

# Regional Drought and Water Supply Status

## November 2024

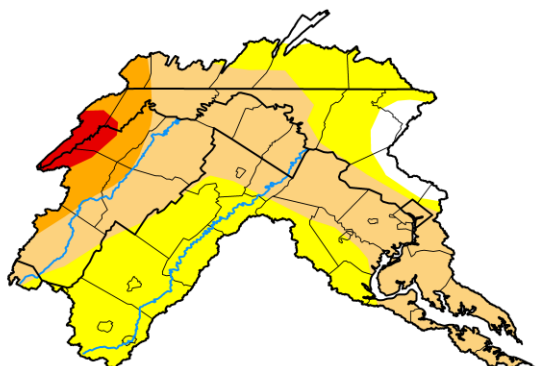
### Summary of Current Conditions in the COG Region – As of November 4, 2024

The [Drought Watch](#) declared by COG's Drought Coordination Committee on July 29 is still in effect. Our region continues to experience abnormally dry conditions, according to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor, with an expansion of moderate drought over the past last week. COG's Drought Coordination Technical Committee (DCTC) met on Friday, November 1, 2024, to discuss current conditions and consider either lifting or continuing the Drought Watch. Given that the long- and short-term forecasts are not predicting a significant amount of rainfall combined with expected expansion of drought conditions, the DCTC expressed support for continuing with the Drought Watch. A press release will be issued reinforcing the Drought Watch status, wise water use messaging, and an increased wildfire risk.

Precipitation and groundwater levels are below normal for the month and 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. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality issued a [drought advisory update](#) on October 10 indicating that the 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](#). Local back up reservoirs are nearly full.

COG will continue to closely monitor conditions and provide additional updates as needed. Please visit COG's drought website at [www.mwcog.org/drought](http://www.mwcog.org/drought).

### U.S. Drought Monitor Potomac Watershed



**October 29, 2024**  
(Released Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
<b>Current</b>	3.68	38.45	48.08	7.13	2.66	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 10-24-2024	11.76	58.95	19.50	7.13	2.66	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 08-01-2024	5.49	3.39	13.03	19.24	58.85	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> 11-02-2023	16.68	45.42	15.44	22.45	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:

Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center



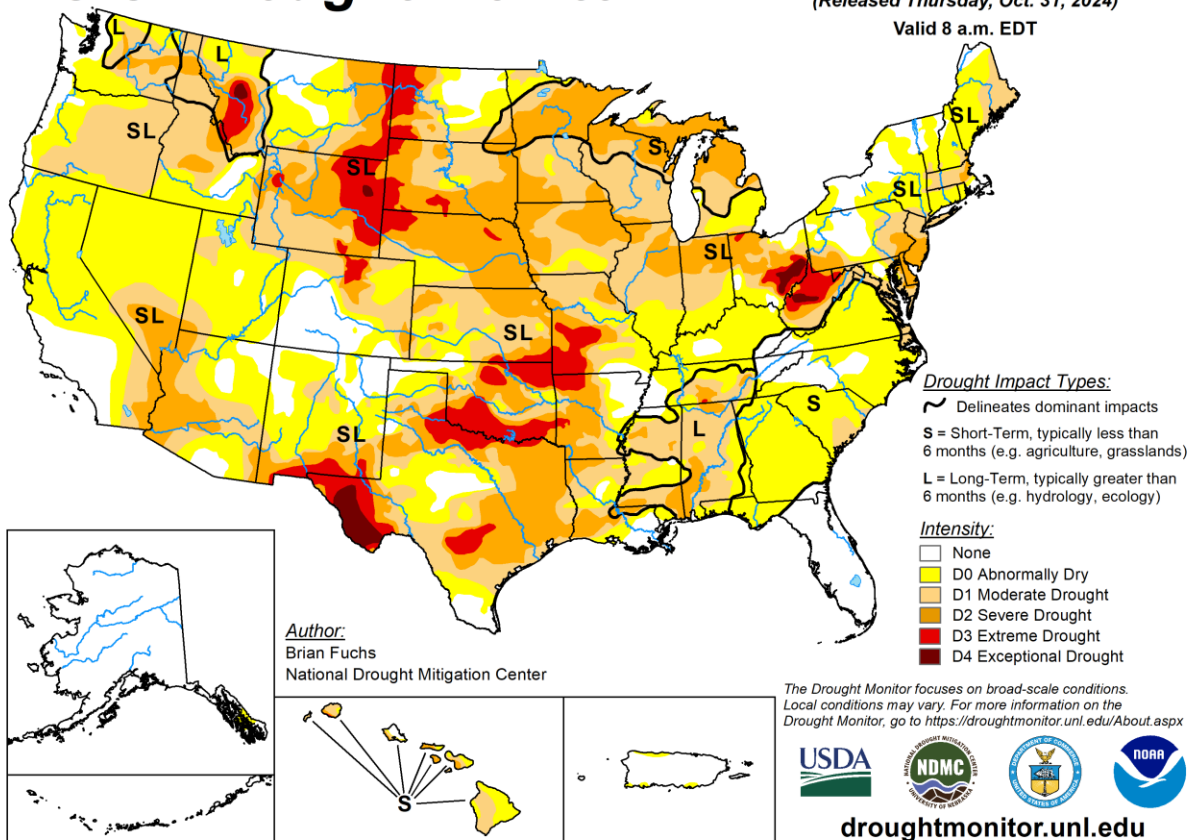
[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

# U.S. Drought Monitor

October 29, 2024  
(Released Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024)  
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## Potomac Streamflow

Instantaneous flows readings:

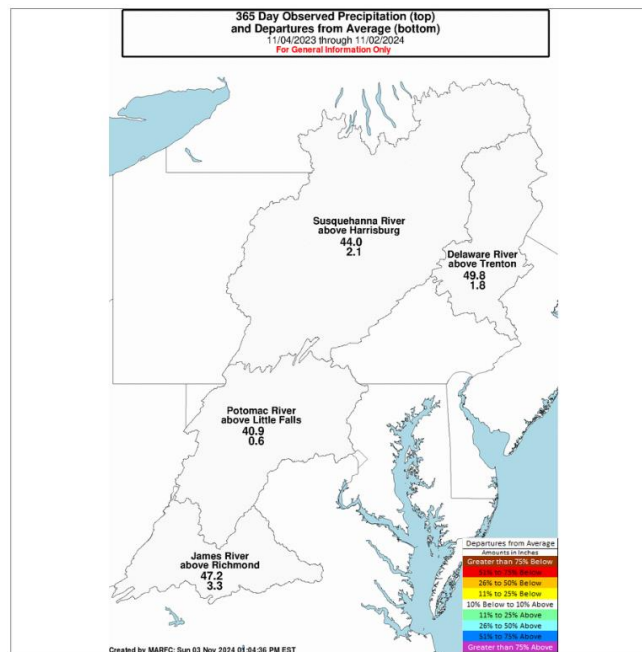
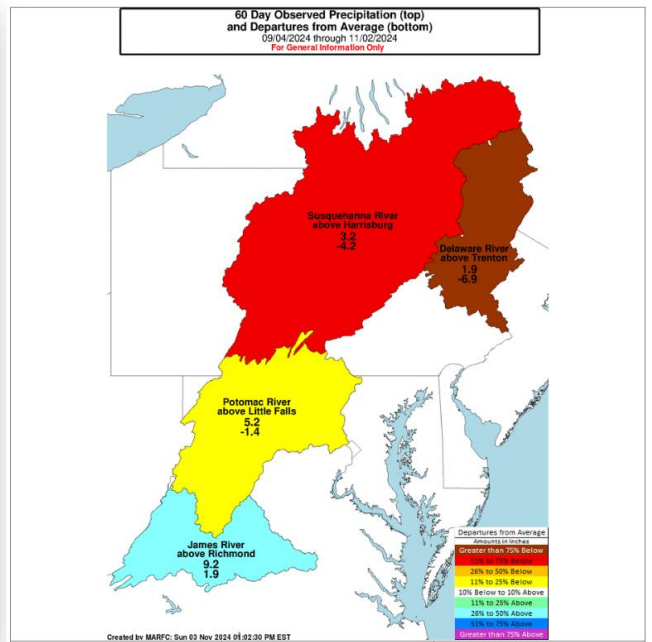
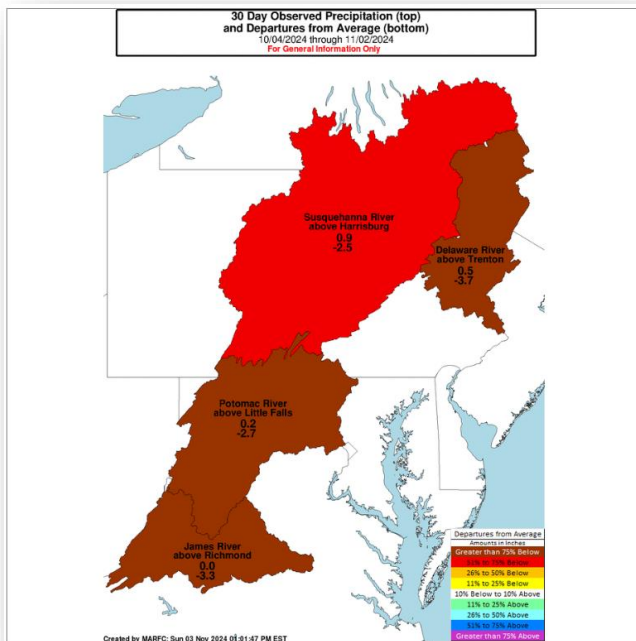
Little Falls: 1,890 cfs (median 3,510 cfs) Source: as of November 4 [USGS Little Falls](#)  
Point of Rocks: 1,780 cfs (median 2,760 cfs) Source: as of November 4 [USGS Point of Rocks](#)

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

The Potomac Basin received (through November 2):

30 Day 0.2 inches of precipitation, 2.7 inches below normal  
60 Day 5.2 inches, 1.2 inches below normal  
365 Day 40.9 inches, 0.7 inches above normal

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



## Groundwater Levels

Groundwater levels are below normal with some sites at record lows.

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

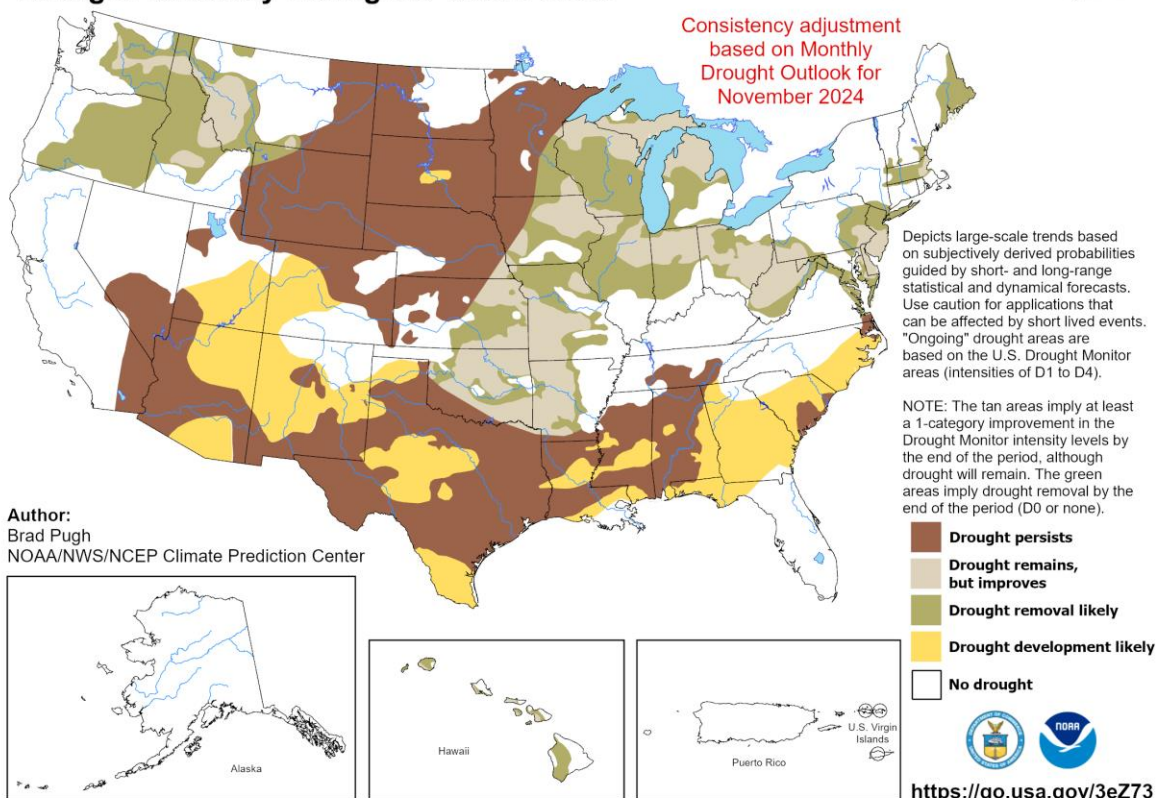
As of the October 2024 report, there is a below normal probability of releases from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2024 fall and winter seasons. Generally, the use of Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca reservoirs is triggered by low flows brought about by 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 31 predicts that drought removal is likely over the next three months. Source: [National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center](#)

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

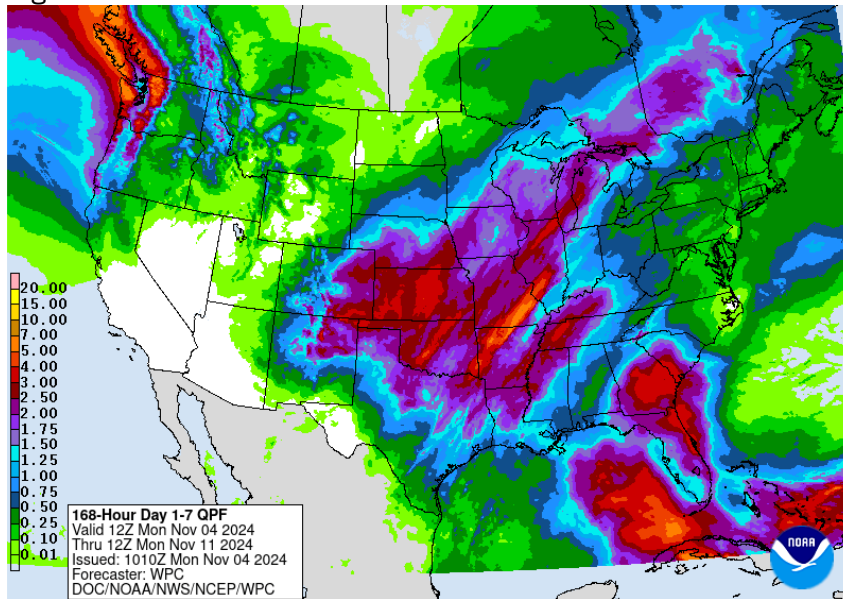
Valid for November 1, 2024 - January 31, 2025  
Released October 31, 2024





## Short Term Precipitation Outlook

The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast calls for approximately .10 inches of rain in the COG region.

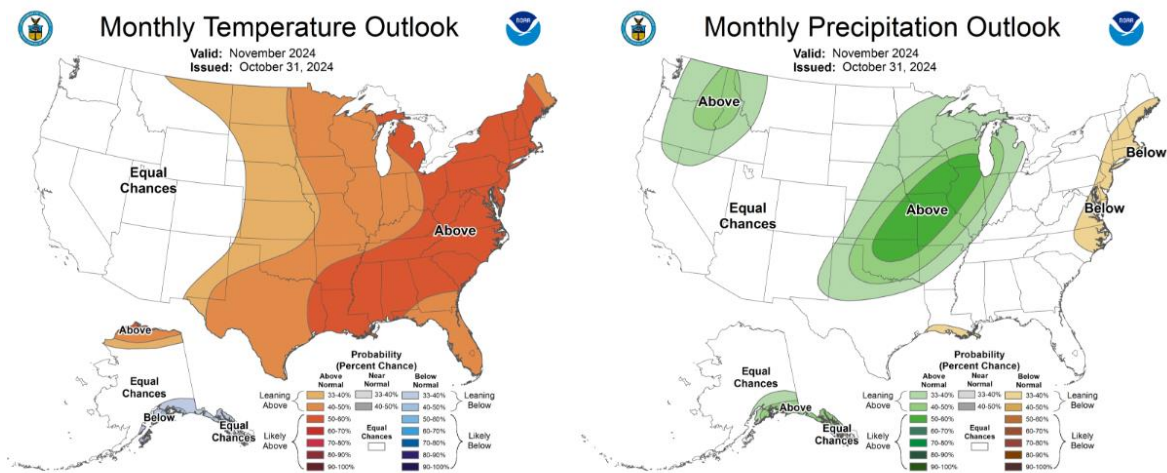


Source: [NOAA NWS Weather Prediction Center](https://www.weather.gov/ohx/short-term-precipitation-outlook)

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

### Updated OFFICIAL 30-Day Forecasts

Issued: October 31, 2024



NOAA/ National Weather Service  
National Centers for Environmental Prediction  
Climate Prediction Center  
5830 University Research Court  
College Park, Maryland 20740

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