Monthly Climate Report

NWS Reno NV

Issued: 11/20/2025

Weather Synopsis & Highlights:

Temperatures in October were near to below normal throughout the eastern Sierra, northeast California, and western NV (Figure 1). Meanwhile, precipitation was above normal throughout the NWS Reno service area (Figure 2).

The new water year picked up where the previous water year left off, with a slow moving storm system bringing widespread moderate rainfall across much of western NV and eastern CA mainly on the 2nd (Photo 1). Amounts were generally between 0.25” and 0.75” from the Tahoe basin across western NV including the I-80 and US-50 corridors, with a few sites in west central NV receiving amounts near 1 inch. After this storm departed the region, temperatures remained below average through the 6th before warming to a few degrees above average from the 7th through 10th. Winds increased ahead of a cold front on the 10th, which sent temperatures downward ahead of the next storm system.

A storm system that dropped south along the CA coast before moving inland brought widespread precipitation to much of the region, especially the eastern Sierra and far western NV from the night of the 13th through the morning of the 15th. Liquid amounts ranged from 0.25” to 0.75” across the main urban areas from Reno to Carson City and Minden, with totals up to 1 inch from northeast CA southward across the Tahoe basin and along US-395 in Mono, and between 1 and 2 inches near the Sierra crest and the Carson Range. This storm brought the first notable Sierra snowfall of the 2025-26 winter season, with 6-12” above 7000 feet and locally up to 2 feet near the crest in Mono County (Photo 2). Lighter snowfall up to 4” fall down to lake level in the Tahoe basin and for US-395 communities in Mono County. Temperatures were quite chilly through the duration of this storm event, with highs only in the 50s for many lower elevations and 40s for Sierra communities, about 15-20 degrees below average.

Dry conditions then prevailed from the 16th through 24th except for very light rain (less than 0.05”) near the OR border on the 19th and light rain/high elevation snow showers with isolated thunderstorms mainly south of US-50 on the 22nd, producing rainfall amounts generally between 0.05 and 0.30 inch. Temperatures warmed up to near or slightly above average from the 18th-24th, except for brief cooling on the 20th and 22nd.

During the weekend of the 25th-26th, a strong Pacific storm system brought periods of rain and strong winds across the region. Most of the rain fell over northeast CA and the Tahoe basin, northwest NV and the far western NV foothills with totals between 0.25” and 0.75”. Higher rainfall amounts up to 1.25” were reported for parts of western Lassen County and around the Surprise Valley, with up to 2” liquid (including a few inches of snow on the morning of the 26th) along the Sierra crest west of Tahoe (Photo 3). For the remainder of western NV southward into Mono County, rainfall amounts were sparse but frequent wind gusts of 45-60 mph occurred both days, with the strongest gusts around 90 mph reported in wind prone areas between Reno and Carson City during the early evening of the 26th (Photo 4).

For the remainder of October, dry weather prevailed with light winds and a warming trend, as temperatures climbed to the mid 60s-lower 70s for the final three days of the month.

Hydrology:

No flooding was observed during the month of October, but several rain and high elevation snow events described above helped with a good start to the 2026 water year. Mountain precipitation as measured by the NRCS SNOTEL network indicated all measured basins well above normal for October (Figure 3). In fact, these SNOTEL stations reported the wettest start of the water year since October 2021, when an extremely strong Atmospheric river impacted the region in late October. The 2022 water year was otherwise unremarkable with very little snow accumulation after December. While it is still extremely early in the water year and any outcome is still possible, this fall precipitation does help improve soil moisture conditions before significant snow accumulation, which can benefit the snowmelt runoff efficiency come springtime. NRCS SNOTEL soil moisture along the east side of the Sierra and in the Humboldt are both well above normal for this time of year (Figure 4). Spatially modeled soil moisture shows above normal conditions in northern Nevada and along the Sierra north of about Mono Lake (Figure 5).

October streamflow was near to above normal for most sites in NE California and NW Nevada, but more of a mixed bag along the Humboldt (Figure 6). Major reservoirs in the regions are generally near to above median for this time of year with the exception of Lahontan which is currently about 80% of median (Figure 7). Only the Walker Basin reservoirs have greater end of October storage this year than last year.

Drought Update:

Late summer and early fall precipitation have helped improve the drought conditions in the area. A large area of D1 (moderate drought) in Churchill and eastern Pershing and Mineral counties was improved to D0 (abnormally dry) in October. The abnormally dry area was also greatly reduced in far Western Nevada and Eastern California. Now slightly more than half of the NWS Reno service area is classified as abnormally dry, with most of the remainder being drought free. Only a small sliver of E Mineral county remains in moderate drought (Figure 8). The Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI) for October reflects the generally favorable conditions, especially in NE California and NW Nevada (Figure 9).

Additional Information on Drought and Climate:

Report Drought conditions here
Nevada statewide Drought update
NV State Climate Office
NV Living with Drought
Drought Monitor
New Drought.gov
California Nevada Drought Early Warning System
NOAA CPC Drought page
CNAP Drought tracker
California Nevada River Forecast Center

[WRCC Drought Tracker]
[WRCC Enso page]
[WRCC Monthly Climate Summaries]
[Evaporative Demand Drought Index]
[US Seasonal Drought Outlook]

Contact NWS Reno Climate Team
rev.climate@noaa.gov 775-673-8100
https://www.weather.gov/rev/

Photos:

Photo 1. Double rainbow over Peavine from NWS office 10/2/25 NWS staff

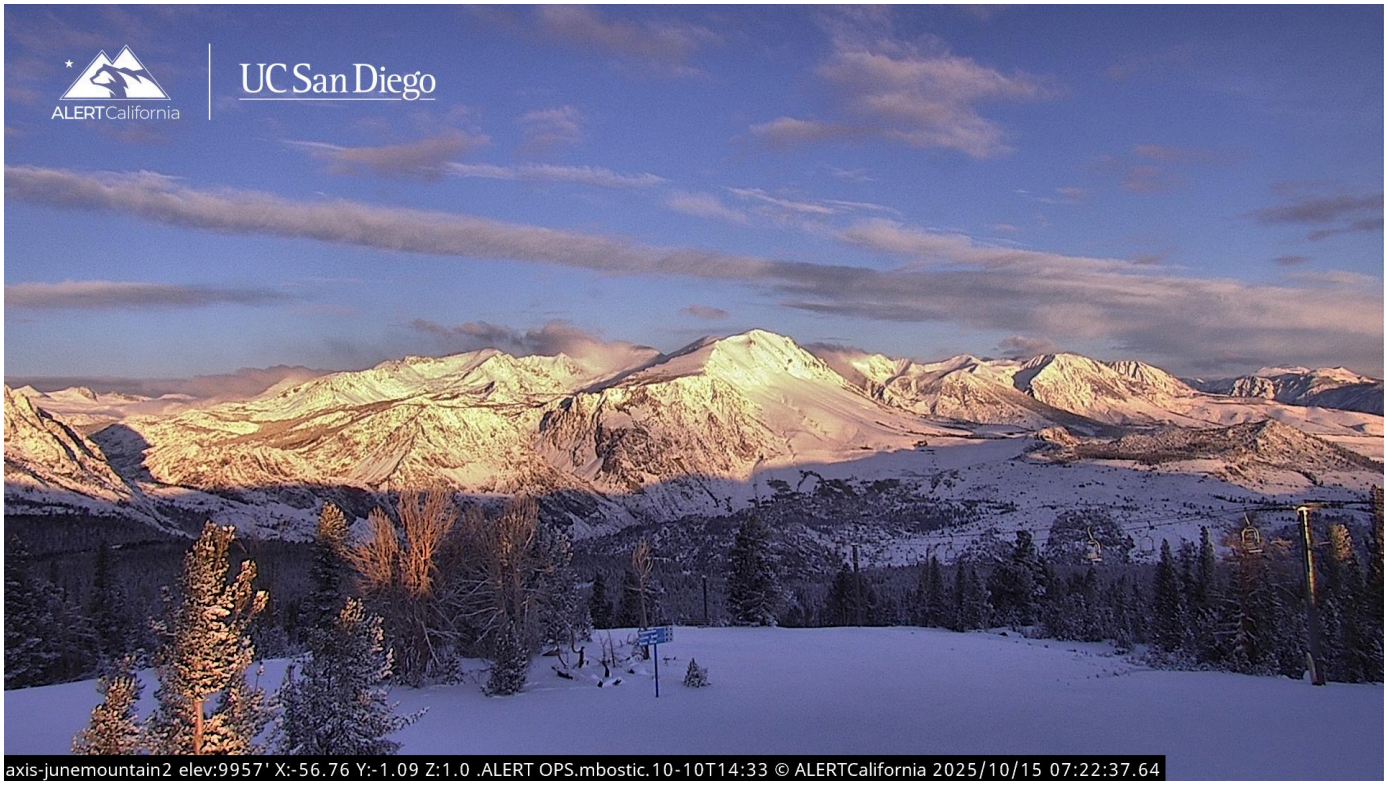


Photo 2: Upwards of one to two feet of snow fell in the eastern Sierra mid-month, with the heaviest snow in Mono County. Photo courtesy of UC San Diego.

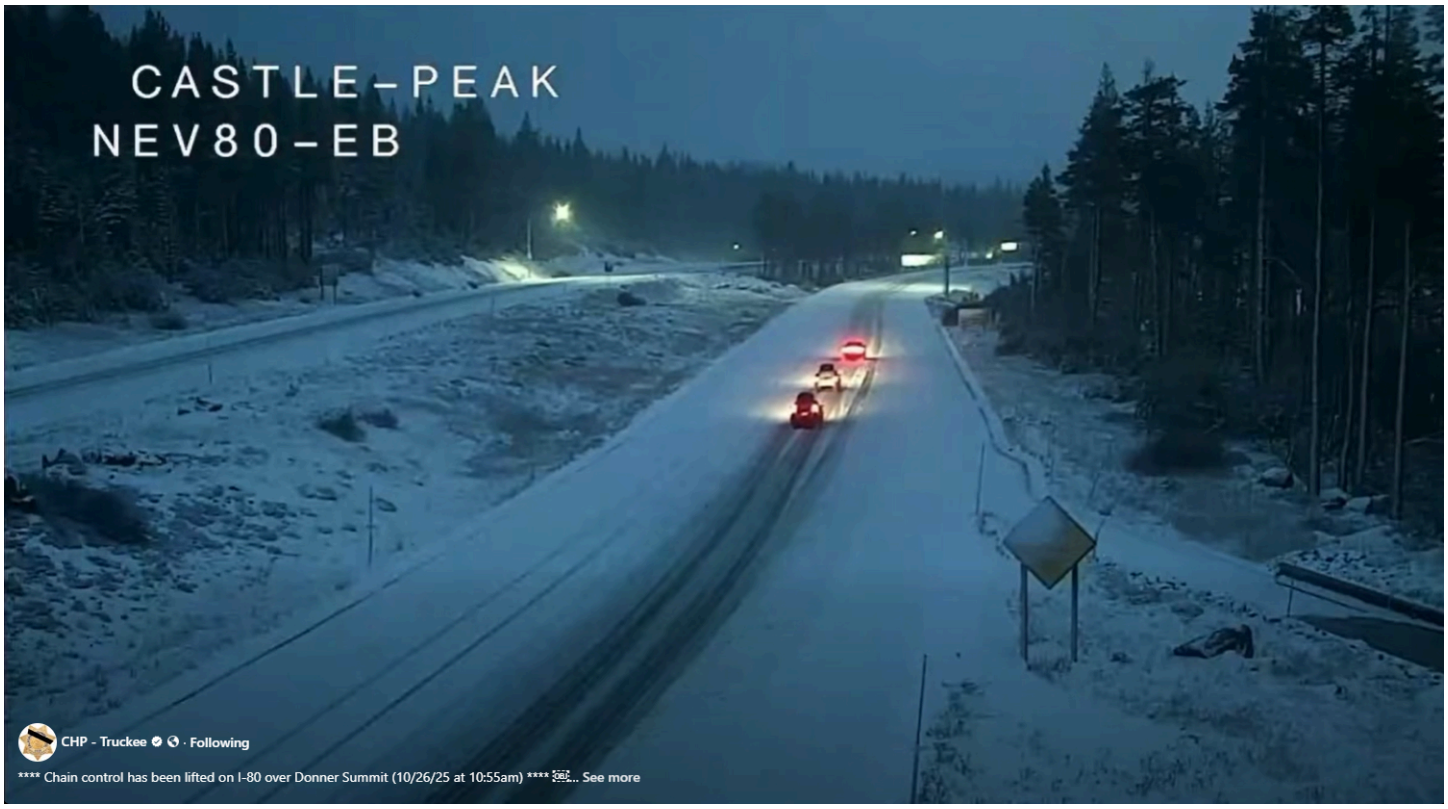


Photo 3: Snowfall during the afternoon of the 26th led to chain controls on I-80 over Donner Pass. Photo courtesy of CalTrans, posted by CHP Truckee via Facebook.

Photo 4: Very strong winds upwards of 80-90 mph developed on the 26th throughout western NV, causing localized damage and semi-truck rollovers on I-580. Courtesy of 2 News Nevada via X.

Figures:

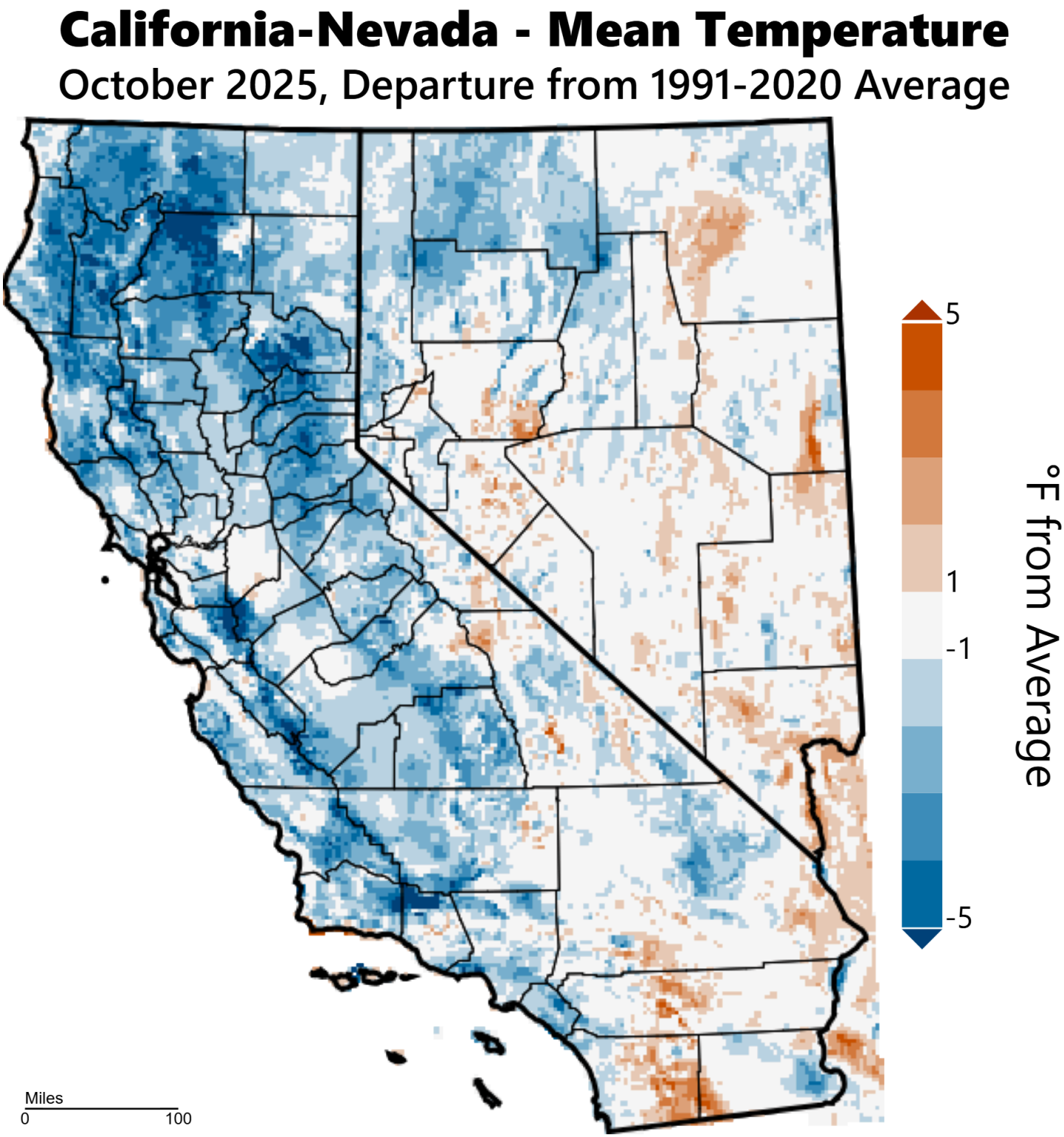


Figure 1: Departure from normal temperatures for October 2025.(WWDT)

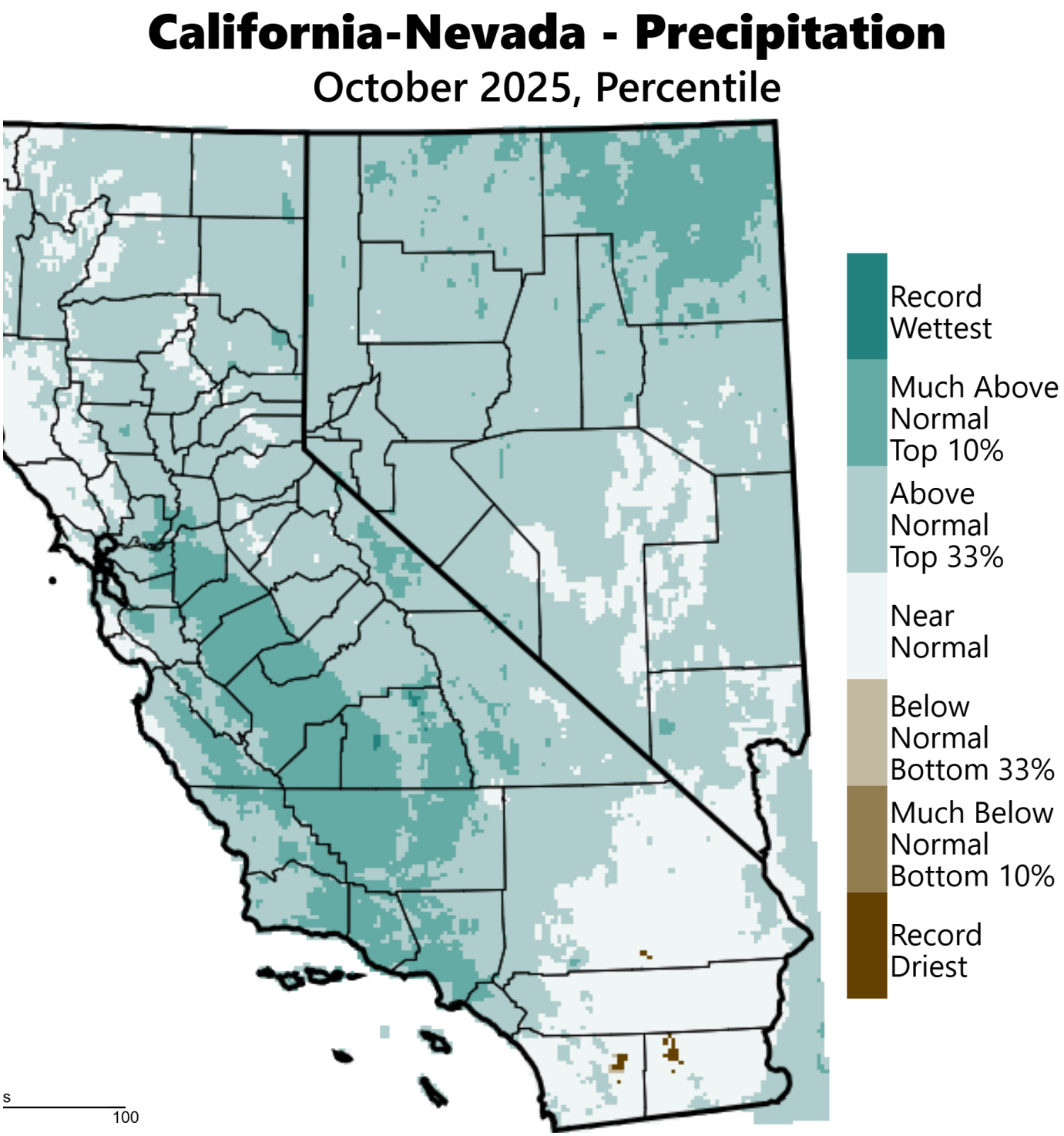


Figure 2: Percent of normal precipitation for October 2025. (WWDT)

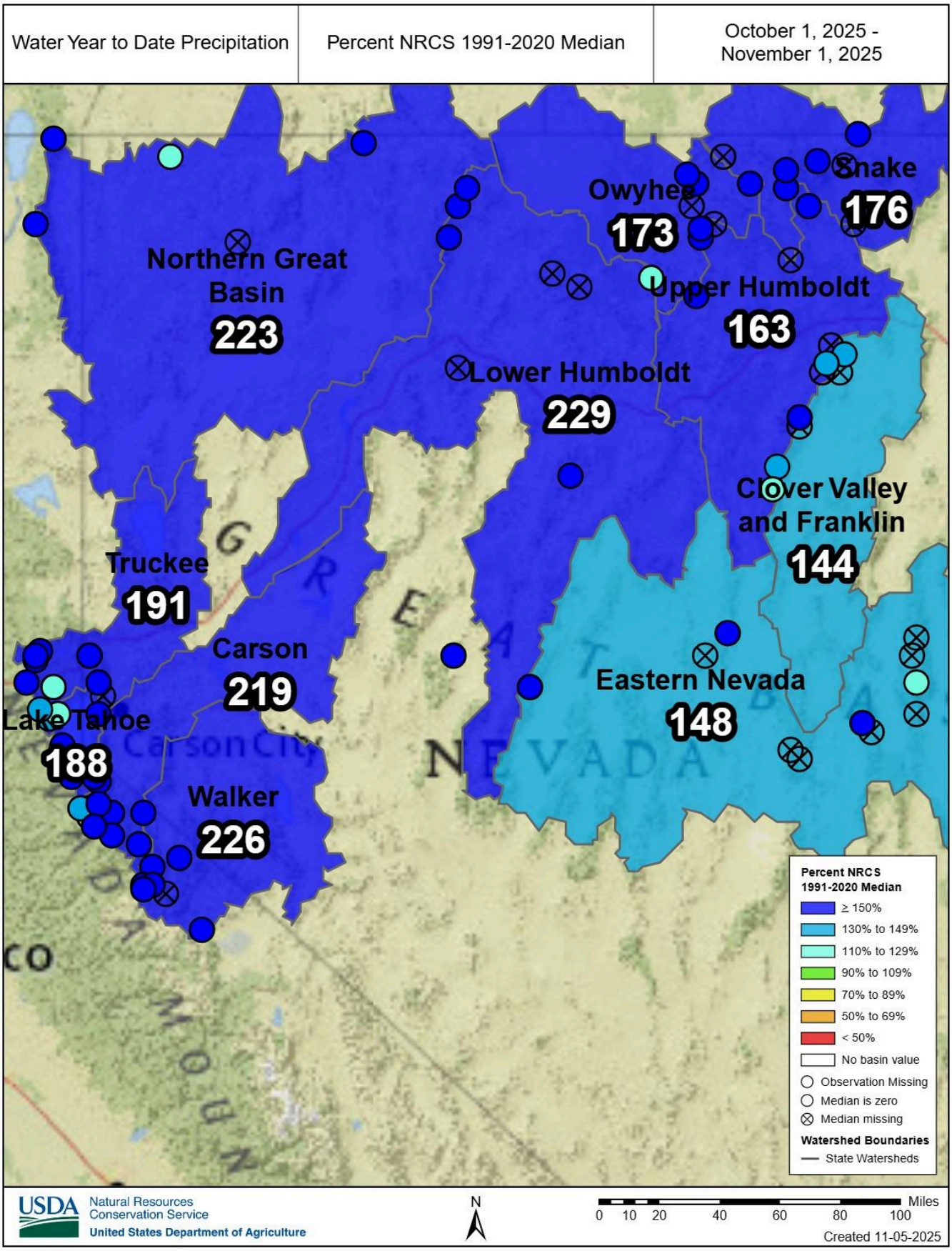
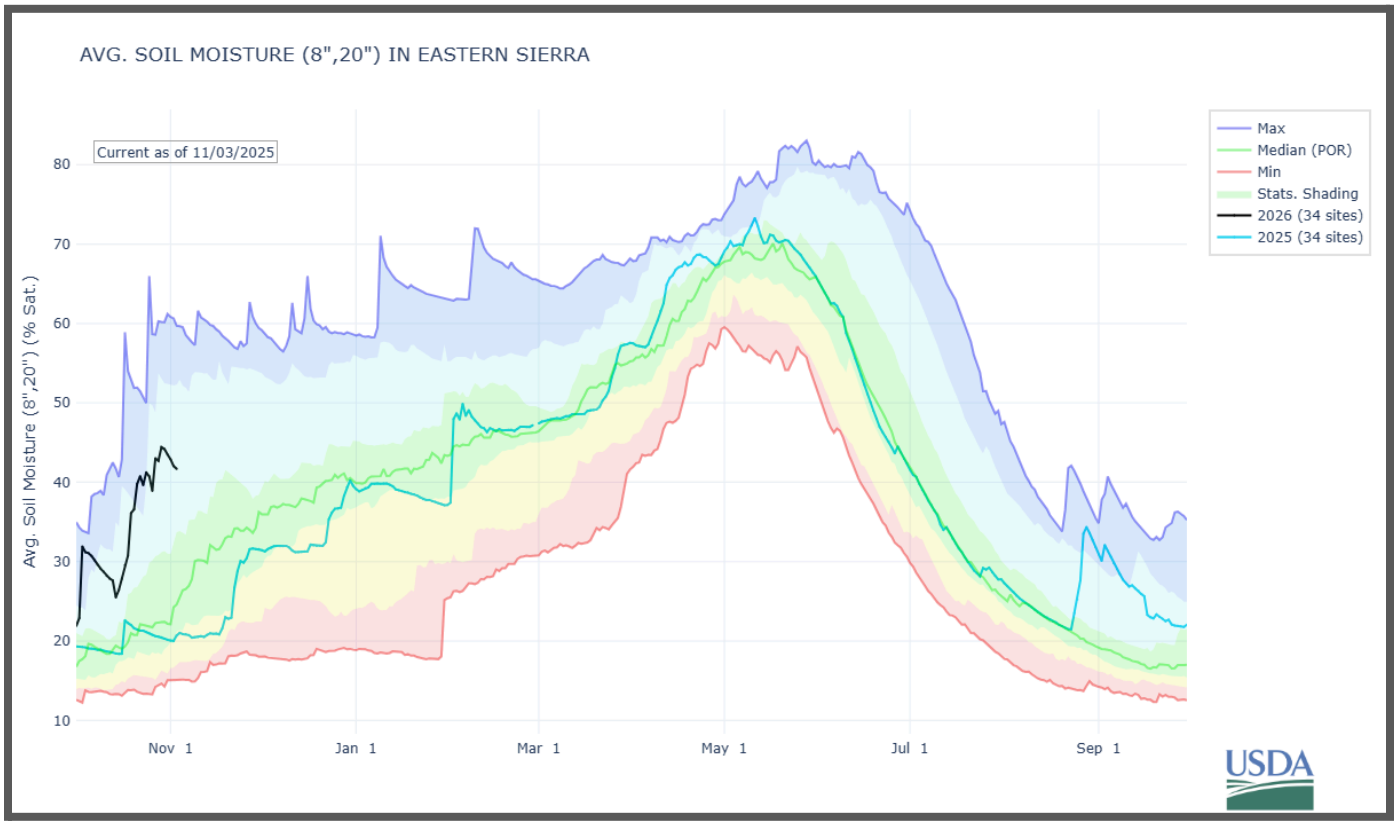


Figure 3: SNOTEL Precipitation for October.



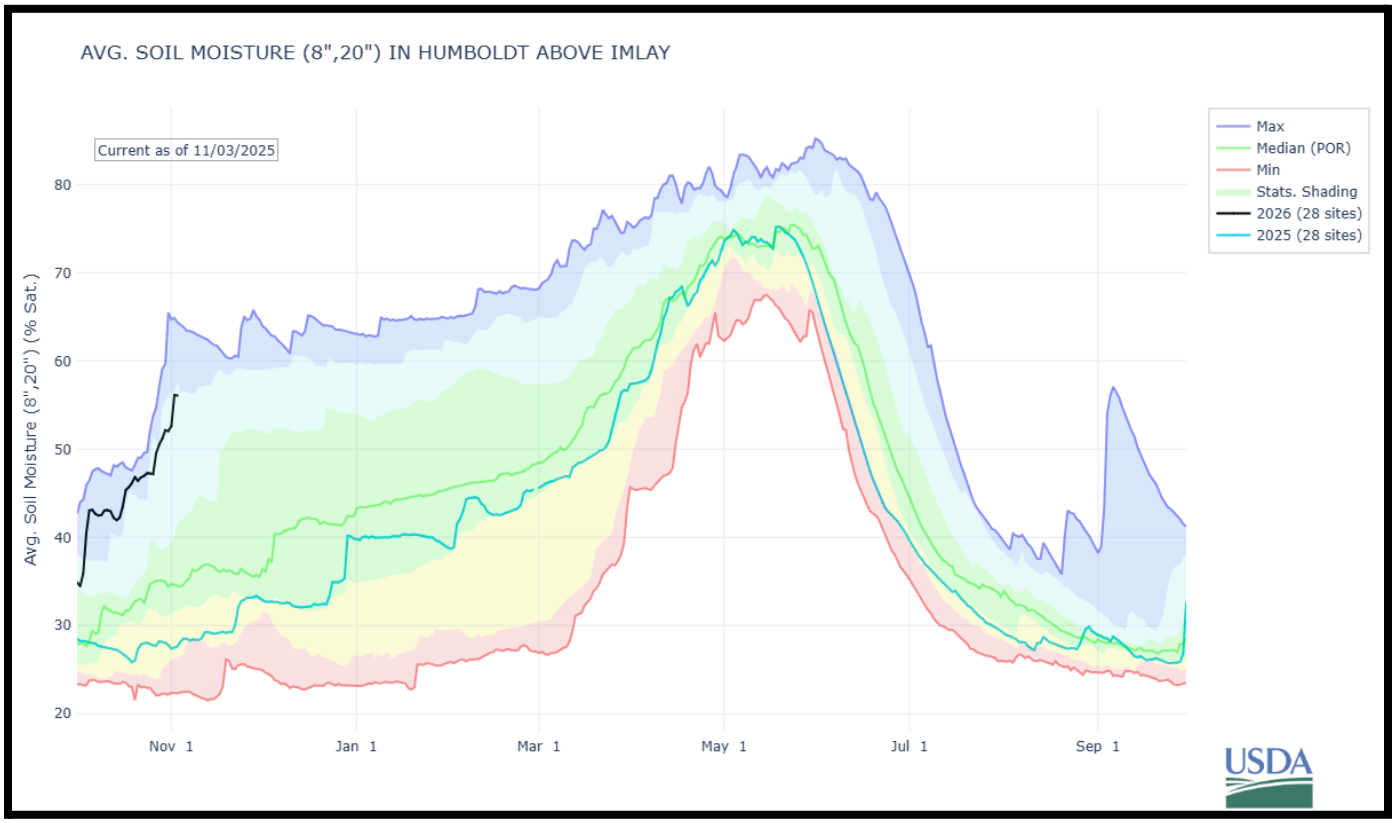


Figure 4: NRCS SNOTEL soil moisture for the combined Tahoe, Truckee, Carson and Walker basins (top), and Humboldt basin (bottom) indicated in black for the water year 2026. Water year 2025 is plotted in green for additional perspective.

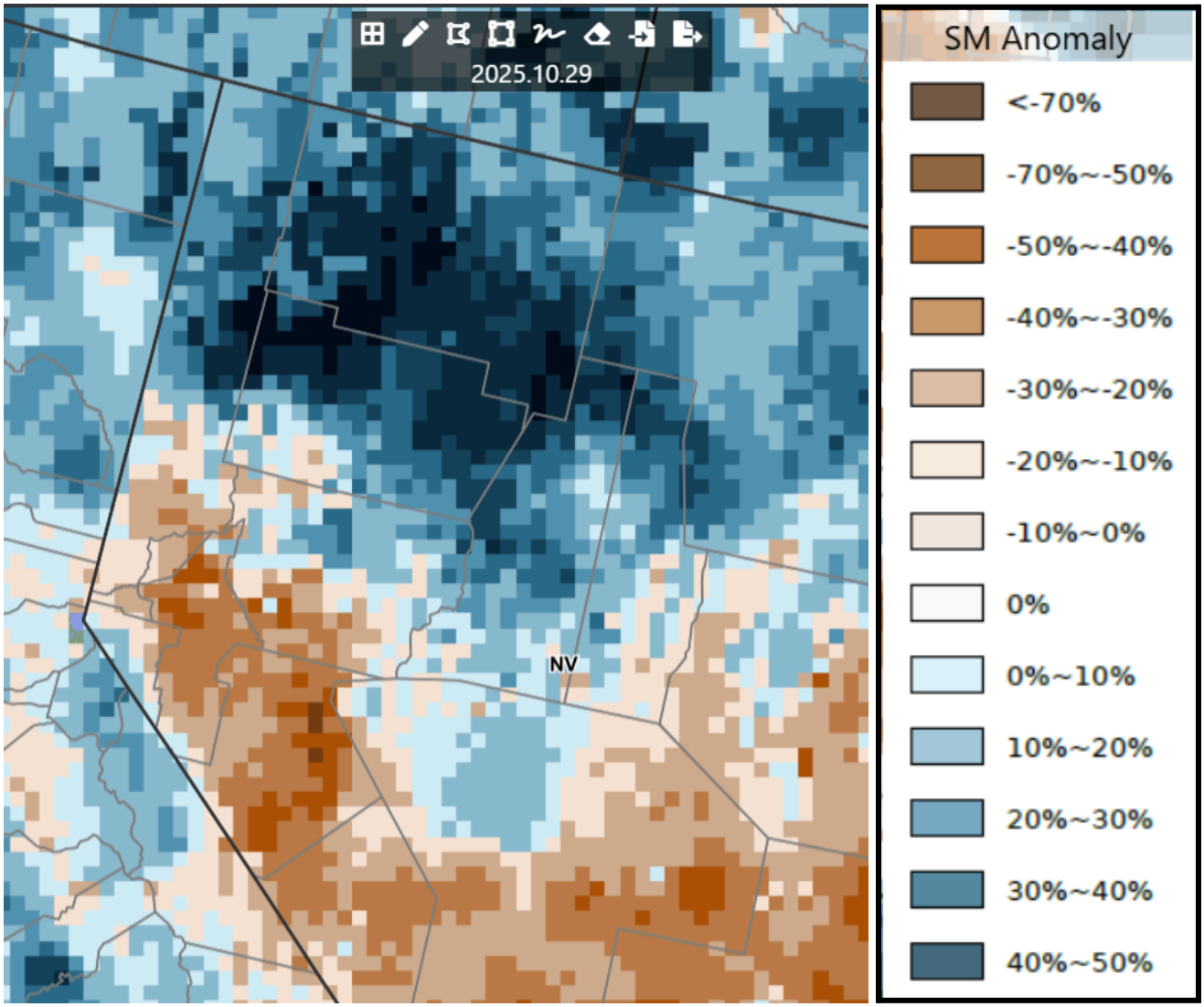
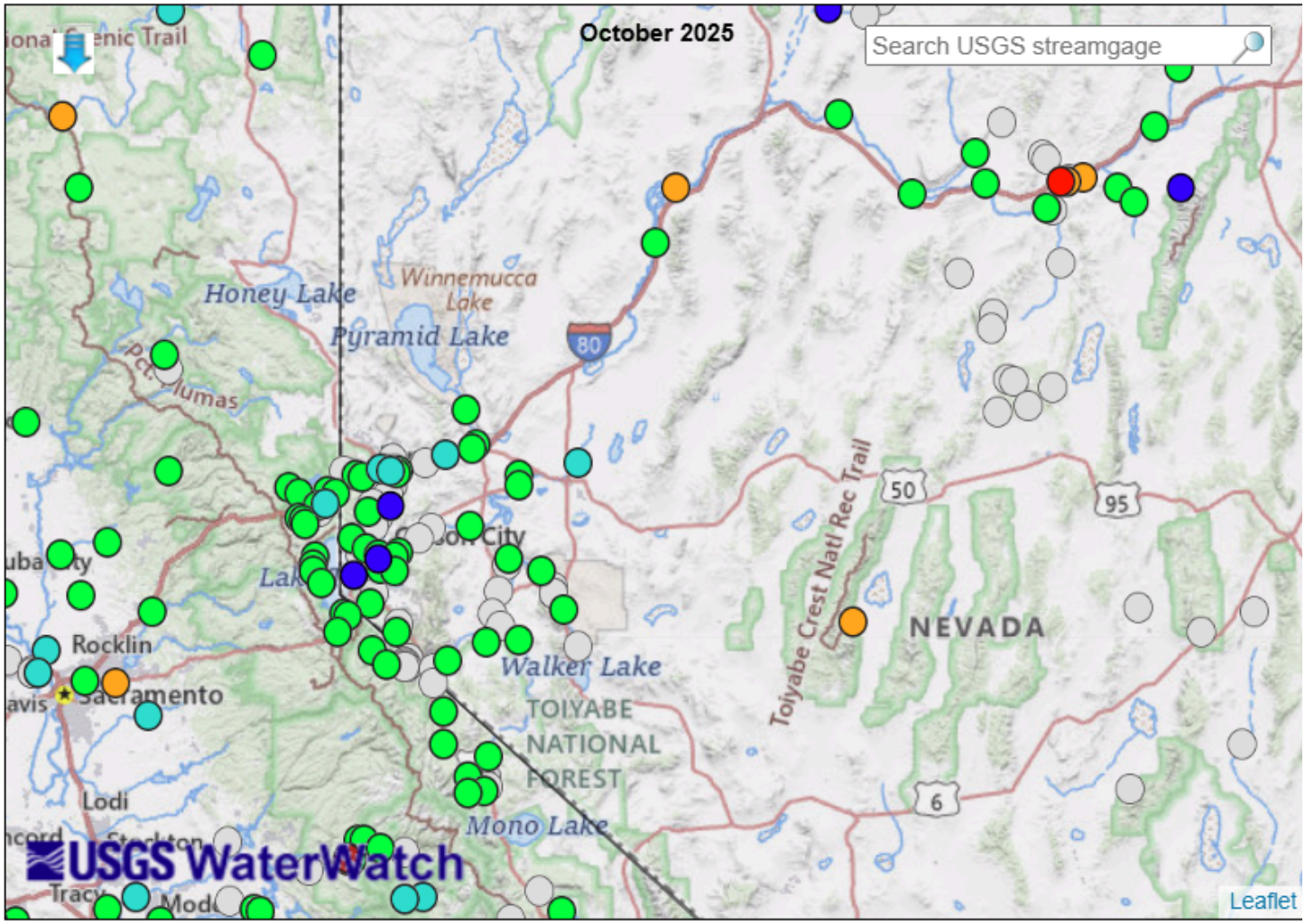


Figure 5. Crop-CASMA Soil Moisture Anomaly 10/29/25



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	Not-ranked
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Figure 6: USGS Monthly streamflow for October.

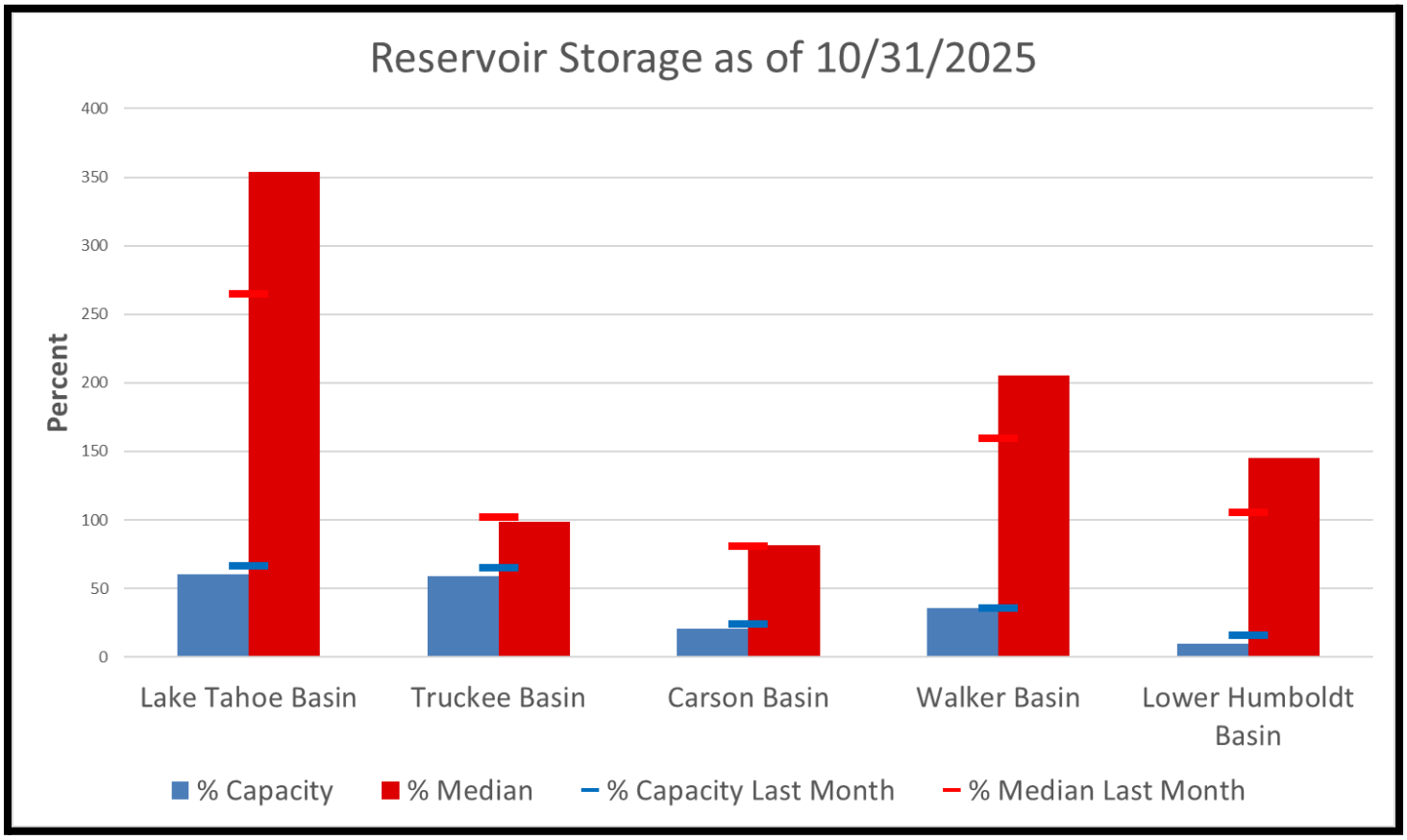
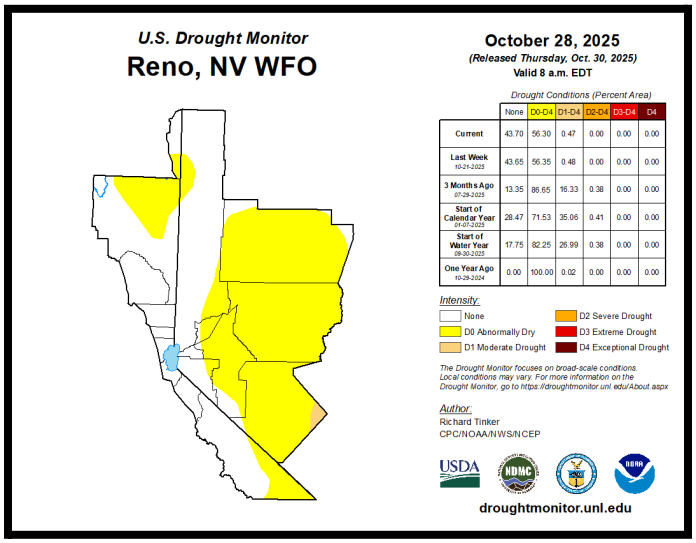


Figure 7. End of October reservoir storage relative to capacity and **median*** for this month and last month. Only the Walker Basin has more storage this year than last year at this time.(*compared to NRCS 1991-2020 median values)



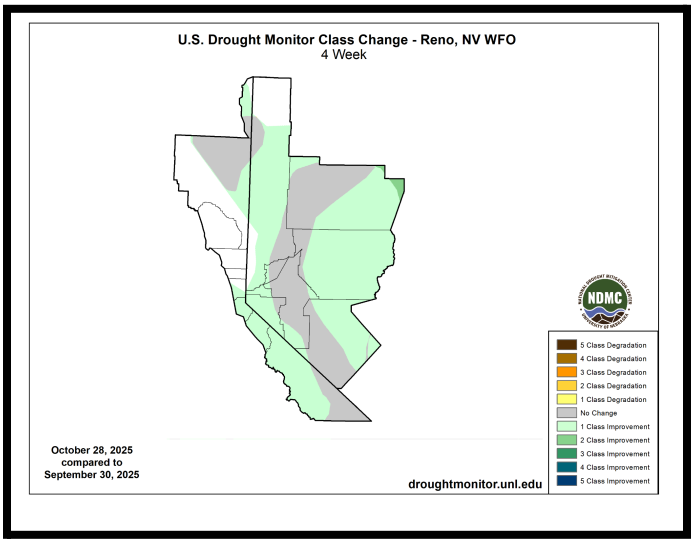


Figure 8: October 28th Drought Monitor Status and four week change map. Check for updates at: Drought Monitor.

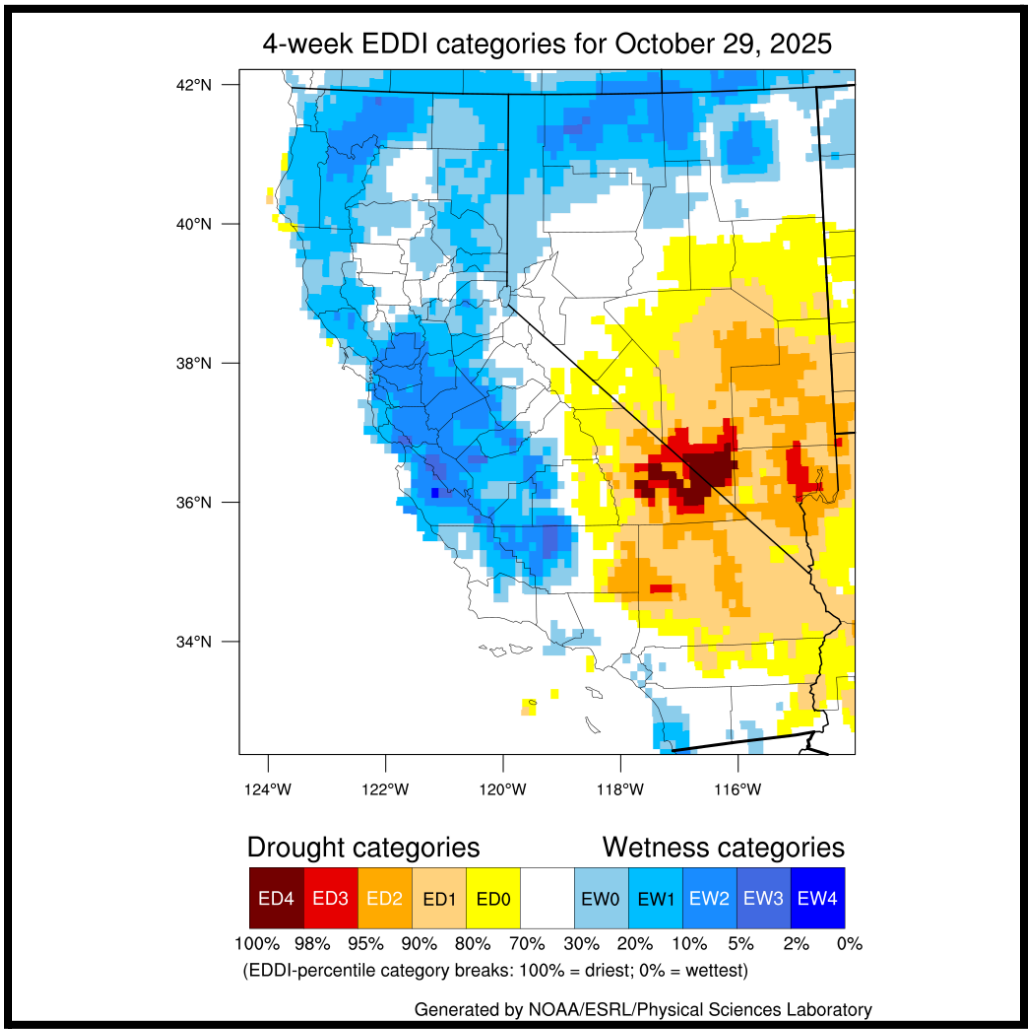


Figure 9. Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI) for October.