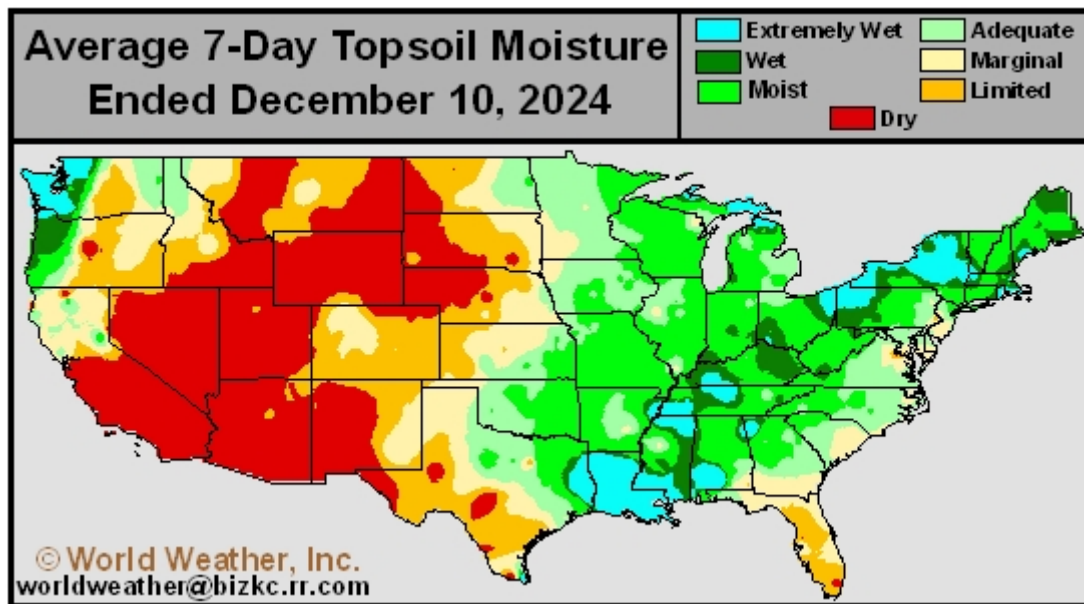


U.S. Pacific Northwest Needs Greater Moisture By Spring

By Scarlett Waters

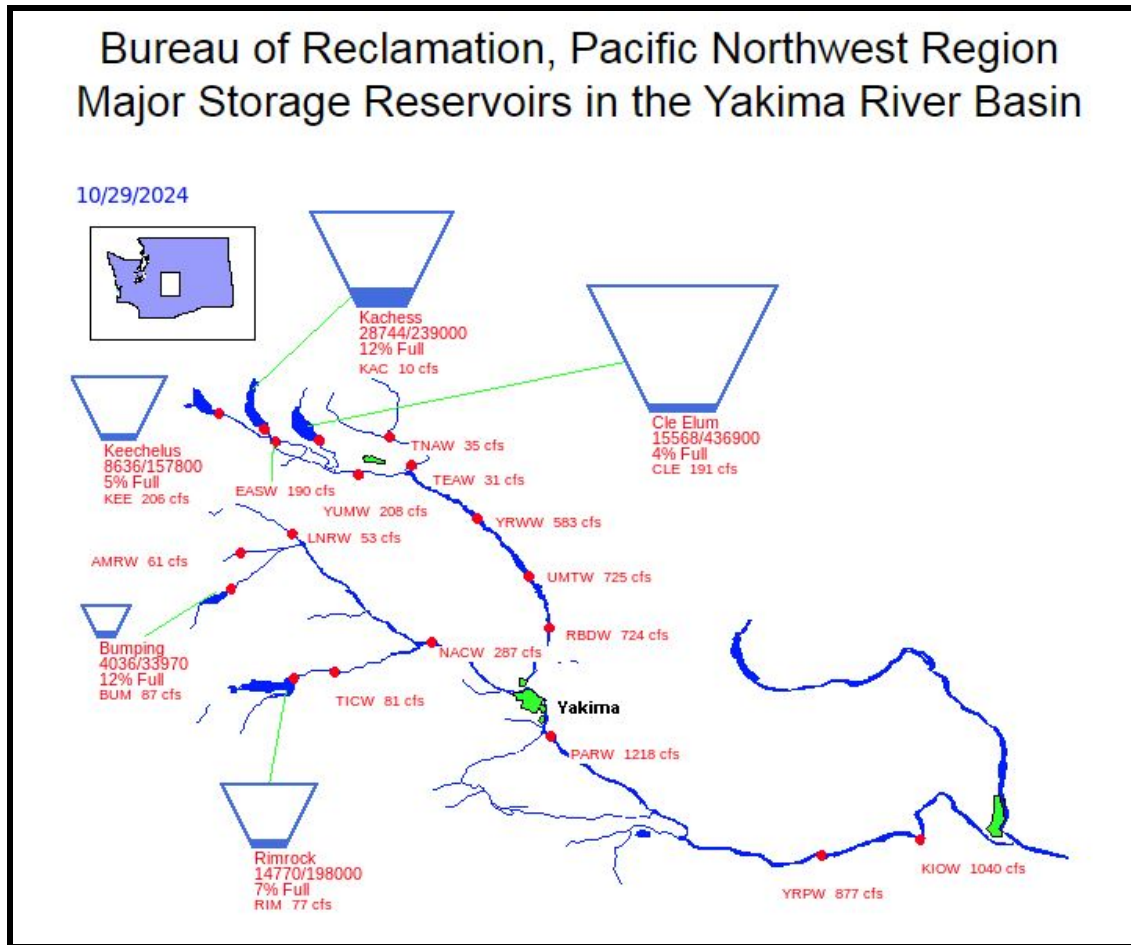
Kansas City, December 10 (World Weather Inc.) – [The U.S. Pacific Northwest crop region has seen little precipitation in the past two weeks. Soil moisture is marginal to short across most of the crop region with abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions occurring in much of the region as well. Water reservoirs are also critically low in many areas throughout the Yakima Valley. Winter crops are dormant and the need for moisture is low for now, but a big improvement in soil moisture and water supply is needed by spring to protect unirrigated winter crop production potential and to support spring planting.](#)

As of today, top and subsoil moisture across the Pacific Northwest crop region remains marginal to limited in most of central Washington and Oregon, with short to very short soil moisture in the Snake River Valley and the Harney Basin. Abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions are present primarily in eastern Washington, eastern Oregon, and the lower Snake River Valley, with some pockets in north-central Oregon and central Washington as well. While crops are currently dormant, more moisture will be needed in coming weeks to improve soil conditions.



Rain and snow have been falling frequently in the Cascade Mountains and along the Pacific Coast in Washington and Oregon in recent weeks. The precipitation has induced some significant runoff for parts of the western slopes of the mountains, but areas to the east have not yet reaped the benefits of frequent precipitation. Once spring arrives some of the significant snow accumulation in the mountains will begin to melt leading to improved water supply in parts of the Yakima Valley and other production areas in the interior of Washington and Oregon. Until that time, though water supply will be dangerously low and a close watch on winter precipitation and spring runoff is warranted to make sure a significant drought does not evolve.

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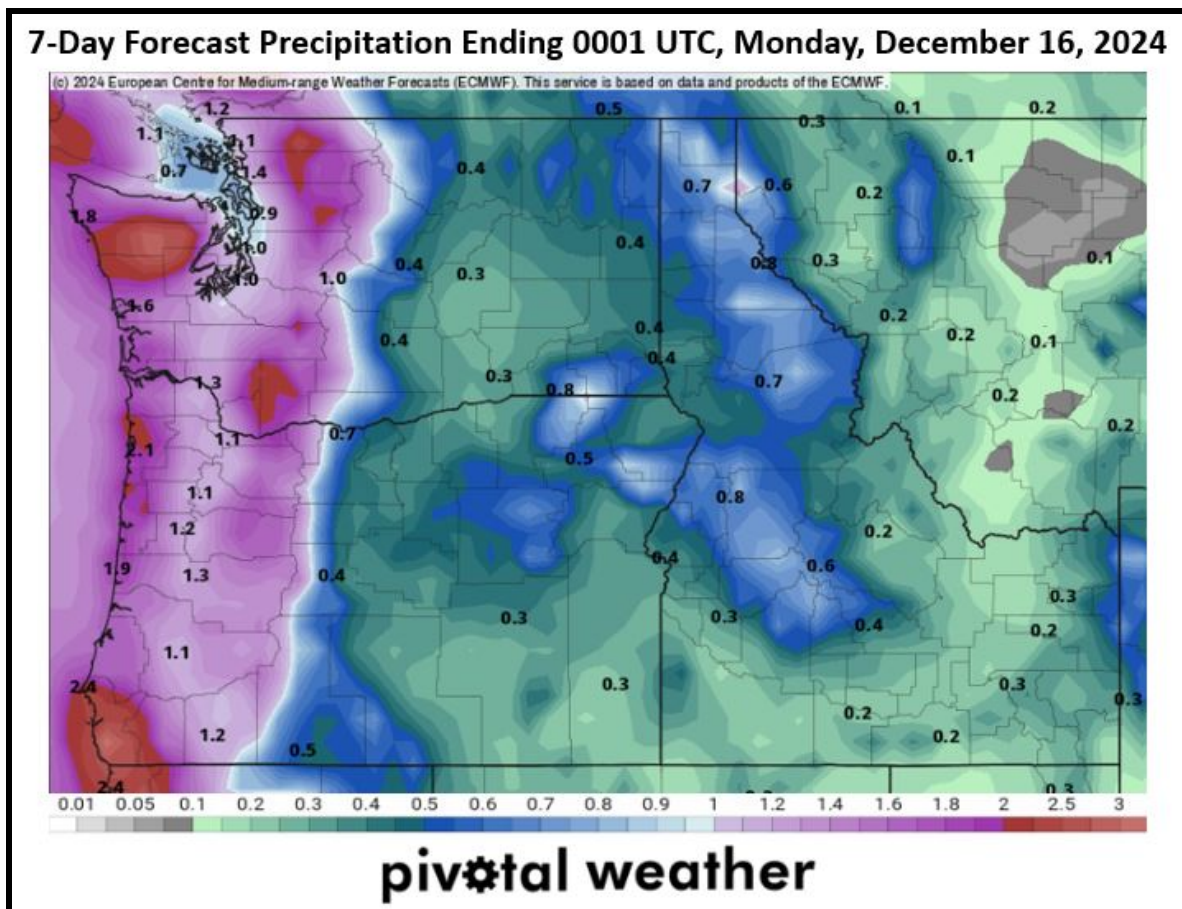


In the next 7-days, between 0.20 and 0.35 total inch of scattered precipitation will occur across most of the crop region, with a bulk of this precipitation occurring Thursday and Friday. Some areas in northeastern Oregon and eastern Washington may see locally greater totals in excess of 0.40 inch. *While these amounts of precipitation will bring some minor improvements to soil conditions, more moisture will be needed to replenish the soil and reduce drought conditions.*

A prolonged period of abundant precipitation may be required to restore water levels on the region's storage facilities. Water supply will increase from melting snow in the mountains, but a full restoration of water storage levels may not be possible without greater than usual precipitation at some time this winter and/or spring. A large portion of the Pacific Northwest crop area is dependent upon irrigation water to support spring and summer crops. There is still plenty of time for improvement to take place, although current weather patterns do not suggest a big change for a while.

La Nina like conditions will dominate the next few weeks and that should maintain frequent precipitation in coastal areas and throughout the Cascade Mountains, but the interior parts of the Northwest may stay drier than usual for a while. Some of the long term Trend Modeling that World Weather, Inc. does suggests that late winter and especially spring precipitation frequency and intensity should increase in 2025; however, that is still several weeks away. Until then atmospheric trends are unlikely to provide much change.

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