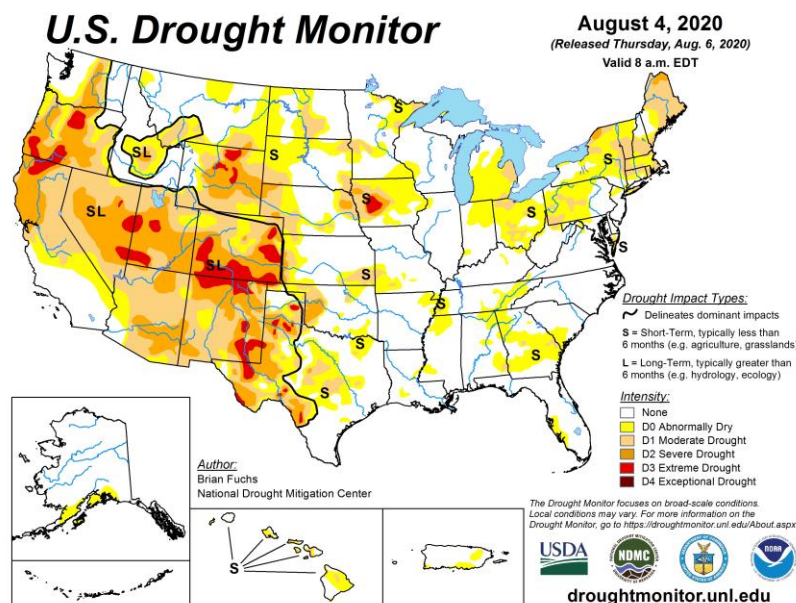


Regional Drought and Water Supply Status August 2020

SUMMARY OF CURRENT CONDITIONS (as August 4, 2020) - NORMAL

- Abnormal and moderate drought existed throughout most of July but the combination of widespread thunderstorms and rain from Tropical Storm Isaias brought some much-needed precipitation to our region. Normal conditions have returned for most of the indicators use to monitor drought in the COG region.
- U.S. Drought Monitor – Normal
 - The latest U.S. Drought monitor released on August 6 indicates that the majority of the COG region is free of drought. A small area of abnormal drought (D0) exists in Loudoun County, VA and Frederick County, MD.
- Drought Stage - Normal
 - The current drought stage as defined in [COG's water supply and drought response awareness plan \(the Plan\)](#) is Normal. COG's Plan focuses on tracking and responding to drought conditions as it relates to regional water supply.
- Drought Stages from VADEQ and MDE - Normal
 - COG jurisdictions that are monitored by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality ([VADEQ](#)) and Maryland Department of the Environment ([MDE](#)) are under a normal status.
- Streamflow, groundwater, and reservoir levels - Normal
 - Potomac streamflow levels are currently above median levels and local reservoirs remain full. Most of the regional groundwater wells monitored are at normal levels.
- Forecasts – Normal
 - The latest U.S. Seasonal Outlook indicates drought is not likely in the COG region over the next three months.



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

POTOMAC STREAMFLOW LEVELS

Potomac streamflows are currently above median levels.

Instantaneous flows readings on August 7 were:

Little Falls –6,760 cfs (median, 2,810 cfs)

Point of Rocks –7,780 cfs (median, 2,810 cfs)

Source: USGS Little Falls: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/uv?01646500>

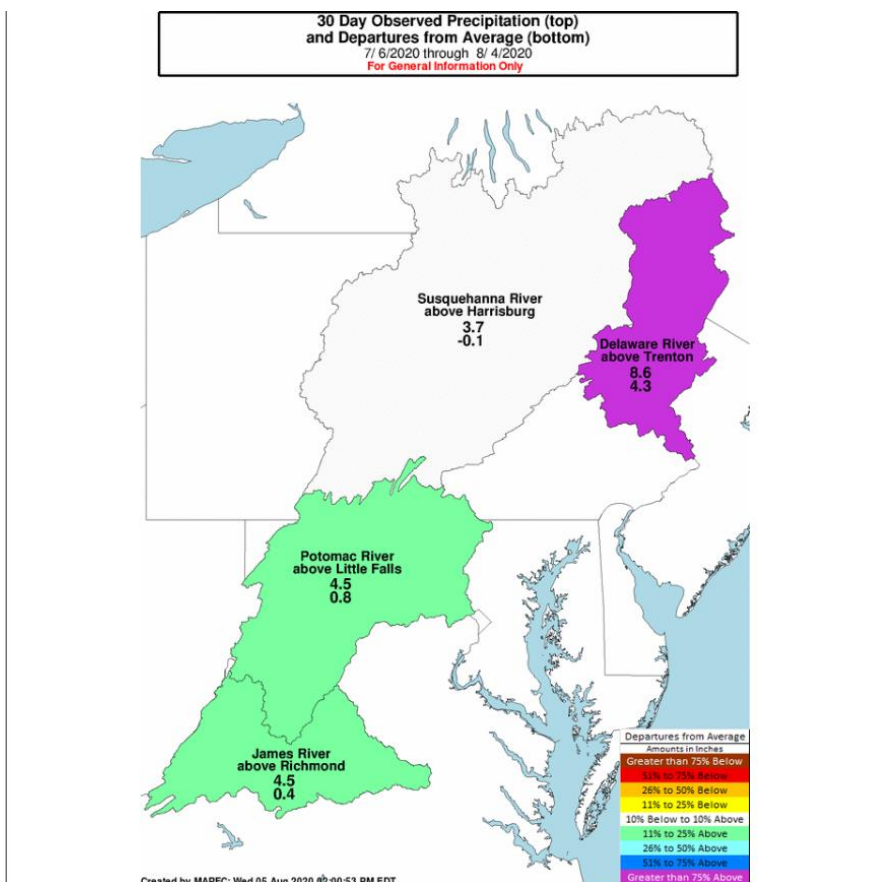
Source: USGS Point of Rocks: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/uv?01638500>

POTOMAC BASIN PRECIPITATION (as of 08/04/20)

The Potomac Basin received 4.5 inches of rain in the last 30 days, which is 11% to 25% above average.

Source: Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center

<https://www.weather.gov/marfc/BasinPrecipitation30Day>



GROUNDWATER LEVELS

Groundwater levels are normal for most of the wells monitored in the COG region. A well in Prince William County, VA is reporting low levels.

Source: USGS

<https://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/RTNHome.asp>

https://md.water.usgs.gov/groundwater/web_wells/current/water_table/counties/index.html

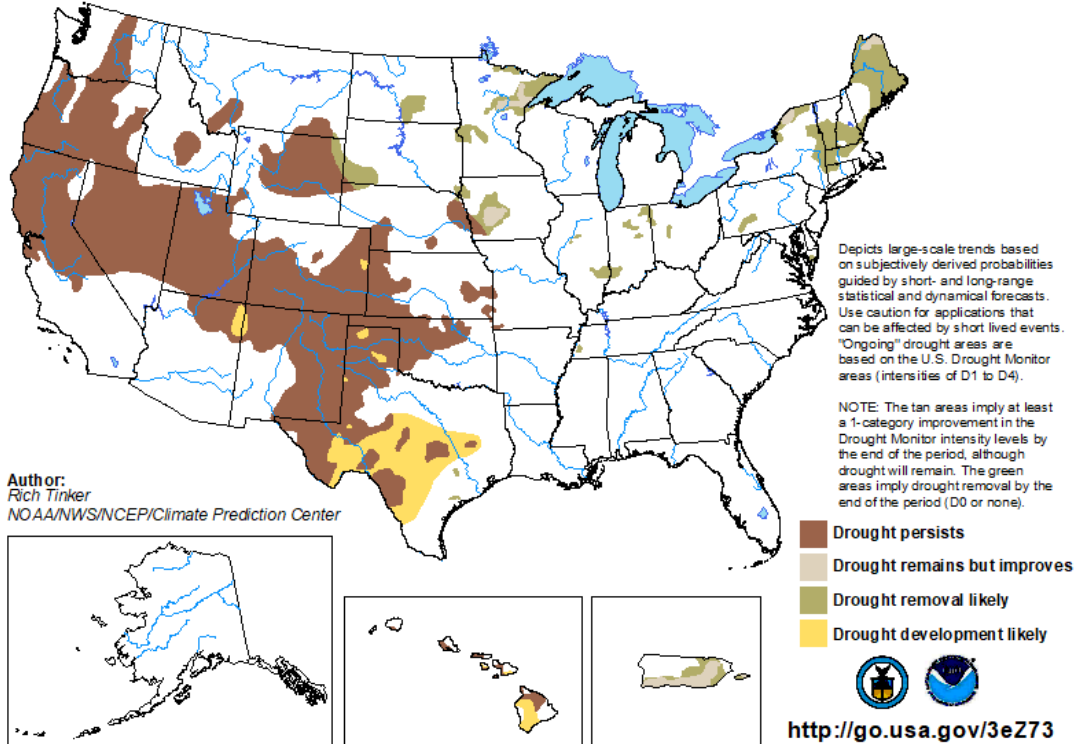
<https://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/NetMapT1L2.asp?ncd=RTN&sc=51>

DROUGHT OUTLOOK

The latest U.S. Seasonal Outlook indicates that drought is not expected in the COG region over the next three months. Source: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/sdo_summary.php

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for July 16 - October 31, 2020
Released July 16



RESERVOIR LEVELS

Drinking water reservoirs at Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca are full.

Source: <http://www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/nab/potopub.html>

As of the August 2020 report, there is a near-normal probability of releases from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2020 summer and fall seasons. Generally, the use of Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca reservoirs is triggered by low flows brought about by a combination of low precipitation and low groundwater levels. There is a 5 to 17 percent conditional probability that natural Potomac flow will drop below 600 to 700 million gallons per day (MGD) at Little Falls through December 31 of this year.

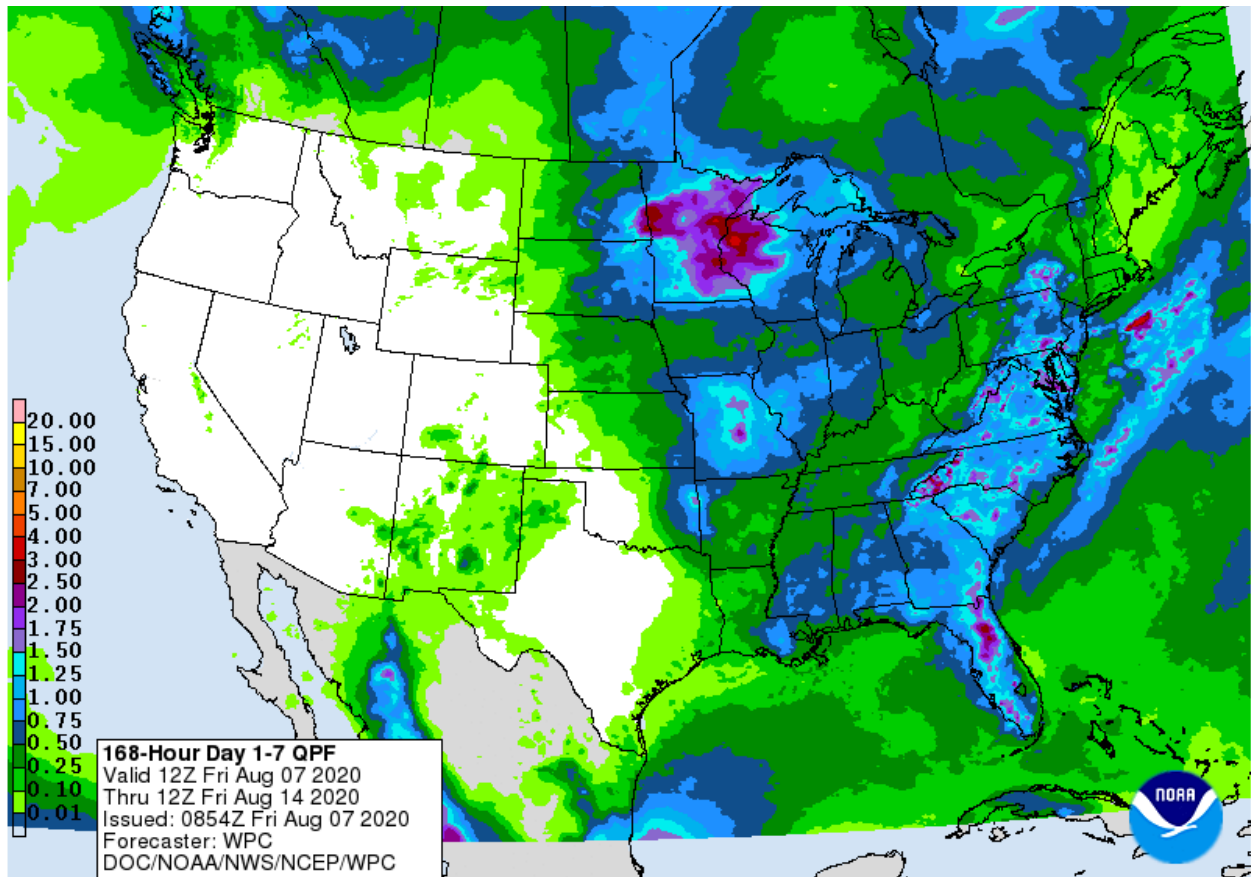
Source: ICPRB

<https://www.potomacriver.org/focus-areas/water-resources-and-drinking-water/cooperative-water-supply-operations-on-the-potomac/drought-monitoring-and-operations/water-supply-outlook-status/>

7 DAY PRECIPITATION FORECASTS

The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast (from August 7 -14) calls for roughly 1.0 – 1.25 inches in the COG region.

Source: NOAA: <http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/day1-7.shtml>



For additional information please visit COG's Water Supply and Drought website:

<https://www.mwcog.org/drought>