

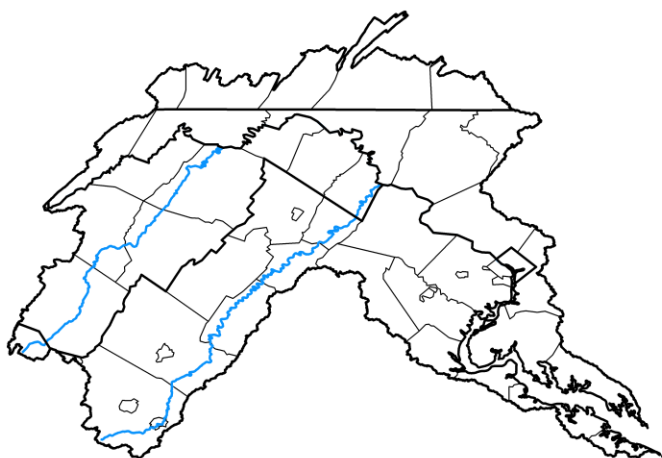
Regional Drought and Water Supply Status

July 2025

Summary of Current Conditions in the COG Region

The current drought stage is **Normal** as defined in COG's Regional Water Supply and Drought Plan. The Drought Watch declared by COG's Drought Coordination Committee on July 29, 2024, was lifted last month which proved to be a sound decision. The Potomac Basin Drought monitor indicates that our region remains 100% drought free. The Potomac River Basin received a significant amount of rainfall over the past two months, and streamflow and groundwater levels are normal to above normal. The areas monitored in the COG region by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Maryland Department of the Environment according are normal and local backup reservoirs remain full.

U.S. Drought Monitor Potomac Watershed



July 15, 2025

(Released Thursday, Jul. 17, 2025)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week <small>07-10-2025</small>	99.55	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <small>04-17-2025</small>	0.54	29.43	41.81	28.22	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <small>01-09-2025</small>	2.33	27.31	57.93	12.43	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <small>10-03-2024</small>	19.32	37.95	25.75	14.23	2.75	0.00
One Year Ago <small>07-18-2024</small>	5.37	3.19	16.96	29.47	45.01	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

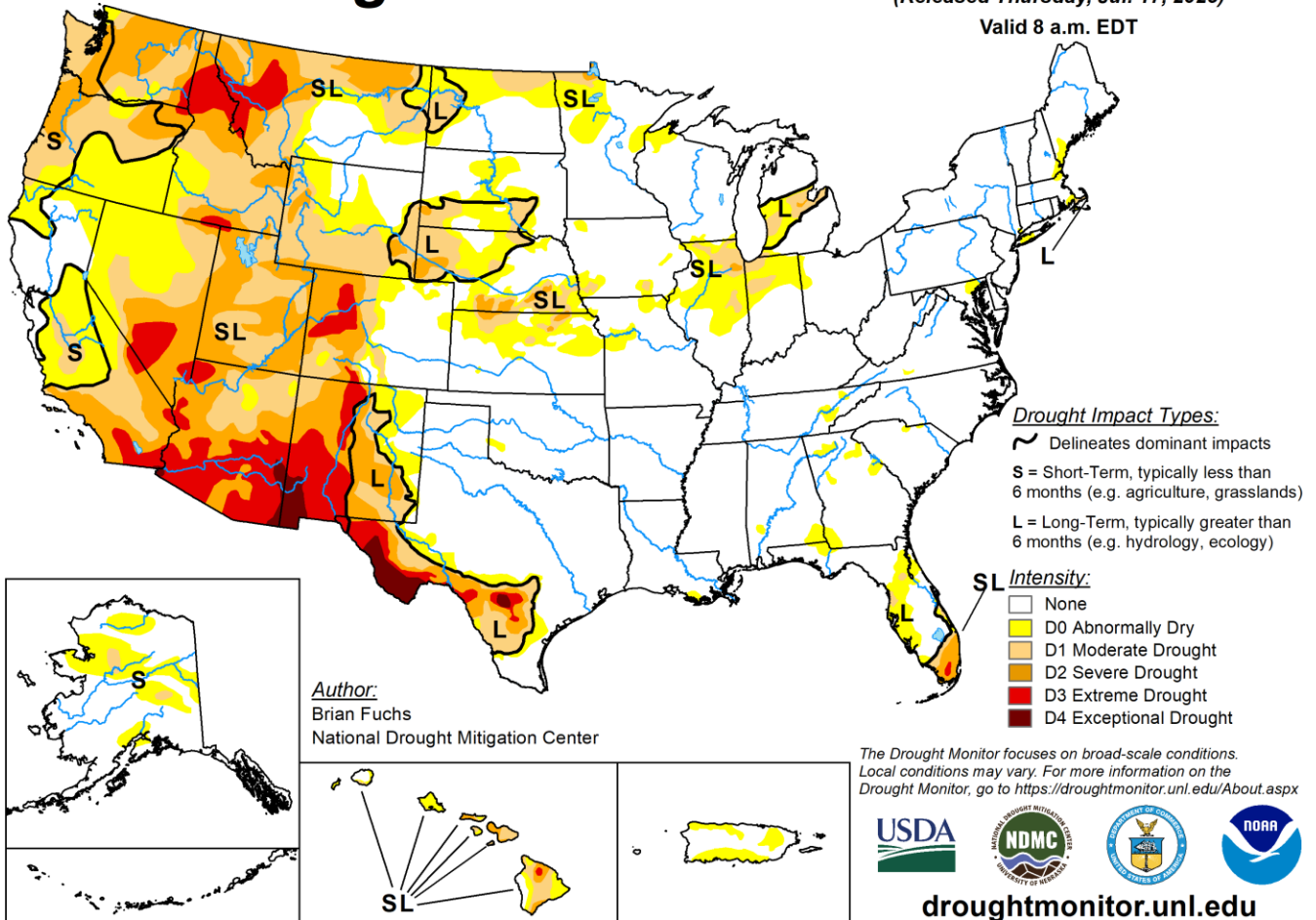


Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

mwcog.org/drought

U.S. Drought Monitor

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Potomac Streamflow

Instantaneous flows readings as of July 22

Little Falls: 15,500 cfs (median 3,090 cfs) Source: [USGS Little Falls](#)

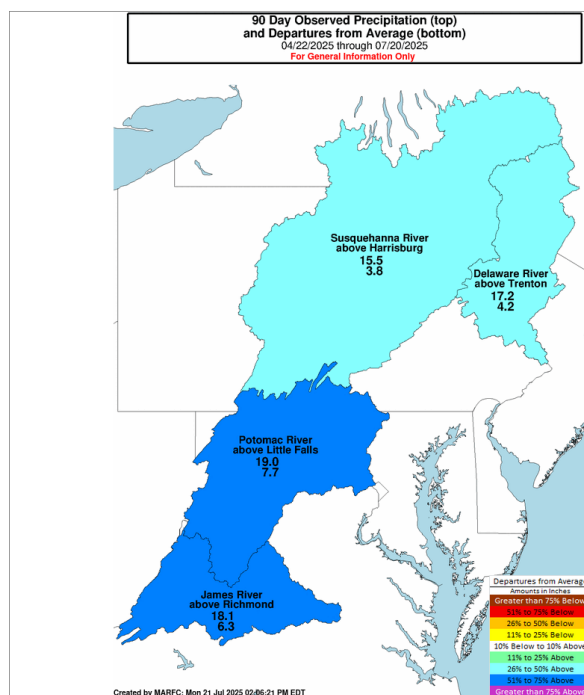
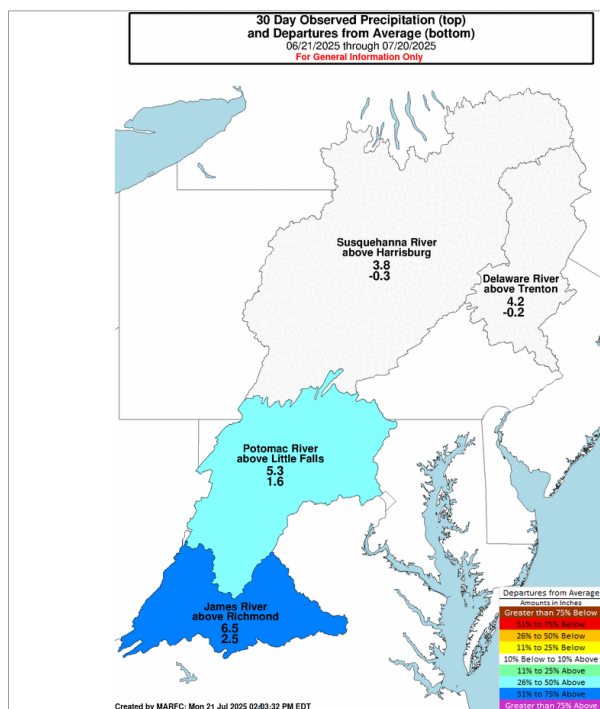
Point of Rocks: 16,000 cfs (median 2,945 cfs) Source: [USGS Point of Rocks](#)

Potomac Basin Observed Precipitation and Departures from Average

Source: https://www.weather.gov/marfc/precipitation_departures

30 Day 5.3 inches of precipitation, 1.6 inches above normal

90 Day 19.0 inches of precipitation, 7.7 inches above normal



Groundwater Levels

Most of the groundwater levels are normal the COG region.

Source: <https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/app/nwd/?region=lower48&aoi=default>
<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/va/nwis/current/?type=gw>
<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/current/?type=gw>

Reservoir Levels

Drinking water reservoirs at Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca are at normal levels.

Source: <https://www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/nab/potopub.html>

Probability of Reservoir Releases

As of the July 2025 report released earlier this month, the probability of needing water supply releases from the Washington metropolitan area's backup reservoirs during summer and fall 2025 is below normal. Generally, the use of Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca reservoirs is triggered by low flows brought about by a combination of low precipitation and low groundwater levels. There is a 0 to 3 percent conditional probability that natural Potomac flow will drop below 600 to 700 million gallons per day (MGD) at Little Falls through December 31, 2025. Source: [ICPRB](#)

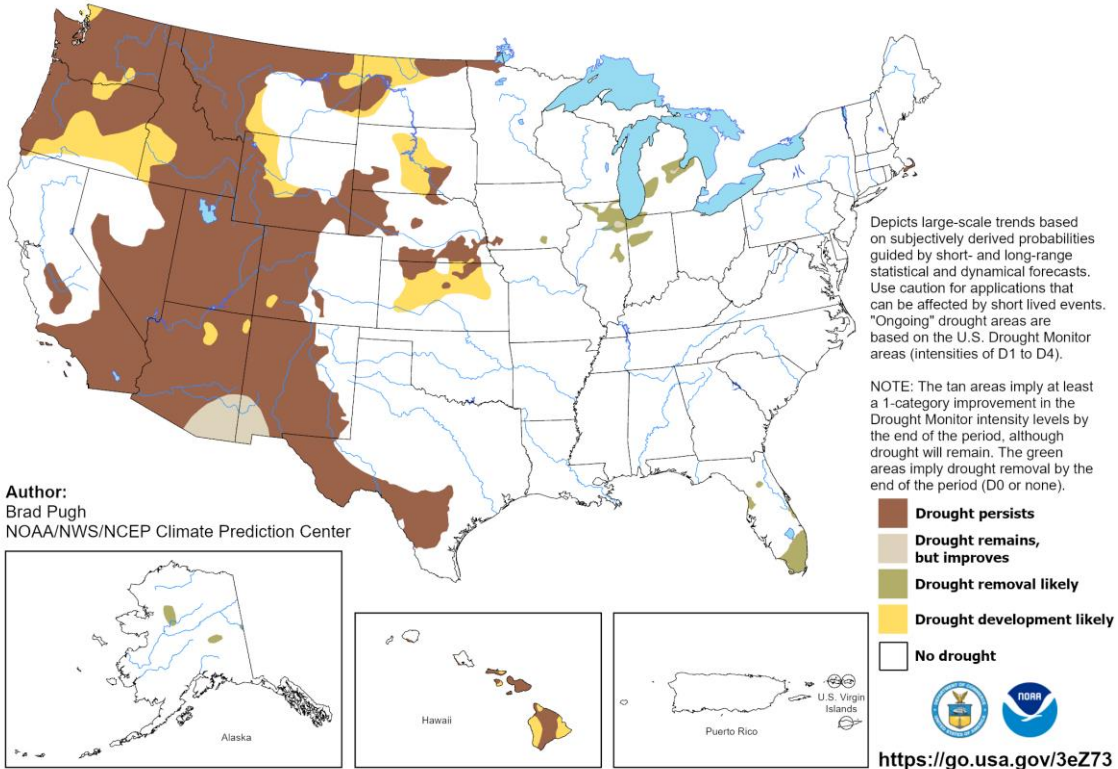
Seasonal Drought Outlook

The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook released this week indicates that our region should be free of over the next three months. Source: [National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center](#)

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

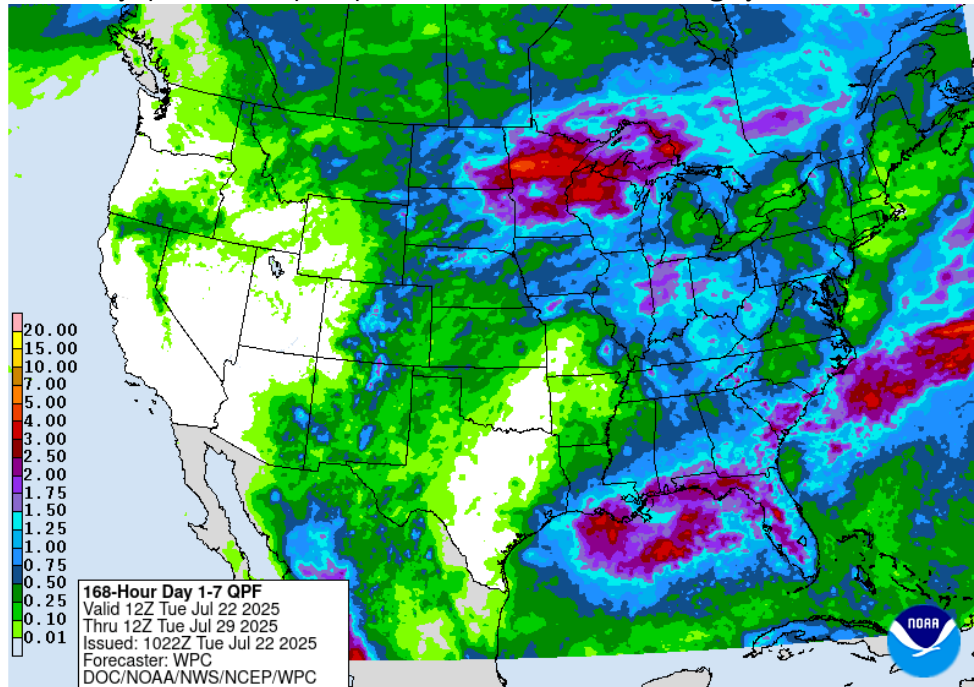
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for July 17 - October 31, 2025
Released July 17, 2025



Short Term Precipitation Outlook

The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast calls for roughly 0.50 – 0.75 inches.



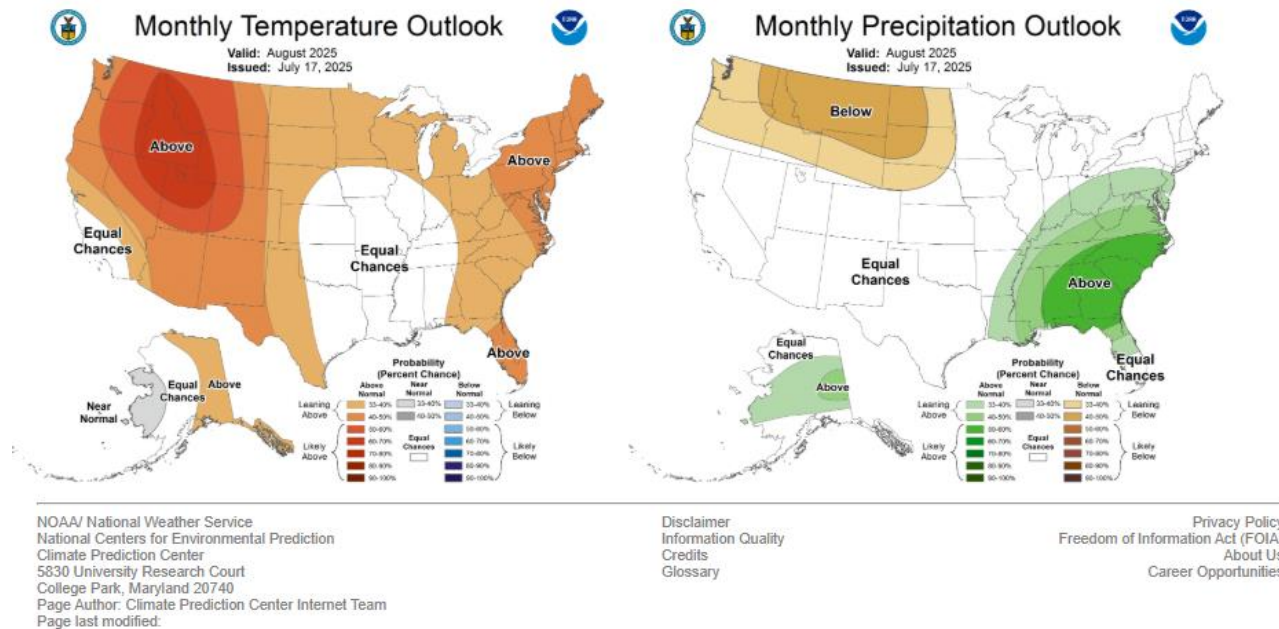
Source: [NOAA NWS Weather Prediction Center](https://www.noaa.gov/)

U.S. Climate 30-Day Outlook –Temperature and Precipitation

Leaning towards above normal precipitation and temperatures over the next 30 days.

OFFICIAL 30-Day Forecasts

Issued: July 17, 2025



Source: https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead14/

For more details on how to interpret these maps [Understanding NOAA's monthly climate outlooks](#). Map by NOAA Climate.gov, based on data from the Climate Prediction Center.