

Oregon Water Conditions Report



October 5, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

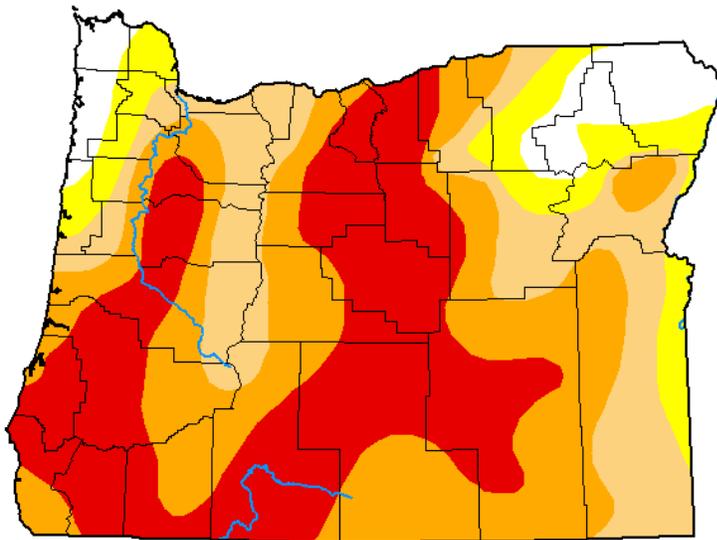
- Happy New [Water Year](#)! The 2021 water year started on October 1, 2020.
- Statewide water year precipitation for the 2020 water year ended up below average at about 82%.
- Precipitation over the past [two weeks](#) has been mostly below average with the exception of areas along the Cascades, and in parts of northwest, southwest and northeast Oregon.
- US Drought Monitor indicates deteriorating conditions in some areas of eastern Oregon along with improvement in the northwest; 15 counties are currently under a [Governor's drought declaration](#).
- The [8-14 day outlook](#) is for above-normal temperatures along with above-normal precipitation.
- The [October through December outlook](#) is for above-normal temperatures, with above-normal precipitation.
- Streamflow for the water year ended up less than 70% of normal with only the months of October 2019 and January 2020 close to normal. For the month of September, streamflows were below normal at 71%. Current statewide streamflow conditions are trending even lower at 60% of normal despite the short-lived rain events in September.
- Storage reservoirs are transitioning from drafting to storing while continuing to meet in-stream demands. Some reservoirs are well below normal levels, with several expected to empty, or leave little carryover for the following storage season.
- The potential for new significant fires remains slightly elevated over sections of western and southern Oregon mainly due to elevated fire danger.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS

The most recent update to the US Drought Monitor indicates slight improvement across parts of northwest and northeast Oregon, while parts of southeast Oregon have shown some degradation. Almost 94 percent of the state is in D0 (abnormally dry) conditions, close to 85 percent listed as in D1 (moderate drought), Over 65 percent is listed as in D2 (severe drought) and now nearly 34 percent is in D3 (extreme drought).

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

September 29, 2020
(Released Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	6.50	93.50	84.77	65.53	33.59	0.00
Last Week 09-22-2020	4.98	95.02	83.86	67.32	34.70	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-30-2020	7.49	92.51	76.67	45.51	5.33	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 10-01-2019	88.54	11.46	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>

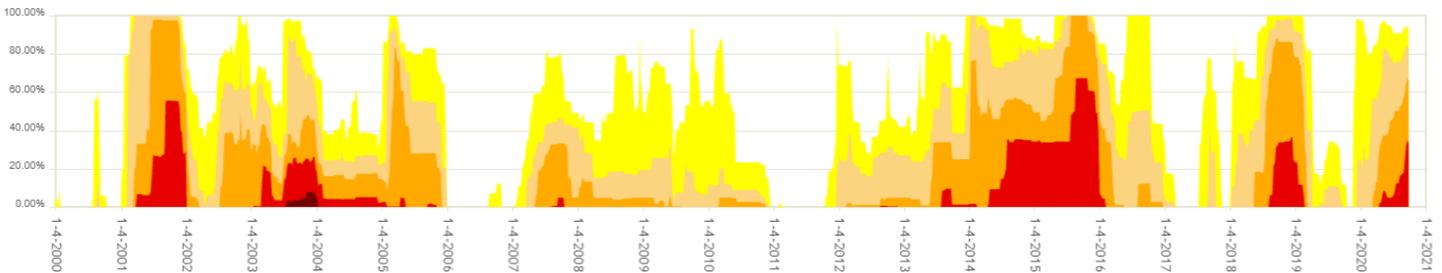
Author:

Brad Rippey
U. S. Department of Agriculture



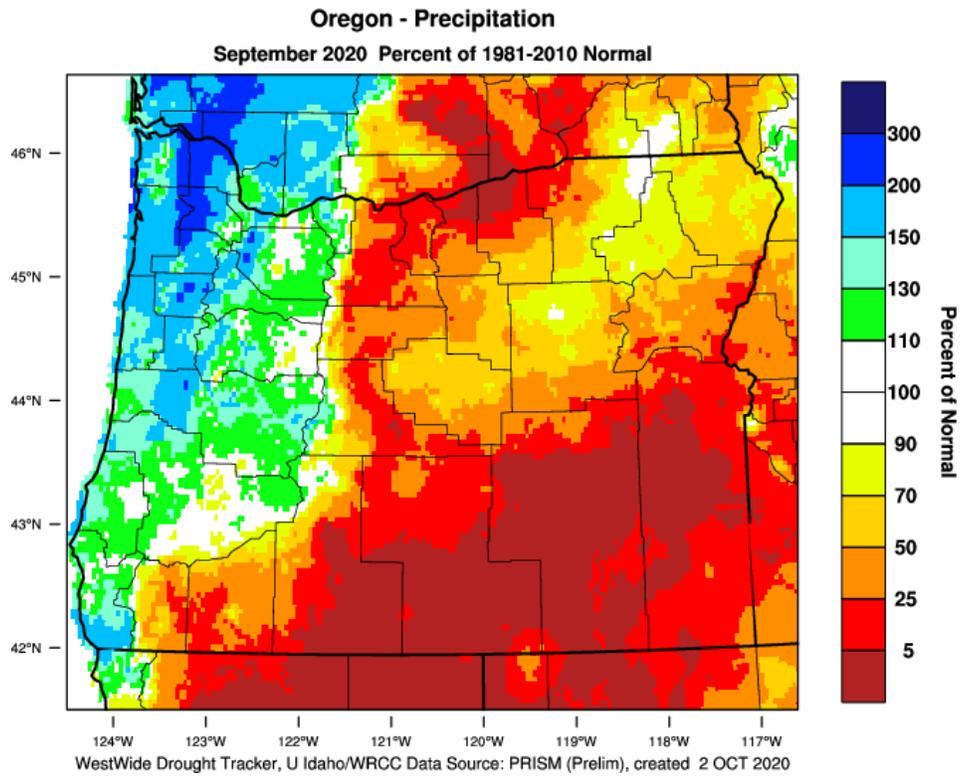
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Oregon Percent Area

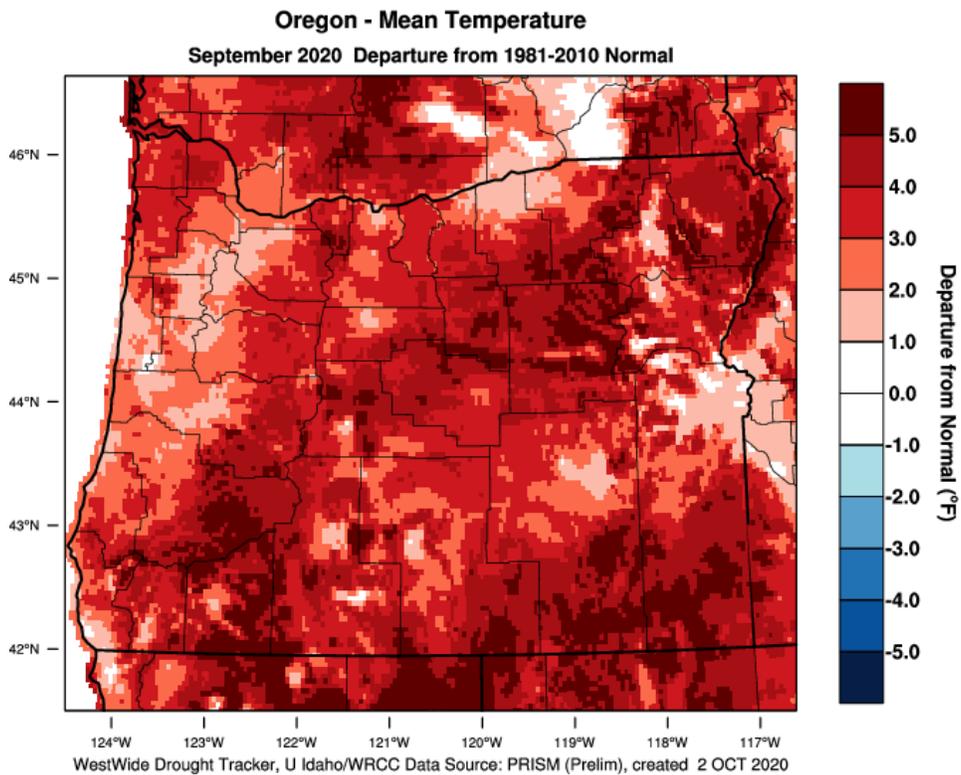


CLIMATE CONDITIONS

PRECIPITATION



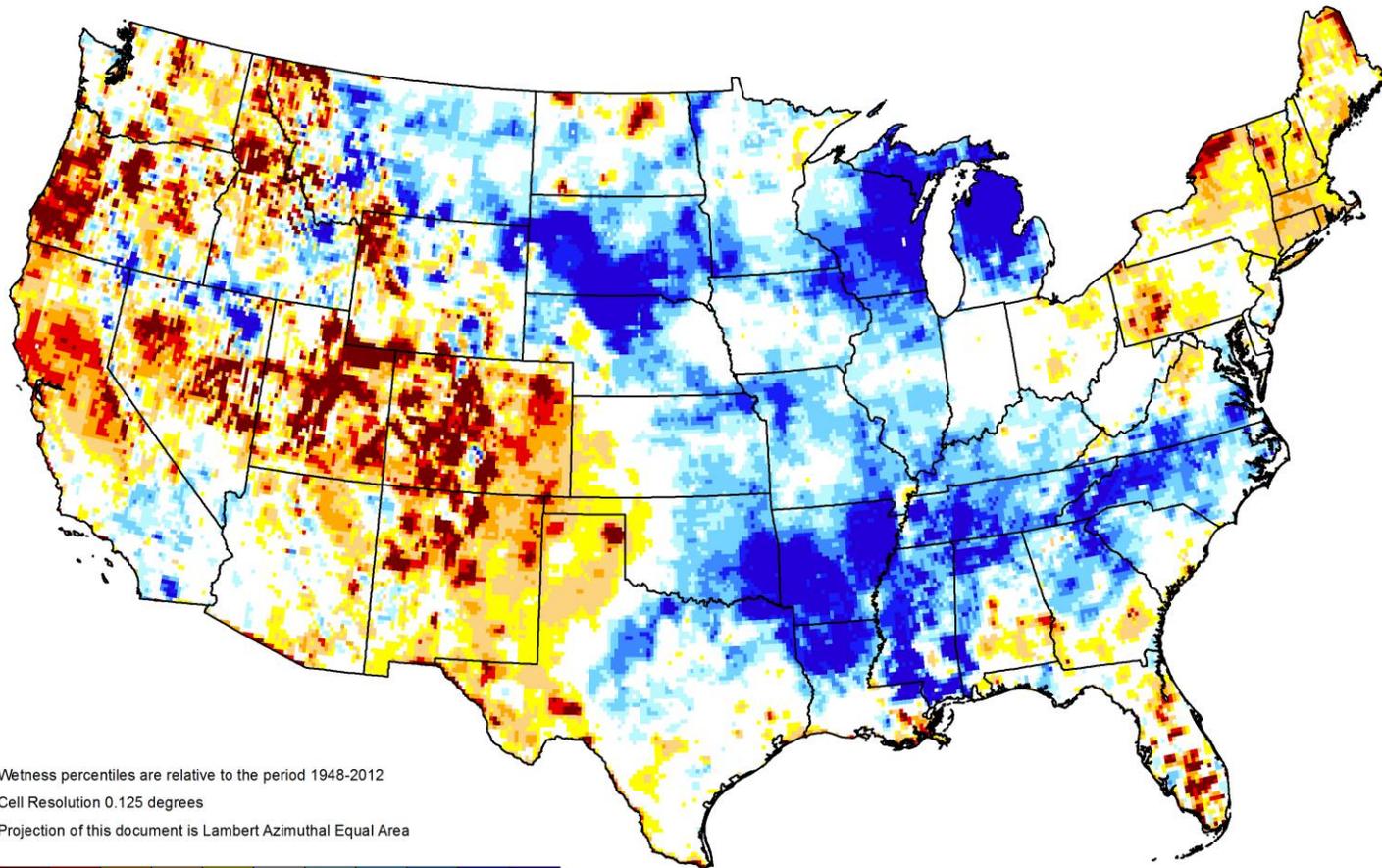
TEMPERATURE



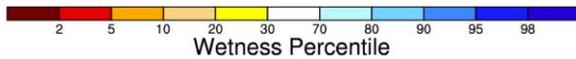


GRACE-Based Shallow Groundwater Drought Indicator

September 28, 2020

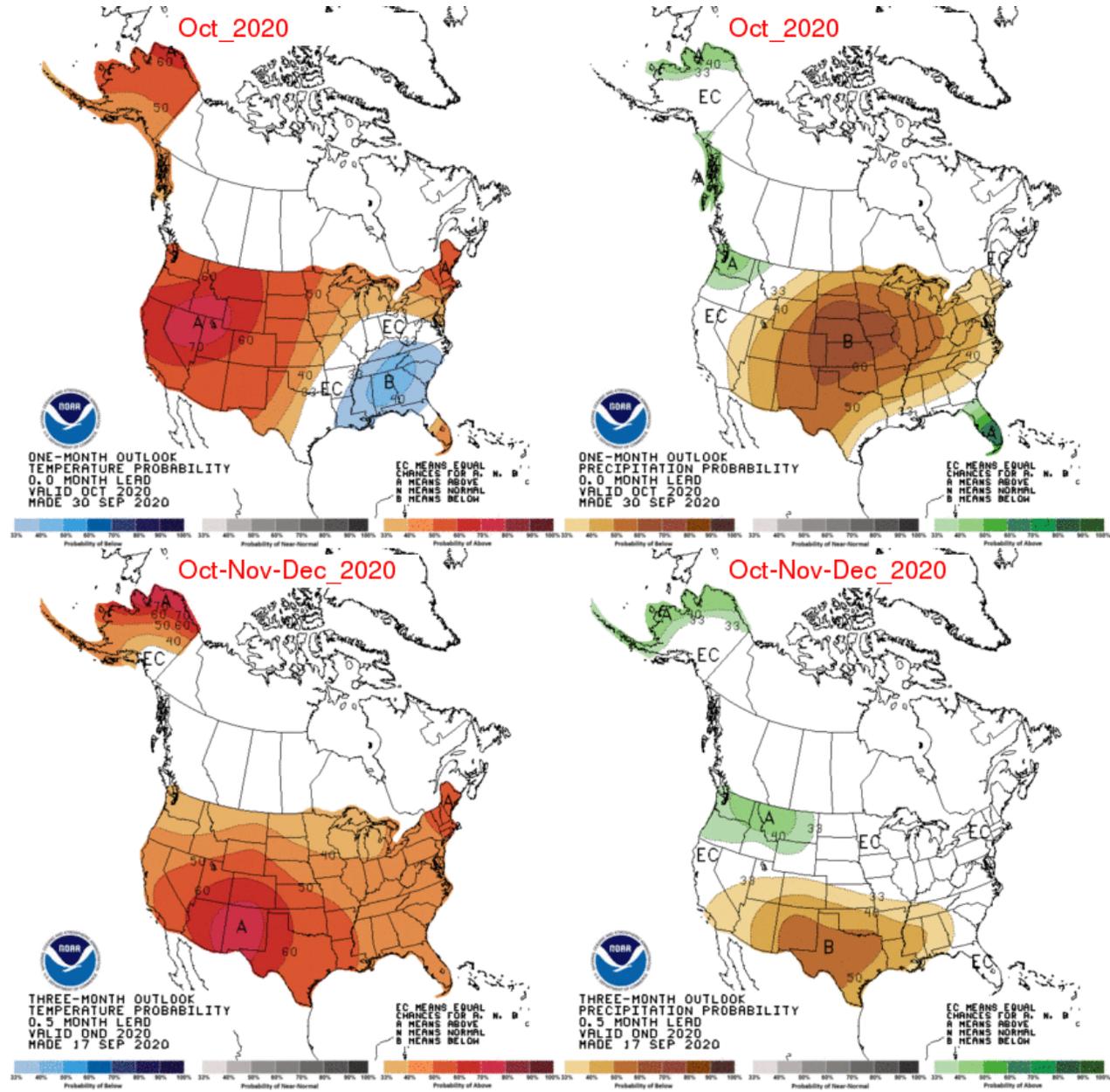


Wetness percentiles are relative to the period 1948-2012
Cell Resolution 0.125 degrees
Projection of this document is Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area

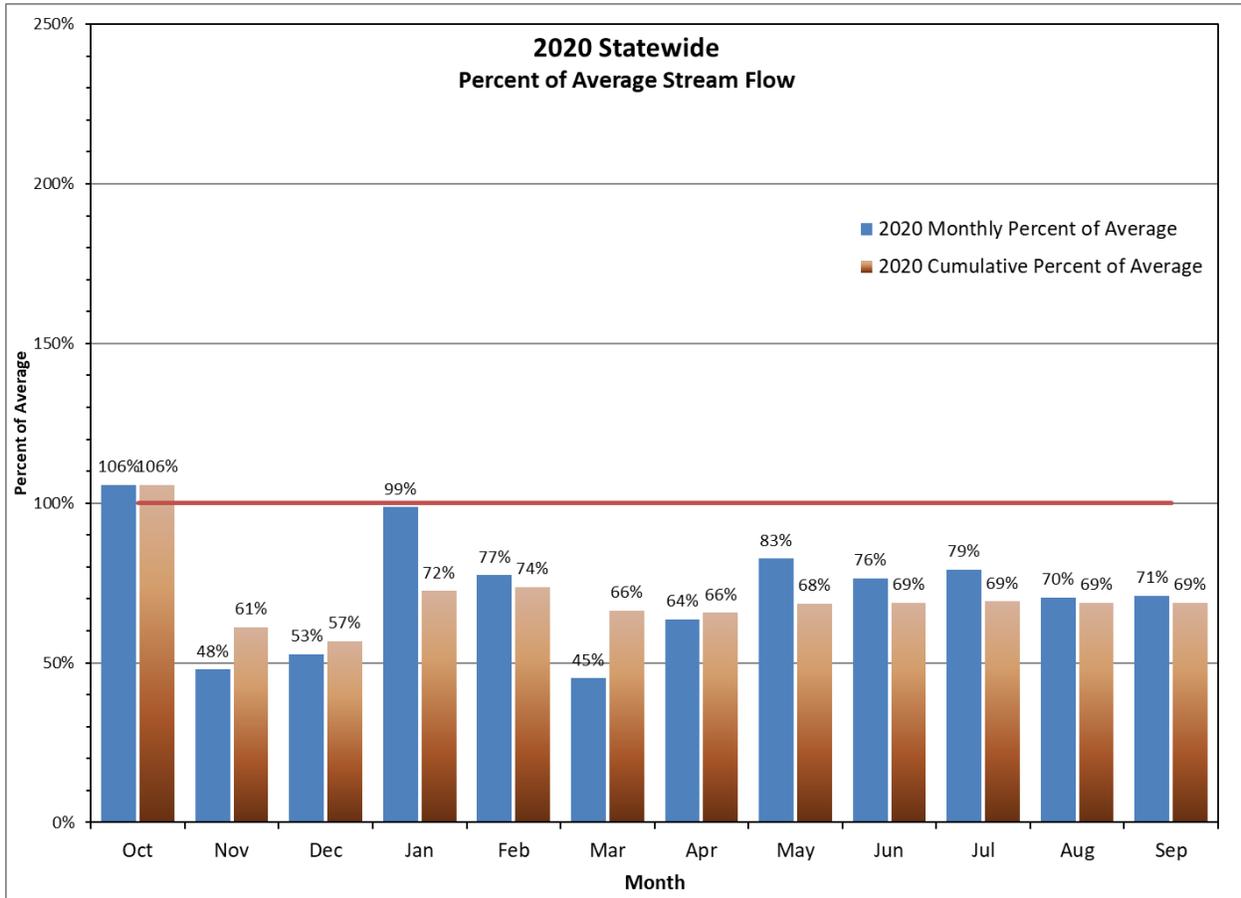
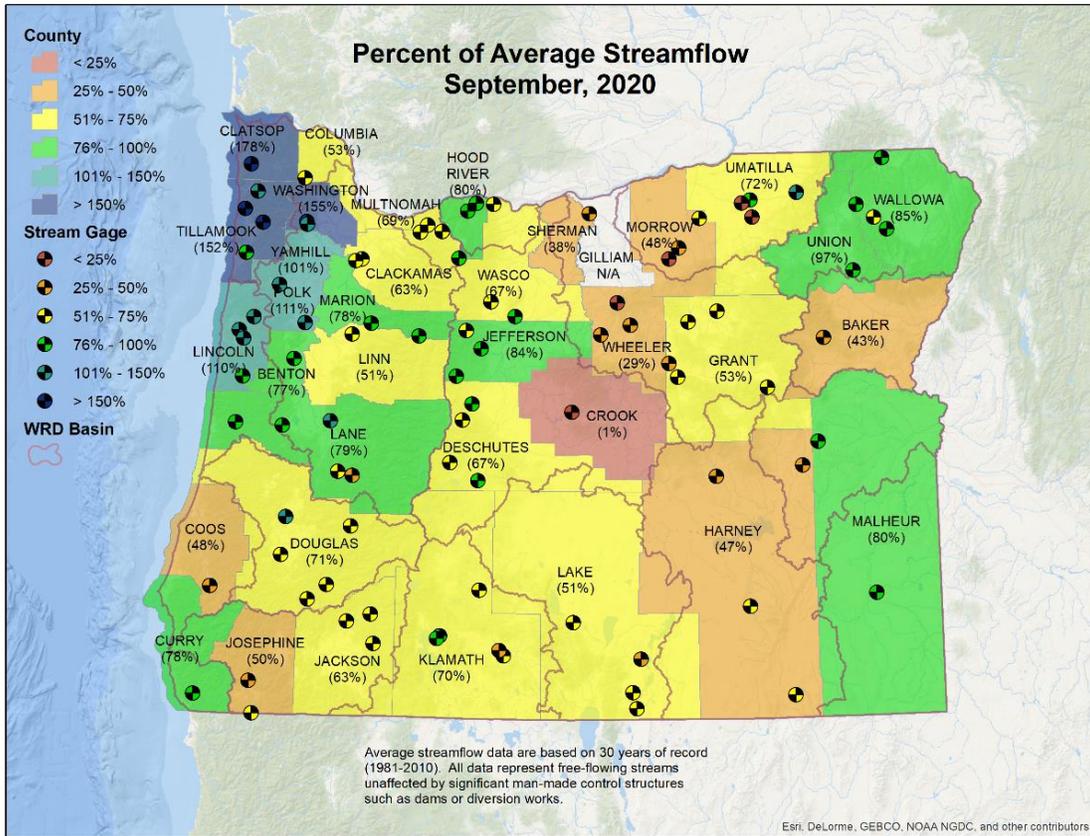


<https://nasagrace.unl.edu>

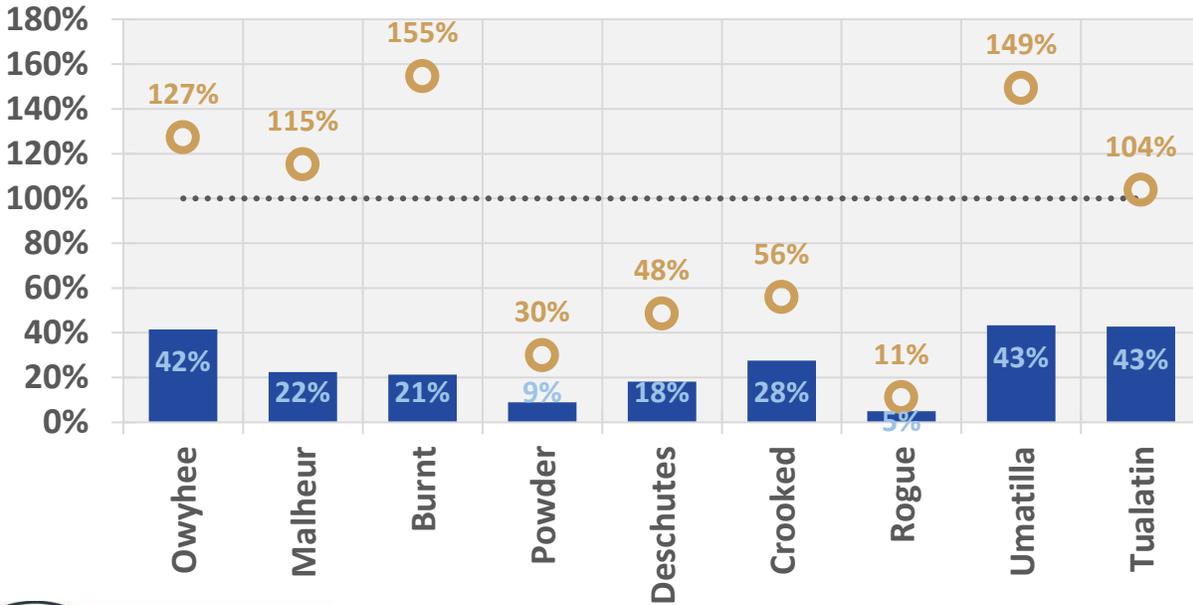
CLIMATE OUTLOOK



STREAMFLOW



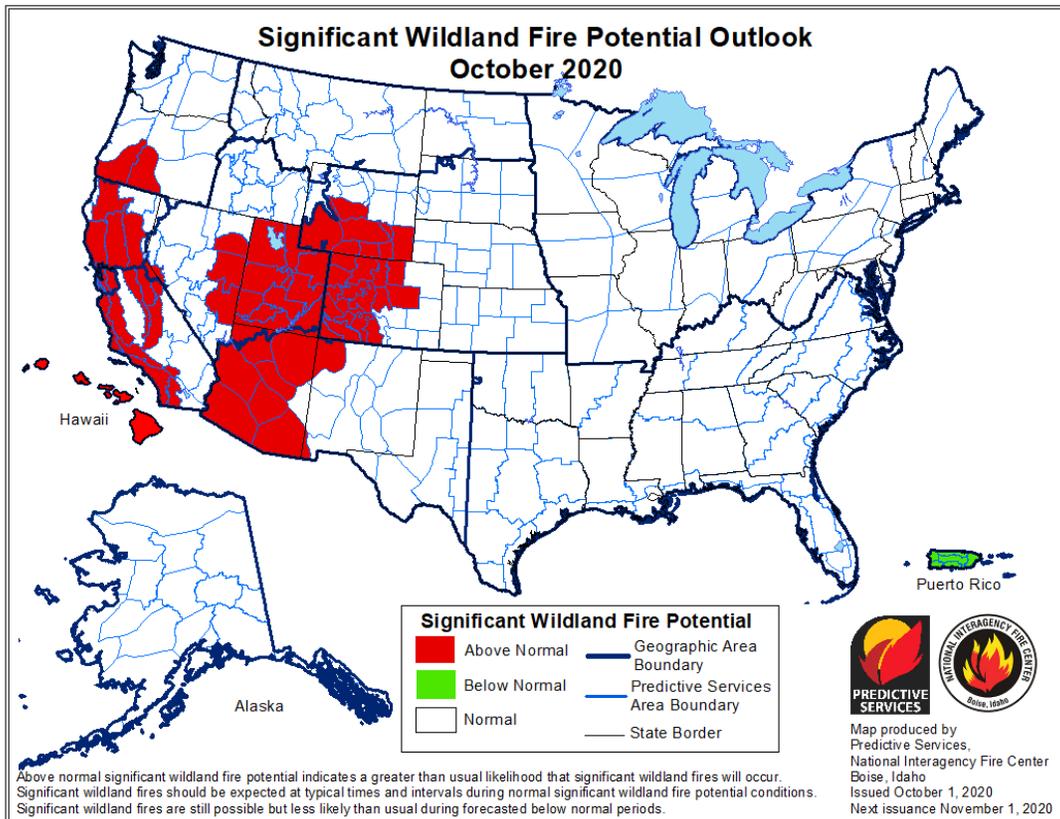
October 4 Reservoir Storage



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

■ Percent Full ● Percent of Average

FIRE CONDITIONS



RESOURCES/REFERENCES

Released every Thursday, the [US Drought Monitor](#) provides a weekly assessment of drought conditions. The USDM 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 [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. [The Northwest Interagency Coordination Center](#) features 7-day significant fire potential outlooks.

Oregon Office of Emergency Management maintains a [hydrology/meteorology dashboard](#) which shows state and local drought declarations, as well as hosts 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.

US Department of Agriculture provides the [Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin](#) as a vital source of information on US and global weather, climate, and agricultural developments, along with seasonally appropriate agrometeorological charts and tables. USDA's [Drought Programs and Assistance](#) offers links to programs and resources to help those struggling with persistent drought.