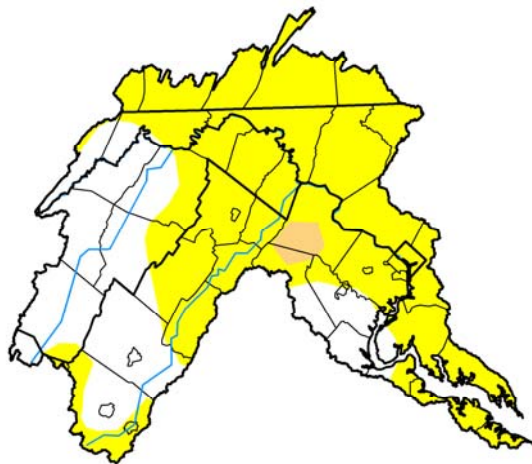


Regional Drought and Water Supply Status November 2019

SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS (as of November 1, 2019)

- Conditions continue to improve but abnormal dryness (D0) remains as the region recovers from dry and unusually hot conditions during the month of September. Streamflows have continued to stay above the monitoring threshold of 2,000 cubic feet per second at the Point of Rocks USGS streamflow gage and as a result, [the CO-OP](#) has suspended daily monitoring activities.
- 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.
- A statewide drought watch advisory is currently in effect in [Virginia \(VADEQ\)](#) and all COG jurisdictions in Maryland are under a normal status - [Maryland \(MDE\)](#).
- Potomac streamflow levels are currently above median levels and local reservoirs remain full. Most of the regional groundwater wells monitored are near normal levels.
- The latest U.S. Seasonal Outlook indicates that drought removal is likely in the COG region over the next three months. NOAA's Winter 2019 U.S. Precipitation Outlook states that we have up to a 40% chance of more snow or wetter conditions than normal.

U.S. Drought Monitor Potomac Watershed



October 29, 2019
(Released Thursday, Oct. 31, 2019)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	33.34	65.13	1.53	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 10-22-2019	19.05	47.72	31.74	1.48	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-30-2019	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2019	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2019	0.17	88.73	11.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 10-30-2018	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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.

Author:

David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



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

The October 29 U.S. Drought Monitor for the Potomac Watershed indicates that abnormal dryness (D0) and a very small amount of moderate drought (D1) exist throughout the COG region.

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

POTOMAC STREAMFLOW LEVELS

Potomac streamflows are currently above median levels.

Instantaneous flows readings on November 1 were:

Little Falls -17,600 cfs (median = 2,950 cfs)

Point of Rocks -5,740 cfs (median = 2,500 cfs)

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

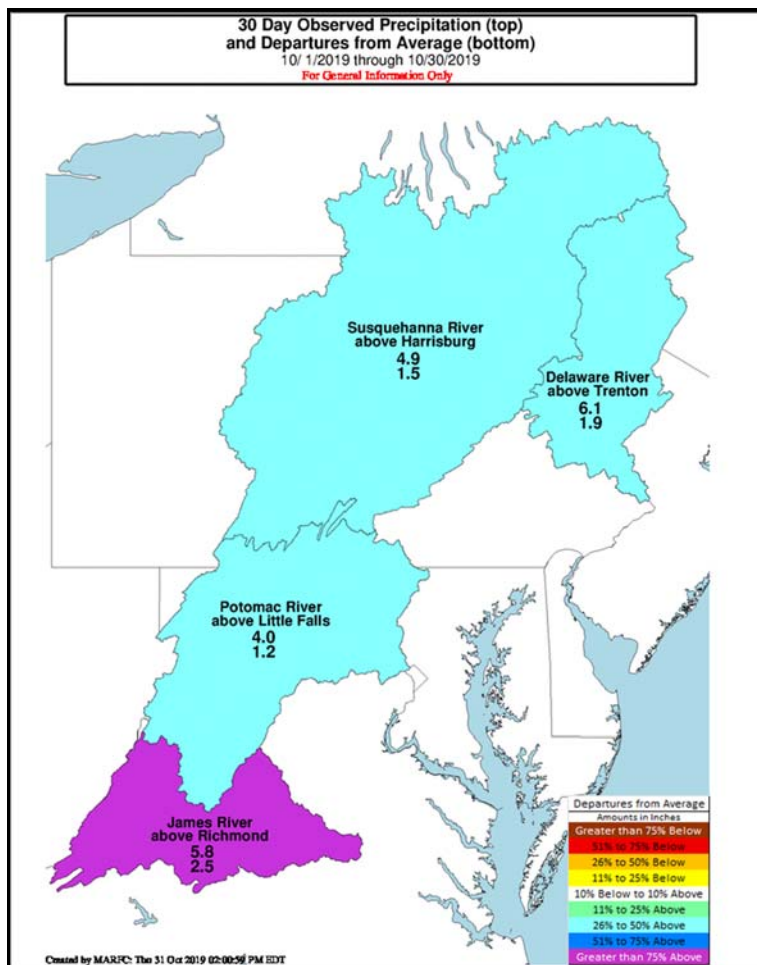
Source: USGS Point of Rocks: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/uv?01638500>

POTOMAC BASIN PRECIPITATION (as of 10/30/19)

The Potomac Basin received 4.0 inches of rain in the last 30 days, which is 26% - 50% above average.

Source: Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center

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



GROUNDWATER LEVELS

Some groundwater levels dropped over the past two months but remain near normal for this time of year.

Source: USGS

https://md.water.usgs.gov/groundwater/web_wells/current/water_table/counties/index.html

<https://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/NetMapT1L2.asp?ncd=crn&sc=51>

DROUGHT, PRECIPITATION, AND TEMPERATURE OUTLOOKS

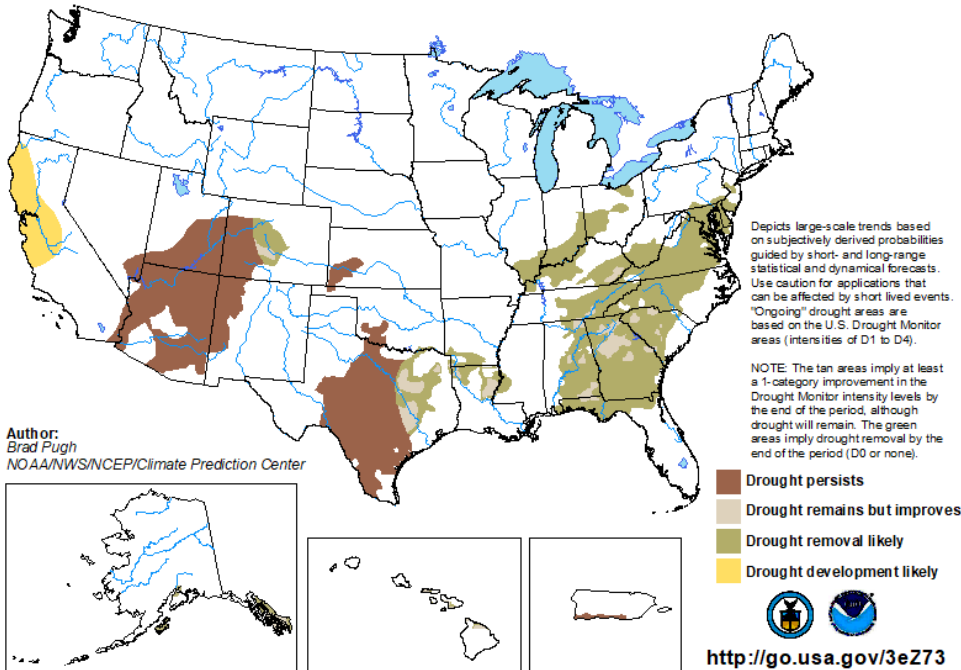
The latest U.S. Seasonal Outlook indicates that drought removal is likely in the COG region over the next three months. The National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center's thirty-day outlook calls for a moderate chance of below average temperatures. [NOAA's Winter 2019 U.S. Precipitation Outlook](#) states that we have up to a 40% chance of more snow or wetter conditions than normal.

Source: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/sdo_summary.php

Source: <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/>

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

Valid for October 17, 2019 - January 31, 2020
Released October 17, 2019



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 2019 report, there is a below normal probability of releases from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2019 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 one to four 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.

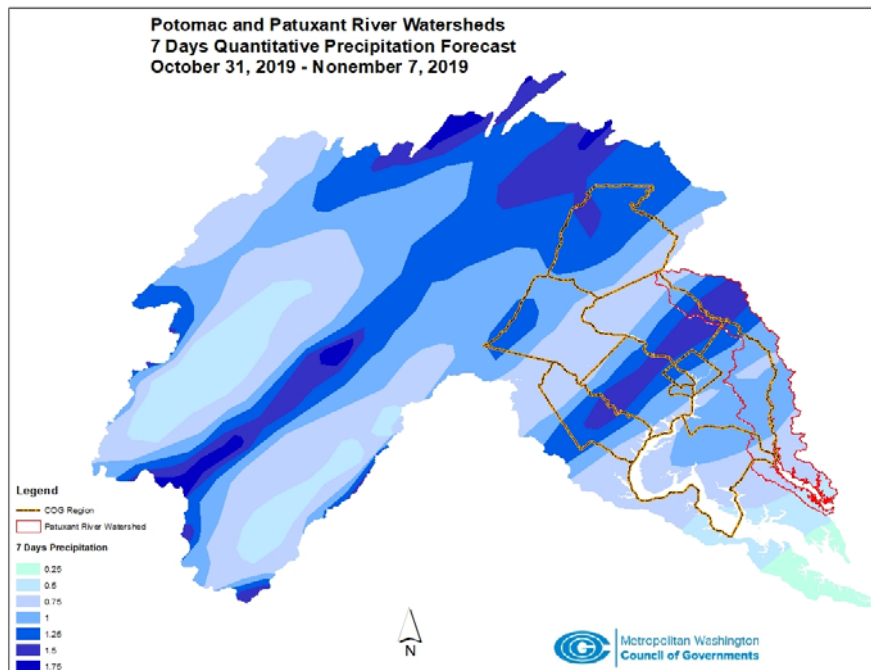
Source: ICPRB

<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 (as of October 31)

The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast calls for 0.50 – 1.75 inches in the COG region.

Source: COG and NOAA: <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>