [Widespread Rains Keep U.S. Drought Expansion Minimal](#) – Sep 11
- U.S. - [Sandoval forms panel to deal with drought](#) – Sep 11
- NM - [New Mexico's green chile harvest in full swing](#) – Sep 10
- WY - [Wyoming ranchers building herd strength with record prices](#) – Sep 6
- CO - [Bugs, heat, fire hurting forests](#) – Sep 10

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

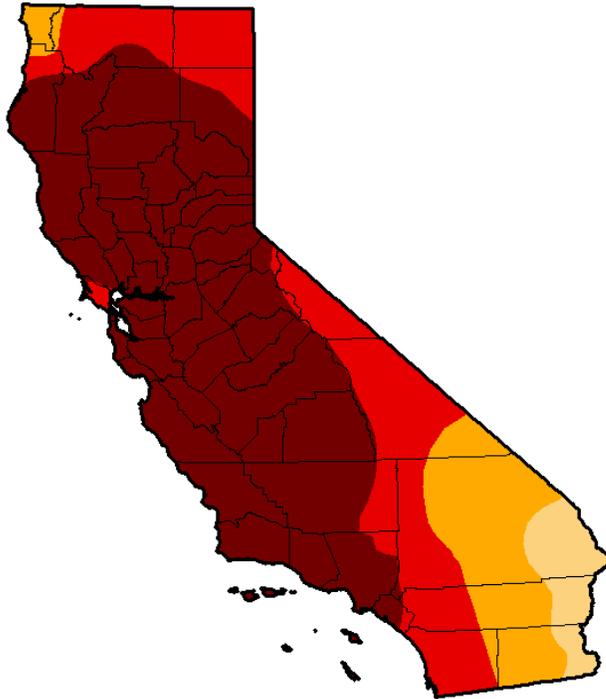
State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor California

September 16, 2014

(Released Thursday, Sep. 18, 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 9/9/2014	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.42	81.92	58.41
3 Months Ago 6/17/2014	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	76.69	32.98
Start of Calendar Year 12/1/2013	2.61	97.39	94.25	87.53	27.59	0.00
Start of Water Year 10/1/2013	2.63	97.37	95.95	84.12	11.36	0.00
One Year Ago 9/17/2013	2.63	97.37	96.04	89.84	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:
Michael Brewer
NCDC/NOAA



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

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

[CA Drought Information Resources](#)

[Drought News from California:](#)

[California's Water-Starved Farmers Stymied by Fish Protections](#) – Sep 10

[Drought triggers produce woes at 99 Cents](#) – Sep 11

[Coyotes: The latest urban threat or coincidence?](#) – Sep 9

[California communities still thirsting for drought help from Congress](#) – Sep 9

[BirdReturns rescue program is just ducky](#) – Sep 6

[California homes lack water meters during drought](#) – Sep 6

[West Nile virus infections soar in California](#) – Sep 4

[California drought: 5-mph speed limit imposed on boats at Folsom Lake](#) – Sep 11

[How Disney refilled sub lagoon in drought](#) – Sep 9

[Biggest increases, drops in water use at a glance](#) – Sep 9

[Drought Task Force hears list of water problems in Glenn County](#) – Sep 11

[California drought: Nudist camp accused of stealing water from open space district](#) – Sep 11

[Southern California's water usage drop not as steep as rest of state](#) – Sep 10

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Texas Drought [Website](#).

[Texas Reservoirs](#).

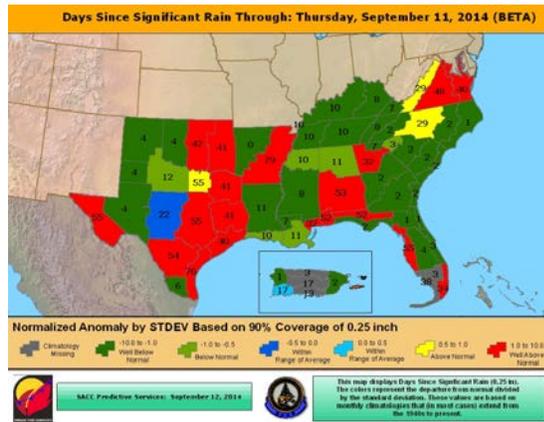
[Texas Drought Monitor Coordination](#)

Conference Call: on Monday's 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM CST

Texas Drought News:

[Amid drought, Texas is fuming because Mexico isn't sending the water it owes – Sep 8](#)

[Drought reaches crisis levels for bone-dry Mineral Wells – Sep 12](#)



State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor
Texas

September 16, 2014
(Released Thursday, Sep. 18, 2014)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	17.71	82.29	56.83	35.00	13.05	1.79
Last Week 9/9/2014	13.77	86.23	57.62	36.26	13.87	1.54
3 Months Ago 6/7/2014	10.45	89.55	70.95	41.30	21.50	6.56
Start of Calendar Year 1/1/2014	28.48	71.52	43.04	21.15	5.62	0.79
Start of Water Year 1/8/2013	6.02	93.98	70.95	25.08	4.01	0.12
One Year Ago 9/7/2013	5.30	94.70	86.30	64.08	25.08	1.65

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:
Michael Brewer
NCDC/NOAA

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

A decrease in D0 – D3 categories in Texas occurred this past week. D4 and the drought-free areas increased slightly.

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor
Nevada

September 16, 2014
(Released Thursday, Sep. 18, 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	99.64	80.96	48.38	11.89
Last Week 9/9/2014	0.00	100.00	99.64	80.96	50.30	11.89
3 Months Ago 6/7/2014	0.00	100.00	100.00	86.92	40.84	11.08
Start of Calendar Year 1/1/2014	0.39	99.61	96.81	77.66	28.55	5.37
Start of Water Year 1/8/2013	0.39	99.61	96.79	79.11	28.55	5.37
One Year Ago 9/7/2013	0.39	99.61	96.79	78.93	31.07	5.37

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:
Michael Brewer
NCDC/NOAA

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

There was a slight decrease in D3 in Nevada this past week.

Nevada Drought News:

[Avian botulism confirmed in Virginia Lake duck die-off in Reno – Sep 8](#)

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

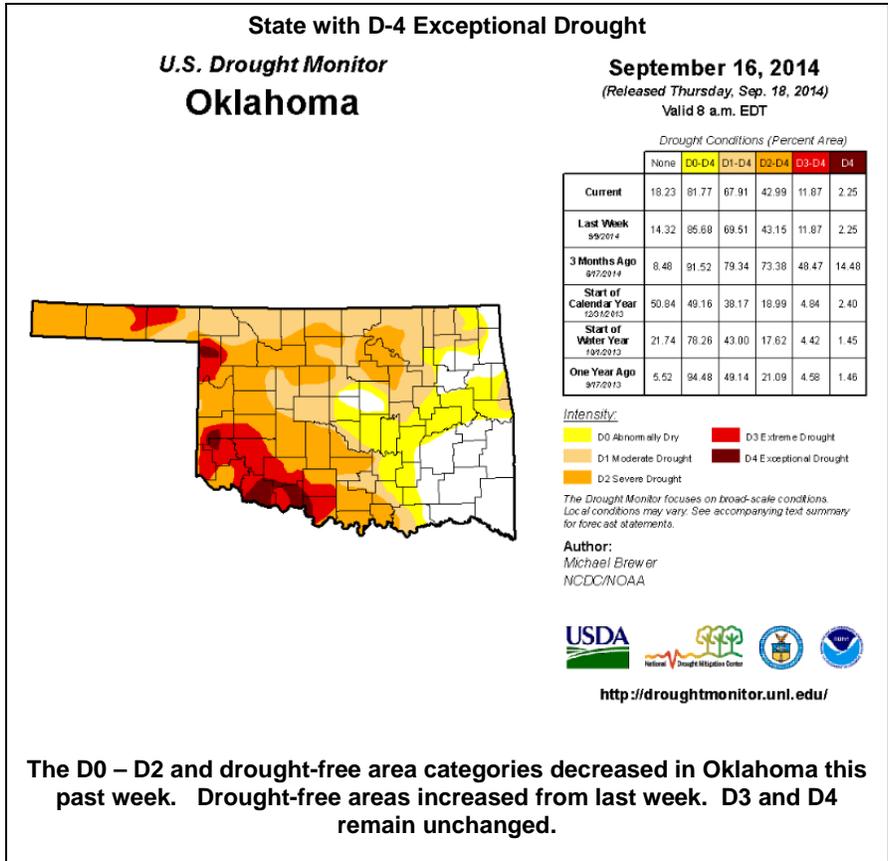
Related Area News:

[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](#)

Oklahoma News:

[Drought Stricken Southwest Oklahoma Towns Look For More Water Underground](#) – Sep 11



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

Number of people in each drought category in the U.S. for the week ending September 9, 2014

Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
2014-09-16	180,538,825	124,858,630	70,810,751	52,950,046	38,934,796	27,626,366
2014-09-09	184,287,379	121,110,075	71,346,004	53,712,618	39,227,585	27,615,939

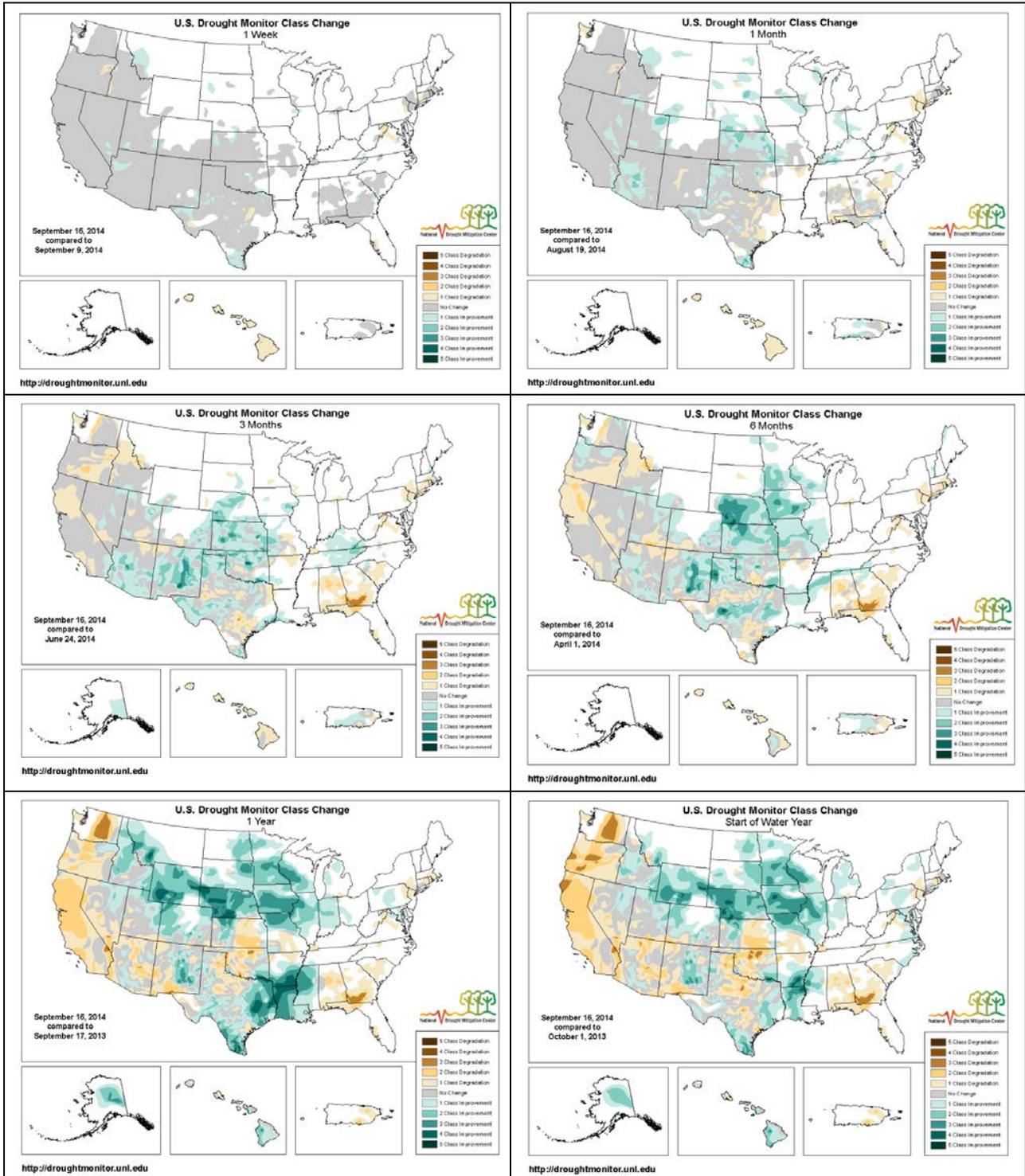
New population figures added to the U.S. Drought Monitor website show that for this week, more than 70.8 million people in the United States are in a drought-affected area, down more than half a million people from a week ago.

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

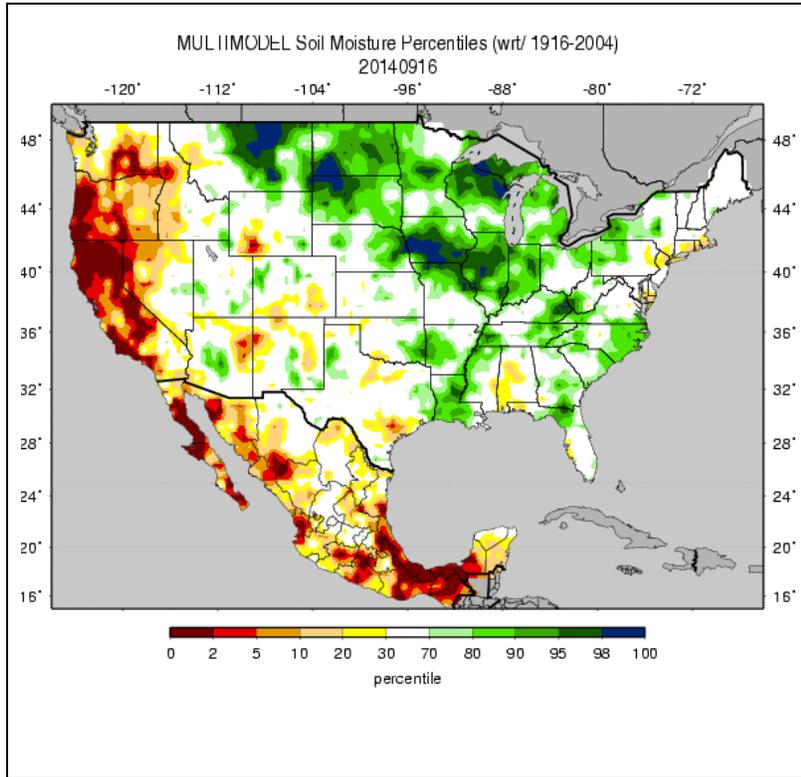
Over Various Time Periods



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 Southeast, parts of the southern Great Plains and the Pacific coast states have deteriorated significantly (lower right map).

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Soil Moisture

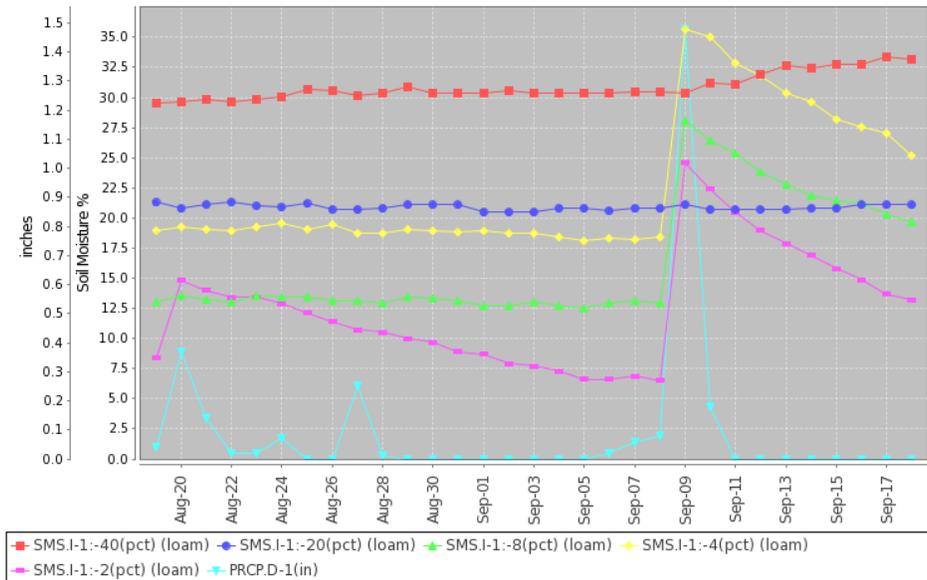


The national soil moisture model ranking in [percentile](#) as of September 16, 2014, shows dryness over California, Washington, Oregon, western Idaho, southeast Texas, southwest Wyoming, areas of Arizona and New Mexico, and southern New England. Scattered dryness was also reported in other areas of the West, Oklahoma, Texas, Florida, and Alabama. Moist soils dominated from Montana to the southern Atlantic coast, where the wettest locations were centered in the Dakotas and eastern Montana. Soils in Iowa, Illinois, northern Wisconsin, Louisiana, and eastern Kentucky and West Virginia 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 (2157) MONTH=2014-08-19 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision
Thu Sep 18 10:08:34 PDT 2014

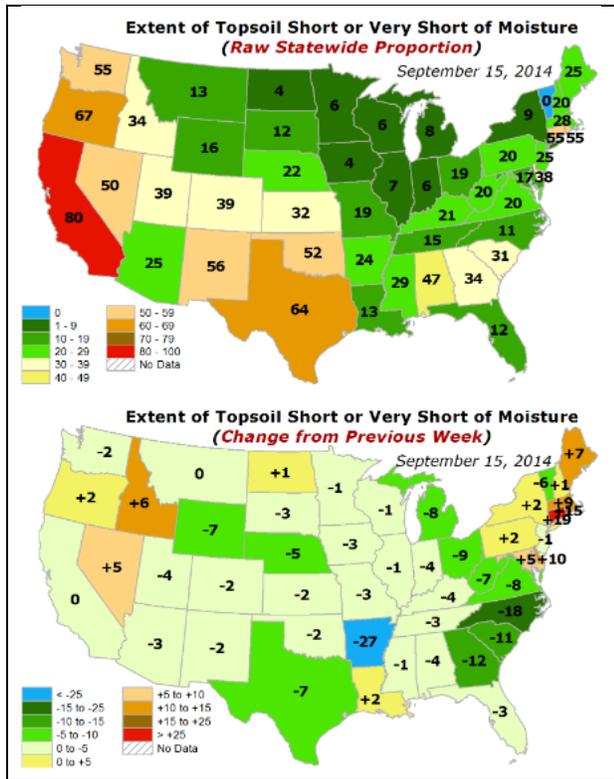


This NRCS resource shows soil moisture data at the [Panguitch \(2157\)](#) SCAN site, located in Southern Utah. The precipitation in the area is graphed in light blue. The precipitation on September 7 - 11 has increased the 2-, 4- and 8-inch depth soil moisture, whereas the deeper soil sensors at 20 and 40 inches have shown slight improvements in soil moisture 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](#).

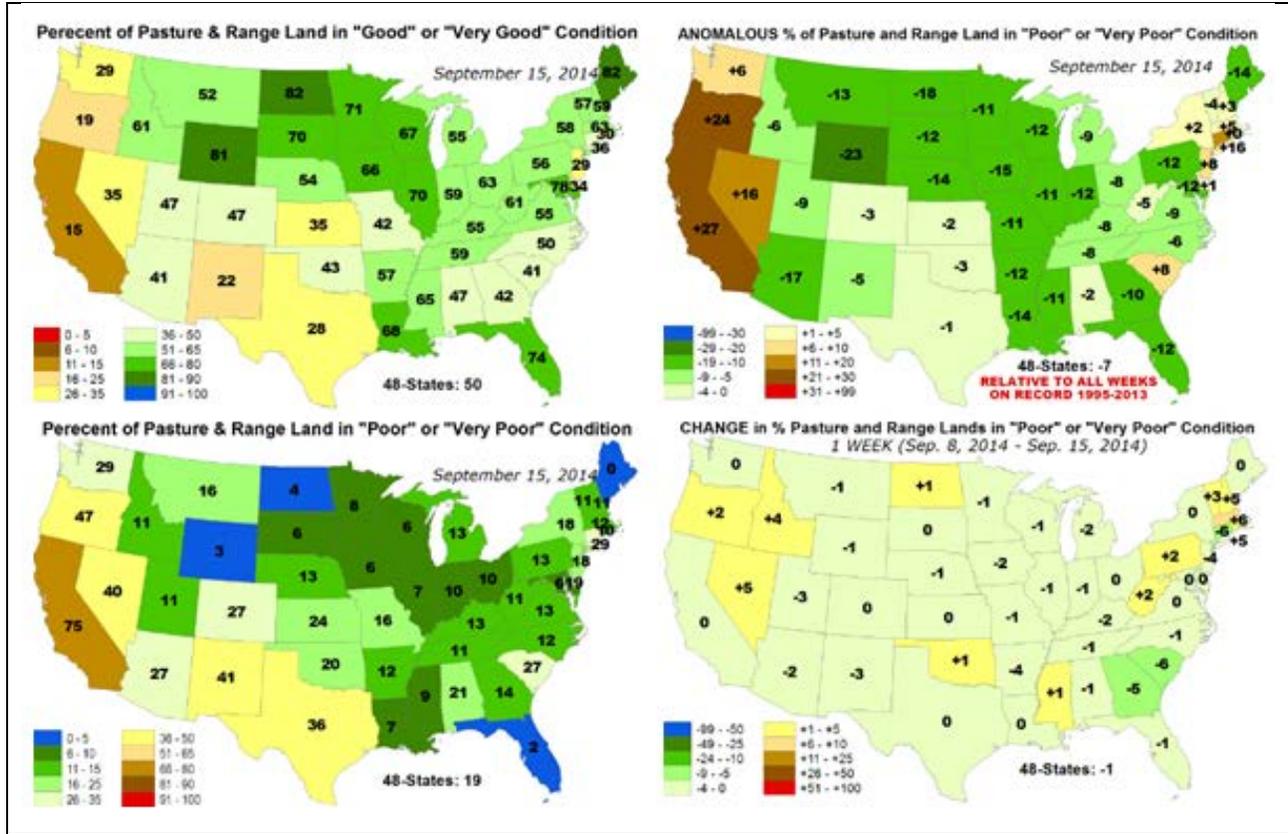
Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Topsoil and Pasture & Rangeland National Conditions



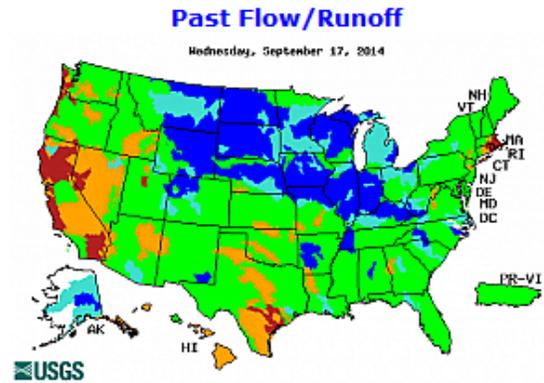
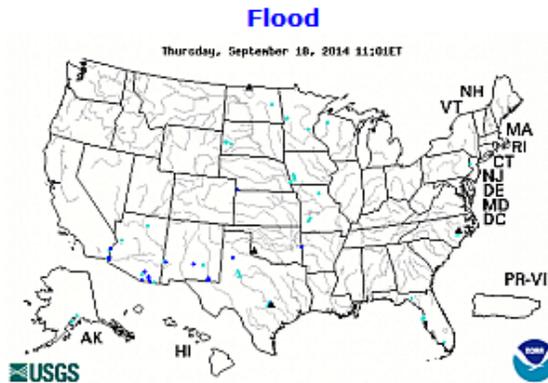
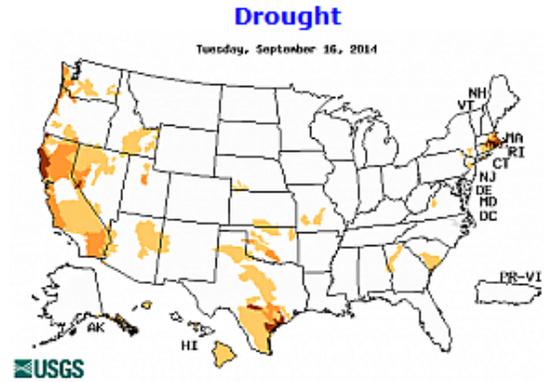
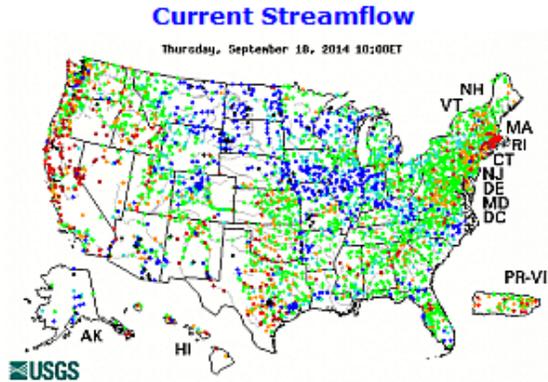
↪ Topsoils are exceptionally poor (top) over Texas, California, and Oregon with values representing 60 percent or more poorer conditions than the median for this time of year (bottom panel). Locations in the upper Midwest, east to New England and the mid-Atlantic states, as well as Louisiana and Florida, 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 to very poor condition in California, Oregon, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas. Conditions have changed slightly over this past week.



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Streamflow



The rivers are high over most of the central U.S., including the Mississippi River Basin, the central Rockies, the Southwest, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, and parts of the mid-Atlantic States, due to recent precipitation (left maps). Central Alaska, and Oahu, Hawaii are also reporting some high streamflow. Rivers are above flood stage along the Souris River in North Dakota, the Salt Fork Red River in Oklahoma, Onion Creek near Austin, TX, and the Neuse River in North Carolina (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).

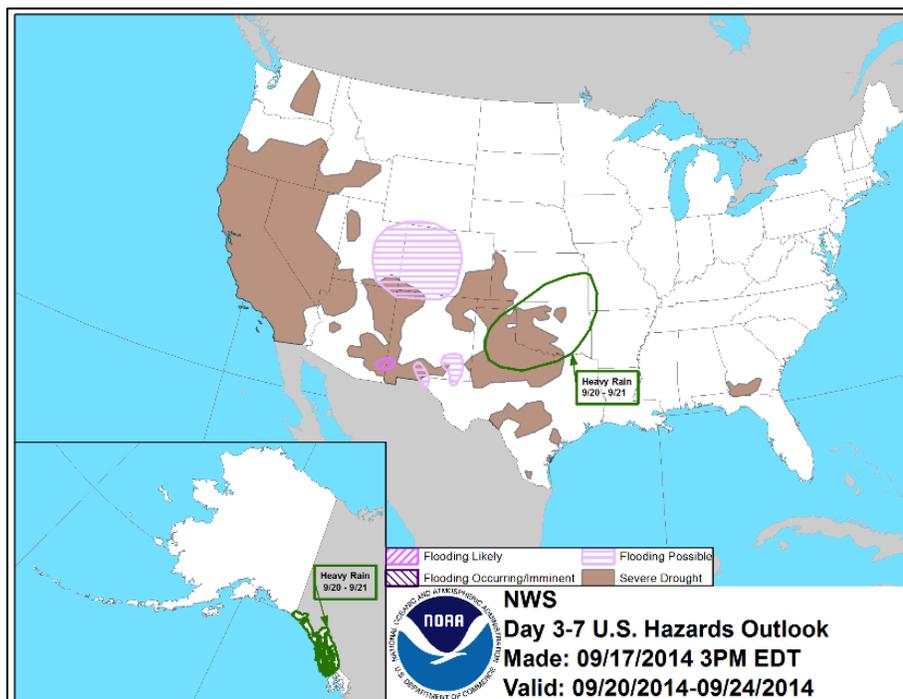
During the next three months, there is a risk of flooding in some areas of the Mississippi and lower Missouri Rivers, west-central Florida, and the Connecticut River. Currently, **1** gage has a greater than 50% chance to experience major flooding; **6** gages for moderate flooding; and **29** gages for minor flooding.

These numbers represent an 8-gage increase in the greater than 50 percent chance of minor flooding category in the last week.

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National [Weather Hazards](#)

Heavy rain is expected during the next week in the south-central U.S. (9/20 –21) and in southern Alaska (9/20-21) outlined in green. Flooding is possible in the central Rockies in Utah and Colorado. Small areas of possible flooding are also located in southern New Mexico. Flooding is likely in southeast Arizona and southwest New Mexico. Severe drought remains a large issue in much of the south-central and western U.S.



[National Drought Summary for September 16, 2014](#)

Prepared by the Drought Monitor Author: Michael Brewer, NOAA/NCDC.

Summary

“Coming on the heels of the ninth wettest summer on record for the U.S. (according to the National Climatic Data Center), continued rain this Drought Monitor week led to minor improvements in drought conditions from the Southwest, through the Southern Plains, and into the Midwest. A near-complete lack of precipitation means drought continues largely unabated through California and along the West Coast. Another week of continued dryness saw drought conditions intensifying across the Hawaiian Islands.

Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico

This week saw continued dryness across the Hawaiian Islands. Despite a few near-normal stream gauge readings, Hawaii continues to dry out. Abnormal Dryness (D0) was introduced across the state. Puerto Rico and Alaska remain unchanged this week.

The Midwest

Another week of beneficial moisture led to reduction in Abnormal Dryness (D0) in eastern Iowa. Cool temperatures and lower evapotranspiration, led to status quo across much of the area despite a lack of rain in many locales.

The Northeast and Mid-Atlantic

Another dry week in New England led to the expansion of Abnormal Dryness (D0) across southern Connecticut and Long Island, as well as onto Cape Cod. Lack of rain through the Mid-Atlantic also resulted in the expansion of Abnormal Dryness (D0) in eastern Pennsylvania, central Virginia, and near the border of Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland.

The Plains

Locally heavy rain came to the Southern Plains during this Drought Monitor week. Areas from southeastern New Mexico and into western and northern Texas benefited. Texas also experienced improvements along the southern Gulf Coast. Central Texas saw some degradation in drought conditions as did the coastal area around Houston. Improvement continues in Kansas with the eradication of Extreme Dryness (D3) in the western part of the state and minor improvements in the north. Minor improvements were also experienced in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Oklahoma.

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The Southeast

Abnormal Dryness (D0) expanded slightly in northern Alabama while wet conditions alleviated dryness in the southern part of that state. Georgia saw minor alleviation of drought in the southern part of the state.

The West

Moisture fell in much of the West this week, with the exception of the West Coast and Pacific Northwest. Rain and occasional snow from Montana down to New Mexico led to minor improvements throughout the area. Idaho and Oregon largely missed that precipitation and subsequently degradation in drought conditions took place along the southern border of those two states. The Pacific Coast continues to be the hotbed of fire activity in the country with all 15 current large incident fires occurring in California, Oregon, and Washington. To date, wildfires have burned 2,935,074 acres of the U.S., well below the 6,560,844 acre average for the same time of year (source: National Interagency Fire Center).

Looking Ahead

During the September 17- 22, 2014 period, the remnants of Tropical Storm Odile are expected to bring heavy precipitation and flooding to the Southwest, particularly in southern Arizona and New Mexico. Beyond that event, precipitation is expected from the Southwest, through the Plains, and into the Ohio River Valley. At the same time, above normal temperatures are expected along the northern tier of the nation with warmer than average minimum temperatures across the nation with the exception of the East Coast.

For the ensuing 5 days (September 23-27, 2014), the odds favor normal to above-normal temperatures across the western U.S. and along the Gulf of Mexico Coast. Below-normal temperatures are favored around the Great Lakes and into New England. Above-normal precipitation is likely along the Gulf of Mexico Coast and in the Four Corners area of the Southwest. Below-normal precipitation is expected in the Plains and throughout much of the West. Alaska is likely to see above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation over much of the southern part of the state. Author: Michael Brewer, National Climatic Data”

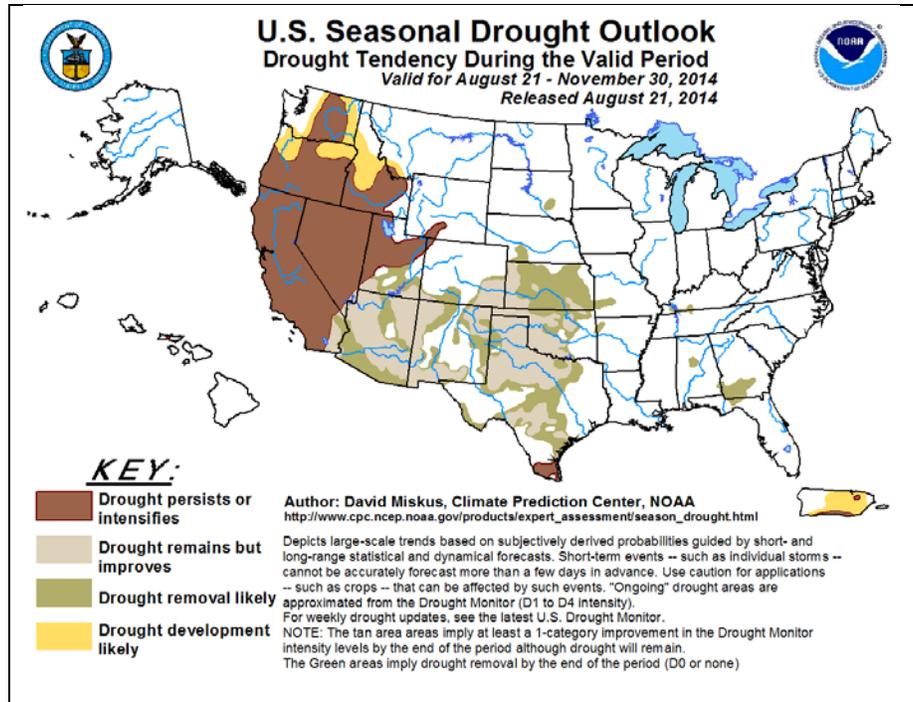
Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Supplemental Drought Information

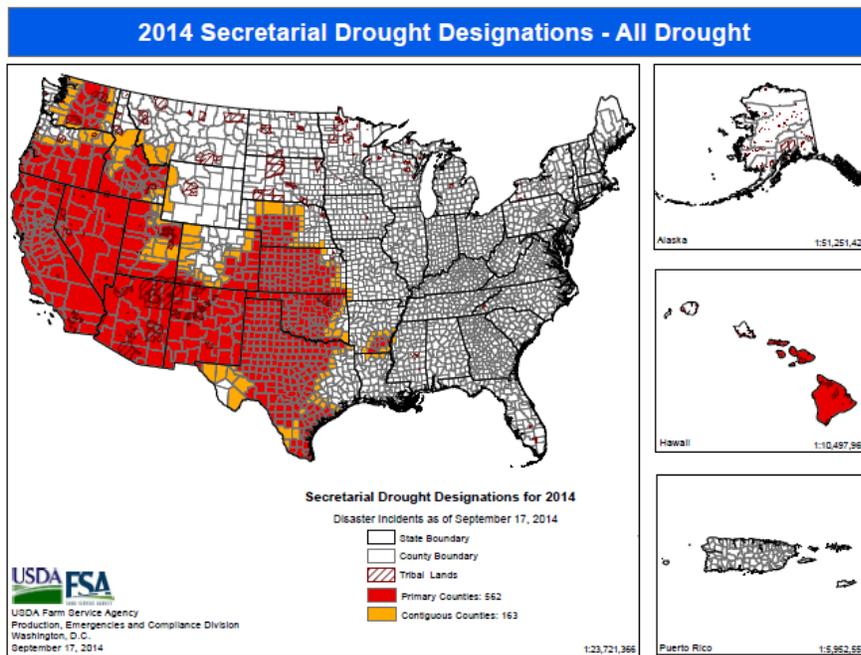
National Seasonal Drought Outlook

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



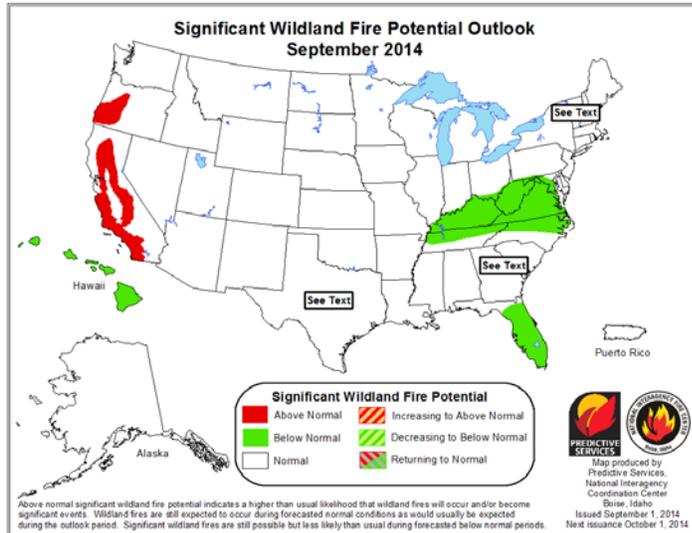
Refer to the USDA Drought Assistance [website](#) and [National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service](#).

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

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

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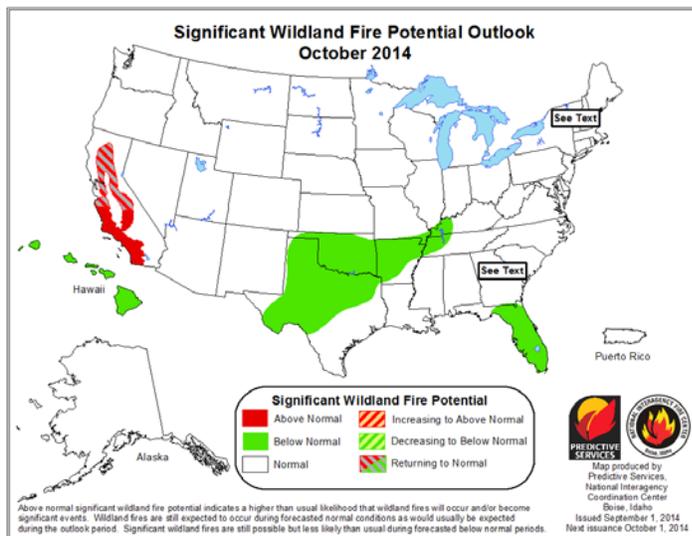
National Fire Potential Outlook



September Forecast

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

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



October Forecast

Above normal [fire potential](#) will persist in parts of California.

The below normal fire potential area in green on the map is forecast for Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, western Tennessee and Kentucky, and 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

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

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 water use down 7.5 percent

Despite the request for a 20 percent reduction in water use, Californians have curbed their water consumption by 7.5 percent, according to water agencies. While some cities used more water in July, compared with the previous year, many cities used less water in July.

Water conservation efforts were more apparent after the state adopted emergency conservation regulations in July. In May, statewide water use rose 1.5 percent; in June, it fell 4.4 percent, and in July, water consumption fell 7.5 percent.

Residential water meters in California

More than 235,000 California homes and businesses still lacked water meters, according to the most recent data available from the State Water Board. An analysis by the Associated Press showed that people living in 10 water districts with the most unmetered homes and businesses used more water than the state average. Many Californians receiving water from roughly 40 water districts along a 300 mile length of the Central Valley still pay a flat rate for their water and have no water meter to keep track of how much water is used.

Water concerns in Glenn County, California

When the Glenn County Drought Task Force met on Sept. 10, they were notified of 21 dry residential wells, mostly near Orland. Four homes without water were located south of Orland. County residents with dry wells may purchase water from the city's well at the airport, but only one family bought water. Three to five permits for agricultural wells have been requested weekly, said the director of Glenn County Environmental Health. There has been a record high demand of 150 well permits this year.

Californians looking to Congress to move on drought legislation

Seventeen California cities and counties asked Congress to complete drought legislation that was bogged down in secret talks. Small towns like Dos Palos and some counties, including Kern and Kings, have passed resolutions that Rep. Jim Costa, D-Calif. presented to the House Natural Resources Committee during a hearing on softening environmental rules.

While six bills focused on the Endangered Species Act are being addressed, the bigger issue is the ongoing controversy over water for human demands and water for endangered species.

West Nile virus prevalent in California

The number of mosquitoes carrying the West Nile virus in California was at an all-time high, said state health officials. Since the start of the year, 181 cases of West Nile virus were reported to the California Department of Public Health, and eight people have died. During the last week alone, 52 new cases were reported.

* The type of mosquito that carried the West Nile virus during the 2012 drought in the Midwest was the culex mosquito. It thrives in dry conditions. The article does not mention what type of mosquito is carrying the virus in California, but this may be a similar situation to the 2012 drought.

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex rescue to provide wetlands for migrating birds

BirdReturns, a new rescue program created by the Nature Conservancy of California, has made bird habitat available during drought by offering money to farmers to flood their rice fields early with well water and keep the fields inundated into April 2015.

An aerial survey of six wildlife refuges in the Sacramento Valley complex performed in August found fewer than 10,000 ducks and 250 geese at the Sacramento and Delevan refuges, 24 ducks and no geese at Colusa, and no waterfowl at Sutter, Butte Sink and Llano Seco, which were dry.

New speed limit on Folsom Lake, northeast of Sacramento

The speed limit for boaters on Folsom Lake is 5 miles per hour to prevent boaters from injuring themselves and their watercraft. The safety risk is much higher as the depleted lake brings subsurface hazards nearer to the surface.

Rocky Mountains. [Bugs, heat, fire hurting forests](#)

A report issued by the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization and the Union of Concerned Scientists stated that drought, heat, wildfires and insect infestations are ravaging forests in the Rocky Mountains

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and may leave them unrecognizable in decades. The 8-page executive summary of [Rocky Mountain Forests at Risk](http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/global_warming/Rocky-Mountain-Forests-at-Risk-Executive-Summary.pdf) can be found at http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/global_warming/Rocky-Mountain-Forests-at-Risk-Executive-Summary.pdf.

The 64-page full report is http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/global_warming/Rocky-Mountain-Forests-at-Risk-Full-Report.pdf.

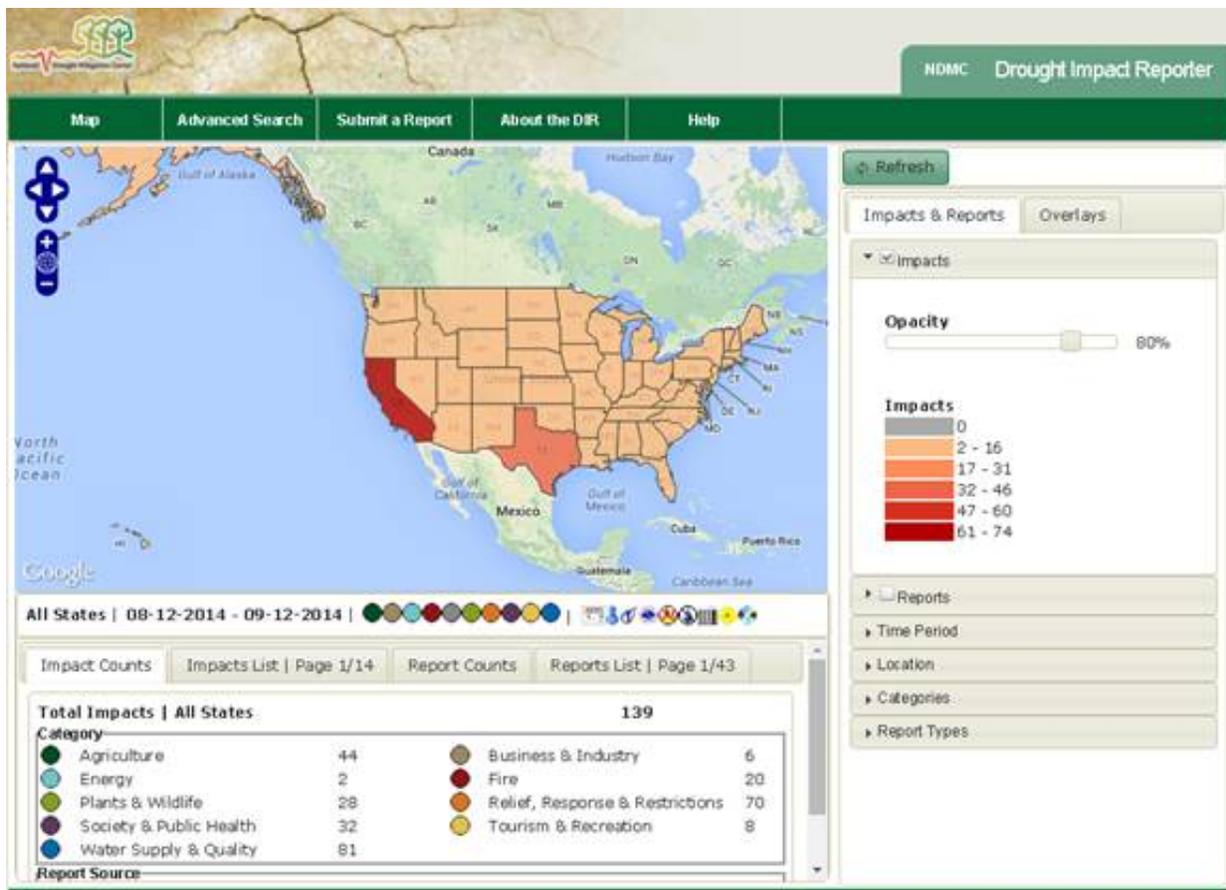
Western Drought Forum

The Western Drought Forum, a consortium of eight states, has been formed to address drought and find solutions to drought problems. An online library will be available to share case studies and best practices. The forum will also discuss preparedness and management.

Drought contributing to reduced chile production in New Mexico

Drought was one of several factors chipping away at New Mexico's chile acreage and production over the years, even as demand for the pepper has been increasing. Labor costs, international competition and concerns over long-term water supplies have also reduced the planted acreage and production.

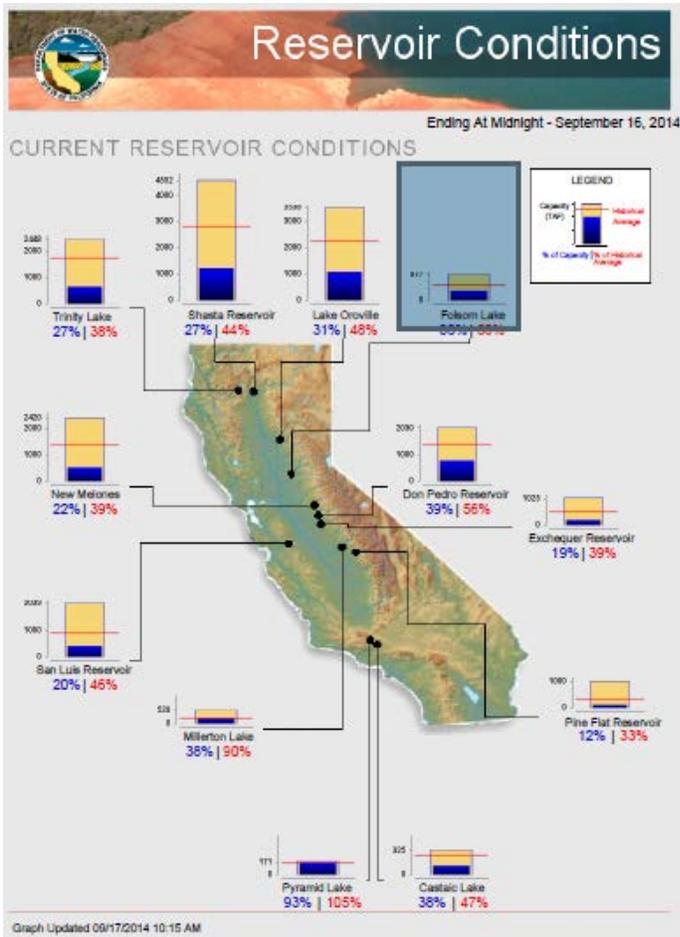
For more drought impact info, visit the [Drought Impact Reporter](#)



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)

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[California Major Reservoir conditions.](#)

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/

David W. Smith

Deputy Chief, Soil Science and Resource Assessment

9/18/2014

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