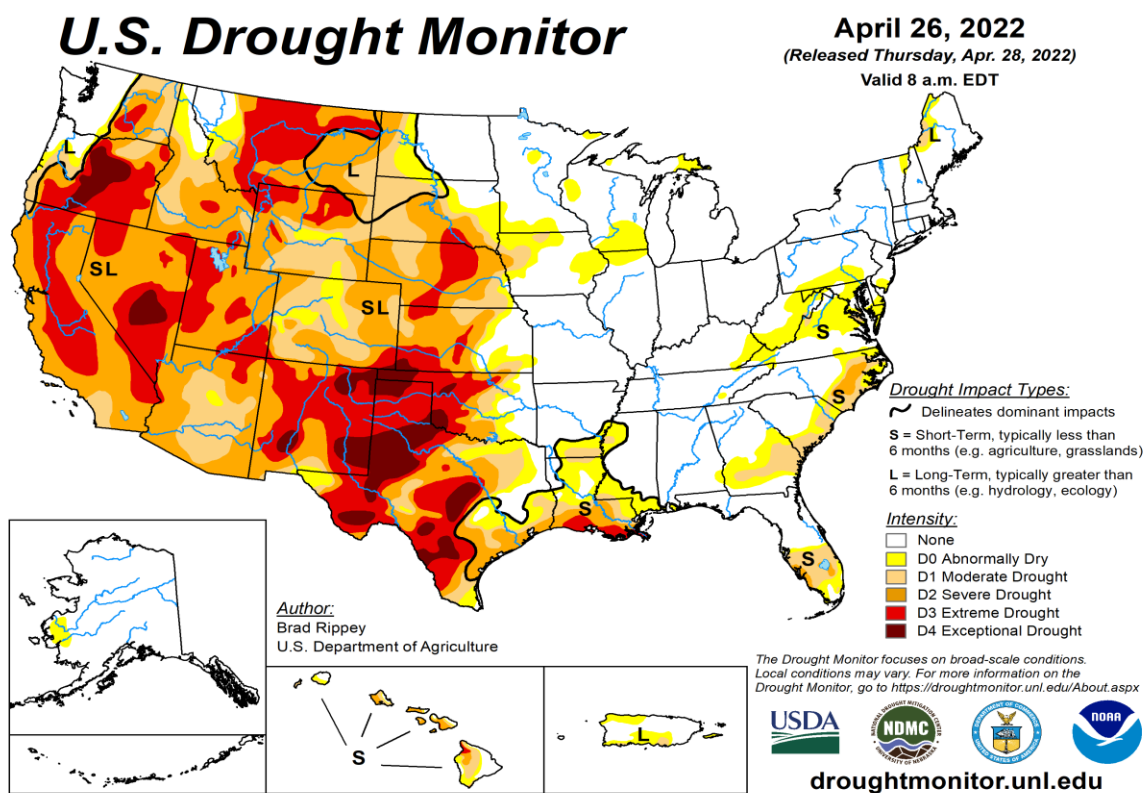


Regional Drought and Water Supply Status May 2022

Summary of Current Conditions in the COG Region - As of May 2, 2022

The latest U.S. Drought monitor released on April 28 indicates that some areas are abnormally dry mainly due to low streamflow and precipitation levels over the past few months. The areas monitored in the COG region by the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality are under a normal status. Groundwater levels are normal to low, and local reservoirs remain full. Long-term forecasts indicate that we should remain drought free over the next three months. Source: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



Drought Stage - Normal

The current drought stage as defined in [COG's water supply and drought response awareness plan \(the Plan\)](#) is Normal in the COG region. COG's Plan focuses on tracking and responding to drought conditions as it relates to regional water supply.

Drought Stages 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.

Potomac Streamflow - Below median levels

Instantaneous flows readings on May 2 were:

Little Falls –8,200 cfs (median, 11,400 cfs)

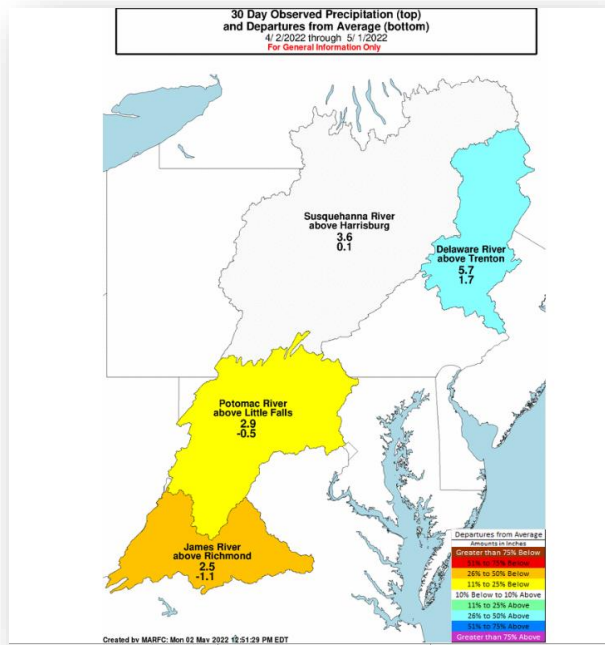
Point of Rocks –7,200 cfs (median, 9,480 cfs)

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

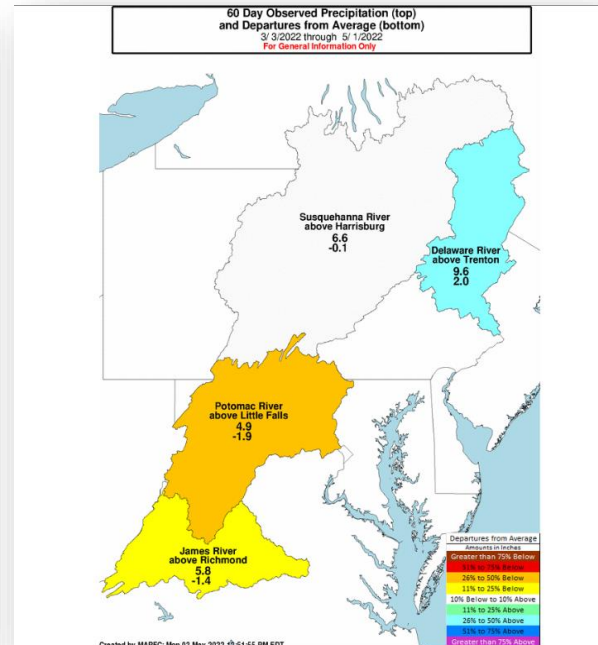
Source: USGS Point of Rocks: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/uv?01638500>

Potomac Basin Precipitation 30 and 60 Day– Near Normal and Below Normal

The Potomac Basin received 2.9 inches of precipitation in the last 30 days, 0.5 inches below normal and 4.9 inches, 1.9 below normal over the past 60 days., Source: Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center <https://www.weather.gov/marfc/BasinPrecipitation30Day>



30 Day Precipitation



60 Day Precipitation

Groundwater Levels – Normal to Low

In the COG region, most of the groundwater levels are within a normal range with a few reports of low levels. Source: USGS and Pennsylvania Water Science Center

<https://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/statemap.asp?sc=51&sa=VA>

<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/current/?type=gw>

<https://pa.water.usgs.gov/apps/potomac/>

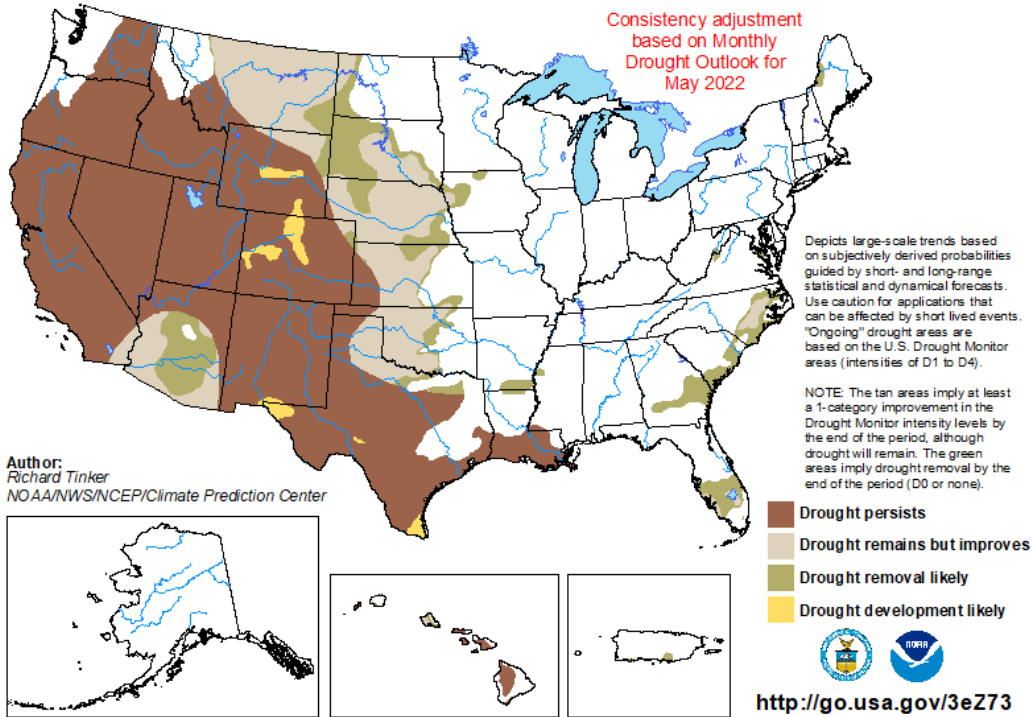
Drought Outlook - Normal

The latest U.S. Seasonal Outlook released on April 30 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 May 1 - July 31, 2022
Released April 30, 2022



Reservoir Levels - Normal

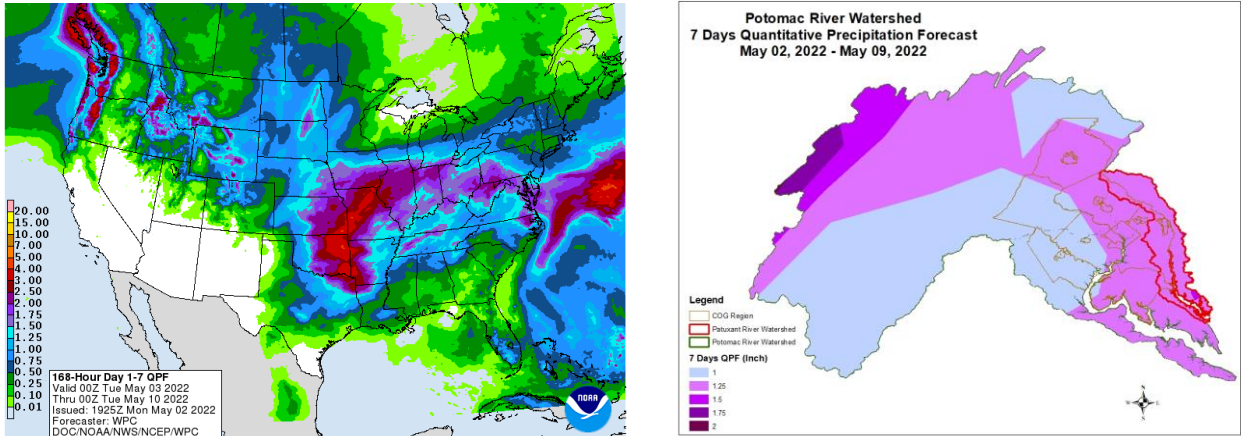
Drinking water reservoirs at Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca are full.

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

As of the April 2022 report, there is an above normal probability of releases from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2022 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 10 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/>

Precipitation Forecast

The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast calls for 1.0 – 1.25 inches of rain in the COG region.



Source: NOAA and COG: <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>