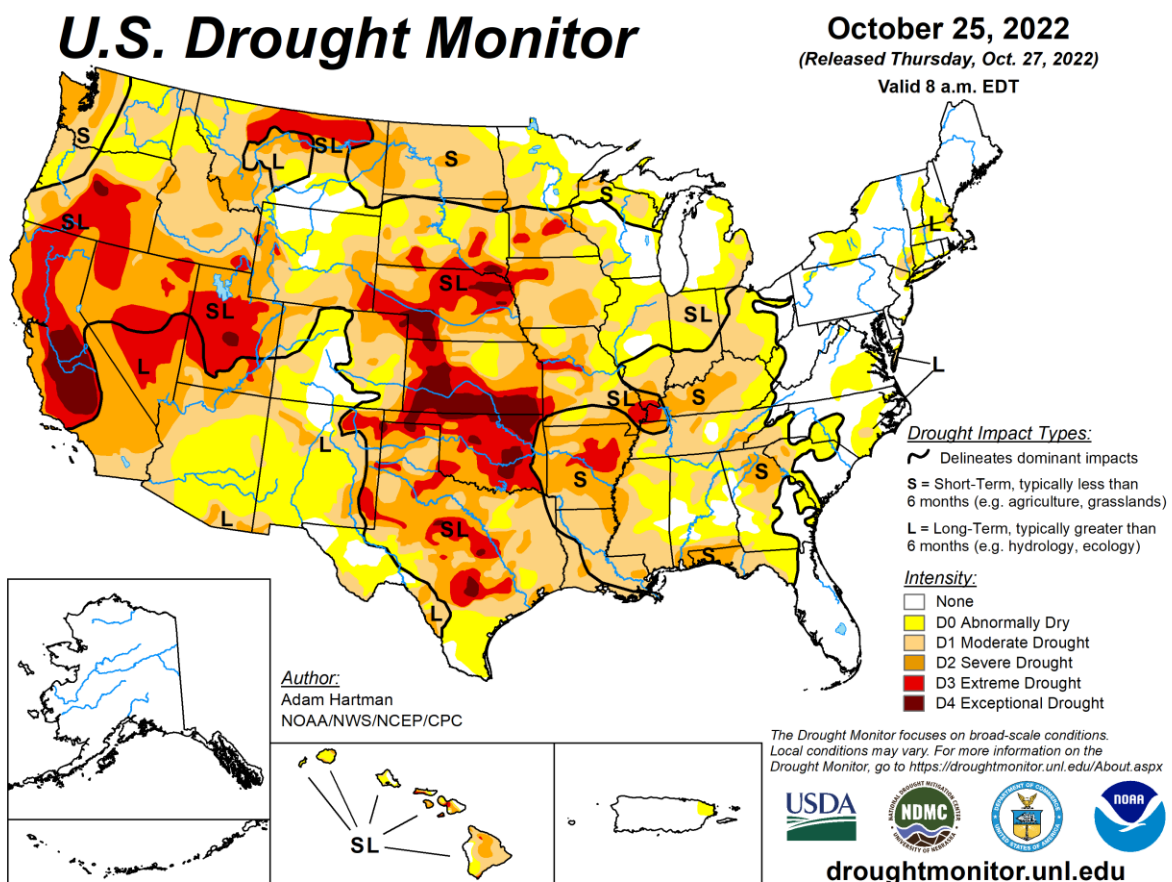


Regional Drought and Water Supply Status October 2022

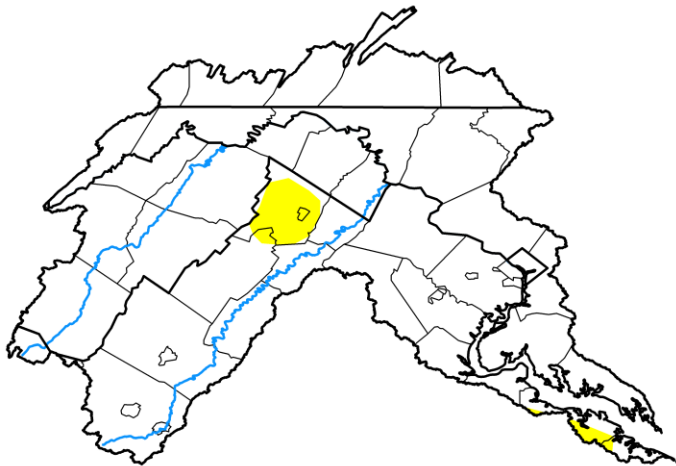
Summary of Current Conditions in the COG Region - As of October 27, 2022

The latest U.S. Drought monitor released October 27 indicates that the COG region is currently free of drought. 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. Potomac River flow at Point of Rocks has dropped below a 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 withdrawals. Groundwater, streamflow, and precipitation levels are below normal, but 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

October 25, 2022
(Released Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	97.14	2.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week <i>10-20-2022</i>	99.53	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>07-28-2022</i>	78.17	21.83	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>09-29-2022</i>	89.89	10.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <i>10-28-2021</i>	97.91	2.09	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:

Adam Hartman
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



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 October 28 were:

Little Falls –1,910 cfs (median, 2,960 cfs)

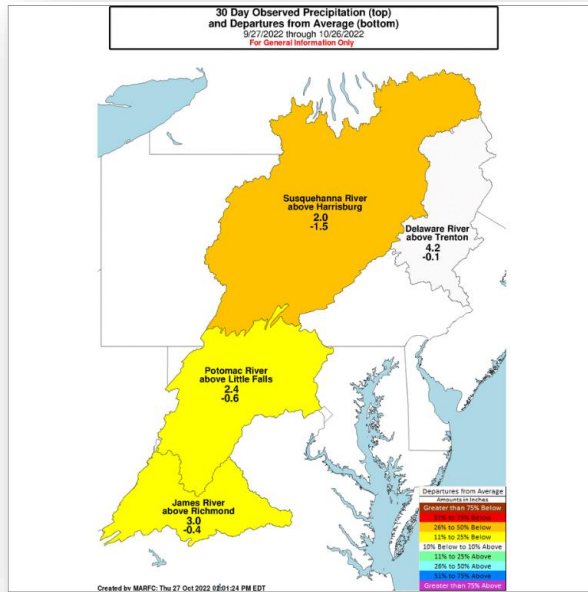
Point of Rocks –1,960 cfs (median, 2,530 cfs)

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

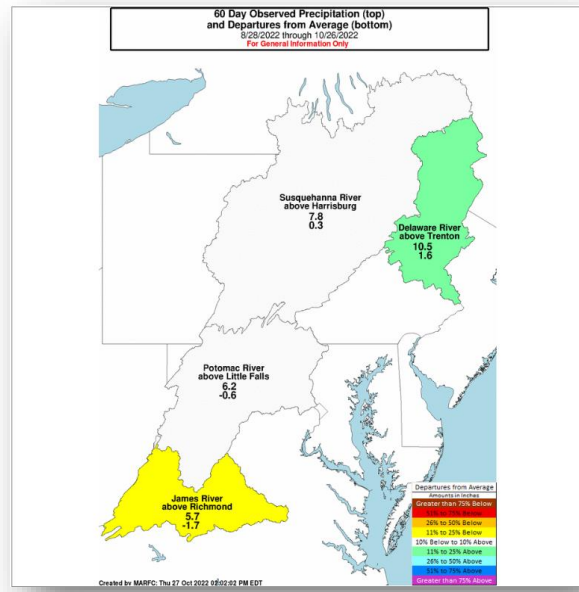
Source: USGS Point of Rocks: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/uv?01638500>

Potomac Basin Precipitation 30 and 60 Day (through 10.26.22) – below normal

The Potomac Basin received 2.4 inches of precipitation in the last 30 days, 0.6 inches below normal and 6.2 inches, 0.6 inches 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

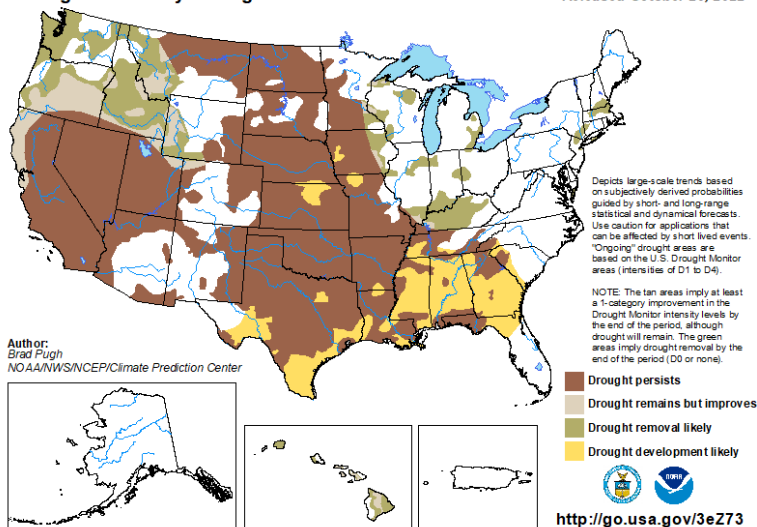
Drought Outlook - Normal

The latest U.S. Seasonal Outlook released on October 20 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 October 20, 2022 - January 31, 2023
Released October 20, 2022



Groundwater Levels – Below Normal

In the COG region, groundwater levels are below normal.

<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>

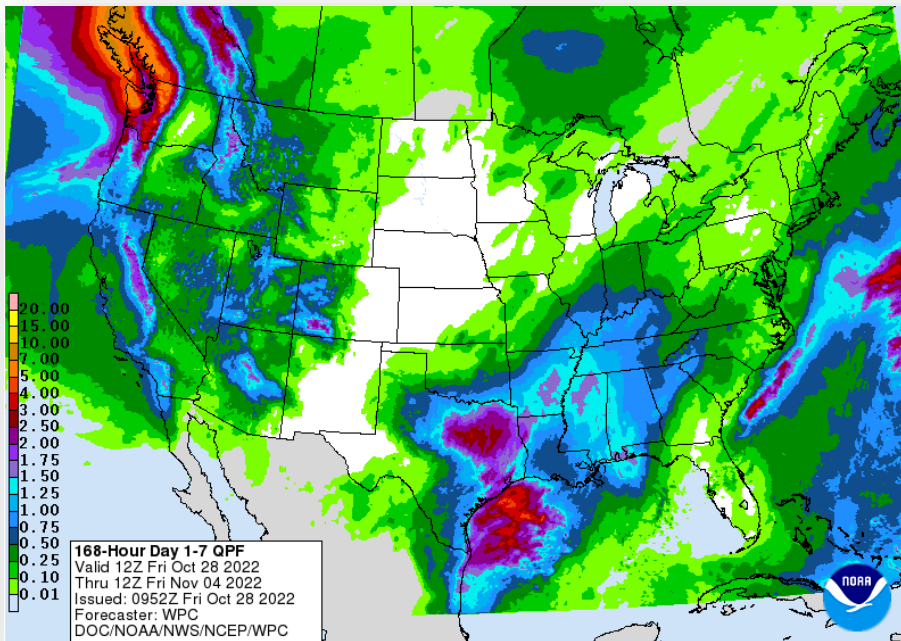
As of the October 2022 report, there is a near average probability of releases from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2022 summer and fall seasons. Generally, the use of Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca reservoirs is triggered by low flows brought about by a combination of low precipitation and low groundwater levels. There is a 2 to 6 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 .0.10 inches of rain in the COG region.

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



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

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