



Regional Drought and Water Supply Status

August 2026

Summary of Current Conditions in the COG Region

The [Drought Watch declared on June 3, 2026](#) by the Drought Coordination Committee remains in effect for the COG region. Local water supplies remain adequate, and voluntary wise water use is still encouraged while long-term precipitation deficits continue throughout the region.

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor indicates that drought conditions have improved significantly since earlier this summer. As of August 11, approximately 12 percent of the Basin remained in Severe Drought (D2), 44 percent in Moderate Drought (D1), and 37 percent was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0), with no areas currently in Extreme Drought (D3). The most severe remaining drought conditions are concentrated in portions of the lower Potomac Basin.

The August Water Supply Outlook from ICPRB indicates a near-normal probability of water supply releases from the Washington metropolitan area's backup reservoirs during the remainder of the 2026 summer and fall seasons, an improvement from the above-normal risk reported in July. Reservoirs remain near full, and Potomac River flow is currently sufficient to meet metropolitan water demands without augmentation from upstream reservoirs.

River flows and groundwater conditions have improved due to recent rainfall, prompting ICPRB to suspend daily drought monitoring on August 9. However, the Basin remains in a significant long-term precipitation deficit, with the 12-month cumulative precipitation total approximately 8.9 inches below normal as of August 13.

VADEQ continues to maintain a Drought Warning across most of Virginia, including Northern Virginia, while MDE reports that Western and Central Maryland remain in Drought Watch status and Eastern and Southern Maryland remain in Drought Warning status.

The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook indicates that drought conditions across much of the Mid-Atlantic are expected to improve further or be removed by the end of October.

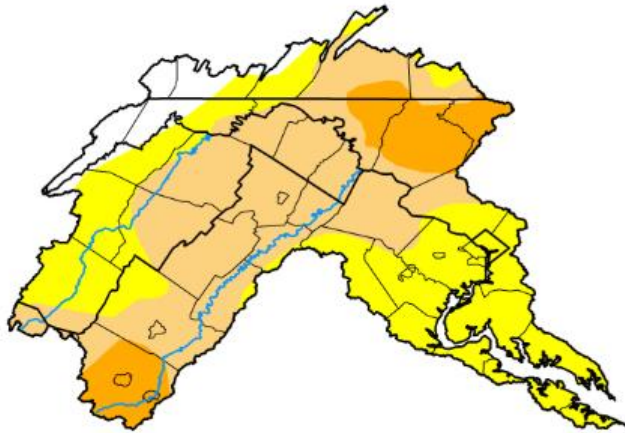


U.S. Drought Monitor Potomac Watershed

August 11, 2026

(Released Thursday, Aug. 13, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	6.81	37.14	44.17	11.88	0.00	0.00
Last Week 08-06-2026	6.16	22.04	53.63	18.17	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 05-14-2026	0.00	0.31	2.80	95.62	1.27	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-08-2026	0.00	0.00	14.96	85.04	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-02-2025	4.61	34.36	39.54	17.48	4.01	0.00
One Year Ago 08-14-2025	92.48	7.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	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

Potomac River Streamflow Conditions

Instantaneous flows as of August 13, 2026

Location	Current Flow (cfs)	Median Flow (cfs)
Little Falls	5,080	4,115
Point of Rocks	4,060	3,530

Source: [USGS Little Falls](#)

Source: [USGS Point of Rocks](#)



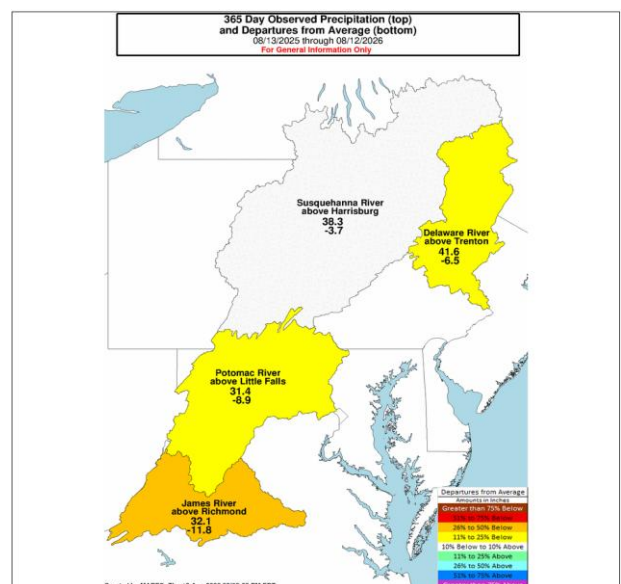
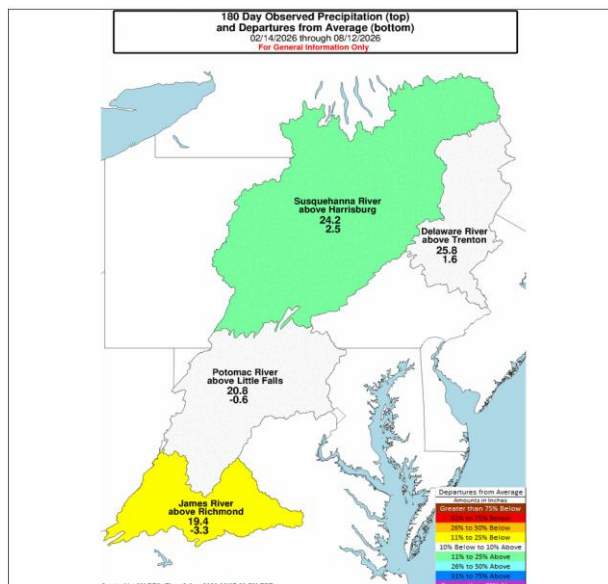
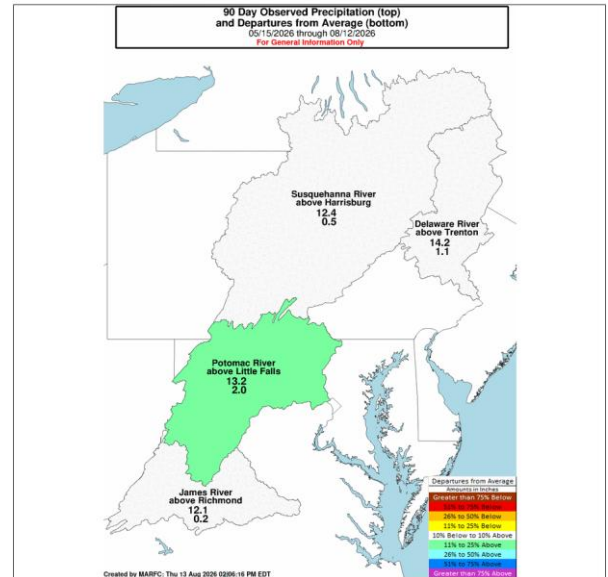
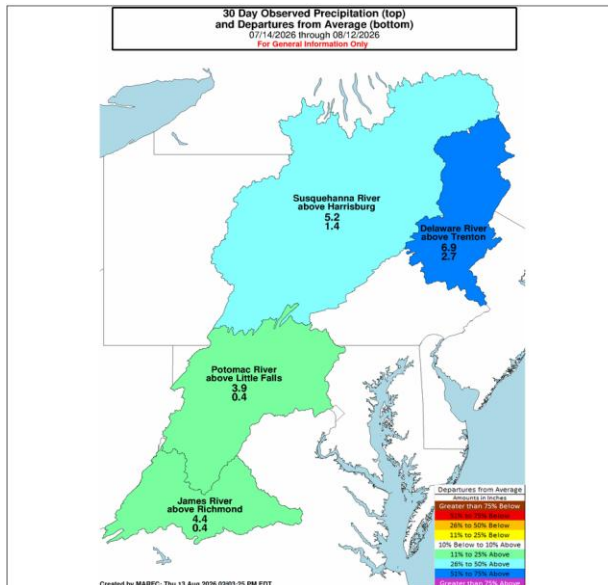
Observed Precipitation Conditions

30-Day Total: 3.9 inches (0.4 inches above normal)

90-Day Total: 13.2 inches (2.0 inches above normal)

180-Day Total: 20.8 inches (0.5 inches below normal)

365-Day Total: 31.4 inches (8.9 inches below normal)

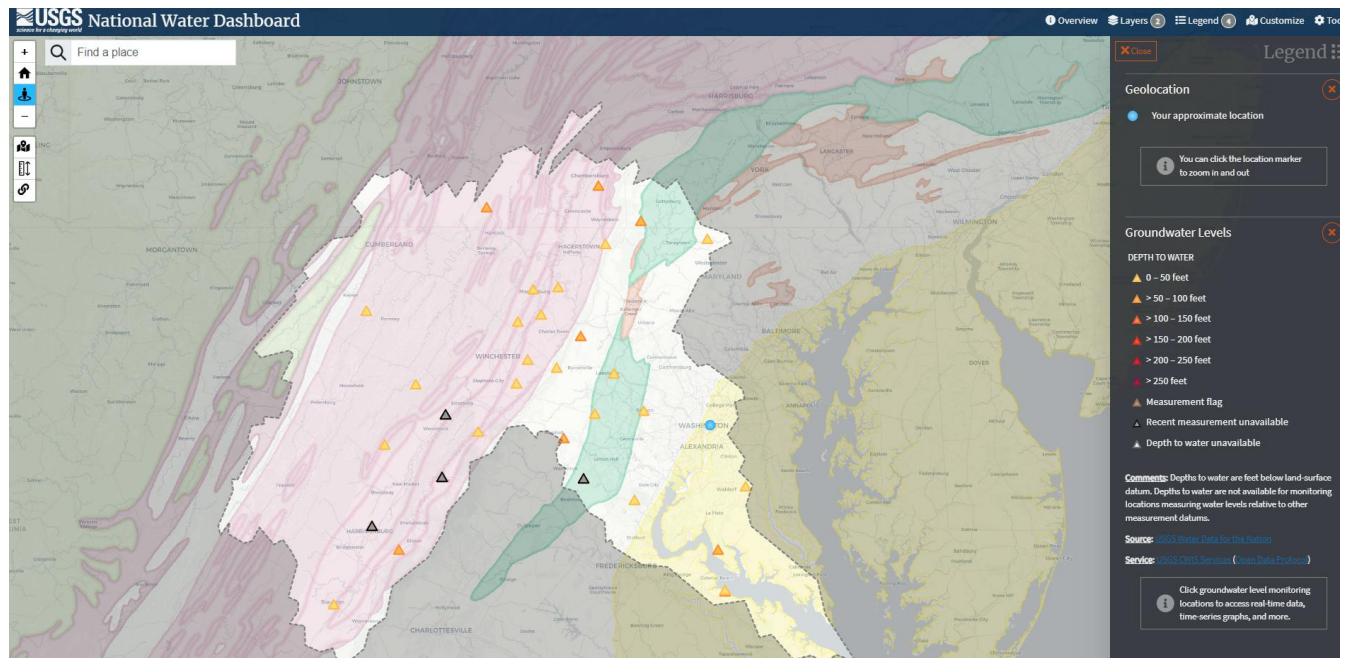


Source: [NOAA Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center](https://www.noaa.gov/middle-atlantic-river-forecast-center)



Groundwater Conditions

Groundwater levels range from normal to below normal across the region.



Source: <https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/app/nwd/en/?aoi=geolocate-huc4&view=groundwater>

Reservoir Storage Conditions

Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca reservoirs are within normal operating ranges.

Source: [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](https://www.army.mil/cgsc/)

Probability of Water Supply Releases

As of the August 2026 report, the probability of needing water supply releases from the Washington metropolitan area's backup reservoirs during summer and fall 2026 is near-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 5 to 16 percent conditional probability that natural Potomac flow will drop below 600 to 700 million gallons per day (MGD) at Little Falls through December 31, 2026.

Source: [ICPRB – Cooperative Water Supply Operations on the Potomac](https://www.icprb.org/operations/)

Climate and Drought Outlooks

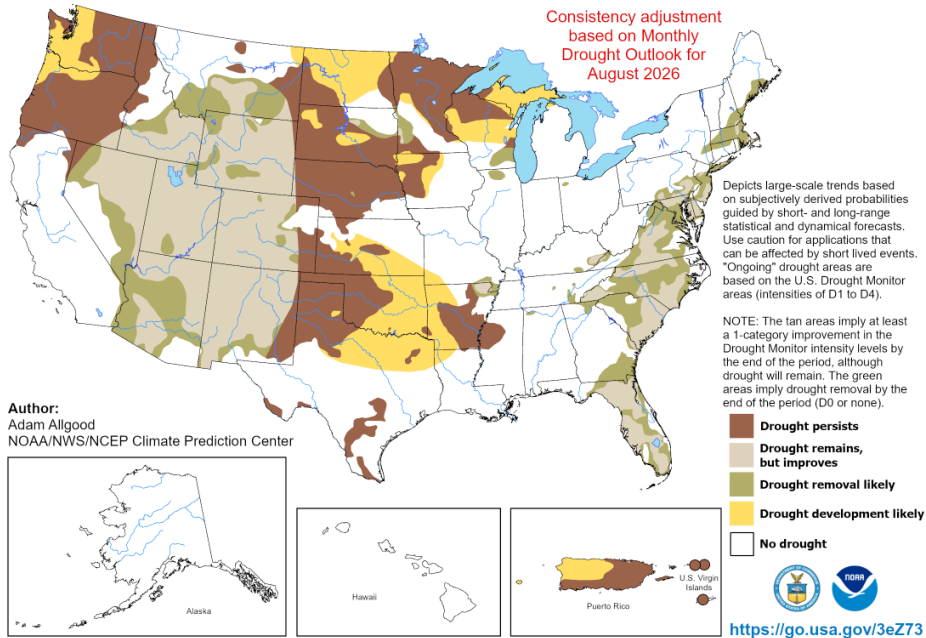
The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook indicates that drought removal is likely over the next three months. Source:

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/sdo_summary.php

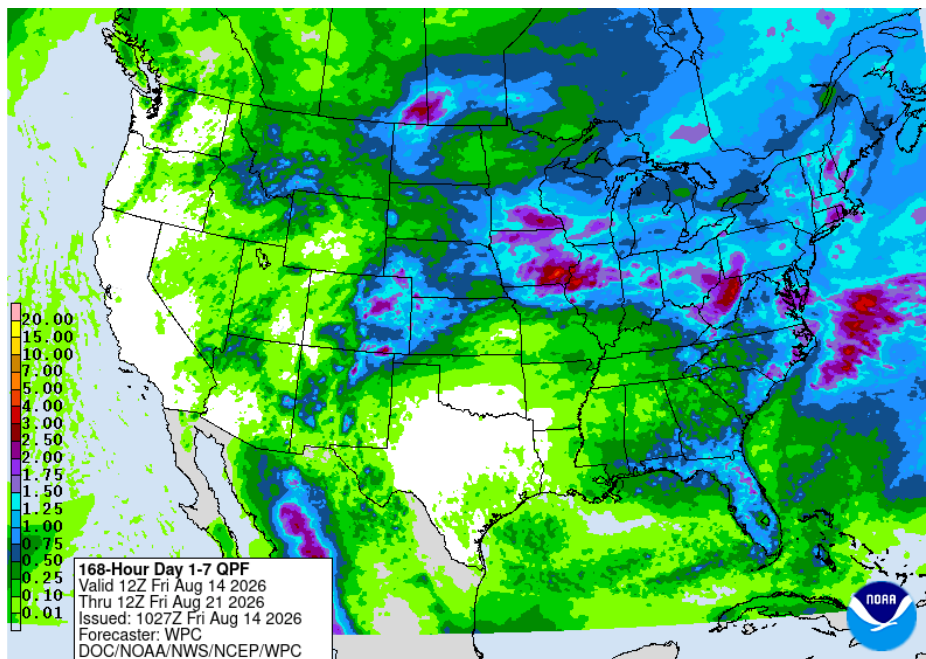


U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for August 1 - October 31, 2026
Released July 31, 2026



The 7-day total quantitative precipitation forecast calls for approximately 1.00 – 1.25 inches.

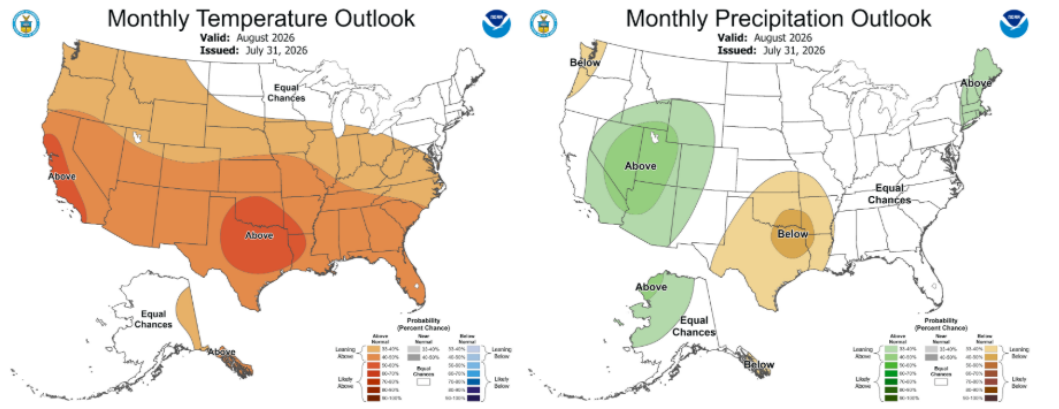


Source: [NOAA NWS Weather Prediction Center](https://www.weather.gov/wpc)



Updated OFFICIAL 30-Day Forecasts

Issued: July 31, 2026



The monthly outlook from the National Weather Service [Climate Prediction Center](#) indicates equal chances for above-, below-, and near-normal precipitation for the Northeast, and favors above normal temperatures. Source: [NOAA NWS Climate Prediction Center](#)