

The Weather Watcher of the Inland Northwest

www.weather.gov/Spokane



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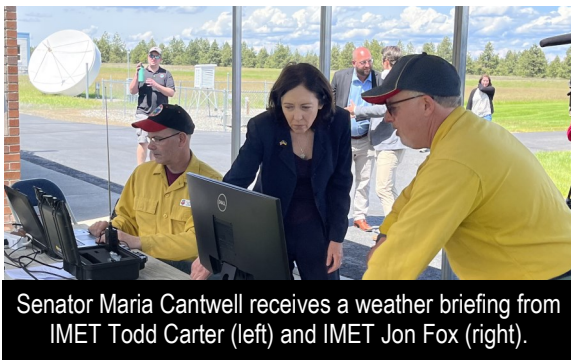
US Senators visit NWS Spokane

U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell (WA) and Dan Sullivan (AK) hosted a press conference at National Weather Service (NWS) Spokane on Wednesday, June 1st. In addition to touring the NWS office, they discussed the Senate bill proposed by both of them to strengthen firefighter tools. This bill will help NOAA’s NWS deploy new technology that will boost computing power to improve wildfire forecasting and identify the impacts of changing weather conditions. It will test a new drone pilot program designed to gather critical fire information and survey post-fire damage, even at night, without endangering the lives of a pilot or crew members. And it will ensure NOAA has the resources to support our specially-trained forecasters serving alongside wildfire response teams.

It’s called the [Fire Ready Nation Act of 2022](#). With the 2022 fire season right around the corner, there is a need to maximize every tool available to prevent, track and fight wildfires.

Currently the National Weather Service support wildfire agencies and crews by:

- Providing climate data and seasonal outlook so agencies can plan for wildfire season.
- When potential fire conditions are at their worst, NWS offices issue Fire Watch Warnings or Red Flag Warnings to help everyone get ready.
- When wildfires happen, the NWS deploys specially-trained forecasters called Incident Meteorologists (“IMETs”) to live and work on-site and help fire management teams determine where the fire might be going next. Forecasters provide on the spot weather forecasts for individual wildfires.
- Providing guidance and modeling on wildfire smoke, such as the High Resolution Rapid Refresh-Smoke model, which uses satellite observations and computer simulations to predict how smoke will move across the country and change air quality, visibility, temperature, and wind.



Senator Maria Cantwell receives a weather briefing from IMET Todd Carter (left) and IMET Jon Fox (right).

Editor’s Notes

Summer’s here! Spring has been a chilly one, so many are looking forward to those warm summer days. But not as warm like last year. Heatwaves are still on many people’s mind. The seasonal outlook is calling for greater odds of above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. It may take time for the summer heat to come.

Staying safe when temperatures are hot is important. Stay hydrated—plan on drinking plenty of water and fluids. Pace yourself—rest in the shade during the peak heating of the day. Keep cool. Be alert to signs of heat-related illnesses. Check on family members, seniors and neighbors when it’s hot. Consider pet safety by providing plenty of water and shade.

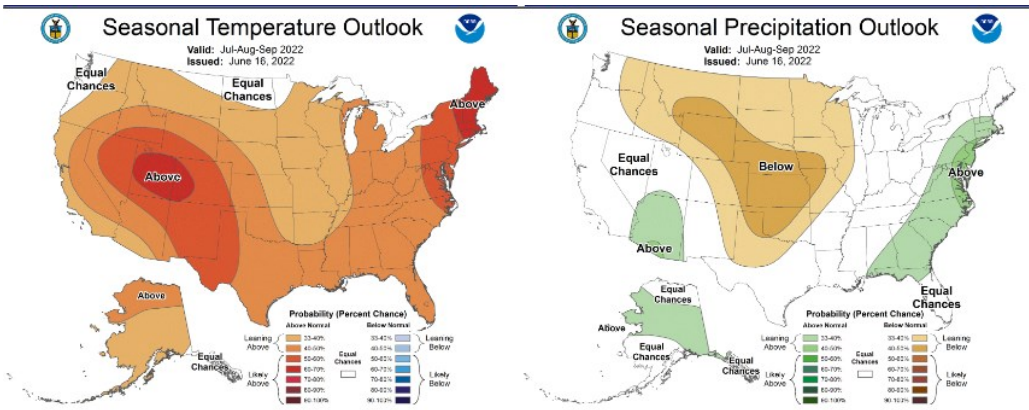
We’re always looking for new ideas and stories for our publication. Please send to nws.spokane@noaa.gov. Newsletters are available on the NWS Spokane web page.

The main purpose of this publication is to keep our readers informed about NWS services and programs, and recognize those who help us with our mission, including weather spotters, observers, media, emergency managers, and government agencies.

All articles are written by the NWS staff. A special thanks goes to Jeremy Wolf, for his contributions.

Summer Seasonal Outlook—June thru August

The [Climate Prediction Center’s](#) outlook for June through August across the Inland NW indicates a slightly better chance for warmer than normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.



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NWS Spokane

Meteorologist In Charge
Ron Miller

Warning Coordination Meteorologist
Andy Brown

Science Operations Officer
Chad Shafer

Administrative Assistant
Jodi Fitts

Information Technology Officer
Todd Carter

Service Hydrologist
Robin Fox

Observation Program Leader
Ken Daniels

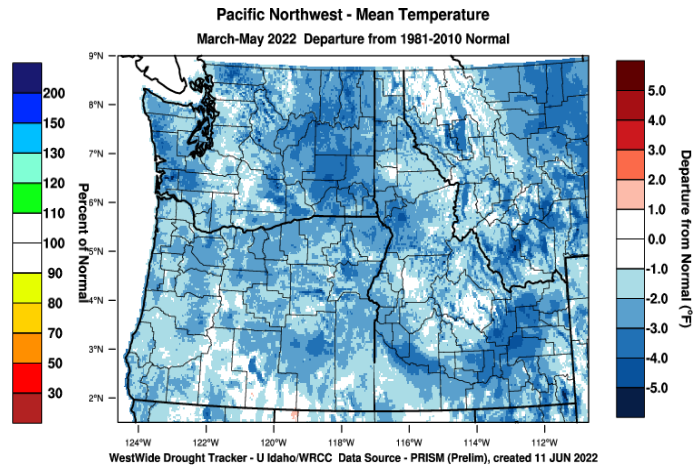
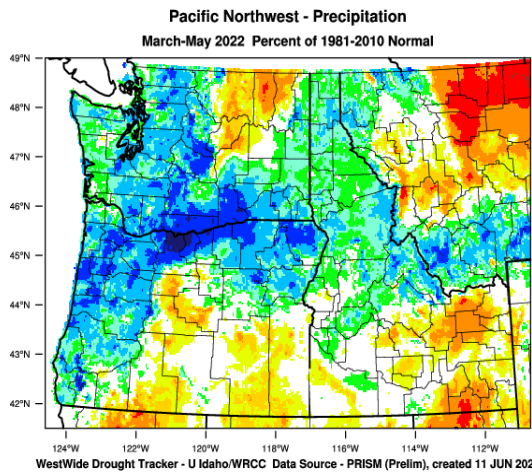
Lead Forecasters
Jon Fox
Greg Koch
Steve Bodnar
Jeremy Wolf
Charlotte Dewey

Meteorologists
Rocco Pelatti
Laurie Nisbet
Miranda Coté
Steven Van Horn
Joey Clevenger
Valerie Thaler
Dan Butler
Rachael Fewkes

Electronic Systems Analyst
Mike Henry

Electronic Technicians
Paul Kozsan
Derek Haupt

Facilities Technician
Joshua Miller



Statistics for Spring 2022

In the image on the left, notice the wetter than normal conditions not only for western WA/OR but also for parts of southeast WA into the ID Panhandle for March through May. In the image on the right, cooler than normal conditions prevailed across the entire Pacific NW. ☀

Staff Updates

NWS staff changes are coming this summer! Meteorologist Jenn Simmons transferred to NWS Miami where she will be following her passion of tropical weather. She departed in mid June. She has been a forecaster at WFO Spokane since May 2018.

Dan Butler accepted a position of Meteorologist. After finishing up his Master's Degree at University of Nebraska, he arrived in early June.

Rachael Fewkes accepted a position of Meteorologist. She's finishing her Bachelor Degree at University of Washington. She was a summer intern at WFO Fairbanks last year. She plans to arrive in mid August.

Joshua Miller has been selected as a new Facilities Technician at NWS Spokane. His past experience includes maintenance Technician at Advanced Graphics in Layton, UT, contractor at Hill Air Force Base, and program technician with the Farm Service Agency. He plans arrive this summer.

Good luck to Jenn! Welcome to the Inland Northwest Dan, Rachael, and Joshua! Safe travels to all! ☀

Spring Weather Statistics				
Wenatchee Water Plant	MAR	APR	MAY	Total
Avg High Temp	56.8	57.4	66.2	60.1
Departure from Norm	+2.5	-6.5	-7.0	-3.7
Avg Low Temp	35.6	36.5	45.7	39.3
Departure from Norm	+2.2	-3.9	-3.6	-1.8
Total Precip	0.37	1.16	0.72	2.3
Departure from Norm	-0.36	+0.58	-0.03	-0.06
Total Snowfall	0.0	5.4	0.0	5.4
Departure from Norm	-0.4	+5.4	0.0	+1.7
Lewiston Airport	MAR	APR	MAY	Total
Avg High Temp	56.7	57.4	66.0	60.0
Departure from Norm	+1.6	-4.9	-6.0	-3.1
Avg Low Temp	38.6	37.3	46.3	40.7
Departure from Norm	+2.9	-3.4	-1.8	-0.8
Total Precip	0.79	1.96	1.91	4.66
Departure from Norm	-0.51	+0.52	+0.22	+0.23
Total Snowfall	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.6
Departure from Norm	-0.8	+0.6	0.0	-0.2
Spokane Airport	MAR	APR	MAY	Total
Avg High Temp	50.8	51.7	60.9	54.5
Departure from Norm	+2.2	-5.2	-6.2	-3.1
Avg Low Temp	34.3	32.6	41.4	36.1
Departure from Norm	+2.8	-4.4	-3.5	-1.7
Total Precip	1.26	1.09	1.50	3.85
Departure from Norm	-0.57	-0.16	-0.05	-0.78
Total snowfall	T	2.1	0.0	2.1
Departure from Norm	-3.9	+1.4	0.0	-2.5

Spring 2022 in Review—Wet & Cool!

The Spring 2022 may have crept in like a lamb, but it sure roared its way through the season with more active weather as the days marched on. Precipitation varied across the region with wetter than normal conditions across the lower Columbia Basin, southeast Washington and parts of the Idaho Panhandle, while drier conditions remained across north-central Washington.

One weather aspect that rang true for all areas was the colder than normal temperatures, especially for April and May. This cold spell delayed the mountain snowmelt and runoff season. The average April-May temperature and the corresponding coldest ranking include: Wenatchee 49.8°F (1st), Spokane Airport 45.0° F (2nd), Pullman 45.2° F (2nd), and Lewiston 51.8° F (3rd).

MARCH was rather quiet across the Inland NW with just a few significant weather events of note. The wettest system of the month arrived on the 2nd and 3rd with 0.50-1.00" of rain over northeast Washington and the Idaho Panhandle. The most noteworthy event was a brief surge of cold air which arrived on the 8th. Cold north winds gusted to 44 MPH at the Wenatchee Airport and 35 MPH in Omak. High temperatures in many areas dropped into the 30s, while low temperatures dropped into the teens. Deer Park was one of the colder locations with a low of 14°F on the 10th. On the 15th isolated thunderstorms over eastern Washington and north Idaho led to locally heavy rain including around 0.75" in Sandpoint, along with several reports of small hail on the Palouse.

The weather became active in **APRIL**, starting with a high wind event on the 4th. Some of the strongest winds occurred around Lewiston with a peak gust of 59 MPH at the airport with nearby Shirrod Hill coming in at 63 MPH. Other reports include 61 MPH in Athol, 59 MPH Spokane Airport, and 55 MPH in Moses Lake and Ephrata. Then an unseasonably cold weather system sat over the region for several days from the 10th through the 16th. Many places saw snow, which broke records in some areas. On the 10th, a small weather system brought moderate to heavy snow to the Palouse with 4" in Pullman and Moscow and 6" in Colfax. On the 11th, a strong storm moved across northern Oregon producing rare low elevation snow in parts off southern Washington with 4.5" measured near Pomeroy. The storm also produced heavy snow at Blewett Pass with 18" for a two-day storm total. Meanwhile the Wenatchee Airport only reached 39F for a high temperature, setting a record for the coldest April high temperature. Just three days later, residents of the Wenatchee area will long remember what happened. On the morning of the 14th, a localized area of heavy snow fell with 5-10" reported with locally higher amounts up to 16" south of town. On the 15th, a local snow storm hit Hayden, ID with 11". There were several snow and cold records set during this stretch. The Wenatchee Water Plant came in with 5.4" for the month, blowing away the previous April snow record of just 0.5". Following all this snow, skies cleared on the morning of the

15th allowing Ephrata and Wenatchee to drop to 19°F and 23°F respectively, both setting records for the coldest April temperature on record. Strong winds struck around the Lewiston area again on the 18th with gusts including 62 MPH at Shirrod Hill and 58 MPH at Silcott Island (west of Clarkston, WA).

Active spring weather continued into **MAY** with multiple rounds of cool temperatures, along with showers and thunderstorms. On the 6th strong thunderstorms tracked through the Spokane area, with one storm dropping two brief EF0 tornadoes with estimated peak winds of 70-80 MPH. The second tornado actually touched down on Interstate 90 just south of Avista Stadium. The tornadoes led to tree and power line damage and also flipped over two trailers. Local street flooding was also observed with Spokane Felts Field measuring 0.79" of rain in one hour. The next day (May 7th) windy conditions developed across the Columbia Basin with blowing dust reducing visibility to a half mile 15 miles west of Moses Lake. On the 8th strong thunderstorms tracked through the Palouse and Lewiston area. One storm south of Waha produced a 59 MPH wind gust along with half inch hail in Lewiston and Lapwai. Windy conditions returned to the region on the 18th with a strong cold front passage. A tree fell onto a moving vehicle on Malaga-Alcoa Highway. On State Route 21 near Curlew, trees were downed blocking both lanes. On State Route 206 near Mead half of a mobile home blew off a trailer. Peak wind gusts include 53 MPH at the Wenatchee Airport, 51 MPH Spokane Airport, and 50 MPH in Dusty. ☀️ *Jeremy Wolf*



Tornado damage in Spokane Valley on May 6th

Spring Flood Season

The cool spring delayed spring runoff and flood season. High snowpack lingered and runoff was limited in April and May. River flows are to peak through June and July. This is especially true for the river basins with headwater in higher elevations of the north Cascades and southern BC, such as the **Stehekin, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, and Kootenai** river basins. The [long range flood risk](#) shows elevated for these rivers into early summer, which is near to above climatological normal

Although spring flooding remains low on many rivers, there remains a chance of flash flooding and urban flooding under any intense rain or thunderstorm events, especially in the burn scar areas, throughout the summer season. ☀️ *Robin Fox*

Remember your Summer Spotter Checklist

Tornado or Funnel Cloud

Hail: pea size or larger

Strong Winds:
30mph+ or damage

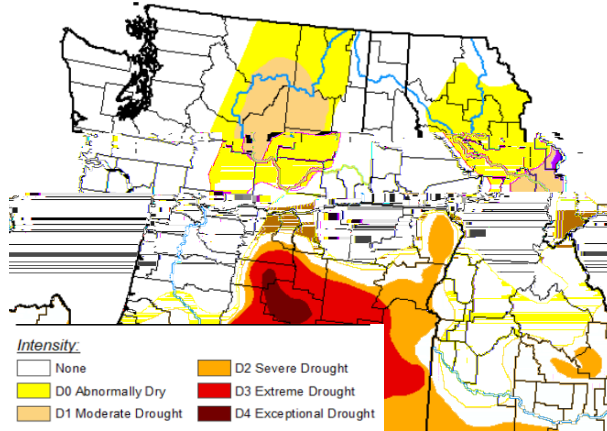
Any Flooding

Reduced Visibility:
under a mile— dust, smoke, fog

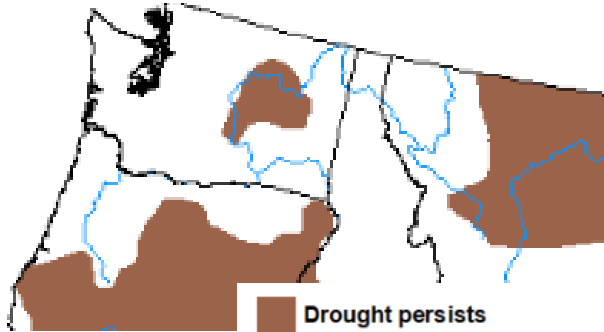
Heavy Rain:
Showery: 1/2" + in 1hr
Steady: 1" + in 12hr/1.5" + in 24hr

Travel Problems or Damage:
due to severe/hazardous weather

U.S. Drought Monitor—released June 16th



Seasonal Drought Outlook—released June 16th



Drought Eases

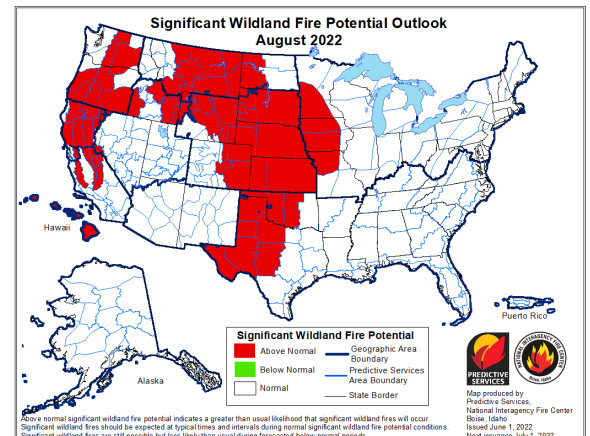
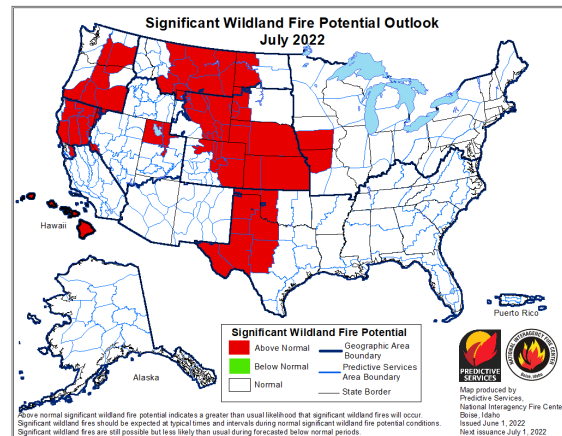
The [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) has shown improvements in drought across the Inland NW over the last several weeks, thanks to the spring precipitation. Extreme (D3) and Severe (D2) drought has been removed from the region. Areas of Moderate (D1) drought remain across central Washington, due to long term dryness from last year. The Idaho Panhandle has been cleared of drought, yet it is still holding on to across eastern Oregon and southern Idaho.

The Monthly and [Seasonal Outlooks](#) for drought show that drought will persist for sections of central Washington through the summer season.

Remember, you can help and report drought! You can view and submit a [Condition Monitoring Observer Report](#) (CMOR) and share images right from your backyard or property. There is a smartphone app that you can download to make reporting even easier! [CoCoRaHS](#) observers are able to add drought reports too! ☀

Significant Fire Outlook - July and August

The cooler spring has slowed down the start to fire season across the Inland NW with normal conditions expected in June. Yet with summer heat and dryness, significant fire potential will increase in the region. ☀



The Weather Watcher Of the Inland Northwest



National Weather Service
2601 N Rambo Rd
Spokane, WA 99224
(509)-244-0110

THANK YOU

We want to send a big Thank You to all of our weather spotters and observers. We appreciate ALL of the reports you send to the NWS, especially after big events including strong winds, dust, heavy rain, and hail. We do enjoy your pictures! Please continue to share them via email or social media, even if it's a few days after an event. This helps us verify the weather warnings. Keep up the terrific work—you're the 'Eyes and Ears' of the NWS! ☀

Spotter Training

Spring spotter training has wrapped up for the year. We trained 105 spotters both virtually and in-person. If want to review any of the material, you can find links to the notes and videos on our [Spotter Resources](#) section of the NWS Spokane web page. ☀

Summer is typically the driest season, so what's the average rainfall from June through August across the Inland NW?