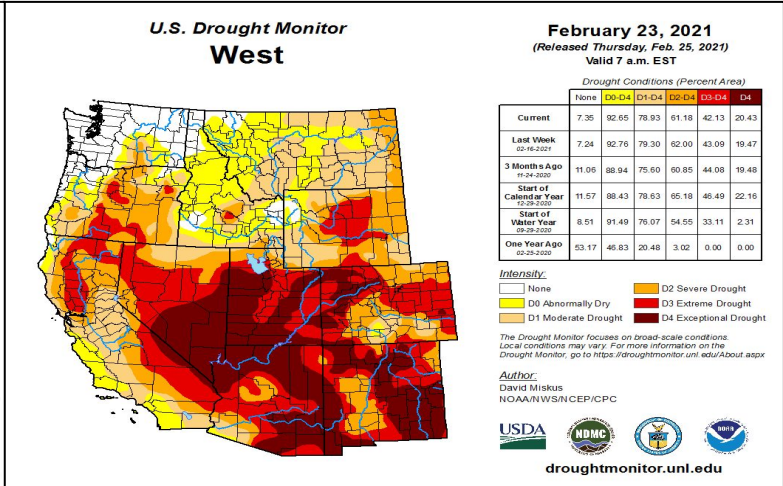
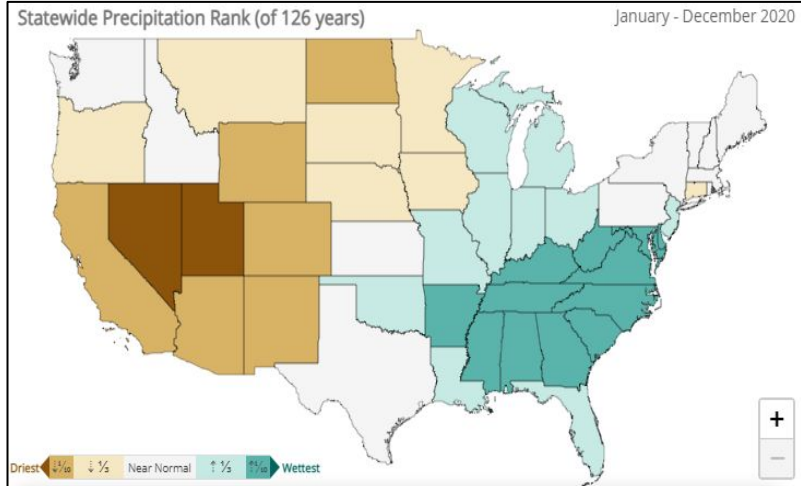




Drought Conditions Persist: Reducing Spring Flooding Concerns Across Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah with Fire Weather Concerns Continuing

Setting the Stage: *Precipitation and Soil Moisture*

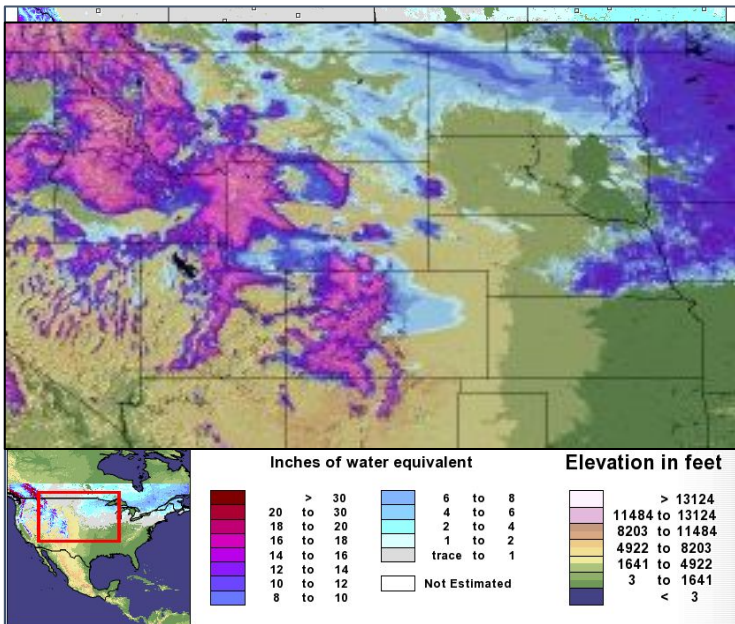
2020 marked a very dry year across much of the region with many statewide precipitation averages falling in the driest 1/3 of all years on record, including Utah which recorded its driest statewide average precipitation on record. As a result of these abnormally dry conditions, drought continues to expand across the entire region.



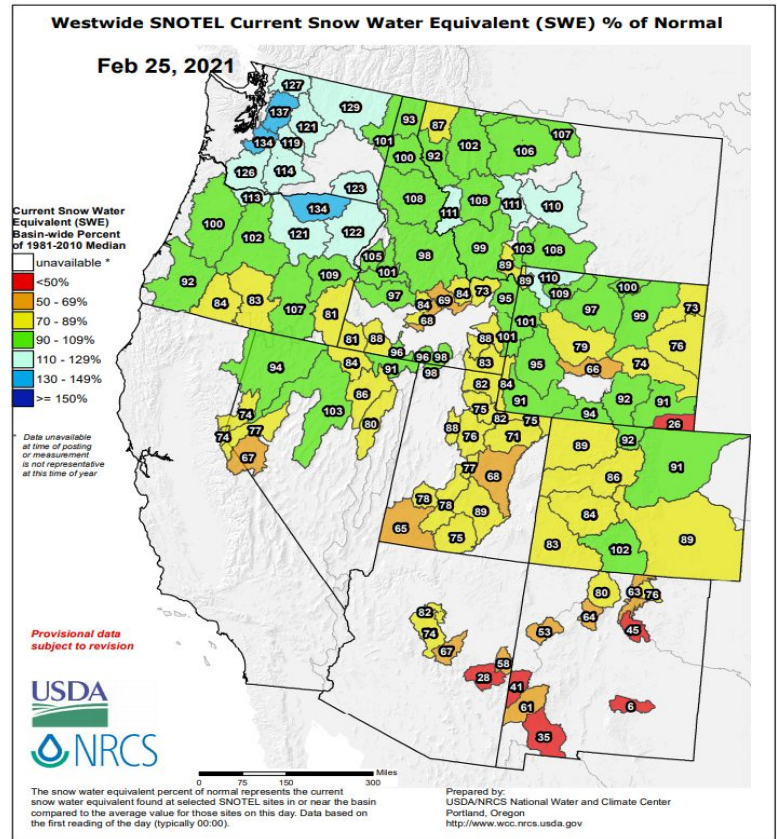
ABOVE LEFT: States in the Mountain West Region experienced a very dry 2020. (Source: www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)
ABOVE RIGHT: The latest US Drought Monitor valid February 23, 2021. (Source: droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Setting the Stage: *Snow Pack*

The seasonal snowpack continues to build across the region and will do so through late April or early May. Overall, the mountain snowpack is running normal to slightly below normal for most areas.



ABOVE: Snow Water Equivalent Map as of February 25, 2021. Source: OWP/NOHRSC



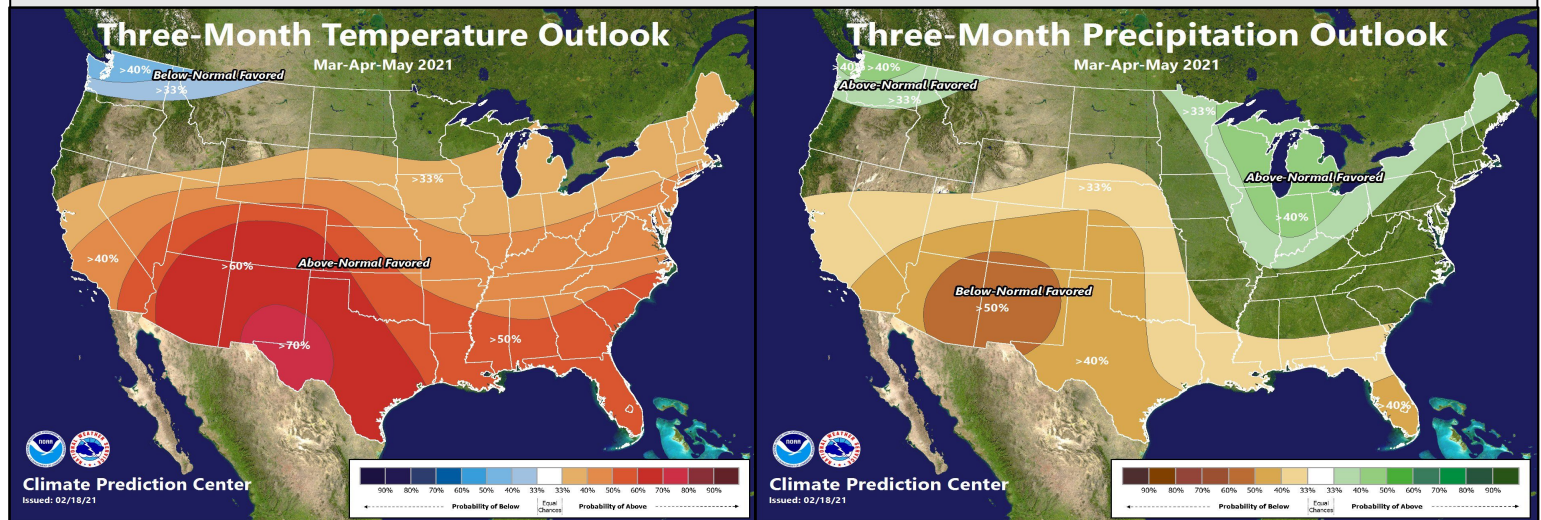
ABOVE: Snow Water Equivalent Map as a Percent of Normal February 25, 2021. Source: NRCS



Late Winter/Spring 2021: *Outlook*

Given the current outlook favoring above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation over much of Utah, Colorado, and southern Wyoming, drought conditions are expected to persist and perhaps worsen through the Spring and into the early Summer.

March - May 2021 Temperature and Precipitation Outlook



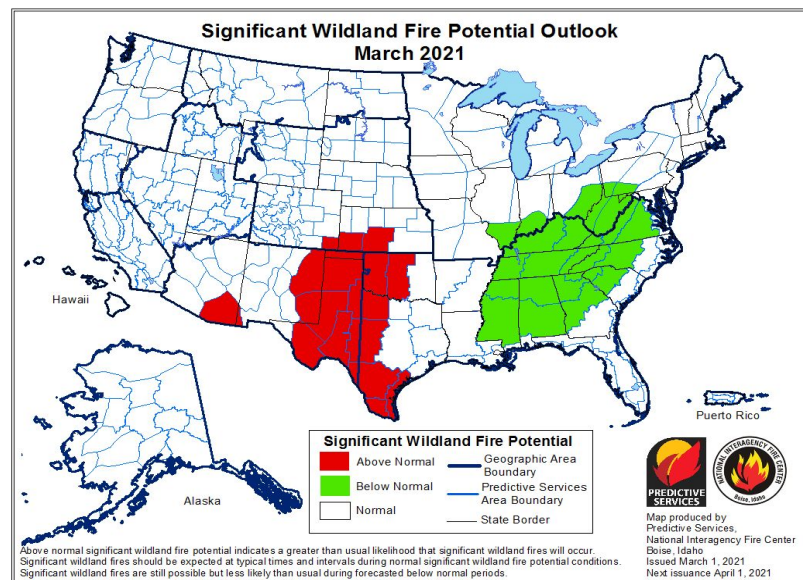
ABOVE: Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks for the period of March through May 2021.

Get the latest outlook at www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov.

Potential Impacts

Unusually low streamflow, water levels, and abnormally dry soil suggest the following potential impacts from Spring into Summer:

- Continued drought conditions through the Spring and Summer
- Potential for enhanced wildland fire activity given the presence of dry fuels
- Stress on water resources for communities
- Potential Impacts for water recreation and/or tourism
- Lack of water resources of crop and livestock



ABOVE: The outlook for March 2021 indicates Above Normal potential for Significant Wildland Fire across southeast Colorado and southwest Kansas.

(Source: [NIFC Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlooks](#))

For more information visit:

Local Forecast – weather.gov

Long-Range Outlooks – cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

River Forecasts – water.weather.gov/ahps/forecasts.php

Weather & Climate Data – ncei.noaa.gov

Fire Outlook – nifc.gov/nicc

Drought Information – drought.gov

Agricultural Outlook – usda.gov/oce/ag-outlook-forum

Streamflow Data - <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?id=ww>