

# Oregon Water Conditions Report



September 8, 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

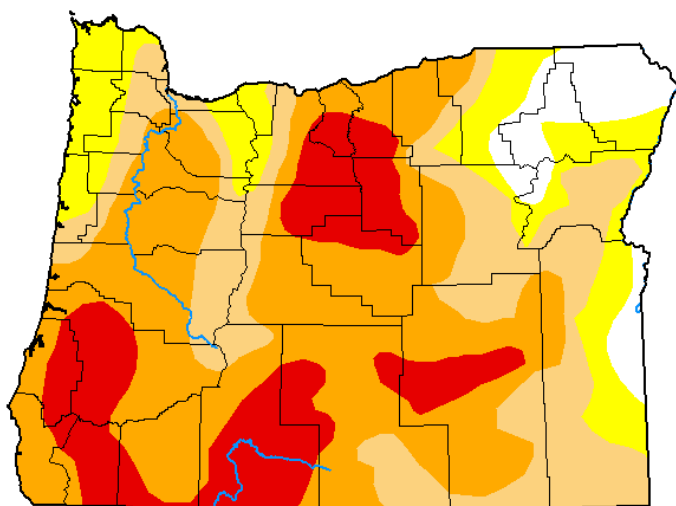
- US Drought Monitor indicates deteriorating conditions; 14 counties currently under a Governor's drought declaration.
- Statewide water year precipitation is below average at 81%, with conditions below average over past two weeks.
- Significant large fire potential is above normal due to expanding dry conditions and above normal temperatures statewide. Gusty, dry easterly winds will boost significant fire potential through Wednesday west of the Cascades. Humidity will remain unusually low through the week with poor overnight recoveries for the next couple of nights. Fire danger will remain elevated even as winds decrease through the following days.
- Seasonal climate outlook probabilities favor above normal temperatures, with equal chances of above or below normal precipitation.
- Streamflows were below normal at 71% for the month of August, with basins in western Oregon measured near normal, while many basins east of the Cascades measured below normal. Current statewide streamflow conditions are trending even lower at 64% of normal.
- Storage reservoirs are drafting to meet in-stream and out-of-stream demands. Some reservoirs are well below normal levels, with several expected to empty, or leave little carryover for the following storage season.

# DROUGHT CONDITIONS

The most recent update to the US Drought Monitor (Figure 1) indicates that conditions are deteriorating in central Oregon. Almost ninety-four percent of the state is in D0 (abnormally dry) conditions, 80 percent listed as in D1 (moderate drought), 57 percent is listed as in D2 (severe drought) and now nearly 18 percent is in D3 (extreme drought).

## U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

**September 1, 2020**  
(Released Thursday, Sep. 3, 2020)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	6.36	93.64	80.22	56.99	17.61	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 08-25-2020	8.77	91.23	78.00	54.42	17.61	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 06-02-2020	4.84	95.16	81.69	37.35	4.88	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 12-31-2019	2.40	97.60	24.46	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 10-01-2019	88.54	11.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 09-03-2019	68.05	31.95	10.83	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>

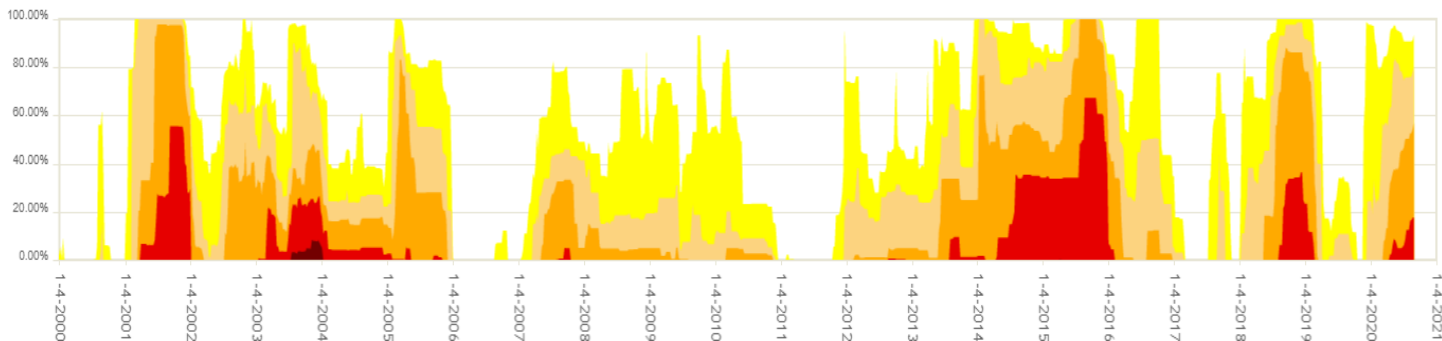
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CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



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

### Oregon Percent Area

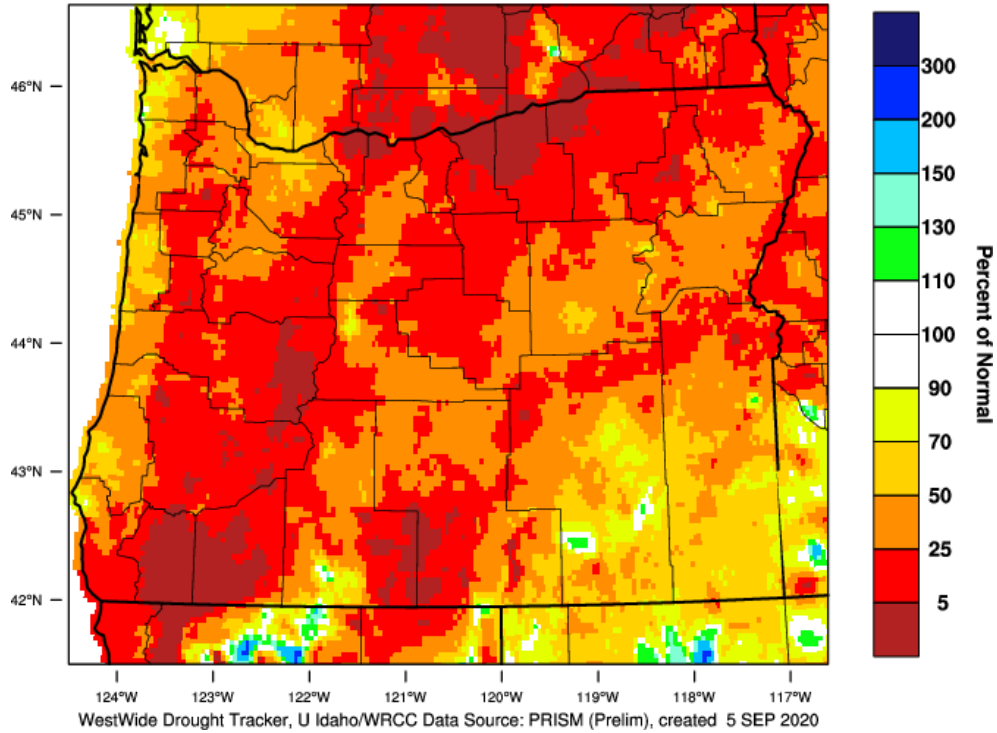


CLIMATE CONDITIONS

PRECIPITATION

Oregon - Precipitation

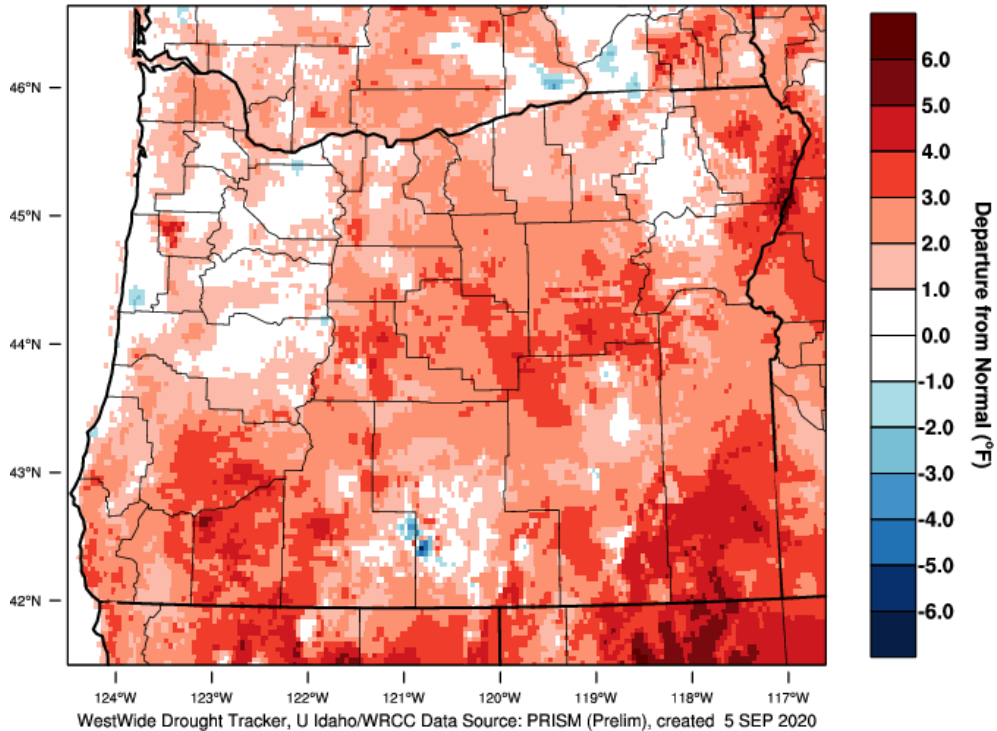
August 2020 Percent of 1981-2010 Normal



TEMPERATURE

Oregon - Mean Temperature

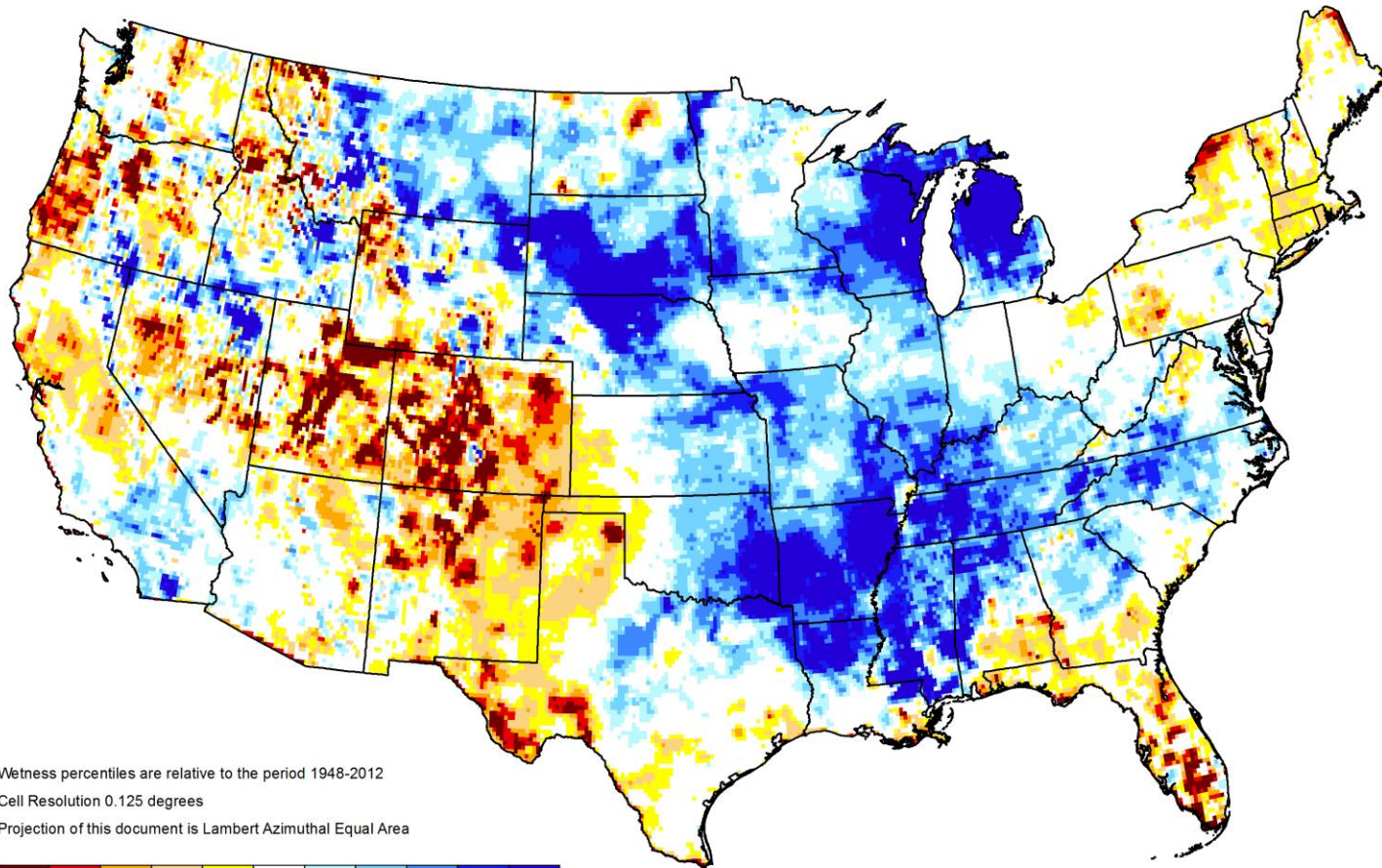
August 2020 Departure from 1981-2010 Normal



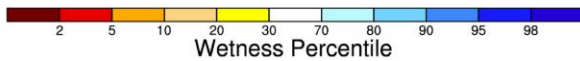


# GRACE-Based Shallow Groundwater Drought Indicator

September 07, 2020

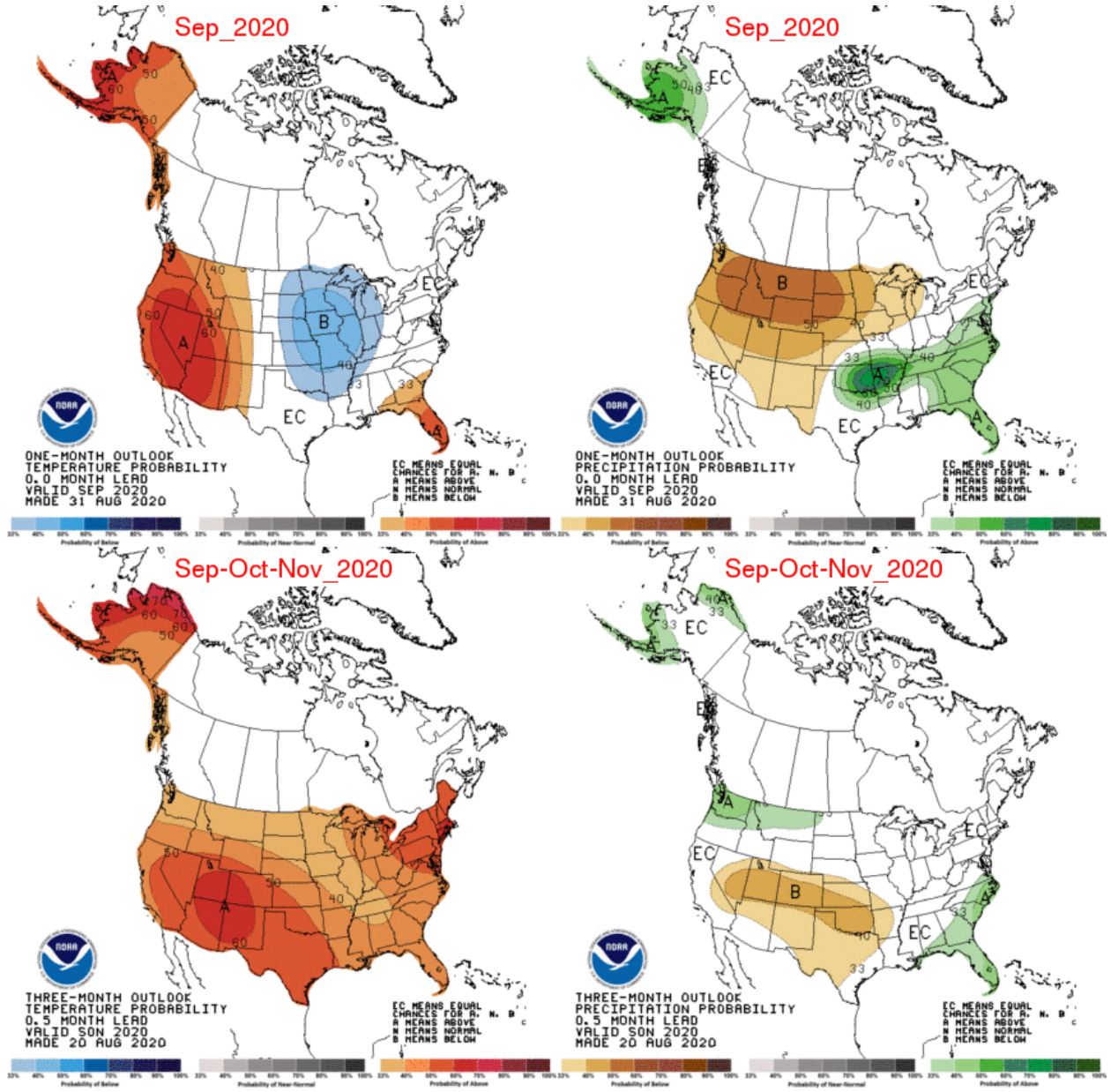


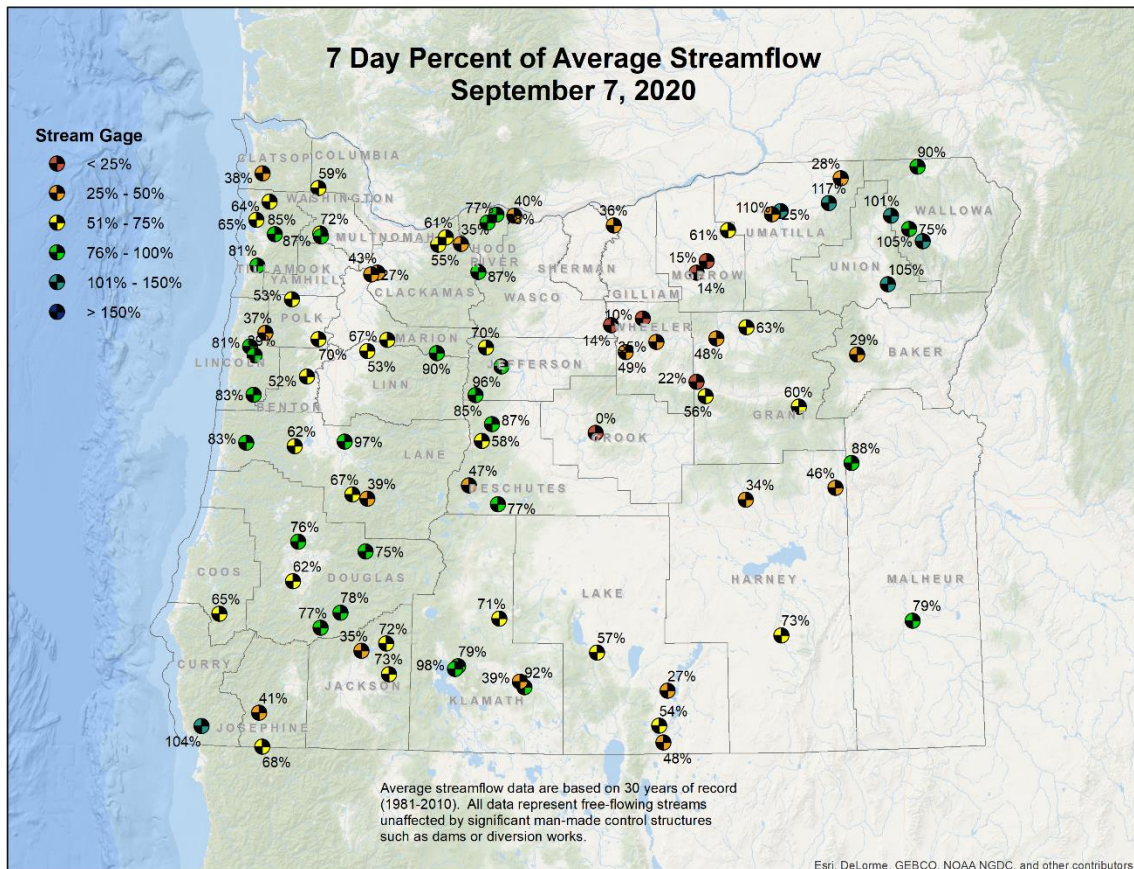
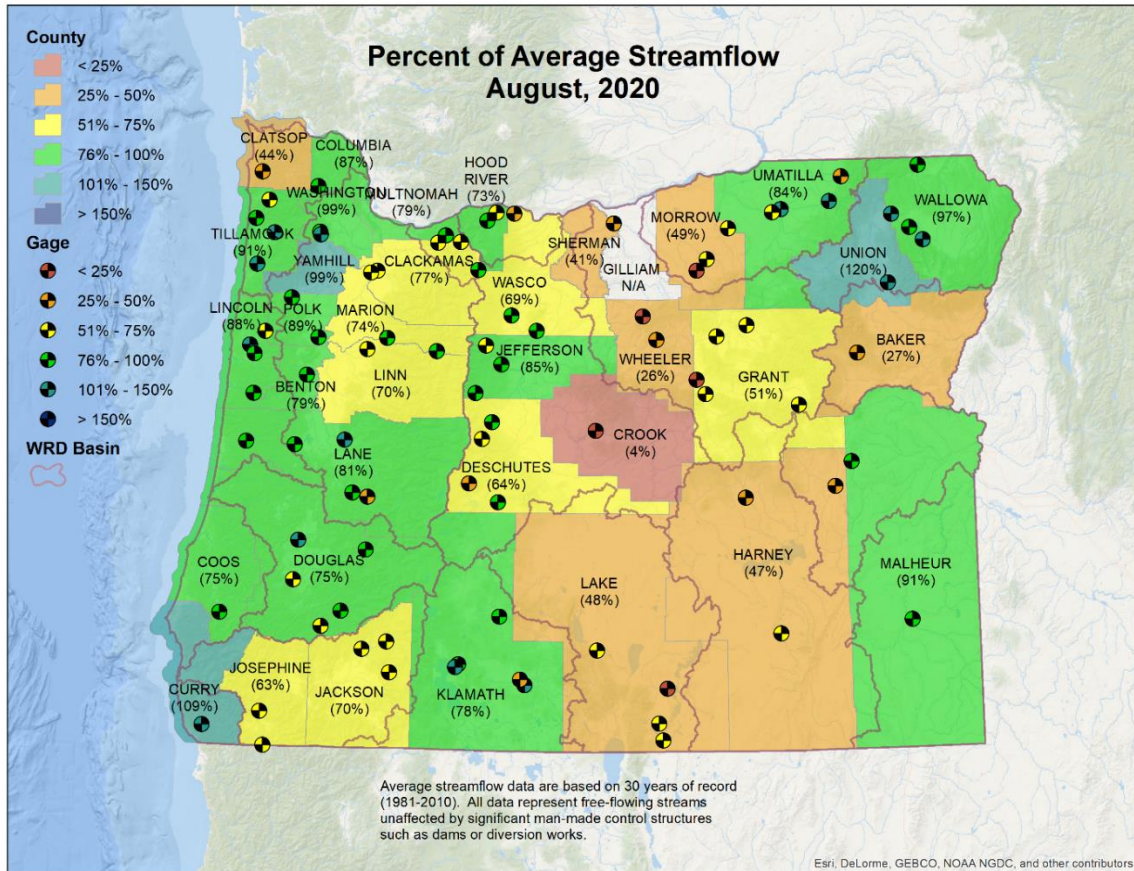
Wetness percentiles are relative to the period 1948-2012  
Cell Resolution 0.125 degrees  
Projection of this document is Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area



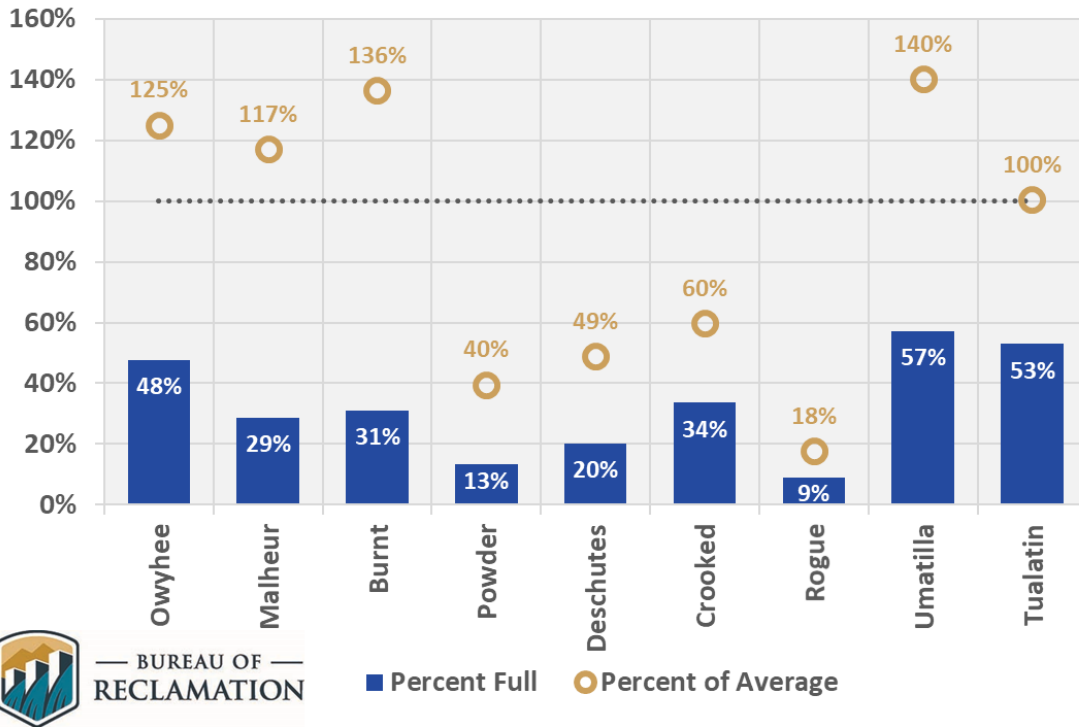
<https://nasagrace.unl.edu>

# CLIMATE OUTLOOK

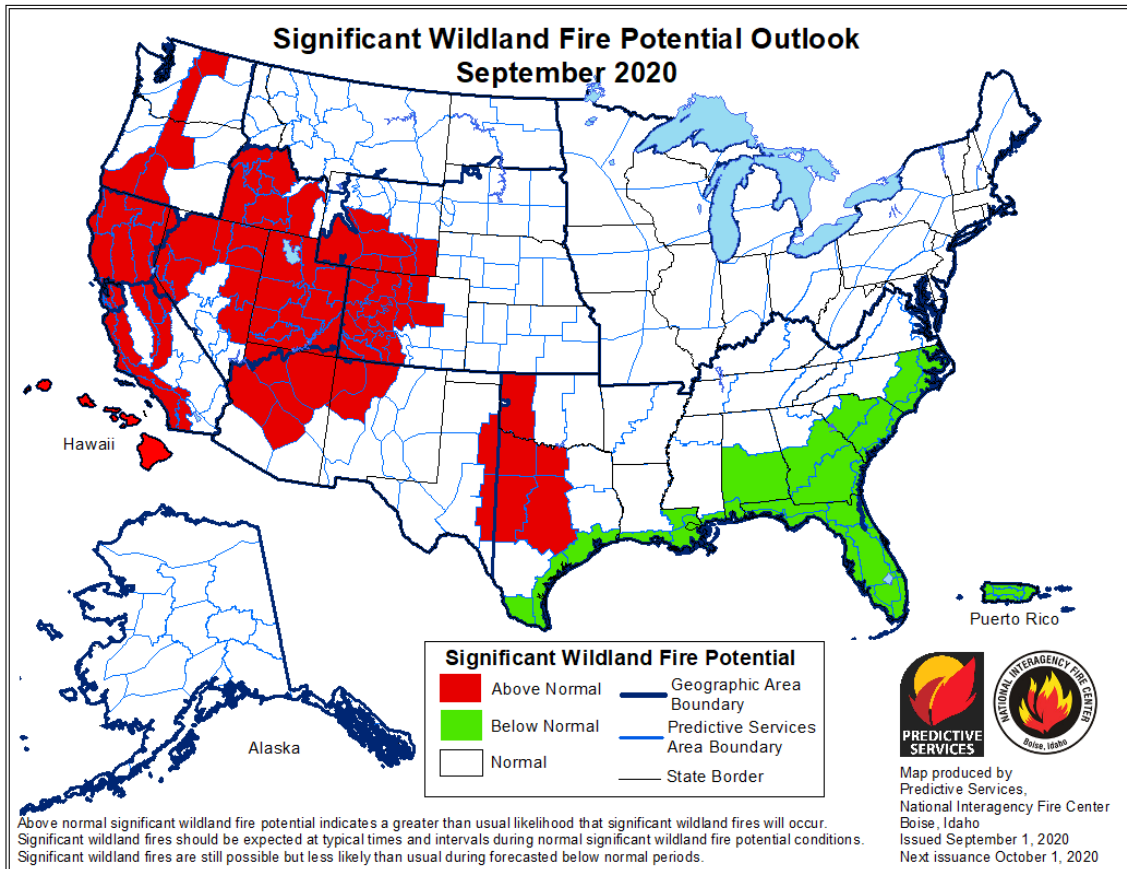




### September 7 Reservoir Storage



### FIRE CONDITIONS



## RESOURCES/REFERENCES

Released every Thursday, the [US Drought Monitor](#) provides a weekly assessment of drought conditions throughout the country. The USDM also provides a [network infographic](#) which depicts the network of observers who gather and report information about conditions and drought impacts.

The [WestWide Drought Tracker](#) uses data from [PRISM](#) to provide easy access to fine-scale drought monitoring and climate products, such as the figures depicting climate conditions within this report.

The National Weather Service's [Climate Prediction Center](#) offers [monthly](#) and [seasonal](#) climate outlooks which show the probabilities of temperatures and precipitation deviating from normal for anywhere from 2 weeks to 13 months in advance.

NASA's [Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment](#) (GRACE) satellite provides data which generates a record of continuous soil moisture and groundwater conditions to be used as drought indicators which describe current wet or dry conditions.

The National Weather Service [Climate Prediction Center](#) provides short and long-term forecast maps showing the probability of exceeding thresholds of above and below normal conditions for temperature and precipitation.

USGS [Water Watch](#) provides maps of real-time and average streamflow conditions at USGS sites throughout the state.

Reservoir storage "teacup" diagrams are offered by both the [US Bureau of Reclamation](#) and [US Army Corps of Engineers](#). The diagrams represent the level of fill in the reservoirs as both percent full and as a ratio of volume of water currently in the reservoir to the volume of water in the reservoir when it is full.

Oregon wildfire information can be found through [InciWeb](#) and the Oregon Department of Forestry's [Wildfire News](#), along with the [National Interagency Fire Center](#) that offers [outlooks](#) on the significant wildland fire potential.

Oregon Office of Emergency Management maintains a [hydrology/meteorology dashboard](#) showing state and local drought declarations, as well as providing links to many of the data sources to generate this report. Use the selection arrows at the bottom of your browser to navigate through the various sources.

[USDA Drought Programs and Assistance](#) Offers links to programs and resources to help those struggling with persistent drought.