



MNICS TASKFORCE PLANNING CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, October 13, 2026

ATTENDANCE:

DNR NW: Megan O'Neil
DNR NE: Eric Otto
DNR Central: Jake Froyum
DNR SW: Jake Froyum
DNR St. Paul: Mike Warnke
Aviation: Anna Hines
US Forest Service: Nick Petrack
DOI - US Wildfire Service (BIA): Cory Berg
DOI - US Wildfire Service (FWS): Mike Hill
DOI - US Wildfire Service (NPS): Greg Calson
Homeland Security: Jennifer Olson
Conservation Corp Minnesota-Iowa: Inga Roen
National Weather Service: Bill Borbhoff
MN Pollution Control: David Brown
Predictive Services: Travis Verdegan

NWS Weather Briefing:

Record breaking weather over the weekend. There are no fire weather concerns throughout the week. The next best chance will begin Thursday and go into the weekend.



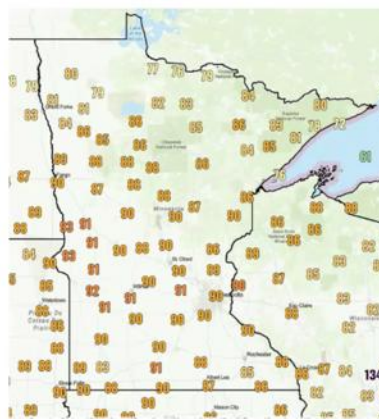
MNICS Planning Call Weather Brief

More Seasonable Weather Expected This Week

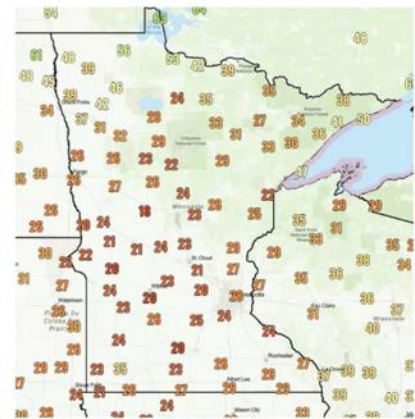
October 13, 2026
8:15 AM CDT

Key Messages

- After a record breaking warm weekend, much cooler conditions have settled in across the state.
- No fire weather concerns through Thursday.
- Light showers likely across southern MN Thursday. Amounts around ¼ inch or less.
- Strong winds and low RH return Friday and Saturday following a strong cold front.
- Warmer conditions return next week with low to moderate RH. No precipitation expected beyond Thursday night.

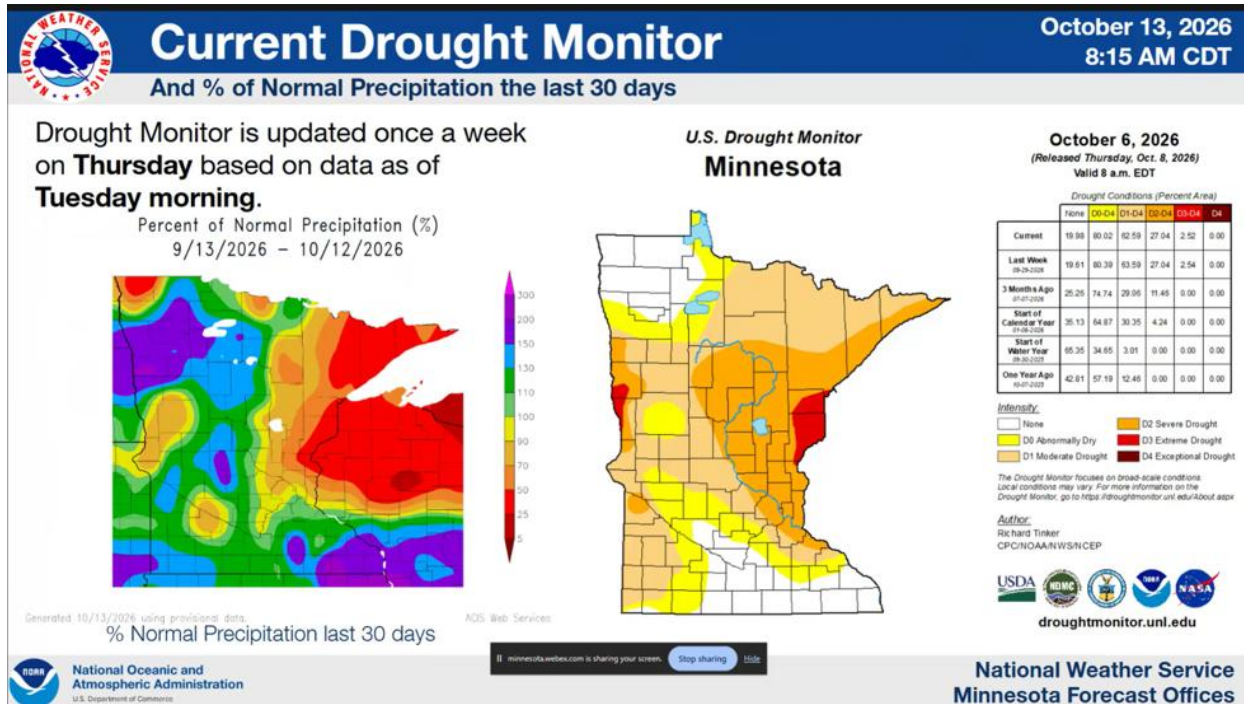


Highs Saturday



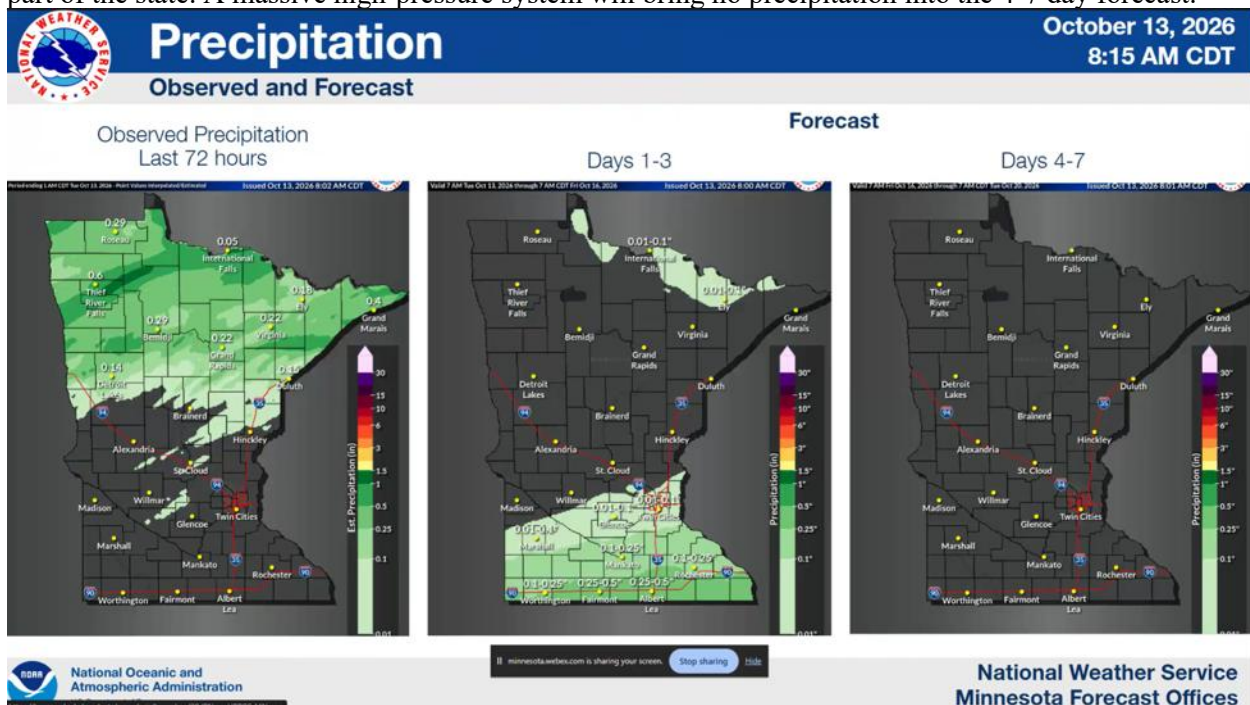
Min RH Saturday

The drought is staying steady as the precipitation that we have been receiving has been it or miss around the worst of the pockets of drought.



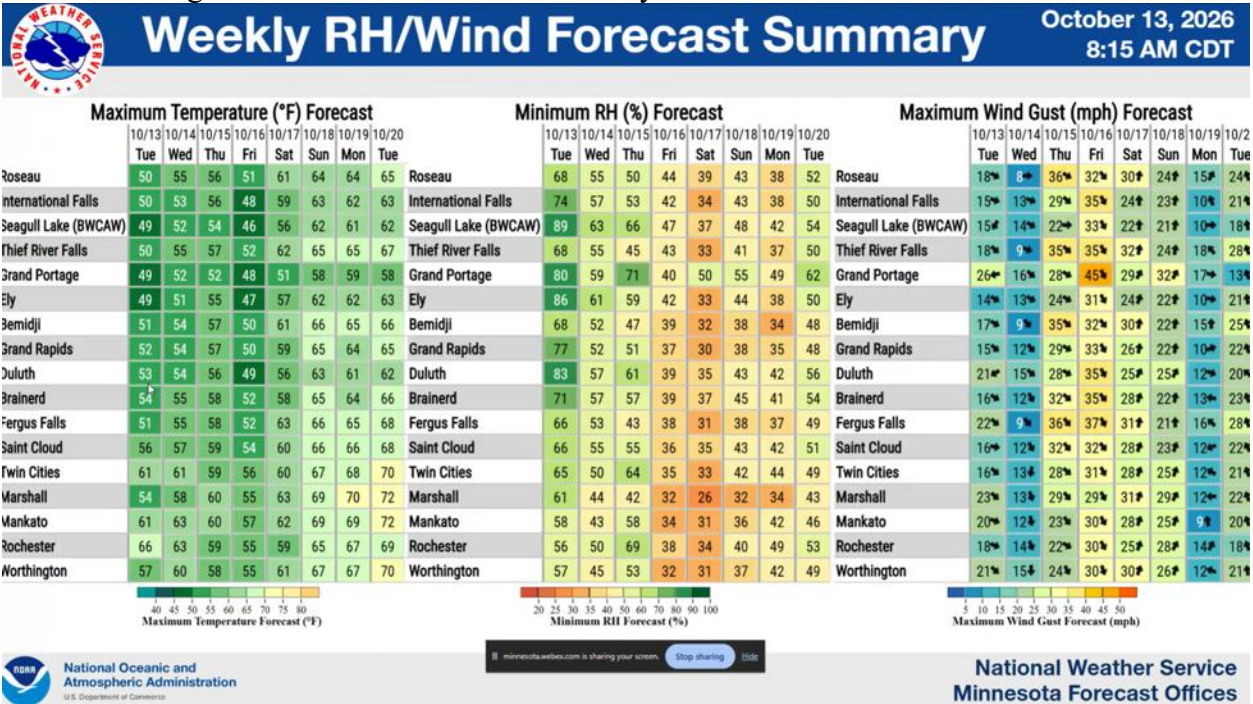
Precipitation

Generally, the amounts of precipitation that have been received have been ¼ or less to non in the southern part of the state. A massive high-pressure system will bring no precipitation into the 4-7 day forecast.



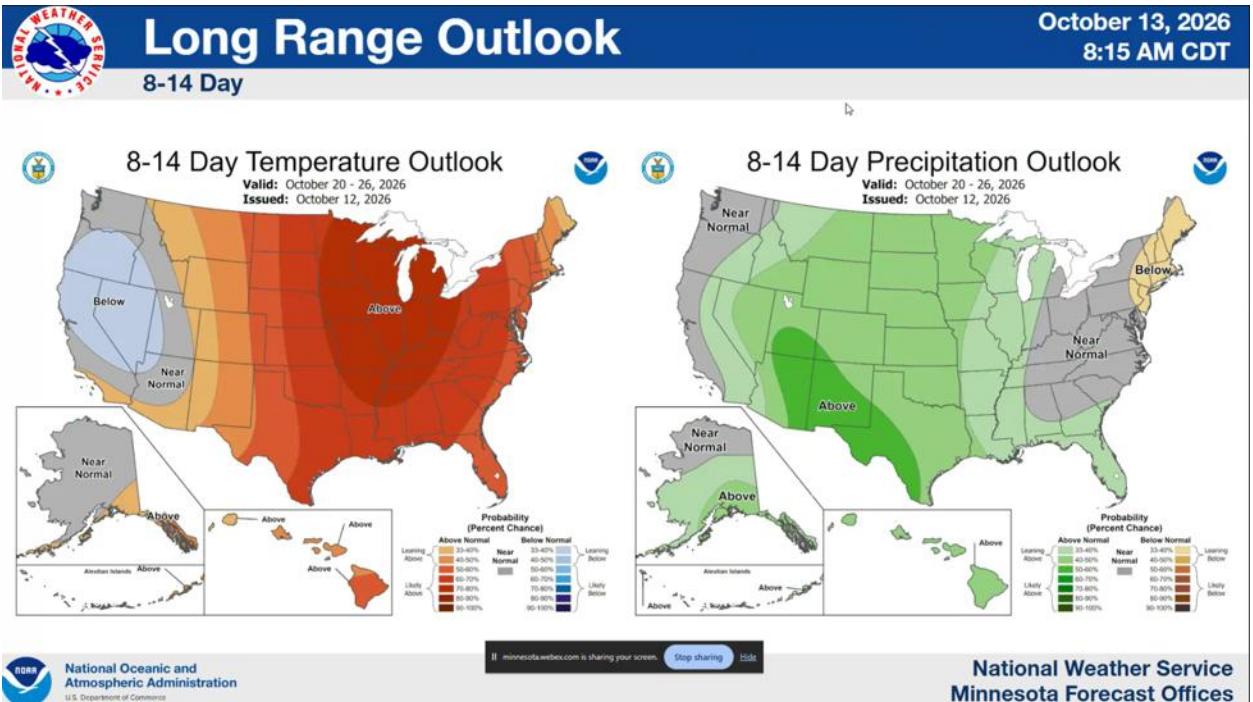
Weekly Temperature and Precipitation Summary

Fire weather conditions are expected to return across the state starting Thursday and will continue throughout the weekend and into Monday.



Long-Range Outlook

October has been and will continue to be a warm month. There is a slight chance that we will see some precipitation later in the month.



MPCA

Air quality is expected to be good throughout the week at least through Thursday.

Predictive Services Update

Overview

Precip over the last planning period remained with isolated trace amounts until yesterday's system moved across the northern 1/3rd of the state bringing widespread amounts of a quarter to half inch with a few locations seeing higher amounts. Fire activity went from near nil to levels more representative of an active fall fire season.

Precip this planning period is forecast to be minimal and isolated to the southern border. Fire activity is expected to continue with escalations being driven by available fuels and favorable fire weather with sustained build-up occurring throughout the period. Indices currently reflect a momentary deflection downward driven by recent precip and moderating fire weather in the short term.

CPC 6 – 10 and 8 – 14 Day Outlooks

CPC 6 – 10 day and 8 -14 day outlooks show a trend switch to strong signals for above normal temps and indications of above normal precip.

Drought Monitor

The latest drought monitor shows little change over the previous week.

NFDRS

Values including both BI – X and ERC – Y are a double set of peaks and valleys. One for the period we just went through ending in a valley and another for the coming period that establishes another peak.

CFFDRS

BUI trends show a similar up and down pattern to NFDRS indices, although only in the northern FDRAs received adequate precip. Southern FDRAS show a continuous ramping upward towards significant buildup.

Situation Update and Planning Needs Summary

DNR NW: 5 fires reported for 12.5 acres, no additional needs.

DNR NE: 6 fires reported for 4.5 acres, no additional needs. Supporting Michigan with resource requests.

DNR Central: 6 fires reported for 108 acres. Most of the acres are from the Rutabaga 2 fire which is currently 103 acres. Would like CCMI on call.

DNR SW: No fires reported, no additional needs. There were numerous crop fires that went large, many over 100 acres that the DNR did not respond to. RX burns are planned throughout the week.

FS: 2 fires reported, RX burning continues. Supporting Michigan with resources.

USWFS-BIA: 1 fire reported on Red Lake for 0.1 acre. There was a handful of RX burns completed on White Earth.

USWFS-FWS: 2 fires reported for 175 acres. The fire on Sherburne is 151 acre and 65% contained. They are planning to demob some resources off of that fire today.

USWFS-NPS: No fires, no additional resource needs.

HSEM: No updates, no need.

CCMI: There are 2 crews available: 1st crew is a 3-person crew out of the metro. 2nd crew is a 4-person crew out of Des Moines. There is currently one crew out of Duluth that is out on the Rutabaga 2 fire. Both crews will be on call this week per Ferguson.

AVIATION: There were requests for 7 aircraft on 4 fires with additional requests for aircraft to support fire activity in Michigan. The helicopters last day was Sunday. There are currently 2 scoopers available in Hibbing.

Current Preparedness Levels

Minnesota: PL 2

Eastern Area: PL 1

National: PL 2

Minnesota Statewide PL will stay at a PL 2 with a planning call on Friday to reassess.

Planning Preparedness Level Determination with FDRAs

Final Preparedness Level Determination

	Level I	Level II	Level III	Level IV	Level V
Statewide		II			
Arrowhead		II			
East Central Hardwoods			III		
North Central Woodlands		II			
Northern Peatlands		II			
Prairie Parklands		II			
Southeast Hardwoods		II			
Southwest Prairie			III		

Prepared By: Travis Verdegan

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Additional Resource Activations: No additional resource activations.

Restrictions/Regulations/Priorities: Burning restrictions and permits are being managed by the local forestry offices. All areas will be updating the restrictions and fire danger daily.

MNICS IMT on Rotation: Team B

MNCC Duty Officer: Angela Porter

Next MNICS Planning call: Friday, October 16th @ 0900.

Notes by: Jolene Beighley, MNCC Intel