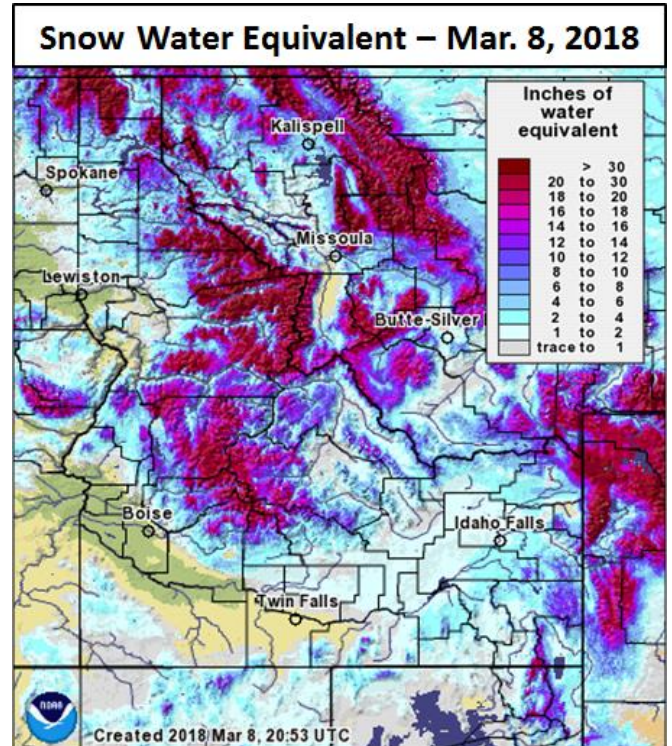


Idaho Spring Flood and Water Resources Outlook

The potential for spring flooding due to snowmelt is slightly elevated for portions of eastern and northern Idaho. The spring flood risk for the rest of the state is average to below average.

Good soil moisture recharge from autumn rains and well above average reservoir storage has resulted in a slightly elevated threat of spring flooding along the mainstem Snake River in eastern Idaho, and along smaller tributaries above Idaho Falls. Spring flood risk is also slightly elevated in the Northern Panhandle Region which is currently holding some of the highest snowpack percentages in the state. Elsewhere, the absence of low elevation snow and average to below average snowpack at higher elevations suggests an average or below average spring flood threat. One thing to remember is that snowpack in Idaho generally peaks in early April, leaving a few more weeks to potentially add to our snowpack and change the flood potential.

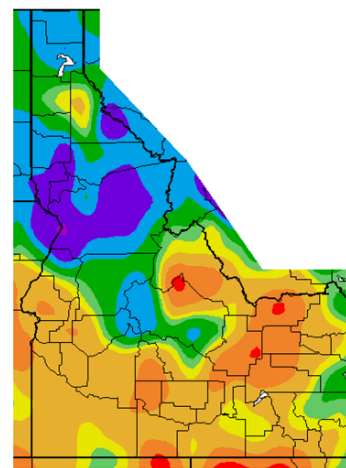


The primary factors in the development of spring flooding are the occurrence of persistent above normal temperatures, and rain on snow precipitation events. Even for areas that have low snowpack, spring flooding is possible under the right conditions. Additionally, wildfire burn scars can have a significant impact on local flood potential during spring snowmelt.

Precipitation and Temperature

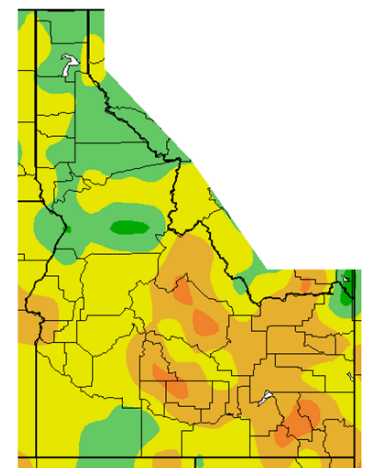
As of early March, Water Year precipitation was above average for the Northern Panhandle, Spokane, and Clearwater Basins. The Clearwater Basin had the greatest anomalies at 130 to 150 percent of average. The Salmon Basin and Upper Snake Basin near the Wyoming border were around 100 percent of average. Elsewhere in southern and southwest Idaho the Water Year precipitation was mostly in the 70 to 90 percent range with a few areas at 50

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
10/1/2017 - 3/6/2018



Generated 3/7/2018 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Ave. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
10/1/2017 - 3/6/2018

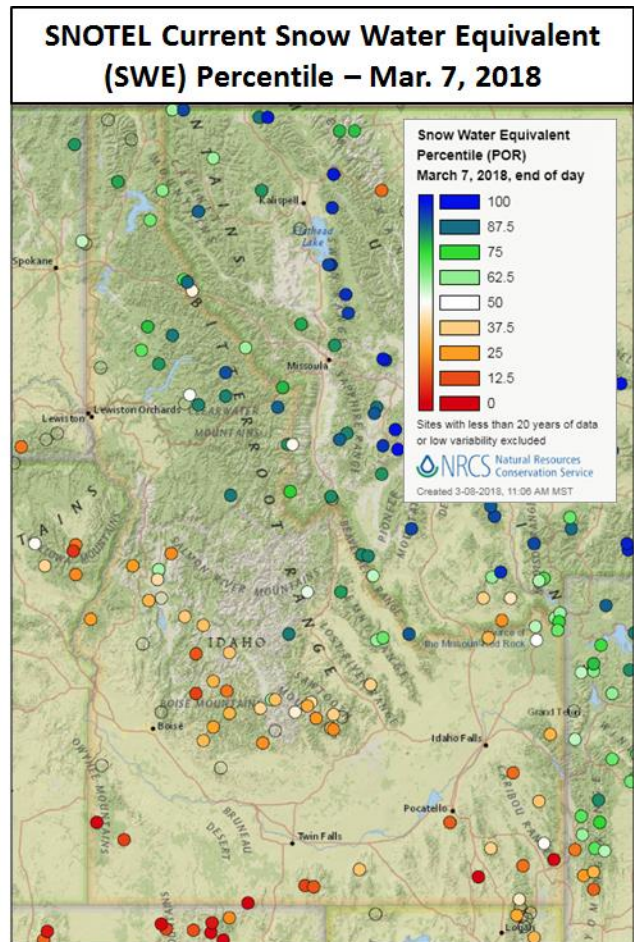
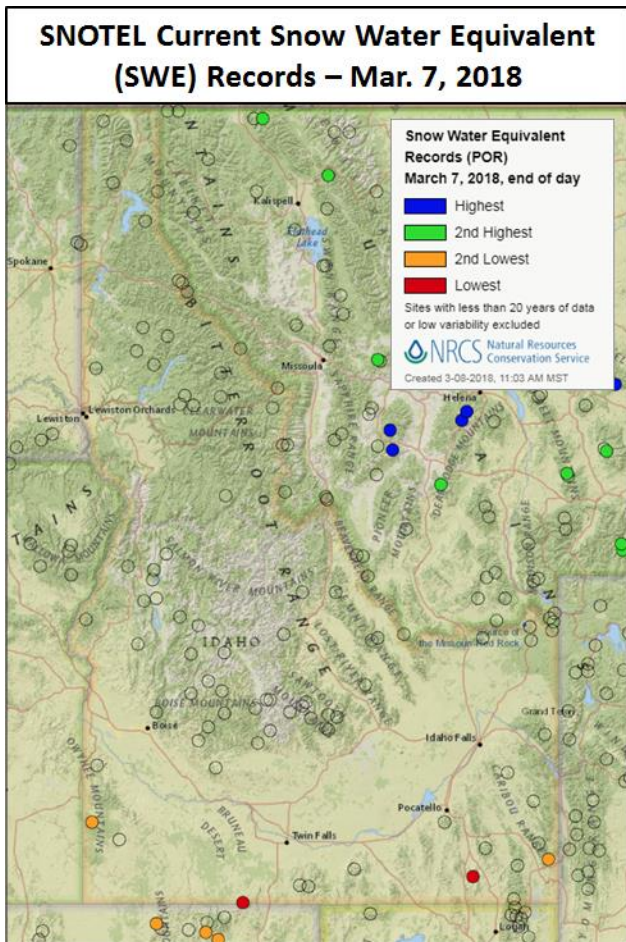
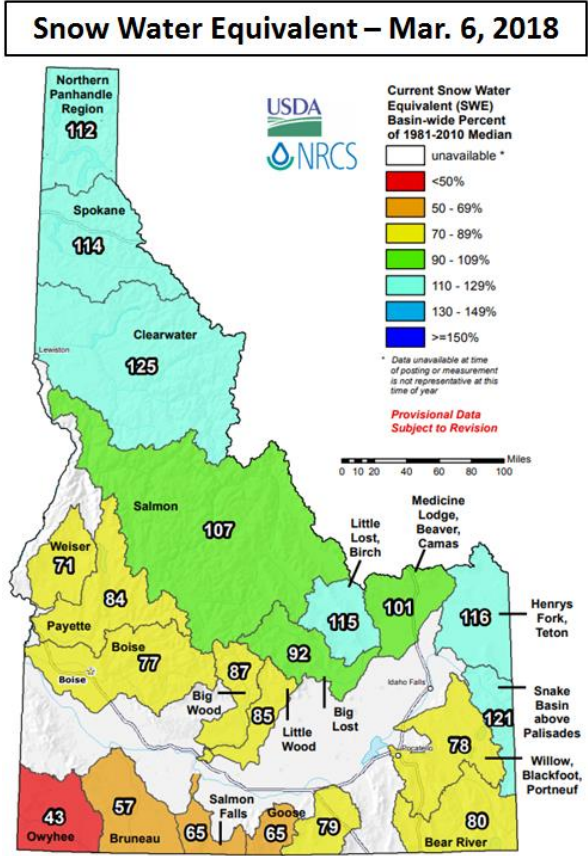


Generated 3/7/2018 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

to 60 percent of average. Average temperatures for the Water Year have been around average across the northern half of Idaho while anomalies have generally been a few degrees above average across southern Idaho.

Snowpack

As of March 6, the highest snowpack percentages in the state ranged from 112 and 125 percent of median near the Wyoming border, Little Lost and Birch Basins, the Clearwater, Spokane and Northern Panhandle Region. The lowest snowpack percentages were 43 to 65 percent of median in southwest Idaho along the Nevada border. For the remainder of central and southern Idaho, snowpack percentages ranged from 71 percent of median in the Weiser Basin to 107 percent of median in the Salmon Basin. Mountain snowpack in Idaho typically builds through March, and early April snow conditions will be pivotal to water supply conditions through the summer.



Reservoirs

Reservoir storage across Idaho is in good shape overall. As of March 1, storage in major reservoir systems from the Panhandle south through the Clearwater Basin was at 85 to 90 percent of average. Across the southern half of the state, with the exception of Brownlee at 84 percent and Mann Creek at 54 percent of average, most major projects had well above average storage which is great news considering the below average snowpack in many basins. Weather patterns and irrigation demand will drive reservoir operations over the next several months. Wet spring weather or extended periods of warmth resulting in rapid snowmelt could result in significant increases in reservoir outflows and river levels.

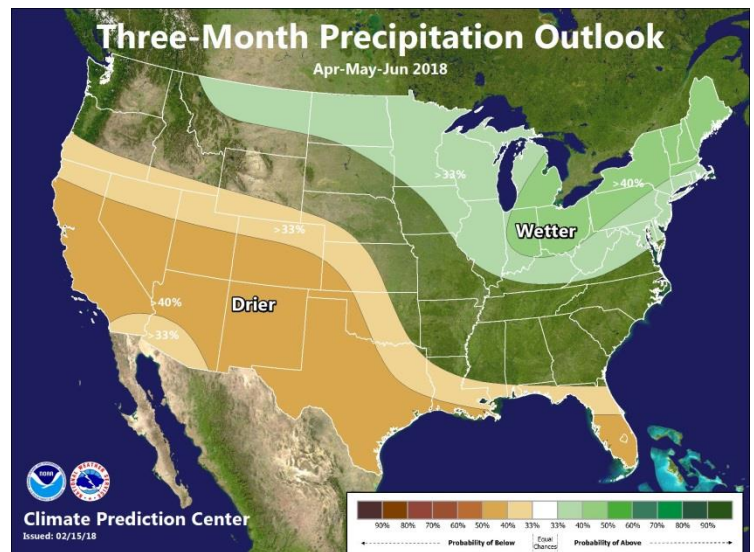
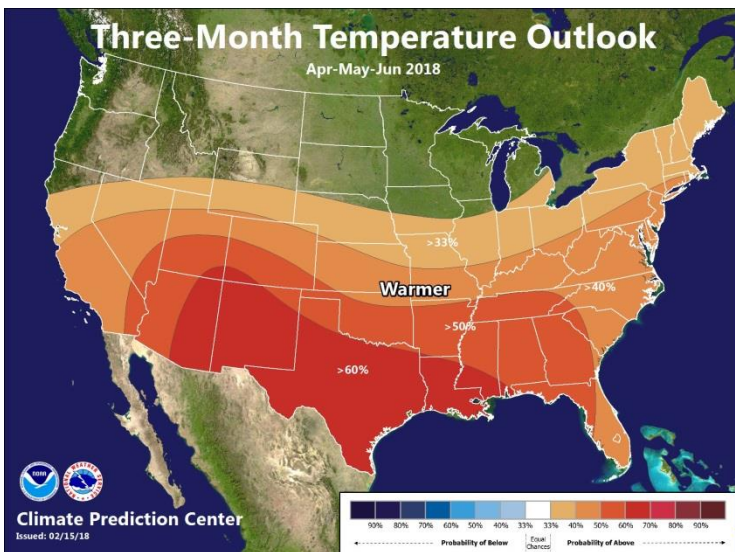
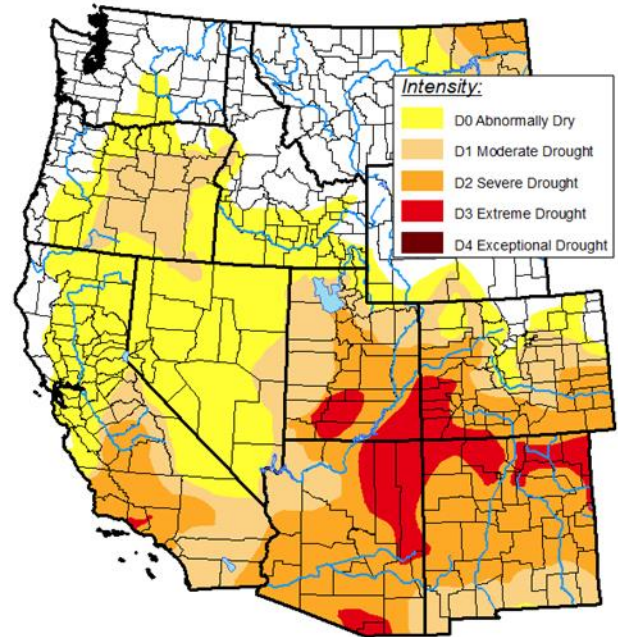
Drought

After record setting precipitation and snowpack last year, abnormally dry conditions have returned to portions of west central and southern Idaho due to lagging winter precipitation. Weather and precipitation through this spring will determine whether or not conditions improve or deteriorate for areas experiencing short term dryness. Good reservoir carryover will help ease drought concerns for those served by major storage projects.

Long Range Outlook

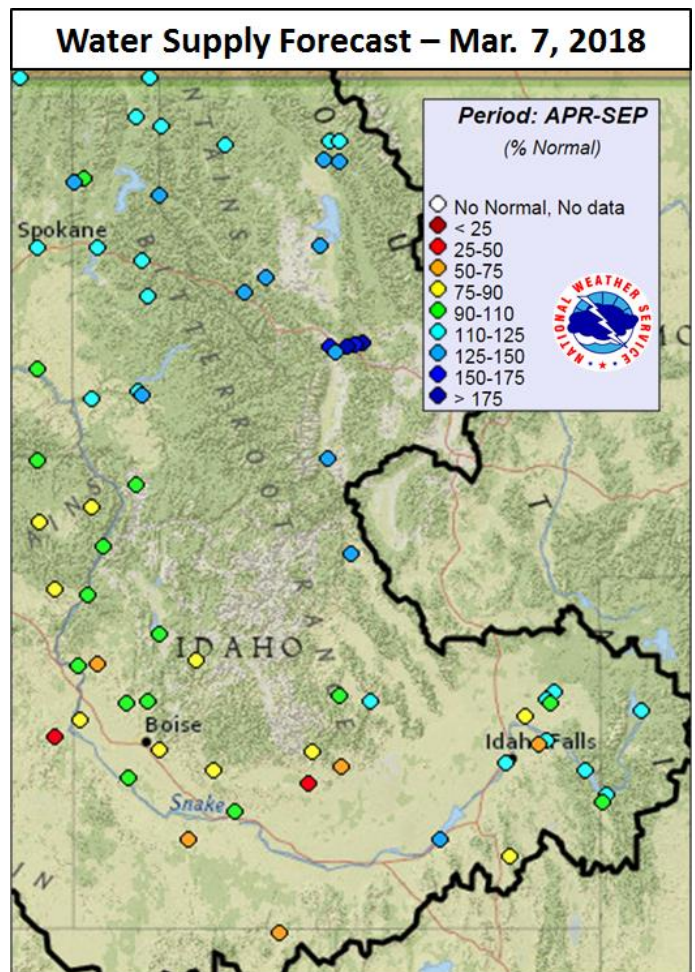
The outlook through the rest of March favors near normal to below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation for the state. The seasonal outlook for April through June leans toward warmer and drier than normal conditions near the Nevada and Utah border. For the rest of the state, neither above normal or below normal temperature and precipitation is favored during the April through June period.

U.S. Drought Monitor Mar. 6, 2018



Water Supply Forecasts

National Weather Service April through September water supply volume forecasts vary from 88 to 137 percent of average for most of the Central Mountains north across the Panhandle. In southern Idaho, forecasts for the Big Lost Basin, the mainstem Snake River as well as its tributaries above American Falls range from 78 to 123 percent of average, with the exception of Willow Creek near Ririe which is 66 percent of average. Forecasts for the rest of southern Idaho range from 45 to 107 percent of average with the lowest percentages across lower reaches of the Wood River Basins and far southwest Idaho. These forecasts may change considerably over the next month or two since seasonal snow accumulation and rainfall typically occur during March and April.



On-line Resource

Water Supply Volume Forecasts...

National Weather Service-Northwest River Forecast Center www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/ws/

National Weather Service-Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/id/snow/

Snowpack Information...

National Weather Service-Northwest River Forecast Center
www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/snow/

National Weather Service-National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center
www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/id/snow/

Reservoir Storage...

Bureau of Reclamation Reservoir Storage

www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/select.html

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/basin.html

Drought Information...

U.S. Drought Portal

www.drought.gov

U.S. Drought Monitor

www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

National Drought Mitigation Center

www.drought.unl.edu/

Peak Flow Forecasts...

Northwest River Forecast Center

www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/peak/

Colorado Basin River Forecast Center

www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/rmap/peak/peaklist.php

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook...

Climate Prediction Center

www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/