

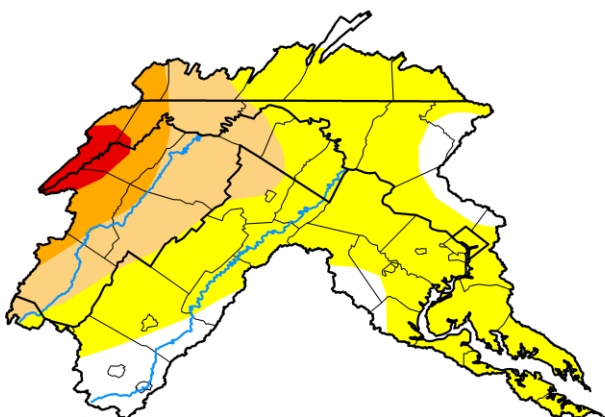
# Regional Drought and Water Supply Status October 2024

## Summary of Current Conditions in the COG Region – As of October 25, 2024

The [Drought Watch](#) declared by COG's Drought Coordination Committee on July 29 is still in effect. The COG region continues to experience abnormally dry conditions, according to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor, but the moderate and severe drought conditions that persisted a few months ago are no longer present. Precipitation, groundwater, and streamflows are below to near normal levels and local back-up reservoirs are almost full. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality issued a [drought advisory update](#) on October 10 indicating that Northern Virginia region is still under a drought watch advisory and the areas monitored in the COG region by the Maryland Department of the Environment are under a [Drought Watch](#).

COG's Drought Coordination Technical Committee (DCTC) is scheduled to meet on Friday, November 1, to receive updates from the National Weather Service and other regional experts regarding current conditions and forecasts. Based upon these updates, members of the DCTC will discuss either lifting or continuing with the regional Drought Watch. If a consensus is reached to lift it, a press release will be issued and posted to COG's Drought website at [www.mwcog.org/drought](http://www.mwcog.org/drought).

## U.S. Drought Monitor Potomac Watershed



**October 22, 2024**  
(Released Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
<b>Current</b>	11.76	58.95	19.50	7.13	2.66	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 10-17-2024	18.48	52.23	19.50	7.13	2.66	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 07-25-2024	5.51	4.21	18.23	20.23	51.83	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-04-2024	29.14	40.05	18.78	12.03	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 10-03-2024	19.32	37.95	25.75	14.23	2.75	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 10-26-2023	29.35	33.19	18.48	18.98	0.00	0.00

### Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

### Author:

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NCEI/NOAA



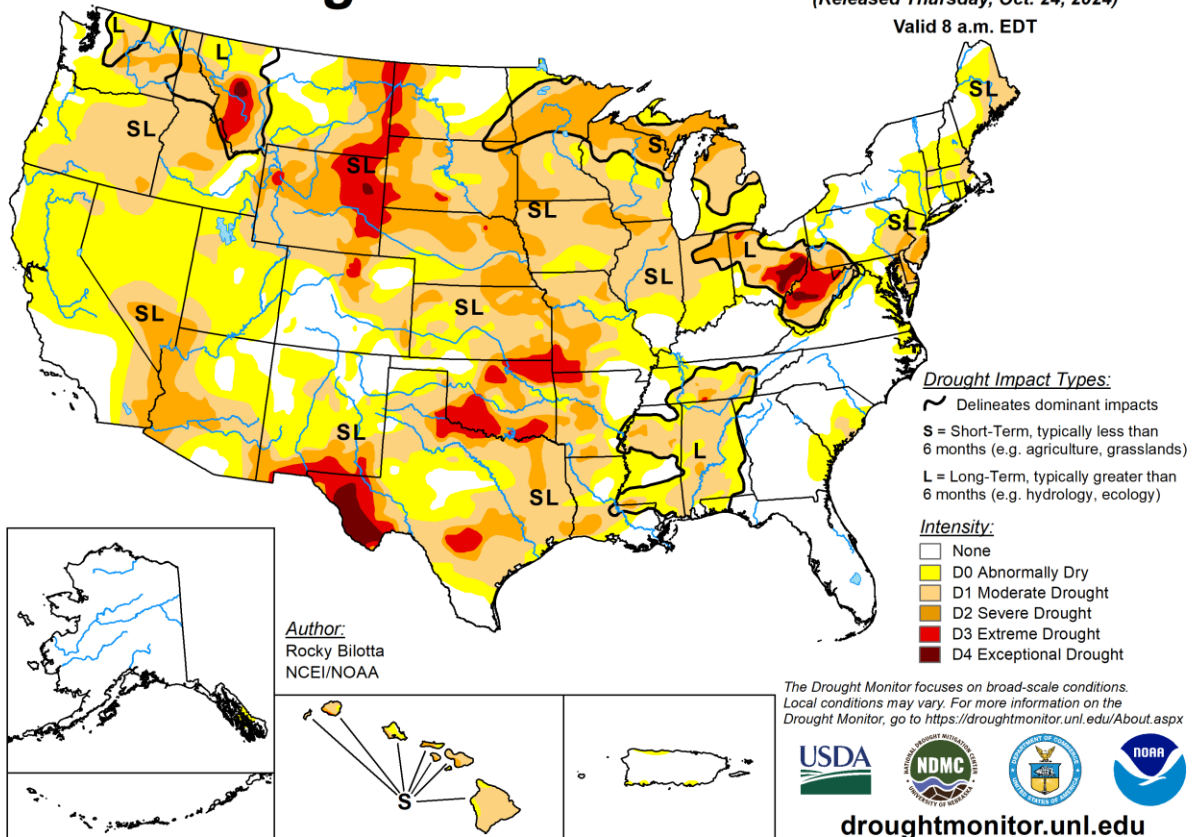
[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

# U.S. Drought Monitor

October 22, 2024  
(Released Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024)  
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## Potomac Streamflow

Instantaneous flows readings:

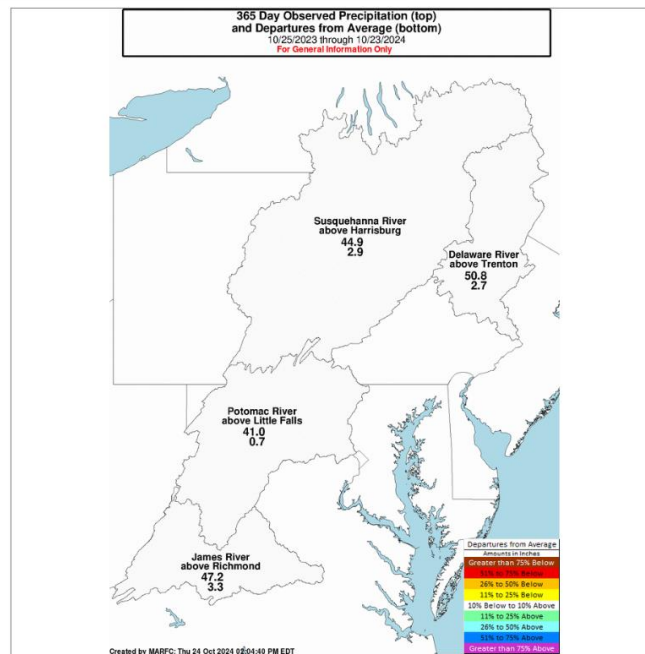
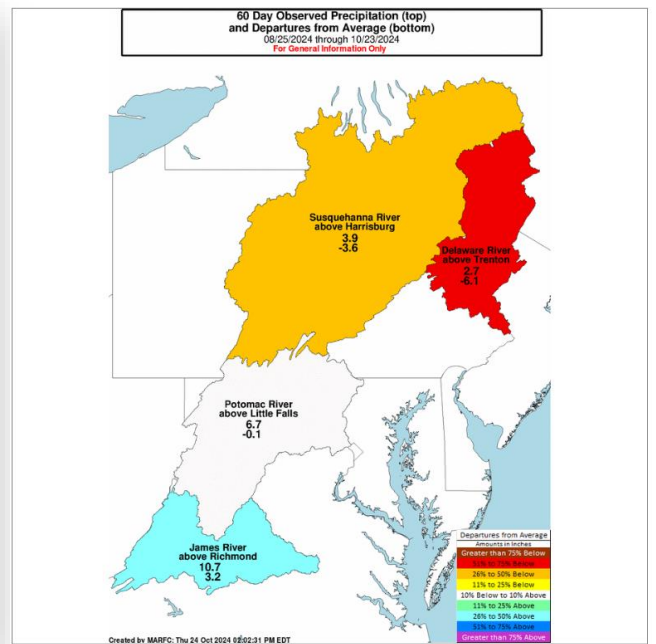
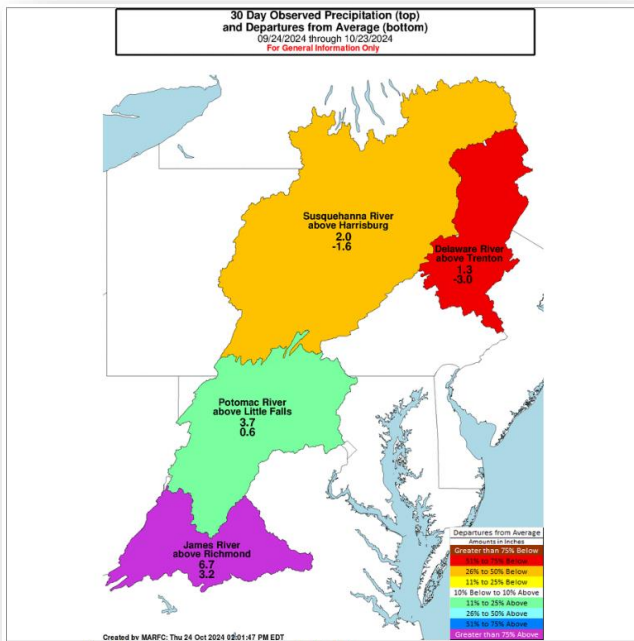
Little Falls: 2,160 cfs (median 2,530 cfs) Source: as of October 25 [USGS Little Falls](#)  
Point of Rocks: not available Source: as of October 25 [USGS Point of Rocks](#)

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

The Potomac Basin received (through October 23):

30 Day 3.7 inches of precipitation, 0.6 inches above normal  
60 Day 6.7 inches, 0.1 inches below normal  
365 Day 41.0 inches, 0.7 inches above normal

Source: [Middle Atlantic Regional Forecast Center](#)



## Groundwater Levels

In the COG region, groundwater levels range from near normal to below normal.

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

<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/va/nwis/current/?type=gw>

<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/current/?type=gw>

## Reservoir Levels

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

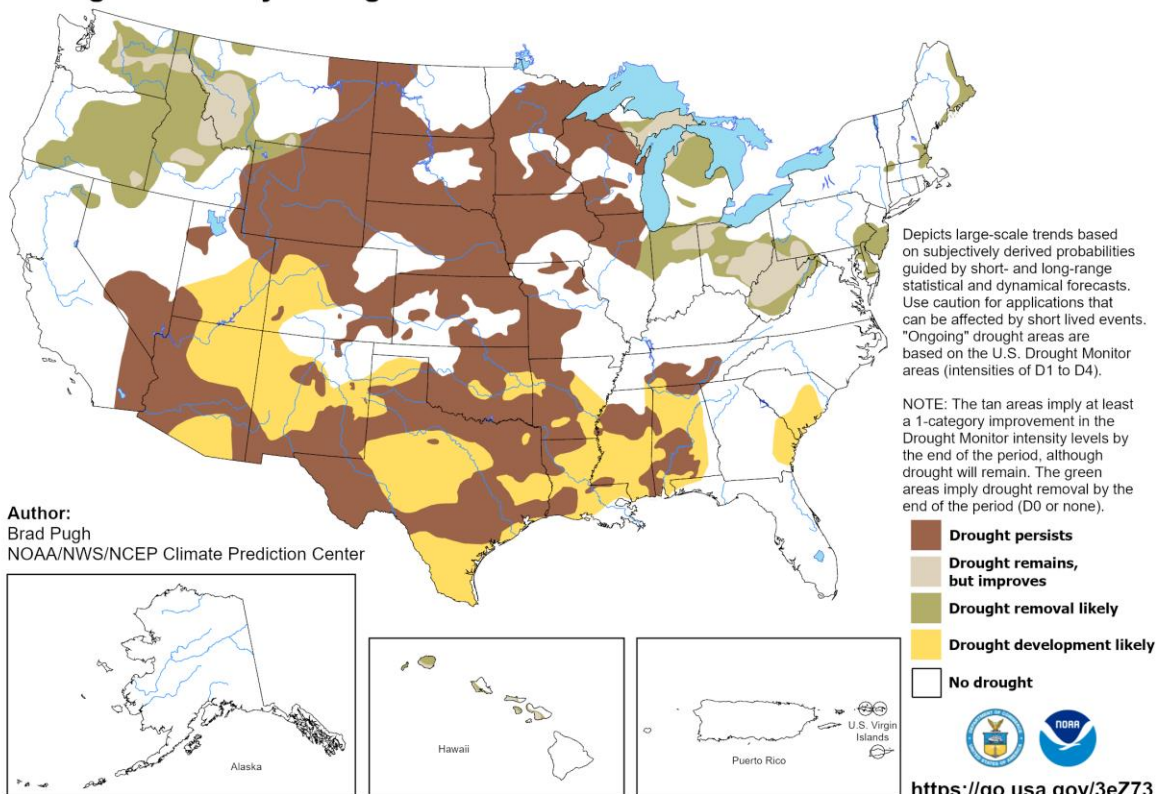
As of the October 2024 report, there is a below normal probability of releases from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2024 fall and winter seasons. Generally, the use of Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca reservoirs is triggered by low flows brought about by a combination of low precipitation and low groundwater levels. There is a **1 to 4** 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

The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook released on October 17 predicts no drought for most of the Potomac Basin with improvements in the western portion. Source: [National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center](#)

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

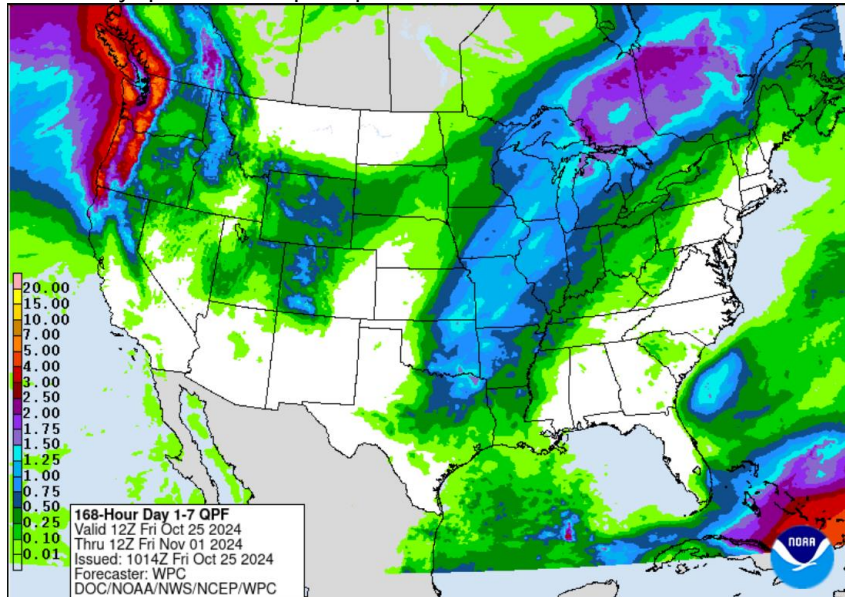
Valid for October 17, 2024 - January 31, 2025  
Released October 17, 2024





## Short Term Precipitation Outlook

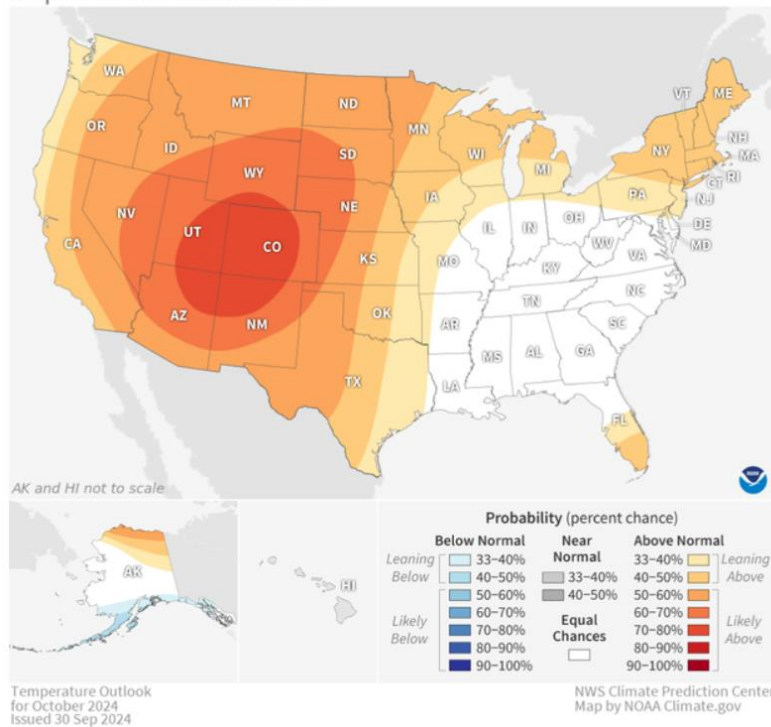
The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast calls for no rain in the COG region.



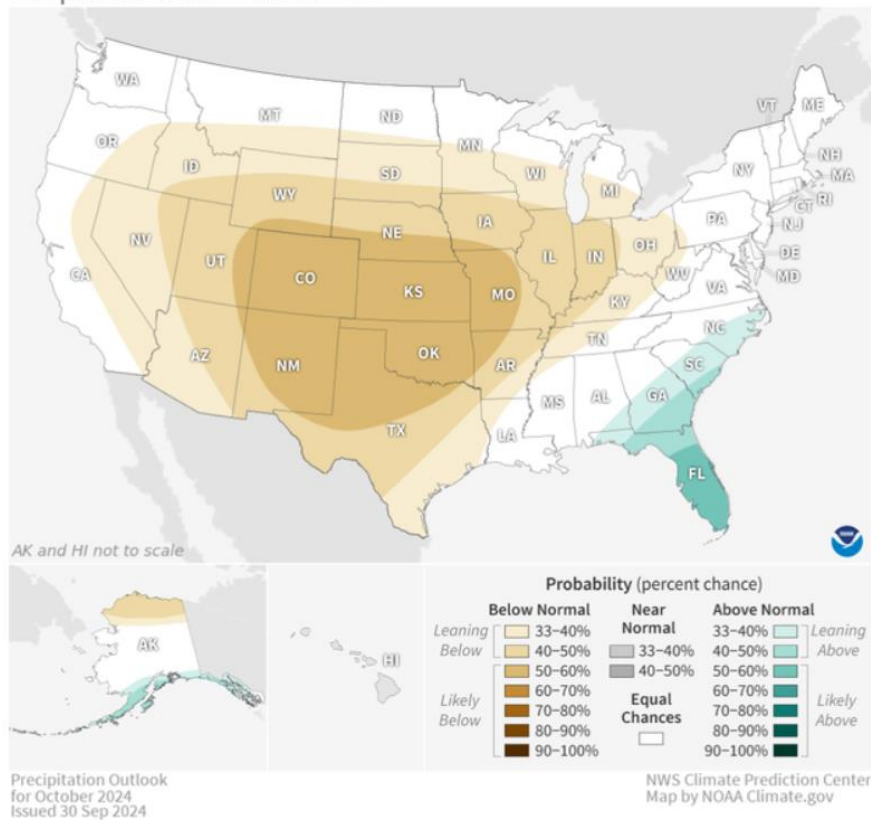
Source: [NOAA NWS Weather Prediction Center](#)

## U.S. Climate Outlook for September –Temperature and Precipitation

Temperature outlook for October 2024



## Precipitation outlook for October 2024



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