



Wyoming Drought Information



North Platte River above Seminoe Reservoir—August 13, 2002 (Photo: R. Swanson, USGS.)

October 31, 2007

...Wyoming entering 9th consecutive water year in at least moderate-severe hydrologic drought conditions...

...Above normal precipitation totals along the Tongue, Powder and Belle Fourche River Basins water year 2007...

...Extreme hydrologic drought eases over the Upper Green, Lower Wind and most of the Upper Snake River Basins...

...Lowest September reservoir storages for Pathfinder and Seminoe Reservoirs in the last 30 years...

.Synopsis...

The Tongue, Powder, and Belle Fourche River Basins received above normal precipitation for water year 2007. The Powder River Drainage had 108 percent of normal precipitation for the entire water year. All other major basins across Wyoming had below normal precipitation totals during water year 2007. Both the Little Snake and Lower North Platte Watersheds had only 79 percent of normal precipitation for water year 2007.

Wyoming has entered the 9th consecutive water year in which at least moderate to severe hydrologic conditions have affected at least half of the state. Wyoming entered water year 2008 with the western half of the state remaining in severe hydrologic drought; and the majority of eastern Wyoming continues to experience moderate hydrologic drought conditions. Northeast Wyoming continues to be relatively drought-free. The good news is that Wyoming, for the most part, is entering water year 2008 without extreme drought conditions to contend with—only a very small area of the upper Snake Watershed remains in extreme hydrologic drought.

Current calendar year rainfall totals across Wyoming vary from 124 percent of average at Casper to only 71 percent of normal at Lander.

The end of the irrigation season left reservoir storages well below average for Wyoming's major reservoirs. Boysen Reservoir was only 53 percent of capacity by the end of September; and Pathfinder Reservoir was only 17 percent full by late September. In fact, September reservoir storages for Pathfinder and Seminoe Reservoirs continue to be the lowest in 30 years.

The latest drought outlook through January 2008 indicates that most of central and western Wyoming will see some improvement in current drought conditions.

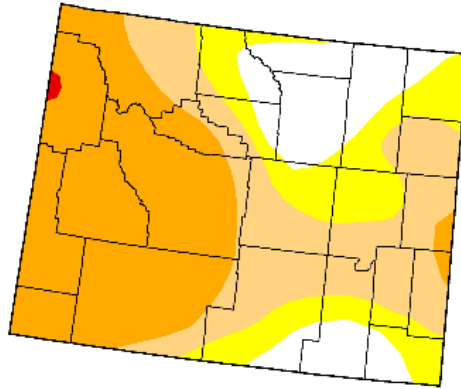
U.S. Drought Monitor

Wyoming

October 23, 2007
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	16.1	83.9	66.1	39.2	0.2	0.0
Last Week (10/16/2007 map)	16.1	83.9	66.2	39.3	0.8	0.0
3 Months Ago (07/31/2007 map)	11.5	88.5	66.6	50.8	13.6	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/02/2007 map)	1.6	98.4	92.1	71.5	40.9	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/02/2007 map)	8.3	91.7	67.3	40.5	4.1	0.0
One Year Ago (10/24/2006 map)	0.3	99.7	95.7	69.0	50.1	0.0



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements



Released Thursday, October 25, 2007

Author: Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center

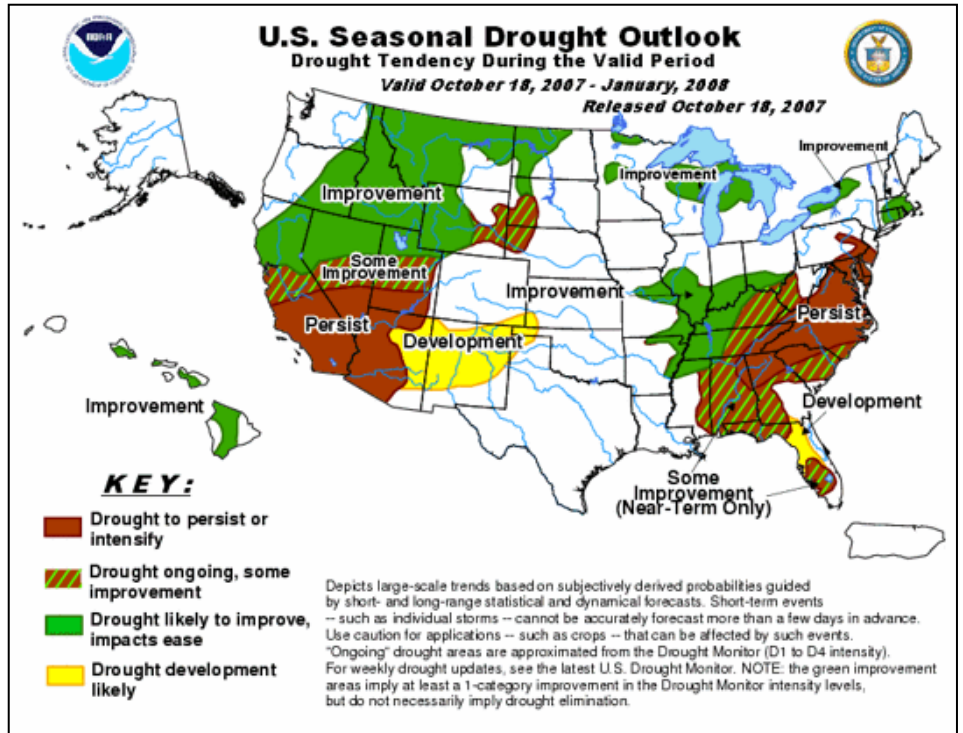
<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid October 18, 2007 - January, 2008

Released October 18, 2007



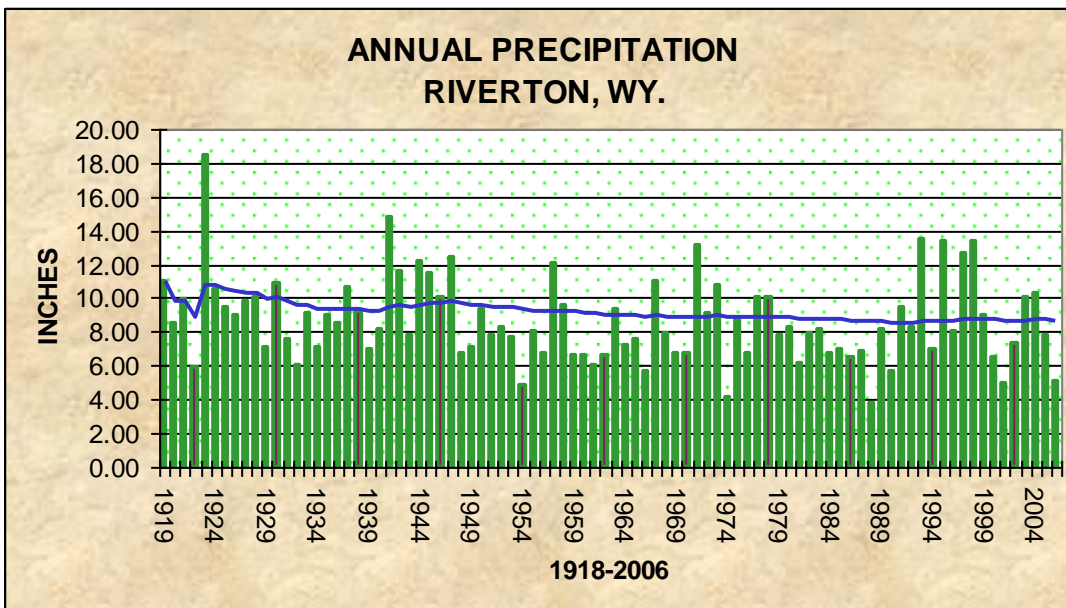
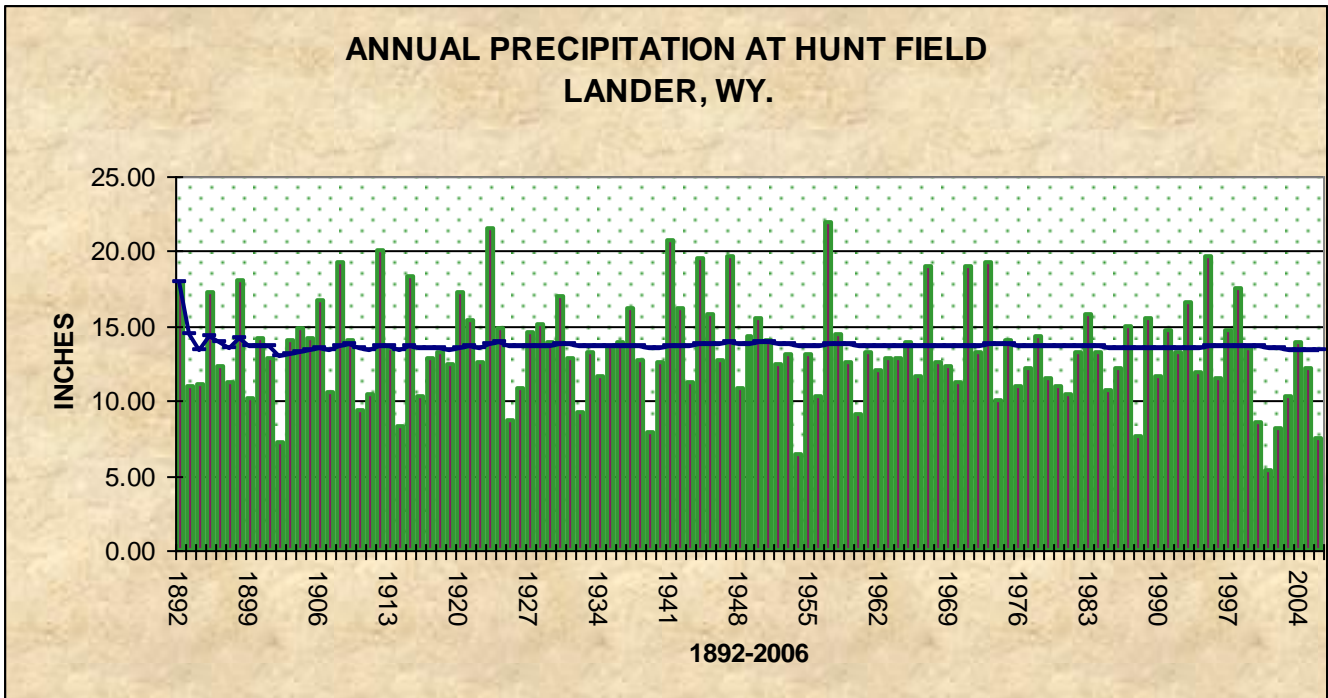
.Local area affected...

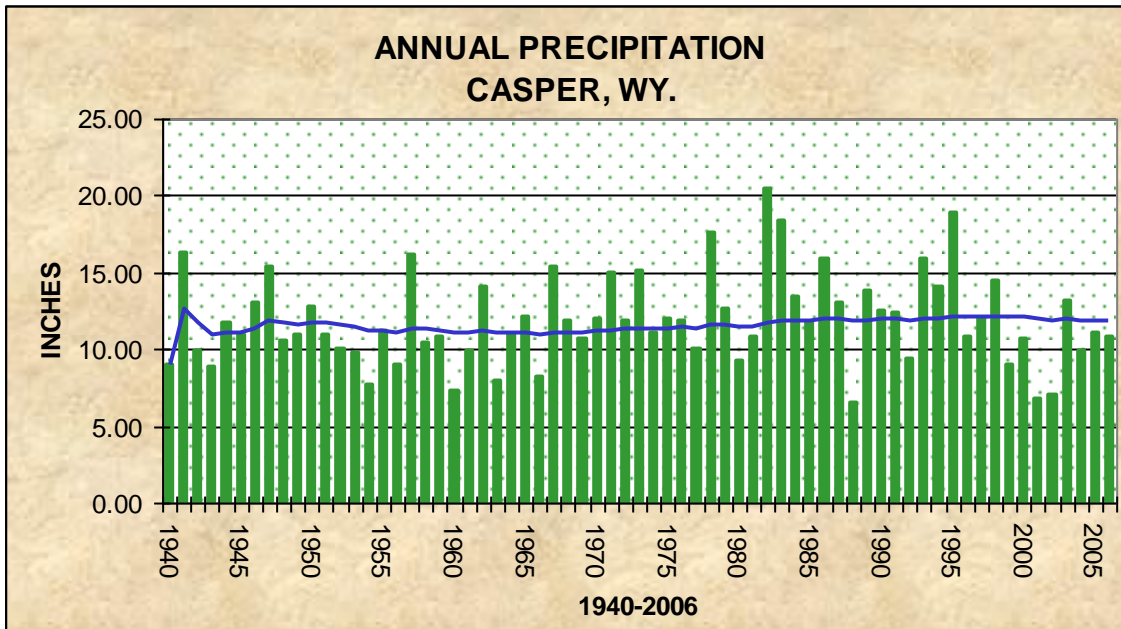
All major river basins and counties in western and central Wyoming as well as extreme eastern Wyoming.

.Climate Summary...

>>Long Range Precipitation Trends...

Lander's precipitation records go back to 1892—Riverton's precipitation records go back to 1919—and Casper's precipitation records go back to 1940.





>>Current Precipitation Trends...

Calendar Year

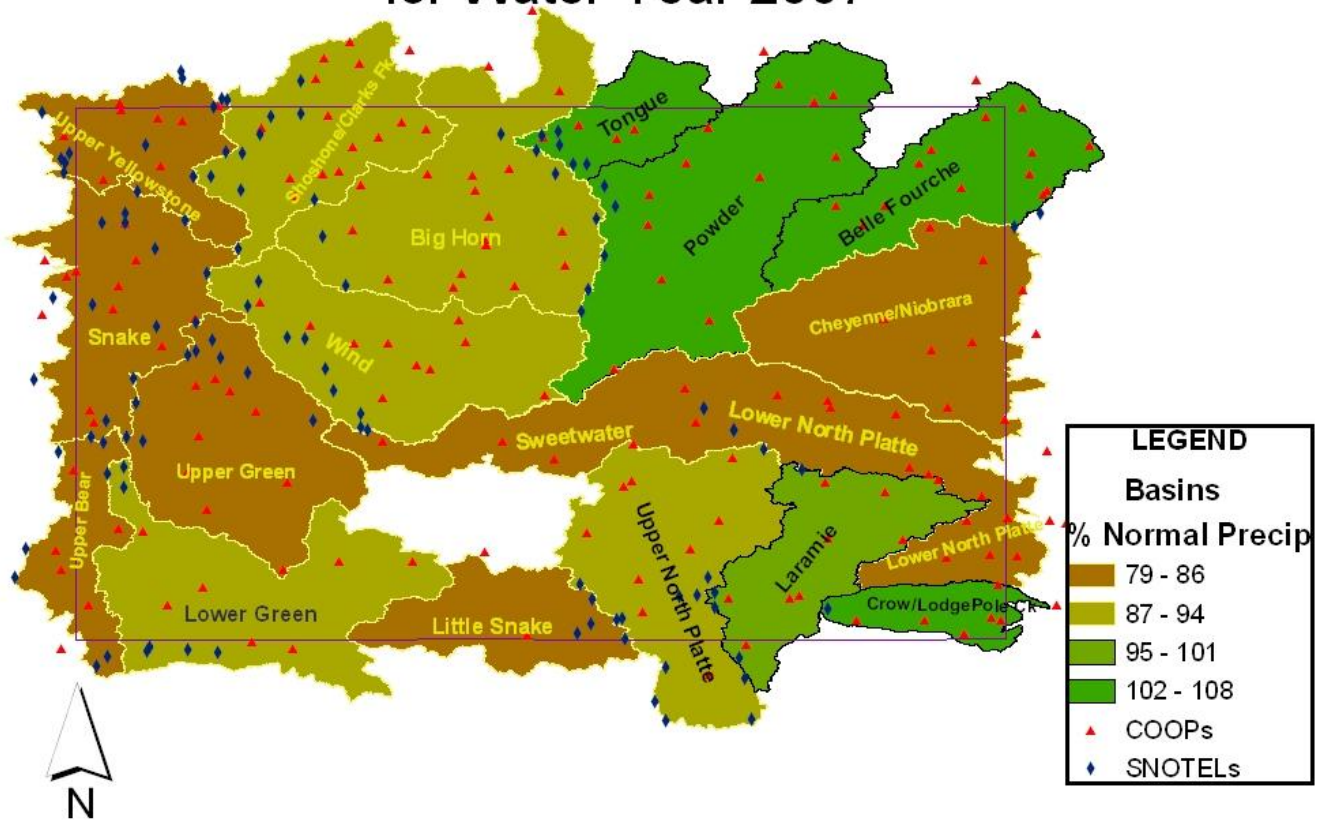
	JAN - SEP PRECIP	AVERAGE	% AVERAGE
SHERIDAN	12.47	11.83	105
CHEYENNE	12.23	13.60	90
DOUGLAS	8.88	9.81	91
LARAMIE	9.23	9.47	97
RAWLINS	6.45	7.74	83
CASPER	12.91	10.45	124
LANDER	7.51	10.45	71
RIVERTON	5.75	7.04	82

Water Year 2007---by major basin

Northeast Wyoming had above normal precipitation for water year 2007.



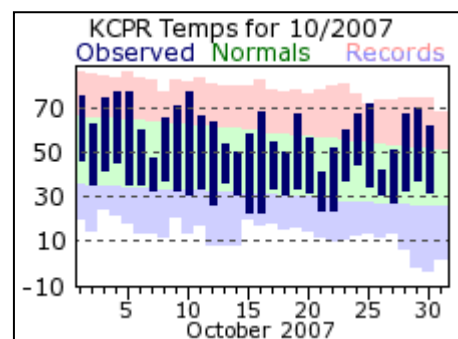
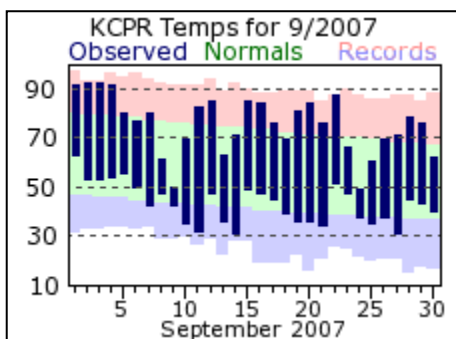
Percent of Normal Precipitation by Basin for Water Year 2007



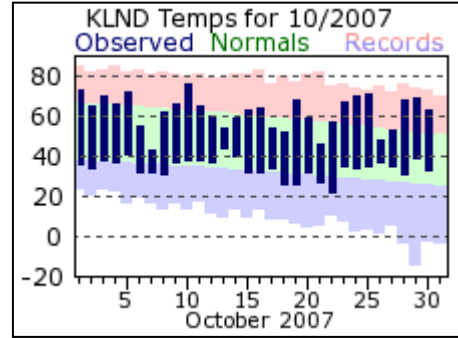
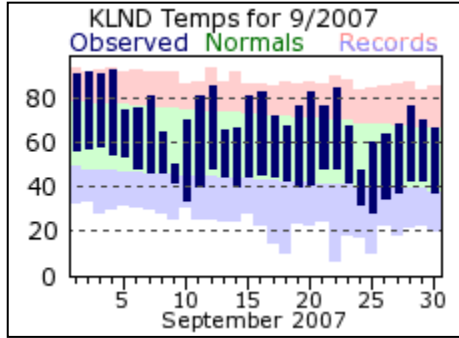
>>Temperature Trends...

Near normal temperatures for most of September and October.

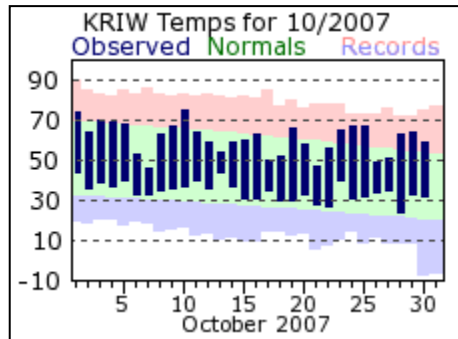
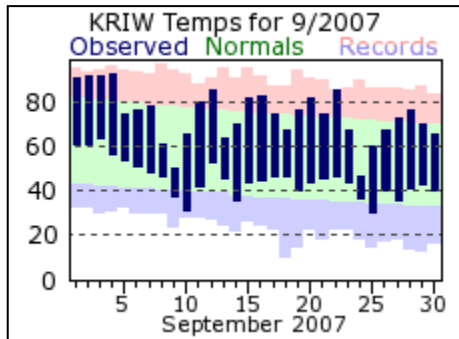
Casper



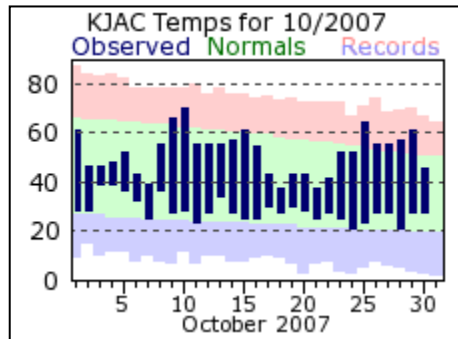
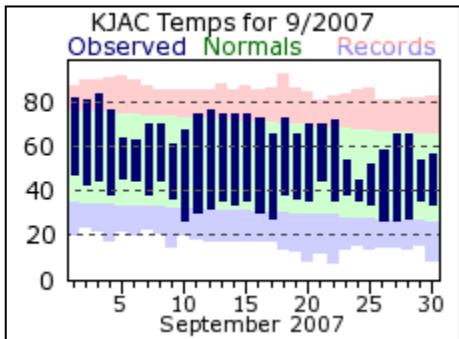
Lander



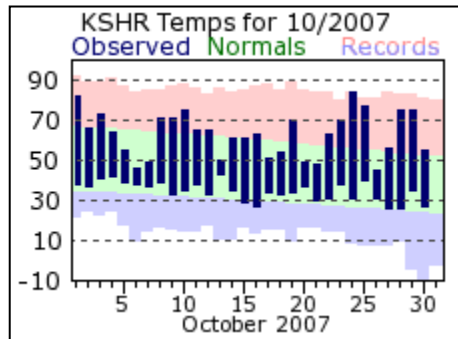
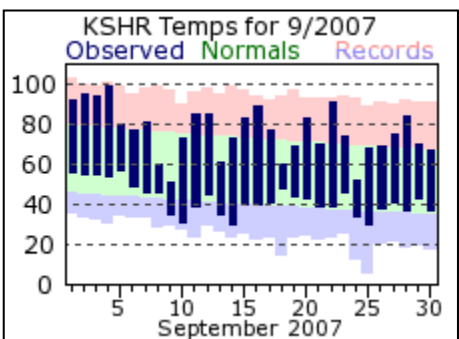
Riverton



Jackson



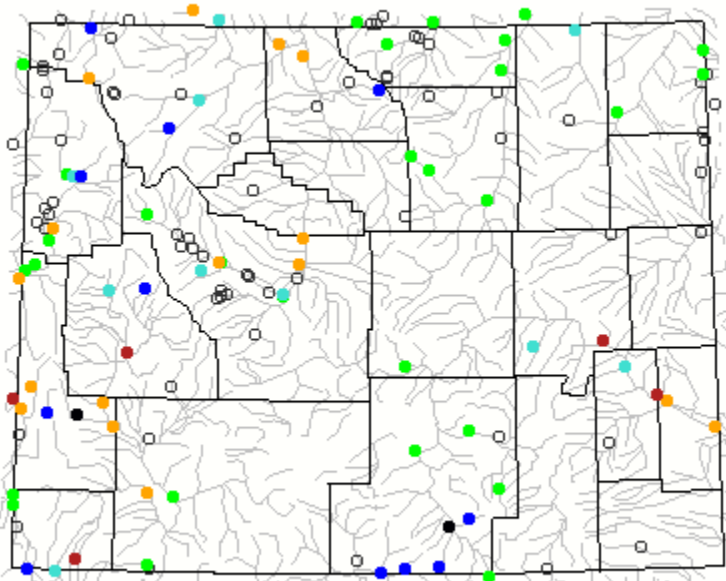
Sheridan



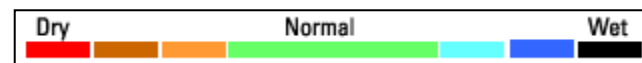
.River and Streamflow Conditions...

Base flows for a majority of streams and rivers across western and central Wyoming have been flowing at near normal levels for the past 4-6 weeks. Below normal flows continue in eastern and southeastern Wyoming during October. .

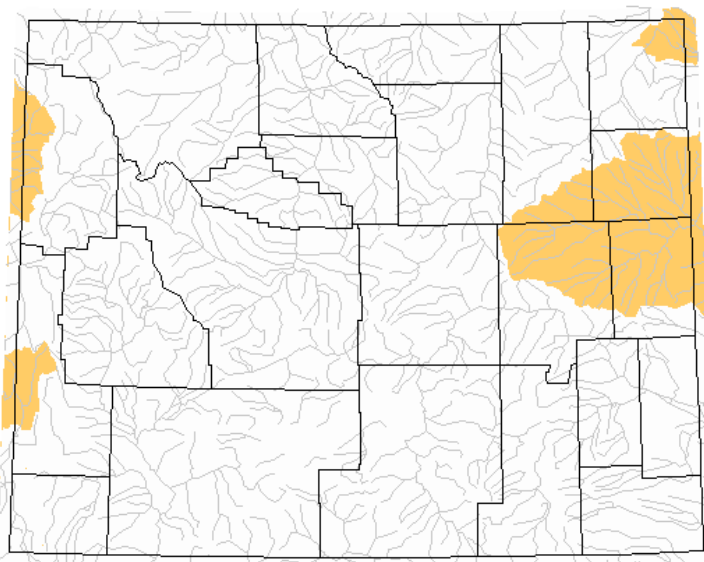
Wednesday, October 31, 2007 13:31ET



USGS



Tuesday, October 30, 2007

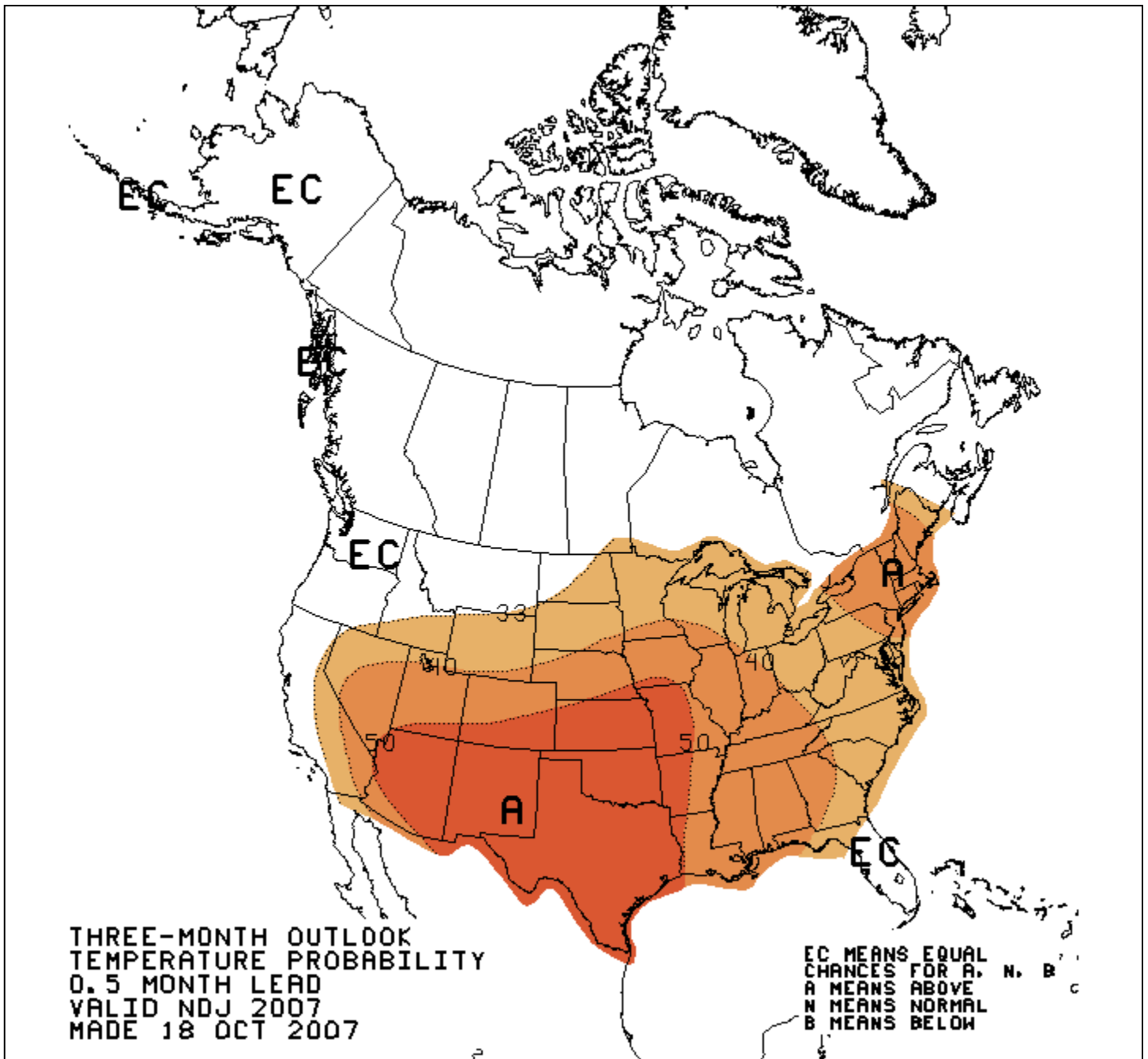


USGS

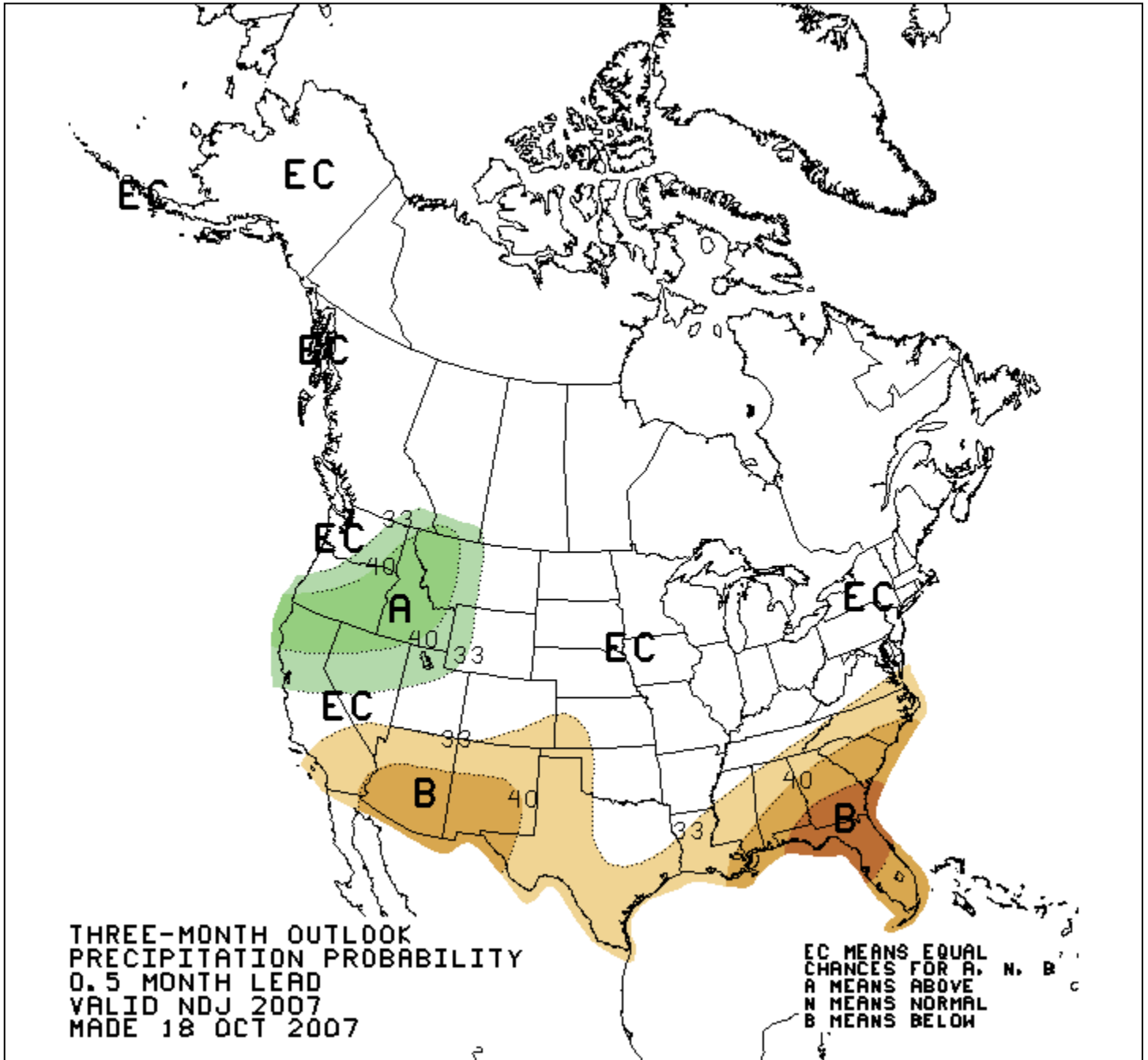
Explanation - Percentile classes				
Low	≤5	6-9	10-24	Insufficient data for a hydrologic region
Extreme hydrologic drought	Severe hydrologic drought	Moderate hydrologic drought	Below normal	

.Precipitation/Temperature Outlook...

The 90-day outlook (November-January '08) indicates that there is a 30-40 percent chance of a warmer than normal late fall/early winter for all of Wyoming.



During November-January'08, the majority of Wyoming is expected to have equal chances (50% either side) of a wetter or a drier than normal precipitation scenario. However, western Wyoming is expected to have a 30-40% chance of a wetter than normal period.



.Questions or comments...

If you have any questions or comments about this drought information, please contact:

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.Related web sites...

Wyoming Drought Site...

www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/wsc/df

USGS Wyoming Drought Watch...

www.wy.water.usgs.gov/projects/drought

U.S. Drought Monitor...

www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

NOAA Drought Page...

www.drought.noaa.gov

Western Regional Climate Center...

www.wrcc.dri.edu

NOAA/NWS Climate Page...

www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=riw

Wyoming River Information...

NWS - www.crh.noaa.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=riw/(or cys/unr)
<http://ahps2.wrh.noaa.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=slc>/(or byz)

USGS - www.waterdata.usgs.gov/wy/nwis/rt

NRCS Snow Survey/Snowpack Information...

www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/nrcs

Climate Prediction Center...

www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

.Acknowledgements...

This Drought Informational Statement is a multi-agency effort involving NOAA's National Weather Service and the National Climatic Center, the NRCS, Wyoming State Climatologist's Office, regional center climatologists, and the National Drought Mitigation Center. Information for this statement has been gathered from the NWS and FAA observation sites...state cooperative services...the NRCS...and the USGS.

.Next issuance...

This product will be updated by the **25th of November**.