



Drought Information Statement for Eastern Washington & North Idaho

Valid April 18, 2024

Issued By: NWS Spokane, WA

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

- This product will be updated by May 16, 2024 or sooner if 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.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
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- DROUGHT PERSISTS ACROSS THE INLAND NW
 - Expansion of Moderate Drought over the northern Cascades
 - Degradation of Drought over the central ID Panhandle





U.S. Drought Monitor

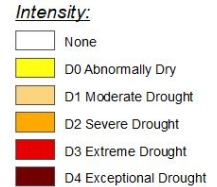
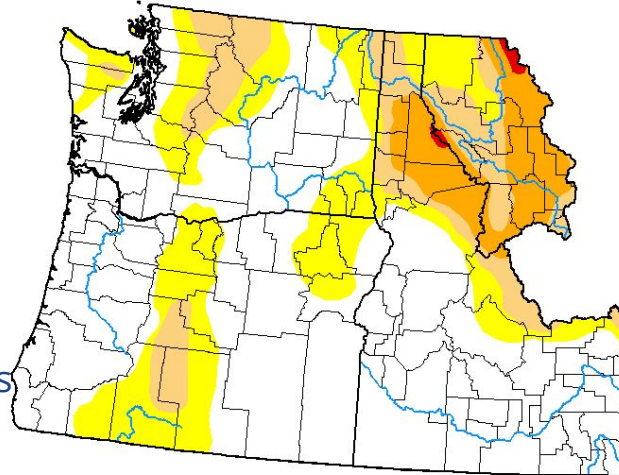
Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for eastern Washington and north Idaho

- Drought intensity and Extent

- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** a portion of central Idaho Panhandle, **near 1%**
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** central Idaho Panhandle, **near 10%**
- **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 29%**
- **NONE:** **Near 37%** in central & eastern WA!

U.S. Drought Monitor Pacific Northwest DEWS

April 16, 2024
(Released Thursday, Apr. 18, 2024)
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 <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Lindsay Johnson
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 7am EDT April 16, 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: parts of extreme northeast WA, east slopes of north Cascades, and much of Idaho Panhandle.
 - Drought Improved: Northeast WA, north central ID.
 - Drought degraded: east slopes of the northern Cascades and sliver of central ID.

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Pacific Northwest DEWS
4 Week

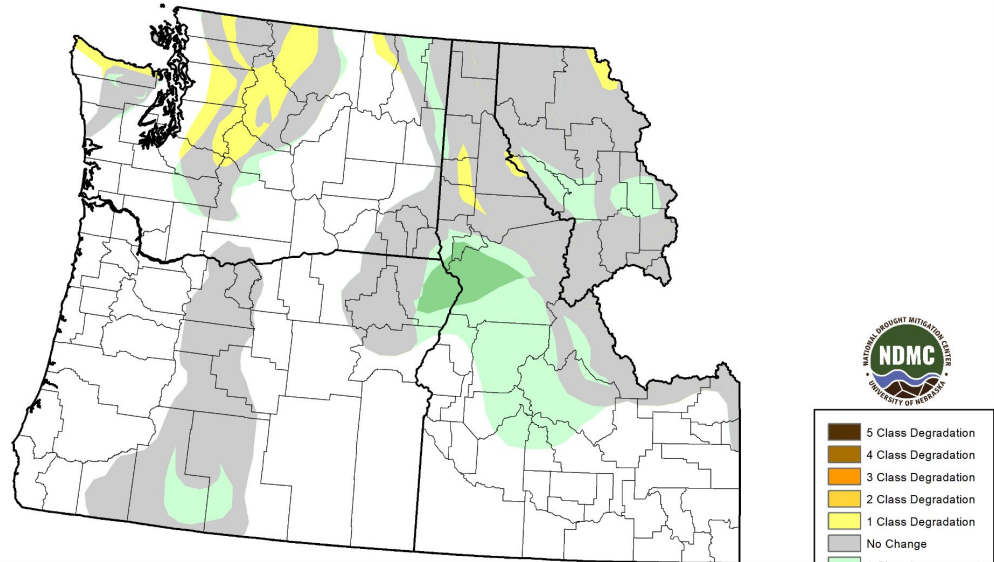


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 7am EDT April 16, 2024



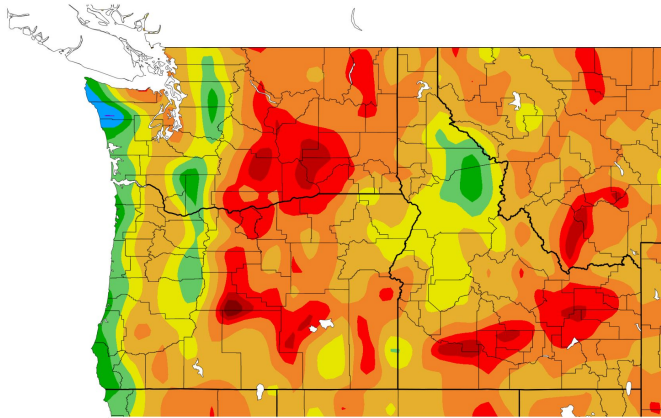


Precipitation

Last 30 Days

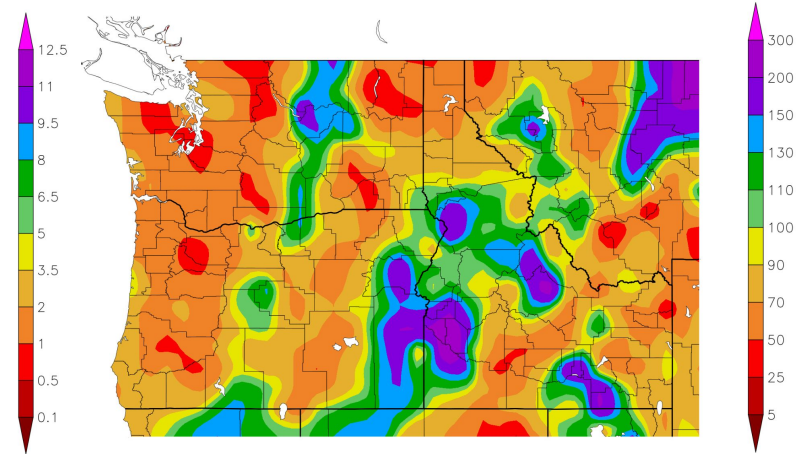
- Precipitation since mid March was above normal for portions of central WA and north central ID. Deficits in precipitation were pronounced near the crest of the Cascades and northeast WA into north ID.

Precipitation (in)
3/18/2024 - 4/16/2024



Generated 4/17/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
3/18/2024 - 4/16/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers /17/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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 April 16, 2024



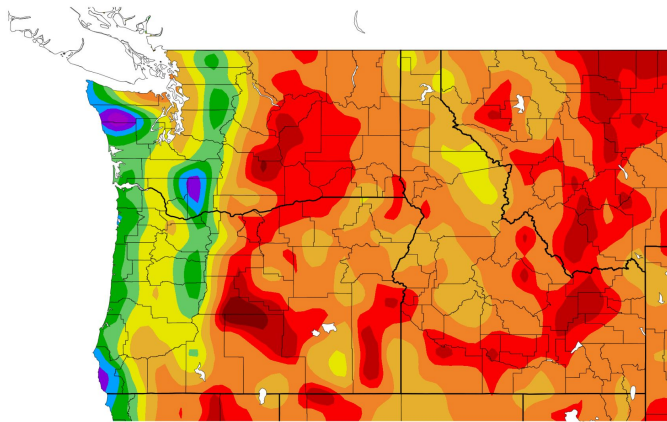


Precipitation

For the Water Year - since Oct 1, 2023

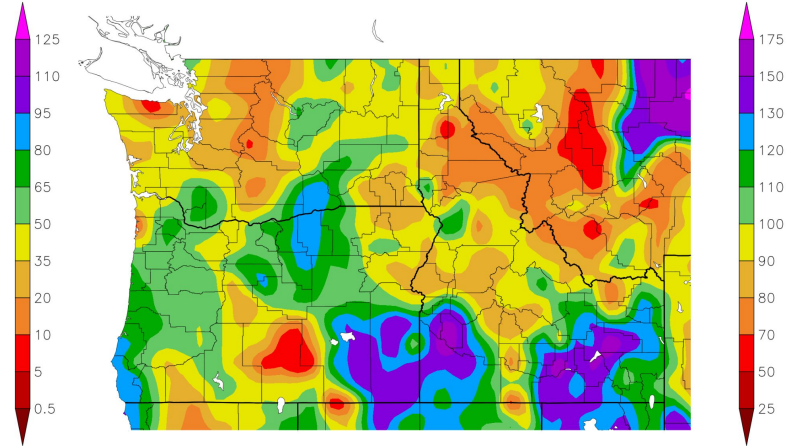
- Water Year Precipitation reflects the long term deficits in precipitation near the crest of the Cascades and over the central ID Panhandle.

Precipitation (in)
10/1/2023 - 4/14/2024



Generated 4/15/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/1/2023 - 4/14/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 4/15/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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 April 14, 2024



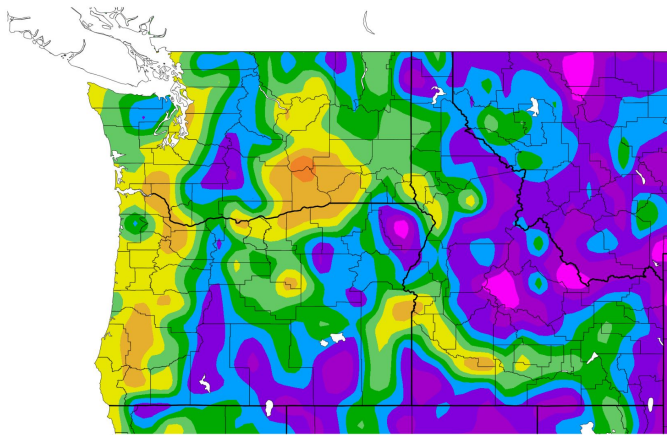


Temperature

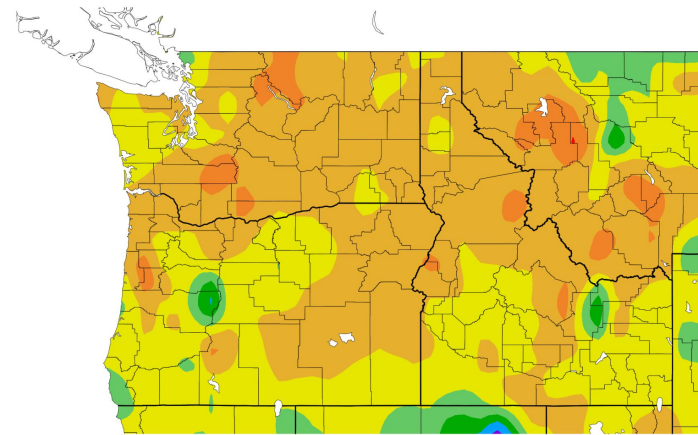
Last 30 Days

- Temperatures since mid March trended above normal across the region by 2 to 4 degrees.

Temperature (F)
3/18/2024 - 4/16/2024



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
3/18/2024 - 4/16/2024



Generated 4/17/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Generated 4/17/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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 April 16, 2024



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Spokane, WA



Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Stream flows have been near to above normal across the unregulated rivers across the Inland NW due to the mild temperatures and runoff from mountain snowmelt.

Agricultural Impacts

- Fieldwork started. Fruit trees were blooming in central WA. Grass showed good growth yet winter wheat needed more rain to improve in parts of the Columbia Basin.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Mountain Snow Impacts

- Snowpack remains below normal across the Inland NW spanning from 56% to near 77% of normal for Snow Water Equivalent. Mountain snowpack peaks by April 1st.

Mitigation Actions

- WA declared a [Drought Emergency](#) for much of the state on April 16th.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Stream flows over the past 7 days have been near to above normal across the unregulated rivers across the Inland Northwest due to the mild temperatures and runoff from mountain snowmelt.
- More variable steam flows were seen on the controlled rivers like portions of the mid Columbia and Pend Oreille Rivers.

Hednesday, April 17, 2024

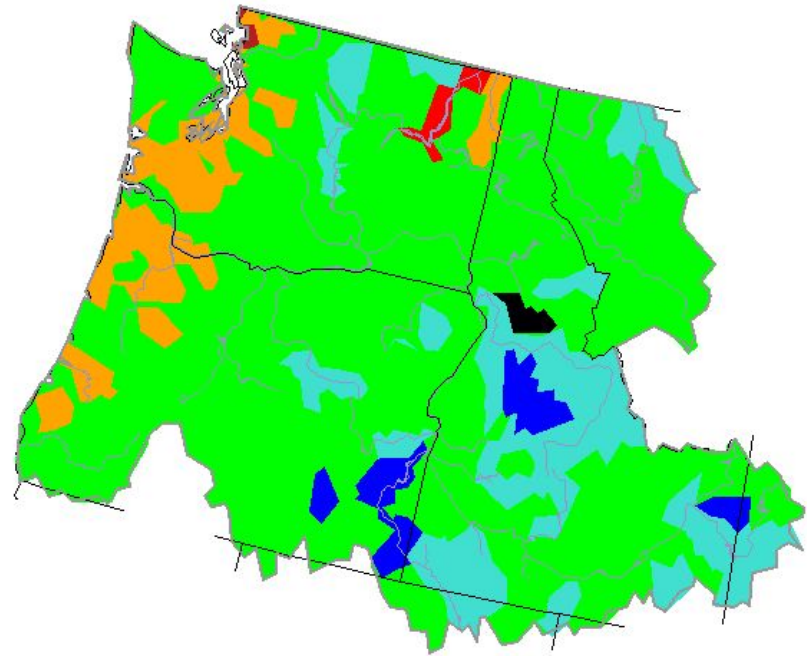


Image Caption: [USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map](#) valid April 17, 2024

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		

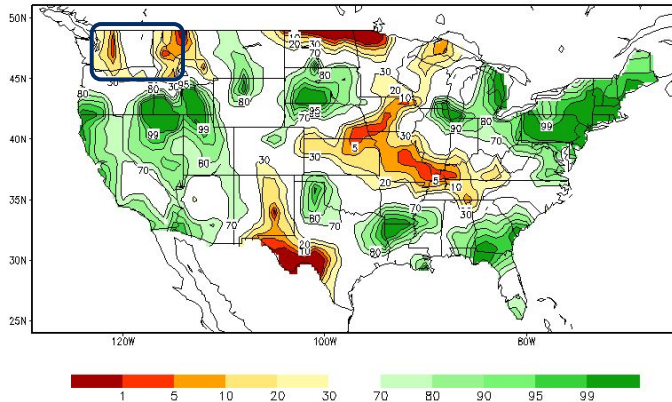




Agricultural Conditions and Impacts

- 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 southern Idaho Panhandle. Fieldwork started. Fruit trees were blooming in central WA. Grass showed good growth yet winter wheat needed more rain to improve in parts of the Columbia Basin.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
APR 14, 2024



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending APR 6, 2024
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

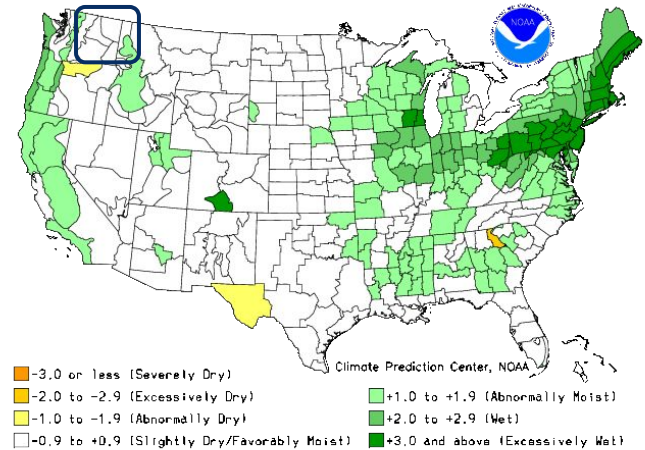


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid April 14, 2024

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending April 6, 2024





Mountain Snowpack Conditions and Impacts

- Snowpack remains below normal across the Inland NW spanning from 56% to near 77% of normal for Snow Water Equivalent.
- Peak mountain snowpack is April 1st. Mild temperatures over the last month has led to continued snowmelt at the mid slope elevations with snow persisting at the higher elevations.

Snow Water Equivalent	Westwide SNOTEL Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median	April 17, 2024, end of day
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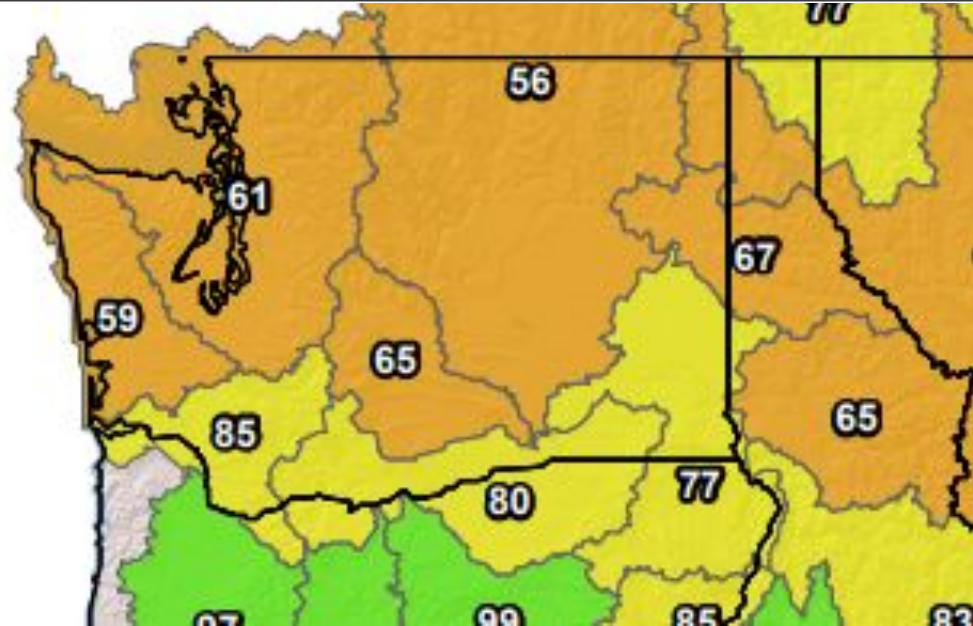


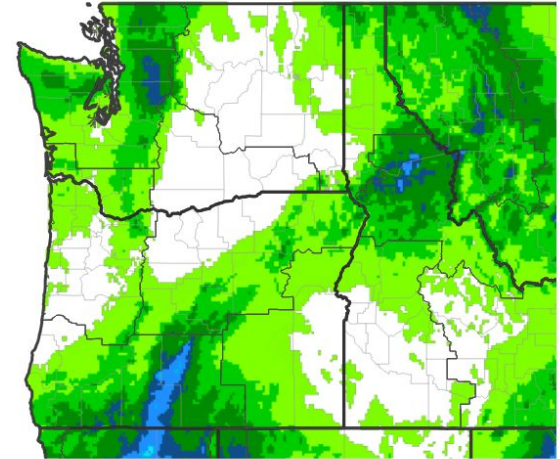
Image Captions:
[Westwide SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent](#) percentage .
 Daily value ending April 17, 2024



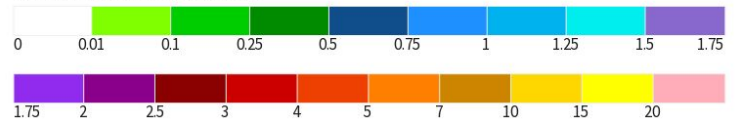
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Here is a forecast of precipitation for the Pacific NW for the upcoming week.
- Rounds of showers are expected for most of the mountain areas for the upcoming week while the lowlands of Columbia Basin remain dry.
- The 8-14 day outlook leans seasonal temperatures and above normal precipitation for the end of April.
- The monthly outlook for May leans toward milder temperatures with near to below normal precipitation.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 04/17/24

Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid April 18-25, 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.

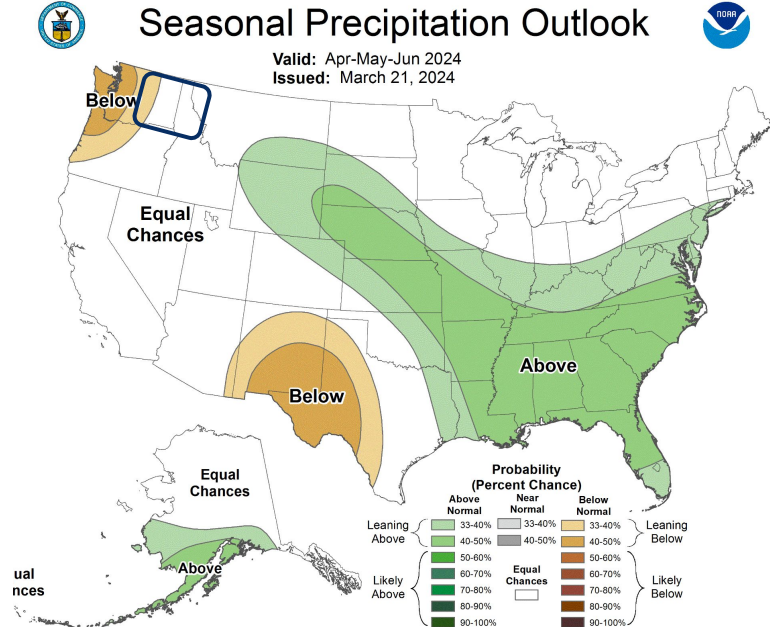
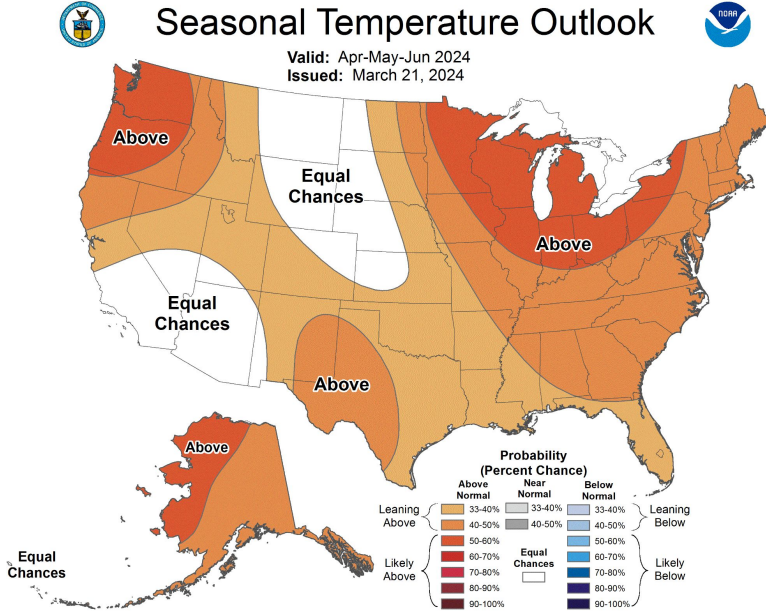


Image Captions:

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.

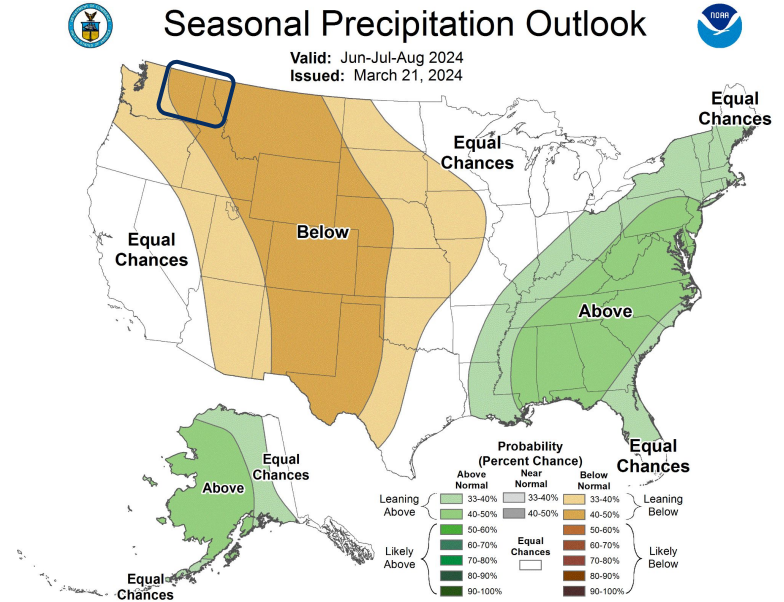
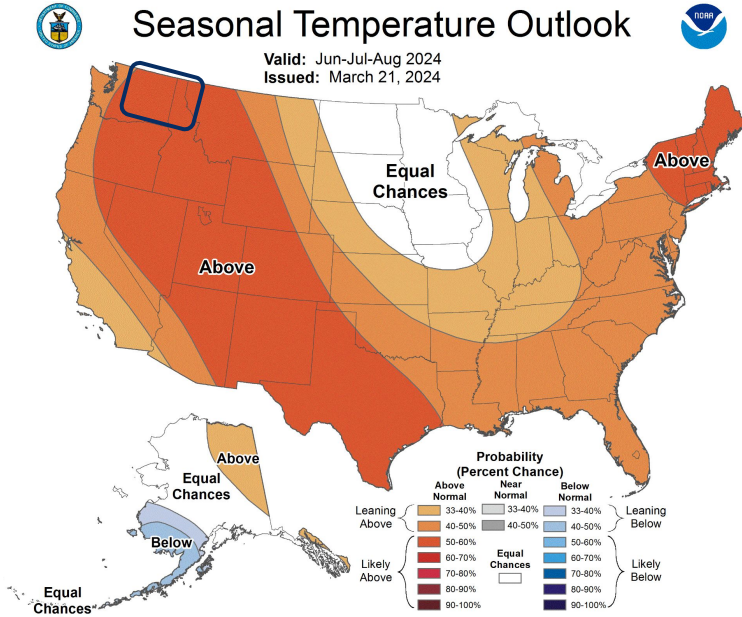


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook](#).

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook](#).

Valid June - July - August 2024



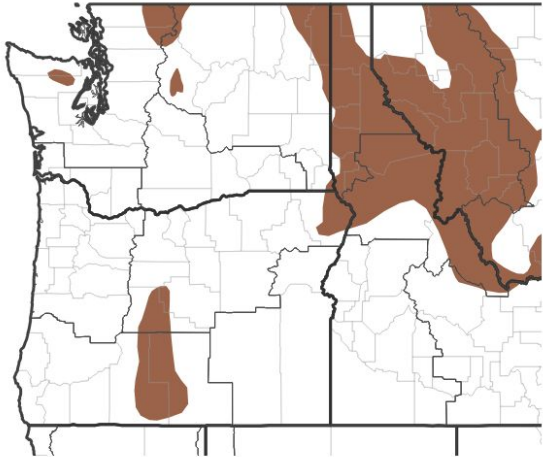


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

Where drought exists in the Cascades and north Idaho is likely to persist for the month and the season.

1-Month Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



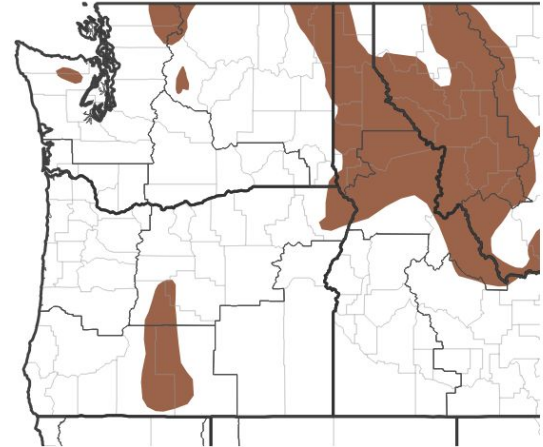
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/12/24

Image Caption:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#) Released March 31, 2024 and valid for April 2024

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/12/24

Image Caption:

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#) Released March 31, 2024 and valid through June 2024

