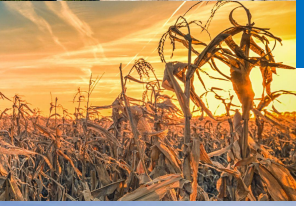



Drought Information Statement for Eastern OR & South Central WA

Valid September 12, 2025

Issued By: NWS Pendleton

Contact Information: pdt.operations@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/pdt/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/ for regional drought status updates.

- Extreme Drought continues in northwest Kittitas, far eastern Columbia and northeast Wallowa counties, Severe Drought continues in most of Yakima, Kittitas, Benton and Columbia counties, all of Franklin and Walla Walla, far western Klickitat, Most of Union, Wallowa, Umatilla counties and eastern Morrow counties while Moderate Drought remains in Southern Yakima and Benton, most of Klickitat, Wasco, Wheeler, Jefferson and Morrow, all of Sherman and Gilliam, northern Grant and southern Union and Wallowa counties. All other areas have Abnormally Dry conditions except normal conditions for very small portions of Deschutes, Crook and Grant counties

- Well below normal precipitation (0% to 50% of normal) in most of the area except (50% to 150% of normal) in the Simcoe Highlands, the southern Blue Mountains and portions of the WA and OR Columbia Basin over the last 120-days . 25%-200% of normal precipitation in the eastern Oregon mountains during the last 30 days.

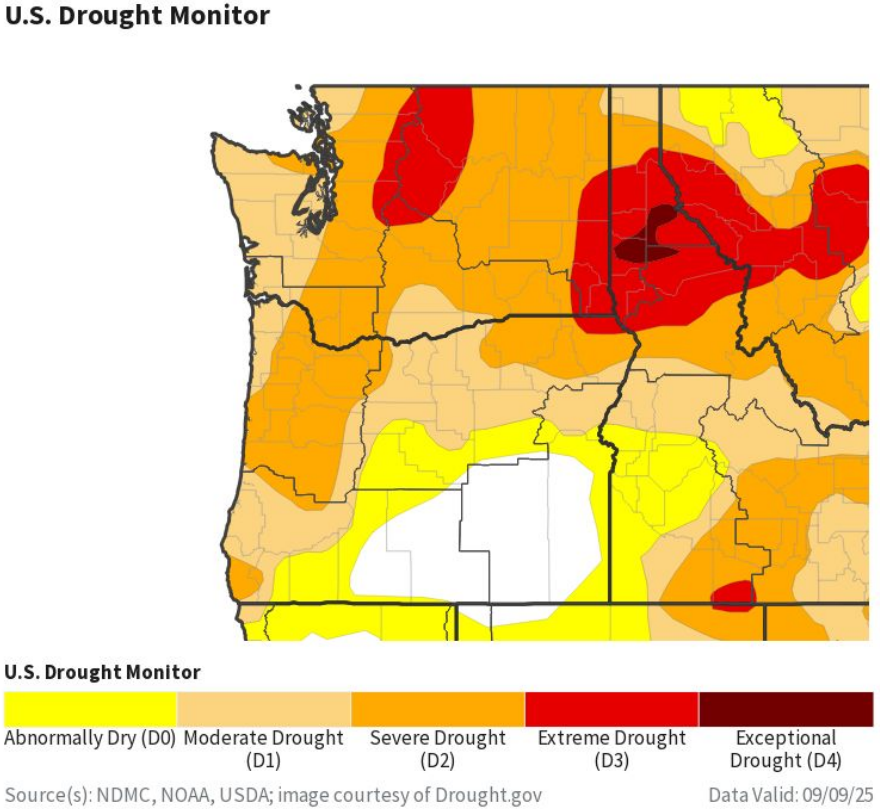
- Drought is expected to persist over the eastern mountains and improve or end over the rest of the area September-December

- All areas forecast to have normal significant fire potential for September-December

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D3 (Extreme Drought): Northwest Kittitas, far eastern Columbia and northeast Wallowa counties
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Most of Yakima, Kittitas, Benton and Columbia counties, all of Franklin and Walla Walla, far western Klickitat, Most of Union, Wallowa, Umatilla counties and eastern Morrow county
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Southern Yakima and Benton, most of Klickitat, Wasco, Wheeler, Jefferson and Morrow, all of Sherman and Gilliam, northern Grant and southern Union and Wallowa counties
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: All other areas not mentioned above except normal for very small portions of Deschutes, Crook and Grant counties

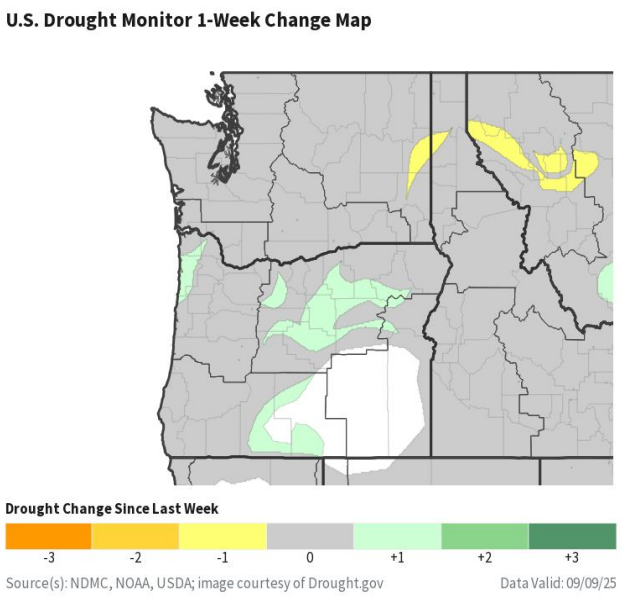


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for the Pacific Northwest

- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change
  - Drought Worsened (1 Class Degradation): None
  - Drought Improved (1 Class Improvement): Portions of Wasco, Gilliam, Jefferson, Deschutes and Grant counties, northern Crook, southern Morrow, Umatilla and Grant counties

- Four-Week Drought Monitor Class Change
  - Drought Worsened (2 Class Degradation): Much of Franklin, eastern Benton and Western Walla Walla counties
  - Drought Worsened (1 Class Degradation): Much of Benton and Walla Walla counties, portions of Yakima, Klickitat, Columbia, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow and Umatilla counties
  - Drought Improved (1 Class Improvement): Much of Grant and Wheeler counties, portions of Jefferson, Deschutes and Union counties, northern Crook, southern Morrow, Umatilla and Union counties



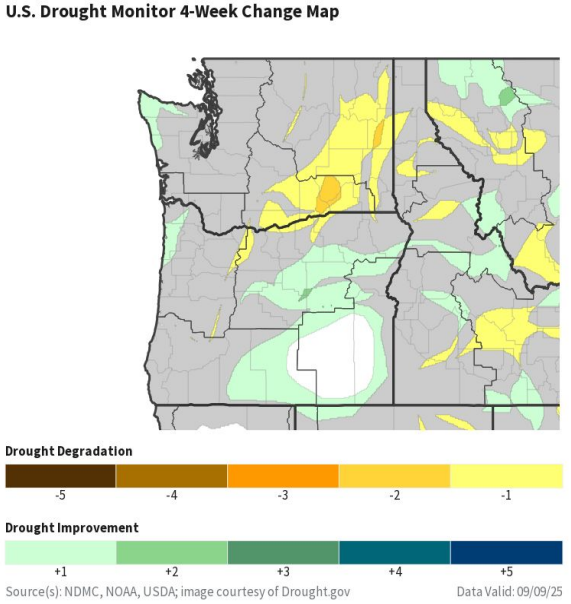
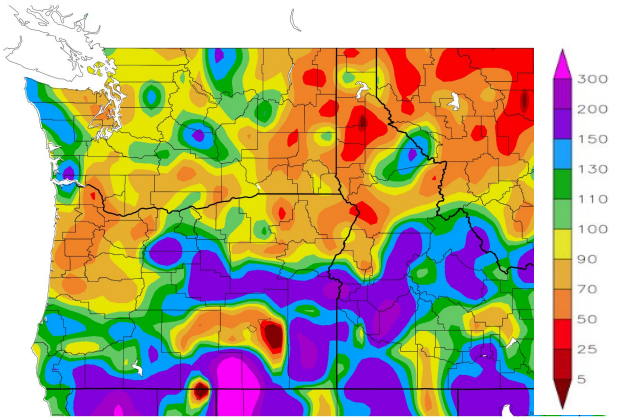


Image Captions:
Right - 4 Week Drought Class Change
Left - 1 Week Drought Class Change
Data Courtesy U.S. Drought Monitor and Drought.gov

Precipitation - Last 30 Days

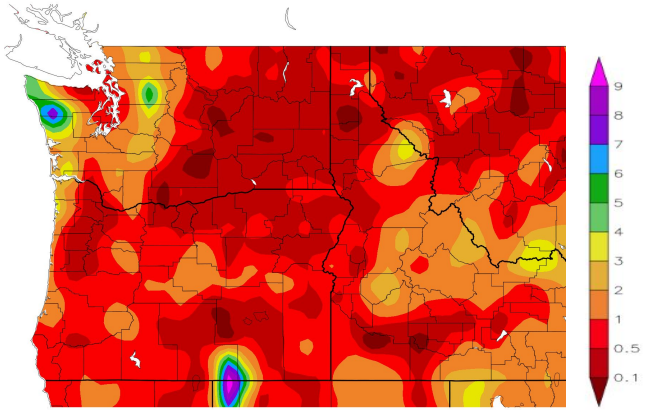
- Near to above normal (130-200%) eastern Kittitas, most of Jefferson, Wasco, Crook, Wheeler and Grant counties
- Below to much below normal precipitation (25% to 90% of normal) in portions of Yakima and Klickitat counties, the WA and OR Columbia Basin and Blue Mountain Foothills, the Blue Mountains and all of Union and Wallowa counties
- Highest precipitation amounts were 1 to 2 inches in the Washington Cascades, most of Crook, eastern Deschutes and Jefferson counties, southwest Wheeler and portions of Grant county
- Generally less than 1 inch of precipitation elsewhere and mainly less than 0.5 inches in WA
- Less than 0.1 inch of precipitation in northeast Yakima and western Klickitat counties

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/13/2025 – 9/11/2025



/12/2025 using provisional data. ACIS V

Precipitation (in)
8/13/2025 – 9/11/2025

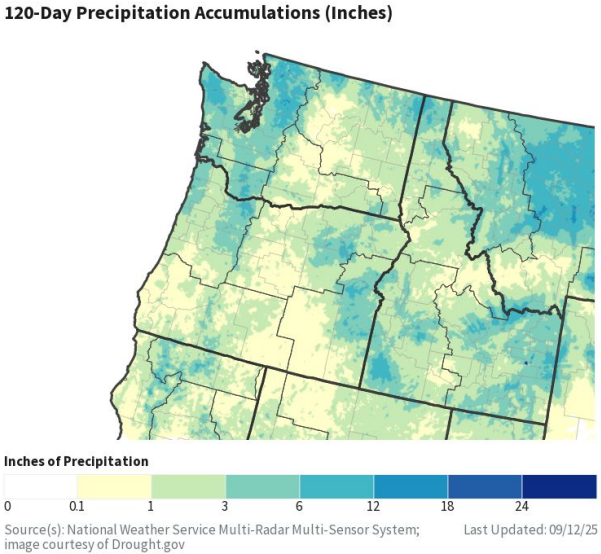


/12/2025 using provisional data. ACIS V

Image Captions:
Right - Precipitation Amount for Pacific NW
Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
Data Courtesy

Precipitation - 4-month (120-day) Precipitation

- Well below normal precipitation (0% to 50% of normal) in most of the area over the last 120-days
- Below to near normal precipitation (50% to 150% of normal) in the Simcoe Highlands, the southern Blue Mountains and portions of the WA and OR Columbia Basin
- Western areas had precipitation amounts of 1-3 inches in the Cascades and mainly less than 1 inch in the lower elevations and eastern areas had mainly 1-6 inches over the last 120-days
- Wettest location was 6-12 inches in the Elkhorn Mountains over the last 120-days
- Driest locations were less than 1 inch in most western lower elevation areas over the last 120-days



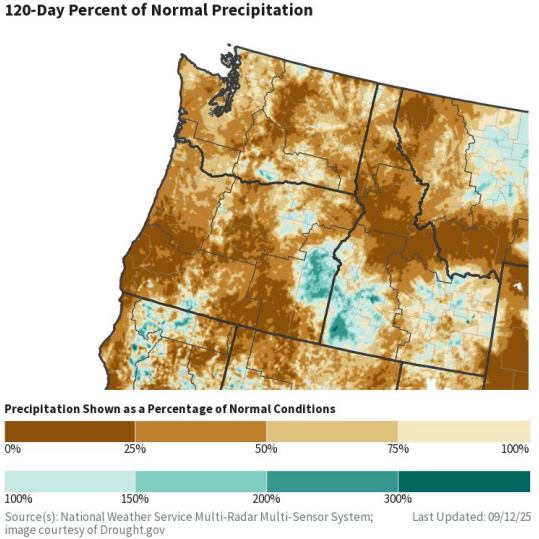
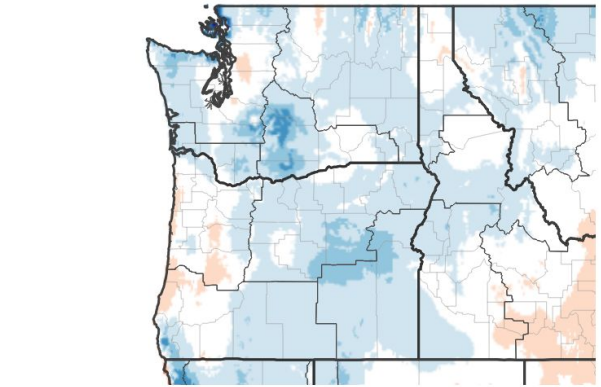


Image Captions:
Right - Precipitation Amounts for Pacific NW
Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
Courtesy of Drought.gov

Temperature - Last 7 and 30 Days

- Below normal temperatures (1 to 6 degrees below normal) over the area for the last 7 days
- Well below normal (6 or more degrees below normal) in portions of Yakima and Klickitat counties for the last 7 days
- Near normal temperatures (1 above to 1 degree below normal) in Franklin and parts of Benton and Walla Walla counties
- Near to below normal temperatures (-1 to 4 degrees below normal) for most locations for the the last 30 days
- Well below normal temperatures (4 to 6 degrees below normal) in southwest Kittitas, western Yakima and central Klickitat counties for the the last 30 days

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

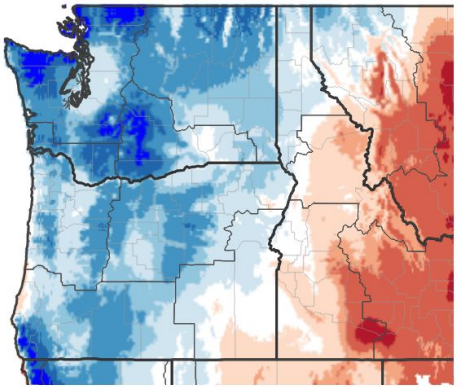
-8 -6 -4 -3 -1 0

0 1 3 4 6 8

Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/22/25

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

-8 -6 -4 -3 -1 0

0 1 3 4 6 8

Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/22/25

Image Captions:
Right - Temperature for Pacific NW
Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
Courtesy of Drought.gov

Summary of Impacts

See/submit Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) and view the Drought Impacts Reporter

Hydrologic Impacts

- Record low streamflows for the Upper Yakima and Upper Columbia-Priest Rapids basins
- Much below normal streamflows (< 10th percentile) for the Upper Columbia-Entiat, Lower Yakima and Lower Grande Ronde basins
- Below normal streamflows (10th-25th percentiles) for the Naches, Middle Columbia-Hood and Middle Columbia-Lake Wallula basins
- Above normal streamflows (76th-90th percentiles) for the North Fork John Day and basin
- Normal streamflow (25th-75th percentile) for all other basins

Snowpack Impacts

- Snow telemetry (SNOTEL) monitoring sites have no snow present in the mountains. Aside from the widespread drought in much of the area, there are no known impacts at this time.

Agricultural Impacts

- Agricultural interests in the Yakima area expect to receive 45%-50% of normal water allotments this summer. For other areas, impacts are unknown at this time

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Normal significant wildland fire potential is present over the entire area from September through December.

Other Impacts

- Washington: Washington Drought Declaration issued for Upper Yakima, Lower Yakima and Naches Watersheds
- Oregon: Drought Declarations in effect for Morrow, Wheeler and Union Counties

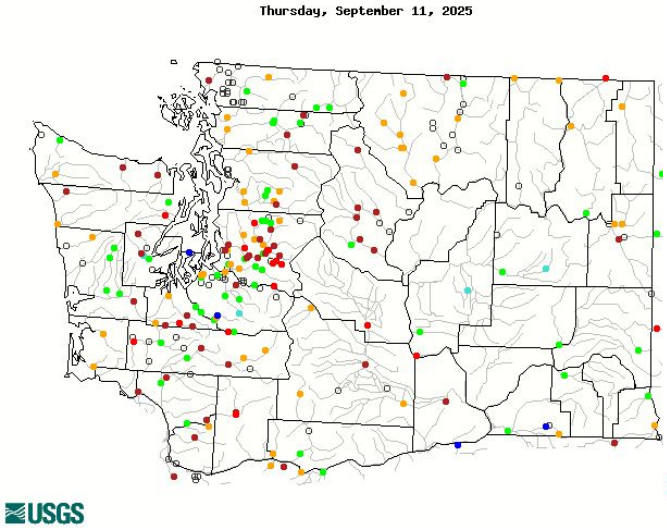
Mitigation actions

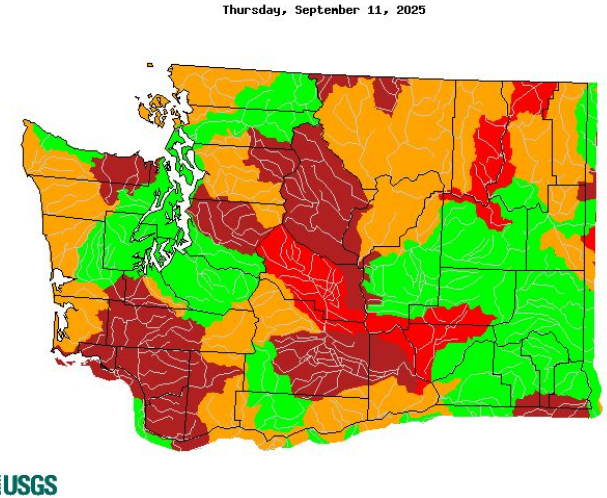
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts - Washington

Main Takeaways

- Record low streamflows for the Upper Yakima and Upper Columbia-Priest Rapids basins
- Much below normal streamflow (below the 10th percentile) for the Upper Columbia-Entiat, Lower Yakima and Lower Grande Ronde basins
- Below normal streamflows (10th-24th percentiles) for the Naches, Middle Columbia-Hood and Middle Columbia-Lake Wallula basins
- Near normal streamflows (25th-75th percentiles) for Klickitat, Lower Snake, Lower Snake-Tucannon, Walla Walla, Lower Snake-Asotin and Palouse basins





Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Image Captions:
Right - USGS 7-day average streamflow station map valid September 11, 2025
Left - USGS 7-day average streamflow HUC map valid September 11, 2025
Data Courtesy USGS Water Watch

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

Reduced streamflow may be detrimental to aquatic species and recreational activities.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts - Oregon

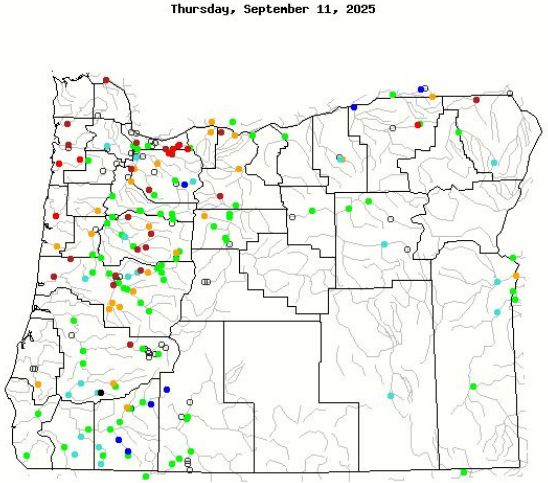
Main Takeaways

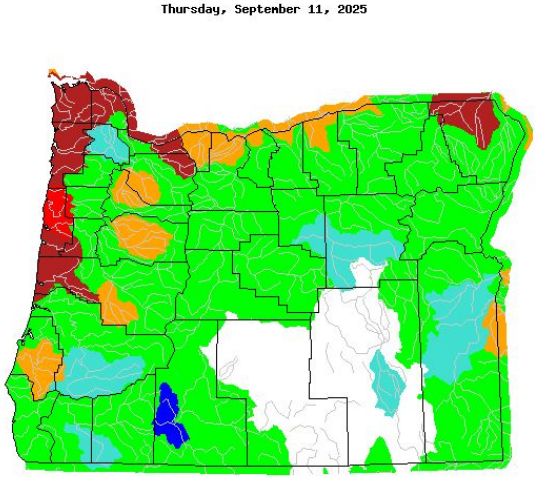
- Well below normal streamflows (less than 10th percentile) for the Lower Grande Ronde basin
- Below normal streamflows (10th-25th percentile) for the Middle Columbia-Hood and Middle Columbia-Lake Wallula basins
- Above normal streamflows (76th-90th percentiles) for the North Fork John Day basin
- Near normal streamflows (25th-75th percentile) for all other basins except no data for the Silvies and Summer Lake basins

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

Reduced streamflow may be detrimental to aquatic species and recreational activities.





Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Image Captions:
Right - USGS 7-day average streamflow station map valid September 11, 2025
Left - USGS 7-day average streamflow HUC map valid September 11, 2025
Data Courtesy USGS Water Watch

Water Supply Forecast - April - September 2025

Link to the latest Northwest River Forecast Center Water Supply Forecast.

Main Takeaways

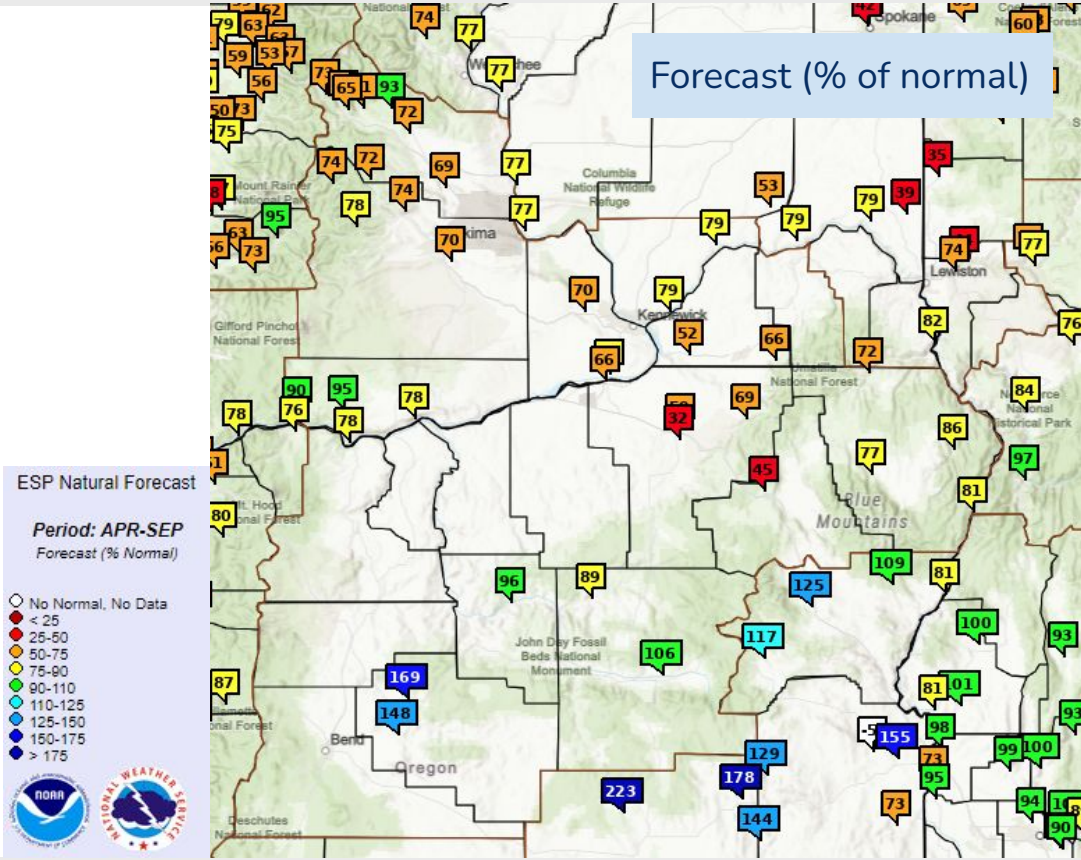
- Below to near normal water supply (50% to 95% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast over most south central and southeast WA for the April - September 2025 period
- Much below normal water supply (30% to 45% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast for the Upper Grande Ronde River and McKay Creek
- Below to near normal water supply (60% to 105% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast for most Oregon rivers and streams for the April - September 2025 period
- Well above normal water supply (145% to 170% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast for the Ochoco-John Day Highlands for the April - September 2025 period

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

Low reservoir levels would be expected to affect agriculture production, fish, and other aquatic species.

Image Caption:
Ensemble Streamflow Prediction Natural Forecast
Data Courtesy NOAA NWS Northwest River Forecast Center
Issued September 12, 2025



Fire Hazard Impacts - September through December

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

Main Takeaways

- Normal significant wildland fire potential (i.e., a greater than normal risk) is forecast for all areas in for September through December 2025

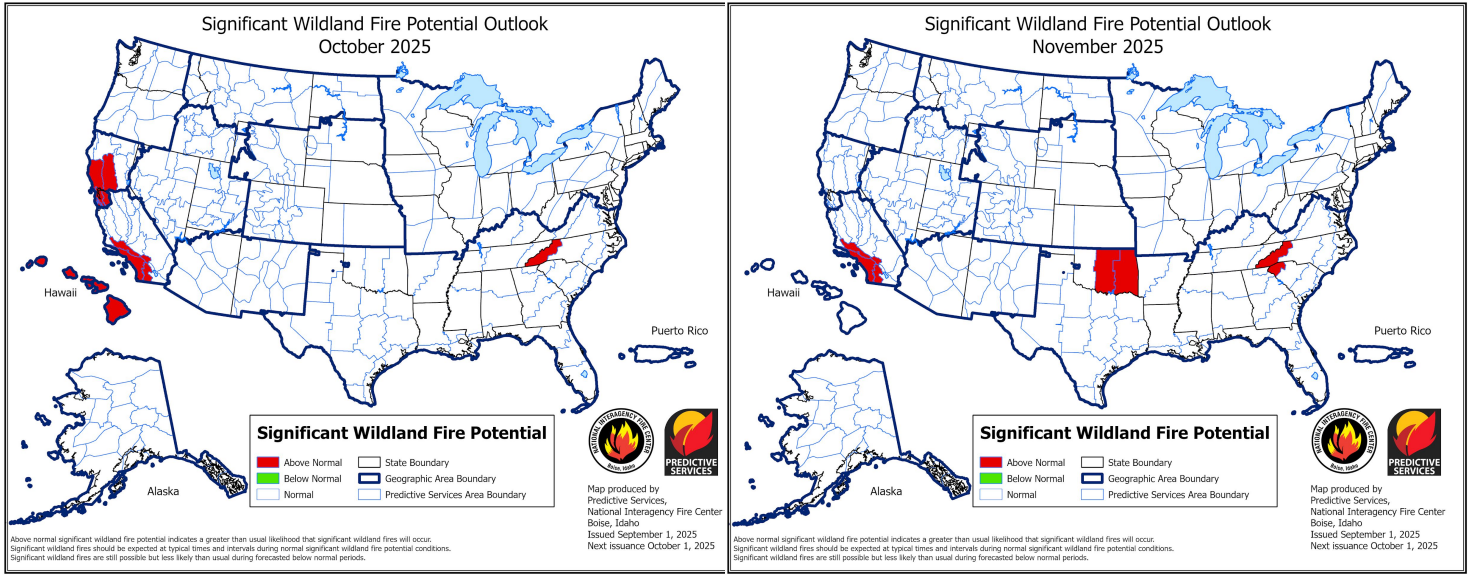


Image Caption:
Left - October 2025
Right - November 2025
Data Courtesy National Interagency Coordination Center
Issued September 1, 2025

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A trough Sunday/Monday and possibly another Wednesday/Thursday will bring showers to the entire area
- The higher mountains of eastern Oregon are expected receive 0.5 to 1.25 inches of rain
- Washington, north central Oregon and the Oregon Columbia basin will generally receive a tenth of an inch or less
- Temperatures are expected to be near to below normal
- Breezy winds expected on Sunday
- Visit weather.gov/Pendleton for the latest weather forecast

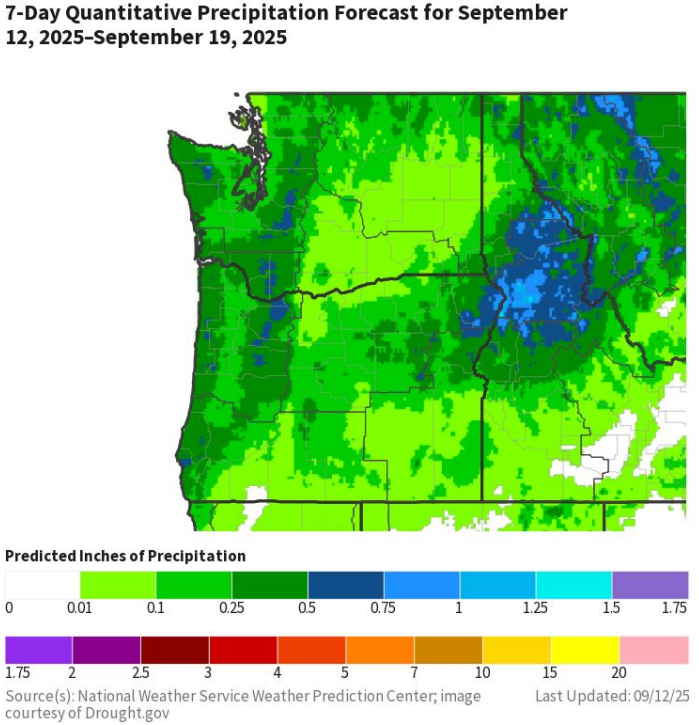


Image Caption:
Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast

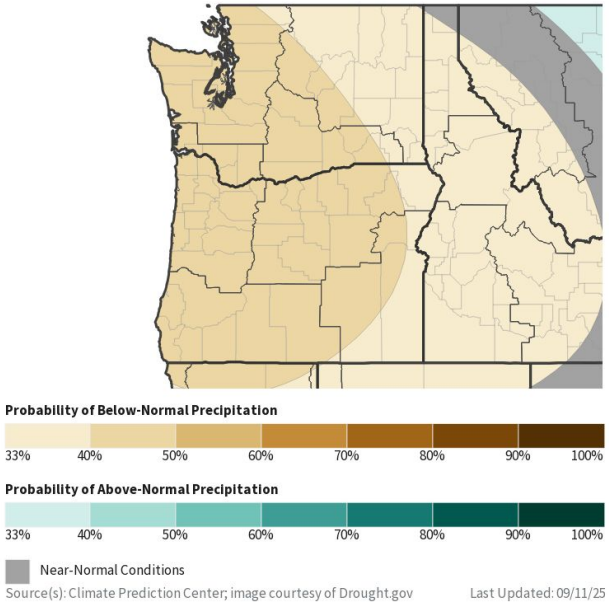
6-10 Day Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center 6 to 10 day Temperature Outlook and Precipitation Outlook.

Main Takeaways

- A 40% to 60% chance of above normal temperatures across the entire area
- A 33% to 50% chance of below normal precipitation across the entire area

6–10 Day Precipitation Outlook for September 17, 2025–September 21, 2025



6–10 Day Temperature Outlook for September 17, 2025–September 21, 2025

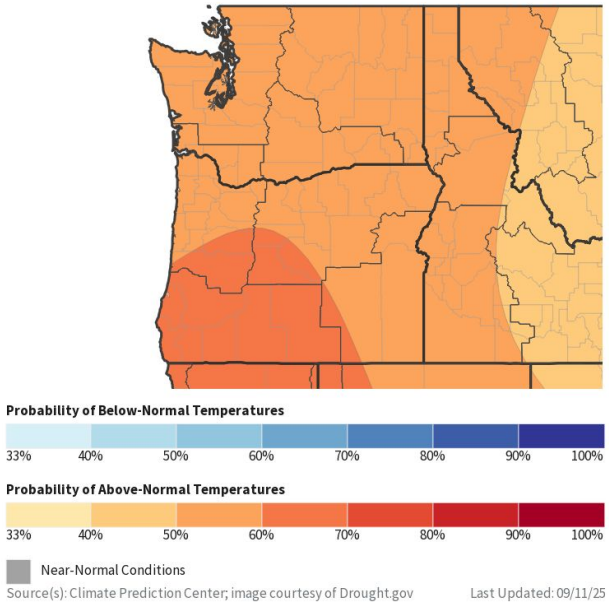


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook.
Valid September 17-21, 2025

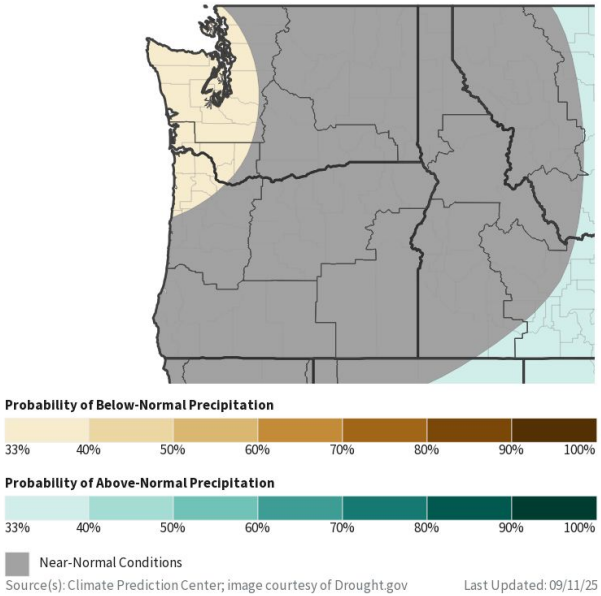
8-14 Day Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day Temperature Outlook and Precipitation Outlook.

Main Takeaways

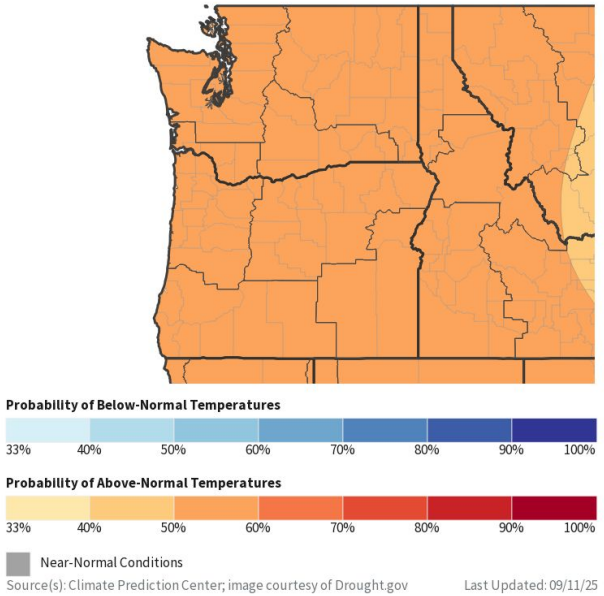
- A 50% to 60% chance of above normal temperatures across the entire area
- Equal chances of above, near or below normal precipitation across the entire area

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for September 19, 2025–September 25, 2025



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 09/11/25

8–14 Day Temperature Outlook for September 19, 2025–September 25, 2025



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 09/11/25

Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook.
Valid September 19 - 25, 2025

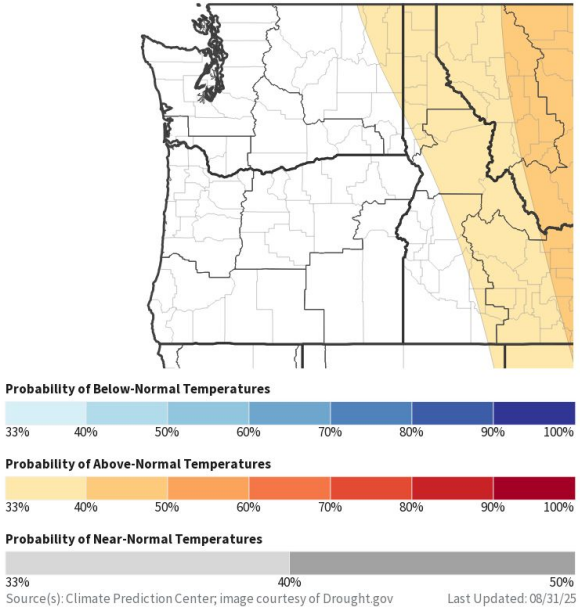
Monthly Climate Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center Monthly Outlook.

Main Takeaways for September 2025

- Equal chances of above, near and below normal temperatures area-wide
- Equal chances of below, near and above normal precipitation in most area except 33% to 40% chance of above normal precipitation over and near the Cascades

Monthly Temperature Outlook for September 1, 2025–September 30, 2025



Monthly Precipitation Outlook for September 1, 2025–September 30, 2025

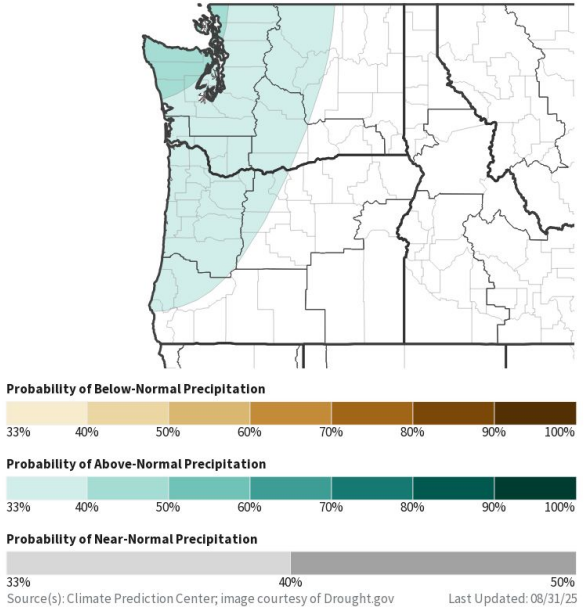


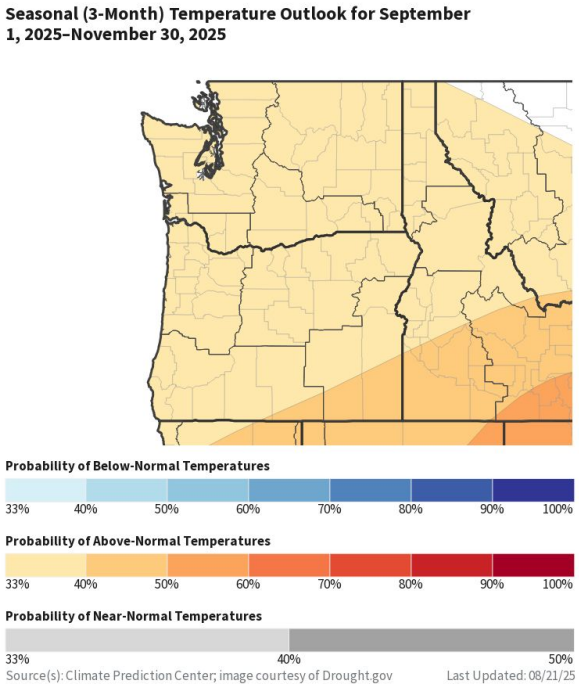
Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook.
Updated August 31, 2025

Seasonal Climate Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Outlook.

Main Takeaways for August-October 2025

- A 33% to 40% chance of above normal temperatures area-wide
- Equal chances of above, below and near normal precipitation area-wide except a 33% to 400% chance of above normal precipitation over and near the Cascades



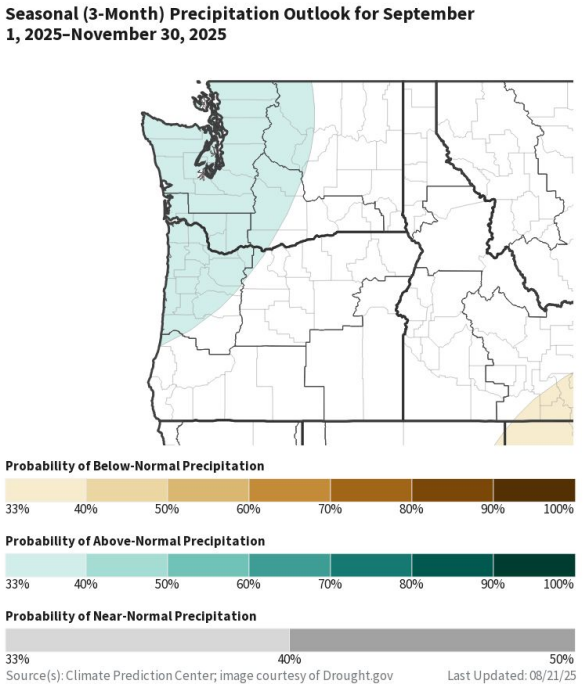


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook.
Valid September-November 2025

Drought Outlook

The latest drought outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage.

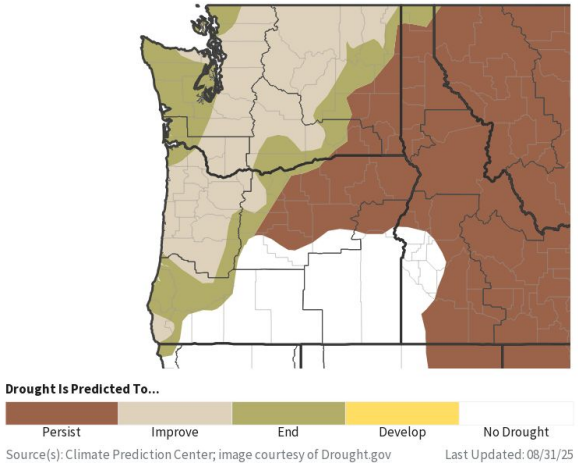
Main Takeaways

- Drought is expected to persist in most of the area during September
- Drought is expected to persist over the eastern mountains and either improve or end over much of the rest of the area September through November

Possible Impacts

- Reduced streamflows and reservoir levels in the Upper Yakima basin has resulted in a reduction to 45%-50% of normal irrigation amounts which may result in a possible reduction of agricultural yield, crop loss, and poor pasture conditions where irrigation water is not available.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for August 31, 2025–November 30, 2025



1-Month Drought Outlook for September 1, 2025–September 30, 2025

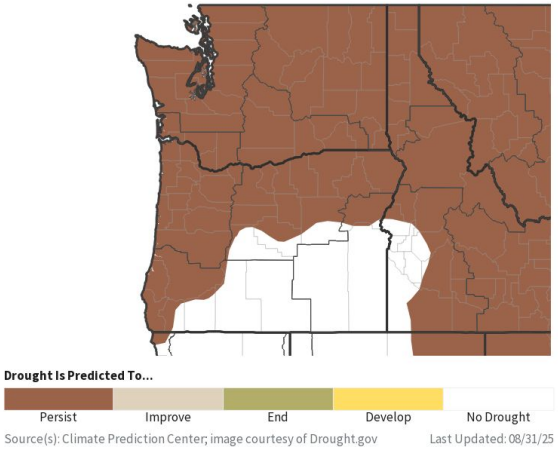


Image Captions:
Right - Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released August 31, 2025
Left - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released August 31, 2025