



Drought Information Statement for Eastern OR & South Central WA

Valid May 16, 2025

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.

- Moderate Drought remain in portions of western Kittitas and Yakima counties with abnormally dry conditions over the lower slopes of the Washington Cascades and the eastern Oregon Mountains
- Much below normal precipitation (< 50%) in nearly all areas during the last 30 days as well as during the last 120 days in all areas except for near to above normal precipitation (100%-200%) in the OR and WA Columbia Basin, the Blue Mountain Foothills, OR Cascades and portions of central OR
- Very little of the winter snowpack remains below 5,000 feet in the mountains and what is left is melting rapidly
- Drought conditions are expected to persist in the central WA Cascades through the end of August while other areas remain drought free



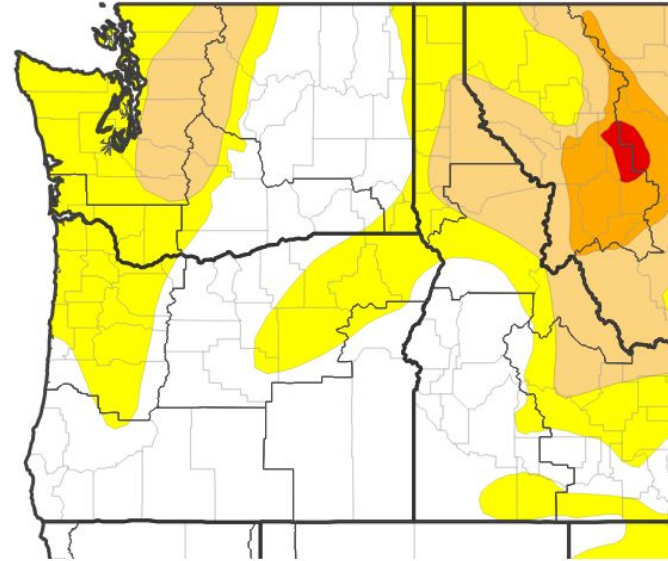


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: None
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Western Kittitas and northwest Yakima counties
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**:
 - Central Kittitas, west central Yakima, northwest Klickitat and southeast Columbia counties in Washington
 - Union, southeastern Umatilla and Morrow, most of Wallowa, eastern Wheeler, northeast Crook and northern Grant counties in Oregon
 - All other areas are in normal conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 05/13/25



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Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for the Pacific Northwest

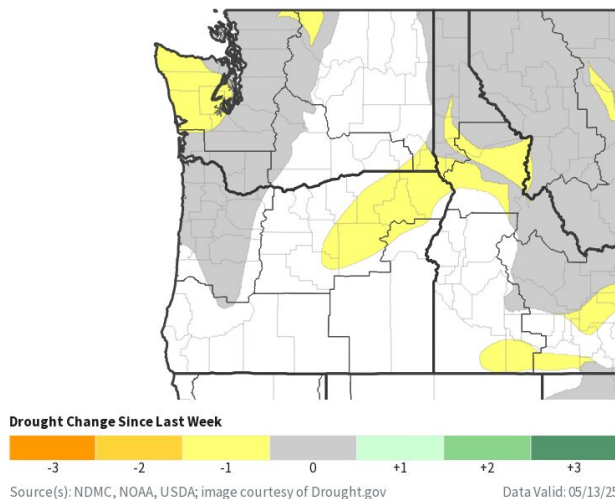
One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change

- [Drought Worsened \(1 Class Degradation\)](#): Union, southeastern Umatilla and Morrow, most of Wallowa, eastern Wheeler, northeast Crook and northern Grant counties in Oregon
- [Drought Improved \(1 Class Improvement\)](#): None

Four-Week Drought Monitor Class Change

- [Drought Worsened \(1 Class Degradation\)](#): Union, southeastern Umatilla and Morrow, most of Wallowa, eastern Wheeler, northeast Crook and northern Grant counties in Oregon
- [Drought Improved \(1 Class Improvement\)](#): Small portions of western Yakima and central Kittitas counties in Washington.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Pacific Northwest DEWS
4 Week

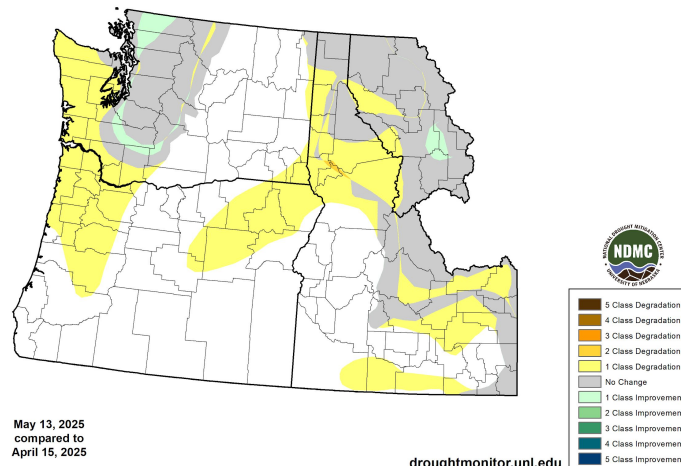


Image Captions:

Right - 4 Week Drought Class Change

Left - 1 Week Drought Class Change

Data Courtesy U.S. Drought Monitor and Drought.gov



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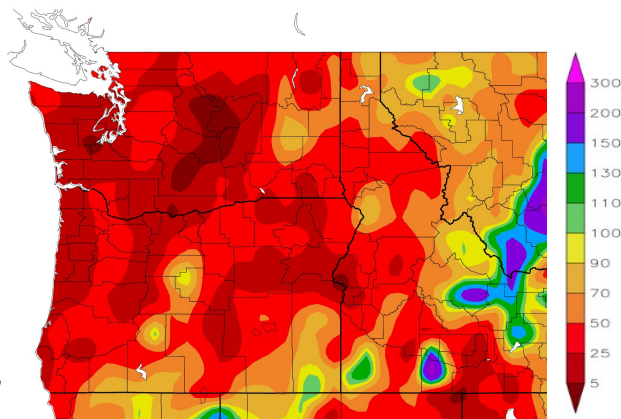
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Precipitation - Last 30 Days

- Below normal precipitation (50% to 100% of normal) in parts of central Oregon
- Pockets of less than 5% of normal precipitation in eastern Kittitas, central Yakima and south central Klickitat counties
- Much below normal precipitation (5% to 50% of normal) in the rest of the area
- Highest precipitation amounts were 1 to 2 inches over the WA Cascade crest, eastern Wallowa county and a small pocket in the Ochoco Mountains
- Generally less than 1 inch of precipitation in Oregon
- Generally less than 0.5 inch of precipitation in Washington except up to an inch in the eastern Columbia Basin, northern Blue Mountains and Blue Mountain Foothills of WA

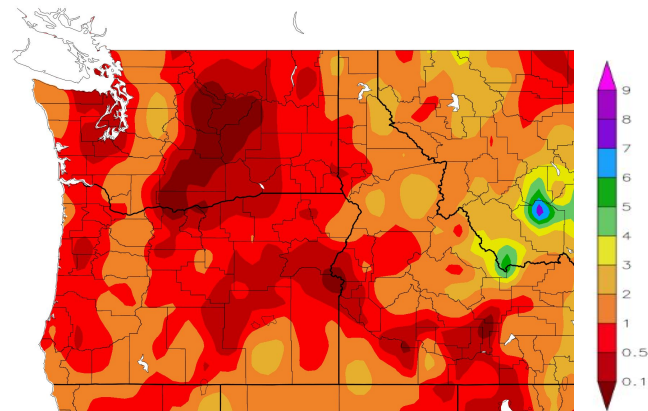
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
4/16/2025 – 5/15/2025



4/16/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS V

Precipitation (in)
4/16/2025 – 5/15/2025



4/16/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS V

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



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

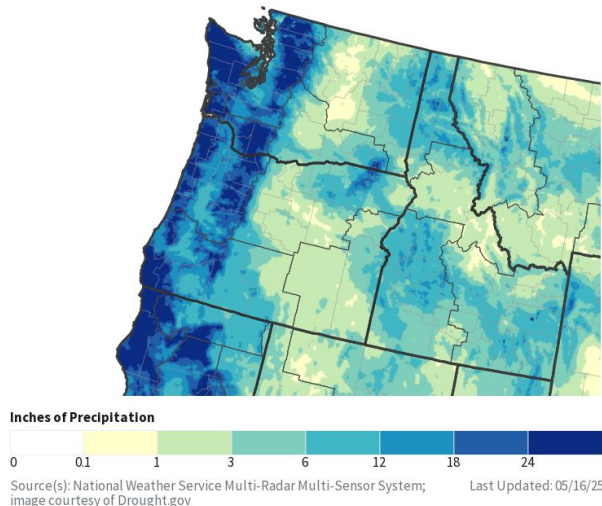
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Precipitation - 4-month (120-day) Precipitation

- Near to above normal precipitation (100% to 200% of normal) in the OR and WA Columbia Basin, the Blue Mountain Foothills, OR Cascades and portions of central OR over the last 120-days
- Much below normal precipitation (0% to 50% of normal) in the rest of the area over the last 120-days

120-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



120-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation

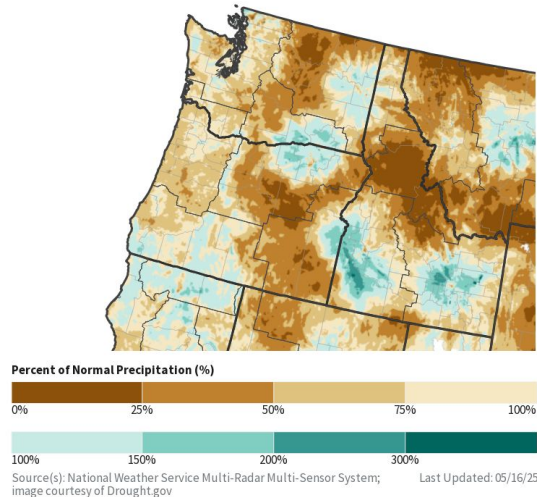


Image Captions:
Right - Precipitation Amounts for Pacific NW
Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
Courtesy of Drought.gov

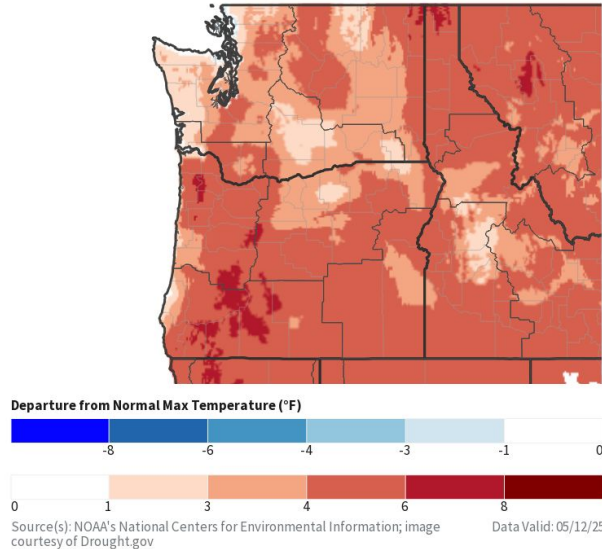




Temperature - Last 7 and 30 Days

- Near normal temperatures (1 degree below to 3 degrees above normal) in western portions of Washington and for Oregon in pockets of the Columbia Basin, southern Blue Mountain Foothills, north central Oregon and the John Day Basin for the last 7 days
- Above normal temperatures (3 to 6 degrees) in the eastern portions of Washington most portions of Oregon for the least 7 days
- Well above normal temperatures (6 to 8 degrees) in small pockets of the OR Cascades and eastern OR mountains for the last 7 days
- Mostly above normal temperatures (3 to 6 degrees) for the the last 30 days except slightly above normal (1 to 3 degrees) in much of Yakima county, and portions of the Blue Mountains
- Greatest departures (6 to 8 degrees above normal) over the last 30 days were seen in pockets of the central OR Cascades

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



7-Day Temperature Anomaly

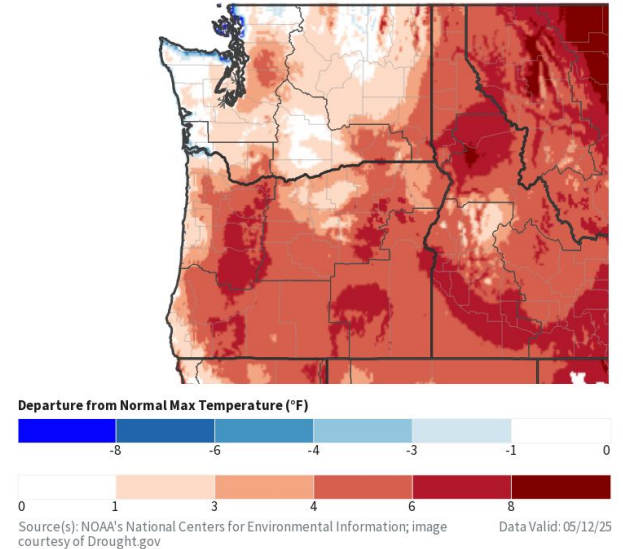


Image Captions:
Right - Temperature for Pacific NW
Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
Courtesy of Drought.gov





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Most basins have near normal streamflow (26th-75th percentile)
- Much below normal streamflow (below the 10th percentile) for the Upper Yakima basin
- Below normal streamflows (10th-25th percentiles) for the Lower Yakima, Upper Columbia-Priest Rapids, Palouse and Walla Walla basins

Snowpack Impacts

- Snow telemetry (SNOTEL) monitoring sites show little snow remaining below 5,000 feet in the mountains. Above that level, what snowpack remains is melting rapidly. Aside from continued drought in the central WA Cascade basins, there are no known impacts at this time.

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Other Impacts

- Washington: [Washington Drought Declaration issued for Upper Yakima, Lower Yakima and Naches Watersheds](#)
- Oregon: [No Drought Declarations are in effect as of this Drought Information Statement](#)

Mitigation actions

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





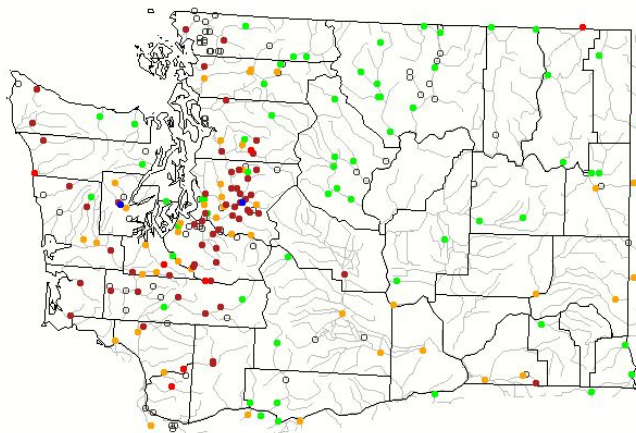
Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts - Washington

Thursday, May 15, 2025

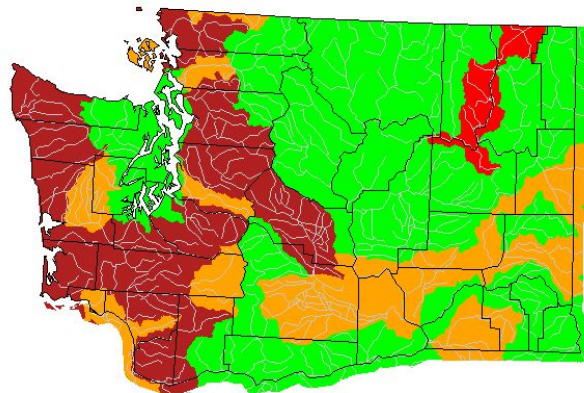
Thursday, May 15, 2025

Main Takeaways

- Much below normal streamflow (below the 10th percentile) for the Upper Yakima basin
- Below normal streamflows (10th-25th percentiles) for the Lower Yakima, Upper Columbia-Priest Rapids, Palouse and Walla Walla basins
- All other basins have normal stream flows (25th-75th percentiles)



USGS



USGS

Explanation - Percentile classes							
	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
Low	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 May 15, 2025

Left - USGS 7-day average streamflow HUC map valid May 15, 2025

Data Courtesy USGS Water Watch



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Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts - Oregon

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Thursday, May 15, 2025

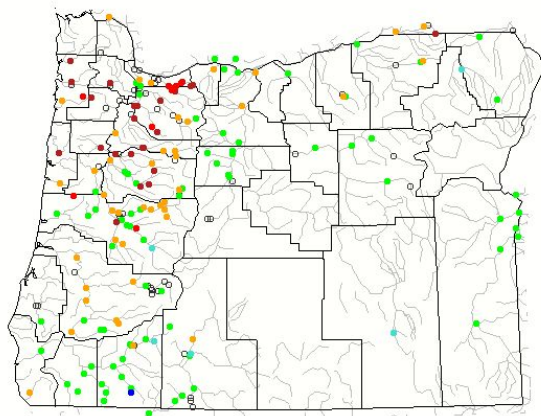
Main Takeaways

- Below normal streamflow (10th-24th percentile) for the Walla Walla basin
- Near normal streamflows (25th-75th percentile) for all other basins except no data for the Powder basin

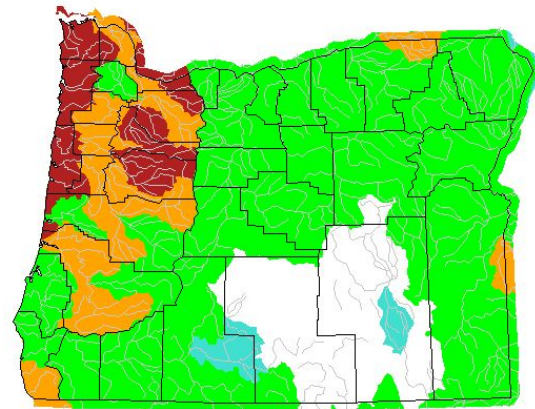
Impacts

No known impacts at this time

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USGS



USGS

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Data Courtesy USGS Water Watch



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Water Supply Forecast - April - September 2025

Link to the latest [Northwest River Forecast Center Water Supply Forecast](#).

Main Takeaways

- Below normal water supply (60% to 90% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast over most of the region for the April-September 2025 period
- Near normal water supply (85% to 110% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast across streams and rivers in the Columbia Gorge, the southern Blue Mountains and the John Day Basin for the April-September 2025 period
- Well above normal water supply (155% to 180% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast across the Ochoco-John Day Highlands for the April-September 2025 period

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

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

Image Caption:

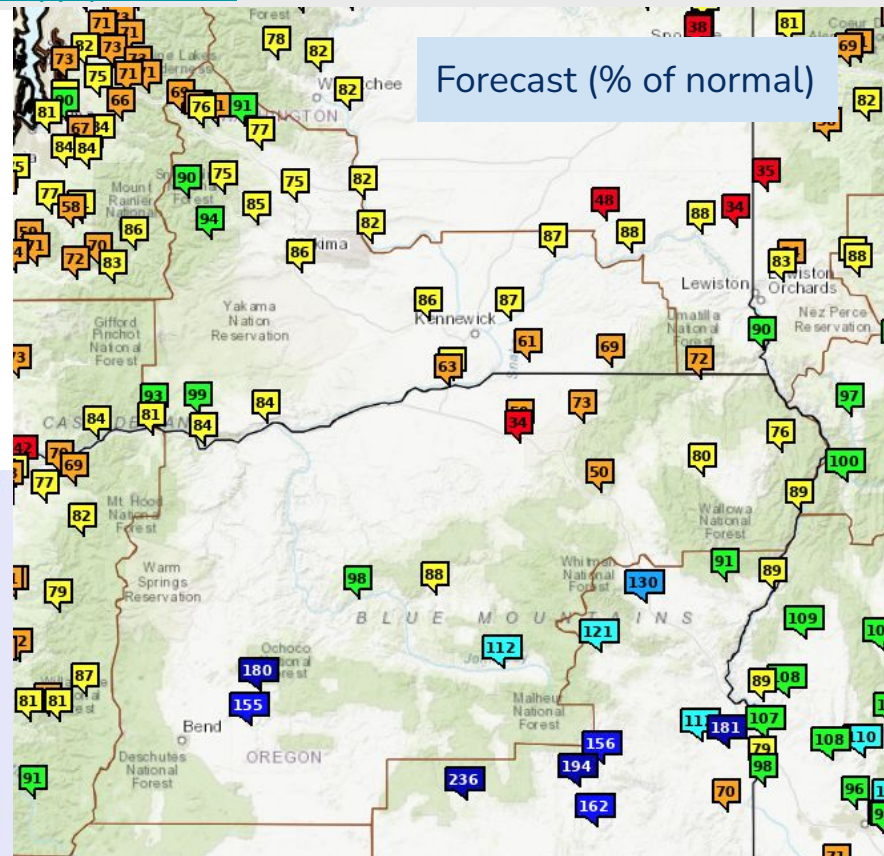
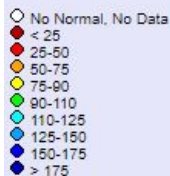
Ensemble Streamflow Prediction Natural Forecast

Data Courtesy NOAA NWS Northwest River Forecast Center

Issued May 16, 2025

ESP Natural Forecast

Period: APR-SEP
Forecast (% Normal)



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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., very low risk) for all areas through May 2025
- Above normal significant wildland fire potential (i.e., a greater than normal risk) for the WA Cascades and Columbia Basin and near normal significant wildland fire potential (i.e., very low risk) for all other areas in June 2025
- Above normal significant wildland fire potential (i.e., a greater than normal risk) for all areas in July and August 2025
- Significant wildland fires are expected at typical times (e.g., warm season) and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions

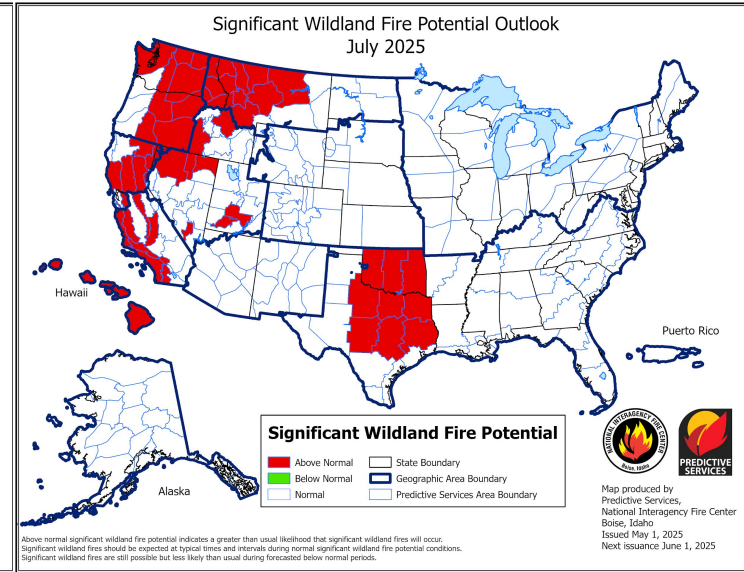
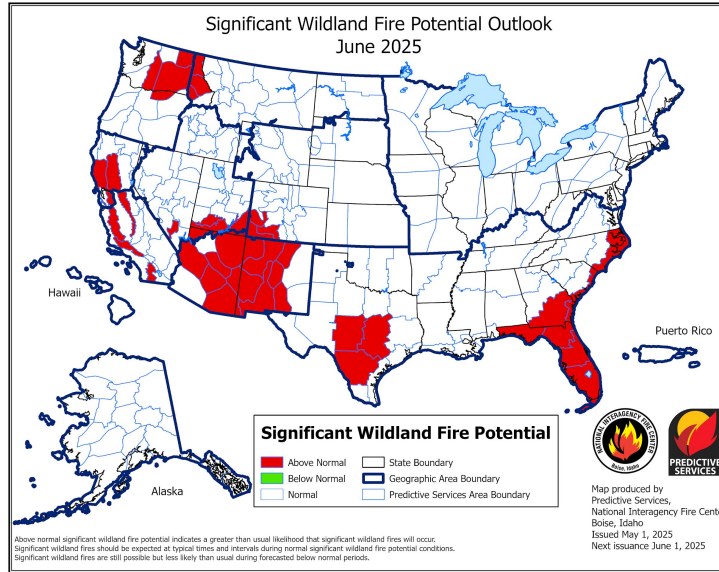


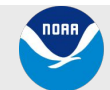
Image Caption:

Left - June 2025

Right - July 2025

Data Courtesy National Interagency Coordination Center

Issued May 1, 2025



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Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A series of weather disturbances through much of the upcoming week, especially this weekend, will lead above normal rain amounts
 - The higher mountains may get up to an inch of rain
 - The lower elevations will generally get up to a tenth to a quarter of an inch
- Temperatures will be near to a few degrees below normal and winds will continue to be breezy to windy most days
- Visit weather.gov/Pendleton for the latest weather forecast

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for May 15,
2025–May 22, 2025

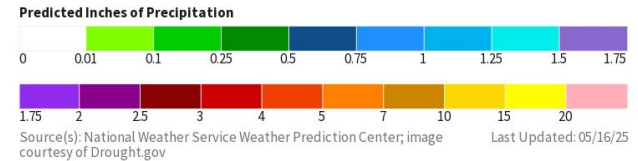
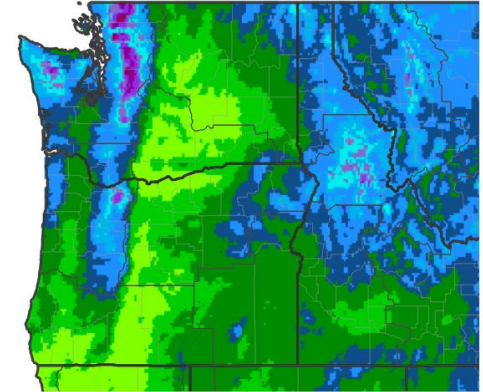


Image Caption:
Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](https://weather.gov/Pendleton)





6-10 Day Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center 6 to 10 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

Main Takeaways

- Leaning towards below normal temperatures (33% to 40%) in the WA Cascades with equal chances of above, below and near normal temperatures elsewhere
- Leaning towards below normal precipitation (33% to 40%) in central OR and the eastern OR mountains with equal chances of above, below and near normal precipitation elsewhere

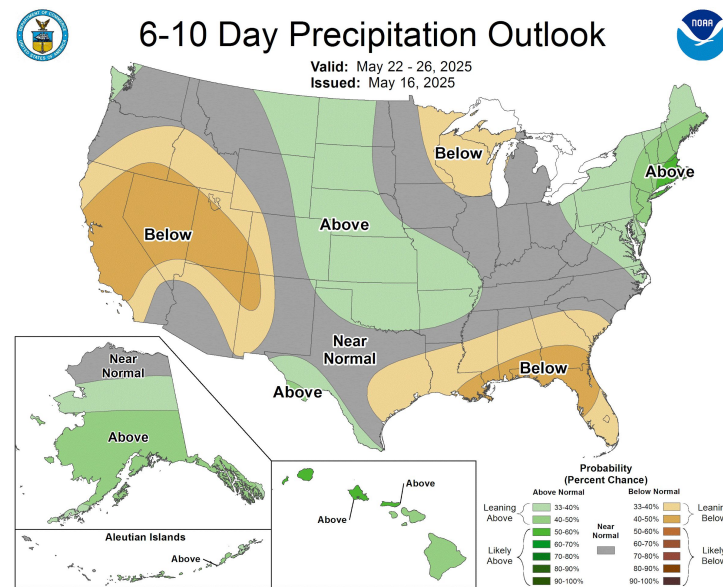
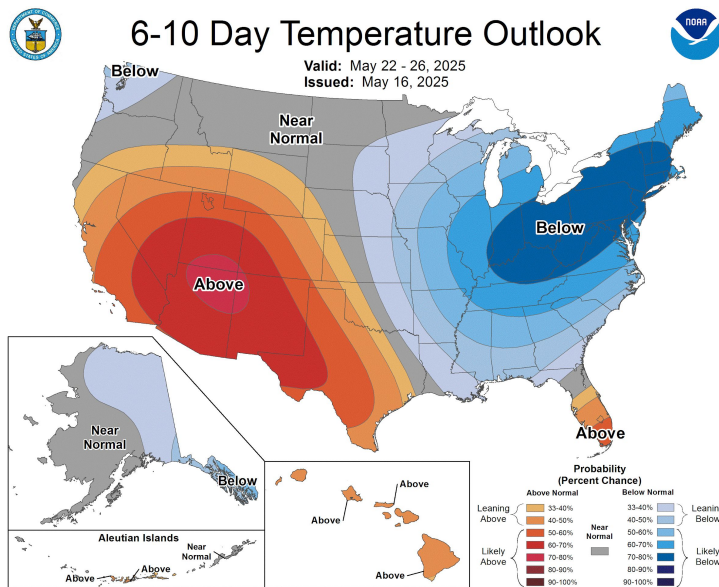


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Temperature Outlook](#).

Right - [Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook](#).

Valid May 22 - 26, 2025



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8-14 Day Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

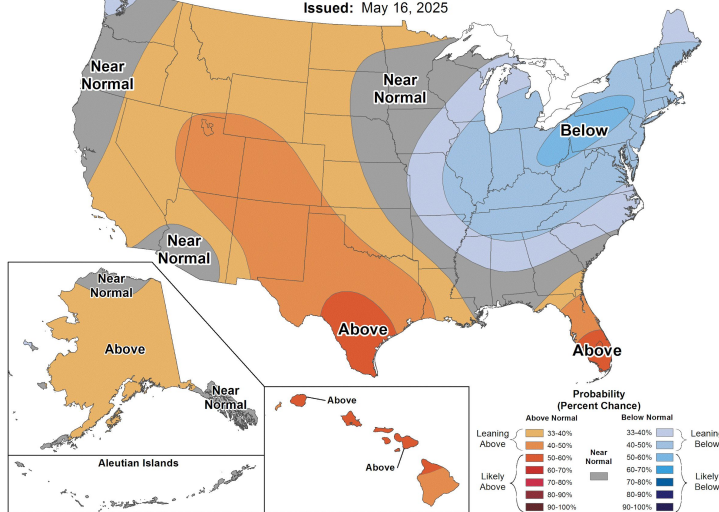
Main Takeaways

- Equal chances of below, above and near normal temperatures in the western half of the area and a 33% to 40% chance of above normal temperatures in the eastern half of the area
- A 33% to 40% chance of below normal precipitation over the area except for equal chances of below, above and near normal precipitation in southeastern Union and Wallowa counties



8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: May 24 - 30, 2025
Issued: May 16, 2025



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: May 24 - 30, 2025
Issued: May 16, 2025

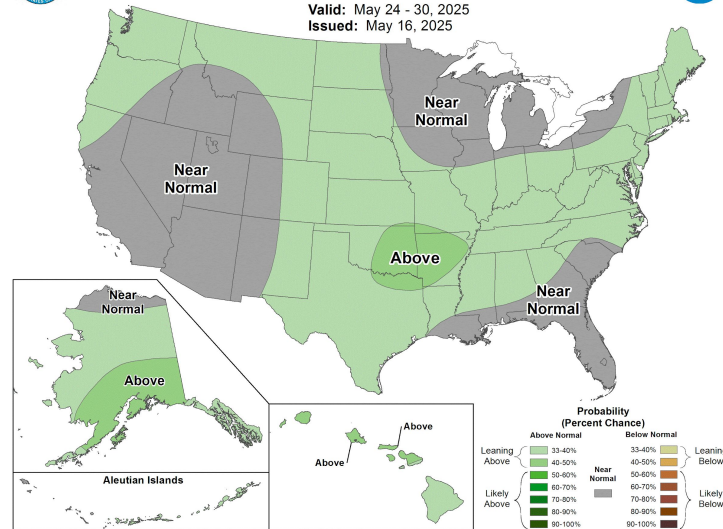


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook](#).

Right - [Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook](#).

Valid May 24 - 30, 2025



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Monthly Climate Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center [Monthly Outlook](#).

Monthly Temperature Outlook for June 1, 2025–June 30, 2025

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for June 1, 2025–June 30, 2025

Main Takeaways for June 2025

- A 33% to 40% chance of above normal temperatures area-wide
- A 33% to 40% chance of below normal precipitation in most areas except a 40% to 50% chance of below normal precipitation in eastern Wallowa county and equal chances of below, above or near normal precipitation in the WA Cascades and in the Yakima and Kittitas Valleys

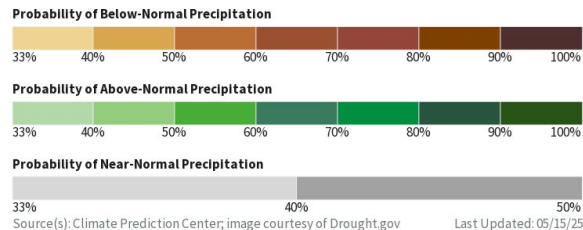
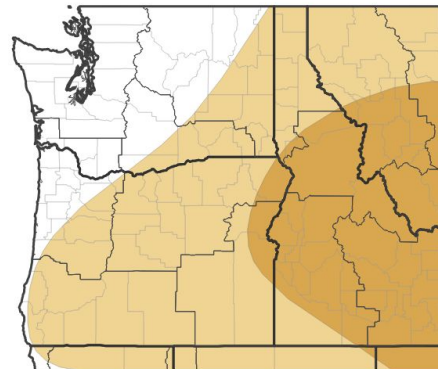
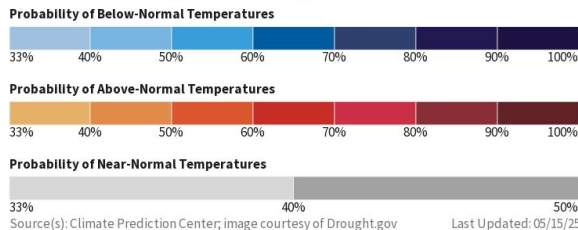
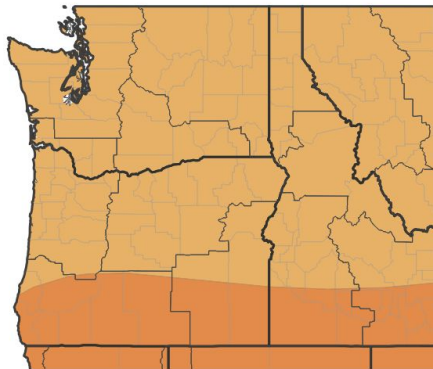


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook](#).
Right - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook](#).

Updated May 15, 2025





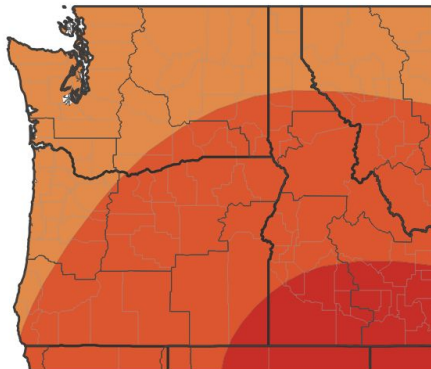
Seasonal Climate Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center [Seasonal Outlook](#).

Main Takeaways for June-July-August 2025

- A 40% to 60% chance of above normal temperatures area-wide
- A 40% to 50% chance of below normal precipitation area-wide

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for June 1, 2025–August 31, 2025



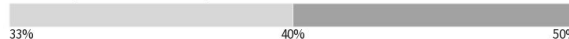
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



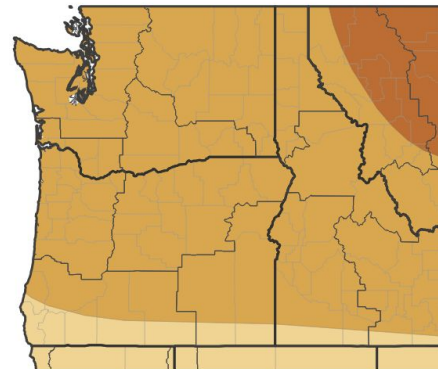
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 05/15/25

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for June 1, 2025–August 31, 2025



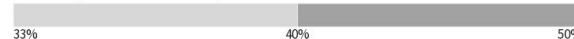
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 05/15/25

Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook](#).

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook](#).

Valid June-August 2025



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Drought Outlook

The latest drought outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#).

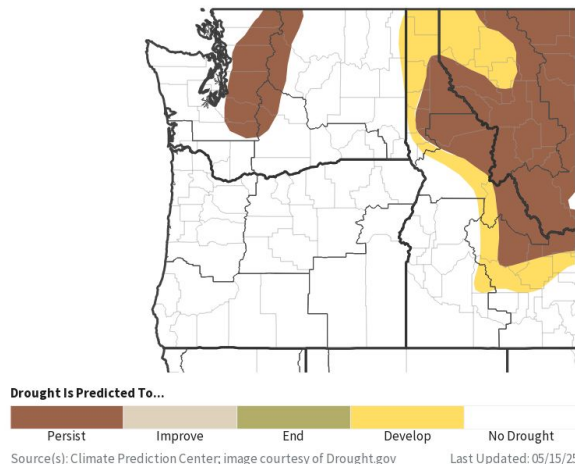
Main Takeaways

- Drought is expected to persist in the central WA Cascades through August while all other areas will remain drought free

Possible Impacts

- Reduced streamflows and reservoir levels in the Upper Yakima basins may persist and this could result in possible reduction in agricultural yield, crop loss, and poor pasture conditions where irrigation water is not available.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for May 15, 2025–August 31, 2025



1-Month Drought Outlook for May 1, 2025–May 31, 2025

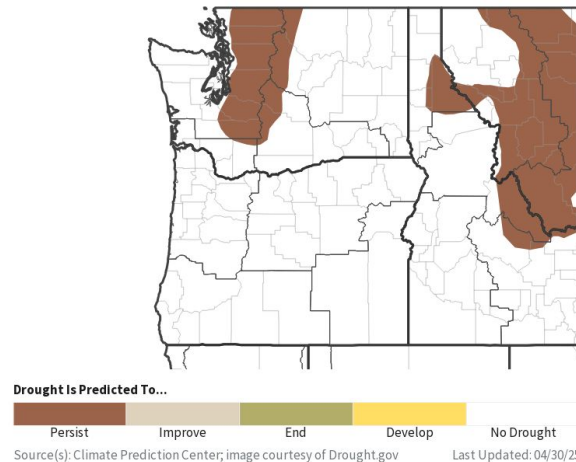


Image Captions:

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#) Released May 15, 2025

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#) Released May 15, 2025

