

Wed, 25 Nov 2020 16:14:51

Dear Community Water Systems and Municipalities,

Despite the widespread rain this week, month to date precipitation deficits across the state range from 10% to 75% of normal, and according to the U.S. Drought Monitor map released today, drought conditions have remained unchanged since last week. The good news is, a portion of the southeast corner of the state experiencing the worst drought conditions received the most rain, ranging from 1" to 1.5". Rain forecast for tomorrow is likely to bring 0.25" to 1.0" of rain to the majority of the state, with the higher amounts along the coast and lower amounts in Coos County. Friday through Sunday will be dry, except for some possible rain and snow in the mountains. There is possibility of more rain on Monday and Tuesday and the 6–10 day outlook leans toward above normal precipitation. In summary, rain is in our future!

Please keep the public focused on [indoor water saving tips](#) and [outdoor water use restrictions](#). One hundred and sixty–four community water systems serving 316,000 people and eight municipalities with a total population of 66,000 have outdoor water use restrictions in place.

**IMPORTANT!** Are residential well owners experiencing well shortage issues in your community? If so, they may qualify for the [Low–Income Residential Drought Assistance Program](#).

Drought Guidance for the public, municipalities, and private well owners, as well as other drought information such as guidance on setting up an emergency water access location may be found on the [Drought Management webpage](#).

### **Drought Update:**

According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) drought conditions have remained unchanged from last week. Currently 11.01% of the state is categorized as “extreme drought”(D3), 7.90% of the state is categorized as “severe drought”(D2), 80.77% of the state is categorized as “moderate drought”(D1), and 0.33% is categorized as abnormally dry.

Tip\* The [restriction map](#) includes town boundaries and drought categories, making it easy to identify if your municipality is experiencing drought.

Over the past 3–days, the majority of the state received between 0.25" to 1.5" of precipitation. Less precipitation was received on the western border of the state up through the Connecticut River Valley. The southeast corner of the state received the most rain ranging from 1" to 1.5" ([National Weather Service Precipitation Observed](#) & [National Weather Service NERFC](#)).

All counties are experiencing precipitation deficits for month to date, 30–day, 90–day, 180–day, and 365–day, except Coos County. Coos County has received 9.29" of precipitation over the past 60 days, which is 0.69" above normal, but longer and shorter term deficits remain. ([National Weather Service](#)).

New Hampshire Geological Survey performed a mid–month measurement of the 12 wells in its monitoring network that are located in the section of the state experiencing “extreme drought”

(D3). Comparison of measurements from the end of October to mid–November indicated that while well levels remained below normal, levels had not further deteriorated and had risen in a few instances.

At the end of October, well measurements taken from the New Hampshire Geological Survey’s monitoring network indicated that the majority of wells were experiencing below normal to low groundwater levels, but that more recent precipitation had raised groundwater levels in many of the wells in the northern portion of the state from low to normal. With slightly below average precipitation in the central and southeast portions of the state, falling or below normal to low groundwater levels continued. For more information, see the [New Hampshire Groundwater Level Monitoring Report](#) for October 2020. Reports are released monthly.

**Forecast and Outlooks:**

Rain forecast for tomorrow is supposed to bring 0.5” to 1.0” of rain, with the higher amounts along the coast. Friday through Sunday will be dry, except for some possible rain and snow in the mountains. There is possibility of more rain on Monday and Tuesday. Temperatures will be in the mid–40s to low 50s in the south and low to upper 40s in the north. ([NOAA National Weather Service Forecast](#) & [NOAA Precip Forecast](#)).

The 6–10 day outlook favors above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. The 8–14 day outlook favors above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation ([National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center](#)).

According to the [US Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook](#), over the next month drought conditions are likely to remain unchanged and over the next three months, drought conditions are likely to remain but improve, except for Coos County where drought removal is likely.

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