

National Weather Service Medford

2022: December Climate Summary



*These data are preliminary and have not undergone final QC by NCEI. Therefore, these data are subject to revision. Final and certified climate data can be accessed at the [National Centers for Environmental Information \(NCEI\)](#).



December 2022 Weather Review

The weather pattern of December 2022 was quite similar to the previous month. Active weather continued during the first half of the month as several fronts passed through the region. These systems brought periods of strong gusty winds as well as beneficial rain and mountain snow.

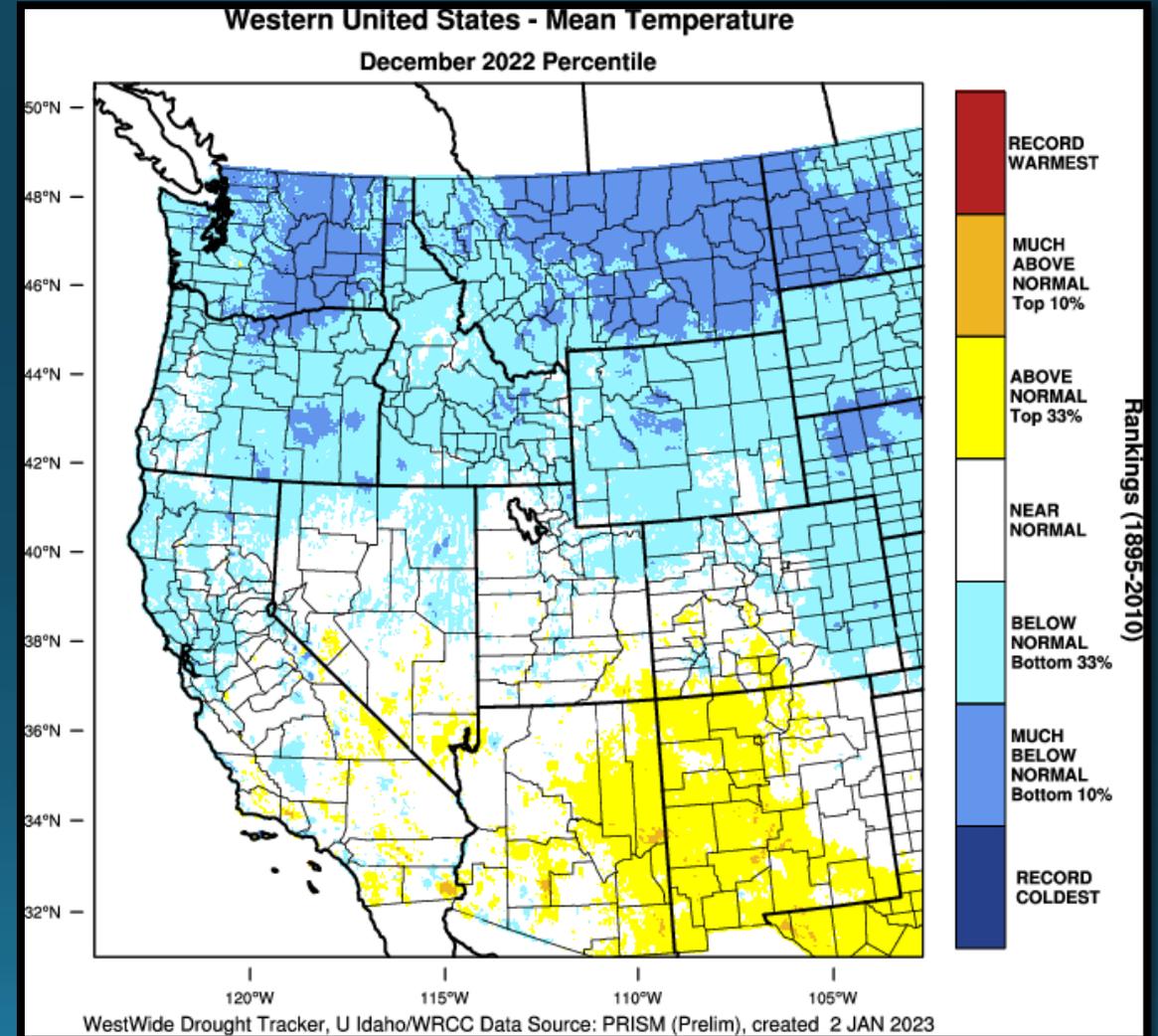
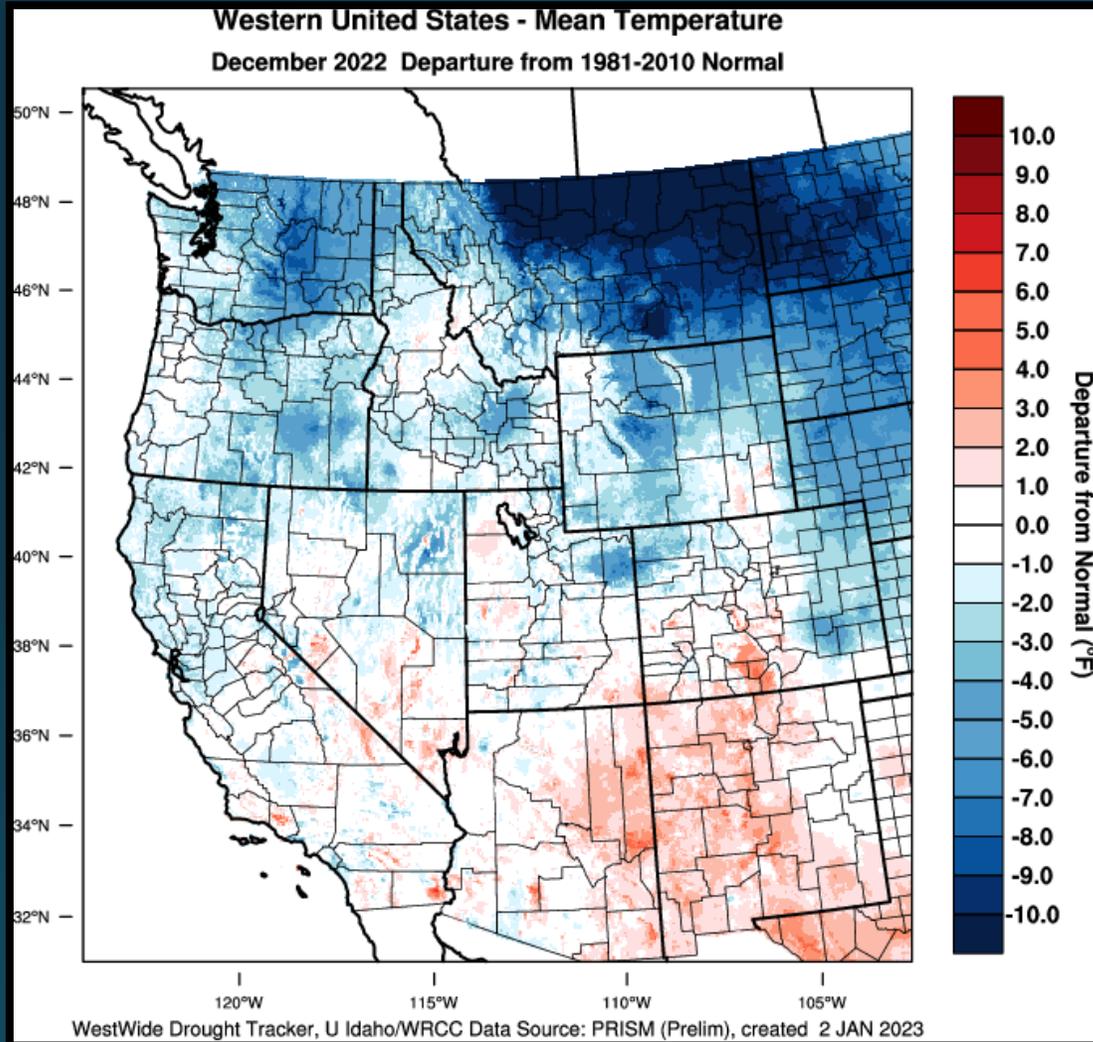
High pressure took up residence offshore over the eastern Pacific around the middle of the month and dominated the weather through around the 20th. This closed the storm door and dry conditions persisted with strong valley inversions, cold mornings and periods of morning fog for valleys west of the Cascades.

A few weak systems moved through the region during the week leading up to Christmas, but most of the precipitation associated with these was focused north of the OR/CA border. The weather turned more active, with stronger systems arriving just after Christmas. While some may have been dreaming of a "White Christmas", our region was setting record warm temperatures for the day of and the day after Christmas. Part of this was due to downsloping effects thanks to a strong storm that affected the region on the 26th and 27th. Strong, damaging winds were felt area wide with this front, even in the most sheltered valleys. In the Rogue Valley, for example, peak wind gusts of 52 mph and 51 mph on the 26th and 27th, respectively, were recorded at the Medford Airport. Winds this strong are uncommon on the valley floor in the Rogue Valley. While this was a warm system in general, downsloping effects in the Rogue Valley helped set a record high temperature on the 26th with 62°F.

After this strong system passed through the region, additional fronts followed and active weather continued through the end of the month and into the New Year. Overall, December 2022 was colder than normal with much of the region receiving above normal precipitation.



December 2022 Observed Temperatures





Average Temperatures

	Average (°F)	Departure from Normal	Average Max (°F)	Departure from Normal	Average Min (°F)	Departure from Normal
North Bend	45.9	-0.8	52.3	-0.6	39.5	-0.9
Roseburg	42.5	0.0	48.2	0.0	36.7	-0.1
Medford	39.5	0.1	46.6	0.5	32.5	-0.1
Klamath Falls	26.6	-3.8	34.8	-5.5	18.4	-2.2
Montague, CA	35.2	-0.6	42.4	-3.3	28.0	2.1
Mt. Shasta City, CA	33.7	-1.2	40.7	-1.4	26.8	-0.8
Alturas, CA	27.1	-3.4	36.9	-4.1	17.4	-2.6



Monthly Max & Min Temperatures

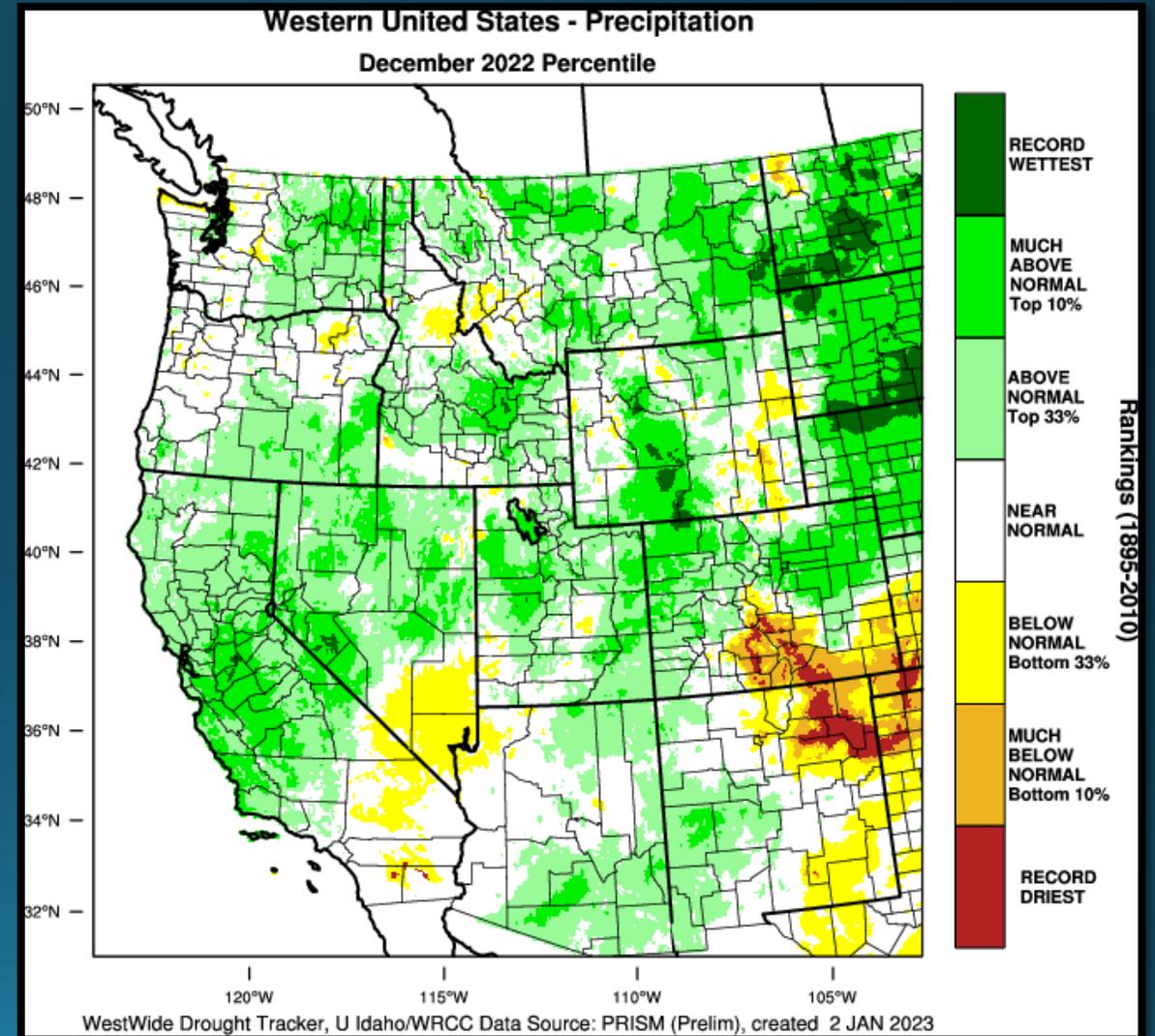
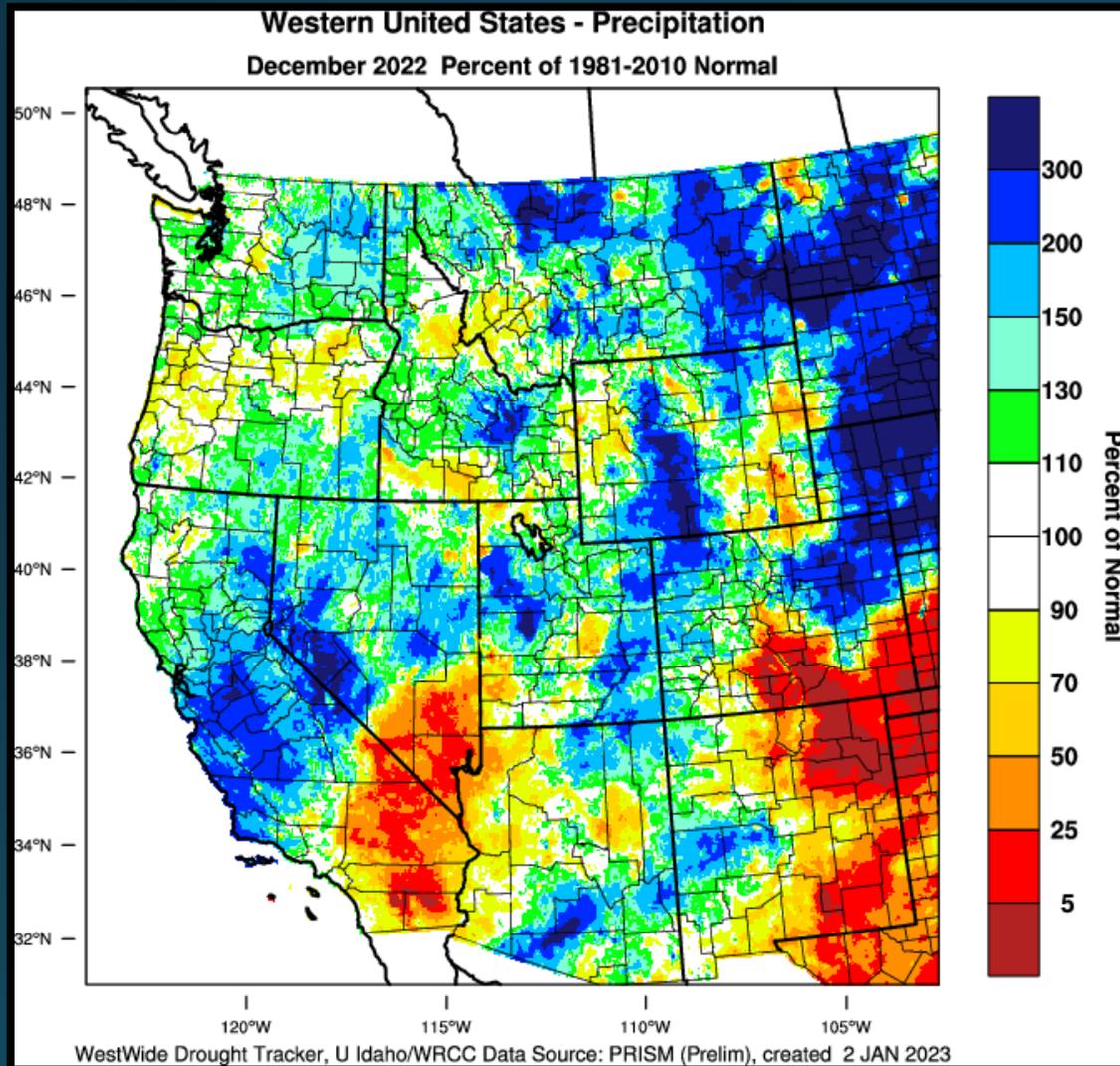
	Max (°F)	Date(s)	Min (°F)	Date(s)
<i>North Bend</i>	62°	25 th	30°	17 th
<i>Roseburg</i>	64°	26 th	30°	17 th
<i>Medford</i>	62°	26 th	18°	18 th
<i>Klamath Falls</i>	51°	26 th	0°	17 th & 18 th
<i>Montague, CA</i>	56°	26 th	13°	18 th
<i>Mt. Shasta City, CA</i>	57°	25 th	12°	2 nd
<i>Alturas, CA</i>	54°	25 th	-3°	2 nd & 18 th

	Date	Record High	Old Record/Year
<i>Medford</i>	26 th	62°	60° / 1980
<i>Roseburg</i>	26 th	64°	60° / 1933
<i>Mt Shasta City</i>	25 th	57°	Ties w/1980
<i>Montague</i>	26 th	56°	50° / 2005

	Date	Record Low	Old Record/Year
<i>Klamath Falls</i>	3 rd	9°	Ties w/2018
<i>Mt Shasta City</i>	2 nd	12°	17° / 1990
<i>Alturas</i>	2 nd	-3°	2° / 2004
	3 rd	-1°	Ties w/ 2004
<i>Montague</i>	18 th	13°	Ties w/2008

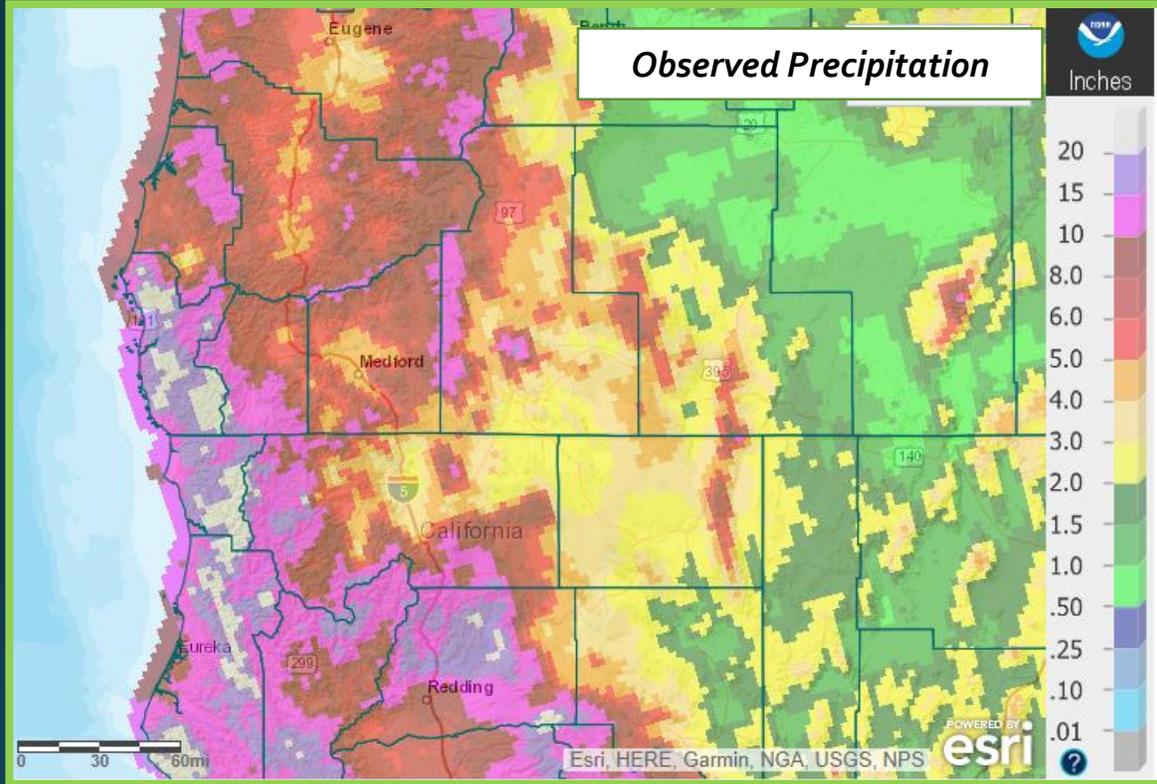


December 2022 Observed Precipitation





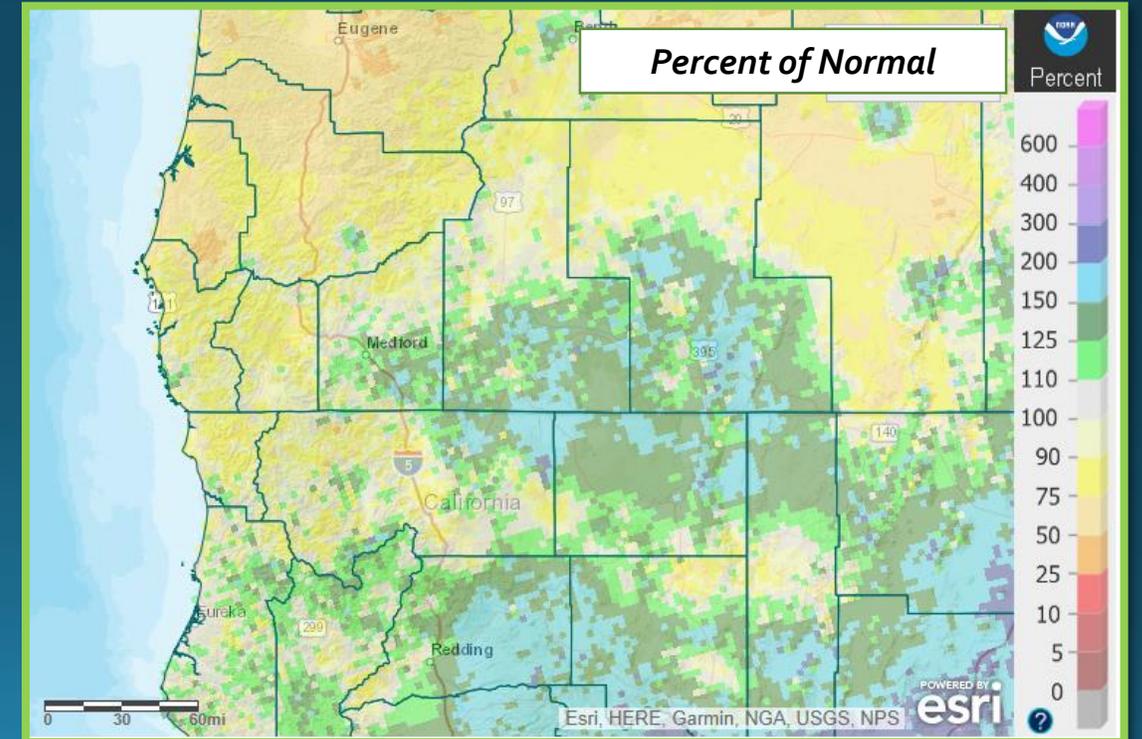
December Precipitation



	Total	Departure from Normal	Greatest 24-hr Total	Date(s)
North Bend	8.49"	-1.98"	1.63"	26 th – 27 th
Roseburg	4.88"	-1.17"	1.10"	26 th – 27 th
Medford	4.04"	0.51"	1.29"	26 th – 27 th
Klamath Falls	2.99"	1.19"	1.07"	30 th – 31 st
Montague, CA	2.13"	-0.12"	0.93"	26 th – 27 th
Mt. Shasta City, CA	5.80"	-0.81"	1.77"	26 th – 27 th
Alturas, CA	2.68"	1.21"	0.58"	29 th – 30 th

Record Precipitation

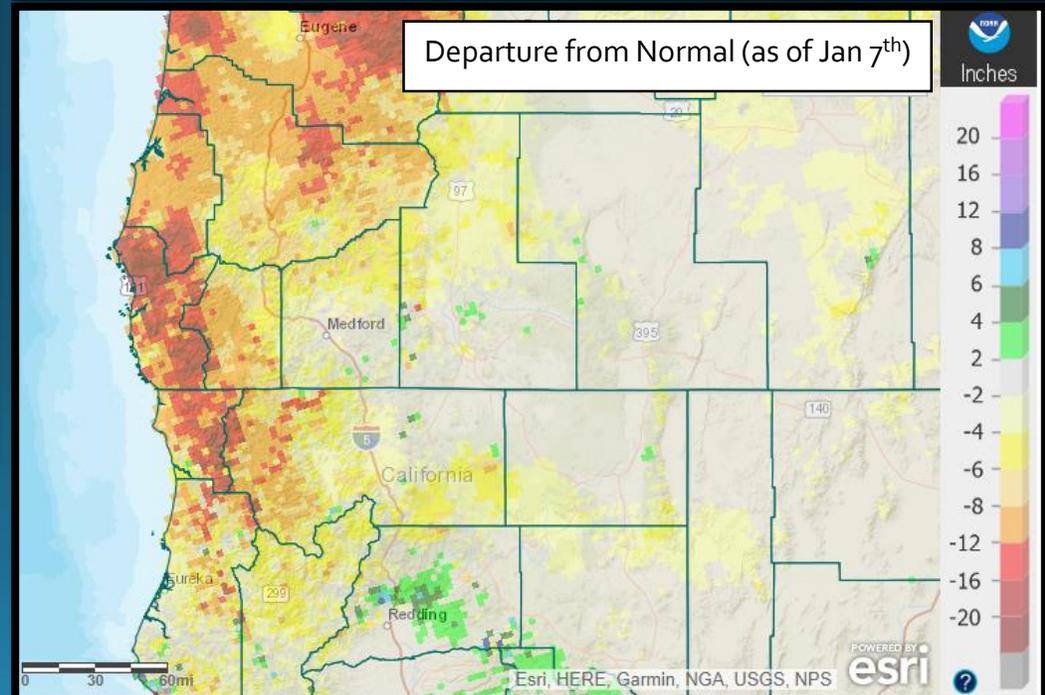
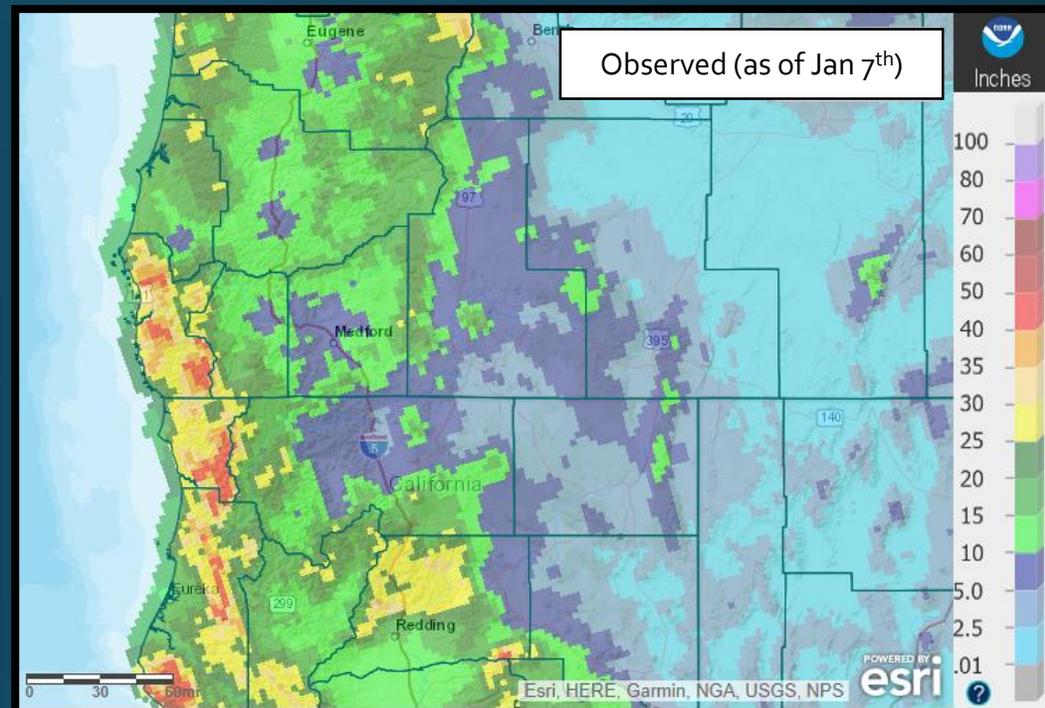
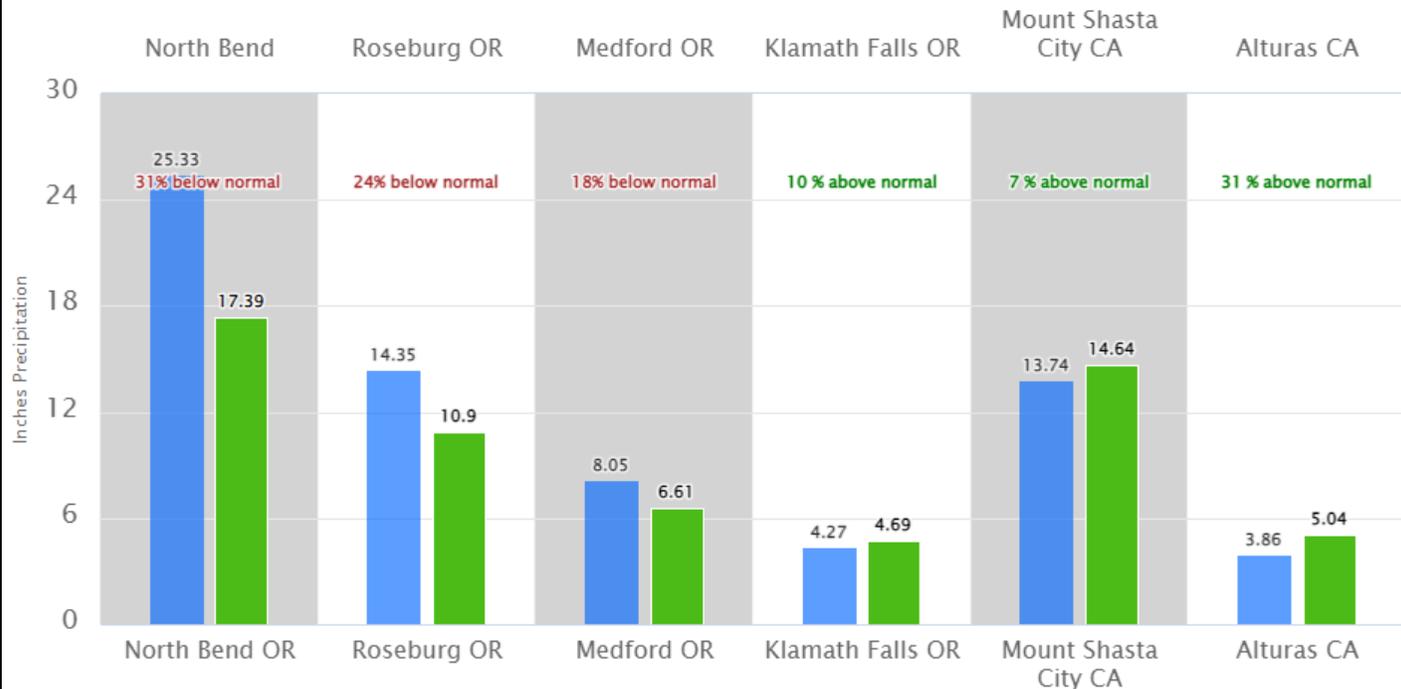
	Date / Amount	Old Record / Year
Alturas	30 th / 0.50"	0.44" / 2001



2022-2023 Water Year Status (as of Jan 7th)

Climate Sites Water Year Precipitation (Since Oct 1) and Percent of Normal as of 434PM JAN07

Normal Precipitation Since Oct 1 2022/2023 Observed Precipitation Since Oct 1



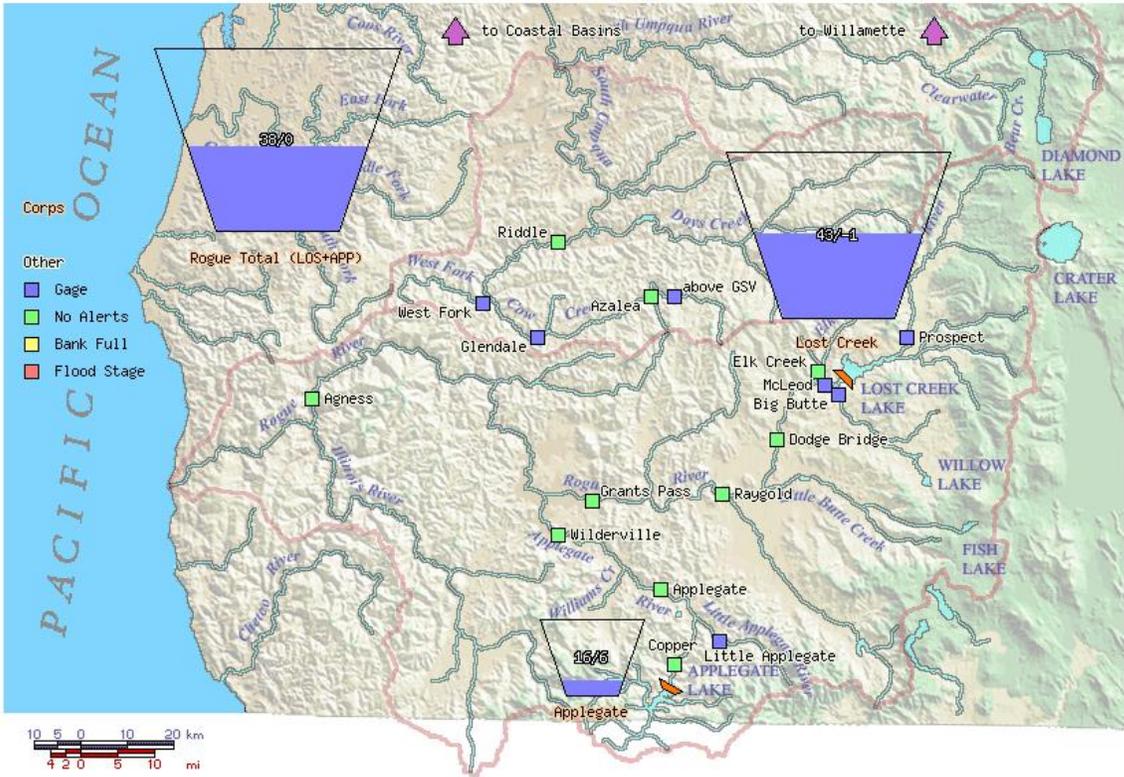


Reservoir Status

Data courtesy of [US Army Corps of Engineers](#)

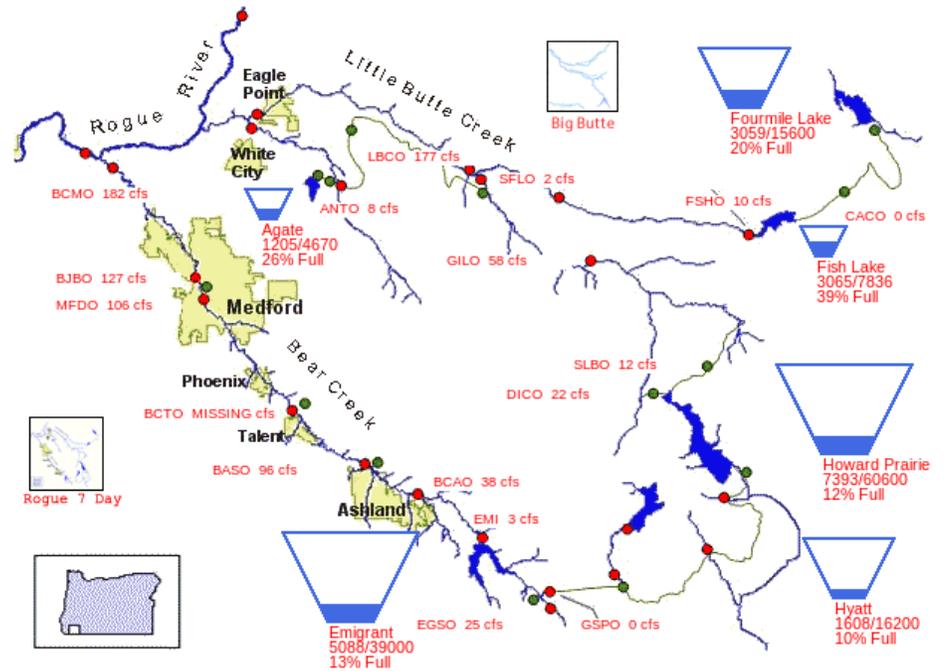
Data courtesy of [Bureau of Reclamation](#)

Rogue Basin Teacup Diagram



US Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek Basins

01/06/2023

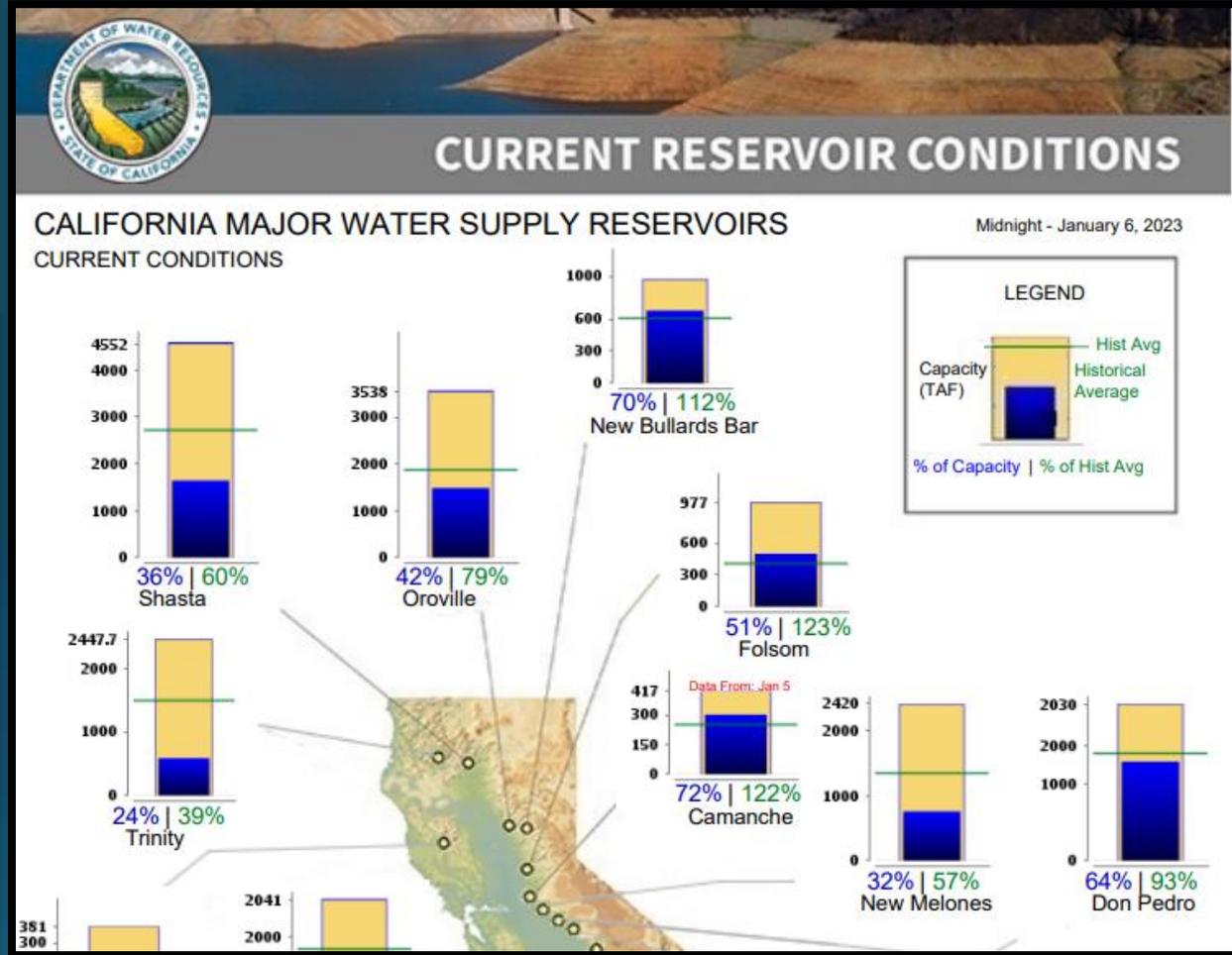
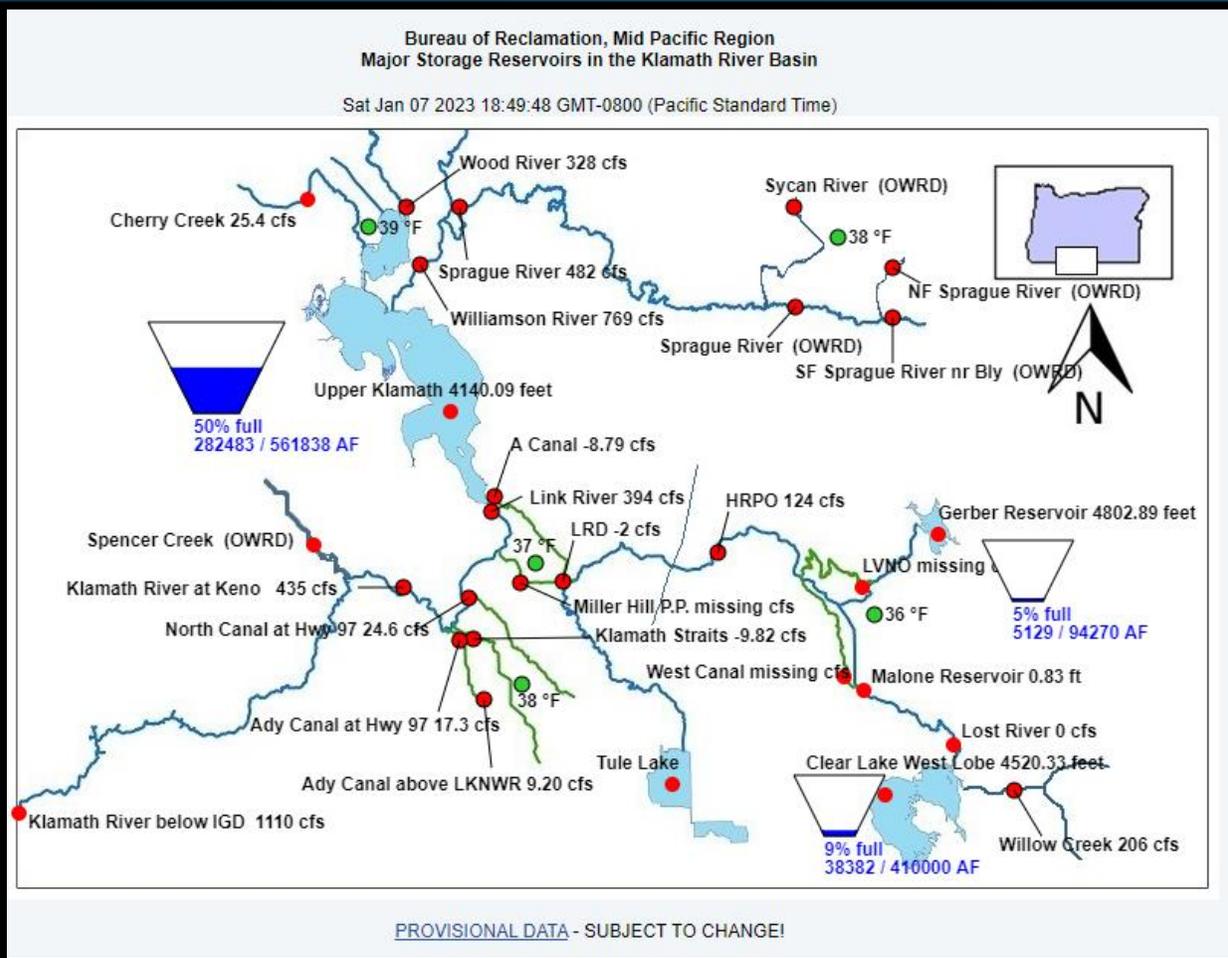


PROVISIONAL DATA - SUBJECT TO CHANGE!



Reservoir Status

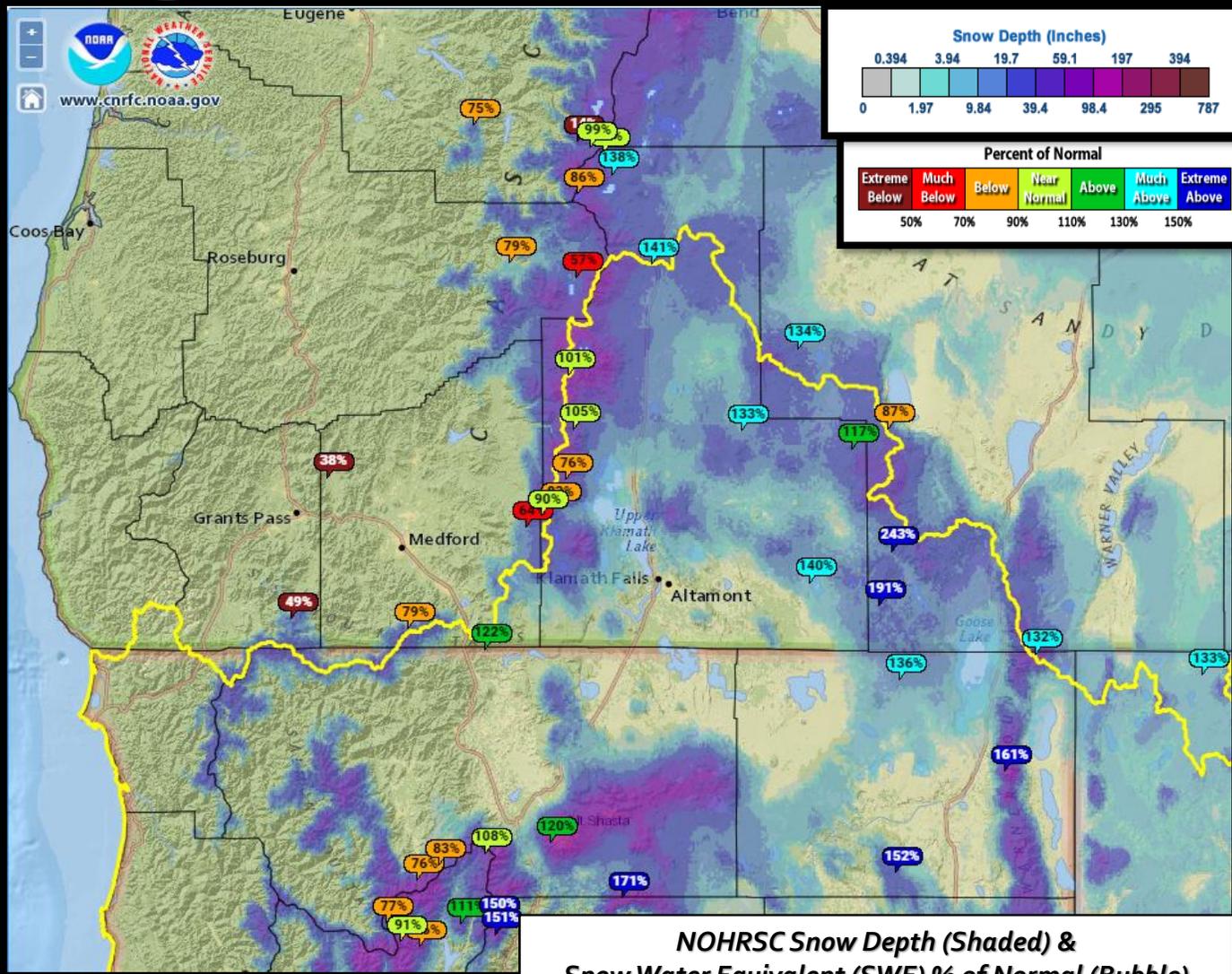
Klamath River Basin. Data courtesy of [Bureau of Reclamation](#)



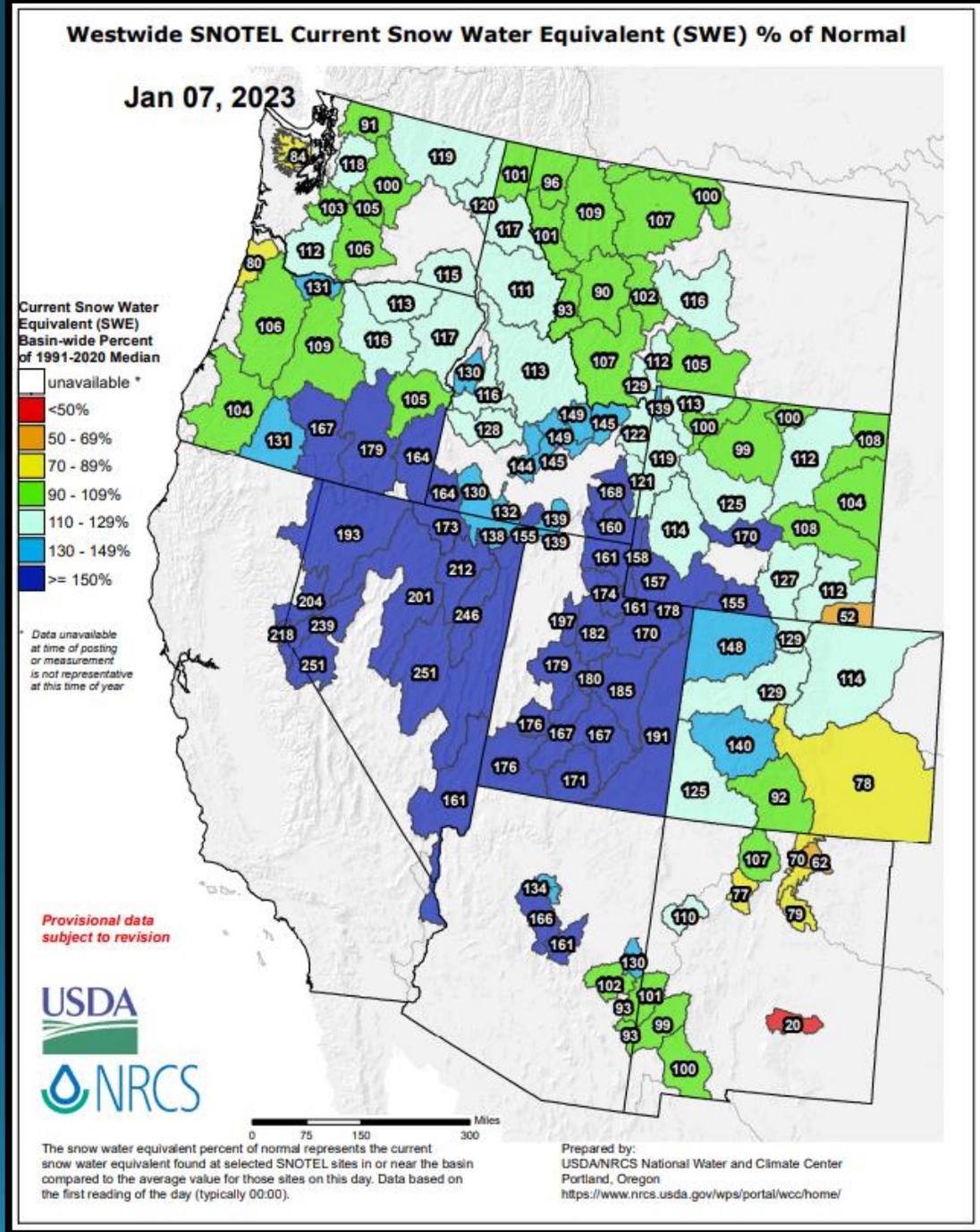
Northern California. [California Data Exchange Center](#)



Snowpack Status

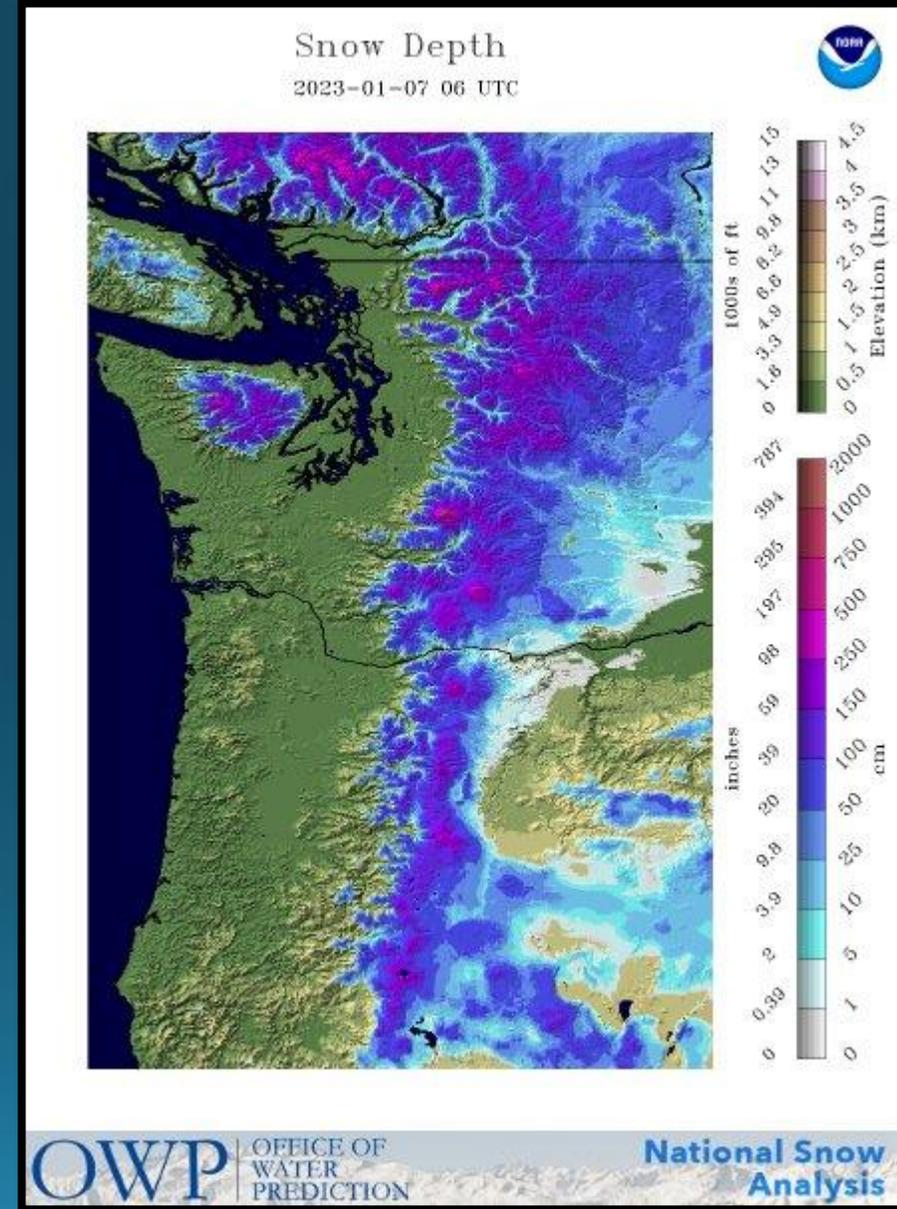
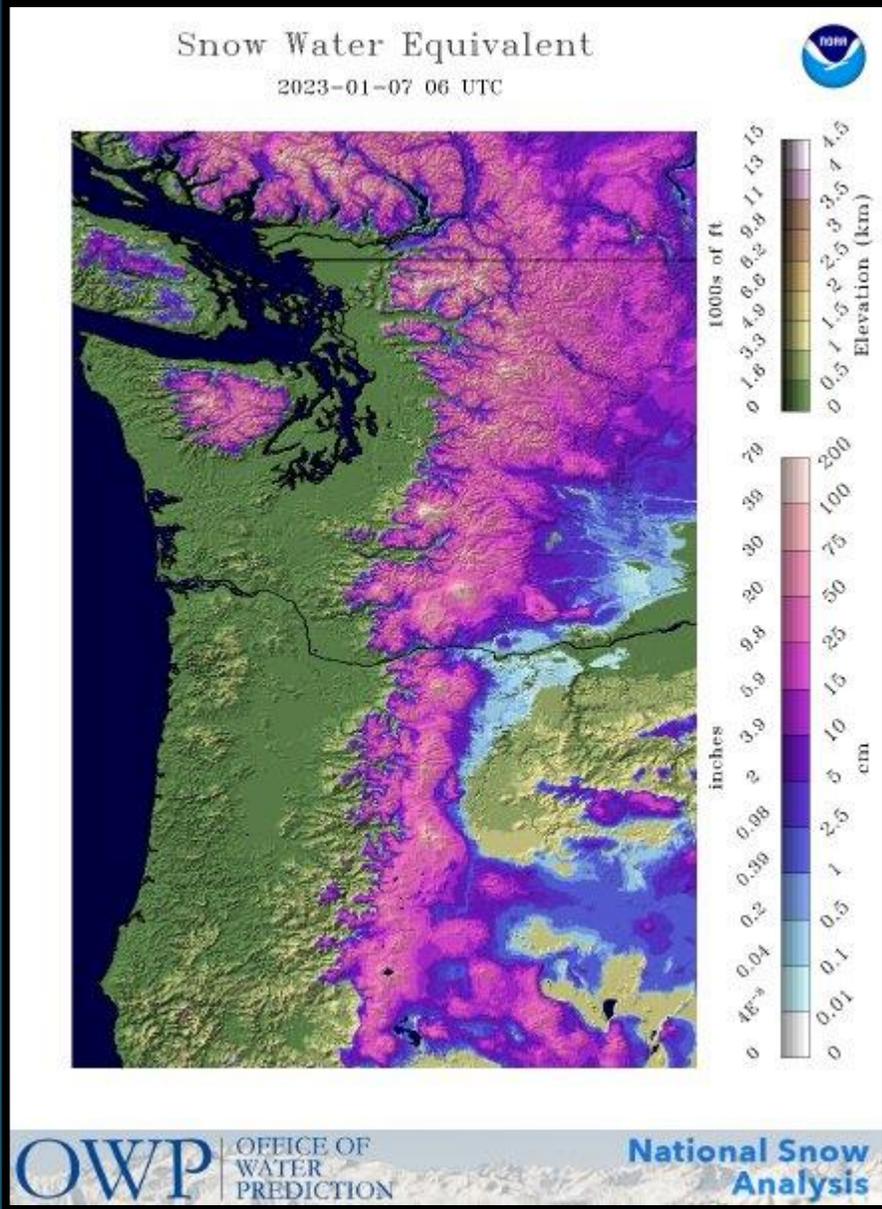


NOHRSC Snow Depth (Shaded) & Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal (Bubble) as of 1/17/2023



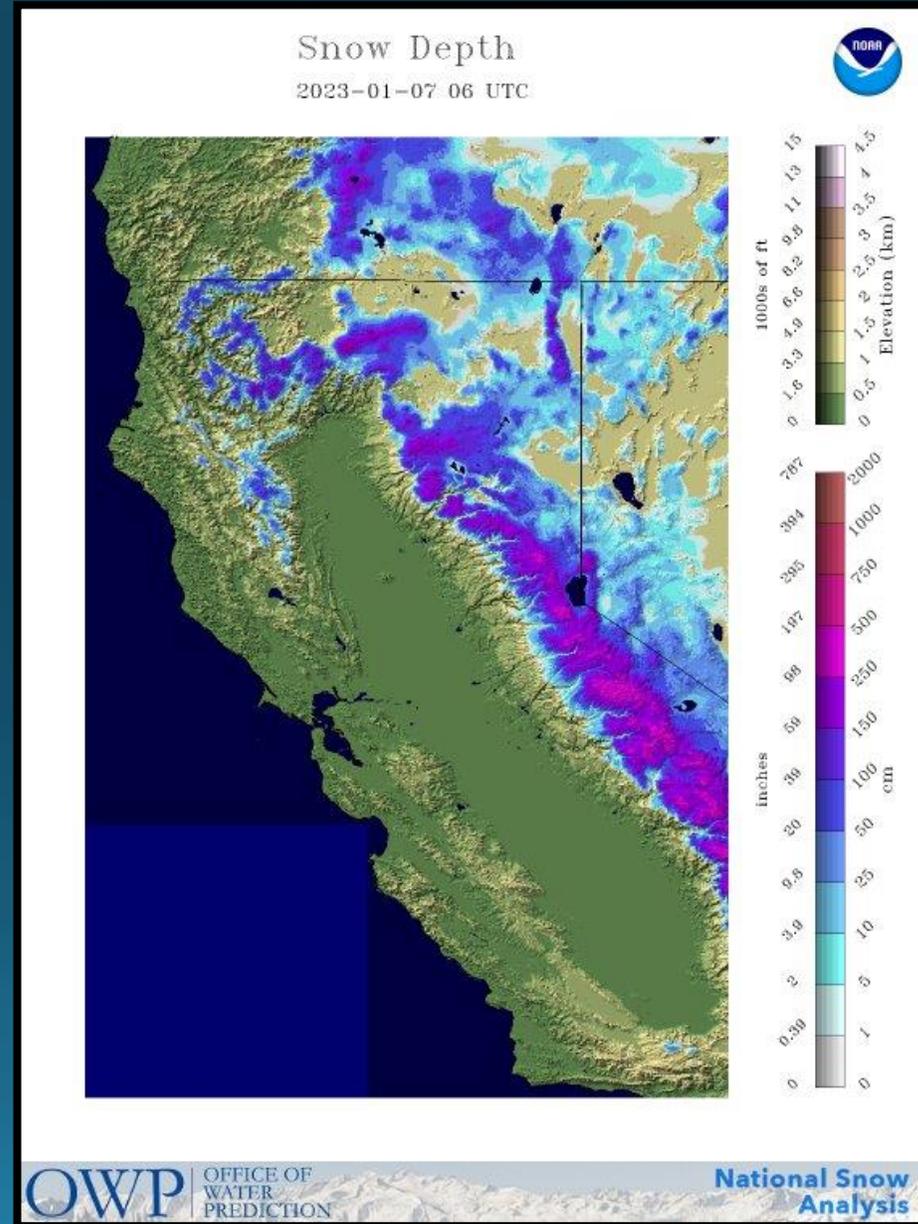
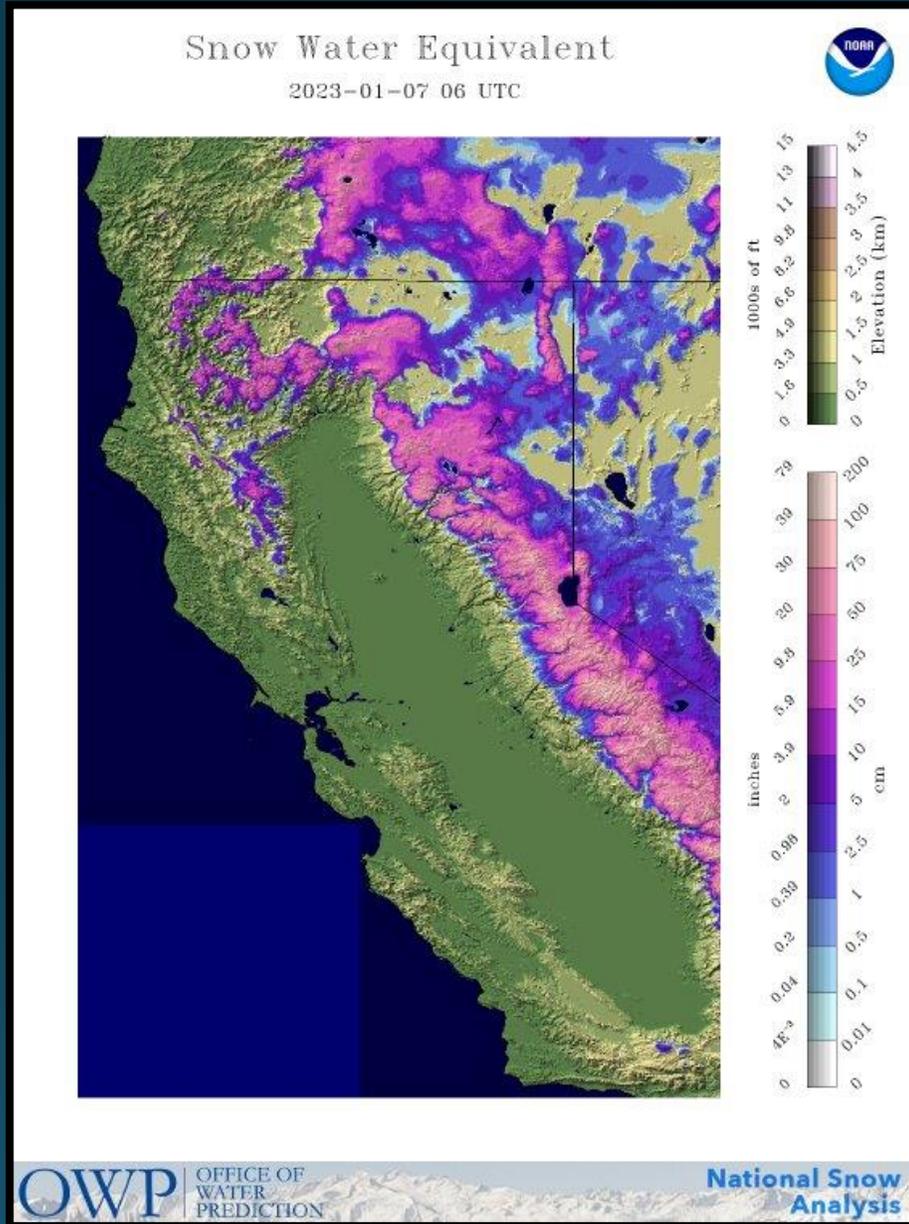


PacNW SWE & SD as of 1/7/23





California SWE & SD as of 1/7/23



Crater Lake

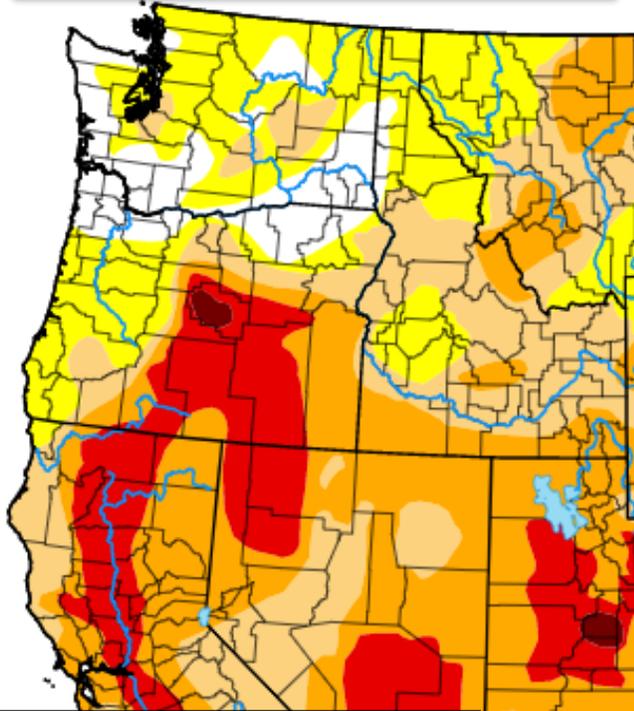
Image Courtesy: NPS



	Average Max Temp (°F)	Average Min Temp (°F)	Total Precipitation	Total Snowfall	Snow Depth as of: 12/31/22	Highest Max/ Lowest Min
December	30.2°	19.5°	14.91"	116.6"	75"	48° on 26 th / 11° on 6 th & 7 th
Normal (1991-2020)	32.7°	19.1°	11.28"	90.6"	61"	N/A

Drought Monitor (Current) & Outlook (January)

United States Drought Monitor



Map released: Thurs. January 5, 2023

Data valid: January 3, 2023 at 7 a.m. EST

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period



Valid for January 2023
Released December 31, 2022

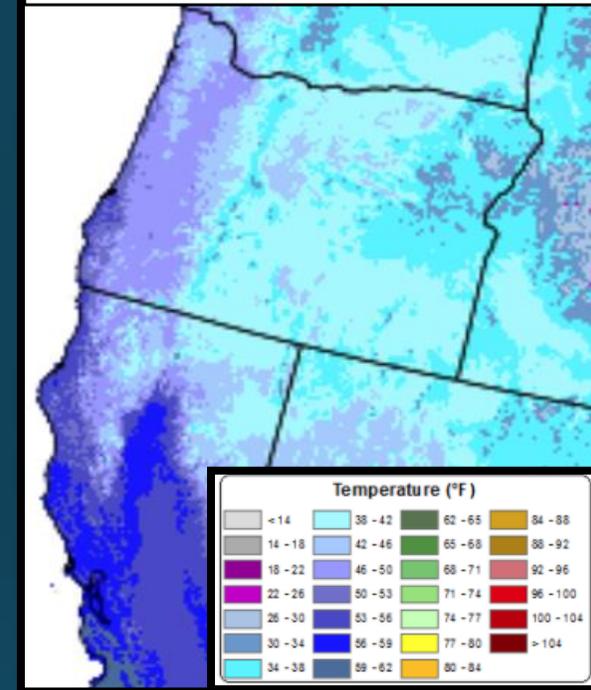
- Drought persists
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely



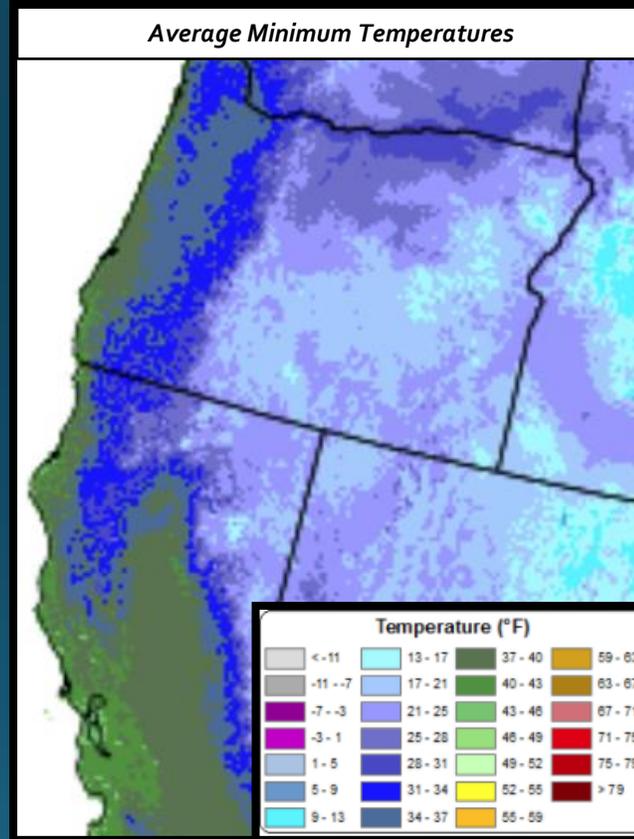


Looking Ahead: Normals for January (1991-2020)

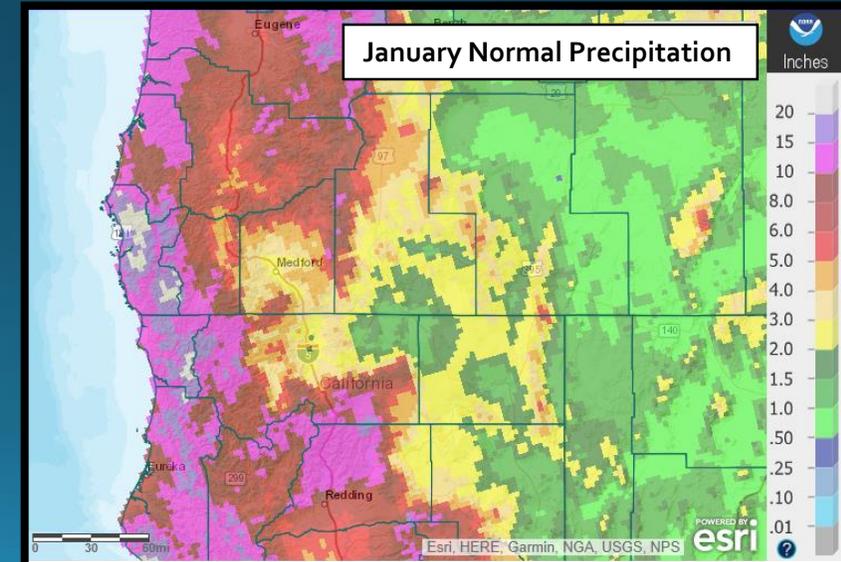
Average Maximum Temperatures



Average Minimum Temperatures



January Normal Precipitation



January is, on average, the second coldest and third wettest month of the year for southwestern Oregon and far northern California. Much of the lower terrain of Lake County, the Tule Lake Basin, and parts of the Sprague and Pitt River Basins average 1/2 inch to 2 inches of water, while higher elevations east of the Cascades receive 2-6 inches of water. The Cascades and Mount Shasta receive an average of 5-15 inches. The drier valleys west of the Cascades like the Bear Creek drainage of the Rogue Valley and the Shasta and Scott Valleys in California usually receive 2-5 inches. The remainder of the West Side gets 5-15 inches, except for the wettest portions of Curry County and far western Siskiyou County, which average 15-20+ inches.

Much of this water typically falls as snow above about 4,000 feet MSL. For instance, the 1981-2010 average snowfall for Crater Lake National Park Headquarters is 85.4 inches. Snow depth there averages 68 inches on January 1st and 87 inches on January 31st based on the same average period.

Average daily high temperatures are 30 to near 40 degrees in the mountains above 5000 feet and east of the Cascades and in the mid 40s to mid 50s west of the Cascades. Daily low temperatures are in the mid teens in the coldest locations east of the Cascades and on Mount Shasta, to the upper 20s in and near the Cascades. From the Cascades west to the coast, lower 30s to mid 40s are most typical from east to west.



*A note about Period of Record (POR)

When looking at record setting events, it's important to consider the length and completeness of the site's period of record (POR). For example, a site might have records dating back to the early 1900's, but if there is a significant portion of the record missing, it's possible that the POR is not encompassing another significant event that might have surpassed the event in question. Therefore, "record setting" should be considered relative to the completeness/length of POR. To help keep records in context, the POR for each climate site is listed below:

- **North Bend: 01/1902 – Present**
- **Roseburg: 04/1900 – Present**
 - ❖ *Missing:*
 - 05/1900-01/1901
 - 03/1901-06/1902
 - 08/1902-12/1930
 - 10/1965-06/1997
- **Medford: 03/11/1911 – Present**
- **Klamath Falls: 12/1897 – Present**
- **Montague, CA: 07/1948 – Present**
 - ❖ *Missing:*
 - 08-09/1952
 - 02/1953-06/2000
- **Mount Shasta City, CA: 04/1948 – Present**
- **Alturas, CA: 05/1935 – Present**