

NEVADA STATE CLIMATE OFFICE

Drought Update – February 2025

5 February 2025

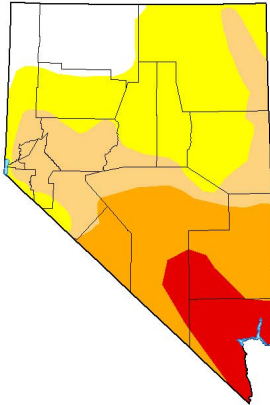
G. Dmitruk and B. Perry – Nevada State Climatologist

Drought persists in southern Nevada with abnormally dry conditions prevailing in the rest of the state.

Drought expanded to the Eastern Sierra Nevada.

An active weather pattern will bring numerous storm systems to northern Nevada through at least mid-February.

U.S. Drought Monitor
Nevada



January 28, 2025
(Released Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4
Current	11.52	88.48	54.26	32.00	10.62	0.00
Last Week 01/21/2025	11.52	88.48	49.95	27.98	10.63	0.00
3 Months Ago 10/29/2024	0.00	100.00	26.20	13.31	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01/01/2025	11.52	88.48	49.95	26.57	9.65	0.00
Start of Water Year 10/01/2024	0.11	99.89	32.23	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 01/30/2024	81.41	18.59	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:
 None (white) D2 Severe Drought (dark orange)
 D0 Abnormally Dry (yellow) D3 Extreme Drought (red)
 D1 Moderate Drought (orange) D4 Exceptional Drought (dark red)

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

January 28, 2025
 compared to
 December 31, 2024

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Nevada
4 Week

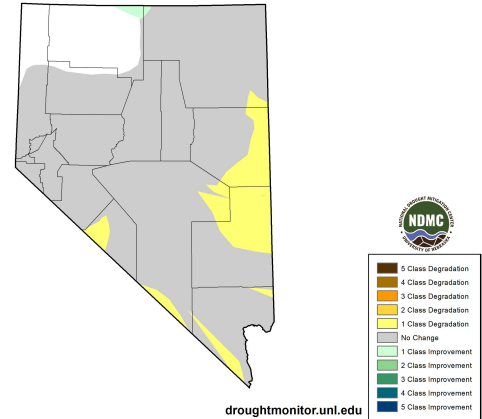


Figure 2. U.S. Drought Monitor class change for Nevada between 31 December 2024 and 28 January 2025.

Drought conditions continue to persist over the southern half of Nevada. Approximately 54% of the state is in drought as of 30 January, and an additional 34% falls in the range of abnormally dry conditions (Table 1). Extreme Drought (D3) now covers 10.6% of Nevada, up from 9.7% at the beginning of the year (Fig. 1), and is impacting Lincoln, Nye, and Clark counties. Drought presence decreases to Severe (D2) Drought status over Esmeralda County and northern Nye and Lincoln County, and down to Moderate (D1) Drought status for eastern Elko County and much of Churchill, Mineral, Lyon, Douglas, Carson City, and Storey counties. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions impact the rest of northern Nevada, except for Humboldt and northern Washoe counties. Compared to last month, most of Nevada's drought status stayed the same. However, an area of degradation can be found along the eastern border with Utah, in northern Lincoln and eastern White Pine Counties, where the drought status worsened by one class (Fig. 2).

Over the last 30 days, temperatures over the majority of Nevada have been lower than normal. Most regions experienced temperatures 1-3°F below normal conditions (relative to temperatures registered during this time period since 1895; Fig. 3). Resisting the cooling trend, southern Washoe was near normal, and southern Elko County and northern Eureka reported temperatures up to 2° above normal. Except for a small portion of northwestern Washoe County, all of Nevada received less than normal precipitation (Fig. 5). No form of rain, snow, or ice fell in the counties of Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Clark over the last 30 days. For the sixth month in a row, Las Vegas reported no measurable precipitation, with the last rainfall occurring on 13 July 2024 (Fig. 4).

Mean Temperature Departure from Normal
(January 6, 2025 - February 4, 2025)

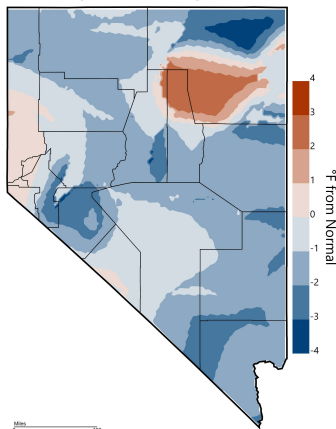


Figure 3. Average temperature departure for previous 30 days (6 January 2025 – 4 February 2025) compared to temperatures recorded during this same time period since 1895 (WestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC).

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)

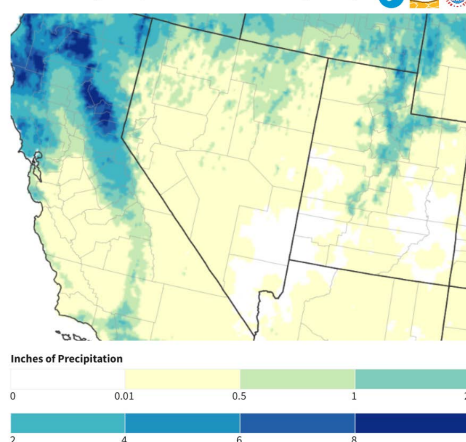


Figure 4. Total precipitation in inches for Nevada over the last 30 days (6 January 2025 – 4 February 2025; National Weather Service (NWS) National Water Prediction Service (NWPS).

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal

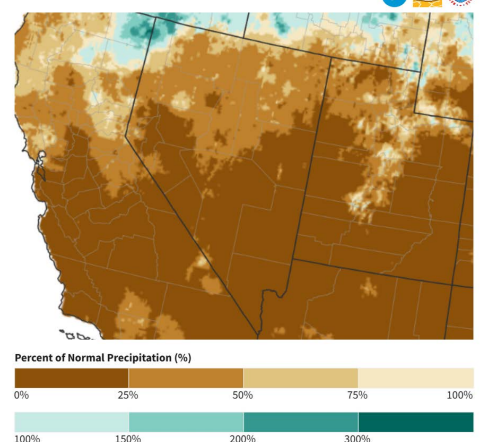


Figure 5. Total precipitation departure for previous 30 days (5 January 2025 – 3 February 2025) compared to precipitation recorded during this time period since 1895 (National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service).

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

Date	30 April 2024	30 July 2024	29 October 2024	28 January 2025
None	95	35	0	12
Abnormally Dry- D0	3	64	74	34
Moderate Drought- D1	2	1	13	22
Severe Drought- D2	0	0	13	21
Extreme Drought- D3	0	0 <td 0	11	
Exceptional Drought- D4	0	0	0	0

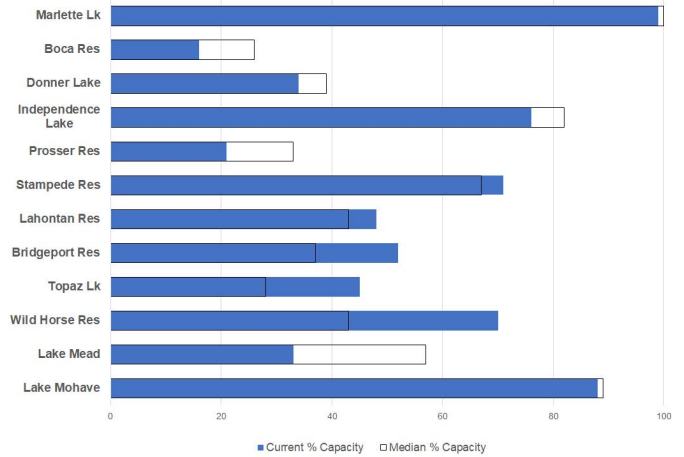


Figure 6. Reservoir storage capacity on 1 February 2025.

Reservoir storage across Nevada continues to be mixed. Topaz Lake, and Lahontan, Stampede, Bridgeport, and Wild Horse Reservoirs, are above their median capacity levels (Fig. 6). Marlette Lake and Lake Mohave are close to median capacity. Boca and Prosser Reservoirs are once again significantly below their median levels, and are joined this month by Donner Lake and Independence Lake in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, and Lake Mead in the Colorado Basin Region. Precipitation totals were extremely low during January across the entire state, corresponding with well below median statewide SWE values on 1 February (70%; Fig. 7). The month began with a storm system on 3 January that brought widespread mountain snow and valley rain to northern Nevada. Apart from light snowfall 25-26 January, no widespread precipitation occurred until 31 January when a warm atmospheric river brought mountain snow and valley rain into northern Nevada. Basin-averaged SWE values are near median values (91-104%) for the date in northern Nevada, well below median (58-66%) in the eastern Sierra Nevada and western Nevada, but are at record lows (4%) in the Spring Mountains in the extreme south (Fig. 8).

The latest U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook for February 2025 projects drought to persist across southern Nevada (Fig. 9). No additional drought development is expected across the state during the next month and some improvement is possible in the west and extreme northeast. The latest U.S. Monthly Outlook for February 2025 (Fig. 10) indicates equal chances for above or below normal temperatures across the state, with the exception of the extreme northwest where below normal temperatures are favored (33-40% probability). Equal chances for above or below normal precipitation are projected for the nearly all of the state except for portions of the extreme west and north where above normal precipitation is favored with 33-50% probability (Fig. 11).

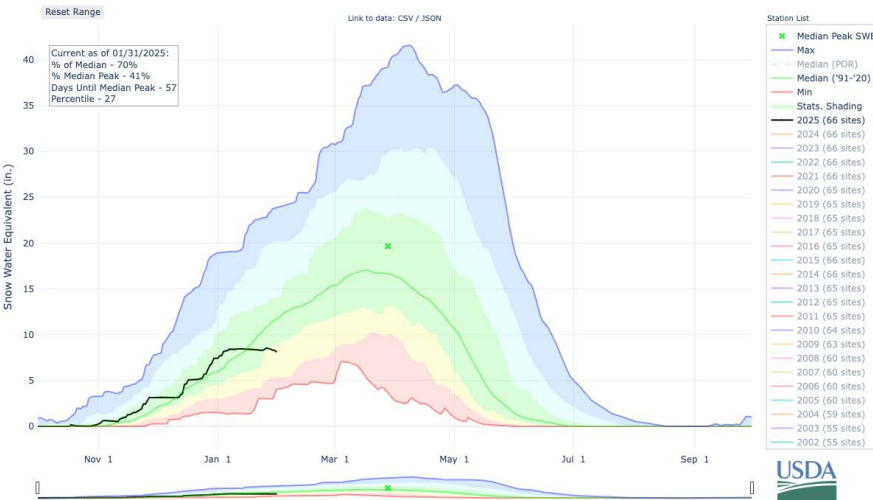


Figure 7. Time series graph depicting minimum, median, maximum, and current year levels of Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) in inches for the Eastern Sierra and Nevada based on measurements from the Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network of stations. Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

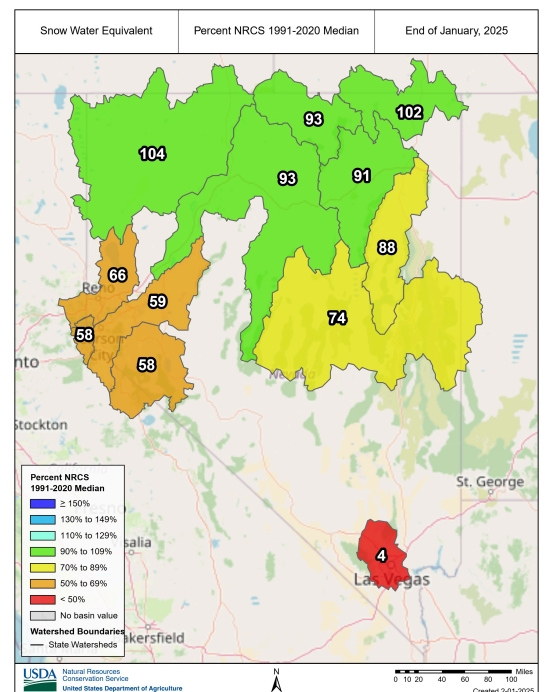


Figure 8. Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) percent of 1991-2020 median values for major watersheds over the month of January 2025 based on measurements from the Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network of stations. Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.



Monthly Temperature Outlook



Valid: February 2025
Issued: January 31, 2025

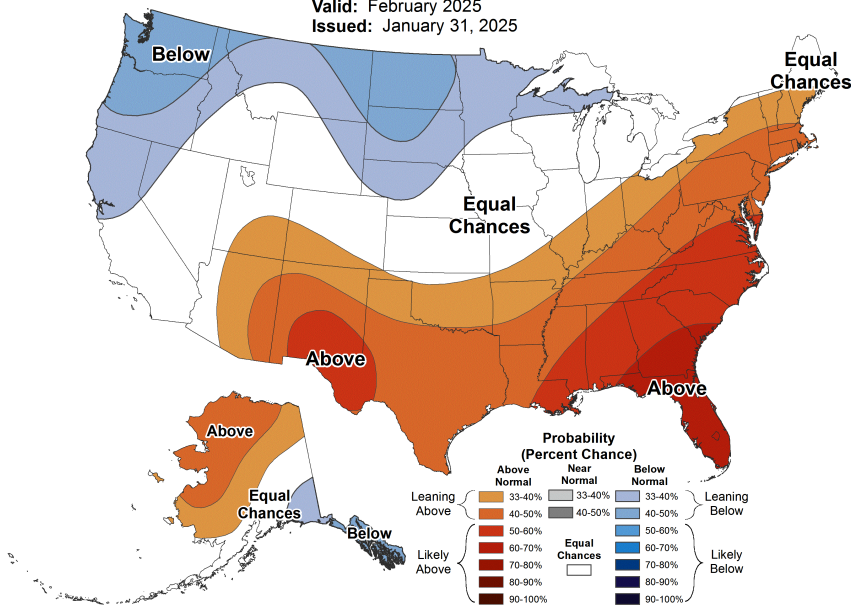
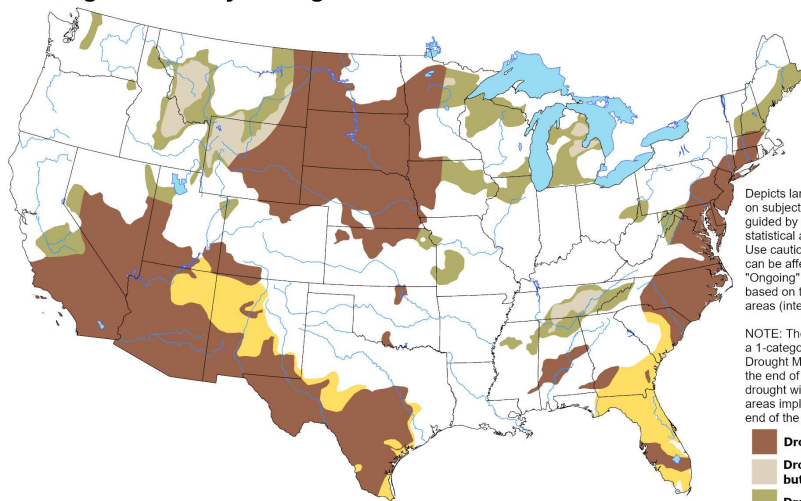


Figure 10. U.S. monthly temperature outlook for February 2025.

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

Valid for February 2025
Released January 31, 2025

Figure 9. U.S. monthly drought outlook for February 2025.



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).



Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Valid: February 2025
Issued: January 31, 2025

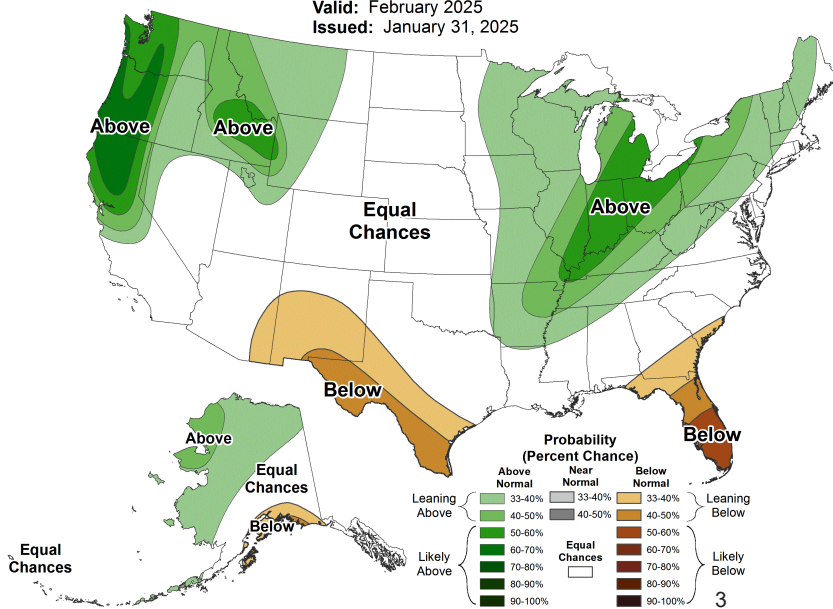


Figure 11. U.S. monthly precipitation outlook for February 2025.



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