Summary

- Based on yesterday's release of the U.S. Drought Monitor, moderate drought has expanded to over half of the state and with the exception of areas along the southern border, the remainder of the state continues to experience abnormally dry conditions.

- In comparison to the 2016 and 2020 droughts, generally groundwater levels are lower than they were during the same time period.

- End of the month measurements are underway across the state's well monitoring network. So far measurements indicate a continuing downward trend of groundwater levels.

- Streamflows across much of the state are below normal and have reached all time lows in some areas of the north.

- The forecast for the next 7-days includes some precipitation, but not the soaking rainfall the state needs to relieve drought conditions.

The Message

As the state is kicking off the summer with lower groundwater levels and surface water flows than during more recent droughts, water systems and municipalities should be preparing to message conservation and implement mandatory outdoor water use restrictions earlier than they have in previous years.

NHDES is currently urging water systems to implement outdoor water use restrictions. Voluntary restrictions are helpful in spreading the conservation message and preparing the public for more strict restrictions, while implementing mandatory restrictions is prudent in areas experiencing moderate drought, particularly in areas which experience a significant increase in outdoor water use in the summer.

Residential and other private well owners are encouraged to use water wisely. Giving the well time to replenish by spacing out usage is a good place to start. For example, do laundry several times a week, rather than doing back to back loads. Also, in areas of moderate drought, curbing non-essential uses, such as lawn watering and spraying down surfaces that can be swept or hand washed is an effective way to protect your supply.

Currently [76 water systems](#) have restrictions in place.
Community water systems and municipalities should report restrictions to NHDES for posting on the NHDES website using the [electronic reporting form](#).

**Guidance:**
- [Implementing Restrictions at Public Water Systems](#)
- [Lawn Water Restriction Guidance for Municipalities](#)

### Drought Conditions

#### U.S. Drought Monitor

Current conditions:
- 58% of NH is experiencing moderate drought (D1) conditions.
- 32% of NH is experiencing abnormally dry conditions.
- 10% of NH is experiencing normal conditions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intensity</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D0 Abnormally Dry</td>
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<tr>
<td>D1 Moderate Drought</td>
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<tr>
<td>D2 Severe Drought</td>
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<tr>
<td>D3 Extreme Drought</td>
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<tr>
<td>D4 Exceptional Drought</td>
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Forecasts and Outlooks

Precipitation and Temperature Forecasts

Over the next 7 days, there is potential for the majority of the state to receive between 0.75" and 1.0" of precipitation. The precipitation is forecast to be received through scattered showers and thunderstorms, with the majority of precipitation to occur next Wednesday and Thursday.
There is equal chance for above, below, or normal precipitation through July. Temperature forecasts favor above normal temperatures in July.

Additional Resources

Regional Forecast - National Weather Service Forecast Discussion
Precipitation and Temperature Outlooks - NWS Climate Prediction Center

Visit the NHDES Drought Management Webpage