



Drought Information Statement for Northeast Oregon and South Central Washington

Valid September 15, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Pendleton, OR

Contact Information: nws.pendleton@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated monthly or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
 - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/pdt/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
-
- Exceptional drought continues in eastern Grant County with extreme drought continuing in the eastern Oregon mountains, central Oregon and the central Oregon Cascades while the rest of the area has a mix of abnormally dry to severe drought.
 - Near to well above normal precipitation (100% to 300% of normal) in nearly all areas over the last 30 days.
 - Drought is expected to persist over most of the area through the end of November 2026.
 - All areas are forecast to have above normal significant fire potential through September 2026 becoming normal significant fire potential from October through December 2026.





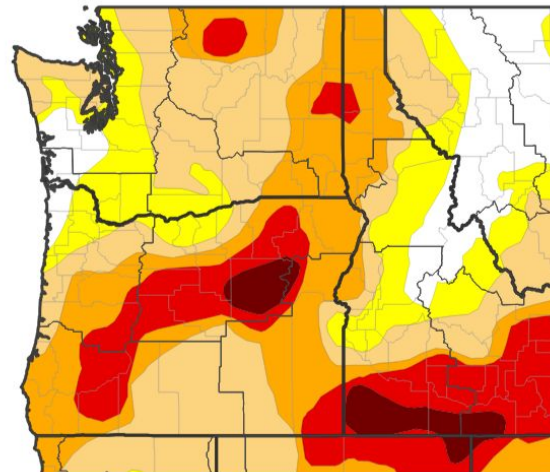
U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Northeast Oregon and South Central Washington

• Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** Central and eastern Grant county, southeast Wheeler county
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Portions of southern and eastern Umatilla, western Union, far southeastern Morrow, northwest and southern Grant, most of Wheeler and Jefferson, northern Crook and western Deschutes counties
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Walla Walla and Columbia, most of Wallowa, eastern Union, much of northern Umatilla, south central Morrow, far southern Gilliam, northern Wheeler, southern Wasco, far northeast Jefferson, southeast Deschutes, and southern Crook counties
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Kittitas, most of Yakima, most of Benton, Franklin, far eastern Wallowa, far northwest Umatilla, central Morrow, south central Gilliam, far southern Sherman and central Wasco counties
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Portions of southern and southeast Yakima, all of Klickitat, far southwest Benton, northwest Morrow, northern Gilliam, most of Sherman and northern Wasco counties

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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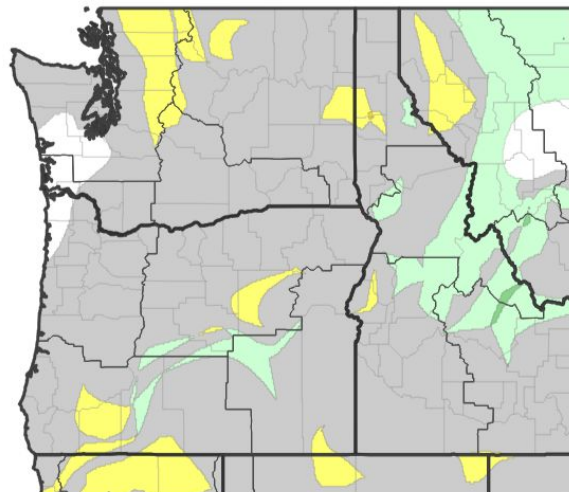
Recent Changes in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Northeast Oregon and South Central Washington

Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

- **Drought Worsened (1 class):** Northwest Kittitas, portions of northern and western Grant, southeast Wheeler and a small portion of central Crook counties
- **Drought Improved (1 class):** Portions of southeast Crook, portions of southern Deschutes and small areas of southern Grant counties
- **No Change:** All other areas not mentioned above

U.S. Drought Monitor 4-Week Change Map



Drought Degradation



Drought Improvement



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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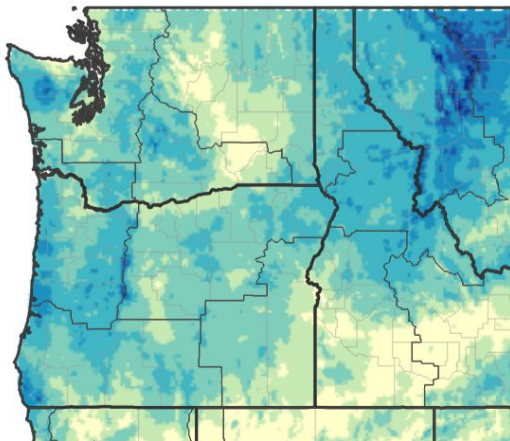
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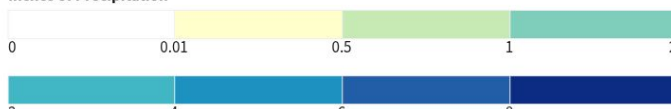
Precipitation - Last 30 Days

- Below to near normal precipitation (50% to 100% of normal) in northwest Kittitas county over the last 30 days
- Near to well above normal precipitation (100% to 300% of normal) in all other areas over the last 30 days.
- Highest precipitation amounts were 4 to 6 inches in small pockets of the Oregon Cascades over the last 30 days
- Lowest precipitation in the Lower Columbia Basin of Washington (mainly Franklin county) with less than 0.5 inch over the last 30 days

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



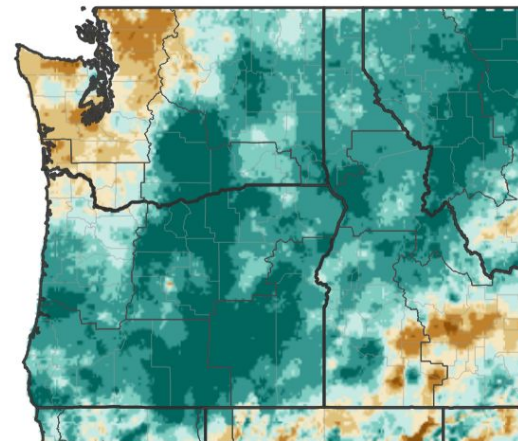
Inches of Precipitation



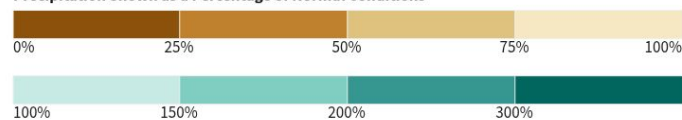
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/13/26

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/13/26

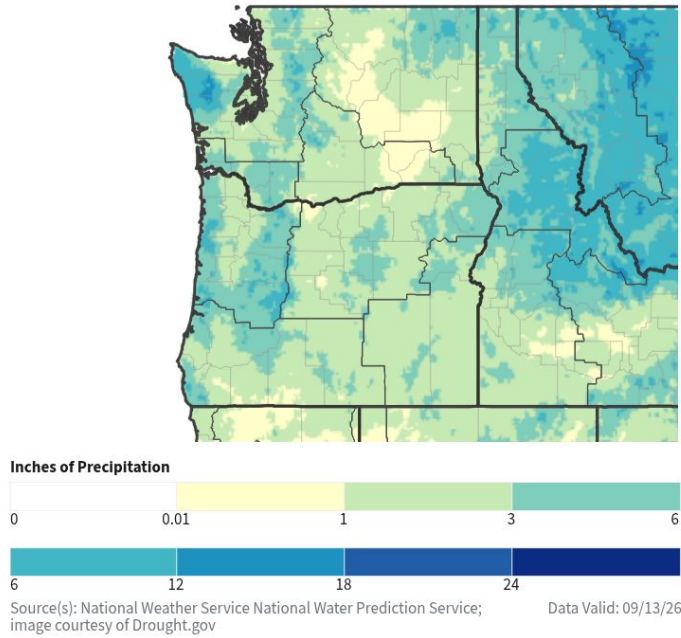




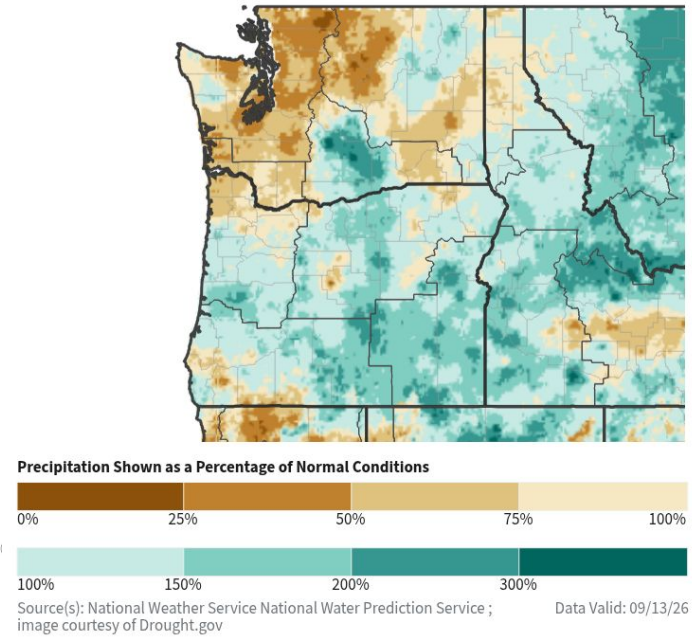
Precipitation - Last 90 Days

- Below to near normal precipitation (50% to 100% of normal) in the WA Cascade crest, eastern portions of the Columbia Basin, eastern Columbia River Gorge, the Northern Blue Mountains, eastern Grant county and portions of central OR over the last 90 days
- Near to above normal precipitation (100% to 300% of normal) in all other areas over the last 90 days
- Precipitation amounts of 1 to 3 inches in most areas over the last 90 days
- Wettest locations had 3 to 6 inches over portions of the mountains over the last 90 days
- Driest locations received less than 1 inch in WA Columbia Basin and Columbia River Gorge over the last 90 days

NWPS 90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



90-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal

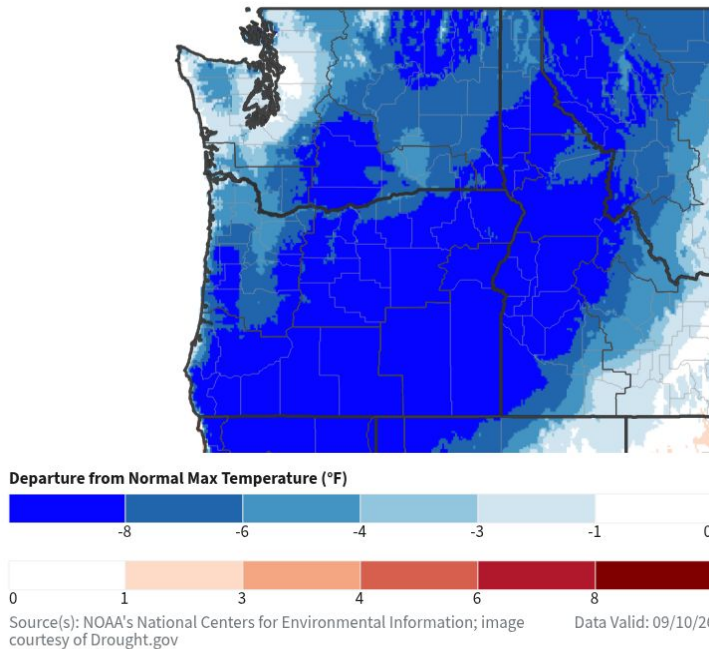




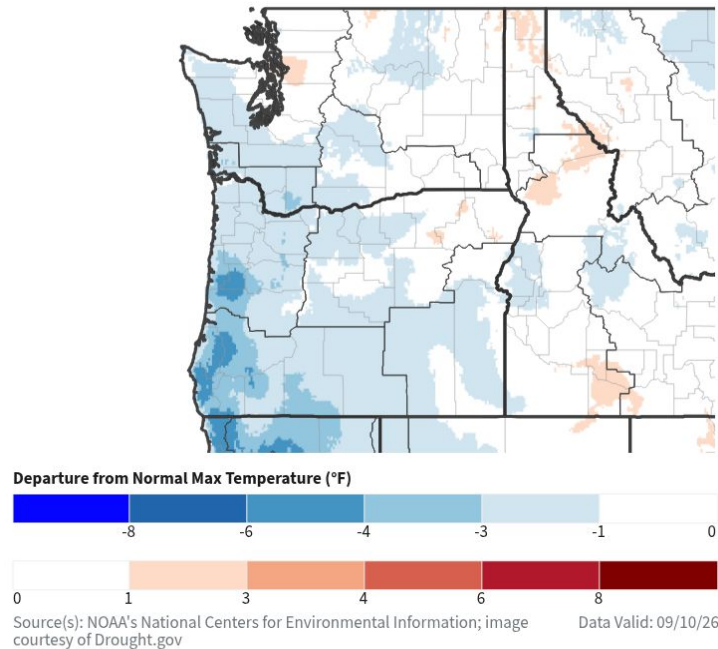
Temperatures - Last 7 And Last 30 Days

- Well below normal temperatures (3 to 8 degrees below normal) in the Columbia Basin and northwest Kittitas county for the last 7 days
- Far below normal temperatures (over 8 degrees below normal) in all other areas over the last 7 days
- Slightly below normal temperatures (1 degree to 3 degrees below normal) in most western portions of the area for the last 30 days
- Slightly above normal temperatures (1 to 3 degrees above normal) in pockets of the mountains of Union county for the last 30 days.
- Near normal temperatures (1 degree below to 1 degree above normal) in all other areas for the last 30 days

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



30-Day Temperature Anomaly





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Below to well below normal streamflows (44% - 74% of normal) in most WA basins and (28% - 59% of normal) in most OR basins
- Far below normal streamflows (less than 10% of normal) in the Crooked River basin
- Slightly below normal streamflows (83% - 91% of normal) at Columbia River locations

Agricultural Impacts

- Reservoirs in the WA Cascades are partly full to nearly empty (7% - 42% full except 60% at Rimrock).
- Other reservoirs in the Deschutes basin are less than 26% full with a couple of outliers above 60% full.
- Water deliveries to agricultural interests in the Yakima area are projected to be at 62% of normal (up from earlier projections of 44%) but remain uncertain. Impacts elsewhere are uncertain at this time but water availability will likely also be below normal.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Significant wildland fire potential is present over the entire area through September 2026 becoming near normal for October through December 2026

Other Impacts

- Washington: [Washington Issues A Drought Emergency For The Entire State Through April 2027](#)
- Oregon: [Drought Declarations Issued For All NE Oregon Counties Except Sherman through 12-31-2026](#)

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information



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Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts as of September 14th, 2026

Main Takeaways

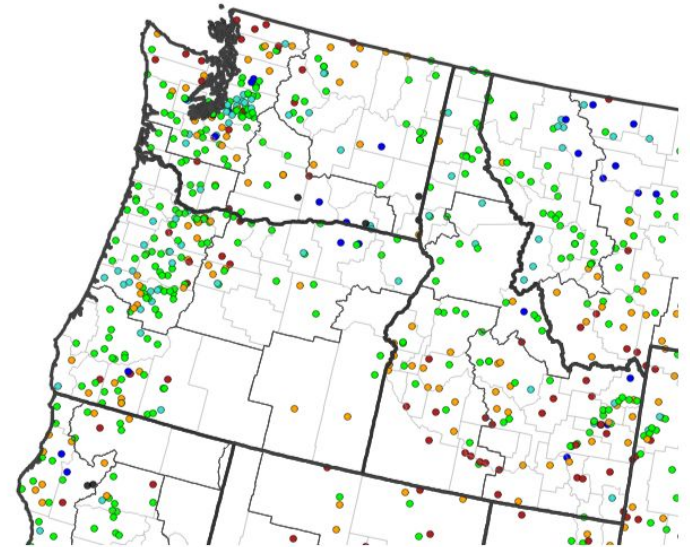
- Below to near normal streamflows in most basins with a few locations having much below normal or above to much above normal streamflows

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

Reduced streamflow may be detrimental to aquatic species and recreational activities.

1-Day Average Streamflow Conditions



Streamflow Conditions



Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/14/26





Water Supply Forecast - April - September 2026

Link to the latest [Northwest River Forecast Center Water Supply Forecast](#).

Main Takeaways

- Below normal water supply (44% to 74% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast over most WA locations for the April - September 2026 period
- Slightly below normal water supply (83% to 91% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast for Columbia River locations for the April - September 2026 period
- Well below normal water supply (28% to 59% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast for most OR locations except 65% to 79% for Blue Mountain Foothills location for the April - September 2026 period
- Far below normal water supply (<10% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast along the Crooked River Basin for the April - September 2026 period
- These forecasts for 2026 are based on streamflow data from the 2025-26 water year which started on October 1, 2025

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

Low reservoir levels would be expected to affect agriculture production, fish, and other aquatic species.



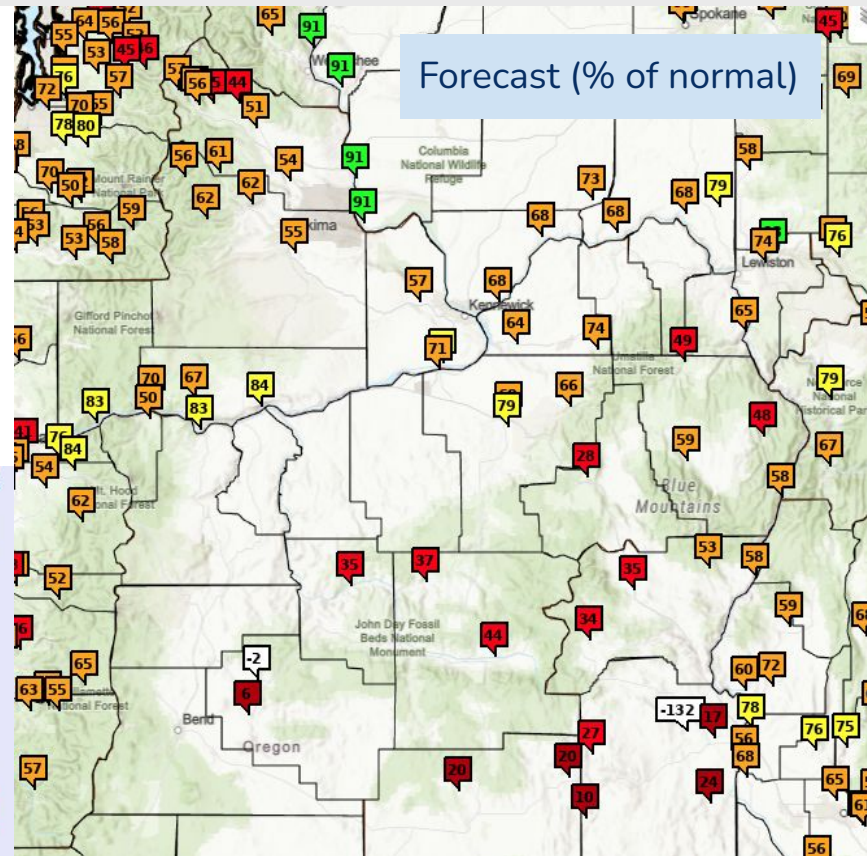
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ESP Natural Forecast

Period: APR-SEP
Forecast (% Normal)

- No Normal, No Data
- < 25
- 25-50
- 50-75
- 75-90
- 90-110
- 110-125
- 125-150
- 150-175
- > 175



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Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

Main Takeaways

- Above normal significant wildland fire potential (i.e., greater than normal risk) is forecast for all areas in September 2026
- Near normal significant wildland fire potential (i.e., normal risk) is forecast for all areas in October, November and December 2026

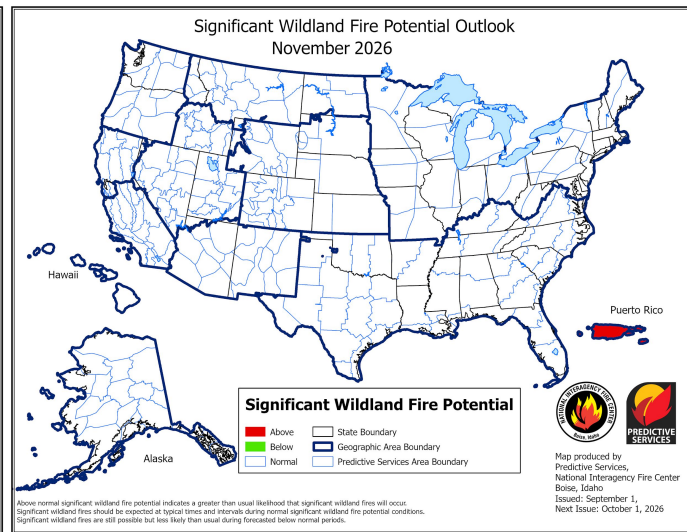
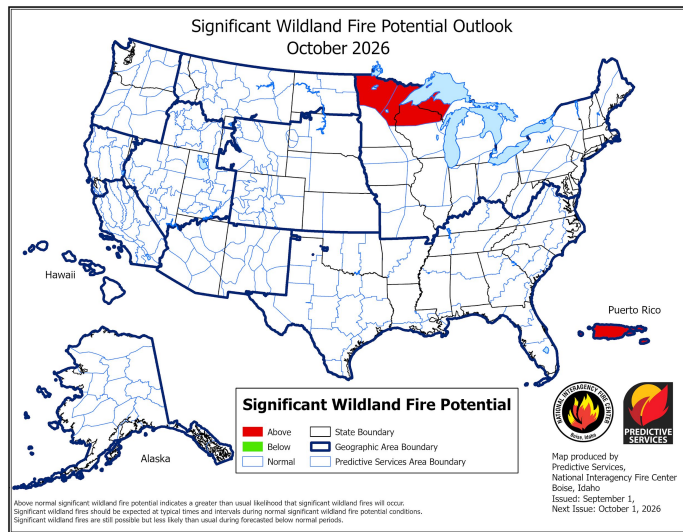


Image Caption:

Left - October 2026

Right - November 2026

Data Courtesy National Interagency Coordination Center

Issued September 1, 2026



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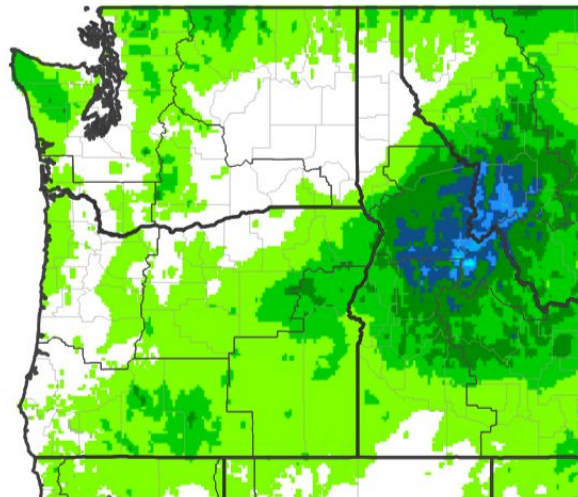
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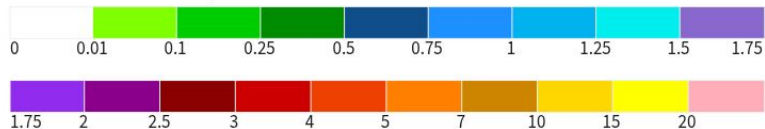
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

**7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for September
15, 2026–September 22, 2026**

- A weather system is expected to bring light rain to most elevations above 2000-2500 feet Thursday and Friday before high pressure brings warmer and drier weather into early next week.
- Rain amounts will be generally less than a tenth of an inch in most mountain areas though the higher mountains could get up to a half inch
- Slightly below to near normal temperatures are expected with highs mainly in the 70s to lower 80s



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 09/15/26



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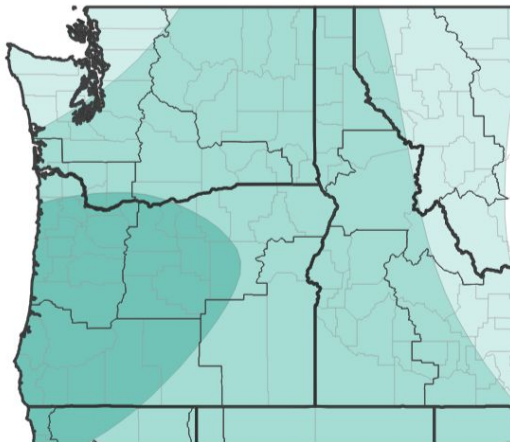


Monthly Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- A 33% to 40% chance of below normal temperatures is expected across most of the entire area
- Near normal temperatures are expected across the central WA Cascades and most of Kittitas County
- A 40% to 60% chance of above normal precipitation is expected across the entire area

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for September 1, 2026–September 30, 2026



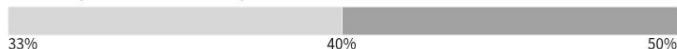
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 08/31/26

Monthly Temperature Outlook for September 1, 2026–September 30, 2026



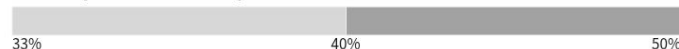
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 08/31/26



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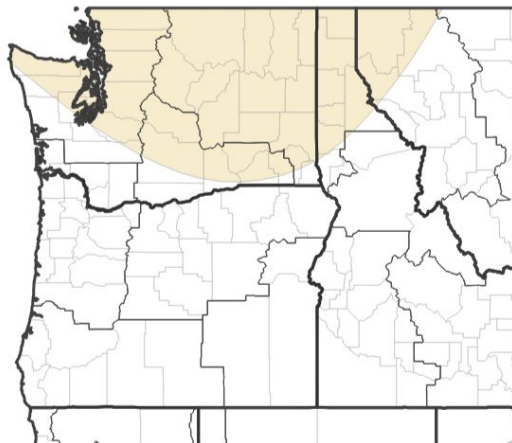


Three Month Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- A 50% to 60% chance of above normal temperatures is expected across the entire area except for a 40% to 50% chance of above normal temperatures in southeast Grant County
- Near normal precipitation is expected except for a 33% to 40% chance of below normal precipitation across Kittitas and northern Yakima counties and the WA Columbia Basin

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for September 1, 2026–November 30, 2026



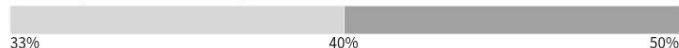
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



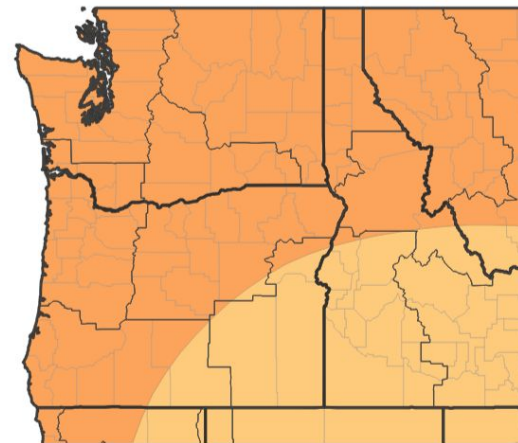
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 08/20/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for September 1, 2026–November 30, 2026



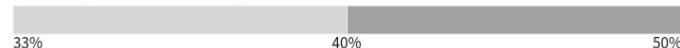
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 08/20/26



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Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

Main Takeaways

- Drought is expected to persist over most of the area through the end of November 2026
- Drought is expected to improve over most of the OR Cascades through the end of November 2026
- Klickitat and Sherman counties, southern Yakima, far southwest Benton, northern Wasco, northern Gilliam and northwest Morrow counties are expected to remain in No Drought

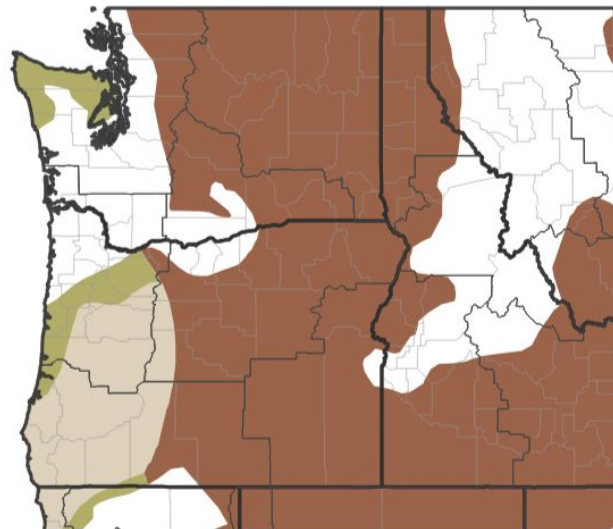
Possible Impacts

- Any lingering drought may result in reduced streamflows and low reservoir levels which may result in a possible reduction of agricultural yield, crop loss, and poor pasture conditions where irrigation water is not available.

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

**Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for August 31,
2026–November 30, 2026**



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 08/31/26



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