

Nevada Drought Update: August 2025

5 August 2025

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Drought intensifies in extreme northeastern Nevada and persists in the south and east. Abnormally dry conditions continue in north-central and western Nevada.

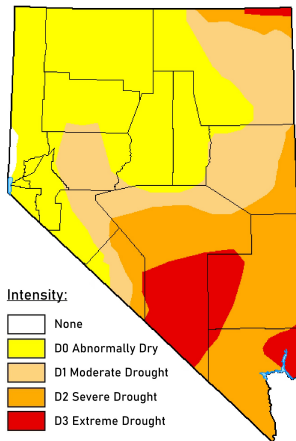


Figure 1. U.S. Drought Monitor for Nevada on 29 July 2025.

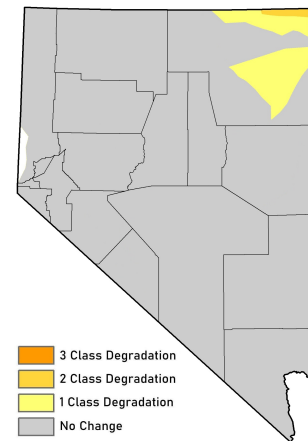


Figure 2. U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change for Nevada between 1 July and 29 July 2025.

Abnormally Dry (D0) and drought (D1 to D4) conditions encompassed nearly all of Nevada as of 29 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, western Lincoln, and extreme eastern Clark counties. Little change in drought indicators was observed in the past month, except for Elko County, where portions of the county experienced a one-class degradation to Severe Drought (D2) and a small sliver in the northeast corner seeing a two-class degradation to Exceptional Drought (D3) (Fig. 2). Over half the state (59%) was classified in drought as of 29 July 2025, a substantial increase since 30 July 2024 when only 1% was in drought (Table 1).

Statewide temperatures were 0.5°F below 1991 to 2020 normal values in July 2025, breaking a trend of above normal temperatures from April to June 2025. Other than a short-lived period of below normal temperatures from 3 to 6 July, temperatures were well above climatological normals for the first half of the month (Fig. 3). Statewide heat peaked from 13 to 15 July with high temperatures of 106°F in Winnemucca and 104°F in Reno on 13 July that tied their record highs for the date. Below normal temperatures predominated during the second half of the month, bottoming out at 6.1°F below normal on 26 July.

Precipitation was largely confined to the four corners of Nevada in July 2025, with only scattered light precipitation elsewhere primarily over the higher terrain of Lander, Eureka, and White Pine counties (Fig. 4). The highest amounts were in the Spring Mountains of Clark County, where Rainbow Canyon and Lee Canyon SNOTEL stations reported 2.60" and 1.90". In Washoe County, a strong thunderstorm on 27 July produced 2.13" of rain in north Reno – including 2.09" in one hour – and 0.57" at the Reno-Tahoe airport, bringing the monthly total to 0.83", or 0.63" above normal. Meanwhile, Winnemucca, Elko, Eureka, Tonopah, and Las Vegas were all well below normal, reporting 0.20" or less for the month. Ely recorded no precipitation in July for only the seventh time in 138 years of data going back to 1894. Precipitation totals were above normal for mainly Washoe, Storey, southwestern Churchill, and northwestern Humboldt counties (Fig. 5).

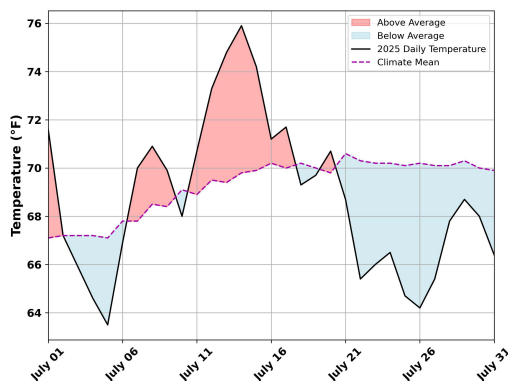


Figure 3. Time series plot depicting the average temperature (in degrees Fahrenheit) from the Nevada Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS) network and the Nevada Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network from 1 July 2025 to 31 July 2025 (in black) plotted against the long-term daily mean values.

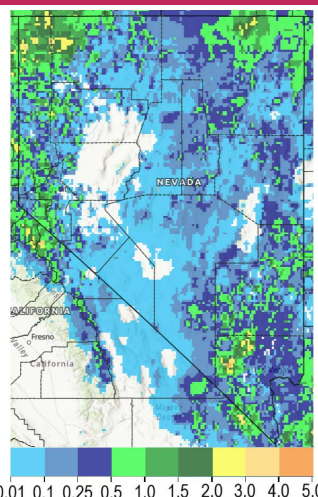


Figure 4. Total precipitation (inches) for Nevada for July 2025. Source: NOAA multi-sensor precipitation estimate from WSR-88D radar, gauges, and satellite; <http://water.noaa.gov>

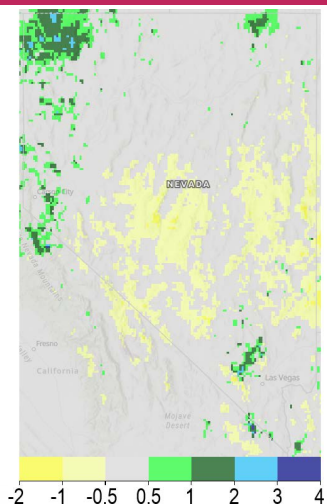


Figure 5. Total precipitation departure from normal for July 2025. Source: NOAA multi-sensor precipitation estimate from WSR-88D radar, gauges, and satellite; <http://water.noaa.gov>

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

Date	30 July 2024	29 October 2024	28 January 2025	29 April 2025	29 July 2025
None	35	0	12	34	<1
Abnormally Dry- D0	64	74	34	16	41
Moderate Drought- D1	1	13	22	16	23
Severe Drought- D2	0	13	21	14	25
Extreme Drought- D3	0	0	11	18	11
Exceptional Drought- D4	0	0	0	2	0

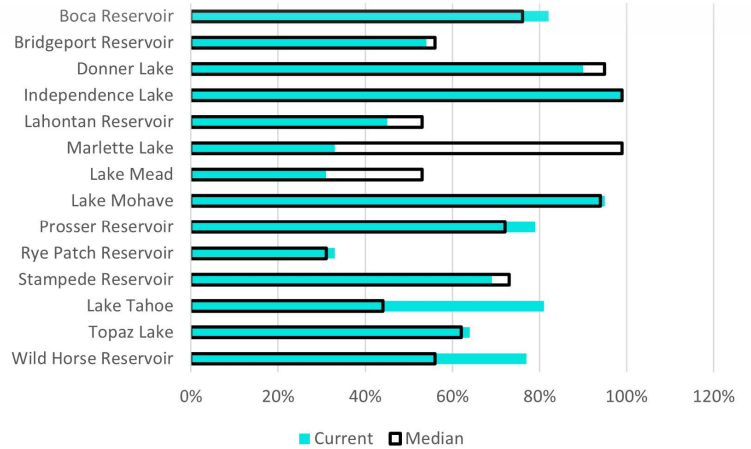


Figure 6. Reservoir storage capacity on 1 August 2025. Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center; Bureau of Reclamation; Truckee River Operating Agreement.

Reservoir storage levels were mixed for 1 August (Fig. 6). Although most reservoirs were close to the median percentage of full capacity for the date, Lake Tahoe and Wild Horse Reservoir were well above the median. Lake Mead was only 31% of full capacity, well below the median for this large and important reservoir. Marlette Lake remained well below median percentage of full capacity due to dam renovations in progress.

Water year precipitation-to-date for Nevada and the eastern Sierra SNOTEL stations averaged 27.4" on 1 August, 94% of the median and 90% of the total water year median (Fig. 7). Average soil moisture from SNOTEL stations in Nevada and the eastern Sierra on 2 August averaged 27.5%, 93% of median for the date (Fig. 8).

The latest U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook for August 2025 projects drought to persist across most of southern and eastern Nevada (Fig. 9). The latest U.S. Monthly Outlook for August 2025 favors above normal temperatures (33-60% probability, Fig. 10) and equal chances for above or below normal precipitation, except in the far east where there is a 33-40% probability of below normal precipitation (Fig. 11).

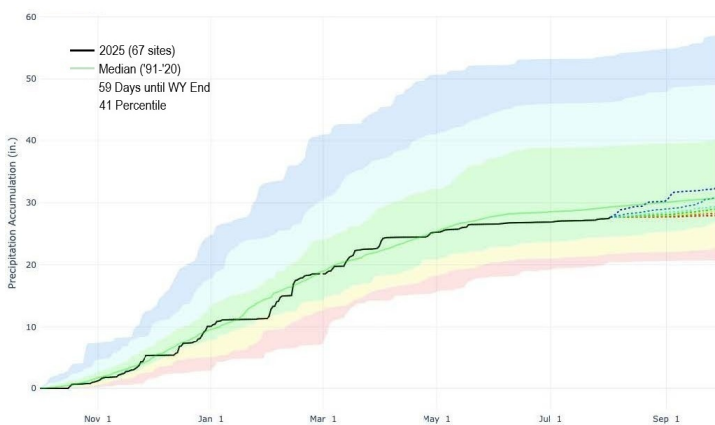


Figure 7. Water year-to-date precipitation for Nevada and the eastern Sierra on 2 August 2025 based on measurements from the Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network of stations. Statistical shading percentiles are calculated from period of record (POR) data, excluding the current water year. Percentile categories range from: minimum to 10th percentile (red), 10th to 30th (orange), 30th to 70th (green), 70th to 90th (light blue), and 90th to maximum (dark blue).

Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

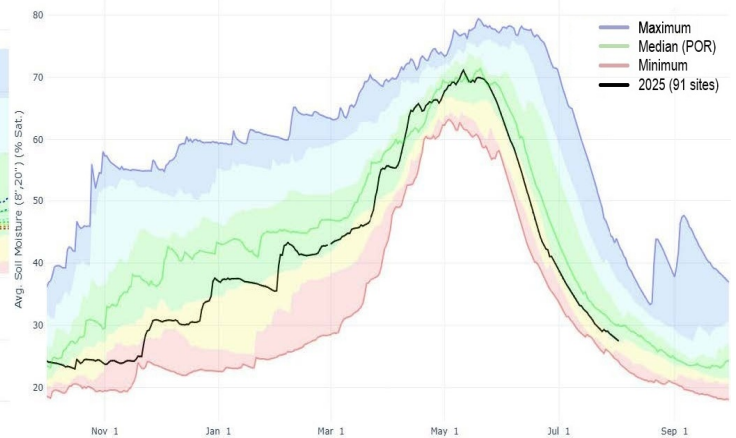


Figure 8. Soil moisture for Nevada and the eastern Sierra on 2 August 2025 based on measurements from the Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network of stations. Statistical shading percentiles are calculated from period of record (POR) data, excluding the current water year. Percentile categories range from: minimum to 10th percentile (red), 10th to 30th (orange), 30th to 70th (green), 70th to 90th (light blue), and 90th to maximum (dark blue).

Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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

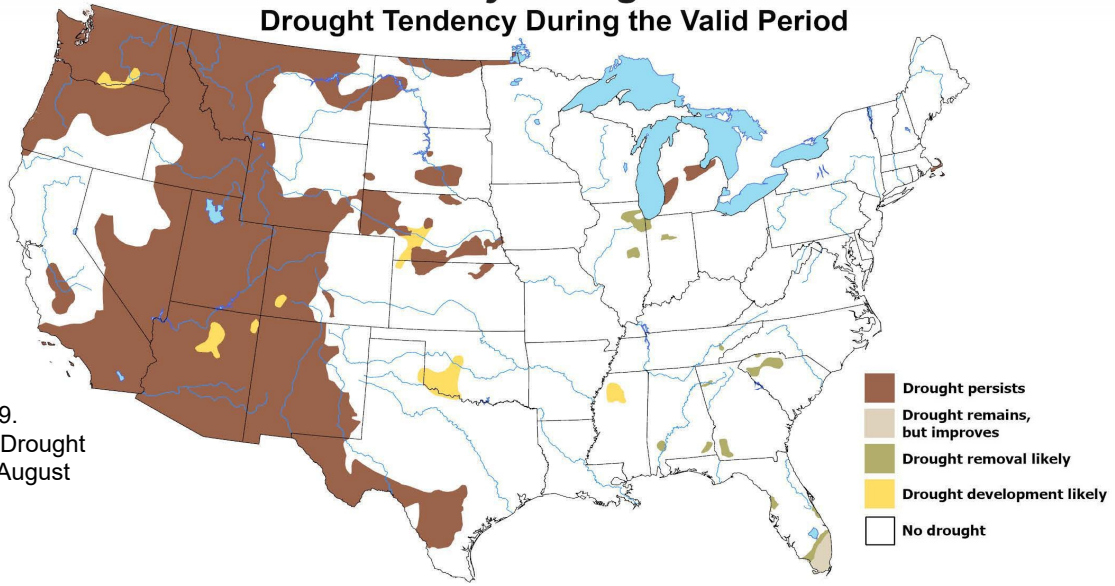


Figure 9.
U.S. Monthly Drought
Outlook for August
2025.

Monthly Temperature Outlook

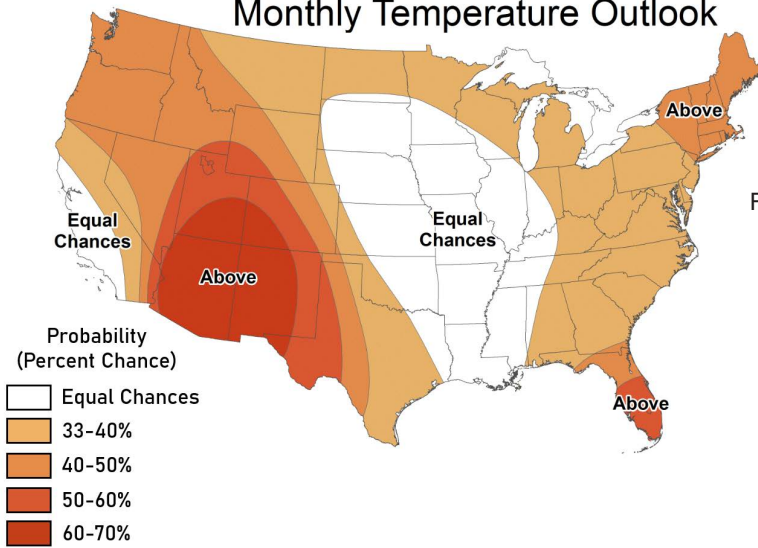


Figure 10. U.S. Monthly Temperature Outlook for August 2025.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook

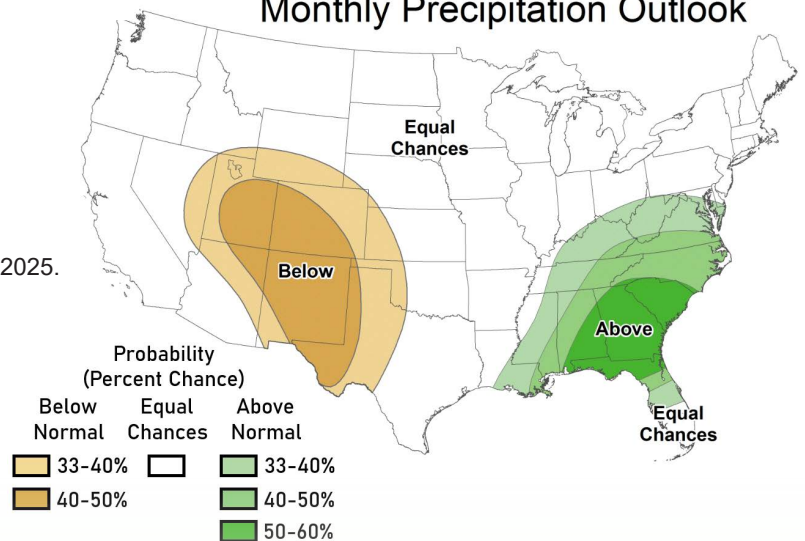


Figure 11. U.S. Monthly Precipitation Outlook for August 2025.