

HIGHLIGHTS

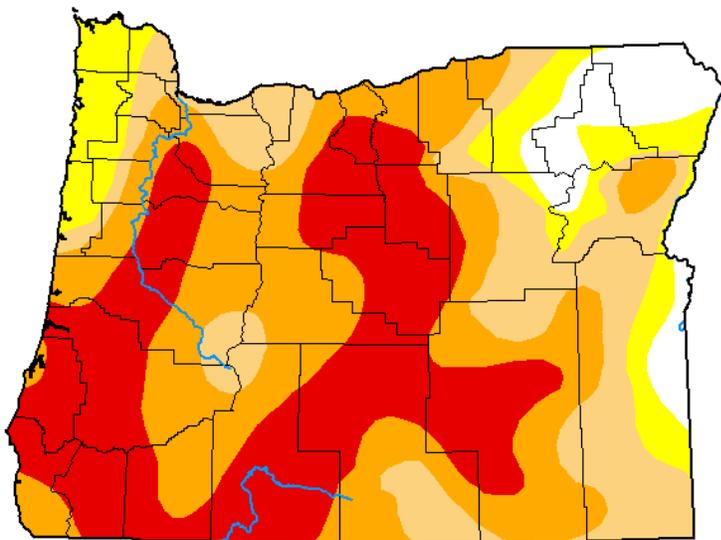
- US Drought Monitor indicates deteriorating conditions; 14 counties are currently under a [Governor's drought declaration](#) with an additional request pending.
- Statewide water year precipitation remains below average at 81% as the 2020 water year draws to a close. Precipitation over the past [two weeks](#) has been below average with the exception of the Willamette Valley and coastal regions.
- The 8-14 day outlook is for above-normal temperatures along with below-normal precipitation.
- 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 80% of normal, while many basins east of the Cascades measured close to 60% of normal. Current statewide streamflow conditions are trending even lower at 62% 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.
- Potential for new significant fires will remain low over the region due to moderation in fire danger and fire weather.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS

The most recent update to the US Drought Monitor indicates that conditions are deteriorating across western and central Oregon. Almost 94 percent of the state is in D0 (abnormally dry) conditions, almost 84 percent listed as in D1 (moderate drought), 64 percent is listed as in D2 (severe drought) and now nearly 32 percent is in D3 (extreme drought).

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

September 15, 2020
(Released Thursday, Sep. 17, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	6.33	93.67	83.70	64.18	31.84	0.00
Last Week 09-08-2020	6.38	93.62	81.80	59.05	24.90	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-16-2020	5.49	94.51	78.38	44.30	4.79	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2019	2.40	97.60	24.46	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2019	88.54	11.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 09-17-2019	84.85	15.15	4.19	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>

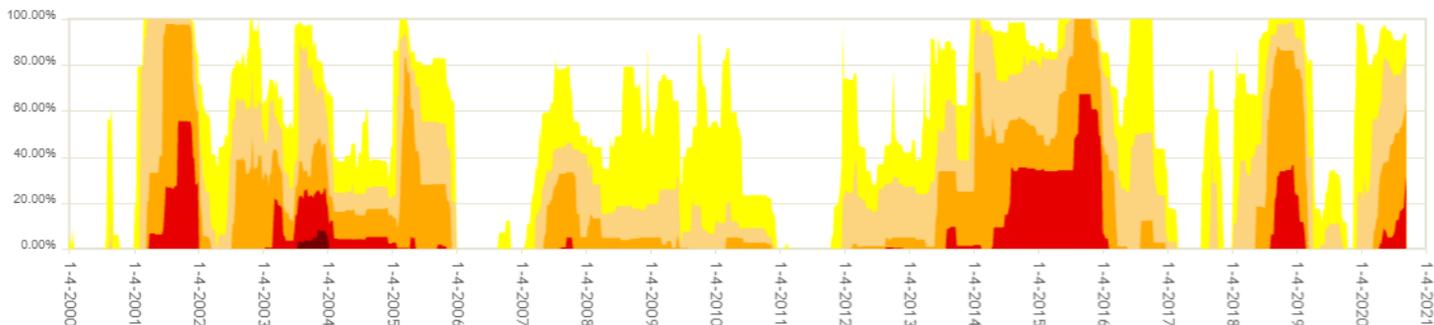
Author:

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U.S. Department of Agriculture



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

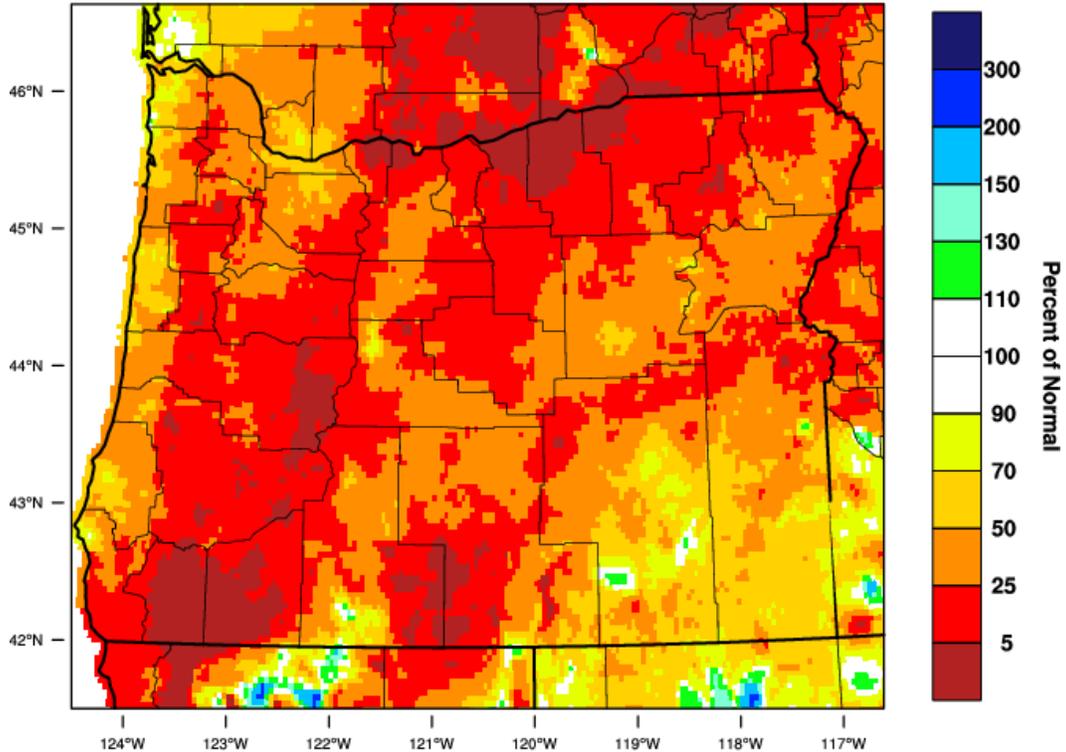
Oregon Percent Area



PRECIPITATION

Oregon - Precipitation

August 2020 Percent of 1981-2010 Normal

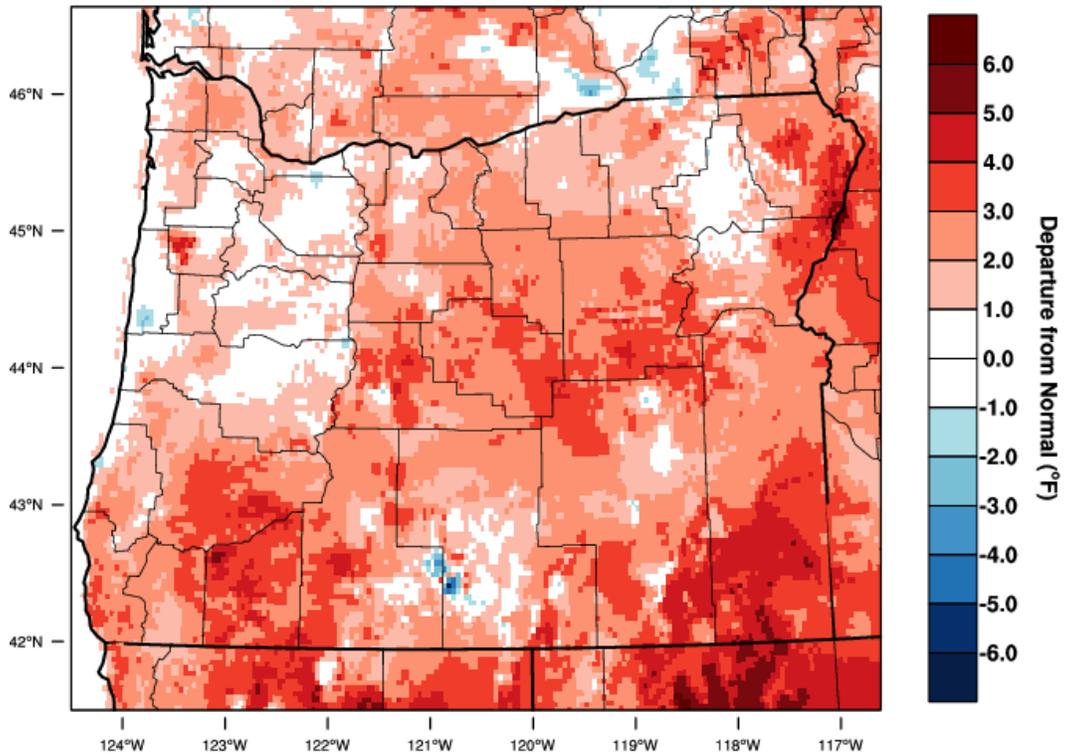


WestWide Drought Tracker, U Idaho/WRCC Data Source: PRISM (Prelim), created 5 SEP 2020

TEMPERATURE

Oregon - Mean Temperature

August 2020 Departure from 1981-2010 Normal

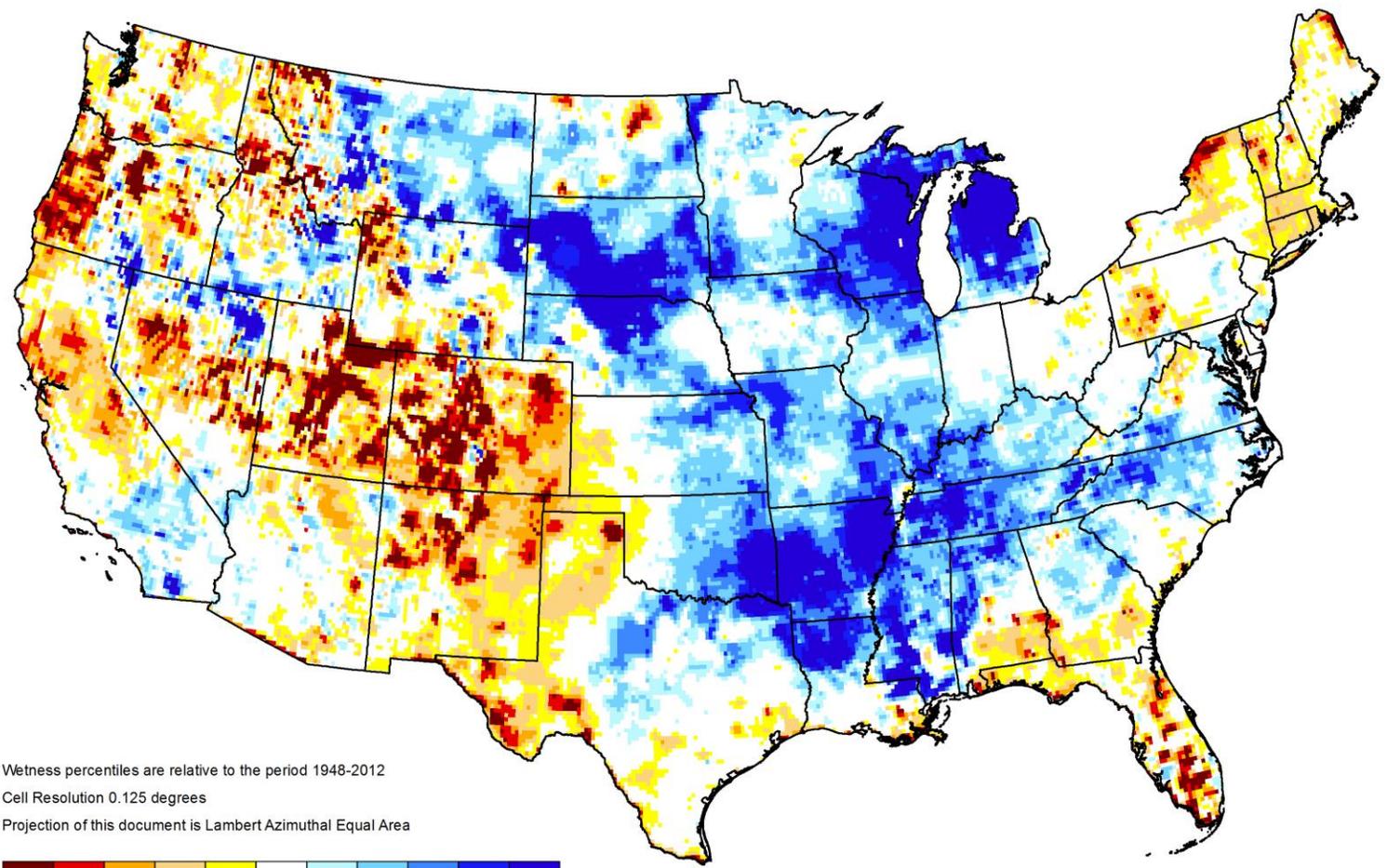


WestWide Drought Tracker, U Idaho/WRCC Data Source: PRISM (Prelim), created 5 SEP 2020

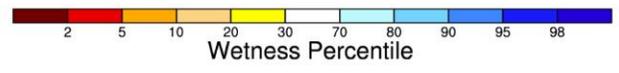


GRACE-Based Shallow Groundwater Drought Indicator

September 14, 2020

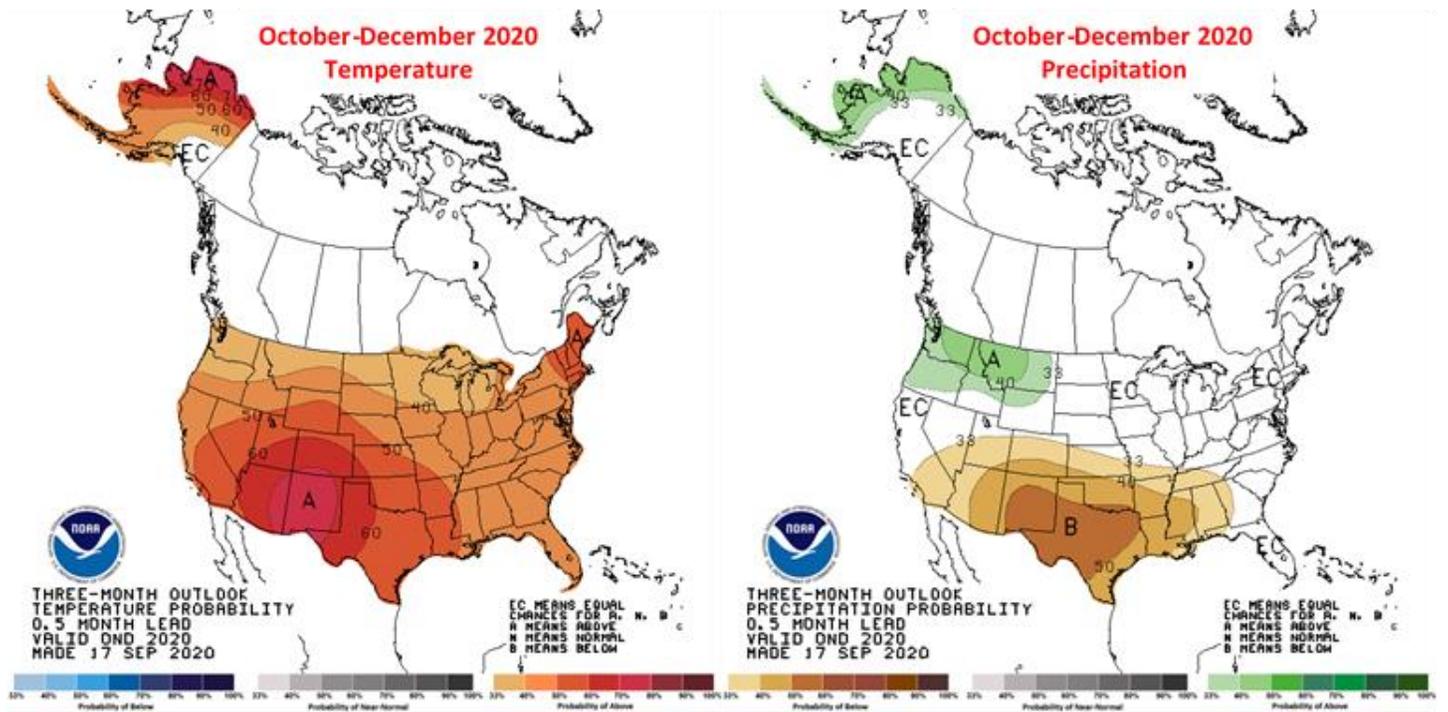
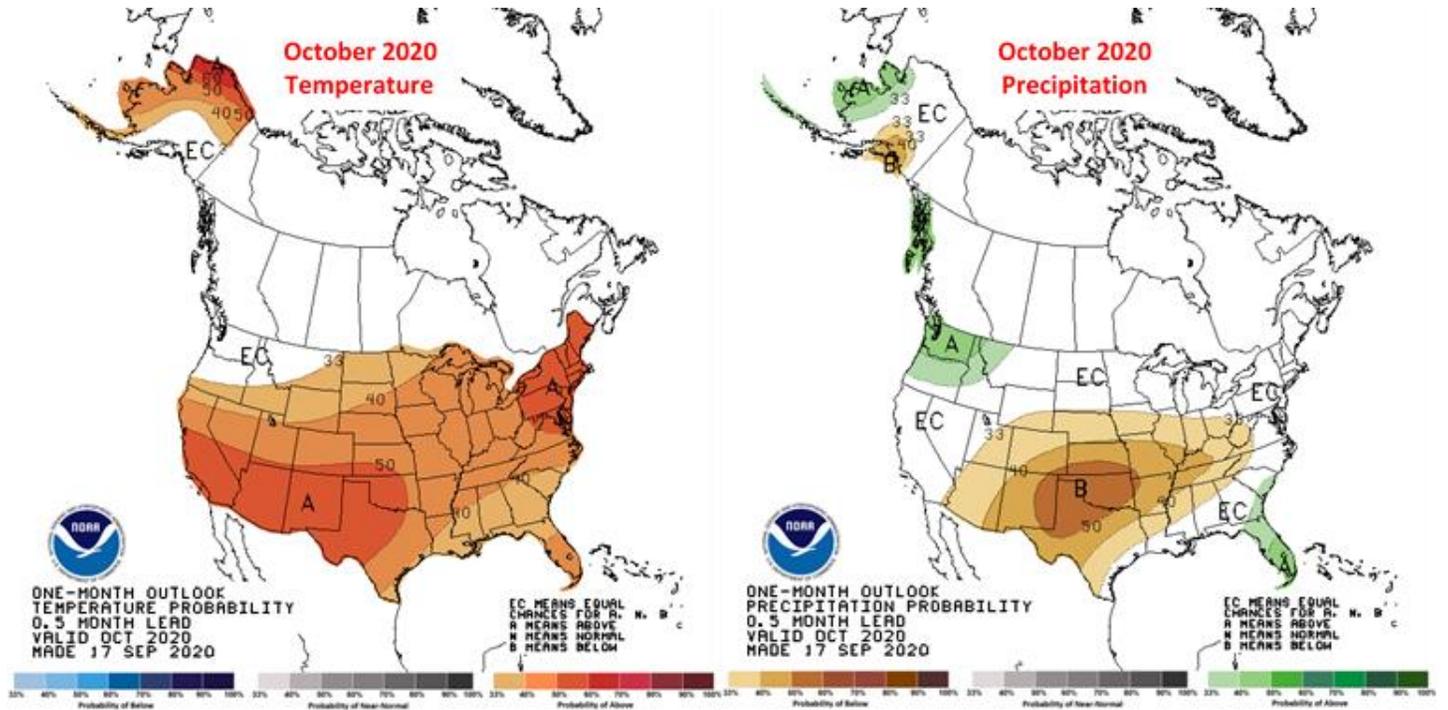


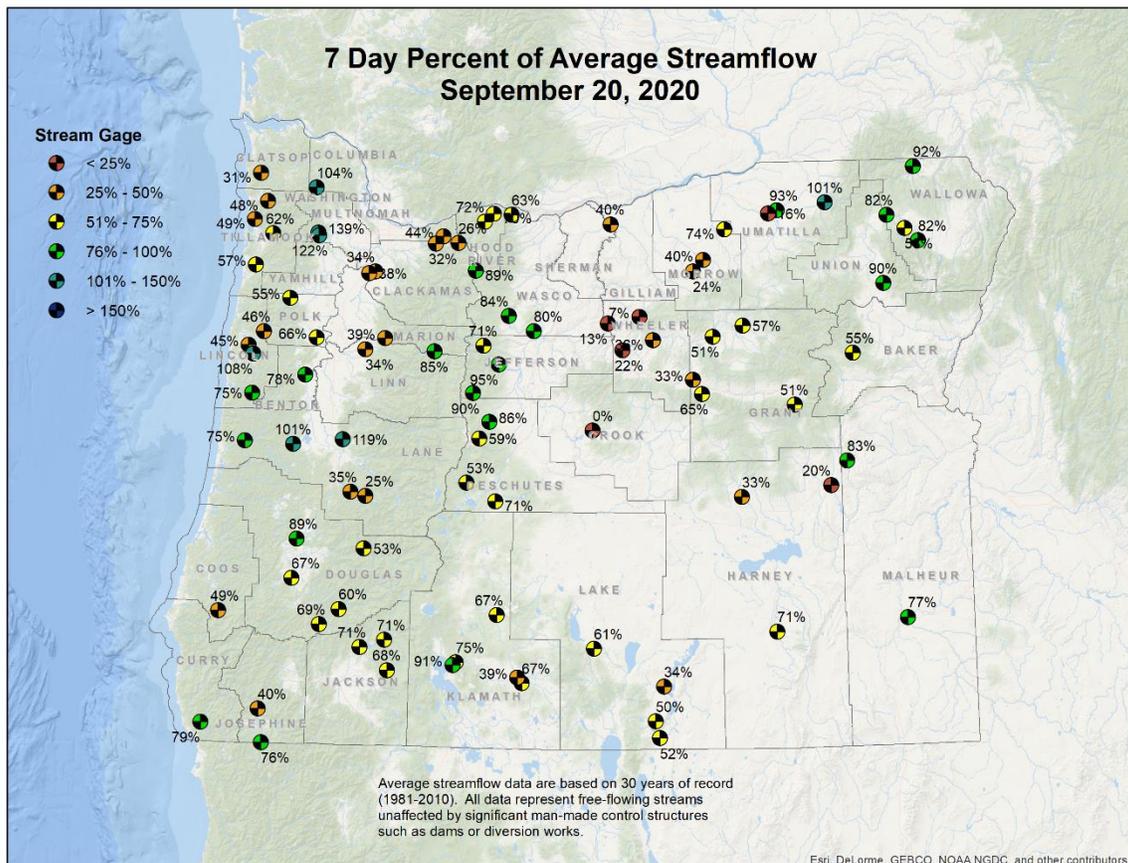
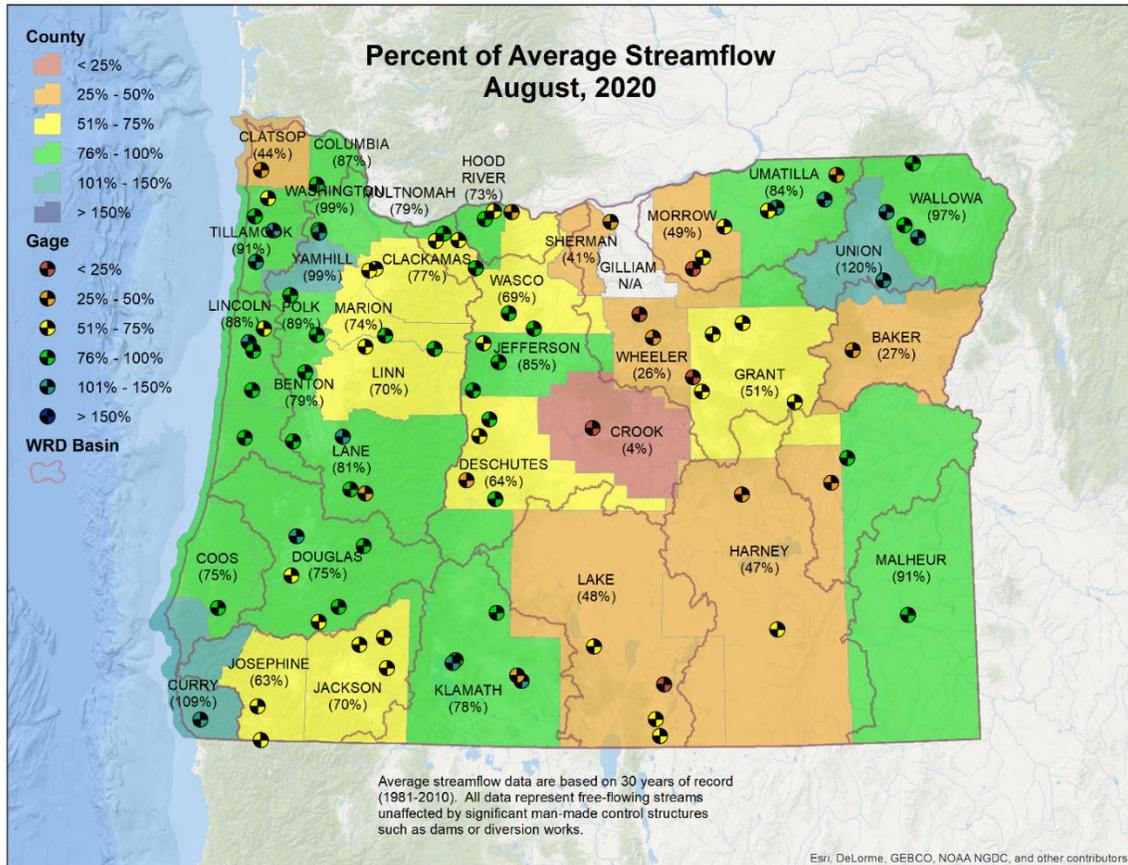
Wetness percentiles are relative to the period 1948-2012
Cell Resolution 0.125 degrees
Projection of this document is Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area



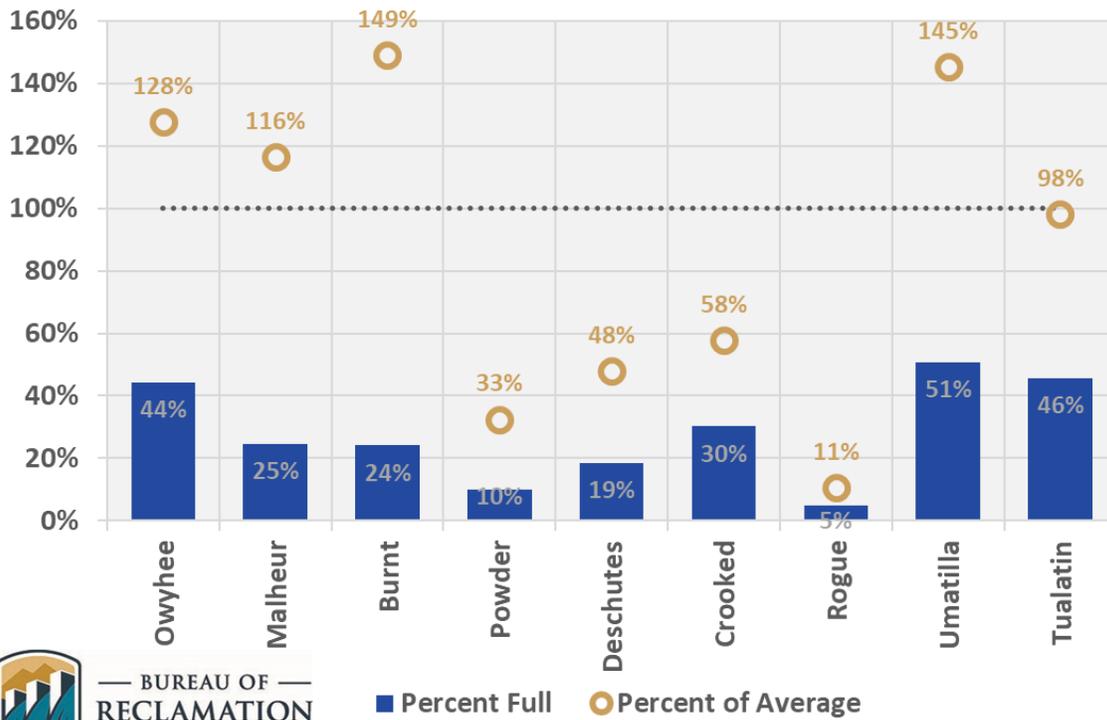
<https://nasagrace.unl.edu>

CLIMATE OUTLOOK

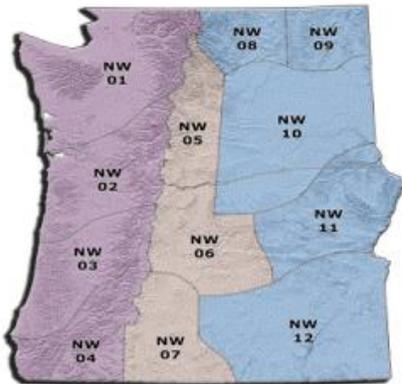




September 20 Reservoir Storage



FIRE CONDITIONS



Legend

Fire Environment (FEN) 4 levels	
Minimal	- The Overall Fire Environment suggests a very low risk for Large fires (less than 1% chance)
Normal	- The Overall Fire Environment suggests a normal risk for large fires (1 - 4% chance)
Elevated	- The Overall Fire Environment suggests a moderately high risk for large fires (5 - 19% chance)
High Risk	- The risk for large fire(s) is very high (≥ 20%) Triggers: 1. ⚡ (Significant Lightning) 2. BEN (Critical Burn Environment)

The assessment of the overall fire environment considers multiple factors including weather, lightning amount and fuel dryness. Large Fire probabilities are derived objectively via statistical methods. **High Risk** levels (≥ 20% probability of a large fire) are almost always due to significant lightning as burning conditions alone rarely result in a large fire probability much above about 10%.

Pacific Northwest 7 Day Significant Fire Potential



Monday, 9/21/2020

Predictive Service Areas	ytd	7 Day Significant Fire Potential						
		Today	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
NW01								
NW02								
NW03								
NW04								
NW05								
NW06								
NW07								
NW08								
NW09								
NW10								
NW11								
NW12								

Fire Weather: The Pacific Northwest will bring autumn in with an active weather pattern. A weak system moves into the region this afternoon with light showers expected in western Washington and slightly breezy winds through the Columbia Gorge and eastern Oregon with the strongest winds along the southern Oregon border. Similar conditions are expected Tuesday with a bit stronger winds. A robust, wet, slow-moving frontal system impacts the region Wednesday, with breezy to windy conditions preceding widespread, continuous precipitation. Winds will remain elevated behind the front, with eastern Washington also impacted Thursday afternoon. Rainy conditions will persist into the weekend as the upper level low pressure center travels across the region. Upper level high pressure will start to build over the weekend, bringing warmer, drier conditions to start next week. Refer to your local NWS forecasts for the latest fire weather details for your area.

Fire Potential: Potential for new significant fires will remain low over the region for the foreseeable future due to moderation in fire danger and fire weather.

Preparedness Level:

Northwest: 5
National: 5

- Eric Wise

RESOURCES/REFERENCES

Released every Thursday, the [US Drought Monitor](#) provides a weekly assessment of drought conditions. The USDM also provides a [network infographic](#) that 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 [weekly](#), [monthly](#), and [seasonal](#) climate outlooks illustrating the probabilities of temperatures and precipitation.

[The Regional Climate Centers](#) (RCC) working with NOAA partners, deliver climate services at national, regional and state levels. Climate anomaly [maps of Oregon](#) are updated daily at around noon PST.

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.

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.