



# Drought Information Statement for Eastern OR & South Central WA

Valid October 4, 2024

Issued By: NWS Pendleton

Contact Information: [pdt.operations@noaa.gov](mailto: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 with 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 November through this winter is expected to ease drought conditions area wide
  - Normal significant fire potential for October through January (Northwest Coordination Center)
  - Due to impacts from Hurricane Helene, some graphics were unavailable and alternates were used



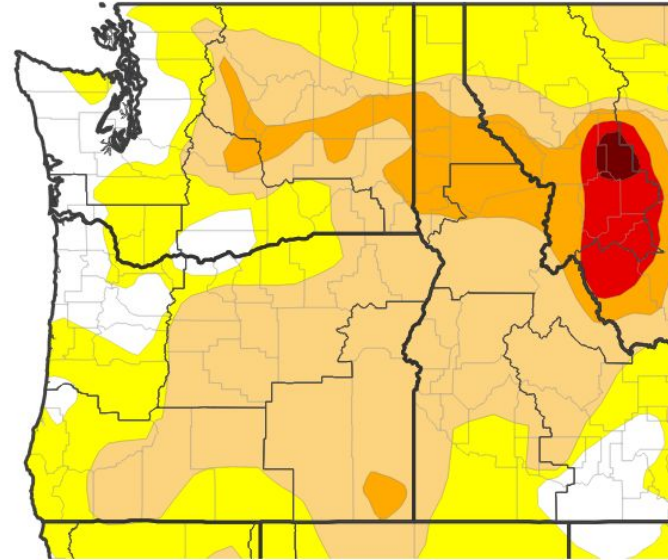


# U.S. Drought Monitor

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 and Oregon Cascades, Kittitas and Yakima counties, central and north central Oregon, the Ochoco-John Day Highlands, Blue Mountains, Grande Ronde Valley and Wallowa County
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: All other areas except portions of the Eastern Columbia Gorge, Simcoe Highlands and southern Yakima County

## U.S. Drought Monitor



### U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 10/01/24



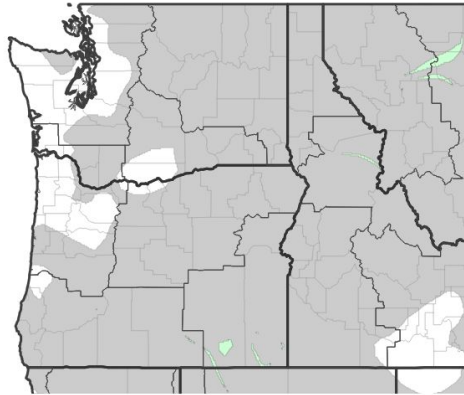


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

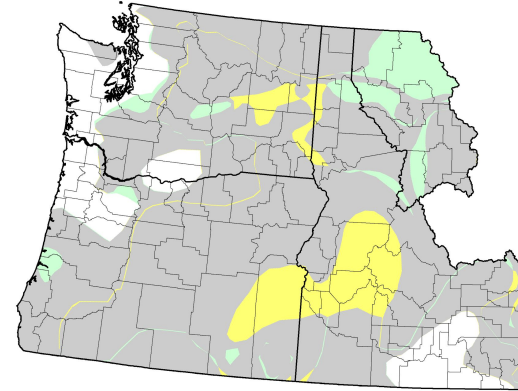
- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change
  - No changes
- Four-Week Drought Monitor Class Change
  - [Drought Worsened \(1 Class Degradation\)](#): No significant areas
  - [Drought Improved \(1 Class Improvement\)](#): Northeastern Kittitas Valley

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 09/24/24

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



October 1, 2024  
compared to  
September 3, 2024

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

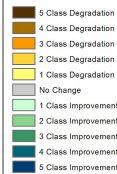
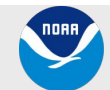


Image Captions:  
 Right - 4 Week Drought Class Change  
 Left - 1 Week Drought Class Change  
 Data Courtesy U.S. Drought Monitor and Drought.gov  
 Data over the past 7 days ending September 24, 2024  
 Data over the past 28 days ending October 1, 2024

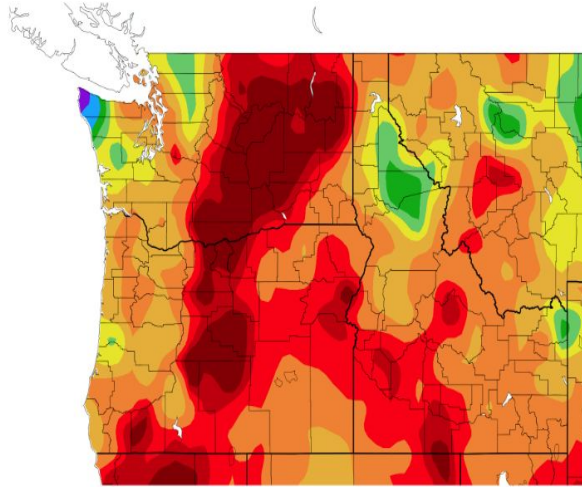




# Precipitation - Last 30 Days

- Mostly well below normal precipitation (0-70 percent of normal) in the western portions of the area (0-25 percent of normal in the Cascades, central and north central OR and the western Columbia basin) with below normal precipitation (50-90 percent of normal) in the eastern portions of the area
- Pockets of above normal precipitation (100-150 percent of normal) in the OR and WA Blue Mountain Foothills and Columbia Basin and northwestern Blue mountains of WA
- Highest precipitation amounts were 0.50 to 1 inch over the Blue Mountains and eastern Wallowa County

Precipitation (in)  
9/4/2024 - 10/3/2024



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
9/4/2024 - 10/3/2024

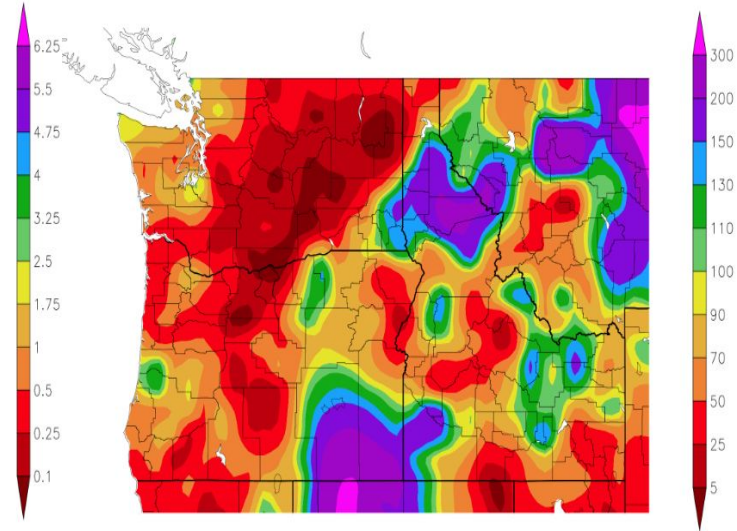


Image Captions:  
Right - Precipitation Amount for Pacific NW  
Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW  
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center  
Data over the past 30 days ending October 3, 2024

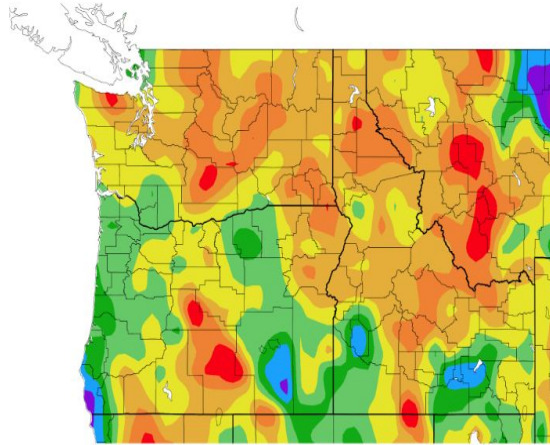




# Precipitation - 2024 Water Year

- Below normal precipitation (50-100%) for the just concluded 2024 water year over much of the area
- The exception: areas of near to above normal precipitation (100-120%) from the Ochoco-John Day Highlands north into the southern Blue Mountains, OR Blue Mountain Foothills and western WA Columbia Basin and in small pockets of the OR Cascades and the Eastern Columbia River Gorge

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
10/1/2023 - 9/30/2024



Precipitation (in)  
10/1/2023 - 9/30/2024

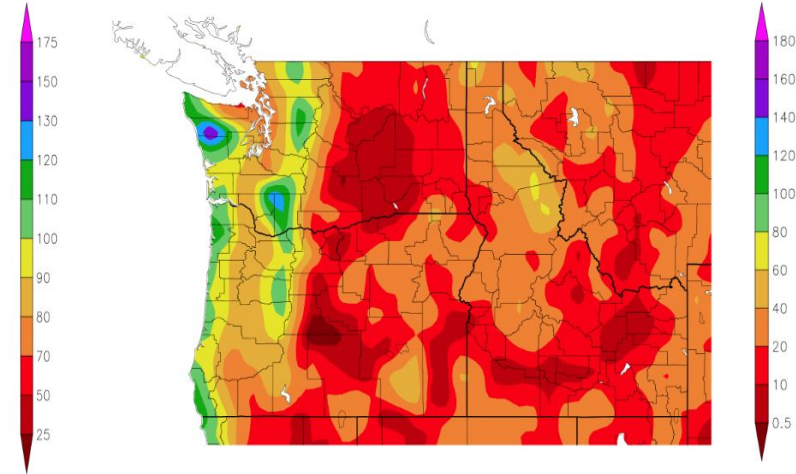
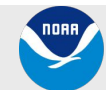


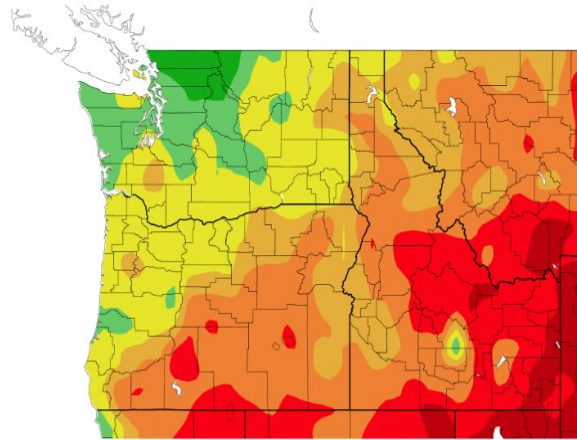
Image Captions:  
Right - Precipitation Amounts for Pacific NW  
Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW  
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center  
Data for the just concluded 2024 water year ending September 30, 2024



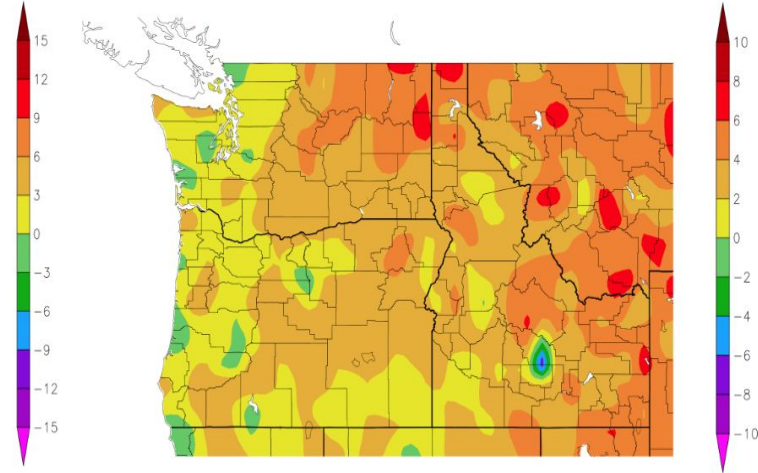


# Temperature - Last 7 and 30 Days

Departure from Normal Average Maximum Temperature (F)  
9/27/2024 - 10/3/2024



Departure from Normal Average Maximum Temperature (F)  
9/4/2024 - 10/3/2024



- Near to above normal high temperatures of 0 to 6 degrees above normal the last 7 days over most locations, except for 0 to 3 degrees below normal in the Kittitas Valley and areas of 6-9 degrees above normal in central OR, Ochoco-John Day Highlands, Grande Ronde Valley
- Mainly near to above normal high temperatures (0-4 degrees above normal) for the last 30 days, except for temperatures 4-6 degrees above normal for portions of the Kittitas Valley and Grande Ronde Valley and temperatures 0-2 degrees below normal for portions of north central OR and southern Blue Mountains

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 7 days and 30 days ending October 3, 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 and Lower Yakima, Upper Columbia-Priest Rapids, Umatilla and Lower Grand Ronde basins, below normal streamflow (10th-25th percentile) across the Naches, Lower Snake-Tucannon, Lower Snake-Asotin, Upper Grande Ronde, Imnaha, Hells Canyon, Trout, Upper Deschutes and Upper and Lower Crook basins
- Reservoir levels are nearly all at or below 26% full (2-26% full) with a few outliers (Crane Prairie, Haystack, Ochoco and Prineville) in central Oregon above normal (52-75% 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 no remaining snow. There are no known impacts at this time.

## Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

## Fire Hazard Impacts

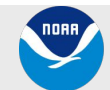
- There are no known impacts at this time

## 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



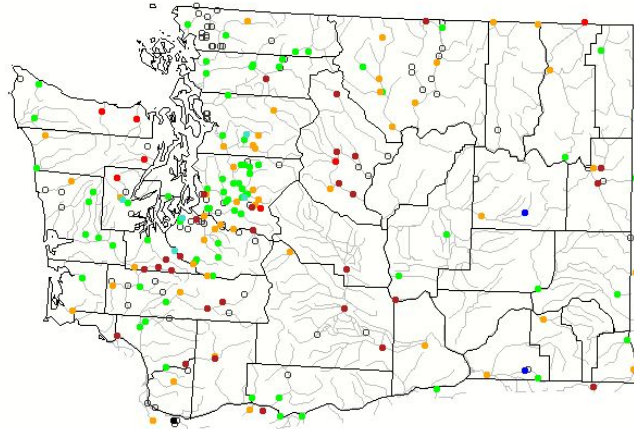


# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts - Washington

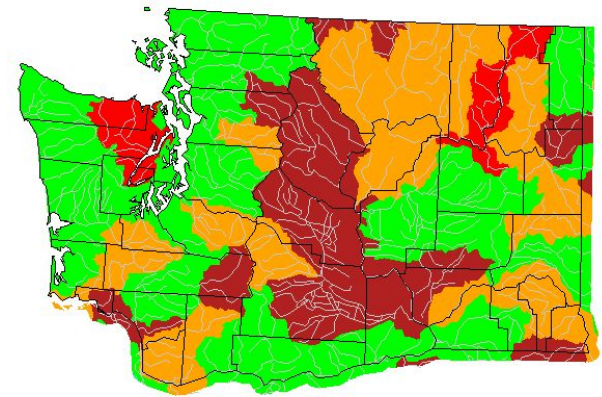
## Main Takeaways

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

Thursday, October 03, 2024



Thursday, October 03, 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 October 3, 2024  
 Left - USGS 7-day average streamflow HUC map valid October 3, 2024  
 Data Courtesy USGS Water Watch





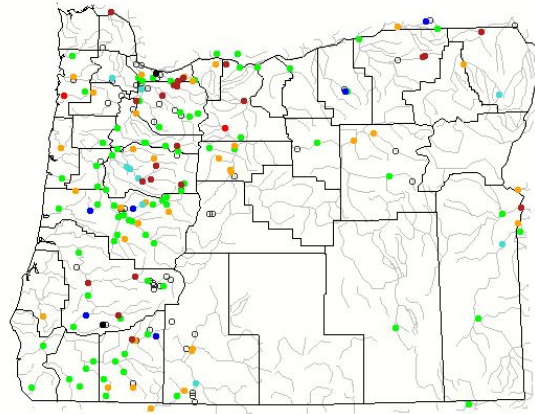


# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts - Oregon

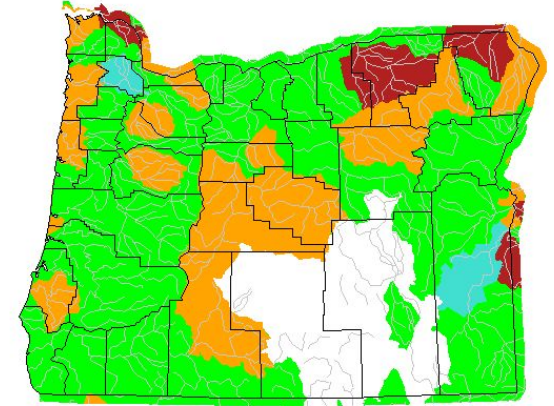
## Main Takeaways

- Well below normal (less than 10th percentile) for the Umatilla and Lower Grande Ronde basins
- Below normal (10th-24th percentile) for the Upper Grande Ronde, Imnaha, Hells Canyon, Trout, Upper Deschutes, Upper and Lower Crook basins
- Other river, stream, and creek flows are near normal (25th-75th percentile)

Thursday, October 03, 2024



Thursday, October 03, 2024



## Impacts

No known impacts at this time



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

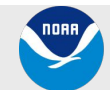
Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
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Image Captions:

Right - USGS 7-day average streamflow station map valid October 3, 2024

Left - USGS 7-day average streamflow HUC map valid October 3, 2024

Data Courtesy USGS Water Watch





# 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 October and November 2024
- Normal significant wildland fire potential (i.e., very low risk) for all areas for December 2024 and January 2025
- Significant wildland fires are expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions

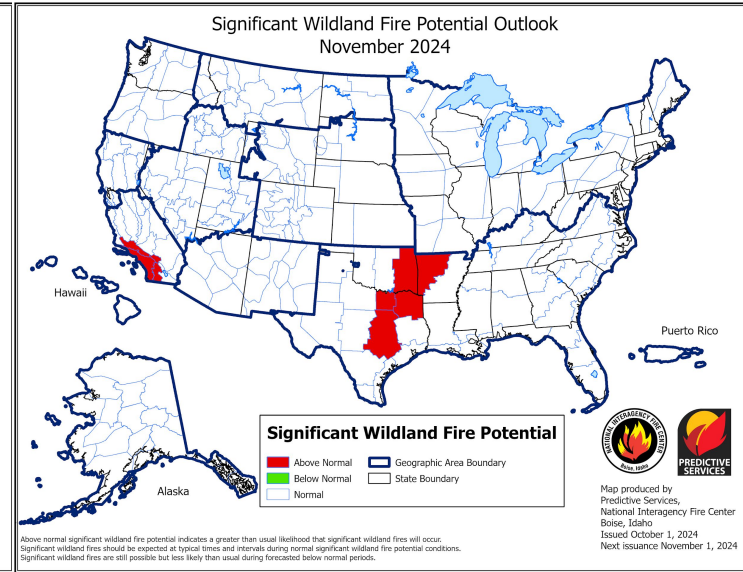
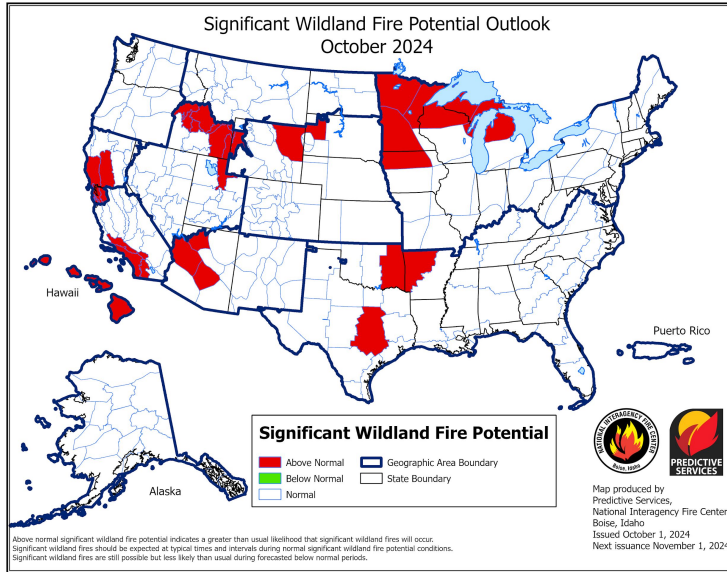


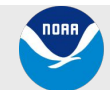
Image Caption:

Left - October 2024

Right - November 2024

Data Courtesy National Interagency Coordination Center

Issued October 1, 2024



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Pendleton, OR



# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- High pressure over the western states will keep the region mainly dry though a couple of cold fronts will bring light rain to the mountains and northern portions of the area tonight and next Friday.
  - Most areas will be dry but the Cascade crest could get up to a quarter of an inch of rain while the Columbia Gorge, Blue Mountains and portions of the WA Columbia Basin may get up to a tenth of an inch
- Visit [weather.gov/Pendleton](https://weather.gov/Pendleton) for the latest weather forecast

Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts [Legacy Page:](#)

Valid 00Z 10/05/2024 - 00Z 10/12/2024

Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4 Day 5 Day 6 Day 7 | Total: Day 1-2 Day 1-3 Day 1-5 **Day 1-7**

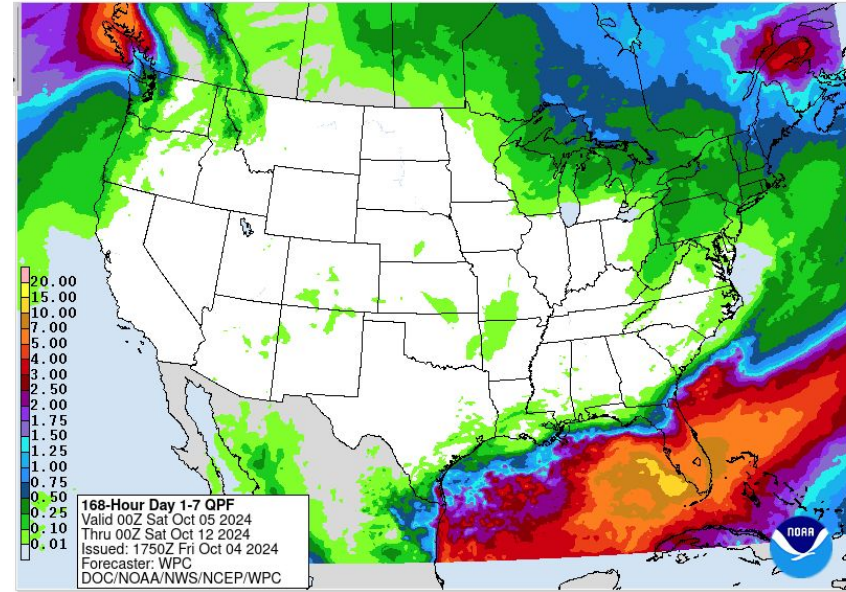
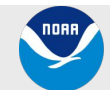


Image Caption:  
Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#)



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Pendleton, OR



# 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 (70-90%)
- Leaning towards below normal precipitation area-wide (33-50%)

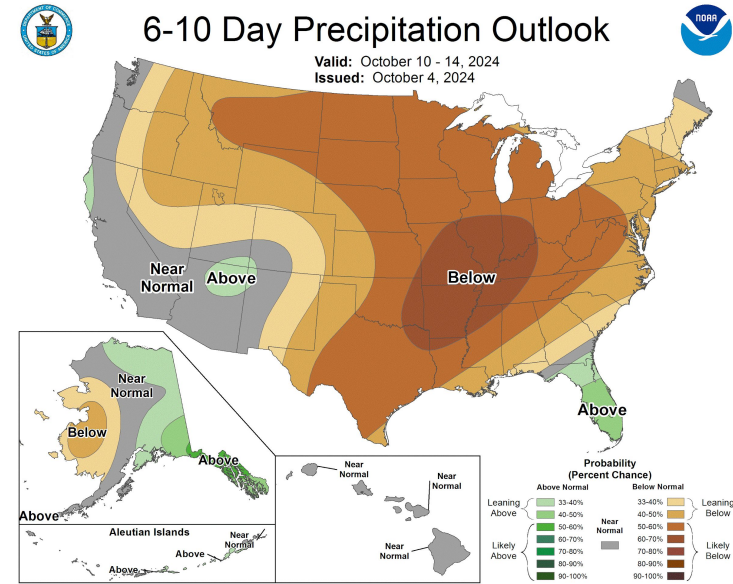
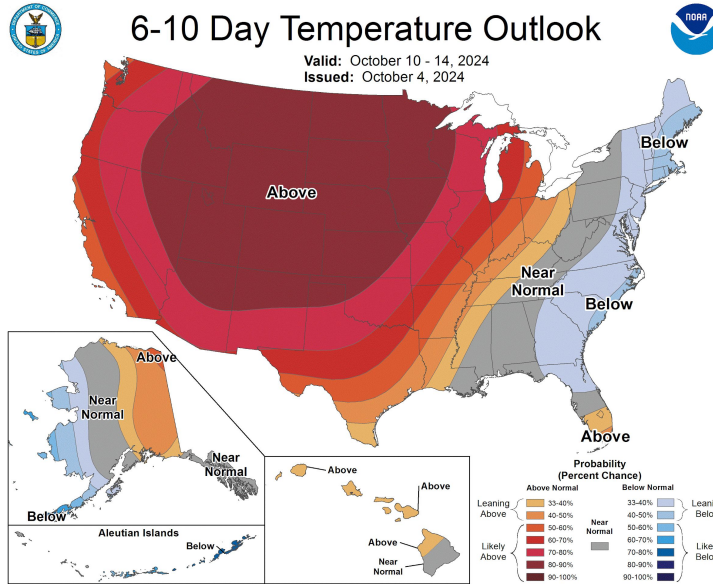


Image Captions:  
 Left - [Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Temperature Outlook](#),  
 Right - [Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook](#),  
 Valid October 10-14, 2024



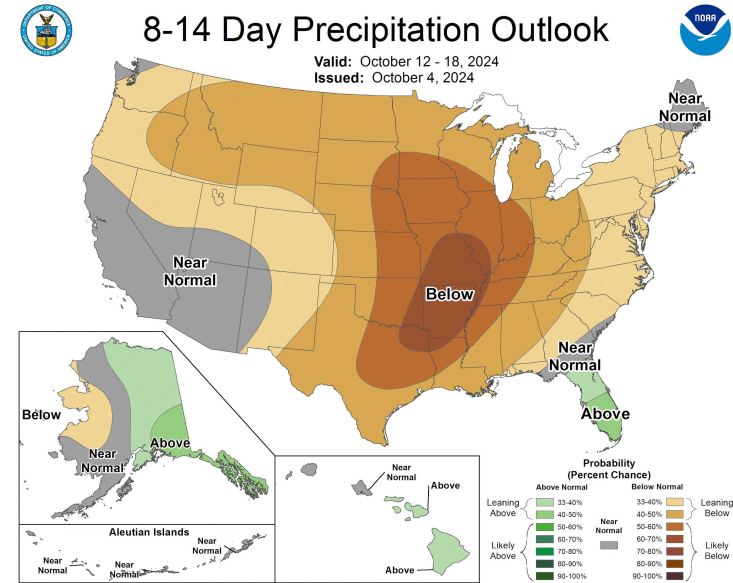
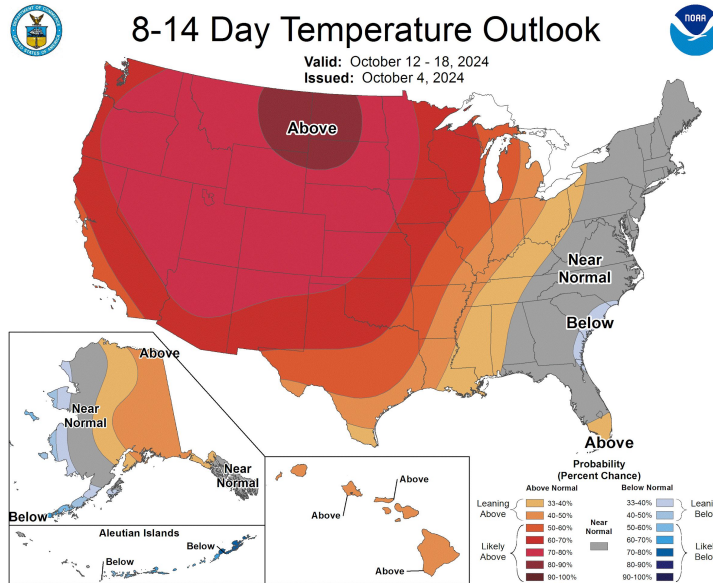


# 8-14 Day Outlook

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

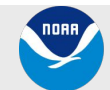
## Main Takeaways

- Leaning towards above normal temperatures (70-80% chance) area-wide
- Leaning towards below normal precipitation (33-50% chance) area-wide



Left - [Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook](#),  
Right - [Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook](#),

Valid October 12 - October 18, 2024





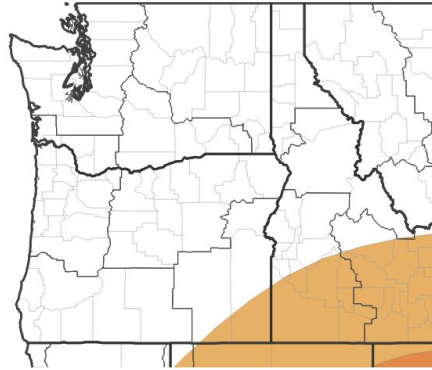
# Monthly Climate Outlook

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



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



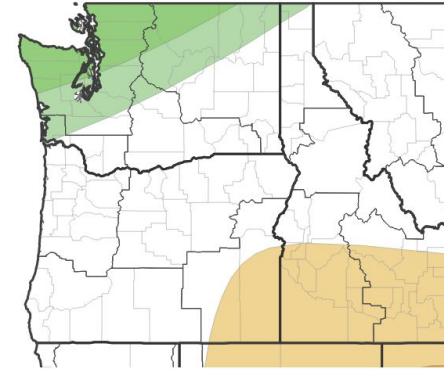
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 09/19/24

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



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

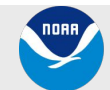
Last Updated: 09/19/24

Image Captions:

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

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

Valid October 2024





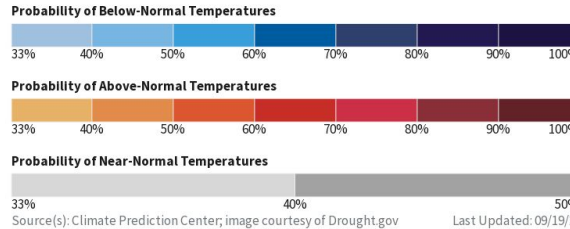
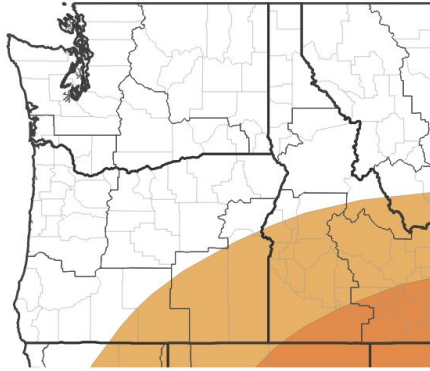
# Seasonal Climate Outlook

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

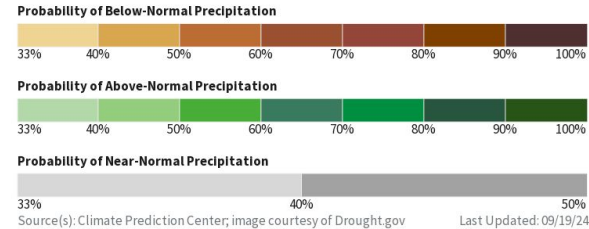
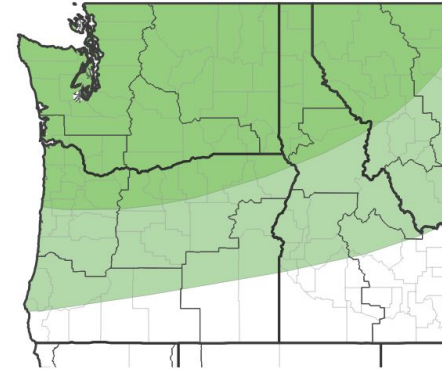
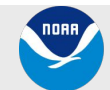


Image Captions:  
 Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook](#).  
 Right - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook](#).  
 Valid October, November and December 2024





# Drought Outlook

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

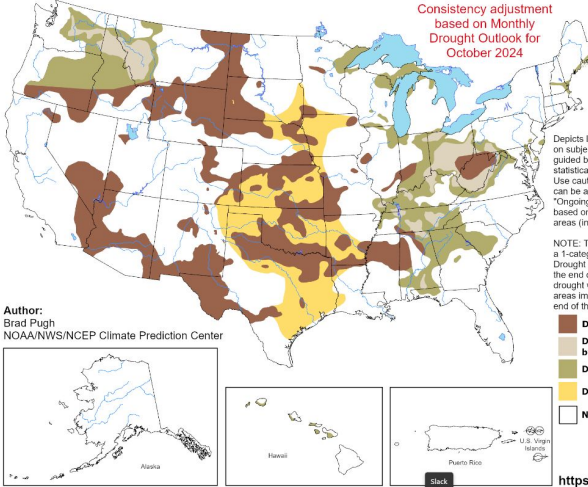
## Main Takeaways

- During October, current conditions are expected to persist over areas currently experiencing drought conditions while the Eastern Columbia River Gorge, Simcoe Highlands and western Columbia Basin will continue to have no drought
- October through December, drought is expected to continue but improve over eastern Kittitas county and either end or continue to have no drought over the rest the region

**U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook**  
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

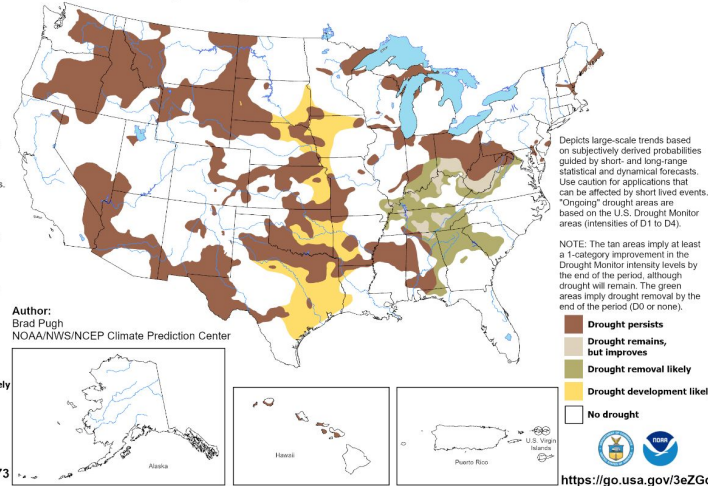
Valid for October 1 - December 31, 2024  
Released September 30, 2024

Consistency adjustment based on Monthly Drought Outlook for October 2024



**U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook**  
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

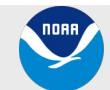
Valid for October 2024  
Released September 30, 2024



## Possible Impact

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

Image Captions:  
Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#) Released September 30, 2024  
Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#) Released September 30, 2024



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