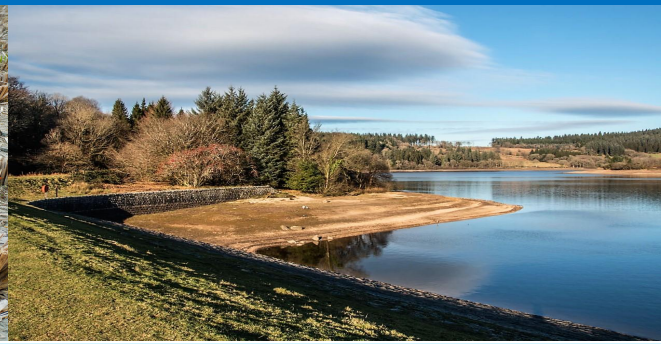
# Drought Information Statement for Eastern Washington & North Idaho

## Valid March 28, 2024

Issued By: NWS Spokane, WA

Contact Information: w-otx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated when drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/otx/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.



# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for eastern Washington and north Idaho

## DROUGHT CONTINUES ACROSS THE INLAND NW

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D2 (Severe Drought): the Central Idaho Panhandle, **near 9%**
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): Near the Cascade Crest, parts of northeast WA, and areas of the ID Panhandle, **near 23%**
  - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Parts of east slopes of Cascades, Blue Mountains, and a sliver of extreme eastern WA, **near 31%**
  - NONE: **Near 37%** in central & eastern WA!

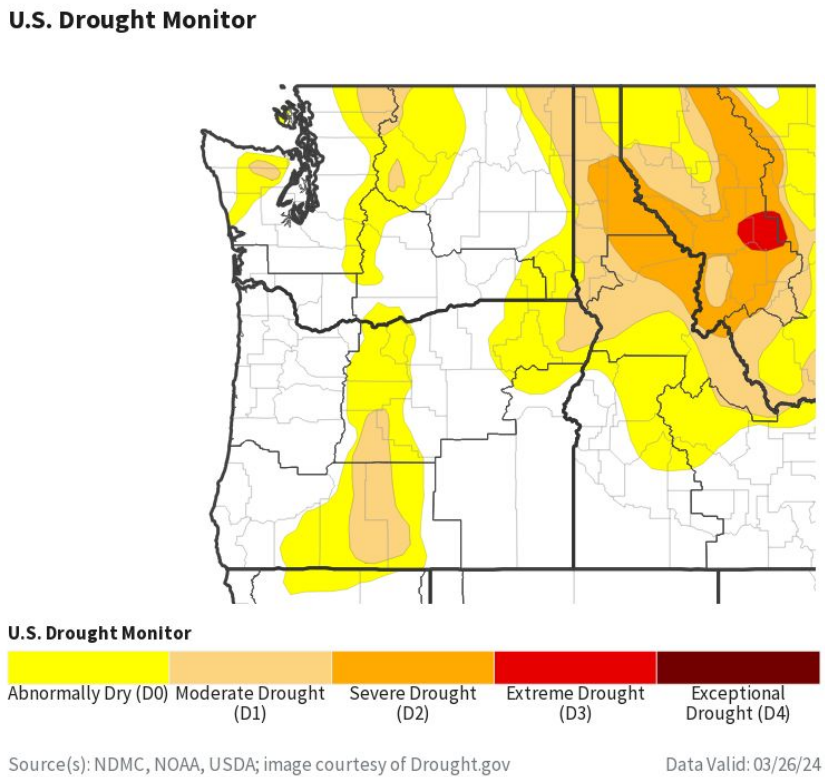



Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 7am EDT March 26, 2024

# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

**Link to the latest 4 week change map for eastern Washington and north Idaho**

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change
  - No Change: Extreme northeast WA, east slopes of north Cascades, and much of Idaho Panhandle.
  - Drought Improved: Crest of Cascades and far north Idaho.
  - Drought degraded: none
    - Areas of D2 - decreased by 7%
    - Areas of D1 - increased by 5%
    - Areas of D0 - increased by 2%

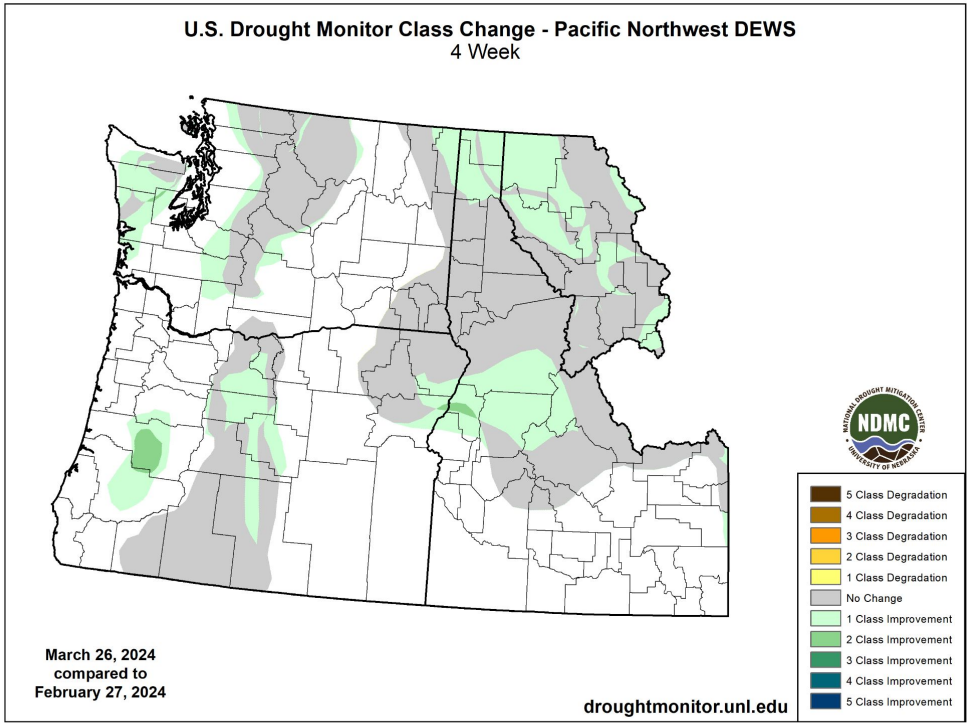


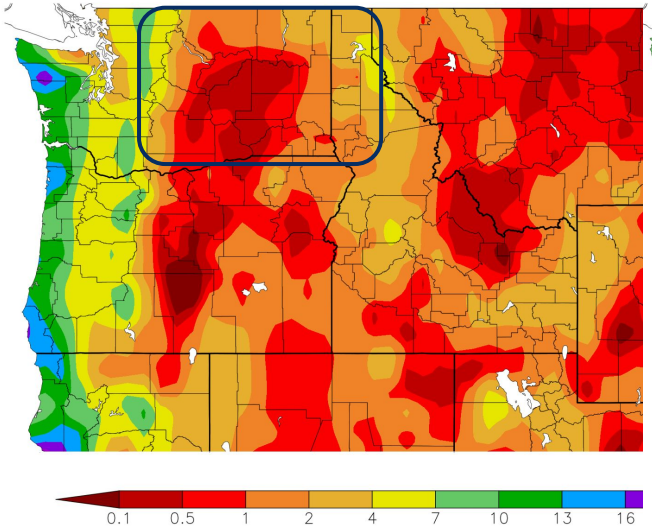

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 7am EDT March 26, 2024

# Precipitation

## Last 30 Days

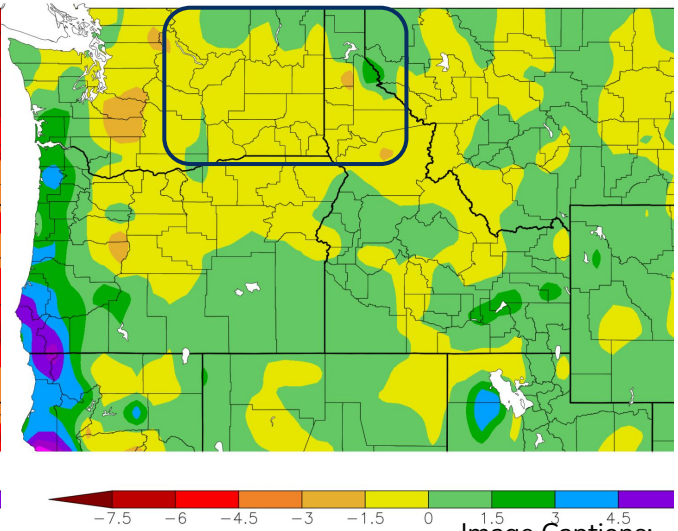
- The rounds of precipitation benefited the northern mountains and the northern ID panhandle over the last month. Meanwhile, precipitation was below normal across the Cascades, Columbia Basin and central ID Panhandle.

Precipitation (in)
2/27/2024 – 3/27/2024




Generated 3/28/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation
2/27/2024 – 3/27/2024



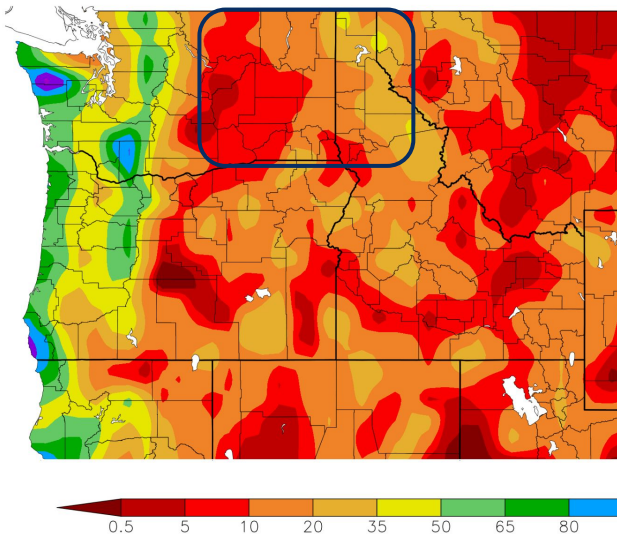

rated 3/28/2024 by HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA

Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for Pacific NW
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center
Data over the past 30 days ending March 27, 2024

# Precipitation

## For the Water Year - since Oct 1, 2023

- Water Year Precipitation reflects the trend of the last several months with the abundance in moisture for central WA. The deficits in precipitation are more noticeable near the Cascade crest and the central Idaho Panhandle.



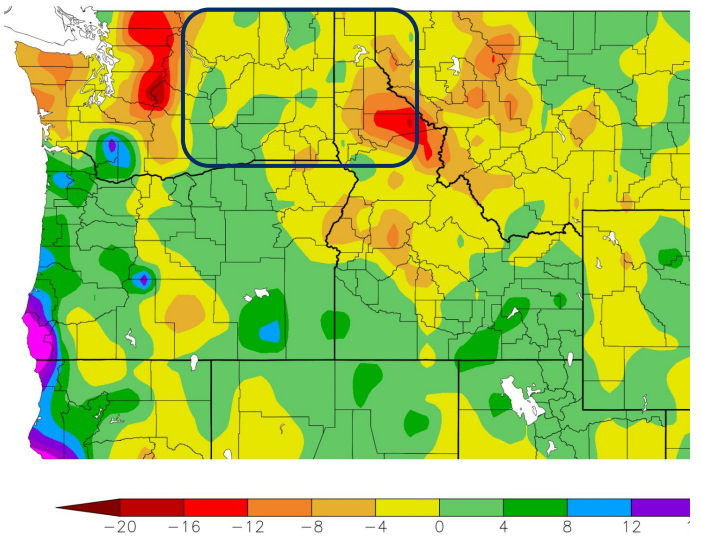



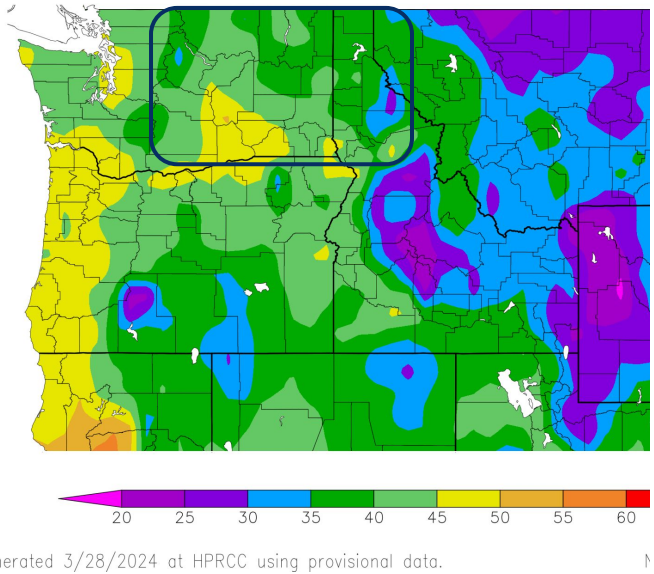

Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for Pacific NW
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center
Data for the Water Year ending March 25, 2024

# Temperature

## Last 30 Days

- Temperatures trended warmer than normal for the last 30 days, especially in the lee of the Cascades.

Temperature (F)
2/27/2024 – 3/27/2024




Departure from Normal Temperature
2/27/2024 – 3/27/2024

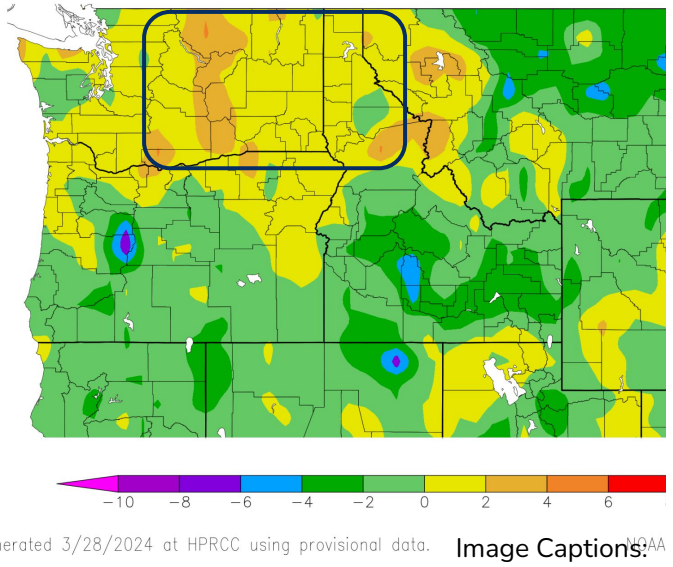



Image Captions:
Left - Average Temperature for the Pacific NW
Right - Departure from Normal Temperature for the Pacific NW
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center
Data over the past 30 days ending March 27, 2024

# Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) and view the Drought Impacts Reporter

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Most stream flows have varied with near, above and below levels on the rivers and streams in the region. Below normal flows experienced across the eastern Columbia Basin and Palouse region where reports of rivers and streams were lower compared to last spring.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Crop conditions were normal for this time of the year. Earlier green-up reported parts of south-central Washington due to the mild temperatures. Anticipate later planting in north Idaho due to the wet conditions.

## Snowpack Impacts

- Below normal mountain snowpack remains across the region. The mild March temperatures led to rapid snowmelt at the mid slope elevations.

# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Stream flows over the past 7 days have been above normal in the lee of the Cascades, north central Washington, and northern ID Panhandle given the mild temperatures and snow melt along with recent precipitation. Below normal flows seen on the Palouse and parts of the eastern Columbia Basin, where reports of rivers and streams running lower compared to last spring.

- More variable steam flows were seen on the controlled rivers like the mid Columbia River.

| Explanation - Percentile classes | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | |
| Low | <10 | 10-24 | 25-75 | 76-90 | >90 | High | No Data |
| | Much below normal | Below normal | Normal | Above normal | Much above normal | | |

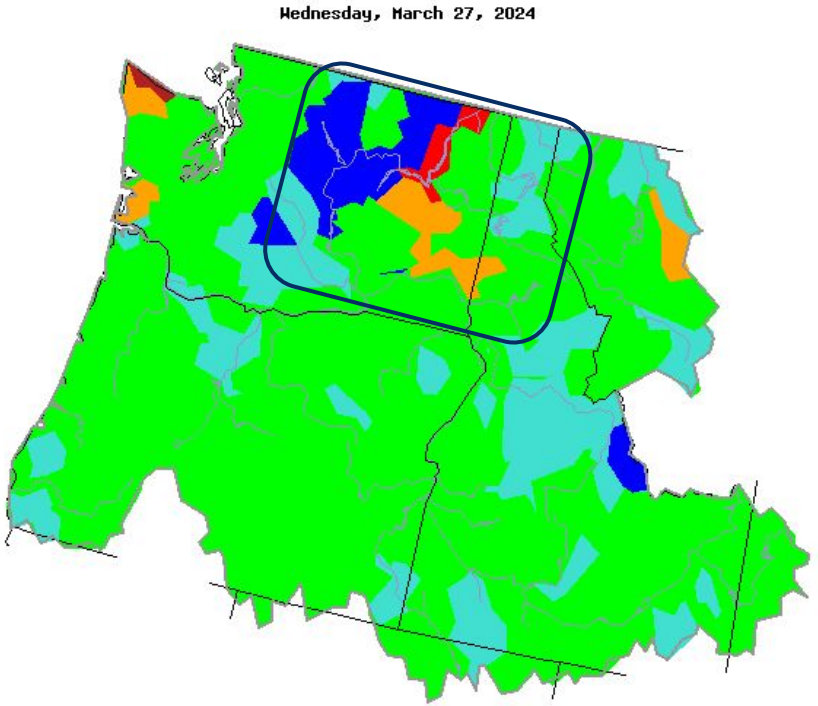
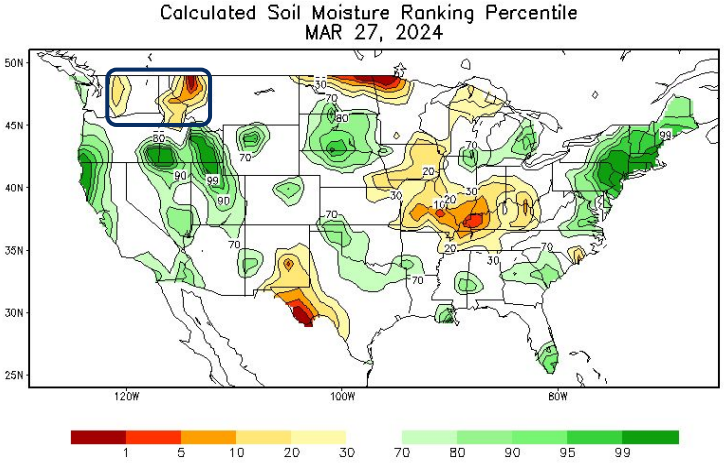



Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid March 27, 2024

# Agricultural Conditions and Impacts

- Soil moisture remains drier than normal over the Cascades and the central Idaho Panhandle.

- Crop moisture was near normal for most areas except above normal for the northern Idaho Panhandle. Crop conditions were normal for this time of the year. Earlier green-up reported parts of south-central Washington.



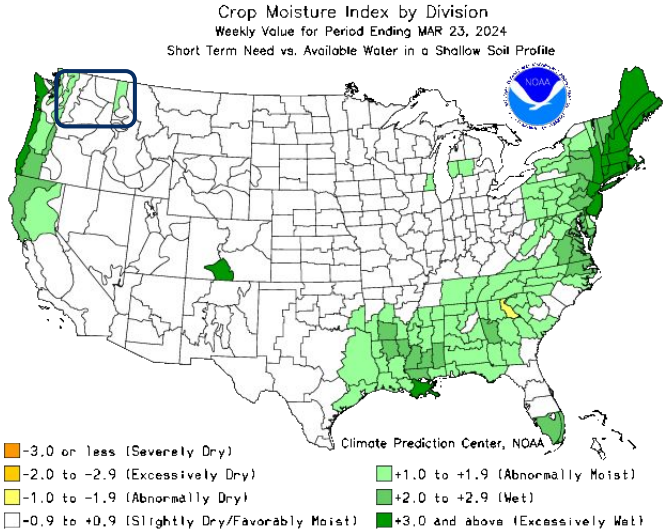




Image Captions:
Left: CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile valid March 23, 2024
Right: Crop Moisture Index by Division. Weekly value for period ending March 27, 2024

# Mountain Snowpack Conditions and Impacts

- Much of the snowpack remains below normal across the Inland NW spanning from 63% to near 84% of normal for Snow Water Equivalent.
- The mild temperatures in March led to rapid snowmelt especially at the mid slope elevations. Snow at the higher peaks remain.

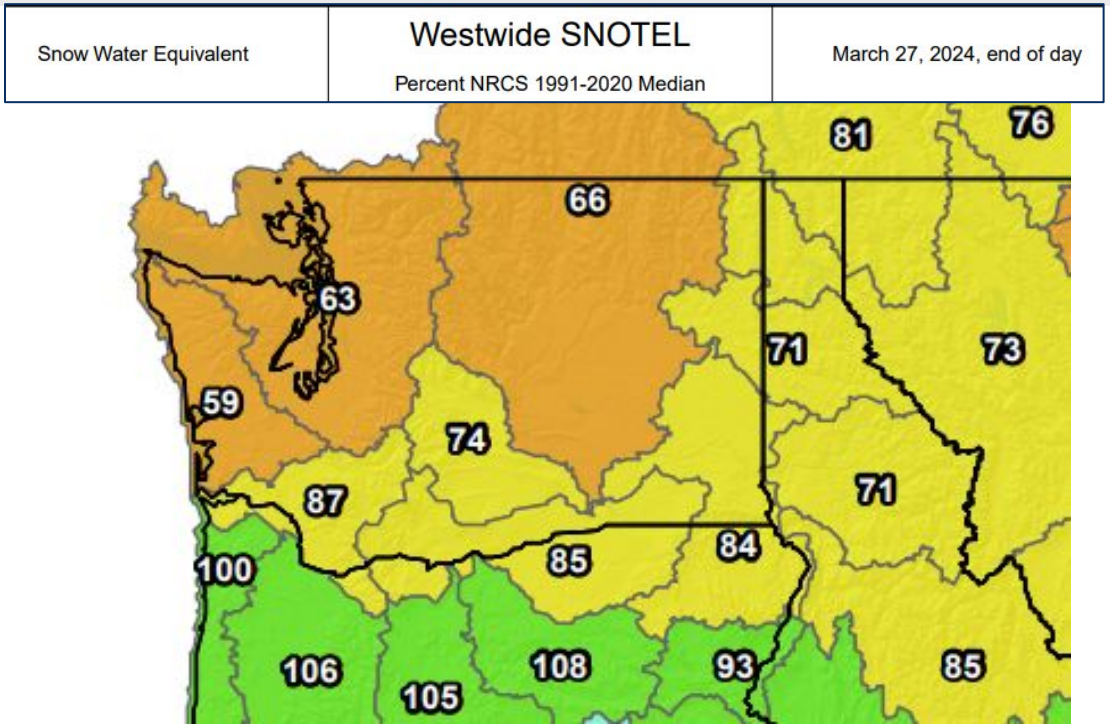



Image Captions:
Westwide SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent percentage .
Daily value ending March 27, 2024

# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Here is a forecast of precipitation for the Pacific NW for the upcoming week.
- Mild and drier weather expected for the last days of March. Expect a return of rain and high mountain snow by the first week of April.
- The 8-14 day outlook leans toward slightly below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation into the second week of April.
- The monthly outlook for April leans toward milder temperatures with near seasonal precipitation.

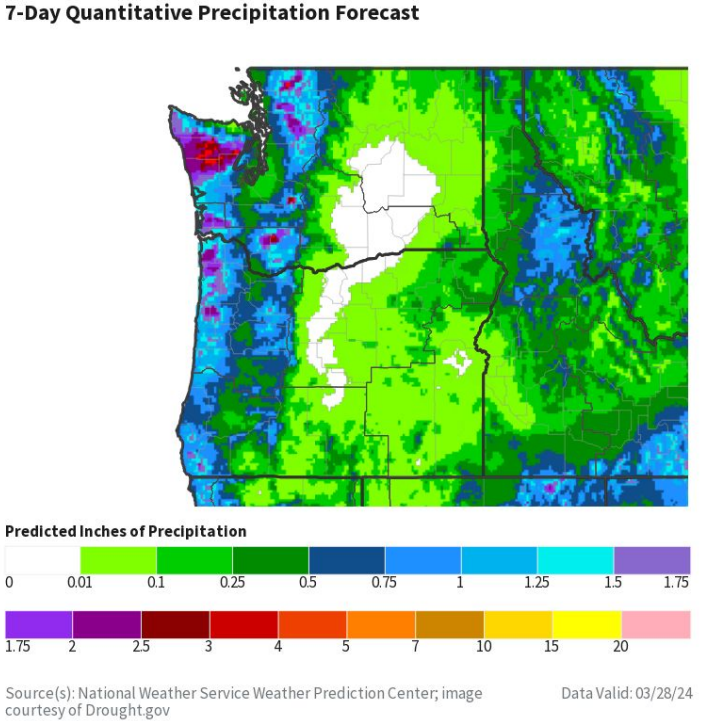


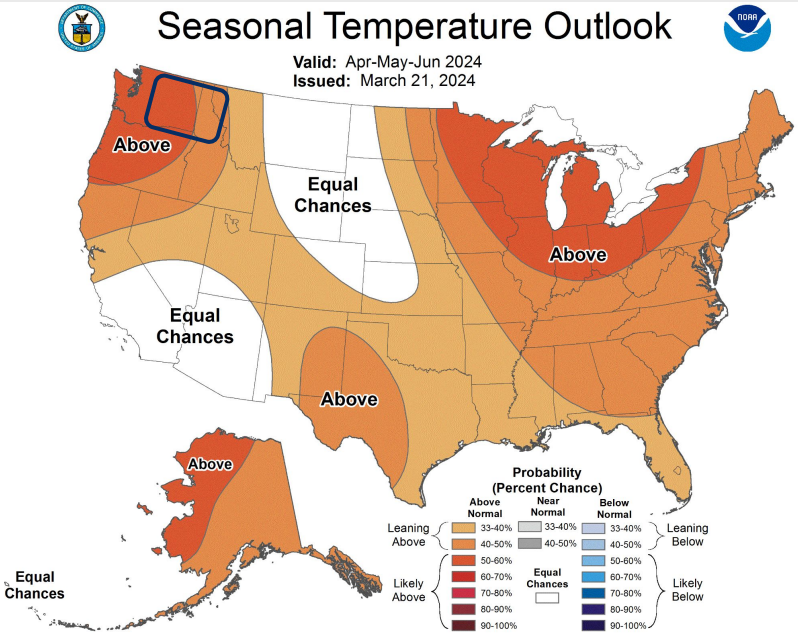

Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid March 27- April 3, 2024

# Long-Range Outlooks

**The latest seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage**

The April - May - June outlook leans toward a 50-60% chance of above normal temperatures.

Precipitation is leaning toward 33-40% of below normal for the Cascades. Equal chance of near, below, to above normal precipitation seen to the east.



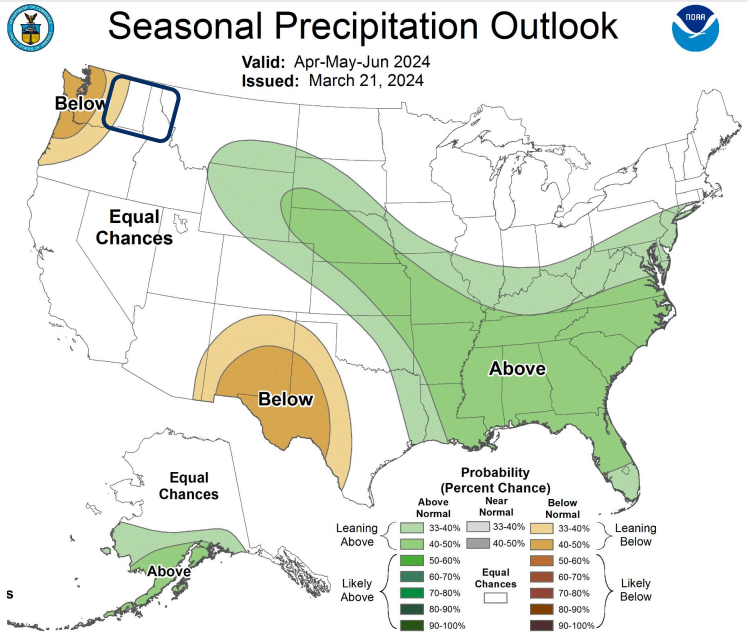



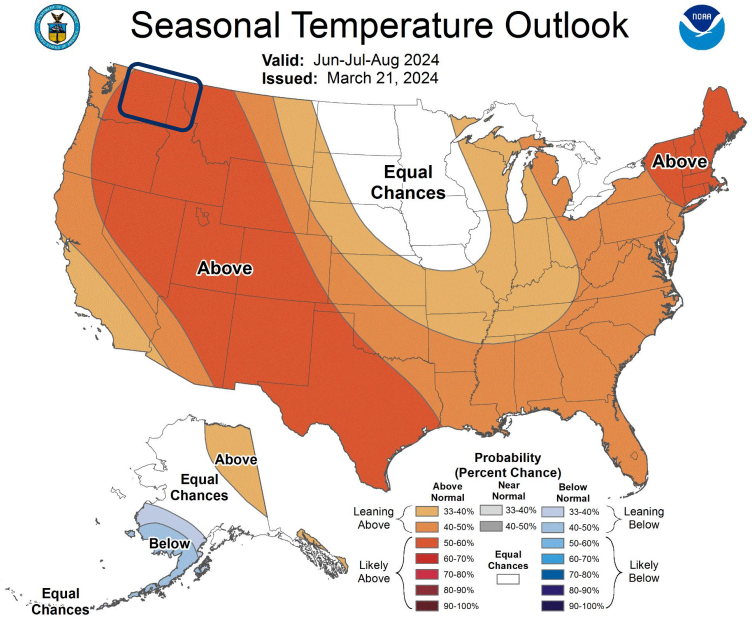

Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook.
Valid April - May - June 2024

# Long-Range Outlooks

**The latest seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage]**

The June - July - August outlook leans toward a 50-60% chance of above normal temperatures.

Precipitation is leaning toward 40-50% of below normal for below normal precipitation.



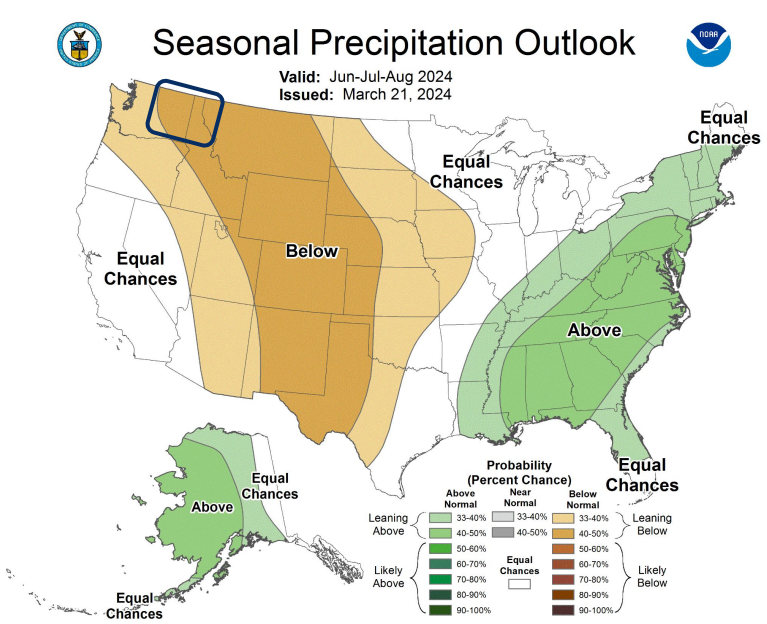




Image Captions:
Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook.]
Right - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook.]
Valid June - July - August 2024

# Drought Outlook

**The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage**

Where there is drought in the Cascades and north Idaho, it's likely to persist for the month and the season.

**1-Month Drought Outlook**

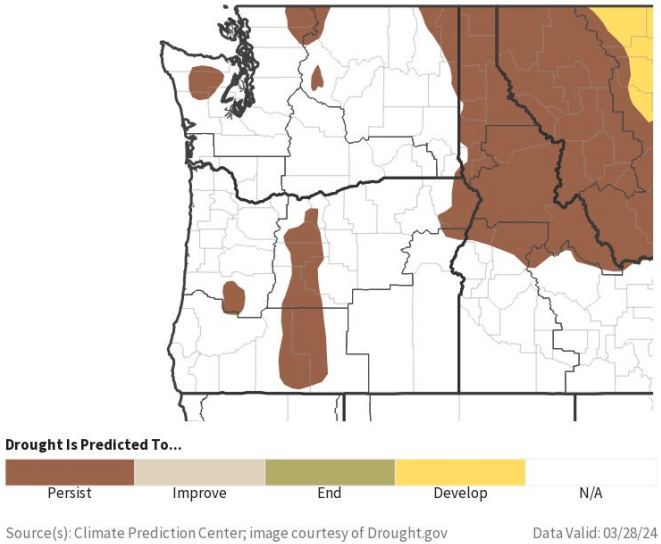



Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released February 29 2024 and valid for March 2024

**Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook**

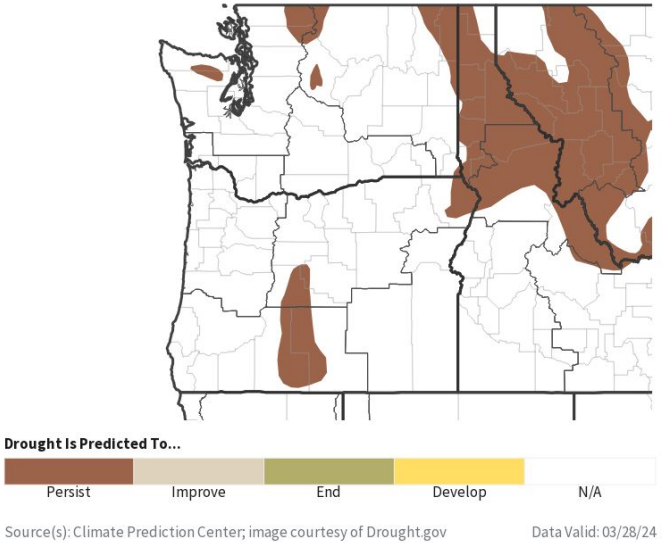



Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released March 21, 2024 and valid through June 2024