



Drought Information Statement for NE Minnesota & NW Wisconsin

Valid August 14, 2026

Issued By: NWS Duluth, MN

Contact Information: nws.duluth@noaa.gov

- Next Update: Friday, August 28, 2026
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/DLH/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/> for regional drought status updates.

- **Severe (D2) Drought conditions for nearly the entire Northland.**



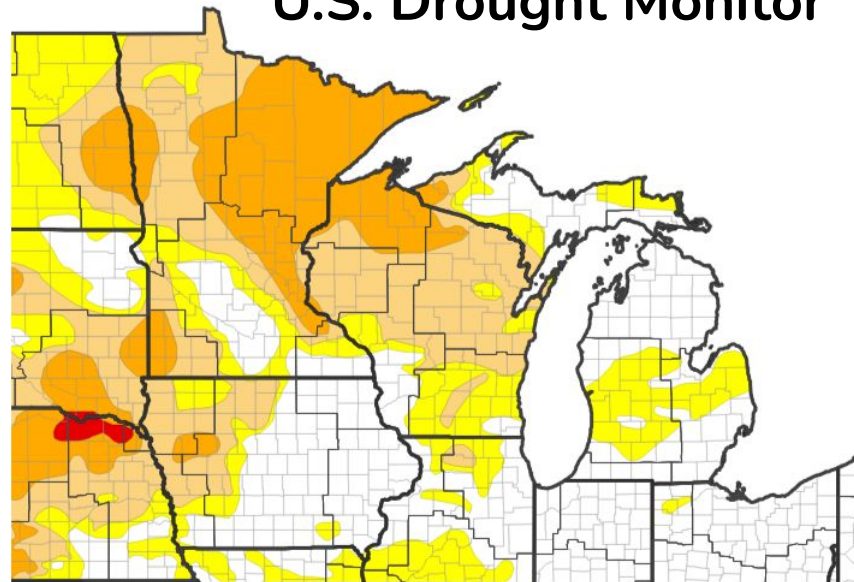
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Nearly all of the region.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Parts of Inland Northwest Wisconsin and a sliver of Koochiching County
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Not Applicable.

U.S. Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/11/26



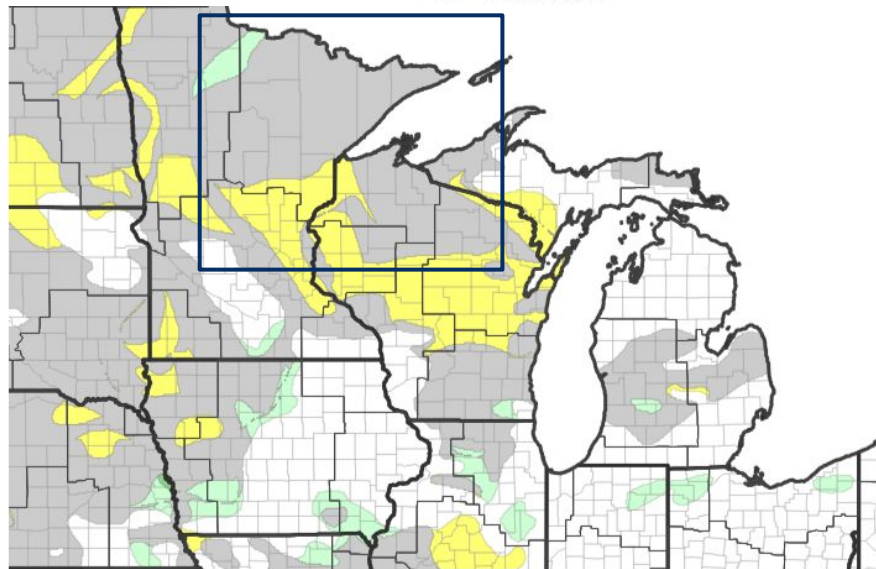


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

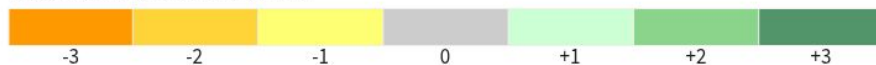
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Twin Ports to Central MN and along the MN/WI Stateline
 - Drought Improved: Northwest Koochiching County.
 - No Change: Remainder of the area.

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change 1 Week



Drought Change Since Last Week



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/11/26



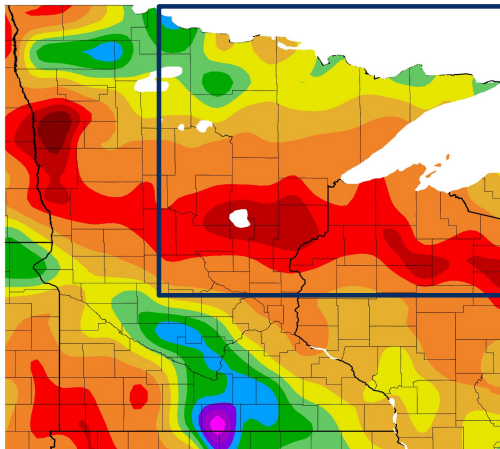


Precipitation

Precipitation (sum of liquid and melted frozen) that was observed in the Northland over the last month

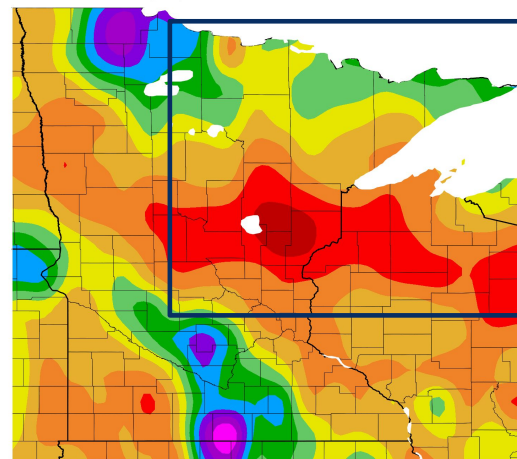
- Rainfall has ranged from 0.1 - 4 inches from mid-July to mid-August.
- This rainfall is well below normal south of the Iron Range and near to slightly above normal for the Borderlands and tip of the Arrowhead.

Precipitation (in)
7/14/2026 - 8/12/2026



Generated 8/13/2026 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
7/14/2026 - 8/12/2026



ACIS Web Service generated 8/13/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Service



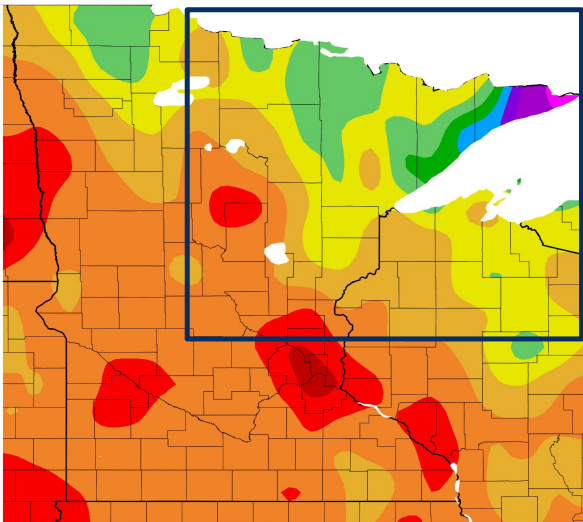


Temperature

Temperatures that were observed in the Northland over the last month

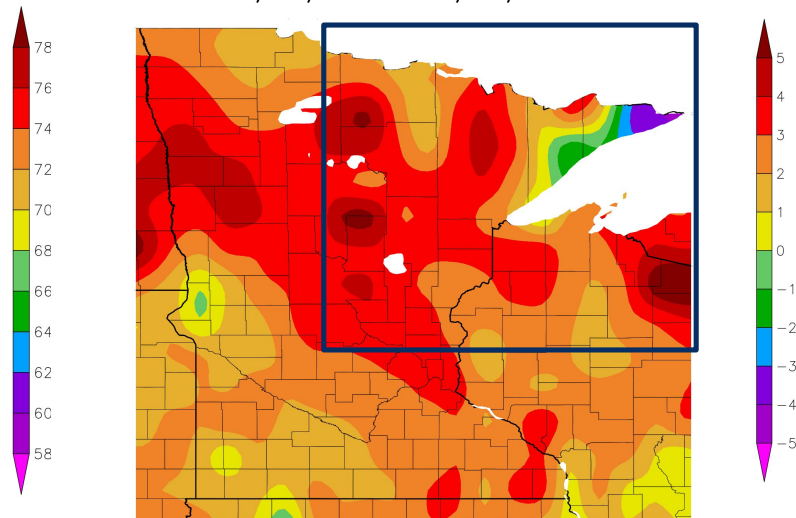
- Average temperatures were 2-6 degrees above normal.
- The North Shore was the only location that saw below normal average temperatures, which were in the upper-50s to upper-60s.

Temperature (F)
7/14/2026 – 8/12/2026



dated 8/13/2026 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
7/14/2026 – 8/12/2026



dated 8/13/2026 using provisional data.
ACIS Web Ser

ACIS Web Services





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streams are running below to much below normal for nearly the entire region ([USGS Streamflow](#)).

Agricultural Impacts

- Below normal soil moisture in all of northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin. ([Soil Moisture](#)).

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire danger is Low to Moderate in Minnesota. ([MN Fire Danger](#)). Fire danger is Moderate in northwest Wisconsin ([WI Fire Danger](#)).

Other Impacts

- Residents in the cities of Duluth, Hermantown, Rice Lake and Proctor are being asked to practice water conservation as members of the Western Lake Superior Watershed. This stems from the Drought Warning response phase of the Minnesota Statewide Drought Plan administered by the MN DNR.

Mitigation Actions

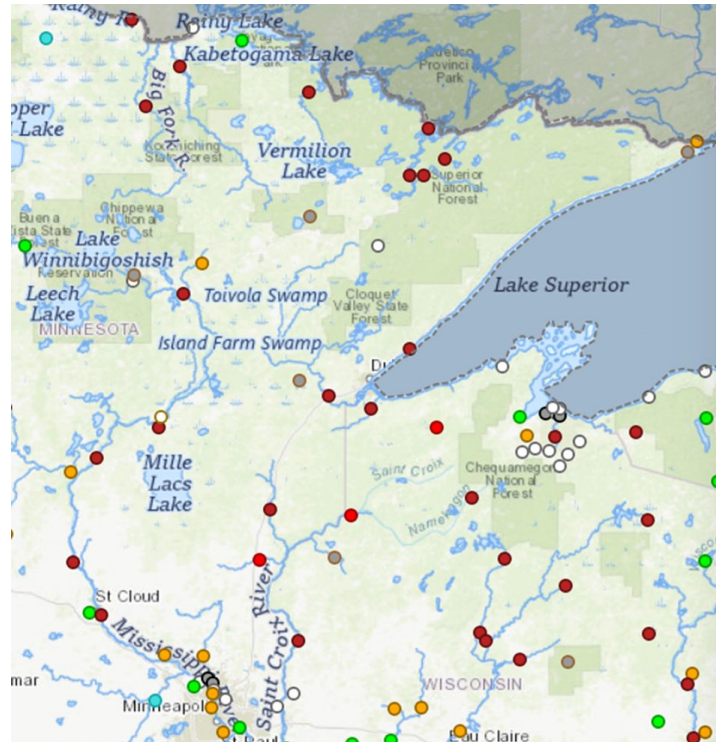
- Burn Restrictions - Elevated burning restrictions are in effect in Cook, Lake, and central & northern St. Louis counties. No burning permits will be issued or activated; campfires are not allowed for dispersed, remote, or backcountry camping. Fireworks are restricted outside of city limits.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streams are running below to much below normal for most of the region.



Streamflow: Status

● Above flood stage	
● All-time high for this day	100 th percentile (maximum)
● Much above normal	>90 th percentile
● Above normal	76 th – 90 th percentile
● Normal	25 th – 75 th percentile
● Below normal	10 th – 24 th percentile
● Much below normal	<10 th percentile
● All-time low for this day	0 th percentile (minimum)
● Not flowing	
● Not ranked	
● Measurement flag	
● Recent measurement unavailable	

Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow map valid 8/13/2026

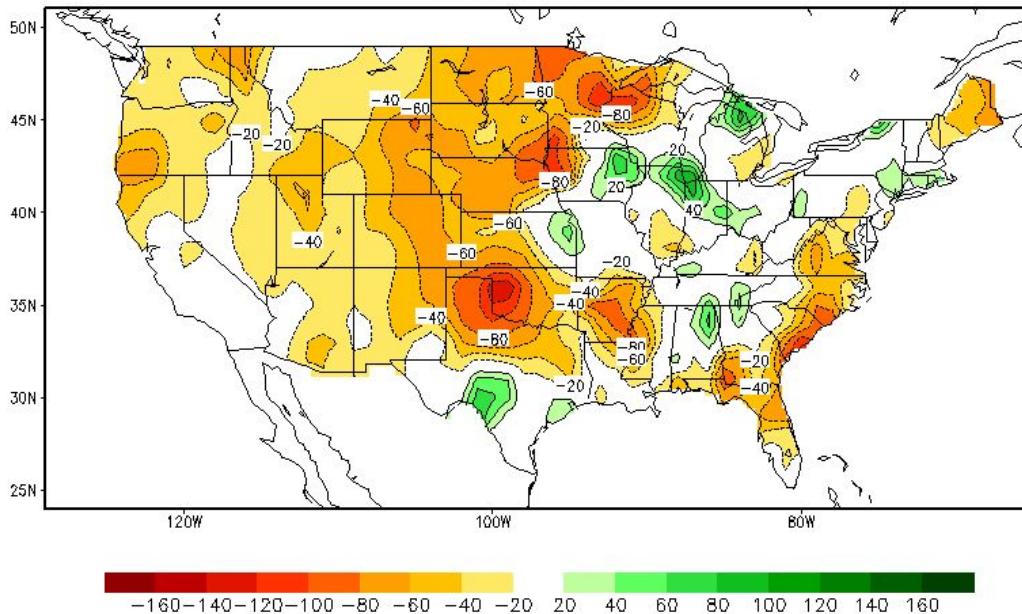


Agricultural Impacts

See more Soil Moisture plots [here](#).

- Below normal soil moisture across all of northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin.

Calculated Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm)
AUG 12, 2026

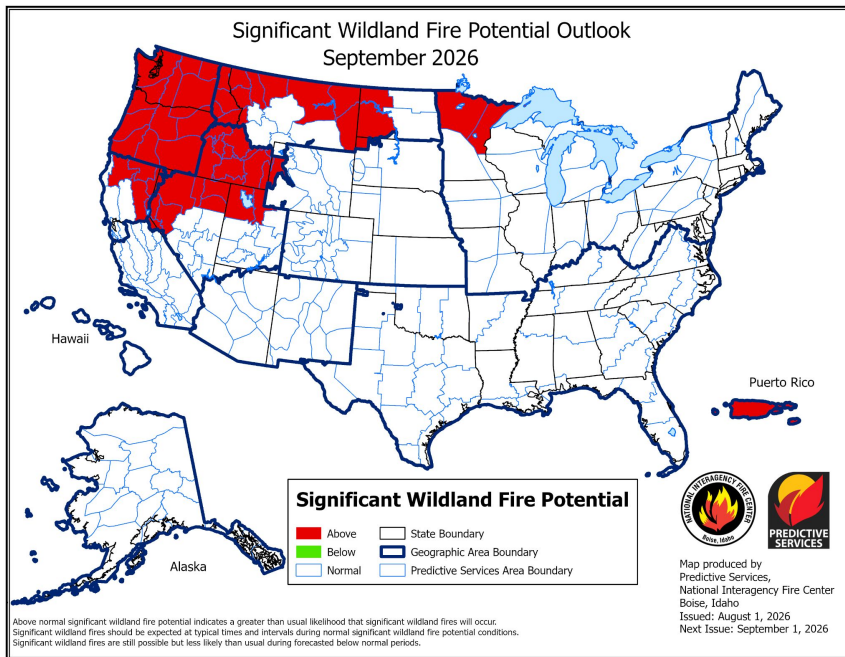




Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.](#)

- **Significant Wildland Fire Potential**
conditions are Above Normal for September in northern Minnesota, near-normal in northwest Wisconsin.



Latest MN burn ban and fire danger information available [here](#).

Latest WI burn ban and fire danger information available [here](#).





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

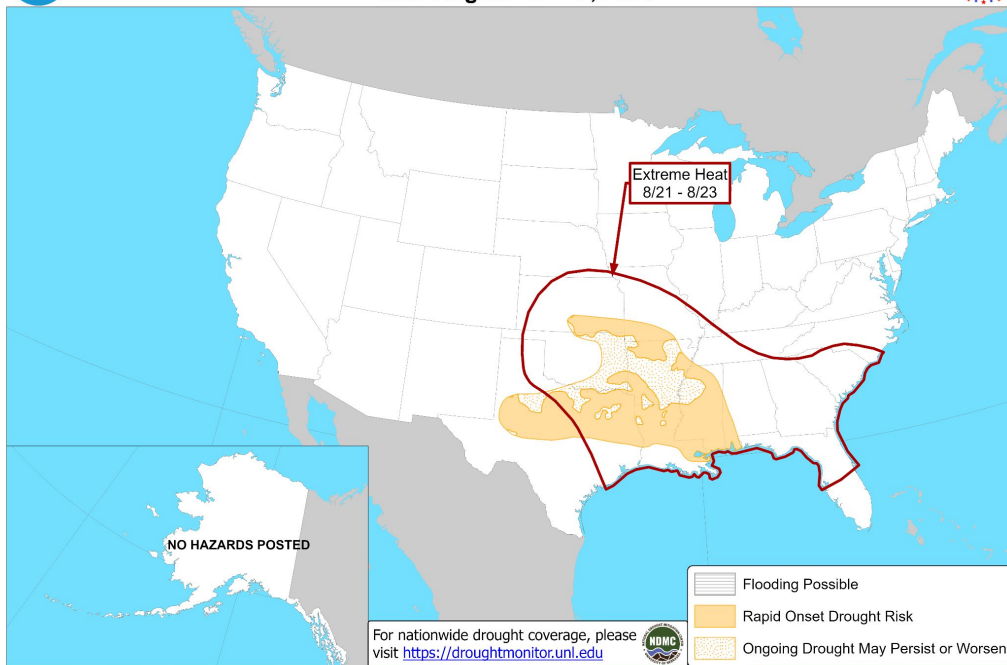
Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- No rapid onset drought expected.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: August 21 - 27, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: August 13, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

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www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

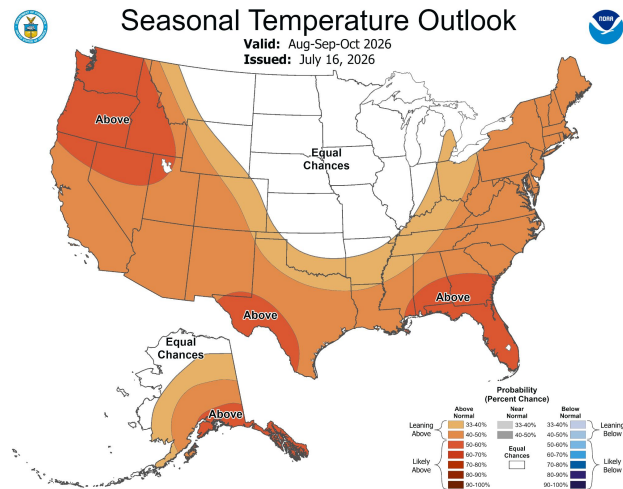
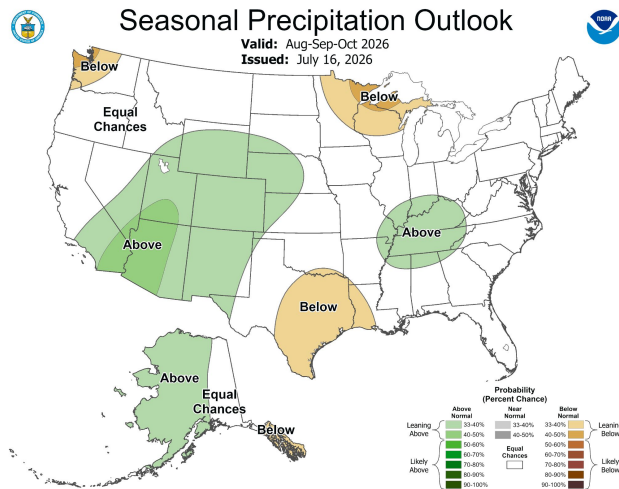
National Weather Service
Duluth, MN



Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Longer-term forecasts show equal chances for above, below, or near normal temperatures through October.
- Longer-term forecasts lean slightly towards below normal precipitation through October.



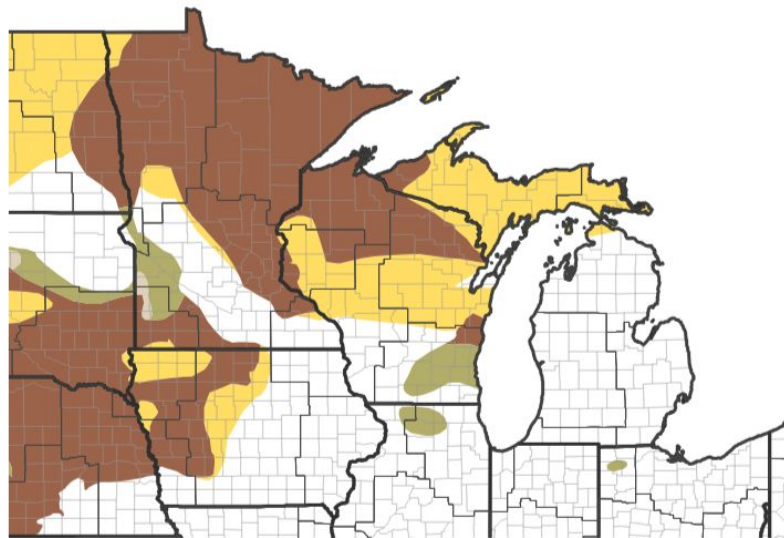


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is expected to Persist or Develop over all of the Northland through October.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for July 31,
2026–October 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 07/31/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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