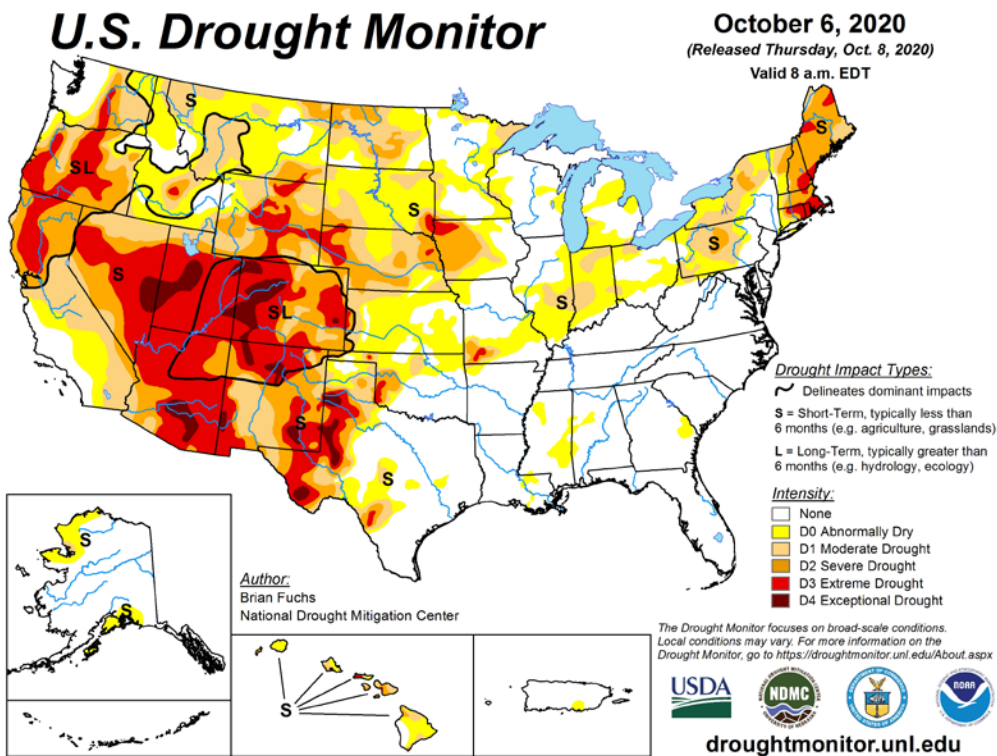


Regional Drought and Water Supply Status October 2020



SUMMARY OF CURRENT CONDITIONS (as October 9, 2020) – NORMAL

- U.S. Drought Monitor – Normal
 - The latest U.S. Drought monitor released on October 8 indicates that the COG region is free of drought.
- Drought Stage - Normal
 - The current drought stage as defined in [COG's water supply and drought response awareness plan \(the Plan\)](#) is Normal. COG's Plan focuses on tracking and responding to drought conditions as it relates to regional water supply.
- Drought Stages from 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.
- Streamflow, reservoir, and groundwater levels – Normal
 - Potomac streamflow levels are currently above median levels and local reservoirs are full. Most of the regional groundwater wells monitored are at normal to above normal levels.
- Forecasts and Precipitation – Normal to Below Normal
 - The latest U.S. Seasonal Outlook indicates drought is not likely in the COG region over the next three months. The Potomac River Basin received below average amounts of precipitation over the past 30 days, but the 7-day forecast calls for roughly 1.5 inches of rain in the COG region.

POTOMAC STREAMFLOW LEVELS

Potomac streamflows are currently above median levels.

Instantaneous flows readings on October 8 were:

Little Falls –2,810 cfs (median, 2,420 cfs)

Point of Rocks –2,510 cfs (median, 2,230 cfs)

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

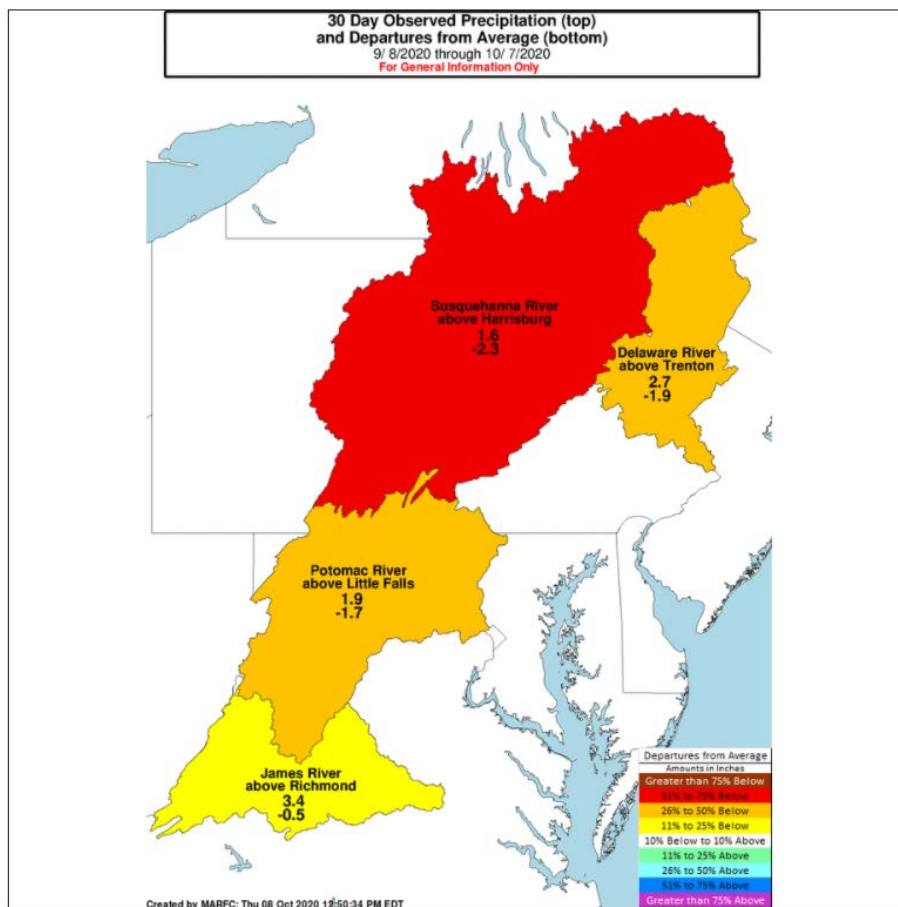
Source: USGS Point of Rocks: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/uv?01638500>

POTOMAC BASIN PRECIPITATION (as of 10/07/20)

The Potomac Basin received 1.9 inches of rain in the last 30 days, which is 11% to 25% below average.

Source: Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center

<https://www.weather.gov/marfc/BasinPrecipitation30Day>



GROUNDWATER LEVELS

Most of the groundwater levels are above normal to normal in the COG region with a few exceptions . One well in Prince George's County, MD is reporting low levels.

Source: USGS

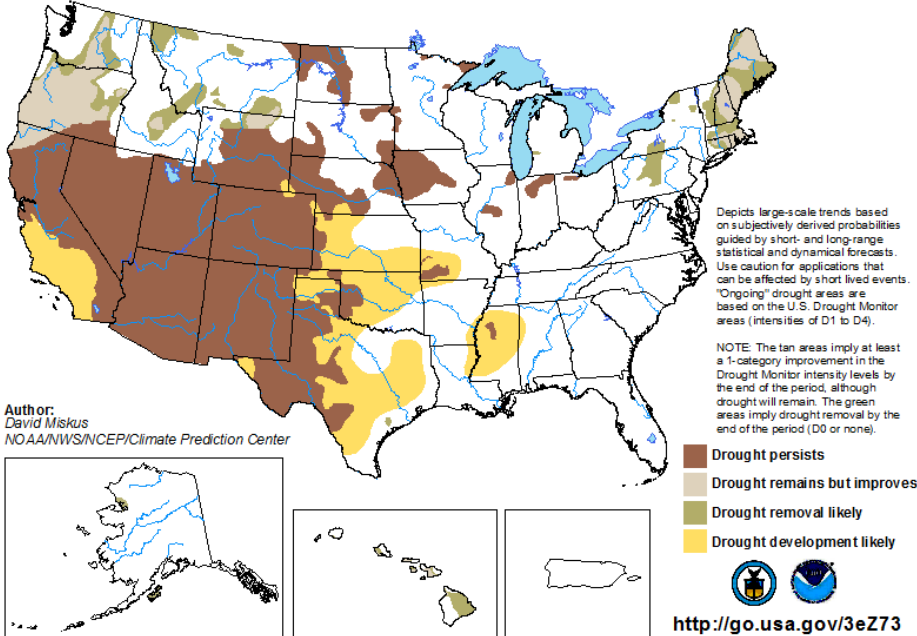
<https://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/RTNHome.asp>

DROUGHT OUTLOOK

The latest U.S. Seasonal Outlook 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 17 - December 31, 2020
Released September 17



RESERVOIR LEVELS

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 2020 report, there is a below normal probability of releases from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2020 fall season. 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 1 to 2 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.

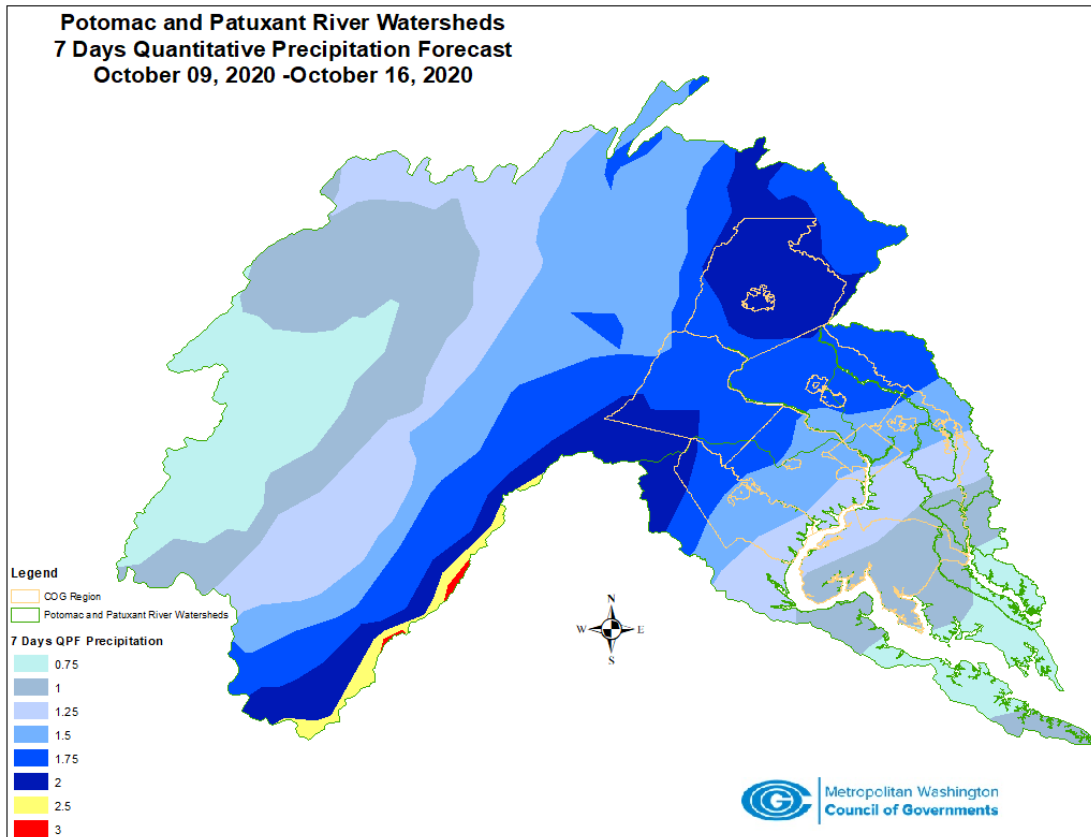
Source: ICPRB

<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/>

7 DAY PRECIPITATION FORECASTS

The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast, from October 9 -16, calls for varying amounts of precipitation throughout the Potomac River Basin ranging from 0.75 – 2.0 inches.

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>