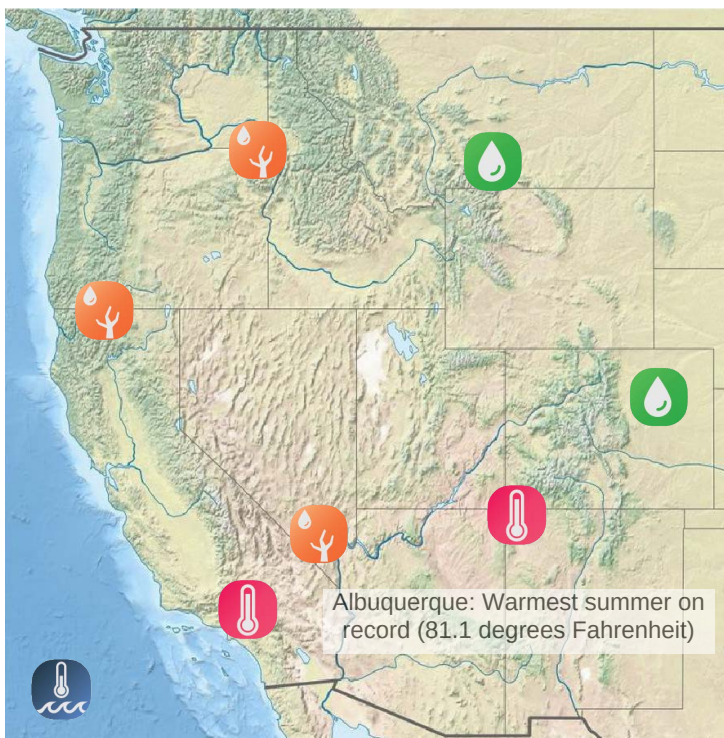


Significant Events for Jun-Jul-Aug 2026



Jun-Jul-Aug Highlights



Much of the Intermountain West experienced the hottest summer on record with multiple states setting new records.



Central Montana and parts of the Intermountain West experienced very wet conditions. Carefree, Arizona was record wet during the period (6.50 inches)



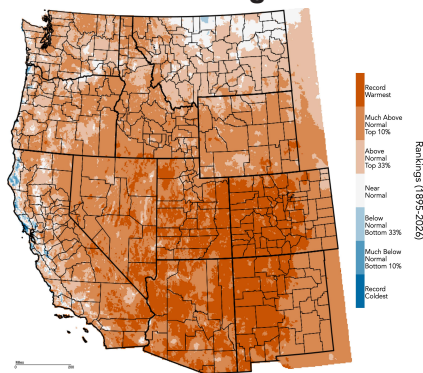
Drought conditions worsened in much of Oregon. Areas of Montana experienced drought removal.



El Niño conditions developed over Summer with a Jun-Aug Relative Oceanic Niño Index Value of 1.4 degrees Celsius. El Niño conditions are forecast to remain.

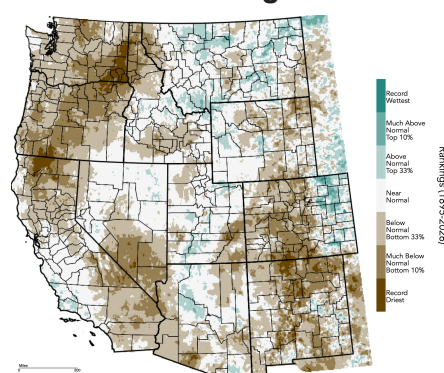
Regional Overview for Jun-Jul-Aug 2026

Mean Temperature Percentile Jun-Jul-Aug 2026



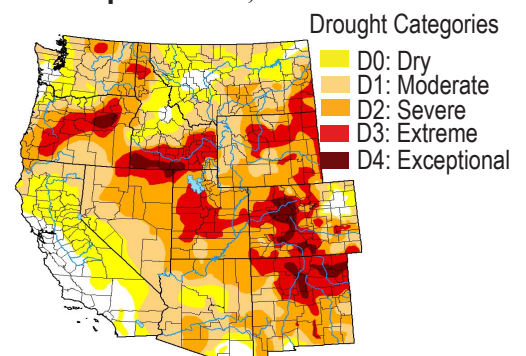
Summer temperatures were above normal for most of the West except for parts of Montana, central Washington, and coastal regions. Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado saw their warmest summers on record. Summer temperature anomalies were 4-6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal at many long-term climate stations.

Precipitation Percentile Jun-Jul-Aug 2026



Precipitation was below normal for most of the West. Monsoon season precipitation was mixed with below normal totals in New Mexico, and southern Nevada, and above normal totals in central Arizona, and much of Utah. The Pacific Northwest was broadly drier than normal. Montana and parts of Wyoming recorded roughly normal precipitation.

US Drought Monitor September 1, 2026



At the end of Summer 75% of the West was in drought, holding steady since the end of spring. Extreme drought is found in roughly 19% of the West. About 3% of the West was in exceptional drought found across the Intermountain West. Much of California, parts of coastal Washington and coastal Oregon, Arizona, New Mexico, eastern Colorado, Idaho, and Montana were drought-free.

Regional Impacts for Jun-Jul-Aug 2026

Heat

Southwestern California experienced an unusually hot and humid summer, driven by much above normal sea surface temperatures along the coast.

Flooding

Monsoon-driven precipitation caused flash-flooding in the Grand Canyon National Park. Evacuation and recovery efforts did not prevent two fatalities.

Wildfire

Well above average number of wildfires burned over 8 million acres US wide, with about 2.3 million acres burnt setting a new record for the state of Oregon. Multiple states declared states of emergency including Washington and Nevada in response to a series of wildfires.

Drought and Water Supply

Colorado River water shortages continue with Lake Mead at 26% of capacity (08/31/2026) and within a Tier I shortage. Lake Powell remains about 27ft above threshold for power generation. This corresponds with 22% of capacity. No unregulated inflow was recorded during August.

Large fire displaces 90,000 people in Reno, NV

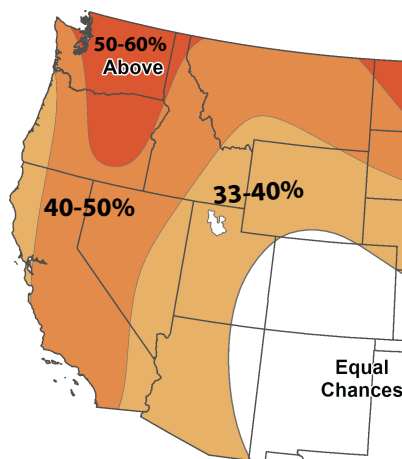


Figure: Hawk Fire burning above the Reno neighborhood of Somerset triggering mass evacuations. Photo by Alex Weirauch

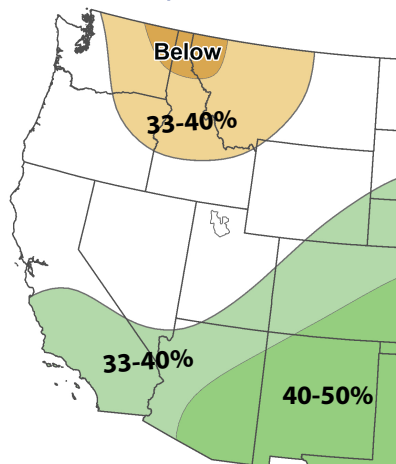
The Hawk fire around Peavine Peak near Reno, Nevada began on August 22 and quickly grew to over 10,000 acres amid red flag conditions. The fire's proximity to neighborhoods prompted evacuation warnings and orders for about 90,000 people in Northern and Western parts of Reno. 47 homes were burned and another 8 severely damaged. Governor Lombardo declared a state of emergency on August 22 to free up federal resources to combat the fire. Full containment was reached on September 9 with roughly 15,000 acres burned.

Regional Outlook for Oct-Nov-Dec 2026

CPC Temperature Outlook



CPC Precipitation Outlook



Numbers indicate percent chance of temperatures in warmest/coolest one-third and precipitation in wettest/driest one-third. Outlook produced September 2026.

The CPC outlook for October-December favors above normal temperatures for most of the West except for Colorado, New Mexico, and areas immediately West where equal chances of above or below normal temperatures are expected. The Pacific Northwest has the highest odds for above normal temperatures with probabilities of 40-60%. The precipitation outlook reflects the outlook for a developing El Niño which favors below normal precipitation in the Pacific Northwest and above normal precipitation in the Southeastern portion of our area. The strongest signal is for a 40-50% chance of above normal precipitation in eastern Arizona, most of New Mexico, and southeastern Colorado.

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/