



United States Department of Agriculture

Water and Climate Update

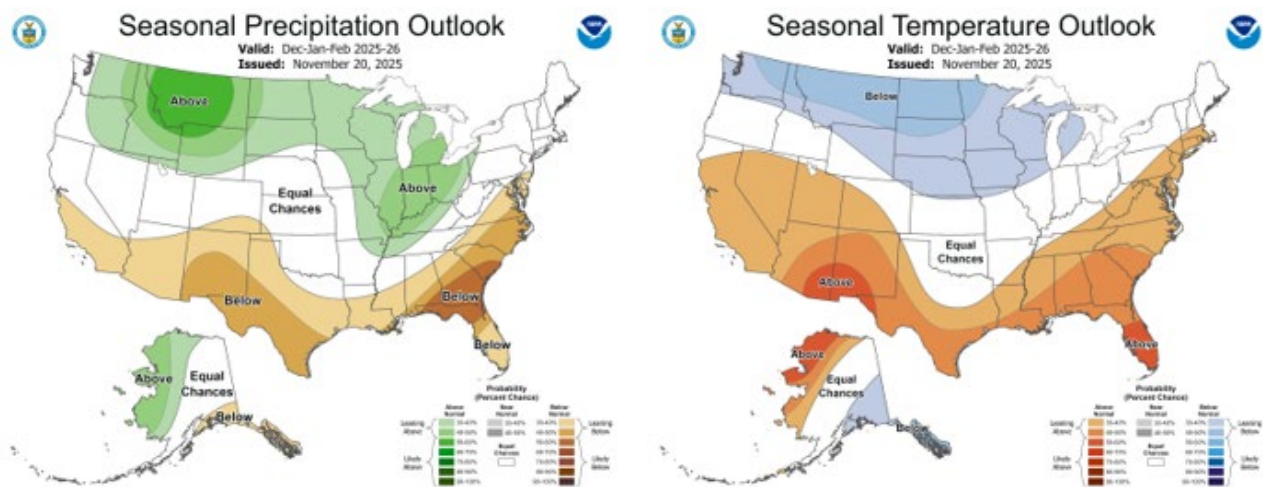
November 20, 2025

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) produces this weekly report using data and products from the [National Water and Climate Center](#) and other agencies. The report focuses on seasonal snowpack, precipitation, temperature, and drought conditions in the U.S.

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NOAA releases 2025-2026 U.S. winter weather outlook



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center (CPC) released the winter 2025-2026 weather outlook. According to the outlook, the equatorial Pacific has recently transitioned to a cool phase, also known as La Niña. This phase is typically associated with cooler and wetter conditions in the Northern U.S., and warmer and drier conditions along the southern portion of the country. Individual storm systems may bring conditions that differ from the forecasted seasonal trends. The outlook denotes a greater probability for these regions of the U.S. to follow typical La Niña patterns, overall, during the next few months.

Related:

[2025-2026 Winter Outlook](#) – NOAA CPC

[Seasonal Climate Outlook Maps](#) – NOAA CPC

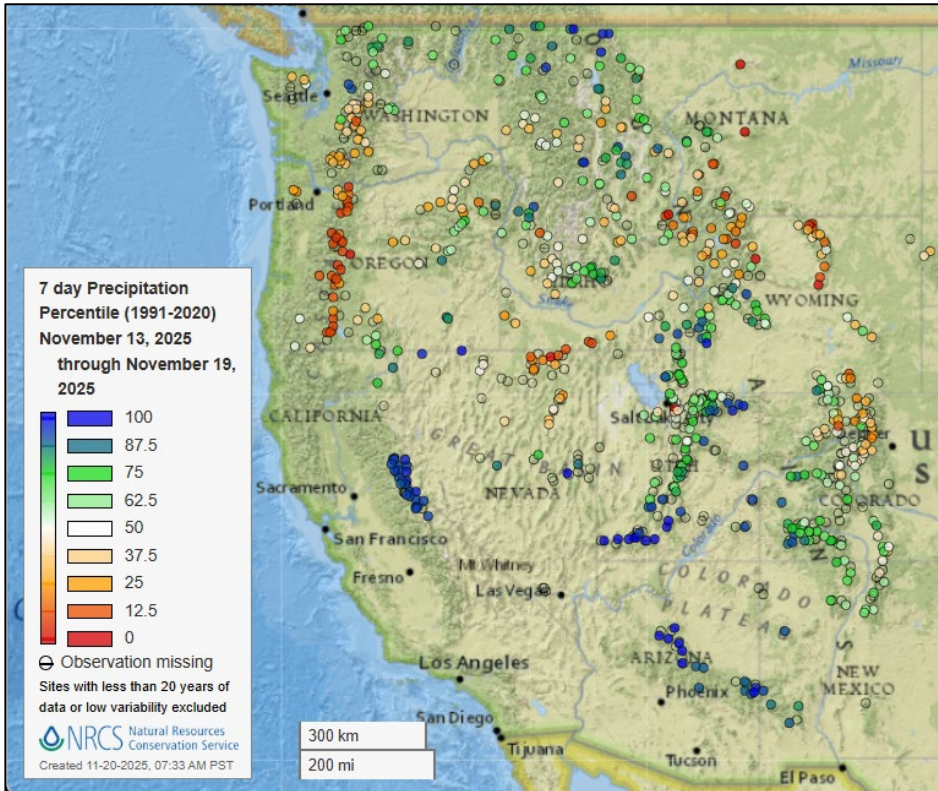
[El Niño/Southern Oscillation \(ENSO\) Diagnostic Discussion](#) – NOAA CPC

[Maps show NOAA's new winter forecast for the U.S. Here's what to know.](#) – CBS News

[Snow in Hawaii? Officials Issue Winter Weather Advisory](#) – Powder Magazine

Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

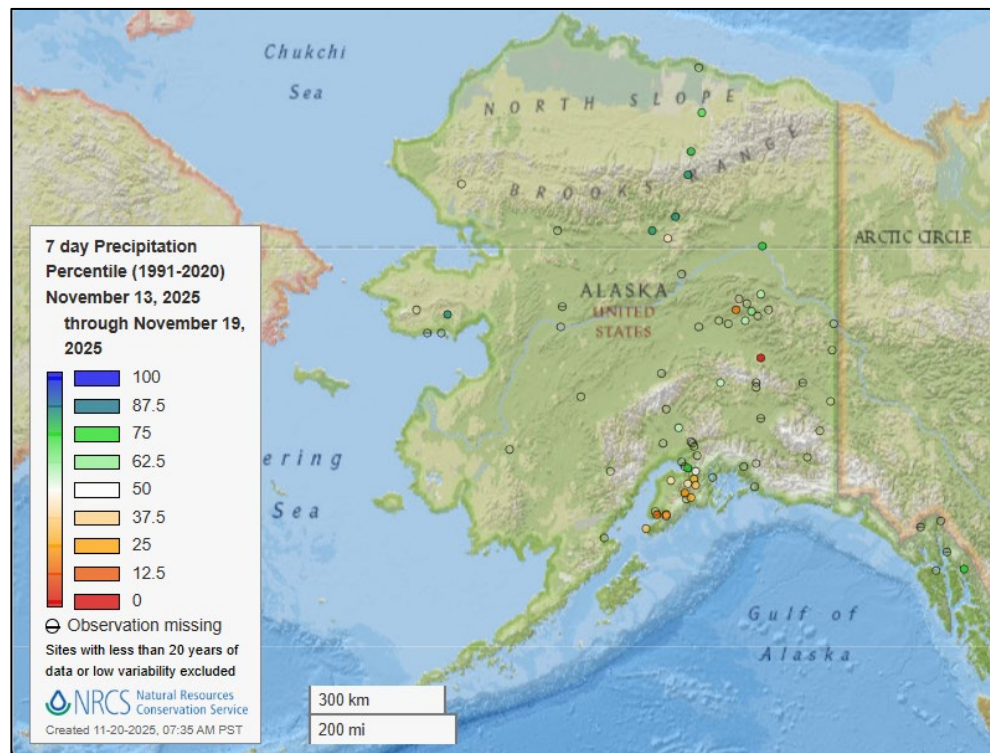


[7-day precipitation
percentile map](#)

See also:
[7-day total precipitation
values \(inches\) map](#)

[Alaska 7-day
precipitation
percentile map](#)

See also:
[Alaska 7-day
total
precipitation
values \(inches\)
map](#)



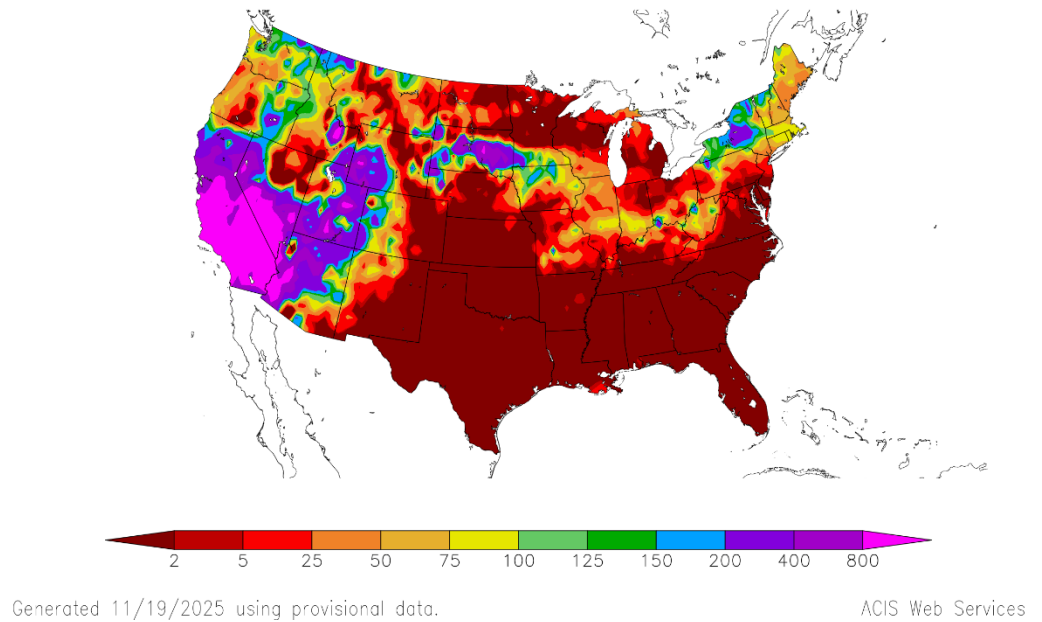
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day precipitation percent of normal map](#) for the continental U.S.

See also: [7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
11/12/2025 – 11/18/2025



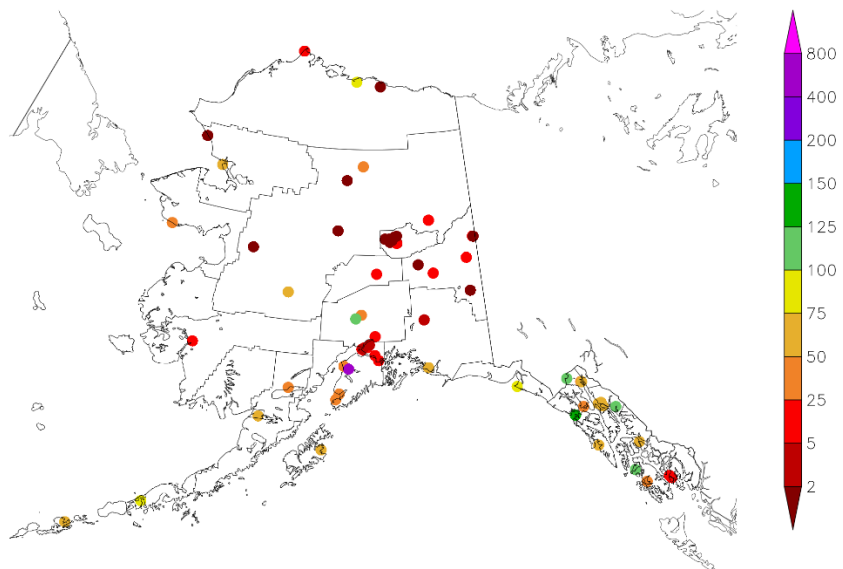
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day precipitation percent of normal map](#) for Alaska.

See also: [7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
11/12/2025 – 11/18/2025



Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

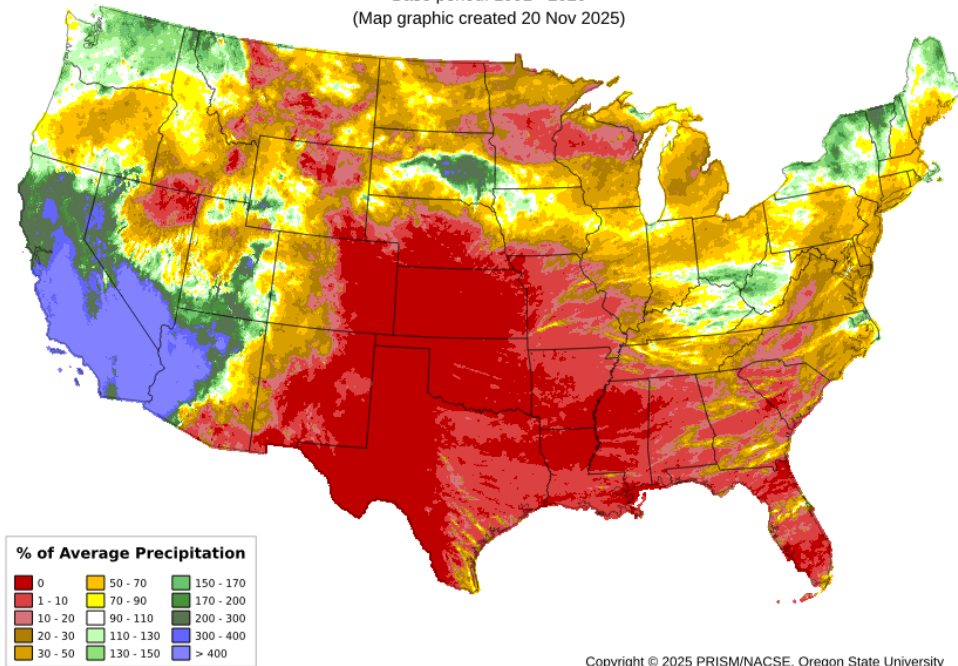
Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Nov 2025 - 19 Nov 2025

Period ending 7 AM EST 19 Nov 2025

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 20 Nov 2025)

[Month-to-date national total precipitation anomaly map](#)



Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

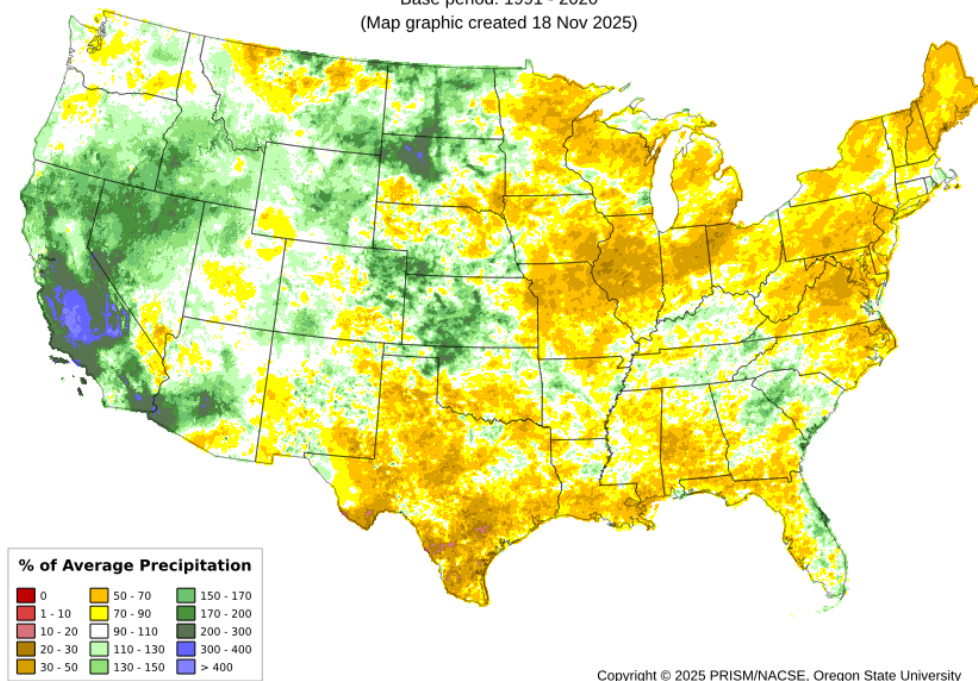
[August through October 2025 precipitation anomaly map](#)

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Aug 2025 - Oct 2025

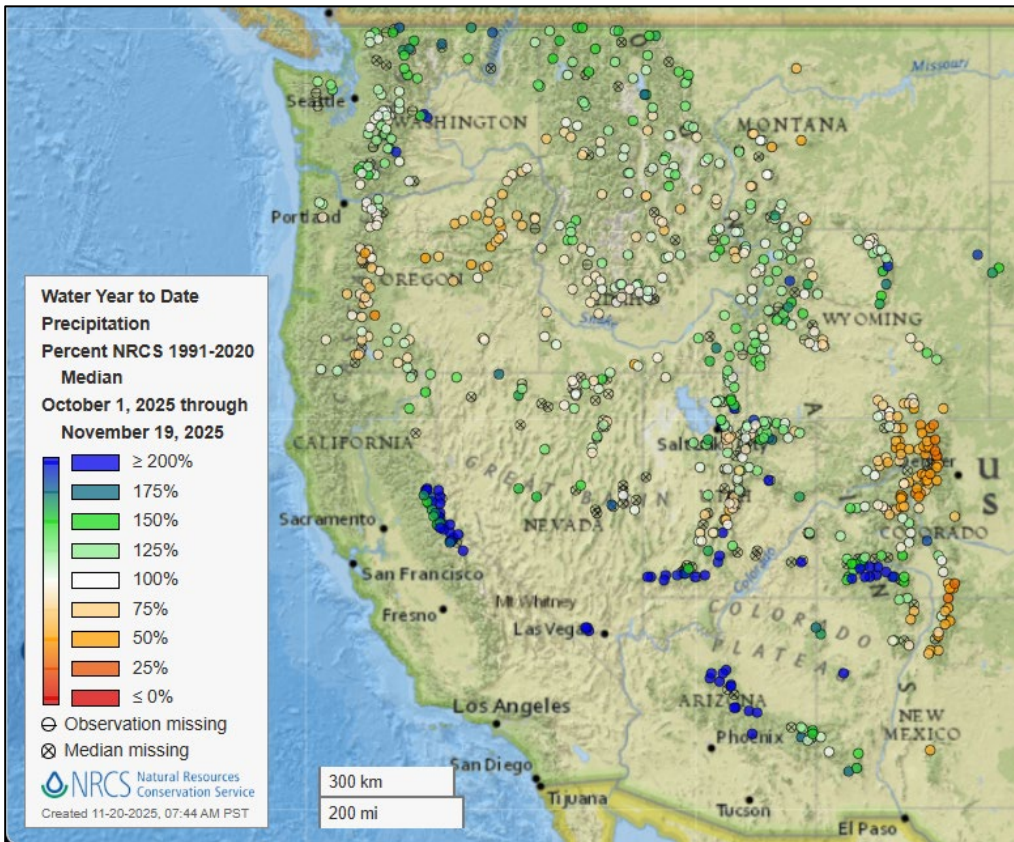
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Oct 2025

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 18 Nov 2025)



Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network

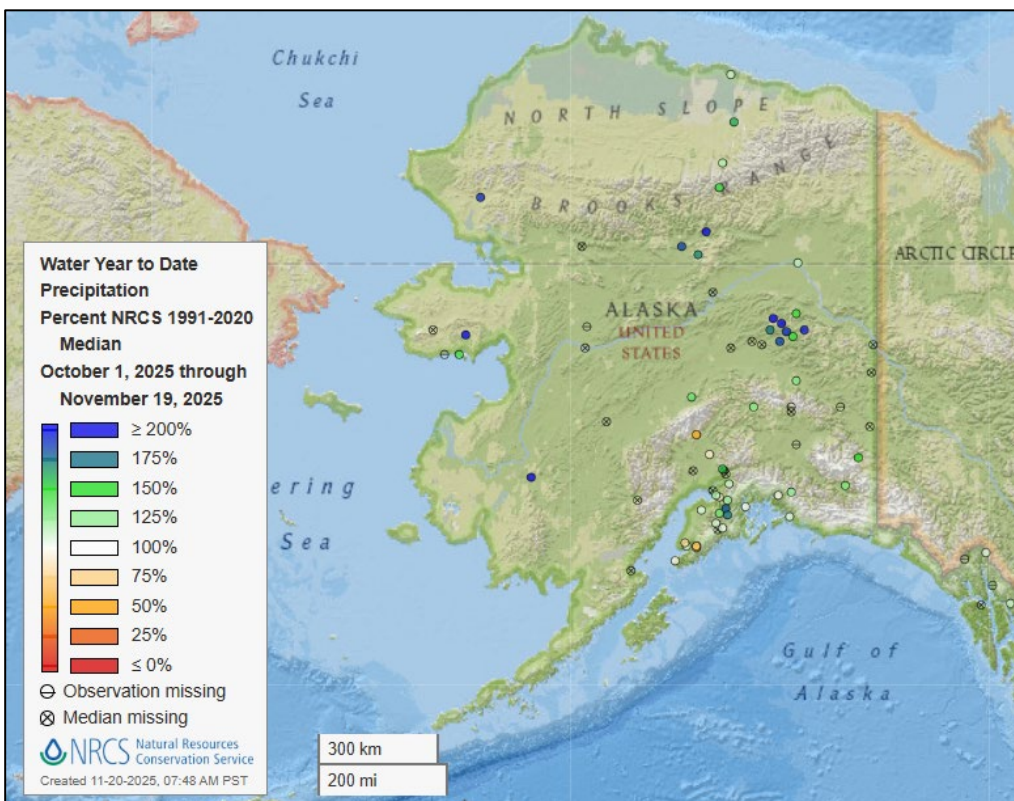


[2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of median map](#)

See also:

[2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

[2026 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



[Alaska 2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of median map](#)

See also:

[Alaska 2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

[Alaska 2026 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Temperature

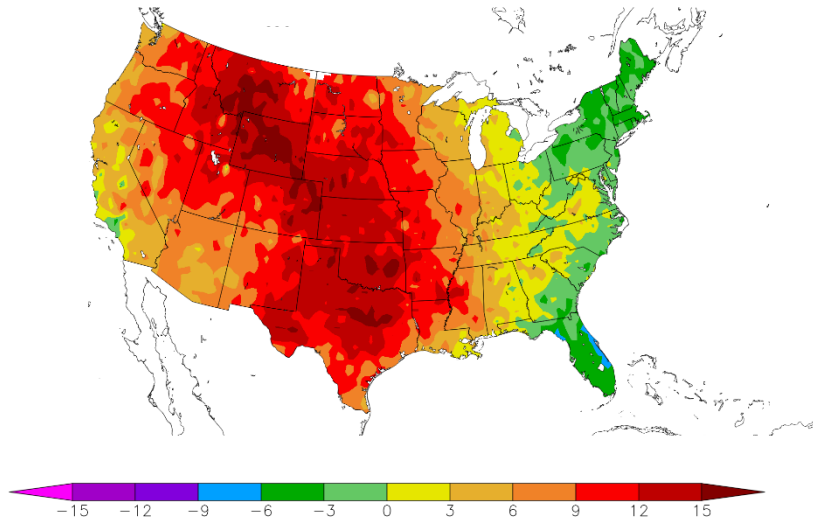
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day temperature anomaly map](#) for the contiguous U.S.

See also: [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
11/12/2025 – 11/18/2025



Generated 11/19/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

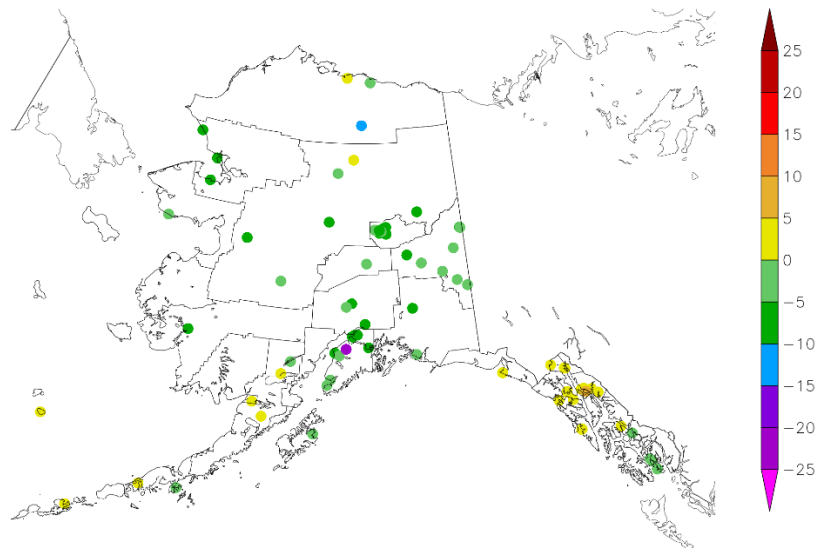
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day temperature anomaly map](#) for Alaska.

See also: [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
11/12/2025 – 11/18/2025



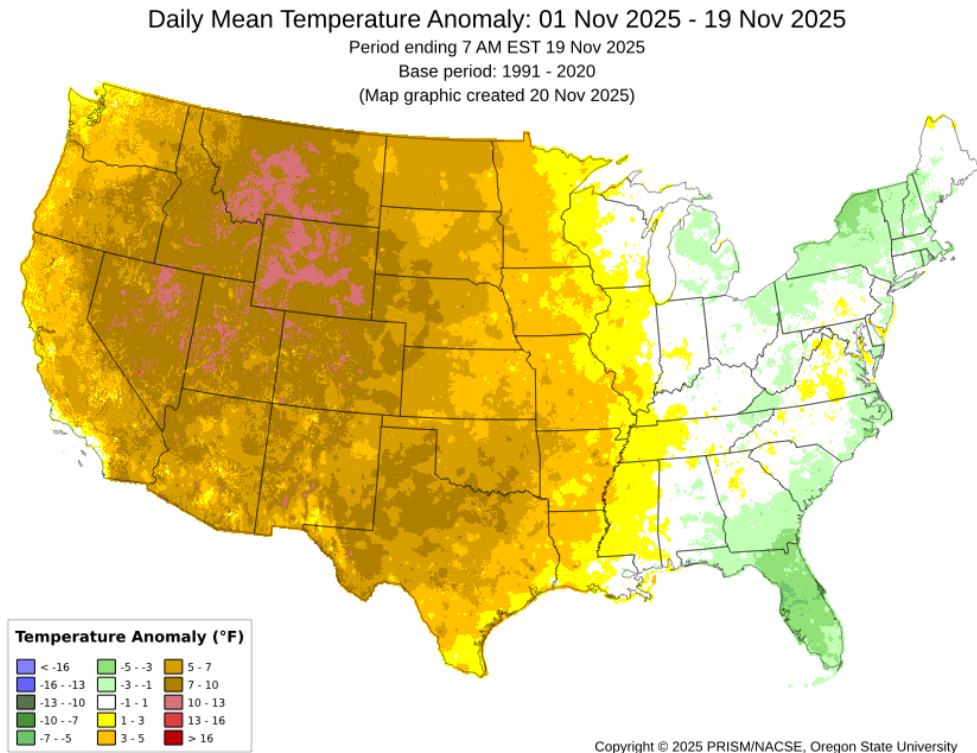
Generated 11/19/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

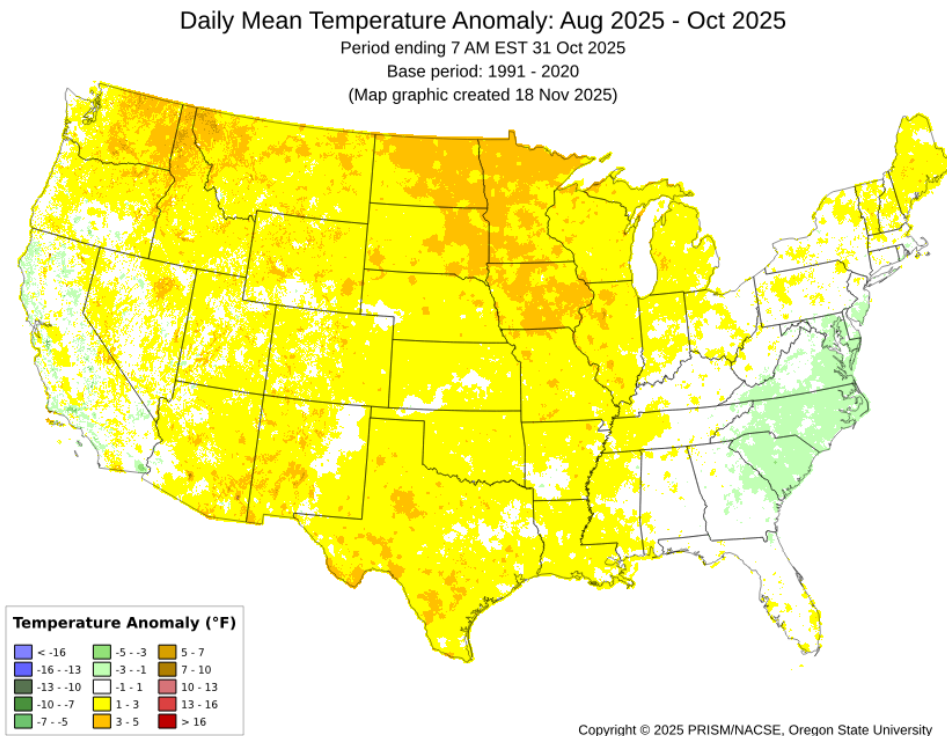
[Month-to-date
national daily
mean
temperature
anomaly map](#)



Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

[August through
October 2025 daily
mean temperature
anomaly map](#)



Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

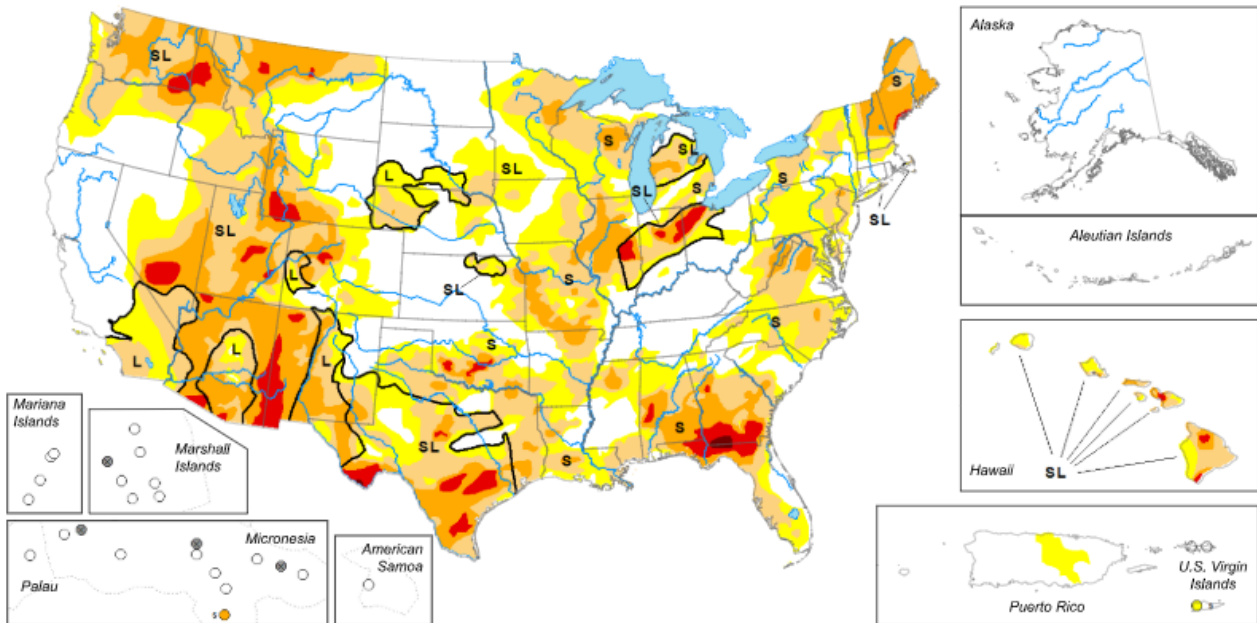
[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA

Map released: November 20, 2025

Data valid: November 18, 2025

☐ View grayscale version of the map



United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Curtis Riganti](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Tsegaye Tadesse](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

More maps and statistics:

[U.S. States and Puerto Rico](#)

[Continental U.S.](#)

[Regions](#)

The data cutoff for Drought Monitor maps is each Tuesday at 7 a.m. EST. The maps, which are based on analysis of the data, are released each Thursday at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

Intensity and Impacts

☐ None

☐ D0 (Abnormally Dry)

☐ D1 (Moderate Drought)

☐ D2 (Severe Drought)

☐ D3 (Extreme Drought)

☐ D4 (Exceptional Drought)

☐ No Data

~ - Delineates dominant impacts

S - Short-term impacts, typically less than 6 months (agriculture, grasslands)

L - Long-term impacts, typically greater than 6 months (hydrology, ecology)

SL - Short- and long-term impacts

Current [National Drought Summary](#), November 18, 2025

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“Dry weather covered most of the central and eastern U.S. this week, with a few localized areas of heavier precipitation falling in the Northeast and parts of eastern South Dakota. In the West, heavy rain and snow was widespread, especially in parts of southern Nevada, southern and coastal California, the Sierra Nevada, the Pacific Northwest and northwest Montana. Temperatures west of the Mississippi River were mostly warmer than normal, especially in Montana and Wyoming, where temperatures of 12 or more degrees above normal were common. East of the Mississippi River, near- or below-normal temperatures were widespread, especially in southern Georgia and Florida, where temperatures were 6-12 degrees colder than normal. Given the wetter weather recently, improvements continued in parts of the Northeast, where streamflow and soil moisture continued to recover and precipitation deficits lessened. Improvements were also widespread in California and Washington, where recent precipitation has cut into or erased precipitation deficits and boosted soil moisture and streamflow. Degradations were common in Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia and North Carolina, where short-term precipitation deficits grew. Widespread degradation also occurred in parts of Nebraska, central and northeast Montana and the western Great Lakes area, as primarily short-term dryness intensified in each of these areas. Recent pockets of drier- or wetter-than-normal weather led to a few small changes in areas of abnormal dryness in Puerto Rico. Wetter weather in the windward sides of Hawaii led to local improvements on Oahu, Maui and the Big Island, where streamflows have responded well to increased precipitation.”

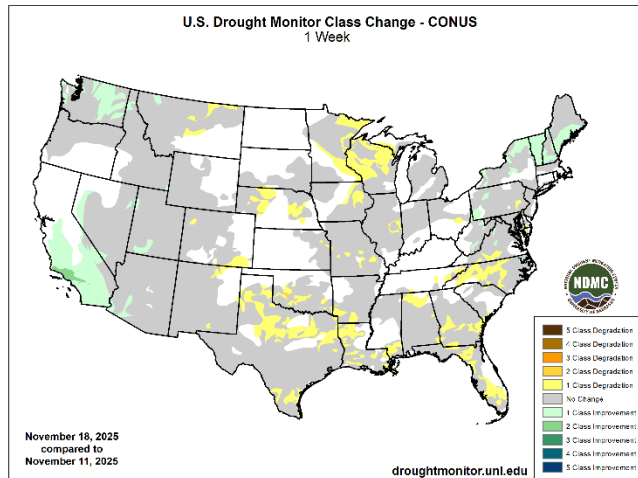
National Drought Summary – West

“Widespread heavy precipitation fell this week in California, southern Nevada, the Pacific Northwest and northern Idaho and northwest Montana. Locally over 5 inches of precipitation fell in northwest Washington, spots in northwest Montana and northern Idaho, and across scattered parts of California, especially in some coastal regions and the Sierra Nevada. Soil moisture levels increased across California amid the heavy precipitation. Precipitation deficits lessened in many areas or were entirely removed, leading to widespread 1-category improvements in California and localized 2-category improvements near Los Angeles. As the impact of this precipitation on the water cycle in California and Nevada is evaluated in the coming weeks, further improvements may occur. Conditions also improved after recent precipitation cut into precipitation deficits and locally improved soil moisture, groundwater and streamflow in northwest Washington, central and eastern Washington, northern Idaho and northwest Montana, southwest Arizona, and southwest Utah and along a portion of the Utah-Nevada border. Despite the widespread precipitation, weekly temperature anomalies were warm across the entire West this week. Compared to normal, Montana and Idaho were generally the warmest, with parts of Montana and southern Idaho finishing the week 12 degrees or more warmer than normal. In the plains of central and northeast Montana, moderate and severe drought and abnormal dryness quickly worsened amid warmer-than-normal temperatures and drier weather. In these areas, streamflow locally decreased amid growing soil moisture and short-term precipitation deficits.”

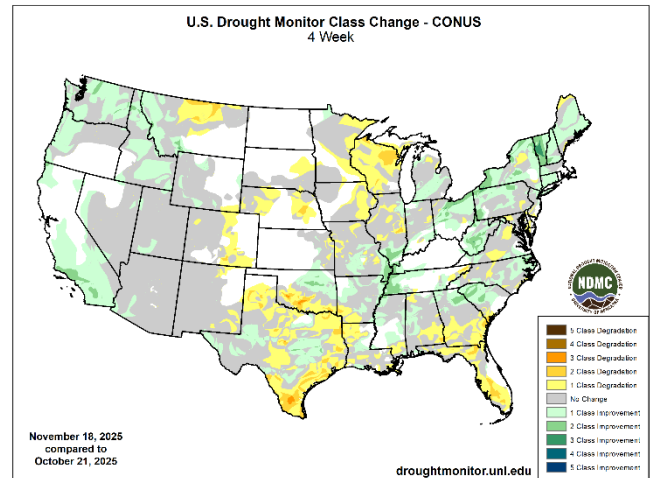
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

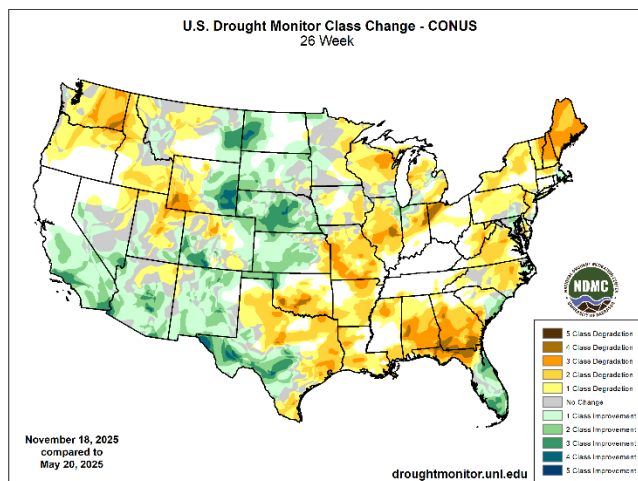
1 Week



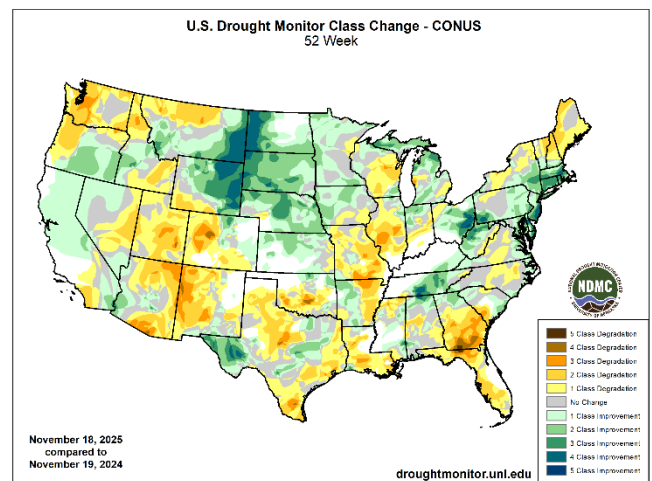
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



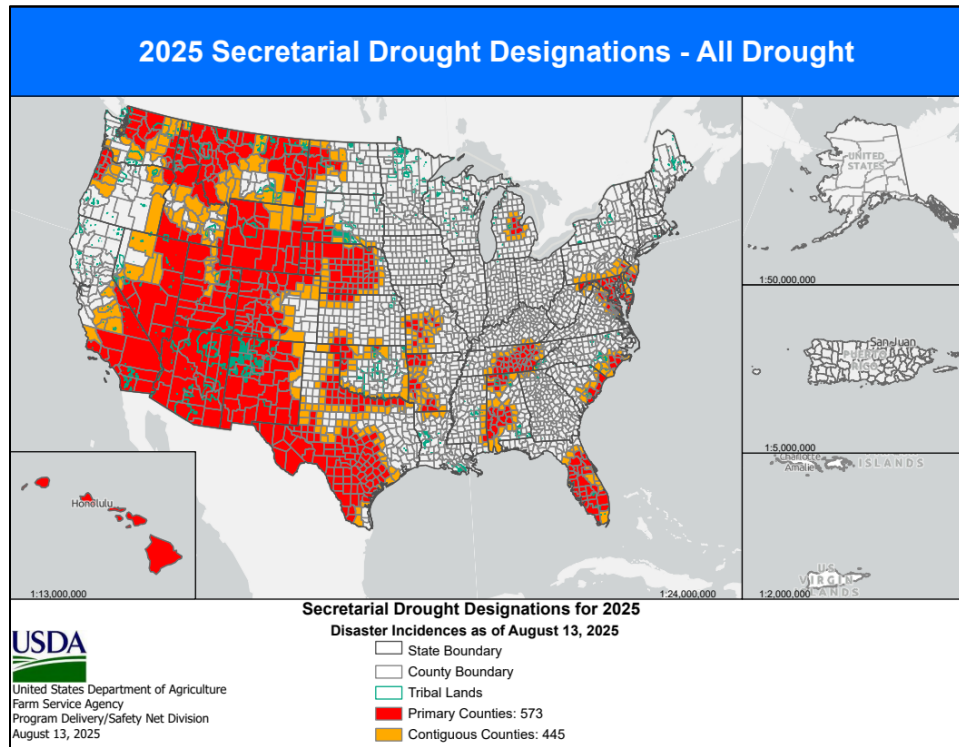
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

Highlighted Drought Resources

- [Drought Impact Reporter](#)
- [Quarterly Regional Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- [U.S. Drought Portal Indicators and Monitoring](#)
- [U.S. Population in Drought, Weekly Comparison](#)
- [USDA Disaster and Drought Information](#)

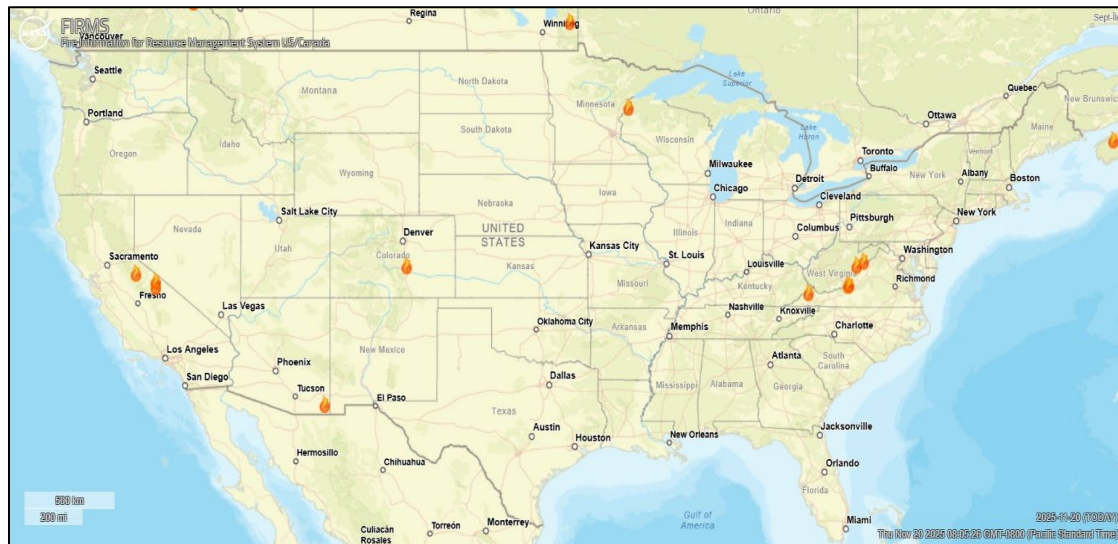
USDA Secretarial [Drought Designations](#)

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency



Wildfires: [Fire Information for Resource Management System US/Canada](#)

Source: NASA/USDA Forest Service



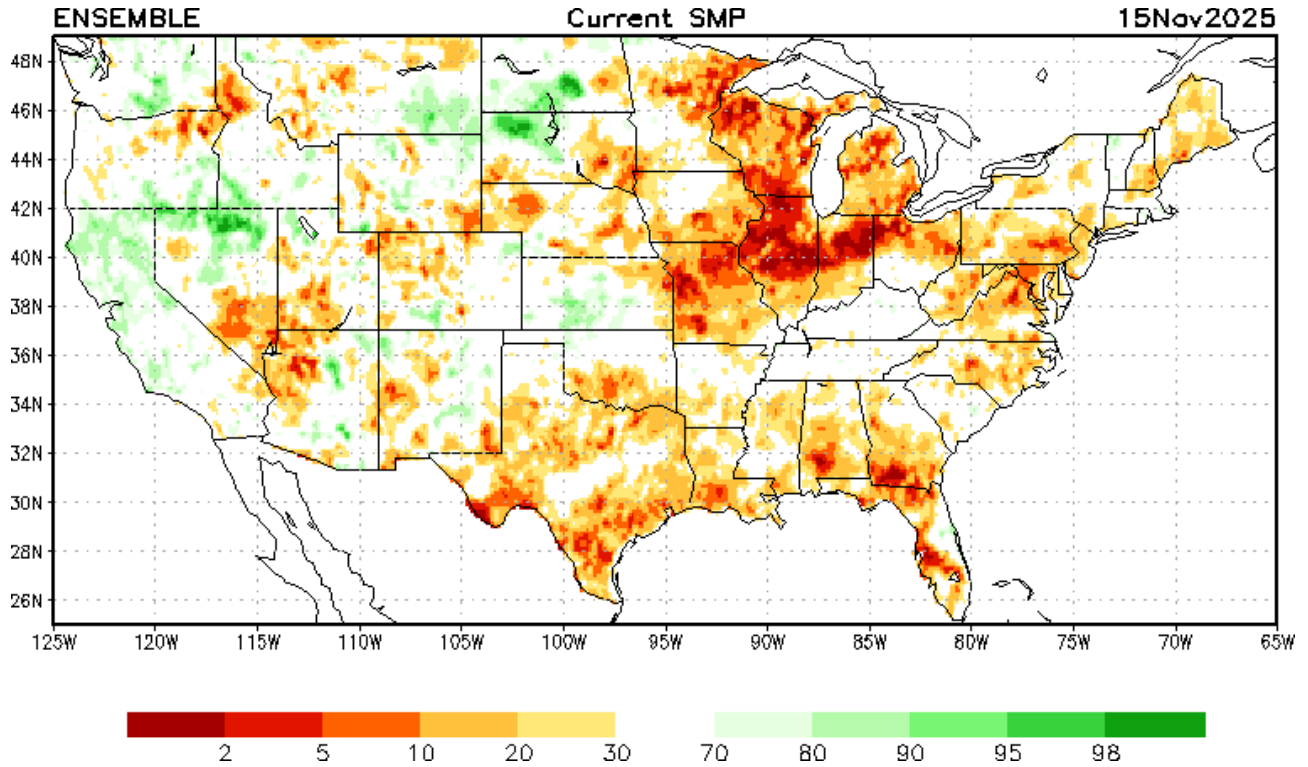
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

- [National Interagency Fire Center](#)
- [InciWeb Incident Information System](#)
- [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#)

Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction

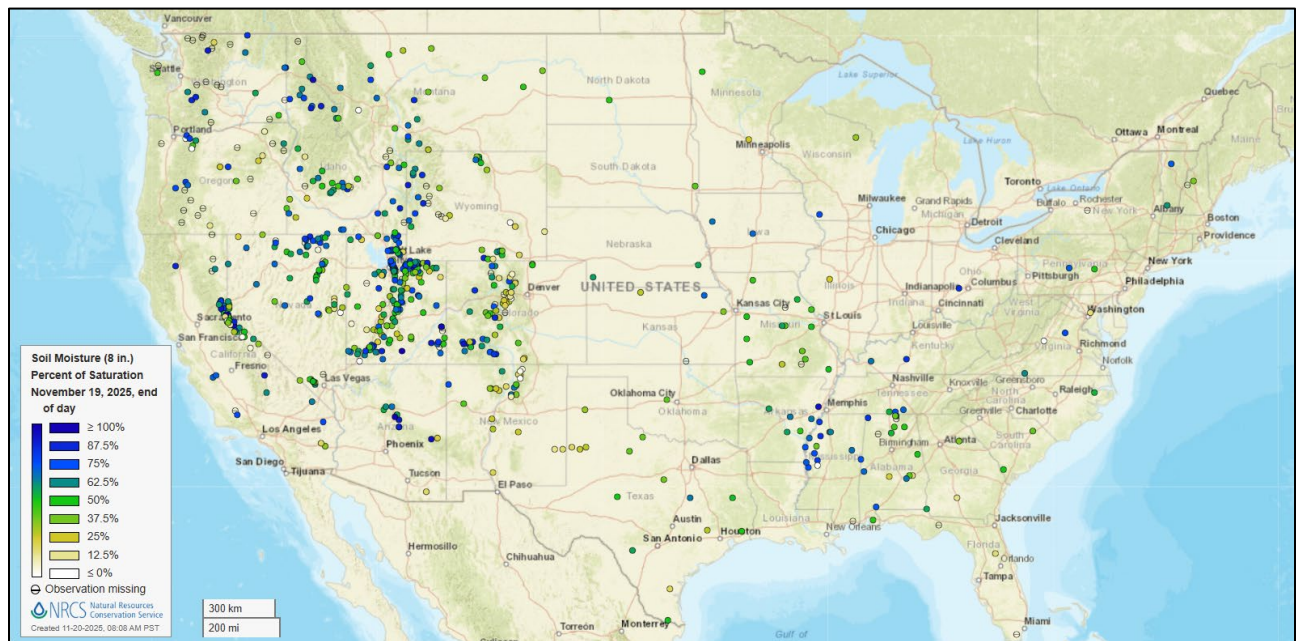


[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of November 15, 2025

Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

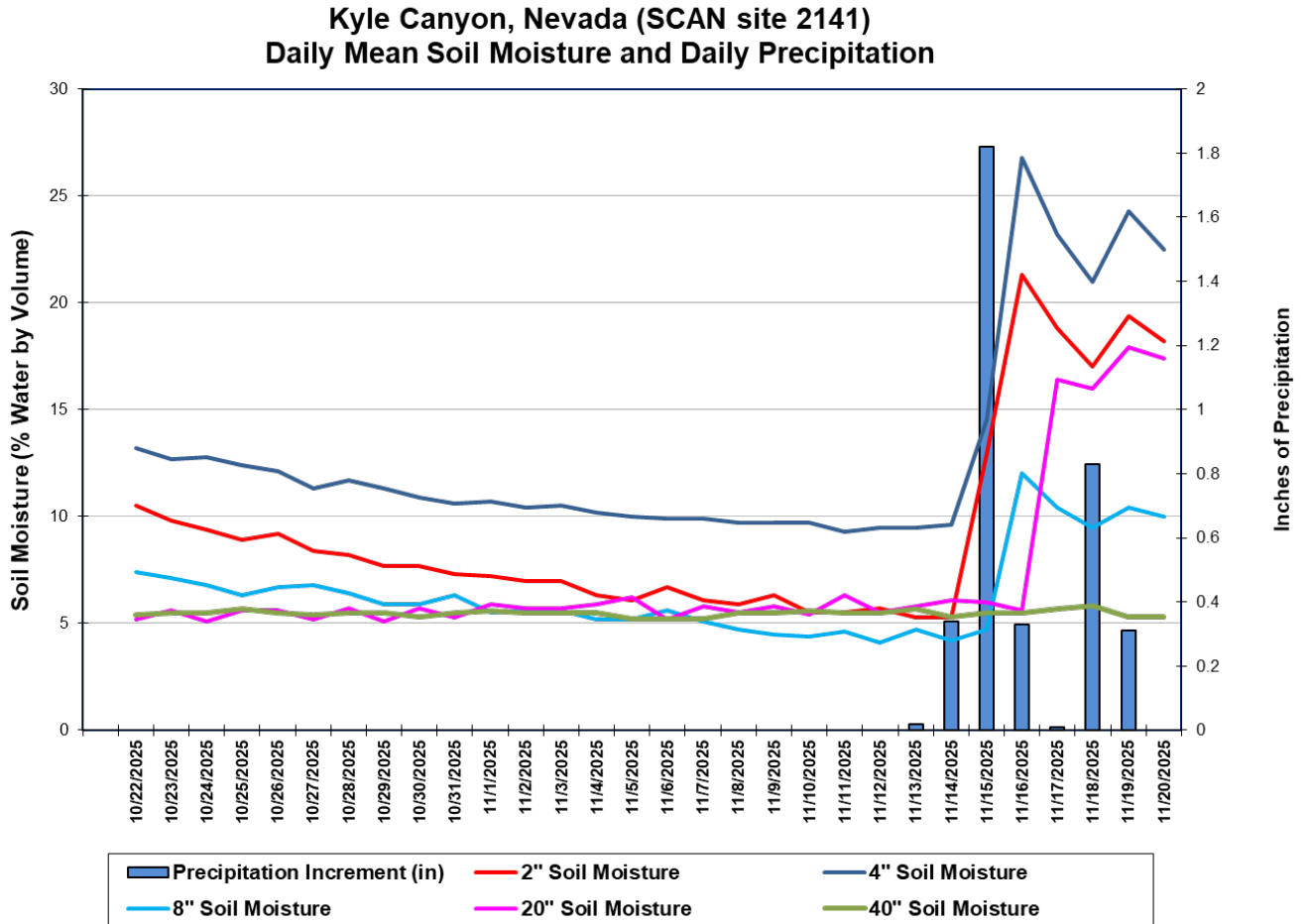
Source: NRCS SNOTEL and [Soil Climate Analysis Network](#) (SCAN)

[U.S. soil moisture map at 8-inch depth:](#)



Soil Moisture

Source: NRCS [Soil Climate Analysis Network](#) (SCAN)



This chart shows the precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the [Kyle Canyon](#) SCAN site in Nevada. Soil sensors at all depths except the -40-inch sensor recorded pronounced increases in soil moisture after the site received 3.64 inches of precipitation between November 14-19. Total precipitation for the 30-day period was 3.66 inches.

Soil Moisture Data Portals

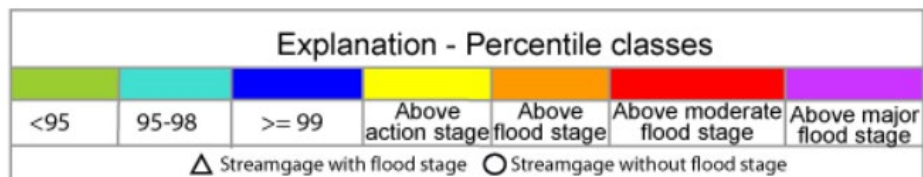
- [USCRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [National Soil Moisture Network](#)
- [NOAA Climate Prediction Center Soil Moisture](#)
- [NASA Grace](#)

Streamflow, Drought, Flood, and Runoff

Source: U.S. Geological Survey [WaterWatch Streamflow Map](#)

Map of flood and high flow conditions

(5 in floods [major: 2, moderate: 1, minor: 2], 1 in near-flood)



[WaterWatch: Streamflow, drought, flood, and runoff conditions](#)

Reservoir Storage

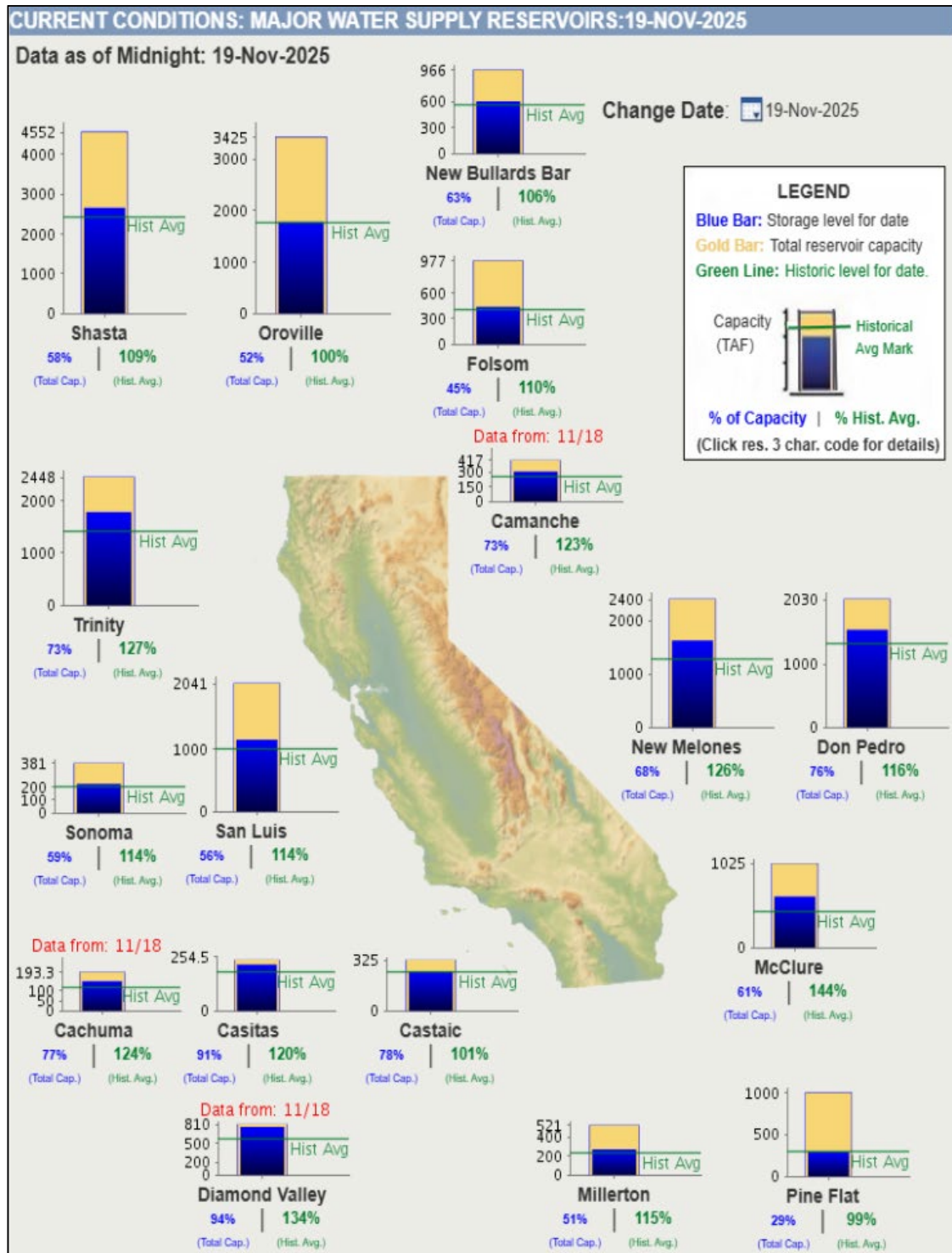
Hydromet Teacup Reservoir Depictions

Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

- [Upper Colorado](#)
- [Pacific Northwest/Snake/Columbia](#)
- [Sevier River Water, Utah](#)
- [Upper Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas](#)

Current California Reservoir Conditions

Source: California Department of Water Resources



[Current California Reservoir Conditions](#)

Agricultural Weather Highlights

Author: Eric Luebehusen, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB

National Outlook, Thursday November 20, 2025: “A very humid air mass surging northward from the Gulf will interact with a storm system drifting eastward from the Four Corners to the Mid-Atlantic Coast over the next several days. This system will generate a wide swath of moderate to heavy rain (1-3 inches, locally more) from Texas and the southern Plains eastward into the Tennessee and lower Ohio River Valleys. However, rain intensity will diminish significantly as the storm crosses the Appalachians, with rainfall totals less than an inch expected across the Mid-Atlantic States. A second storm will quickly trail the first but ultimately take a more northeasterly track, resulting in rain and mountain snow in southern portions of the Rockies and Plains on Sunday before reaching the Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes early next week. In contrast, mostly dry weather will prevail during the next 5 days in the lower Southeast as well as the northern half of the Rockies and Great Plains. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for November 25 – 29 calls for abnormal warmth to linger across the Southeast and from the central and southern Rockies westward to the Pacific Coast. Conversely, cooler-than-normal temperatures will overspread locales along the Canadian border from the Pacific Northwest into the upper Midwest southward over the central Plains and western Corn Belt. Meanwhile, wetter-than-normal conditions across most of the country should contrast with near- or below-normal precipitation from California and the Great Basin into the lower Four Corners region.”

Weather Hazards Outlook: [November 22 – 26, 2025](#)

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center

U.S. Day 3-7 Hazards Outlook

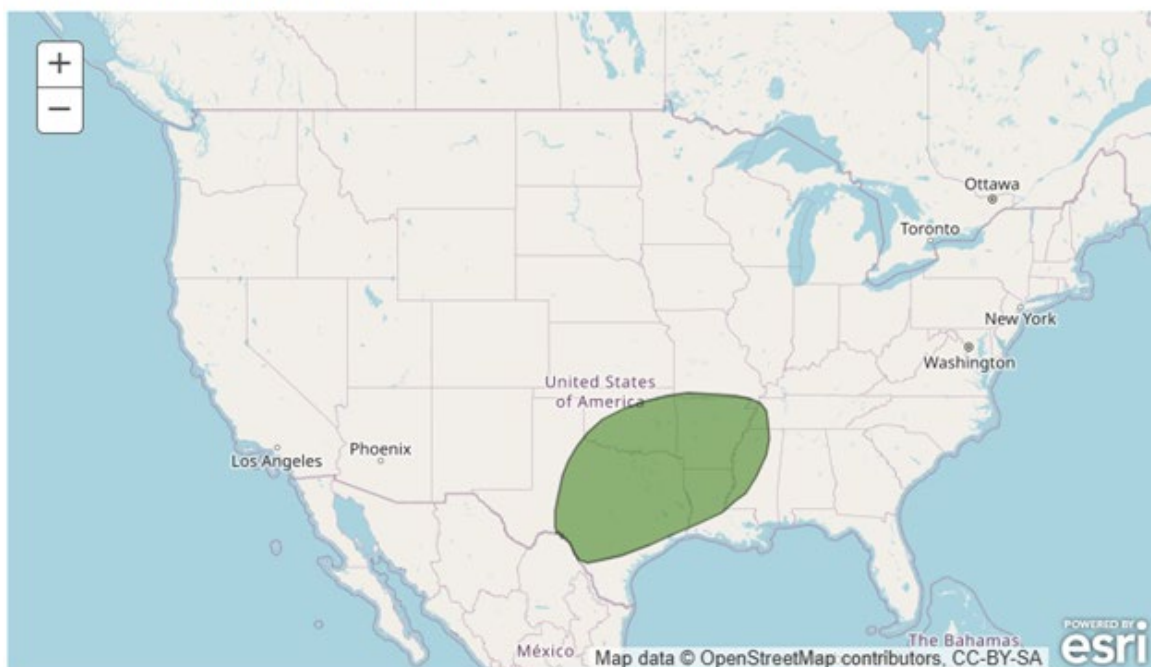
[About the Hazards Outlook](#)

Created November 19, 2025

Precipitation	☒
Temperature	☒
Wildfires	☒
Soils	☐
Flooding	☐

Legend	
 Flooding Likely	 Hazardous Heat
 Flooding Occurring or Imminent	 Hazardous Cold
 Flooding Possible	 Frost/Freeze
 Freezing Rain	 High Winds
 Heavy Precipitation	 Significant Waves
 Heavy Rain	 Critical Wildfire Risk
 Heavy Snow	 Severe Weather

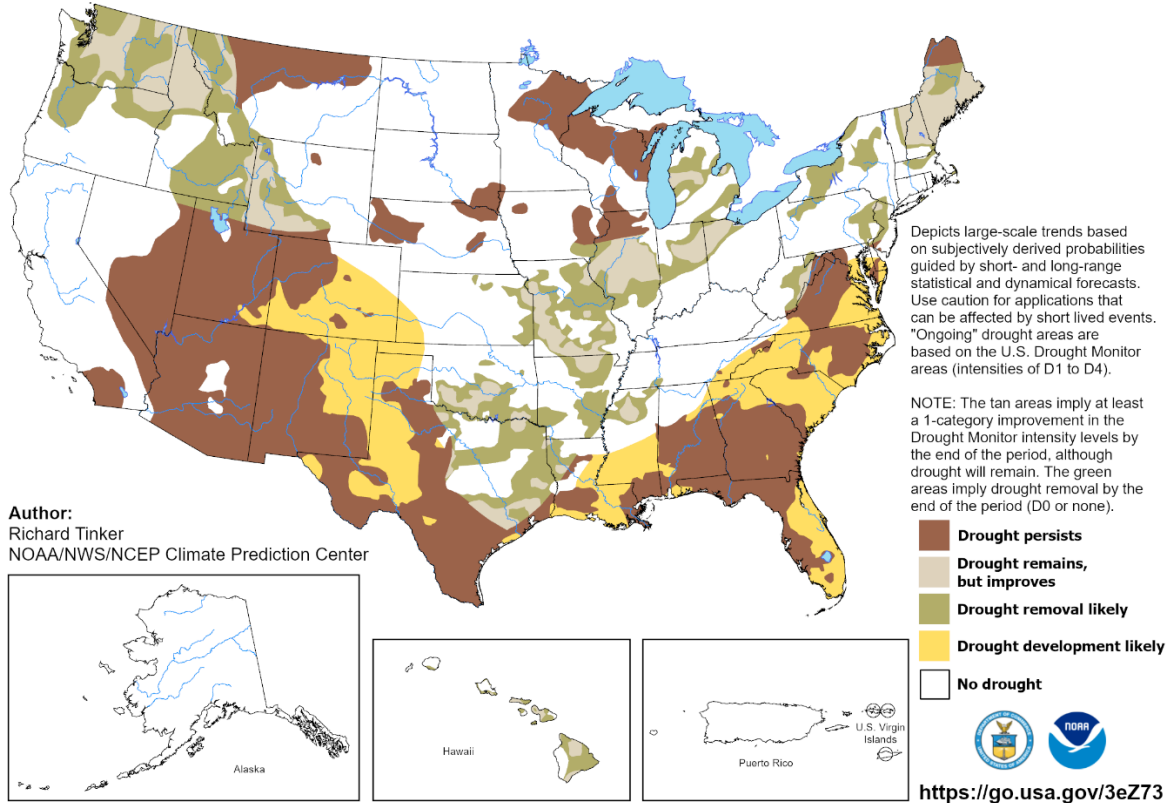
Valid November 22, 2025 - November 26, 2025



Seasonal Drought Outlook: [November 20, 2025 – February 28, 2026](#)

Source: National Weather Service

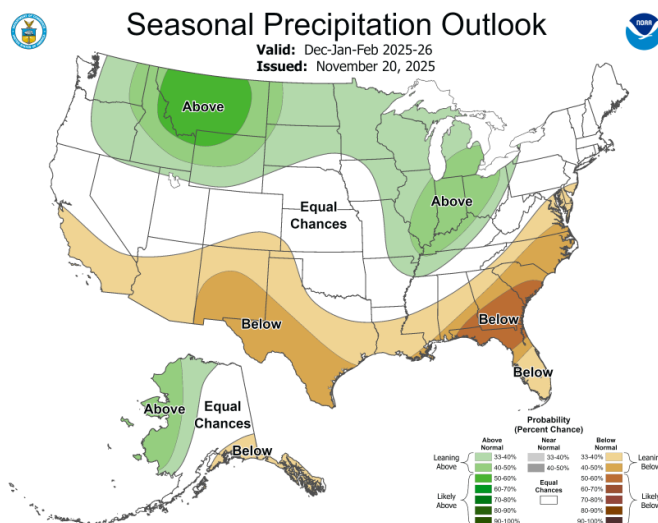
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook *Valid for November 20, 2025 - February 28, 2026*
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period *Released November 20, 2025*



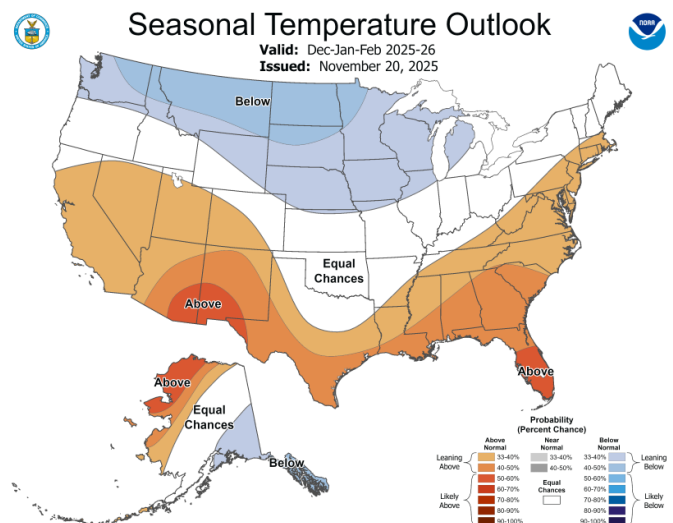
Climate Prediction Center Three-month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

Precipitation



Temperature



[December-January-February 2025-2026 precipitation and temperature outlook summaries](#)

More Information

The NRCS [National Water and Climate Center](#) publishes this weekly report. We welcome your feedback. If you have questions or comments, please [contact us](#).