



Drought Information Statement for Northeast Oregon and South Central Washington

Valid May 8, 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 central Oregon while the rest of the area is mainly a mix of abnormally dry and moderate drought
 - Near to above normal precipitation (100%-300% of normal) in most of the eastern Oregon Mountains and Columbia Basin 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 the southern WA Cascades
 - Drought is expected to persist or develop over the entire area through by the end of July
 - All areas are forecast to have normal significant fire potential for the rest of May 2026 becoming above normal significant fire potential for June through August 2026



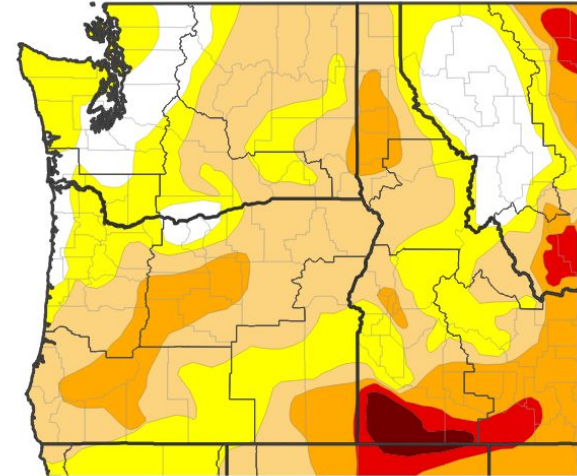


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Northeast Oregon and South Central Washington

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

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 05/05/26



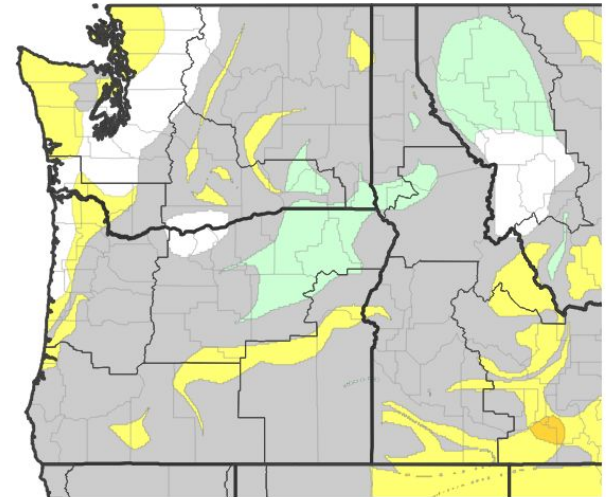


Recent Changes in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Northeast Oregon and South Central Washington

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - **Drought Worsened (1 class):** Small pockets of Yakima, Kittitas, Franklin, far southeastern Deschutes and far southern Crook counties
 - **Drought Improved (1 class):** Eastern Franklin, northern and far southern Walla Walla, far northwest and far southern Columbia, northern and western Wallowa, all of Union, most of Umatilla, southeastern Morrow and northern Grant counties
 - **No Change:** All other areas not mentioned above

U.S. Drought Monitor 4-Week Change Map



Drought Degradation



Drought Improvement



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

Data Valid: 05/05/26

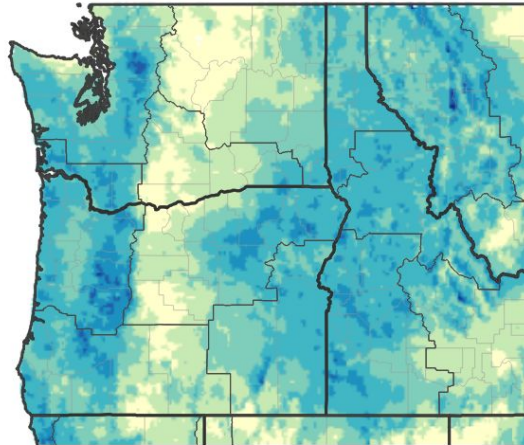




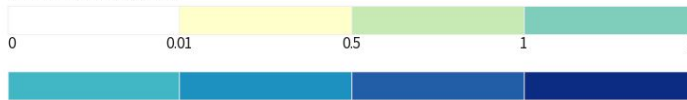
Precipitation - Last 30 Days

- Near to above normal (100% to 300% of normal) in the eastern Oregon mountains over the last 30 days
- Near to above normal (50% to 150% of normal) in most of the Columbia Basin over the last 30 days.
- Below to well below normal (<25% to 75% of normal) in the Cascades, the Yakima and Kittitas Valleys and central Oregon over the last 30 days
- Highest precipitation amounts were 4 to 6 inches in the OR Blue and Wallowa mountains over the last 30 days
- Generally 1 to 4 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)



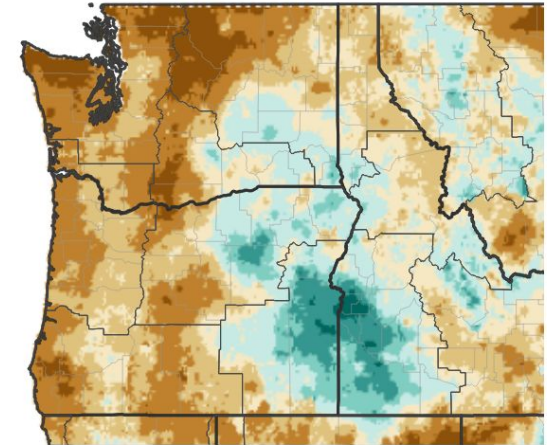
Inches of Precipitation



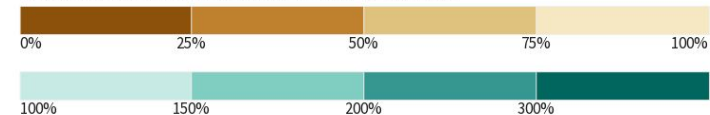
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/06/26

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



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

Data Valid: 05/07/26

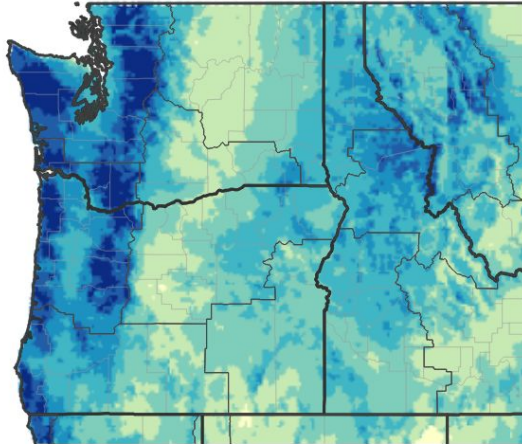




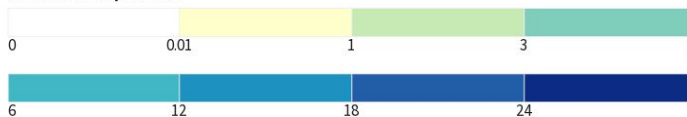
Precipitation - Last 90 Days

- Near normal precipitation (50% to 150% of normal) in most areas over the last 90 days
- Above normal precipitation (150% to 200% of normal) in pockets of the WA Columbia Basin and the southern Blue and Ochocho mountains over the last 90 days
- Precipitation amounts of 3 to 12 inches in the mountains and 1 to 6 inches in the lower elevations over the last 90 days
- Wettest locations had 18 to 24 inches over small pockets of the WA Cascade crest over the last 90 days
- Driest locations received less than 1 inch in western Crook county over the last 90 days

NWPS 90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



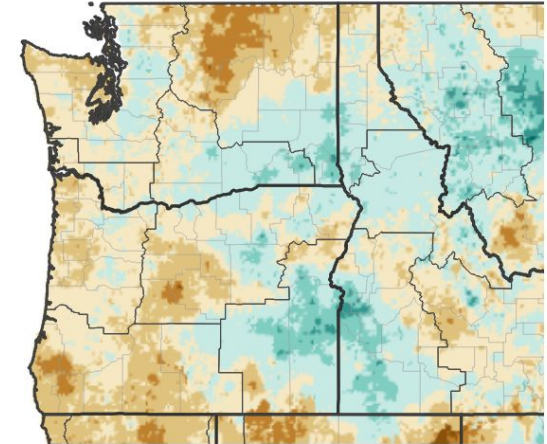
Inches of Precipitation



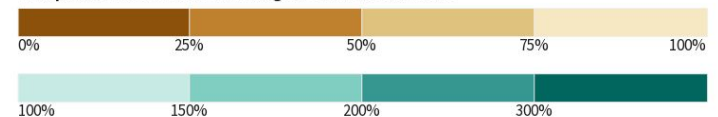
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/06/26

90-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



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

Data Valid: 05/07/26

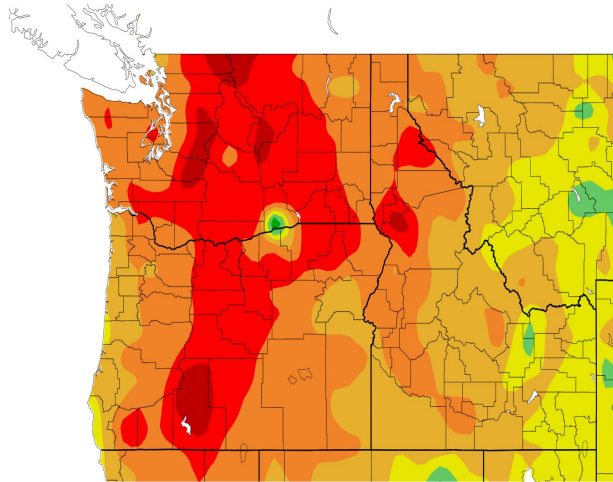




Temperatures - Last 7 And Last 30 Days

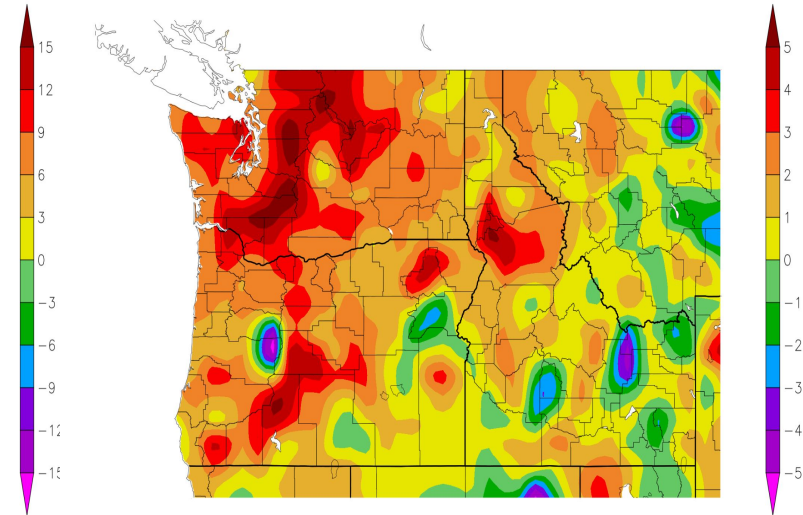
- Well above normal temperatures (6 degrees to 12 degrees above normal) in most areas for the last 7 days
- Above normal temperatures (1 degree above to 5 degrees above normal) in most areas for the last 30 days

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
5/1/2026 - 5/7/2026



Generated 5/8/2026 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/8/2026 - 5/7/2026



ACIS Web Service Generated 5/8/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services





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 (30% - 75% of normal) in most basins
- Far below normal streamflows (less than 10% of normal) in the Crooked basin
- Near normal streamflows (90% - 100% of normal) at Columbia River locations

Agricultural Impacts

- Reservoirs in the WA Cascades are mostly full (88% - 100% full - average is 96%). Other reservoirs are 45%-90% full with a few outliers at less than 35% full. However, mountain snowmelt is 20 to 40+ days ahead of normal which will limit additional reservoir inflows. 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

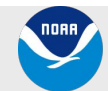
- Normal significant wildland fire potential is present over the entire area through May 2026 becoming above normal significant wildland fire potential for June through August 2026.

Other Impacts

- Washington: [Washington Issues A Drought Emergency For The Entire State Through April 2027](#)
- Oregon: [Drought Declarations Issued Or Requested For 8 Oregon Counties through 12-31-2026](#)

Mitigation Actions

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





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts as of May 6th, 2026

Main Takeaways

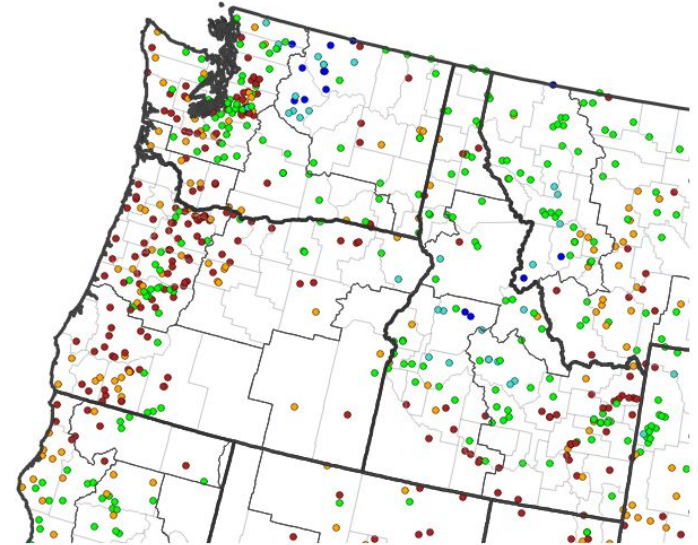
- Mostly normal streamflows (26th-75th percentile) in Washington basins with a few locations (mainly near the Oregon border) below or much below normal (below the 25th percentile)
- Below to much below normal streamflows (below the 25th percentile) in most Oregon basins with a few basins in the eastern OR mountains having normal streamflows

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

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

1-Day Average Streamflow Conditions



Streamflow Conditions



Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/06/26





Snowpack Conditions and Impacts as of May 7, 2026

Link to the [latest Snow Water Equivalent Percent of 1991-2020 Median map](#)

Main Takeaways

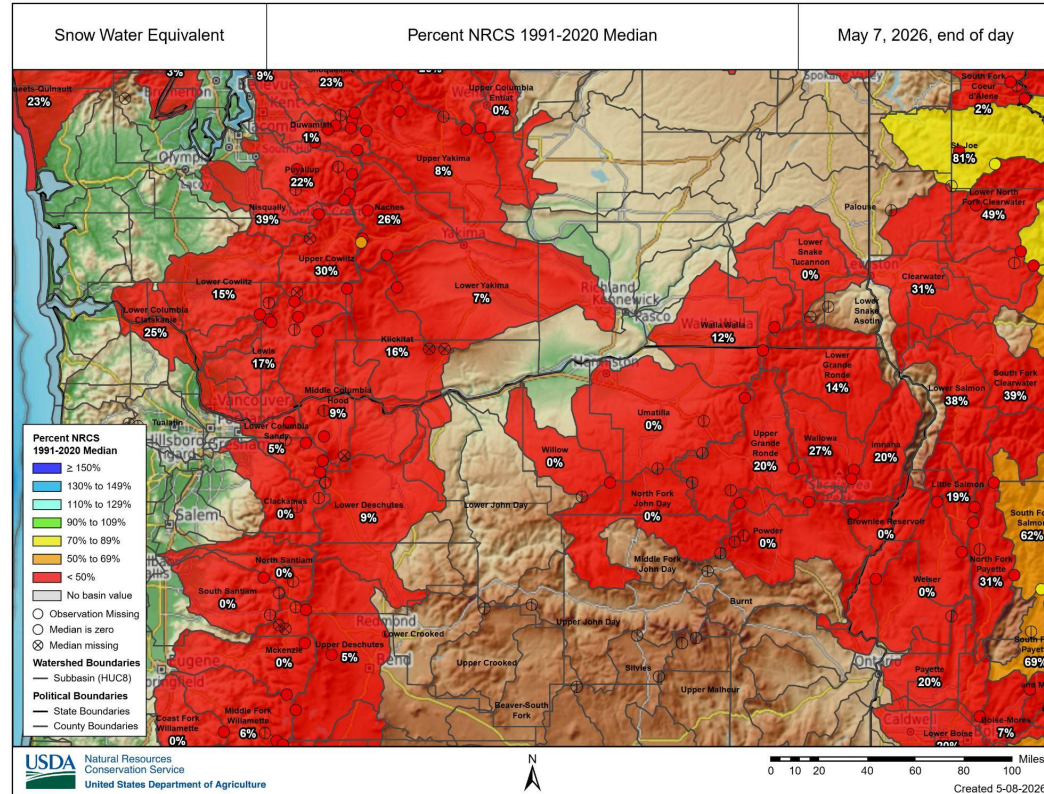
- Snowpacks are well below normal (5% to 26% of normal) in the Cascade and higher eastern Oregon mountain basins
- Snowpacks have melted (0% of normal) in several lower elevation eastern Oregon mountain basins

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 normal water supply (32% to 75% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast over most locations for the April - September 2026 period
- Near normal water supply (90% to 105% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast for Columbia River locations and McKay Creek for the April - September 2026 period
- Far below normal water supply (<10% 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

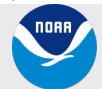
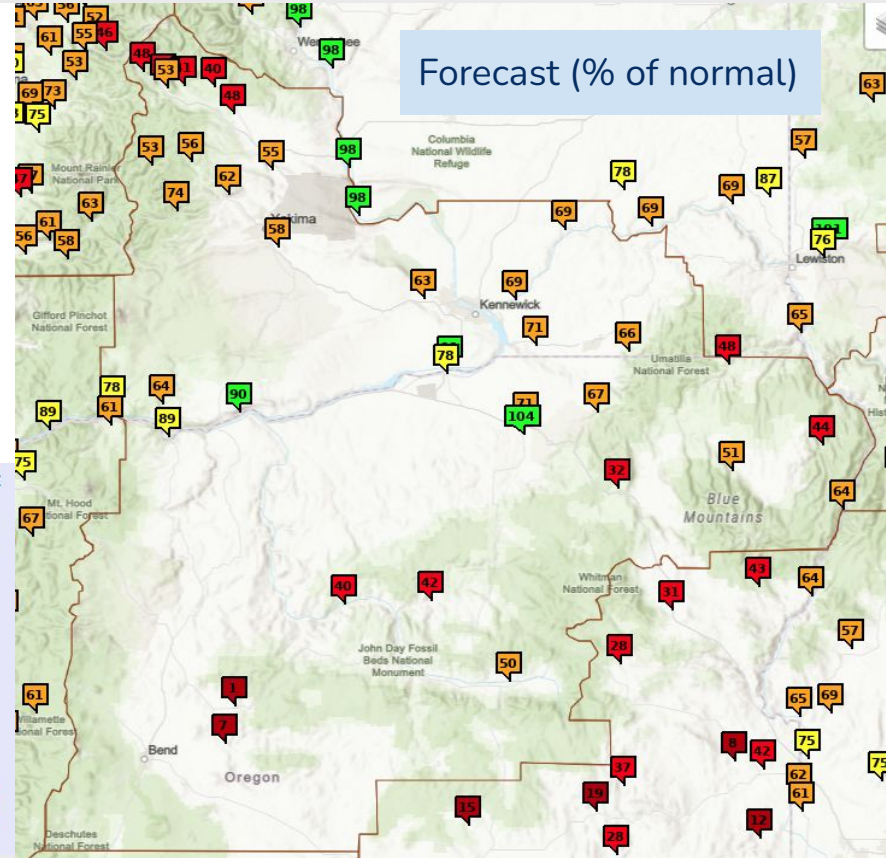
No known impacts at this time

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

ESP Natural Forecast

Period: APR-SEP
Forecast (% Normal)

- No Normal, No Data
- < 25
- 25-50
- 50-75
- 75-90
- 90-110
- 110-125
- 125-150
- 150-175
- > 175





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 June, July and August 2026

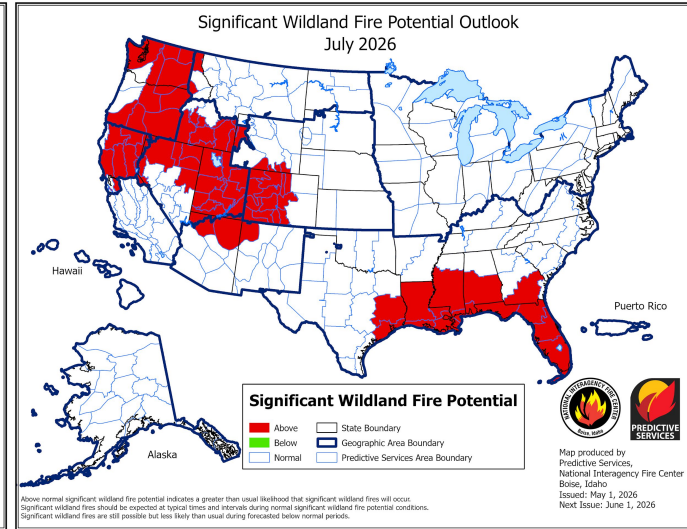
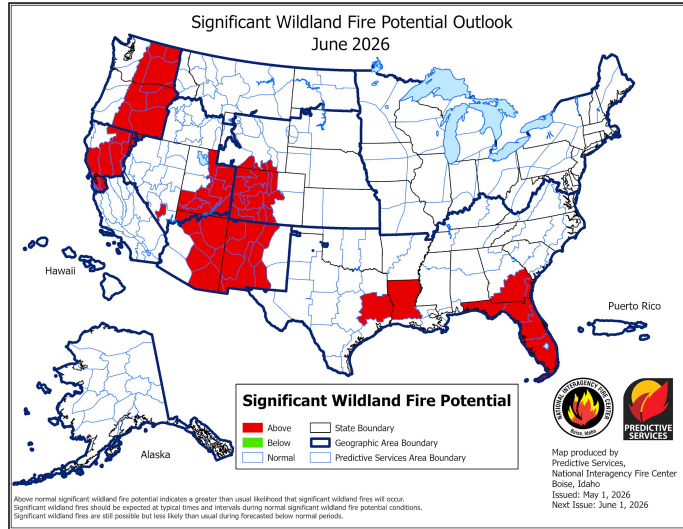


Image Caption:
Left - June 2026
Right - July 2026

Data Courtesy National Interagency Coordination Center
Issued May 1, 2026

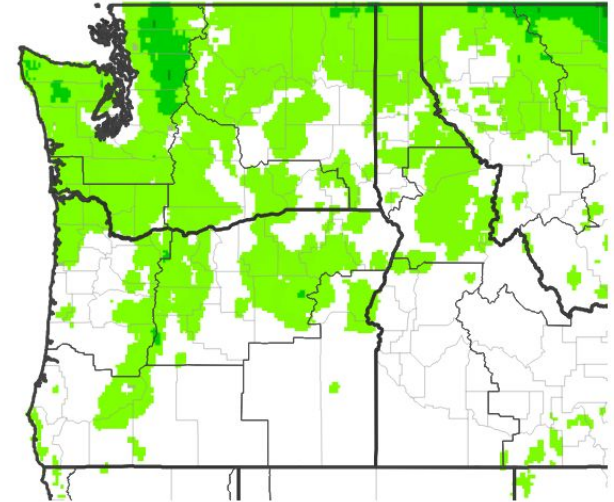




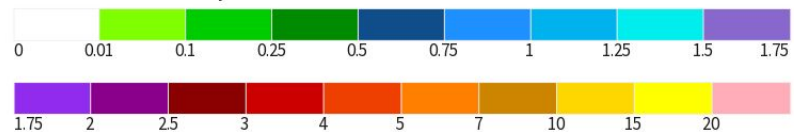
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- High pressure will be predominant with gradually rising temperatures until a weak low pressure system arrives Tuesday with a chance of rain and cooler temperatures
- Rain will be light with less than a tenth of an inch expected and will mainly fall in the mountains and Columbia Basin
- High temperatures will be mainly in the 70s and lower 80s initially then warm to the 80s early next week with some locations in the WA Columbia Basin approaching 90 on Tuesday
- Temperatures are expected (with low confidence) to drop back to the 70s and lower 80s Wednesday and Thursday

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for May 8, 2026–May 15, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 05/08/26



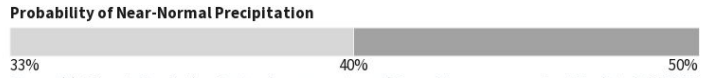
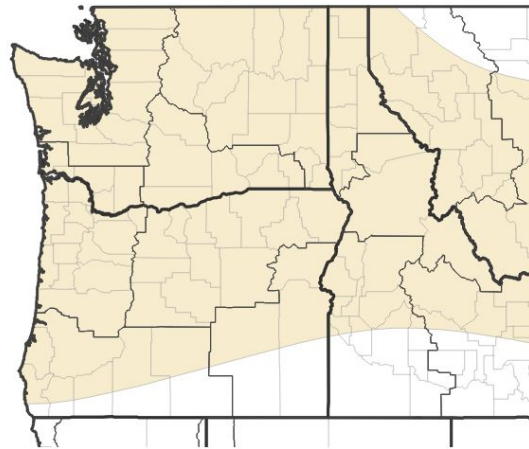


Monthly Outlook

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

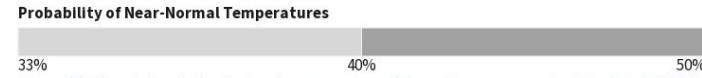
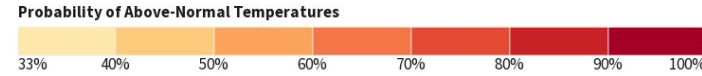
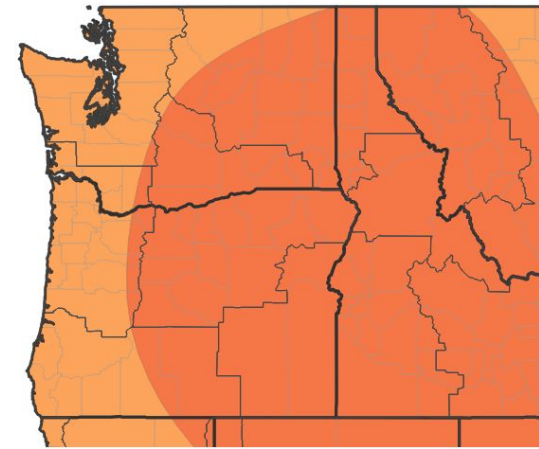
- A 50% to 70% chance of above normal temperatures is expected across the entire area
- A 33% to 40% chance of below normal precipitation is expected across the entire area

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



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



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/30/26



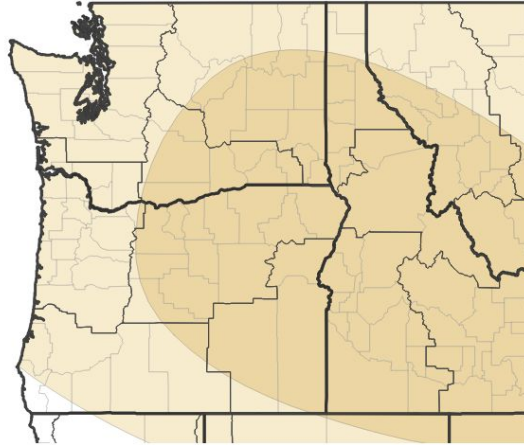


Three Month Outlook

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

- A 50% to 70% 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

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2026–July 31, 2026



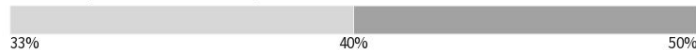
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



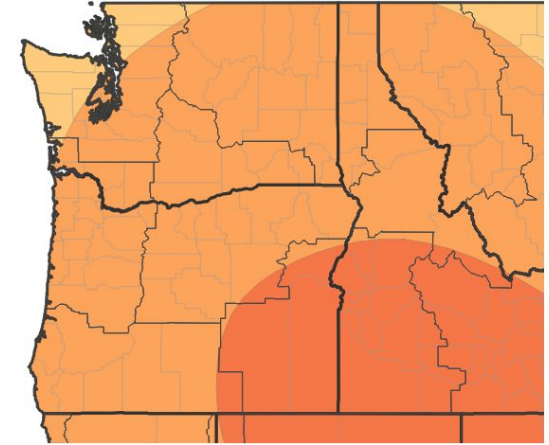
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/16/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for May 1, 2026–July 31, 2026



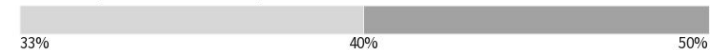
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 04/16/26





Drought Outlook

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

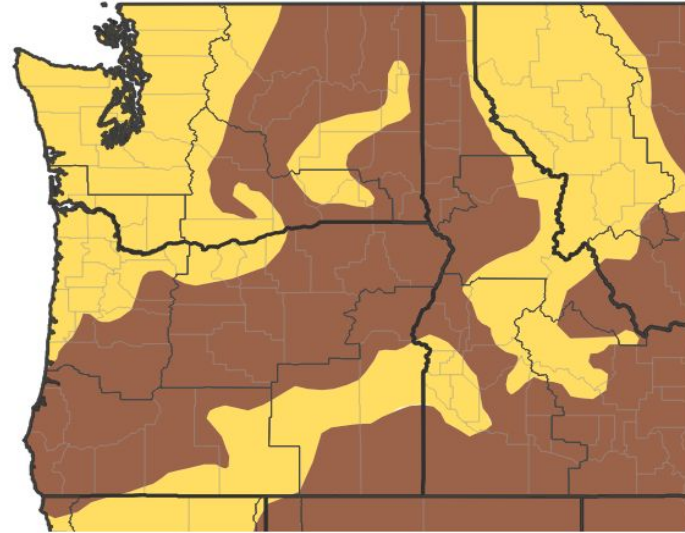
Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for April 30, 2026–July 31, 2026

Main Takeaways

- Drought is expected to either persist or develop over the entire area through the end of July

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.



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](#)

