

Presented to an advisory committee of the DRBC on October 15, 2025. Contents should not be published or re-posted in whole or in part without the permission of DRBC.

Hydrologic Conditions

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Water Resource Operations

October 15th, 2025

*Water Management Advisory
Committee Meeting*

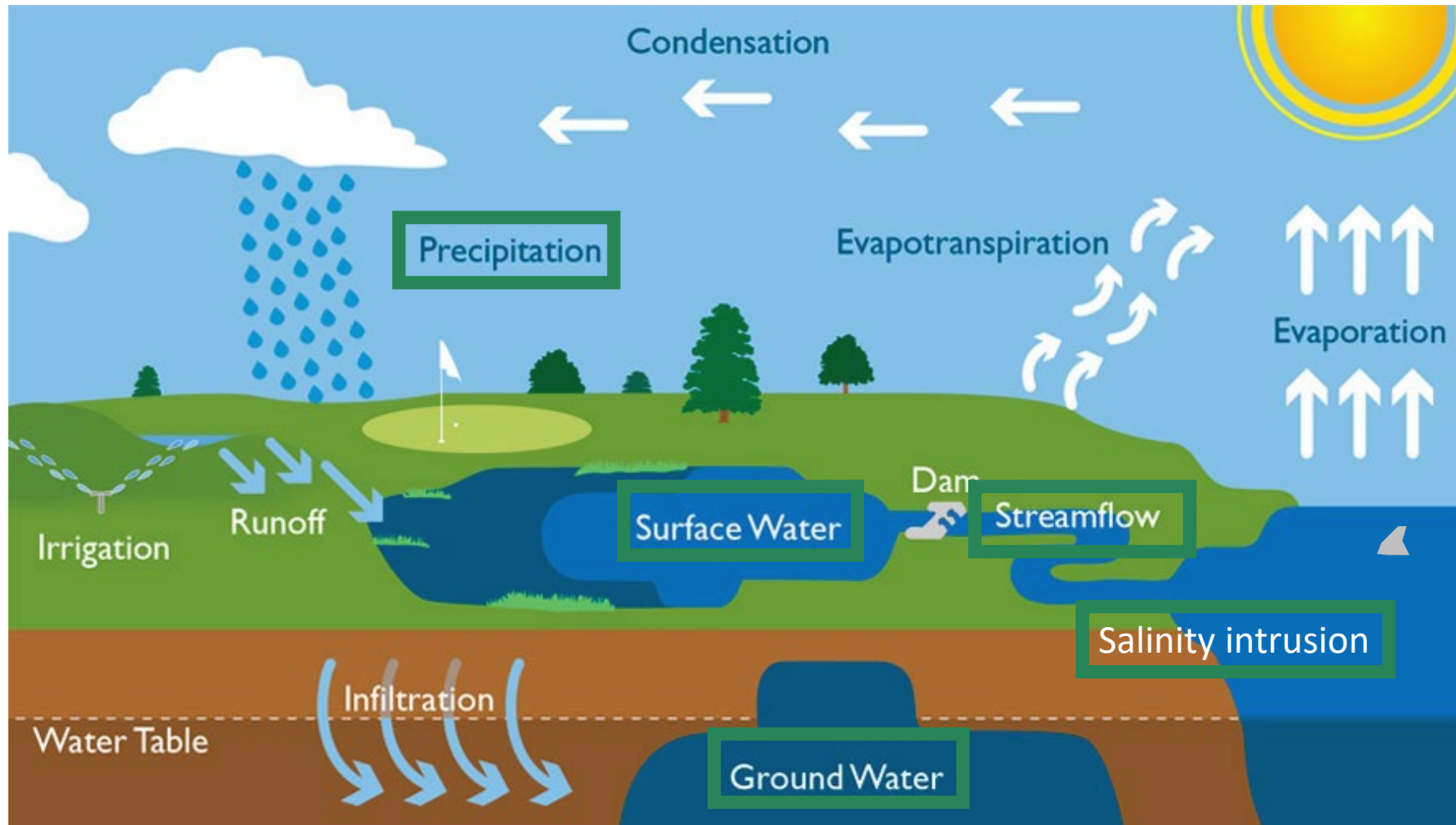


Delaware River Basin Commission

DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Hydrologic Cycle

Water moves around the earth through air, soil, and over land.

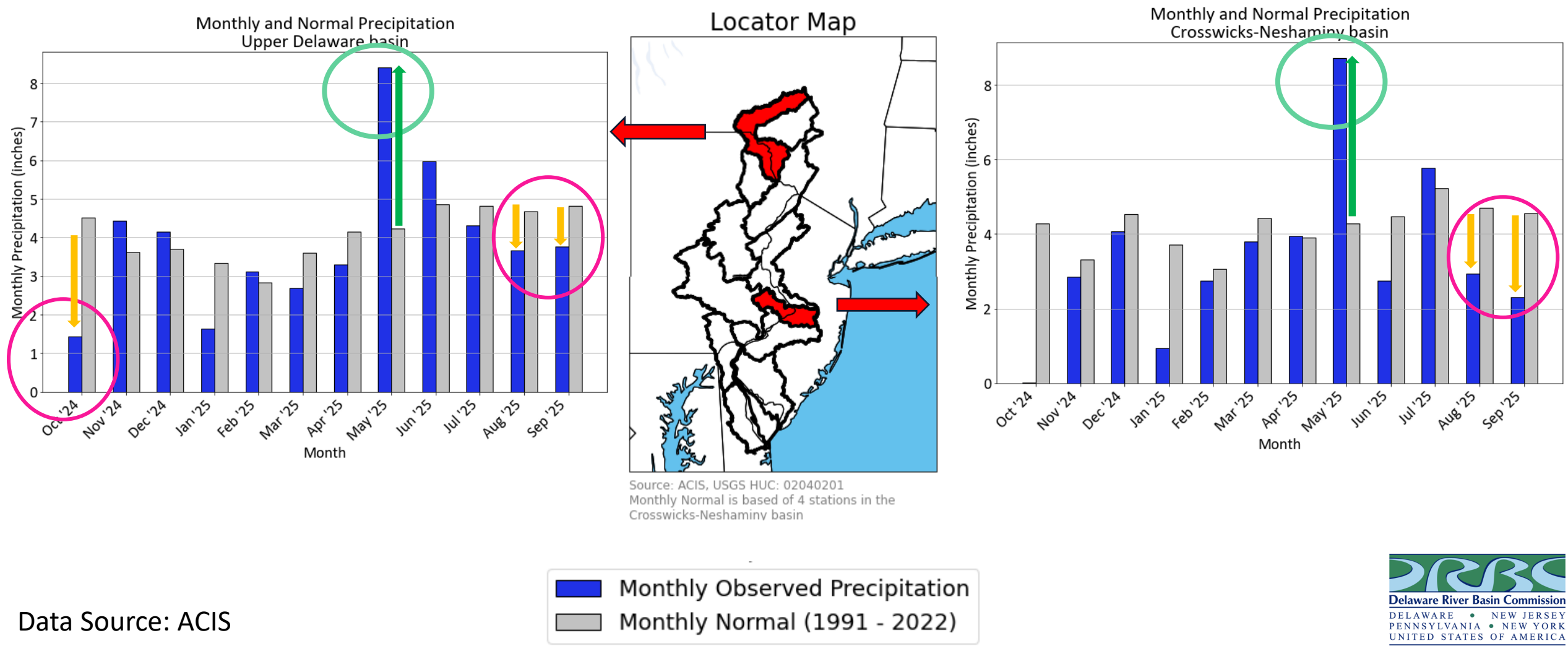


Graphic courtesy of Pike County Soil Conservation District



Precipitation from October 2024 to September 2025

(past 365 days)



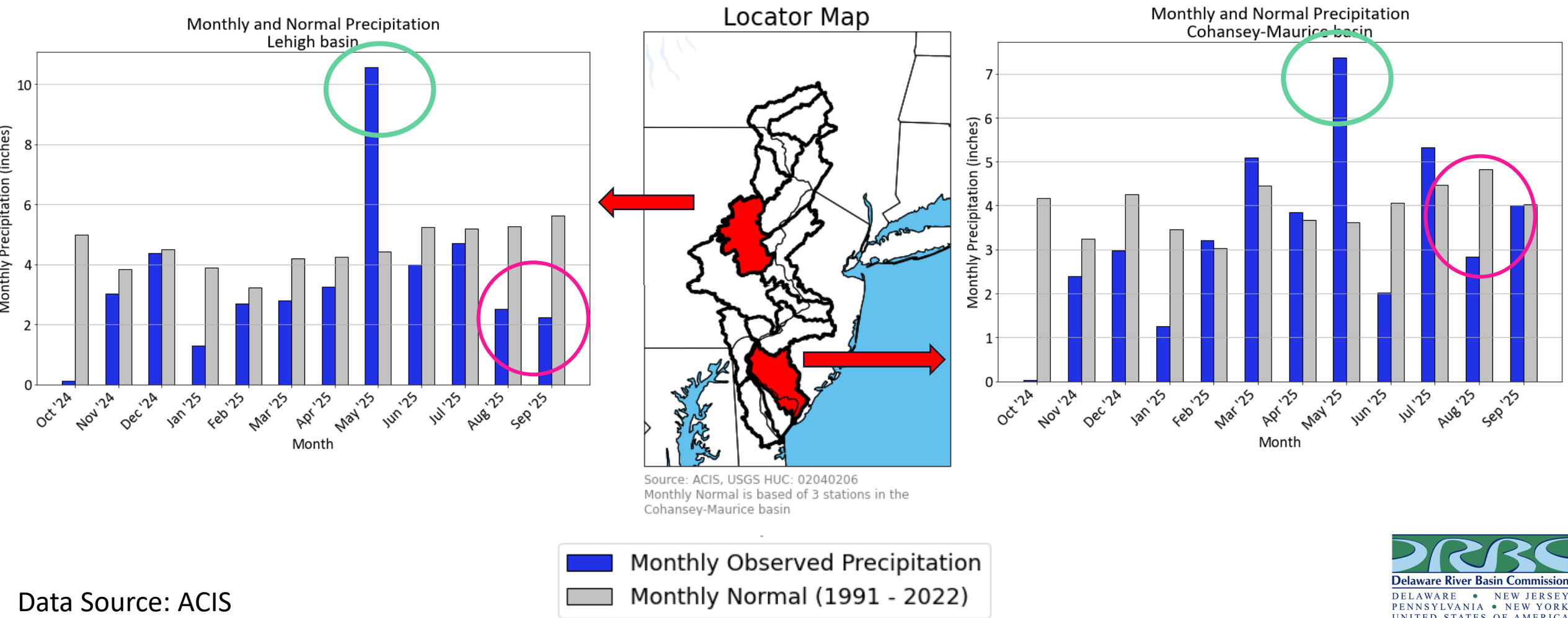
Data Source: ACIS





Precipitation from October 2024 to September 2025

(past 365 days)

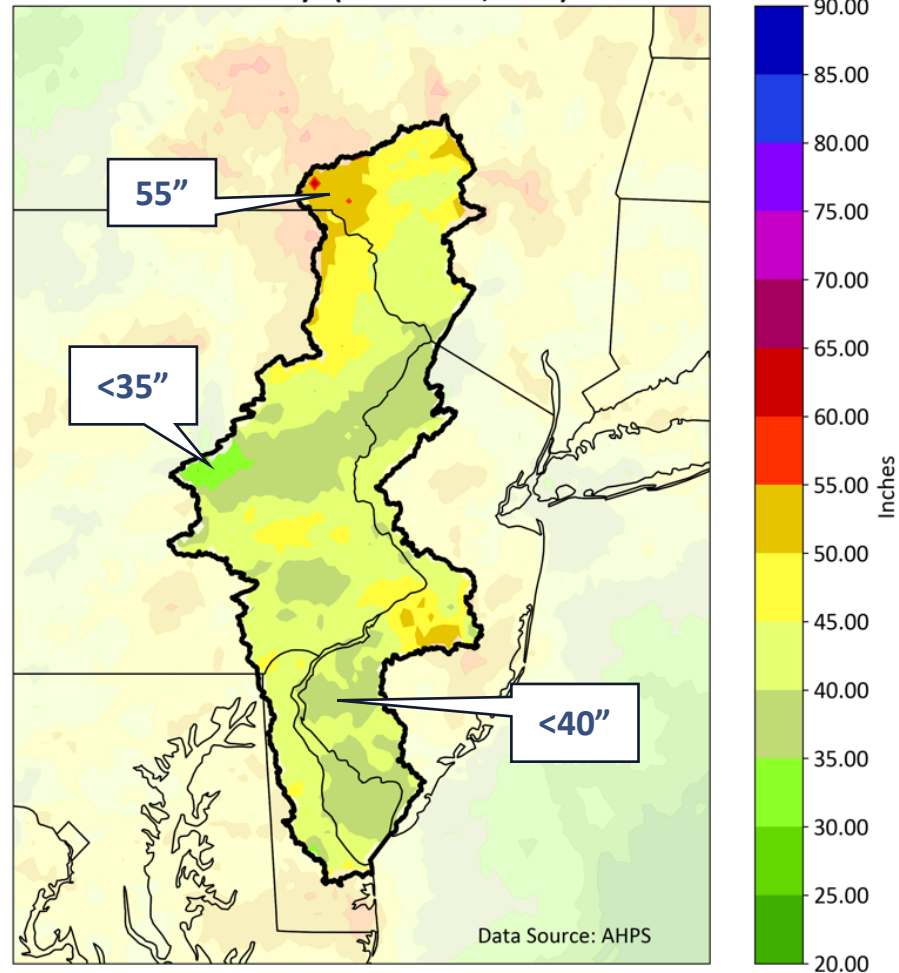


Cumulative Precipitation over the last 365 days

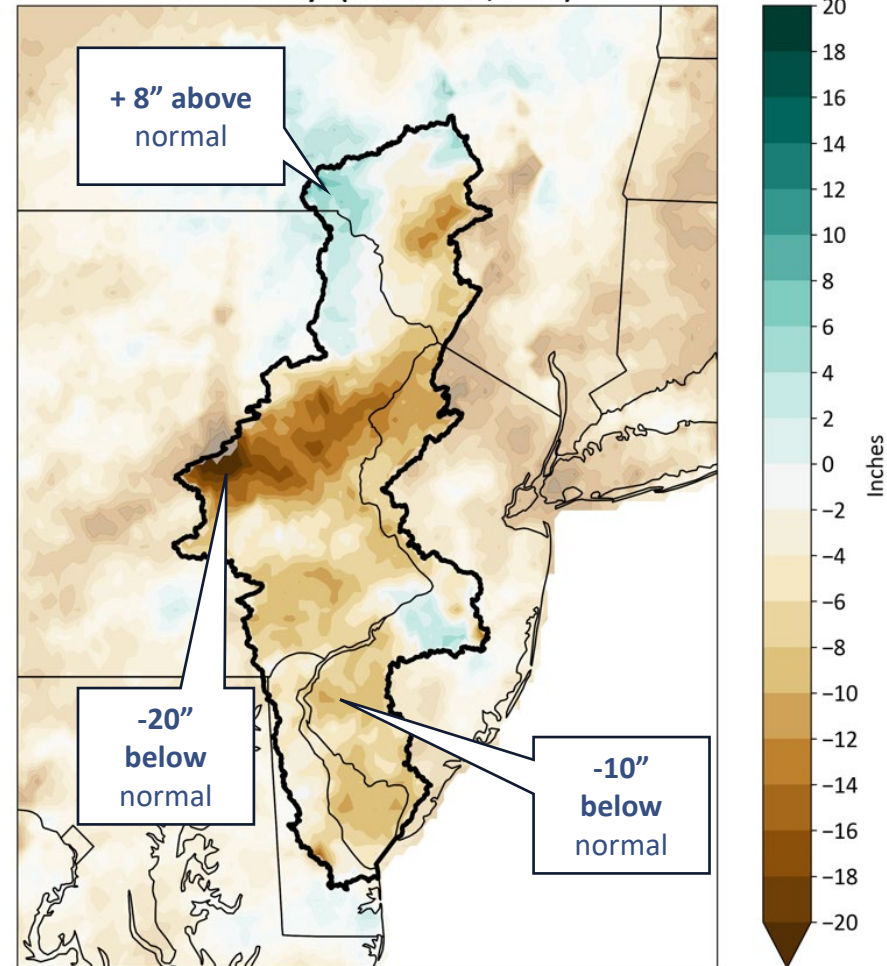
Reference date: October 13, 2025

Most of the basin has received below normal precipitation except for the north.

Total Precipitation Accumulation
Last 365 Days (October 13, 2025)



Departure from Normal Precipitation
Last 365 Days (October 13, 2025)

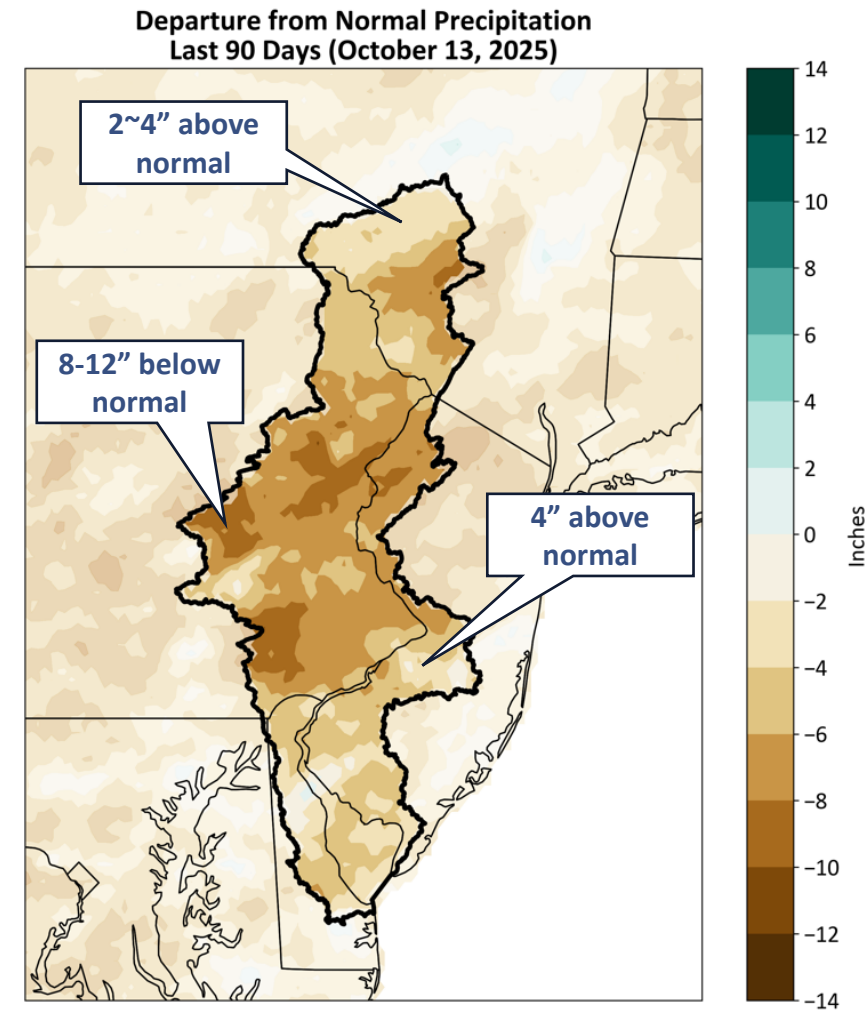
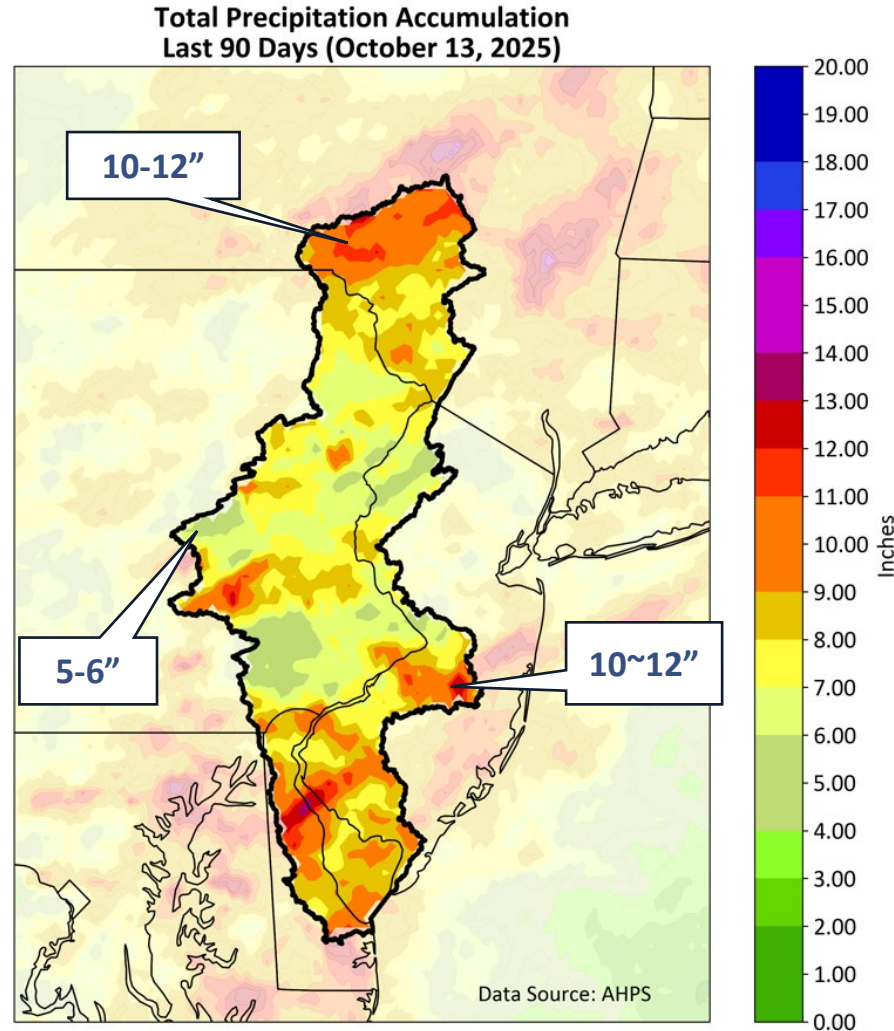


Data Source: NOAA

Cumulative Precipitation – Last 90 days

Reference date: October 13, 2025

The last three-month period shows below normal condition for the entire basin.

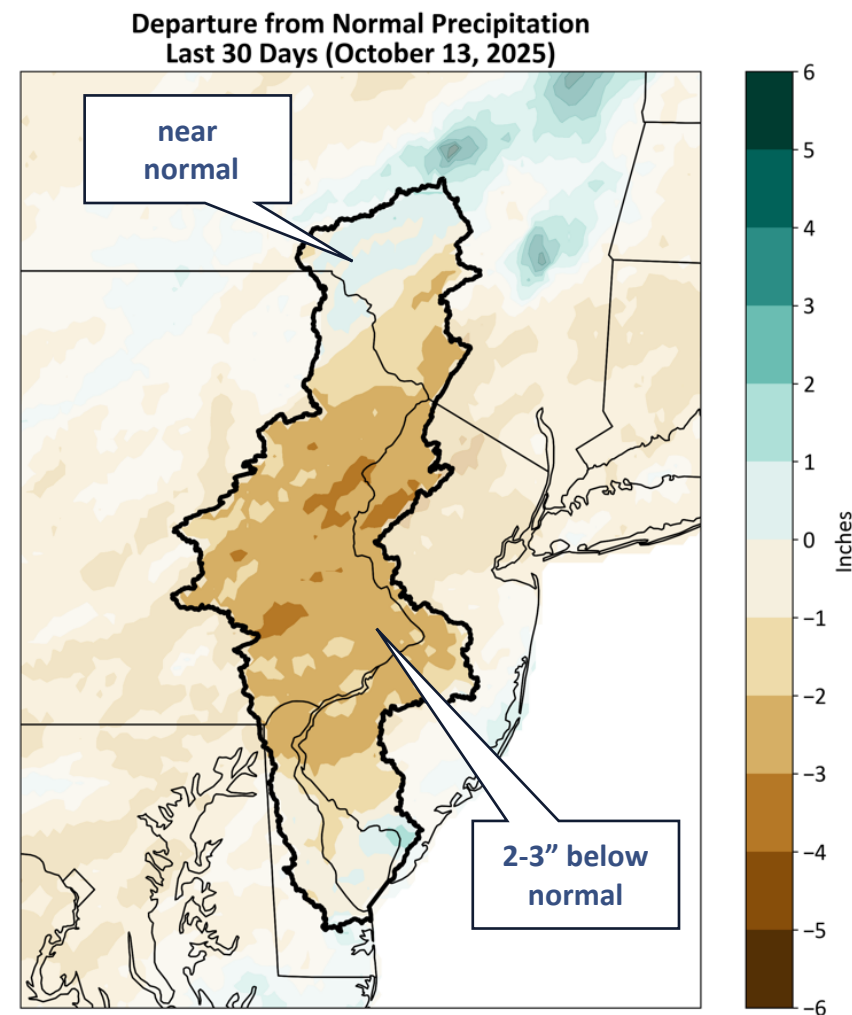
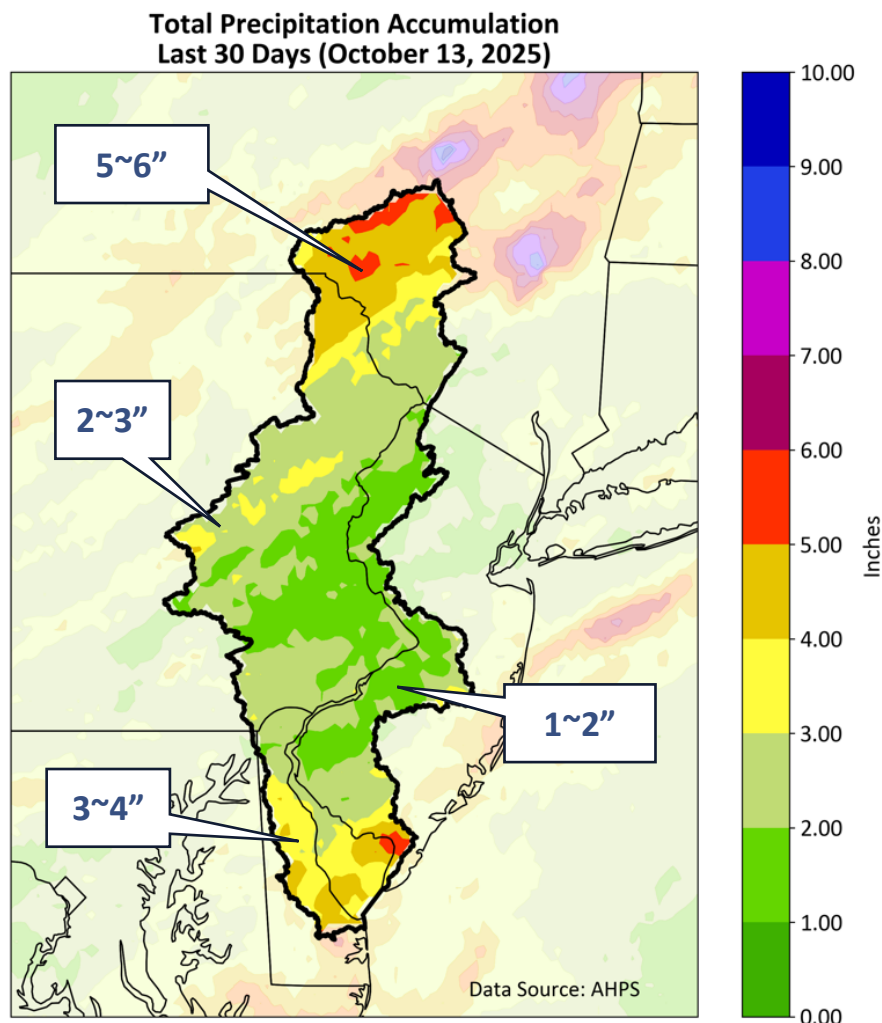


Data Source: NOAA

Cumulative Precipitation – Last 30 days

Reference date: October 13, 2025

It was below normal in the middle of the basin during the last 30 days.

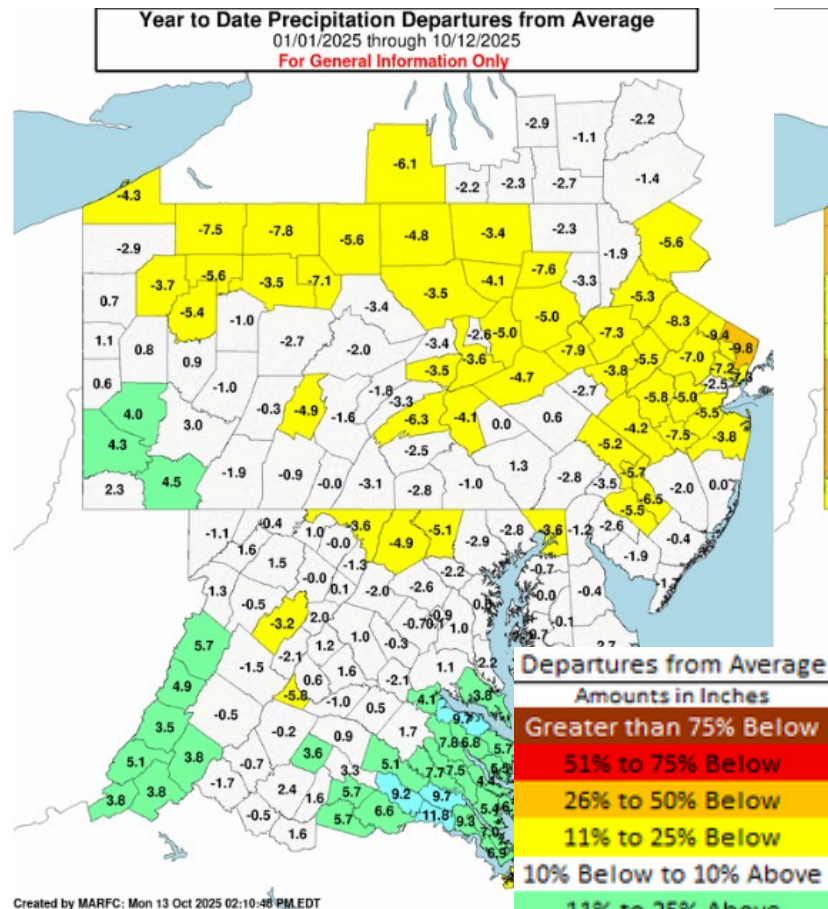


Data Source: NOAA

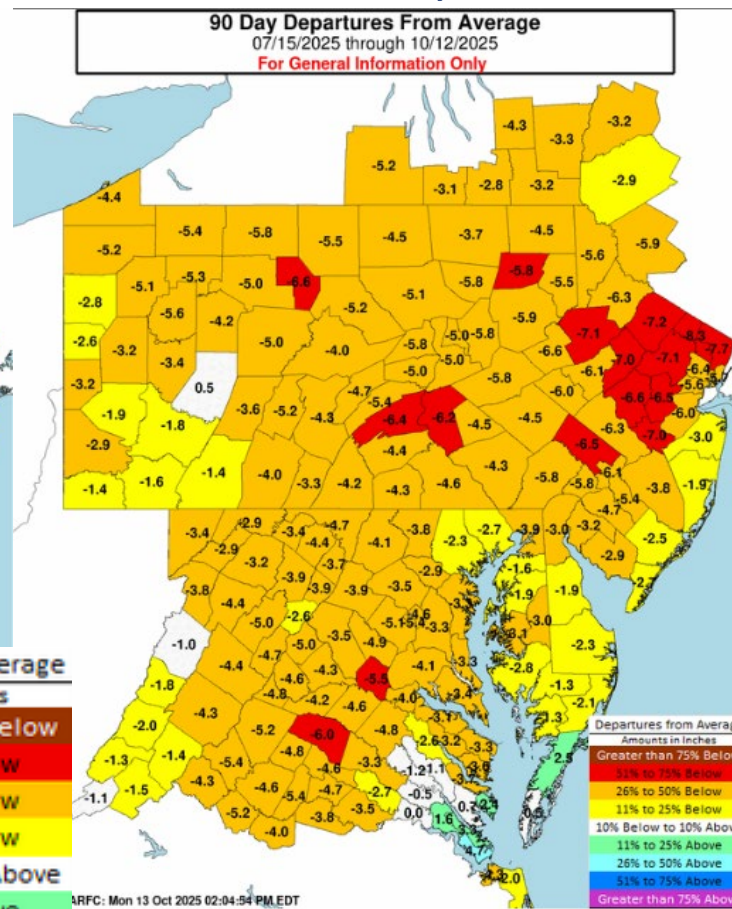
Precipitation Departures Summarized by County

Conditions have deteriorated across much of the Mid-Atlantic in the last 30 days.

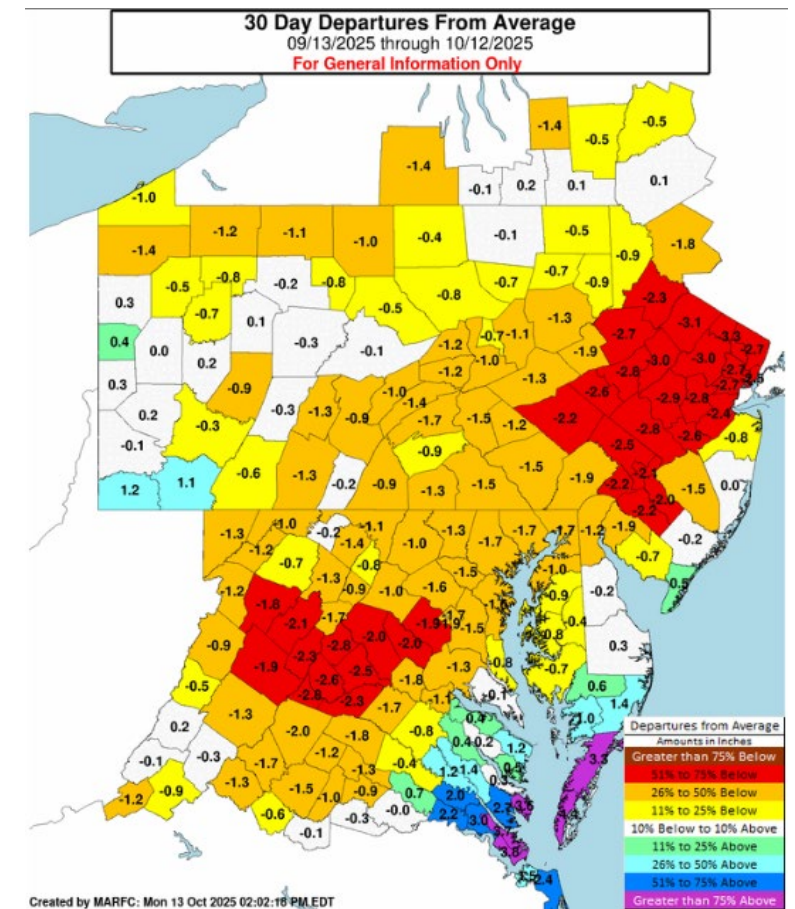
Year-to-date



90-day

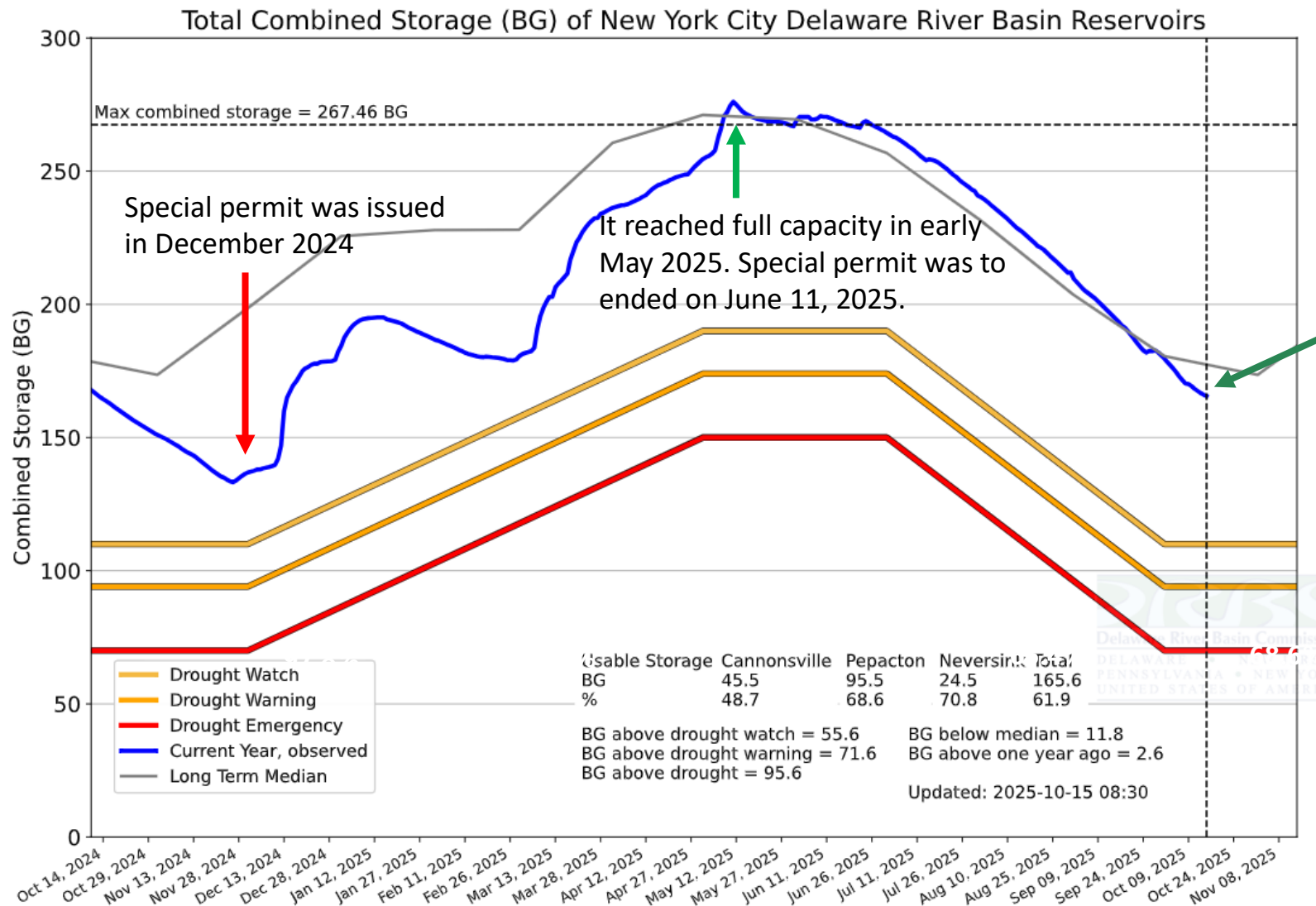


30-day

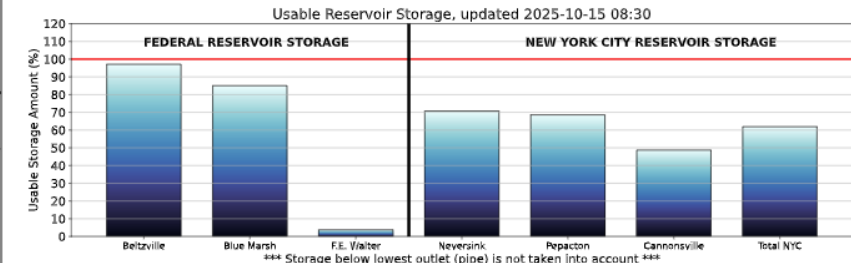


New York City Reservoir Storage

NYC combined storage met the desired target on June 1st 2025



Usable Reservoir Storage



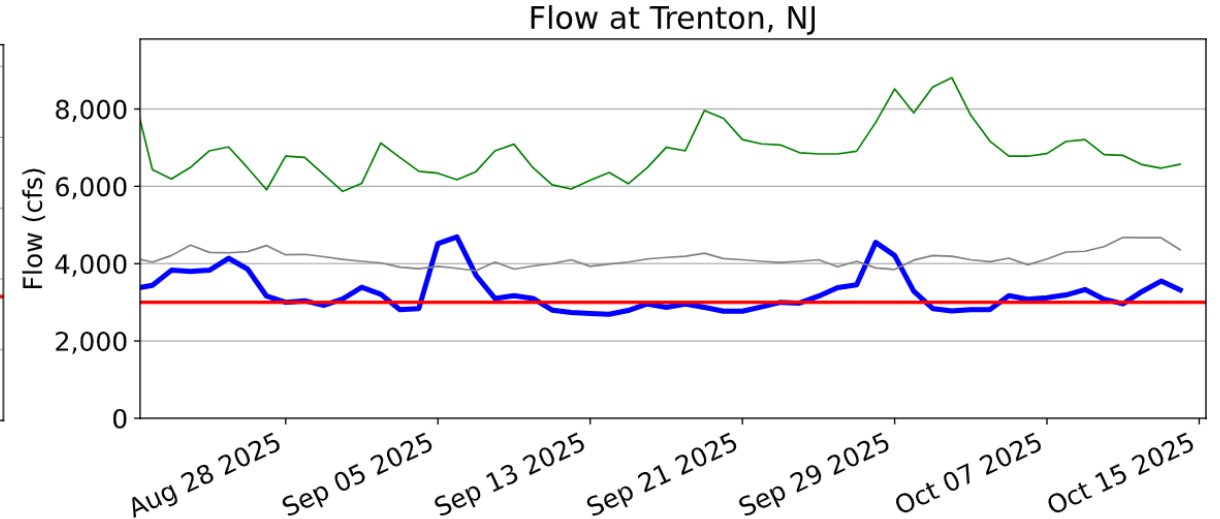
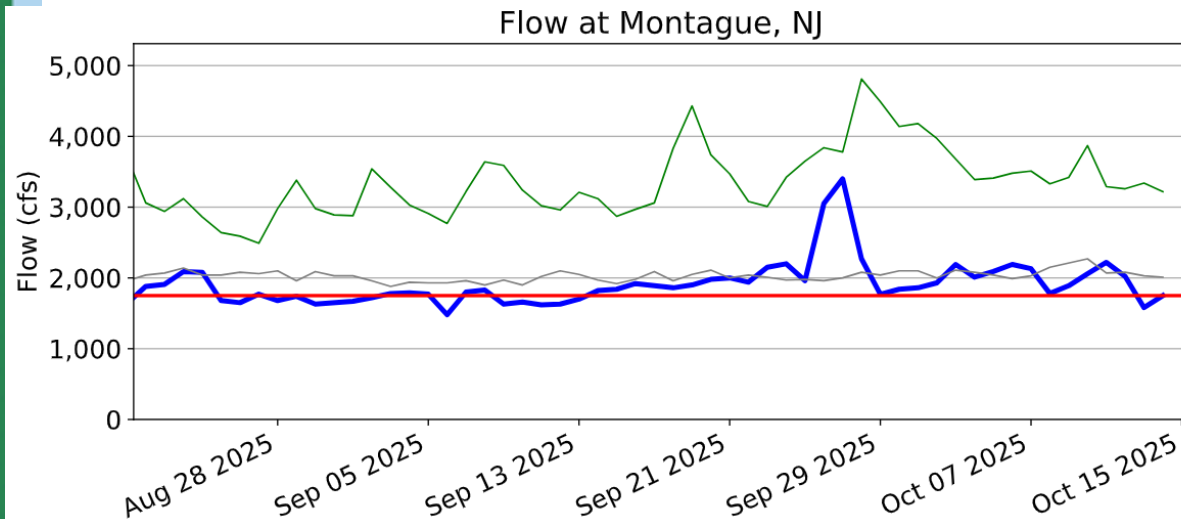
October 15, 2025

The combined storage in the New York City DRB reservoirs 165.6 BG, which is 61.9 percent of the combined capacity.

The combined storage is 55.6 BG above drought watch, 11.8 BG below the long-term median, and 2.6 BG above this time last year.

Streamflow Condition along Delaware River Mainstem

Flows along the mainstem remain below normal since mid-August 2025.

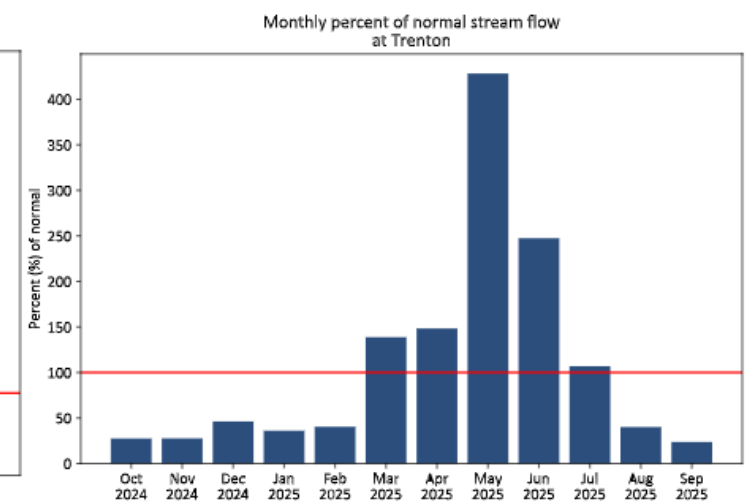
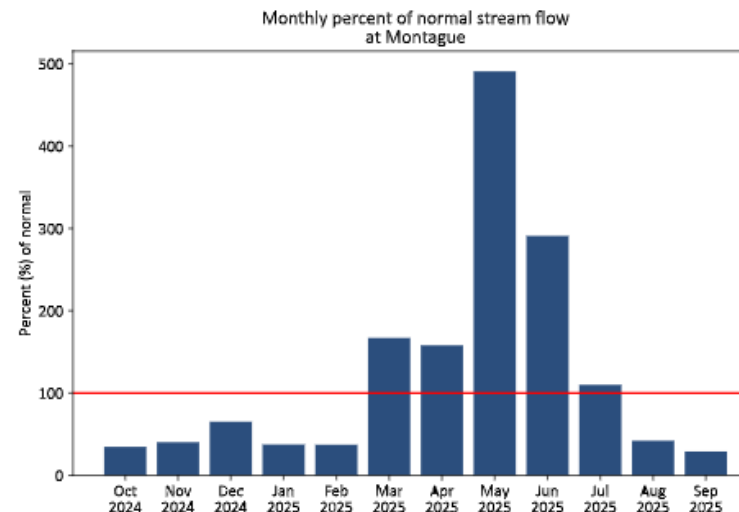


Observed Flow Median Flow (50th %ile)
Average Flow Flow Objective

Map last updated: 8:30 am, October 15, 2025

Data Source: USGS

Monthly percent of normal
Oct 2024- Sep 2025 (WY2025)



Monthly Streamflow for September 2025

Most tributaries have recovered to normal or above normal conditions with recent precipitation.

Flow Conditions on average:

Upper Basin: Normal or below Normal

Central Basin: Normal or below Normal

Lower Basin: Normal or below Normal

Explanation - Percentile classes							
							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	Not-ranked
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Data Source: USGS, Water Watch, <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?r=02&id=mv01d>

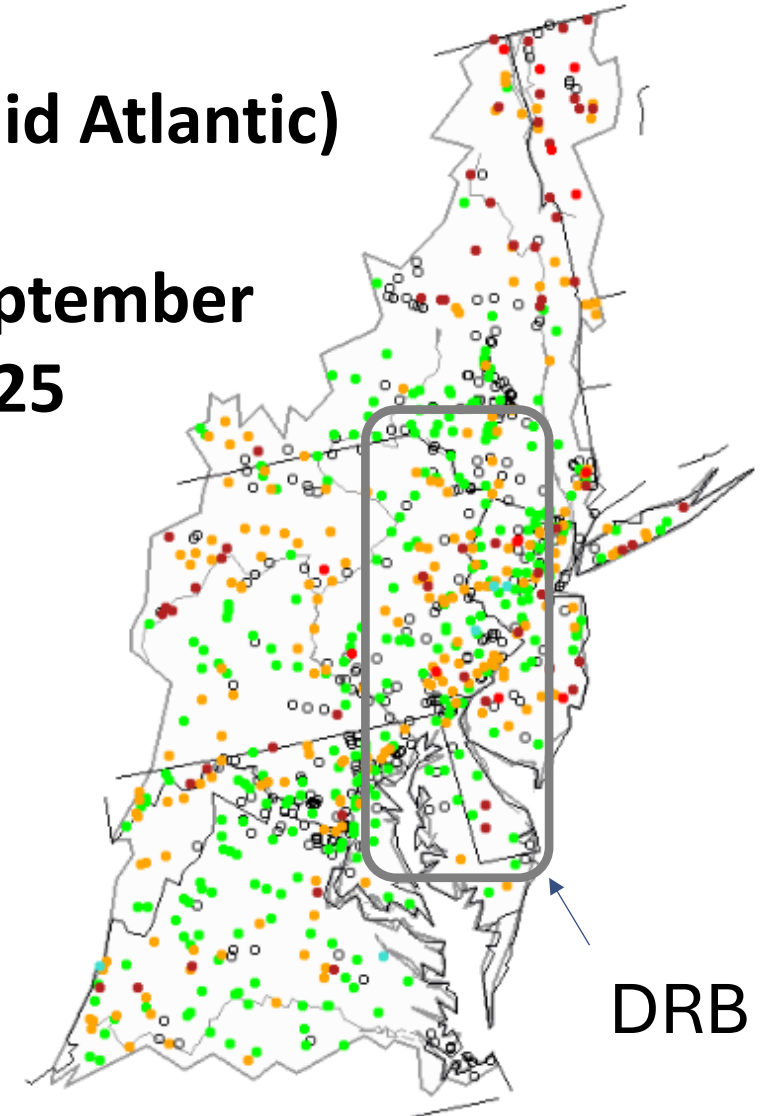
Map of monthly streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the month of the year (Mid Atlantic)

State or 02 Mid Atlantic

September 2025

(Mid Atlantic)

September
2025

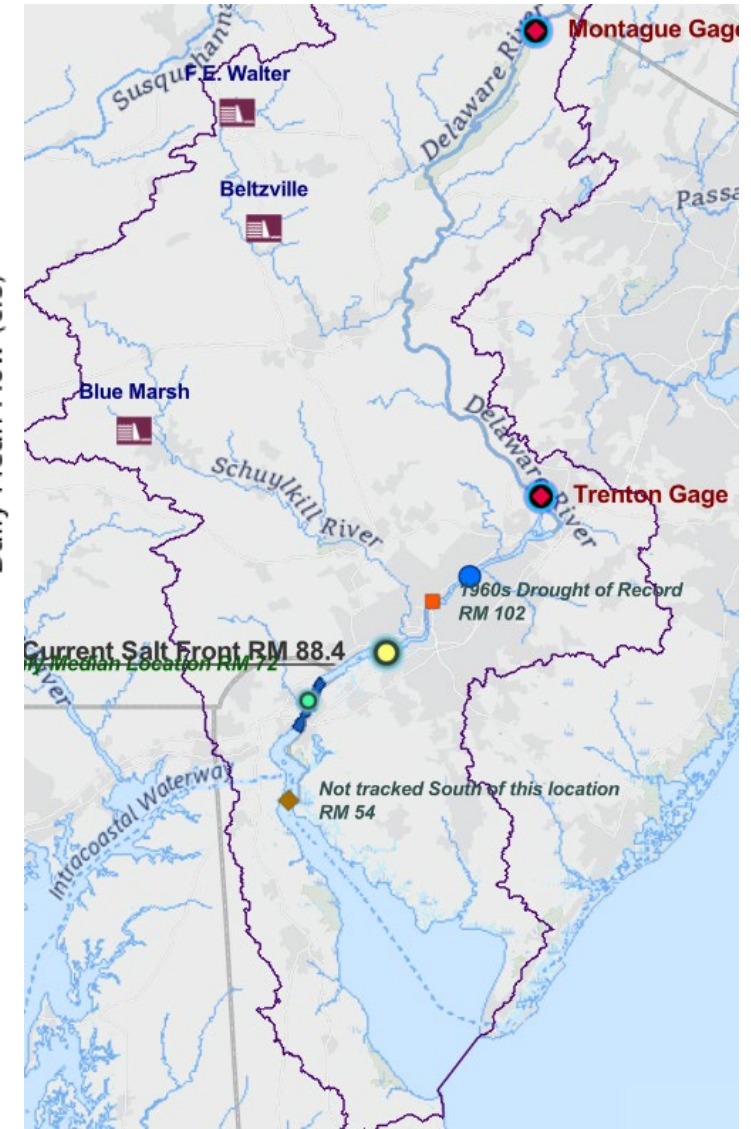
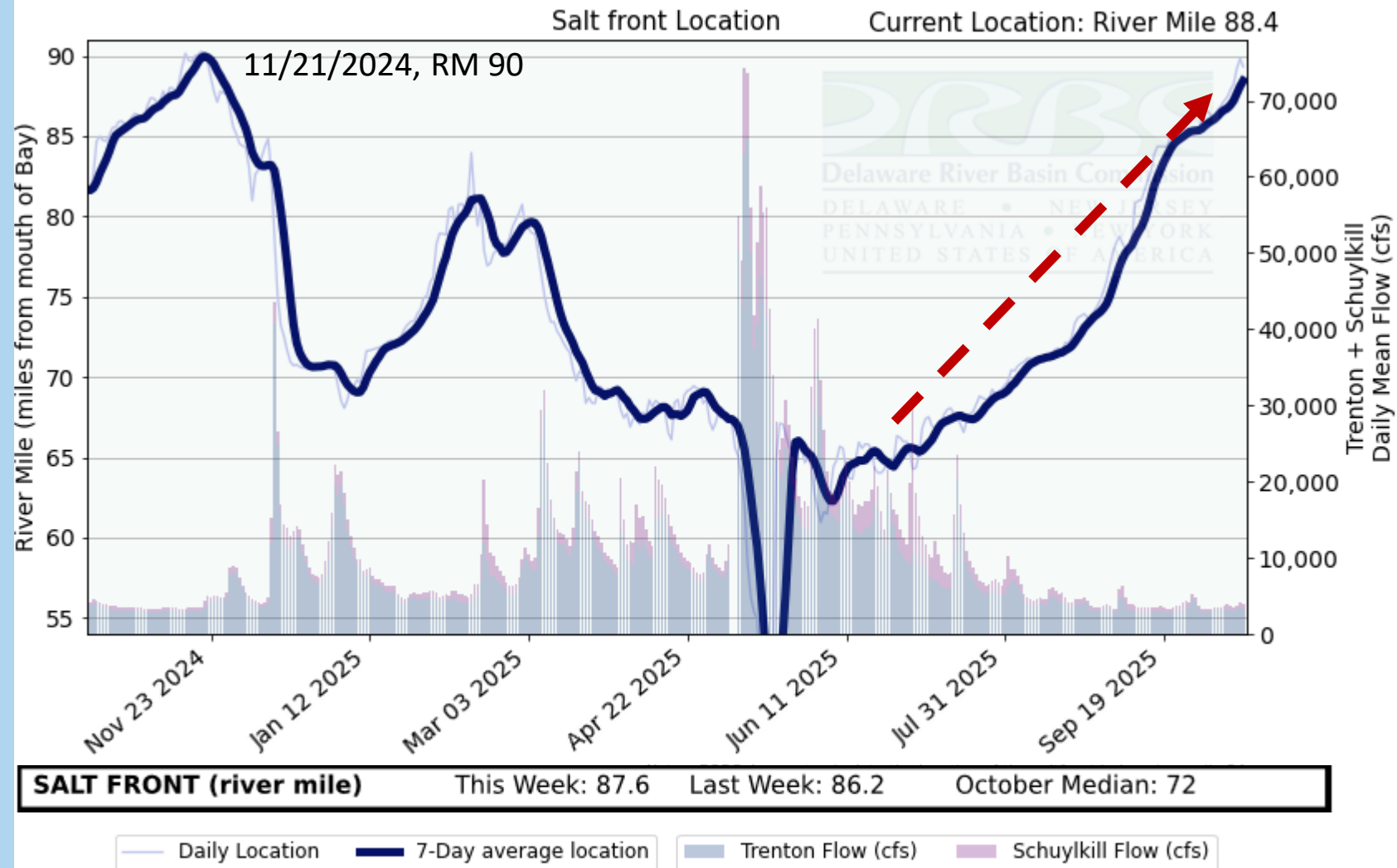


DRB

Salt Front Location

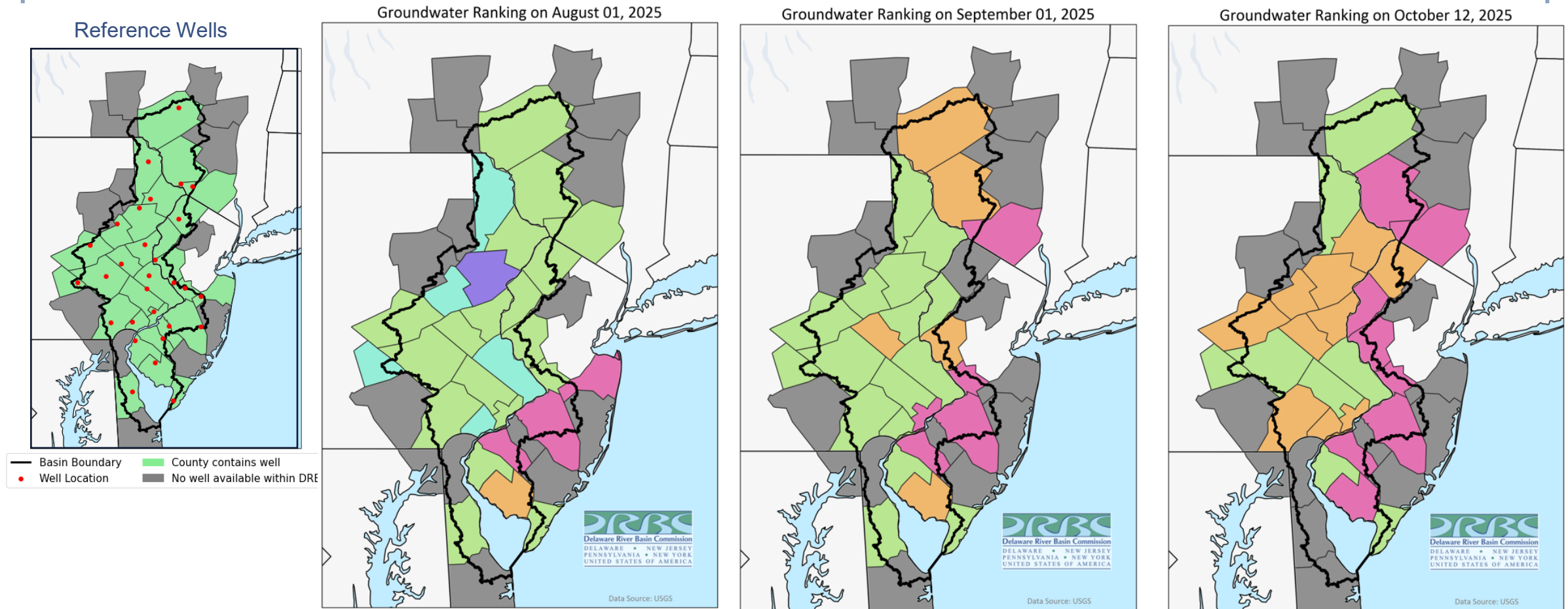
October 15, 2025

Salt front has been in the normal range since the beginning of this year.



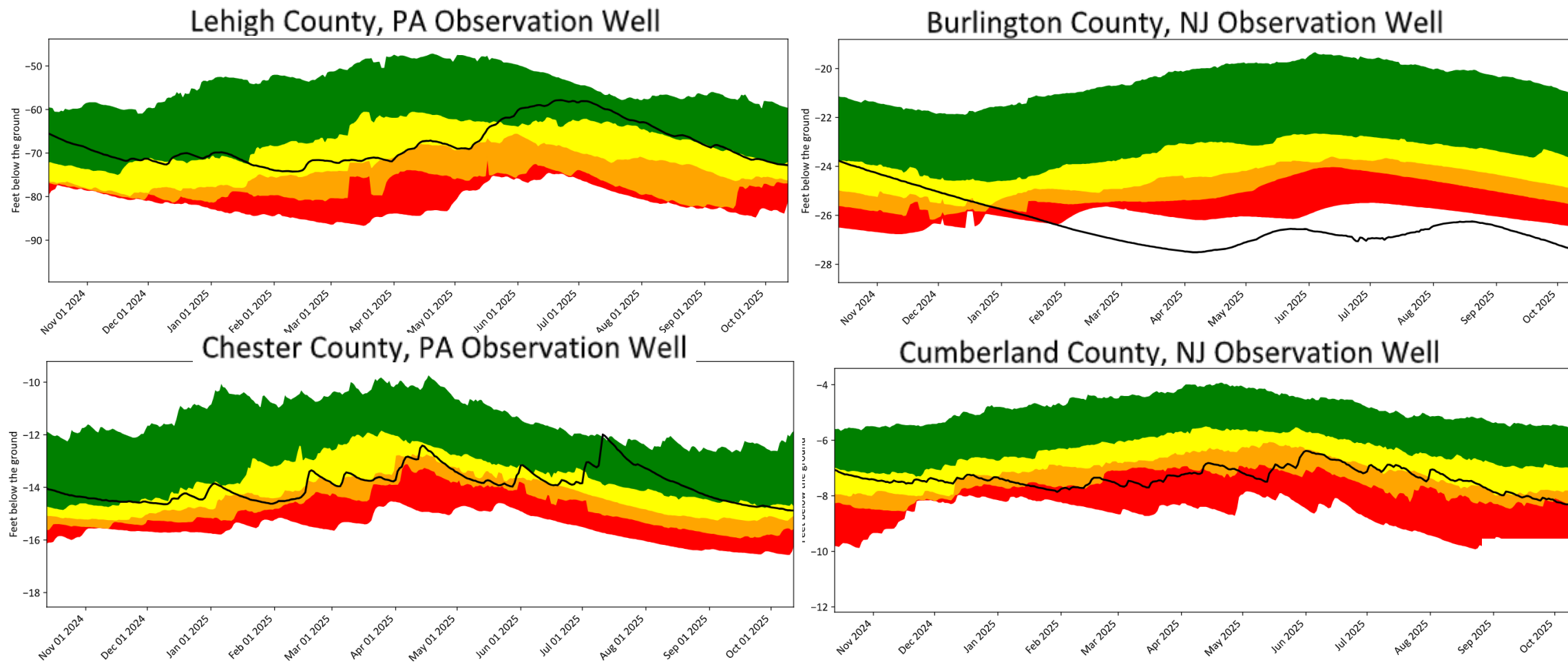
Groundwater Levels

Groundwater levels have lowered gradually following two abnormal dry months in Early October.

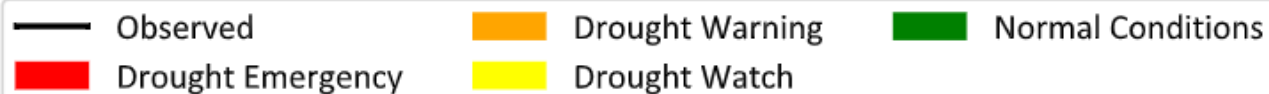


Groundwater Levels

Groundwater levels show a delayed and slow recovery flowing May rainfall events.

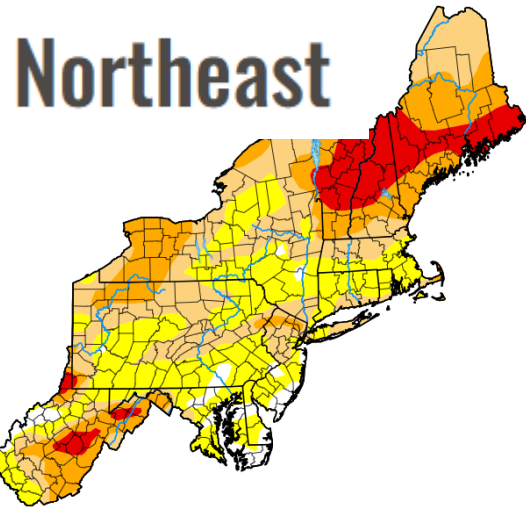


Last updated on October 13, 2025



Drought Monitor

Continued dry weather in the Northeast led to widespread worsening of drought and abnormal dryness.



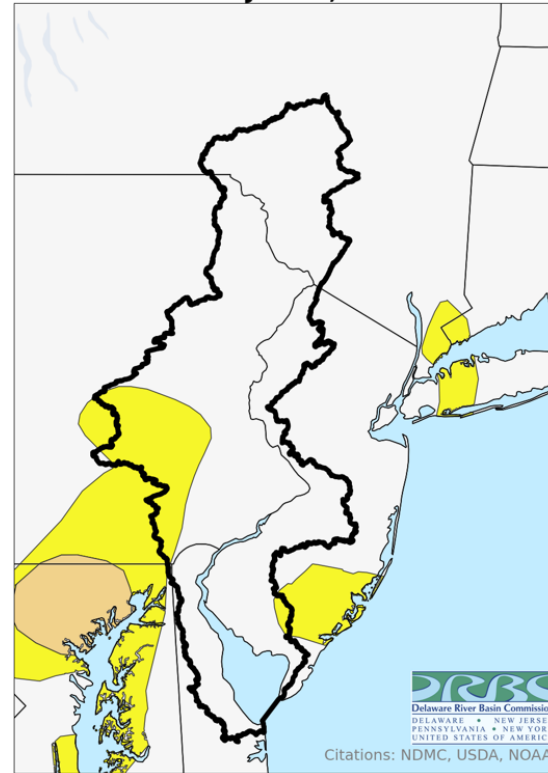
Map released: Thurs. October 9, 2025

Data valid: October 7, 2025 at 8 a.m. EDT

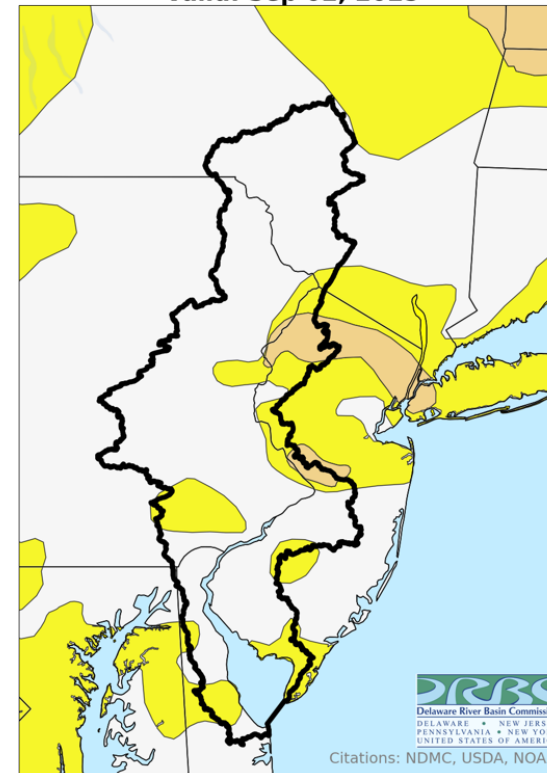
Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

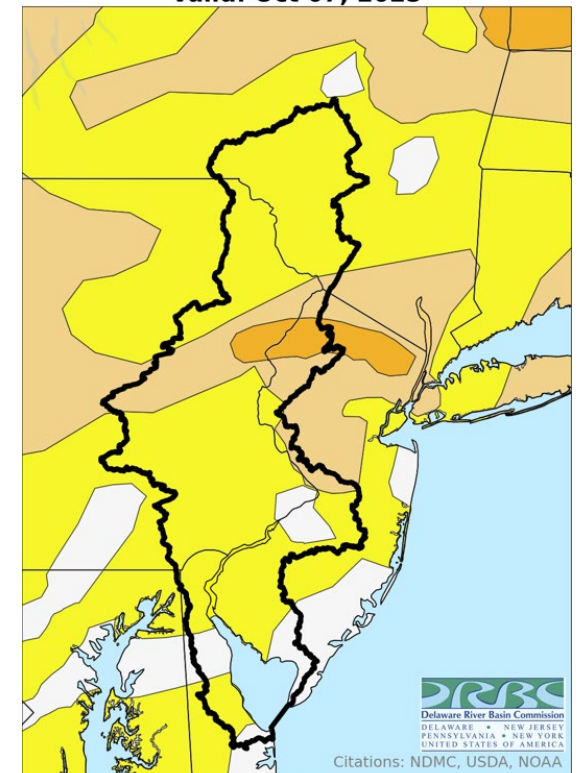
Drought Monitor
Valid: Jun 03, 2025



Drought Monitor
Valid: Sep 02, 2025



Drought Monitor
Valid: Oct 07, 2025



- Basin Boundary
- D0 - Abnormally Dry
- D1 - Moderate Drought
- D2 - Severe Drought

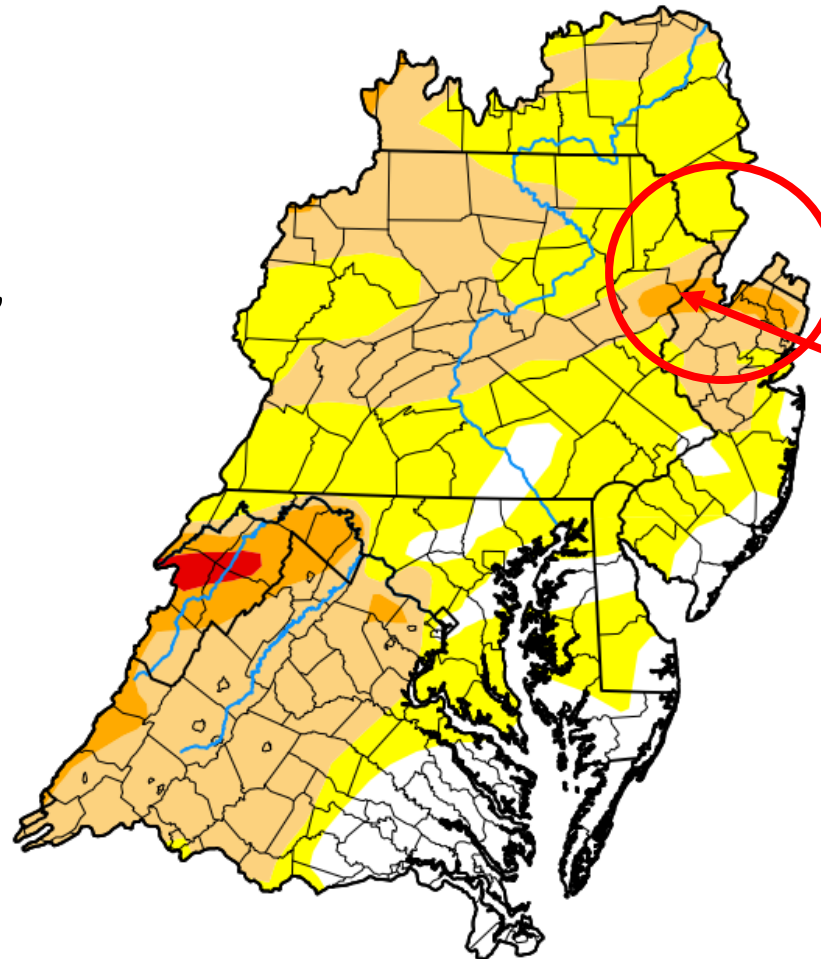
Jun 3 → Sep 2 → Oct 7, 2025

Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor Middle Atlantic RFC

October 7, 2025
(Released Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Areas of moderate and severe drought expanded in northeast Pennsylvania, northern New Jersey, southern New York



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	14.99	42.60	36.24	5.48	0.69	0.00
Last Week 09-30-2025	23.45	44.72	27.42	3.73	0.69	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-08-2025	93.98	4.55	1.47	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	25.13	23.73	27.84	19.94	3.36	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	54.31	31.90	10.79	2.52	0.47	0.00
One Year Ago 10-08-2024	48.21	36.90	12.77	1.67	0.46	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

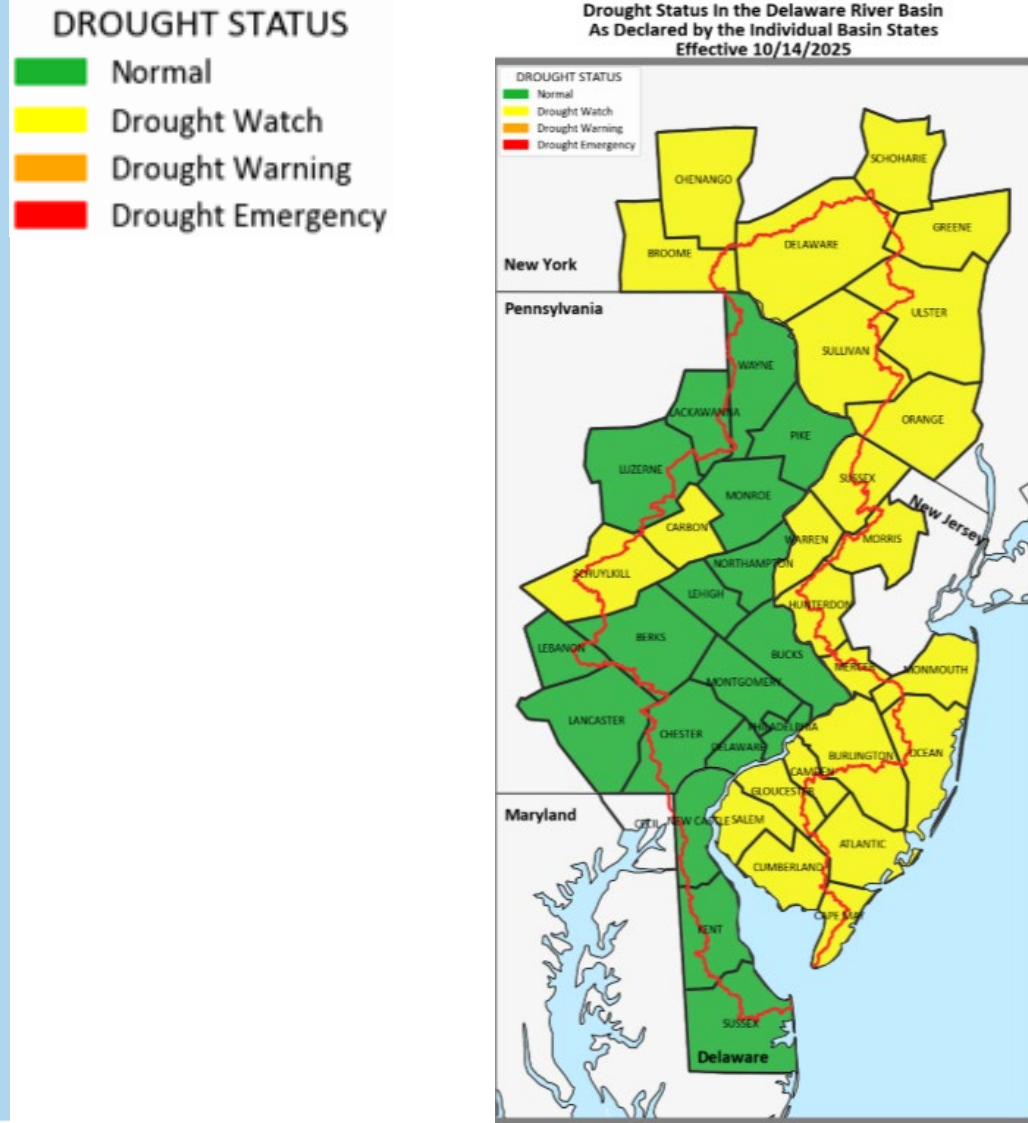
Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought Status

Dry conditions in the fall 2024 led to a drought watch or warning in the Basin states.



- NJ: Drought Watch
- DE: Normal
- NY: Watch
- PA: Normal; 2 DRB counties in Drought Watch

Map last updated on 10/14/2025.

DRBC's flow management operations normal

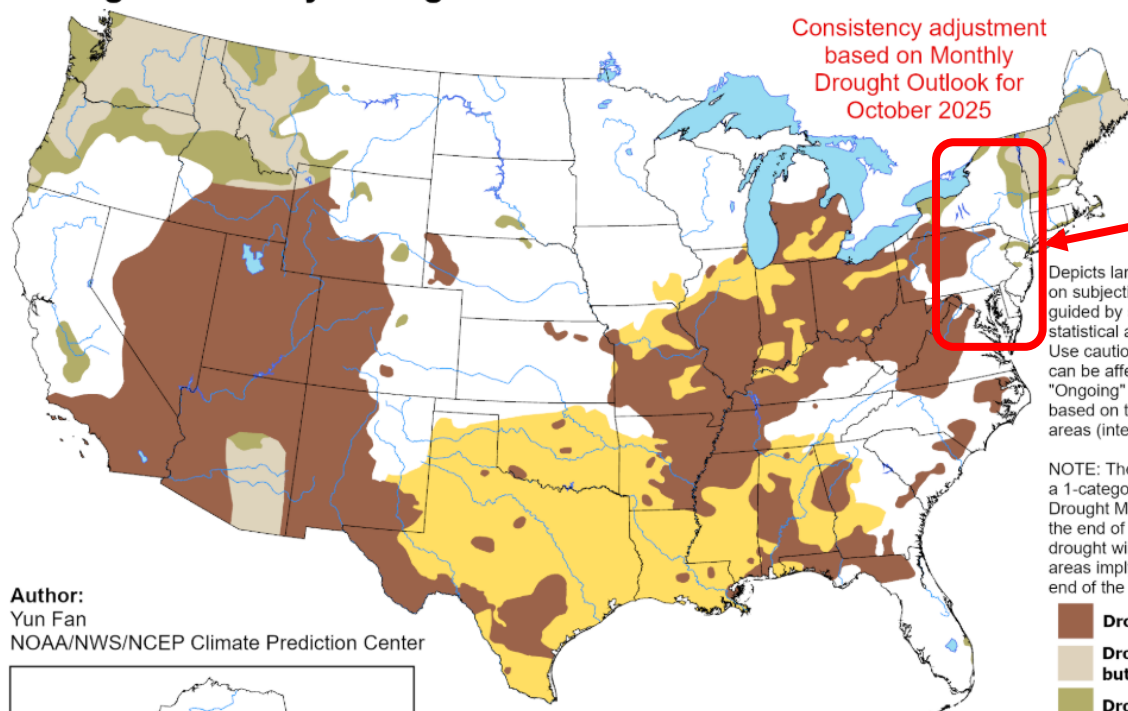
NOAA Seasonal Drought Outlook: October 1 – December 31, 2025

Delaware River Basin is expected to largely remain free of drought conditions through the end of December

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 1 - December 31, 2025
Released September 30, 2025

Consistency adjustment
based on Monthly
Drought Outlook for
October 2025

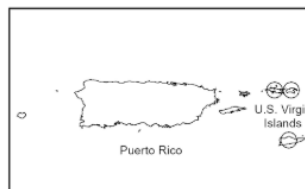
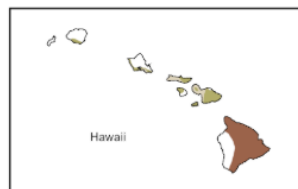


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought

Author:
Yun Fan
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



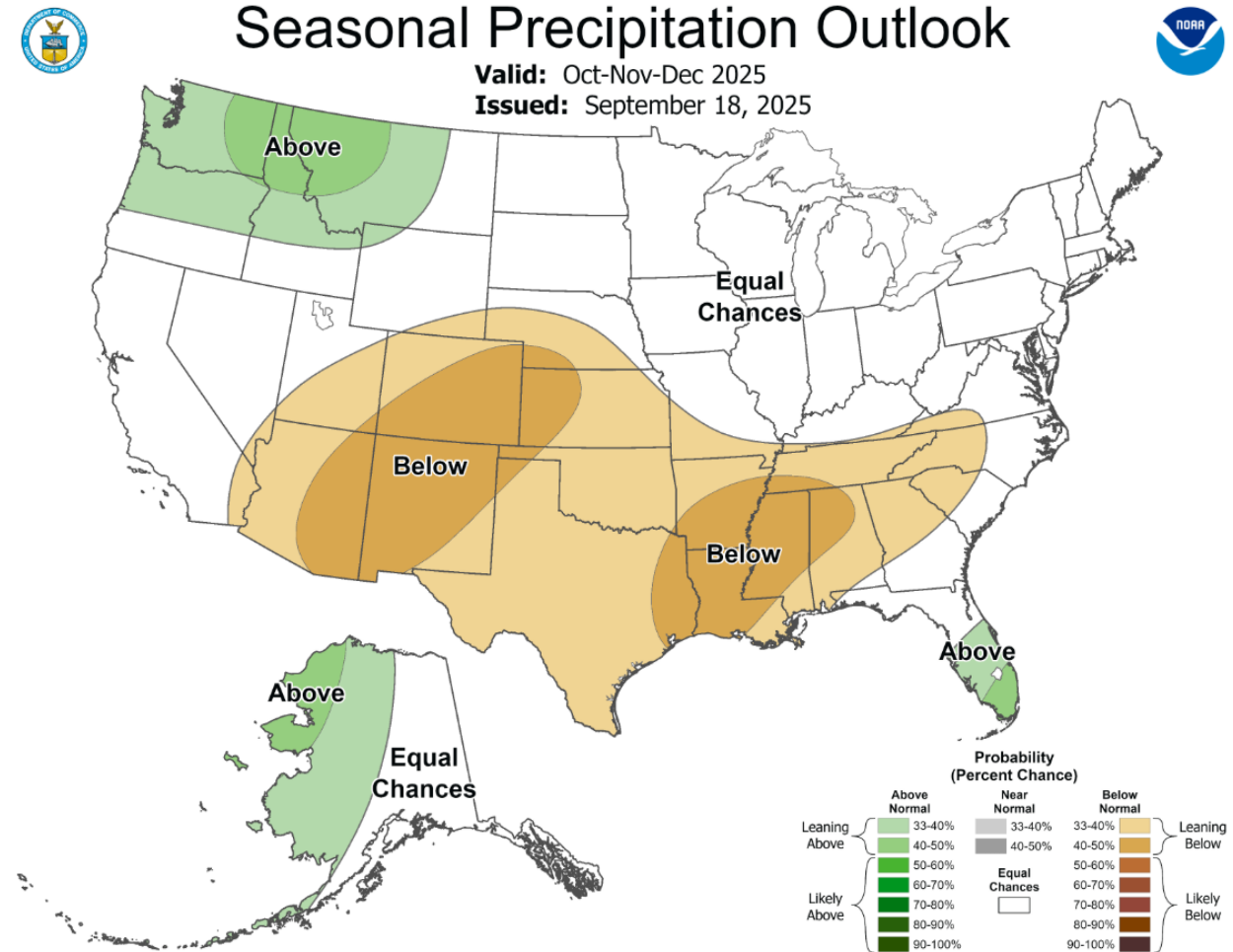
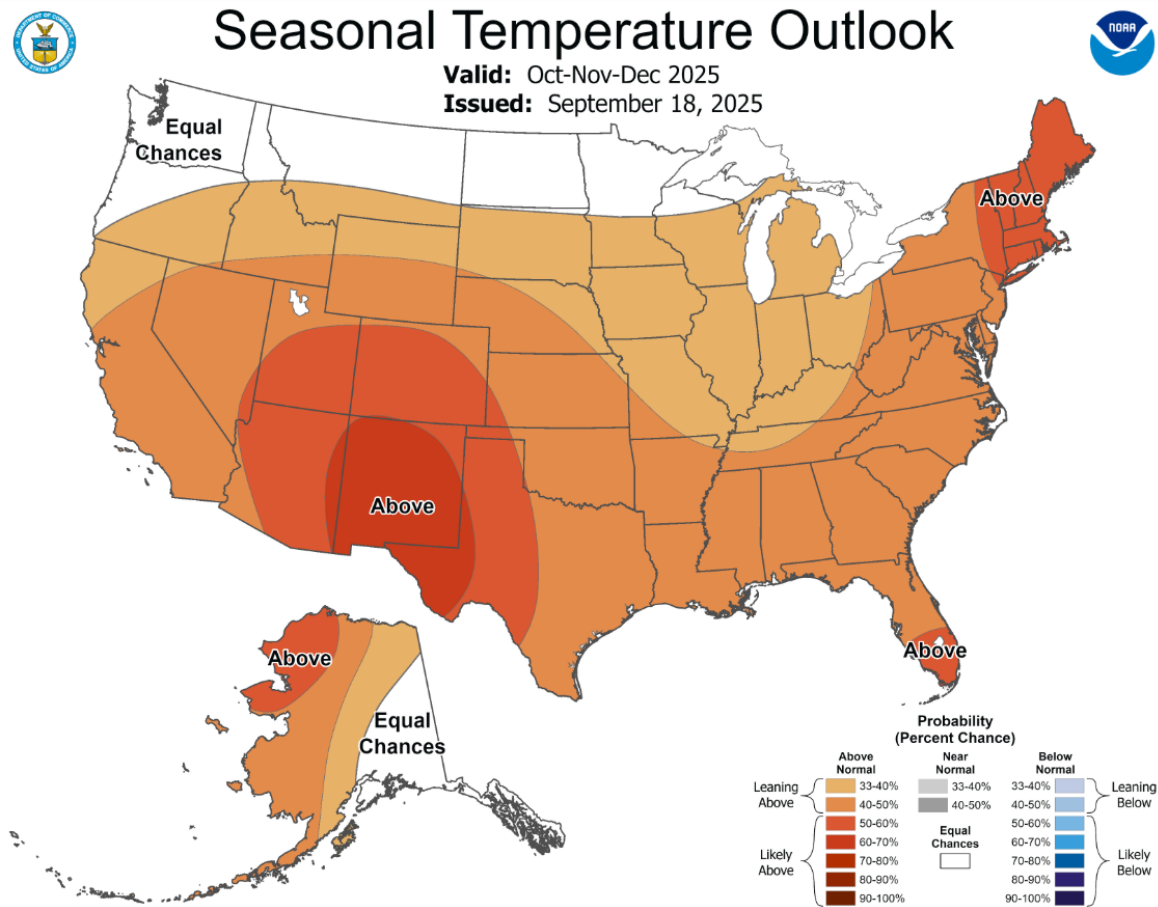
https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/sdo_summary.php



<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

NOAA Seasonal Outlook – Oct-Nov-Dec 2025

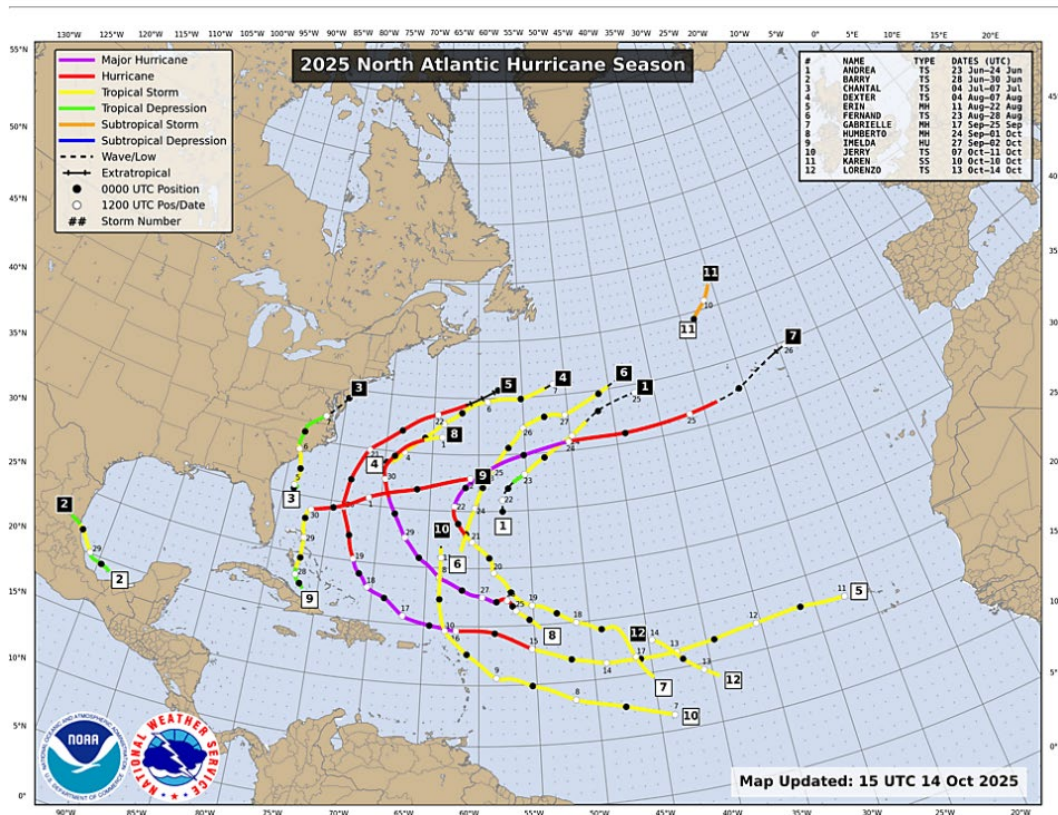
Warmer-than-normal temperatures with equal chances for precipitation



Hurricane Season – A summary at end of September 2025

This hurricane season has gone quiet, but the season is expected to remain active for the rest of the year

North Atlantic Tropical Weather Summary (2025)



For the first time in 10 years, **no hurricane has made landfall** in the United States through the end of September.

Through the end of September, **nine named storms and three hurricanes** (1 Cat 4, 2 Cat5) have formed, but all intensified in the central Atlantic Ocean, far from land.



Hydrologic conditions summary

- After more than two months of dry conditions, a hydrologic drought has developed across many parts of the Basin, resulting in reduced streamflow and declining groundwater levels.
- A significant salinity intrusion has been observed in the Delaware Estuary due to the prolonged period of low flow conditions on the Delaware River mainstem.
- The three-month outlook indicates warmer-than-average temperatures this fall and an equal chance of above- or below-normal precipitation.



Enjoy the Fall Season!