

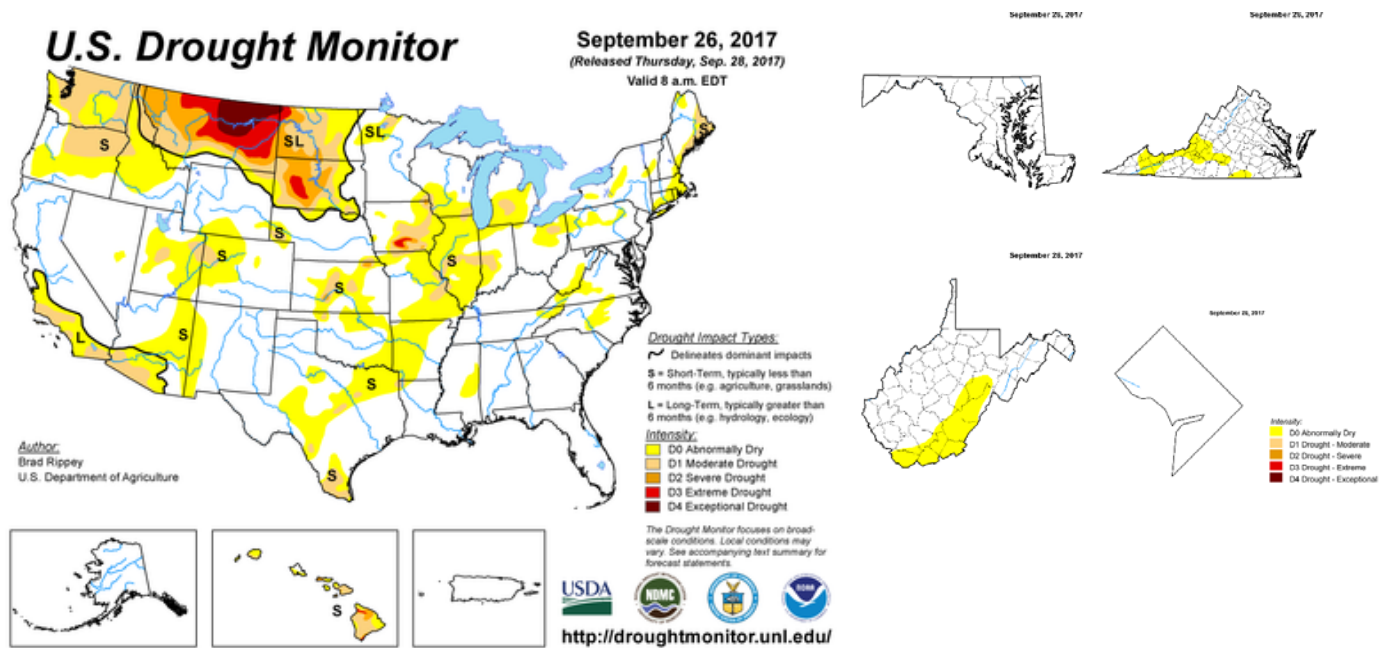
Regional Drought and Water Supply Status and Outlook October 2017

SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS

Potomac streamflows are currently below median levels and as a result, daily monitoring at Point of Rocks and Little Falls flows began on September 19 by the *CO-OP. This will continue as long as flows remains below the monitoring trigger level of 2,000 cubic feet per second or 1,293 million gallons per day at Point of Rocks. For a summary of activities and to learn more about the CO-OP, please visit [ICPRB's drought monitoring](http://icprb.org/drought-monitoring) website.

The current U.S. Drought monitor indicates that the COG region is drought free, but we could experience some abnormally dry/D0 drought conditions if dry conditions persist. The Potomac River Basin received a below average amount of precipitation in September, most regional groundwater levels are normal, and local reservoirs are nearly full. In [Maryland](#), the Central region and Eastern regions are under a normal status. In [Virginia](#), the Northern Virginia drought evaluation region is normal, yet streamflows are well below normal as well.

COG will continue to monitor conditions and provide additional updates throughout the month.



The September 26, 2017 U.S. Drought monitor indicates that the COG region is currently free of drought. Source: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

POTOMAC STREAMFLOW LEVELS

Potomac streamflows are currently below median levels. Instantaneous flows readings and long term median levels on October 2, 2017 are indicated below:

Source: USGS cfs=cubic feet per second MGD=million gallons per day

Little Falls 1,300 cfs/median 2,570 cfs or 840 MGD/1,661 MGD

Point of Rocks 1,290 cfs/ median 2,340 cfs or 834 MGD/1,512 MGD

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

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

POTOMAC BASIN PRECIPITATION

The Potomac Basin received 1.4 inches in the last thirty days (from 9/1 – 9/30) which is 2.4 inches or 51-75% below normal. Source: Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center

http://www.weather.gov/images/marfc/departures/dep_basins.30.png

GROUNDWATER LEVELS

Groundwater levels vary throughout the Potomac Basin but most are reporting normal levels.

Source: USGS

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

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

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

DROUGHT OUTLOOKS

The latest U.S. Seasonal Drought outlook indicates that our region should not experience drought conditions over the next few months, but the monthly outlook indicates that drought development is likely. Source: NOAA

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/sdo_summary.php

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/mdo_summary.php

RESERVOIR LEVELS

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

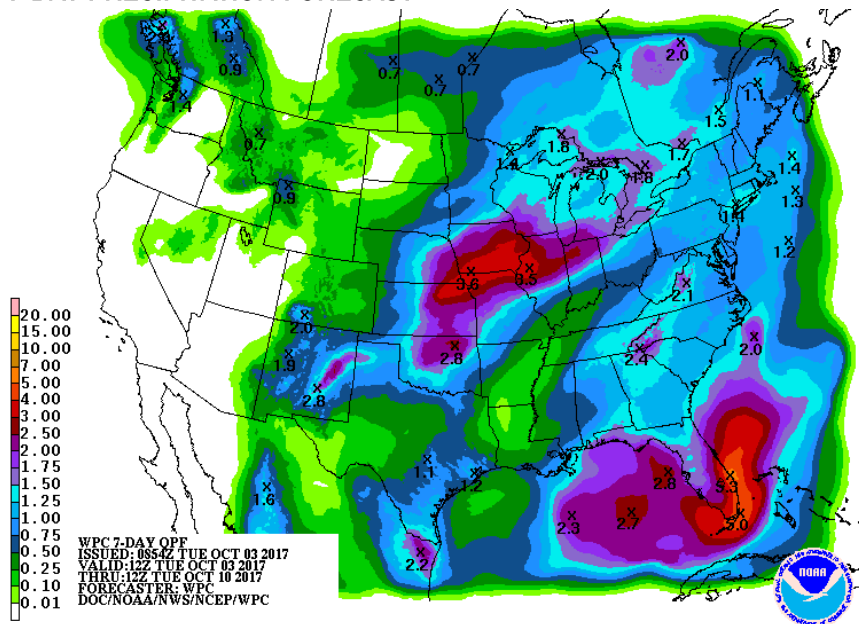
Source: <http://www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/nab/potopub.html>

There is a below normal probability of releases from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2017 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 summer precipitation and low groundwater levels. There is a 1 to 4 percent conditional probability that natural Potomac flow will drop below 600- to 700 MGD or 938- to 1,083 cfs 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/>

*CO-OP: ICPRB's Section for Cooperative Water Supply Operations on the Potomac (CO-OP) was established in 1979 to serve as a cooperative technical center on water resources in the Potomac basin. The Section consists of ICPRB's District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Federal Commissioners. [Learn more about CO-OP's history.](#)

7 DAY PRECIPITATION FORECAST



The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast calls for roughly 0.50 to 1.0 inch of precipitation.

Source: National Weather Service, Weather Prediction Center

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

For additional information regarding regional water supply and drought conditions, please visit COG's website at: <https://www.mwcog.org/drought>