

# Regional Drought and Water Supply Status September 2024

## Summary of Current Conditions in the COG Region – As of September 12, 2024

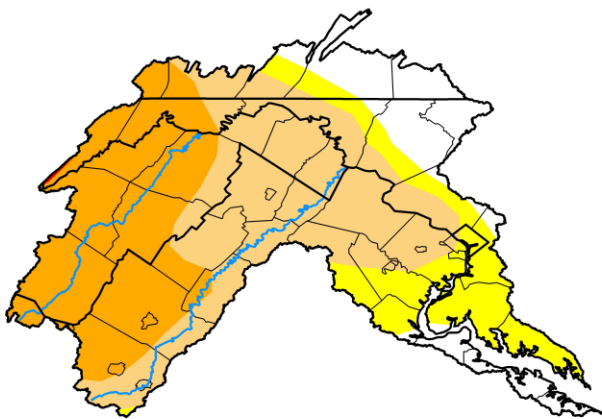
The [Drought Watch](#) that was declared by COG’s Drought Coordination Committee on July 29 is still in effect. The COG region is still experiencing dry conditions, ranging from abnormally dry to moderate drought, according to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. Precipitation and groundwater levels are below normal for the month and Potomac River streamflow at Point of Rocks is currently below the low-flow threshold of 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). When this occurs, the [Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin’s CO-OP](#) begins daily monitoring and reporting of Potomac flows and drinking water withdrawals. Local reservoirs remain full.

COG’s Drought Coordination Technical Committee is scheduled to meet on October 2 to discuss current conditions and timing of lifting the Drought Watch stage. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality issued a [drought watch advisory](#) on September 4 for their Northern Virginia region and the areas monitored in the COG region by the Maryland Department of the Environment are currently under a [Drought Watch](#).

COG will continue to closely monitor conditions. Please visit COG’s Water Supply and Drought Website at [www.mwcog.org/drought](http://www.mwcog.org/drought) for additional information.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Potomac Watershed

**September 10, 2024**  
(Released Thursday, Sep. 12, 2024)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
<b>Current</b>	13.86	15.84	37.48	32.73	0.10	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> <i>09-05-2024</i>	13.85	15.75	37.57	32.73	0.10	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>06-13-2024</i>	68.39	31.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>01-04-2024</i>	29.14	40.05	18.78	12.03	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>09-28-2023</i>	26.87	34.54	23.45	15.13	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>09-14-2023</i>	17.76	30.89	35.95	15.41	0.00	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>

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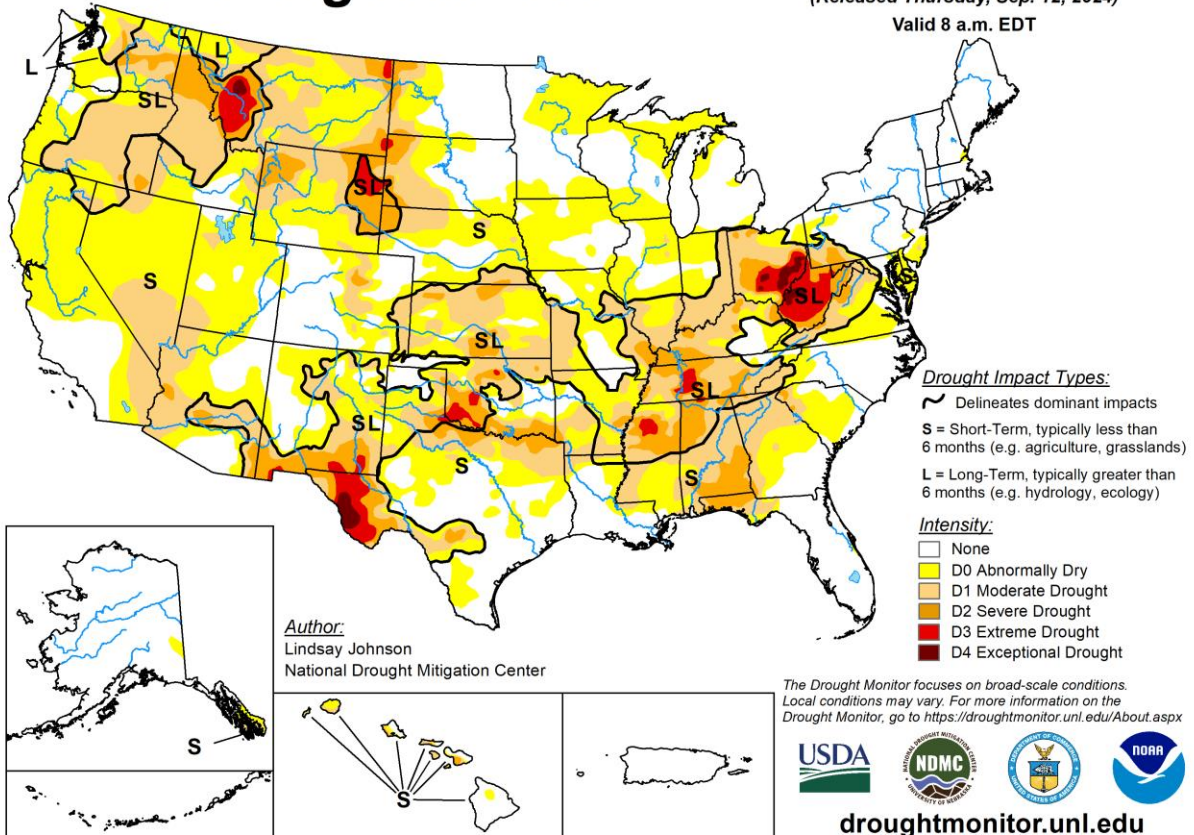
[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

# U.S. Drought Monitor

September 10, 2024

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## Potomac Streamflow – Below median levels

Instantaneous flows readings:

Little Falls: 1,560 cfs (median 1,500 cfs) Source: as of September 12 [USGS Little Falls](#)

Point of Rocks: 1,840 cfs (median 2,200 cfs) Source: as of September 12 [USGS Point of Rocks](#)

## 30, 90, and 365 Day Observed Precipitation Levels and Departures from Average

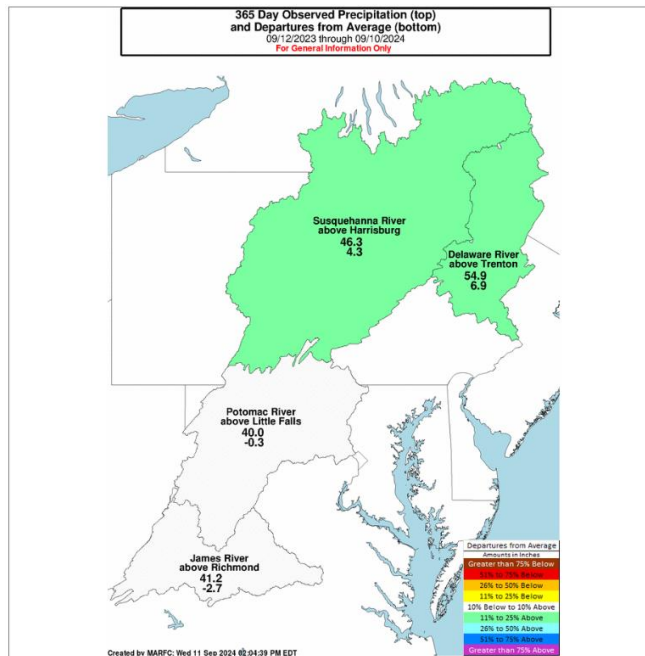
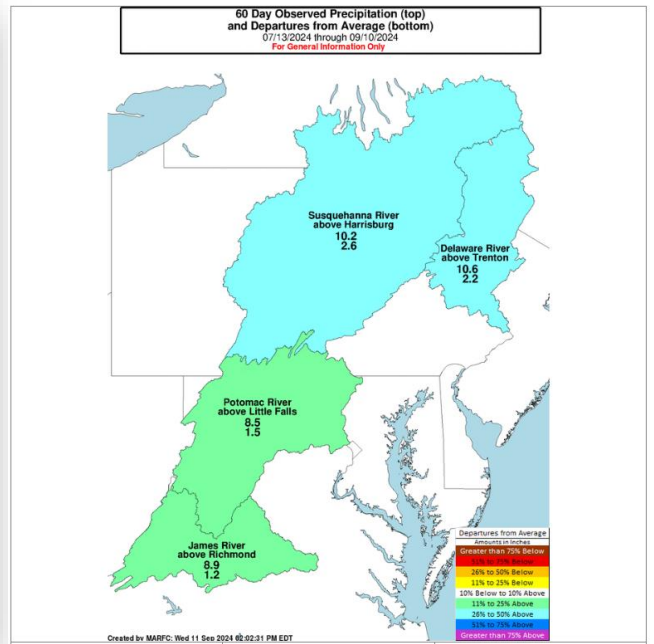
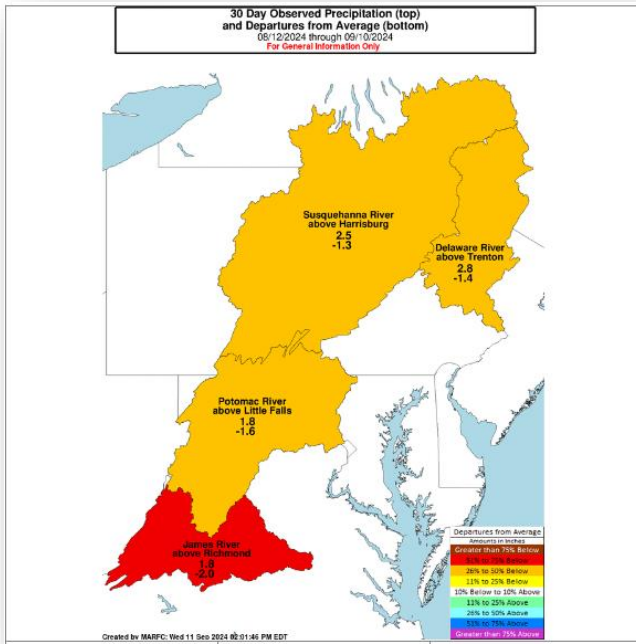
The Potomac Basin received (through September 10):

30 Day 1.8 inches of precipitation, 1.6 below normal

60 Day 8.5 inches, 1.5 inches above normal

365 Day 40.0 inches, 0.3 inches below or above normal

Source: [Middle Atlantic Regional Forecast Center](#)



### Groundwater Levels –Below Normal

In the COG region, groundwater levels are below normal.

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

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

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

### Reservoir Levels – Near Normal Levels

Drinking water reservoirs at Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca are currently near normal levels. Source: <http://www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/nab/potopub.html>

### Probability of Reservoir Releases – Above Normal

As of the August 2024 report released on August 8, there is an above normal probability of releases from the Washington metropolitan area’s back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2024 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 **19 to 36** 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](#)

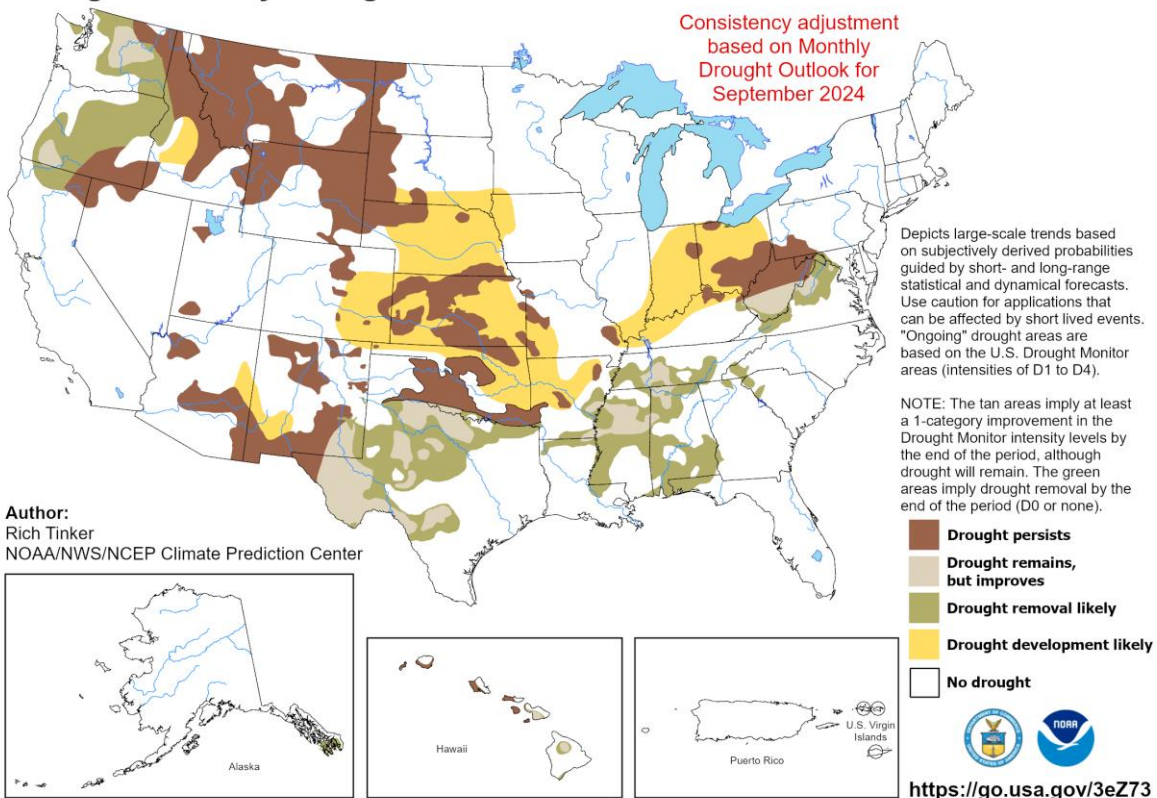
### Seasonal Drought Outlook

The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook released on August 31 predicts drought removal or improvement over the next three months. Source: [National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center](#)

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

Valid for September 1 - November 30, 2024  
Released August 31, 2024

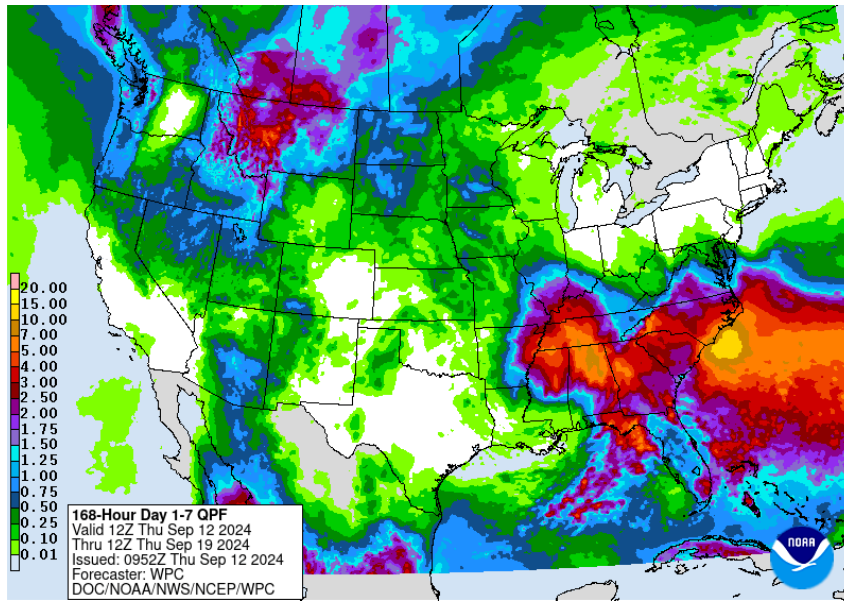
Consistency adjustment  
based on Monthly  
Drought Outlook for  
September 2024





### Short Term Precipitation Outlook

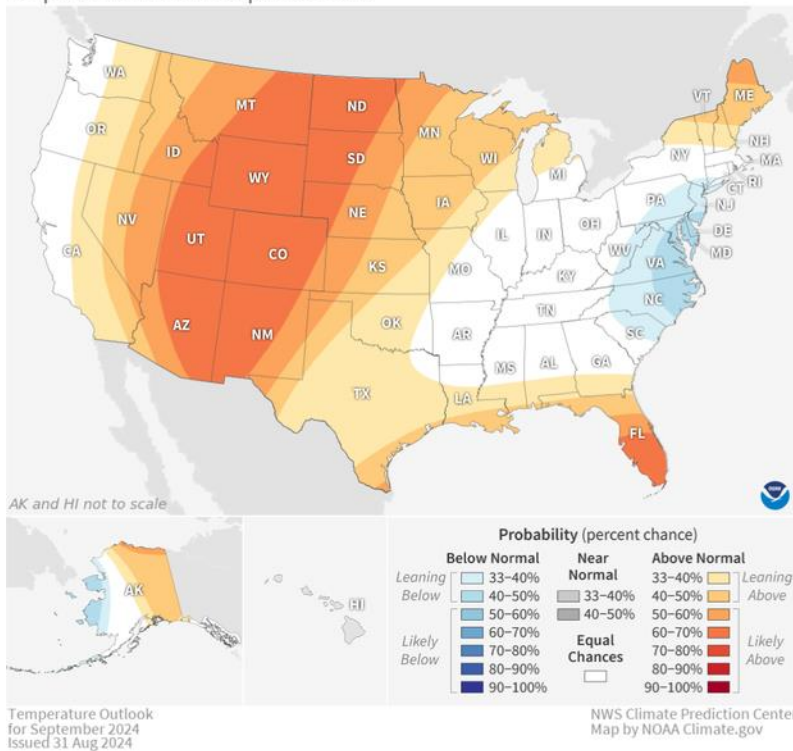
The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast calls for roughly 0.25 – 0.75 inches of rain in the COG region.



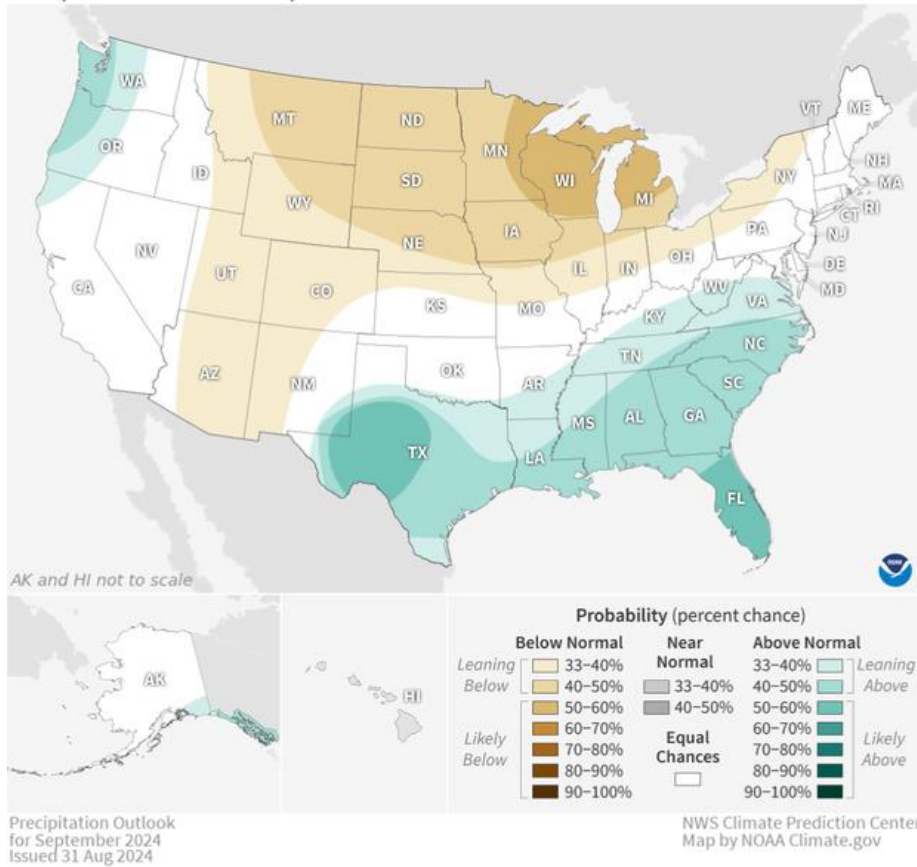
Source: [NOAA NWS Weather Prediction Center](https://www.weather.gov/wmo)

### U.S. Climate Outlook for September –Temperature and Precipitation

#### Temperature outlook for September 2024



## Precipitation outlook for September 2024



For more details on how to interpret these maps [Understanding NOAA's monthly climate outlooks](#). Map by NOAA Climate.gov, based on data from the Climate Prediction Center.