

# Regional Drought and Water Supply Status

September 2025

## Summary of Current Conditions in the COG Region

Abnormally dry conditions spread rapidly across most of the Potomac watershed due to a record-breaking lack of rainfall last month. Eighty percent is now abnormally dry according to the latest U.S. Drought monitor. Earlier this week, streamflow levels at Point of Rocks dropped below the low flow monitoring threshold of 2,000 cubic feet per second triggering the ICPRB's Section for Cooperative Water Supply Operations on the Potomac to begin daily drought monitoring and reporting. Regional drought stages are normal throughout the region and local backup reservoirs remain full. COG will continue to closely monitor conditions and provide updates as needed throughout the month.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Potomac Watershed

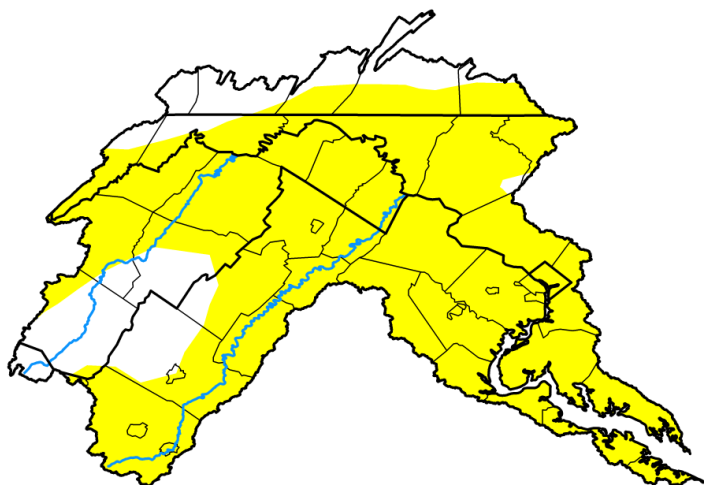
**September 2, 2025**

(Released Thursday, Sep. 4, 2025)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
<b>Current</b>	19.67	80.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> <i>08-28-2025</i>	61.59	38.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>06-05-2025</i>	62.78	37.21	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>01-09-2025</i>	2.33	27.31	57.93	12.43	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>10-03-2024</i>	19.32	37.95	25.75	14.23	2.75	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>09-05-2024</i>	13.85	15.75	37.57	32.73	0.10	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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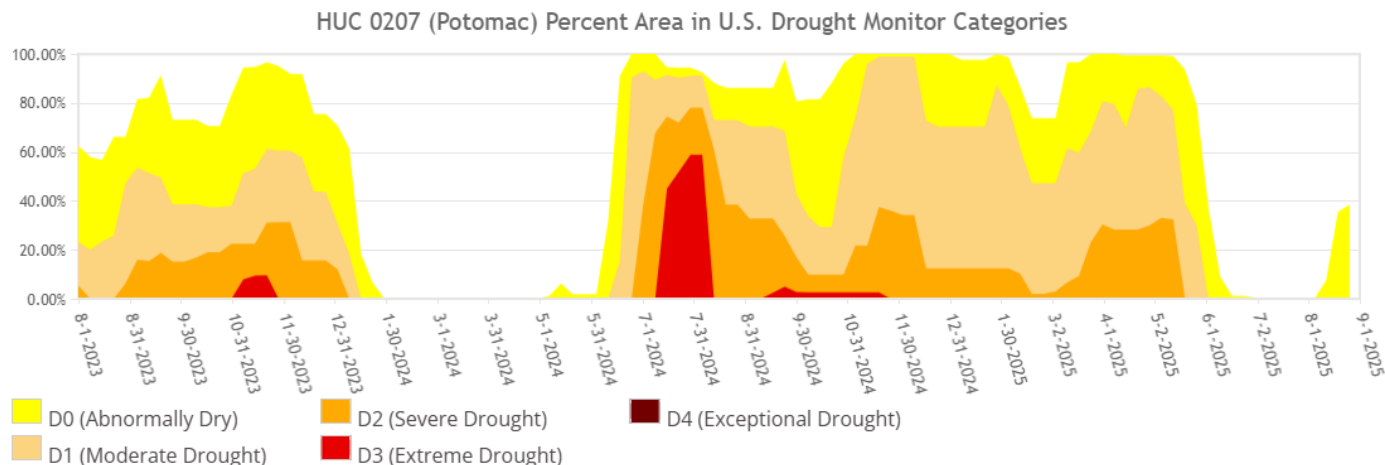


[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

[mwcog.org/drought](https://mwcog.org/drought)



From the U.S. Drought Monitor website, <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DmData/TimeSeries.aspx>, 9-3-2025



This time series graph above shows the range and severity of the drought in the fall of 2023, leading up to our drought watch declaration in the summer of 2024 (note that the drought watch lasted almost a full year and ended in June 2025). It is extremely difficult to predict if we could be following a similar pattern this year, but so far, conditions do not look as severe as we enter the fall season.

Source: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DmData/TimeSeries.aspx>

### Potomac Streamflow

Instantaneous flows readings as of September 4

Little Falls: 1,520 cfs (median 2,930 cfs) Source: [USGS Little Falls](#)

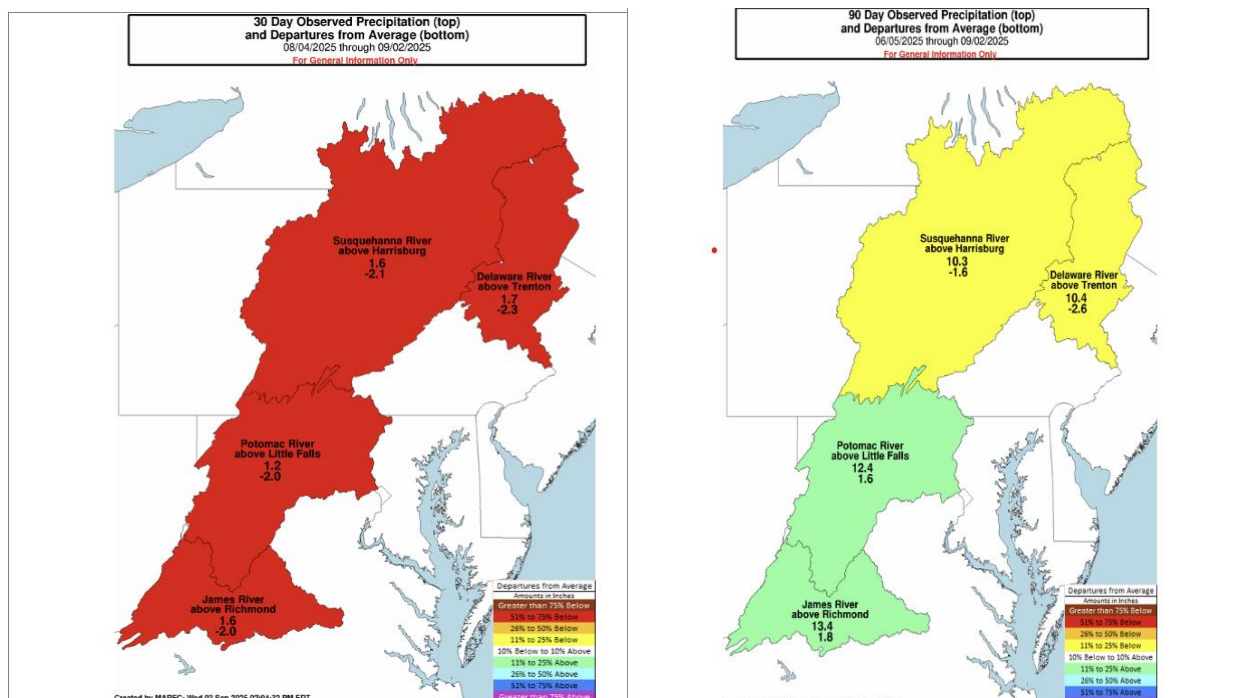
Point of Rocks: 1,890 cfs (median 2,265 cfs) Source: [USGS Point of Rocks](#)

### Potomac Basin Observed Precipitation and Departures from Average

Source: [https://www.weather.gov/marfc/precipitation\\_departures](https://www.weather.gov/marfc/precipitation_departures)

30 Day 1.2 inches of precipitation, 2.0 inches below normal

90 Day 12.4 inches of precipitation, 1.6 inches above normal



## Groundwater Levels

Groundwater levels are below normal across the 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 September 2025 report, 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 minimal (<1 percent) to 5 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](https://www.icprb.org/)

## Seasonal Drought Outlook

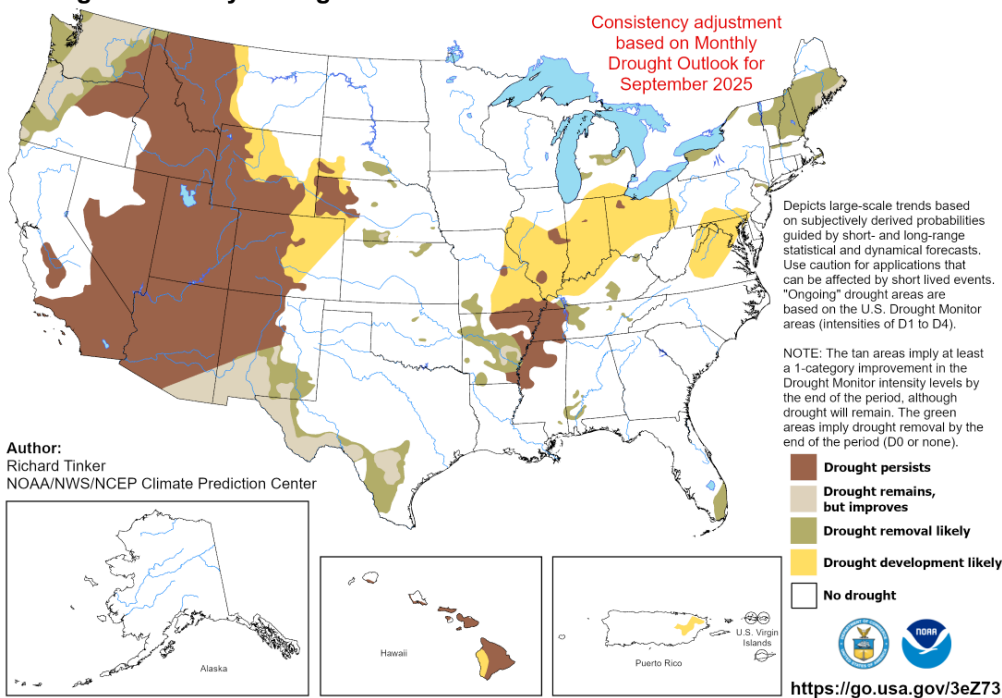
The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook indicates drought development is likely over the next three months: [National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center](https://www.weather.gov/drought)

# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

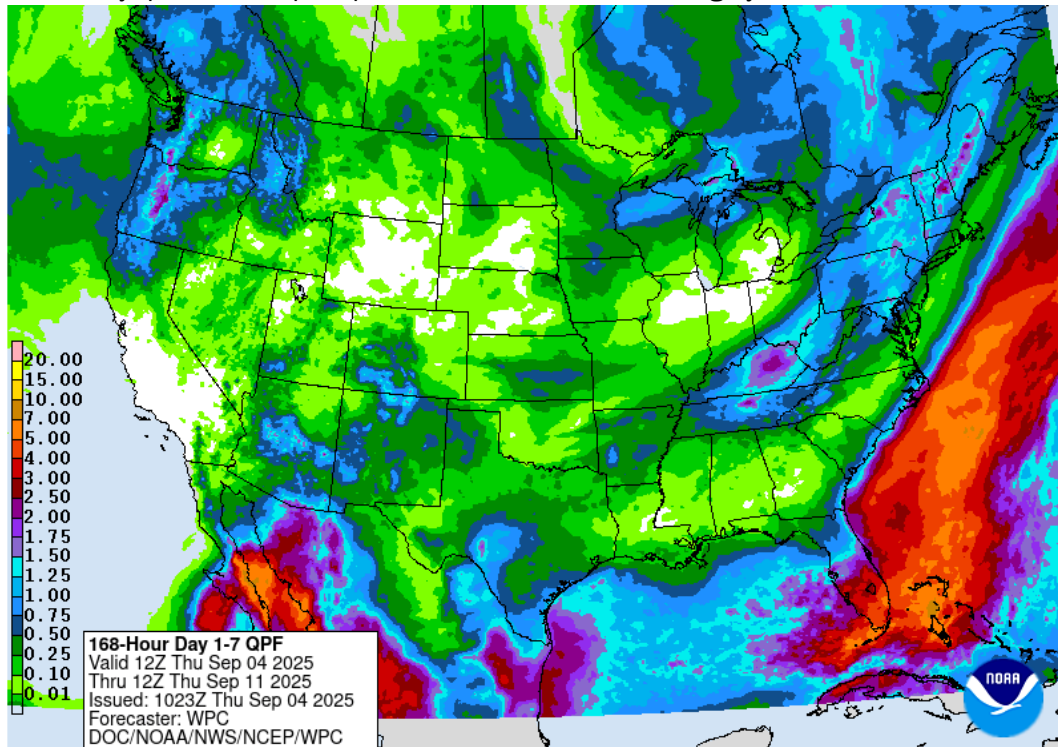
Valid for September 1 - November 30, 2025  
Released August 31, 2025

Consistency adjustment  
based on Monthly  
Drought Outlook for  
September 2025



## Short Term Precipitation Outlook

The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast calls for roughly 0.5 inches.



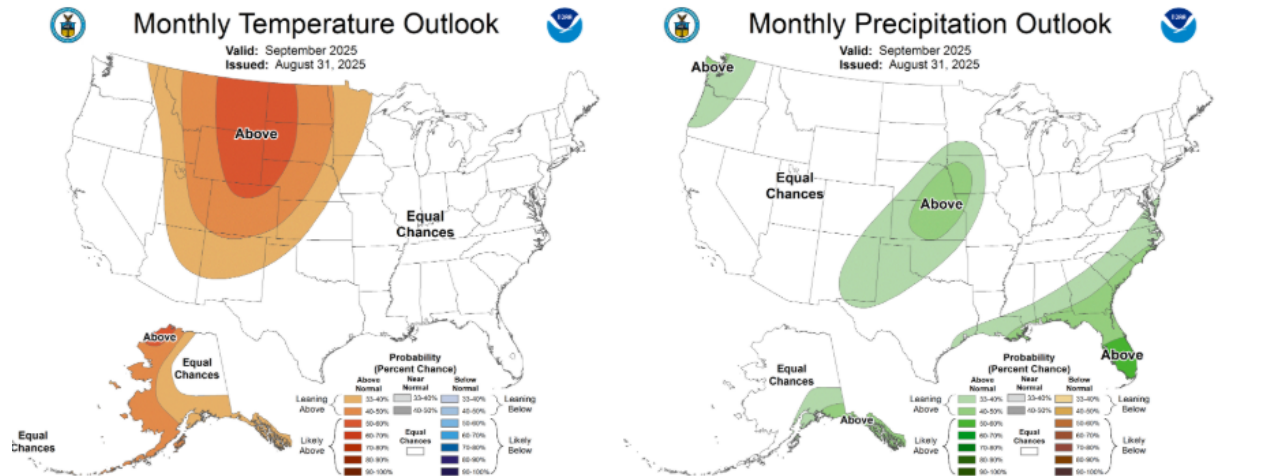
Source: [NOAA NWS Weather Prediction Center](https://www.noaa.gov/)

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

Equal chances of above or below normal temperature and precipitation over the next 30 days.

# Updated OFFICIAL 30-Day Forecasts

Issued: August 31, 2025



NOAA/ National Weather Service  
National Centers for Environmental Prediction  
Climate Prediction Center  
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College Park, Maryland 20740  
Page Author: Climate Prediction Center Internet Team  
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Source: [https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long\\_range/lead14/](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead14/)