Drought Information Statement for Eastern OR & South Central WA

Valid January 16, 2026

Issued By: NWS Pendleton

Contact Information: pdt.operations@noaa.gov

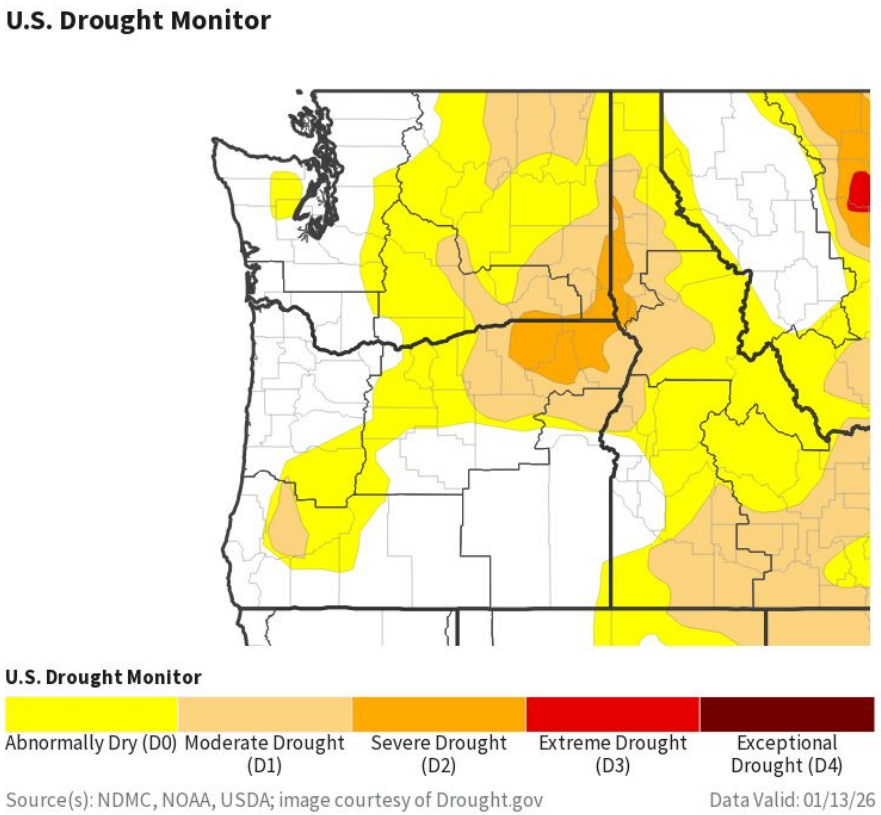
- This product will be updated if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/pdt/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/ for regional drought status updates.

- Severe Drought continues in far southern Walla Walla and Columbia, northwestern Wallowa, northern Union and northeast Umatilla counties, Moderate Drought remains in most of Walla Walla, Columbia and Benton, eastern Franklin, eastern Kittitas, northeastern Yakima, eastern Morrow,southwestern Umatilla, northern Grant, southern Union and southeastern Wallowa counties, Abnormally Dry conditions persist in western Franklin, northeast and southwest Benton, most of Kittitas, Yakima and Klickitat, most of Wasco and Jefferson, western Deschutes, Sherman and Gilliam, western Morrow, northern and central Wheeler, central Grant counties while Normal Conditions are present in all other areas not mentioned above
- Near to much above normal (100-300%) in most of Washington and Oregon except near to much below normal precipitation (50% to 100% of normal) in southeast Kittitas, northeast Yakima, Franklin, Walla Walla, northeastern and eastern Franklin, western Walla Walla, most of Benton and Umatilla counties
- Drought expected to improve or end over the northern and eastern portions of the area and remain in No Drought in the rest of the area during January - April 2026
- All areas forecast to have normal significant fire potential for January - April 2026

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Far southern Walla Walla and Columbia, northwestern Wallowa, northern Union and northeast Umatilla counties
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Most of Walla Walla, Columbia and Benton, eastern Franklin, eastern Kittitas, northeastern Yakima, eastern Morrow,southwestern Umatilla, northern Grant, southern Union and southeastern Wallowa counties
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Western Franklin, northeast and southwest Benton, most of Kittitas, Yakima and Klickitat, most of Wasco and Jefferson, western Deschutes, Sherman and Gilliam, western Morrow, northern and central Wheeler, central Grant counties
  - **Normal Conditions**: All other areas not mentioned above

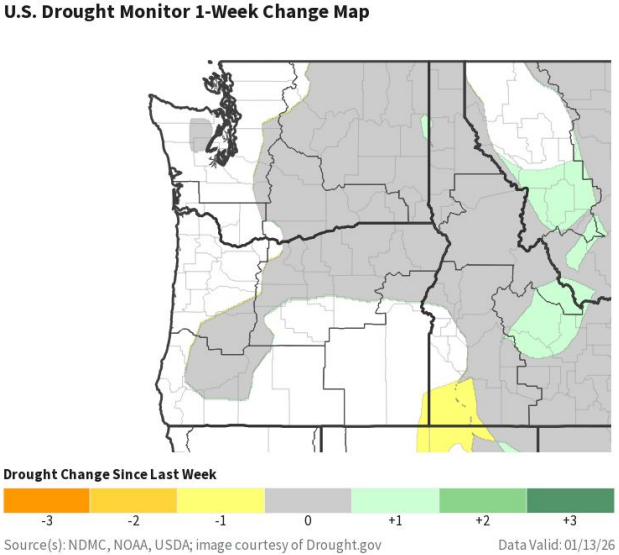


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for the Pacific Northwest

- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change
  - Drought Worsened (1 Class Degradation): None
  - Drought Improved (1 Class Improvement): None

- Four-Week Drought Monitor Class Change
  - Drought Worsened (1 Class Degradation): None
  - Drought Improved (2 Class Improvement): South central Kittitas, far north central Yakima, Columbia and most of Walla Walla, western Klickitat, northwest Wasco, portions of northern Deschutes and southeast Jefferson counties
  - Drought Improved (1 Class Improvement): Much of Yakima, north central and far northeast Kittitas, northwest Walla Walla, portions of Klickitat, western Wasco, most of Jefferson and Wheeler, eastern deschutes, Crook, southern Grant, portions of northern Umatilla and Union, and portions of Wallowa counties



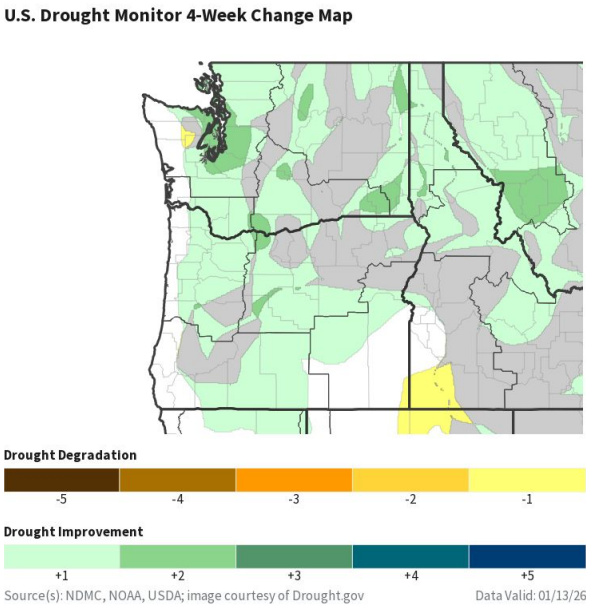
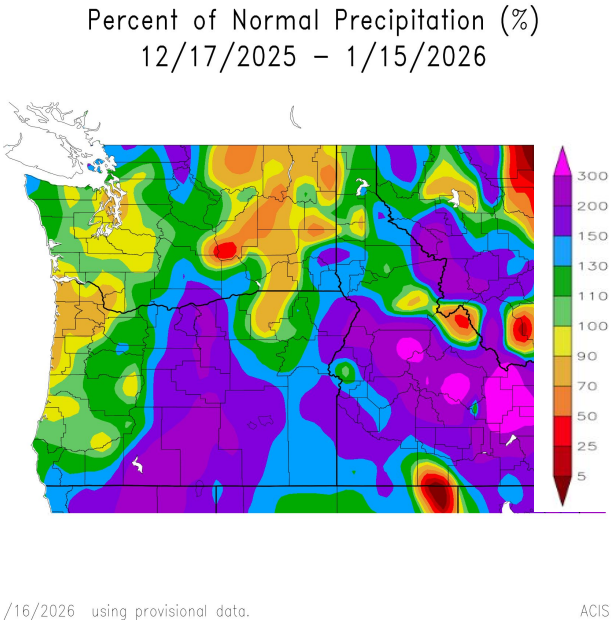


Image Captions:
Right - 4 Week Drought Class Change
Left - 1 Week Drought Class Change
Data Courtesy U.S. Drought Monitor and Drought.gov

Precipitation - Last 30 Days

- Near to much above normal (100-300%) in most of Washington and Oregon
- Near to much below normal precipitation (50% to 100% of normal) in southeast Kittitas, northeast Yakima, Franklin, Walla Walla, northeastern and eastern Franklin, western Walla Walla, most of Benton and Umatilla counties
- Highest precipitation amounts were 3 to 5 inches along the Cascade crest
- Generally 1 to 3 inches of precipitation elsewhere though less than 1 inch in eastern Kittitas, northeast Yakima, northern Benton, Franklin, western Walla Walla, western Umatilla, northeast Grant, part of eastern Morrow, most of Crook, eastern and north central Deschutes, southern Wheeler and a small portion of south central Jefferson county



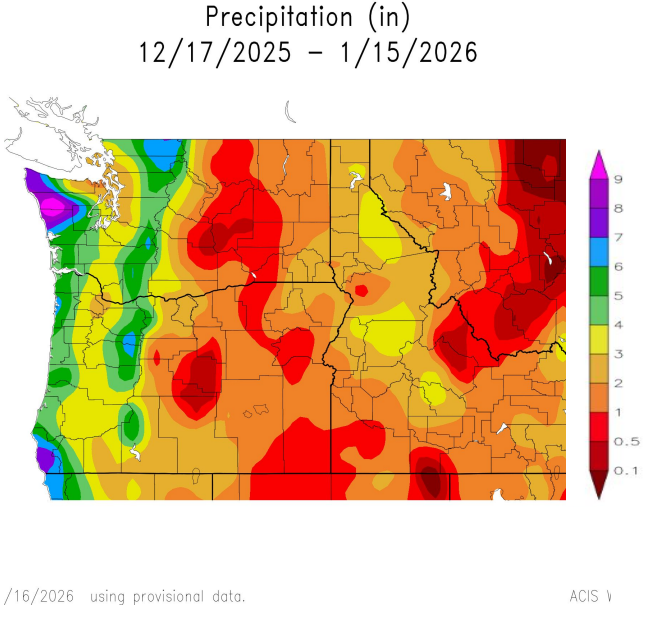
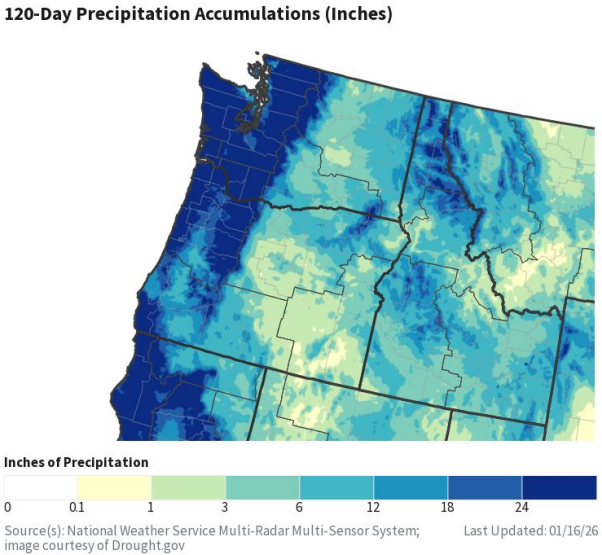


Image Captions:
Right - Precipitation Amount for Pacific NW
Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
Data Courtesy

Precipitation - 4-month (120-day) Precipitation

- Normal to above normal precipitation (100% to 200% of normal) in much of the WA and OR Cascades, the WA and OR Columbia Basin and the Blue Mountains over the last 120-days
- Normal to below normal precipitation (25% to 100% of normal) in the rest of the area over the last 120-days
- Precipitation amounts of 1-6 inches in most areas over the last 120-days
- Wettest location was 24+ inches over the WA and OR Cascade crest and northern Blue Mountains over the last 120-days
- Driest locations received 1 to 3 inches in eastern Deschutes, central Jefferson, southern Wheeler, western Grant, southern and western Crook and central Wallowa counties over the last 120-days



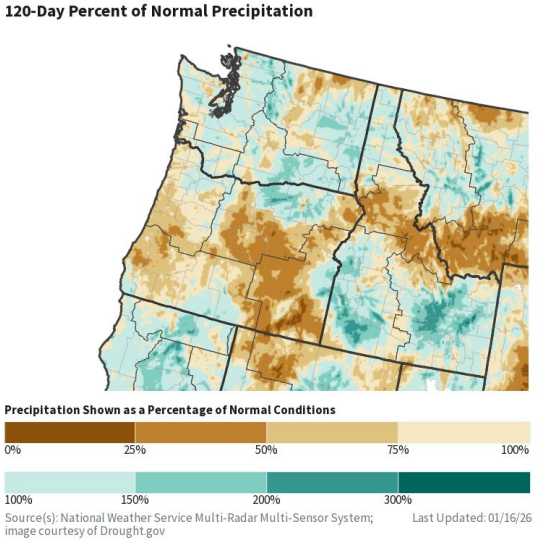
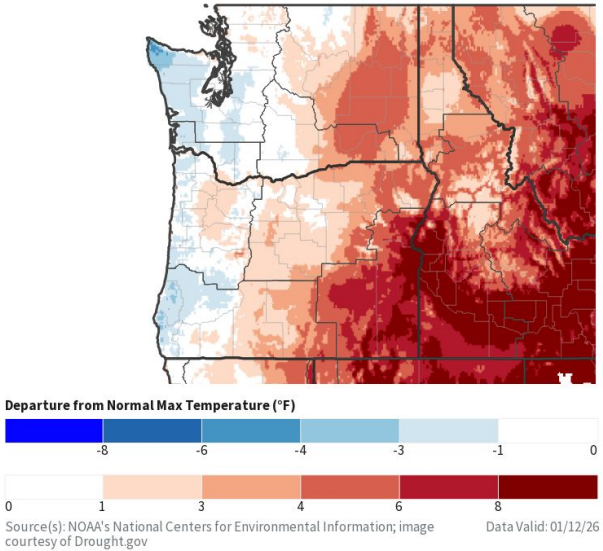


Image Captions:
Right - Precipitation Amounts for Pacific NW
Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
Courtesy of Drought.gov

Temperature - Last 7 and 30 Days

- Well above normal temperatures (3 to 8 degrees above normal) over most of the area for the last 7 days
- Near to above normal temperatures (-1 to 3 degrees above normal) in northeast Kittitas, western Yakima and most of the eastern OR mountains for the last 7 days
- Near to above normal temperatures (-1 to 3 degrees above normal) in most western areas for the last 30 days
- Above normal temperatures (3 to 6 degrees above normal) in most eastern portions of the area for the the last 30 days

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



7-Day Temperature Anomaly

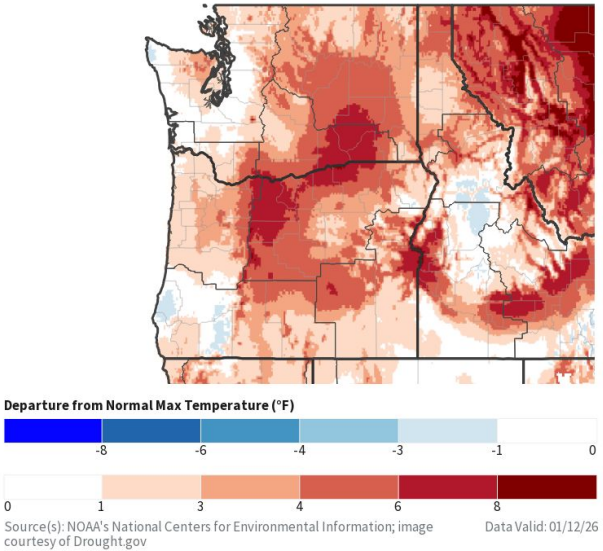


Image Captions:
Right - Temperature for Pacific NW
Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
Courtesy of Drought.gov

Summary of Impacts

See/submit Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) and view the Drought Impacts Reporter

Hydrologic Impacts

- High streamflows (near 100th percentile) in the Upper Columbia-Entiat basin
- Much above normal streamflows (>90th percentile) for the Upper Columbia-Priest Rapids and Wallowa basins
- Above normal streamflows (75th-90th percentiles) for the Upper and Lower Yakima, Naches, Lower Snake-Tucannon, Umatilla, Lower Grande Ronde and Middle Fork John Day basins
- Below normal streamflows (10th-25th percentiles) for the Lower Crooked basin
- Normal streamflow (25th-75th percentile) for all other basins

Snowpack Impacts

- At this early point in the season, nearly all snow telemetry (SNOTEL) monitoring sites have well below snow (below 60% of normal) present in the mountains. Future impacts are uncertain at this time.

Agricultural Impacts

- Reservoirs in the Cascades are filling (mostly 50% - 80% full) due to recent precipitation and streamflows are increasing. Water deliveries to agricultural interests in the Yakima area remain uncertain. For other areas, impacts are unknown at this time

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Normal significant wildland fire potential is present over the entire area from January through April 2026.

Other Impacts

- Washington: Washington Drought Declaration remain in effect for Upper Yakima, Lower Yakima and Naches Watersheds

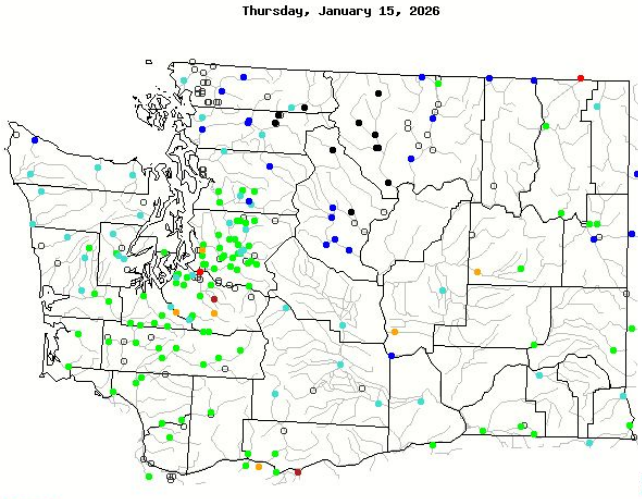
Mitigation actions

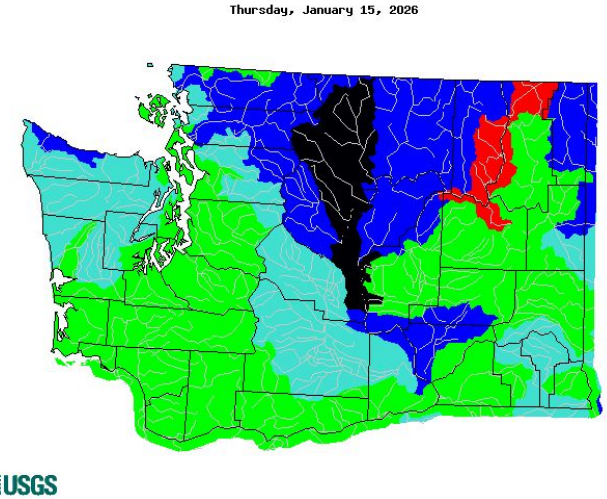
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts - Washington

Main Takeaways

- High streamflows (near 100th percentile) in the Upper Columbia-Entiat basin
- Much above normal streamflows (>90th percentile) in the Upper Columbia-Priest Rapids basin
- Above normal streamflows (76th-90th percentiles) in the Upper and Lower Yakima, Naches, Lower Snake-Tucannon and Lower Grande Ronde basins
- Near normal streamflows (25th-75th percentiles) for all other basins





Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

Reduced streamflow may be detrimental to aquatic species and recreational activities.

Image Captions:
Right - USGS 7-day average streamflow station map valid January 15, 2026
Left - USGS 7-day average streamflow HUC map valid January 15, 2026
Data Courtesy USGS Water Watch

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts - Oregon

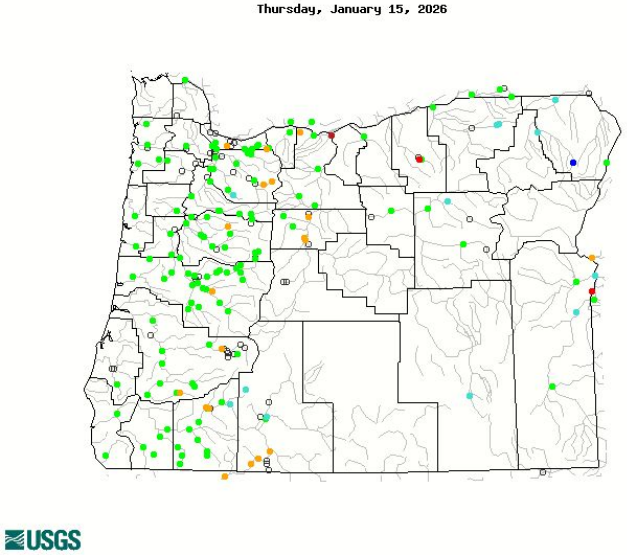
Main Takeaways

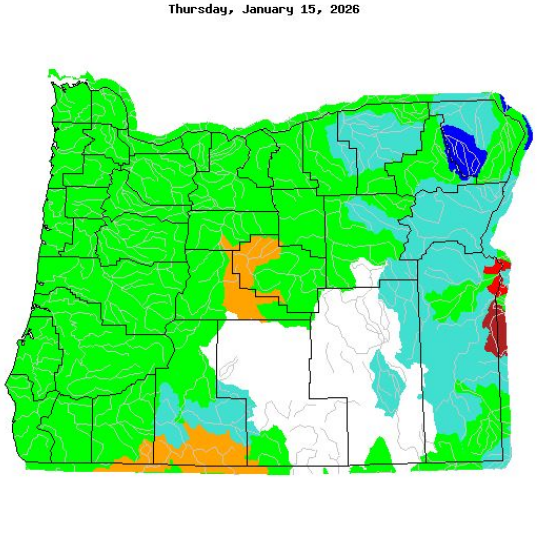
- Much above normal streamflows (>90th percentiles) in the Wallowa basin
- Above normal streamflows (75th-90th percentiles) in the Umatilla, Lower Grande Ronde and Middle Fork John Day basins
- Below normal streamflows (10th-25th percentile) for the Lower Crooked basin
- Near normal streamflows (25th-75th percentile) for all other basins except no data for the Silvies and Summer Lake basins

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

Reduced streamflow may be detrimental to aquatic species and recreational activities.





Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
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Image Captions:
Right - USGS 7-day average streamflow station map valid January 15, 2026
Left - USGS 7-day average streamflow HUC map valid January 15, 2026
Data Courtesy USGS Water Watch

Water Supply Forecast - April - September 2026

Link to the latest Northwest River Forecast Center Water Supply Forecast.

Main Takeaways

- Below to near normal water supply (70% to 105% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast over most Washington locations for the April - September 2026 period
- Below normal water supply (55% to 85% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast for most locations in Oregon
- Well below normal water supply (30-40% of the 1191-2020 normal))in the Crooked River Basin
- These forecasts for 2026 are based on streamflow data from the new water year which started on October 1, 2025

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

Low reservoir levels would be expected to affect agriculture production, fish, and other aquatic species.

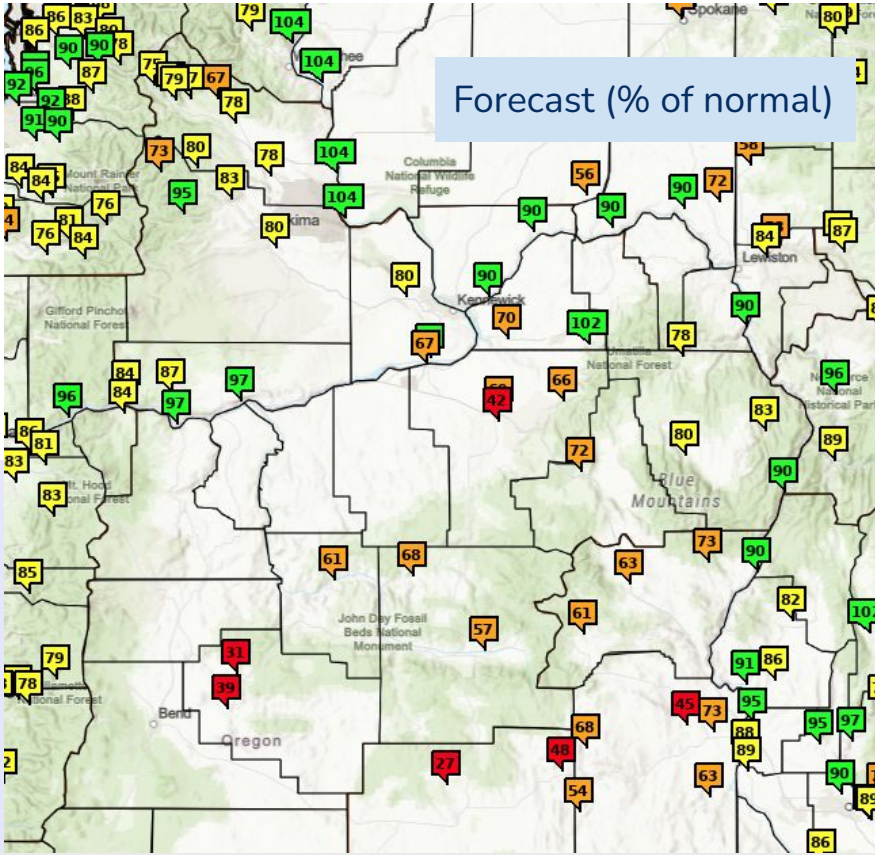


Image Caption:
Ensemble Streamflow Prediction Natural Forecast
Data Courtesy NOAA NWS Northwest River Forecast Center
Issued January 16, 2026

Fire Hazard Impacts - September through December

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.]

Main Takeaways

- Normal significant wildland fire potential (i.e., normal risk) is forecast for all areas in for January through April 2026

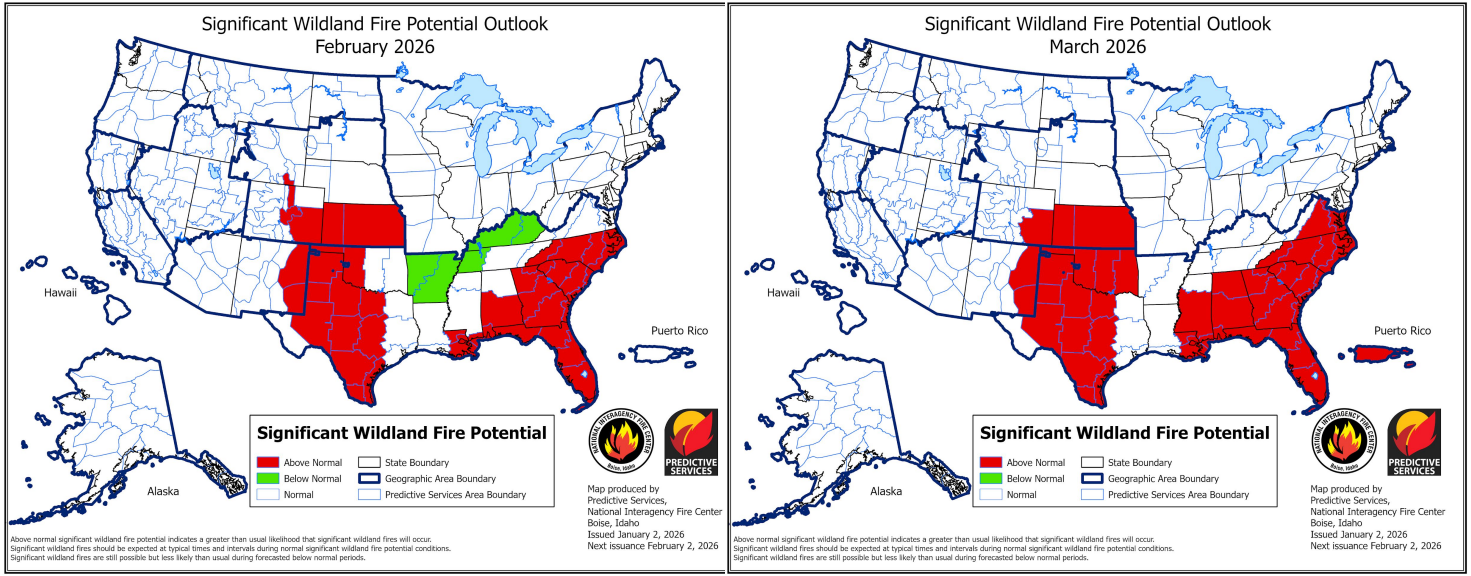


Image Caption:
Left - February 2026
Right - March 2026
Data Courtesy National Interagency Coordination Center
Issued January 2, 2026

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- High pressure will keep the area dry into early next week. High pressure will begin weakening by Wednesday allowing rain with snow above 2500-3500 feet
- Mountains will receive up to 0.5 inch of precipitation (translating to a few inches of snow)
- Up to 0.1 inch of rain in the Blue Mountain Foothills
- The rest of the area is expected to remain dry
- Temperatures are expected to remain near to a few degrees above normal through next week except in valleys where inversions create fog and low clouds keeping temperatures a few degrees below normal
- Visit weather.gov/Pendleton for the latest weather forecast

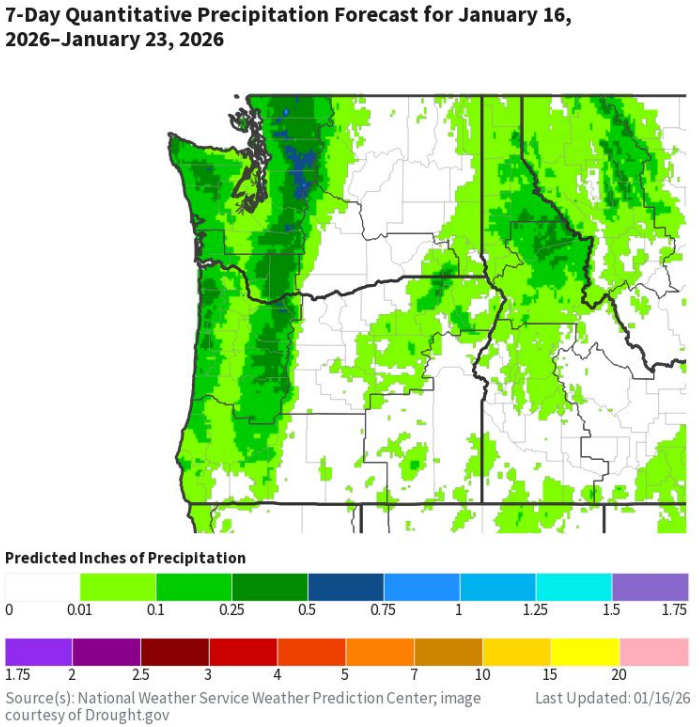


Image Caption:
Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast

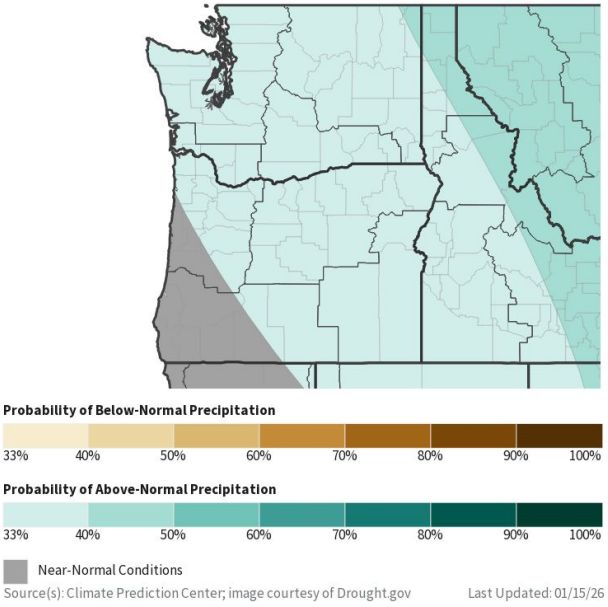
6-10 Day Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center 6 to 10 day Temperature Outlook and Precipitation Outlook.

Main Takeaways

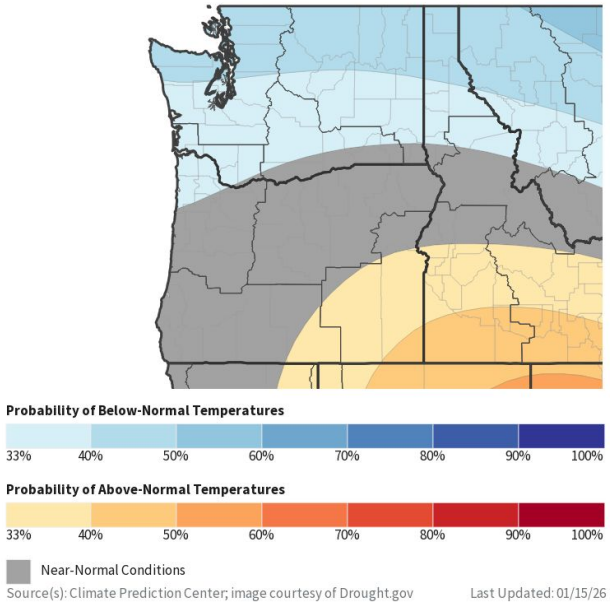
- A 33% to 40% chance of above normal temperatures across most of the WA portion of the area except for near normal near the WA/OR border and in all of OR
- A 33% to 40% chance of above normal precipitation across the entire area

6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook for January 21, 2026–January 25, 2026



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 01/15/26

6-10 Day Temperature Outlook for January 21, 2026–January 25, 2026



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 01/15/26

Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook.
Valid January 21-25, 2026

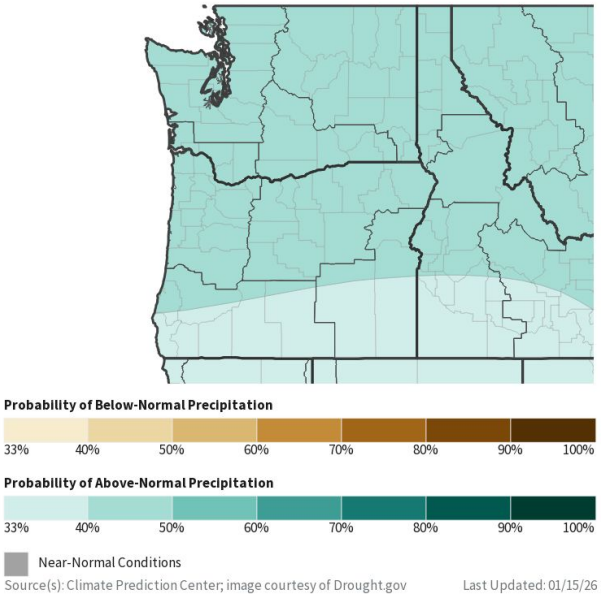
8-14 Day Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day Temperature Outlook and Precipitation Outlook.

Main Takeaways

- A 40% to 50% chance of above normal precipitation across the entire area
- A 33% to 40% chance of below normal temperatures in northern Kittitas county, a 33% to 40% chance of above normal temperatures in most of Grant, southeast Deschutes, and southeast Crook counties and near normal temperatures over the rest of the area

8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for January 23, 2026-January 29, 2026



8-14 Day Temperature Outlook for January 23, 2026-January 29, 2026

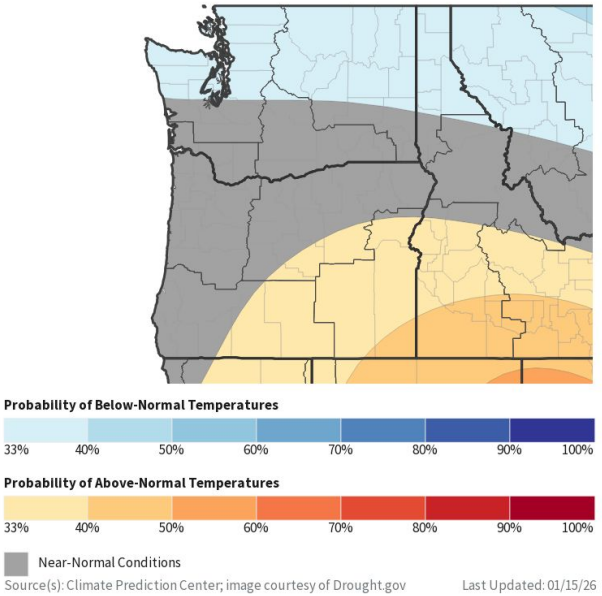


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook.
Valid January 23-29, 2026

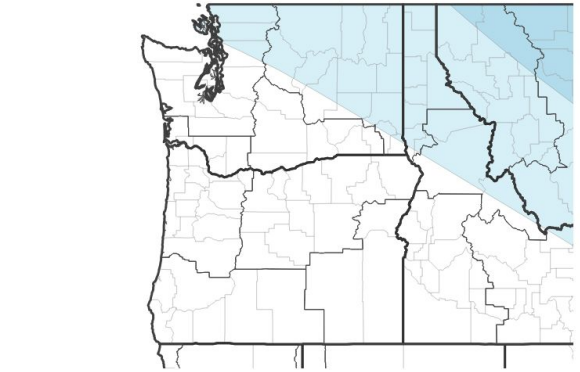
Monthly Climate Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center Monthly Outlook.

Main Takeaways for February 2026

- Near normal temperatures across the entire area
- A 33% to 40% chance of above normal precipitation across the northern and eastern portions of the area with near normal precipitation across the rest of the area

Monthly Temperature Outlook for February 1, 2026–February 28, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

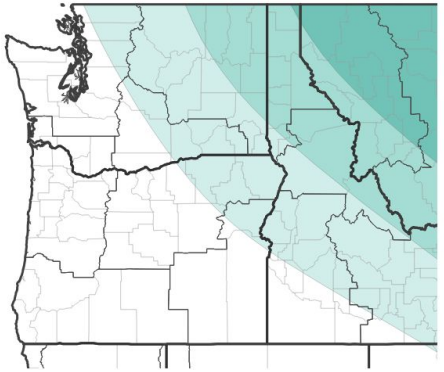
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 01/15/26

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for February 1, 2026–February 28, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 01/15/26

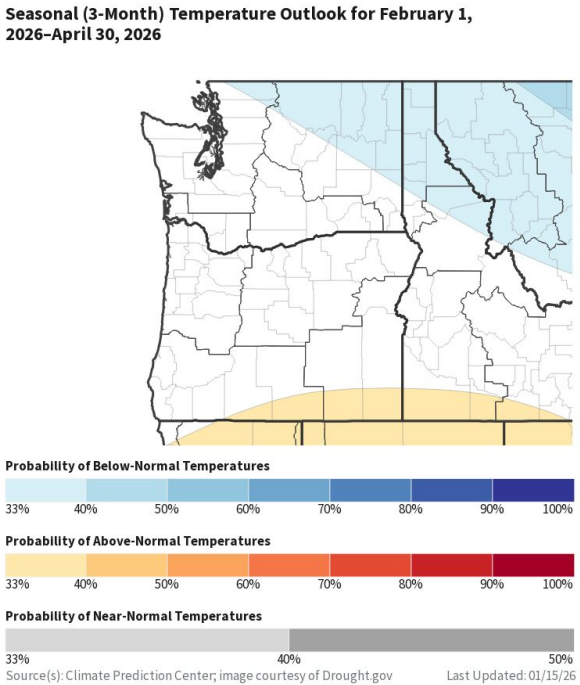
Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook.
Updated January 15, 2026

Seasonal Climate Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Outlook.

Main Takeaways for February-April 2026

- Near normal temperature over the entire area
- A 33% to 40% chance of above normal precipitation across the entire area



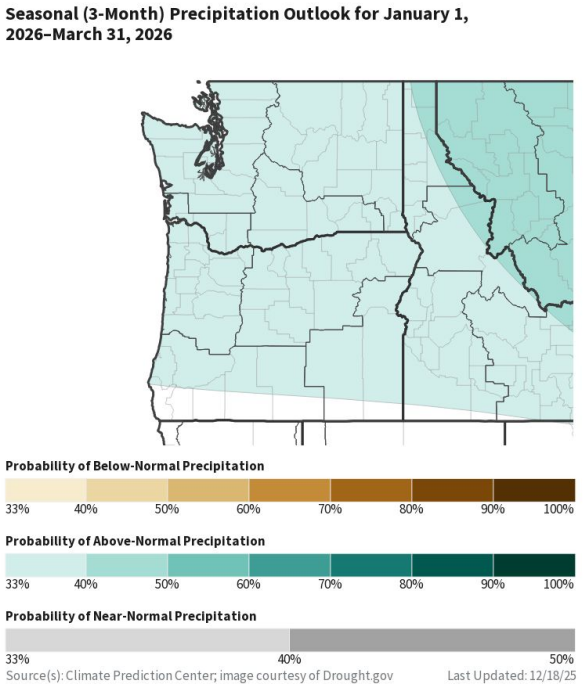


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook.
Valid February - April 2026

Drought Outlook

The latest drought outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage.

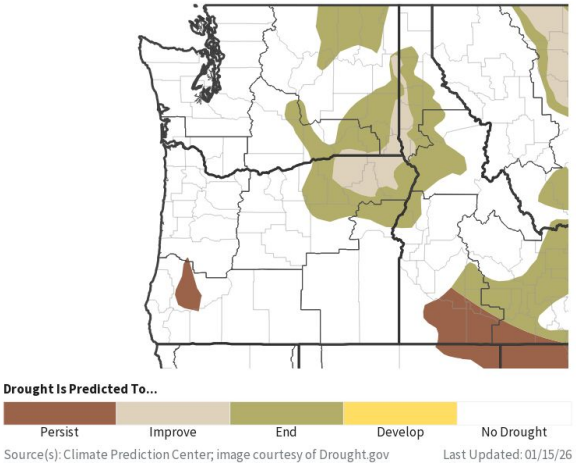
Main Takeaways

- Drought is expected to generally improve or end over the northern and eastern portions of the area and remain in No Drought in the rest of the area during January 2026
- Drought is expected to generally improve or end over the northern and eastern portions of the area and remain in No Drought in the rest of the area during mid January through April 2026

Possible Impacts

- Any lingering drought may result in reduced streamflows and low reservoir levels which may result in a possible reduction of agricultural yield, crop loss, and poor pasture conditions where irrigation water is not available.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for January 15, 2026–April 30, 2026



1-Month Drought Outlook for January 1, 2026–January 31, 2026

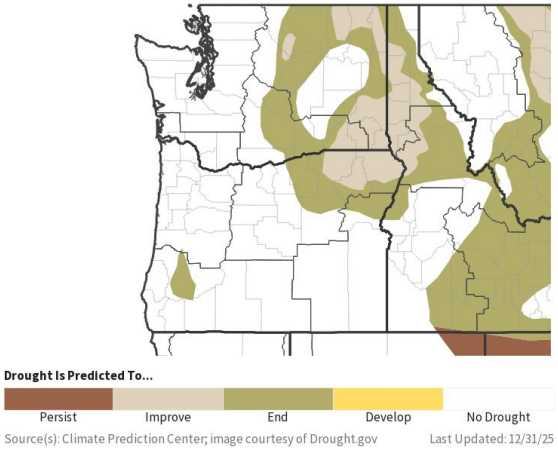


Image Captions:
Right - Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released December 31, 2025
Left - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released January 15, 2026