



Drought Briefing

10/13/2020

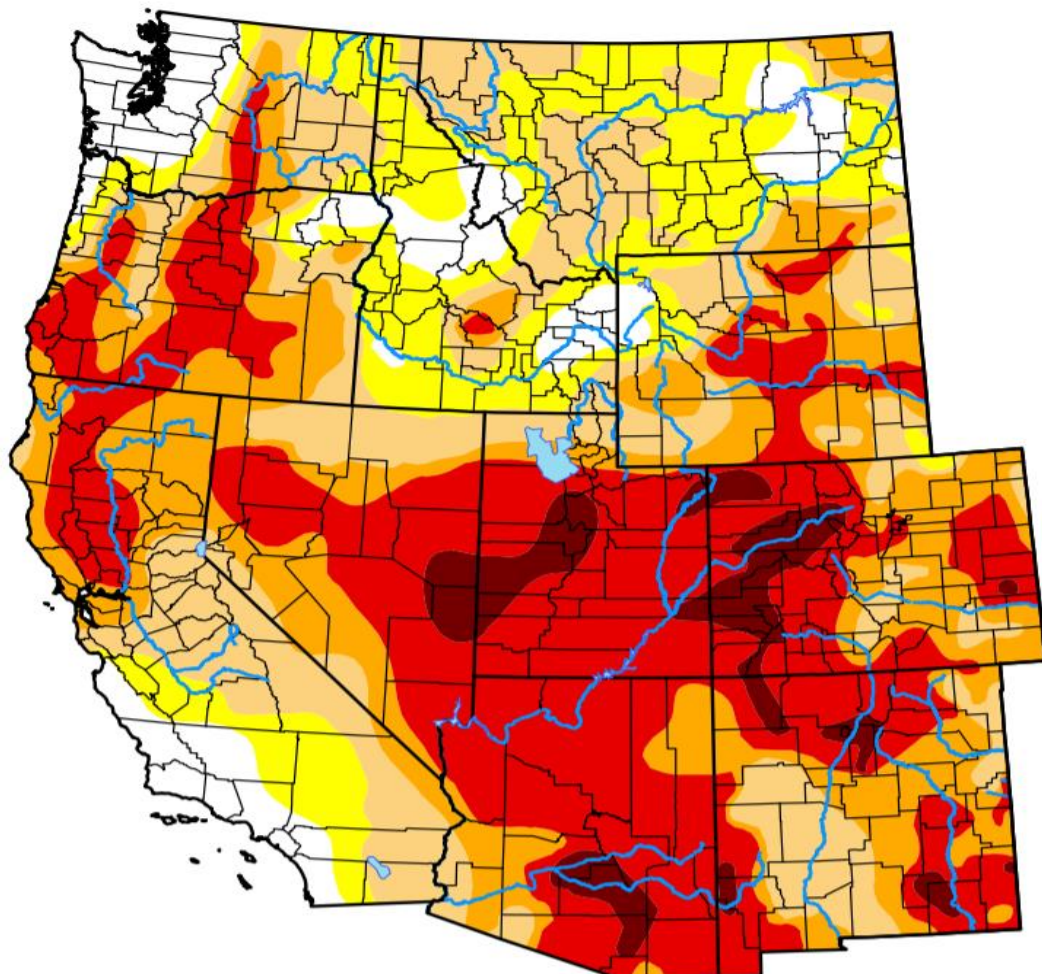
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Update for the week of **October 8-14, 2020**

Extreme to Exceptional Drought Persists Across the Area

U.S. Drought Monitor West

October 6, 2020
(Released Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	7.96	92.04	77.48	56.22	35.20	4.50
Last Week <i>09-29-2020</i>	8.51	91.49	76.07	54.55	33.11	2.31
3 Months Ago <i>07-07-2020</i>	34.34	65.66	44.65	23.23	5.05	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>12-31-2019</i>	59.17	40.83	18.17	7.12	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-29-2020</i>	8.51	91.49	76.07	54.55	33.11	2.31
One Year Ago <i>10-08-2019</i>	69.63	30.37	16.07	5.31	0.00	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>

Author:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Drought Message of the Day:

- Majority of climate sites recorded below normal precipitation for September.
- Mostly dry and occasionally breezy conditions are expected for at least the next week as high pressure remains to the west and a large trough sits to the east.





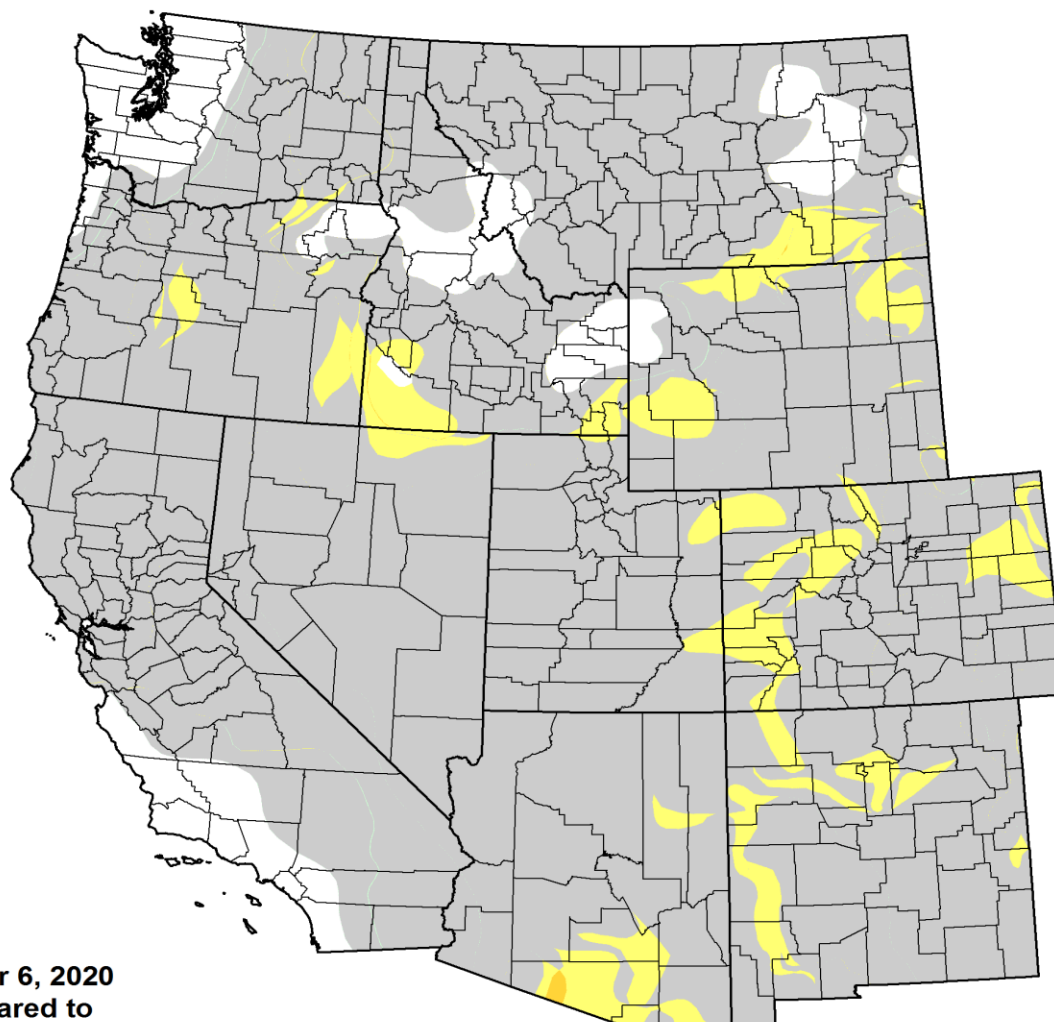
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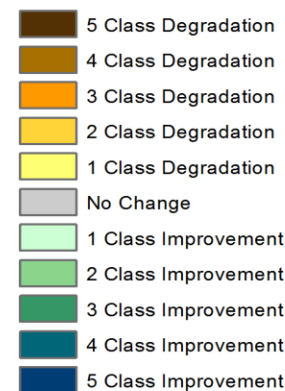
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One-week Change in Drought Status

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - West
1 Week



October 6, 2020
compared to
September 29, 2020



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Important Changes since Last Week:

NEW

- Expansion of exceptional (D4) drought across portions of northwest, west-central, and southwest Colorado.
- Expansion of exceptional (D4) drought across portions of northeast and east-central Utah.



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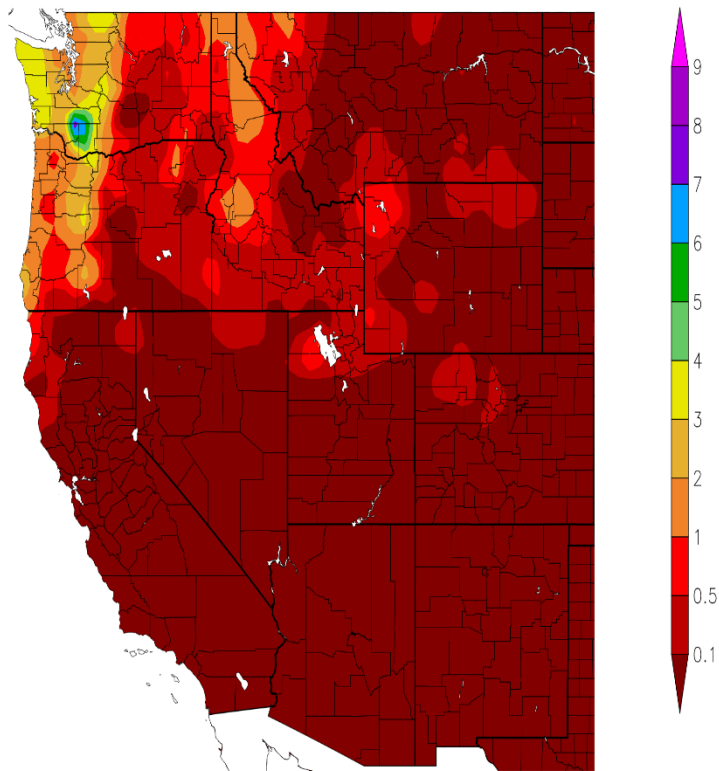
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Weekly Precipitation

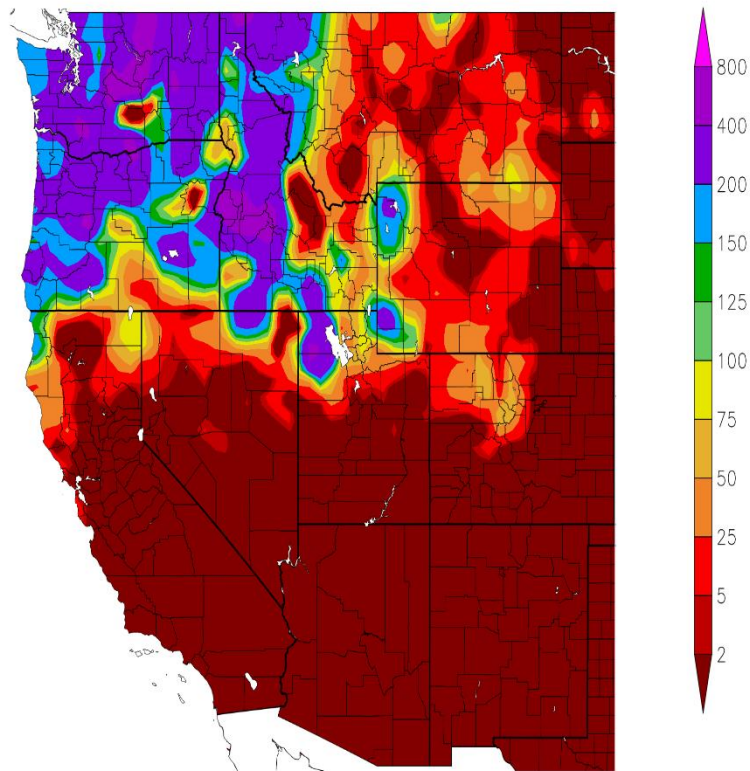
Total Precipitation

Precipitation (in)
10/6/2020 - 10/12/2020



Percent of Normal

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/6/2020 - 10/12/2020



Generated 10/13/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Generated 10/13/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers



Maps courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center



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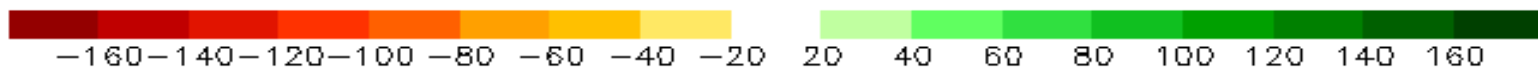
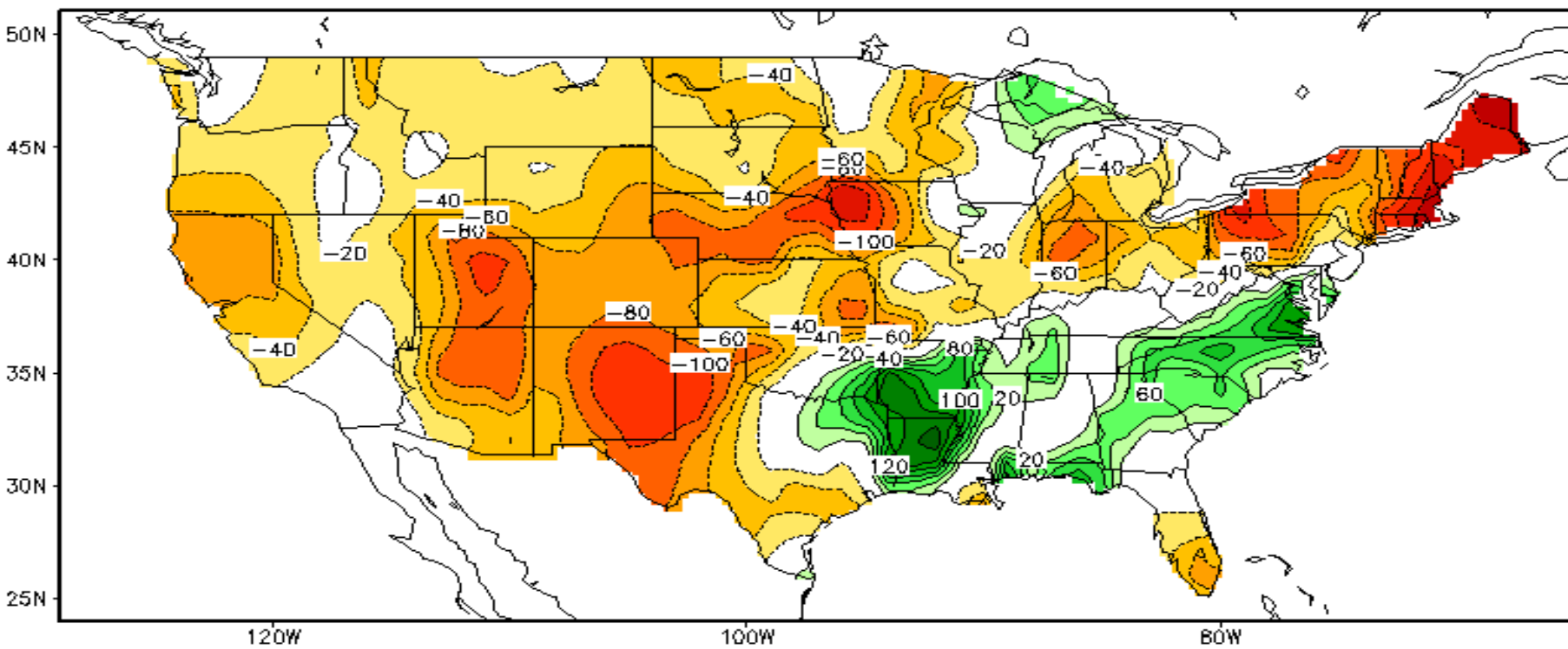
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Soil Moisture Status from CPC

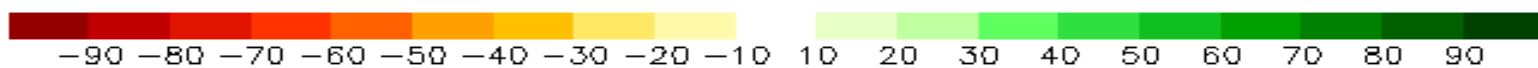
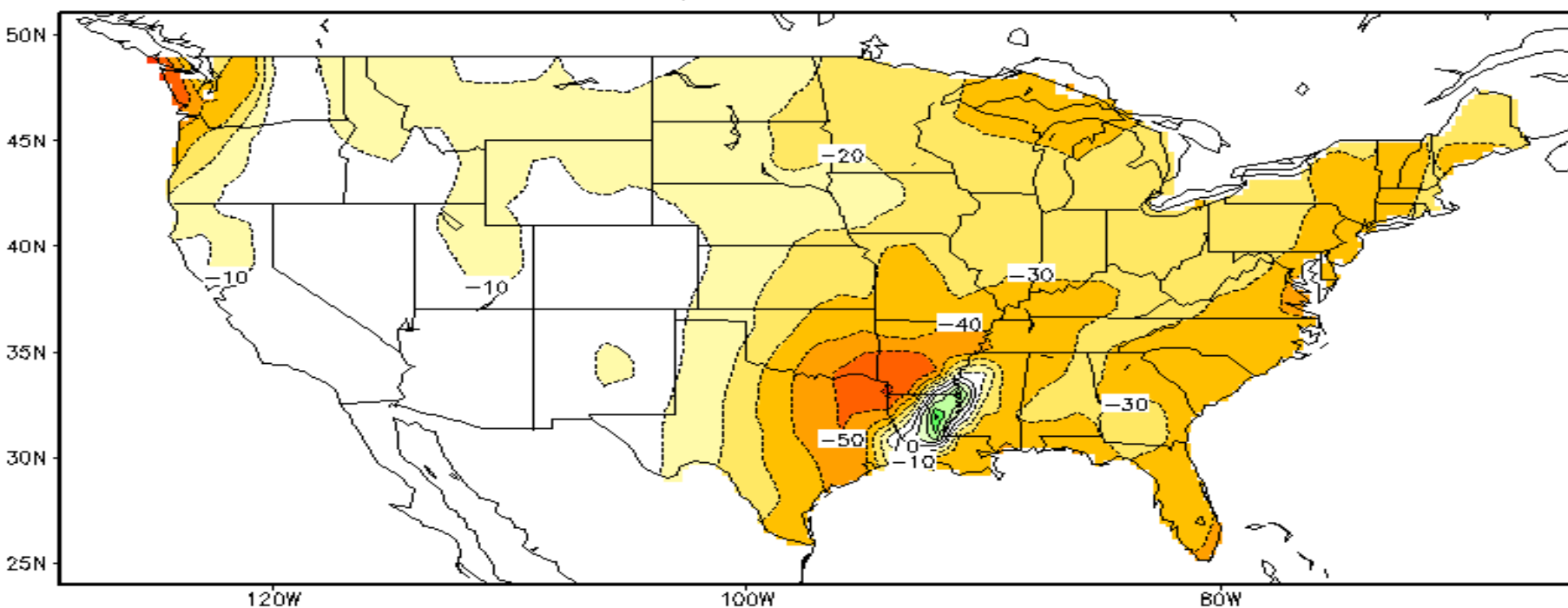
Soil Moisture Difference from Normal

Calculated Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm)
OCT 12, 2020



Soil Moisture Change

Calculated Soil Moisture Anomaly Change
OCT 12, 2020 from SEP.30





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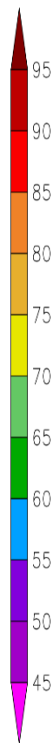
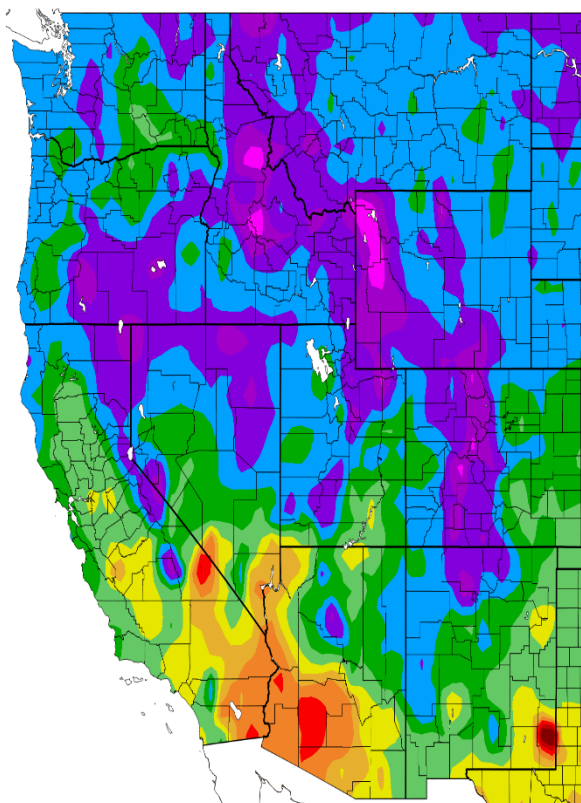
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Weekly Temperatures

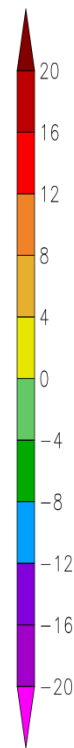
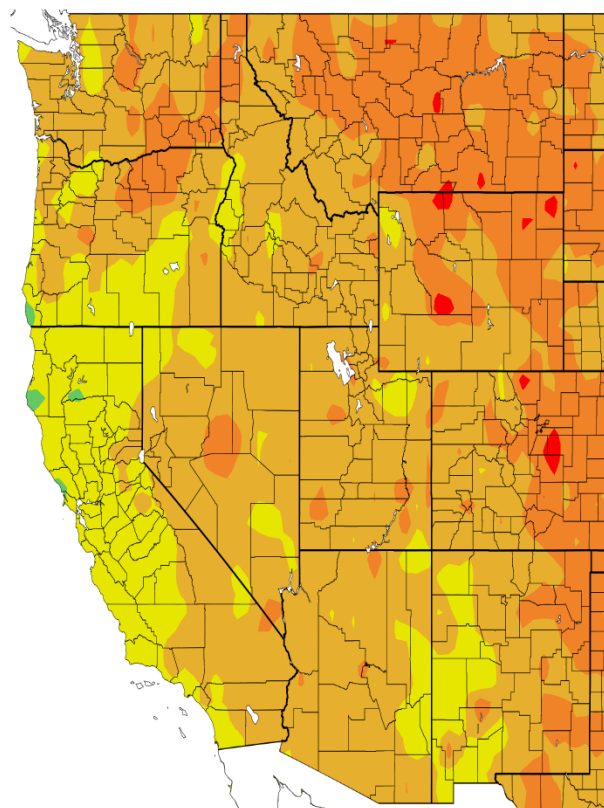
Average Temperature

Temperature (F)
10/6/2020 - 10/12/2020



Difference from Normal

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/6/2020 - 10/12/2020



Generated 10/13/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Generated 10/13/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers



Maps courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center

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Midwestern Regional Climate Center



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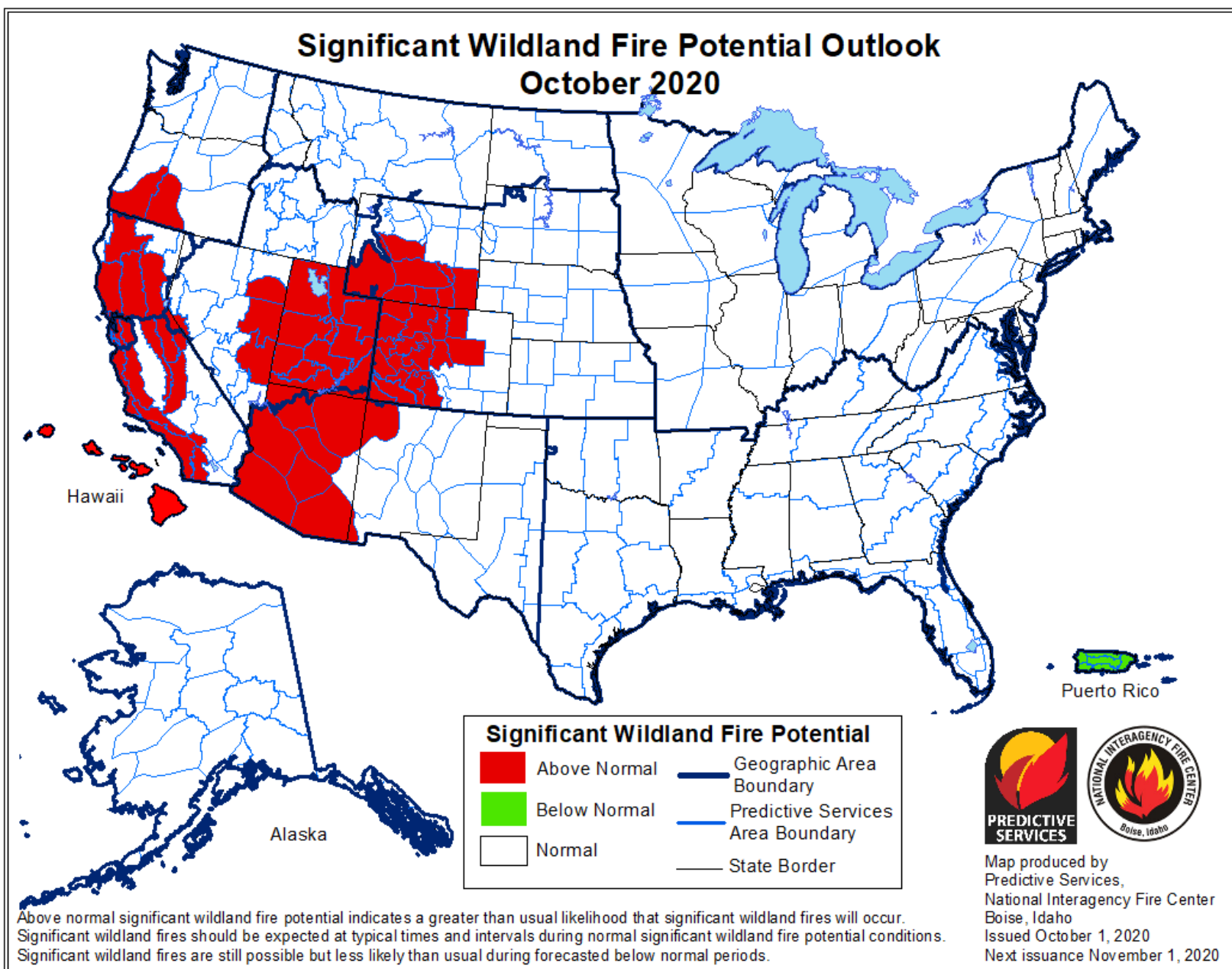


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Summary of Impacts and Fire Danger

- Impacts include low soil moisture, lower stream flows, and drying vegetation. Wildfire starts are more prevalent with above normal fire potential forecast for October across eastern Utah and western Colorado.



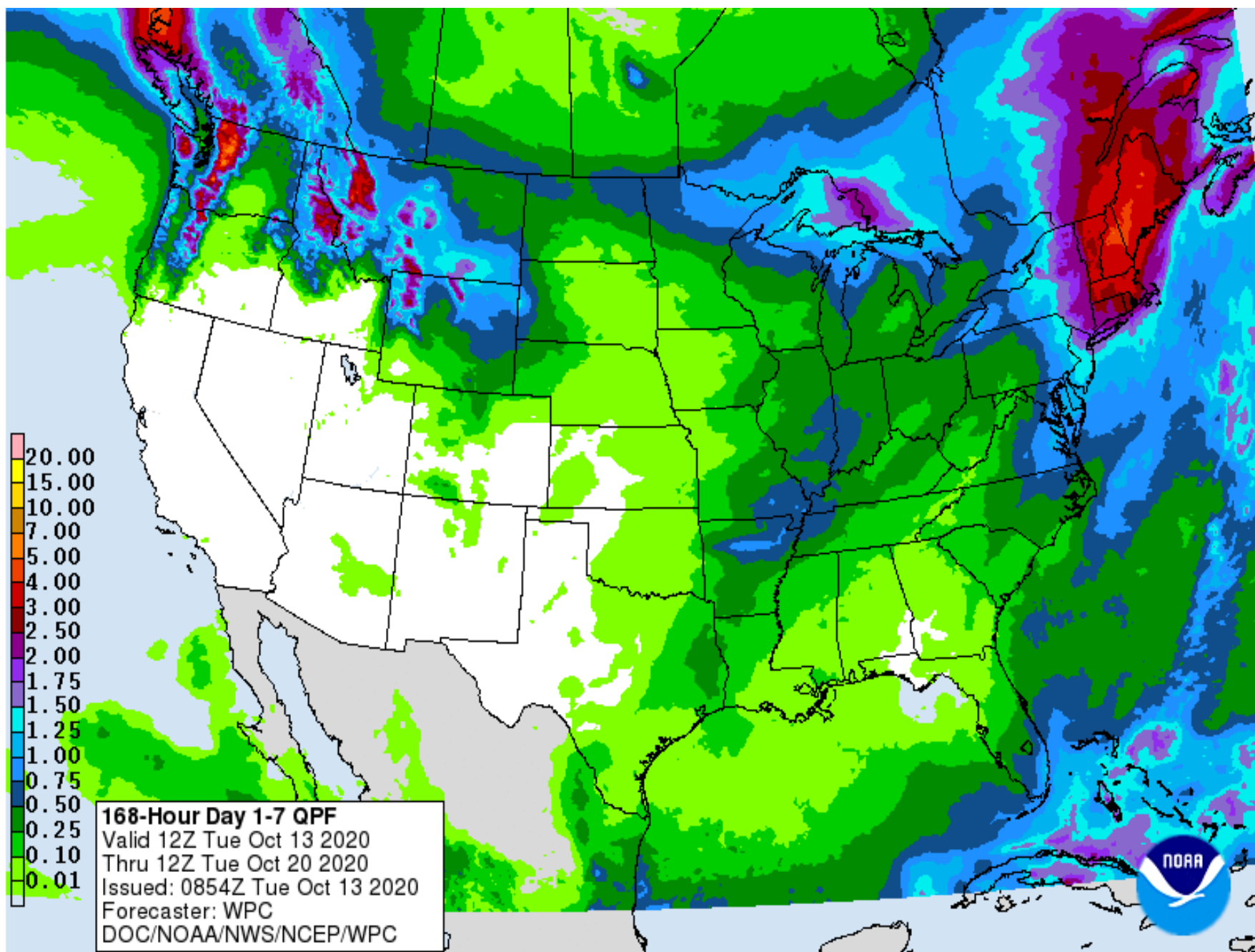


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WPC 7-day Precipitation Forecast

13 October 2020 to 20 October 2020



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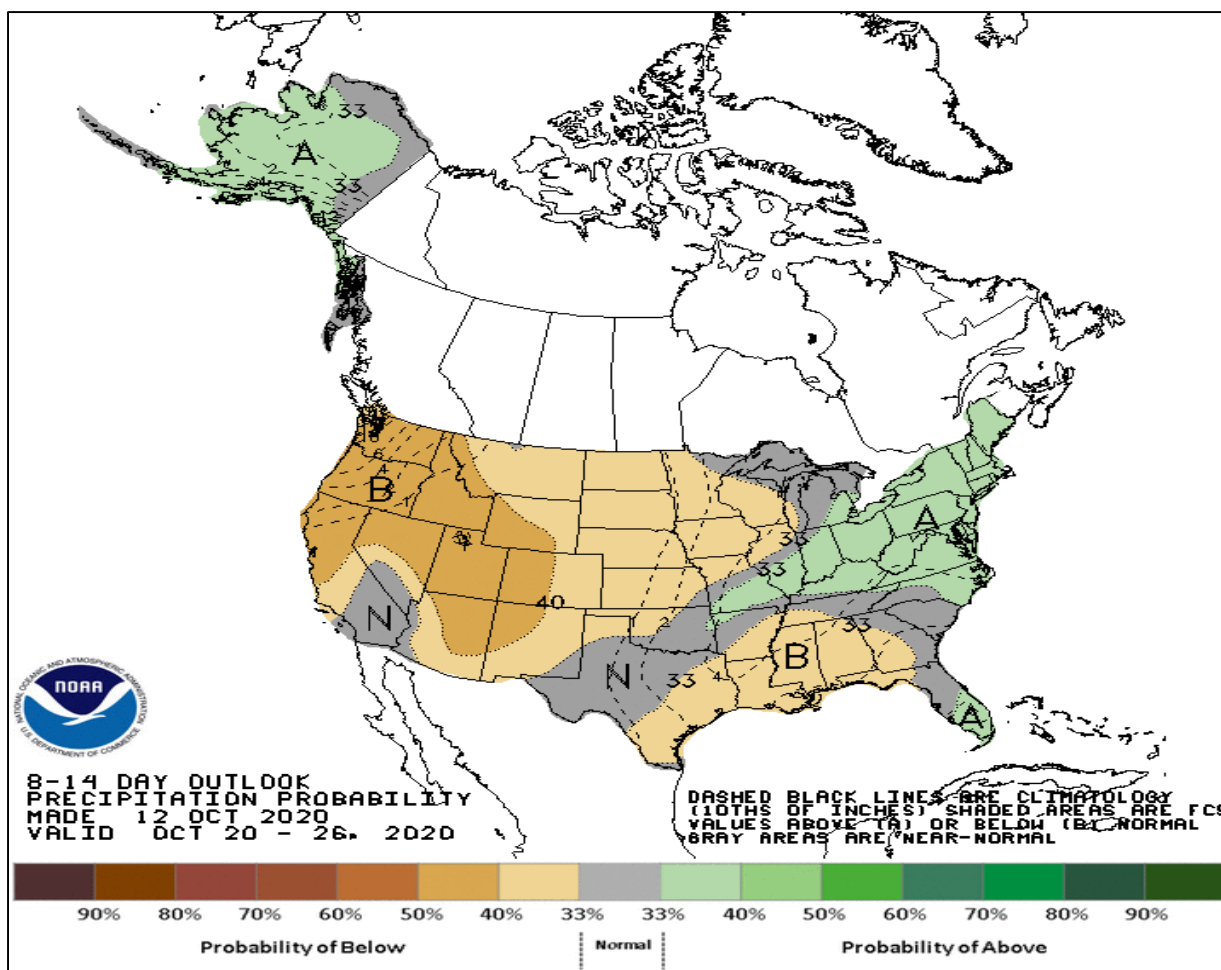
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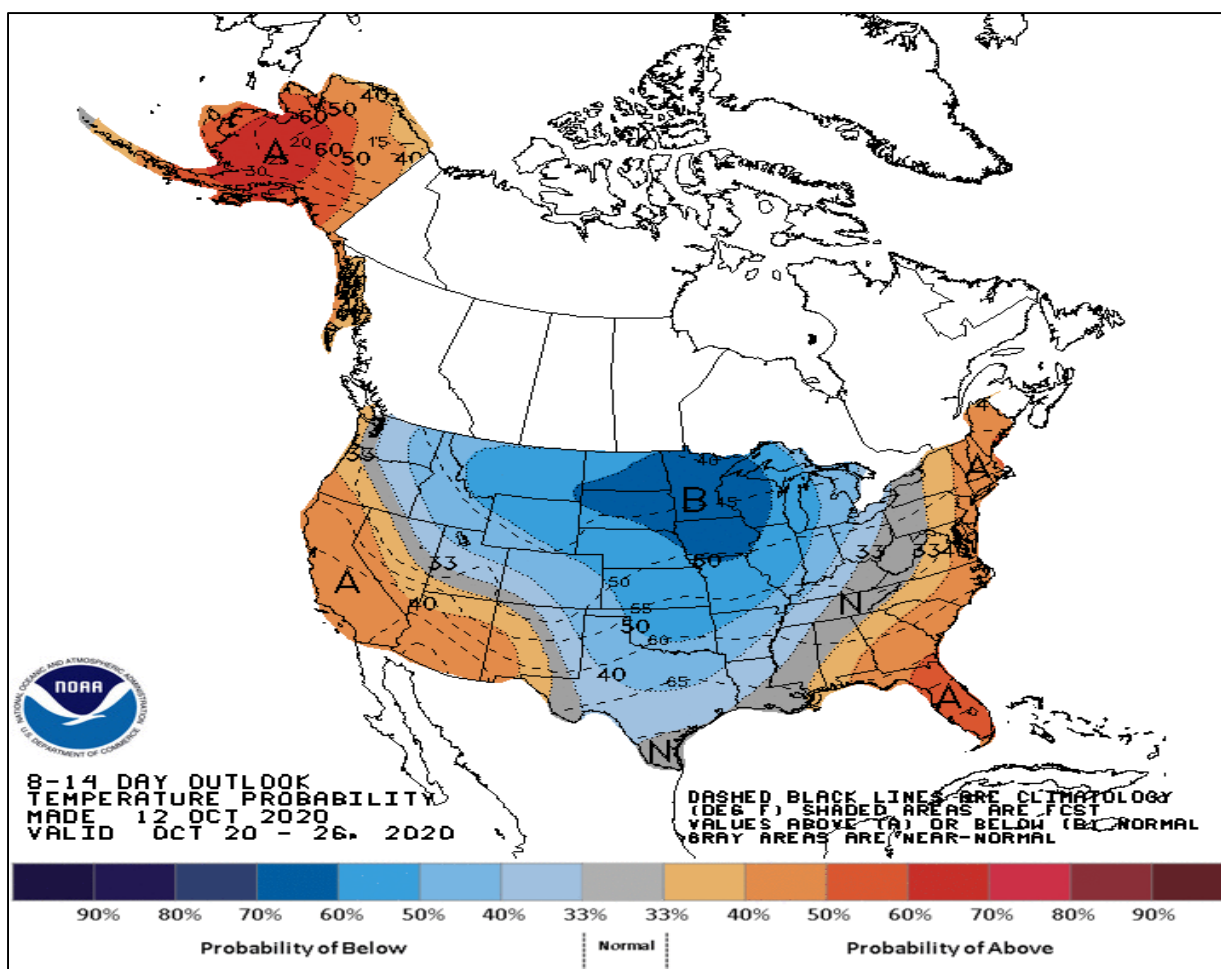
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CPC Week 2 Outlooks for 20-26 October 2020

Precipitation



Temperature



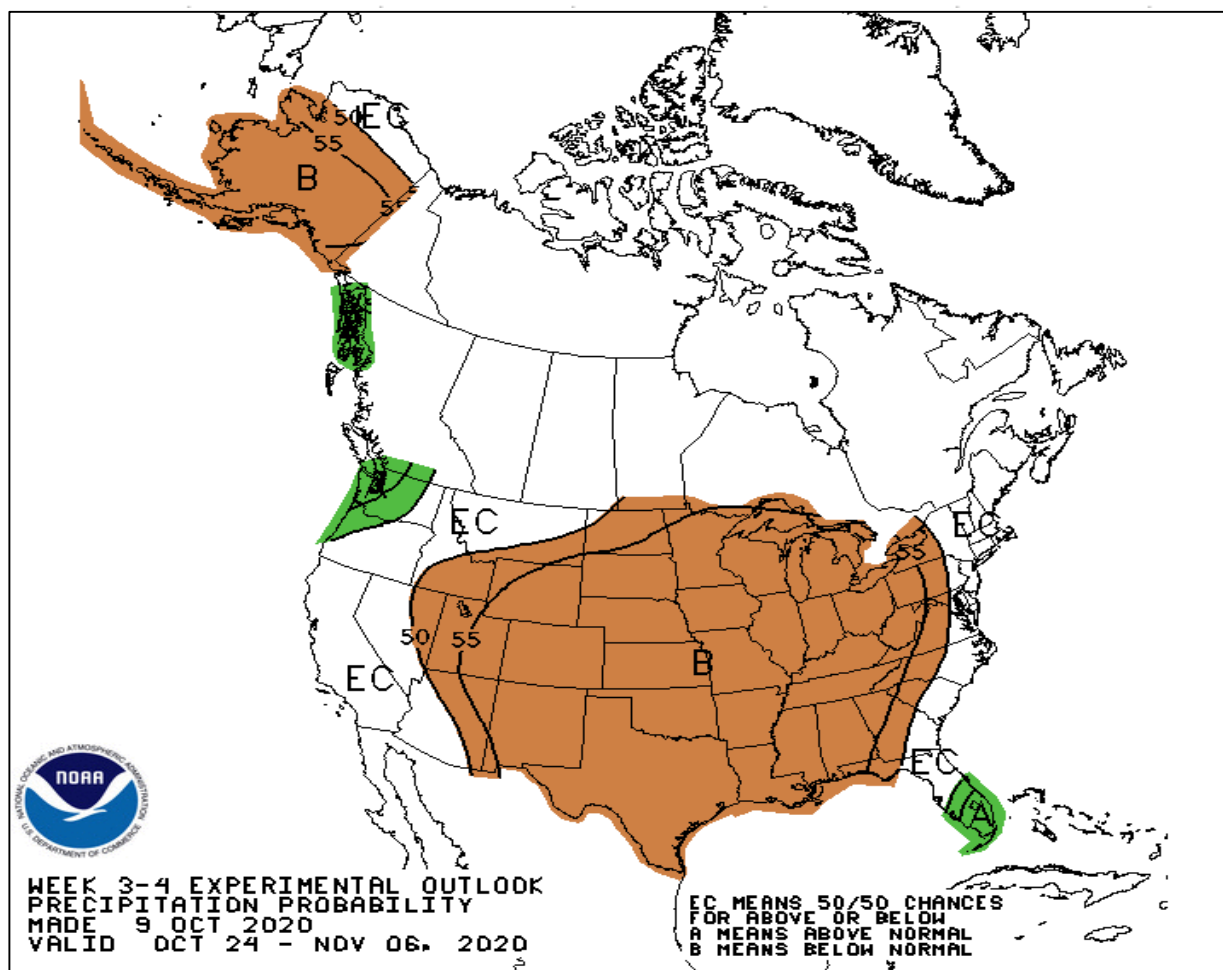


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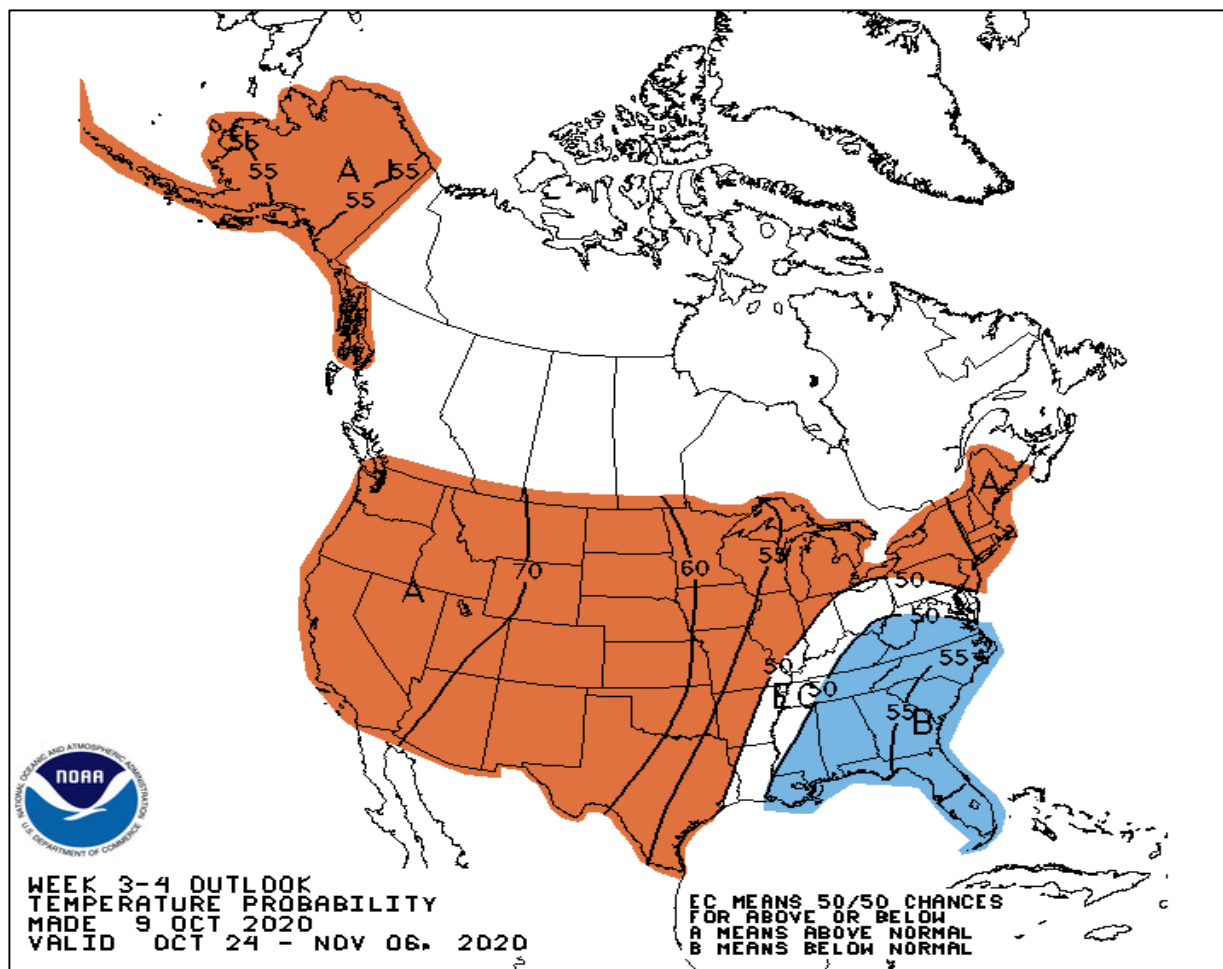
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CPC Week 3-4 Outlooks for 24 Oct – 6 Nov, 2020

Precipitation



Temperature

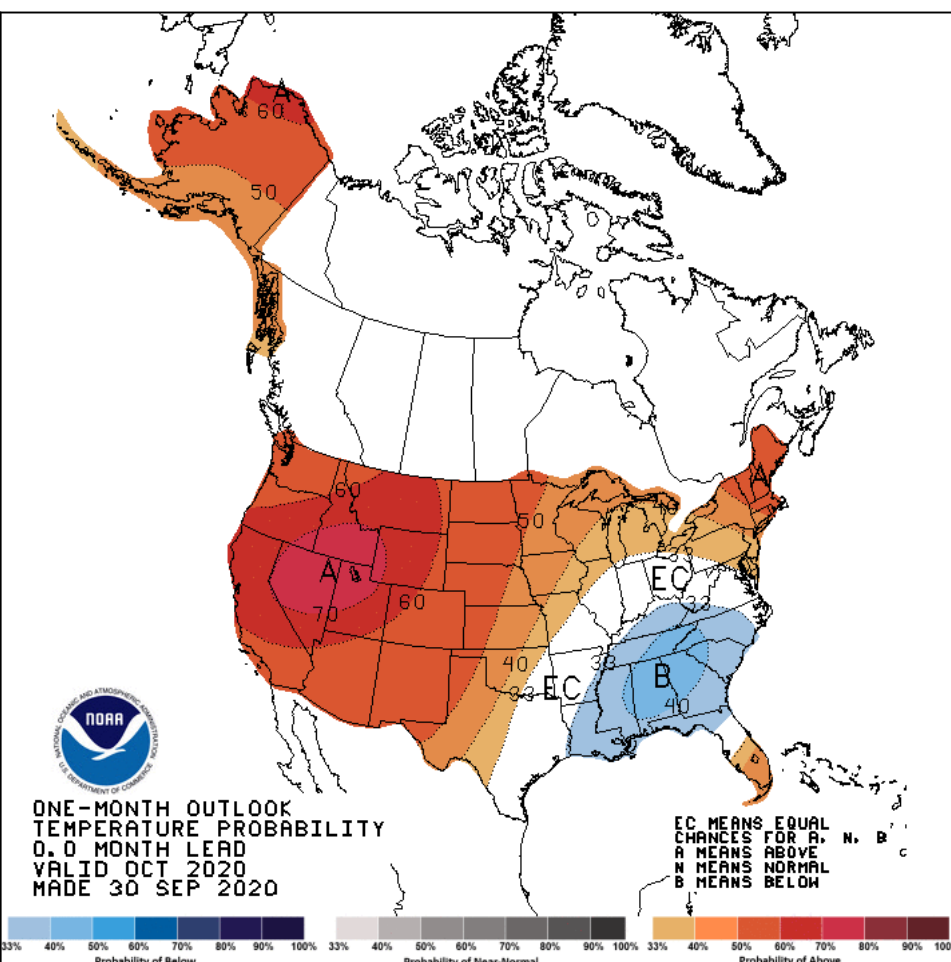
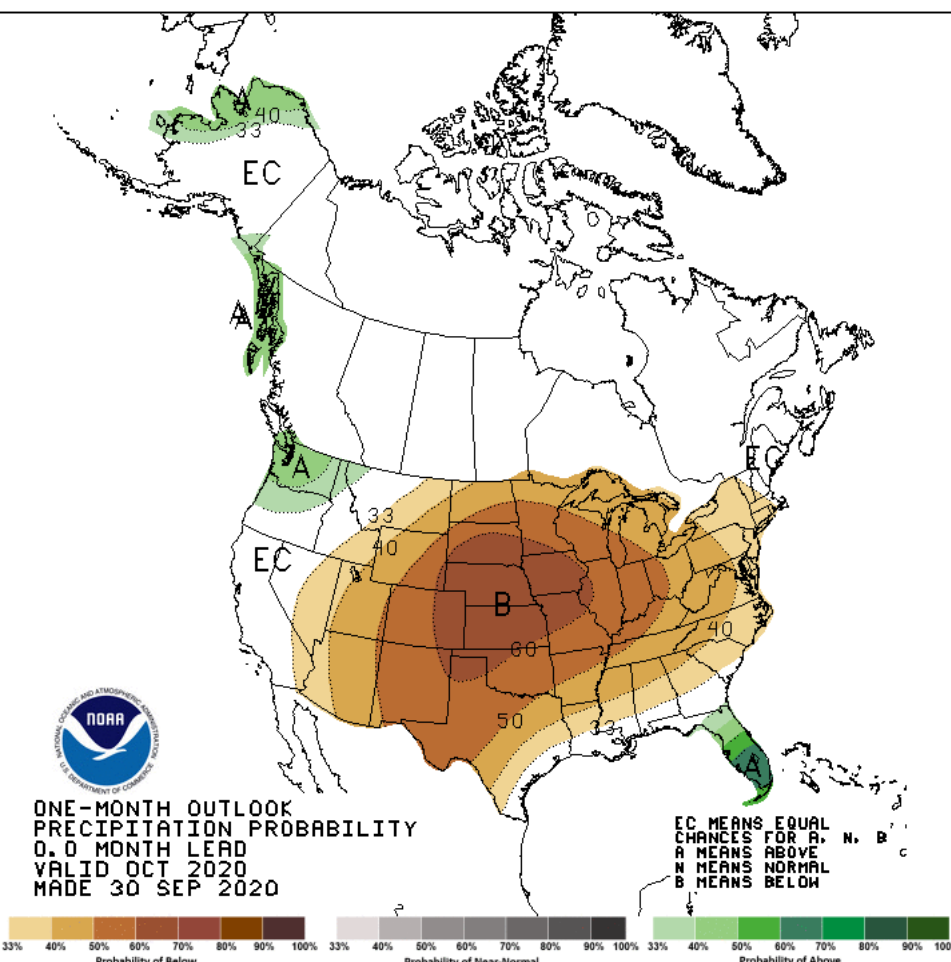




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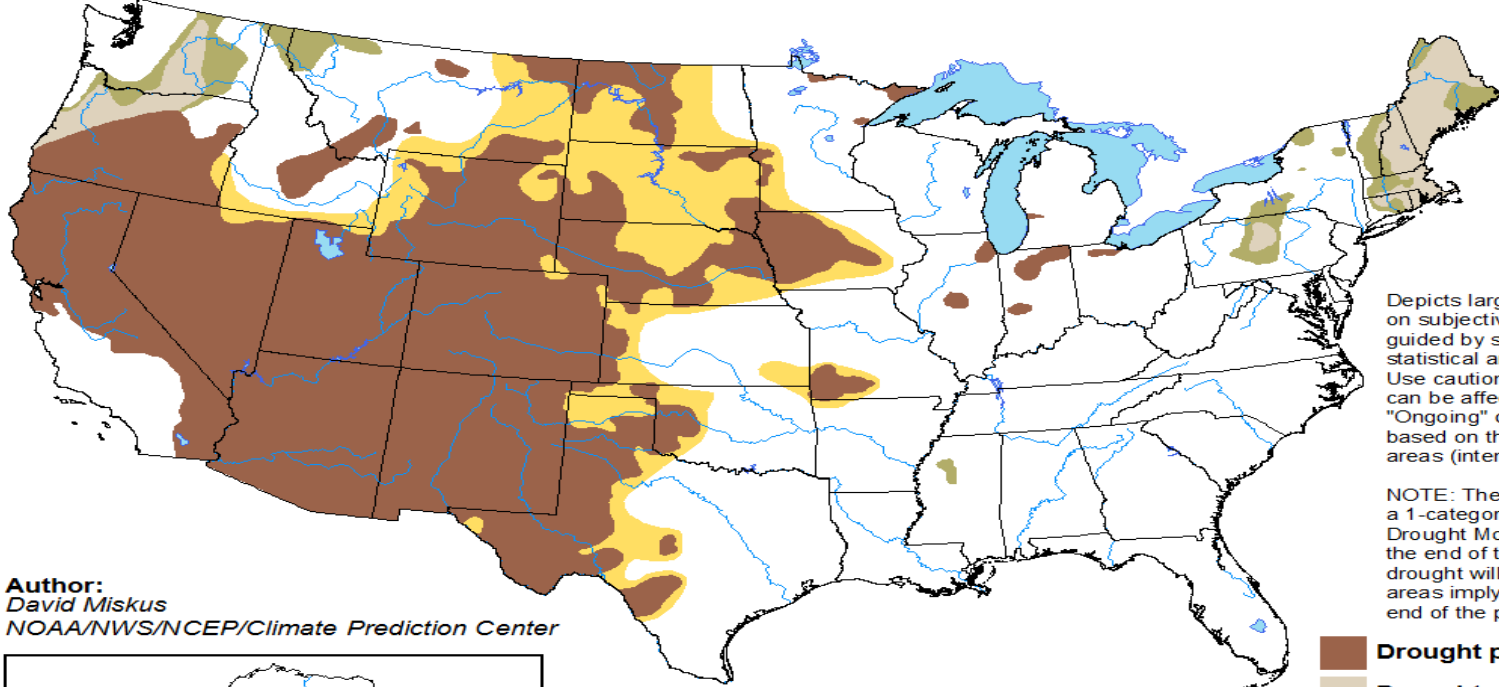
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CPC Monthly Outlooks for October 2020



U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 2020
Released September 30, 2020

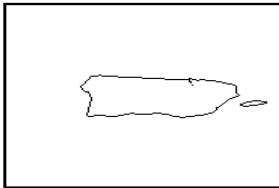
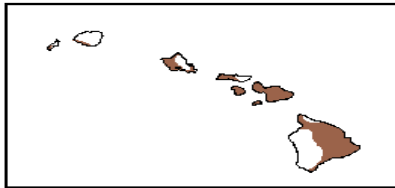
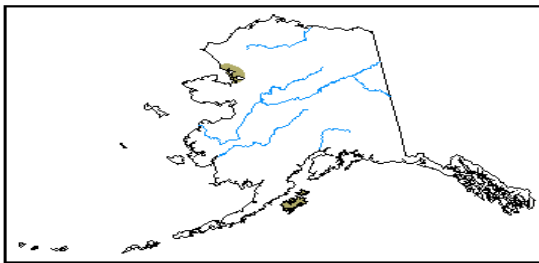


Author:
David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZGd>

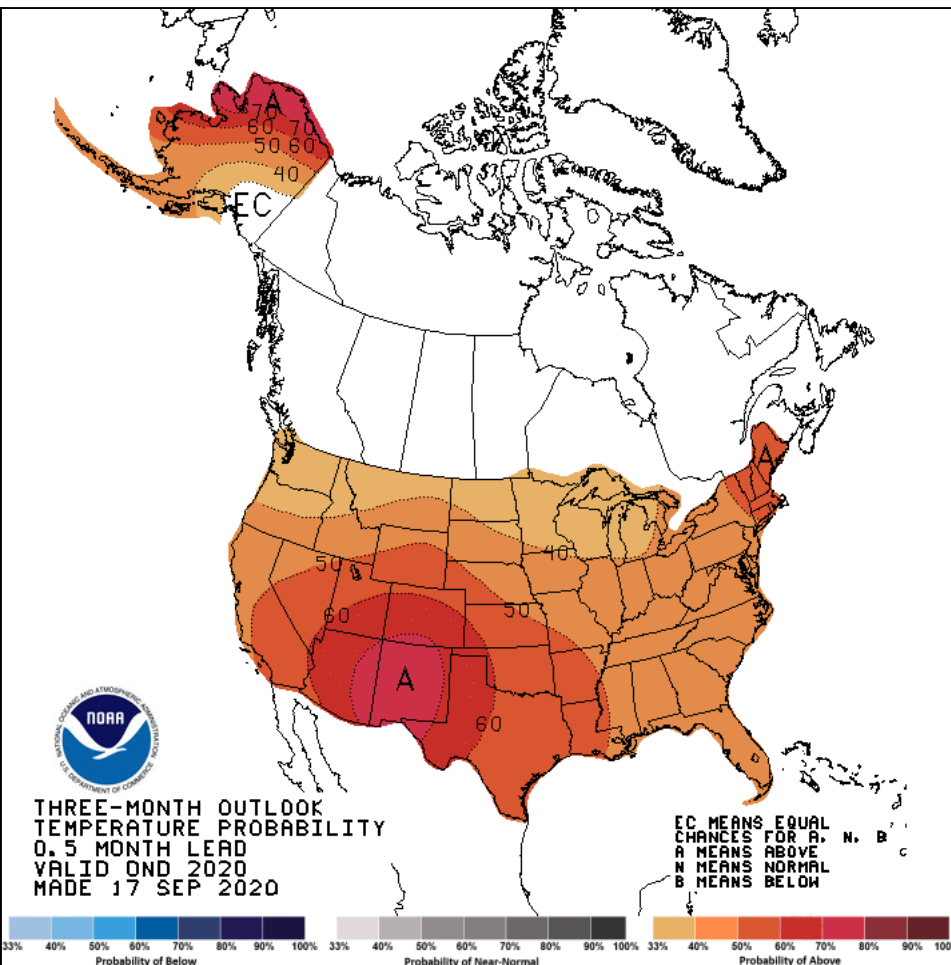
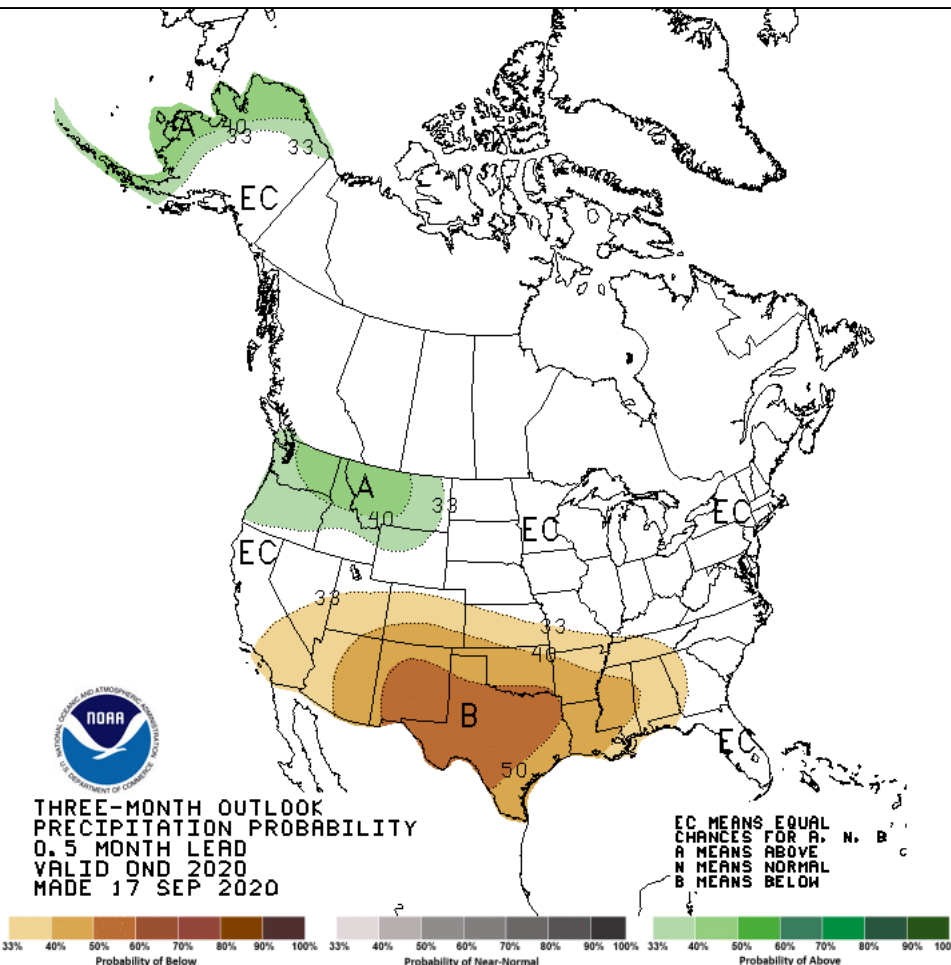


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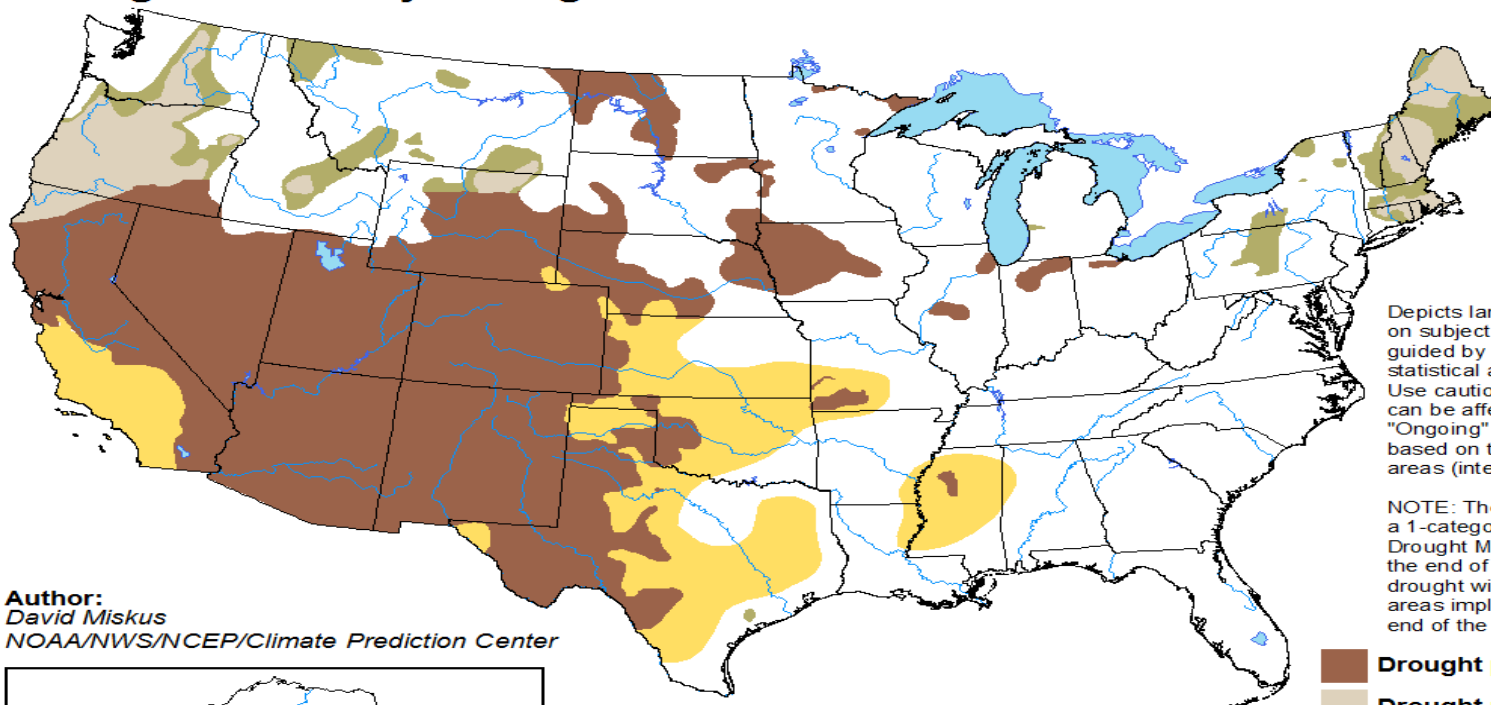
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CPC Seasonal Outlook for Oct, Nov, Dec



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

Valid for September 17 - December 31, 2020
Released September 17



Author:
David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists**
- Drought remains but improves**
- Drought removal likely**
- Drought development likely**



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>





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Summary

- Extreme (D3) drought continues across the majority of eastern Utah and western Colorado.
- The drought has worsened to the Exceptional (D4) category over some portions of the region, favoring west-central Colorado.
- A cold front moved through the area on Sunday which brought light rain to the valleys and some snow to the northern mountains.
- Generally dry and breezy conditions will prevail this week, increasing fire weather concerns.
- Eastern Utah and western Colorado will remain sandwiched between high pressure to the west and a trough to the east, though the ridge could break down mid to late next week.

Partners

National Drought Mitigation Center - <https://drought.unl.edu/>

National Integrated Drought Information System - <https://www.drought.gov/drought/>

USDA Climate Hubs - <https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/>

US Forest Service - <https://www.wfas.net/>

US Geological Survey - <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/>

Midwestern Regional Climate Center - <https://mrcc.illinois.edu/>

High Plains Regional Climate Center - <https://hprcc.unl.edu/>

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