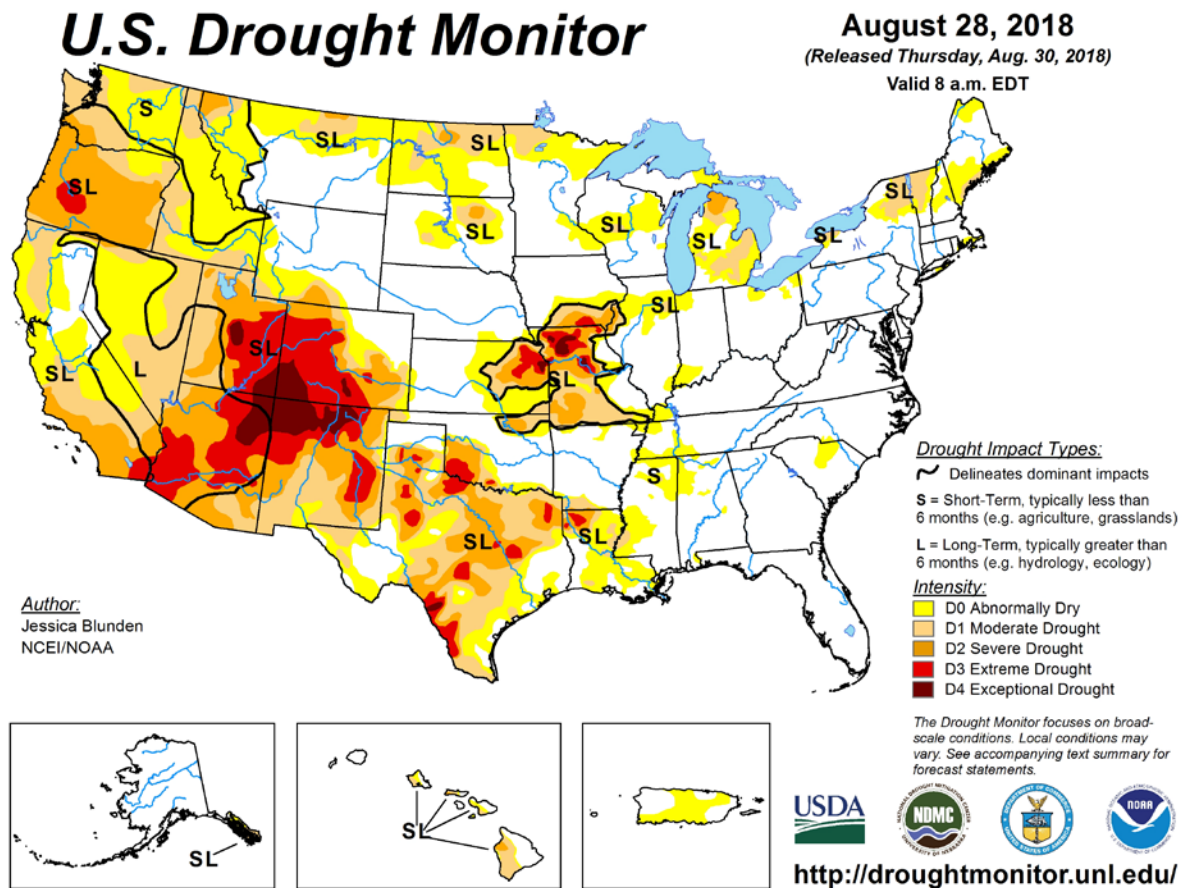


# Regional Drought and Water Supply Status August 2018

## SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS (as of August 31, 2018)

The trend of multiple rounds of heavy downpours continued throughout the month of August. This combined with record-breaking precipitation events in July has enabled the COG region to remain drought free during typically dry and hot summer months. Potomac streamflow, groundwater, and precipitation levels are at or above normal levels, and local reservoirs are full. There is a [below normal probability of releases](#) from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2018 summer and fall seasons. In [Maryland \(MDE\)](#) and [Virginia \(VADEQ\)](#) all COG regions are under a normal status.

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



The August 28 U.S. Drought monitor indicates that the COG region is free of drought.

Source: NOAA <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

## POTOMAC STREAMFLOW LEVELS

Potomac streamflows are currently above median levels. Instantaneous flows readings on August 31 were:

Little Falls – 7,880 cfs/median 2,330 cfs

Point of Rocks – 6,680 cfs/ median 2,320 cfs

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 (as of 08/29/18)

The Potomac Basin received 11.9 inches in the last sixty days which is 4.9 inches or 51-75% above normal. Source: Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center <https://www.weather.gov/marfc/BasinPrecipitation60Day>

### GROUNDWATER LEVELS

Groundwater levels vary throughout the Potomac Basin but many are reporting normal to above normal levels. Source: USGS

[https://md.water.usgs.gov/groundwater/web\\_wells/current/water\\_table/counties/index.html](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 Outlook indicates that drought development is not likely in the COG region over the next three months. Source: NOAA

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert\\_assessment/sdo\\_summary.php](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/sdo_summary.php)

### RESERVOIR LEVELS

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

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 2018 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 minimal (<1%) 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 FORECAST

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

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

