

Quick Look at the Precipitation Forecast Over the Sierra Nevada and Interior West

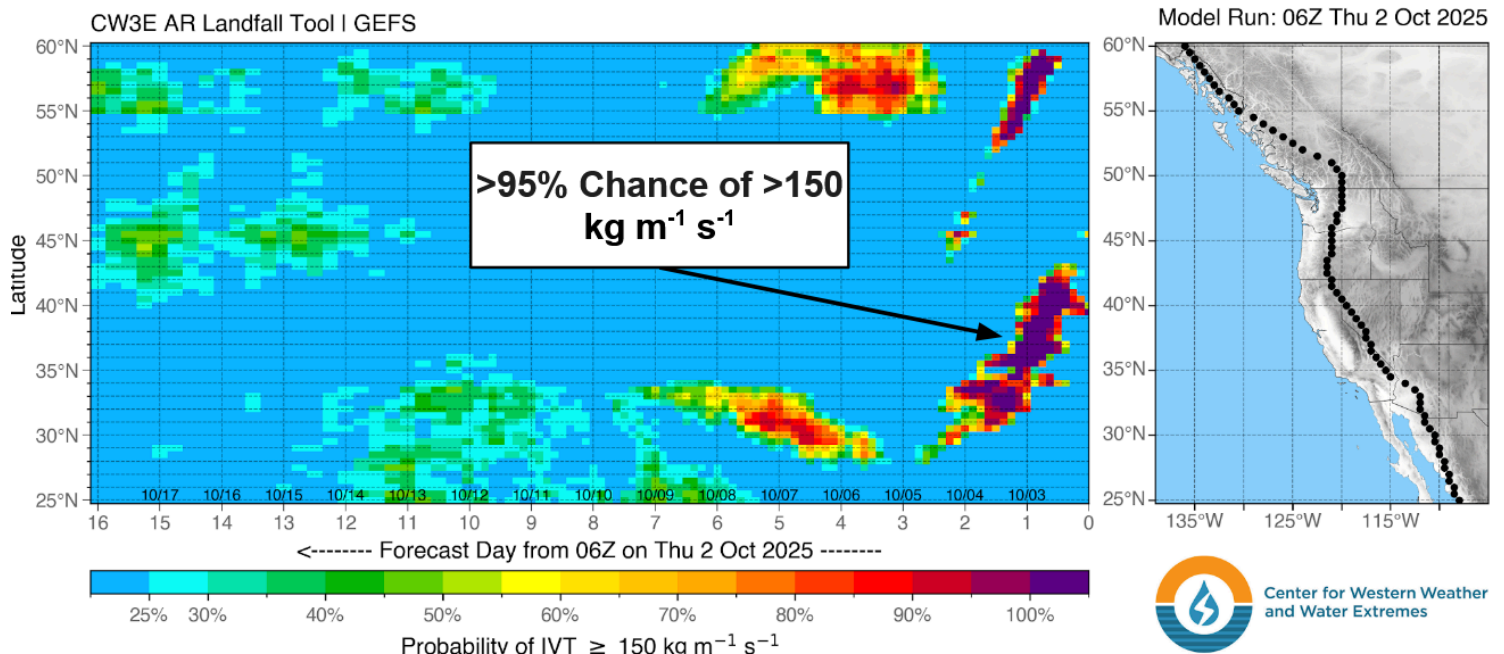
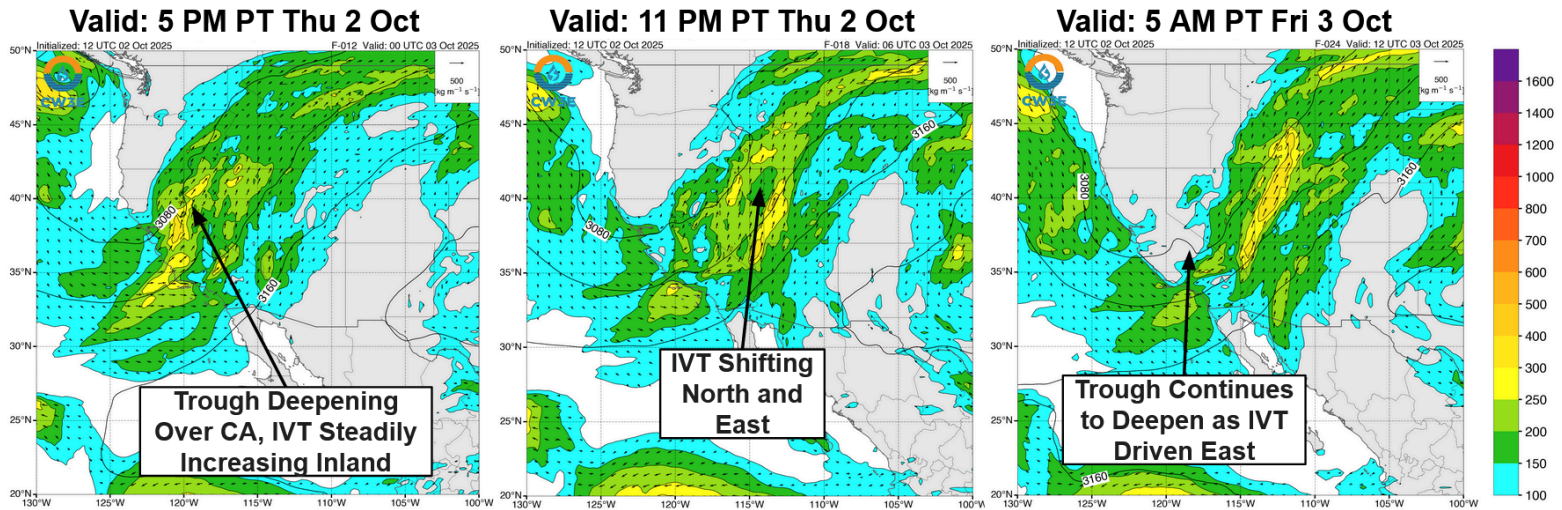
Issued: 2 October 2025

A mid-level trough and remnant moisture from the atmospheric river (AR) that made landfall over the Pacific Northwest on Tuesday will drive moderate-to-heavy precipitation over the Sierra Nevada, Great Basin and, Southern Idaho today into tomorrow.

Forecast Highlights:

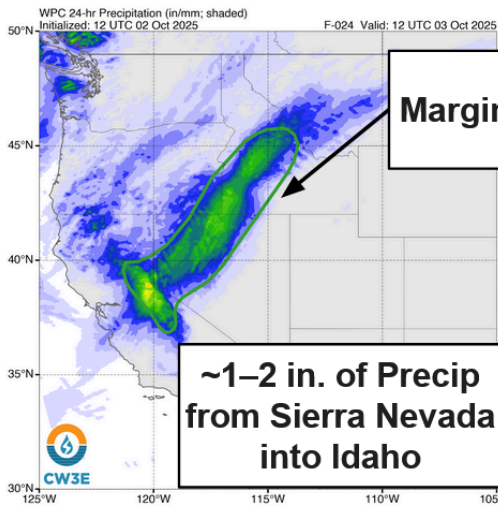
- An AR made landfall over the Pacific Northwest on Tue 30 Sep and the remnant atmospheric moisture from that event propagated down the USWC over the last two days.
- A deepening mid-level trough will interact with the remnant moisture plume to help guide southwesterly moisture transport across the Sierra Nevada, the Great Basin and Central/Southern Idaho.
- Upslope moisture flux and large-scale forcing for ascent downstream of the trough may lead to heavy localized precipitation across the Northern and Central Sierra Nevada.
- The GEFS ensemble indicates a very high likelihood (>95%) of IVT $\geq 150 \text{ kg m}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ penetrating into the Great Basin through early Sat 4 Oct.
- The NWS Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is forecasting 48-hour precipitation totals (period ending 5 AM PT Sat 4 Oct) of ~1–2 in. along the Sierra Nevada, over the Great Basin and Central/Southern Idaho. The WPC notes that localized heavy precipitation inland is possible due to the precipitation being larger driven by convection.
- Precipitation totals from the National Blend of Models (NBM) over Northern Nevada are forecast to be 10–20% of water year normal accumulations.
- The WPC has issued a **marginal** risk (level 1 of 4; >5% probability) excessive rainfall outlook (ERO) for the 24-hour periods ending at 5 AM PT on Fri 3 Oct and Sat 4 Oct for the Central Sierra Nevada and portions of the Great Basin and Central/Southern Idaho.
- The forecast precipitation may help ameliorate the observed drought conditions in Idaho and the Great Basin, where the latest US Drought Monitor has identified Abnormally Dry to Moderate Drought conditions. Precipitation from this event may also help suppress additional fire activity as we approach the start of the wet season.
- Streamflow responses are expected to be minimal within the impacted regions.

**Stay alert to official NWS forecasts, watches, and warnings
at [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) and follow guidance from local emergency
management officials**

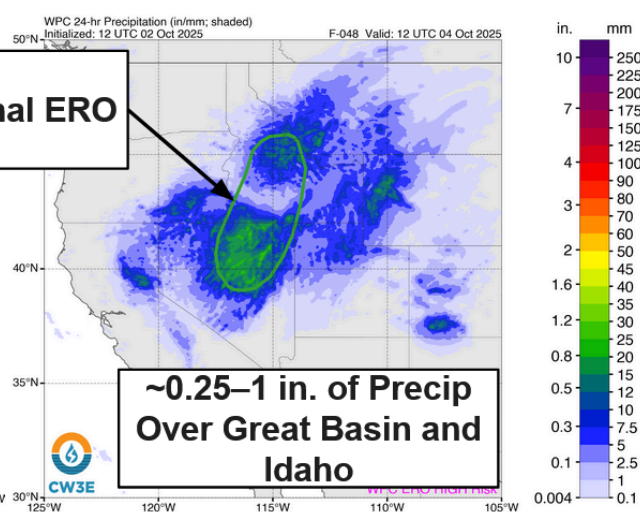


Forecasts support FIRO/CA-AR Program and NSF #2052972 | Intended for research purposes only

WPC 24-Hr Total Precipitation Valid: 5 AM PDT 3 Oct 2025

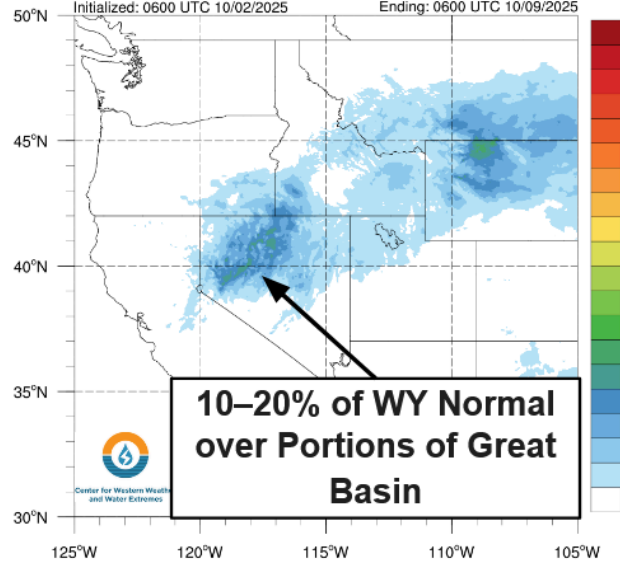


WPC 24-Hr Total Precipitation Valid: 5 AM PDT 4 Oct 2025



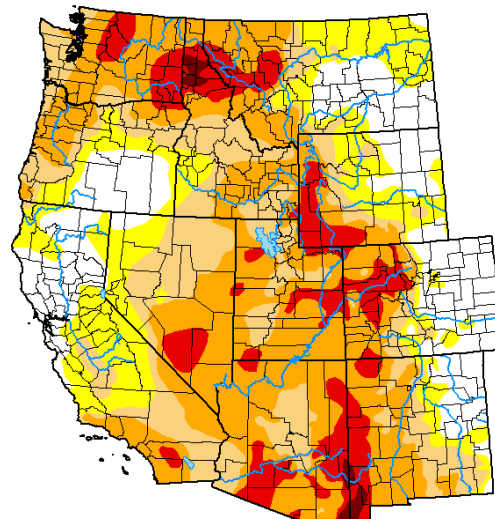
NBM 7-Day Precip % of WY Normal Valid: 11 PM PDT 8 Oct 2025

NBM 7-day Precipitation Accumulation Percentage of Water Year Normal



U.S. Drought Monitor West

September 30, 2025
(Released Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



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>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Additional Considerations:

Visit <https://www.weather.gov/cnrfc/> for specific river and stream forecasts and <https://www.weather.gov/> for point specific forecasts.

In-depth AR forecasts products can be found here:

<http://cw3e.ucsd.edu/iwv-and-ivt-forecasts/>

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