

Regional Drought and Water Supply Status August 2023

Summary of Current Conditions in the COG Region - As of August 3, 2023

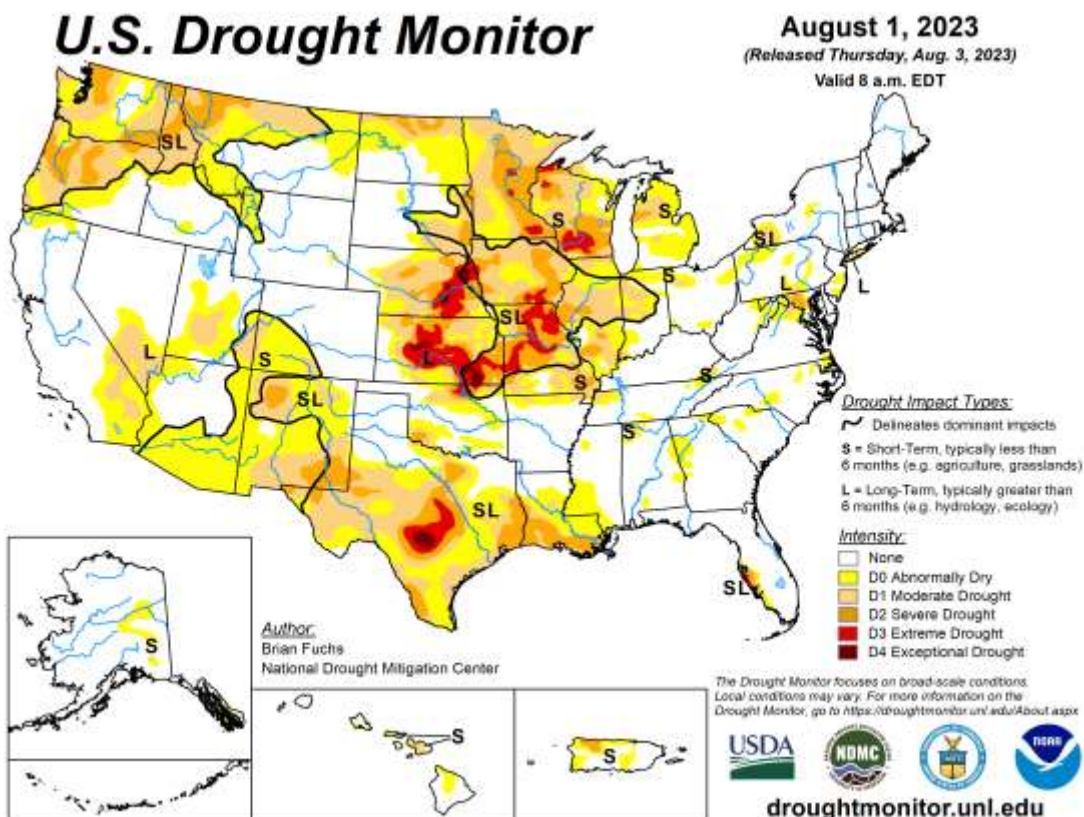
The latest U.S. Drought monitor released on August 3 indicates that abnormal dryness and moderate drought conditions are still present in the COG region along with small areas of severe drought in Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's, Maryland. Long-term forecasts indicate that drought conditions should improve this month due to predicted above average rainfall.

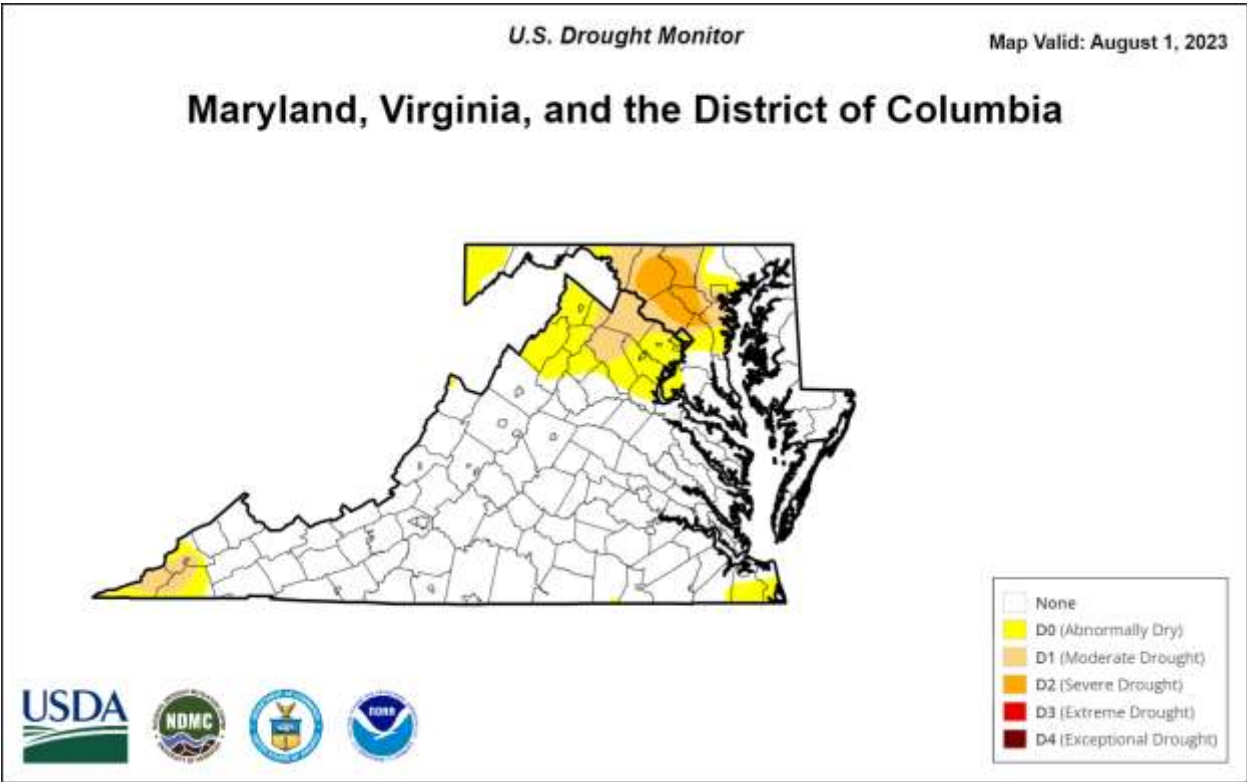
The Potomac River streamflow at Point of Rocks is currently below the low-flow threshold of 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). When this occurs, the [Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin's CO-OP](#) begins daily monitoring and reporting of Potomac flows and drinking water withdrawals. Groundwater, streamflow, and precipitation levels are below normal. Local reservoirs remain full.

The current drought stage as defined in COG's water supply and drought awareness response plan is Normal. The 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. COG will continue to closely monitor conditions and provide additional updates if needed throughout the month.

For more information, please visit COG's Water Supply and Drought website:

<https://www.mwcog.org/drought>





Drought Stage - Normal

The current drought stage as defined in [COG’s water supply and drought awareness response plan \(the Plan\)](#) is Normal in the COG region. COG’s Plan focuses on tracking and responding to drought conditions as it relates to regional water supply.

The 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. The [Drought Watch Advisory](#) that VADEQ issued in June for the Northern Piedmont drought evaluation region has been lifted. MDE recently issued a [drought watch advisory](#) for the northern part of Montgomery County and central and western portions of the state encouraging voluntary water conservation. The areas served by WSSC are not included in this advisory.

Potomac Streamflow – Below median levels

Instantaneous flows readings:

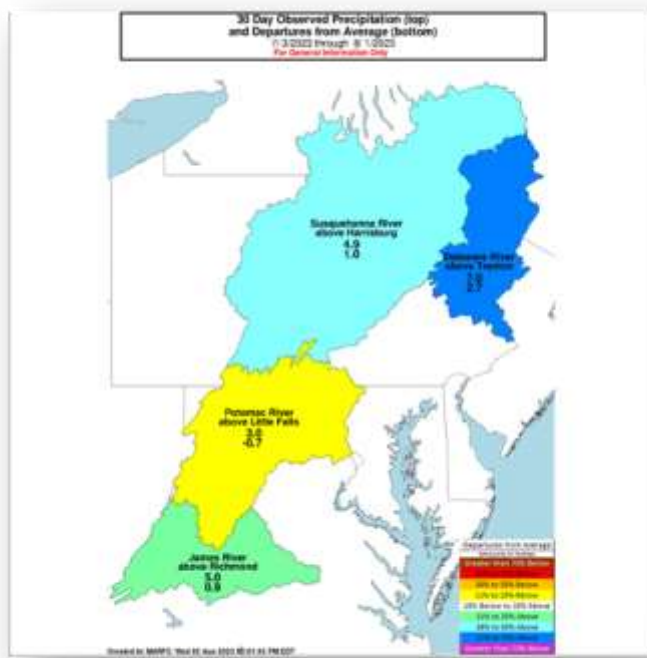
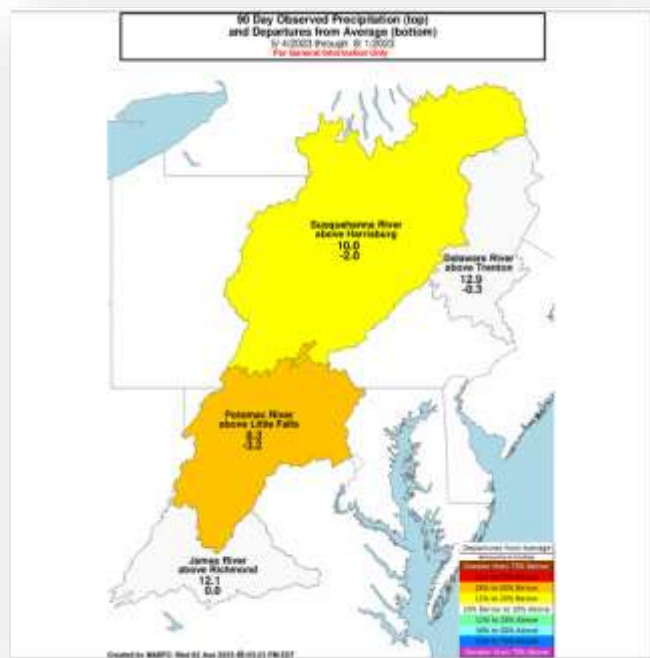
Little Falls: 1,500 cfs (median, 2,790 cfs) Source: as of August 2* [USGS Little Falls](#)
 Point of Rocks: 1,700 cfs (median 2,770 cfs) Source: as of August 3 [USGS Point of Rocks](#)

*Equipment malfunction at Little Falls, instantaneous flow is not available for August 3

Potomac Basin Precipitation 30 and 90 Day (through 08.01.23) –Below Normal

The Potomac Basin received 3.0 inches of precipitation in the last 30 days, 0.3 inches below normal and 8.3 inches, 3.2 inches below normal over the past 90 days.

Source: [Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center](https://www.mafcc.com/)



Groundwater Levels – Below Normal

In the COG region, groundwater levels are below 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 full.

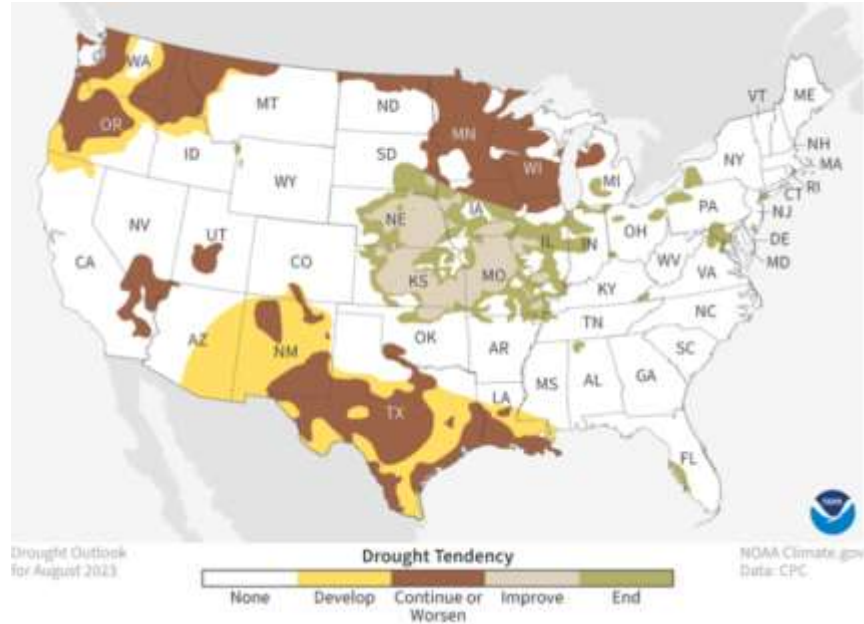
Source: <http://www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/nab/potopub.html>

Probability of Reservoir Releases – Above Normal

As of the July 2023 report, there is an **above normal probability** of releases from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2023 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 **27 to 45** 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.icprb.com/)

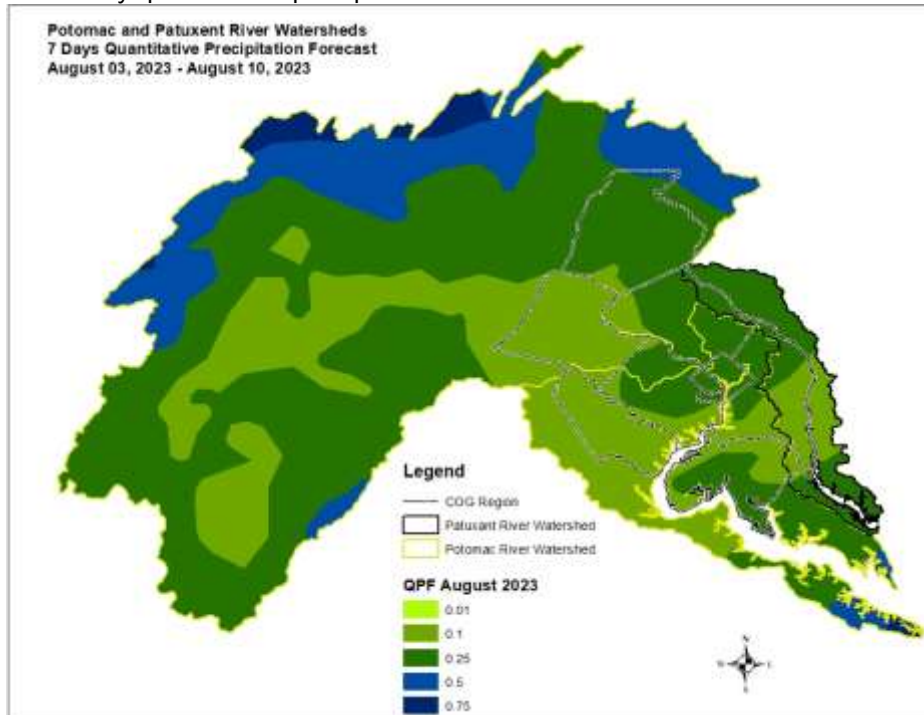
Drought Outlook for August – Drought Likely to end

Yellow areas are likely to see drought develop. Brown areas are likely to see drought persist. Tan means drought is likely to improve at least one category, and **green means drought is likely to end**. NOAA Climate.gov map, based on data from NOAA Climate Prediction Center.



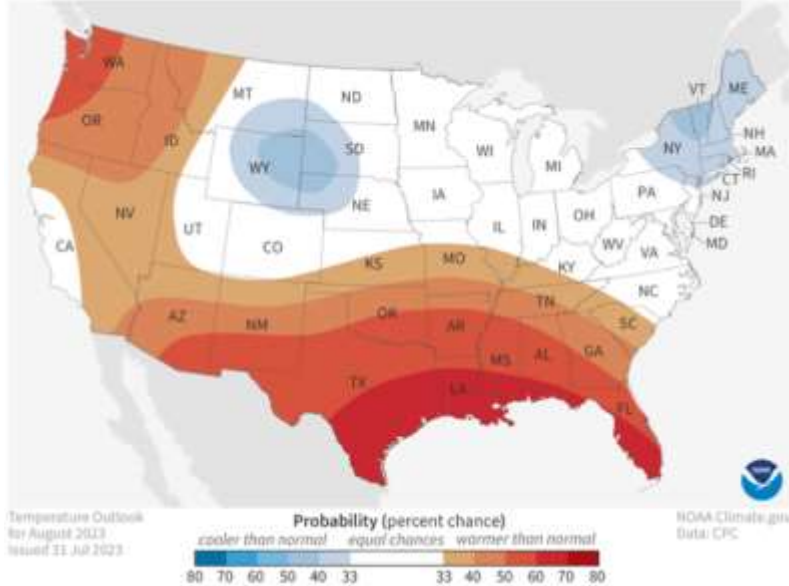
Short Term Precipitation Outlook

The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast calls for 0.01 -0.25 inches of rain in the COG region.

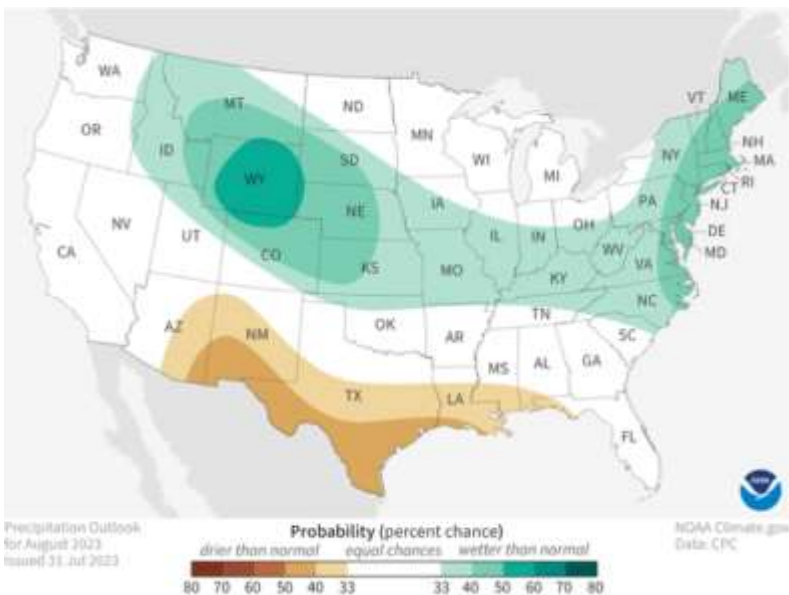


Source: [NOAA NWS Weather Prediction Center](https://www.noaa.gov/) and COG

U.S. Climate Outlook for August – Temperature and Precipitation



The U.S. temperature outlook for August 2023 showing places where a much warmer than average August is favored (orange to red) and where a much cooler than average August is favored (light to dark blues). White areas indicate that there are equal chances for a warm, cool, or near-average August. 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.



The U.S. precipitation outlook for August 2023 showing places where a much wetter than average August is favored (greens) and where a much drier than average August is favored (browns). White areas indicate that there are equal chances for a wet, dry, or near-average August. 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.