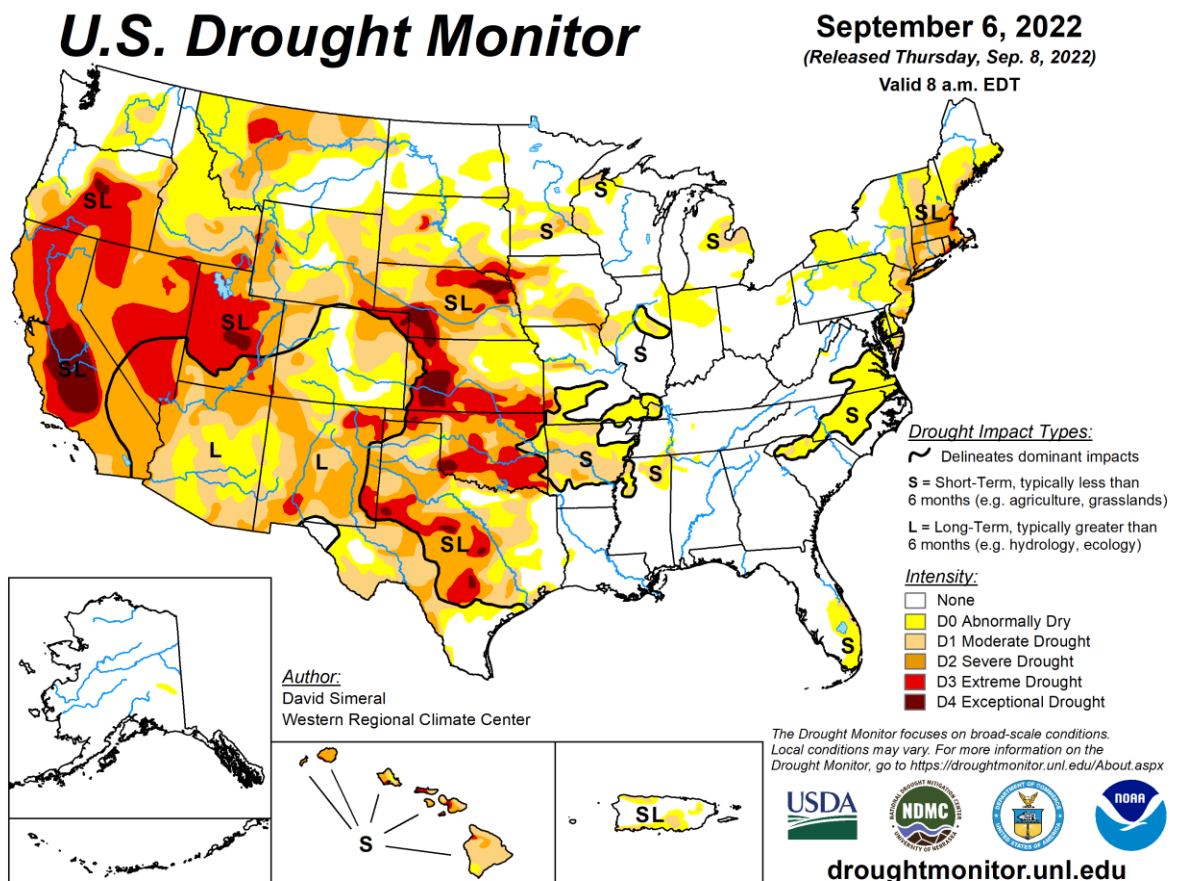


Regional Drought and Water Supply Status September 2022

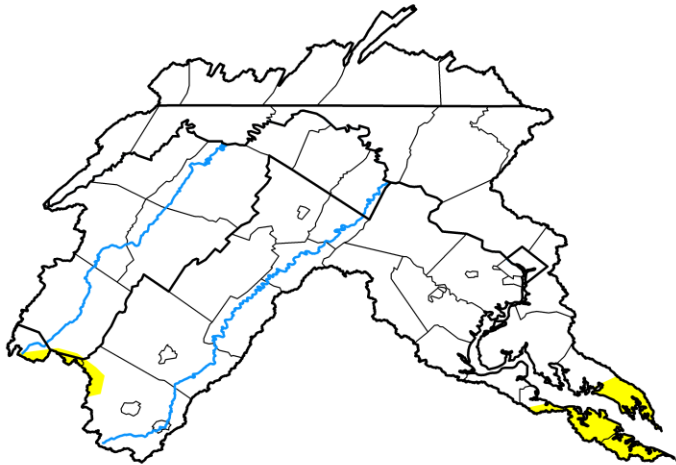
Summary of Current Conditions in the COG Region - As of September 8, 2022

The latest U.S. Drought monitor released September 8 indicates that the COG region is currently free of drought. Note that the southeastern portion of Virginia is experiencing abnormal dryness, mainly due to above average temperatures and little precipitation. 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, streamflow, and precipitation levels are normal, and local reservoirs remain full. Long-term forecasts indicate that we should remain drought free over the next three months.



U.S. Drought Monitor Potomac Watershed

September 6, 2022
(Released Thursday, Sep. 8, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	96.98	3.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week <i>09-01-2022</i>	97.85	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>06-09-2022</i>	92.35	7.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-06-2022</i>	18.40	73.66	7.94	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-30-2021</i>	92.97	7.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <i>09-09-2021</i>	92.58	7.42	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:

David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



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 - Above median levels

Instantaneous flows readings on September 8 were:

Little Falls -5,490 cfs (median, 2,350 cfs)

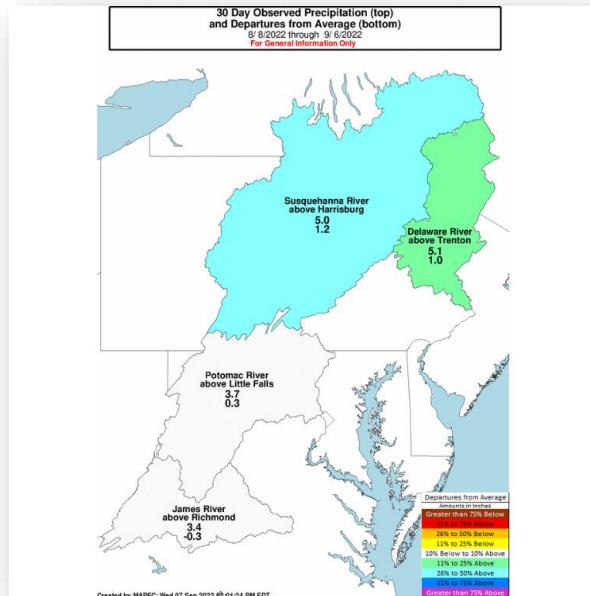
Point of Rocks -6,070 cfs (median, 2,320 cfs)

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

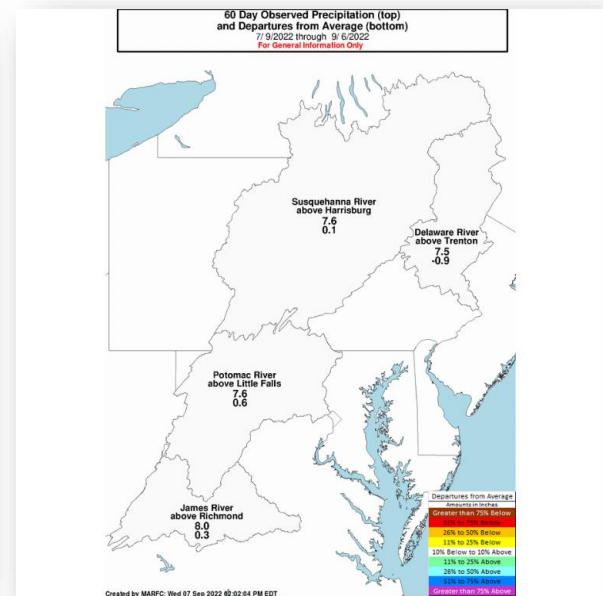
Source: USGS Point of Rocks: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/uv?01638500>

Potomac Basin Precipitation 30 and 60 Day (through 09.06.22) – Slightly above normal

The Potomac Basin received 3.7 inches of precipitation in the last 30 days, 0.3 inches above normal and 7.6 inches, 0.6 inches above normal over the past 60 days., Source: Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center <https://www.weather.gov/marfc/BasinPrecipitation30Day>



30 Day Precipitation



60 Day Precipitation

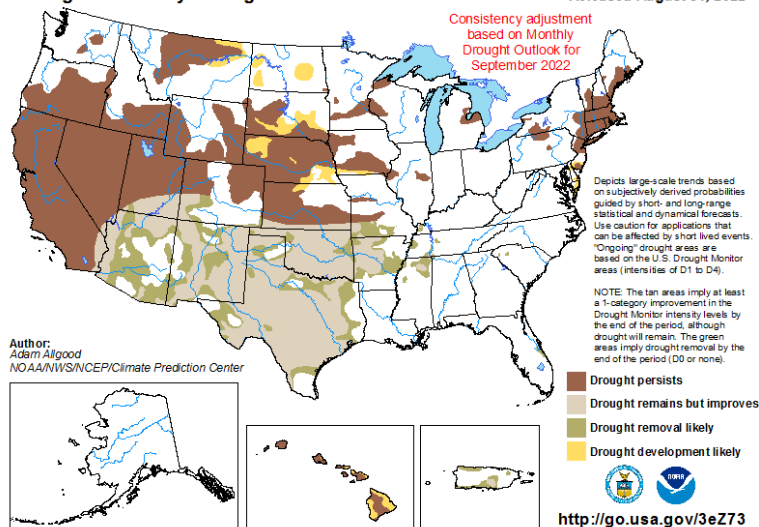
Drought Outlook - Normal

The latest U.S. Seasonal Outlook released on August 31 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 September 1 - November 30, 2022
Released August 31, 2022



Groundwater Levels – Normal

In the COG region, groundwater levels are within a normal range.

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

<https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/app/nwd/?region=lower48&aoi=default>

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>

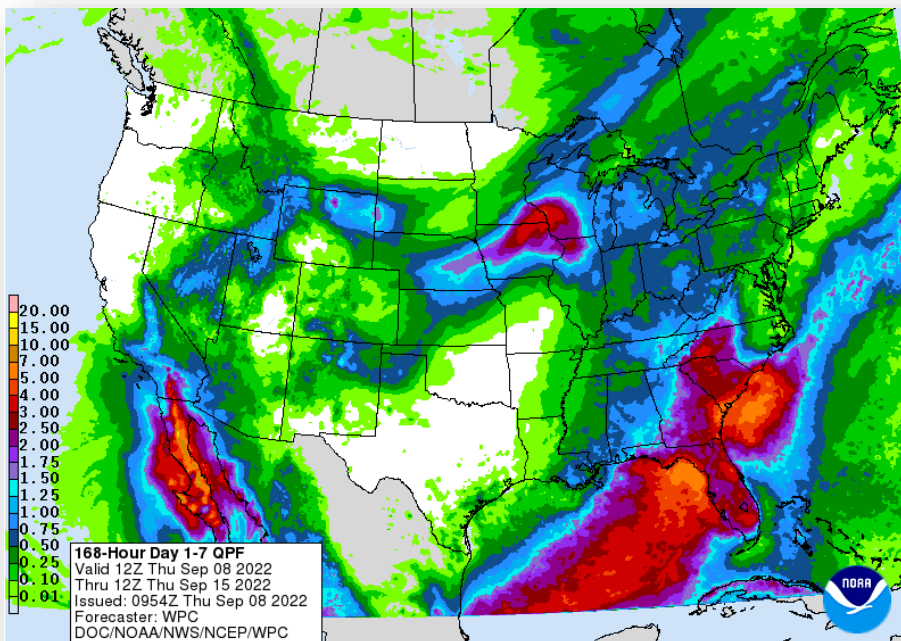
As of the September 2022 report, there is an above normal probability of releases from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2022 summer and fall seasons. Generally, the use of Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca reservoirs is triggered by low flows brought about by a combination of low precipitation and low groundwater levels. There is a 11 to 19 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 roughly .025 inches of rain in the COG region.

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



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

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

Drought In the News

[Drought Affected Nearly a Third of Americans in August](#)

U.S. News

The share of the population impacted by severe drought or worse neared historic highs for the 21st century.

[Analysis | The great drought and the great deluge, all at the same time](#)

The Washington Post

This summer has been defined by a relentless series of unwelcome climate-related superlatives.

[The summer drought's hefty toll on American crops](#)

The Washington Post

Corn, wheat and other agricultural products withered in a year of glaring climate change impacts

[The European drought event from 2018 to 2020 was the most intense in over 250 years](#)

Science Daily

[Drought is exposing world relics — from dinosaur tracks to Nazi ships](#)

The Washington Post

It is a rare opportunity to study never-before-seen relics, but it comes at an enormous ecological cost and sets off a race against time for researchers.

[Seven Stats That Explain the West's Epic Drought](#)

The Hill

The American West is experiencing its driest period in human history, a megadrought that threatens the health, agriculture, and entire ways of life. [DRIED UP](#) is examining the dire effects of the drought on the states most affected — as well as the solutions Americans are embracing.

[As Drought Hits Farms, Investors Lay Claim to Colorado Water](#)

Civil Eats

The debate over how to treat water—as a public resource or an investment tool—is escalating as climate change accelerates the water crisis in the West.

[China issues first national drought emergency amid scorching temperatures](#)

CNBC

China issued its first drought emergency this year as scorching temperatures dry up areas of the Yangtze River and put pressure on the power grid while the country battles a record-breaking heatwave.