

NEVADA DROUGHT UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 2025

9 September 2025

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**Drought persists in southern and eastern Nevada.
Abnormally dry conditions continue in much of the rest of the state.**

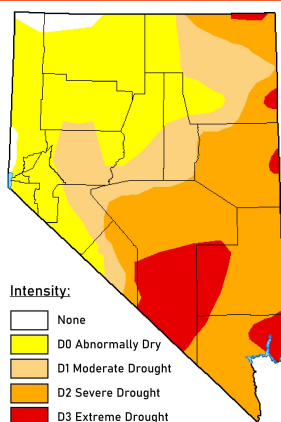


Figure 1. U.S. Drought Monitor for Nevada on 2 September 2025.

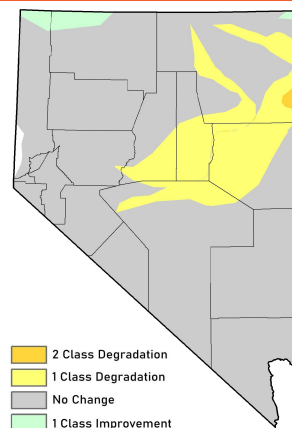


Figure 2. U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change for Nevada between 5 August and 2 September 2025.

Abnormally Dry (D0) and drought (D1 to D4) conditions encompassed nearly all of Nevada as of 2 September 2025 (Fig. 1). Moderate (D1) to Extreme (D3) Drought conditions covered the south, with Severe Drought (D2) covering eastern Elko, nearly all of White Pine, north-central Nye, eastern Lincoln, eastern Esmeralda, and most of Clark counties. Extreme Drought (D3) covered southern Nye, western Lincoln, eastern Clark, and pockets of White Pine and Elko counties. Meanwhile, extreme southwestern and northern Washoe County into northwestern Humboldt County remained near normal with no drought indicators. Some degradation in drought indicators was observed over the past month, where portions of northern Nye, southern Lander, southern Eureka, and western White Pine counties into portions of Elko County experienced a one-class degradation to Moderate (D1) or Severe Drought (D2) (Fig. 2). Extreme southeastern Elko County experienced a two-class degradation to Extreme Drought (D3). Extreme northeastern Elko, northern Washoe, and northwestern Humboldt counties experienced a one-class improvement. Nearly two-thirds of the state (65%) was classified in drought as of 2 September 2025, a marked increase since one year ago on 3 September 2024 when only 28% was in drought (Table 1).

Statewide temperatures were 0.5°F above 1991 to 2020 normal values in August 2025, with the greatest departures in the south where Las Vegas was 2.0°F above normal. Below normal temperatures prevailed during the first and last weeks of the month (Fig. 3). Two notable periods of warmth occurred from 11 to 15 and 19 to 24 August. New daily record high temperatures were set in Reno on the 12th (102°F); Ely on the 13th (96°F), 20th (93°F), and 22nd (95°F); and Eureka on the 12th (94°F). Eureka's low temperature of 66°F on 23 August tied the third highest low temperature recorded since 1963.

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

Date	3 September 2024	3 December 2024	4 March 2025	3 June 2025	2 September 2025
None	35	28	33	50	42
Abnormally Dry- D0	64	28	23	20	23
Moderate Drought- D1	1	27	25	13	14
Severe Drought- D2	0	12	12	9	14
Extreme Drought- D3	0	4	6	6	7
Exceptional Drought- D4	0	1	1	9	0

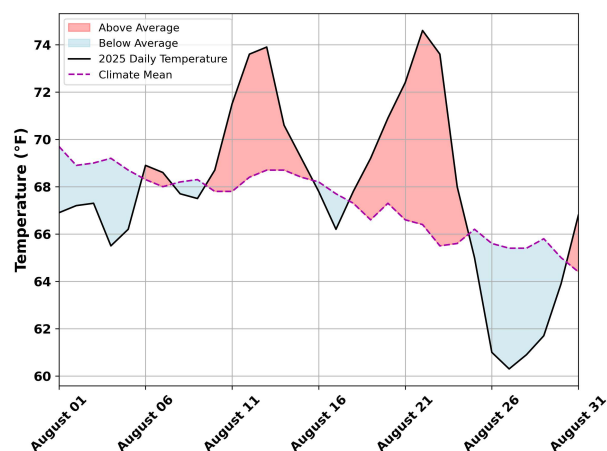


Figure 3. Time series plot depicting the average temperature (in degrees Fahrenheit) from the Nevada Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS) network and the Nevada Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network from 1 August 2025 to 31 August 2025 (in black) plotted against the long-term daily mean values.

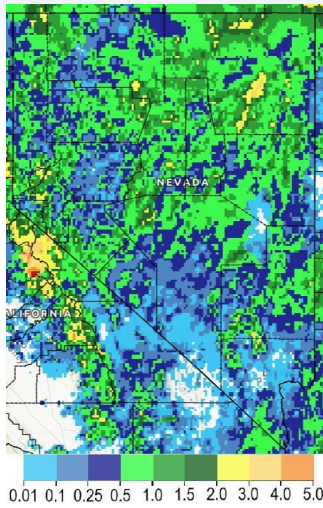


Figure 4. Total precipitation (inches) for Nevada for August 2025. Source: NOAA multi-sensor precipitation estimate from WSR-88D radar, gauges, and satellite; <http://water.noaa.gov>

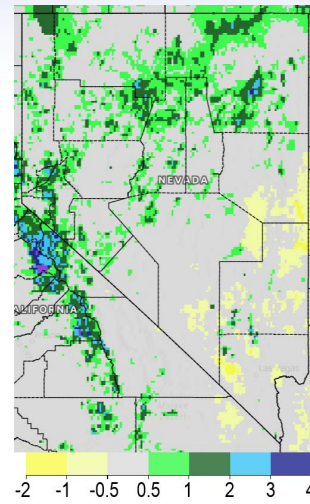


Figure 5. Total precipitation departure from normal for August 2025. Source: NOAA multi-sensor precipitation estimate from WSR-88D radar, gauges, and satellite; <http://water.noaa.gov>

Much-needed precipitation fell across nearly all of Nevada in August 2025, especially in the west, central, and north (Fig. 4). The highest totals and greatest coverage were found in Elko County – mainly in the vicinity of the Ruby and Jarbridge mountain ranges. The Corral Canyon SNOTEL station in the southern Ruby Mountains reported 4.00” and several additional SNOTEL stations (e.g., Lamoille #3 and Big Bend reported over 2.00” of precipitation for the month. The Spring Creek 1.3 NNE CoCoRaHS station reported 1.88”. Elsewhere, the Denio 52 WSW Climate Reference Network station in extreme northern Washoe County reported 2.98”. The Great Basin National Park COOP station reported 1.67”. Precipitation totals were close to or above normal for most of the state, except for portions of southern Nye, White Pine, Lincoln, and Clark counties (Fig. 5). No precipitation was recorded at the Harry Reid International Airport in Las Vegas, which tied for the driest August in 89 years of data. Even with the 0.54” that fell in Ely between 23 and 27 August, the climatological summer months of June, July, and August tied for the 10th driest in 101 years of data.

Water year precipitation-to-date for Nevada and the eastern Sierra SNOTEL stations averaged 28.80” on 1 September, 96% of the median and 94% of the total water year median (Fig. 6). Average soil moisture from SNOTEL stations in Nevada and the eastern Sierra on 2 August increased to 29% due to late August precipitation, which is 117% of median for the date (Fig. 7).

Reservoir storage levels were mixed for 1 September (Fig. 8). Although most reservoirs were well below full capacity, Independence Lake (97%), Boca Reservoir (76%), and Lake Tahoe (75%) were in the top quartile. Meanwhile, Lahontan (31%) and Rye Patch (21%) reservoirs were in the bottom quartile. Marlette Lake remained well below full capacity at 32% due to dam renovations in progress.

The latest U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook for September 2025 projects drought to persist across most of the southern and eastern Nevada (Fig. 9). The latest U.S. Monthly Outlook for September 2025 indicates equal chances for above or below temperature (Fig. 10) and precipitation (Fig. 11) for the state.

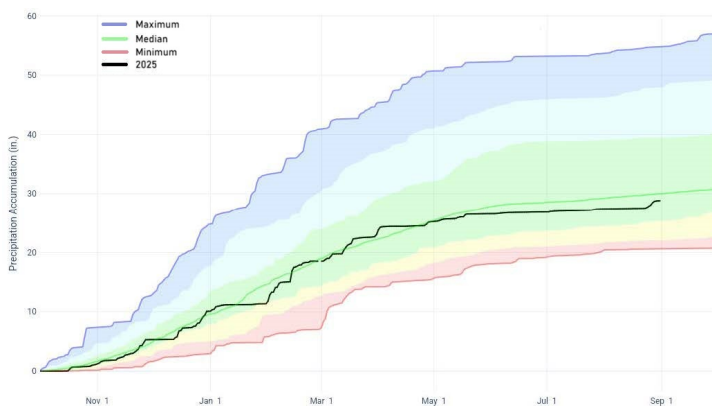


Figure 6. Water year-to-date precipitation for Nevada and the eastern Sierra on 1 September 2025 based on measurements from the Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network of stations.

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.

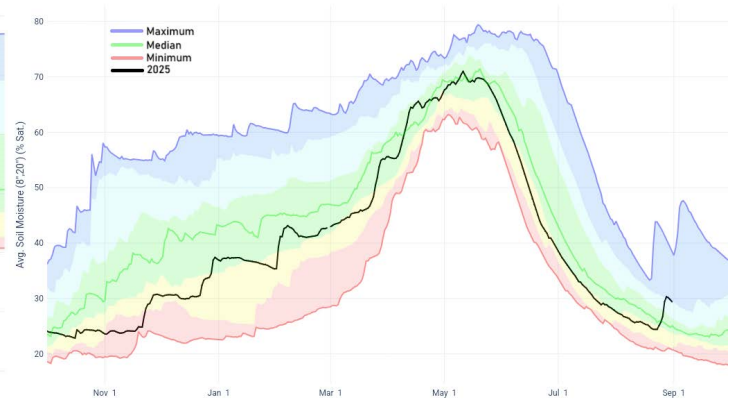


Figure 7. Soil moisture for Nevada and the eastern Sierra on 1 September 2025 based on measurements from the Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network of stations. Statistical shading percentiles are calculated from period of record (POR) data, excluding the current water year. Percentile categories range from: 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.

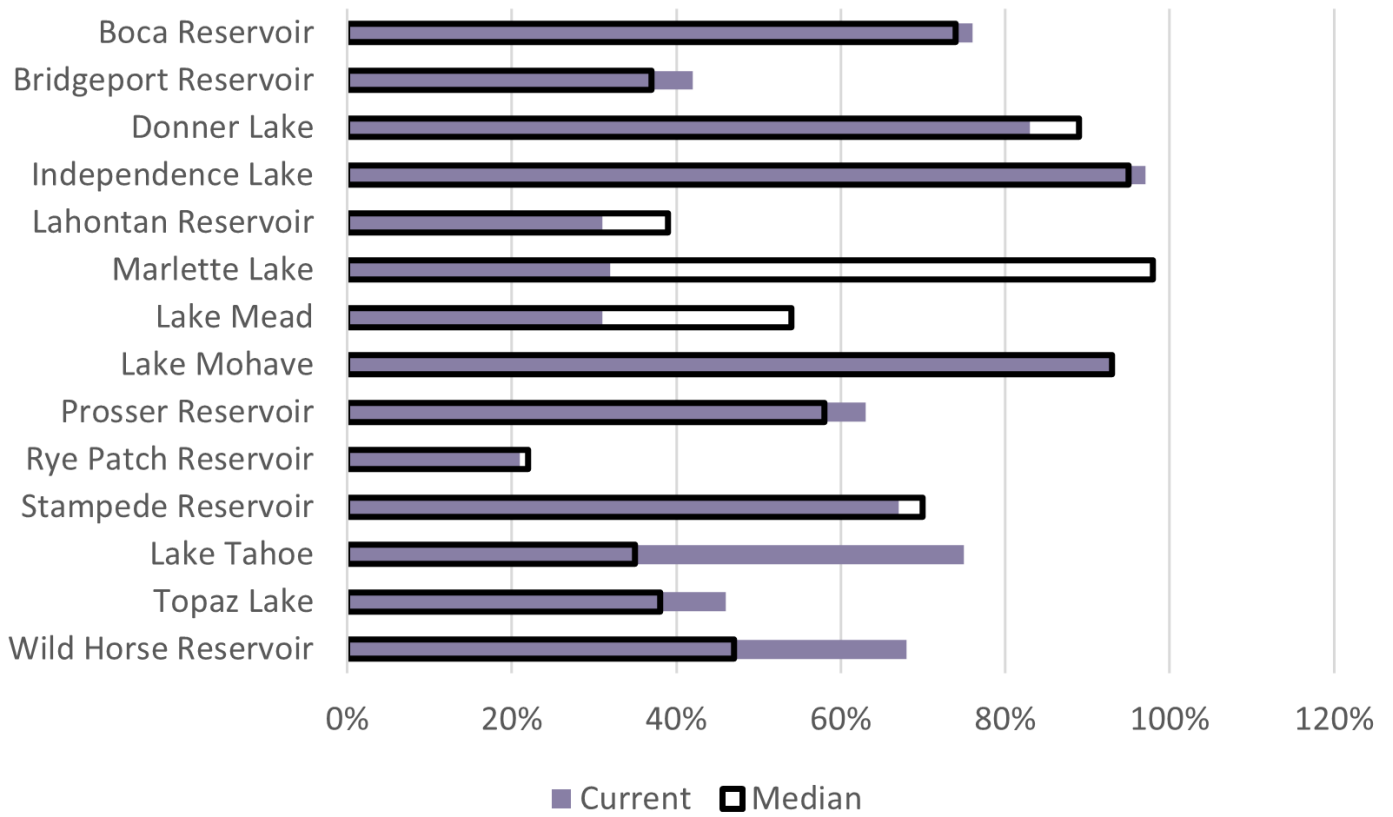


Figure 8. Reservoir water levels on 1 September 2025 relative to median percentage capacity.
 Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center; Bureau of Reclamation; Truckee River Operating Agreement.

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

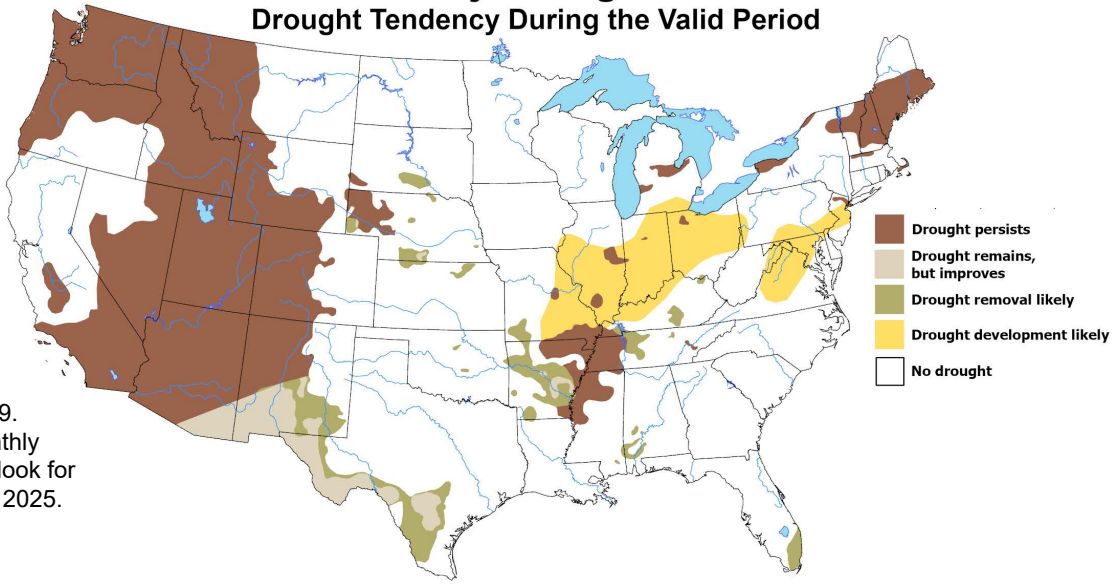


Figure 9.
U.S. Monthly
Drought Outlook for
September 2025.

Monthly Temperature Outlook

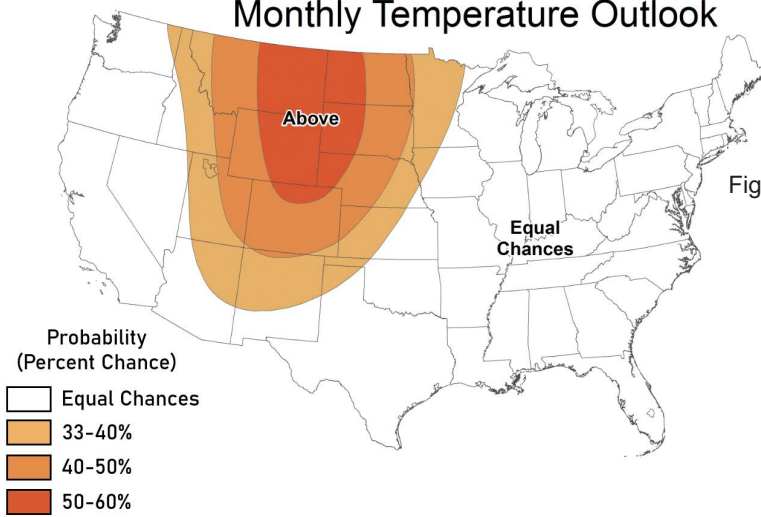


Figure 10. U.S. Monthly Temperature Outlook for September 2025.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook

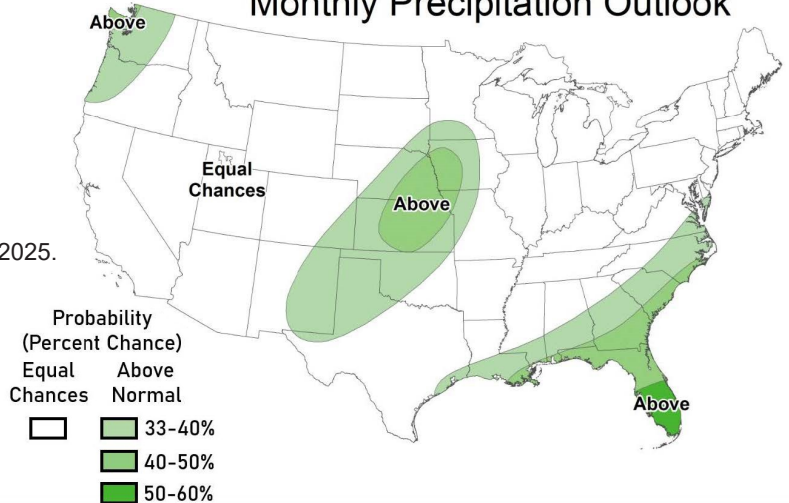


Figure 11. U.S. Monthly Precipitation Outlook for September 2025.