



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
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Special Edition: Weekly Water and Climate Update November 26, 2014

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Agricultural Weather Outlook – Wednesday - November 26, 2014

“Outlook: The storm system currently bringing a wintry mix of precipitation to the Eastern Seaboard will generate snow showers over New England overnight before moving out to sea. On Thanksgiving Day, cool, mostly dry weather will dominate much of the East, though lingering snow showers are possible in the mid-Atlantic Coast and Northeast. Rain and high-elevation snow are forecast for Northwest as a Pacific Storm system moves onshore. Snow is also expected to return later in the day to North Dakota. Meanwhile, drier conditions are expected across the South, with unseasonable warmth persisting in California and the Southwest. The NWS 6-to 10-day outlook for December 1-5 calls for above-normal precipitation in western and eastern sections of the U.S., with the highest likelihood of wetness in California and the Ohio Valley. Drier conditions are expected on the southern and central Plains. Above-normal temperatures are forecast for much of the Nation, in particular the Southeast. The exception will be northern sections of the Great Plains and Rockies, where cooler weather is forecast.”

Contact: Mark Brusberg, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2012)
Website: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/Daily/TODAYSWX.pdf>



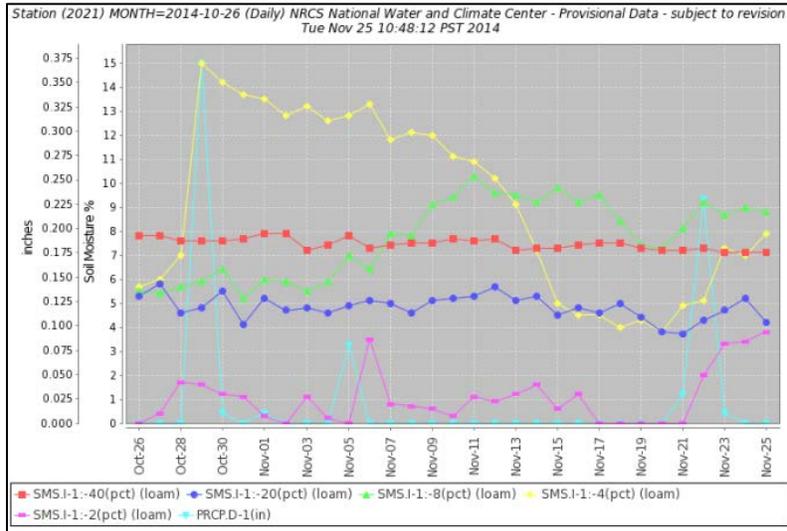
The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment

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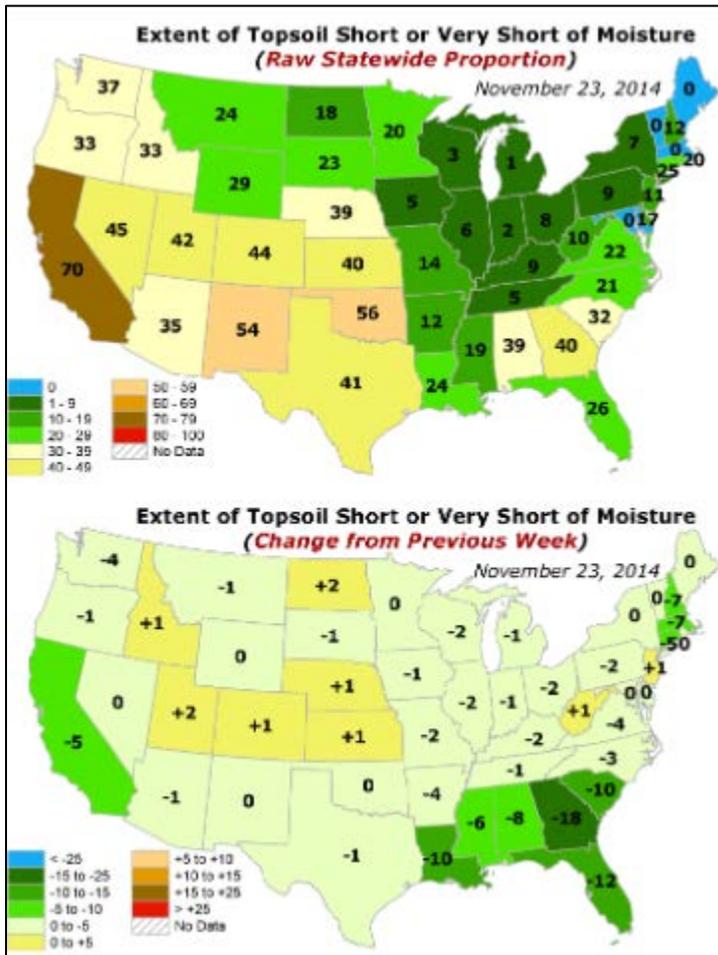
Weekly Water and Climate Update

Soil Moisture

[Soil Climate Analysis Network \(SCAN\)](#)



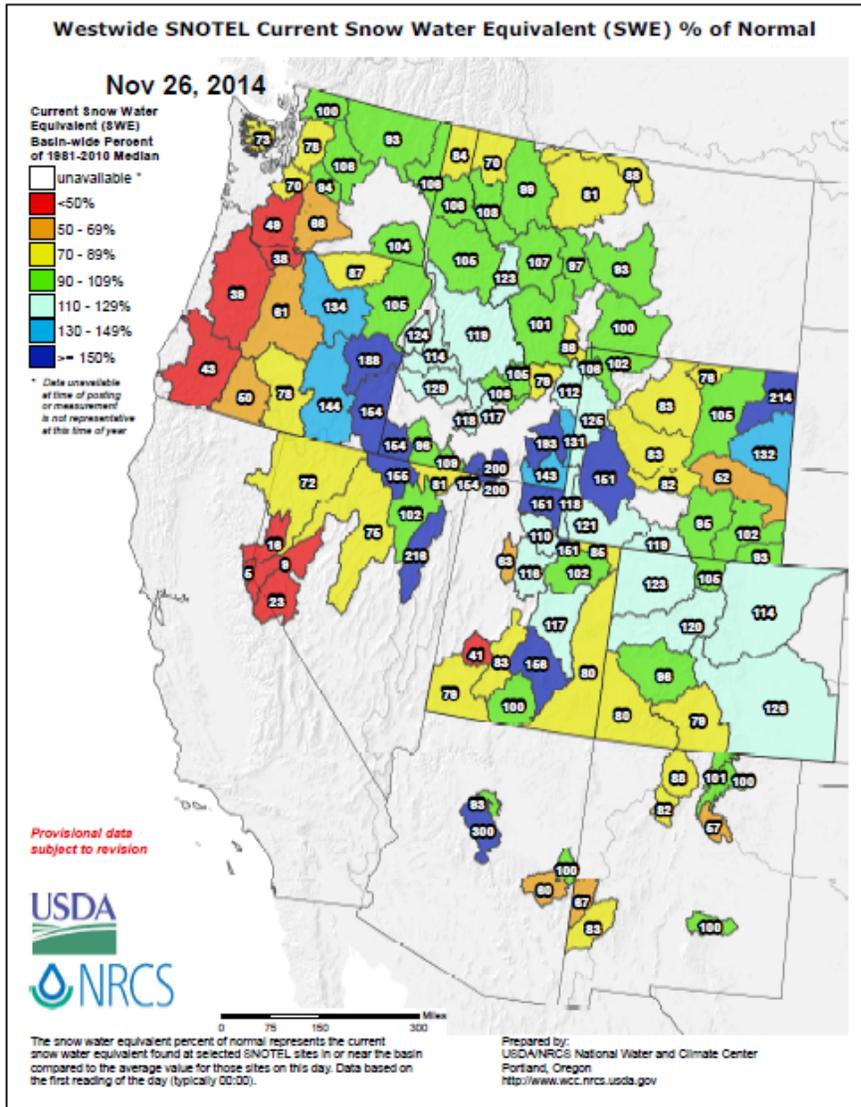
This NRCS resource shows soil moisture data at the [Lind #1 SCAN site](#) in Washington. The sensors at 2 and 4 inches showed increased soil moisture directly related to precipitation events, whereas the soil moisture sensor at 8 inches showed a delayed increase as water infiltrated over time. The sensors at 20 and 40 inches show little response to these events.



[Extent of Topsoil moisture](#) from the NOAA CPC, as of November 23.

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Snow



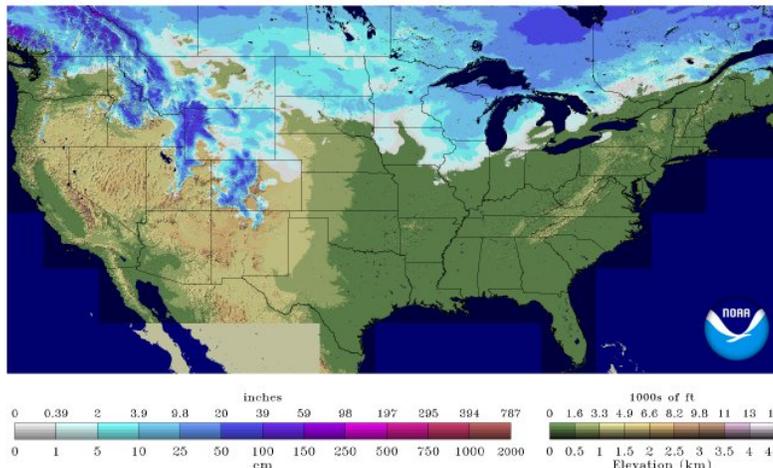
Western U.S. SNOTEL mountain snowpack snow water equivalent (SWE) for the [2015 Water Year](#) that began on October 1, 2014.

Basins in eastern Oregon, southern Idaho, and parts of Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado show above to much above normal SWE. However, western Oregon and the Sierra Nevada in the Lake Tahoe region remain much below normal.

The high percentage shown in Arizona reflects very low medians at this early season date and does not represent a large snowpack.

National Snow 2014 Analysis 2015

Snow Depth
2014-11-26 06 UTC



National snow depth from the [NWS NOHRSC](#) as of November 26, 2014.

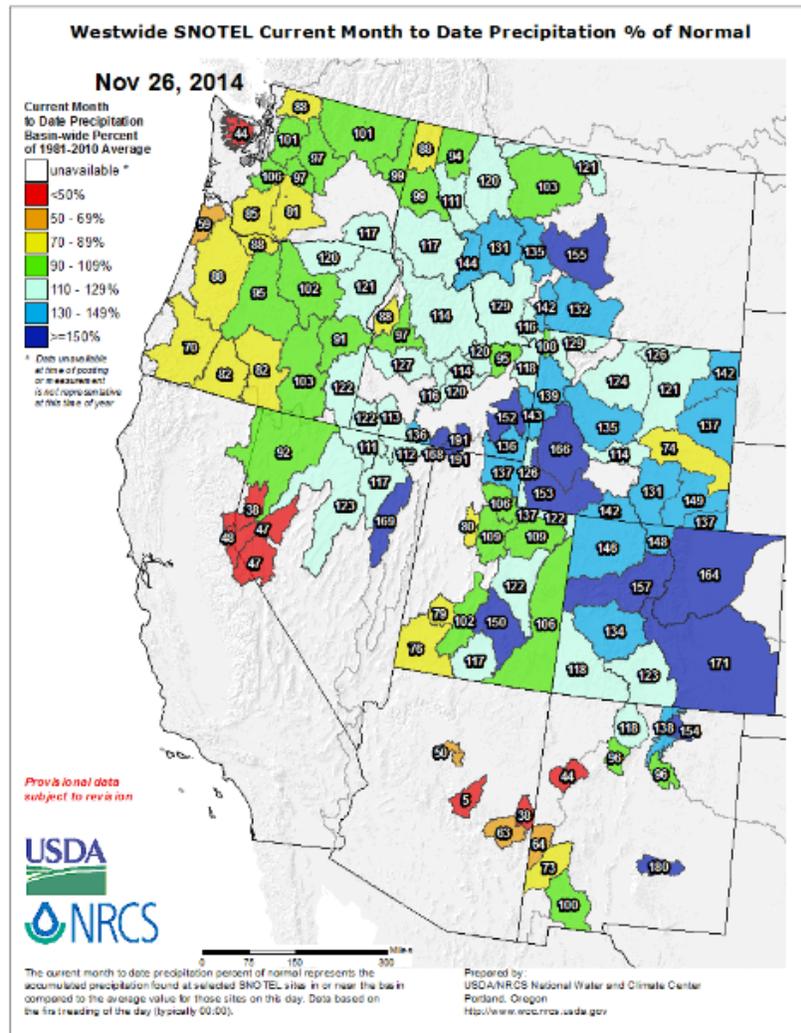
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Precipitation

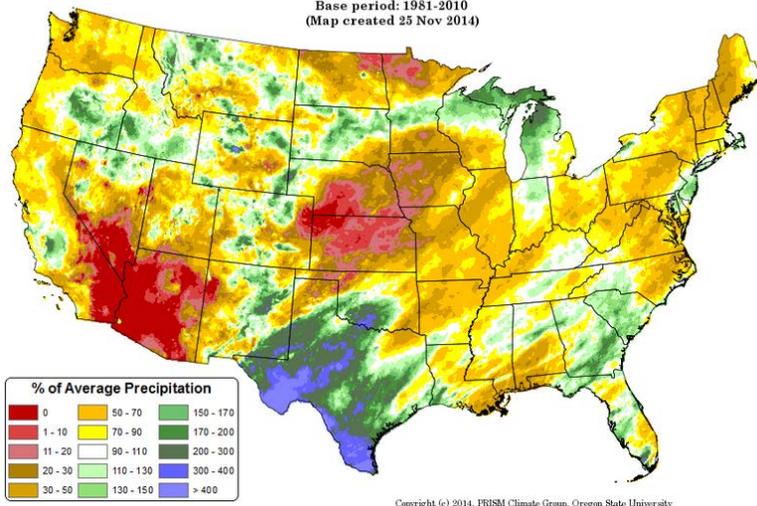
The western U.S. mountain [SNOTEL](#) precipitation percent of normal map for the month to date.

The western U.S. mountain Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) precipitation percent of normal map for the month to date shows that most of the Rocky Mountains from Montana to New Mexico have well above normal precipitation, whereas the Cascades and the Sierra Nevada have below to much below normal precipitation.

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



Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 November 2014 - 24 November 2014
 Period ending 7 AM EST 24 Nov 2014
 Base period: 1981-2010
 (Map created 25 Nov 2014)



The national PRISM [precipitation anomaly](#) for the U.S. for November. Areas of much below normal precipitation for November occurred in Arizona, southern Nevada, southeast California, as well as in the Plains in Nebraska, Kansas, eastern Colorado, and in the Red River in northeastern North Dakota and northern Minnesota. Very wet November conditions were scattered across parts of the U.S. and concentrated in southern Texas along the Rio Grande.

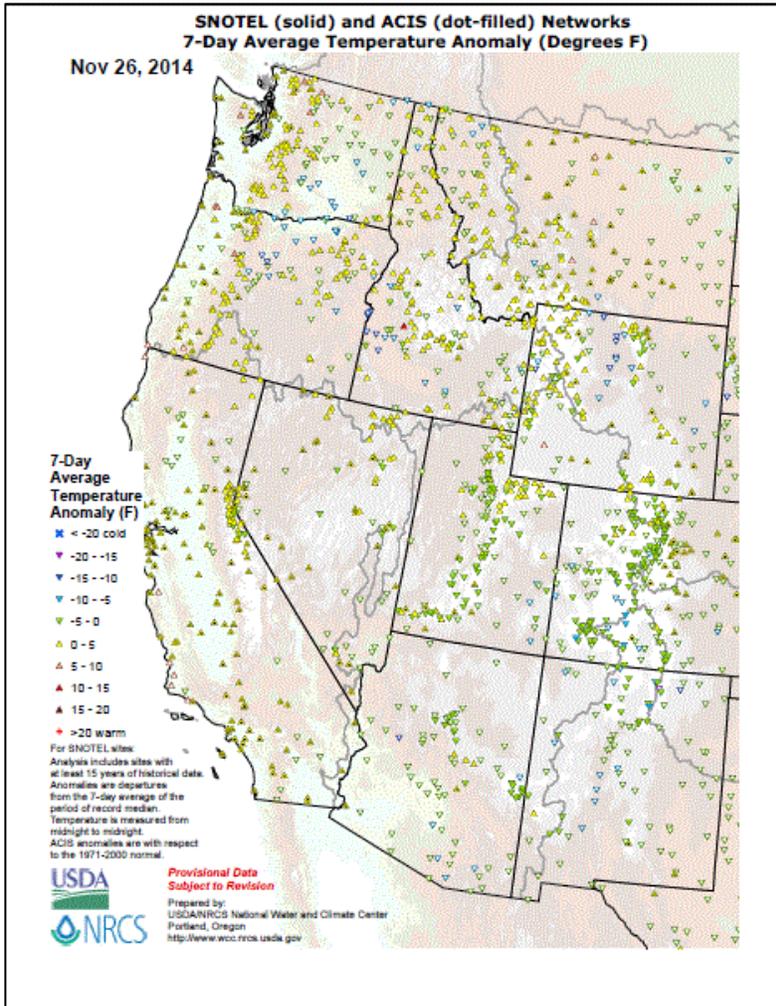
This preliminary daily PRISM precipitation anomaly map contains all available network data, including SNOTEL data, and is updated periodically as additional data become available and are quality controlled.

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Temperature

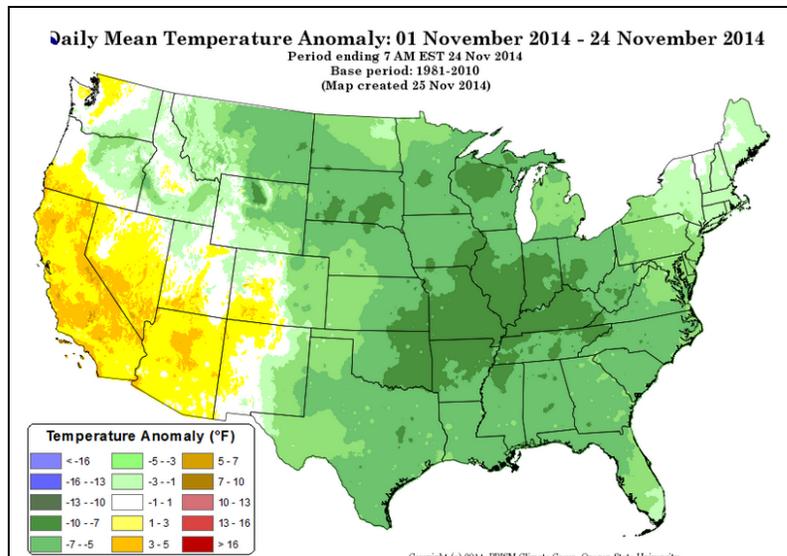
The SNOTEL and ACIS [7-day temperature anomaly](#) map for the western U.S.

Following an extensive cold spell for much of the U.S., the last seven days have seen above normal temperatures for the northern and far western states, but below normal temperatures remain in Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico, extending eastward into the Plains.



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.

Thus far in November 2014, the national daily mean temperature anomaly [map](#) is shown. The recent cold has resulted in most of the U.S. experiencing below normal temperatures for November to date, with the exception of the Southwest and far western regions.



Weekly Water and Climate Update

Weather and Drought Summary

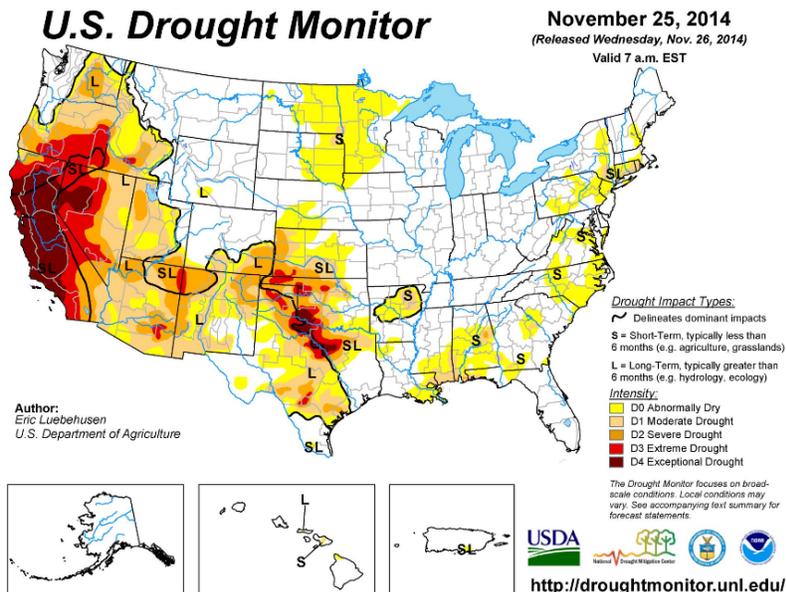
National Drought Summary – November 25, 2014

The following **Weather and Drought Summary** is provided by this week's NDMC Drought Author, Eric Luebehusen, U.S. Department of Agriculture

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

"For the contiguous 48 states, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 28.91 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 29.45 percent a week earlier. Drought now affects 67,748,696 people, compared with 70,460,314 a week earlier.

For all 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 24.15 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 24.61 percent a week earlier. Drought now affects 67,772,248 people, compared with 70,483,866 a week earlier."



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

Current Drought Monitor

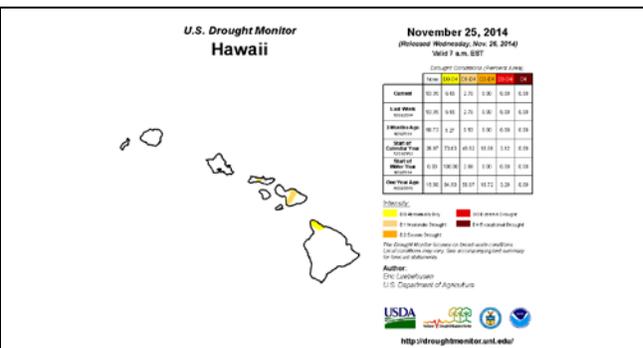
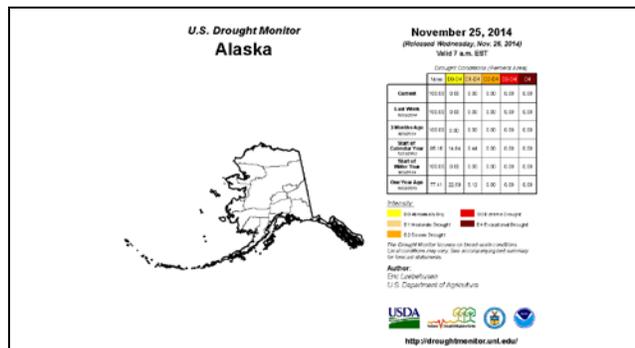
weekly summary. The exceptional D4 levels of drought are scattered across CA, NV, TX, and OK.

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/wether/Drought/AgInDrought.pdf>
- ✓ [Watch AgDay TV](#)
- ✓ [Drought Impacts Webinar Series](#)
- ✓ [NIDIS Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- ✓ [The Spring 2014 edition of DroughtScope](#)
- ✓ [U.S.Crops in Drought](#)



"The [49th](#) and [50th](#) States show normal to moderate drought conditions. For drought impacts definitions for the figures that follow, click [here](#)."

**U.S. Drought Monitor
West**

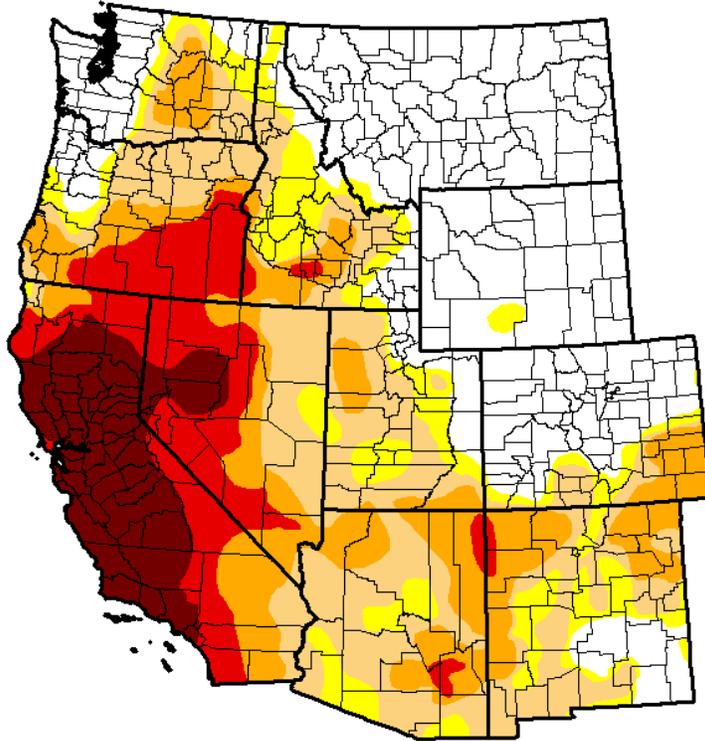
November 25, 2014

(Released Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	34.72	65.28	54.99	33.88	18.75	8.45
Last Week <i>11/18/2014</i>	34.66	65.34	54.99	33.88	18.75	8.45
3 Months Ago <i>8/26/2014</i>	27.50	72.50	58.91	41.45	20.62	8.90
Start of Calendar Year <i>12/31/2013</i>	22.20	77.80	51.44	31.11	7.75	0.63
Start of Water Year <i>9/30/2014</i>	31.48	68.52	55.57	35.65	19.95	8.90
One Year Ago <i>11/28/2013</i>	29.00	71.00	49.99	30.86	7.56	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:

*Eric Luebehusen
U.S. Department of Agriculture*



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

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](#)
- [CA Drought Information Resources](#)

Weekly Water and Climate Update

[National Drought Summary for November 25, 2014](#)

Prepared by the Drought Monitor Author: Eric Luebehusen, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Summary

"An unsettled, somewhat milder weather pattern developed over the nation, with locally heavy rain in parts of the south affording some drought relief. Farther east, showers in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast mostly prevented expansion of abnormal dryness, though rain largely bypassed southern Pennsylvania during the period. Locally heavy downpours eased drought in the southeastern Plains. In contrast, the West's core drought areas remained dry, though additional heavy rain and mountain snow were observed in parts of the Northwest.

Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico

There were no changes made to the drought depiction in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico this week. In Alaska, persistent warmth (5-10°F above normal) was in sharp contrast to the lingering cold in the central and eastern contiguous U.S., with precipitation (locally more than 2 inches) generally confined to southern-most portions of the state. In Hawaii, showers tallied more than 2 inches on the Big Island, though the heaviest rain missed the state's Abnormal Dryness (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1). In Puerto Rico, the heaviest rain (greater than 2 inches) fell east of the island's small remaining D0, where streamflows still remain below the 20th percentile.

Central Plains

Despite a mostly dry, warmer week, the drought depiction over the central Plains remained unchanged. Long-term drought remained entrenched over the central High Plains, where precipitation dating back 36 months has tallied 60 to 75 percent of normal.

Delta and Southeast

Locally heavy rainfall led to reductions in drought coverage and intensity in the Southeast, while mostly dry but cool weather resulted in little, if any, change elsewhere. From southwestern North Carolina into Georgia and northern Florida, a surge of Gulf moisture resulted in 2 to 4 inches of rain (locally more), easing Abnormal Dryness (D0) to Severe Drought (D2). Rain was heaviest over the Florida Panhandle and southern Georgia, where widespread 4-inch totals were noted. Despite the rainfall, total-column soil moisture in the remaining D0, D1, and D2 areas remained below the 30th percentile, though temperatures more than 5°F below normal eased water requirements. Farther west, rain generally bypassed the central Gulf Coast region, where concerns over possible expansion of dryness and drought persist. In contrast, the southwestern corner of Arkansas received 1 to more than 2 inches of rain, resulting in some removal of D0.

Mid-Atlantic and Northeast

Chilly, showery conditions were again mostly sufficient to prevent widespread expansion of Abnormal Dryness (D0) in the region, with rainfall amounts averaging a half inch to more than one inch from southwestern Virginia into New England. However, D0 was expanded to include southern Pennsylvania, where rainfall amounts were less than 0.5 inch and 90-day precipitation was 50 to 70 percent of normal. The rain across the remainder of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast prevented a more widespread increase in Abnormal Dryness, particularly in central and northern Virginia, as the region copes with pronounced precipitation shortages dating back over the past 3 months. Areas downwind of the Great Lakes reported record snowfall, with rainy, warmer weather at the end of the period enhancing the risk for localized flooding.

Midwest

Chilly, wet weather in the eastern Corn Belt contrasted with milder and increasingly dry conditions in western and northern portions of the Midwest. Despite the generally cool weather pattern (5 to 9°F below normal), a surge of warm air caused rain to fall from southeaster Iowa into the lower Great Lakes region; precipitation totals for the period averaged 1 to locally more than 2 inches, preventing any expansion of Abnormal Dryness. In fact, the precipitation supported the removal of the lingering Abnormal Dryness (D0) in northwestern Ohio and southern Michigan. Farther north and west, pronounced short-term dryness resulted in widespread expansion of Abnormal Dryness (D0) from Nebraska northward into the Upper Midwest. Precipitation over the past 90 days has totaled less than 50 percent of normal in many of the new

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D0 areas, and locally less than 40 percent in southwestern Nebraska and eastern North Dakota. Impacts during this time of year are generally minor — if any — due to the region's cold winter-time climate.

Ohio and Tennessee Valleys

There were no major changes to dryness/drought designation as cool, unsettled weather prevailed over much of the area. Precipitation — mostly in the form of rain — was heaviest in northern and western portions of the region, where amounts during the period totaled more than an inch. In contrast, dryness concerns persist in central and eastern Ohio, where 90-day precipitation has averaged 50 to 75 percent of normal.

Southern Plains and Texas

Dry weather in western portions of the region contrasted with locally heavy downpours in the east. The drought depiction over the southern High Plains remained unchanged, with widespread Severe (D2) to Extreme (D3) drought noted from western Kansas into northern Texas. Farther east, moderate to heavy rain was noted in south-central Oklahoma, with numerous reports of 3 to more than 5 inches west of Lake Texoma. Likewise, moderate to heavy rainfall (1 to 6 inches) was noted across much of central and eastern Texas, with the highest concentration of heavy rain near San Antonio and Austin. Consequently, there were widespread reductions to drought intensity and coverage in the areas where rain was heaviest.

Western U.S.

Unsettled conditions in the north contrasted with ongoing drought elsewhere. Despite the northern precipitation, there were no changes to the drought depiction as experts in the field await further information regarding the potential benefits of the precipitation. Farther south, additional drought increases were likewise put on hold as all eyes turn toward the much-anticipated arrival of moisture later in the upcoming period.

For the second consecutive week, a steady plume of Pacific moisture produced 1 to more than 4 inches (liquid equivalent) of precipitation in northern portions of the Cascade Range, with lesser totals (0.5 to 1.6 inches liquid equivalent) noted farther east in the northern Rockies. Despite the beneficial moisture, the drought areas of southwestern Oregon are still contending with the impacts of last season's poor end to the Water Year; 12-month precipitation averaged 65 to 85 percent of normal in the state's remaining drought areas, though deficits diminished somewhat.

Despite a southward shift of the precipitation over the period, the moisture during the week not sufficient to afford drought relief to California. The rain, which tallied locally more than 2 inches in northern California, will certainly benefit pastures and begin the process of aiding reservoirs. However, the moisture still fell well short of what is needed to ease the impacts of a three-year drought. In the core Extreme (D3) to Exceptional (D4) Drought areas north of Sacramento (where the bulk of this week's rain fell), the 36-month precipitation averaged 60 to 75 percent of normal. Farther south, the abysmal start to the current Water Year (which began October 1) continued; rainfall to-date (since October 1) has totaled 20 to 50 percent of normal in the Exceptional Drought (D4) areas around San Francisco, and locally less than 20 percent of normal in the D4 around Los Angeles. Likewise, the dry, mostly mild start to the winter has left snowpacks in the Sierra Nevada well short of normal.

In the Great Basin and Four Corners, there were no changes to this week's drought depiction despite the very poor start to the current Water Year, particularly in western portions of the region. The season's poor initial prospects are reflected by season-to-date (since October 1) precipitation, which has totaled locally less than 10 percent of normal in the Great Basin and western portions of the central and southern Rockies, with most areas reporting less than 30 percent of normal. Changes to the drought depiction across much of the west are typically slow to occur during the early part of winter, as the development of the Water Year will be crucial to the region's drought relief (or development) prospects.

Looking Ahead:

An East Coast storm will disrupt holiday travel but provide additional, soaking rainfall to the Southeast while rain and snow fall over the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. In the middle of the country, some snow is expected across the Upper Midwest and northern Plains, while dry weather prevails elsewhere. Out west, periods of rain and mountain snow will continue across the northern Rockies and Northwest. Meanwhile, much of California and the western Great Basin may receive rain and mountain snow from a late-week storm system, while unfavorably dry conditions prevail in the Four Corners region. The NWS 6- to 10-day

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outlook for December 1–5 calls for near- to above-normal temperatures nationwide, except for colder-than-normal conditions across the northern Plains and Upper Midwest. Meanwhile, above-normal precipitation in the eastern and western U.S., including California, will contrast with drier-than-normal weather across central and southern portions of the Rockies and Plains.”

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, and National Drought Mitigation Center.

“Turkey prices ahead of Thanksgiving

Turkey production in the U.S. was the lowest in nearly 30 years, and wholesale prices are at record levels, but likely will not affect turkey prices too much in the grocery store. The National Agricultural Statistics Service said the turkey stock is 235 million birds, the fewest since 207 million birds were produced in 1986.

California impacts:

Short supply of potable water for delivery in Tulare County

Some Tulare County water suppliers are having trouble finding water to deliver to homes with dry wells. One of two water haulers in the county with a license to deliver potable water ended his service because the municipal supplier could not provide him with water any longer.

There are 810 dry wells in Tulare County, and numerous groups are helping people get tank systems set up before winter cold arrives so homes can have hot water flowing from their faucets again.

Hot showers provided for residents of East Porterville (Tulare County) whose wells went dry

Portable showers have been set up for the hundreds of East Porterville residents who have no running water. The Tulare County Office of Emergency Management provided the showers because they were concerned about residents taking sponge baths from buckets of water as many are forced to do, and the winter bringing colder weather.

Orange County water woes

The San Juan Capistrano groundwater recovery facility normally produces as much as 50 percent of the city’s drinking water, but low groundwater levels have dropped production to 30 percent. The city stopped using two of its eight wells to allow the basin to recharge, but water levels continue to fall.

The South Coast Water District closed its single well groundwater recovery facility on Sept. 8 because little water was flowing into the basin. It was feared that salt water intrusion may become an issue. On Sept. 10, a district news release said that the plant would likely remain closed for 45 to 60 days, but that time period has elapsed with no water to replenish the basin. The SCWD serves Dana Point, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano and South Laguna.

San Diego, other California cities consider water reuse

San Diego and other California cities are considering recycling water after three intense years of drought. San Diegans, although they did not embrace the idea years ago, were now seeing it as a drought-proof water supply.

The Orange County Water District intends to boost recycled water production from 70 million gallons daily to 100 million gallons daily. The Santa Clara Valley Water District decided in September to construct water recycling facilities which may be used to purify water for Sunnyvale and western Santa Clara County.

Water legislation on hold

A 50-page draft bill concerning the future of water in California had been under negotiation in the House of Representatives, but Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California ended talks on the water bill in favor of trying again when the next session of Congress resumes in January.

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Junior water rights holders' curtailment orders

Curtailments imposed by the State Water Resources Control Board have ended for junior water rights holders in the Sacramento and San Joaquin river watersheds dated after 1914 and in the Russian River watershed. Recent rainfall boosted river flow, allowing the board to lift curtailments, but dry weather could bring further curtailments.

Curtailments remain in effect for the Scott River in far Northern California and Deer Creek in Tehama County.

Firefighting resources in Riverside and San Bernardino counties kept at summer levels

Firefighting resources in Riverside and San Bernardino counties are being kept at summer levels. Normally at this time of year, reductions in staffing and equipment are made, but the fire danger remains high, so the staffing reduction is being postponed. The U.S. Forest Service also has kept its staffing levels high in the San Bernardino National Forest and the Cleveland National Forest and continues to renew contracts for firefighting airplanes on a weekly basis.

Drought's effects on beef producers among factors leading to closing of San Francisco meat processing plant

Marin Sun Farms will close its San Francisco meat processing plant at the end of 2014. The rising cost of doing business and the lingering financial impacts from drought made it a wise decision to shutter the San Francisco plant.

Drought slowed salmon spawning run in Sacramento Valley

Drought has slowed the salmon spawning run in the Sacramento Valley where more than 300,000 fall-run Chinook, also known as king, salmon are expected to swim up rivers and streams and spawn during October and November. Volunteers working with the Dry Creek Conservancy found more than 120 salmon on Nov. 14 on four sections of creek, which was many fewer than the 800 salmon spotted ten years ago, but this year's count was still good, given the drought.

Elsewhere:

The Lower Colorado River Authority in Texas seeking permission to cut irrigation water releases from Highland Lakes

The Lower Colorado River Authority is seeking permission from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to cut the amount of water it releases from the Highland Lakes for irrigation for the fourth straight year. Water releases take place for six weeks in late spring to aid spawning of blue sucker fish.

Hungry bears in residential areas causing spike in calls to Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

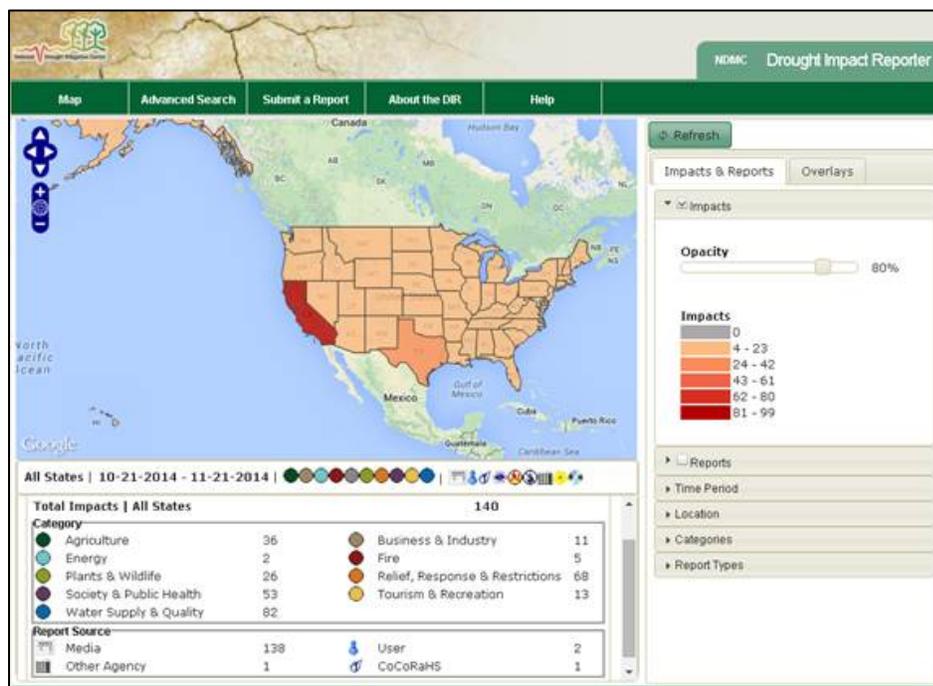
Hungry bears have been causing problems in the Brookings area because drought prevented a good acorn crop. Apple trees and garbage have been targets of the famished bruins, prompting a spike in calls to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife during the past month with up to five calls in a single day.

South Carolina in an incipient drought

The South Carolina Drought Response Committee met and voted to recognize the entire state as being in an incipient drought. Rain has been scarce this fall, and lake levels were declining.

[Drought Impact Reporter](#)

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Agriculture

[Turkey Production Down, Wholesale Prices Up](#)

ABC News (New York)

Nov 15, **U.S.** Turkey production in the U.S. was the lowest in nearly 30 years, and wholesale prices are at record levels, but likely will not affect turkey prices too much in the grocery store. The National Agricultural Statistics Service said the turkey stock is 235 million birds, the fewest since 207 million birds were produced in 1986. High corn prices from the 2012 drought led farmers to reduce the number of turkeys on farms, and the lower corn prices from this year's plentiful harvest will not likely be felt until next year.

Business & Industry

[Marin Sun Farms to close San Francisco facility](#)

San Francisco Chronicle (SFGate.com)

Nov 17, **San Francisco, Petaluma, California.** Marin Sun Farms will close its San Francisco meat processing plant at the end of 2014. The rising cost of doing business and the lingering financial impacts from drought on beef producers made it a wise decision to shutter the San Francisco plant.

Fire

[WILDFIRES: Threat should be dropping this time of year – but isn't](#)

The Press Enterprise (Riverside, Calif.)

Nov 15, **Southern California.** Firefighting resources in Riverside and San Bernardino counties are being kept at summer levels. Normally at this time of year, reductions in staffing and equipment are made, but the fire danger remains high, so the staffing reduction is being postponed. Cal Fire records show that their Inland units have not transitioned to winter preparedness staffing since Nov. 21, 2011.

The U.S. Forest Service also has not cut its staffing levels in the San Bernardino National Forest or the Cleveland National Forest and continues to renew contracts for firefighting airplanes on a weekly basis.

General Awareness

[Committee says all of SC in early drought](#)

The Charlotte Observer (N.C.)

Nov 21, **South Carolina.** The South Carolina Drought Response Committee met and voted to recognize the entire state as being in an incipient drought. Rain has been scarce this fall, and lake levels were declining.

Plants & Wildlife

["DRIFTING ALONG WITH THE ..."](#)

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The Lamar Ledger (Colorado)

Nov 19, **Southeastern Colorado**. A local doctor recounted a recent run in with the abundant tumbleweed crop from last year in Eads.

[Drought blamed for bear activity](#)

Curry coastal Pilot (Brookings, Oregon)

Nov 18, **Southwestern Oregon**. Hungry bears have been causing problems in the Brookings area because drought prevented a good acorn crop. Apple trees and garbage have been targets of the famished bruins, prompting a spike in calls to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife during the past month with up to five calls in a single day.

[Sacramento's salmon run in full swing, but drought still a worry](#)

The Sacramento Bee (Calif.)

Nov 16, **Sacramento Valley, California**. Drought has slowed the salmon spawning run in the Sacramento Valley where more than 300,000 fall-run Chinook, also known as king, salmon are expected to swim up rivers and streams and spawn during October and November.

Volunteers working with the Dry Creek Conservancy found more than 120 salmon on Nov. 14 on four sections of the creek, which was many fewer than the 800 salmon spotted ten years ago, but this year's count was still good, given the drought.

Relief, Response, & Restrictions

[Feinstein pulls plug on California water bill](#)

The Fresno Bee (Calif.)

Nov 20, **California**. Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California ended negotiations on the water bill in favor of trying again when the next session of Congress resumes in January.

[Humboldt County, tribes receive 2,400 donated drought kits for low-income households](#)

Times-Standard (Eureka, Calif.)

Nov 18, **Humboldt County, California**. About 2,400 drought kits from Home Depot were given out to North Coast tribes and drought-affected residents in Humboldt County. The kits contained a low-flow shower head, faucet aerators, a garden hose nozzle with shutoff valve, toilet leak detectors and a shower timer.

[Limits end on most California stream diversions](#)

The Sacramento Bee (Calif.)

Nov 19, **California**. Curtailments imposed by the State Water Resources Control Board have ended for junior water rights holders in the Sacramento and San Joaquin river watersheds dated after 1914 and in the Russian River watershed. Recent rainfall boosted river flow, allowing the board to lift curtailments, but dry weather could bring further curtailments.

Curtailments remain in effect for the Scott River in far Northern California and Deer Creek in Tehama County.

Society & Public Health

[A world without chocolate? Confection giants sound the alarm](#)

CBS News

Nov 17. Drought has slowed cocoa production in Ivory Coast and Ghana, and pests and diseases have curbed production, too. Now Ebola in West Africa has sparked new concern that production might be slowed and drive up chocolate prices.

[California drought hits San Mateo County coast particularly hard](#)

SFGate (San Francisco)

Nov 16, **Southern San Mateo County, California**. Many domestic wells have gone dry along the southern San Mateo County coast. People have had to make drastic changes to all daily routines involving water, such as showering less, flushing toilets less and avoiding using water when possible.

[Dry Central California town gets portable showers](#)

The Sacramento Bee (Calif.)

Nov 19, **East Porterville in Tulare County, California**. Portable showers have been set up for the hundreds of East Porterville residents who have no running water. The Tulare County Office of Emergency

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Management provided the showers because they were concerned about residents taking sponge baths from buckets of water as many are forced to do, and the winter bringing colder weather. People must bring their own soap and towels.

[Man faces possible jail time for not watering lawn](#)

San Jose Mercury News (Calif.)

Nov 21, **San Bernardino County, California.** An Upland man may have to pay \$4,000 in fines or be jailed for six months for refusing to keep his lawn green. Upland officials say he is in violation of the law by allowing his lawn to turn brown. The man was charged with two misdemeanors for not properly maintaining his front lawn and parkway, but was given options to remedy the situation, which he did not take.

Tourism & Recreation

[Lake-level watching is new tourism fad](#)

Merced Sun-Star (Calif.)

Nov 16, **California.** More tourists were flocking to see foundations, old bridges and other relics as drought depletes California lakes and exposes objects not seen in many years. In Lake Don Pedro, the foundation from the stamp mill of the old Eagle-Shawmut mine has reappeared. Hundreds of curious people have visited the lake to have a look and sometimes enjoy a picnic.

Many visitors to the New Melones Visitor Center near Highway 49 on the Tuolumne County side of the New Melones Lake inquire about when certain landmarks will become visible.

At Lake McClure, the old Yosemite Railway tunnels are high above the water line and have been exposed for several months. Tourists can also view the concrete pillars of the railroad's old Barrett Bridge and bits of the foundations from the town and rail stop of Bagby.

Water Supply & Quality

[Citing drought, LCRA seeks to curb Highland Lake releases in 2015](#)

Austin American-Statesman

Nov 19, **Lower Colorado River in Texas.** The Lower Colorado River Authority is seeking permission from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to cut irrigation water releases from the Highland Lakes for the fourth straight year. Water releases take place for six weeks in late spring to aid spawning of blue sucker fish.

"This was not an easy decision, but we must protect the region's water supply," said the LCRA's General Manager Phil Wilson. "More than a million people depend on water from the Highland Lakes, and right now, there is just not enough water for everyone to have all they want.

*During the first three years, water releases were denied to rice farmers near the Gulf Coast. Last year, even the blue sucker fish got less water.

[San Juan Capistrano officials seek solutions to water shortage](#)

Orange County Register (Santa Ana, Calif.)

Nov 19, **San Juan Capistrano, California.** The San Juan Capistrano groundwater recovery facility normally produces as much as 50 percent of the city's drinking water, but low groundwater levels have dropped production to 30 percent. The city stopped using two of its eight wells to allow the basin to recharge, but the water levels continue to drop.

The South Coast Water District closed its single well groundwater recovery facility on Sept. 8 because little water was flowing into the basin. It was feared that salt water intrusion may become an issue. On Sept. 10, a district news release said that the plant would likely remain closed for 45 to 60 days, but that time period has elapsed with no water to replenish the basin. The SCWD serves Dana Point, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano and South Laguna.

[Photos: Chesbro Reservoir in danger of drying up](#)

San Jose Mercury News (Calif.)

Nov 13, **Santa Clara County, California.** The Chesbro Reservoir has dwindled down to one percent of capacity. See photo number two for a sad look at the water intake structure with a little muddy water around it.

[Water tanks replace dry wells as drought victims prepare for winter](#)

The Fresno Bee (Calif.)

Weekly Water and Climate Update

Nov 15, **Tulare County, California**. Some Tulare County water suppliers are having trouble finding water to deliver to homes with dry wells. One of two water haulers in the county with a license to deliver potable water ended his service because the municipal supplier could not provide him with water any longer. There are 810 dry wells in Tulare County, and numerous groups are helping people get tank systems set up before winter cold arrives so homes can have hot water flowing from their faucets again.

International

[California droughts could leave B.C. high and dry on food](#)

The Globe and Mail (Toronto, Ontario)

Nov 18, **British Columbia, Canada**. British Columbia relies heavily on produce from California and is alarmed at the historic drought gripping the state. The fear is that less produce will reach British Columbia, and when it does, it might cost more than people will pay.

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 Water and Climate Updates 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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