



Drought Information Statement for Eastern OR & South Central WA

Valid September 19, 2024

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.
-
- Severe Drought continues to affect the eastern Kittitas Valley
 - Moderate drought is affecting portions of the central WA Cascades, Kittitas and Yakima counties, Central and North Central OR and portions of northeast OR
 - Abnormally dry conditions continue over most of rest of the area, however, near to above normal precipitation through November is expected to ease drought conditions area wide
 - Normal significant fire potential is forecast for September through December for the entire area (Northwest Coordination Center)



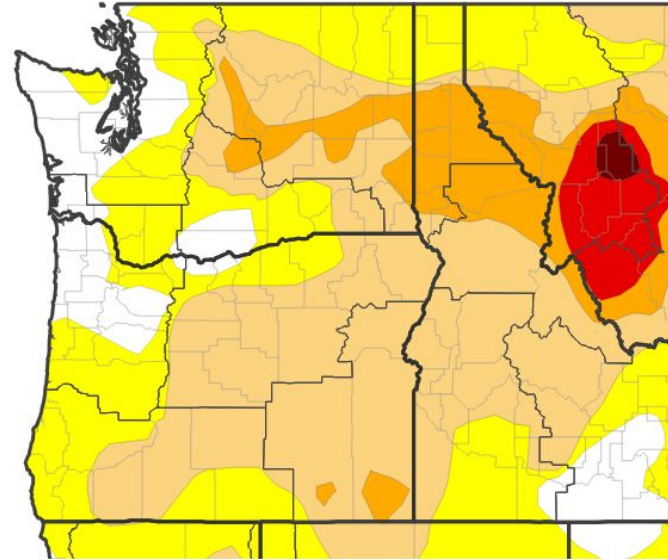


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Eastern portions of the Kittitas Valley
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Portions of the central Washington Cascades, Kittitas and Yakima counties, central and north central Oregon, the Ochoco-John Day Highlands, Blue Mountains, and Wallowa County
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: All other areas except portions of the Eastern Columbia Gorge and Simcoe Highlands

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 09/10/24



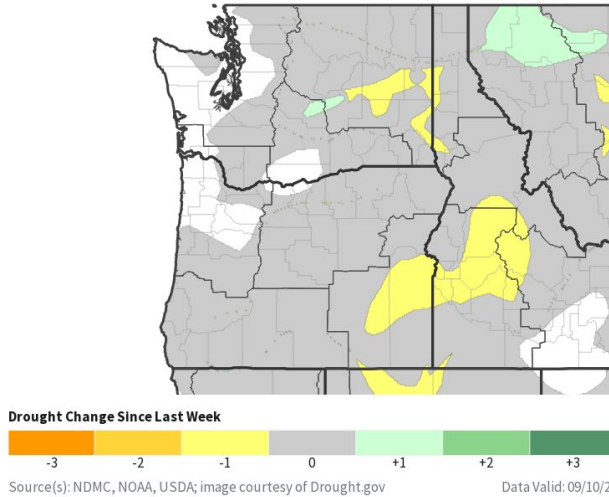


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for the Pacific Northwest

- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change
 - [Drought Improved \(1 Class Improvement\)](#): A small portion of Northeast Kittitas County
- Four-Week Drought Monitor Class Change
 - [Drought Worsened \(1 Class Degradation\)](#): A small portion of the WA and OR Columbia Basin
 - [Drought Improved \(1 Class Improvement\)](#): The Eastern Columbia Gorge and Simcoe Highlands and portions of the WA Cascades, the Yakima Valley and the Kittitas Valley

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Pacific Northwest DEWS
4 Week

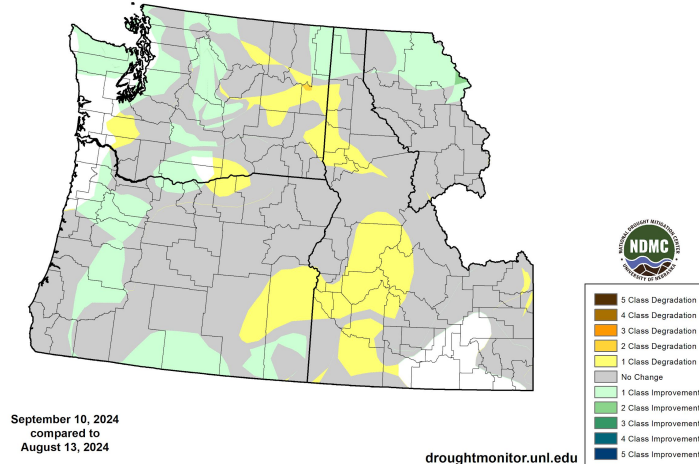


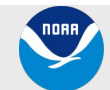
Image Captions:

Right - 4 Week Drought Class Change

Left - 1 Week Drought Class Change

Data Courtesy U.S. Drought Monitor and Drought.gov

Data over the past 7 and 28 days ending September 10, 2024



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

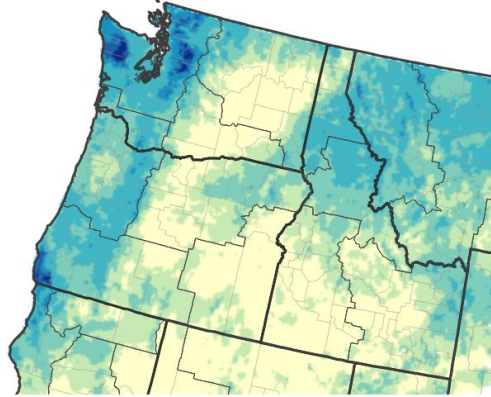
National Weather Service
Pendleton, OR



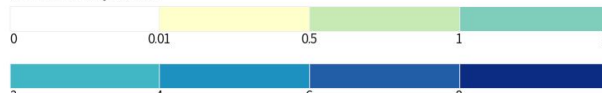
Precipitation - Last 30 Days

- Mostly above normal precipitation in most areas (100-300 percent of normal)
- Pockets of below normal precipitation (25-100 percent of normal) across central OR, the Ochoco-John Day Highlands, Simcoe Highlands, Eastern Columbia River Gorge, western WA Columbia Basin and SE Wallowa county
- Highest precipitation amounts were 1 to 2 inches along portions of the Cascades, Blue and Wallowa Mountains

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)

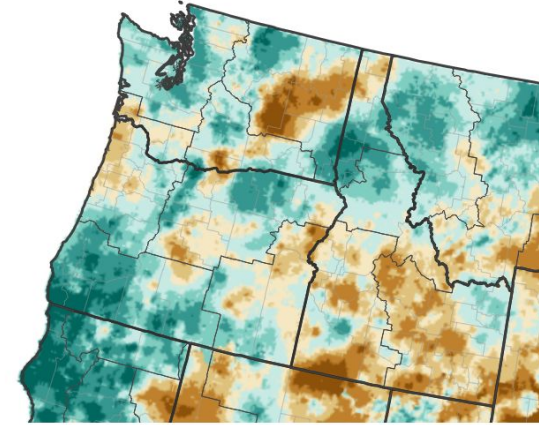


Inches of Precipitation

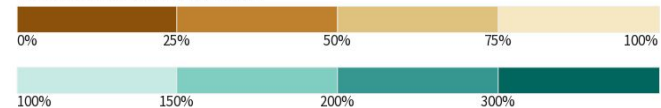


Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 09/17/24

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: 09/17/24

Image Captions:

Right - Precipitation Amount for Pacific NW

Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW

Data Courtesy NWS Water Prediction Service

Data over the past 30 days ending September 17, 2024

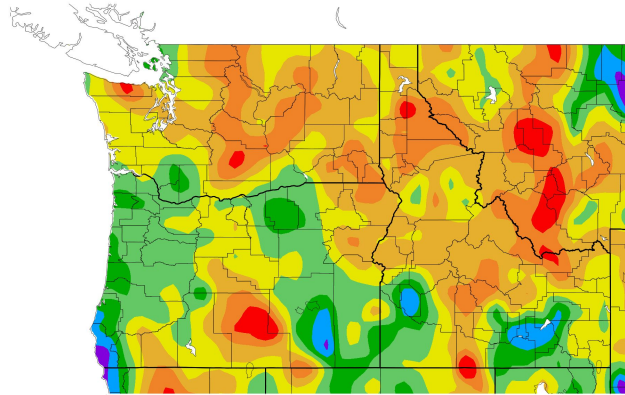




Precipitation - Current Water Year

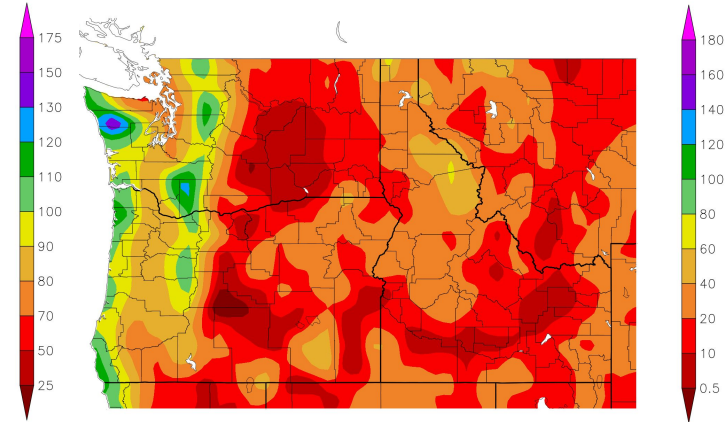
- Below normal precipitation (50-100%) continues for the current water year over much of the area
- The exception: areas of near to above normal precipitation (100-120%) across parts of the OR Cascades, Eastern Columbia River Gorge and from the Ochoco-John Day Highlands north into the southern Blue Mountains, OR Blue Mountain Foothills into the western WA Columbia Basin

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/1/2023 - 9/17/2024



Generated 9/18/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

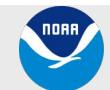
Precipitation (in)
10/1/2023 - 9/17/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 8/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Image Captions:
 Right - Precipitation Amount for Pacific NW
 Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
 Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center
 Data for the current water year ending September 17, 2024

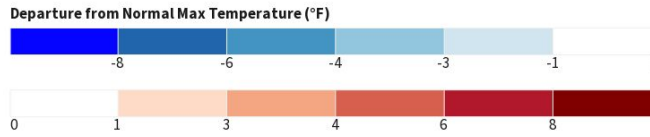
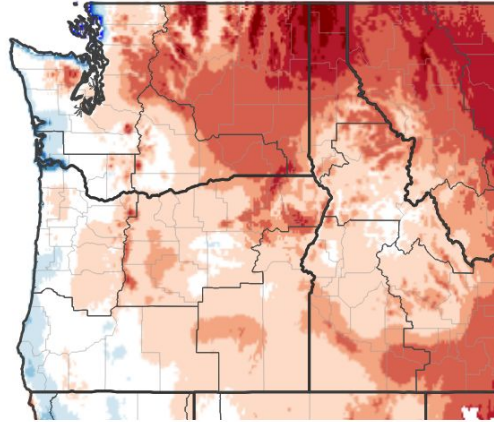




Temperature - Last 7 and 30 Days

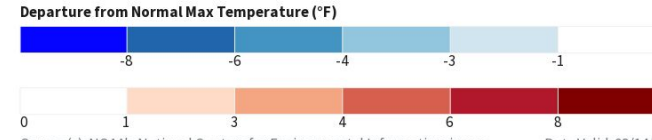
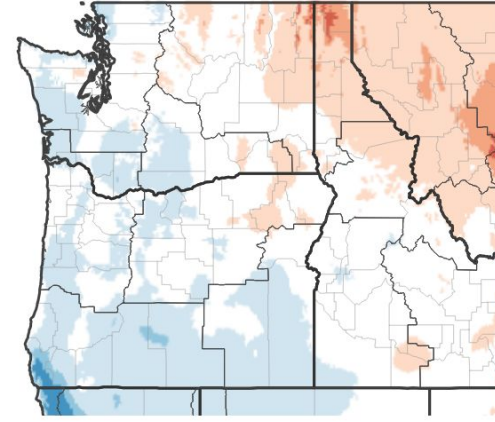
- Above normal high temperatures of 1 to 4 degrees above normal the last 7 days over most locations, except for areas of 4-8 degrees above normal in the mountains and WA Columbia Basin and Blue Mountain Foothills
- Mainly near normal high temperatures the last 30 days, except for temperatures 1-3 degrees above normal for portions of the Blue and Wallowa Mountains and WA Columbia Basin and temperatures 1-3 degrees below normal for portions of central OR north to the Yakima Valley and in the Ochoco-John Day Highlands

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 09/14/24

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



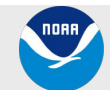
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 09/14/24

Image Captions:

Right - Temperature for Pacific NW

Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW

Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center
Data for the last 30 days ending September 14, 2024





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Much below normal streamflow (<10th percentile) across the Upper Yakima, Upper Columbia-Entiat and Upper Columbia-Priest Rapids basins, below normal streamflow (10th-25th percentile) across the Lower Grande Ronde and Lower Crooked basins
- Reservoir levels are nearly all at or below 35% full (4-36% full) with a few outliers (Crane Prairie, Haystack, Ochoco and Prineville) in central Oregon above normal (55-74% full) - this may affect fish and other aquatic species as well as recreation activities through the late summer and early fall, especially in the Columbia Basin.

Snowpack Impacts

- All snow telemetry (SNOTEL) monitoring sites show snow has melted/no remaining snow. There are no known impacts at this time.

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Other Impacts

- [Washington Drought Emergency declared for all counties east of the Cascades](#)
- [Jefferson County Oregon Drought Emergency Declared](#)

Mitigation actions

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



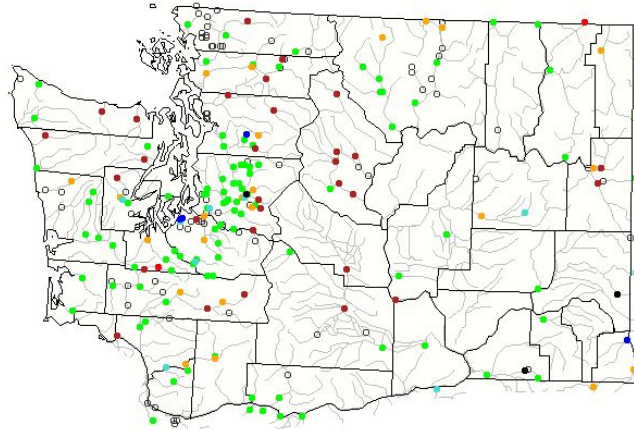


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts - Washington

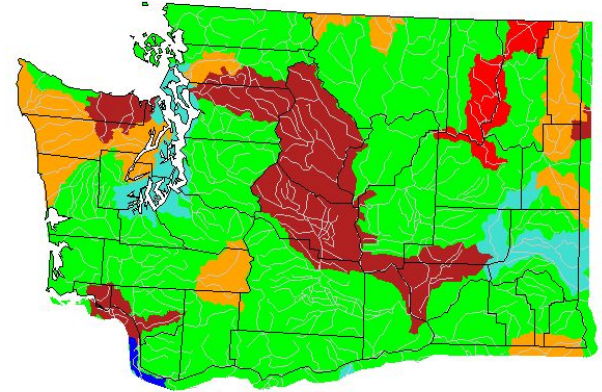
Main Takeaways

- The Upper Yakima, Upper Columbia-Entiat and Upper Columbia-Priest Rapids basins have well below normal streamflow (<10 percent of normal)
- The Lower Grand Ronde basin has below normal streamflow (10th-24th percentile)
- Other river, stream, and creek flows are near normal (25th-75th percentile)

Tuesday, September 17, 2024



Tuesday, September 17, 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		

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

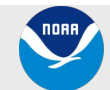
Reduced streamflow may be detrimental to aquatic species and recreational activities.

Image Captions:

Right - USGS 7-day average streamflow station map valid September 17, 2024

Left - USGS 7-day average streamflow HUC map valid September 17, 2024

Data Courtesy USGS Water Watch





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts - Oregon

Main Takeaways

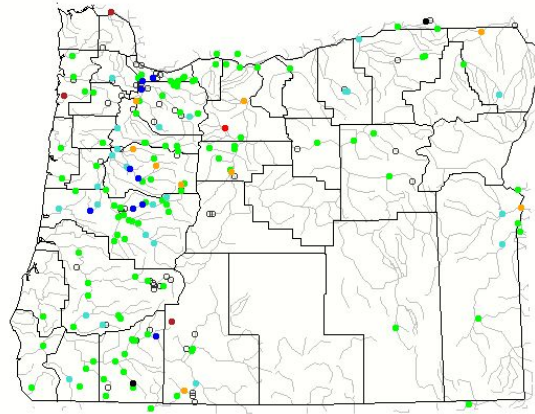
- Below normal (10th-24th percentile) for the Lower Crooked and Lower Grande Ronde basins
- Above normal (76th-90th percentile) for the Willow basin
- Other river, stream, and creek flows are near normal (25th-75th percentile)

Impacts

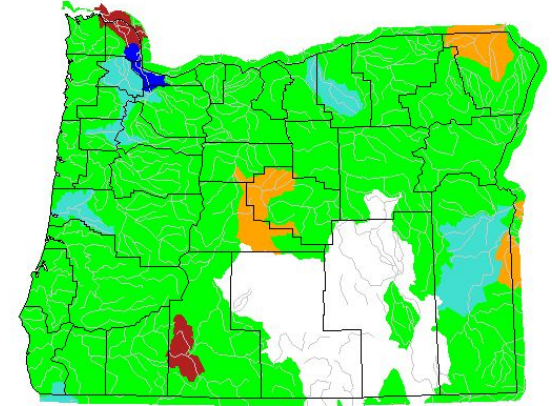
No known impacts at this time

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Tuesday, September 17, 2024



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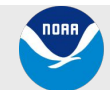
Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Image Captions:

Right - USGS 7-day average streamflow station map valid September 17, 2024

Left - USGS 7-day average streamflow HUC map valid September 17, 2024

Data Courtesy USGS Water Watch





Water Supply Forecast - April - September 2024

Link to the latest [Northwest River Forecast Center Water Supply Forecast](#).

Main Takeaways

- Below to much below normal water supply (50-75% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast across much of south central WA, southeast WA, and Blue Mountains and the Blue Mountain foothills of WA and OR for the April-September 2024 period
- Near-normal water supply (75-105%) is forecast across central and north central OR, the Columbia River Gorge, the southern Blue mountains, the Ochoco-John Day Highlands and Wallowa county

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

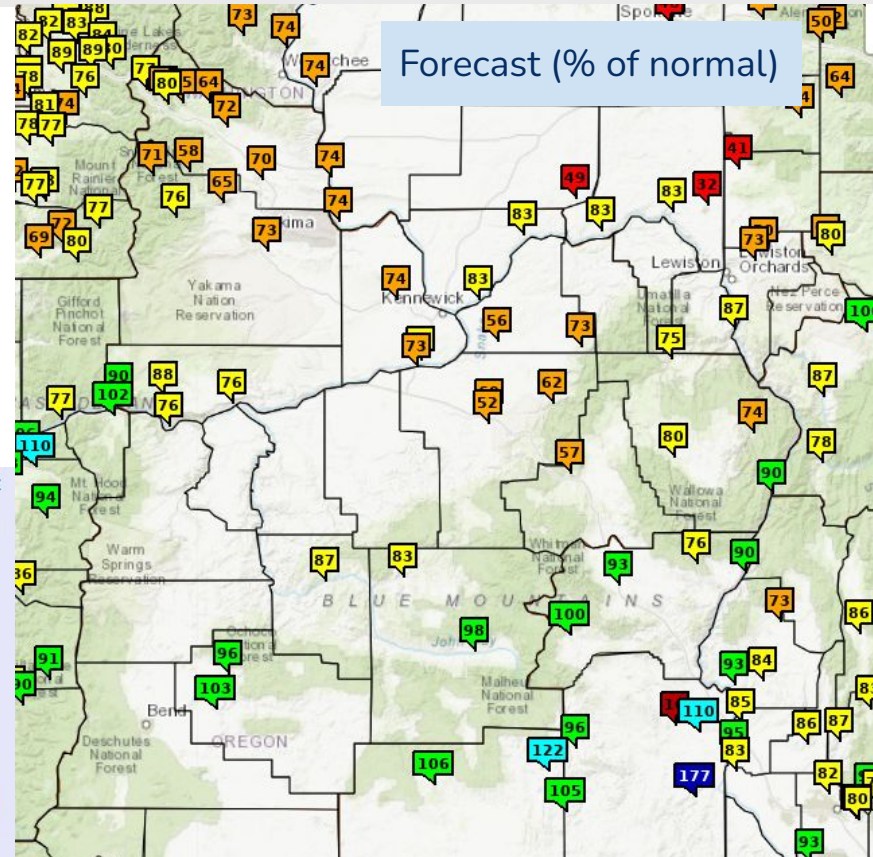
Data Courtesy NOAA NWS Northwest River Forecast Center

Issued September 17, 2024

ESP Natural Forecast

Period: APR-SEP
Forecast (% Normal)

- No Normal, No Data
- < 25
- 25-50
- 50-75
- 75-90
- 90-110
- 110-125
- 125-150
- 150-175
- > 175



National Weather Service
Pendleton, OR



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce



Fire Hazard Impacts - September through December

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

Main Takeaways

- [Normal significant wildland fire potential for all areas](#) for September and October 2024
- Near normal significant wildland fire potential (i.e., very low risk) for all areas for November and December 2024
- Significant wildland fires are expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions

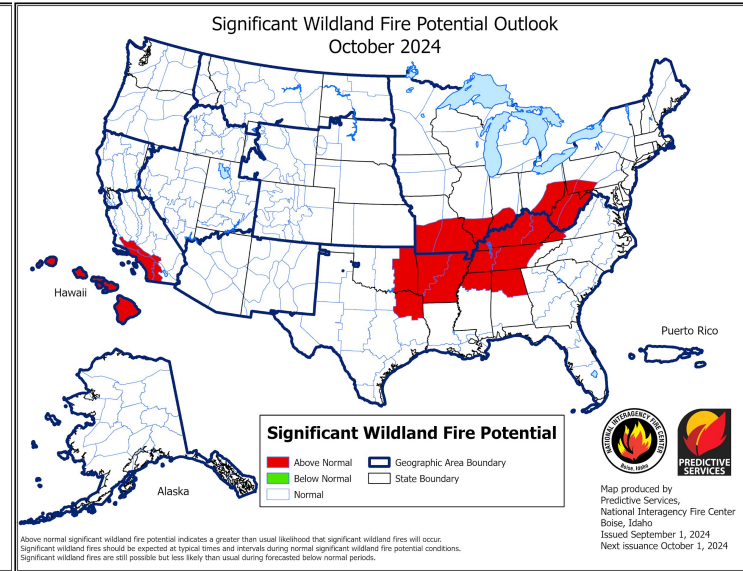
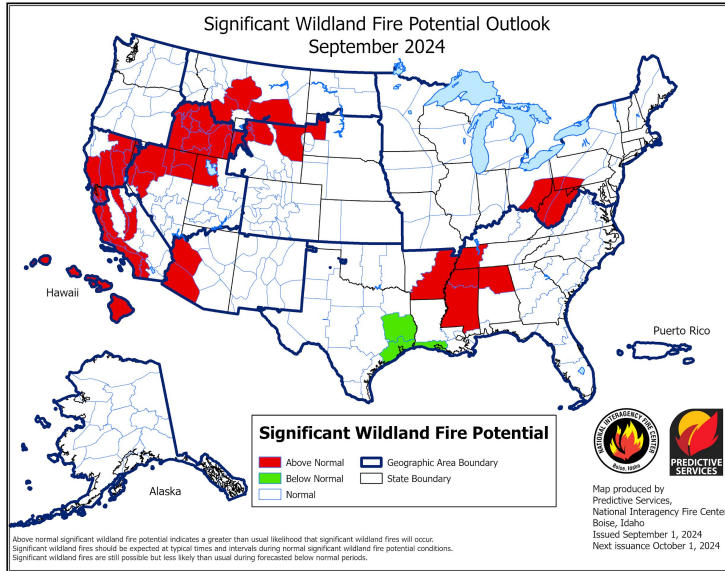


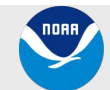
Image Caption:

Left - September 2024

Right - October 2024

Data Courtesy National Interagency Coordination Center

Issued September 1, 2024



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

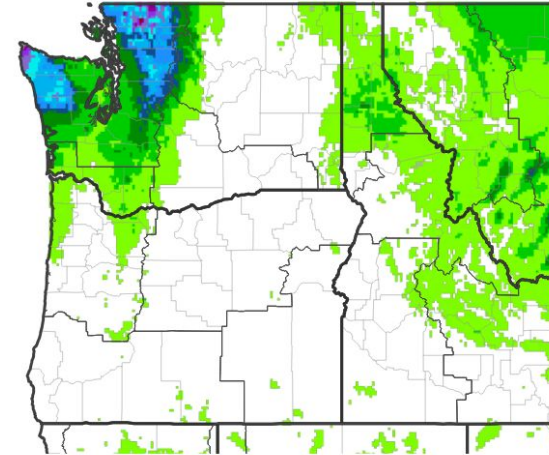
National Weather Service
Pendleton, OR



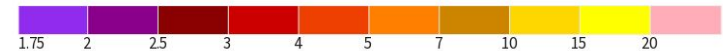
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A northwest flow over the Pacific Northwest will give the area a chance of light rain over the Washington Cascades at times during the next week, especially Sunday and Monday
 - Most areas will be dry but the WA Cascade crest could get up to a quarter of an inch or less while the lower elevations of the WA Cascades will get up to a tenth of an inch
- Visit weather.gov/Pendleton for the latest weather forecast

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for September 18, 2024–September 25, 2024



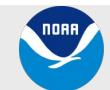
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image Last Updated: 09/18/24 courtesy of Drought.gov

Image Caption:

Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](https://weather.gov/Pendleton)





6-10 Day Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center 6 to 10 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

Main Takeaways

- Leaning towards above normal temperatures area-wide (50-70%)
- Leaning towards below normal precipitation area-wide (33-50%)

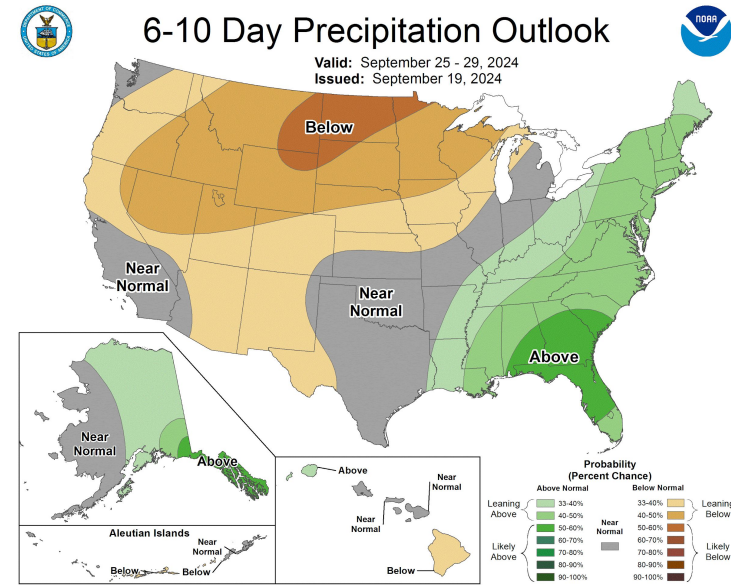
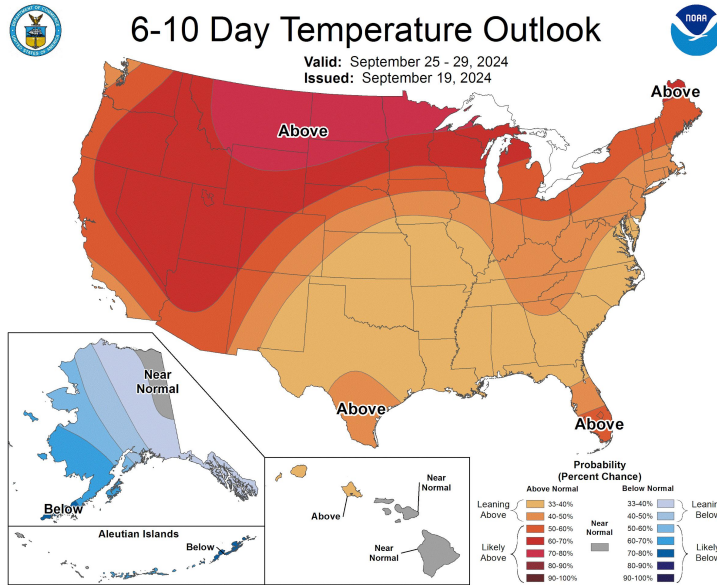
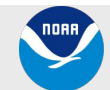


Image Captions:
 Left - [Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Temperature Outlook](#),
 Right - [Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook](#),
 Valid September 23-27, 2024





8-14 Day Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

Main Takeaways

- Above normal temperatures (40-60% chance) in WA and OR
- Below normal precipitation (33-50% chance) in OR and parts of the eastern Columbia Basin and Blue Mountain Foothills of WA
- Equal chances of above, below or near normal precipitation in the rest of WA

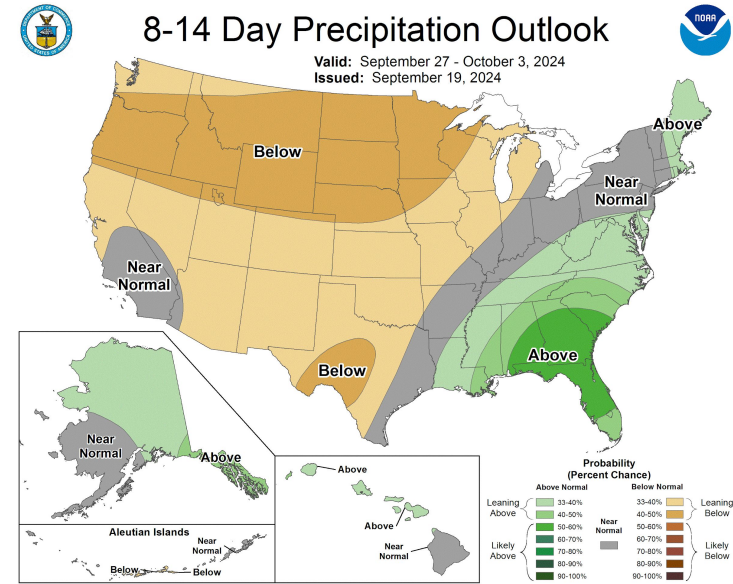
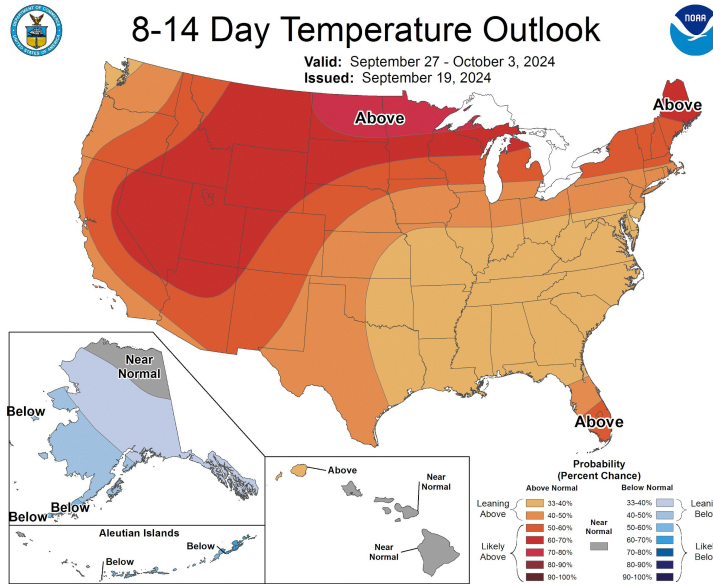
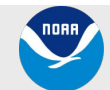


Image Captions:
 Left - [Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook](#),
 Right - [Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook](#),
 Valid September 25 - October 1, 2024





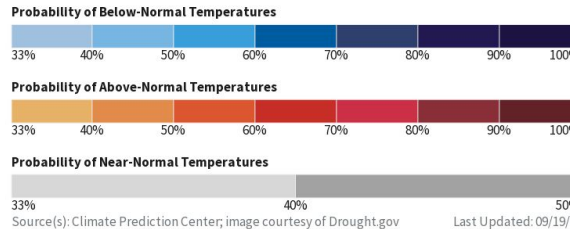
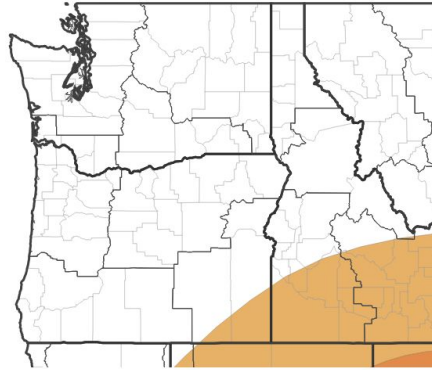
Monthly Climate Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center [Monthly Outlook](#).

Main Takeaways for October

- Equal chances of above, below or near normal temperatures in all areas
- Odds favor above normal precipitation area (33-40%) along portions of the WA Cascade crest and equal chances of above, below and near normal precipitation in the rest of the area

Monthly Temperature Outlook for October 1, 2024–October 31, 2024



Monthly Precipitation Outlook for October 1, 2024–October 31, 2024

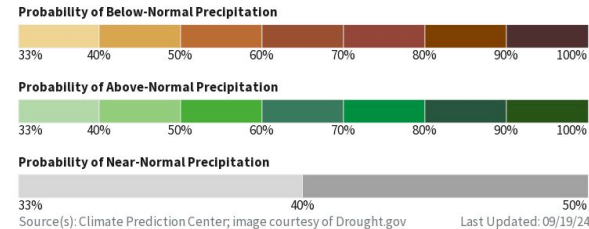
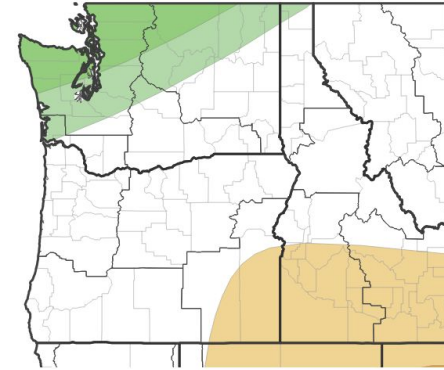


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook](#).

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook](#).

Valid September 2024





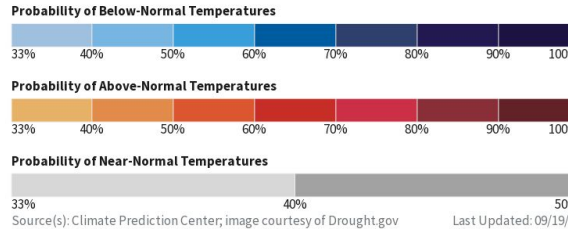
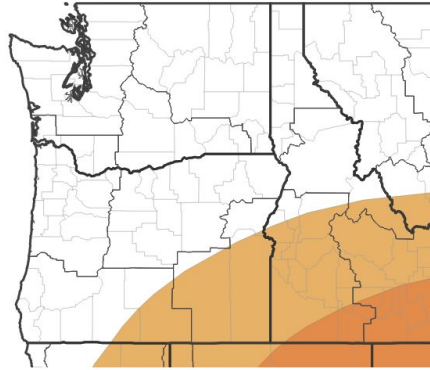
Seasonal Climate Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center [Seasonal Outlook](#).

Main Takeaways for October-November-December

- Equal chances of above, near and below normal temperatures for all areas
- Odds leaning towards above normal precipitation (33-50%) for all areas

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for October 1, 2024-December 31, 2024



Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for October 1, 2024-December 31, 2024

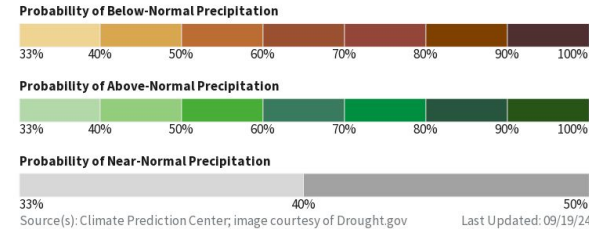
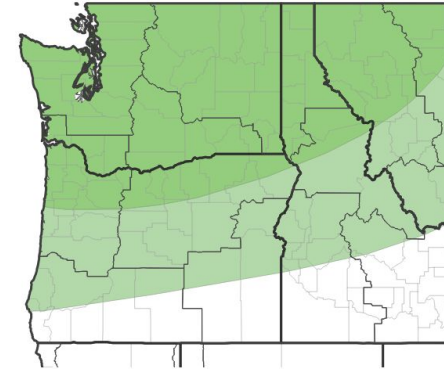


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook](#).

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook](#).

Valid September, October and November 2024





Drought Outlook

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

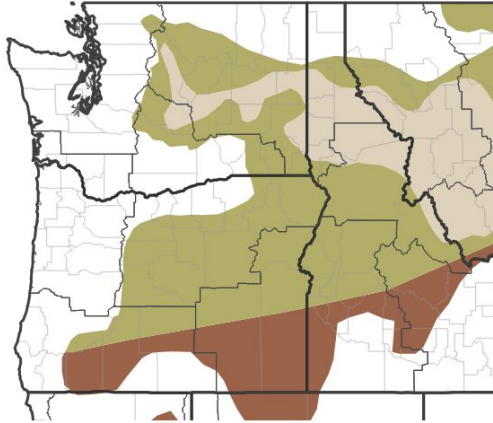
Main Takeaways

- During September, current conditions are expected to persist over the area except for drought ending over most of the WA Cascades
- September through November, drought is expected to improve over eastern Kittitas county and either end or continue to have no drought over the rest of southeast WA and northeast OR

Possible Impact

- Reduced streamflows and reservoir levels, possible reduction in agricultural yield, crop loss, and poor pasture conditions where irrigation water is not available.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for August 31, 2024–November 30, 2024



1-Month Drought Outlook for September 1, 2024–September 30, 2024

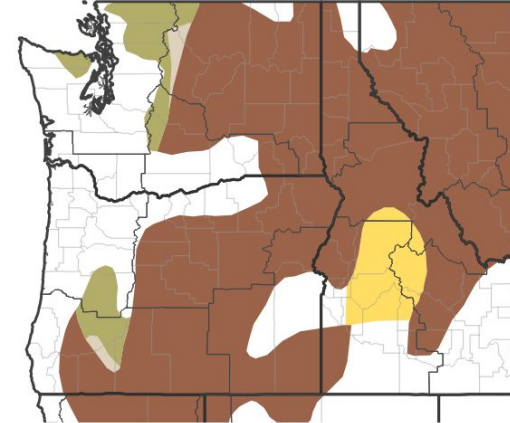


Image Captions:

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#) Released August 31, 2024

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#) Released August 31, 2024

