Regional Drought and Water Supply Status

October 2025

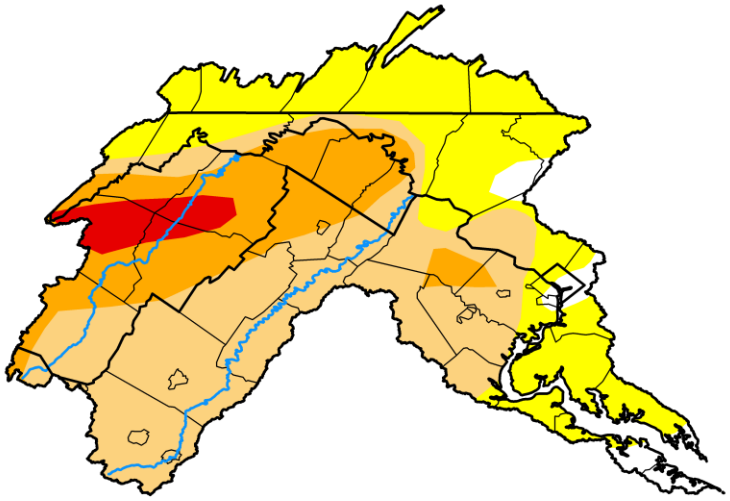
Summary of Current Conditions in the COG Region

The current drought stage as defined in COG's Water Supply and Drought Awareness Response Plan is Normal. Our region experienced another month of dry conditions due to the lack of rain and above normal temperatures. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor shows abnormally dry conditions and moderate drought in the COG region with severe and extreme drought in the western portion of the Potomac Watershed. We are monitoring the potential impacts of the nor'easter this weekend that could bring some much-needed rain to our region.

The ICPRB's Section for Cooperative Water Supply Operations (CO-OP) continues to track conditions and coordinate with regional water suppliers as streamflow levels at Point of Rocks remain below the low flow monitoring threshold of 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality issued a drought watch advisory last month for the Northern Virginia region and the areas monitored in the COG region by the Maryland Department of the Environment are normal. Local backup reservoirs remain full.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Potomac Watershed



October 7, 2025

(Released Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	3.33	31.55	41.28	19.83	4.01	0.00
Last Week 10-02-2025	4.61	34.36	39.54	17.48	4.01	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-10-2025	99.55	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-09-2025	2.33	27.31	57.93	12.43	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 10-10-2024	18.48	47.66	24.08	7.13	2.66	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

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Potomac Streamflow

Due to a lapse in government funding, the majority of USGS websites will not be updated except to provide important public safety information. Websites displaying real-time water data will be updated with limited support. For more information please see: www.doi.gov/shutdown.

Instantaneous flows readings as of October 9

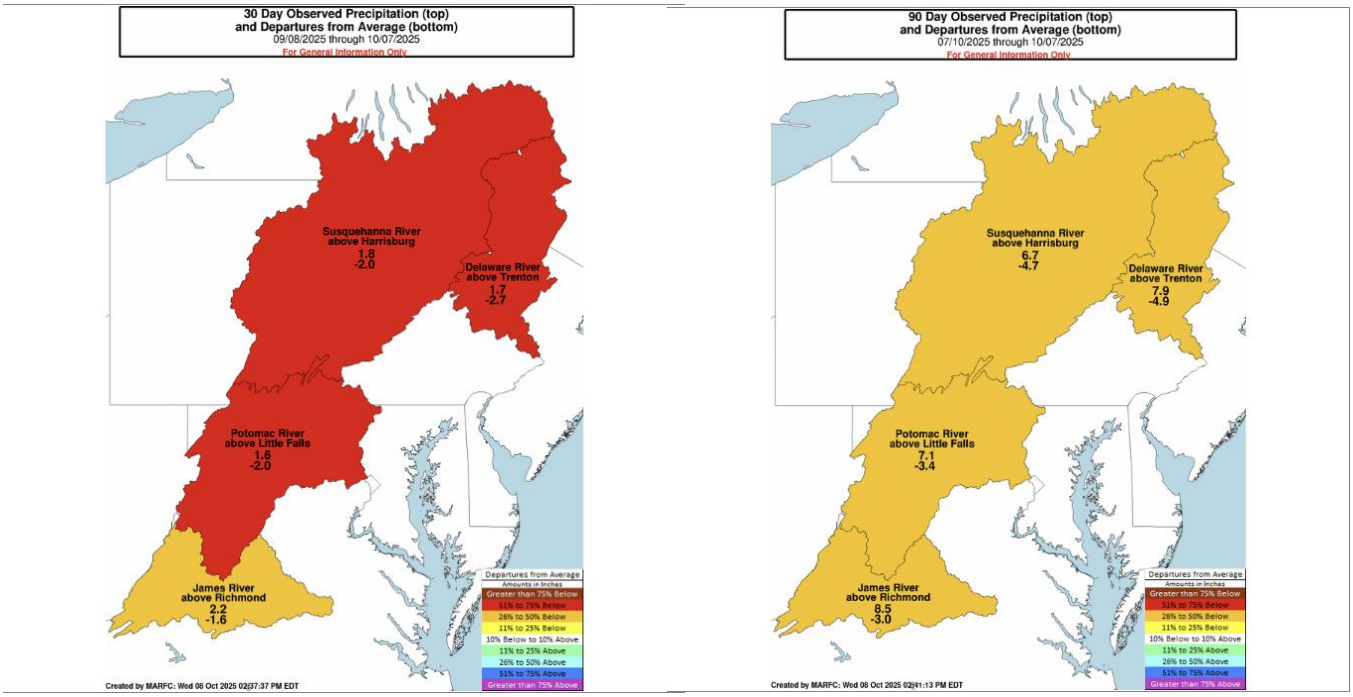
Little Falls:	1,370 cfs	(median 2,390 cfs)	Source: USGS Little Falls
Point of Rocks:	1,780 cfs	(median 2,220 cfs)	Source: USGS Point of Rocks

Potomac Basin Observed Precipitation and Departures from Average (through October 7)

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

30 Day 1.6 inches of precipitation, 2.0 inches below normal

90 Day 7.1 inches of precipitation, 3.4 inches below normal



Groundwater Levels

Groundwater levels range from near normal to 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

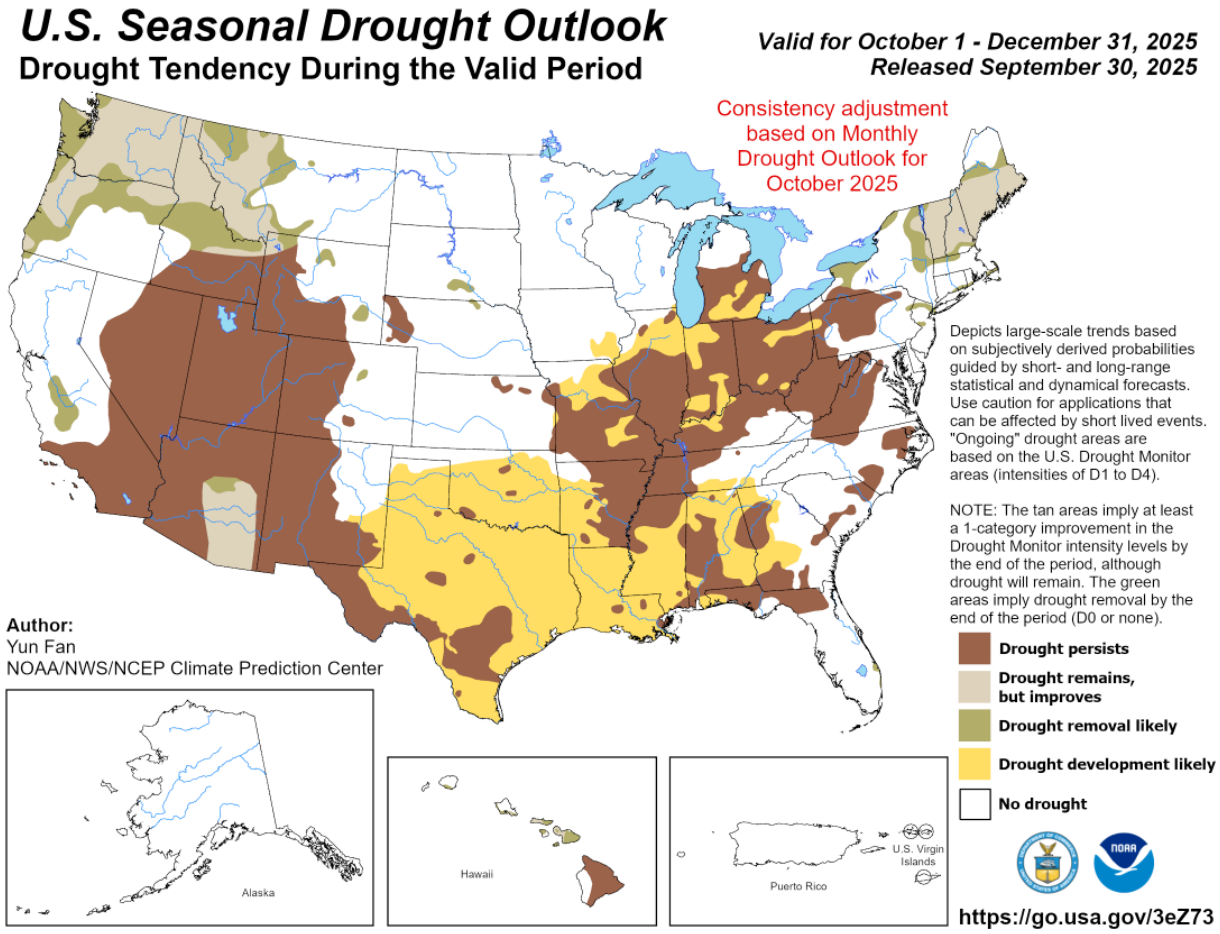
Probability of Reservoir Releases

As of the October 2025 report, the probability of needing water supply releases from the Washington metropolitan area's backup reservoirs is above normal through December 2025. 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 10 to 24 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]

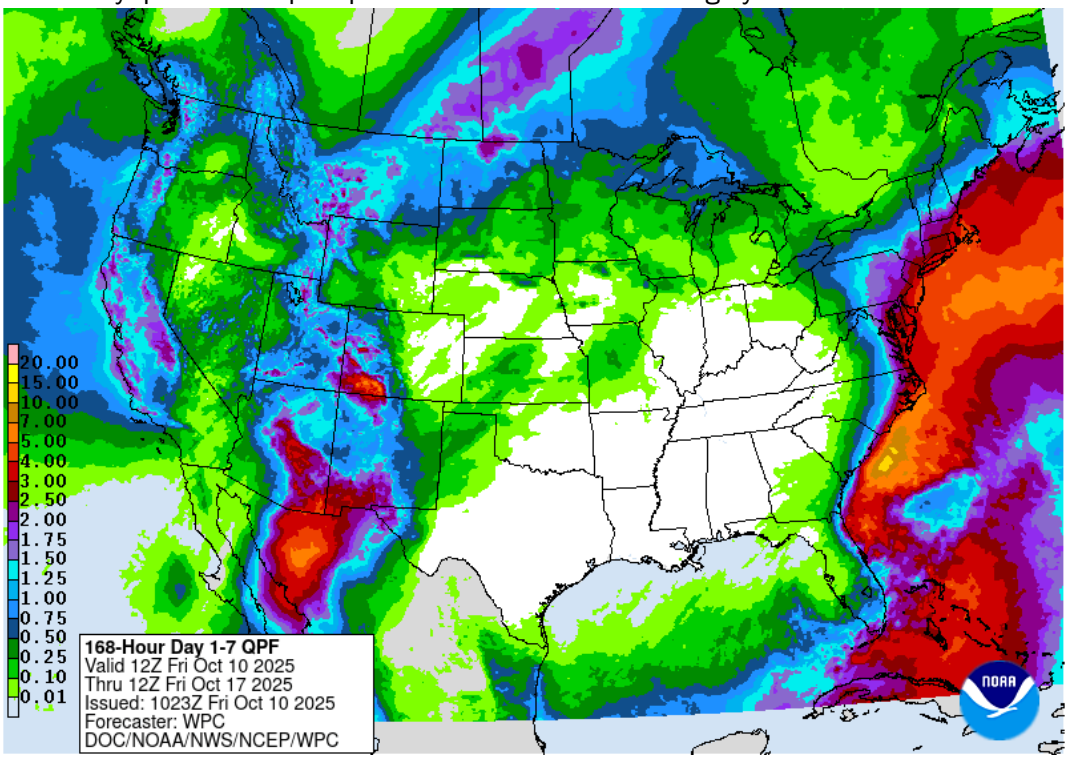
Seasonal Drought Outlook

The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook indicates that the drought is likely to persist in the northwestern portion of the Basin over the next three months. [National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center]



Short Term Precipitation Outlook

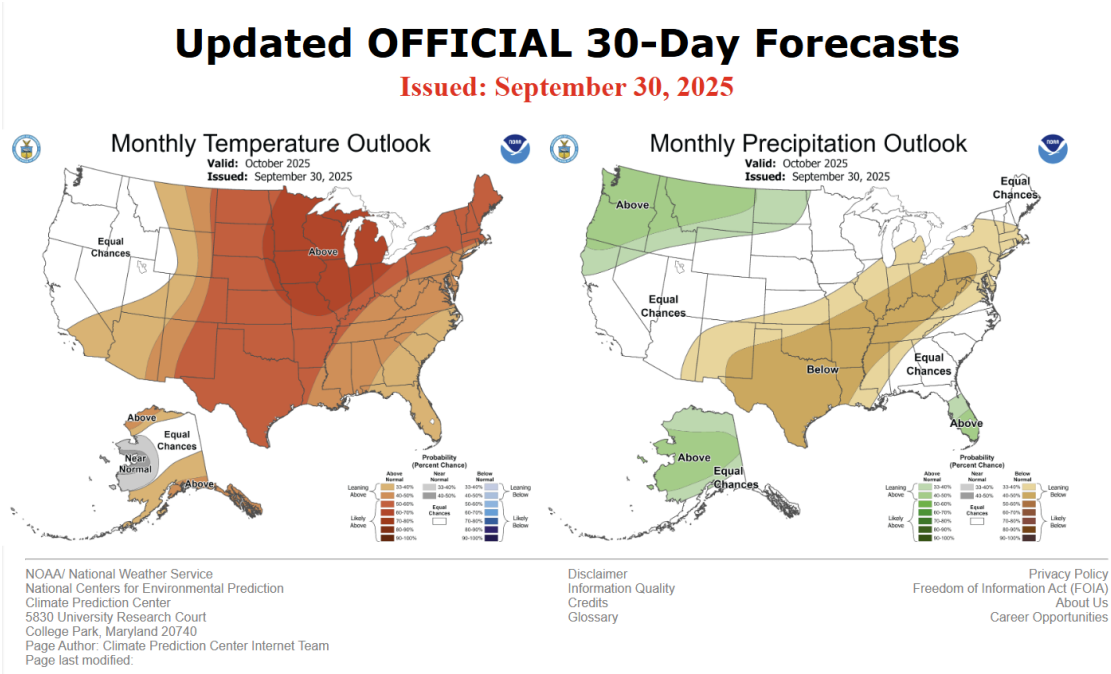
The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast calls for roughly 0.75 – 1.0 inches.



Source: [NOAA NWS Weather Prediction Center]

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

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



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