

Nevada Drought Update: July 2025

10 July 2025

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*Abnormally dry conditions expand across northern Nevada.
Drought conditions forecast to develop in extreme western Nevada.*

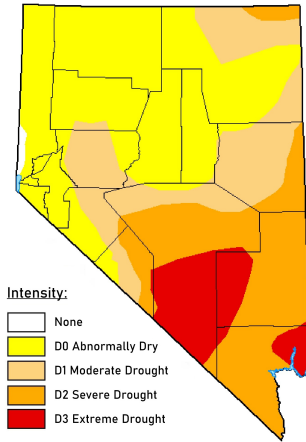


Figure 1. U.S. Drought Monitor for Nevada on 8 July 2025.

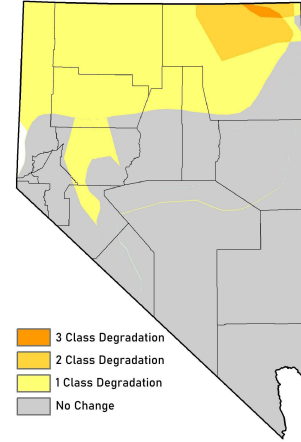


Figure 2. U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change for Nevada between 10 June and 8 July 2025.

Abnormally Dry (D0) and drought (D1 to D4) conditions encompassed nearly all of Nevada as of 10 July 2025 (Fig. 1). Moderate (D1) to Extreme (D3) Drought conditions covered the south, with Severe Drought (D2) covering eastern White Pine, north-central Nye, eastern Lincoln, eastern Esmeralda, and most of Clark counties. Extreme Drought (D3) covered southern Nye and extreme eastern Clark counties. Dry (D0) conditions expanded to the northern third of the state in the past month, including Washoe, Pershing, Humboldt, Elko, and portions of Churchill and Mineral counties (Fig. 2). Northern Elko County experienced a two-class degradation to Moderate Drought (D1), with a small sliver in the northeast corner seeing a three-class degradation to Severe Drought (D2). Over half the state (55%) was classified in drought as of 8 July 2025, a substantial increase since 9 July 2024 when less than 1% was in drought (Table 1).

Statewide temperatures were 2.5°F above 1991 to 2020 normal values in June 2025, continuing a trend of above normal temperatures that began in April 2025. Except for an abrupt but short-lived cool down from 20-23 June that brought light snow and subfreezing conditions to many mountain areas in the west and north, daily temperatures were generally above normal (Fig. 3). Precipitation was very limited in June, with isolated convective storms largely confined to the eastern Sierra, Spring Mountains in Clark County, and eastern Lincoln County (Fig. 4). A particularly intense and quasi-stationary thunderstorm on 5 June produced over an inch of rain in western Reno and Mogul along the Truckee River in Washoe County. The 0.57" that fell at the Reno-Tahoe airport allowed the month to end 0.16" above normal. Winnemucca, Elko, and Ely were all approximately 0.50" below normal with little to no precipitation recorded. Although no precipitation was recorded in Las Vegas (0.04" below normal), most of Clark and eastern Lincoln counties were well above normal (Fig. 5).

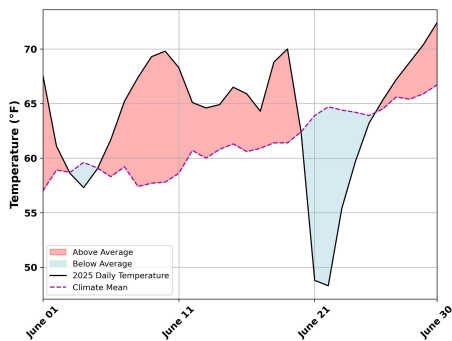


Figure 3. Time series plot depicting the average temperature (in degrees Fahrenheit) from the Nevada Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS) network and the Nevada Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network from 1 June 2025 to 30 June 2025 (in black) plotted against the long-term daily mean values.

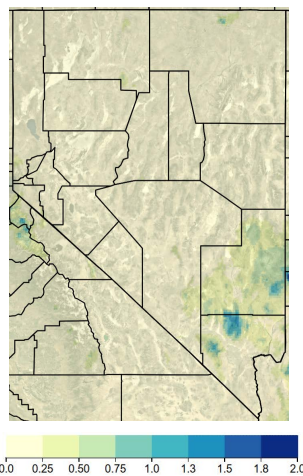


Figure 4. Total precipitation (inches) for Nevada between 1 June 2025 to 30 June 2025. Source: PRISM 4km Daily.

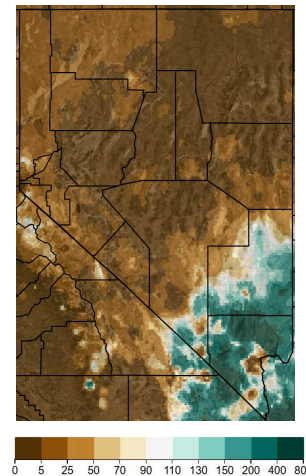


Figure 5. Precipitation percent difference from average between 1 June 2025 to 30 June 2025, compared to 1991-2020 climatology. Source: PRISM 4km Daily.

Table 1. Percent of Nevada in each drought class from the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Date	2 July 2024	1 October 2024	31 December 2024	1 April 2025	8 July 2025
None	84	0	11	34	0
Abnormally Dry- D0	16	68	39	16	44
Moderate Drought- D1	0	32	23	12	22
Severe Drought- D2	0	0	17	18	24
Extreme Drought- D3	0	0	10	18	10
Exceptional Drought- D4	0	0	0	2	0

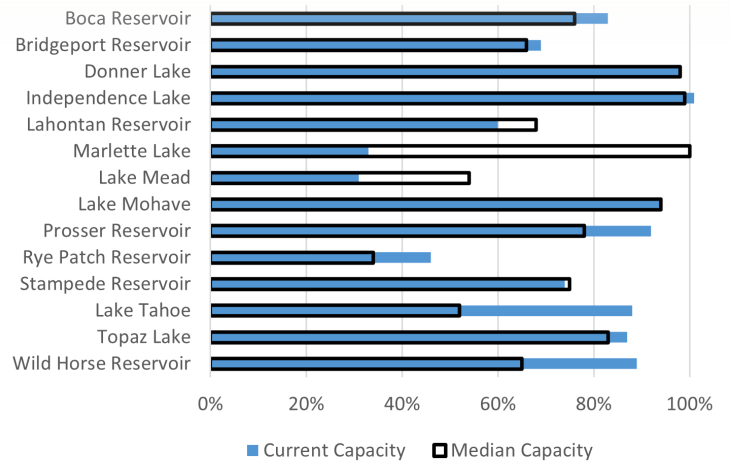


Figure 6. Reservoir storage capacity on 1 July 2025. Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center; Bureau of Reclamation; Truckee River Operating Agreement.

Reservoir storage levels were generally at or above the median capacity for 1 July (Fig. 6). Prosser Reservoir, Rye Patch Reservoir, Lake Tahoe, and Wild Horse Reservoir were well above median capacity; Boca Reservoir, Bridgeport Reservoir, Independence Lake, Lake Mohave, Stampede Reservoir, and Topaz Lake were slightly above or close to median capacity. Lahontan Reservoir was below median capacity, while in the south, Lake Mead remained well below the median at 31% capacity. Marlette Lake was well below median storage capacity due to dam renovations in progress.

The snowpack in the eastern Sierra and Nevada was confined to the highest elevations in June and disappeared a bit earlier than the median (Fig. 7). No SNOTEL stations reported snow water equivalent (SWE) values > 0" on 1 July. Average soil moisture from SNOTEL stations in Nevada and the eastern Sierra on 1 July was at the 39th percentile and continued to track below median values (Fig. 8).

The latest U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook for July 2025 projects drought to persist across most of the southern two-thirds of Nevada (Fig. 9). Drought development is likely in extreme western Nevada into the eastern Sierra. The latest U.S. Monthly Outlook for July 2025 favors above normal temperatures (50-70% probability, Fig. 10) and equal chances for above or below normal precipitation (Fig. 11).

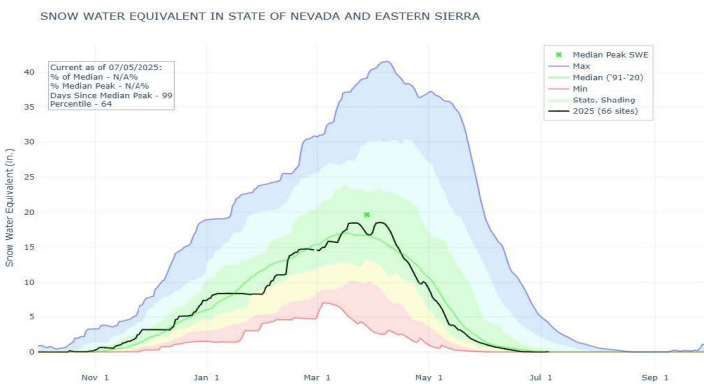


Figure 7. Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) for Nevada and the eastern Sierra on 5 July 2025 based on measurements from the Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network of stations. Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

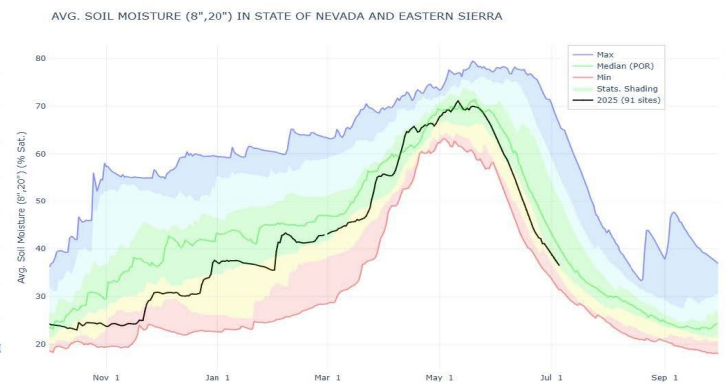


Figure 8. Soil moisture for Nevada and the eastern Sierra on 5 July 2025 based on measurements from the Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network of stations. Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for July 2025
Released June 30, 2025

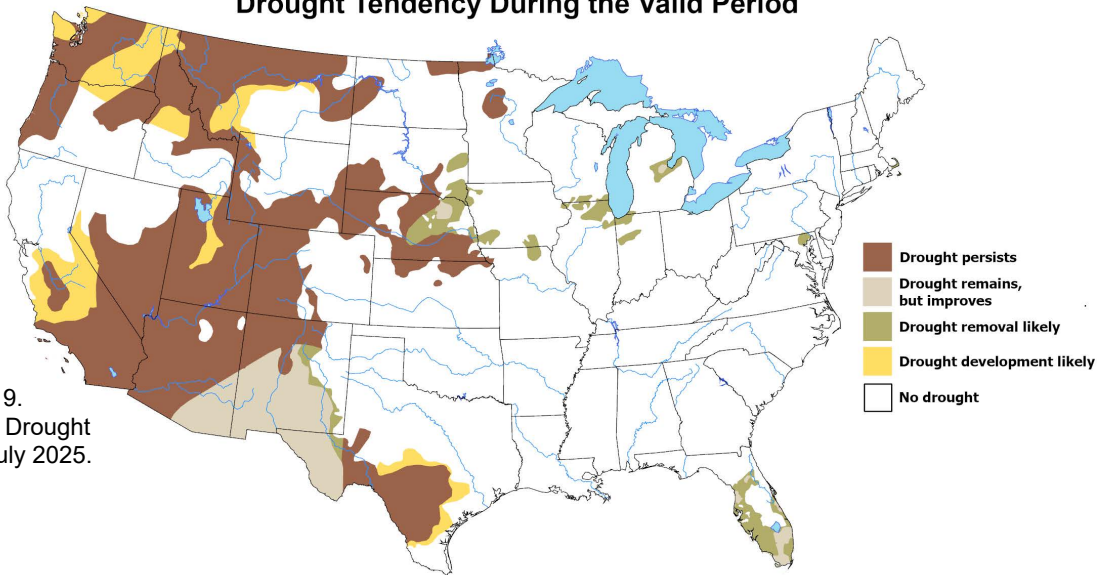


Figure 9.
U.S. Monthly Drought
Outlook for July 2025.

Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: July 2025
Issued: June 30, 2025

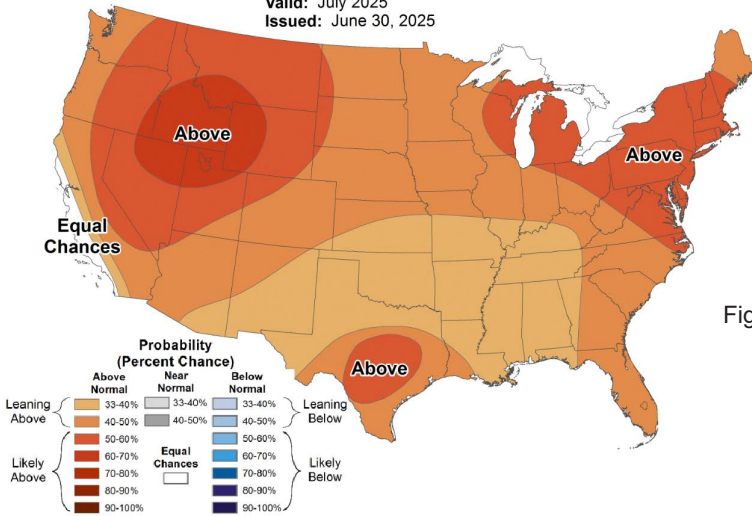


Figure 10. U.S. Monthly Temperature Outlook for July 2025.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: July 2025
Issued: June 30, 2025

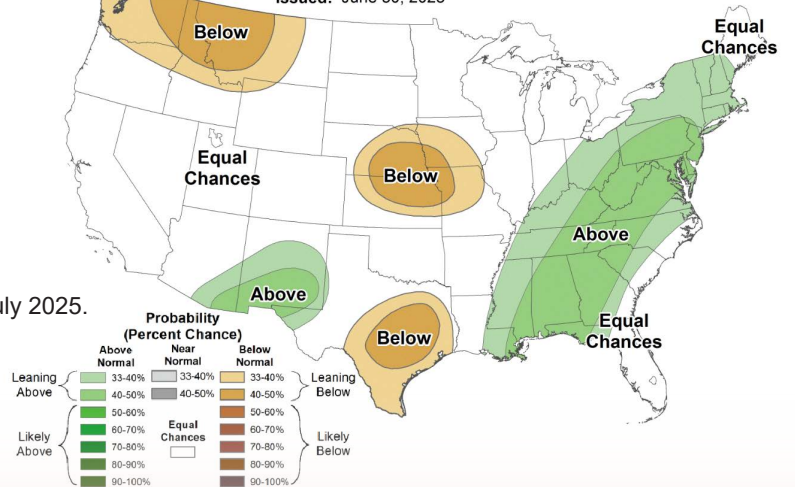


Figure 11. U.S. Monthly Precipitation Outlook for July 2025.