

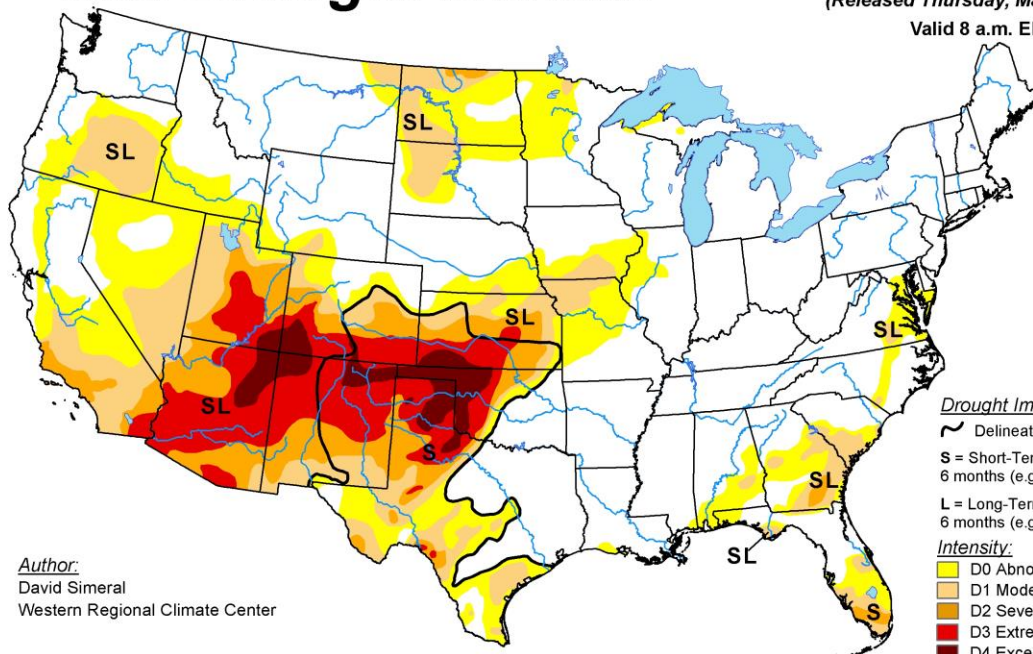
# Regional Drought and Water Supply Status – May 2018

## SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS

- The current U.S. Drought monitor indicates that the COG region is experiencing some **abnormal dryness (D0)**.
- Potomac streamflow levels are above normal and local reservoirs are full.
- Many groundwater wells are reporting normal levels and precipitation levels are slightly below normal for this time of year.
- In [Maryland-MDE](#), all regions are under a normal status.
- In [Virginia-VADEQ](#), a drought watch advisory remains in effect for the Northern Virginia drought evaluation region. It applies to public or private groundwater supplies or private surface water supplies in Fauquier, Prince William and Loudoun counties. Water systems using the Potomac River or Occoquan Reservoir are not included.
- For additional information regarding regional water supply and drought conditions, please visit COG’s website at: <https://www.mwcog.org/drought>

## U.S. Drought Monitor

**May 8, 2018**  
 (Released Thursday, May, 10, 2018)  
 Valid 8 a.m. EDT



### Drought Impact Types:

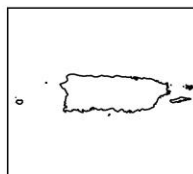
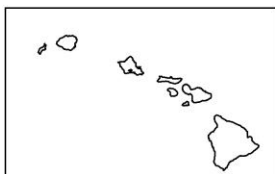
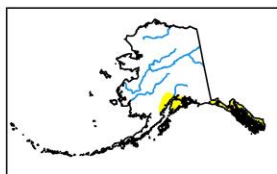
- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

### Intensity:

- 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. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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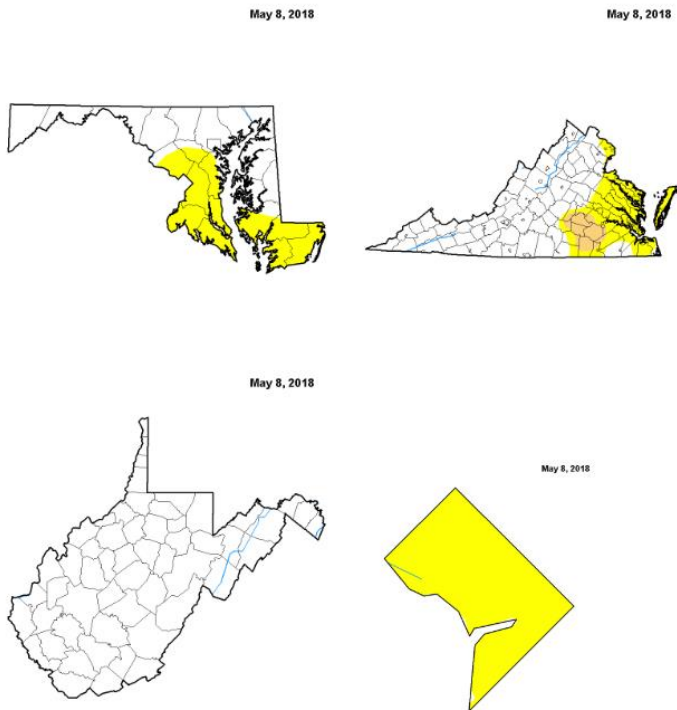


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



Metropolitan Washington  
 Council of Governments

Graphics by State:



The May 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Drought monitor indicates that the COG region is experiencing areas of abnormal dryness (DO) but conditions have improved since last month where moderated drought existed in the District and portions of Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Source: NOAA <https://www.weather.gov/lwx/drought> and <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

### POTOMAC STREAMFLOW LEVELS

Potomac streamflows are currently above median levels. Instantaneous flows readings on May 14, 2018 are noted below:

Little Falls - 11,500 cfs/median 10,700 cfs Point of Rocks 10,600 cfs/ median 8,880 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 05/14/18)

The Potomac Basin received 6.7 inches in the last sixty days which is 0.3 inches or 10% below 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 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 and Monthly Drought Outlooks indicate that there is no tendency for drought 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)

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

## RESERVOIR LEVELS

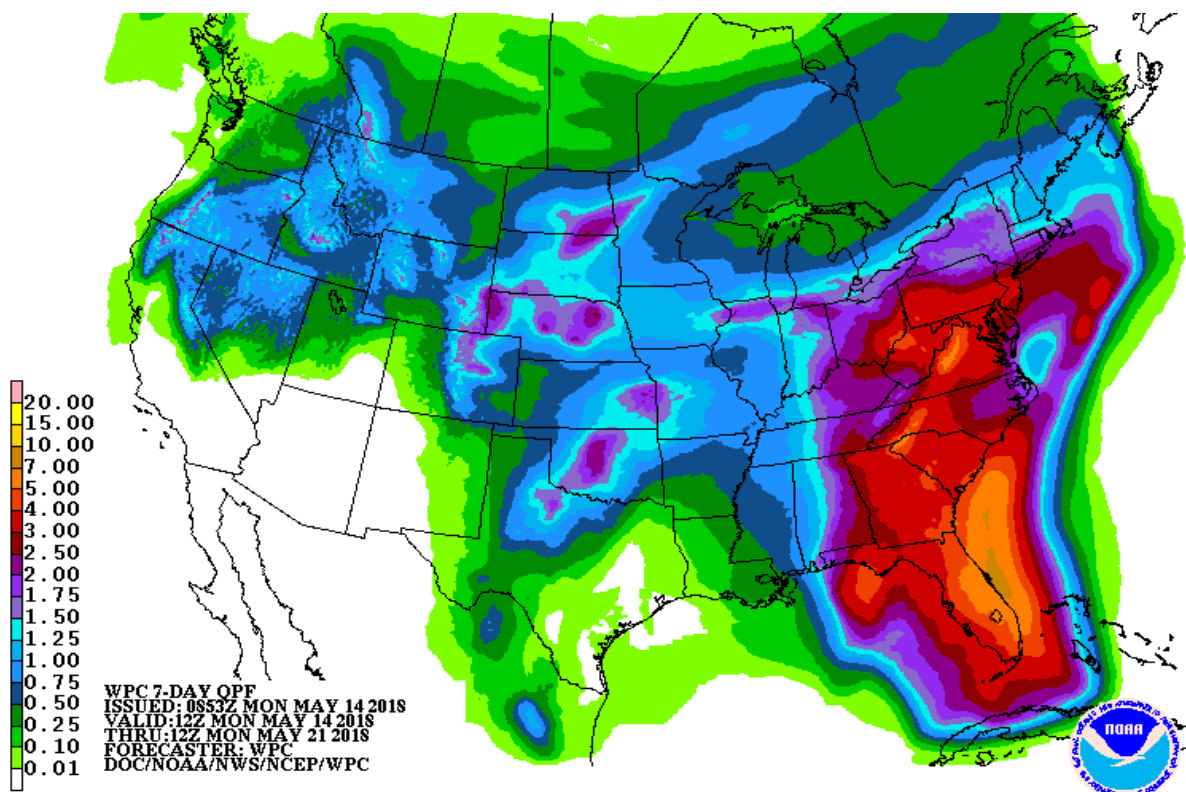
Drinking water reservoirs at Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca are near full levels. Source:

<http://www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/nab/potopub.html>

There is a below 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 4 to 9 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 FORECAST



The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast calls for close to 3.00 inches of precipitation. SOURCE:

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