Drought Status and Outlook

Latest Drought Information Statement

February 10, 2022

National Weather Service Spokane
Severe and Extreme Drought for the Inland NW

There has been little change to drought conditions in the last month across the Inland Northwest.

- Pockets of extreme (D3) drought remain in the lower Columbia Basin and the Camas Prairie of Idaho
- Areas of moderate (D2) drought span from the upper Columbia Basin to the Lewiston Clarkston Valley

https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/
Although above normal precipitation last fall and snow into early January gave the region a healthy snowpack, drier weather over the last month has stalled any additional drought improvements.

https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/ChangeMaps.aspx
Near to slightly above normal precipitation was found across much of the Inland Northwest. The wetter areas were near the Cascades, northern mountains and Idaho Panhandle. The Columbia Basin still lagged slightly with precipitation.

Temperatures were running near to above normal region-wide through mid December.
In the last 30 days, precipitation has been below normal region-wide.

In the last 30 days, temperatures have been near to slightly below normal.

https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps
Stream flows are near normal levels across the Inland Northwest. Above normal flows remain over the Cascades basins of north central Washington, while slightly below normal flows are found in parts of the lower Snake River into the Spokane River basins. https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/
Mountain snowpack reached above normal levels by the start of the calendar year. The recent dry period has limited additional snowfall. Currently mountain snowpack has been holding steady and ranges from 90% to 103% of normal. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/
The NW River Forecast Center water supply forecasts have lowered slightly with near normal flows especially near the Cascades with pockets of below normal flows in parts of extreme eastern Washington into north Idaho.

https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc/
The Climate Prediction Center`s outlook for the second half of February leans toward a slightly warmer than normal temperatures with near normal precipitation. [https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)
The three month outlook favors better odds of colder and wetter than normal conditions for March through May. [https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov]
The Monthly Drought Outlook shows drought conditions to persist across the region. The Seasonal Drought Outlook suggest drought conditions will remain but show some improvements with a small chance for drought removal across parts of northeast Washington in the coming months. [Visit CPC](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/)
A La Nina Advisory remains in effect for this winter season and event into the spring.
https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/
Drought Summary

- Little change in drought conditions across the Inland NW in the last month. Pockets of Extreme (D3) Drought and areas of Severe (D2) Drought remain.

- Little additional mountain snowpack seen in the last month with snowpack percentages slipping below normal. Stream flows are near normal.

- The Seasonal Outlook leans toward below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation for March through May with a small chance of improving drought conditions in parts of the region in the months to come.

- Please report any drought conditions or impacts to NWS Spokane at nws.spokane@noaa.gov or through the National Drought Mitigation Center at https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/
Drought Related Web Sites

- US Drought Monitor: [www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu)
- Western Region Climate Center: [www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu)
- Climate Prediction Center: [www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)
- National Interagency Coordination Center: [www.nifc.gov](http://www.nifc.gov)
- NWS Water Supply Forecasts: [www.nwrfc.noaa.gov](http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov)
- Idaho Department of Water Resources: [www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov)
- Idaho Climate Office: [www.uidaho.edu/extension/climate-services](http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/climate-services)
- Washington Climate Office: [www.climate.washington.edu](http://www.climate.washington.edu)
- NWS Spokane: [www.weather.gov/Spokane](http://www.weather.gov/Spokane)