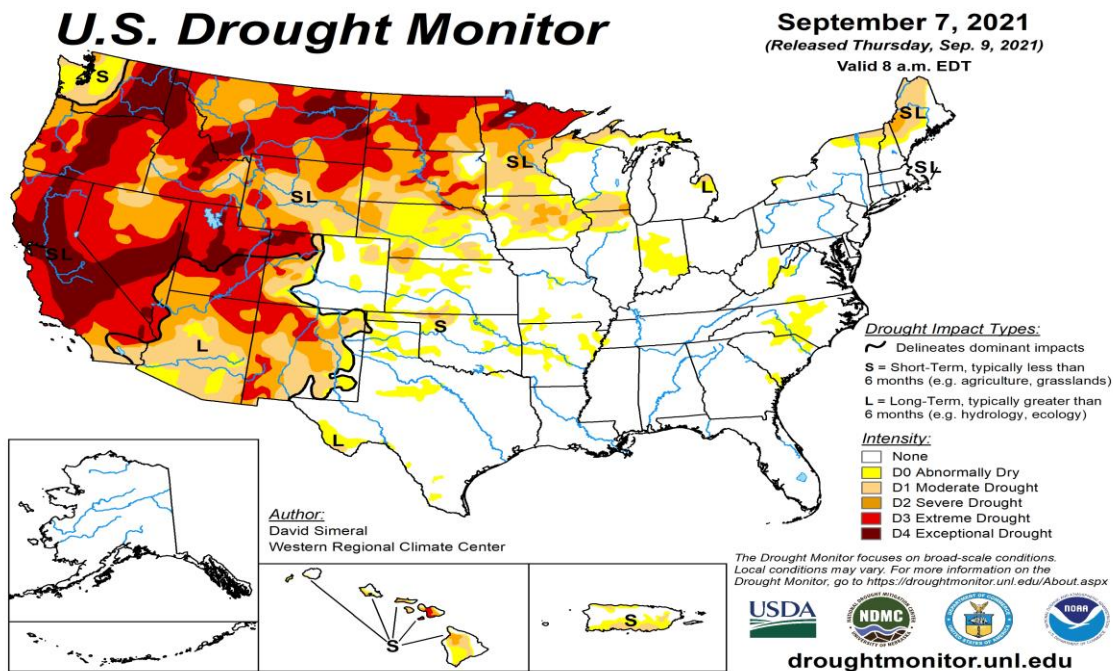


# Regional Drought and Water Supply Status September 2021

## Summary of Current Conditions - As of September 9, 2021

The latest U.S. Drought monitor released on September 9 indicates that the COG region is free of drought. Conditions during August were abnormally dry and Potomac River flows dropped significantly, but that changed rapidly once Tropical storm Fred and remnants of Hurricane Ida brought heavy rainfall and areas of flooding to the COG region.



## 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. The western portion of the Potomac Basin is experiencing abnormal dryness and a small portion of moderate drought.

## Drought Stages VADEQ and MDE - Normal

COG jurisdictions that are monitored by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality ([VADEQ](#)) and Maryland Department of the Environment ([MDE](#)) are under a normal status.

## Potomac Streamflow - Above median levels

Instantaneous flows readings on September 9 were:

Little Falls – 7,590 cfs (median, 2,430 cfs)

Point of Rocks – 6,990 cfs (median, 2,210 cfs)

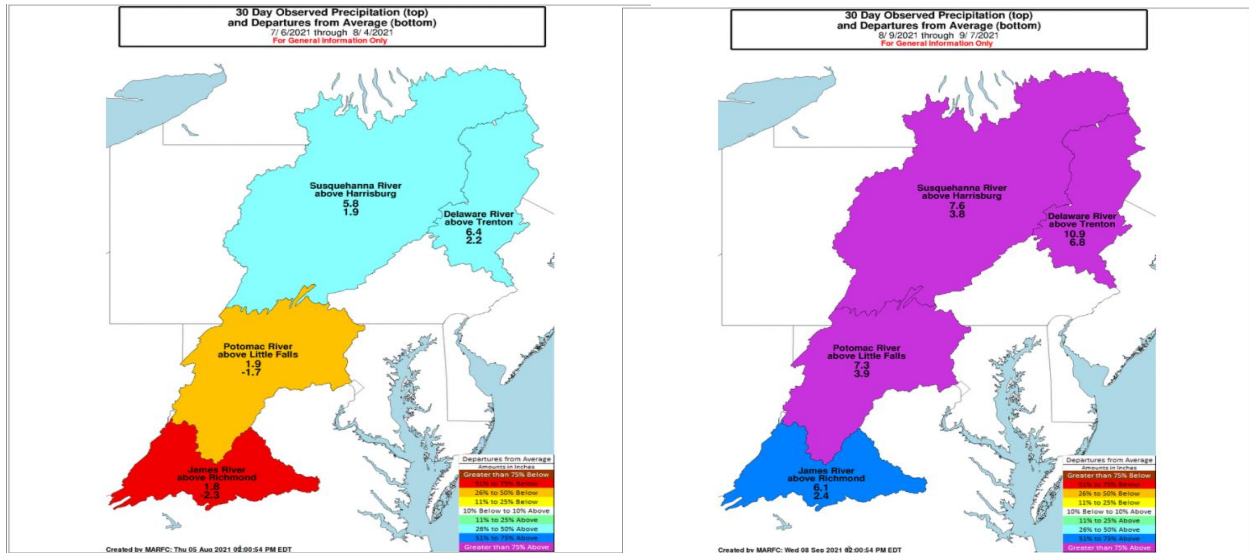
Source: USGS Little Falls: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/uv?01646500>

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

## Potomac Basin Precipitation (8/4/21 and 9/9/21) – Above Normal

The Potomac Basin received 7.3 inches of rain in the last 30 days, a sharp contrast to the amount received the previous 30 days (1.9 inches). Source: Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center

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



## Groundwater Levels - Normal

Most of the groundwater levels are within a normal range in the COG region. Source: USGS and Pennsylvania Water Science Center

<https://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/statemap.asp?sc=51&sa=VA>

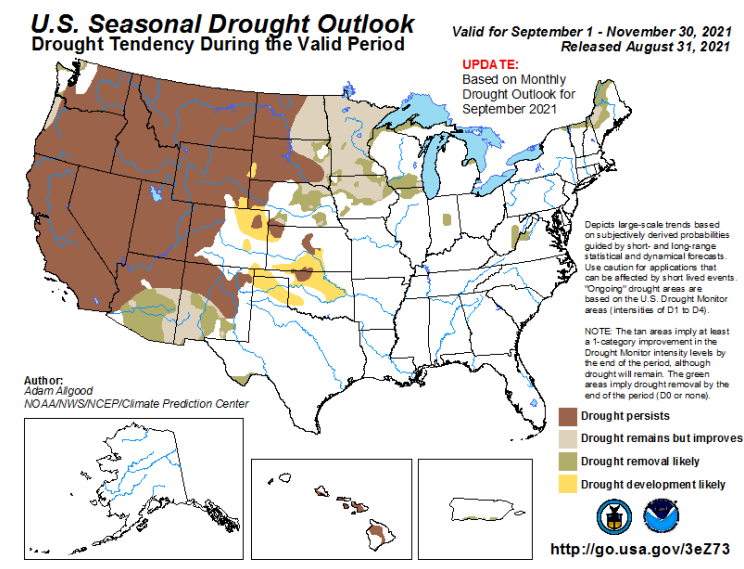
<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/current/?type=gw>

<https://pa.water.usgs.gov/apps/potomac/>

## Drought Outlook - Normal

The latest U.S. Seasonal Outlook released on August 31 indicates that drought is not expected in the COG region over the next three months.

Source: [http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert\\_assessment/sdo\\_summary.php](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/sdo_summary.php)



### 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>

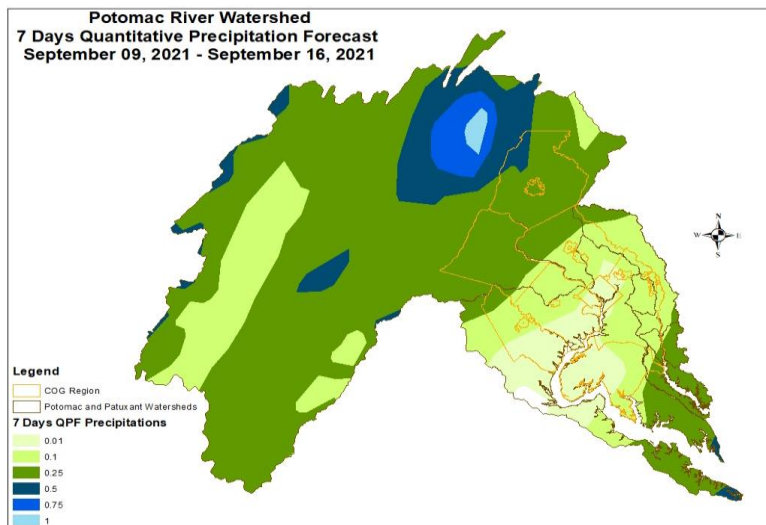
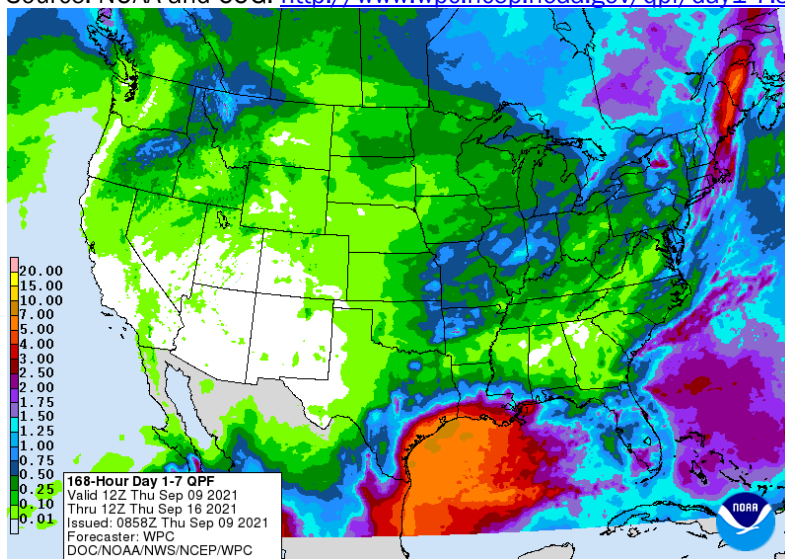
As of the September 2021 report, there is near normal probability of releases from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2021 summer and fall seasons. Generally, the use of Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca reservoirs is triggered by low flows brought about by a combination of low precipitation and low groundwater levels. There is a 6 to 17 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 Forecast

The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast calls for roughly 0,01 to 0.25 inches of rain in the COG region.

Source: NOAA and COG: [http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/day1-7\\_shtml](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>