

Significant Events for Jun-Jul-Aug 2024

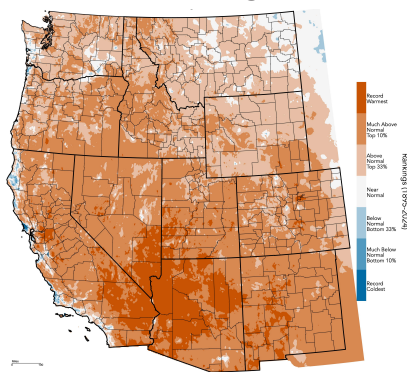


Jun-Jul-Aug Highlights

- Death Valley, California recorded its hottest July and hottest month since records began in 1911 with a monthly mean temperature of 108.5 F.
- Las Vegas, Nevada hit 120 F on July 7 for the first time since records began.
- Wet July in parts of New Mexico brought drought improvements. Central and eastern parts of the state saw over 200% of normal precipitation.
- Parts of western Montana were extremely dry. Missoula had its 6th driest summer with 1.92 inches of precipitation which is 1.9 inches below normal.
- ENSO neutral conditions persisted for much of Summer with a Jun-Aug Oceanic Niño Index Value of 0.1 degrees Celsius. La Niña conditions forecasted to develop by late Autumn.

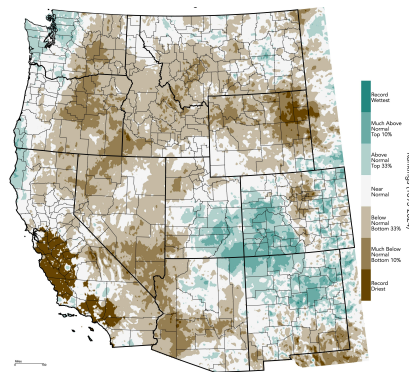
Regional Overview for Jun-Jul-Aug 2024

Mean Temperature Percentile
Jun-Jul-Aug 2024



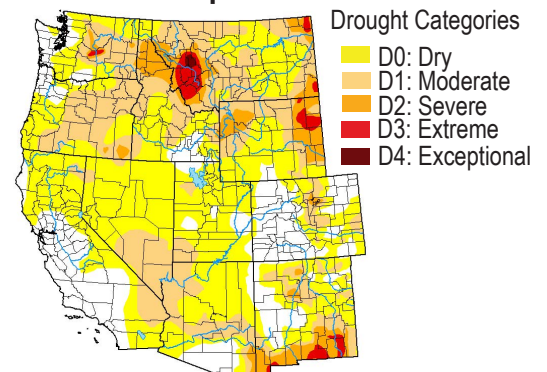
Summer temperatures were above normal for most of the West except for isolated areas along the CA, OR, and WA coasts. California and AZ saw their warmest summers on record with NV, UT, and NM having their second warmest on record. Summer temperature anomalies were 4-6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal at many long-term climate stations.

Precipitation Percentile
Jun-Jul-Aug 2024



Precipitation was below normal for most of CA, NV, OR, and ID. Monsoon season precipitation anomalies were mixed with below normal totals for western and central AZ, and southeast NM, and above normal totals in northern NM, and northeast AZ. Coastal areas of northern CA, southern OR, and western WA saw above normal precipitation.

US Drought Monitor
September 2024



At the end of Summer 36% of the West was in drought, up from 19% at the end of Spring. About 2% of the West was in extreme drought found in small parts of Montana, New Mexico, and Washington. One small pocket of exceptional was found in Montana. Drought and abnormal dryness (D0) expanded for much of the Great Basin and northern Rockies with modest reductions in New Mexico.

Regional Impacts for Jun-Jul-Aug 2024

Heat

Extreme heat in early summer in the Phoenix area lead to 27 deaths. Another 396 deaths suspected of being caused by the heat but still under investigation.

Flooding

Evacuations and several rescues took place in central New Mexico after heavy rain fell in July in recent wildfire burn scars leading to intense flash flooding for the region.

Wildfire

Despite below average (2014-2023) total number of wildfires the total acres burned for the season is much above average at more than 7.3 million acres.

Agriculture

Agricultural producers in several counties in western Montana were eligible to receive emergency loans from crop and livestock losses due to drought and wildfire conditions this summer.

Drought and Water Supply

Colorado River water shortages continue with Lake Mead at 33% of capacity and still below the the Tier I shortage threshold. April-July inflows into Lake Powell were 83% of normal.

Large Idaho Wildfire Impacts Local Ranchers

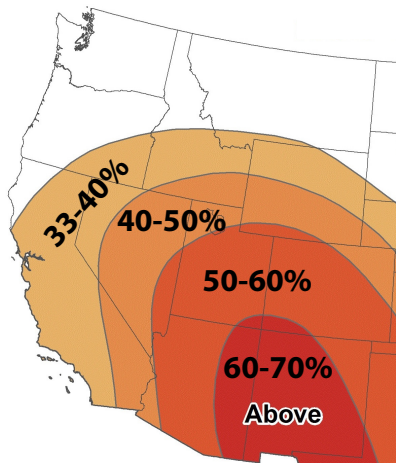


Figure: Cattle who were separated from their calves stand in front of burnt hills near Emmett, Idaho. Source: Idaho Capitol Sun

The Paddock fire began on August 5 in Southwest Idaho ranching country after a dry lightning event. The fire spread remarkably fast and burned more than 187,000 acres after just five days, making it one of the largest fires in Idaho history. Seventy-one homes were evacuated and the fire burned through many ranches and grazing allotments. Dozens of cattle were killed and hundreds have been reported missing. Large areas of rangelands were lost leaving ranchers scrambling to find new zones to graze livestock that survived.

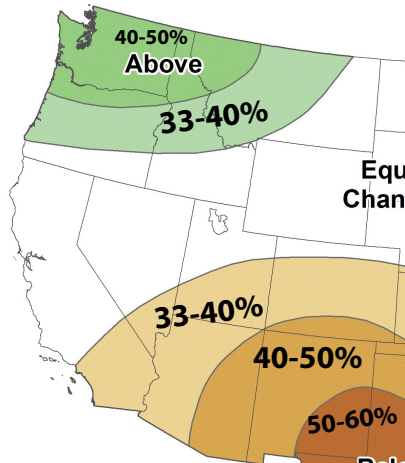
Regional Outlook for Oct-Nov-Dec 2024

CPC Temperature Outlook



Numbers indicate percent chance of temperatures in warmest/coolest one-third and precipitation in wettest/driest one-third. Outlook produced September 2024.

CPC Precipitation Outlook



The CPC outlook for October-December favors above normal temperatures for most of the West except for Washington, northern Idaho, most of Montana and most of Oregon where equal chances of above or below normal temperatures are expected. The Four Corners states have the highest odds for above normal temperatures with probabilities of 50-70%. The precipitation outlook reflects the outlook for a developing La Niña which favors below normal precipitation in the Southwest and above normal precipitation in the Pacific Northwest. The strongest signal is for a 40-60% chance of below normal precipitation in eastern Arizona and all of New Mexico.

Western Region Partners

Western Regional Climate Center
wrcc.dri.edu/my

National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) - drought.gov

Western Governors' Association
westgov.org

Western States Water Council
westgov.org/wswc

NOAA/ESRL Physical Sciences Division
esrl.noaa.gov/psd

NOAA Climate Prediction Center
www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

National Centers for Envir. Info. (NCEI)
www.ncei.noaa.gov

USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center - www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov

National Interagency Fire Center
www.nifc.gov

Western Water Assessment
www.colorado.edu

Climate Assessment for the Southwest
climas.arizona.edu

California Nevada Applications Program
cnap.ucsd.edu

Climate Impacts Research Consortium
pnwclimate.org/resources

NWS Western Region Forecast Offices
www.wrh.noaa.gov/