



# Drought Information Statement for Eastern Washington & North Idaho

Valid August 15, 2024

Issued By: NWS Spokane, WA

Contact Information: [w-otx.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:w-otx.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated by September 19, 2024 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/otx/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
  - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
- 
- **DROUGHT PERSISTS ACROSS THE INLAND NW**
    - Extreme drought developed in spotty areas of central WA
    - Severe drought remains in central WA and the central ID Panhandle
    - Abnormally dry to Moderate drought spans across the rest of the Inland NW





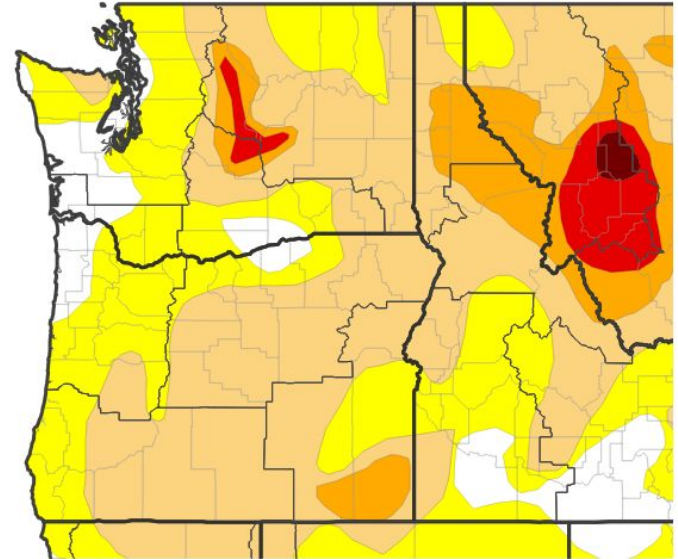
# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for eastern Washington and north Idaho

- Drought intensity and Extent

- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: spotty areas in the lee of the central WA Cascades ~ **3%**
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: central Idaho Panhandle and lee of the Cascades ~ **more than 16%**
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: central WA, extreme eastern WA, and much of the ID Panhandle, ~ **more than 62%**
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Reminder of the Inland NW, ~ **near 19%**
- **NONE: 0%**

## U.S. Drought Monitor



## U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 08/13/24

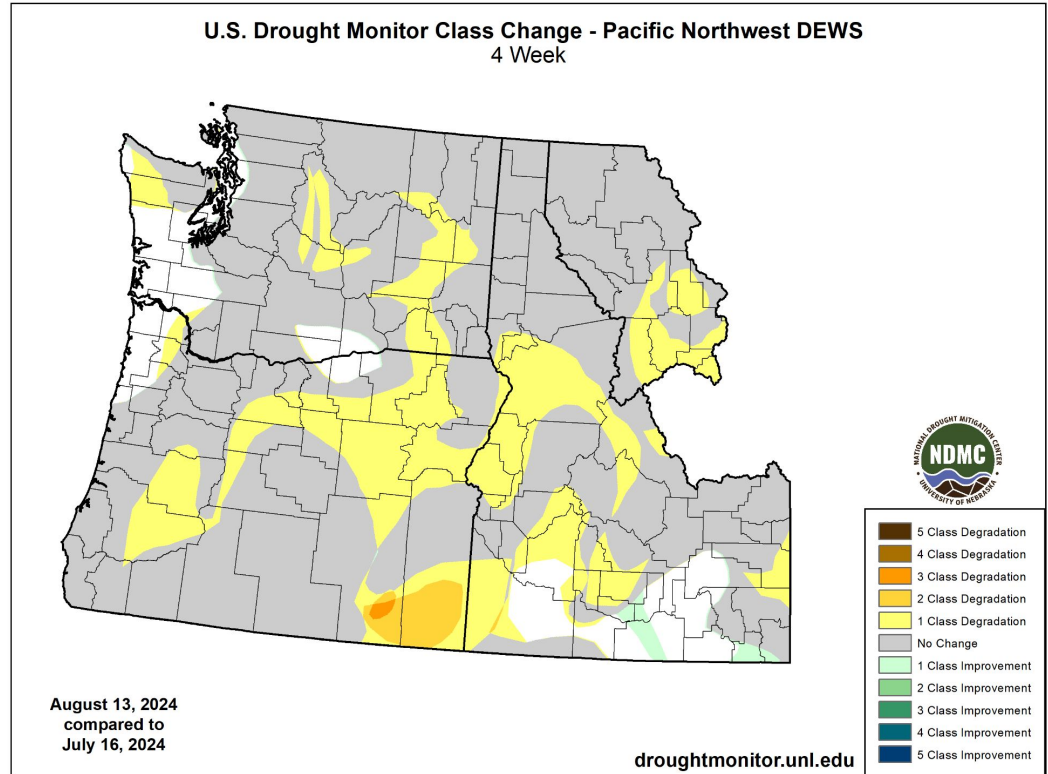




# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4 week [change map](#) for eastern Washington and north Idaho

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change
  - No Change: Majority of the Inland NW
  - Drought Improved: none
  - Drought degraded: pockets of central WA, eastern WA and north-central ID



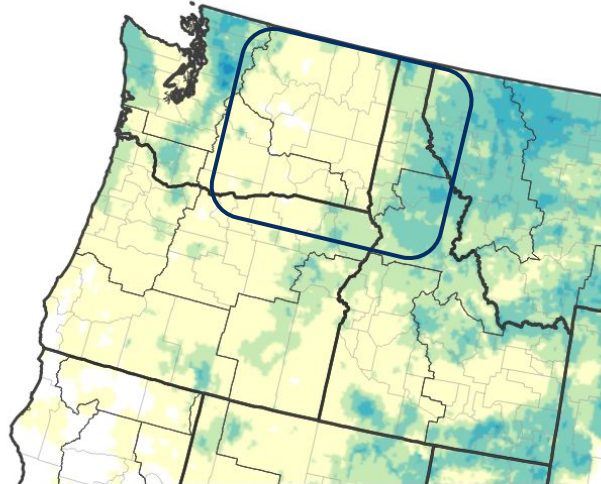


# Precipitation

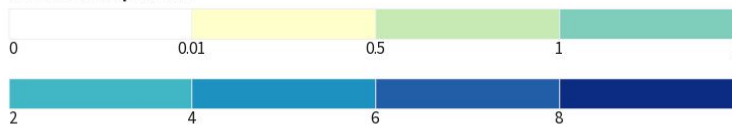
Last 30 Days

- Precipitation over the last 30 days has been spotty due to passing showers and thunderstorms and focused over the mountains in the Idaho Panhandle and northeast WA. Little to no precipitation has fallen over central WA.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



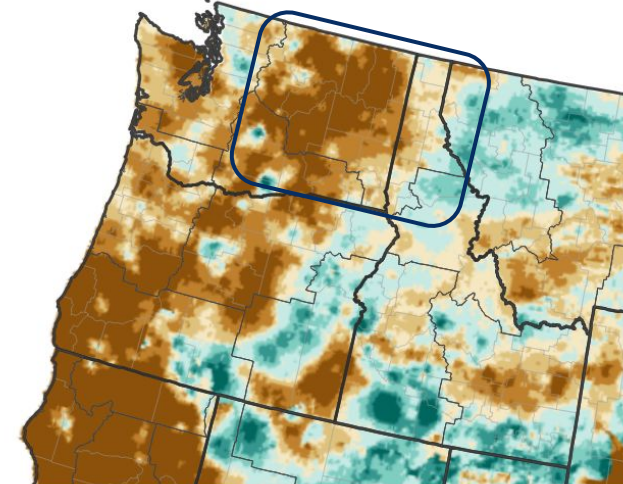
Inches of Precipitation



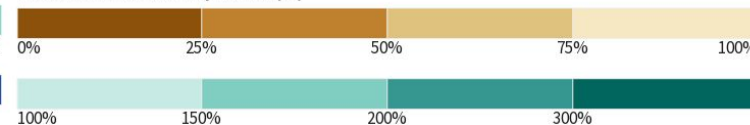
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/14/24

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



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

Data Valid: 08/14/24



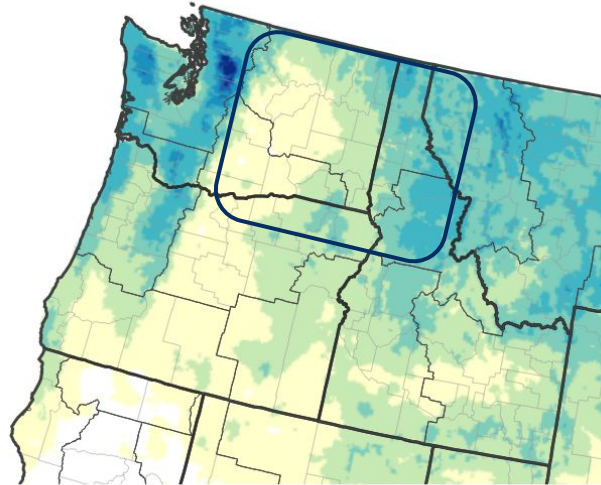


# Precipitation

Last 90 Days

- Precipitation deficits persist across central WA over the last 90 days, meanwhile above normal precipitation was observed over portions of the ID Panhandle.

NWPS 90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



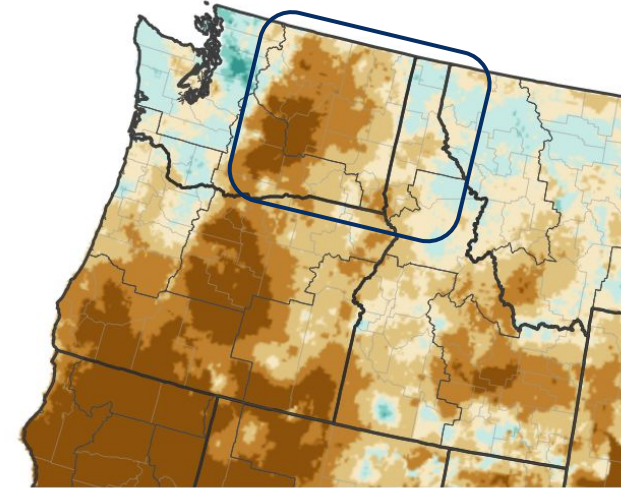
Inches of Precipitation



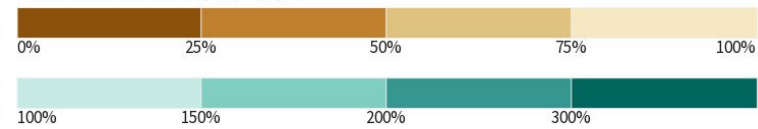
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/14/24

90-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



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

Data Valid: 08/14/24



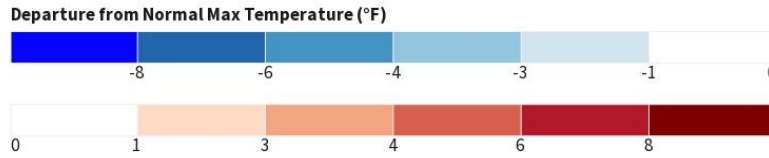
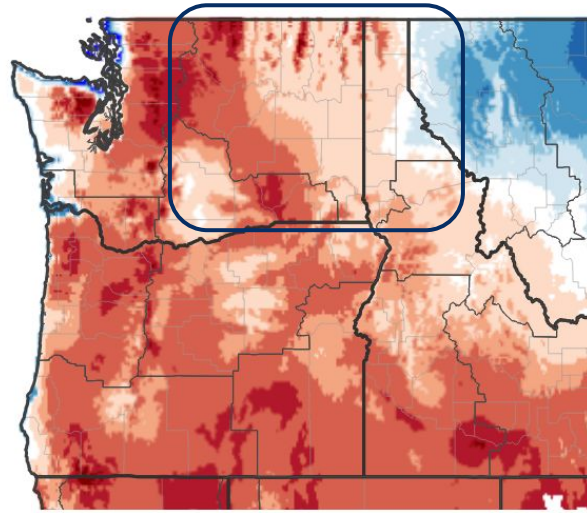


# Temperature

Last 7 Days and 30 Days

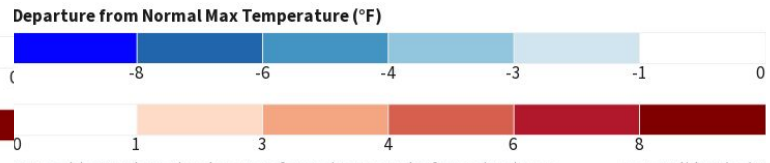
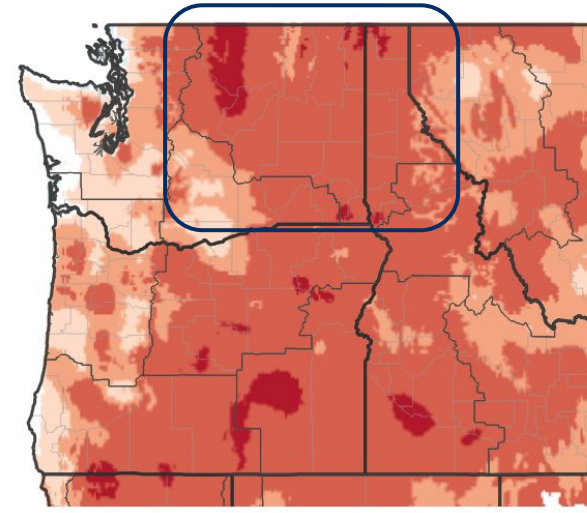
- Temperatures the last week have been warmer than normal in eastern WA and more seasonal temperatures over north ID. Meanwhile it's been mostly warmer than normal for the last 30 days by 4-6 degrees regionwide.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Data Valid: 08/11/2 Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 08/11/24



# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Stream flows over the past 7 days remain below normal across north-central WA and parts of the eastern WA into the central ID Panhandle, and have been for several months. Above normal water temperatures reported.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Drier than normal soil moisture has expanded across the Inland NW. Crop moisture index was Severely Dry in central WA and Abnormally Dry in extreme eastern WA and north ID. Pastures were suffering. Wheat harvest was underway, yet below normal yields of dryland crops are expected in many areas.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire season is underway with several large fires across the Inland NW. Significant wildland fire potential remains above normal through September.

## Mitigation Actions

- WA declared a [Drought Emergency](#) for much of the state on April 16th due to the low mountain snowpack and projected decrease in water supply.
- City of Spokane enacted Level 2 water conservation guidelines to limit outdoor watering.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Stream flows over the past 7 days remain below normal across north-central WA and parts of eastern WA into the central ID Panhandle, and have been for several months. More normal stream flows were noted across parts of eastern WA and the northern ID Panhandle.
- Being a dry period with above normal temperatures had helped to contribute with reports of above normal water temperatures.

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

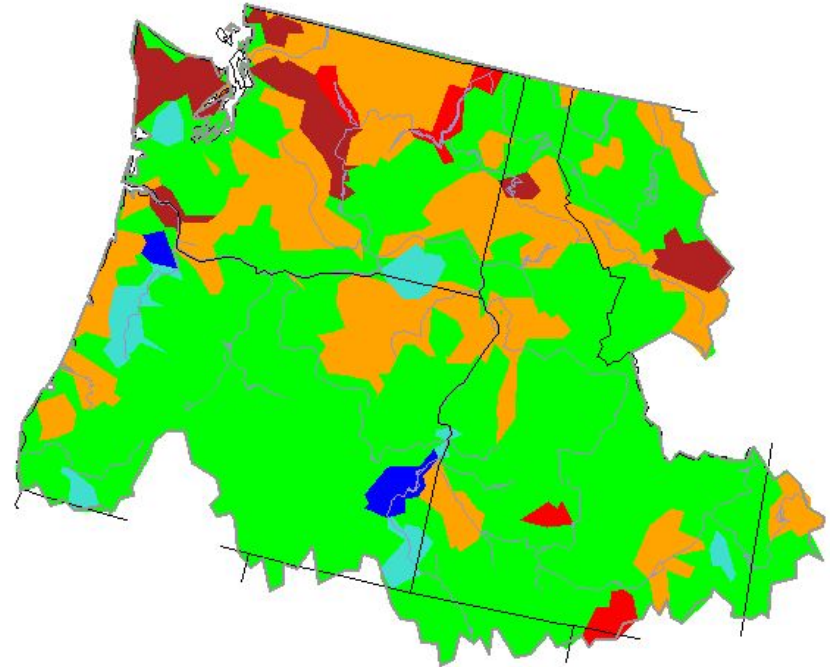


Image Caption: [USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map](#) valid August 14, 2024

### 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			



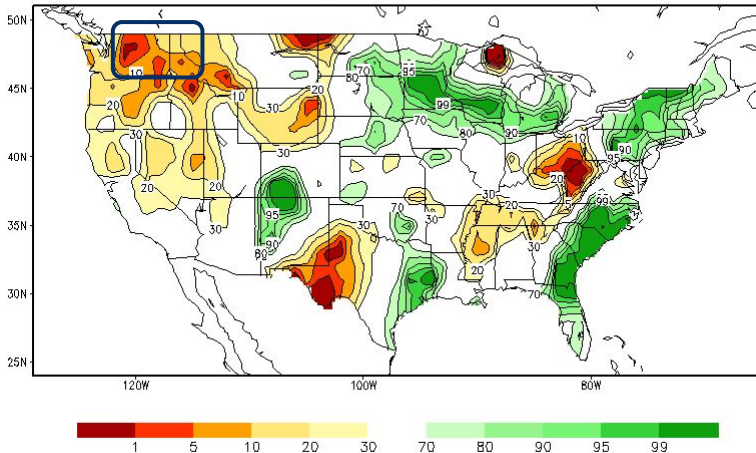




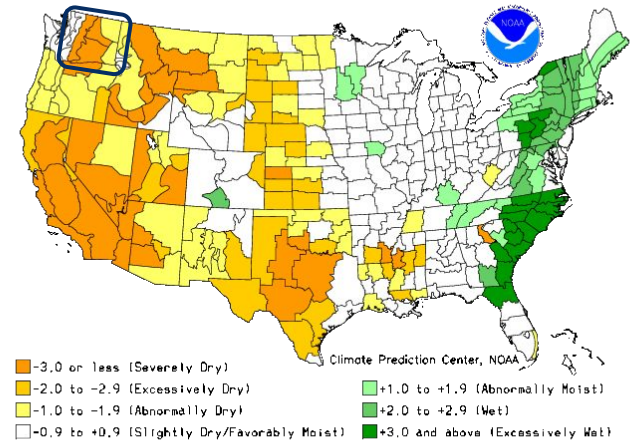
# Agricultural Conditions and Impacts

- Drier than normal soil moisture has expanded across the Inland NW, especially over the Cascades with soil moisture percentiles in single digit percentiles.
- Crop moisture index was Severely Dry in central WA and Abnormally Dry in extreme eastern WA and north ID. Pastures were suffering. Wheat harvest was underway, yet below normal yields of dryland crops are expected across Adams, parts of Douglas and Lincoln counties. Irrigated crops were doing well.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
AUG 14, 2024



Crop Moisture Index by Division  
Weekly Value for Period Ending AUG 10, 2024  
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

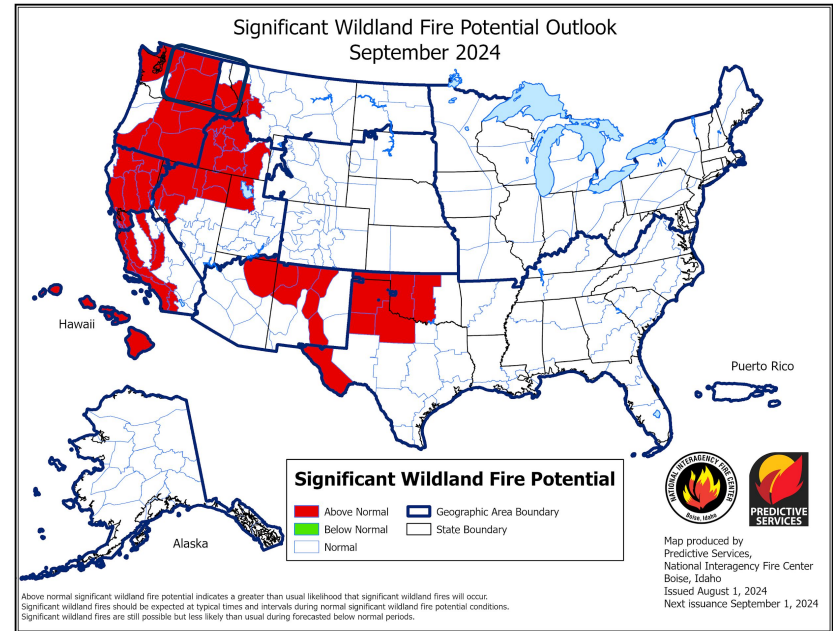
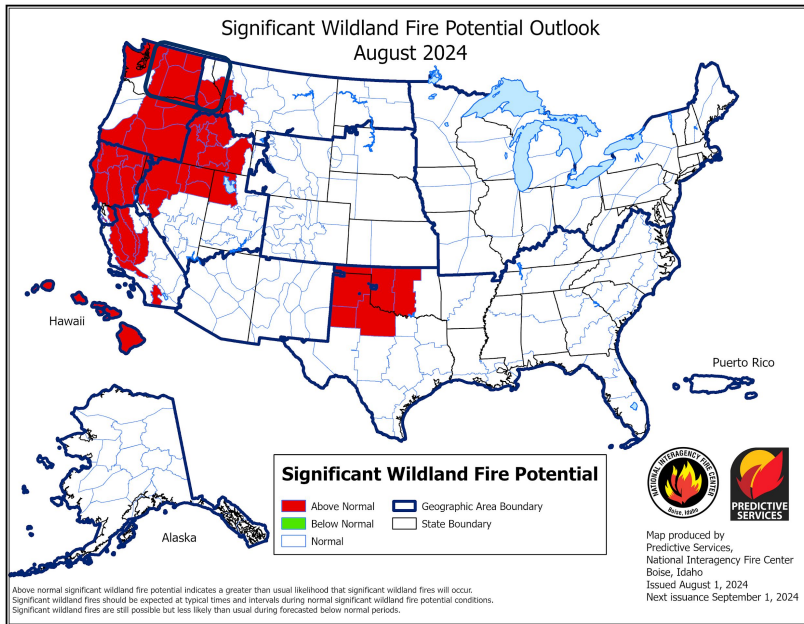




# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Fire season is underway with several large fires across the Inland NW, including the Pioneer fire on Lake Chelan, Swawilla on the Colville Reservation, Cougar Creek in the Blue Mountains, and Gwen in the southern ID Panhandle.
- The significant wildland fire potential remains above normal across the region for August and September.

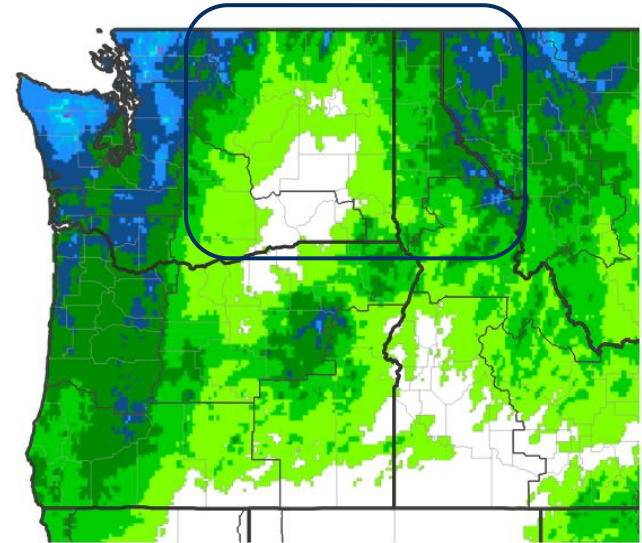




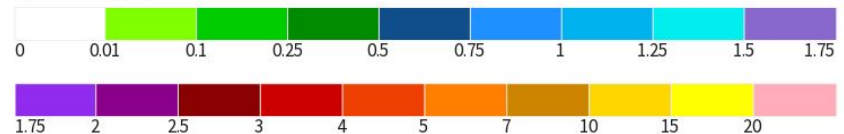
# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Here is a forecast of precipitation for the Pacific NW for the upcoming week.
- Chances of showers and thunderstorms increase over the weekend, followed by spotty showers for the upcoming work week.
- The 8-14 day outlook favors
  - 30-40% of **above normal temperatures**
  - 40-50% of **above normal precipitation** for late August.

## 7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 08/15/24



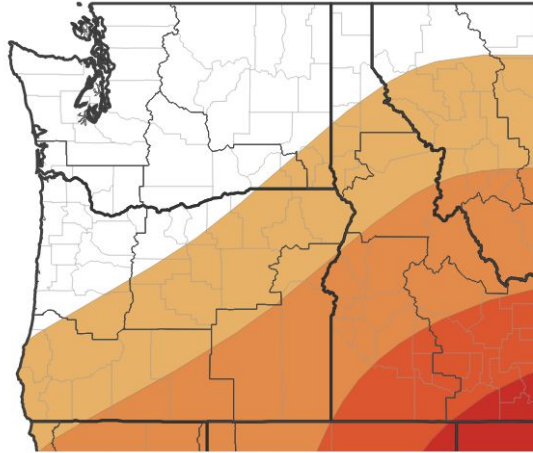


# Monthly Outlook

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

- **SEPTEMBER** is favoring equal chances to slightly above normal temperatures and equal chances of near, below, to above normal precipitation across the Inland NW.

### Monthly Temperature Outlook



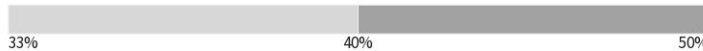
#### Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



#### Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



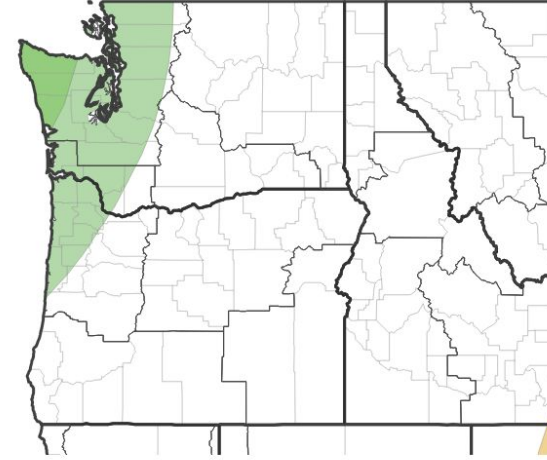
#### Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 08/15/24

### Monthly Precipitation Outlook



#### 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: 08/15/24



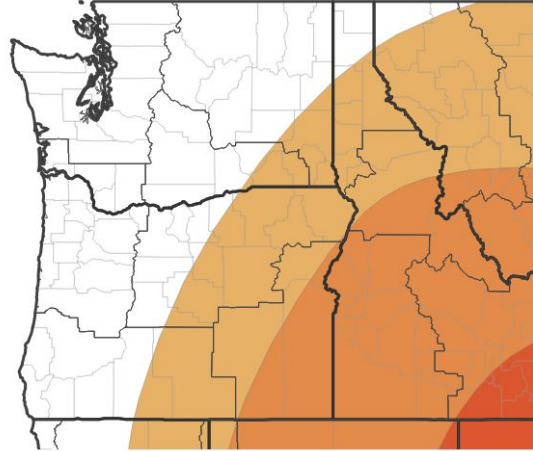


# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- **SEP-OCT-NOV** outlook has equal chances to slightly above normal temperatures and equal chances to above normal precipitation across the Inland NW.

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook



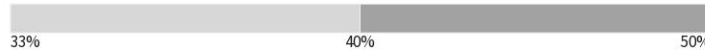
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



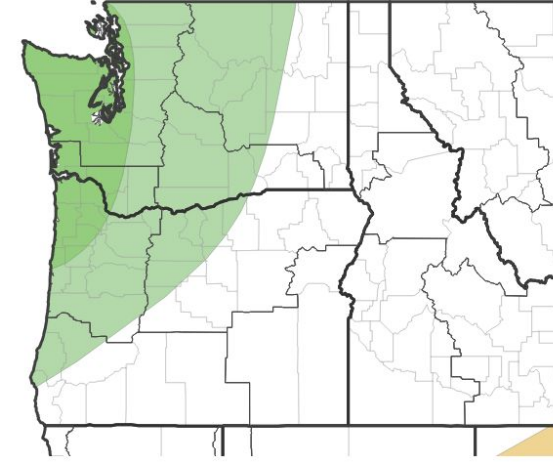
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 08/15/24

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook



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: 08/15/24



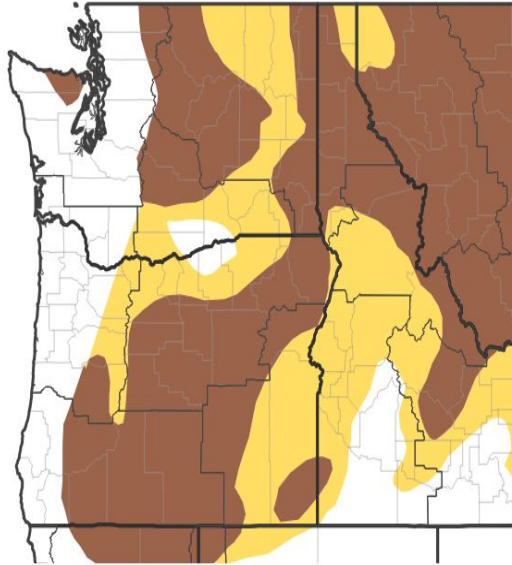


# Drought Outlook

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

- The Monthly Drought Outlook show drought is likely to persist or develop across the region.
- The Seasonal Drought Outlook shows drought likely to improve or end in eastern WA and persist over north Idaho.

### 1-Month Drought Outlook



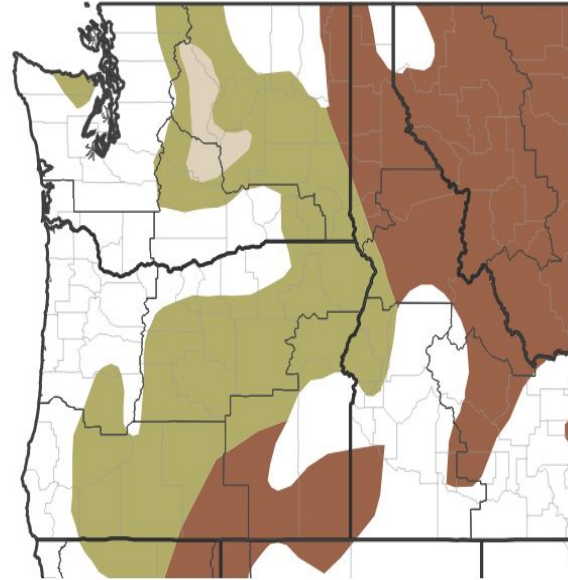
Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 07/31/24

### Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 08/15/24

