



Drought Information Statement for MONTANA

Valid: August 29, 2026

Issued By: NWS Great Falls, NWS Missoula, NWS Glasgow, NWS Billings
Contact Information:

- This product will be updated, September 2026, 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/TFX/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
-
- D3 - Extreme Drought Conditions
 - Discontinued across a portion of central Montana
 - Emerged across a portion of southeastern Montana



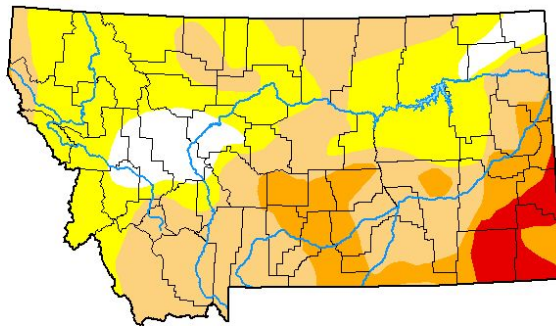
U.S. Drought Monitor

Link: [Latest Montana U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

U.S. Drought Monitor Montana

• Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** An area of southeastern MT
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Portions of south central and eastern MT
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Most of southern MT and portions of north central & northeastern, with an isolated area of north western MT
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Portions of western, central and northern Montana



August 25, 2026

(Released Thursday, Aug. 27, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	7.48	92.52	55.61	17.49	4.40	0.00
Last Week 08-18-2026	5.69	94.31	54.59	17.43	4.40	0.00
3 Months Ago 05-26-2026	12.72	87.28	76.00	40.83	10.36	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2026	48.61	51.39	19.79	8.08	1.46	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	27.06	72.94	40.74	31.81	8.55	0.00
One Year Ago 08-26-2025	47.29	52.71	41.95	22.40	8.24	0.00

Intensity

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu



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National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana

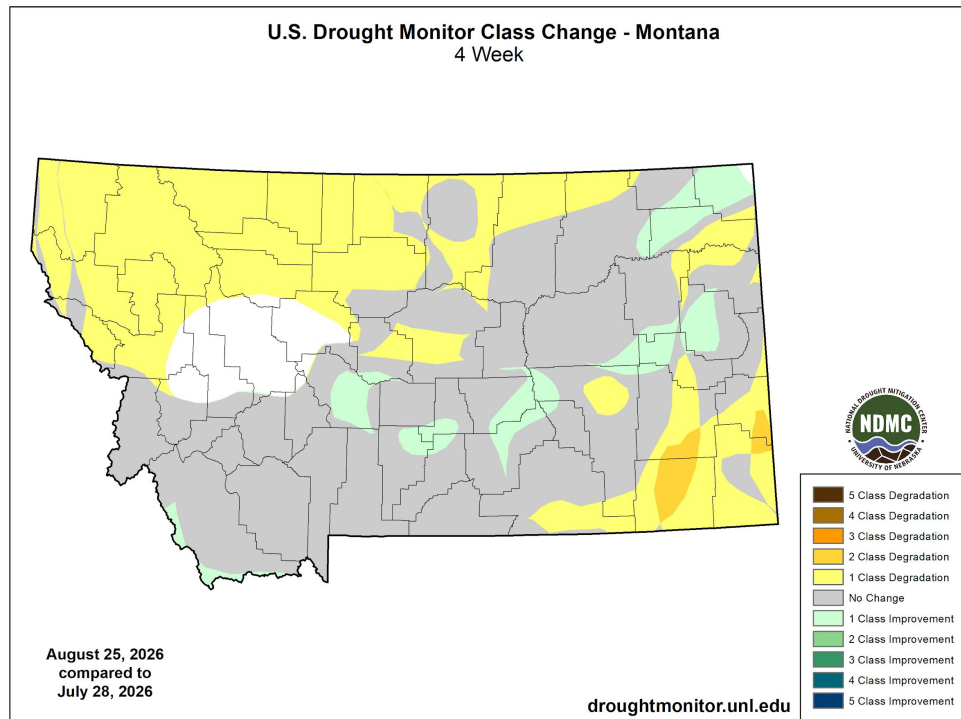


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link: [Montana 4-week Change Map](#)

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

- **Drought Worsened:** Across portions of western, northern and eastern Montana
- **No Change:** Much of the state
- **Drought Improved:** Small portions of central and eastern, Montana



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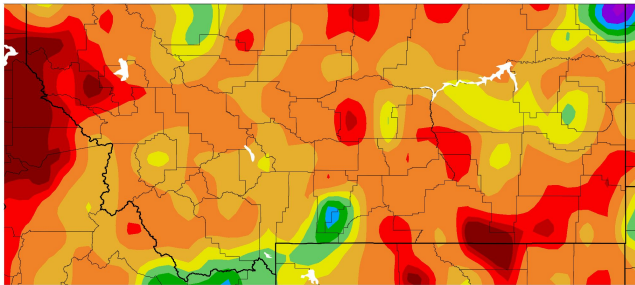
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Great Falls, Montana



Precipitation

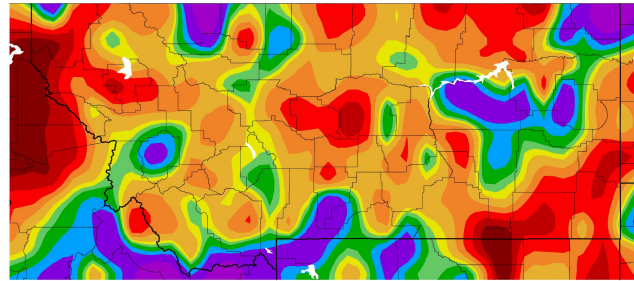
Precipitation (in)
7/30/2026 – 8/28/2026



Generated 8/29/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
7/30/2026 – 8/28/2026



Generated 8/29/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

- **Precipitation (in):** Large portions of the state received less than 2", with a few pockets of up to 3.5" of rain.
- **Percent of Normal Precipitation (%):** Large portions of the state have received below normal precipitation, while some areas are received 130-200% of normal.

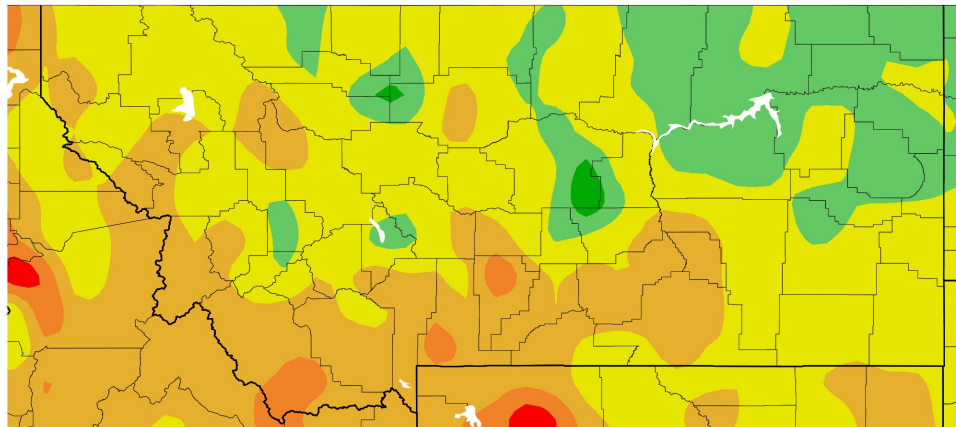




Temperature

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
7/30/2026 – 8/28/2026

- Large portions of the state of MT recorded near to above normal temperatures during the past month.
- Portions of western, central, south central MT were in the 2 to 6 degrees above normal range.
- Portions of north central, central, and northeastern MT were 0 to 4 degrees cooler than normal.



Generated 8/29/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services



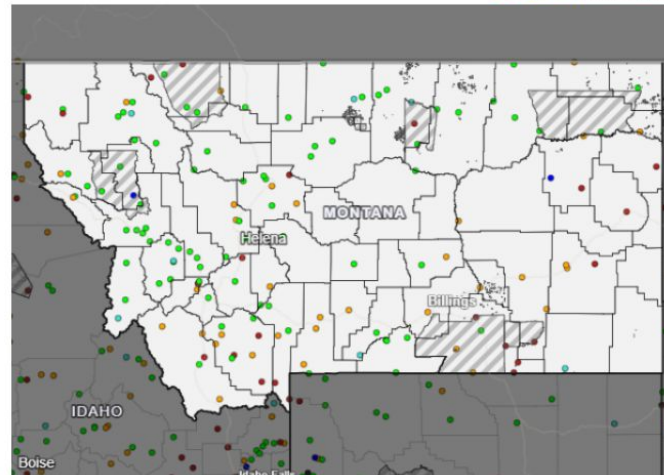


Hydrologic Conditions

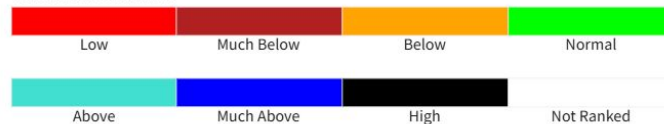
Link: [1-Day Average Streamflow Compared to Historical](#)

- **Below Normal:** Some watersheds continue to experience streamflows below normal to much below normal.
- **Normal:** Many gages across the state are reporting streamflow within normal range.
- **Above Normal:** A few gages are reporting streamflow in the above normal range, with just a couple gages in the much above normal range.

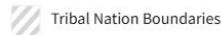
1-Day Average Streamflow Conditions



Streamflow Conditions



Tribal Nations



This map shows 1-day average streamflow conditions for yesterday compared to historical conditions for the same day of the year. Both 1-day and historical streamflow values are calculated as mean discharge (cubic feet per second) over a 24-hour period. Only streamgages with 30 or more years of data are included in this map. Click on a streamgage to view current data from the U.S. Geological Survey. These streamflow data are provisional and subject to revision.

Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey
Data Valid: 08/28/26

Drought.gov



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Great Falls, Montana

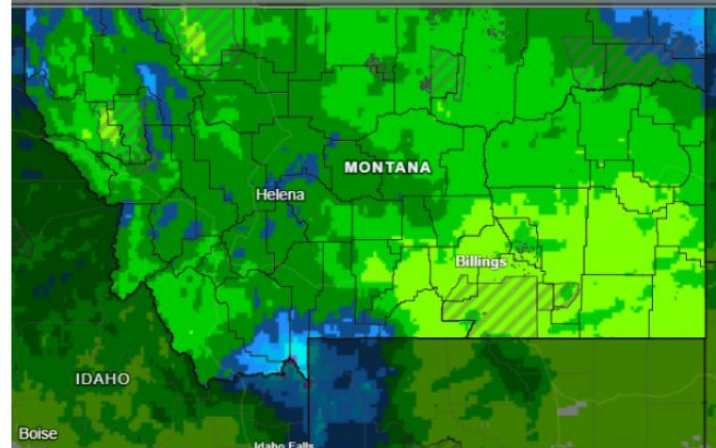


7-Day Precipitation Forecast

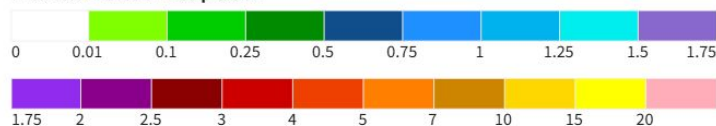
Link: drought.gov/states/montana

- Through, Sept 5, 2026, large portions of western, north central, and northeastern Montana are forecast to receive above 0.25" of moisture. Isolated pockets of northeastern and southwestern Montana are forecast to receive above 1" of moisture.
- Areas of south central and southeastern Montana are forecast to receive the least amount of moisture, with many areas below 0.10".

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for August 29–September 5, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Tribal Nations

Tribal Nation Boundaries

This map shows the amount of liquid precipitation (in inches) expected to fall over the next 7 days, according to the National Weather Service.

Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center

Last Updated: 08/29/26

Drought.gov



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Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

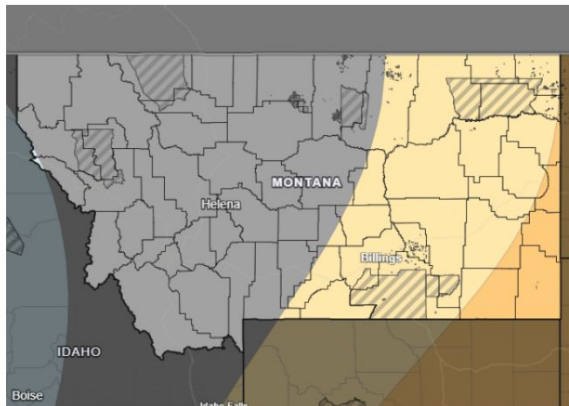
National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



8 to 14-Day Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

Link: drought.gov/states/montana

8-14 Day Temperature Outlook for September 5-11, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Near-Normal Conditions

Tribal Nations

Tribal Nation Boundaries

This map shows the probability (percent chance) of above-normal, near-normal, or below-normal temperature 8 to 14 days in the future.

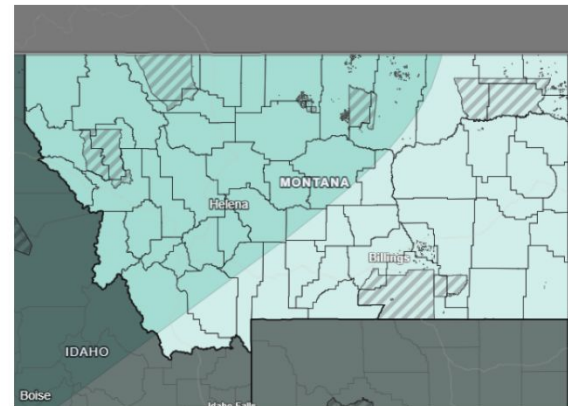
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center

Last Updated: 08/28/26

Drought.gov

The 8 to 14-Day Temperature Outlook shows a slight lean towards warmer than normal temperatures across central and eastern MT.

8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for September 5-11, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Near-Normal Conditions

Tribal Nations

Tribal Nation Boundaries

This map shows the probability (percent chance) of above-normal, near-normal, or below-normal precipitation 8 to 14 days in the future.

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center

Last Updated: 08/28/26

Drought.gov

The 8 to 14-Day Precipitation Outlook, generally, shows a slight lean for above normal conditions across the state.



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8 to 14-Day Hydrologic Hazards Outlook

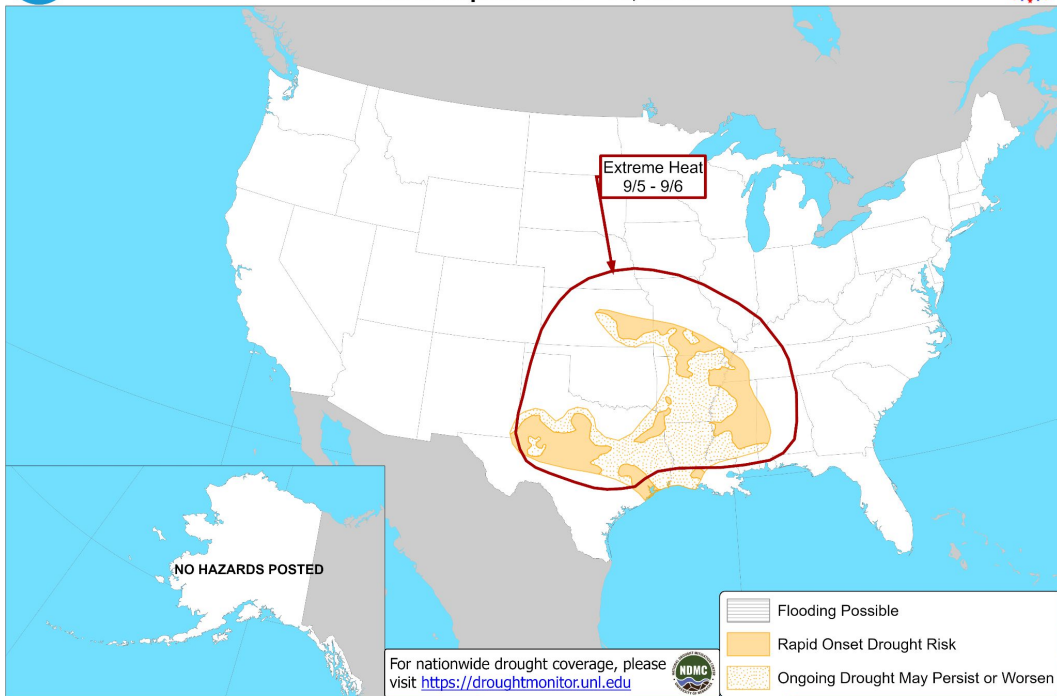
Link: [Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\) Home Page](https://climatepredictioncenter.noaa.gov/)

- As of this time, no significant flooding or rapid onset drought hazards are forecast to occur across The Treasure State during the period of September 5 - 11, 2026.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: September 5 - 11, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: August 28, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

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www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov



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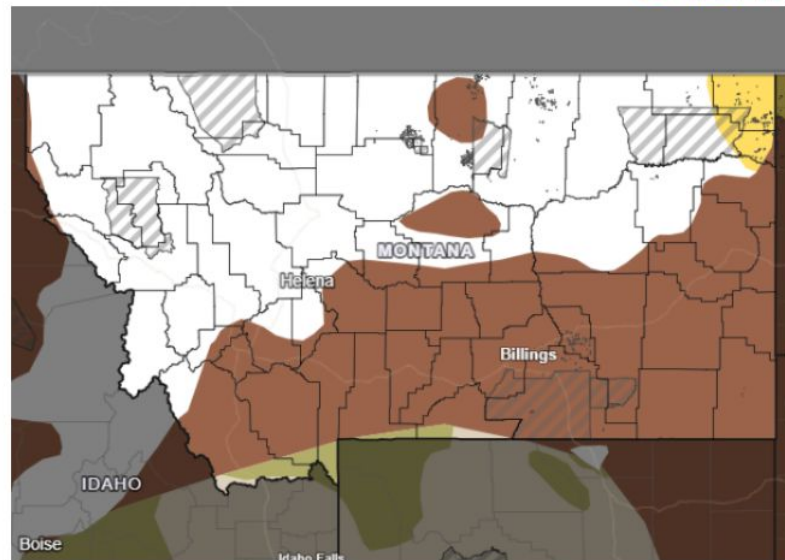
Seasonal Drought Outlook

- **Persisting:** Much of the state of Montana
- **Developing:** Expected across areas of the state

Please note: This map is updated once per month.

<https://www.drought.gov/states/montana>

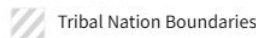
1-Month Drought Outlook for August 1–31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Tribal Nations



The Monthly Drought Outlook predicts whether drought will develop, remain, improve, or be removed in the next calendar month.

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center

Last Updated: 07/31/26

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Seasonal Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

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

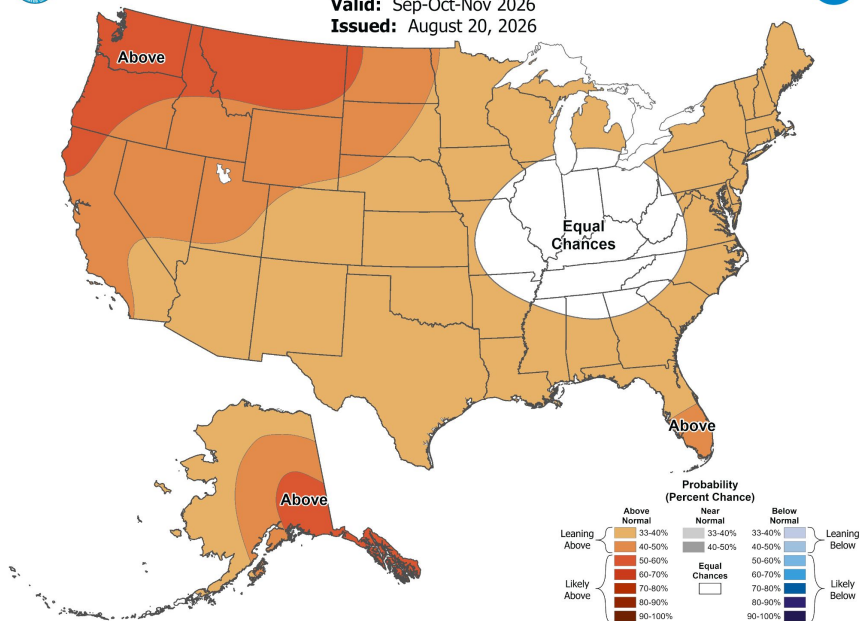
The Seasonal Temperature Outlook shows a better chance for warmer than normal temperatures across The Treasure State.

The Seasonal Precipitation Outlook favors equal chances for above or below normal precipitation statewide. A small portion of far northwestern Montana is leaning below normal.



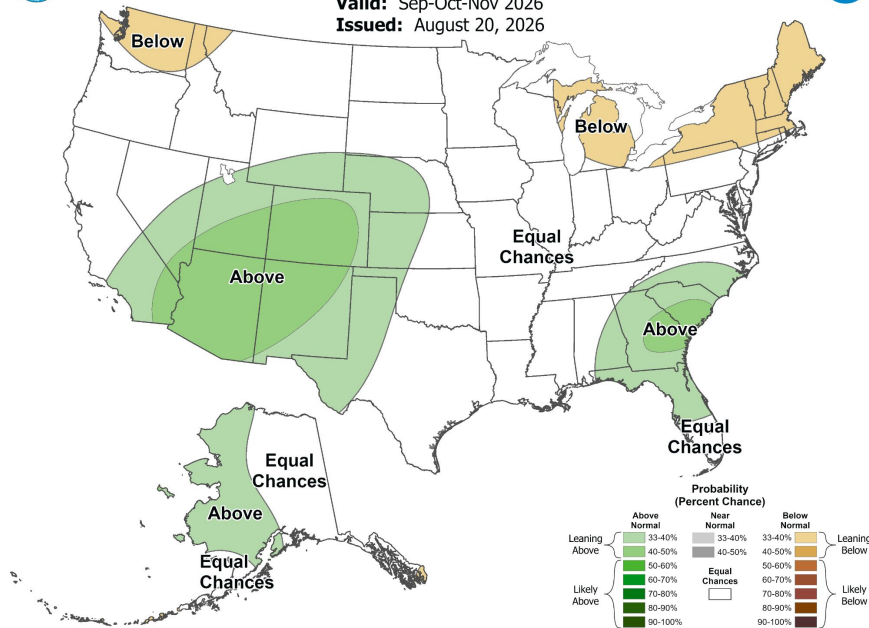
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Sep-Oct-Nov 2026
Issued: August 20, 2026



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Sep-Oct-Nov 2026
Issued: August 20, 2026



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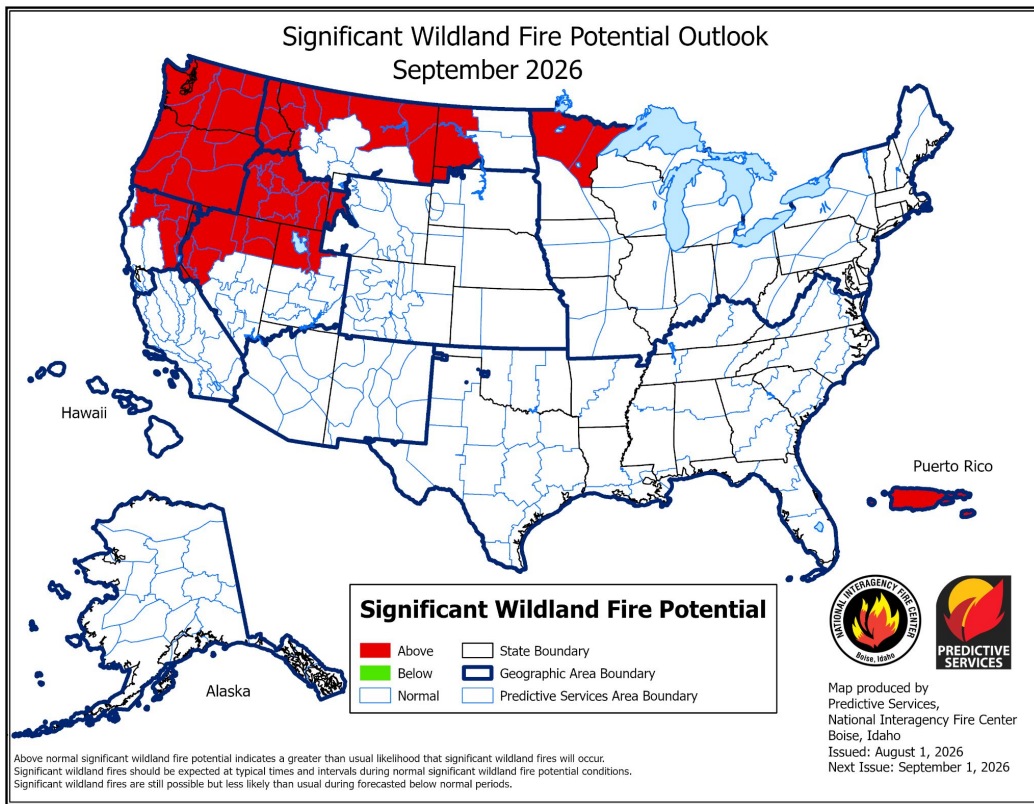
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Fire Hazard Impacts

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

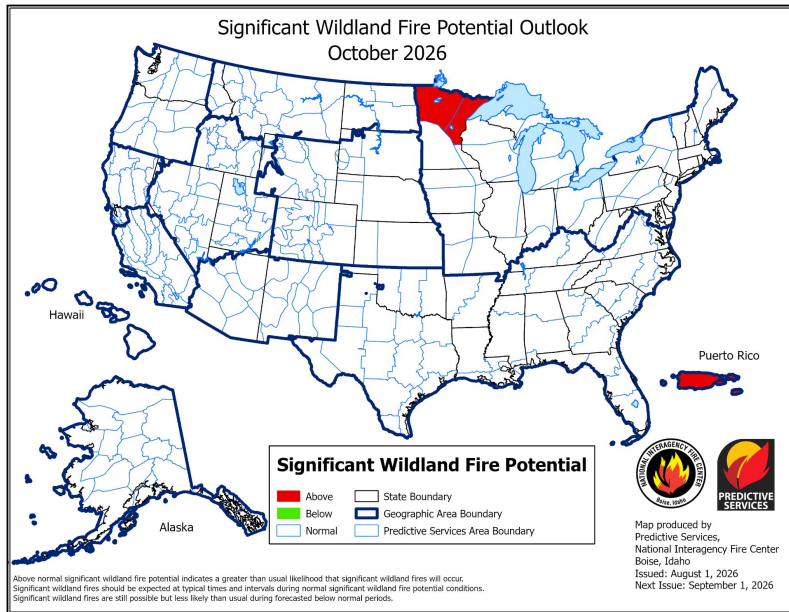
- Large portions of southwestern, central, and south central MT are listed as normal.
- Above Normal Significant Wildland Fire Potential continues across northwestern, north central, and eastern Montana.





Fire Hazard Impacts

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



- The October 2026 Wildfire Potential Outlooks include The Treasure State in Normal Significant Wildland Fire Potential conditions.
 - Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals.





Summary of Impacts

Links: Submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and View the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Waterbody restrictions are in place for many rivers.

Agricultural Impacts

- Producers are reporting:
 - Reduced yield and plant stress
 - The need to supplement feed, animal stress and less water availability

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Although portions of the state are included in normal Significant Wildland Fire Potential, fire safety practices continue to be very important.

Other Impacts & Messaging

- “When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!”
- During flash flooding, “Climb to Safety!”

Mitigation Actions

- Thunderstorm season is here. High focus is applied to flood and fire concerns.
- Special attention is warranted for burn scar areas where flash flooding and debris flow can be an issue.
- Partner collaboration and communication continues important.

