



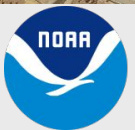
Drought Information Statement for Northern and Eastern Maine

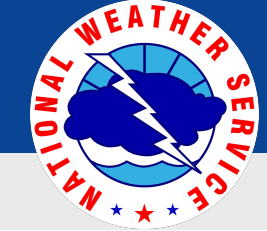
Valid October 8, 2026

Issued By: WFO Caribou, ME

- Next update by Thursday, October 15th unless conditions warrant sooner
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/car/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/car> for regional drought status updates.

- Drought conditions worsen in Northern Maine; streamflows near record lows.
- Below-normal groundwater in Eastern and Northern Maine.
- Recent rainfall provides temporary relief in Downeast and Bangor.
- Drought expected to continue through fall, with potential winter relief.





U.S. Drought Monitor

October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Maine

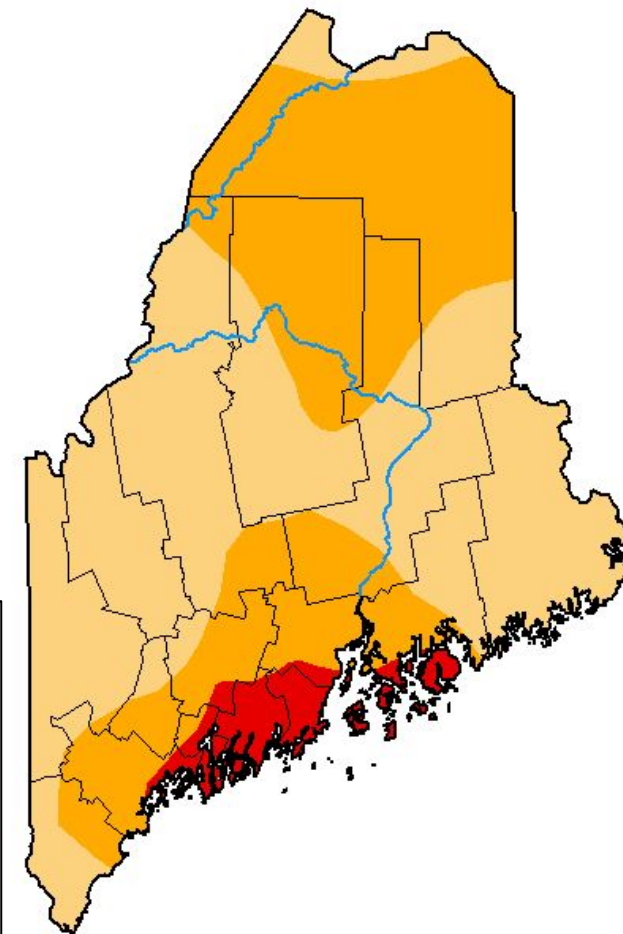
- **Drought Intensity and Extent:**

- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Coastal Hancock County mainly MDI to Castine.
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Southern & Far Northern Penobscot, Southwest Hancock, Far Northern Somerset, Northern Piscataquis, Much of Northern and Central Aroostook counties.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** West-Central & Southern Piscataquis, Central Penobscot, Northern & Eastern Hancock and all of Washington counties.

Percentage of Maine in Drought

- No Drought: 0.00%
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** 0.00%
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** 53.84%
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** 41.32%
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** 4.84%

U.S. Drought Monitor Maine

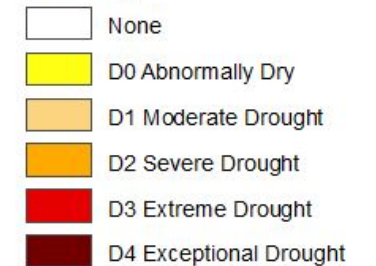


October 6, 2026

(Released Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity:



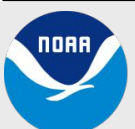
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP

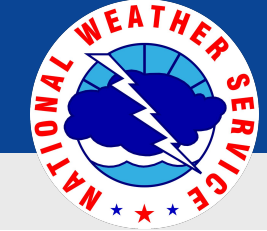


droughtmonitor.unl.edu



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Caribou, ME

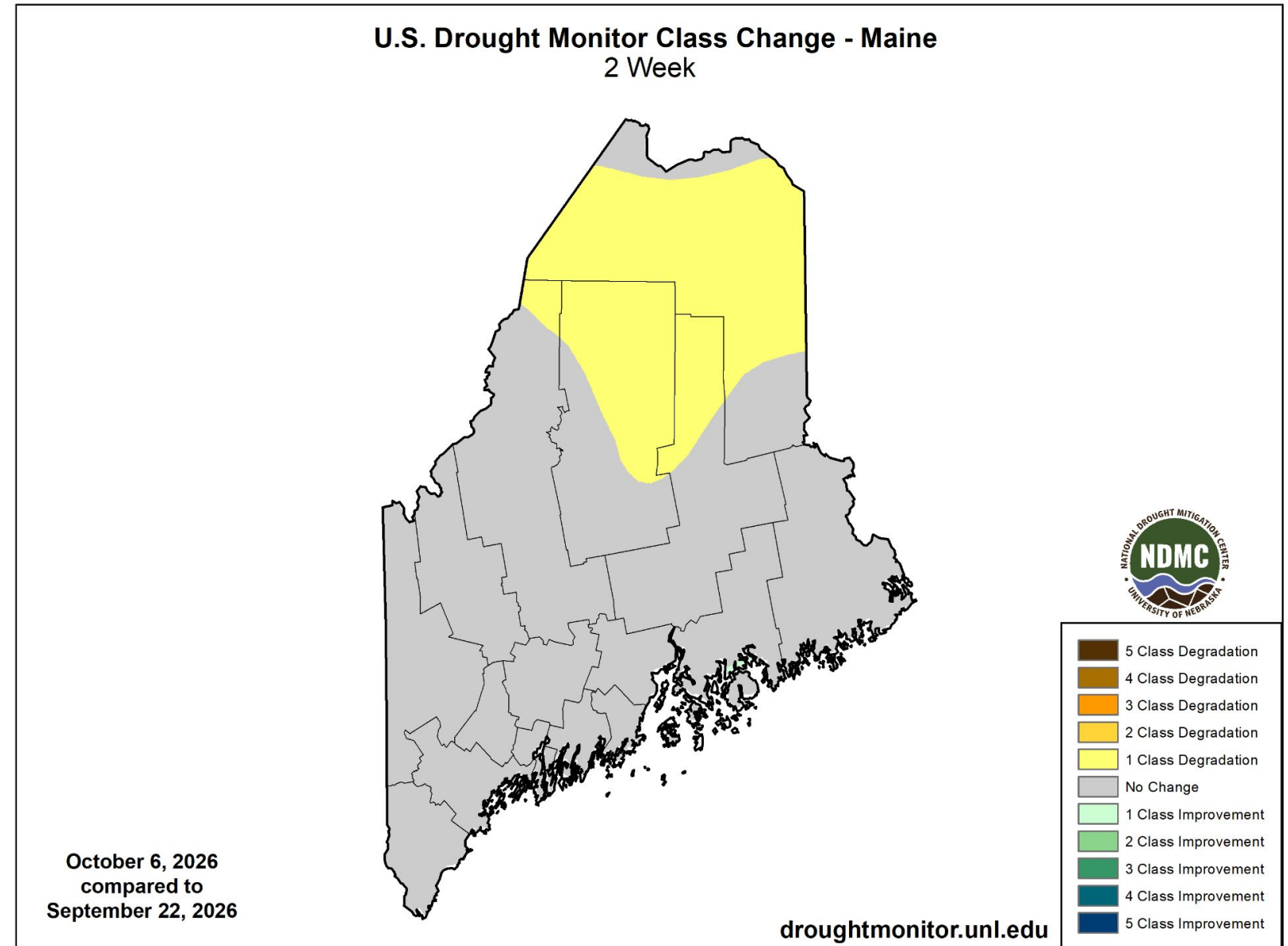
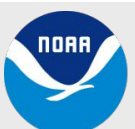


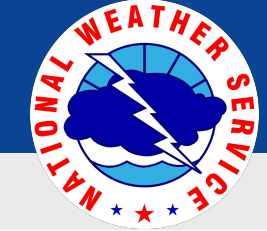
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT

Link to the latest [2-week change map](#) for Northeast U.S.

- Two week drought monitor class change:
 - **Drought Worsened:** Much of Northern and Central Aroostook, Northern Penobscot, Northern Piscataquis and Far Northern Somerset counties
 - **Drought Improved:** None.
 - **No Change:** Rest of the NWS Caribou forecast area.



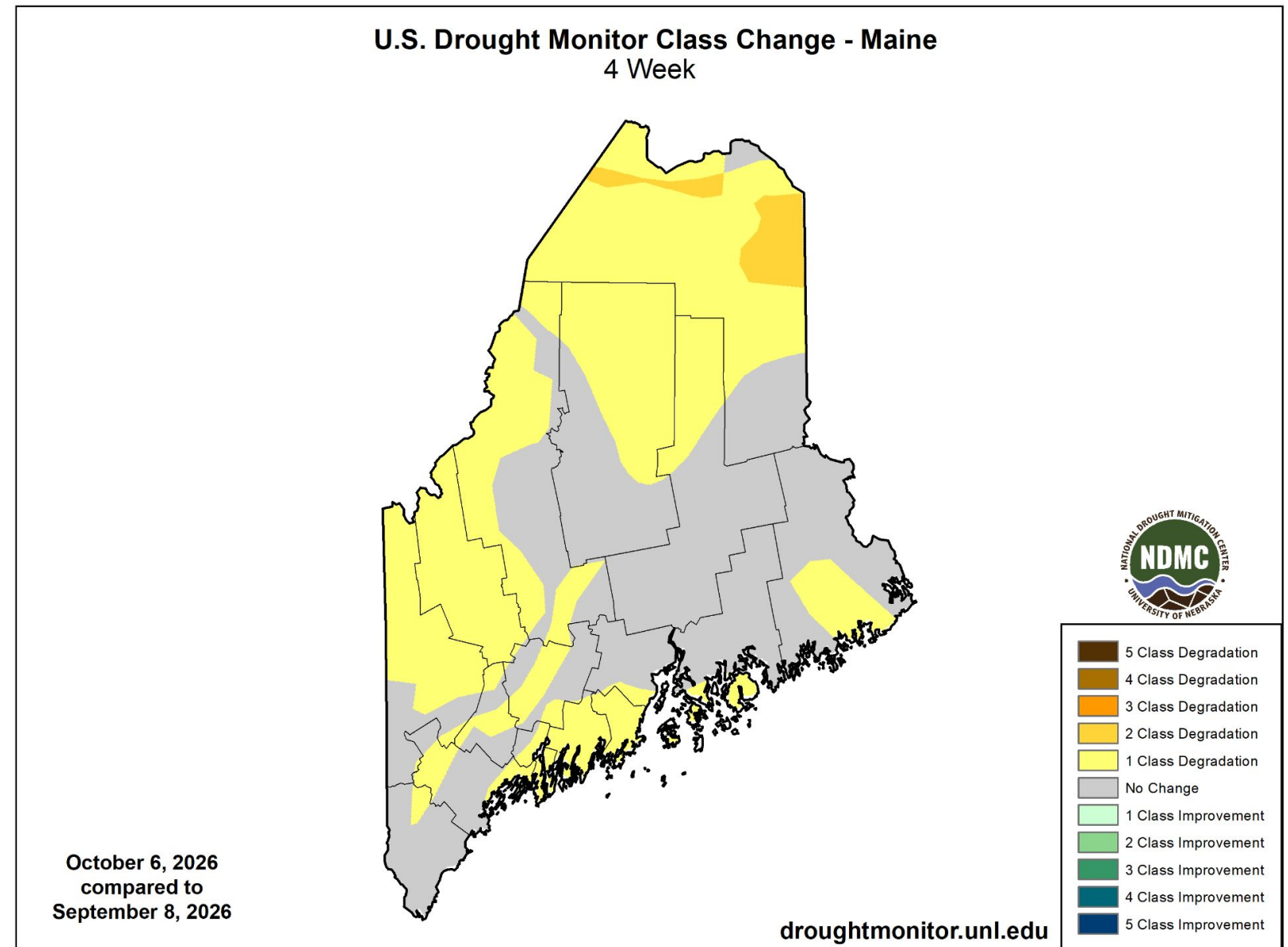
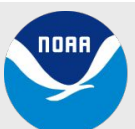


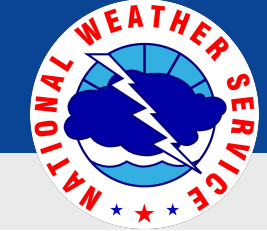
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT

Link to the latest [1-month change map](#) for Northeast U.S.

- Four week drought monitor class change:
 - **Drought Worsened:** Much of Aroostook, Far Northern Somerset, Northern Piscataquis, Northern Penobscot, Far Southwest Hancock and South-Central Washington counties.
 - **Drought Improved:** None.
 - **No Change:** Rest of the NWS Caribou forecast area.



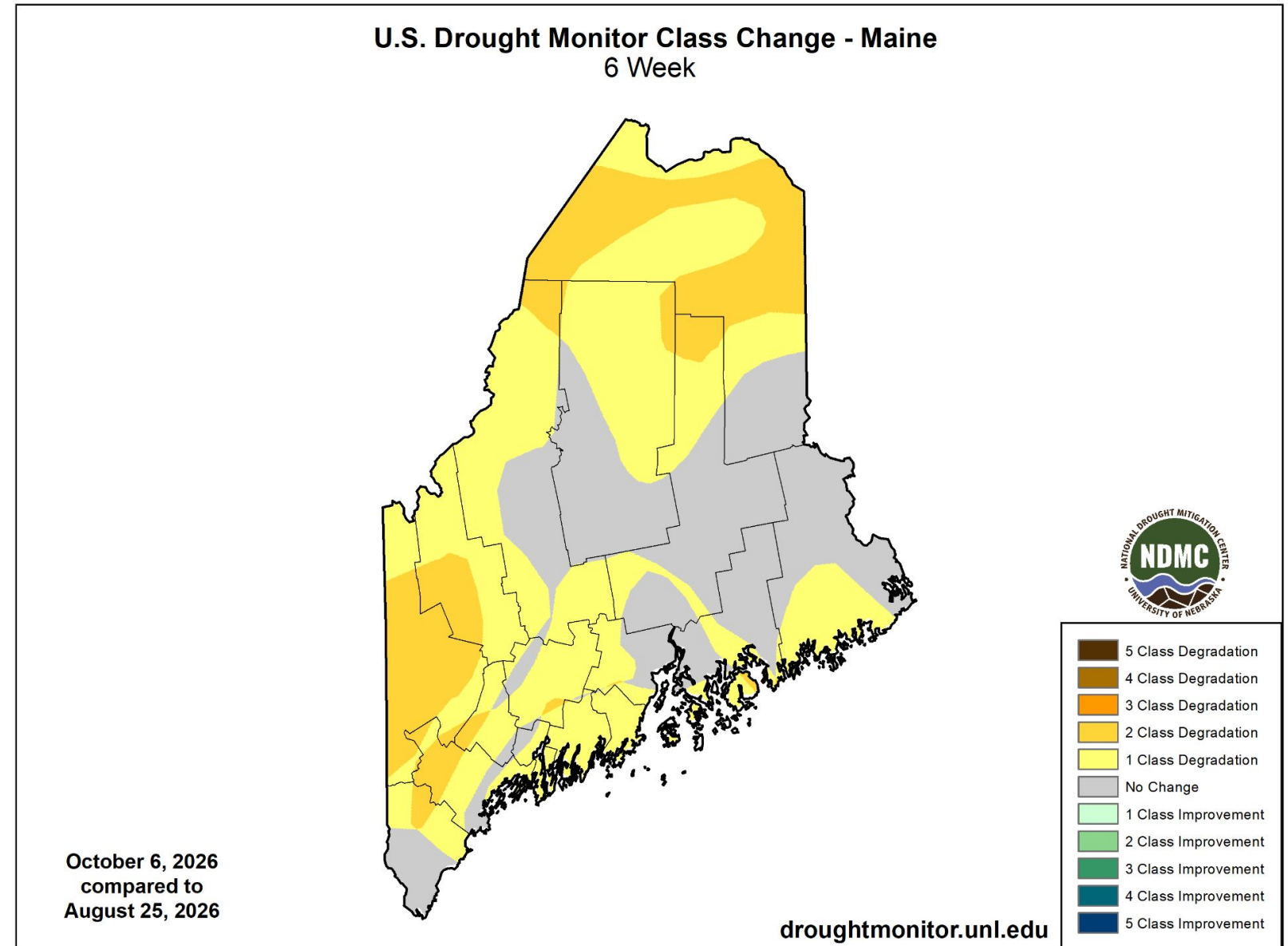
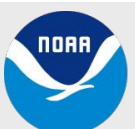


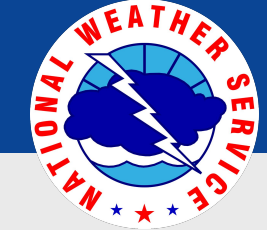
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT

Link to the latest [6-week change map](#) for Northeast U.S.

- Four week drought monitor class change:
 - **Drought Worsened:** Northern and Central Aroostook, Northern Piscataquis, Northern Somerset, Northern and far Southern Penobscot, Southwest Hancock, and Southern Washington counties.
 - **Drought Improved:** None.
 - **No Change:** Rest of the NWS Caribou forecast area.





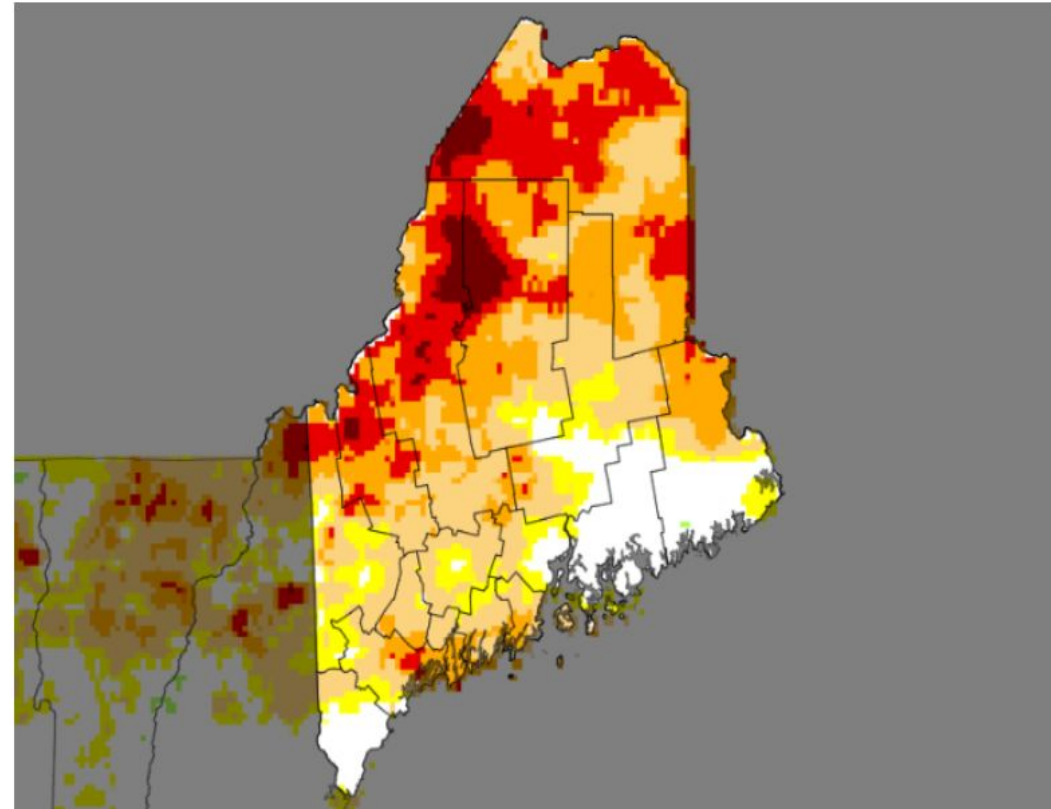
Short & Long Term Drought Index

October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT

Link to the Maine [Drought.gov](https://www.drought.gov) Maps: www.drought.gov/states/maine

- The Short-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index (MIDI) estimates current short-term drought conditions by combining several indicators of drought into a single, map from changes in precipitation and moisture over the past 3 months.
- Continued worsening of groundwater & surface water conditions in large sections of the forecast area.
- The Long-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index (MIDI) estimates current long-term drought conditions by combining several indicators of drought into a single map from changes in precipitation and moisture over the past 5 years.

Short-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index: Maine



Dry Conditions



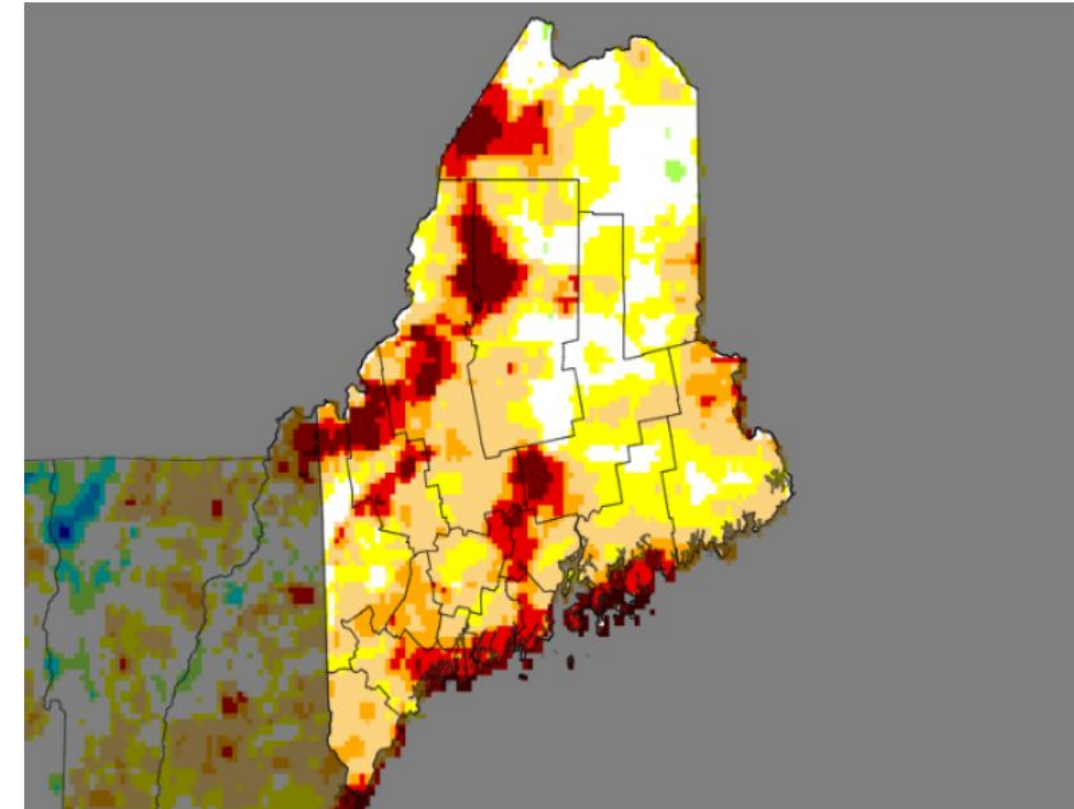
Wet Conditions



Source(s): UC Merced, via Climate Engine
Data Valid: 10/02/26

Drought.gov

Long-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index: Maine



Dry Conditions



Wet Conditions



Source(s): UC Merced, via Climate Engine
Data Valid: 10/02/26

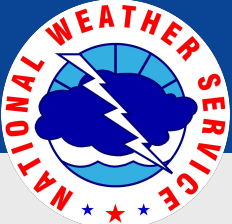
Drought.gov



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

This experimental map is based on methodology from the NOAA National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center.

**National Weather Service
Caribou, ME**



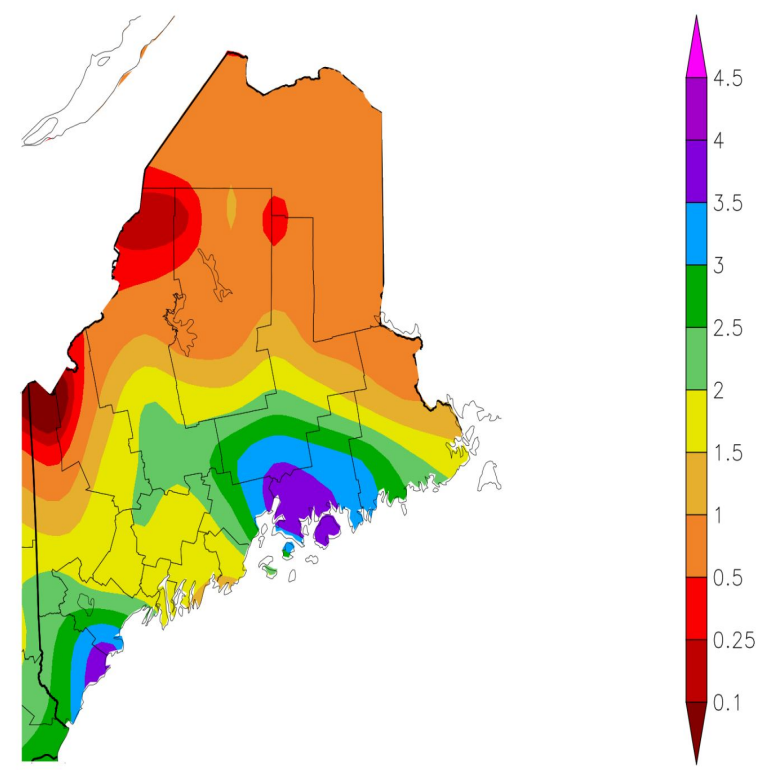
14 Day Precipitation

October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT

Link to [Northeast Regional Climate Center](#)

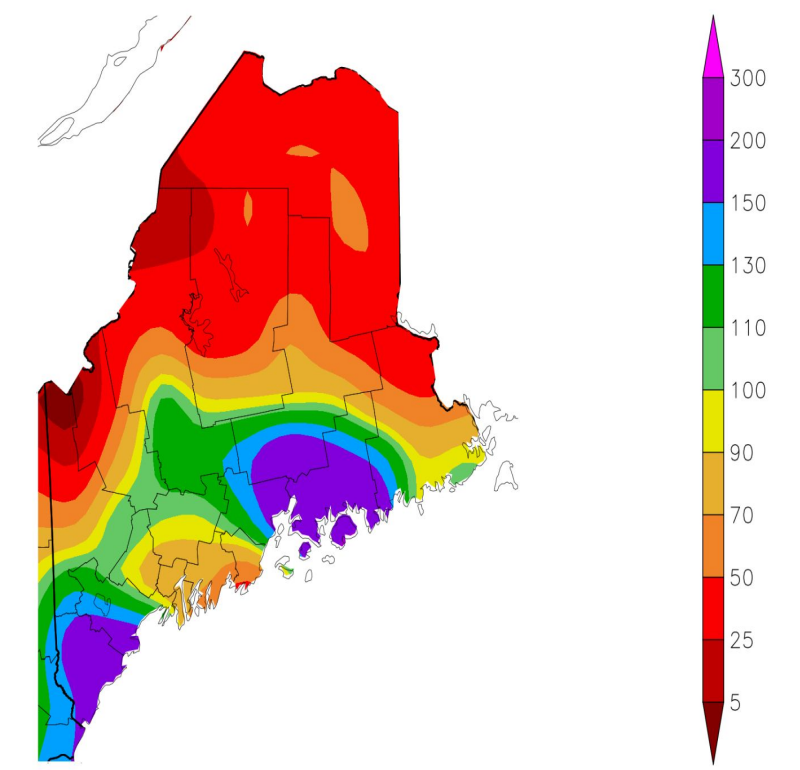
- Precipitation Above Normal for the Bangor Region & Downeast Maine.
- Precipitation Near Normal for far Southern Piscataquis County eastward to interior Downeast near Calais.
- Precipitation Below Normal to Much Below Normal for all of Northern Maine, Moosehead Region to Northern Washington County.

Precipitation (in)
9/24/2026 - 10/7/2026



Generated 10/8/2026 using provisional data.

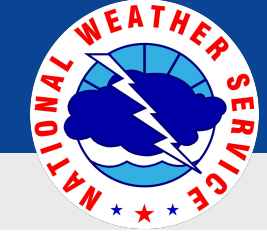
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/24/2026 - 10/7/2026



ACIS Web Services Generated 10/8/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services





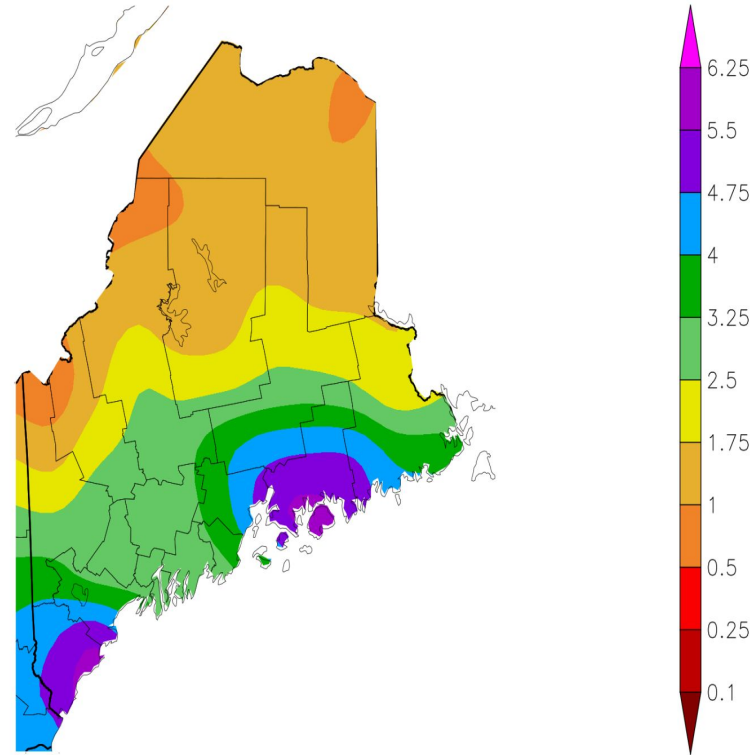
30 Day Precipitation

October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT

Link to [Northeast Regional Climate Center](#)

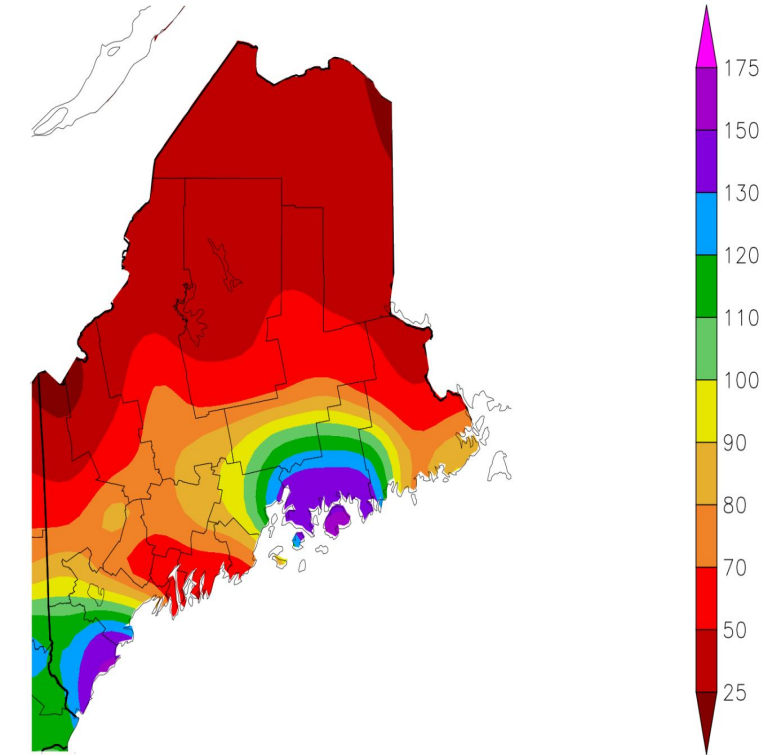
- Above Normal precipitation for much of Hancock County, far Southwest Washington County and far Southern Penobscot County.
- Precipitation Below Normal to Much Below Normal for all of Northern Maine, Central Highlands, Moosehead Region to Northern Washington County.

Precipitation (in)
9/8/2026 – 10/7/2026



Generated 10/8/2026 using provisional data.

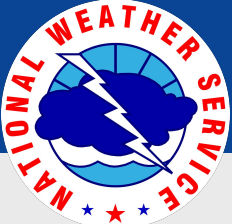
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/8/2026 – 10/7/2026



ACIS Web Services Generated 10/8/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services





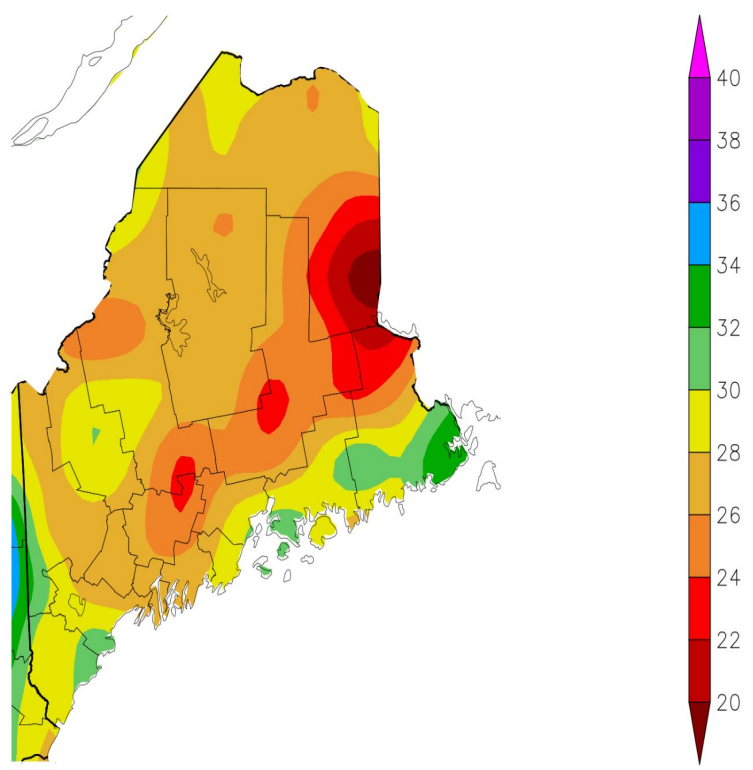
Year to Date Precipitation

October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT

Since January 1st

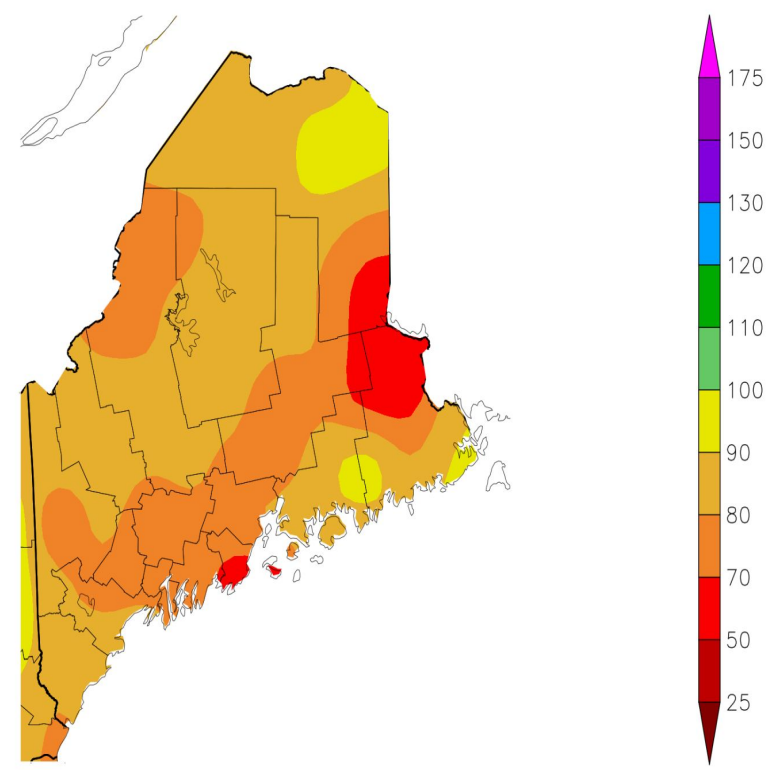
- Below normal precipitation (70-85% of normal) for much of the NWS Caribou forecast area. This is compounded on 2025 deficits.
- 50-70% of normal precipitation in portions of Southern Aroostook & Northern Washington counties.
- 90-100% of normal in very small areas of Northeast Aroostook & tiny area of Downeast Maine.

Precipitation (in)
1/1/2026 - 10/7/2026



Generated 10/8/2026 using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
1/1/2026 - 10/7/2026

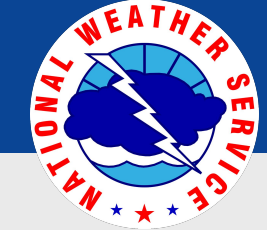


ACIS Web Services Generated 10/8/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Much of the area is seeing compounding drought impacts from the 2025 drought.





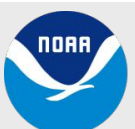
Precipitation Deficits

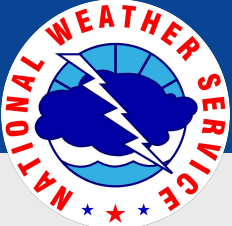
October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT

As of October 7, 2026

City	Precipitation Since Jan 1st	Departure from Normal since Jan 1st	Percent of Normal Since Jan 1st
Frenchville	21.74"	-3.65"	85.6%
Caribou	30.18"	-0.43"	98.6%
Houlton	20.52"	-8.60"	70.5%
Millinocket	26.46"	-5.04"	84%
Bangor	22.98"	-7.58"	75.2%

- Frenchville is currently 11th driest year to date on record.
 - Records began in 1998
- Houlton is currently 6th driest year to date on record.
 - Records began in 1948
- Bangor is currently 9th driest year to date on record.
 - Records began in 1948.
- Millinocket is currently 24th driest year to date on record.
 - Records began in 1903





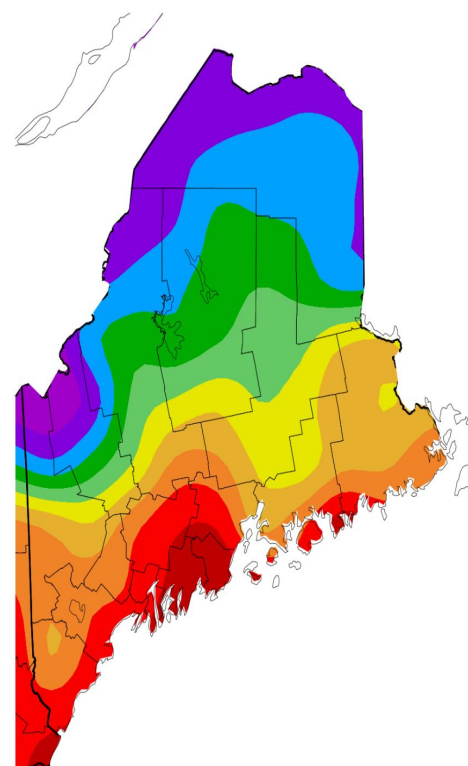
30 Day Temperatures

October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT

Link to [Northeast Regional Climate Center](#)

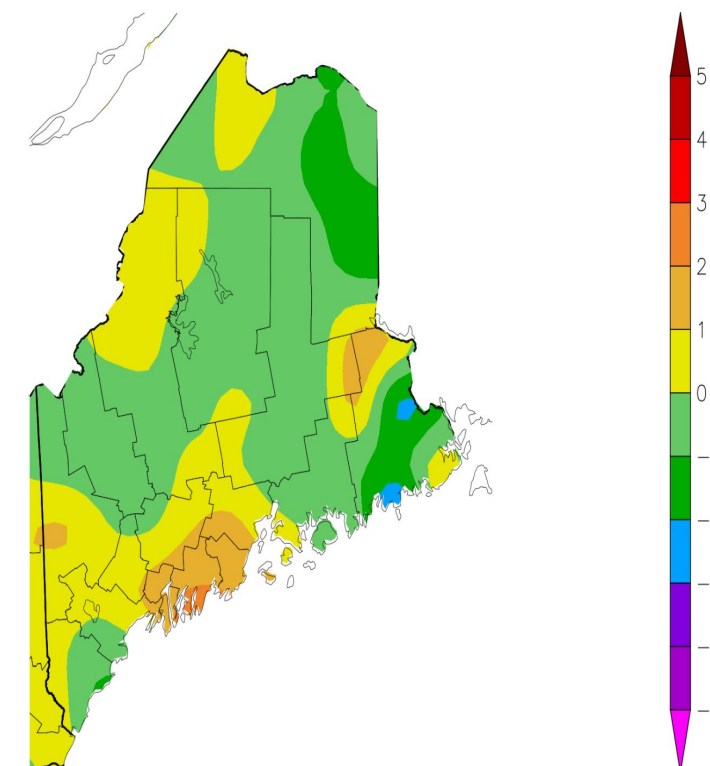
- 30 Day Temperatures have been running 0.5-1.5 degrees below normal across much of the NWS Caribou forecast area.
- Few areas in the North Woods and Interior Downeast Maine near to slightly above normal.
- Cooling temperatures will lead to reduced evaporation demand combined with the growing season being complete.

Temperature (F)
9/8/2026 – 10/7/2026



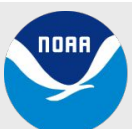
Generated 10/8/2026 using provisional data.

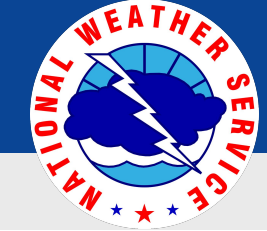
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/8/2026 – 10/7/2026



ACIS Web Services Generated 10/8/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services



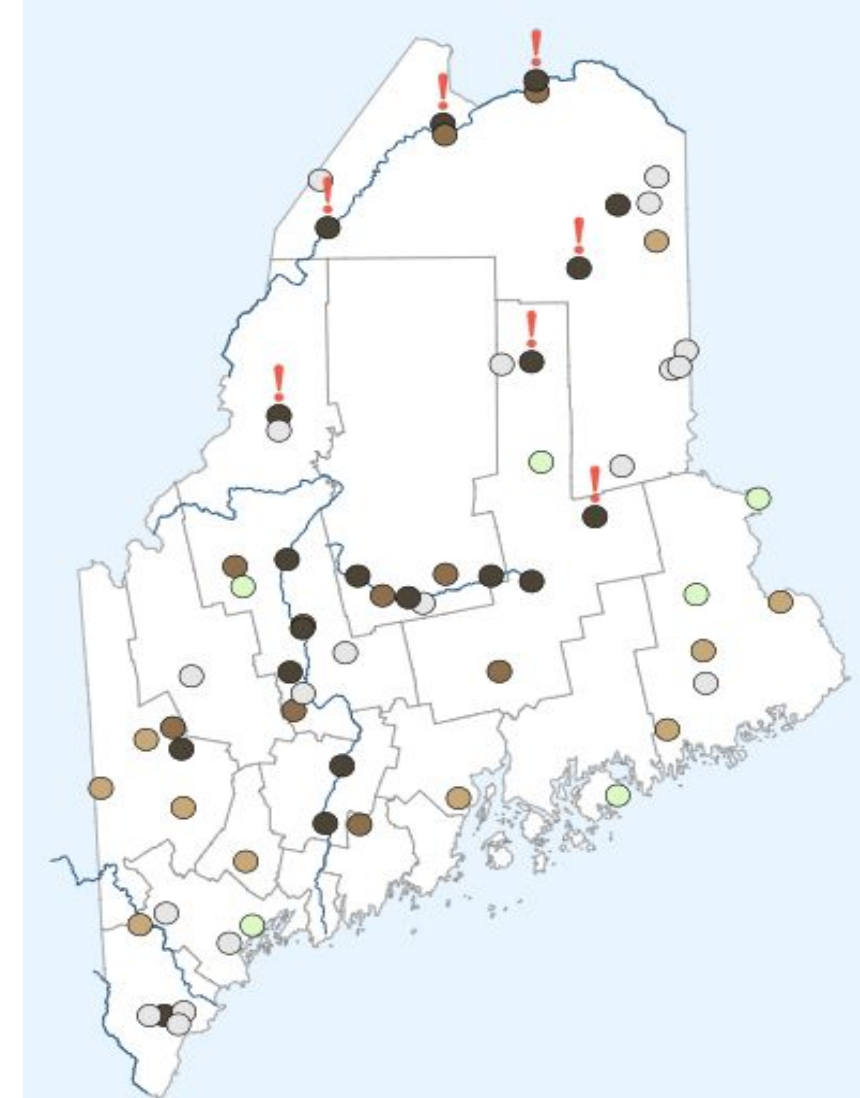
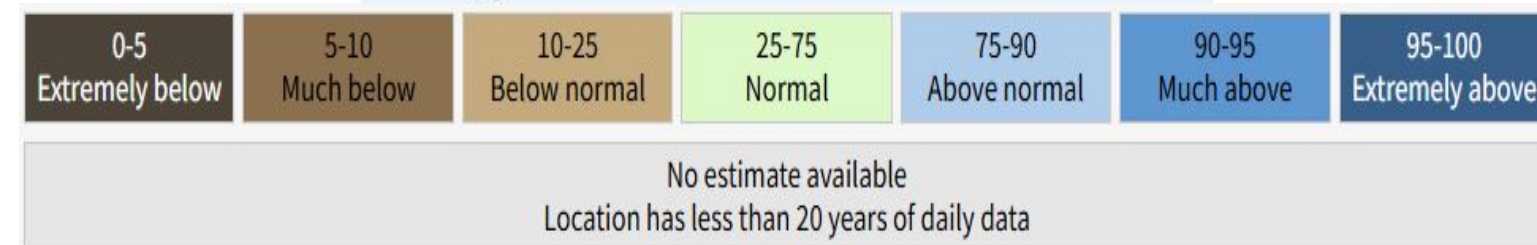
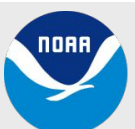


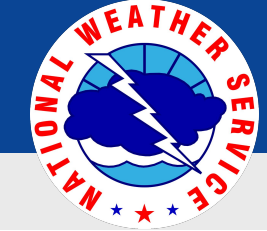
Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT

USGS Streamflow State of Maine Dashboard: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/state/maine/>

- **Northern Basins:**
 - Below to Much Below Normal flows
 - 1 of 14 gages Normal
 - 2 of 14 gages Below Normal
 - 9 of 14 gages Much Below Normal
 - 2 gage “not ranked” due to backwater effects
- **Bangor, Central Highlands & Moosehead Regions:**
 - Below to Much Below Normal flows
 - 1 of 15 gages Normal
 - 12 of 15 gages Much Below Normal
 - 2 gages “not ranked”
- **Downeast Basins:**
 - Below to Much Below Normal flows
 - 3 of 9 gages Normal
 - 4 of 9 gages Below Normal
 - 2 gages “not ranked”
- **Areawide Trends:**
 - Expect flows to remain below normal.
 - Normal flows will slowly fall.





River Gage Low Flow Records Set

October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT

Observations Courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey

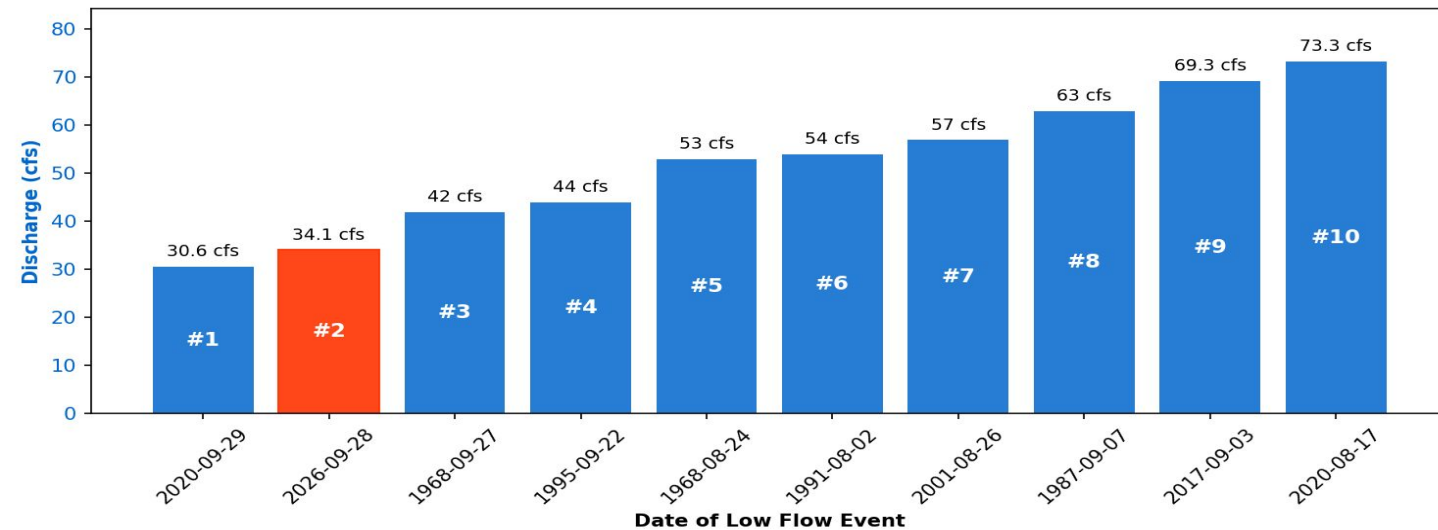
Aroostook River @ Washburn:
6th lowest flow since 1930 was set on 9/28/2026

Mattawamkeag River @ Mattawamkeag:
2nd lowest flow since 1934 was set on 9/27/2026

Piscataquis River @ Blanchard:
2nd lowest flow since 1996 was set on 9/26/2026

Penobscot River @ West Enfield:
10th lowest flow since 1902 was set on 10/3/2026

Aroostook River Near Masardis, Maine
Top 10 Lowest Flow Events: MASM1
(Period of Record: 1957-2026)

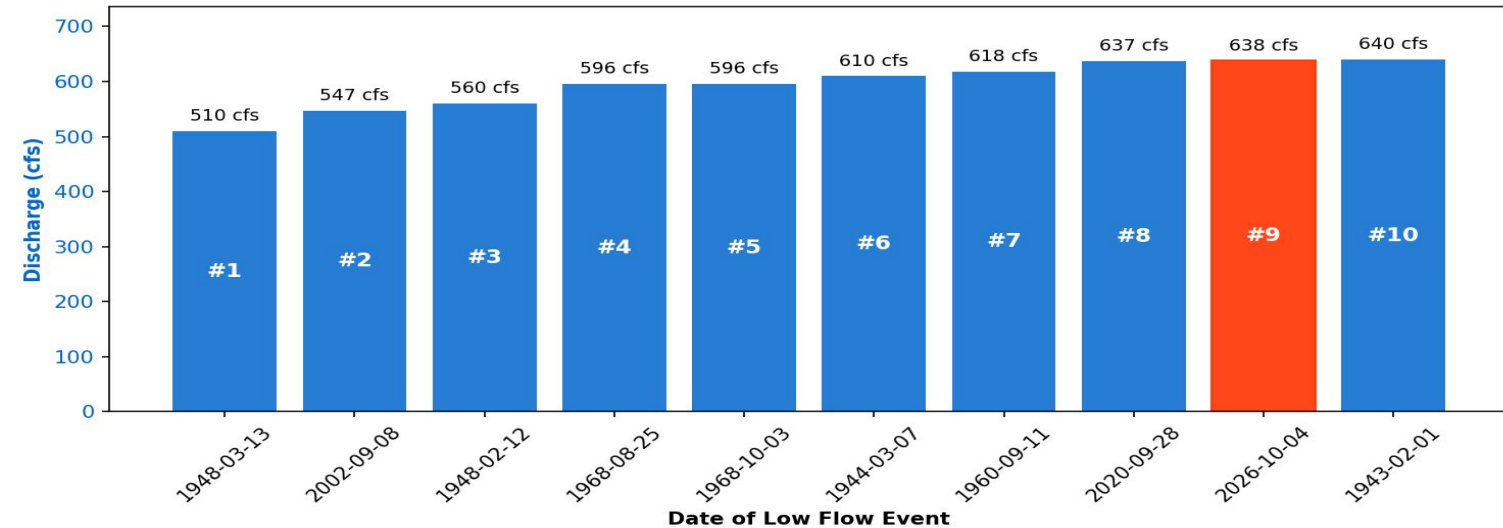


Observations Courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey
USGS Site: 01015800

Graphic Created: October 08, 2026

National Weather Service
Caribou, ME

St. John River Below Fish R, Nr Fort Kent, Maine
Top 10 Lowest Flow Events: FTKM1
(Period of Record: 1926-2026)



Observations Courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey
USGS Site: 01014000

Graphic Created: October 08, 2026

National Weather Service
Caribou, ME

St. John River @ Nine Mile:
2nd lowest flow since 1950 was set on 9/27/2026

St. John River @ Fort Kent:
9th lowest flow since 1926 was set on 10/4/2026

Fish River @ Fort Kent:
9th lowest flow since 1929 was set on 10/7/2026

Aroostook River @ Masardis:
2nd lowest flow since 1957 was set on 9/28/2026

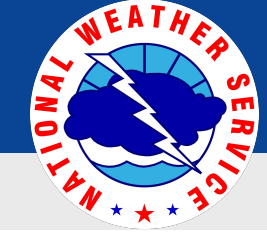
Narraguagus River @ Cherryfield:
3rd lowest flow since 1948 was set on 9/24/2026



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

All New Records are Preliminary

National Weather Service
Caribou, ME

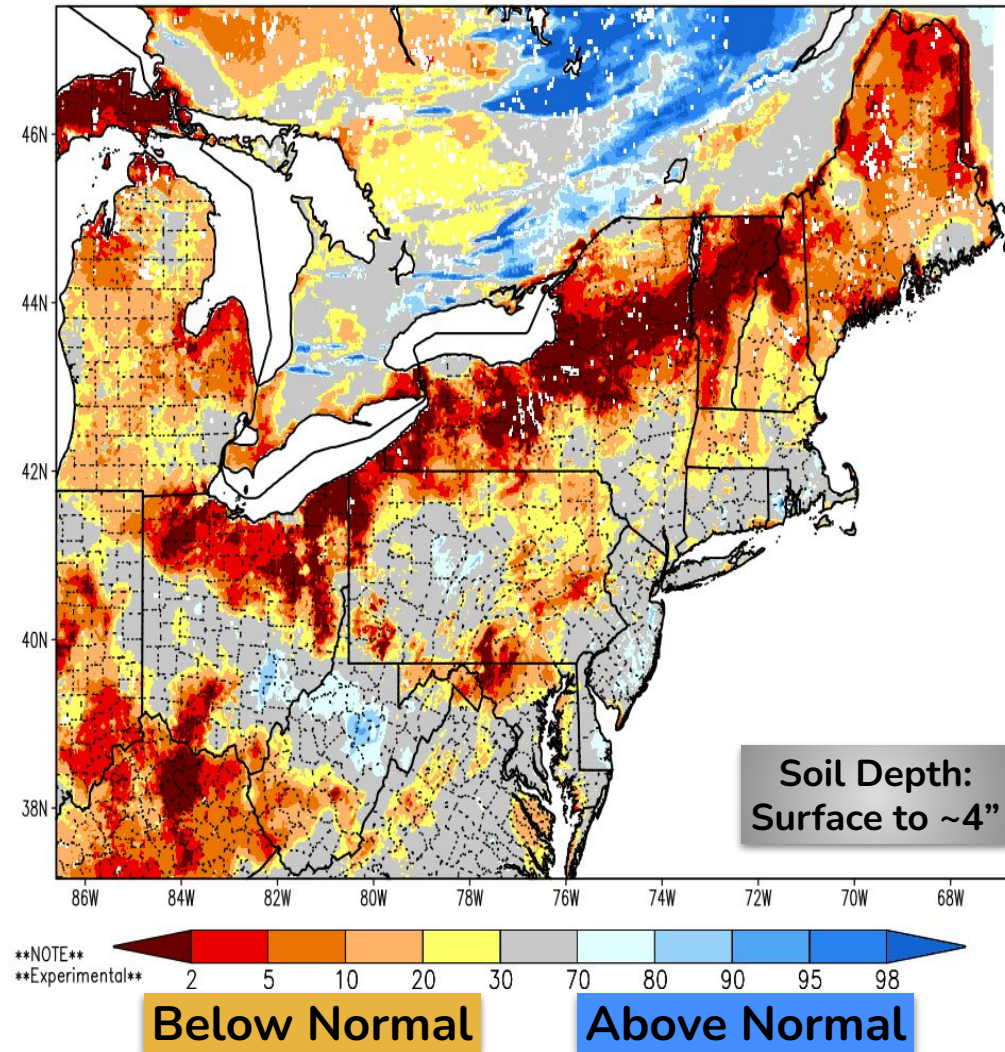


Groundwater Impacts

October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT

- Near surface soil moisture across coastal Downeast Maine has improved thanks to recent rainfall. It is beginning to worsen again as expected with short term relief ending.
- Near surface soil moisture across much of the NWS Caribou area has continued to struggle and remains very dry.
- Deeper soil moisture down to near 39" continues to struggle as surface plants soak up all the available water in addition to significant rainfall deficits.

SPoRT-LIS 0-10 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 08 Oct 2026



SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 08 Oct 2026

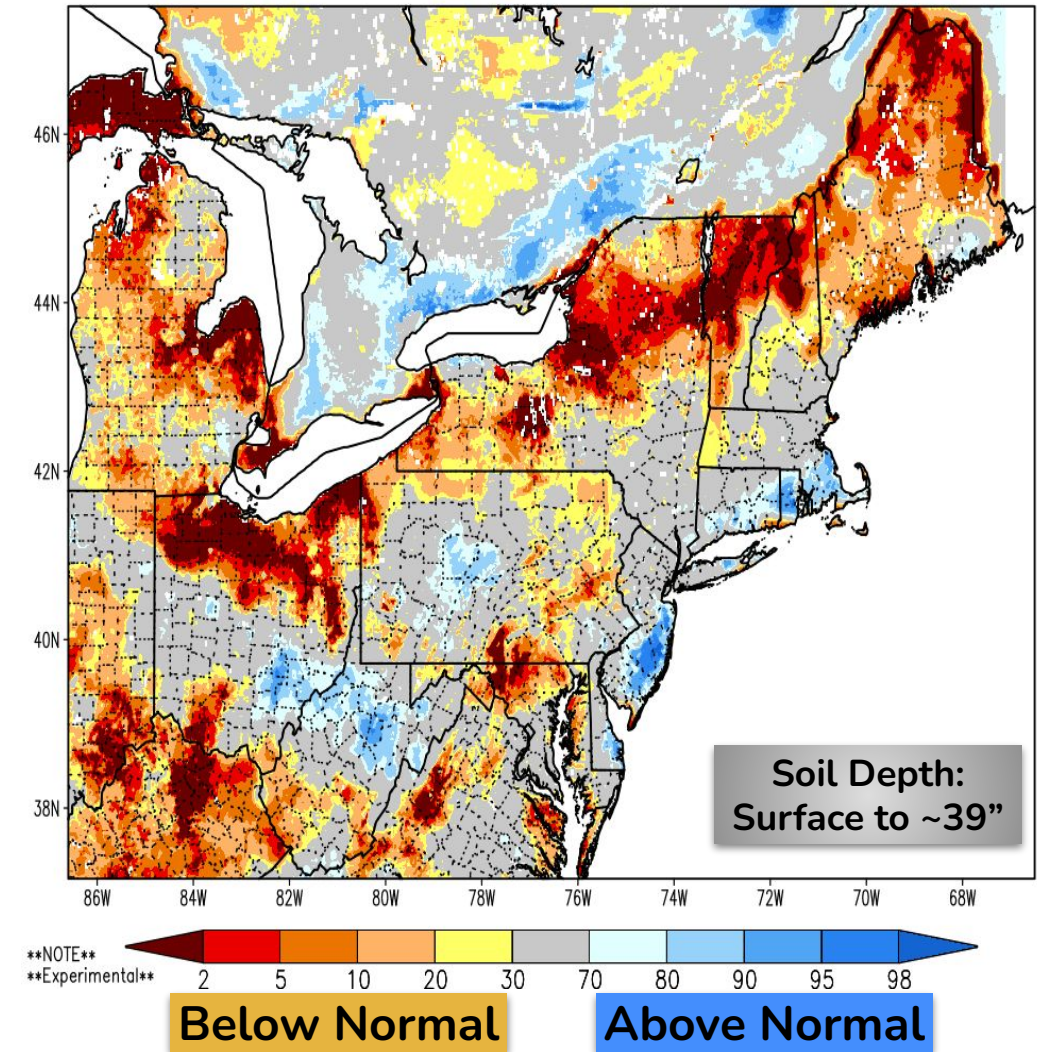
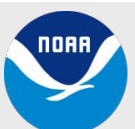
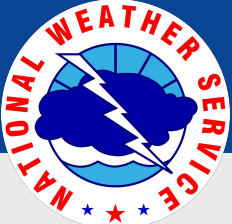


Image Captions:
National Water Model
[Soil Moisture Percentile 0-10cm Depth](#)
[Soil Moisture Percentile 0-100cm Depth](#)





Groundwater

October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT

- Much of the area is experiencing Below Normal to Much Below Normal Groundwater levels. Deeper soils continue to be impacted from the 2025-26 drought & 2026 year to date deficits.
- Clayton Lake is near record low (deep) groundwater conditions.
- Low end “Normal” conditions at Fort Kent.

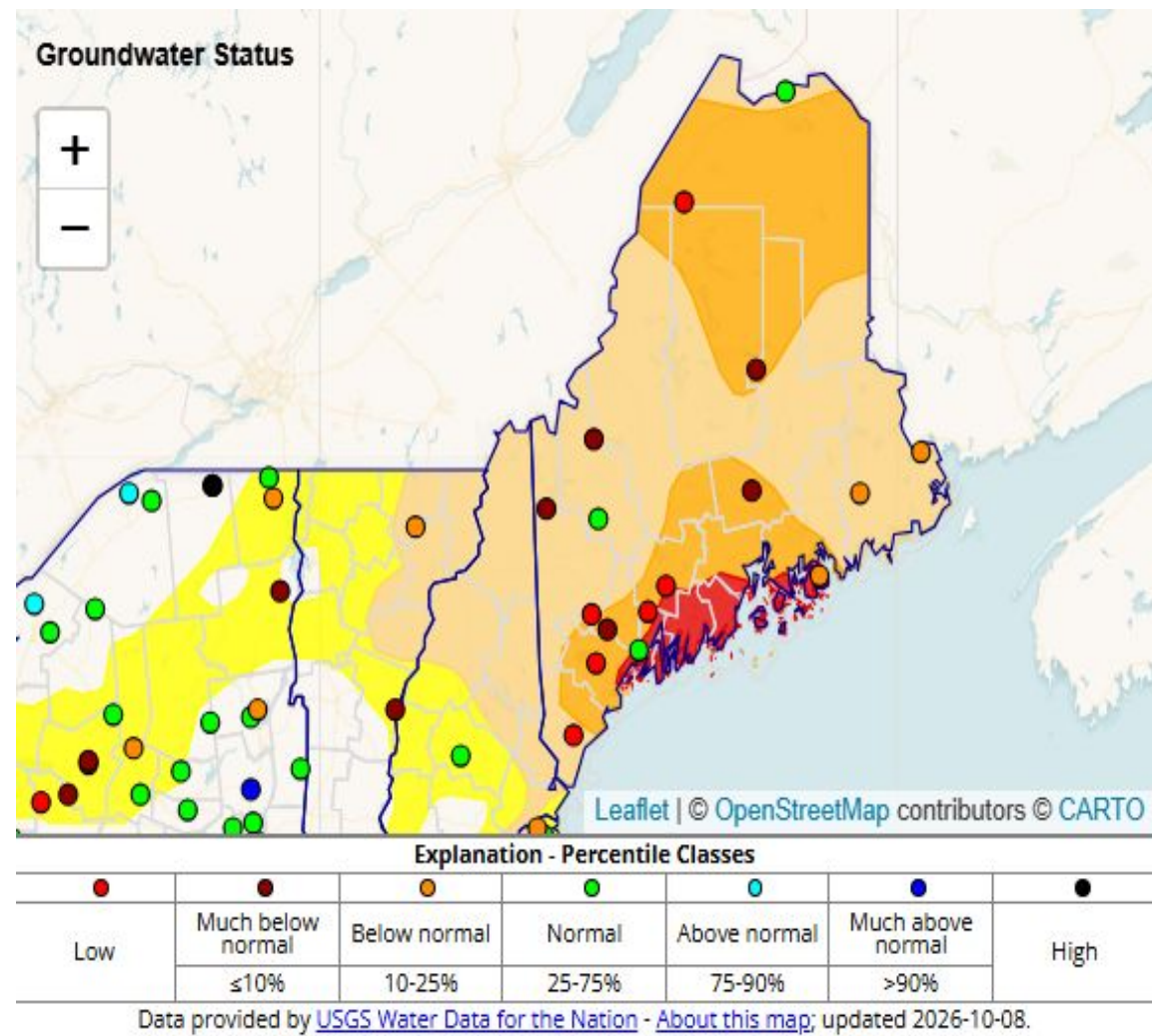
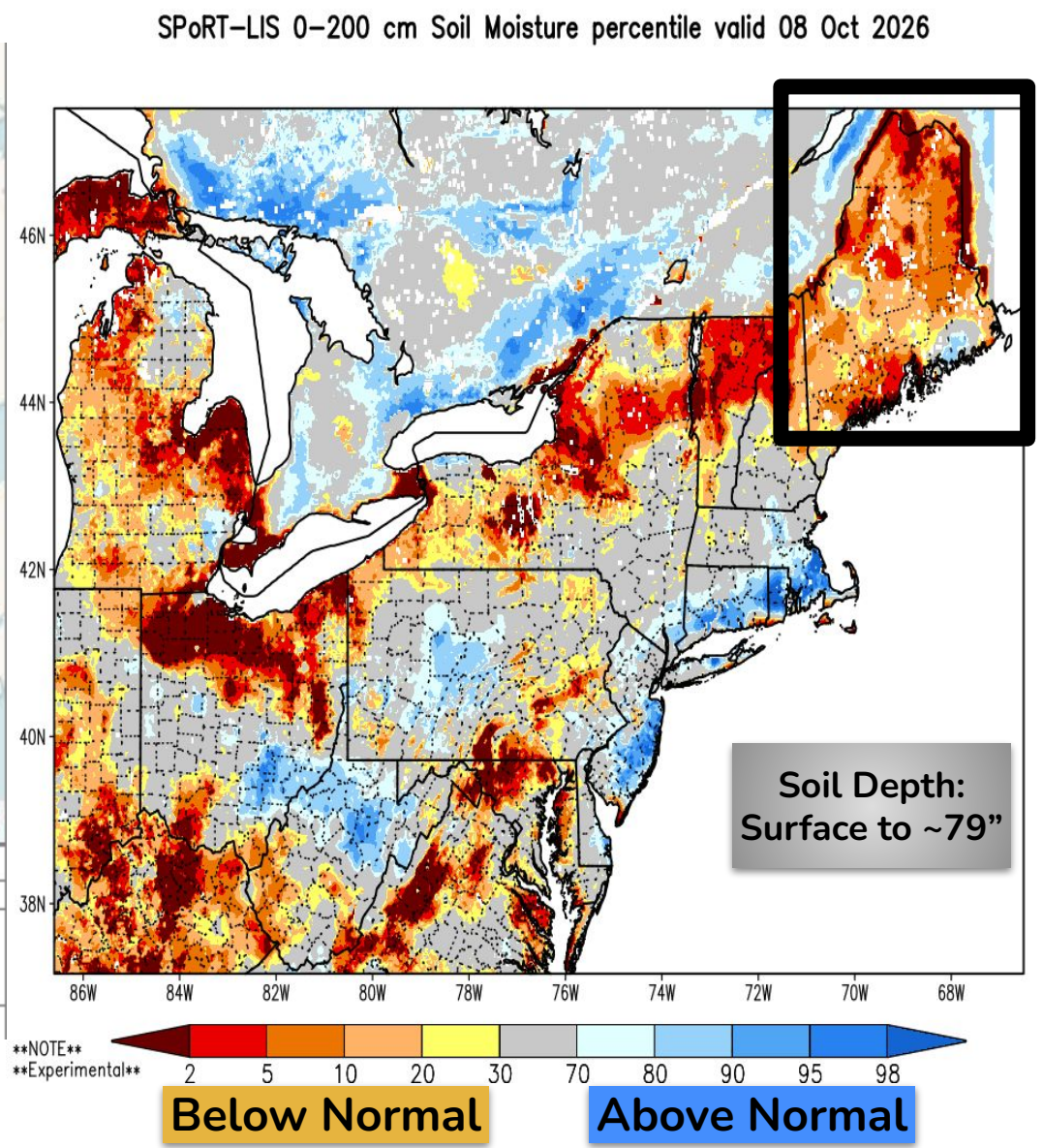
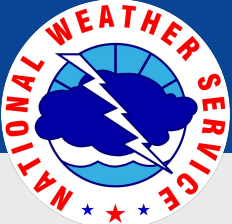


Image Captions:
[USGS Groundwater Gauge Status](#)
[Soil Moisture Percentile 0-200cm Depth](#)

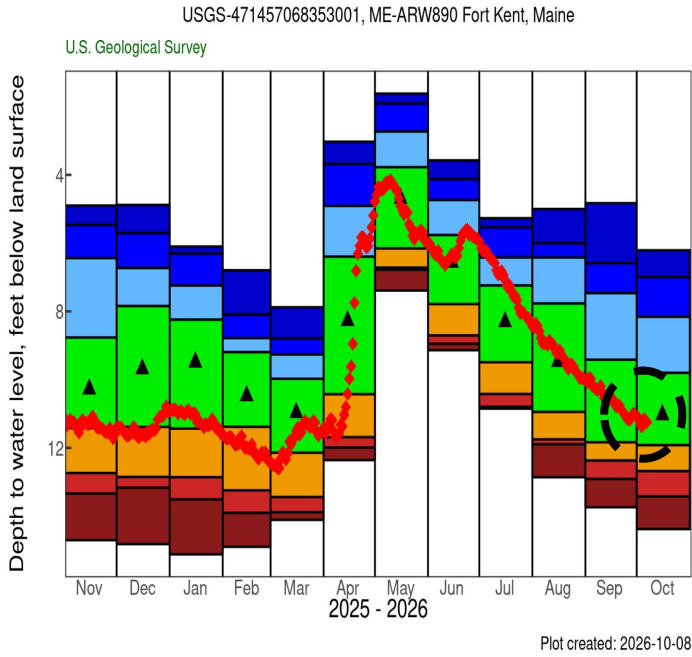
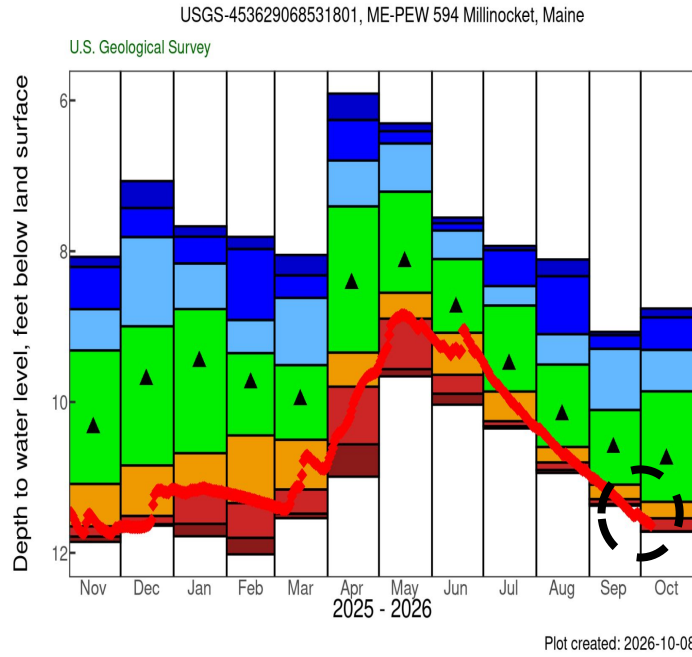
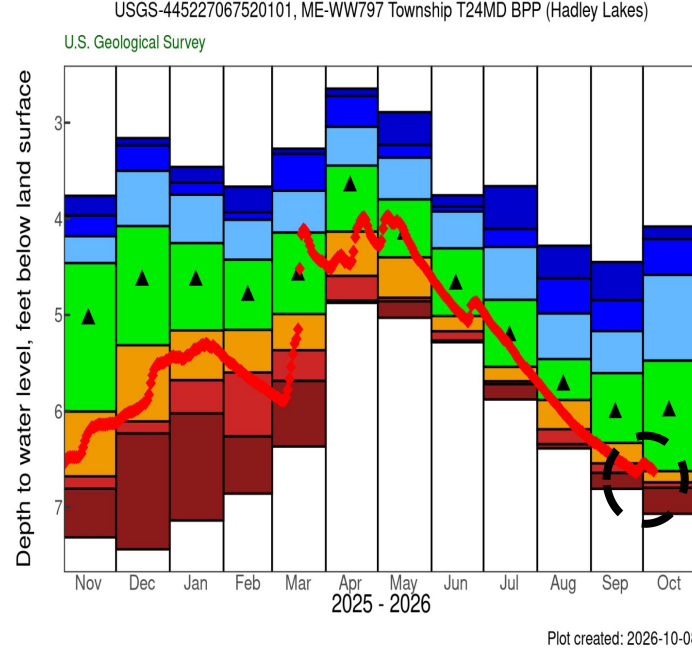




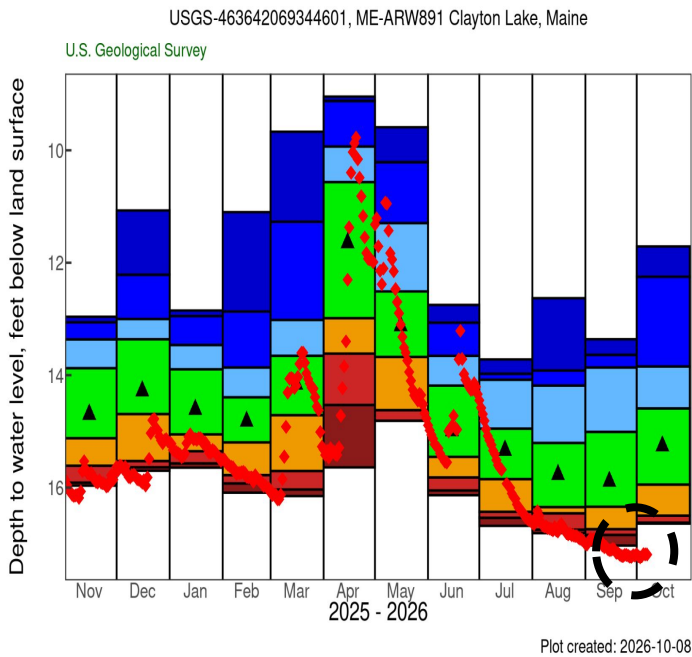
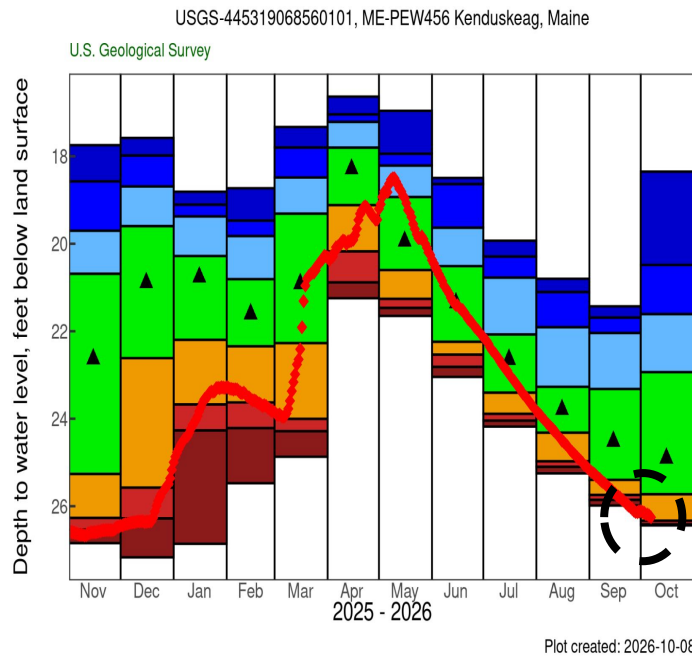
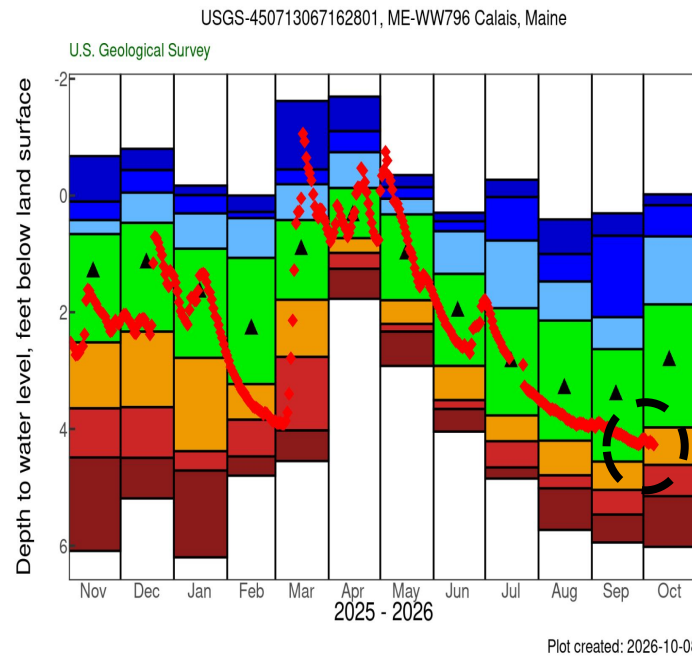
Groundwater Gage Plots

October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT

USGS Groundwater Levels in New England: https://newengland.water.usgs.gov/web_app/GWW/GWW.html

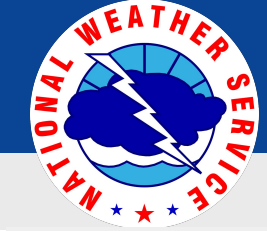


Groundwater gage data indicates the continued impacts of precipitation deficits compounded from the 2025-26 drought & growing season demands during the summer.



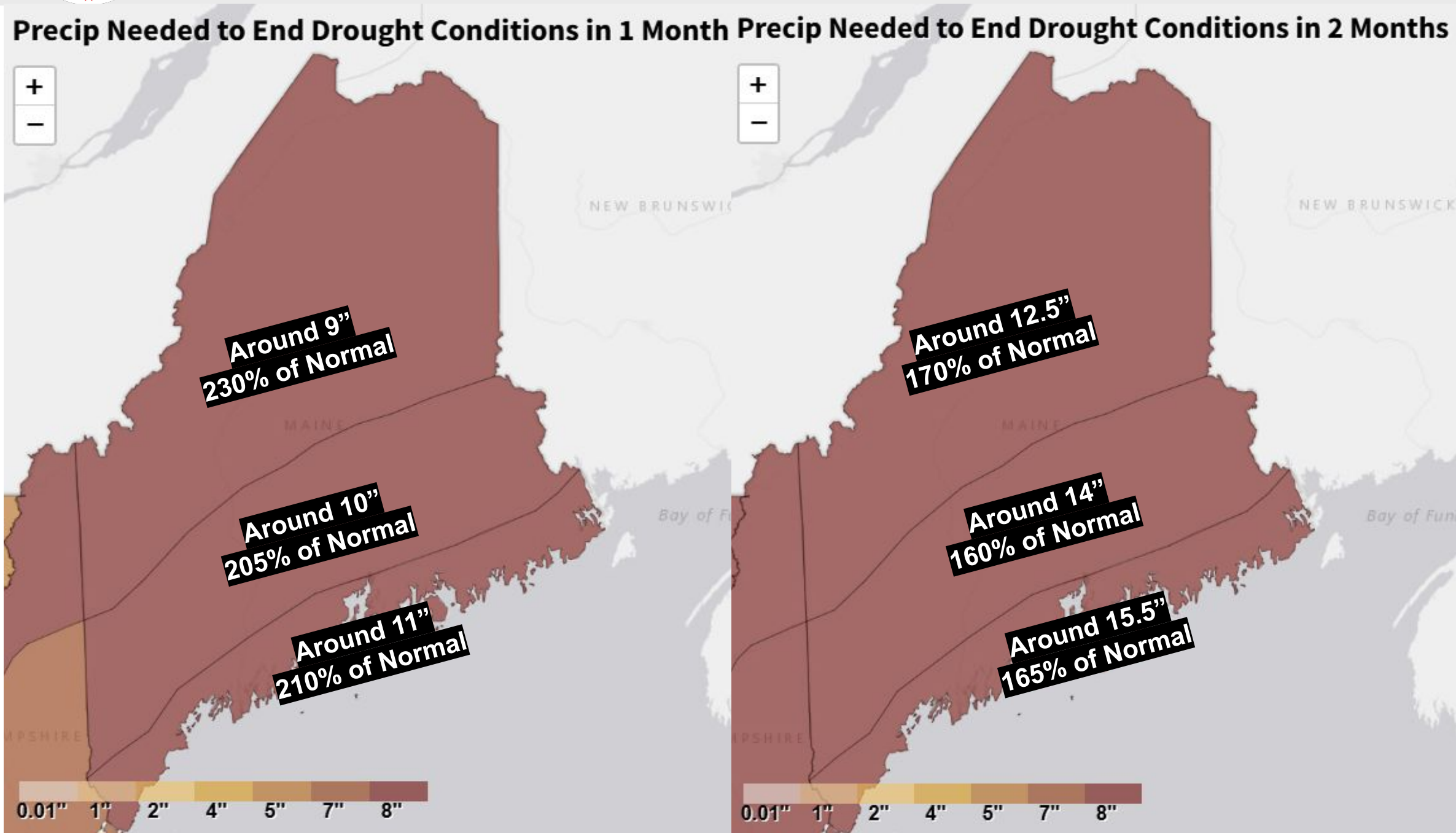
No strong indications of any recharge occurring yet. Fort Kent remains on the low end of normal conditions for October.



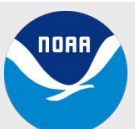


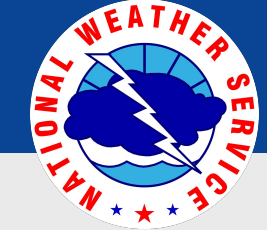
Rainfall Needed to “End the Drought”

October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT



- Steady, light-rain events with high absorption rates are ideal.
- Northern areas: these values have increased due to recent significant precipitation deficits.
- Overall widespread persistent rainfall is needed to overcome this drought.





Summary of Impacts

October 8, 2026

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Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Regional streamflows, lake levels, seasonal wetlands, and storage reservoirs are experiencing widespread below normal conditions due to a combination of seasonal drawdown, precipitation deficits, lack of runoff, and water demand.
- Lakes/ponds running below normal exposing rocks posing threats to recreational activities.

Aquifer Deficits

- Groundwater recharge continues to lag across the region, maintaining significant, lingering storage deficits. Multiple monitoring wells across Eastern/Northern Maine are currently reading Below Normal to Much Below Normal compared to historical climatological baselines. A few sites are at record low groundwater conditions. Low water tables are compounded by multi-year precipitation deficits and depleted baseline levels carried over from previous dry seasons.

Dry Drinking Water Wells

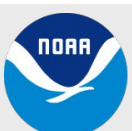
- Increasing dry well reports in Penobscot & Hancock counties; will monitor as conditions worsen.
- Maine EMA Dry Well Survey: <https://maine-dry-well-survey-maine.hub.arcgis.com/>

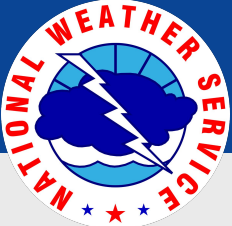
Agricultural Impacts

- Growing season has ended but there has been agricultural impacts due to the ongoing drought. Please continue to report via the above CMOR link.

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

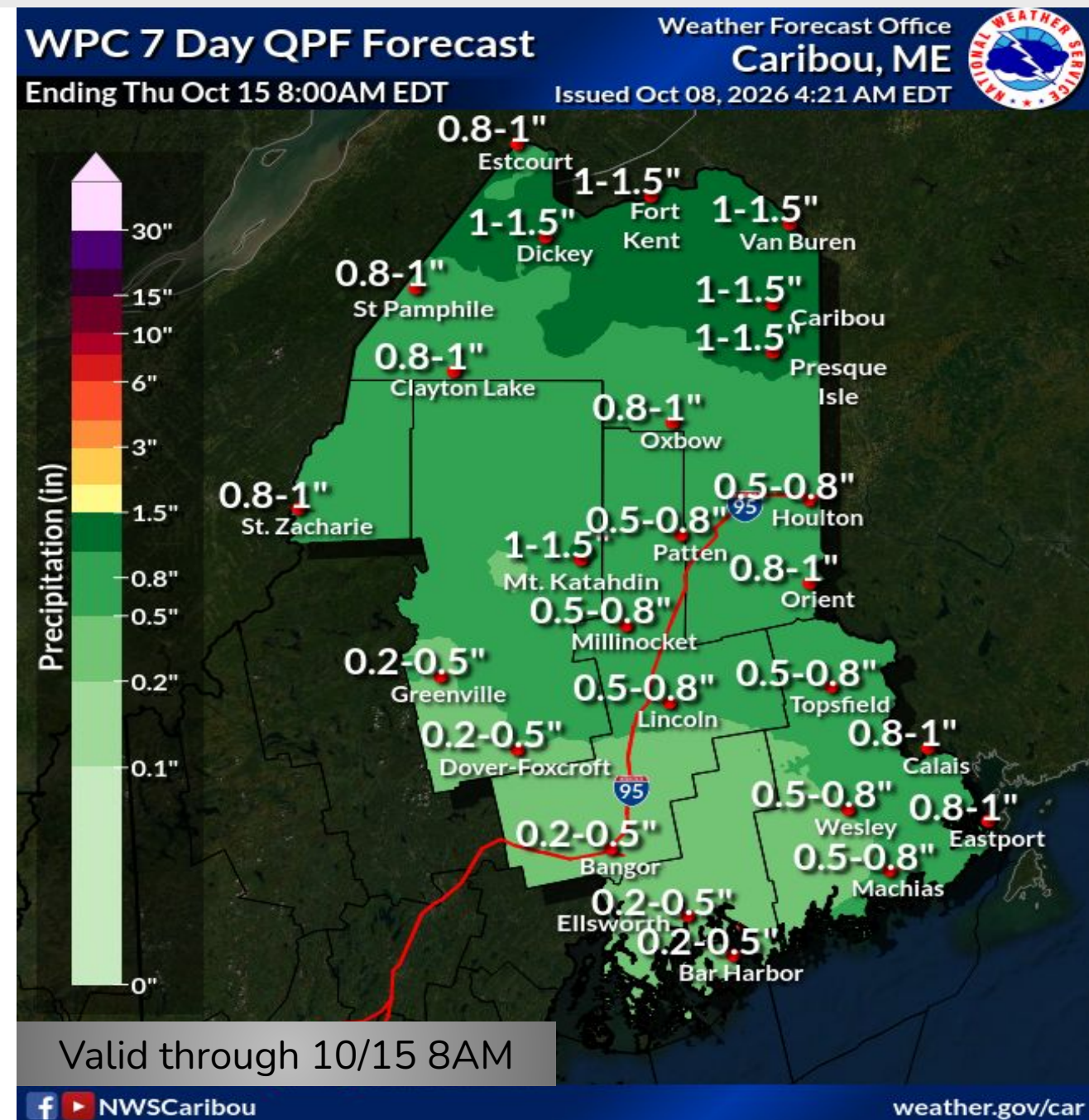


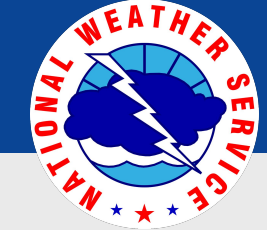


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

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- While incoming frontal boundaries will bring some much-needed rainfall, particularly to northern areas, this precipitation will only offer temporary relief. Sustained, persistent rainfall over the coming month is required to make a lasting impact on drought conditions.





Long Range Outlooks (October)

October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

Main Takeaways for September:

- No significant signal for above/below normal temperatures in the state.
- No significant signal for above/below normal precipitation in the state.

Pattern Outlook

- El Niño is continuing to strengthen but uncertainty remains on the subseasonal pattern influences in October. This is concerning given our ongoing dry conditions.

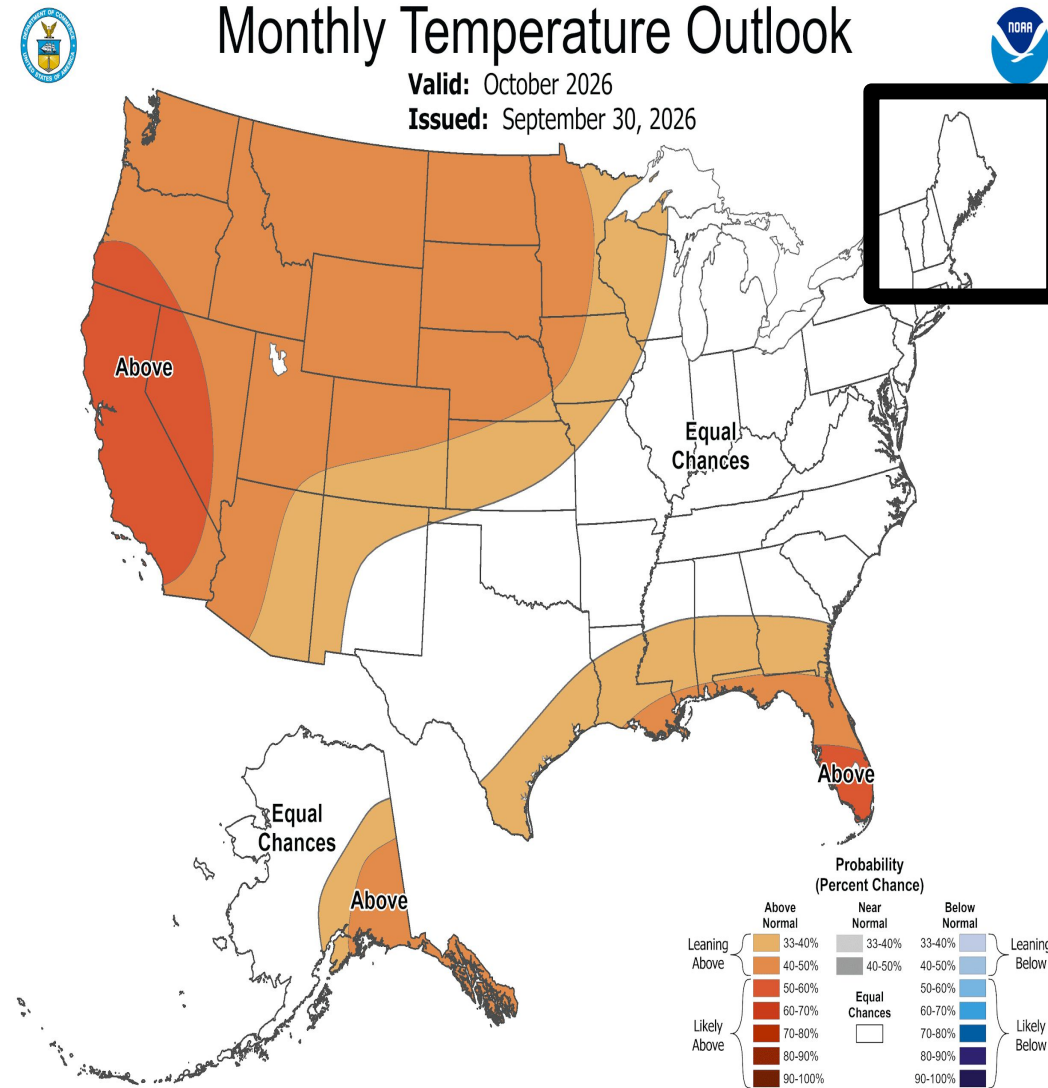
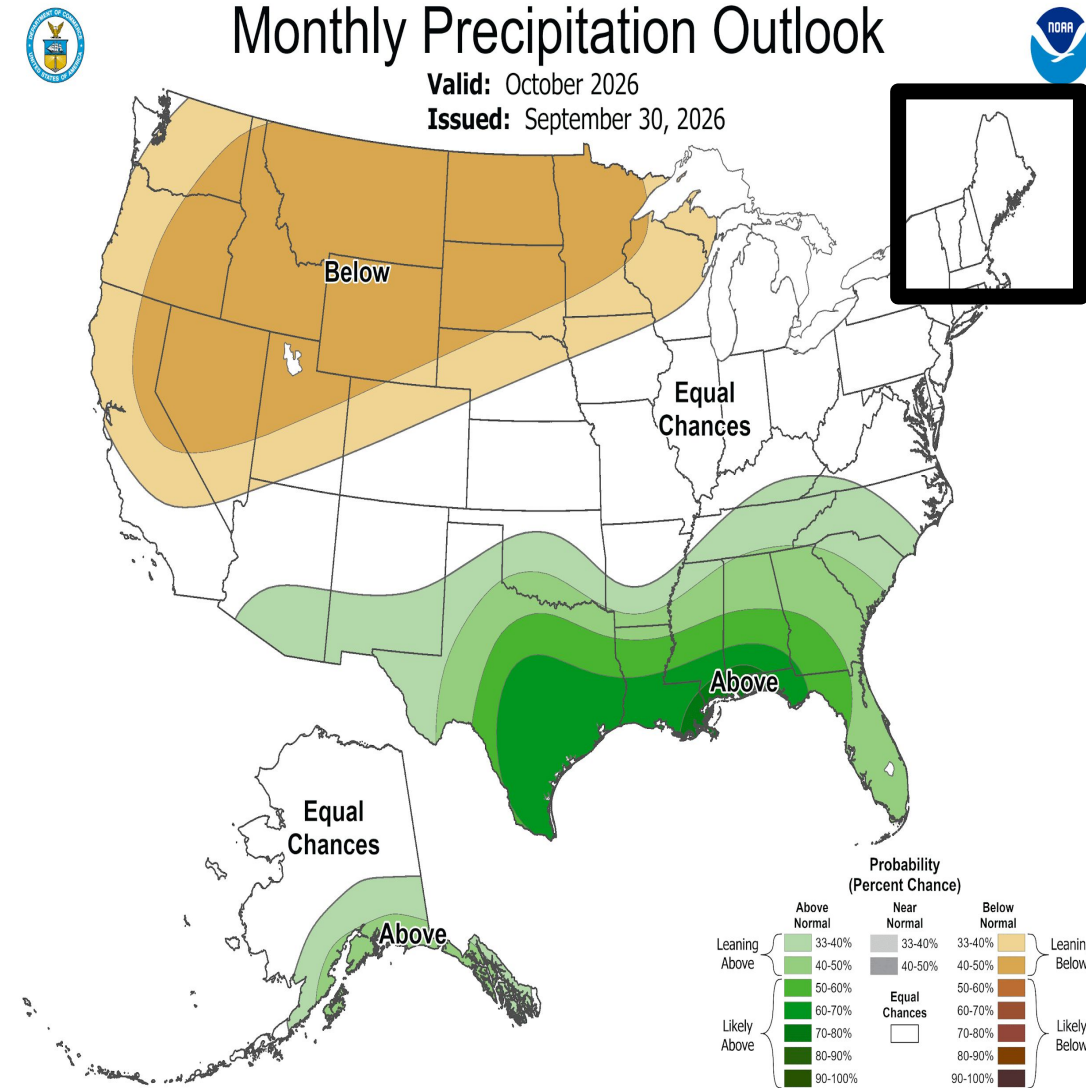
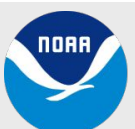
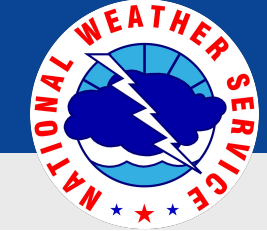


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center 1 Month Temperature Outlook.](#)
Right - [Climate Prediction Center 1 Month Precipitation Outlook.](#)





Long Range Outlooks (Oct-Dec)

October 8, 2026
11:38 AM EDT

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

Main Takeaways for Oct-Dec:

- Moderate signal for above normal temperatures in the state.
- No significant signal for above/below normal precipitation in the state.

Pattern Outlook

- El Niño is continuing to strengthen but uncertainty remains on the subseasonal pattern influences this fall into early winter. This is concerning signals given our ongoing dry conditions.

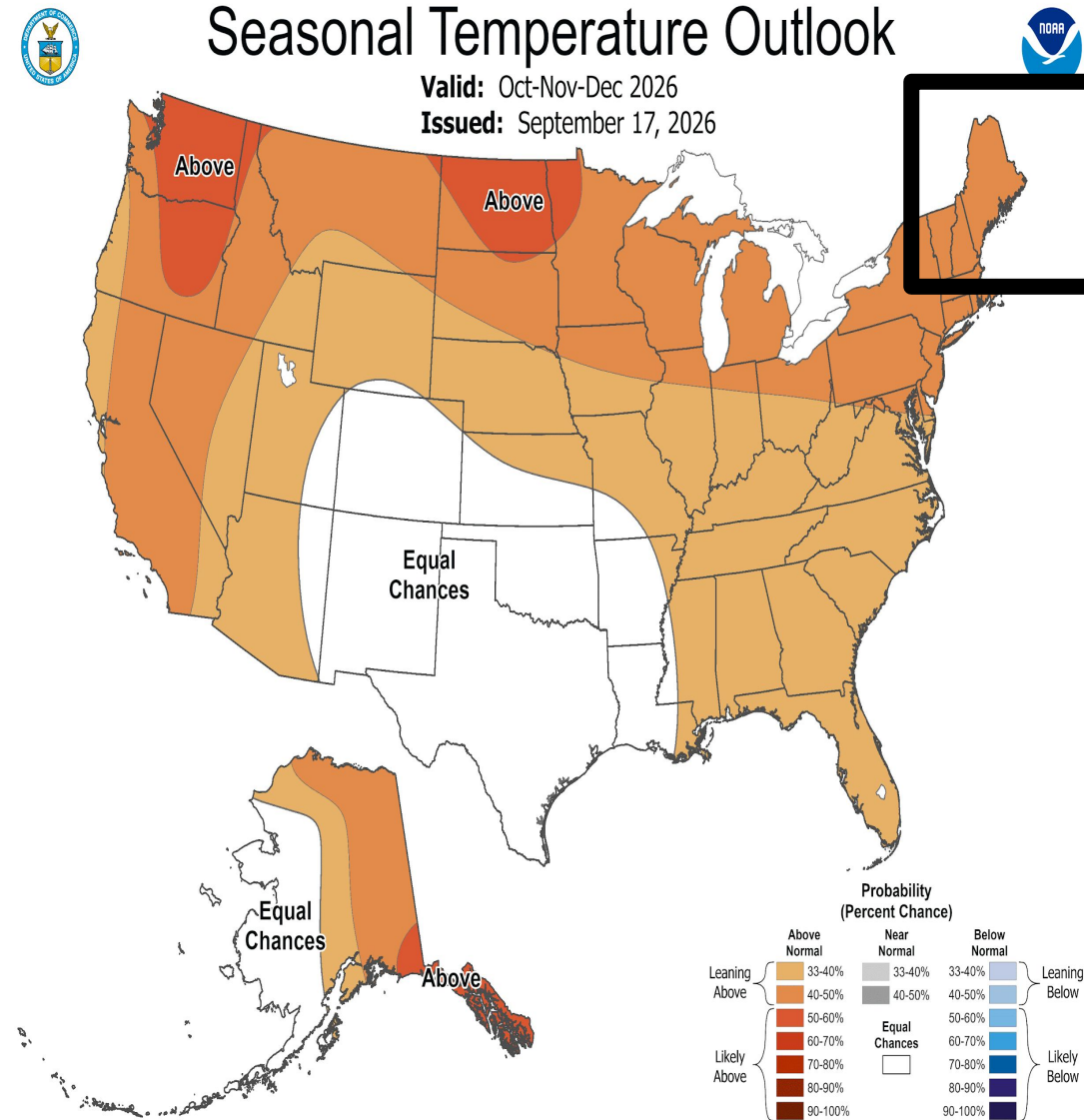
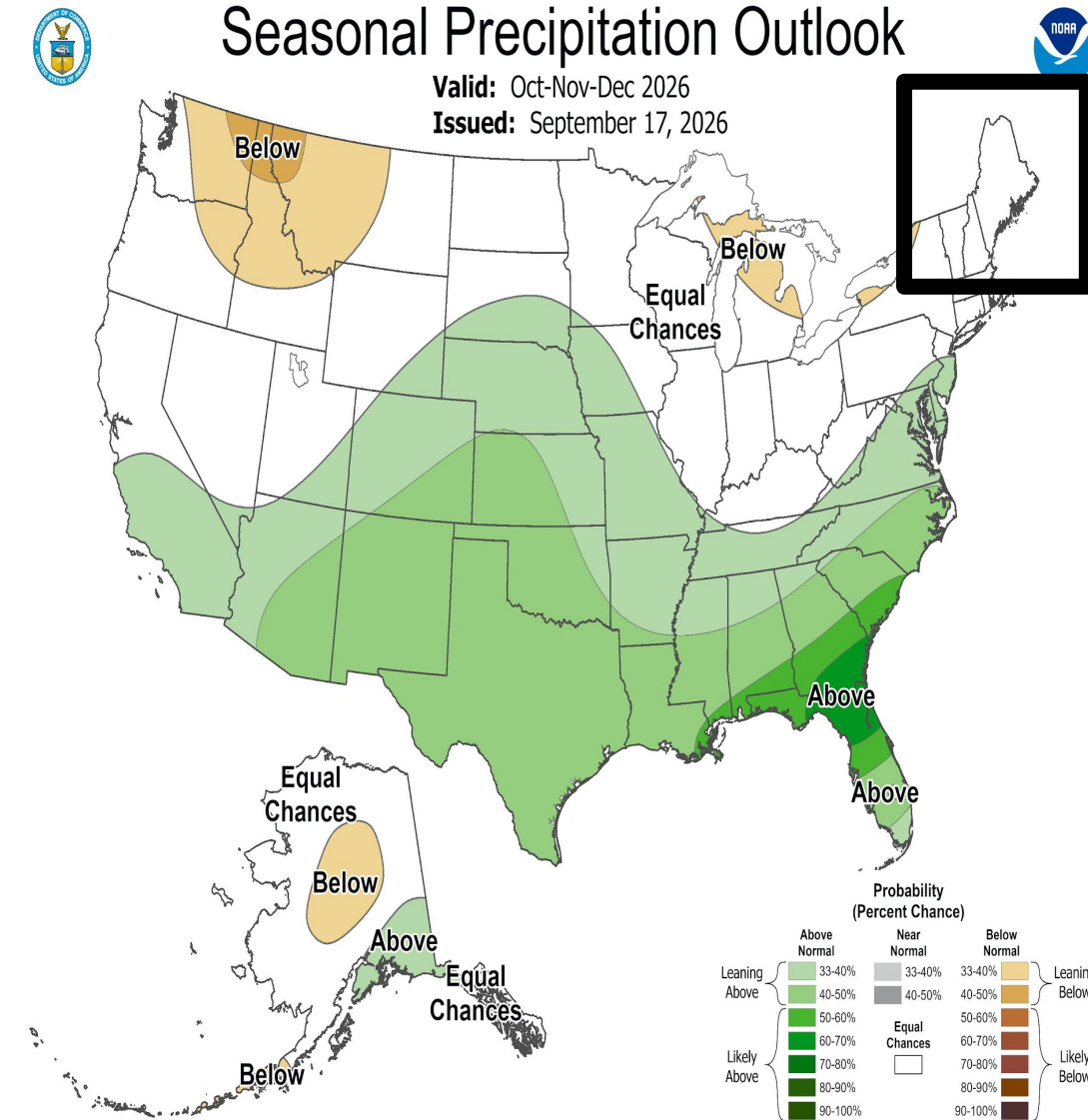
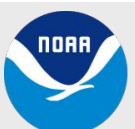


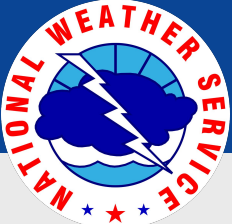
Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center 3 Month Temperature Outlook.](#)
Right - [Climate Prediction Center 3 Month Precipitation Outlook.](#)



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Caribou, ME



El Niño / Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

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El Niño is strengthening, with a **greater than 90% chance** of a very strong event during the Northern Hemisphere fall and winter 2026-27. The CPC Official ENSO outlook indicates there is a **75% chance of a historic event** that would exceed the strength of previous El Niño events dating back to 1950.

Historical Winter Impacts in Maine

Strong to Very Strong events historically deliver above-normal winter temperatures and precipitation:

Storm Type & Precipitation

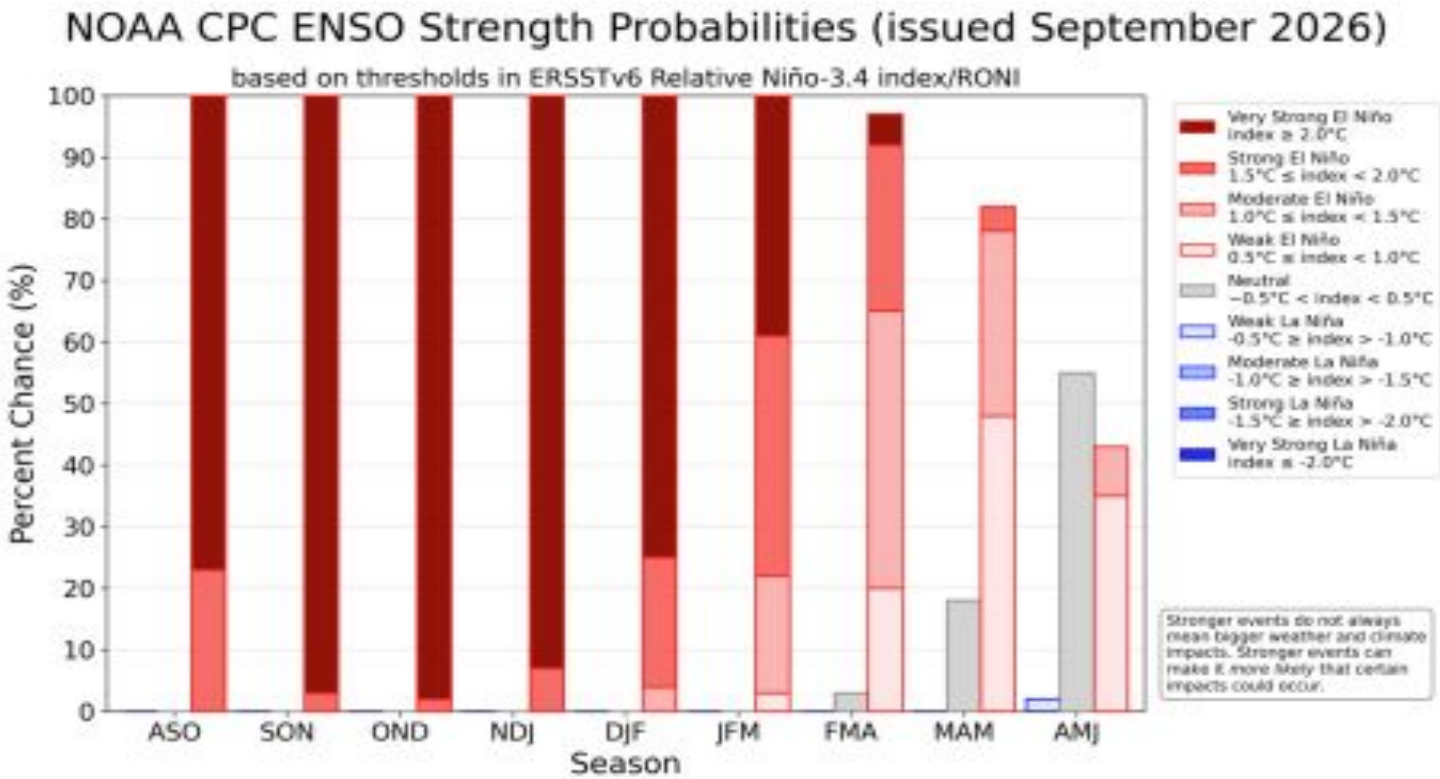
- Higher proportion of winter storms produce rain/sleet/freezing rain rather than long-lasting dry snow, particularly in coastal and southern areas.

Repeated Snowpack Melt

- Periods of mild temperatures between weather systems often cause existing snowpack to melt repeatedly throughout the season.

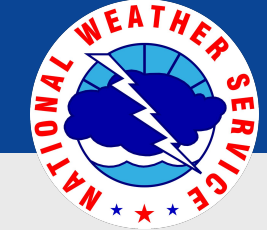
Runoff & Hydrologic Recharge

- Frequent runoff events favor robust surface water replenishment (lakes, reservoirs, streamflows), while shallow ground frost aids deep groundwater recharge. Northern Maine deep frost prevents recharge.



Net Drought Outlook: Even with expectations of a deficient seasonal snowpack, the net hydrologic impact is often favorable for reducing drought.

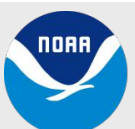


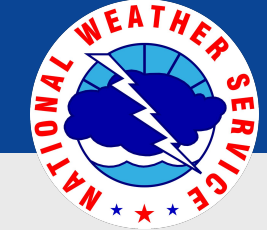


Main Takeaways

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- **Bottom Line:** drought continues to worsen across Eastern and Northern Maine with no significant improvements expected. Recent rainfall has helped near surface groundwater & streamflows, expected to be short lived.
 - *Full aquifer recovery is unlikely until Winter 2026 / Spring 2027.*
- Groundwater trends continue to show worsening with no recharge evident.
- Outlook: Long-term prognosis remains concerning, but a strong El Niño Winter is hopeful.
 - Will need to monitor trends for fire danger as the growing season ends, drinking water supplies and surface water conditions.
- Repeating light wetting rains will be vital to improve soil moisture & eventually streamflows.
- Growing season has ended which will significantly reduce the demand on the water system.
- Stakeholders should prepare for continued drought conditions this fall.
- ***Groundwater & streamflow levels are at climatological minimums in Early October.***



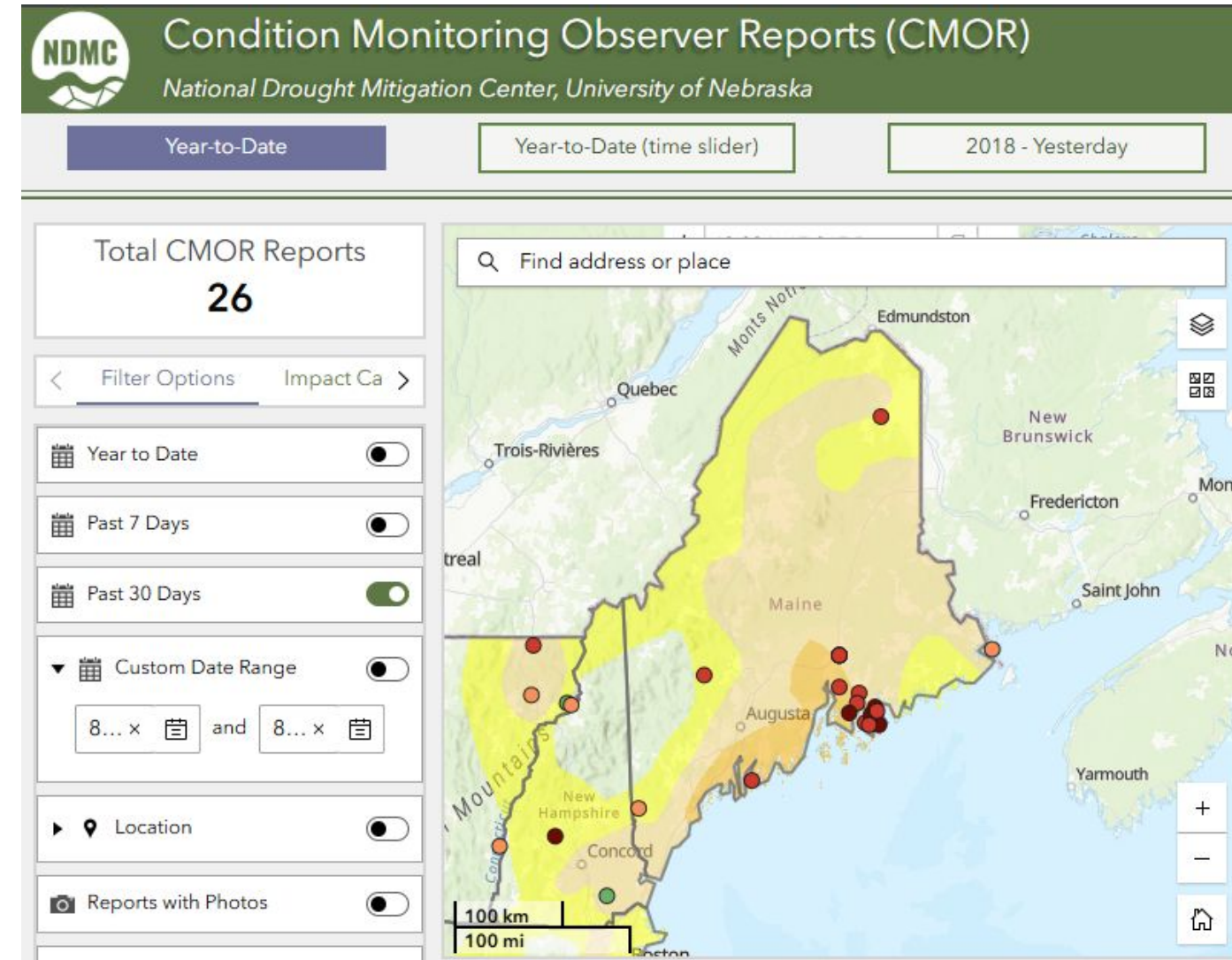
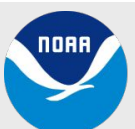


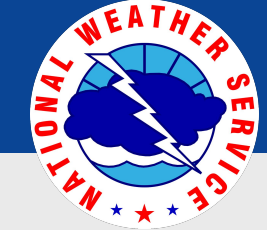
Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR)

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<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/016ac3b48c5049909106a23e6556311b>

- Condition Monitoring Observer Reports on Drought (CMOR-Drought) is a tool provided by the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) in partnership with the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS).
- Submit reports here:
<https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/Tools/ConditionMonitoringObservations.aspx>
- The tool allows citizen scientists to submit observation reports relating to drought, which are presented in a map that can be used to view and access submitted information and attachments. These reports are vital for determining the drought conditions.





Useful Links

- <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>
- <https://www.weather.gov/car/DroughtInformationStatement>
- <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/car>
- <https://www.weather.gov/car/EMhome>
- <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Contact Information

Web

→ www.weather.gov/car

Phone (public)

→ (207) 492-0182

Questions? Email

→ nws.caribou@noaa.gov

→ james.sinko@noaa.gov *(Hydrology Program Manager)*