

Western Drought

Drought Impact

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announced the first shortage declaration for Lake Meade and the lower Colorado River Basin in its history, triggering cuts to individual states' water allocations beginning in January of 2022. The Western United States has faced significant obstacles with lack of precipitation, wildfires, and persistent drought conditions.

The Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) was formally organized in 2008 in response to the Western Governors' Association's recommendation to facilitate correlation of federal activities and to develop and enhance collaborative partnerships among state and federal agencies working on priority water-resource issues. Today, WestFAST is a collaboration of twelve Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West.

For more information visit [here](#).

2021 Meetings

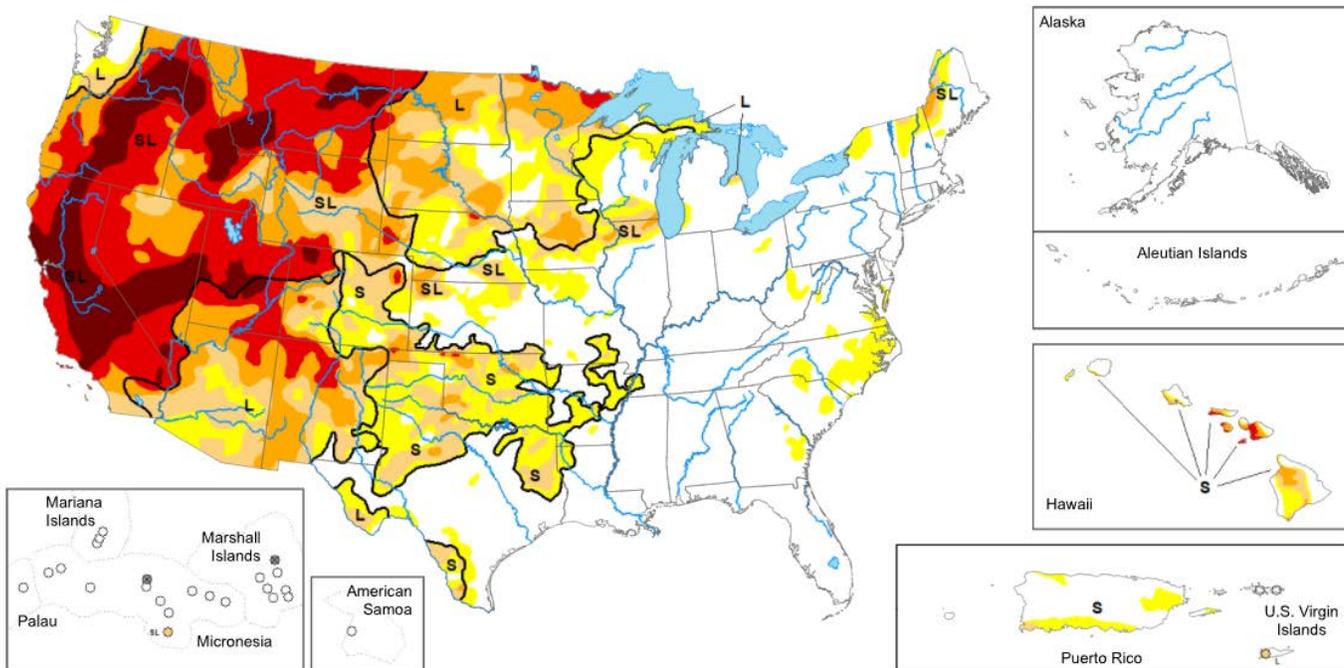
SEP 08: The New Drought.Gov: Advancing Drought Resilience Through Innovation and Collaboration

OCT 20: Droughts and Wildfires Be Dammed: how beavers help build landscape-scale climate resilience

NOV 18: Wildfire and Water Resources Series Topic I: Why it Matters

Map released: October 21, 2021

Data valid: October 19, 2021





California Drought

On April 21, 2021: Governor Newsom proclaimed a drought emergency. This lets the state respond to water supply shortfalls where conditions are extremely dry. It covered the Russian River Watershed of Sonoma and Mendocino counties.

On May 10, 2021: Governor expanded the drought emergency proclamation to include new areas. It now includes counties in the Klamath River, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Tulare Lake Watershed. This action was necessary to protect public health, safety, and the environment. In total, the drought state of emergency now covers 41 counties, where 30% of the state's population lives.

On July 8, 2021, amid deepening drought and record-breaking temperatures throughout the West, the Governor called on Californians to voluntarily reduce water use by 15% to protect water reserves if drought conditions continue and help maintain critical flows for fish and wildlife wherever possible. The Governor also expanded his previous drought emergency proclamation to include nine additional counties where drought effects are increasingly severe: Inyo, Marin, Mono, Monterey, San Luis

Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz. To date, 50 of California 58 counties have declared drought emergencies.

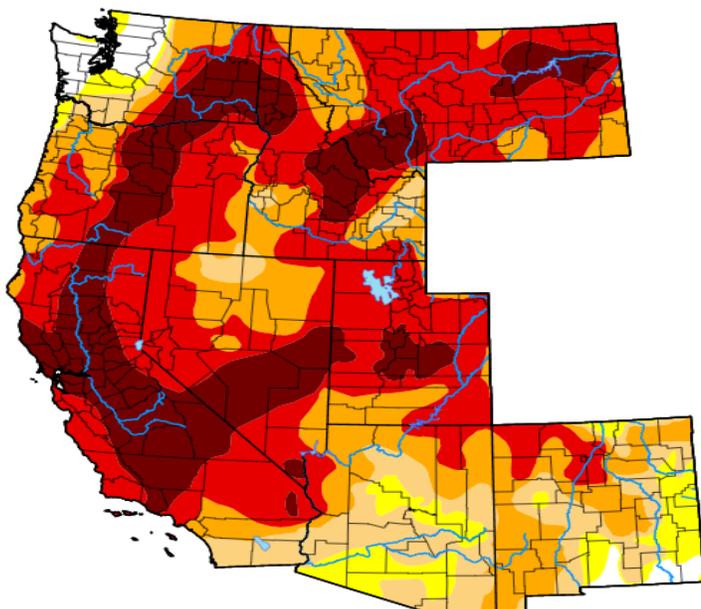
On September 23, 2021: Governor Gavin Newsom signed a package of climate action bills that include \$5.2 billion for drought response and long-term water resilience.

The measures will secure and expand water supplies, support drinking water and wastewater infrastructure with a focus on small and disadvantaged communities, improve water supply security and quality, and support wildlife and habitat restoration.

Governor Newsom also signed legislation, which allows state agencies to expedite funding for areas experiencing drought.

On October 19, 2021: the Governor expanded the drought emergency proclamation statewide to include 8 remaining counties: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, and Ventura.

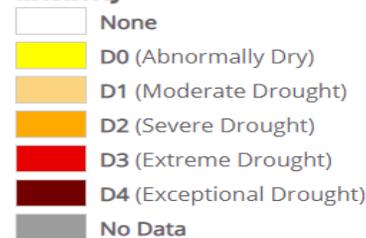
He re-emphasized that Californians should save water by voluntarily reducing their consumption by 15%. He empowered the Water Board to prohibit wasteful uses of potable water such as washing sidewalks or driveways.



Map released: Thurs. October 21, 2021

Data valid: October 19, 2021 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity



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*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying **text summary** for forecast statements.*