

Drought Information Statement for Eastern Washington and North Idaho

Valid May 18, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Spokane, WA

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

- This product will be updated late May 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
 - Warmer than normal spring conditions has led to the early melt out of most mid level snowpack.
 - **Washington State is in a statewide [drought emergency](#).**
 - **Idaho has declared a statewide [drought emergency](#).**
 - Severe drought conditions persist in southeastern Washington, the southern Idaho Panhandle, and have developed in the Okanagan Highlands.



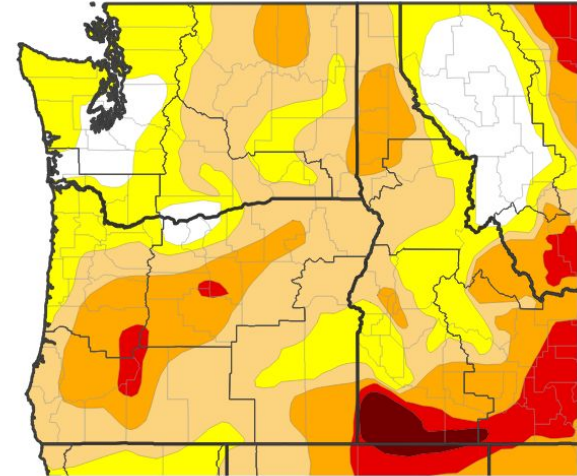


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and extent in [Spokane service area](#).
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: 22% Central/South Idaho Panhandle and NE Washington.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: 61% Central Panhandle mountains, Washington Palouse, Okanogan highlands, Upper Columbia Basin, Waterville Plateau, Okanogan valley, eastern Cascades and northern mountains.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: 17% central Columbia Plateau Region
 - No drought: 0%

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 05/12/26

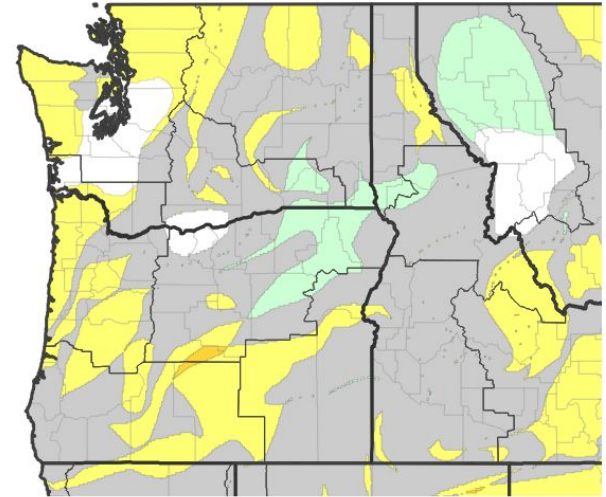


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
 - Drought Worsened: Eastern Cascades, Okanogan Highlands and portions of the northern Bitterroots.
 - Drought Improvements: Improvements seen in Camas Prairie, north central Idaho.

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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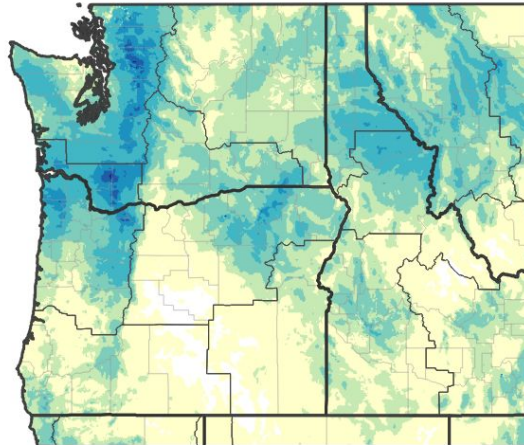




Precipitation

- Last 30 days has been drier than normal for the majority of the region.
- Last 30 days has been wetter than normal for the central Columbia River Plateau region.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



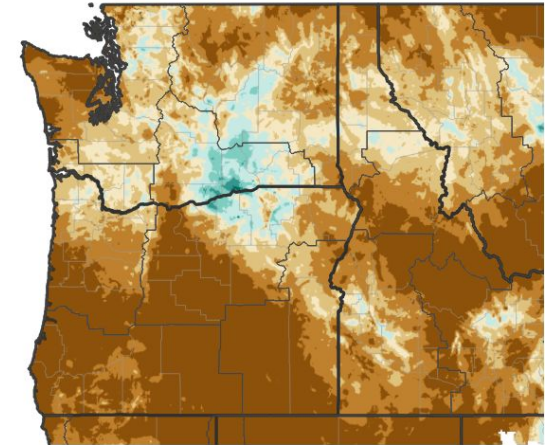
Inches of Precipitation



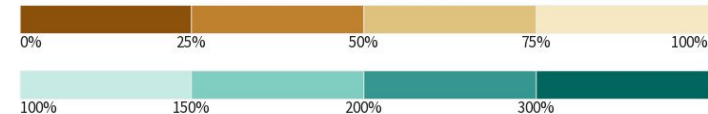
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 05/18/26

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

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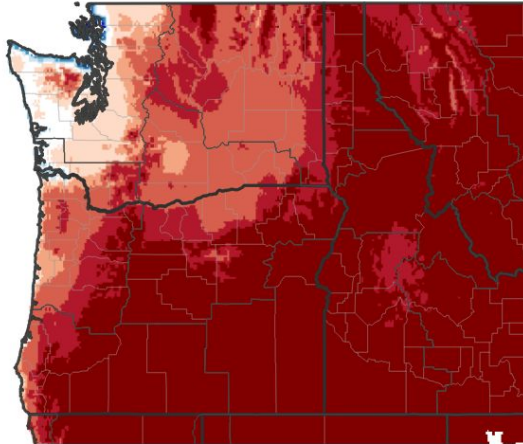




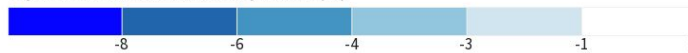
Temperature

- Over the last week temperatures have ranged from 1 to over 8 degrees above normal
- In the last 30 days temperatures have been 1 to 8 degrees warmer than normal.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



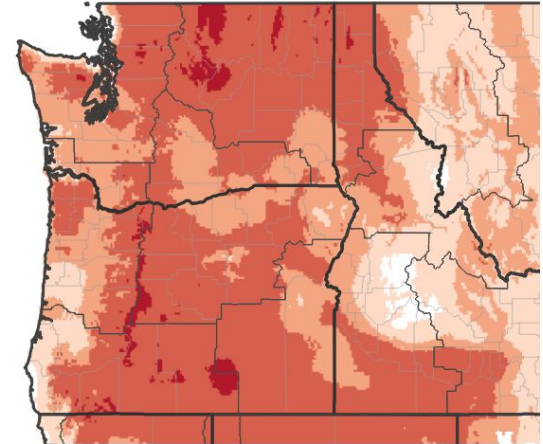
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



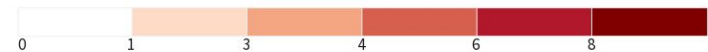
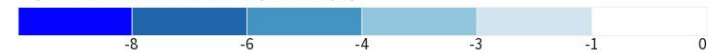
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/14/26

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: 05/14/26





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 the Columbia River main stem due to a robust snowpack in British Columbia.

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Other Impacts

- The snow deficit will likely lead to deteriorating water supply conditions over the summer.
- Washington State is in a [drought emergency](#) for the entire state due to snowpack deficits.
- Idaho has declared has declared a [drought emergency](#) for the entire state due to snowpack deficits and elevated temperatures.

Mitigation Actions

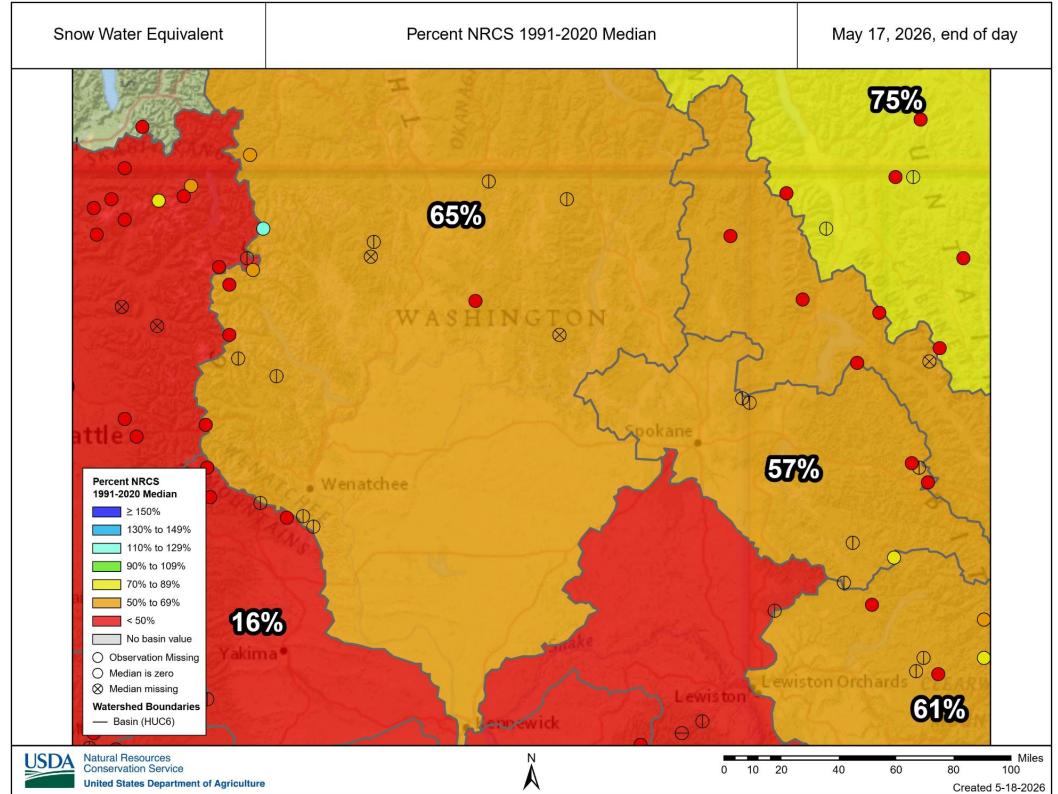
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Snow Water Equivalent is well below normal across the region.
- A warm spring has lead to significant losses of snowpack even at high elevations.



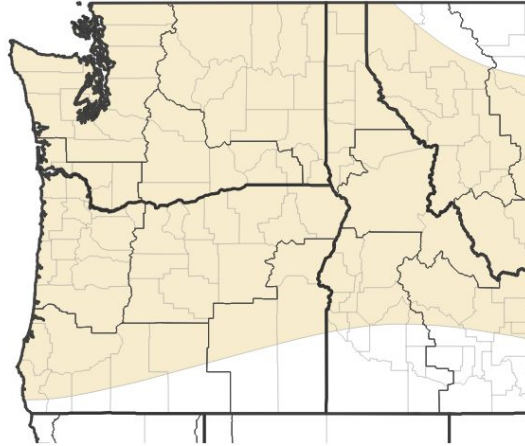


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- For May, precipitation is expected to be near normal to slightly below normal (33-40% chance)
- Temperatures are likely to be above normal (50-70% chance)

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2026–May 31, 2026



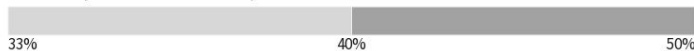
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



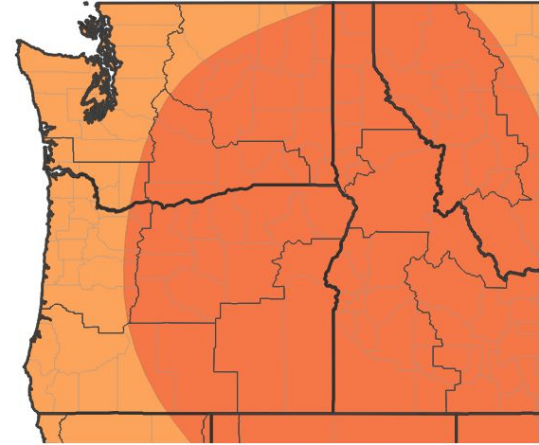
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/30/26

Monthly Temperature Outlook for May 1, 2026–May 31, 2026



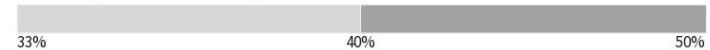
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

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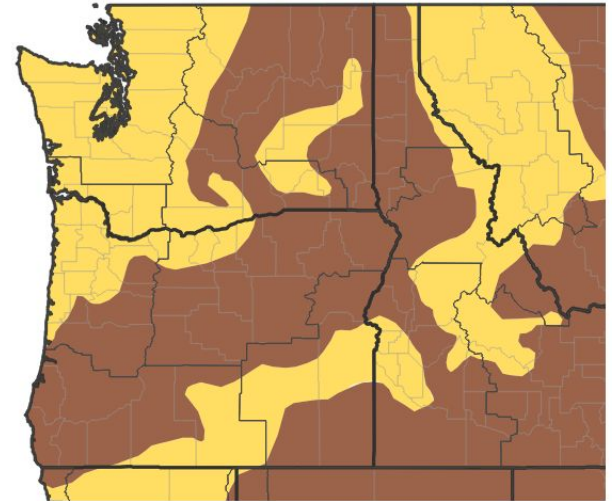


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions in much of the region are expected to persist or intensify by the end of July.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for April 30, 2026–July 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 04/30/26

Links to the latest:

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

