

# **Water Resources Coordinating Council**

## **Thursday, September 23, 2021**

### Meeting Notes

#### **Call to Order and Virtual Meeting Logistics**

The meeting was called to order at 2:34 PM. A total of 25 participants were in the meeting in person and virtually. Sign-in sheets are included with these notes.

#### **WRCC Member Agency Updates**

NWS (Zogg): NWS reports above normal temps statewide and below normal precip in southern Iowa/above normal in northern Iowa over last 30 days. Stream flows are returning to normal but some in western Iowa remain below normal. Outlooks indicate above normal temperatures and normal precipitation for October. Drought conditions are expected to persist through the fall.

USACE (Brown): Continuing Authorities program is working to do habitat improvement projects in Rathbun area. Hoping to see funding free up to continue projects in the watershed. Sustainable Rivers initiative is ongoing with study of Des Moines River, as well as Rathbun watershed/Chariton River. Hoping to incorporate a fall pulse but low water conditions have prevented thus far.

EPA Region 7 (Tate): Working with small communities in all 4 Region 7 states to look at utility rate sustainability and ability to build infrastructure 30 years into the future. 350 communities participated and early findings are that small communities are going to have trouble financing water/sewer infrastructure given costs and ability to raise revenues. Also providing training for operators in the region and receiving very good attendance/turnout. Operators are starting to look at nutrient reduction and finding ways to do so with little additional expense/capital investment.

ISU (Helmert): Weekly webinars are ongoing on Wednesdays through Iowa Learning Farms. Please contact Matt if you have a topic to discuss. INRC is funding 10 new projects this fall. ISU Extension is ramping up in-person field days and hoping to do winter meetings in-person as well. The land component of the NRS dashboard was released in early September. A publication is coming out discussing streambank erosion and phosphorus export. A group of students received an award for the best paper through the Journal of Environmental Quality for a project at ISU supported through the INRC. Laurie Nowatzke has left ISU Extension for a position with the Midwest Climate Hub. ISU is starting the process of refilling her position.

UNI (Clayton): Presentations from Tallgrass Prairie Center are available on UNI website. New Prairie on Farms project coordinator is Andy Olson.

USGS (Nania): Not much to add regarding streamflow conditions following NWS report. Especially high flows in northeast Iowa following high rainfall events in late summer. Publications forthcoming on Linn County aquifer water quality and water level, and study on phosphorus loads and surrogate readings on Cedar River. 4 new stream gauges have been added in various locations throughout the state. Sites were added based on predictability of flood forecasting and gaps and current system.

HSEMD (Bartlett): HF861 authorized levee studies and HSEMD is starting implementation and agency consultation in advance of January 1 report to Legislature. Ongoing disasters include Missouri/Mississippi River flooding, derecho, and pandemic. Lots of mitigation funding opportunities.

IFA (Smith/Toigo): Disbursing \$6.2 million in SRF per week for water/sewer projects. Deadline for grant program and loan programs through SF512 are due on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Anticipate high interest in both programs this year. \$6 million available for grant program and \$10 million available for loan program. Also looking at potential to use American Rescue Plan resources for water/sewer projects but too early to tell what will materialize.

IEDA (Geerts): CDBG Water/Sewer program has released 7 new awards. \$2.7 million in funds have leveraged \$9.7 million in other funds for those projects. Applications are accepted quarterly for new projects. CDBG Disaster Recovery program has 2-3 projects in development in SW Iowa. Also conducting design consultations with communities doing housing projects in support of disaster recovery. New project applications are due on September 30<sup>th</sup>. CDBG-CV program has \$20-21 million to be invested in support of pandemic recovery; some storm water projects could be eligible. EDA grant to support long-term land use planning in Mills and Fremont Counties with anticipated completion by end of the year.

DOT (Beavers): Hoping to take advantage of funding in new federal infrastructure bill. Hoping to add projects in the five-year plan. Two-stage ditches in pilot project are under construction and monitoring data should be coming out next spring.

DNR (Schneiders): Organizational changes include shifts in legislative liaison position and a vacancy in the State Parks Bureau Chief position. New water quality supervisor is Jerah Sheets. SRF staff is now under water quality section and TMDL program is now under water quality engineering staff. Ongoing momentum with wastewater treatment optimization with goal of reducing treatment costs, especially to smaller systems aimed at keeping systems financially viable. DNR is implementing PFAS Action Plan, looking at groundwater and drinking water supplies for vulnerable areas and systems. EPA has released lake-level nutrient numeric criteria and the Natural Resources Commission will review and determine applicability to Iowa.

IDALS (Hansen): IDALS hosted an event on September 2<sup>nd</sup> in Buena Vista County to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> CREP wetland being constructed. We were joined by NRCS leadership and local officials. We are also continuing to follow federal guidance as far as employees working in USDA Service Centers, and we are meeting with landowners outdoors and on-site for projects whenever possible.

IDALS has more than \$7 million in obligations for cover crop applicants for 2021 across all programs. We are also preparing to release this year's guidance on the Crop Insurance Discount Program. Staff continues to work with the US Army Corps of Engineers to get Regional Permits 34 and 39 renewed in order to continue development of wetlands throughout the state. We have also released a Request for Applications for new Urban Conservation projects, with an anticipated start date for new projects of April 1, 2022. The IDALS Mines and Minerals Bureau was recognized with a national award for abandoned mine land reclamation at this year's NAAML conference for the DeRonde project in rural Mahaska County.

### **Flood Mitigation Fund Update**

Aimee Bartlett, Hazard Mitigation bureau chief at HSEMD, provided an update on the Flood Mitigation Board and the Flood Recovery Fund, which has received two significant appropriations in response to 2018 and 2019 flooding, predominantly along the Missouri River. A copy of that update is included with these meeting notes.

Flood Mitigation Board was established in 2012. Initial charge was use of sales tax increment financing in 2016 where 10 cities were included for funding. Subsequent charge was to use funding allocated by Legislature to establish Flood Mitigation Fund and distribute funding. Current initiative is programming of Flood Recovery Fund, which received appropriations following 2019 flooding. The program supported 10 counties in western and eastern Iowa. A total of \$36 million was provided through two rounds of funding in 2019 and 2020. Most of the money has been used to provide match for federal residential buyout programs and for a series of levee repairs along the Missouri River and some associated infrastructure repairs. Additional CDBG disaster funding has been provided as FEMA match, which will free up flood recovery funding for redevelopment activities and additional levee repairs and fortifications.

### **HUD Iowa Watershed Approach (Jeff Geerts, IEDA)**

Jeff Geerts, IEDA, provided an update on the HUD Iowa Watershed Approach. Most projects have been granted a 12 month extension to wrap up construction activities to September 30, 2022. 246 homes have been rehabilitated in Dubuque project out of target of 300. Approximately 880 watershed practices have been identified and built through the program in 8 priority watersheds. More than 750 of those practices have been built and at least 250 are completed. HSEMD is working with communities in priority areas to complete Flood Resilience Action Plans in several communities. Watershed plans are all nearing completion as well. Final discussion of overall project will be highlighted at 2022 Iowa Water Conference in Dubuque. WMAs are working to identify ways to stay functioning after funding lapses next year.

### **Public Comments**

There were no requests by the public to address the Council.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM. We will schedule the next meeting sometime in December; location and format to be determined.

WRCC Representative		Position	Organization
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 Mike Naig	Secretary (WRCC Chair)	Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Kim Reynolds	Governor	Governor's Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nate Ristow	Designee	Governor's Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Kayla Lyon	Director	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adam Schneiders	Designee	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Susan Kozak	Director	IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation & Water Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jake Hansen	Designee	IDALS - Division of Soil Conservation & Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Kelly Garcia	Acting Director	IA Department of Public Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kenneth Sharp	Designee	IA Department of Public Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	Designee	IA Department of Public Health
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6 Vacant	Director	Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Larry Giofreddi (Aimee Bartlett)	Designee	Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management
<input type="checkbox"/>	7 Dan Robison	Dean	College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jamie Benning (Matt Helmers)	Designee	College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, ISU
<input type="checkbox"/>	8 Edith Parker	Dean	College of Public Health, University of Iowa
<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Thorne	Designee	College of Public Health, University of Iowa
<input type="checkbox"/>	9 John Fritsch	Dean	College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maureen Clayton	Designee	College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences, UNI
<input type="checkbox"/>	10 Scott Marler	Director	Iowa Department of Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brandy Beavers	Designee	Iowa Department of Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/>	11 Debi Durham	Director	Iowa Economic Development Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Geerts	Designee	Iowa Economic Development Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	12 Debi Durham	Executive Director	Iowa Finance Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tony Toigo (Aaron Smith)	Designee	Iowa Finance Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	13 Alec Scranton	Dean	College of Engineering, University of Iowa
<input type="checkbox"/>	Larry Weber	Designee	College of Engineering, University of Iowa
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14 Jon Nania	Acting Director	USGS, Iowa-Illinois Water Science Center
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Rydlund	Designee	USGS, Iowa-Illinois Water Science Center
<input type="checkbox"/>	15 Jon Hubbert	State Conservationist	USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Cagle	Designee	USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
<input type="checkbox"/>	16 Bob Wegand	Acting State Executive Director	USDA, Farm Service Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	17 Vacant	State Director	USDA, Rural Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kate Sand	Designee	USDA, Rural Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	18 Edward Chu	Acting Regional Administrator	EPA-Region 7
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Tate	Designee	EPA-Region 7
<input type="checkbox"/>	19 Colonel Jesse Curry	Rock Island District Commander	US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jason Smith	Designee	US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Philip Brown	Designee	US Army Corps of Engineers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Zogg	Designee	National Weather Service



# National Weather Service Briefing

Water Resources Coordinating Council Meeting  
September 23, 2021

Jeff Zogg, Senior Service Hydrologist



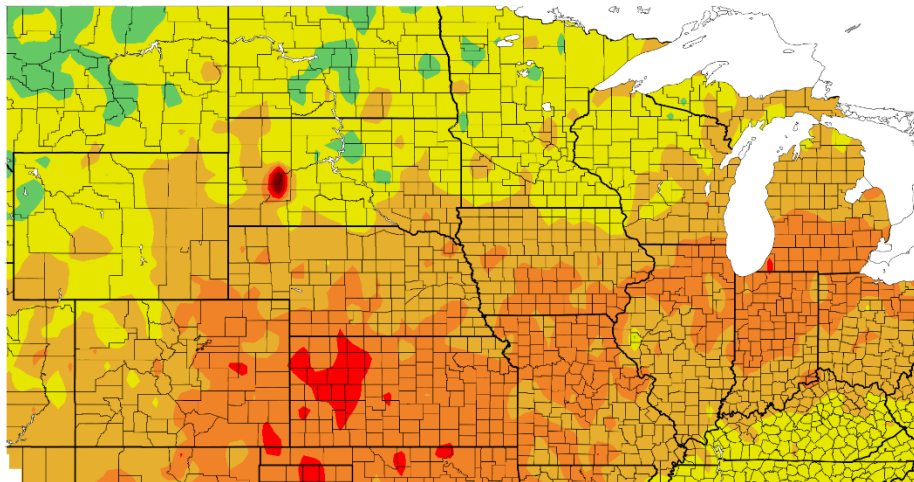


# Observed Temp & Precip Departure

Departures from Normal

## Last 30 Days

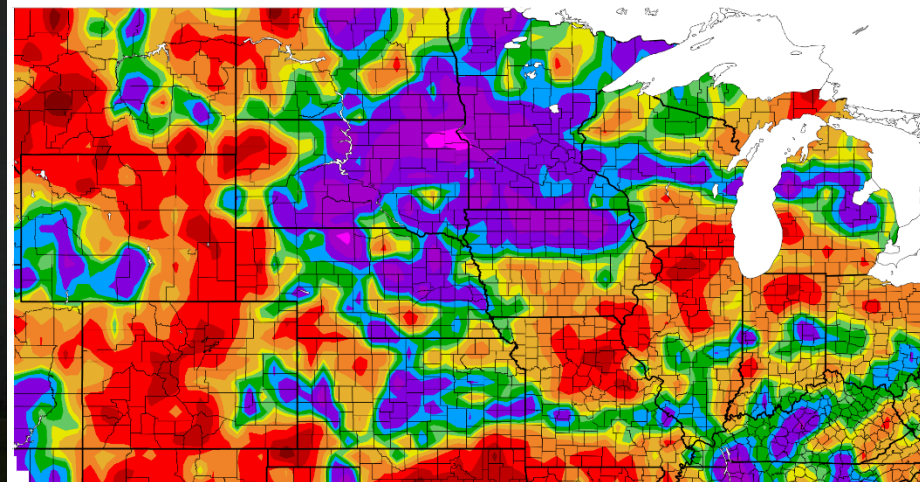
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
8/21/2021 - 9/19/2021



URL: <https://hprcc.unl.edu/products/maps/acis/nwscr/7dTDeptNWSCR.png>

## Last 30 Days

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
8/21/2021 - 9/19/2021



URL: <https://hprcc.unl.edu/products/maps/acis/nwscr/30dPNormNWSCR.png>

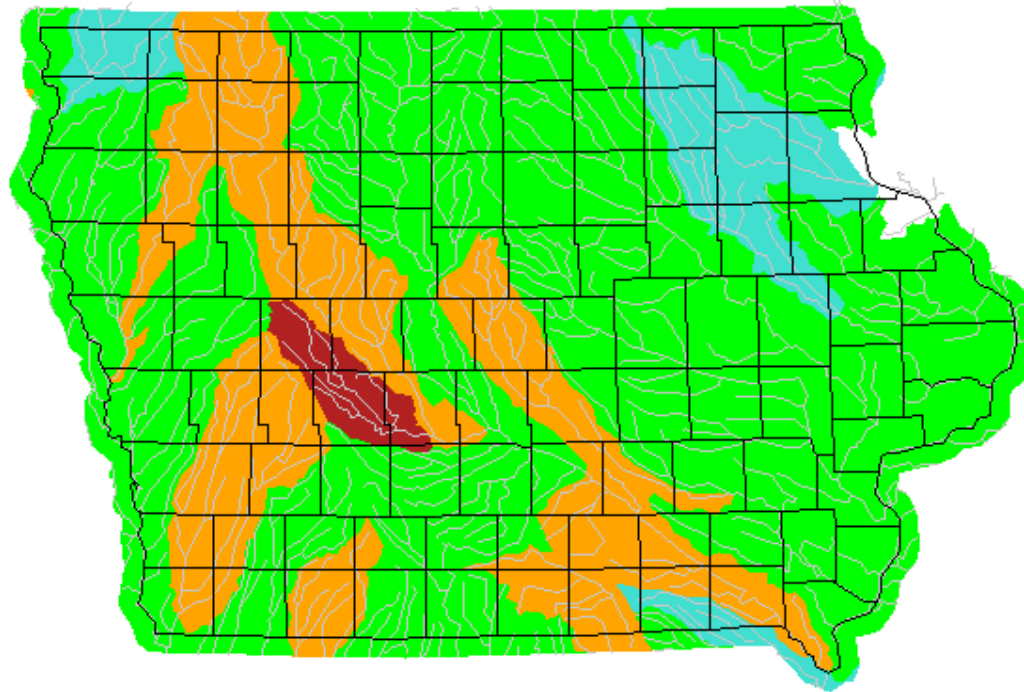




# Current Streamflow

Values vs. Normal (Percentiles)

Wednesday, September 22, 2021



USGS

## Explanation - Percentile classes

	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90		
Low	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	High	No Data

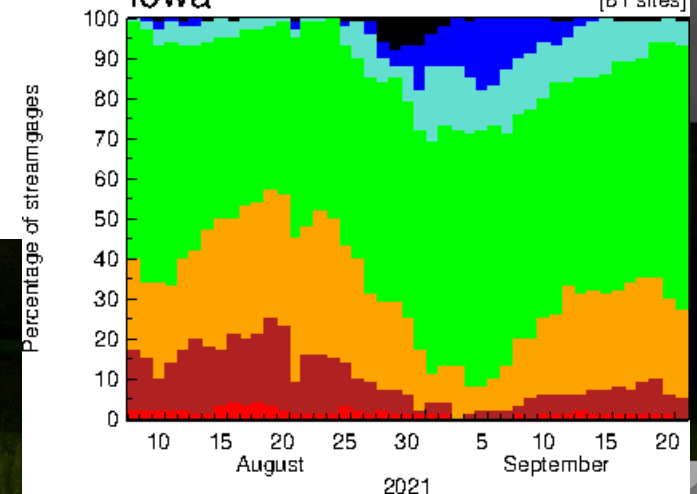
URL: [https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/images/index.php?mt=pa01d\\_nwc&st=ia](https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/images/index.php?mt=pa01d_nwc&st=ia)

- Varied across Iowa

## Last 45 Days

Iowa

[81 sites]



URL: [https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/regplots/pa01d/pa01d\\_ia\\_sum\\_1.gif](https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/regplots/pa01d/pa01d_ia_sum_1.gif)

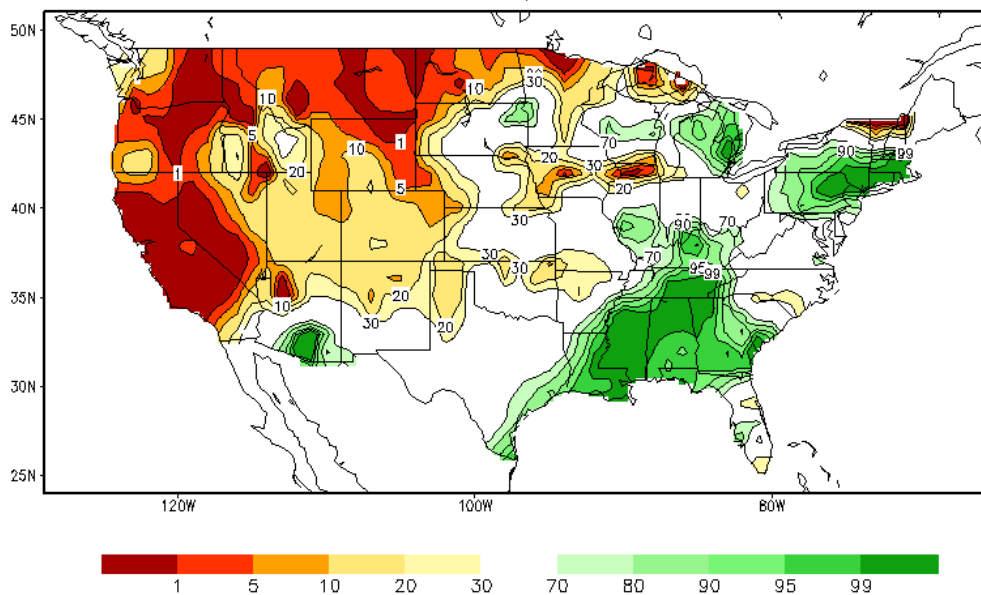


# Current Soil Moisture

Wetness Percentile

- Near to below normal

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
SEP 22, 2021



URL: [https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Soilmst\\_Monitoring/Figures/daily/curr.w.rank.daily.gif](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Soilmst_Monitoring/Figures/daily/curr.w.rank.daily.gif)





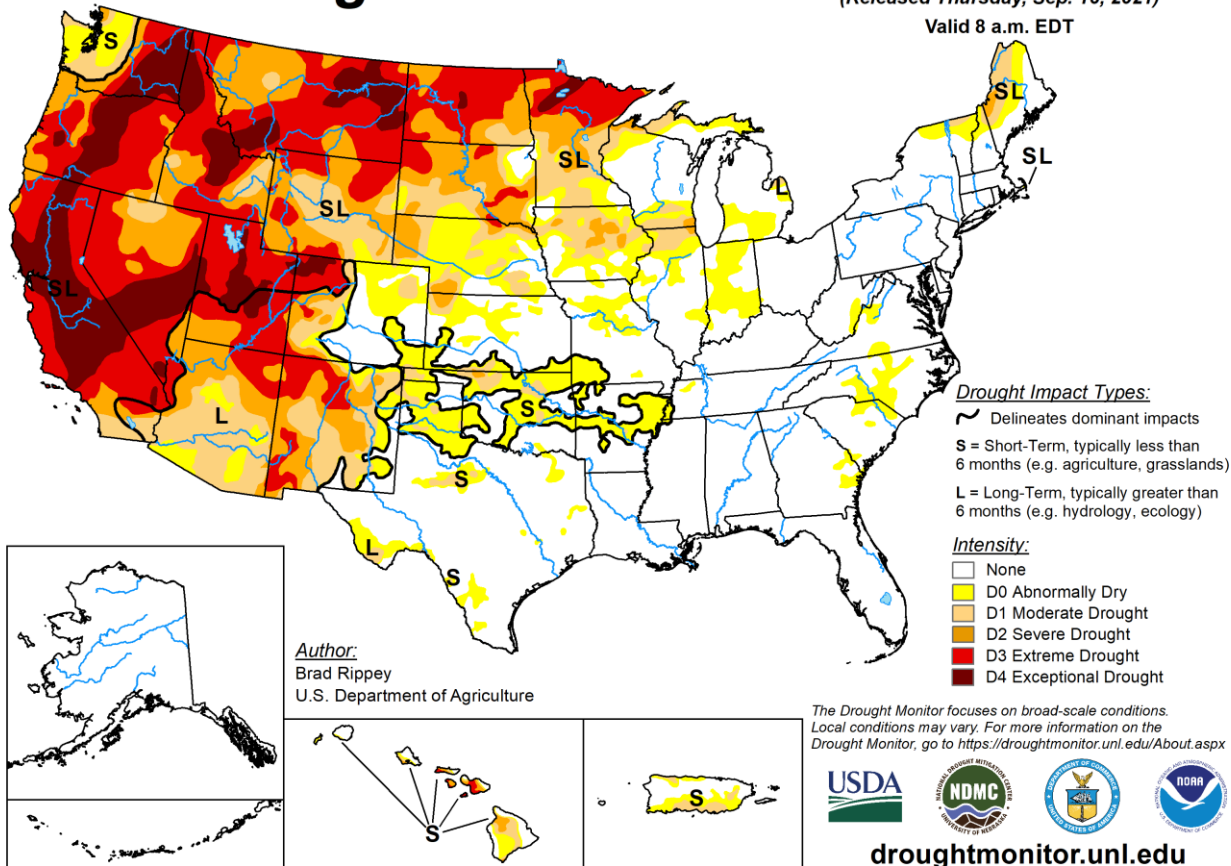
# Current Drought Monitor

## U.S. Drought Monitor

September 14, 2021

(Released Thursday, Sep. 16, 2021)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



- Drought conditions across western Iowa

URL: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/data/png/>



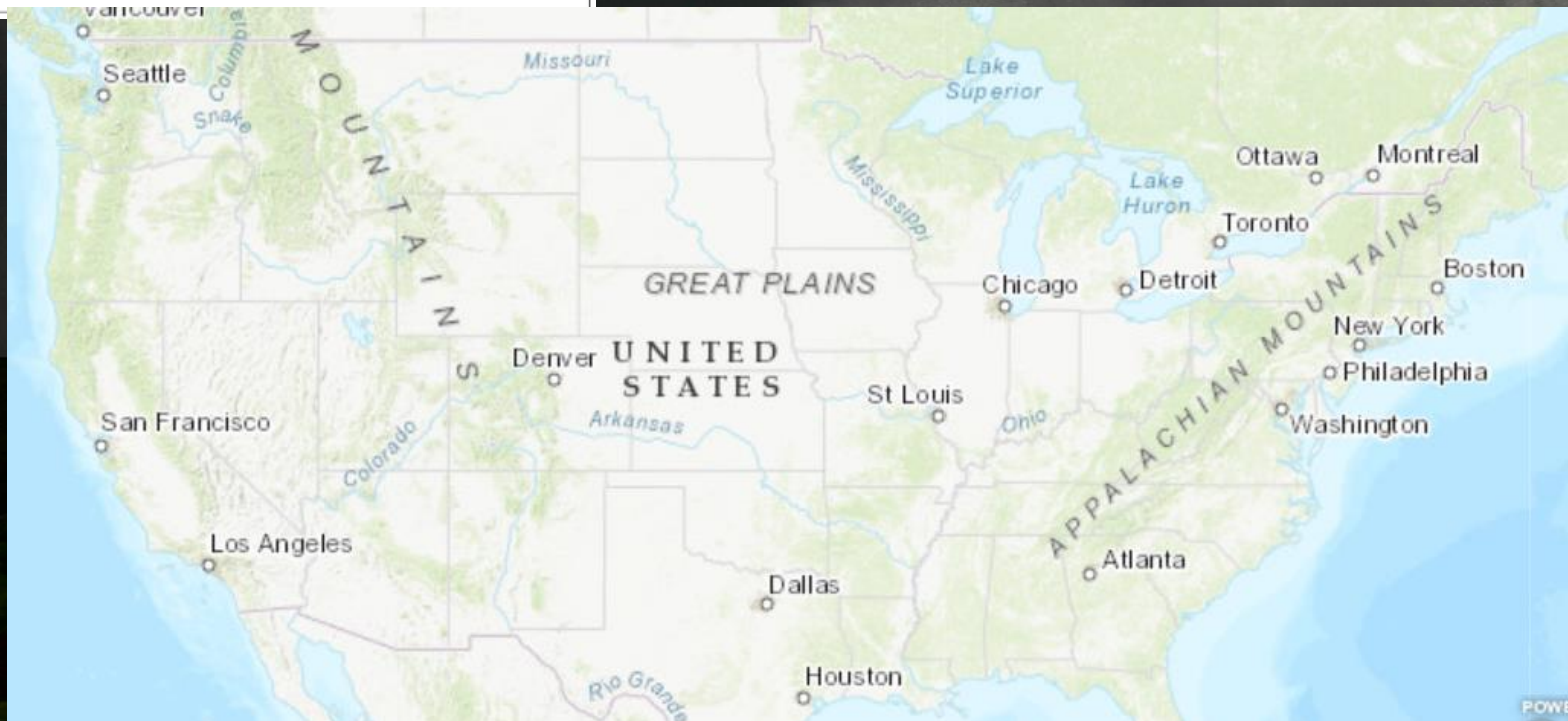


# Days 8-14 Hazards Outlook

## Legend

High Risk of Excessive Heat	High Risk of Heavy Precipitation	Flooding Possible
Moderate Risk of Excessive Heat	Moderate Risk of Heavy Precipitation	Frozen Precipitation
Slight Risk of Excessive Heat	Slight Risk of Heavy Precipitation	
High Risk of Much Above Normal Temperatures	High Risk of Heavy Snow	
Moderate Risk of Much Above Normal Temperatures	Moderate Risk of Heavy Snow	
Slight Risk of Much Above Normal Temperatures	Slight Risk of Heavy Snow	
High Risk of Much Below Normal Temperatures	Moderate Risk of High Winds	
Moderate Risk of Much Below Normal Temperatures	Slight Risk of High Winds	
Slight Risk of Much Below Normal Temperatures		

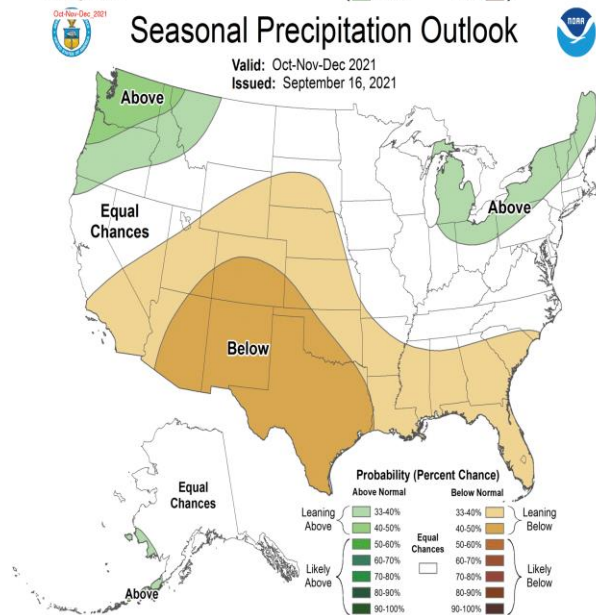
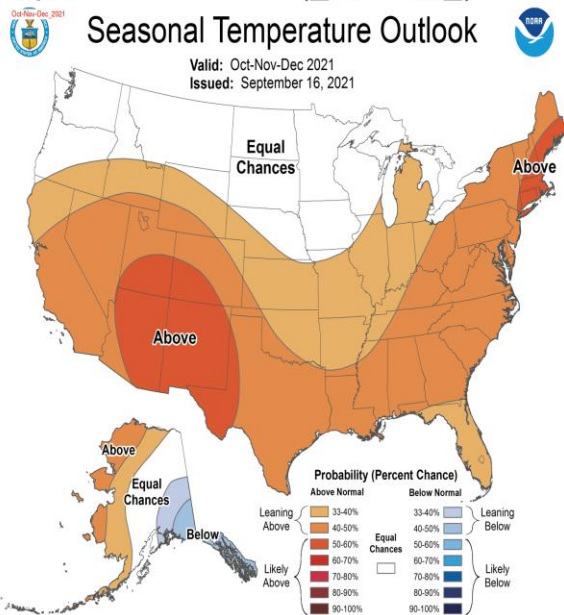
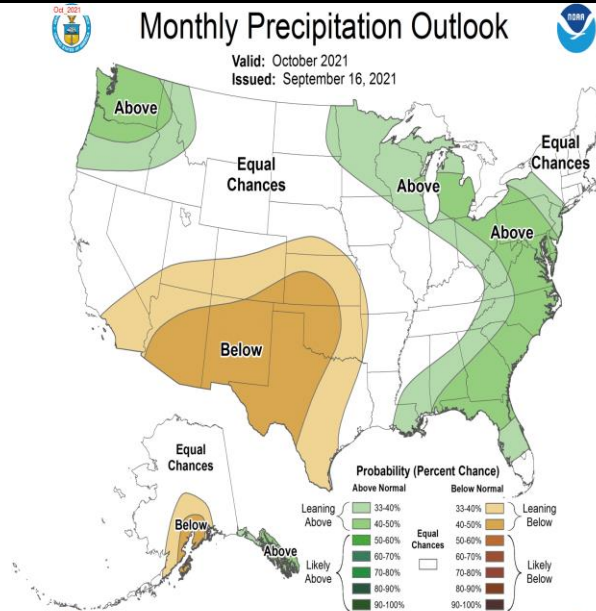
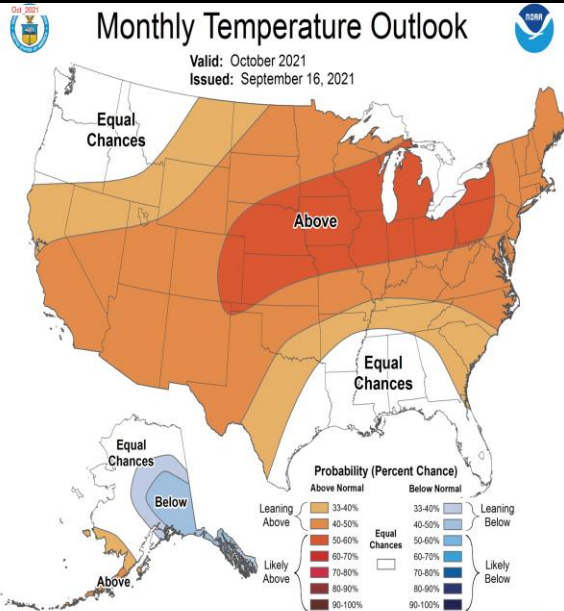
No hazards







# Temp/Precip Outlooks



Temperature  
on Left

Precipitation  
on Right

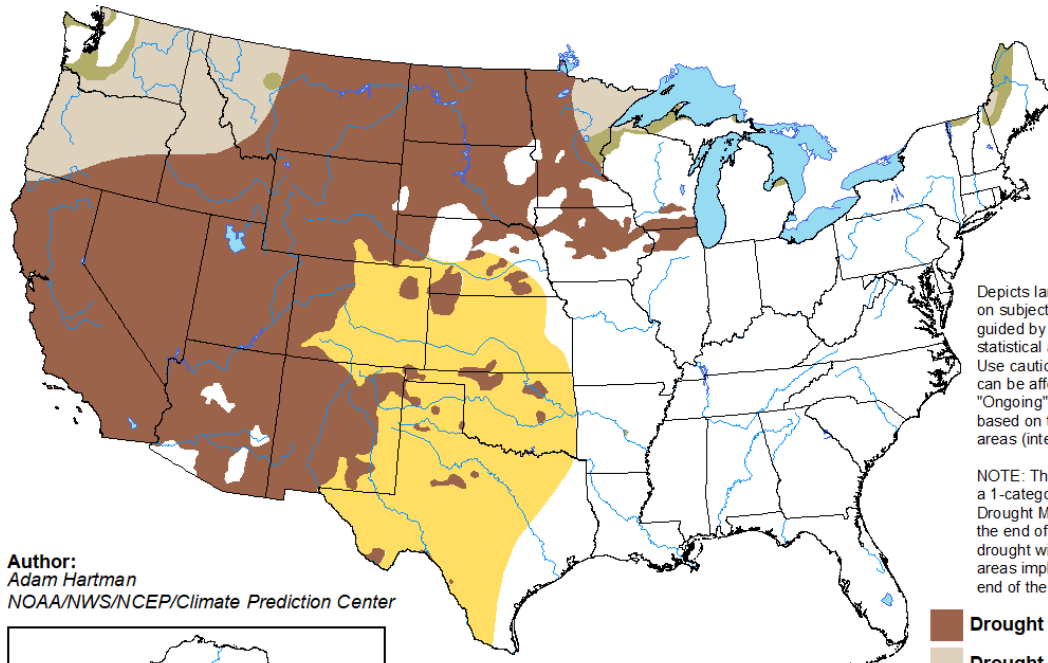




# Seasonal Drought Outlook

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

Valid for September 16 - December 31, 2021  
Released September 16



Author:  
Adam Hartman  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

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



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

- Drought persistence expected





# For the Most Recent Forecast

- For the most recent information for your area please visit <http://weather.gov/desmoines> and enter your location.

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

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Local forecast by  
"City, St" or ZIP code

Enter location ...

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**MY FORECAST**  
2 Miles NNE Des Moines  
IA

**NWS Forecast Office Des Moines, IA**  
[Weather.gov](#) > Des Moines, IA

**Des Moines, IA**  
Weather Forecast Office

Type	Example
City	Modesto, CA
ZIP code *	83204
County *	Valley County, MT

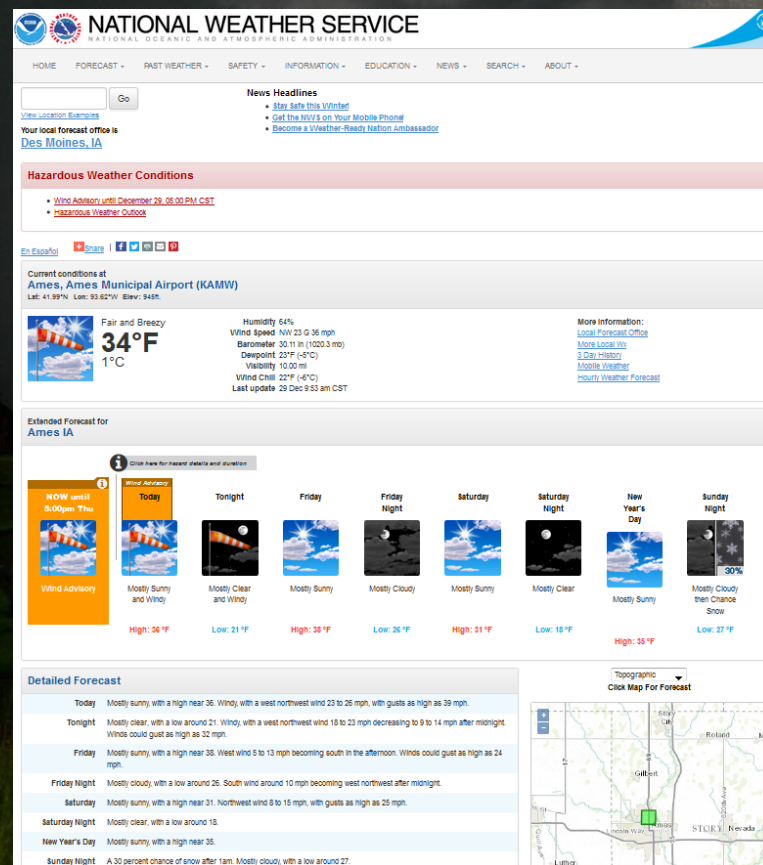




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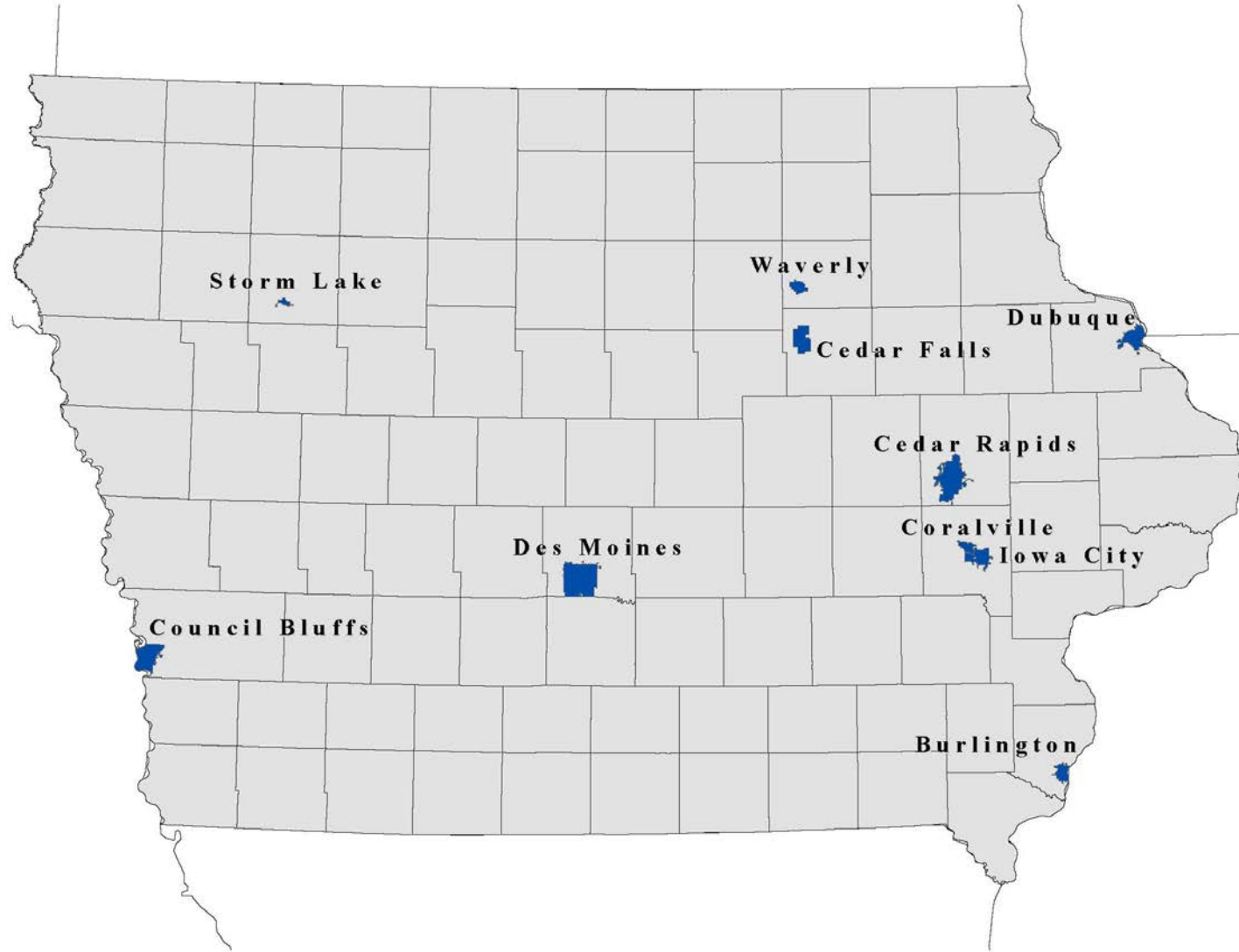
Bookmark this page and/or resultant URL for further updates. This will always be the latest information.



# Iowa Flood Mitigation Program

- Iowa Code Chapter 418
- The three funding sources to support the program are a sales tax increment, the Flood Mitigation Fund, and the Flood Recovery Fund.
- Sales Tax increment 10 Cities Approved: \$596 million over 20 yrs – Projected \$6B mitigation
- Flood Mitigation Fund – 2020 legislative session approved special fees collected from sales of Flying Our Colors license plates
- Flood Recovery Fund – Beginning with the 2019 legislative session, \$36 million allocated for projects after the 2019 flood

# Sales Tax Increment Financing



# Flood Recovery Fund

