Drought Information Statement for Northeast Oregon and South Central Washington Valid April 10, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Pendleton, OR

Contact Information: nws.pendleton@noaa.gov

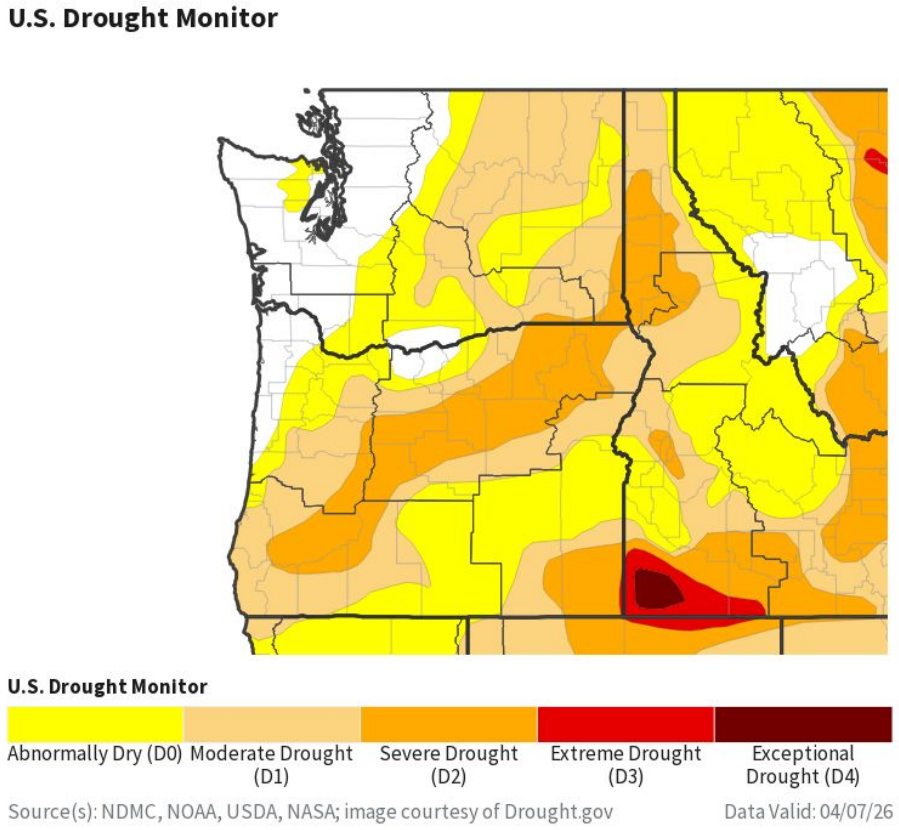
- This product will be updated monthly or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/pdt/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit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

- Severe drought continues in northeast Oregon. The rest of the area is in a mix of abnormally dry and moderate drought.
- Near to above normal precipitation (100%-300% of normal) in the Washington Cascades, northern Blue Mountains and northern Wallowa county and below to well below normal (25% to 75% of normal) in most other areas over the last 30 days. Less than 25% of normal in parts of central Oregon
- Drought is expected to persist or develop over most areas by the end of June while No Drought conditions continue in the Cascades of Kittitas and Yakima counties and in western Franklin and northeast Benton counties
- All areas forecast to have normal significant fire potential for mid April - May 2026 becoming above normal significant fire potential for June and July 2026

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for Northeast Oregon and South Central Washington

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Union, Jefferson, most of Umatilla, western Wallowa, far southern Walla Walla and Columbia, southern Morrow, northern Grant and Crook, most of Wheeler and northern and western Deschutes counties
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Eastern Kittitas, central and northeast Yakima, most of Benton, Walla Walla and Columbia, eastern Franklin, eastern Wallowa, northwestern Umatilla, central Morrow, southern Grant, southern Gilliam, central Sherman, southern Wasco, southern Crook and Deschutes counties
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Western Kittitas, much of Yakima, northern Klickitat, western Franklin, portions of Benton, northwestern Morrow, central Gilliam, Sherman and Wasco, far southeastern Deschutes and Crook counties
  - **Normal Conditions**: northern Wasco and Sherman, northwest Gilliam and southern Klickitat counties

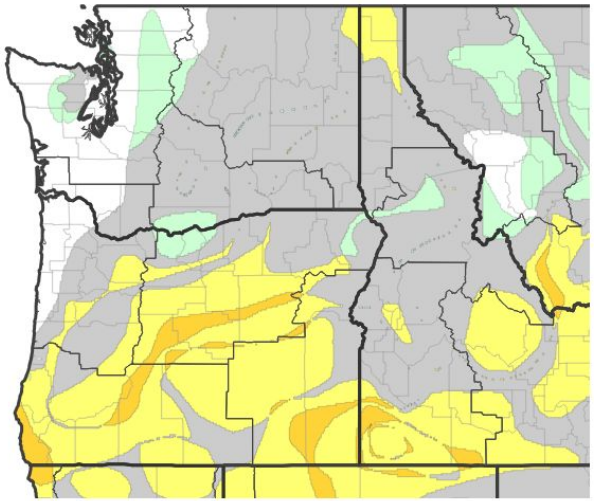


Recent Changes in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for Northeast Oregon and South Central Washington

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - **Drought Worsened (2 classes)**: Portions of Deschutes, Crook, Wheeler and Grant counties
  - **Drought Worsened (1 class)**: Jefferson, much of Deschutes, Crook, Wheeler and Grant, far southeast Union and southwest Wallowa, portions of southern Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow and Umatilla counties
  - **Drought Improved (1 class)**: Portions of central Wallowa, northern Wasco and Sherman, northwest Gilliam and southern Klickitat counties
  - **No Change**: All other areas not mentioned above

U.S. Drought Monitor 4-Week Change Map



Drought Degradation

-5 -4 -3 -2 -1

Drought Improvement

+1 +2 +3 +4 +5

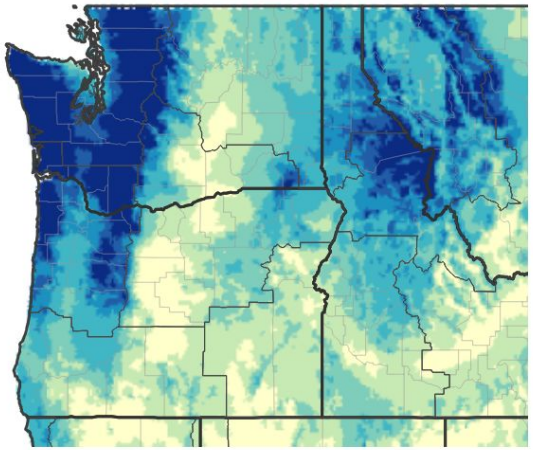
Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/07/26

Precipitation - Last 30 Days

- Near to above normal (100% to 300% of normal) in the WA Cascades and WA Blue Mountains, Kittitas Valley and eastern WA Columbia basin over the last 30 days
- Near to above normal (100% to 200% of normal) in northern Wallowa county and northern OR Cascades and in small pockets of the John Day Highlands and central Union county.
- Below to well below normal (<25% to 75% of normal) in most other areas over the last 30 days
- Highest precipitation amounts were 8+ inches along the WA and northern OR Cascade crest over the last 30 days
- Generally less than 2 inches of precipitation in rest of the mountains and less than 1 inch in the lower elevations over the last 30 days

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



Inches of Precipitation

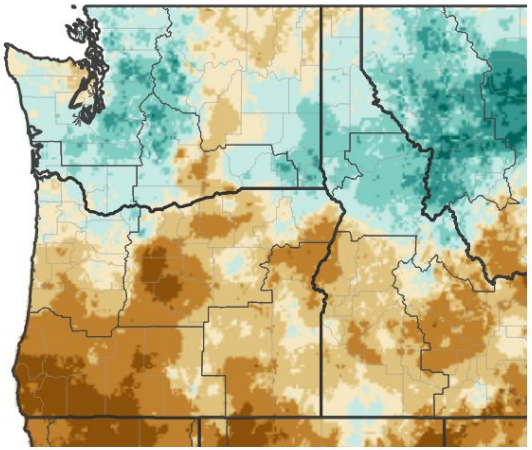
0 0.01 0.5 1 2

2 4 6 8

Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/08/26

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

100% 150% 200% 300%

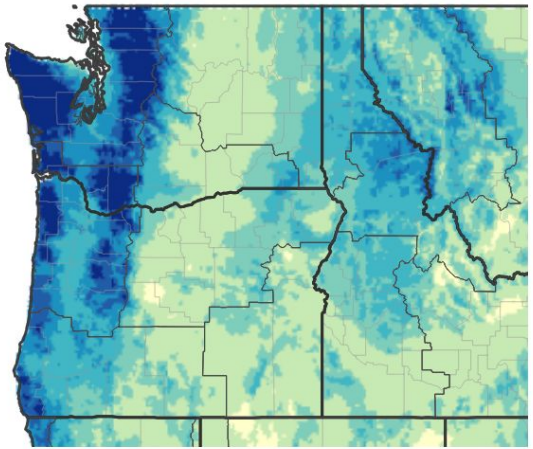
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/09/26

Precipitation - Last 90 Days

- Near to below normal precipitation (25% to 100% of normal) in most areas over the last 90 days
- Near to above normal precipitation (100% to 150% of normal) in northern Walla Walla and Columbia and a portion of northeast Yakima counties over the last 90 days
- Precipitation amounts of 1-12 inches in most areas over the last 90 days
- Wettest locations had 18 to 24 inches over the WA Cascade crest over the last 90 days
- Driest locations received less than 1 inches in northeast Deschutes and northwest Crook county over the last 90 days

NWPS 90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



Inches of Precipitation

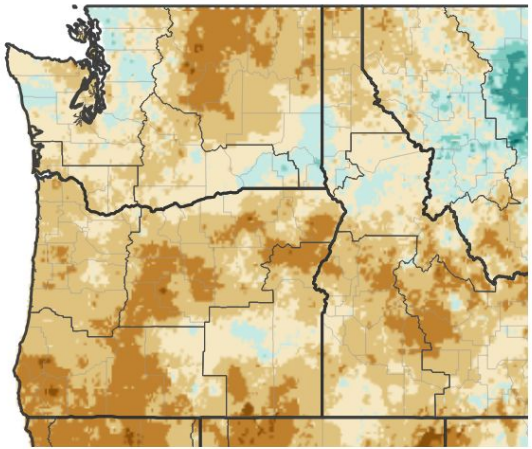
0 0.01 1 3 6

6 12 18 24

Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/08/26

90-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

100% 150% 200% 300%

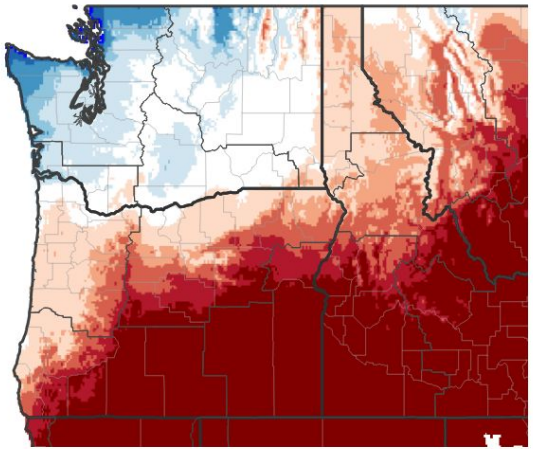
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service ; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/09/26

Temperatures - Last 7 And Last 30 Days

- Near to below normal temperatures (1 degree above to 3 degrees below normal) over WA for the last 7 days
- Above to well above normal temperatures (1 degree above to 8+ degrees above normal) in OR for the last 7 days
- Above to well above normal temperatures (1 degree above to 8+ degrees above normal) in most areas for the last 30 days
- Near to below normal temperatures (1 degree above to 3 degrees below normal) in the WA Cascades, and the Yakima and Kittitas Valleys for the last 30 days

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

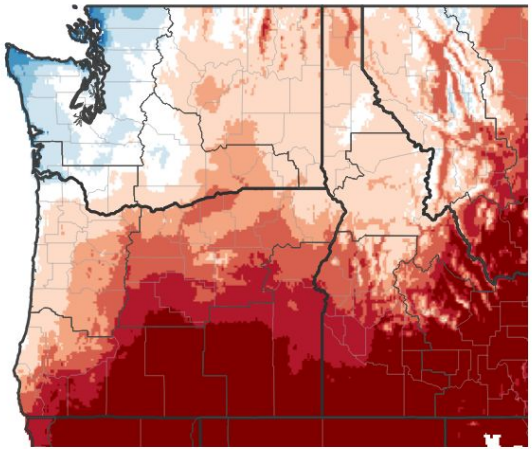
-8 -6 -4 -3 -1 0

0 1 3 4 6 8

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

Data Valid: 03/31/26

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

-8 -6 -4 -3 -1 0

0 1 3 4 6 8

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

Data Valid: 03/31/26

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Below to well below normal streamflows (30th-80th percentiles) in most basins
- Far below normal streamflows (9th-15th percentiles) in the Crooked basin

Agricultural Impacts

- Reservoirs in the WA Cascades are mostly full (80% - 98% full - average is 93%) due to recent precipitation. Other reservoirs are 50%-90% full with a few outliers at less than 35% full. However, a majority of mountain snow packs are at 0%-10% of normal and others are at 18%-55%. Water deliveries to agricultural interests in the Yakima area remain uncertain but will likely be reduced from normal amounts. Impacts elsewhere are uncertain at this time but water availability will likely also be below normal.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Normal significant wildland fire potential is present over the entire area through May 2026 becoming above normal significant wildland fire potential in June and July 2026.

Other Impacts

- Washington: Washington Issues A Drought Emergency For The Entire State Through April 2027

Mitigation Actions

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

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts as of April 10th, 2026

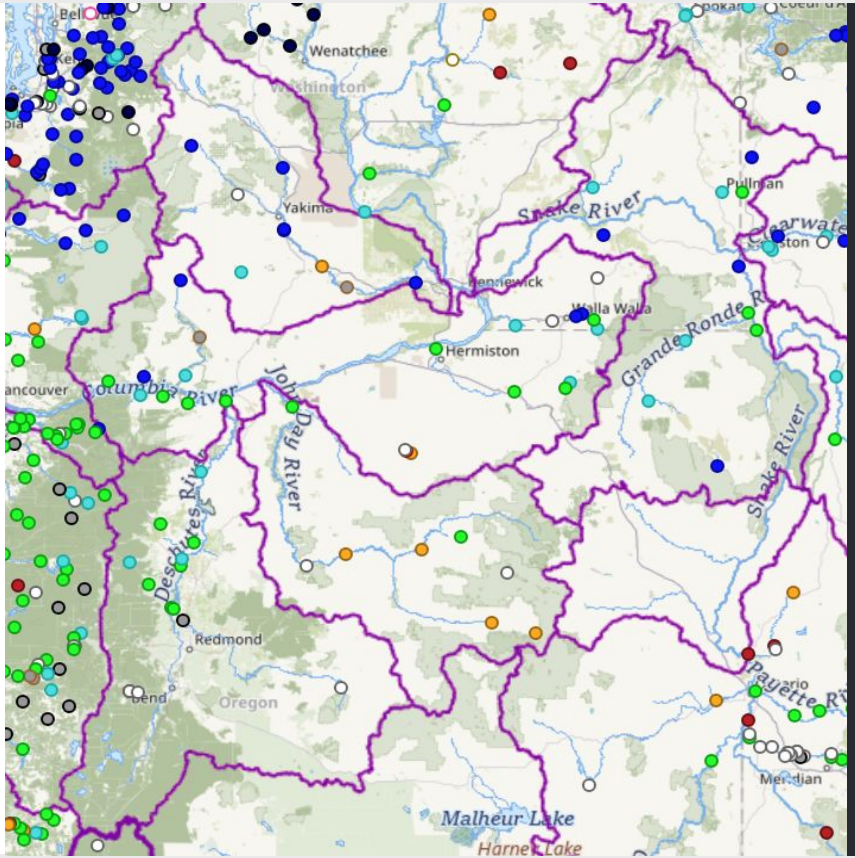
Main Takeaways

- Above to much above normal streamflows (76th-95th percentile) in WA Cascade and the Walla Walla basins
- Near to above normal streamflows (25th-90th percentiles) in most other basins
- Below to near normal streamflows (10th-24th percentiles) in the John Day basin

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

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



Streamflow: Status

Above flood stage	
All-time high for this day	100th percentile (maximum)
Much above normal	>90th percentile
Above normal	76th – 90th percentile
Normal	25th – 75th percentile
Below normal	10th – 24th percentile
Much below normal	<10th percentile
All-time low for this day	0th percentile (minimum)
Not flowing	
Not ranked	
Measurement flag	
Recent measurement unavailable	

Comments: Marker color indicates the current streamflow condition. Categories are based on the percentile of existing streamflow records on this day-of-the-year. A streamgage is not ranked when there is less than 20 years of record or a current streamflow value is unavailable. Flood stages are maintained by the National Weather Service (NWS) and are not established for all USGS streamgages.

Snowpack Conditions and Impacts as of March 17, 2026

Link to the latest Snow Water Equivalent Percent of 1991-2020 Median map

Main Takeaways

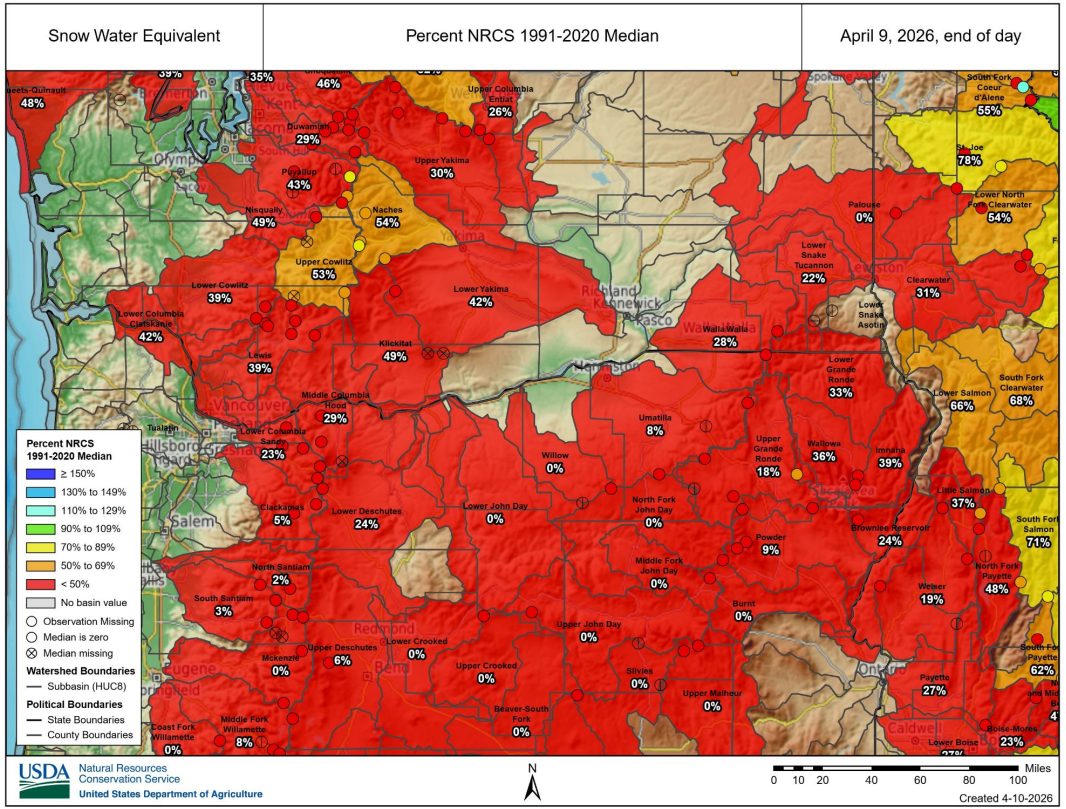
- Snowpacks are below normal (22% to 54% of normal) in WA basin
- Far below normal snowpack values (0% to 8% of normal) in most Oregon basins except for well below normal snowpacks (18% to 39% of normal) in the Union and Wallowa County and Lower Deschutes basins

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

Snow water equivalent is related to the amount of water stored in snowpack.

- *Snow can affect the amount of available water for spring and summer snow melt. This can have impacts on water storage, irrigation, fisheries, vegetation, municipal water supplies, and wildfire.*



Water Supply Forecast - April - September 2026

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

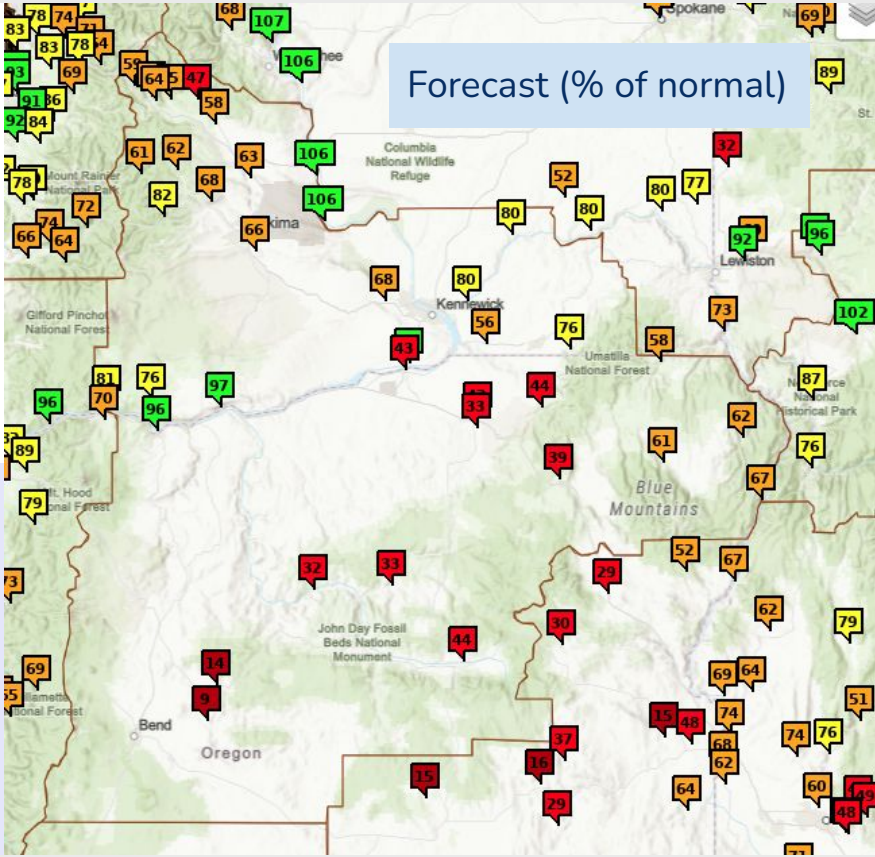
Main Takeaways

- Below to near normal water supply (55% to 95% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast over most other Washington locations for the April - September 2026 period
- Well below normal water supply (32% to 68% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast for most Oregon locations and the Yakima and Naches basins for the April - September 2026 period
- Far below normal water supply (9-14% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast along the Crooked River Basin for the April - September 2026 period
- 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.

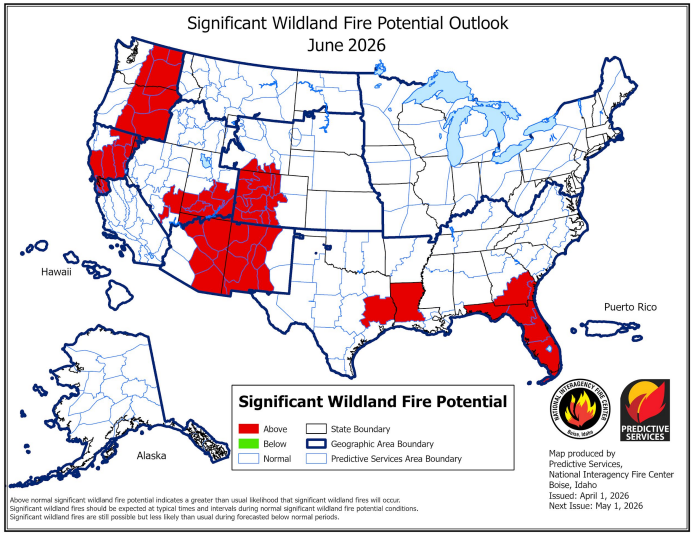


Fire Hazard Impacts

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 through May 2026
- Above normal significant wildland fire potential (i.e., greater than normal risk) is forecast for all areas in for June and July 2026



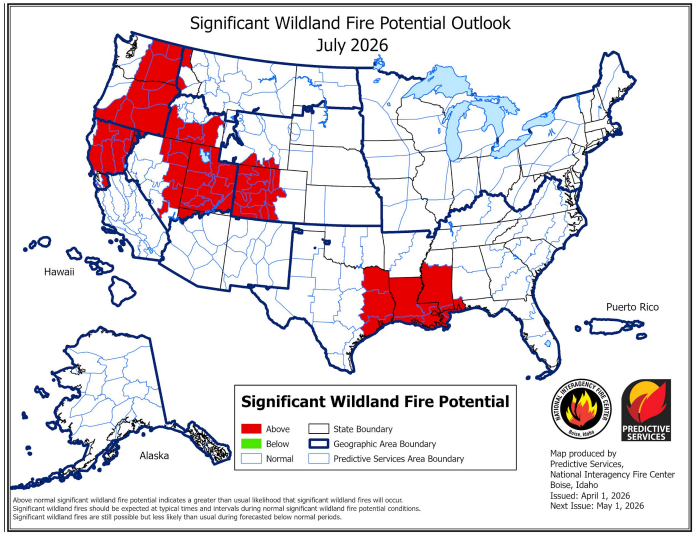
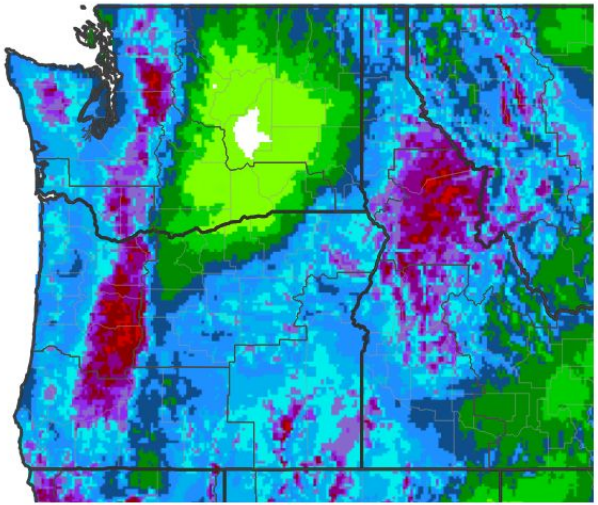


Image Caption:
Left - June 2026
Right - July 2026
Data Courtesy National Interagency Coordination Center
Issued April 1, 2026

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A system will bring showers and a chance of thunderstorms this weekend and early Monday
- High temperatures will drop into the 50s and lower 60s next week. Overnight lows in the 30s and lower 40s with below freezing temperatures possible in central Oregon Tuesday through Thursday
- Most mountain locations will get 1 to 2 inches of precipitation (some of it as snow) in the next week while the lower elevations will get a half inch or less
- After a couple of quieter days, another system will spread additional rain and mountain snow Wednesday

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for April 10, 2026–April 17, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation

0 0.01 0.1 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 1.5 1.75

1.75 2 2.5 3 4 5 7 10 15 20

Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

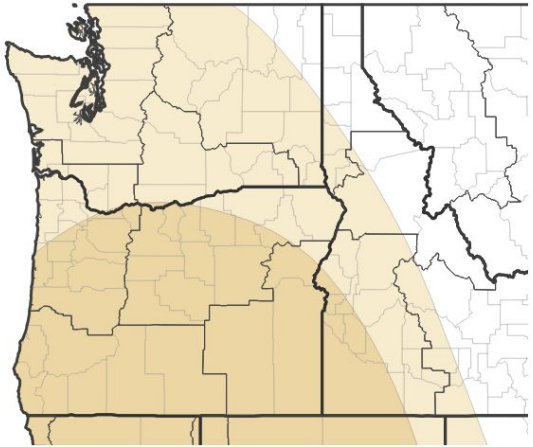
Last Updated: 04/10/26

Monthly Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- A 33% to 50% chance of above normal temperatures is expected across the entire area
- A 33% to 50% chance of below normal precipitation is expected across the entire area

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



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

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

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

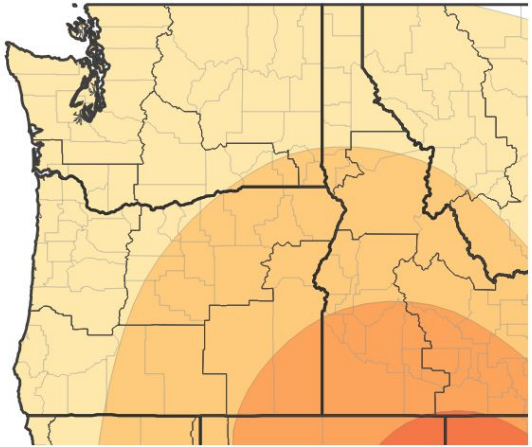
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 03/31/26

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

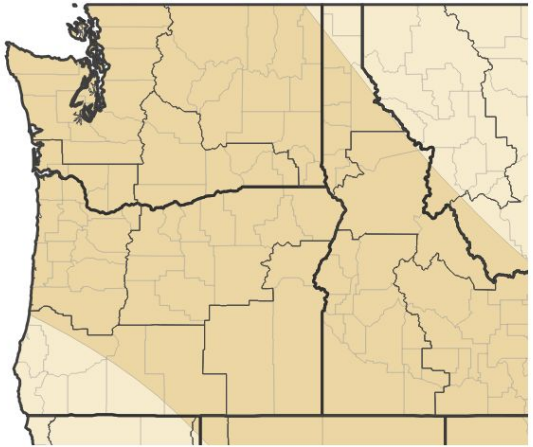
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 03/31/26

Three Month Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- A 40% to 60% chance of above normal temperatures is expected across the entire area
- A 40% to 50% chance of below normal precipitation is expected across the entire area

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for April 1, 2026–June 30, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

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

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

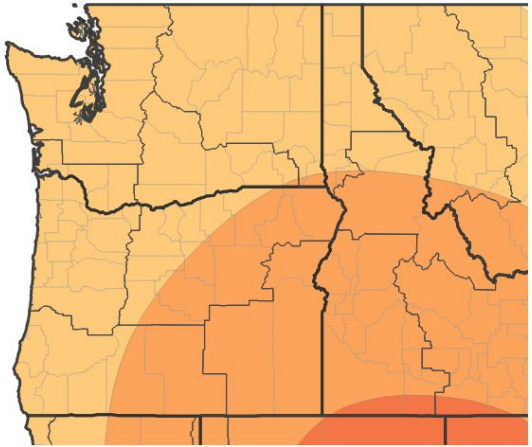
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 03/19/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for April 1, 2026–June 30, 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: 03/19/26

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

Main Takeaways

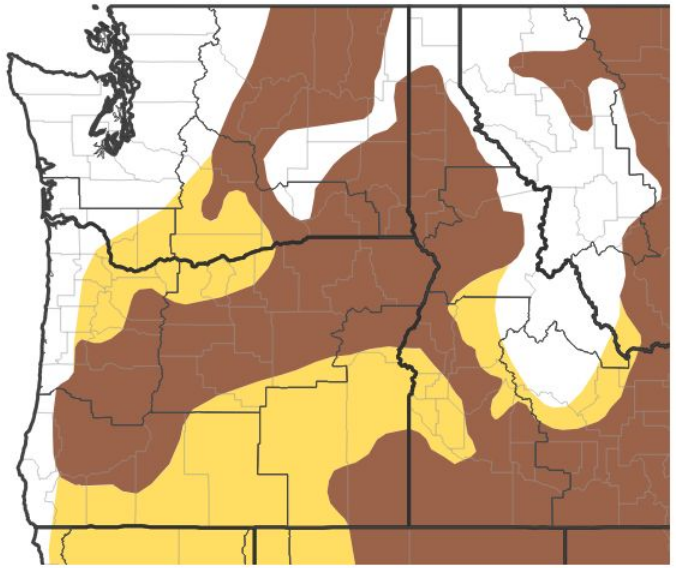
- Drought is expected to either persist or develop over most of the area by the end of June
- No Drought conditions are expected to continue in the Cascades of western Kittitas and northwest Yakima counties and in western Franklin and northeast Benton counties during mid April through June 2026

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.

Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for March 31, 2026–June 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...

Persist | Improve | End | Develop | No Drought

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

Last Updated: 03/31/26