Drought Information Statement for Eastern OR & South Central WA

Valid December 19, 2025

Issued By: NWS Pendleton

Contact Information: pdt.operations@noaa.gov

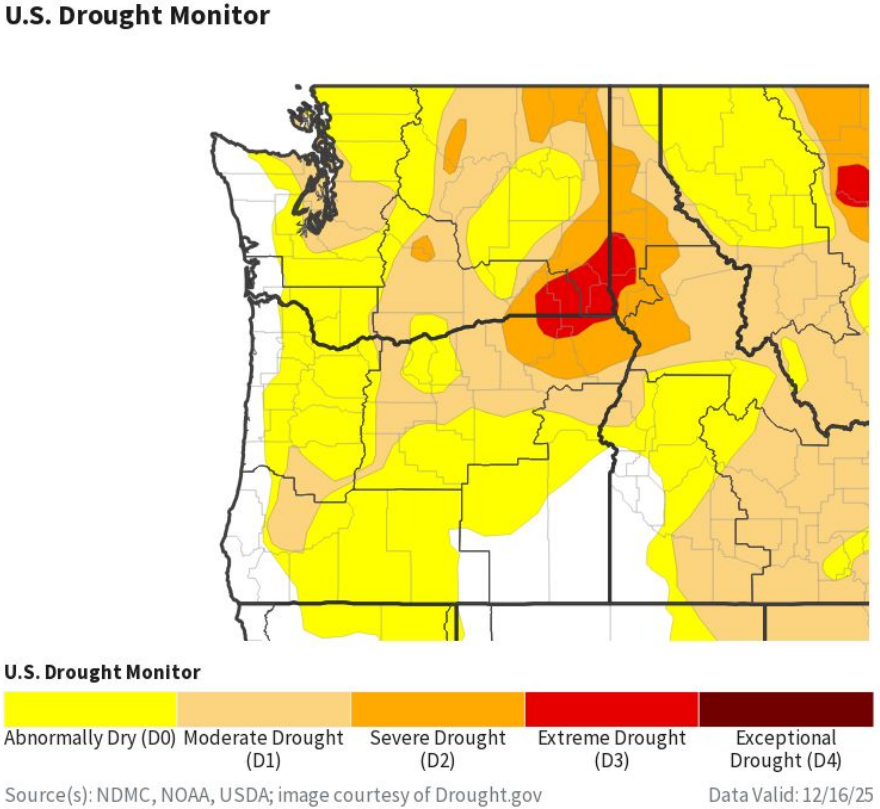
- This product will be updated if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/pdt/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/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

- Extreme Drought continues in Columbia, southeastern Walla Walla, northern Wallowa and Union and far northeast Umatilla counties, Severe Drought continues in south central Kittitas, far north central Yakima, western Walla Walla, far eastern Franklin, central Union and Wallowa and eastern Umatilla counties while Moderate Drought continues in portions of Kittitas and Klickitat, most of Yakima and Benton, eastern Franklin, most of Wasco and Jefferson, north central Deschutes, central Wheeler, Morrow, northern Grant, western Umatilla, southern Union and Wallowa counties. All other areas are Abnormally Dry.
- Near to above normal precipitation (100-200% of normal) over the northern two thirds of the area and below to near normal (50%-100% of normal) over the southern third of the area during the last 30 days.
- Drought is expected to improve or end over the northern portions of the area and remain in No Drought in southern regions and parts of central portions of the area during December 2025 - March 2026
- All areas forecast to have normal significant fire potential for December 2025 - March 2026

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D3 (Extreme Drought): Columbia, southeastern Walla Walla, northern Wallowa, far northern Union and far northeast Umatilla counties
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: South central Kittitas, far north central Yakima, western Walla Walla, far eastern Franklin, central Union and Wallowa and eastern Umatilla counties
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Portions of Kittitas and Klickitat, most of Yakima and Benton, eastern Franklin, most of Wasco and Jefferson, north central Deschutes, central Wheeler, Morrow, northern Grant western Umatilla and southern Union and Wallowa counties
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: All other areas not mentioned above

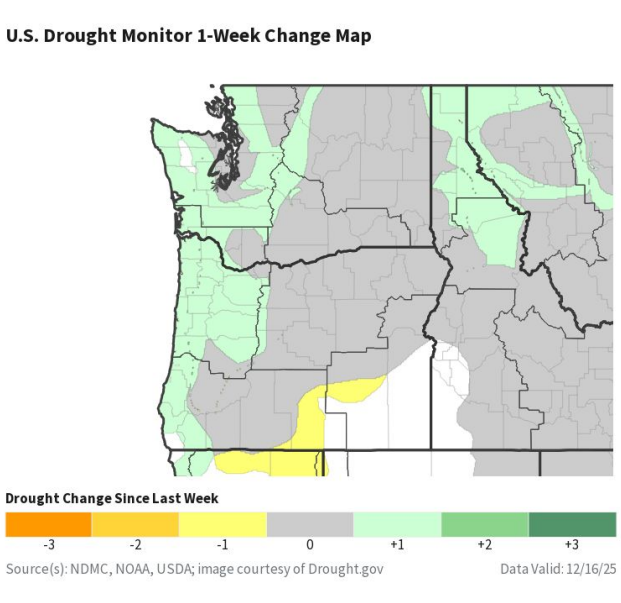


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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): Cascade Mountains in Kittitas, Yakima, Wasco, Jefferson and Deschutes Counties

- Four-Week Drought Monitor Class Change
  - Drought Worsened (1 Class Degradation): Southern Wasco, much of Jefferson, Deschutes, and Crook, western Wheeler and southern Grant Counties
  - Drought Improved (2 Class Improvement): Northwest Kittitas and Yakima counties
  - Drought Improved (1 Class Improvement): Much of Yakima, Kittitas and Franklin, northeast Benton, Cascades of southern Yakima, Klickitat, Wasco, Jefferson and northwest Deschutes counties



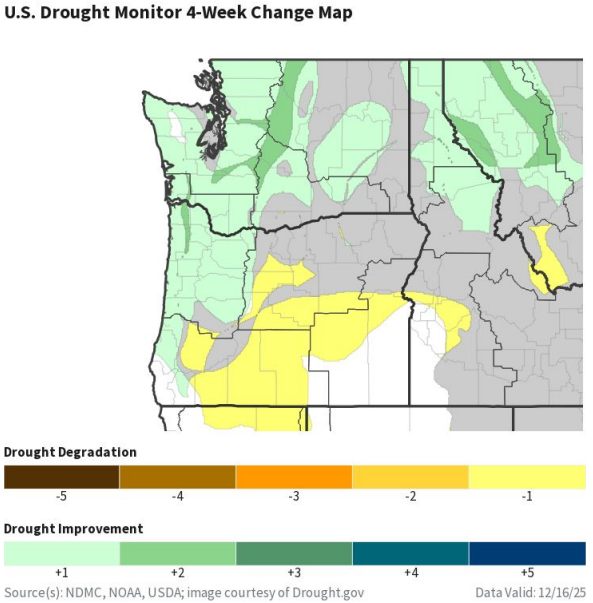
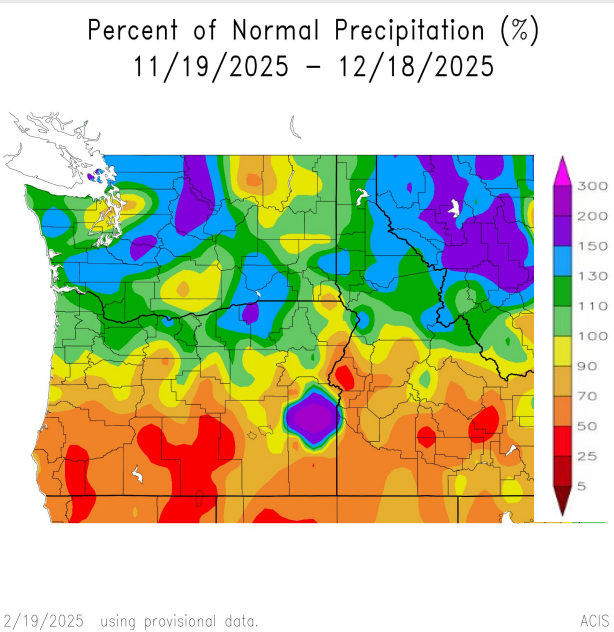


Image Captions:
Right - 4 Week Drought Class Change
Left - 1 Week Drought Class Change
Data Courtesy U.S. Drought Monitor and Drought.gov

Precipitation - Last 30 Days

- Near to above normal (100-130%) in much of Washington and northern Oregon except 130% to 200% of normal in Kittitas, northeast Yakima, Franklin, Walla Walla, eastern Benton, northern Morrow and Umatilla counties and 70% to 100% of normal in southeast Yakima and northern Klickitat.
- Below to much below normal precipitation (50% to 90% of normal) in most of southern Wasco, western Jefferson, Deschutes, much of Crook and Grant, southern Wheeler and central Wallowa counties
- Highest precipitation amounts were 4 to 6 inches along the Washington Cascade crest
- Generally less than 2 inches of precipitation elsewhere and less than 0.1 inches in eastern Kittitas, Yakima, eastern Deschutes, and southwestern Crook counties



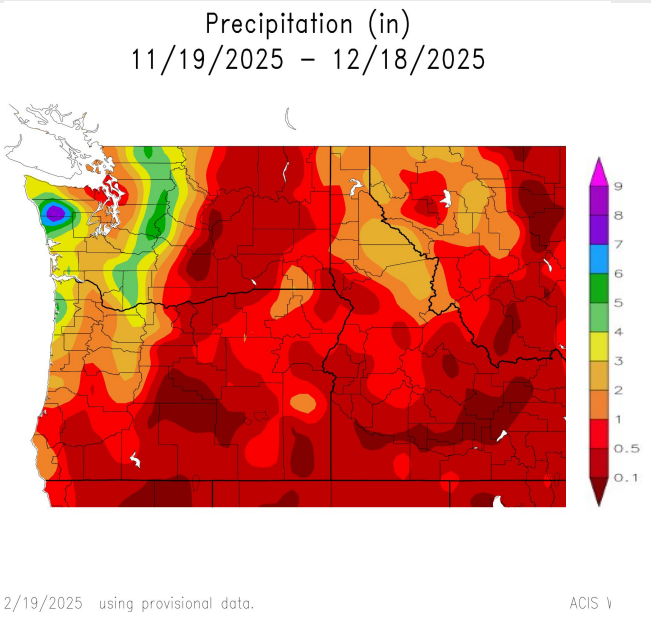
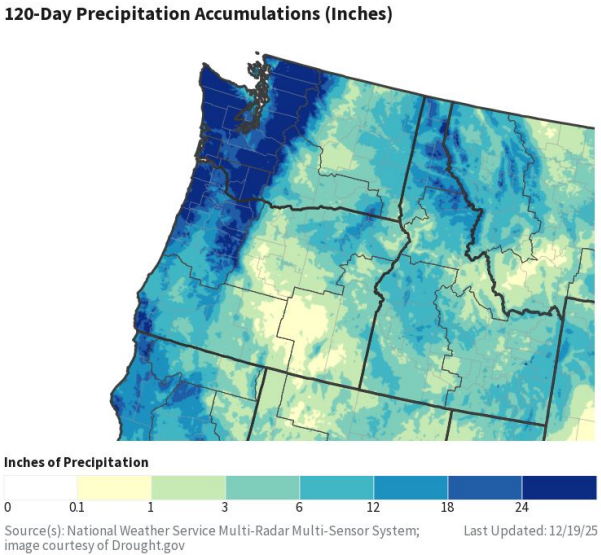


Image Captions:
Right - Precipitation Amount for Pacific NW
Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
Data Courtesy

Precipitation - 4-month (120-day) Precipitation

- Well below normal precipitation (0% to 75% of normal) in central and north central OR, the Ochoco mountains, Wallowa, parts of Union, eastern Yakima and Kittitas and most of Klickitat county over the last 120-days
- Normal to above normal precipitation (100% to 200% of normal) in much of the WA and northern OR Cascades, the WA and OR Columbia Basin and the Blue Mountains over the last 120-days
- Precipitation amounts of 1-6 inches in most areas over the last 120-days
- Wettest location was 24+ inches over the WA and OR Cascade crest over the last 120-days
- Driest locations received less than 1 inch in eastern Deschutes, central Jefferson and western Crook counties over the last 120-days



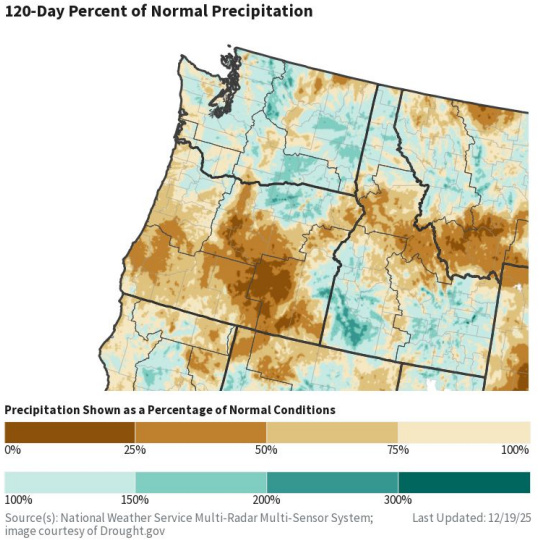
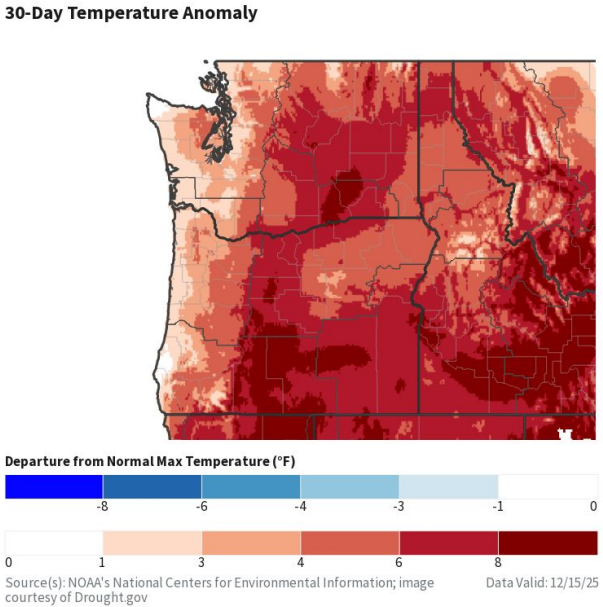


Image Captions:
Right - Precipitation Amounts for Pacific NW
Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
Courtesy of Drought.gov

Temperature - Last 7 and 30 Days

- Well above normal temperatures (8 or more degrees above normal) over the entire area for the last 7 days
- Well above normal temperatures (6+ degrees above normal) in central and north central OR, the Columbia Basin of WA and OR and the northern Blue Mountains for the the last 30 days
- Near normal temperatures (1 to 3 degrees above normal) in a small portion of the Ochoco and southern Blue Mountains for the the last 30 days
- Above normal temperatures (3 to 6 degrees above normal) in the rest of the area for the the last 30 days



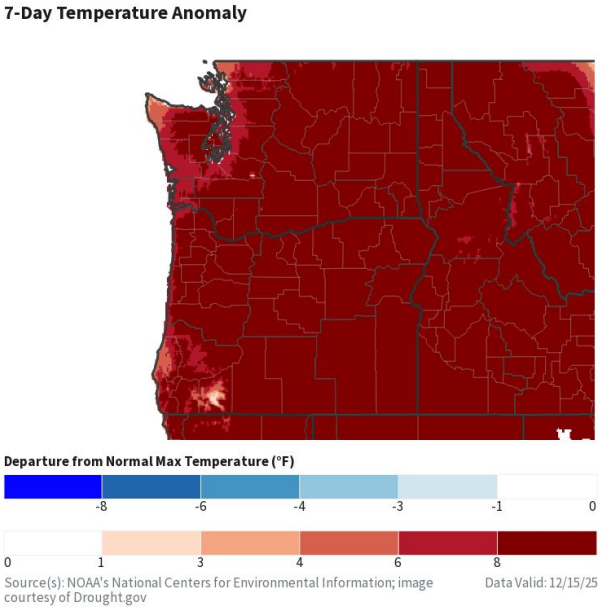


Image Captions:
Right - Temperature for Pacific NW
Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
Courtesy of Drought.gov

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Much above normal streamflows (>90th percentile) for the Naches and Upper Columbia-Entiat, Upper and Lower Yakima, Klickitat and Wallowa basins
- Above normal streamflows (75th-90th percentiles) for the Upper Columbia-Priest Rapids, Lower Snake, Lower Snake-Tucannon, Upper and Lower Grande Ronde, Imnaha, Upper John Day and Middle Columbia-Hood basins
- Below normal streamflows (10th-25th percentiles) for the Willow basin
- Normal streamflow (25th-75th percentile) for all other basins

Snowpack Impacts

- At this still early point in the season, nearly all snow telemetry (SNOTEL) monitoring sites have well below snow (below 30% of normal) present in the mountains. Aside from the continuing drought in much of the area, there are no known impacts at this time.

Agricultural Impacts

- Reservoir storage remain low but are filling due to recent precipitation and streamflows are increasing. Water deliveries to agricultural interests in the Yakima area remain uncertain. For other areas, impacts are unknown at this time

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Normal significant wildland fire potential is present over the entire area from October 2025 through January 2026.

Other Impacts

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

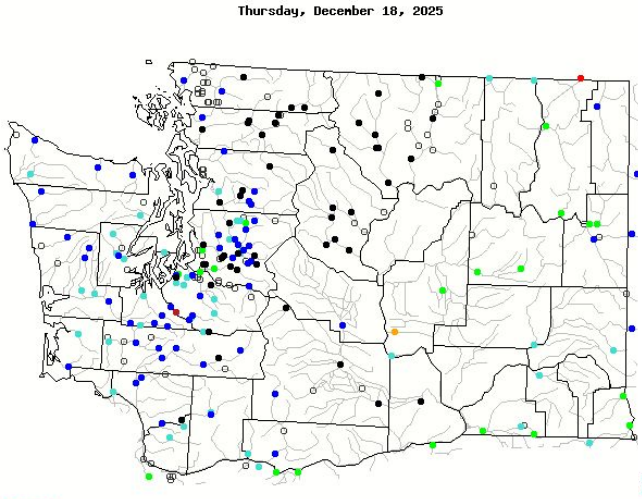
Mitigation actions

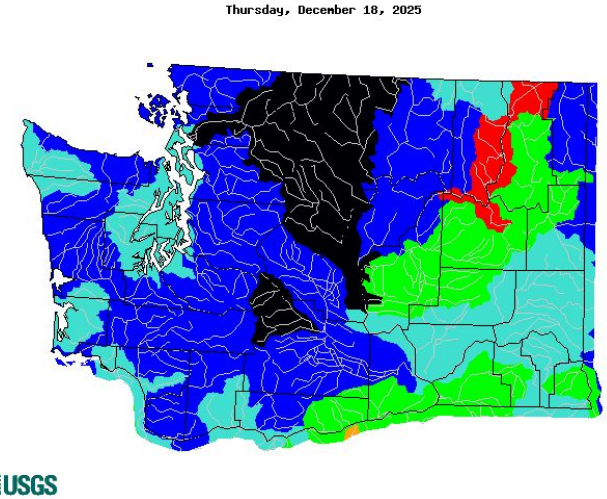
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts - Washington

Main Takeaways

- High streamflows (near 100th percentile) in the Naches and Upper Columbia-Entiat basins
- Much above normal streamflows (>90th percentile) in the Upper and Lower Yakima, Klickitat basins
- Above normal streamflows (76th-90th percentiles) in the Upper Columbia-Priest Rapids, Lower Snake, Lower Snake-Tucannon and Lower Grande Ronde basins
- Near normal streamflows (25th-75th percentiles) for all other 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		

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

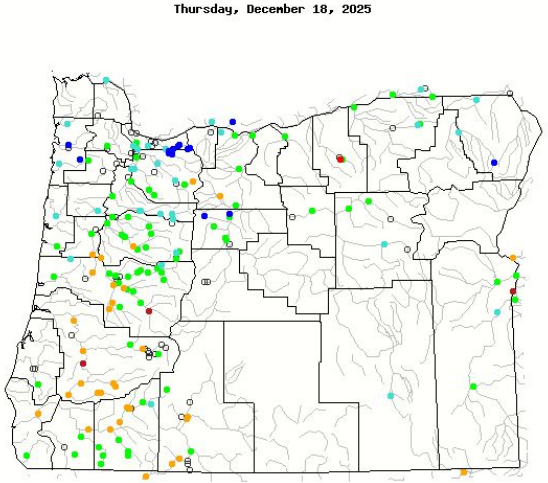
Reduced streamflow may be detrimental to aquatic species and recreational activities.

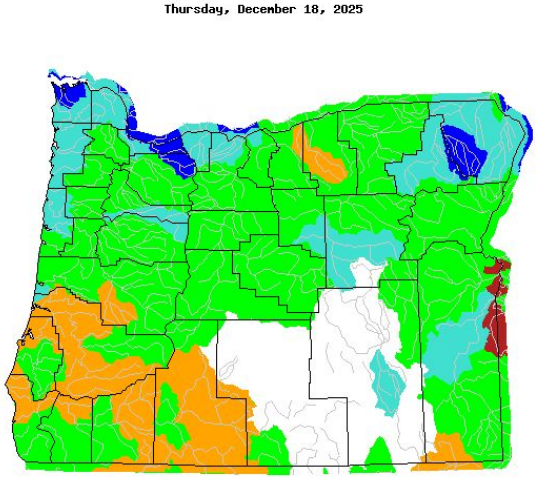
Image Captions:
Right - USGS 7-day average streamflow station map valid December 18, 2025
Left - USGS 7-day average streamflow HUC map valid December 18, 2025
Data Courtesy USGS Water Watch

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts - Oregon

Main Takeaways

- Much above normal streamflows (>90th percentiles) in the Wallowa basin
- Above normal streamflows (75th-90th percentiles) in the Upper Grande Ronde, Lower Grande Ronde, Imnaha, Upper John Day and Middle Columbia-Hood basins
- Below normal streamflows (10th-25th percentile) for the Willow basin
- Near normal streamflows (25th-75th percentile) for all other basins except no data for the Silvies and Summer Lake basin





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Right - USGS 7-day average streamflow station map valid December 18, 2025
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Data Courtesy USGS Water Watch

Water Supply Forecast - April - September 2026

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

Main Takeaways

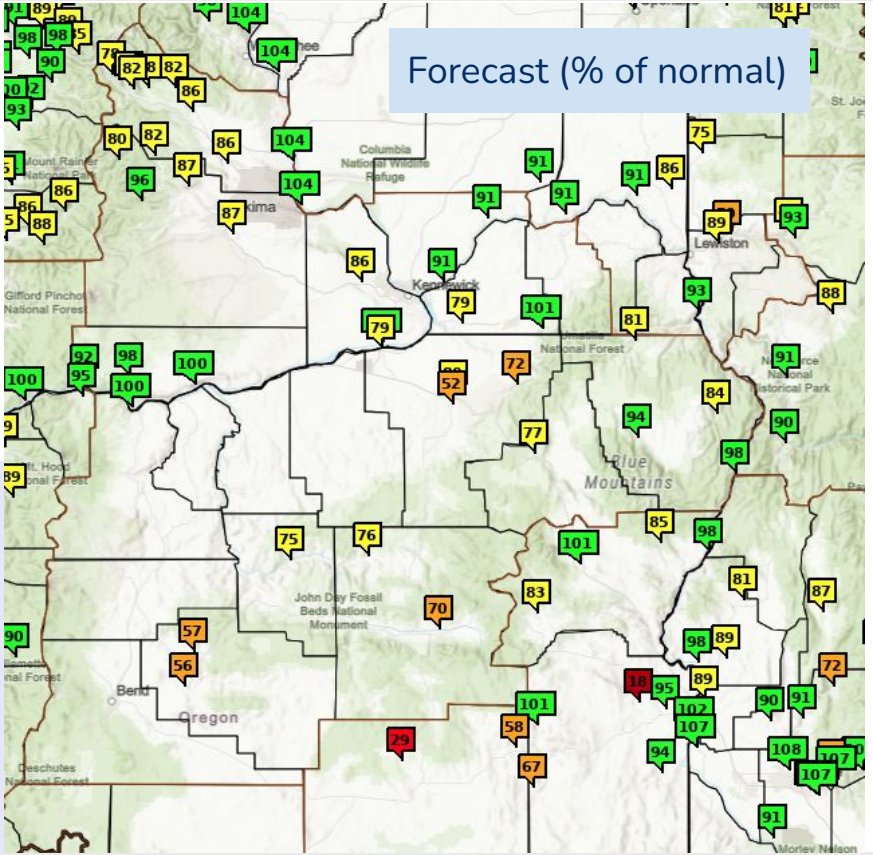
- Below to near normal water supply (80% to 105% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast over most Washington locations for the April - September 2026 period
- Below normal water supply (50% to 80% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast for most locations in Oregon
- These forecasts for 2026 are based on streamflow data from the new water year which started on October 1, 2025

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 December 19, 2025

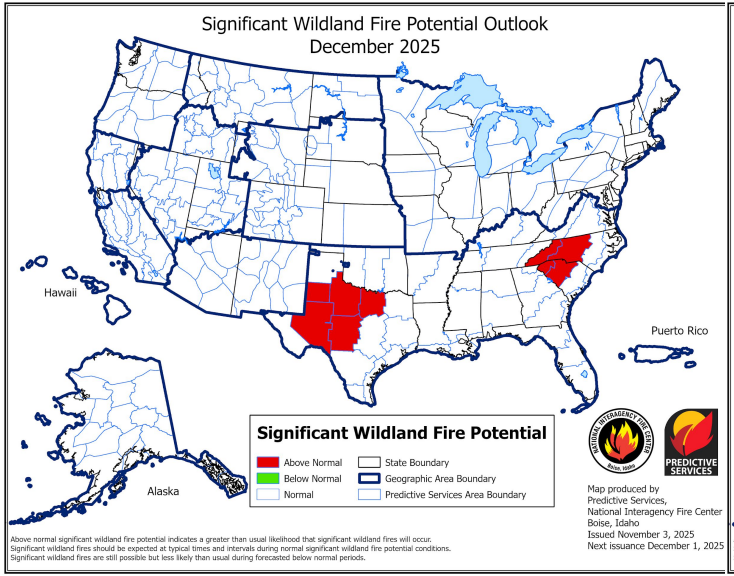


Fire Hazard Impacts - September through December

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

Main Takeaways

- Normal significant wildland fire potential (i.e., normal risk) is forecast for all areas in for December 2025 through March 2026



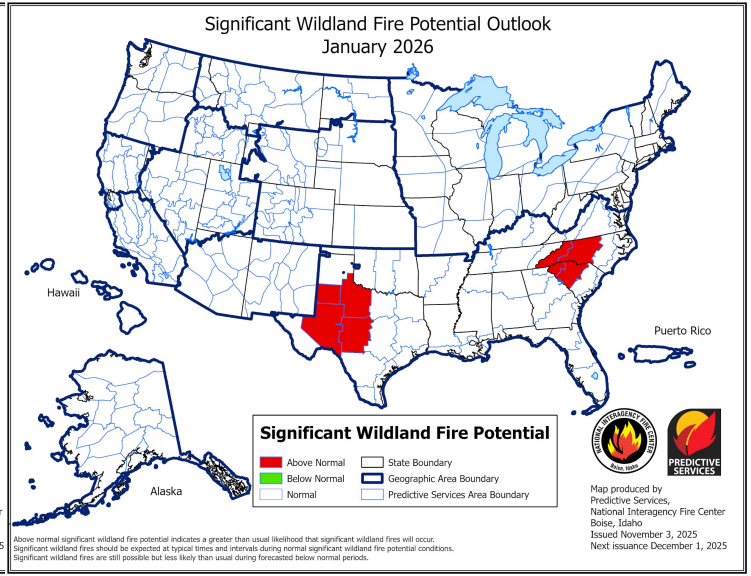


Image Caption:
Left - December 2025
Right - January 2026
Data Courtesy National Interagency Coordination Center
Issued December 1, 2025

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Low pressure offshore will direct systems into the region with periods of low elevation rain and mountain snow
- The Cascade crest is expected receive 1.5 to 5 inches of liquid precipitation (2-4 feet of snow) with 1 to 2.5 inches of liquid precipitation (3 to 9 inches of snow) in the higher elevations of the eastern Oregon mountains
- The Columbia Basin southward into north central and central Oregon will get 0.25 inches or less of rain with the Blue Mountain Foothills getting up to 0.5 inches of rain though light snow possible Monday night and Tuesday.
- Temperatures are expected to remain a few degrees above normal next week
- Breezy to windy conditions possible on Wednesday
- Visit weather.gov/Pendleton for the latest weather forecast

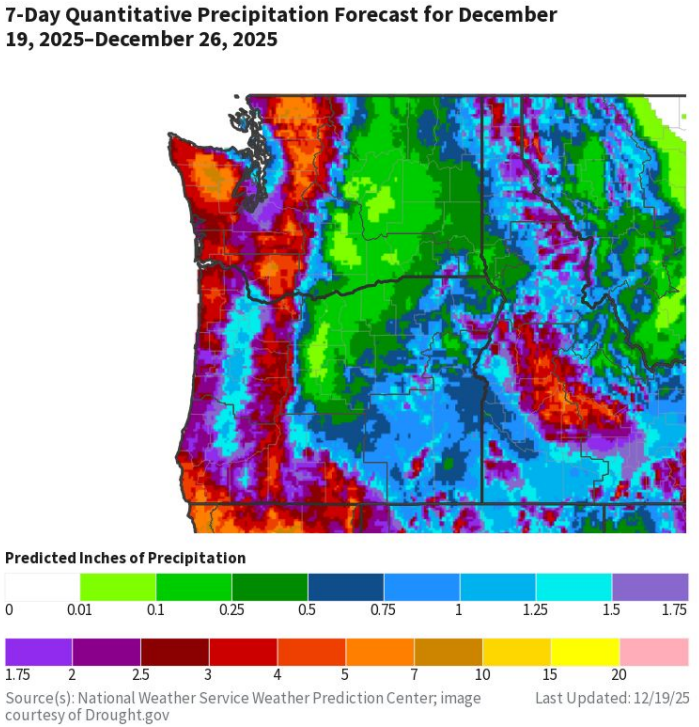


Image Caption:
Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast

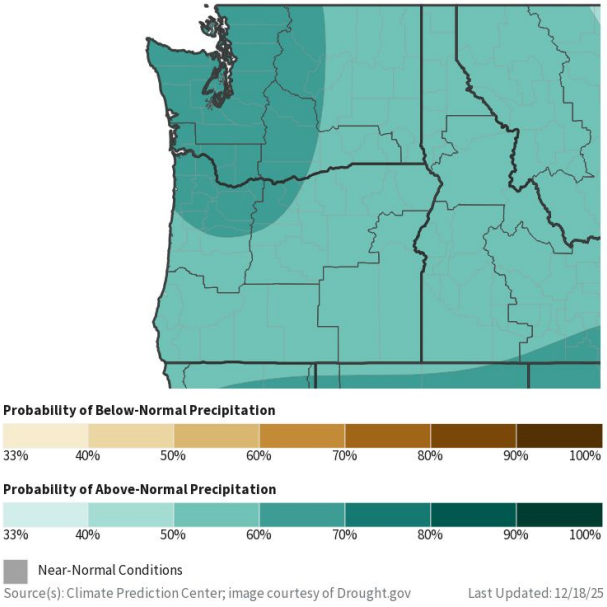
6-10 Day Outlook

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

Main Takeaways

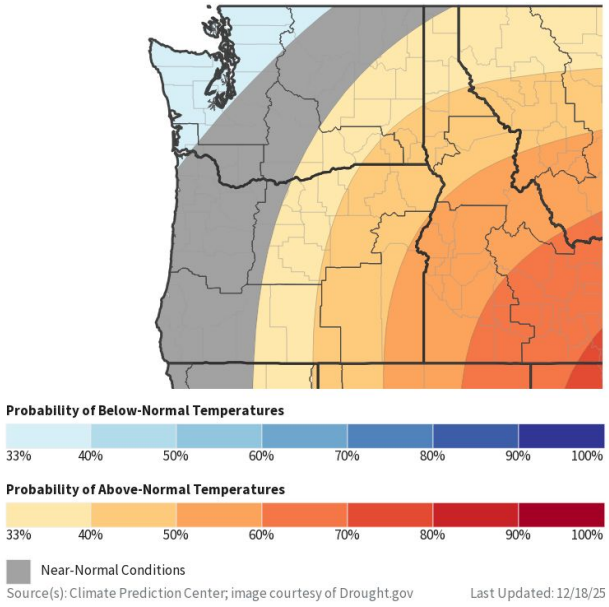
- A 33% to 60% chance of above normal temperatures across the entire area except for near normal in the Cascades and Yakima and Kittitas Valleys
- A 40% to 60% chance of above normal precipitation across the entire area

6–10 Day Precipitation Outlook for December 24, 2025–December 28, 2025



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 12/18/25

6–10 Day Temperature Outlook for December 24, 2025–December 28, 2025



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 12/18/25

Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook.
Valid December 24-28, 2025

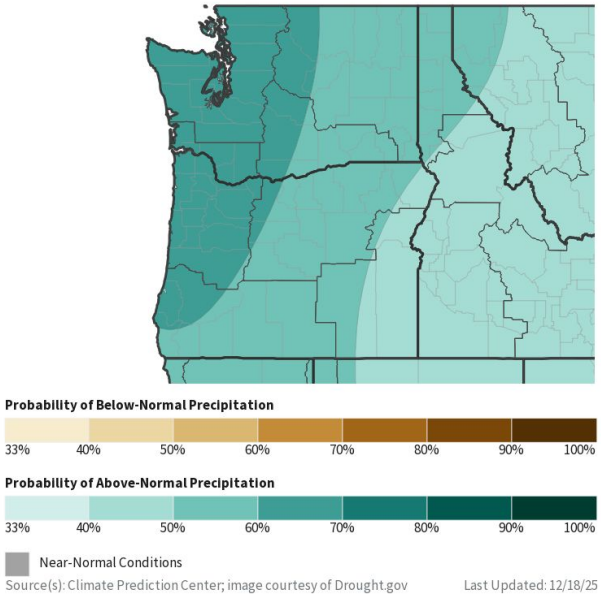
8-14 Day Outlook

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

Main Takeaways

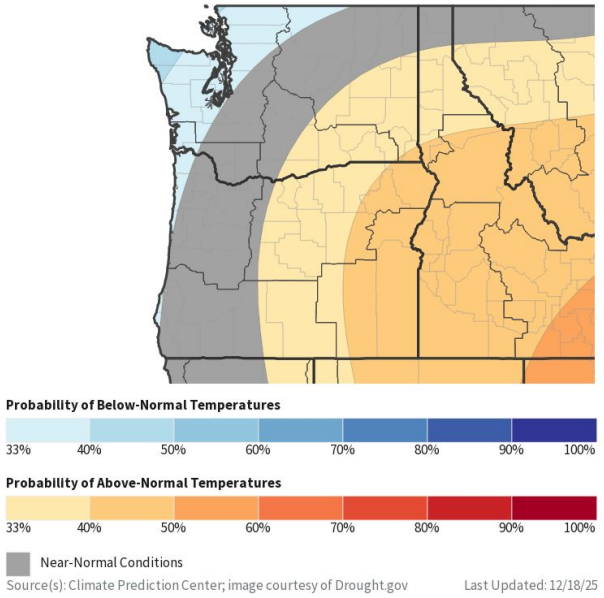
- A 33% to 60% chance of above normal precipitation across the entire area
- A 33% to 50% chance of above normal temperatures across the entire area except for near normal in the Cascades and Yakima and Kittitas Valleys

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for December 26, 2025–January 1, 2026



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 12/18/25

8–14 Day Temperature Outlook for December 26, 2025–January 1, 2026



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 12/18/25

Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook.
Valid December 26 ,2025 - January 1, 2026

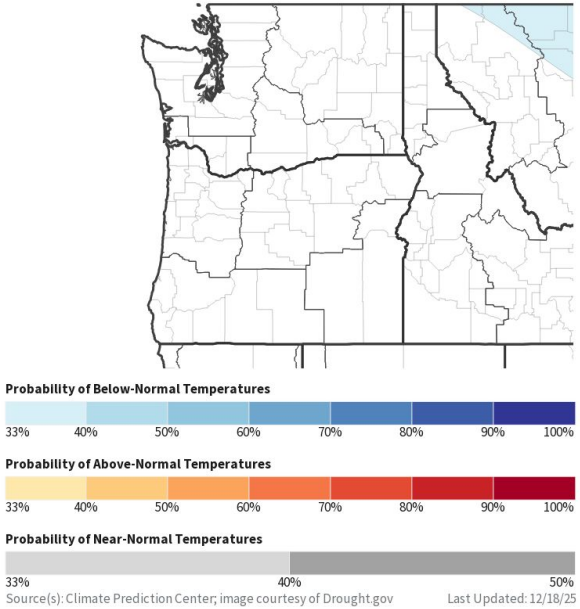
Monthly Climate Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center Monthly Outlook.

Main Takeaways for January 2026

- Equal chances of above, near and below normal temperatures across the entire area
- A 40% to 60% chance of above normal precipitation across the entire area

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



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

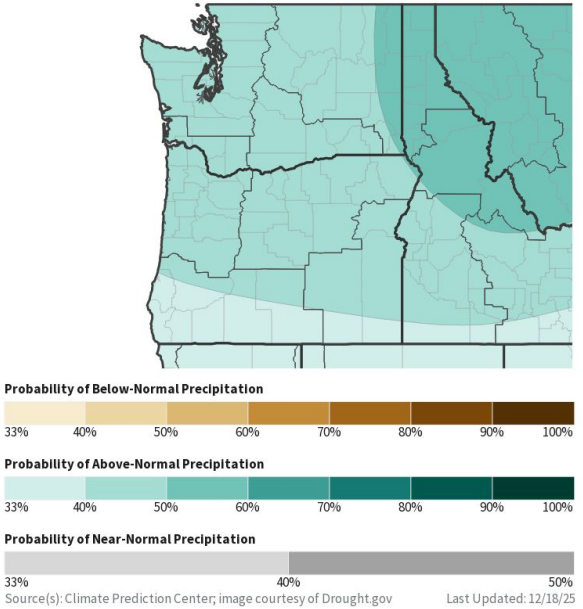


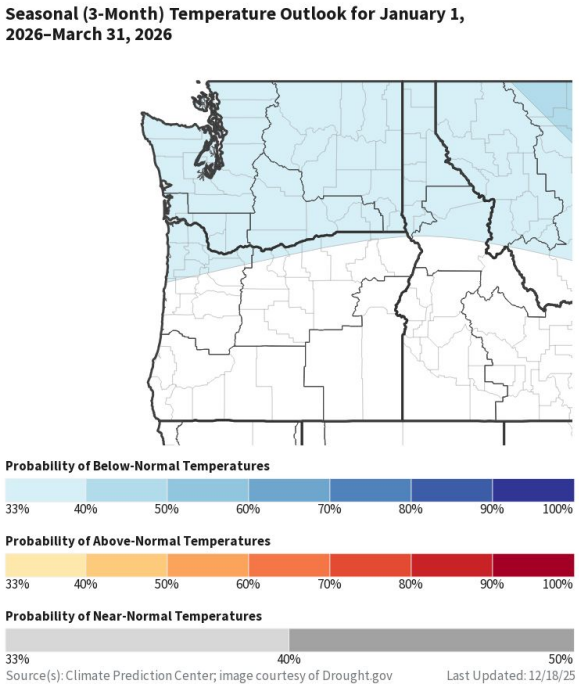
Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook.
Updated December 18, 2025

Seasonal Climate Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Outlook.

Main Takeaways for January-March 2026

- A 33% to 40% chance of below normal temperatures in Washington and far northern Oregon and equal chances of above, below and near normal temperature over the rest of Oregon
- A 33% to 40% chance of above normal precipitation across the entire area



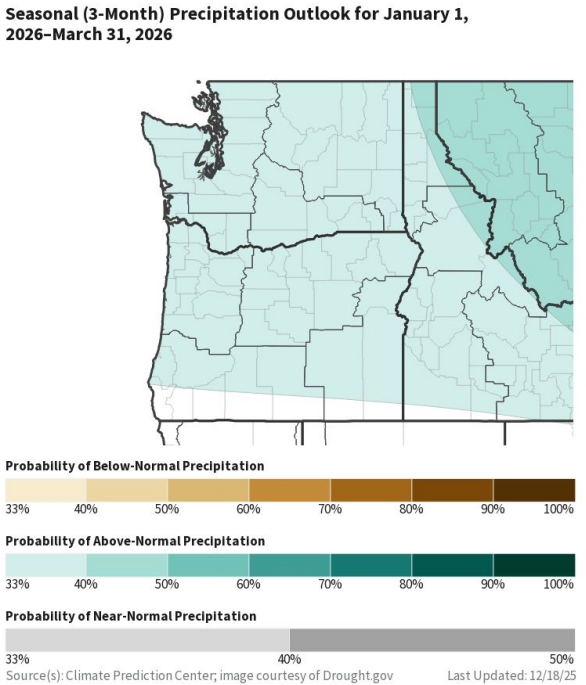


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook.
Valid January 2026 - March 2026

Drought Outlook

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

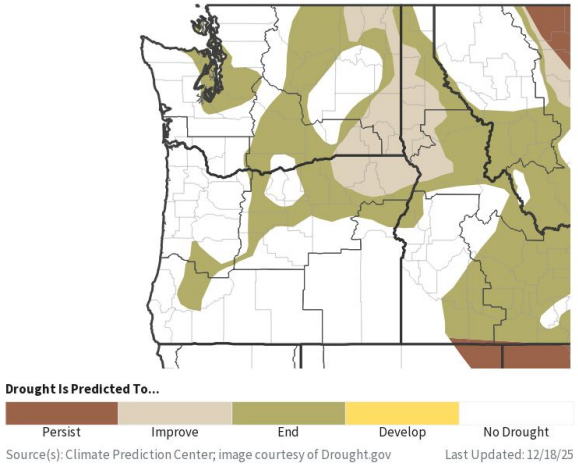
Main Takeaways

- Drought is expected to generally improve or end over the northern portions of the area and remain in No Drought in southern regions and parts of central portions of the area during December 2025
- Drought is expected to generally improve or end over the northern portions of the area and remain in No Drought in southern regions and parts of central portions of the area during mid December 2025 through March 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.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for December 18, 2025–March 31, 2026



1-Month Drought Outlook for December 1, 2025–December 31, 2025

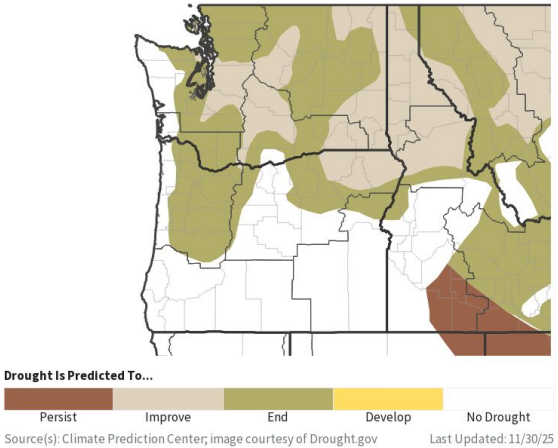


Image Captions:
Right - Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released November 30, 2025
Left - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released December 18, 2025