# Nevada Summer Quarterly Climate Report & Fall Outlook

## *June, July, and August 2026*

EXTENSION
College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources

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## Temperature

Above-normal temperatures persisted through much of the climatological summer, with statewide temperatures averaging 2.3°F above normal for June, July, and August 2026. June averaged 2.6°F above normal, July 1.0°F above normal, and August 3.4°F above normal. Except for multi-day periods of below-normal temperatures – 26 June to 3 July, 13 to 16 August, and 28 to 31 August – temperatures were generally at or above normal through the season. Particularly exceptional warmth (>10°F above normal) occurred on 16 to 17 June and 8 August, with exceptional coolness (>10°F below normal) from 27 to 29 June, peaking at 16°F below normal on the 28th (Fig. 1).

Exceptional warmth affected all major long-term climate stations during summer 2026, with seasonal mean temperatures ranging from 2.2°F above normal in Winnemucca to 3.8°F above normal in Elko and Las Vegas. Elko (+3.8°F), Las Vegas (+3.8°F), Ely (+3.2°F), Reno (+2.9°F), Eureka (+2.9°F), Tonopah (+2.6°F), and Winnemucca (+2.2°F) all experienced substantially warmer-than-normal conditions. The most intense heat occurred during late July and early August, with summer maximum temperatures reaching 115°F in Las Vegas, 104°F in Winnemucca, 103°F in Elko and Reno, 101°F in Eureka and Tonopah, and 99°F in Ely. The highest daily maximum temperature recorded was 120°F in Laughlin (Clark County) on 26, 27, and 28 July and 2, 3, and 4 August. The lowest daily minimum temperature was 21°F at Reese River – Ione 13 NE (Nye County) cooperative observer (COOP) station on 29 June and at Taylor Canyon (Elko County) SNOTEL on 27 June.

## Precipitation

June was quite dry until a strong cold frontal passage brought widespread precipitation across mainly northern Nevada from 26 to 27 June (Fig. 1). Periodic northward surges in monsoonal moisture brought additional precipitation to the state in July and into August. Overall, summer precipitation varied considerably across Nevada, with above-normal precipitation across much of northern and central Nevada, including portions of Washoe, Humboldt, Lander, Eureka, and Elko counties. In contrast, below-normal precipitation dominated much of southern Nevada, particularly across Nye and Clark counties (Fig. 2). Statewide, total summer precipitation averaged 1.76", just 0.04" above normal. Reno recorded 1.66" (+0.81"), Winnemucca 1.17" (+0.39"), Elko 0.94" (−0.32"), Ely 1.27" (−0.71"), Eureka 2.70" (+0.95"), Tonopah 0.25" (−0.87"), and Las Vegas 0.20" (−0.54"). The highest total precipitation during the period was 11.37" at the Denio 52 WSW Climate Reference Network station at the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge in extreme northwestern Nevada.

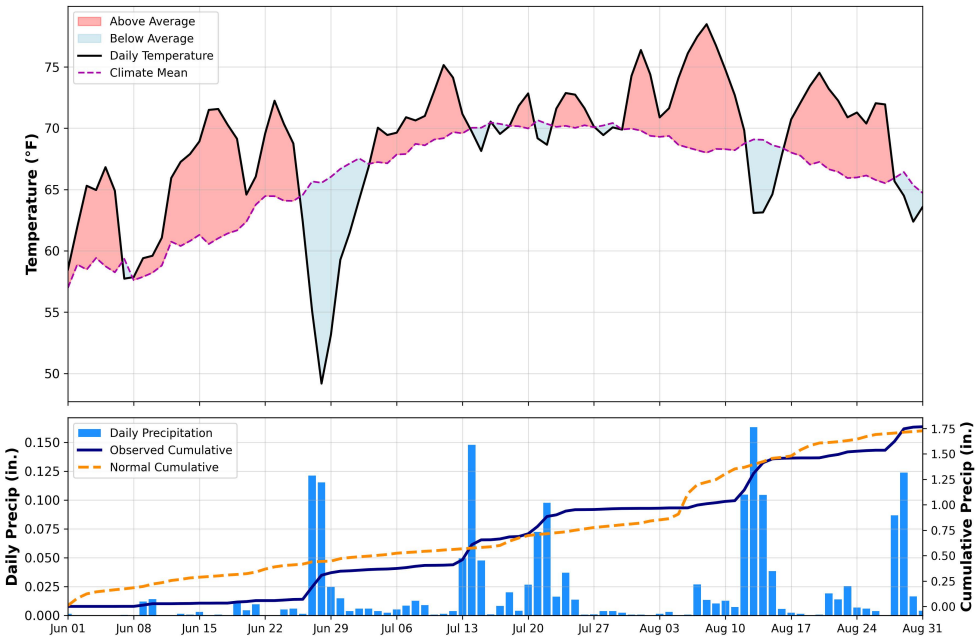



Figure 1. Time series plot depicting the statewide average daily temperature (top; black line) plotted against the 1991-2020 climatological mean values (dashed magenta line) and precipitation (bottom) from the Nevada Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS) network and the Nevada Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network from 1 June to 31 August 2026.

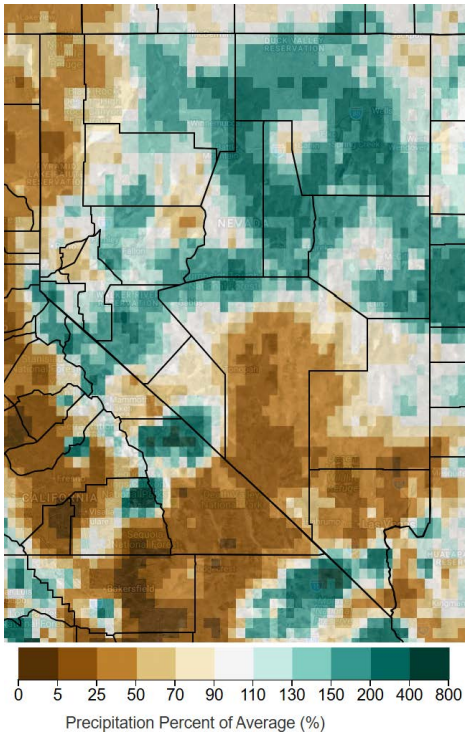



Figure 2. Precipitation percent of average between 1 June and 31 August 2026, compared to 1981-2025 climatology. Source: NLDAS-2 Daily.



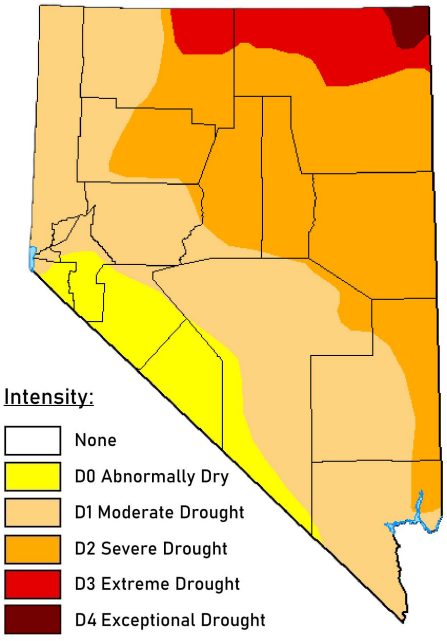



*Figure 3. U.S. Drought Monitor for Nevada on 1 September 2026.*

## Drought Indicators

As of 1 September 2026, 100% of Nevada was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or Drought (D1-D4; Fig. 3). The northeast corner of the state continues to be the most affected with concentric zones of drought surrounding a small patch of Exceptional Drought in the northeast corner of Elko County (D4; 0.8% of state). Outside this is a larger patch of Extreme Drought (D3; 7.1% of state) in the northern half of Elko and northeastern corner of Humboldt counties. This is followed by a much larger patch of Severe Drought (D2; 37.4%) extending southwards across eastern Humboldt and Pershing counties, southern Elko, most of Lander and Eureka, White Pine, and eastern portions of Nye, Lincoln, and Clark counties. A large zone of Moderate Drought (D1; 44.2% of state) follows, spanning the northwestern corner of the state down to northern Douglas County in the west and down to the southern tip of Clark County. Finally, the remainder of the state (10.5%) is designated as Abnormally Dry, extending from southern portions of Douglas, Carson City, and Lyon counties down to eastern Clark County and southwest Lincoln County in the south. Relative to the quarter-beginning 2 June 2026, this offers a mixed bag of changes, with notably less area under the more extreme D3 & D4 categories (currently 7.9% vs. 15.0% of state), but also slightly more of the state under at least D1 (89.5% vs. 80.7%). Comparison to one year ago (2 September 2025) is similarly mixed: there is now slightly less of the state in Severe Drought or worse (D2-D4; 45.2% vs. 46.6%) but considerably more under D1 Moderate Drought (89.5% vs. 65.5%), and a more northerly distribution of more drought-affected areas relative to 2025.

## Outlook for September, October, and November

The NOAA climatological fall outlook for September, October, and November 2026 favors above-normal temperatures across Nevada, with probabilities ranging from 40-50% in all but southern Nevada where there is a 33-40% chance (Fig. 4). Above-normal precipitation is favored in the southeastern portion of the state, with the highest probabilities (40–50%) in portions of Clark and Lincoln Counties and lower probabilities farther north (Fig. 5). Very strong El Niño (warm phase of El Niño-Southern Oscillation – ENSO) conditions have now developed in the tropical Pacific with models forecasting a record El Niño to continue to develop and persist through the winter. Although a strong El Niño favors above normal temperature and precipitation across much of Nevada in the fall and winter, the small sample size of past very strong events and the exceptional warmth of the Pacific create greater than normal uncertainty.

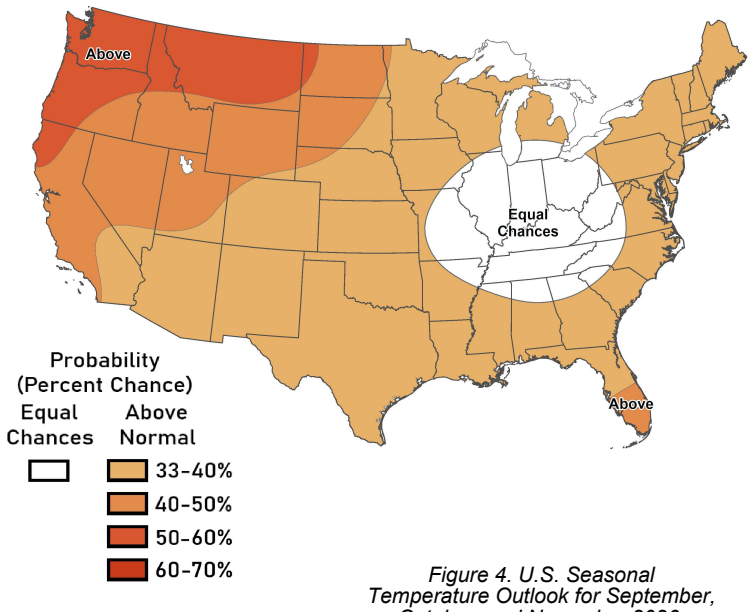



*Figure 4. U.S. Seasonal Temperature Outlook for September, October, and November 2026.*

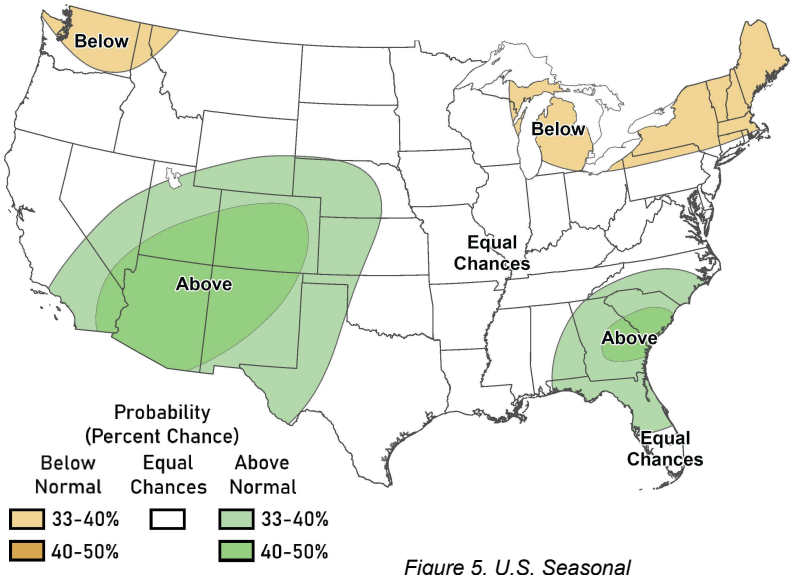



*Figure 5. U.S. Seasonal Precipitation Outlook for September, October, and November 2026.*