

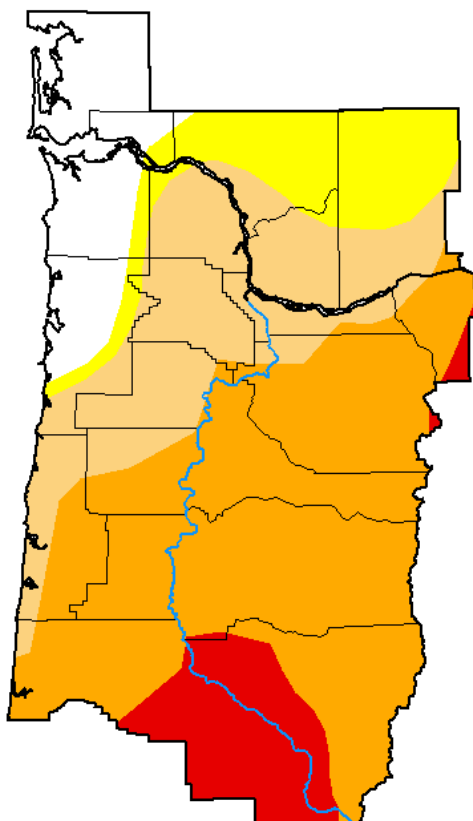
**DROUGHT UPDATE FOR NORTHWEST OREGON AND SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON**

**SYNOPSIS**

Wet conditions have alleviated short-term drought conditions in much of Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington, with above-average precipitation for most of the area since mid-September. That said, drought conditions continue in portions of Northwest Oregon, especially in Lane County, due to below-average precipitation and above-average temperatures from March through August 2021. The total for that 6-month period was only 20 to 60 percent of average. In addition to the lack of precipitation, temperatures for June, July, and August were much above average.

The lack of precipitation and hot summer temperatures resulted in rapidly-declining streamflow, low soil moisture, and stressed vegetation in the region. Shallow soil moisture and streamflow have recovered somewhat in October and November. However, a full winter season of near to above-average precipitation and a healthy seasonal snowpack in the Cascades is necessary for a full recovery from drought conditions in Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington.

**U.S. Drought Monitor  
 Portland, OR WFO**



**November 23, 2021**

*(Released Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021)*

Valid 7 a.m. EST

*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	10.99	89.01	77.95	54.95	9.69	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> <i>11-16-2021</i>	10.99	89.01	77.95	54.95	9.69	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>08-24-2021</i>	0.00	100.00	97.05	87.19	32.66	2.28
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>12-29-2020</i>	39.27	60.73	50.96	23.95	0.24	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>09-28-2021</i>	0.00	100.00	95.43	66.34	15.94	2.28
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>11-24-2020</i>	35.92	64.08	52.92	26.23	3.87	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme 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>*

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## IMPACTS

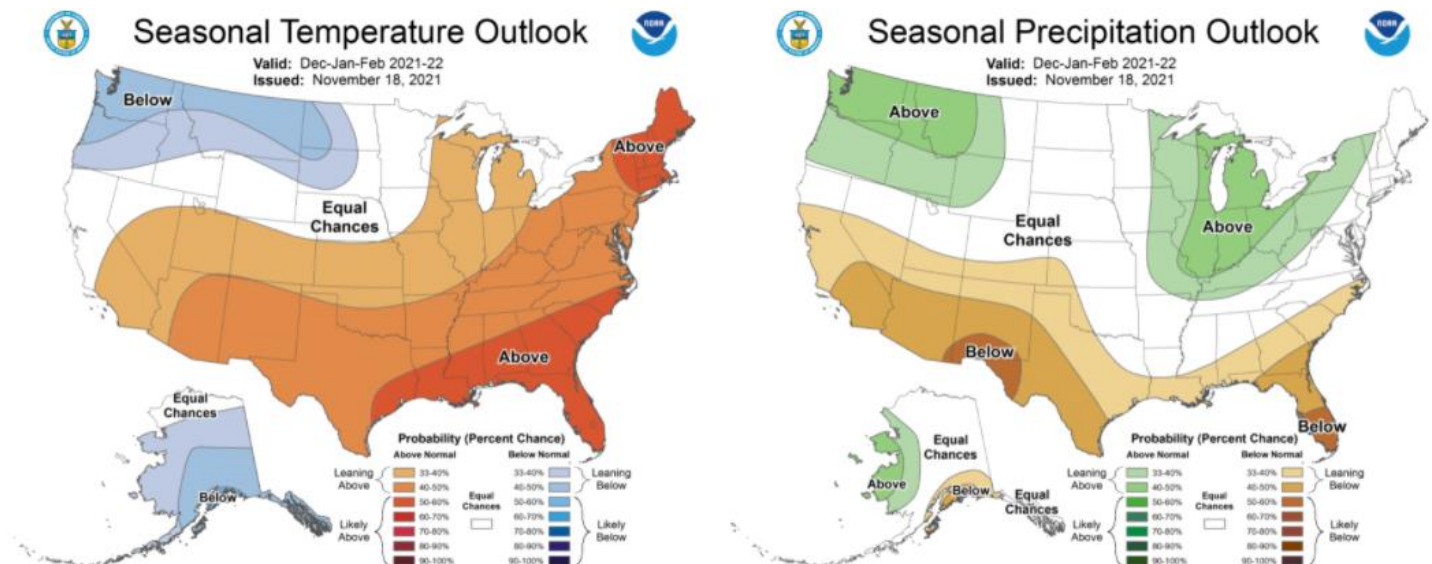
The impacts of the unusually-dry conditions intensified in June and July and continued through August. Streamflow was low through the summer, with many rivers and creeks comparable to 2015 and 2016 levels. This resulted in restrictions or shortages for some irrigation districts and municipal water providers, although impacts varied greatly around the region.

Water temperatures were unusually high in June and July due to the low streamflow and high air temperatures. Water temperatures moderated somewhat in August. High water temperatures, especially when 70 degrees or higher, are detrimental for many aquatic species, including salmon and steelhead.

## LOCAL DROUGHT OUTLOOK

Above-average rainfall from mid-September to mid-November brought some relief to Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington. Near to below-average precipitation is expected through the rest of November.

The winter outlook, December through February, calls for a slightly-enhanced probability of above-average precipitation and below-average temperatures. Long-term improvement of drought conditions will only happen if the region sees average to above-average precipitation and mountain snowpack through the winter and spring.



NOAA Climate Prediction Center 3-month Outlook for December-January-February, with temperature (left) and precipitation (right)

## NEXT ISSUANCE DATE

No additional issuances are planned for the remainder of the calendar year. NWS Portland will issue the first seasonal water supply summary in January 2022 and update that product monthly through June.

## RELATED WEB SITES

- U.S. Drought Monitor: [www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu)
- U.S. Drought Portal: [drought.gov](http://drought.gov)
- Climate Prediction Center: [www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)
- NWS Northwest River Forecast Center: [www.nwrfc.noaa.gov](http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov)

NWS AHPS Precipitation: [water.weather.gov/precip/index.php](http://water.weather.gov/precip/index.php)

West-wide Drought Tracker: [wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/index.php](http://wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/index.php)

USACE Willamette Reservoir Conditions: [www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/nwp/teacup/willamette/](http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/nwp/teacup/willamette/)

US Bureau of Reclamation Pacific Northwest Reservoirs: [www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/select.html](http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/select.html)

US Geological Survey WaterWatch: [waterwatch.usgs.gov](http://waterwatch.usgs.gov)

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/snow/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/snow/)

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The U.S. Drought Monitor is a multi-agency effort involving NOAA's National Weather Service and National Centers for Environmental Information, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), state and regional climatologists, and the National Drought Mitigation Center. Information for this statement was gathered from NWS and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) observation sites, river and reservoir data from the US Geological Survey, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Bureau of Reclamation, and state water resources and emergency management agencies.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have questions or comments about this Drought Information Statement, please contact the National Weather Service in Portland, Oregon.

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