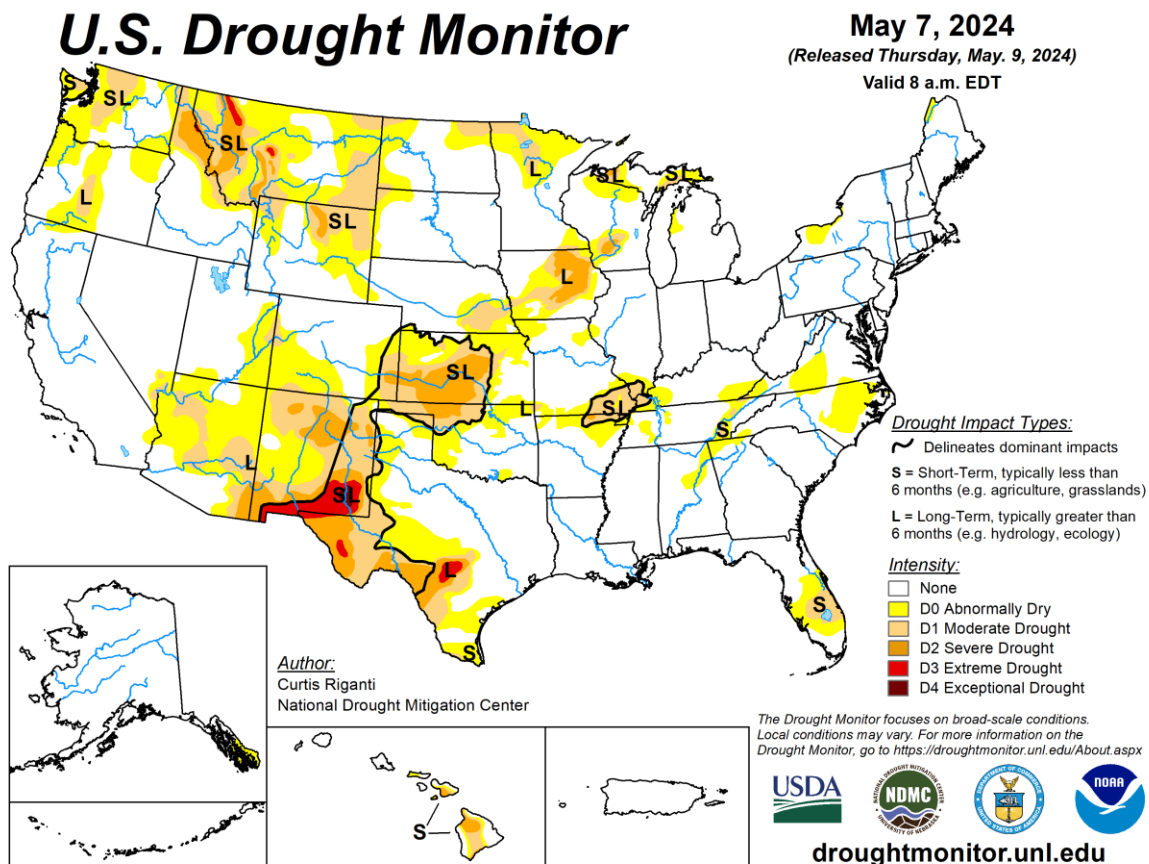


Regional Drought and Water Supply Status May 2024

Summary of Current Conditions in the COG Region – As of May 9, 2024

Conditions have vastly improved since our last report was issued in the fall of 2023, when we noted above normal temperatures, low precipitation and ground water levels, and a broad range of drought impacts. Currently, the COG region is free of drought and long-term forecasts predict a continuation of this drought-free status as we approach the summer months.

Current streamflow, precipitation, groundwater, and back-up reservoir levels are near normal for this time of year. The drought stage as defined in COG’s [Metropolitan Washington Water Supply and Drought Awareness Response Plan](#) is Normal. Areas monitored in the COG region by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ) are under a normal status as well. Please visit COG’s Water Supply and Drought Website at www.mwcog.org/drought for additional information.



Potomac Streamflow – Near median levels

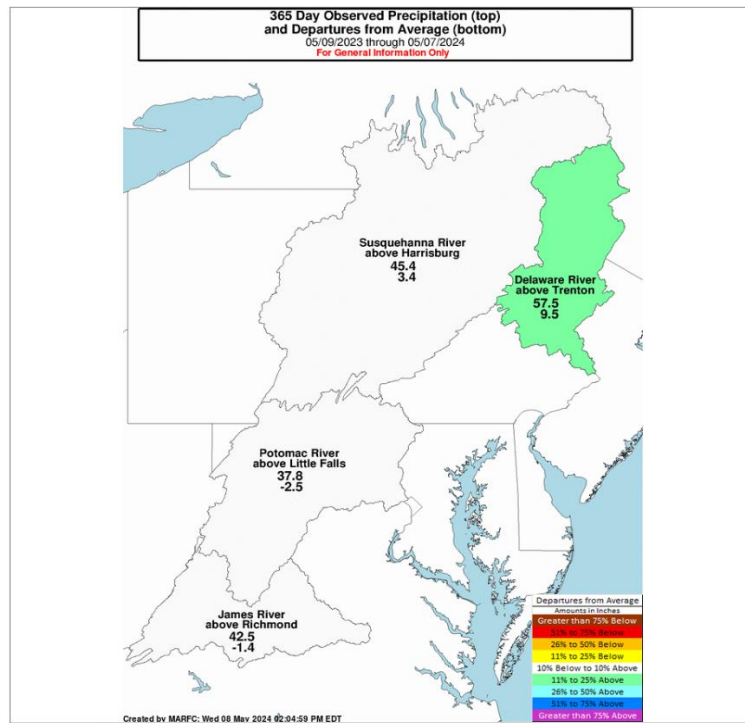
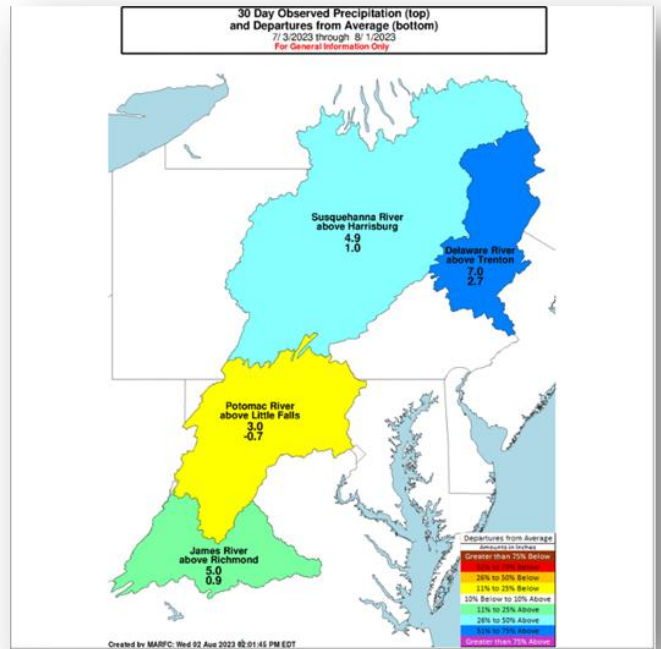
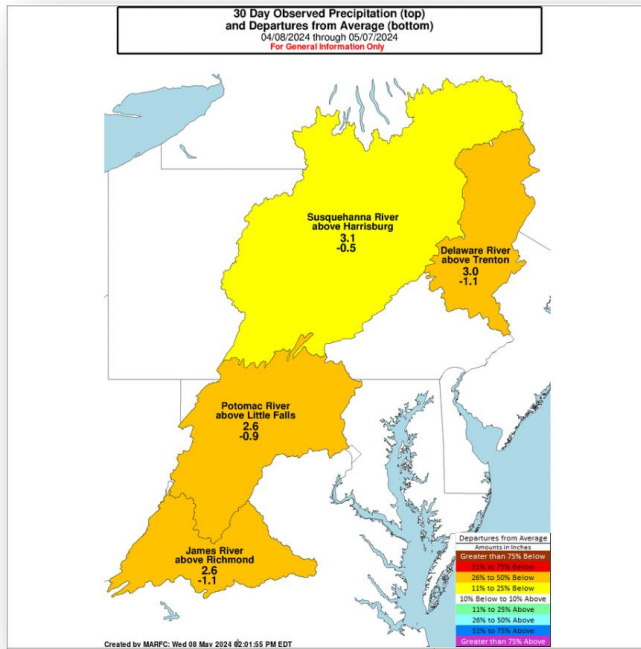
Instantaneous flows readings:

Little Falls: 8,150 cfs (median 12,500 cfs) Source: as of May 8 [USGS Little Falls](#)
 Point of Rocks: 11,100 cfs (median 9,380 cfs) Source: as of May 8 [USGS Point of Rocks](#)

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

The Potomac Basin received:

- 30 Day 2.6 inches of precipitation, 0.9 inches below normal
- 90 Day 3.0 inches, 0.7 inches below normal
- 365 Day 37.8 inches, 2.5 inches below normal



Groundwater Levels – Normal

In the COG region, groundwater levels are above normal.

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

Reservoir Levels - Normal

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 – Below Normal

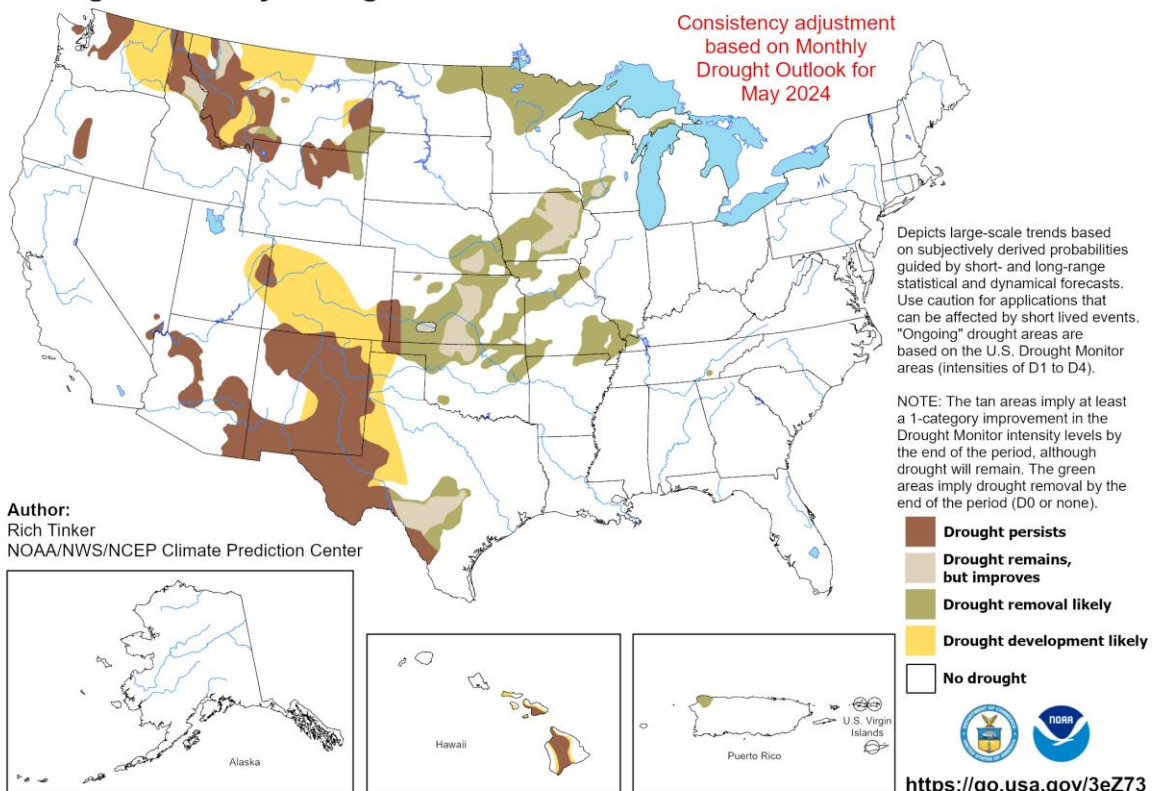
As of the May 2024 report, there is a below normal probability of releases from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2024 summer and fall seasons. Generally, the use of Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca reservoirs is triggered by low flows brought about by a combination of low precipitation and low groundwater levels. There is a **6 to 12** 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 – No Drought Predicted

The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook predicts no drought for the next three months in the COG region. Source: [National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center](#)

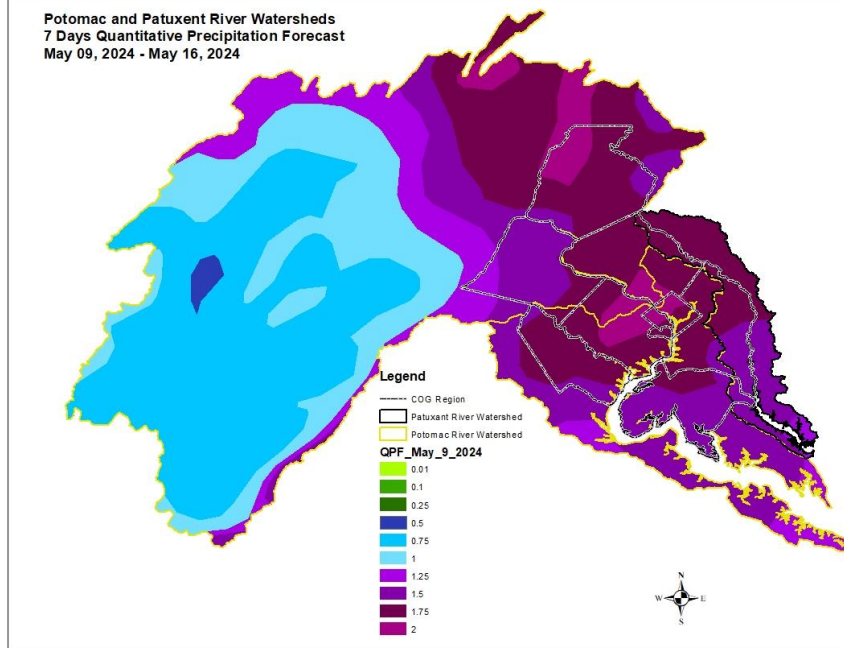
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for May 1 - July 31, 2024
Released April 30, 2024



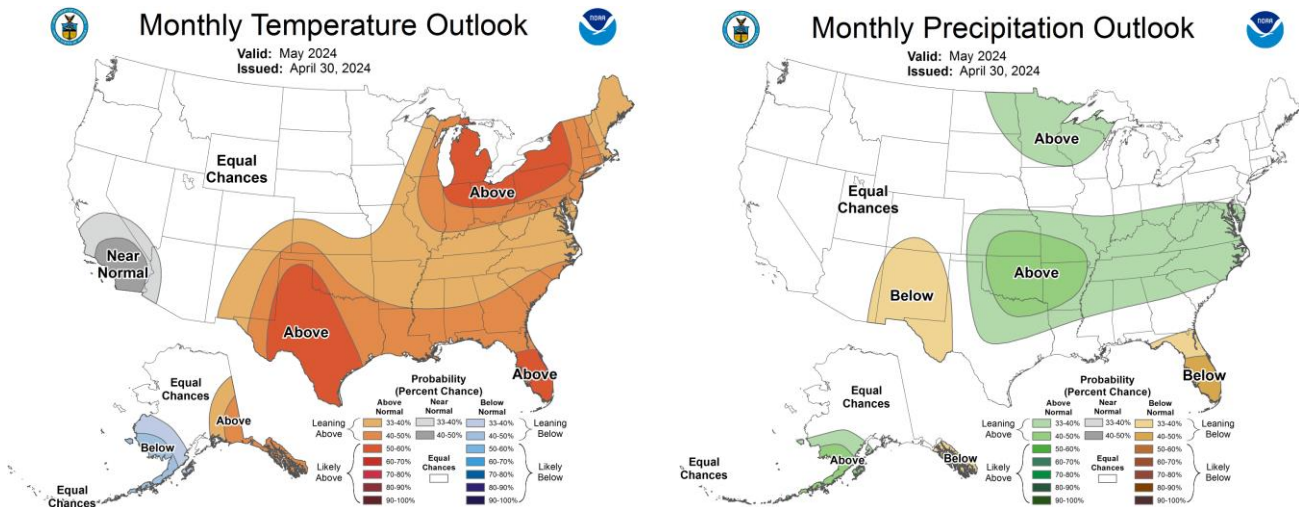
Short Term Precipitation Outlook

The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast calls for up to 2 inches of rain in the COG region.



Source: [NOAA NWS Weather Prediction Center](https://www.noaa.gov) and COG

U.S. Climate Outlook for May – Above Normal Temperature and Precipitation



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