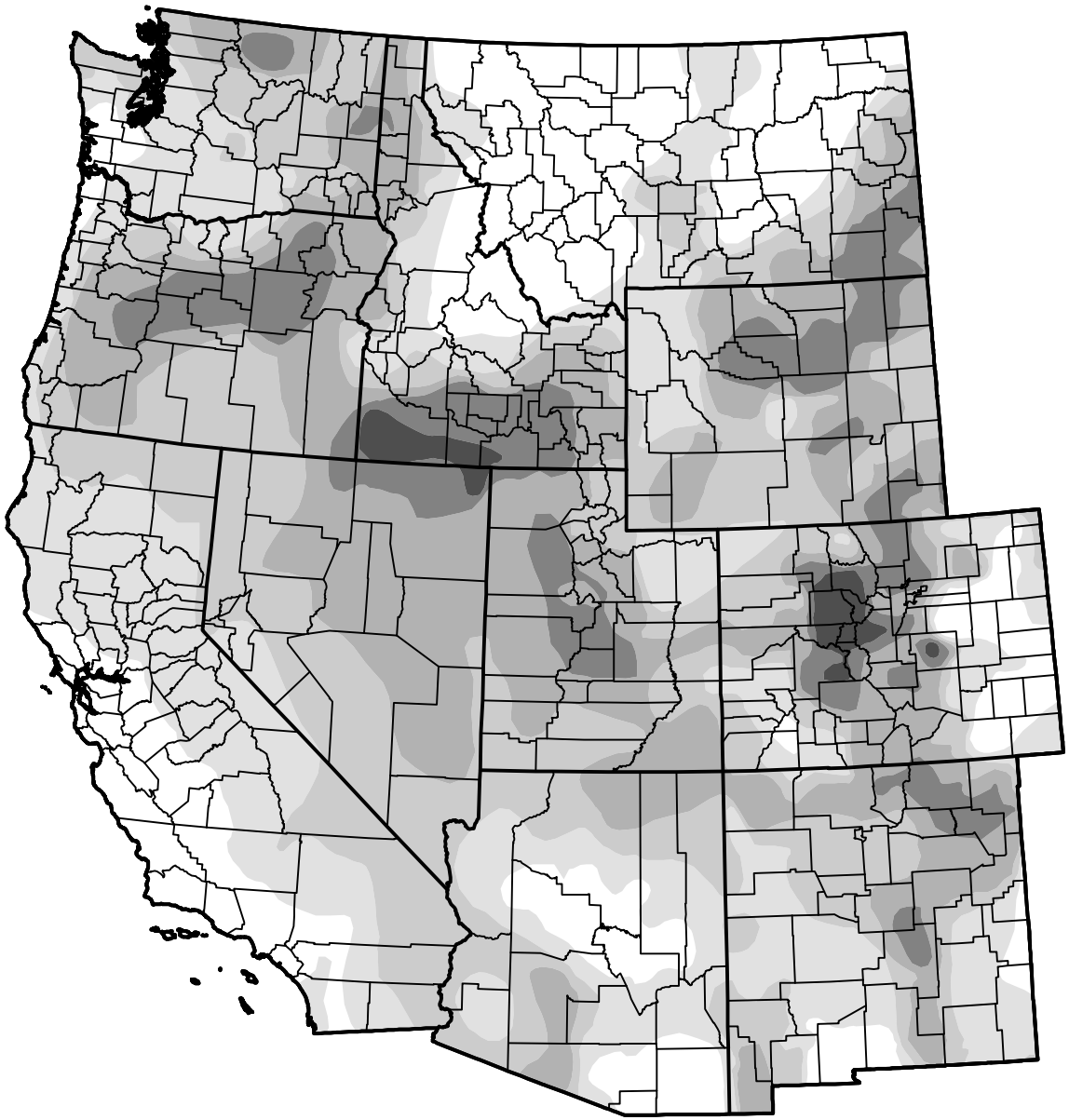
U.S. Drought Monitor

Western U.S.



October 20, 2026

(Released Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	17.26	82.74	59.02	32.50	9.79	1.07
Last Week *10-13-2026*	15.32	84.68	63.40	36.54	11.42	1.29
3 Months Ago *07-21-2026*	10.93	89.07	71.29	50.71	20.52	1.89
Start of Calendar Year *01-06-2026*	40.61	59.39	36.26	14.36	1.16	0.06
Start of Water Year *09-29-2026*	11.88	88.12	69.46	40.58	14.02	1.42
One Year Ago *10-21-2025*	25.70	74.30	58.15	33.84	6.52	0.28

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme 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:

Lindsay Johnson

High Plains Regional Climate Center

droughtmonitor.unl.edu