



Drought Information Statement for Eastern Washington and North Idaho

Valid March 30, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Spokane, WA

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

- This product will be updated late April 2026 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.
- Drought conditions persist across the Inland Northwest
 - Mild conditions and a lack of mid-level snowpack accumulation are large contributors.
 - Severe drought conditions continue to be observed in southeastern Washington and the southern Idaho Panhandle.



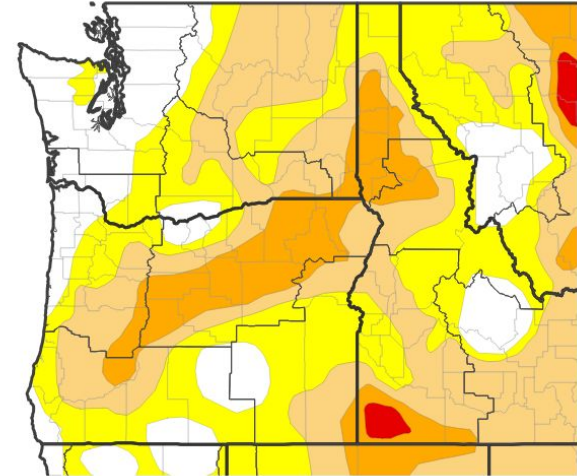


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: 15% Central/South Idaho Panhandle and SE Washington.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: 49% Central Panhandle mountains, Washington Palouse, Okanogan highlands, Upper Columbia Basin, Waterville Plateau, Okanogan valley, and northern mountains.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: 32% most of the inland northwest not in another category.
 - No drought: 4% near the Cascade crest.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 03/24/26

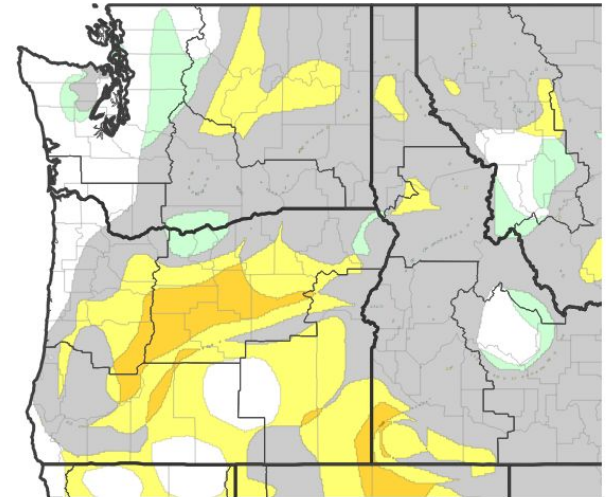


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Eastern Washington and North Idaho

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
 - Drought Worsened: Okanogan Valley, Waterville Plateau, Upper Columbia Basin, Kootenai County
 - No Change: No change in the rest of the Spokane Forecast Area.

U.S. Drought Monitor 4-Week Change Map



Drought Degradation



Drought Improvement



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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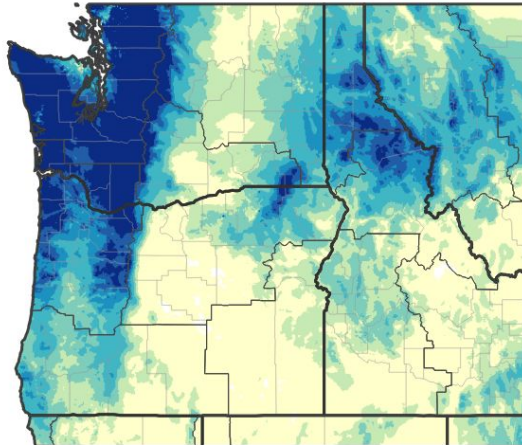




Precipitation

- Last 30 days has been drier than normal in central WA especially near the Canadian border, northeast WA, and the northern Panhandle mountains.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



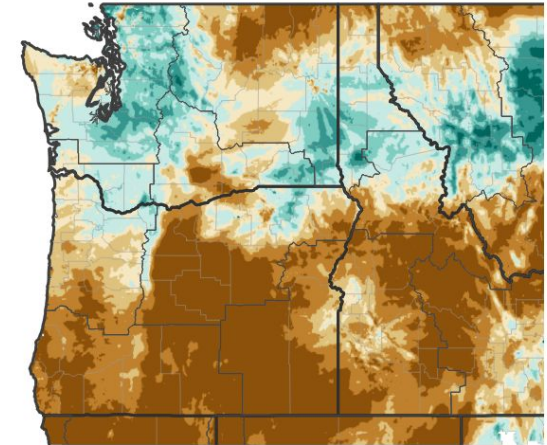
Inches of Precipitation



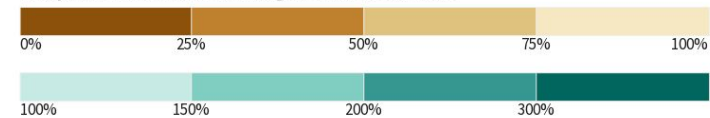
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 03/30/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 03/30/26

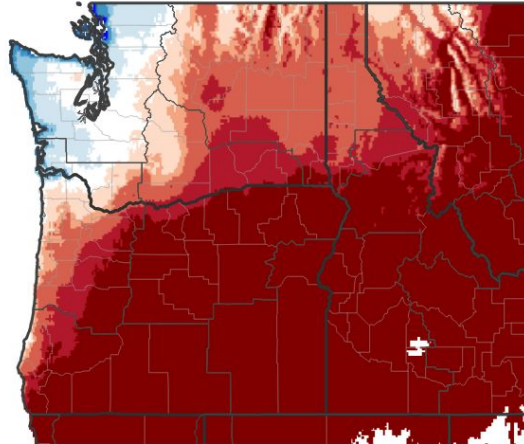




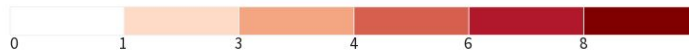
Temperature

- Over the last week temperatures have been 3 to 8 degrees warmer than normal.
- In the last 30 days temperatures have been near normal to 8 degrees warmer than normal.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



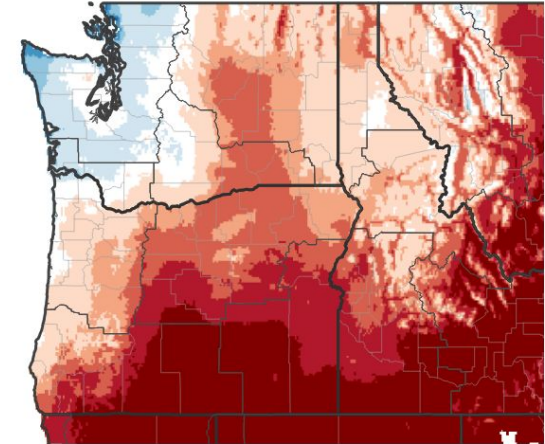
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



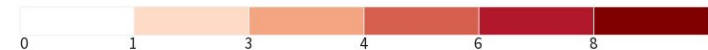
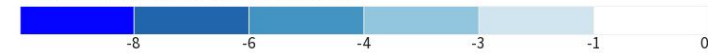
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 03/26/26

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 03/26/26





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Water supply outlook remains below normal eastern third of Washington and north Idaho ([NWS NWRFC](#)).
- Water supply outlook is more optimistic for central Washington.

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Other Impacts

- With one month left of the typical accumulation season, the snow deficit could play a major role in deteriorating water supply conditions over the summer if trends continue.

Mitigation Actions

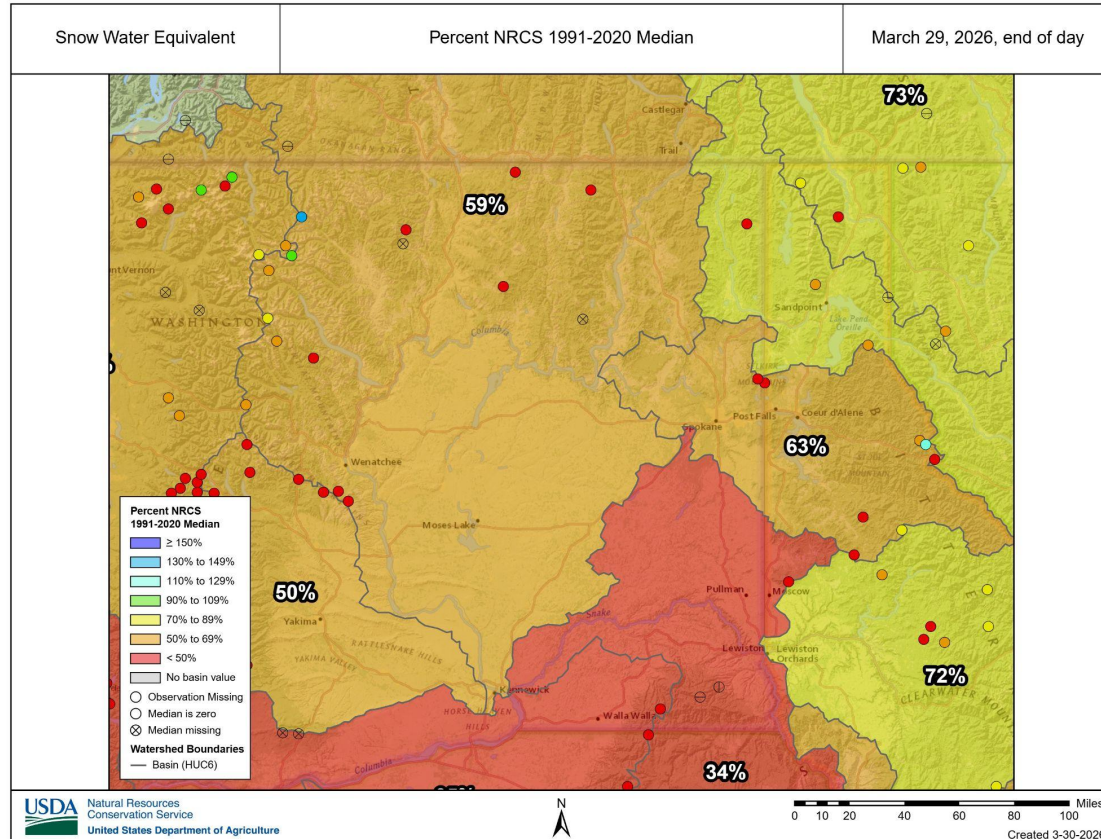
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Snow Water Equivalent is below normal across the region.
- Elevations above 5000 feet are closer to normal compared to lower elevations (especially the north Cascades)



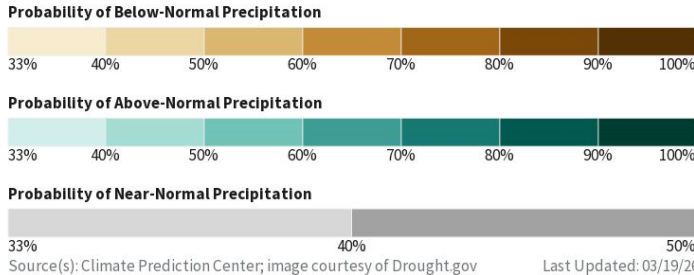
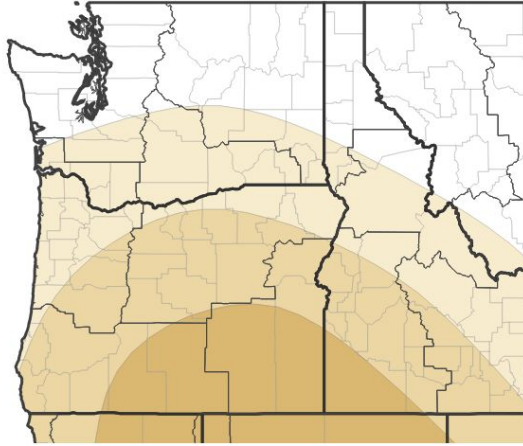


Long-Range Outlooks

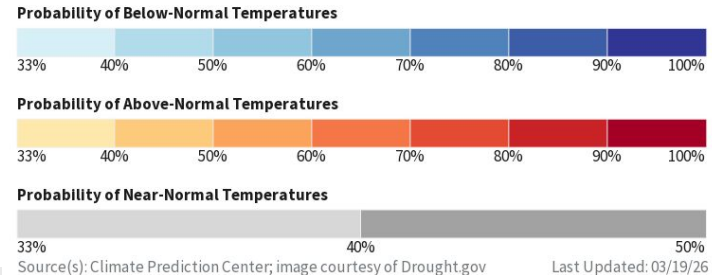
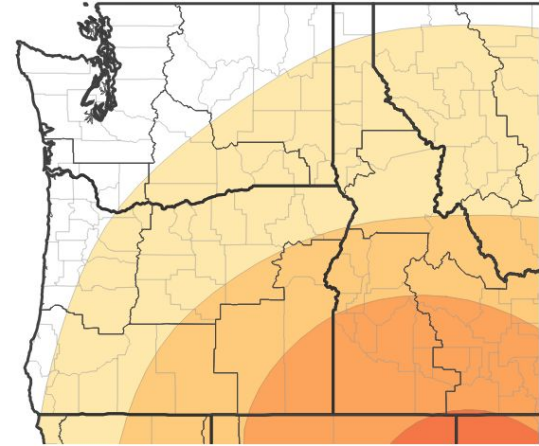
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- For April, precipitation is expected to be near normal to slightly below normal (33-40% chance)
- Temperatures are expected to be near normal to slightly above normal (33-40% chance)

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for April 1, 2026–April 30, 2026



Monthly Temperature Outlook for April 1, 2026–April 30, 2026



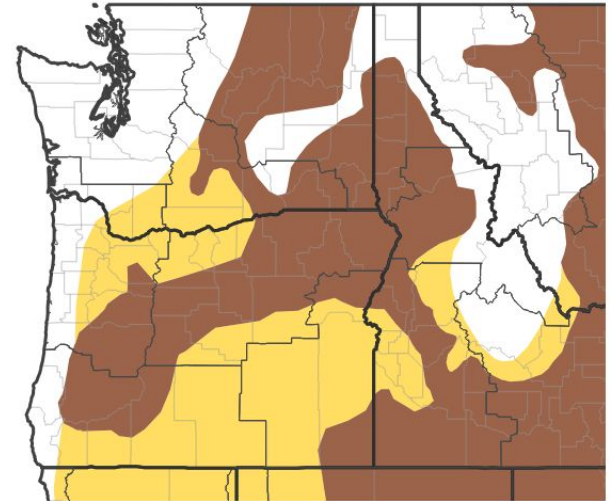


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist for portions of central Washington, southeast Washington, central and southern ID Panhandle through the end of June.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for March 19, 2026–June 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 03/19/26

Links to the latest:

- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

