

Regional Drought and Water Supply Status

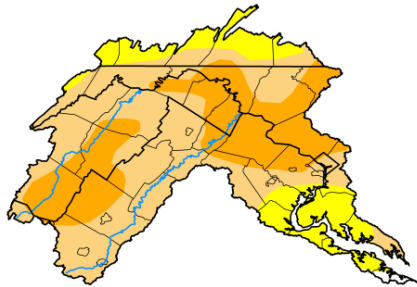
June 2025

Summary of Current Conditions in the COG Region

The Drought Watch declared by COG's Drought Coordination Committee on July 29, 2024, has been lifted. Regional experts met earlier this week and concluded that conditions have improved significantly, and the drought stage can return to normal, according to COG's regional drought plan. The Potomac River Basin received a significant amount of rainfall over the past six weeks and nearly all levels of drought, ranging from severe to abnormally dry, have been removed.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality lifted their drought advisory for the Northern Virginia region earlier this week. Central Maryland is still under a warning status due to low groundwater levels while western Maryland is normal according to the Maryland Department of the Environment. Local backup reservoirs remain full.

U.S. Drought Monitor Potomac Watershed



May 6, 2025
(Released Thursday, May, 8, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	0.54	16.70	49.76	33.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 05-01-2025	0.54	12.95	56.61	29.91	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 02-06-2025	1.10	19.78	66.69	12.43	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	2.33	27.31	57.93	12.43	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	19.32	37.95	25.75	14.23	2.75	0.00
One Year Ago 05-09-2024	88.77	1.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:
None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme 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>

Author:
Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor Potomac Watershed



June 17, 2025
(Released Thursday, Jun. 19, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	98.80	1.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 06-11-2025	90.93	9.05	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-20-2025	3.33	36.86	50.47	9.34	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	2.33	27.31	57.93	12.43	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	19.32	37.95	25.75	14.23	2.75	0.00
One Year Ago 06-20-2024	8.76	75.84	15.40	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:
None
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Author:
Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

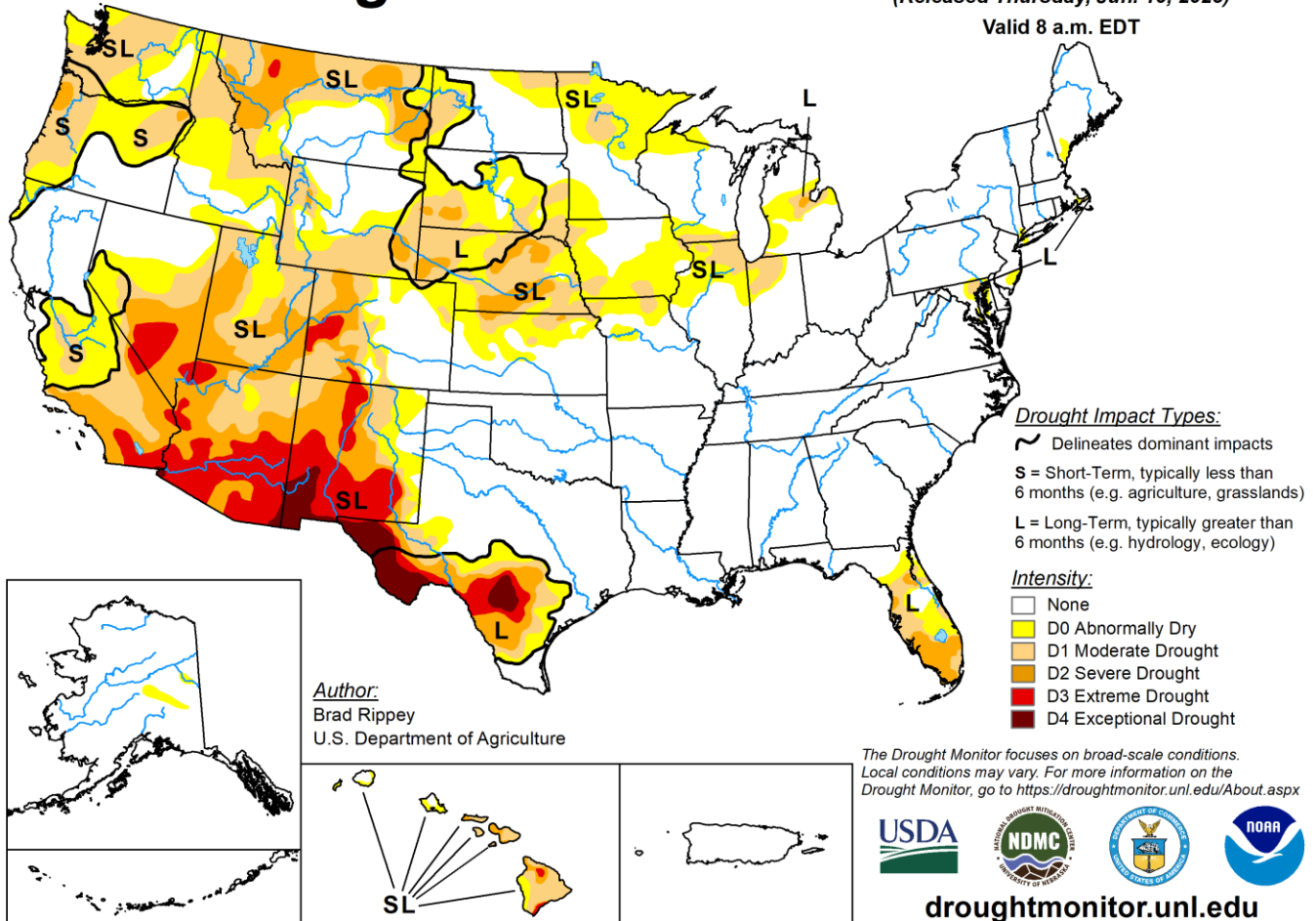


Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

mwcog.org/drought

U.S. Drought Monitor

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Potomac Streamflow

Instantaneous flows readings as of June 20

Little Falls: 43,900 cfs (median 5,880 cfs) Source: [USGS Little Falls](#)

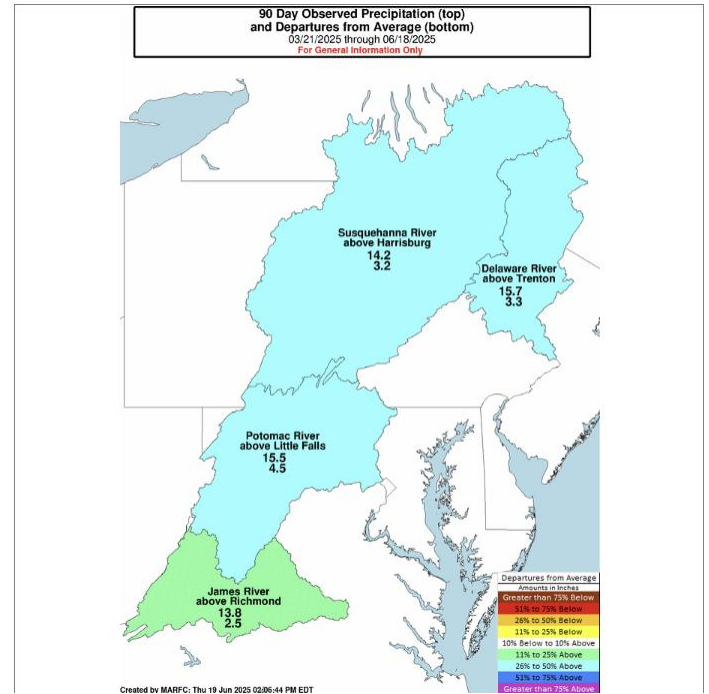
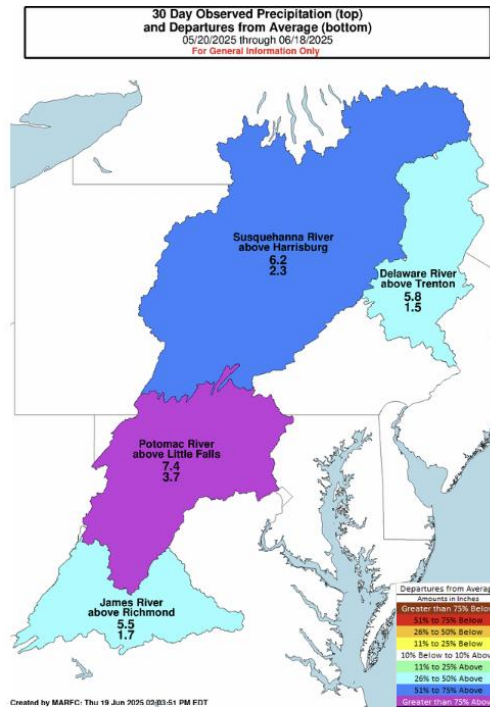
Point of Rocks: 33,000 cfs (median 4,970 cfs) Source: [USGS Point of Rocks](#)

Potomac Basin Observed Precipitation and Departures from Average

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

30 Day 7.4 inches of precipitation, 3.7 inches above normal

90 Day 15.5 inches of precipitation, 4.5 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 June 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 elevated. 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. Although current Potomac River flows are sufficient to meet water demands without upstream reservoir releases, there is still a 10 to 20 percent chance that releases may be required this summer—above the historical range of 8 to 15 percent. Source: [ICPRB](#)

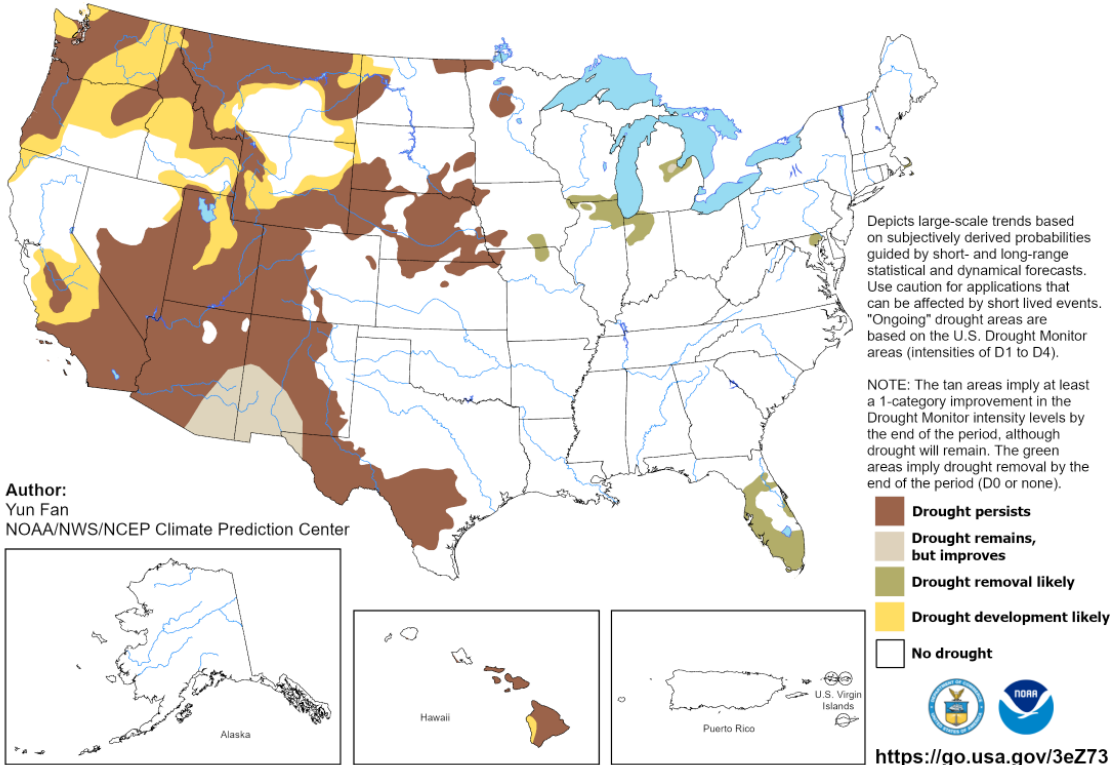
Seasonal Drought Outlook

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

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

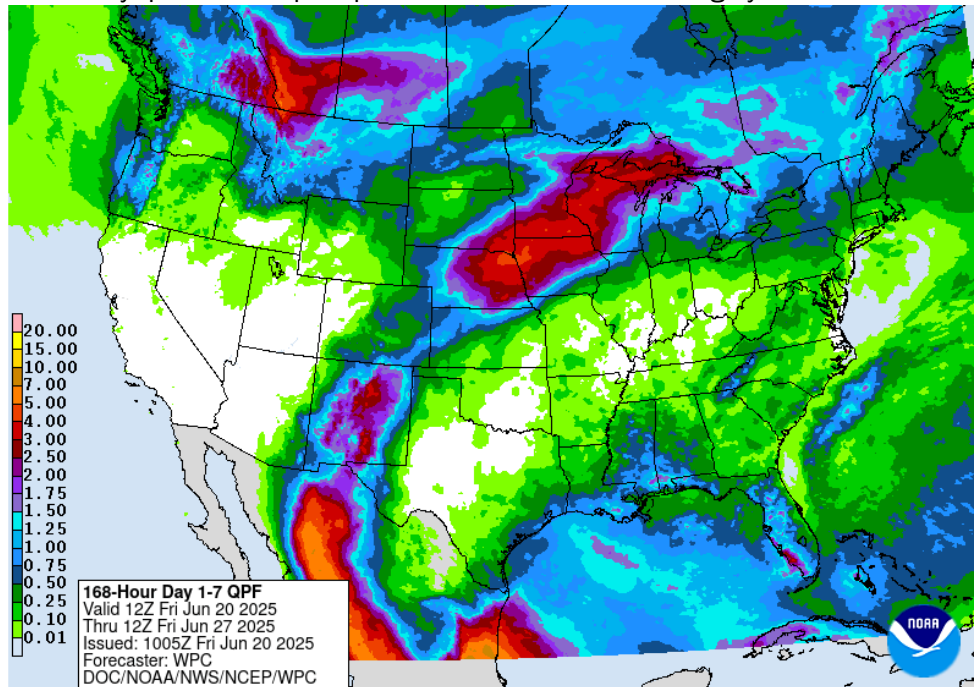
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for June 19 - September 30, 2025
Released June 19, 2025



Short Term Precipitation Outlook

The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast calls for roughly 0.25 inches.



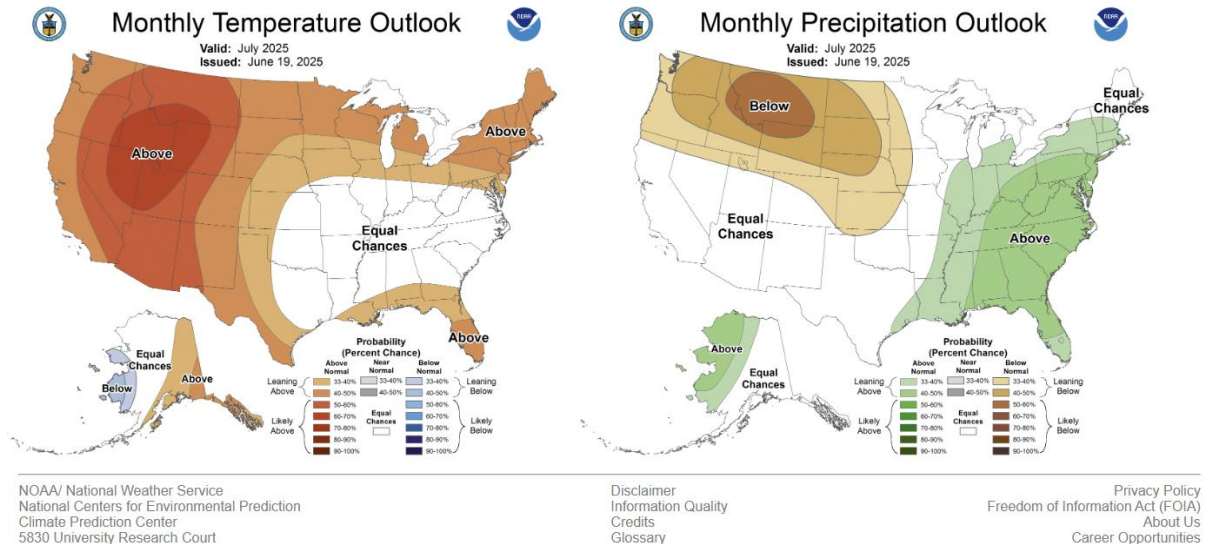
Source: [NOAA NWS Weather Prediction Center](https://www.weather.gov/)

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

Leaning towards above normal precipitation and equal changes of above, below, or normal temperatures over the next 30 days.

OFFICIAL 30-Day Forecasts

Issued: June 19, 2025



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.