

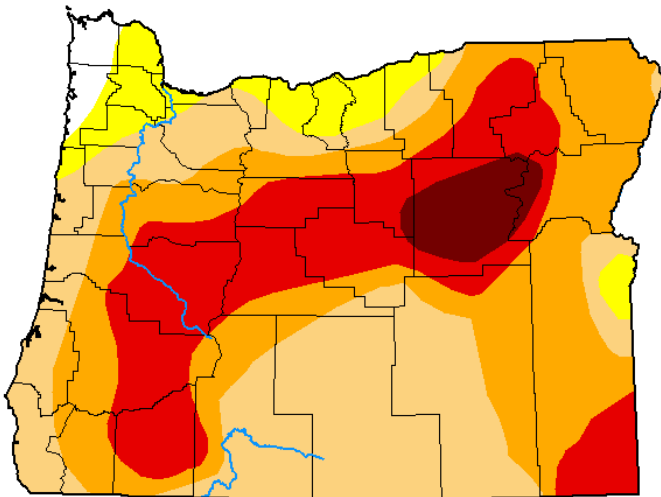
Oregon Drought and Water Conditions Report

September 21st, 2026

Conditions at a Glance

- According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor \(USDM\)](#), as of September 15, 91% of Oregon is in some form of drought, with 60% of the state in Severe (D2) to Exceptional Drought (D4).
- Current drought conditions are being driven by above-normal temperatures, persistent long-term precipitation deficits, and below-normal streamflow conditions across most of the state.
- To date, [22 Oregon counties](#) have received state drought declarations under ORS 536.

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon



September 15, 2026

(Released Thursday, Sep. 17, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	1.52	98.48	91.50	60.06	27.78	3.91
Last Week 09-08-2026	1.52	98.48	91.73	62.78	26.04	3.91
3 Months Ago 06-16-2026	4.21	95.79	86.19	44.16	9.24	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	65.06	34.94	15.76	4.65	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	32.92	67.08	47.65	24.35	1.39	0.00
One Year Ago 09-16-2025	29.61	70.39	50.81	23.73	0.65	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate 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>

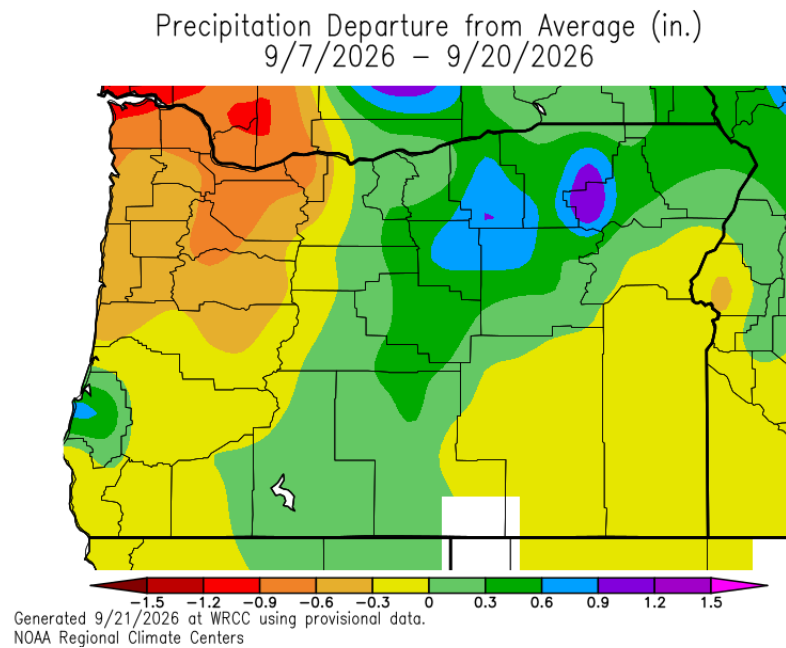
Author:

David Mocko
NASA/GSFC/SSAI

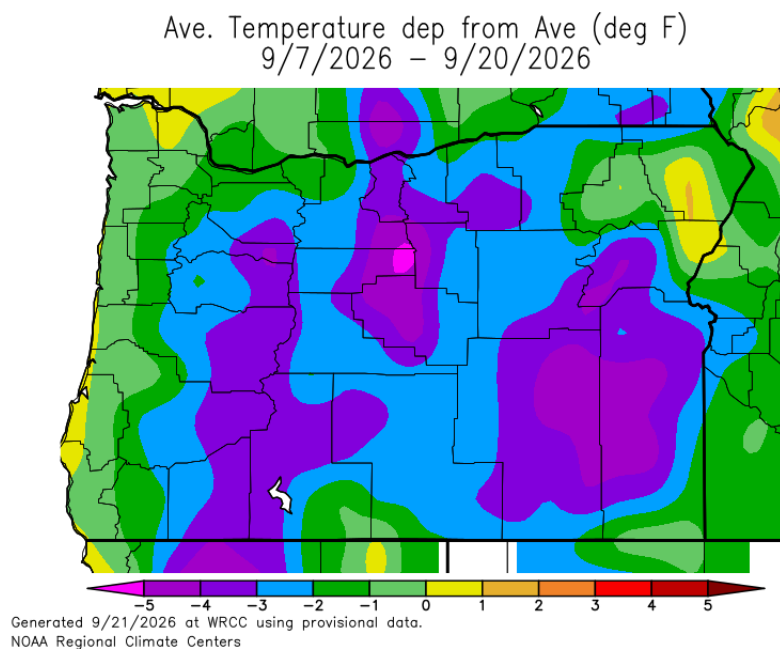


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Recent Conditions

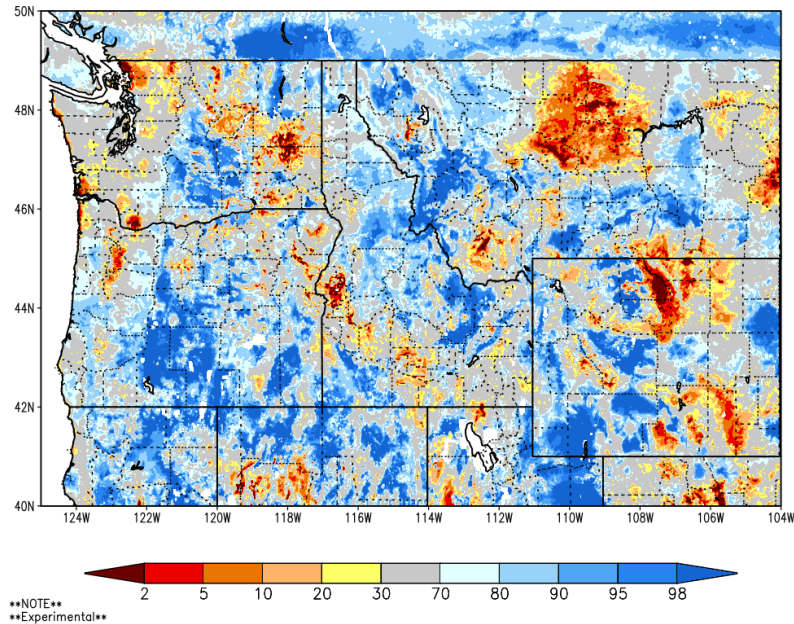


- Over the [past two weeks](#), precipitation was near normal for much of the state. Precipitation was below normal in northwestern Oregon and above normal in parts of southwestern, central, and northeastern Oregon.

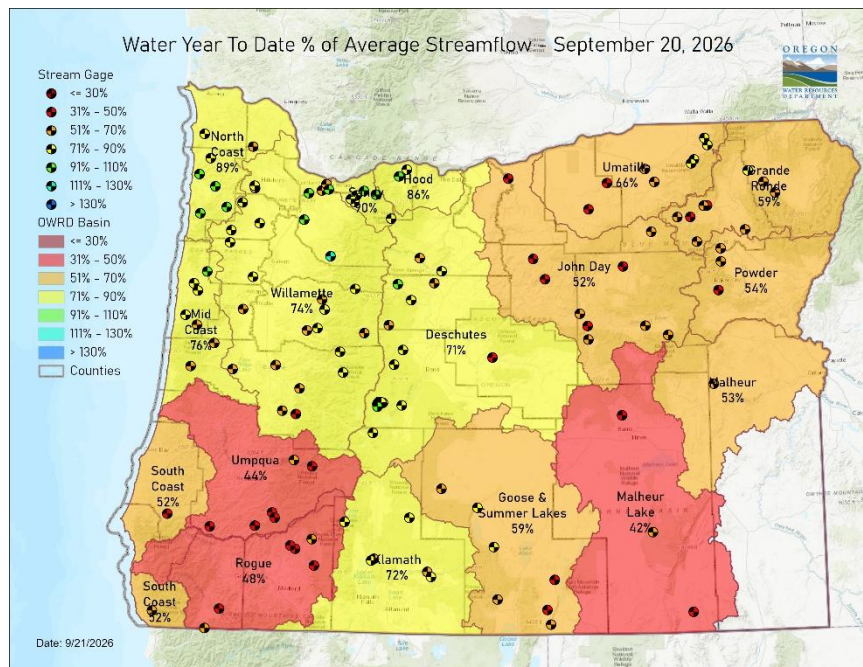


- Temperature conditions over the past two weeks were near to below normal for most of the state. For much of the state, temperatures were 2°F to 4°F below normal.

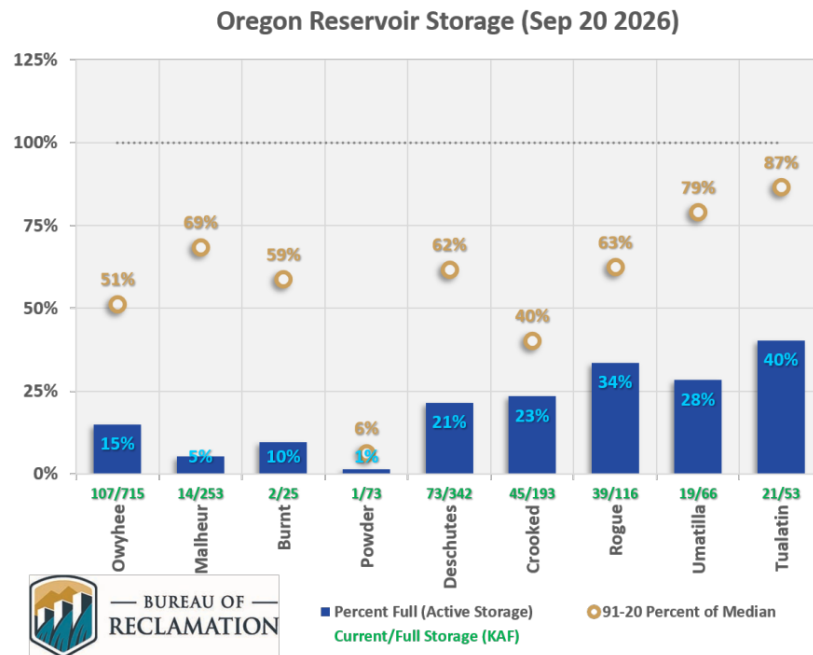
SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 21 Sep 2026



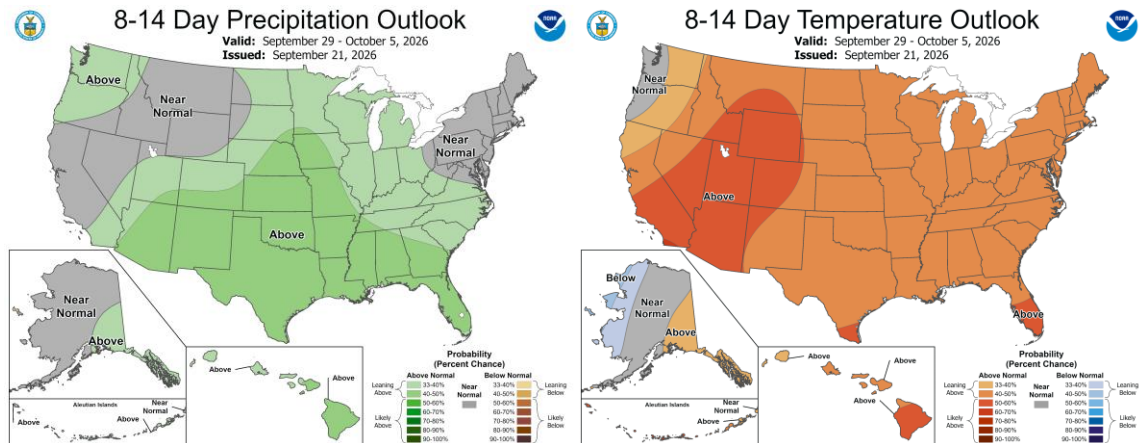
- Recent [soil moisture indicators](#) show rootzone soil moisture conditions (top 1 meter of soil) are wetter than normal for much of the state. However, there are parts of northwestern and northeastern Oregon that are drier than normal.



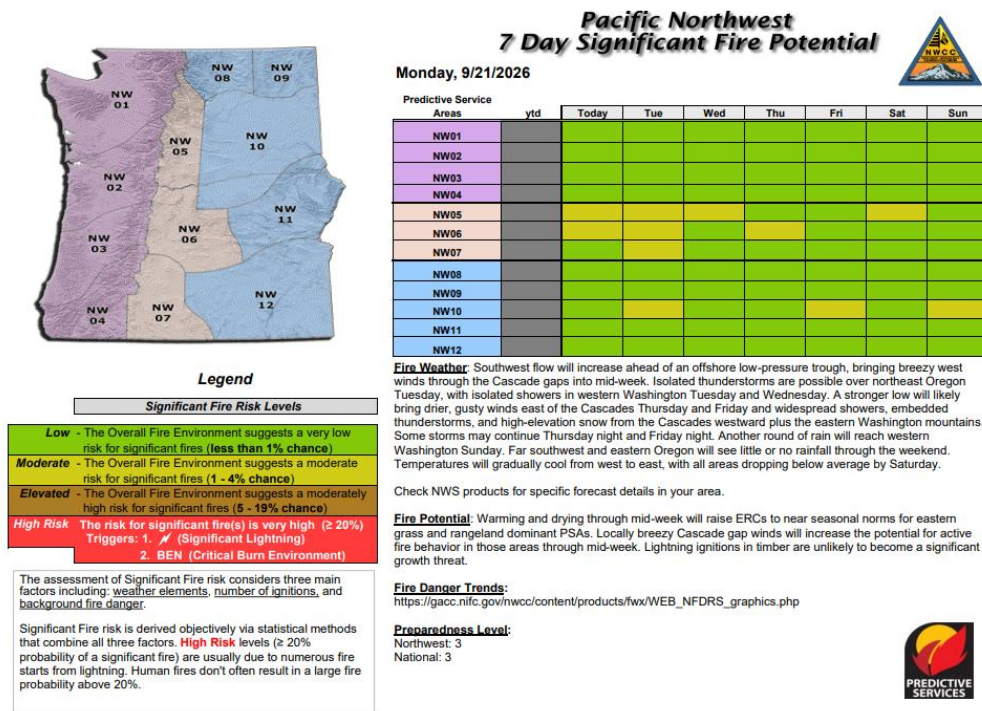
- As of September 20, water year-to-date streamflow conditions ranged from below to well below normal for most major basins in Oregon. Significant streamflow deficits have been recorded in parts of southwestern and eastern Oregon.



- As of September 20, all USBR storage projects in Oregon were below normal. For more information on reservoir storage projects, refer to the [US Army Corps of Engineers](#) and the [US Bureau of Reclamation](#).



- The [8-14 day outlook](#) indicates probabilities leaning towards above-normal precipitation for most of the state, except for much of southeastern Oregon where precipitation is likely to be near normal. The outlook also indicates probabilities leaning towards above-normal temperatures for most of the state, except for much of western Oregon where temperatures are likely to be near normal.



- Significant [wildfire](#) potential is expected to be low across most of the state for most of the week. There is a moderate risk in parts of central and northeastern Oregon for some of the week.

Additional Resources and References

Please visit [Oregon Water Resources Department's drought information page](#) to learn about current drought conditions, assistance programs, and potential drought tools.

If you are interested in submitting local drought-related conditions and impacts, please visit the [drought impacts toolkit](#) to learn more. [Click here](#) to visit the map of condition monitoring observer reports.

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) provide satellite-based observations of soil moisture conditions that are useful as drought indicators, helpful in describing current wet or dry soil conditions.

[USGS National Water Dashboard](#) 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 [Northwest Interagency Coordination Center](#) which offers outlooks on the significant wildland fire potential.

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.