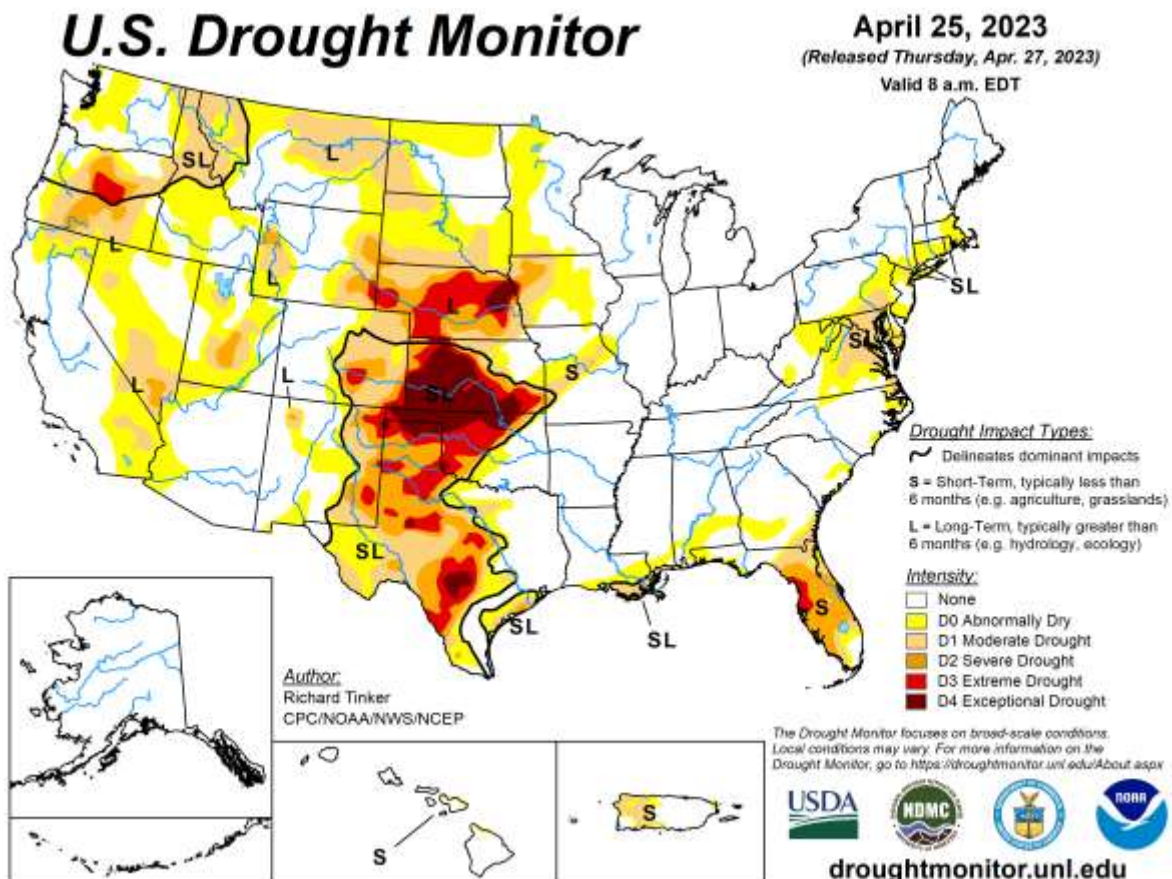


# Regional Drought and Water Supply Status May 2023

## Summary of Current Conditions in the COG Region - As of May 1, 2023

The latest U.S. Drought monitor released on April 27 indicates that moderate drought was present in the COG region. Since then, we received more than 2.00 inches of rain across the COG region that should begin to alleviate conditions and replenish streamflow and groundwater levels. 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. Note that VADEQ issued a [Drought Watch Advisory](#) last week for five of their evaluation regions in the Commonwealth and the Northern Virginia region was excluded in this advisory. Streamflow levels in the Potomac River are currently above normal, groundwater levels are low, and local reservoir levels remain full. Long-term forecasts indicate that we should receive above normal amounts of rain and temperatures along with relief from dry conditions.



### Drought Stage - Normal

The current drought stage as defined in [COG's water supply and drought response awareness 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.

### Potomac Streamflow – Above median levels

Instantaneous flows readings on May 1 were:

Little Falls: 17,200 cfs (median, 11,600 cfs)

Source: [USGS Little Falls](#)

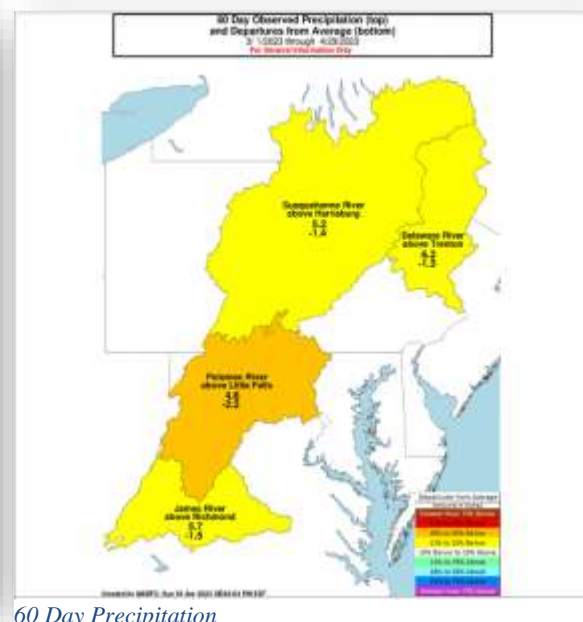
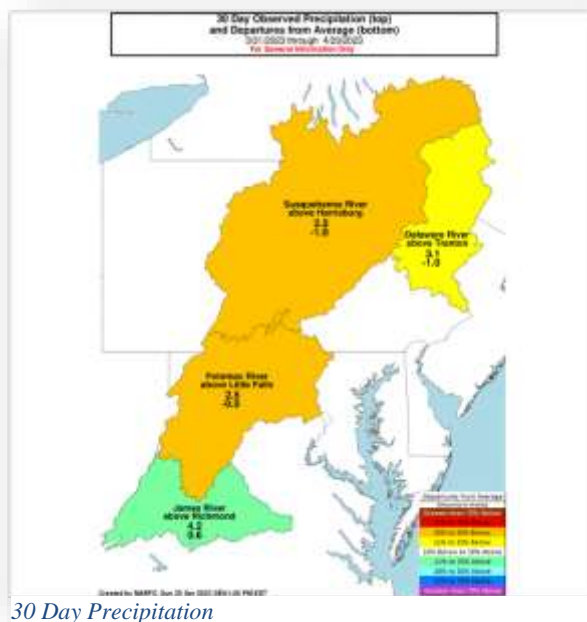
Point of Rocks: 15,600 cfs (median, 9,430 cfs)

Source: [USGS Point of Rocks](#)

### Potomac Basin Precipitation 30 and 60 Day (through 04.29.23) – Below normal

The Potomac Basin received 2.5 inches of precipitation in the last 30 days, 0.9 inches below normal and 4.6 inches, 2.2 inches below normal over the past 60 days.

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



### 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

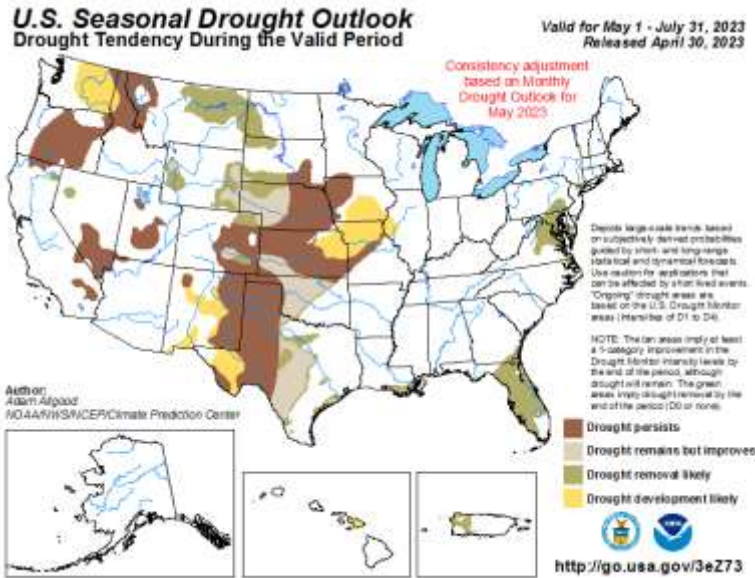
Drinking water reservoirs at Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca are full.

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

As of the April 2023 report, there is a close to normal probability of releases from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2023 spring and summer 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 an 8 to 16 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](#)

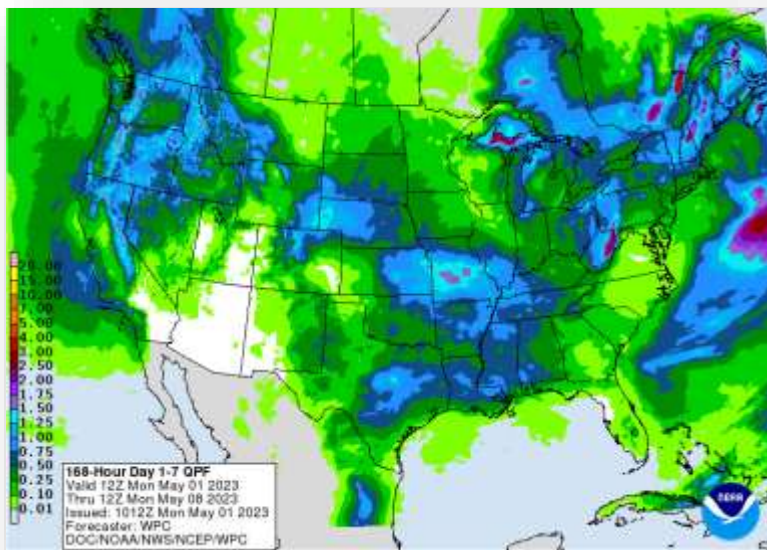
### Seasonal Drought Outlook – Drought Removal Likely

The latest U.S. Seasonal Outlook released on April 30 indicates that drought removal is likely in the COG region over the next three months. Source: [Climate Prediction Center](https://climatepredictioncenter.noaa.gov/)



### Precipitation Outlook – 7 Day

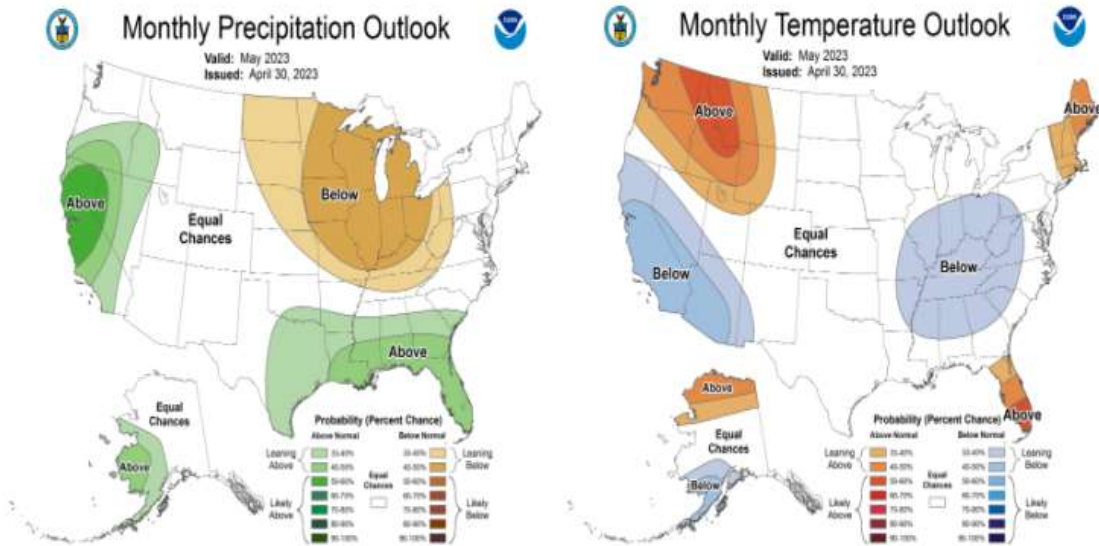
The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast calls for roughly 0.10 inches of rain in the COG region. Source: [NOAA](https://www.noaa.gov/)



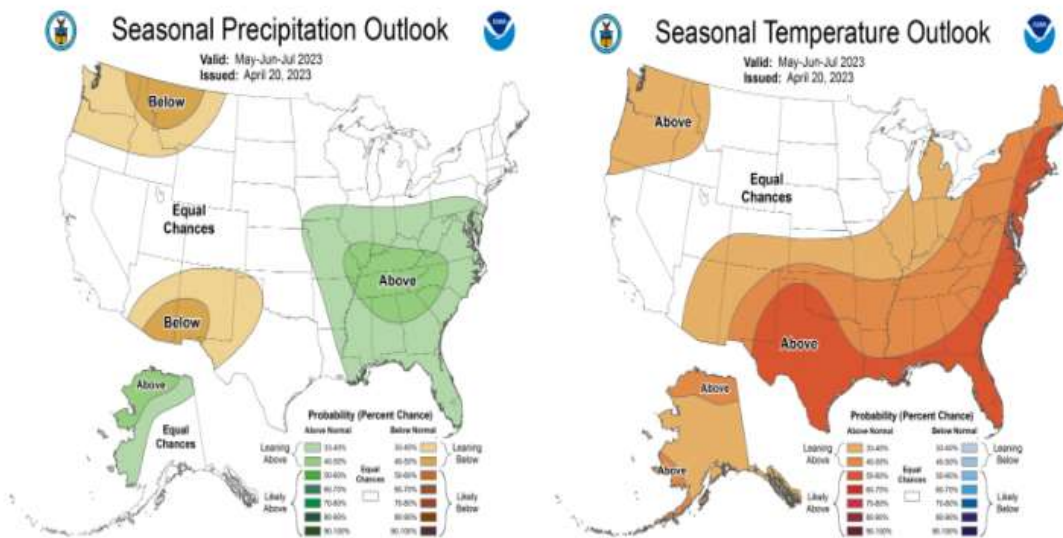


# Precipitation and Temperature Outlook – 30 and 90 Day

The 30 Day Precipitation and Temperature Outlooks from the [Climate Prediction Center](https://www.weather.gov/marfc/WRO):



The 90 Day Precipitation and Temperature Outlooks from the [Climate Prediction Center](https://www.weather.gov/marfc/WRO):



Source: <https://www.weather.gov/marfc/WRO>

For more information, please visit COG's Water Supply and Drought website: <https://www.mwcog.org/drought>