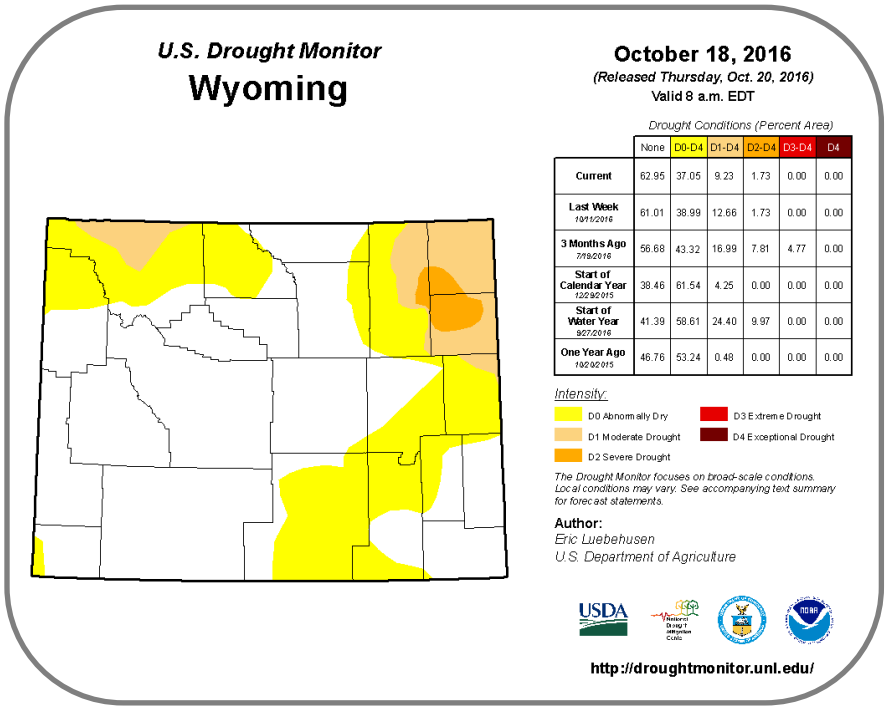
Wyoming — *Current Drought Conditions*



The U.S. Drought Monitor, is a weekly map of drought conditions produced jointly by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The U.S. Drought Monitor website is hosted and maintained by the NDMC. http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Highlights for the State

September was a wet month statewide, ranking as the 15th wettest September of the last 122 years. It was also the 37th warmest September for the same period of time. The overall warmth was driven not by high daytime temperatures but, rather, warm nighttime temperatures. For average minimum daily temperature, September 2016 ranked as the 15th warmest, but for average maximum daily temperature, it fell in the middle, ranking as the 63rd warmest.

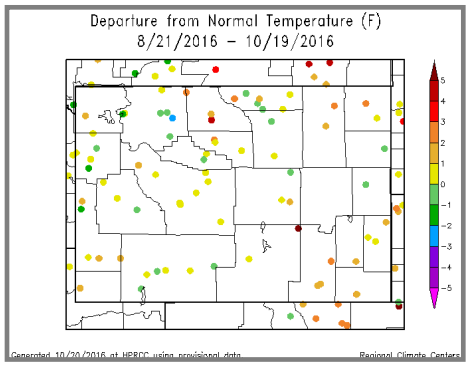
At the Climate Division level, Division 5 (approximately the area composed of Sheridan, Johnson, and northern Campbell counties) had the 4th wettest September of the last 122 years.

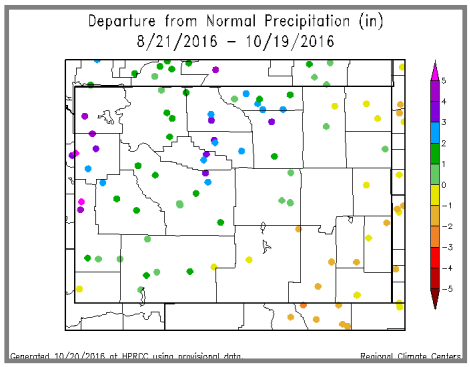
Since early September, drought in the north and northeast has continued to lessen with Severe Drought (D2) removed from Big Horn, Park, and Teton counties as well as from Niobrara County and all but the central part of the Campbell, Crook, and Weston counties area. Moderate Drought (D1) was removed from Sheridan, Johnson, Natrona, Washakie, Big Horn, Fremont, Teton, and Lincoln counties while Abnormally Dry (D0) was removed from Lincoln, Sublette, Fremont, Washakie, Natrona, and Sweetwater counties.

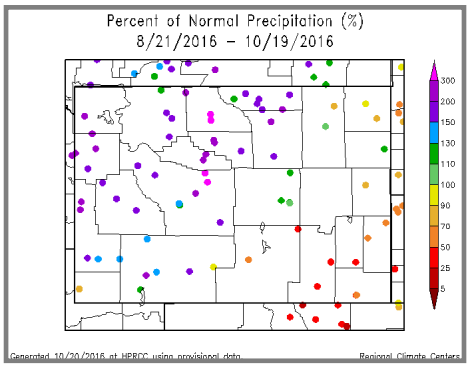
Several fires are still considered to be active in Wyoming; however, their activity is now minimal and the recent precipitation (snow and rain) has been of great help.

Wyoming — *Climate Overview for Last 60 Days*

Temperature and Precipitation Anomalies







Temperatures over the 60-day period from August 21 to October 19 were generally near-normal in Wyoming with much of the state being within 1°F of the normal. North-central (Bighorn basin and Sheridan County) and northeast Wyoming as well as parts of the southeast (areas of Albany and Carbon counties) were a bit warmer, with some stations in those counties being 2°F or more above normal.

Precipitation divided the state somewhat diagonally with the eastern and southern parts (Carbon, Converse, Niobrara, Goshen, Platte, Albany, and Laramie counties along with parts of Uinta, Sweetwater, Campbell, and Crook counties) being below normal while the remaining counties were above normal. Stations in the Bighorn basin were over 300% of normal for the last 60 days. Unfortunately this abundance of precipitation came too late for the 2016 season.

Contact: Tony Bergantino (Antonius@uwyo.edu)

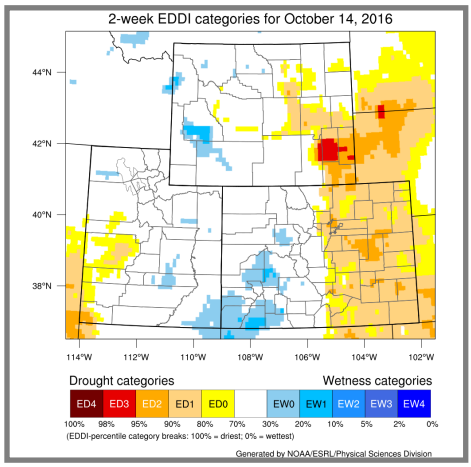
Wyoming — *Drought Indicators*

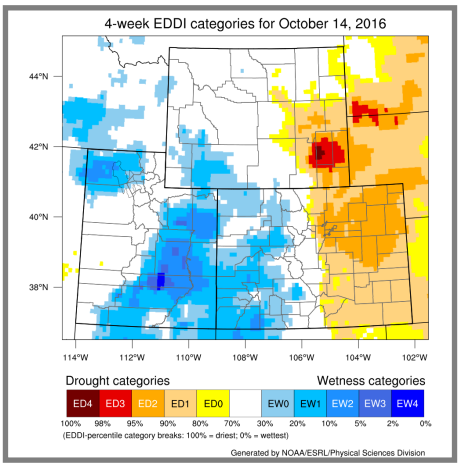
Evaporative Demand

The Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI) is a relatively new index used to monitor areas experiencing enhanced drying power of the atmosphere. The EDDI maps below show an area of concern with much-above-normal demand for the past four weeks in northeastern Albany, Platte, and Goshen counties. The 2-week map shows the same demand in the southern two-thirds of Platte County and neighboring parts of Albany and Goshen counties. These areas are at higher risk of drought conditions emerging or worsening over the next month.

Do you have impacts to report? We need your on-the-ground reports and you can input them here: http://droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport/

EDDI maps are updated on a daily basis for several timeframes. Current maps may be downloaded here: http://wwa.colorado.edu/climate/dashboard.html

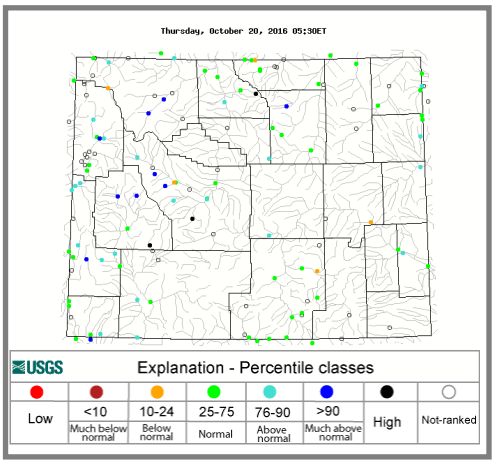




Water Resources

Reservoirs statewide are still in good shape, though with exceptions, such as Palisades in the Snake River Basin (<10% full) and Glendo in the Platte River Basin (<35% full). Streamflows throughout the state are mostly normal to above normal for this time of year with a few scattered exceptions in various locations.

The map below shows streamflow for October 20th compared to the historical average for this date.



Wyoming — *Short– and Long-term Outlooks*

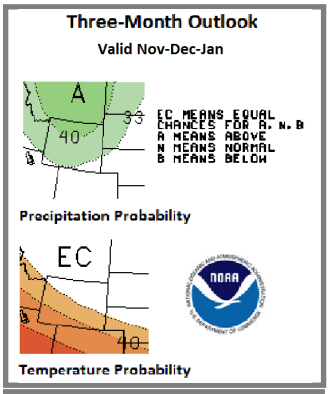
Weather and Climate Outlooks

For the next two weeks the chances are greater for above-normal temperatures and above-normal precipitation statewide.

Looking further out, the Nov-Jan period has good chances for above-normal temperature for all but the northern quarter to half of the state, while precipitation is more likely to be above normal in all but the far southeast (see maps). For the Dec-Feb time span, above-normal temperatures are favored for the southwest, and it is more likely that all but the southeast will have above-normal precipitation.

Although there is less certainty when looking at the first quarter of 2017, the pattern is expected to remain much the same but the above-normal temperatures are more likely in a smaller extent of the southwest. The northwestern half of Wyoming is more likely to experience above-normal precipitation.

Drought conditions are expected to improve, but will likely persist in the northeast and Park County into 2017.



Need a Forecast?

Visit your local National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office for the most up-to-date forecast at: http://www.weather.gov

Stay Tuned and In Touch

The next Wyoming Drought Impacts and Outlook Summary will be released around December 1st. If you need information in the meantime, please reach out to any of the partners listed to the right or contact Tony Bergantino directly at Antonius@uwyo.edu

TheWind River Indian Reservation and Surrounding Area Climate and Drought Summary at: http://hprcc.unl.edu/pdf/Wind-River-Climate-Drought-Summary_Sep16.pdf

Summary of Conditions

Temperatures over the last 30 days have been up to 4°F above normal for much of the state. Only a few areas such as Park, Teton, Lincoln, and Sweetwater counties have been below normal.

Precipitation for the same period has been above normal for all but Carbon, Natrona, Albany, Laramie, Goshen, Platte, Niobrara, Weston, Crook, and Converse counties.

Drought conditions have improved in all parts of the state with D2 remaining in areas of Crook, Campbell and Weston counties.

Partners

Wyoming State Climate Office
www.wrds.uwyo.edu
National Integrated Drought Information System
www.drought.gov
National Weather Service
Riverton Weather Forecast Office
www.weather.gov/riw/
Cheyenne Weather Forecast Office
www.weather.gov/cys/
High Plains Regional Climate Center
www.hprcc.unl.edu
National Drought Mitigation Center
www.drought.unl.edu
USDA Northern Plains Regional Climate Hub and University of Wyoming Extension
www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/northernplains/
Western Water Assessment
wwa.colorado.edu