



Drought Information Statement for Northeast Oregon and South Central Washington

Valid October 9, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Pendleton, OR

Contact Information: nws.pendleton@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated monthly or sooner 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 portions of southern and eastern Umatilla, western Union, far southeastern Morrow, most of Grant and Jefferson, southern and central Wheeler, northern and central Crook and Deschutes counties while the rest of the area has a mix of abnormally dry to severe drought.
- Below to near normal precipitation (25% - 100% of normal) in most mountain locations and above to well above normal (100% - 300% of normal) in all other areas over the last 30 days.
- Drought is expected to persist or develop over most of the area through the end of December 2026.
- All areas are forecast to have near normal significant fire potential through January 2027.





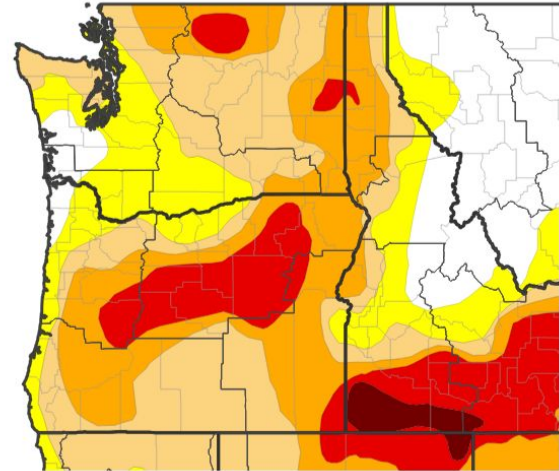
U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Northeast Oregon and South Central Washington

• Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Portions of southern and eastern Umatilla, western Union, far southeastern Morrow, most of Grant and Jefferson, southern and central Wheeler, northern and central Crook and Deschutes counties
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Southern Walla Walla and Columbia, most of Wallowa, eastern Union, much of central and northern Umatilla, south central Morrow, far southern Gilliam, northern Wheeler, southern Wasco, far northeast Jefferson, much of southern Deschutes and southern Crook counties
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Most of Kittitas, northeast Yakima, northern and eastern Benton, Franklin, northern Walla Walla and Columbia, far eastern Wallowa, northwest Umatilla, central Morrow, south central Gilliam, far southern Sherman and central Wasco counties
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Far southwest Kittitas, southern and western Yakima, Klickitat, southwest Benton, far northwest Umatilla, northwest Morrow, northern Gilliam, most of Sherman and northern Wasco counties

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

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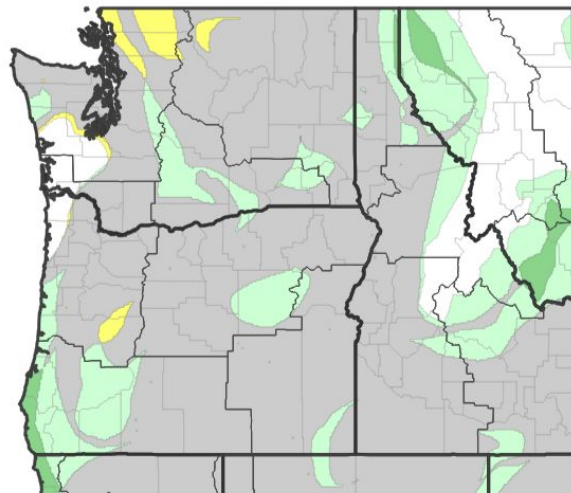
Recent Changes in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Northeast Oregon and South Central Washington

Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

- **Drought Worsened (1 class):** None
- **Drought Improved (1 class):** Far southwest Kittitas, western and portions of eastern Yakima, far eastern Franklin, northern Walla Walla and Columbia, central Grant and small portions of southwest Union, far southeast Wheeler and far northeast Crook counties
- **No Change:** All other areas not mentioned above

U.S. Drought Monitor 4-Week Change Map



Drought Degradation



Drought Improvement



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

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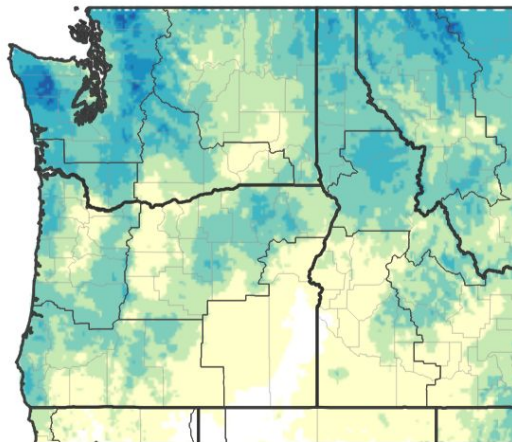
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Precipitation - Last 30 Days

- Below to near normal precipitation (25% to 100% of normal) in the Cascades, Simcoe Highlands, central and north central Oregon, eastern Columbia Basin, northern Blue Mountains and Wallowa County over the last 30 days
- Near to well above normal precipitation (100% to 300% of normal) in all other areas over the last 30 days.
- Highest precipitation amounts were 4 to 6 inches in a small pocket of the Washington Cascades over the last 30 days
- Lowest precipitation amounts were in the Lower Columbia Basin of Washington, central and north central Oregon and central Grant County with less than 0.5 inch over the last 30 days

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



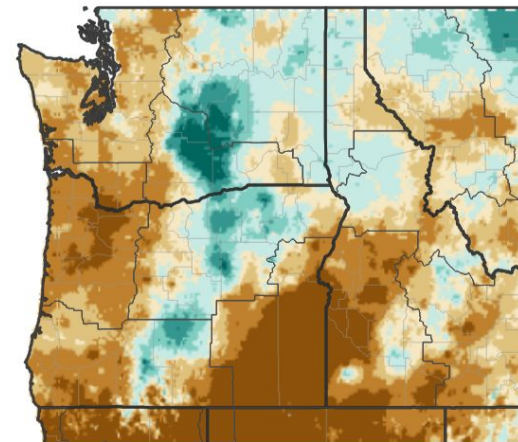
Inches of Precipitation



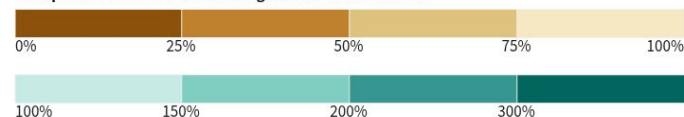
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 10/07/26

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 10/07/26

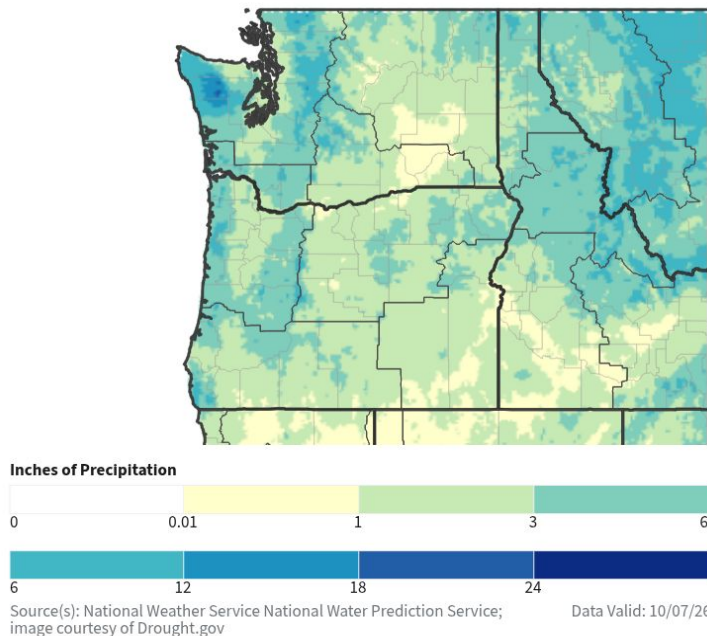




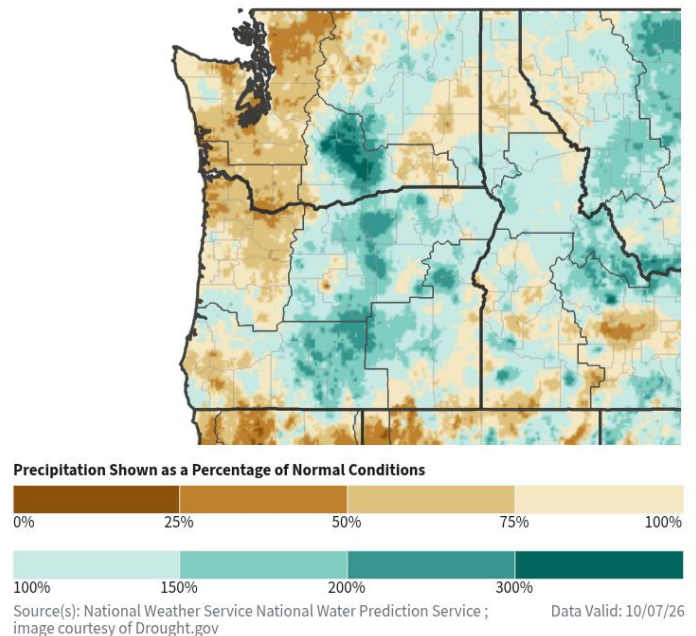
Precipitation - Last 90 Days

- Below to near normal precipitation (50% to 100% of normal) in the WA Cascade crest, eastern portions of the Columbia Basin, eastern Columbia River Gorge, the Northern Blue Mountains, eastern Grant county and small portions of central OR over the last 90 days
- Well above normal precipitation (over 300% of normal) in northern and eastern Yakima and western Benton counties
- Near to above normal precipitation (100% to 300% of normal) in all other areas over the last 90 days
- Precipitation amounts of up to 3 inches in most areas over the last 90 days
- Wettest locations had 3 to 6 inches over portions of the mountains over the last 90 days
- Driest locations received less than 1 inch in portions of the Columbia Basin, western Crook county and Columbia River Gorge over the last 90 days

NWPS 90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



90-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal

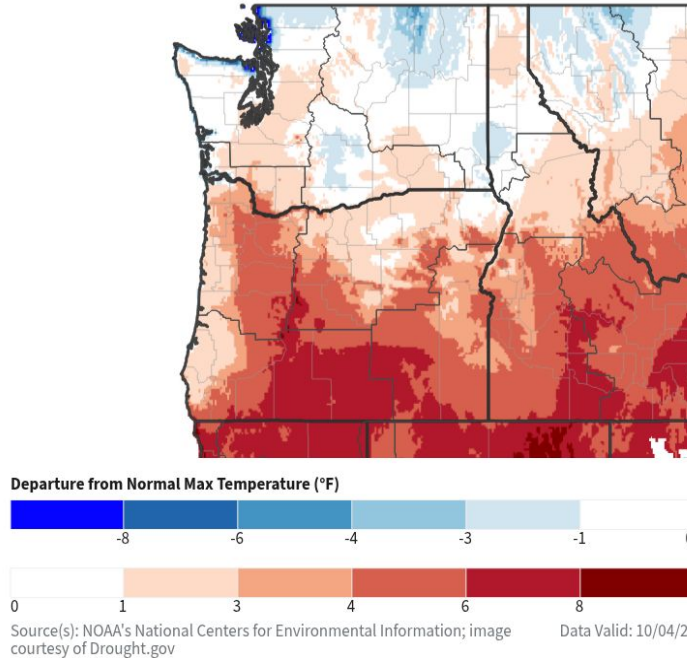




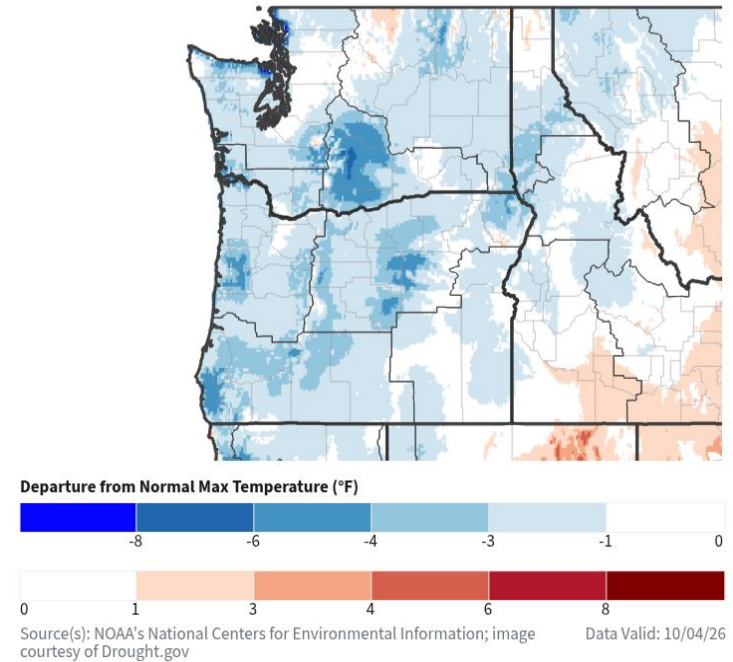
Temperatures - Last 7 And Last 30 Days

- Well above normal temperatures (4 to 8 degrees above normal) in central Oregon and portions of the eastern Oregon mountains for the last 7 days
- Slightly below normal temperatures (1 degree to 3 degrees below normal) in portions of southern Kittitas and central Yakima counties for the last 7 days
- Slightly below to above normal temperatures (1 below to 4 degrees above normal) in all other areas over the last 7 days
- Well below normal temperatures (4 to 8 degrees above normal) in portions of Kittitas, Yakima and Klickitat counties and the eastern Oregon mountains for the last 30 days.
- Near normal temperatures (1 degree above to 4 degrees below normal) in all other areas for the last 30 days

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



30-Day Temperature Anomaly





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Below to slightly below normal streamflows (79% - 89% of normal) in most WA basins and (79% - 94% of normal) in most OR basins
- Below normal streamflows (59% - 73% of normal) in the Crooked River, John Day River and McKay Creek basins

Agricultural Impacts

- Reservoirs in the WA Cascades and the Deschutes River and Umatilla Rivers Basin are partly full to nearly empty (6% - 33% full).
- Outlier reservoirs in the Deschutes River Basin are Clear Lake at 1% full, Haystack at 58% full and Crane Prairie at 61% full.
- Water deliveries in the remaining portion of the 2026 season to agricultural interests in the Yakima area are projected to be at 62% of normal but uncertainty remains. Impacts elsewhere are uncertain at this time but water availability will likely also be below normal.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Normal wildland fire potential is expected over the entire area through January 2027

Other Impacts

- Washington: [Washington Issues A Drought Emergency For The Entire State Through April 2027](#)
- Oregon: [Drought Declarations Issued For All NE Oregon Counties Except Sherman through 12-31-2026](#)

Mitigation Actions

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





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts as of October 8th, 2026

Main Takeaways

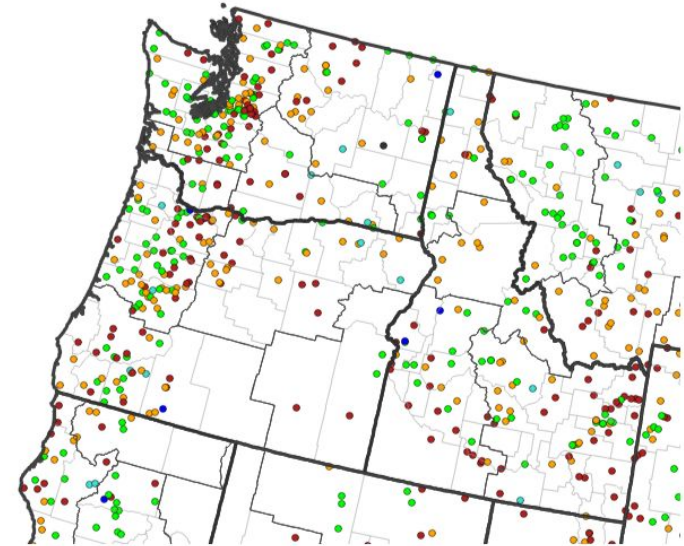
- Below to much below normal streamflows in most basins with a few locations having normal or above normal streamflows

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

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

1-Day Average Streamflow Conditions



Streamflow Conditions



Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 10/08/26





Water Supply Forecast - April - September 2027

Link to the latest [Northwest River Forecast Center Water Supply Forecast](#).

Main Takeaways

- Below normal water supply (79% to 89% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast for nearly all WA locations for the April - September 2027 period
- Below to near normal water supply (79% to 94% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast for most OR locations for the April - September 2027 period
- Well below normal water supply (59% to 73% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast for Crooked and John Day Basins and McKay Creek near Pendleton for the April - September 2027 period
- These forecasts for 2027 are based on streamflow data from the 2026-27 water year which started on October 1, 2026

Impacts

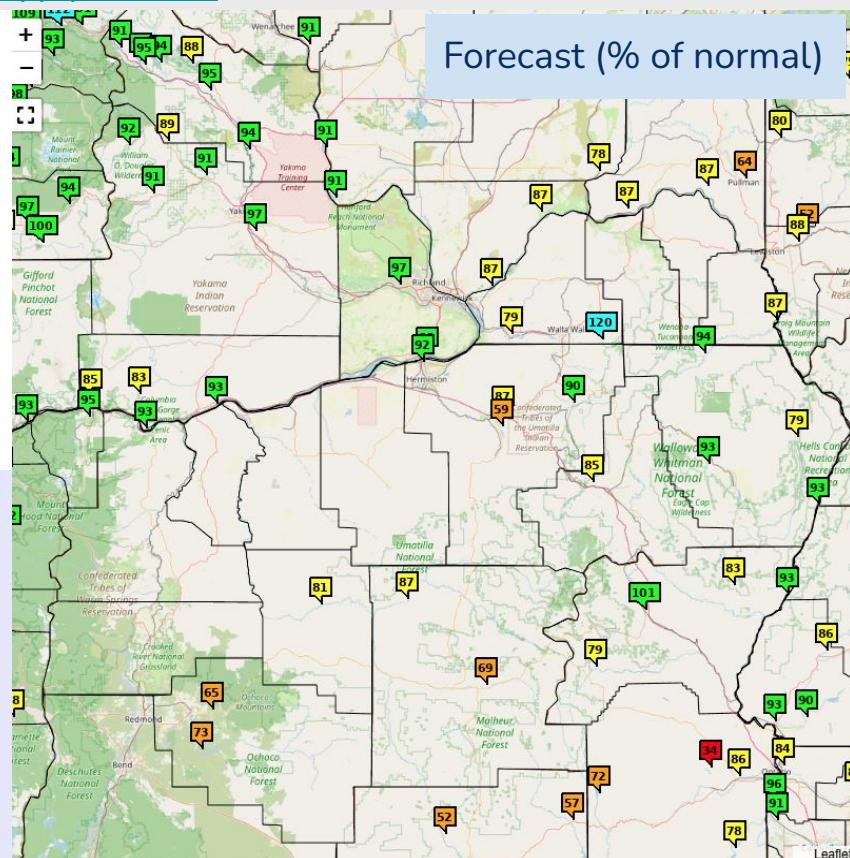
No known impacts at this time

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

ESP Natural Forecast

Period: APR-SEP
Forecast (% Normal)

- No Normal, No Data
- < 25
- 25-50
- 50-75
- 75-90
- 90-110
- 110-125
- 125-150
- 150-175
- > 175



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Fire Hazard Impacts

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

Main Takeaways

- Near normal significant wildland fire potential (i.e., normal risk) is forecast for all areas in October, November and December 2026 and January 2027

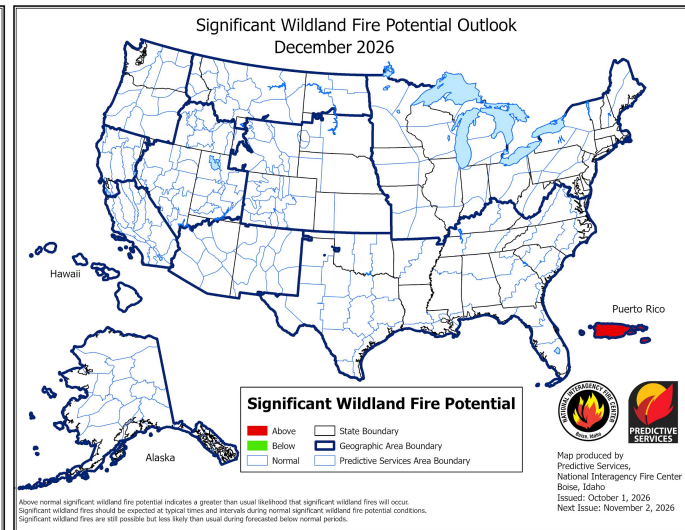
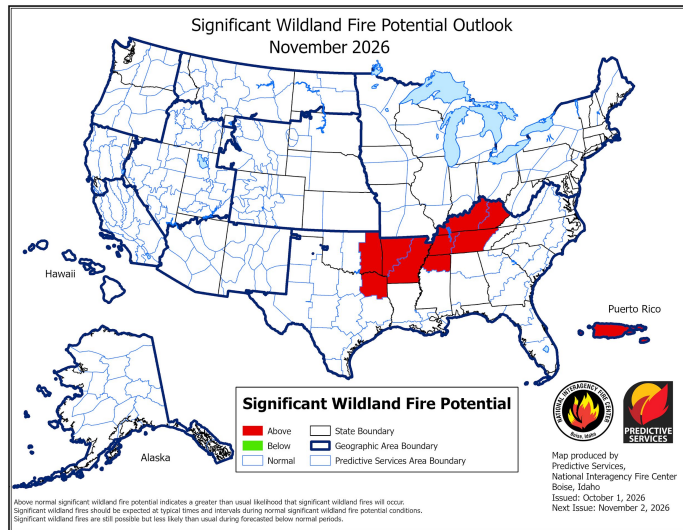


Image Caption:

Left - November 2026

Right - December 2026

Data Courtesy National Interagency Coordination Center

Issued October 1, 2026



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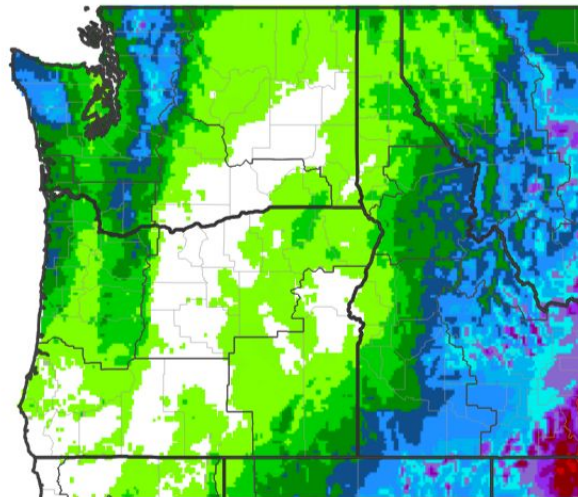
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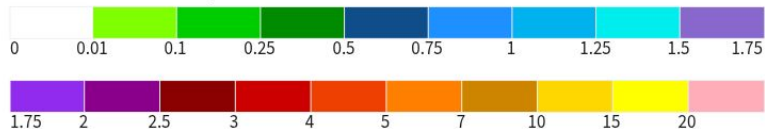
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A weather system is expected to bring light mountain rain and much cooler temperatures through Monday before high pressure brings warmer and drier weather later next week.
- Rain amounts will be generally less than a quarter of an inch in most mountain areas, then Blue Mountain Foothills and Kittitas County though the Washington Cascade Crest could get up to an inch
- Well below normal temperatures through Tuesday with highs in the 40s and 50s and lows in the upper 20s and 30s. A warming trend is expected in the second half of the week

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 9, 2026–October 16, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/09/26



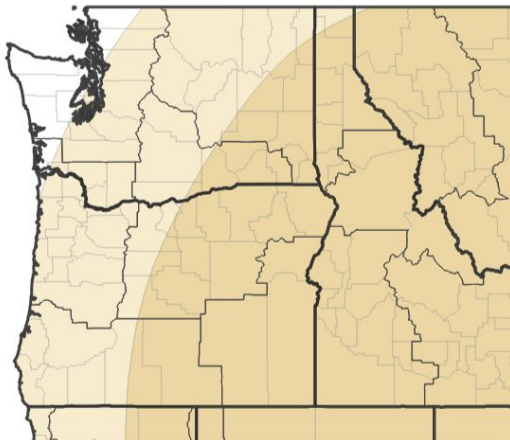


Monthly Outlook

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

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

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for October 1, 2026–October 31, 2026



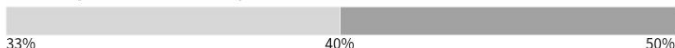
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



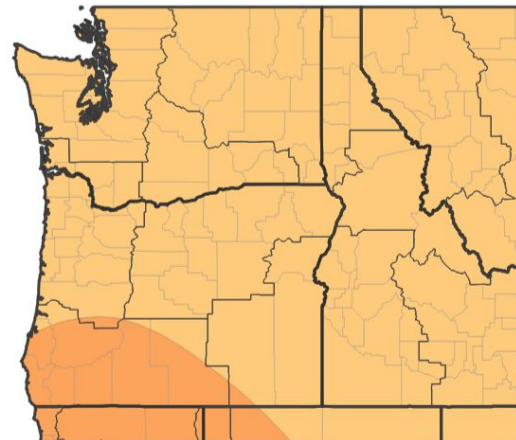
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 09/30/26

Monthly Temperature Outlook for October 1, 2026–October 31, 2026



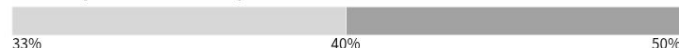
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

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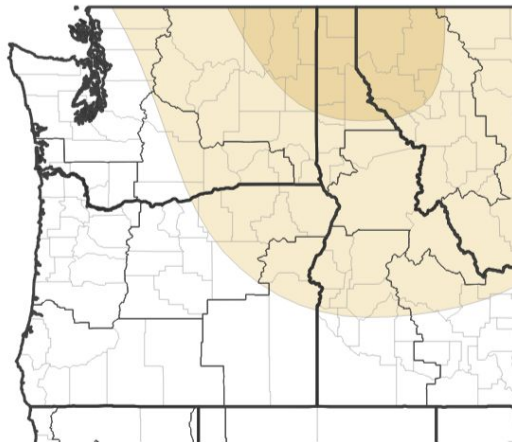


Three Month Outlook

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

- A 40% to 60% chance of above normal temperatures is expected across the entire area
- Near normal precipitation is expected except for a 33% to 40% chance of below normal precipitation across northern and eastern portions of the area

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for October 1, 2026–December 31, 2026



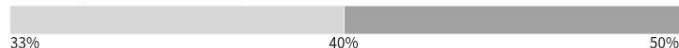
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



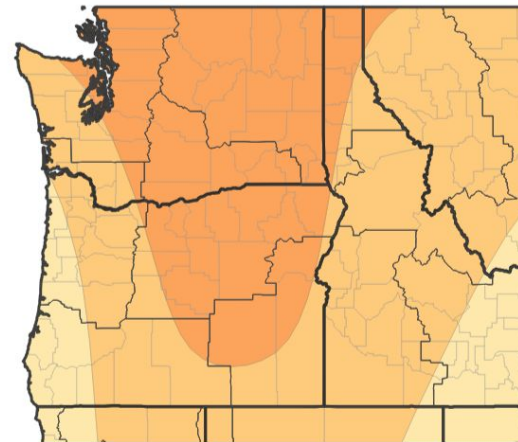
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 09/17/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for October 1, 2026–December 31, 2026



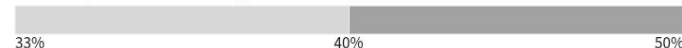
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 09/17/26



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Drought Outlook

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

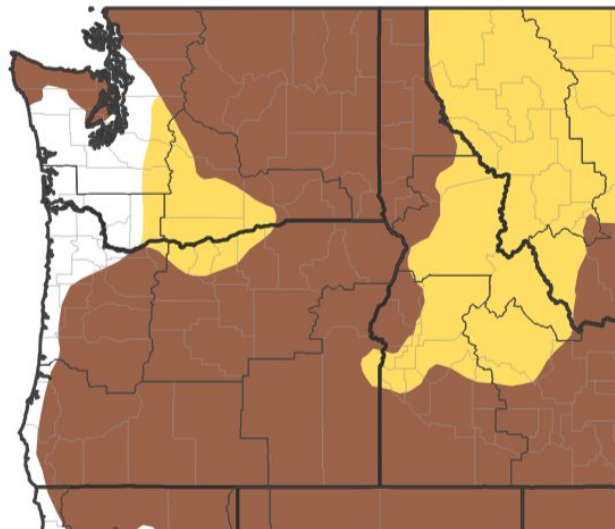
Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for September 30,
2026–December 31, 2026

Main Takeaways

- Drought is expected to persist or develop over the entire area through the end of December 2026

Possible Impacts

- Any lingering drought may result in reduced streamflows and low reservoir levels which may result in a possible reduction of agricultural yield, crop loss, and poor pasture conditions where irrigation water is not available.



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 09/30/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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