



Monthly Climate Report

NWS Reno NV

Issued: 8/7/2026



Weather Synopsis & Highlights:

July 2026 temperatures were near average to about 2 degrees warmer than average in most areas. Some exceptions included far northwest and west central NV and far southern Mono County which were 2-5 degrees above average, while far western Lassen County was about 2 degrees below average (Figure 1). Precipitation was wetter (up to 150% of average) in much of western NV and the eastern Sierra, with the majority of the Tahoe basin and parts of Pershing and Churchill counties receiving over 200% of average. However, since July is a typically dry month, it only takes a well placed thunderstorm or band of showers to produce these wetter anomalies. Areas that received less than 50% of July average precipitation included northern Lassen County and the Surprise Valley, far northwest NV, the northern half of Lyon County and eastern Churchill County (Figure 2).

July began with cooler than average temperatures with highs only in the lower-mid 80s in lower elevations and lower 70s near the Sierra. Most areas were dry, although isolated rain showers and thunderstorms moved across parts of the Sierra and west central NV on the 2nd and 3rd. A warming trend then followed with highs in the 90s for the USA's 250th anniversary on July 4.

A cooler and cloudy day followed on the 5th with spotty light rain showers for parts of western NV and the eastern Sierra, and isolated thunderstorms in far northeast CA and northwest NV. Drier and warmer conditions then returned from the 6th through 10th, with periods of increased afternoon breezes especially on the 10th when Red Flag Warnings were in effect for northeast CA and parts of western NV. Temperatures peaked on the 11th with highs surpassing near or above 100 degrees for western NV valleys. These dry and breezy conditions also led to the first large wildfire of the month, the Elephant Fire, which began on the 11th and burned nearly 14,000 acres in northeast CA around the intersection of Plumas, Sierra and Lassen counties.

Shortly before the mid-point of the month, a surge of deeper monsoonal moisture spread across western NV and eastern CA. Bands of rain showers and thunderstorms produced widespread wetting rainfall totals of 0.10" to nearly 1" for much of western NV and eastern CA on the 13th and 14th. The heaviest rainfall occurred west of US-395 in Mono County and northward along the Sierra and the CA-NV border to southern Lassen County, with some locations receiving totals of 1" or more. Most of this rain fell at a steady but not excessive rate, with the exception of an area of NW Reno that experienced minor flooding detailed in the hydrology section.

Drier weather returned from the 15th through 17th, before shower and thunderstorm activity increased again. Initial activity was isolated with only spotty light rainfall on the 18th and 19th, although a dry lightning strike on the 18th led to the largest wildfire of the season so far, the Biscar Fire which started in east central Lassen County and spread into west central Washoe County, eventually burning almost 70,000 acres through late July.

The most active days for thunderstorms associated with another monsoonal moisture push occurred on the 20th and 21st. Rainfall on the 20th was greatest across parts of Mono County with up to 0.75" from Bodie to Bridgeport and near Benton, with lighter amounts generally 0.25" or less spreading across western NV. Storms were more numerous on the 21st from Mono County northward across west central NV, with patches of heavier rainfall between 0.40" to 1". Across the rest of the region, storms were more isolated with lighter rainfall amounts from a trace up to near 0.30".

For the final 10 days of July, isolated showers and thunderstorms lingered across parts of eastern Mono County and west central NV from the 22nd-25th, with a few storms in southern Mineral County producing brief heavy rainfall and minor flooding on the 24th. Otherwise, dry weather prevailed for the remainder of the month. From the 24th through 26th, Red Flag warnings were in effect across northeast CA, northwest and far western NV due to increasing winds combined with lower humidity. Lightning over far eastern Churchill County on the 25th produced the New Pass Fire which grew to over 30,000 acres by the end of the month. Temperatures near or above 100 degrees in lower elevations on the 23rd and 24th eased back to near average highs of mid-upper 90s from the 25th through 29th, before climbing above 100 degrees again by the end of the month.

Hydrology:

Besides a few active thunderstorm days near the middle of the month, July was a fairly benign month for Hydrology. July 13th storms produced about 45 minutes of very heavy rainfall in NW Reno that led to some minor street flooding along Keystone and Washington avenues. Additional storms on July 20th, 21st and 24th produced areas of heavy rain mostly in Mono and Mineral Counties, but no flooding impacts were reported. Please let us know if we missed anything in your area.

July marked the end of the traditional snowmelt runoff and April-July water supply forecast season. While this season was notable for front loaded runoff, much occurring in late February and March, we thought it might be of interest to quickly review the April-July observed runoff and see how it compared to the forecasts back on April 1st. A summary of seasonal river forecast points observed vs. forecast volumes can be found in Figure 3. Most April-July observed flows fell within the 10th and 90th percentile exceedance ranges. Some areas benefitted from April storms and observed flows exceeded the median forecast.

Mountain precipitation as measured by SNOTEL was well above normal for all measured watersheds (Figure 4). While these numbers look very impressive, especially for the Tahoe basin, remember that July is typically the driest month of the season, and the median precipitation for the Tahoe basin over the month is about 0.15", so it does not take a lot to have high percentages. Water year to date mountain precipitation remains near normal for the watersheds draining the east side of the Sierra, and moderately below normal for NE California and NW Nevada (Figure 5). Late June and July storms helped improve mountain soil moisture, especially in the Humboldt basin where it improved from record lows (Figure 6). Satellite-derived soil moisture shows generally below normal conditions throughout most of the region, with a wet anomaly in Northern Inyo county (Figure 7). Water year observed flow to date remains near to above normal for rivers and streams draining the east side of the Sierra, and well below normal for rivers and streams in northeastern CA and far northern Nevada (Figure 8 left side). USGS low flow locations are plotted in Figure 8 right side. End of July reservoir storage shows Tahoe still well above normal and the Walker slightly above normal for this time of year, while the Truckee and Carson have fallen slightly below normal. Rye Patch on the lower Humboldt is below 20% of normal (Figure 9).

Drought Update:

The U.S. Drought Monitor depicts the slight majority of the NWS Reno service area in D0 (abnormally dry) , and about 30% of the area in D1 (moderate drought), with D2 Severe drought covering about 11% of the area, and mostly confined to eastern Pershing County (Figure 10 top). Only a very small sliver was changed last month from D0 to D1 in extreme NW Washoe and NE Modoc counties (Figure 10 bottom). The very warm water year temperatures (Figure 11) contributed to early snowmelt, drying soils and low summer streamflows. Areawide water year precipitation has been generally near to slightly below average (Figure 12).

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

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<https://www.weather.gov/rev/>

Photos:

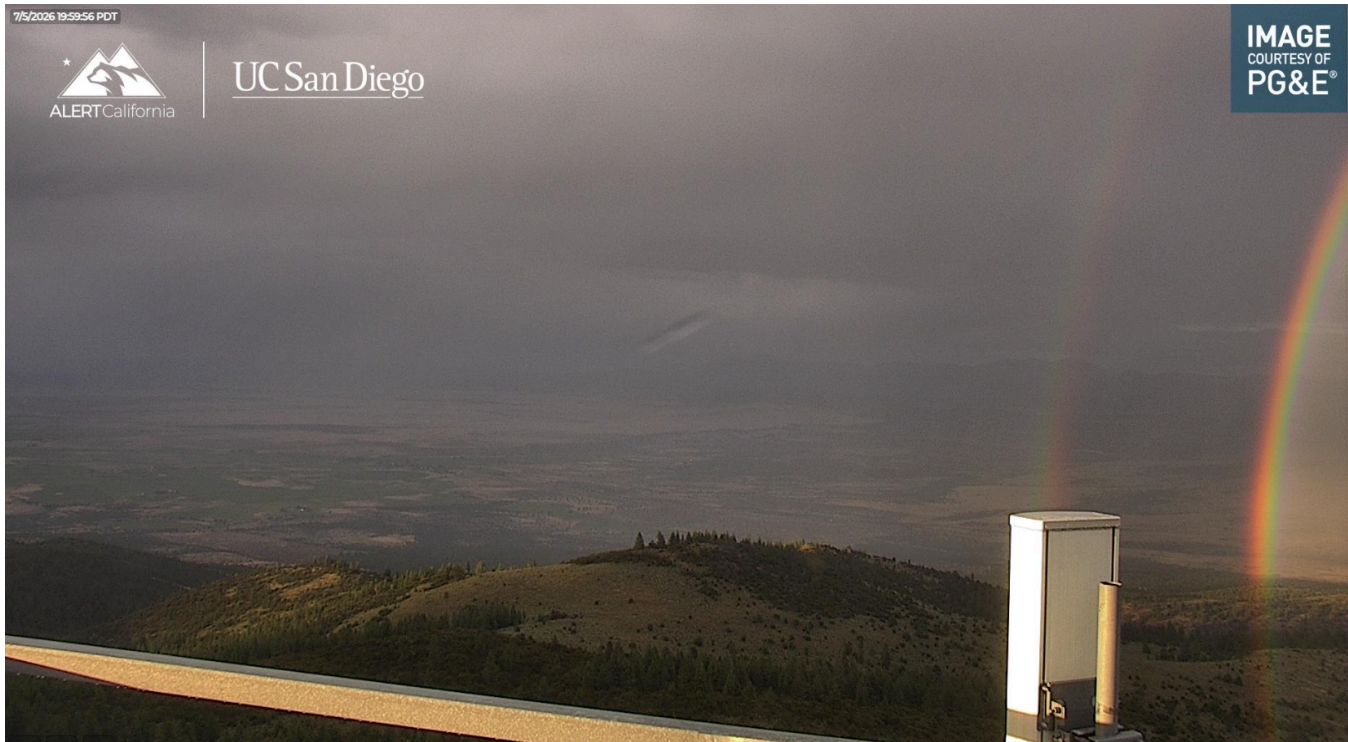


Photo 1. Double rainbow between t-storms in northeast CA near the Lassen-Modoc county line from July 5, image courtesy UC San Diego / PG&E utility.



Photo 2. Rain with a lightning strike, looking south from NWS Reno during the late afternoon of July 13.

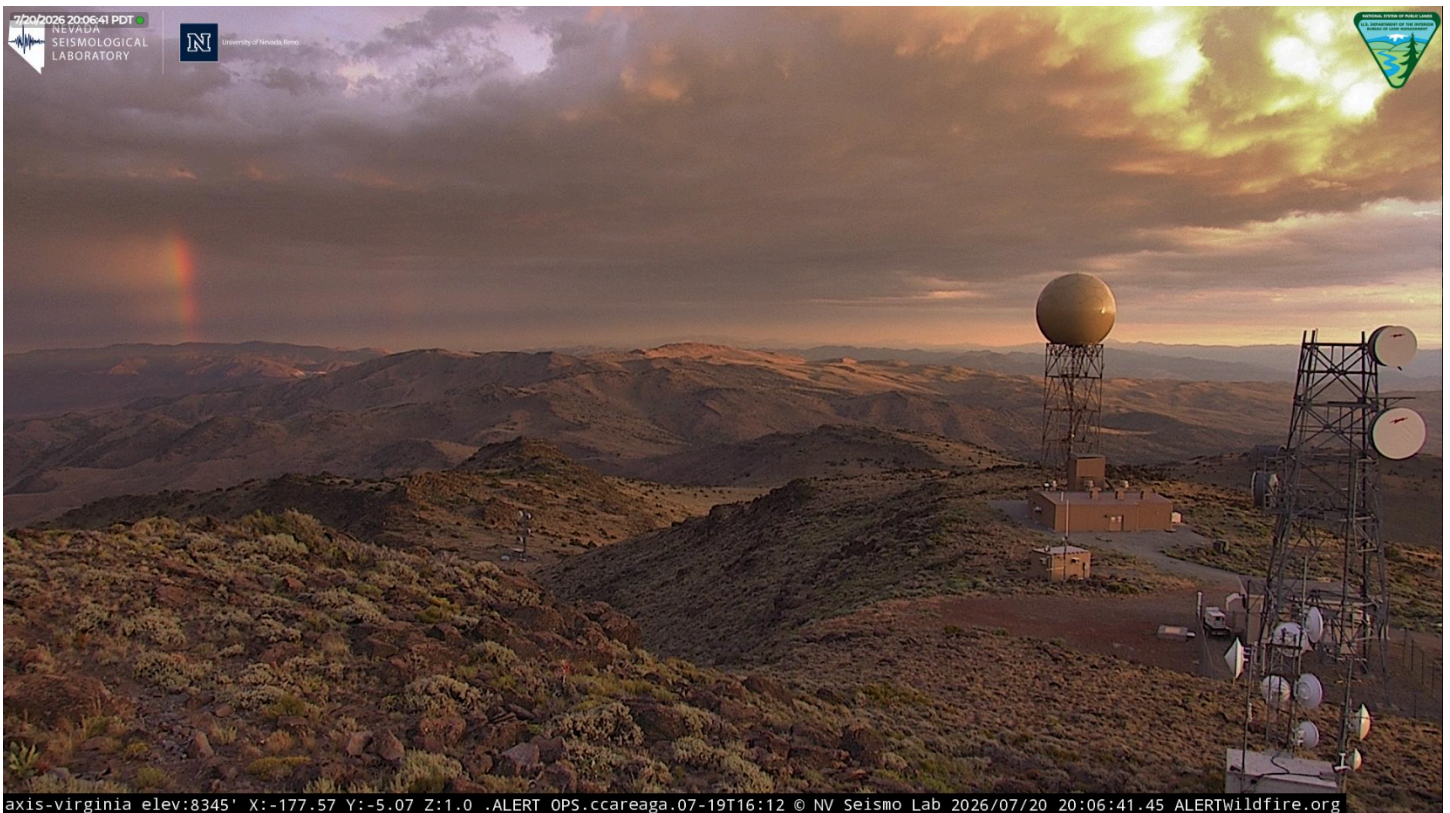


Photo 3. Rainbow peeking out from early evening shower activity on July 20 around the Virginia Peak NV radar site. Photo courtesy of AlertWest / University of Nevada.

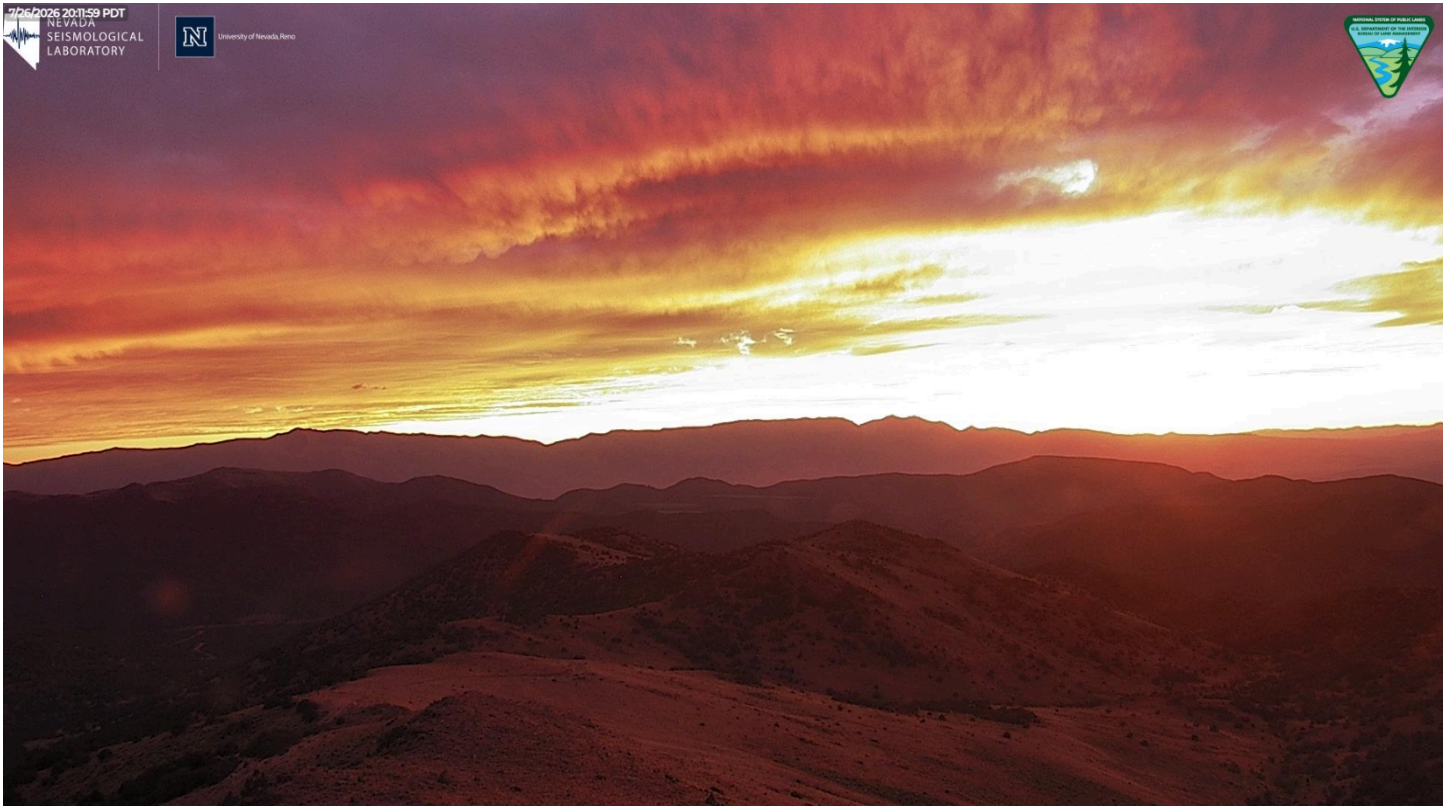


Photo 4: Colorful sunset photo over Mono County on July 26. Photo courtesy of AlertWest / University of Nevada.

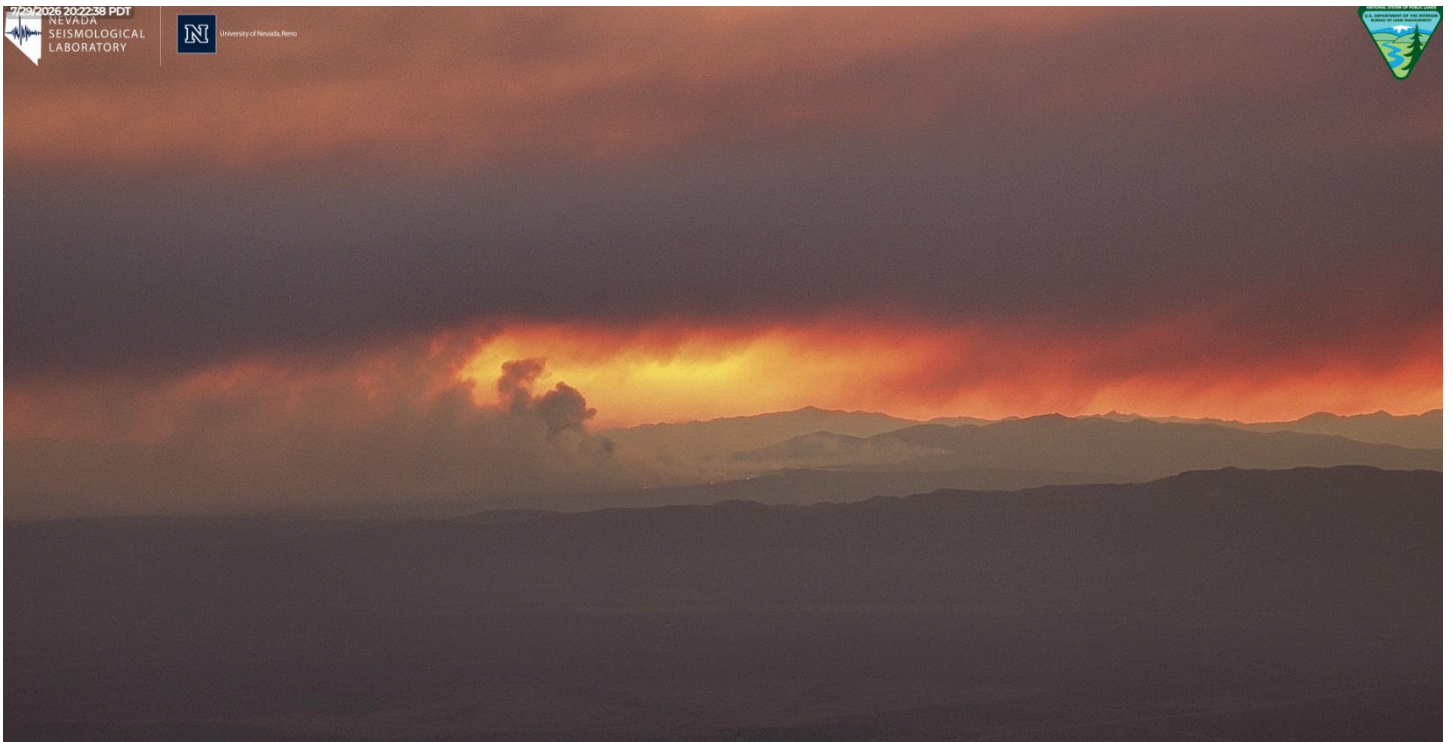
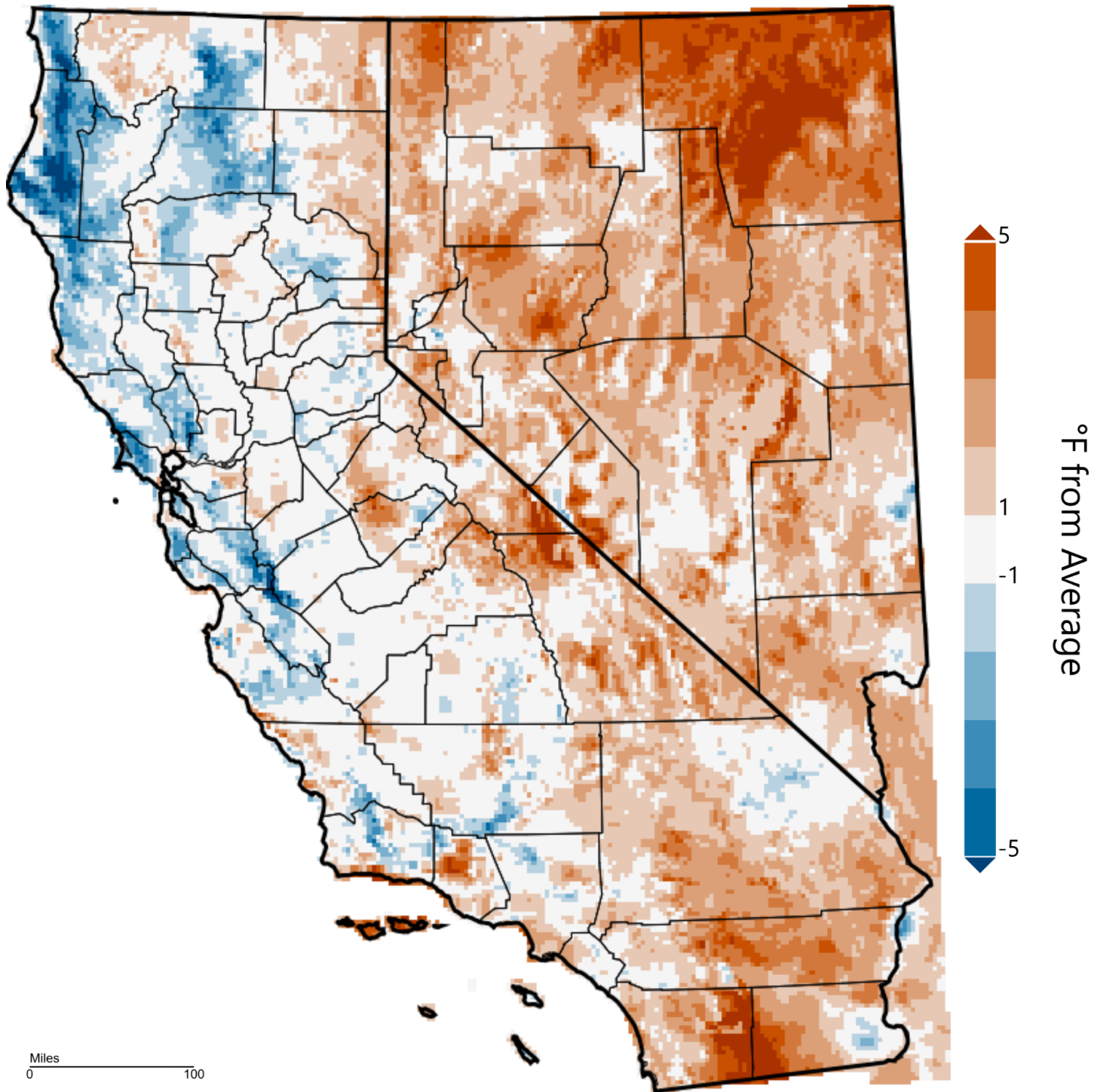


Photo 5: Photo of New Pass Fire in far eastern Churchill County, looking west from the Callaghan Peak camera in Lander County. Photo courtesy of AlertWest / University of Nevada.

Figures:

California-Nevada - Mean Temperature

July 2026, Departure from 1991-2020 Average

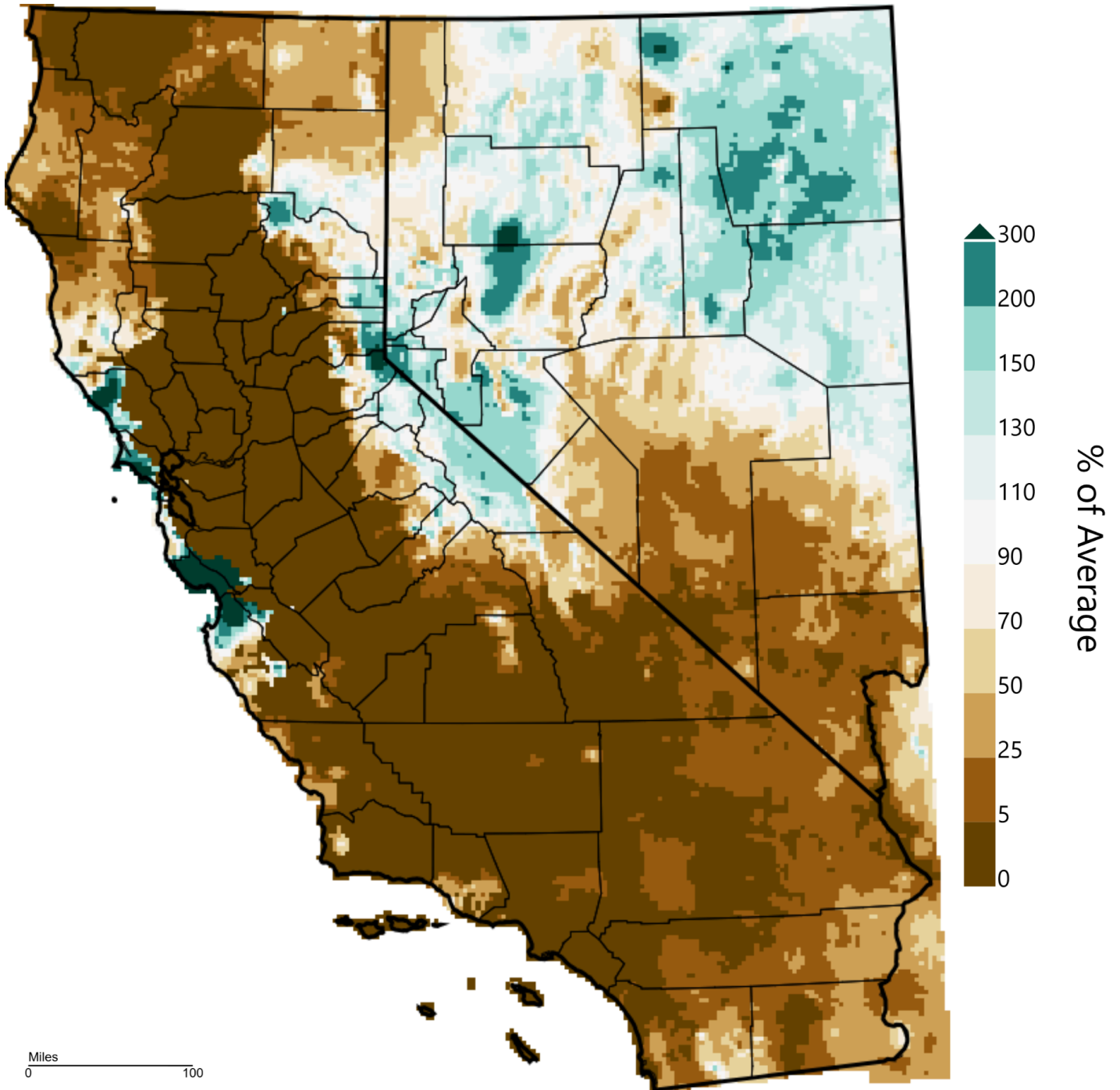


WestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Prelim, created 05 Aug 2026

Figure 1: Departure from normal temperatures for July 2026. ([WWDT](#))

California-Nevada - Precipitation

July 2026, Percent of 1991-2020 Average



WestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Prelim, created 05 Aug 2026

Figure 2: Percent of normal precipitation for July 2026. ([WWDt](#))

Location	April 1 Median Fcst (KAF)	April 1 Fcst 10%	April Fcst 90%	AJ obs. Volume	% AJ Ave	% AJ Median
Humboldt Imlay	7.16	32.6	3.52	6.93	4	13
Truckee Farad	146	205	125	130	52	61
W Carson Woodfords	25.9	35.5	20.7	28.5	53	63
E Carson Gardnerville	81.3	114	66.2	96.6	50	60
Carson Carson City	46.7	79.2	31.8	69.9	37	54
West Walker	85.9	116	69.8	100	62	74
East Walker	29.8	43.7	19.7	28.6	45	68

Figure 3: Subset of [CNRFC](#) seasonal forecast points comparing the April 1st median and 10/90% exceedance forecasts to the April-July observed, average and median volumes.

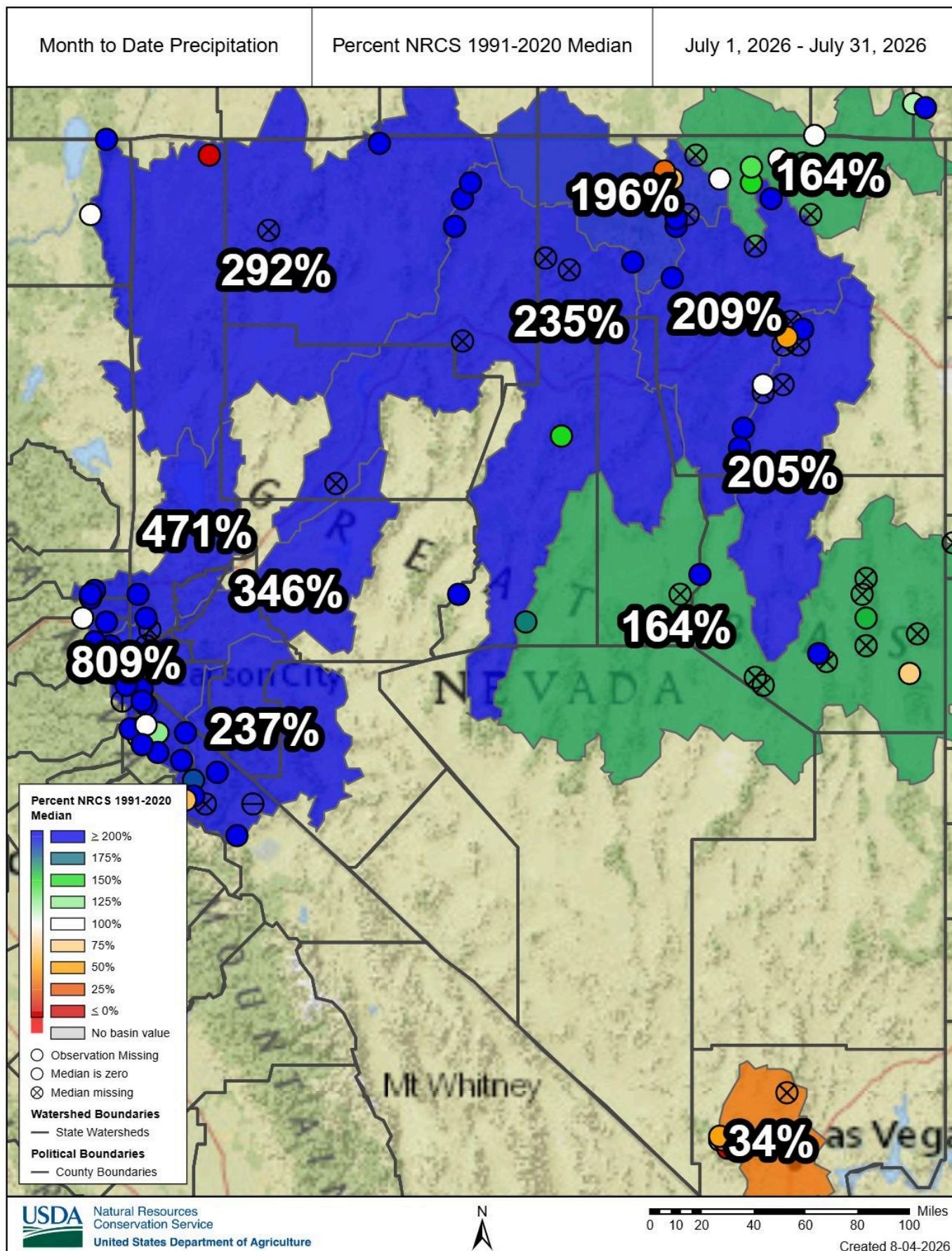


Figure 4. SNOTEL mountain precipitation for July 2026.

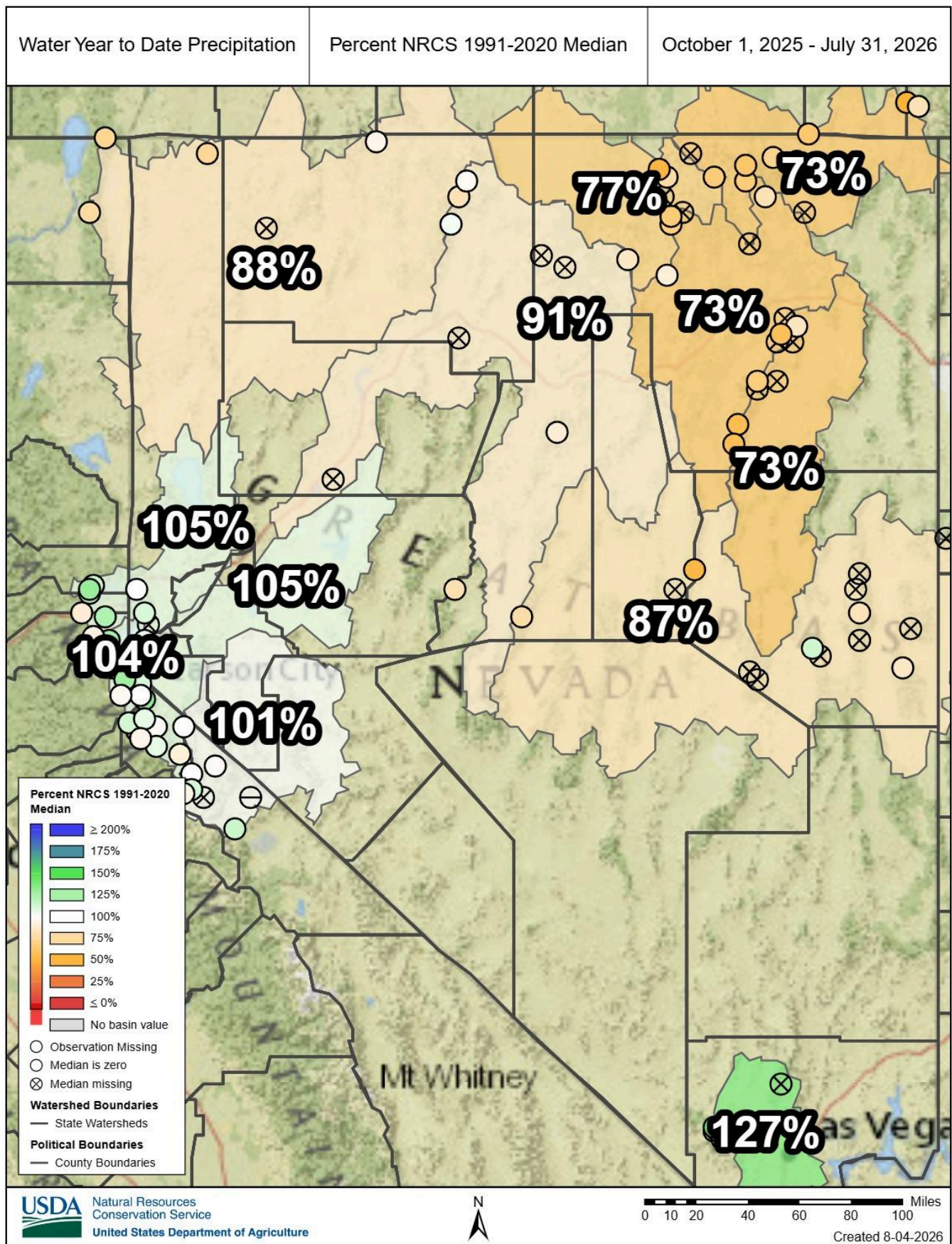


Figure 5. [NRCS SNOTEL basin Water year precipitation as % of Median](#) through July 31st, 2026.

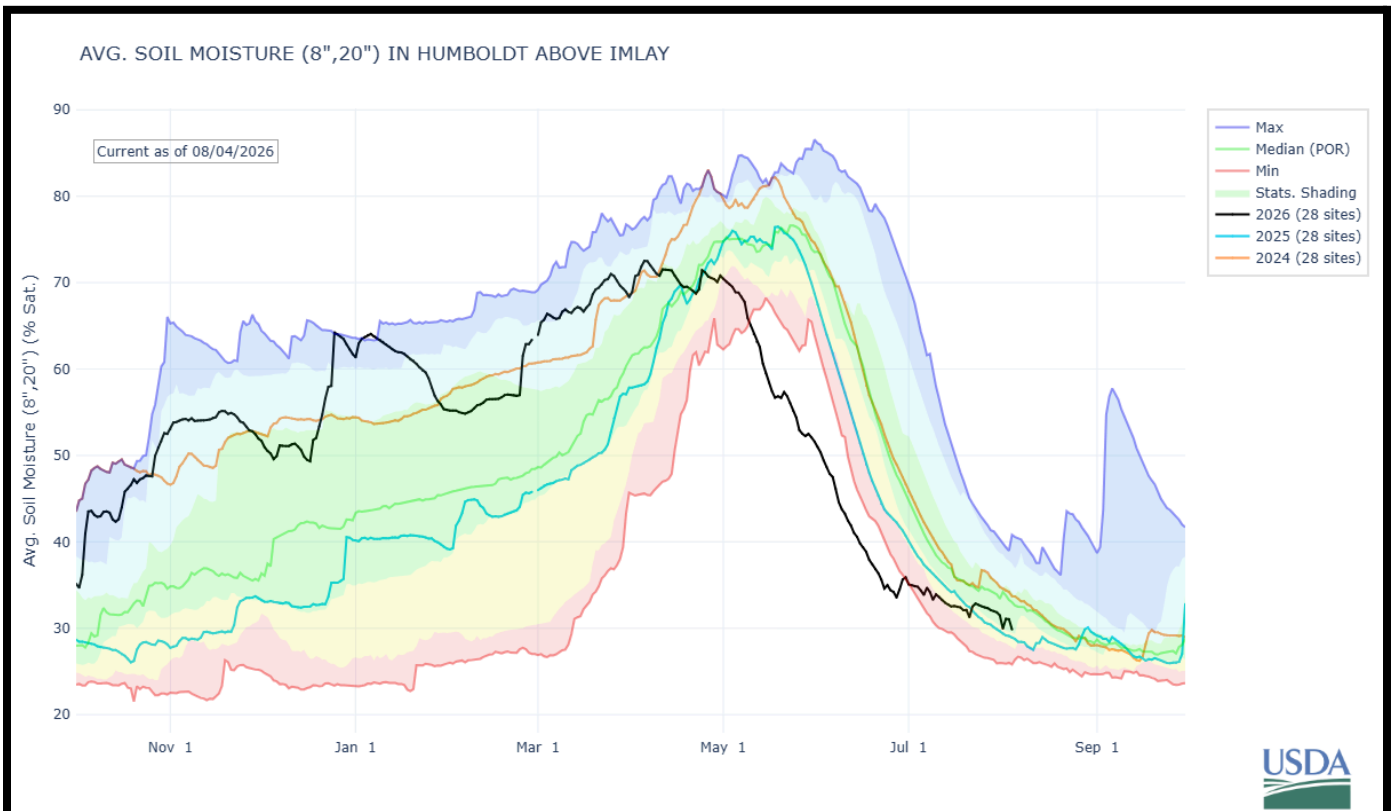
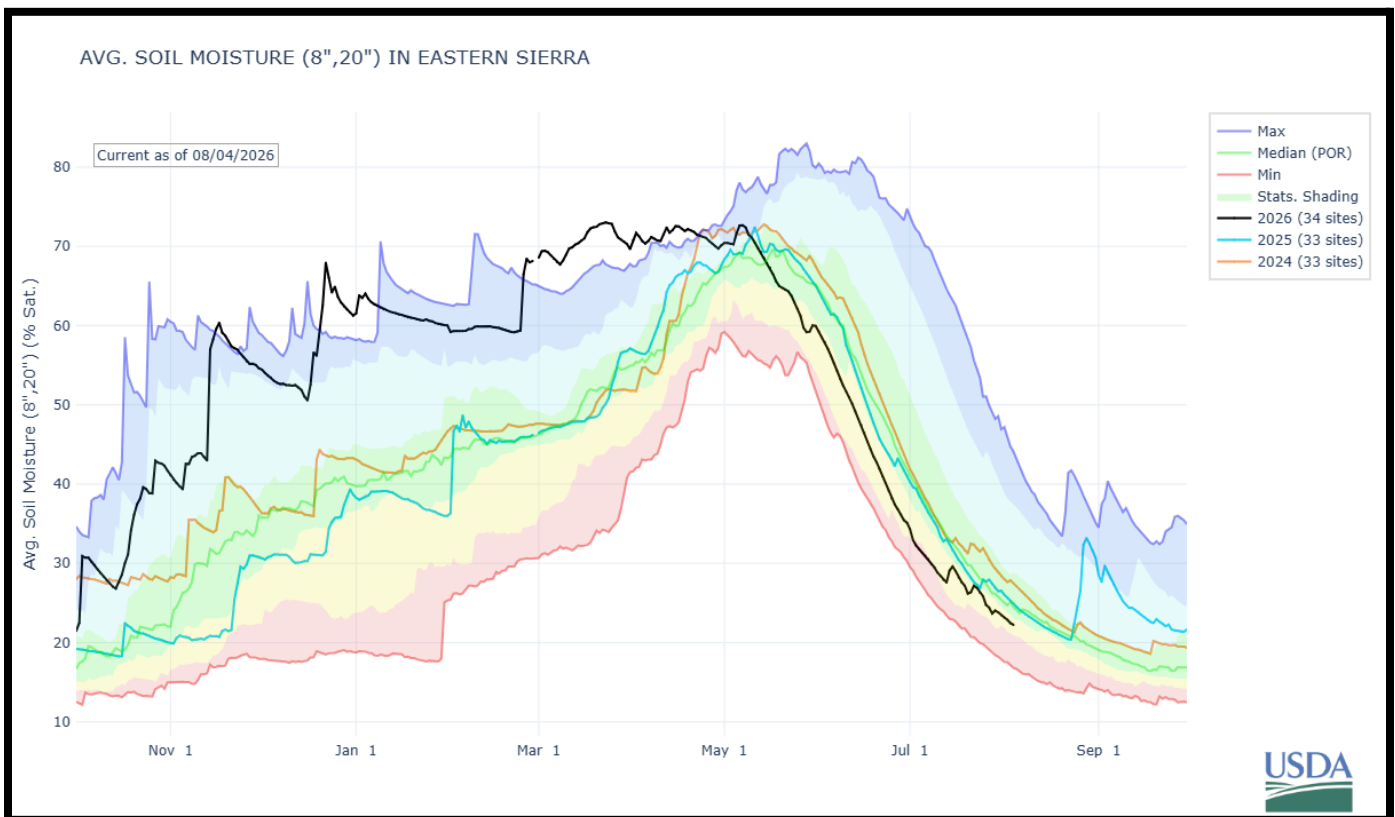


Figure 6. [NRCS SNOTEL soil moisture](#) for the combined Tahoe, Truckee, Carson and Walker basins (top), and Humboldt basin (bottom) indicated in black for the water year 2026. Water years 2025 and 2024 are plotted in blue and orange respectively for additional perspective.

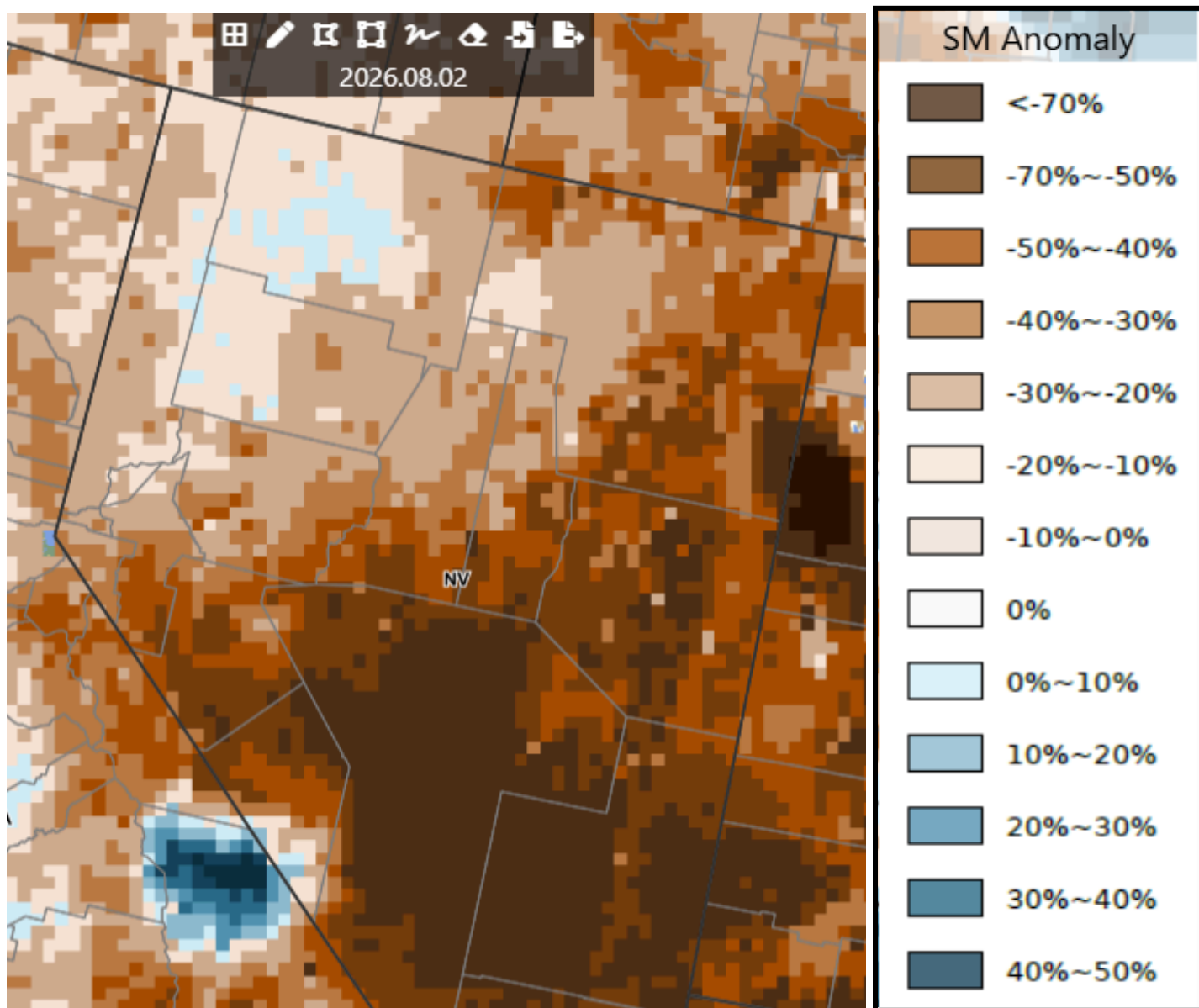


Figure 7. [Crop-CASMA](#) Soil Moisture Anomaly 08/02/2026.

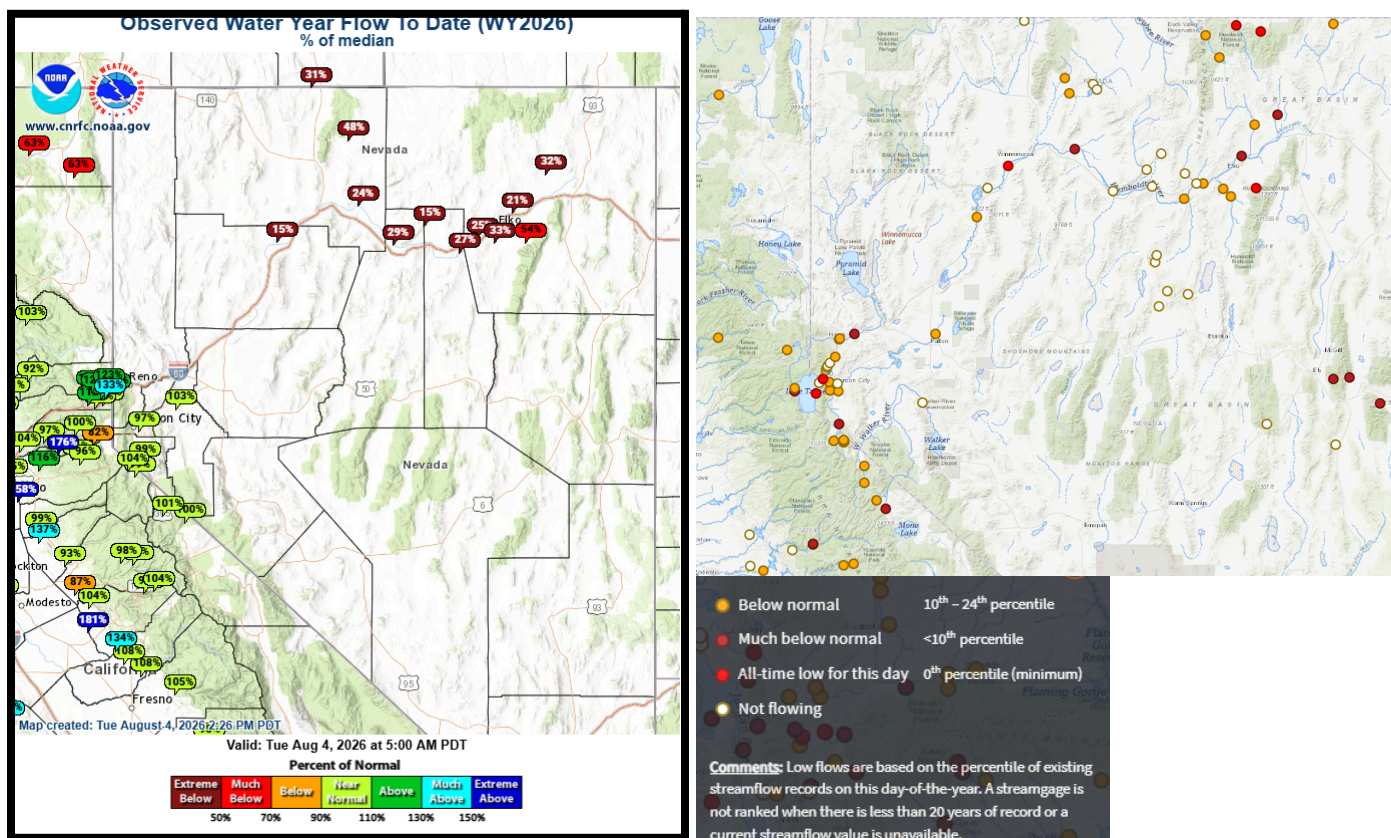


Figure 8. [CNRFC](#) Water year 2026 observed flow to date as % of median and USGS streamflow low flow anomalies as of August 4th.

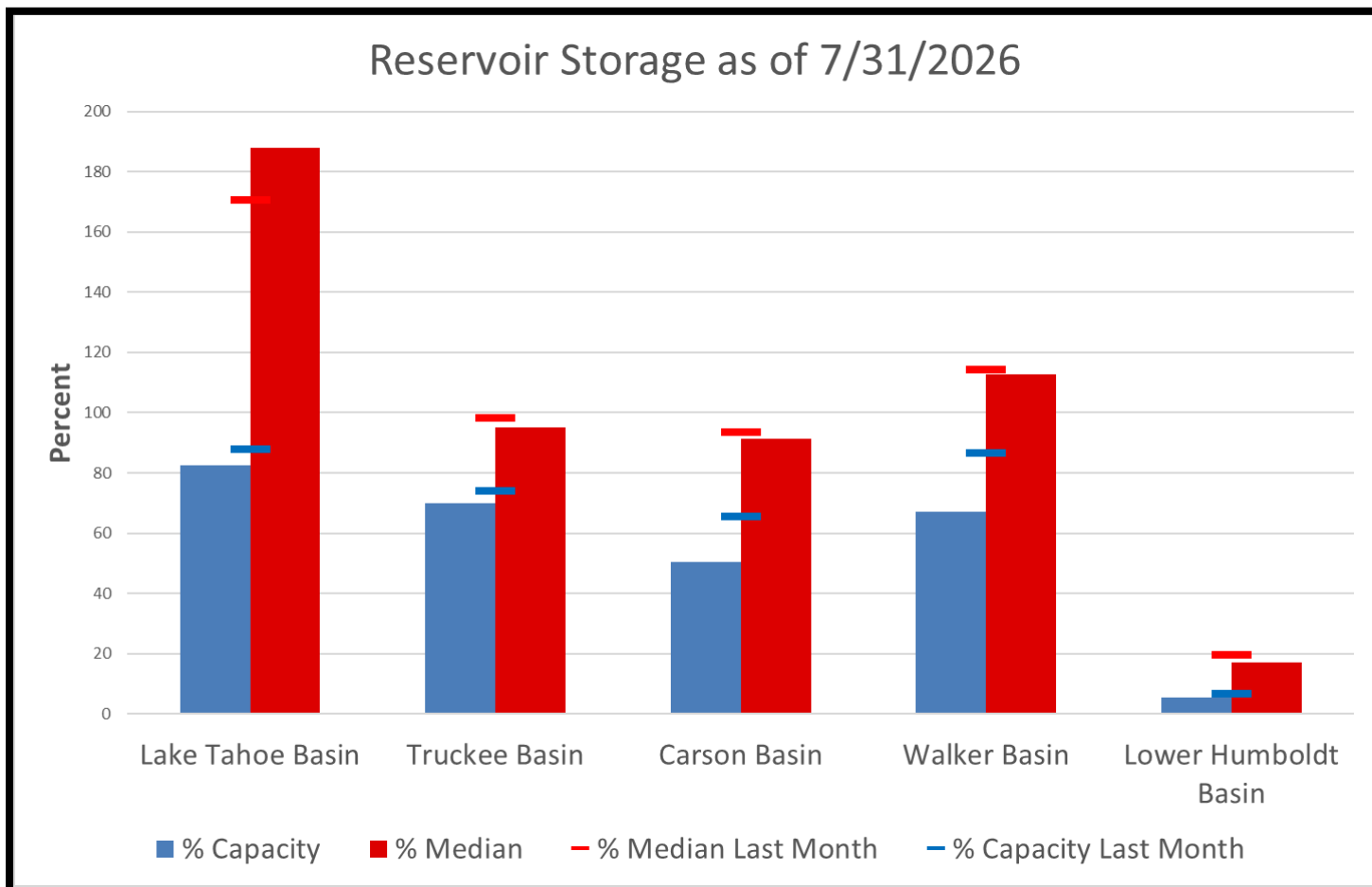


Figure 9. End of July reservoir storage relative to capacity and **median*** for this month and last month.

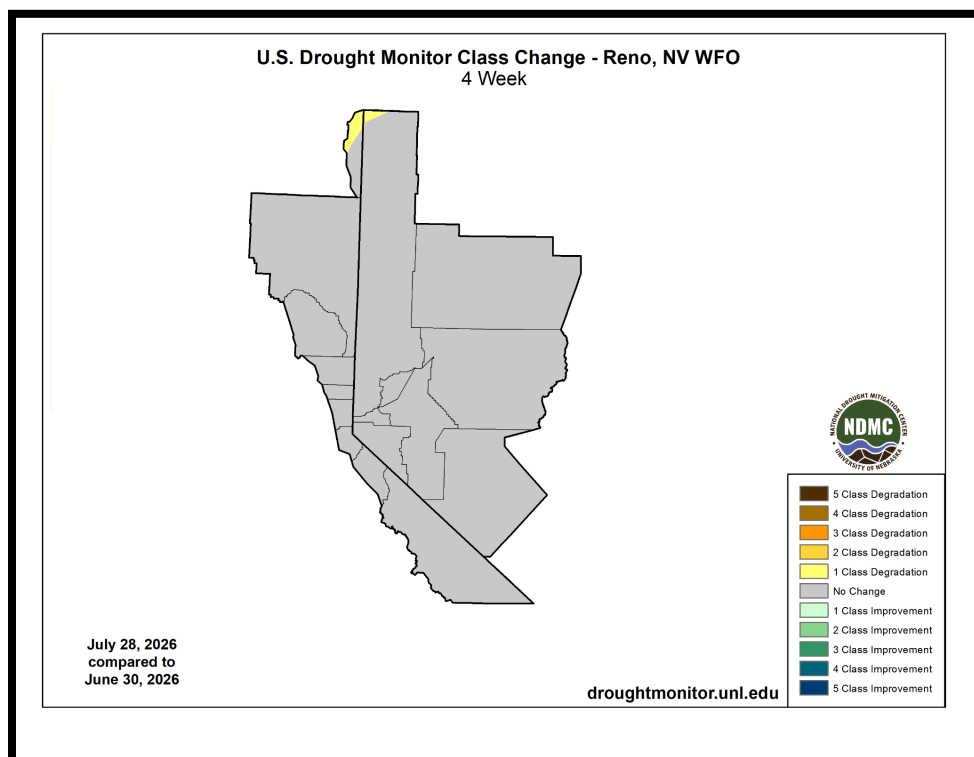
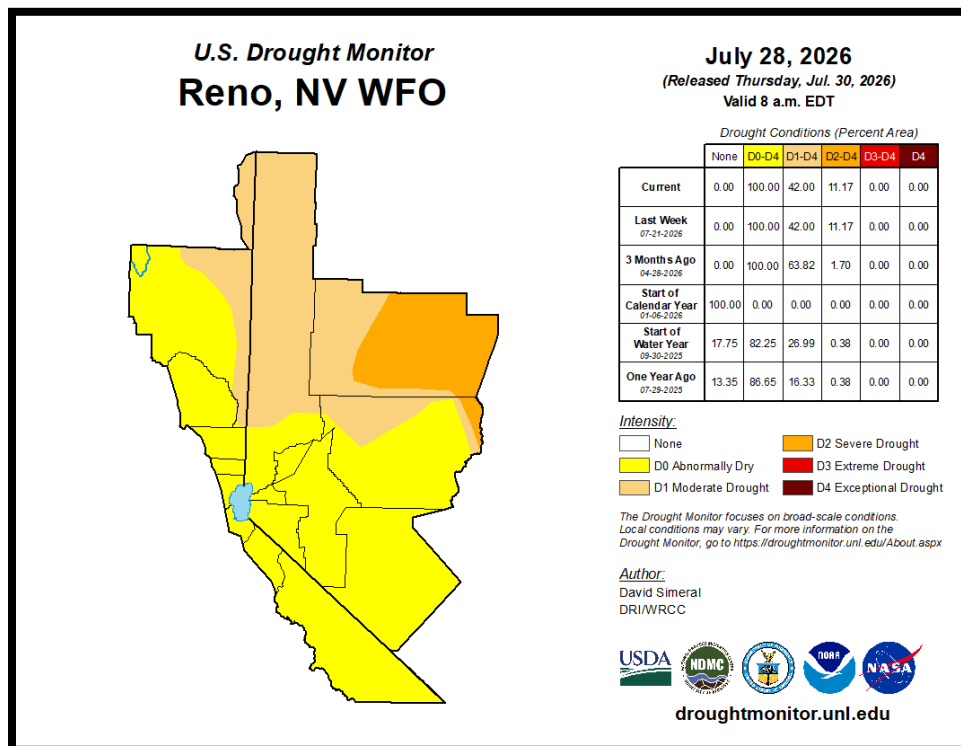
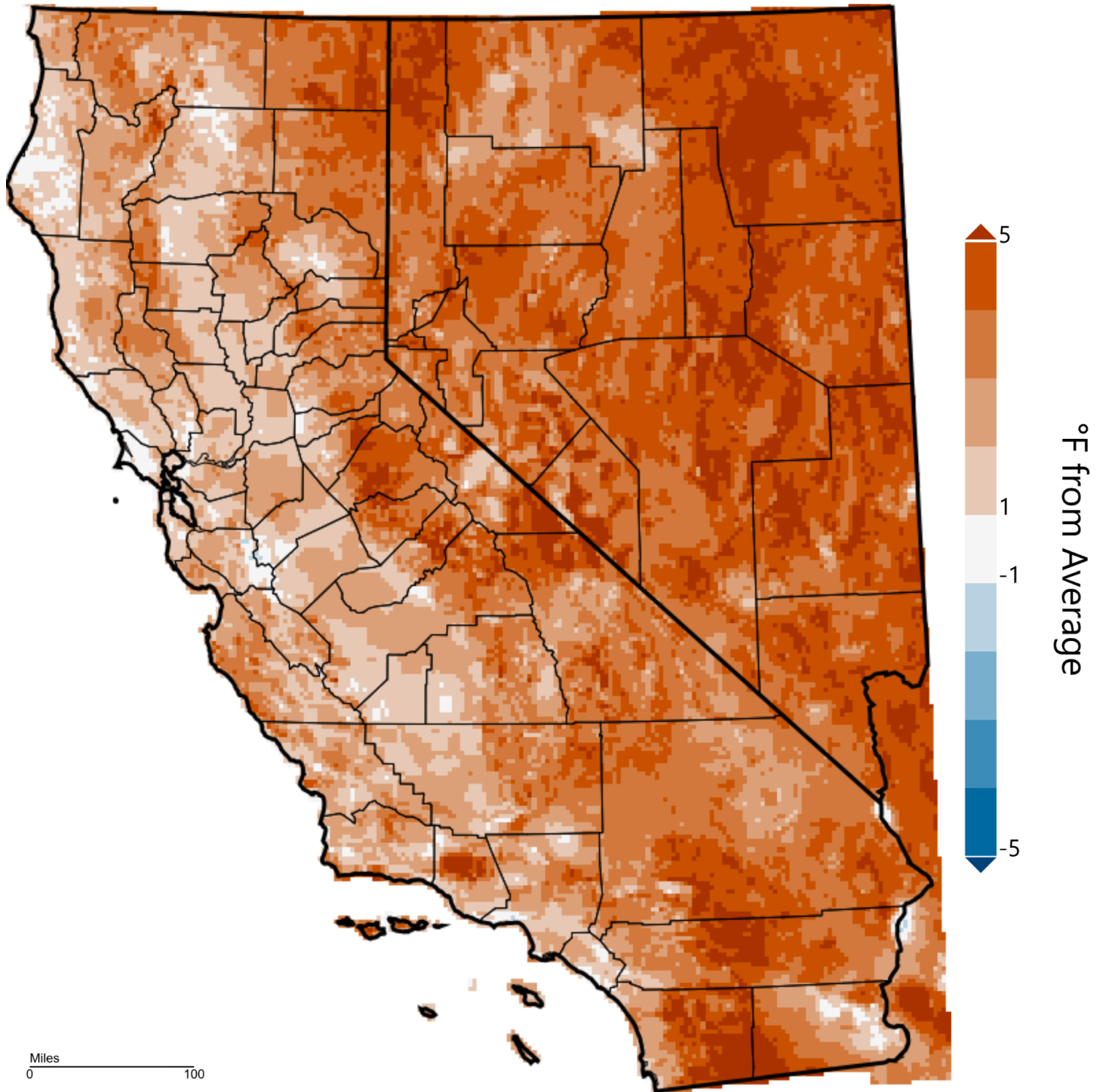


Figure 10. Drought Monitor Status on July 28th (top) and the 4 week change map (bottom). Check for updates at: [Drought Monitor](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu).

California-Nevada - Mean Temperature

October 2025 - July 2026, Departure from 1991-2020 Average

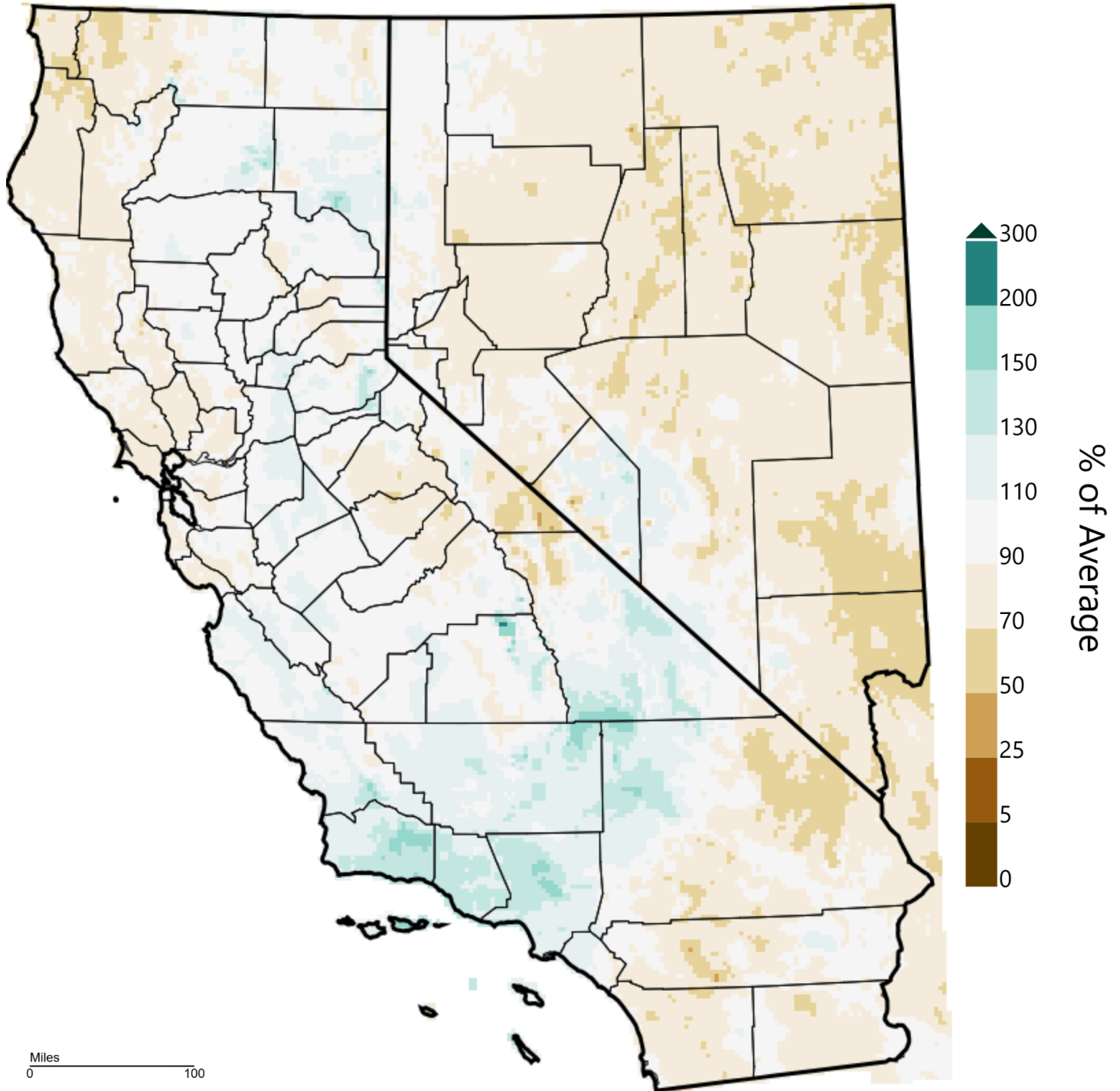


WestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Prelim, created 05 Aug 2026

Figure 11. Water year to date mean temperature departure. Courtesy of West Wide Drought Tracker. ([WWDT](#))

California-Nevada - Precipitation

October 2025 - July 2026, Percent of 1991-2020 Average



WestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Prelim, created 05 Aug 2026

Figure 12. Water year to date precipitation. Courtesy of West Wide Drought Tracker. ([WWDT](#))