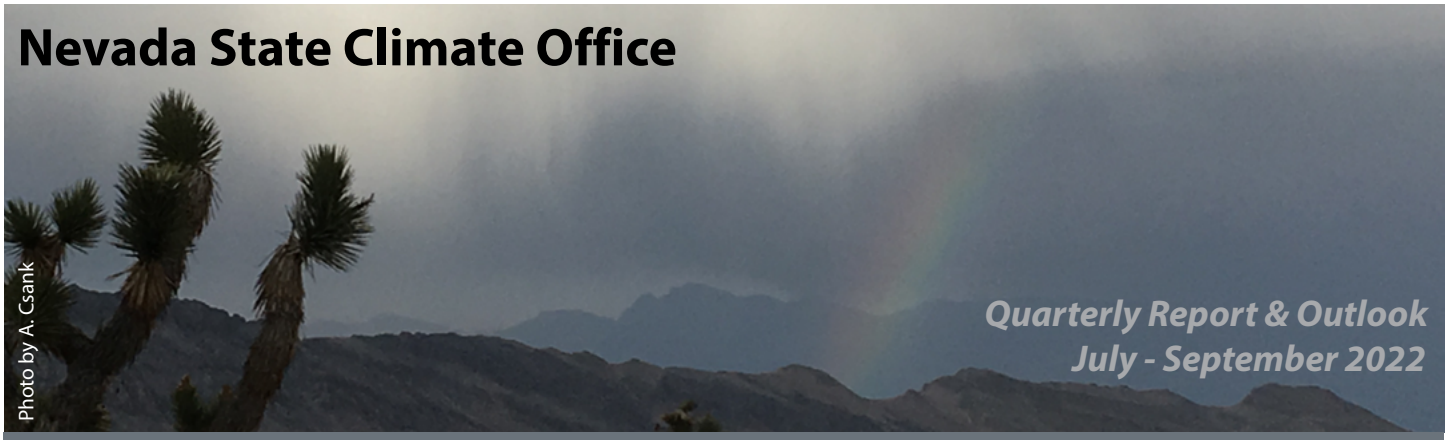
Nevada State Climate Office

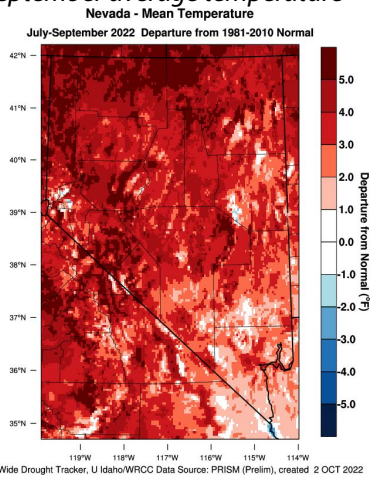


Notable Weather & Climate in Nevada: July - September

Temperature

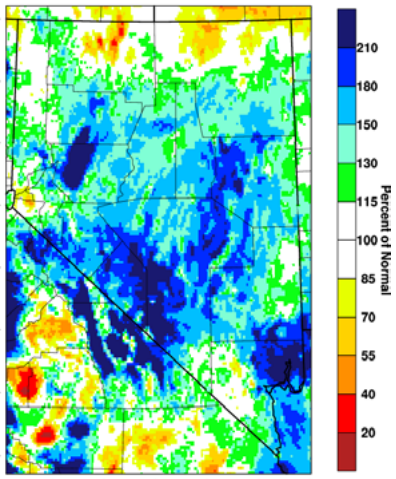
It was hot across most of Nevada from mid-summer into early autumn. Preliminary data shows that average temperatures from July through September were above average and in some cases, record-breaking. Nearly all parts of the state experienced temperatures that were 3-5°F higher than normal. NOAA's Climate at a Glance resource reports that statewide July average temperatures were among the top 10 warmest, while August tied for 3rd warmest. Most noticeable, perhaps, was the northern Nevada heat wave in early September that shattered temperature records in many parts of the West, shortly followed by unseasonable cool temperatures. Reno hit 106°F on September 2nd, which broke the previous daily temperature record by 10° and is the 2nd highest temperature recorded at the Reno Airport. In contrast to the rest of the state, southern Nevada was relatively cool with temperatures near or just above normal. The Las Vegas Airport reported 39 days when daytime highs stayed below 100°F this summer, though nights were warm and there were 48 days with low temperatures above 80°F.

Difference from 1981-2010 July-September average temperature



WestWideDroughtTracker https://wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/

Percent of 1981-2010 July - September average precipitation



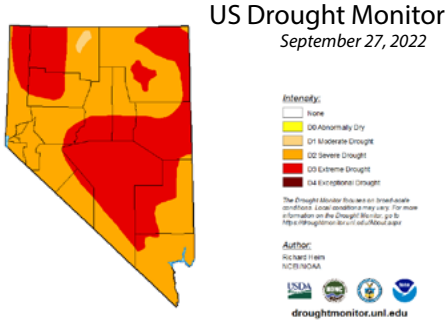
WestWideDroughtTracker https://wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/

Precipitation

Summer was wet overall in Nevada and across much of the Southwest and California. Monsoon rains were heavier than normal in the south during July and August. Thunderstorms fed by monsoon moisture leaking north led to a very wet August in much of northern Nevada. The Reno airport picked up to a whopping 1.72" in August. Several stations in northeastern Nevada received over 1.5" of rain in August, and an early season storm in September delivered more rain to western Nevada. Unfortunately, summer rains can be spotty, and there are some places in the state that received very little rain in August.

The normal to wet conditions over the last three months led to improvements in drought, especially over southern Nevada. While this summer's rain made a dent in the three-year long drought, it wasn't enough to get us entirely out of drought. The U.S. Drought Monitor shows almost all of Nevada in Severe (D2) to Extreme (D3) drought, reflecting the longer-term deficits.

US Drought Monitor
September 27, 2022



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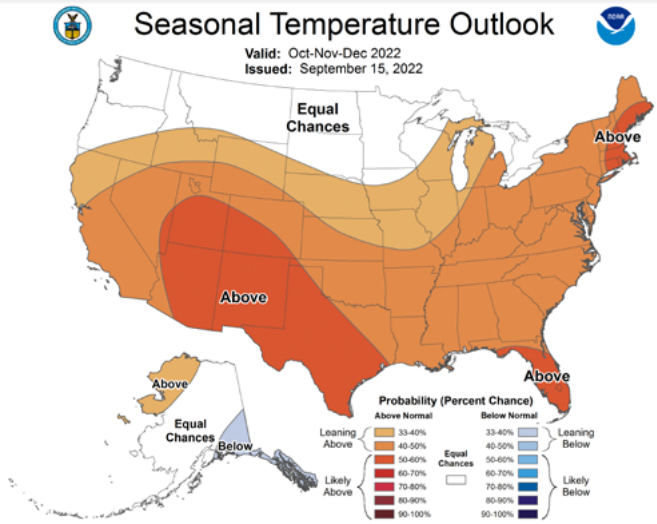
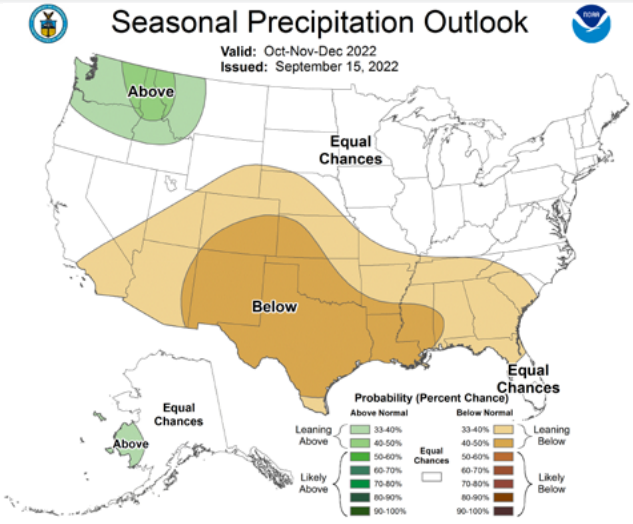
Outlook for October - December





Climate Prediction Center, https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/

The rest of the year is projected to bring 40-50% chances of temperatures being above normal across most of the state. A sliver of the southeastern part of the state has slightly higher chances of above-normal temperatures, but it seems like in general, there are moderate chances of temperatures being warmer than normal. Precipitation for late autumn into early winter has equal chances of being dry, normal, or wet in most of Nevada. The southern tip of the state, including the Las Vegas area, has up to 40% chances of experiencing drier conditions than normal. The "lean" toward drier conditions in the south and uncertainty around fall and early winter precipitation elsewhere is consistent with the current La Niña event that is forecast to continue at least through the end of the year.

In depth - Public Safety Outage Management in Nevada (PSOM)

When wildfire risk is extreme, energy companies can use what are called "Public Safety Outage Management (PSOM)", "Public Safety Power Shutoffs", or sometimes "proactive de-energization". These programs will temporarily shut off power in extreme or elevated fire-risk zones to reduce the chances that a power line or other energy equipment will spark a wildfire that could become catastrophic. PSOM are possible when vegetation is very dry, and the kind of weather associated with extreme fire behavior—low humidity, high winds, and/or high temperatures—is forecast.

In 2019, for the first time, NV Energy had the option of using PSOM during extreme fire weather. At that time, they could be used in the Lake Tahoe basin and near Mt. Charleston outside of Las Vegas. In 2021, additonal zones were added. NV Energy, the primary energy provider for most Nevadans, has issued PSOM on several occasions during times of high wildfire risk, including two different outages in areas of western Nevada in September of 2021. A PSOM "watch" was issued by NV Energy in June of this year to customers in the Mt. Charleston area, but the PSOM did not go into effect. According to NV Energy, customers will be notified at least 48 hours ahead of time if they might be affected by a scheduled PSOM. If someone in your household relies on electircal medical equipment and your household is powered by NV Energy, you can sign up for NV Energy's Green Cross program to receive additional support. To determine if you live in a PSOM zone or learn what to do if a PSOM is scheduled, visit https://www.nvenergy.com/safety/psom.