



# Drought Report for the Week of November 9, 2015

---



Looking back on the 2015 water year, records were set for lowest snowpack level and earliest melt dates since the state began record keeping more than 30 years ago. Stream flow for the 2015 water year was only 65 percent of average. In many locations, summertime stream flows were at the lowest levels ever recorded. In many cases, reservoir levels were also the lowest ever recorded. Streamflow conditions for October, 2015 were 51 percent of average.

Governor Brown issued Executive Orders declaring drought in 25 counties. In recent years, these declarations have been set to expire at the end of the calendar year. These declarations allowed the Water Resources Department to issue emergency drought permits to applicants, using an expedited process.

Cooler temperatures and recent rainfall have helped to lower water demand in recent weeks and as a result, streams have responded with a moderate upward trend. Despite this, 60 percent of Oregon is still under "Extreme Drought" conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Reservoirs, especially in Eastern Oregon remain at extremely low levels.

The Climate Prediction Center has issued an El Nino advisory, stating; "There is an approximately 95% chance that El Niño will continue through Northern Hemisphere winter 2015-16, gradually weakening through spring 2016." For Oregon, this means a high probability of warmer than normal temperatures and an uncertain precipitation outlook. This means that it is likely that there will be less than normal snowpack in the coming winter.

## **To go to a specific section click on title below:**

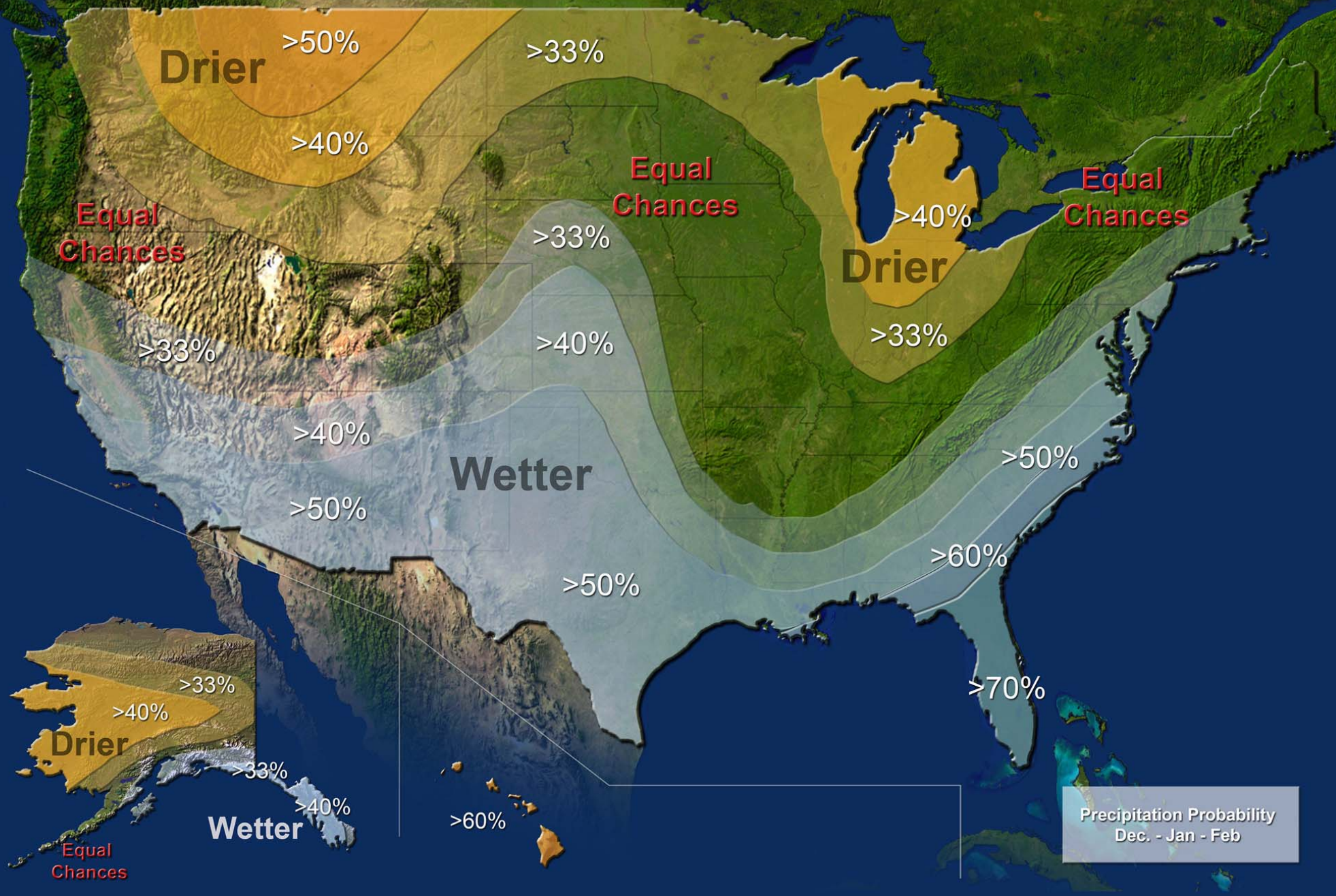
- Three Month Outlook – Precipitation Probability
- Three Month Outlook – Temperature Probability
- Oregon Declaration Status
- Oregon Surface Water Supply Index
- Oregon SNOTEL Water Year-to-Date Precipitation % of Normal
- Oregon SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent % of Normal
- Oregon Drought Monitor
- U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

## **Additional Resources:**

- Reservoir Storage Diagrams
  - [Deschutes Basin](#)
  - [Willamette Basin](#)
  - [Tualatin River Basin](#)
  - [Rogue Basin](#)
  - [Umatilla River Basin](#)
  - [Southeastern Oregon](#)

# U.S. Winter Outlook

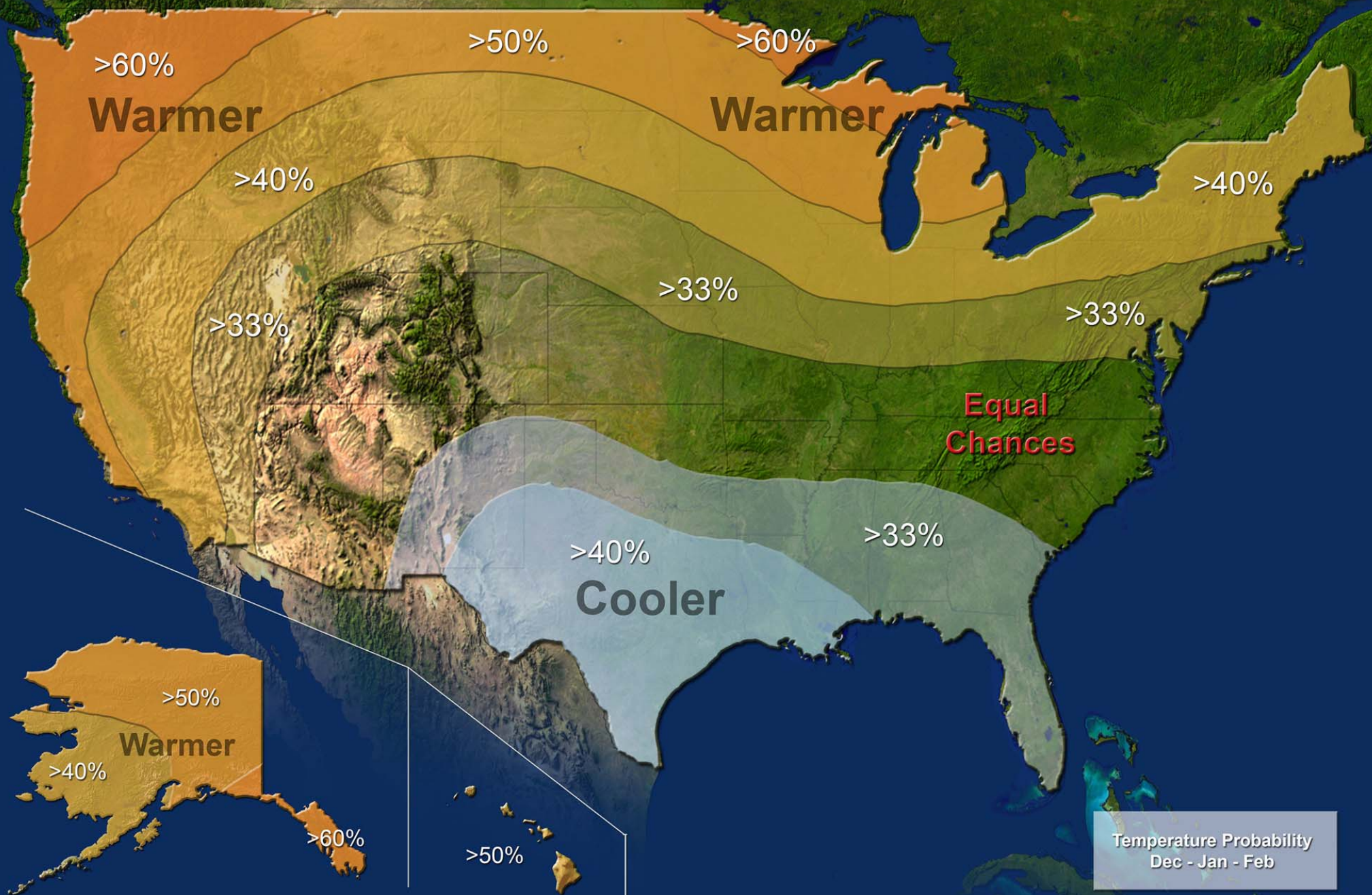
## Precipitation





# U.S. Winter Outlook

## Temperature









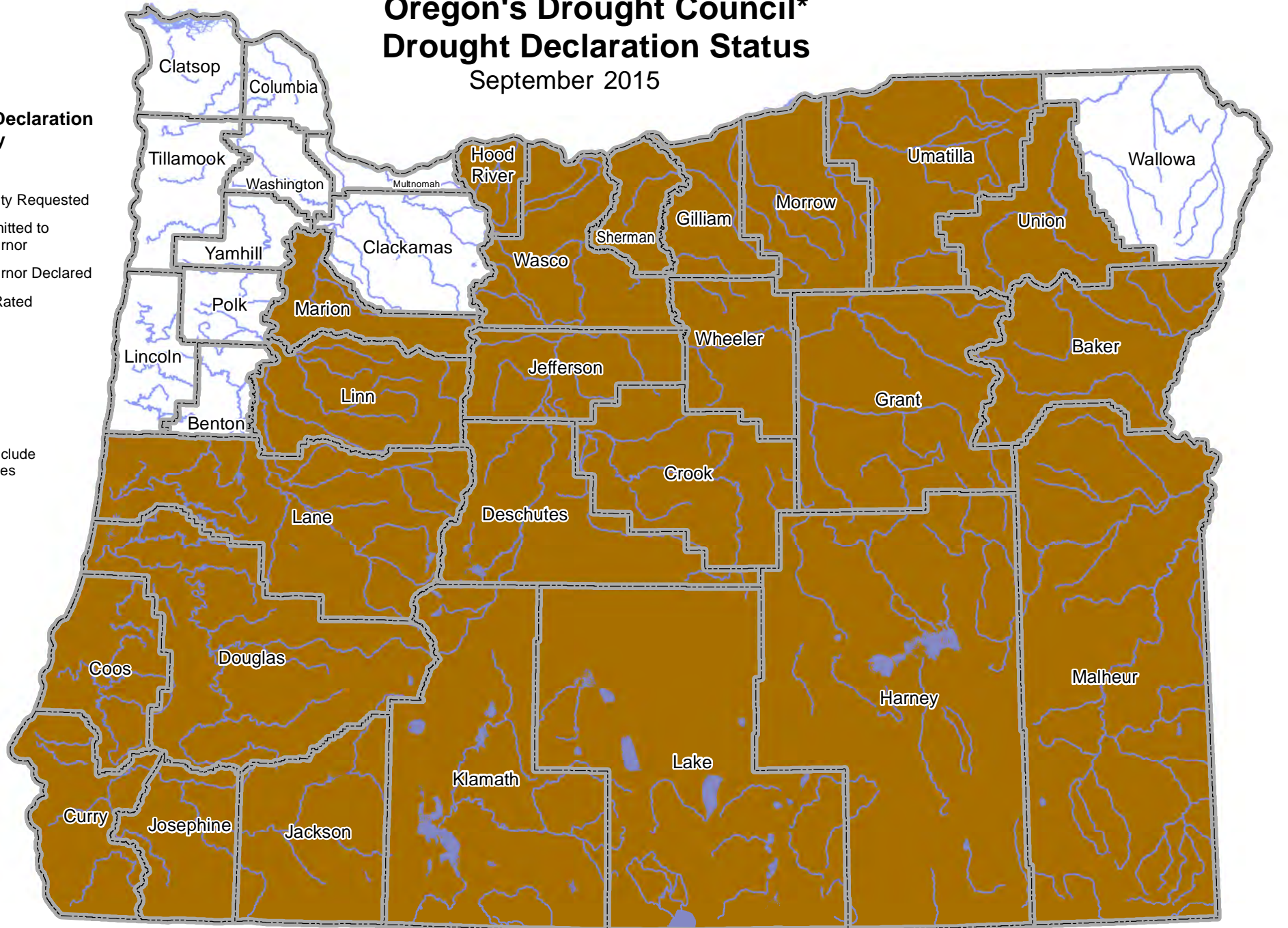
# Oregon's Drought Council\* Drought Declaration Status September 2015

## Drought Declaration by County

### Status

-  County Requested
-  Submitted to Governor
-  Governor Declared
-  Not Rated

\*Members Include  
State Agencies



Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer St. NE Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301  
<http://www.wrd.state.or.us/>

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

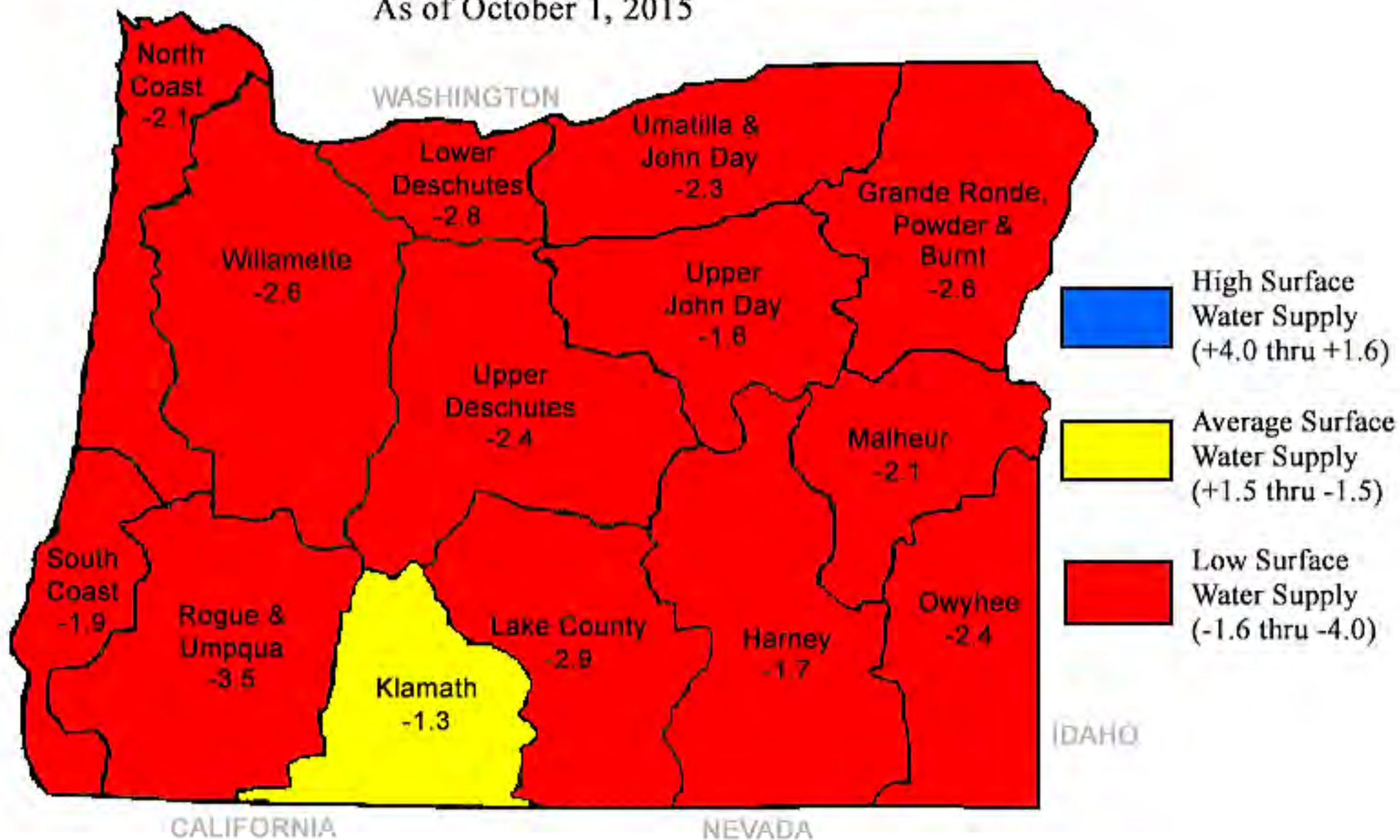


0 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

Updated: 9/18/2015 12:02 PM  
Projection: Oregon Lambert, NAD 83

# OREGON SURFACE WATER SUPPLY INDEX (SWSI)

As of October 1, 2015

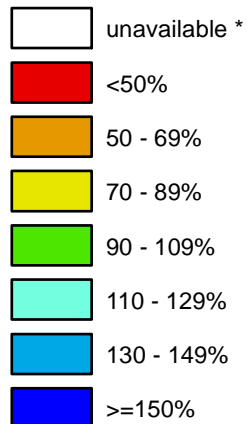




# Oregon SNOTEL Water Year (Oct 1) to Date Precipitation % of Normal

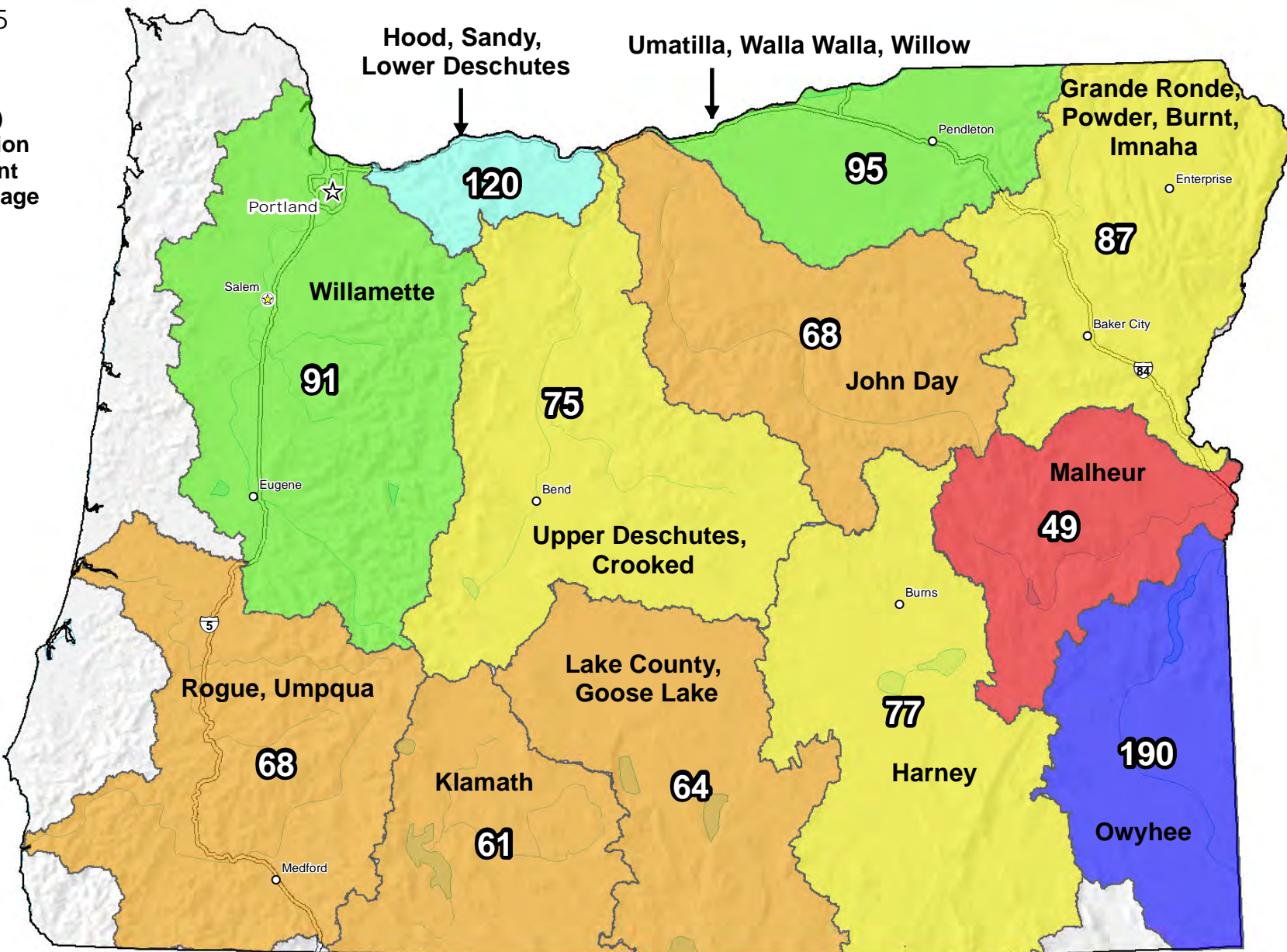
Nov 09, 2015

**Water Year (Oct 1)  
to Date Precipitation  
Basin-wide Percent  
of 1981-2010 Average**



\* Data unavailable at time  
of posting or measurement  
is not representative at this  
time of year

**Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision**



The water year to date precipitation percent of normal represents the accumulated precipitation found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

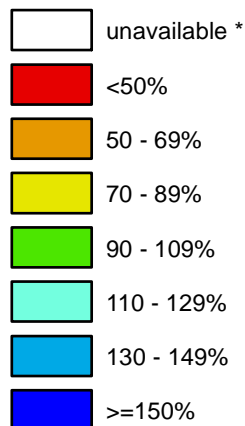
0 10 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

Prepared by:  
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center  
Portland, Oregon  
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>

# Oregon SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

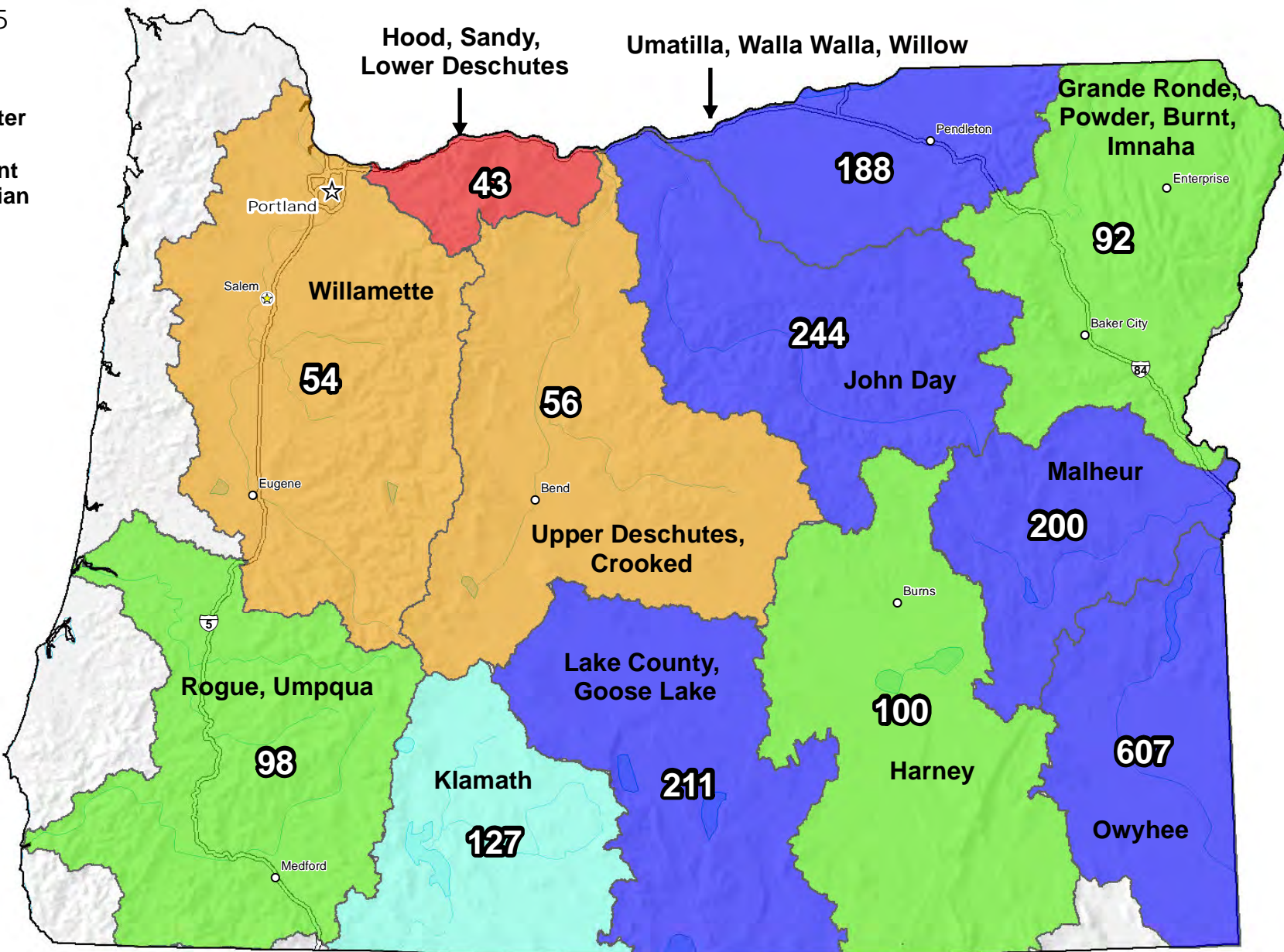
Nov 09, 2015

**Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)  
Basin-wide Percent  
of 1981-2010 Median**



\* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year

**Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision**



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

0 10 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

Prepared by:  
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center  
Portland, Oregon  
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>



# U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

**November 3, 2015**  
(Released Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

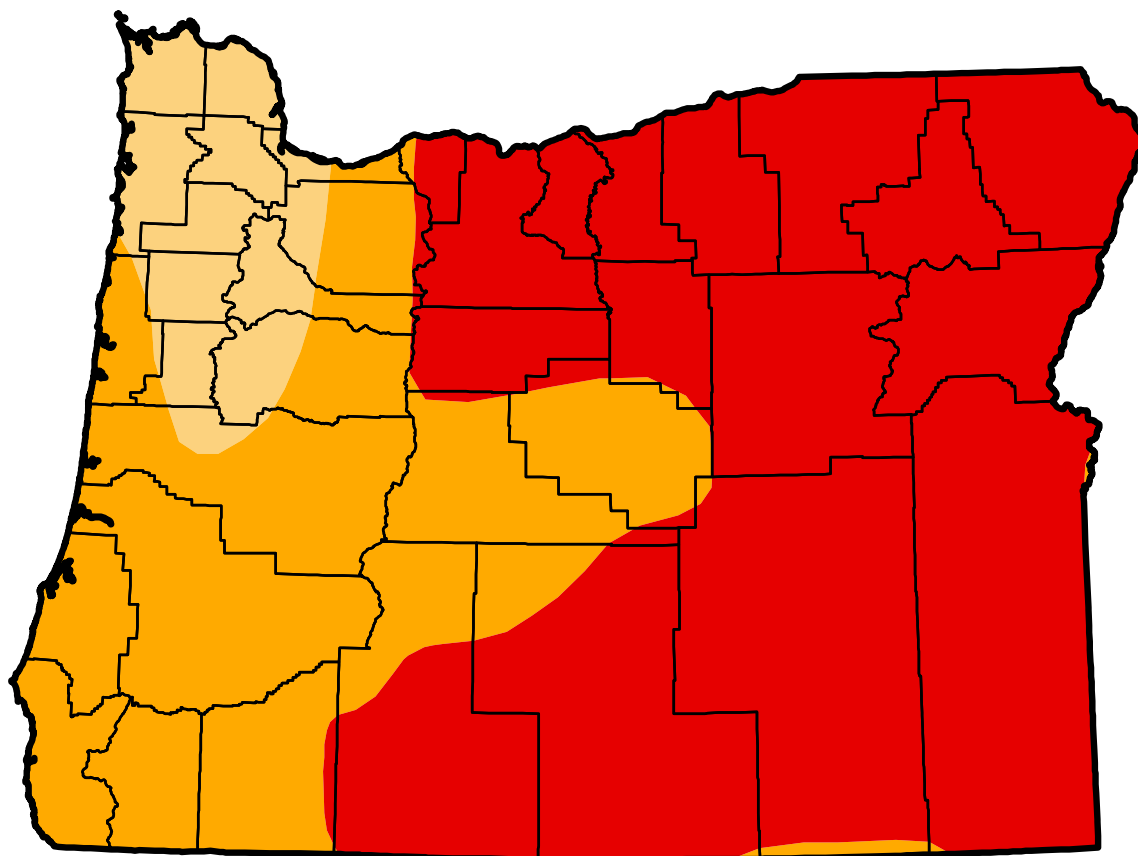
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	0.00	100.00	100.00	91.57	60.68	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> <i>10/27/2015</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	67.29	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>8/4/2015</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	48.31	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>12/30/2014</i>	13.61	86.39	80.70	49.29	34.11	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>9/29/2015</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	67.29	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>11/4/2014</i>	9.64	90.36	79.39	54.68	34.88	0.00

## Intensity:

 D0 Abnormally Dry	 D3 Extreme Drought
 D1 Moderate Drought	 D4 Exceptional Drought
 D2 Severe Drought	

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.*

**Author:**  
David Miskus  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



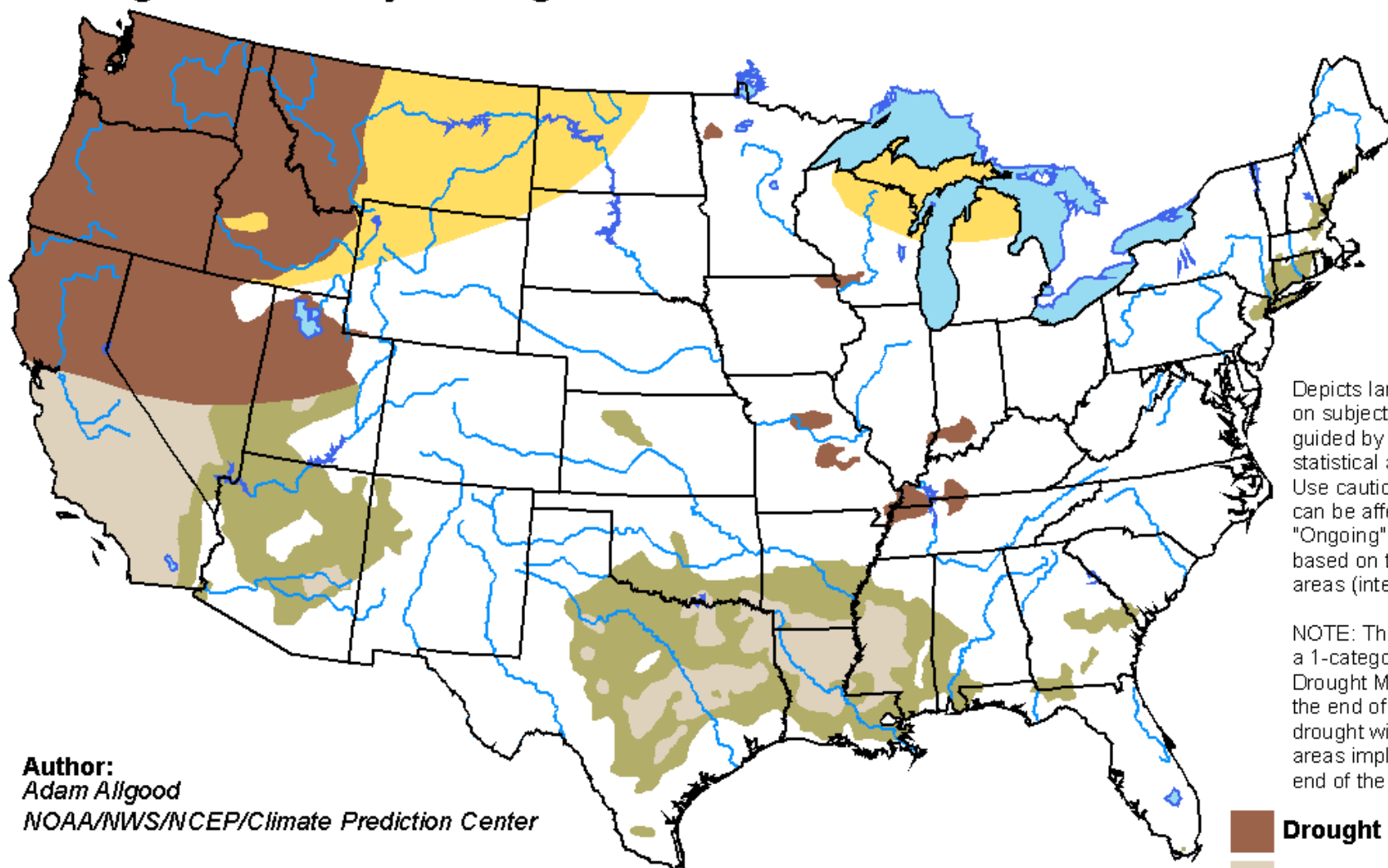
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period



Valid for October 15 - January 31, 2016  
Released October 15, 2015

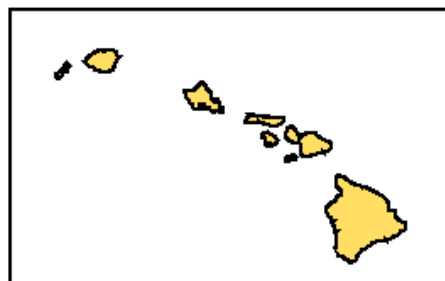
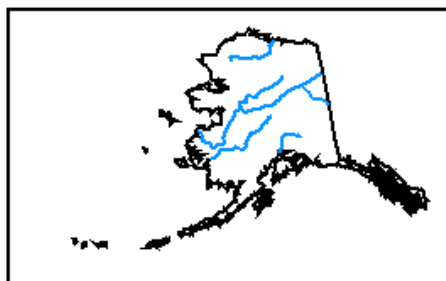


**Author:**  
Adam Allgood  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

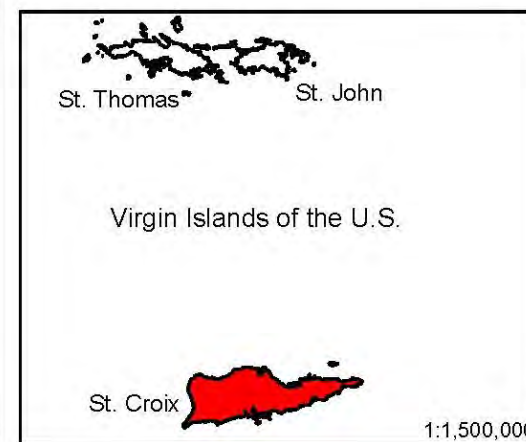
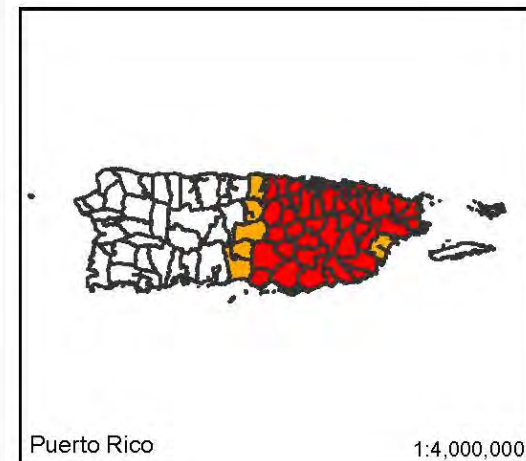
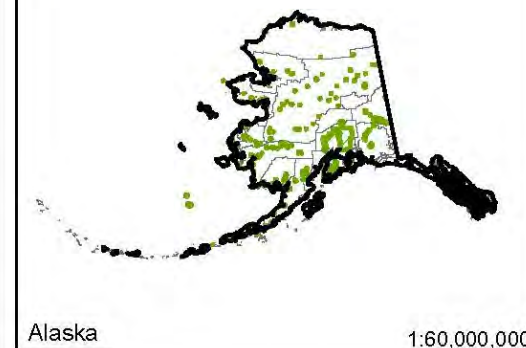
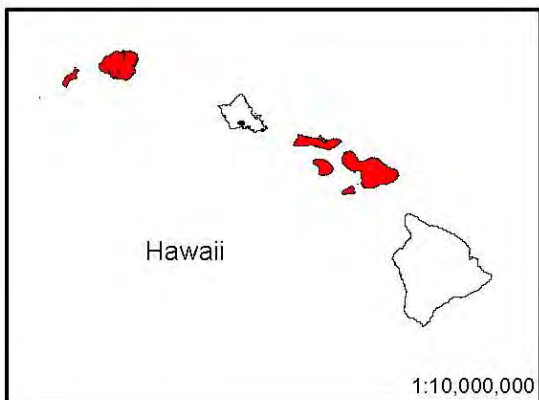
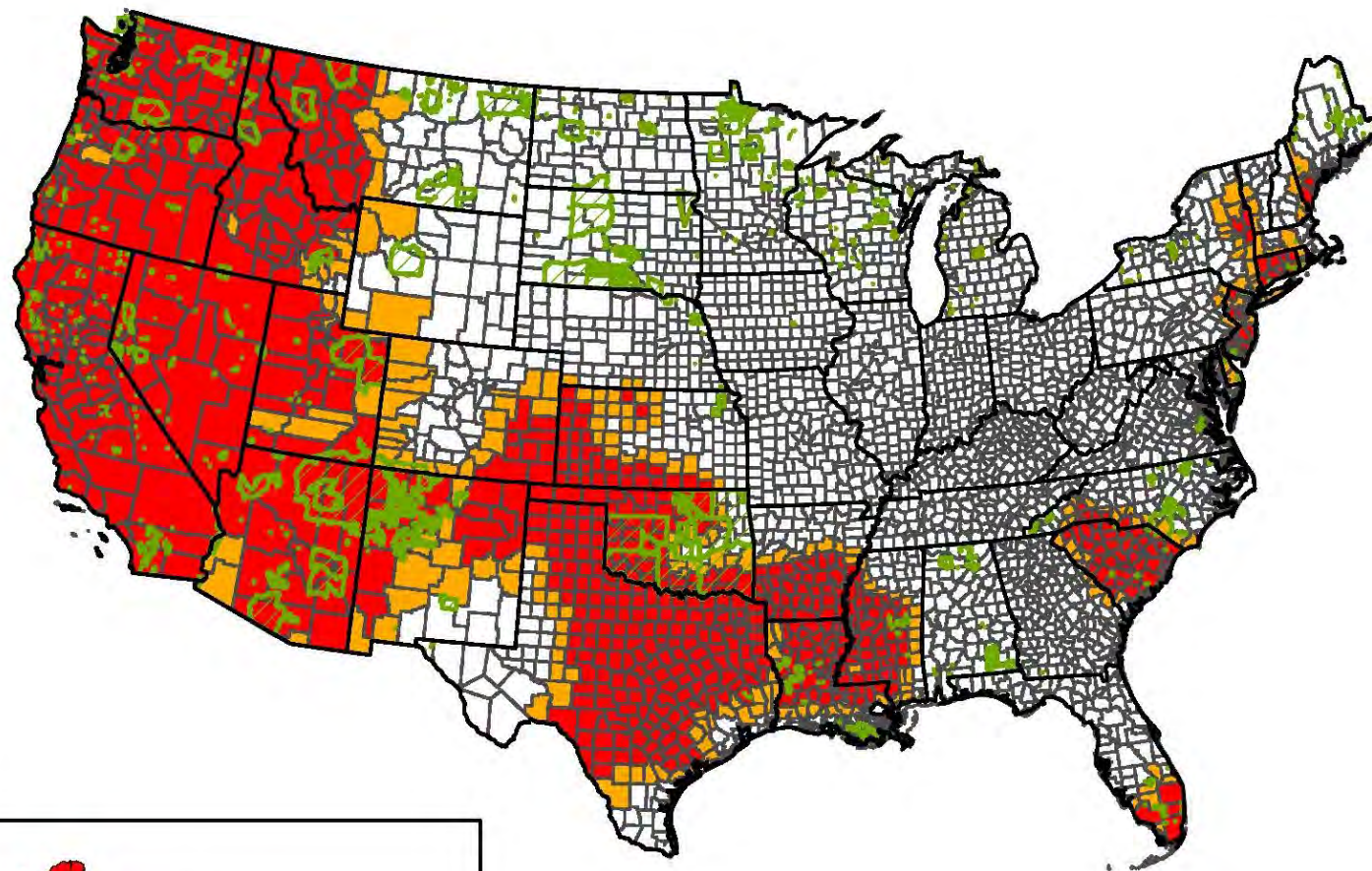
NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

-  **Drought persists/intensifies**
-  **Drought remains but improves**
-  **Drought removal likely**
-  **Drought development likely**



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

# 2015 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought



## Secretarial Drought Designations for 2015

Disaster Incidents as of November 4, 2015

- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- Tribal Lands
- Primary Counties: 739
- Contiguous Counties: 267

1:25,000,000